

BREAKS 2

EMMA VIECELI & MALIN RYDEN



BREAKS VOLUME 2
THE SHINY EDITION



Printed by comicprintinguk.com
(who are amazing so you should
check them out)

in 2019, thanks to generous
kickstarter backing.

BREAKS

THE STORY SO FAR...

Cortland and Ian have been rivals since Cortland and his best friend Irena transferred into Queen Anne's school & sixth form college three years ago. There was clearly more to it. They just hadn't realised...



Cortland's failure to fall in line and bow down to Ian's friend and school alpha-male, Spencer, led to a pretty brutal and public fight at a school dance, casting some possible truth to the weird rumours surrounding Cortland's transfer.

When Spencer declared a violent revenge, Ian failed to step in, unable to choose a side between his bully best friend and the boy he had growing feelings for. The results were...not good.



Wracked with guilt, Ian visited the unconscious Cortland in hospital and ended up planting a tender kiss... and making a private wish.

During his recovery, Cortland wrestled with understanding that he had become a victim...a role he had not understood before the attack. But also, he was getting odd feelings, very different to fear, when it came to Ian Tanner...



At a party, prompted by Amilah's choice to reveal Ian's part in the attack, Cortland pieces together his memories from the hospital and any hopes of a romance feel lost between himself and Ian.

But when Ian goes to Spencer to finally speak his mind, regardless of Cortland's anger, he is redeemed. Together, Ian and Cortland upturn Spence's reign...and finally turn their thoughts to how they can do something about their mutual attraction.

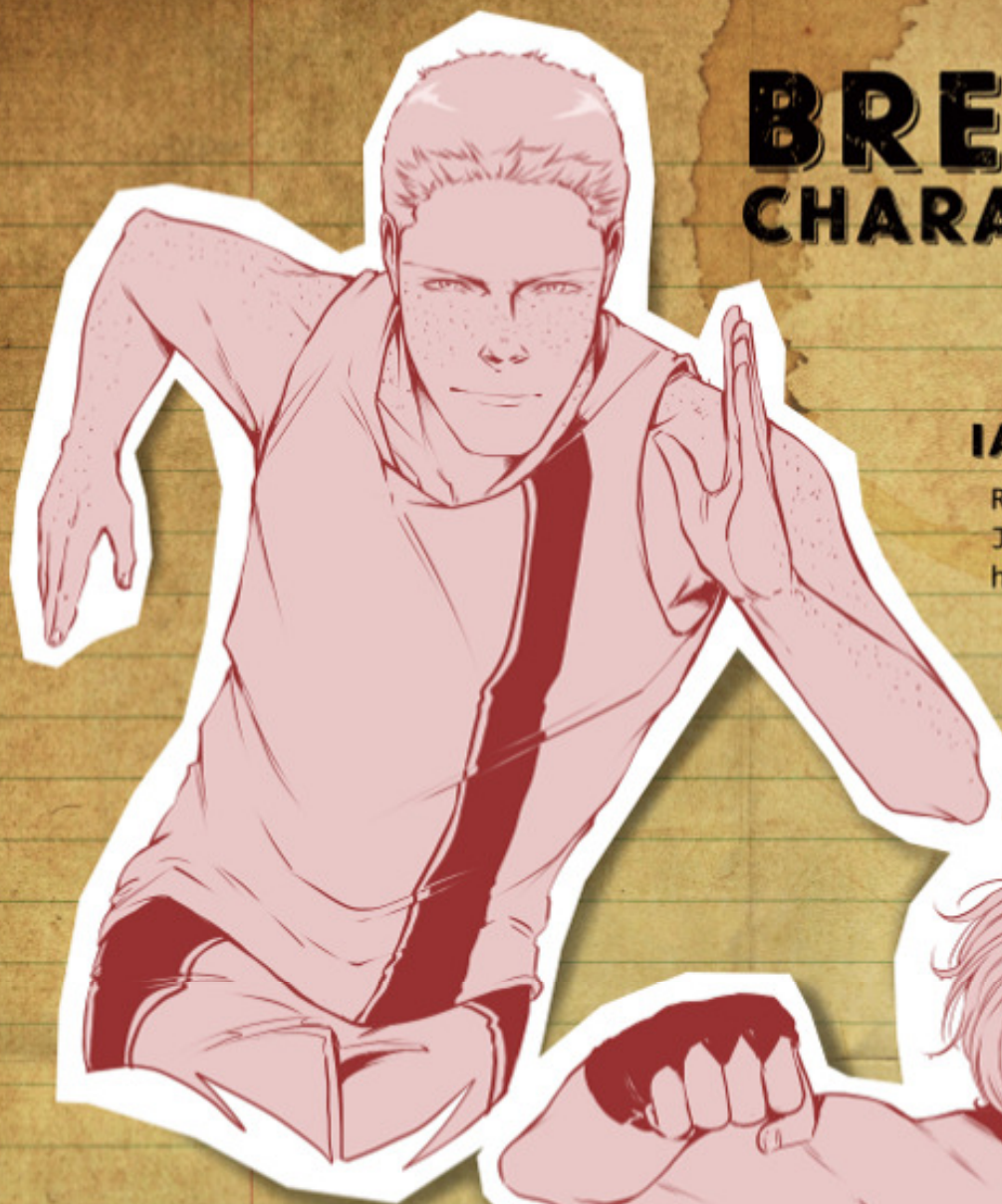


SO?

BREAKS CHARACTERS

IAN TANNER

Runner. Joker.
Just found out
he's bisexual.



CORTLAND HUNT

Boxer. Trouble.
Gay. Keeping
his head down.



BREAKS CHARACTERS



AMILAH PATEL

DJ and budding music star.
Best friend and girlfriend
(for now) to Ian. Smart.
Ambitious. Amilah sees all.
Amilah is wise.

DJ
MILLY



IRENA CHRONA

Polish immigrant artist
warrior. Best friend and
ally to Cortland. Fierce.
Often angry at Cortland's
brother, Harvey.

★ ACE ★
PILOT

yeah, but...girls smell... really good.



viva la
revolution!!

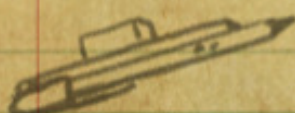
KYLE SPENCER

Spencer was King on campus
before Cortland and Ian
joined forces. Drinks toxic
masculinity for breakfast.
Kind of likes Milly.



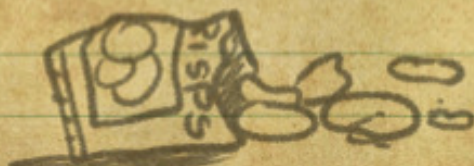
HARVEY HUNT

Cortland's big brother.
Legal guardian since their
Mother was hospitalised.
Has his own secrets. Harvey
doesn't fight. Harvey survives.



MIKE RUSSELL

Mates with Spence, Ian
and Milly.
Cortland broke his jaw
once. Not quite over it.
Grounded. Sensible. Cares.

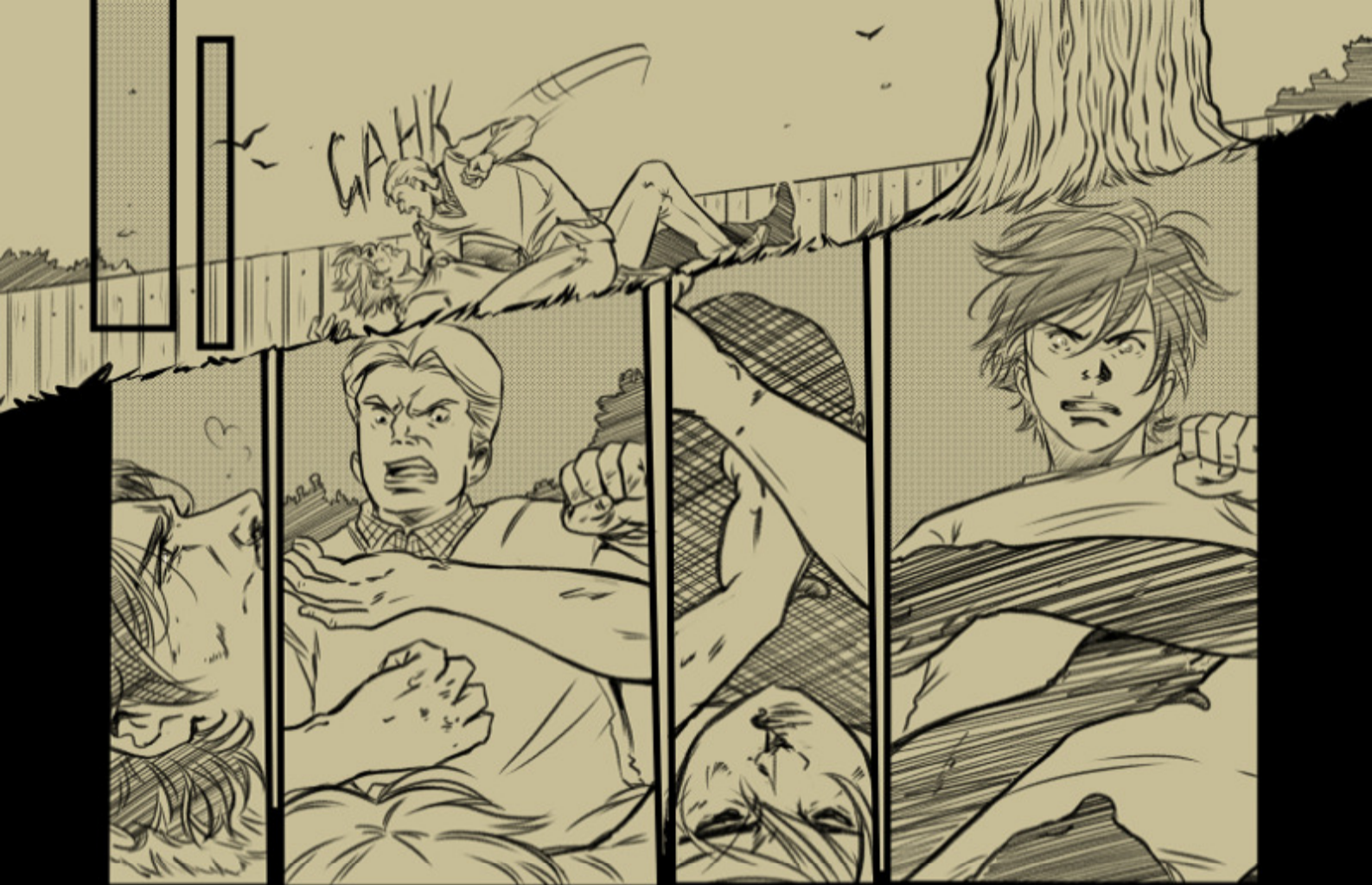


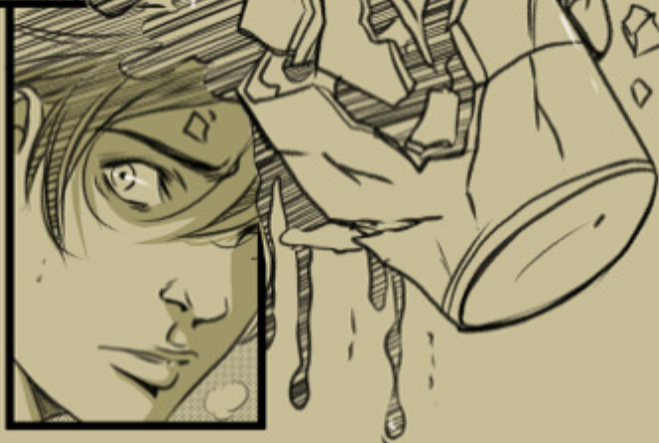
welcome back !!



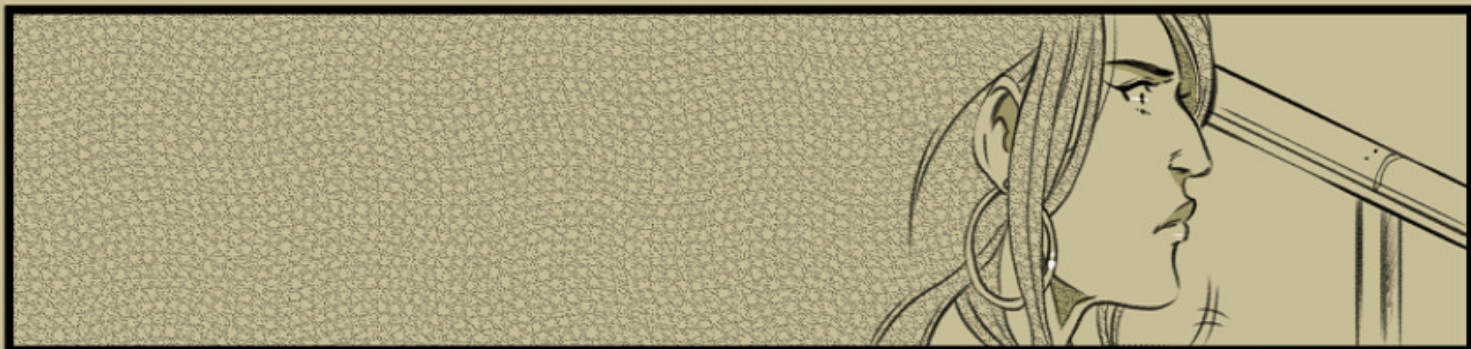


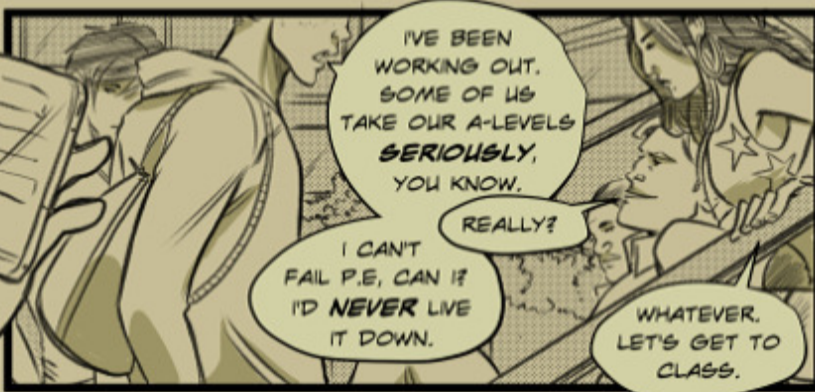
ISSUE 7



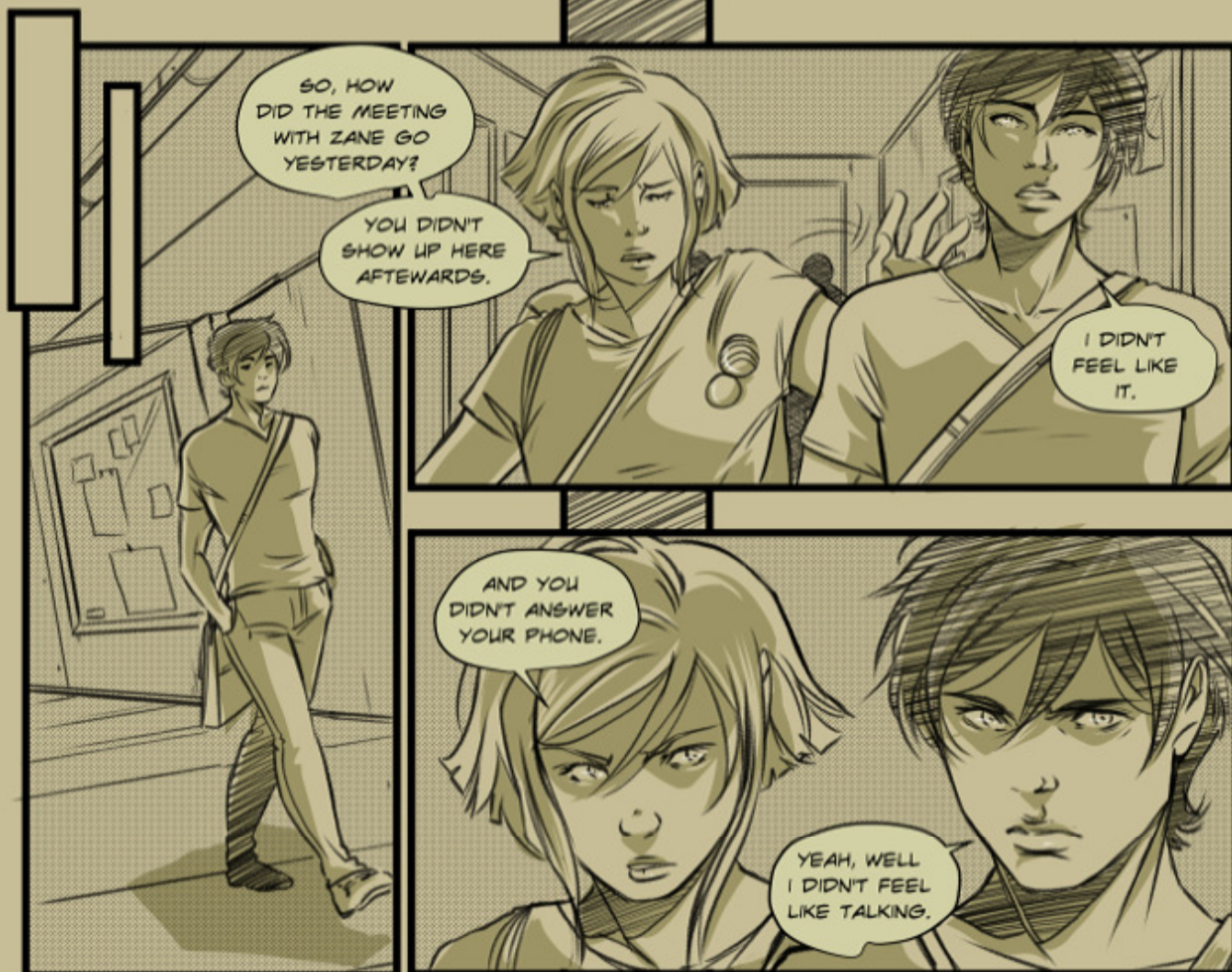


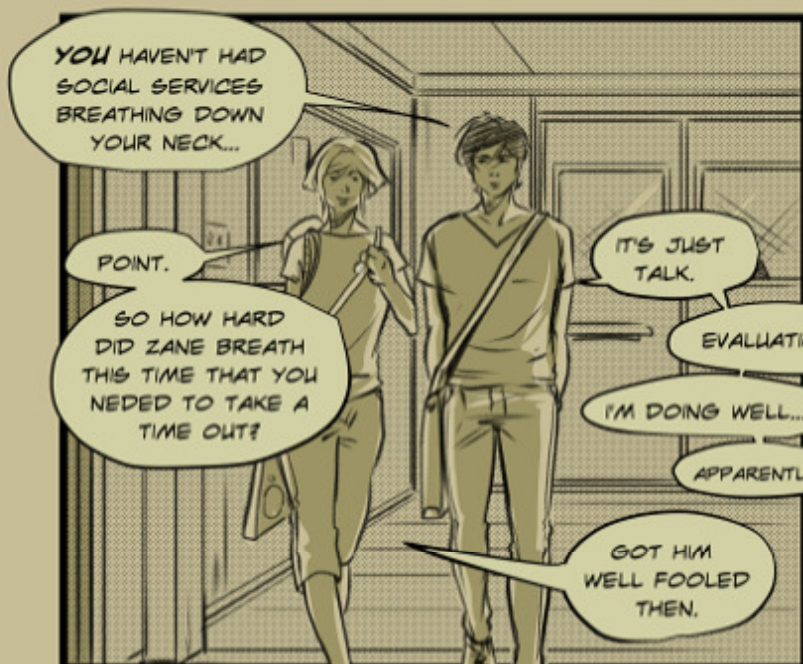
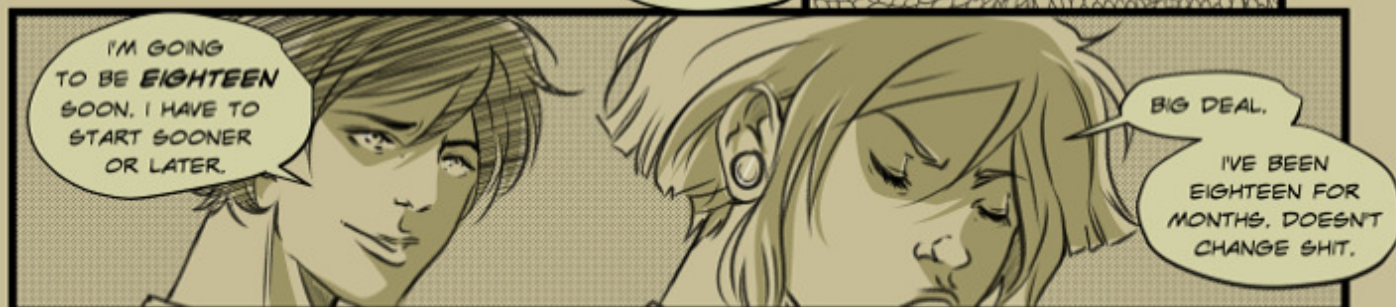
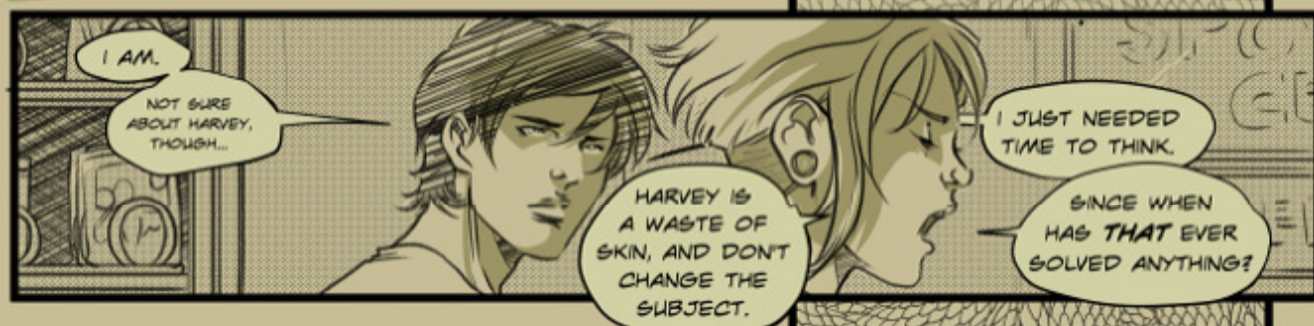


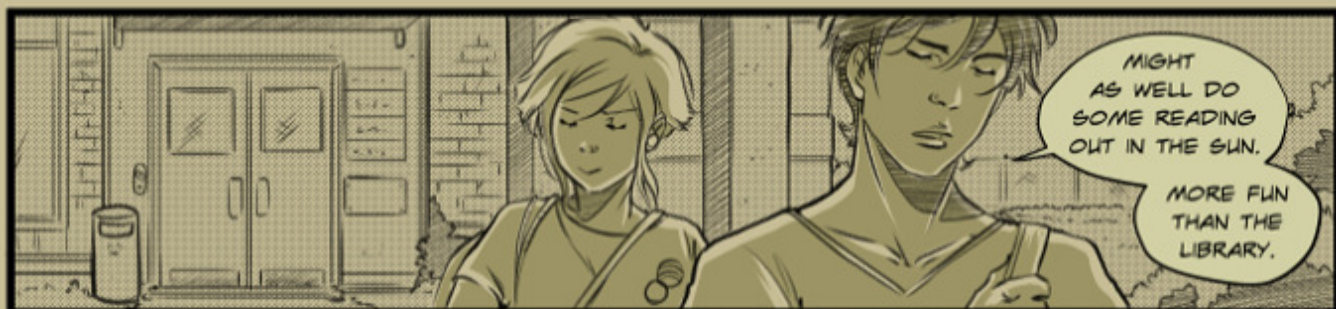
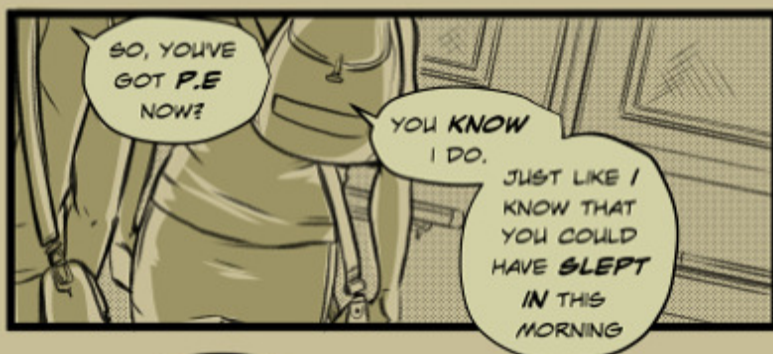






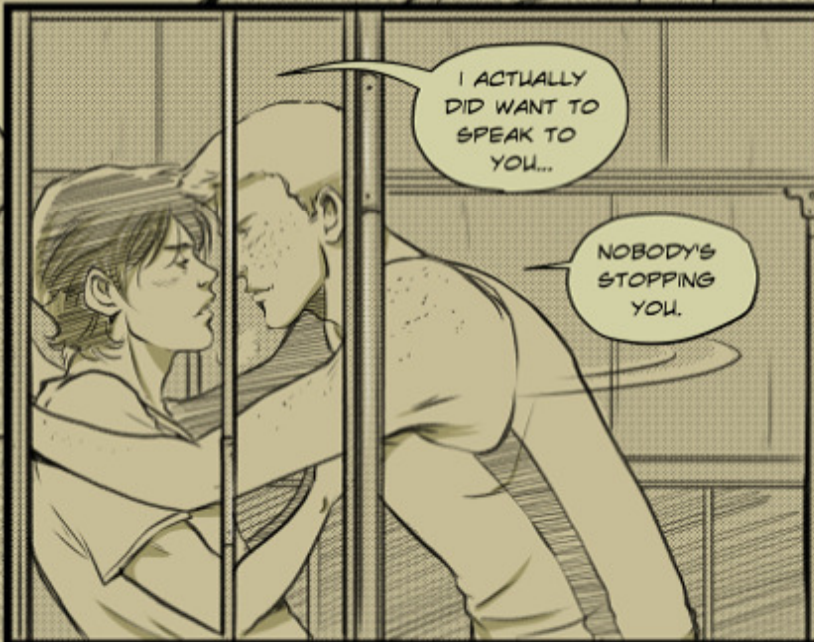
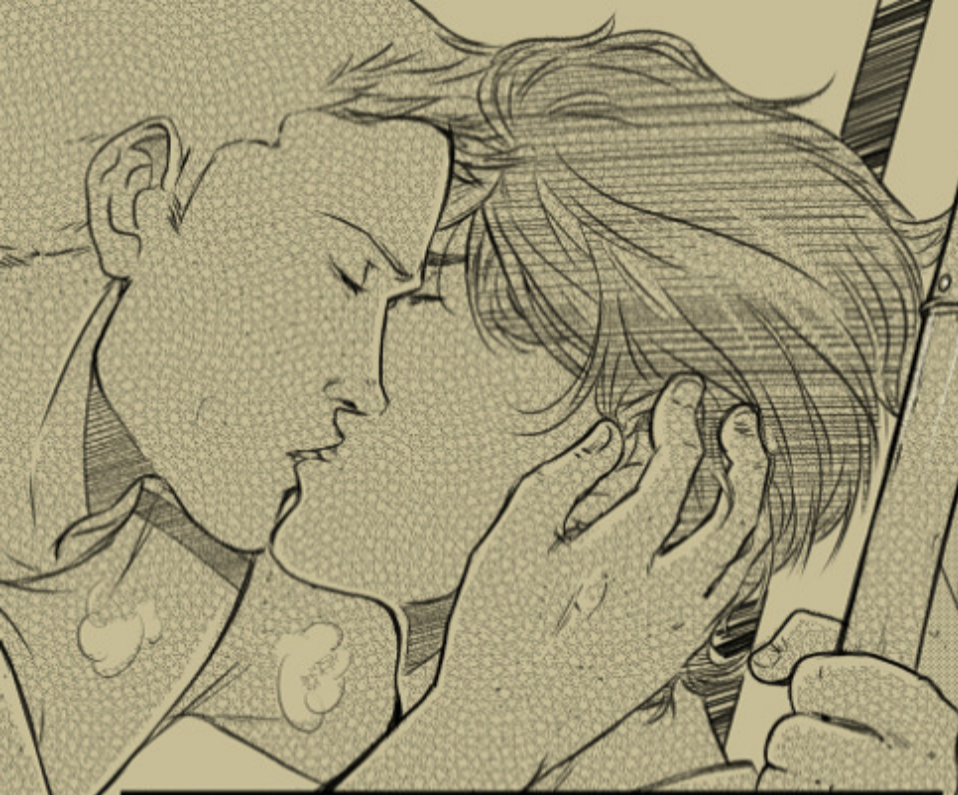


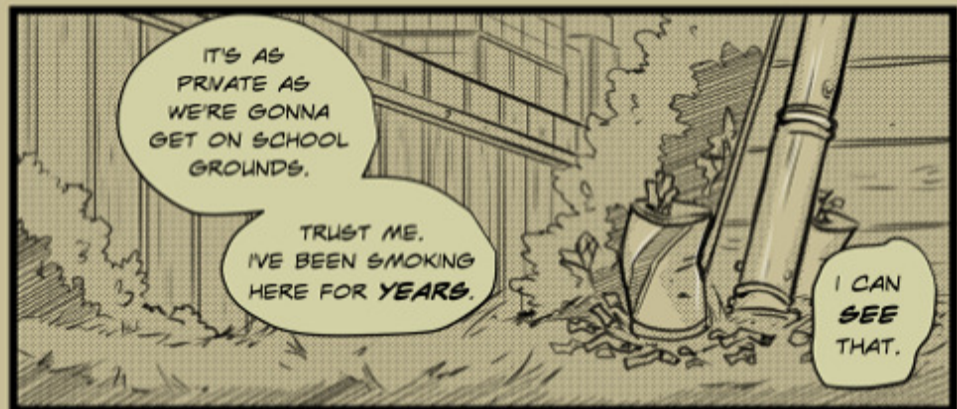


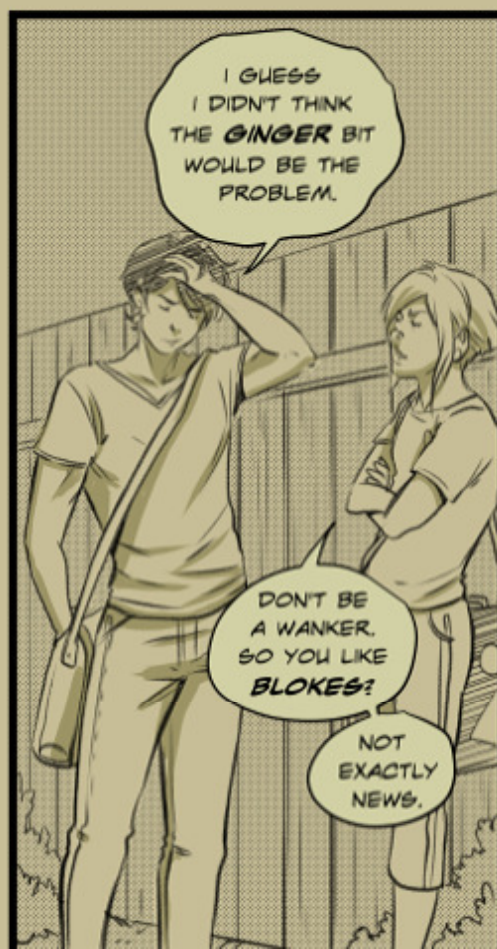






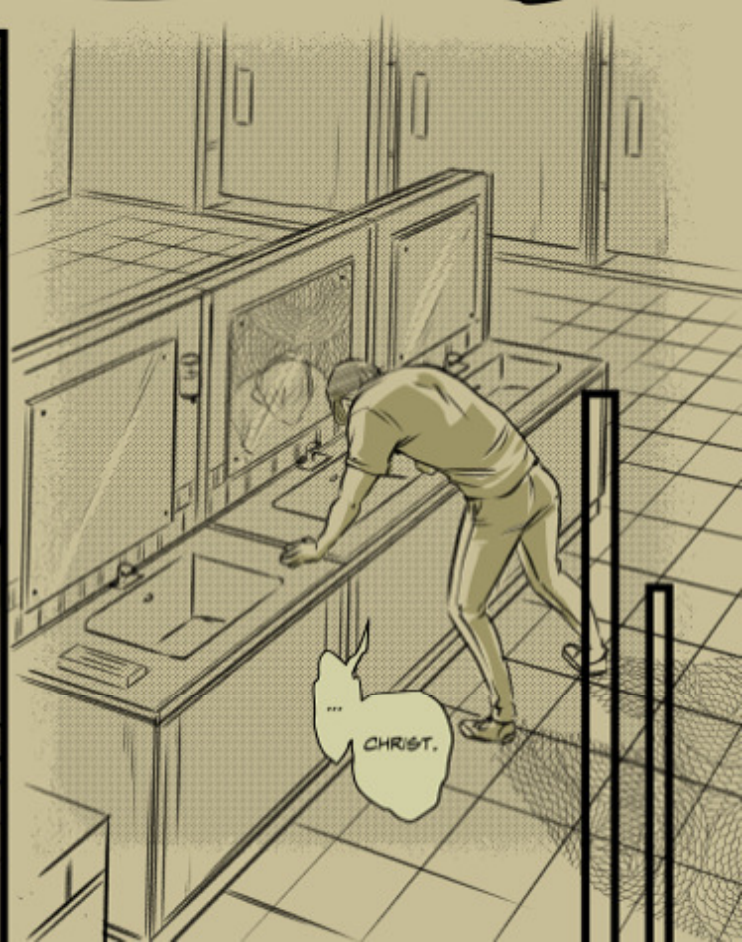


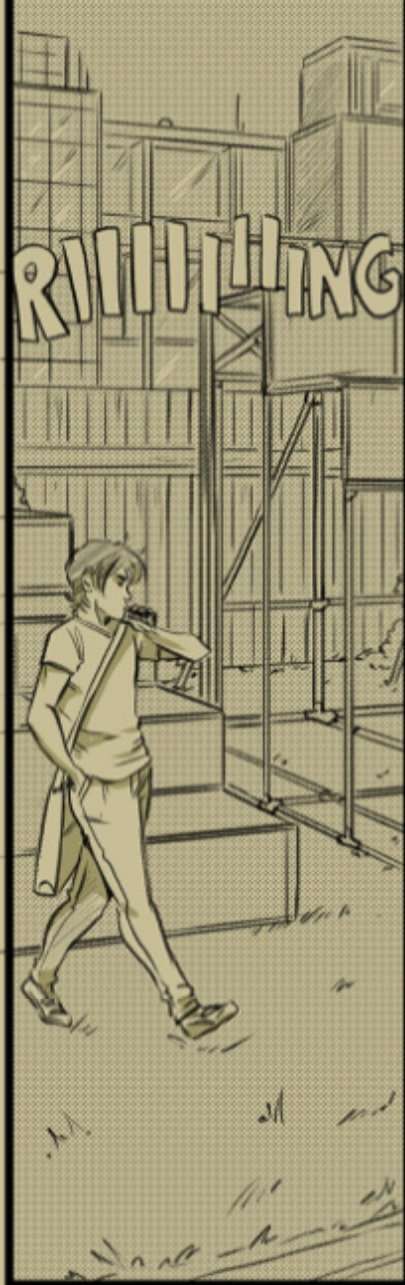


















WHAT DID I SAY?

THAT IT WASNT YOUR BUSINESS?

CUTE.

YOU CAN DO BETTER THAN THAT GINGER ARSE.

I'M TELLING YOU, DUDE.

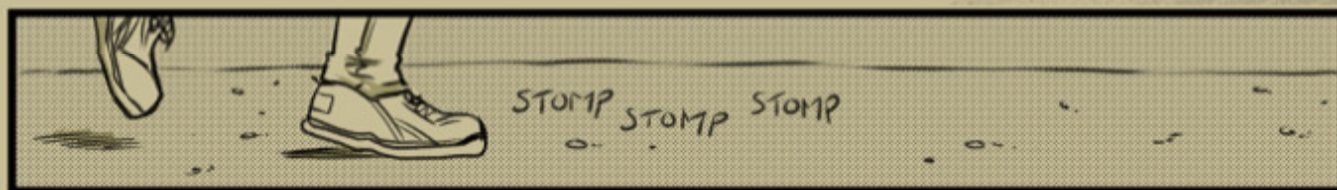
HE'S PLAYING YOU, AND HER TOO.

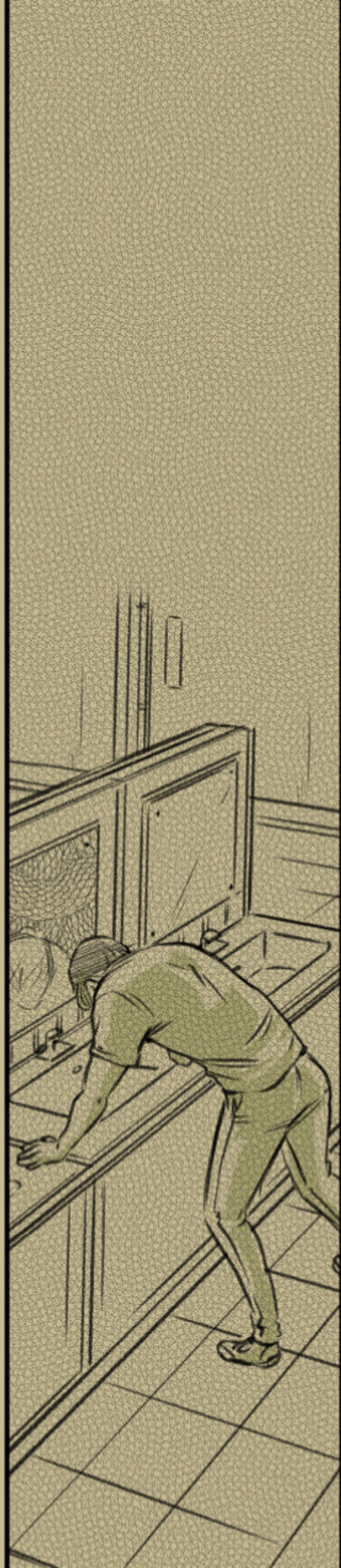
DON'T EVEN *THINK* ABOUT IT.

WHAT?

SETTING HIM STRAIGHT.

WELL
SOMEONE
SHOULD.



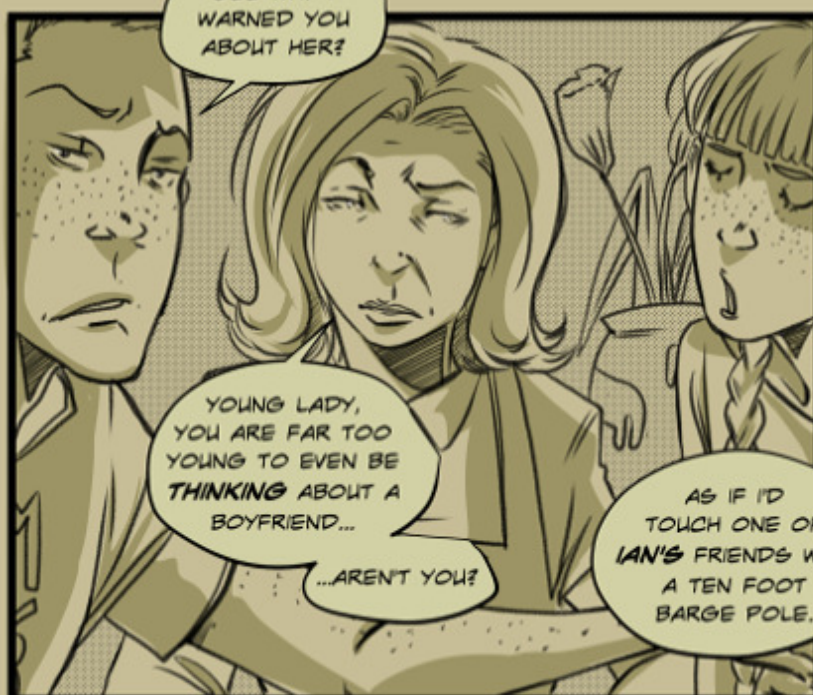


ISSUE 8













I BET I
COULD MAKE
IT WEIDER.

DID YOU
FORGET THE
BIT ABOUT
YOUR FAMI-

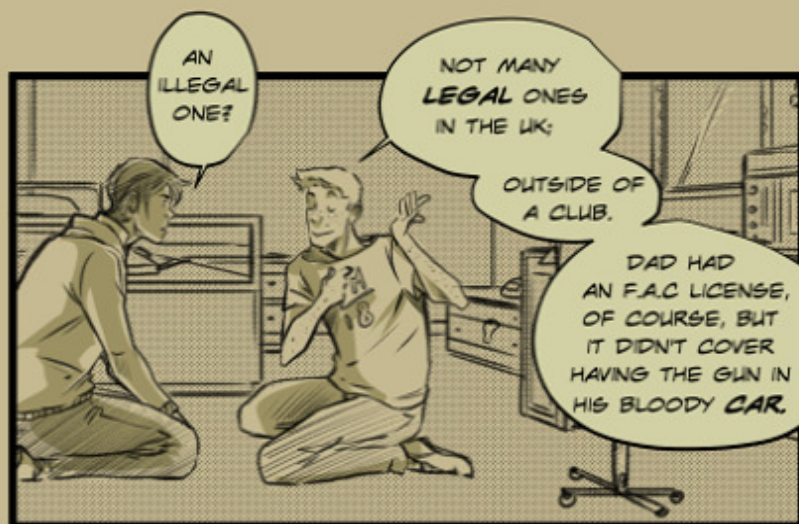
-LY?

AH!

FEELING
WEIDER?

WH-WHY
IS HE IN
JAIL, THEN?

HE GOT
PULLED OVER
BY THE POLICE
AND HAD A **GUN**
IN HIS CAR.





SO...

HUH?

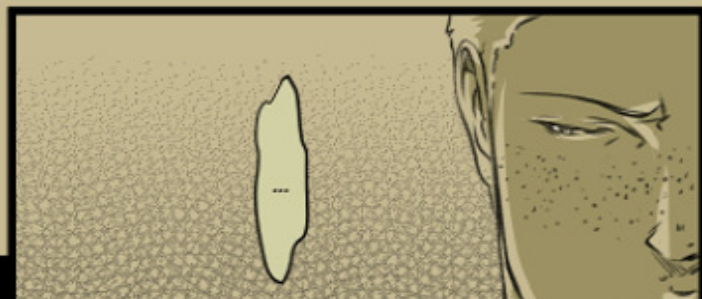
YOU DIDNT
SAY YOU HAD
AN OLDER
BROTHER TOO.



OH...

I DONT
ANY MORE.

...IS THIS
ONE OF THOSE
'ASK ME ABOUT
IT' MOMENTS?



NO, IT'S
REALLY
NOT.



LATER

BAR
&
GRILL

PUT YOUR
WALLET AWAY.

THIS ONE'S
ON ME,
BIRTHDAY BOY.

THOUGH, I
THOUGHT YOU
WERENT HAVING
A PARTY.

IT'S NOT
A PARTY.

OR WELL,
IT WILL **INCLUDE**
PARTYING, BUT
I'M NOT THE
STAR TONIGHT.

YOU KNOW,
IF YOU WANT
A CROWN, IT'S
NOT TOO LATE
FOR THAT
MCDONALDS
BIRTHDAY MEAL.

HEY,
YOU'VE
ALREADY
PAID.

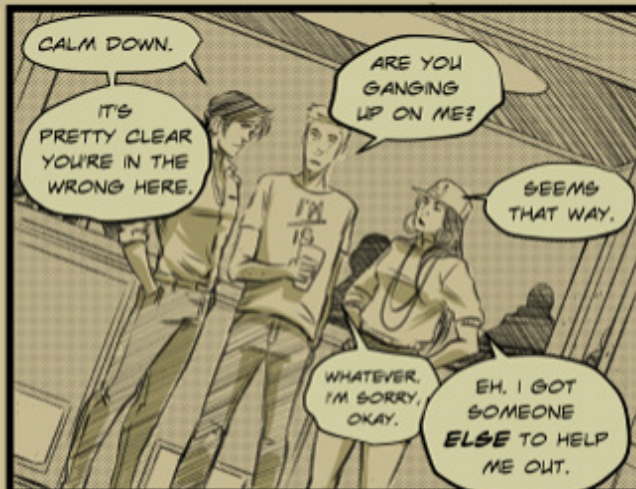
I'M YOURS
FOR THE
NIGHT.

UMMMM

WHAT I MEAN
IS, DON'T GIVE
ME ANY IDEAS.
YOU'RE NEXT
REMEMBER?

BETWEEN YOU
AND MY BROTHER,
I'M NOT LIKELY
TO **FORGET**,
AM I?

SOUNDS LIKE
SOMEONE NEEDS
A DRINK!







YOU DON'T HAVE TO SHOW OFF HOW **FREAKISHLY** STRONG YOU ARE, YOU KNOW?

I WOULD HAVE TAKEN YOUR WORD FOR IT.

CUT THE BULLSHIT. WHAT ARE YOU UP TO WITH CORT?

I'M... NOT...

I THOUGHT I SAID CUT THE CRAP. I **KNOW** YOU'RE SNOGGING HIM.

WHA... NO!

I MEAN...

HOW THE HELL DO YOU KNOW THAT?

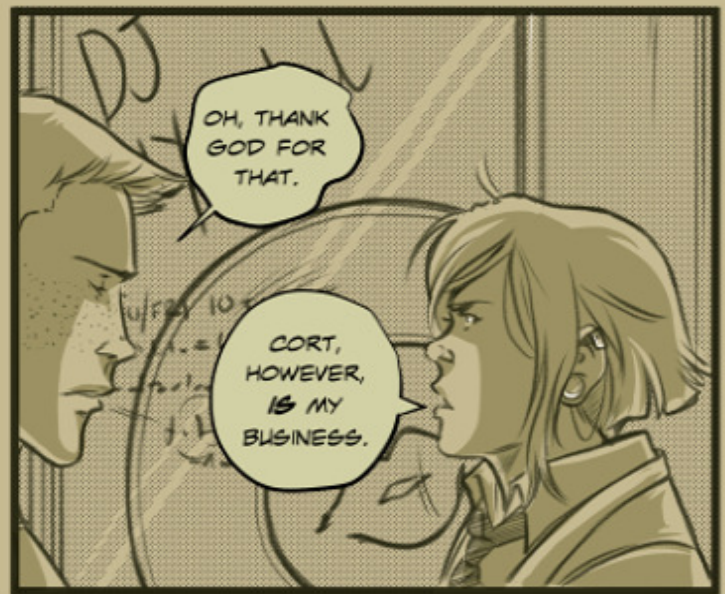
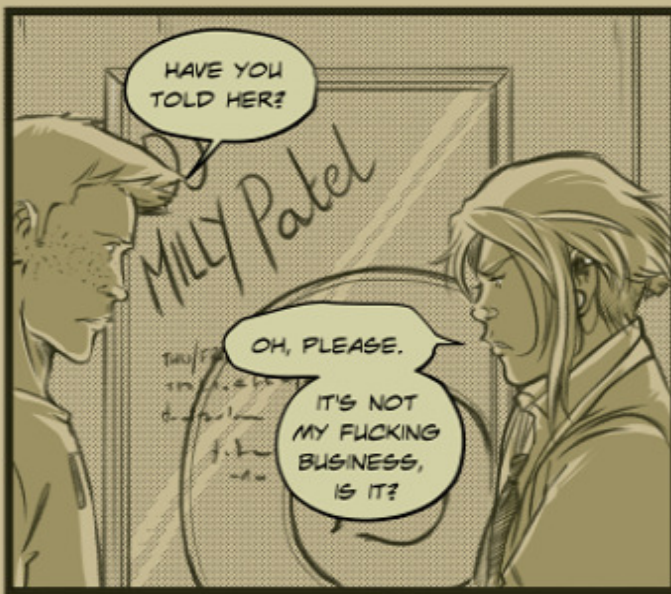
ANSWER THE FUCKING QUESTION.

SOUNDS LIKE YOU KNOW EXACTLY WHAT I'M UP TO...

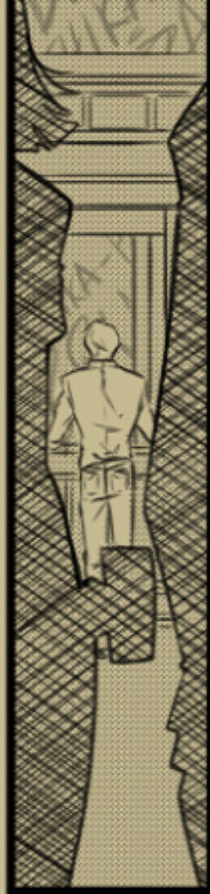
SO, WHY ASK?

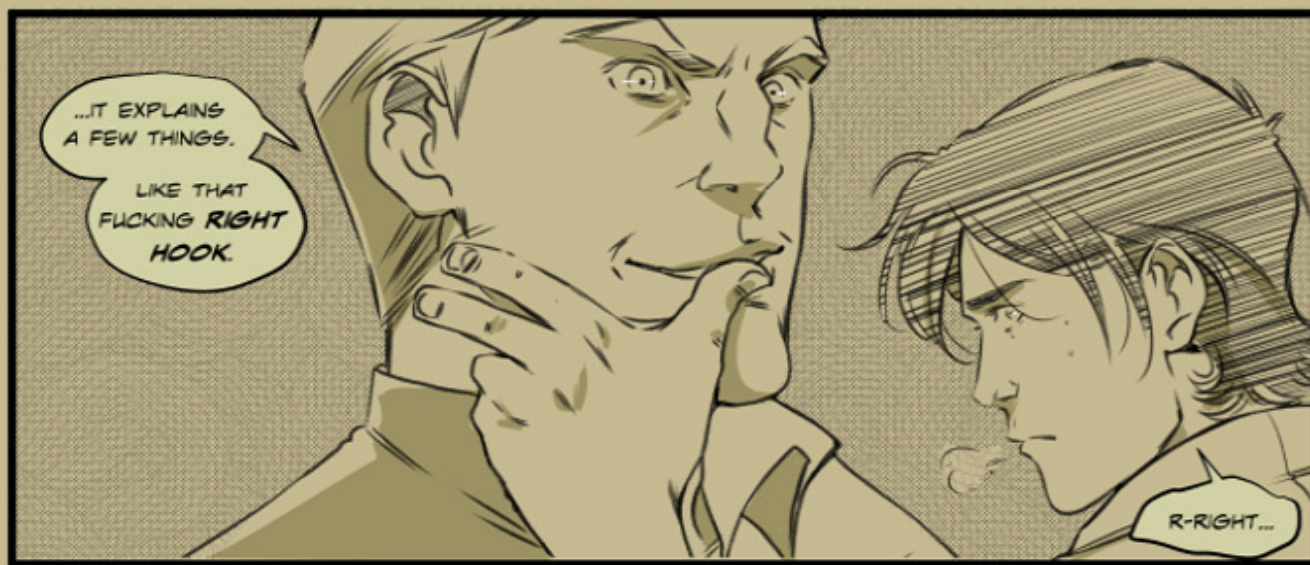
BECAUSE I JUST SPENT TWO HOURS HELPING YOUR **GIRLFRIEND** LUG BOXES.

I'M **WATCHING** YOU, GINGER.

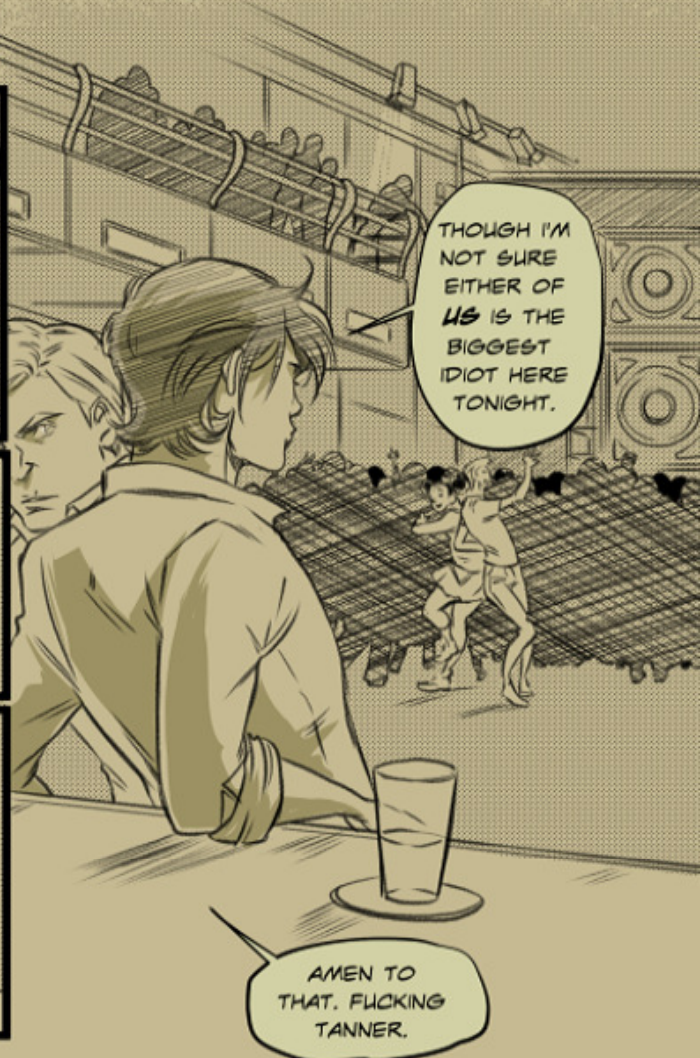




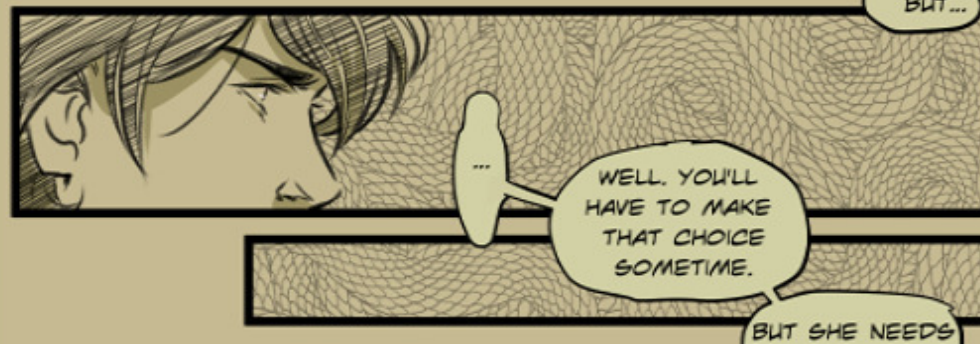
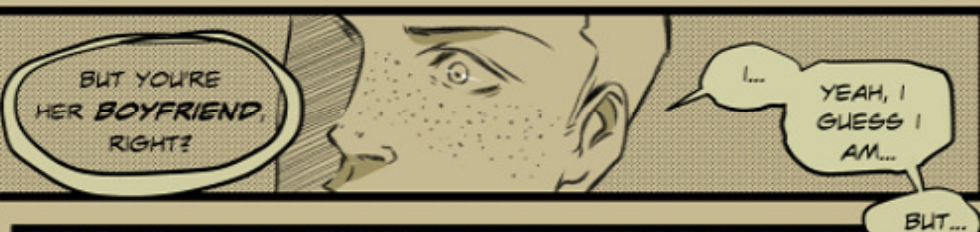
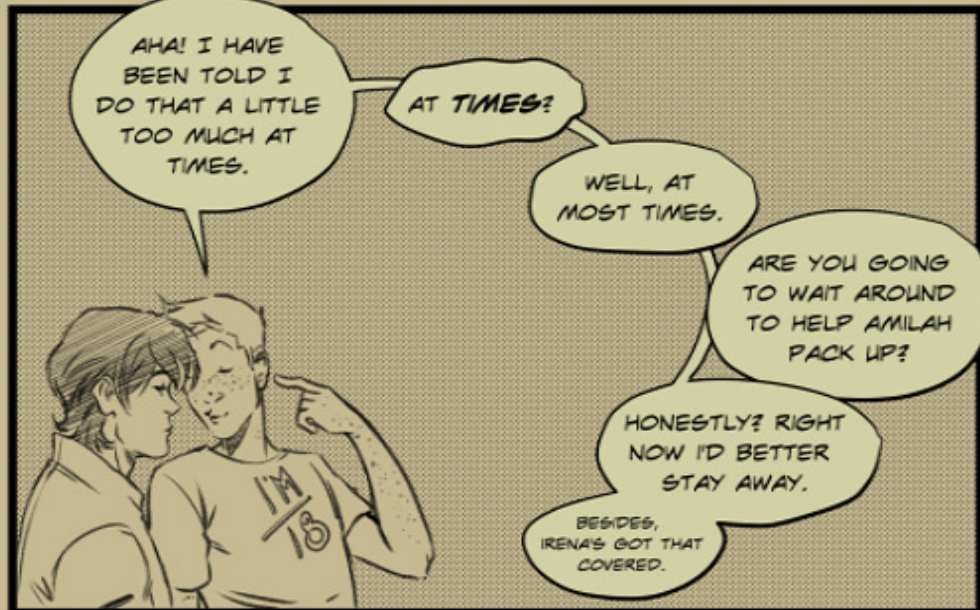
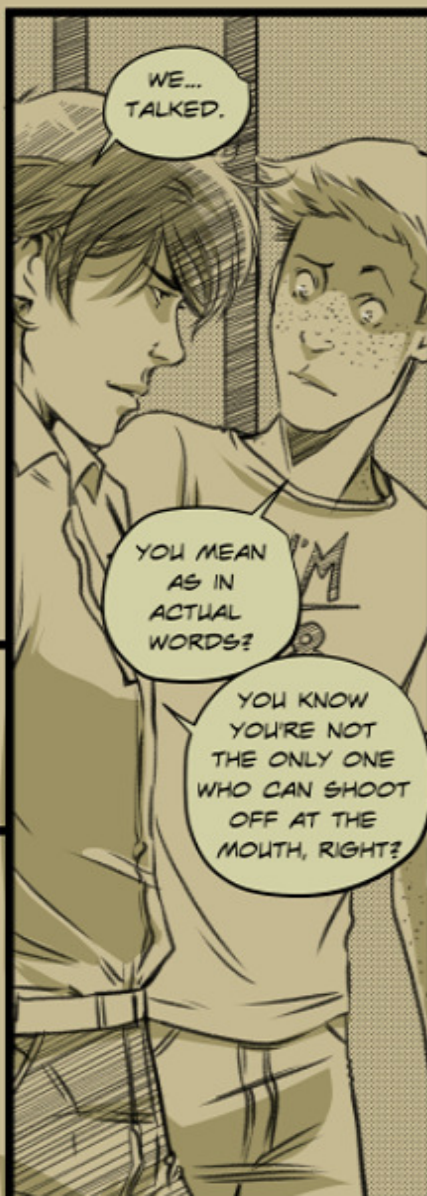












I'LL TAKE YOU BACK, I'D BE A FOOL NOT TO, BUT YOU HAVE TO WANT THIS. BOXING IS NOT THE REASON YOU LOST CONTROL. YOU ARE. YOU'RE A MONSTER.
 HARNESS THAT ANGER AND USE IT WISELY. BOXING IS WHAT WILL HELP YOU REGAIN CONTROL.
 IF WE'RE DOING THIS, WE'RE DOING IT WITH RULES. GET AWAY FROM MY DAUGHTER AND MY FAMILY. WE CAN'T TRUST YOU.
 IT'S YOUR CHOICE

NEXT MORNING



UHN...

FUCKING HELL.

MAKE THAT CHOICE.

I'LL TAKE YOU BACK, I'D BE A FOOL NOT TO, BUT YOU HAVE TO WANT THIS. BOXING IS NOT THE REASON YOU LOST CONTROL. YOU ARE. YOU'RE A MONSTER.

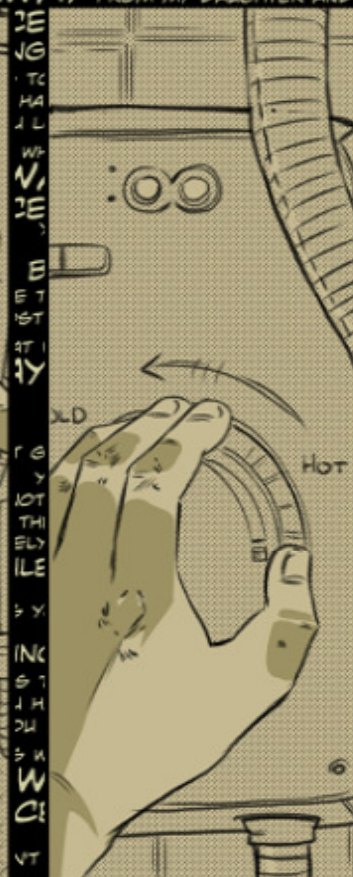


I SHOULDN'T THROW STONES, SHOULD I?

IF WE'RE DOING THIS, WE'RE DOING IT WITH RULES. GET AWAY FROM MY DAUGHTER AND MY FAMILY. WE CAN'T TRUST YOU.



MAKING A CHOICE SHOULDN'T BE THIS BLOODY HARD.



FUCK'S SAKE!

COLD!!

I'LL TAKE YOU BACK, I'D BE A FOOL NOT TO, BUT YOU HAVE TO WANT THIS. BOXING IS NOT THE REASON YOU LOST CONTROL. YOU ARE. YOU'RE A MONSTER.



THAT GUY...
HUNTER JNR.

CORTLAND
HUNT?



COULDN'T
BE...

HES BEEN
TRAINING AGAIN.
WON'T GET IN
THE RING THOUGH.

SICK OF
HIS BLOODY
PHOTOS ON THE
WALL AFTER WHAT
HE DID.

DIBS NEEDS
TO GET OVER
THIS ONE

HE DROPPED
THIS PLACE
IN IT, RIGHT?

YOU THINK
HES STILL
GOT IT?



HELL
WUSS
OUT.

GUESS HE'S
GOING FOR
IT TODAY...

WELL,
THAT'D BREAK
DIBS' HEART.



GIVE THE
KID A
CHANCE.

I HAVE
TO SEE
THIS.

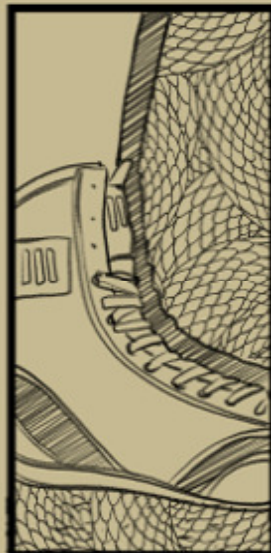
COME ON,
HUNTER. LIVE
UP TO THAT
FANCY NAME



WHEN WAS
THE LAST TIME
HE WAS IN THE
RING?

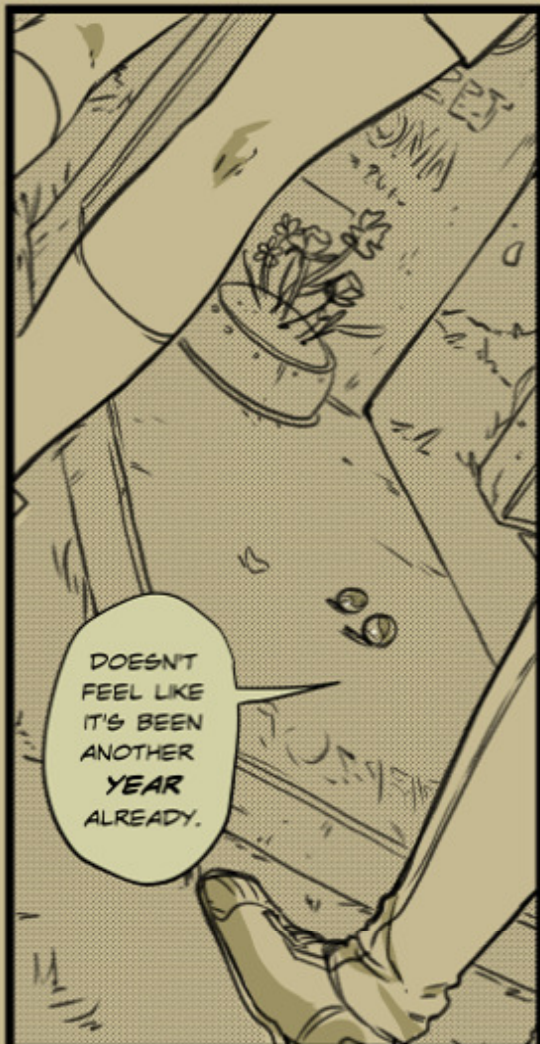
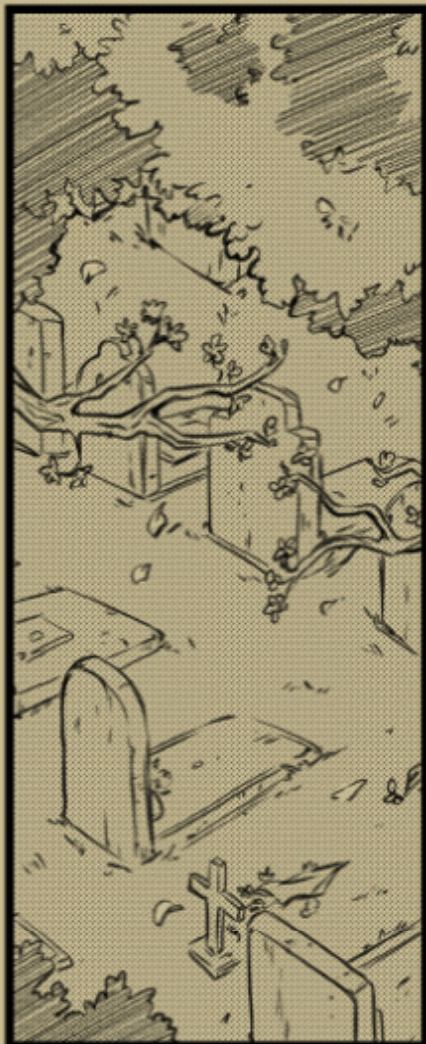
THE WAY
HE LOOKS
AT IT.

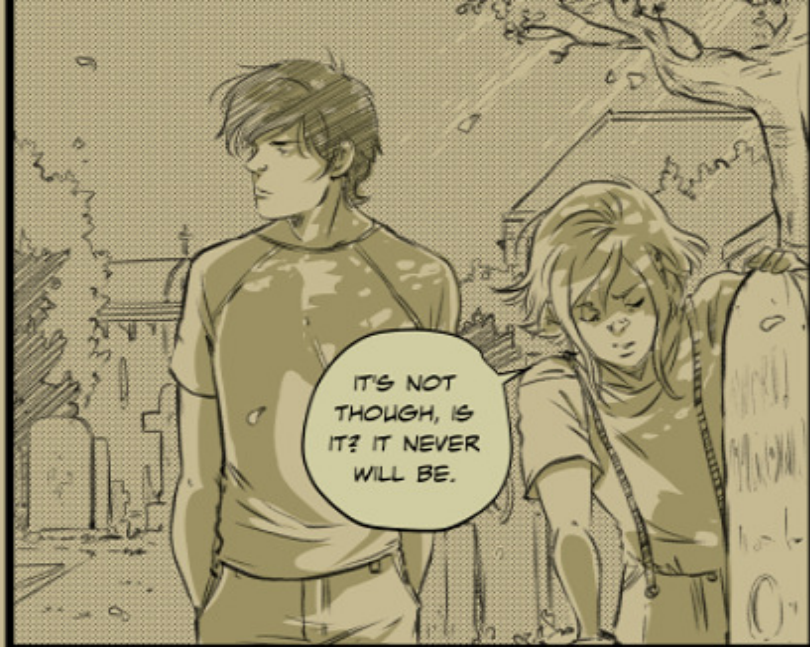
YOU'D THINK
MORE HAPPENED
THAN JUST HIM
WALKING AWAY
FROM THE
COMMONWEALTH.



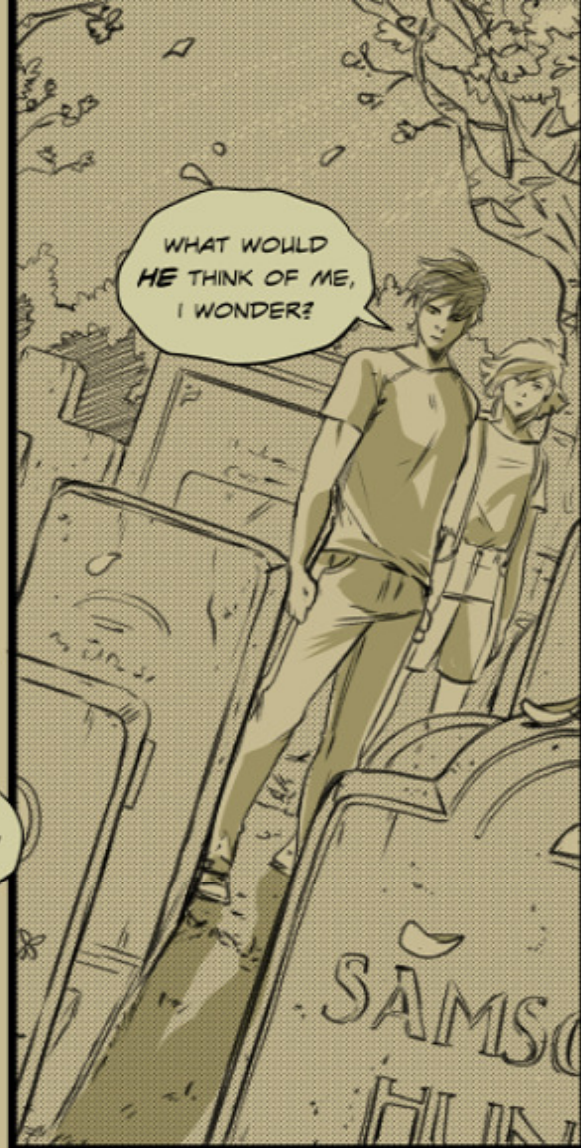


ISSUE 9





IT'S NOT
THOUGH, IS
IT? IT NEVER
WILL BE.



WHAT WOULD
HE THINK OF ME,
I WONDER?



WE'LL
DEAL.

HEH.
DAMN RIGHT,
WE WILL.



DOES IT
MATTER?

I SUPPOSE
NOT...

IT'S JUST...



SOMETIMES
I'M PRETTY SURE I'VE
FAILED HIM. HE'D BE
ASHAMED OF WHO
I AM NOW.

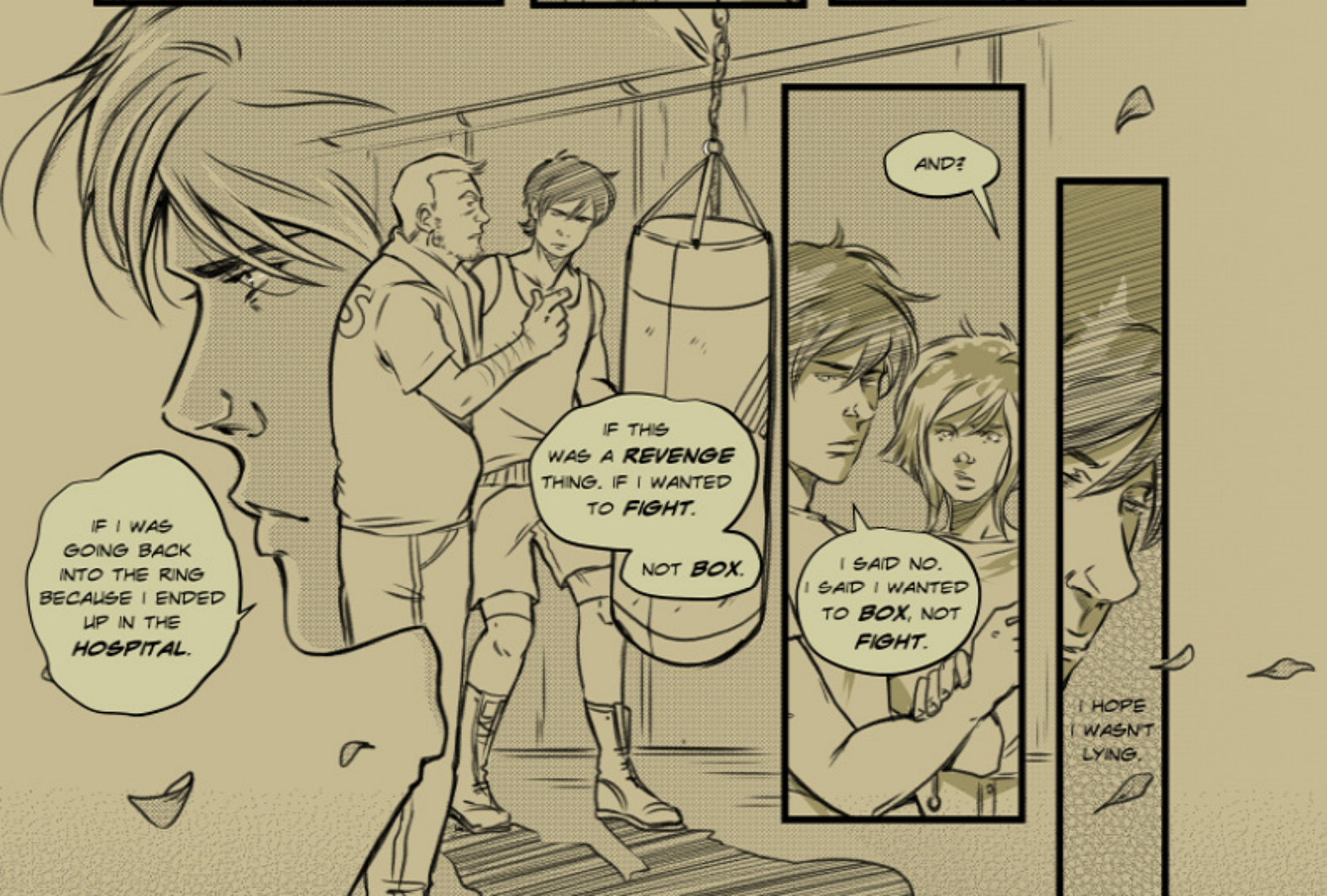


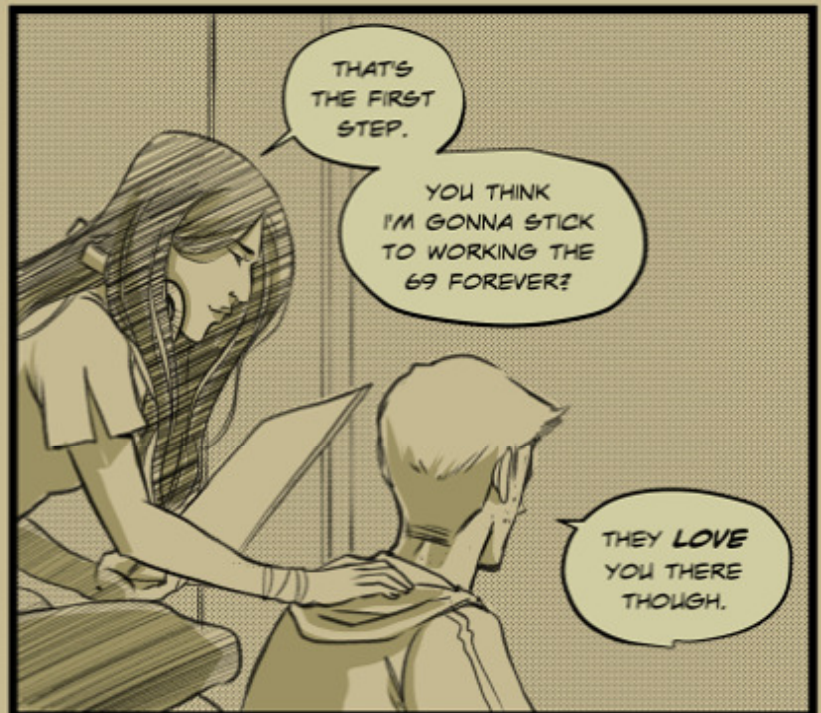
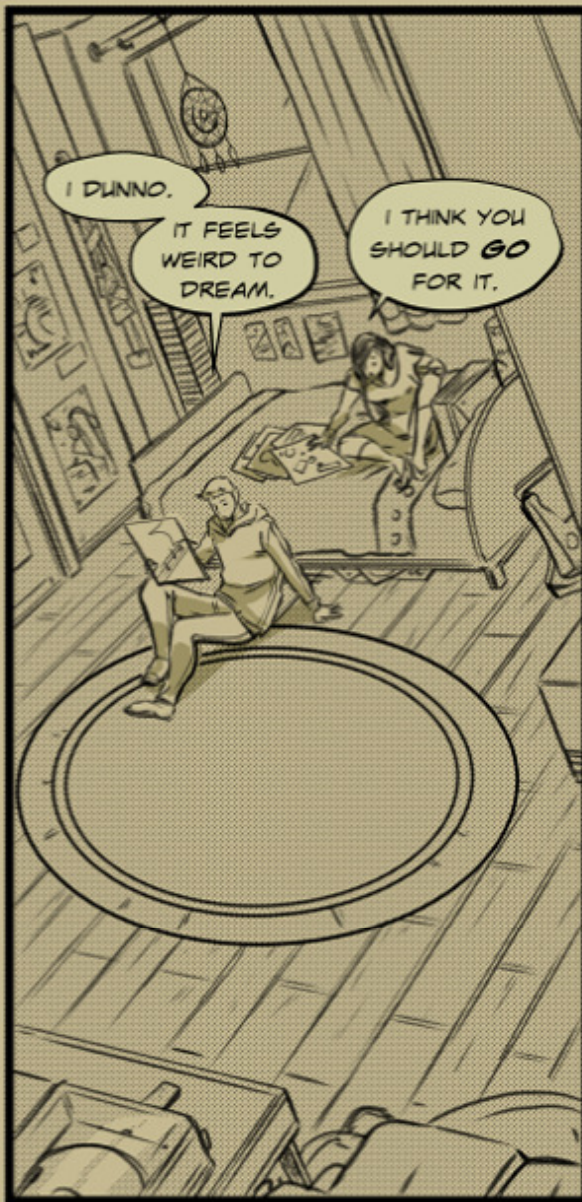
OF WHAT
I-

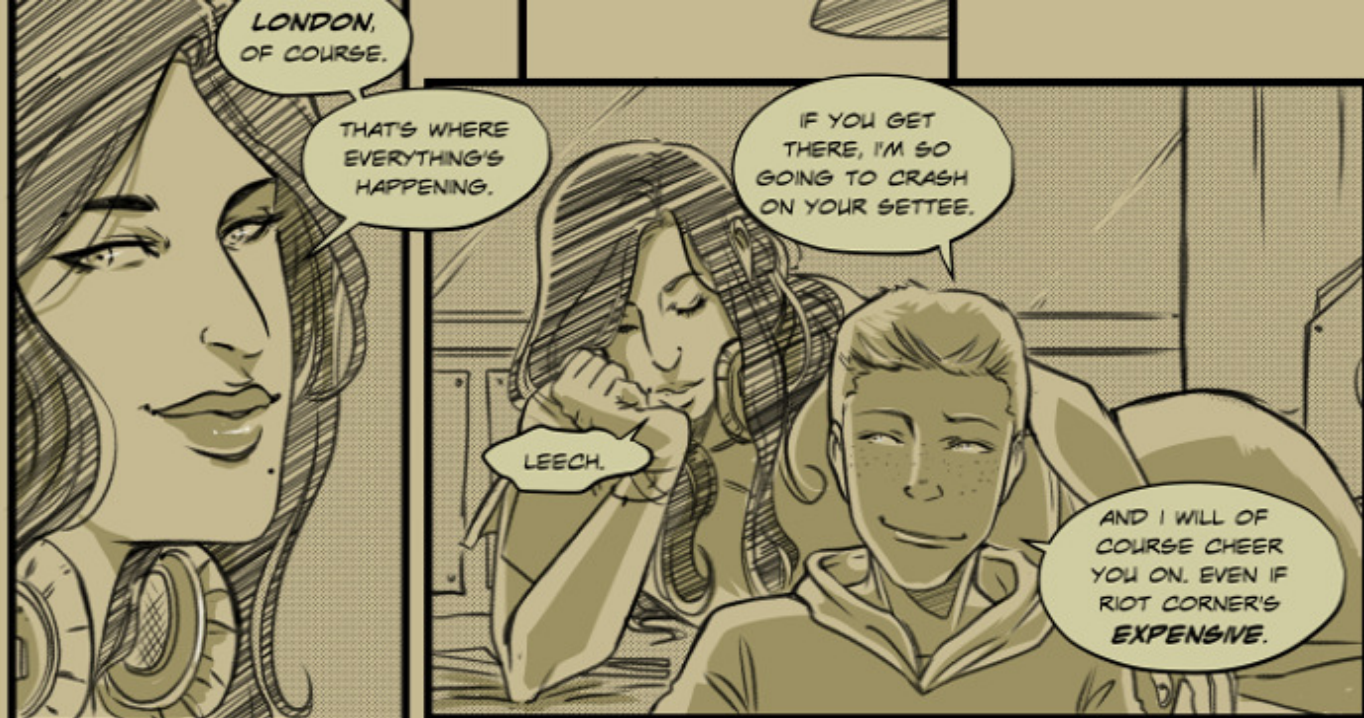
THAT'S
BULLSHIT,
CORT.



HE'D BE
SO PROUD OF
YOU. HE'D BE
PROUD OF
ALL OF IT.

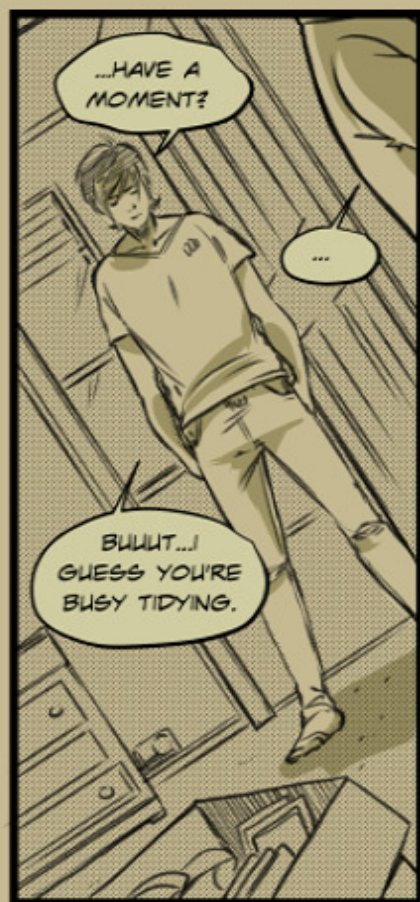








HEY, I WAS
WONDERING
IF YOU...



...HAVE A
MOMENT?

...

BUUUUT...I
GUESS YOU'RE
BUSY TIDYING.



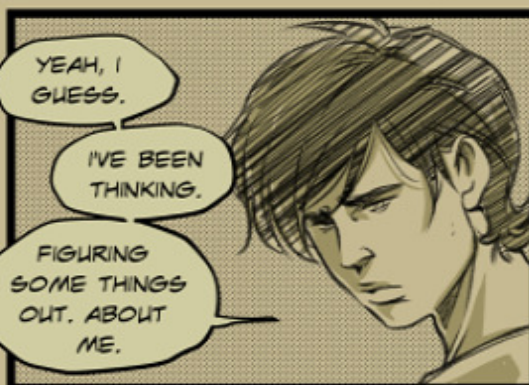
AREN'T YOU
TAKING
MINIMALISM
A BIT FAR?

IF YOU
KEEP THIS UP
YOU WON'T HAVE
ANYTHING LEFT.



SORRY...

YOU WANTED
TO TALK?



YEAH, I
GUESS.

I'VE BEEN
THINKING.

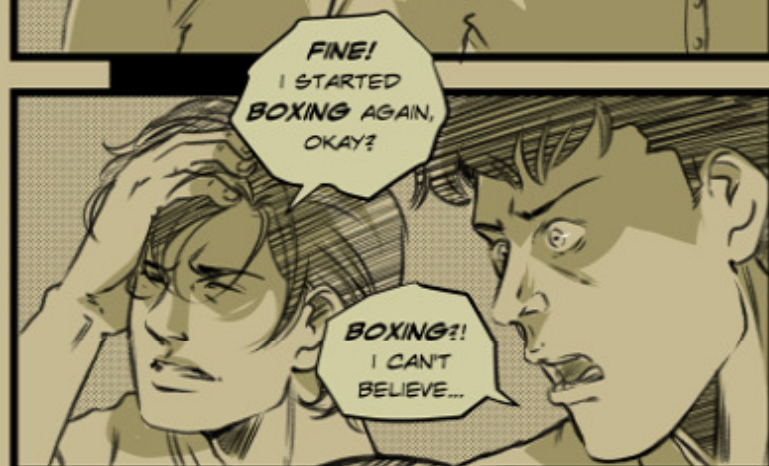
FIGURING
SOME THINGS
OUT. ABOUT
ME.



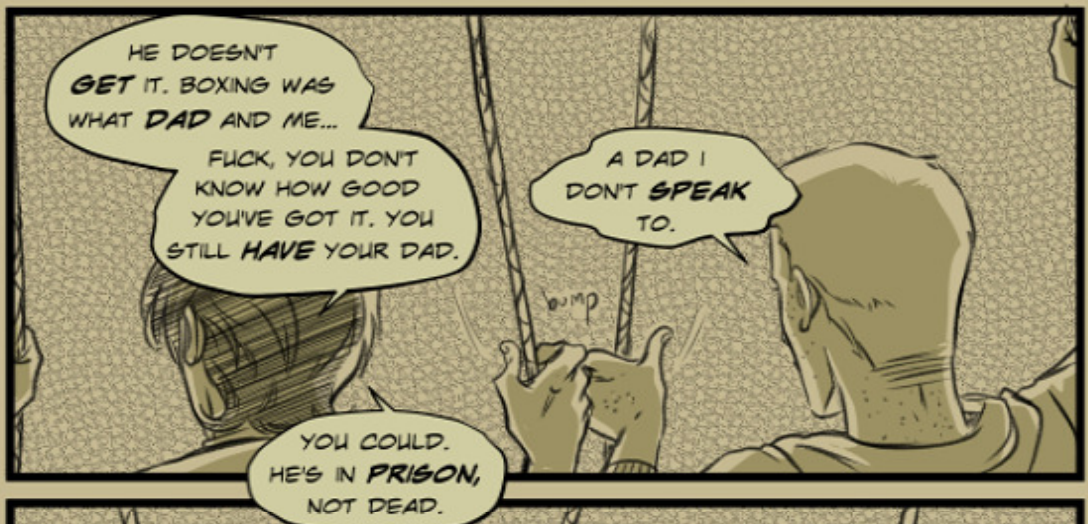
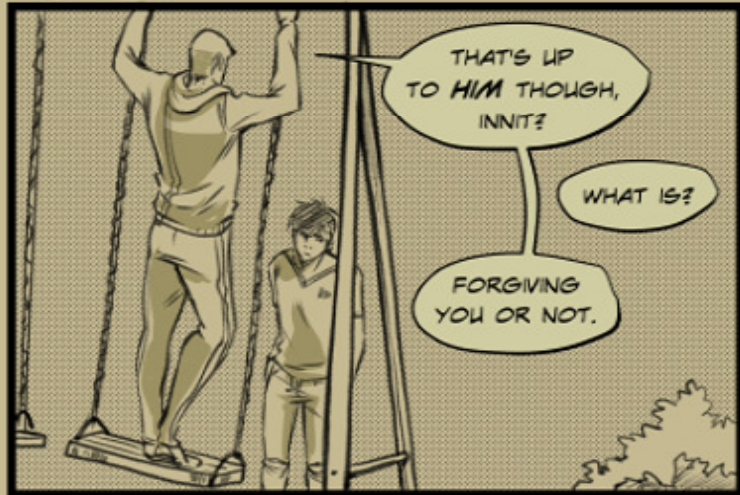
AND I
THINK-



WHO DID
YOU FIGHT
THIS TIME?







I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU TALKED ME INTO THIS.

YOU'RE NOT THE ONE **GOING** TO PRISON, YOU KNOW.

SHOULD HAVE TAKEN THE BUS.

WHAT'S WRONG WITH DRIVING?

HOW ABOUT **EVERYTHING?**

BESIDES, IT'S REALLY BLOODY HARD NOT TO START DOING THE WHOLE 'ARE WE THERE YET?' ROUTINE.

WHEN YOU PUT IT LIKE THAT, I'M AMAZED AT YOUR RESTRAINT.

EYES ON THE ROAD, FOR **FUCK'S** SAKE!

WHAT THE **ACTUAL** FUCK?

SORRY..

I DO KNOW HOW TO **DRIVE**, IAN.

BESIDES, I'M NOT GOING TO CRASH HARVEY'S CAR.

I'D NEVER HEAR THE END OF IT.

SORRY. YOUR DRIVING IS FINE. IT'S OTHER PEOPLE I'M WORRIED ABOUT...

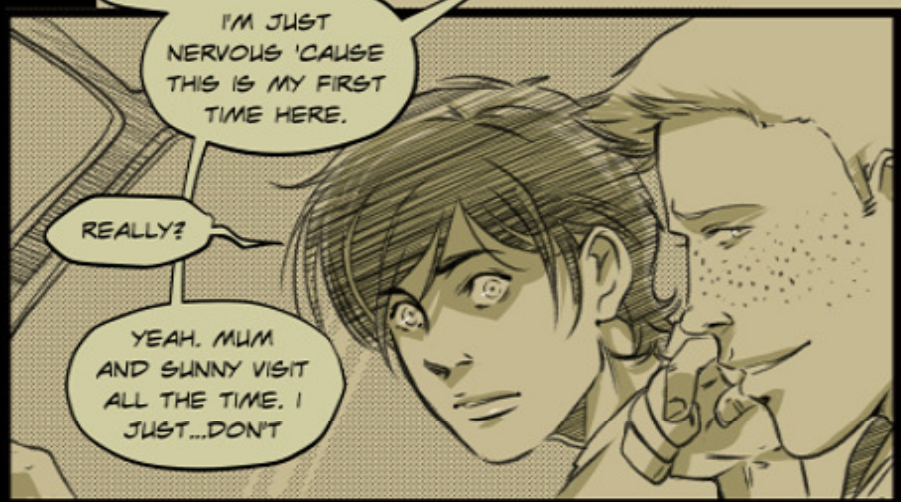
FUCKING CARS.



WANT ME
TO BEAT SOME
UP FOR YOU?



HAHA!
NAH, NO NEED
FOR CAR ABUSE.
I'LL BE FINE.



I'M JUST
NERVOUS 'CAUSE
THIS IS MY FIRST
TIME HERE.

REALLY?

YEAH. MUM
AND SUNNY VISIT
ALL THE TIME. I
JUST...DON'T

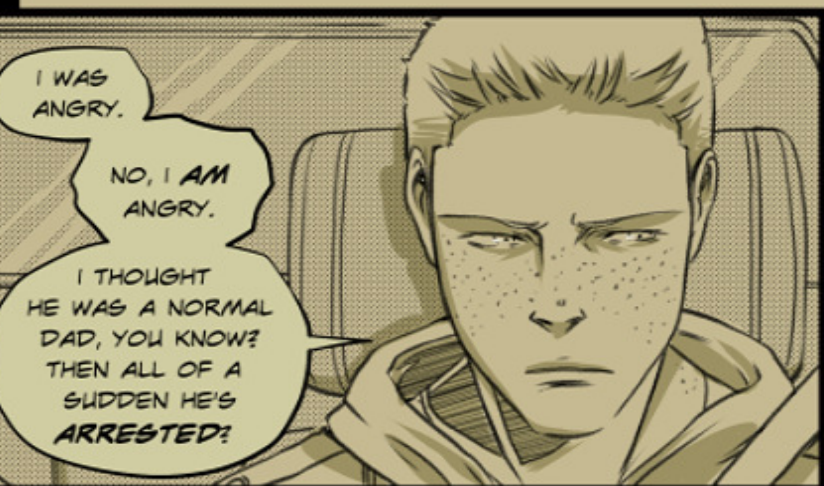


WHY?

I WAS
ANGRY.

NO, I **AM**
ANGRY.

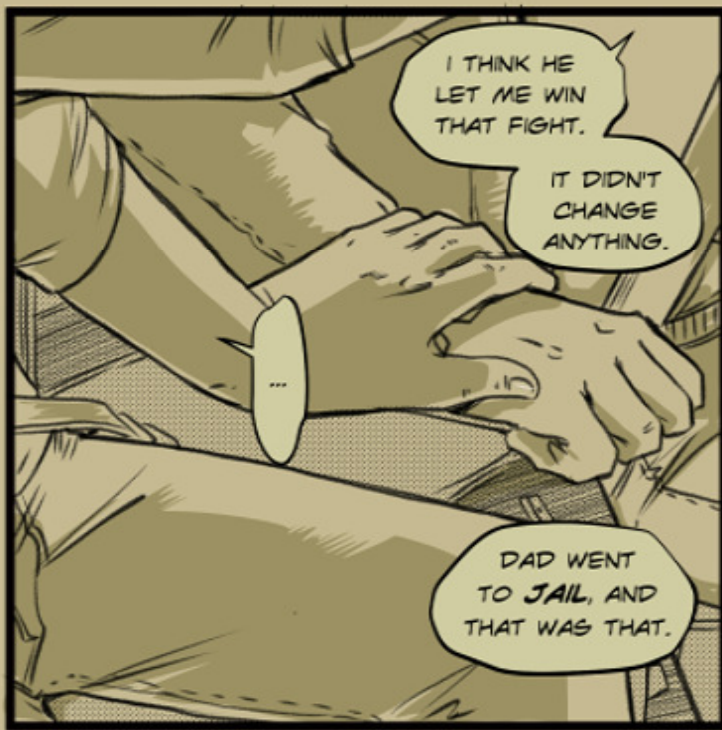
I THOUGHT
HE WAS A NORMAL
DAD, YOU KNOW?
THEN ALL OF A
SUDDEN HE'S
ARRESTED?



I STOOD UP
FOR HIM TOO.

KEPT SAYING
HE WAS
INNOCENT.

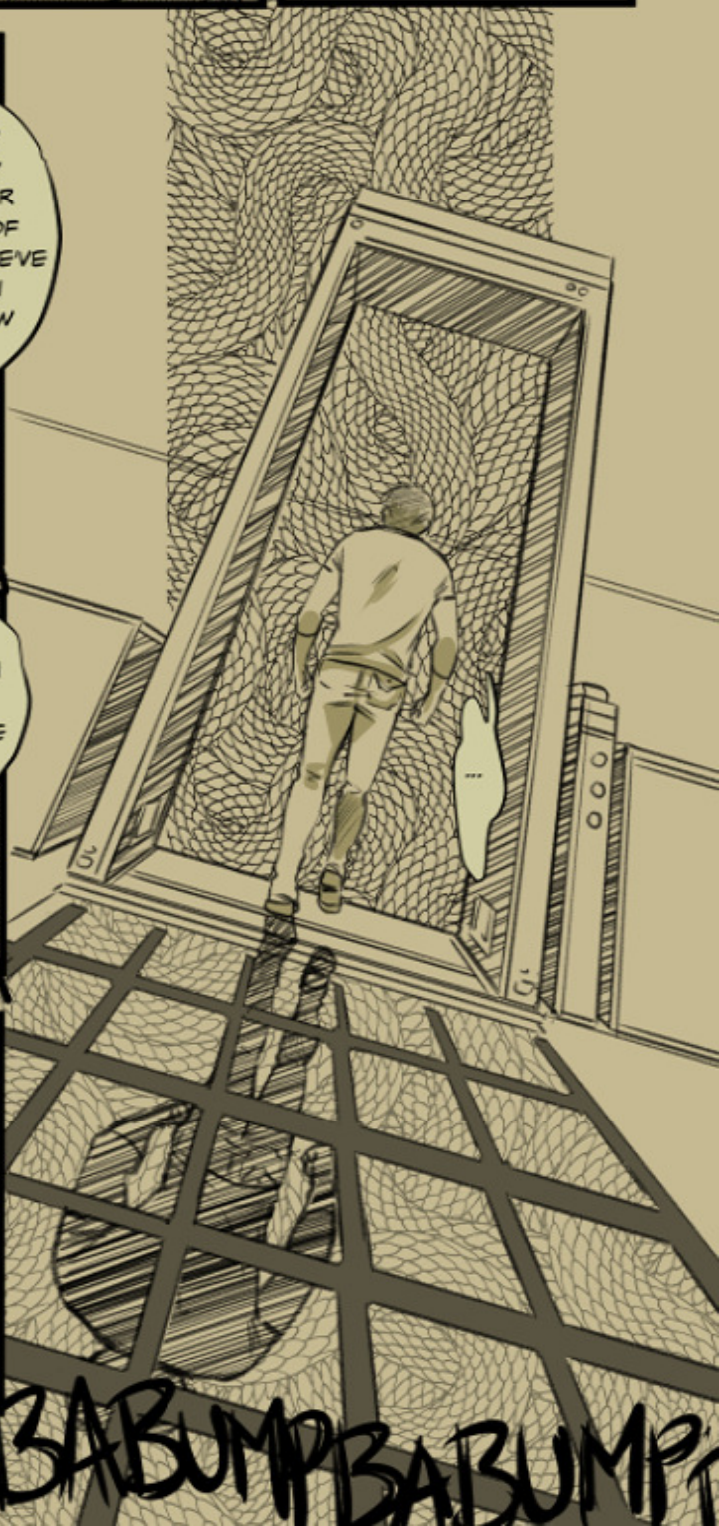
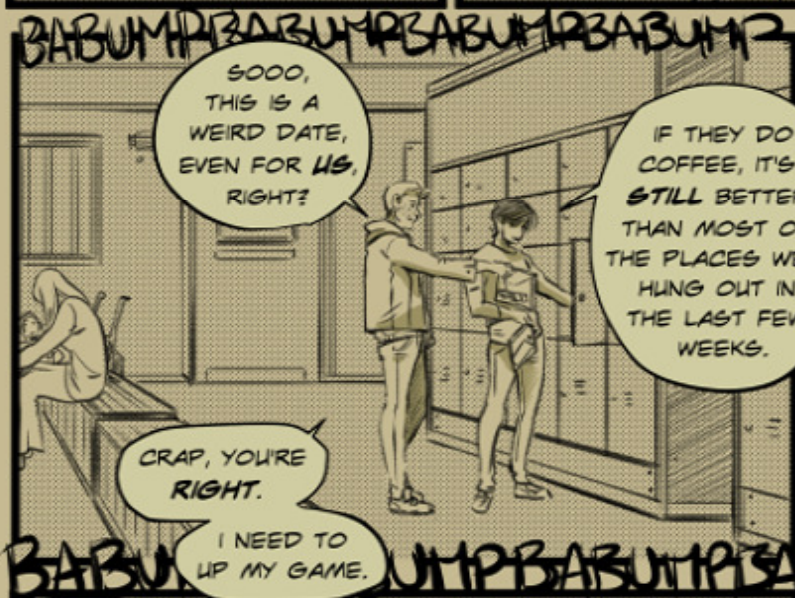
I GOT IN
A FIGHT WITH
SPENCE OVER
IT, EVEN.

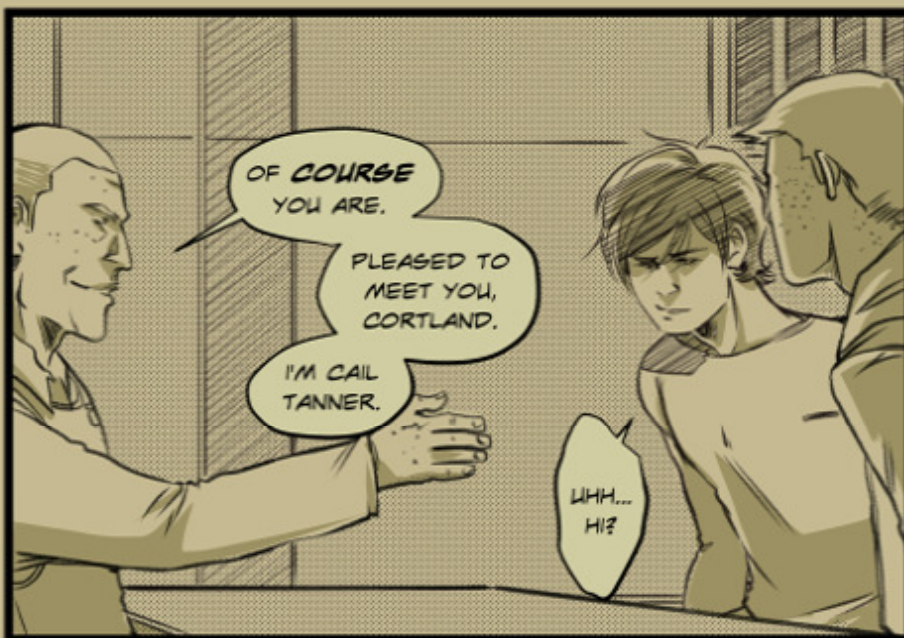


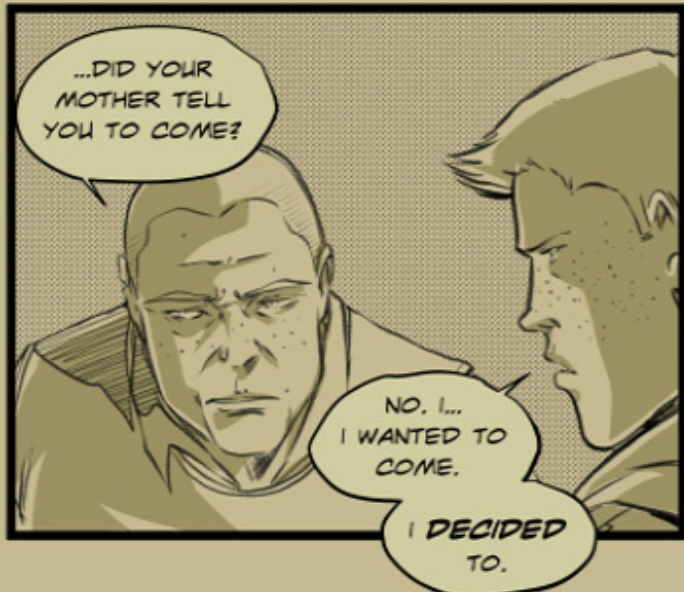
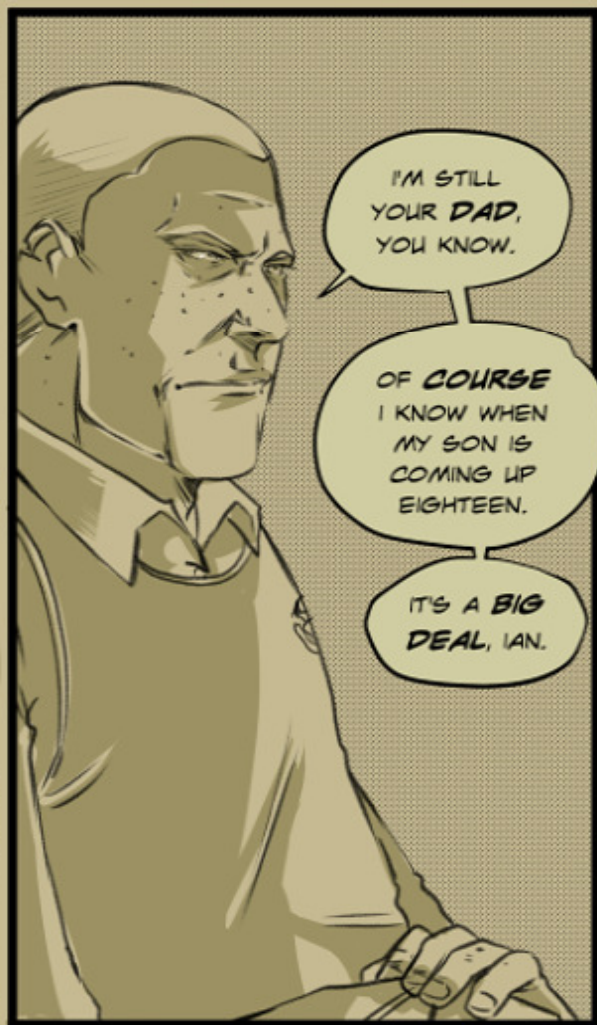
I THINK HE
LET ME WIN
THAT FIGHT.

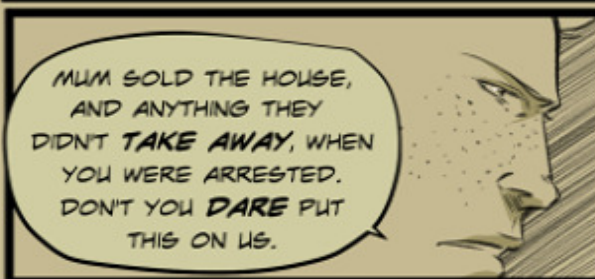
IT DIDN'T
CHANGE
ANYTHING.

DAD WENT
TO **JAIL**, AND
THAT WAS THAT.











I SUPPOSE
MUM'S KEPT YOU
UP TO DATE?

SHE HAS.
ON **MOST** THINGS,
ANYWAY.

SHE DIDN'T
MENTION YOU
HAD A NEW
FRIEND.



WHY THE
FUCK **WOULD**
SHE?

BECAUSE HE'S
IMPORTANT
ENOUGH TO BE
HERE.

HE'S MY ONLY
FRIEND WHO DOESN'T
KNOW YOU WELL ENOUGH
TO WANT TO **SMACK**
YOU IN THE FACE.



LUCKY FOR
ME THEN.



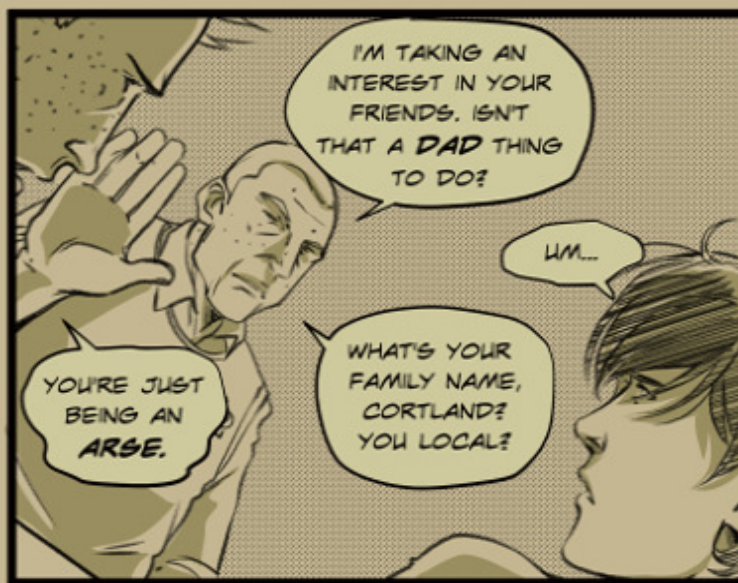
...

LOOKS LIKE THAT
MIGHT BE A **PAINFUL**
SMACK.



SO, TELL
ME ABOUT
YOURSELF,
CORTLAND.

DAD!



I'M TAKING AN
INTEREST IN YOUR
FRIENDS. ISN'T
THAT A **DAD** THING
TO DO?

UM...

YOU'RE JUST
BEING AN
ARSE.

WHAT'S YOUR
FAMILY NAME,
CORTLAND? YOU LOCAL?



IT'S **HUNT**...
AND YEAH,
I...

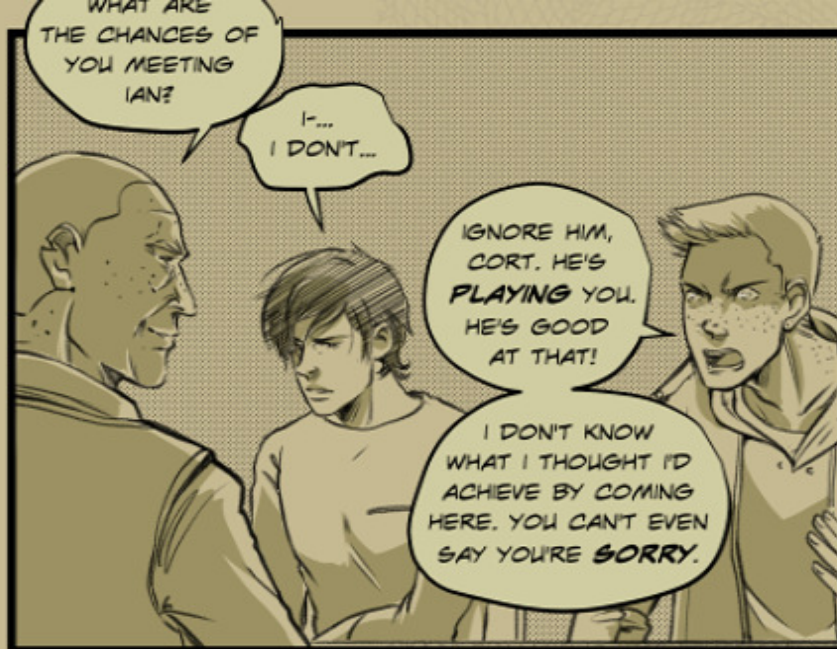
HE DOESN'T
HAVE TO TELL
YOU **ANYTHING**,
DAD. STOP IT!




WELL, SHIT ME.
I **THOUGHT** YOU
LOOKED FAMILIAR.



SMALL
WORLD,
HUH?








I'VE MADE A
MESS OF BOTH
OF OUR LIVES.

I'VE TREATED YOU
LIKE **CRAP** WHEN I
KNOW WHAT YOU'VE
DONE FOR ME...

IF YOU AND
CONNIE HADN'T
LIED FOR ME IN
THAT COURTROOM.
IF YOU HADN'T
TAKEN ME IN,
I...



IT'S FINE.

NO. IT'S **NOT**
FINE. THE WAY I
SPOKE TO YOU
AFTER YOU WERE
ATTACKED...THE
THINGS I **SAID**...

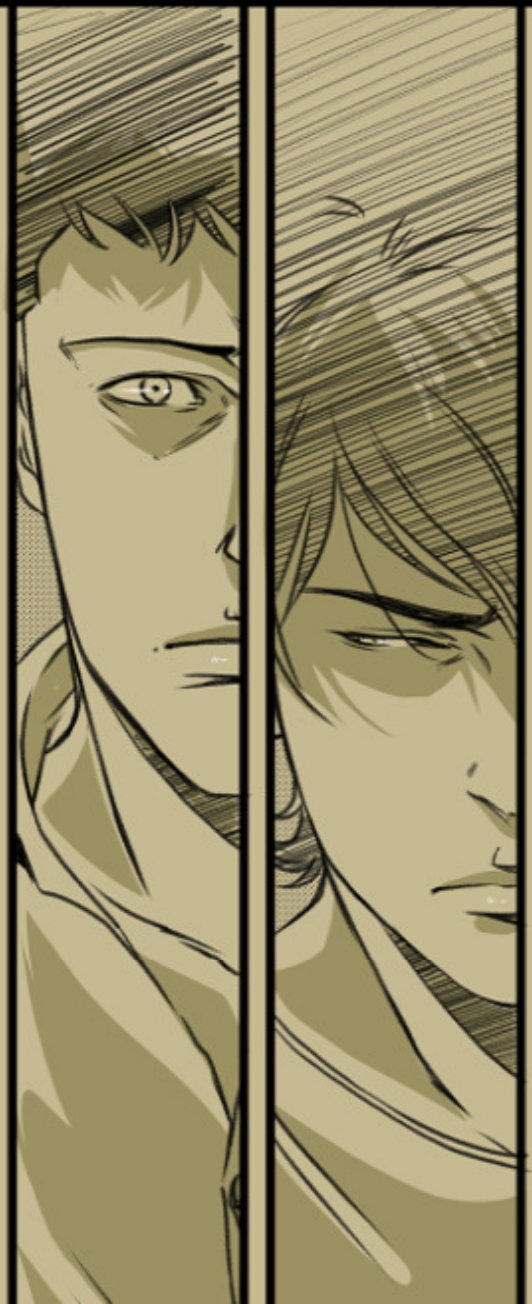
JESUS,
CORT. LEAVE
IT.

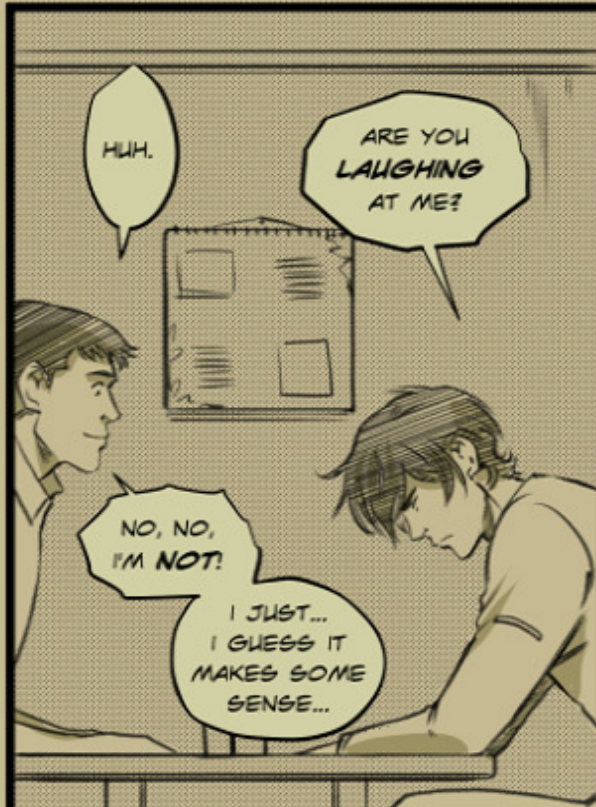


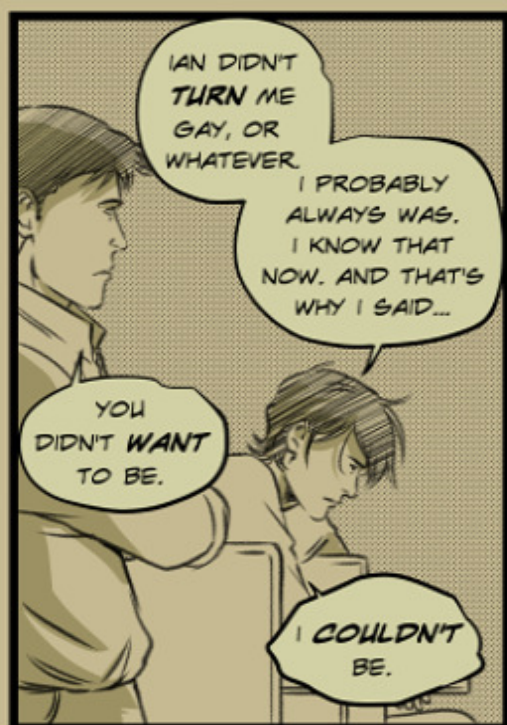
I **GET IT**
NOW THOUGH.

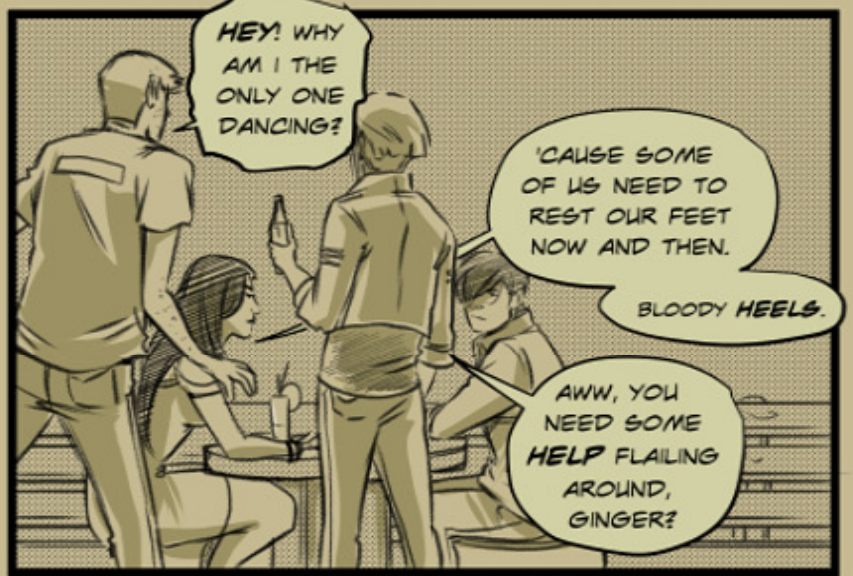
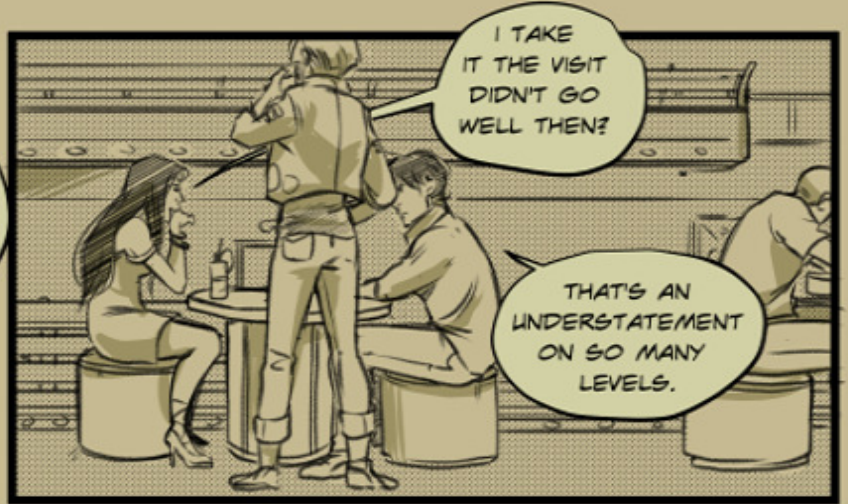
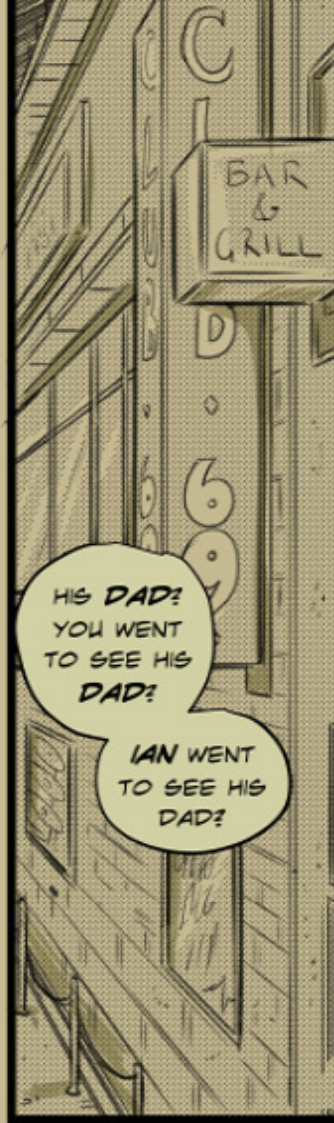
IT DOESN'T
MAKE IT BETTER,
BUT I KNOW **WHY** I
SAID THOSE
THINGS.

...I DONT
UNDERSTAND.
WHAT ARE
YOU SAYING?



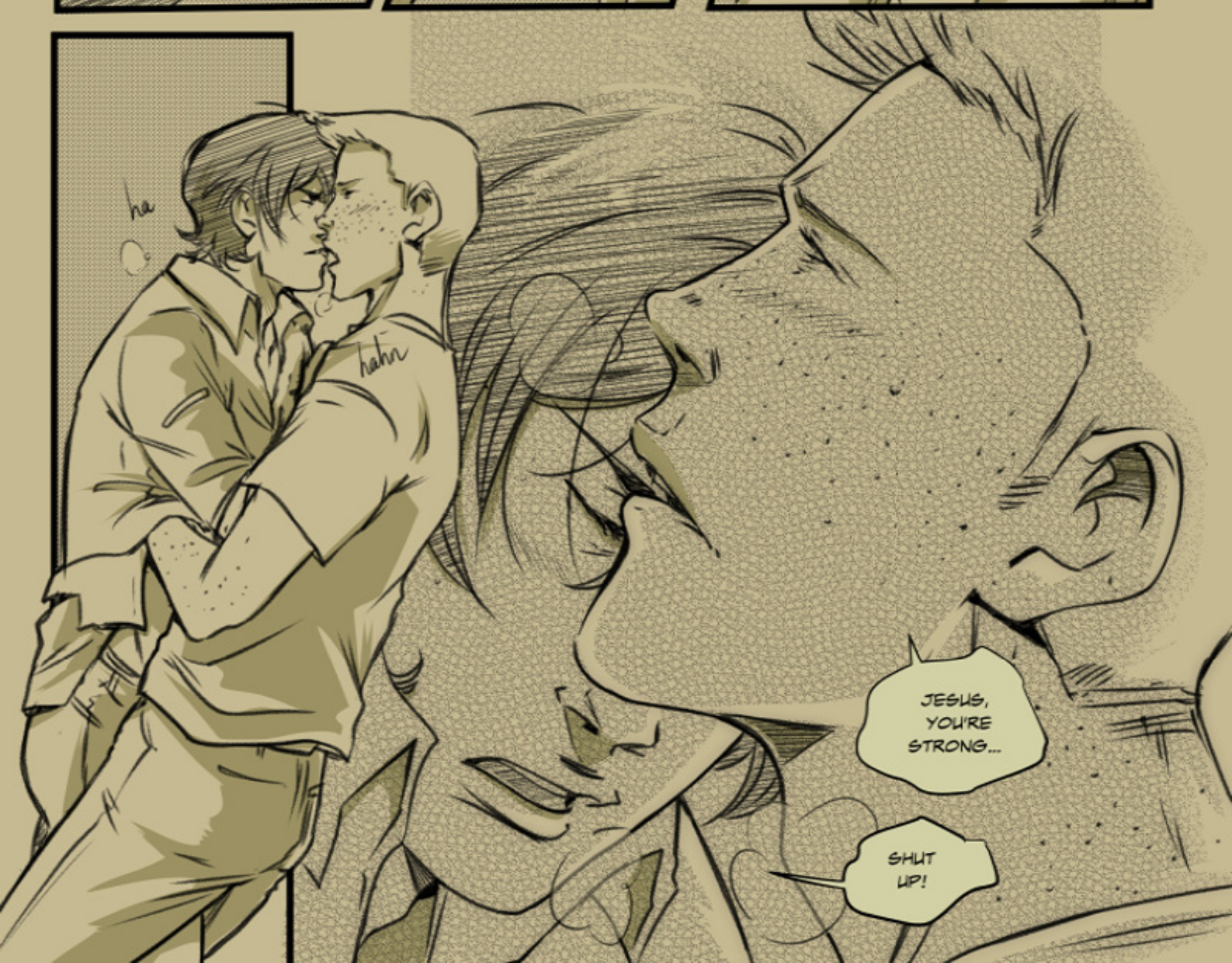


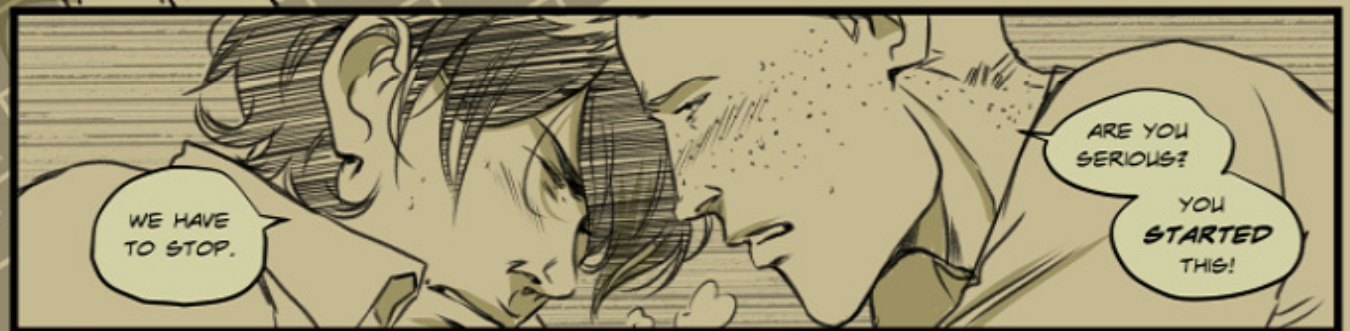




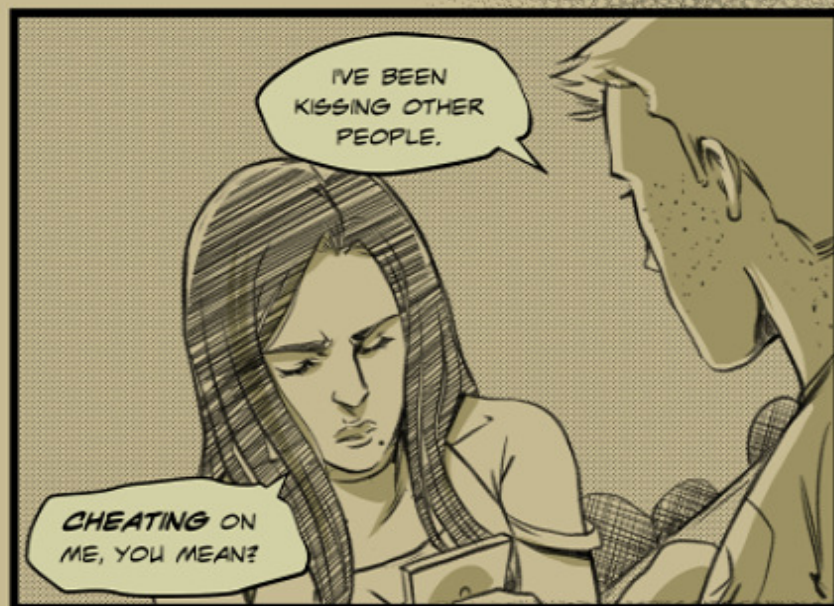


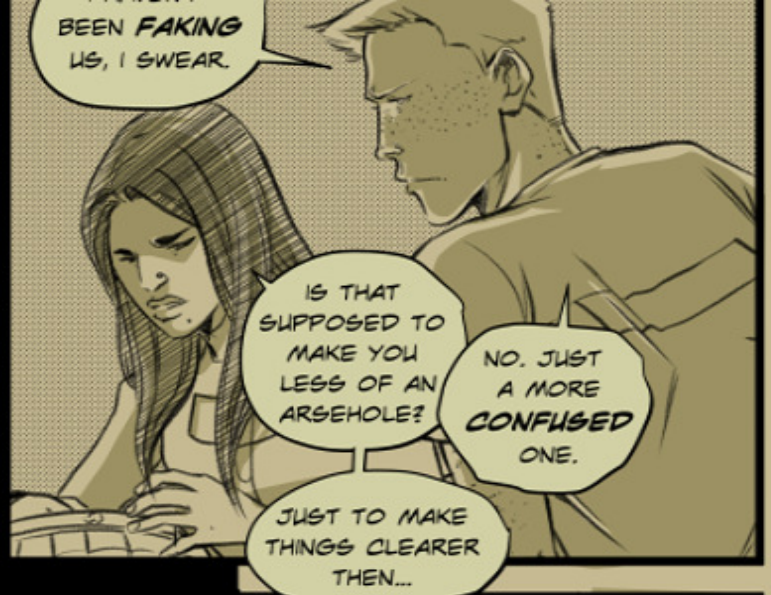














ISSUE 10





HI! UM...
CORTLAND?
IS HE IN?

IT'S 7:30AM.
ON A *SATURDAY*.

YEAH?
OH, SHIT.
HE'S *SLEEPING*,
ISN'T HE?

NO, HE'S IN
THE *SHOWER*.



OH, COOL.
I'LL WAIT!

...SO, YOU
MUST BE *IAN*,
RIGHT?

SORRY,
YES! AND
YOU'RE *HARVEY*,
YEAH?

CORTLAND'S
BROTHER,
YES.

YOU TWO
DONT *LOOK*
MUCH ALIKE.



I MEAN, MY SISTER
LOOKS FREAKISHLY
LIKE ME WHEN I WAS
FIFTEEN. NO ESCAPING
THE *TANNER* GENES.

TANNER?

YEP. SHE'LL HAVE
SOME TERRIBLE
YEARS AHEAD
OF HER IF SHE
HITS THAT
GROWTH SPURT.

UH, RIGHT.
DO YOU-

ANYWAYS,
HOPE YOU DONT
MIND MY JUST
TURNING UP
LIKE THIS...

-WANT
SOME
TEA?



NAH, I'M FINE,
DONT NEED
ANYTHING, I--

IT WOULDN'T
BE A BOTHER.

BUT,
CAN
I?



IAN?!



YO!

HA! I TAKE
IT BACK.

I GUESS
YOU TWO
REALLY *DO*
LOOK ALIKE,





ARE YOU
PISSSED OFF?

YOU ARE
PISSSED OFF!

IS IT
BECAUSE I
TURNED UP
UNANNOUNCED?

I WAS JUST
EXCITED...



WHY DID
YOU **BREAK
UP** WITH
HER?!

UM -
BECAUSE I
WANT TO KEEP
KISSING YOU?



WE'RE HAVING
FUN, SURE.
BUT WHAT YOU
AND SHE HAVE
IS...

AND **WE**
DONT?



WE'RE...
I DONT
KNOW.

I DO.

YOU DONT
EVEN KNOW
ME.



THAT IS
FIXABLE, YOU
KNOW...

JUST TALK
TO ME.

TALK?
YOU HAVE
NO IDEA...

YOU
KNOW, LIKE
BOYFRIENDS
DO.



YOU'VE GONE
COMPLETELY
MENTAL.

I'M PRETTY
SURE I'M
SANER THAN
I'VE BEEN IN
A WHILE.

YOU REALLY
BROKE UP
WITH HER?

WELL, WE'RE
NOT **TOGETHER**
ANY MORE, IF
THAT'S WHAT
YOU MEAN.



NNN...

SHE...
**SHE BROKE
UP WITH YOU,**
DIDNT SHE.

IT WAS A
MUTUAL
AGREEMENT...



SHE **KNEW**,
DIDN'T SHE...

YEAH,
SHE'S PRETTY
SMART.

HOW LONG?

A WHILE.
I DON'T KNOW.
ARE YOU TRYING
TO **DISTRACT**
ME?



MAYBE,
WHY WOULD
SHE KEEP IT
A SECRET?

I GUESS
SHE DIDN'T KNOW
WHAT I WAS GOING
TO DO.

HELL, I
DIDN'T KNOW
WHAT I WAS
GOING TO
DO.



I CAN'T
REALLY **BLAME**
YOU GUYS.

HUH?



...
I WOULDN'T
DUMP **ANYONE**
FOR ME.

DID YOU
MISS THE PART
WHERE I AM AN
IDIOT?



HOW COULD
I? IT'S ONE
OF YOUR **BEST**
QUALITIES.

THAT AND
MY BIG
MOUTH...



H-HOLY
SHIT.



UHHH...



SHIT!



NOT QUITE
THE REACTION
I WAS HOPING
FOR...

I HAVE
TRAINING!



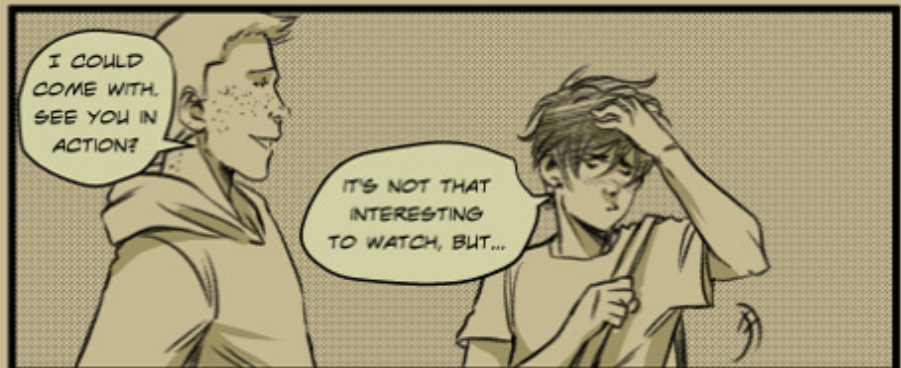
WELL, I **AM**
JUST A HAPPY
AMATEUR AT
THESE THINGS.

NO, I
MEAN...

YOU'RE...

BUT I HAVE
ACTUAL **BOXING**
TRAINING.

IT'S WHY I
WAS UP SO
EARLY.



I COULD
COME WITH.
SEE YOU IN
ACTION?

IT'S NOT THAT
INTERESTING
TO WATCH, BUT...

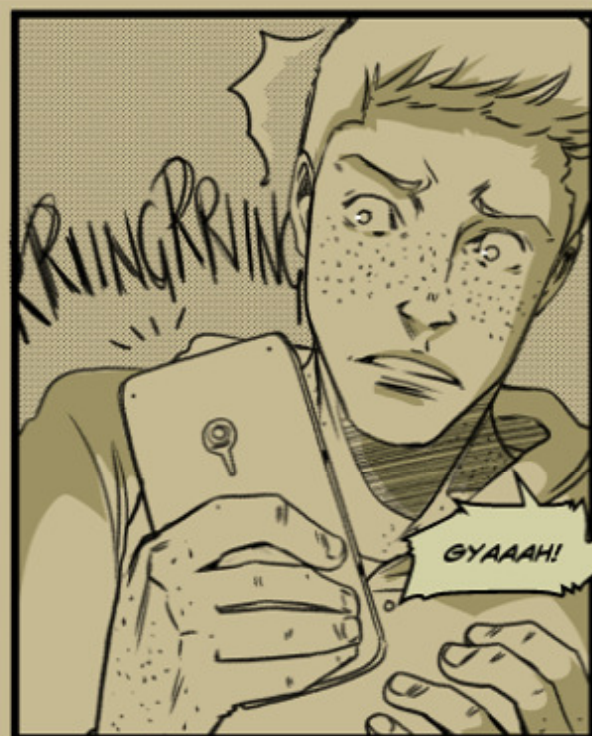


WELL, THERE'S
A TRAINING MATCH
IN A COUPLE OF
WEEKS IF YOU'RE
REALLY INTERESTED?

COOL.
I'D LOVE
TO **COME**.









FUCKING HELL, GINGER. THIS BETTER NOT BE ANOTHER PRANK CALL.



uh-huh

LIKE HELL IT WAS AN ACCIDENT.

uh-huh

THEN JUST HANG THE HELL UP AND LET ME GET ON WITH MY DAY.



uh-huh. Shit like that...

GOD...

YOU'RE BABBLING EVEN MORE THAN USUAL.



...YOU DID WHAT NOW?

uh-huh - uh-huh

uh-huh - uh-huh

YOU'RE WHAT NOW?



GIVE ME ONE GOOD REASON WHY I SHOULDN'T TAKE A BAT TO YOUR BALLSACK.

uh-huh - uh-huh

YOU'LL HAVE TO DO BETTER THAN THAT.



I SUPPOSE... IF YOU HURT HIM, I'LL...

uh-huh - uh-huh

OF COURSE I'M PROTECTIVE OF HIM!



uh-huh?

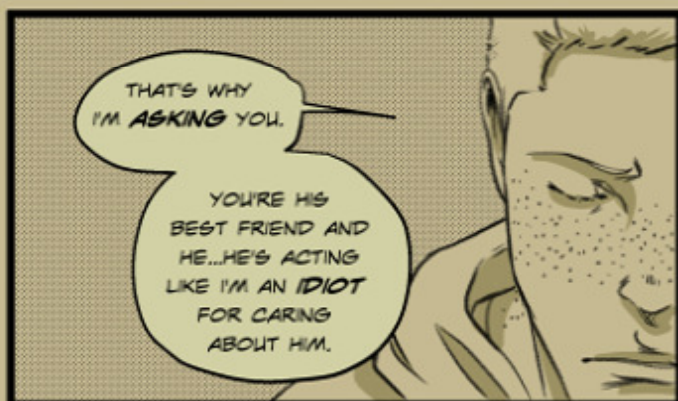
WHY?

THAT'S...



THAT'S A LONG STORY, GINGER.

OPEN







BAM

BAM

BAM

BAM
SAMB
MBAMB
ARA

MRBAM
BAM BAM
AMRBAM
BAM BAM
MRBAM
BAM BAM

MRBAM
BAM

YOU
OKAY,
KIDDO?



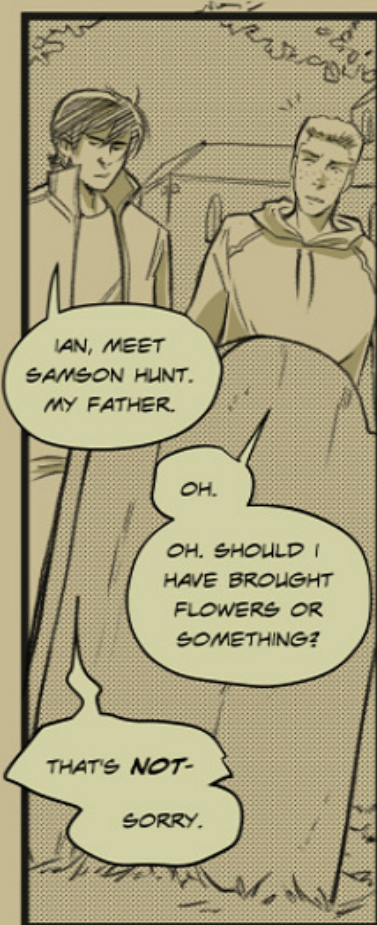


I KNOW WE'RE LACKING FOR PRIVATE PLACES TO HANG OUT, BUT ISN'T THIS A LITTLE WEIRD, EVEN FOR US?

I DIDN'T INVITE YOU HERE TO MAKE OUT.

FIGHTING THE UNDEAD IT IS, THEN.

I WANT YOU TO MEET SOMEONE.



IAN, MEET SAMSON HUNT. MY FATHER.

OH.

OH. SHOULD I HAVE BROUGHT FLOWERS OR SOMETHING?

THAT'S NOT SORRY.

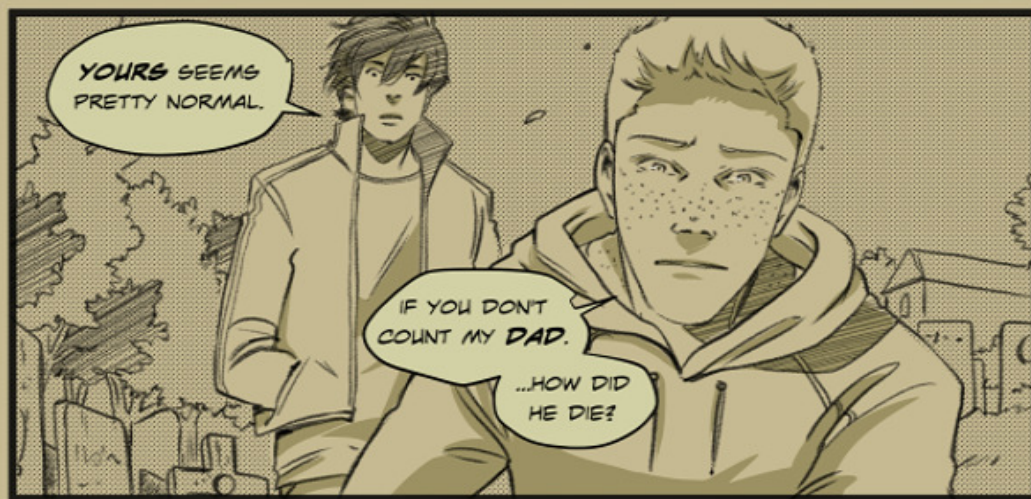


THIS IS HARD. I DON'T BRING PEOPLE HERE. JUST IRENA.

YOUR BROTHER COMES, RIGHT?

FAMILIES ARE COMPLICATED.

MAYBE. I GUESS HE COMES HERE ALONE. THEY DIDN'T GET ALONG MUCH.



YOURS SEEMS PRETTY NORMAL.

IF YOU DON'T COUNT MY DAD.

...HOW DID HE DIE?



IN THE RING.

HE WENT DOWN AND DIDN'T GET UP.

I'M SORRY.

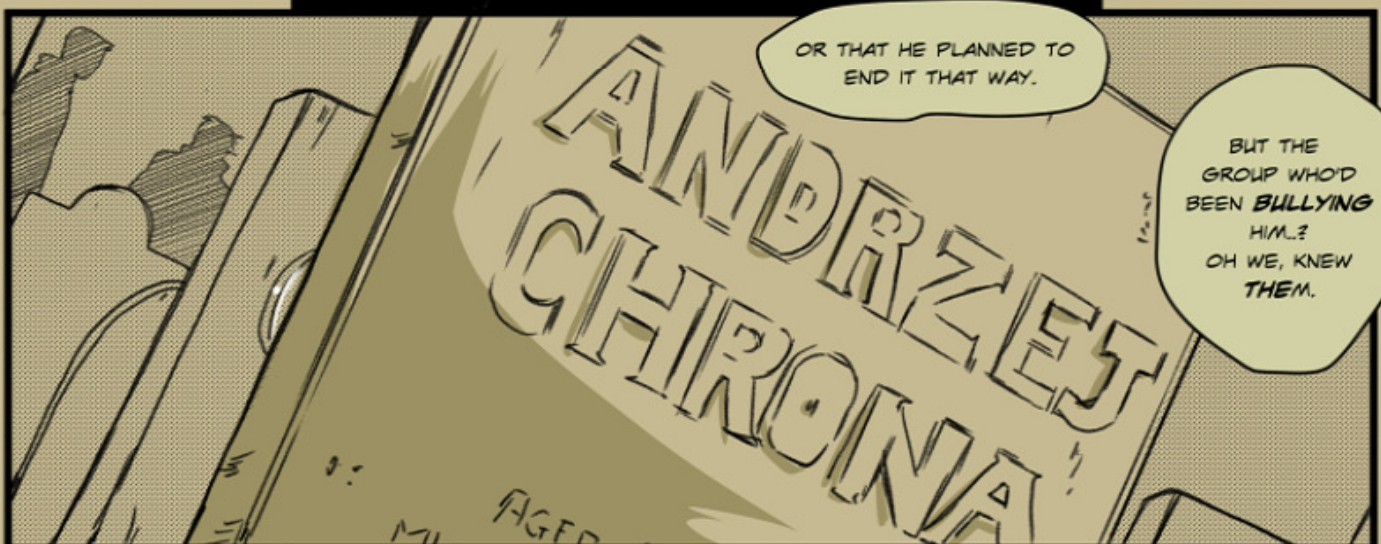
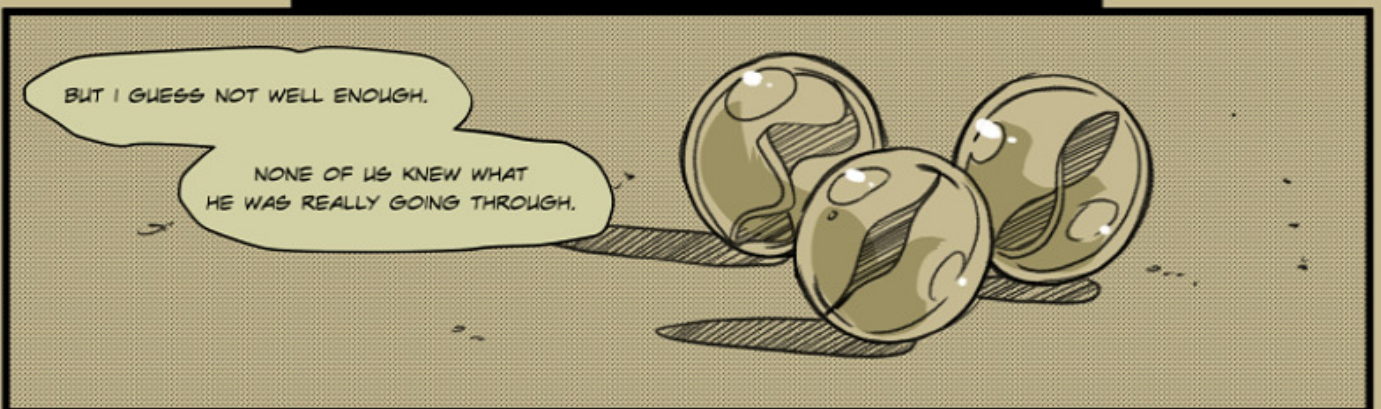
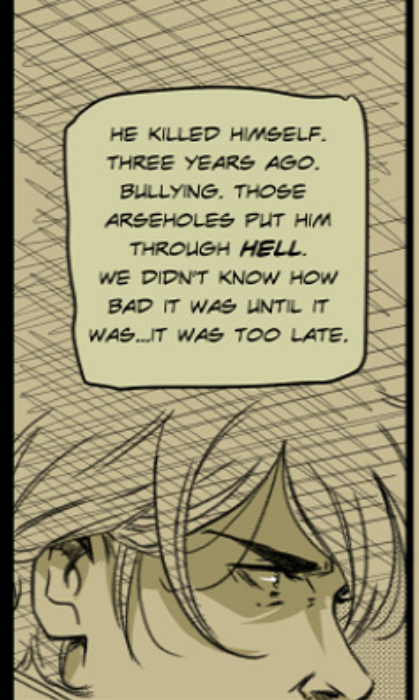
IT WAS A LONG TIME AGO. I PROBABLY WOULDN'T HAVE DARED INTRODUCE YOU IF HE WAS ALIVE,



AT LEAST... NOT AS...US...

YOU KNOW...

I THINK I DO...





AT THE HOSPITAL, HIS MUM TOLD THE POLICE THE NAMES OF THE GROUP WHO'D DRIVEN HER SON TO...THAT.



THEY WERE NAMES I RECOGNISED.



WE'D GONE TO THE SAME SCHOOL. BUT THEY WERE OLDER; HARVEY'S YEAR.

A FEW YEARS EARLIER THEY HAD...

THEY'D ATTACKED HIM.

HE DIDN'T PRESS CHARGES, HE CHANGED SCHOOLS. AND I GUESS THEY FOUND A NEW TARGET.

IF HE'D TOLD THE POLICE BACK THEN...MAYBE THINGS WOULD HAVE BEEN DIFFERENT.

MAYBE HARVEY **COULD** HAVE STOPPED IT.



INSTEAD... I DECIDED I WOULD.



I HEADED OUT, BARELY THINKING. I WAS SO...**ANGRY**. THAT WORD DOESN'T SEEM BIG ENOUGH.

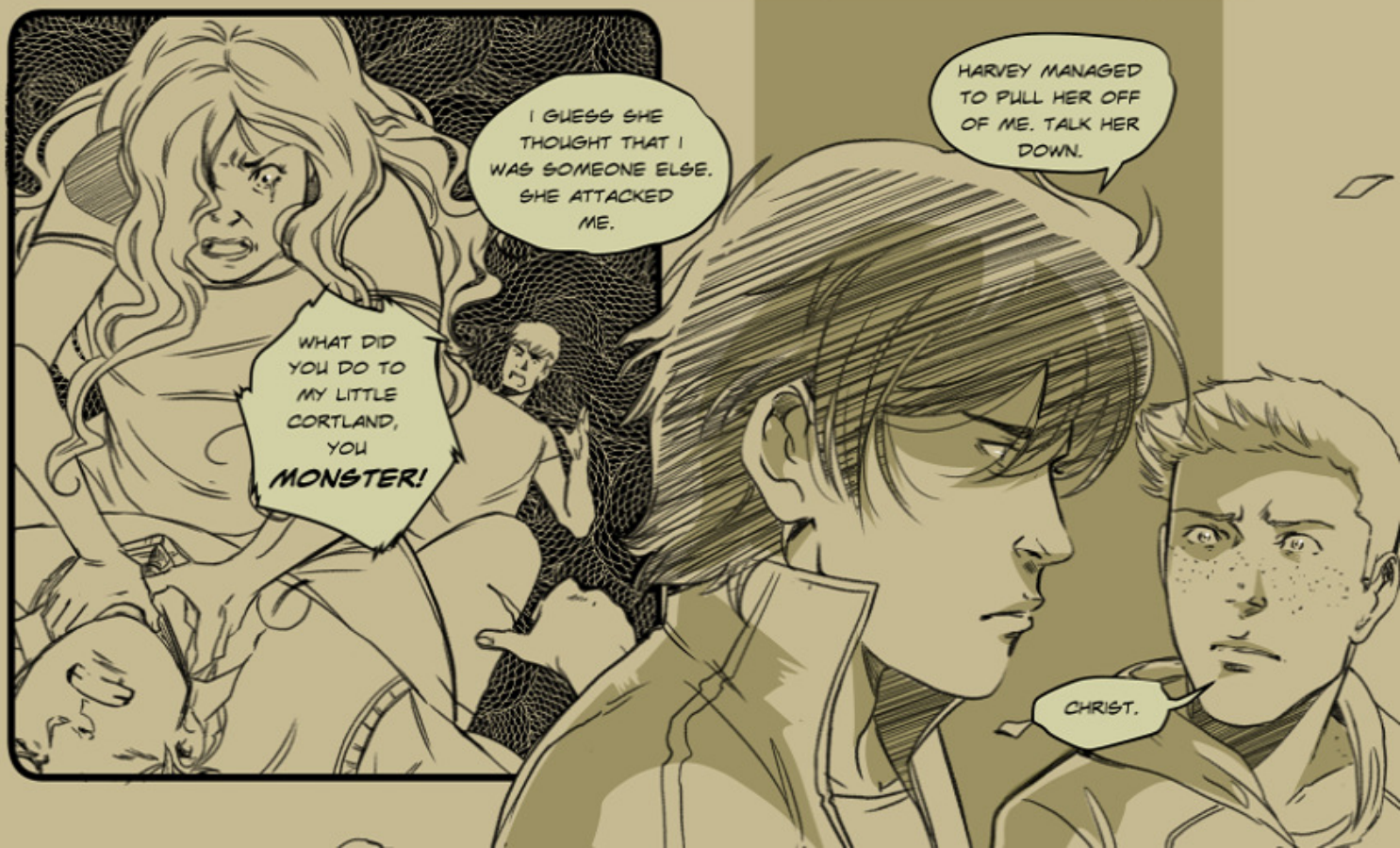


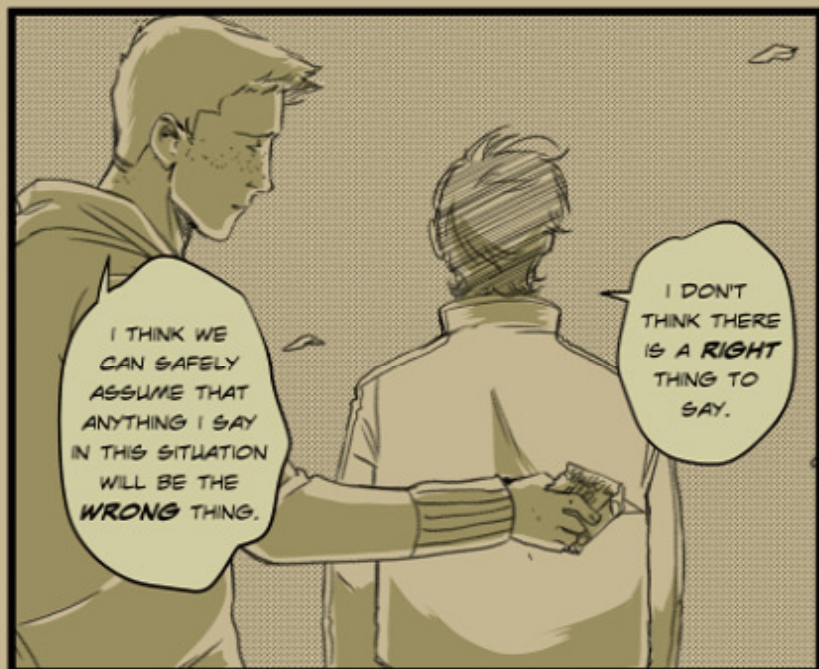
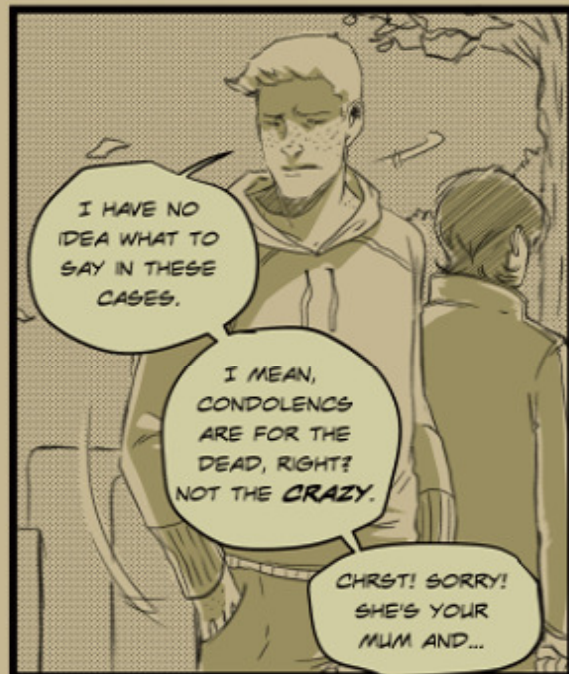
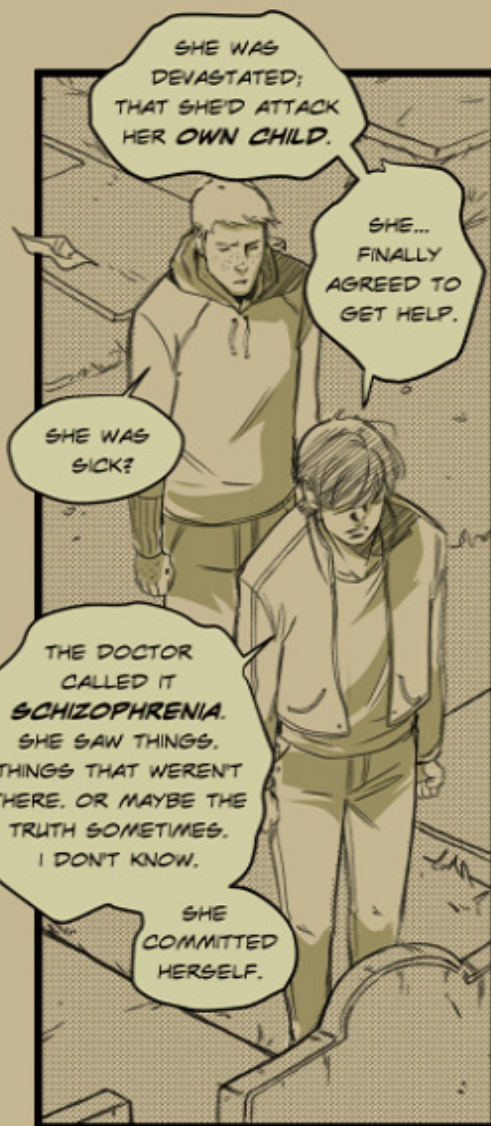
ANGRY AT **THEM**. ANGRY AT **MYSELF**. AT HOW I'D FAILED...

MAYBE I JUST NEEDED TO TAKE IT OUT ON SOMEONE.

GET A **THRILL** OUT OF EASING MY OWN CONSCIENCE.

AND IT WENT BADLY. **REALLY** BADLY.







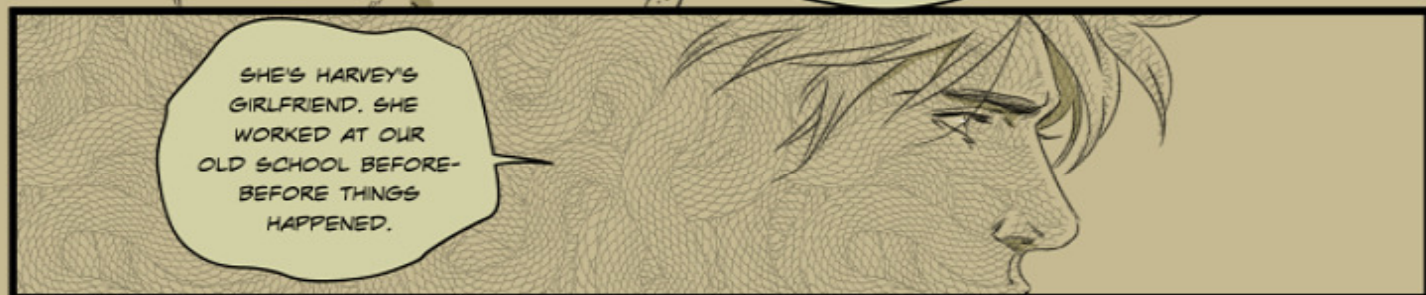
...WHY AREN'T YOU LOCKED UP THEN? IF YOU REALLY **KILLED** SOMEONE?

BECAUSE I HAVE BETTER FRIENDS THAN I DESERVE.

CONSTANCE...



THE SCHOOL **NURSE**, CONSTANCE?

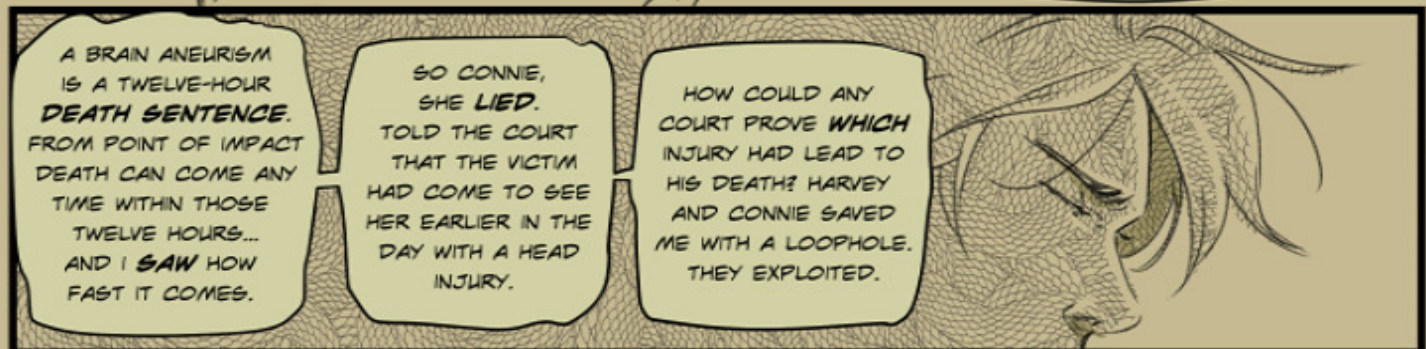


SHE'S HARVEY'S GIRLFRIEND. SHE WORKED AT OUR OLD SCHOOL BEFORE- BEFORE THINGS HAPPENED.



REALLY?

AND HERE I THOUGHT SHE WAS THE VERY DEFINITION OF UPTIGHT.



A BRAIN ANEURYSM IS A TWELVE-HOUR **DEATH SENTENCE**. FROM POINT OF IMPACT DEATH CAN COME ANY TIME WITHIN THOSE TWELVE HOURS... AND I **SAW** HOW FAST IT COMES.

SO CONNIE, SHE **LIED**. TOLD THE COURT THAT THE VICTIM HAD COME TO SEE HER EARLIER IN THE DAY WITH A HEAD INJURY.

HOW COULD ANY COURT PROVE **WHICH** INJURY HAD LEAD TO HIS DEATH? HARVEY AND CONNIE SAVED ME WITH A LOOPHOLE. THEY EXPLOITED.



...AND THAT'S WHY THERE WAS NO MANSLAUGHTER CHARGE. JUST TWO YEARS COMMUNITY SERVICE FOR THE ASSAULT. AND SOCIAL SERVICES LOOKING OVER MY SHOULDER.

UNTIL YOU'RE EIGHTEEN.

UNTIL I'M EIGHTEEN.



I WON'T BLAME YOU IF YOU **LEAVE**.

I'VE... I'VE NEVER TOLD ANYONE THIS,



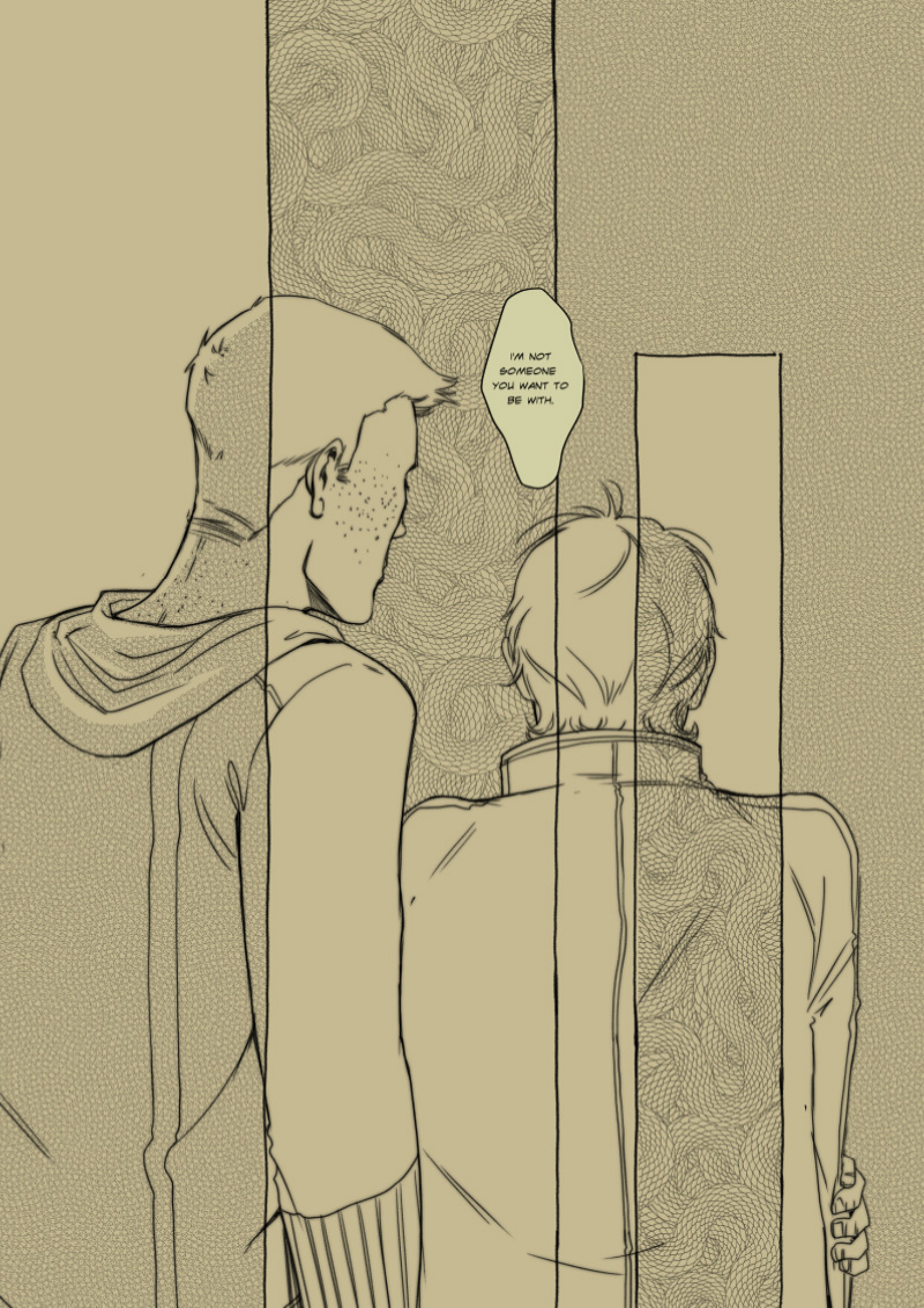
WHAT?

I KNOW
WHAT I AM.

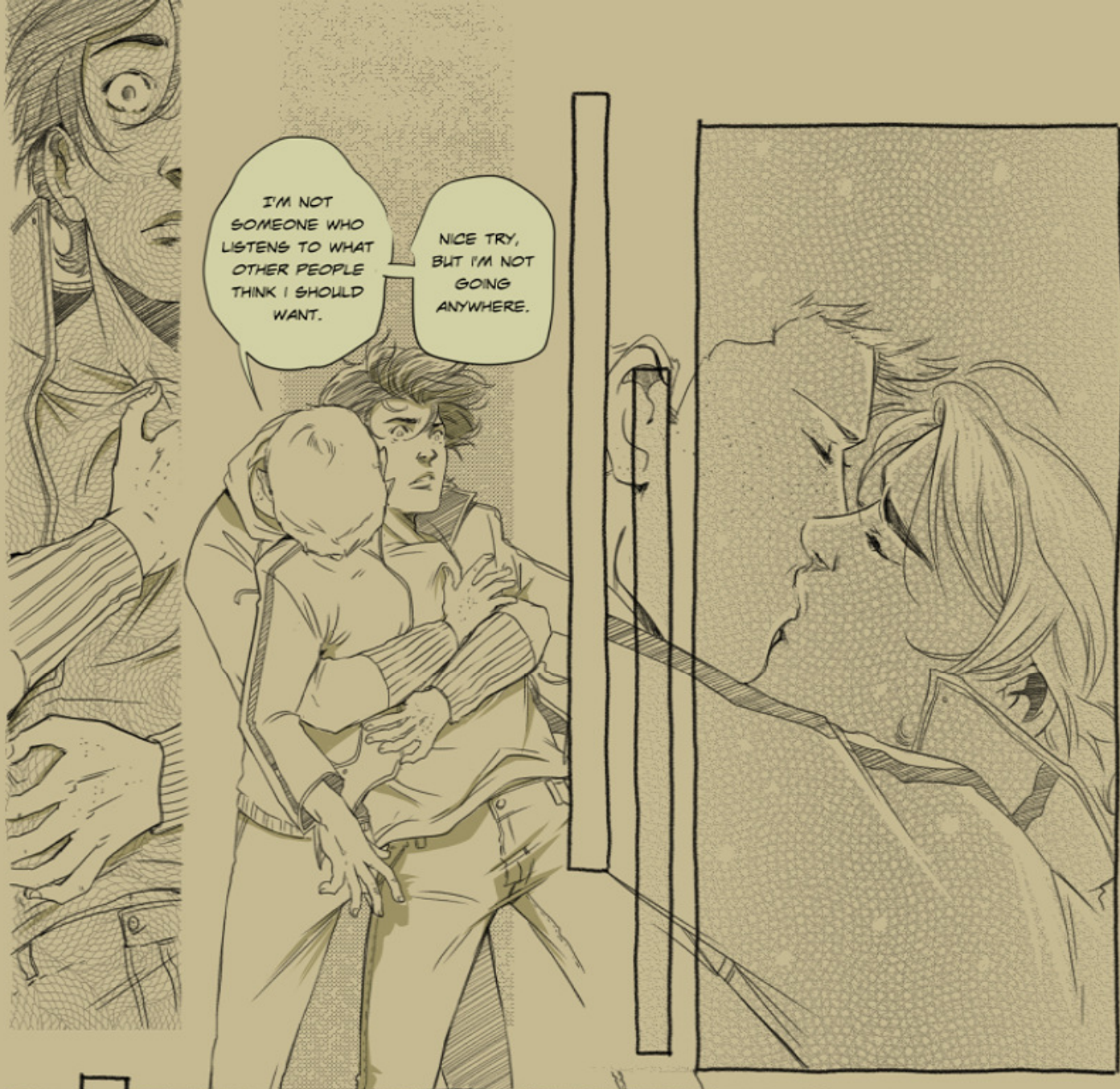
AND NOW,
SO DO YOU.

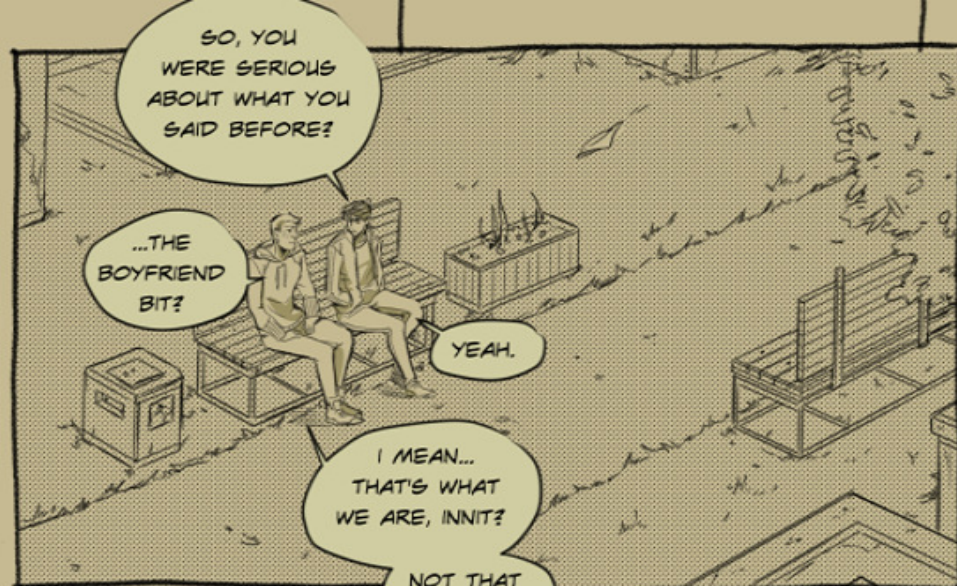
NOT HAVING TO
PAY THE PRICE
DOESN'T CHANGE
WHAT I DID
BACK THEN.
WHAT I RUINED.

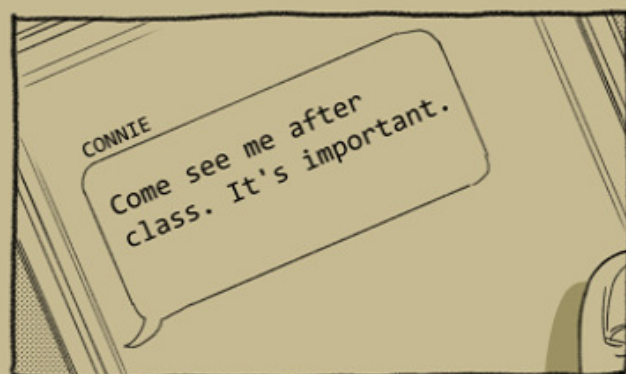
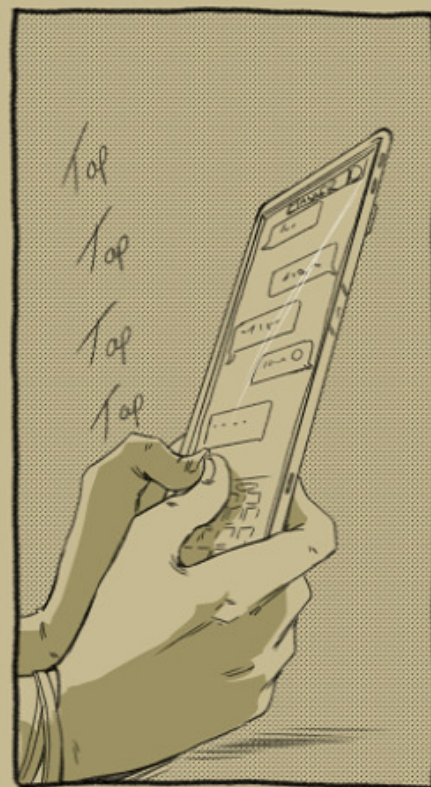
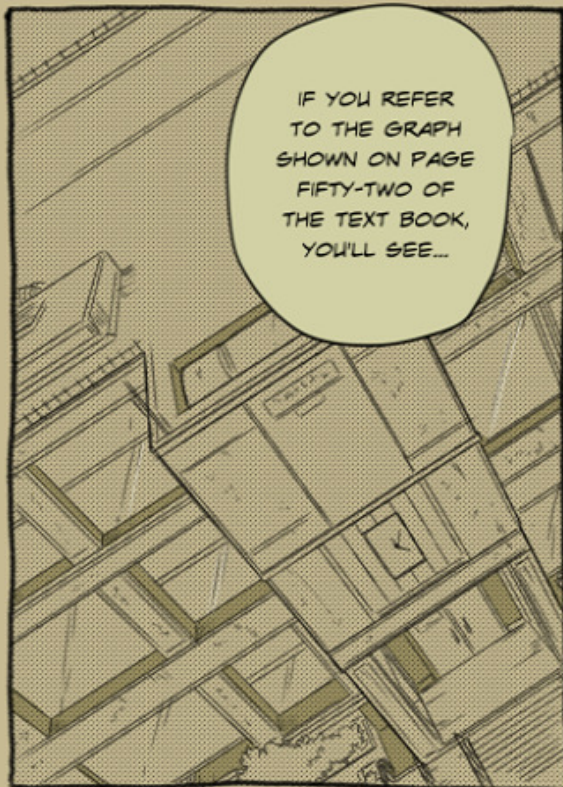
I'M A
MONSTER.

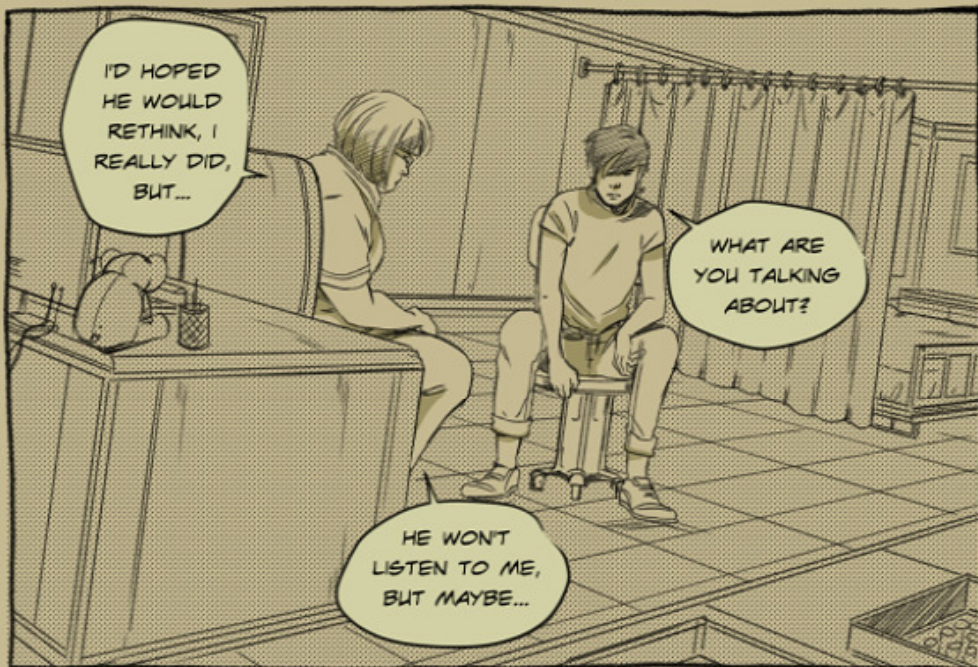


I'M NOT
SOMEONE
YOU WANT TO
BE WITH.











ISSUE 11

I KNOW YOU CALLED ME, BUT...ARE YOU **SURE** YOU WANT ME HERE?

YEAH.

I'M SORRY. YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE HERE IF YOU DON'T WANT TO...

CORT, YOU CAME TO A BLOODY **PRISON** WITH ME WHEN I HAD NO IDEA HOW HARD IT MUST HAVE BEEN FOR YOU.

NOW I'M HERE FOR YOU.

THANKS.

I'M...
HONESTLY, I'M **TERRIFIED**. WHAT IF HE'S HAD ENOUGH WITH ME? WHAT IF HE SPOKE TO THE POLICE?

HE WOULDN'T DOB YOU IN AFTER ALL THIS TIME....

JUST KNOW THAT WHATEVER GOES DOWN, IF YOU STORM OUT, I'M READY TO BRING YOU YOUR **SHOES** LIKE A GOOD BUTLER.

ONE TIME!
I DID THAT **ONE TIME!**

WOULDN'T WANT YOU TO CATCH A **COLD**, M'LUD

CHRIST, I NEEDED THAT!

WELL, YOU HAVE GOLD MEMBERSHIP TO THE TANNER **LAUGHTER THERAPY SPA** NOW.

I ALREADY FEEL HEALTHIER!



IF SHE WANTED YOU TO TALK **SENSE** INTO ME, SHE'S TOO LATE.

I ALREADY SPOKE TO THE POLICE.

TO THE...

...THE HELL?

WAIT, WHAT?

IT'S NOT WHAT YOU'RE THINKING.

LISTEN, CORT, CONNIE DIDN'T LIE ABOUT THAT EARLIER ATTACK ON ROBERTS.

I DON'T UNDER-
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

ROBERTS?
THE DEAD BOY?

ISN'T THIS **GREAT NEWS**?
IT MEANS...

THAT THERE'S A CHANCE I REALLY **DIDN'T** KILL HIM?

YES, THERE'S A CHANCE. I WAS THE ONE WHO ATTACKED HIM EARLIER THAT DAY.

...OH. LESS GREAT THEN.

ALL OF THE THINGS YOU AND IRENA HAD BEEN ACCUSING ME OF...YOU THINK I HADN'T THOUGHT THEM **TOO**?

HADN'T WONDERED IF PRESSING CHARGES BACK THEN COULD HAVE **SAVED** ANDRZEJ'S LIFE?

THOSE MONSTERS **RUINED** ME. AND THEY MAY AS WELL HAVE KILLED OUR FRIEND.

YOU **RAN**?

WHEN I FOUND OUT WHAT HAD HAPPENED TO ANDRZEJ, I FOUND ROBERTS. I...

YOU HIT HIM?

THERE WAS A SCUFFLE. I PUSHED HIM AGAINST A WALL. HE HIT HIS HEAD AND LOOKED SO OUT OF IT, I GOT SCARED.

I RAN.



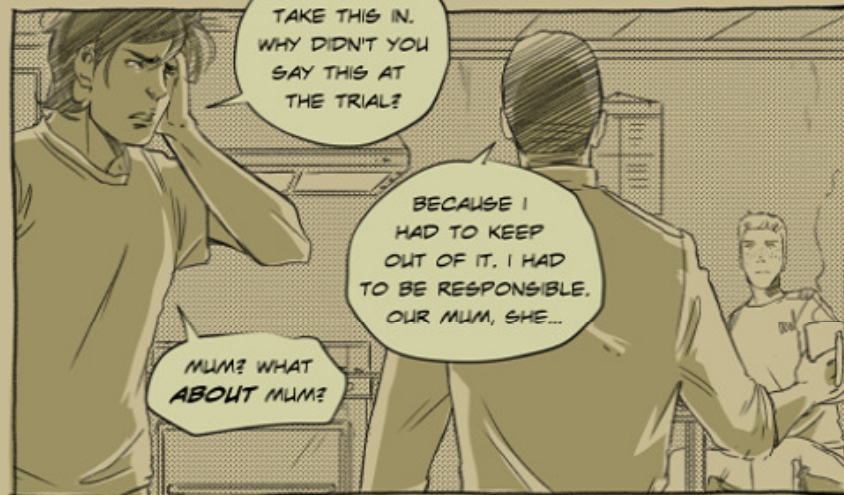
WHAT WAS
I SUPPOSED
TO DO?

KICK HIM?



I TRIED TO
SHIELD YOU
FROM MOST OF
IT. SHE WASN'T WELL.
HADN'T BEEN FOR YEARS.
I KEPT ASKING HER
TO SEEK HELP...

UMM, THANKS
FOR THE TEA...



I CAN'T
TAKE THIS IN.
WHY DIDN'T YOU
SAY THIS AT
THE TRIAL?

BECAUSE I
HAD TO KEEP
OUT OF IT. I HAD
TO BE RESPONSIBLE.
OUR MUM, SHE...

MUM? WHAT
ABOUT MUM?



SHE SAID THAT
THE DOCTORS WOULD
LOCK HER UP AND
TAKE US AWAY.

THAT WE'D GO
INTO THE **SYSTEM**.

I STILL DON'T
GET THIS.
WHY DIDN'T
YOU TELL...



BECAUSE I
WAS THE OLDEST,
OKAY?!

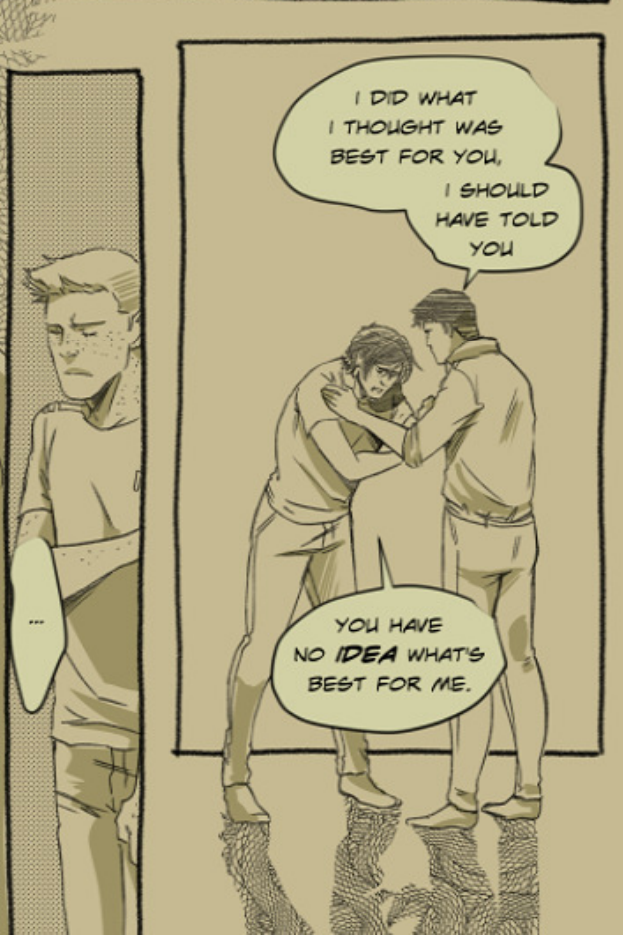
I HAD TO KEEP
IT TOGETHER. I
HAD TO GET A JOB,
KEEP YOU IN **SCHOOL**.
KEEP HER **SAFE**!

AND THEN
SHE TRIED
TO...



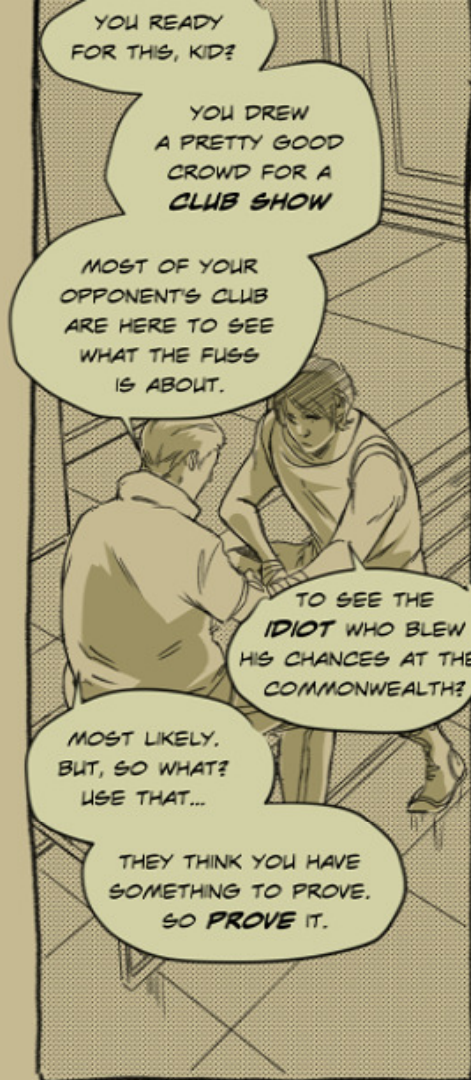
...YEAH.

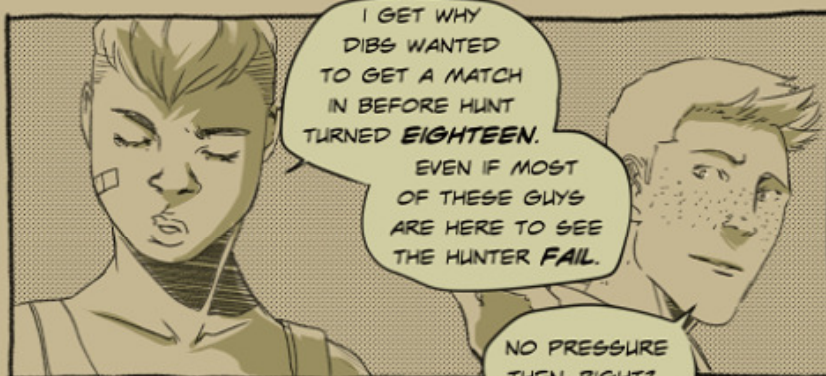
YEAH, SHE
DID.











THIS IS A
CLUB SHOW
MATCH

AIBA CONDITIONS
HAVE BEEN MET
AND AIBA RULES
APPLY.

THIS BOUT
WILL BE THREE
ROUNDS OF
TWO MINUTES.

BOXERS,
TO THE
CENTRE.

RESPECT THE
RING. RESPECT
EACH OTHER.

MOST OF ALL,
RESPECT ME.

TWO JUDGES
IN PLACE.

TIMEKEEPER
READY.

BOX

RIIIIIIIIIING



THIS IS
PRETTY COOL,
AND WAY LESS
SCARY THAN I
THOUGHT IT
WOULD BE.

IN FACT
CORT'S MAINLY JUST
BLOCKING THAT
OTHER GUY..



THIS IS
JUST **ROUND**
ONE.

WHAT DO
YOU MEAN?

RHHHHING



HE'S USING
THIS ROUND TO
GET A MEASURE
OF HIS OPPONENT.
CHECKING HIS **REACH**
AND WEAK SPOTS IN
HIS **GUARD.**

HE'LL WAIT,
WEATHER THE
BLOWS...AND LET
HIS OPPONENT
TIRE.

THEN HE'LL
START TO
HUNT.



YOU SEEM
TO KNOW A
LOT ABOUT IT.

IT WAS...
THIS WAS HOW

RIIIIIIIING

ROUND
TWO!

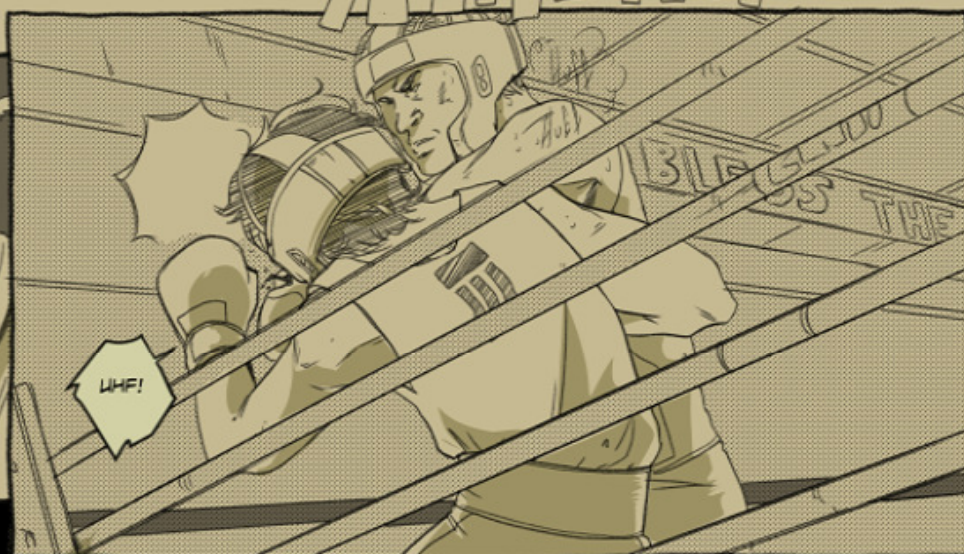


UHN...

RIIIIIING

THAT BRINGS
BACK SOME
MEMORIES...

ROUND
THREE!



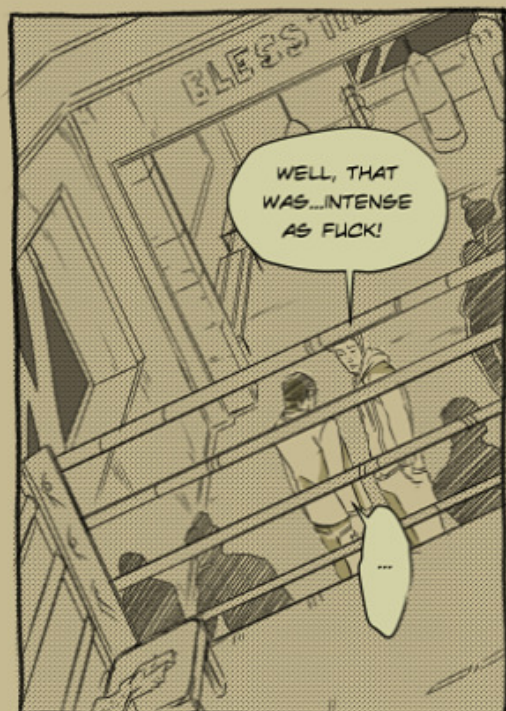
UHF!

ONE
MINUTE
LEFT.









WELL, THAT
WAS...INTENSE
AS FUCK!



YOU
OKAY,
MAN?

...JUST BAD
MEMORIES.

CORT WILL
BE FINE.
HE'S TOUGH.

SO WAS
DAD.

BUT, TO BE
HONEST, I ONLY
CAME HERE TO
TRY TO...



UNDERSTAND
HIM?

NO. HELP HIM
FORGIVE ME.

HUH.



YEAH. THEY
NEVER DO.

I'M SORRY.



SPEAKING
FROM **EXPERIENCE**,
WHEN SOMEONE IN YOUR
FAMILY HAS BEEN **LYING** TO
YOU FOR YEARS, IT'S GONNA
TAKE A LITTLE MORE
TO FIX THINGS.

I DIDN'T
MEAN TO -

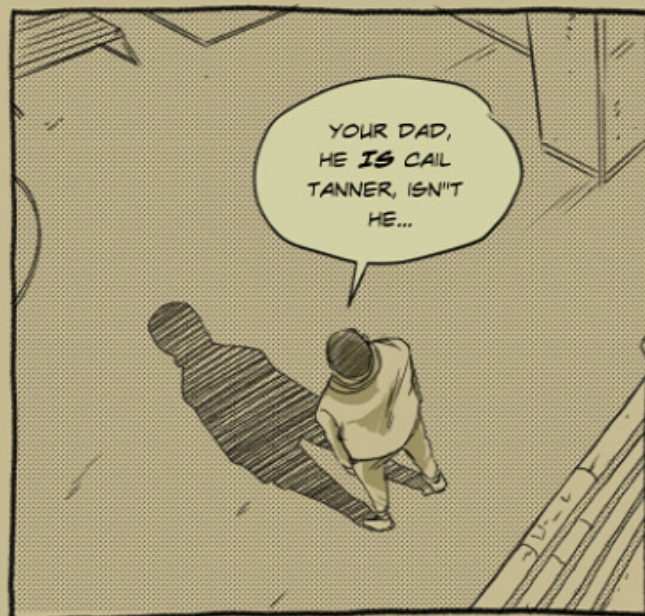
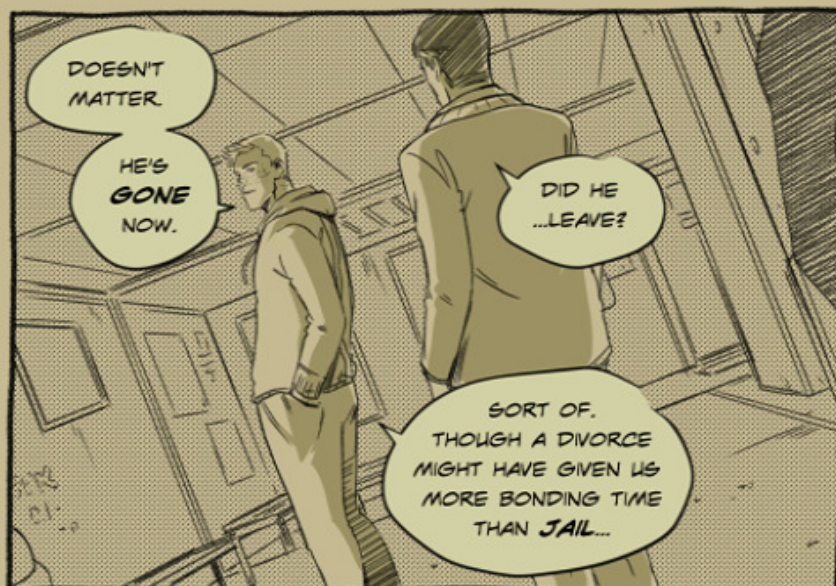


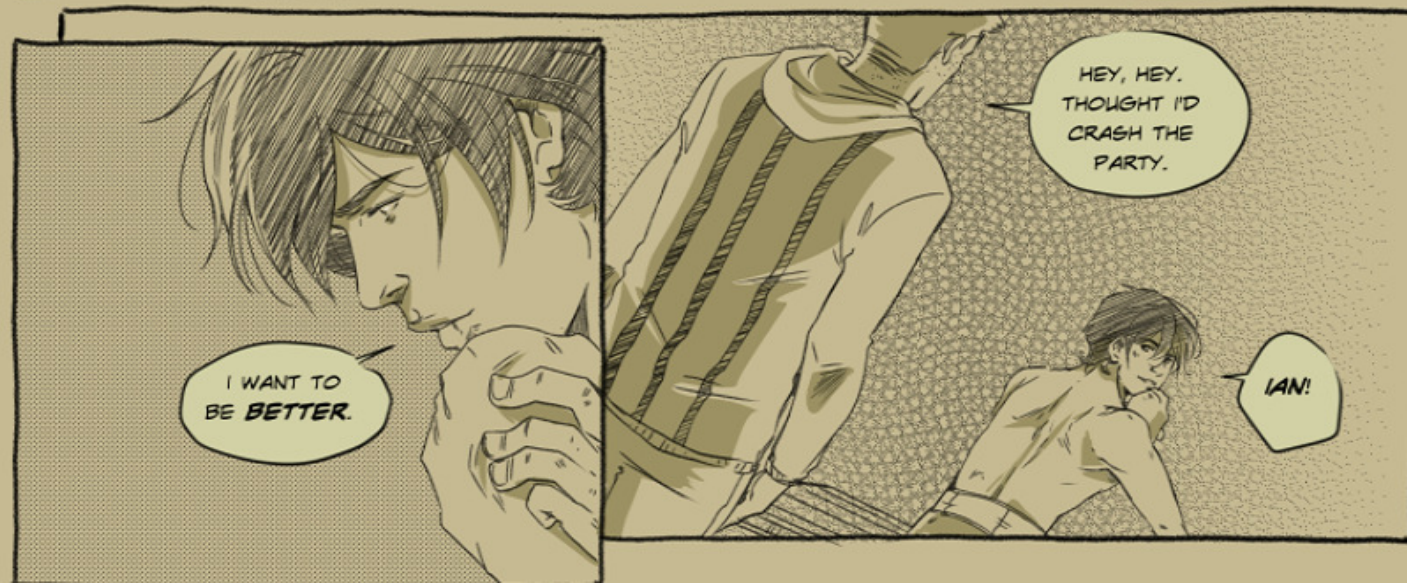
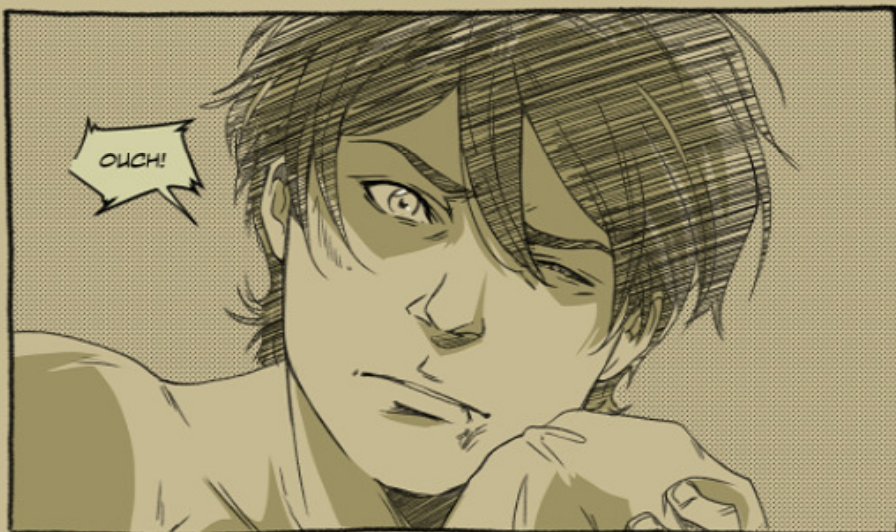
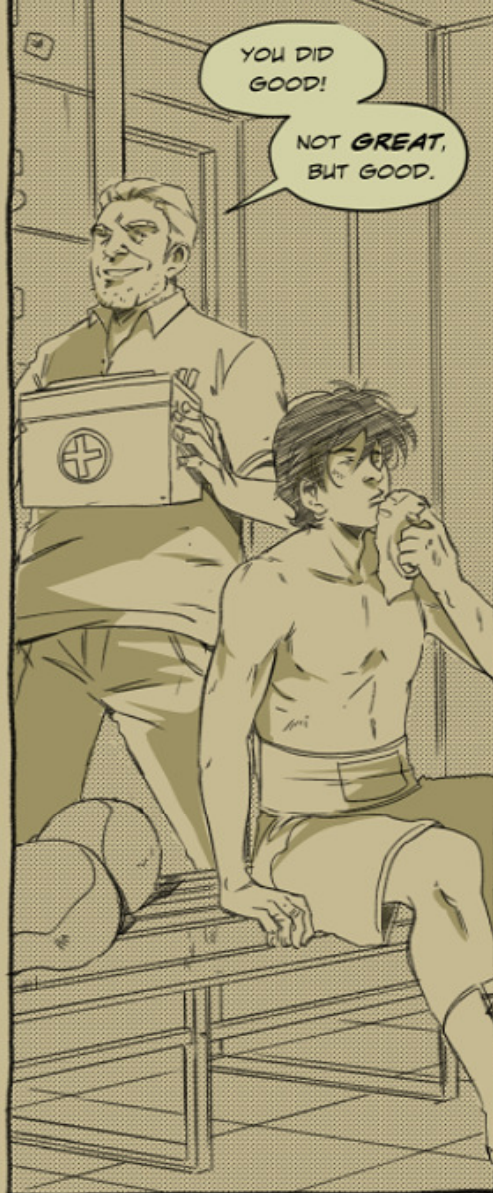
NO...

NO, I'M SORRY.
YOU'RE NOT THE PERSON
I'M PISSED OFF AT. NOT
REALLY. IT'S NOT YOUR
FAULT MY DAD'S AN
ARSEHOLE.



YOUR **DAD**?







BANDAGES,
HUH?

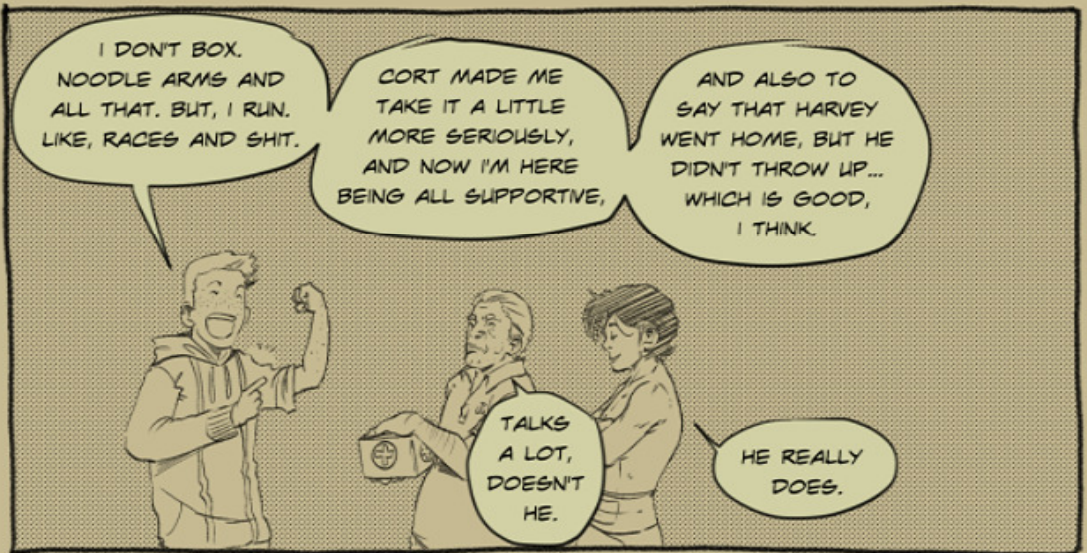
I PREFER
HATS AND
STREAMERS
MYSELF,
BUT...I'M
HAPPY TO EXPERI-



DIBS, MEET
IAN, MY...

OH, HI!
I'M HIS **FRIEND**,
FROM **SCHOOL**!

RIGHT...
FRIEND!



I DON'T BOX.
NOODLE ARMS AND
ALL THAT. BUT, I RUN.
LIKE, RACES AND SHIT.

CORT MADE ME
TAKE IT A LITTLE
MORE SERIOUSLY,
AND NOW I'M HERE
BEING ALL SUPPORTIVE,

AND ALSO TO
SAY THAT HARVEY
WENT HOME, BUT HE
DIDN'T THROW UP...
WHICH IS GOOD,
I THINK.

TALKS
A LOT,
DOESN'T
HE.

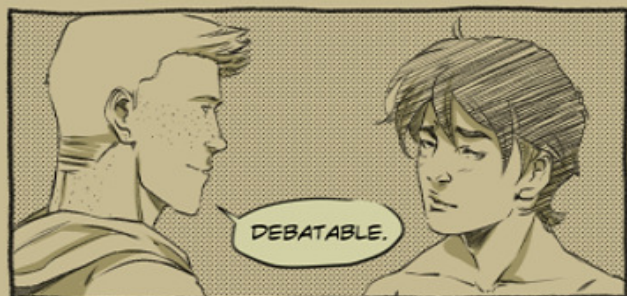
HE REALLY
DOES.



WELL, I'D BETTER
GO CHECK UP ON YOUR
OPPONENT. HOPEFULLY
THERE'S NOTHING WORSE
THAN BRUISED **PRIDE** TO
DEAL WITH THERE.

OUCH,
THE **WORST**
KIND OF
INJURY.

I SHOULD
-UHHH-
GET DRESSED
ANYWAYS.



DEBATABLE.



AND NOW
HE'S GONE,
I GET TO
DO **THIS**.

CAREFUL. I
MIGHT GET
USED TO THIS
AFTER A WIN.



SO...HOW
DOES IT
FEEL?

HONESTLY?
WEIRD.

HUH?

I USED TO
THINK BOXING
WAS SIMPLE.
AT THE END OF IT,
YOU'RE **STANDING**
OR YOU **LOST**.



THREE YEARS
AGO, I WAS THE
ONE LEFT STANDING.
BUT I DIDN'T FEEL
LIKE A WINNER.

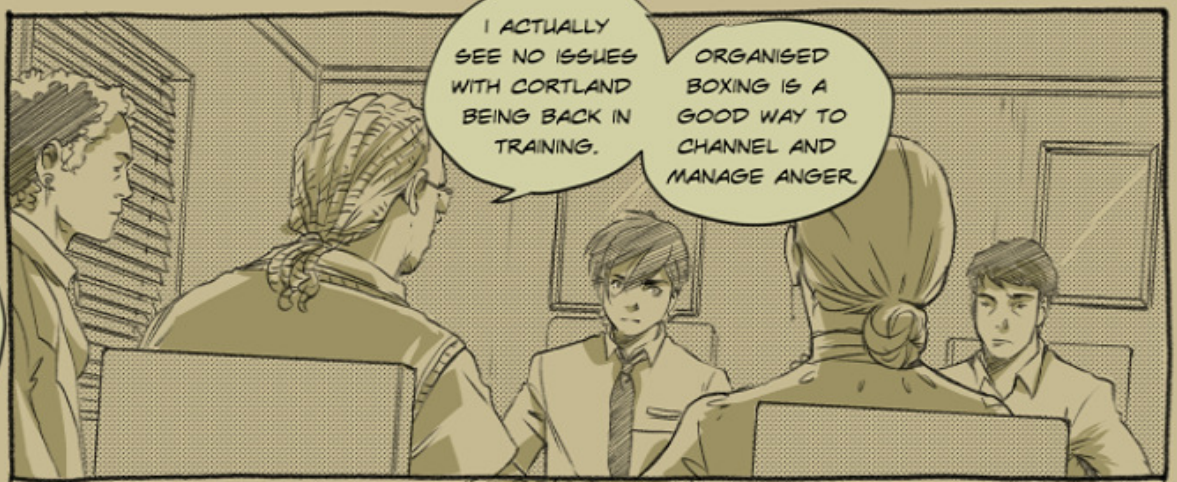
IT'S A
PROCESS.

* \$
9 10
15
18 19 20
23 24 25
28 29 30 31
Carl's 18th





AND
FINALLY,
AS I SAID
BEFORE...



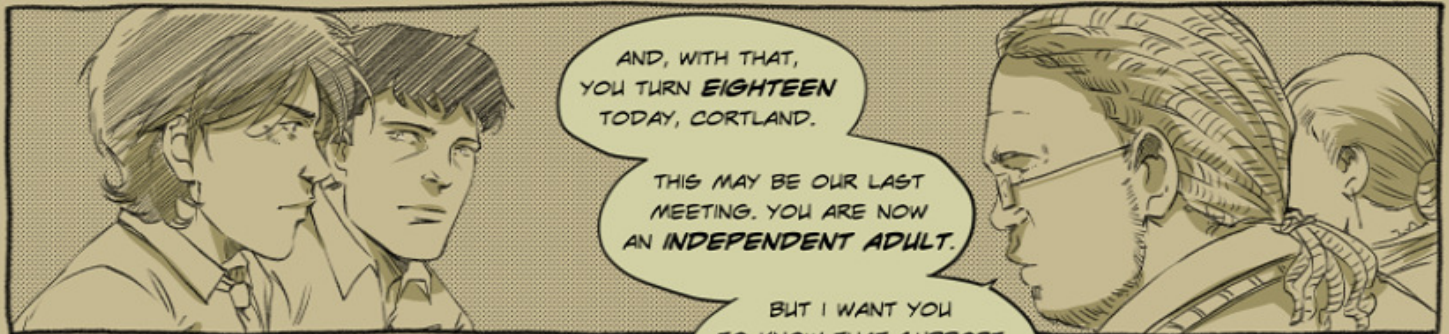
I ACTUALLY
SEE NO ISSUES
WITH CORTLAND
BEING BACK IN
TRAINING.

ORGANISED
BOXING IS A
GOOD WAY TO
CHANNEL AND
MANAGE ANGER.



IT'S GOOD TO
HAVE A GOAL IN LIFE.
BEING A PART OF
SOMETHING.

I'M GLAD YOU
FEEL YOU CAN MOVE
ON WITH YOUR LIFE.



AND, WITH THAT,
YOU TURN **EIGHTEEN**
TODAY, CORTLAND.

THIS MAY BE OUR LAST
MEETING. YOU ARE NOW
AN **INDEPENDENT ADULT**.

BUT I WANT YOU
TO KNOW THAT SUPPORT
IS **AVAILABLE** TO YOU IF
YOU NEED IT.



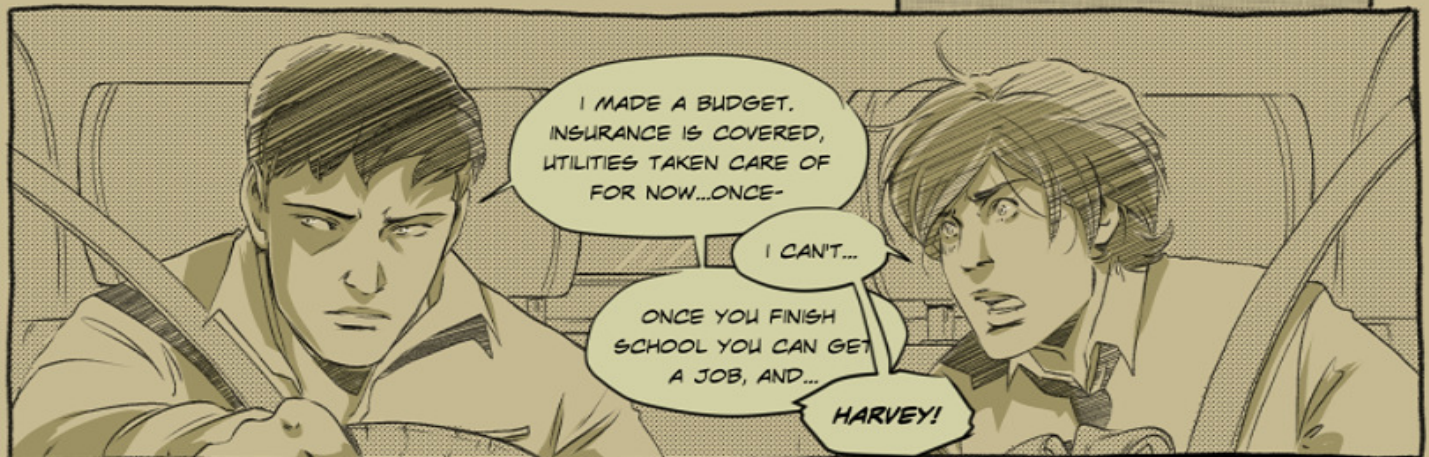
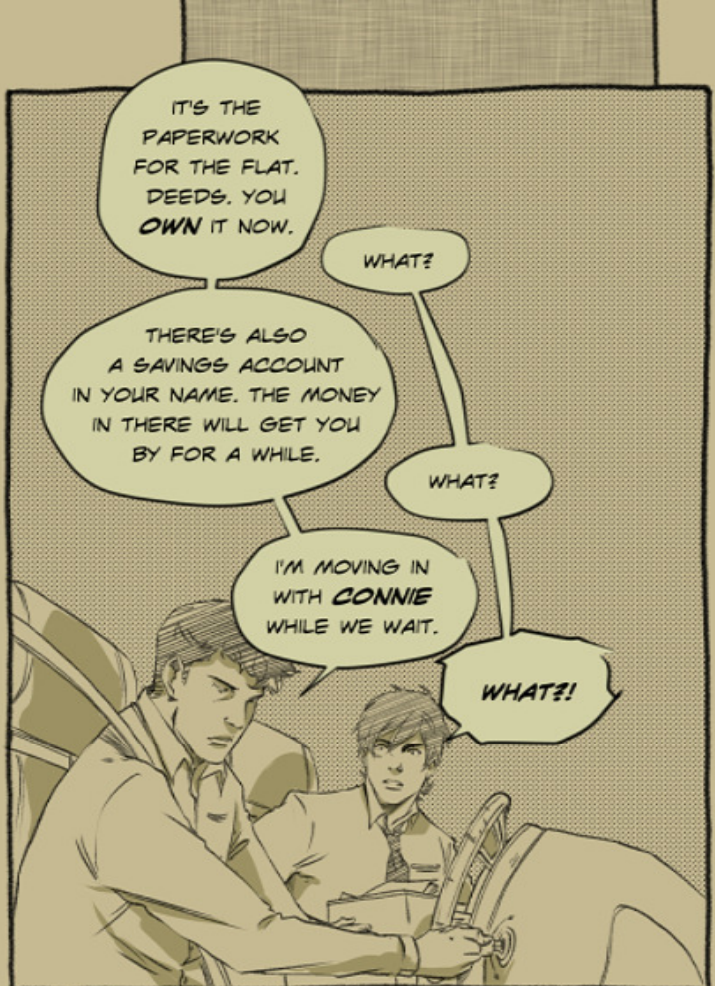
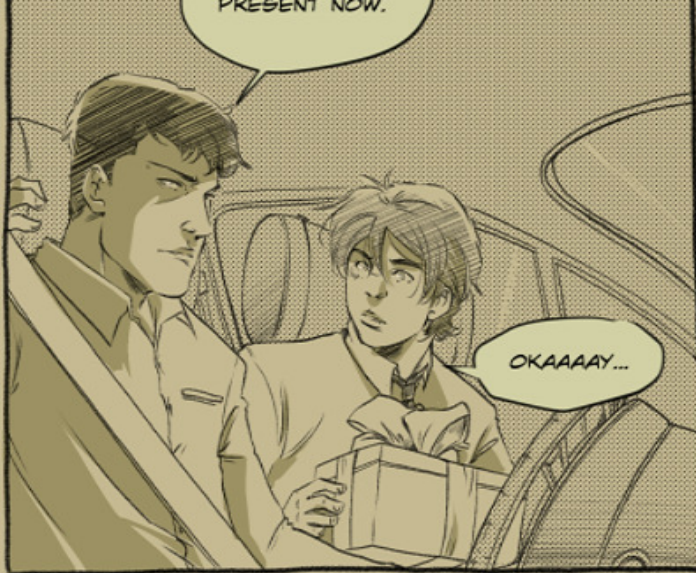
I'M GRATEFUL FOR YOUR
GUIDANCE THE LAST FEW
YEARS, ZANE. I FEEL IN A
BETTER PLACE NOW AND...
WELL I FEEL LIKE I HAVE
A **LOT** OF SUPPORT.

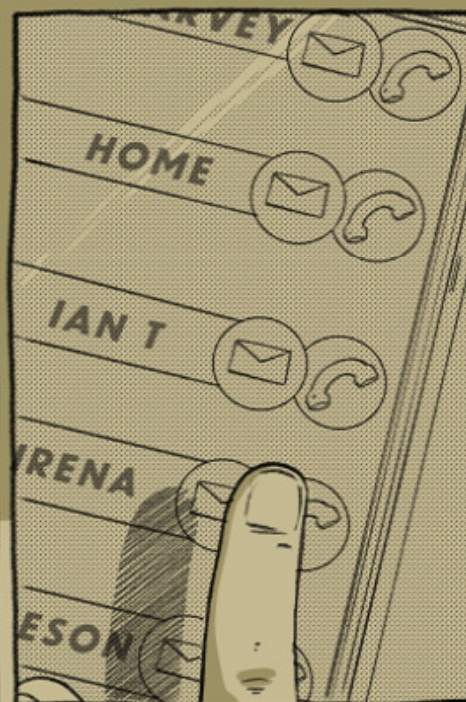


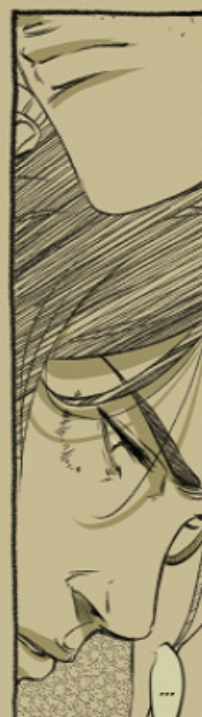
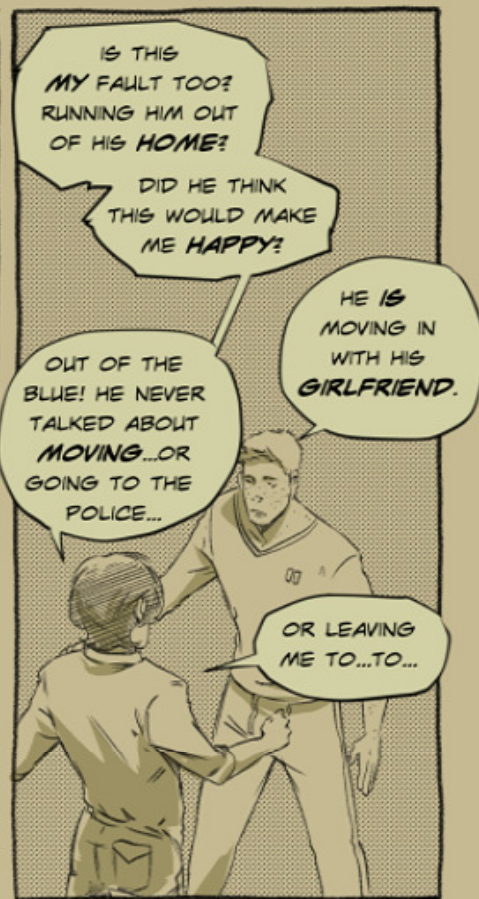
THINGS HAVE
CHANGED RECENTLY.

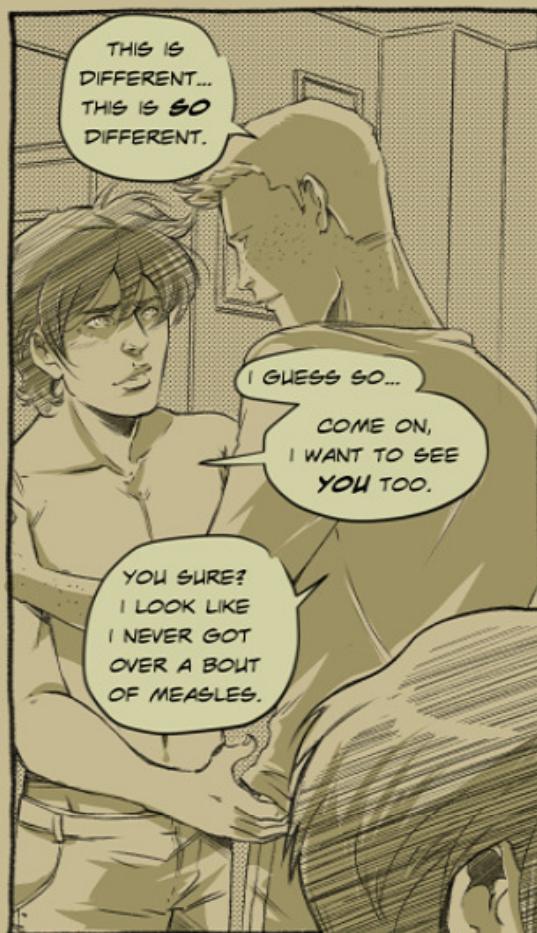
I THINK...

I THINK I'LL
BE **OKAY** NOW.











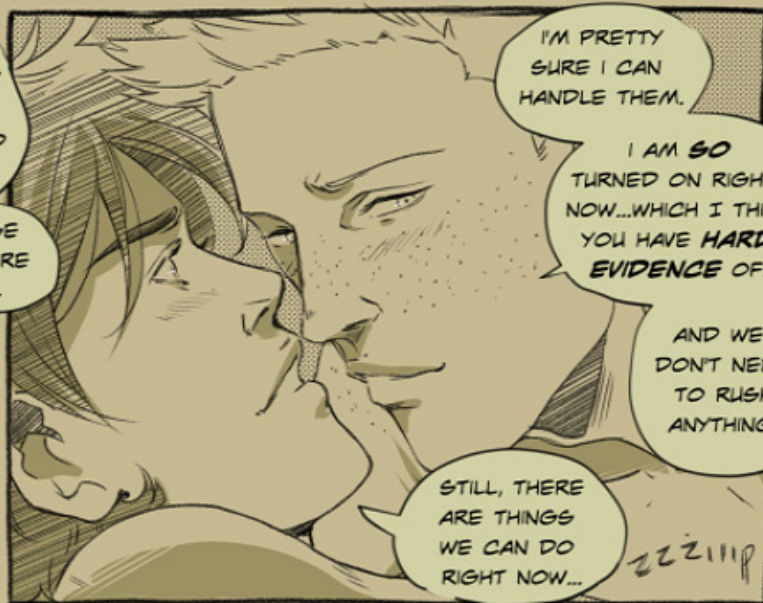
WELL, AS IF I NEEDED ANY REMINDER...YOUR BODY AND MINE HAVE **DEFINITE** SIMILARITIES RIGHT NOW.



I'M...I DON'T THINK I'M READY TO REVEAL ALL JUST YET, BUT...

ARE THOSE SIMILARITIES **OKAY** WITH YOU? ARE YOU HAVING SECOND THOUGHTS?

BECAUSE IF YOU ARE THEN...



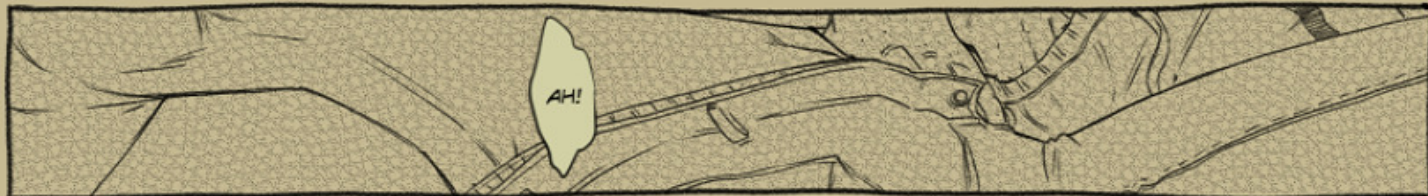
I'M PRETTY SURE I CAN HANDLE THEM.

I AM **SO** TURNED ON RIGHT NOW...WHICH I THINK YOU HAVE **HARD EVIDENCE** OF.

AND WE DON'T NEED TO RUSH ANYTHING.

STILL, THERE ARE THINGS WE CAN DO RIGHT NOW...

zzzzzz



AH!



WHAT ARE YOU...HAAAHN... STARING AT?

I'M TAKING THIS IN.

I FINALLY KNOW HOW TO TAKE **CORTLAND HUNT** DOWN.

SHOULD HAVE TRIED THIS YEARS AGO.



YOU ALWAYS **WERE...**A SMUG...GIT.

ALWAYS UNDERESTIMATED ME TOO...

OH, FUUUUU...



HEY, SLOW
DOWN. IT'S
NOT A **RACE!**

ARE YOU
WORRIED
I'D WIN?



AS IF...

THIS IS THE
KIND OF RACE
THAT PISSES OFF
THE LADIES
THOUGH.



hah
hah

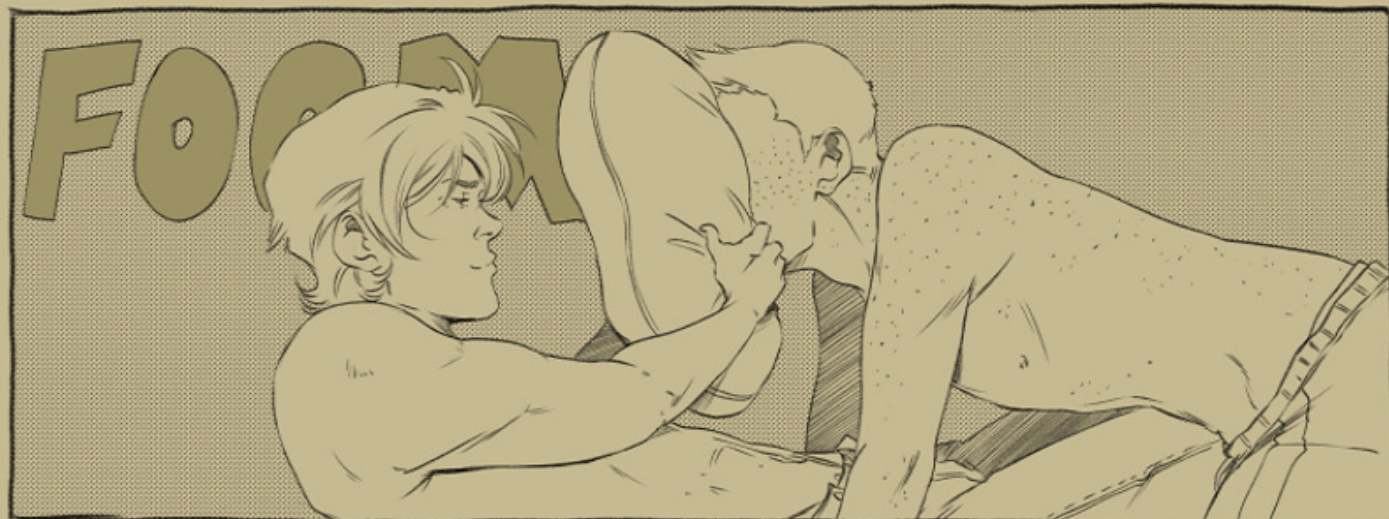
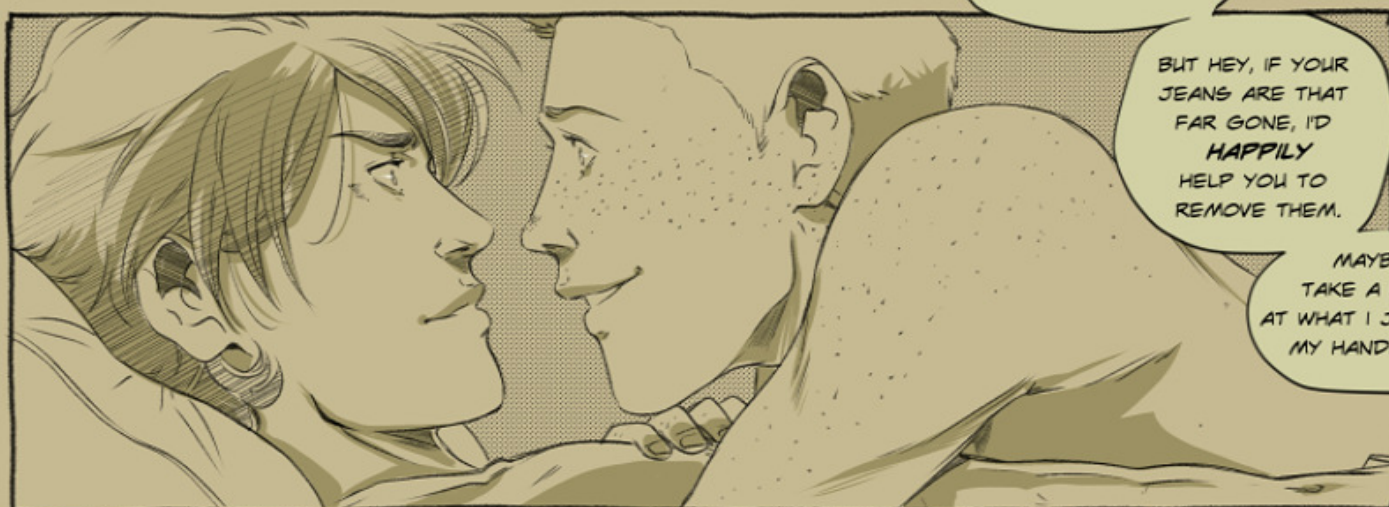
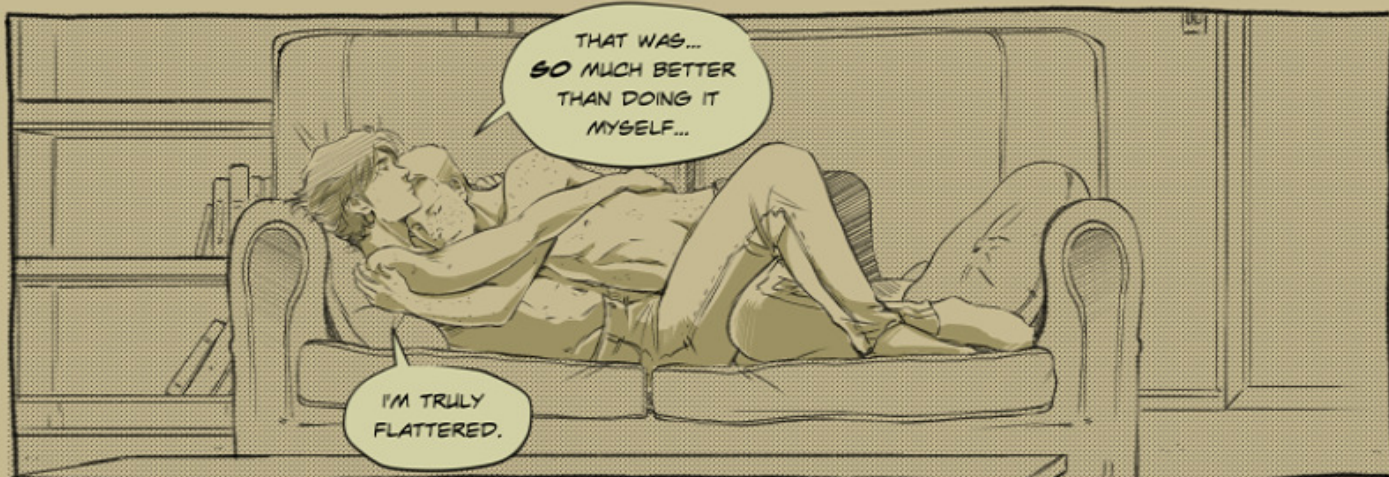


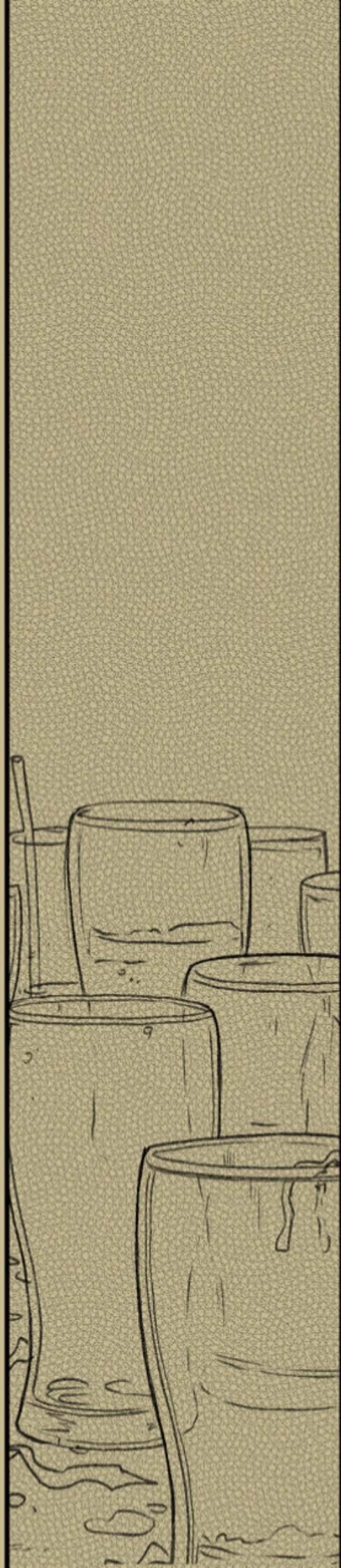
I'M...NOT
A...**LADY.**

TRUST ME,
I KNOW.

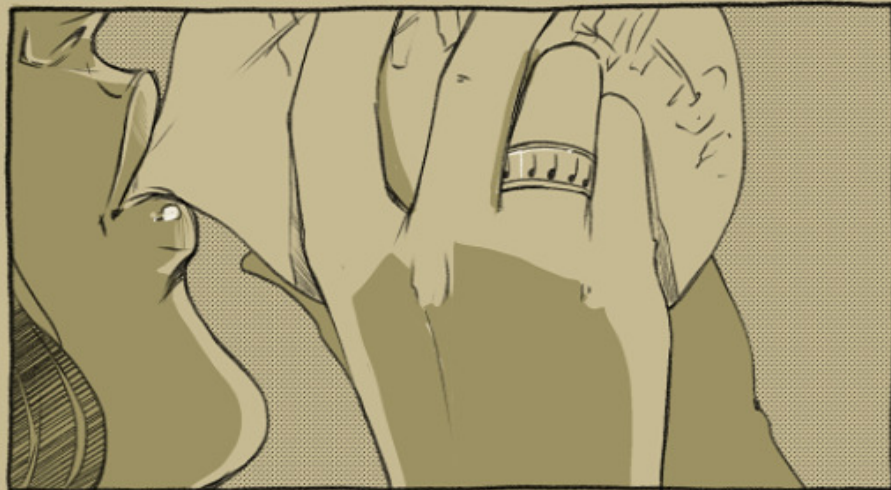
HAAAH...

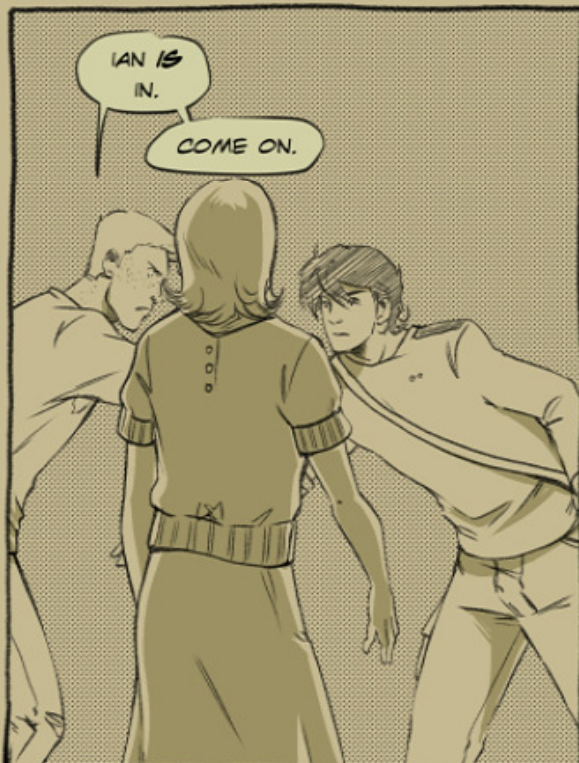




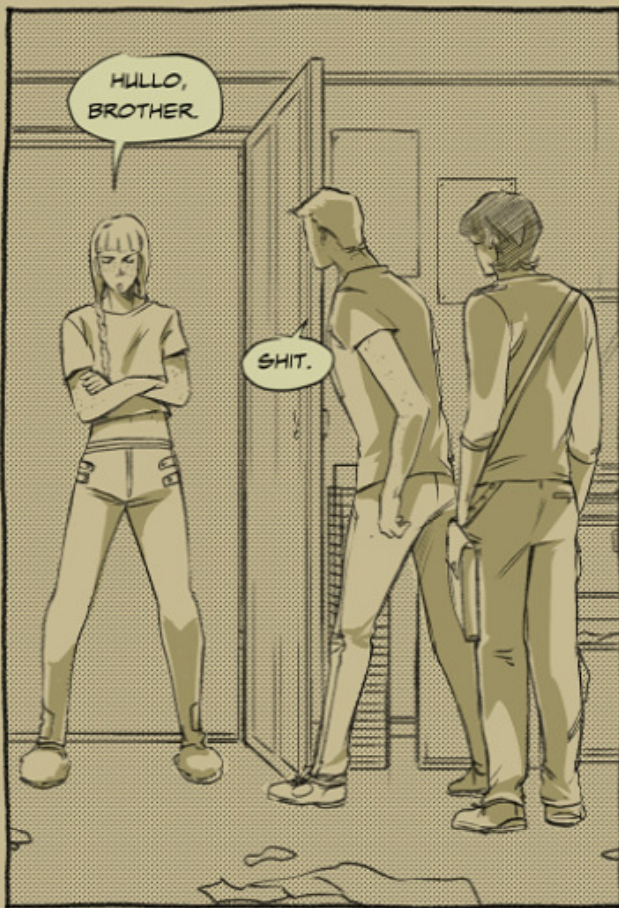


ISSUE 12













BOTH!



ARE
YOU
OKAY?

I...



I'M
ALWAYS
OKAY.

WELL, YOU
DON'T SOUND
LIKE IT.

AND YOU'RE
BEING **WEIRD**.



ARE YOU
IMPLYING I'M
NOT **NORMALLY**
WEIRD?

YOU KNOW
WHAT I MEAN.

BAD WEIRD.



LOOK,
I'M SORRY.

IT'S JUST
FAMILY STUFF.

IT'S NOT
YOUR FAULT
AND I SHOULDN'T
TAKE IT OUT
ON YOU...



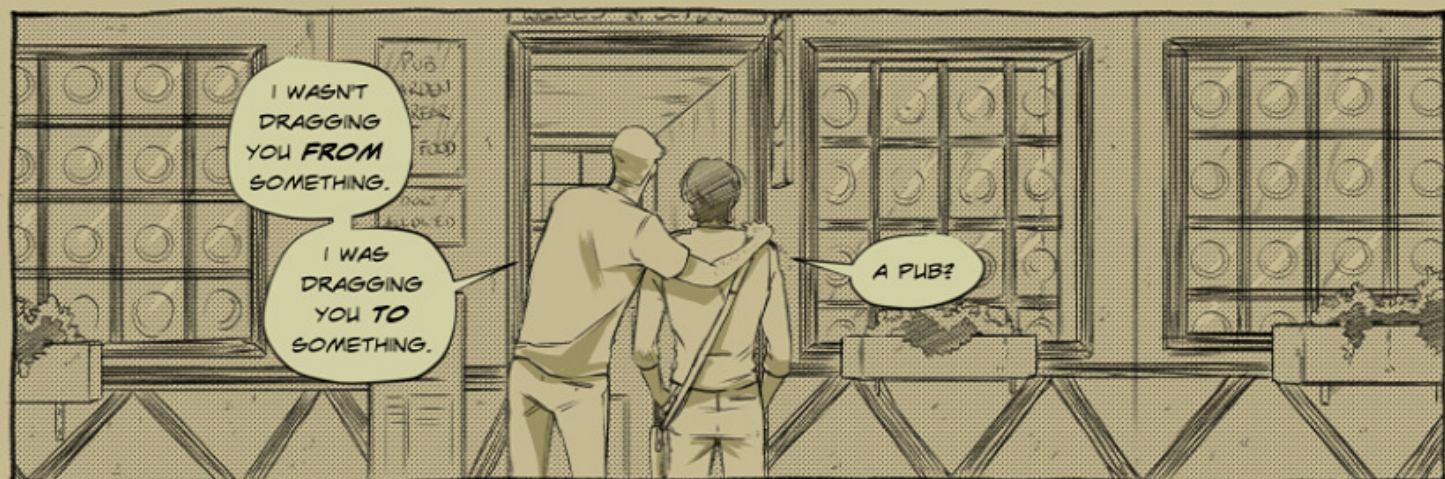
OH, I
DON'T
KNOW.

WOULD
IT HURT
TO TRY?



...

PUBLIC FOOTPATH





YOU TWO
SCARED THE
HELL OUT
OF ME.

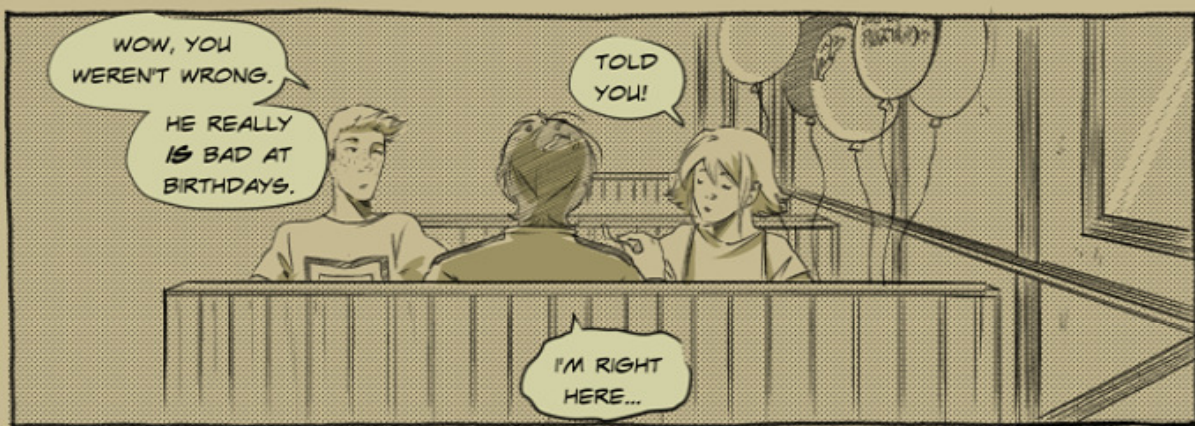


I PLANNED
TO MAKE IT BIGGER,
BUT SHE THREATENED
TO CUT MY **BALLS** OFF.

SO WE
COMPROMISED
WITH **GLITTER**.

AND **BEER**.

I DON'T
EVEN KNOW
HOW TO DEAL
WITH THIS...



WOW, YOU
WEREN'T WRONG.

HE REALLY
IS BAD AT
BIRTHDAYS.

TOLD
YOU!

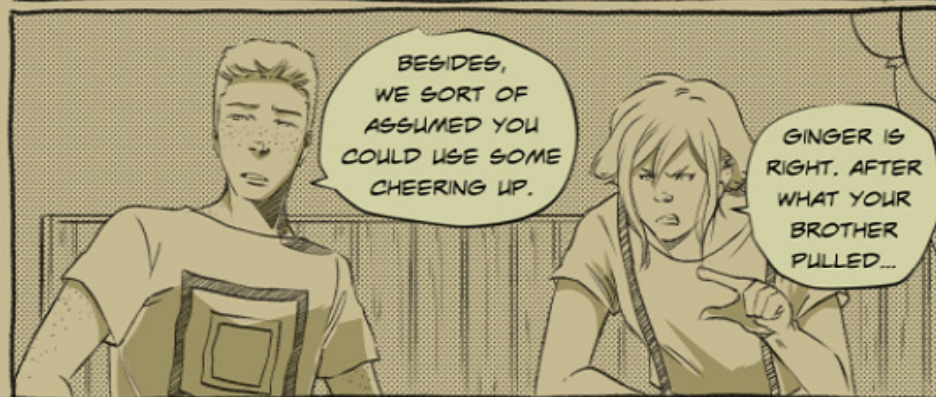
I'M RIGHT
HERE...



AND YOU'RE
MAKING A **MESS**.

IT'S COOL.
THIS IS A
COOL PUB.

MUM KNOWS
THE OWNER.



BESIDES,
WE SORT OF
ASSUMED YOU
COULD USE SOME
CHEERING UP.

GINGER IS
RIGHT. AFTER
WHAT YOUR
BROTHER
PULLED...



I DON'T
WANT TO THINK
ABOUT THAT
RIGHT NOW.

YEAH!
THIS IS A
CELEBRATION!

WITH
PRESENTS,
RIGHT?

YEAH, YEAH
I WRAPPED
THEM.



SO...
YOU GUYS
GAVE ME SNACKS
AND TERRIBLE
BOOZE?

DAMN RIGHT
WE DID.

WELL, I
KIND OF...
THANKS!



I KNOW
YOU DON'T
GO IN FOR THE
SENTIMENTAL
STUFF....I'VE GOT
YOUR BACK.

I'VE NEVER
EVEN DRUNK
TEQUILA.

SCIENTIFIC
NAME: **LOOPY**
JUICE.



EUGH!
GINGER.
GROSS.

AHHH,
DEAL WITH
IT.

MAYBE I
SHOULD OPEN
THE TEQUILA.



HEY, IT
COULD HAVE
BEEN SOCKS.

OR A
TIE.

HOT.



YOU NEED
TO UPGRADE
YOUR GIFT
GAME, IAN.

BEHOLD. **MY**
OFFERING.



HEY, THAT'S...

YEAH, OKAY,
THAT'S ACTUALLY
ENTIRELY TRUE.

I
KNOW
IT.



THANK
...YOU?

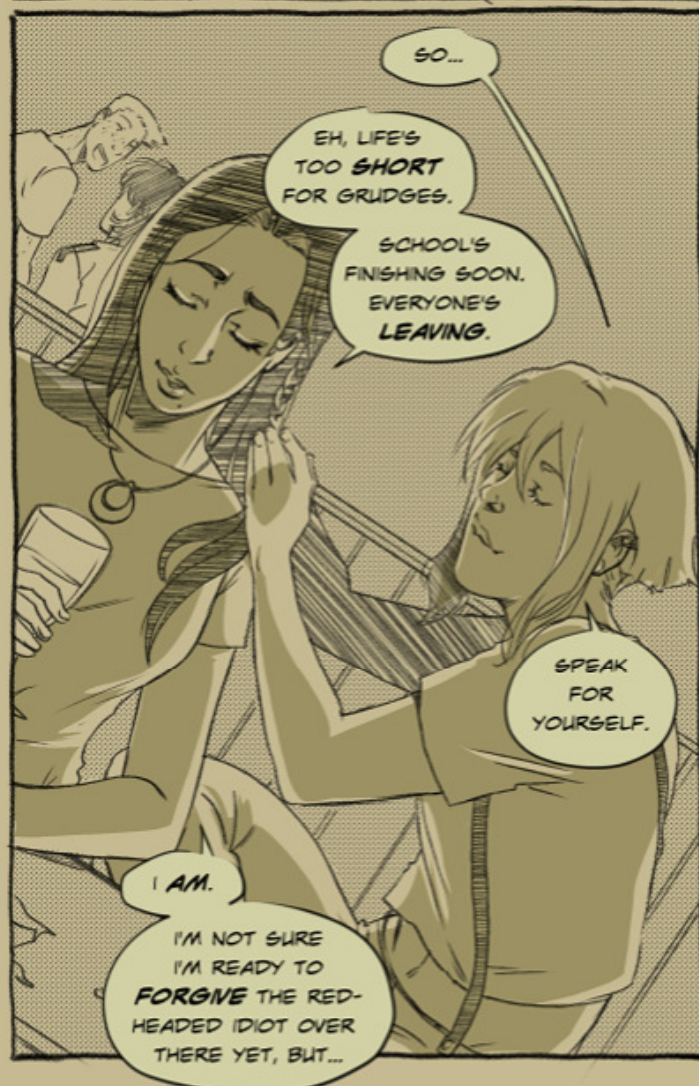
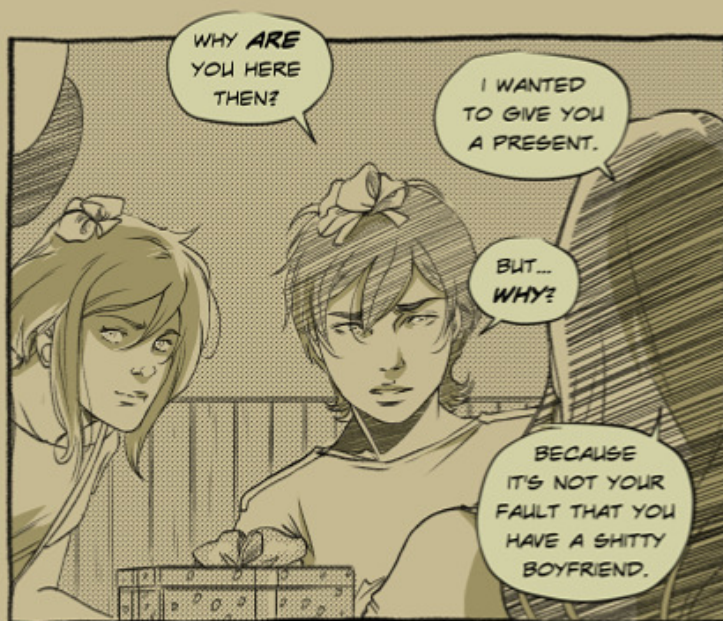
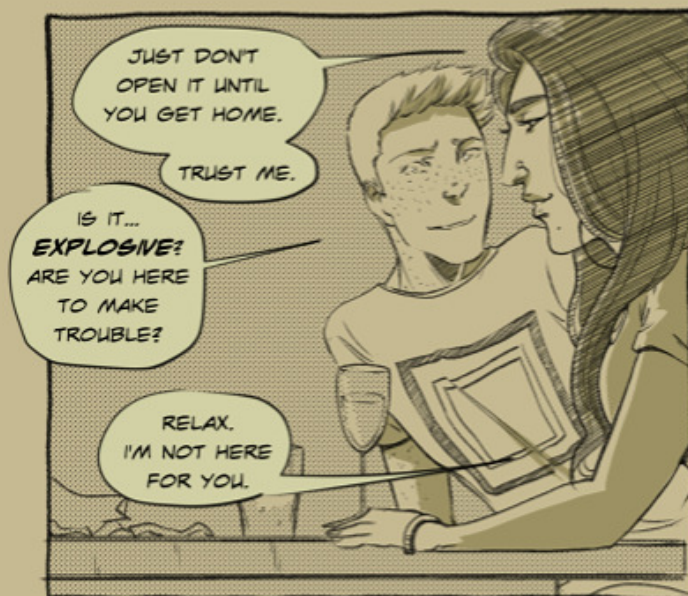
AND, HI.



IT'S GOOD
TO SEE YOU.

HOW DID
YOU EVEN
KNOW ABOUT
THIS?

HAVEN'T
WE ALREADY
ESTABLISHED
THAT YOU CAN'T
KEEP A SECRET
FROM ME?



LATER...

AND THEN
HE THREW UP
ALL OVER
THE RING!

I NEARLY
SLIPPED
IN IT.

EWV,
THAT IS SO
GROSS!

STOP
SQUIRMING,
GINGER.

OR
WHAT?

OR I'LL TIE
THIS AROUND
YOUR **NECK**!

HMM,
YOU'RE GIVING
ME IDEAS.

YOU HAVE
TOO MANY
OF THOSE
ALREADY!

THIS WAS **ONE** OF THEM,
RIGHT? BECAUSE I DIDN'T
TELL HER WE WERE HERE.
EVEN IF I WANTED TO.

HEH. I TALKED
A LITTLE LOOSELY
AROUND **SUNNY**.
I KNEW SHE'D PASS
IT ON.

SURE, BUT
...WHY?

DON'T
YOU GET
IT?

I WANT PEOPLE
TO BE **FRIENDS**.

AND LOOK
AT THEM...

MY PLAN
WORKED
BRILLIANTLY!

YOU'RE
DELUSIONAL.
WHY DO YOU
CARE SO
MUCH?

IT'S ALMOST
ENDEARING.

WELL, NOT
EVERYONE GETS
TO WATCH THEIR
EX AND THEIR **NOW**
CLICK OVER PUKE
STORES.

SO, DID
YOU TIP
HIM OFF
TOO?

UH...
NO.

OH,
HEYYY,
GUYS.

A BIT LATER
THAN THAT...

I THOUGHT
YOU HAD
SOCIAL STUDIES
TODAY.

IT WAS A
FREE STUDY
DAY, WHAT
WITH **EXAMS**
COMING UP.

SO YOU
WERE IN THE
PUB?

WHERE
ELSE?

DID IAN
KNOW YOU'D
BE HERE?

THINK HE
MEANT TO
INVITE YOU?

WHO KNOWS? I
MEAN WE USED
TO COME HERE A
LOT. THE OWNER'S
COOL WITH
MY DAD.

NAH, HE'S
STILL PISSED
THAT I ASKED
HIS LITTLE SISTER
TO DO MY
COURSEWORK.

SUNNY?
JESUS,
SPENCE.

HE'S HOLDING
A GRUDGE LIKE
A TRUE **TANNER**.

YOU WOULDN'T
KNOW ABOUT
GRUDGES
OF COURSE.

YOU TALKING
ABOUT YOU AND ME?
WHAT'S DONE IS DONE.
WE'RE **COOL**.

...**ARE** WE.

I'M NOT
A **TANNER**. I
CAN LET GO
OF A
GRUDGE.

REALLY?
MY ARM
DISAGREES.

WELL, THAT
WAS DIFFERENT.

I THOUGHT
YOU WERE A
PUSHOVER. I
WAS WRONG. I
RE-EVALUATED.

HUH.

COULD YOU
MISS THE
POINT ANY
MORE?

HEY, I WAS
WRONG! I
ADMITTED
THAT.

WHAT DO
YOU WANT ME
TO DO?

SIGH

BE BETTER
IN THE FUTURE,
JUST BE **BETTER**.

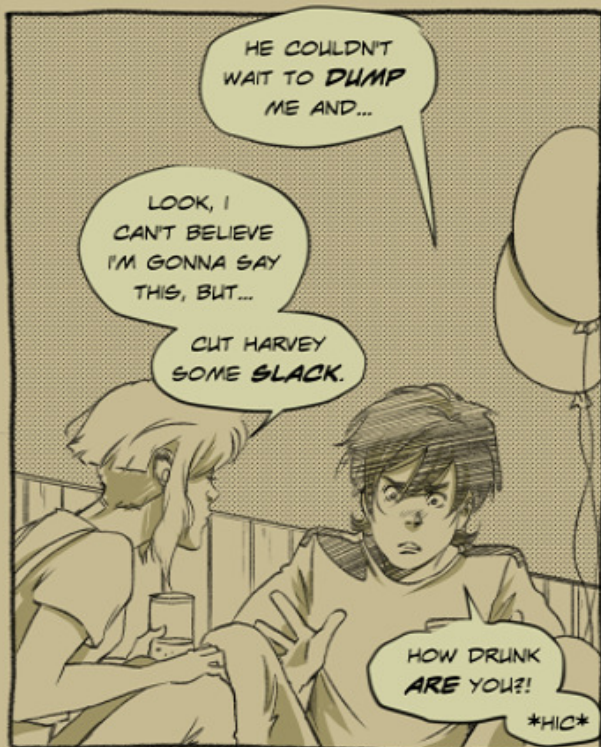


EVEN LATER...

I GUESS
I JUST DIDN'T
KNOW HE HATED
ME SO MUCH...

I DON'T
BLAME HIM,
JUST-

WHAT ARE
YOU TALKING
ABOUT?



HE COULDN'T
WAIT TO **DUMP**
ME AND...

LOOK, I
CAN'T BELIEVE
I'M GONNA SAY
THIS, BUT...

CUT HARVEY
SOME **SLACK**.

HOW DRUNK
ARE YOU?!

HIC



I JUST...

MAYBE I HATE
HIM A LITTLE LESS
NOW THAT I KNOW
THE TRUTH.

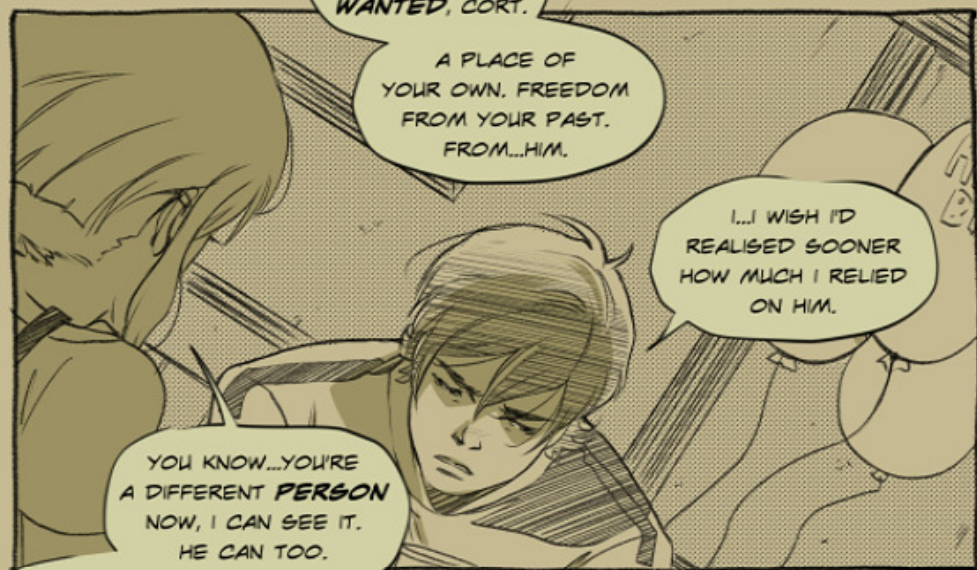
A LITTLE...

AND I
DON'T THINK
HE HATES
YOU.



HE LEFT
ME.

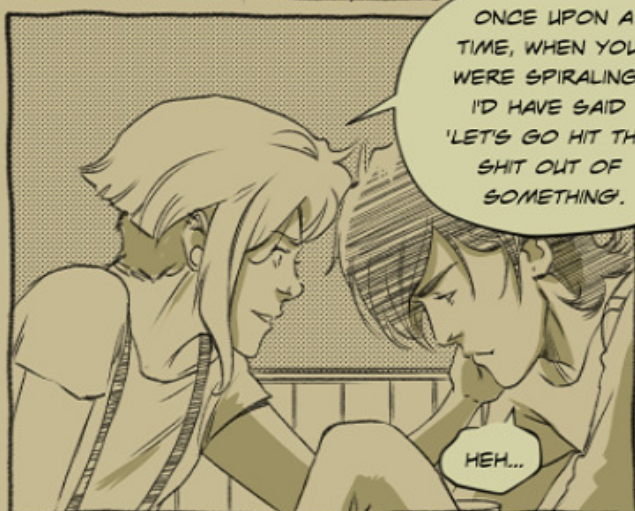
I THINK,
IN HIS EYES,
HE GAVE YOU
EVERYTHING YOU
WANTED, CORT.



A PLACE OF
YOUR OWN. FREEDOM
FROM YOUR PAST.
FROM...HIM.

I...I WISH I'D
REALISED SOONER
HOW MUCH I RELIED
ON HIM.

YOU KNOW...YOU'RE
A DIFFERENT **PERSON**
NOW, I CAN SEE IT.
HE CAN TOO.



ONCE UPON A
TIME, WHEN YOU
WERE SPIRALING,
I'D HAVE SAID
'LET'S GO HIT THE
SHIT OUT OF
SOMETHING.'

HEH...



I DON'T THINK
THAT WOULD CUT IT
ANY MORE.

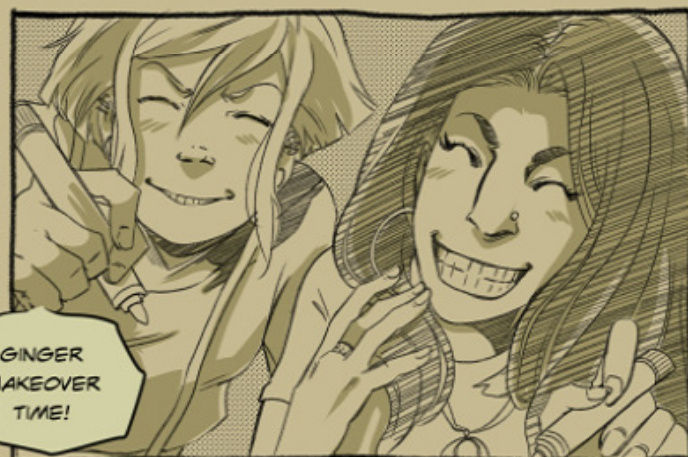
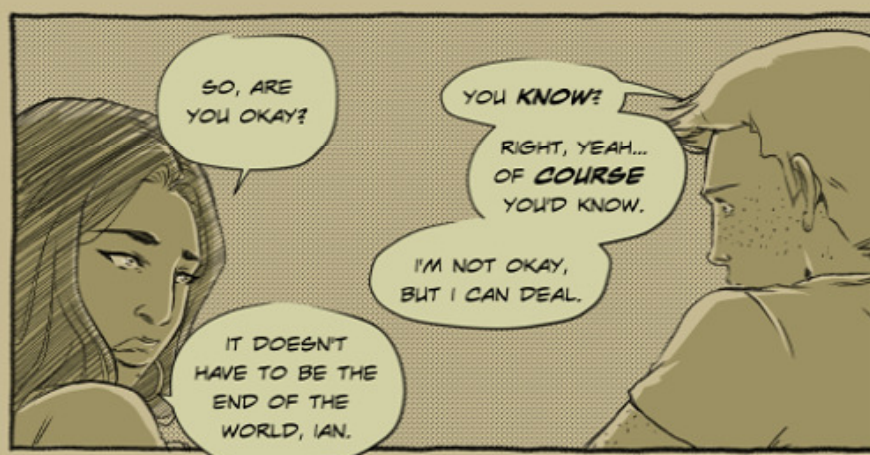
AND, MAYBE
I'M DRUNK, BUT
I THINK THAT IDIOT
OVER THERE IS
PARTLY TO THANK.

YOU'RE OUT
OF LIMBO.
YOUR LIFE HAS
STARTED.

I JUST WISH
I KNEW WHAT TO
DO WITH IT...

HIC





STUPID
O'CLOCK.

YOU SURE
YOU DON'T
WANT ME TO
CARRY THE
PRESENTS...

OR
YOU?

S'OKAY.

I'M FINE
AND YOU
HAVE NOODLE
ARMS.

ONE OF
THESE IS....

HAH!
SCORE!

SHE DIDN'T
HAVE TO
SHARE **ALL**
MY DIRTY
SECRETS...

THERE
WERE A FEW
I DIDN'T NEED
TO HEAR.

THEN
FORGET
THEM.

FOOM

I'M NOT
THAT
DRUNK.

DO I NEED
TO **BRIBE**
YOU?

I'M OKAY
WITH BRIBES.

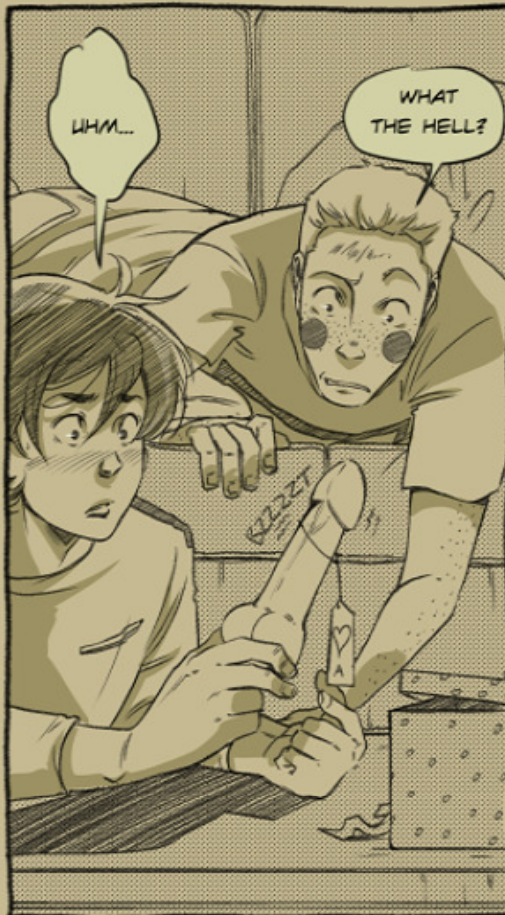
AND DON'T
FORGET TO
WIPE YOUR
FACE. YOU LOOK
RIDICULOUS.

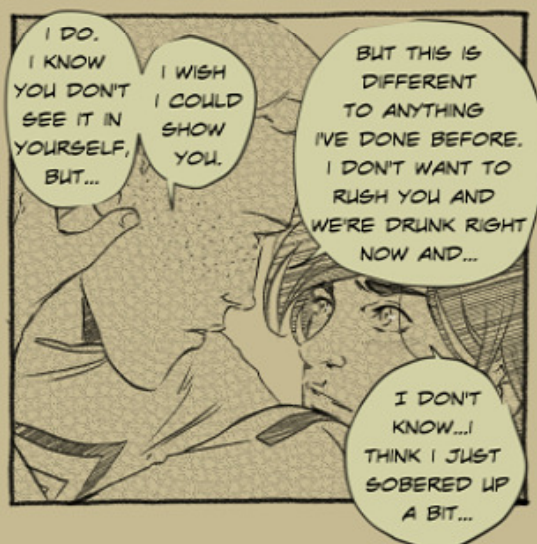
EH,
WHATEVER
IS ON THERE
IS PROBABLY
TRUE.

HAH!

WELL,
AS A MATTER
OF FACT...

I...







SO, YOU'LL TELL ME IF YOU'RE NOT COMFORTABLE, RIGHT?

I MEAN, BEFORE YOU FEEL ANY DESIRE TO HIT ME.

YOU DON'T HAVE TO TAKE IT ALL OFF IF YOU DON'T WANT TO...



I'M FINE, JUST... **NERVOUS?**

IT'S WEIRD, I'VE JUST NEVER BEEN NAKED IN FRONT OF ANYONE BEFORE. NOT, LIKE, BOTTOM HALF.

I GUESS I'LL GET TO KNOW SOMETHING OF YOU THAT IRENA DOESN'T, AT LAST.



I GUESS SO...

STILL SURE?

...YEAH.



DUDE, YOU ALMOST HIT ME IN THE **FACE** WITH THAT THING.

SORRY...

I CAN'T PUT **'DEATH BY DICK'** ON MY GRAVESTONE!



SO...

I'VE NEVER DONE THIS FOR SOMEONE ELSE BEFORE. **OBSOLETE.**

BUT, I KNOW HOW GOOD THEY **FEEL**. I HOPE YOU'RE NOT TOO DRUNK FOR THIS.

JUST DRUNK **ENOUGH**, I THINK.



THEN I HOPE I'M NOT TOO DRUNK TO GIVE THIS A GOOD SHOT.

I GUESS IAN TANNER IS ABOUT TO CROSS THE LINE PROPER INTO...



...HUH

CORT...



I...

YOU OKAY?

IT'S **TOO MUCH**. ISN'T IT... YOU DON'T HAVE TO...

DON'T BE DAFT, IT'S NOT THAT.

IT'S JUST...



SHIT.

WHAT HAPPENED?

NOW YOU **REALLY DO** KNOW SOMETHING RENNIE DOESN'T...



LOOK, I DON'T **DO** IT ANY MORE, OKAY?

DO WHAT?

YOU **SAW** THE SCARS, DIDN'T YOU?



I...
I THOUGHT MAYBE YOU'D BEEN IN AN **ACCIDENT**.



FUCK, THAT WOULD HAVE BEEN A **MUCH BETTER** EXCUSE.

CORT...

HEY...

YOU
MUST
THINK I'M
SUCH A
LOSER.

DONT BE
AN IDIOT.

THE HARDEST
BIT WAS FINDING
SOMEWHERE IT
WOULDN'T SHOW
IN WEIGH-INS.

SO WHY
DID YOU
DO IT?

OKAY?

IS THAT
IT?

SHOULDN'T
IT BE?

I...

IT HELPS...
HELPED.

OKAY.

LOOK, I
CAN EITHER
YELL AT YOU
ABOUT YOUR
LIFE CHOICES

OR I CAN
GIVE YOU A
BLOWJOB.

UHM...

I'LL CHOOSE
THE **BLOWJOB**,
PLEASE.

GOOD
CHOICE.

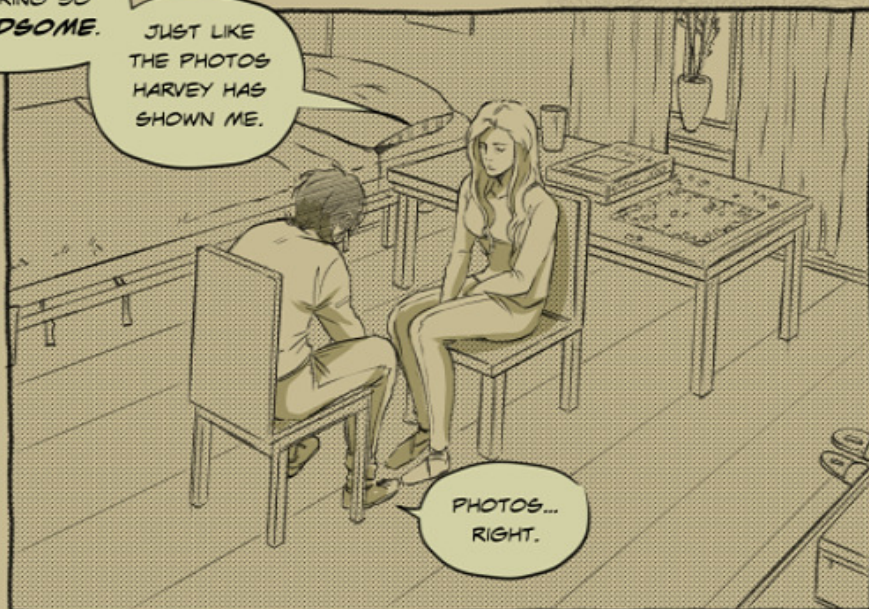
OH
MY...

FUCK

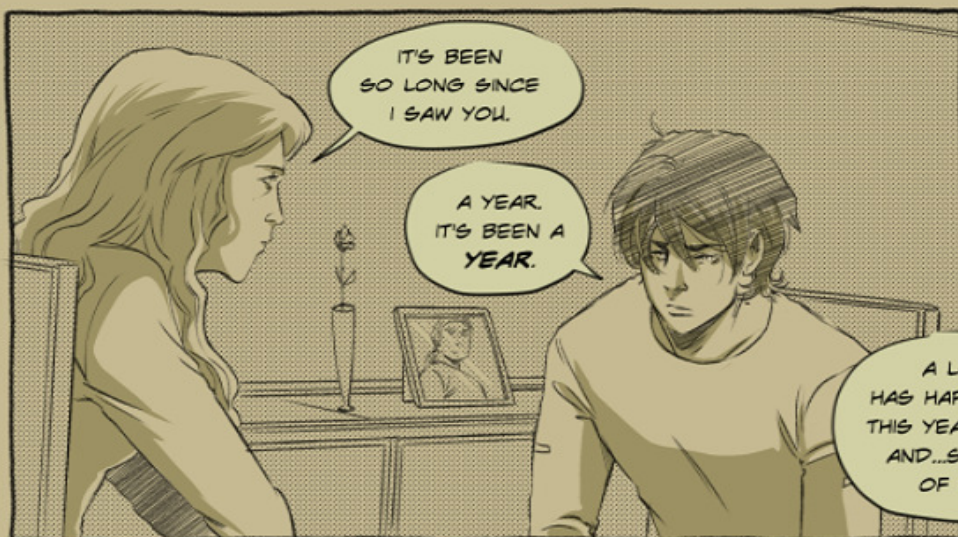


YOU'RE
LOOKING SO
HANDSOME.

JUST LIKE
THE PHOTOS
HARVEY HAS
SHOWN ME.



PHOTOS...
RIGHT.



IT'S BEEN
SO LONG SINCE
I SAW YOU.

A YEAR.
IT'S BEEN A
YEAR.



A LOT
HAS HAPPENED
THIS YEAR, MUM
AND...SOME
OF IT...

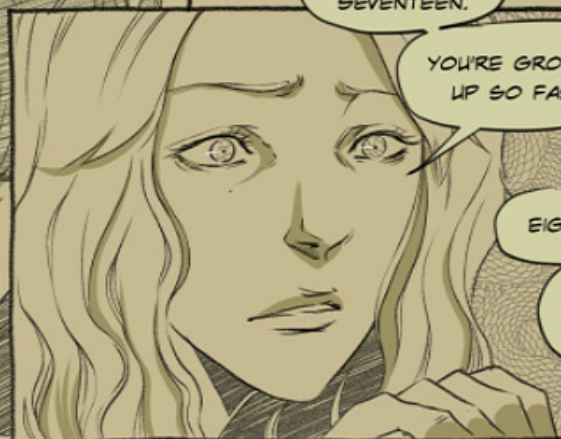


IT HASN'T
ALL BEEN
BAD.

THERE'S
A...



A-AND NOW
YOU'RE
SEVENTEEN.

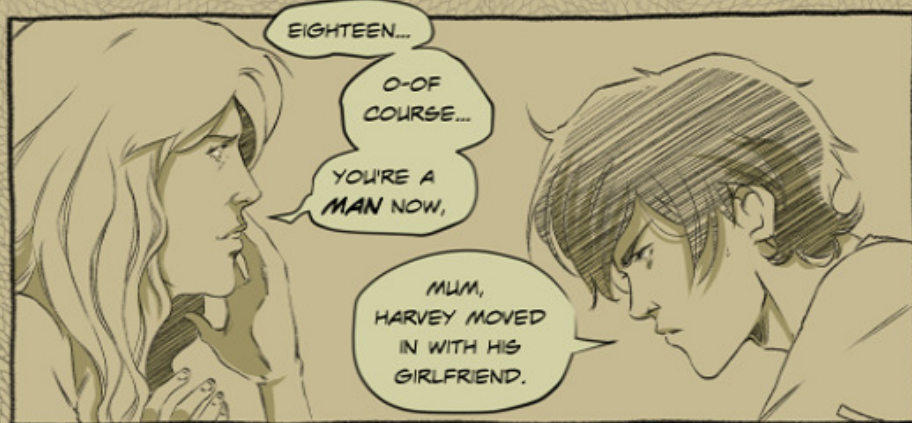


YOU'RE GROWING
UP SO FAST.

EIGHTEEN.

I'M
EIGHTEEN
NOW.





EIGHTEEN...

O-OF
COURSE...

YOU'RE A
MAN NOW,

MUM,
HARVEY MOVED
IN WITH HIS
GIRLFRIEND.

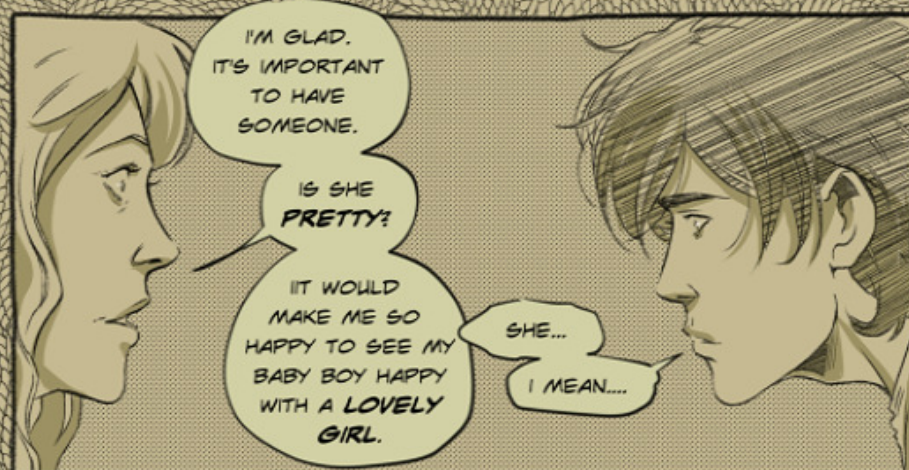


I KNOW.

THAT'S SO
SWEET. HE
TOLD ME THAT
YOU FOUND
SOMEONE
TOO.

I...YEAH,
ACTUALLY..

YEAH.



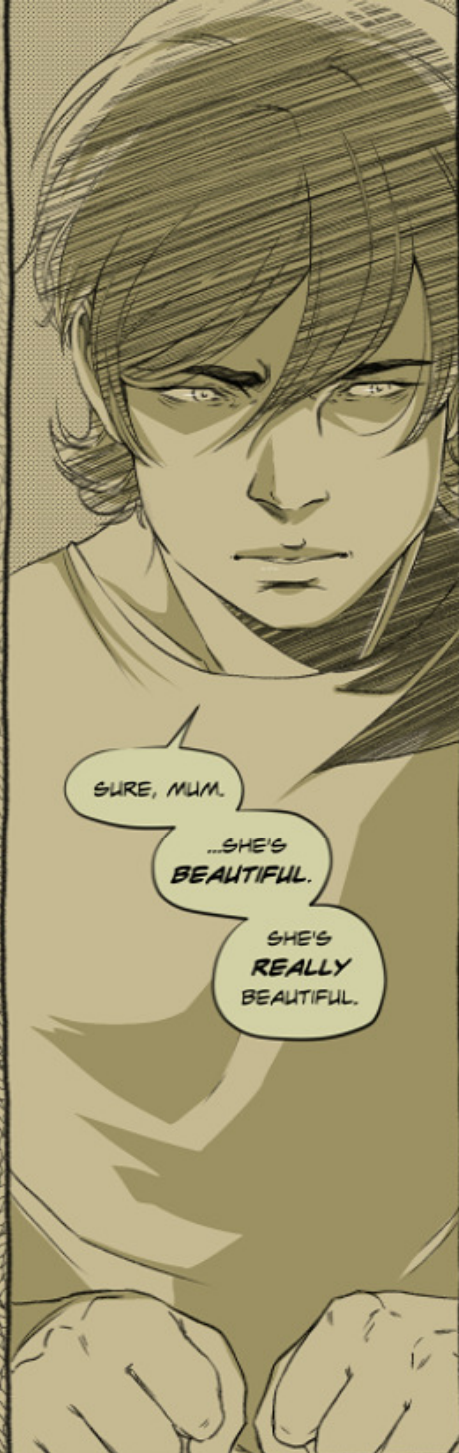
I'M GLAD.
IT'S IMPORTANT
TO HAVE
SOMEONE.

IS SHE
PRETTY?

IT WOULD
MAKE ME SO
HAPPY TO SEE MY
BABY BOY HAPPY
WITH A **LOVELY**
GIRL.

SHE...

I MEAN....



SURE, MUM.

...SHE'S
BEAUTIFUL.

SHE'S
REALLY
BEAUTIFUL.



YOU KNOW
YOUR FATHER
WAS VERY
HANDSOME...

UNTIL THEY
TOOK HIM.

MUM...YOU'RE
HURTING MY
HAND.



I DON'T
WANT THEM TO
TAKE YOU TOO.

YOU'RE MY
LITTLE BABY.

MUM...

MY **HAND.**
YOU'RE...

I CAN'T
DO THIS.
I'M SORRY.

I'M **SO**
SORRY.



JESUS
FUCK, CORT.

YOU WERE
FASTER THAN
I THOUGHT
YOU'D BE.

ARE YOU
OKAY?



NO.

NOT
REALLY.

SHE...

HEY YOU
DON'T HAVE TO
TALK ABOUT IT.

NOT IF YOU
DON'T WANT
TO. YOU *KNOW*
THAT.



THANKS...!
DON'T EVEN
KNOW THAT I
COULD.

YOU KNOW
I'M HERE FOR
YOU THOUGH,
RIGHT?

...NOT JUST
BECAUSE WE
DITCHED OPEN
STUDY PERIOD
JUST BEFORE
FINAL EXAMS
FOR THIS.



I'M GONNA
HAVE TO GET
A JOB,
AREN'T I.

YOU AND
ME BOTH.



IAN, I...
I COULDN'T
TELL HER.

IT'S FINE.
THERE'S
NO RUSH.

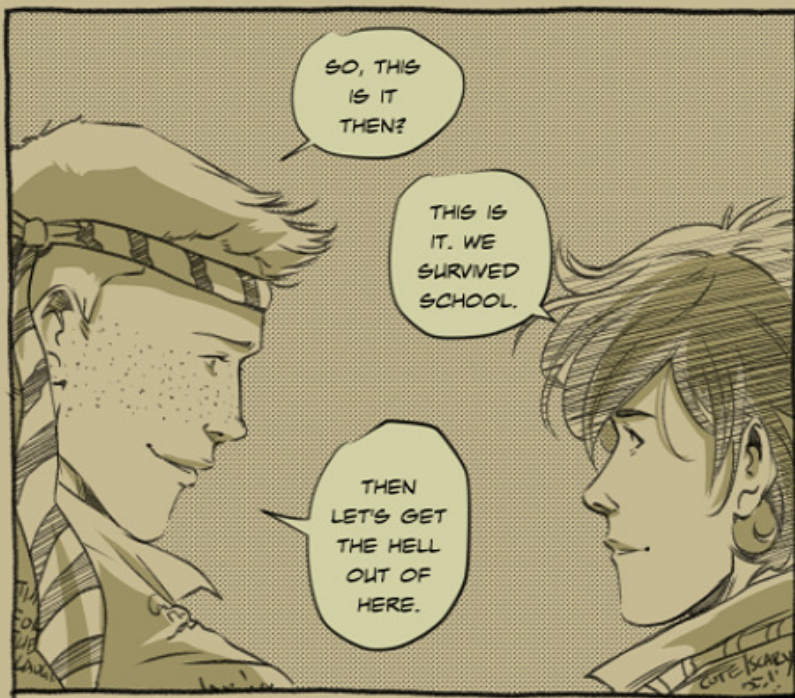


WANNA
GO *HOM*E?

I KIND
OF LIKE IT
WHEN YOU SAY
IT LIKE THAT.

CAREFUL,
I MAY MAKE
IT OFFICIAL.

A large crowd of students in school uniforms running out of a school building. The students are diverse in age and appearance, all looking towards the right. The building has a grid-like facade with many windows.



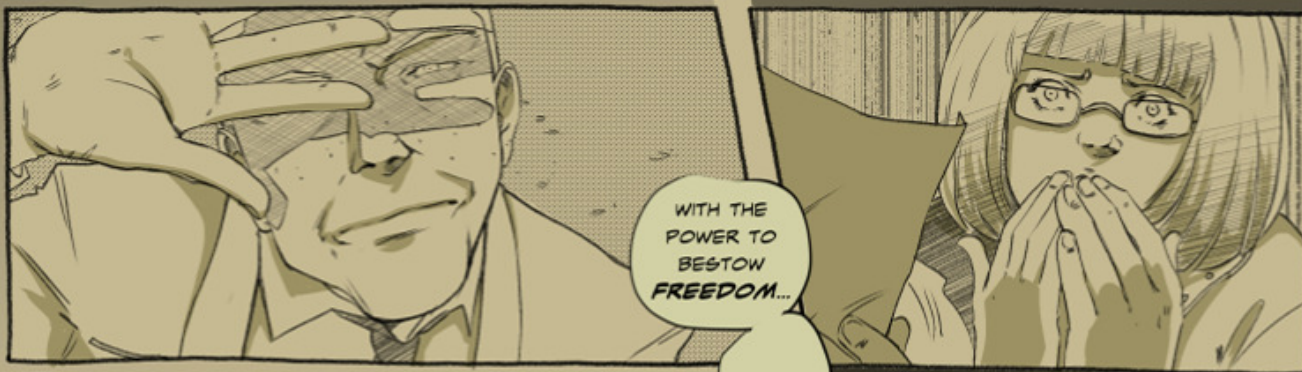


THIS IS IT...

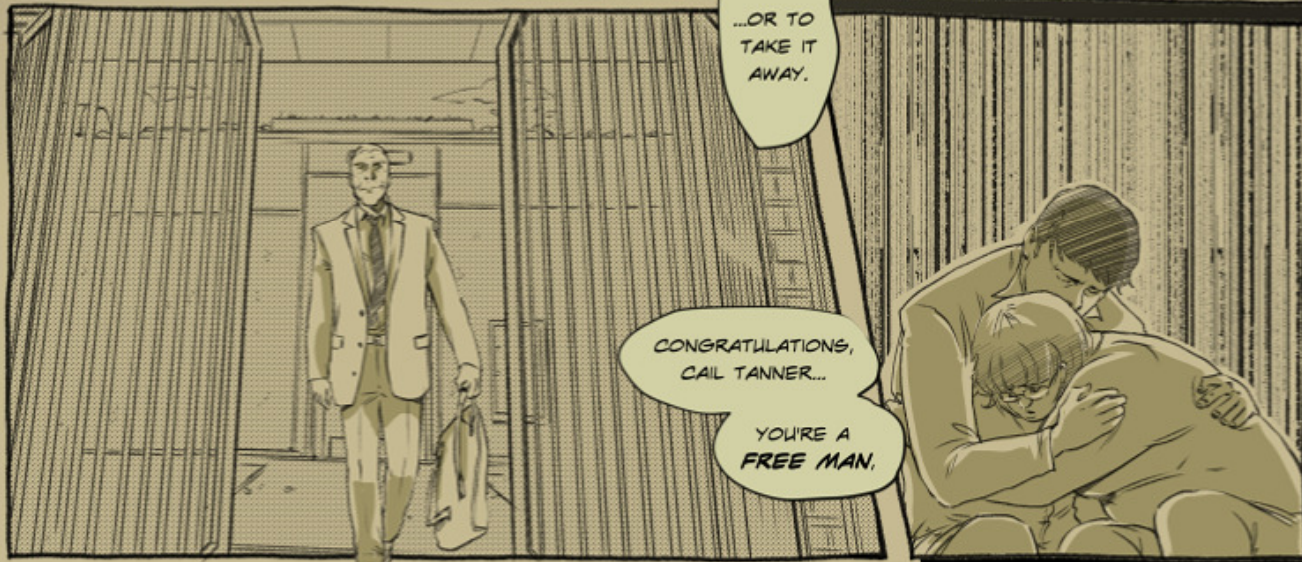
ONE PIECE OF PAPER...



HEAVY ENOUGH TO TIP JUSTICE'S SCALES.



WITH THE POWER TO BESTOW **FREEDOM**...



...OR TO TAKE IT AWAY.

CONGRATULATIONS, CAIL TANNER...
YOU'RE A **FREE MAN**.

"you can stand under my..."



NAB KISS > <

BREAKS Q & A NO. 1

SO - UH, WE'VE BEEN ASKED TO INTRODUCE THE FIRST EVER BREAKS Q&A WHERE WE...

OOOH ARE WE DONE THIS NOW? IT'S ONLY TAKEN THREE YEARS ANYHET!

APPARENTLY MY CONTRACT SAYS I HAVE TO, SO...YEAH, I GUESS.

DO YOU HAVE BURNING QUESTIONS FOR ME? WANNA KNOW MY DEEPEST, DARKEST SECRETS?

WANNA KNOW CORTLAND'S?

I STILL HAVE THE RIGHT TO REFUSE SOME QUESTIONS, YOU KNOW.

MAYBE YOU JUST WANNA WATCH US DANCE FOR A BIT?

OR LEARN MORE ABOUT THE DAY HE SHOT HIS SHOWER SCENE?

BECAUSE I WAS TOTALLY ON SET AND AFTERWARDS WE-

NOBODY WANTS TO KNOW ABOUT THAT, UH, JEEZ.

OKAY SO, HOW HEARD 'M. SDA TIME ID!

"I'M NOT SOMEONE YOU WANT TO BE WITH"



"You're out of limbo...
your life has started."



naniiebim

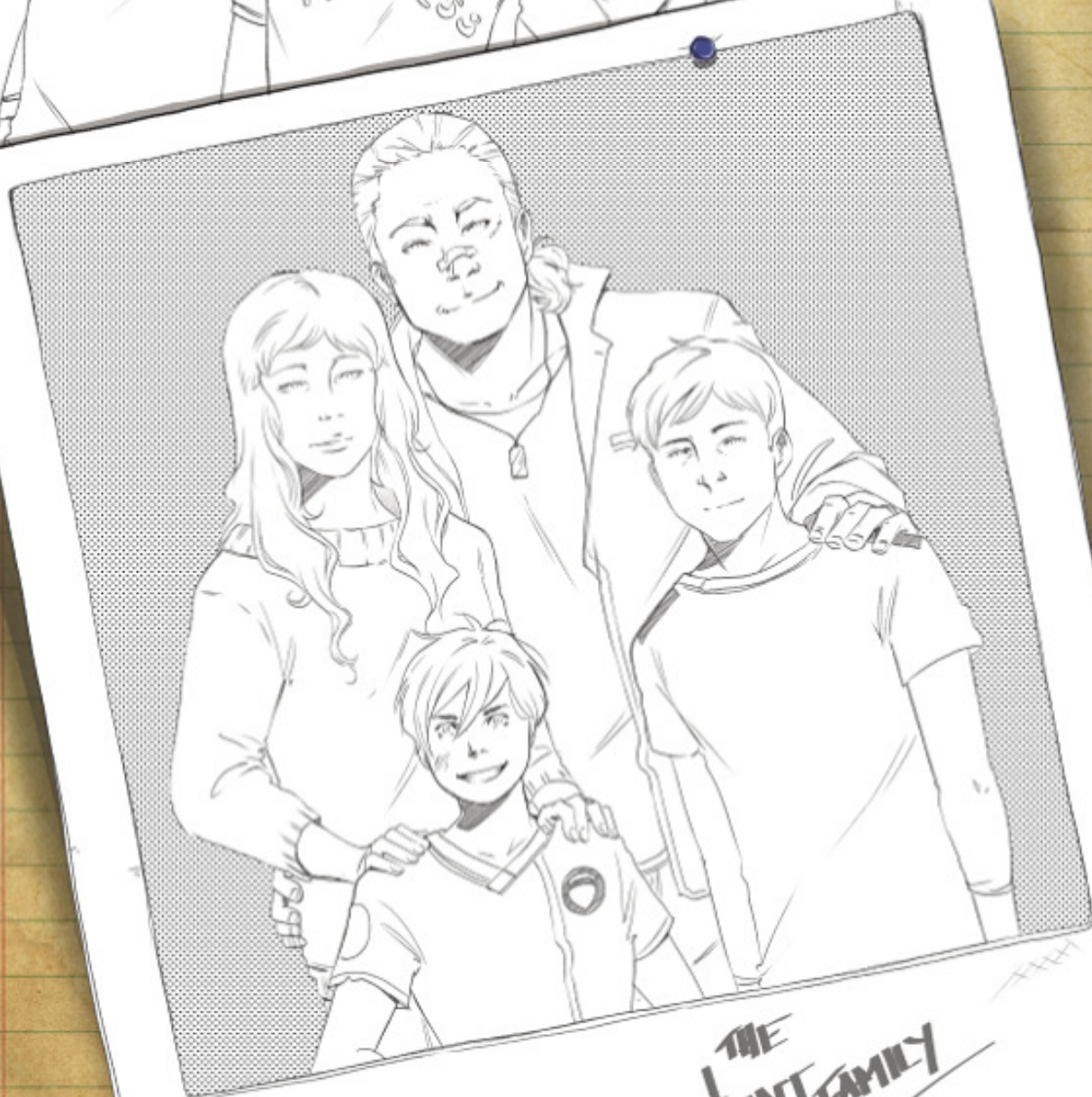




THE TANNERS



ARGH!!

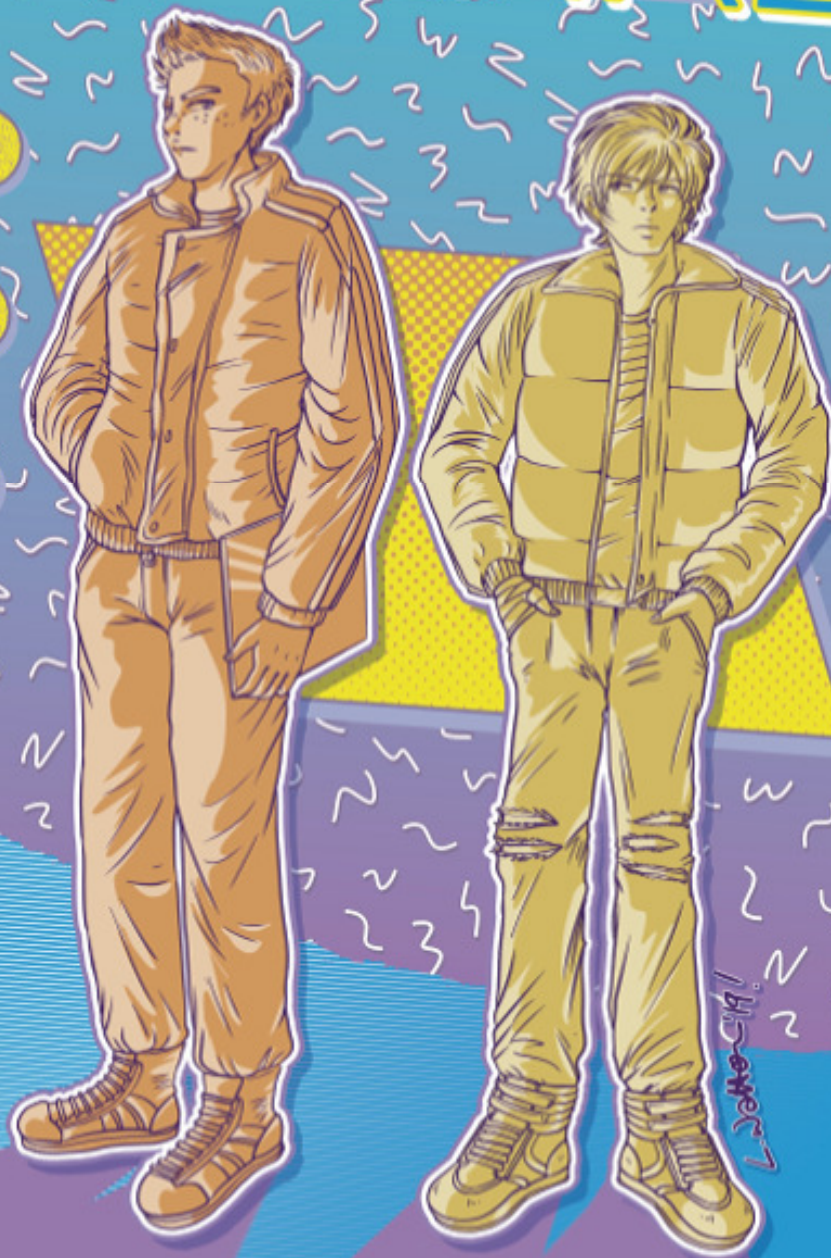


THE HUNT FAMILY

Laura Watton
pinkapplejam.com



BREAKS

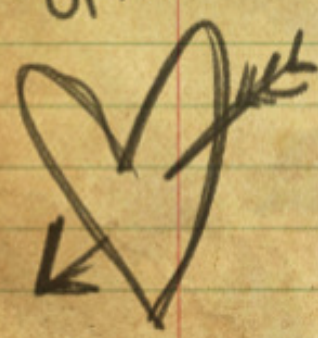


Too Cool For School!

~ Sure....

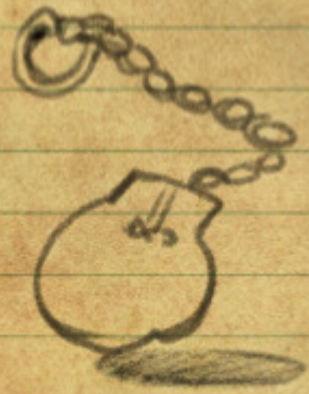


OMG





WANTERIM



Morag Lewis
toothycat.net

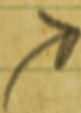


THEY DON'T
DESERVE US.

TELL ME
ABOUT IT.



Can't argue with that...



WHYYYYYYY!!!



GALLERY



OMG I BURNED SO BAD THAT DAY!!!



Literally
burns
money >=

👑
KWEEEN

DJ
NUTZ



naniiebim



NANIIEBIM

THANK YOU

I can't say enough wonderful things about people who support independent storytelling and comics.

I mean, seriously... the gratitude I feel toward anyone who backs my patreon campaign (which offers me a small pagerate, allowing BREAKS to be made in the first place), offers me a coffee through Ko-Fi or who has backed the very kickstarter that made the book you're holding in your hands possible is just... I have no words.

Patrons, coffee-bringers and kickstarters, storytellers thank you. I thank you. Cort and Ian thank you. You are the dream-givers.

