



THE  
WORLDS  
OF  
KICKSTARTER  
COMICS



# The Worlds of Kickstarter Comics





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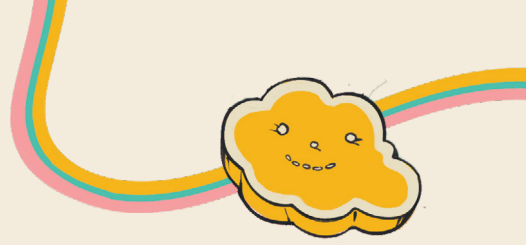
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**Special thanks to every single Kickstarter comics creator and backer—and to you, dear reader.**







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# Foreword

Hello and welcome to the wondrous world of Kickstarter Comics! I'm Camilla Zhang, the Comics Outreach Lead at Kickstarter. While most of my job centers around teaching comics creators on how to get funding for their projects, I also love sharing their stories with readers from around the world, because the comics on Kickstarter are unlike what you'll find anywhere else—I'm talking about anthologies celebrating votes for women, graphic novels that teach kids physics fundamentals, comic series about wrestling werewolves, and so much more.

Variety is one reason to love Kickstarter. Community is another. Connecting with and supporting creators so they can make books both of you truly love (with as much creative freedom as possible), is such an incredible feeling. Because when you back a creator's project, you become a part of it. You get to see the process and the thinking that goes into it. You get to be a part of someone's dream.

My own dream for you, dear reader, is that you get to connect with stories that are as vast and nuanced as our world really is. For me, Kickstarter is a reflection of that world, precisely because many of our creators come from diverse backgrounds. Together, their voices give us plurality in perspective, a superhuman gift that helps us evolve in our ability to empathize with and care for one another.

So, join me and the hundreds of thousands of Kickstarter backers. Let's support newbie and veteran

creators alike, so we can read stories that are bold, inventive, and just plain refreshing. We'll discover AR comics about a heroine who fights human trafficking, animated comics about luchadors, comics that come with a vinyl read-along record, hilarious puppet diorama comics about an angry Korean lady—the sky has no limit on Kickstarter.

While I couldn't fit them all in this anthology, I'm so stoked to give you a sampling of the gorgeous, weird, wild, and poignant stories we've helped bring to life here. Come along on this journey with me—what you read along the way is a harbinger for the vibrant, inclusive world Kickstarter comics creators are building. And after you're done, I hope you'll head over to [Kickstarter.com/comics](https://www.kickstarter.com/comics) to see the projects waiting for your support.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Camilla Zhang', with a stylized, flowing script.

Camilla Zhang  
February 2020

# “DAY AT THE PARK”

Futuristic comics need not spell gloom and doom. When Matt Miner (*GWAR: Orgasmageddon, Poser*) and Eric Palicki (*No Angel, Orphans*) started thinking about curating and editing the anthology this story first appeared in, they wanted to share some hopeful visions for the future to offset all the dystopian sci-fi. *All We Ever Wanted: Stories of a Better World* was born.

“Day at the Park” echoes that simple, sunny wish. Not a lot happens—that’s the point.

“With so many different crises going on in the real world, reading stories of hope and caring is such a breath of fresh air,” says Kickstarter Creative Project Manager and selection committee member Nick Martin. “Day at the Park is such a sweet story and in many ways, its simplicity is what dares us to think more optimistically about the future we can build.”

Written by Eliot Rahal

🐦 [@EliotRahal](#)

Colored by Josh Jensen

🐦 [@joshj81f1](#)

Illustrated by Jason Copland

🐦 [@JasonCopland](#)

Lettered by Zakk Saam

🐦 [@ZakkSaam](#)

See where it all began:

---

## *All We Ever Wanted: Stories of a Better World*



**715** backers pledged **US\$ 24,665** to help bring this project to life.

Kickstarter Project Creator: [Tyler & Wendy Chin-Tanner](#) of [A Wave Blue World](#)

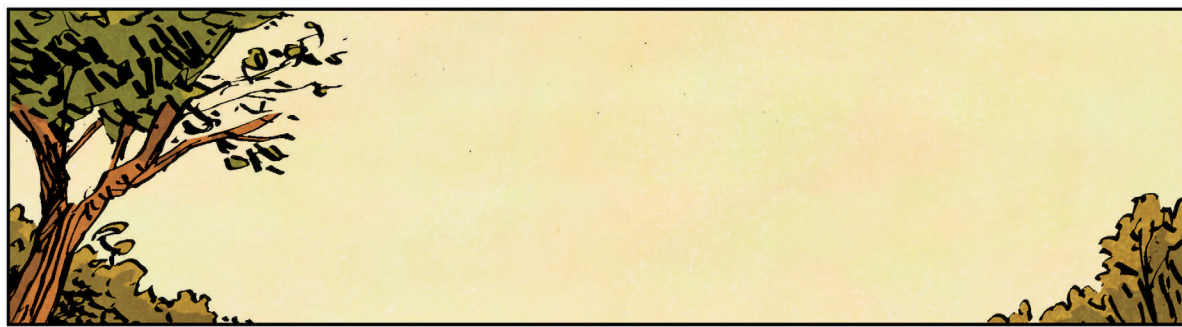
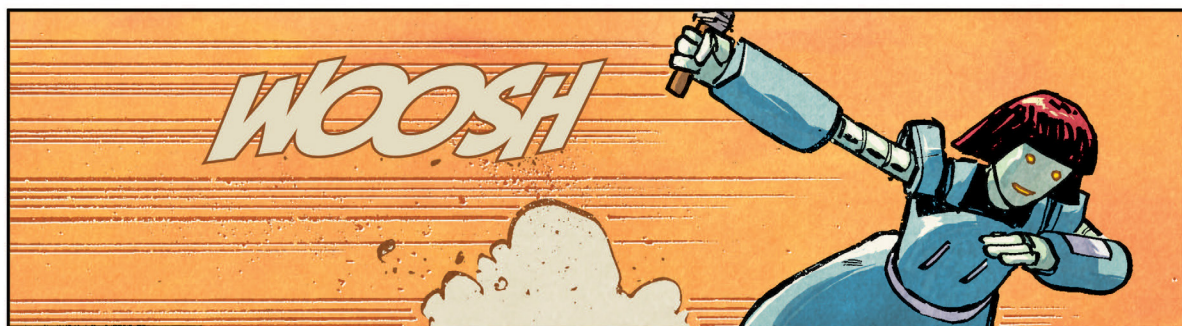
Cover Art by  
[Ariela Kristantina](#)

🐦 [@ARIELAkris](#)

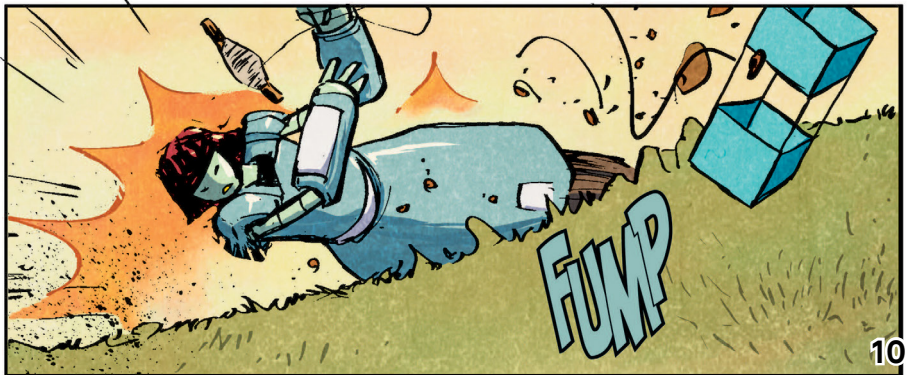
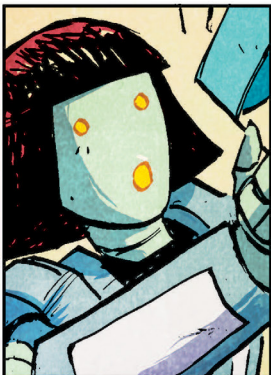
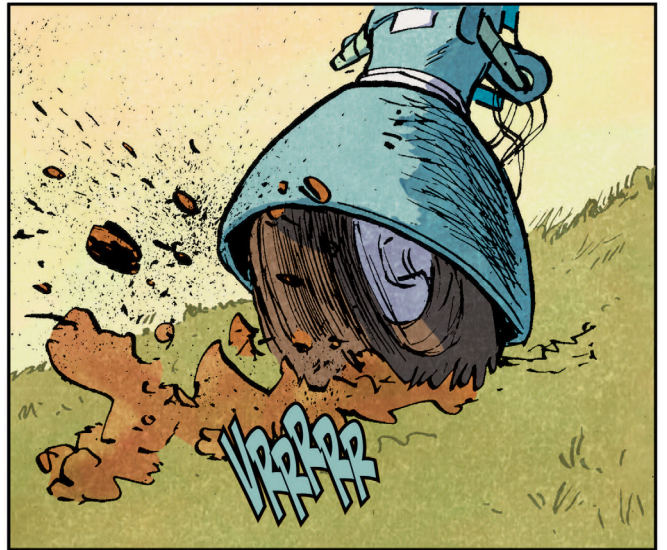
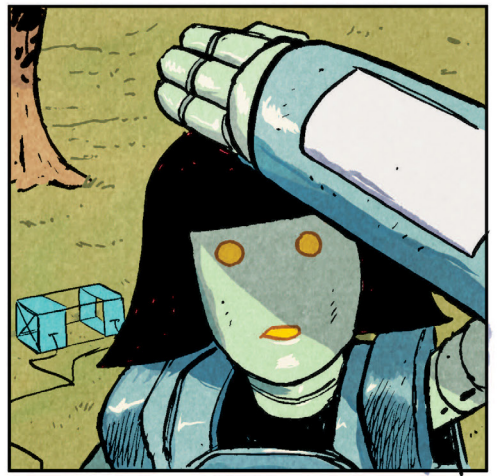
📷 [arielakris](#)



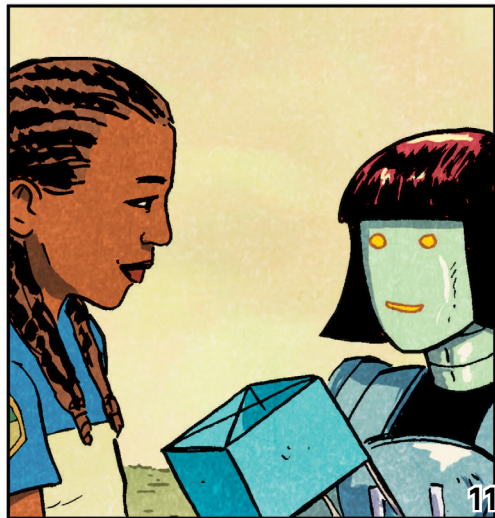
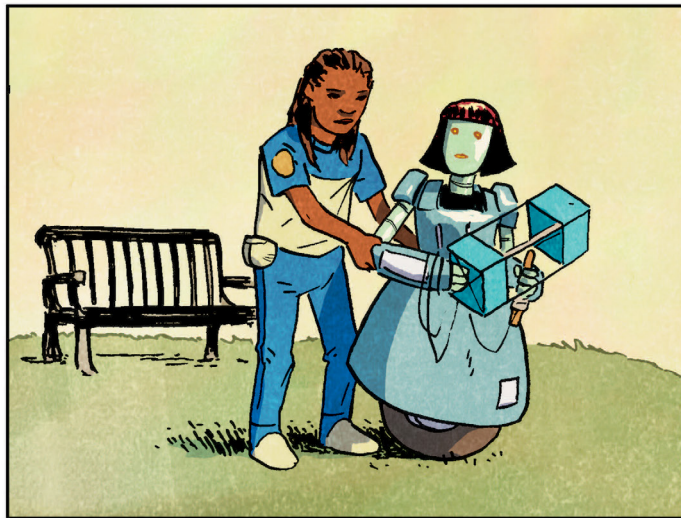
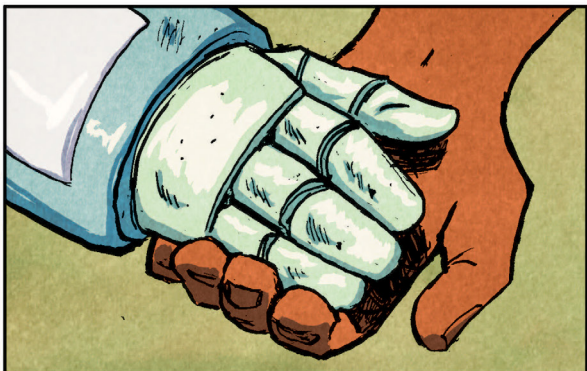
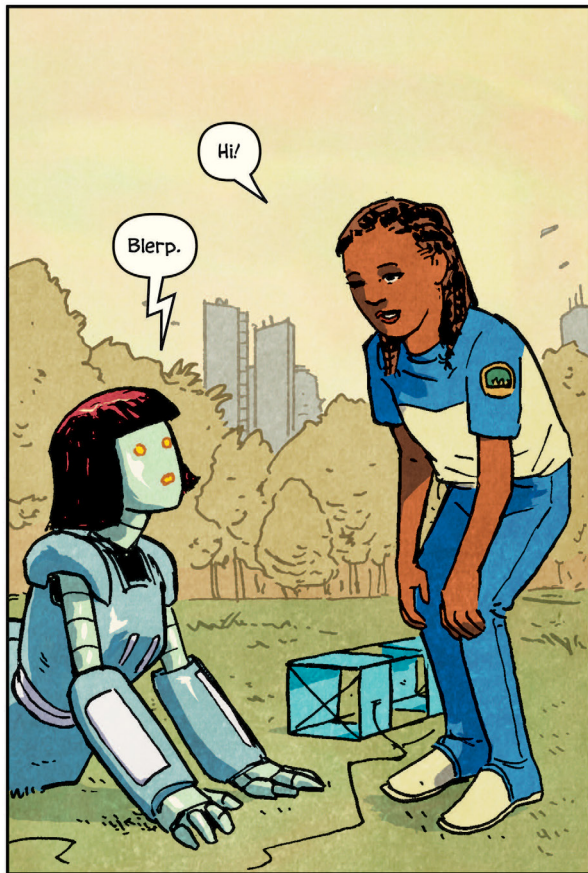
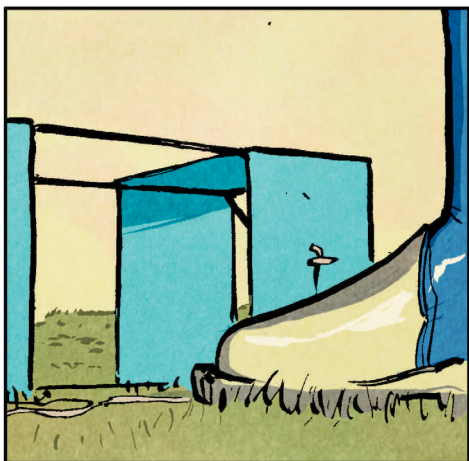
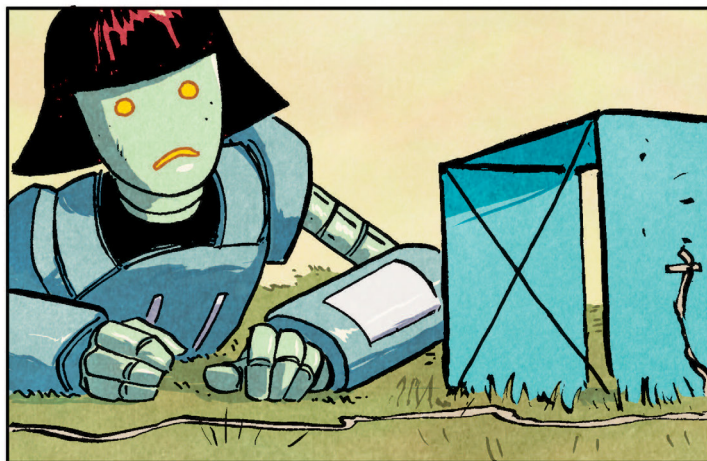
















YAAAY!

BLERP!

END.

# “JOURNEYS”

The following story first appeared in *MOONSHOT The Indigenous Comics Collection Volume 2*, a project created to give indigenous authors opportunities to tell stories based on their own tribe or community’s traditions.

Jeffrey Veregge was inspired by his Suquamish tradition—carried out to this day—of canoe journeys that bring the tribe’s culture to new places as a gesture of sharing and respect.

The Suquamish text woven through the story is the lyrics of a traditional traveler song, and marks one of the first times the oral tradition has been written out. The story also, hopefully, is a reminder that we are all sharing lands, and can choose to do so respectfully.

Story by Jeffrey Veregge

 @JeffreyVeregge

 jeffreyveregge

See where it all began:


---

## ***MOONSHOT The Indigenous Comics Collection Volume 2***



**1,206** backers pledged **CA\$ 65,484** to help bring this project to life.

Kickstarter Project Creator:  
Alternate History Comics, Inc.

Cover Art by  
by Stephen Gladue  
 @stephengladue







# JOURNEYS

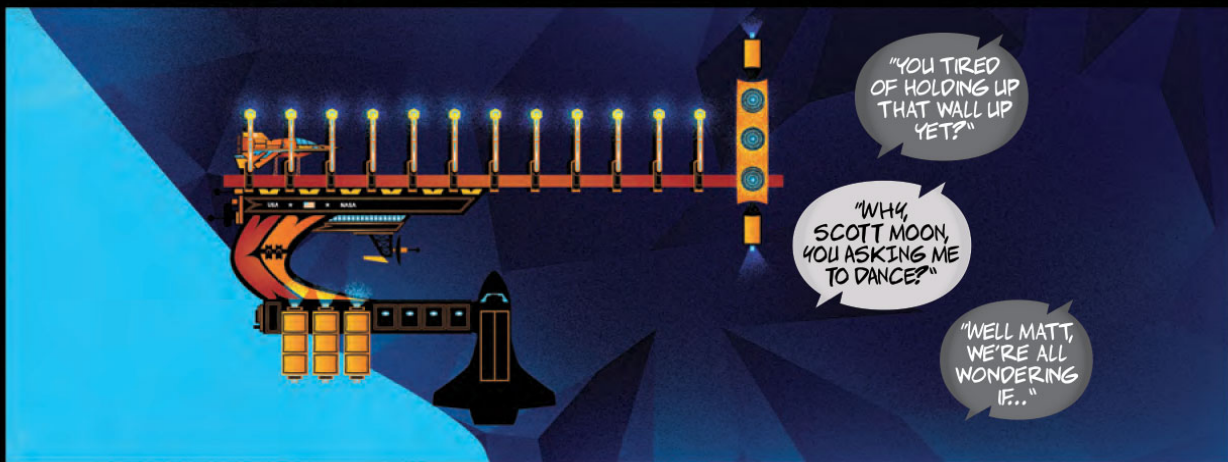
THE JANUS INTERSPACE  
SLING SHOT.



150,282 MILES  
FROM EARTH

"JANUS 1,  
THIS IS  
CAPCOM."

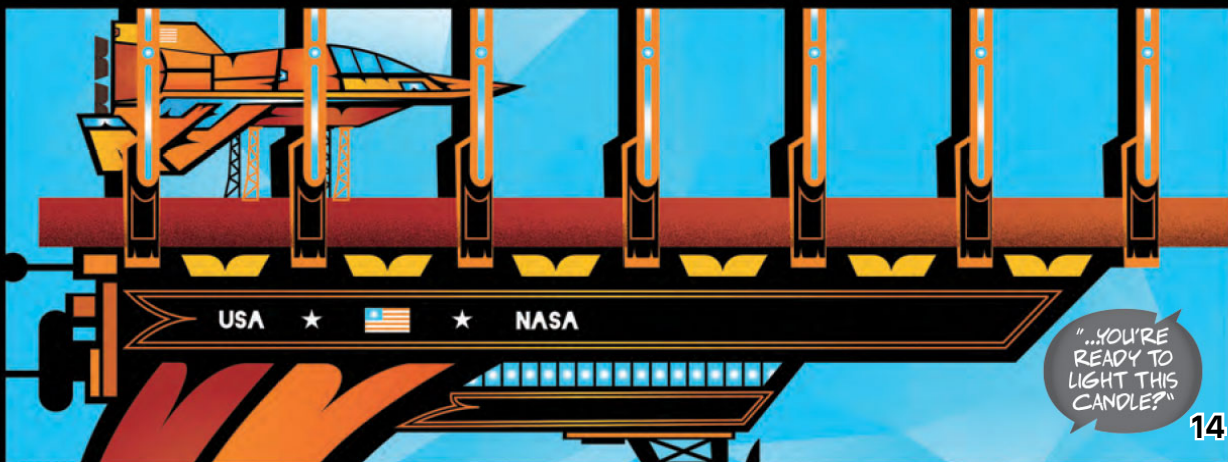
"ROGER  
CAPCOM."



"YOU TIRED  
OF HOLDING UP  
THAT WALL UP  
YET?"

"WHY,  
SCOTT MOON,  
YOU ASKING ME  
TO DANCES?"

"WELL MATT,  
WE'RE ALL  
WONDERING  
IF..."



"...YOU'RE  
READY TO  
LIGHT THIS  
CANDLE?"



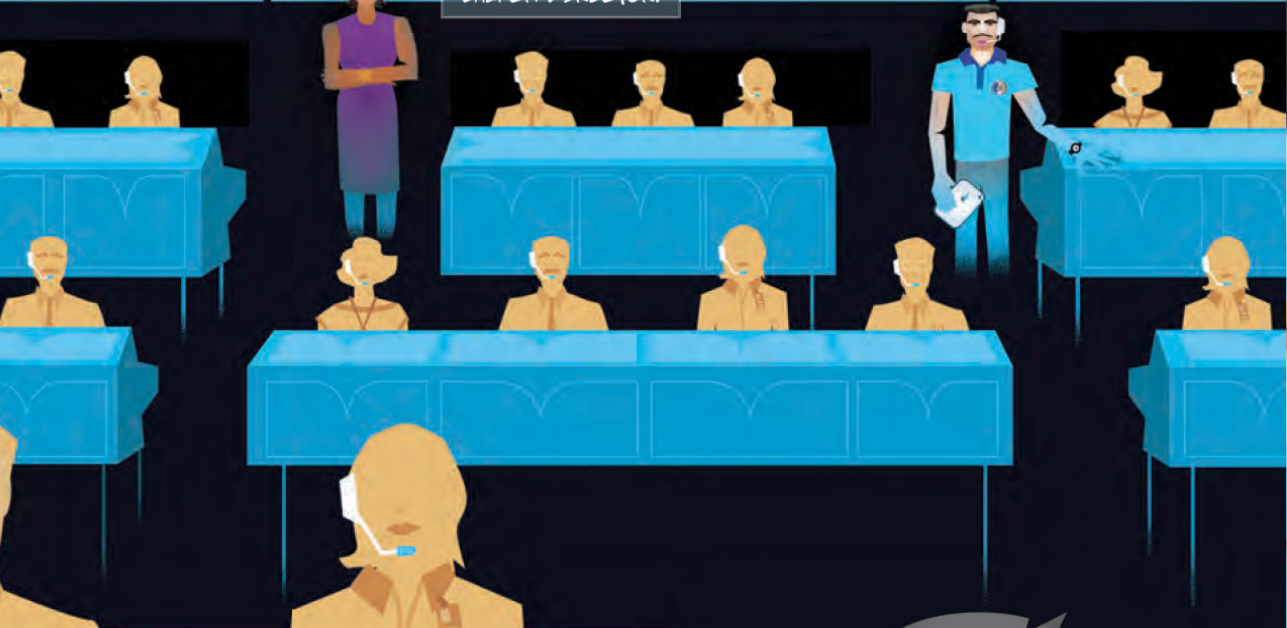






MISSION IS GO FOR LAUNCH.

AVERY SCOTT,  
LAUNCH DIRECTOR.



MISSION CONTROL,  
HOUSTON, TEXAS.

"PLEASE  
COMMENCE  
FINAL COUNTDOWN.  
IN T-MINUS 10  
AND COUNTING..."

"10..."



"...9, 8, 7..."

"...6, 5, 4..."

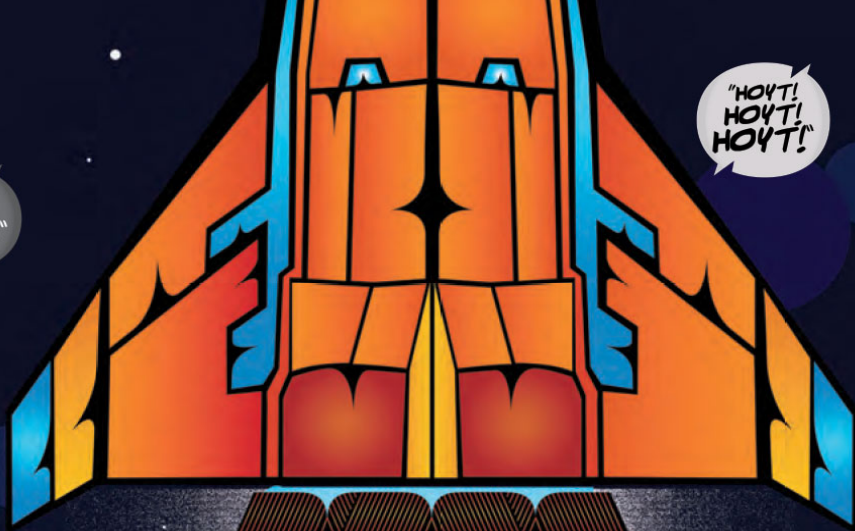
"...3, 2..."

"...1..."

2...

"WE HAVE  
IGNITION."

"HOYT!  
HOYT!  
HOYT!"



"JANUS 1,  
THIS IS  
MISSION  
CONTROL."

"DO YOU  
COPY?"







"REPEAT.  
JANUS 1, THIS IS  
MISSION CONTROL.  
DO YOU COPY?"

nə'cəmat ct tə sx<sup>w</sup> q'eləwən

nə'cəmat ct tə sx<sup>w</sup> q'eləwən

YOU  
KNOW MATT,  
SAMMY IS GONNA  
TELL ALL THE GIRLS  
THAT HE'S THE  
BEST PULLER...

nə'cəmat ct tə sx<sup>w</sup> q'eləwən

...IF  
YOU KEEP  
STOPPING  
LIKE THAT,  
NEPHEW.

"SORRY,  
UNCLE."



GOOD  
SONGS BEARON.  
IT REMINDS US  
ALL TO STAY AS  
ONE.

ESPECIALLY  
IF THERE IS A  
LIMITED AMOUNT  
OF FRY BREAD!

UNITY *nəˈcəmat* ət tə





MATTHEW,  
YOU DOING OKAY?  
WANNA SHARE  
WHAT'S GOIN' ON IN  
THAT OLE' HEAD  
YOURS, NEPHEW?

"RIIIIGHT...  
AND BE THE  
REASON WE  
ALL STOP  
SINGING?"

"NO, I'M  
GOOD  
UNCLE."

sx<sup>w</sup> q<sup>w</sup>eləwəŋ WE HAVE ONE FEELING





THAT'S FINE,  
I'LL JUST TELL  
THEM ABOUT THAT  
TIME I CAUGHT YOU  
AND NIGEL TRYING TO  
IMPRESS THOSE GIRLS  
FROM BOSTON WITH  
YOUR...

"NO, NO!  
NO NEED FOR  
THAT! I'LL  
SHARE."

"BUT YOU  
ALL HAVE TO  
PROMISE NOT  
TO SCREW  
WITH ME LATER  
ABOUT IT."

I CAN'T  
PROMISE  
SOMETHING  
LIKE THAT. YOU  
KNOW BETTER.

HOW  
'BOUT WE  
JUST WON'T  
TELL YOUR  
AUNTIES.

"ALL RIGHT,  
THINK ABOUT  
THE SAME THINGS  
ON EVERY JOURNEY  
THAT I TAKE  
THROUGH GOD'S  
CREATION..."

"...I THINK  
ABOUT THE  
CONNECTION I  
FEEL WITH THE  
ENVIRONMENT  
AROUND ME..."





"...REMINDING MYSELF THAT I AM A PART OF SOMETHING MUCH, MUCH LARGER."

"JANUS 1, THIS IS MISSION CONTROL. DO YOU COPY?"

"MISSION CONTROL, THIS IS JANUS 1..."

"...INTER-DIMENSIONAL JUMP IS A SUCCESS!"

# “SOFT PHYSICS”

The following story first appeared in *FTL, Y'all!: Tales From the Age of the \$200 Warp Drive*, an anthology that asked creators to imagine how the near-future might change with the introduction of affordable time travel tools.

Blue Delliquanti, a Minneapolis-based Prism Award winner, answered that call with an adventurous vlogging duo sparking conspiracy theories and concern around the galaxy—the sneak peek here will leave you on a cliffhanger, too.

Kickstarter Senior Software Engineer and selection committee member Dannel Jurado says, “I’m a sucker for DIY science and mixed media. Seeing the “Hopnet”—read: FTL space internet—posts alongside the comic gave it that extra credibility that words alone couldn’t.”

Story by [Blue Delliquanti](#)

 [@bluedelliquanti](#)

 [bluedelliquanti](#)

See where it all began:

---


***FTL, Y'all!: Tales From the Age of the \$200 Warp Drive***



**1,627** backers pledged **US\$ 51,432** to help bring this project to life.

Kickstarter Project Creator:  
[IronSpike](#) of [Iron Circus Comics](#)

Cover Art by [Paul Davey](#)

 [@mattahan](#)

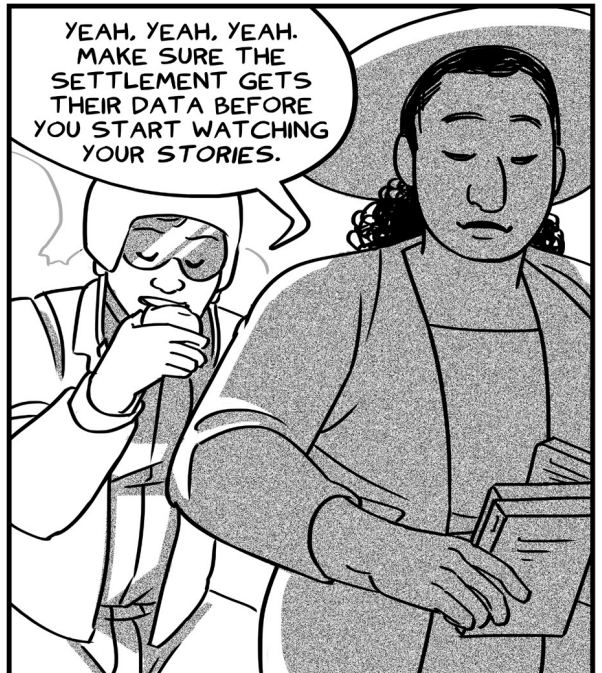
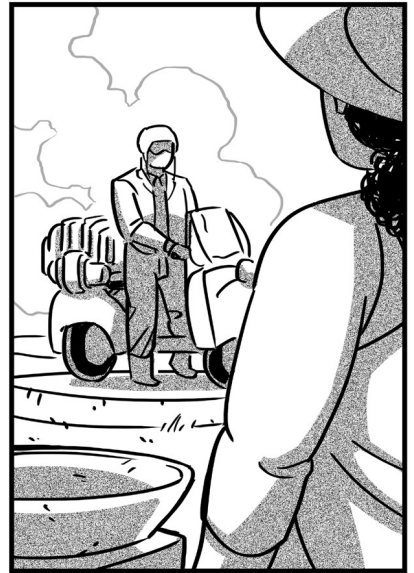
 [mattahan](#)





# "Soft physics"

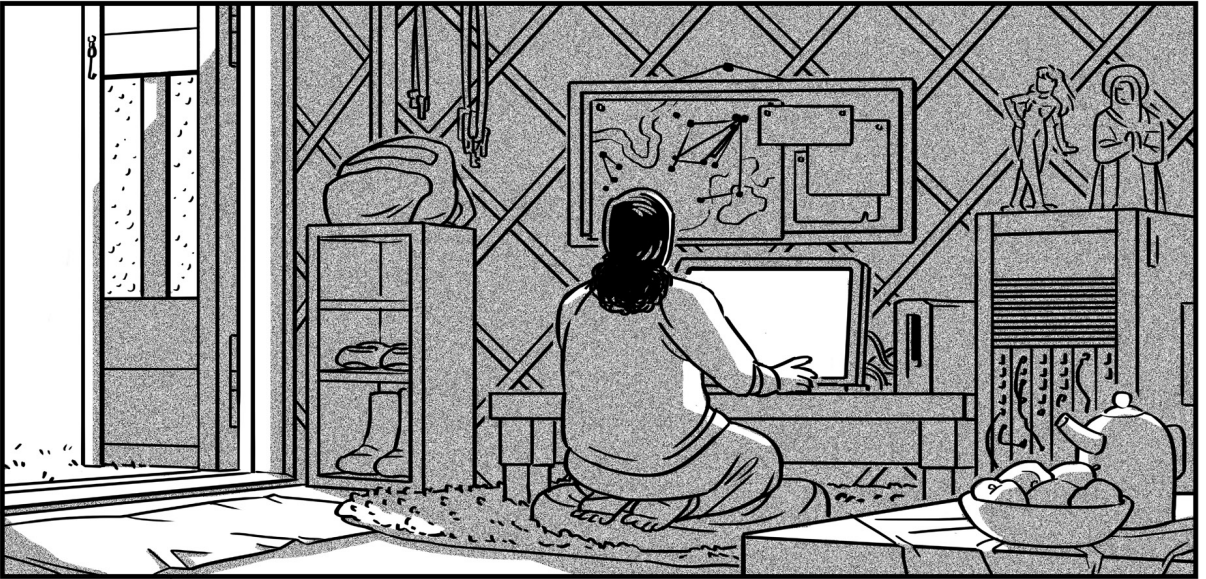
by blue delliquanti



MORNIN'.

YOU ADDED  
MY NEW SUBS  
TO THIS WEEK'S  
PACKET, RIGHT?

YEAH, YEAH, YEAH.  
MAKE SURE THE  
SETTLEMENT GETS  
THEIR DATA BEFORE  
YOU START WATCHING  
YOUR STORIES.



17m

Webmaster posts

Hesperides\_u: Packet's here! I'll be uploading all day - requests first, then commons. BE PATIENT! Walk over anytime if you need tech support.

1m

Hesperides\_u: Packet ETA 14:45 today. Includes all requests up through last Thursday 12:00.

2h

PERSONAL

DRIVE  
HESPERIDES\_U

hopnet

ver 6.30

last updated 05 days 02 hours  
47 minutes ago (local)

Welcome back, Hesperides\_u



# Stay Out Of My Room, Moms One Through Eight

Rosemary

17 she/her AB

Leckie AKA  
the galaxy's 3rd  
most famous  
lesbian moon  
colony

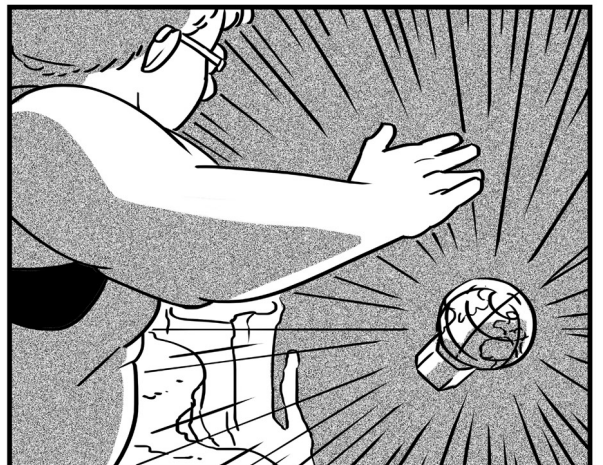
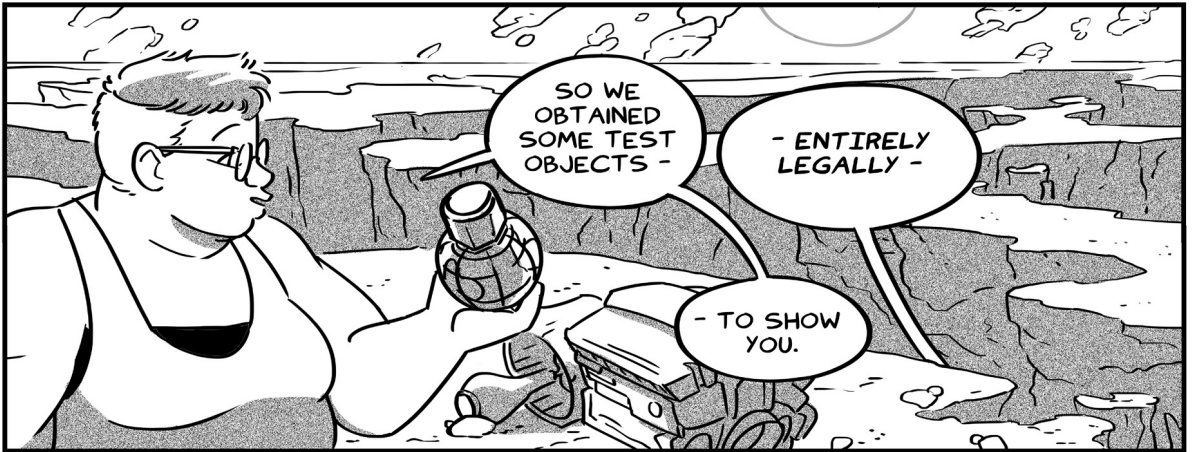
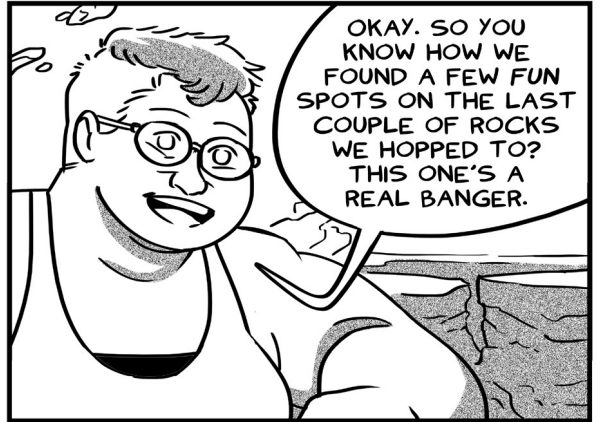
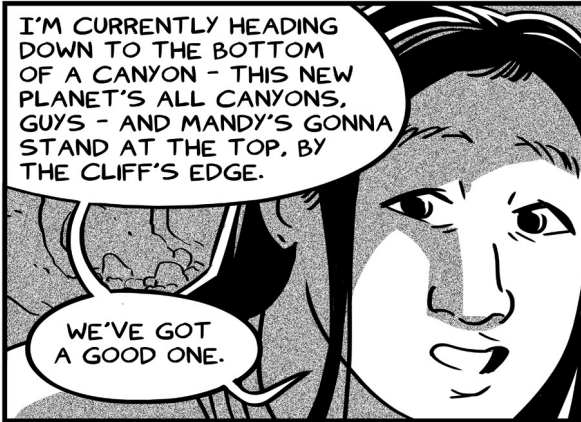
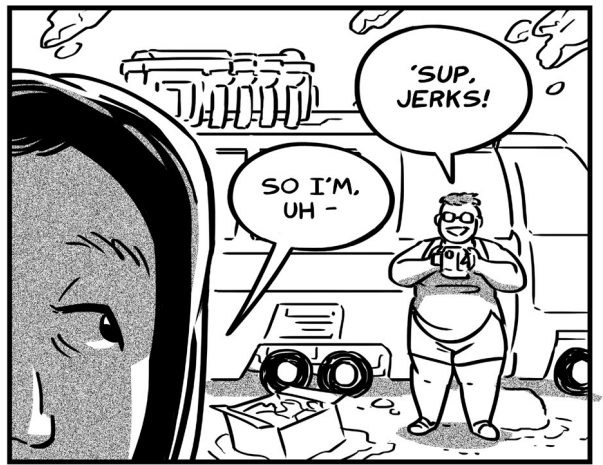
search

THEY'RE AT IT AGAIN

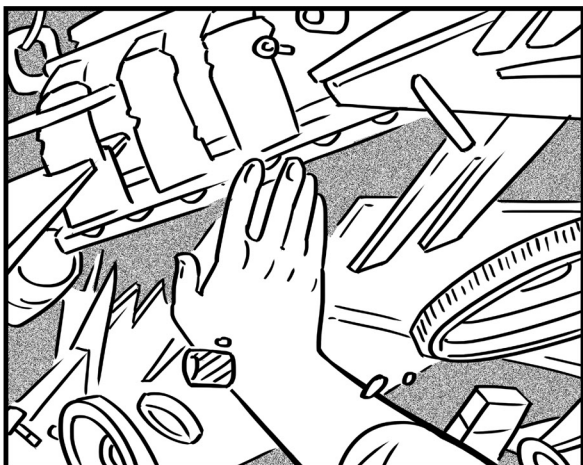
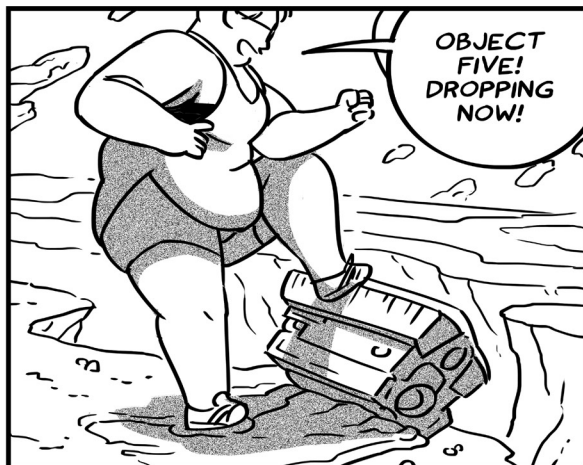
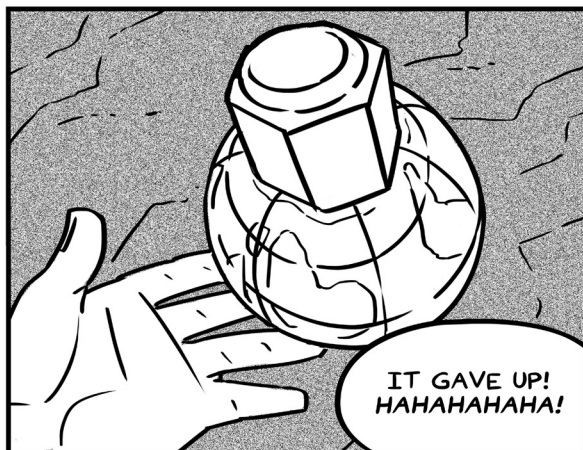
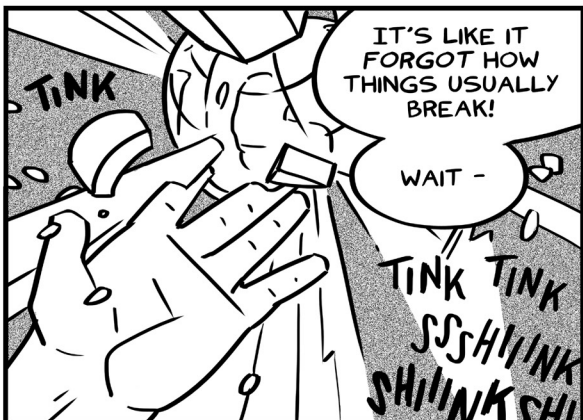
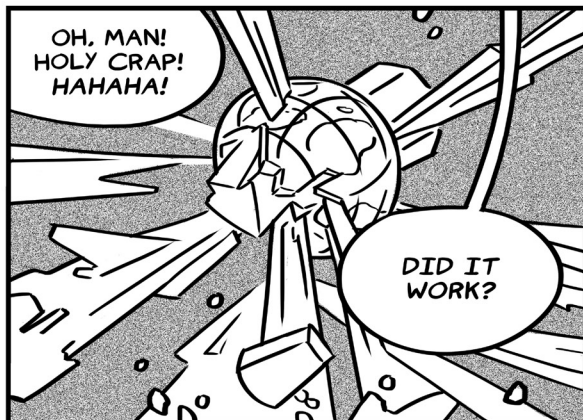
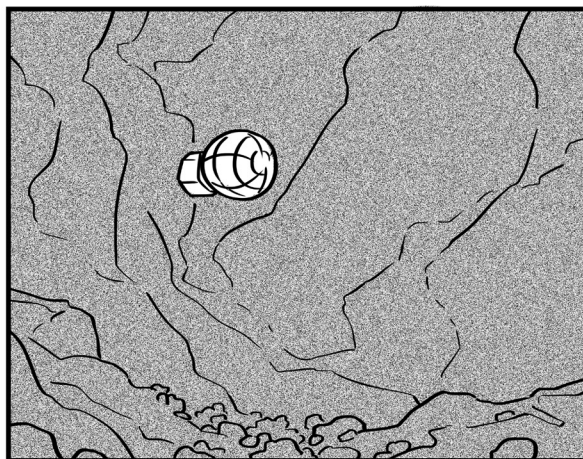
3 HOURS AGO

#p&m #thank you for my life











islandtime

Jun 15, 2021



posted 22 hours (local) ago

Listen, I'm not pushing a conspiracy theory here. Two girls can go a long way in an RV with a hop drive. Hell, me and Janine hopped our houseboat out to Sapphire all by ourselves. But how do we know this isn't filmed on a soundstage somewhere?

OnlyLivingBoyInNewProspect

Mar 27, 2030



posted 8 hours (local) ago

The question is, who supplied them a vintage Camaro? I mean, their source has gotta be Earth, right? fuldaM0B1L, can you confirm the car?

fuldaM0B1L

Oct 13, 2010



posted 48 minutes (local) ago

Well, OLBINP, you were right about the model, it is a 1969 Camaro - a ZL-1, to be exact. Good taste. I had my packeteer get the records for all transactions and reports of theft in the last 60 years. I'll let you know if I find a match for their Chevy.







There are definitely pockets of the Milky Way subgroup where these instances of "soft physics" can be documented. Solar systems in Boötes, Pisces, and the Fornax Dwarf are the biggest offenders, and most of the instances are at least 150 ly out. But let's face it, most of our data relies on civilian reports being scraped off the hopnet and cobbled together into a barely-viable framework.

These thrillseekers \*could\* be mapping their route based on reports and hearsay, but they could easily be hopping to these places on accident. How do we know there isn't a spatial pocket on a planet \*8 ly\* away - Haven, maybe, or New Lagos - where gravity just doesn't work the way it should?

I'm a packeteer for an orphan data center. AMA.  
submitted 5 hours ago by quarkhamill

Page 2 of 5

GlieseLightning:  
HOLY CRAP you picked up the camaro video! did mandy meet you there???  
please tell me it was mandy

quarkhamill:  
Listen, assholes, I've never met either of 'em. That's not how it works. People don't pass off flash drives into your waiting arms like they're mothers handing over their forsaken infants. It's Victor Hugo but not *that* Victor Hugo.

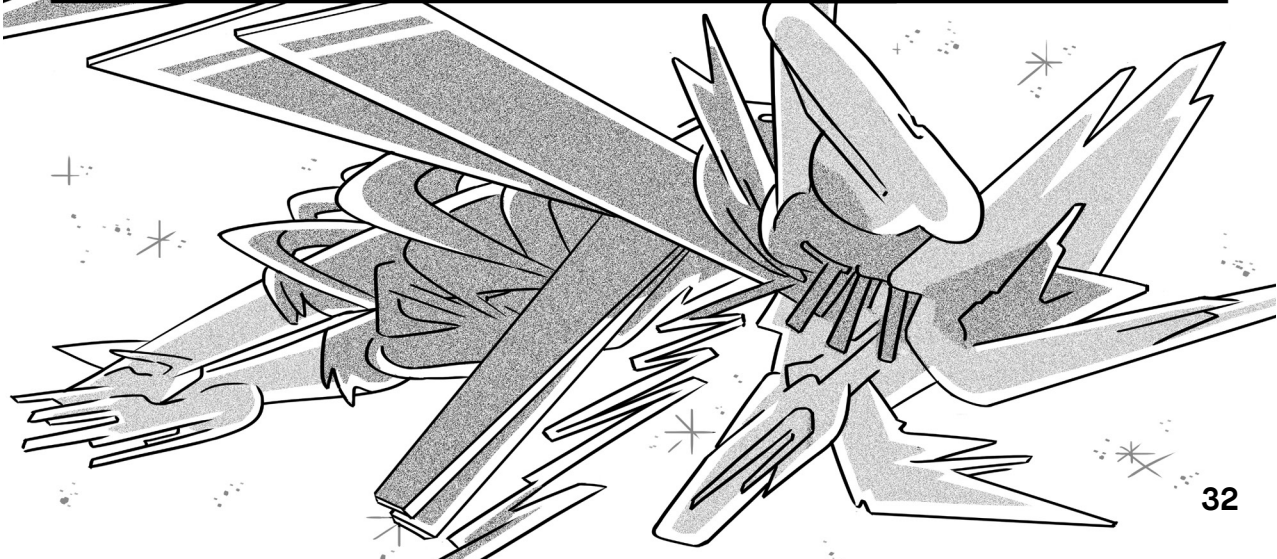
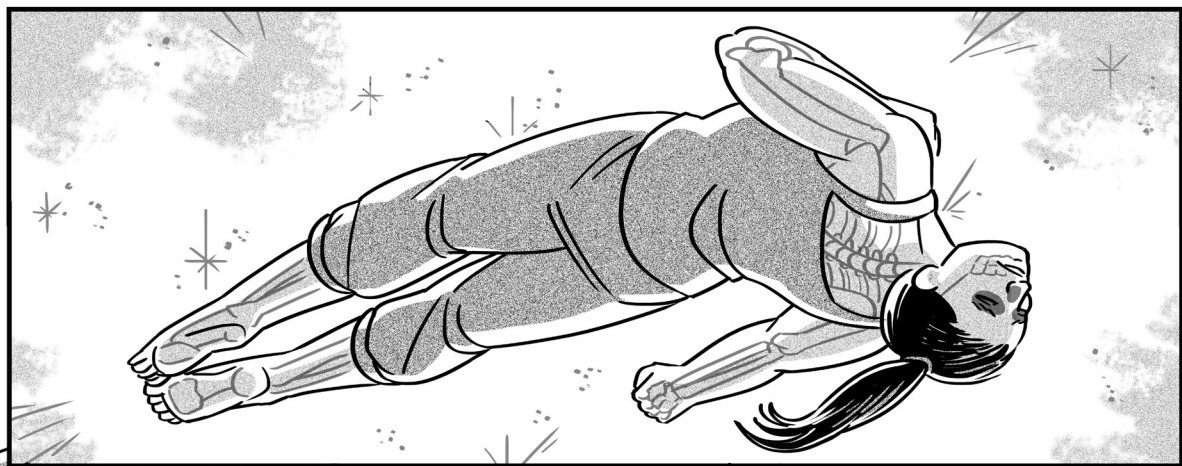
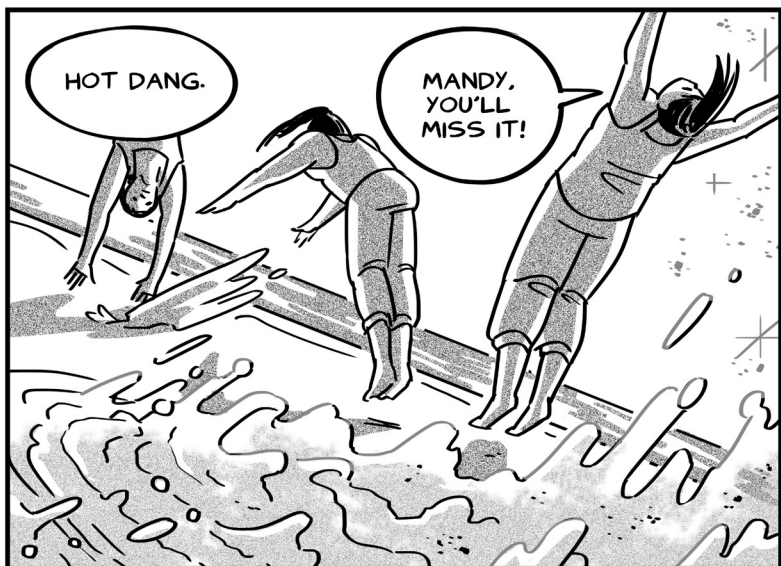
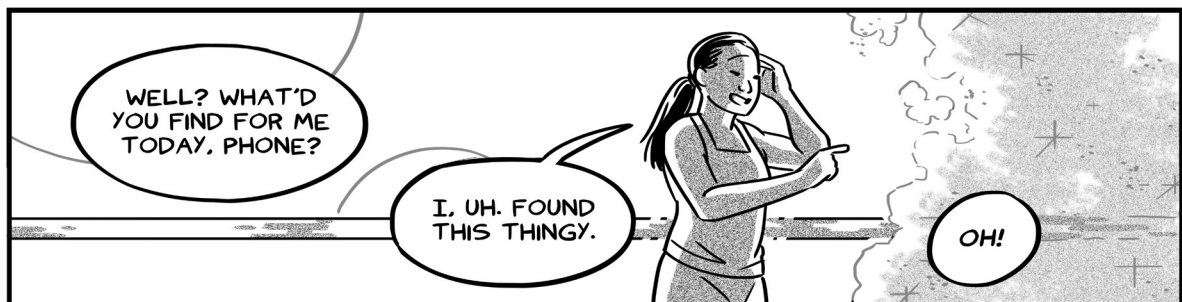
quarkhamill:  
There's a box in the wall. People drop in their drives and the nuns don't say nothing.

There are people staging coups and disseminating radical ideas across the galaxy, and the nuns don't take their names. Anonymity is sacred.

Those Phoney and Mandy videos have been processed in at least 8 orphanages in 5 galaxies. I'm just the Thursday delivery boy.

THERE'S A NEW ONE!







Could this have any similarity to the phenomenon documented in the Iota Gruis system? The photos and measurements taken by Emerson and Kwek in '28, anyway.

documented in the Iota Gruis system? The photos and measurements taken by Emerson and Kwek in '28, anyway.

are you seriously citing emerson and kwek in here

Listen, I know that there are disagreements

around their thesis that a pocket of space-t could be connected to a potentially infinite Dirac sea, but let's just take a moment to consider

DIRAC SEAS ARE SO INELEGANT

Phoney could feel the stray particles skittering across her hands, her skin, her long black locks, as she regained her original form. As her vision came back into focus she could see Mandy running towards her, camera in her hand, sand flying beneath her feet. She was always such a carefree prankster, but did she actually look... worried?

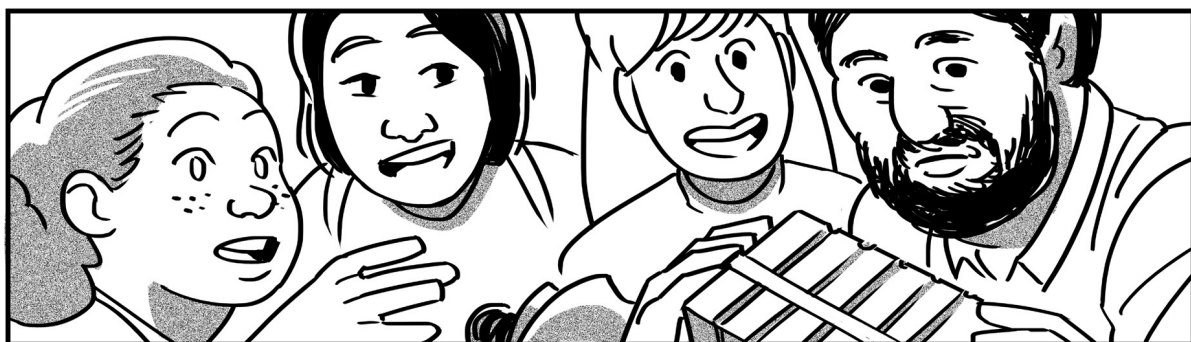
Phoney affixed a brave smile to her face as she stood up and tossed back her raven hair. "Made it in one piece. Well, I mean - I made it in my original piece."

Mandy's fearful mask cracked, betraying her joy and relief. She laughed. "That's the best one there is!"

Phoney freezes, and her eyes dart to her left wrist, where the same words that had been imprinted there since birth shimmered in the light of the late afternoon.

*That's the best one there is.*

Could it be that all this time, Mandy - her Mandy - was her soulmate? Was Mandy the one she was destined to hop across the galaxy with, forever?





CW explosions, injury, death

JOVIS

2 days (local) ago 2389 NEVER

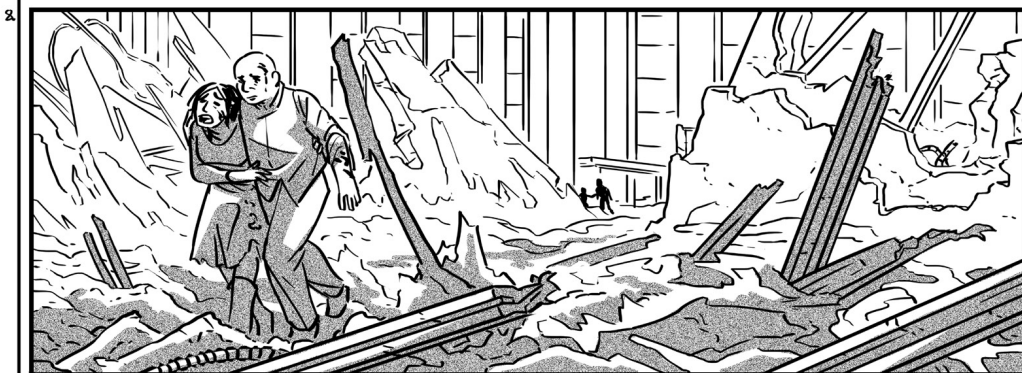
text 82.5K 40

[rau](#) [download](#) [clone](#) [embed](#) [report](#) [print](#)

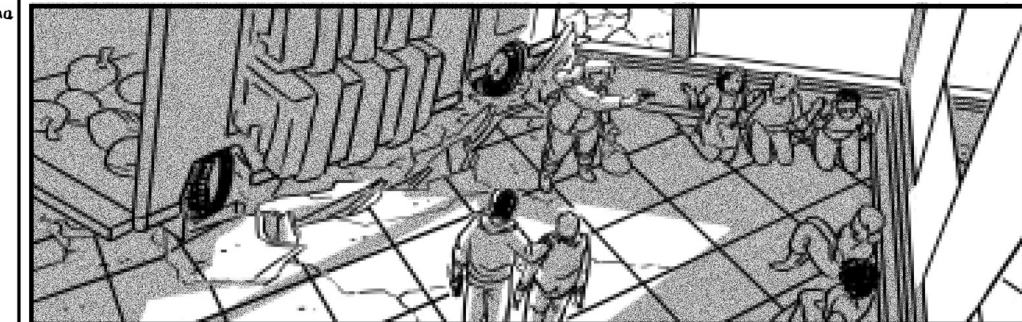
1. -----  
2. This is going to be difficult for a lot of us, so I've made it a point to be as absolutely thorough as possible.  
3. -----

4. -----  
5. First, a little background. If you only know me from the hopnet's P&M circles, you should know that my other big hobby is collecting documents from the early days of FTL, back when everything was going to hell faster than anything had ever gone before. Early hopper design docs, video diaries, even physical newspapers, back when those were still limping along. Yeah. I use five packeteer services at once and they all hate me.

6. -----  
7. Anyway. This year, me and a couple of other hopnet raccoons acquired a source for a lot of old CCTV footage. Banks and stuff. If you remember what the economic situation was like at the dawn of FTL, you would understand that we were expecting some wild footage.



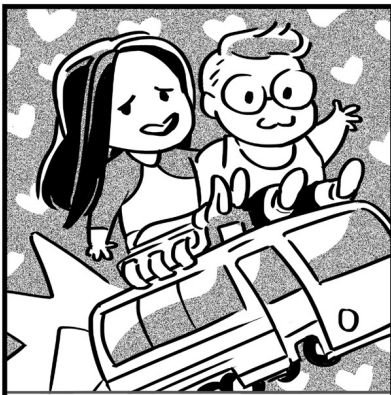
9. We got it in spades. This is the scene of the Etoile Bank explosion on 04/08/22. Godawful. As far as most people were concerned, it was an catastrophic early hop&grab - the thieves overlooked a regulator in their getaway car and it ended up shredding the point in space it exited from. And they were never caught. They could have been vaporized, they could have hopped off to Rigel to sit on their pile of diamonds, didn't matter.



11. What does matter now, to me, is IDing the thieves. And this is why. Look at the one standing by the cab of the truck.







Wait, what?

oh my god are you serious

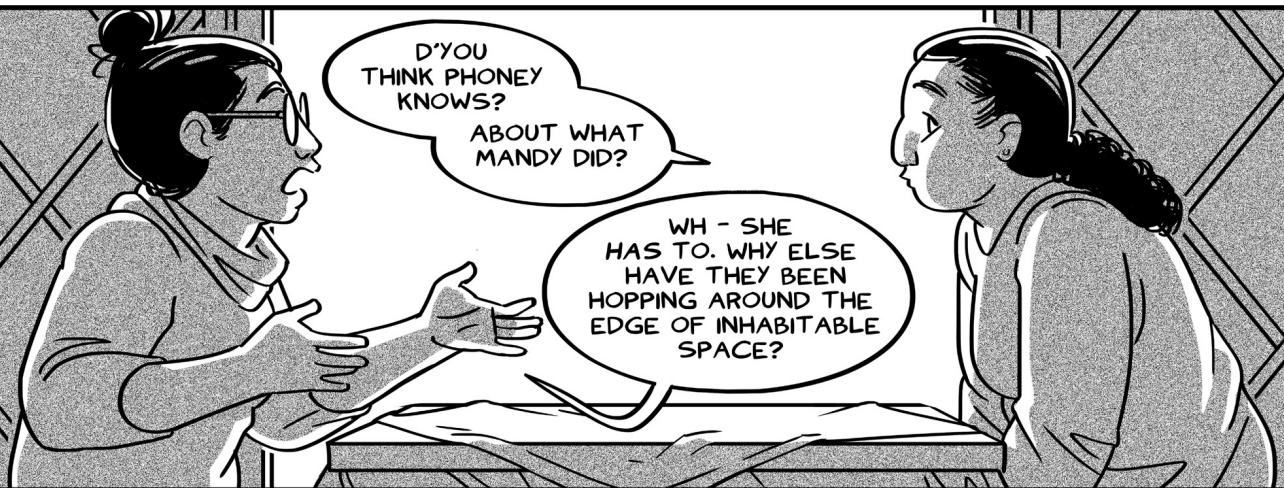
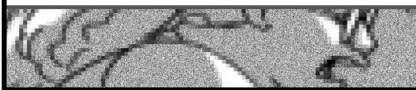
Goddammit I gotta stop  
paying my packeteer for  
twice daily deliveries so  
can follow this trashfire

la-dame-aux-camelias: But for real, though, what are we mad about? The destruction of a bank??? One among countless edifices of the capitalist economy that was driving the planet to ruin before the advent of FTL? The Etoile Bank incident was a symptom of a larger collapse that happened all around us - the collapse of the illusion that capitalism could govern our lives as completely and ruthlessly as we believed. It was a symbol of the old singular Earth eating itself, before we scattered in every direction in defiance of its rules. We love Mandy because she defies the established rules of the universe - she just did it for longer than we thought.

bustologie: No. Go to hell. My mom worked in that bank, as a custodian. Those assholes didn't tear my family apart to topple the flippin economy. They just didn't care enough to cap their warp valve. I hope their hop drive malfunctions and turns them inside out.



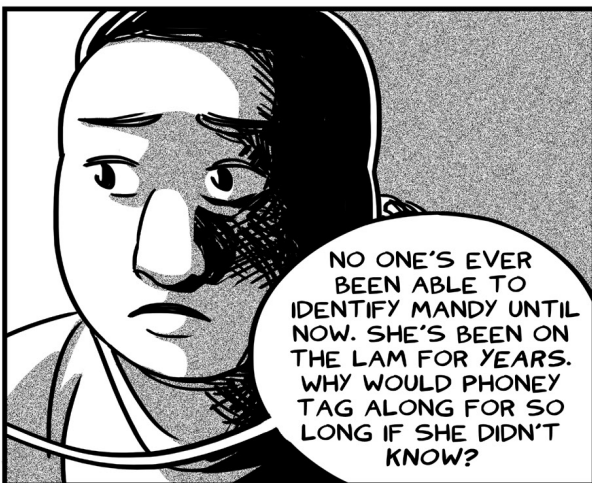
Vilayphor  
Thammavong  
Junior Level  
Gymnastics  
2025



D'YOU  
THINK PHONEY  
KNOWS?

ABOUT WHAT  
MANDY DID?

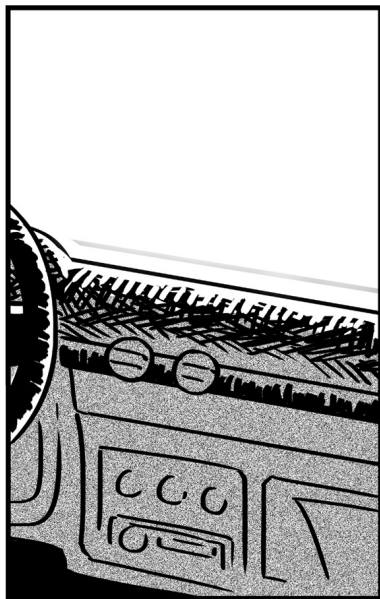
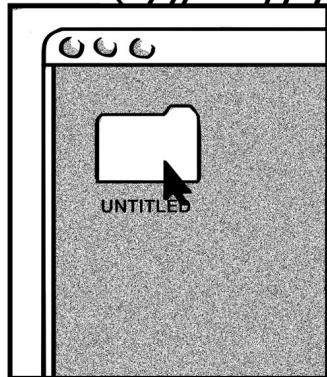
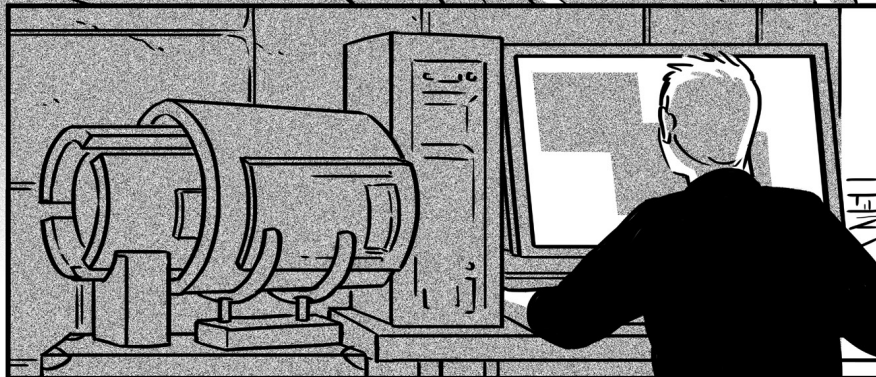
WH - SHE  
HAS TO. WHY ELSE  
HAVE THEY BEEN  
HOPPING AROUND THE  
EDGE OF INHABITABLE  
SPACE?



NO ONE'S EVER  
BEEN ABLE TO  
IDENTIFY MANDY UNTIL  
NOW. SHE'S BEEN ON  
THE LAM FOR YEARS.  
WHY WOULD PHONEY  
TAG ALONG FOR SO  
LONG IF SHE DIDN'T  
KNOW?

She was probably there. She probably \*helped.\* Why are y'all trying so hard to save her from getting tainted by her bosom buddy's sordid past?

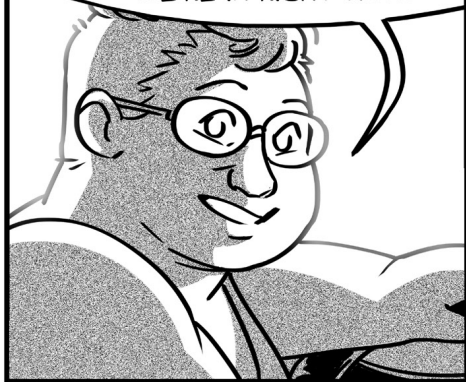
She's been circling that galactic drain for years. She made it into a \*video series.\* What makes you think she's any better?



SURPRISE UPDATE, EVERYONE! WE'RE ON OUR WAY TO OUR NEXT DESTINATION, AND I HAVE A FEELING THIS ONE'S GONNA BE BUCK WILD.

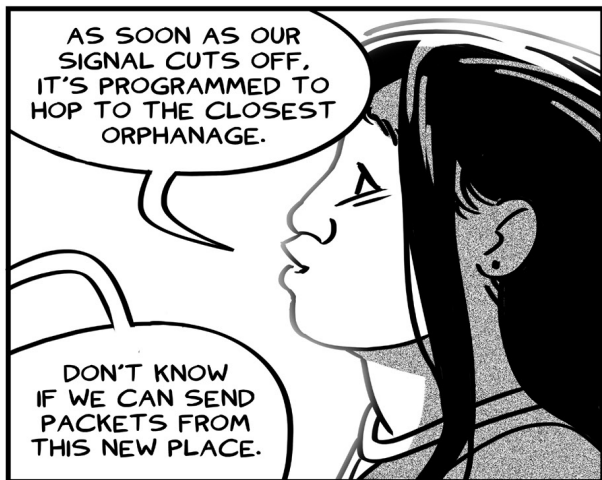


YEAH, AND WE'RE TRYING SOMETHING NEW FOR OUR UPLOAD, TOO! RIGHT NOW OUR CAMERA IS BROADCASTING TO ONE OF THE ITTY BITTY SATELLITES WE THREW IN ORBIT AROUND - WELL, AROUND WHATEVER IT IS WE'RE IN RIGHT NOW.



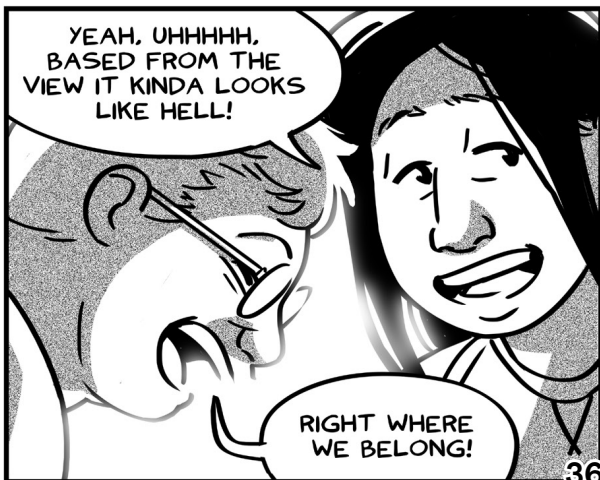
AS SOON AS OUR SIGNAL CUTS OFF, IT'S PROGRAMMED TO HOP TO THE CLOSEST ORPHANAGE.

DON'T KNOW IF WE CAN SEND PACKETS FROM THIS NEW PLACE.

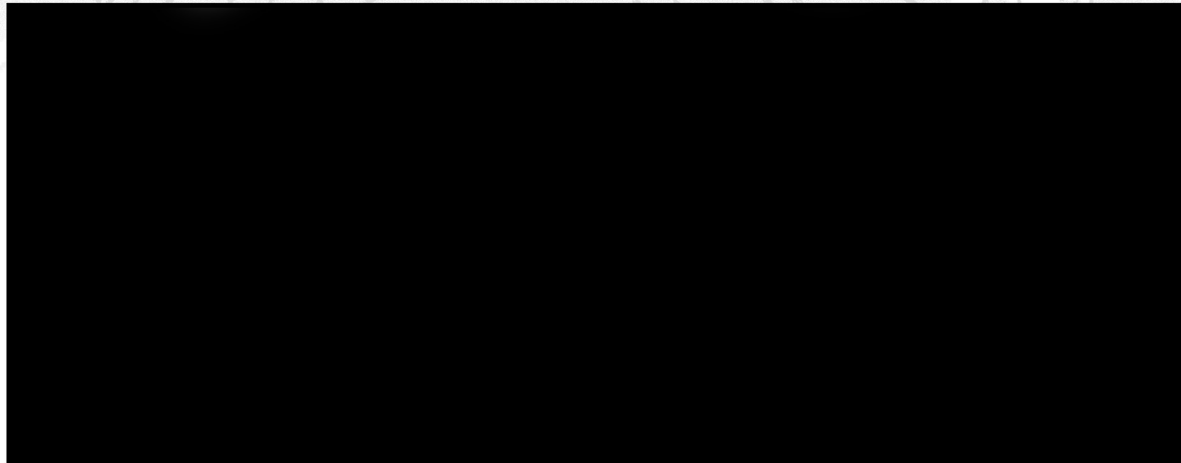
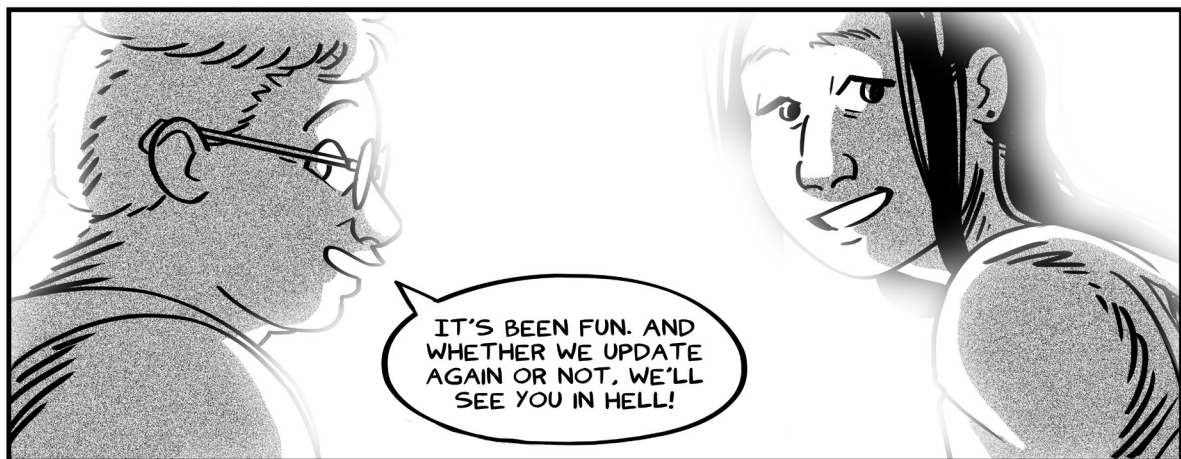


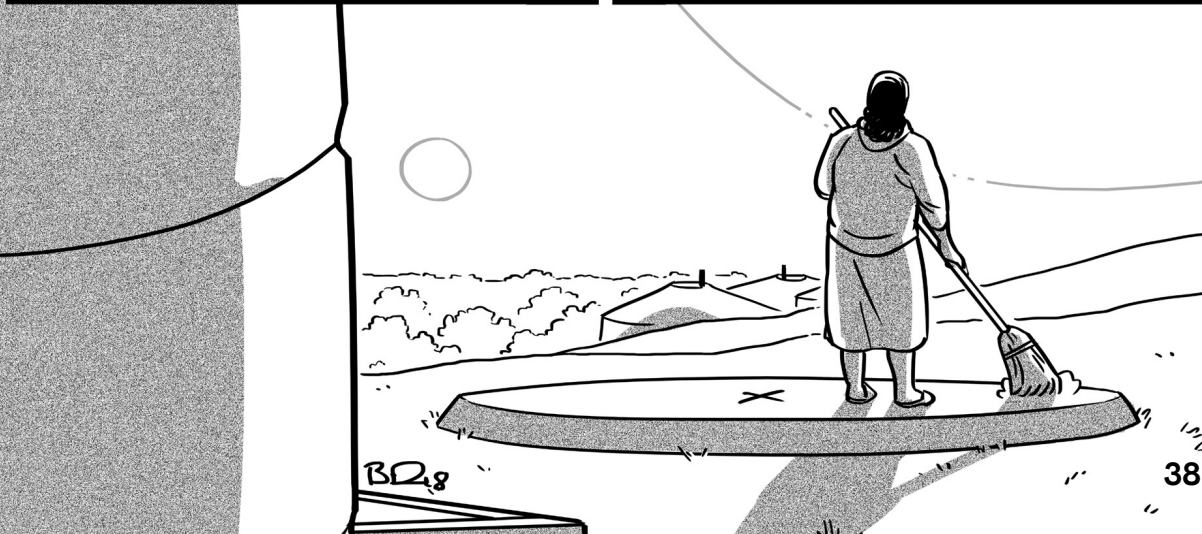
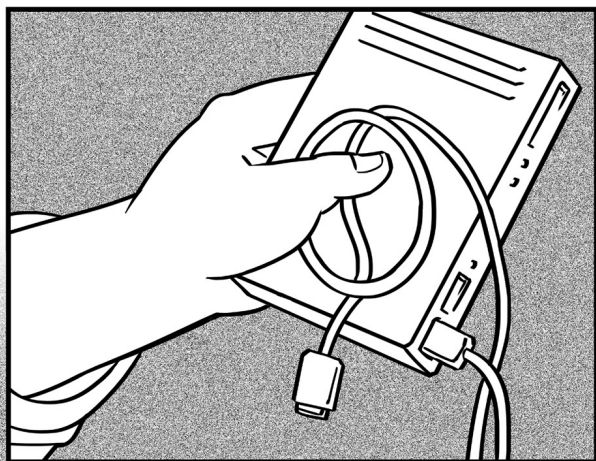
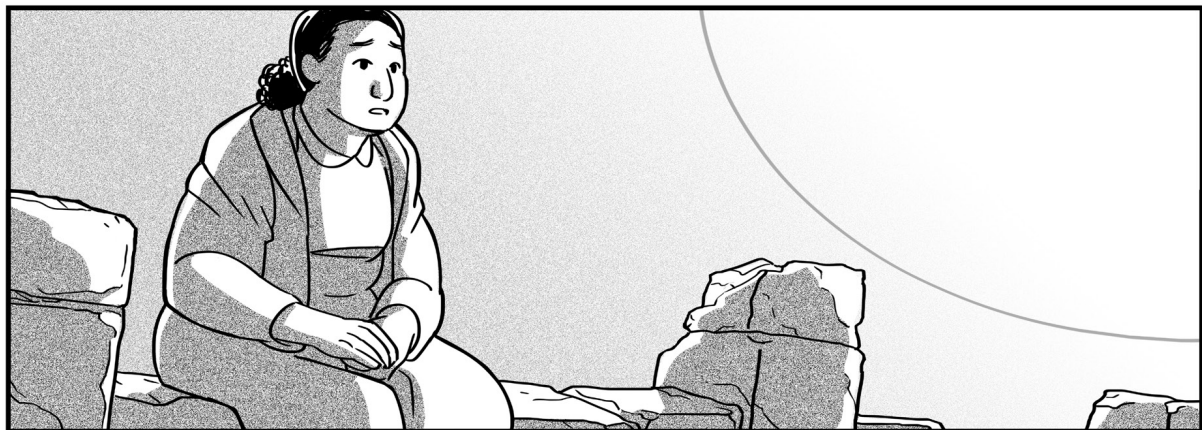
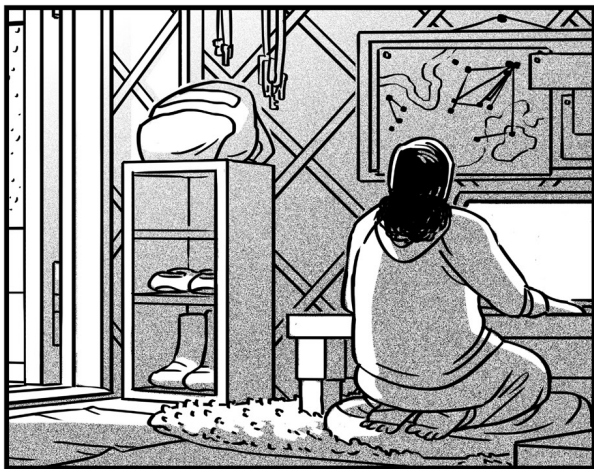
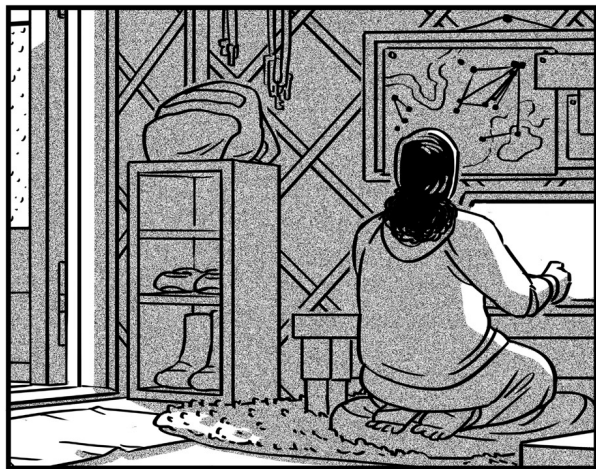
YEAH, UHHHHH, BASED FROM THE VIEW IT KINDA LOOKS LIKE HELL!

RIGHT WHERE WE BELONG!











# “THE WHISPERER”

Joamette Gil—a queer Afro-Cuban cartoonist, editor, letterer, and publisher whose work has been recognized with Eisner and Prism awards—included this story in *Power & Magic: The Queer Witch Comics Anthology*, which she funded on Kickstarter in 2016. It received a Lambda Literary Award nomination the following year.

Kickstarter Android Staff Engineer and selection committee member Izzy Oji thought it was great, too—she likes “The Whisperer” in particular. “I thought it was a unique way of talking about mental health. It showed how different people experience their mental health issues differently and it showed how people with mental health issues can support each other.”

If you want to read more from Gil, look up Power & Magic Press, which she runs out of Portland, OR. There, she’s published *Heartwood: Non-binary Tales of Sylvan Fantasy* (also excerpted in this anthology), *Immortal Souls*, and a second *Power & Magic* anthology.

Story by

Arianne Hokoki

🐦 @unamewsing

---

## ***Power & Magic: The Queer Witch Comics Anthology***



**1,396** backers pledged **US\$ 39,696** to help bring this project to life.

Kickstarter Project Creator: Joamette Gil of Power & Magic Press

🐦 @JoametteGil

🐦 @powerandmagicpr

Cover and Interior Art:

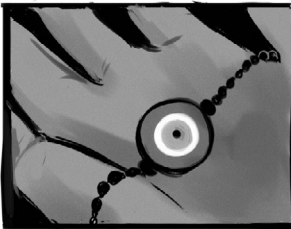
Ashe Samuels

🐦 @Ashe\_Samuels

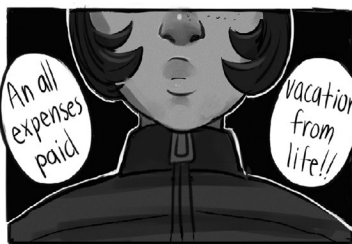
📷 ashe.samuels

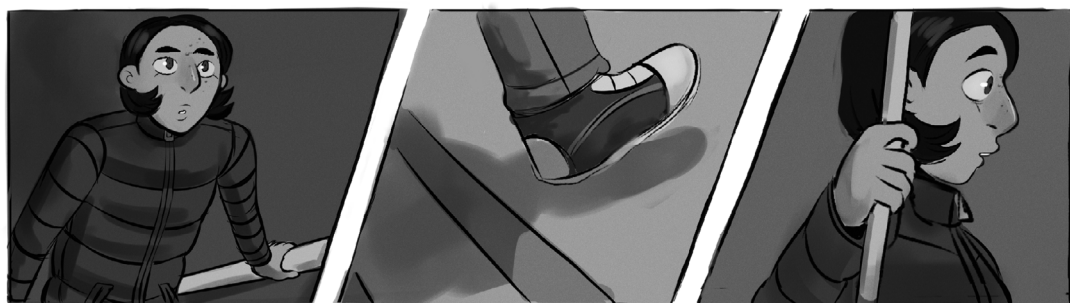


# The Whisperer

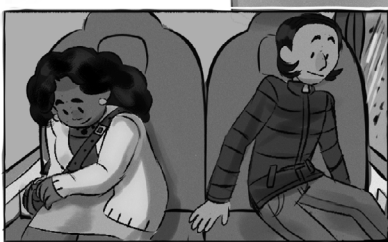
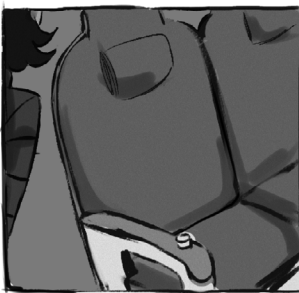
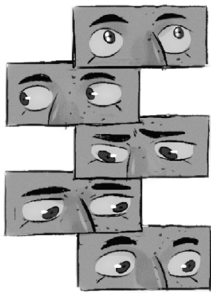












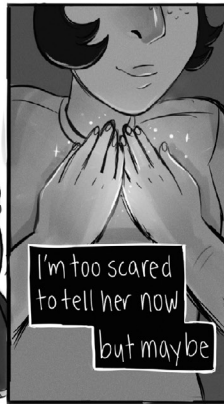
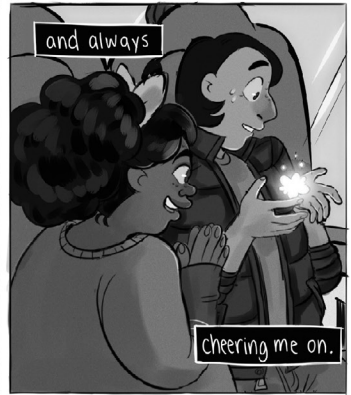








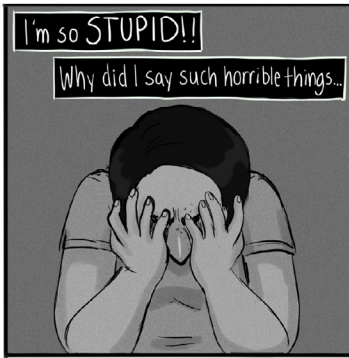




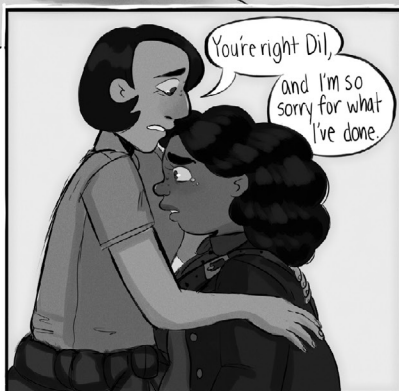






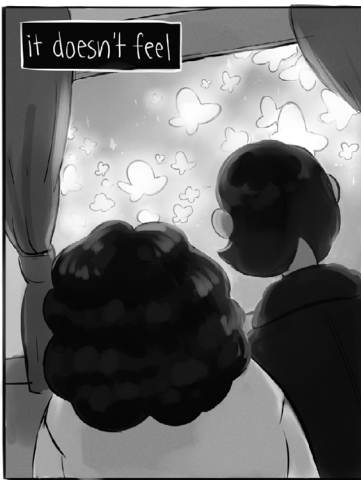








We're not completely okay.





# “ANOTHER WORLD”

Chinese censors are notorious—traditional publishers and small upstarts alike face a frustrating game of cat-and-mouse that often makes it impossible to even reference politically sensitive topics.

That’s what makes *Naked Body: An Anthology of Underground Chinese Comics* so daring. It’s an assertion that the underground subculture is alive and well, or at least unrelenting. Nudity remains a focus for Chinese sensors, but these illustrators featured cheerful tales of normalized nakedness, as well as explicit, and, in some cases, explicitly queer sexuality.

Sadan’s contribution, “Another World,” deals with the aging body in terms of death and mortality—a more somber and wistful take on the birthday suit.

Story by

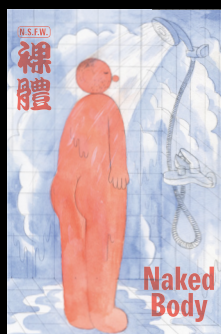
Sadan

📷 [threeeggman](#)

See where it all began:

---

## *Naked Body: An Anthology of Underground Chinese Comics*



**443** backers pledged **US\$ 16,648** to help bring this project to life.

Kickstarter Project Creator: [Paradise Systems](#)

Cover Art by  
Yan Cong

📷 [yancongyancongyancong](#)









WE'RE HERE  
TO GUIDE YOU.  
COME WITH US.



CAN YOU GIVE  
ME SOMETHING  
TO WEAR?



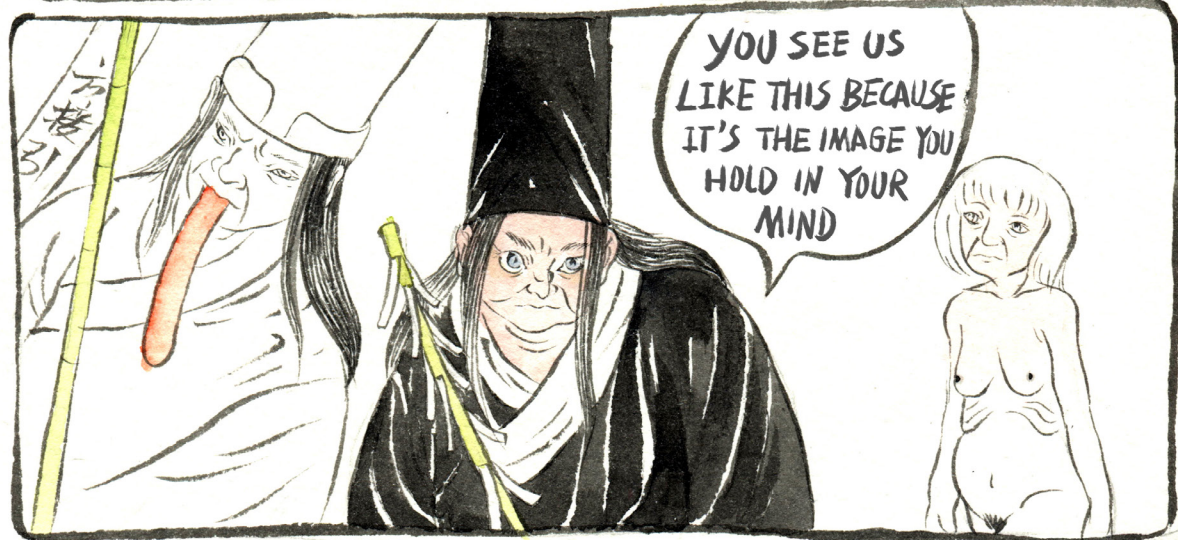
HA..  
HA..HA  
IN THIS WORLD  
WE HAVE NO  
CLOTHING.



BUT  
.....

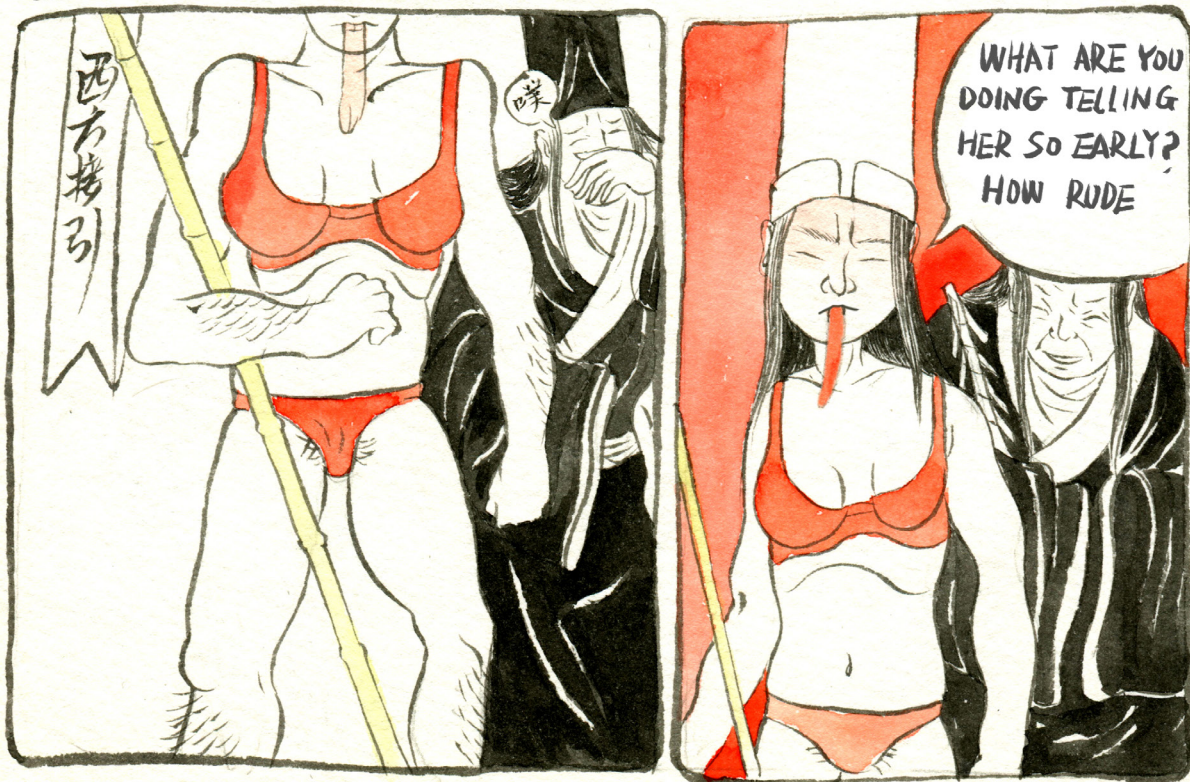
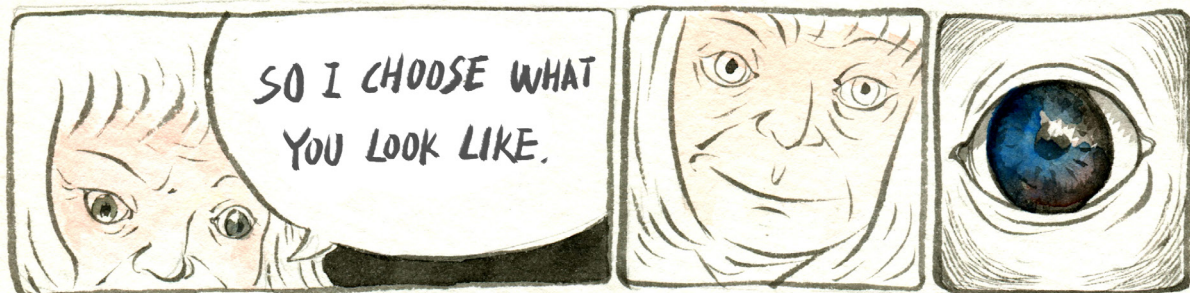
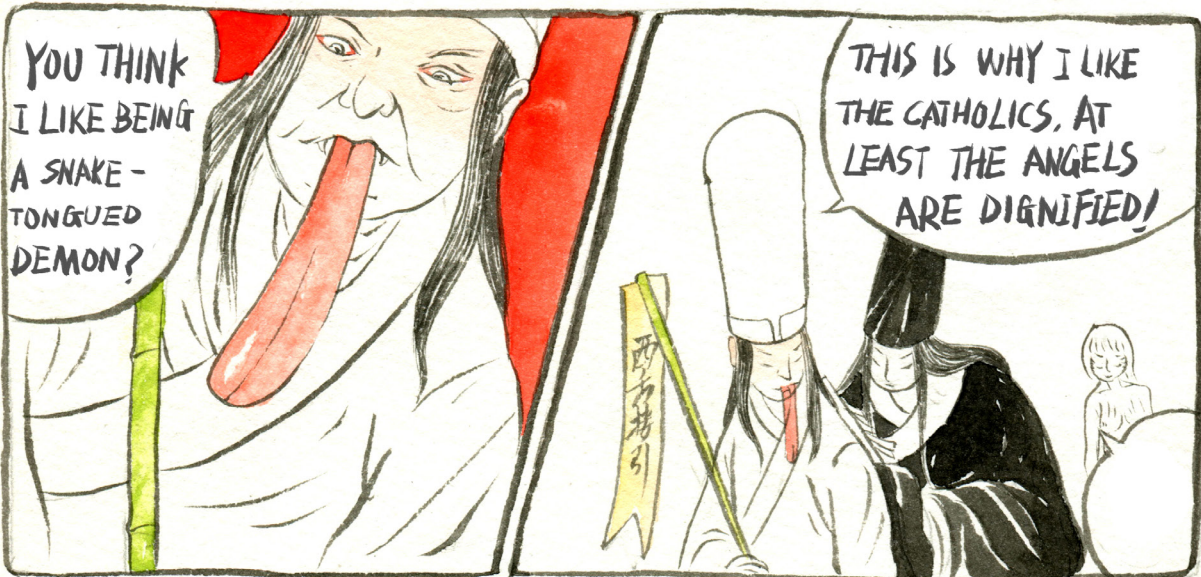


AREN'T YOU  
TWO WEARING  
CLOTHES?



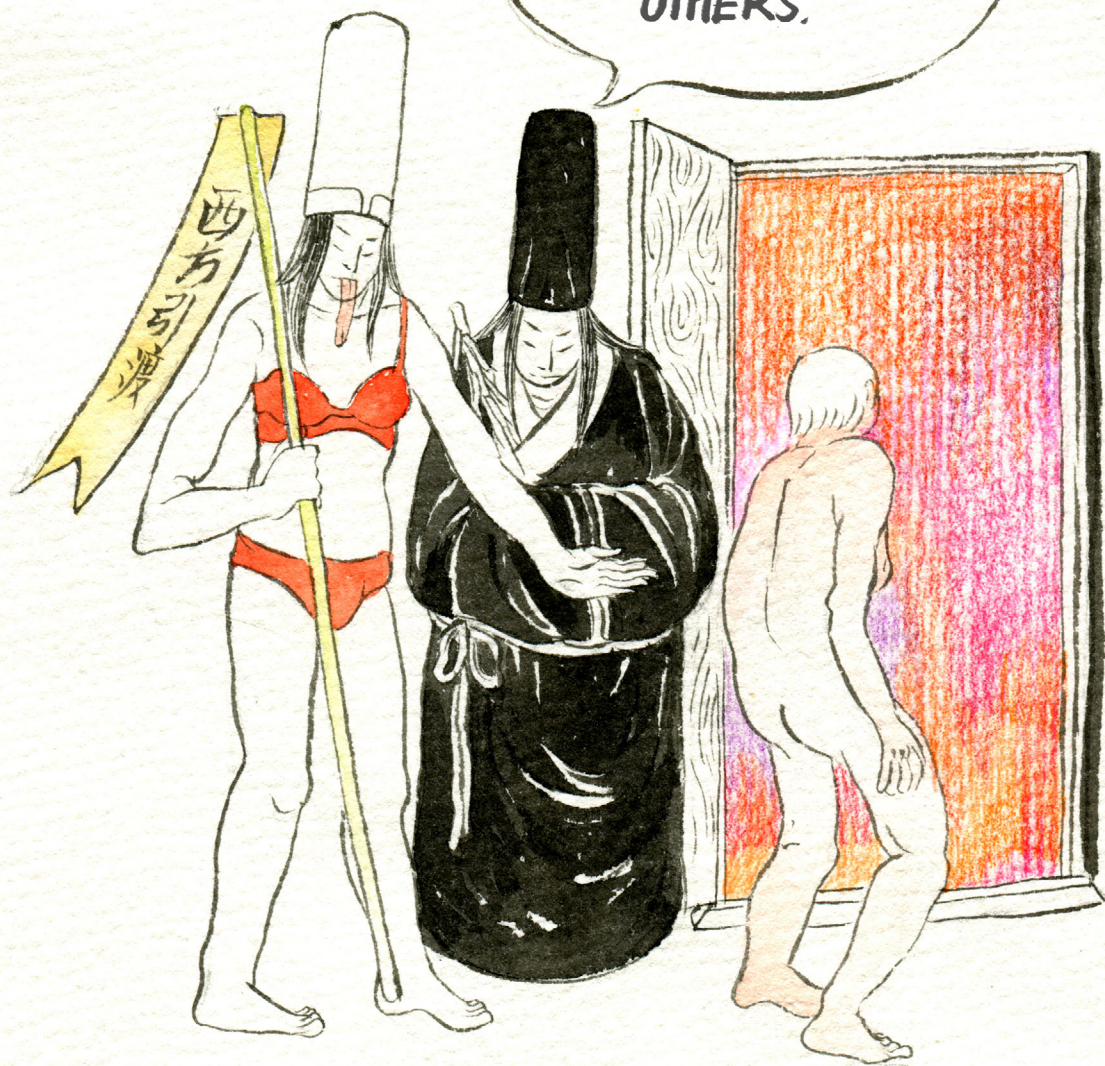
YOU SEE US  
LIKE THIS BECAUSE  
IT'S THE IMAGE YOU  
HOLD IN YOUR  
MIND



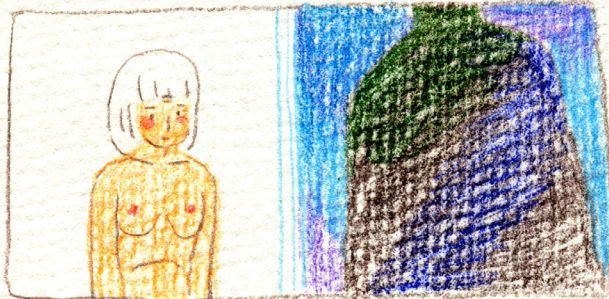
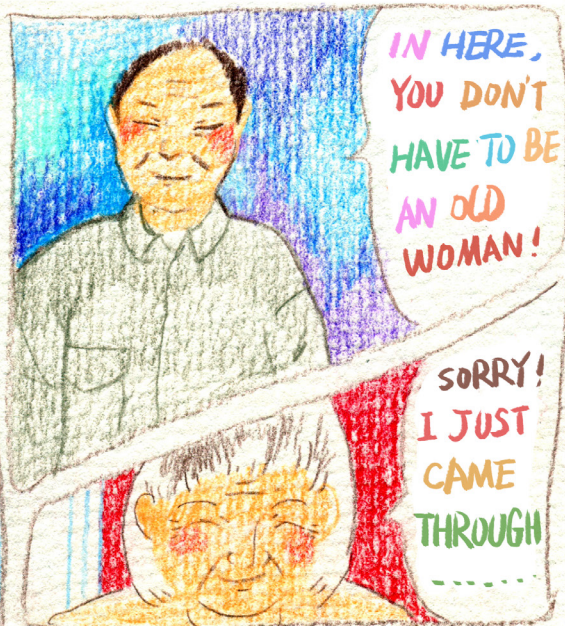
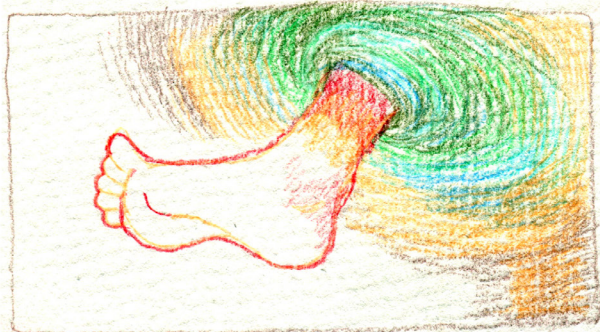
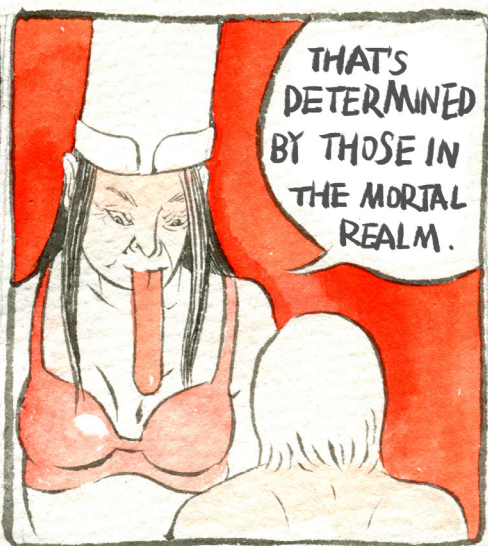




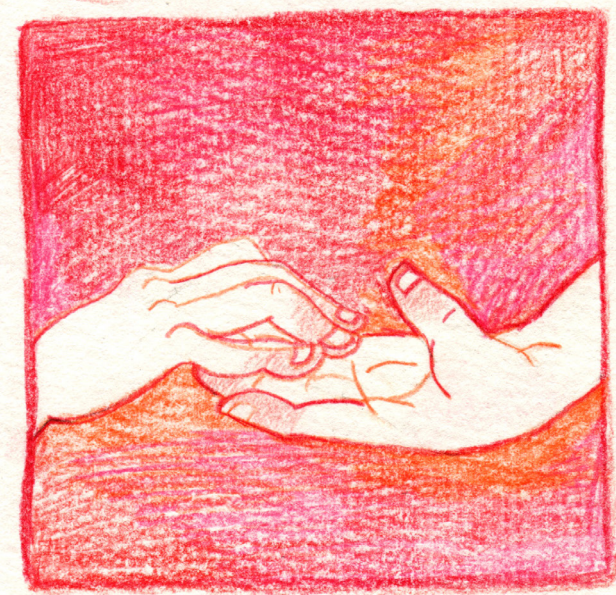
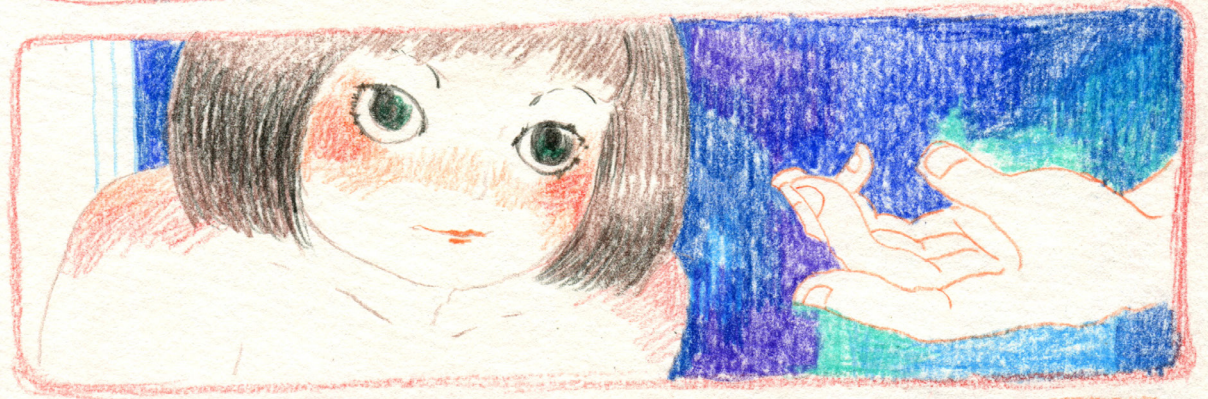
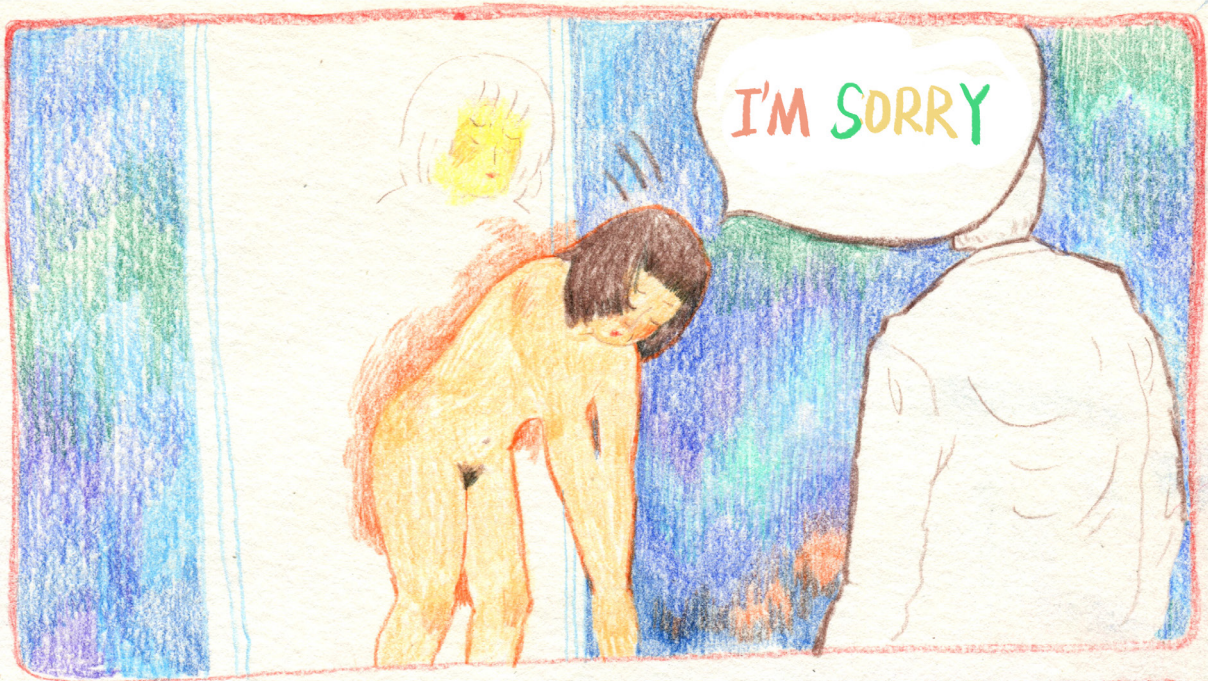
AFTER YOU WALK  
THROUGH THIS DOOR  
YOU'LL EXIST ONLY IN  
THE MINDS OF  
OTHERS.



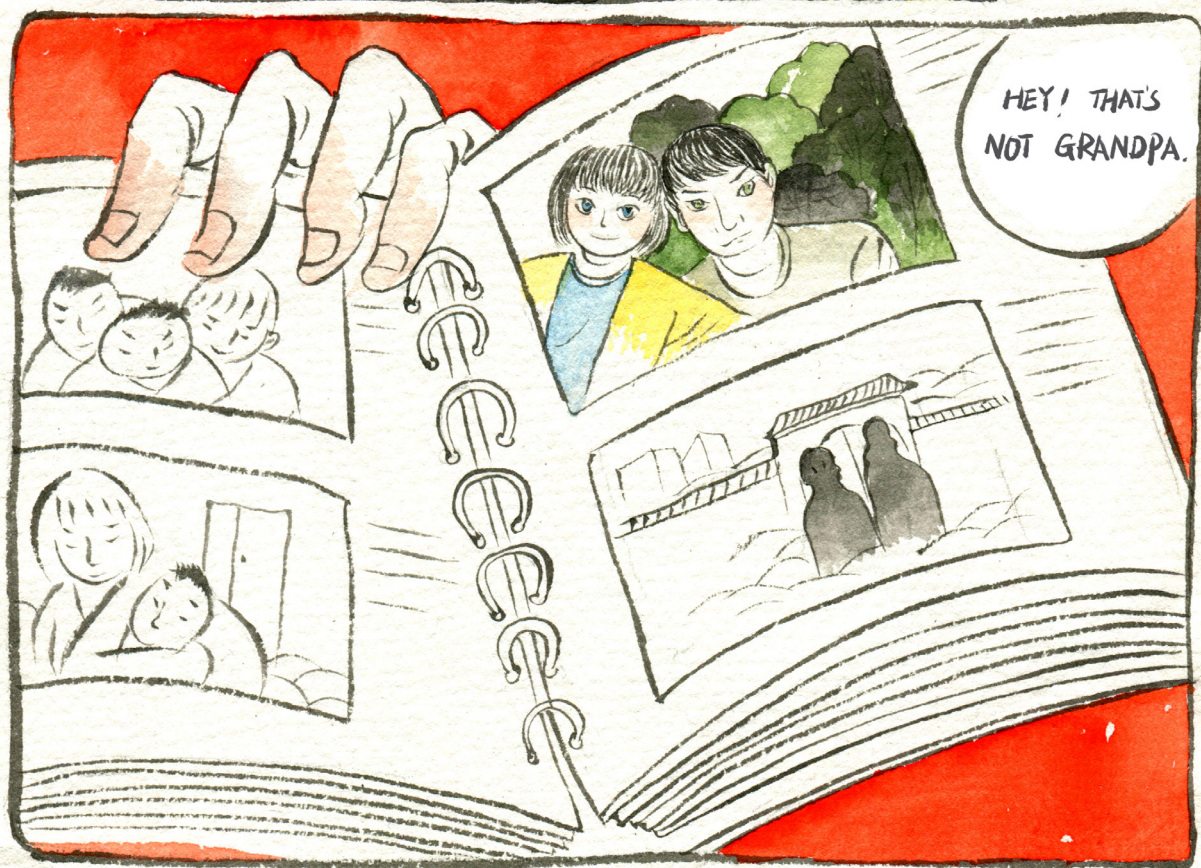
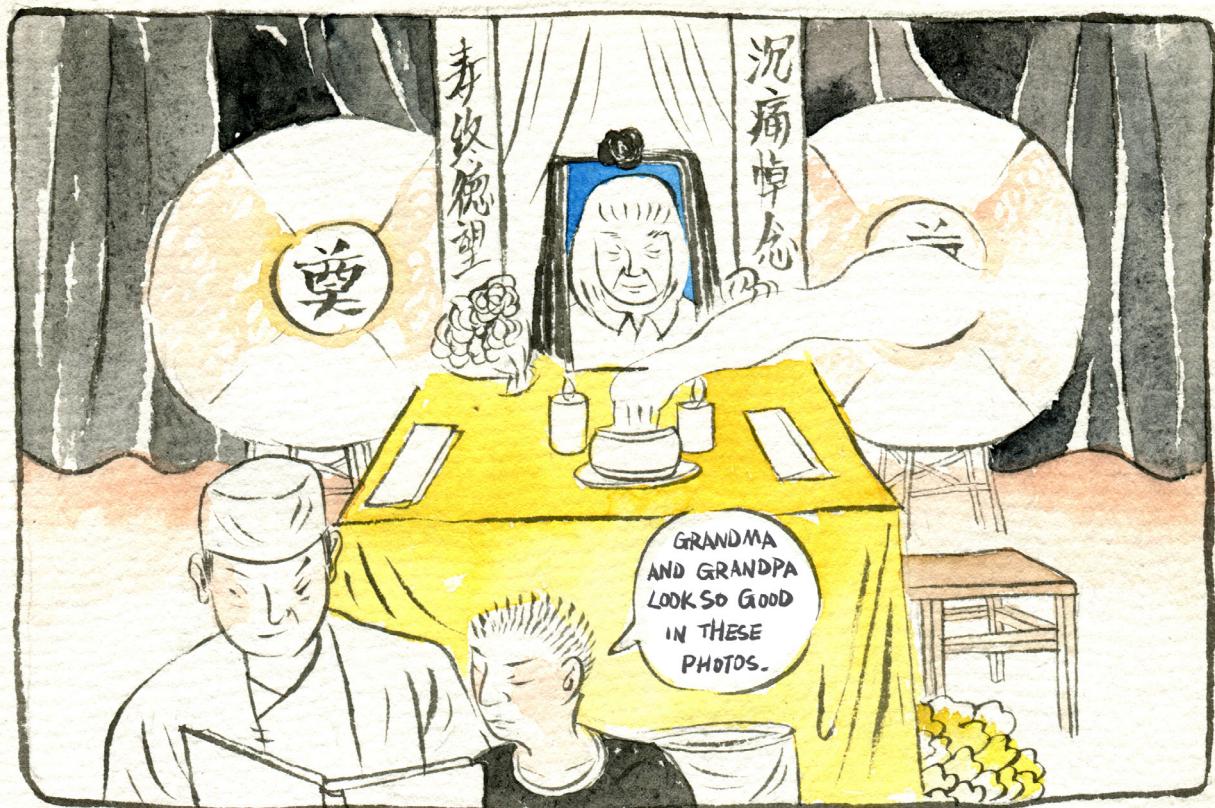














# “BREATH, PLUCKED FROM HEAVEN”

Here's another story that explores mortality and remembrance.

It first appeared in *ELEMENTS: Fire - A comics anthology by creators of color*, which went on to win an Eisner Award for best anthology back in 2018. The unifying prompt was, you guessed it, “fire,” and the responses were speculative fiction ranging from sci-fi and fantasy to alternative cyberpunk, humor, and suspense.

“I love the quiet, meditative aspects of this story,” says Kickstarter Comics Outreach Lead and selection committee member Camilla Zhang. “It’s very rare to read a comic that has multiple layers of being and meaning, like poetry. Shivana doesn’t do a lot of explaining in terms of who these characters are or were, but that’s what makes it so intimate. Every time I re-read this story, I feel something new.”

Story by  
Shivana Sookdeo

 toastasaurus

 toastamaton

See where it all began:

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## ***ELEMENTS: Fire***



**1,551** backers pledged **US\$ 51,951** to help bring this project to life.

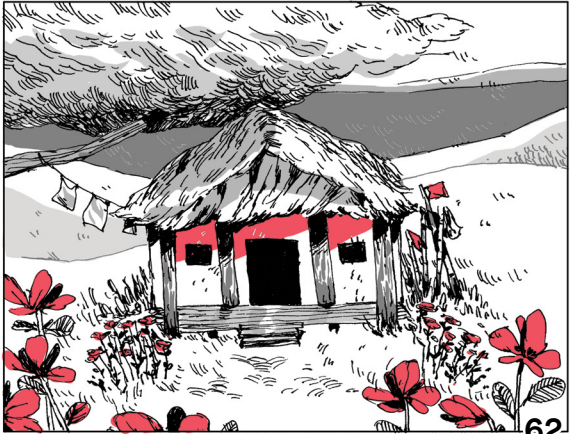
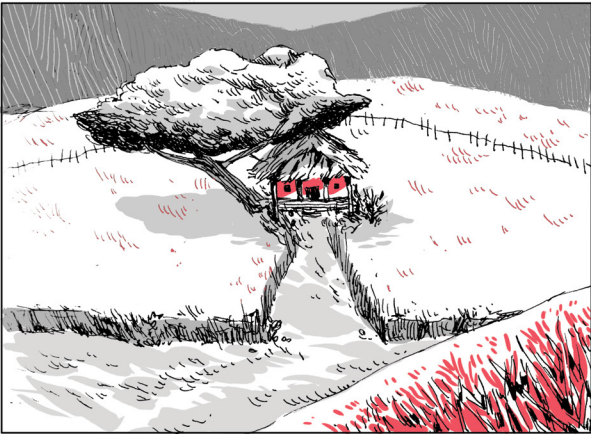
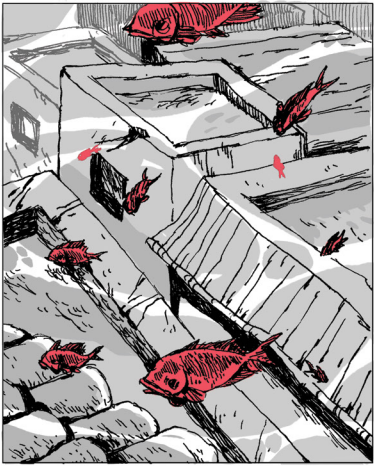
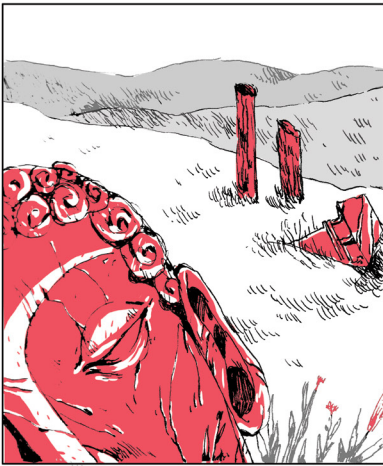
Kickstarter Project Creator: Taneka Stotts of Ascend Comics

Cover Art by  
Chrystin Garland

 ChrystinGarland

 ladygarland

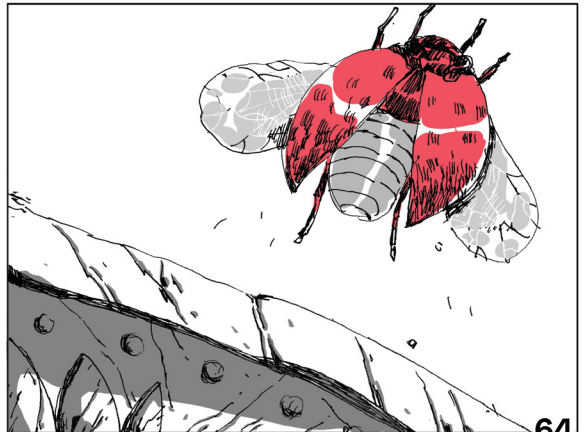
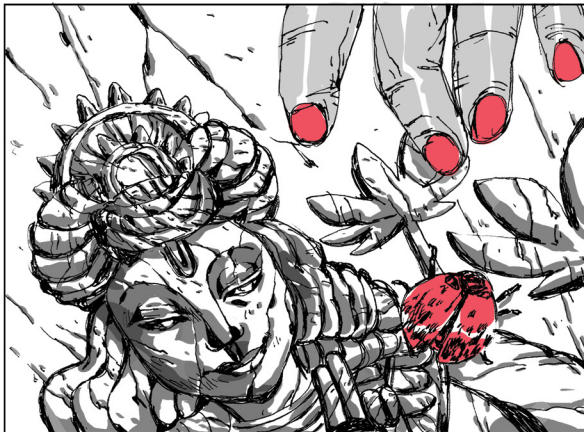
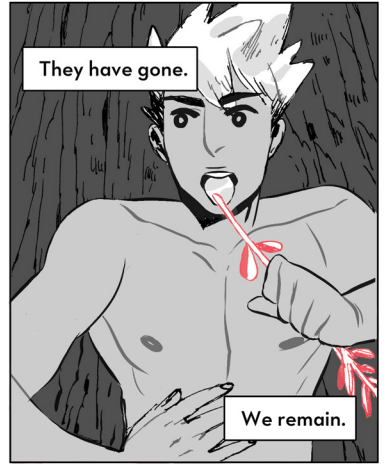
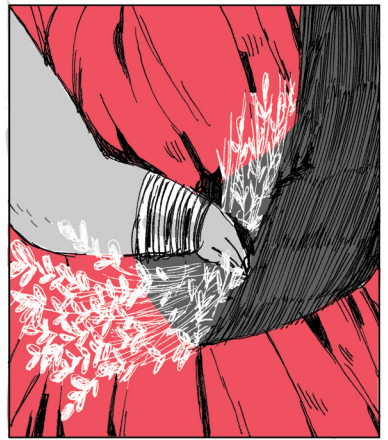
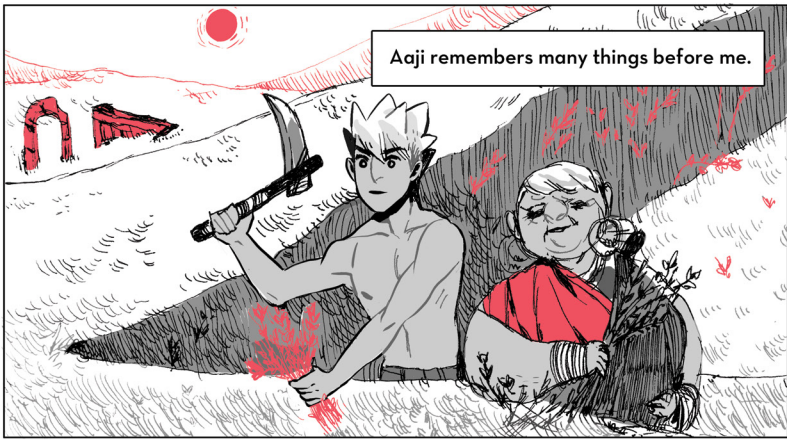














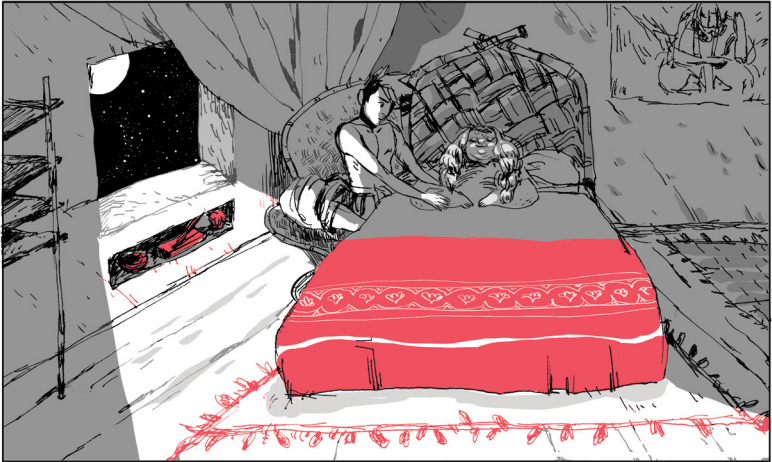
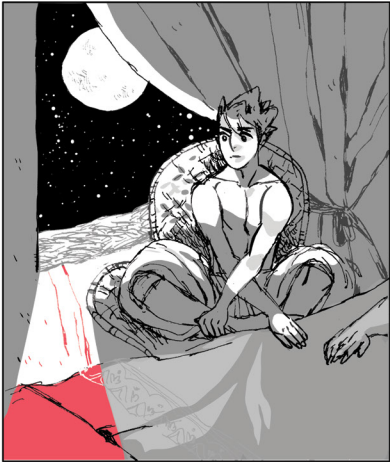
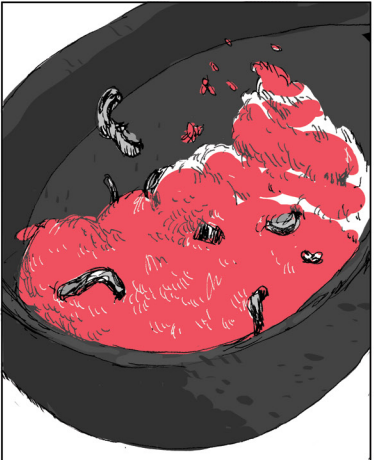


Without Aaji, I am alone.



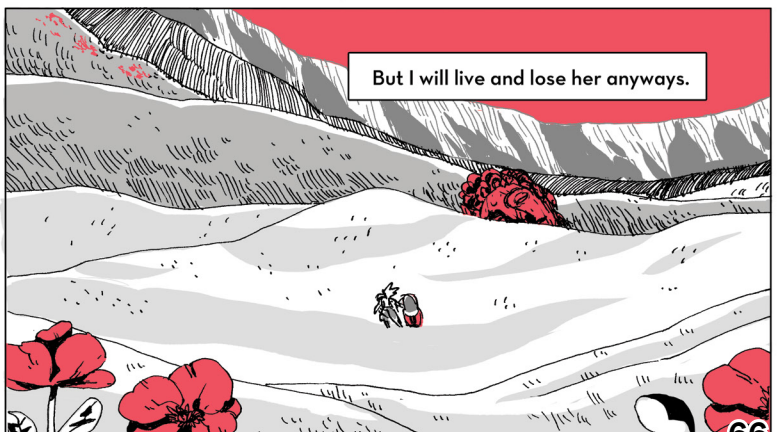
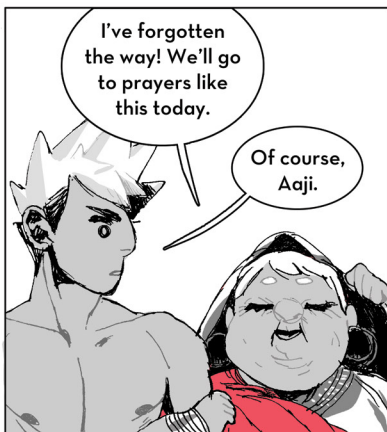
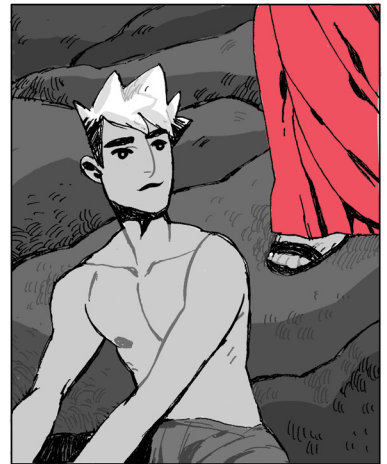
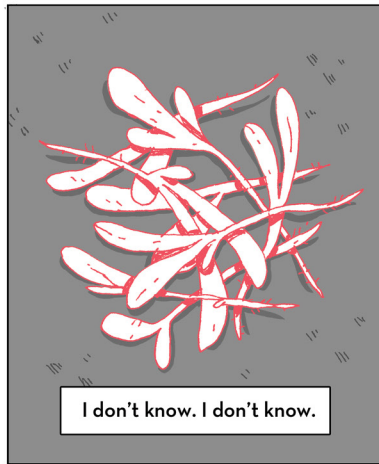
Come, come.  
Chop, please.

Without me—



--she is gone.

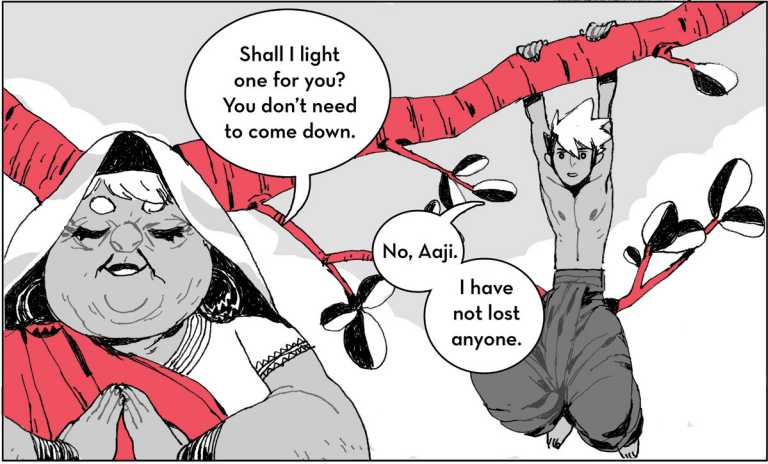








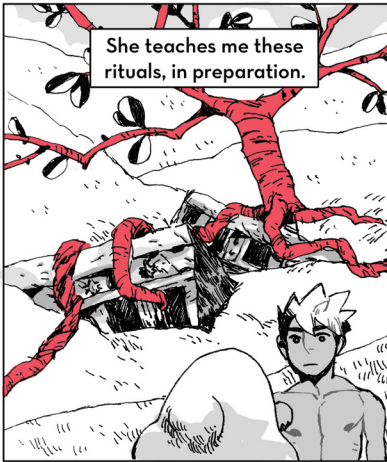
How much grief is eased by ritual?



Shall I light one for you? You don't need to come down.

No, Aaji.

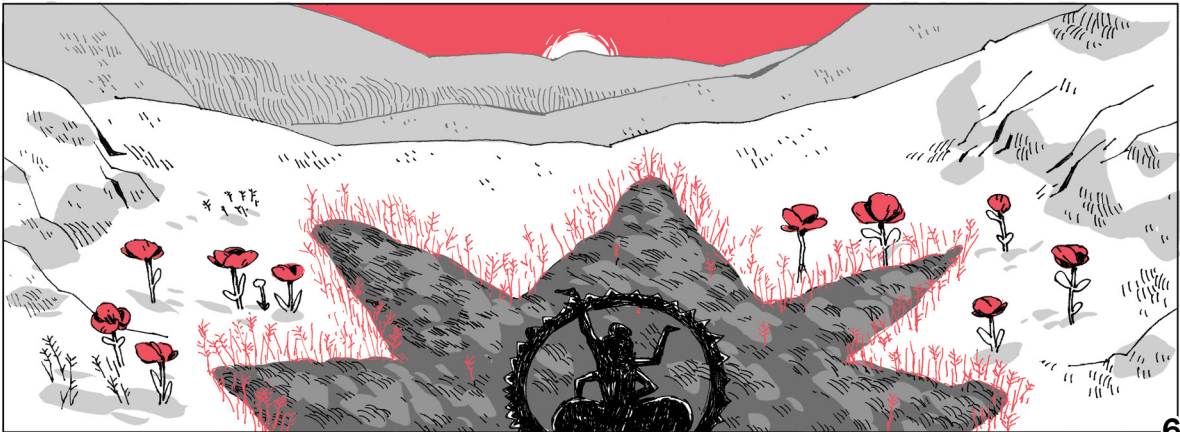
I have not lost anyone.



She teaches me these rituals, in preparation.



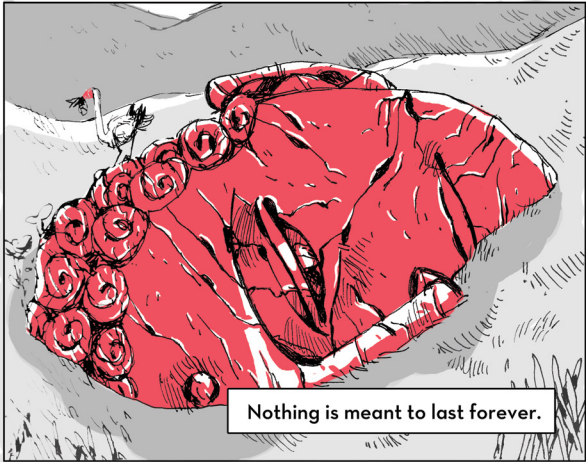
We live on borrowed time.



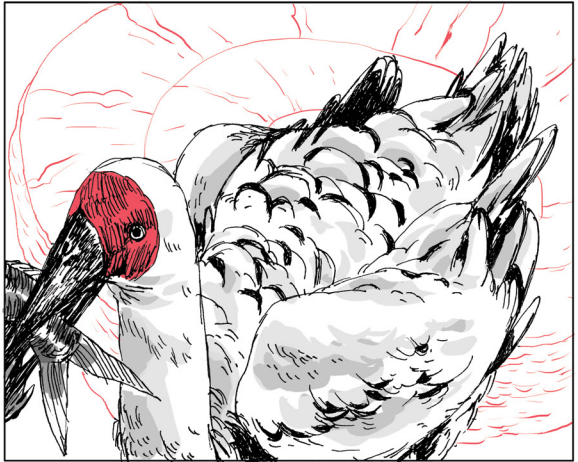




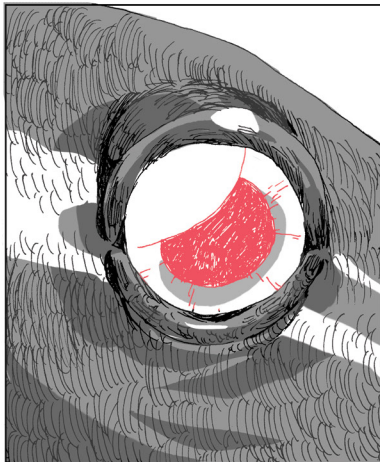
And then, it runs out.



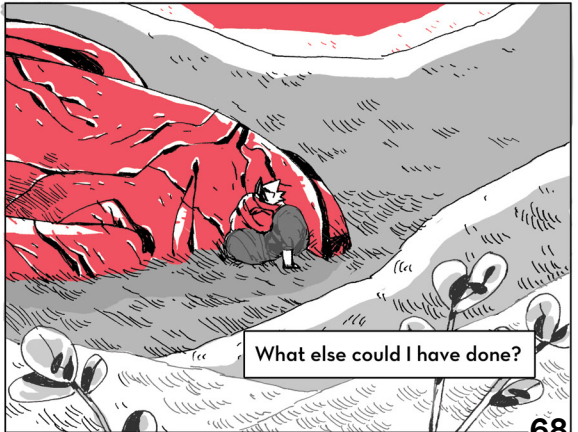
Nothing is meant to last forever.



But what do I do

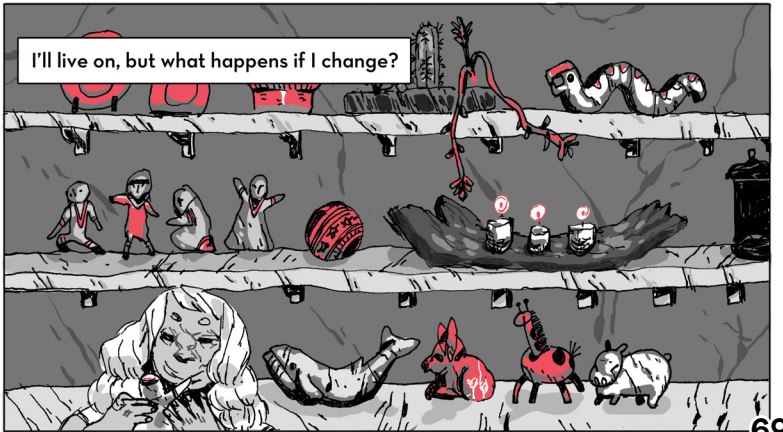
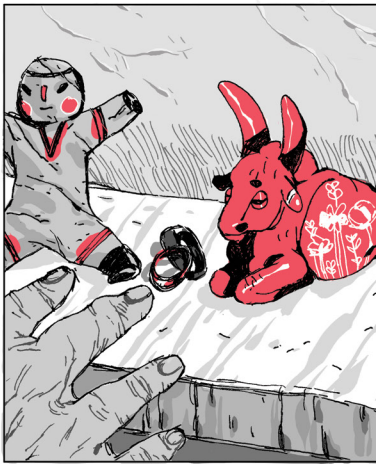
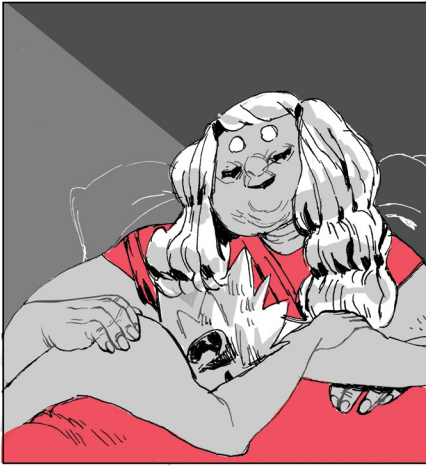
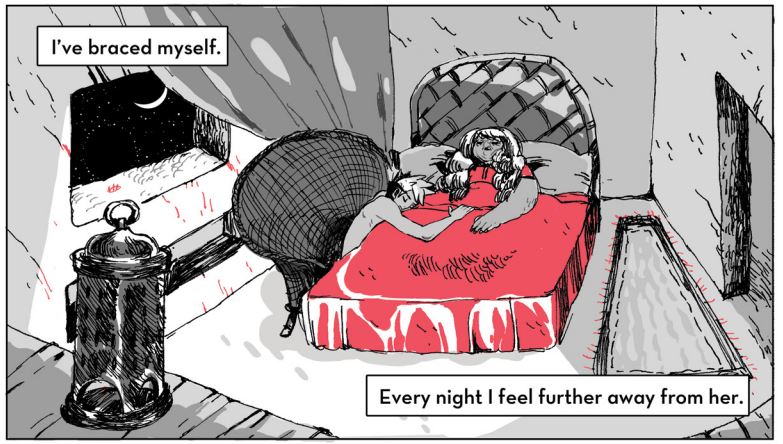


... when my life is longer than hers?

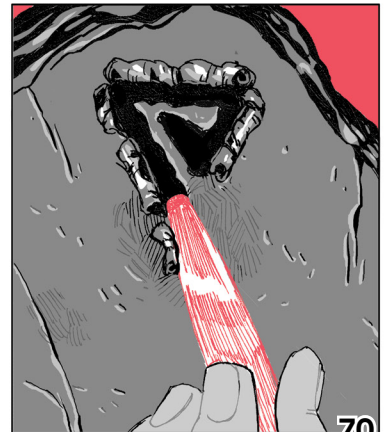
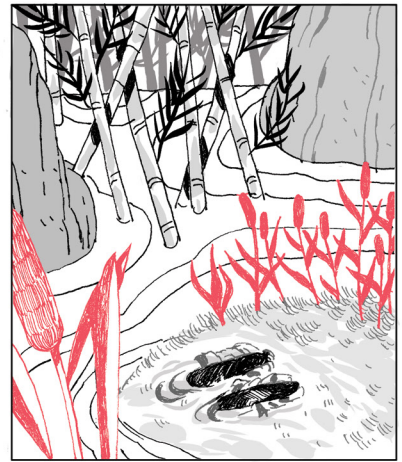
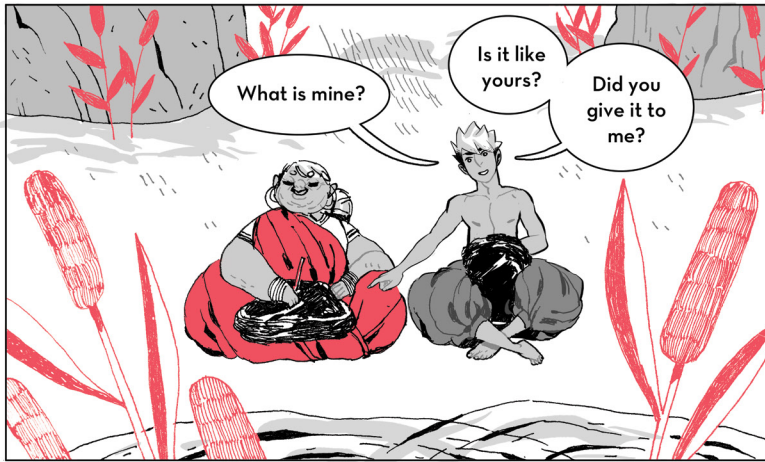


What else could I have done?

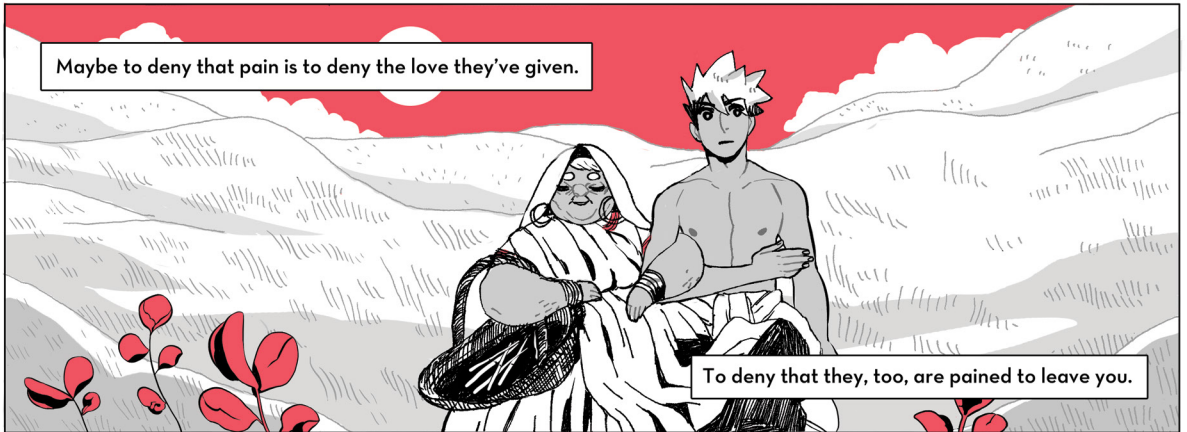
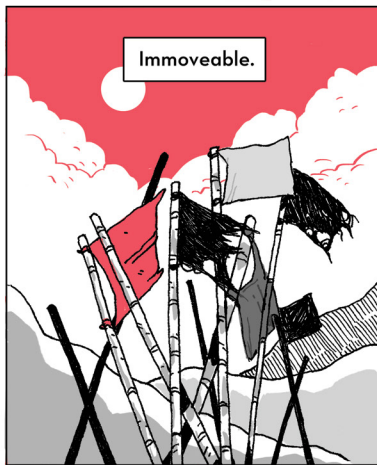
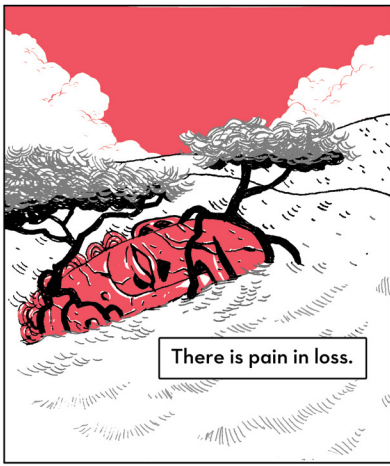


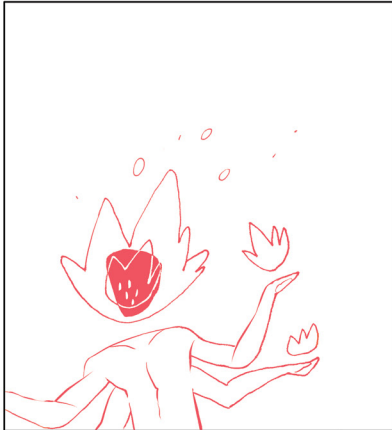
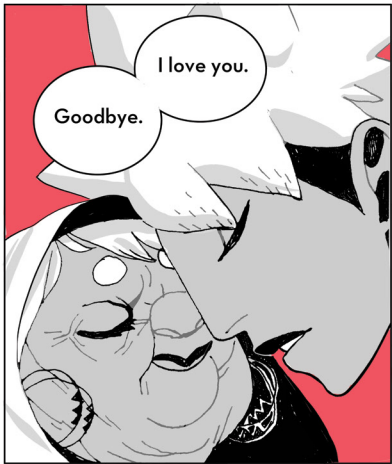
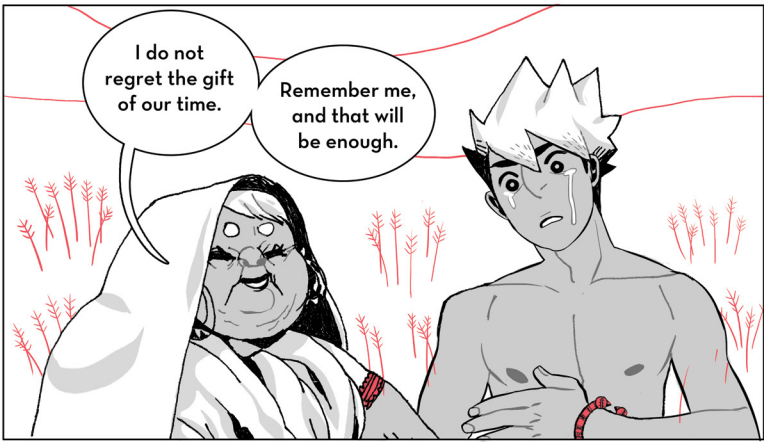














# “THE FLOURISHING FEAST”

The following story first appeared in *Heartwood: Non-binary Tales of Sylvan Fantasy*—you might remember publisher Joamette Gil from a few stories back. This breakout book claimed the title of the first-ever non-binary comics anthology, made entirely by cartoonists who identify as gender non-binary. Through tales of caution, adventure, rites of passage, and discovery, the creators explored the Forest as both setting and symbol, having their characters face the unknown and emerge transformed.

“The art style of this piece – particularly the way the artist uses black and white to create contrast and highlight parts of the story absolutely floored me the first time I saw it,” says Kickstarter Senior Product Designer and selection committee member Cait Charniga. “Those striking visuals, paired with the way Juliette GMM Lopez dives into the whimsical and wonderful, yet daunting and mystifying, process of understanding your gender identity is what compelled me to highlight this story.”

Story by Juliette GMM Lopez

🐦 @ThisMightyDimo

📷 thismightydimo

See where it all began:

---

## *Heartwood: Non-binary Tales of Sylvan Fantasy*



**2,010** backers pledged **US\$ 77,358** to help bring this project to life.

Cover Art by Eli Baum and Viv Tanner

🐦 @\_elibaum

🐦 @viv\_tanner

📷 \_elibaum

📷 viv\_tanner

Kickstarter Project Creator:

Joamette Gil of

Power & Magic Press

🐦 @JoametteGil

🐦 @powerandmagicpr





Here in my garden,  all the flowers bloom.

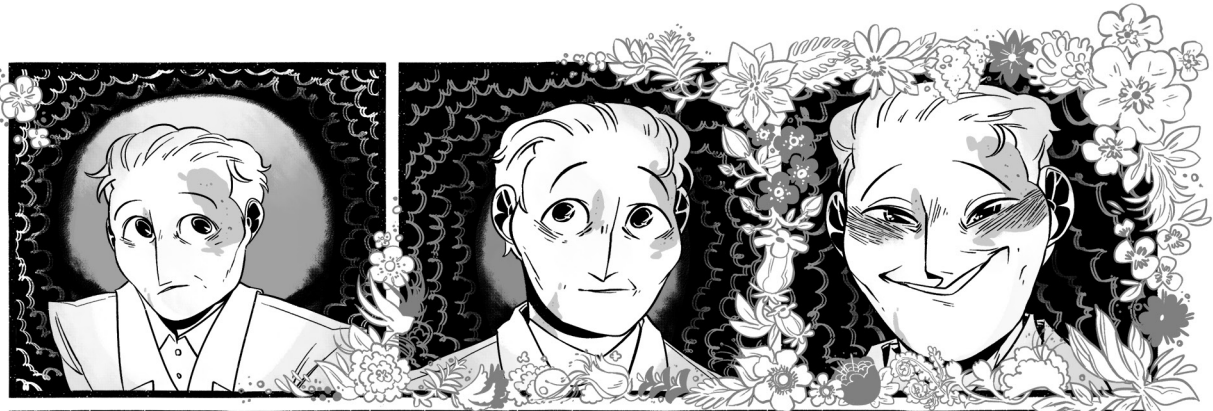




# The Flourishing Feast.

.By Juliette GMM López.

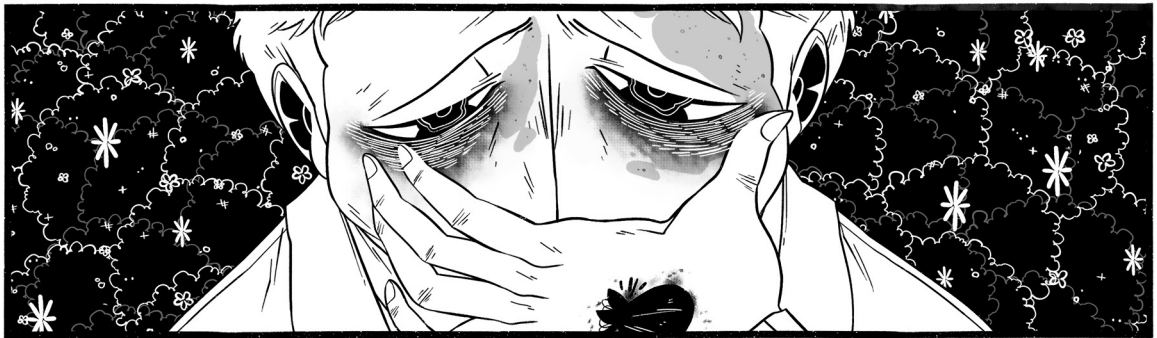




From  
potted annuals

to wild  
evergreens.





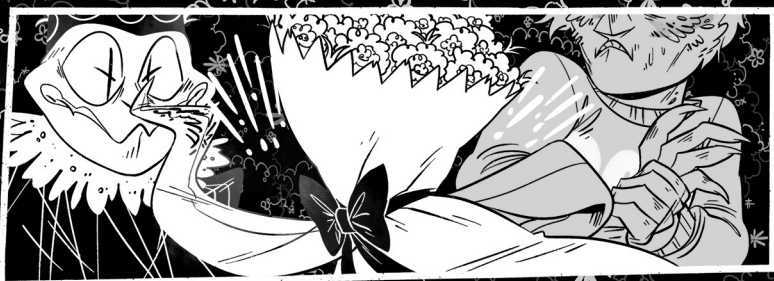






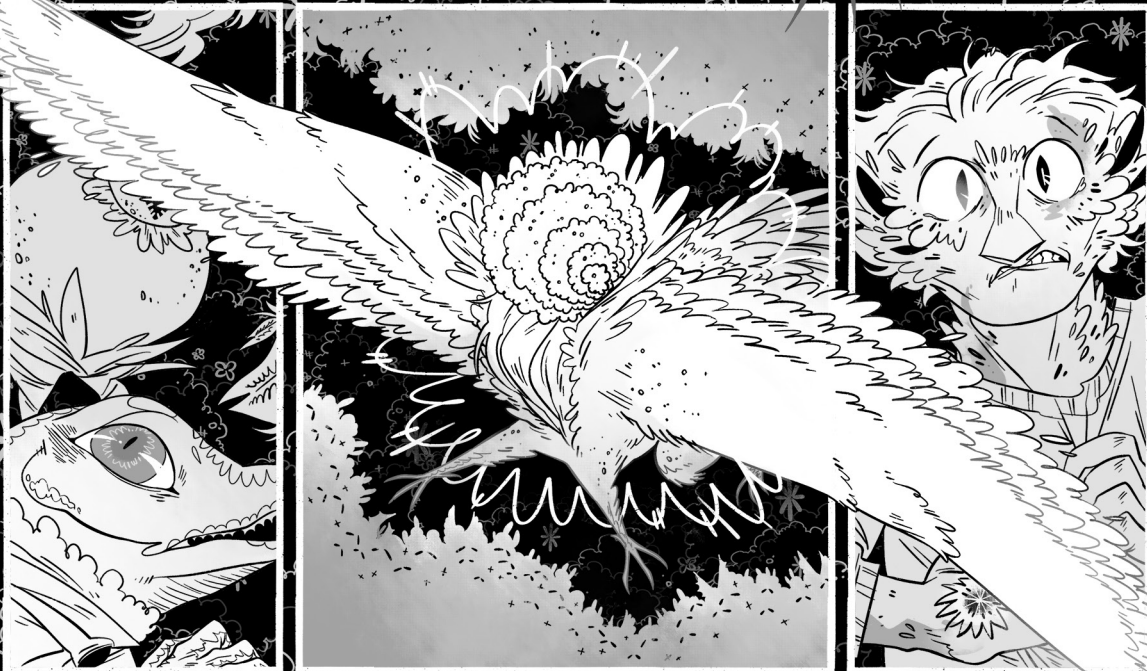




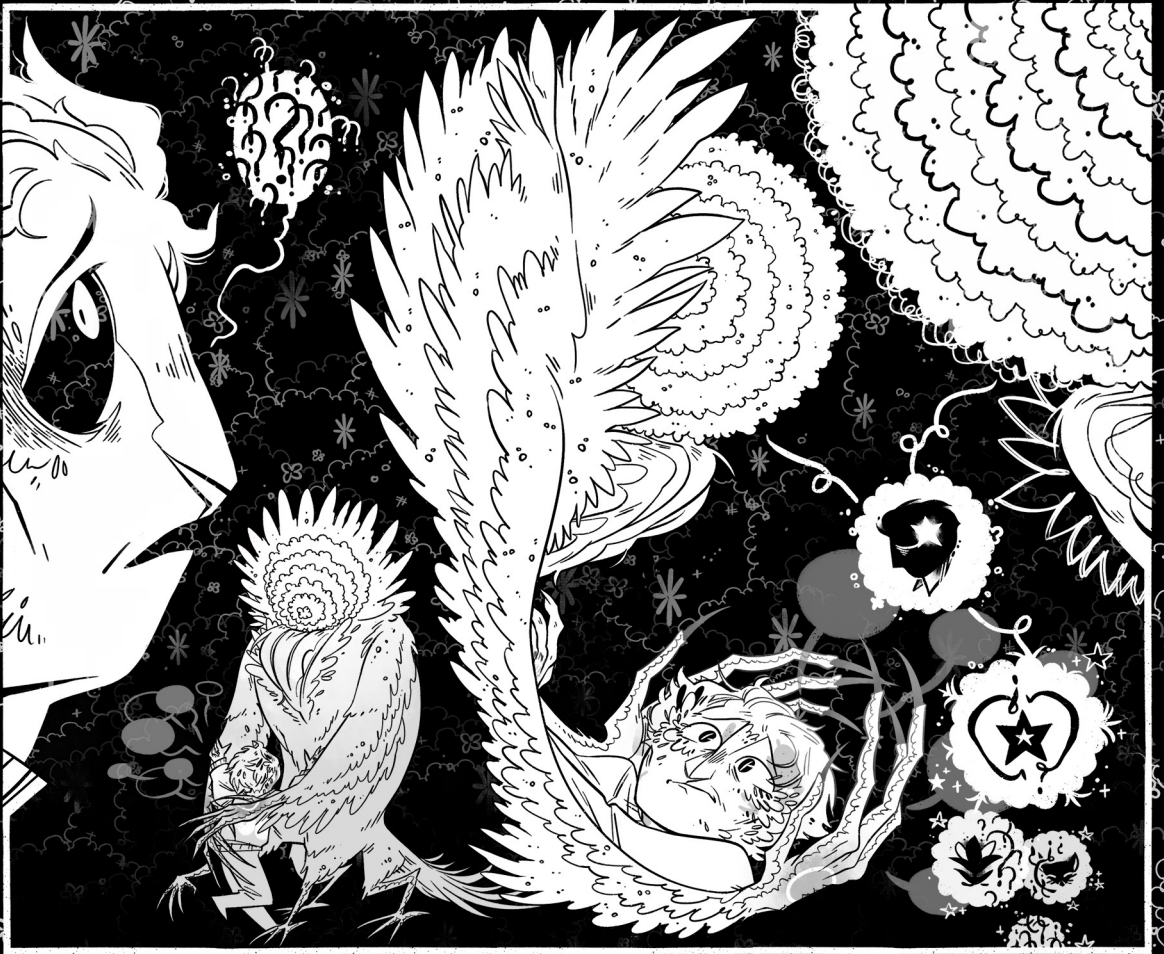


Here in my party,  
all my friends  
are fanfaring.











Here in my chest,

we thrive as we embrace.

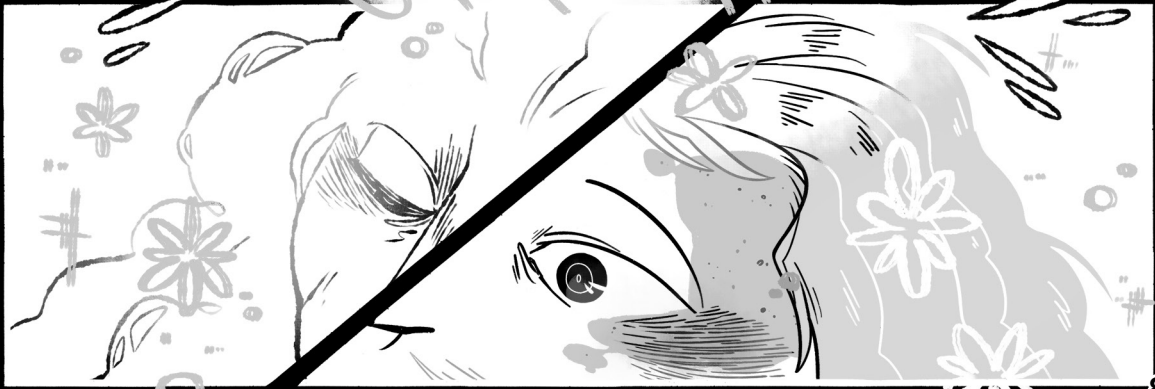
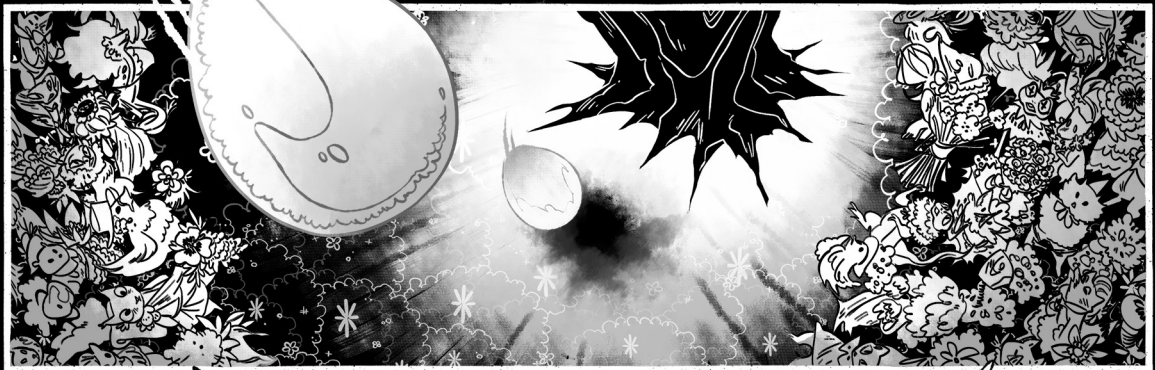


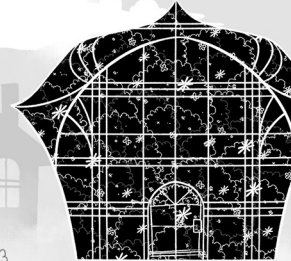
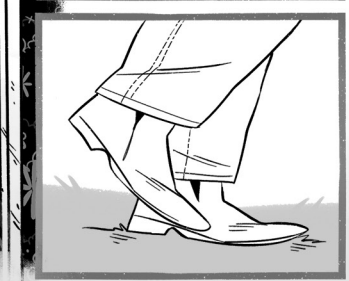
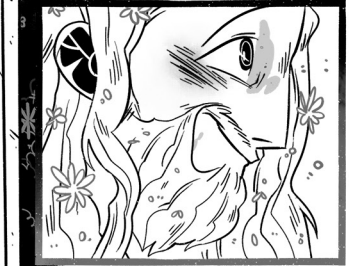
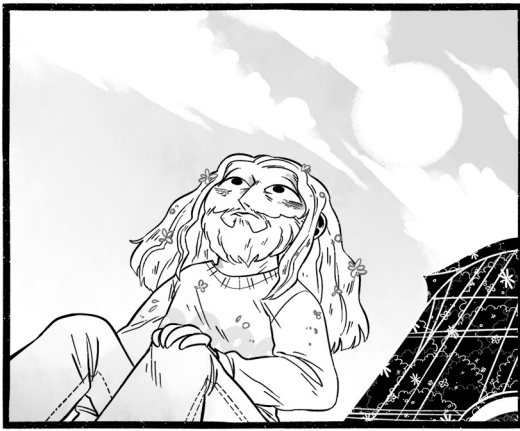




(RIRIZERRA) AKA-KA!!









# “MIND & BODY”

The following story first appeared in *CORPUS: A Comic Anthology of Bodily Ailments*, a collection of comics about illness, both mental and physical, as well as healthcare experiences. From peanut allergies, losing an eye, depression, epilepsy, and what it is to care for a sick person, all the way to tackling the stigma of a chronic illness yourself, these stories covered a huge variety of personal, scary, hilarious, and poignant topics.

Mady G's bright, visual style deals with dysphoria in a comforting and validating way. Their vulnerability in wrestling with the variable layers of gender truth or gender reality encourages the reader to be OK with being undefined. It's OK to not have all the answers, it's OK to not be sure, and it's OK to not fit into any one box, especially when there is outside pressure to do so.

Story by Mady G.

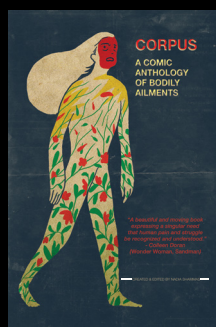
🐦 @MadyGComics

📷 madygcomics

See where it all began:

---

## ***CORPUS: A Comic Anthology of Bodily Ailments***



**825** backers pledged **US\$ 30,510** to help bring this project to life.

Kickstarter Project Creator:

Nadia Shammās

🐦 @Nadia\_Shammās

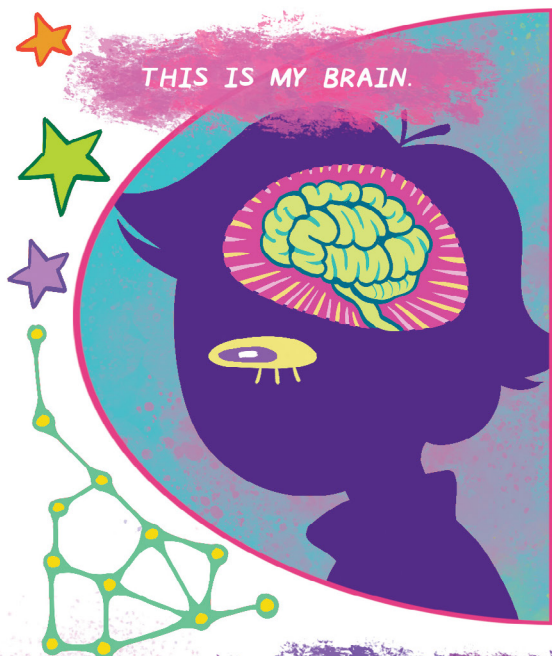
📷 nadiashammās

Cover Art by Mark Wang

🐦 @uhuhello

📷 ouch\_you\_slouch





THIS IS MY BRAIN.



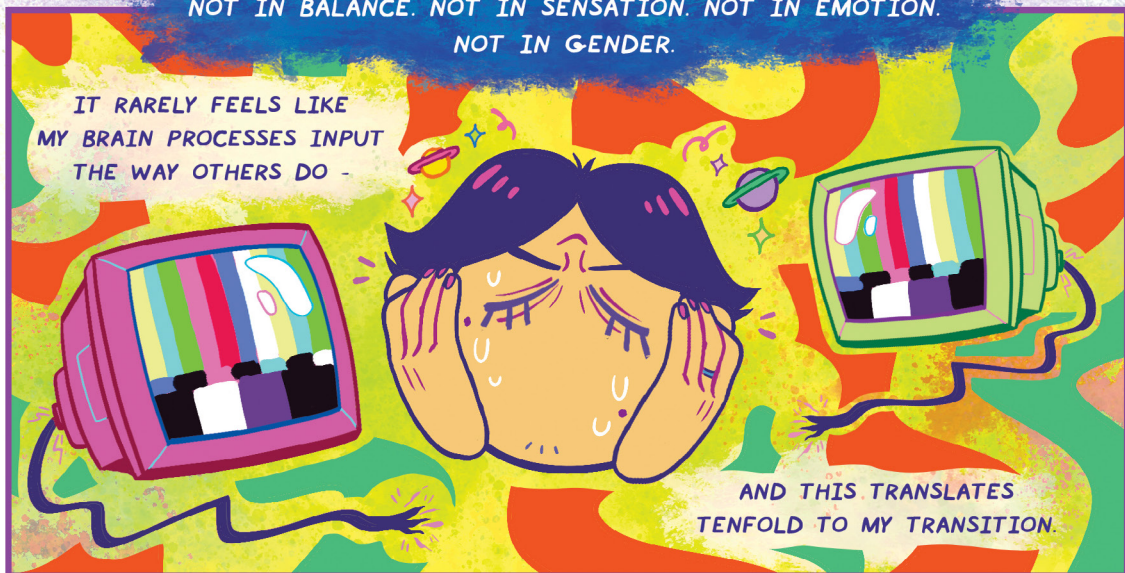
THIS IS MY BODY.

THEY'VE NEVER REALLY LIKED WORKING TOGETHER.



NOT IN BALANCE. NOT IN SENSATION. NOT IN EMOTION.  
NOT IN GENDER.

IT RARELY FEELS LIKE  
MY BRAIN PROCESSES INPUT  
THE WAY OTHERS DO -



AND THIS TRANSLATES  
TENFOLD TO MY TRANSITION.



MY VARIOUS ANXIETY DISORDERS  
CAUSE ME TO DEPERSONALIZE AND DISSOCIATE -

MY SELF-RECOGNITION  
IS DISTANT AT BEST.

HOW CAN I BE SURE OF MY GENDER  
IF I'M NOT EVEN SURE WHO I AM?

EACH MILESTONE, EACH STEP, COMES  
WITH A LITTLE SOMETHING EXTRA -





FEAR OF LOSING A BODY I JUST  
GOT USED TO IN FAVOR  
OF MORE UNCERTAINTY.

FEAR OF LOSING A SENSE OF  
SELF- BEAUTY THAT I'VE NOW  
BARELY ACQUIRED,

ONLY TO BE REPLACED WITH  
CONSTANT QUESTIONING -



"AREN'T YOU AFRAID YOU'LL JUST  
GET UGLIER?"

FEAR OF SOCIAL REJECTION,  
CONFIRMING THE INSULTS  
SPAT AT ME FROM  
AGES 6 TO 19.

FEAR OF SURGICAL  
INTERVENTION.

FEAR OF WANTING IT TOO.





NO STEP IN THE PROCESS IS UNTOUCHED  
BY APREHENSION WHILE IT FEELS LIKE  
OTHERS CONTINUE TO EVOLVE AND SLIP BY.


TIDY AND PRESENTABLE  
T\* TIMELINES WITH ONLY  
ONE START DATE.



I'M STILL NOT LIKE THE OTHER BOYS.

I DON'T THINK I EVER WILL BE.

BUT I KNOW THAT, AS ALL THIS TURMOIL CONTINUES, I WILL GROW AND GROW.



TRANSITIONING IS HOT WATER  
THAT I'M SLOWLY BUT SURELY  
GETTING USED TO.



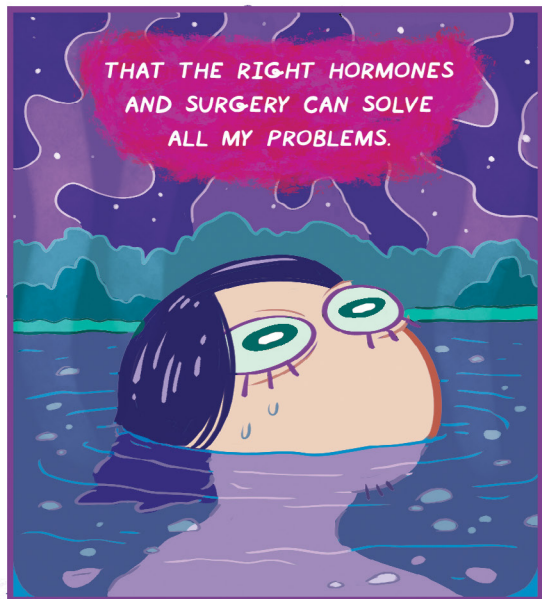
SOME MIGHT SAY THAT GENDER  
DYSPHORIA AND MENTAL ILLNESS  
GO HAND-IN-HAND.



THAT BOYS AND GIRLS ARE  
ALL THERE IS.



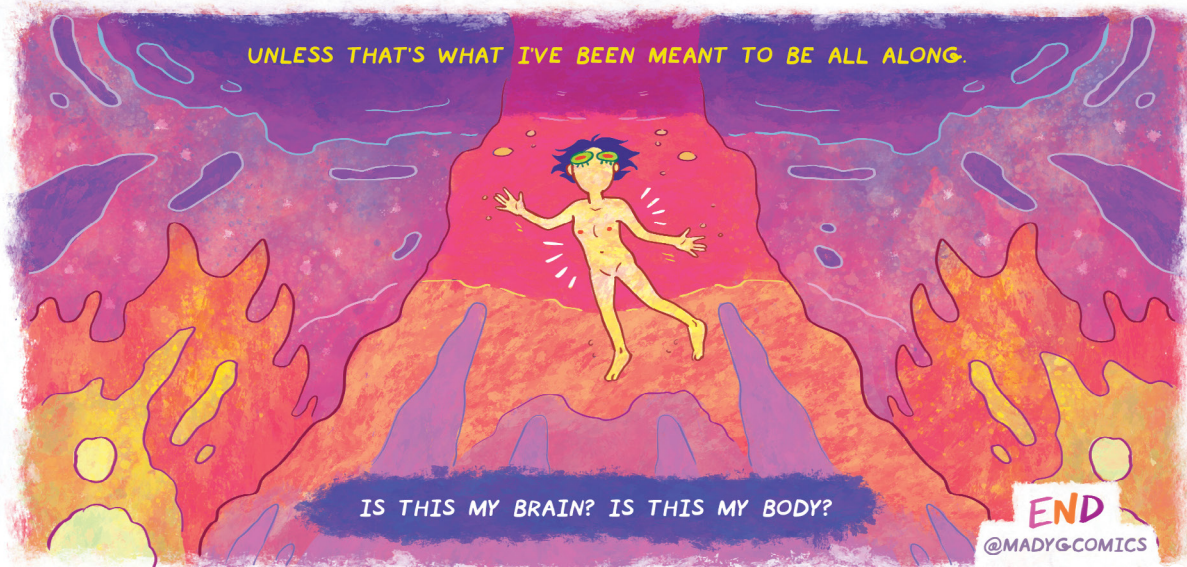
THAT THE RIGHT HORMONES  
AND SURGERY CAN SOLVE  
ALL MY PROBLEMS.



IF THAT'S TRUE,  
WHY AM I SO NEBULOUS?



UNLESS THAT'S WHAT I'VE BEEN MEANT TO BE ALL ALONG.



IS THIS MY BRAIN? IS THIS MY BODY?

END

@MADYGCOMICS



# “WASH DAY”

The following is an excerpt from *Wash Day*, a slice-of-life comic that pays tribute to the beauty and endurance of Black women and their hair. The story follows Kimana, a 26-year-old woman living in the Bronx, as she cares for her long, thick hair. As Kim goes through her Sunday morning rituals, we see the highs and lows of her day—fresh coffee, rising rent, girl talk, and catcalls.

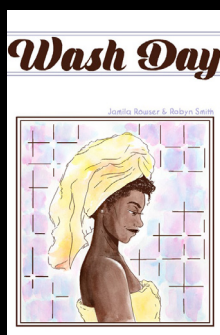
“If you have really thick curly hair, you know what ‘wash day’ means,” says Kickstarter Android Staff Engineer and selection committee member Izzy Oji. “This was a really fun slice-of-life comic that made me feel recognized, seen, and normalized. I like that *Wash Day* talks about how it’s a whole process. I felt like it was a love letter to people with natural hair.”

Story by Jamila Rowser and Robyn Smith

See where it all began:

---

## *Wash Day*



**720** backers pledged **US\$ 16,785** to help bring this project to life.

Kickstarter Project Creator:

Jamila Rowser

🐦 @JamilaRowser

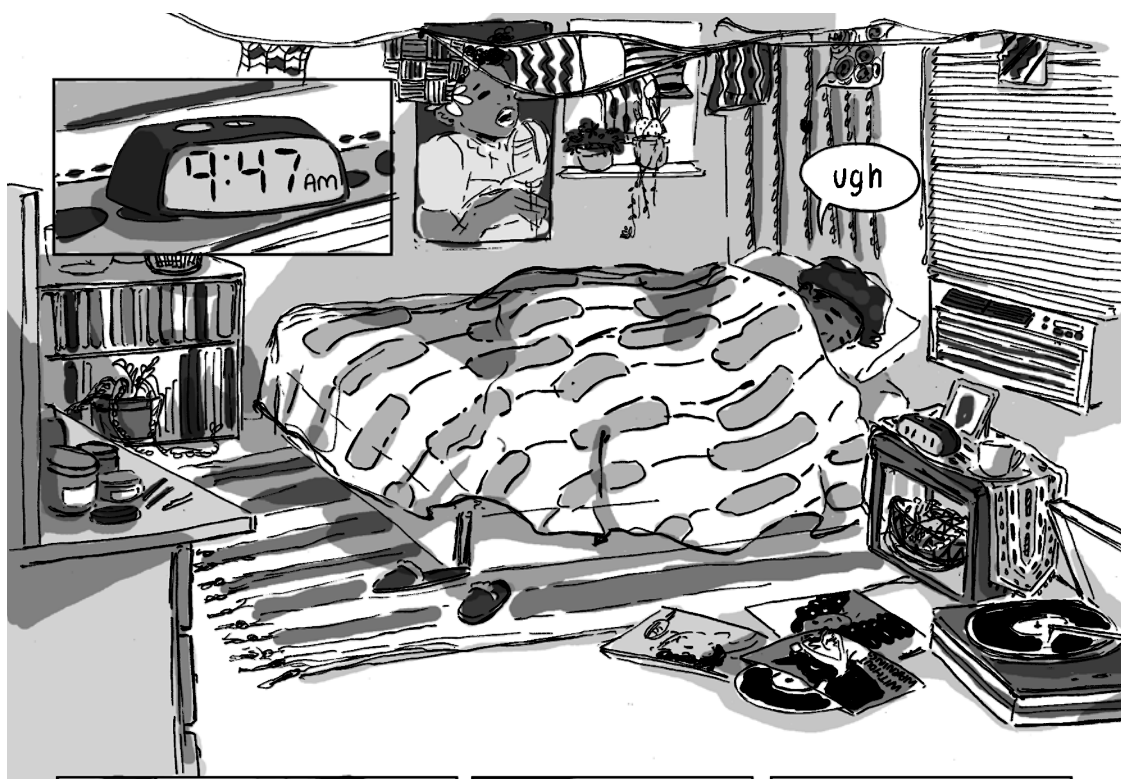
📷 jamilarowser

Cover and Interior Art: Robyn Smith

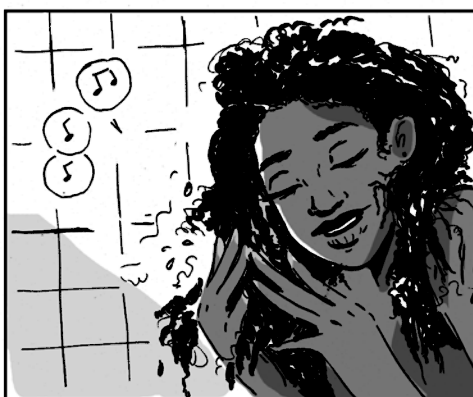
🐦 @RoBroSmo

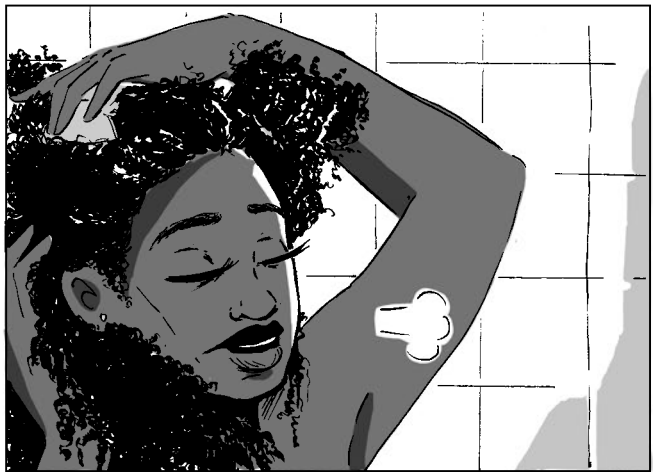
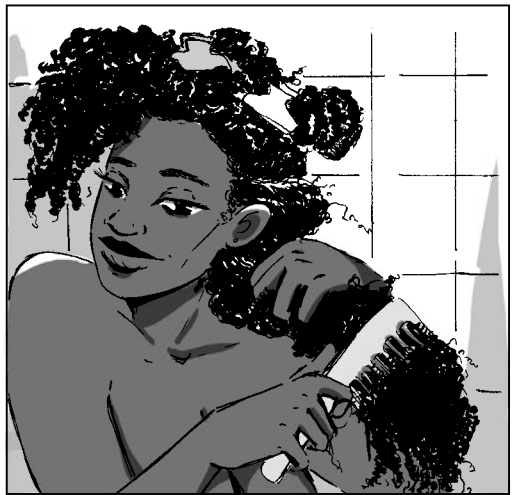
📷 robrosmo





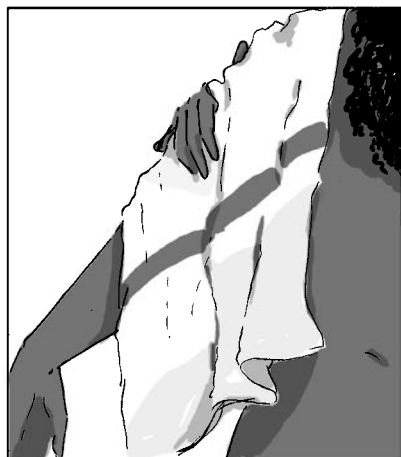




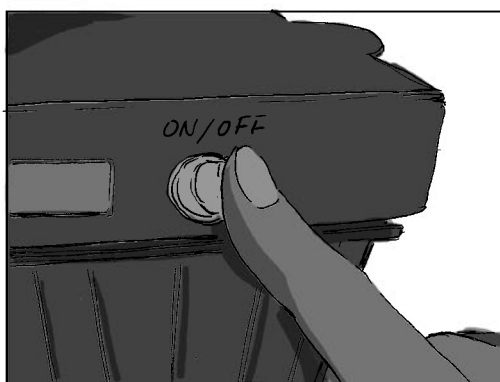


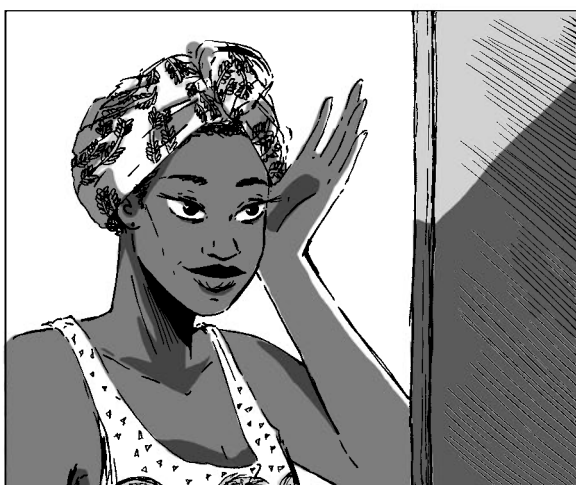
















# “LA VOZ DE M.A.Y.O. TATA RAMBO”

The following is an excerpt from *La Voz De M.A.Y.O. Tata Rambo #1* which tells the true story of Ramon Jaurigue, an orphan and World War II veteran who cofounded the Mexican, American, Yaqui, and Others (M.A.Y.O.) organization. Among their achievements were the successful lobby against the Tucson City Council to improve living and working conditions for members of the local Pascua Yaqui tribe and the official recognition of the Pascua Yaqui tribe from the U.S. government.

Utilizing newspaper clippings, interviews with surviving M.A.Y.O. members, and Ramon’s authored articles, *La Voz De M.A.Y.O.* dramatizes the remarkable life and achievements of author Henry Barajas’ great-grandfather—and in so doing, tells the story not just of a single man, but of a family, a tribe, and a nation.

Story by Henry Barajas

🐦 @HenryBarajas

📷 henryjbarajas

See where it all began:

---

## *La Voz De M.A.Y.O. Tata Rambo #1*



**341** backers pledged **US\$ 8,375** to help bring this project to life.

Kickstarter Project Creator:  
Henry Barajas

Cover and Interior Art:  
Jason “Gonzo” Gonzalez









DOWNTOWN  
TUCSON.

WE'LL  
START SENDING  
CONSTRUCTION  
CREWS NEXT  
WEEK.

SENATOR,  
MR. FIMBRES  
CAN'T SEE  
YOU--  
HE CAN'T  
EXPECT TO GET  
AWAY--

I'M  
SORRY,  
BUT HE'S  
IN A--

REY FIMBRES

DON'T  
WORRY. IT'S  
A WASTELAND  
OUT THERE.

WE'RE  
ZONING THE  
AREA SO WE  
CAN TAX THE  
LAND.

THAT'S  
A GOOD  
IDEA. WE'LL  
TELL THE  
MAYOR--

MISTER  
FIMBRES,  
YOU HAVE A  
VISITOR.

HOLD ON.  
TELL 'EM I'M  
BUSY!

CONGRESS-  
MAN UDALL  
WOULD LIKE  
TO TALK,  
SIR.

I HAVE  
TO GO. THE  
GUY WITH THE  
GLASS EYE  
IS HERE.

PLEASE,  
LET OUR  
GUEST IN,  
MS. LEE.

I'M  
HALF-BLIND,  
NOT DEAF,  
REY.

MO!  
IT'S GOOD  
TO SEE  
YOU!

HONESTLY,  
WHO DO YOU  
THINK YOU  
ARE?







RICHEY  
ELEMENTARY.

I CALLED  
CONGRESSMAN  
UDALL. HE'S COMING  
TO THE GAME  
TONIGHT.

DON  
MANUEL  
ALVAREZ,  
NEWSLETTER  
WRITER.

THE  
TRIBE IS  
NOT HAPPY  
ABOUT  
THIS.

IT JUST  
DOESN'T  
MAKE ANY  
SENSE.

TEDDY ACUÑA,  
NEWSLETTER  
EDITORIAL.

WE NEED  
TO LET THE  
COMMUNITY  
KNOW.

ROSIE JIMENEZ,  
NEWSLETTER  
ARTIST.

PADRE MEMO  
SAID HE WILL  
MENTION THE NEWS  
ON SUNDAY.

I'M AFRAID  
WE CAN'T WAIT  
UNTIL MASS,  
ROSIE.

LA VOZ?


WE CAN  
GO TO PRESS  
TONIGHT. BUT HOW  
WE WILL GET IT TO  
EVERYONE BEFORE  
SUNDAY?

I KNOW  
A WAY.



STRIKE TWO!

GOOD EYE, OLIVIA!

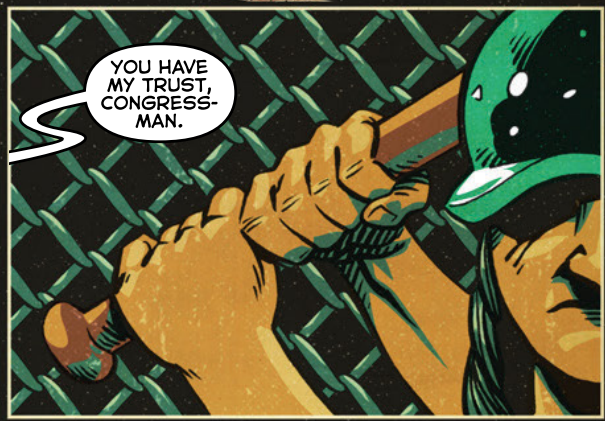


A man in a white shirt is talking to an older man in a suit behind a chain-link fence. The man in white is gesturing with his hands.

SORRY FOR BEING LATE, RAMON. ROUGH DAY.

UDALL! YOU'RE ON TIME. OLIVIA'S AT BAT.

I HAD NO IDEA THIS WAS IN THE WORKS.



A close-up of a person wearing a green helmet and holding a baseball bat, looking towards the field.

YOU HAVE MY TRUST, CONGRESSMAN.



Two men in suits are talking in a stadium. In the background, several people are sitting on the bleachers.

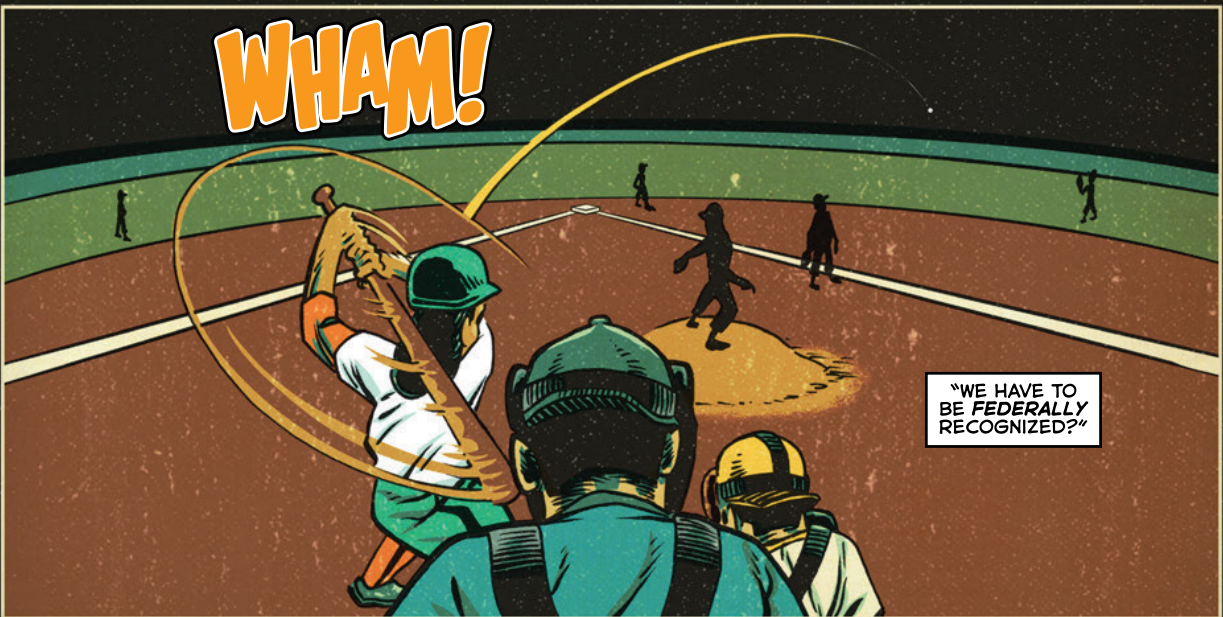
IT'S THEM YOU HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT.

TELL ME...



A group of people are shown in a crowd, looking towards the field. A man in a suit is in the foreground.

HAVE YOU BEEN TO SAN FRANCISCO, RAMON?



A large baseball player is swinging a bat, with a large yellow arc indicating the path of the bat. The word "WHAM!" is written in large, stylized letters above the player. In the background, other players are visible on the field.

WHAM!

"WE HAVE TO BE FEDERALLY RECOGNIZED?"









HEY,  
CONGRESSMAN!  
MRS. UDALL!  
HEY, OVER  
HERE!

¡DONDE  
HAY UNIDAD,

HAY  
PODER!

TU MAMÁ Y  
PAPÁ THROW  
THE BEST  
PARTIES.



¡QUE VIVA  
M.A.Y.O!



IT'S ALL  
A SHOW,  
VELMA.



THANKS  
FOR INVITING  
US.

Y'ALL KNOW  
HOW TO THROW  
A PARTY!

I'VE  
GOT GOOD  
NEWS,  
MO.



CESAR CALLED.  
HE WANTS TO  
PROTEST WITH  
M.A.Y.O.

THAT'S  
HUGE.

I'LL HAVE  
MY OFFICE  
ALERT THE  
PRESS.

WE'RE GOING TO  
PROTEST TOMORROW  
NEAR  
FIMBRES' OFFICE.



THIS IS  
LOUIE'S LAST  
SONG.

READY?

YOU'RE  
GOING TO  
WHAT?!







# “SINGULAR THEY”

The following story first appeared in *We're Still Here: An All-Trans Comics Anthology*, a project that creator Tara Avery believes to be the first anthology of comics entirely by and for transgender creators.

Ranging from fiction to nonfiction, escapist fantasy to slice-of-life memoir and back again, the anthology covered the weird and uncomfortable, highlighted little-known kinks and contradictions in the trans experience, and most importantly, told stories about trans people having a good time. It was nominated for a Lambda Literary Award in 2018.

“As a non-binary person who uses they/them pronouns, I am often presented with arguments and grumblings against the use of ‘they’ as a singular use pronoun,” says Kickstarter Senior Product Designer and selection committee member Cait Charniga. “I love this comic because it shows how singular they is certainly not new while giving a light-hearted history lesson around its usage.”

Story by Melanie Gillman

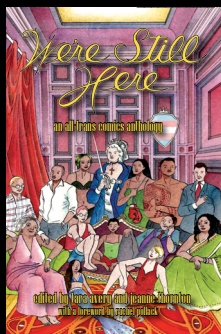
🐦 @melgillman

📷 mgillman

See where it all began:

---

## ***We're Still Here: An All-Trans Comics Anthology***



**1,885** backers pledged **US\$ 65,203** to help bring this project to life.

Kickstarter Project Creator:  
Tara Avery of Stacked Deck Press

🐦 @stackeddeckprss

Cover Art by Bishakh Som

📷 biche\_bash



A BRIEF TIMELINE OF

# SINGULAR THEY



(AND A FEW OTHER GENDER-NEUTRAL PRONOUNS)

by Prof. Melanie Gillman

THE EARLIEST RECORDED INSTANCES OF SINGULAR-THEY DATE BACK TO THE 1300s. THAT MAKES IT AS OLD AS:

MECHANICAL CLOCKS! CANNONS! EYEGLASSES!

"And whoso fyndeth hym out of swich blame, They wol come up..."

CHAUCER

CANTERBURY TALES, c. 1400

IN THE 1500s, SOME WRITERS ARGUE "HE" SHOULD REPLACE "THEY" AS THE GENDER-NEUTRAL PRONOUN OF CHOICE.

As God set man before woman, so do we use "he" to mean "all"...

WTF

"There's not a man I meet but doth salute me — As if I were their well-acquainted friend."

SHAKESPEARE

A COMEDY OF ERRORS, c. 1595

IN 1611, THE KING JAMES BIBLE INCLUDES SEVERAL SINGULAR-THEYS.

Matthew 18:35  
So likewise shall my heavenly Father doe unto you, if ye from your hearts forgive not every one his brother their trespasses

IN THE MID-1600s, MAJOR CONTROVERSY ERUPTS OVER ANOTHER PREVIOUSLY-PLURAL PRONOUN: YOU

THEE! THY! YOU YOUR

(ODDLY ENOUGH, ANTI-THEY CRITICS TODAY GENERALLY DON'T INSIST ON THEES & THOUS)

IN 1792, SCOTTISH PHILOSOPHER JAMES ANDERSON PROPOSES A NEW GENDER-NEUTRAL PRONOUN (ou) AND DECLARES ENGLISH OUGHT TO HAVE THIRTEEN GENDERS.

maa

Including one just for castrated animals!

AND IN 1808, SAMUEL TAYLOR COLERIDGE MAKES THE CASE FOR "IT" AS A GENDER-NEUTRAL PRONOUN.

It's all good.

"Had the doctor been contented to take my dining tables, as any body in their senses would have done..."

AUSTEN

MANSFIELD PARK, 1814



IN 1850, ENGLISH COURTS CONCLUDE LAWS WRITTEN WITH GENDER-NEUTRAL "HE"'S INCLUDE WOMEN WHEN IT COMES TO PAYING TAXES, BUT NOT VOTING RIGHTS.

Wasn't "taxation without representation" a problem for you kinda recently?

"Almost anyone under the circumstances would have doubted if [the letter] were **theirs**, or indeed if **they** were **themselves**."

LETTER, 1881

IN THE LATE 1800S, WRITERS SEARCH HIGH & LOW FOR A SINGULAR-THEY REPLACEMENT. HUNDREDS ARE PROPOSED:

ONE OF THE PROPOSED PRONOUNS IS ADDED TO A FEW DICTIONARIES, AND ENJOYED A BRIEF HEYDAY.

IN 1916, THE 1<sup>ST</sup> US CONGRESSWOMAN IS ALMOST DENIED HER SEAT, BECAUSE THE LAWS ABOUT CONGRESSIONAL ELIGIBILITY ALL USE "HE" PRONOUNS.

Luckily, they decided they'd rather not let half the US population off the hook for all the other laws...

CONGRESSWOMAN JEANETTE RANKIN.

THUS, IN THE 60s & 70s, MANY FEMINISTS FIGHT BACK AGAINST GENDER-NEUTRAL USES OF "HE"

'Cuz if we don't-

That'll KEEP HAPPENING

SPIVAK PRONOUNS (E, EM, EIR) START TAKING OFF IN THE 90s, FOLLOWING THEIR INTRODUCTION INTO AN ONLINE GAME, LAMBDA MOO.

When given the option, an estimated 20% of players chose pronouns other than he or she!

SINGULAR-THEY HAS ALSO BEEN MAKING A BIG COMEBACK - SO HAVE ITS CRITICS.

"It's ungrammatical and... just wrong."

MARY NORRIS, "BETWEEN YOU & ME" (2015)

OFTEN SOMEWHAT HYPOCRITICAL CRITICS.

"Nobody wanted to think **they** were not essential."

SAME AUTHOR, SAME BOOK

SINGULAR-THEY HAS GAINED A LOT OF GROUND IN THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY SO FAR.

BUT MOST IMPORTANTLY, WIDER ACCEPTANCE OF NONBINARY SINGULAR PRONOUNS HAS MADE A HECKUVA LOT OF PEOPLE HAPPIER. WHAT BETTER REASON TO CELEBRATE THESE WORDS!

# “WANDER”

The following is an excerpt from WANDER: A Johnny Wander Travelogue. Co-creators Yuko Ota and Ananth Hirsh wanted to celebrate the 10th anniversary of their award-winning webcomic *Johnny Wander* with a selection of autobiographical comics about their travels. This particular section covers a joyful jaunt to Hawaii, shedding light on some of the everyday annoyances and othering that comes with living as an Asian-American in mainland America.

Kickstarter Senior Software Engineer and selection committee member Dannel Jurado notes, “I love slice-of-life stories about people who make comics. Seeing the cultural experience of being Japanese in a place full of other Japanese folks while not in Japan was particularly special as it was a reminder of those strange out-of-body experiences that sometimes happen as a third culture kid.”

Story by Ananth Hirsh and Yuko Ota

🐦 [@ananthhirsh](https://twitter.com/ananthhirsh)

📷 [ananthhirsh](https://www.instagram.com/ananthhirsh)

🐦 [@aidosaur](https://twitter.com/aidosaur)

📷 [aidosaur](https://www.instagram.com/aidosaur)

See where it all began:

---

## WANDER: A Johnny Wander Travelogue



**1,178** backers pledged **US\$ 36,910** to help bring this project to life.

Kickstarter Project Creator:

Johnny Wander

<http://www.johnnywander.com/>

Cover Art by Yuko Ota





WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME  
WE TOOK A TRIP THAT  
WASN'T FOR BUSINESS?

HMM.

Hmmm

HMMHMM

MMMH

hey let's go



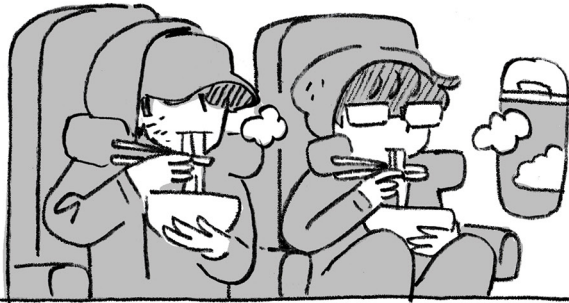
10/23/2018

NEW JERSEY



11-HOUR  
FLIGHT

hey did you know  
u can bring instant  
ramen on the plane

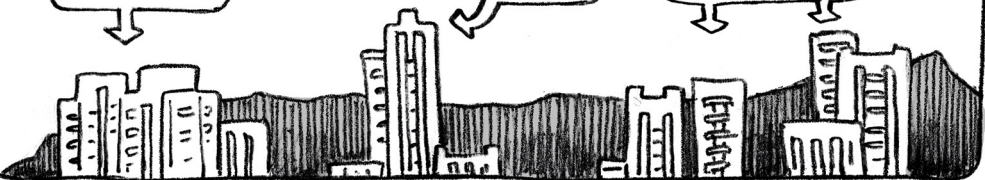


WE CAN SEE DIAMOND HEAD CRATER  
FROM OUR ROOM! (kinda)

building

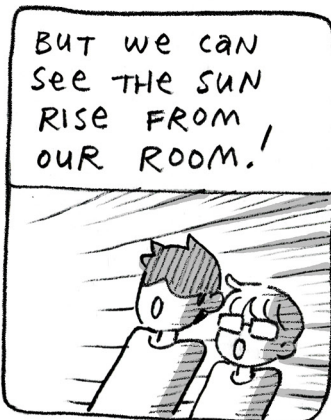
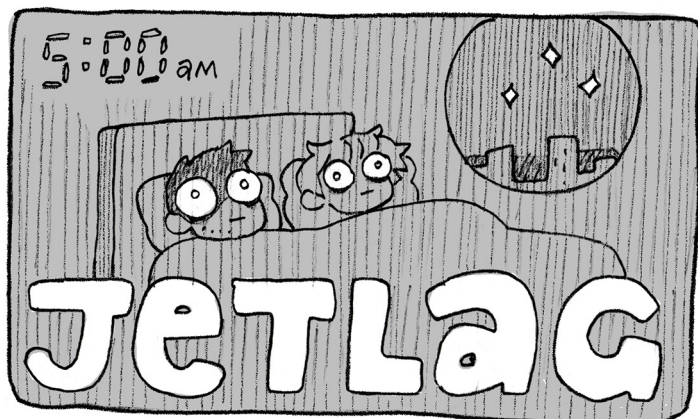
building

building



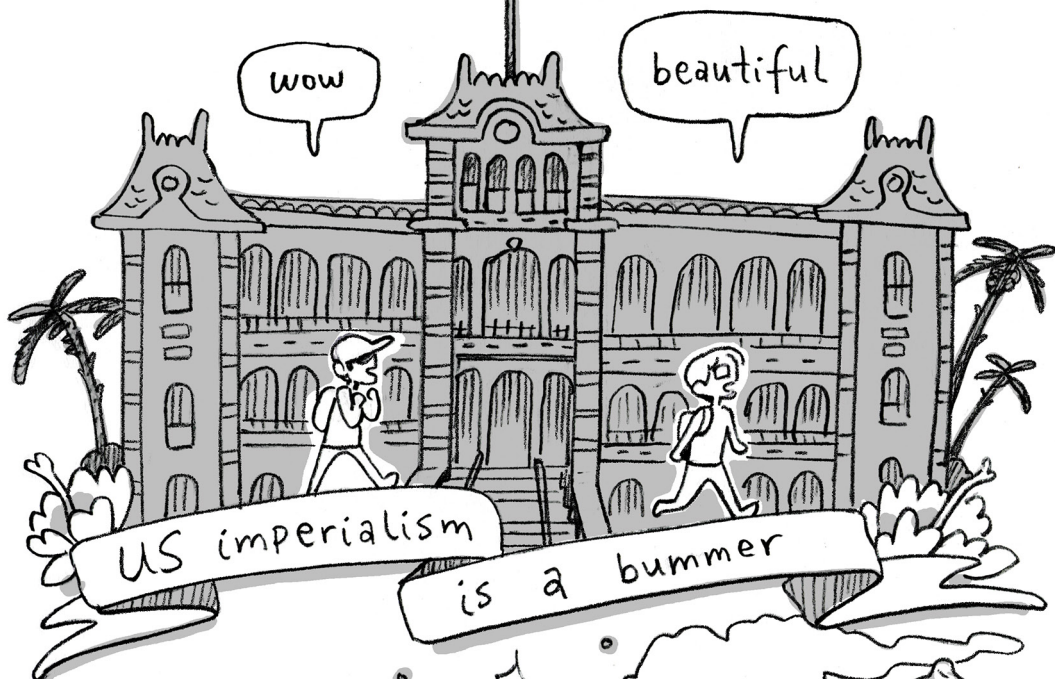


10/24/2018



today we're touring  
❖ 'IOLANI PALACE ❖

the home of the  
last ruling royal family  
of Hawai'i!

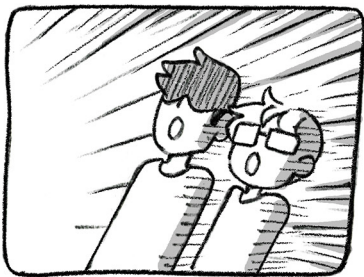


and then we  
ate too much  
Japanese food

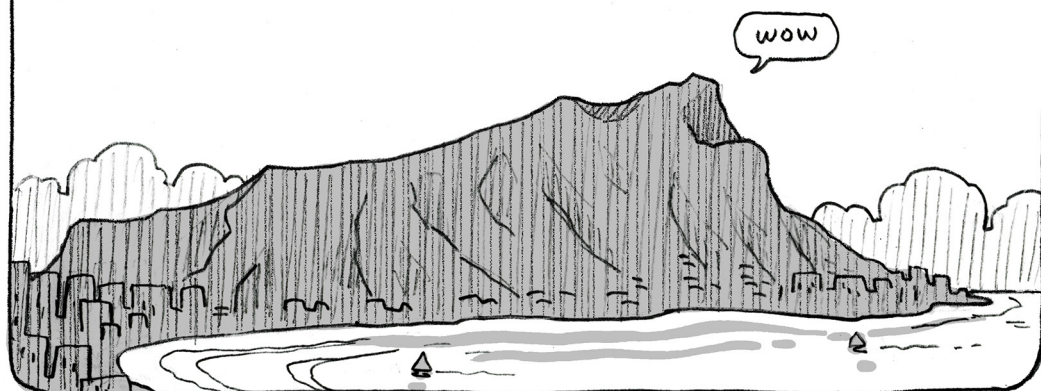


10/25/2018

# SUNRISE

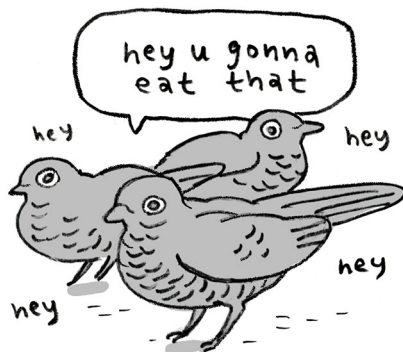


EARLY MORNING HIKE UP  
DIAMOND HEAD CRATER



finally learned the name  
of the tiny doves that  
keep following us around

ZEBRA DOVES



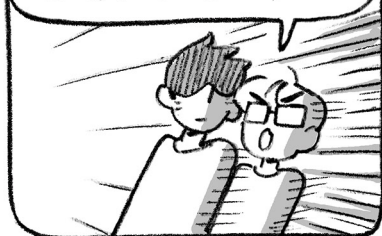
I CAN'T BELIEVE  
THE NUMBER OF  
MULTI-RACIAL  
JAPANESE FOLKS  
HERE—OR THE  
AMOUNT OF  
JAPANESE I'VE  
SEEN & HEARD.





10/27/2018

HEY WHAT IF  
WE RENTED A  
CAR TODAY?



New Yorker who doesn't  
drive anymore but has  
a valid license



"IT'S FINE,  
DON'T WORRY  
ABOUT IT"

HONOLULU →  
BYODO-IN  
TEMPLE



what the heck this place is magical



LOTS OF STRAY CATS

BYODO-IN →  
LANIAKEA  
BEACH



what the heck this place is magical



LOTS OF STRAY CHICKENS

good job  
driving

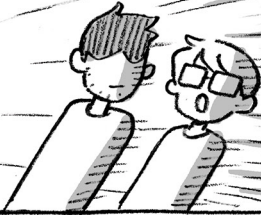


good job  
navigating

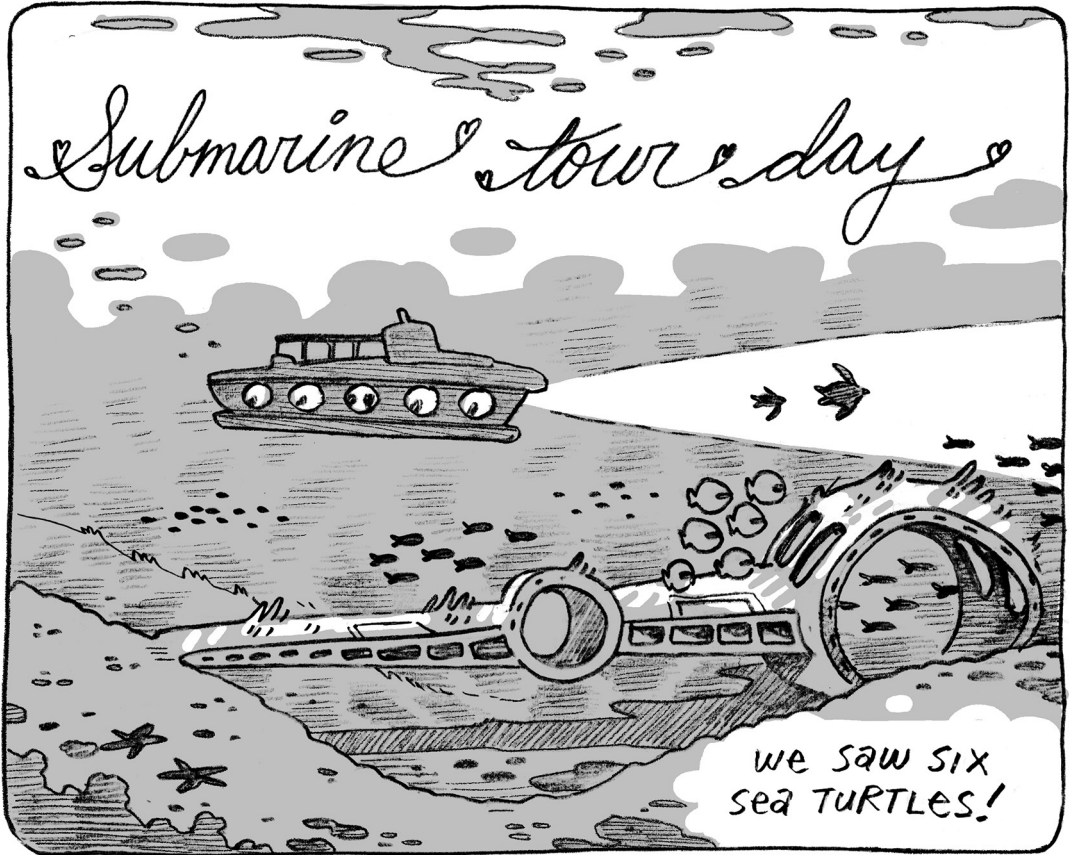
"IT WAS FINE,  
DON'T WORRY  
ABOUT IT"

10/27/2018

LET'S GO TO THE  
HOTEL GYM!



*Submarine tour day*



we've BEEN eating  
a LOT OF JAPANESE  
FOOD....



including this  
monstrosity:

matcha  
soft serve

mochi

chestnut

anko

matcha  
shaved ice





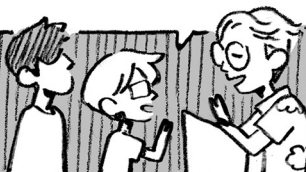
THE STRANGEST THING ABOUT THIS TRIP...

DARK ROAST COFFEE  
FOR YUKO!



MY NAME HASN'T BEEN MISSPELLED, MISPRONOUNCED,  
OR MISUNDERSTOOD A SINGLE TIME WHILE HERE.

RESERVATION UNDER "OTA,"  
THAT'S SPELLED —



DON'T  
WORRY, I  
SEE YOU  
RIGHT HERE!

IT'S SUPER  
NOVEL!

ORDER UP FOR  
YUUKI!



OH THAT'S ME, THANK YOU!



10/28/2018

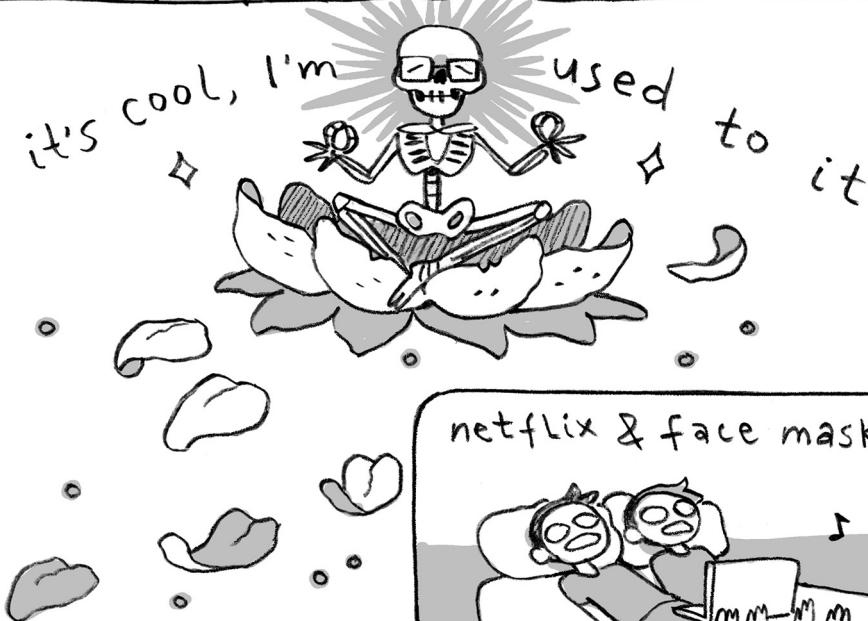
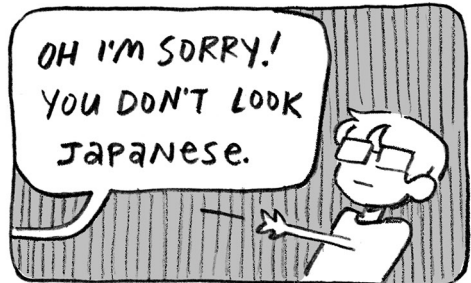
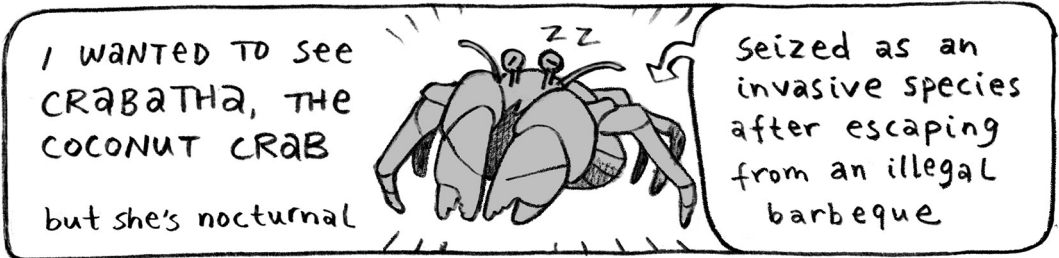
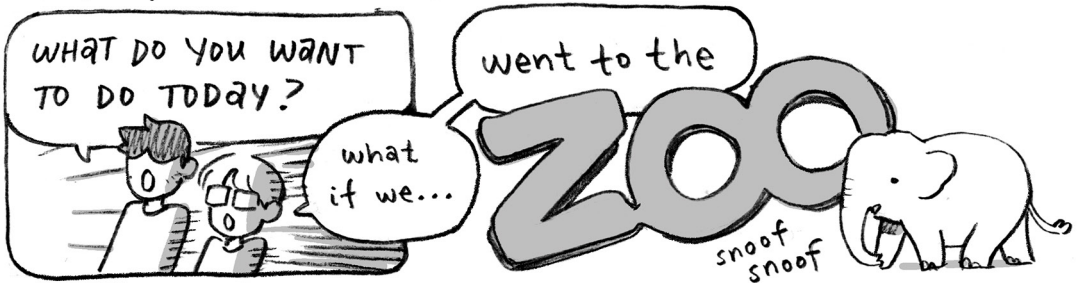


we STILL HAVEN'T  
GOTTEN ANY  
SOUVENIRS FOR  
FRIENDS....





10/29/2018



10/30/2018

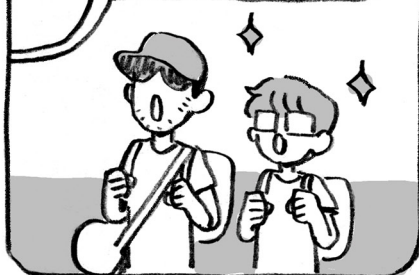
IT'S RAINING



JUST IN TIME  
FOR US TO  
CHECK OUT

BUT FIRST:

you have a  
\$30 BAR CREDIT.



FREE LUNCH



HONOLULU  
INT'L AIRPORT

お客様!



ここにお待ちください。

は...はい...



huh





9-HOUR  
FLIGHT



10/31/2018

ARRIVE IN  
NEWARK  
at 6:00 am



HAPPY HALLOWEEN



we're tired

HELPING OUR  
LANDLORDS  
GIVE OUT  
CANDY



*the end*

## Afterword

In 2015, a year into graduate school and one volume into my webcomic *Check, Please!*, I remember walking down to the Savannah River, down along Bay Street, to look at the open green water. This was my attempt to calm myself down—to think about how much water there is and how small I was. I was nervous out of my mind because my Kickstarter for *Check, Please!: Year One* was launching in less than 24 hours.

The stakes were high. If this Kickstarter did well, that meant that I could not only give *Check, Please!*'s burgeoning readership something concrete—a physical embodiment of the enthusiasm they had given the comic for over two years—but it also meant that I had a chance to make comics for a living. To be a self-sustained cartoonist! And as one of those seven-story freight boats that traffics the Savannah River crept on by, and indeed, made me feel very small, I prayed for this opportunity. One project. One book. One Kickstarter.

In a world where artists from all walks of life are creating comics that capture every odd and beautiful shade of the human experience, few comics get the opportunity to be elevated, broadcast, and distributed on a large scale. Those who hold the key to the gates are people who are unfortunately too hesitant, uninformed, or risk-averse to tamper with the status quo. The power of self-publishing, and indeed, the power of Kickstarter, is that the gates get blown off their hinges. When your audience rallies behind you



to bring a graphic novel to print, suddenly you have the keys in your hands.

Sitting on my bookshelf right now are books that I got from big retail stores, but tucked in right next to them are graphic novels that were hand-packaged and hand-mailed to me by creators whose Kickstarter projects I backed. I have Kickstarted zines that I would have only been able to find at the most independent of indie zine festivals. I have posters and T-shirts and keychains from stories that only me and 2,000 other people know about, but we loved this story so dang much that we handed the creator money to help their—our—vision come true. We're in a new age, people!

After my wistful river-gazing, I'm grateful to say that the *Check, Please!: Year One* Kickstarter was funded the next day. Just think: if there had been no platform to self-publish my comic, there would never have been any wishes placed on rivers, no hopes that I could build my comics career with my bare hands and the help of 1,000 readers. My comic's fate would have been in the hands of others who might not have understood it, or might not have put it in a place where it could thrive. After reading this book, and after experiencing these comics that got their start on Kickstarter, I hope that the potential is palpable to you. Each creator holds their own keys. With Kickstarter, these are stories that are getting to be told.

NGOZI

Ngozi Ukazu  
February 28, 2020







There's no telling what you might find in The Worlds of Kickstarter. Perhaps a cheeky romp into the Chinese afterlife, a walking tour of Hawaii with your new favorite comic creator duo, a journey through space by way of Squamish song. Maybe something more somber, like honoring and remembering a loved one through a fire ritual, learning about a person's experience with dysphoria, riding on a magical train to escape depression and finding that you don't have to cope alone. Or, perchance, a day at the park with a robot and their human friend, a non-binary person's transformative experience in an enchanted forest, the trials and triumphs of Indigenous activists during the 1970s...

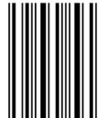
From slice-of-life to sci-fi, these twelve Kickstarted stories do more than showcase the range of possibilities within the comics medium—they inspire us to imagine worlds that have yet to form. So dive on in and discover what's to come at [Kickstarter.com](https://www.kickstarter.com).

**KICKSTARTER**

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