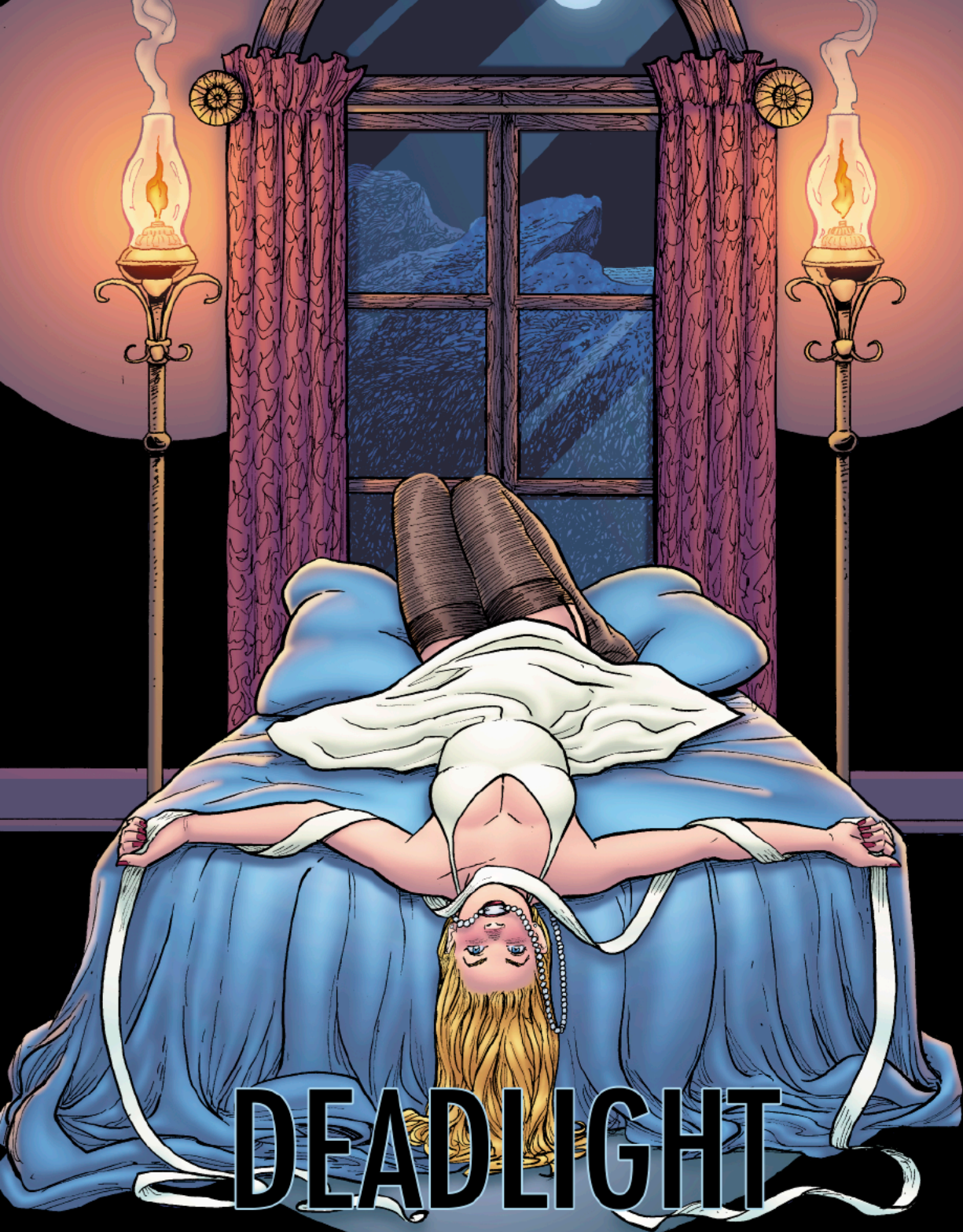


Terry Moore

PARKER GIRLS



DEADLIGHT



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PARKER GIRLS
DEADLIGHT

BY
TERRY MOORE

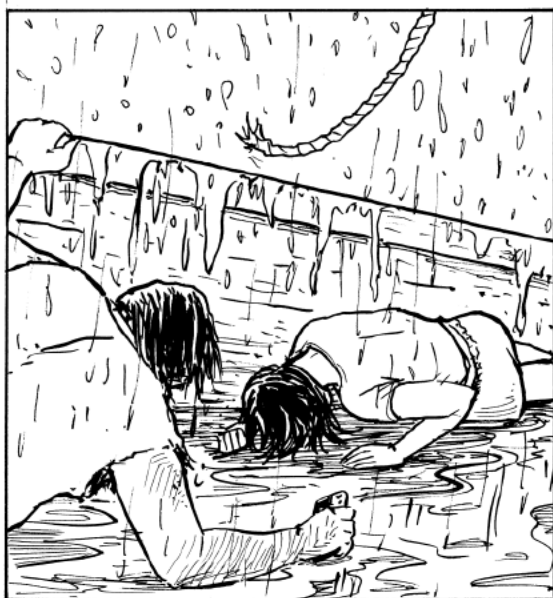


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Terry Moore

PARKER GIRLS

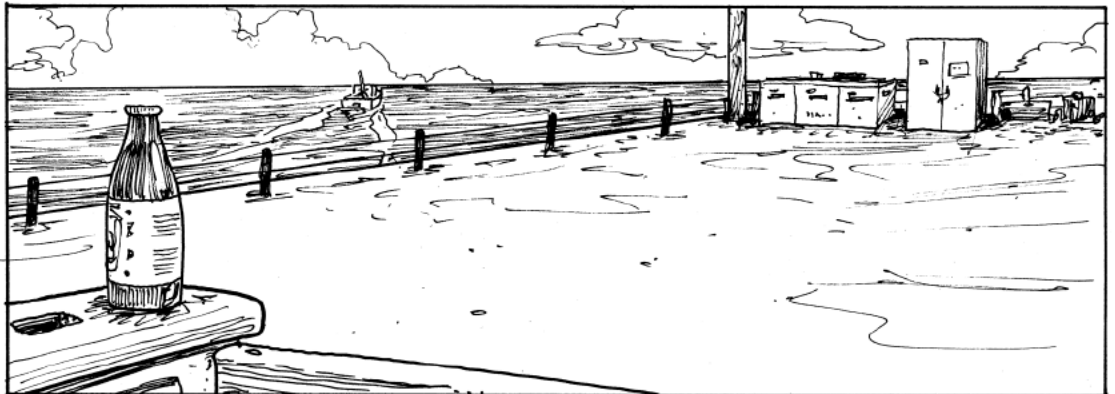
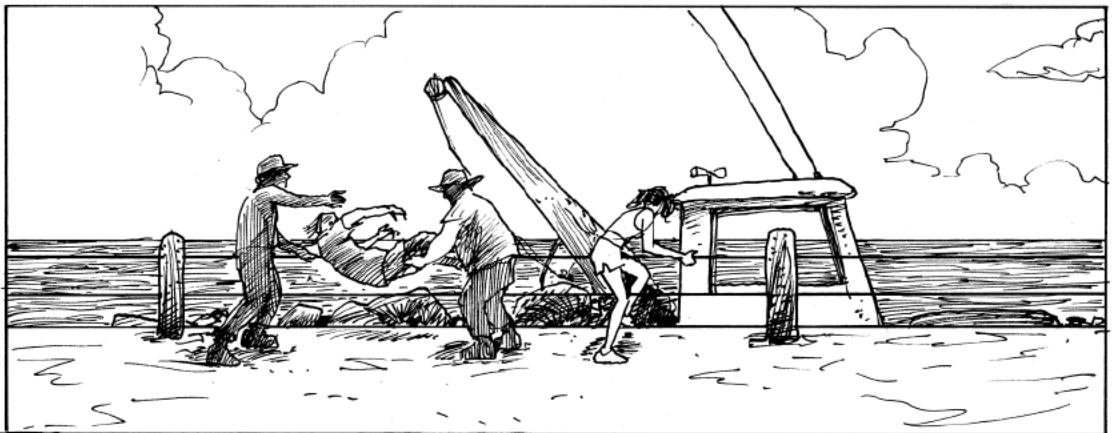
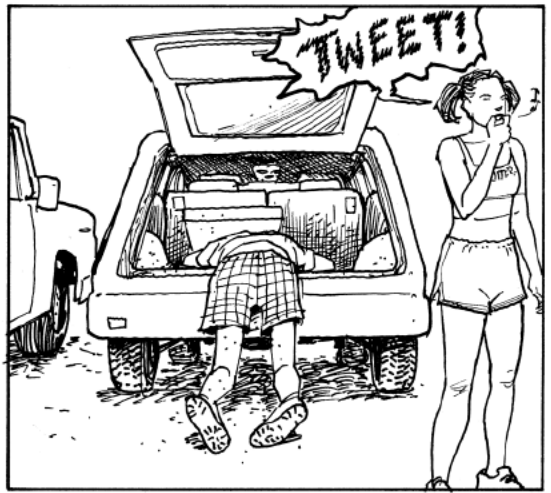
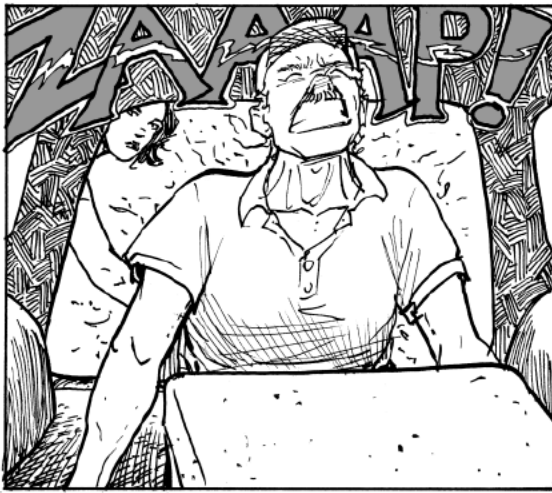




“We are all in the same boat,
in a stormy sea, and we owe each
other a terrible loyalty.”

—Gilbert Chesterton

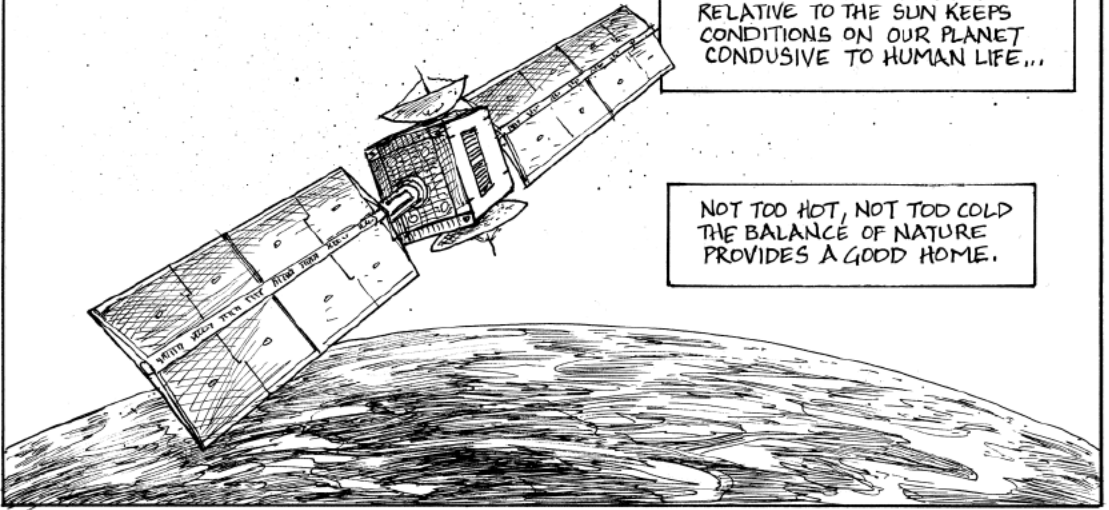




THE HUMAN RACE LIVES ON
A ROCK ORBITING A SUN.

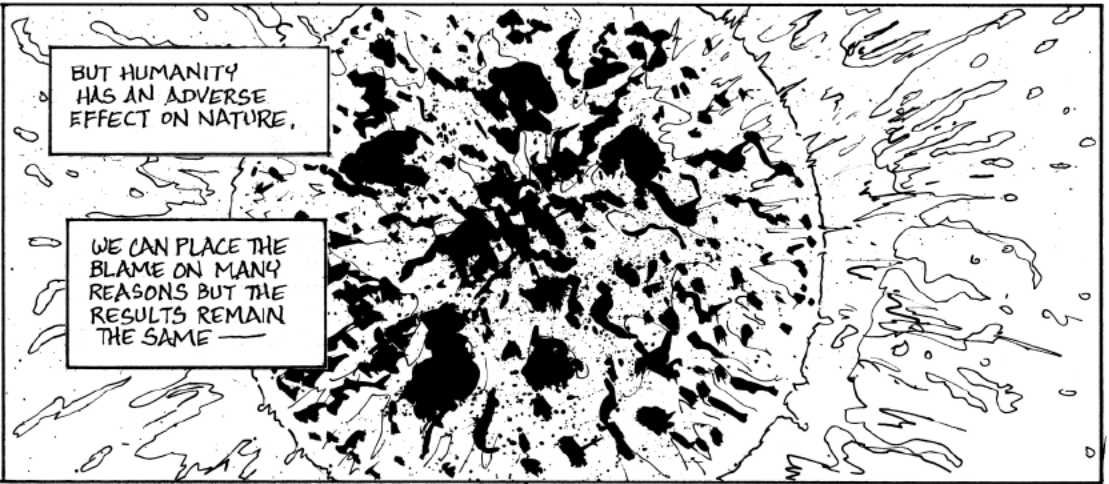
THE GRAVITATIONAL PULL OF
THAT SUN PREVENTS US
FROM HURLING THROUGH
SPACE. OUR SIZE AND DISTANCE
RELATIVE TO THE SUN KEEPS
CONDITIONS ON OUR PLANET
CONDUSIVE TO HUMAN LIFE...

NOT TOO HOT, NOT TOO COLD
THE BALANCE OF NATURE
PROVIDES A GOOD HOME.



BUT HUMANITY
HAS AN ADVERSE
EFFECT ON NATURE.

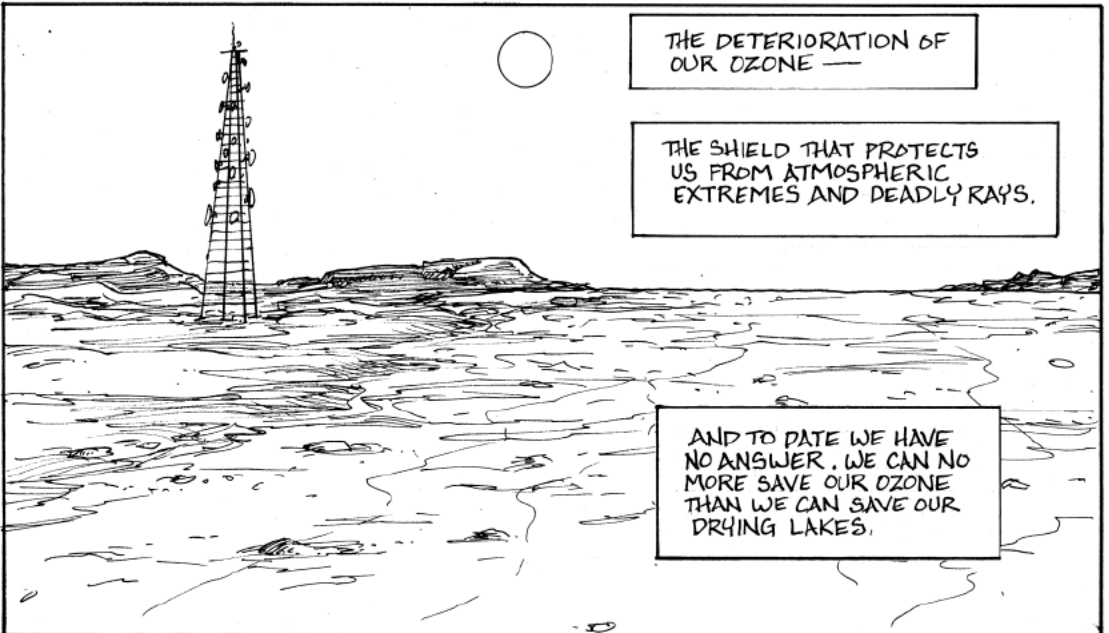
WE CAN PLACE THE
BLAME ON MANY
REASONS BUT THE
RESULTS REMAIN
THE SAME —



THE DETERIORATION OF
OUR OZONE —

THE SHIELD THAT PROTECTS
US FROM ATMOSPHERIC
EXTREMES AND DEADLY RAY'S.

AND TO DATE WE HAVE
NO ANSWER. WE CAN NO
MORE SAVE OUR OZONE
THAN WE CAN SAVE OUR
DRYING LAKES.



OUR REACTION TO THIS PROBLEM IS PREDICTABLY UNEVEN. MODEST INDUSTRIAL REFORM HAS NOT SLOWED THE LOSS OF OUR POLAR ICE SHEETS...

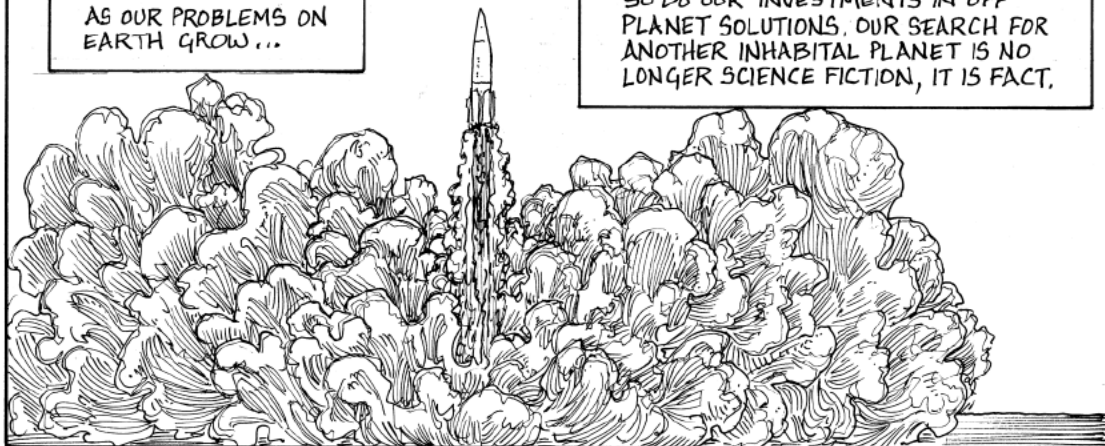
NOR SLOWED THE SPIRALING EFFECT ON WILDLIFE AND THE ECOSYSTEM.

MELTING GLACIAL LAKES ALONE ARE PREDICTED TO KILL MILLIONS OF PEOPLE IN THE TOWNS AND CITIES BELOW.



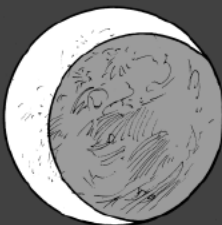
AS OUR PROBLEMS ON EARTH GROW...

SO DO OUR INVESTMENTS IN OFF PLANET SOLUTIONS, OUR SEARCH FOR ANOTHER INHABITABLE PLANET IS NO LONGER SCIENCE FICTION, IT IS FACT.



IF YOU CHOOSE TO IGNORE THE PROBLEMS OF GLOBAL WARMING, YOU WILL ALSO NEED TO IGNORE THE MOON.

THE SHADOW OF OUR ECLIPSED MOON IS ILLUMINATED BY THE SUN'S LIGHT REFLECTING OFF THE EARTH, THIS IS CALLED EARTHSHINE.



EARTHSHINE IS MEASURABLY DIMMER WITH EACH PASSING YEAR. IT IS A DISTURBING MIRROR ON A DYING PLANET... AND VISIBLE TO THE NAKED EYE.



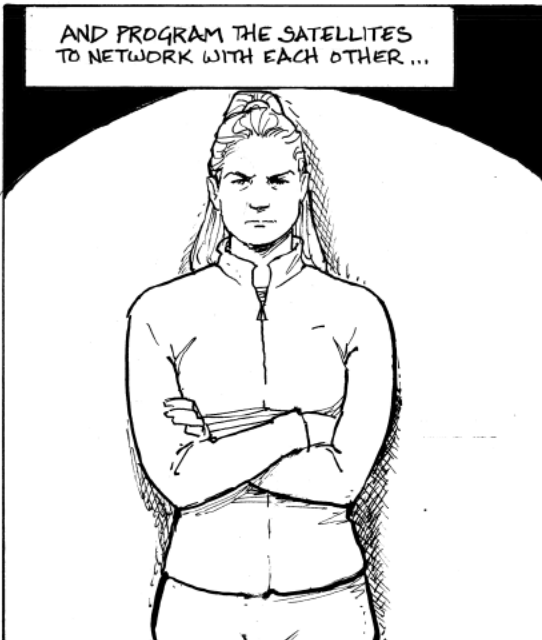
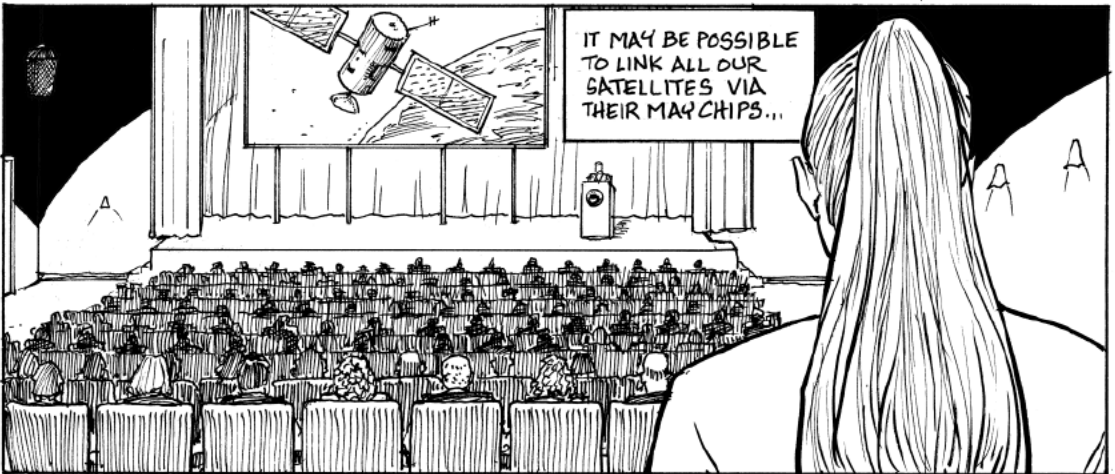
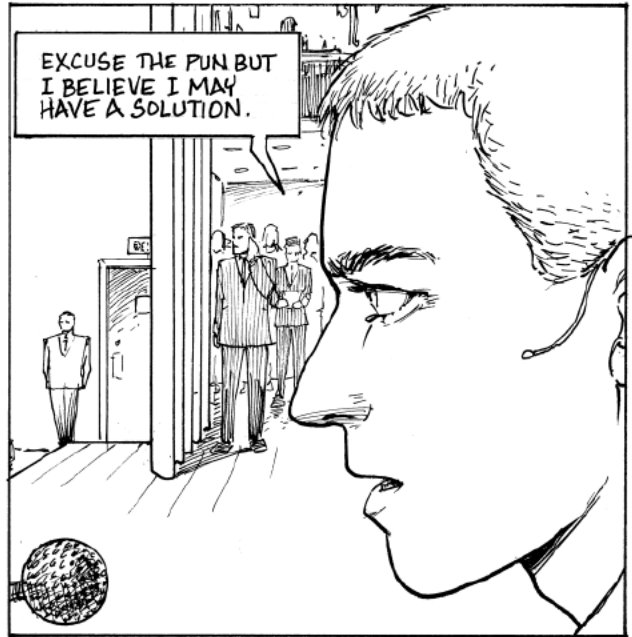
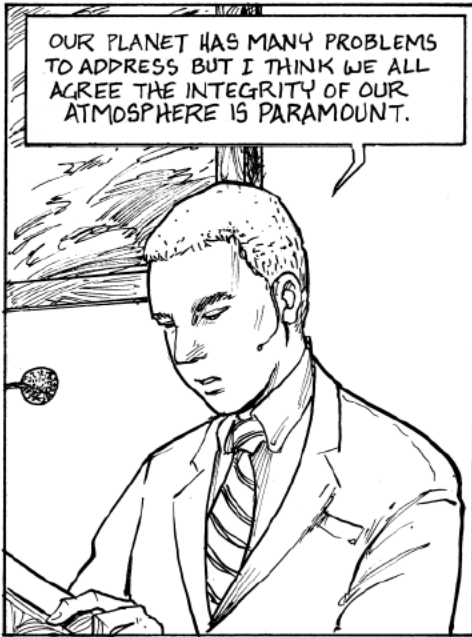
I AM GRATEFUL TO THE LEADERS WHO HAVE CHOSEN TO ATTEND THIS CONFERENCE AND DISCUSS THIS DIRE PROBLEMS THAT PLAGUE OUR PLANET. I THANK YOU FOR INVITING ME TO SPEAK TODAY.

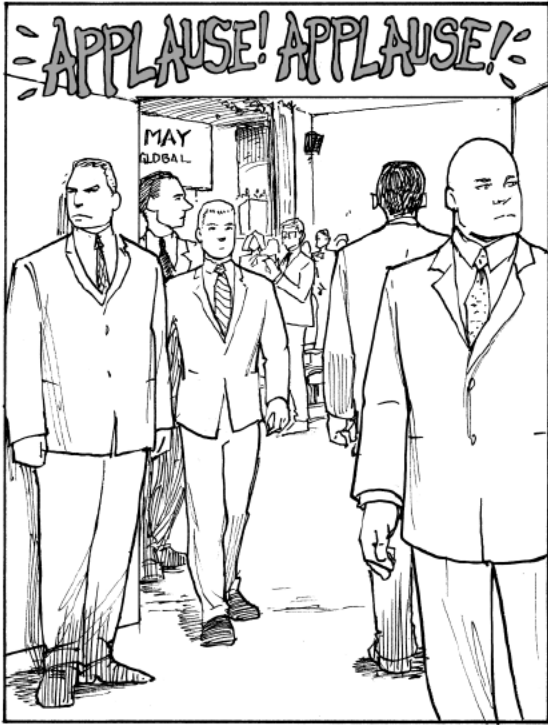
I WANT TO ASSURE YOU THAT I RESPECT OUR GLOBAL DILEMMA BUT I AM NOT INTIMIDATED, WE ALL HAVE ONE THING IN COMMON ... WE FIND SOLUTIONS.

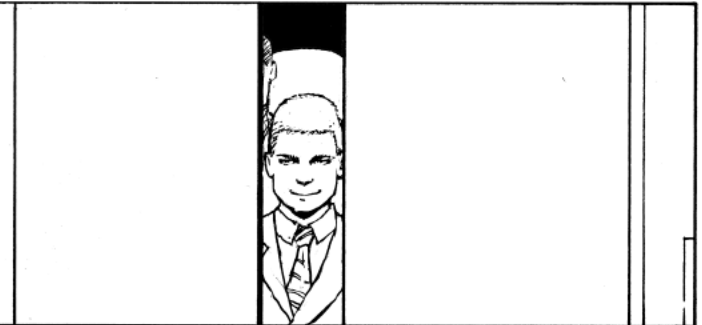
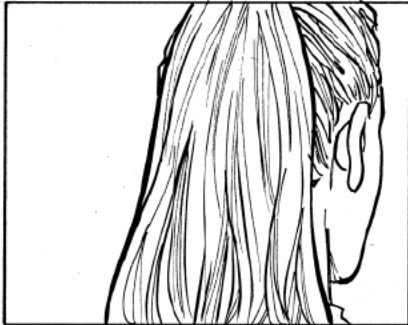
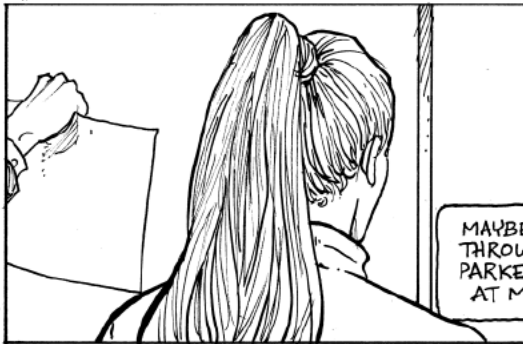
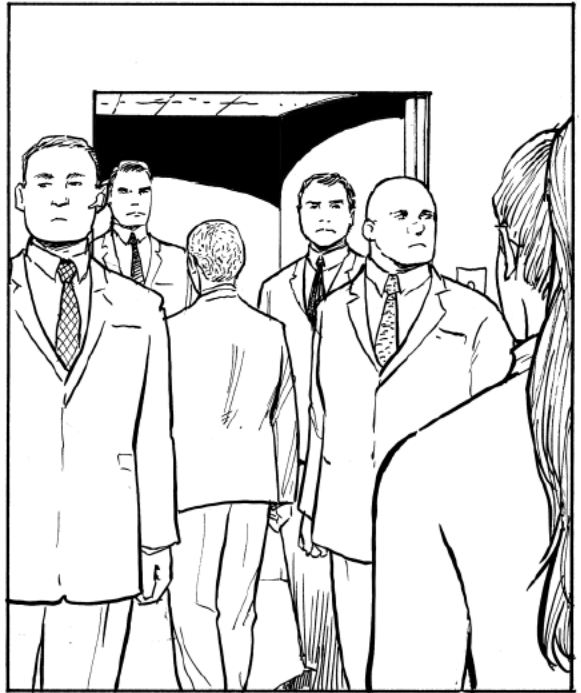
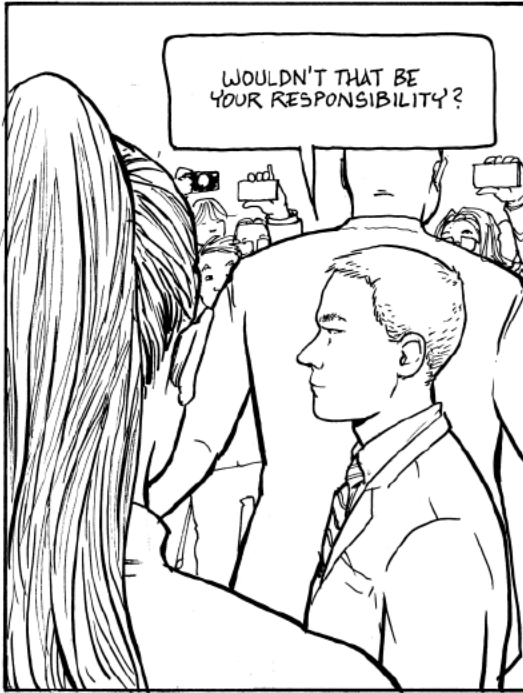
AS YOU KNOW, MY CORPORATION HAS MANY DIVISIONS — ALL OF WHICH CENTER AROUND COMMUNICATION.

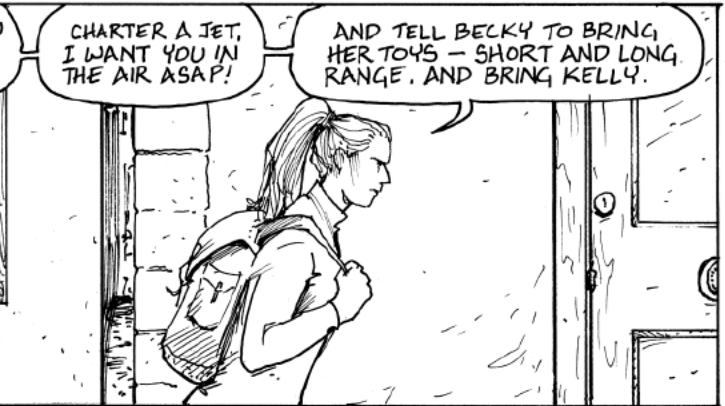
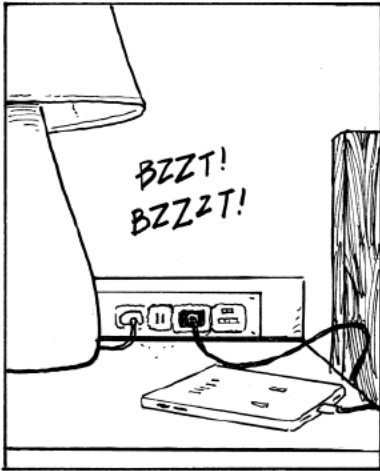
FIFTY-TWO PERCENT OF THE SATELLITES IN ORBIT USE AT LEAST ONE OF MY CHIPS.

AS OLDER SATELLITES ARE REPAIRED OR REPLACED I BELIEVE THAT NUMBER WILL BE ONE HUNDRED PERCENT BY THE YEAR 2035.









YEAH, BOSS.

CHERRY, I NEED YOU AND BECKY HERE IMMEDIATELY.

CHARTER A JET, I WANT YOU IN THE AIR ASAP!

AND TELL BECKY TO BRING HER TOYS - SHORT AND LONG RANGE. AND BRING KELLY.

KELLY'S ON A BOAT GETTING THE CAPTAIN'S STATEMENT.

THEN YOU AND BECKY COME NOW. TELL KELLY TO HURRY AND FLY OUT TONIGHT. I WANT YOU ALL HERE BY TOMORROW.

BOSS, I CAN TELL YOU'RE ANGRY. WHAT'S...

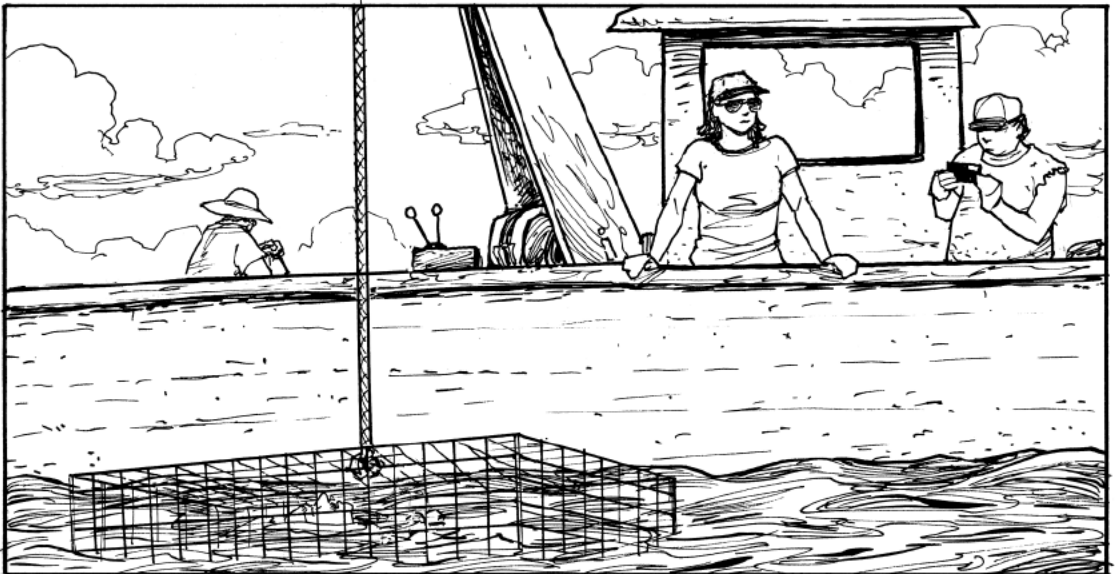
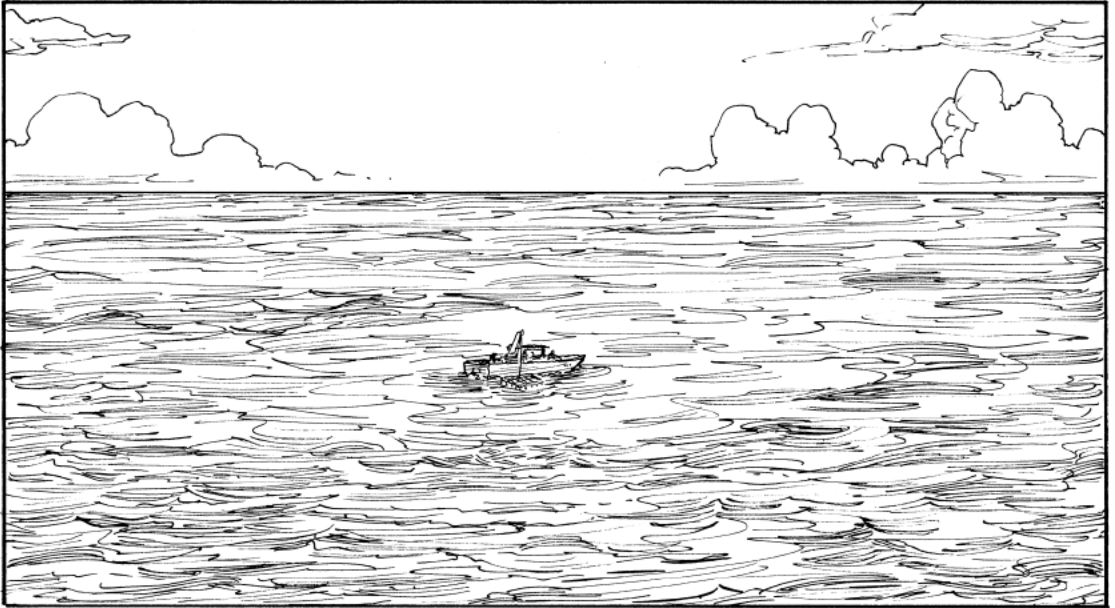
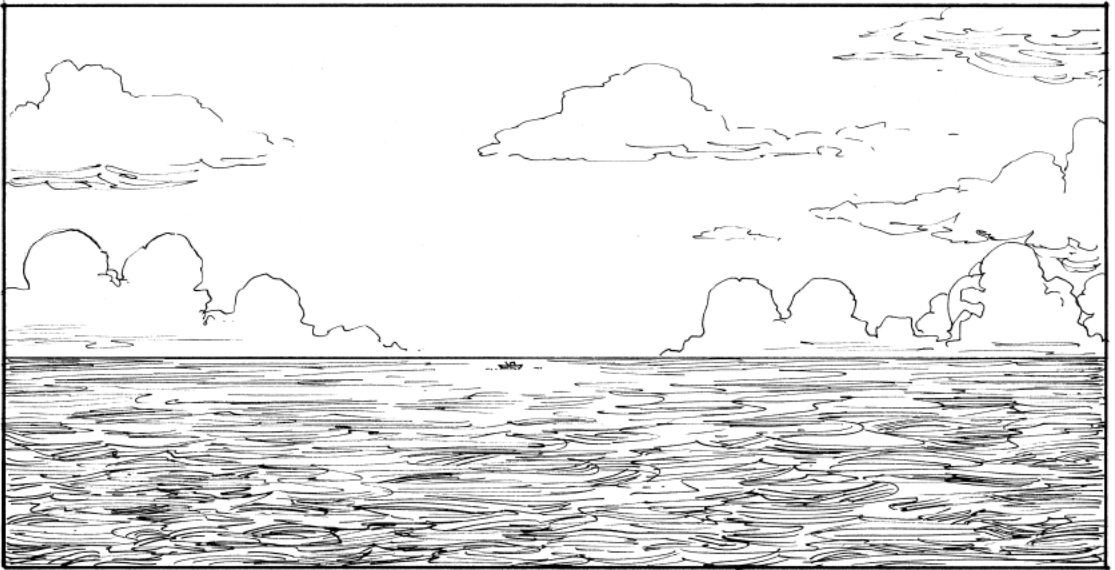
MAY HAS KATINA.

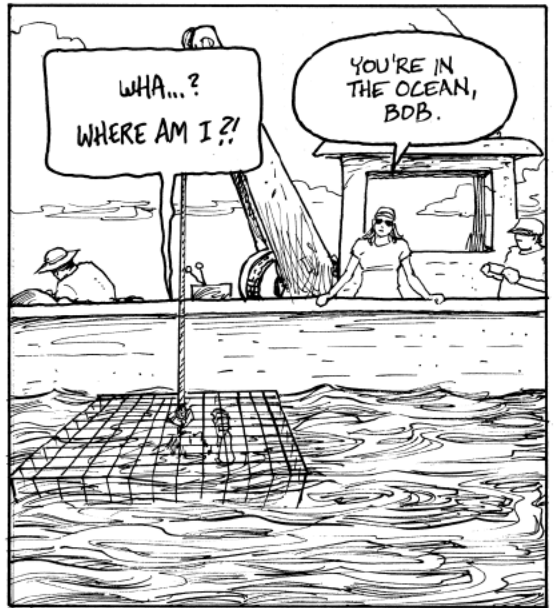
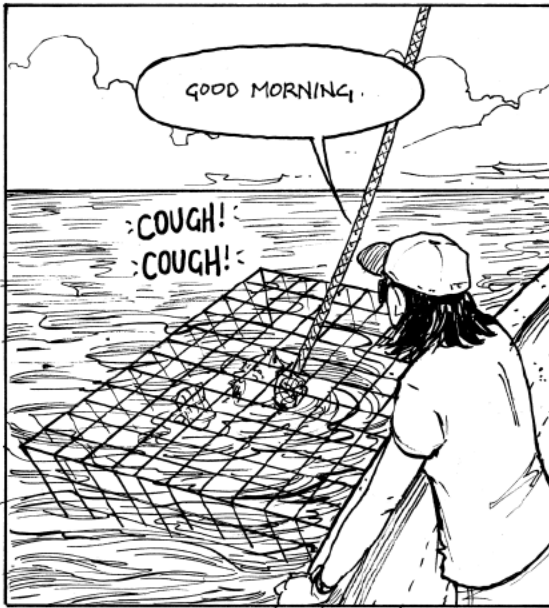
JEEZUS. SIGH.

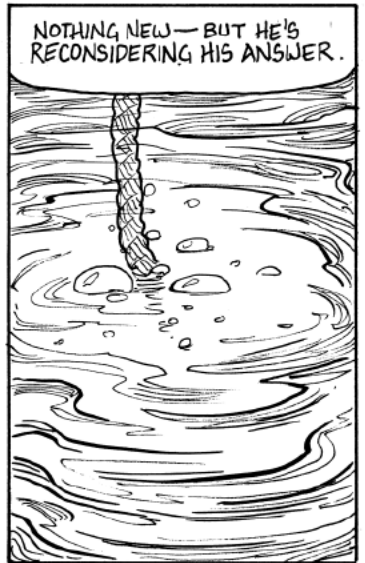
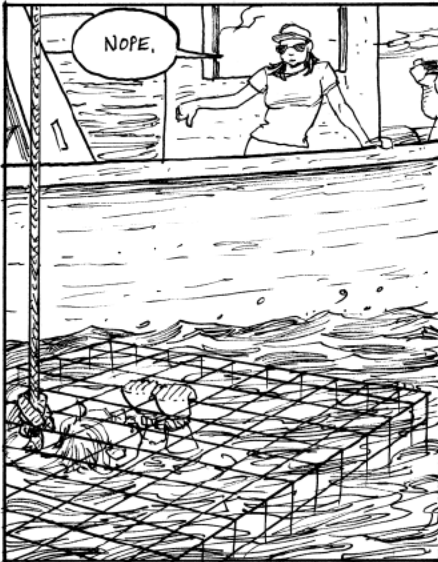
SO WHAT'S THE PLAN NOW? DO WE NEGOTIATE?

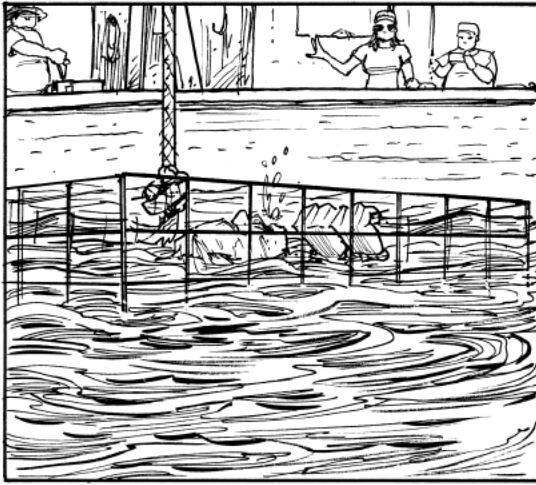
NO. WE BURN HIS HOUSE DOWN.

AND KILL EVERYTHING THAT RUNS OUT.











**AGH! HELP!
THEY'RE BITING ME!**

**WHAT HAPPENED
TO PIPER?**

**AGH!
GET ME
OUT OF HERE!**

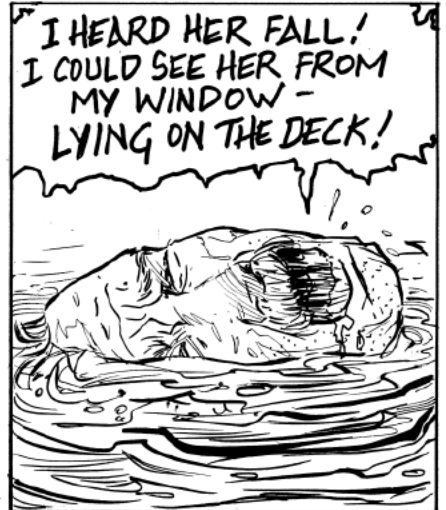
**BOB! LISTEN TO ME!
TELL ME WHAT HAPPENED
TO PIPER OR THE NEXT
PERSON IN THAT CAGE
WILL BE YOUR SISTER
IN ALBUQUERQUE
...THEN YOUR NIECE
AT COLORADO STATE...**



**NO! THEY DON'T
KNOW ANYTHING!**



**TELL ME WHAT HAPPENED
TO PIPER OR I'LL SEND
YOUR ENTIRE FAMILY
TO HELL! ONE AT A TIME!**



**I HEARD HER FALL!
I COULD SEE HER FROM
MY WINDOW -
LYING ON THE DECK!**

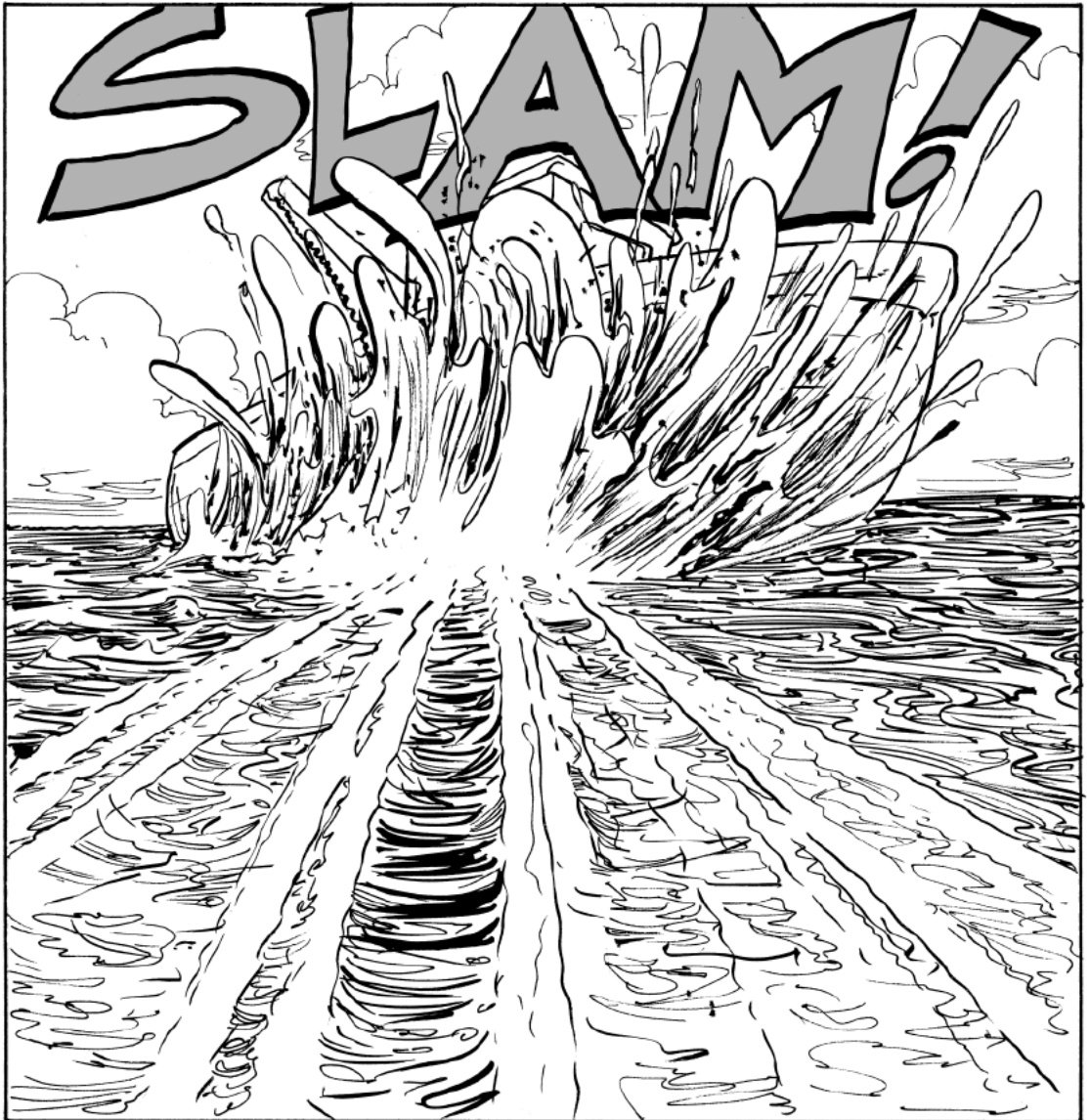


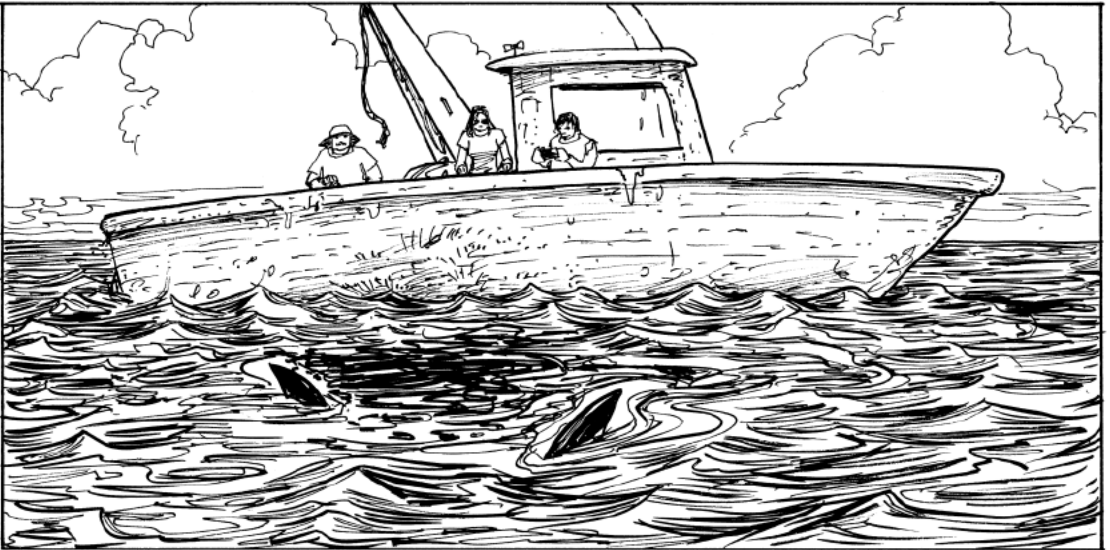
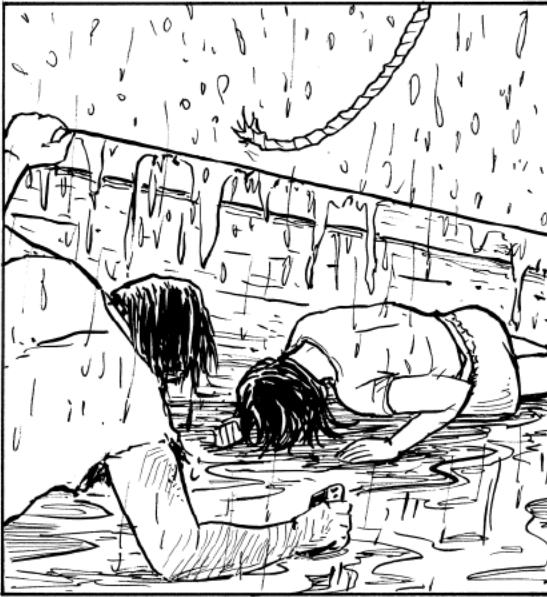
**I WATCHED HIM PUSH HER OVERBOARD
...IT MADE ME SICK TO MY STOMACH!**

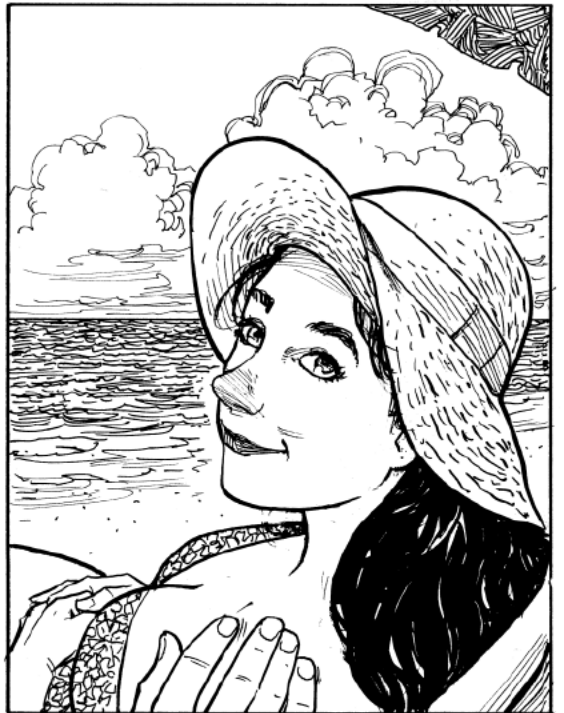
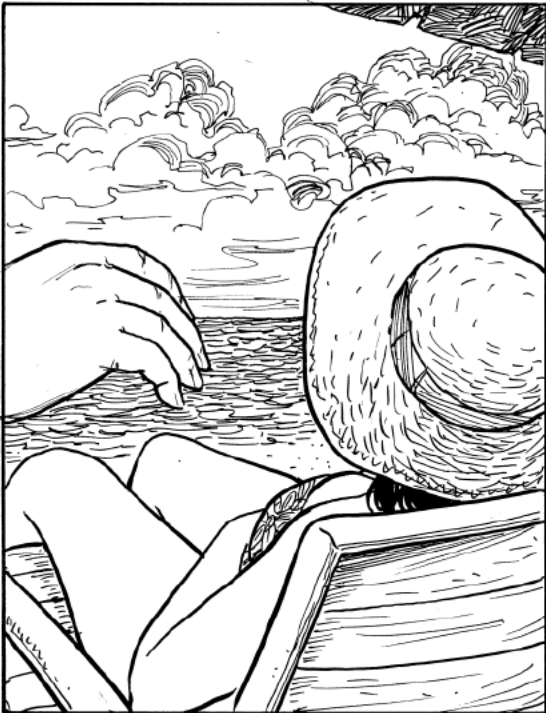
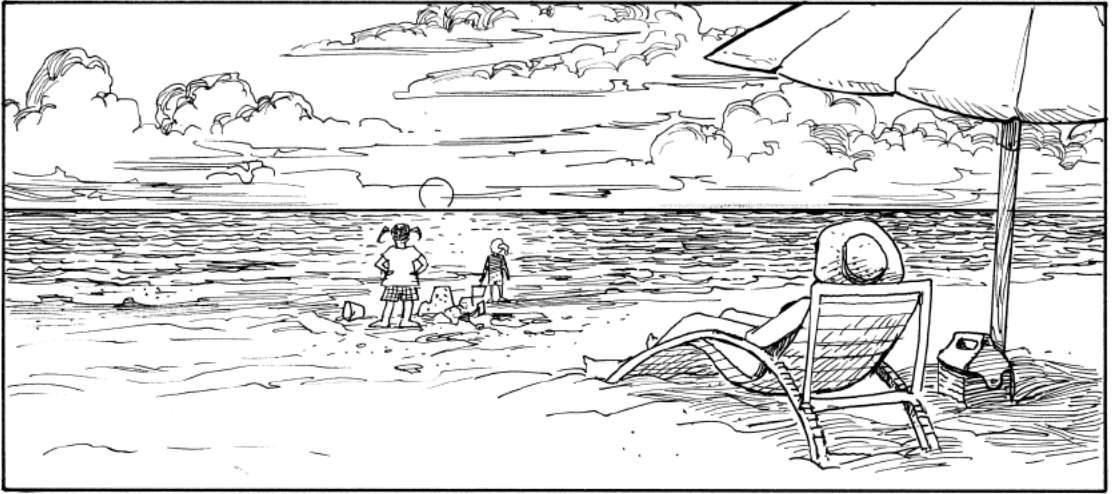


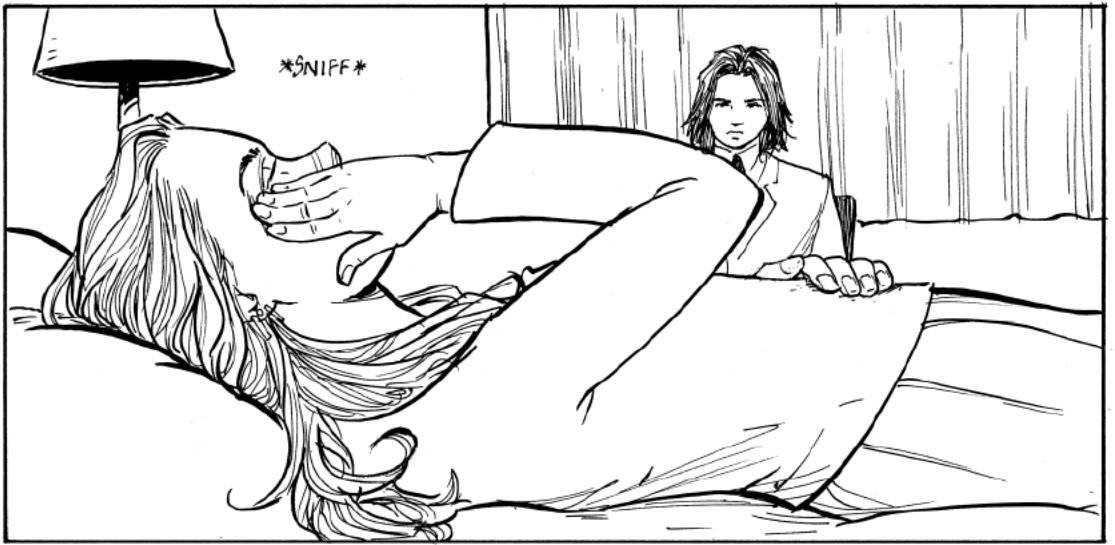
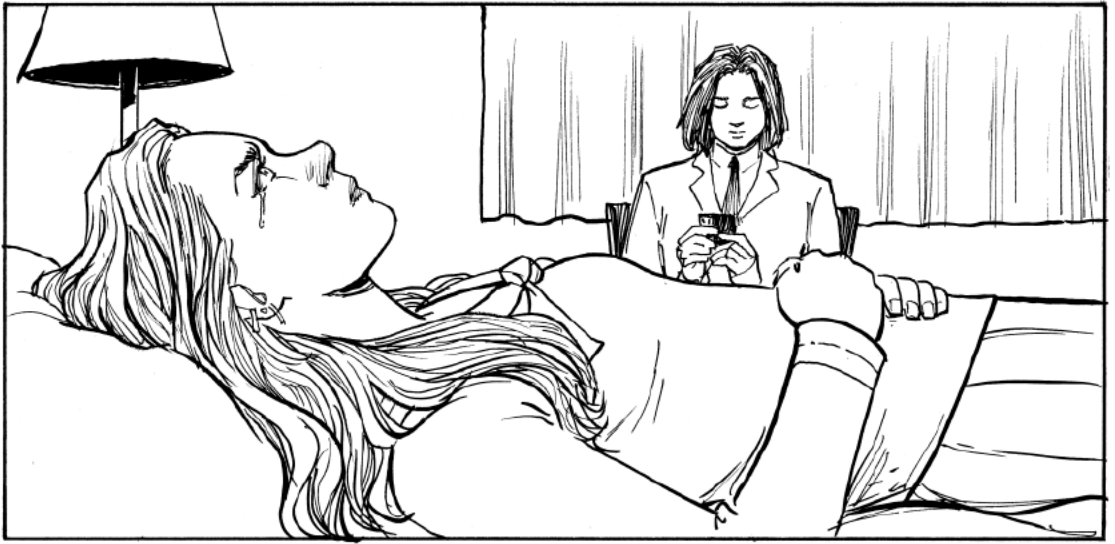
**HE SAW ME... IN THE WINDOW!
HE THREATENED ME, MY FAMILY!**

**HE SAID SHE WAS DRUNK! SHE FELL
OFF THE BOAT AND WE DIDN'T KNOW!
I WAS AFRAID TO TELL THE TRUTH!**









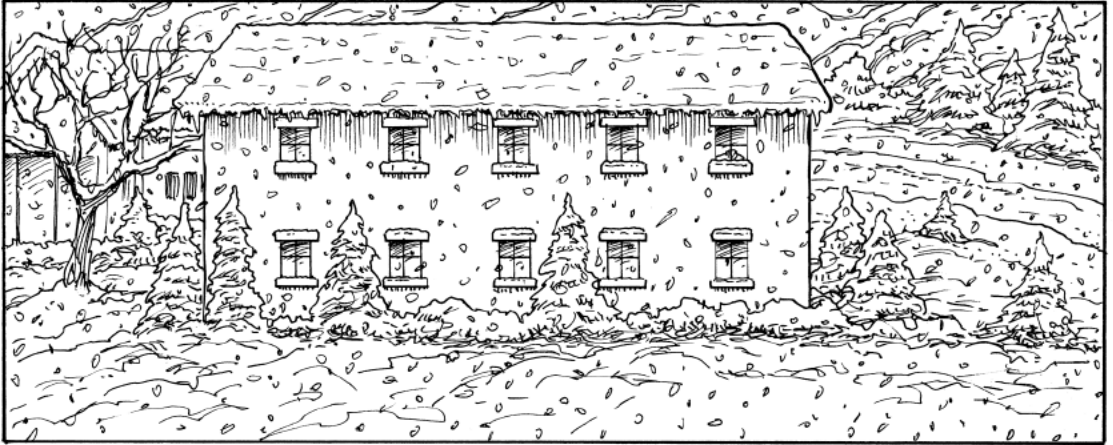
Terry Moore

ABSTRACT
STUDIO

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PARKER GIRLS



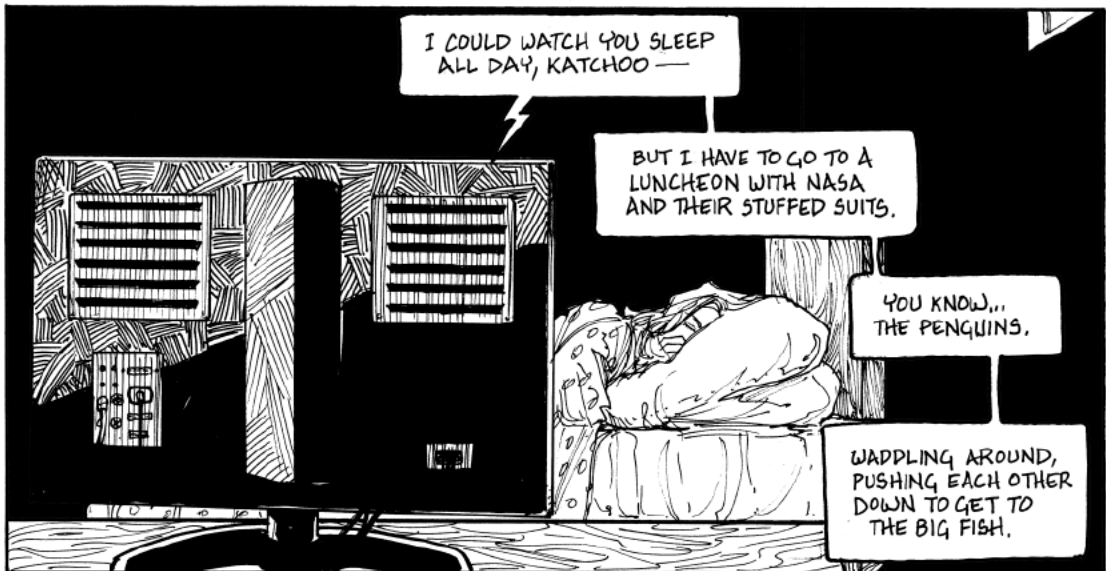


“Realize that everything connects to everything else.”

—Leonardo da Vinci









I WAS HOPING WE COULD TALK BEFORE I GO.

CAN YOU WAKE UP?

KATCHOO?



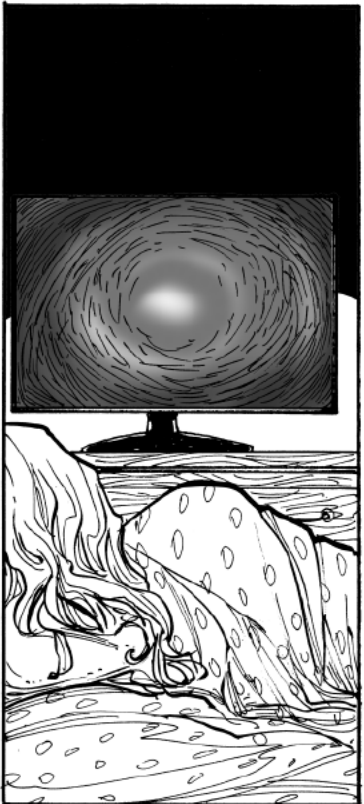
WHERE DID YOU GET ALL THOSE SCARS? YOUR EYE, YOUR RIBS, YOUR WRISTS...

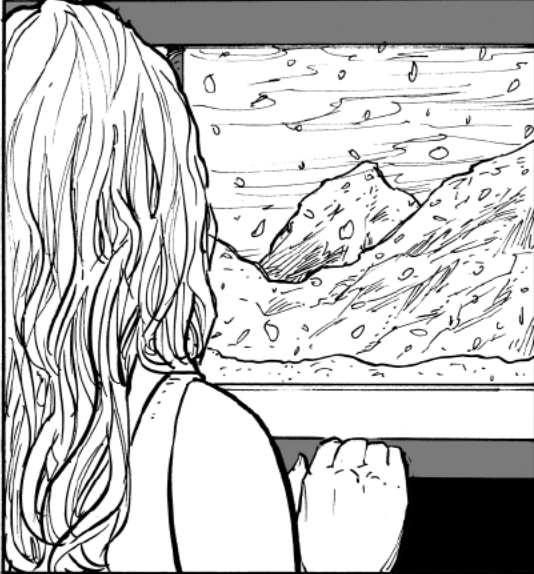
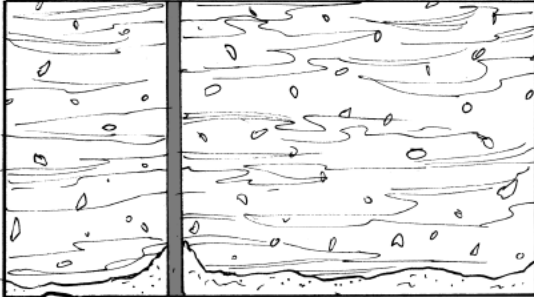
WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU?

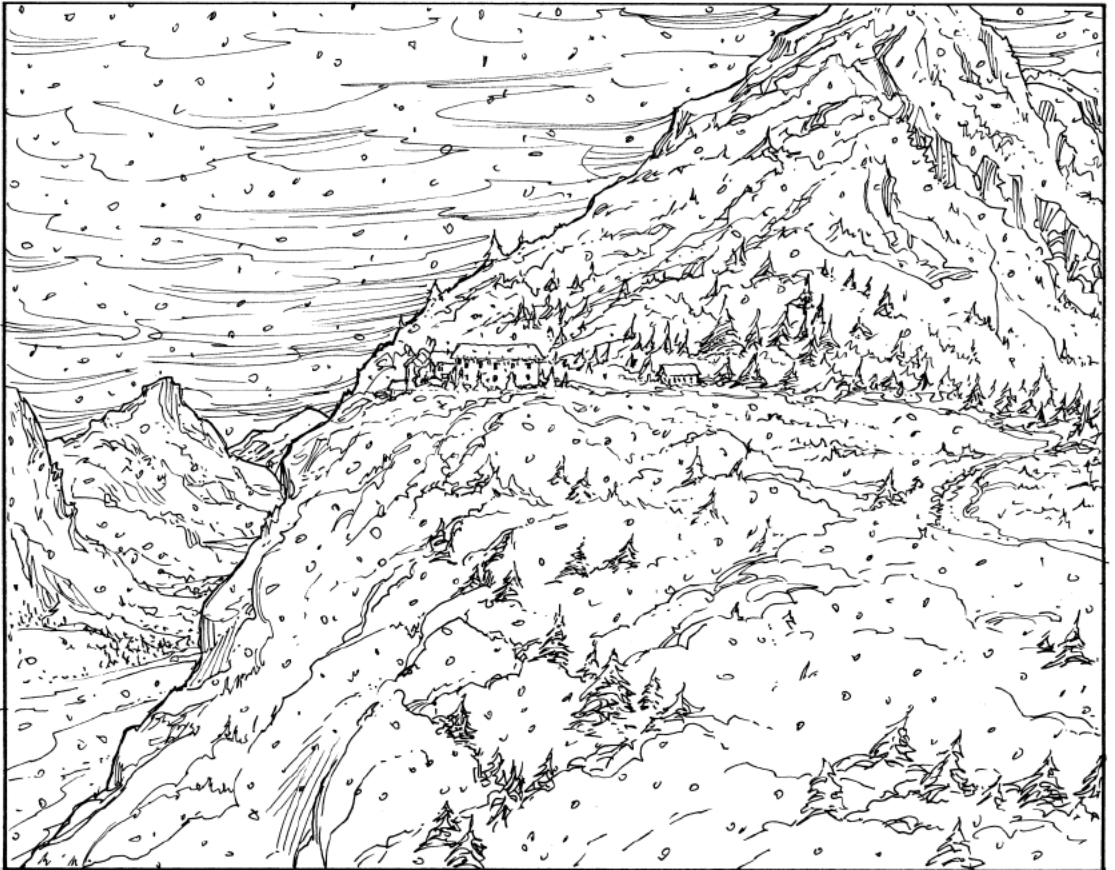
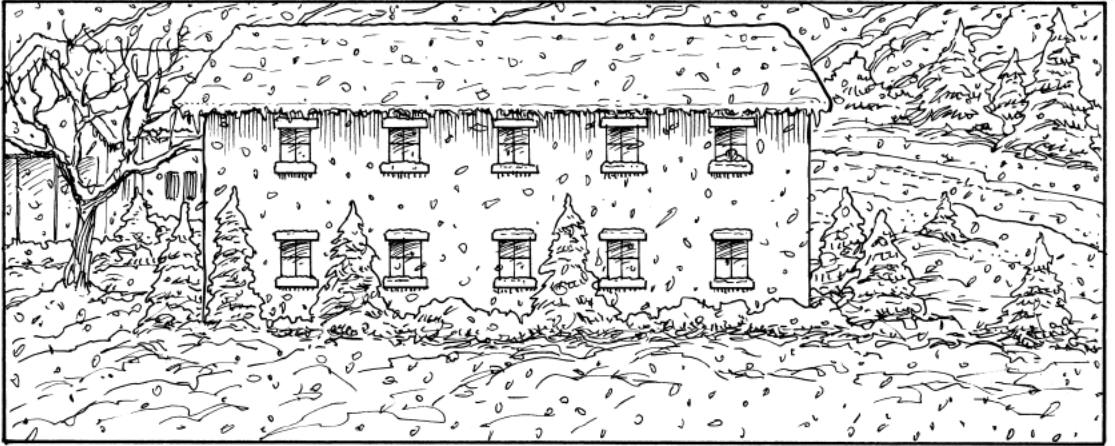
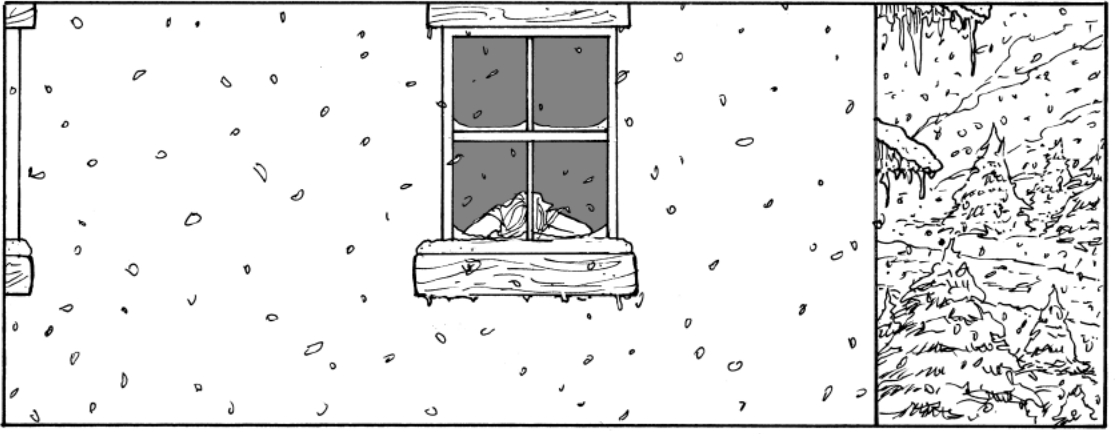


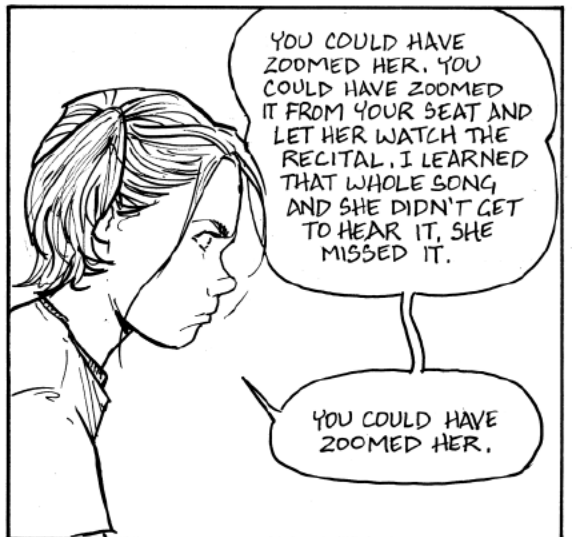
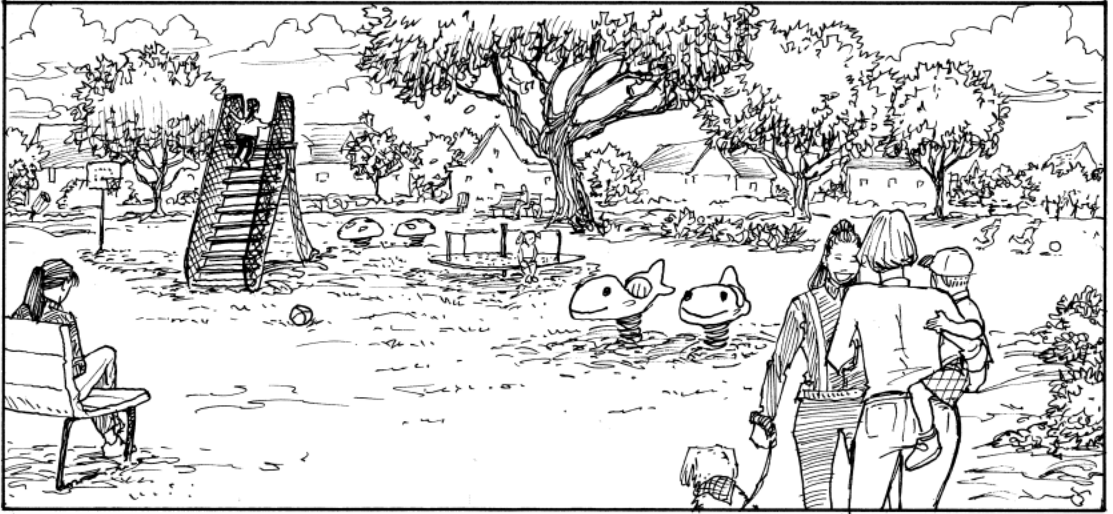
LET'S TALK WHEN I GET BACK, I WANT TO KNOW ... EVERYTHING.

I'M SO HAPPY YOU'RE HERE, KATCHOO. THIS IS JUST... PERFECT.

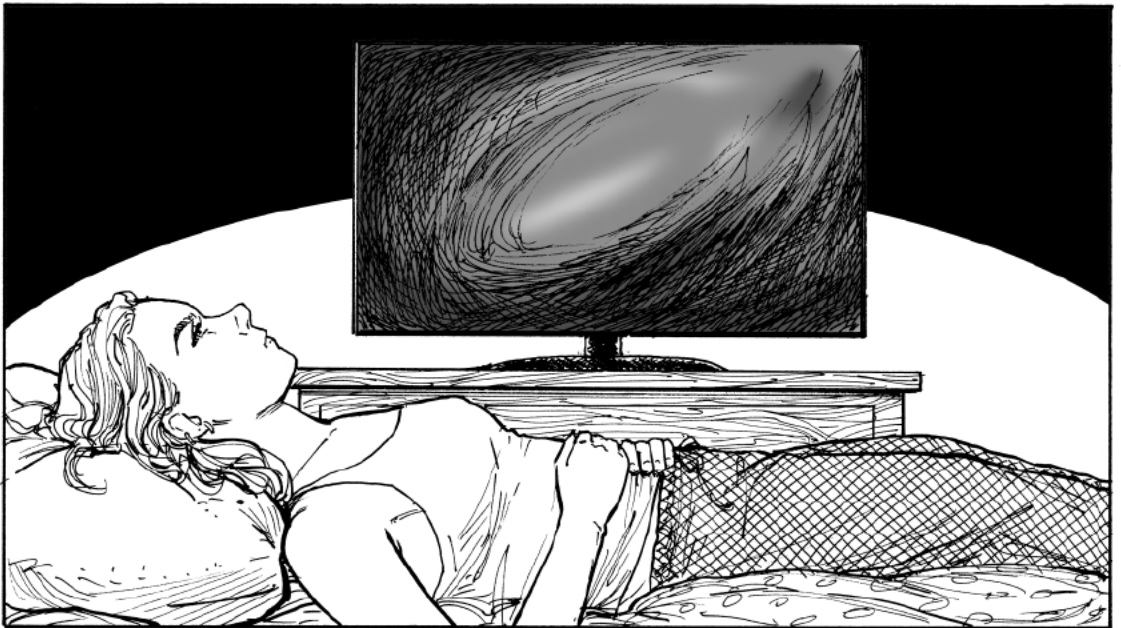












OH GOOD, YOU'RE AWAKE.



THE MEETING, WENT WELL ...

YOU DRUGGED ME AND TOOK MY CLOTHES, ZACK.

AND BROUGHT ME TO GOD KNOWS WHERE.

ASSAULT, KIDNAPPING...

ACTUALLY A FEMALE SECURITY AGENT...

SWITZERLAND.

LOVER'S RETREAT.

YOU DISAPPOINT ME, ZACK. I THOUGHT YOU WERE SMARTER THAN THIS. PUSHING PIPER OFF A BOAT WAS A CLUMSY WAY TO MURDER YOUR WIFE. EVERY NEWS CHANNEL IN THE WORLD COVERED THE STORY.

GOOD JOB, BUDDY.



PIPER WAS NOT A GOOD SWIMMER.



YOU UNDERESTIMATE PEOPLE, ZACK. JUST BECAUSE YOU'RE THE SMARTEST PERSON IN THE ROOM DOESN'T MEAN EVERYONE ELSE IS DUMB.

YOU MURDERED PIPER AND EVERYONE KNOWS IT.



I DON'T KILL PEOPLE, KATCHOO. I LET THEM KILL THEMSELVES.



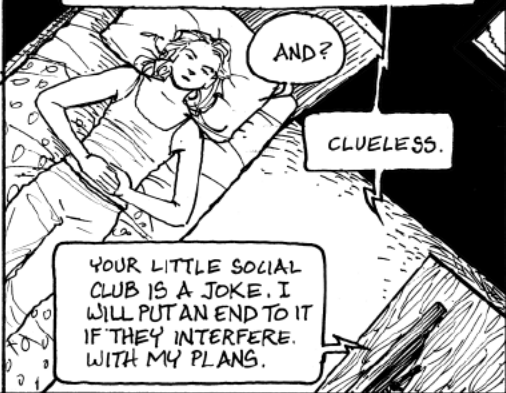
THAT'S SWEET, ZACK. WE'LL PUT THAT ON YOUR GRAVESTONE.

WE'RE GOING THROUGH THE TUNNEL WHERE PRINCESS DIANA DIED.

YOU KNOW TAMBI IS COMING FOR YOU, RIGHT? KILLING PIPER, TAKING ME. NOT SMART, ZACK.



I'VE ALREADY TALKED TO TAMBI.

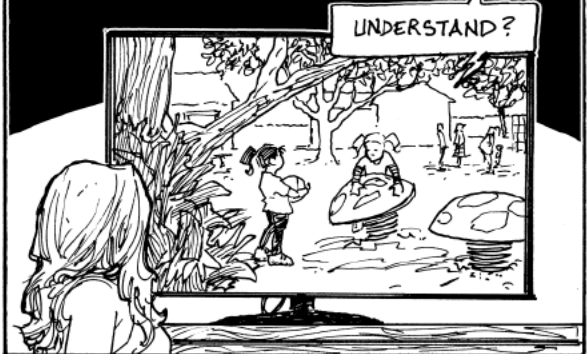


AND?

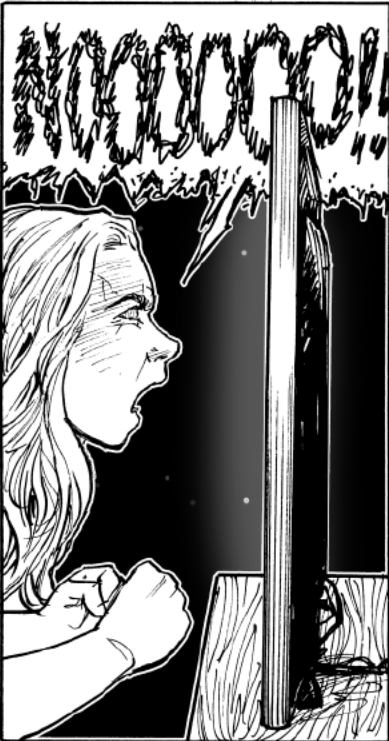
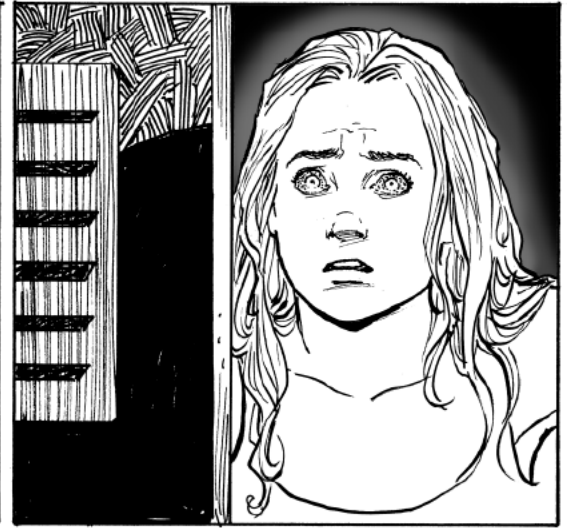
CLUELESS.

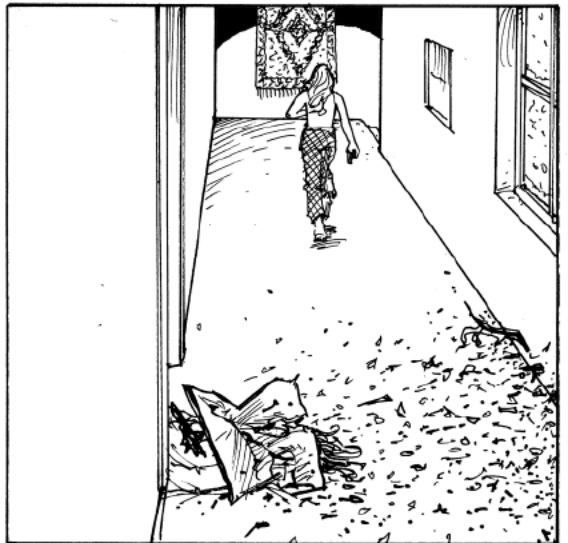
YOUR LITTLE SOCIAL CLUB IS A JOKE. I WILL PUT AN END TO IT IF THEY INTERFERE WITH MY PLANS.

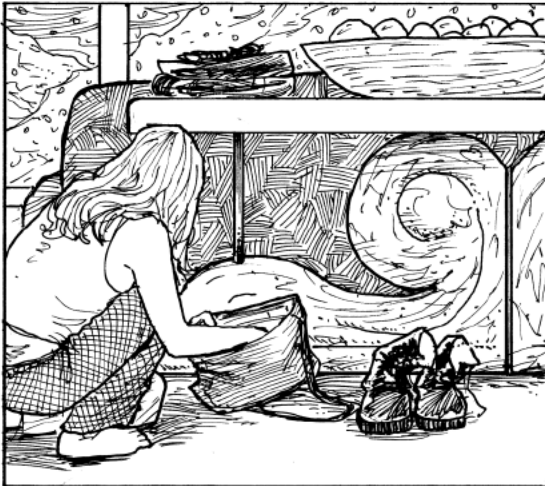
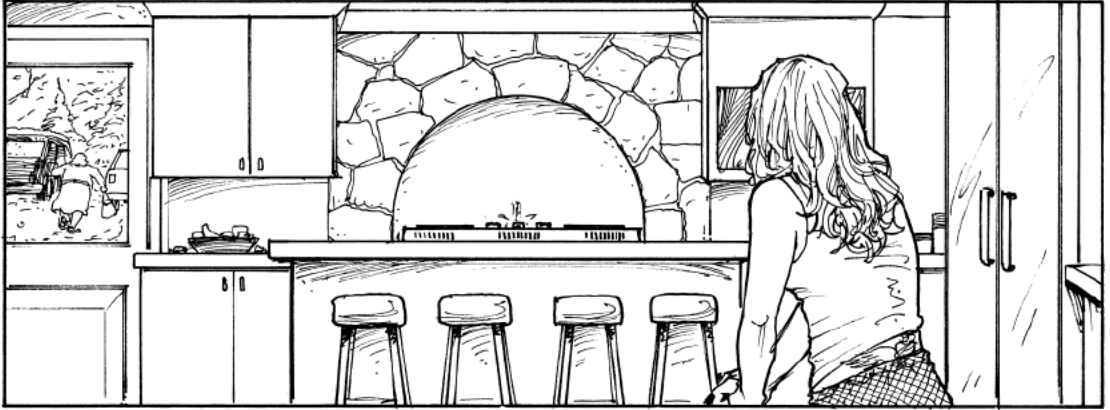
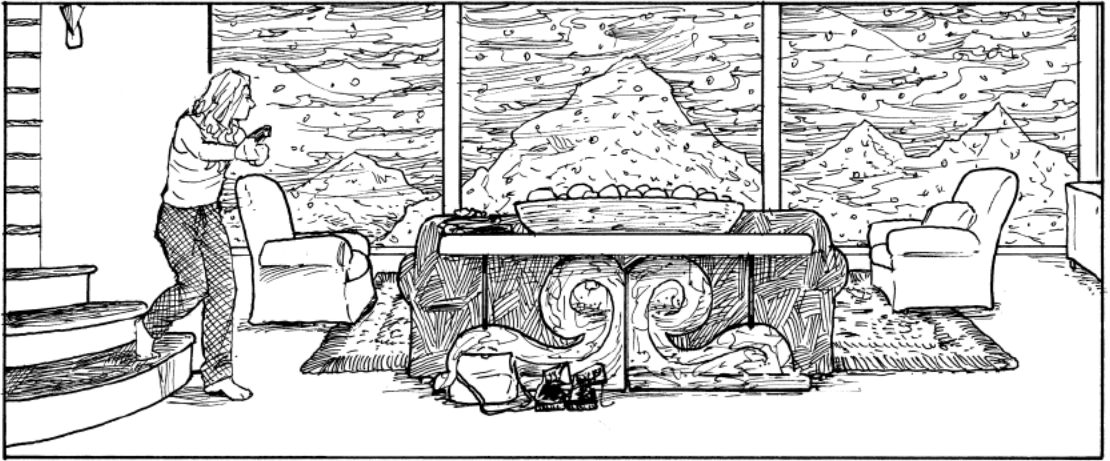
AND YOU SHOULD BE GRATEFUL THAT I LIKE YOU AND MOVED YOU OUT OF THE WAY. STAY THERE UNTIL THIS IS OVER.



UNDERSTAND?







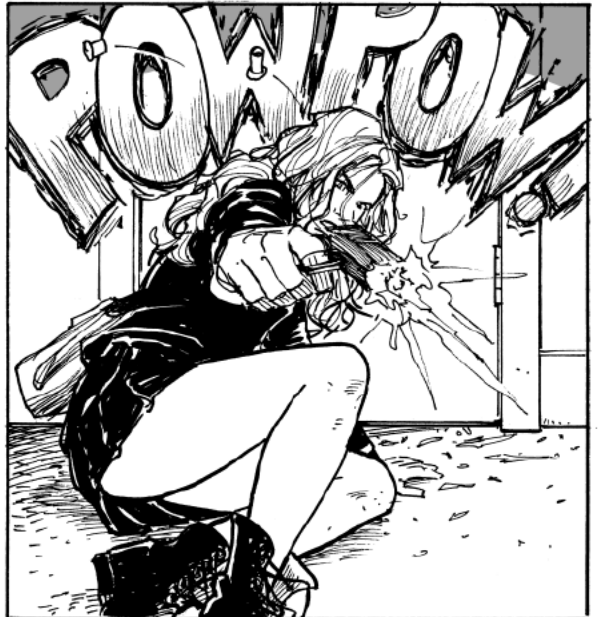
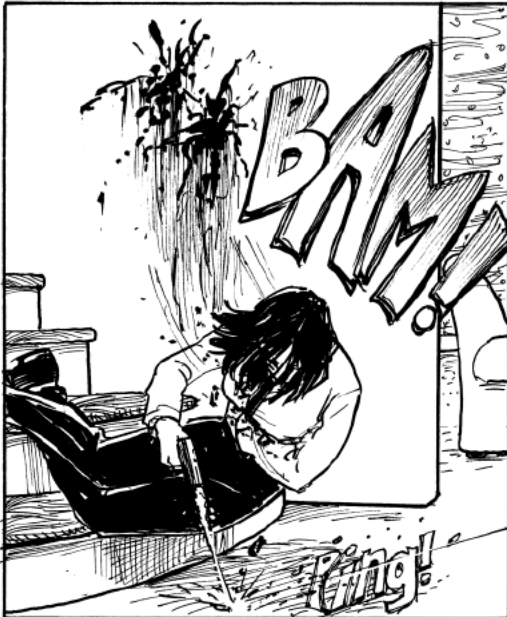
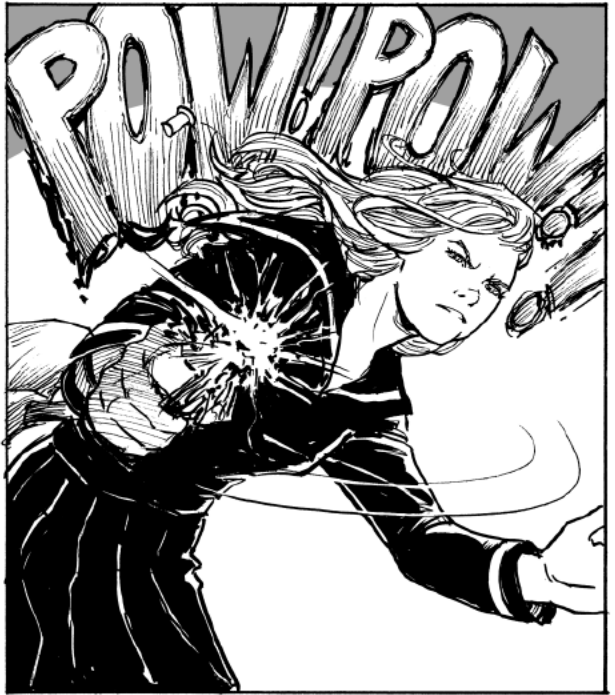
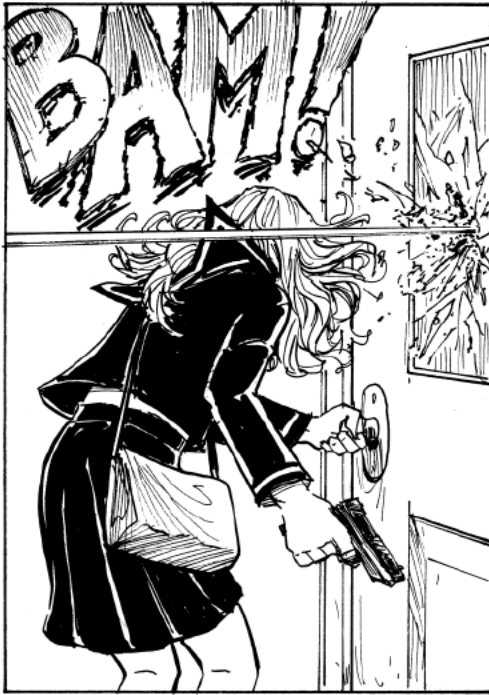
WHERE ARE YOU?!

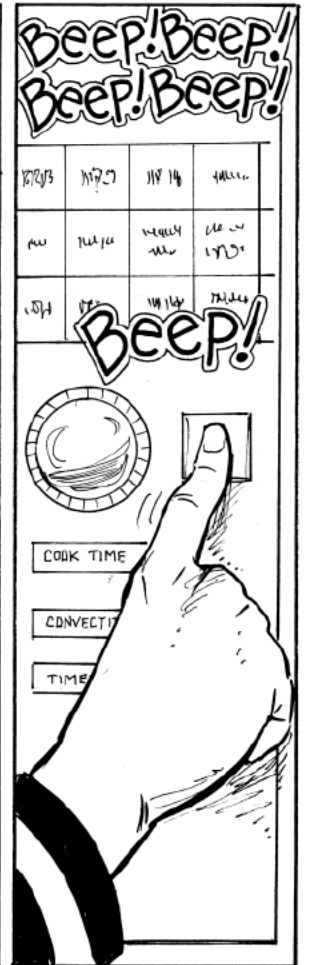
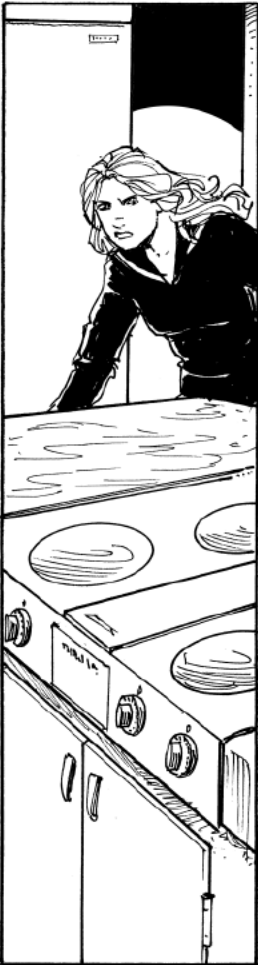
HE HAS SOMEONE
ON MY KIDS!

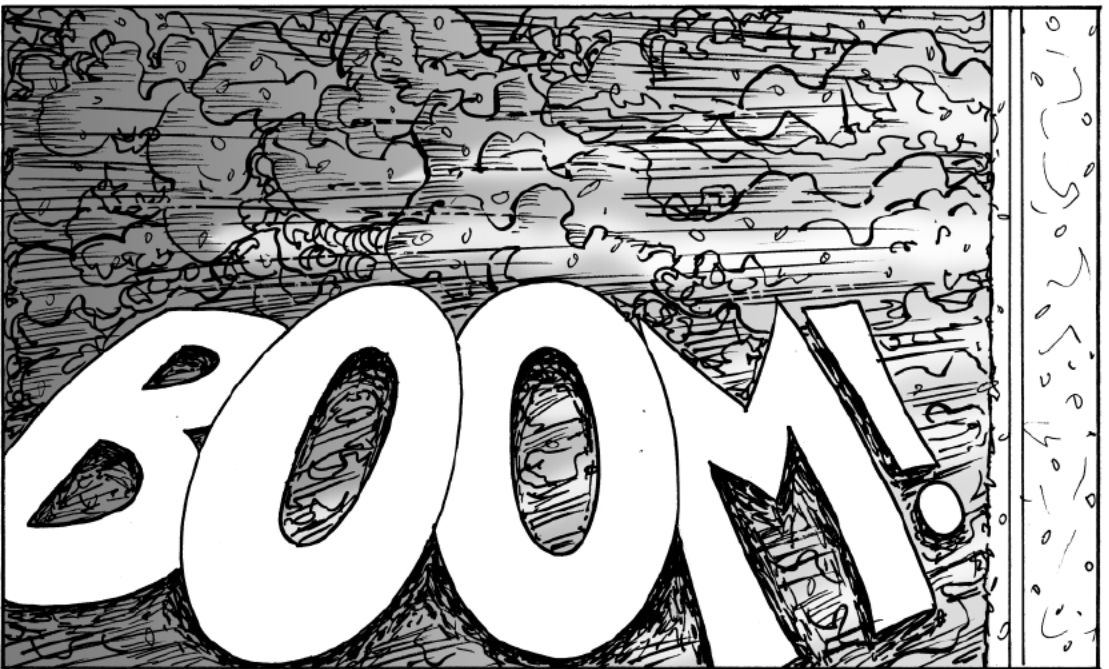
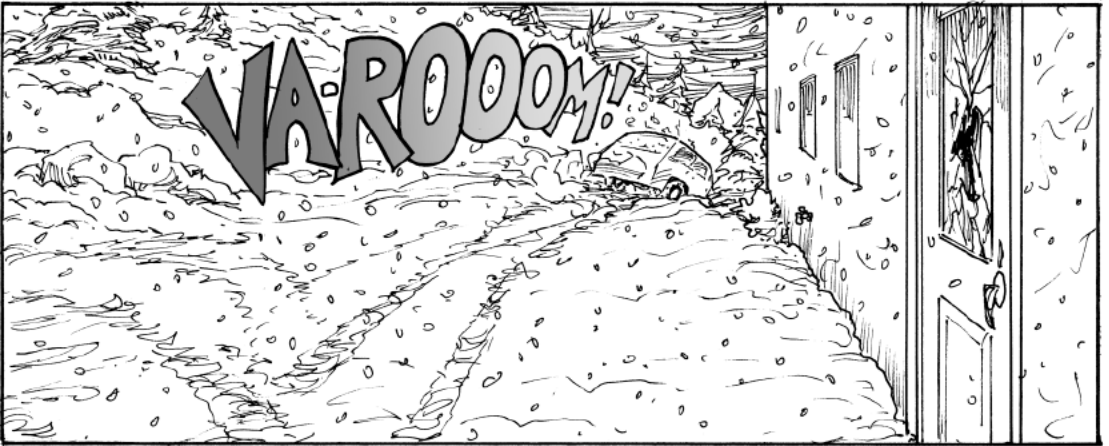
KATCHOO, WHERE ARE
YOU? ARE YOU SAFE?!

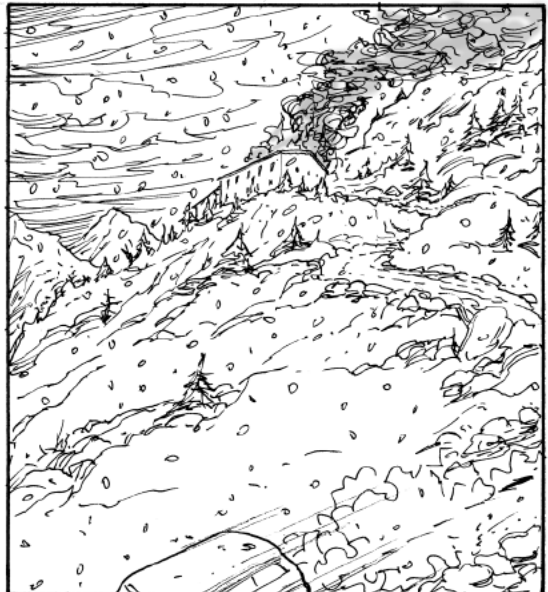
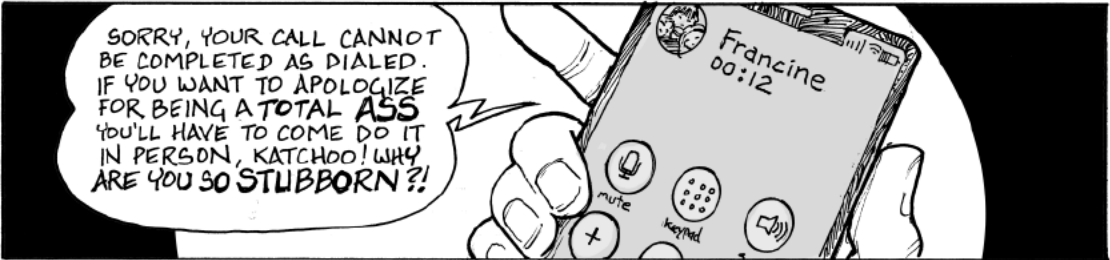
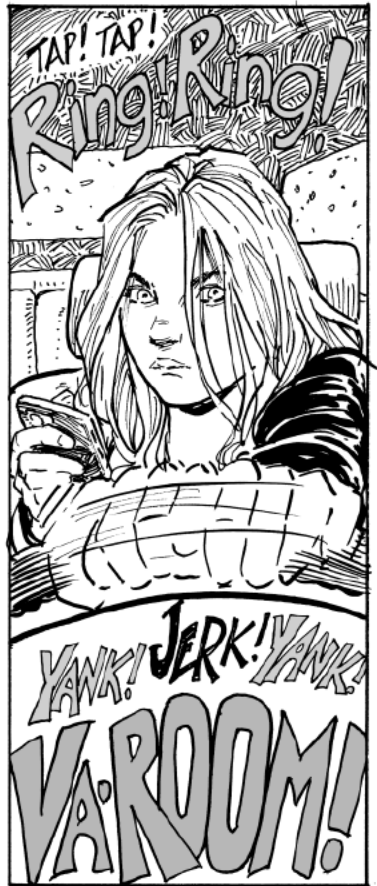
HE DRUGGED ME! I THINK
I'M IN SWITZERLAND!
HE HAS SOMEONE ON MY
FAMILY! KILL HIM! NOW!











Terry Moore

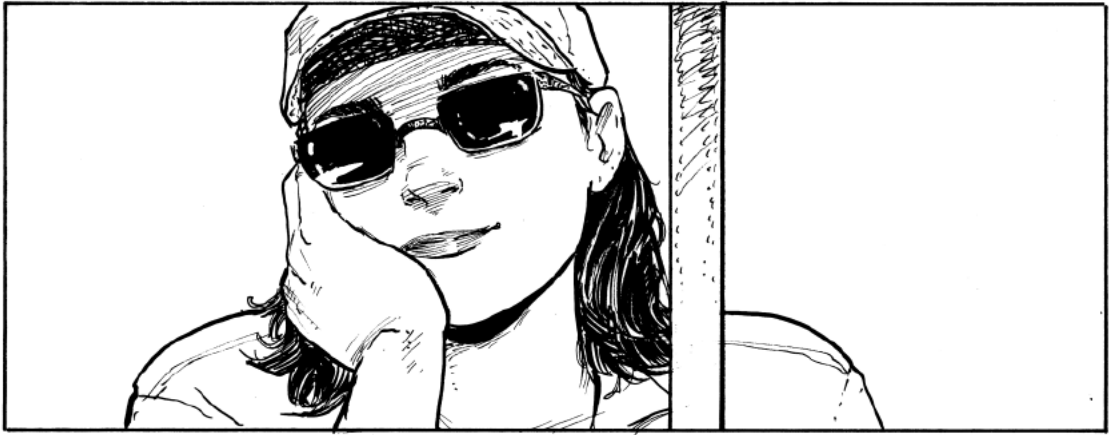


ABSTRACT
STUDIO

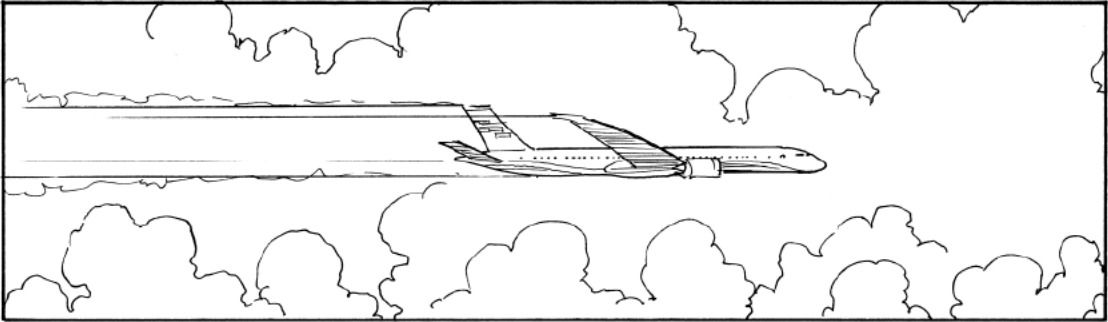
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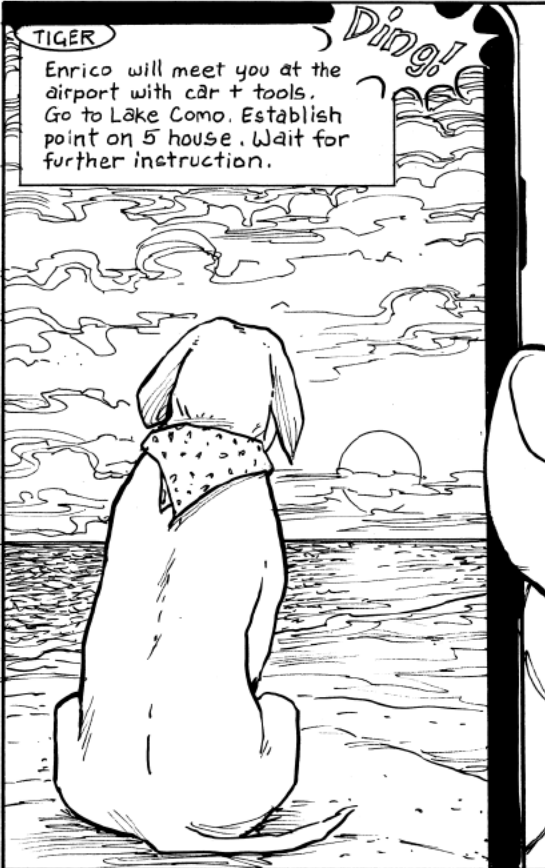
PARKER GIRLS





“He sent upon them His burning anger,
Fury and indignation and trouble,
A band of destroying angels.”
Psalm 78:49

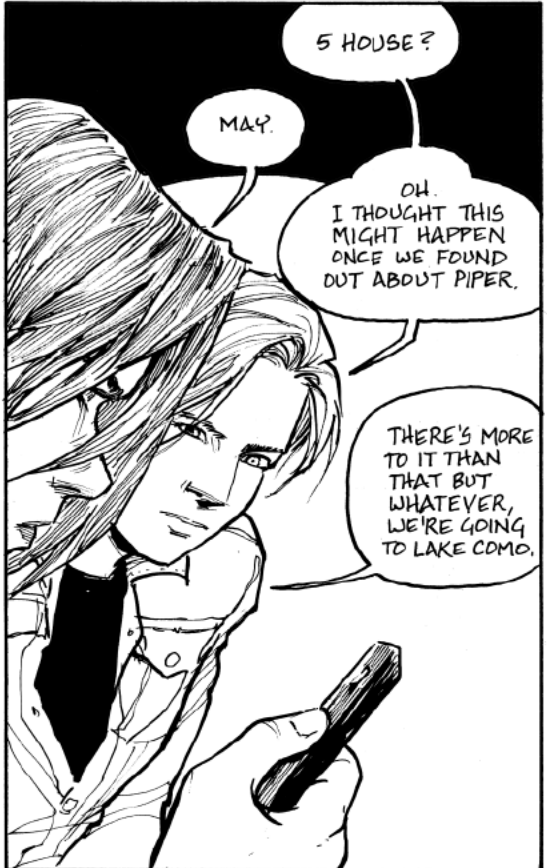




TIGER

Enrico will meet you at the airport with car + tools. Go to Lake Como. Establish point on 5 house. Wait for further instruction.

Ding!

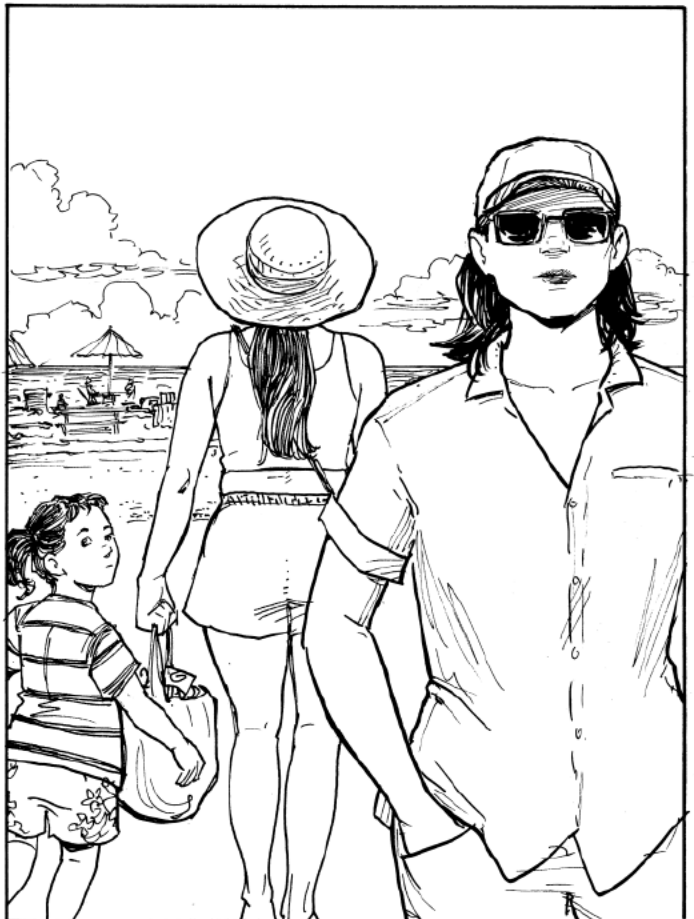
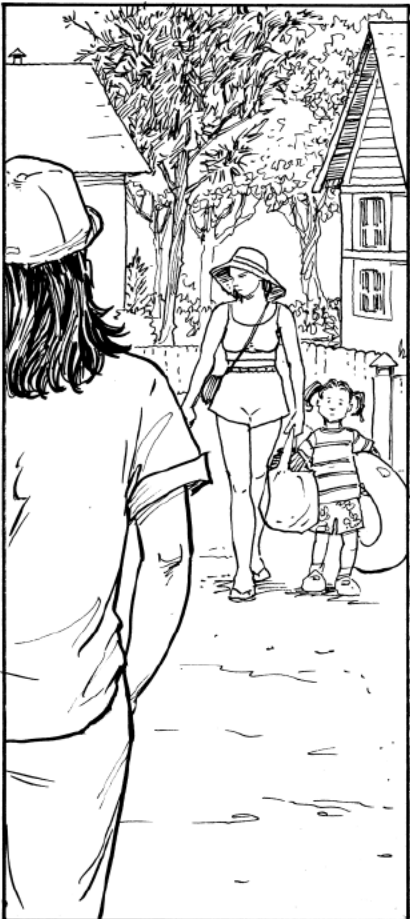


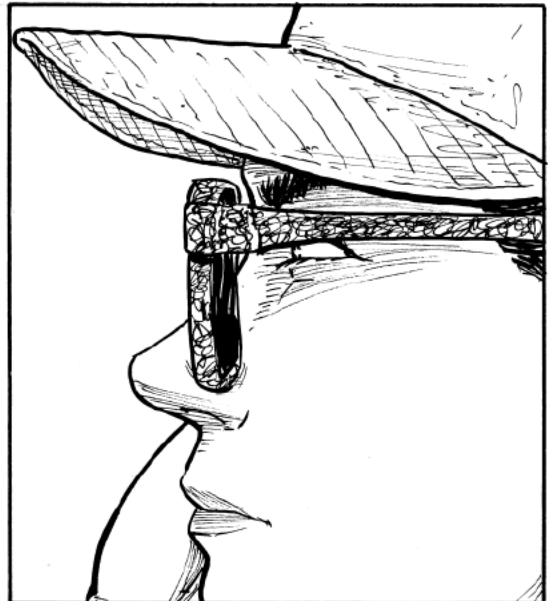
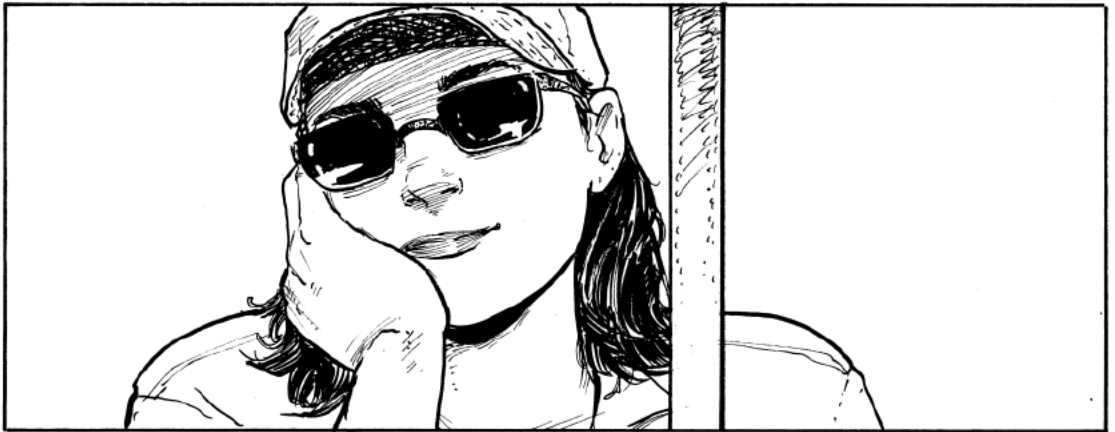
5 HOUSE?

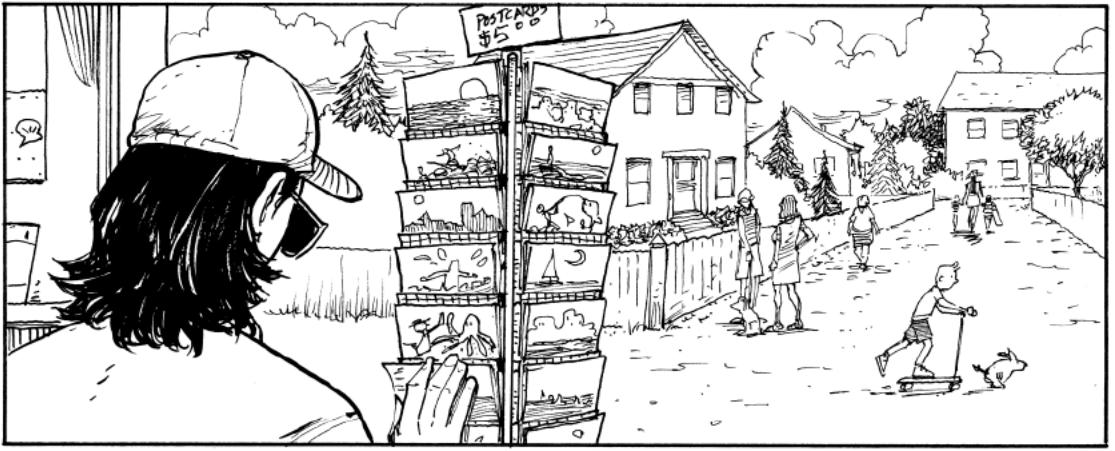
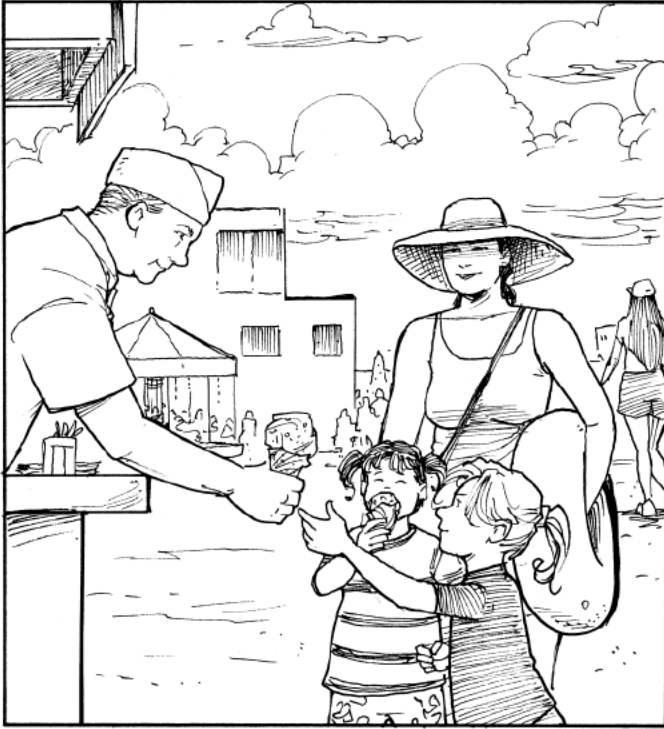
MAY?

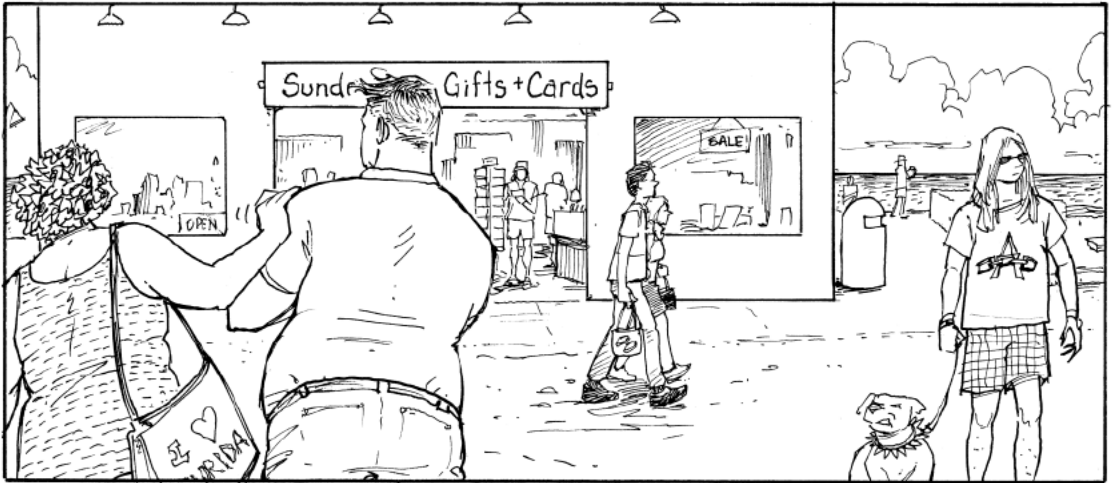
OH. I THOUGHT THIS MIGHT HAPPEN ONCE WE FOUND OUT ABOUT PIPER.

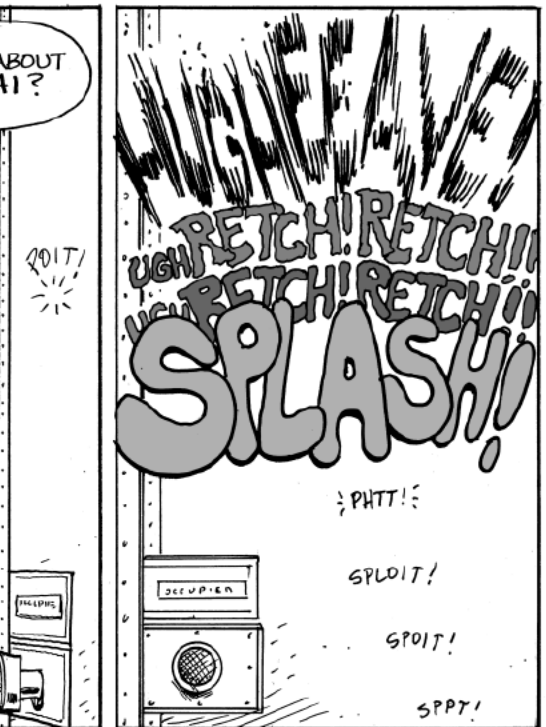
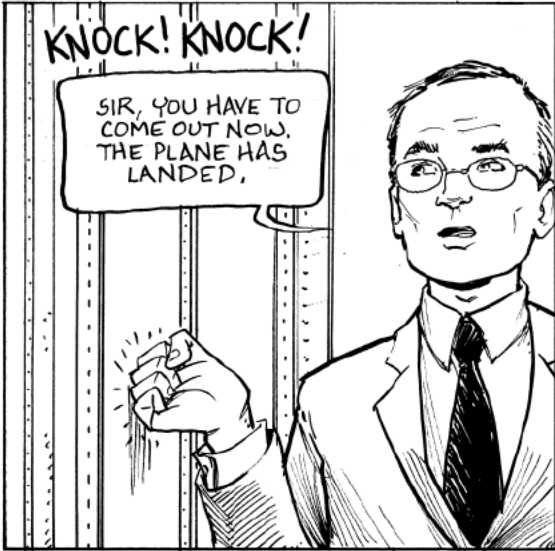
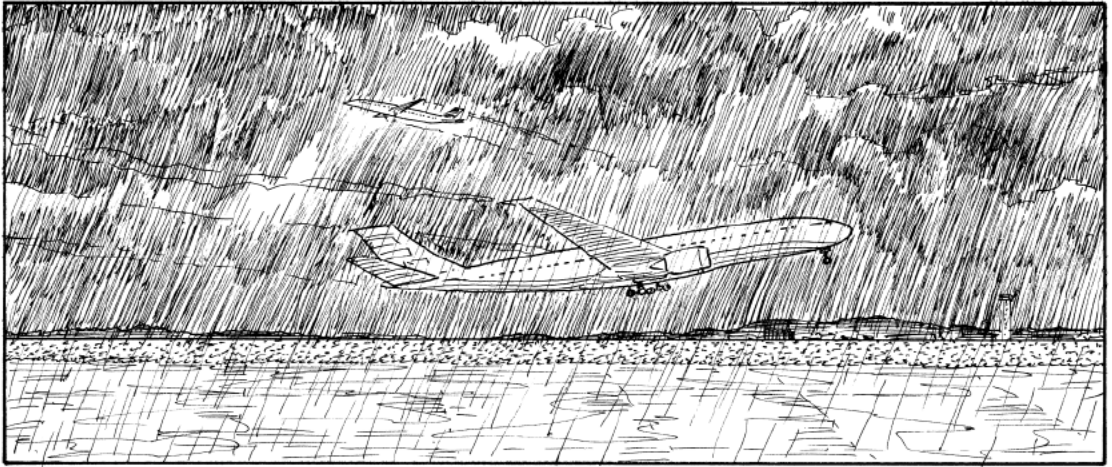
THERE'S MORE TO IT THAN THAT BUT WHATEVER, WE'RE GOING TO LAKE COMO.

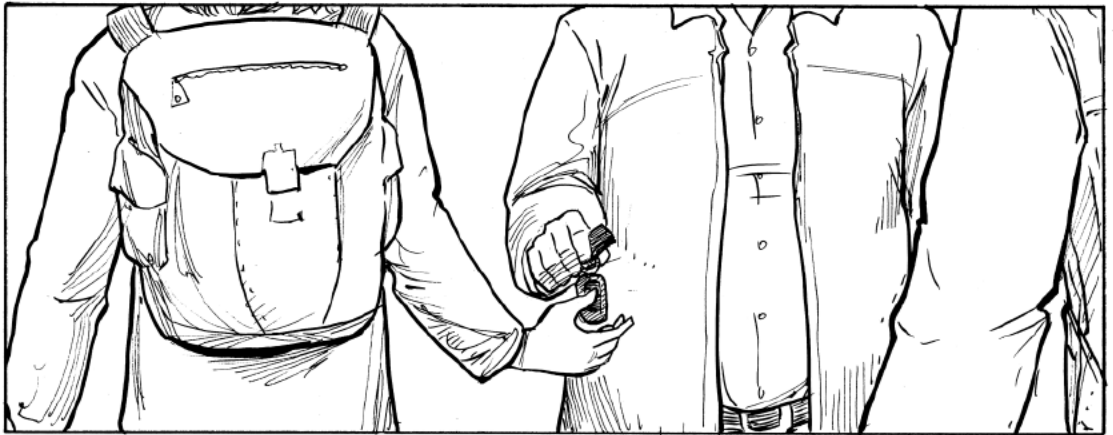


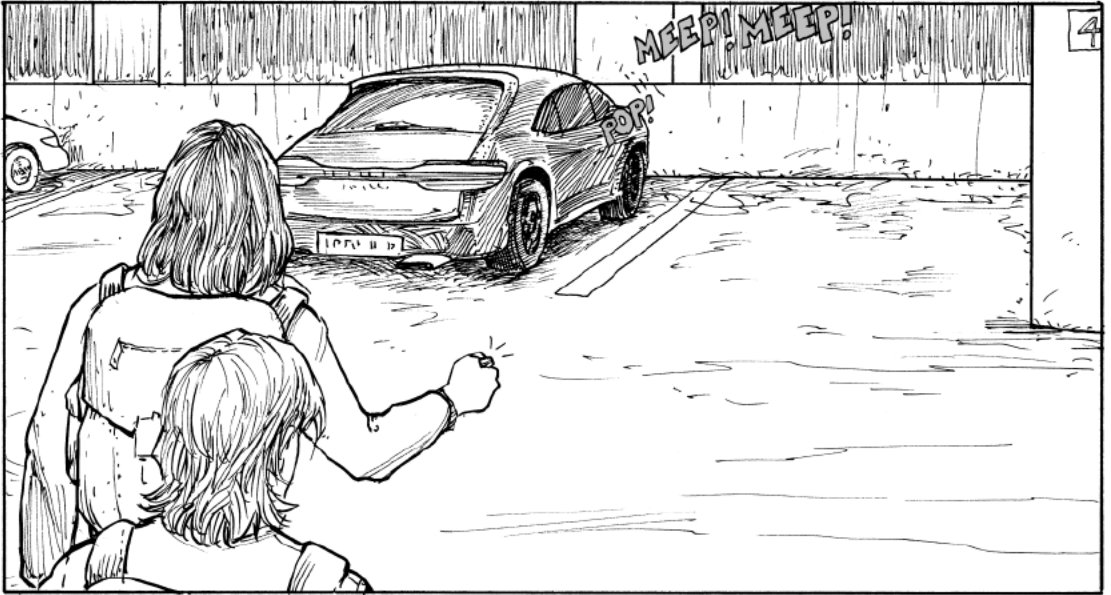


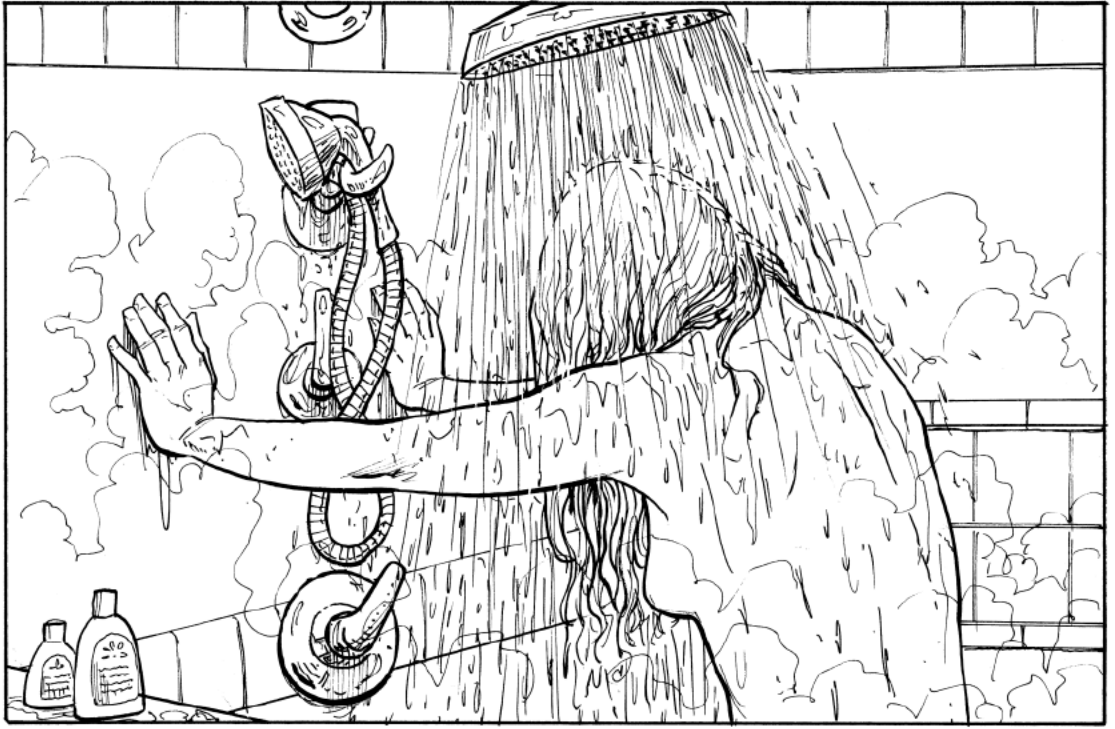


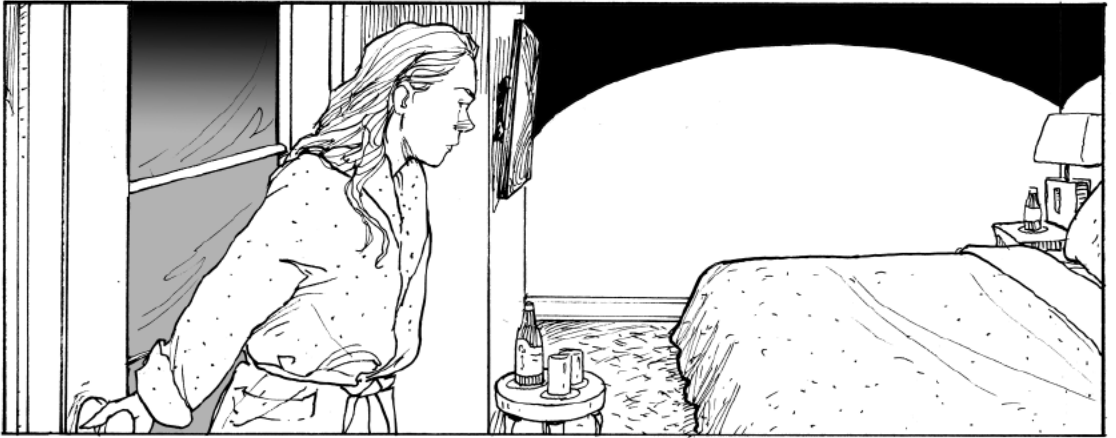
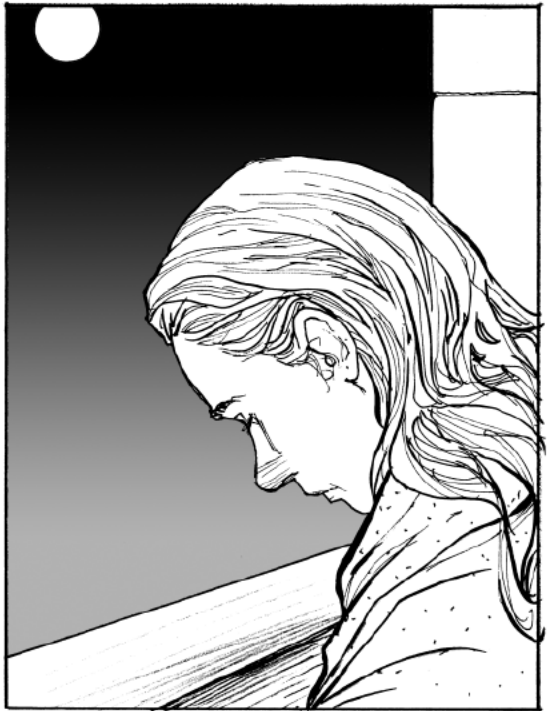
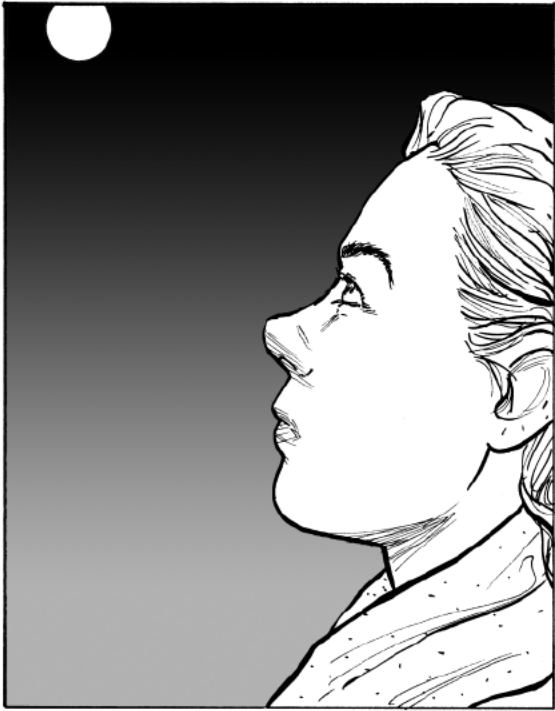


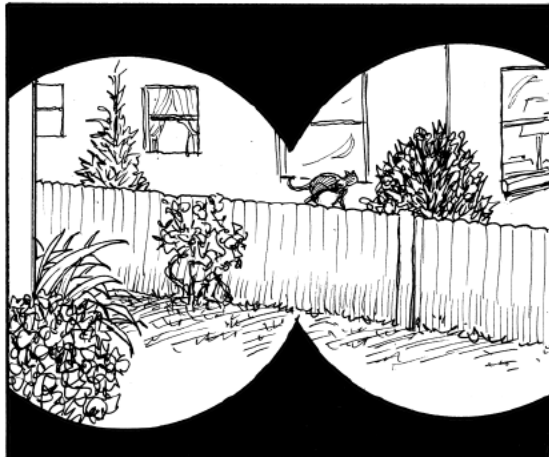
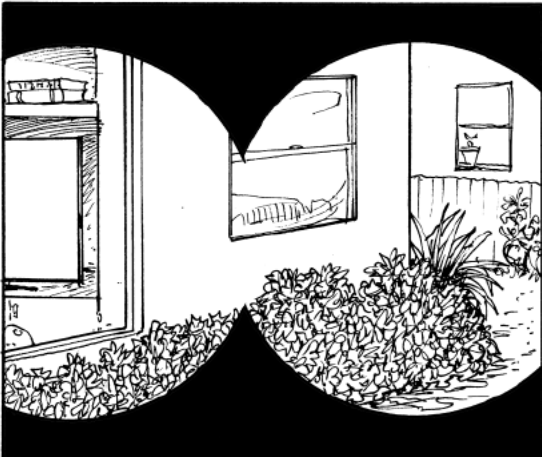
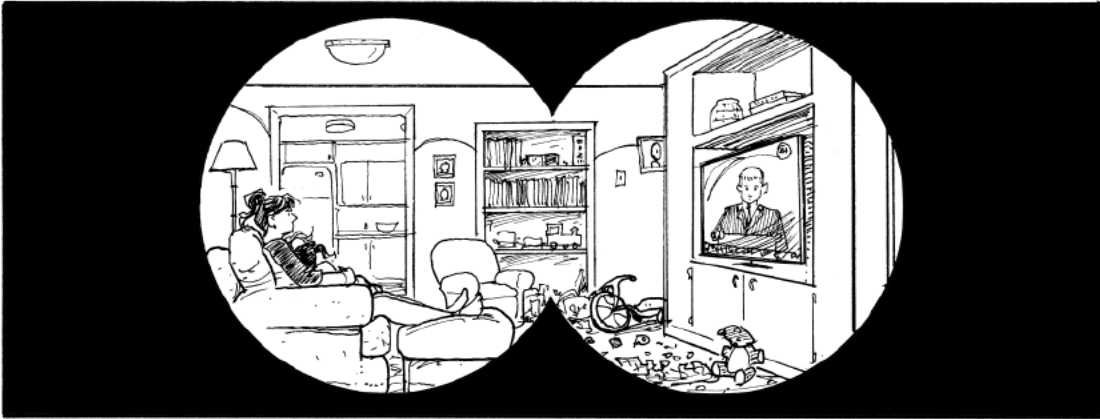


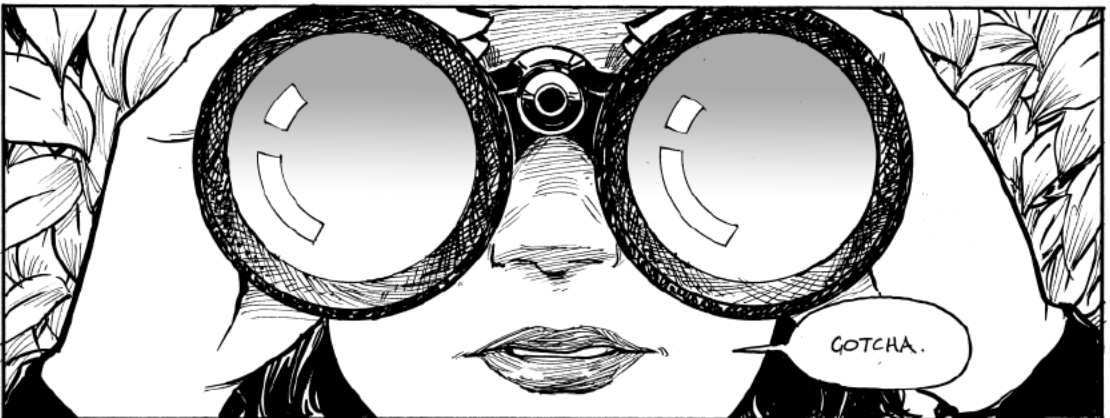
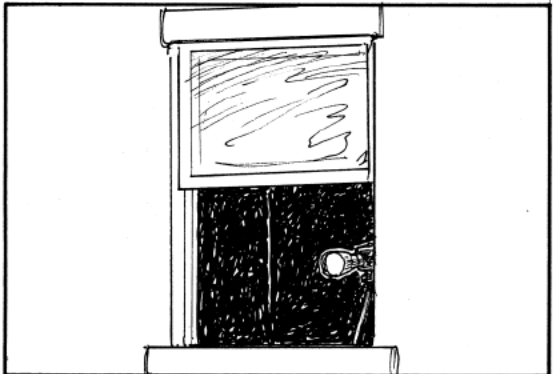


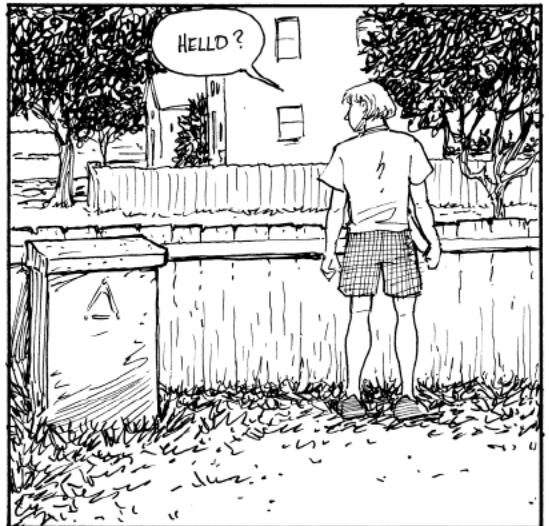
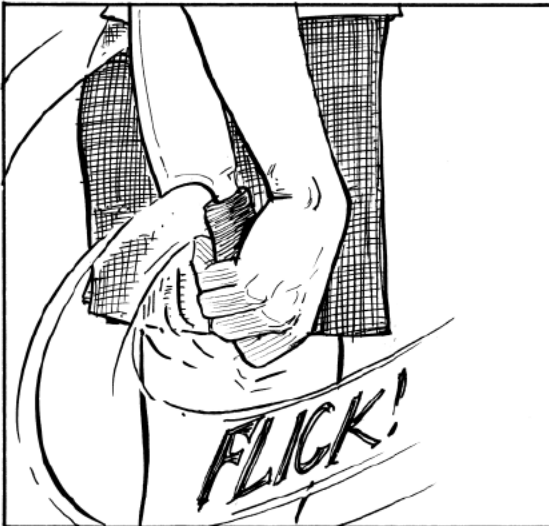
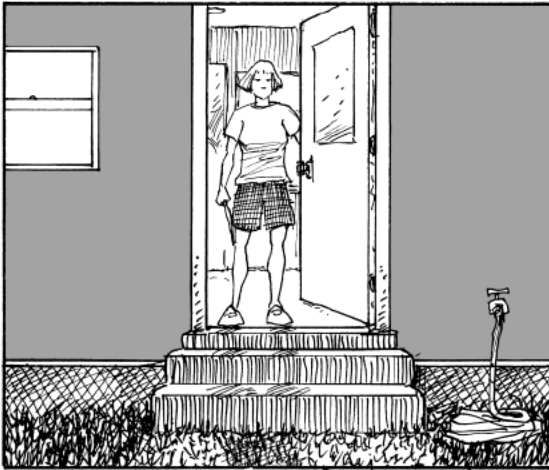
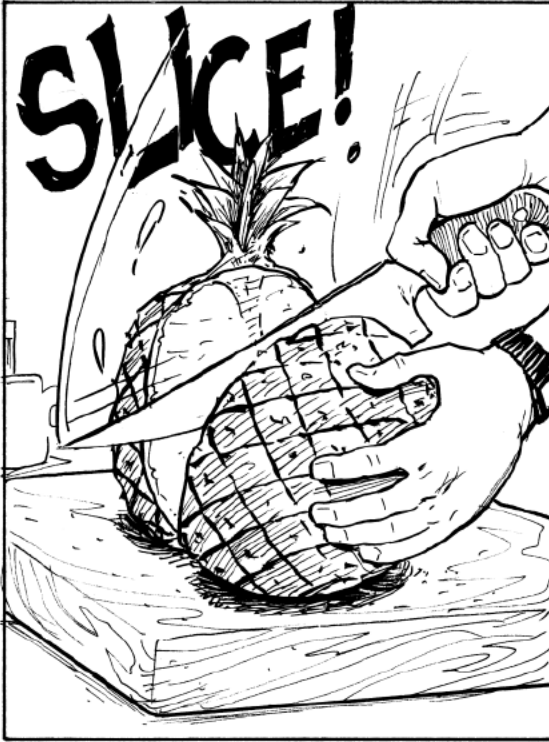


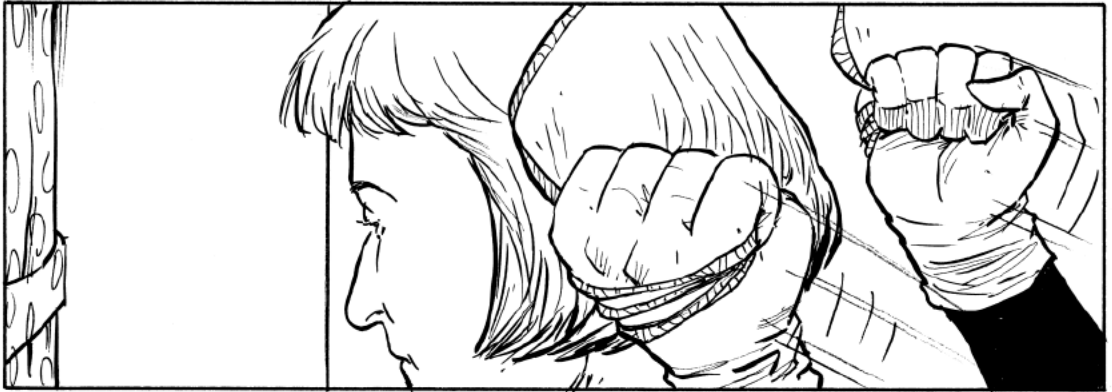
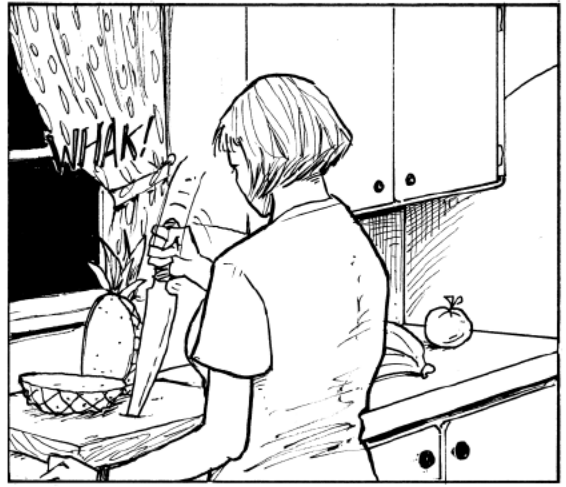
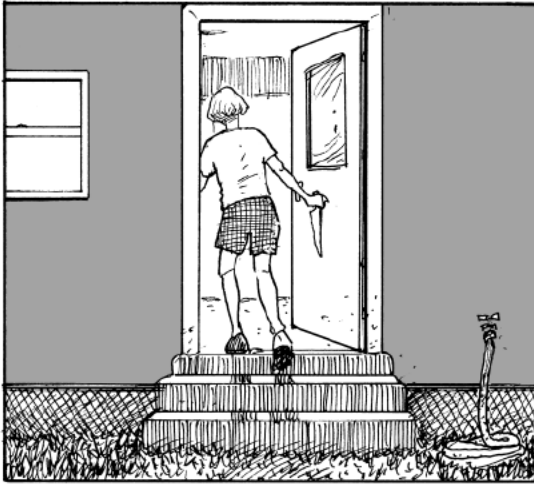


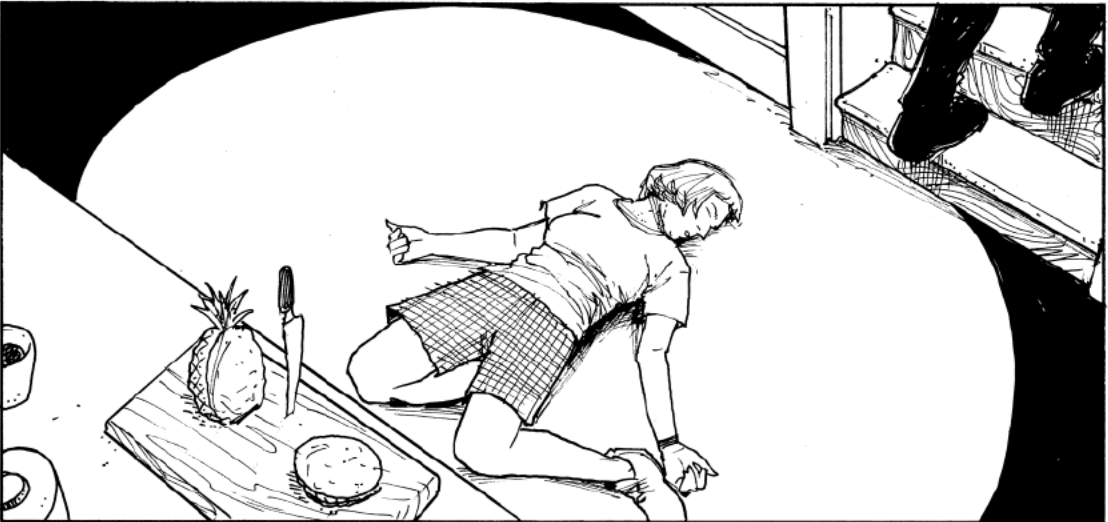
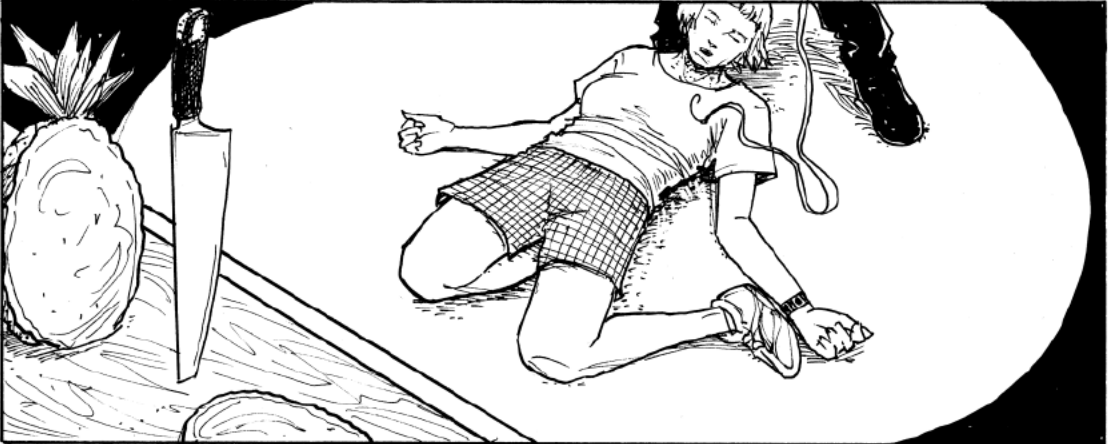
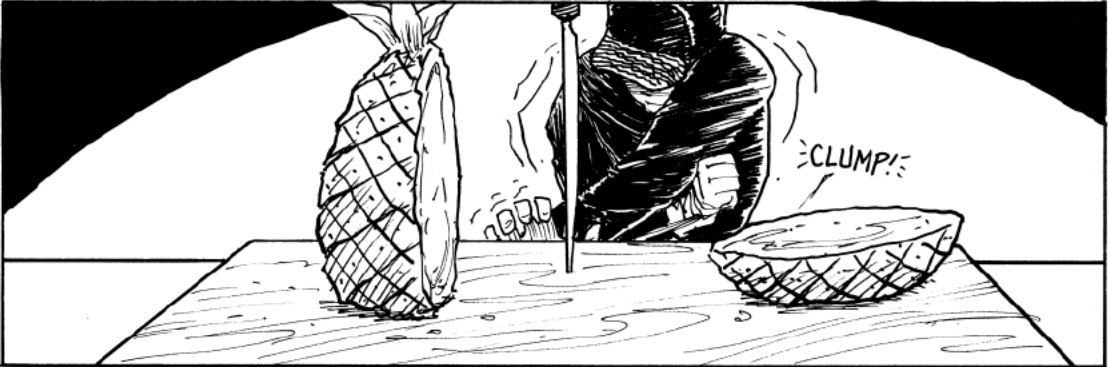


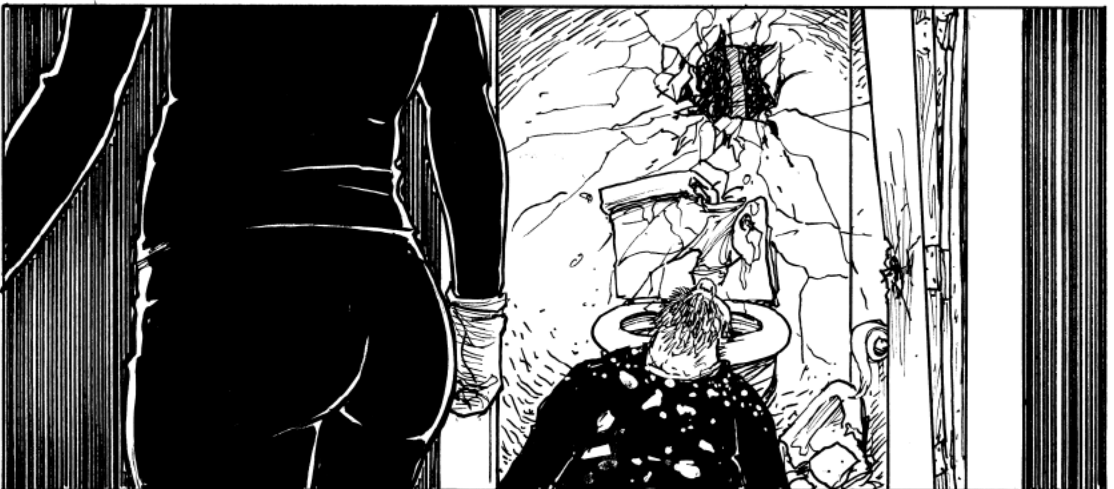
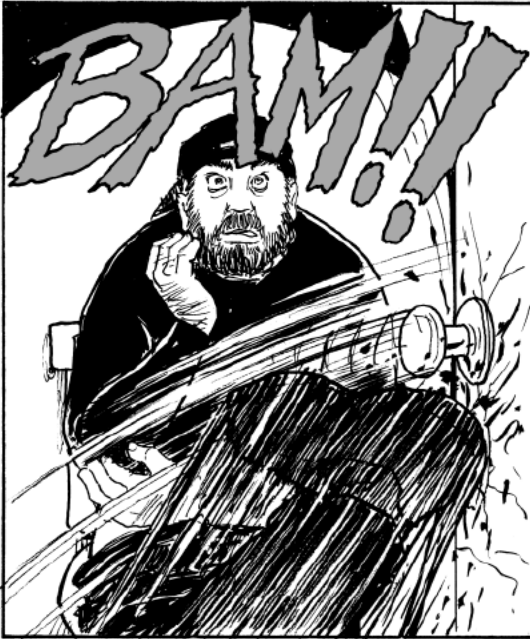


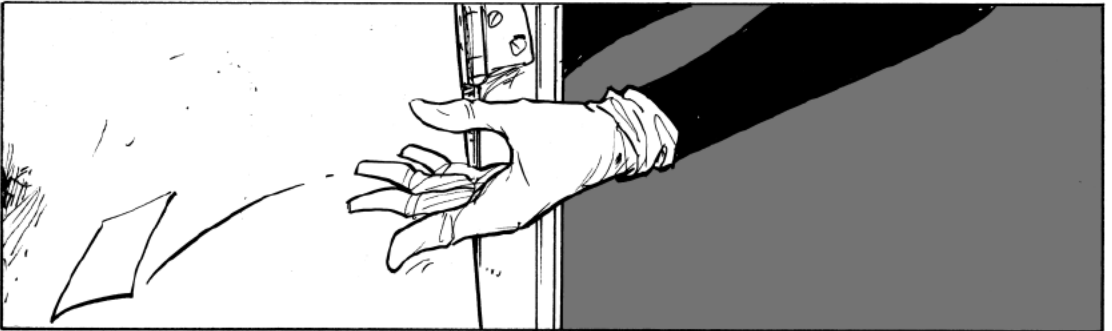
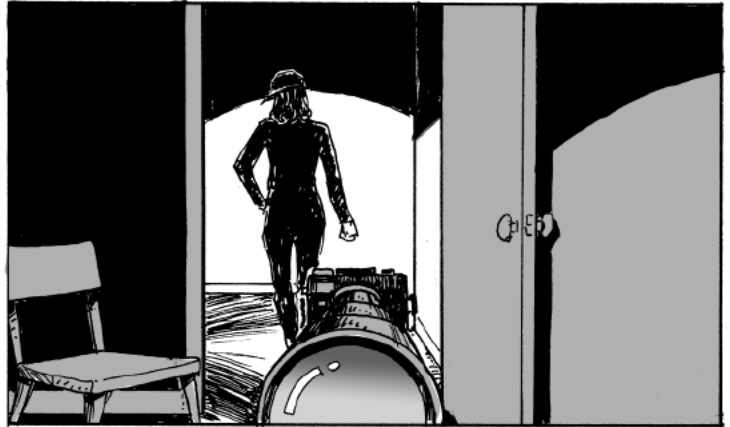
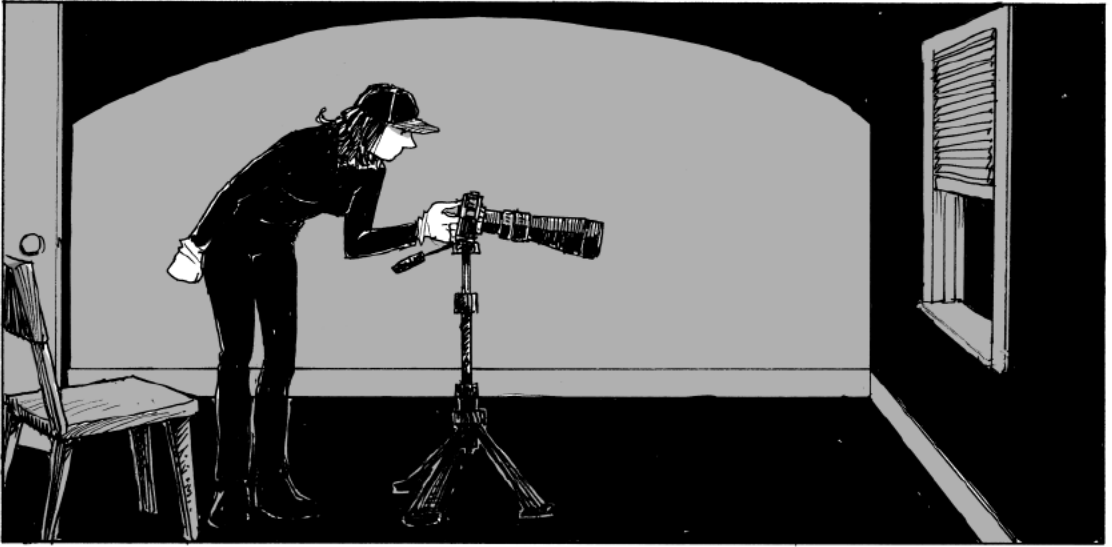












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9

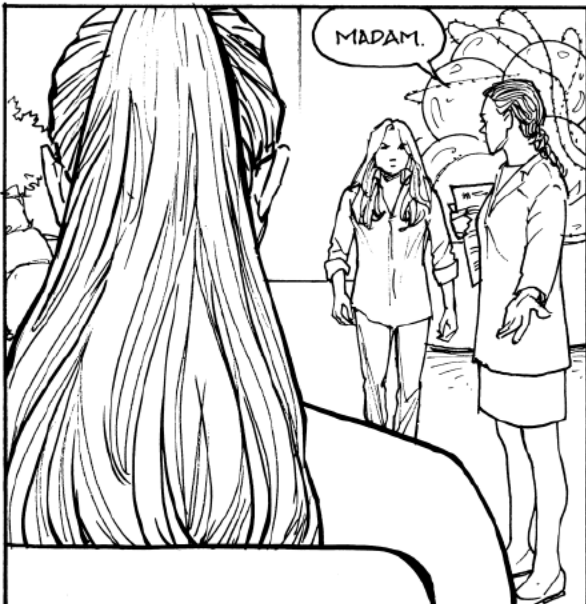
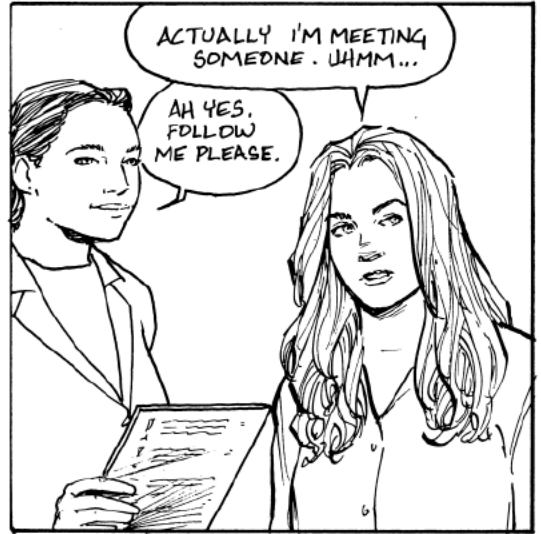
PARKER GIRLS

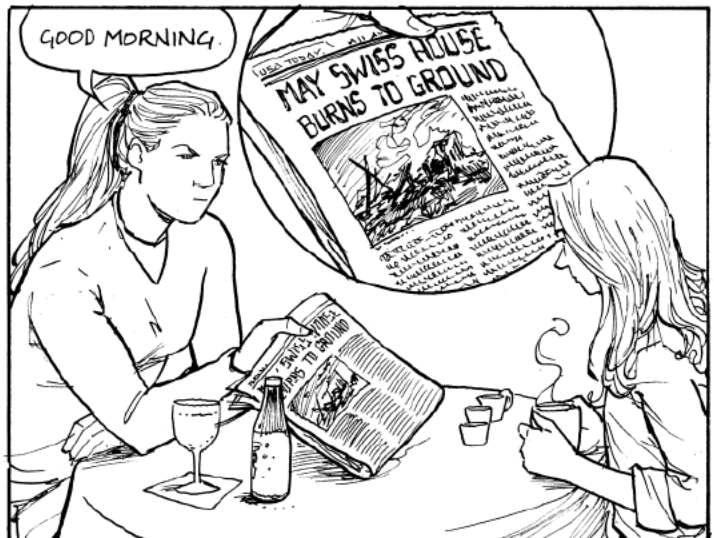
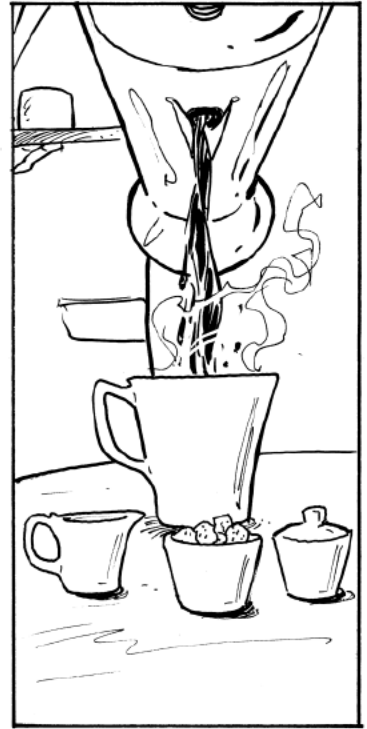


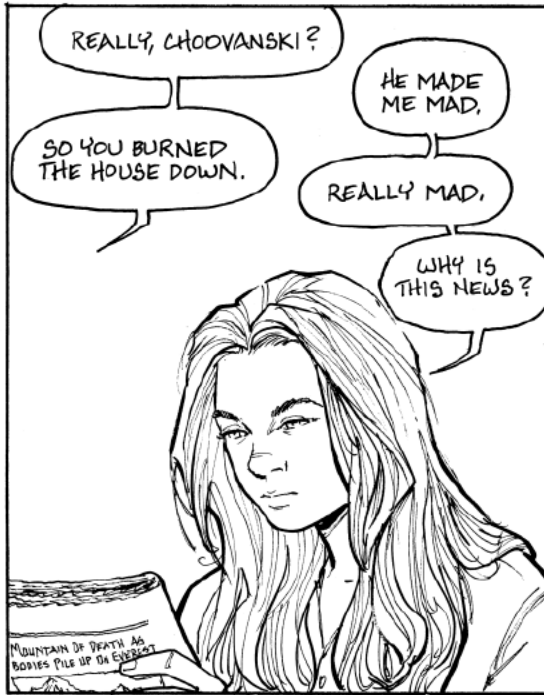


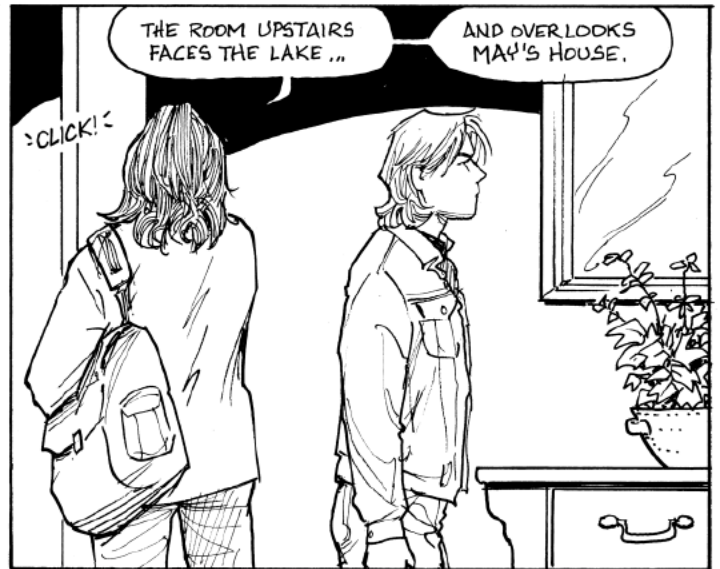
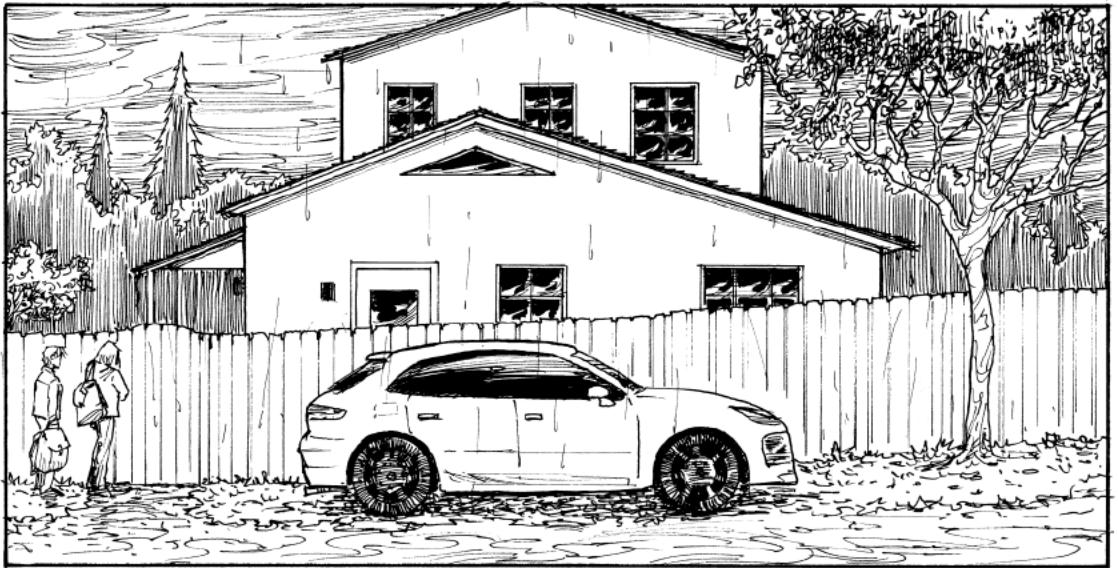
“The child that was not embraced by the village
will burn it down to feel it’s warmth.”

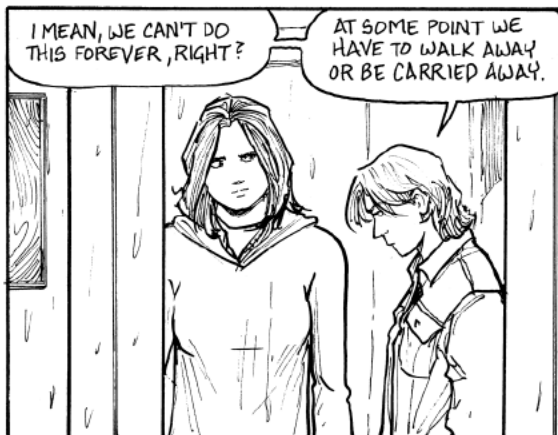
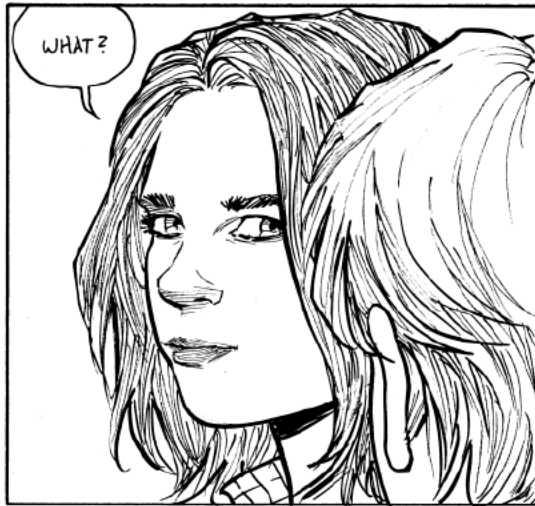
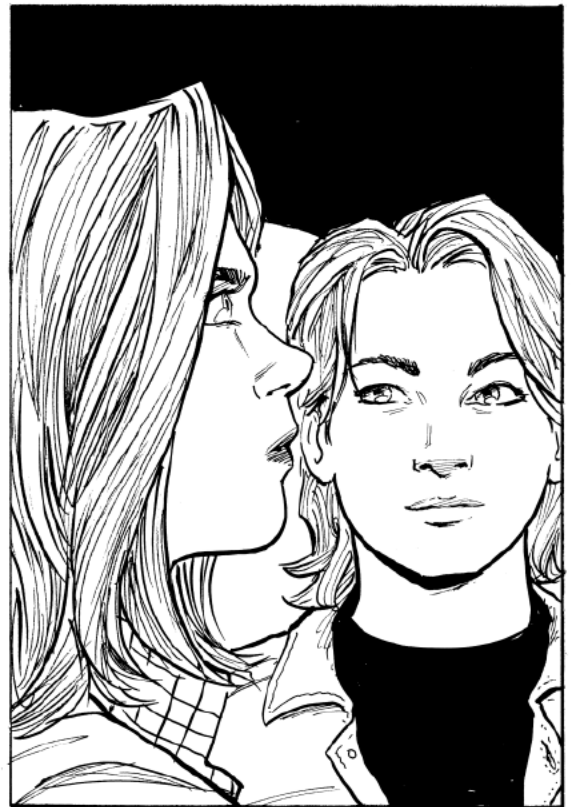
African Proverb







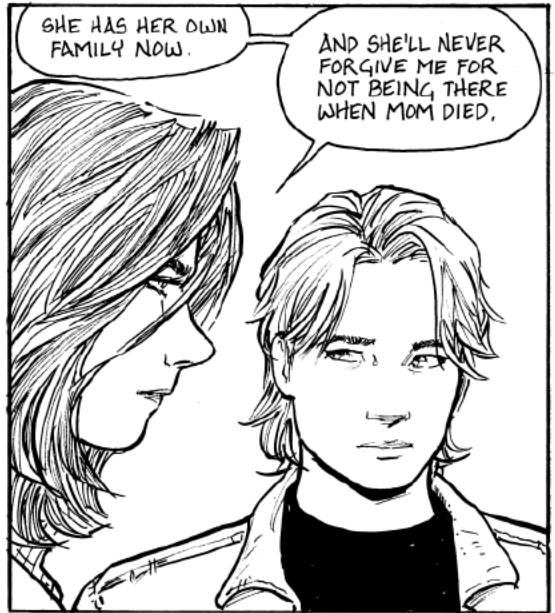






I DON'T HAVE ANYWHERE TO GO.

WHAT ABOUT YOUR SISTER IN MAINE?



SHE HAS HER OWN FAMILY NOW.

AND SHE'LL NEVER FORGIVE ME FOR NOT BEING THERE WHEN MOM DIED.



WHAT ABOUT YOU? ANY PLANS?

NOTHING SOLID. JUST IDEAS. Y'KNOW.

MM.



WELL THAT'S MORE THAN I'VE GOT. I GUESS I'LL JUST KEEP DOING THIS UNTIL...

I HAVE A HOUSE ... IN WYOMING.

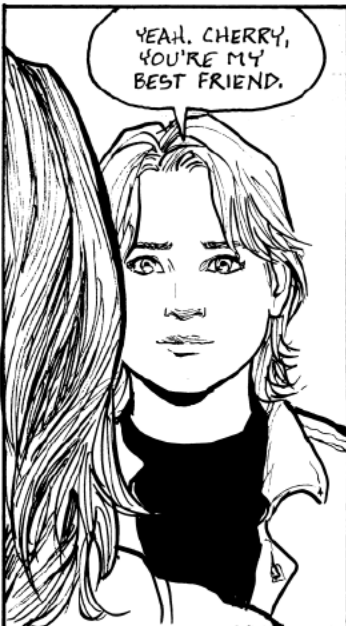
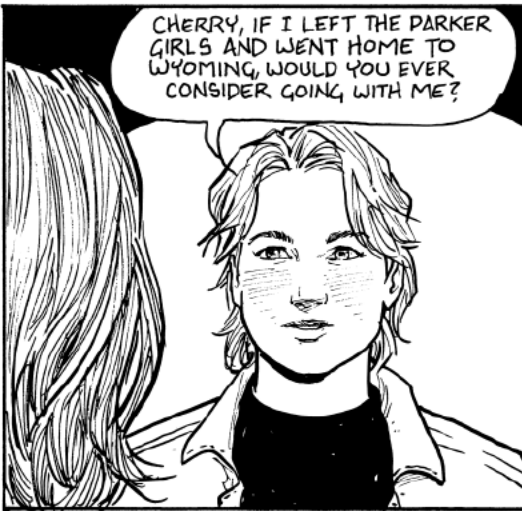
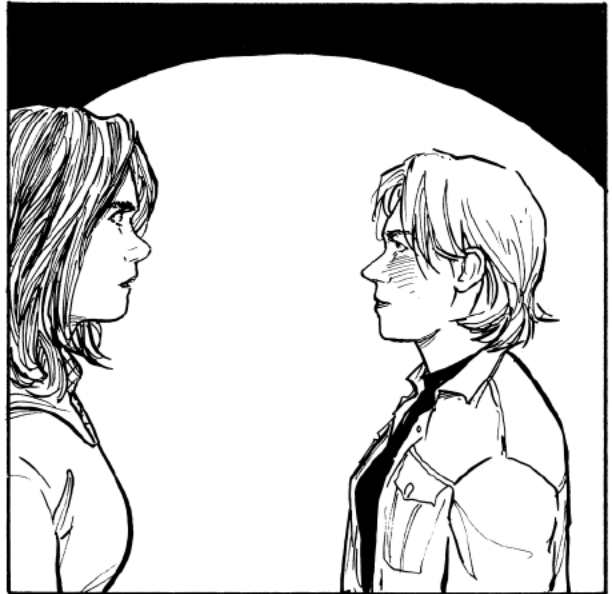
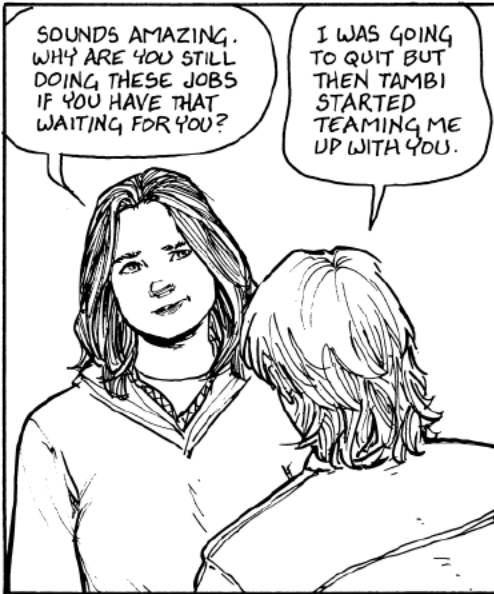


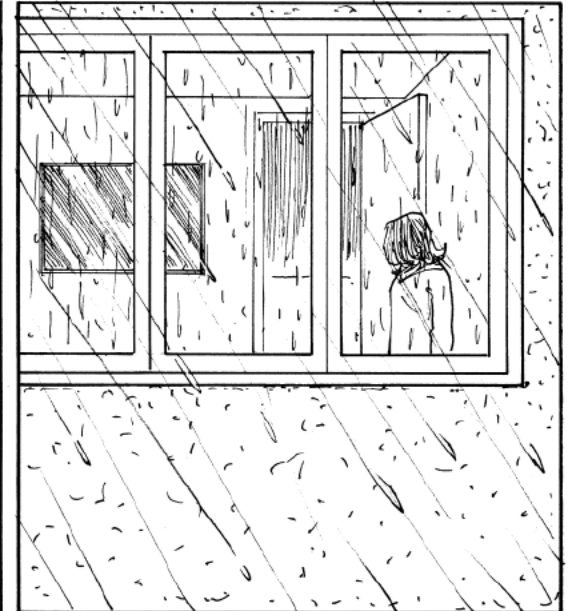
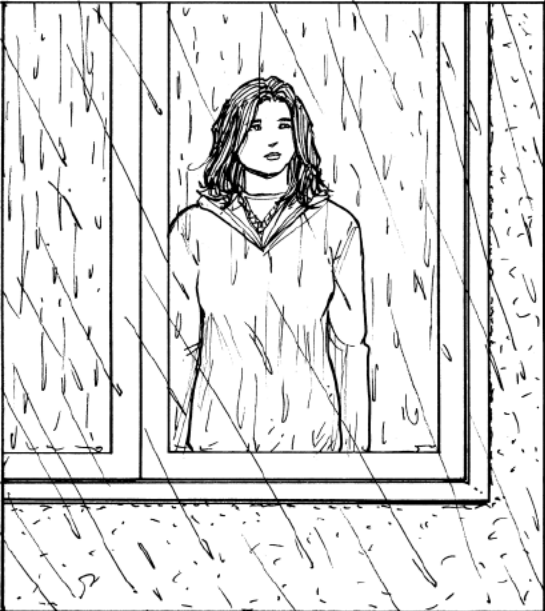
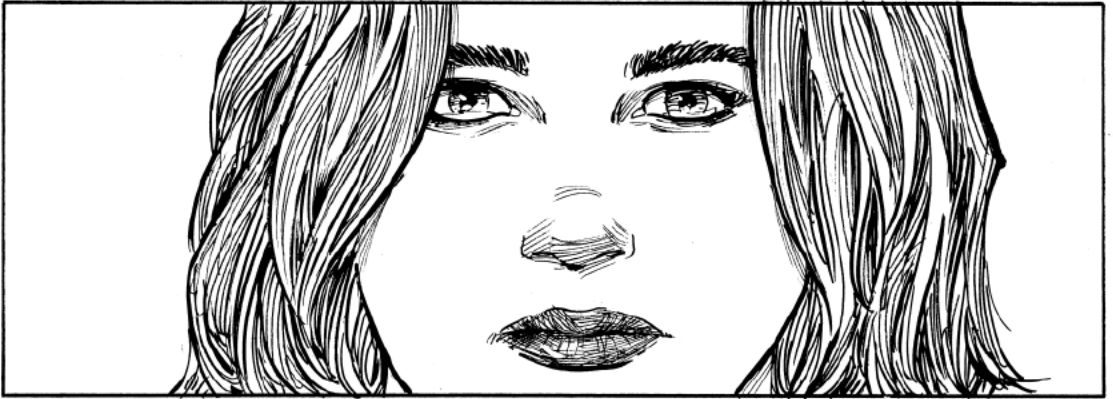
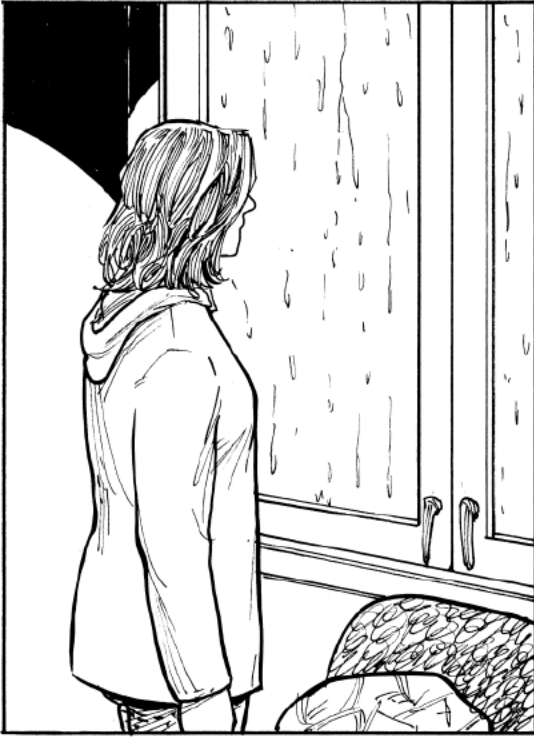
YOU DO?

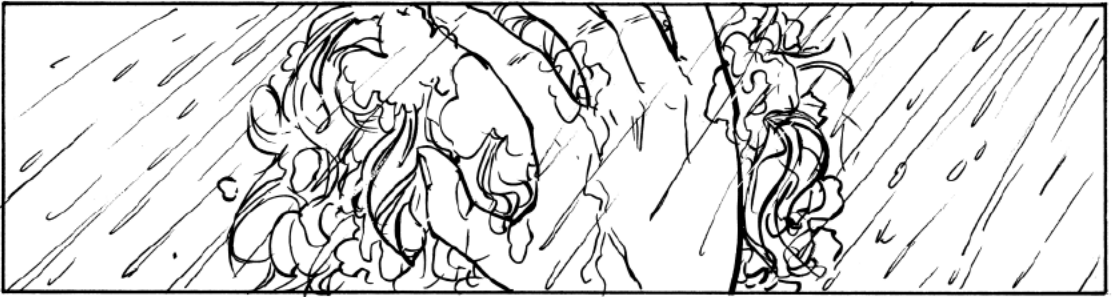
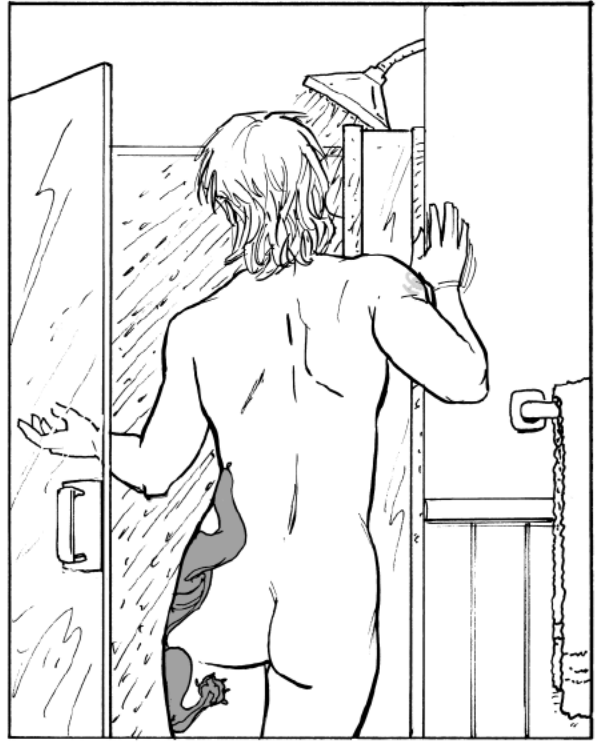
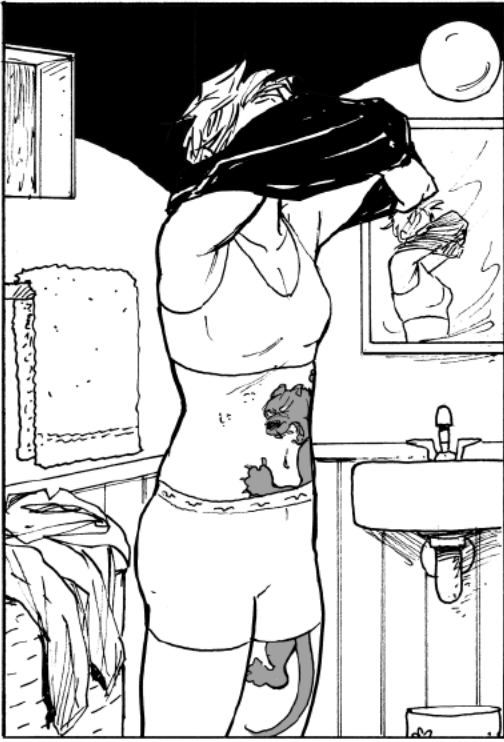
ON 3,000 ACRES IN THE FOOTHILLS OF THE LARAMIE MOUNTAINS.

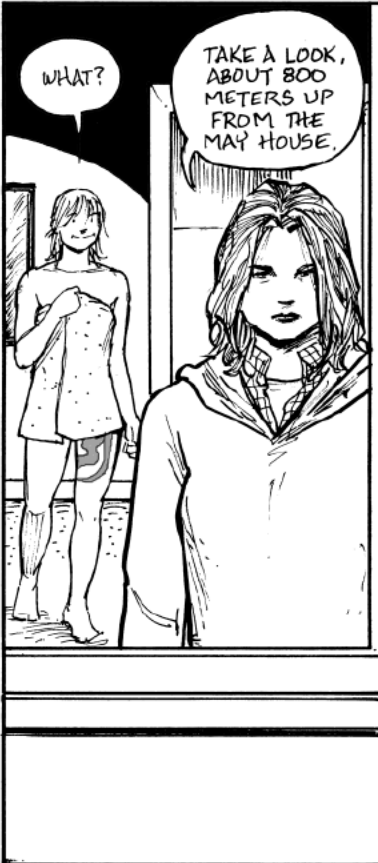
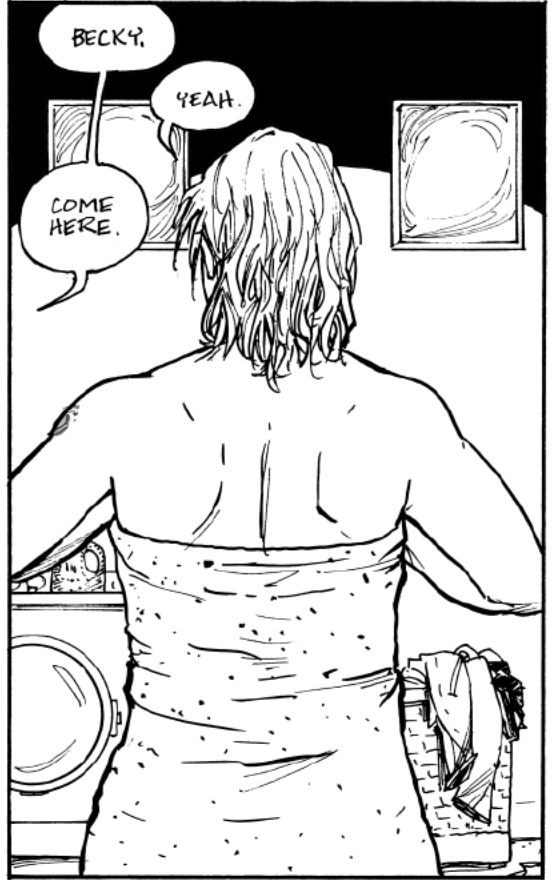
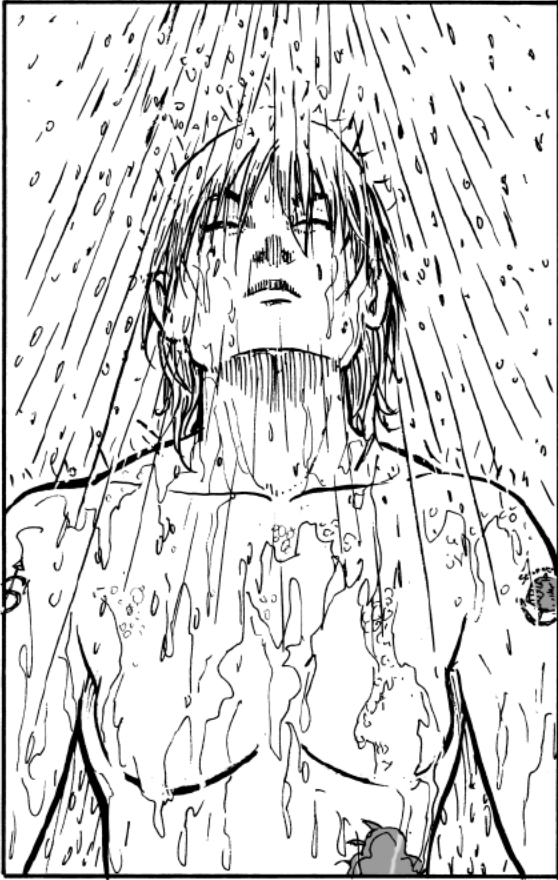


THERE ARE STREAMS FULL OF TROUT AND ALL THE WILDLIFE YOU CAN IMAGINE AND IT'S ALL FREE RANGE.



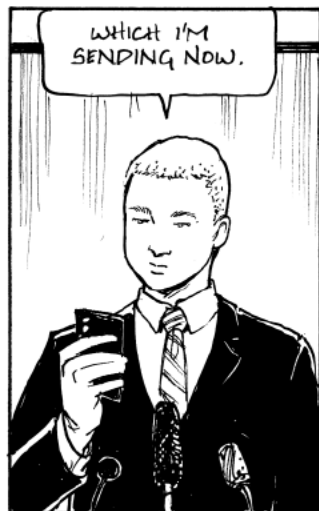
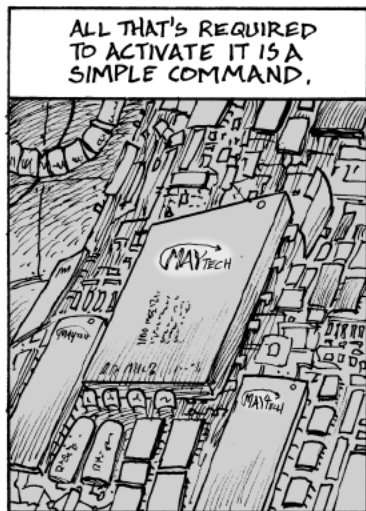
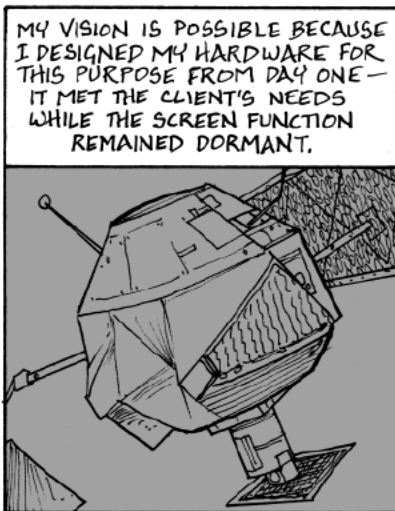
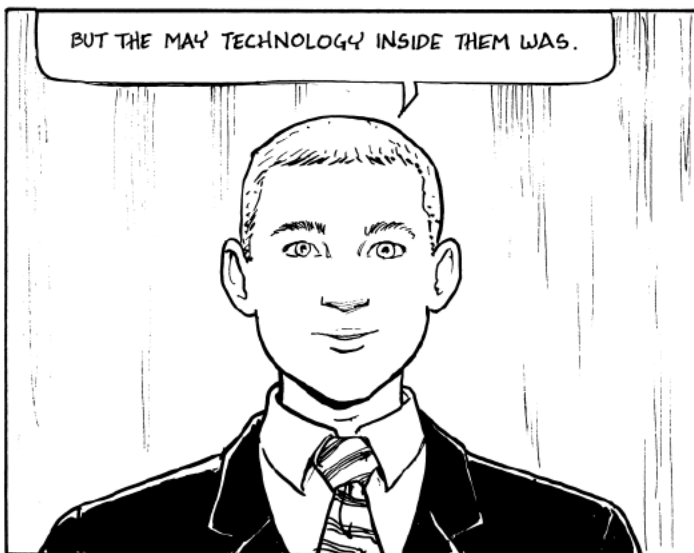
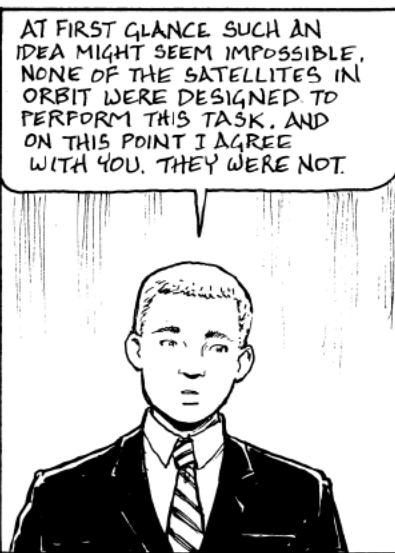
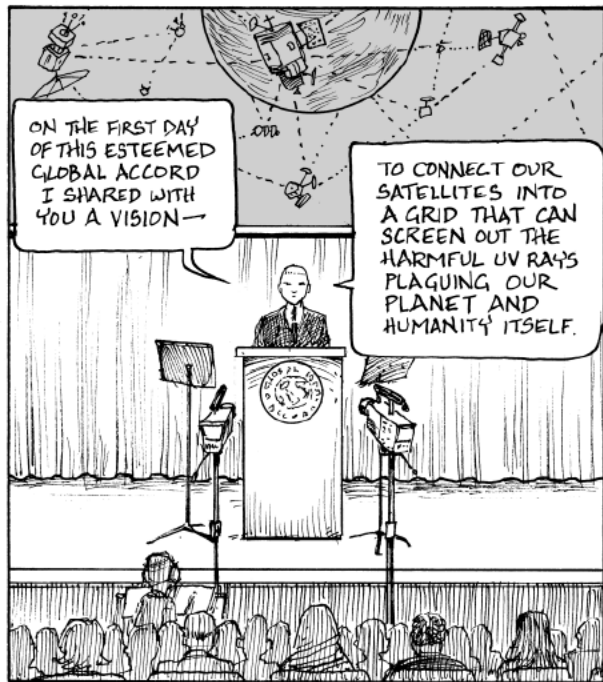


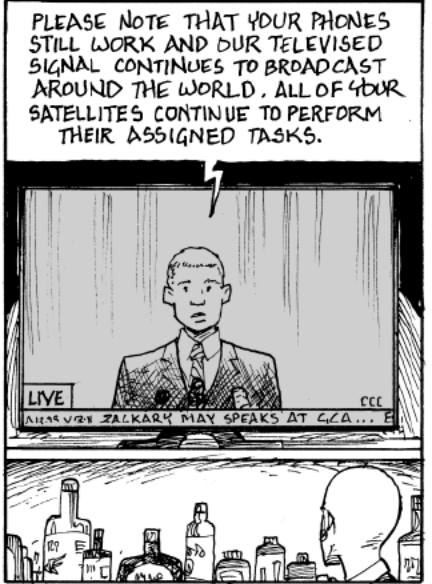












BUT CHECK WITH YOUR GOVERNMENT SPACE AGENCIES AND YOU WILL FIND THEM REPORTING NEW TRANSMISSIONS IN THE EXOSPHERE.

BY THE END OF THE WEEK I EXPECT THEM TO VERIFY WHAT I HAVE TOLD YOU, OUR SATELLITES NETWORK WITH ONE ANOTHER TO FORM A SCREEN THAT SHIELDS THE EARTH AND BLOCKS HARMFUL UV RAYS FROM ENTERING OUR ATMOSPHERE.

GLOBAL WARMING IS THE GREATEST THREAT TO LIFE ON EARTH. ENDLESS DEBATE WILL NOT SAVE US AND WE WILL DIE WAITING FOR NATIONS TO WORK TOGETHER TO COME UP WITH A SOLUTION. SO I HAVE TAKEN THE INITIATIVE TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT.





DID HE JUST TAKE CONTROL OF EVERYBODY'S SATELLITES?

HE SAYS HE DID. IF IT'S TRUE WE'LL FIND OUT SOON.

HE'S INSANE!



DID YOU KNOW HE WAS GOING TO DO THIS?

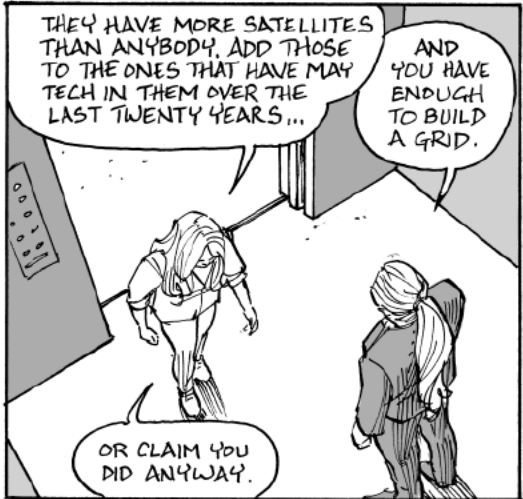
NO.



TAMBI... I HAVE A BAD FEELING THIS IS WHAT THE CHINESE MONEY WAS FOR.

ELEVATOR

=ding=



THEY HAVE MORE SATELLITES THAN ANYBODY. ADD THOSE TO THE ONES THAT HAVE MAY TECH IN THEM OVER THE LAST TWENTY YEARS...

AND YOU HAVE ENOUGH TO BUILD A GRID.

OR CLAIM YOU DID ANYWAY.



SO... NOW WHAT?

WE STICK TO THE PLAN. HE'S GOING TO LAKE COMO FOR THE WEEK-END. I WANT YOU THERE WITH HIM — KEEP HIM AGITATED.

YOU CAN'T JUST SHOOT HIM ANYMORE, YOU KNOW THAT, RIGHT?



AFTER THE STUNT HE JUST PULLED I'D HAVE TO GET IN LINE TO SHOOT HIM.

MAY JUST BECAME PUBLIC ENEMY NUMBER ONE,



JUST IN TIME.



KATCHOO, THIS IS TY. TY'S BEEN WORKING MAY FOR TWO YEARS.

KATCHOO, IT'S AN HONOR, YOU'RE A LEGEND.

I AM?

IN THE PARKER GIRLS, YES.

OH.



I WAS WORRIED YOU WOULDN'T MAKE IT IN TIME, HE'S AHEAD OF SCHEDULE, WE'RE ABOUT TO SEND THE CAR TO HIM.

I'LL BE TRACKING YOU IN CASE OF TROUBLE.



OH I'M SURE HE'LL BE DELIGHTED TO SEE ME.

SENDING THE CAR UP NOW.

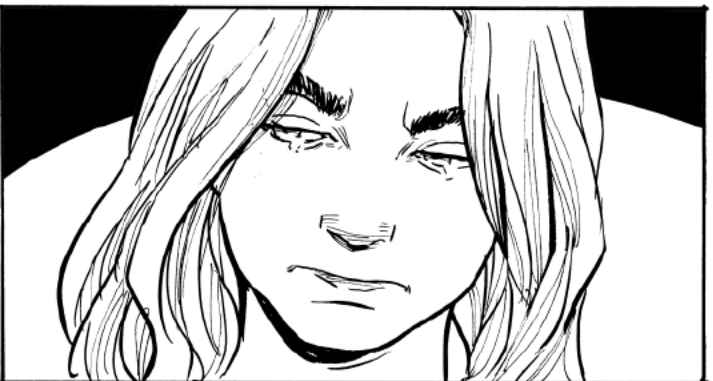
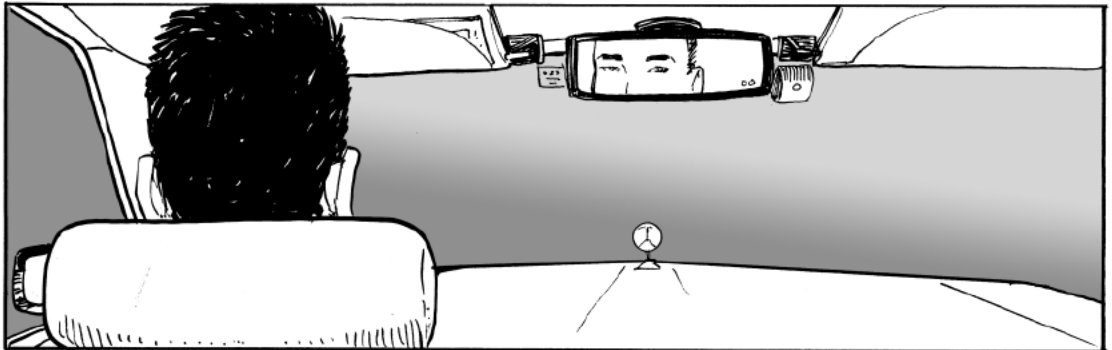
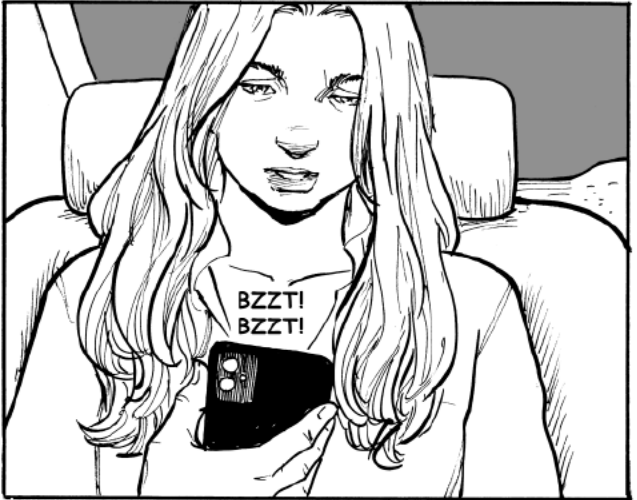
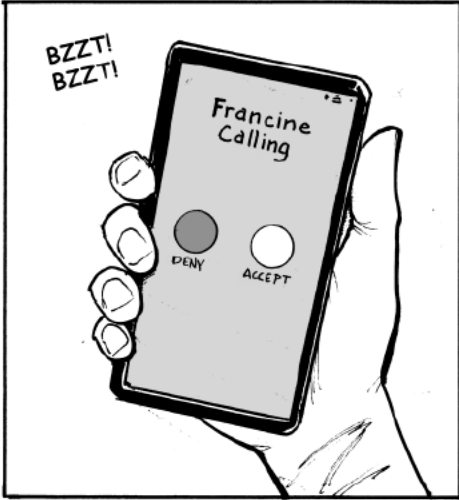
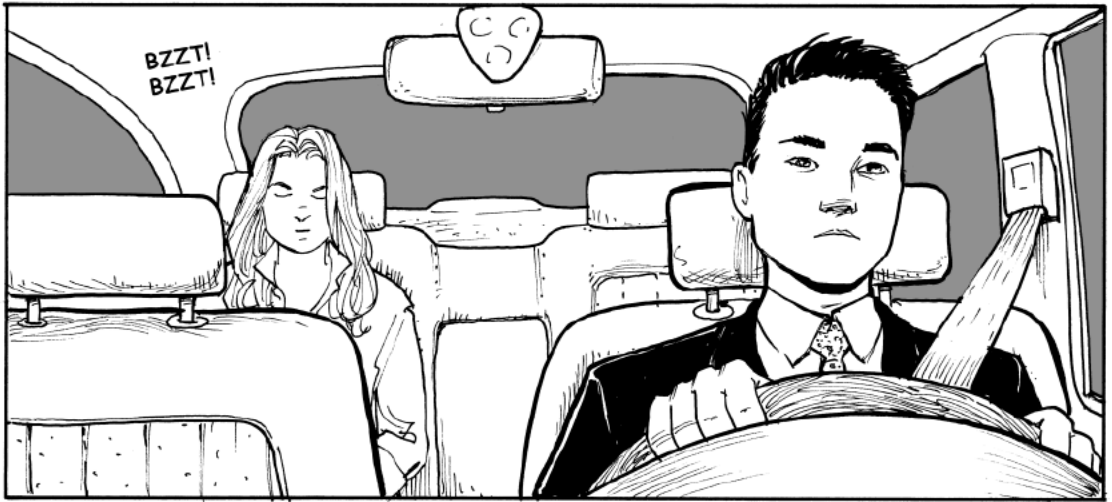


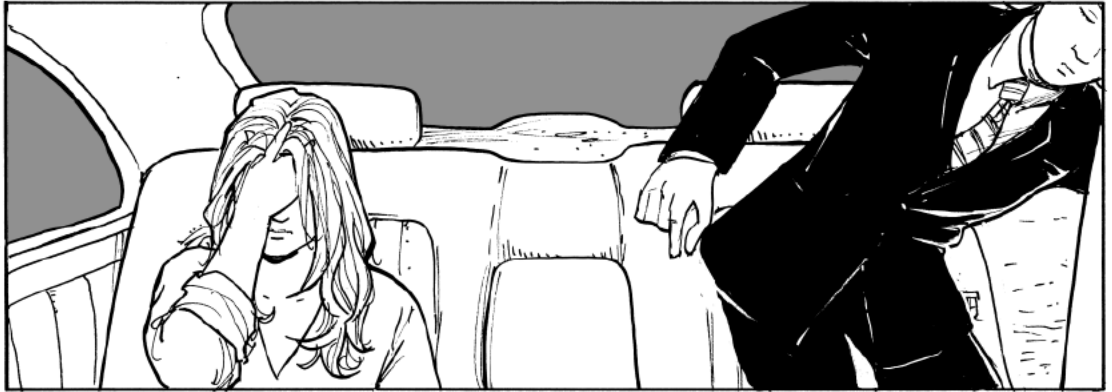
I THOUGHT MAYBE YOU HAD CHANGED YOUR MIND AFTER THE NEWS ABOUT AQUAVANE.

WHAT NEWS?



YOU DON'T KNOW YET? MAY HAS ACCEPTED AQUAVANE'S COUNTER-OFFER, HE CLOSED THE DEAL DURING THE DEADLIGHT TALK.





Terry Moore

ABSTRACT
STUDIO

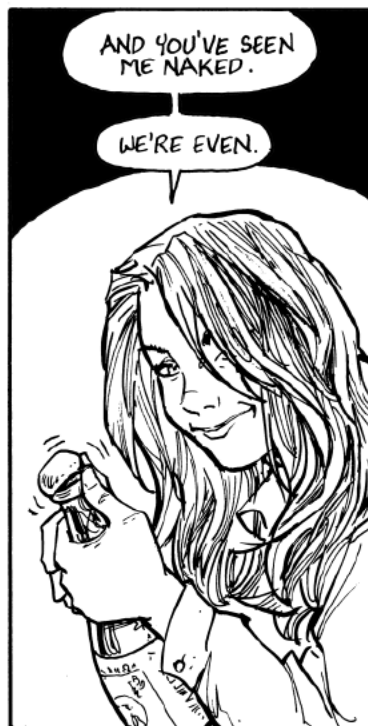
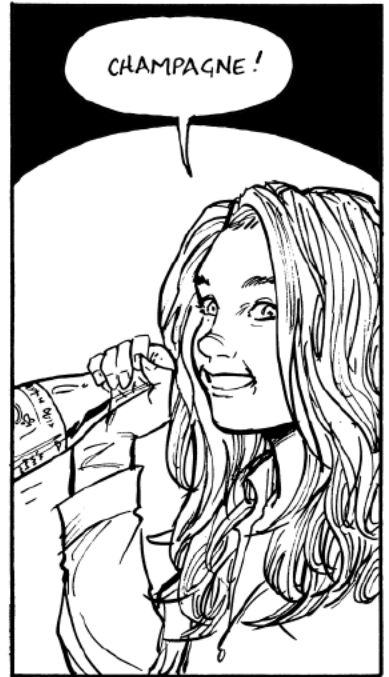
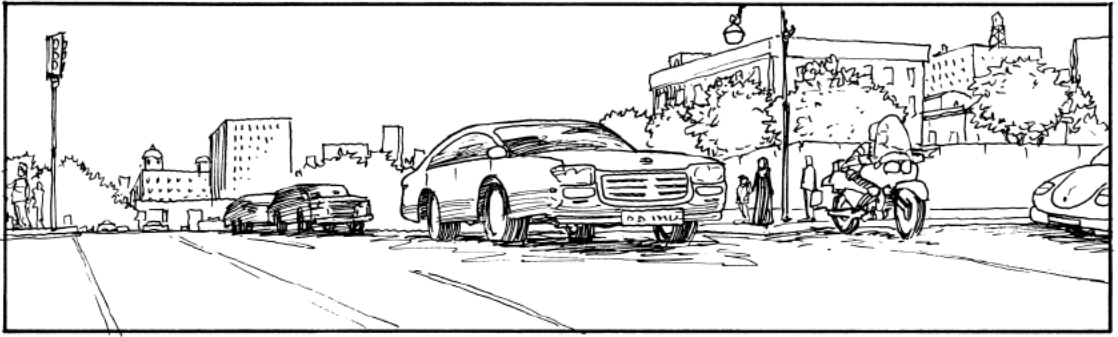
10

PARKER GIRLS





Years of love have been forgot,
In the hatred of a minute.
—Edgar Allan Poe





SO... LOOK AT YOU... HIJACKING ALL THE SATELLITES! I DIDN'T KNOW YOU HAD IT IN YOU, ZACK. YOU KNEW THIS WOULD PUT A TARGET ON YOUR BACK AND YOU DID IT ANYWAY. WOW.



HOW DID YOU GET INTO THIS CAR?!

UMM... THE DOOR?

WHO LET YOU IN?!

OOOPS. ALL OVER YOUR DYED BABY COW SKINS.



DOES MY STAFF KNOW YOU'RE HERE?

ONE OF THEM DOES.

CHEERS.

WHO?

CLINK!



I DON'T KNOW, THEY ALL LOOK ALIKE. GIMME SOME NAMES.



ROBERT...

THAT'S THE ONE! ROBERT!

I KNEW IT!



HE NEVER LIKED MY POLICIES.

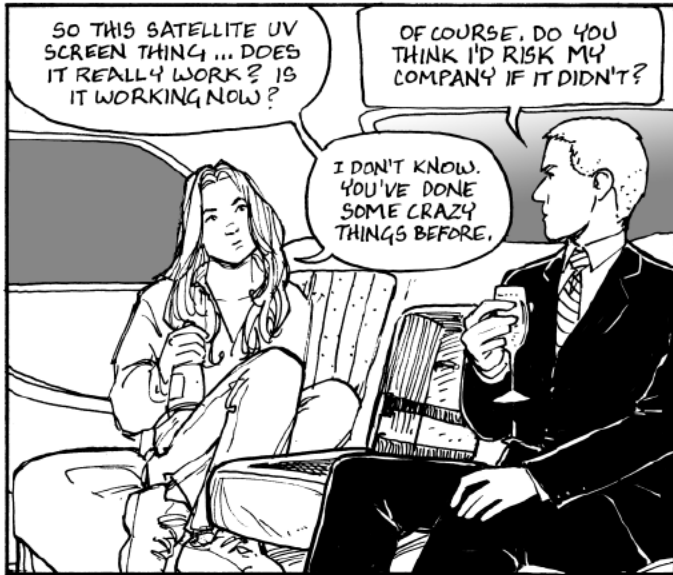
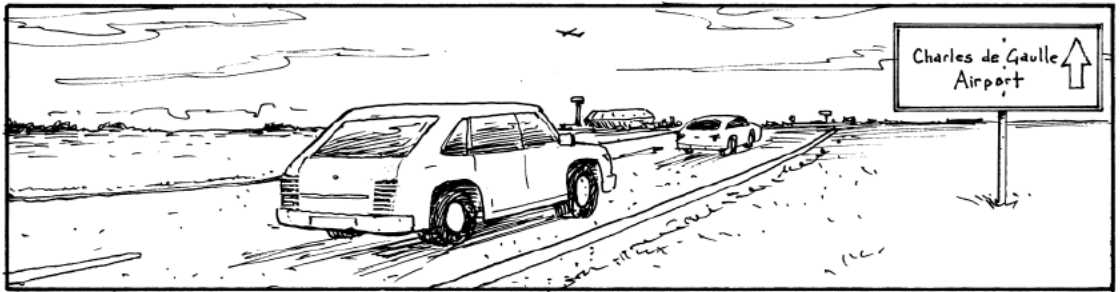
THAT'S WHAT HE SAID! AND THE OTHER GUY AGREED WITH HIM!

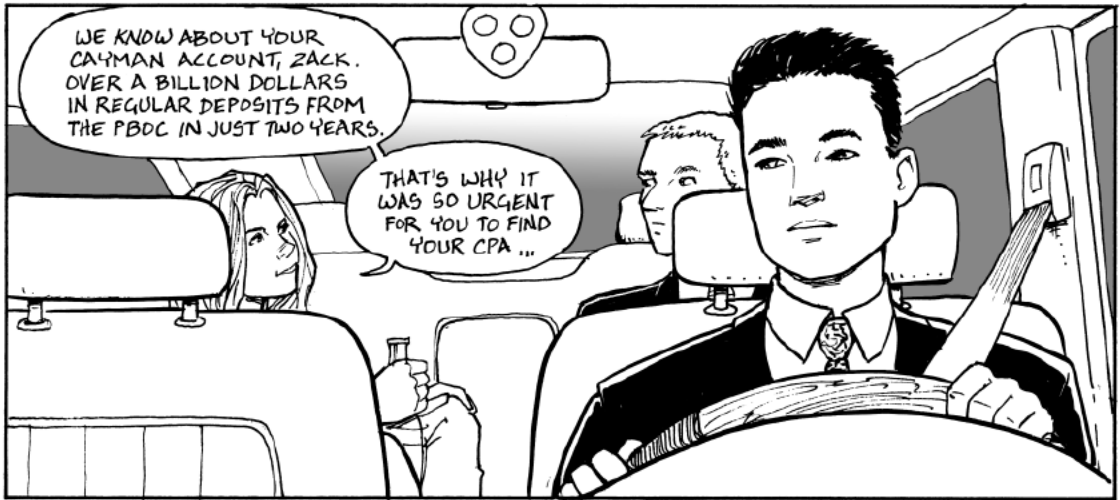
SIP!

CHIP?

YEAH! FRIKKIN' CHIP!

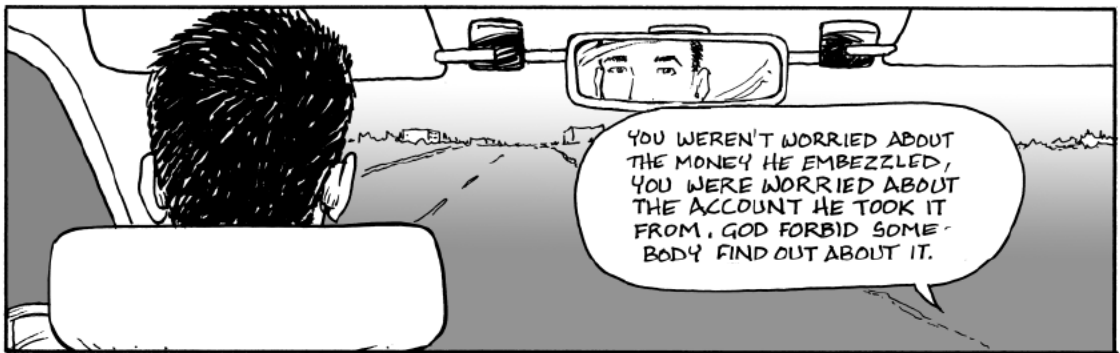
WHAT A PAIR, HUH?





WE KNOW ABOUT YOUR CAYMAN ACCOUNT, ZACK. OVER A BILLION DOLLARS IN REGULAR DEPOSITS FROM THE PBDC IN JUST TWO YEARS.

THAT'S WHY IT WAS SO URGENT FOR YOU TO FIND YOUR CPA ...



YOU WEREN'T WORRIED ABOUT THE MONEY HE EMBEZZLED, YOU WERE WORRIED ABOUT THE ACCOUNT HE TOOK IT FROM. GOD FORBID SOMEBODY FIND OUT ABOUT IT.



SO YOU HIRED US TO FIND HIM FOR YOU AND WE DID. PAYING THE PARKER GIRLS FIVE MILLION TO RETRIEVE TEN WAS A RED FLAG, ZACK. WE WONDERED WHY.

JEALOSY. THAT'S ALL. HE HAD AN AFFAIR WITH MY WIFE.

SO YOU KILLED THEM.



I MOST CERTAINLY DID NOT! PIPER'S DEATH WAS A TRAGIC ACCIDENT. SHE FELL OVERBOARD AT NIGHT AND COULDN'T SWIM. AS FOR MY CPA, THE LAST TIME I SAW MARK HARRIS HE WAS VERY MUCH ALIVE. WHERE HE IS NOW I DON'T CARE. HE'S FIRED!

OH ZACK!!!

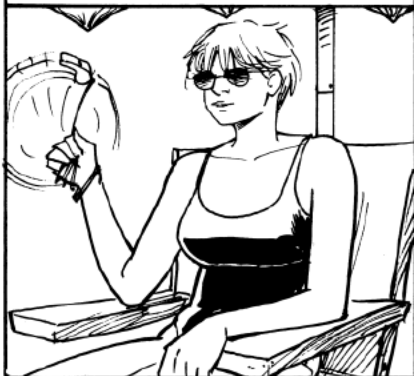
YOU'RE SO USED TO EMPLOYEES LETTING YOU SAY WHATEVER YOU WANT... BUT THE FEDS AREN'T ON YOUR PAYROLL. THEY'LL FIND EVERYTHING.



THE FAA KNOWS WHERE YOUR HELICOPTER FLIES, ZACK. THEY KNOW YOU WERE ON IT WHEN IT FLEW FROM VEGAS OUT INTO THE NEVADA DESERT TO THE EXACT SPOT WHERE A PARK RANGER FOUND WHAT WAS LEFT OF MARK HARRIS' BODY A FEW DAYS AGO.



AND THE LAPD DOESN'T JUST TAKE YOUR WORD FOR IT WHEN YOU TELL THEM PIPER WASN'T A GOOD SWIMMER. THEY'LL CHECK THAT OUT AND FIND OUT SHE WAS A LIFE GUARD IN SCHOOL. YOU DIDN'T KNOW THAT, DID YOU?



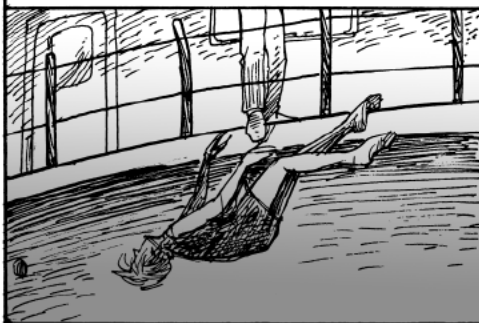
YOU TWO WERE FIGHTING THAT NIGHT ON THE BOAT, THE CAPTAIN CALLED IT A DIVORCE FIGHT.



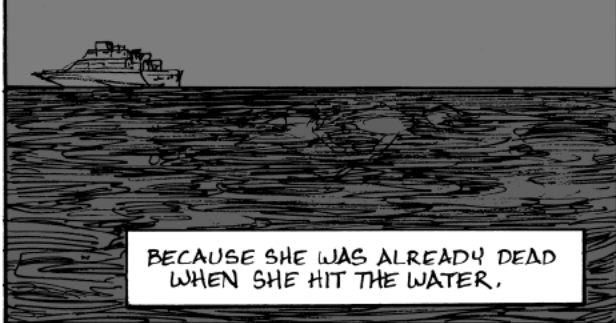
YOU PUSHED HER OFF THE UPPER DECK.



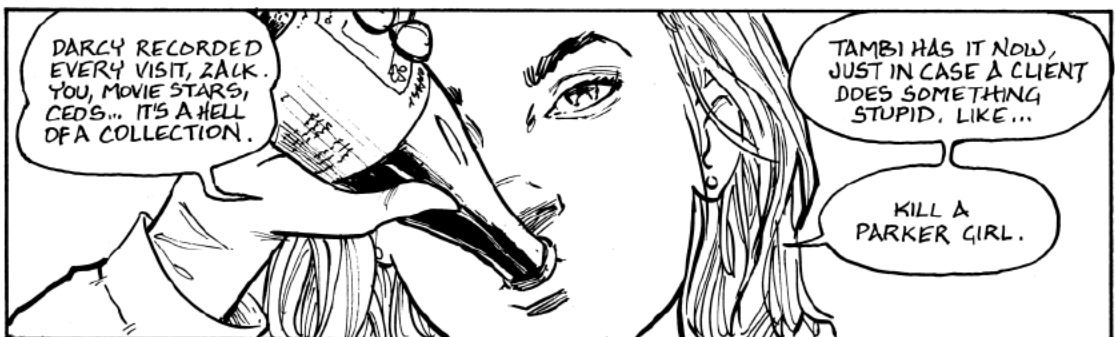
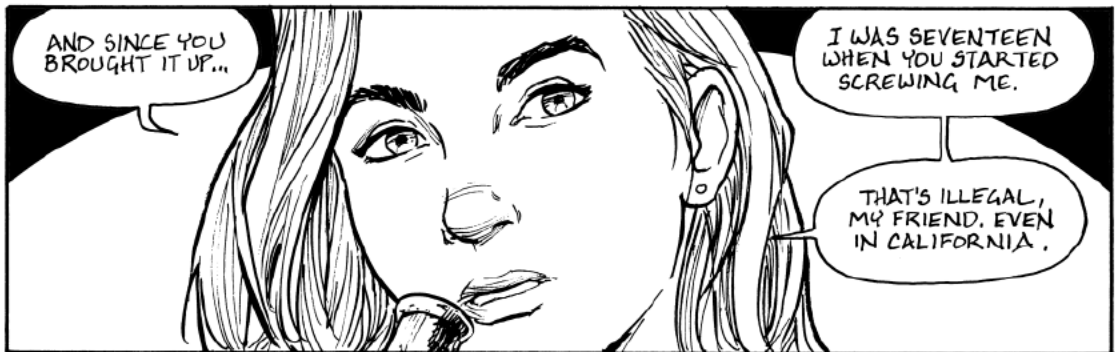
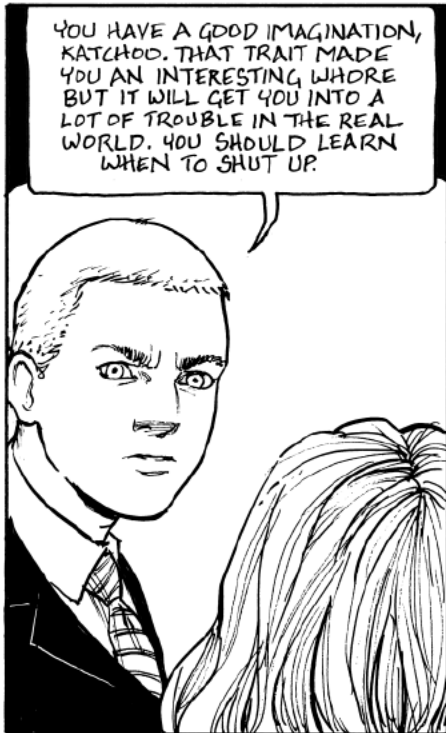
SHE LANDED ON THE FIRST DECK RAIL AND BENT IT. HER SKULL WAS CRACKED. INVESTIGATORS FOUND SIGNS SHE LAID ON THAT DECK... SO YOU MUST HAVE FINISHED THE JOB AND PUSHED HER OVER.



PIPER COULDN'T SWIM WHEN SHE FELL OVERBOARD —

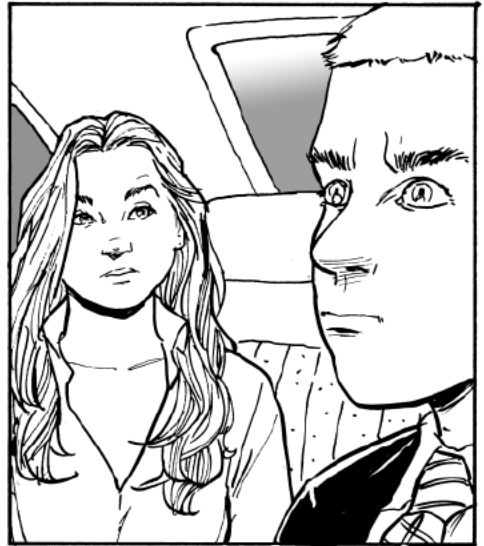


BECAUSE SHE WAS ALREADY DEAD WHEN SHE HIT THE WATER.

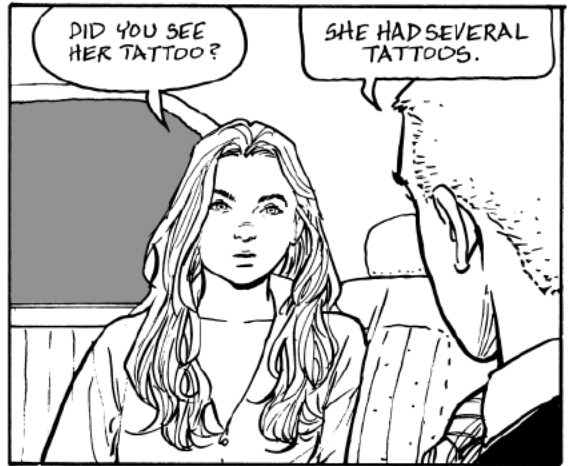




I'LL LET THAT SINK
IN A MINUTE.

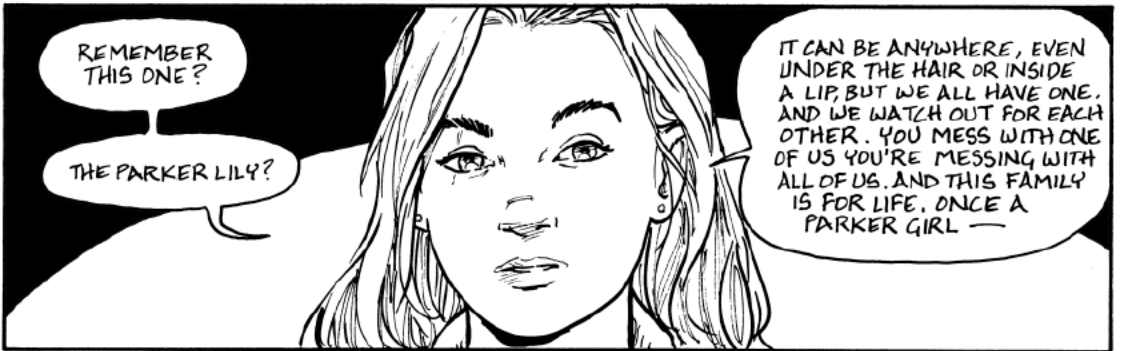


PIPER WAS A
PARKER GIRL?



DID YOU SEE
HER TATTOO?

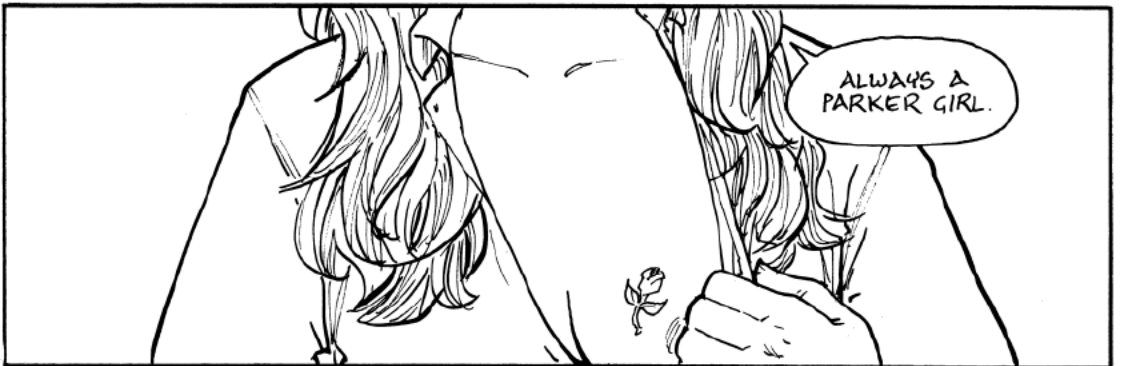
SHE HAD SEVERAL
TATTOOS.



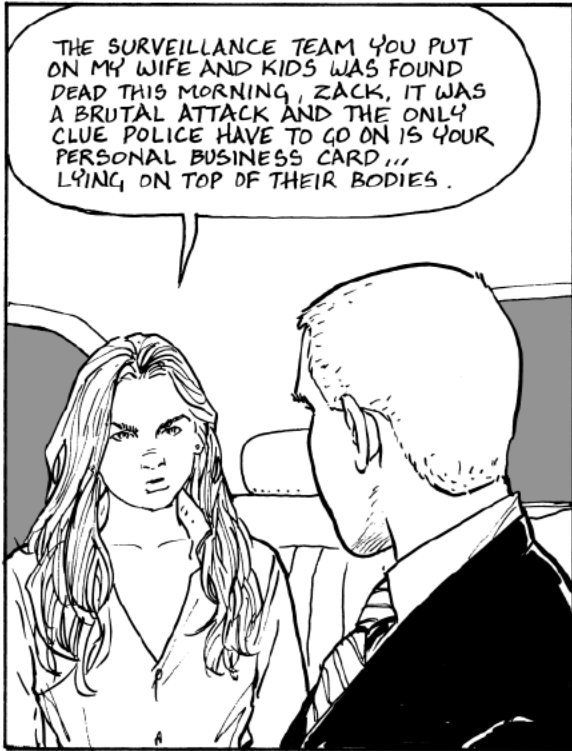
REMEMBER
THIS ONE?

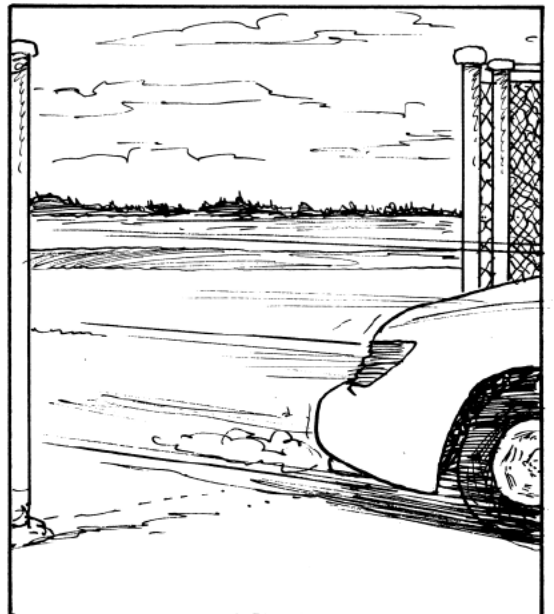
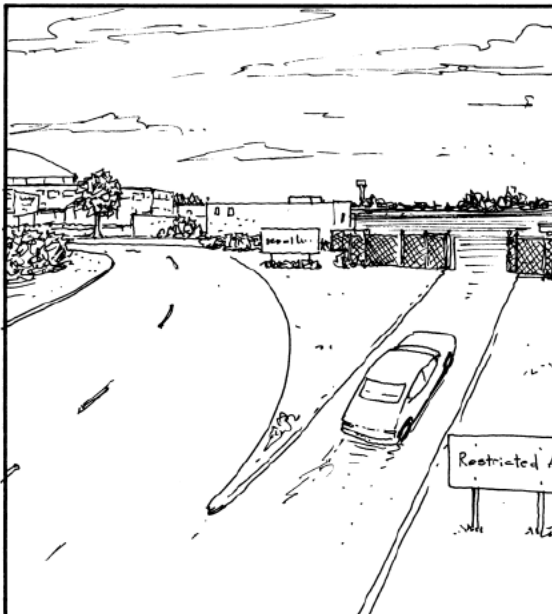
THE PARKER LILY?

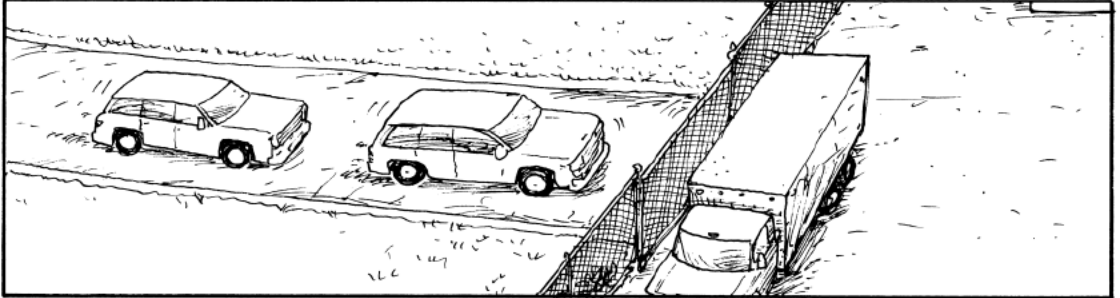
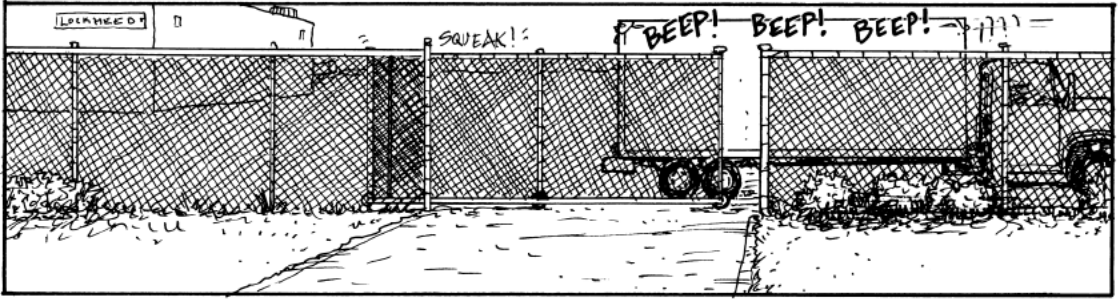
IT CAN BE ANYWHERE, EVEN
UNDER THE HAIR OR INSIDE
A LIP, BUT WE ALL HAVE ONE.
AND WE WATCH OUT FOR EACH
OTHER. YOU MESS WITH ONE
OF US YOU'RE MESSING WITH
ALL OF US. AND THIS FAMILY
IS FOR LIFE. ONCE A
PARKER GIRL —

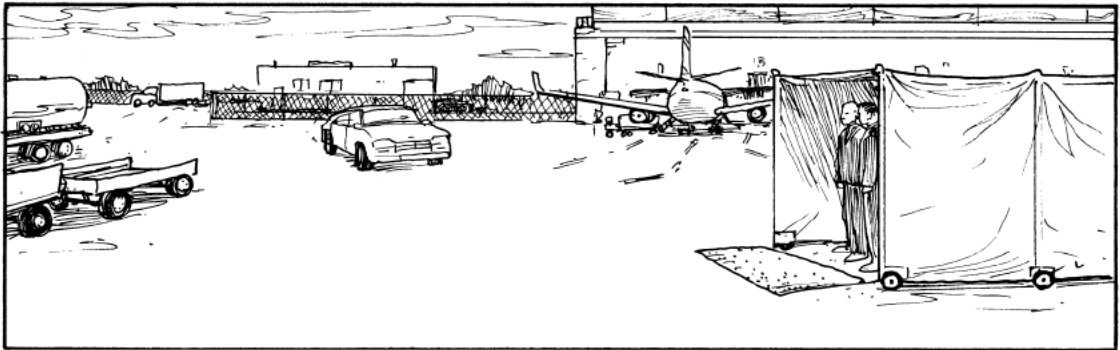


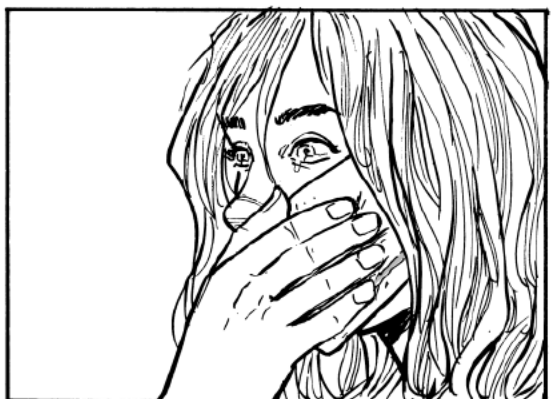
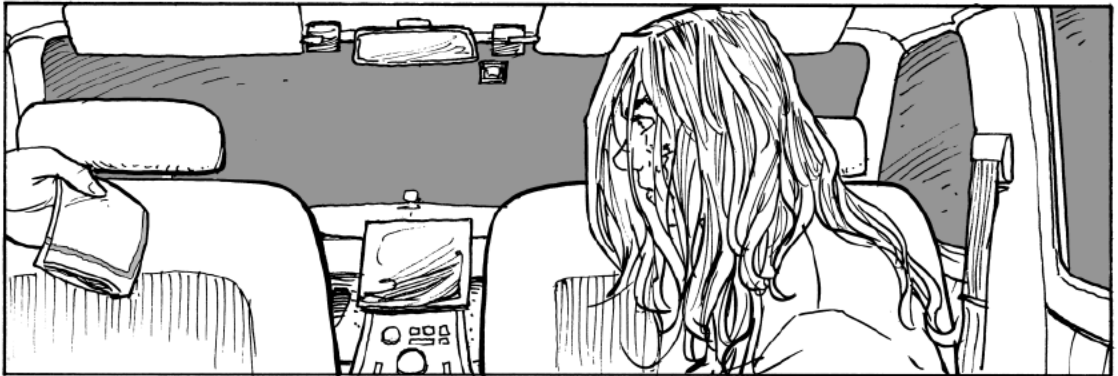
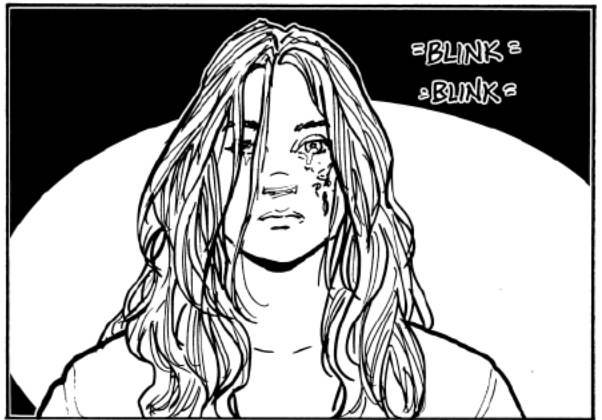
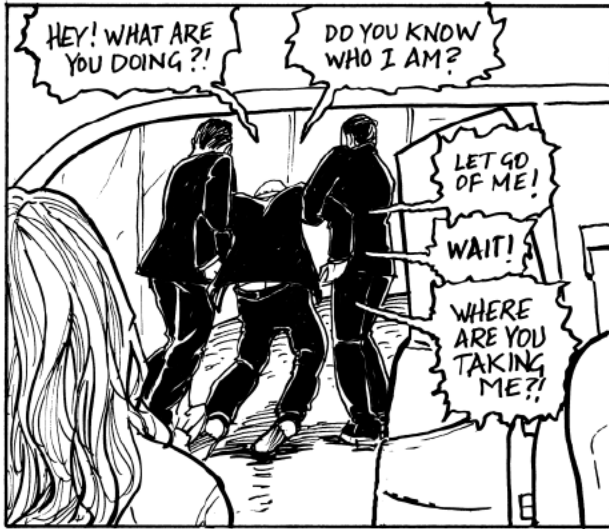
ALWAYS A
PARKER GIRL.

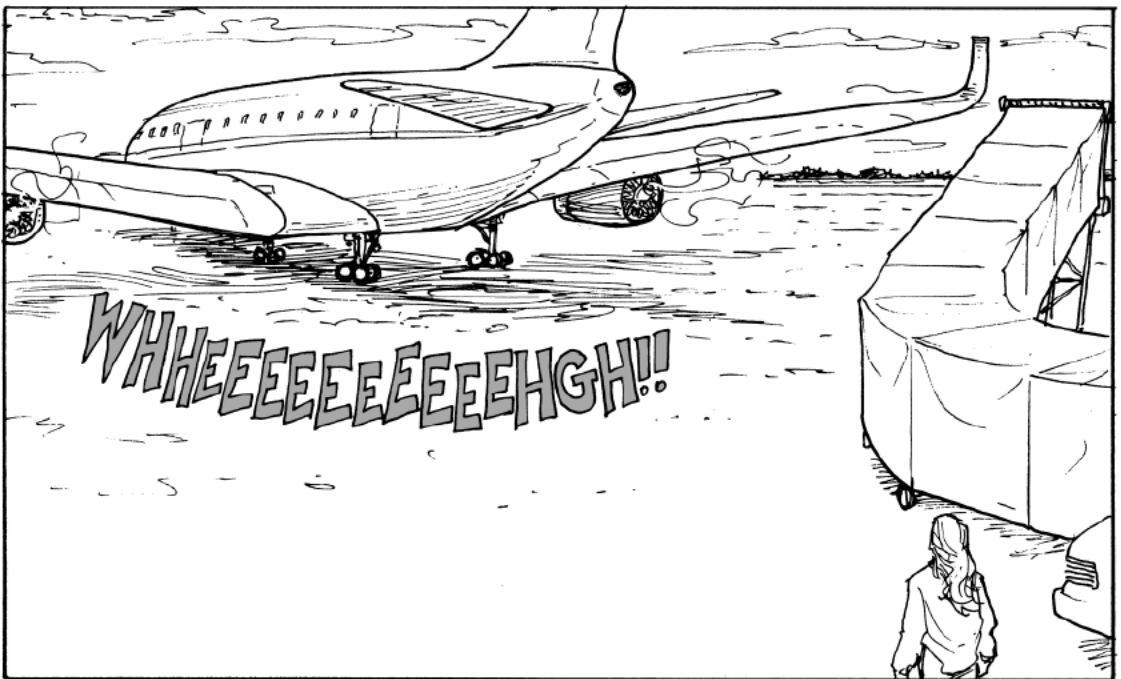
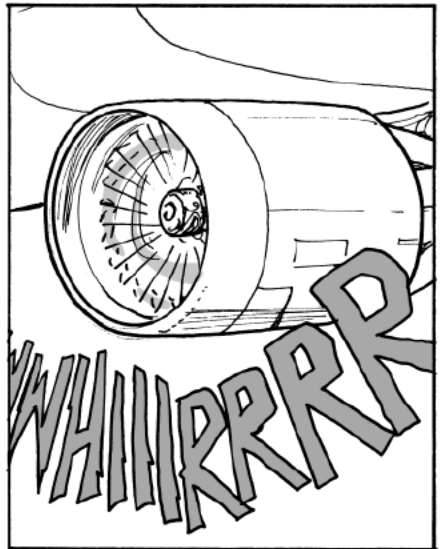
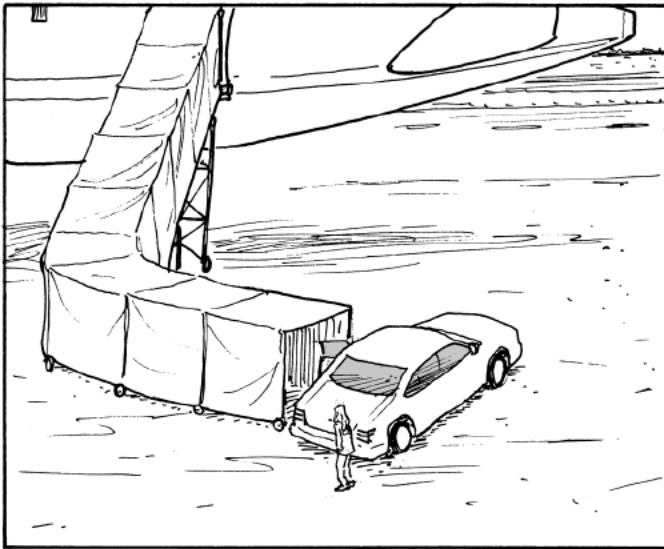
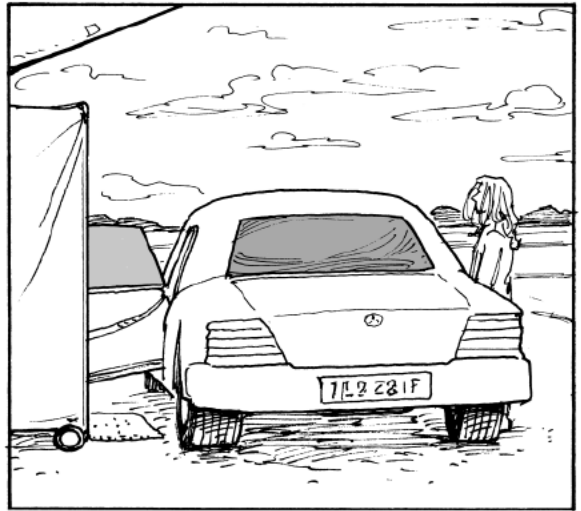


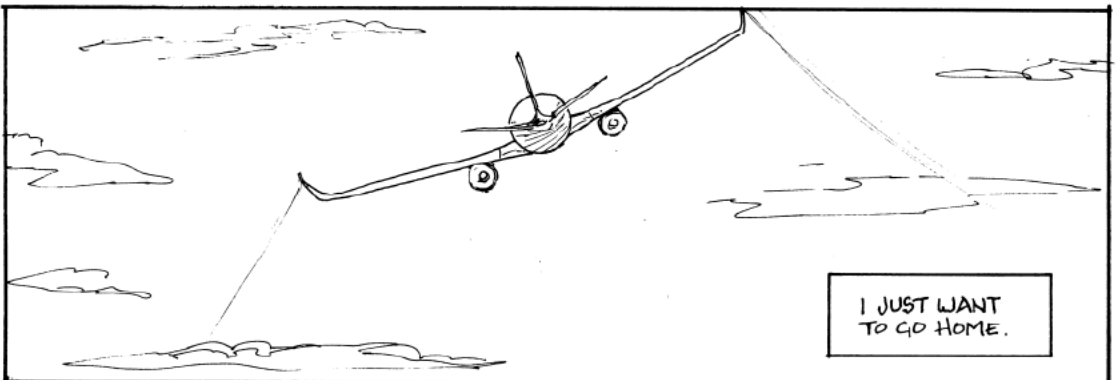
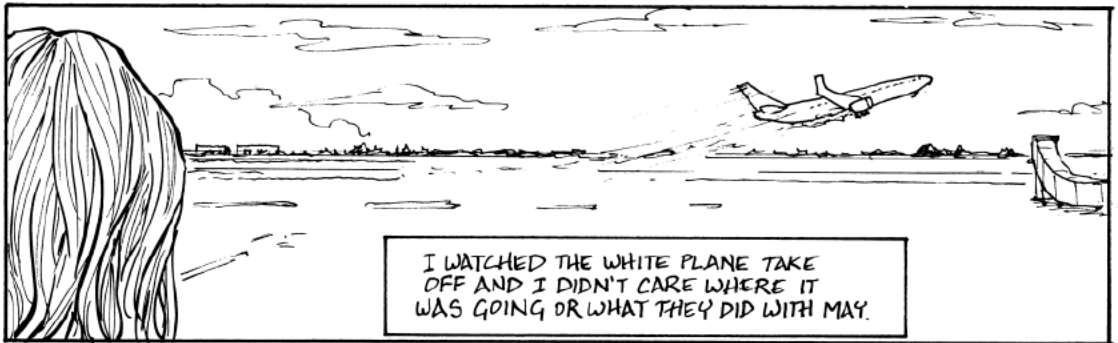
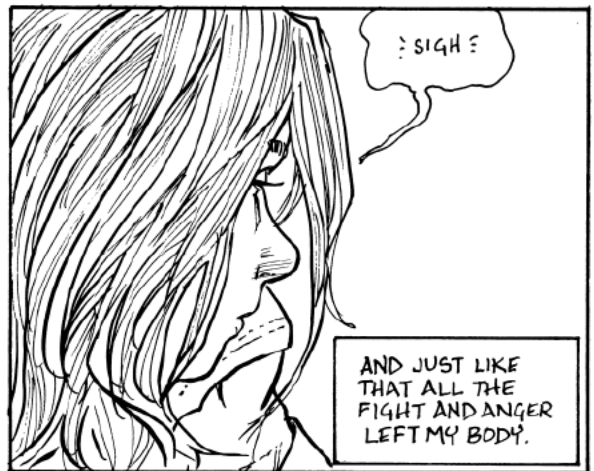
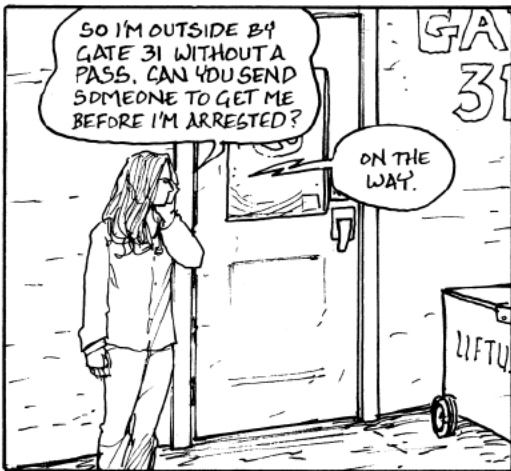
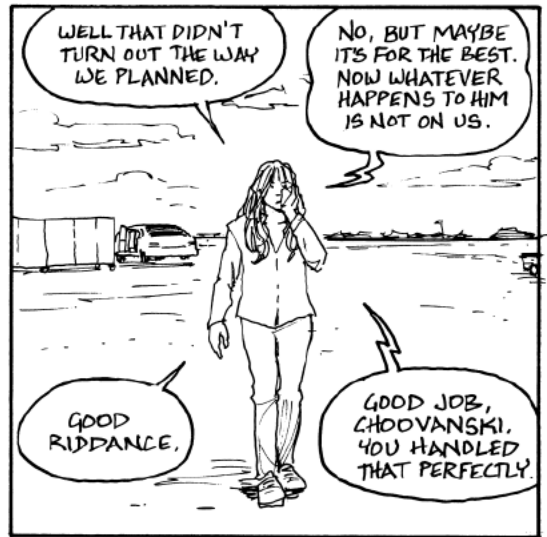
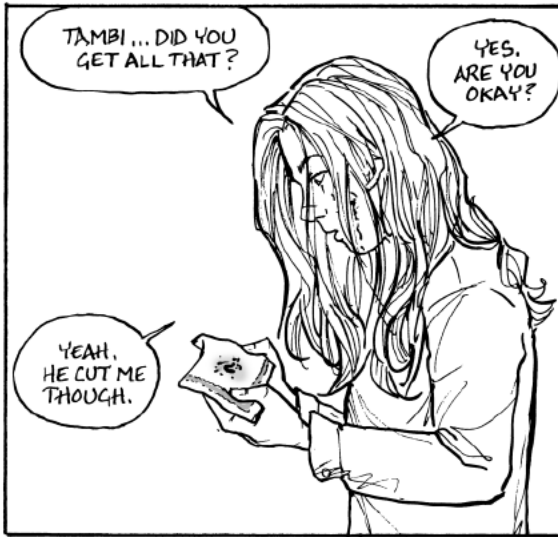














CHARLIE?

CHARLIE, I'M A FRIEND OF PIPER'S.

MY NAME IS CHERRY.

I'M WITH THE PARKER GIRLS.

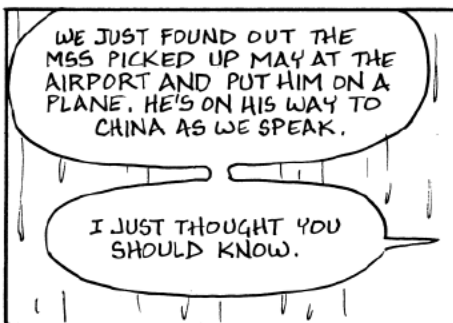


WE WATCHED YOU SET UP. YOU PICKED A GOOD SPOT. I DON'T THINK ANYONE SAW YOU BUT US.

I KNOW WHY YOU'RE HERE, CHARLIE, AND I DON'T BLAME YOU.

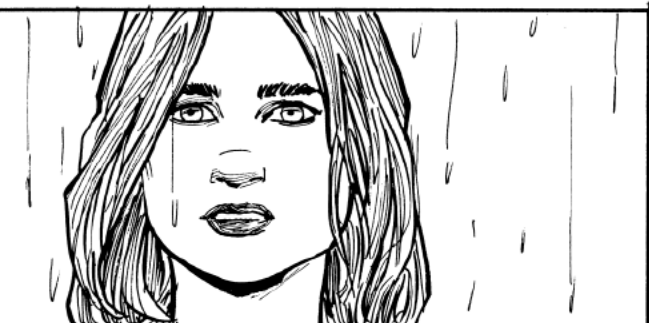
TO BE HONEST, WE'RE HERE FOR THE SAME REASON.

BUT HE'S NOT COMING.



WE JUST FOUND OUT THE MSS PICKED UP MAY AT THE AIRPORT AND PUT HIM ON A PLANE. HE'S ON HIS WAY TO CHINA AS WE SPEAK.

I JUST THOUGHT YOU SHOULD KNOW.



ZACKARY MAY MURDERED MY SISTER.

YES, HE DID.

THE POLICE KNOW IT, TOO.

SO WE'RE LEAVING.

YOU OKAY? YOU NEED A RIDE TO THE TRAIN STATION?



I SOLD EVERYTHING TO GET HERE. I DIDN'T THINK I'D BE GOING BACK.

KIND OF A ONE WAY TRIP SORT OF... PLAN.



COME WITH US THEN. WE'LL GET YOU HOME SAFE.

THANKS. WHAT'S THE MSS?

CHINA'S SECRET POLICE.

SO... THAT'S BAD.

IT'S NOT GOOD.

IT WAS 4 IN THE MORNING WHEN I PULLED UP TO MY HOUSE IN SANTA FE, THE FIRST THING I NOTICED WAS THE KITCHEN LIGHT WAS ON.



I KNOW I TURNED THE LIGHTS OFF.

A BLACK SUV WAS PARKED OUT FRONT, FACING THE HOUSE.



IT WAS KELLY... ONE OF TAMBIS' DOBERMANS. THE DOBERMANS—MY TERM, NOT TAMBIS—ARE THE NEW CLASS OF PARKER GIRLS TRAINED FOR A MEANER WORLD.



CASEY CALLS THEM MINI-TAMBIS. I CALL THEM SCARY. THE PHOTO I SAW OF THE GUY DEAD ON A TOILET... THAT WAS A DOBERMAN JOB. MAYBE KELLY DID IT, I DON'T KNOW.



BUT WHY IS SHE HERE?



I WAS ABOUT TO APPROACH HER WHEN SHE GESTURED TOWARD THE HOUSE.



SHE'S GUARDING THE HOUSE?



WHY?





FRANCINE?



Hi honey.

I was trying to wait up.



OH BABE, I'VE MISSED YOU SO MUCH.

COME HERE.



IS EVERYTHING OKAY? THERE'S A CAR OUT FRONT.

UH HUH, THAT'S KELLY. SHE'S BEEN WATCHING OUT FOR US.



SHE HAS?

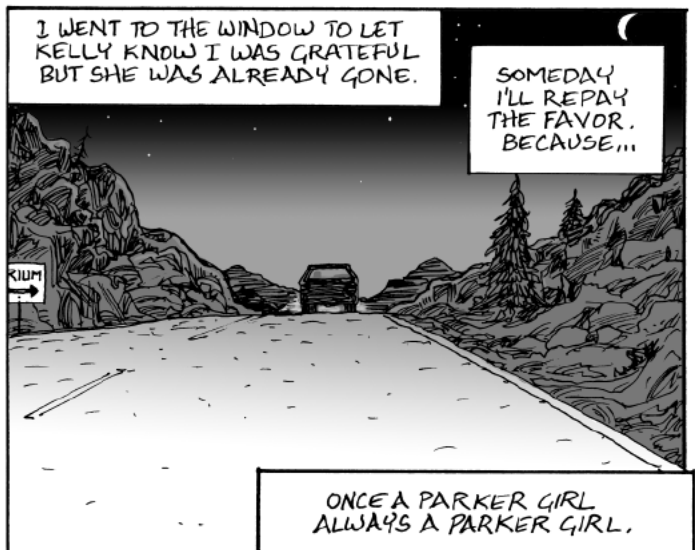
JUST UNTIL YOU GET BACK. I HAVE TO TELL YOU I KIND OF LIKED IT. I'VE NEVER FELT SO SAFE!

HONEY, YOUR FACE, WHAT HAPPENED?



IT'S NOTHING. I RAN INTO A WINE GLASS.

OH GOSH. I'LL GET A BAND-AID.



I WENT TO THE WINDOW TO LET KELLY KNOW I WAS GRATEFUL BUT SHE WAS ALREADY GONE.

SOMEDAY I'LL REPAY THE FAVOR. BECAUSE...

ONCE A PARKER GIRL ALWAYS A PARKER GIRL.

Other books by Terry Moore

Strangers In Paradise

Echo

Rachel Rising

Motor Girl

Strangers In Paradise XXV

Five Years

Ever

Serial

