

# Blood Fairy

VOLUME



LINDA SEJIC

*Top Cow Productions Presents...*

# *Blood Rain*™

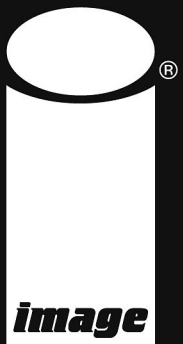
*Created by Linda Sejic*



*Published by Top Cow Productions, Inc.  
Los Angeles*



*Dedicated to my husband Stjepan.  
Thank you for always making me laugh.*



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Top Cow Productions Presents...

# Blood Stain™

**LINDA SEJIC**

*Creator*

**RYAN CADY**

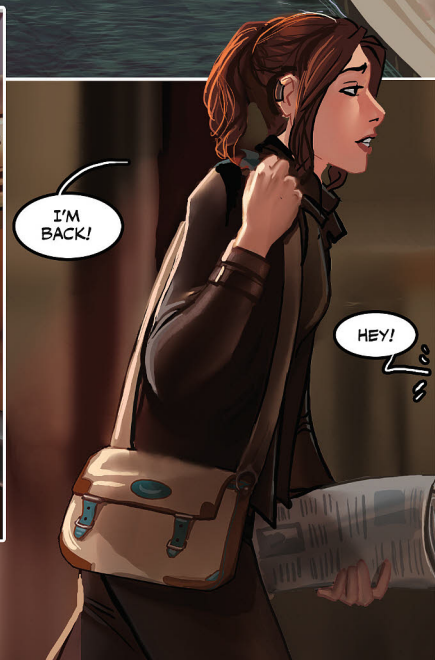
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*Book Design & Layout*

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SOMEWHERE IN THE ASSCRACK OF THE MEDITERRANEAN...

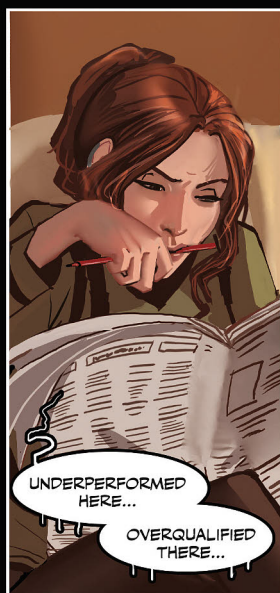
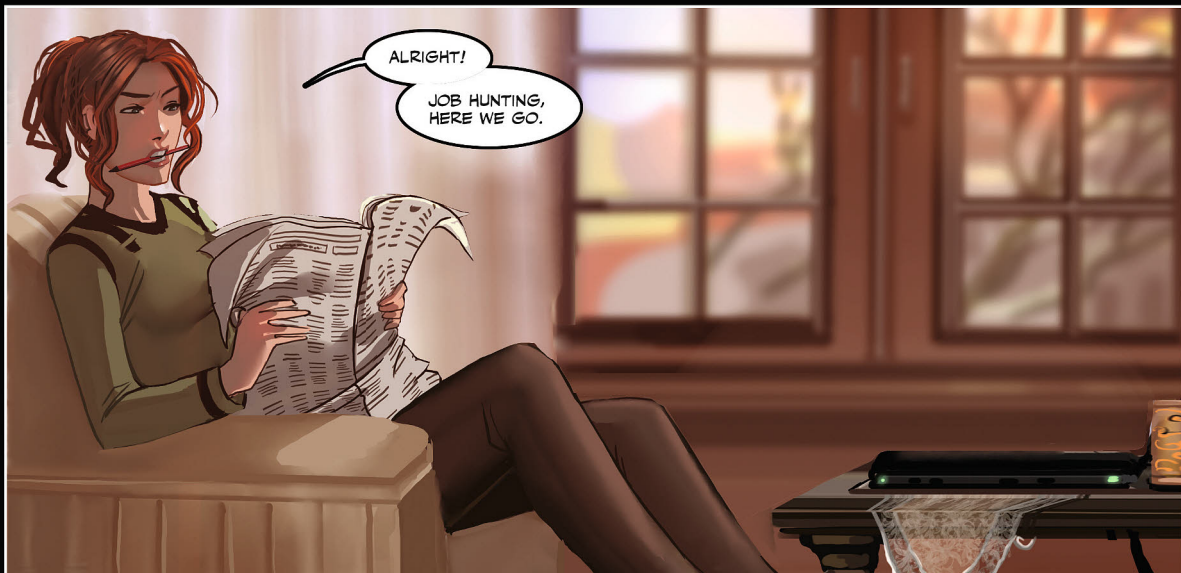


TAK TAK TAK TAK

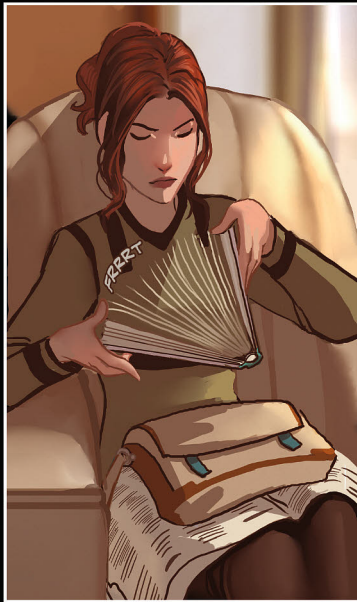
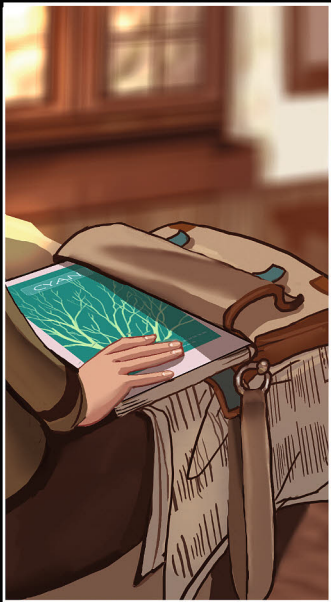
TAK

HOW DID IT GO?

I'LL TELL YOU LATER!







HMM...

A FEW HOURS EARLIER...

HAS IT ALREADY BEEN 2 YEARS SINCE I'VE GRADUATED..?

SIGH...

I FEEL SO DESPERATE, LOOKING FOR A JOB HERE...

NOTICE BOARD

OK.

LET'S SEE WHAT WE HAVE..

EH...

I GUESS I'LL TAKE WHATEVER I CAN GET.

Assistant needed!

CRACKLE

POOF!

UM...

WOW...

LOOKS LIKE THIS ONE'S BEEN HERE FOR AWHILE.

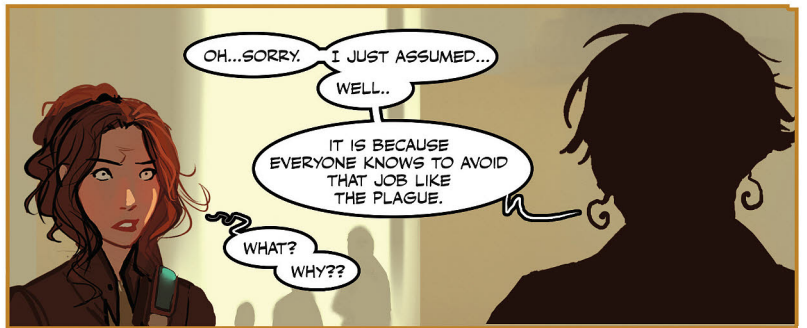
IS THIS STILL VALID?

UH...HI, CAN YOU TELL ME WHY THIS AD IS SO CRUMMY AND COVERED IN DUST?

IT FEELS LIKE IT'S BEEN HANGING ON THAT BOARD FOR YEARS...

OH, THAT?

YOU MUST BE NEW HERE.





I WOULDN'T IF I WERE YOU.

THE GUY IS A TOTAL CREEP,  
AND THAT'S JUST  
COMMON KNOWLEDGE.



♪ PILLI ♪

MMM...?

♪ PILLI ♪



♪ PILLI ♪

UGH...



TP

YES?



HI,  
I'M CALLING ABOUT  
THE AD.

YOU...NEED  
AN ASSISTANT  
WITH CHEMISTRY  
EXPERTISE?



...YES...

THAT...  
*IS*  
WHAT I NEED.  
AMONG  
OTHER THINGS.



HOWEVER,  
BEFORE WE CONTINUE,  
I NEED TO VIEW YOUR  
CREDENTIALS.

CLICK



"OTHER  
THINGS?"

HOLY CRAP,  
THAT VOICE IS  
SO CREEPY...

THAT GIRL  
WASN'T KIDDING...



HELLO?

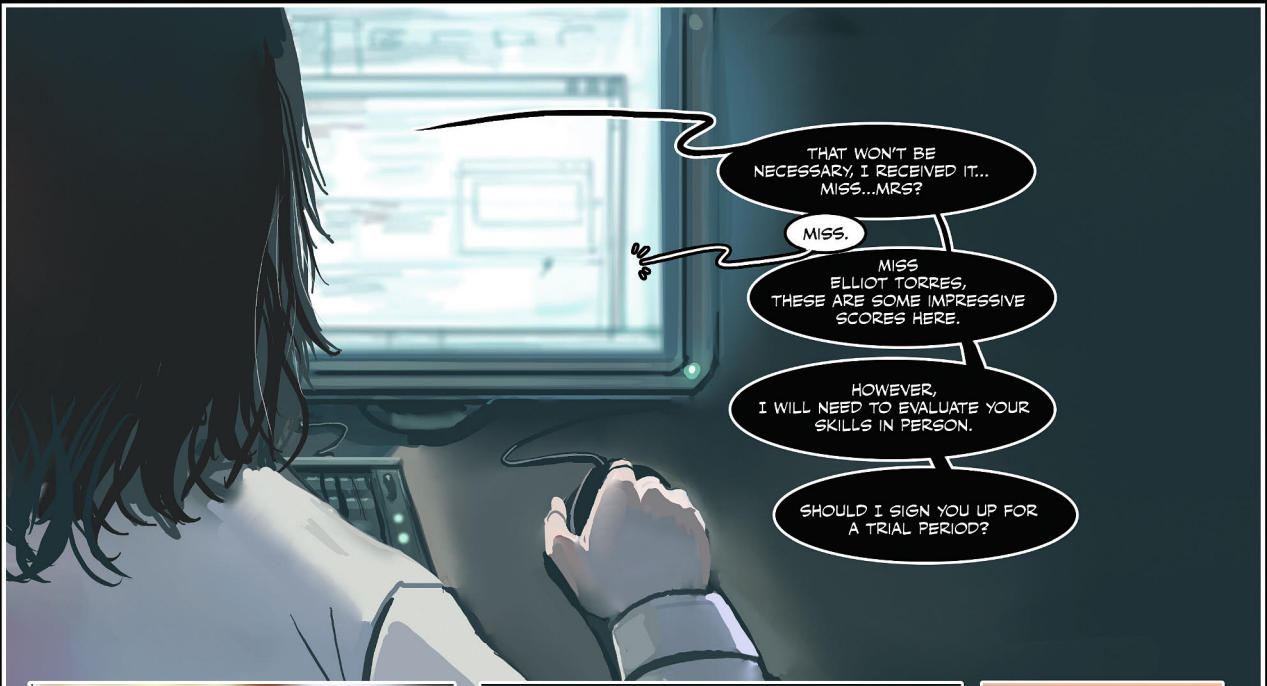
RIGHT!  
CREDENTIALS!



I HAVE SENT  
MY CREDENTIALS VIA  
EMAIL, AS IT WAS REQUESTED  
IN THE AD.

DID YOU NOT  
RECEIVE THEM  
YET?

I...UHH...  
COULD SEND  
THEM AGAIN...?



THAT WON'T BE NECESSARY, I RECEIVED IT... MISS...MRS?

MISS.

MISS ELLIOT TORRES, THESE ARE SOME IMPRESSIVE SCORES HERE.

HOWEVER, I WILL NEED TO EVALUATE YOUR SKILLS IN PERSON.

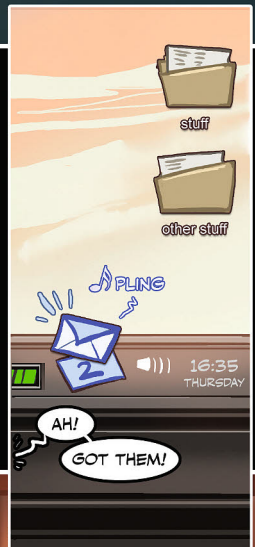
SHOULD I SIGN YOU UP FOR A TRIAL PERIOD?



WHAT WILL I BE DOING... EXACTLY?



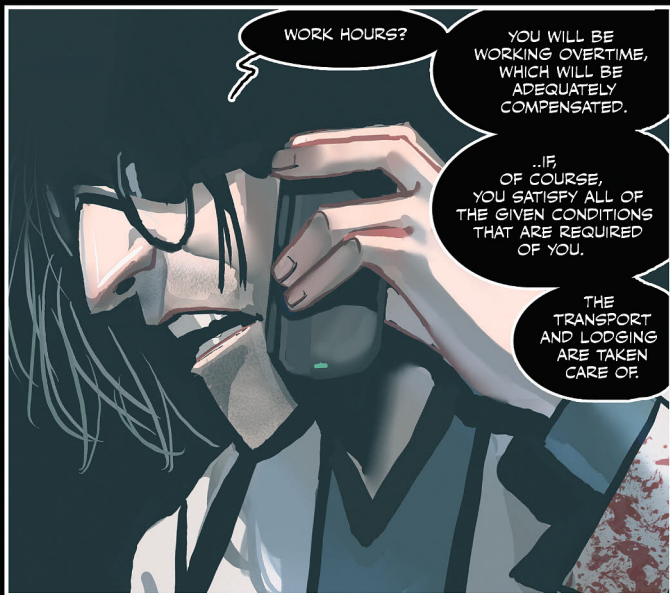
I WILL EMAIL YOU A LIST OF TASKS.



OKAY. AND WHAT ABOUT WORK HOURS?

ALSO... THIS PLACE SEEMS A LITTLE DESOLATE...

WHAT ABOUT TRANSPORT?



WORK HOURS?

YOU WILL BE WORKING OVERTIME, WHICH WILL BE ADEQUATELY COMPENSATED.

..IF OF COURSE, YOU SATISFY ALL OF THE GIVEN CONDITIONS THAT ARE REQUIRED OF YOU.

THE TRANSPORT AND LODGING ARE TAKEN CARE OF.



I...SEE...



WELL... THANK YOU FOR ALL THE INFO, MR. --

DOCTOR...

...DOCTOR STEIN.

AH...YES...

OF COURSE.

I... WILL NEED TO THINK ABOUT THIS PROPOSAL.

OF COURSE..

HAVE A NICE DAY.

GOODBYE!



UHHH...

THIS...

...SEEMS REALLY SHADY.

I SHOULD PROBABLY TAKE A LOOK AT THOSE OTHER JOBS.

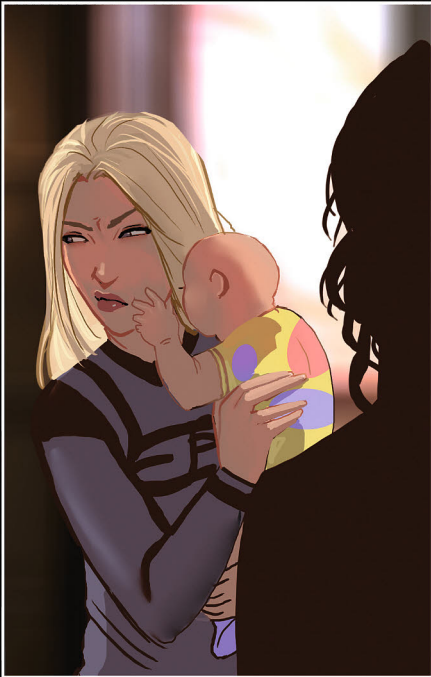
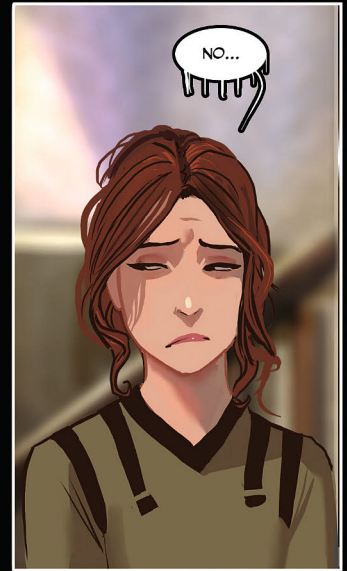
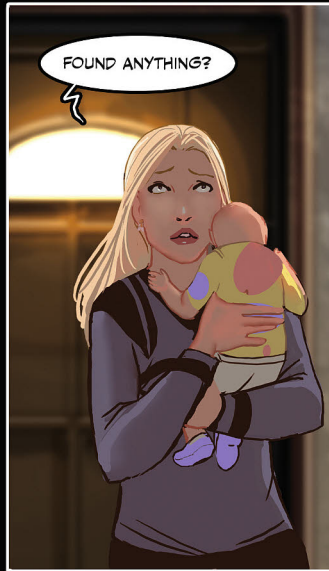


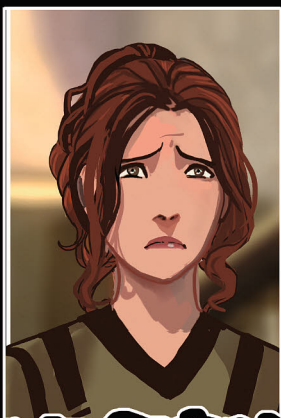
ANY LUCK?

JUST A PROFESSIONAL PRANK CALL.

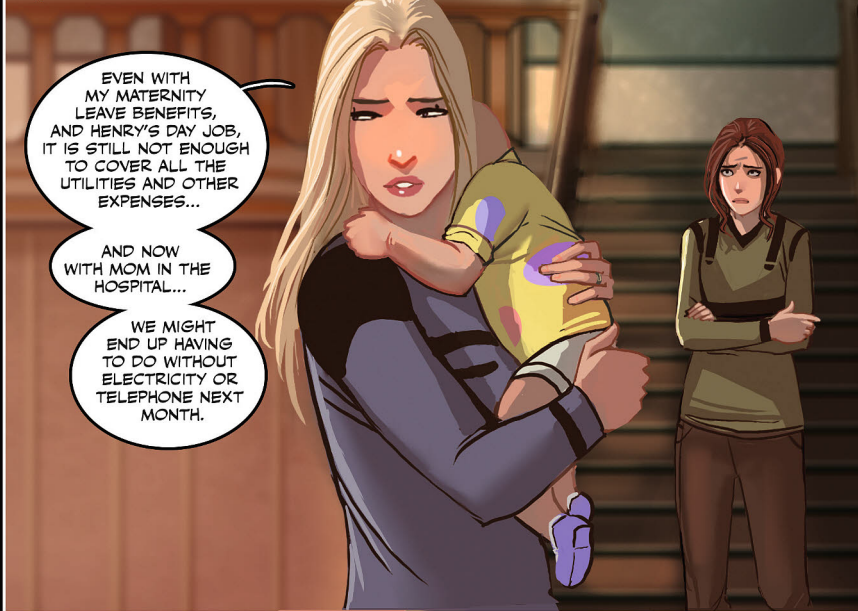
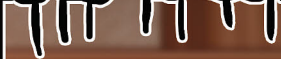
YOU GET THOSE A LOT LATELY.



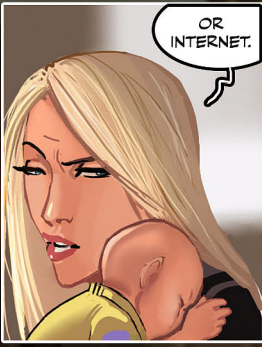




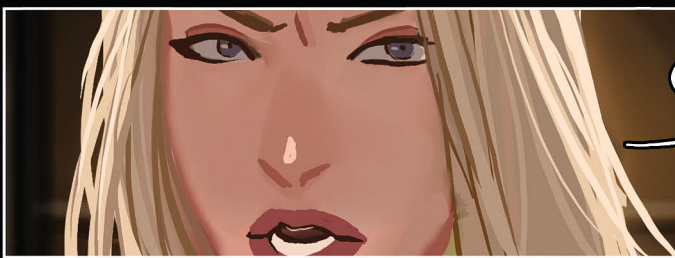
I'M SORRY.  
 THAT WAS A LITTLE OUT OF LINE.  
 BUT, THE SITUATION IS BAD...  
 WE ARE ALL UNDER A LOT OF STRESS LATELY.



EVEN WITH MY MATERNITY LEAVE BENEFITS, AND HENRY'S DAY JOB, IT IS STILL NOT ENOUGH TO COVER ALL THE UTILITIES AND OTHER EXPENSES...  
 AND NOW WITH MOM IN THE HOSPITAL...  
 WE MIGHT END UP HAVING TO DO WITHOUT ELECTRICITY OR TELEPHONE NEXT MONTH.



OR INTERNET.



MAKING SURE MOM GETS ALL THE MEDICAL CARE SHE NEEDS RIGHT NOW SHOULD BE OUR TOP PRIORITY.  
 SO...  
 IF YOU DON'T GET A JOB SOON WE WILL HAVE TO START CUTTING CORNERS FOR GOOD.



I KNOW!!!  
 I KNOW ALL OF THAT!!!

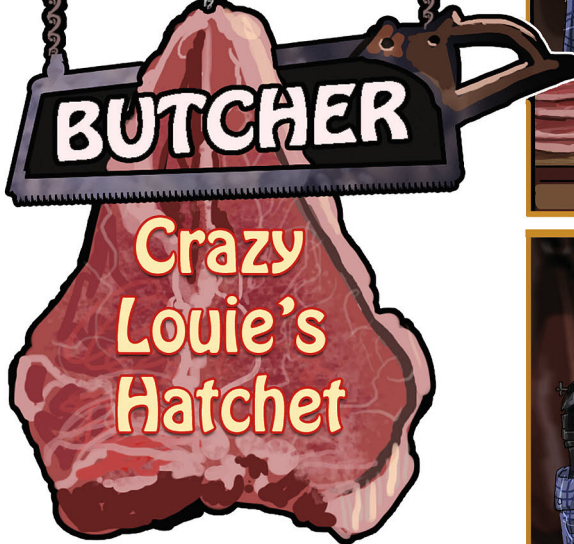


I JUST--  
 I'VE HAD THE WORST LUCK WITH FINDING JOBS LATELY.  
 I EITHER LACKED THE SKILL AND GOT DUMPED..  
 OR ENDED UP WORKING FOR THE WEIRDEST, CREEPIEST  
 YOU ARE EXAGGERATING.



OH REALLY???

REMEMBER THIS ONE? BECAUSE I DO! VIVIDLY!



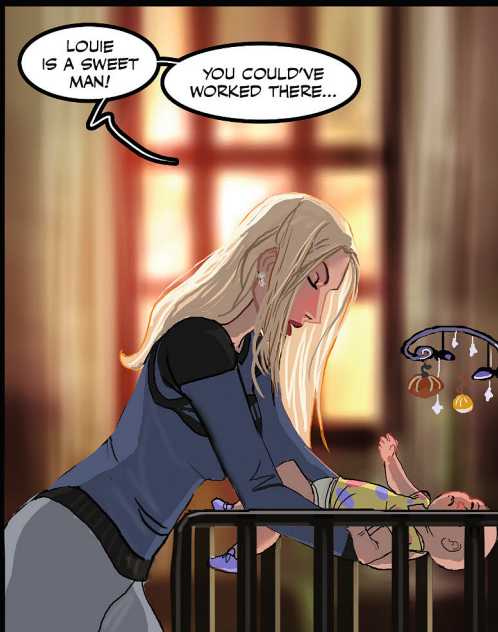
NOW,  
LOOK HERE...

I KNOW  
THIS MIGHT SEEM  
DIFFICULT AT  
FIRST...



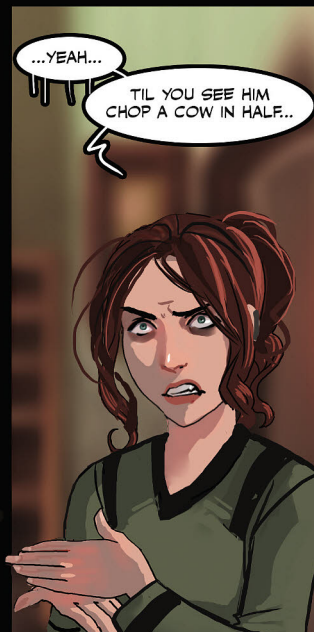
BUT WITH ENOUGH  
PRACTICE, YOU'LL DO  
JUST FINE!

OH, COME ON!!



LOUIE  
IS A SWEET  
MAN!

YOU COULD'VE  
WORKED THERE...



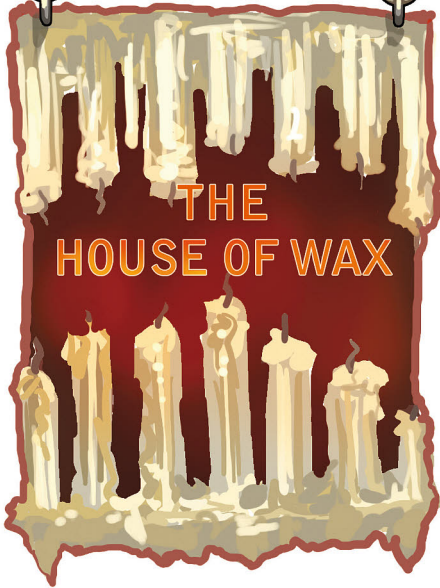
...YEAH...

TIL YOU SEE HIM  
CHOP A COW IN HALF...



HE IS PASSIONATE  
ABOUT HIS WORK.

THIS JOB WAS CERTAINLY...UNIQUE...IN ITS OWN WAY...







OK.  
I KNOW HOW THIS MIGHT SOUND TO YOU...  
BUT I **DO NOT** HAVE A PROBLEM FOCUSING.



HE WAS MUMBLING...  
I COULDN'T HEAR A WORD HE WAS SAYING...



AFTER WHICH...  
WELL... I COULDN'T JUST ASK HIM TO REPEAT IT ALL AGAIN...  
IT WOULD MAKE ME LOOK UNPROFESSIONAL.



OR HE WOULD THINK I AM JUST TROLLING HIM!!  
EH??  
JUST WHAT?  
ERM...  
...MAKING FUN OF HIM...



I SWEAR, SOMETIMES I FEEL LIKE I NEED A THESAURUS WHEN I'M LISTENING TO YOU.

...THEN THERE WAS THE BAKERY INCIDENT...



HEY YOU!  
IT'S A ROLLING PIN,  
NOT A WEAPON!



ALRIGHT,  
I WILL STOP YOU  
RIGHT THERE!



I ADMIT,  
THAT WAS MY FAULT.



I HOOKED YOU UP  
FOR A JOB IN THE MOST POPULAR  
BAKERY IN TOWN.

KNOWING THAT  
WHATEVER FOOD THAT GOES  
THROUGH YOUR HANDS  
OFTEN ENDS UP...



TASTING LIKE ASH...



BEING A BIT ON THE...*HARD* SIDE...

WHOOPS!!

CRASH!

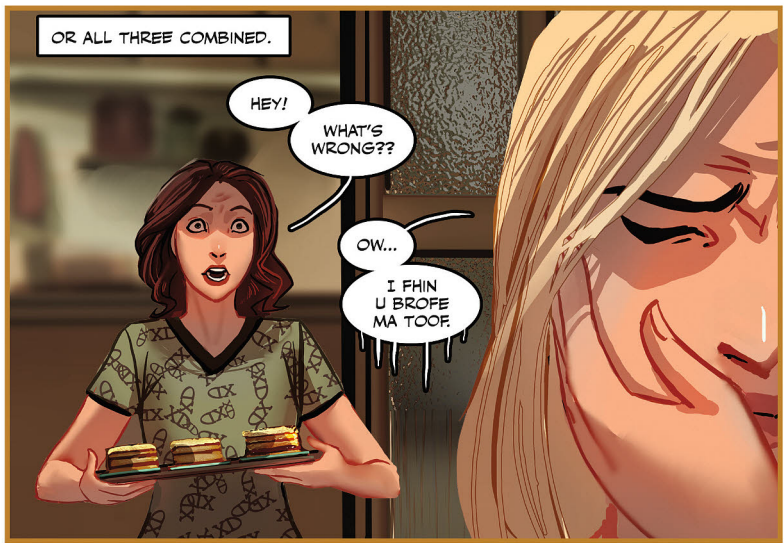


OR JUST...THE WRONG TEXTURE.

SO?

HOW'S THE PUDDING?

SURPRISINGLY CRUNCHY.



OR ALL THREE COMBINED.

HEY!

WHAT'S WRONG???

OW...

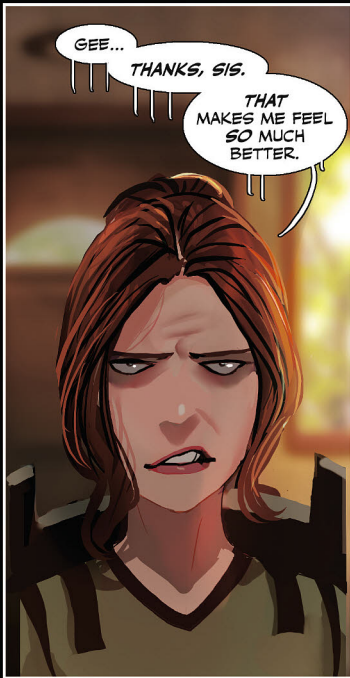
I FHIN U BROFE MA TOOF



OH! AND WHO COULD FORGET YOUR FAMOUS CINNAM- I MEAN, CHARCOAL ROLLS!

OH... I'VE GOT A BAD FEELING ABOUT THIS...

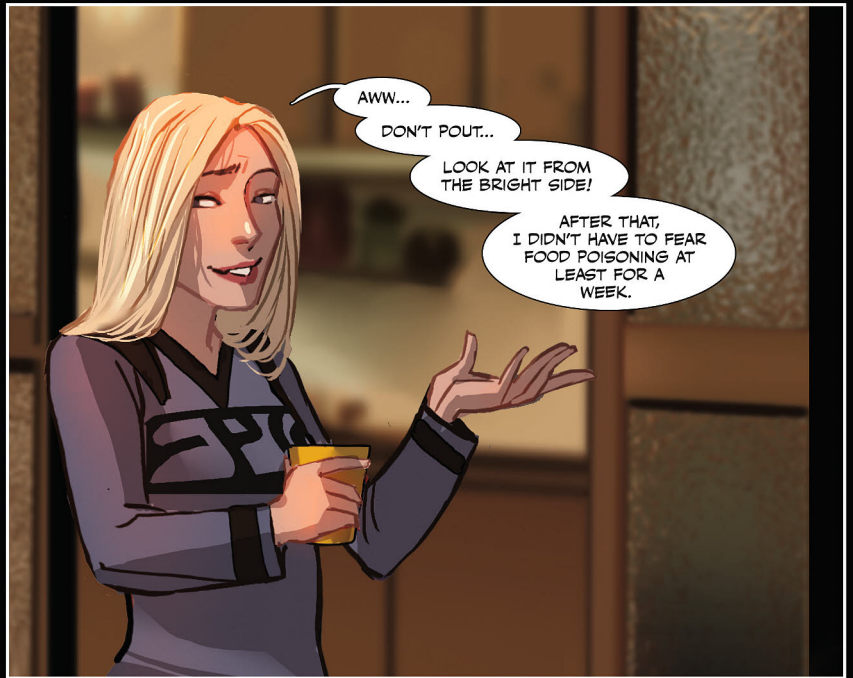




GEE...

THANKS, SIS.

THAT  
MAKES ME FEEL  
SO MUCH  
BETTER.



AWW...

DON'T POUT...

LOOK AT IT FROM  
THE BRIGHT SIDE!

AFTER THAT,  
I DIDN'T HAVE TO FEAR  
FOOD POISONING AT  
LEAST FOR A  
WEEK.



WELL ACTUALLY,  
THERE *IS* A DIFFERENCE BETWEEN  
**REGULAR** CHARCOAL AND **ACTIVATED**  
CHARCOAL USED FOR MEDICAL  
PURPOSES.

YOU SEE,  
ACTIVATED CHARCOAL,  
OR IN OTHER TERMS CALLED  
ACTIVATED CARBON IS  
MADE FROM

YOU ARE MISSING  
THE POINT.

I WAS JUST  
TEASING YOU,  
DON'T TAKE IT  
SO SERIOUSLY!



HONESTLY, THOUGH,  
I THOUGHT THEY WOULD  
HIRE YOU AS A CLEANING LADY,  
NOT ASSIGN YOU TO KNEAD  
THE DOUGH.

THAT  
DECISION  
CERTAINLY SUNK  
THEIR POPULARITY  
FOR AWHILE...

THIS JOB...

...I DON'T KNOW...

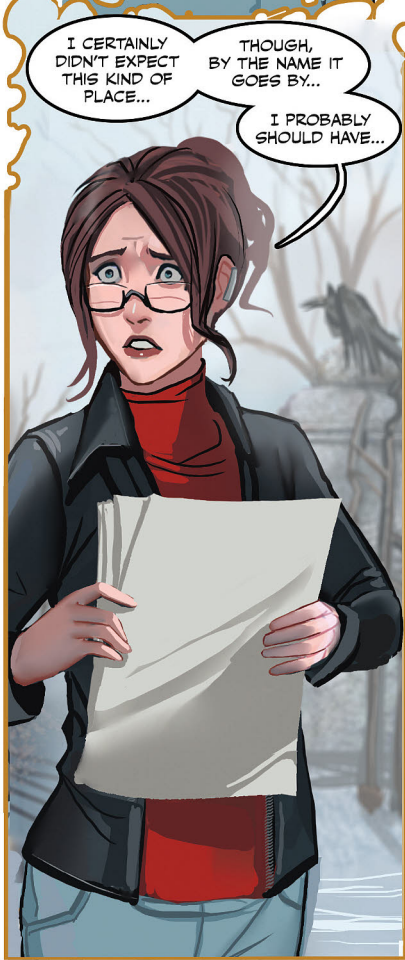
IT FELT TOO IMPOSING...



20 SURVEYS?

THIS SHOULD'NT BE TOO HARD.

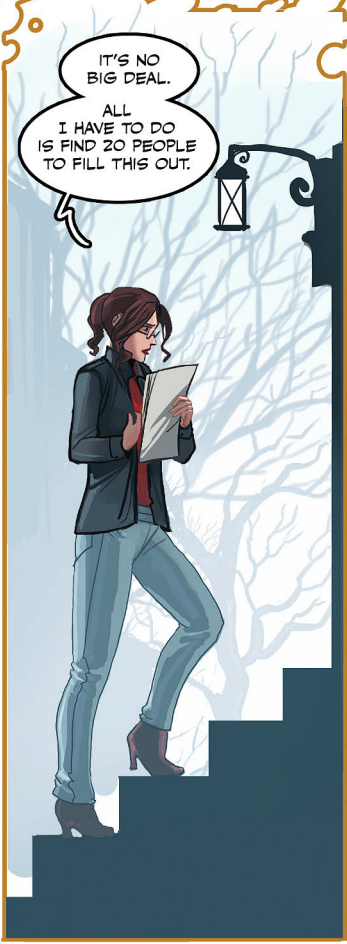
CAW!



I CERTAINLY DIDN'T EXPECT THIS KIND OF PLACE...

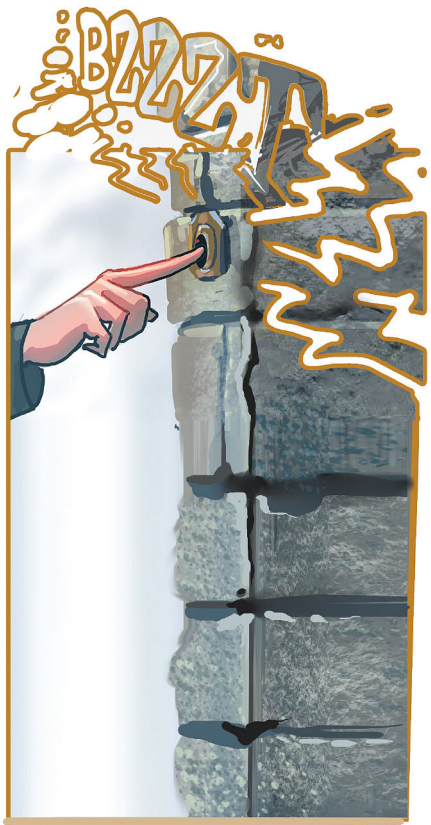
THOUGH, BY THE NAME IT GOES BY...

I PROBABLY SHOULD HAVE...



IT'S NO BIG DEAL.

ALL I HAVE TO DO IS FIND 20 PEOPLE TO FILL THIS OUT.





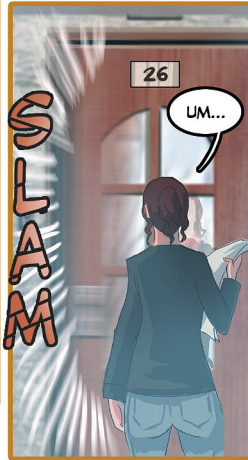
YES?

EXCUSE ME, WOULD YOU BE INTERESTED IN FILLING OUT ONE OF OUR SURVEYS?



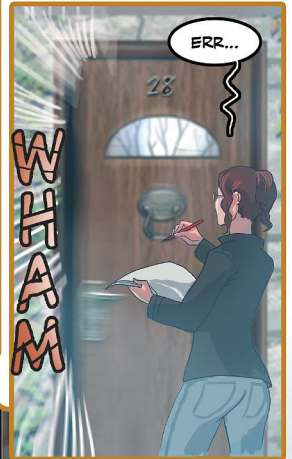
GUESS NOT...

WHAM



UM...

SLAM



ERR...

WHAM



SPLENDID!

JUST IN TIME FOR MY PERFORMANCE!!

COME IN, COME IN!

WELCOME!

OH -- NO...NO. HAHA...

I THINK I GOT THE WRONG DOOR...

SORRY --

RENDERING UNABLE TO REPEAT



REALLY?

LET ME GUESS:

HE WAS BLIND IN ONE EYE,

WAS LIMPING,

AND HAD A BLOODY...

...SOMETHING IN HIS HAND?

A CHISEL AND A HAMMER, YES.



YOU SEE?!

YOU ARE FINALLY STARTING TO UNDERSTAND ME.

HE ALSO WORE NOTHING BUT A BLOODY APRON AND A STOVEPIPE HAT.



UUURGH!!

THIS...EHHH...

WHAT DO I EVEN SAY  
ABOUT THIS ONE...

RESTAURANT

The  
Crying Onion

POTATO  
PEELING?

PIECE  
OF CAKE.

I CAN'T  
BELIEVE PEOPLE  
WOULD PASS ON  
SUCH AN EASY  
JOB.



ERM...

OK...  
IT'S NOT  
SO BAD...

I AM SURE  
THERE ARE  
TETRAGONAL  
POTATOES EXISTING  
*SOMEWHERE*  
IN THIS WORLD.



OH!  
HI BOSS!

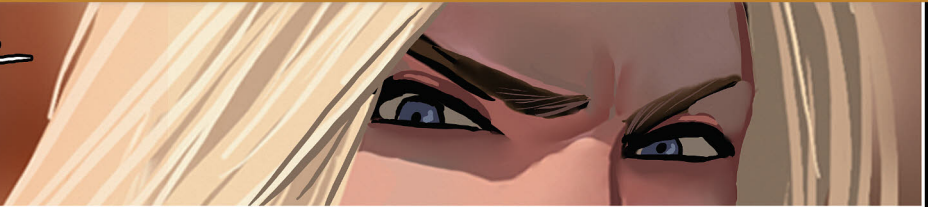
LOOK!

THIS ONE IS  
ALREADY EAGER TO  
BECOME A FRY.





THIS ONE IS COMPLETELY ON YOU!



NO RIDICULOUS, BLOWN OUT OF PROPORTION STORY CAN SAVE YOU HERE!

IT WAS AN EASY JOB, AND YOU BLEW IT!

AND WHY???

BECAUSE YOU WERE BORED???

UGH!

GIVE ME A BREAK!

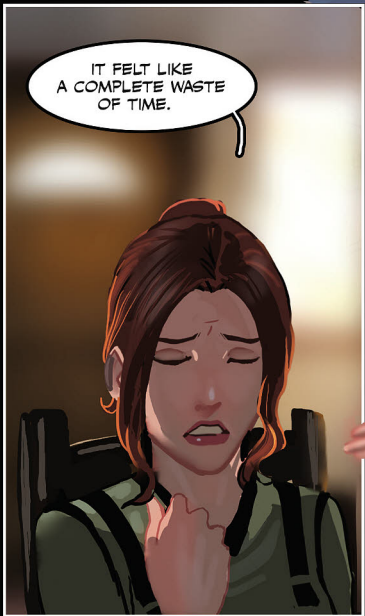
LIFE IS TOUGH, ELLY!

IT WILL NOT PAMPER YOU!!!



I KNOW!!!

BUT IT WAS THE HARDEST OF THEM ALL BECAUSE IT WAS SO CRIPPLINGLY MINDNUMBING!

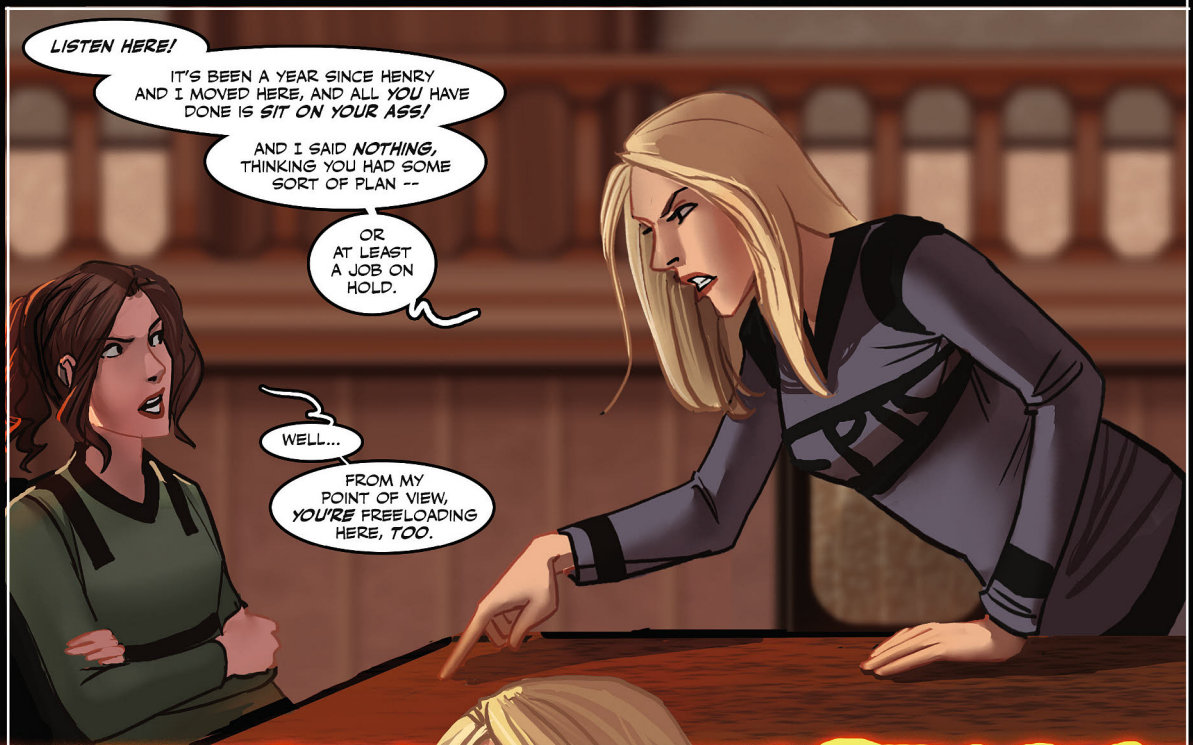


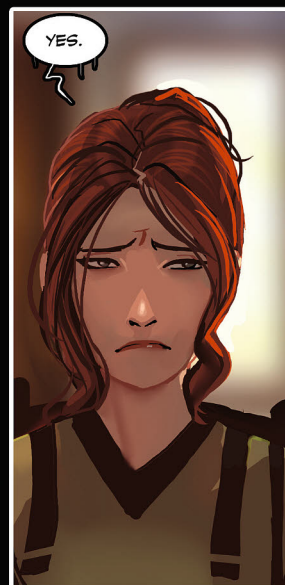
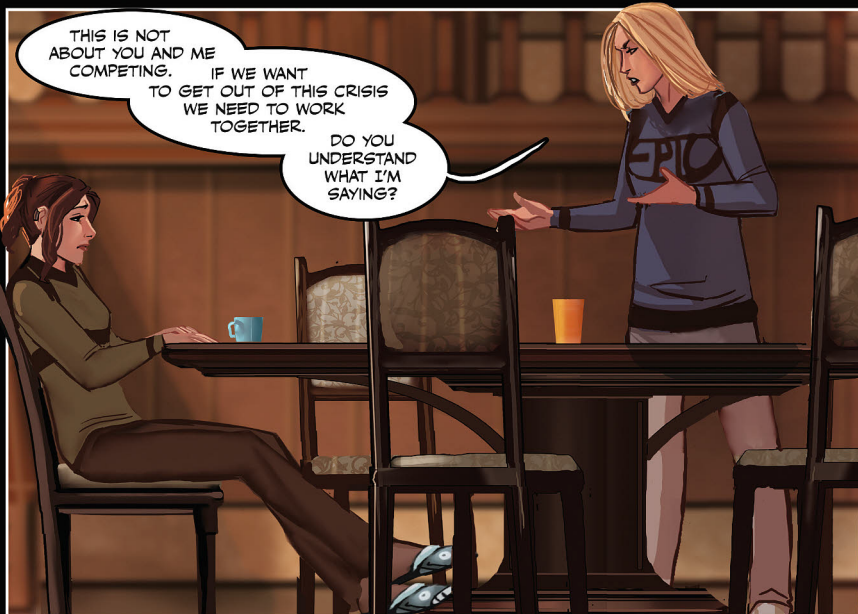
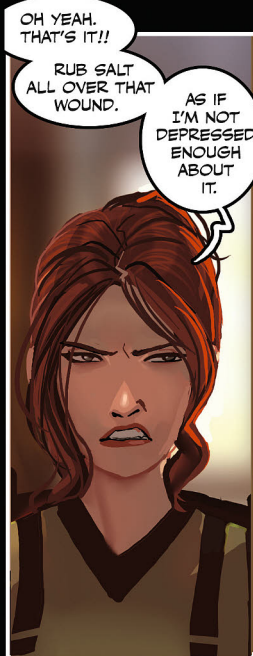
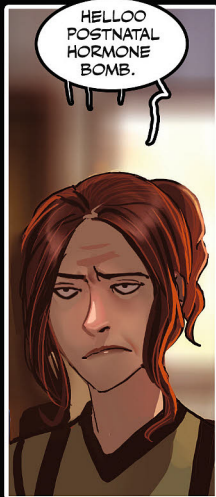
IT FELT LIKE A COMPLETE WASTE OF TIME.

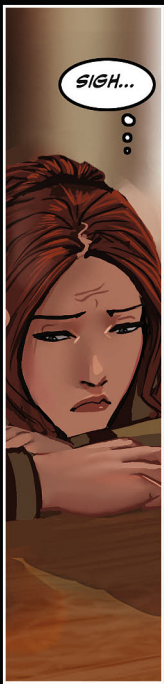


OH, DON'T YOU GO ON ABOUT WASTING TIME!

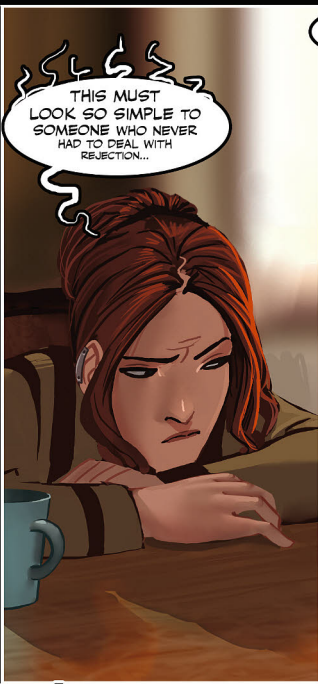
YOU DID NOTHING ELSE BUT PLAYED GAMES FOR TWO YEARS!



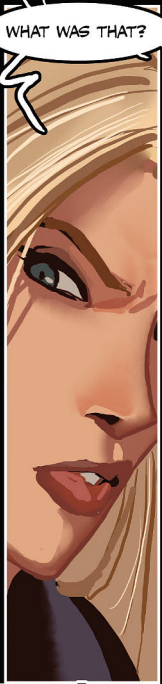




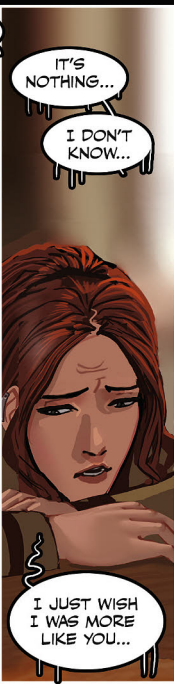
SIGH...



THIS MUST LOOK SO SIMPLE TO SOMEONE WHO NEVER HAD TO DEAL WITH REJECTION...



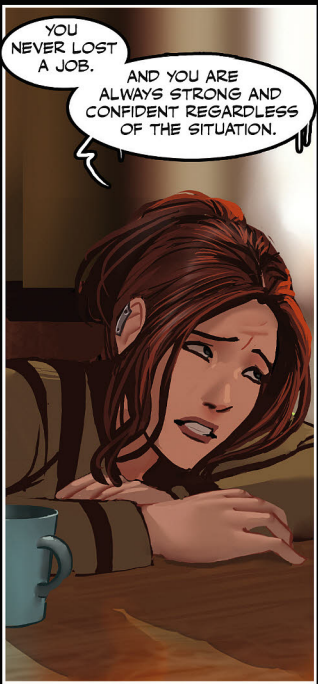
WHAT WAS THAT?



IT'S NOTHING...

I DON'T KNOW...

I JUST WISH I WAS MORE LIKE YOU...



YOU NEVER LOST A JOB.

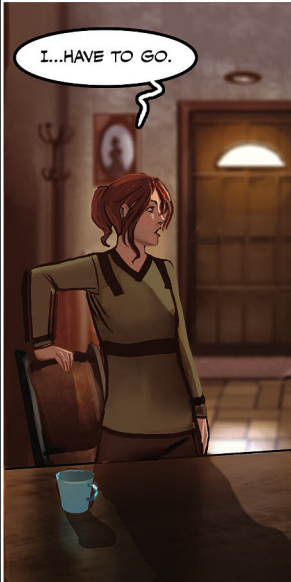
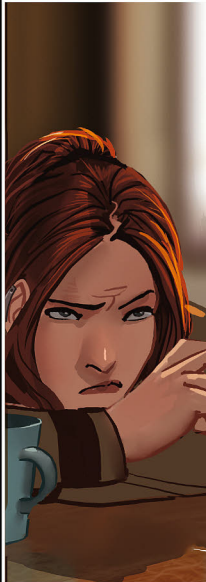
AND YOU ARE ALWAYS STRONG AND CONFIDENT REGARDLESS OF THE SITUATION.



I ONLY ACT CONFIDENT, BECAUSE IT MAKES PEOPLE THINK THAT I AM COMPETENT AT WHAT I DO.

I THINK YOU STRESS OUT WAY TOO MUCH, LOVE.

YOU SHOULD BELIEVE IN YOURSELF MORE.



I...HAVE TO GO.



GO?

GO WHERE?



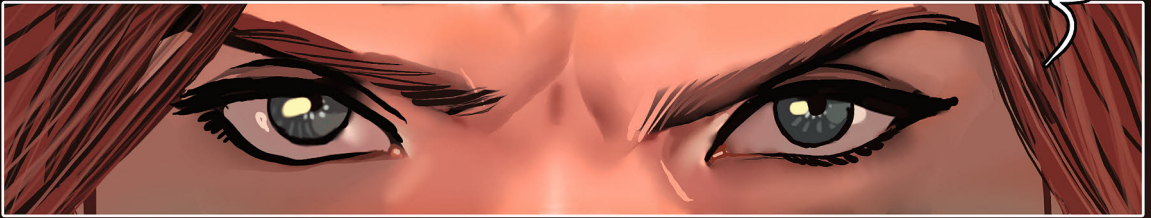
THERE IS ONE MORE JOB I SHOULD TRY.

WISH ME LUCK.



WELL...WHAT DO YOU KNOW...MY SISTER *WAS* RIGHT.

ALRIGHT!!



ALL IT TOOK WAS A WEE BIT OF CONFIDENCE.



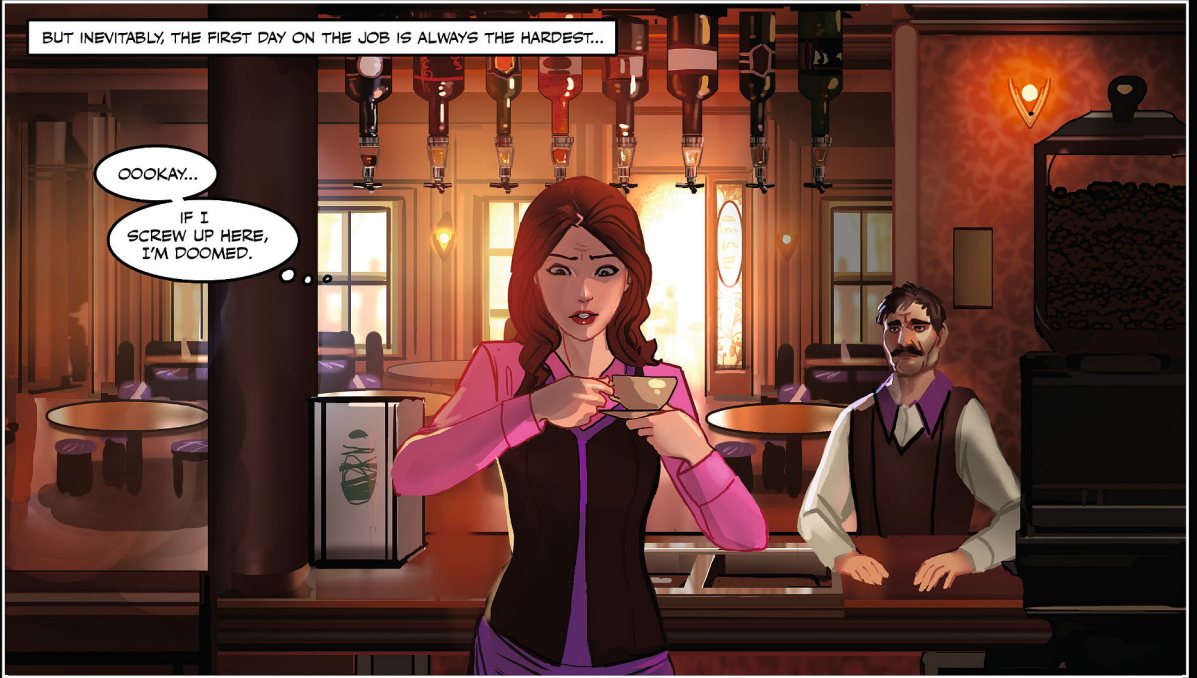
LET'S DO THIS!!



BUT INEVITABLY, THE FIRST DAY ON THE JOB IS ALWAYS THE HARDEST...

OOKAY...

IF I  
SCREW UP HERE,  
I'M DOOMED.



FORTUNATELY...

LOOK!

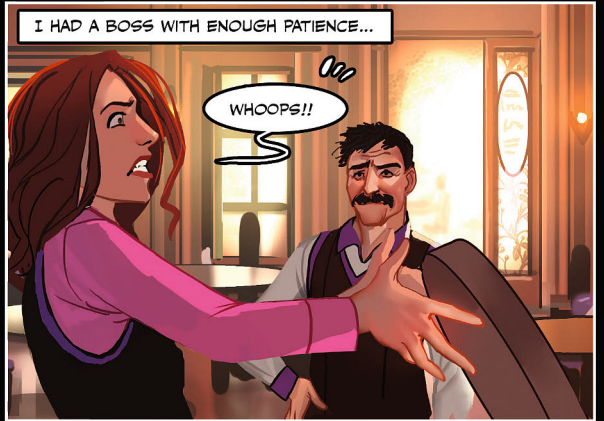
EASY.

ONLY  
ON YOUR  
FINGERTIPS.



I HAD A BOSS WITH ENOUGH PATIENCE...

WHOOPS!!



RESOLVE...

LET'S TRY YOUR COFFEE.



...AND KINDNESS TO HELP ME OUT.

IT'S JUST  
A TAD TOO  
STRONG, DON'T  
YOU THINK?



AND UM...

APPARENTLY SOME  
REALLY HARDCORE  
STOMACH LINING, TOO...

NEXT TIME,  
TRY TO PUT A LITTLE  
LESS COFFEE IN THAT  
COFFEE.

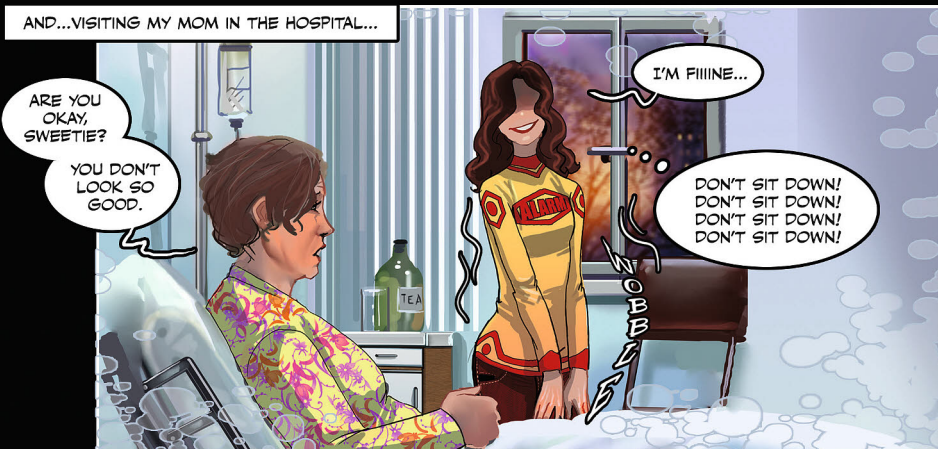
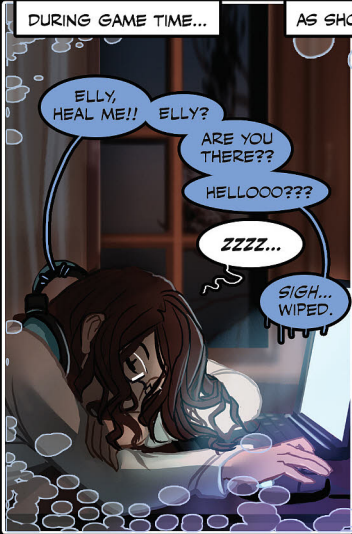
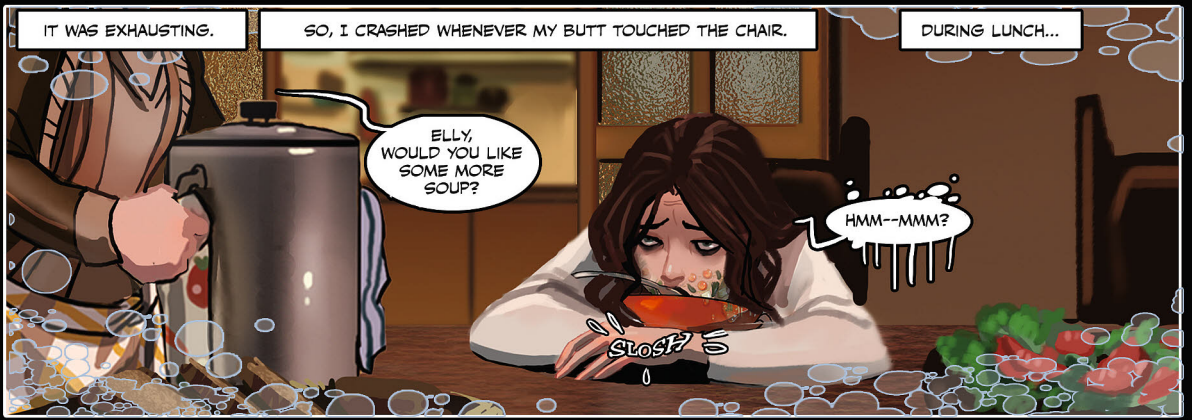


AND DESPITE ME BEING A COMPLETE NOOB AT THIS JOB, THERE WERE SOME ASPECTS OF IT REFRESHINGLY FAMILIAR.

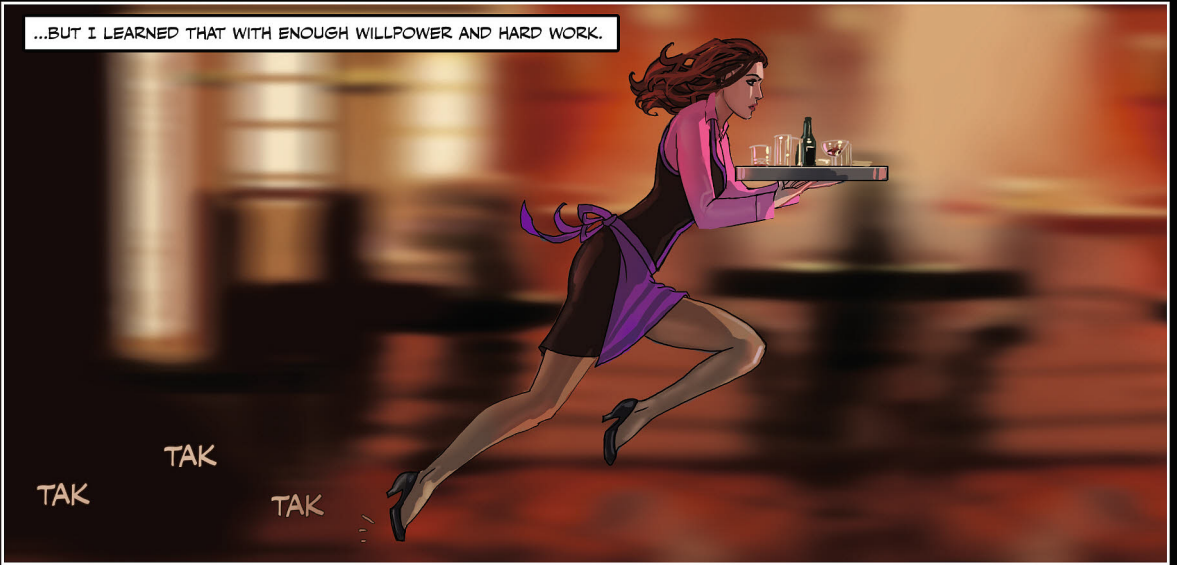


ON THE OTHER HAND, RUSH HOUR WAS BY FAR THE BIGGEST CHALLENGE I'VE EVER EXPERIENCED.





...BUT I LEARNED THAT WITH ENOUGH WILLPOWER AND HARD WORK.



TAK  
TAK  
TAK

YOU WILL GET USED TO CRAZY SCHEDULES...



UGH...  
THIS DAY WAS A KILLER!

...SO EVENTUALLY...



HEY ELLY!  
DONT YOU WANT TO HAVE DINNER WITH US?  
AREN'T YOU HUNGRY?  
I AM OFF TO DIE.  
PLEASE DONT KNOCK.

YOU WILL SUCCEED.



IT'S OKAY...  
I GOT THE JOB.  
I GOT THE JOB  
I GOT THE JOB  
I GOT THE JOB  
I GOT THE JOB  
I GOT THE JOB

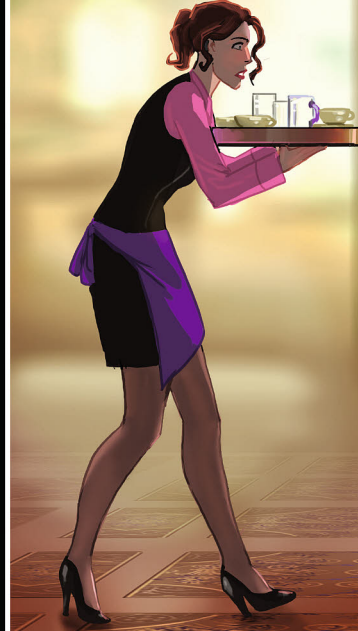
PONE

ELLY-VOLUTION OF A WAITRESS

DAY 3



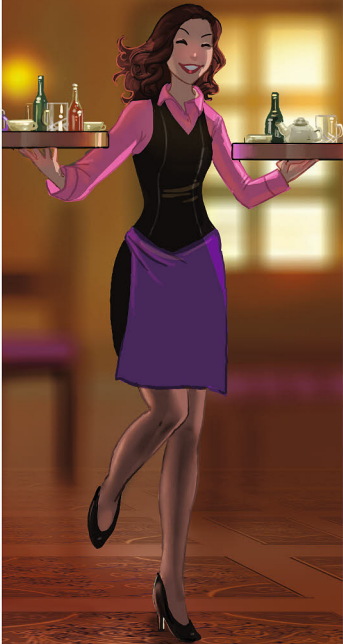
DAY 7



DAY 16



DAY 23



DAY 34



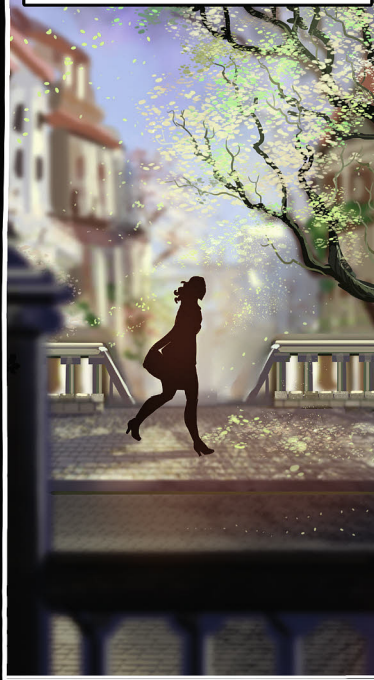
DAY 40



BUT THEN COMES THAT MOMENT...



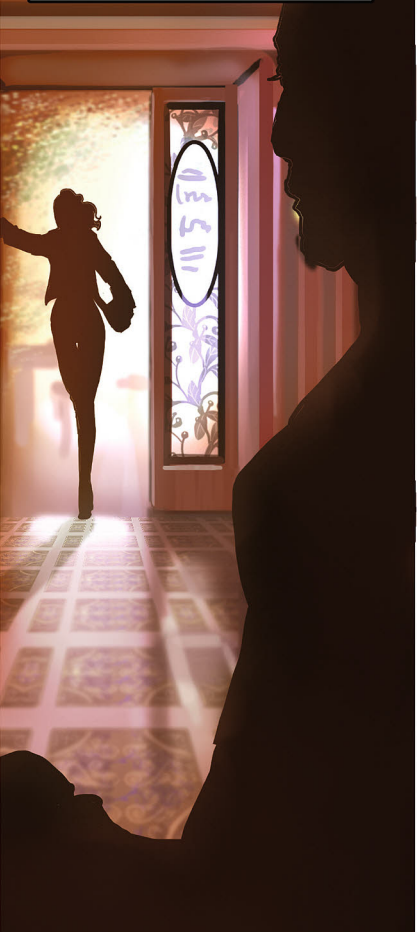
...WHEN YOU THINK THINGS HAVE FINALLY STARTED LOOKING UP...



...AND YOUR CONFIDENCE IS AT ITS HIGHEST POINT...



WELL -- THEN LIFE COMES AROUND THE CORNER...



...AND SLAPS YOU RIGHT ACROSS THE FACE.



I'M SORRY, ELLIE.

I'M AFRAID I'M GONNA HAVE TO LET YOU GO...

YOU HAVE GROWN A LOT AS A WAITRESS -- AND I COULDN'T BE MORE PROUD. BUT... WE ARE LIVING IN DIFFICULT TIMES.

I HATE IT WHEN THEY TRY TO SUGARCOAT THE TRUTH...

"IT'S NOT YOU, IT'S THE ECONOMY."

THE REALITY OF THE SITUATION IS THIS... LATELY, THE NUMBER OF OUR CUSTOMERS DROPPED.

MMMM...

I WONDER WHOSE FAULT THAT IS!

SO CURRENTLY I CAN ONLY AFFORD TO HAVE ONE WAITRESS HERE.

YEAH!

SO, FIRE THE NOOB!

IT'S NOT LIKE THEY DON'T HAVE BILLS TO PAY, TOO...

SO, YEAH...

KEEP THE EXPERIENCED ONE.

THE EPIC ONE THAT CAN GET A JOB ANYWHERE SHE WANTS --

ELLY...

YOU HAVE BEEN CHEWING ON THAT SUBJECT FOR AT LEAST AN HOUR NOW...

LET'S FACE IT...

I'M JUST BAD AT EVERYTHING.

OH COME ON!

THIS TIME IT WASN'T YOUR FAULT.

MMF!!

YOU DID YOUR BEST. AND HEY! TWO MONTHS! A NEW RECORD!

THAT'S NOT VERY COMFORTING.

BUT YOU ARE MAKING PROGRESS!





SIGH.

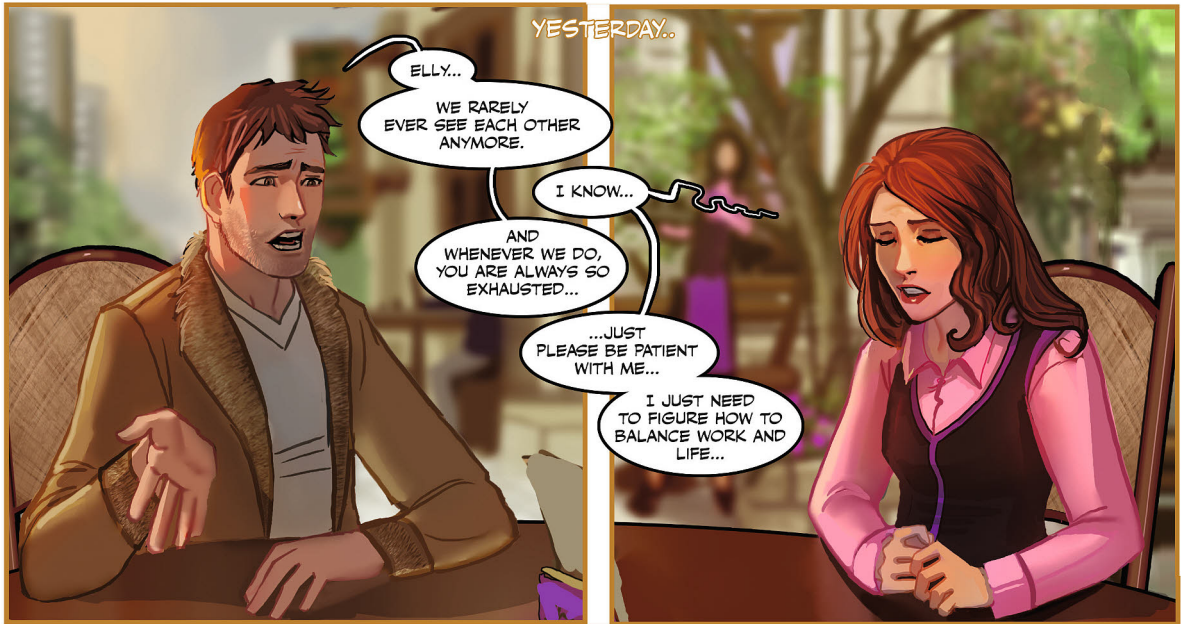
AT LEAST DANNY WILL BE HAPPY I WAS LET GO...



REALLY?  
WHY WOULD HE BE HAPPY ABOUT THAT?

WELL...

TO PUT IT MILDLY...OUR RELATIONSHIP WAS SUFFERING BECAUSE OF IT...



YESTERDAY..

ELLY...  
WE RARELY EVER SEE EACH OTHER ANYMORE.

I KNOW...

AND WHENEVER WE DO, YOU ARE ALWAYS SO EXHAUSTED...

...JUST PLEASE BE PATIENT WITH ME...

I JUST NEED TO FIGURE HOW TO BALANCE WORK AND LIFE...



LOOK...  
I DON'T MEAN TO PRY, BUT IF IT'S TOO MUCH FOR YOU, MAYBE IT WOULD BE BEST IF YOU QUIT...

OBVIOUSLY, THIS JOB IS TAKING ITS TOLL ON YOU...



QUIT???

I CAN'T QUIT!!!

I BARELY GOT THIS JOB IN THE FIRST PLACE!!

AND IT'S BEEN GOING REALLY GOOD SO FAR.



I JUST NEED TO GET BACK IN SHAPE AND I'LL BE MY OLD SELF IN NO TIME!



BESIDES, SINCE YOU ARE A FREELANCER, YOU HAVE FLEXIBLE WORK-HOURS, RIGHT? SO YOU CAN VISIT ME HERE ANYTIME.

YEAH...

ABOUT THAT...

LOOK!

I EVEN LEARNED TO BREW A MEAN CUP O' JOE.



I DIDN'T GET A CHANCE TO TELL YOU THIS YET,

BUT A WEEK AGO I GOT HIRED BY A GAME COMPANY FOR MY FIRST LEGIT PROJECT.

WOW, REALLY??

THAT'S AMAZING!!!

CONGRATS!!

GOD, YOU ARE SO LUCKY TO GET A JOB YOU LIKE!!

TELL ME EVERYTHING!

WHAT WILL YOU BE WORKING ON?



YES, WELL...

THANKS.

I'D LOVE TO BRAG ABOUT IT...

BUT I GOTTA GET BACK TO THE STUDIO AS SOON AS I CAN.

BETA FOR THEIR NEW GAME IS OUT AND THERE'S ALREADY A TON OF BUG REPORTS.

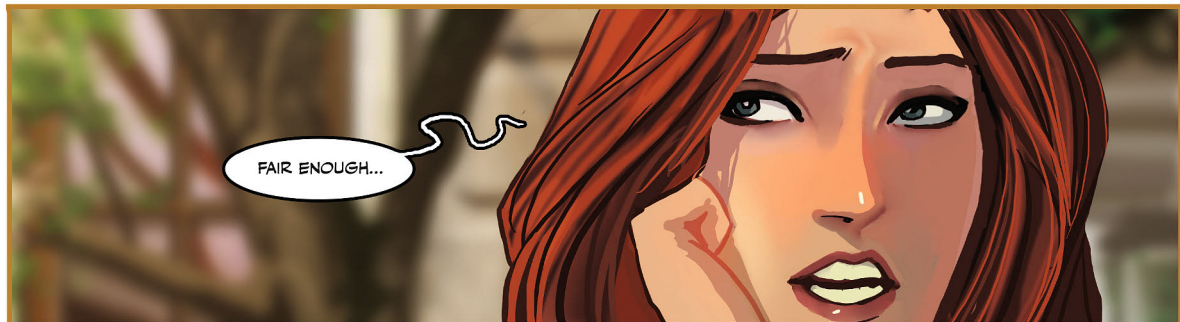
IT WILL TAKE AGES TO FIX THEM ALL.



EH...

SOUNDS LIKE A WHOLE LOT OF GRUNT WORK..

...SAYS THE LADY SERVING THE DRINKS.



FAIR ENOUGH...



ANYWAY...

THIS IS WHAT I HAD IN MIND:

SINCE WE ARE BOTH BUSY, WE WILL HAVE TO START PLANNING OUR MEETINGS.

YOU WORK TIL 3 TOMORROW, RIGHT?

YEAH?

OK!

THEN I'LL TRY TO DO MOST OF MY WORK TODAY AND TOMORROW MORNING, SO I CAN GET SOME TIME OFF IN THE EVENING.



IT WOULD BE NICE TO HAVE AN EVENING TO OURSELVES AT LEAST ONCE A WEEK.

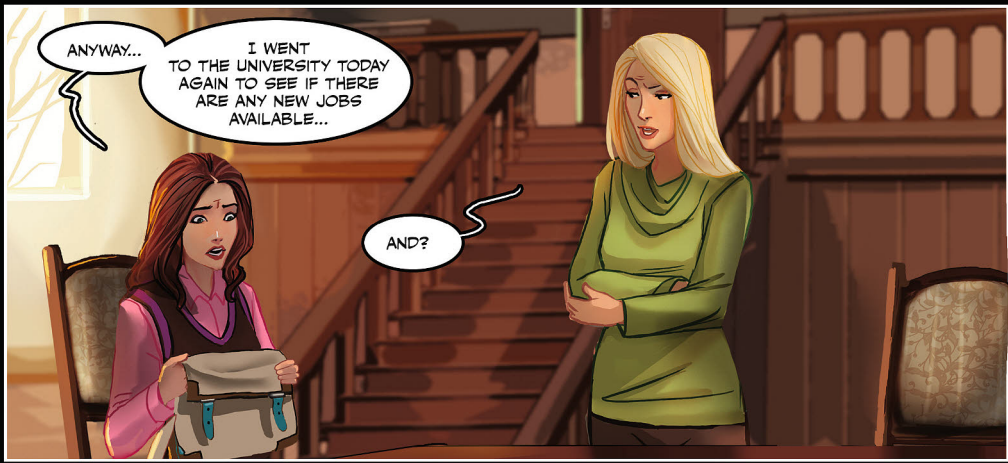
WHAT DO YOU SAY?



IT'S A DEAL.

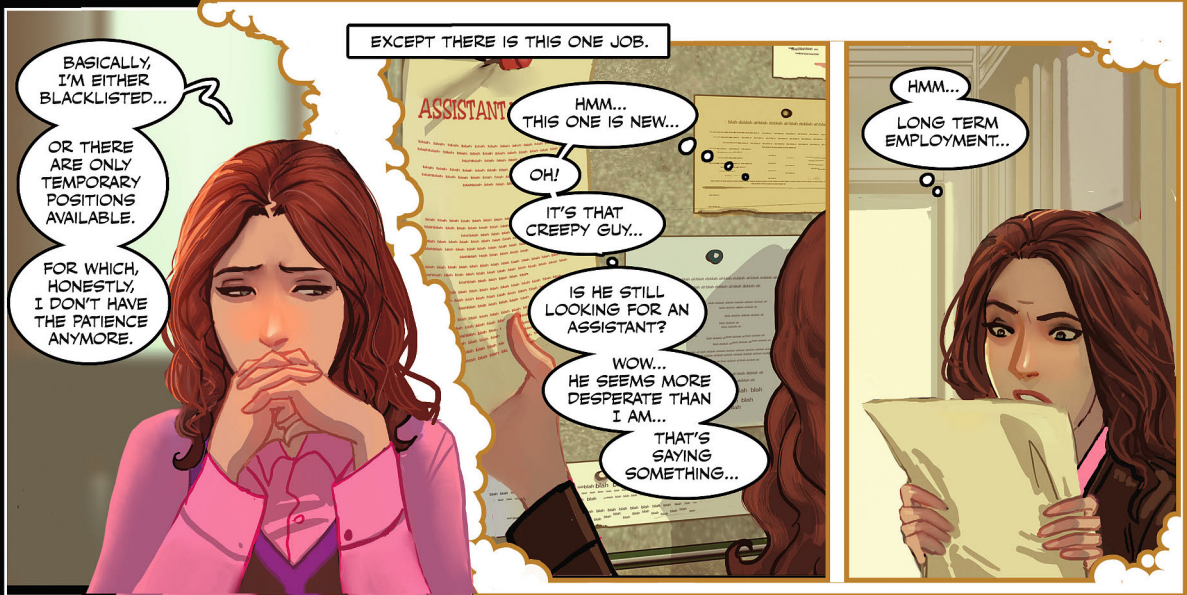
I'LL PUT ON SOMETHING REALLY NICE.





ANYWAY... I WENT TO THE UNIVERSITY TODAY AGAIN TO SEE IF THERE ARE ANY NEW JOBS AVAILABLE...

AND?



BASICALLY, I'M EITHER BLACKLISTED...

OR THERE ARE ONLY TEMPORARY POSITIONS AVAILABLE.

FOR WHICH, HONESTLY, I DON'T HAVE THE PATIENCE ANYMORE.

EXCEPT THERE IS THIS ONE JOB.

HMM... THIS ONE IS NEW...

OH!  
IT'S THAT CREEPY GUY...

IS HE STILL LOOKING FOR AN ASSISTANT?

WOW... HE SEEMS MORE DESPERATE THAN I AM...

THAT'S SAYING SOMETHING...

HMM...  
LONG TERM EMPLOYMENT...



I THINK THIS JOB IS THE ONLY CHOICE I HAVE LEFT.



OH HEY!  
THIS LOOKS LIKE YOUR KIND OF JOB...

WHY NOT?  
**CREEPY!**

AH.  
SO WE ARE BACK TO THAT ONE AGAIN.



YOU KNOW WHAT YOU SHOULD DO?

WHAT?

TAKE A BREAK TODAY. YOU DESERVE IT.

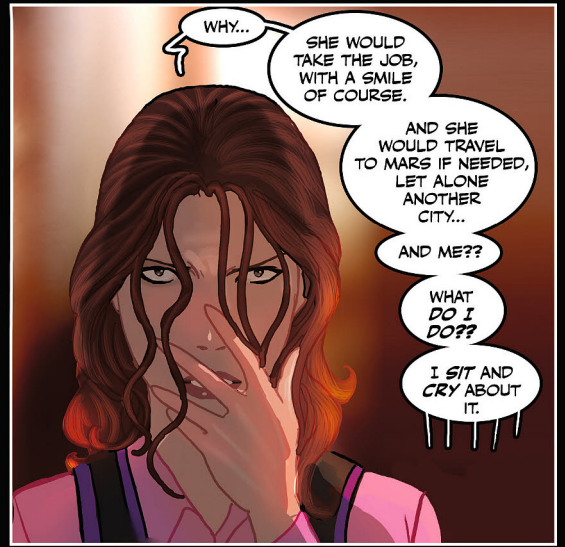
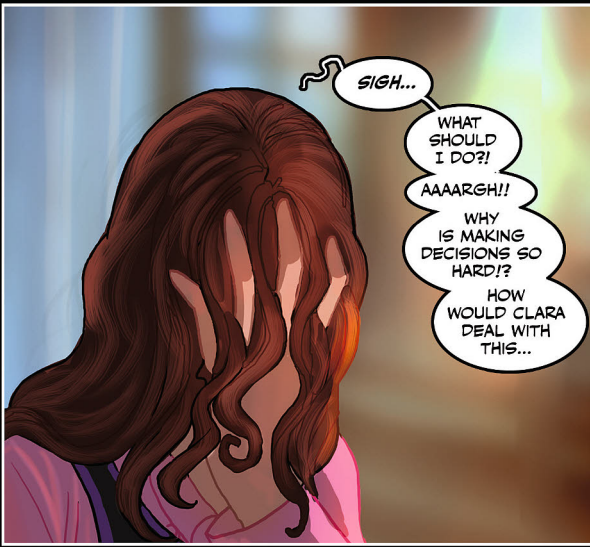
AS FOR THE JOB...

YOU CAN CHECK IT OUT TOMORROW WHEN YOUR MIND IS CLEAR.

ALRIGHT?

YEAH...  
YOU'RE PROBABLY RIGHT.





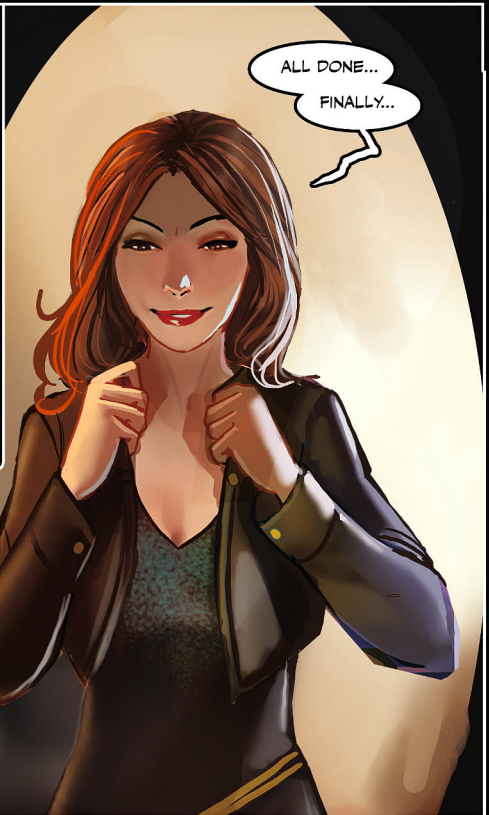


ANYWAYS...  
I BETTER GET READY...  
IT'S ALMOST TIME FOR MY DATE.



TWO HOURS LATER...

PHEW...



ALL DONE...  
FINALLY...



HUH?

FWOOOOO

SWISH

TLACKA

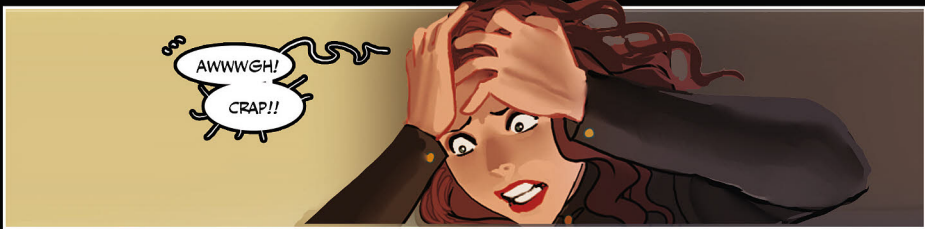
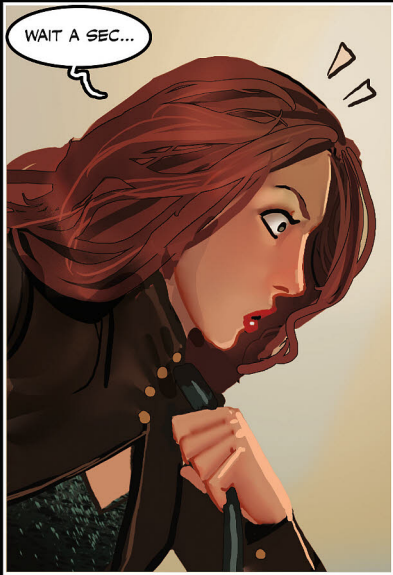
TLACKA



LOOKS LIKE IT'S GONNA GET STORMY OUTSIDE REALLY SOON...

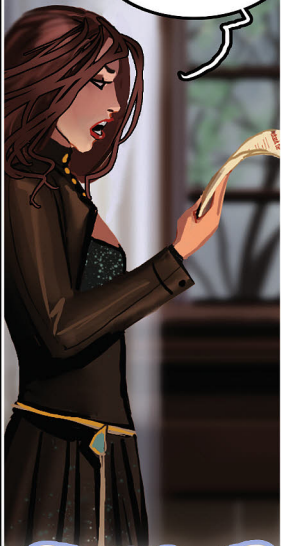


I BETTER HURRY BEFORE THE RAIN CATCHES UP WITH ME.



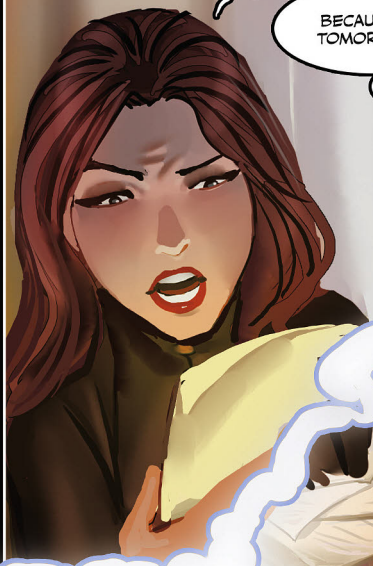


MAYBE I SHOULD JUST CALL RIGHT AWAY...

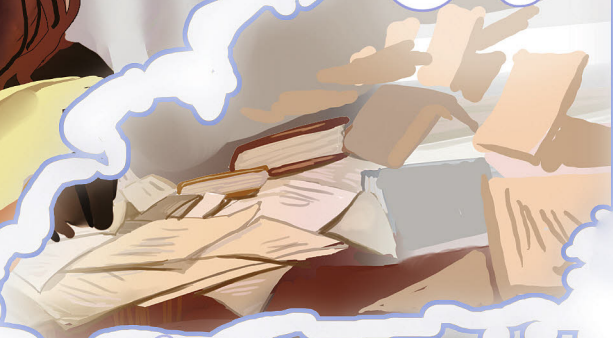


BECAUSE BY TOMORROW...

WITH MY CRAPPY LUCK...



...IT WILL EITHER GET LOST IN ALL THE PAPERS IN MY ROOM...



IT MIGHT GET STOLEN BY A BURGLAR...



LIEK. OMG!

THIS WILL FINALLY COMPLETE MY JOB PAMPHLET COLLECTION!!

IT WILL LOOK BEAUTIFUL ON MY WALL!

...OR ALIENS WILL SIMPLY ATTACK THE HOUSE... BECAUSE... WHY NOT??

DAMN YOU, ALIENS!!

WHY MY ROOM OF ALL PLACES???



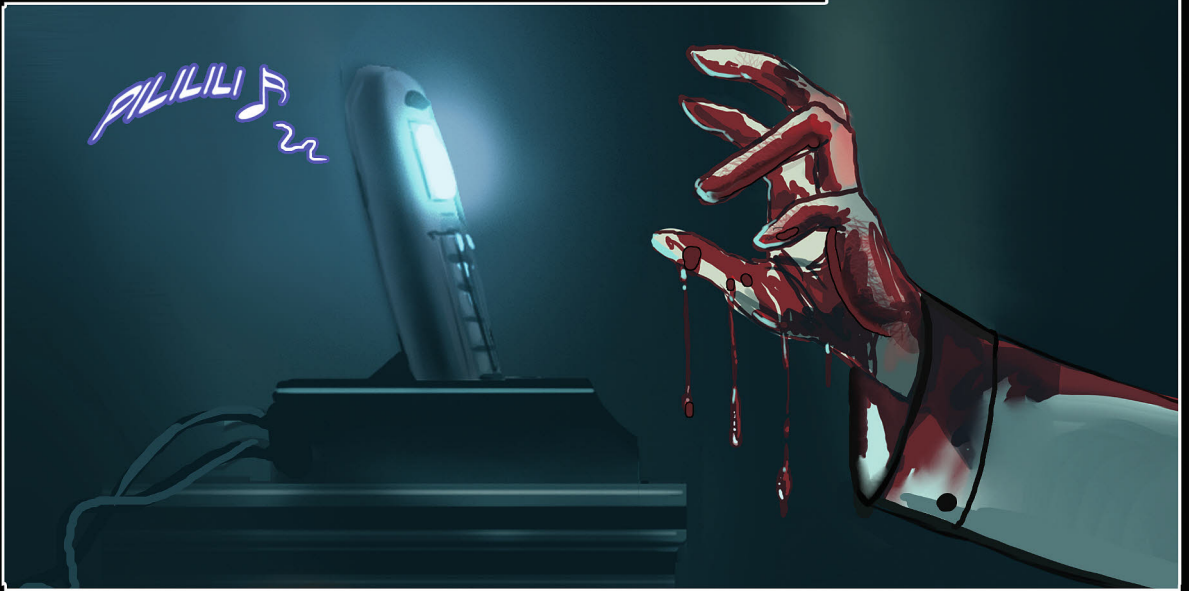
YEAH...SCREW THAT.

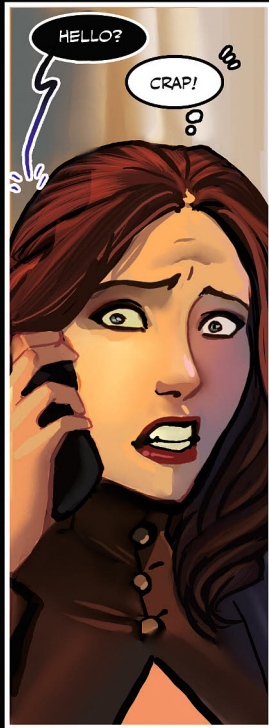
I'M CALLING NOW.

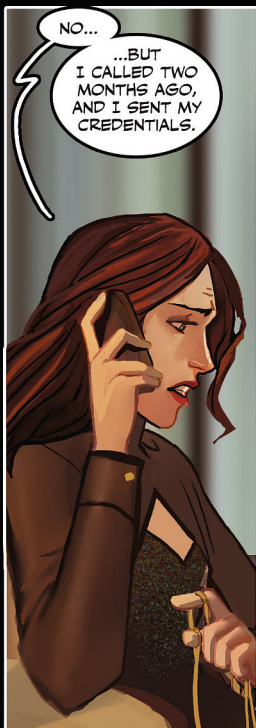
AND IF THE POSITION IS ALREADY TAKEN --

-- AT LEAST I'LL KNOW.









NO...  
...BUT  
I CALLED TWO  
MONTHS AGO,  
AND I SENT MY  
CREDENTIALS.

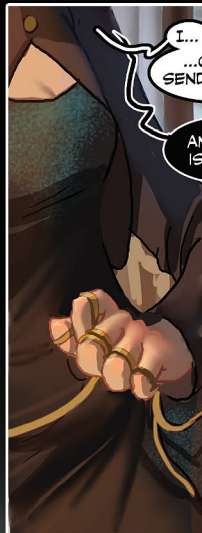


I SEE...  
STILL...

REGARDLESS OF  
WHETHER OR NOT  
YOU APPLIED  
EARLIER --

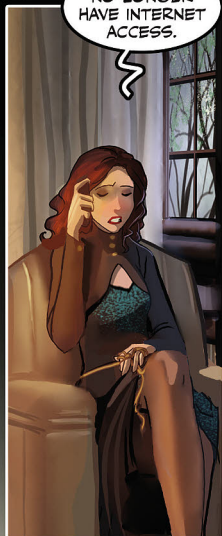
-- I WILL  
HAVE TO ASK YOU  
TO REPEAT THAT  
PROCESS  
AGAIN.

AFTER ALL,  
MANY PEOPLE APPLY HERE  
EVERY DAY, YOU CAN'T EXPECT  
ME TO REMEMBER EVERY  
SINGLE ONE OF  
YOU.

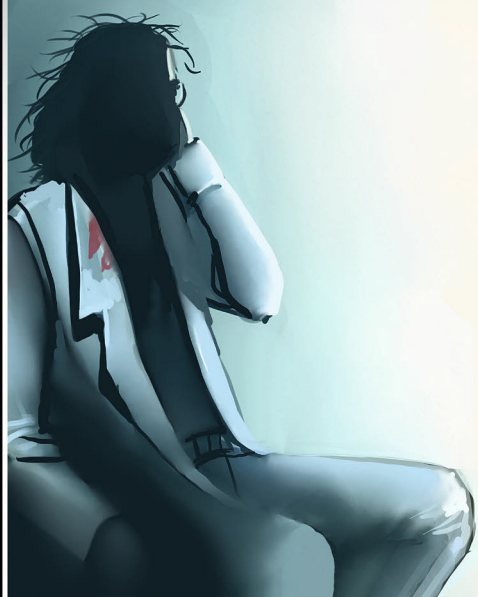


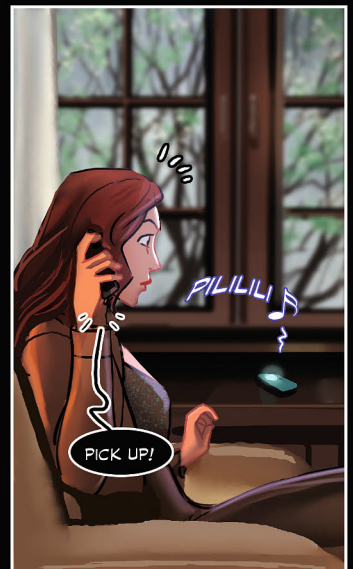
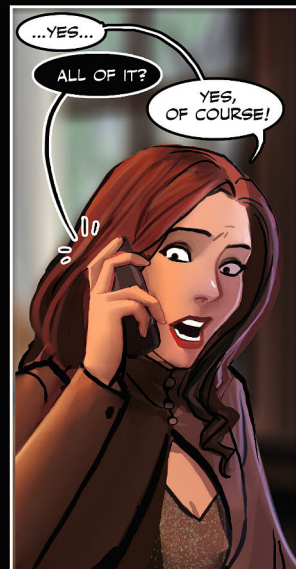
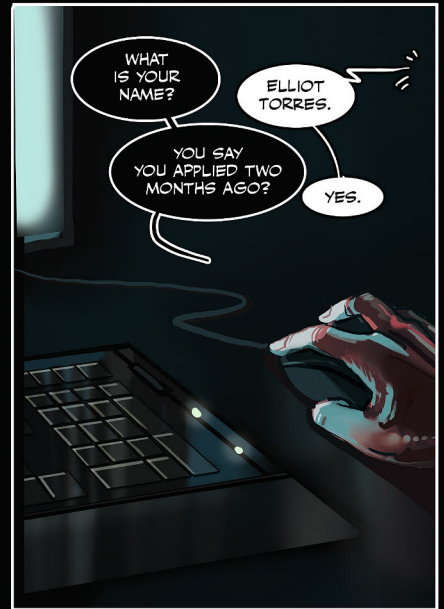
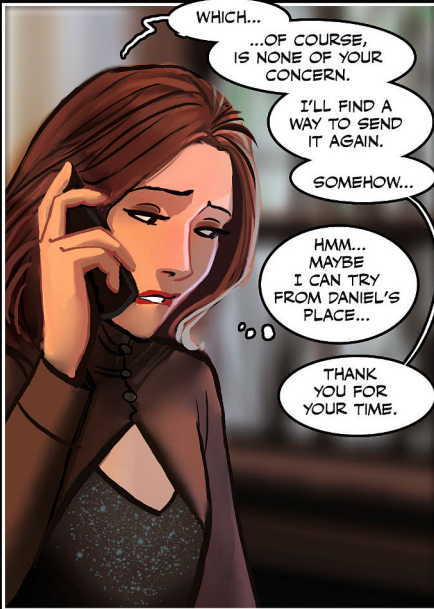
I...  
...CAN'T  
SEND THEM.

AND WHY  
IS THAT?



I  
NO LONGER  
HAVE INTERNET  
ACCESS.



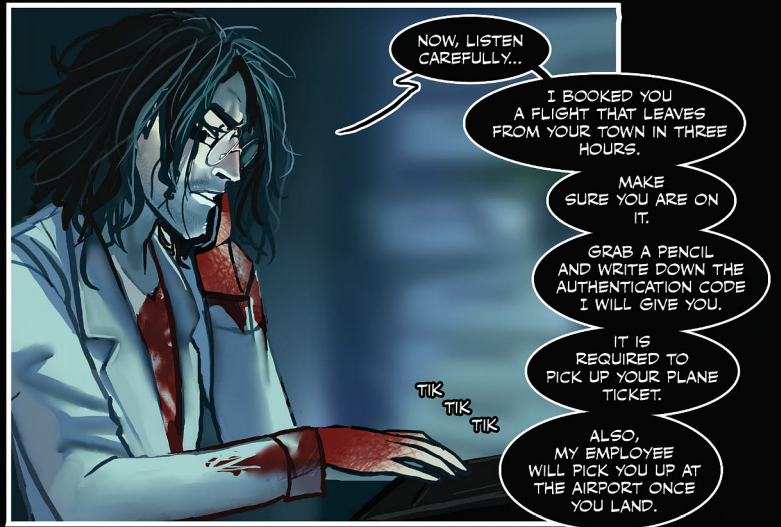




UH... HELLO?

GOOD!

CLICK!



NOW, LISTEN CAREFULLY...

I BOOKED YOU A FLIGHT THAT LEAVES FROM YOUR TOWN IN THREE HOURS.

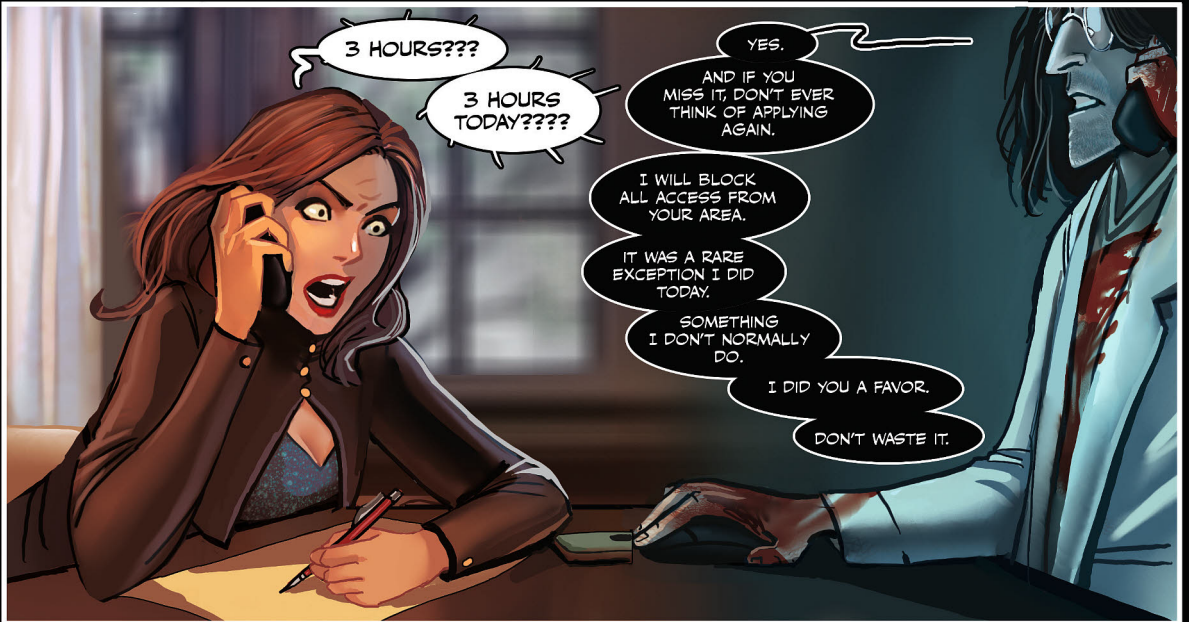
MAKE SURE YOU ARE ON IT.

GRAB A PENCIL AND WRITE DOWN THE AUTHENTICATION CODE I WILL GIVE YOU.

IT IS REQUIRED TO PICK UP YOUR PLANE TICKET.

ALSO, MY EMPLOYEE WILL PICK YOU UP AT THE AIRPORT ONCE YOU LAND.

TIK TIK TIK



3 HOURS???

3 HOURS TODAY????

YES.

AND IF YOU MISS IT, DON'T EVER THINK OF APPLYING AGAIN.

I WILL BLOCK ALL ACCESS FROM YOUR AREA.

IT WAS A RARE EXCEPTION I DID TODAY.

SOMETHING I DON'T NORMALLY DO.

I DID YOU A FAVOR.

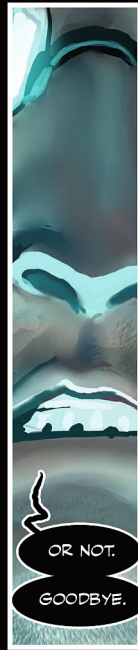
DON'T WASTE IT.



WELL...

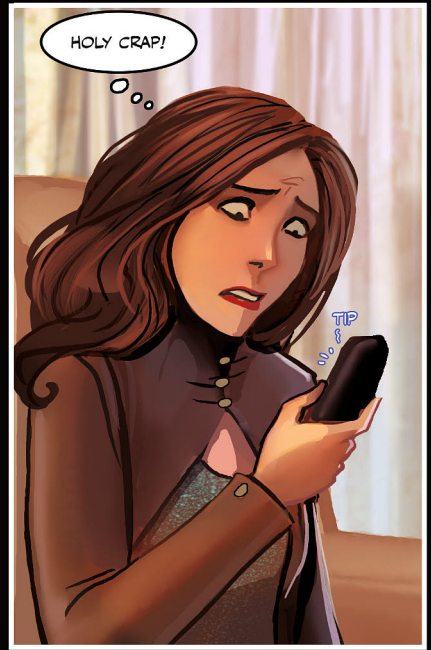
TIME IS WASTING.

I WILL SEE YOU IN 6 HOURS.



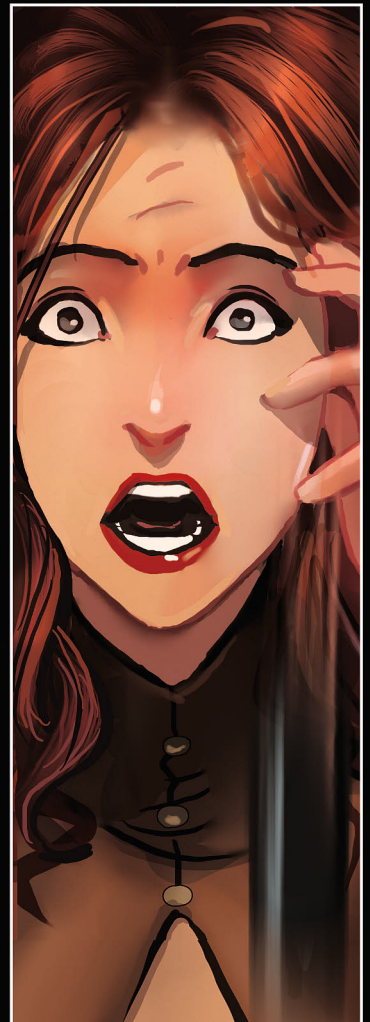
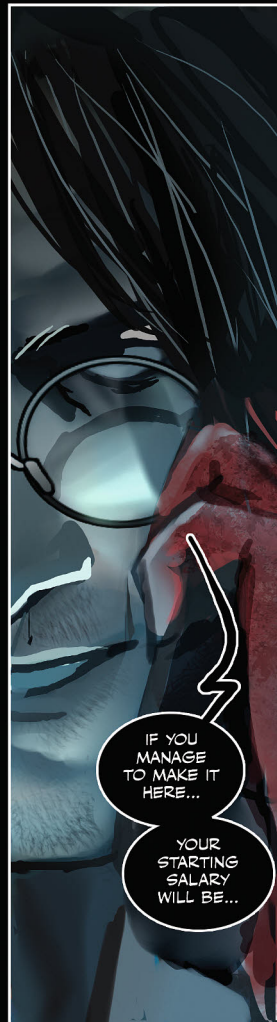
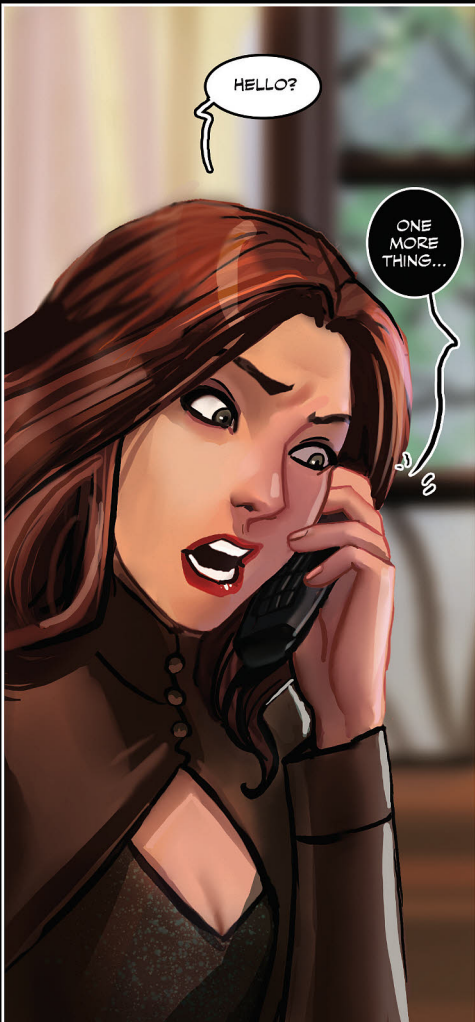
OR NOT.

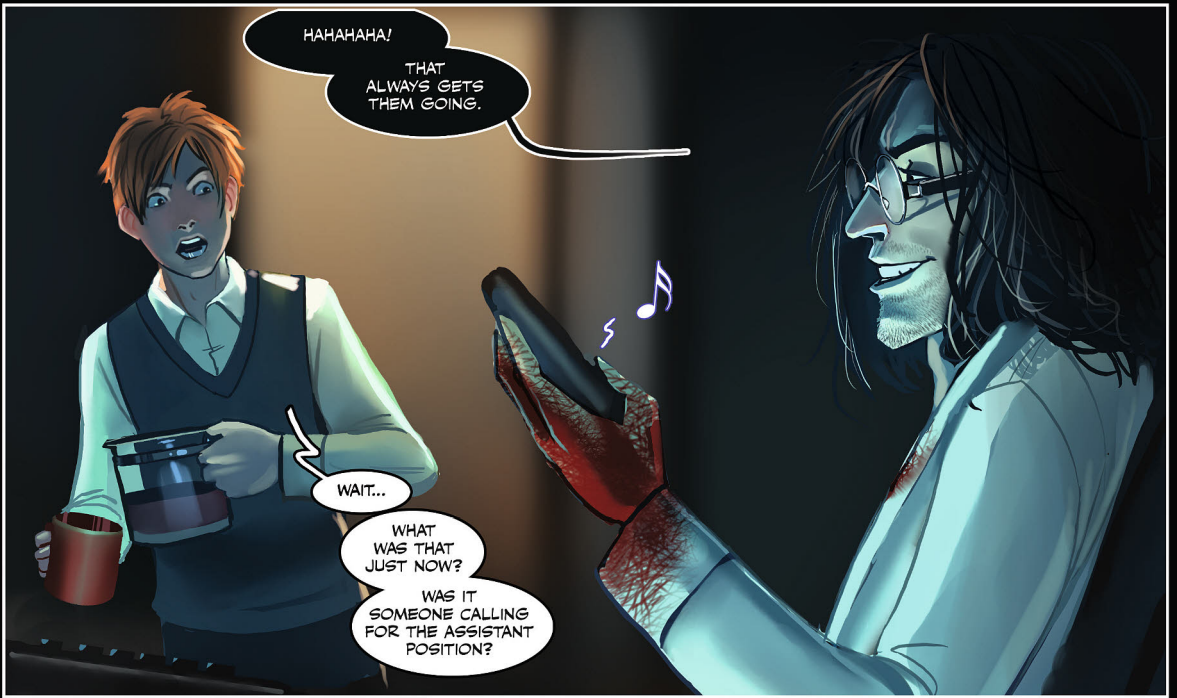
GOODBYE.



HOLY CRAP!

TIP





HAHAHAHA!  
THAT ALWAYS GETS THEM GOING.

WAIT...

WHAT WAS THAT JUST NOW?  
WAS IT SOMEONE CALLING FOR THE ASSISTANT POSITION?



POSSIBLY...  
WHO KNOWS...  
...COULD ALSO BE A DREAM.



WHAT THE HELL???

YOU BOUGHT A PLANE TICKET FOR SOME RANDOM PERSON WHO APPLIED AND THEY HAVE TO MAKE IT HERE TODAY???

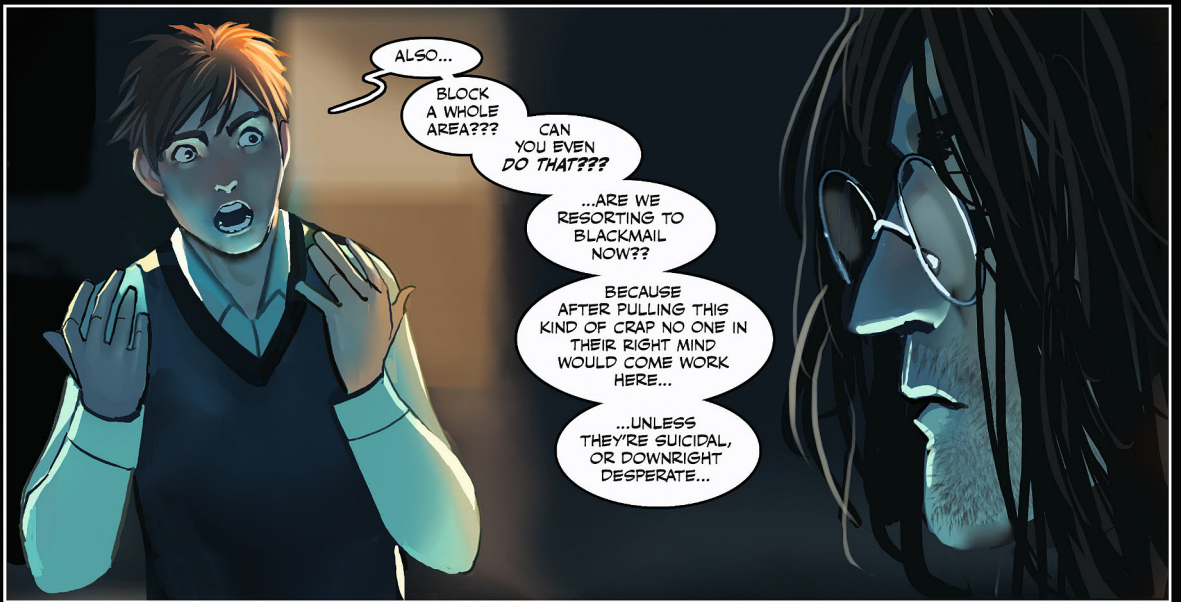


...AND MORE IMPORTANTLY...  
THE PLANE LEAVES IN *THREE HOURS* FROM THEIR PLACE??



YOU *DO* REALIZE THAT'S A WASTE OF MONEY, RIGHT?  
UNLESS THAT PERSON *LIVES* NEAR THE AIRPORT THERE IS NO CHANCE HE OR SHE WILL BE ABLE TO MAKE IT.





ALSO...  
BLOCK A WHOLE AREA???  
CAN YOU EVEN DO THAT???

...ARE WE RESORTING TO BLACKMAIL NOW??

BECAUSE AFTER PULLING THIS KIND OF CRAP NO ONE IN THEIR RIGHT MIND WOULD COME WORK HERE...

...UNLESS THEY'RE SUICIDAL, OR DOWNRIGHT DESPERATE...

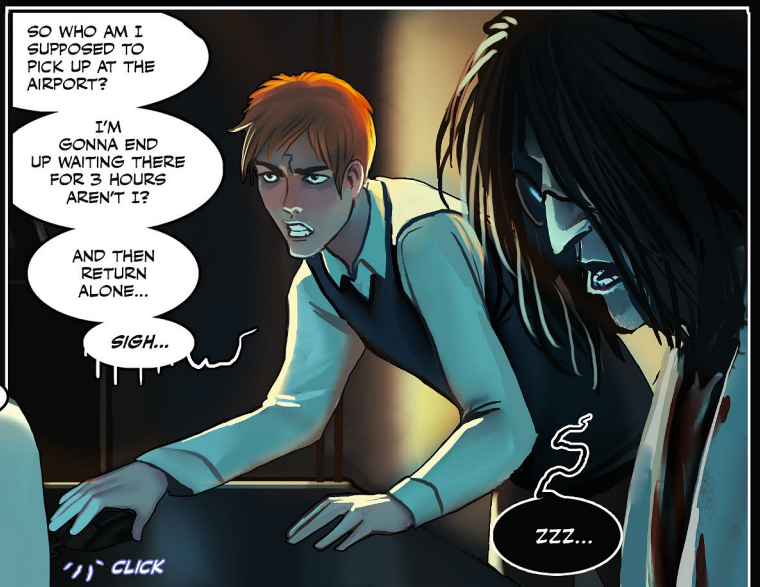


HEY!  
ARE YOU LISTENING TO ME???

SNORE!!!



NOTE TO SELF:  
CONFISCATE THE PHONE IF I SEE HIM AWAKE FOR MORE THAN 28 HOURS.



SO WHO AM I SUPPOSED TO PICK UP AT THE AIRPORT?

I'M GONNA END UP WAITING THERE FOR 3 HOURS AREN'T I?

AND THEN RETURN ALONE...

SIGH...

ZZZ...

CLICK

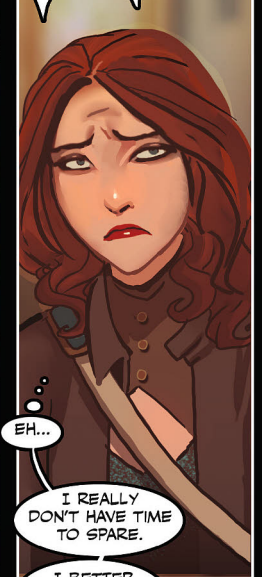
GWAAAAAAAAAAAA GWAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAA WAAAAAAAAAGWAAA  
AAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAA  
AAAAAAAAAGWAAA  
AAAAAAAAAAAA

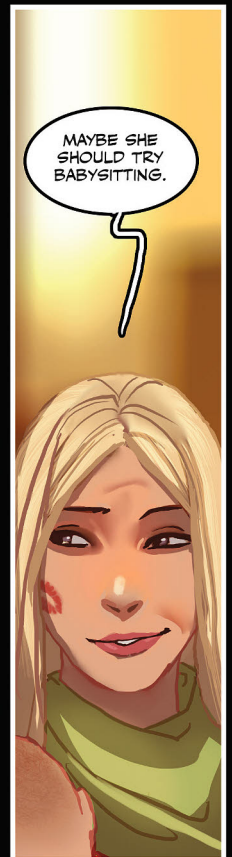
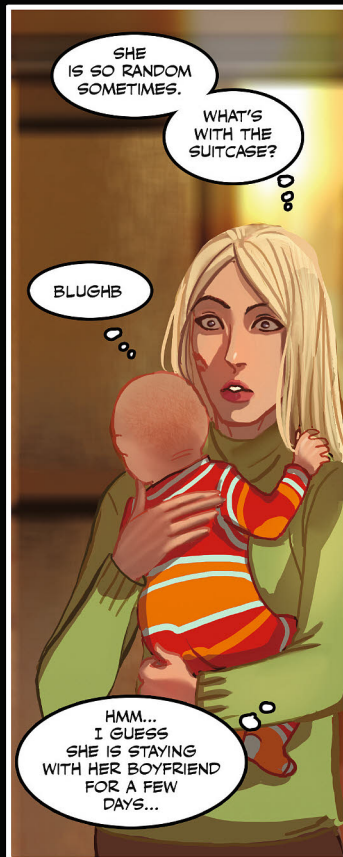
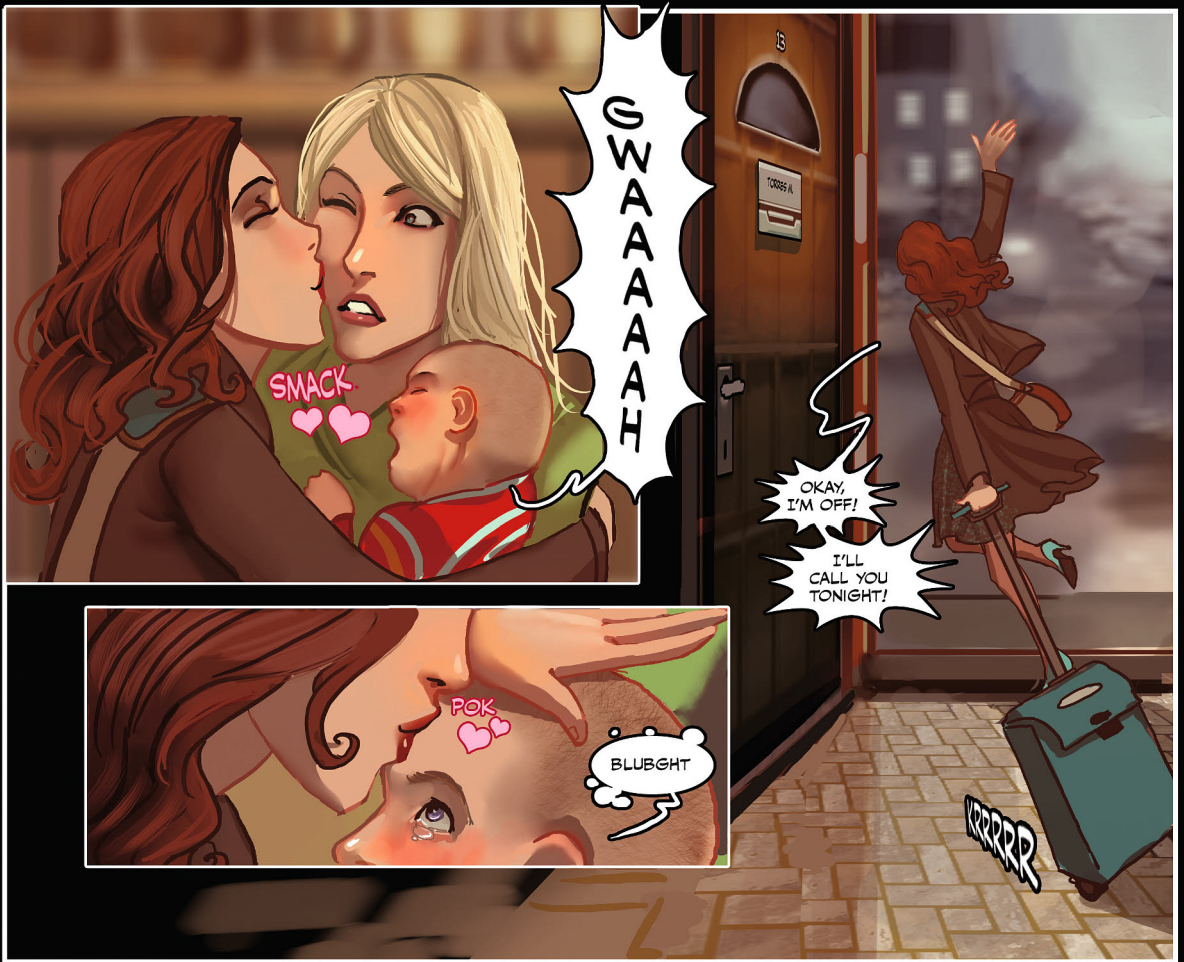


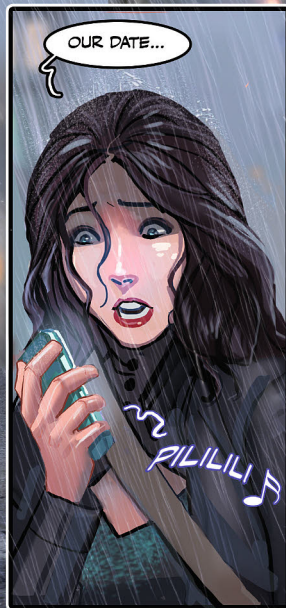
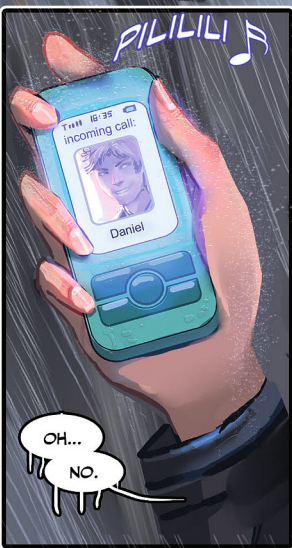
WAAAAAAAAAAAA  
WAAAAAAAAAAAA

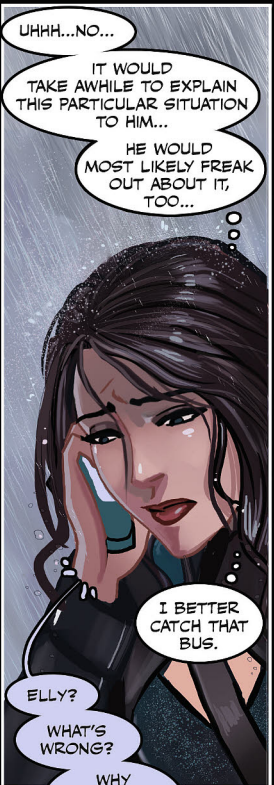
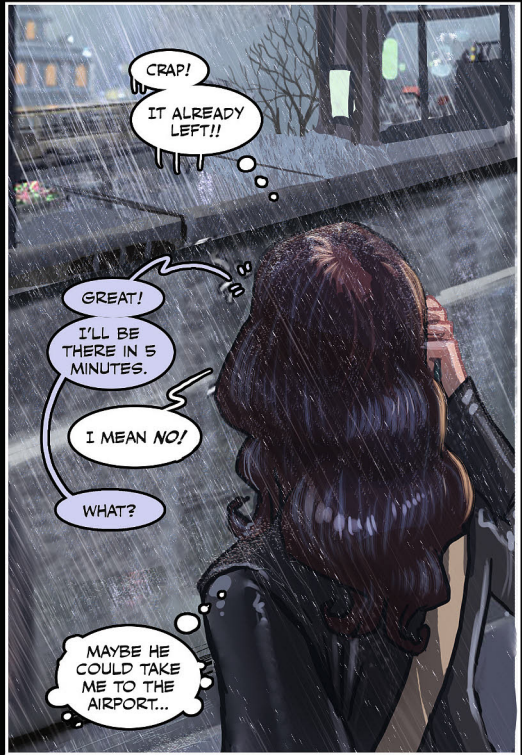
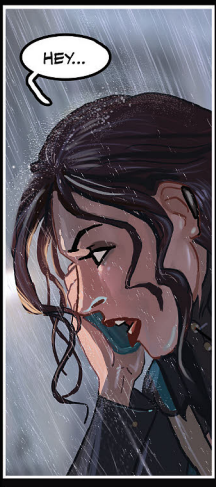
WAAAAAAAAAAAA  
AAGHAAAAAAAA  
AAAAAHAAAAAH

WAAAA











DAMN YOU YOUNGSTERS AND YOUR PHONES!!

WATCH THE ROAD!!!



GET A PAIR OF GLASSES, GRAMPS!!

I WAS ON THE PEDESTRIAN CROSSING!!!

ELLY???



LISTEN, DANIEL, I CAN'T TALK RIGHT NOW.

I'M IN A BIT OF A HURRY...

I WILL CALL YOU A LITTLE LATER AND EXPLAIN EVERYTHING, ALRIGHT?



NO!

WAIT JUST ONE MIN

*CLICKS*



EH...

I BETTER SHUT IT OFF.

THIS THING IS ONLY DISTRACTING ME.



The recipient you are trying to reach is currently unavailable.

SHE TURNED OFF HER PHONE!

WHAT ON EARTH IS GOING ON?!



FOUR HOURS LATER...

WOOOOOSH







BRAIN, THAT WAS A REALLY BAD ATTEMPT AT HUMOR.  
THE EFFORT IS APPRECIATED, THOUGH...  
SIGH...

WOW... I CAN'T BELIEVE IT...

I ACTUALLY MADE IT ALL THE WAY HERE...

clack



THAT LEAP ONTO THE BUS WAS SO hardcore...  
THE DRIVER WAS FORCED TO STOP...

THAT'S RIGHT...  
I KNOW YOU ARE SAFE AT HOME...

click

clack  
clack  
clack



GOD, I HOPE I DON'T HAVE TO DO SOMETHING CRAZY, STUPID AND DANGEROUS LIKE THAT EVER AGAIN...

THIS JOB BETTER BE WORTH ALL THIS TROUBLE...

WAIT...  
I THINK I'M GOING THE WRONG WAY...

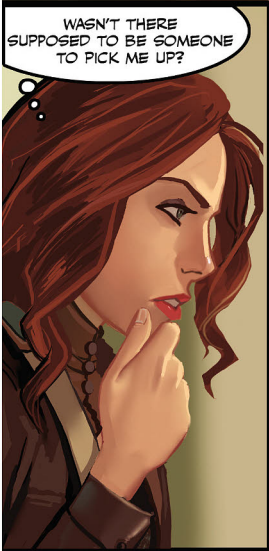
YOU'D HAVE TO BE CRAZY TO WORK THERE... LIKE ME.



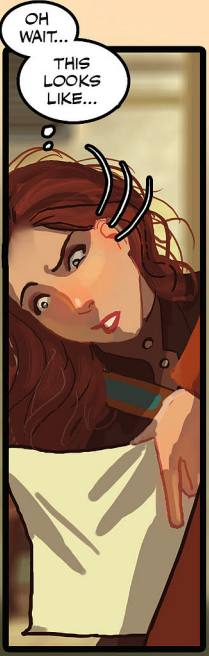
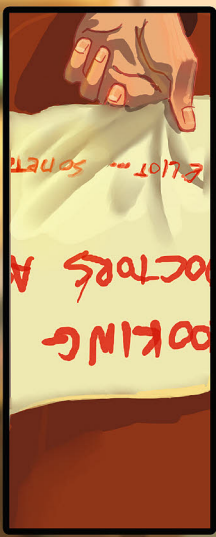
HMM...  
NOPE...  
I ARRIVED FROM THERE.

YEAH...  
I THINK I'VE WAITED LONG ENOUGH.

FOR



YAAAAWN!





UM...  
CAN I HELP YOU, MISS?



UH...  
HI.  
I THINK THIS HAS MY NAME ON IT...



ARE YOU ELLIOT??  
YES!  
YES I AM.  
FOR THE ASSISTANT POSITION?

THAT'S ME!  
AND I EVEN HAVE PROOF.  
ONE SECOND!



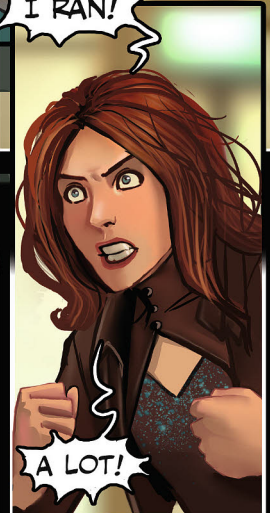
LOOK... SEE??  
HERE IS MY TICKET...  
AND MY AUTHENTICATION CODE...  
AND HERE IS MY ID...  
OH!  
LOOK!  
I EVEN HAVE THE JOB PAMPHLET WITH ME!!



YES, YES, THAT'S ALL GREAT!  
BUT, TELL ME --

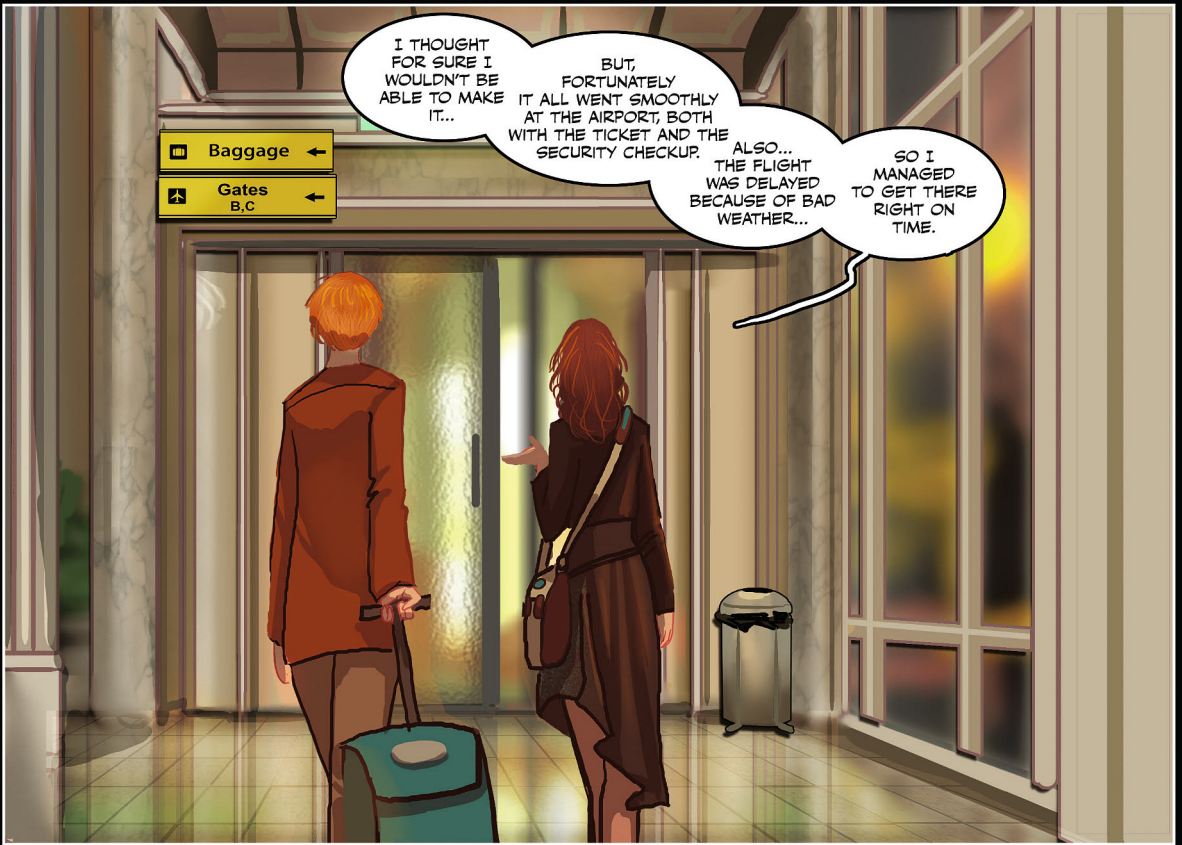


HOW ON EARTH DID YOU MANAGE TO MAKE IT TO THE PLANE IN SUCH A SHORT TIME???



I RAN!

A LOT!





HAHAHAHAHA!!!



YOU WISH!



RIGHT...

I'M SORRY...

THAT WAS A REALLY STUPID QUESTION...

I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHY I ASKED.

YOUR VOICE SOUNDS NOTHING LIKE THE ONE I HEARD ON THE PHONE...

..KINDA LIKE A RUSTY CAN...

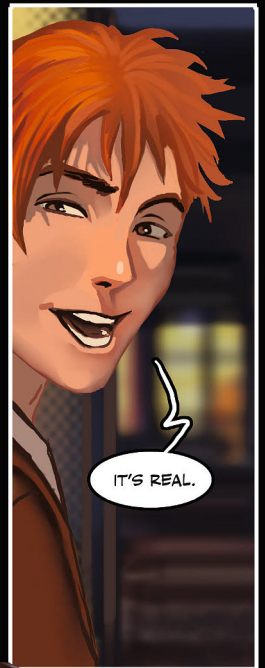


THOUGH I WAS HOPING IT WAS JUST MY BAD PHONE CALL QUALITY INTERFERING...

YOU KNOW..

...SOME PEOPLE ONLY SOUND WEIRD OVER THE PHONE...

OH NO!

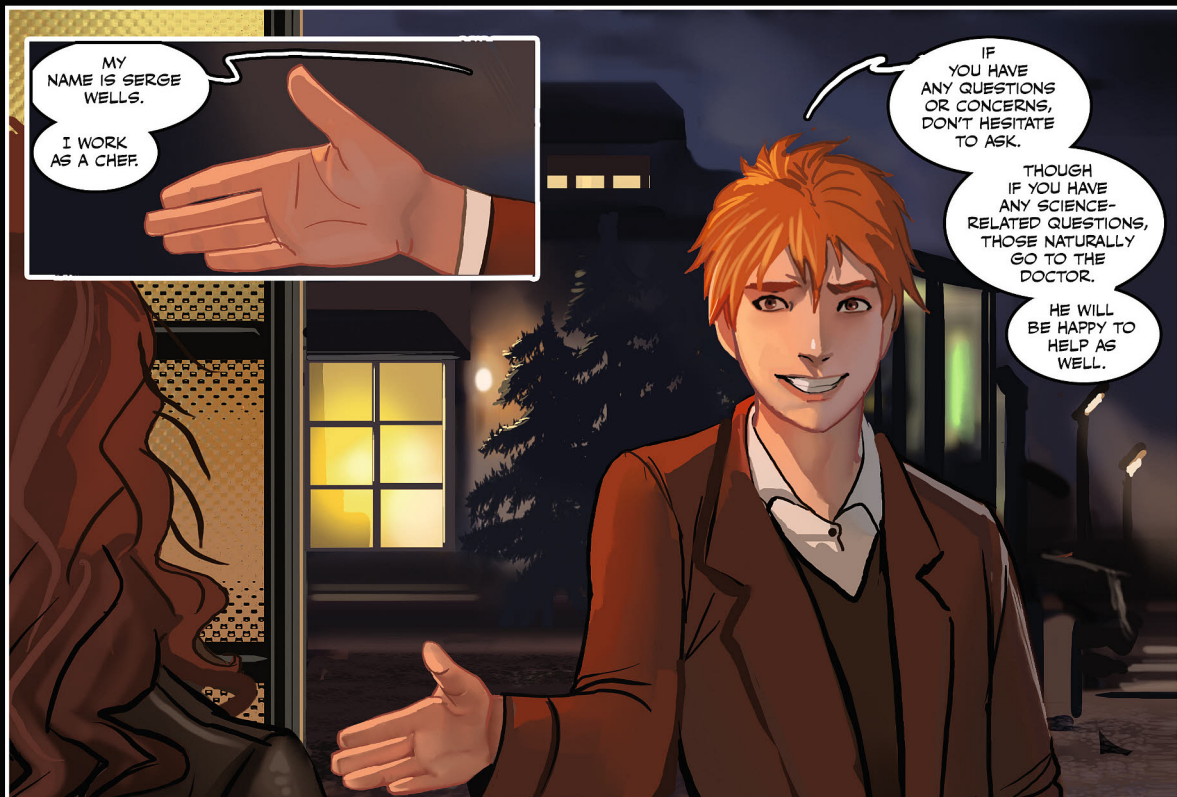


IT'S REAL.



BUT REALLY, YOU SHOULDN'T BE APOLOGIZING.

IF NOTHING, IT'S MY FAULT FOR NOT PROPERLY INTRODUCING MYSELF IN THE FIRST PLACE.



MY NAME IS SERGE WELLS.

I WORK AS A CHEF.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS, DON'T HESITATE TO ASK.

THOUGH IF YOU HAVE ANY SCIENCE-RELATED QUESTIONS, THOSE NATURALLY GO TO THE DOCTOR.

HE WILL BE HAPPY TO HELP AS WELL.



BUT BE WARNED...

ONCE POSED WITH THE RIGHT QUESTIONS...

HE WILL TALK.

A LOT!



OH, GOODIE.

NOTED. THANKS.

I'M ELLY.....OT.

ELLIOT.

IT'S NICE TO MEET YOU.



LIKEWISE!

MEANWHILE, BACK HOME...

RING

OH,  
HEY, DANIEL...

HEY, CLARA...

WHAT  
ARE YOU DOING  
HERE AT THIS  
LATE HOUR?

DID  
ELLY FORGET  
SOMETHING?

WHAT?

NO.

SHE IS  
NOT WITH  
ME...

I WAS  
HOPING YOU  
WOULD KNOW  
WHERE SHE  
WENT...

WHAT  
DO YOU MEAN  
I WOULD  
KNOW?!

SHE IS  
SUPPOSED  
TO BE ON  
A DATE WITH  
YOU!!

YES,  
I KNOW!

I  
CALLED  
HER...

AND SHE  
CANCELLED  
OUR DATE.

SHE WAS  
ACTING REALLY  
STRANGE ON THE  
PHONE...

SHE  
TOLD ME SHE  
COULDN'T TALK  
AND HUNG UP..

...I TRIED  
TO CALL OVER  
AND OVER AGAIN,  
BUT HER PHONE  
IS OFF.



SO...  
YOU ARE A...  
...CHEF?  
YEP. THAT'S ME.  
WORKING...  
WHERE EXACTLY?  
IN A CAFETERIA  
AT THE INSTITUTE  
I PRESUME?



UMMM...  
NO...  
NOT REALLY.



I COOK FOR THE DOCTOR  
IN HIS HOME.  
WHICH IS WHERE  
YOUR WORKPLACE  
WILL BE AS WELL.  
WAIT!  
WAIT!  
WAIT...  
HIS HOME??  
LIKE...  
HIS HOUSE?





HERE ON THE PAMPHLET IT SAYS I WILL BE WORKING IN A SCIENCE INSTITUTE!!

NOT...

SOME...

SHADY PLACE LIKE THAT...

WELL...

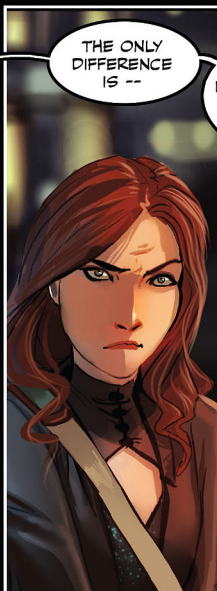
TECHNICALLY YES.

FOR THE SCIENCE INSTITUTE.



YOU SEE... THE DOCTOR IS WORKING FOR THE INSTITUTE.

THEY FREQUENTLY SEND HIM SAMPLES FOR TESTING.



THE ONLY DIFFERENCE IS --



THAT HE PREFERS TO DO HIS RESEARCH IN THE QUIET OF HIS OWN HOME.



I PRESUME HE WOULD ACHIEVE BETTER RESULTS IF HE WAS TO DIRECTLY COMMUNICATE WITH HIS FELLOW RESEARCHERS THERE...



BUT HEY! I'M NOT HIM.

SO I DON'T KNOW...

I GUESS SOME PEOPLE ARE JUST NOT TEAM PLAYERS.



HOLD ON A SECOND...

IF HE PREFERS TO DO EVERYTHING HIMSELF, WHY DOES HE NEED AN ASSISTANT IN THE FIRST PLACE?

HOW DO I FIT IN?

I NEVER SAID HE HAD  
GOOD ORGANIZING SKILLS...

YOU KNOW,  
ELLIOT...

WE  
COULD TALK  
OUT HERE ALL  
NIGHT...

AND IT'S  
GETTING PRETTY  
LATE.

BUT I DON'T  
HAVE THE LUXURY  
OF TIME.

I HAVE  
TO GET UP EARLY  
IN THE MORNING, AND  
GOD KNOWS I HAVEN'T HAD  
ENOUGH SLEEP  
LATELY...

SO SINCE  
I ALREADY HAVE  
A FEELING YOU HAVE  
SECOND THOUGHTS  
ABOUT THIS...

LET'S  
NOT WASTE  
EACH OTHER'S  
TIME HERE.

ARE YOU IN  
OR OUT?

IT'S NOT LIKE I HAVE A CHOICE...

THERE ARE NO OTHER OPTIONS LEFT FOR ME...

I DON'T HAVE A RETURN TICKET, NOR ANY MONEY FOR IT...

SO I CAN'T GO BACK HOME...

BUT EVEN IF I COULD...

IT WOULD PROBABLY TAKE MONTHS BEFORE I FOUND ANOTHER JOB.

AND I KNOW WE NEED MONEY URGENTLY.

MY MOPING AROUND THE HOUSE WOULDN'T HELP...

EH...

IT'S SAD TO THINK ABOUT IT...

BUT...

AT LEAST THIS WAY THEY HAVE ONE LESS MOUTH TO FEED...

BUT...WHO KNOWS... THIS MIGHT JUST BE THE BEST DECISION I'VE MADE IN MY LIFE!

I GOT A FULL TIME JOB I'M AWESOME AT!!

OH, ELLY!

YOU ARE SO AMAZING!!

WE ARE FINALLY OUT OF THE CRISIS.

AND WHAT'S MORE --

WE NOW EVEN HAVE ENOUGH MONEY TO REMODEL THE APARTMENT!

OR... AL MEDITERRANEAN NEWS--

page 3

### ANOTHER VICTIM BRUTALLY MURDERED?



drifting in the shallow waters of the sea near a famous seaside resort the Spatula Shore. Obduction proves that the woman in question was Elliot Torres (27) who on the fated evening left her home to find a job in another town. The killer is still on the loose and currently undetectable.

On the night of April the 15th, mutilated body of a young woman was found

OH GOD, NO!



MAYBE IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO RETURN...

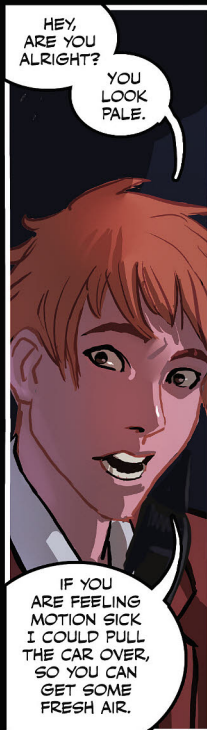
I CAN STILL CHANGE MY MIND...

I CAN STILL GO BACK!!



OH, GOD... THIS IS IT.

I'M ON MY WAY THERE...



HEY, ARE YOU ALRIGHT?

YOU LOOK PALE.

IF YOU ARE FEELING MOTION SICK I COULD PULL THE CAR OVER, SO YOU CAN GET SOME FRESH AIR.



I DON'T WANT TO DIE!!!

EH???

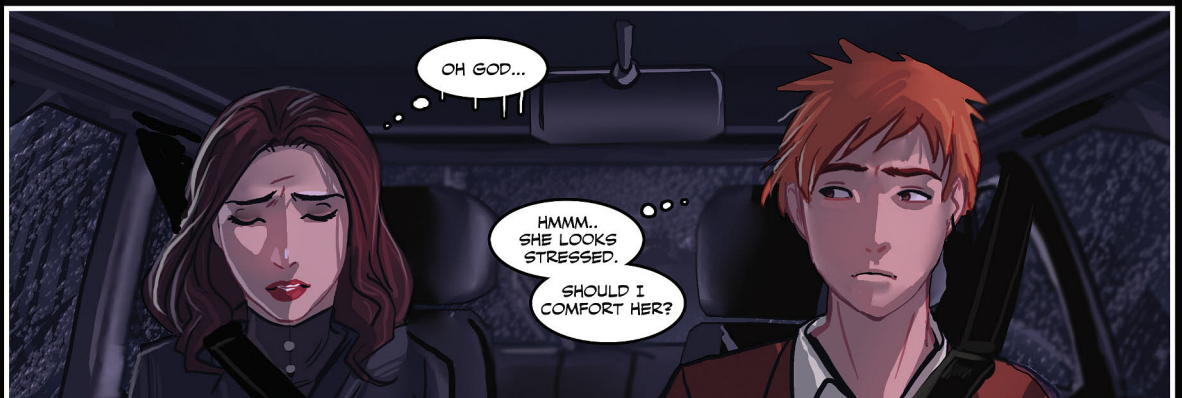
I'M DRIVING 60 KM/H, I THINK WE'LL BE FINE...



OK... OK... RELAX.

AND GATHER INTEL.

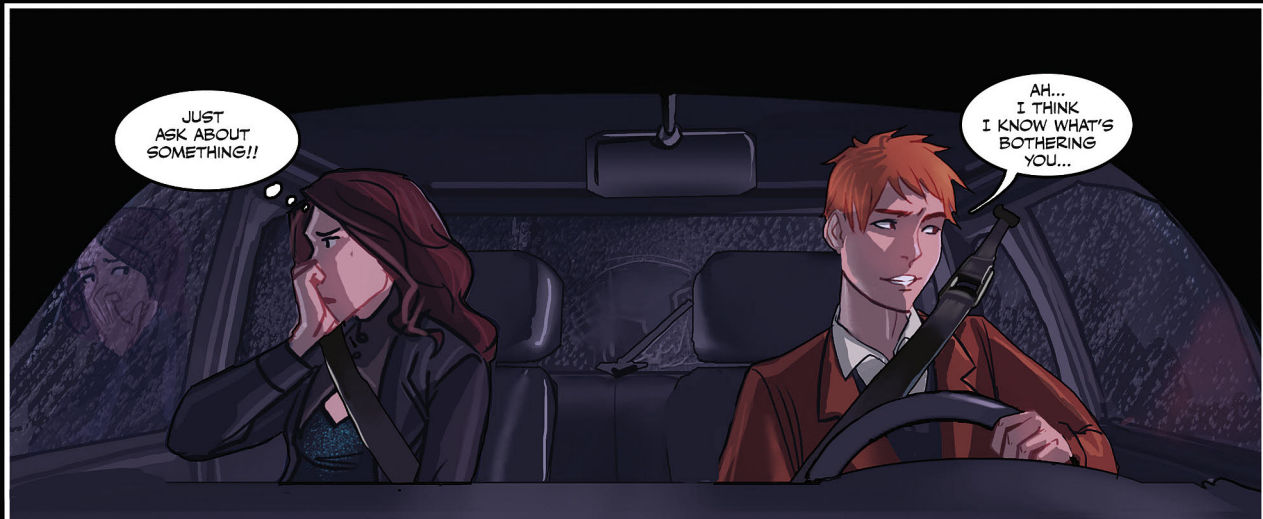
YOU NEED TO BE PREPARED FOR WHAT'S COMING IN ORDER TO DEFEND YOURSELF, IF NECESSARY...



OH GOD...

HMMM.. SHE LOOKS STRESSED.

SHOULD I COMFORT HER?





OOH, THAT WOULD BE GREAT!

AND WOULD MAKE SENSE...

...AND EXPLAIN HIS BROKEN VOICE!

OLD AND WISE. SCIENTIST THE WHITE!!



HE MIGHT HAVE CHILDREN OF HIS OWN...

OR EVEN GRANDCHILDREN.

I WOULD LOVE THAT.

I WOULD FEEL SAFE THEN.



BUT...WITH MY LUCK...

NOW, STAND STILL PLEASE---

I WILL HAVE TO MEASURE YOU FOR YOUR "SLEEPING COFFIN."

HE WILL DEFINITELY BE SOME WEIRD UNCLE FROM THE ADDAMS FAMILY...



MR. SERGE, I CAN'T DO THIS, YOU HAVE TO TURN BACK!!

PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE!

TURN BACK!

I DON'T KNOW HOW I'LL RETURN HOME, BUT I SWEAR I WILL FIND A WAY!!

HUH??



WHAT'S GOTTEN INTO YOU, ALL OF A SUDDEN?

I'M NOT DRIVING BACK NOW!

WE'VE ARRIVED.

LOOK.



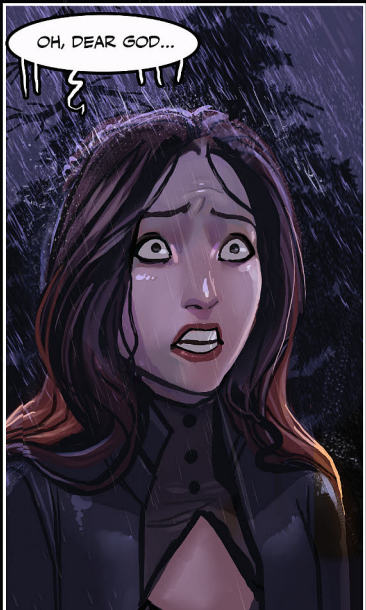
WE WHAT??

POSSSEHH

ALSO, PLEASE...

NO FORMALITIES.

IT'S JUST "SERGE."



OH, DEAR GOD...









OW...

WELL, THAT'S NOT A VERY GOOD FIRST IMPRESSION...

MAYBE WE SHOULD GO INSIDE BEFORE WE BOTH GET FRIED BY LIGHTNING.

YEAH...LET'S...

YEP...

IT'S A GOOD, OLD-SCHOOL MOVIE HORROR HOUSE...



SIGH... ALRIGHT...

I HAVE TO PULL MYSELF TOGETHER...

NO MATTER HOW INSECURE I FEEL NOW...

I CAN'T GO BACK.

I DECIDED THAT WHEN I GOT ON THAT PLANE!!



I'VE NEVER TAKEN SUCH A BIG STEP BEFORE IN MY LIFE...

IT'S NORMAL TO FEEL THIS WAY...

THIS IS THE WORST PART...BUT IT WILL GET BETTER.

I HAVE TO BE BRAVE.

YES.

AND CONFIDENT.

NO MORE FREAKOUTS.

I CAN TAKE WHATEVER THEY THROW AT ME!



COME ON IN.

YOU ARE BRAVE.

YOU BELONG IN GRYFFINDOR.

AND DON'T YOU FORGET IT!

A-AFTER YOU!



CLICK

OH, WOW...



THIS PLACE LOOKS NICE!

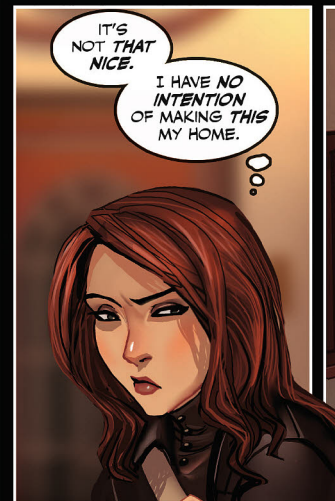
HEHEH... DOESN'T IT?

IT'S A COMFORTABLE HOUSE.

I'M SURE YOU'LL FEEL RIGHT AT HOME HERE.

R...R...RIGHT.

EMPLOYEES ONLY



IT'S NOT THAT NICE.

I HAVE NO INTENTION OF MAKING THIS MY HOME.



BUT ON THE PLUS SIDE...

AT LEAST THERE ARE NO CREEPY STUFFED ANIMAL HEADS HANGING FROM THE WALLS...

OR RUGS...

THANK GOD FOR THAT.



SIMPLE LAYOUT...

PLENTY OF SPACE...

I HAVEN'T ENCOUNTERED ANY DARK, EVIL CORNERS SO FAR.

GOOD.

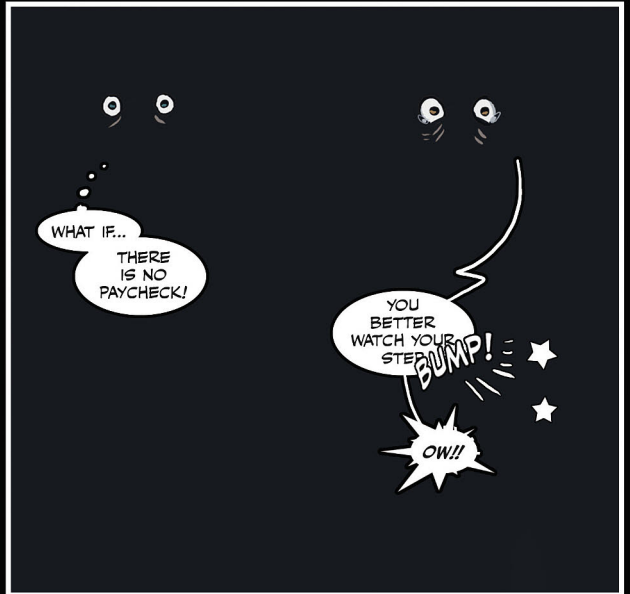
WELL, ELLIOT...

WOULD YOU LIKE ME TO SHOW YOU AROUND?

OR WOULD YOU RATHER WE LEAVE THAT FOR TOMORROW, WHEN YOU ARE PROPERLY RESTED?



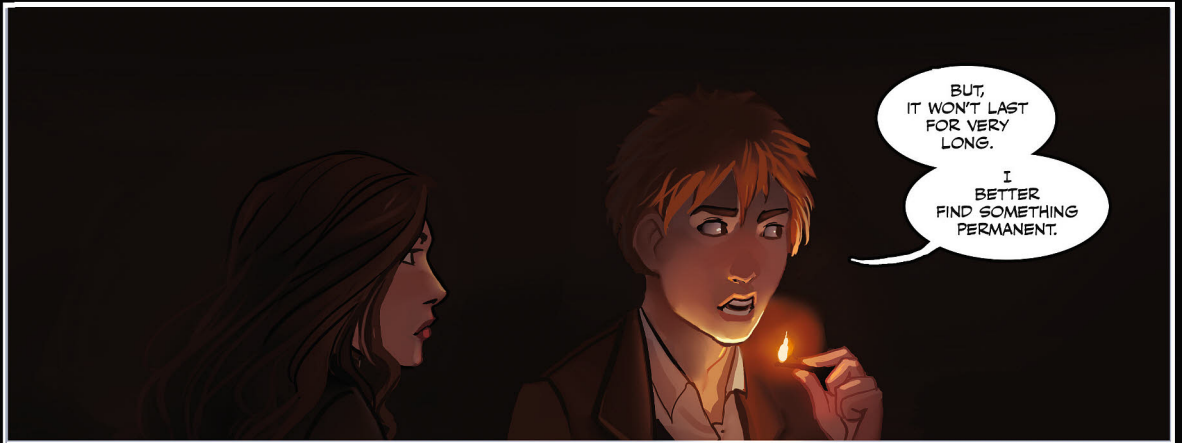






AH! THERE!

FWOO



BUT,  
IT WON'T LAST  
FOR VERY  
LONG.

I  
BETTER  
FIND SOMETHING  
PERMANENT.



HERE.



IS THAT...



*BLOOD??*

*To Be Continued...*



EXTRAS

ACHIEVEMENT UNLOCKED!  
BONUS CONTENT.

WELCOME TO THE BONUS CONTENT!

HERE I WILL SHARE A BIT ABOUT HOW THIS COMIC CAME TO BE,  
A BIT ABOUT THE CHARACTERS, A BIT ABOUT THE CREATIVE PROCESS,  
AND A TON OF SKETCHES.

I HOPE YOU ENJOY!



ELLY!!  
WE GOT OUR  
OWN BOOK!!

THAT'S  
GREAT,  
VLAD.

DEAR DIARY!

IT'S DAY 14,  
AND THE BOSS STILL  
REFUSES TO TAKE A  
SHOWER.

PAT  
PAT

## SO, HOW DID THIS STORY START?

IF YOU HAD ASKED ME A FEW YEARS AGO IF I WAS CAPABLE OF MAKING A COMIC, I WOULD'VE LAUGHED.

NOT A HAPPY LAUGH, MIND YOU, BUT ONE OF THOSE "ARE YOU FOR REAL?" LAUGHS.

2012 WAS THE YEAR WHEN THAT CHANGED.

DONT GET ME WRONG, IT WAS STILL A BAD YEAR.

BACK THEN I WAS SUFFERING FROM A CREATIVE BLOCK, I WAS UNEMPLOYED, AND MY SELF ESTEEM WAS NONEXISTENT BECAUSE OF IT.

AND JUST WHEN IT SEEMED I'D HIT ROCK BOTTOM, THINKING THINGS COULDN'T GET ANY WORSE, TWO OF MY FAMILY MEMBERS PASSED AWAY.

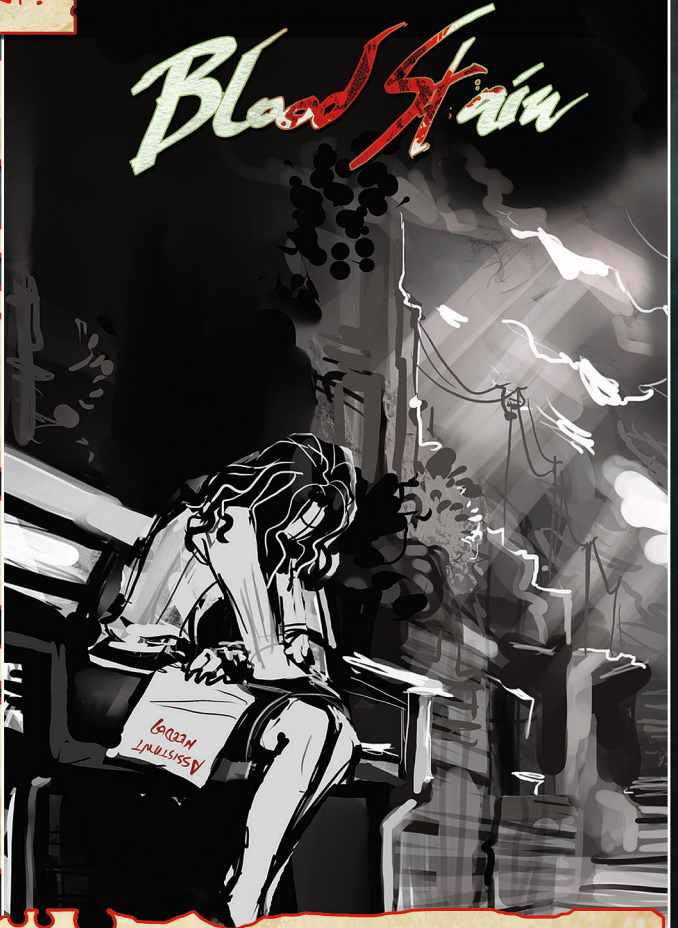
NOW, CREATIVITY IS AN AMAZING THING.

IT IS A PERFECT AND MOST EFFECTIVE WAY OF ESCAPISM.

IT CAN TURN ALL YOUR NEGATIVE THOUGHTS INTO SOMETHING WONDERFUL THAT WILL NOT ONLY KEEP YOU OCCUPIED, BUT WILL ALSO GIVE SOMETHING TO SHOW FOR THAT TIME INVESTED.

IT IS ALSO AN INCREDIBLE HEALING TOOL.

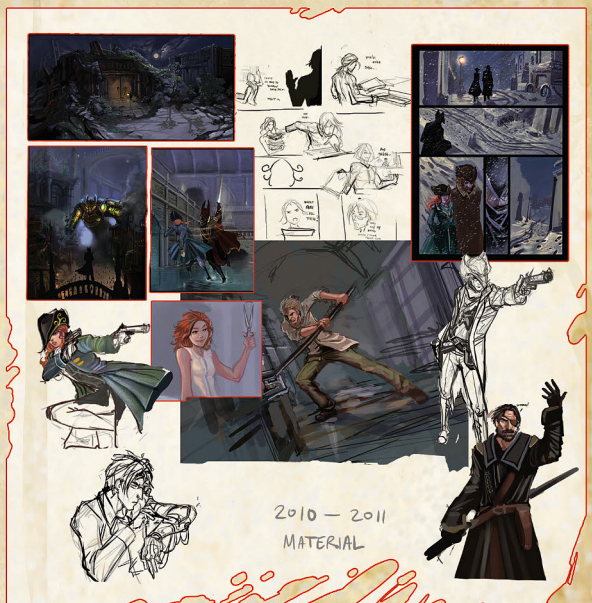
WELL...SADLY FOR ME, THAT PART WAS OUT OF THE QUESTION AT THE TIME. A TOOL I LOVED AND USED SO EFFECTIVELY SO MANY TIMES BEFORE, WAS SUDDENLY NO LONGER AVAILABLE.



MY HUSBAND, STJEPAN, WHO IS ALSO AN ESTABLISHED CREATOR, WAS DOING EVERYTHING IN HIS POWER TO KEEP ME INSPIRED AND MOTIVATED, IN HOPES OF REIGNITING THE CREATIVE FIRE HE TOO HAD LOST JUST TWO YEARS BEFORE, AND FOUND AGAIN BY STARTING - NOW A GRAPHIC NOVEL, BUT BACK THEN - A WEBCOMIC CALLED **SUNSTONE**.

HE TALKED TO ME A LOT BACK THEN. HE EVEN TRIED BRINGING UP SOME OF MY OLDER PERSONAL PROJECTS THAT I USED TO LOVE BUT NEVER FINISHED.

SADLY, I TRIED GOING BACK TO THEM BUT THEY NEVER CLICKED.



AT THAT POINT I GAVE UP ON TRYING BECAUSE NOTHING INTERESTED ME. I FELT LIKE I WOULD NEVER DRAW OR WRITE ANYTHING AGAIN IN MY LIFE.

BUT THEN ONE DAY, IT JUST HAPPENED.

I WENT TO MAKE LUNCH TO KEEP MY MIND OCCUPIED, AND I PUT SOME MUSIC ON.  
THE SONG THAT WAS PLAYING WAS "DR. STEIN" FROM A BAND CALLED *HELLOWEEN*.  
I LOVED THAT BAND, SO STJEPAN GOT AN IDEA.  
HE WOULD DRAW A PICTURE FOR ME IN HOPES IT WOULD CHEER ME UP A LITTLE.

NOW, JUST TO BE CLEAR ON A FEW POINTS:  
USUALLY WHEN PEOPLE THINK, "ARTIST COUPLES" THEY IMAGINE WE PROBABLY DRAW/OR DO  
ART-RELATED STUFF FOR EACH OTHER ALL THE TIME.  
THAT IS NOT THE CASE.

I, FOR ONE, COULD NEVER ASK STJEPAN TO DRAW SOMETHING FOR ME WHEN I FULLY  
UNDERSTAND HOW LOADED HE ALREADY IS WITH WORK.  
NOR WOULD HE ASK THIS OF ME.  
WHICH IS WHY THIS GESTURE HE MADE FOR ME MEANT SO MUCH MORE.

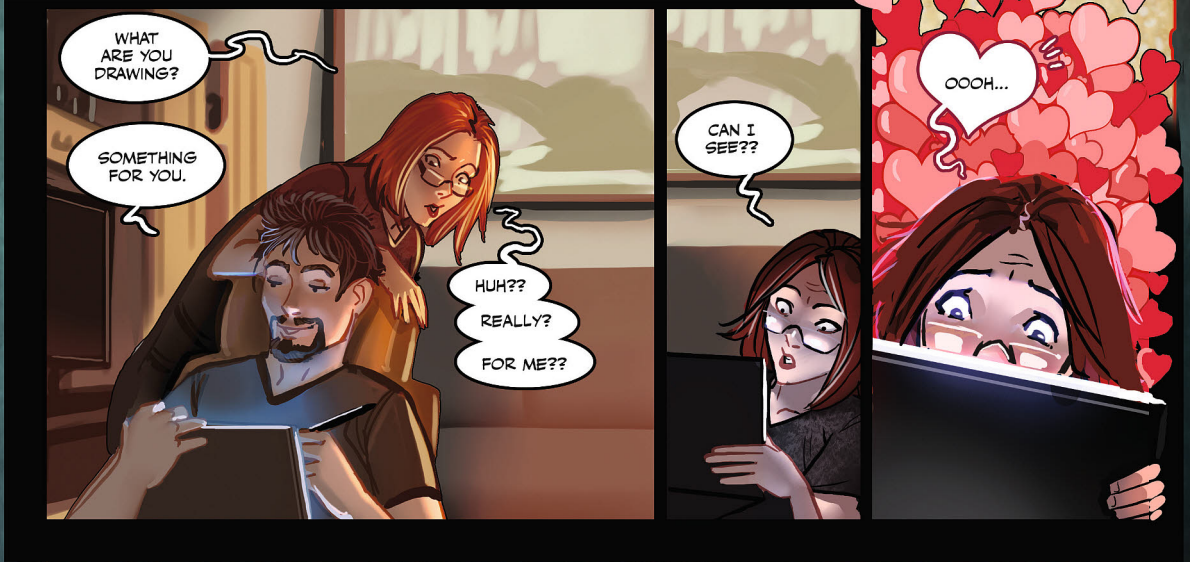
THE PICTURE HE DREW WAS OF DR. STEIN FROM THE SONG  
AND THE ASSISTANT HE IS TRYING TO CLONE.



JUST LIKE THE LYRICS SAY:

"HIS ASSISTANT'S HIPS WERE NICE,  
SO HE CLONED HER ONCE, OR TWICE..."

I DIDN'T EXPECT TO GET A PICTURE,  
SO YOU CAN ONLY IMAGINE MY REACTION WHEN HE FIRST SHOWED IT TO ME.



I LOVED IT SO MUCH THAT I MADE IT MY DESKTOP WALLPAPER, AND I STARED AT IT FOR DAYS!  
AND THEN...SILLY IDEAS STARTED FORMING.  
THEN THOSE SILLY LITTLE IDEAS KEPT POKING AT ME, SO I STARTED DOODLING THEM.



THEN LATER THOSE SILLY IDEAS HAD ME DRAWING UP A STORM, ONE COMIC STRIP AFTER THE OTHER,  
WONDERING WHY MY EYES AND MY DRAWING HAND HURT SO MUCH,  
ONLY TO LOOK AT THE CLOCK REALIZING I HAD BEEN DRAWING  
FOR 12 HOURS STRAIGHT AND I PROBABLY  
NEEDED SLEEP.



SO, YEAH...I THINK I MIGHT HAVE FOUND MY FIRE.

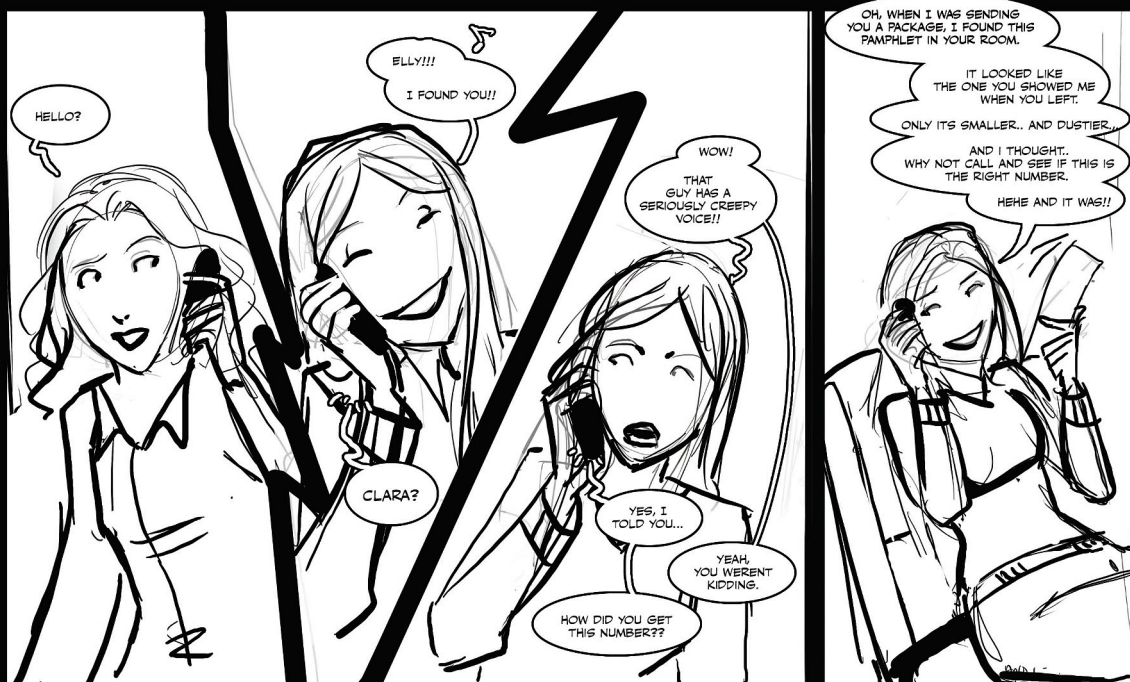
FROM THAT POINT ON,  
I KEPT DRAWING UNTIL I FOUND THE CHARACTERS' VOICES.  
THE METHOD WAS SIMPLE, GET AN IDEA FOR A SITUATION, THROW THE CHARACTERS IN  
AND SEE HOW THEY PULL THROUGH IT.

SOME STRIPS DID GREAT IN DRIVING THEIR IDEA ACROSS, AND SOME ONLY STARTED  
AS A GOOD IDEA BUT LANDED FLAT DURING EXECUTION, SO THEY WERE SCRAPPED.



I USED TO DO A LOT OF OUT-OF-CONTINUITY PAGES LIKE THESE BACK THEN, SINCE THAT IS USUALLY  
HOW MOST STORIES START AND DEVELOP, MEANING ELLIOT HAD ALREADY ARRIVED IN  
THE DOCTOR'S HOUSE LONG BEFORE.

SO TO AVOID CONFUSING NEW READERS, I WILL SAVE THE *OLD VS. NEW STORYLINE* FOR  
THE NEXT VOLUME'S BONUS CONTENT.



IN THE MEANTIME, I CAN SAY A FEW WORDS ABOUT THE WRITING PROCESS AND SHARE SOME OF  
THE ORIGINAL STRIPS IN THEIR RAWEST FORMS.

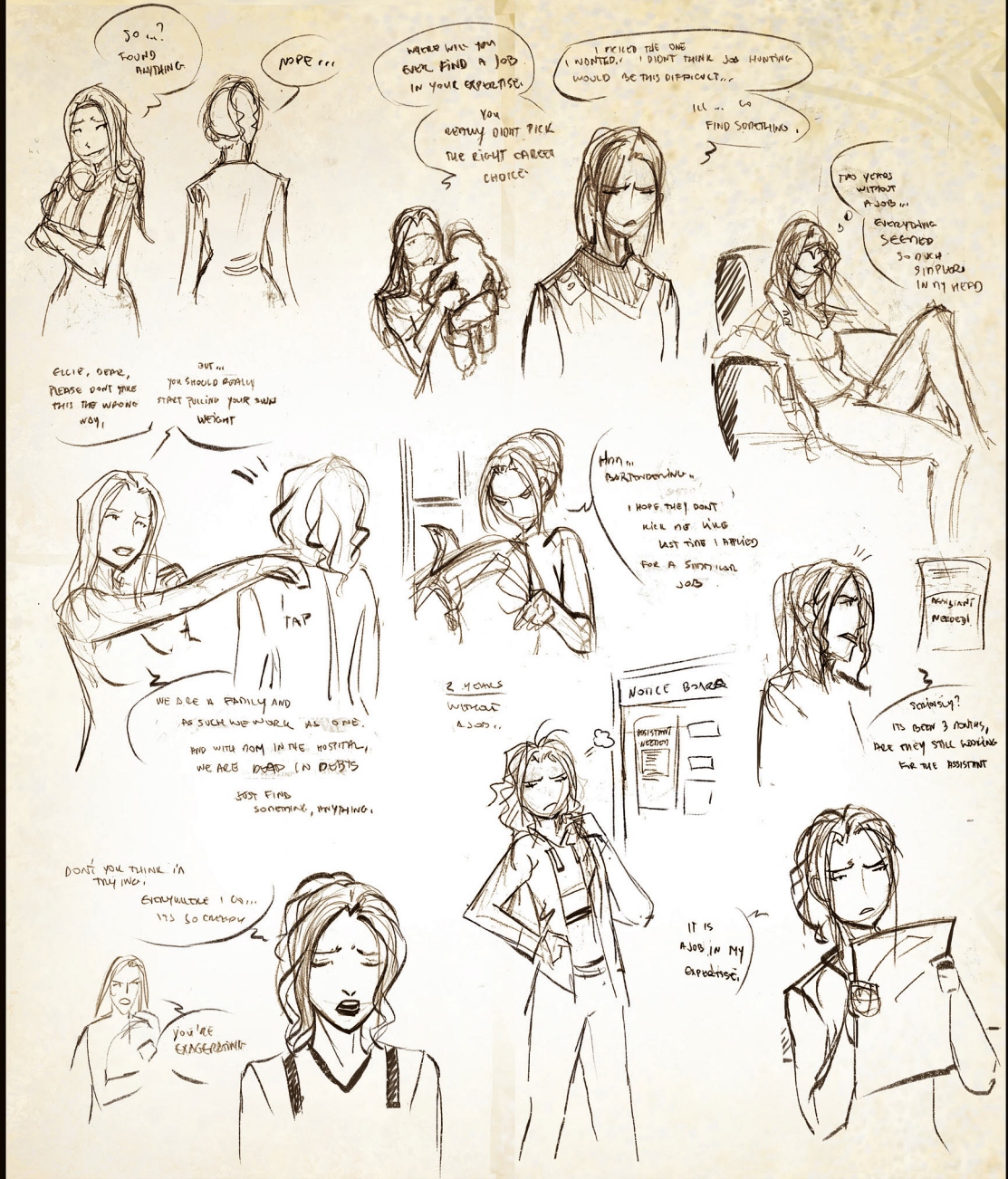
OK, SO NOW THAT WE ARE ON THE SUBJECT OF WRITING, I WILL START BY DROPPING A TON OF SKETCHES FIRST.

WAIT, WHAT? SKETCHES?

"WHAT DOES THAT HAVE TO DO WITH WRITING?" YOU MUST BE WONDERING...

WELL...AT LEAST IN MY CASE, WRITING AND DRAWING ARE AN INSEPERABLE PART OF THE CREATIVE PROCESS .

HERE ARE SOME OF THE FIRST PENCIL SKETCHES...



SINCE SLICE OF LIFE GENRE DOES NOT INCLUDE MANY FLASHY ACTION SCENES, YOU HAVE TO PUT EVERYTHING YOU'VE GOT INTO CREATING STRONG RELATABLE CHARACTERS THAT THE READERS WILL GLADLY FOLLOW EVEN THROUGH SEEMINGLY MUNDANE EVERYDAY TASKS.

COMBINING WRITING AND DRAWING DURING THE SKETCHING PHASE HELPED ME GET A FEEL FOR THE CHARACTERS LONG BEFORE I EVEN GOT TO THE GOOD PARTS IN THE STORY.

SOME CHARACTERS STARTED OUT AS ARCHETYPES IN ORDER FOR TO FEEL DIFFERENT FROM OTHER CHARACTERS, BUT THEY DEVELOPED AND/OR OUTGREW THEIR ROLE ON THEIR OWN AS THE STORY PROGRESSED.



ONE SUCH WAS THE CHARACTER OF DOCTOR STEIN. WHO STARTED OUT FROM A GENERAL MAD SCIENTIST IDEA FOR THE PURPOSE OF ACHIEVING AN IMPACT IN THE EARLY PAGES.





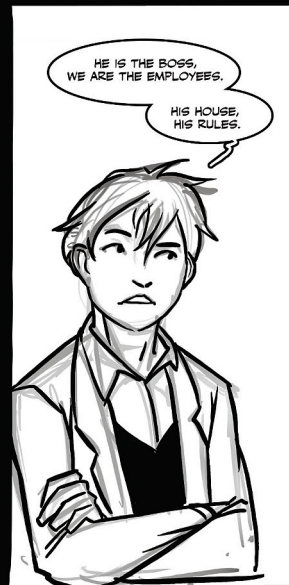
ON THE TOPIC OF CHARACTER DESIGN...

BACK WHEN THIS COMIC WAS STILL IN ITS YOUNG STAGES, I WAS STILL HEAVILY INFLUENCED BY THE PICTURE MY HUSBAND DREW FOR ME, SO I TRIED TO HAVE CHARACTERS LOOK AS CLOSE AS POSSIBLE TO THE ORIGINAL.

SO AS MUCH AS I WANTED TO KEEP THE MAID OUTFIT ON ELLIOT, IT JUST NEVER SEEMED TO FIT HER CHARACTER.



I SWEAR I WAS GOING SOMEWHERE WITH THIS! XD





I TRIED TO FORCE IT IN, BUT NEITHER OF MY CHARACTERS SEEMED TOO THRILLED TO PUSH ONWARD WITH IT.

I MAY HAVE BEEN INFLUENCED TOO MUCH BY MY HUSBAND'S COMIC, *SUNSTONE*, AND ALL THE BEAUTIFUL DESIGNS HE DID IN IT, SO NATURALLY I WANTED TO GIVE IT A TRY MYSELF, WHICH WAS FINE AS A ONESHOT ALTERNATE UNIVERSE SORT OF THING, BUT VERY IMPLAUSIBLE FOR THE CURRENT SETTING THAT I WAS GOING WITH.



SKETCHES, WIPS AND SILLY STUFF

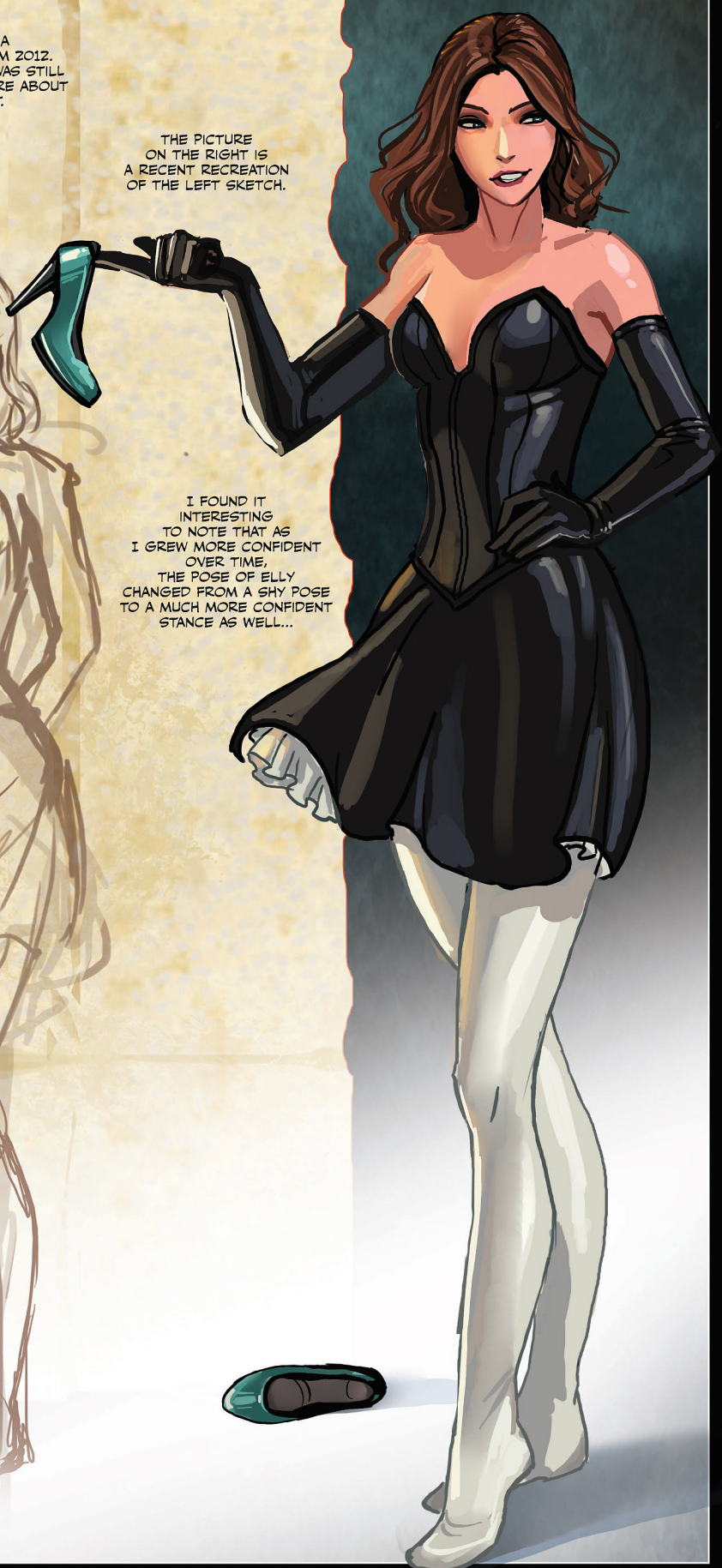
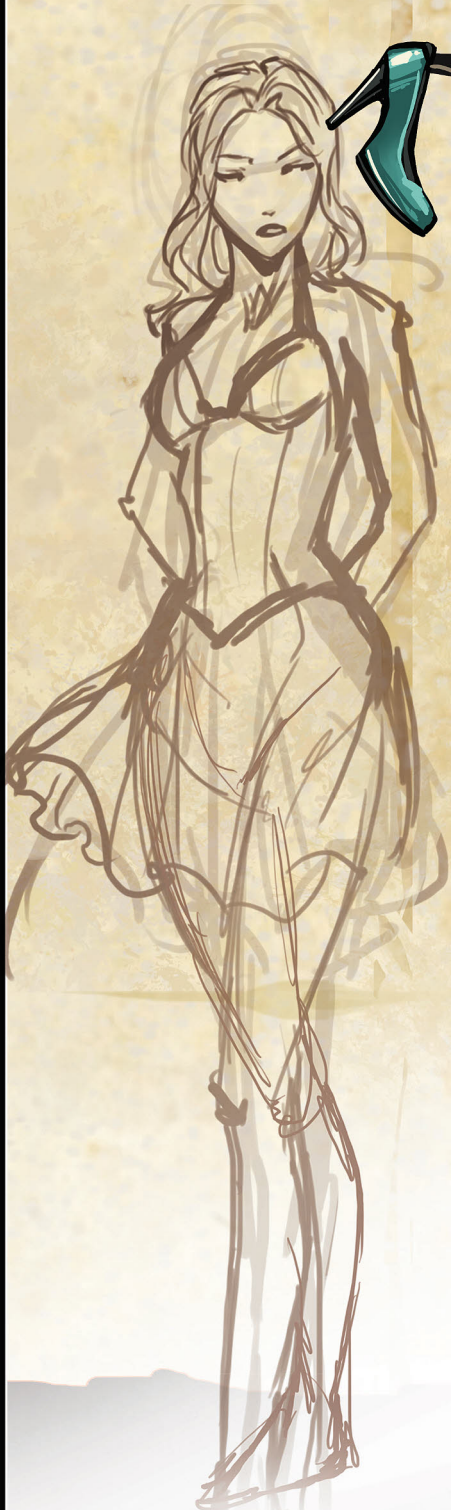


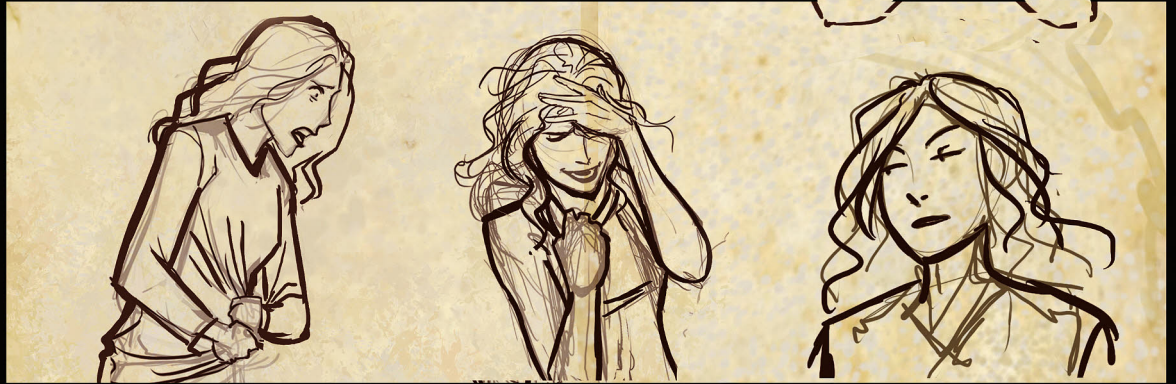
ELLIOT

THIS IS A SKETCH FROM 2012. BACK WHEN I WAS STILL RATHER INSECURE ABOUT MY ART.

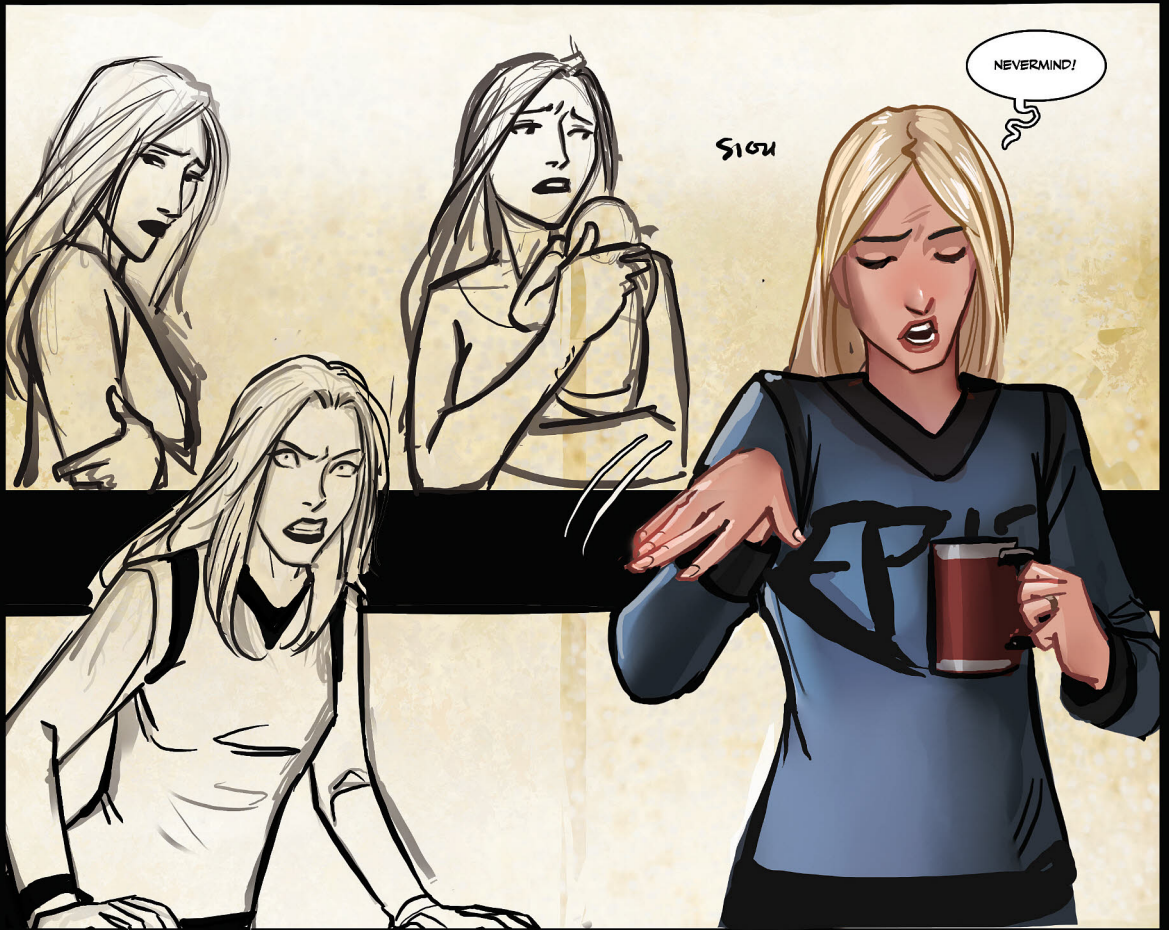
THE PICTURE ON THE RIGHT IS A RECENT RECREATION OF THE LEFT SKETCH.

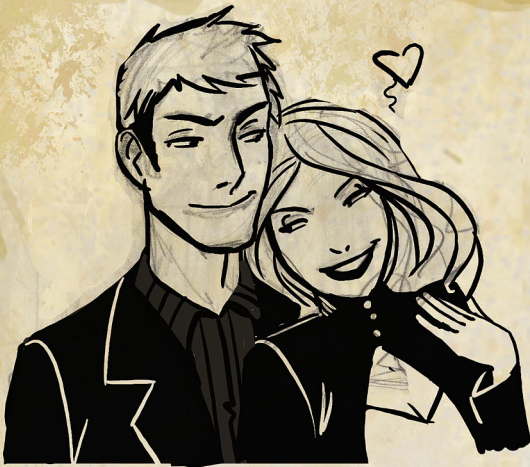
I FOUND IT INTERESTING TO NOTE THAT AS I GREW MORE CONFIDENT OVER TIME, THE POSE OF ELLY CHANGED FROM A SHY POSE TO A MUCH MORE CONFIDENT STANCE AS WELL...





ELLIOT AND CLARA





DR. VLAD STEIN

FRANK & STEIN

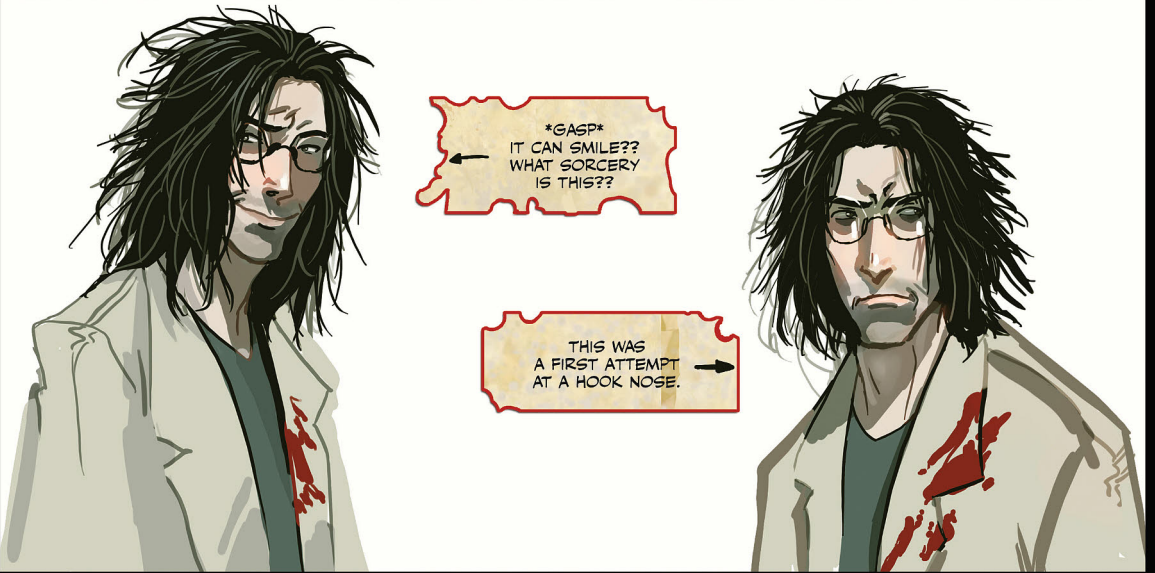




EARLY SKETCHES



PLEASE NOTICE THE LACK OF NOSE ON ALL OF THESE. XD



\*GASP\*  
IT CAN SMILE??  
WHAT SORCERY  
IS THIS??

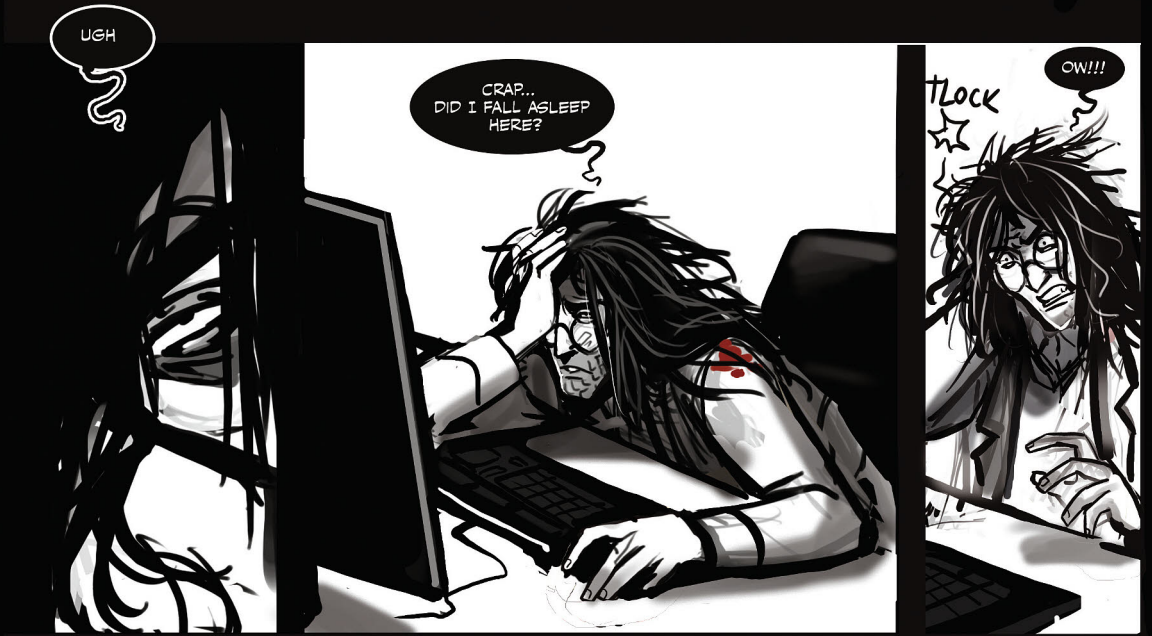
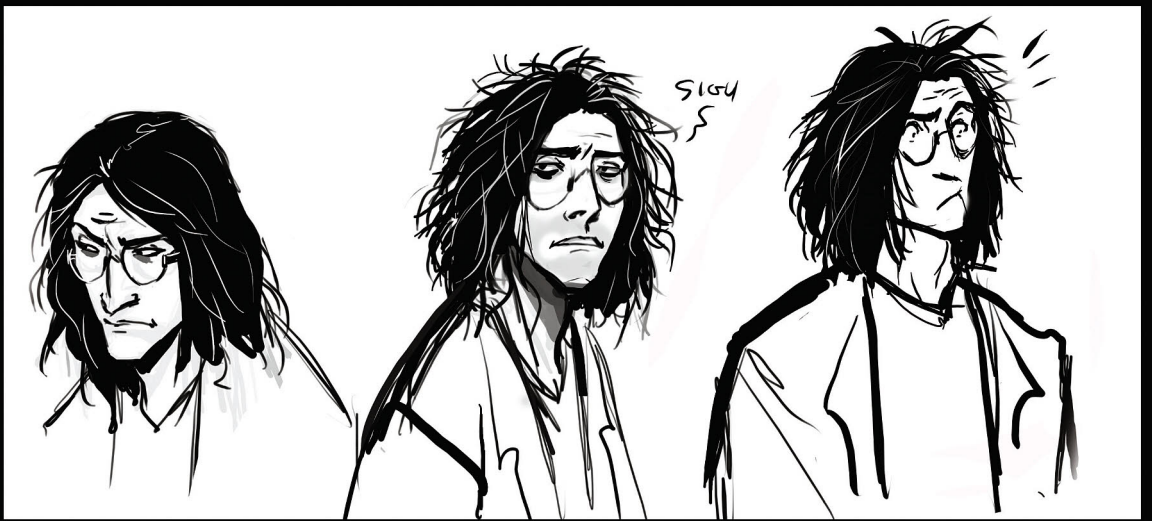
THIS WAS  
A FIRST ATTEMPT  
AT A HOOK NOSE.



HAVE YOU  
FORGOTTEN  
WHO'S IN CHARGE  
HERE?

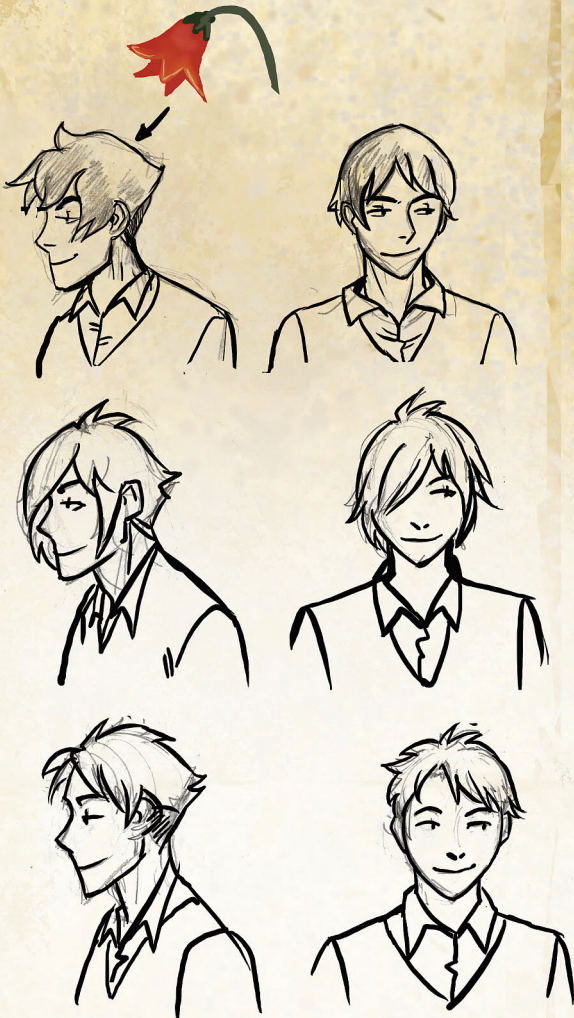
GRAY HAIRS

I REGRET  
NOTHING





## EARLY SERGE DESIGNS



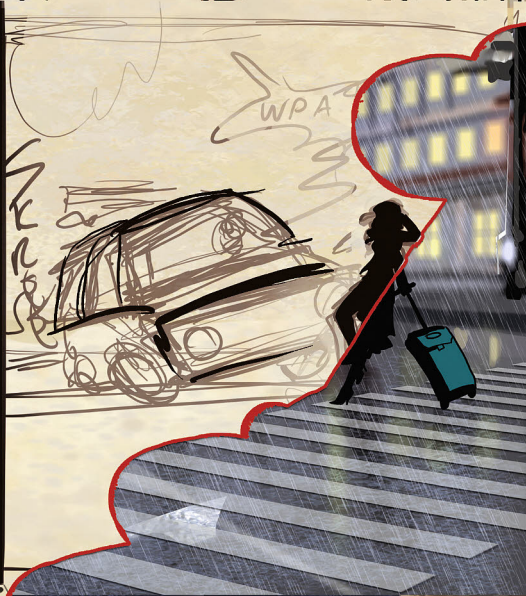
I FEEL A LITTLE GUILTY NOT TALKING ABOUT SERGE ALL THAT MUCH, SINCE HE TOO IS OF GREAT IMPORTANCE IN THIS STORY.

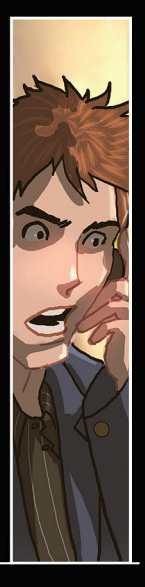
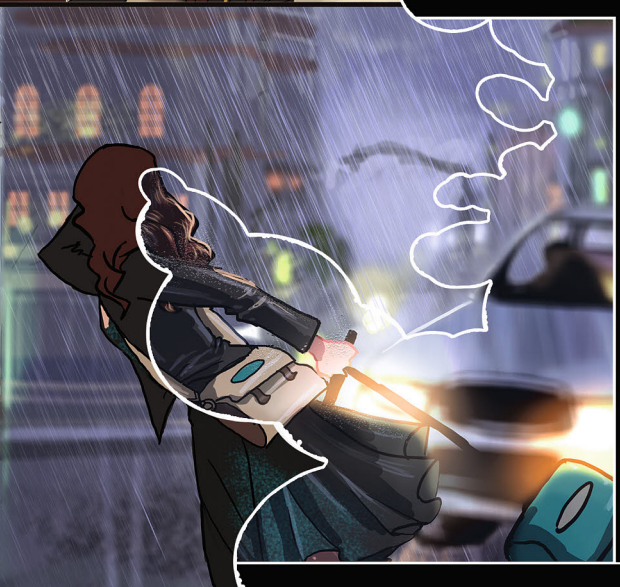
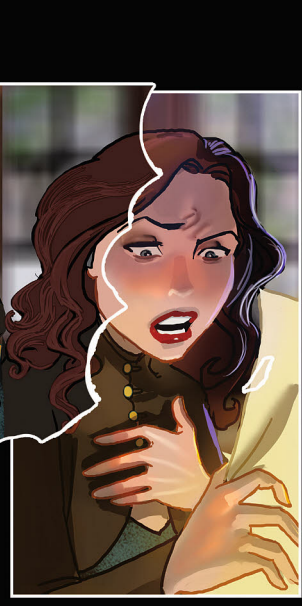
SERGE DIDN'T GO THROUGH ANY SIGNIFICANT CHANGES, AS I ALREADY KNEW WHAT I WANTED TO DO WITH HIS CHARACTER FROM THE VERY START.

THE REST WAS JUST TWEAKING PARTS HERE AND THERE UNTIL THE OVERALL DESIGN CLICKED IN MY HEAD.

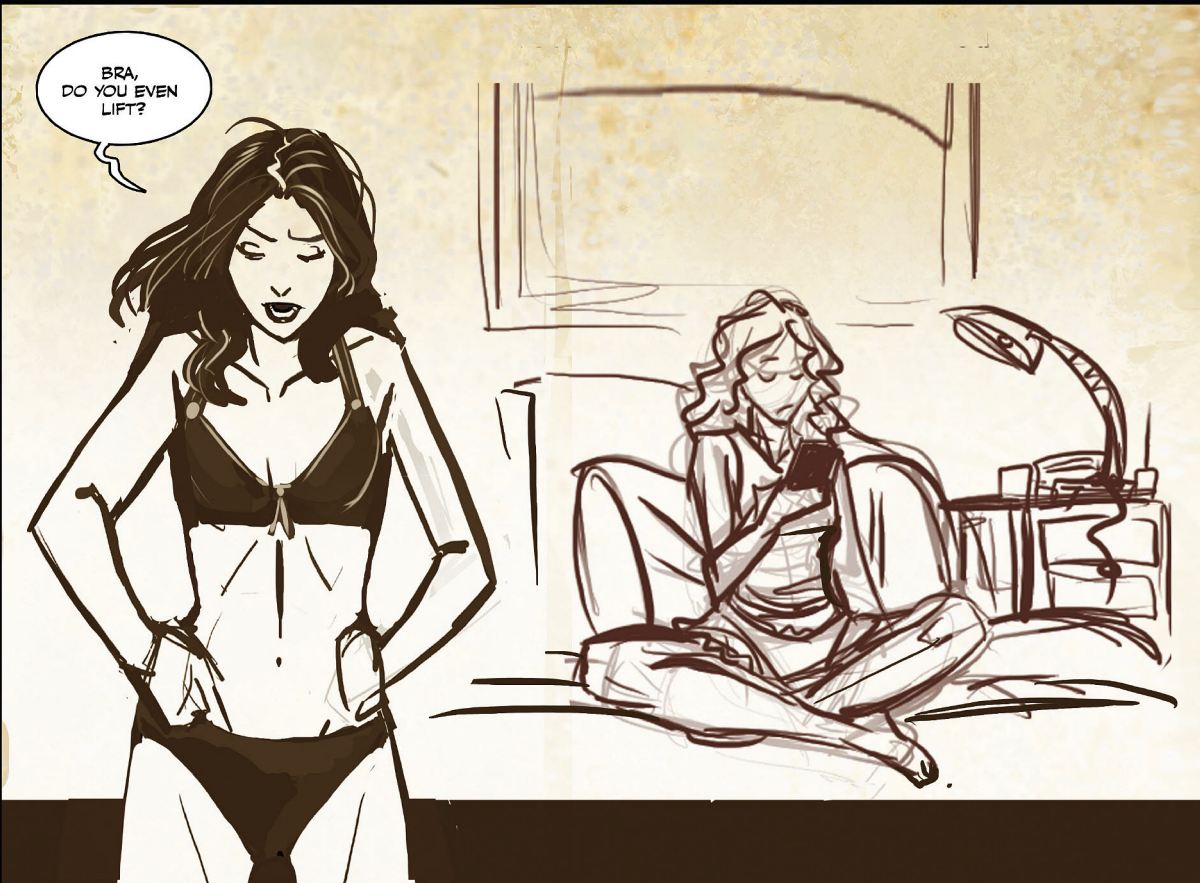
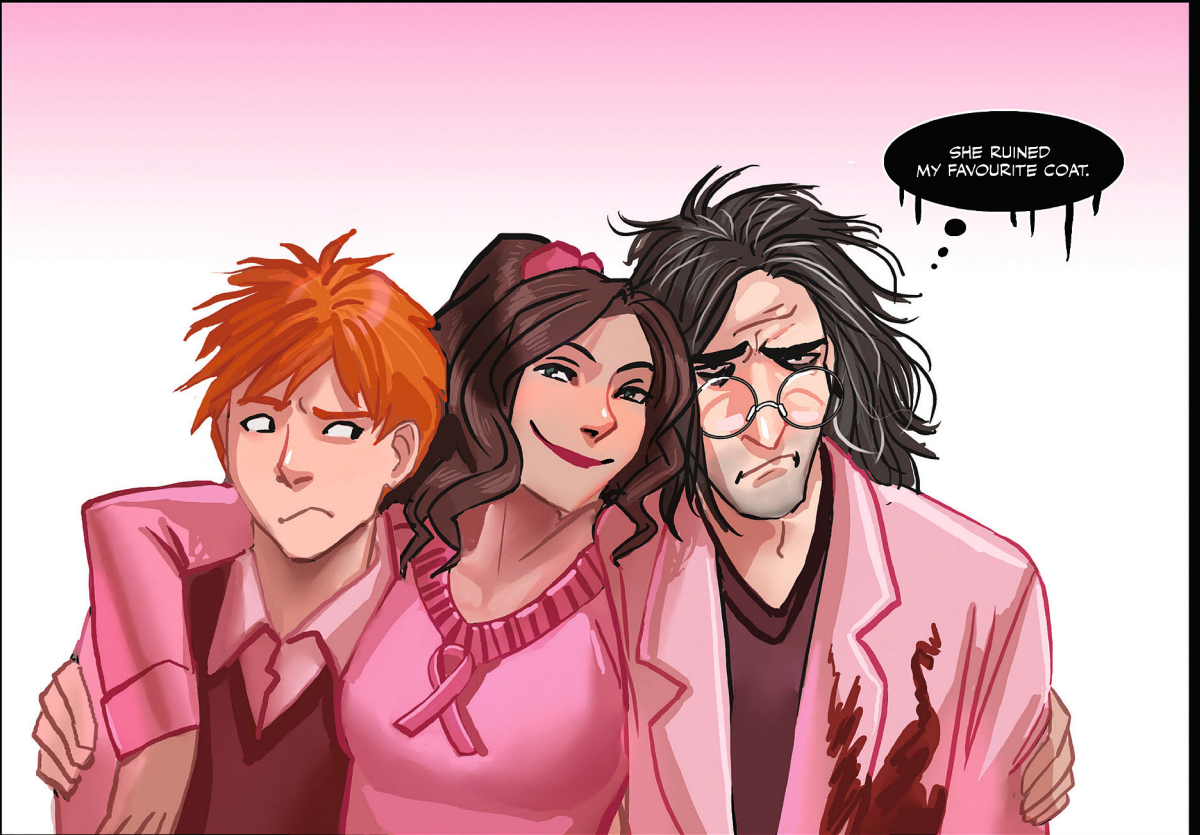


"THE WAY TO YOUR LOVE'S HEART IS THROUGH THEIR STOMACH"





PINK OCTOBER



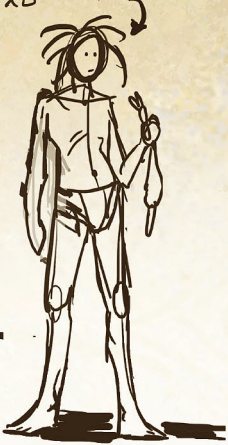
NO SHAVE NOVEMBER



ONE DOES NOT SIMPLY DRAW A MAN IN HIS UNDERWEAR.



WITCH-DOCTOR?  
XD



CHEST  
OUT!  
5



DANIEL.  
BUFFED  
:o





HE HE HE

WHAT'S THE POINT?

MY LOVE LIFE HAS ALWAYS BEEN ONE-SIDED.

NEED A TISSUE?





# L'OLÉAL

natural bramble look









**SCIENCE!**

THANK YOU FOR ZOOK VIEWS!













THANKS A MILLION (VIEWS)!

THANK YOU ALL FOR READING! :)

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