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Emanata (2014-)

Student Newspaper and Magazines

2018

Emanata digitally presents: Help! (2018)

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EMANATA digitally presents

Dedicated to Kelly Alder

..... **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Emanata wishes to acknowledge and thank the following:

Chris Kindred for giving us our amazing cover.

VCU Libraries and Special Collections for sponsoring said amazing cover.

Sue Robinson for her support of our publication—thank you for all your help!

Velocity Comics for being the hub of the Richmond Comics Scene.

Uri Hamman for the layout and design of our book and fighting the ongoing battle with RGB colour mode.

Our ever-talented alumni for reaching back to collaborate with students.

And the contributors for their beautifully crafted stories, without which, this anthology would not be possible.

The VCU Student Media Center for their unyielding support.

..... FOREWORD

HELP!!! AAAAAHH!!!! AAAAAA- oh, thank God. You finally picked us up.

Hello, trusty readers! Once again, you've come along and snagged our latest volume of strange tales. For that, we thank you! You're in for a real treat this year. Our 2018 theme is... HELP! (No, we weren't snatched up by a pterodactyl mid-sentence. This is our theme.)

HELP! strips a story down to its bare essentials. Any story worth reading has some sort of conflict, right?

There are plenty of different situations that could leave you needing some help. Perhaps your spaceship is about to be crushed by an oncoming meteor storm (only for your robot sidekick to save you just in time). Maybe you, a hacktivist, need help freeing yourself from a virtual reality purgatory. Or perhaps you just burned your mouth on hot food (and not even God can help you now.)

In this volume of *Emanata* you will find a wide range of tales about help. This volume celebrates vulnerability and the strength it takes to ask for assistance. It applauds the kindness of people who are willing to lend a hand to those in need. It recognizes people who, in situations of crisis, put their trust in a higher force to keep them safe. It shines a light on people who help themselves. HELP! examines the unexpected complexity of this seemingly simple topic.

We hope this book reminds you that it's never a bad time to ask for help. Or to offer help! Our consensus: help is good. It's our hope that this book drives that point home.

Now, a collection of strange tales from VCU's finest writers and artists.

Enjoy!

- Sammy Newman

..... **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

Cover illustration by Chris Kindred

<u>Swim Deep</u> by Alexis Hilliard-Worth	7
Weather Watch by Ellie Erhart.....	10
Nature Knows Best by Emma Kane	14
Maze by Evan McGrady	20
Post-Coital Thoughts of a Monster Couple by Delaney Burk	27
Damsel in Distress by Logan Manniko	28
The Messenger by Megan Rogers	31
Cold by Noelle Hepworth	34
Nothing to Fear by Sarah McCrimmon	38
Pizza Man by Tiffani Green	41
(ellipses) by Allison Verjinski	46
The Light is Hungry by Emely Pascual	51
Help! by Hunter Hutcheson	56
Advocrypts by Claire Patefield	59
Life Goes On by Vigianti Tanudjaja	65

..... **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

Lemon Drops by Lynn Powell	68
My Stone by James Lee	75
Hot Food by Jamie Knierim	78
Fork + Knife Techniques by Abby Goss	79
Shrinking Violets by Morgan Barnett	82
Honey Pot by Casper Pham	85
The Abettor by Diansakhu Banton-Perry	92
Why Sherlock Needs Watson by Sammy Newman	100
Need A Hand? by Erin Joo	102
The Wolf by Susie Grady	110
The Final Boss by Ellen Gilmore	115
Baptism by Ashlyn Rudolph	118
A Daily Occurrence by Elizabeth McCown	122
Amadeus by James Nguyen	124
Merit by Derek-Paul Carll	129
Someone in Some Future Time by Bran Williams	132

Digitally Exclusive Comics Ahead







No, this can't be happening!

CRASH!

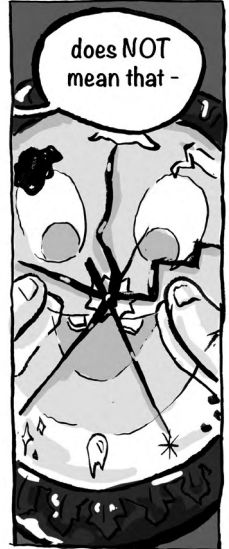
He has to be real!

No, no, no, no, no...
no. ...

Miss!







CRASH

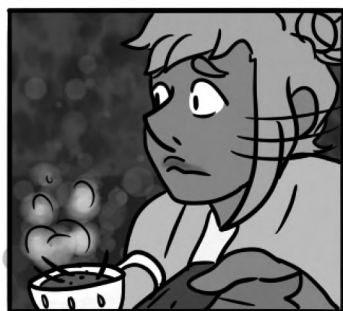




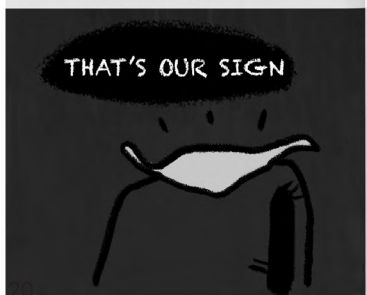












FAIR ENOUGH.

IF IT WASN'T FOR LU
I'D SAY WE LET THEM DEAL WITH
WHATEVER THE ISSUE IS
ON THEIR OWN.

WHAT'D THEY EXPECT!
WHEN YOU RAID THE MAZE
LIKE THEY HAVE BEEN-

EVENTUALLY...

IT'LL BITE BACK.

I DON'T THINK THAT'S
WHAT THIS IS

THIS IS SOME FORM
OF OLD MAGIC...

AND IT POSES
A BIGGER DANGER
TO US ALL

THEY'RE JUST
HUMANS.

THEY ARE STILL
A PART OF THE WHOLE...

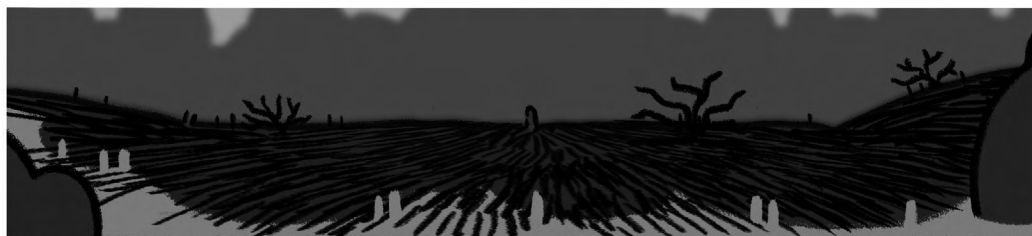
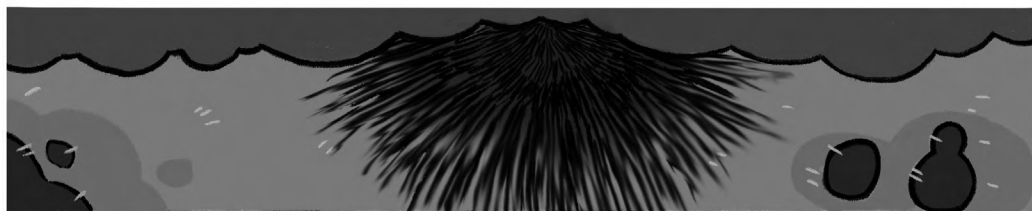
AND LIKE IT
OR NOT-

SO ARE WE...

IF I HAVE TO MAKE
ANOTHER CLOAK, I-

WAIT!
DON'T
M-

HUH?



WOAH...

A CLOAKING
CHARM?

THIS IS FAR WORSE
THAN I THOUGHT

AT LEAST WE REACHED THE MAZE...




THEY ARE ALL THE SAME
THOUGH-

THEY RAVAGE
THE LAND

TAKE WHAT THEY WANT


THEN MOVE ON



I DON'T SEE WHY YOU
DEFEND THEM.


DON'T SOUR OUR
DEPARTURE.

FINE.



GOODBYE OUR FRIEND

I'M GOING TO
MISS THAT TREE...



OR MAYBE THEY RATTLED
A HIVE OF THORNJACKS

OR A CYCLOPS!

IF IT'S AN OGRE,
I SAY WE TAKE LU AND
JUST GET OUT OF THERE
I CAN'T STAND GETTING
THEIR DROOL OUT OF
MY CLOAK.

I BET THEY JUST
WANT A SPELL TO TURN
DIRT INTO GOLD AGAIN,

I TOLD YOU NOT TO
SHOW THEM THAT IN THE
FIRST PLACE,



TEST THREE - OH GODS
THAT STINKS -
IS A FAILURE. SOIL HAS
ROTTEN AND TURNED FOUL-



WE DON'T WANT YOUR
KIND HERE WOOD SPIRIT!
SHOOT IT AGAIN.



FOOLS!



BE GONE WITH YOU!
AIM FOR THE FACE
THIS TIME



I DON'T LIKE OUR NEIGHBORS



READY AN-



YOU DON'T WANT TO BEAT THE
DAYLIGHTS OUT OF YOU! YOU
YOURSELF A GUARD! DIDN'T I SAY WE
A SPIRIT COMING BY TODAY! YOU IT
NOW GO OPEN THE GATE AND LET HE
IS THAT AN ARROW! DID YOU SHOOT T
ETER THIS IS OVER I'M TAKING A SH
FOR A CHANGE HOW BOUT TH
DIDN'T I SAUGHT TO BEAT TH
DAYLIGHTS OUT OF YOU! YOU
YOURSELF A GUARD! DIDN'T I SAY WE
A SPIRIT COMING BY TODAY! YOU IT
NOW GO OPEN THE GATE AND LET HE
NOW! DID YOU SHOOT T
BE
IGHT
DIDN'T I SAY TO
GATE A



YOU MADE IT



IS THAT LU?
SHE HAS GOTTEN OLDER.

SHE'S STILL QUICK THOUGH

...WHY IS SHE RUNNING AT US?

NO HUGGING
THE CLOAK!

COME QUICK!

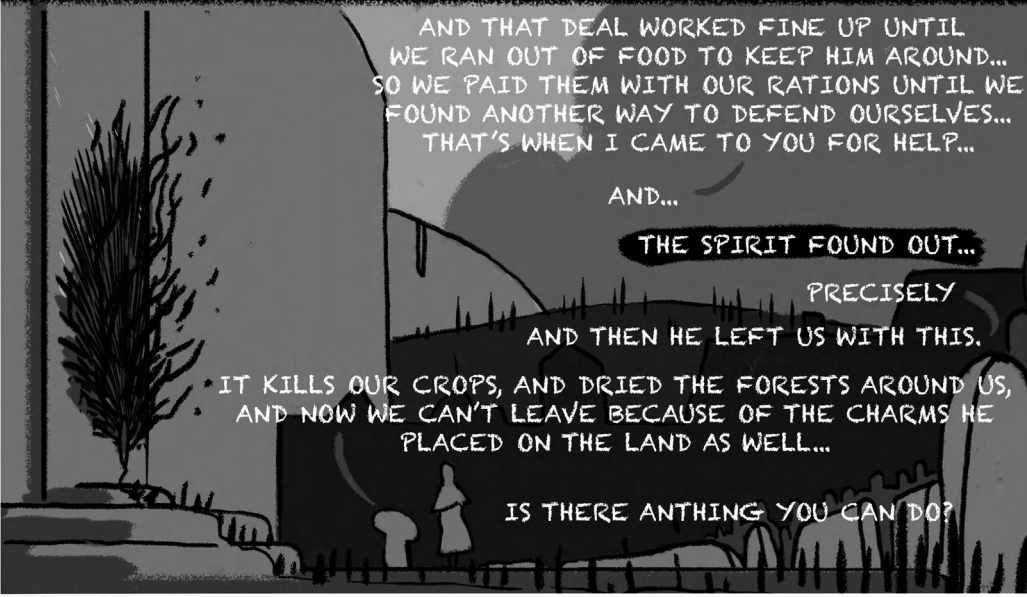


DID YOU CAST THE
CLOAKING CHARM?

NO, OF COURSE I DIDN'T.

SO WHAT'S GOING ON LU?

FOR THE LONGEST WHILE WE HAD A FIRE SPIRIT
HERE THAT KEPT THE CREATURES FROM THE MAZE
FROM ATTACKING THE VILLAGE.



AND THAT DEAL WORKED FINE UP UNTIL
WE RAN OUT OF FOOD TO KEEP HIM AROUND...
SO WE PAID THEM WITH OUR RATIONS UNTIL WE
FOUND ANOTHER WAY TO DEFEND OURSELVES...
THAT'S WHEN I CAME TO YOU FOR HELP...

AND...

THE SPIRIT FOUND OUT...

PRECISELY

AND THEN HE LEFT US WITH THIS.

IT KILLS OUR CROPS, AND DRIED THE FORESTS AROUND US,
AND NOW WE CAN'T LEAVE BECAUSE OF THE CHARMS HE
PLACED ON THE LAND AS WELL...

IS THERE ANTHING YOU CAN DO?



WE'LL SEE WHAT WE CAN DO.



*Is this
technically
bestiality?*

*Is this
technically
necrophilia?*









HEY
ASH!



CHARLIE!!!
LISTEN,
I'VE GOT
NEWS FOR
YOU...



I'M GOING TO
BE LATE FOR
TODAY'S LARP
SESSION.



OH MY GOD.

DID YOU
GET LOST IN
THE WOODS
AGAIN?

Spike, you've always
been so good to me...



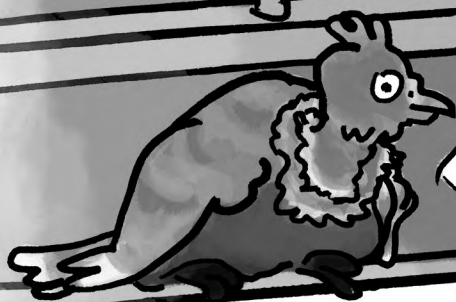
...ever since you hatched,
we've been inseparable.

You may not be
the prettiest...



...but you
are the
smartest

and have
the best
homing skills.



Plus,

Picnic in the
park @ 5?
-xoxo
Jay

you're an
excellent
wingman.





You're my
best friend...

... and
I'll always
love you.

SPIKE
♡

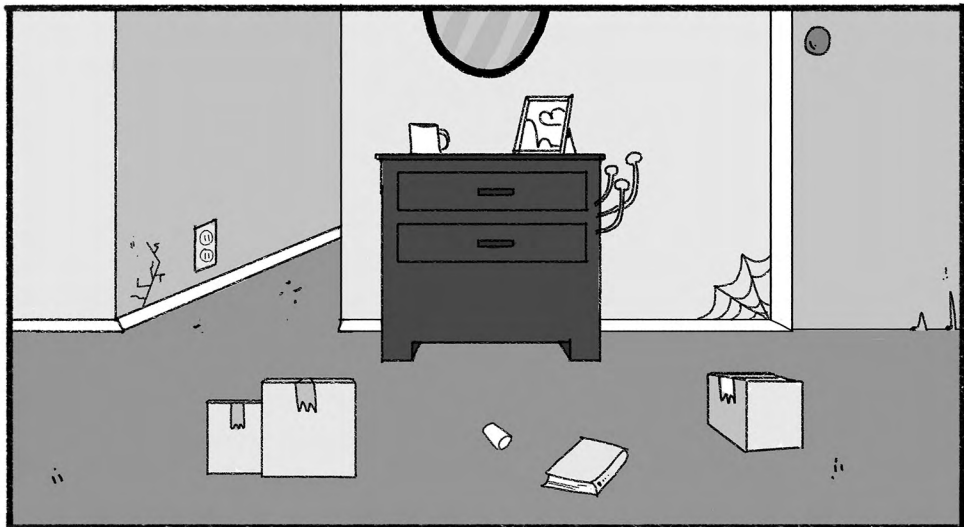
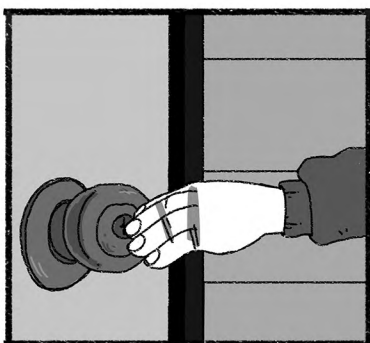


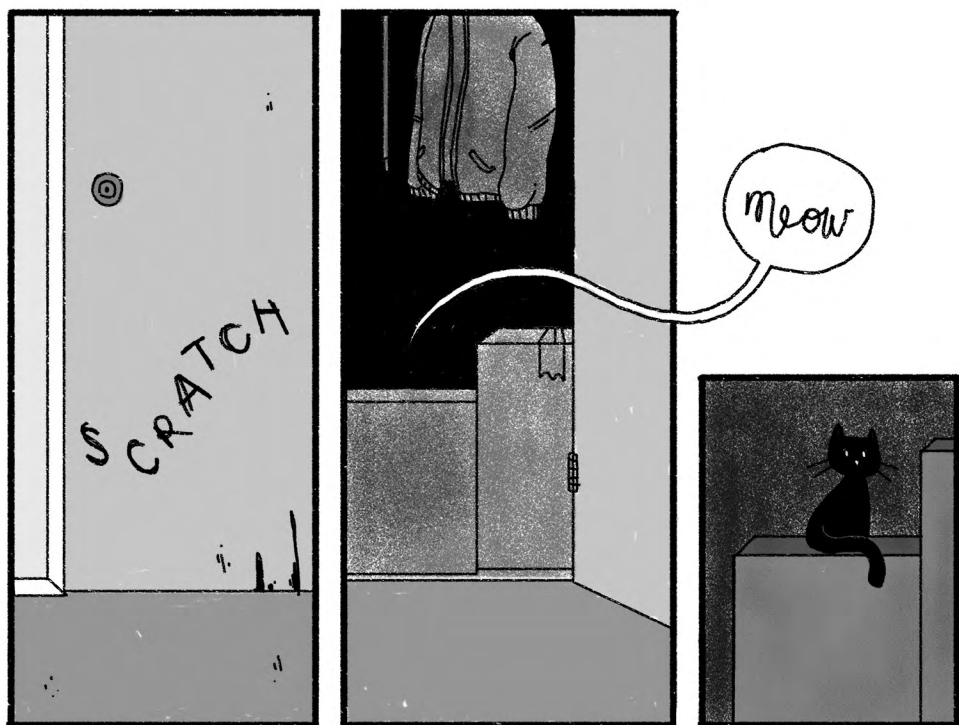


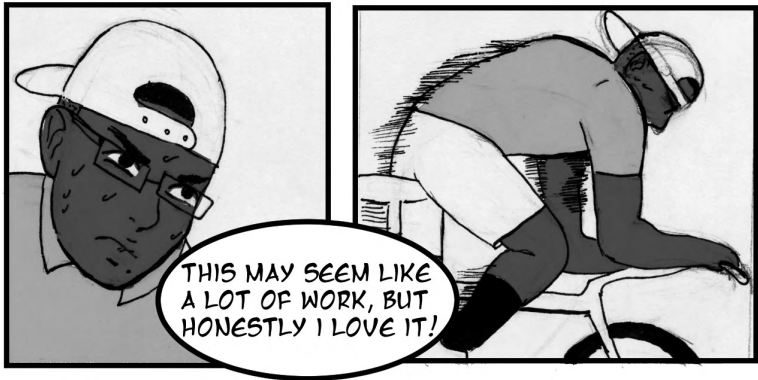
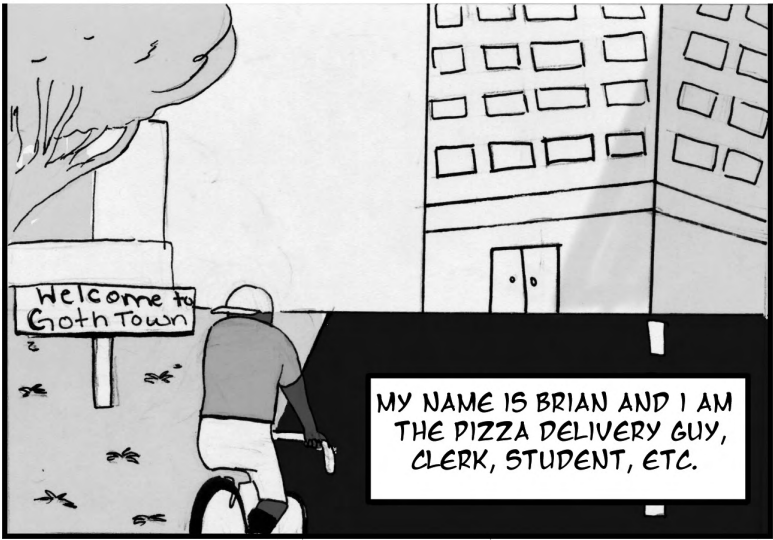


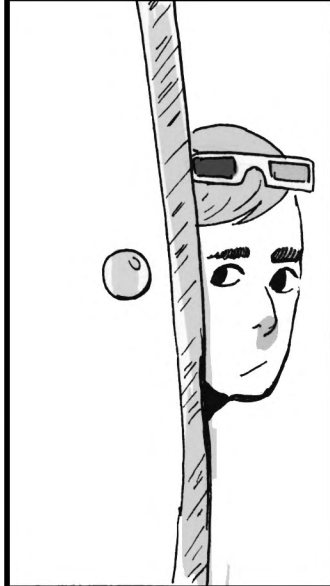


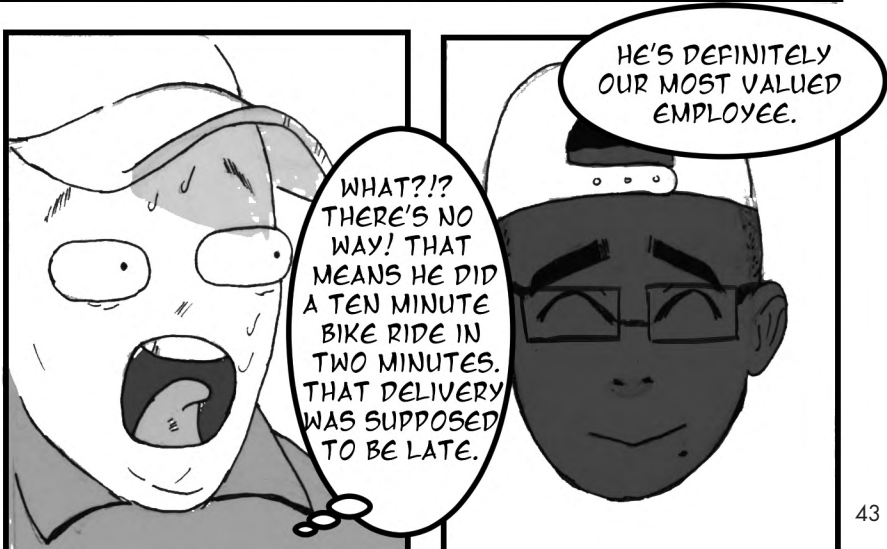
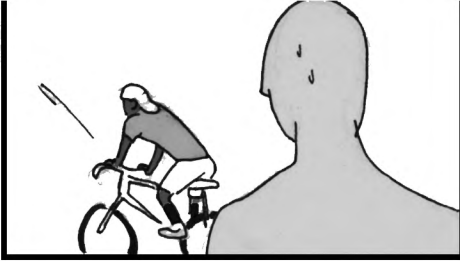












*Ahead are the comics that
were in the print edition.*

(ellipses)

Allison Verjinski

(ellipses)



HUH.



WAIT... I CHANGED MY MIND!





YOW!



GOD DAMN...

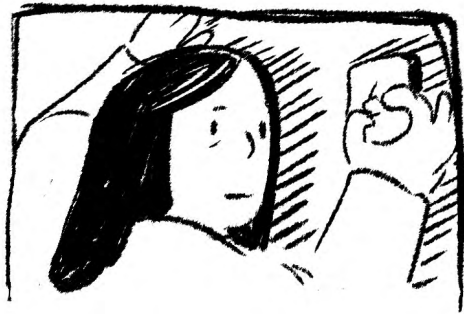
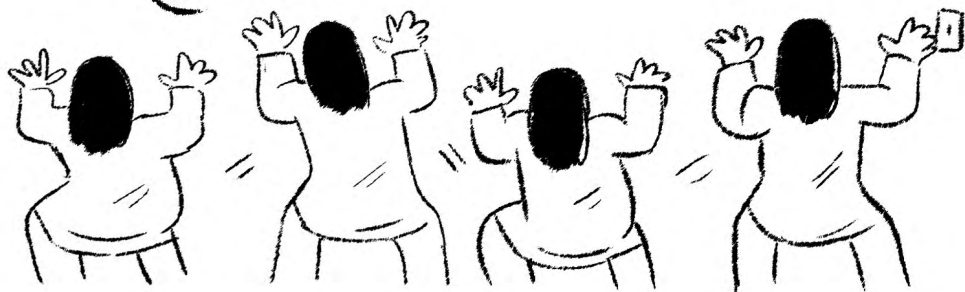


ZPPTTT!!

HEY!
HEY!

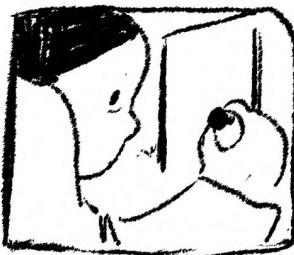
ANYBODY?





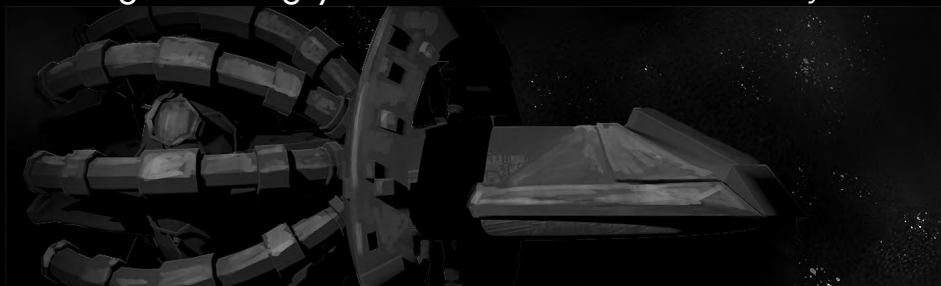
I DON'T NEED THIS!

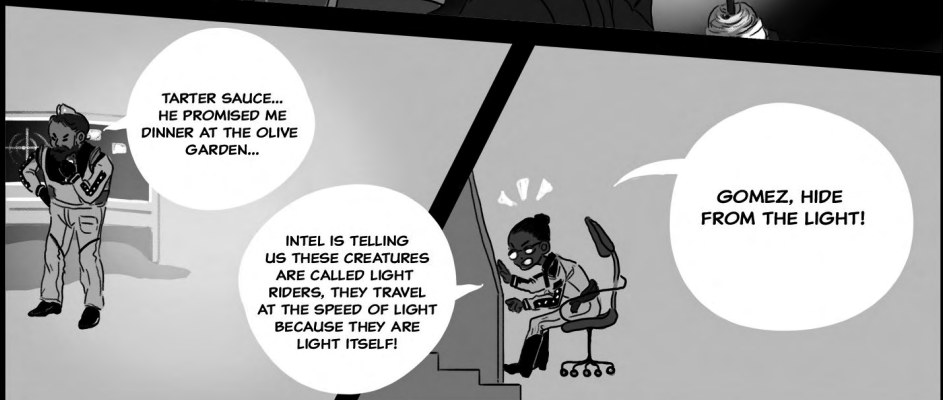


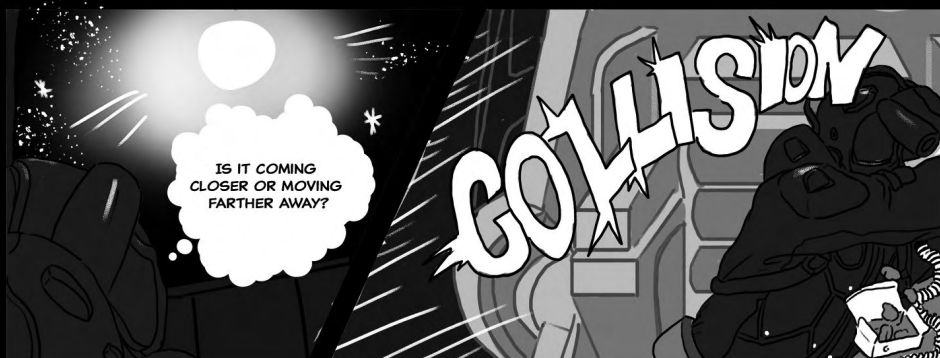


... oh





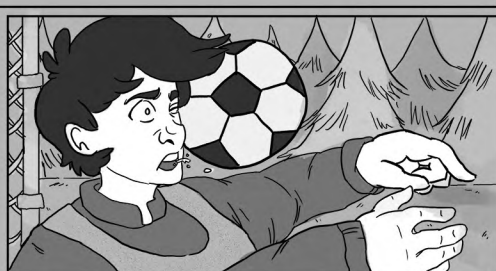
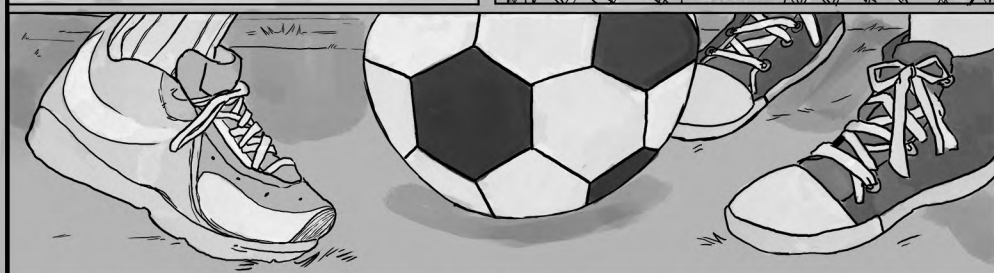




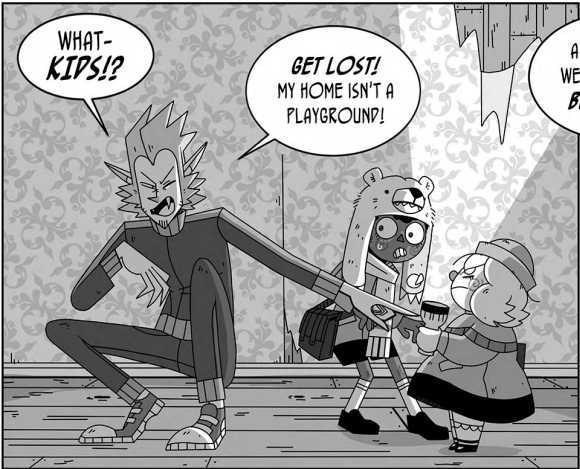
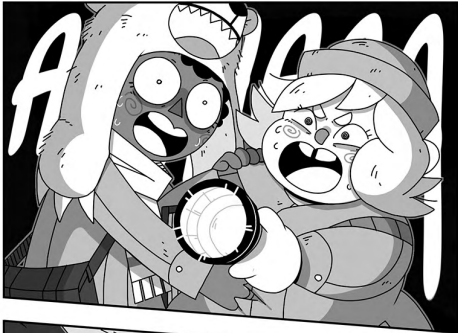






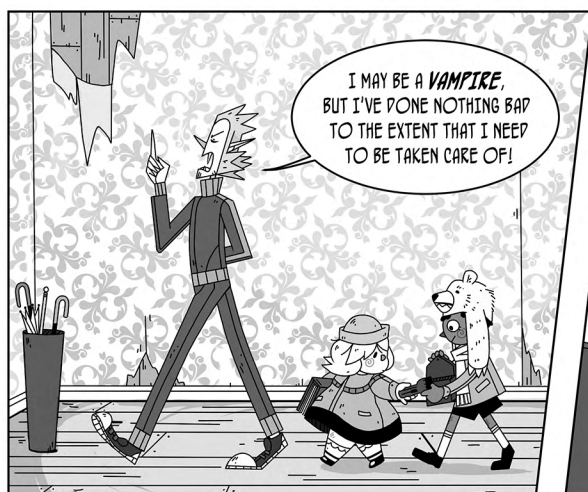








YOU CALLED US TO EXORCISE YOURSELF?

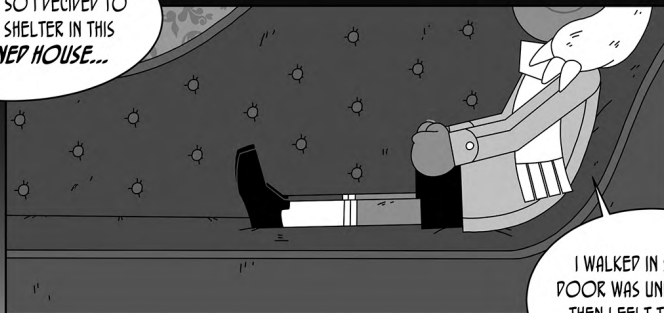






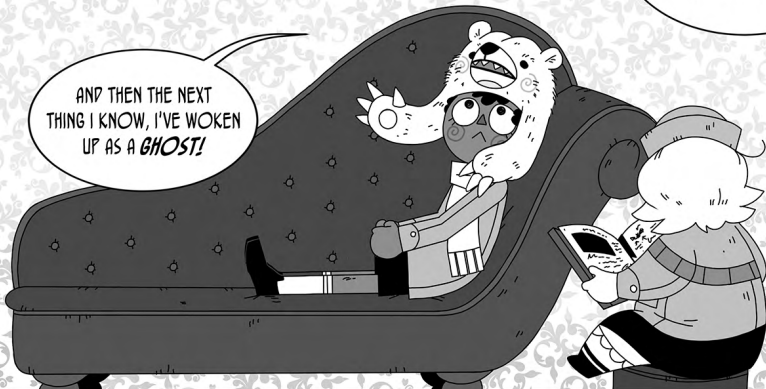


IT WAS RAINING REALLY
HARD, RIGHT- SO I DECIDED TO
TAKE SOME SHELTER IN THIS
ABANDONED HOUSE...



I WALKED IN SINCE THE
DOOR WAS UNLOCKED AND
THEN I FELT THIS SUDDEN
PAIN IN MY NECK...

AND THEN THE NEXT
THING I KNOW, I'VE WOKEN
UP AS A *GHOST!*



WILL YOU ALL
JUST LEAVE
ALREADY...

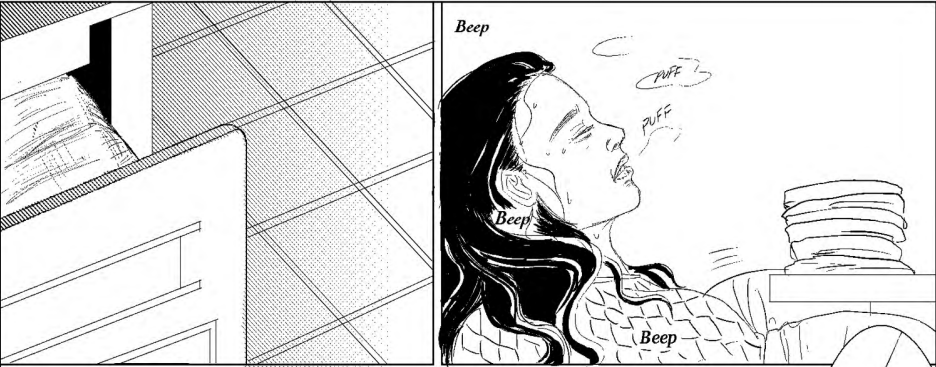


WELL, YOU
HAVE A HOME NOW
GHOST...

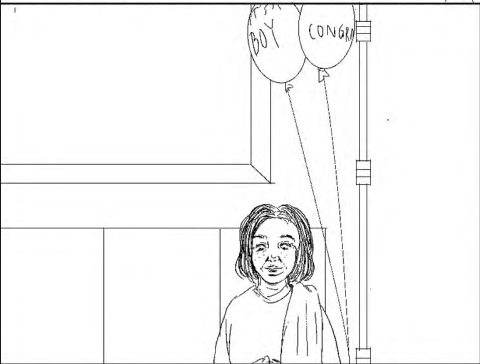
*IN DIMIT'S
HAT!*

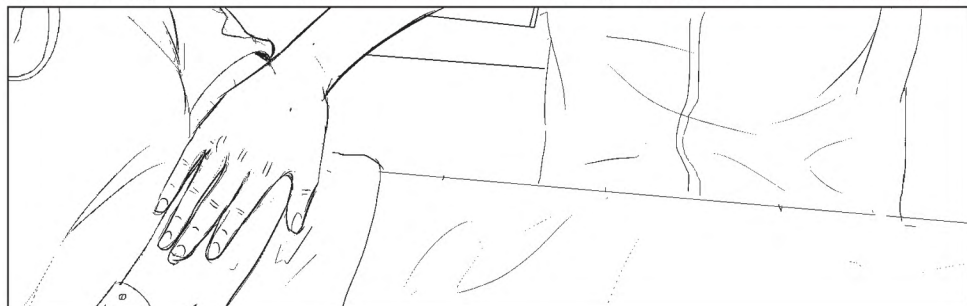
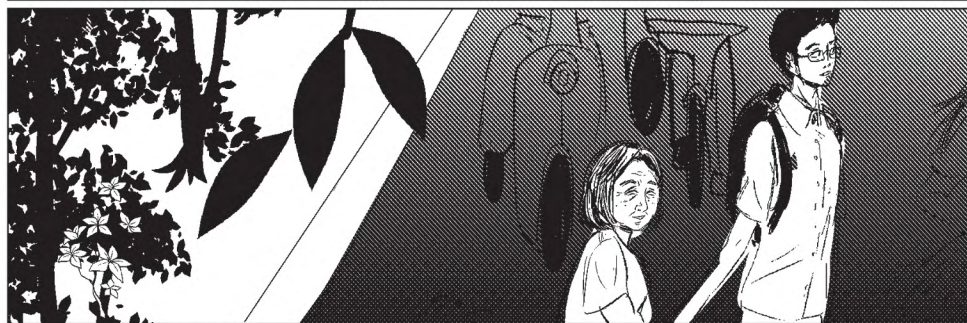
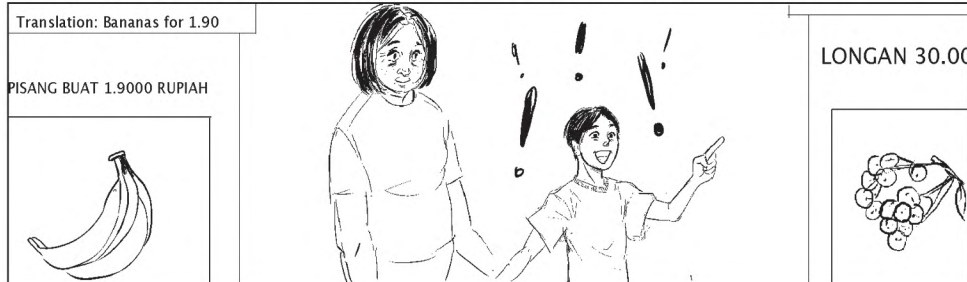


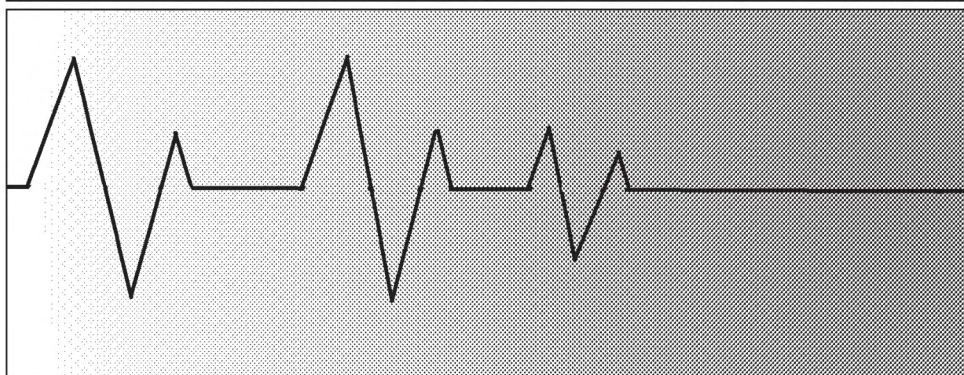
UH...DON'T I GET
A SAY IN THIS?



Translation: "Maaf" means "sorry" in Bahasa Indonesia







MAO

wow my story of when i thought
i locked myself in the bathroom
stall after i got really drunk isnt
as exciting in comparison hbjfksq
LMAO

OR MAYBE IT IS

LEMON

BY
LYNN P.
GUEST STARRING
MAO

DROPS



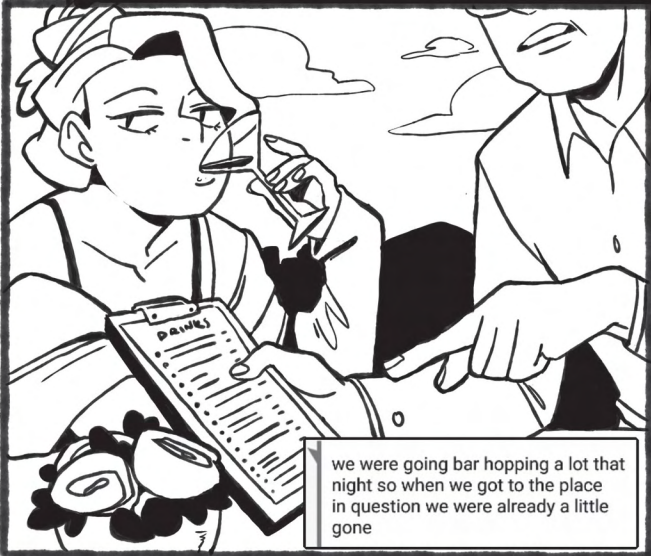
LYNN

TELL ME I WANNA MAKE FUN OF
YOU



OK SO my folks and i went to idaho
bc my dad loves fishing and theres
gr8 fishing there

As they do in idaho



we were going bar hopping a lot that
night so when we got to the place
in question we were already a little
gone

so we go to this really ritzy outdoor lounge club thing with an ice rink next to it (irrelevant) and we grab some nice chairs



waitress hands us our menus and we order our drinks



mind you there was another party nearby, a big one, and they had ordered abt 50 lemon drops and no one was really drinking them so they were just passing them around like free candy



Jesus





i had two on top of the other two drinks i had ordered from this one place alone



This is going downhill real fast

SO NEEDLESS TO SAY i was far gone and nature calls

so i make my way to the bathroom and its one of those rly high end bathrooms with the full length wooden doors

on the stalls



Flock



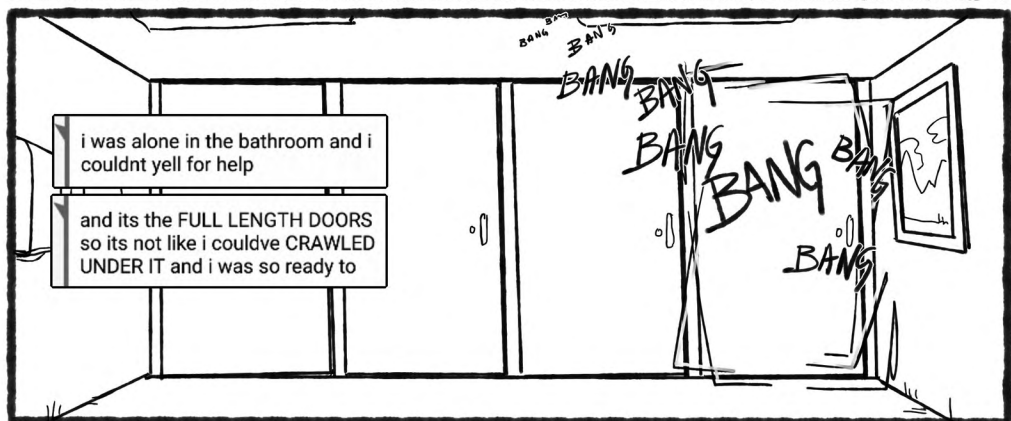
SO AFTER I DO WHAT I NEEDED TO DO i try to open the door and the handle wouldnt budge



CLACK



shit



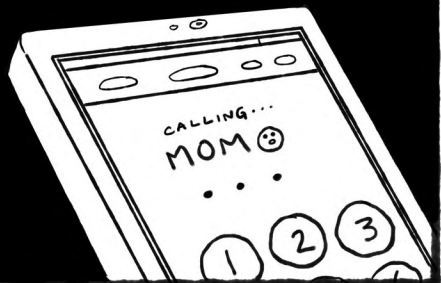
i was alone in the bathroom and i
couldnt yell for help

and its the FULL LENGTH DOORS
so its not like i couldve CRAWLED
UNDER IT and i was so ready to



but then i remembered i had my
phone on me

Just remembered



i grab it to call mom and tell her i got
locked in the stall

Bet she enjoyed that



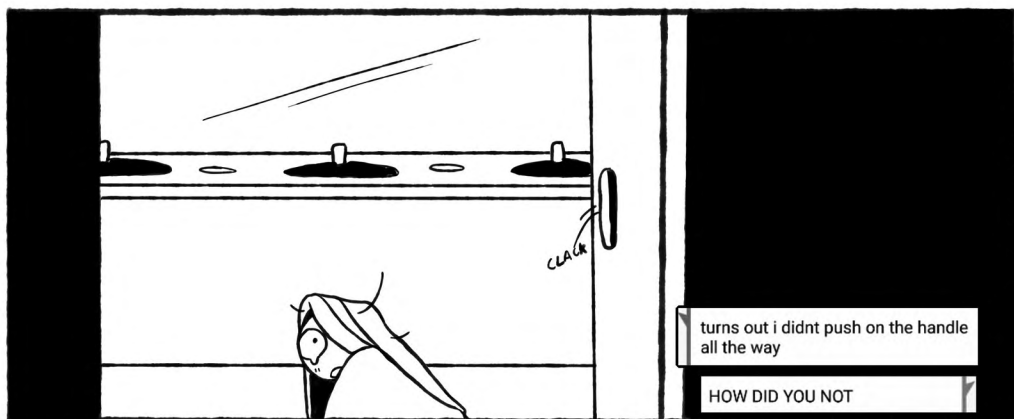
but as im calling and she picks up
i lean against the handle and it just
GIVES UP UNDER MY HAND and
opens



i almost fall out of the stall in my 4"
wedges



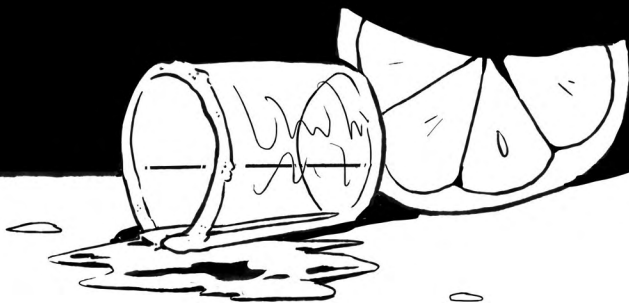
FgdFHDUSHDDH



SO THATS THE STORY OF WHEN
I GOT RLY DRUNK AND ALMOST
LOCKED MYSELF IN A BATHROOM
IN IDAHO

IM LAYGJIGN INTO MY PILLOW RN
U DUMB●SS

LISTEN,



END

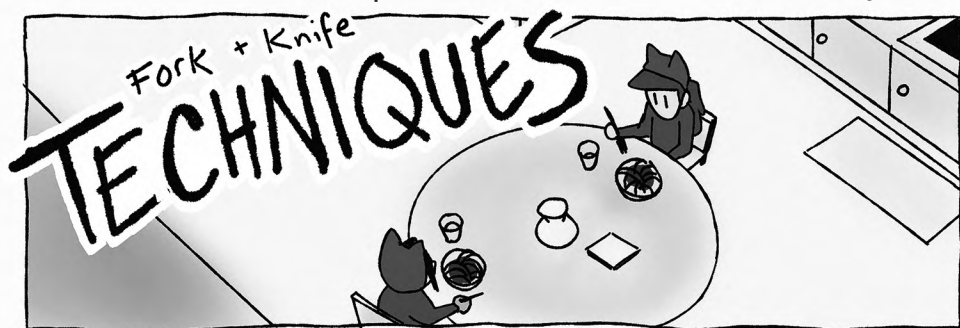


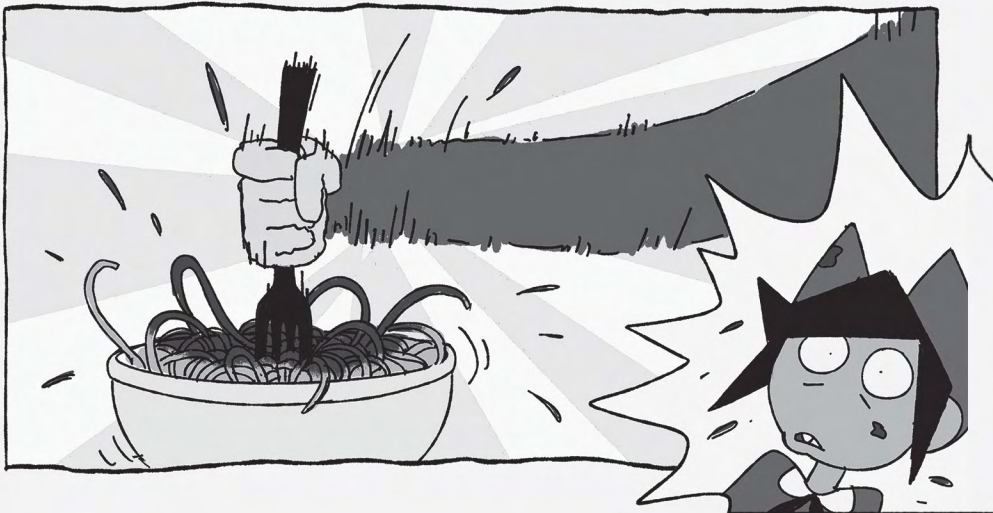
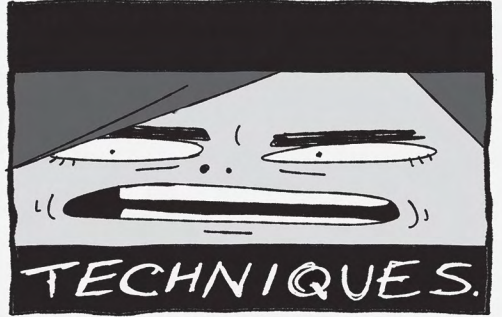
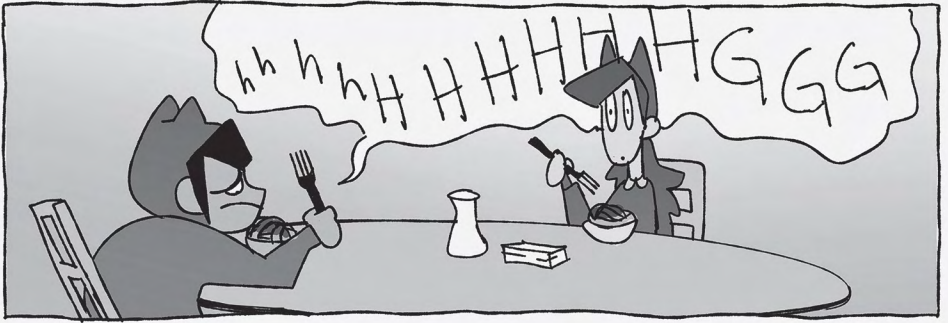


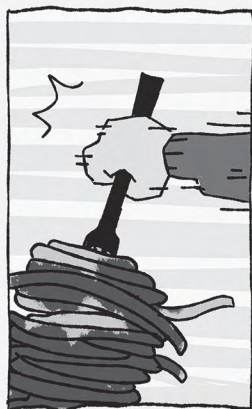
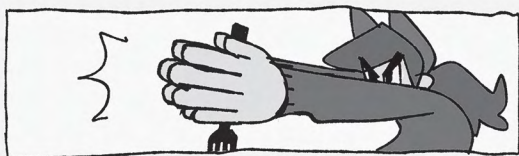












END



HA!

THUNK!

TAKE THAT YOU
ARBOROUS ABOMINATIONS!
YOUR UGLY GNARLS ARE NO
MATCH FOR MY IRON!

NUUUUUHHHHN~



THE FOREST IS
HURTING! IT'S IN
PAIN...

A PARASITE HAS
INVADED AND CARVES WOUNDS
INTO ITS BODY...

AH, THAT DOES
SEEM QUITE...
TRAGIC?

THAT ASIDE,
PERHAPS I COULD LEAD
US TO THE NEAREST
VILLAGE.

OH,
NO...

YOUR PRESENCE
HERE, NOW-

IS MORE THAN
ENOUGH.

SNAP!

THANK YOU.

Hot Food

Jamie Knerim

HONEY PAT

PRESENTED
BY
CASPER
PHAM



ok ok sure
and you've been combing that
server for what.....half an hr?



ISOLATED KEYSTRING, YEAH?

DONT I LOOK LIKE A GUY
WHO KNOWS WHAT
HE'S DOING?

you look
like you're
enjoying
yourself, fly

UHUH.

SHOW ME WHERE IT SAYS
TAKING DOWN MULTIMILLION DOLLAR--

--ALT-REAL--

--SYNDICATE
HAD TO BE
BORING.

A: listen, i know how
you can get with
these kinds of jobs...

but that doesn't
give you license
to get careless,
yeah?

if one of us goes
down, that's it

no more second
ch--

KRRSCH

ATTIE?

HOLD ON,
SOMETHING'S.....

GAME OVER,
LEON.

IT'S YOUR
LUCKY DAY.

OH, HELL.


???

BEEP!
BEEP!

BEEP!
BEEEEP!
BEEP BEEP!

SWEETS
PIES
SOFT SERE
CANDY





WELL, HERE'S
THE BARE-BONES
TRUTH, MR. FISHER.

FROM TIME TO TIME,
WE'D CATCH A FEW NASTY
PESTS ROOTING AROUND
IN OUR SERVER.

THEY'RE NOT
USUALLY AS
LUCKY AS YOU.

BUT MAMA *LIKED* YOU,
SO SHE MADE YOU INTO
LUCIDIA PROPERTY.

TRAPPED YOU IN
THIS SLEEPLESS CYCLE
OF RE-ENACTING THAT
VERY LAST STAND
AGAINST US.

Y'KNOW,
OUR CYBERSECURITY IS
ONLY AS GOOD AS IT IS...
...BECAUSE OF YOU.

OUR LITTLE PARAGON
OF INGENUITY.

THEN TELL ME
THIS, YOU SICK
BASTARDS--

--HOW LONG,
EXACTLY, HAVE
YOU KEPT ME HERE?



<HA>
<HA..>

YOU'RE DYING,
AND NOT EVEN OUR
PEOPLE CAN SEEM
TO STOP IT...

DOESN'T
MATTER NOW.

MAMA CAN
JUST GET YOU
REPLACED, SURE,

BUT THERE
ARE THOSE
OF US WHO
NEED
YOU

ALIVE.

like
me.

NOW WHY WOULD
YOU NEED SOMEONE
LIKE ME?

YOU....
..WAIT.

YOU'RE..
SIMM'S
KID.

I WANT OUT,
SAME AS YOU.

I KNOW
YOU.

• LIVE

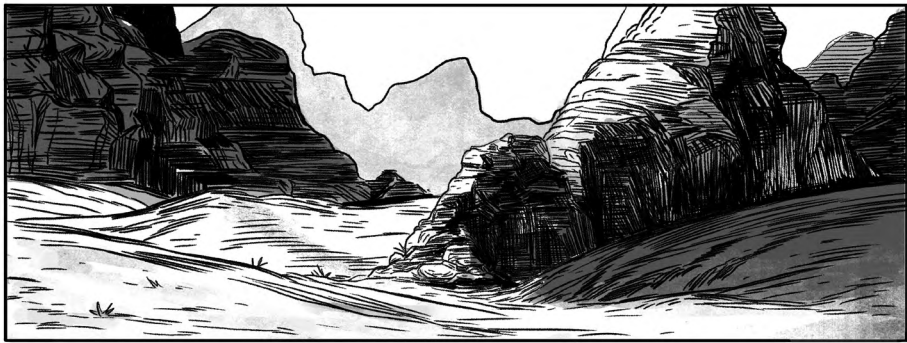
BUT,

CLEVER AS SHE IS,
MAMA HID THE KEYS
SOMEWHERE NO ONE

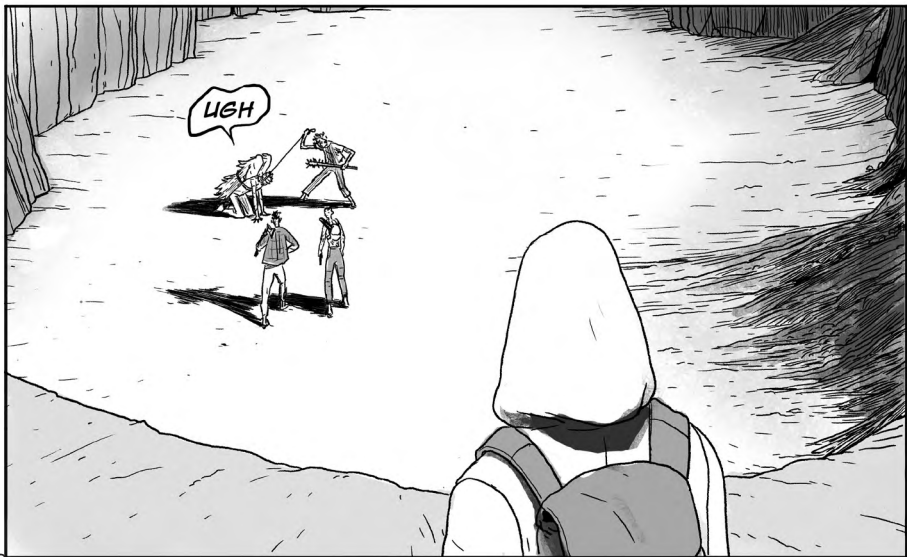
--NOT EVEN I--

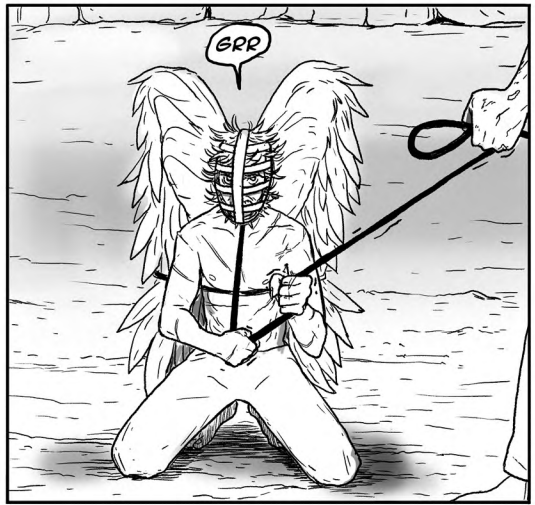
COULD FIND IT.

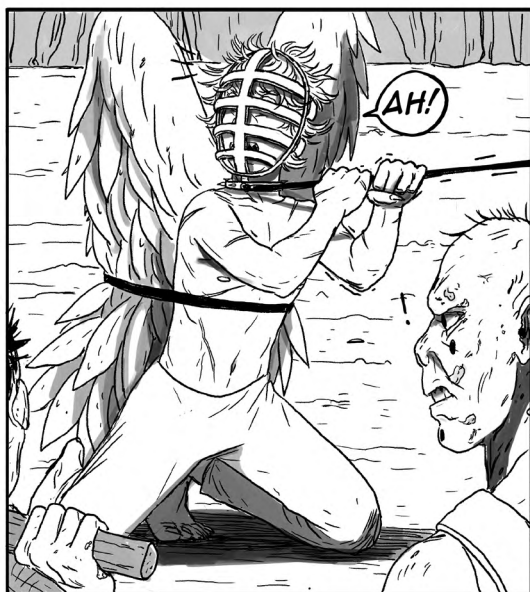
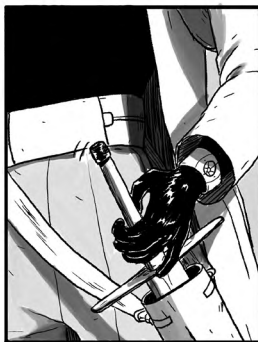


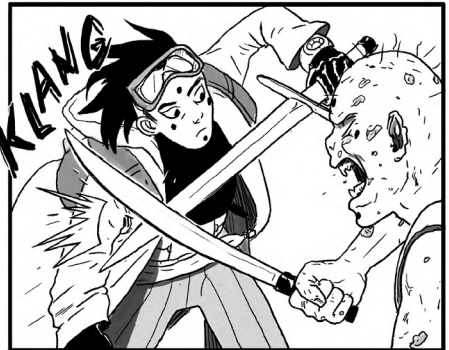


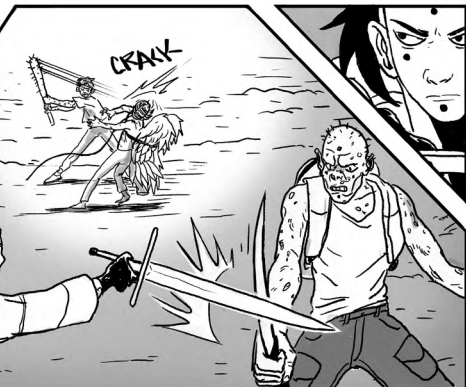
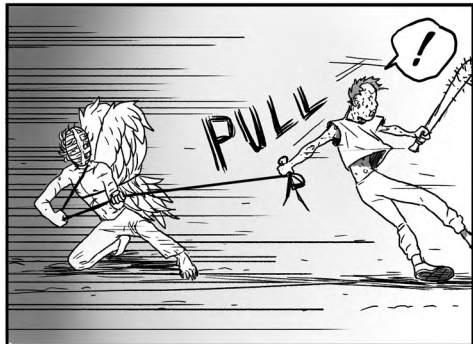
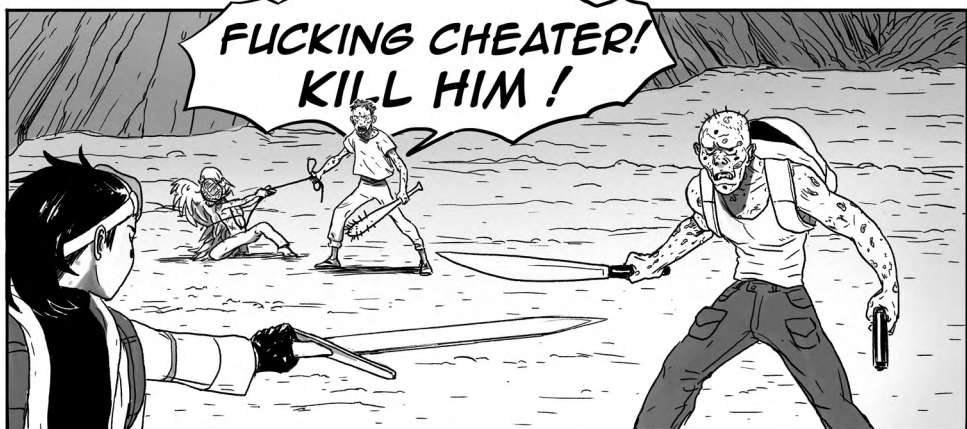
ΔΗΗΗΗΗΗΗ!

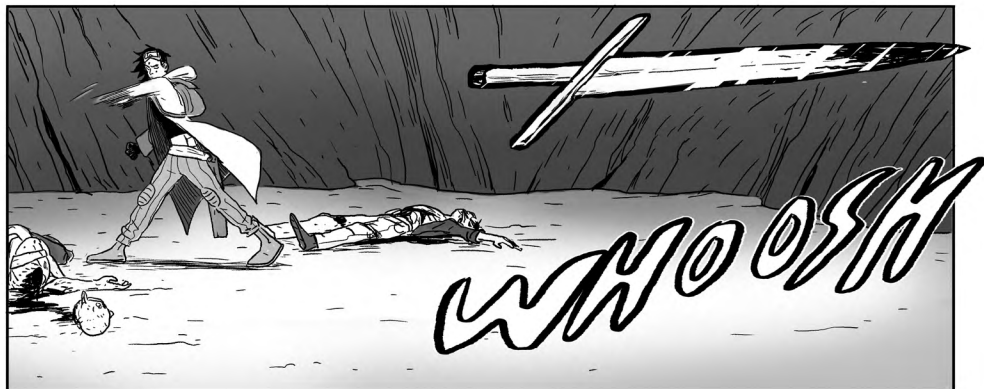
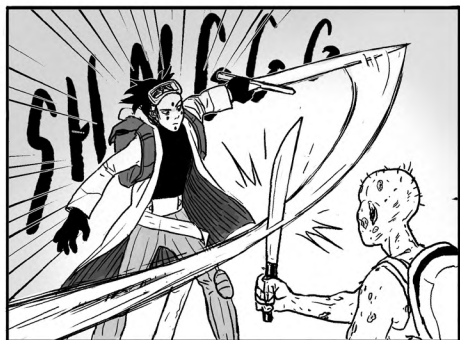


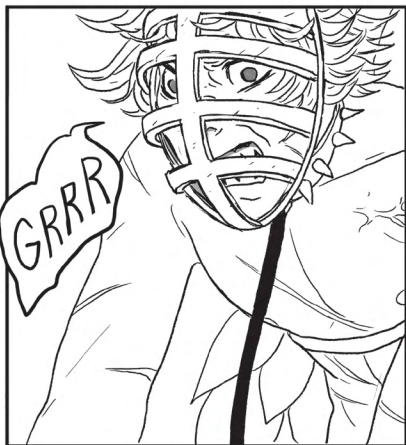
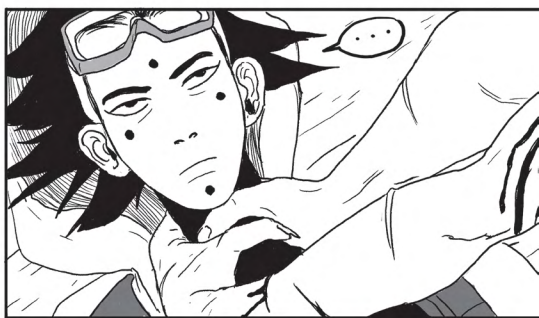
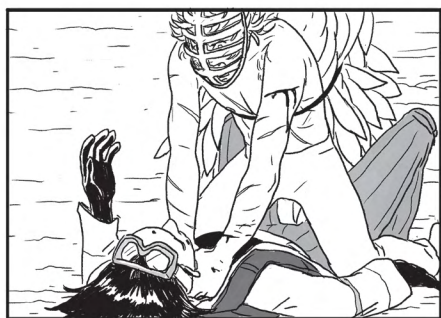
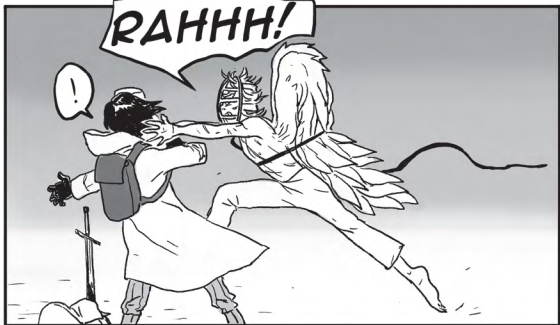
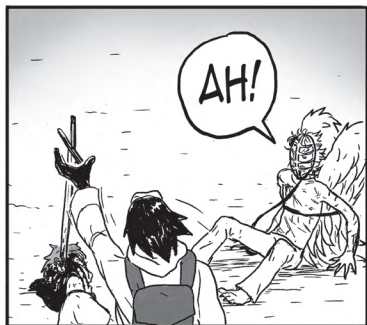
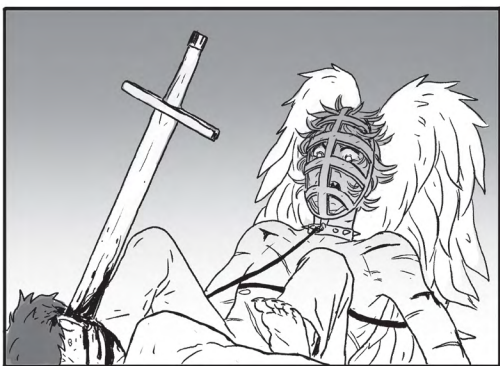


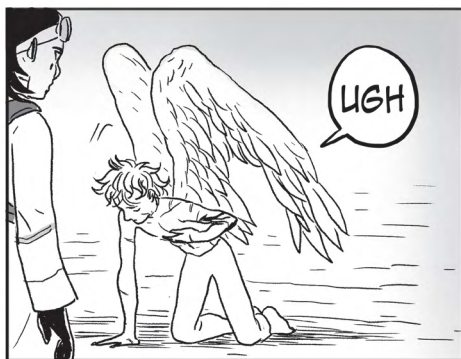
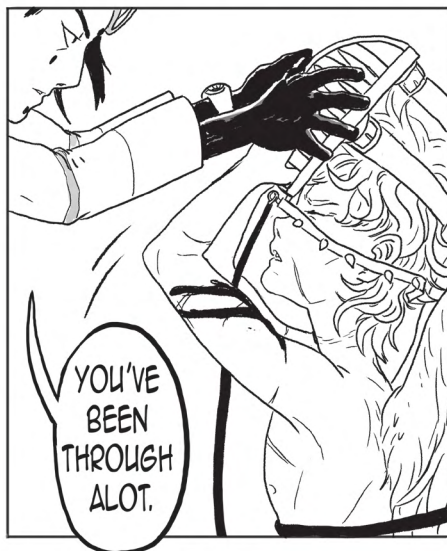
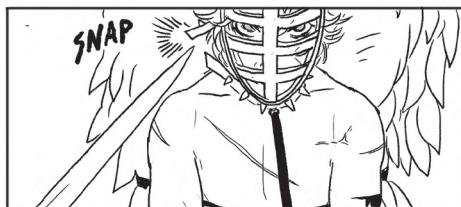












Why Sherlock Needs Watson

Sammy Newman





AND I DEFEATED
PROFESSOR JAMES MORIARTY,
IF YOU'LL REMEMBER.



ALL OF THIS I
HAVE ACCOMPLISHED
COMPLETELY ON
MY OWN!



SO WHAT YOU'RE
TELLING ME IS—



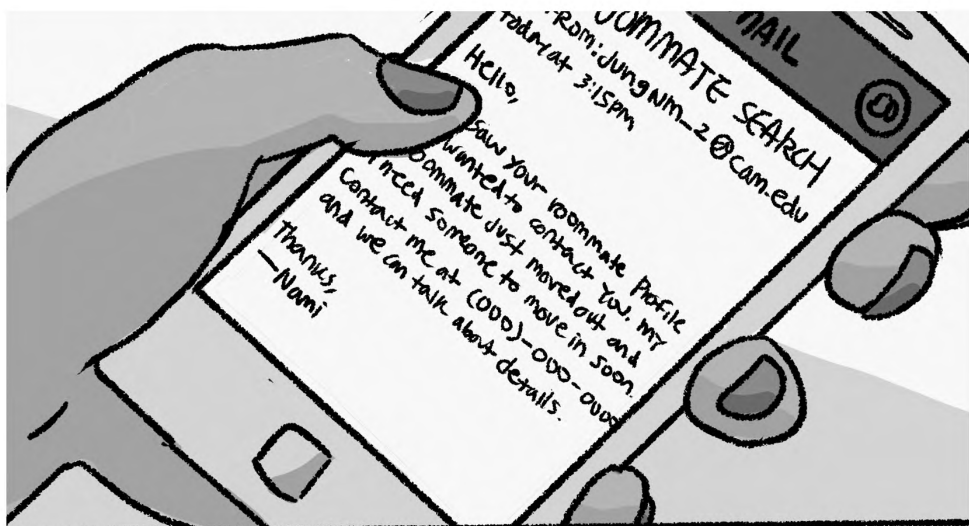
YOU DON'T NEED ME
TO TIE YOUR SHOES
THIS MORNING?



WATSON, PLEASE...







I CONTACTED THE
NUMBER IMMEDIATELY.



AFTER CHATTING FOR
A BIT WE SCHEDULED
A TOUR FOR TOMORROW.



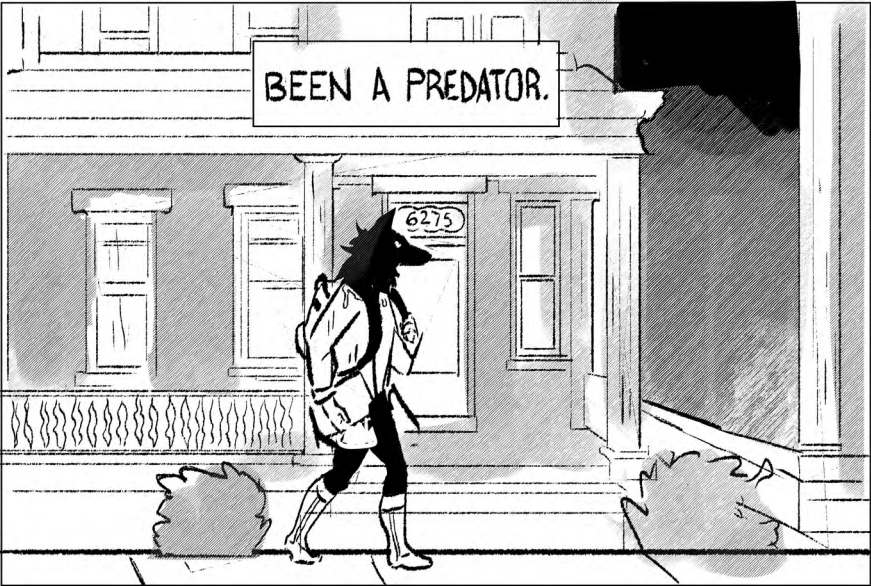






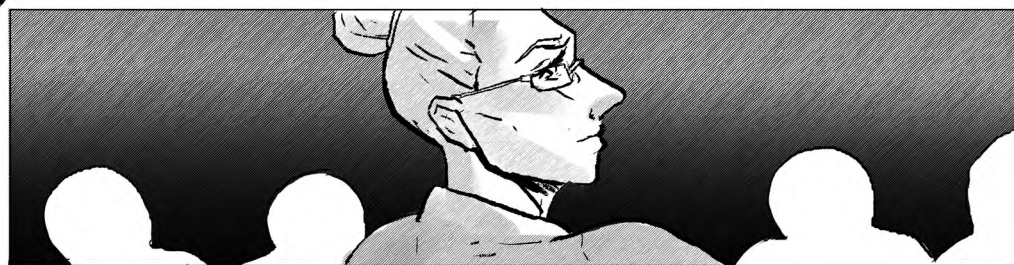








QUESTION:



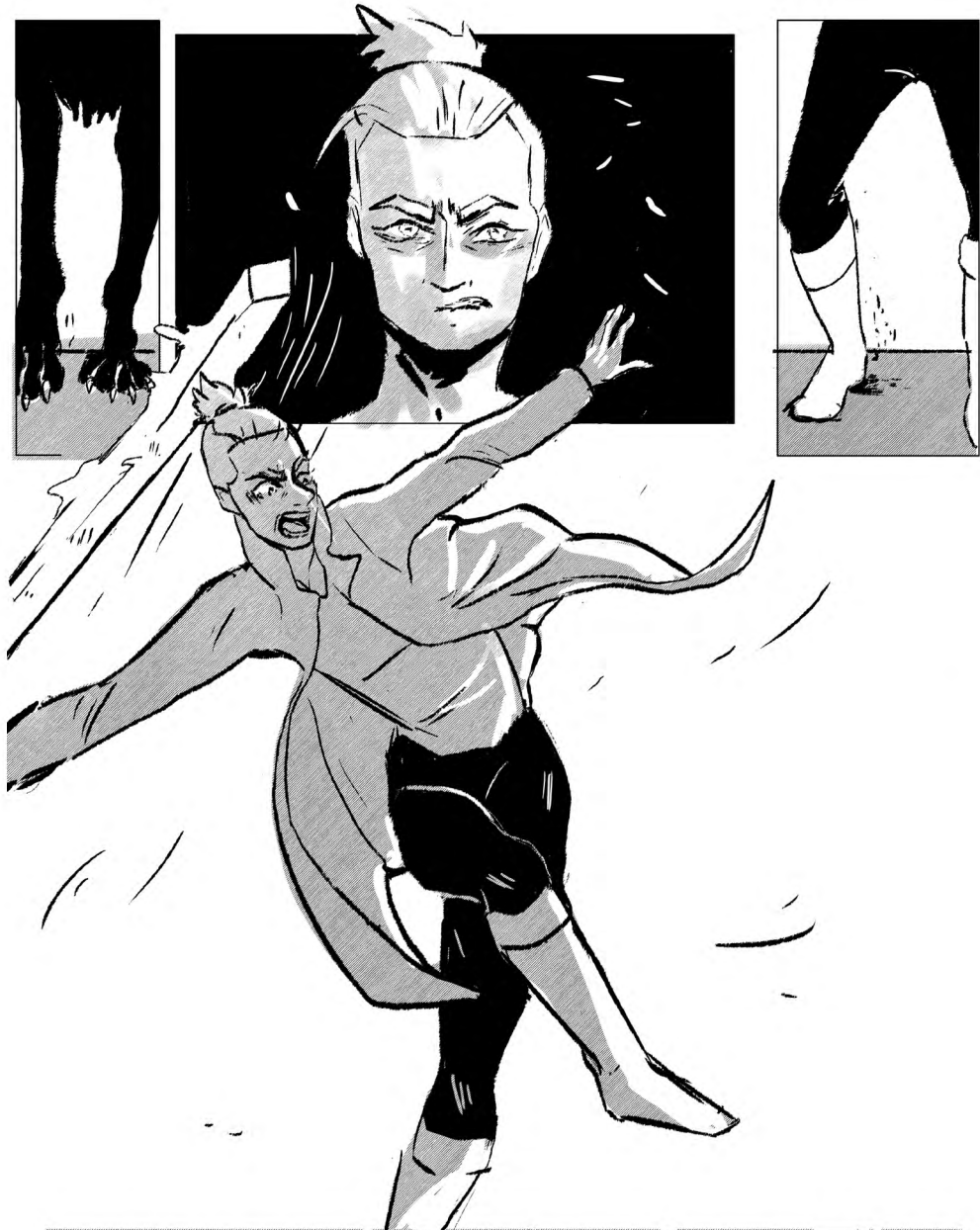
WHEN
IS
A
WOLF



NOT
A
WOLF?

ANSWER:



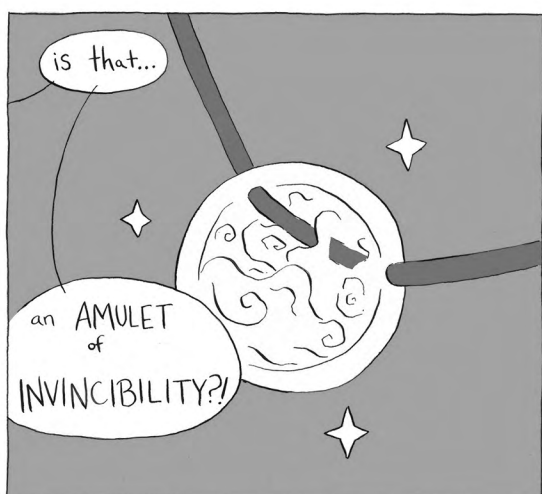


WHEN IS A GIRL

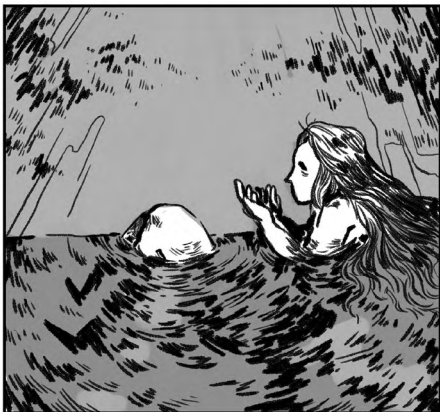
NOT A GIRL?



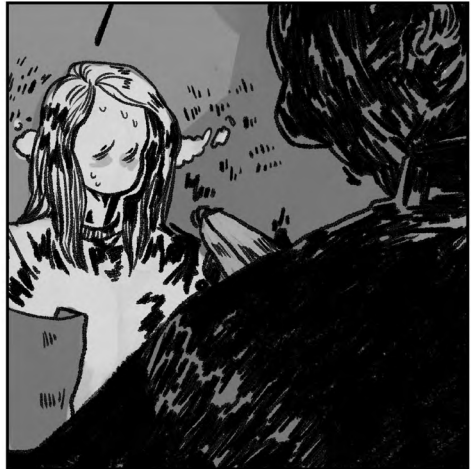


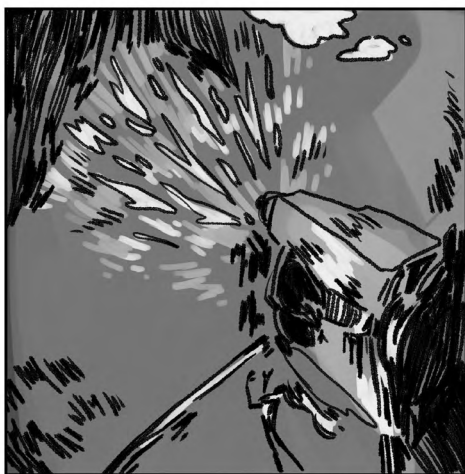




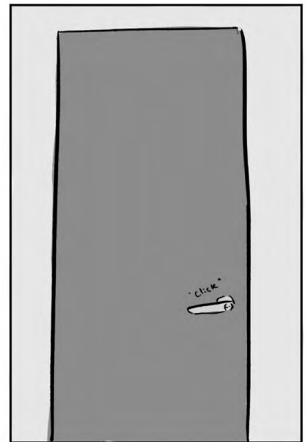












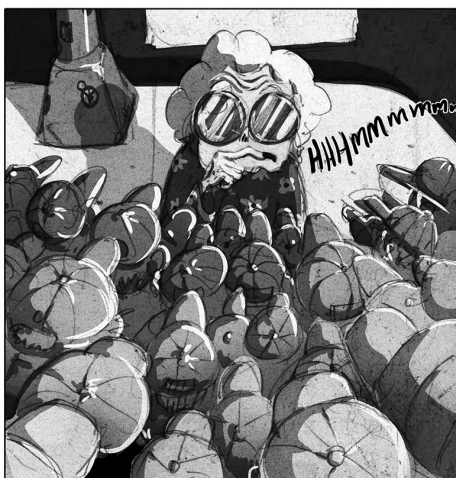
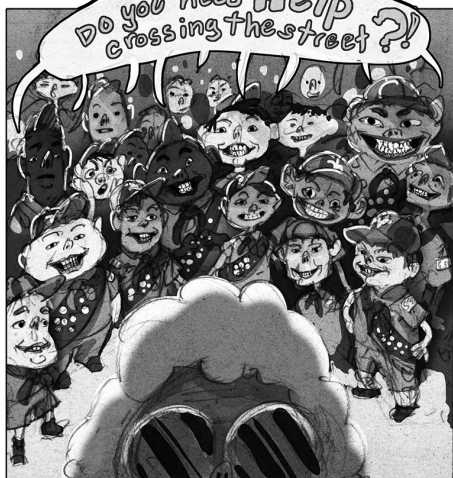
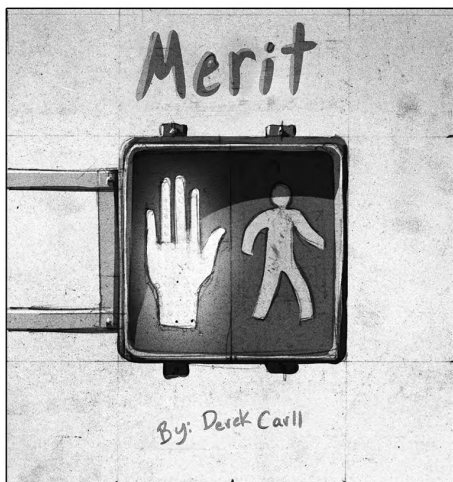


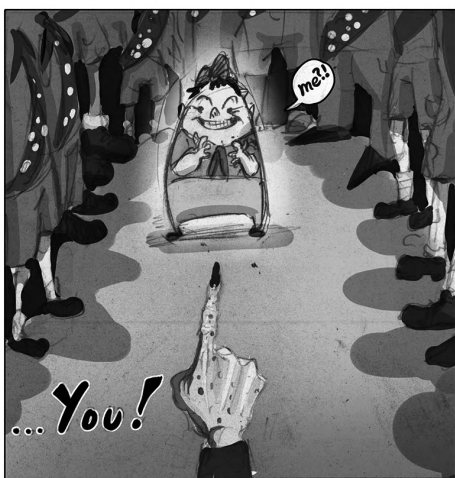








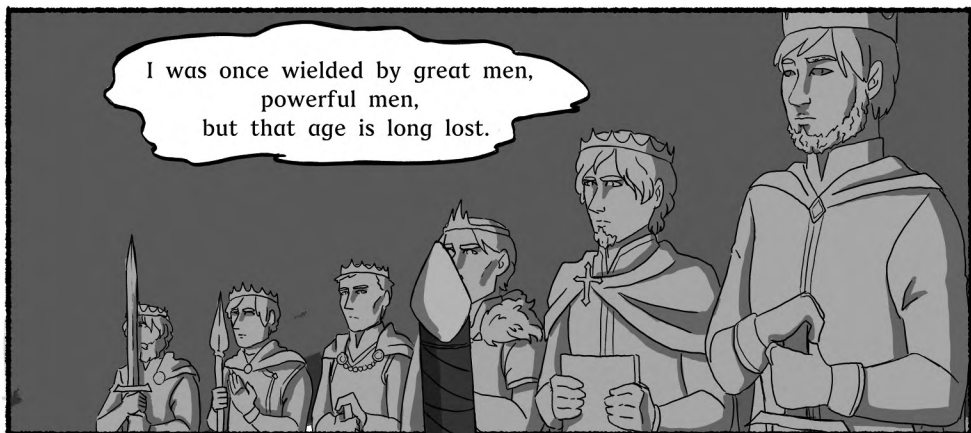




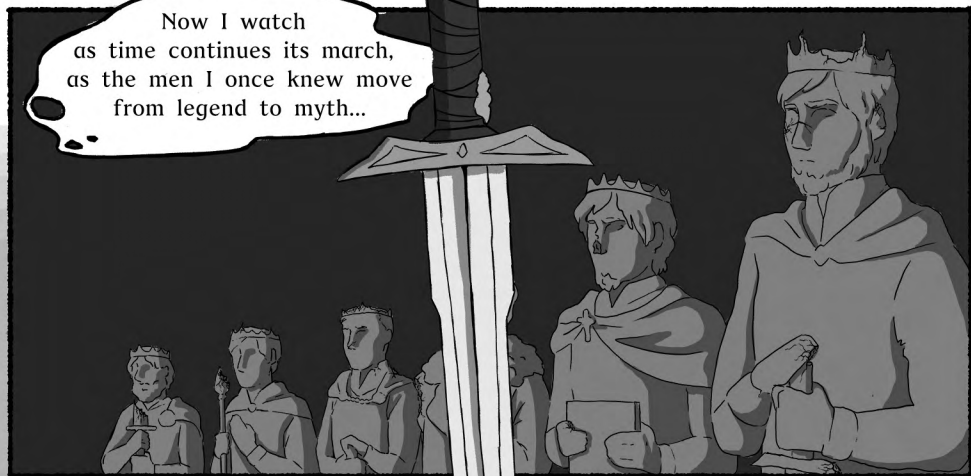




I was once wielded by great men,
powerful men,
but that age is long lost.



Now I watch
as time continues its march,
as the men I once knew move
from legend to myth...



...as empires fall,
and new ones take their place.



Many have come to stand before me,
to try to rend me from my prison,

to try to claim me as their own.

they come out of pride,
of greed or desperation,

but I know the hearts of men-

-and I can see the corruption.





none have come
who are worthy of my power,

worthy of my loyalty,



worthy of *me*.



Until now.

Until you.



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..... EDITORIAL STAFF

Morgan Barnett *Editor-in-Chief*

A Junior in Communication Arts and an animation nerd of the largest sort, Morgan loves dreaming up art to fulfill any kind of narrative vision. With aspirations of creating animated features and graphic novels, she's always ready to discuss the goings-on of the animation industry, fictional characters, and stories of her own.

Susie Grady *Assistant Editor-in-Chief*

Hailing from Warrenton, Va, Susie is a Junior in the Communication Arts department and part-time Yu-Gi-Oh villain. Inspired by pop culture and 80's rock, they're passionate about building visual narratives with vibrant colors. If you need them, you can usually find them petting their cat, watching HGTV, or doing something reckless while injured.

Claire Patefield *Treasurer*

A Senior prisoner ready to finally break out of the jail cell known as Business Management Administration. When she's not forced to go outside for things like "mandatory attendance" she is found at home, spending most of her free time (and not-so free time) drawing.

Maggie Vanderveer *Senior Staff Editor*

Maggie is a Senior at VCUarts studying Communication Arts. She hopes to find a career in freelance illustration, and likes work that revolves around intersectional feminist and LGBTQIA issues as well as cute things.

India Williams-Valle *Social Media Expert*

India is a cartoonist and illustrator with a focus in children's media who loves to tell stories and create characters. In their spare time catch them crying while watching anime, crying while petting dogs on the street, and crying while eating delicious food.

Kelsey Morrison *Secretary*

Kelsey is a senior art cryptid in Communication Arts, the Honors College, and DaVinci Center for Venture Creation. She enjoys developing overly-complicated worlds and stories and thus hopes to gain a professional career in visual development or storyboarding so she can continue to build even more worlds.

Uri Hamman *Staff Editor and Graphic Designer*

Uri is a concept designer specializing in creature design. They are a senior in Communication Arts with a concentration in Scientific and Preparatory Medical Illustration.

..... EDITORIAL STAFF

Evan McGrady *Staff Editor*

Evan is a sophomore at VCU, majoring in Communication Arts with a minor in the Craft department. He loves to create comics, illustrations, and character concepts. When not working on schoolwork or commissions, you will find him still working on comics or sculptures.

Casper Pham *Staff Editor*

Casper is a concept designer, illustrator, and currently studying as a CommArts sophomore at VCUArts. They are especially fond of designing spaces and environments as stages for which grand dramas may one day take place.

Diansakhu Banton-Perry *Staff Editor*

Diansakhu is a Junior in Communication Arts. She is a character designer and illustrator that loves comics, movies, and fashion. Inspired by science fiction and fantasy themes, she works with the expressiveness of human emotion in animation and illustration. She has growing aspirations of melding the two concepts in her work by constantly drawing people, and watching an insane amount of sci-fi on Netflix.

James Lee *Staff Editor*

James is a junior in Communication Arts. He loves to paint, and is working towards a career in visual development. He can also be found ravaging sketchbooks with his whimsical characters and environments.

Sammy Newman *Staff Editor*

Sammy Newman is a VCU Communication Arts sophomore with who loves drawing cartoons, writing comics, playing DND, strumming on the banjitar, drawing gnomes, and going to bed at a reasonable hour.

Alex Hwee *Staff Editor*

Alex is a junior in the Communication Arts department who draws inspiration from Asian mythology, horror, and science fiction. She focuses on trying to balance her nerdy art interests with organizing, hoping to shed light on intersectional issues. When she's not working on art she's either watching anime or superheroing to stop a pipeline.

Evann Brunson *Staff Editor*

Evann is a second year Economics student who is really just here for the memes. With a soft spot for comics, he is excited to help bring new stories life in anthology form.

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