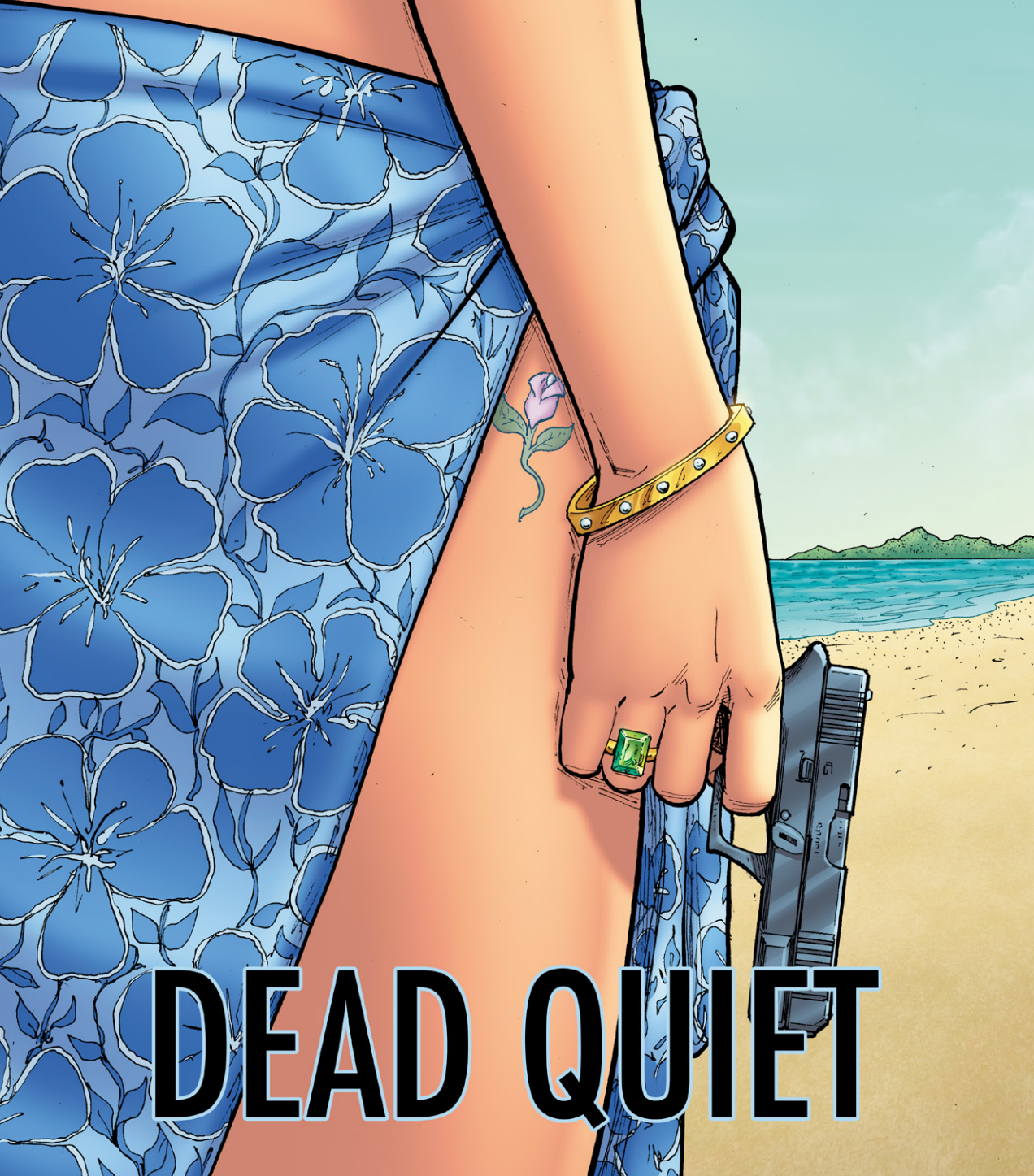
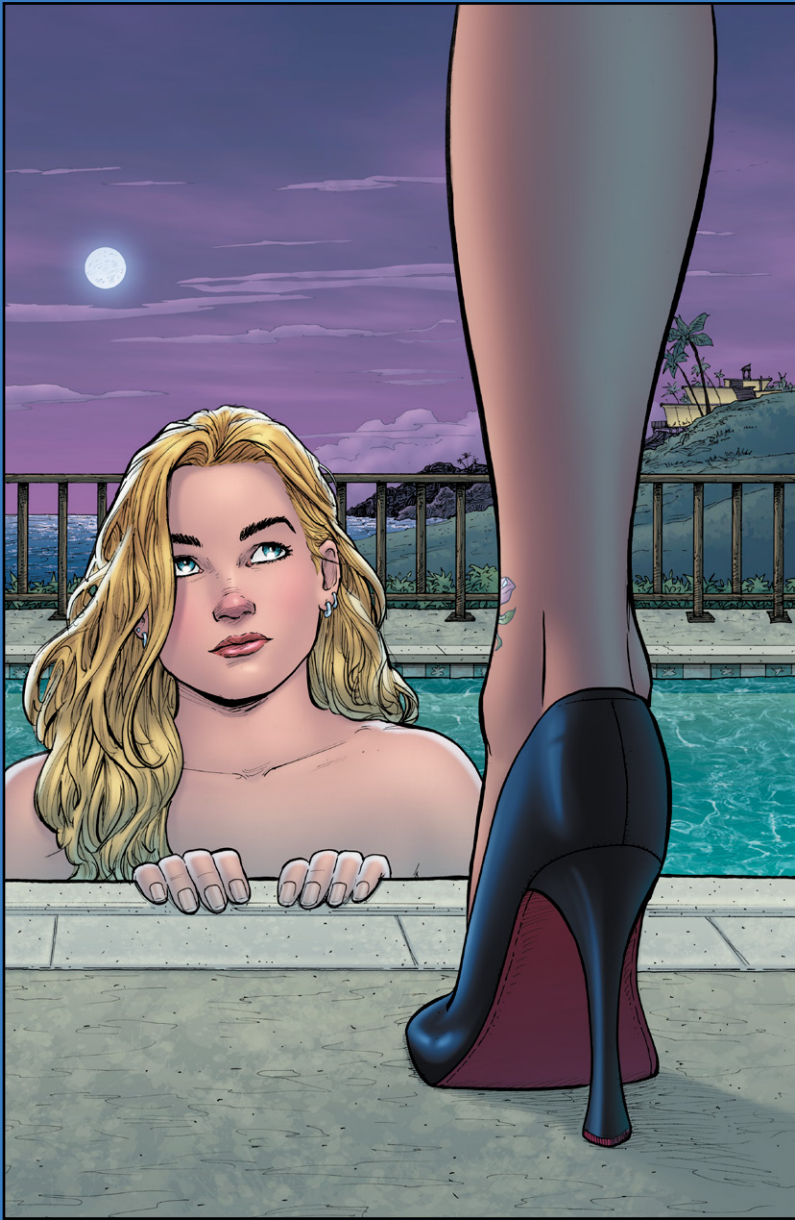


Terry Moore

PARKER GIRLS



DEAD QUIET



When his money manager disappears with \$10 million from an offshore account, billionaire Zackary May hires the Parker Girls to find and retrieve his money. But then the lifeless body of May's wife washes up on Venice Beach and Parker Girls boss Tambi is determined to find out why. Cherry Hammer and Becky are called in to investigate the death while Katchoo returns to settle a score with May himself. It's all hands on deck when the Parker Girls take on one of the richest men in the world and threaten to bring down his empire, one scandal at a time!

From the creator of *Strangers In Paradise*, *Rachel Rising*, and *Motor Girl*.



\$16.99 U.S.



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Color
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PARKER GIRLS
DEAD QUIET

BY
TERRY MOORE



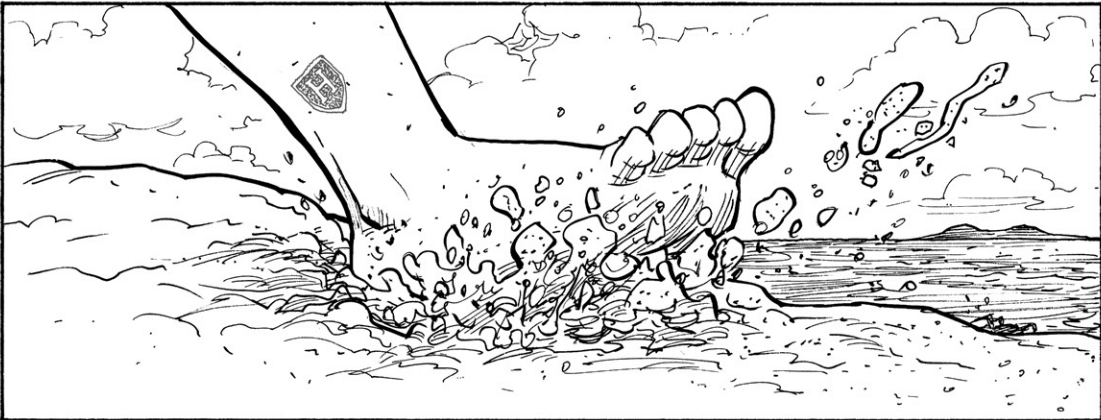
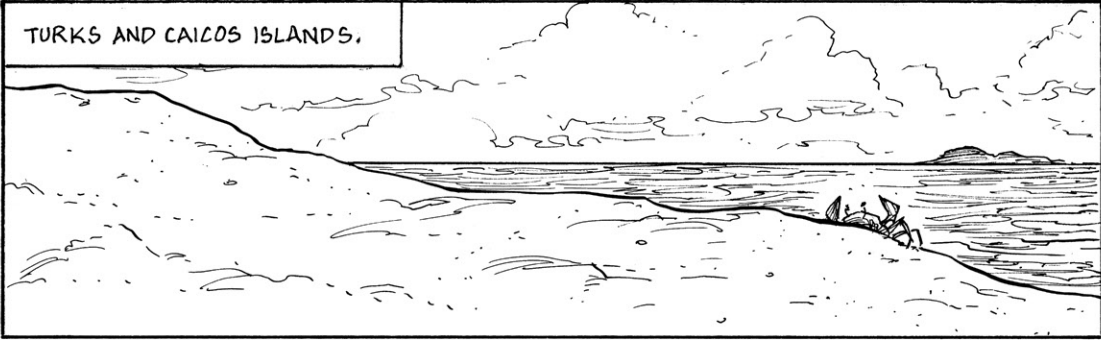
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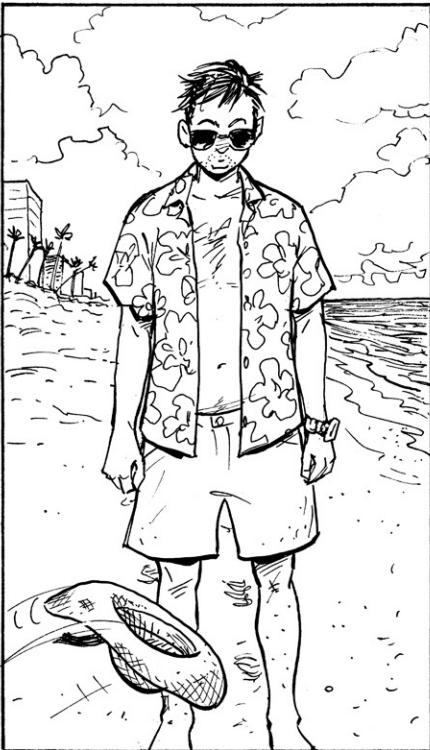
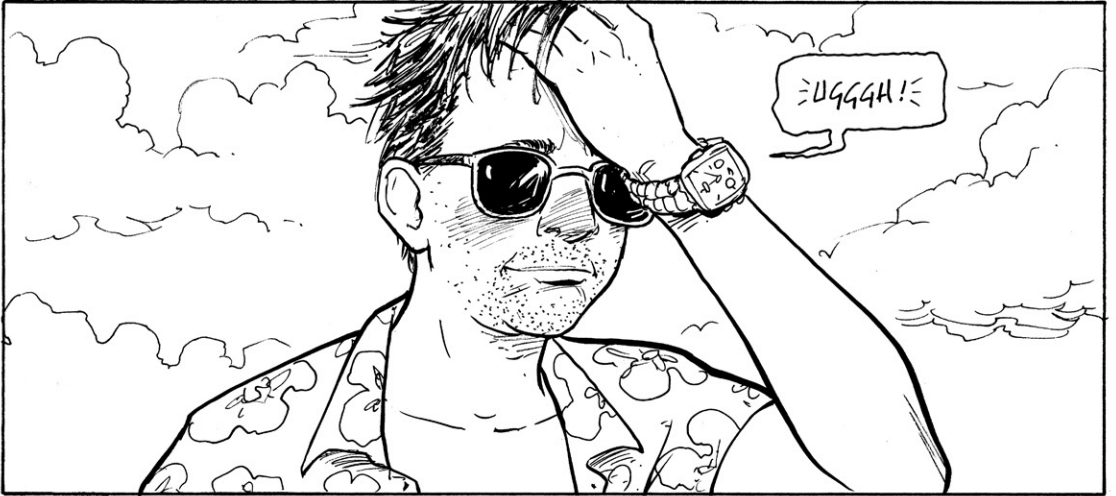
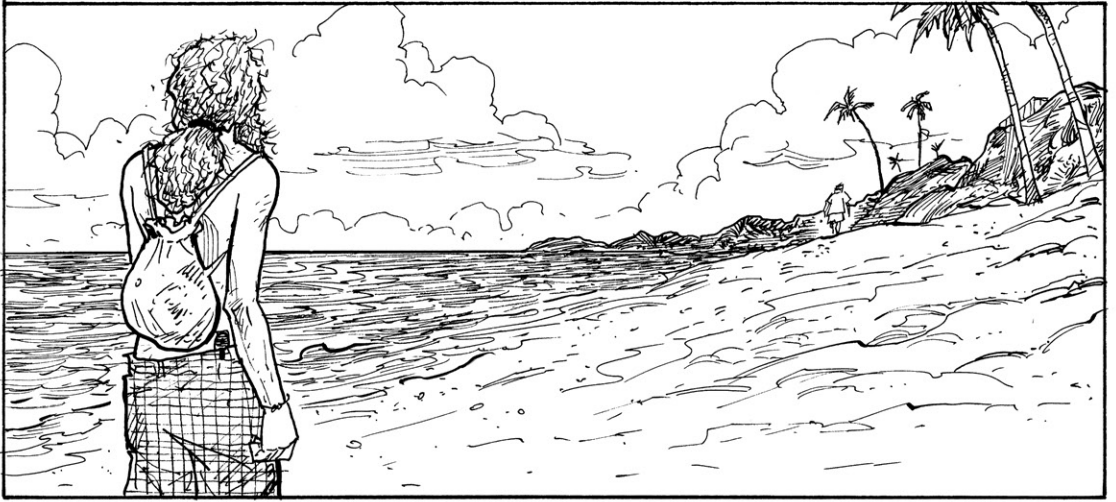
Terry Moore

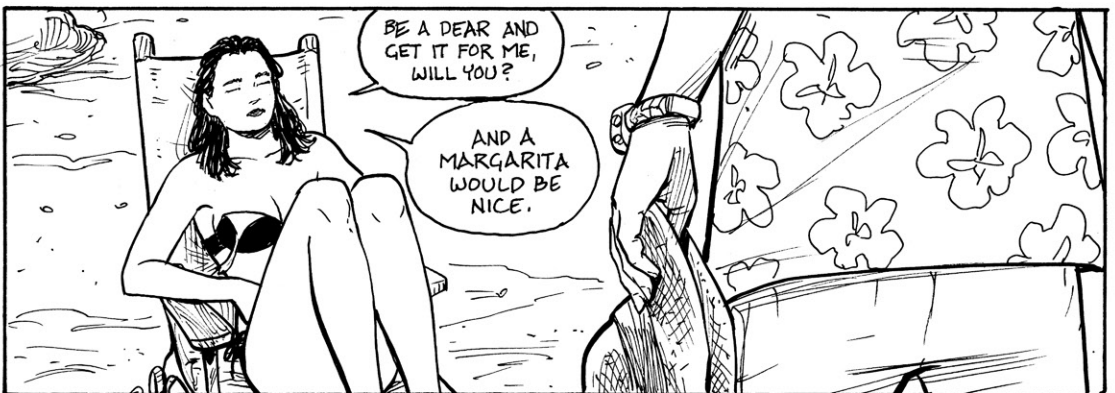
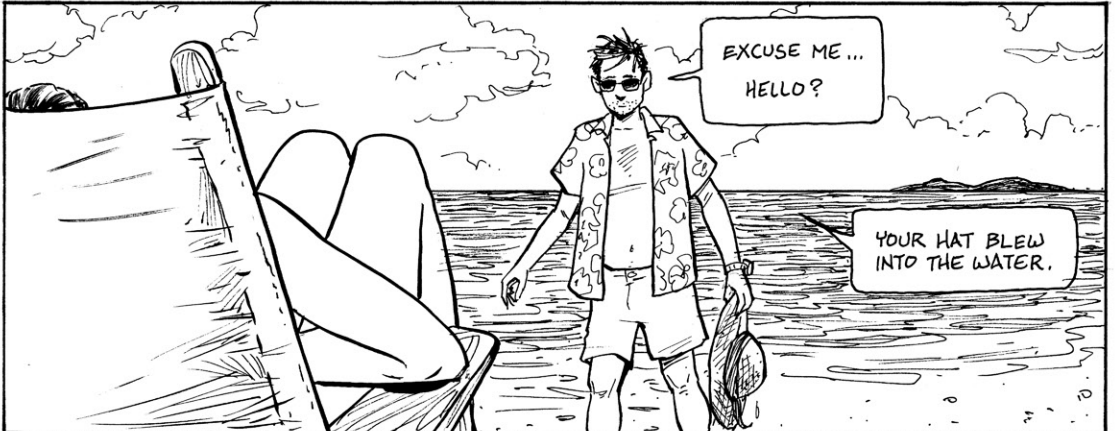
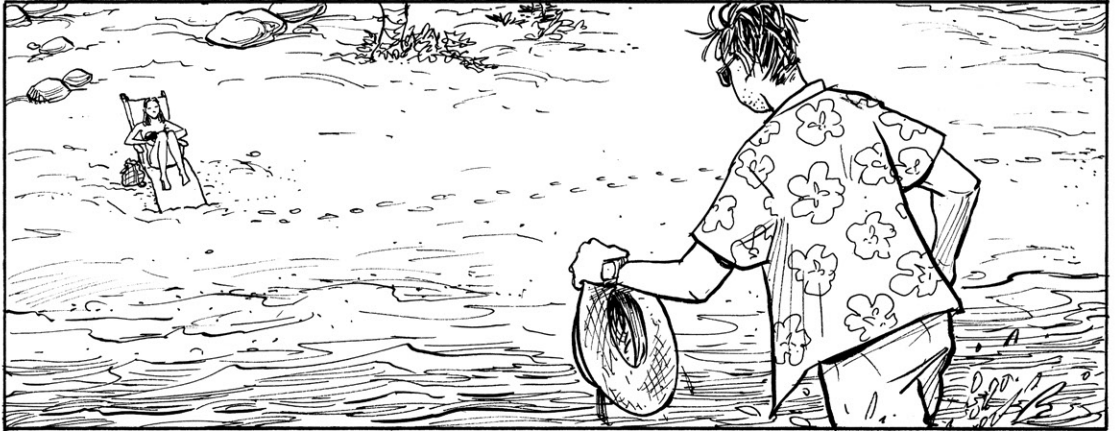
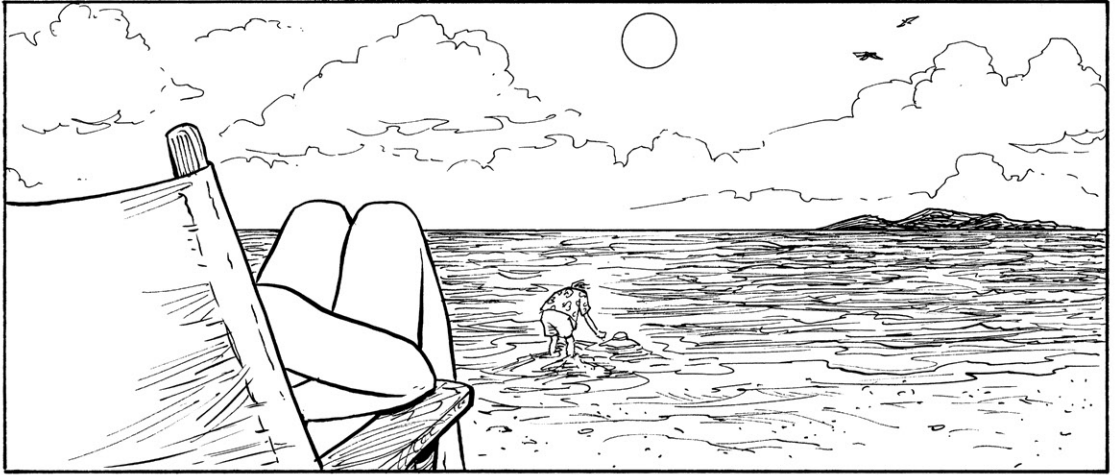
PARKER GIRLS

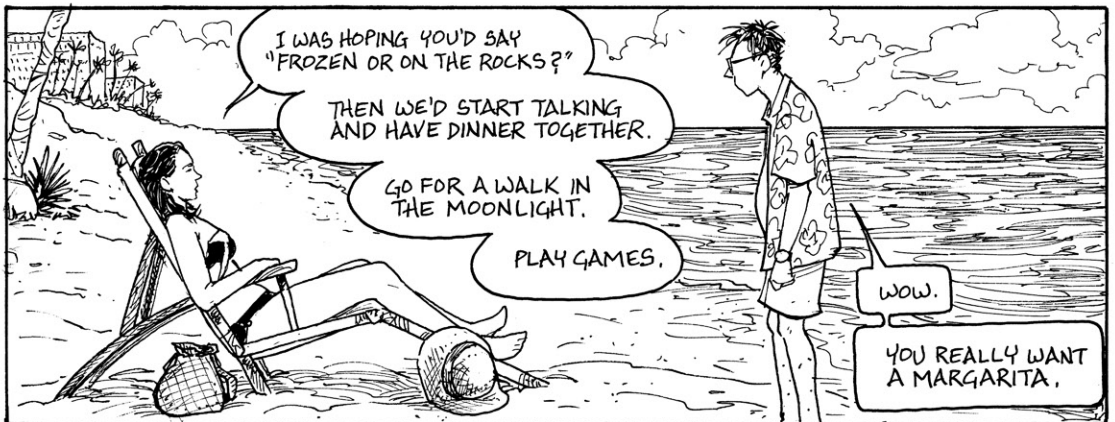
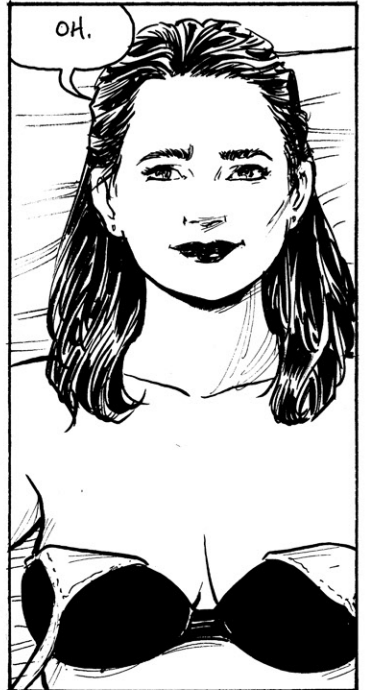
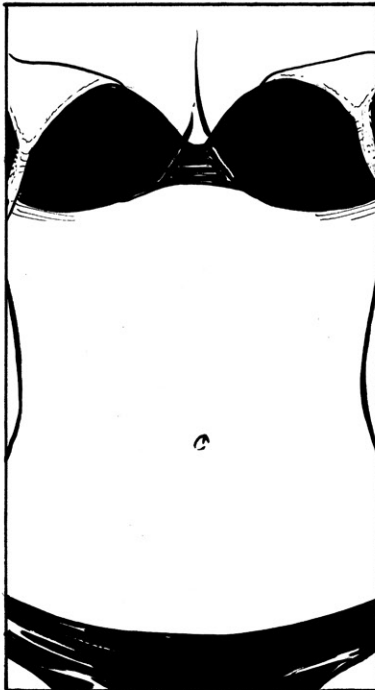
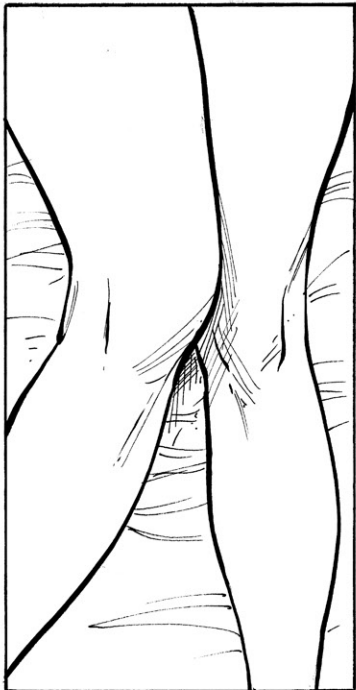
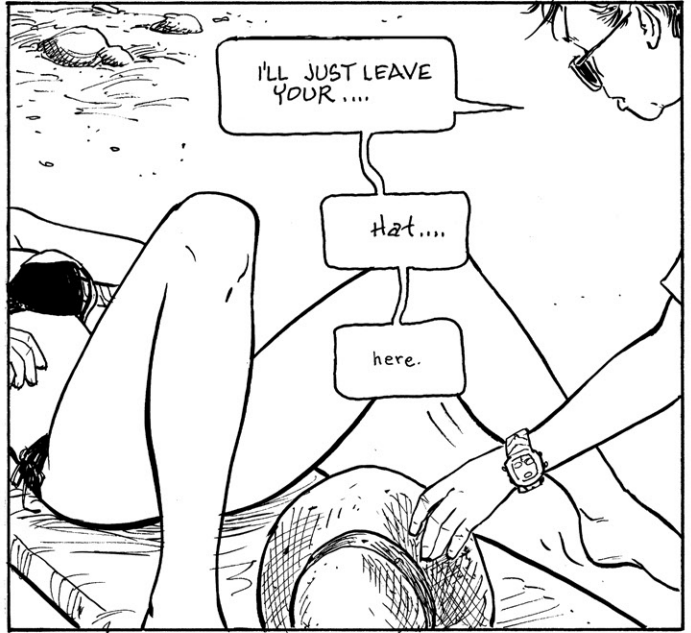
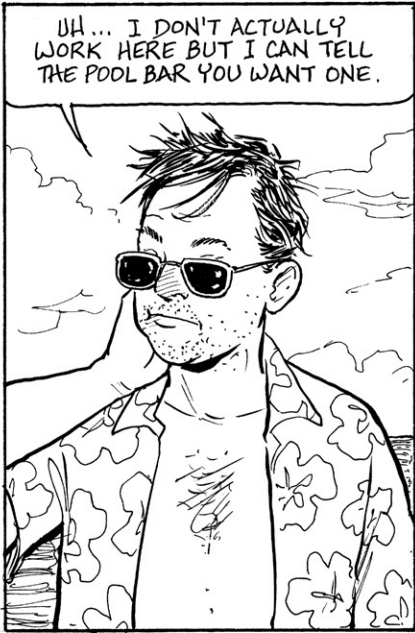


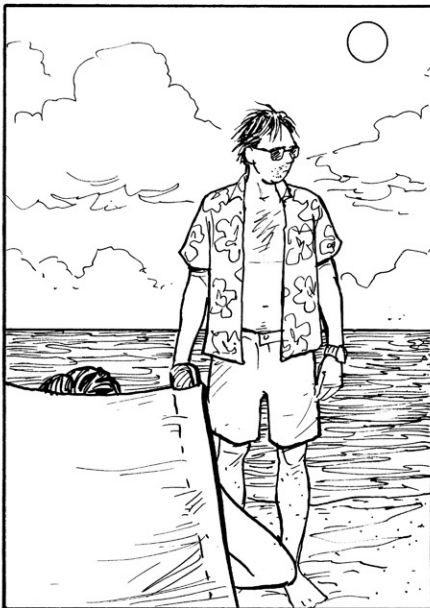
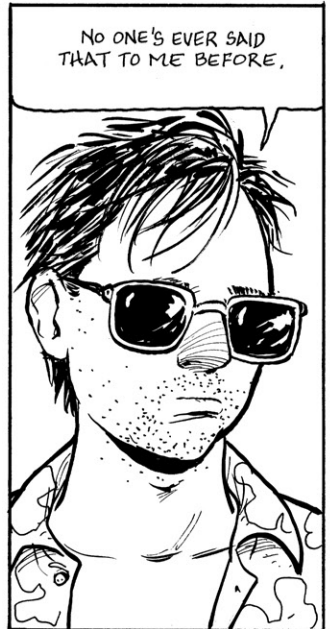
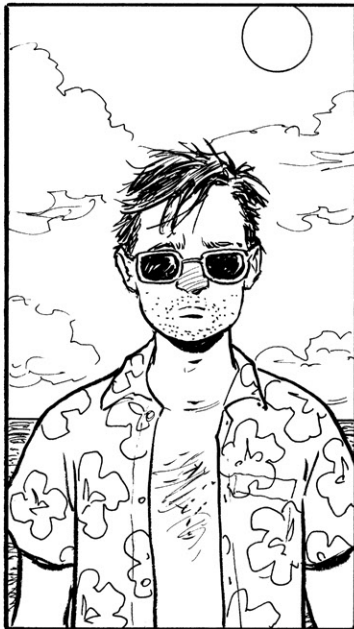
TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS.

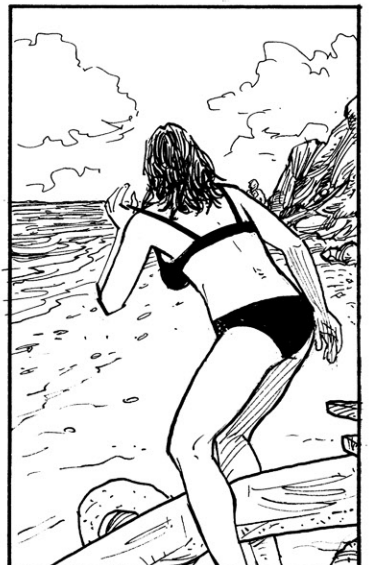
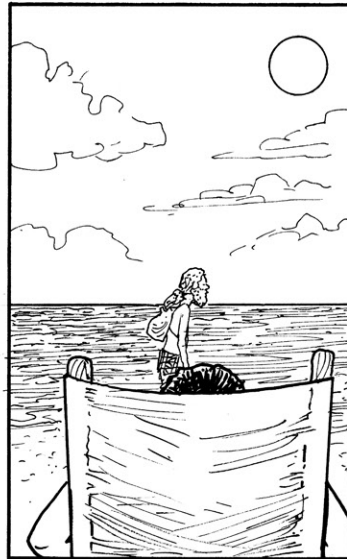
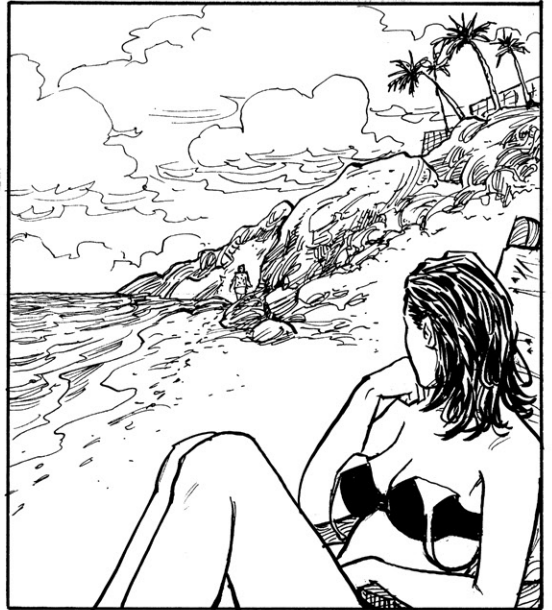


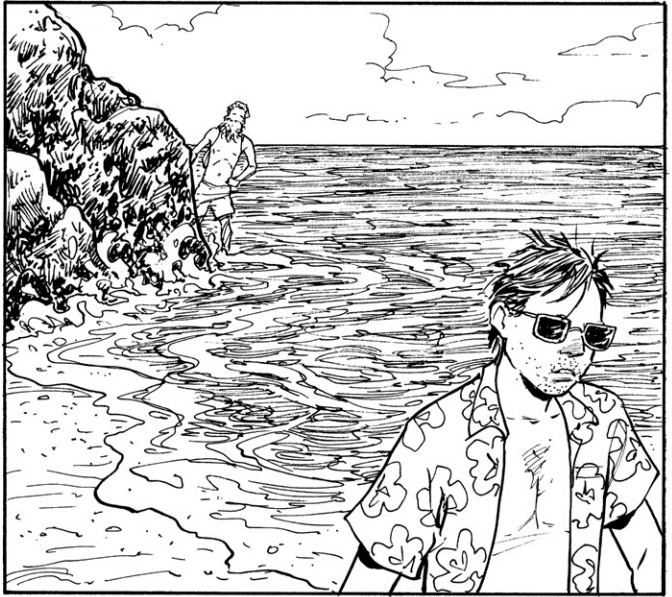
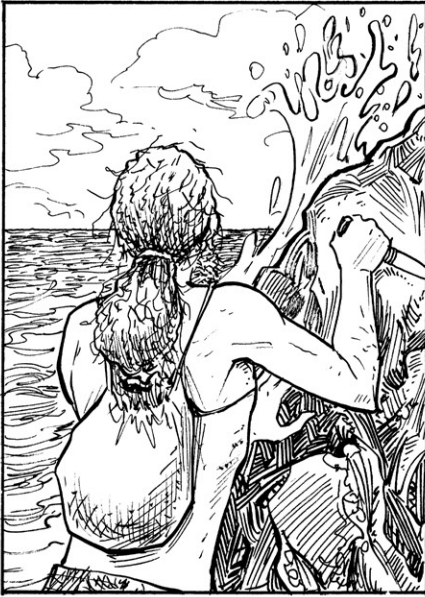


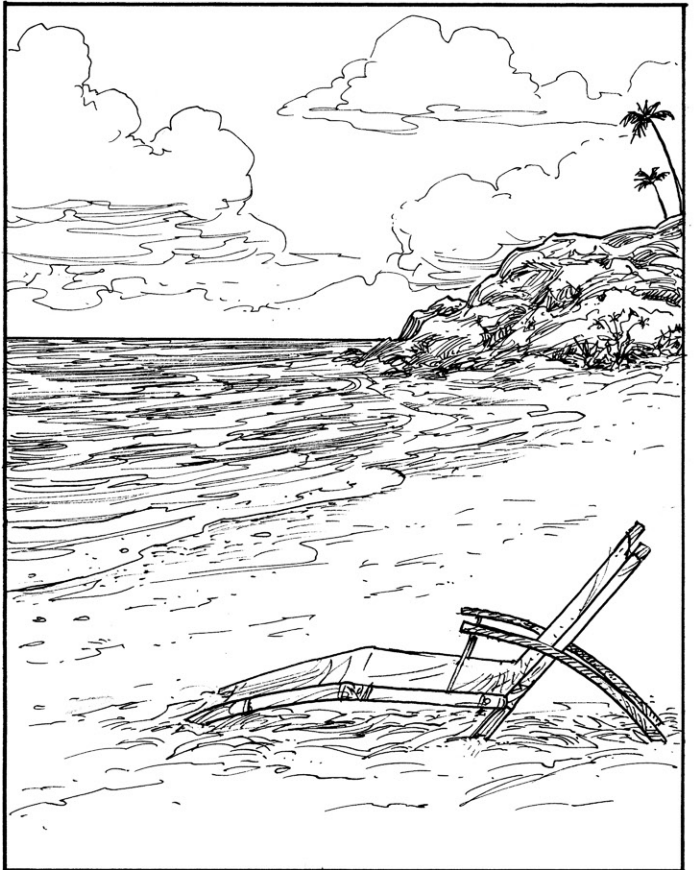
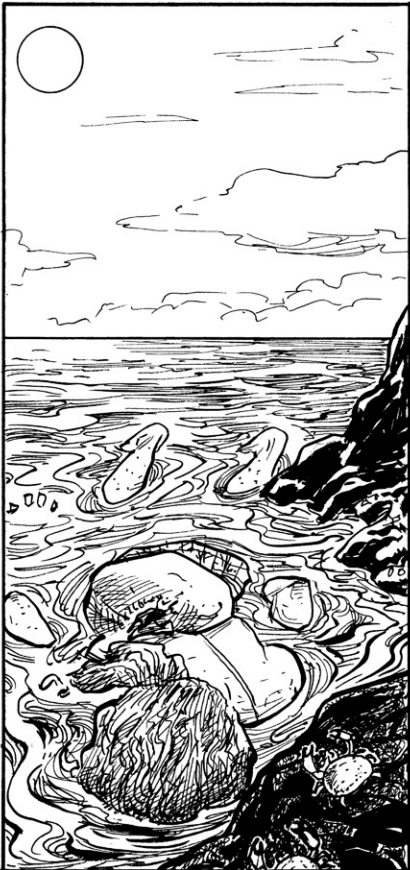


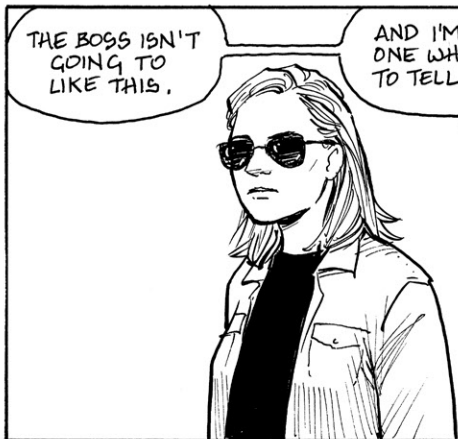
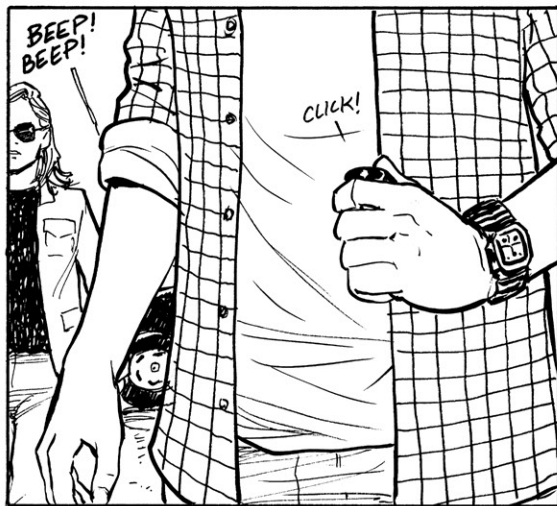




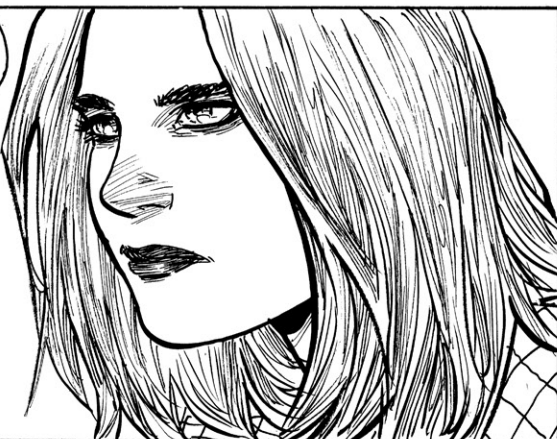


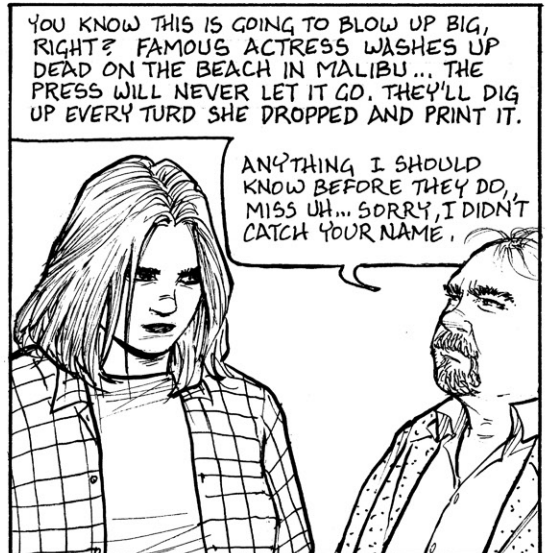
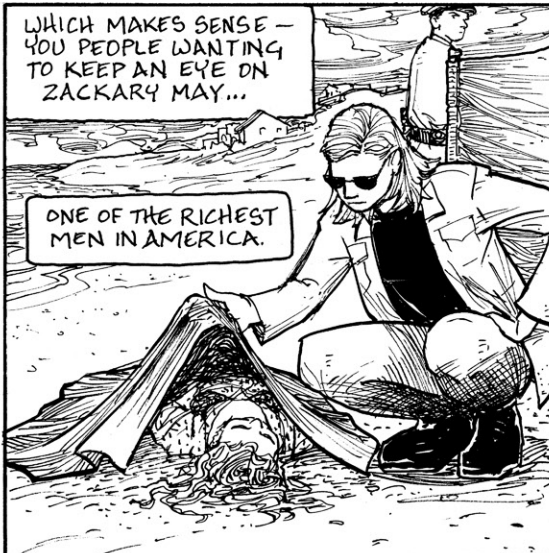
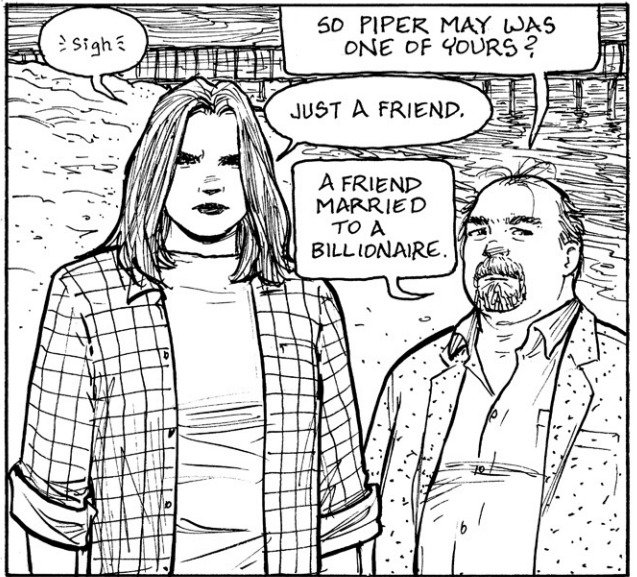
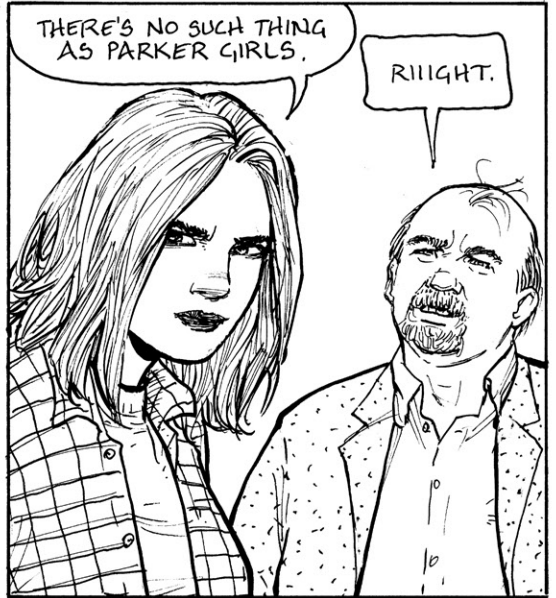
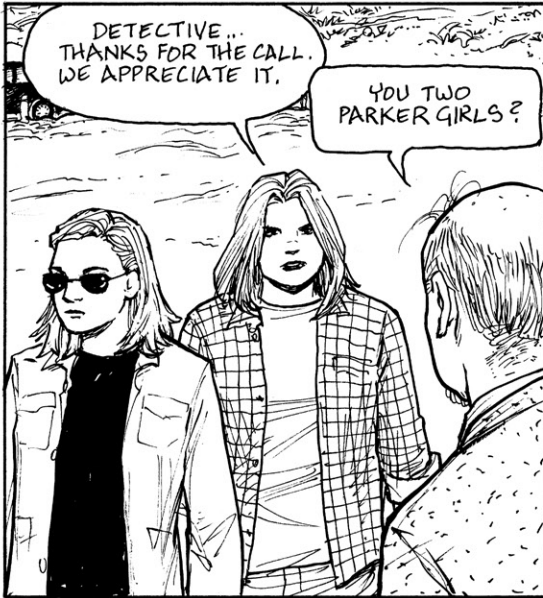


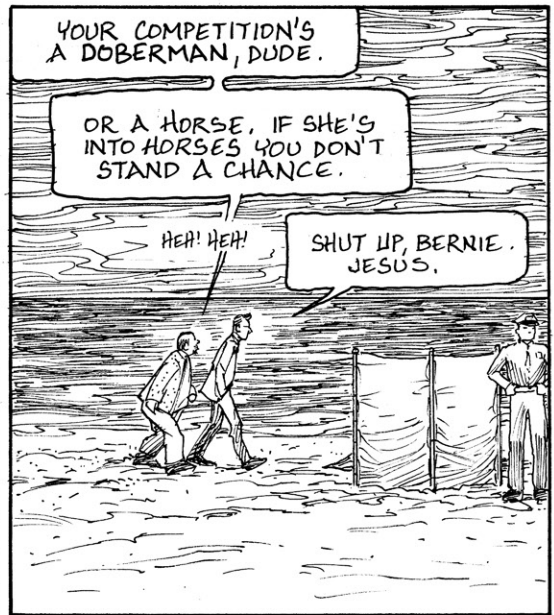
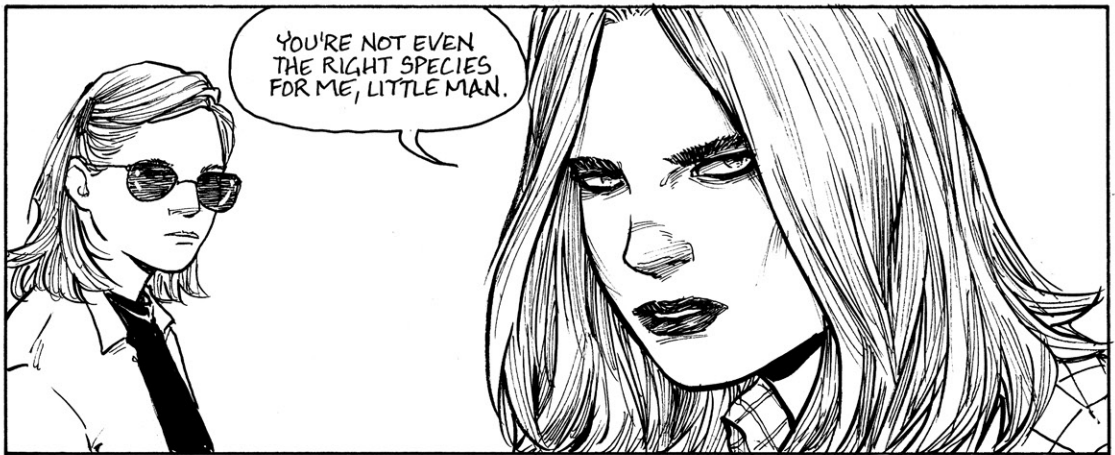


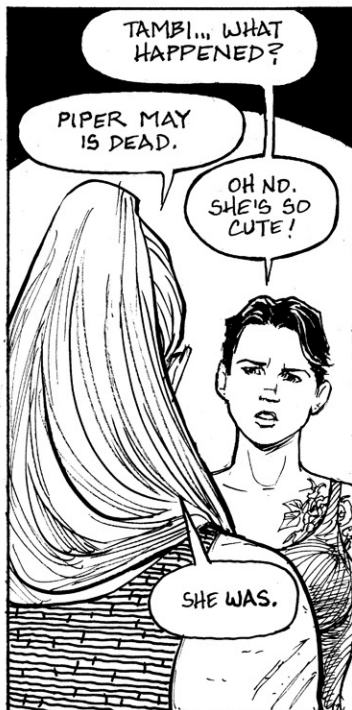
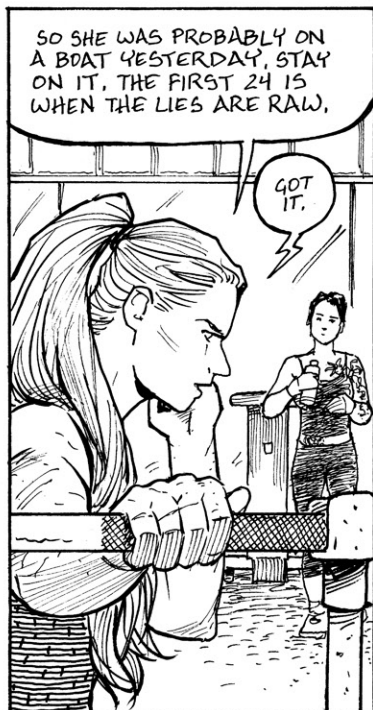
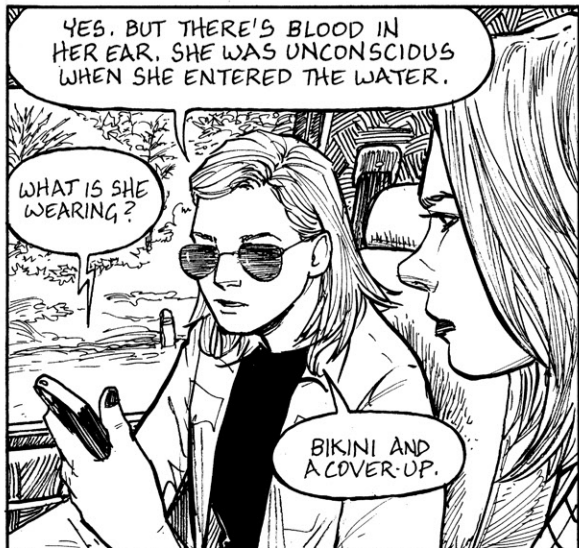
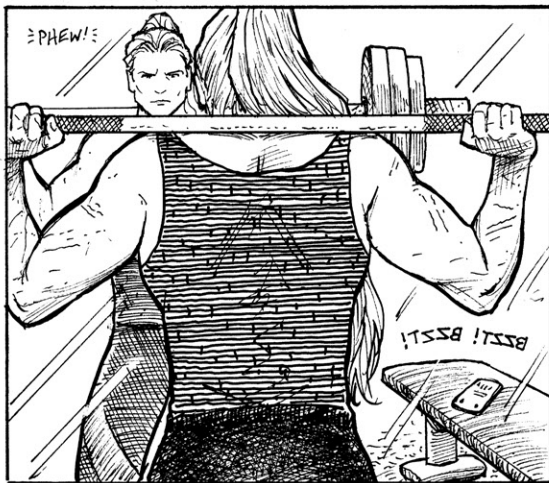


AND I'M THE ONE WHO HAS TO TELL HER.

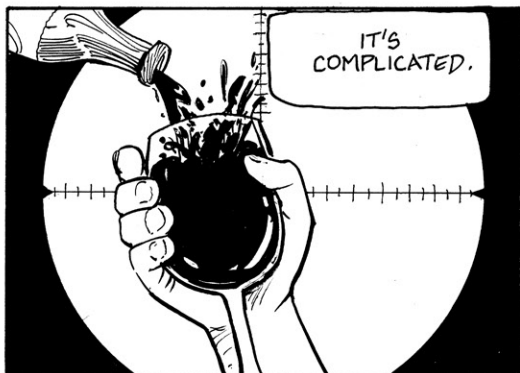




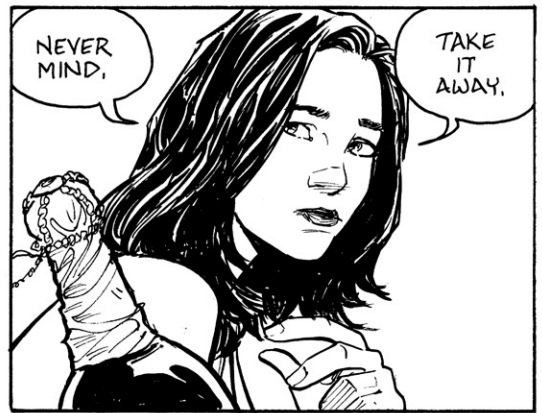




AND SHE MONITORED ZACKARY MAY FOR ME. HE BETTER HAVE A HELL OF AN ALIBI.









SERIOUSLY, YOU'LL HAVE TO WEAR ADULT DIAPERS.

WHINE!



HEY, I'VE GOT AN IDEA... WHY DON'T YOU USE THE TEN TO MAKE ANOTHER TEN? THEN YOU CAN REPLACE THE "LOAN" AND PAY YOUR SISTER!



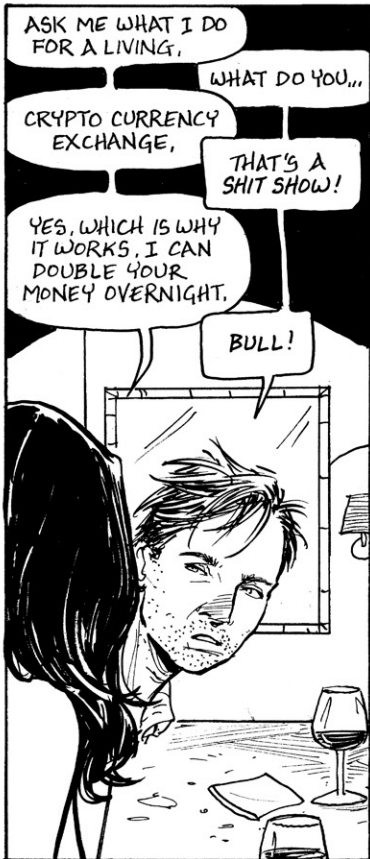
I DON'T HAVE TIME TO INVEST AND WAIT FOR A RETURN.



YOU DON'T HAVE AN HOUR?



WHAT?



ASK ME WHAT I DO FOR A LIVING,

WHAT DO YOU...

CRYPTO CURRENCY EXCHANGE,

THAT'S A SHIT SHOW!

YES, WHICH IS WHY IT WORKS, I CAN DOUBLE YOUR MONEY OVERNIGHT.

BULL!

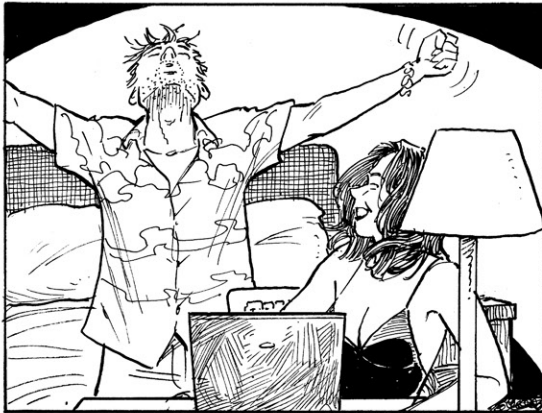
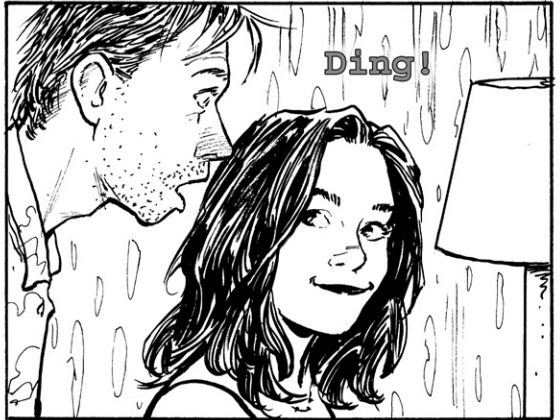
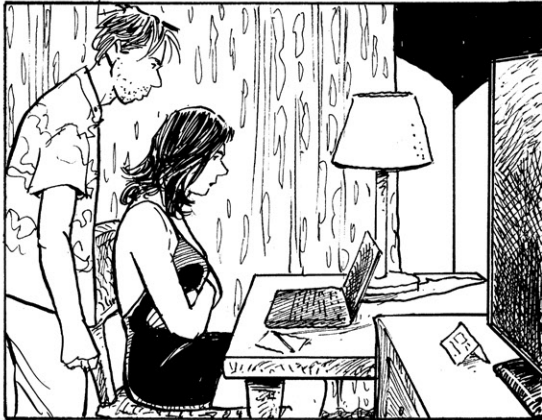
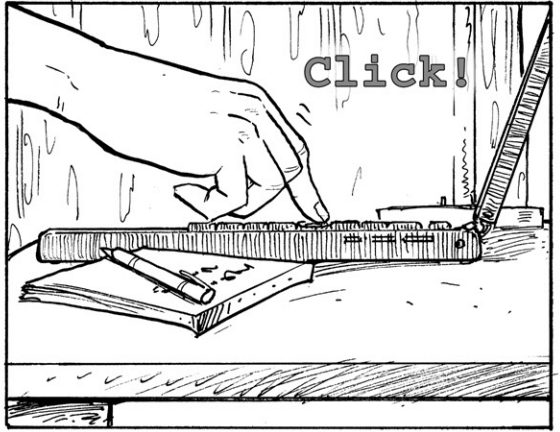
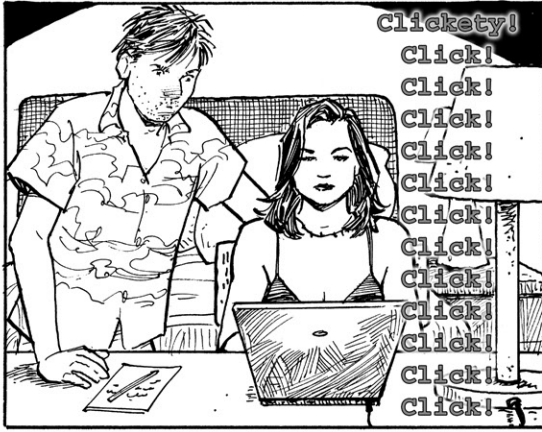


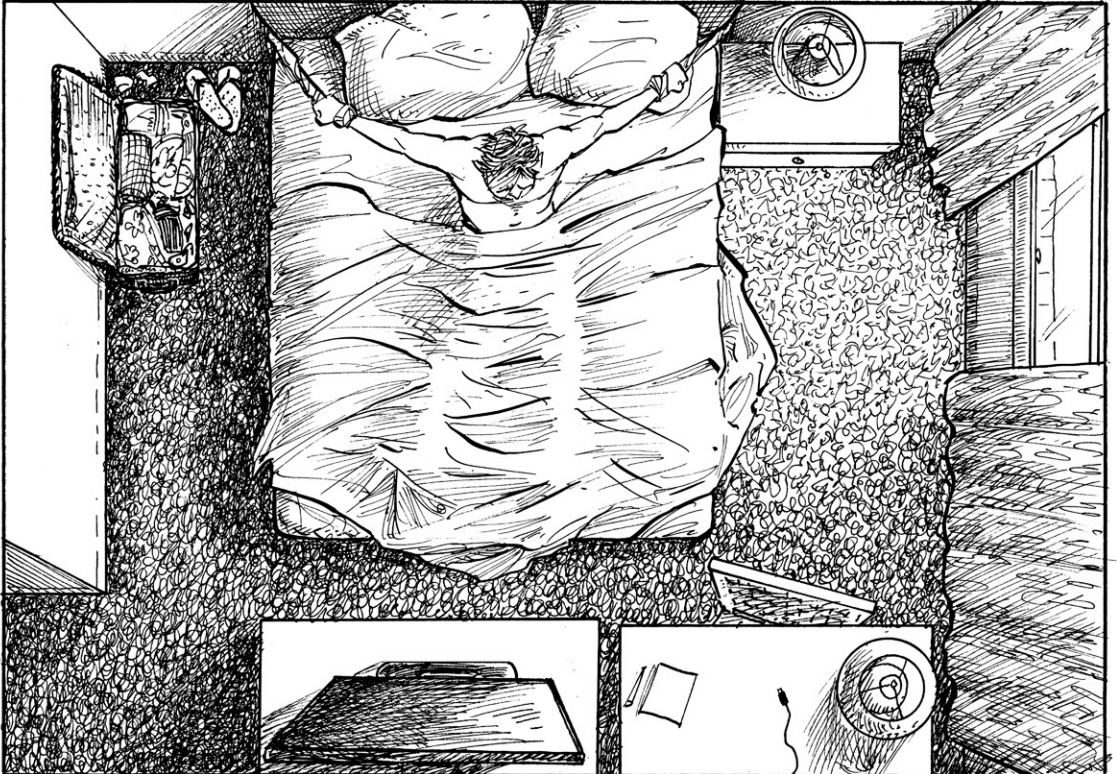
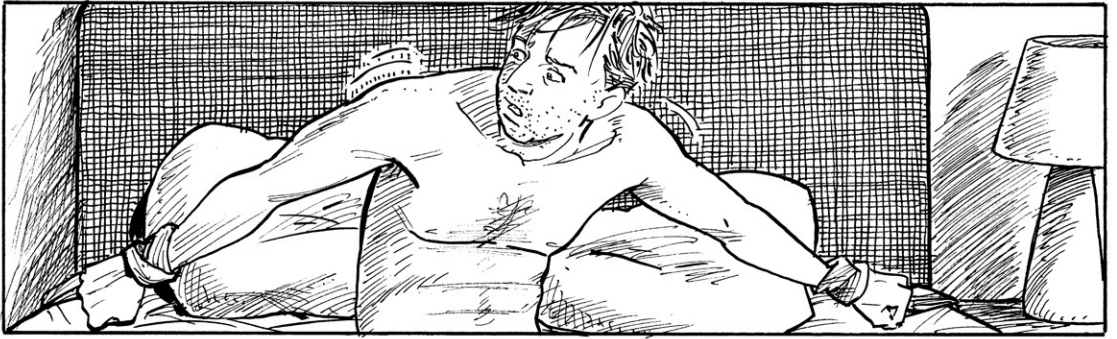
MARK, WHERE DO YOU THINK ALL THE NEW BILLIONAIRES ARE COMING FROM ... HEDGE FUNDS? HITCH A RIDE ON AN INTERNATIONAL ARMS DEAL, DUDE. WATCH IT BOUNCE AROUND AND CASH OUT AT TWENTY. IT'S ILLEGAL AS HELL BUT IT WORKS!

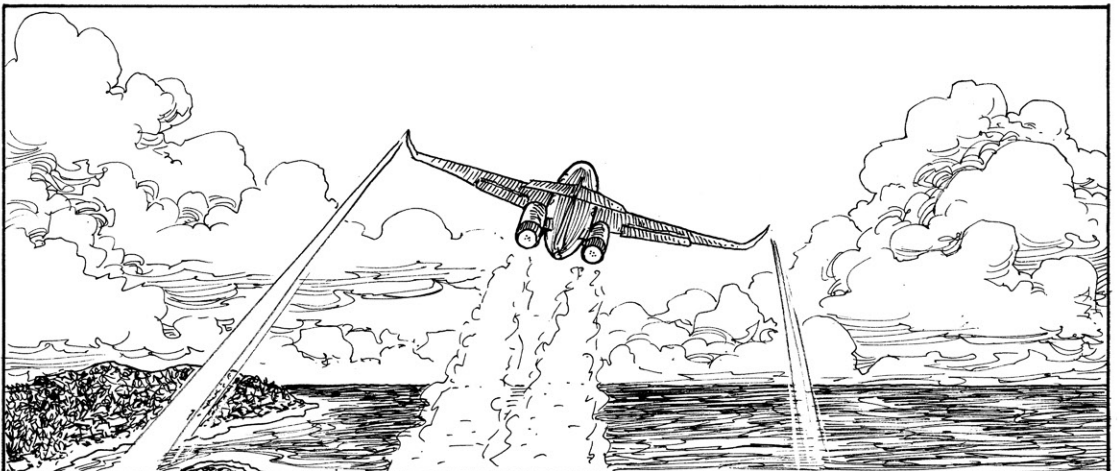
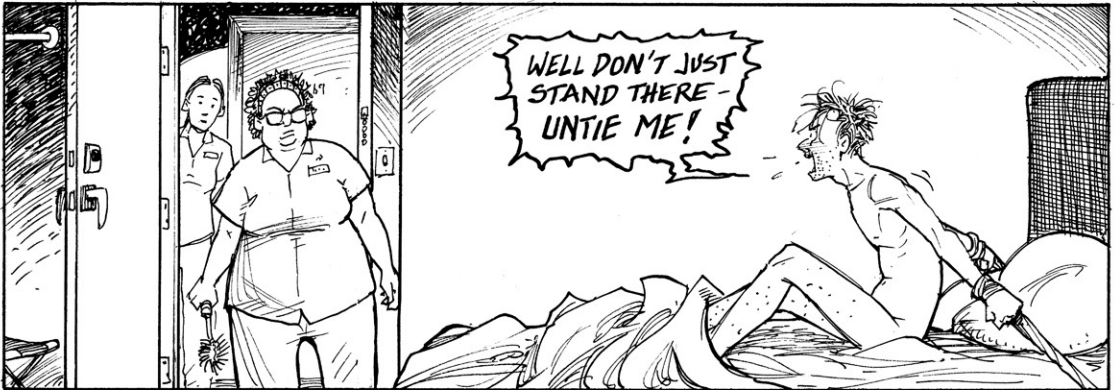


TELL YOU WHAT. LETS GRAB SOME CHAMPAGNE, GO TO YOUR ROOM AND TEST IT WITH ONE MILLION. IF I DON'T DOUBLE IT IN THIRTY MINUTES I'LL PULL YOUR ONE OUT AND ANYTHING ELSE YOU LIKE PULLED, IF IT WORKS, WE GO THE WHOLE TEN AND SCREW OUR BRAINS OUT UNTIL IT'S TWENTY.

DEAL?







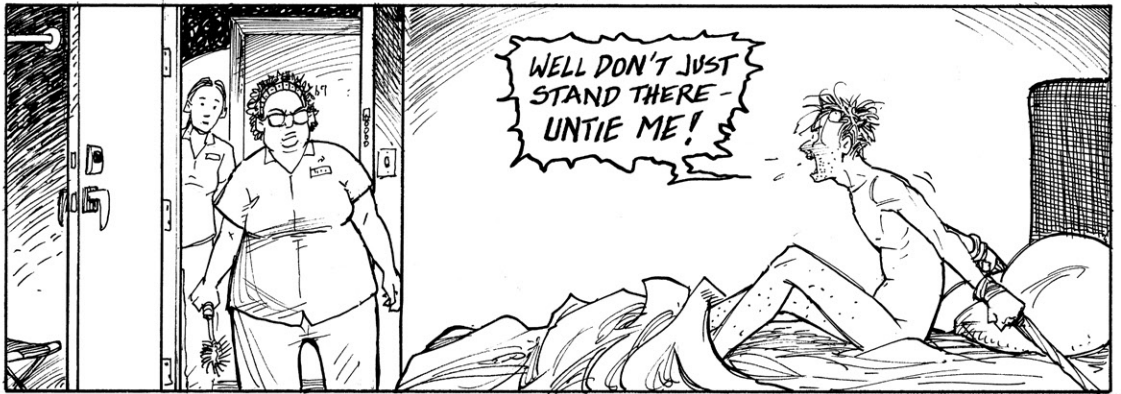
Terry Moore

ABSTRACT
STUDIO

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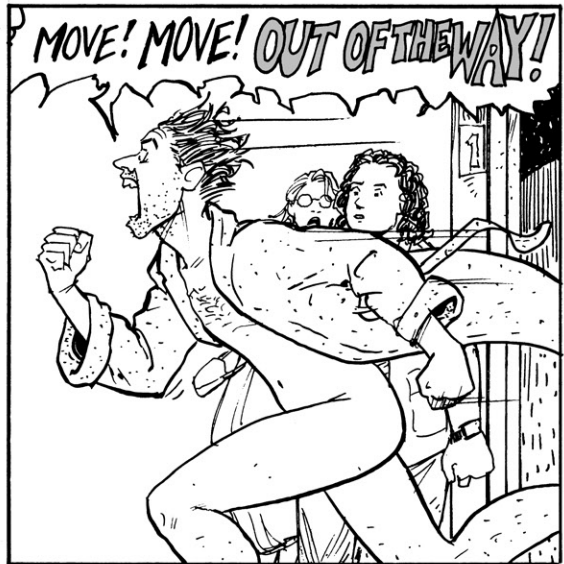
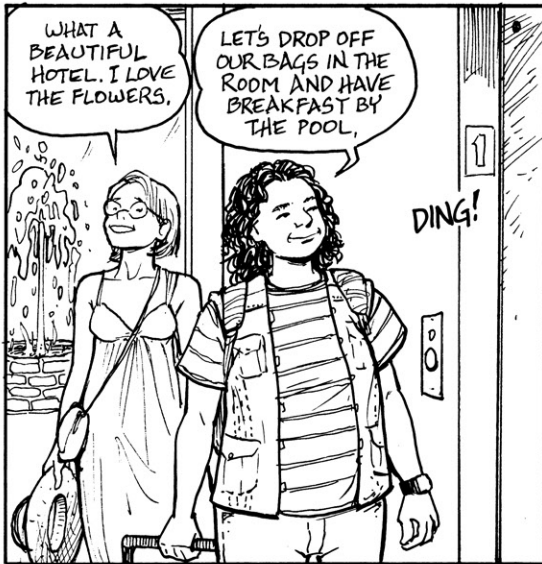
PARKER GIRLS

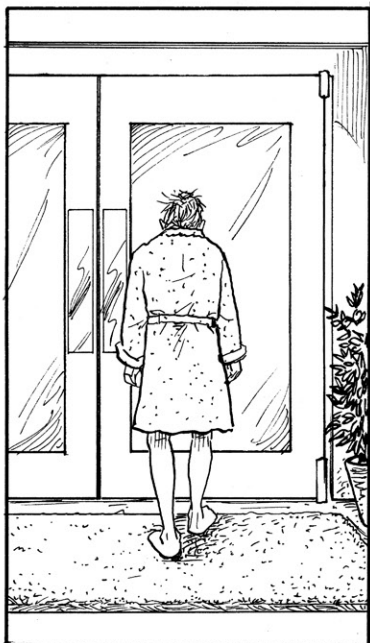


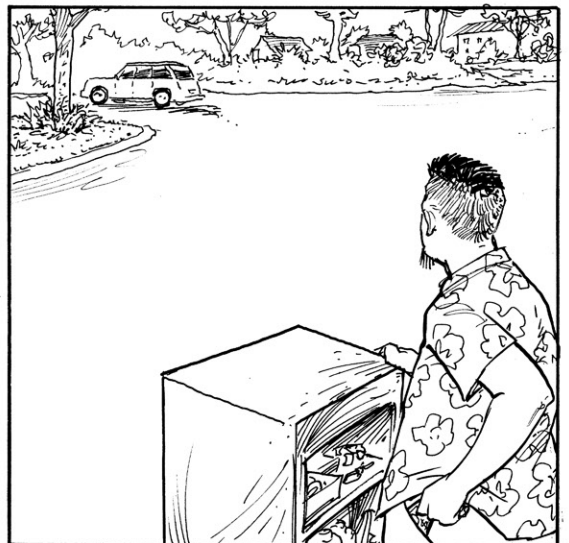
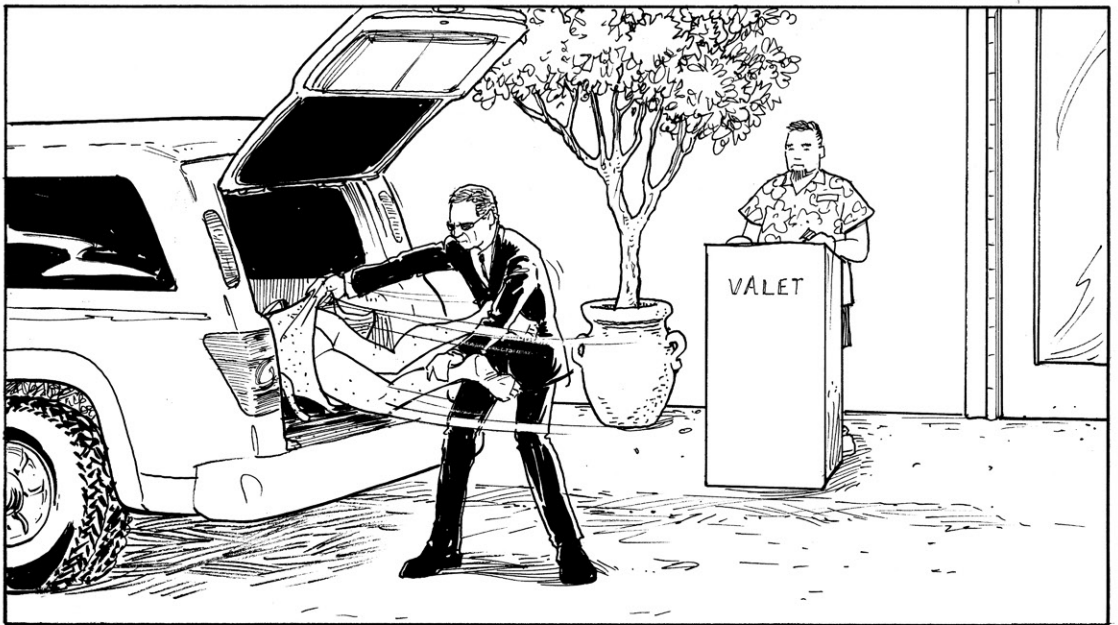
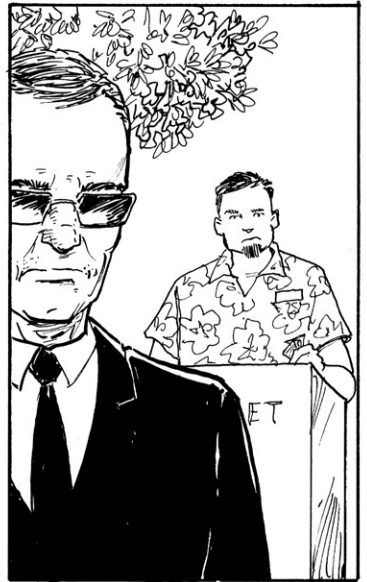


You are free to choose, but you are not free
from the consequences of your choice.

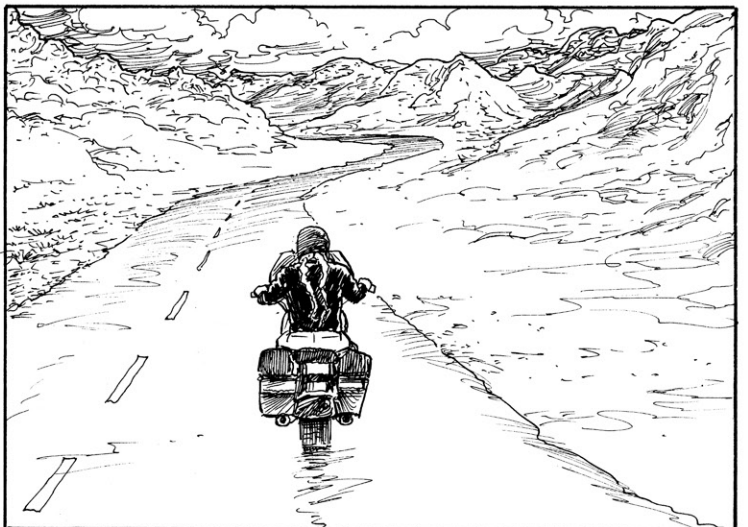
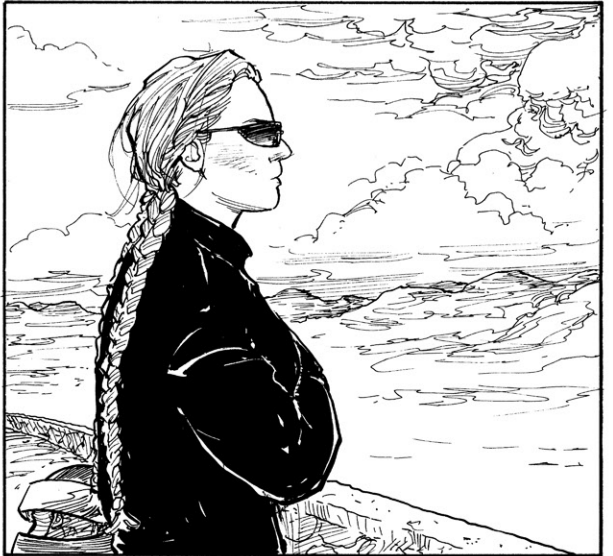
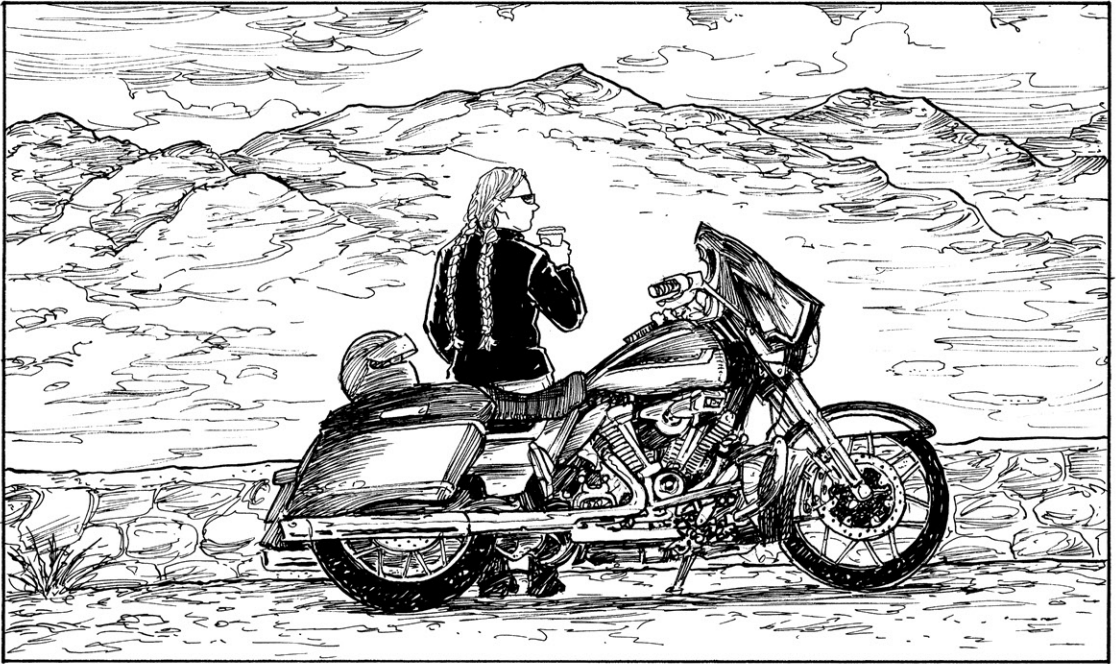
—Zig Ziglar

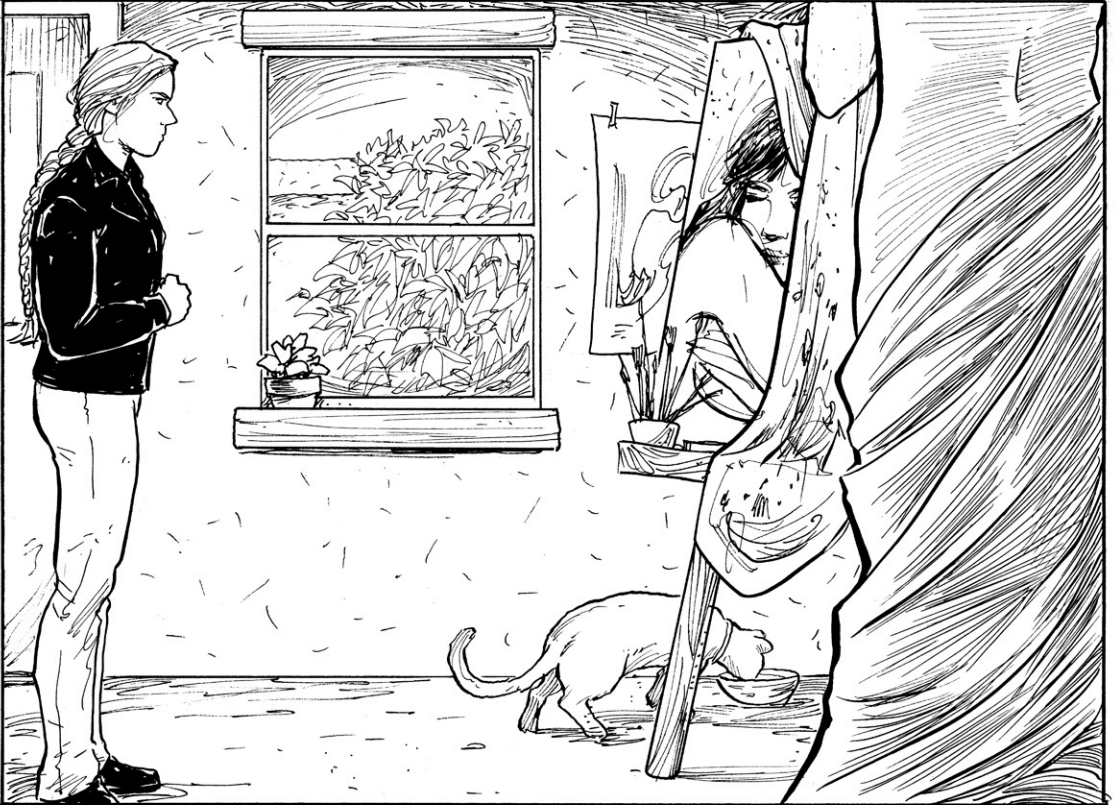
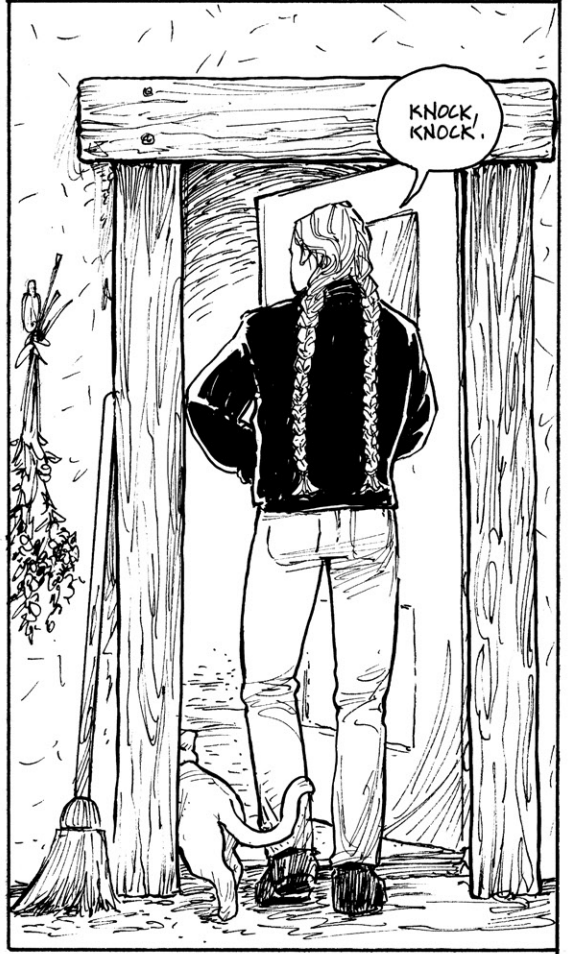
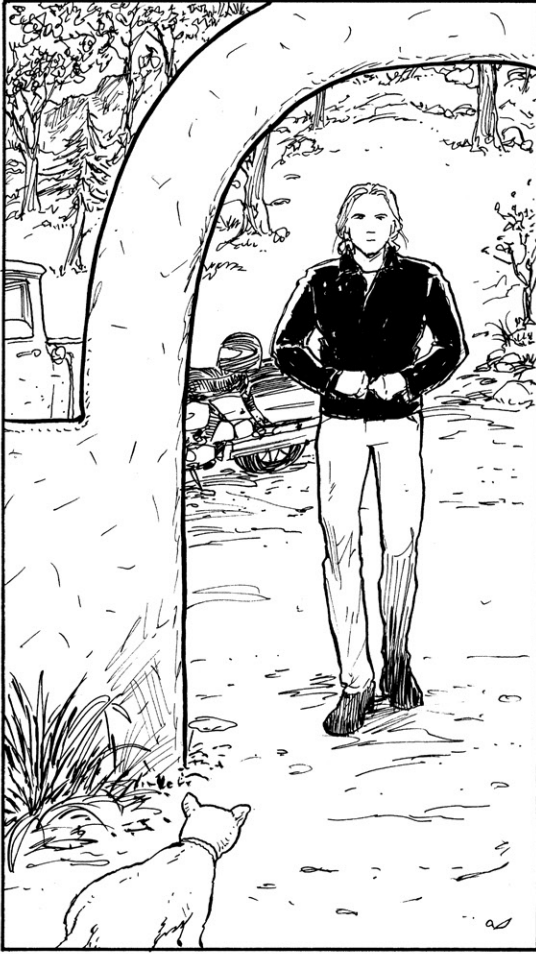


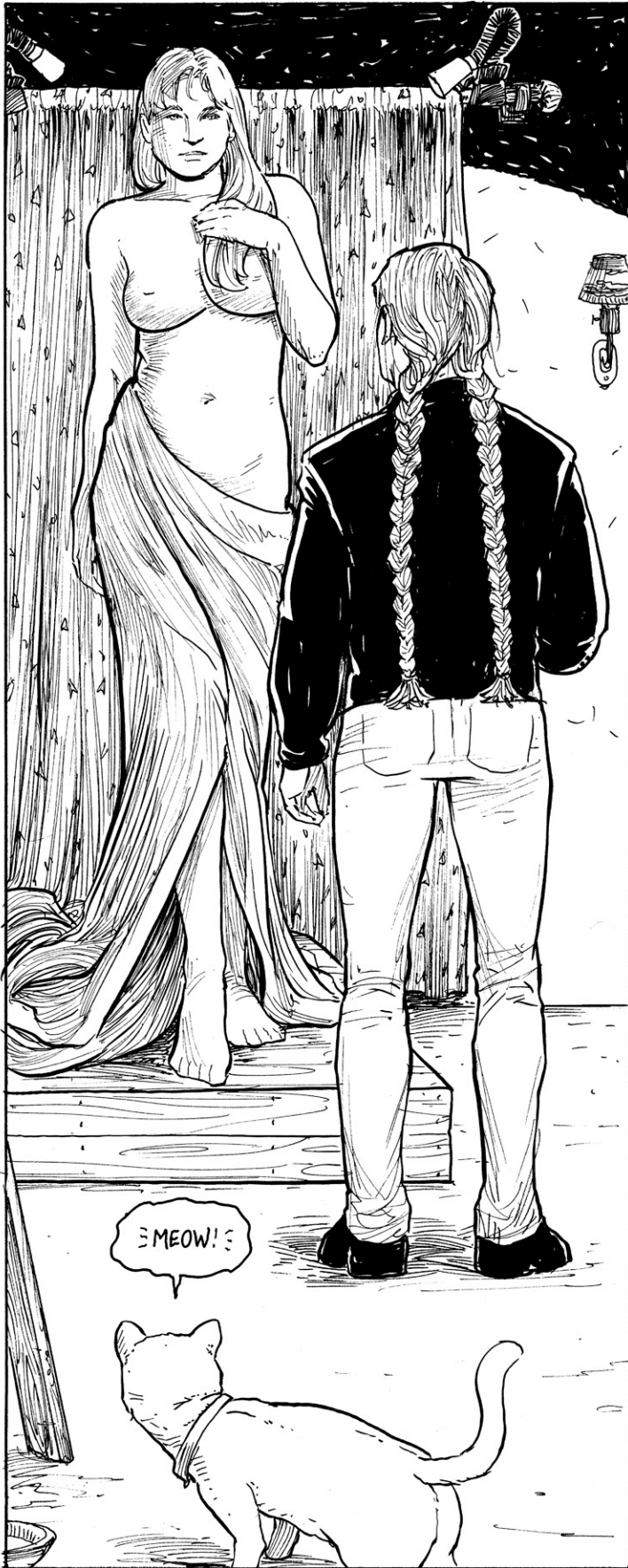


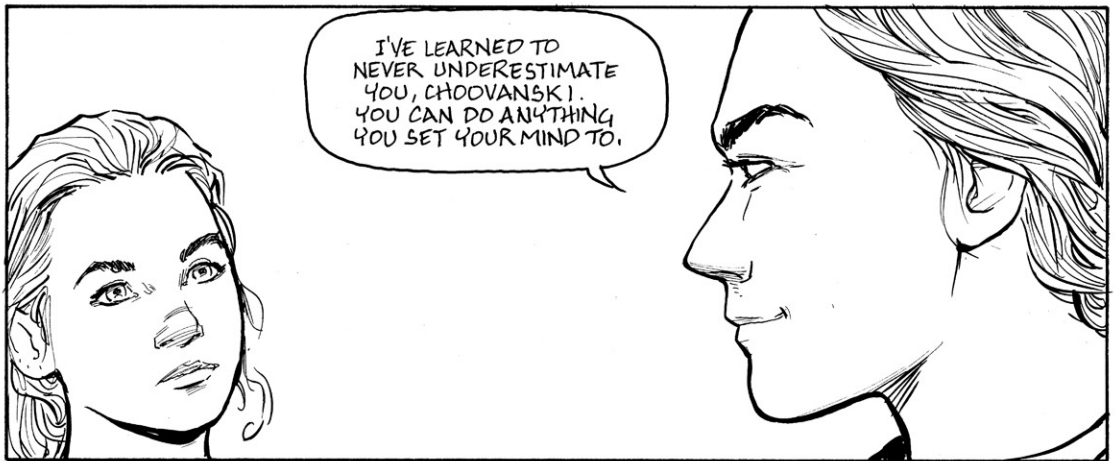
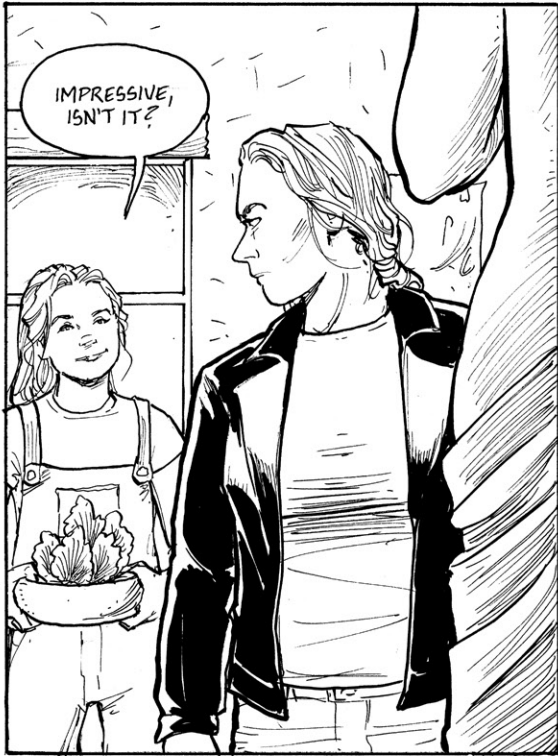


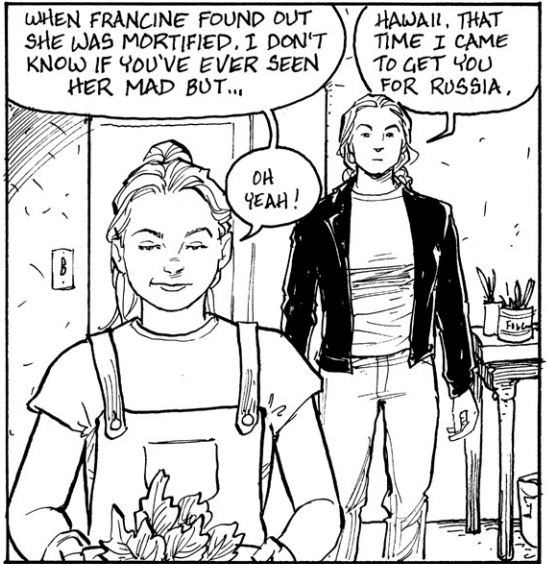


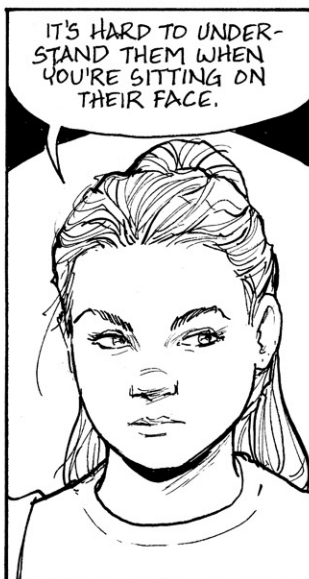
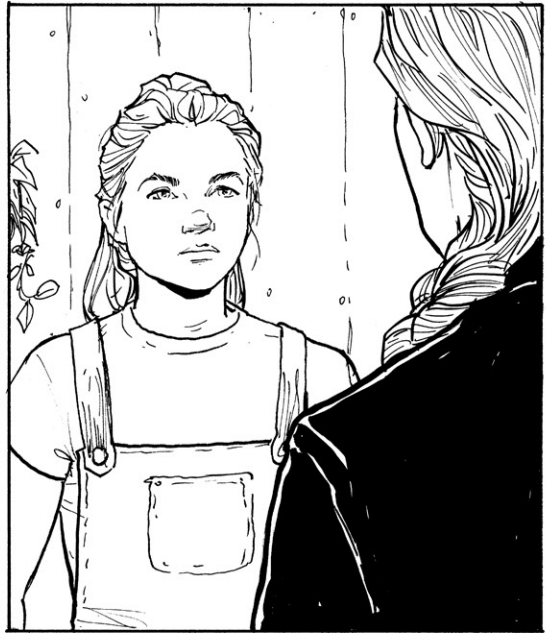
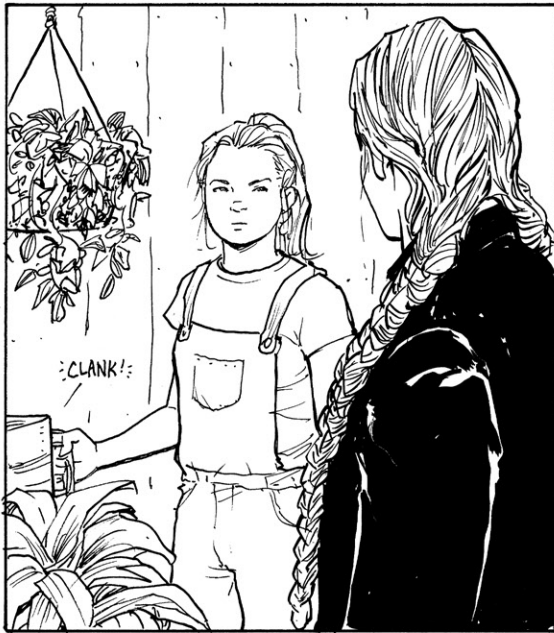


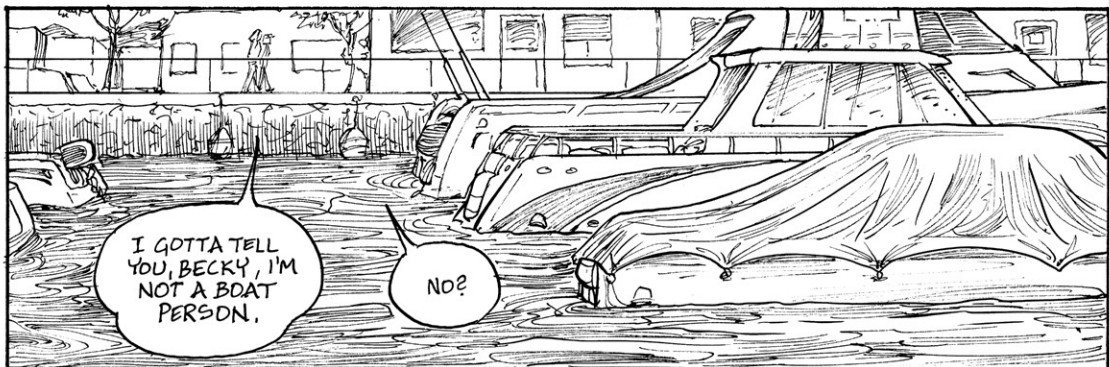












I GOTTA TELL YOU, BECKY, I'M NOT A BOAT PERSON.

NO?



THE OCEAN IS NOT A SWIMMING POOL. IT'S AN ALIEN WORLD AND HUMAN BEINGS DON'T BELONG THERE.

BUT YOU LIKE SEAFOOD.

I LIKE TO EAT IT - I DON'T WANT TO BE IT.



EVERYTHING IN THE OCEAN CAN KILL YOU OR EAT YOU.

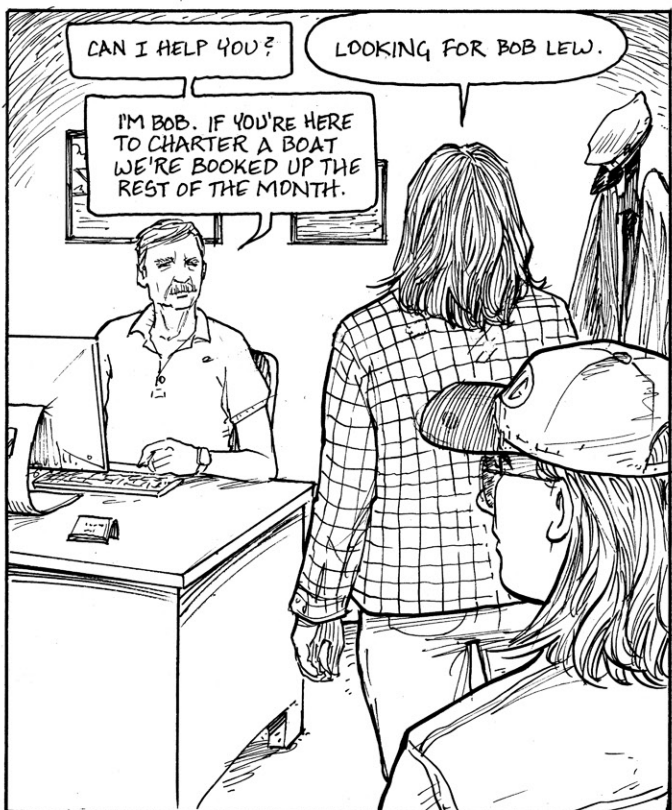
BABY SEALS?

RUTHLESS BASTARDS.

THIS IS THE PLACE.



= DING! =
= DING! =



CAN I HELP YOU?

LOOKING FOR BOB LEW.

I'M BOB. IF YOU'RE HERE TO CHARTER A BOAT WE'RE BOOKED UP THE REST OF THE MONTH.

YOU'RE THE CAPTAIN OF ZACKARY MAY'S YACHT WHEN IT GOES OUT AND IT WAS COMING BACK FROM CATALINA THE NIGHT PIPER DIED, WHAT HAPPENED OUT THERE ON THE BOAT THAT NIGHT?

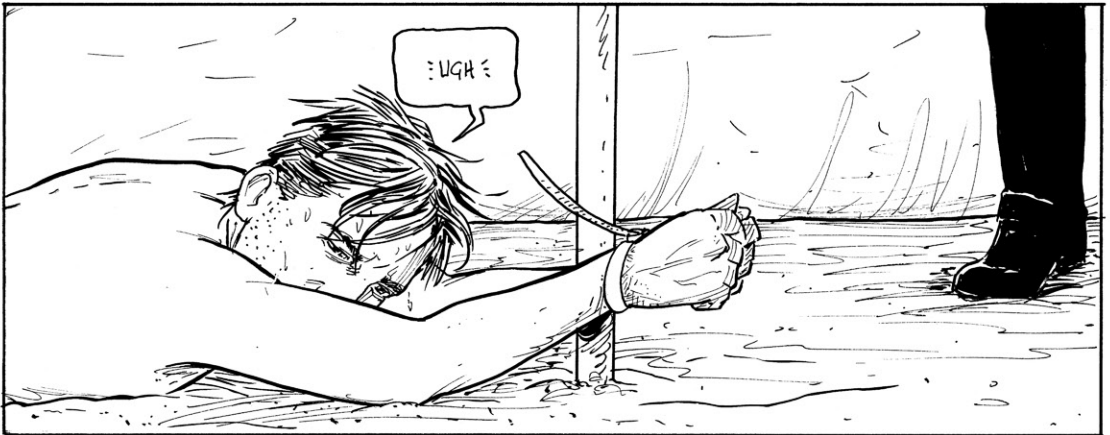
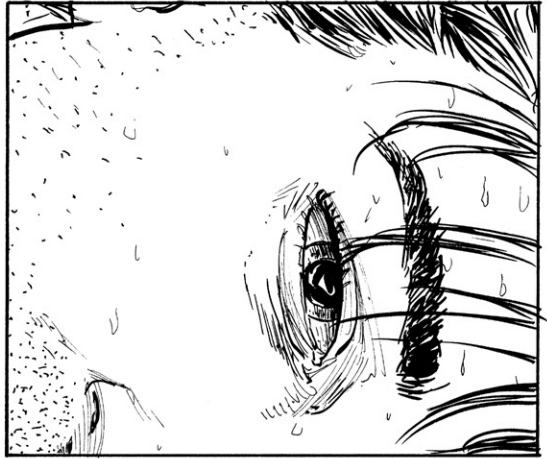
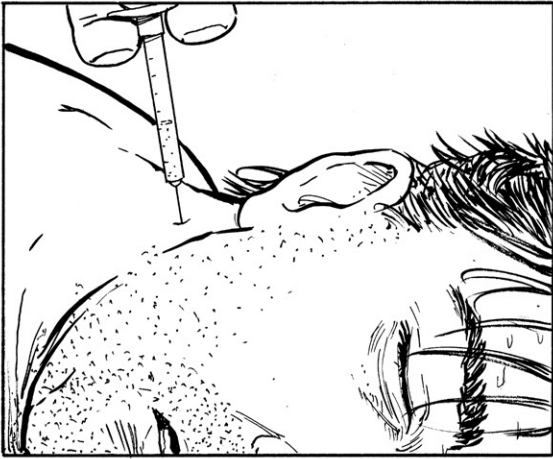
I'M NOT TELLING YOU SQUAT, LADY! WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE?!

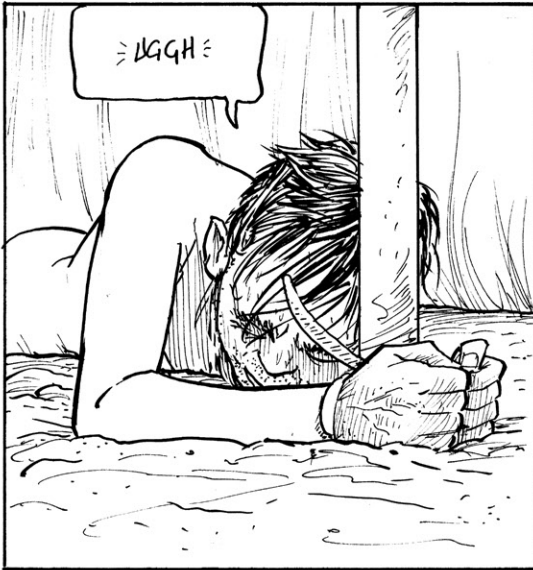
I'M THE ONE PERSON YOU DO TELL, BOB. YOU CAN SAY WHATEVER YOU WANT TO THE POLICE BUT YOU'RE GOING TO TELL ME EVERYTHING THAT HAPPENED THAT NIGHT AND WHAT THEY SAID,

CLICK!

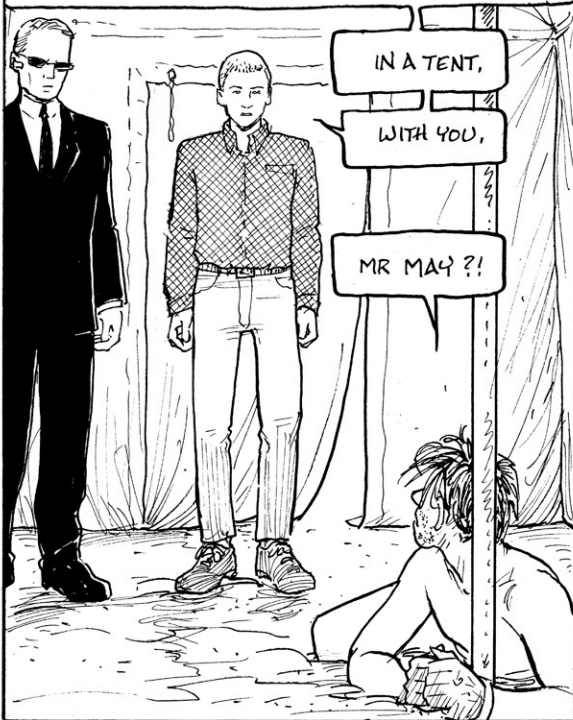
AND IF I DON'T?

THEN BECKY IS GOING TO SHOOT YOUR DICK OFF.

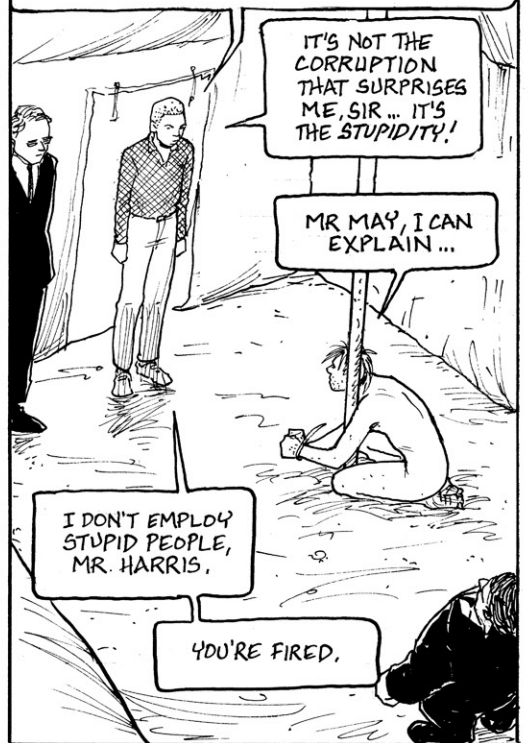




I'M SUPPOSED TO FLY TO PARIS TODAY TO PROMOTE A GLOBAL INITIATIVE TO FEED AND EDUCATE CHILDREN BORN INTO ABJECT POVERTY. BUT I'M NOT GOING TO PARIS RIGHT NOW. INSTEAD, I'M HERE,



BECAUSE YOU HAD AN AFFAIR WITH MY WIFE AND STOLE TEN MILLION DOLLARS FROM ME... HOPING THAT SHE WOULD RUN AWAY WITH YOU.



MR MAY, I'M SO SORRY! I PROMISE I WILL REPAY EVERY PENNY, I SWEAR!

IT'S NOT ABOUT THE MONEY — IT'S ABOUT THE ACCOUNT YOU STOLE IT FROM.

THE CAYMAN ACCOUNT? IT'S NOT ON THE BOOKS. NO ONE WILL EVER KNOW!

YOUR WITHDRAWALS EXPOSE THE ACCOUNT TO ANY FUTURE FORENSIC AUDIT, YOUR STUPIDITY LEAVES ME WITH A BILLION DOLLAR MESS TO CLEAN UP.

I KNOW I SCREWED UP BUT I WANT TO MAKE IT RIGHT. I CAN FIX THIS!

HOW? YOU SLEPT WITH MY WIFE. YOU CAN'T FIX THAT. NOW SHE'S DEAD, YOU CAN'T FIX THAT. YOU COMPROMISED MY PRIVATE BANKING — THAT CAN'T BE UNDONE — AND YOU STOLE FROM ME. YOU CAN'T RETURN THE MONEY BECAUSE I ALREADY HAVE IT. I HAD TO HIRE THE PARKER GIRLS TO FIND YOU AND GET IT BACK BUT I GOT IT. THAT ALONE COST ME MORE THAN YOU WOULD MAKE IN A LIFETIME. THE PARKER GIRLS ARE NOT INEXPENSIVE!

PIPER'S DEAD?

YOU HAVEN'T HEARD? SHE DRANK HERSELF INTO A STUPID WHEN YOU LEFT AND FELL OFF THE BOAT. SHE WAS NEVER A GOOD SWIMMER.

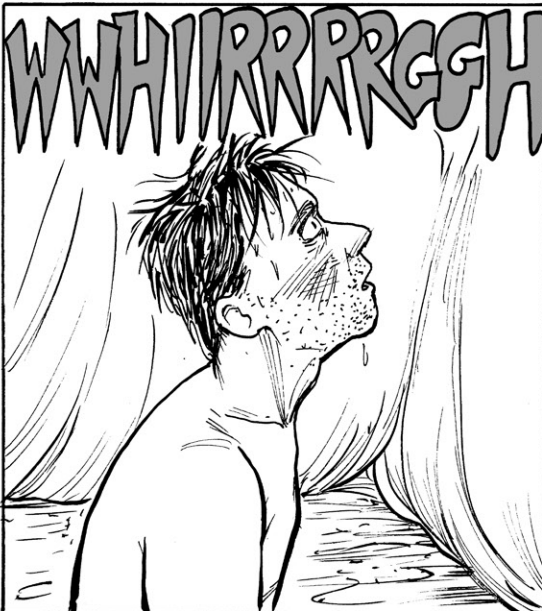
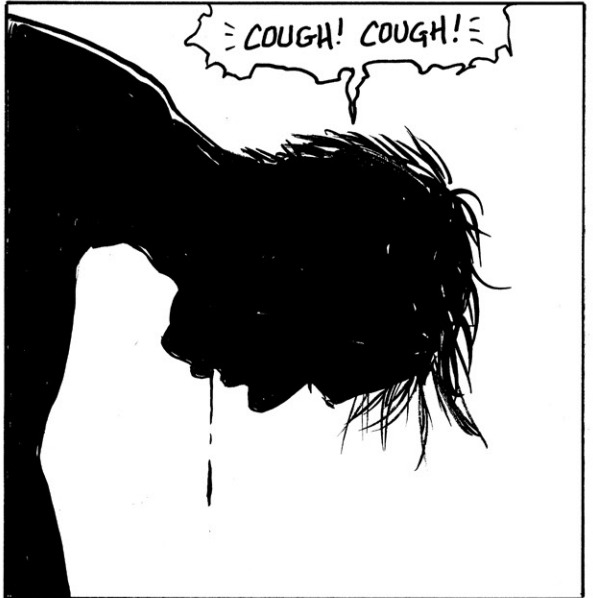
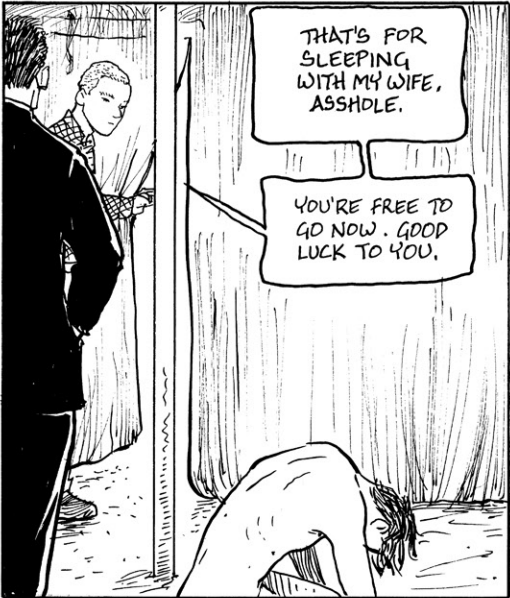
JESUS!

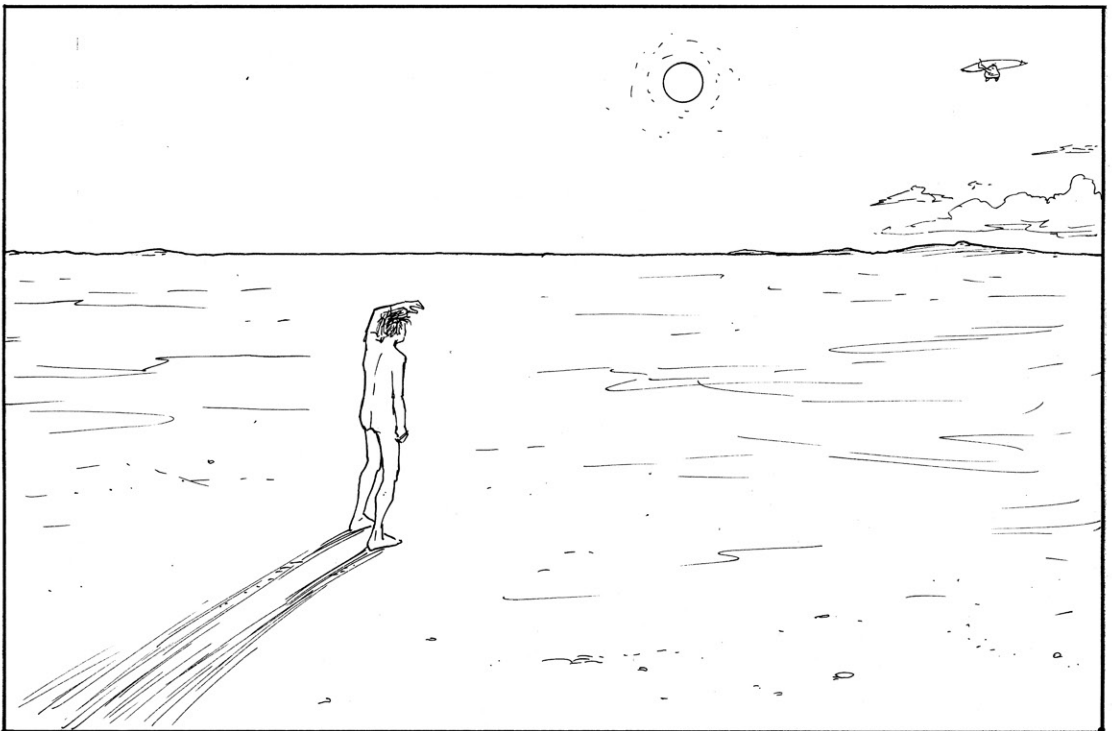
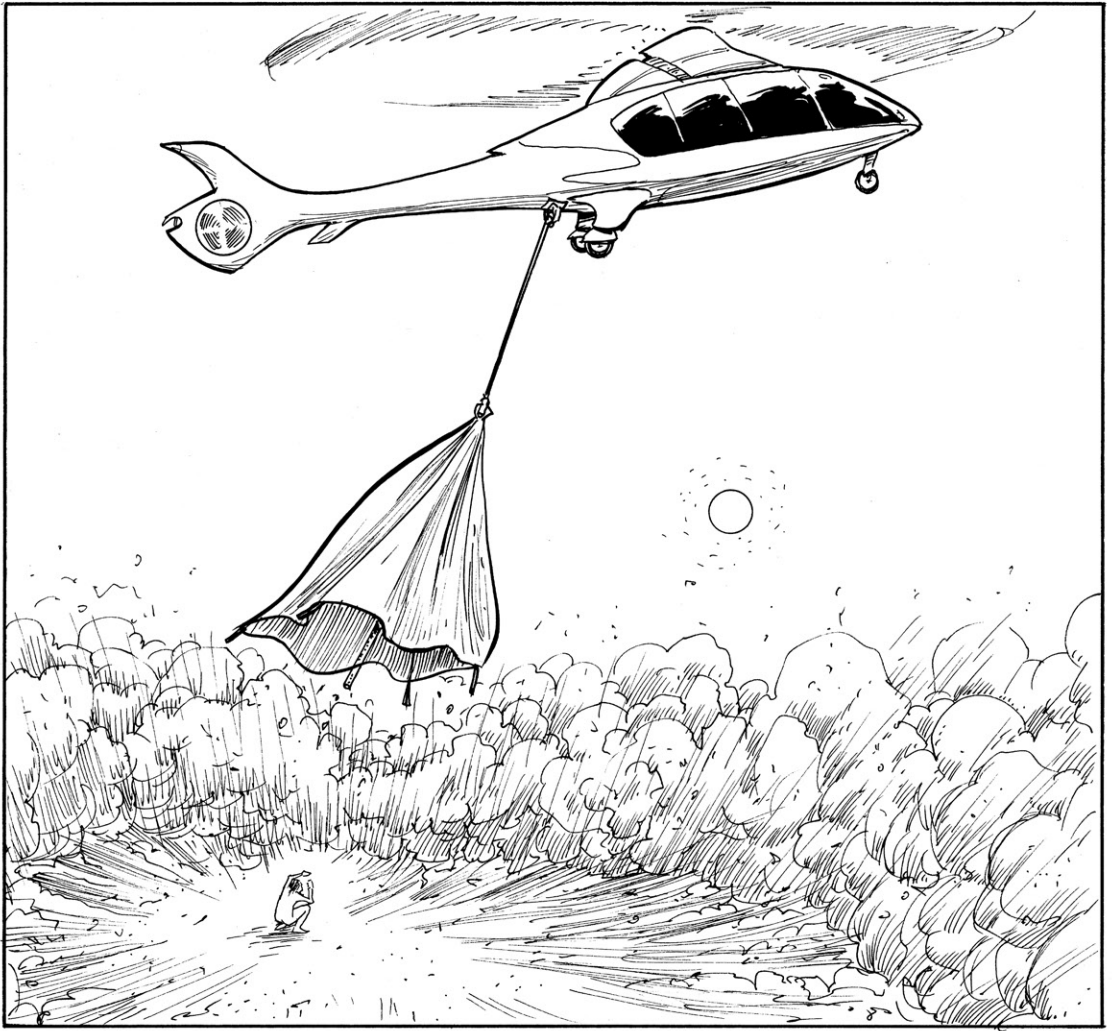
YOU KILLED HER! AND NOW YOU'RE GOING TO KILL ME, TOO!

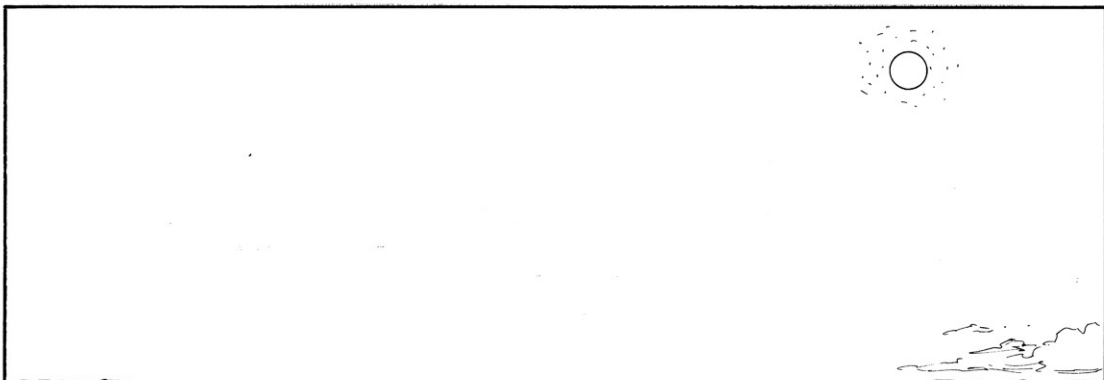
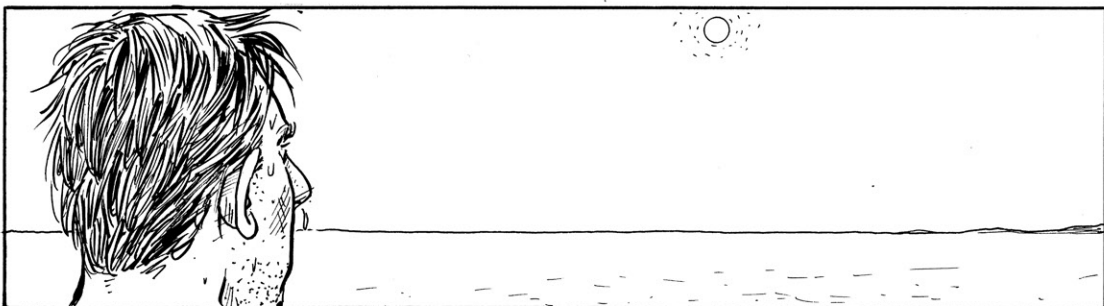
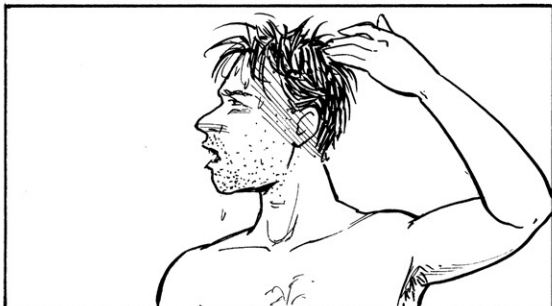
I DON'T KILL PEOPLE, MR HARRIS. I LET THEM KILL THEMSELVES.

NO! WAIT!

SORRY. I HAVE A PLANE TO CATCH.







Terry Moore

PARKER GIRLS

3





At night I go on board and say Good-night
To all my friends on shore;
I shut my eyes and sail away
And see and hear no more.
—Robert Louis Stevenson

"ZACKARY MAY IS NOT A WARM AND FUZZY PERSON."

"I GUESS YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE WHEN YOU'RE A BILLIONAIRE."

"BUT I KNOW HE WAS CRAZY ABOUT PIPER ..."

"AND SHE HAD A WAY OF MAKING HIM SMILE AND RELAX A LITTLE. I NEVER SAW ANYONE ELSE DO THAT — MAKE HIM SMILE."

"I THINK MR MAY WAS SURPRISED THAT PIPER AGREED TO MARRY HIM. FRANKLY, SHE WAS OUT OF HIS LEAGUE, IF YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN."

"BUT SHE SEEMED TO LIKE HIM WELL ENOUGH AND THEY SPENT A LOT OF TIME TOGETHER."

"IT MUST BE HARD, YEAH? NOT KNOWING WHO YOU CAN TRUST AND WHO JUST WANTS YOUR MONEY. I GET THAT."

"BUT I HAVE TO SAY I NEVER HEARD THEM TALK ABOUT MONEY. AND I NEVER HEARD HER ASK HIM TO BUY HER SOMETHING."

"NOW, I DID HEAR THEM ARGUE ABOUT HER MEN FRIENDS."

"MR. MAY WAS A JEALOUS MAN."

"BECAUSE, YOU KNOW, WITH PIPER BEING AN ACTRESS AND ALL, HER FRIENDS WERE ALL ACTORS AND MODELS, TOO, RIGHT? HANDSOME AND FRIENDLY... EVERYTHING MAY WAS NOT."

"OH THAT GOT UNDER HIS SKIN. AND THE NICER THOSE GUYS WERE TO HIM THE MADDER MAY GOT."

"HE DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING AT FIRST BUT I WAS WATCHING THIS GO ON ALL THE TIME."

"EITHER PIPER DIDN'T SEE IT OR SHE DIDN'T CARE."

"BUT IT ALL CAME TO A HEAD THAT WEEKEND IN CATALINA."

"PIPER WAS MAKING A MOVIE AND SHE INVITED HER CO-STAR TO JOIN THEM SO THEY COULD GO OVER THEIR LINES TOGETHER."

"SATURDAY, ALL THEY DID WAS DRINK AND FLIRT, RIGHT IN FRONT OF MAY."

"AND HE WAS NOT HAPPY ABOUT IT."

"SUNDAY WAS BAD."

"PIPER AND MR. MAY WERE IN
A FOUL MOOD, FIGHTING AND
DRINKING ALL DAY."

"IGNORING A BEAUTIFUL DAY
ON THEIR MAGNIFICENT YACHT —"

"A BEAUTIFUL NIGHT
UNDER THE STARS —"

"A GOURMET DINNER
BY THE CHEF THEY
FLEW OVER FROM
GREECE —"

"AND AN OSCAR
WINNING ACTOR
WHO STAYED IN
HIS GUEST ROOM
TO AVOID THEM."

"WHICH MADE
PIPER FURIOUS."

"SURROUNDED BY WEALTH
AND BEAUTY AND ALL THE
COMFORT MONEY CAN BUY —"

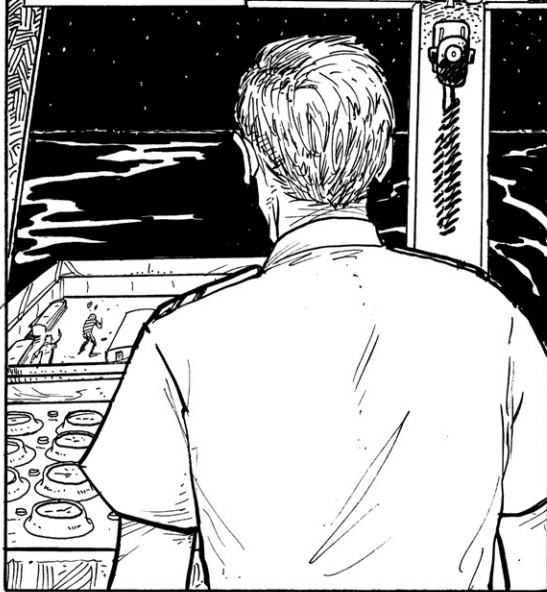
"AND ALL THEY COULD
SEE WAS EACH OTHER
IN A RED MIST OF PAIN
AND BETRAYAL."

"TRAITOR."

"THEY SAID TERRIBLE THINGS TO EACH OTHER THAT DAY. THE KIND OF THINGS YOU CAN'T TAKE BACK LATER."

"YOU COULD TELL THERE WAS NO SAVING THE MARRIAGE."

"IT WAS OVER."



"I TURNED THE SHIP OVER TO THE FIRST MATE AND WENT TO MY QUARTERS AT MIDNIGHT. A FEW MINUTES LATER I HEARD MR. MAY GO TO HIS CABIN AND SLAM THE DOOR. IT SOUNDED LIKE PIPER THREW SOMETHING AT THE DOOR THEN SHOUTED 'YOU BASTARD'. I HEARD HER STOMP UP THE STAIRS AND AFTER THAT IT WAS QUIET. I TURNED OUT THE LIGHT AND WENT TO SLEEP. PEACE AT LAST."



"I ASSUMED SHE WAS GOING TO SLEEP IN ONE OF THE GUEST CABINS OR ON DECK."

"BUT IT WAS CHILLY OUT AND FOG WAS ROLLING IN."



THE REST OF THE NIGHT WAS QUIET.



DEAD QUIET.



IN THE MORNING, MR. MAY AND HIS QUEST TOOK BREAKFAST IN THEIR CABINS. IT WAS ABOUT 9:15 WHEN THE CHIEF STEWARD INFORMED ME THAT MRS MAY COULD NOT BE FOUND.



WE SEARCHED EVERY INCH OF THE SHIP. SHE WAS NOT ON BOARD. WE DID FIND DROPS OF BLOOD ON THE STEPS BY THE DINGHY. IT LOOKED LIKE SHE HAD TRIED TO LOWER IT INTO THE WATER ... BUT SLIPPED AND FELL OVERBOARD.



I REPORTED THIS TO MR. MAY AND TOLD HIM I WAS CALLING THE COAST GUARD. WE WERE TALKING ABOUT IT WHEN HE RECEIVED A CALL INFORMING HIM THAT HIS WIFE'S BODY HAD WASHED ASHORE ON MALIBU BEACH.



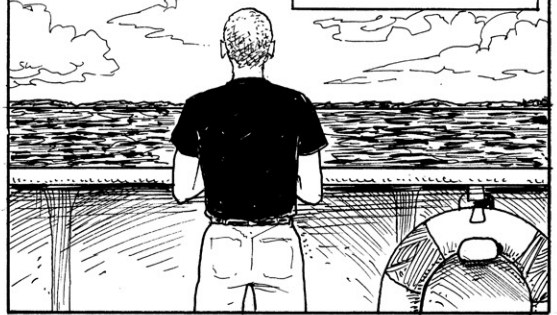
HOW DID HE REACT?

WELL, YOU'VE SEEN HIM ON TV. MR MAY IS HARD TO READ.



ON THE SURFACE HE'S CALM.

WHAT'S BELOW IS ANYBODY'S GUESS.



THERE'S NOTHING MORE TO TELL YOU, REALLY. WE ANCHORED OFF CATALINA AND MR. MAY'S HELICOPTER CAME AND TOOK HIM BACK TO L.A.



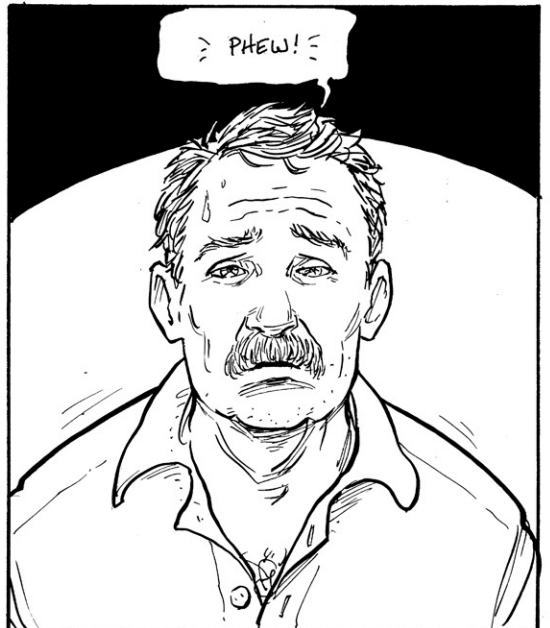
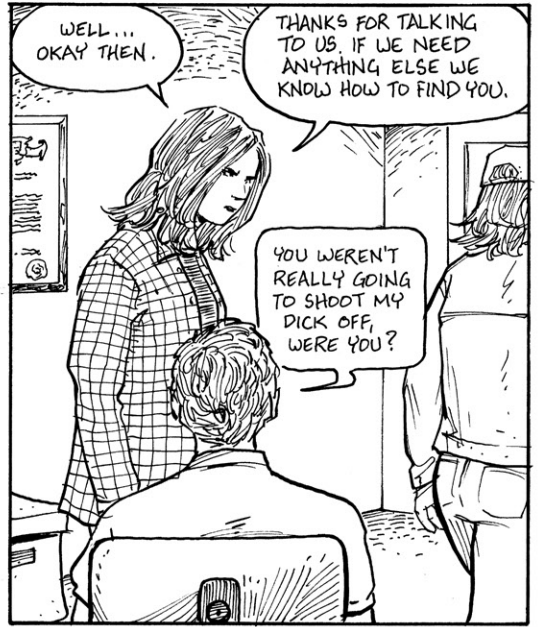
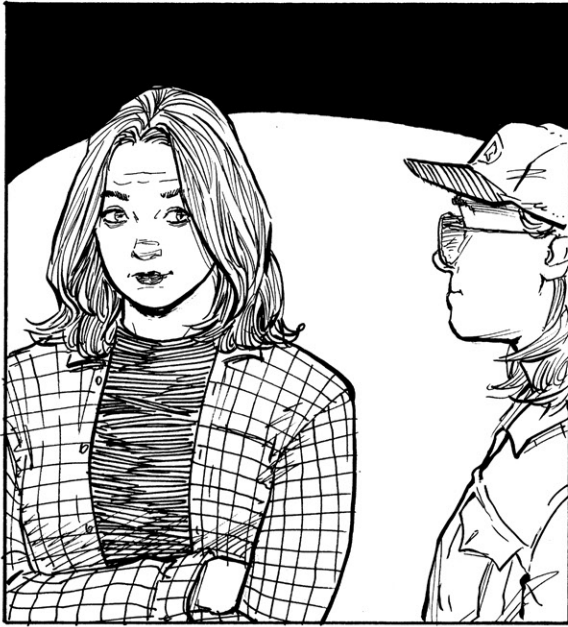
THAT'S THE TRUTH AS I SAW IT, THAT'S WHAT I TOLD THE POLICE.

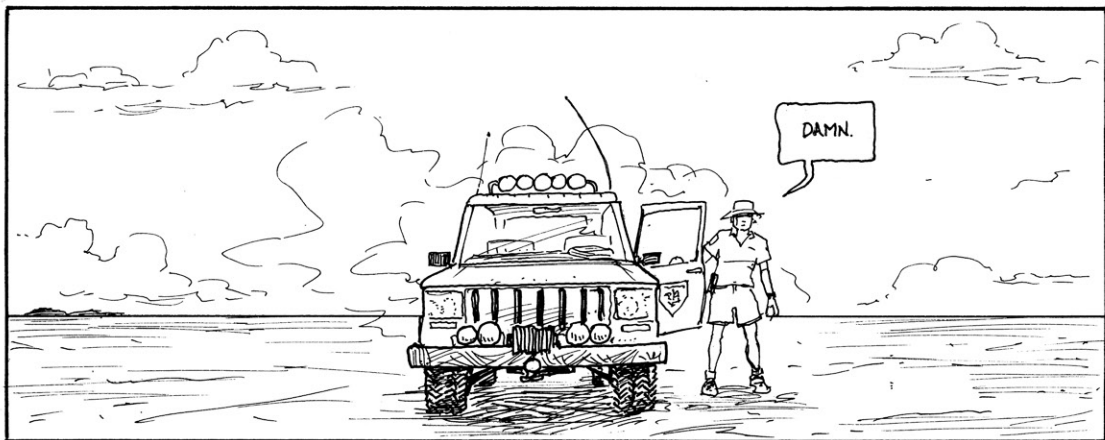
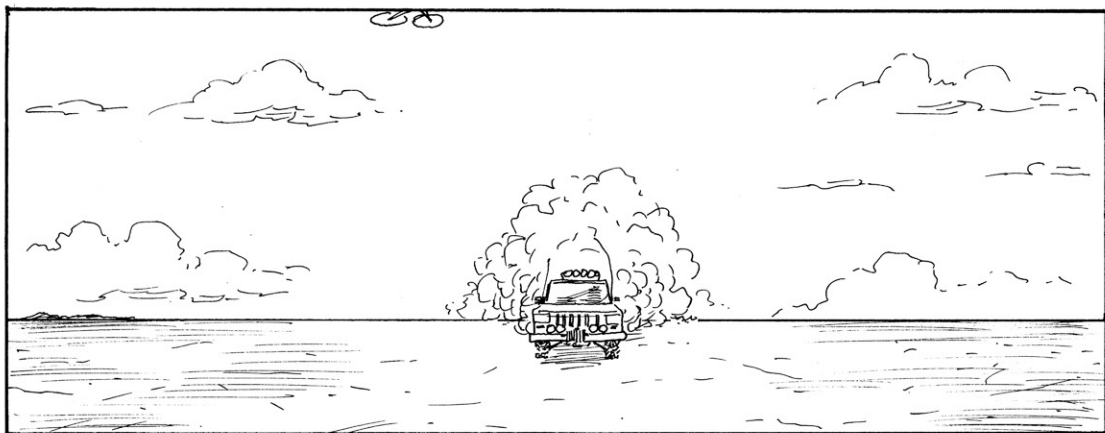
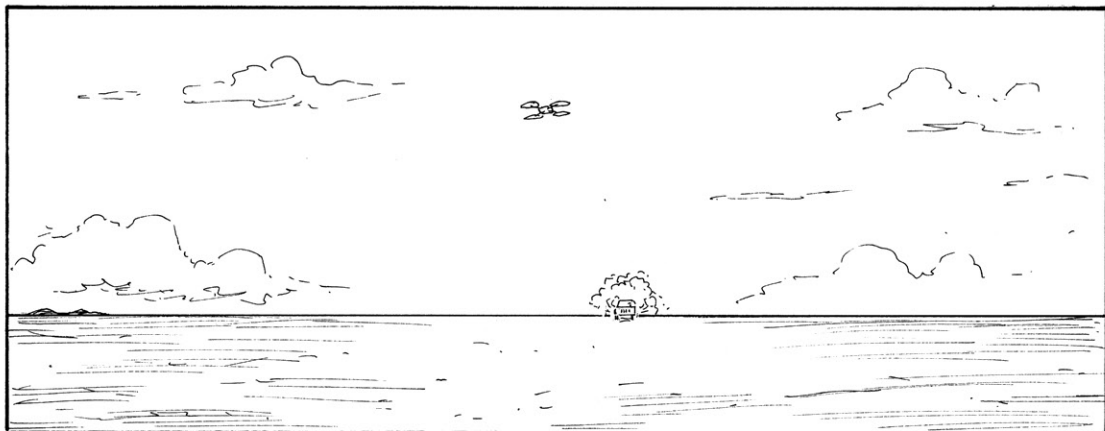
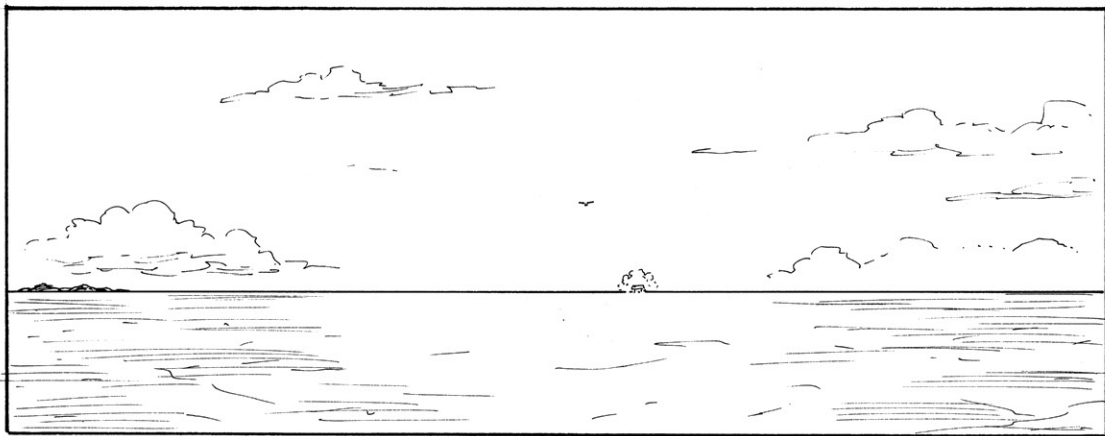
WHAT DID YOU HEAR TO MAKE YOU THINK THE MARRIAGE COULDN'T BE SAVED?

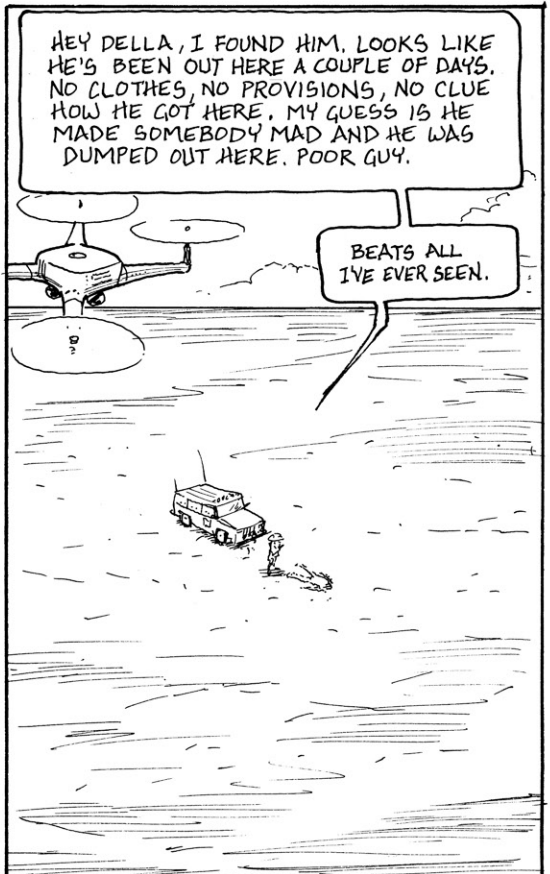
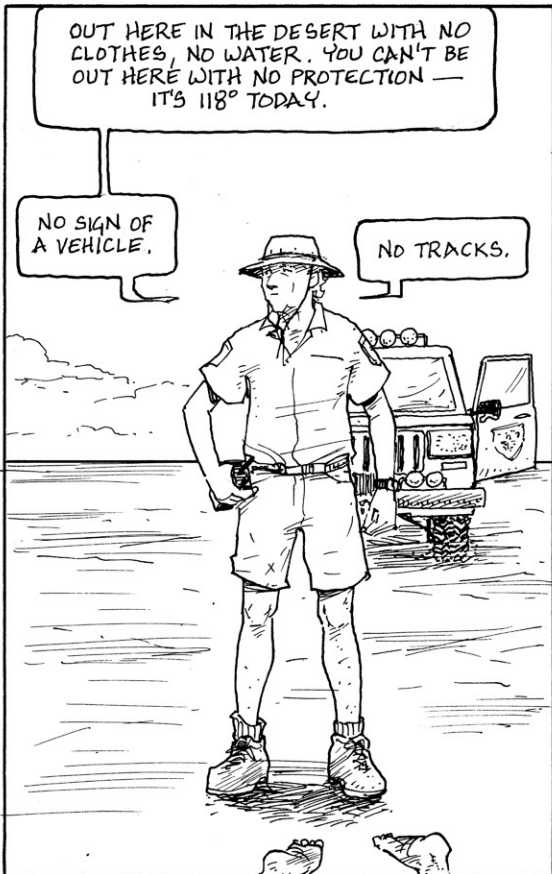
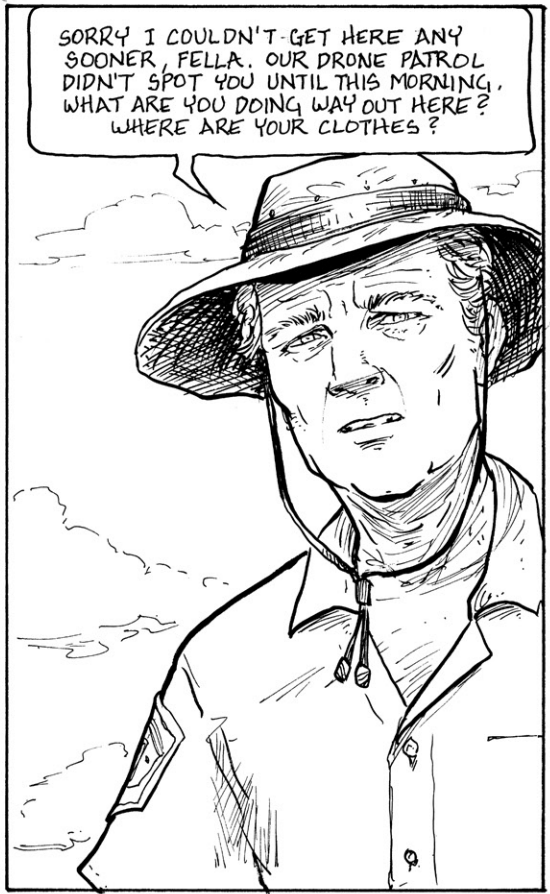
HE DIDN'T PAY ANY ATTENTION TO HER AND SHE DIDN'T RESPECT HIM.

YOU CAN'T FIX ANYTHING UNTIL YOU FIX THAT.

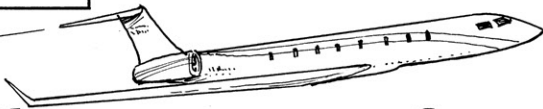








WHEN YOU HANDLED DARCY PARKER'S MONEY YOU INVESTED IN A START UP CALLED AQUAVANE. REMEMBER?



YES. TWO ENGINEERS DESIGNING AN AFFORDABLE METHOD TO IRRIGATE CALIFORNIA WITH OCEAN WATER.

THEIR PLAN WAS FOR THE STATE TO SUPPLY THE INFRASTRUCTURE BUT THAT WAS VOTED DOWN SO THEY'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR A PRIVATE INVESTOR.

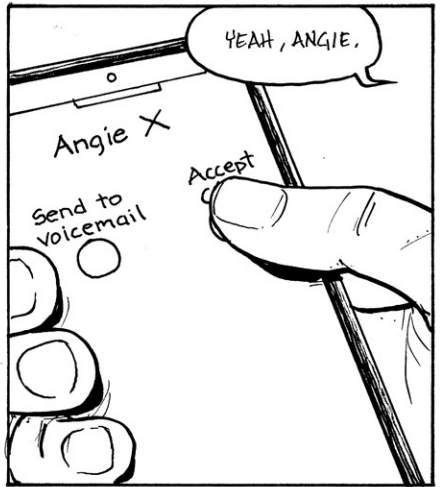
THE STATE WAS NEVER GOING TO GO FOR THIS. IT'S A GOOD IDEA BUT EXPENSIVE.

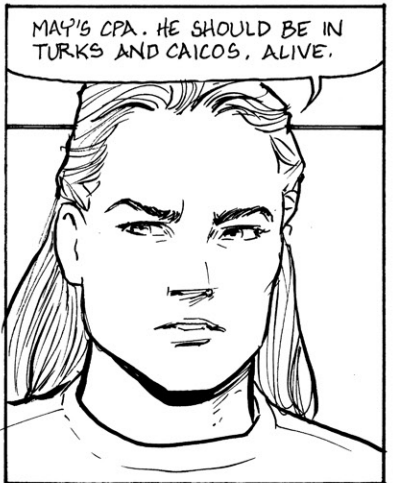
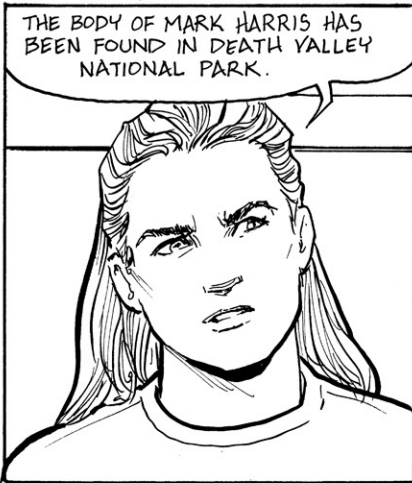
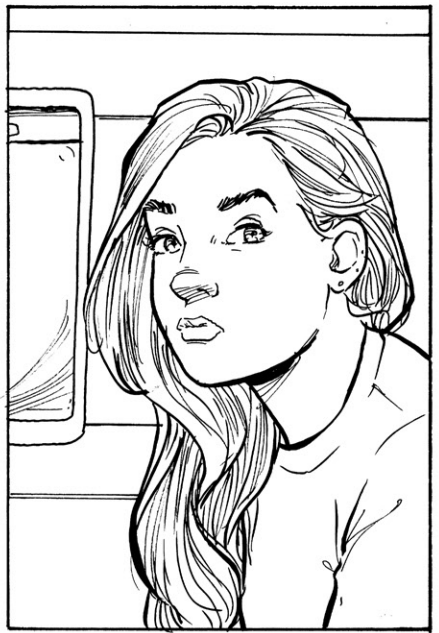
WE KNOW WARREN BUFFET AND ELON MUSK HAVE BEEN LOOKING AT IT, UNFORTUNATELY, IT GOT ONTO ZACKARY MAY'S RADAR, TOO. LAST WEEK HE MADE A BID TO BUY AQUAVANE.

BILLIONAIRE BUYS SMALL COMPANY THAT COULD BE BIG. WHY IS THAT A PROBLEM?

PIPER'S DEATH LAST WEEK RAISES A LOT OF RED FLAGS, IF IT TURNS OUT SHE WAS MURDERED AND ZACKARY WAS INVOLVED, HE'LL SPEND YEARS IN COURT OR JAIL WITH ALL HIS ASSETS FROZEN.

I DON'T GIVE A DAMN WHAT HAPPENS TO THE MAN. I DO CARE ABOUT A POSSIBLE SOLUTION TO GLOBAL DROUGHT BEING KEPT UNDER LOCK AND KEY FOR YEARS TO COME WHILE HE FIGHTS THE COURTS.





AND THAT'S HOW I ENDED UP ON
A PLANE TO L.A. WITH MY HALF-
SISTER, KATINA CHODVANSKI.

KATCHOO WAS A PARKER
GIRL BACK IN THE DAY.

A DAMN GOOD ONE,
I MIGHT ADD.

THE PARKER GIRLS.

THEY DON'T EXIST. THEY'RE
A MYTH. THEY DON'T HAVE
AN OFFICE OR A TAX I.D.

YOU DON'T SEE ONE COMING BUT YOU
CAN TELL WHERE THEY'VE BEEN... WHEN
A SUBPOENED POLITICIAN OR DISGRACED
CEO CLAIMS A WOMAN WON THEIR TRUST
AND LISTENED TO THEIR SECRET
PROBLEMS THEN DISAPPEARED.

POWER. LEVERAGE. MONEY.



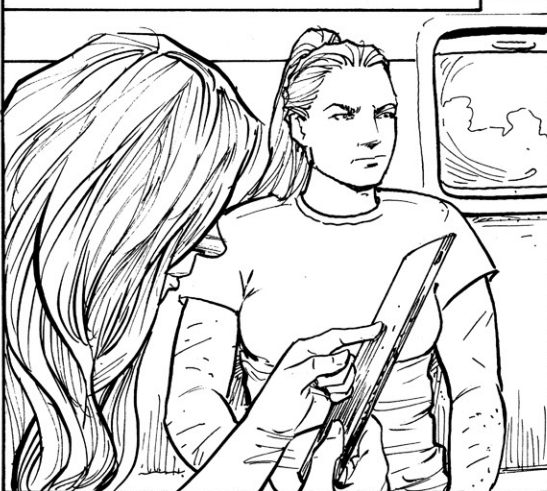
SECRETS ARE A BUSINESS.



AND BUSINESS IS GOOD.



IF I WANT TO KNOW YOUR SECRET
I'LL BEAT IT OUT YOU.



BUT A PARKER GIRL CAN GET THE
SAME INFORMATION OVER DINNER.

AND IF YOU'RE A BOUQUET OF BAD
SHE'LL WRAP YOU IN LEGS AND
SILK SHEETS UNTIL YOU HAVE
NOTHING LEFT TO CONFESS.

PARKER GIRLS ARE
VERY...VERY GOOD
AT WHAT THEY DO.

OR SO I'M TOLD.

TRY TO PROVE IT.



QUESTION... IF THEY DECIDE PIPER'S DEATH WAS AN ACCIDENT, WILL YOU BE OKAY WITH MAY?

NO.

WHY NOT?



WHEN MAY AGREED TO PAY OUR FEE OF FIVE MILLION TO FIND THE CPA, I THOUGHT IT WAS ODD - SPENDING FIVE TO RECOVER TEN - IT DOESN'T MAKE SENSE

SO WHEN WE FOUND THE CPA IN TURKS AND CAICOS, I HAD OUR GIRL ON THE JOB TRANSFER THE MONEY TO SAFETY THEN BRING BACK HIS HARD DRIVE.



WE WERE ABLE TO LOOK AT THE ACCOUNT THE CPA EMBEZZLED FROM AND THE DEPOSITS WERE STUNNING. A BILLION DOLLARS IN TWO YEARS.

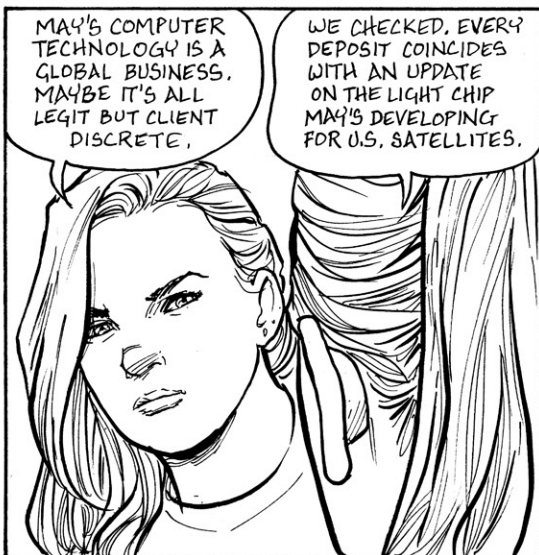


IS IT COMING FROM INSIDE THE COMPANY? LIKE, OVERCHARGES AND PAYMENTS TO PHANTOM BRANCHES?

NO.

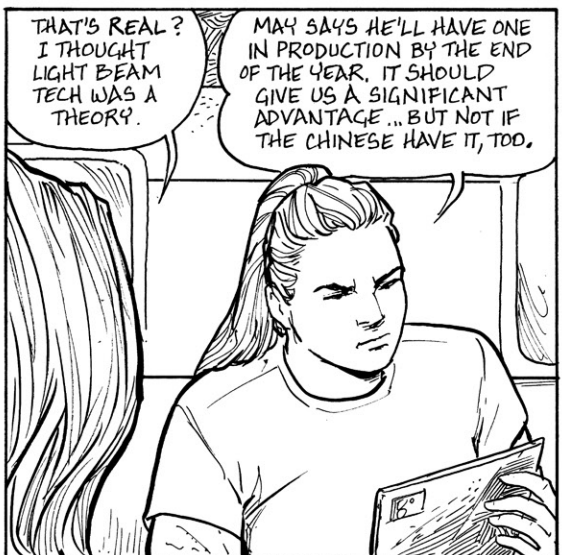


IT'S ALL WIRE TRANSFERS FROM A HONG KONG BANK THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT USES FOR INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS TRANSACTIONS.



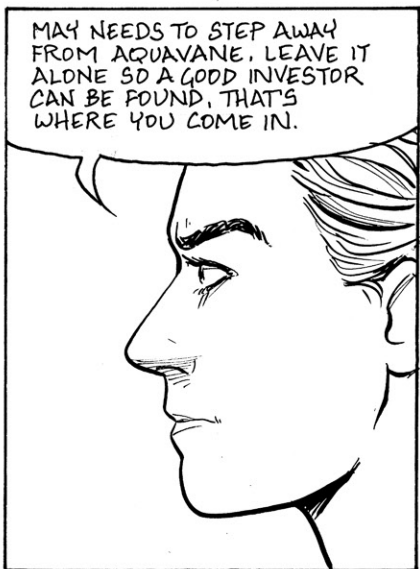
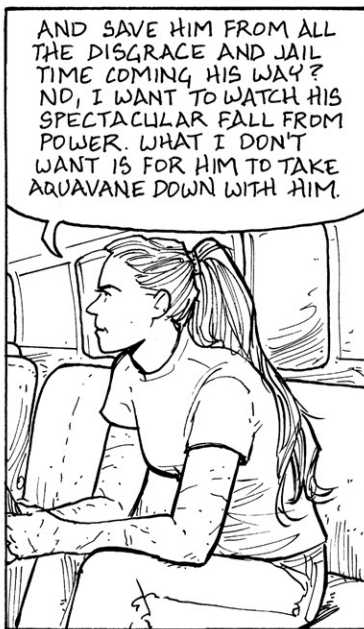
MAY'S COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY IS A GLOBAL BUSINESS. MAYBE IT'S ALL LEGIT BUT CLIENT DISCRETE.

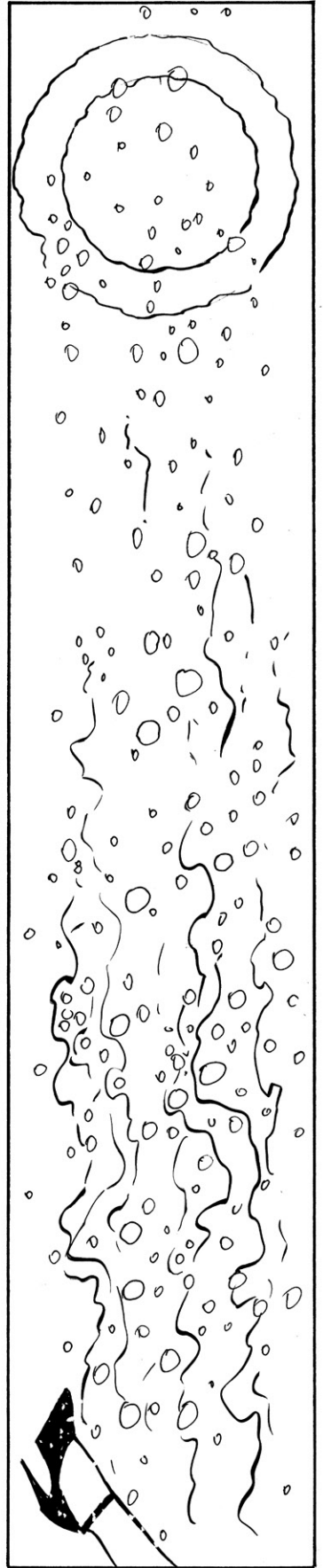
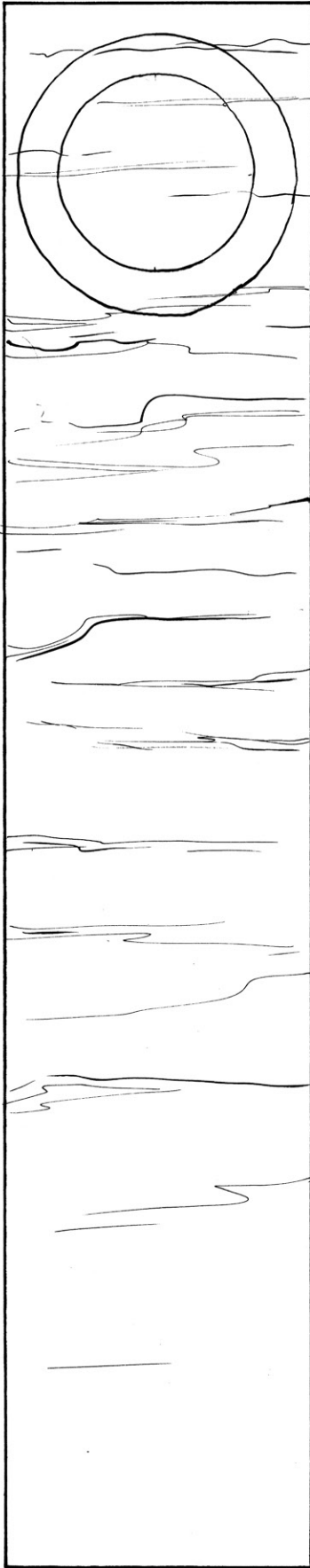
WE CHECKED. EVERY DEPOSIT COINCIDES WITH AN UPDATE ON THE LIGHT CHIP MAY'S DEVELOPING FOR U.S. SATELLITES.

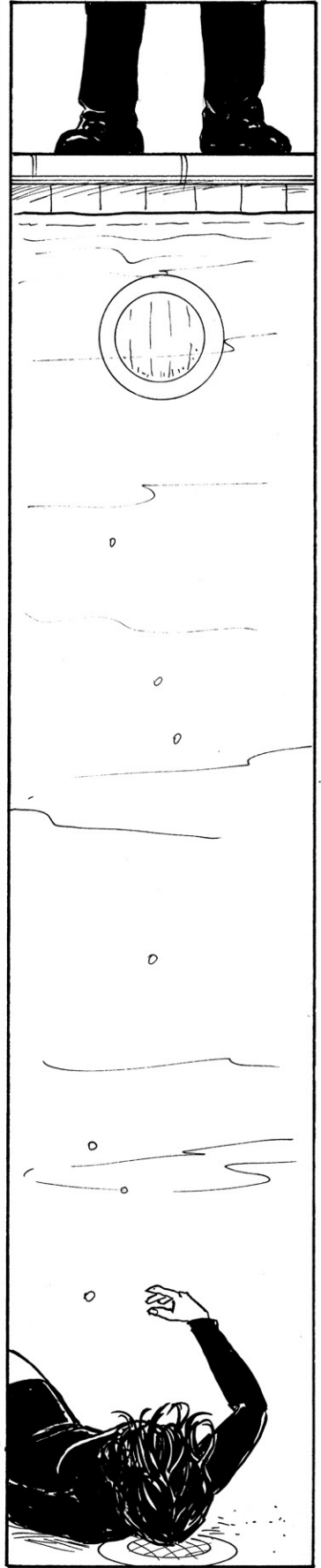
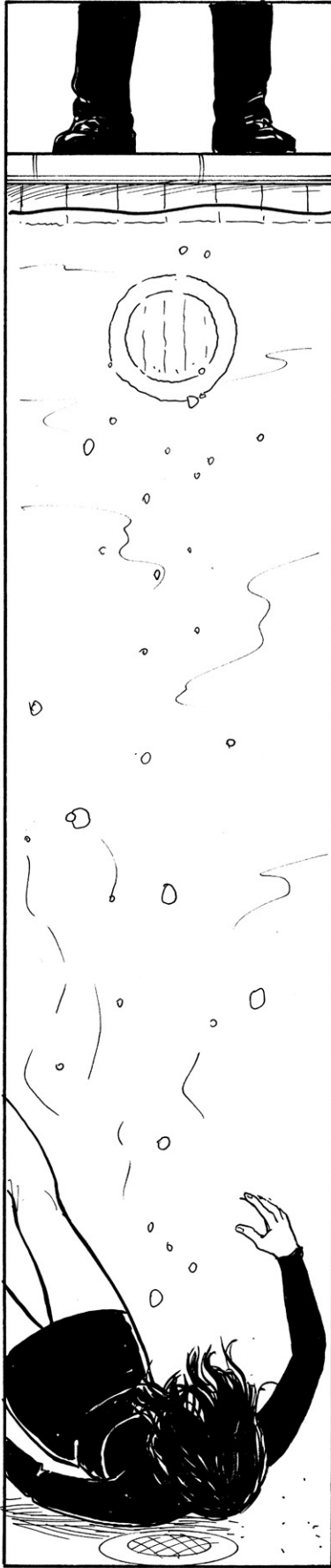
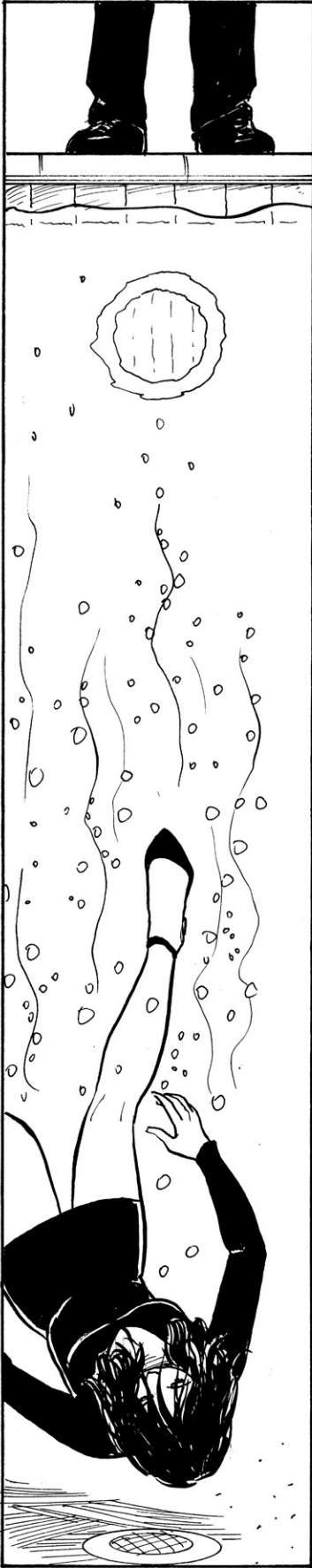


THAT'S REAL? I THOUGHT LIGHT BEAM TECH WAS A THEORY.

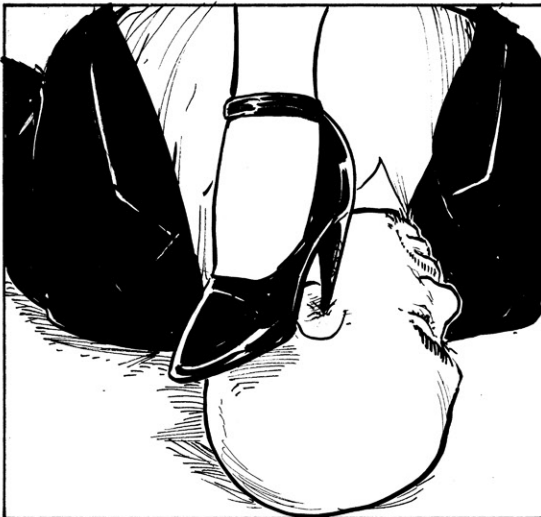
MAY SAYS HE'LL HAVE ONE IN PRODUCTION BY THE END OF THE YEAR. IT SHOULD GIVE US A SIGNIFICANT ADVANTAGE... BUT NOT IF THE CHINESE HAVE IT, TOO.











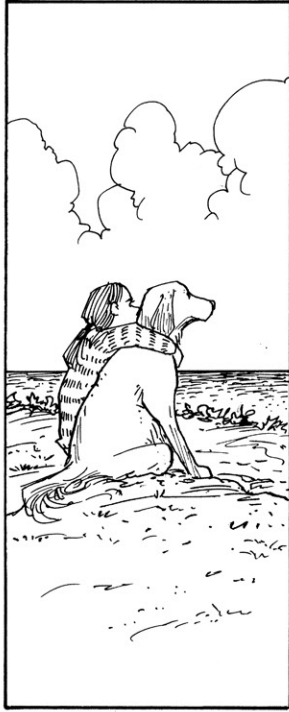


Terry Moore

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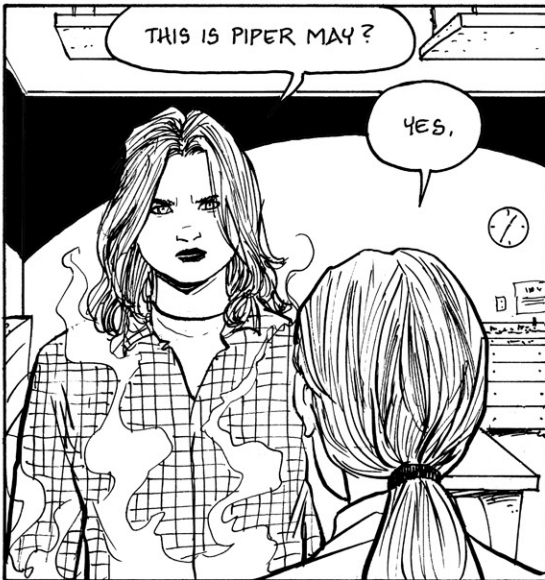
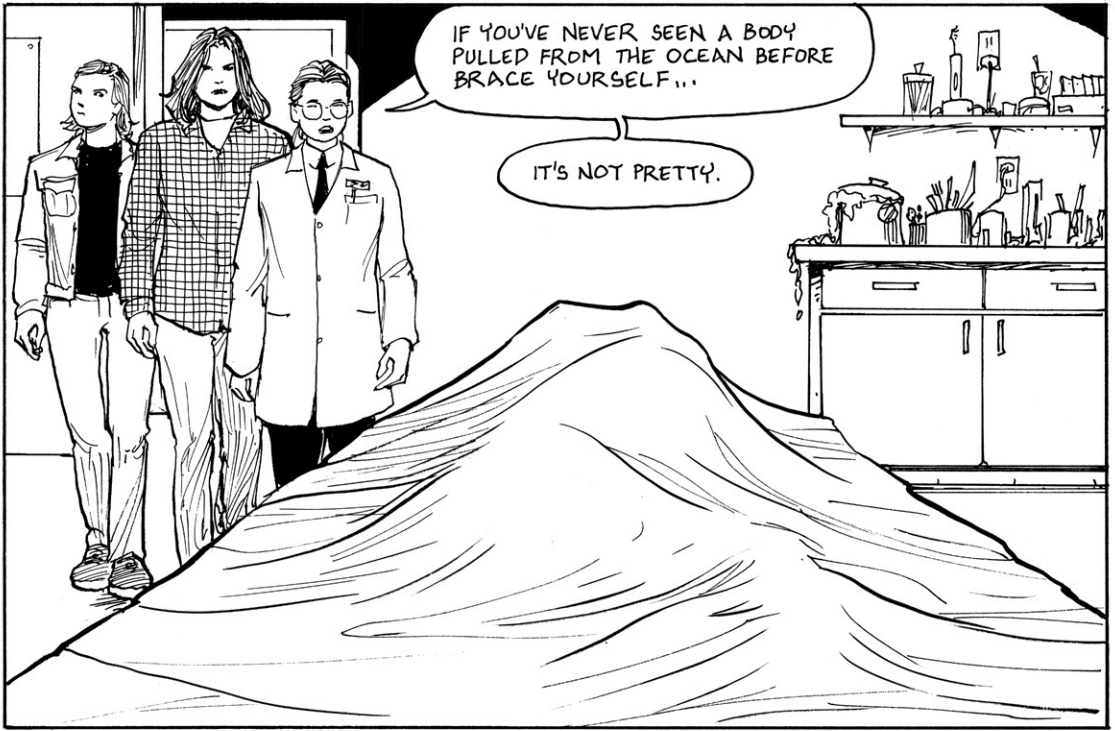
PARKER GIRLS

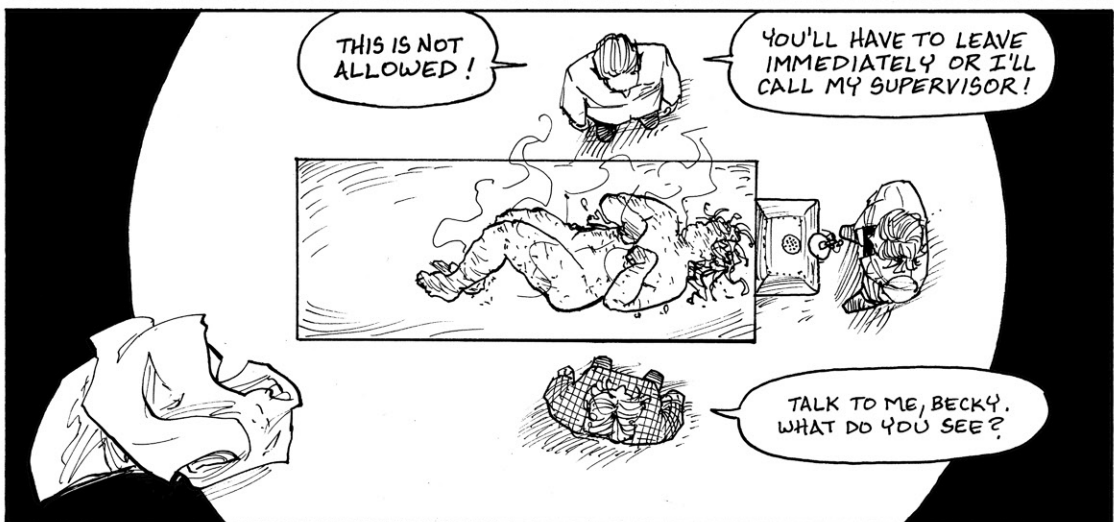


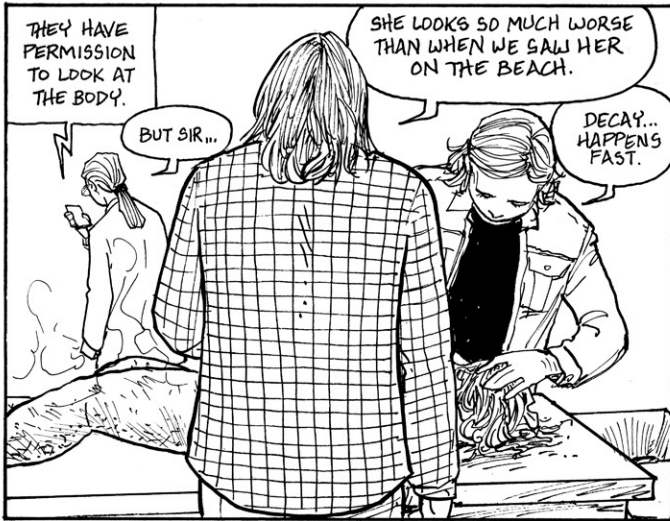
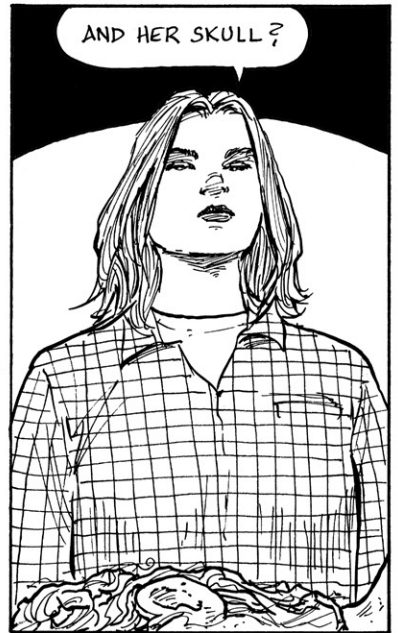
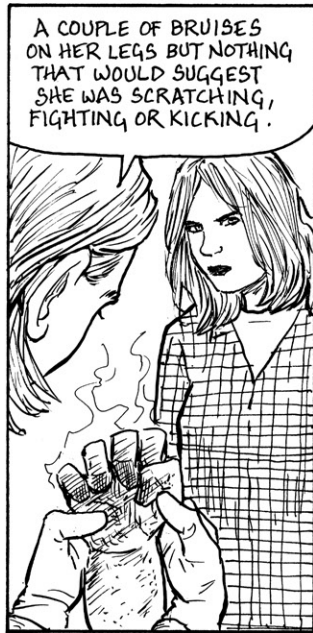


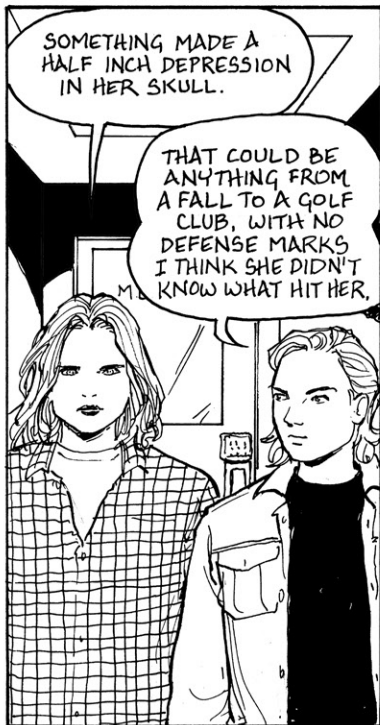
Even now I think about you,
In the middle of the night;
And I can't believe it still
Can hurt so bad.

—Barry Manilow



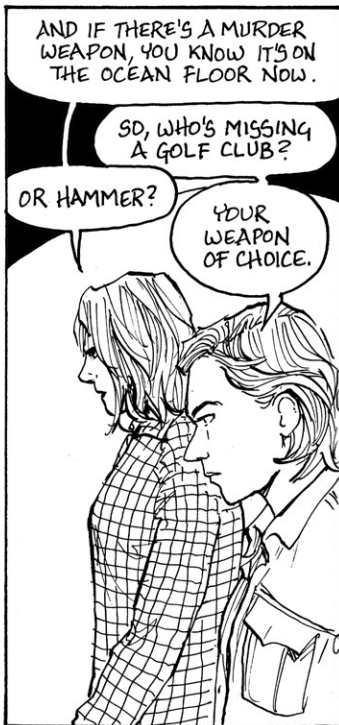






SOMETHING MADE A HALF INCH DEPRESSION IN HER SKULL.

THAT COULD BE ANYTHING FROM A FALL TO A GOLF CLUB, WITH NO DEFENSE MARKS I THINK SHE DIDN'T KNOW WHAT HIT HER.

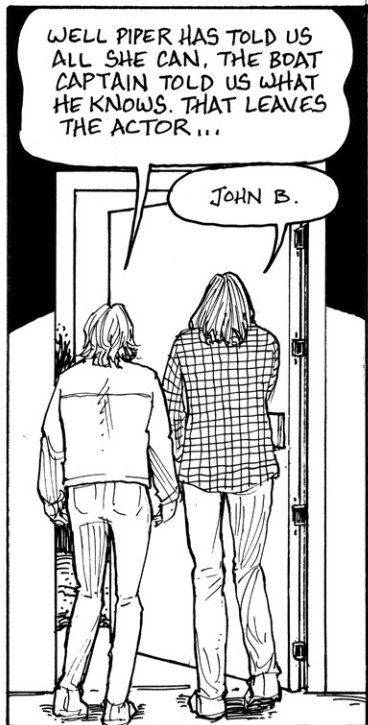


AND IF THERE'S A MURDER WEAPON, YOU KNOW IT'S ON THE OCEAN FLOOR NOW.

SO, WHO'S MISSING A GOLF CLUB?

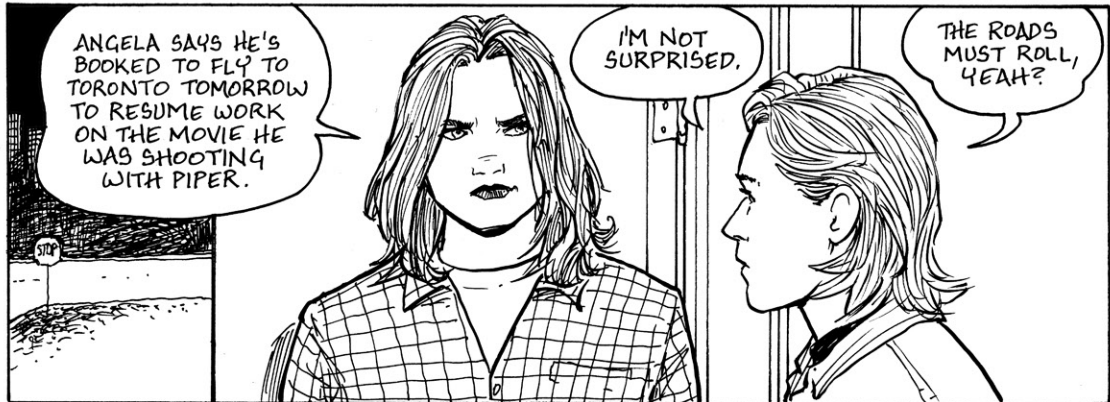
OR HAMMER?

YOUR WEAPON OF CHOICE.



WELL PIPER HAS TOLD US ALL SHE CAN. THE BOAT CAPTAIN TOLD US WHAT HE KNOWS. THAT LEAVES THE ACTOR...

JOHN B.



ANGELA SAYS HE'S BOOKED TO FLY TO TORONTO TOMORROW TO RESUME WORK ON THE MOVIE HE WAS SHOOTING WITH PIPER.

I'M NOT SURPRISED.

THE ROADS MUST ROLL, YEAH?



HOWLIN' WOLF?

HEINLEIN.

HMM.

YOU WANT TO GO SEE MR. B?

YES.

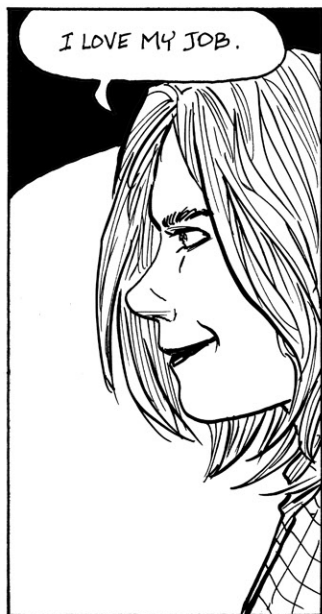


IT'S TWO IN THE MORNING.

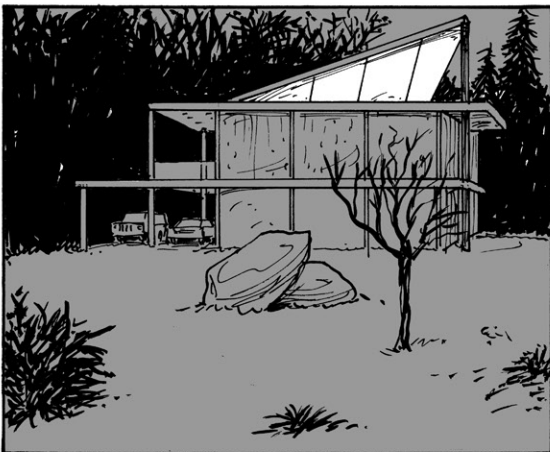
HE'S NOT GOING TO BE HAPPY.

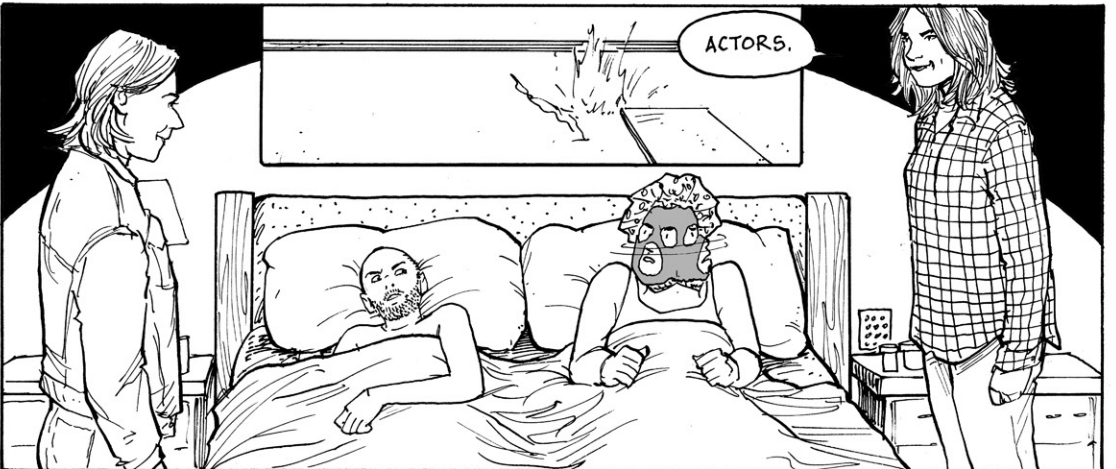
YEP.

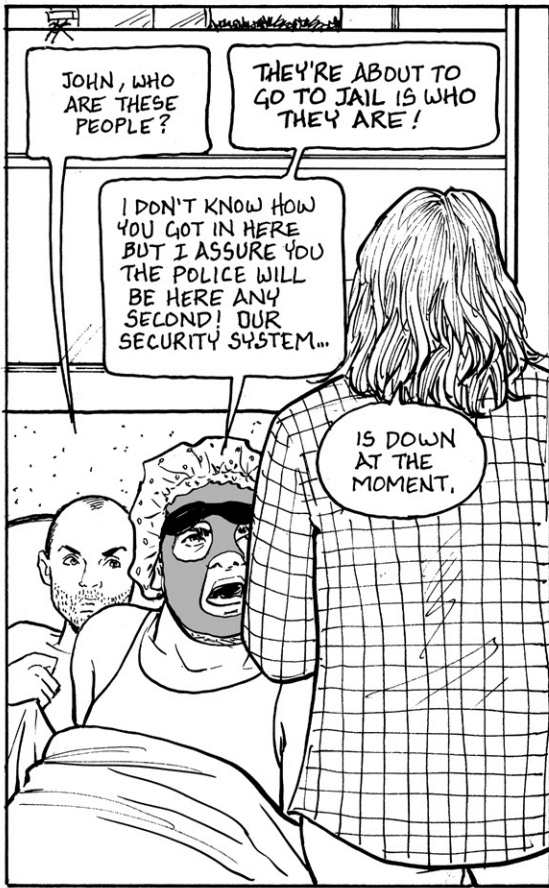
NOPE.

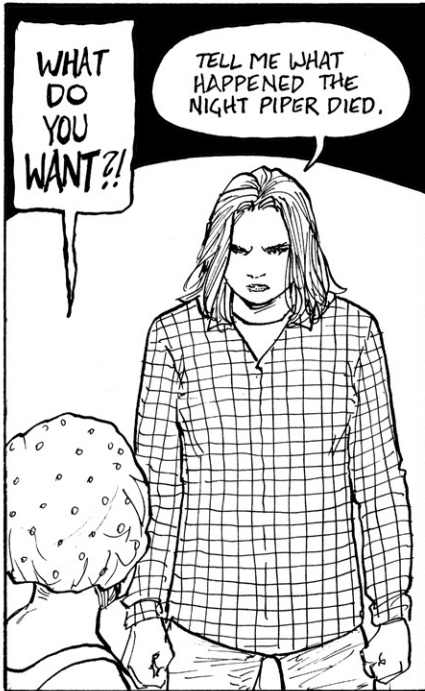


I LOVE MY JOB.









WHAT DO YOU WANT?!

TELL ME WHAT HAPPENED THE NIGHT PIPER DIED.



I DON'T KNOW. AFTER DINNER I STAYED IN MY ROOM ALL NIGHT.

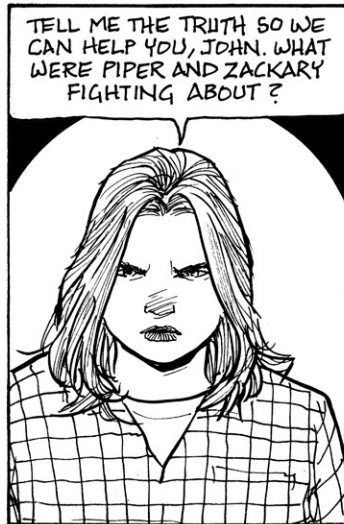
WHY?

BECAUSE THEY WERE FIGHTING! DINNER WAS A NIGHTMARE! I TOOK MY DESSERT TO MY ROOM AND STAYED THERE. I TURNED UP THE TV SO I WOULDN'T HAVE TO LISTEN TO THEM!

IF I COULD HAVE CALLED AN UBER I WOULD HAVE!



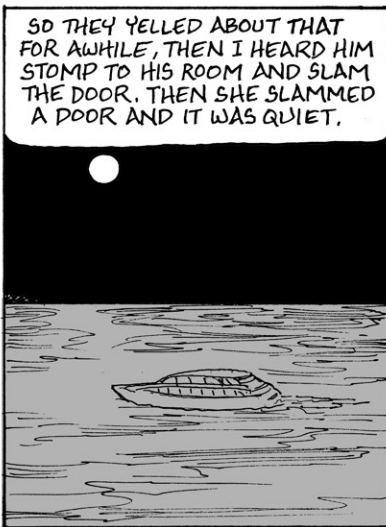
ARE YOU FROM THE STUDIO? I PROMISE YOU, I DIDN'T DO ANYTHING WRONG, PLEASE DON'T FIRE ME!



TELL ME THE TRUTH SO WE CAN HELP YOU, JOHN. WHAT WERE PIPER AND ZACKARY FIGHTING ABOUT?



EVERYTHING! THEY FOUGHT ABOUT EVERYTHING WRONG WITH HIM AND EVERYTHING WRONG WITH HER! AND BELIEVE ME, SHE WAS OVER IT! SHE WANTED A DIVORCE!



SO THEY YELLED ABOUT THAT FOR AWHILE, THEN I HEARD HIM STOMP TO HIS ROOM AND SLAM THE DOOR. THEN SHE SLAMMED A DOOR AND IT WAS QUIET.

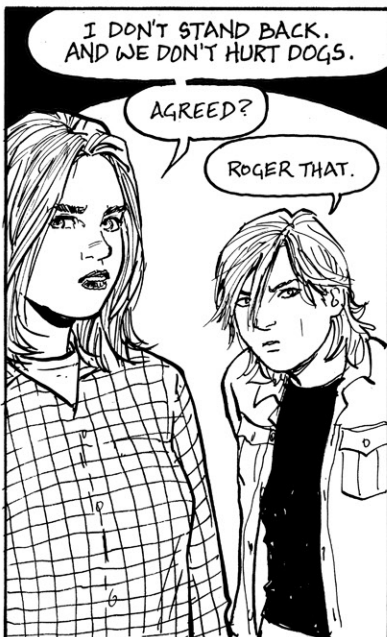
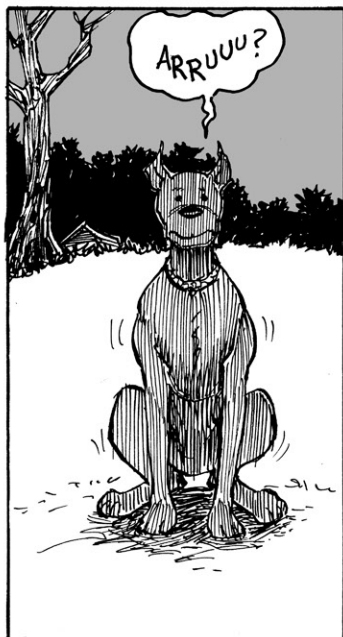
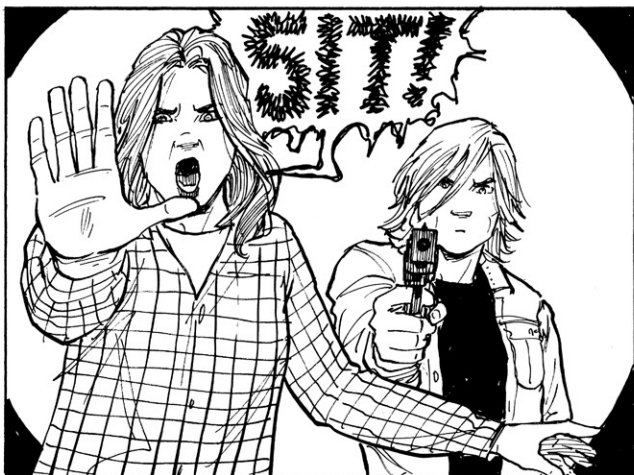


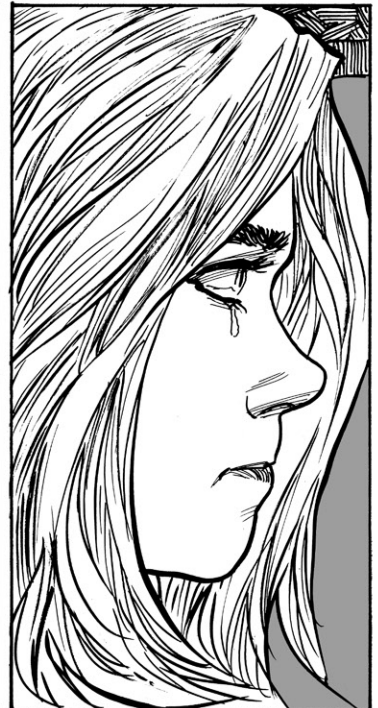
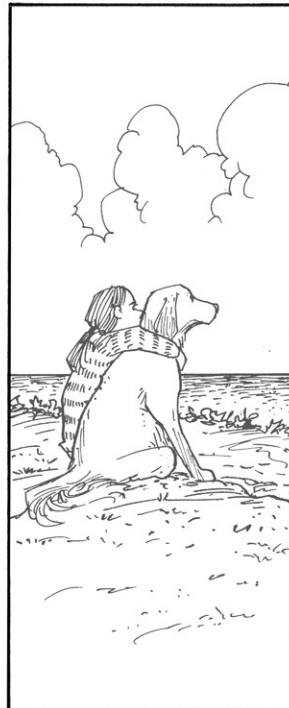
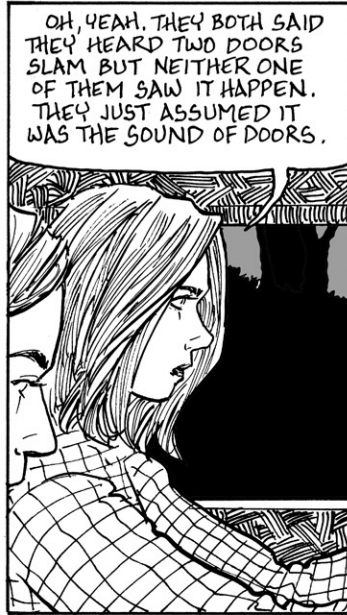
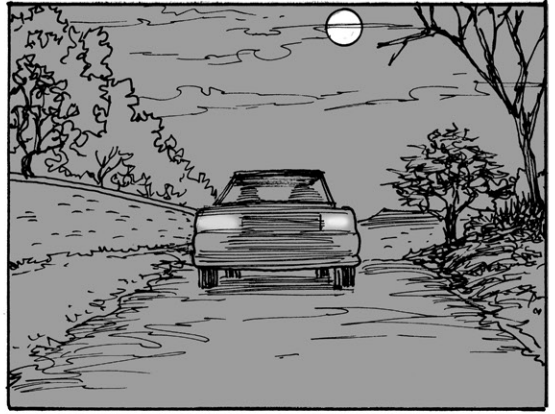
THE NEXT MORNING I HEARD VOICES AND BOATS COMING AND GOING. ZACK AND PIPER WERE GONE. I ROPE BACK ON THE YACHT AND HEARD ABOUT PIPER ON THE INTERNET.

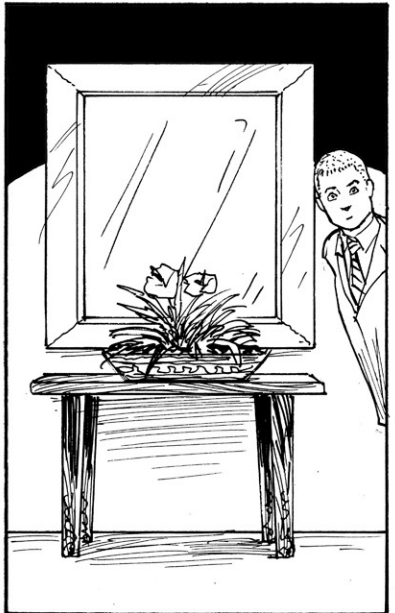
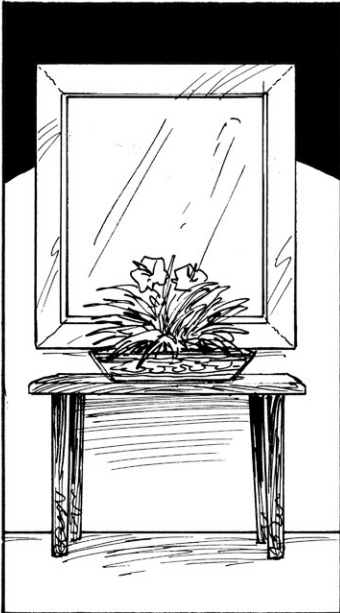
PIPER MAY DEAD! BODY FOUND ON BEACH!

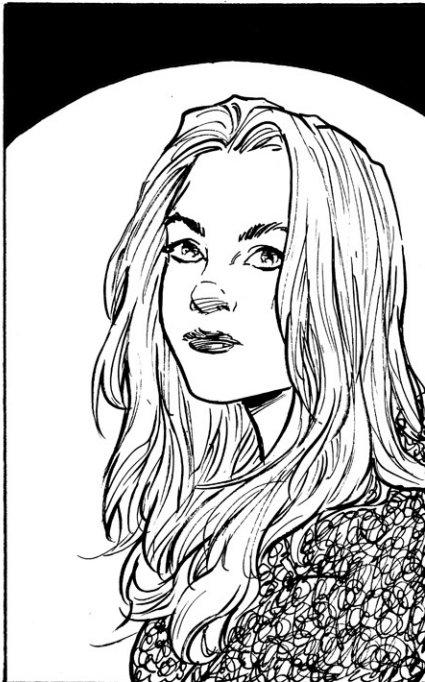
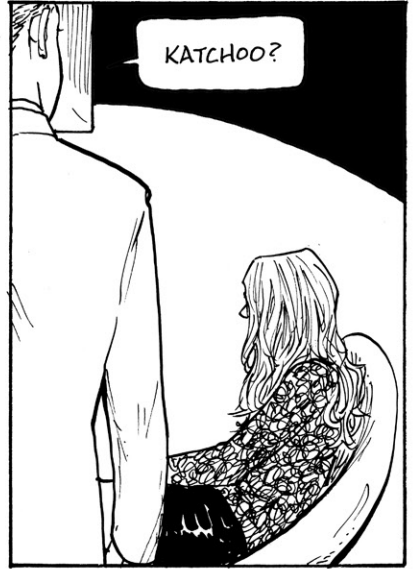
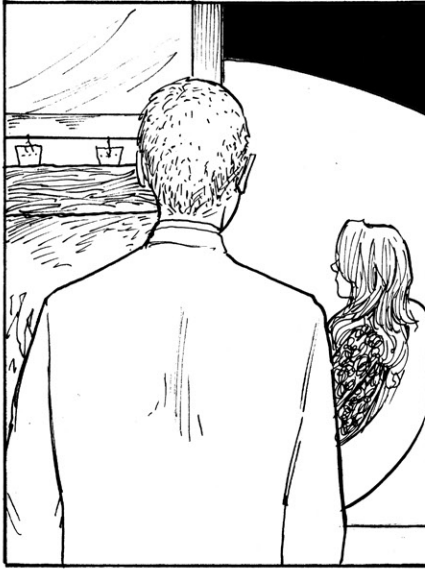


I'M NOT GOING TO GET CANCELLED FOR BEING THERE, AM I?







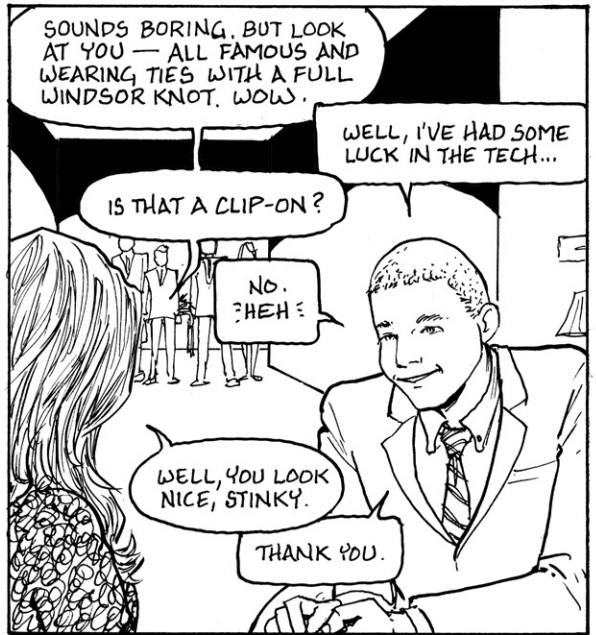




SO WHAT BRINGS YOU TO PARIS?

MMM.

I'M HERE FOR THE GLOBAL COUNCIL ACCORD. I HAVE TO GIVE A SPEECH THIS AFTERNOON, MEET WITH THE BOARD.



SOUNDS BORING, BUT LOOK AT YOU — ALL FAMOUS AND WEARING TIES WITH A FULL WINDSOR KNOT. WOW.

WELL, I'VE HAD SOME LUCK IN THE TECH...

IS THAT A CLIP-ON?

NO. :HEH:

WELL, YOU LOOK NICE, STINKY.

THANK YOU.



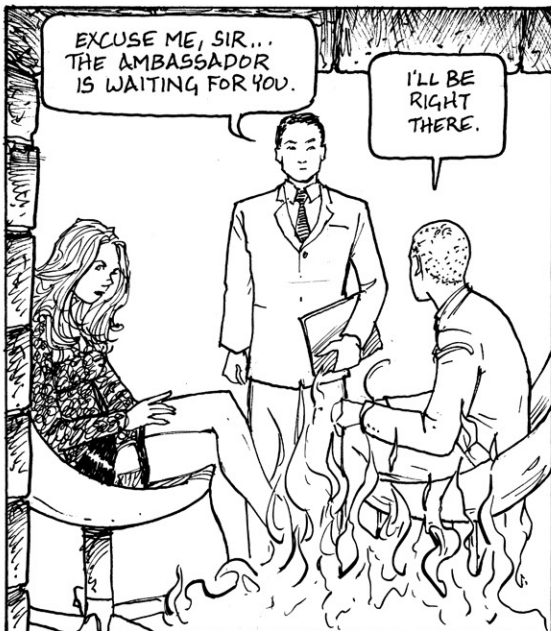
WHAT IS HAPPENING?

IS HE... SMILING?

WHO IS THAT?

I DON'T KNOW. I'VE NEVER SEEN HER BEFORE.

GUYS... HEY... THE AMBASSADOR IS WAITING FOR MR. MAY!



EXCUSE ME, SIR... THE AMBASSADOR IS WAITING FOR YOU.

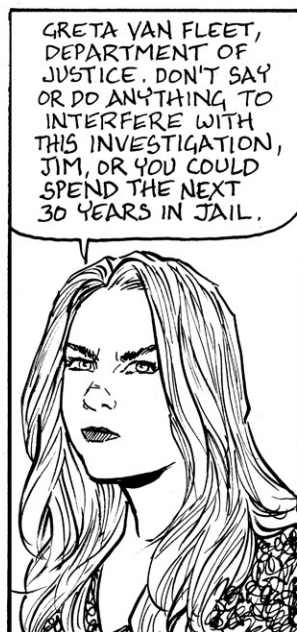
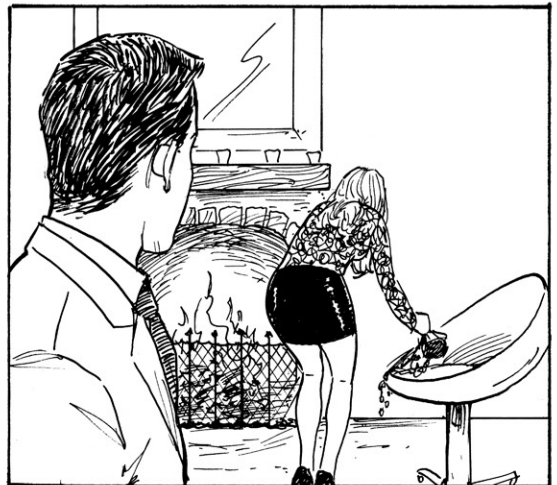
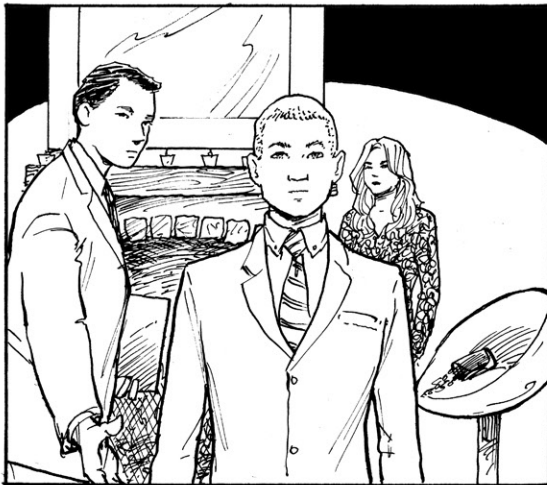
I'LL BE RIGHT THERE.



SORRY. I REALLY DO HAVE TO GO GIVE THIS SPEECH... TO KICK OFF THE CONFERENCE.

OKAY. COME HERE.

LET ME FIX YOUR TIE.





HUH.



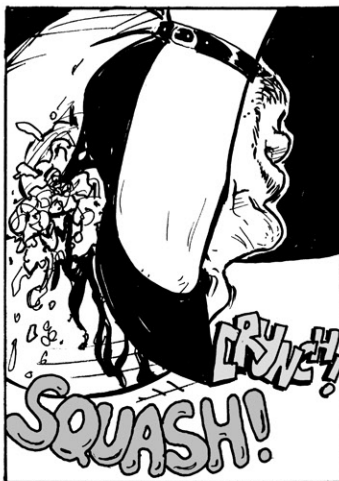
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!



IT'S STUCK.



SQUISH! POP!



CRUSH!
SQUASH!



SPLOOSH!



LOOK WHAT YOU'VE DONE!

YEAH, BROKE THE HEEL CAP OFF.



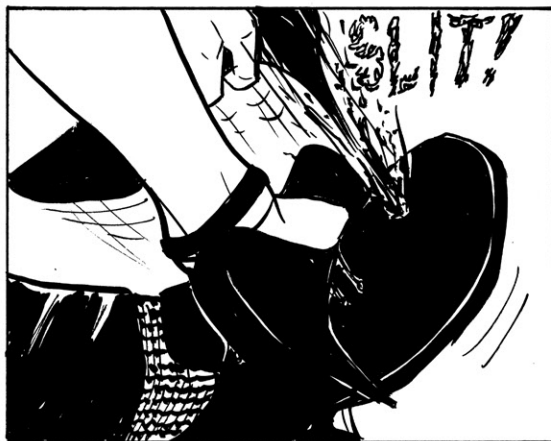
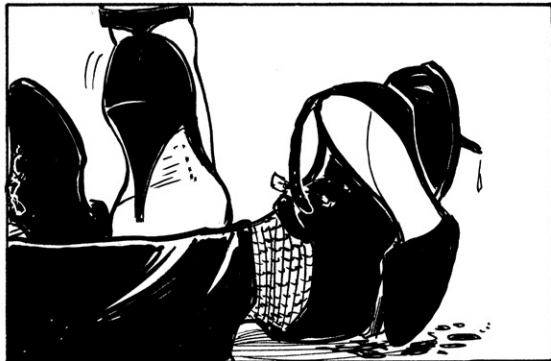
NO! YOU KILLED HIM! IT COST ME 50 GRAND TO BUY OUT HIS UFC CONTRACT! YOU OWE ME \$750,000, YOU PSYCHOPATH!

HE RUINED MY SHOES! WE'RE EVEN!



YOUR SHOES
ARE NOT WORTH
\$50,000!

WANNA BET?!
CHRISTIAN LOUBOUTINS
ARE NOT CHEAP,
NIKOLA!



WHAT KIND OF AN IDIOT
PAYS FIFTY K FOR A
PAIR OF SHOES?!

YOU DID.
JUST NOW.



SO ARE WE GETTING
MARRIED IN APRIL OR ... ?

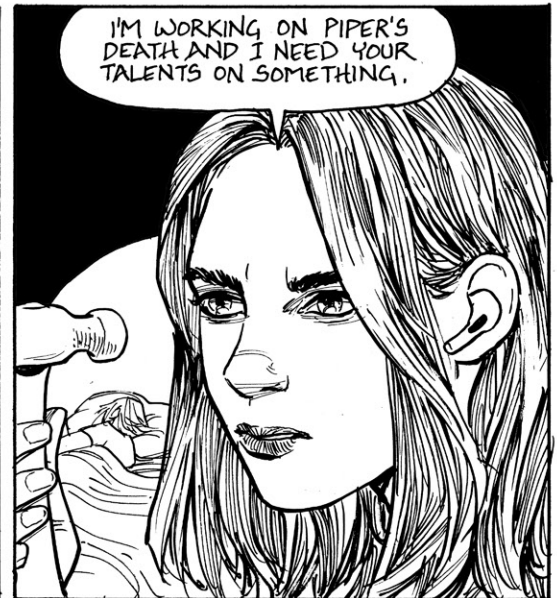
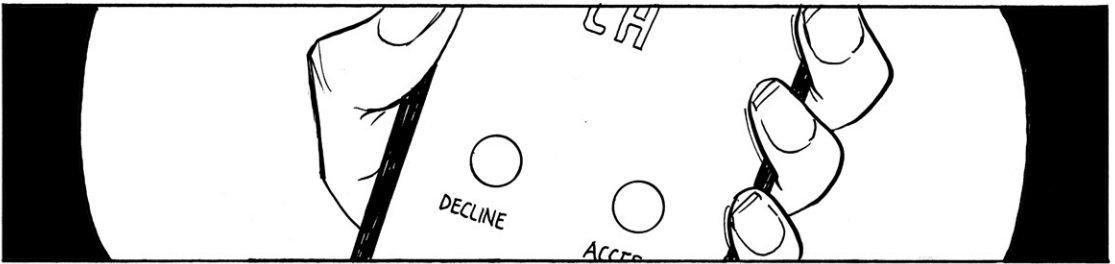
THE WEDDING'S OFF,
ASSHOLE.

MY FATHER'S NOT
GOING TO LIKE THIS!

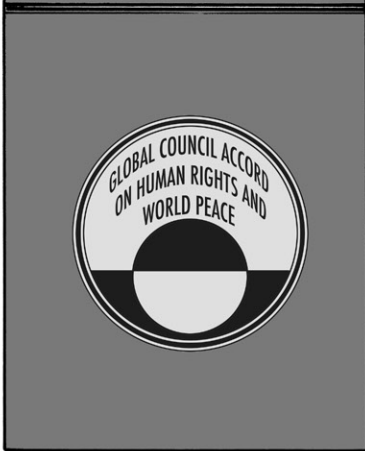
YOU'LL BE GETTING A
VERY STERN LETTER
FROM OUR ATTORNEY!

I WANT BACK THE
JEWELRY I GAVE
YOU! AND THE CAR!

AND THOSE SHOES!
THOSE ARE MY SHOES!



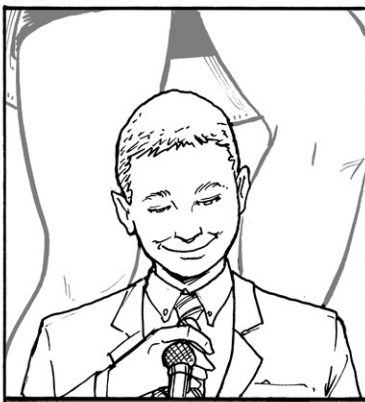
... AND DESPITE THE TRAGIC LOSS OF HIS WIFE, HE FELT THE WORK OF THIS GROUP TOO IMPORTANT TO MISS. LADIES AND GENTLEMEN...



ZACKARY MAY!
THANK YOU, WARREN.



I WANT TO TALK TO YOU TODAY ABOUT A GLOBAL CRISIS AFFECTING MILLIONS...



POVERTY.



Terry Moore

ABSTRACT
STUDIO

5

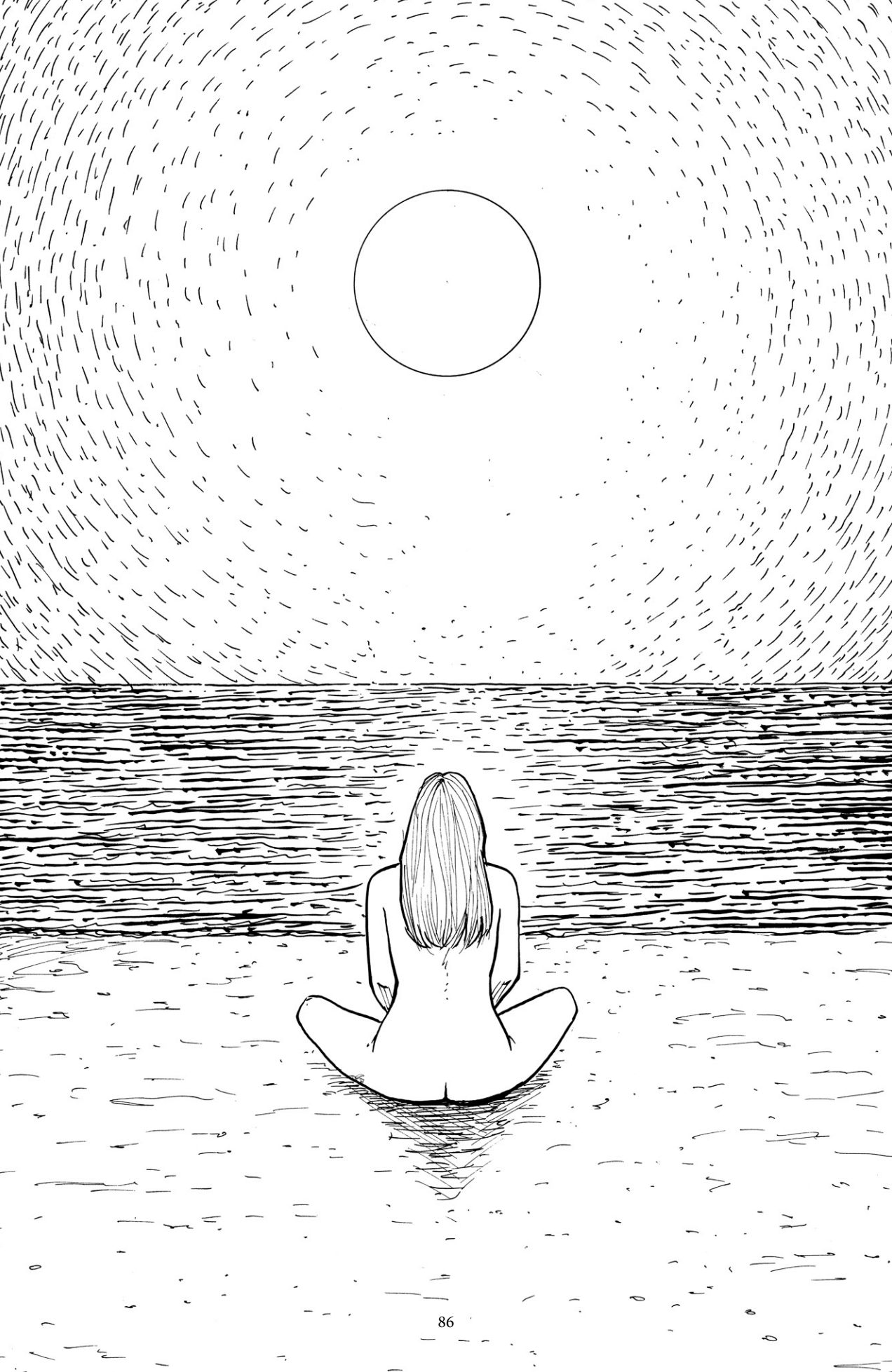
PARKER GIRLS





“To the last, I grapple with thee;
From Hell’s heart, I stab at thee;
For hate’s sake,
I spit my last breath at thee.”

—Herman Melville



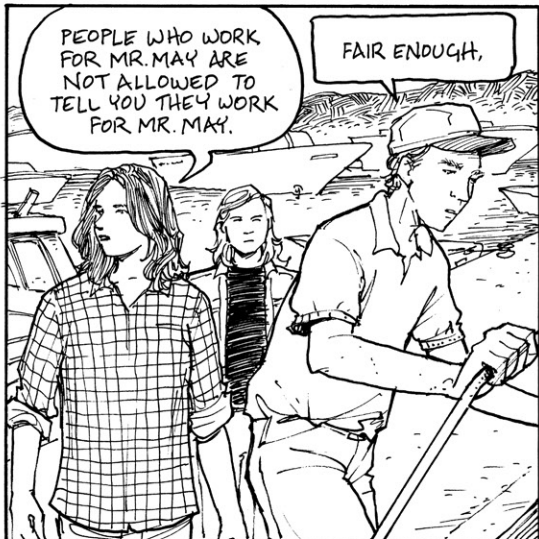


SO BOB TOLD ME YOU'RE PRIVATE INVESTIGATORS.

AND I SHOULD LET YOU SEE THE MAY'S BOAT... LOOK AROUND.

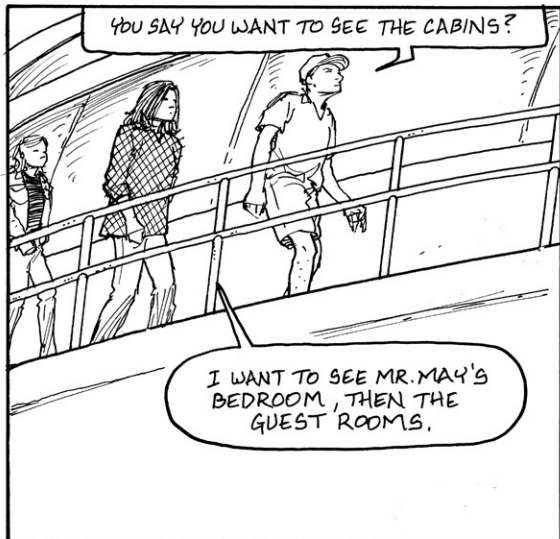
THAT'S RIGHT.

DO YOU WORK FOR MR. MAY?



PEOPLE WHO WORK FOR MR. MAY ARE NOT ALLOWED TO TELL YOU THEY WORK FOR MR. MAY.

FAIR ENOUGH.



YOU SAY YOU WANT TO SEE THE CABINS?

I WANT TO SEE MR. MAY'S BEDROOM, THEN THE GUEST ROOMS.

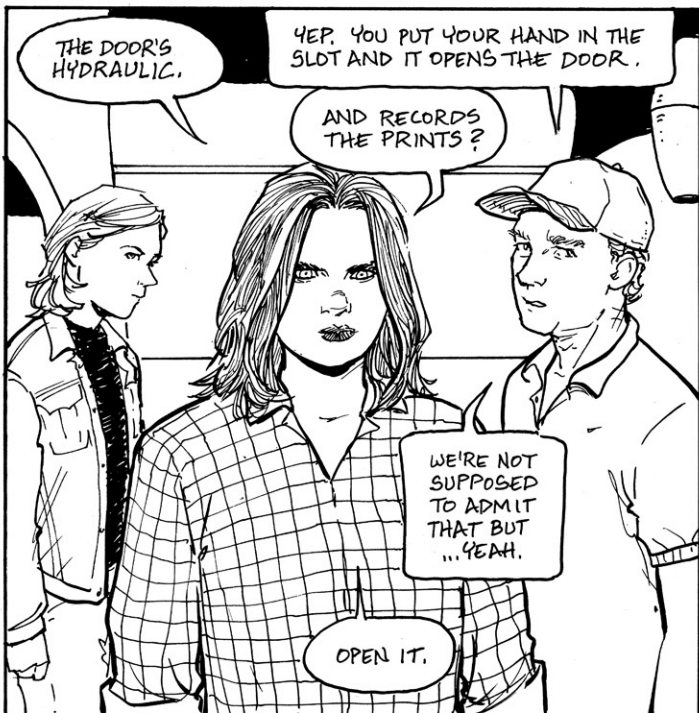


THIS IS THE MAIN SUITE WHERE THE MAYS SLEEP.

UH...SLEPT.

BECKY?

GOT YOUR SIX.



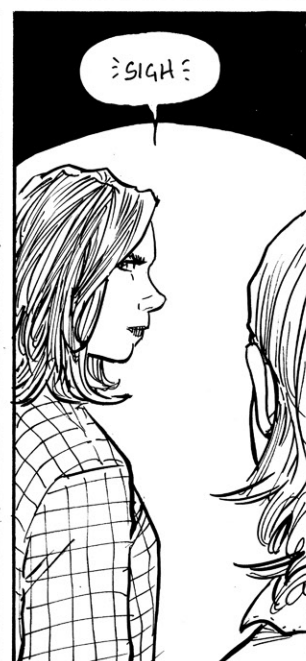
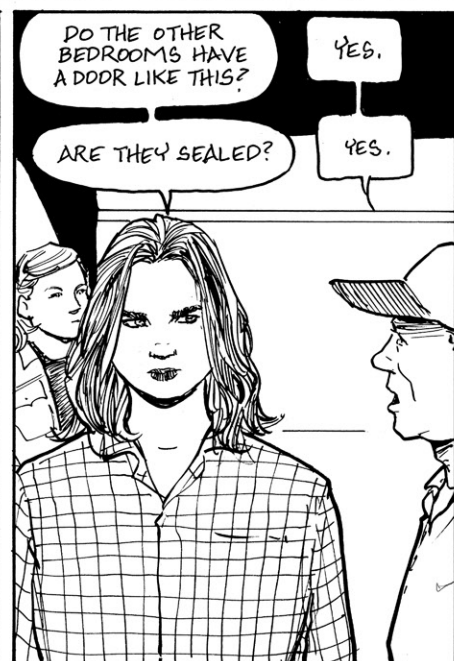
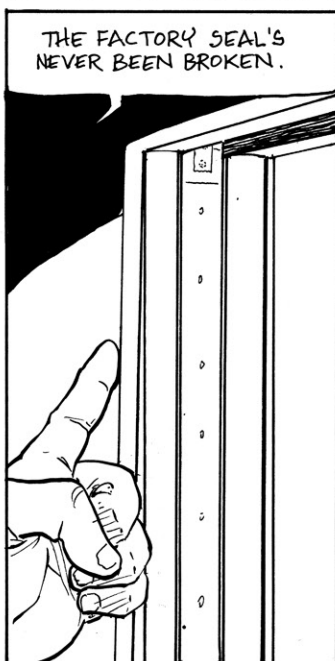
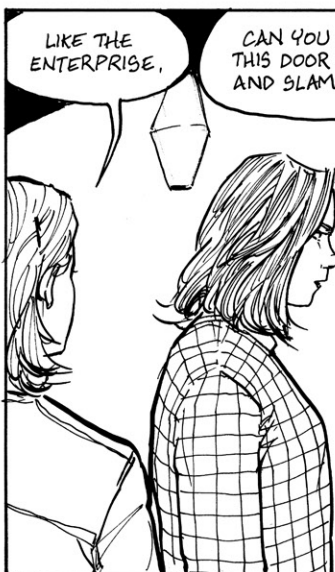
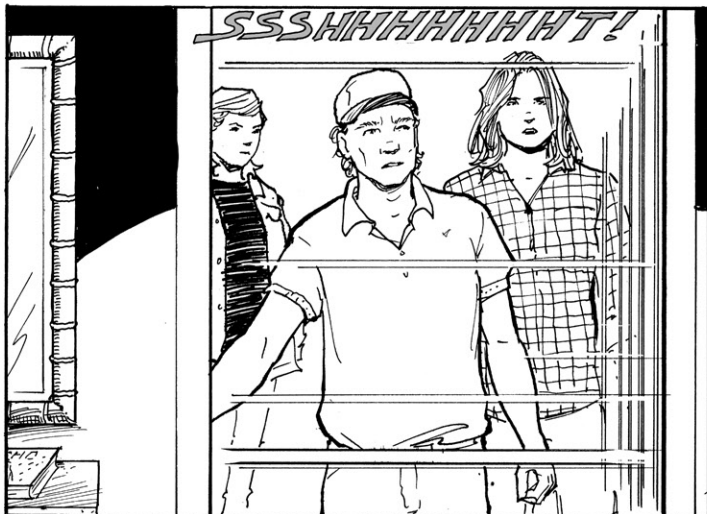
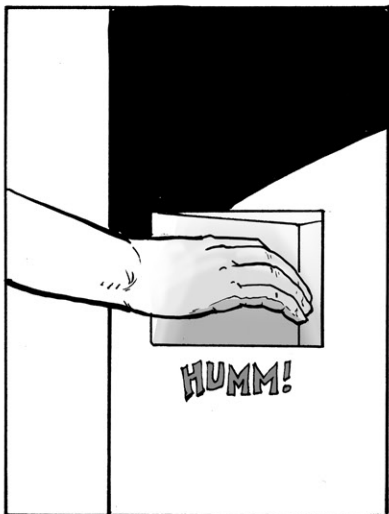
THE DOOR'S HYDRAULIC.

YEP. YOU PUT YOUR HAND IN THE SLOT AND IT OPENS THE DOOR.

AND RECORDS THE PRINTS?

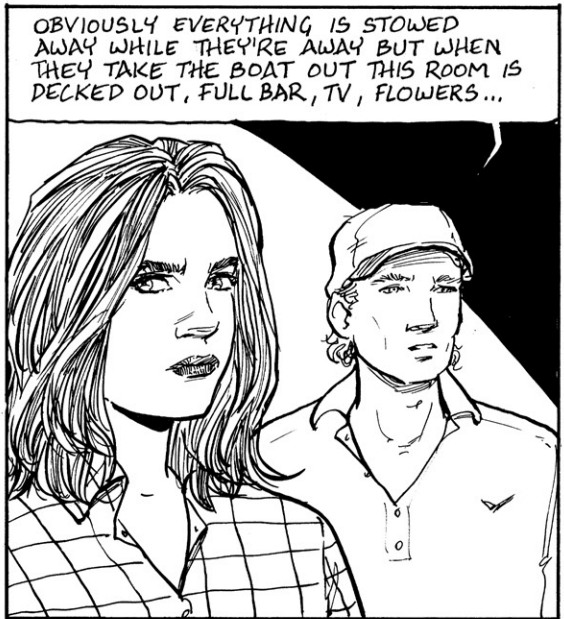
WE'RE NOT SUPPOSED TO ADMIT THAT BUT ...YEAH.

OPEN IT.





THE LOUNGE WHERE THEY EAT AND HAVE DRINKS... ENTERTAIN GUESTS,

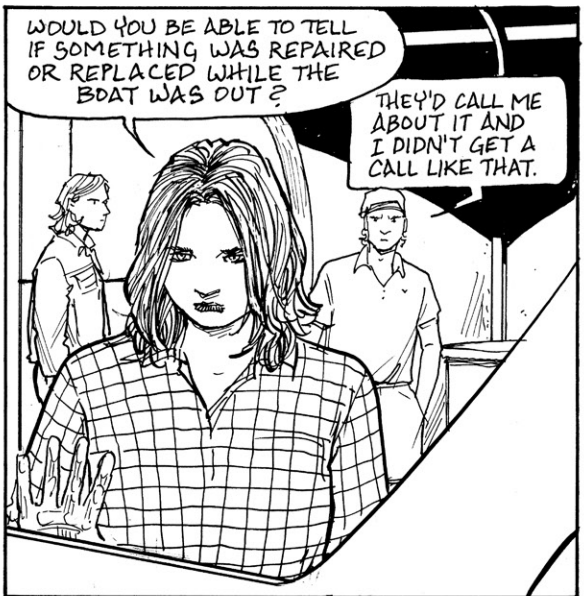


OBVIOUSLY EVERYTHING IS STOWED AWAY WHILE THEY'RE AWAY BUT WHEN THEY TAKE THE BOAT OUT THIS ROOM IS DECKED OUT, FULL BAR, TV, FLOWERS...



WHEN THE BOAT CAME BACK FROM THE CATALINA TRIP, WAS ANYTHING DAMAGED OR MISSING? FURNITURE, WINDOWS, WALLS? I MEAN, THIS ROOM IN PARTICULAR.

NO. EVERYTHING LOOKED FINE.



WOULD YOU BE ABLE TO TELL IF SOMETHING WAS REPAIRED OR REPLACED WHILE THE BOAT WAS OUT?

THEY'D CALL ME ABOUT IT AND I DIDN'T GET A CALL LIKE THAT.



LOOK, SHE'S MAKING ME NERVOUS WATCHING ME LIKE THAT. IS IT REALLY NECESSARY? IT'S RUDE!

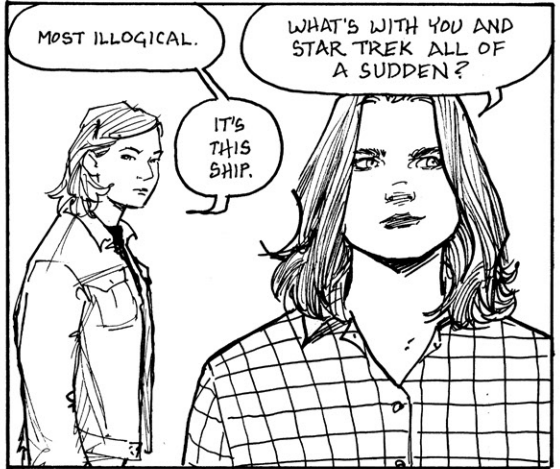


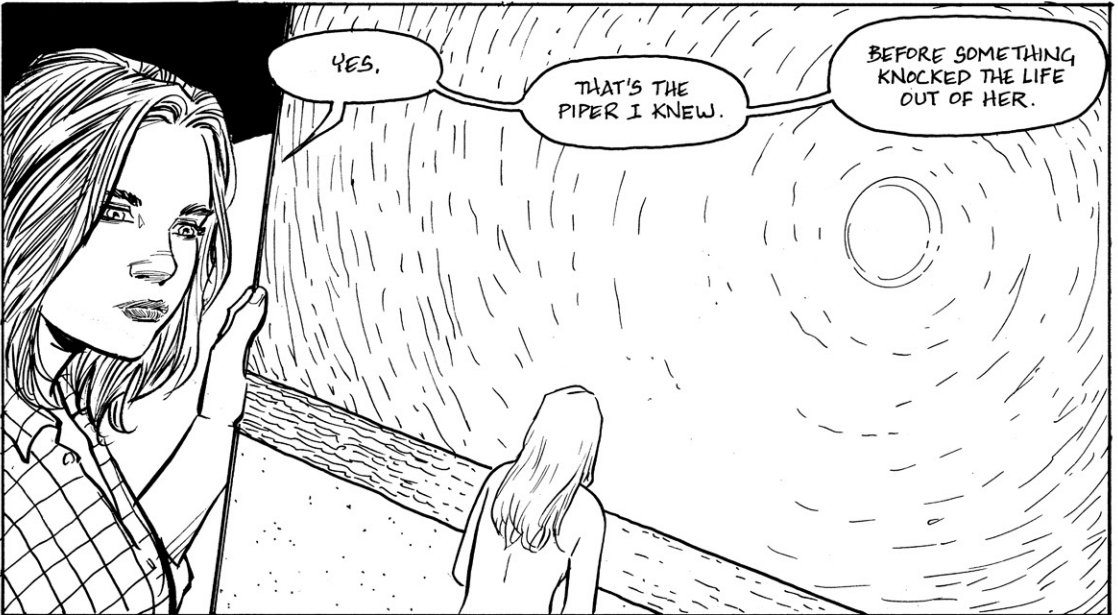
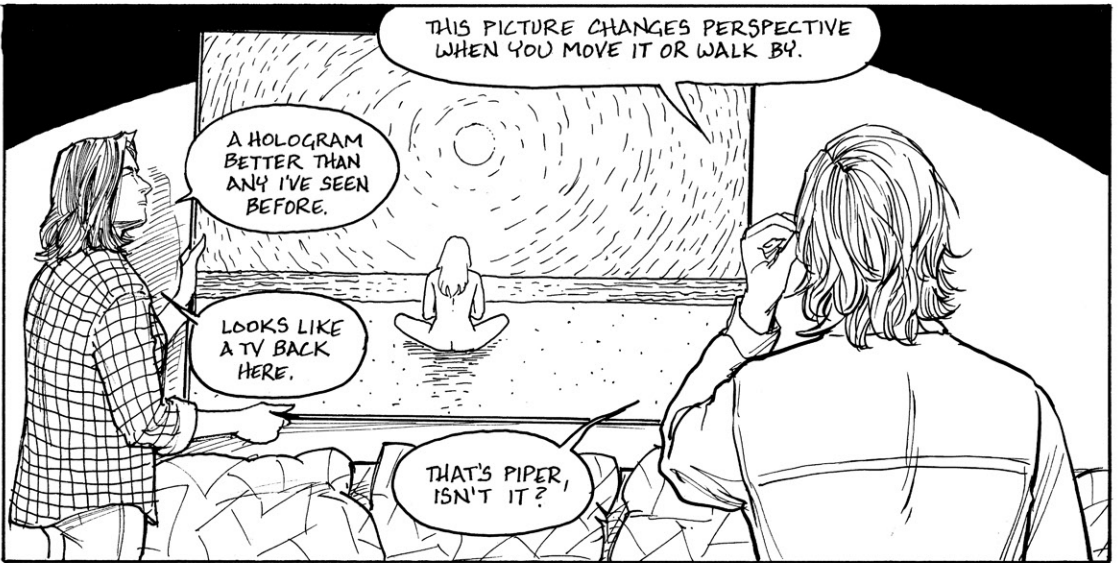
SORRY. YOU CAN GO. I WANT TO LOOK AROUND HERE FOR A MINUTE.

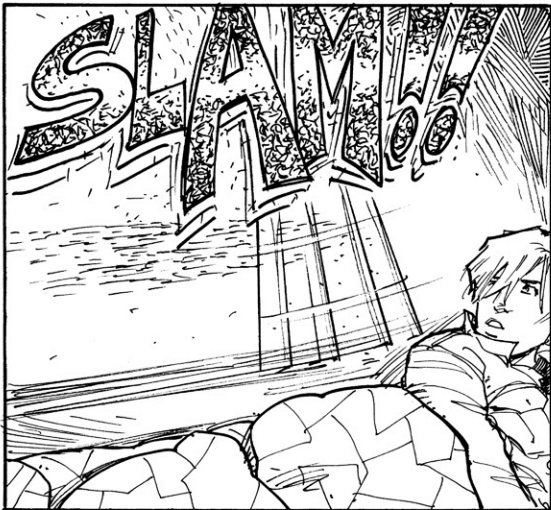
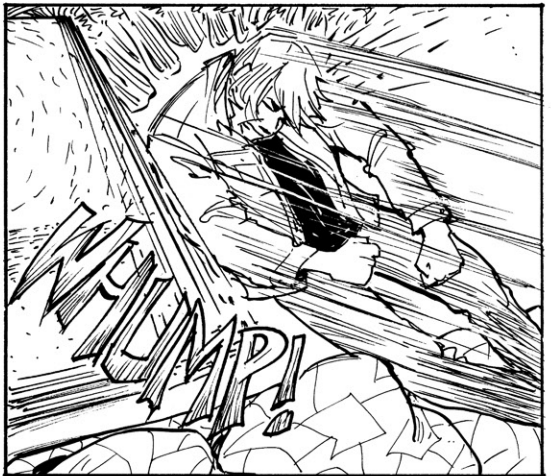
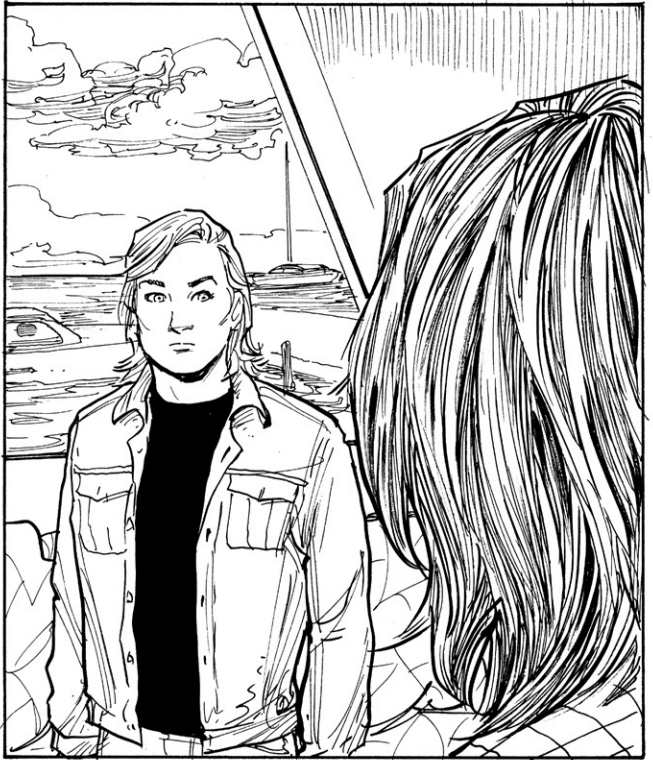
I DON'T KNOW WHY YOU FEEL THE NEED TO DO THAT. I'M JUST AN EMPLOYEE, OKAY?

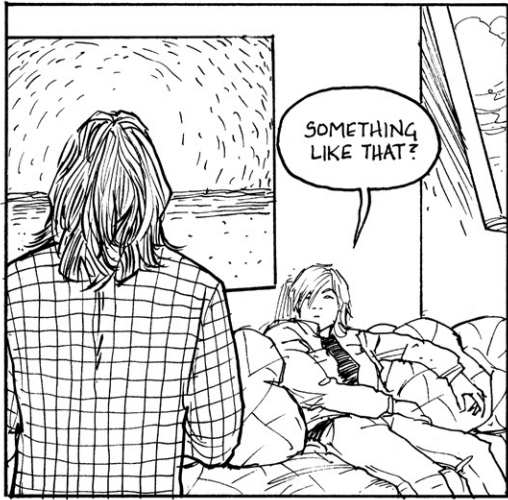
THANK YOU.

NOT MY BOAT, NOT MY PROBLEM.









SOMETHING LIKE THAT?

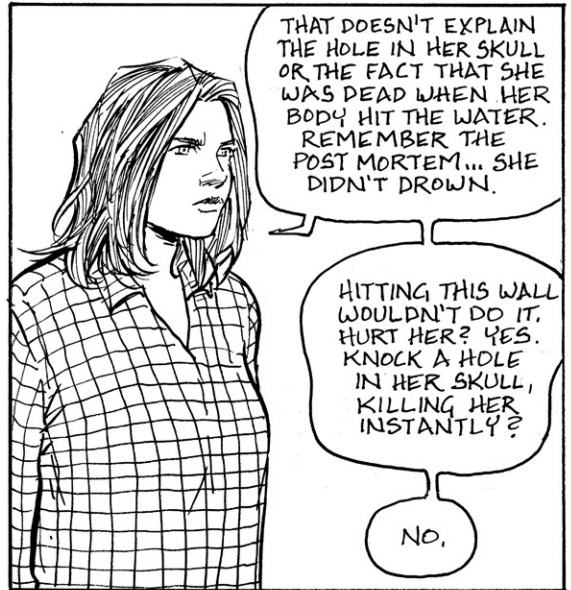
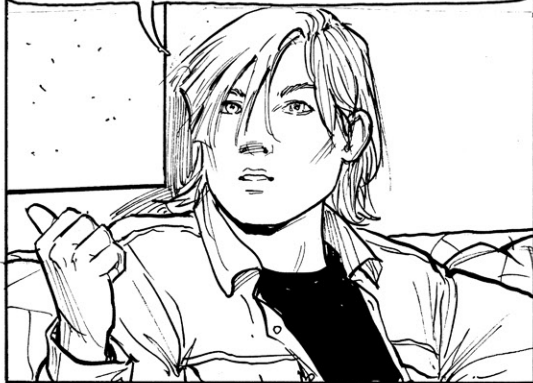


YES. BECKY... THAT WAS AWESOME!

THREE YEARS OF VASSAR LACROSSE, BABY.

SLAY.

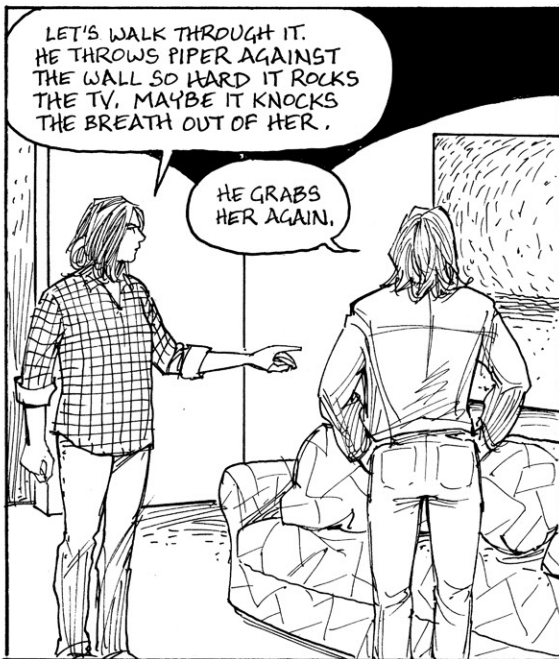
SO MAY AND PIPER ARE IN HERE ARGUING WHEN MAY LOSES IT AND SHOVS PIPER AGAINST THE WALL SO HARD THIS THING SLAMS AND BOUNCES ON THE MOUNTING PLATE, PIPER'S OUT COLD AND MAY DECIDES IT'S A GOOD IDEA TO THROW HIS WIFE OVERBOARD, CUT TO BODY ON BEACH,



THAT DOESN'T EXPLAIN THE HOLE IN HER SKULL OR THE FACT THAT SHE WAS DEAD WHEN HER BODY HIT THE WATER. REMEMBER THE POST MORTEM... SHE DIDN'T DROWN.

HITTING THIS WALL WOULDN'T DO IT. HURT HER? YES. KNOCK A HOLE IN HER SKULL, KILLING HER INSTANTLY?

NO.



LET'S WALK THROUGH IT. HE THROWS PIPER AGAINST THE WALL SO HARD IT ROCKS THE TV, MAYBE IT KNOCKS THE BREATH OUT OF HER.

HE GRABS HER AGAIN.

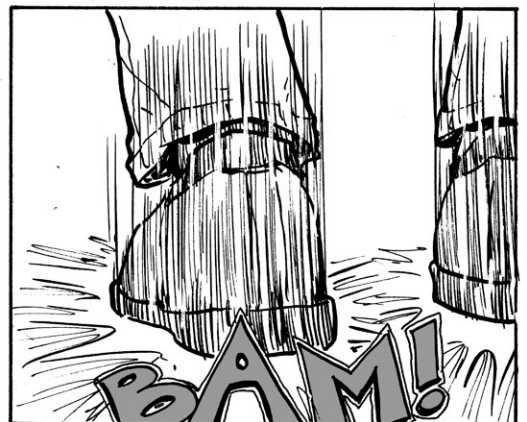
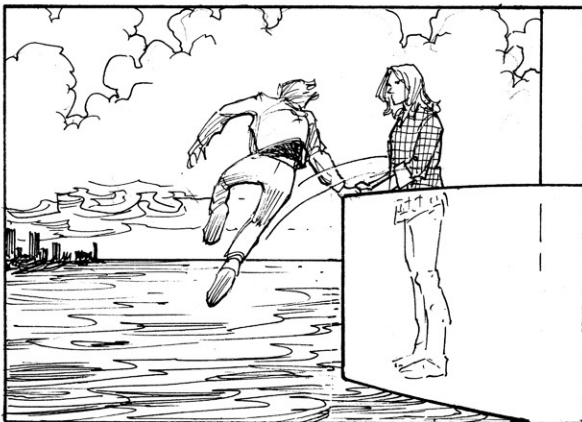
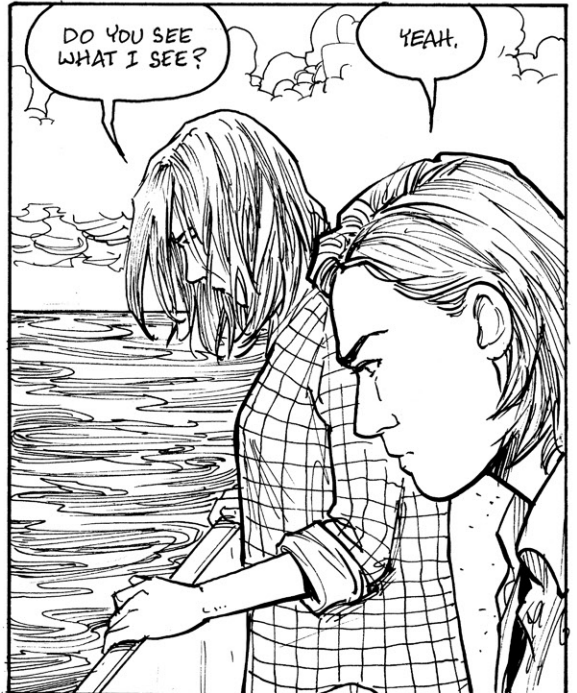
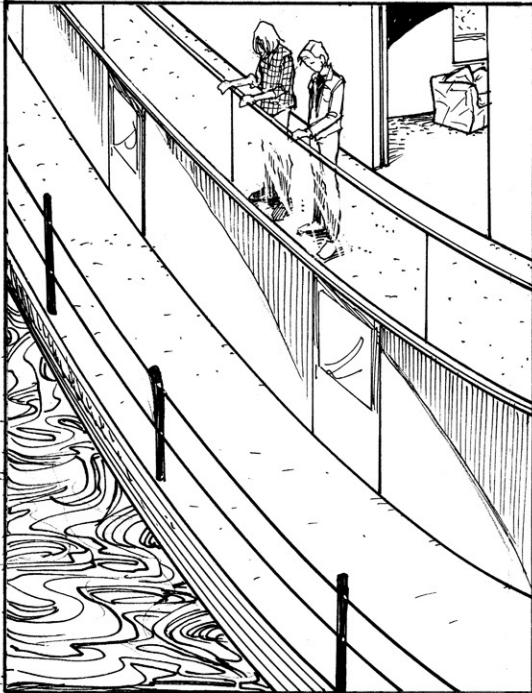
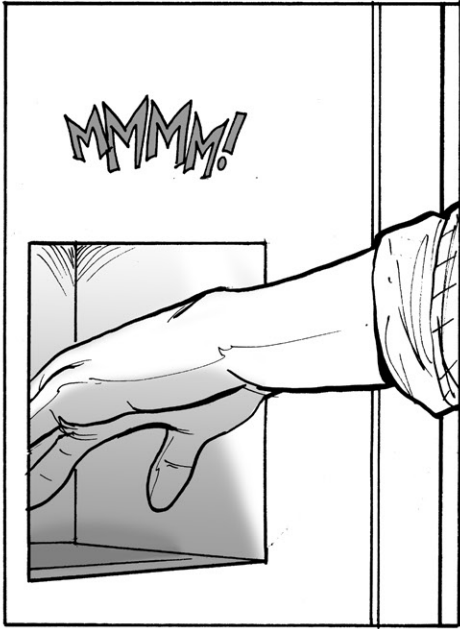


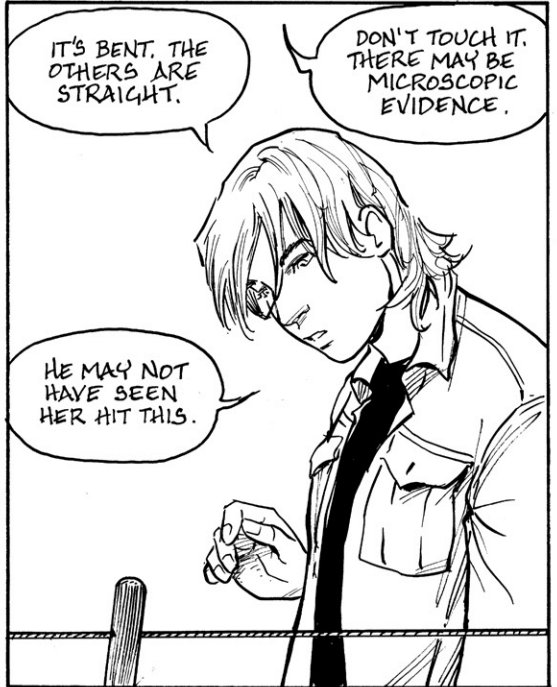
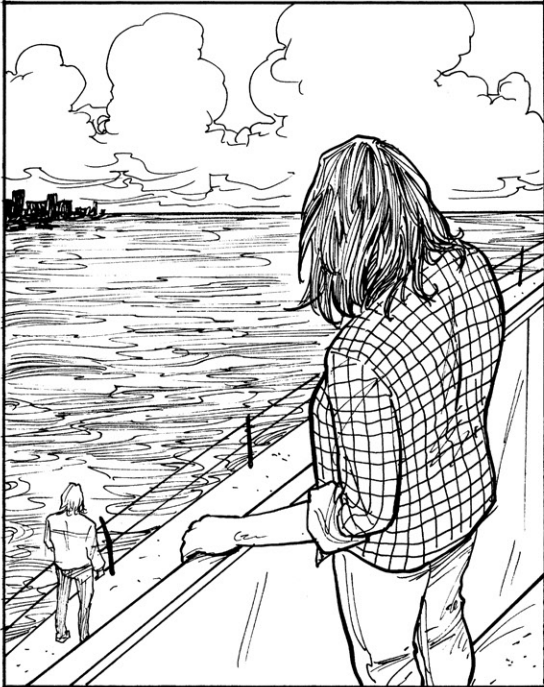
SHE'S IN DANGER, AND SHE KNOWS IT.

SHE TRIES TO RUN.

AND THE NEAREST EXIT IS...

THAT SIDE DOOR IS CLOSER THAN THE MAIN ENTRY.

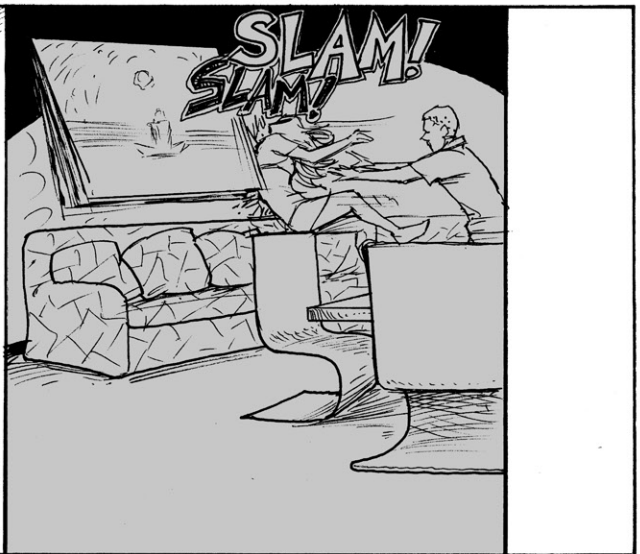
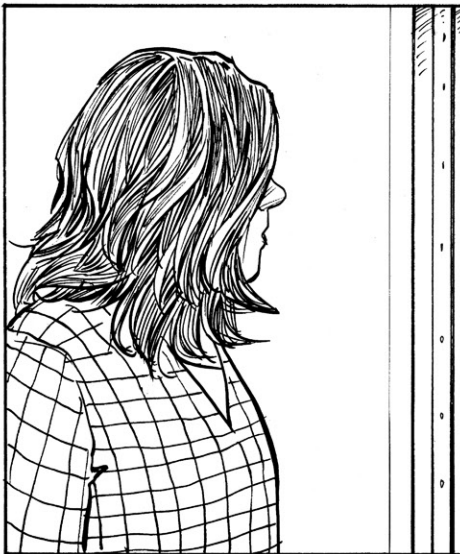
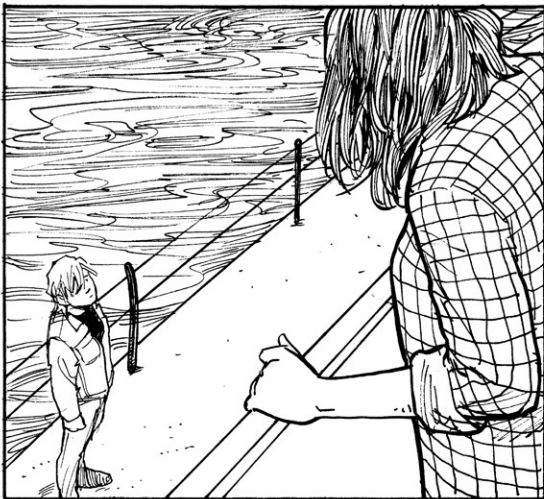




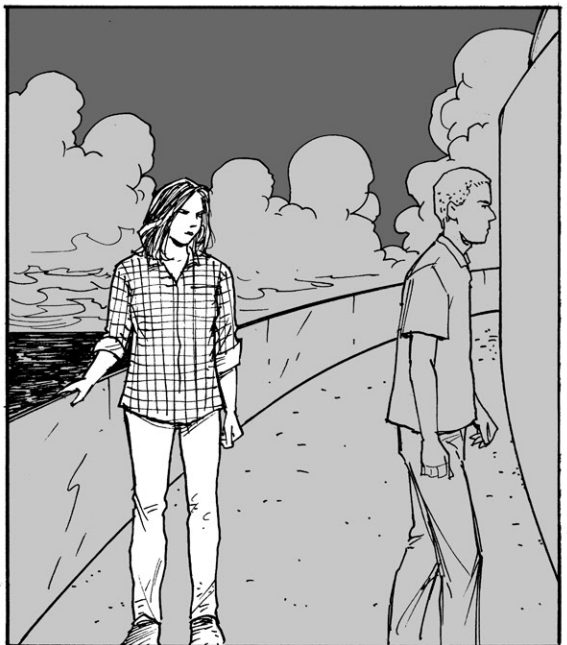
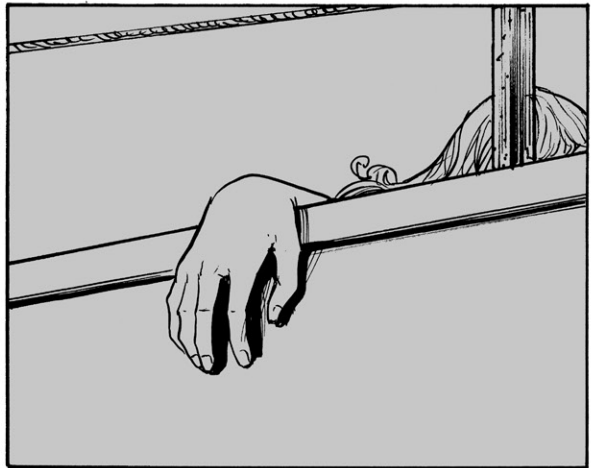
IT'S BENT. THE OTHERS ARE STRAIGHT.

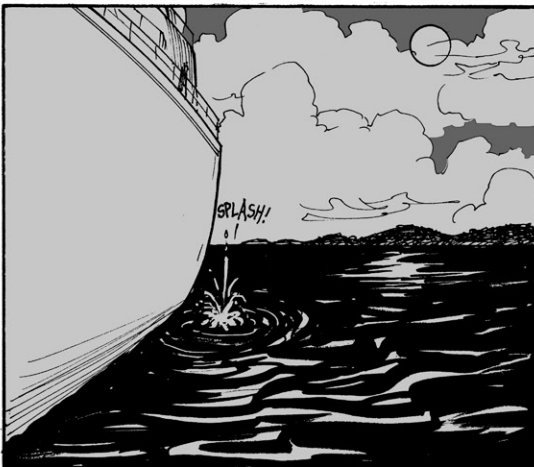
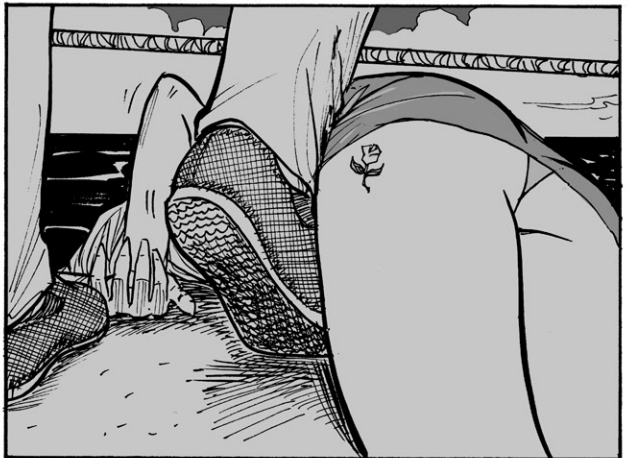
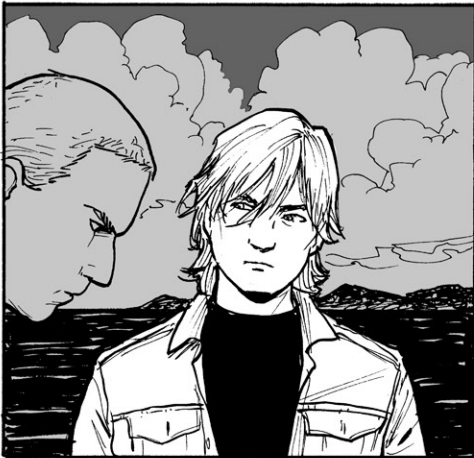
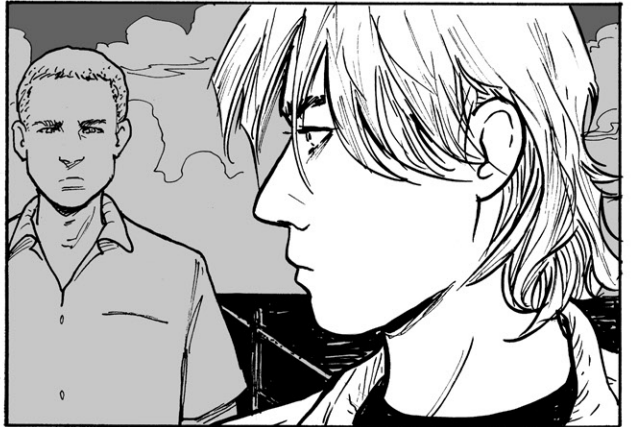
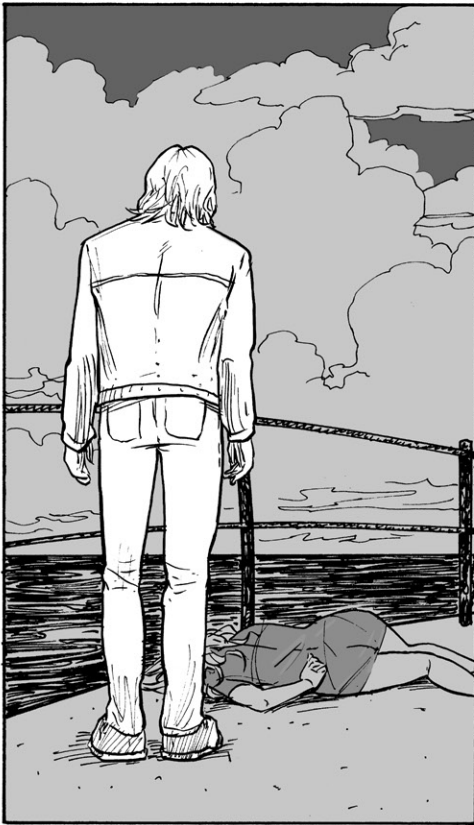
DON'T TOUCH IT. THERE MAY BE MICROSCOPIC EVIDENCE.

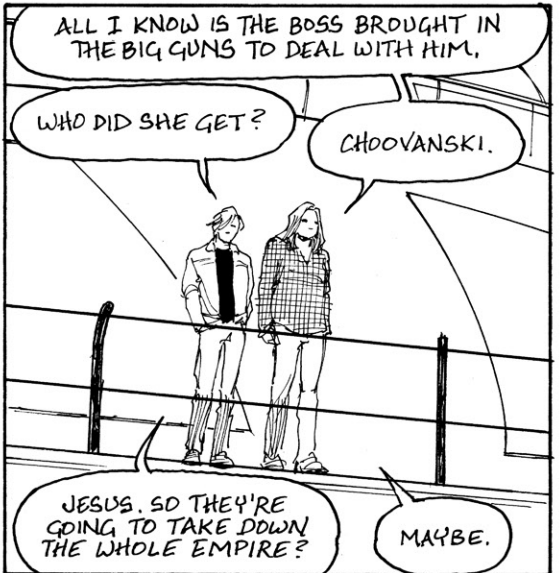
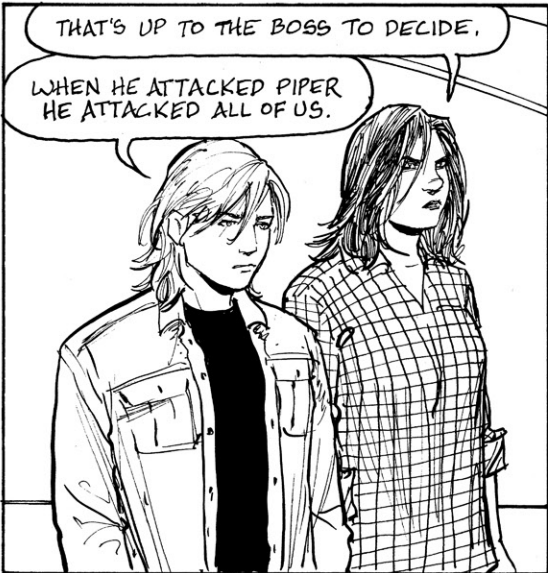
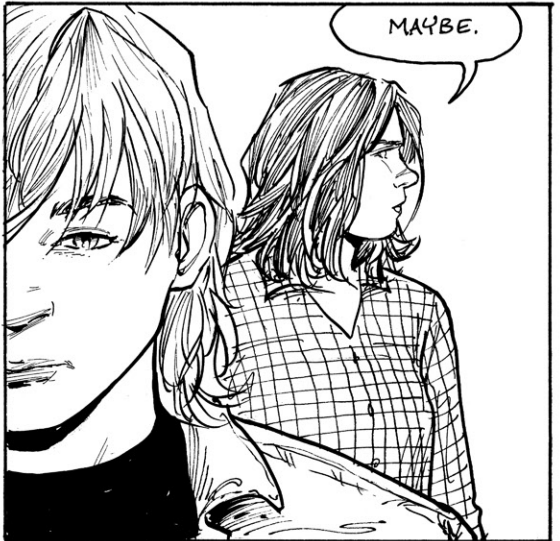
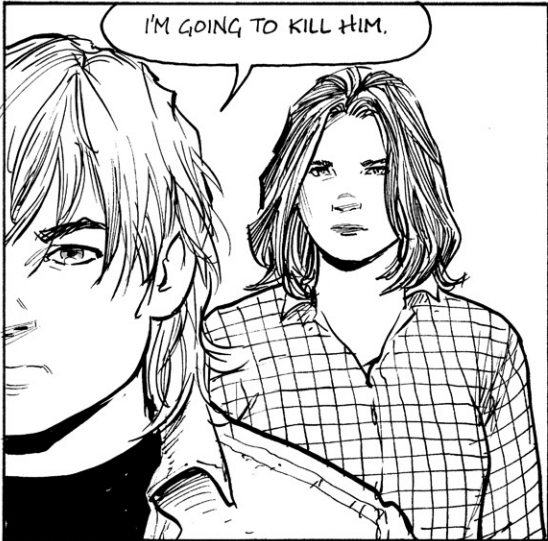
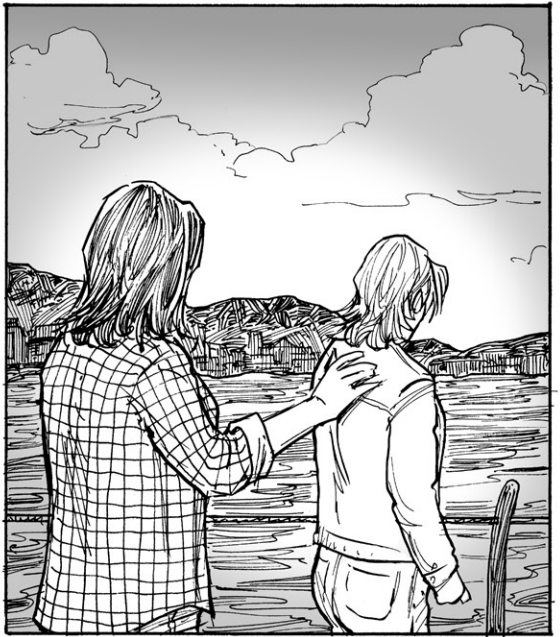
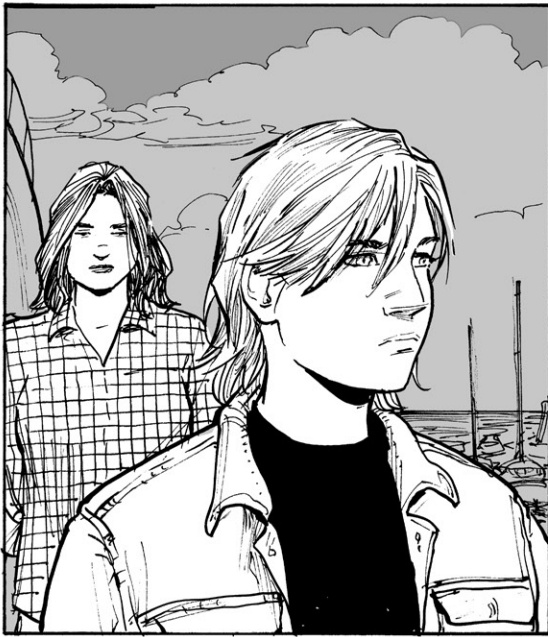
HE MAY NOT HAVE SEEN HER HIT THIS.





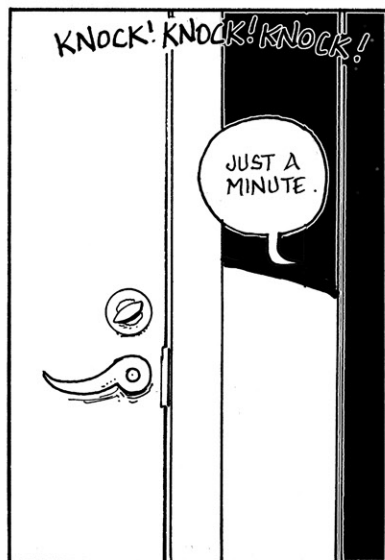
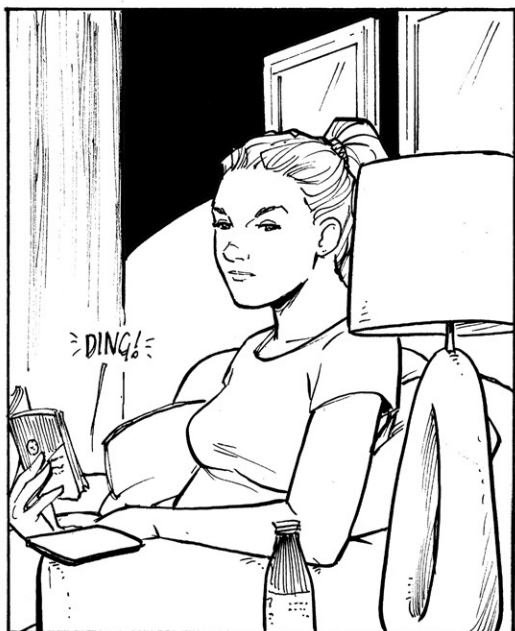


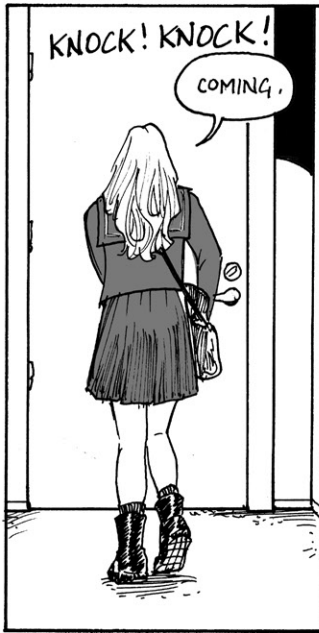
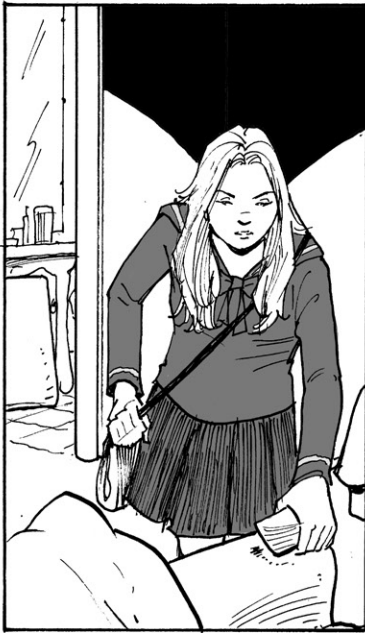












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