

Terry Moore

PARKER GIRLS



DEADLIGHT



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PARKER GIRLS DEADLIGHT

BY
TERRY MOORE

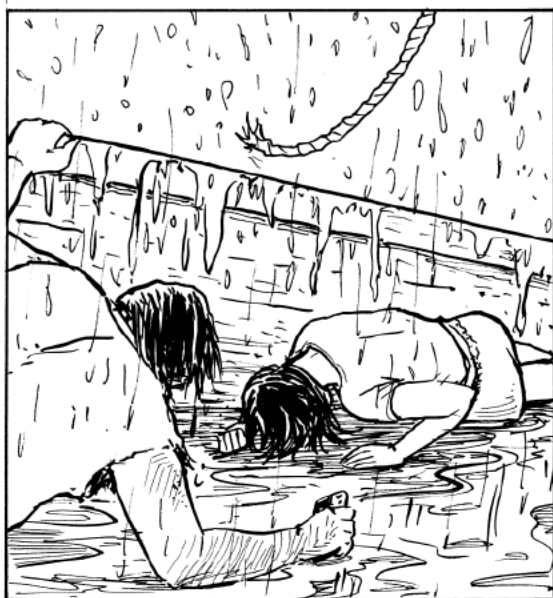


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6

PARKER GIRLS

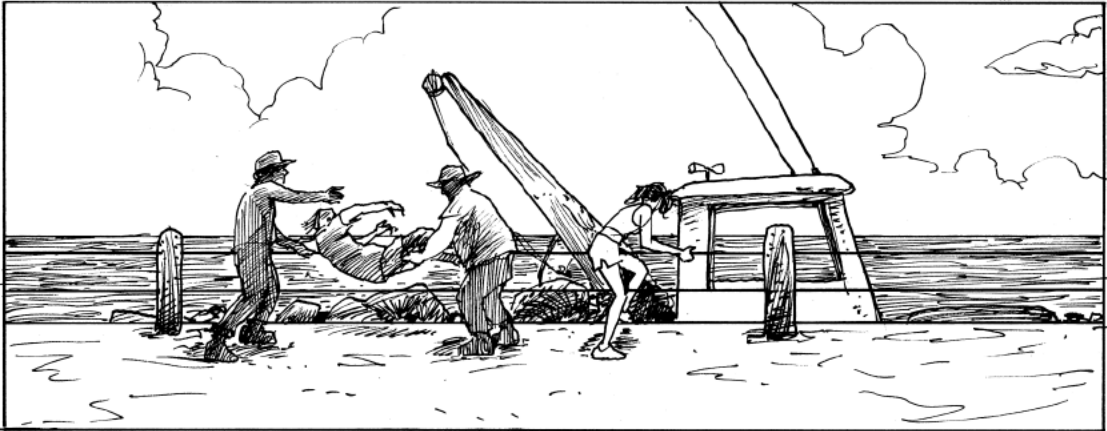
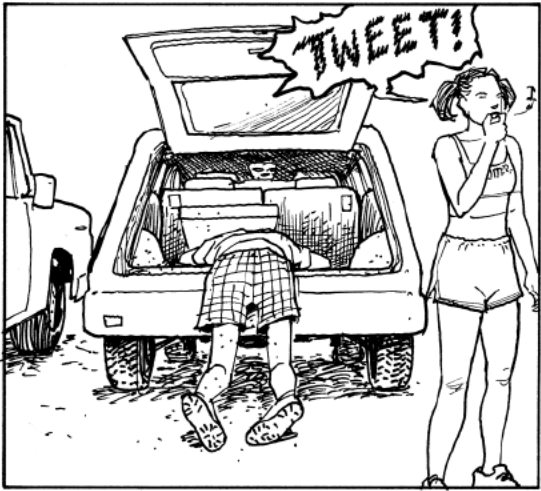




“We are all in the same boat,
in a stormy sea, and we owe each
other a terrible loyalty.”

—Gilbert Chesterton

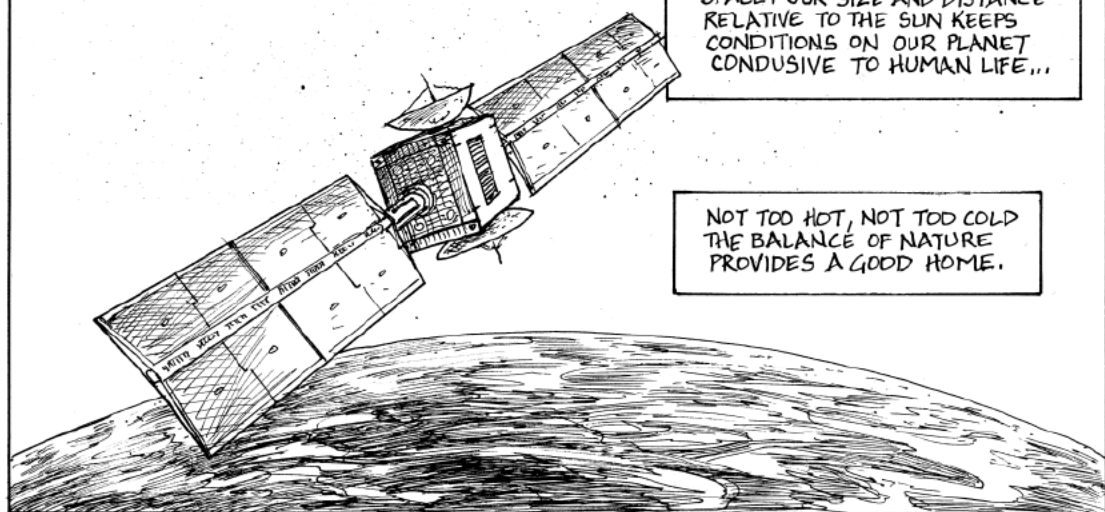




THE HUMAN RACE LIVES ON
A ROCK ORBITING A SUN.

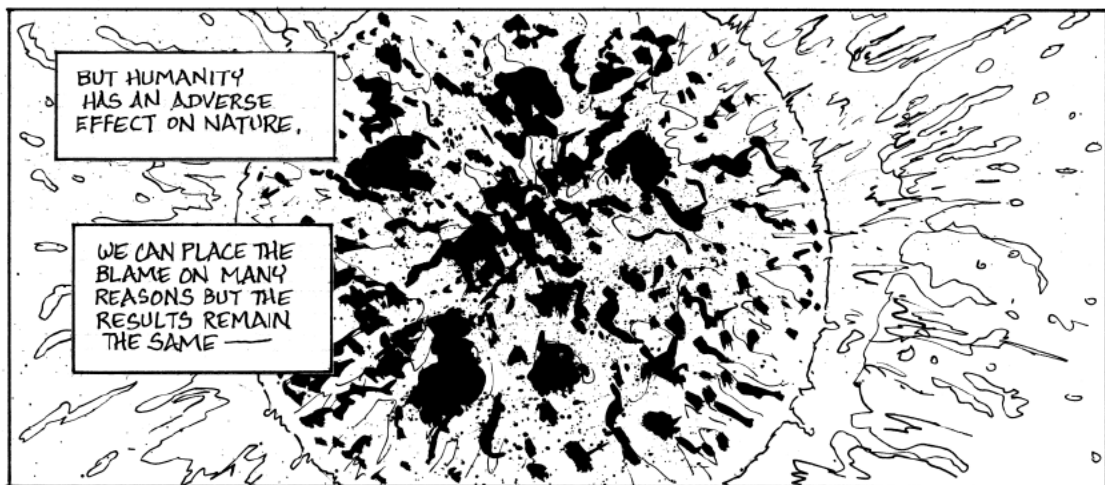
THE GRAVITATIONAL PULL OF
THAT SUN PREVENTS US
FROM HURLING THROUGH
SPACE. OUR SIZE AND DISTANCE
RELATIVE TO THE SUN KEEPS
CONDITIONS ON OUR PLANET
CONDUSIVE TO HUMAN LIFE...

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



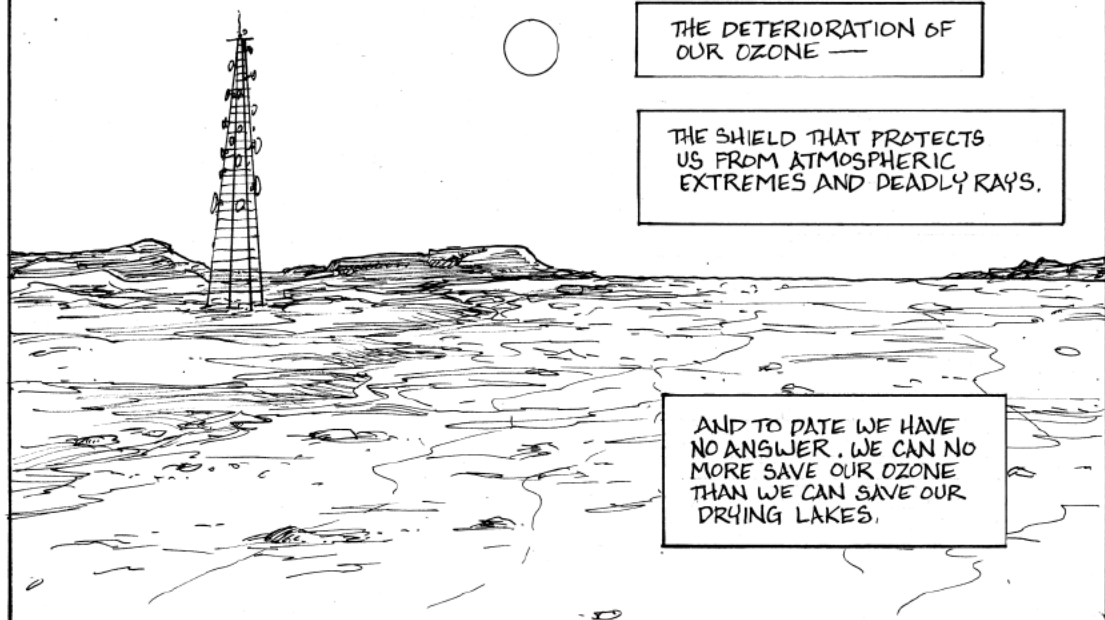
BUT HUMANITY
HAS AN ADVERSE
EFFECT ON NATURE.

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



THE DETERIORATION OF
OUR OZONE —

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



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

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

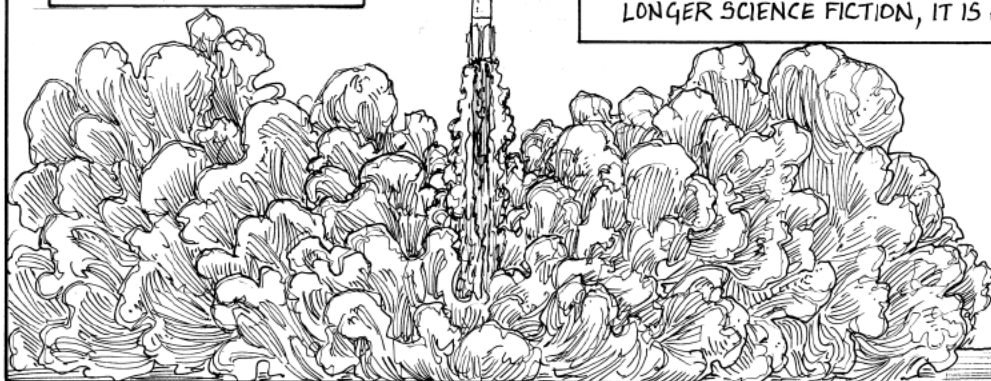
NOR SLOWED THE SPIRALING EFFECT ON WILDLIFE AND THE ECOSYSTEM.

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

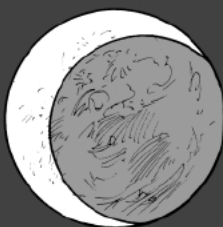


AS OUR PROBLEMS ON EARTH GROW...

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



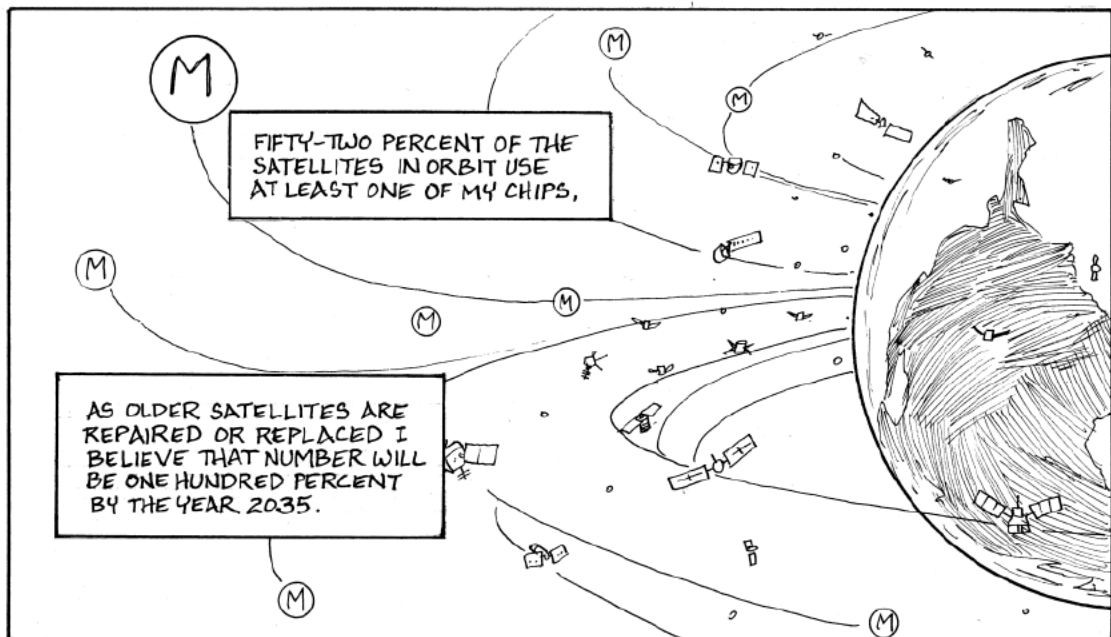
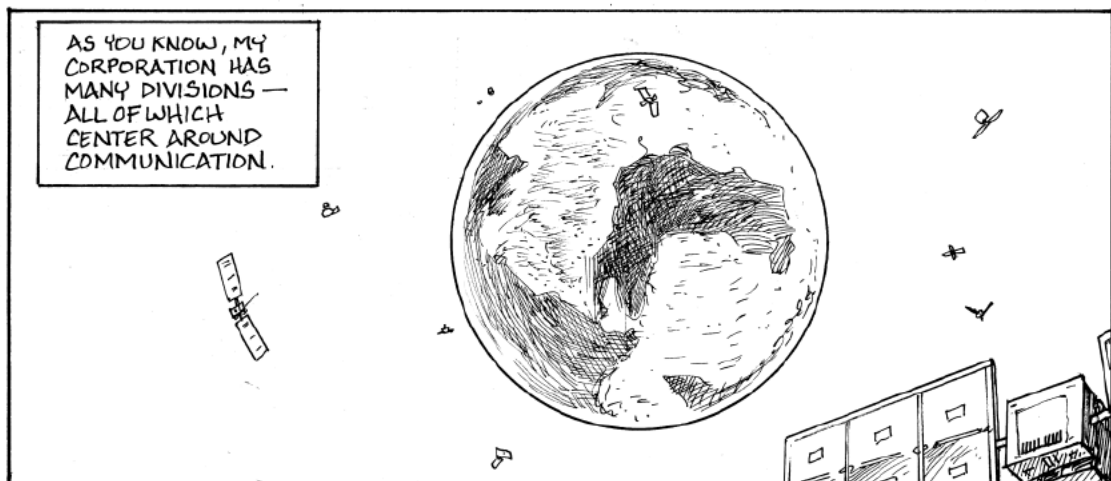
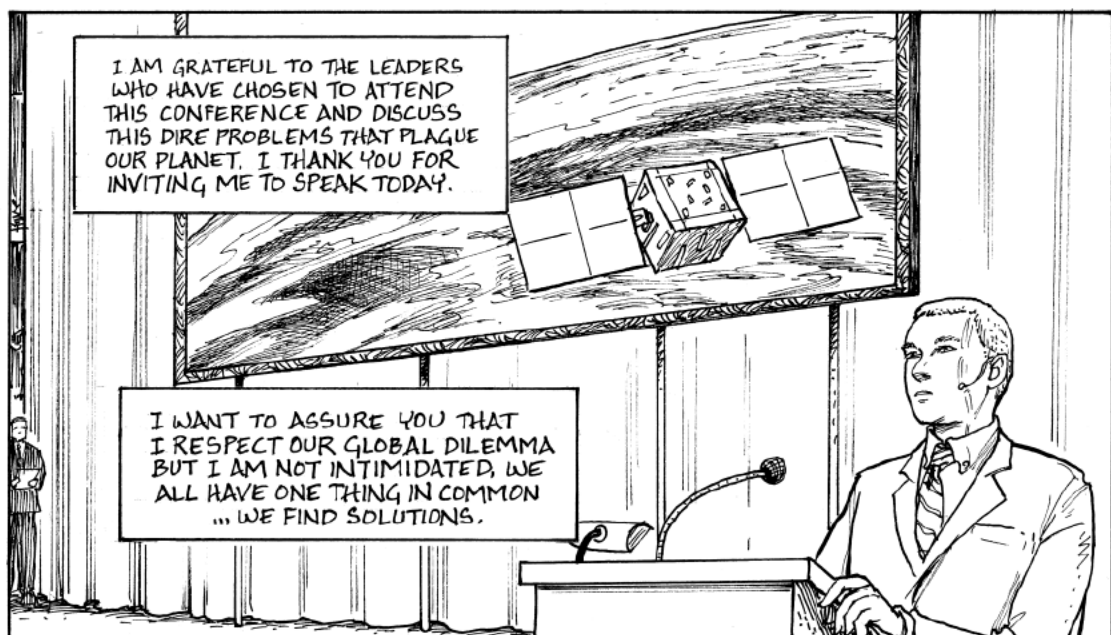
IF YOU CHOOSE TO IGNORE THE PROBLEMS OF GLOBAL WARMING, YOU WILL ALSO NEED TO IGNORE THE MOON.

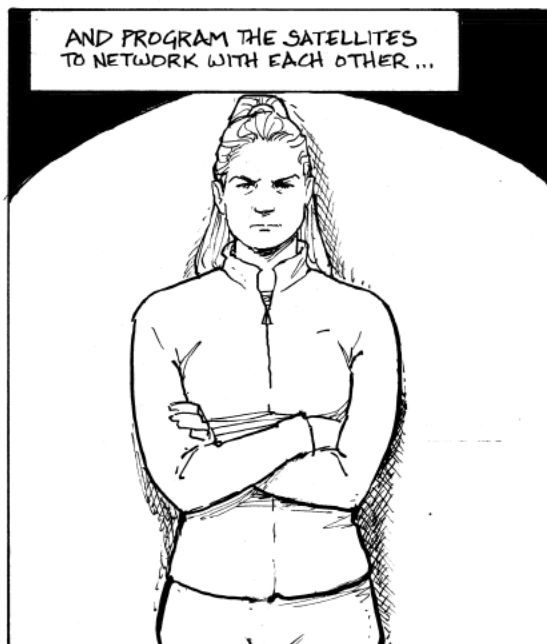
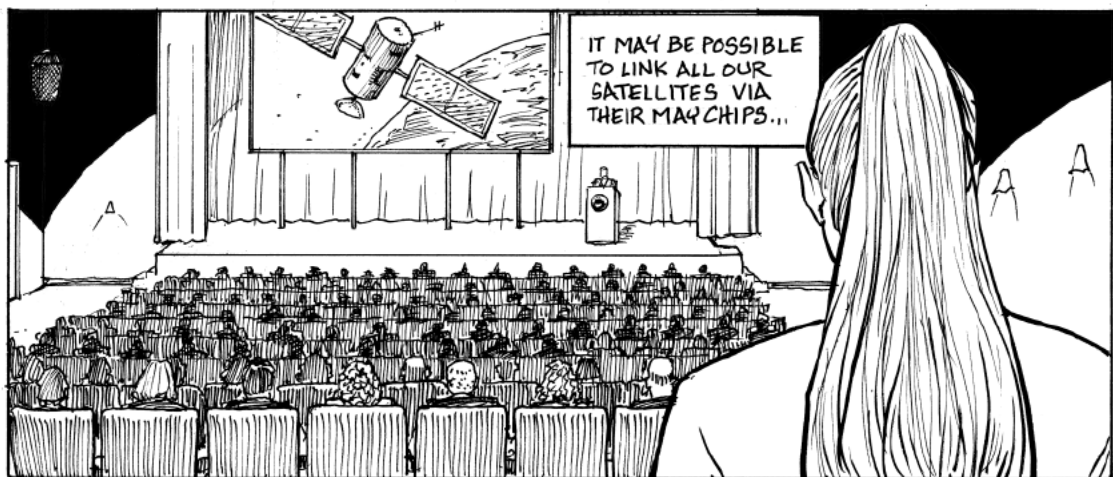
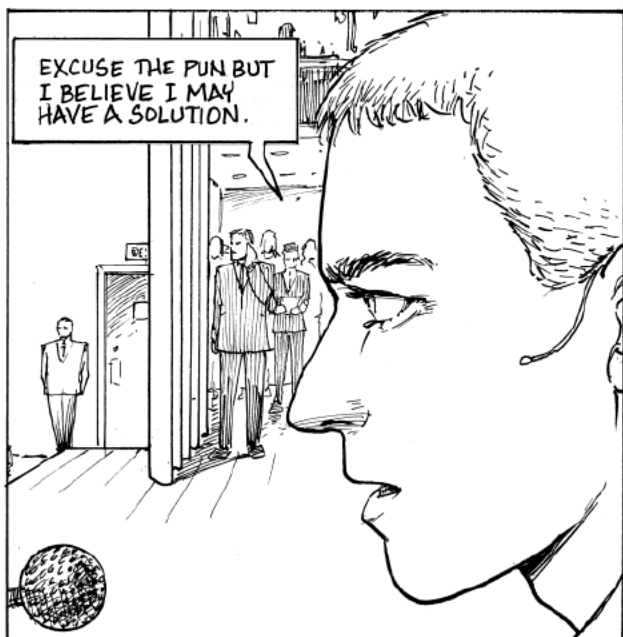
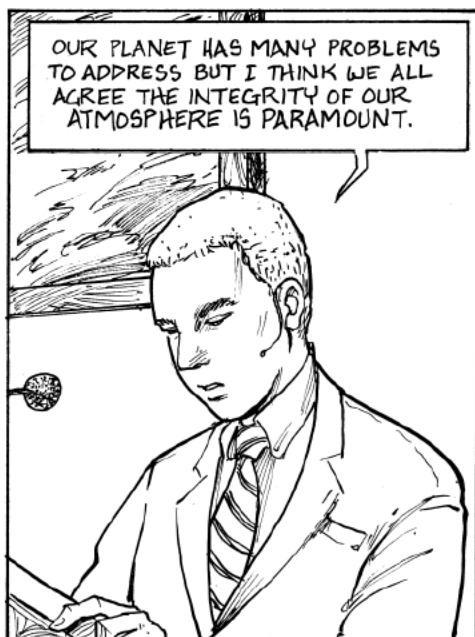


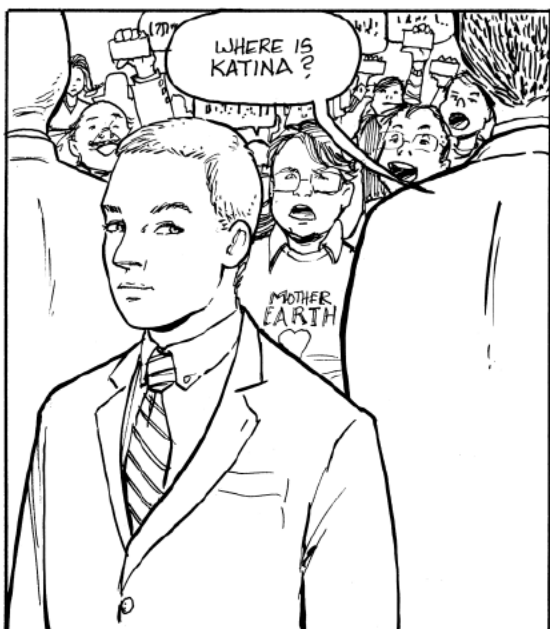
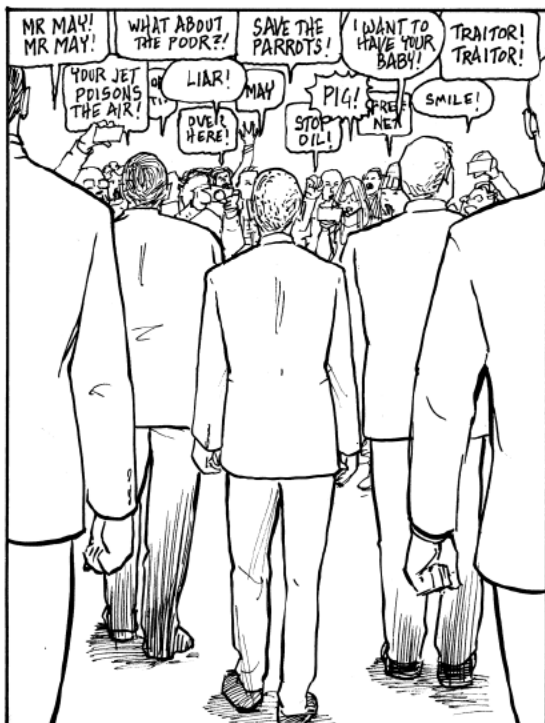
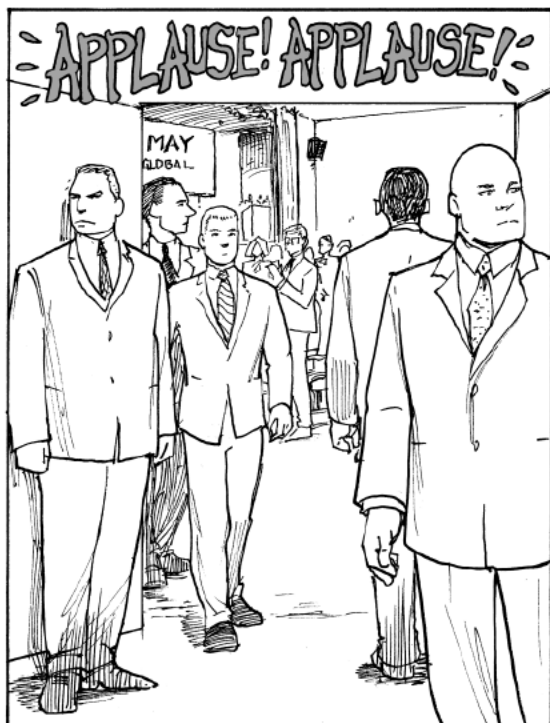
THE SHADOW OF OUR ECLIPSED MOON IS ILLUMINATED BY THE SUN'S LIGHT REFLECTING OFF THE EARTH. THIS IS CALLED EARTHSHINE.

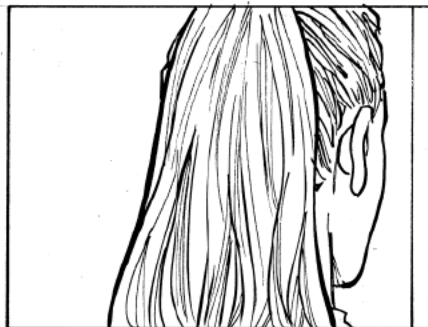
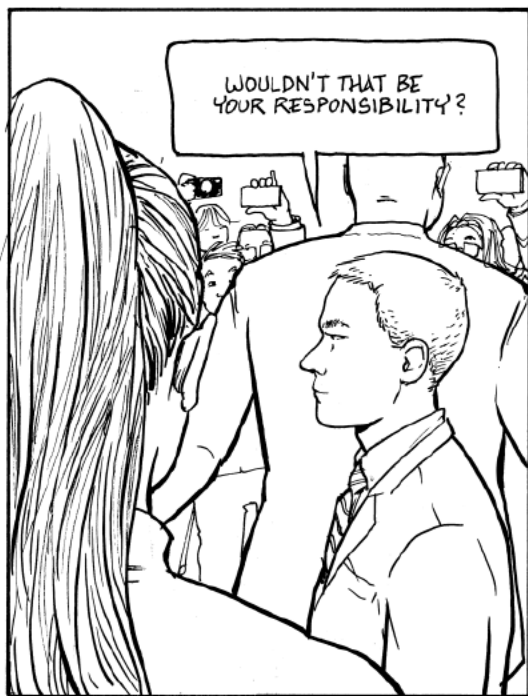
EARTHSHINE IS MEASURABLY DIMMER WITH EACH PASSING YEAR. IT IS A DISTURBING MIRROR ON A DYING PLANET... AND VISIBLE TO THE NAKED EYE.

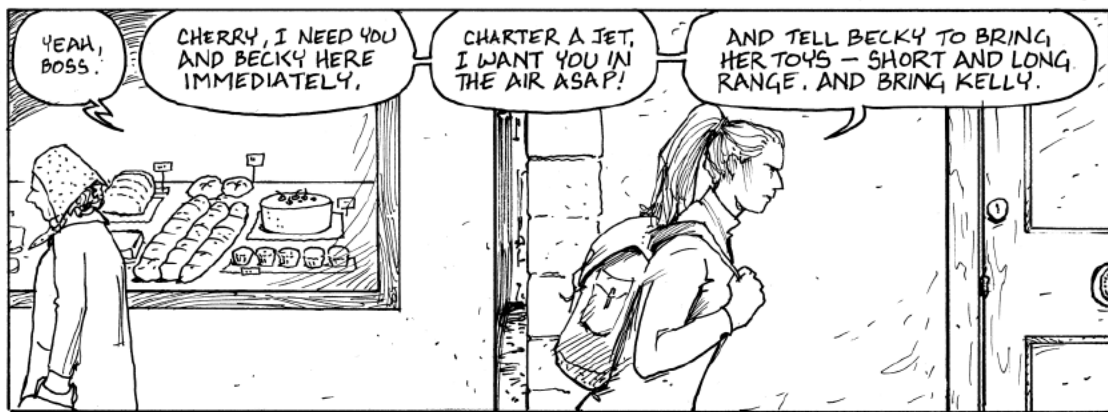
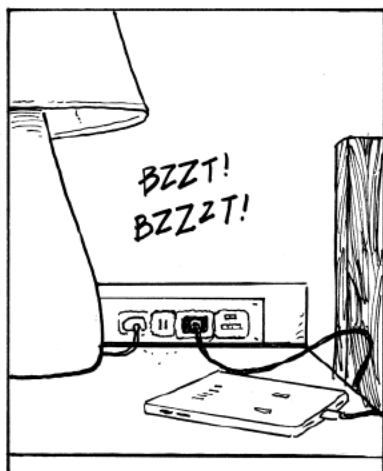


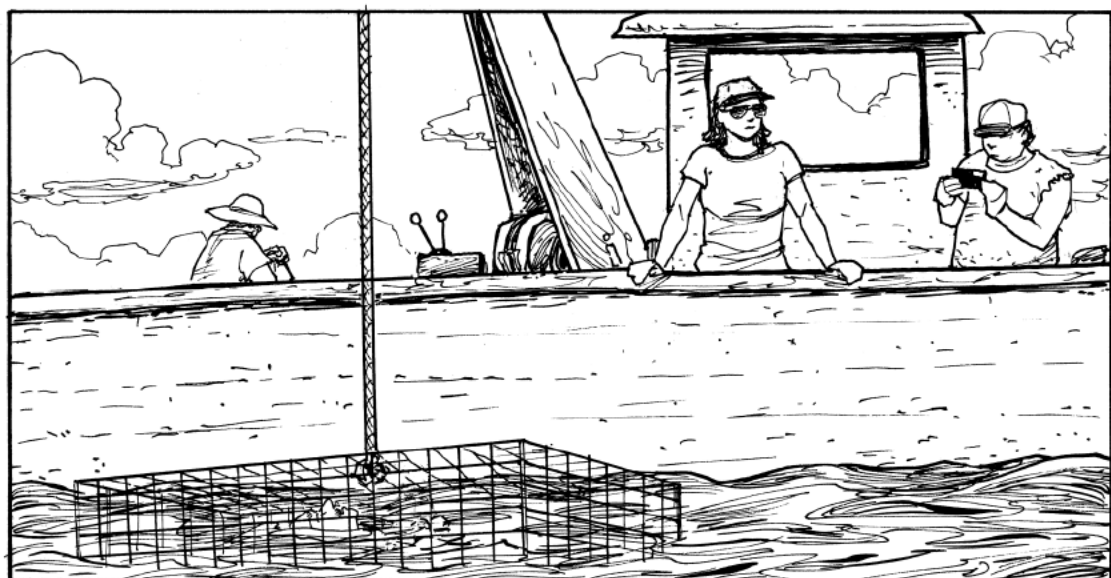
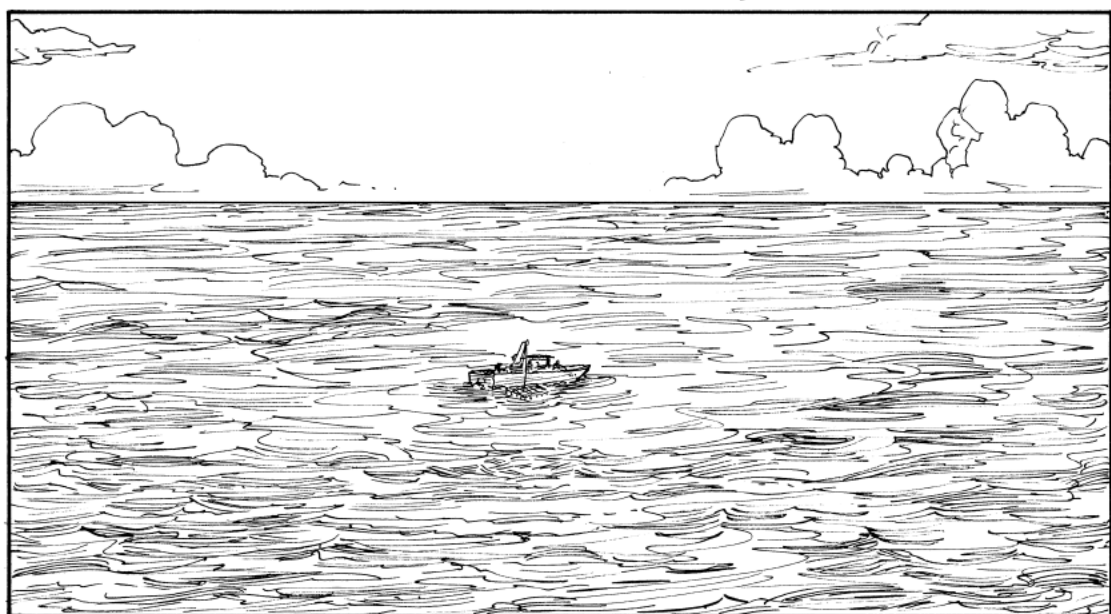
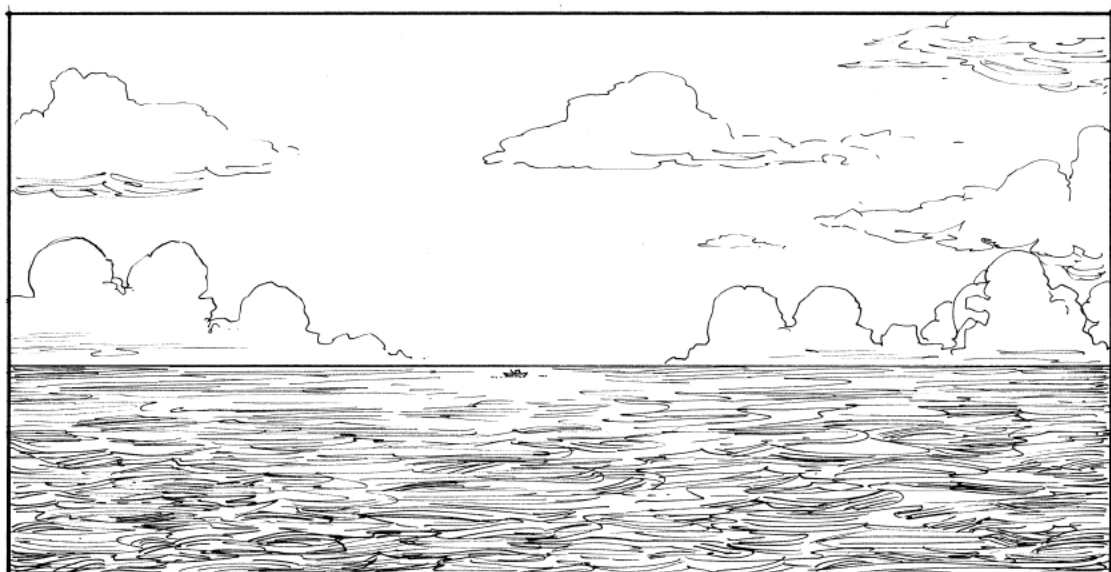


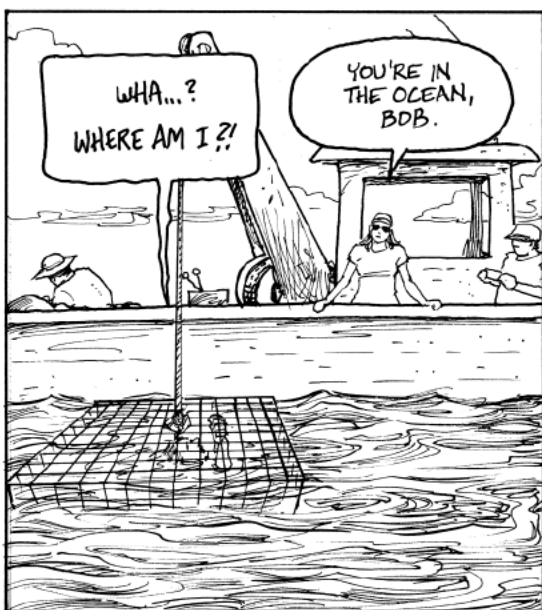
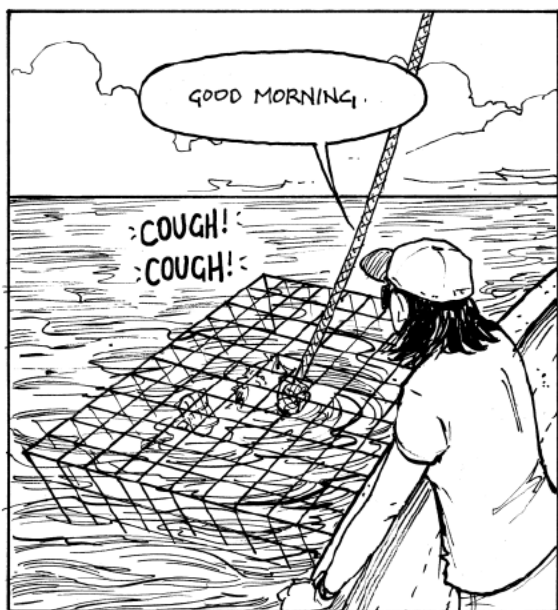
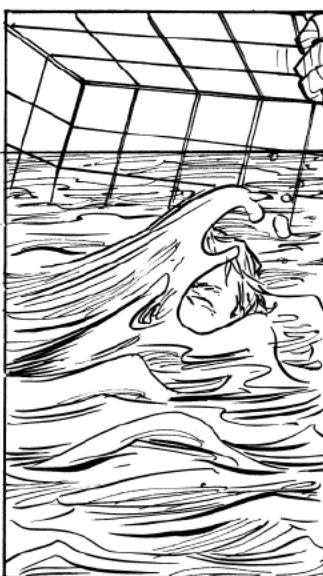


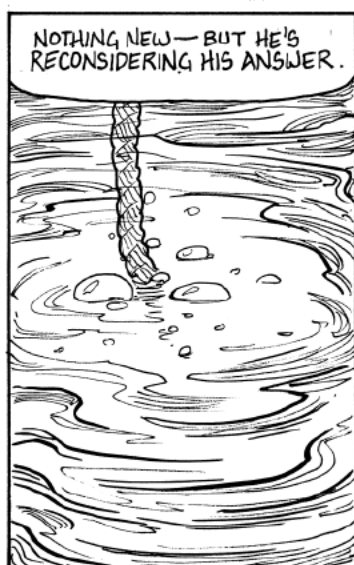
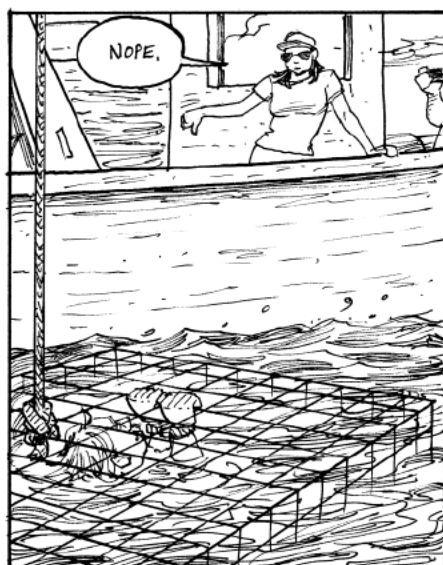


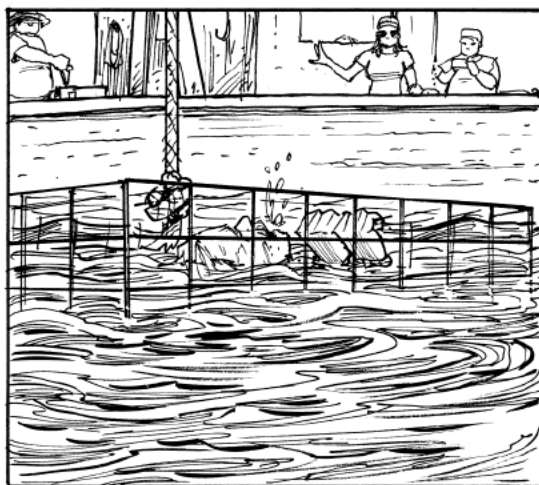


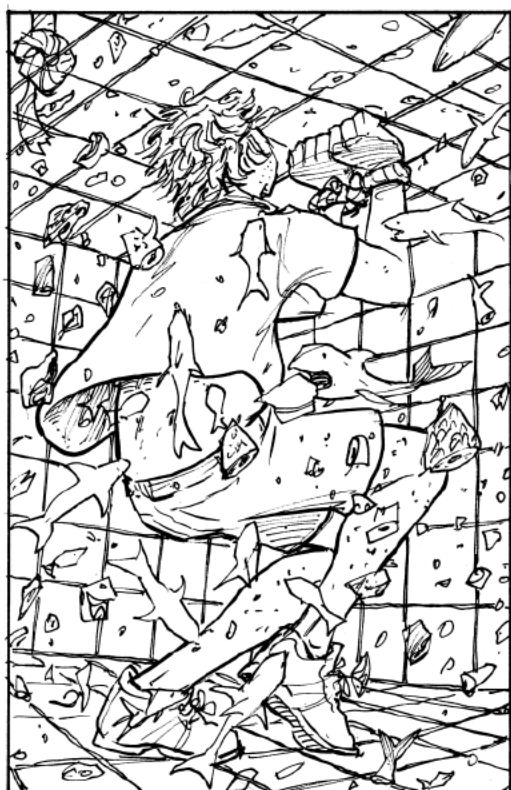












AGH! HELP!
THEY'RE BITING ME!

WHAT HAPPENED
TO PIPER?

AGH!

GET ME
OUT OF HERE!

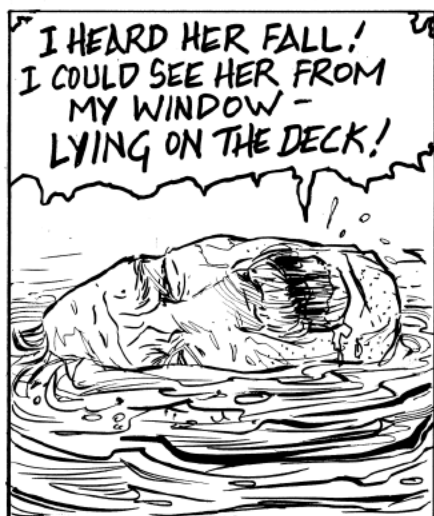
BOB! LISTEN TO ME!
TELL ME WHAT HAPPENED
TO PIPER OR THE NEXT
PERSON IN THAT CAGE
WILL BE YOUR SISTER
IN ALBUQUERQUE
...THEN YOUR NIECE
AT COLORADO STATE...



NO! THEY DON'T
KNOW ANYTHING!



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



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

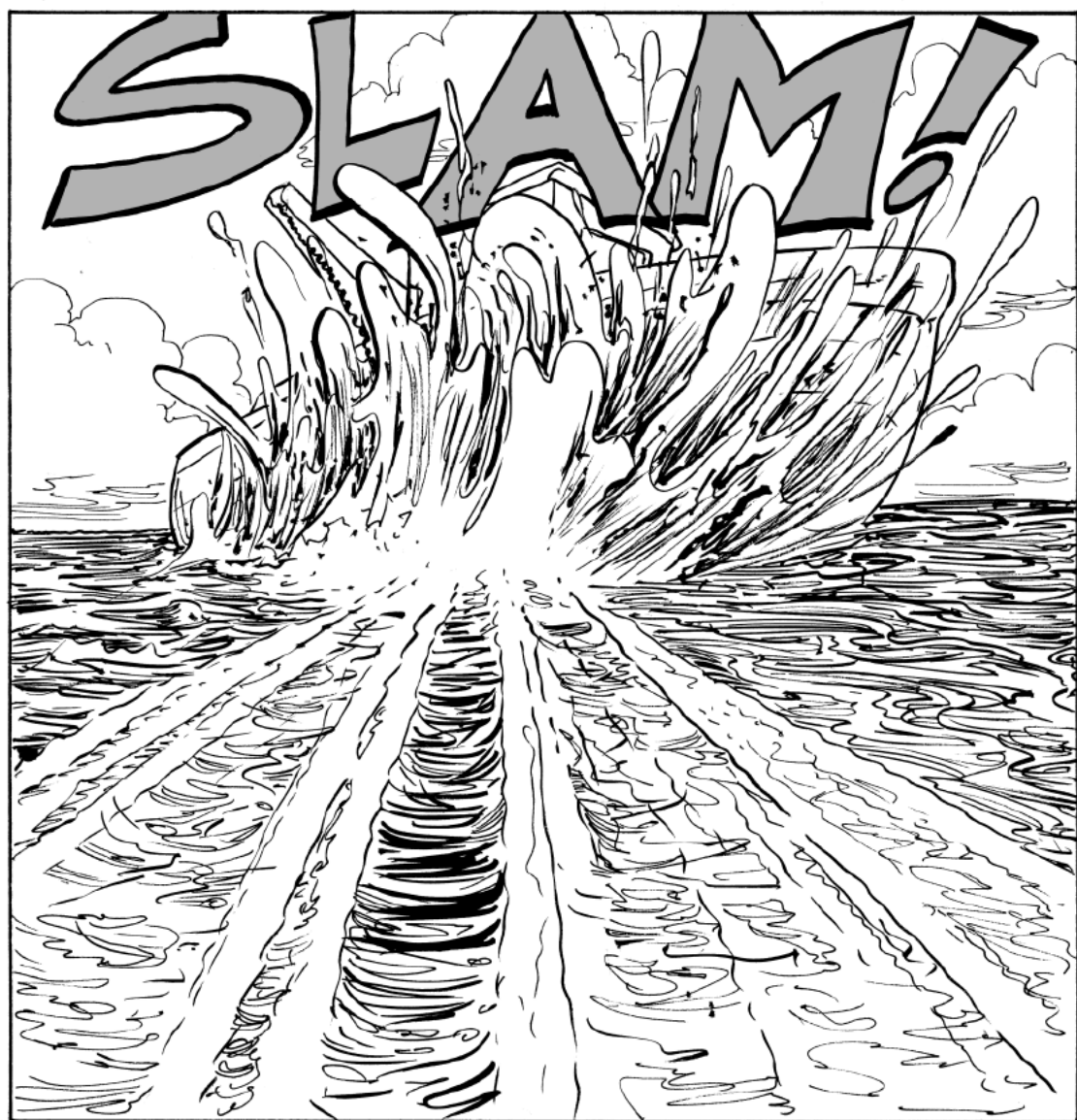


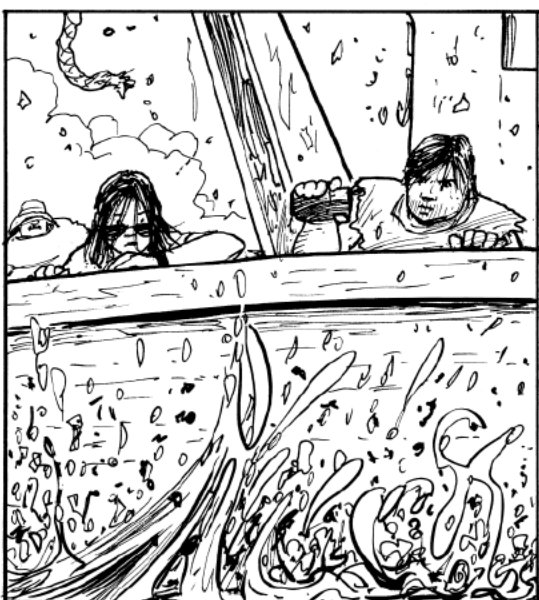
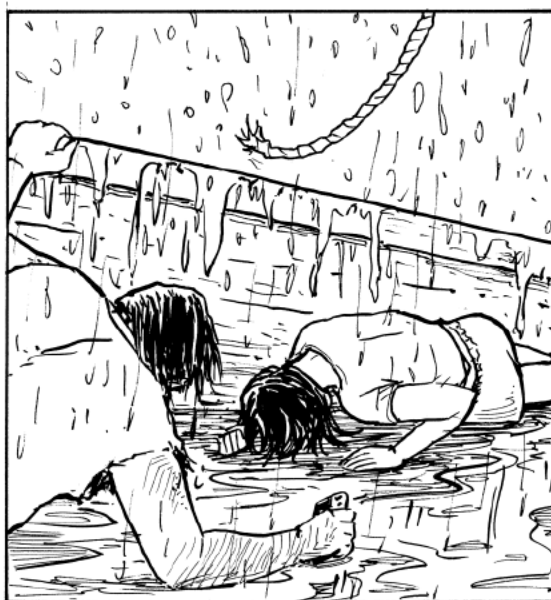
I WATCHED HIM PUSH HER OVERBOARD
...IT MADE ME SICK TO MY STOMACH!

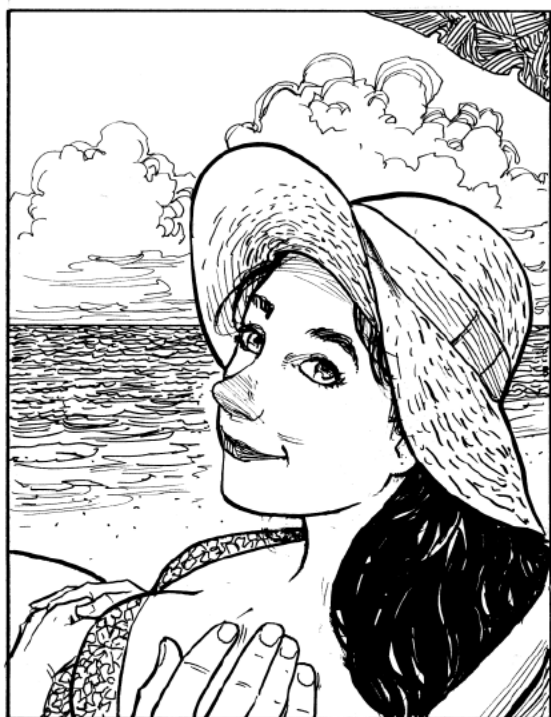
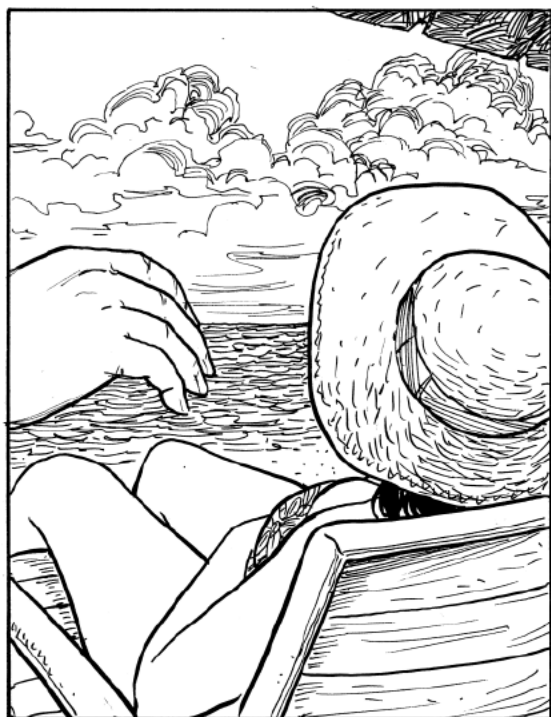
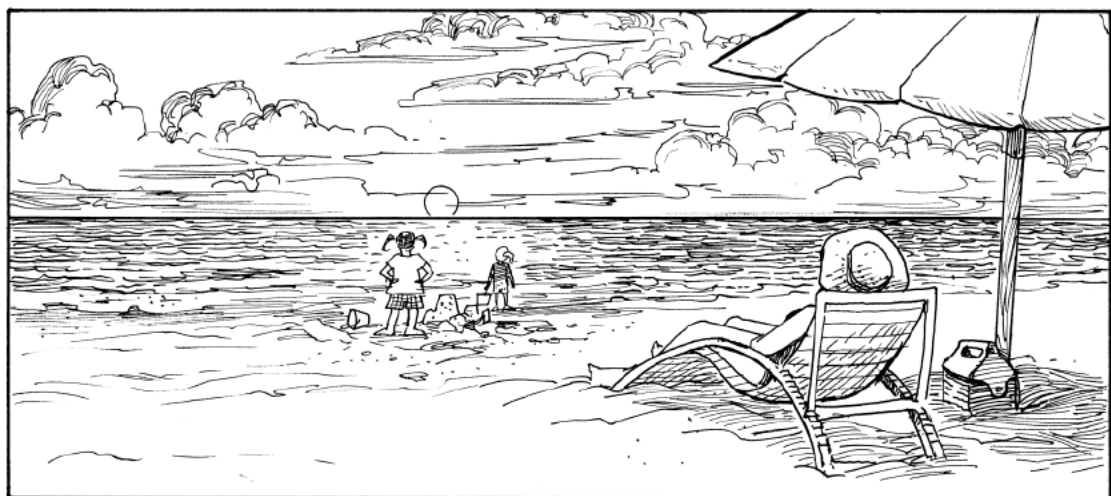


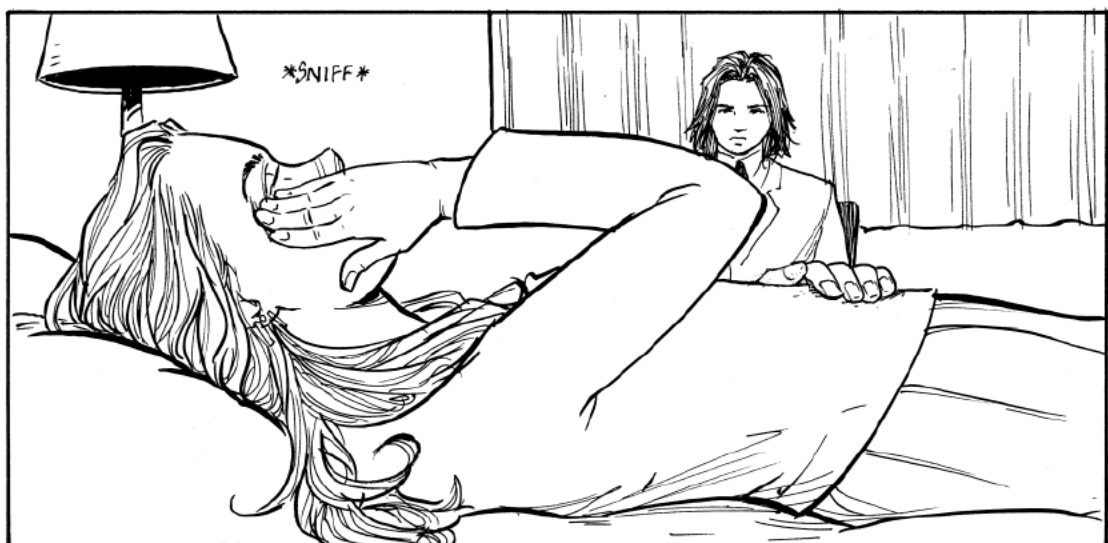
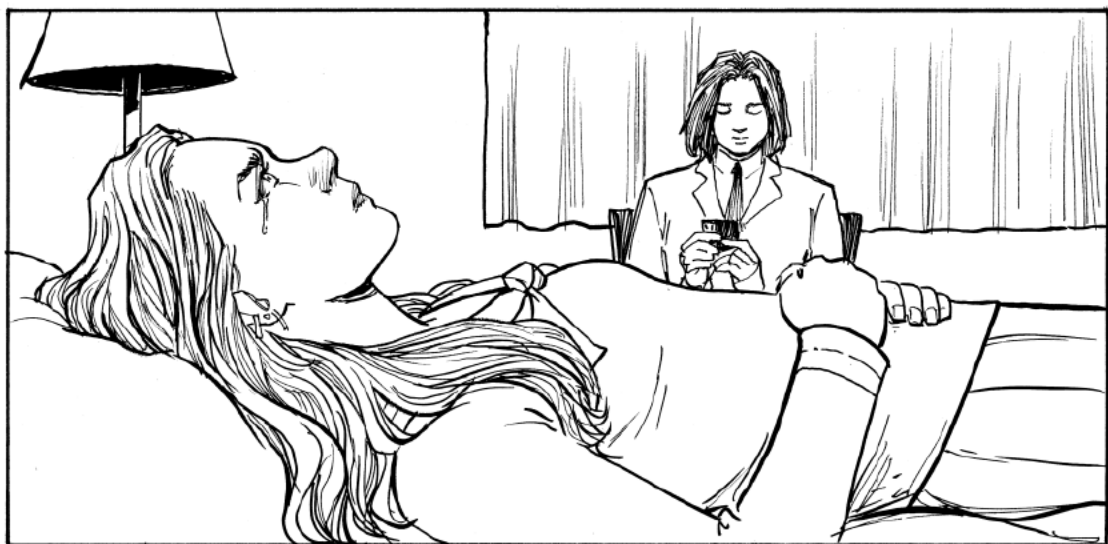
HE SAW ME... IN THE WINDOW!
HE THREATENED ME, MY FAMILY!

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









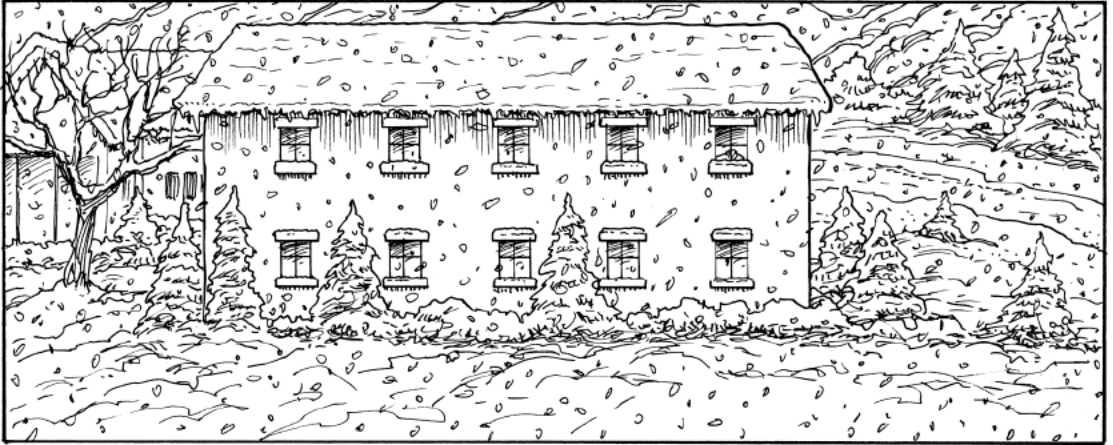
ABSTRACT
STUDIO

7

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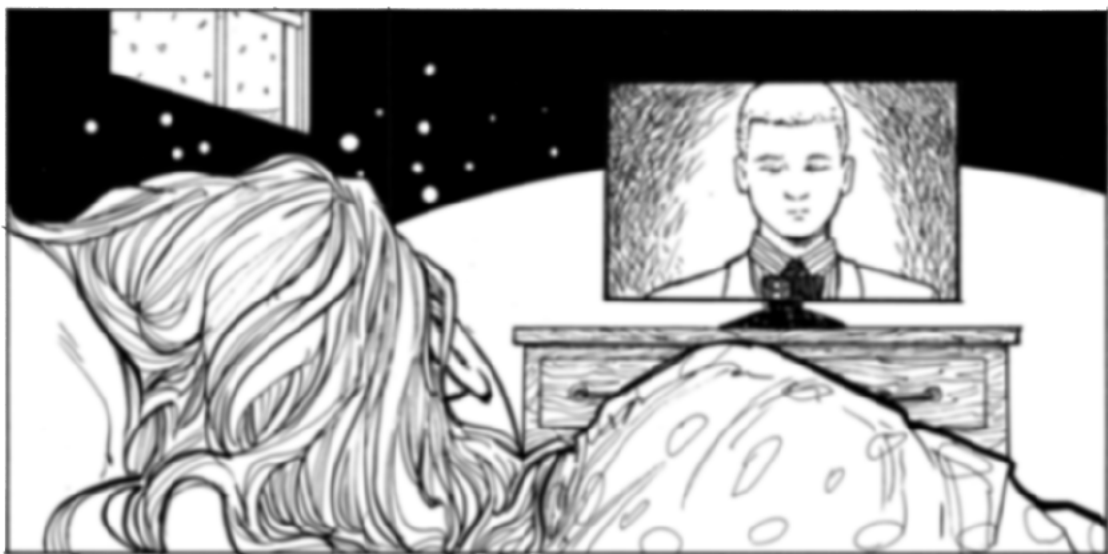
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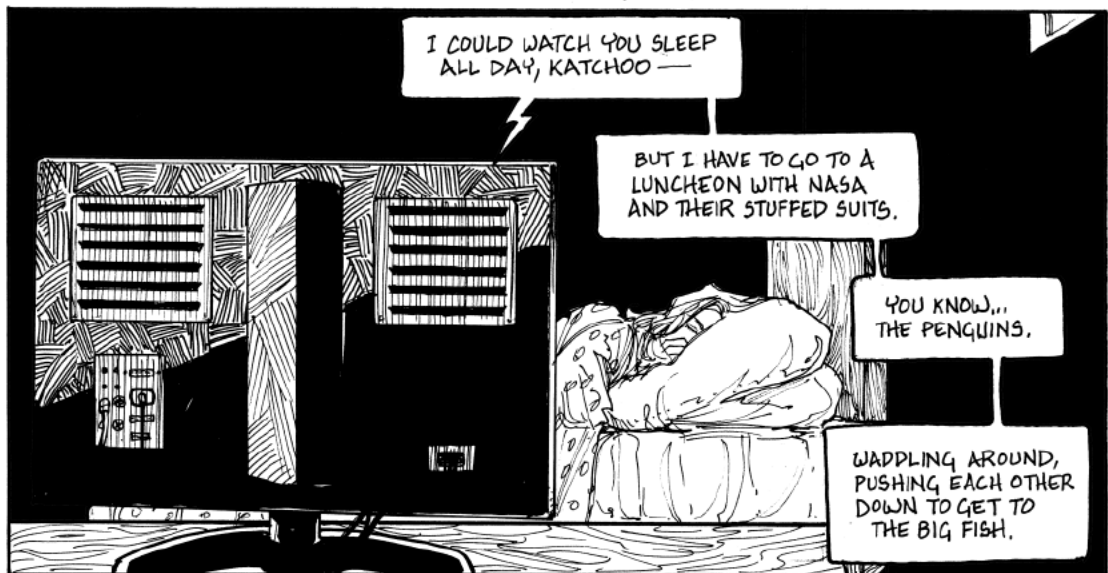


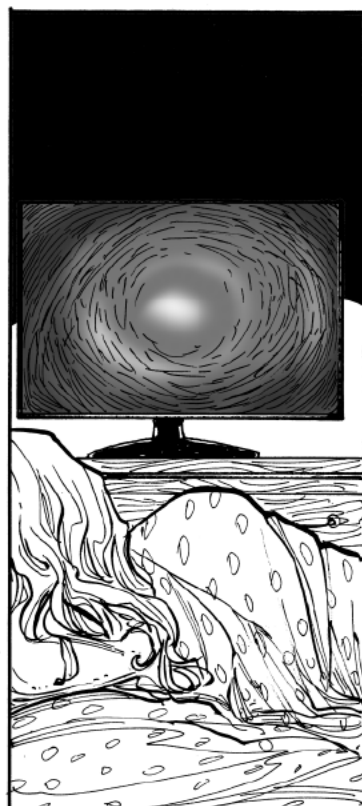
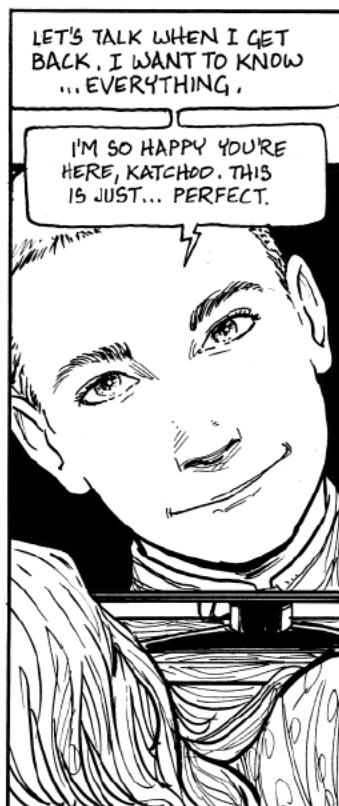


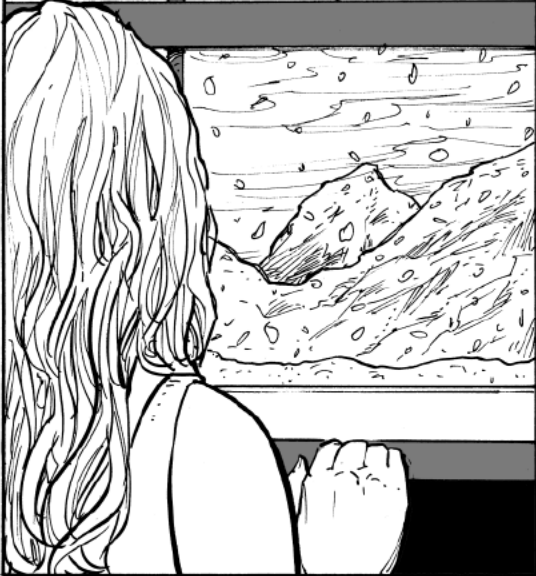
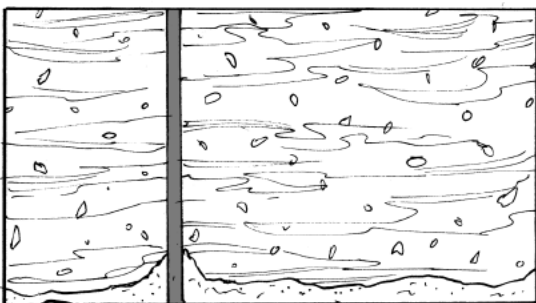
“Realize that everything connects to everything else.”
—Leonardo da Vinci

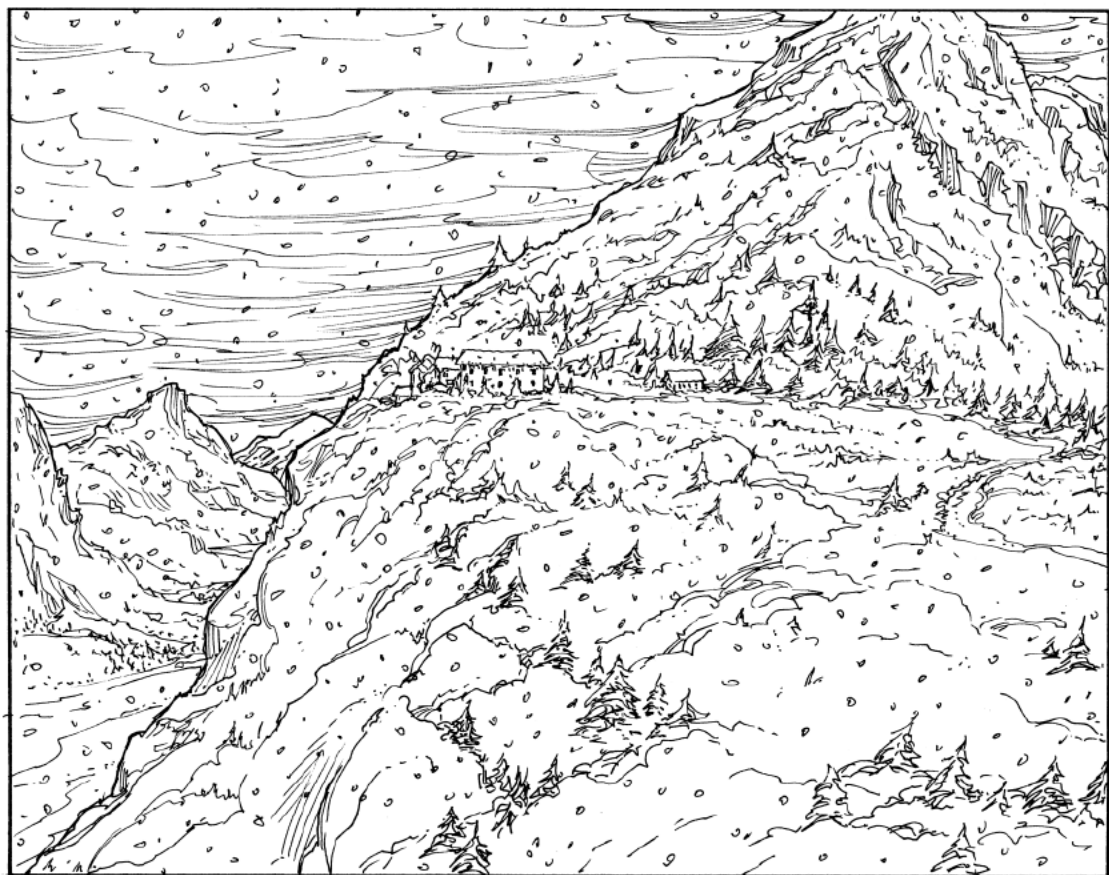
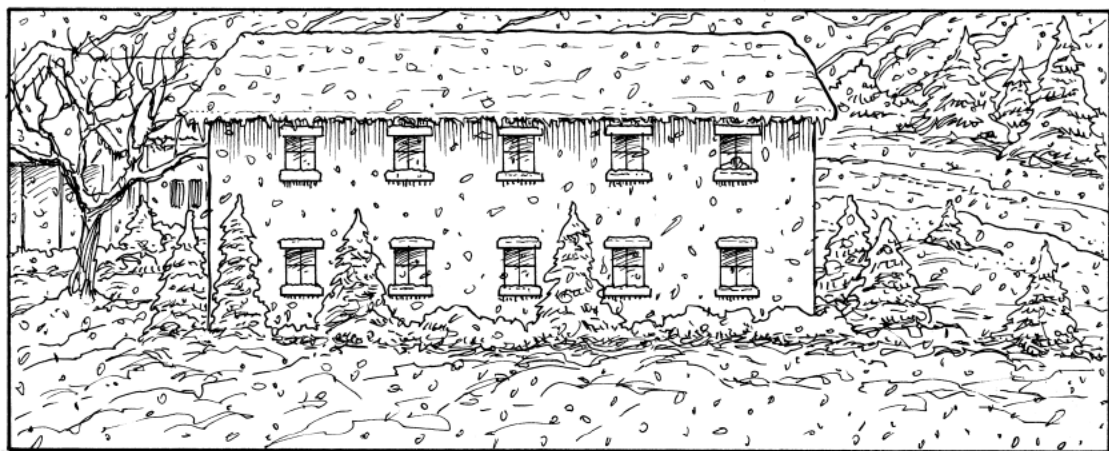


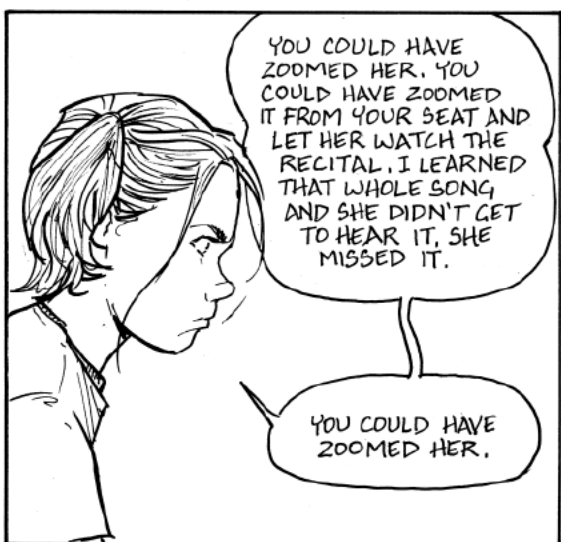
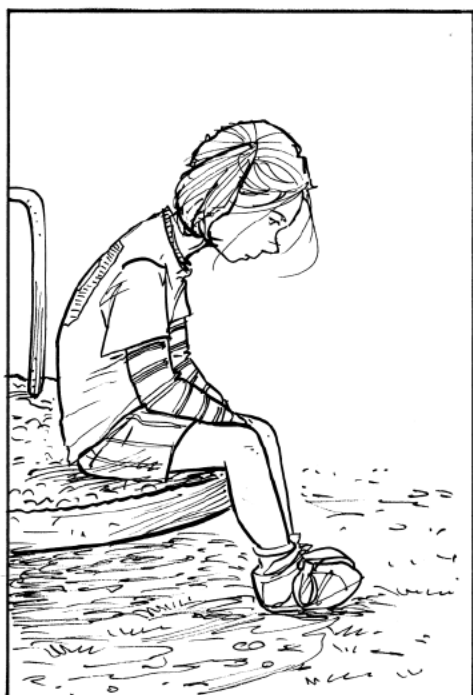
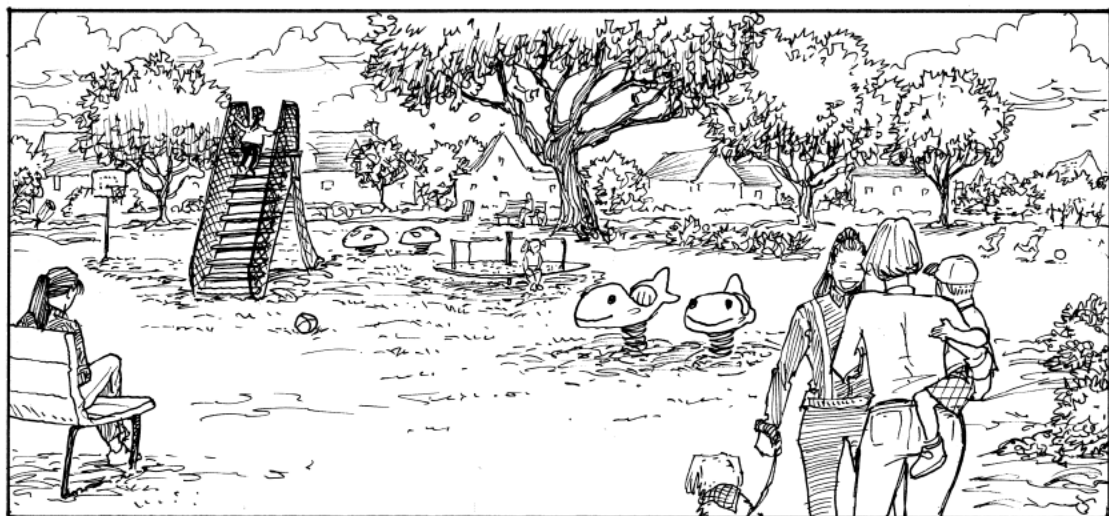




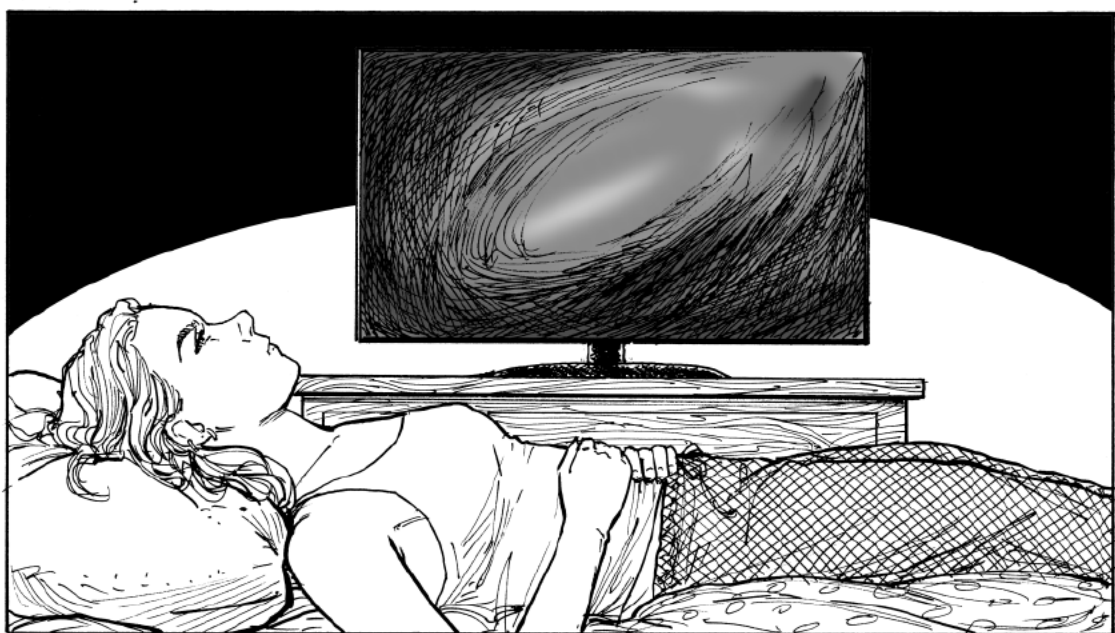












OH GOOD, YOU'RE AWAKE.



THE MEETING WENT WELL ...

YOU DRUGGED ME
AND TOOK MY
CLOTHES, ZACK.

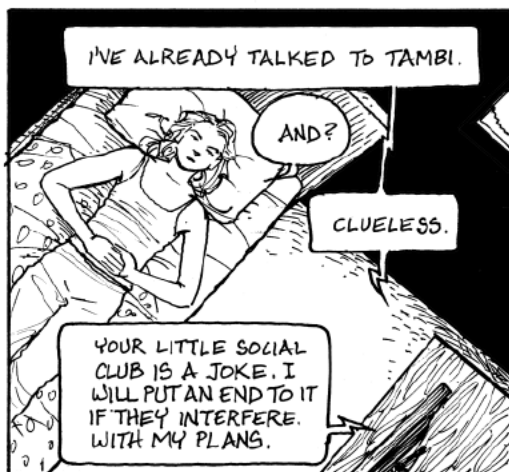
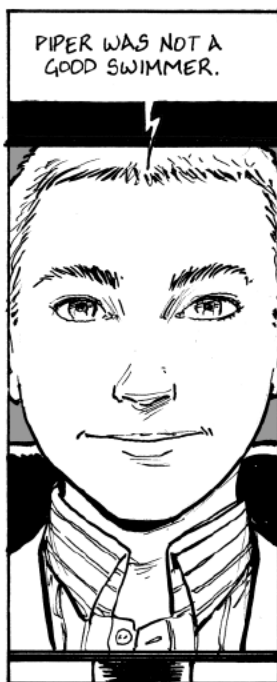
AND BROUGHT ME TO
GOD KNOWS WHERE.

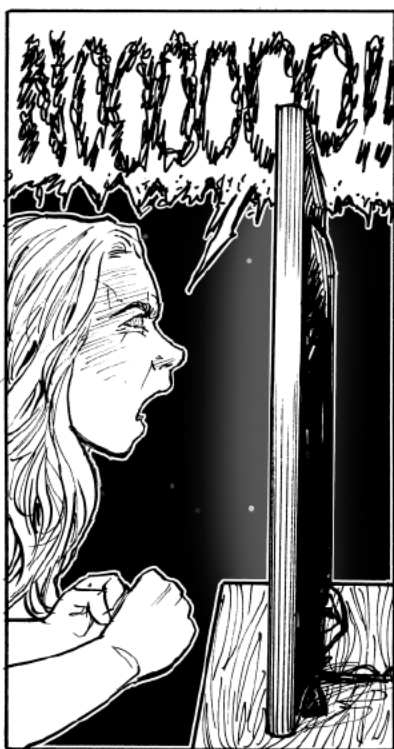
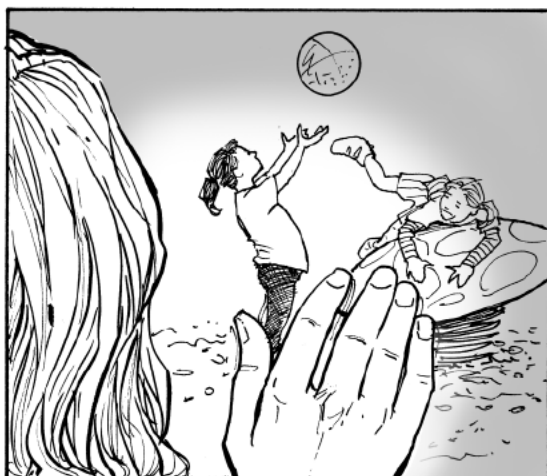
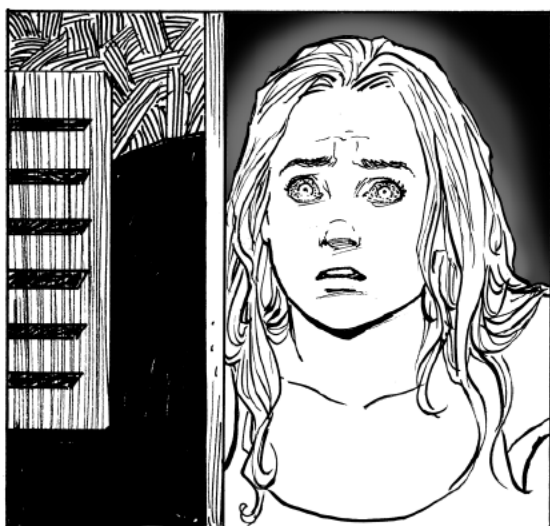
ASSAULT,
KIDNAPPING...

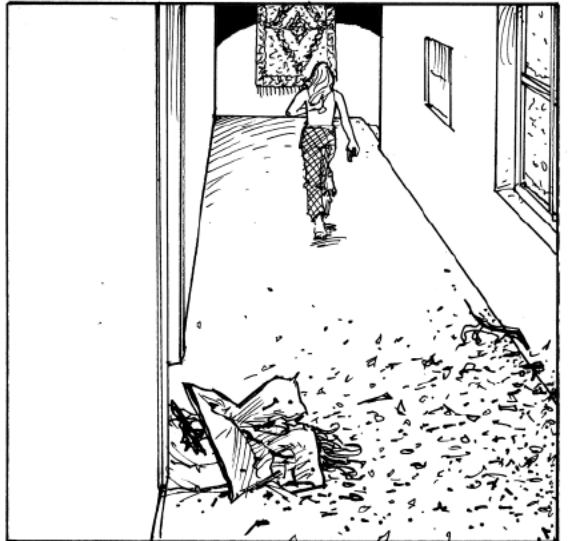
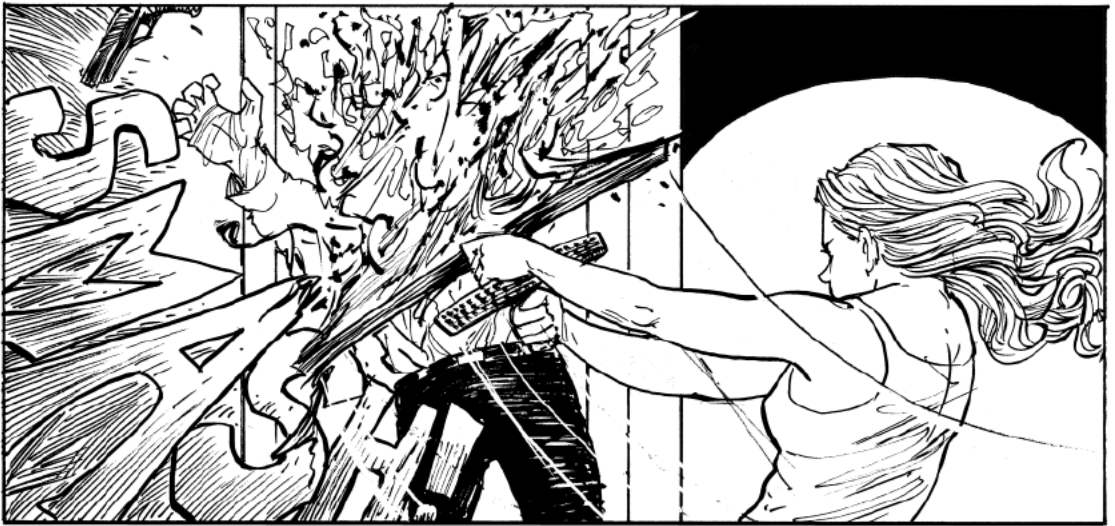
ACTUALLY A
FEMALE SECURITY
AGENT...

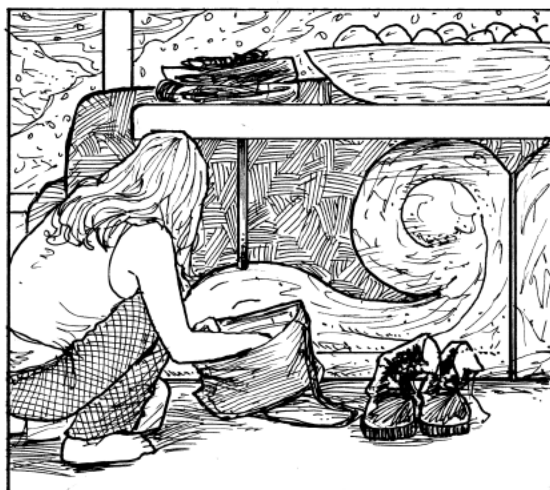
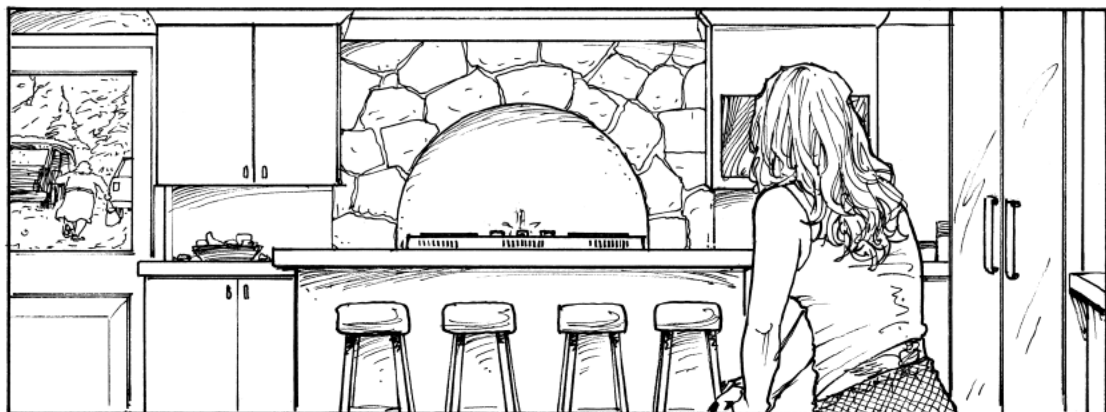
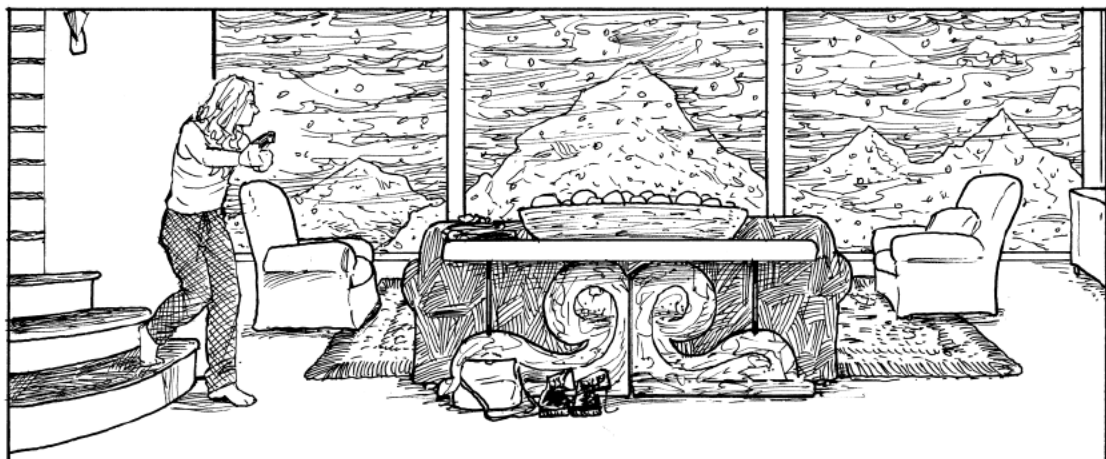
SWITZERLAND.

LOVER'S
RETREAT.

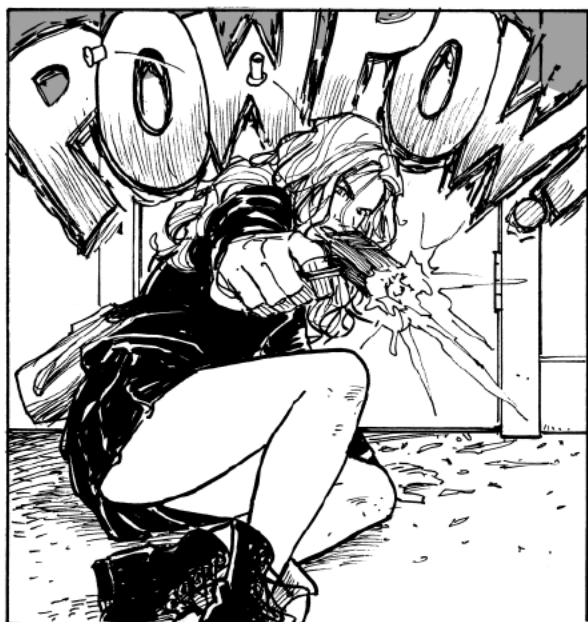
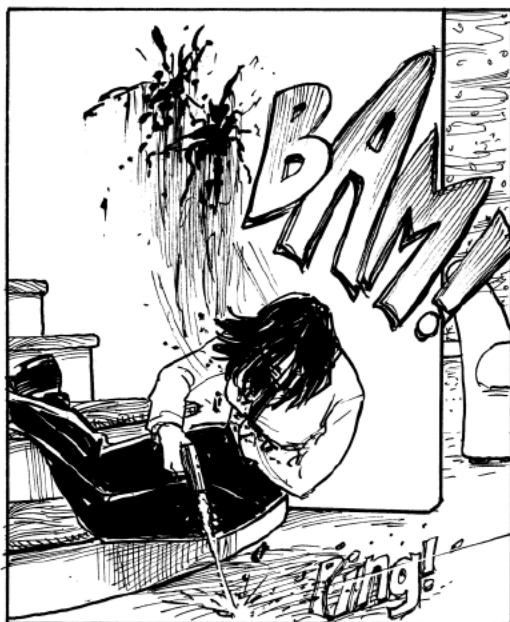
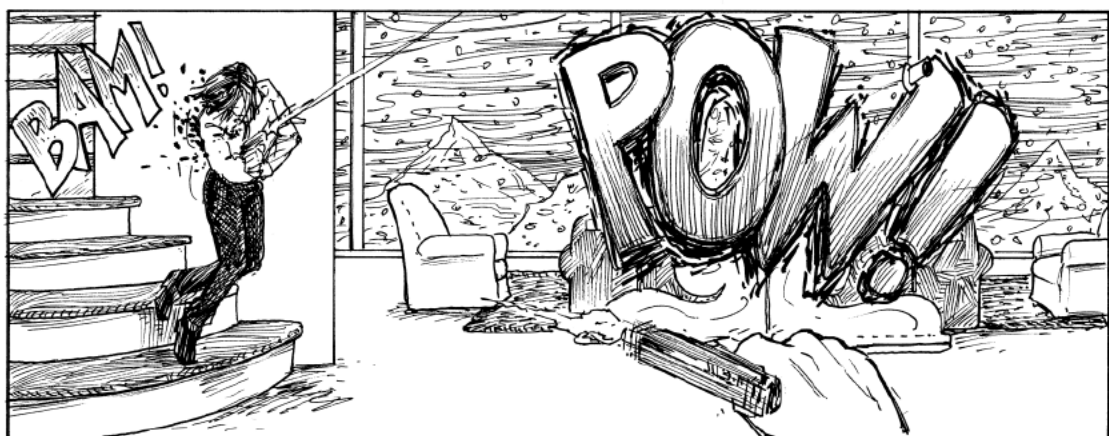
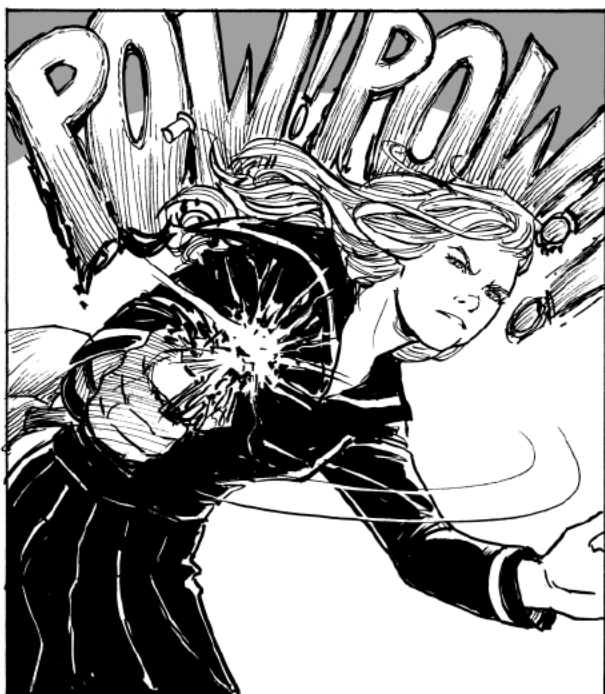


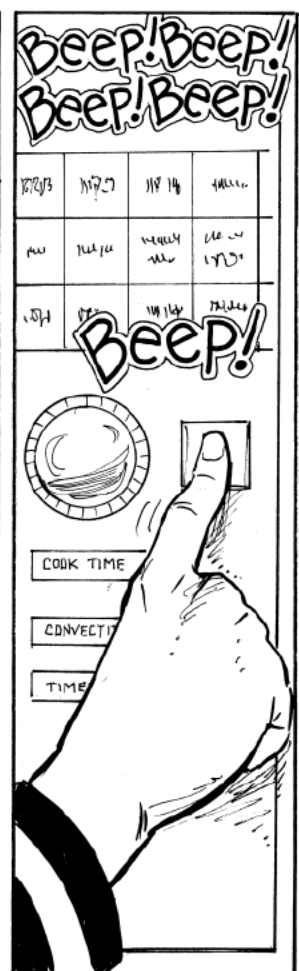
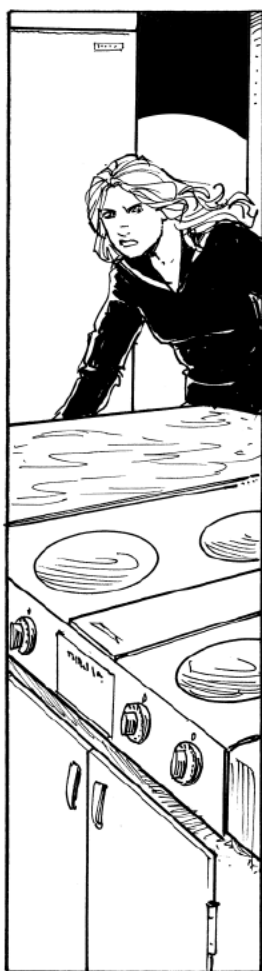


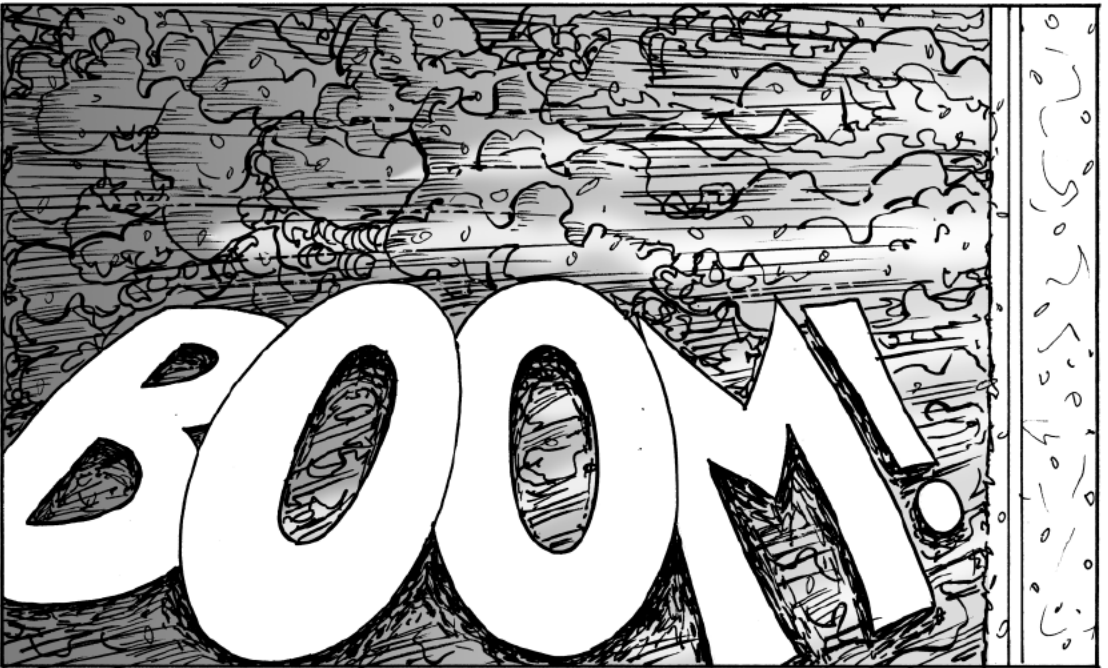
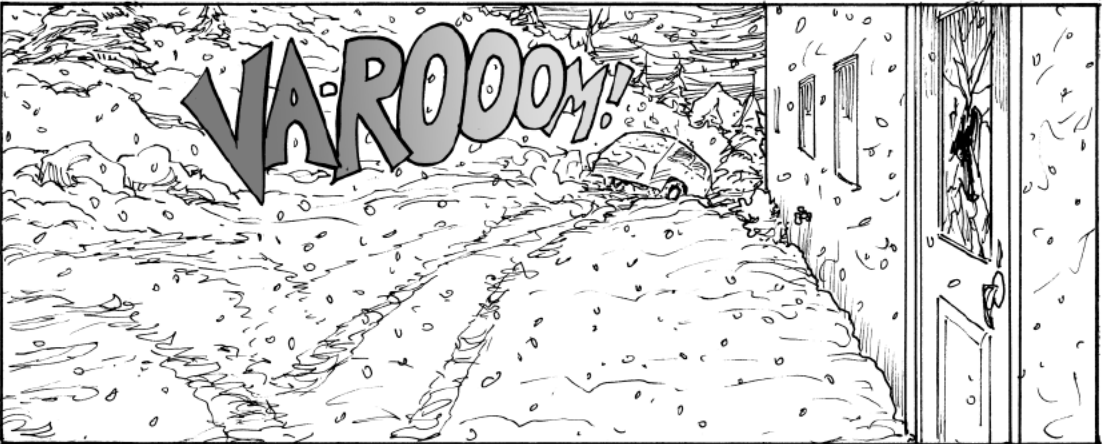
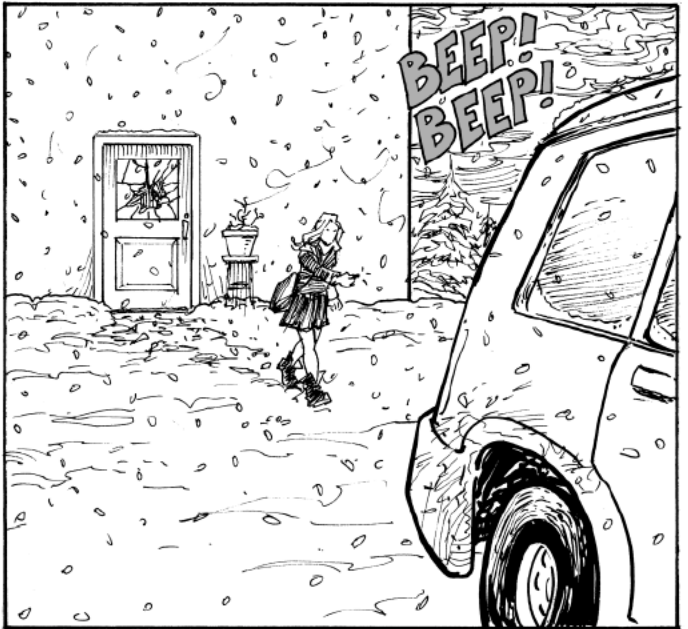


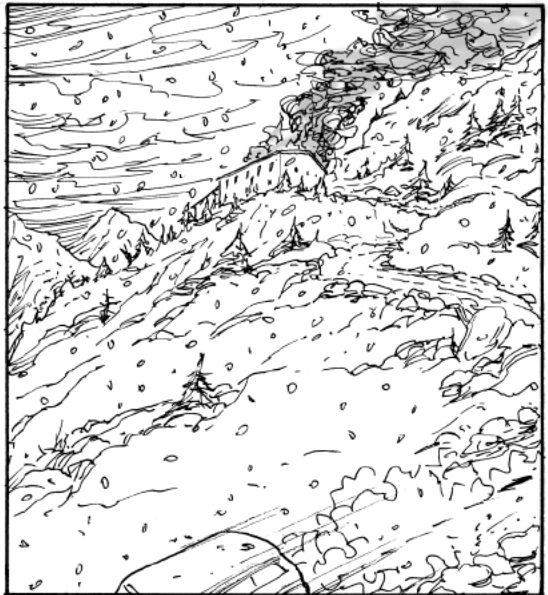
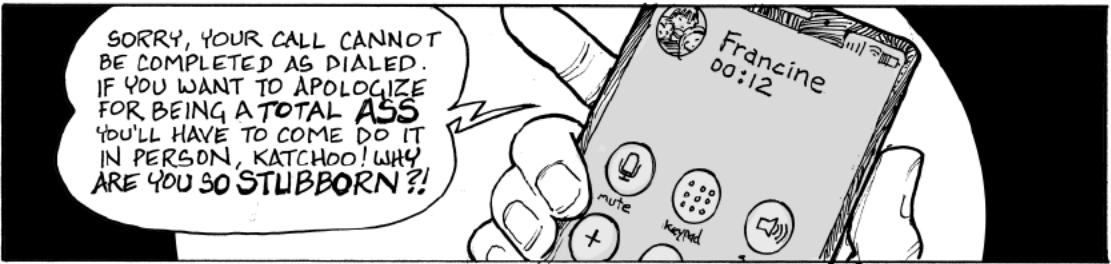
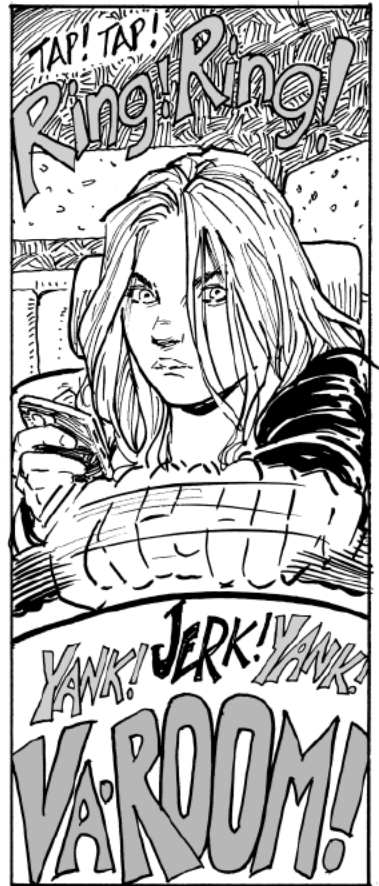










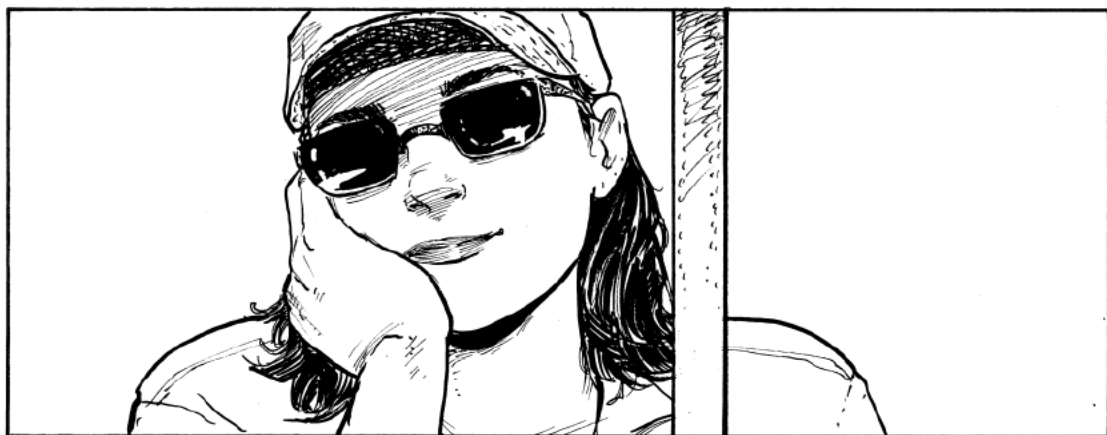




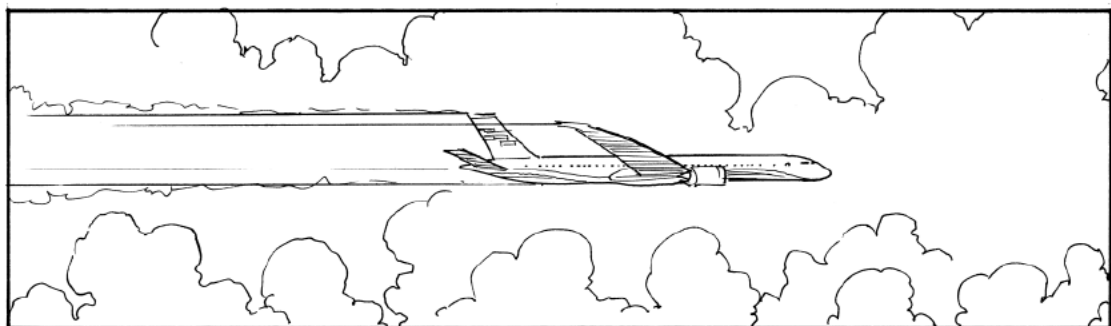
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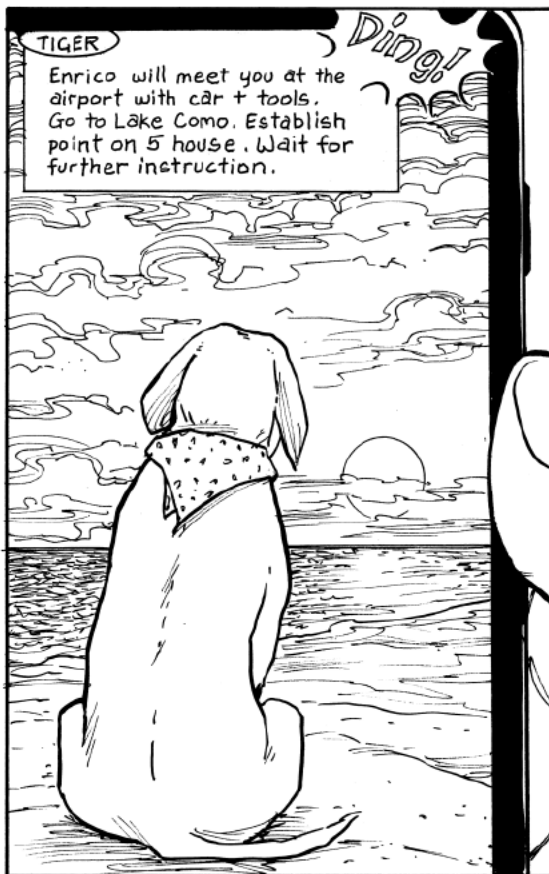
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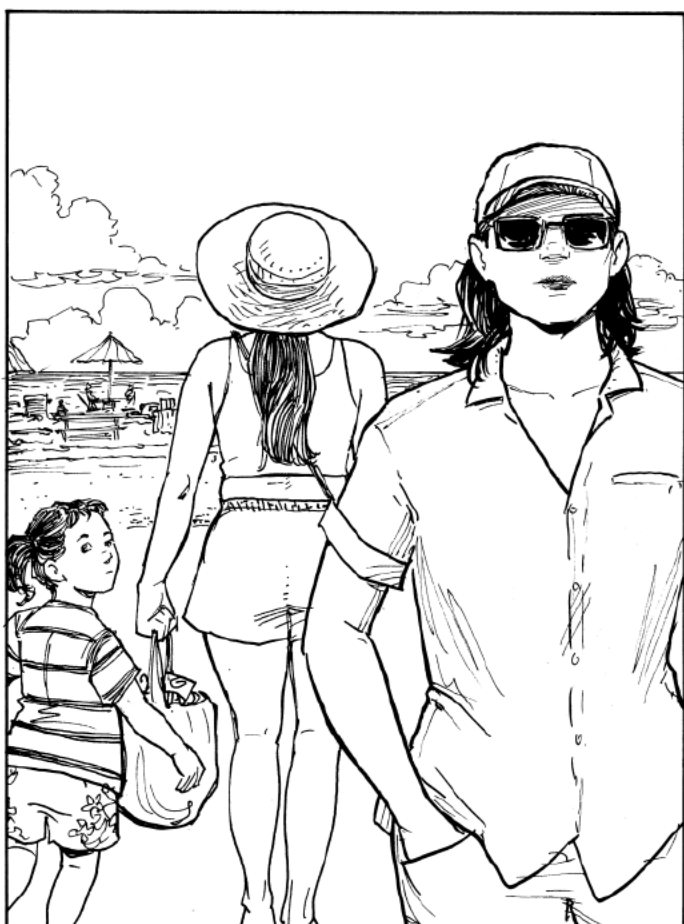
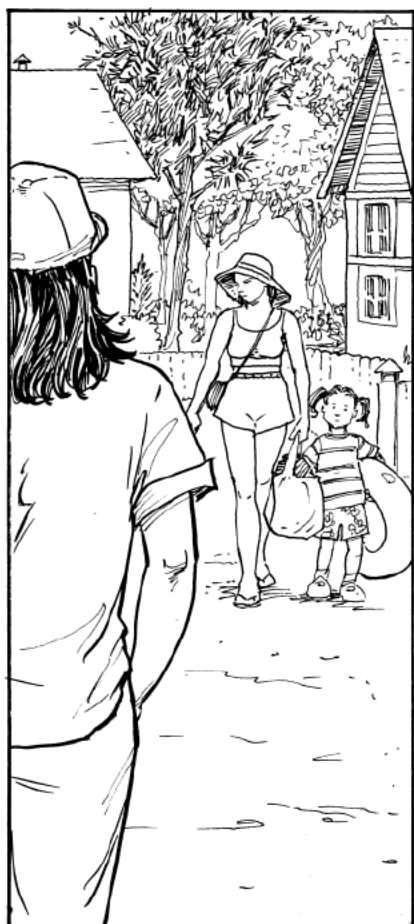
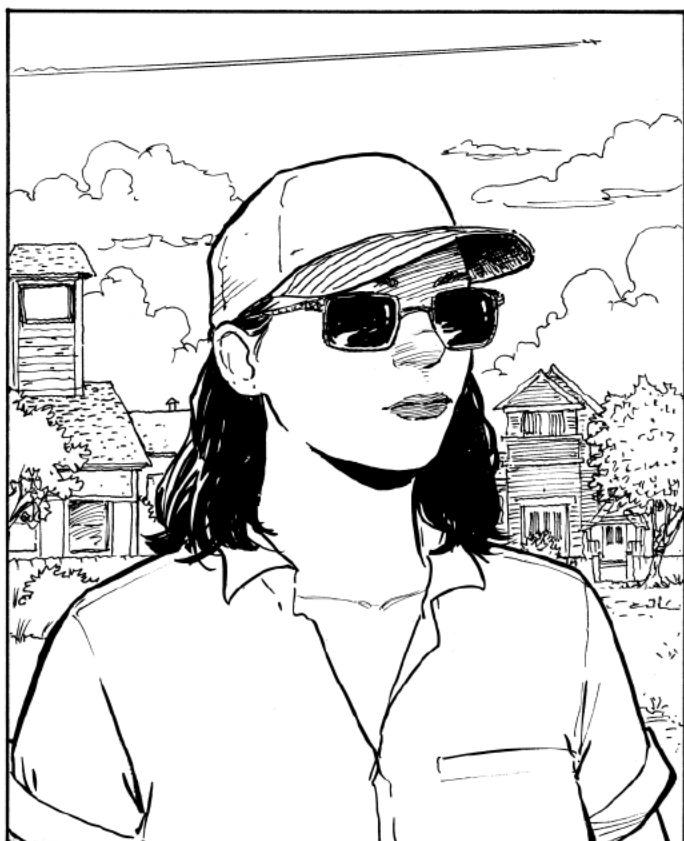
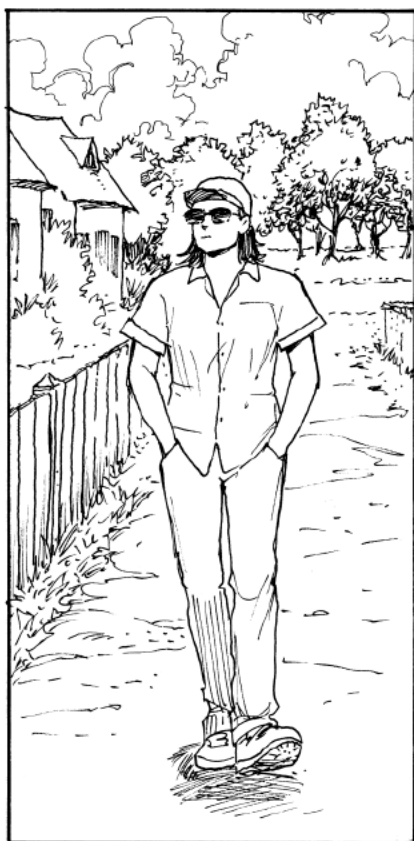


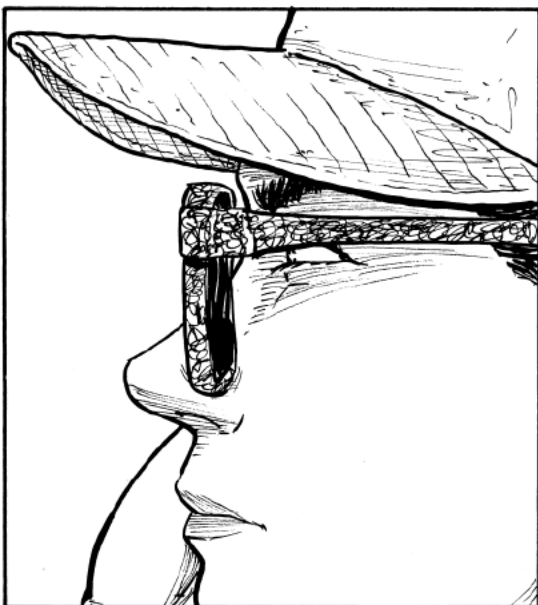
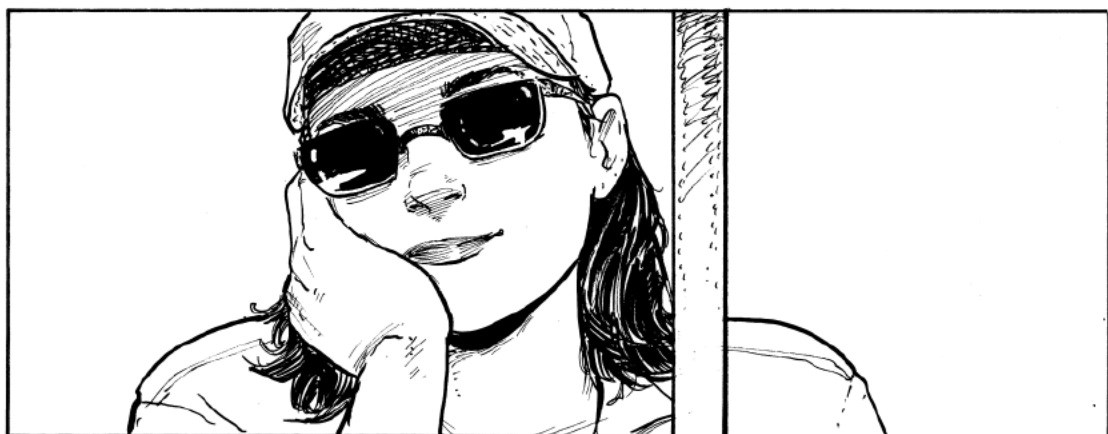


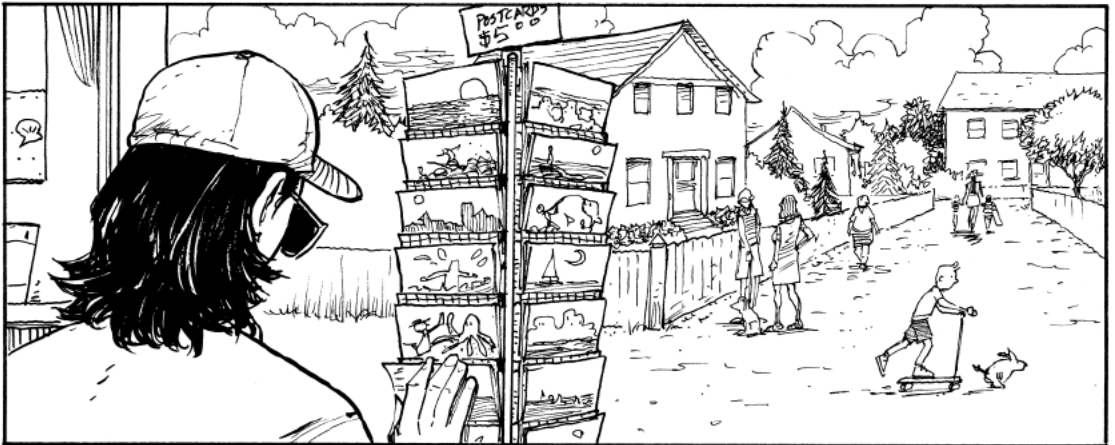
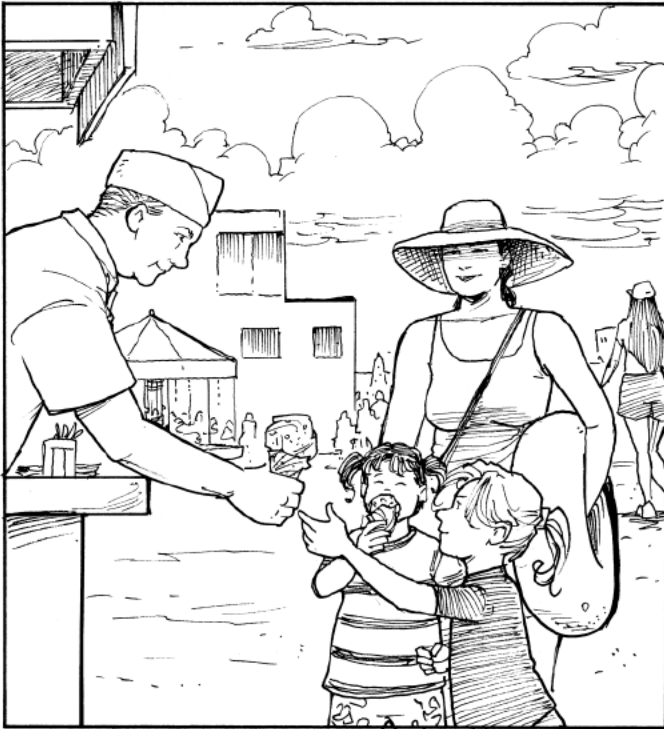
“He sent upon them His burning anger,
Fury and indignation and trouble,
A band of destroying angels.”
Psalm 78:49



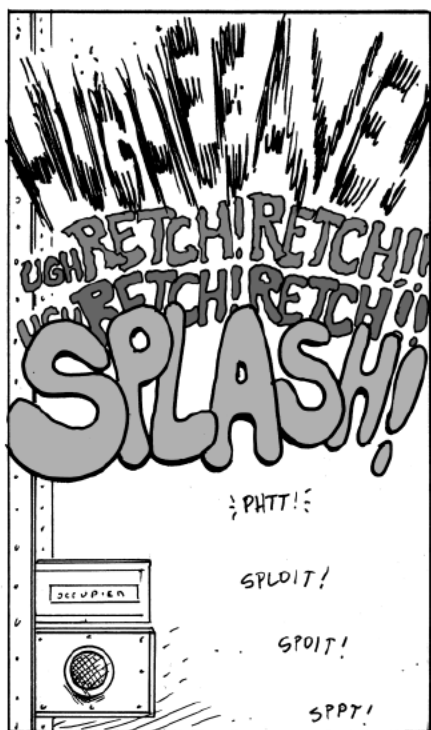
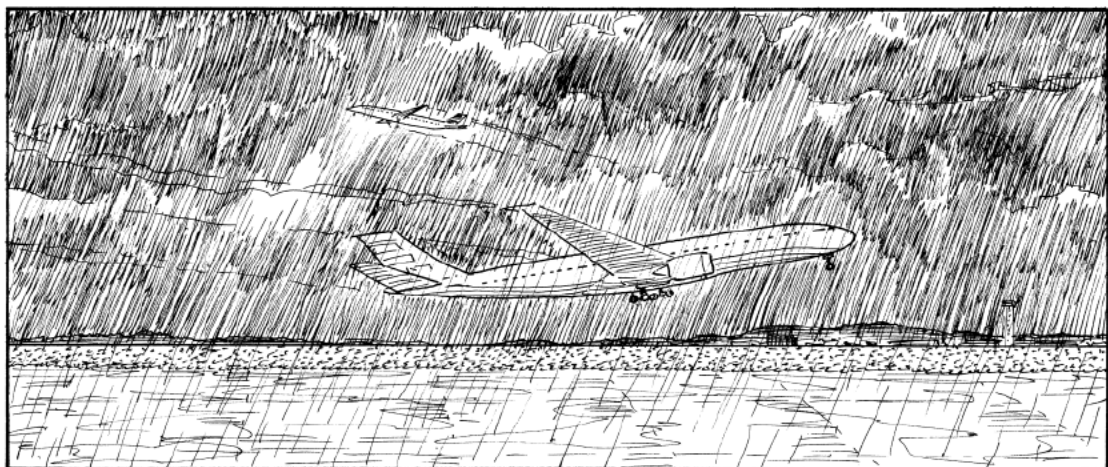


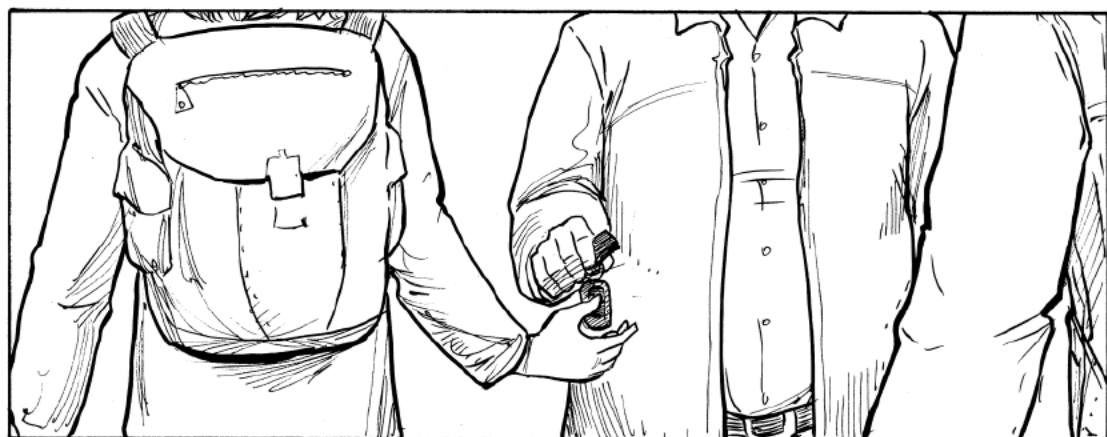


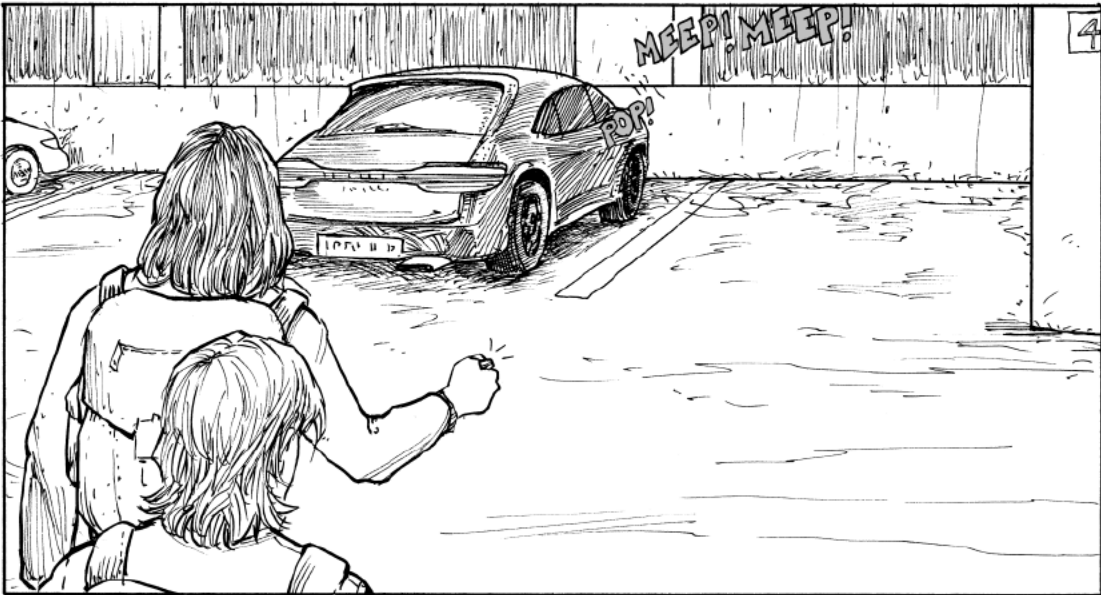


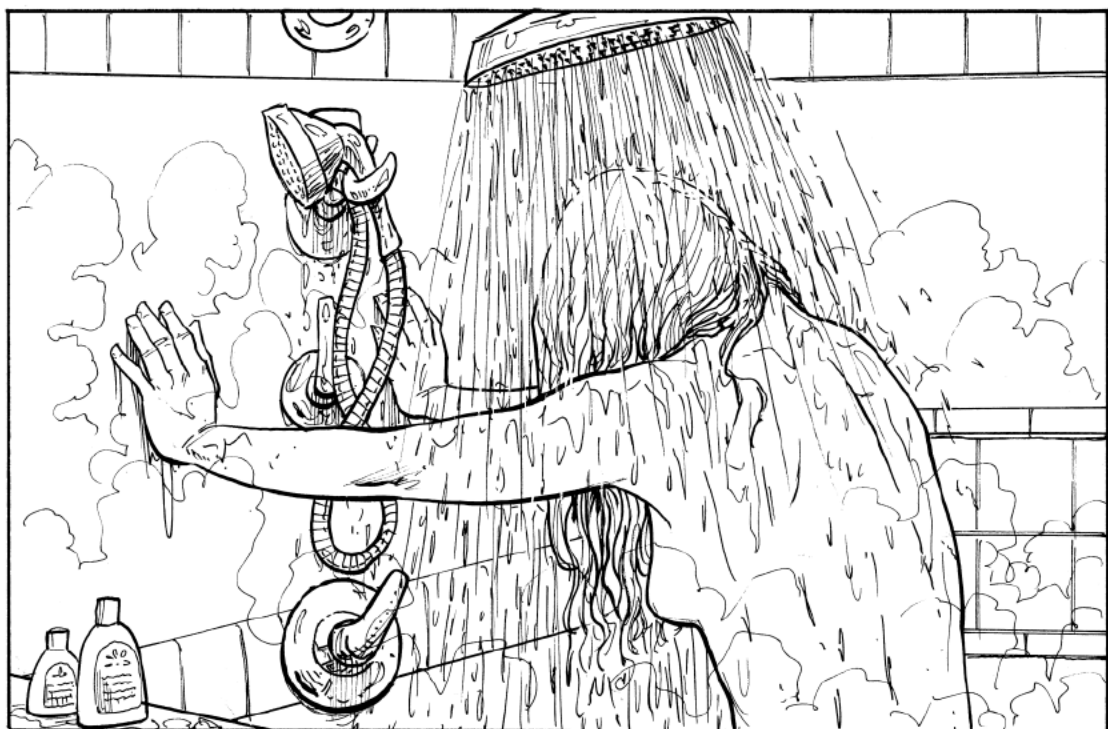


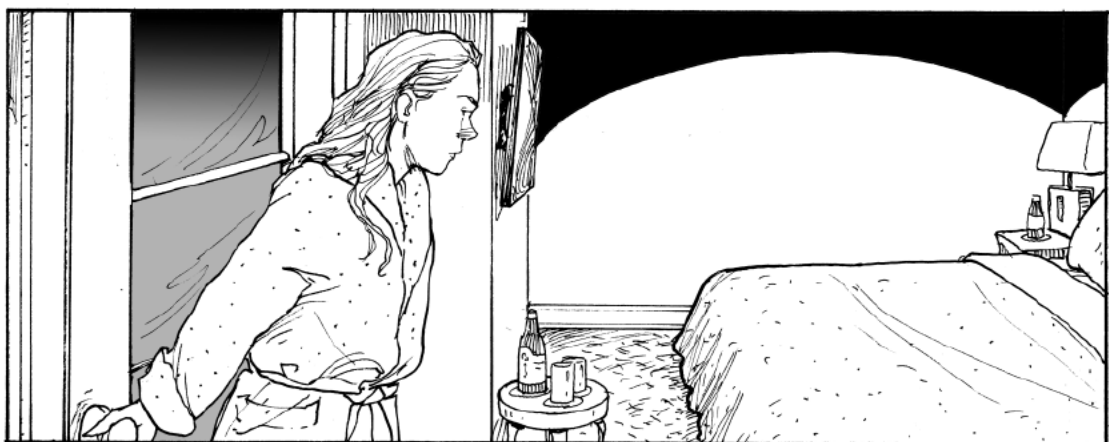
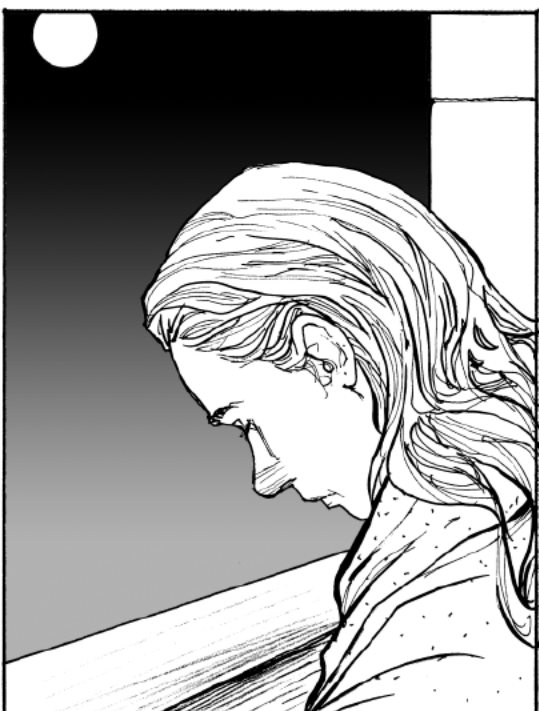
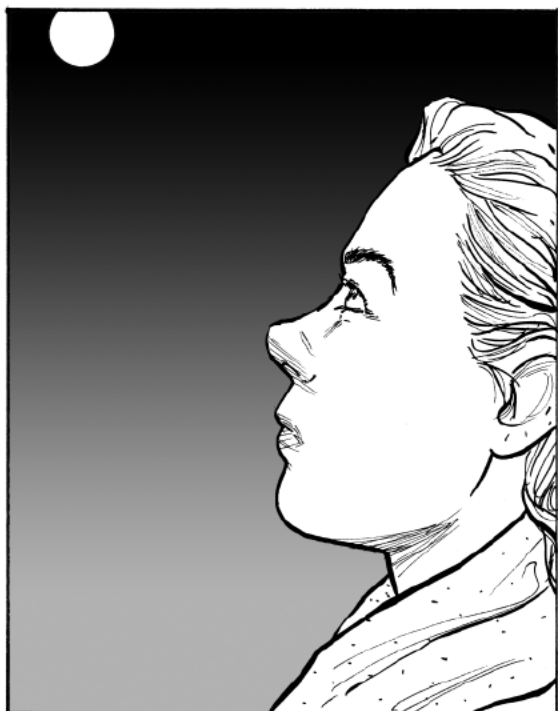


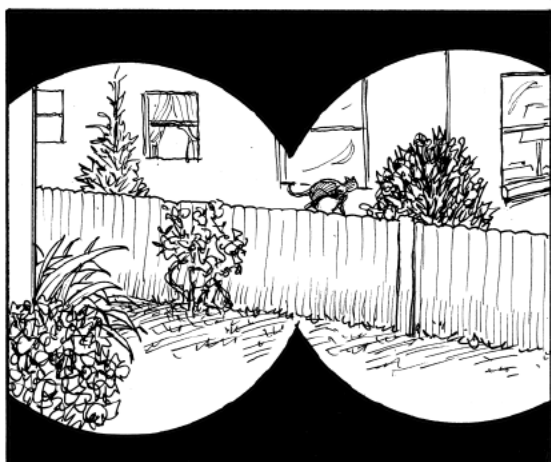
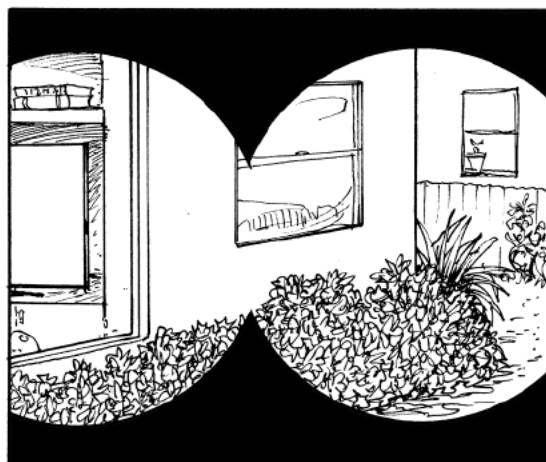
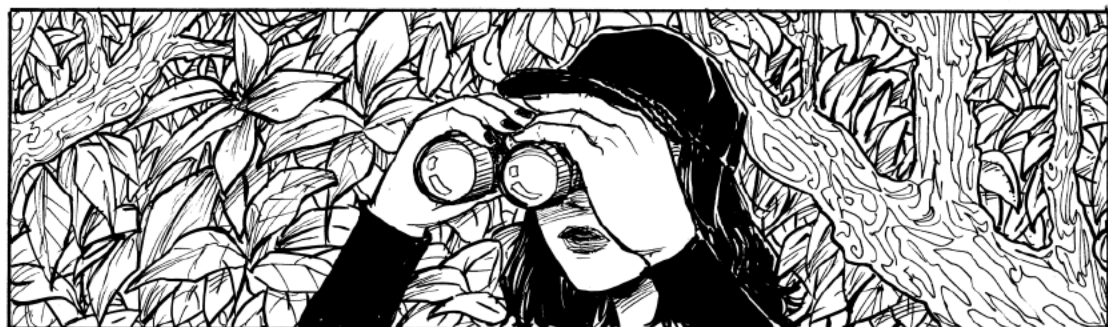
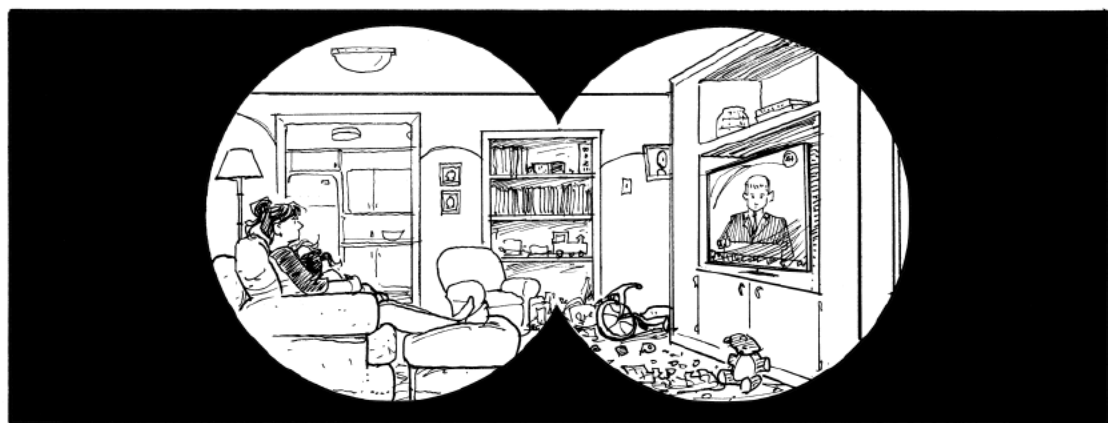


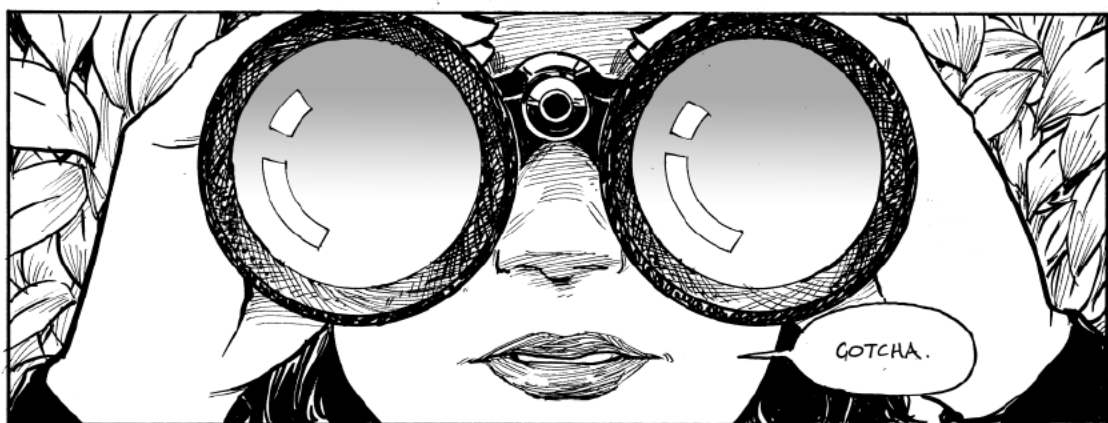
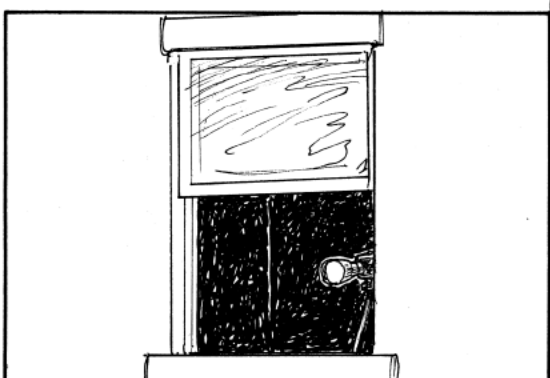


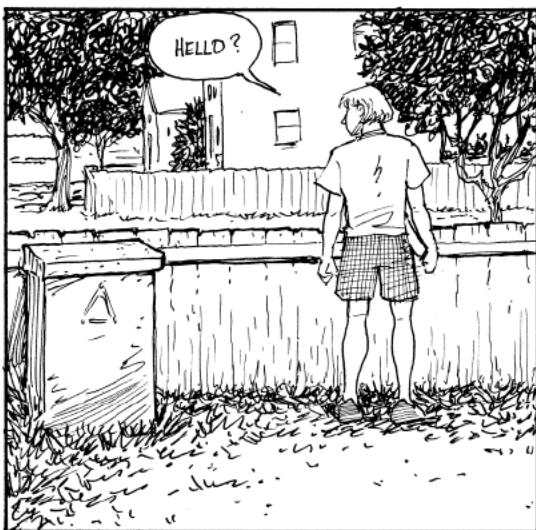
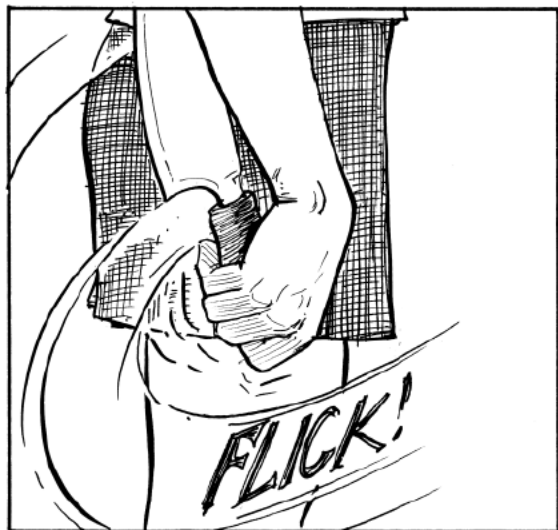
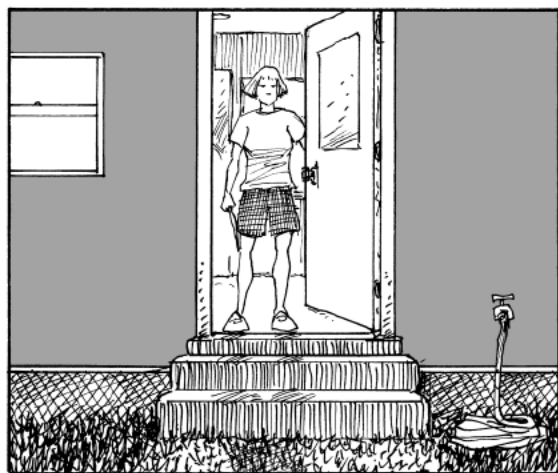
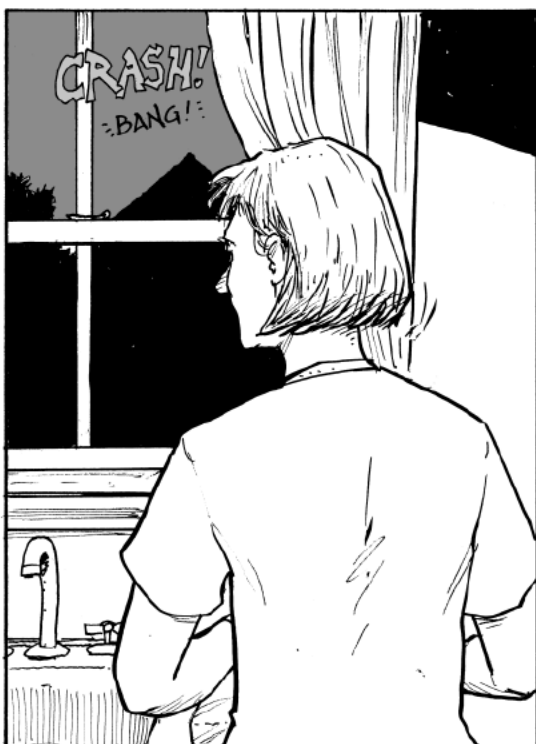
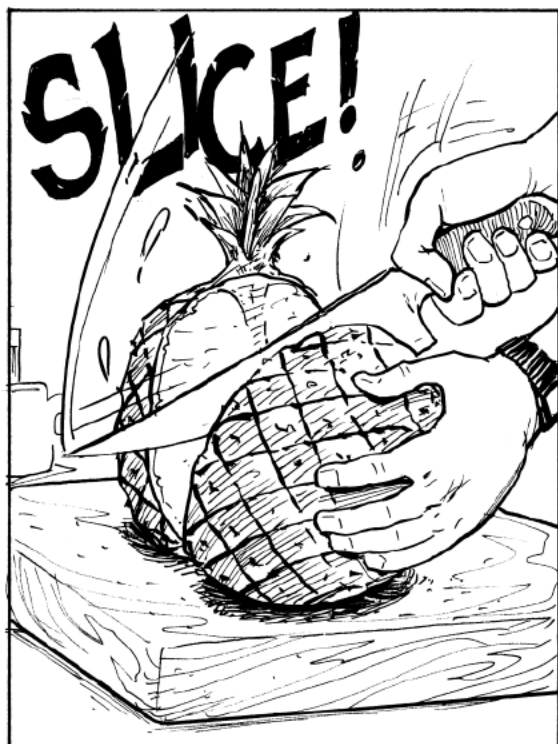


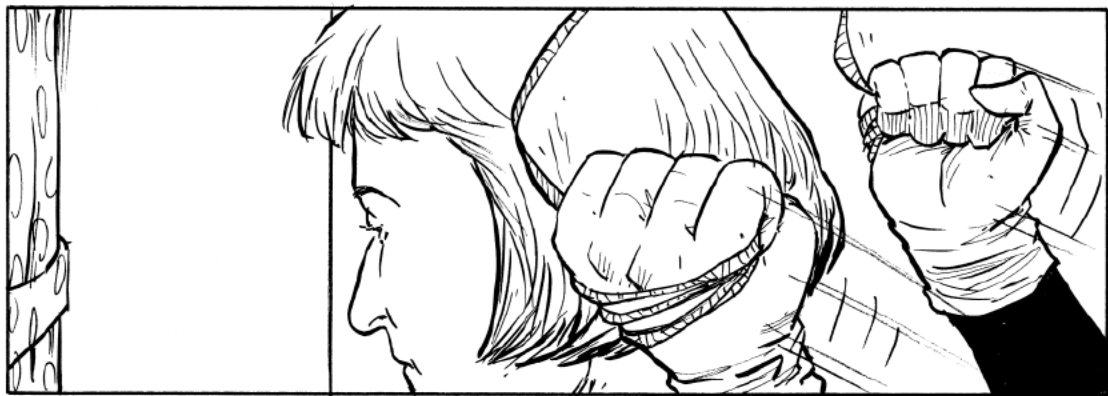
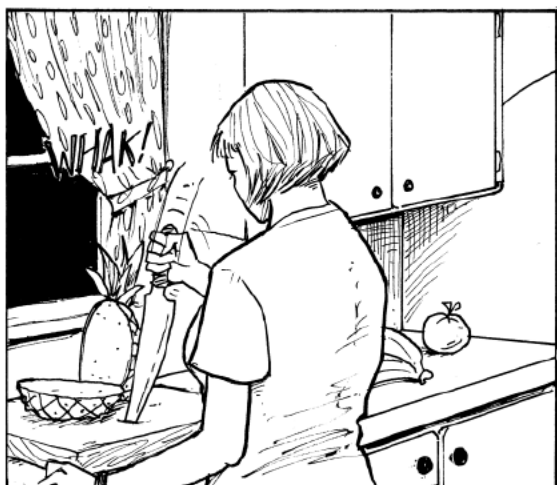
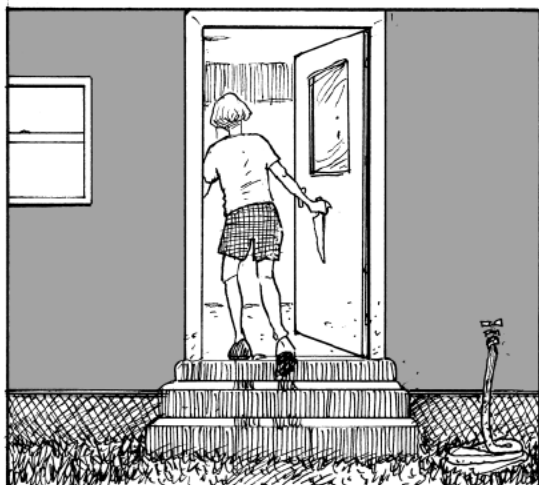


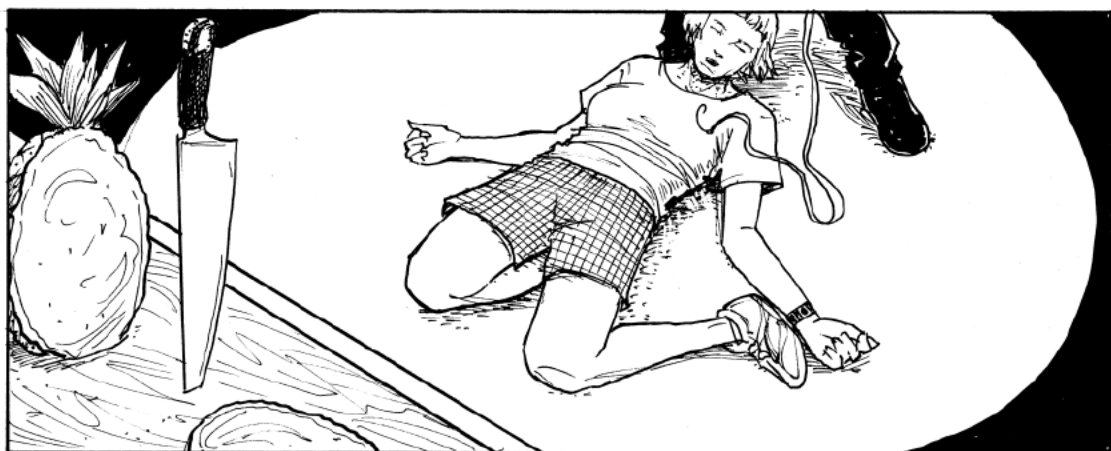
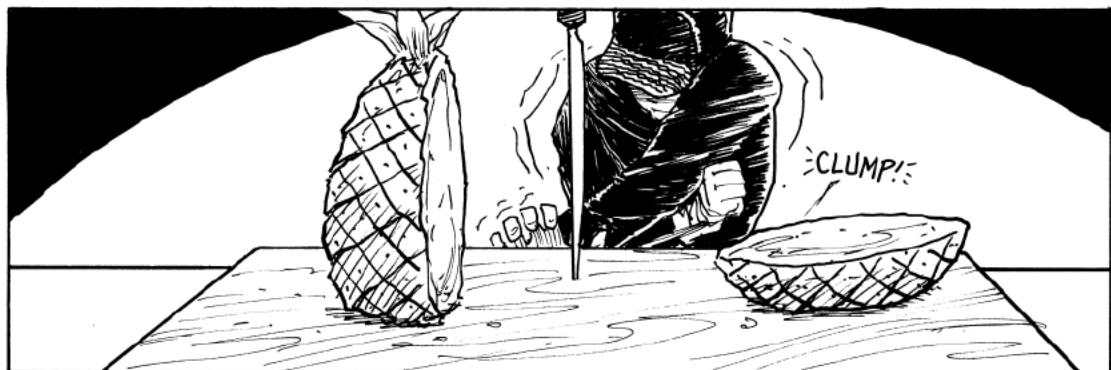


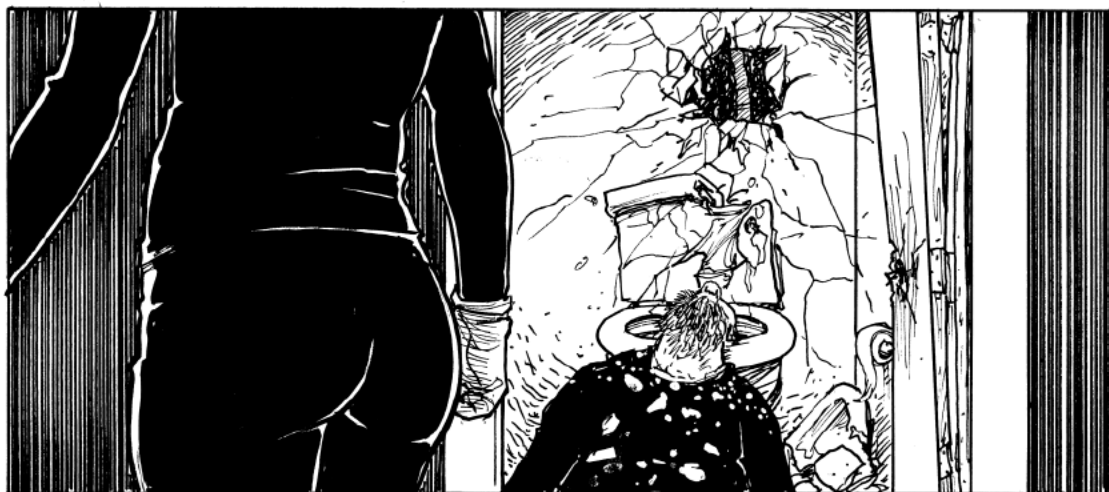
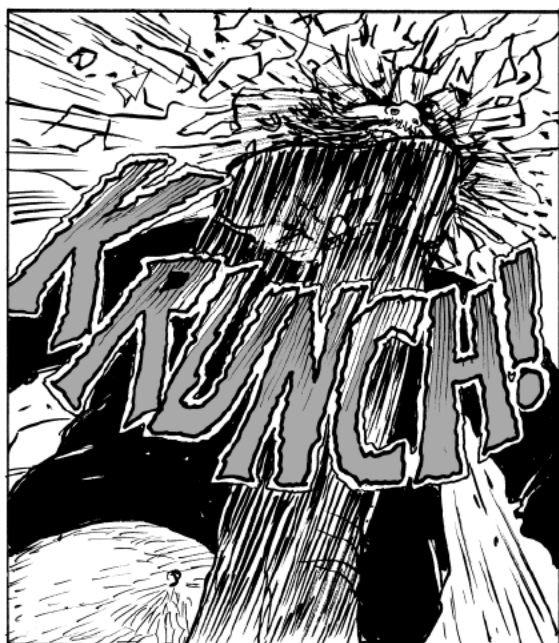
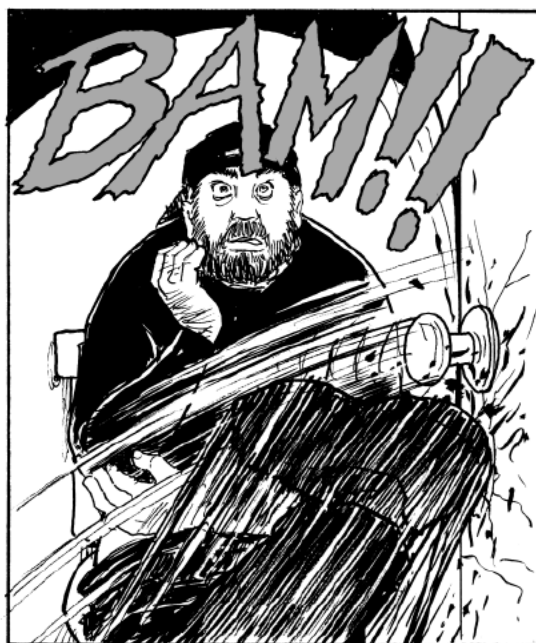
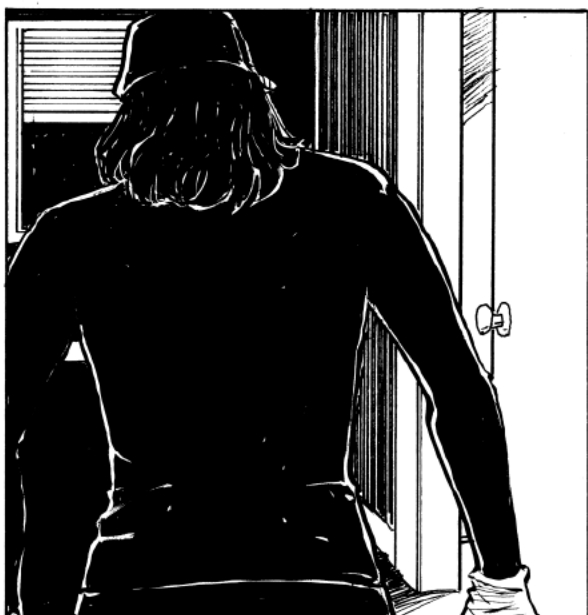


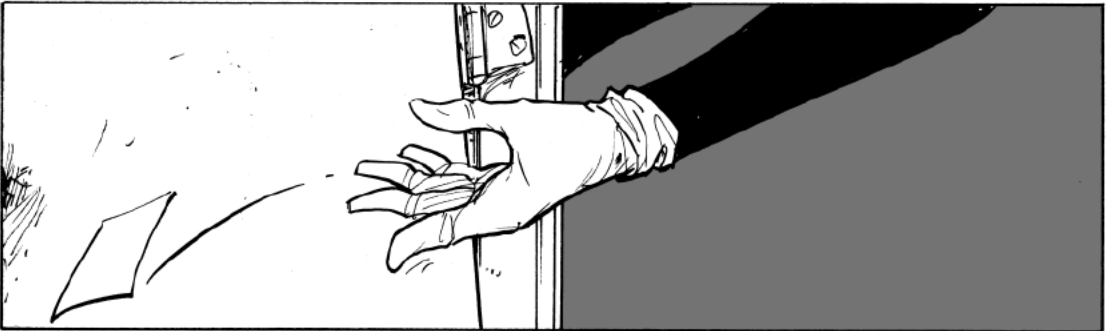
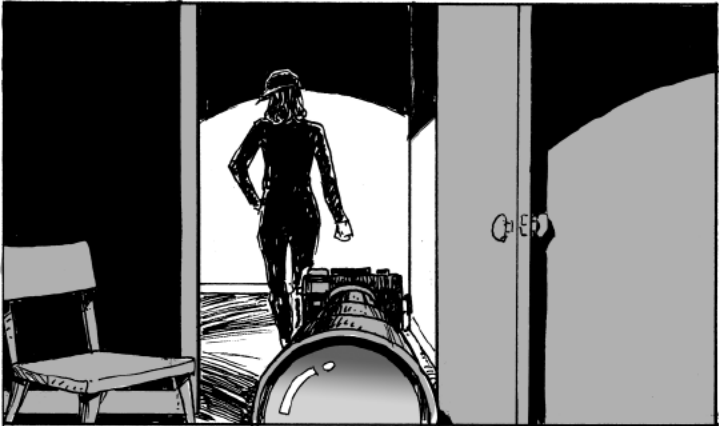
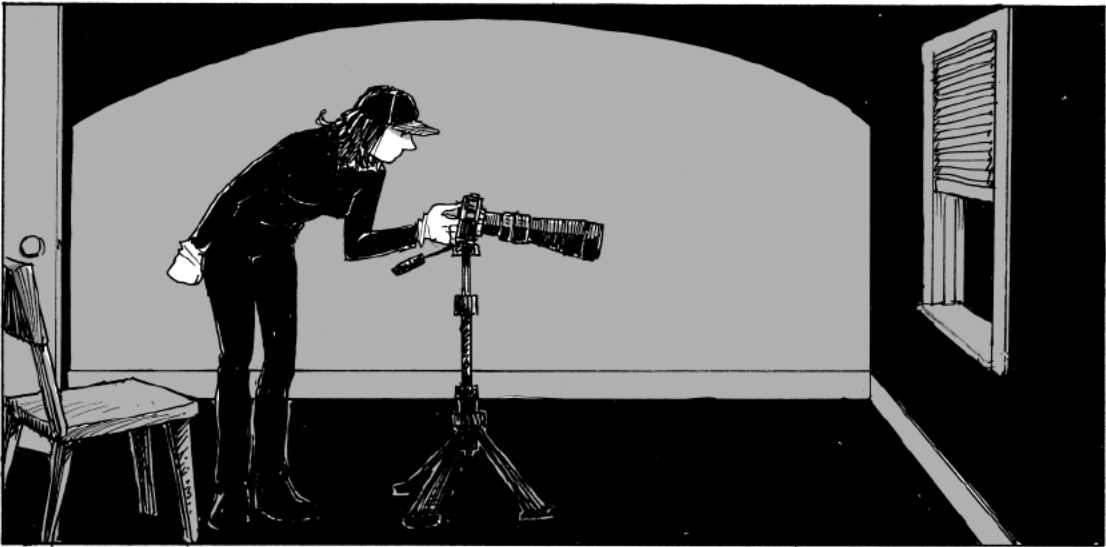














9

Terry Moore

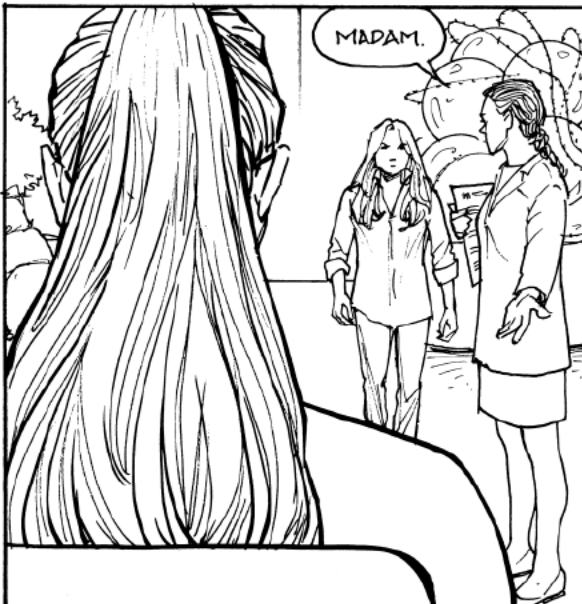
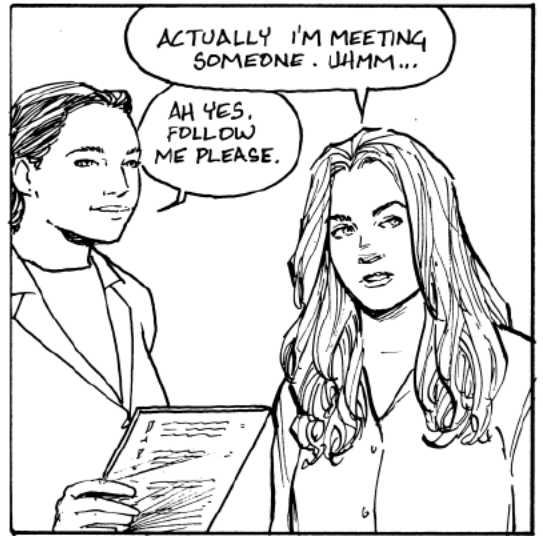
PARKER GIRLS

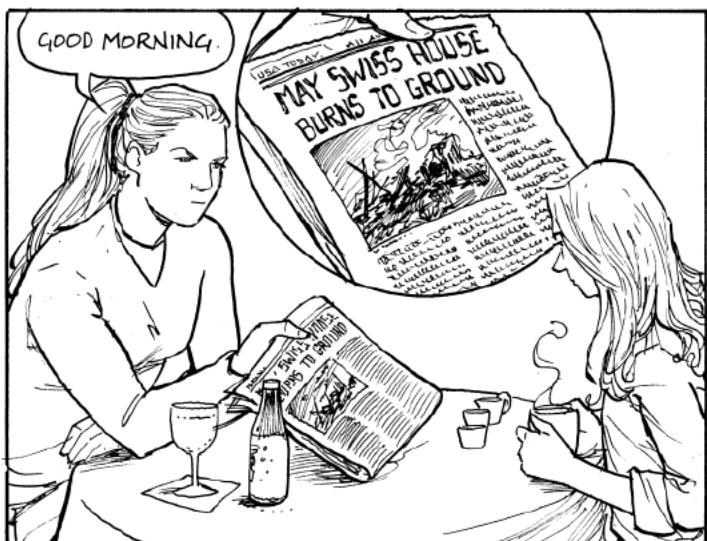


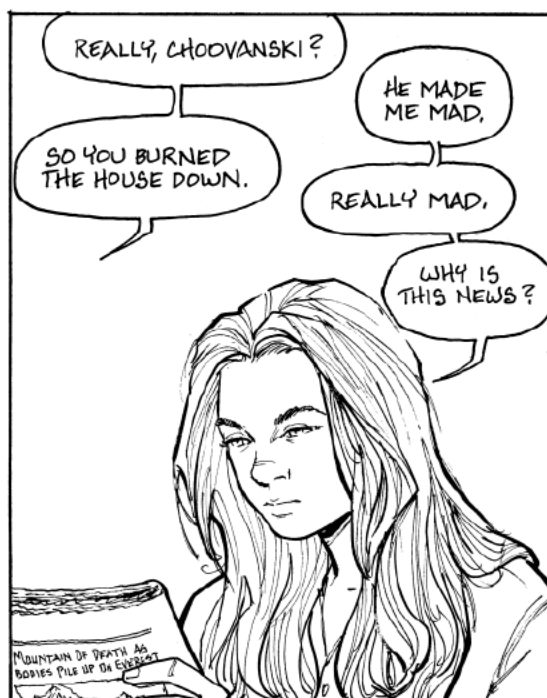


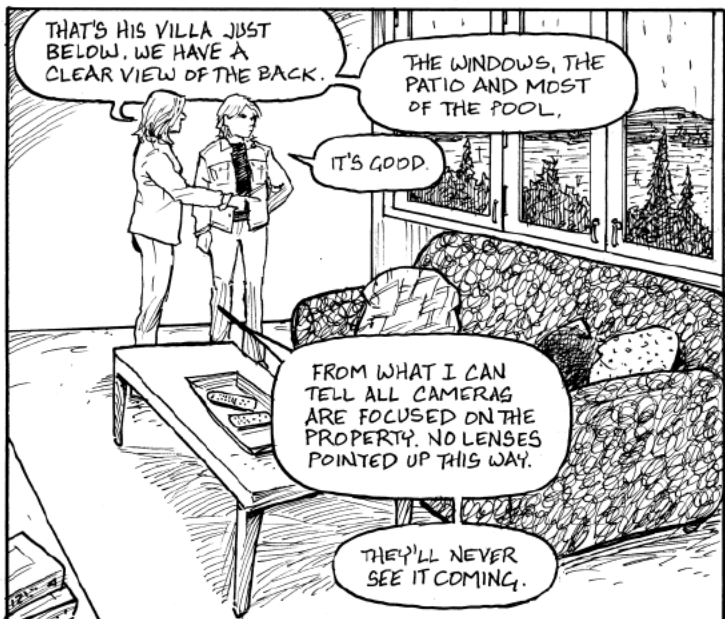
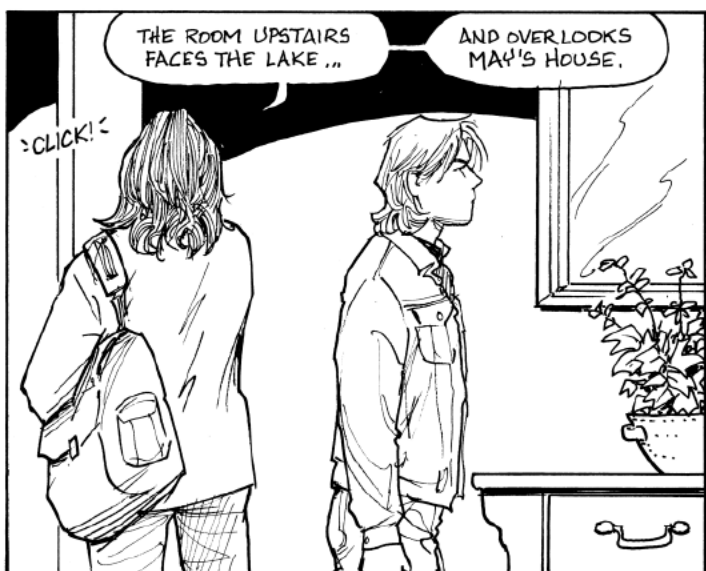
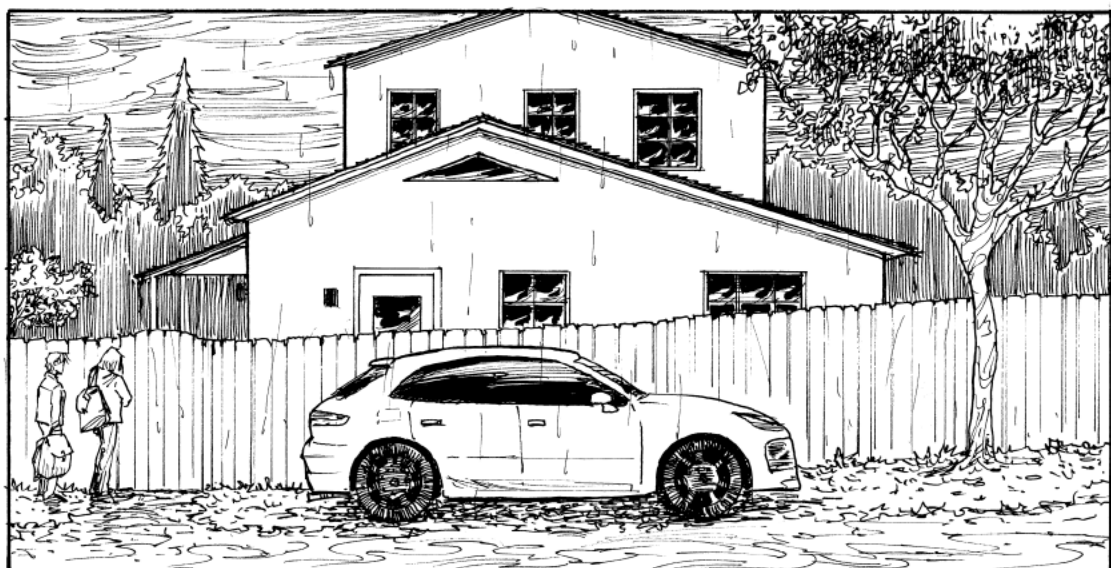
“The child that was not embraced by the village
will burn it down to feel it’s warmth.”

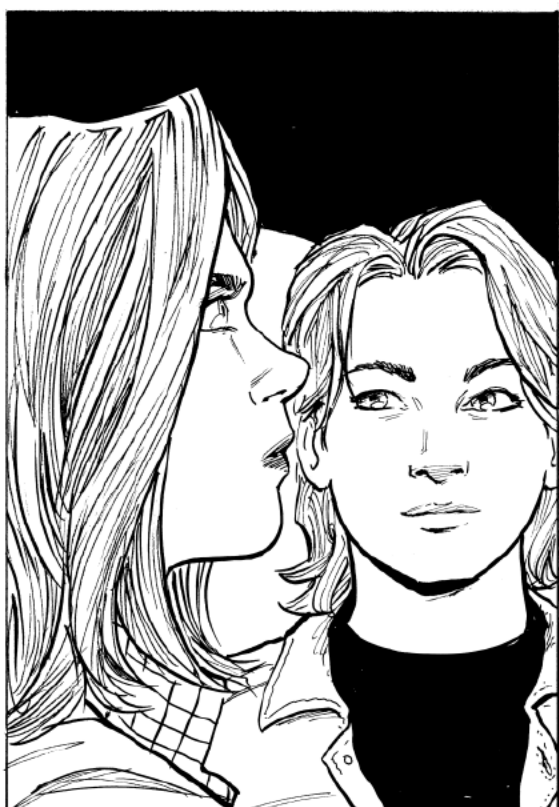
African Proverb

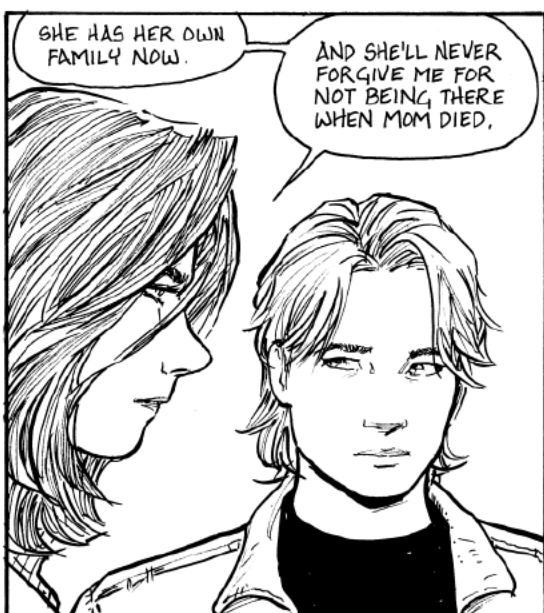


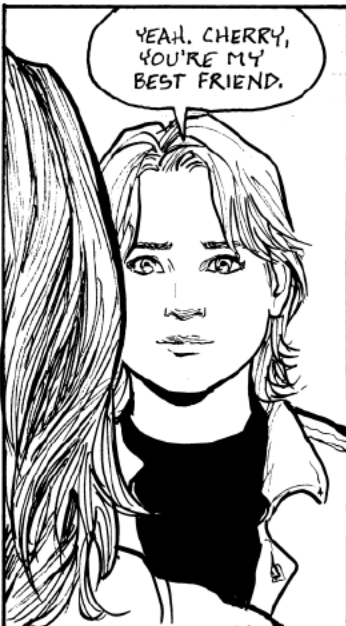
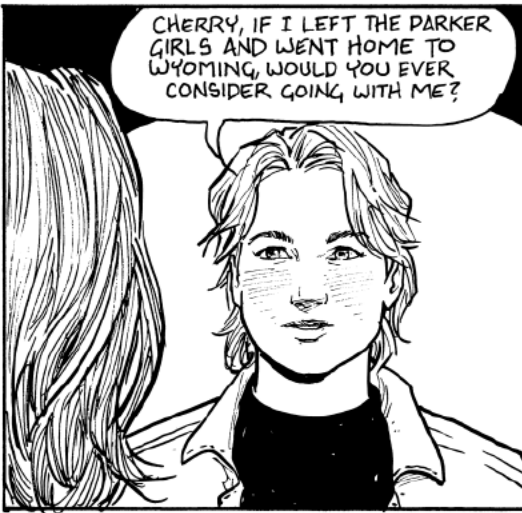
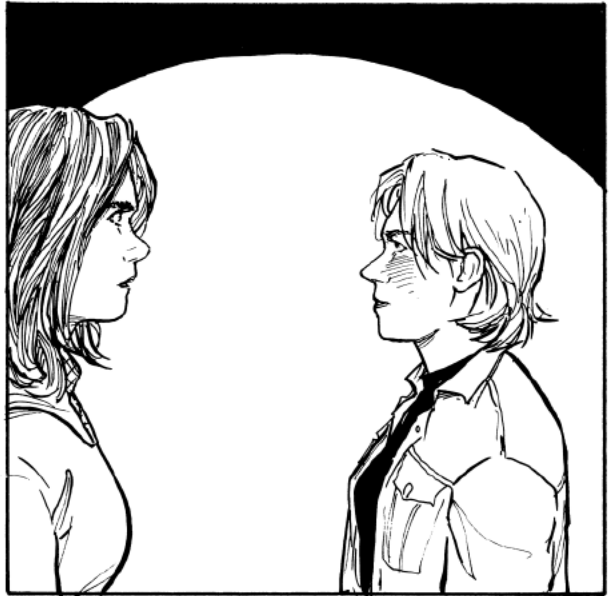
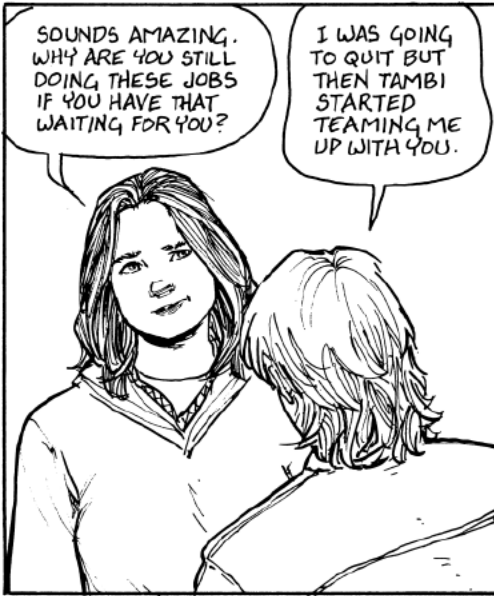


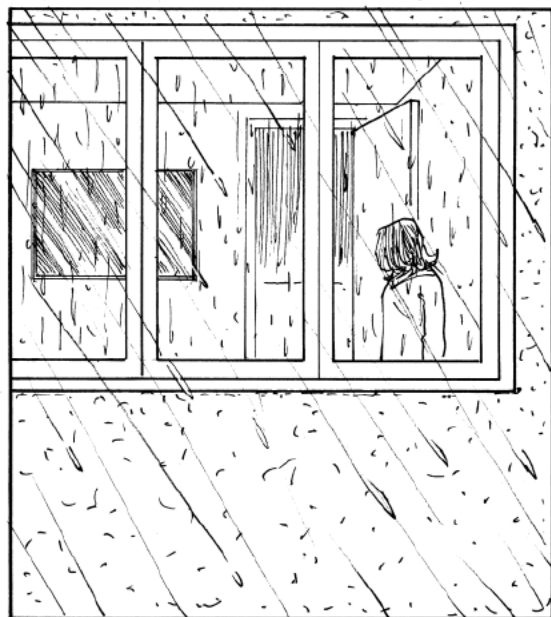
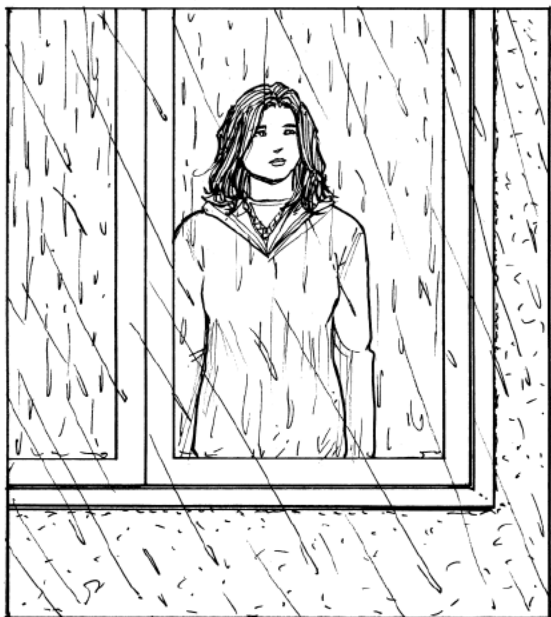
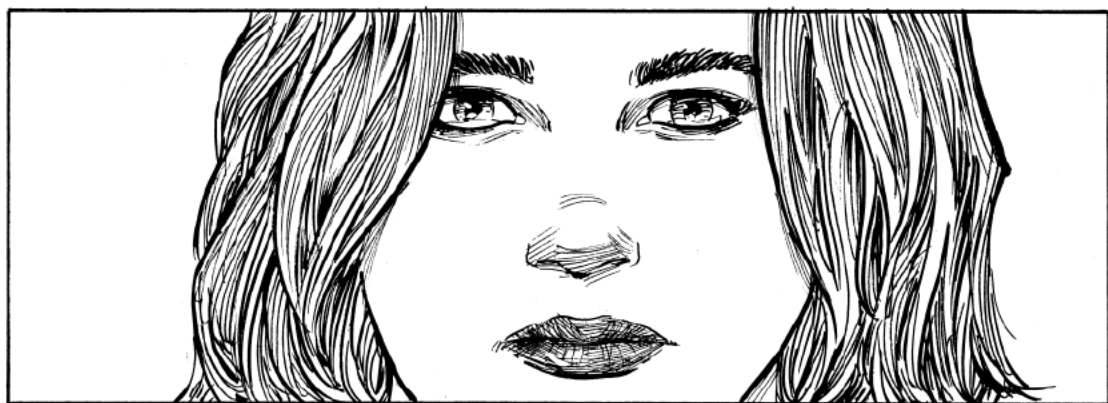
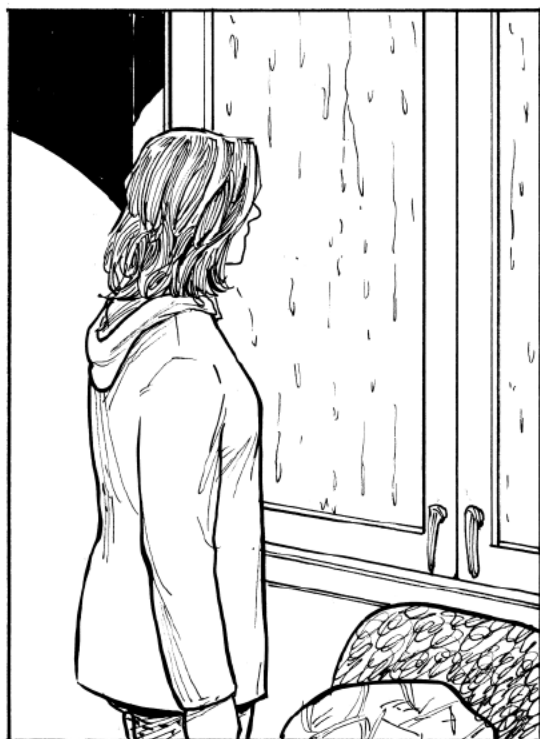


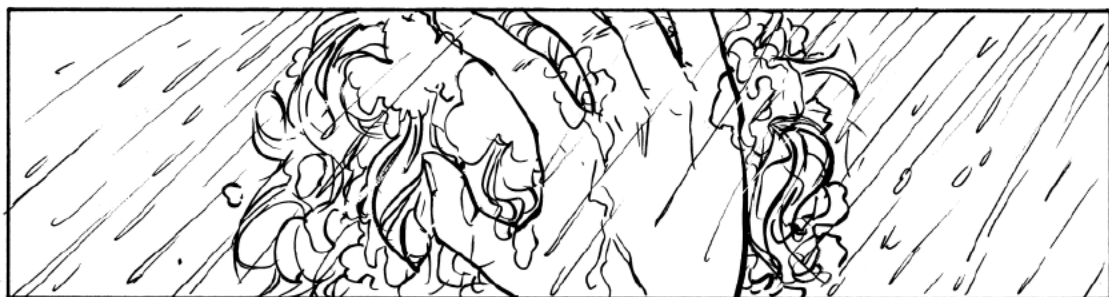
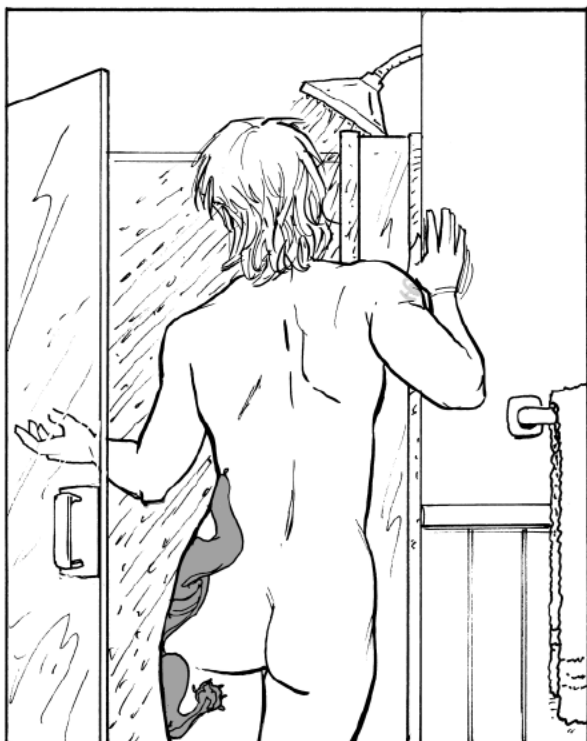


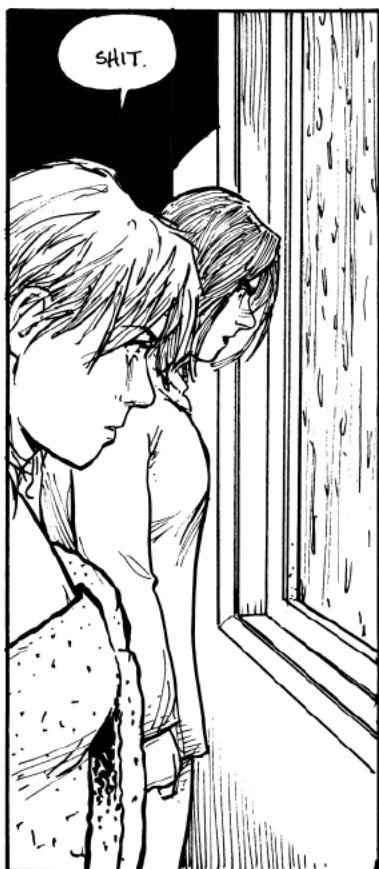
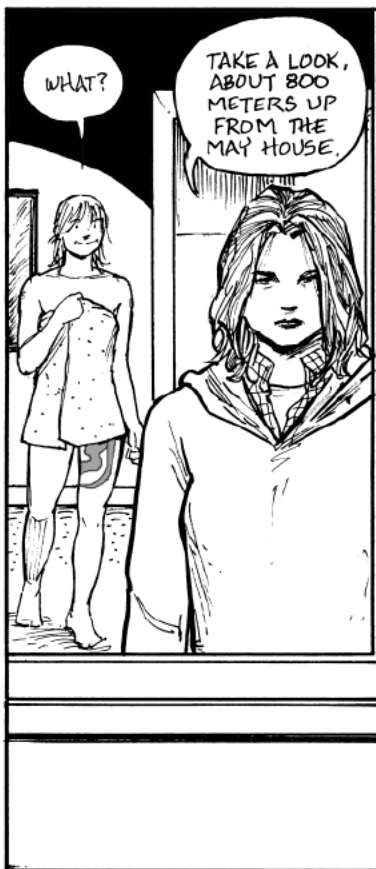
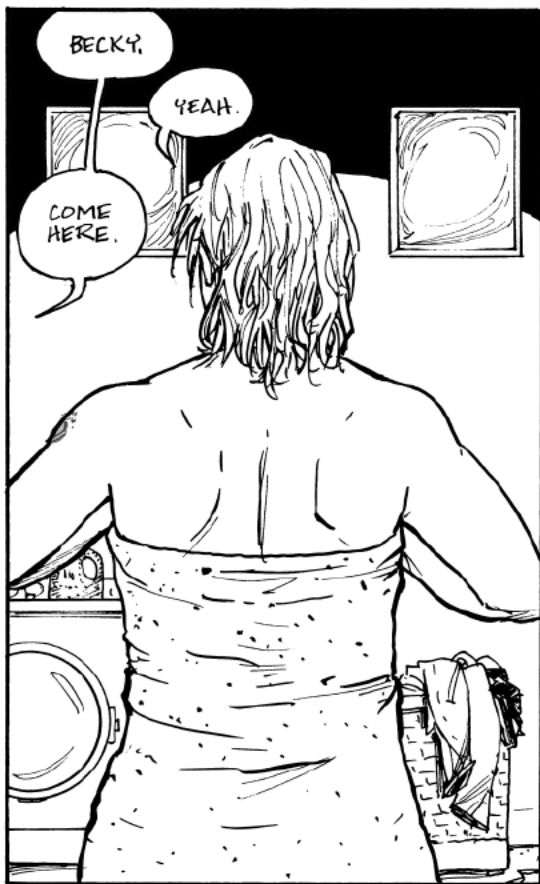
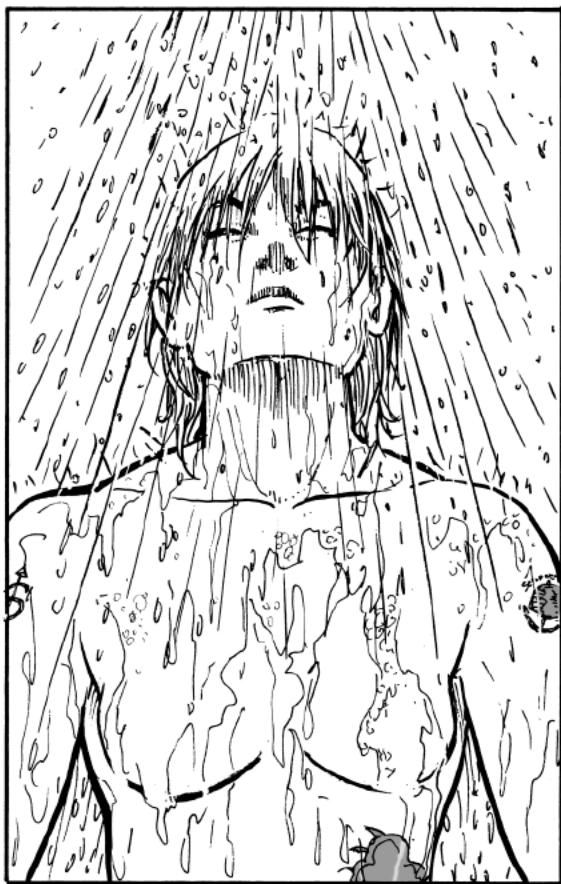






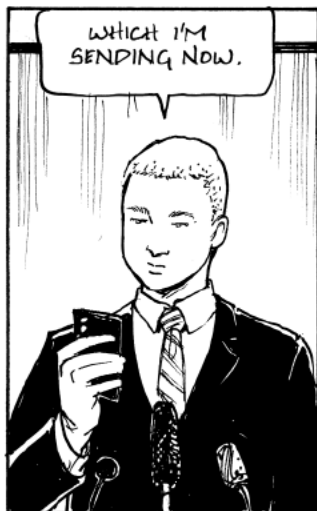
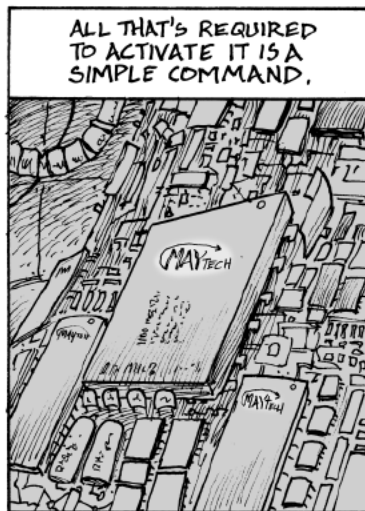
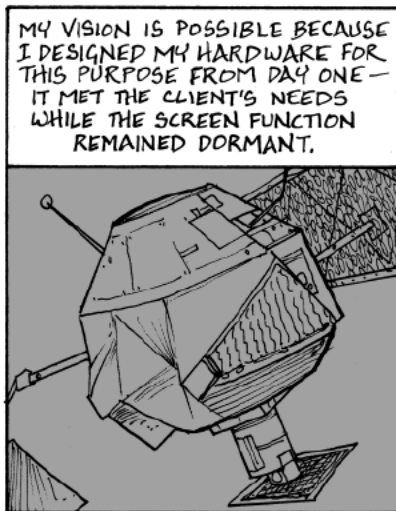
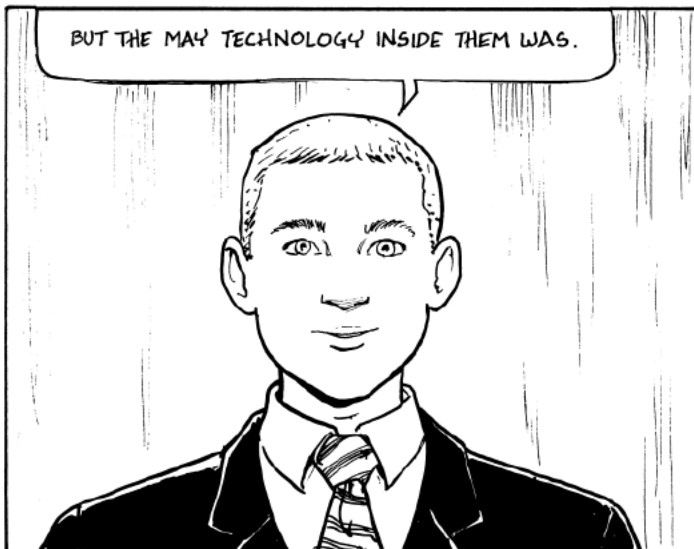
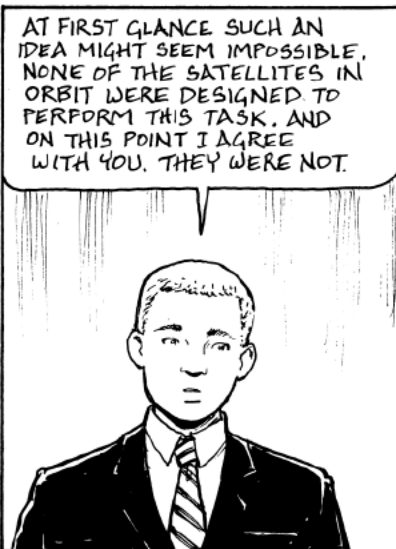
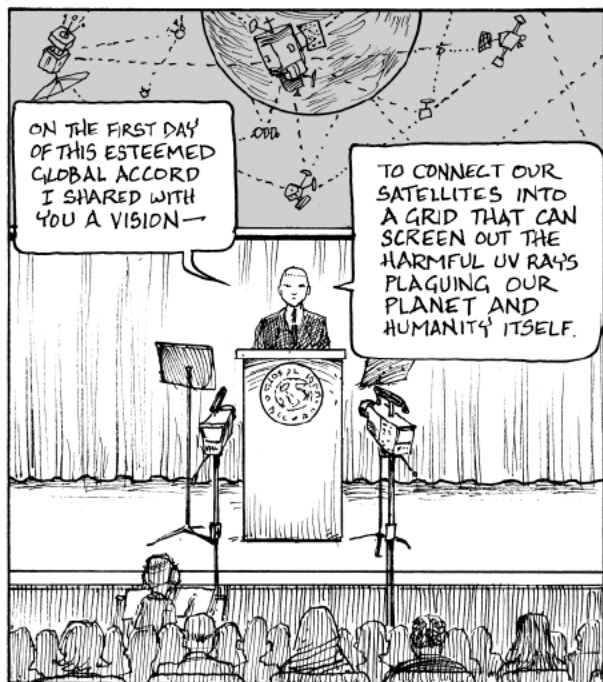


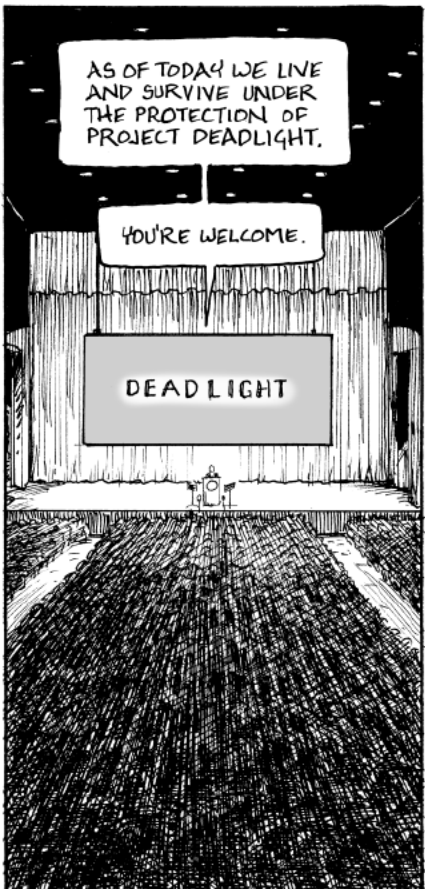
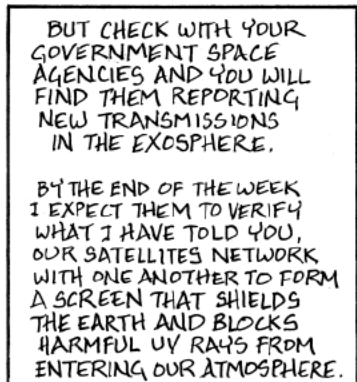


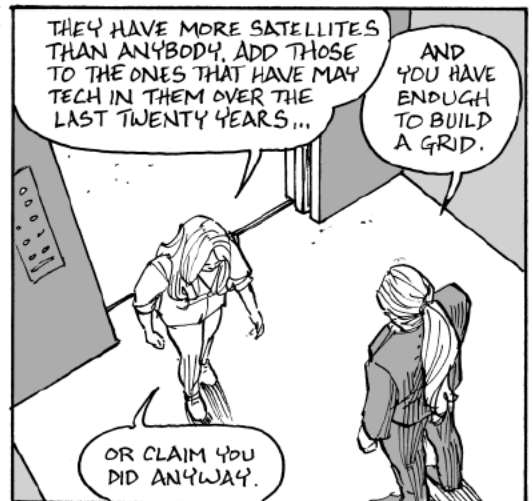




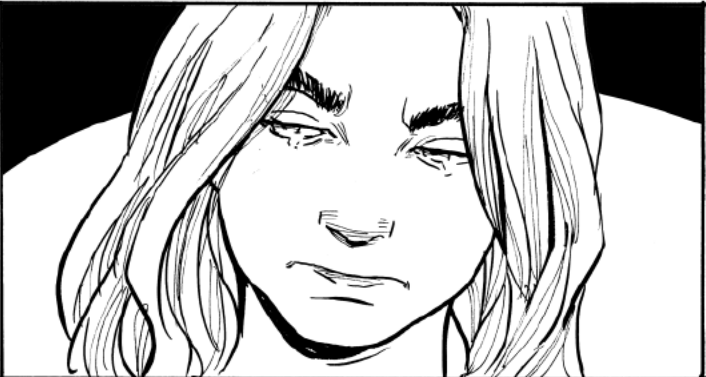
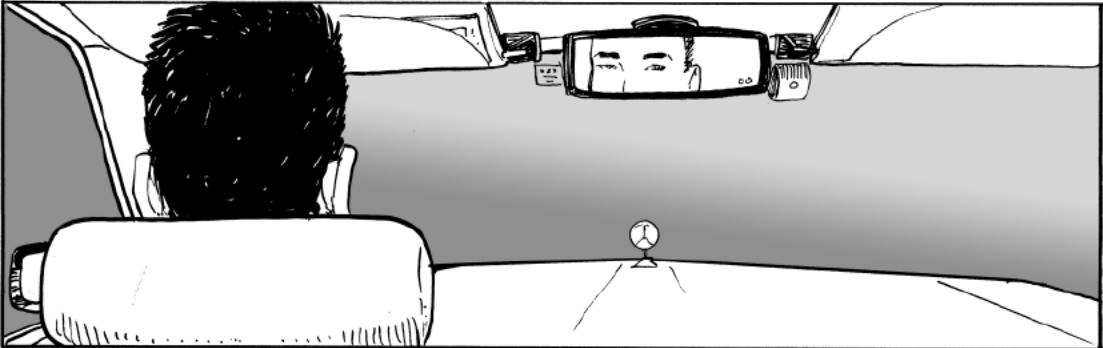
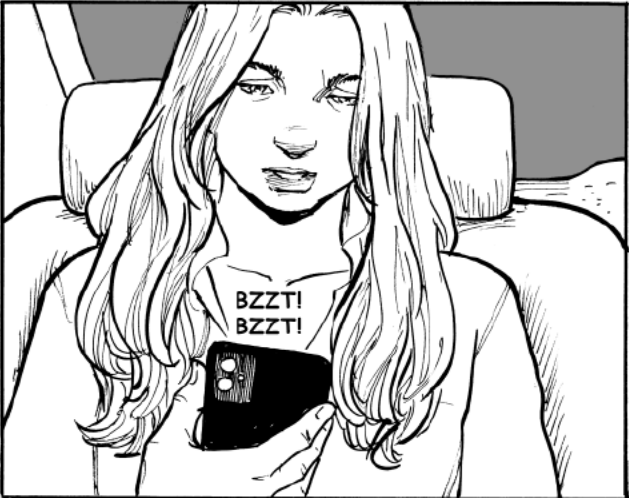
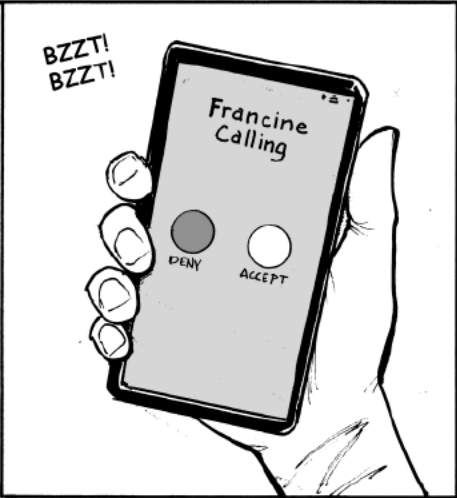
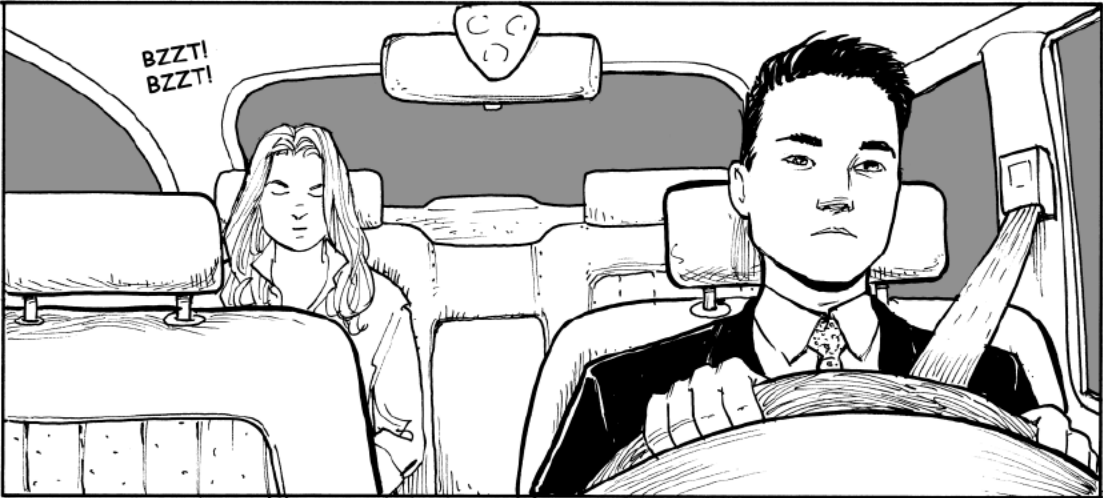


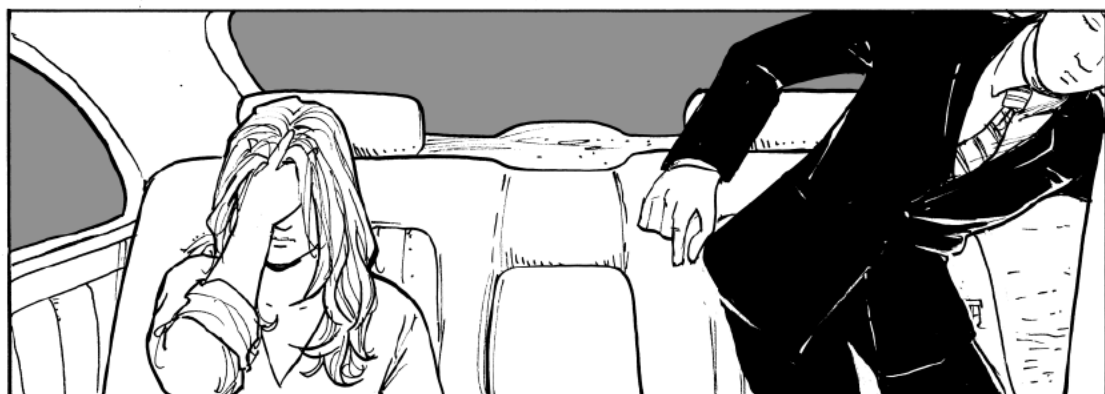












Terry Moore

ABSTRACT
STUDIO

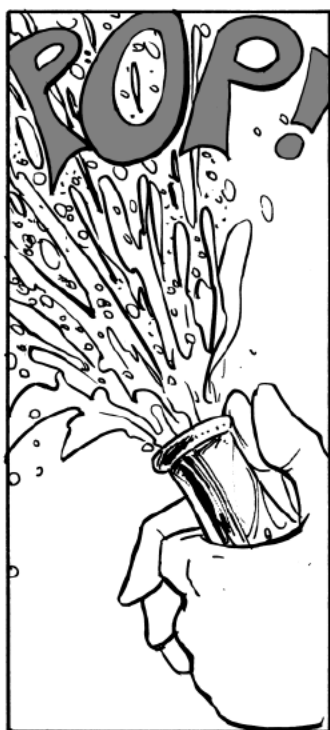
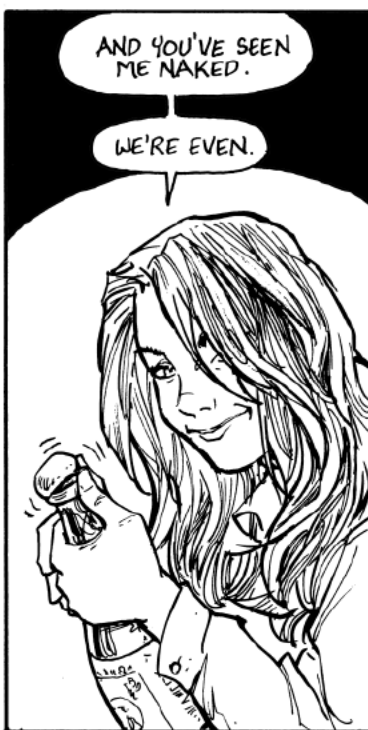
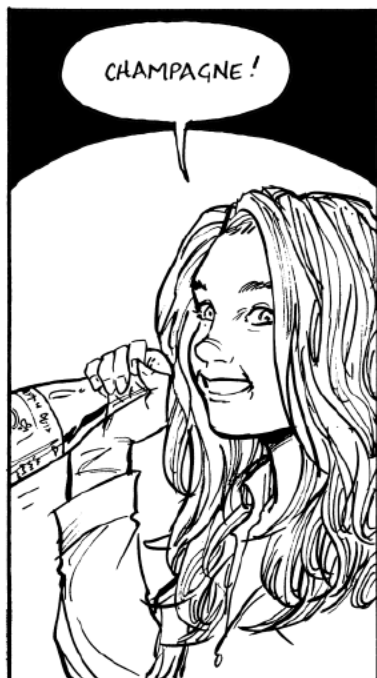
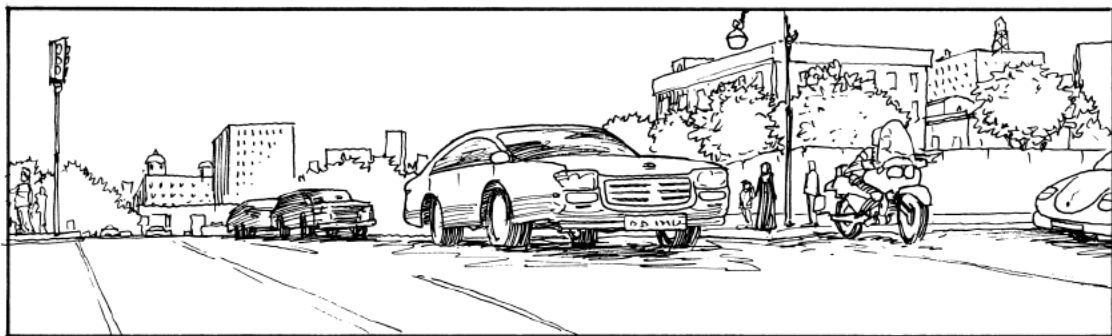
10

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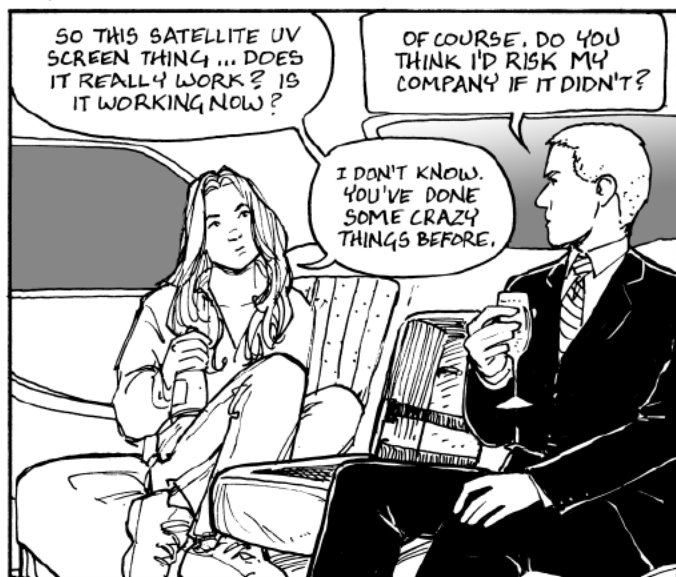
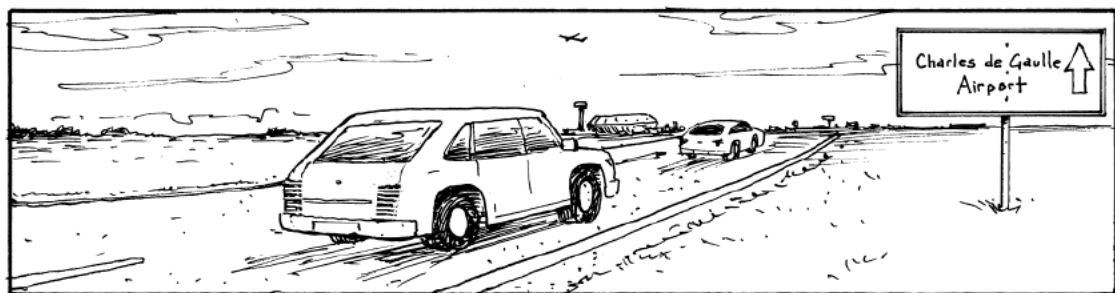


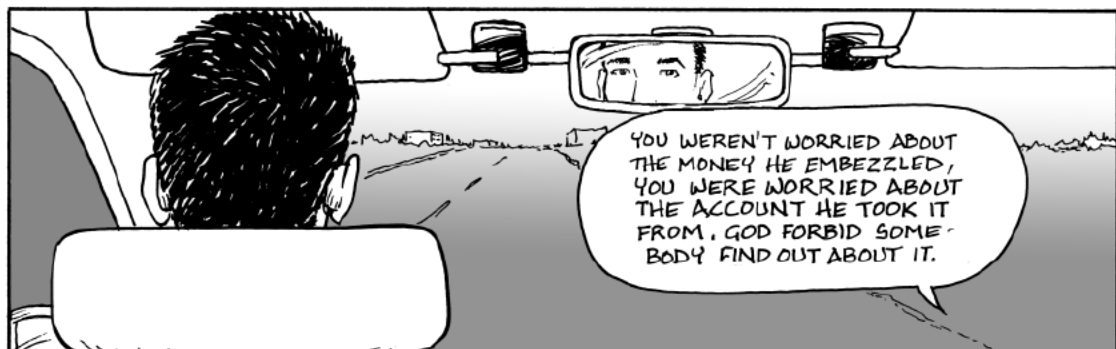


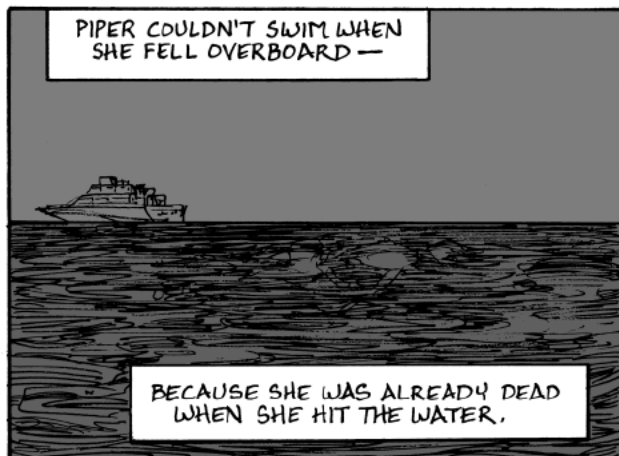
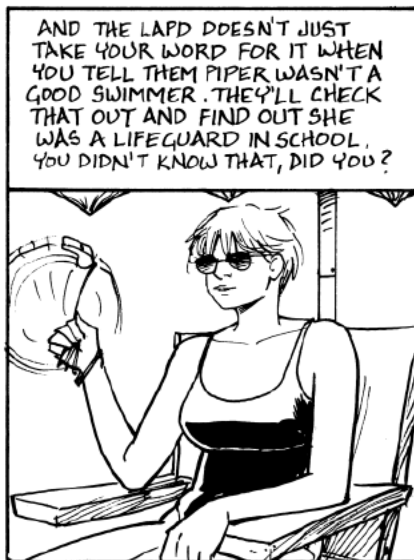
Years of love have been forgot,
In the hatred of a minute.
—Edgar Allan Poe

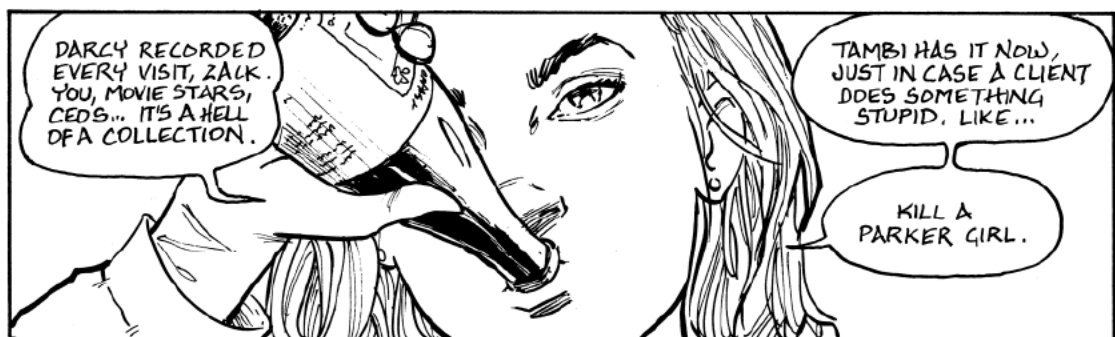
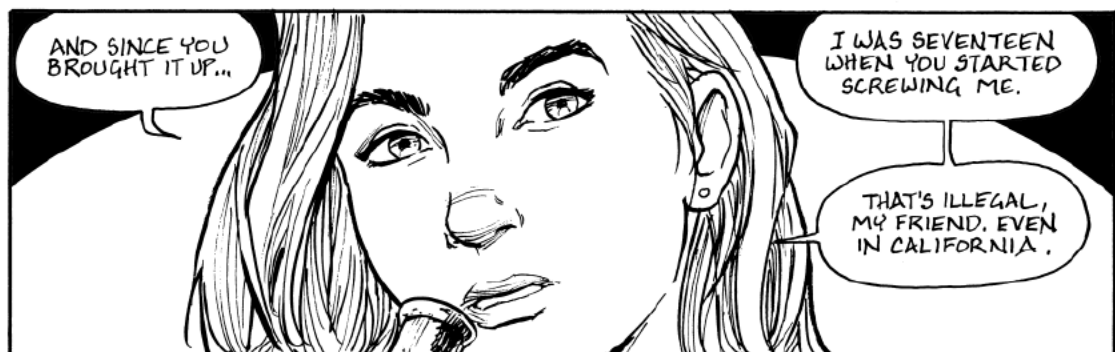


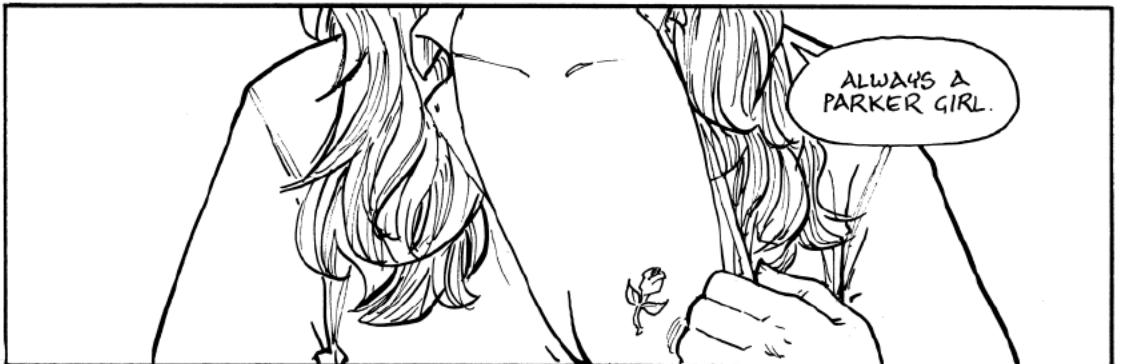
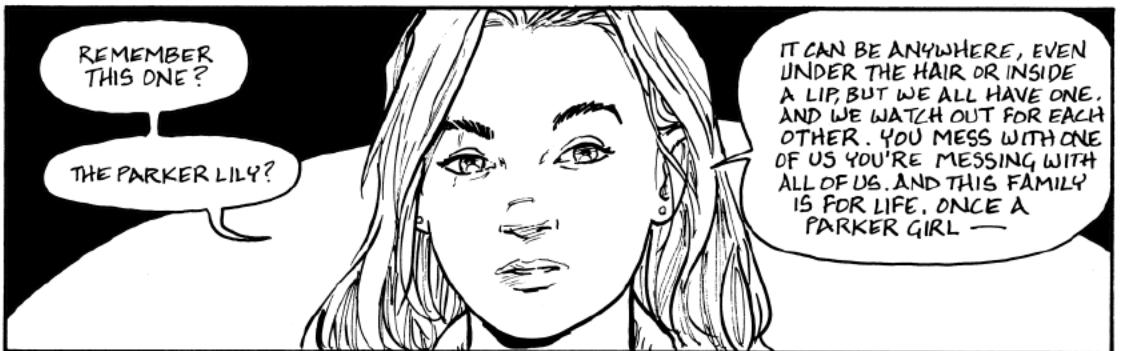
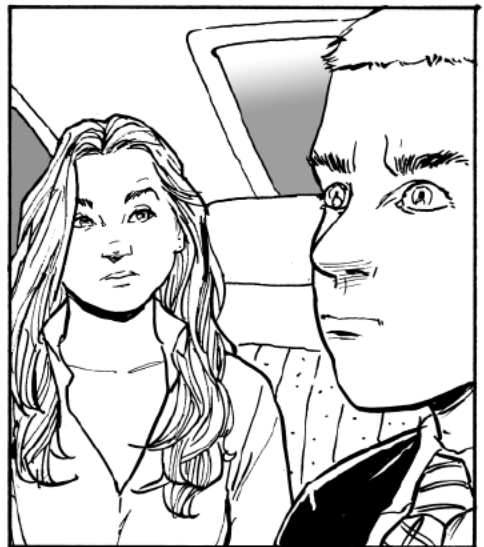


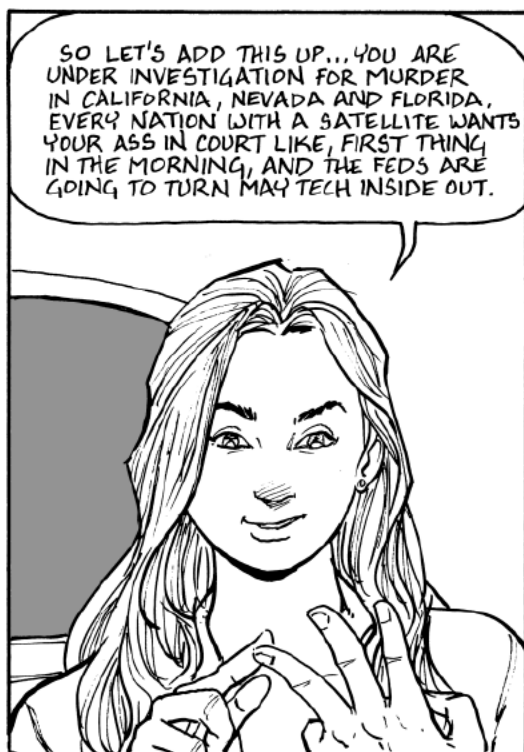
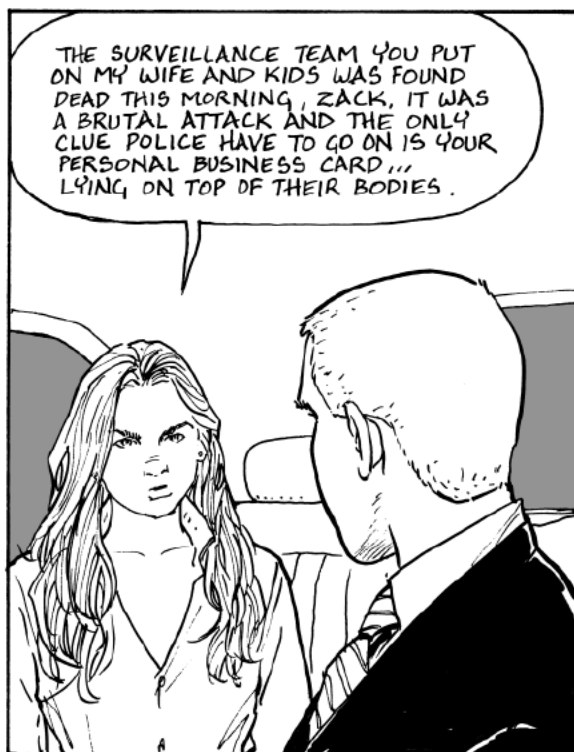


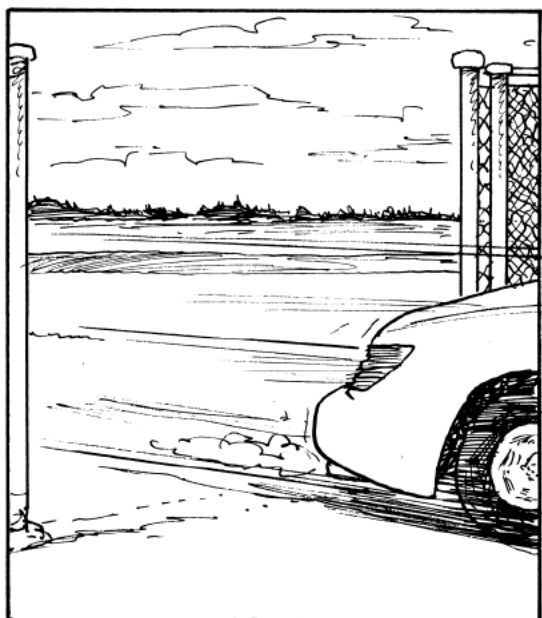
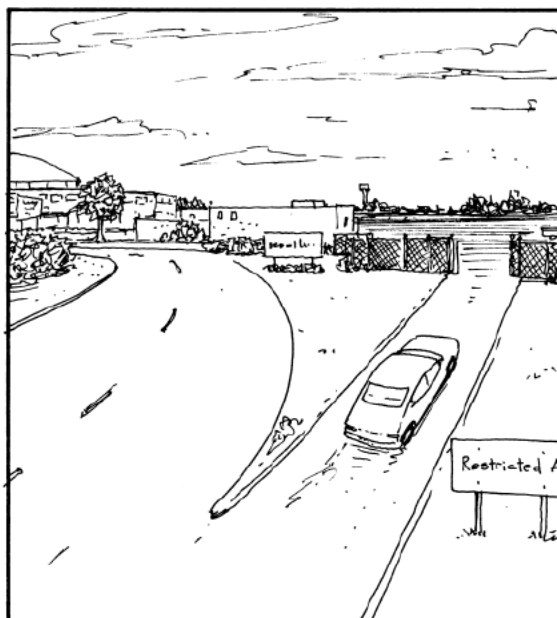


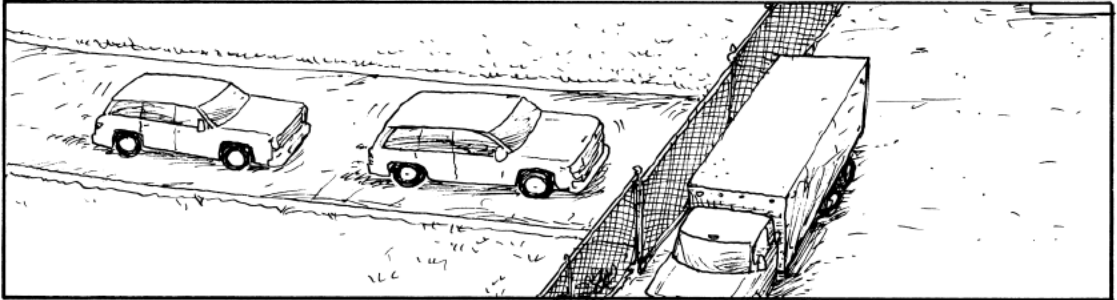
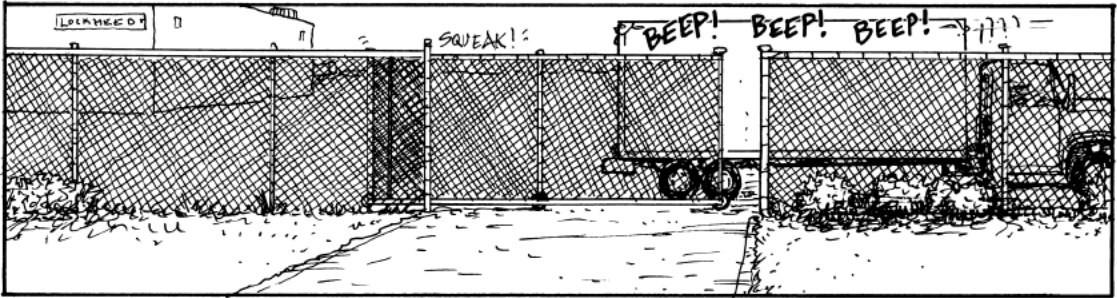




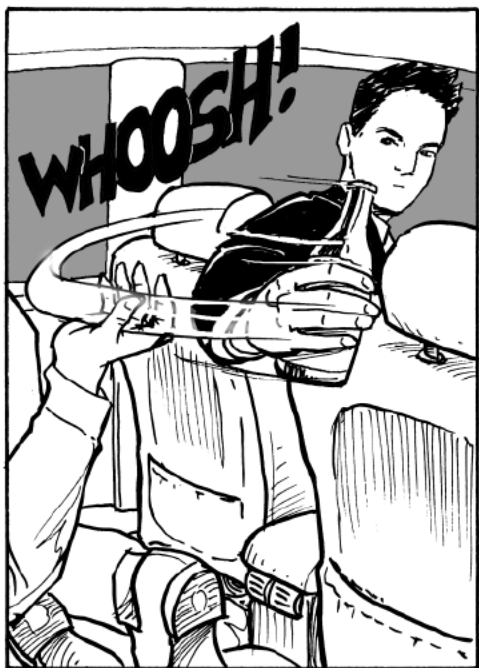
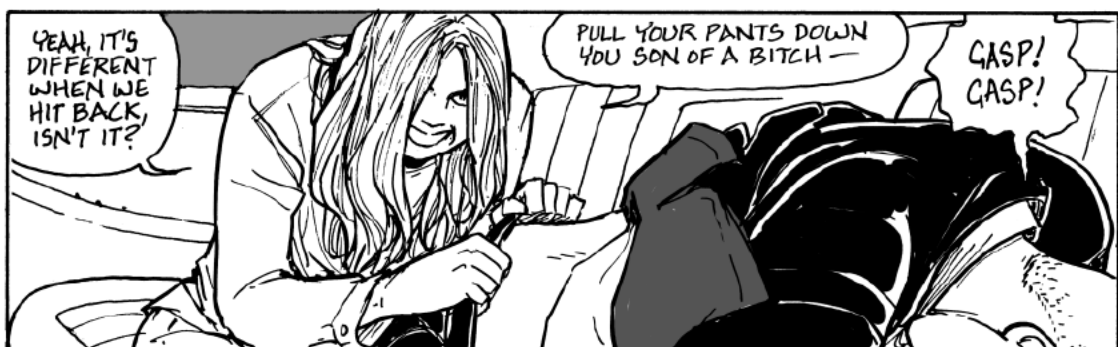
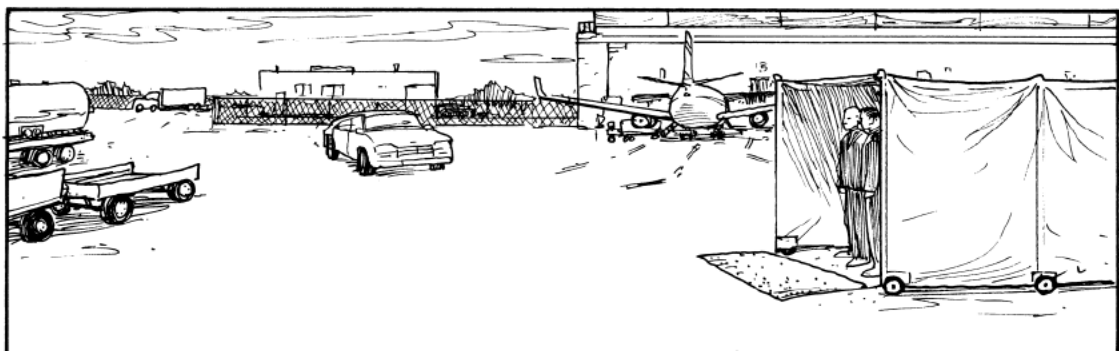


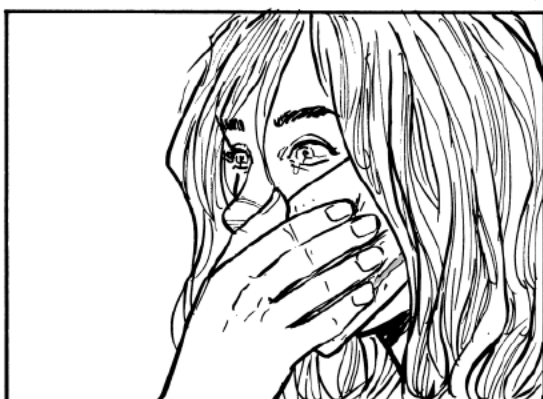
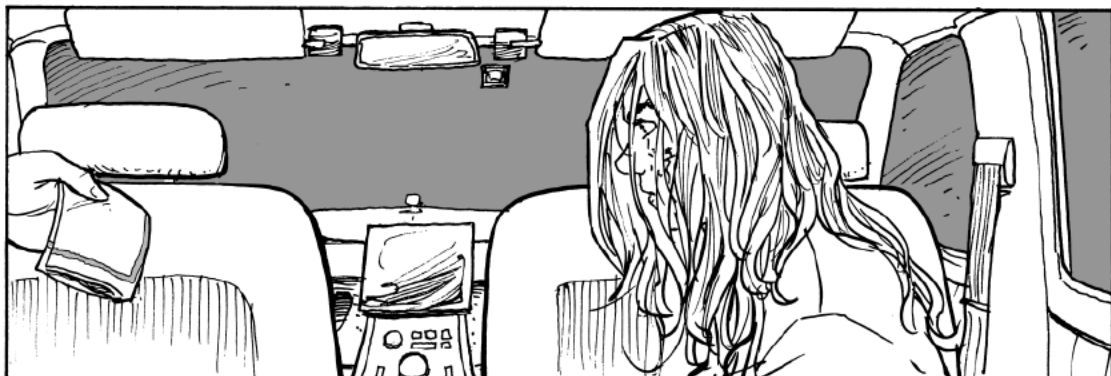
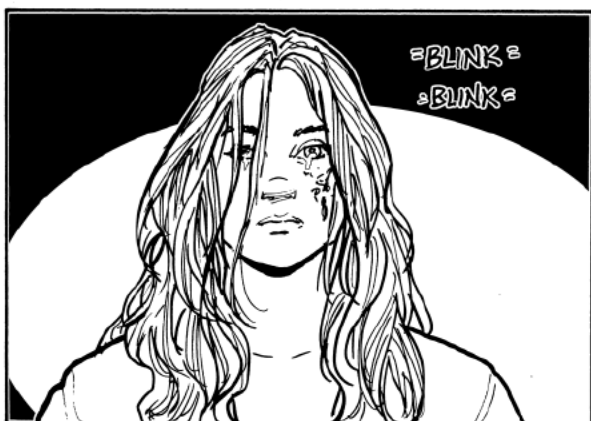


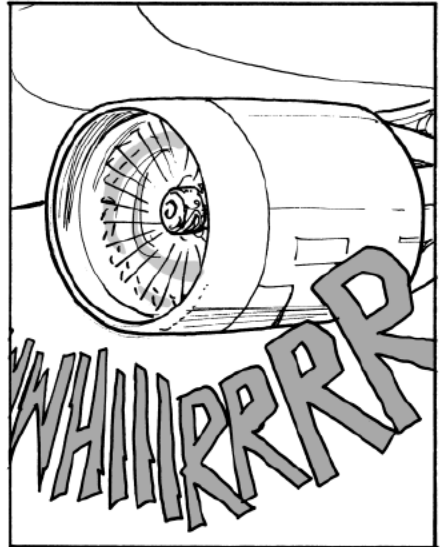
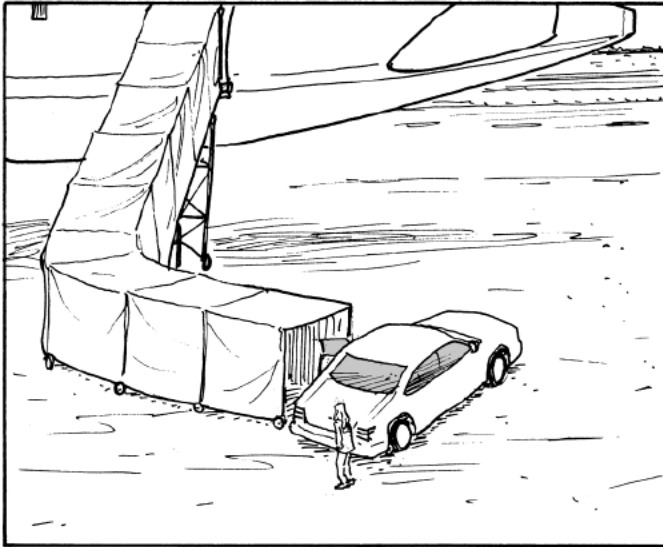
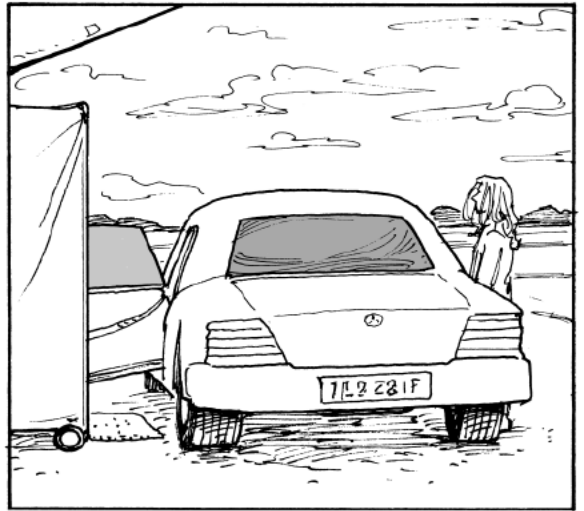


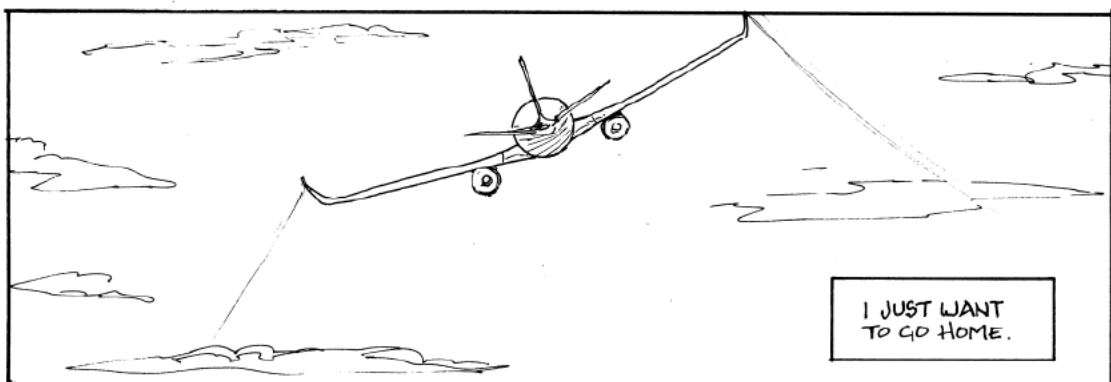
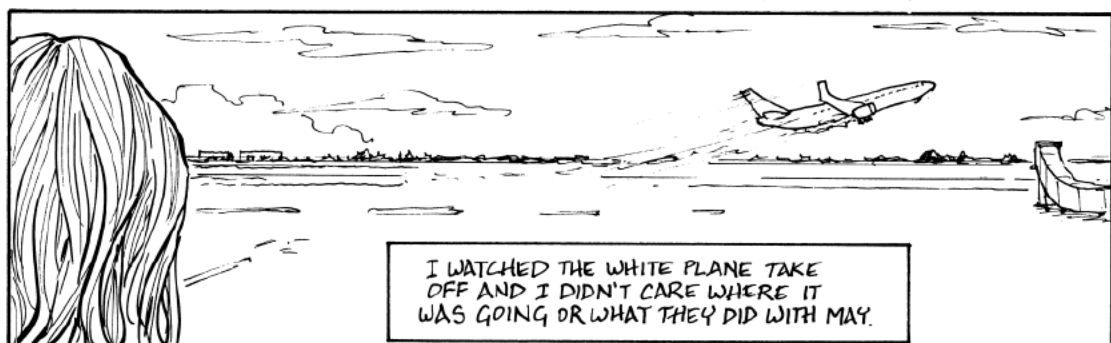
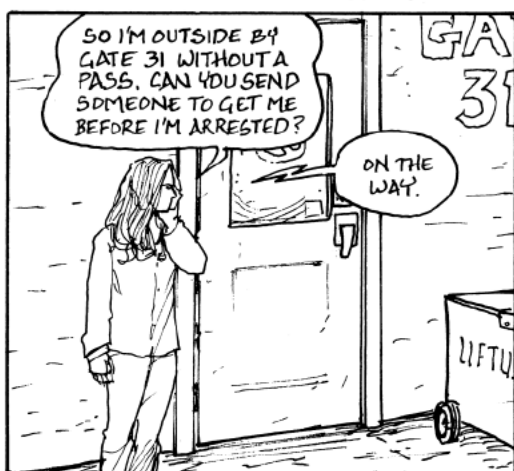














IT WAS 4 IN THE MORNING WHEN I PULLED UP TO MY HOUSE IN SANTA FE. THE FIRST THING I NOTICED WAS THE KITCHEN LIGHT WAS ON.



I KNOW I TURNED THE LIGHTS OFF.

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



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



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



BUT WHY IS SHE HERE?



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



SHE'S GUARDING THE HOUSE?



WHY?





FRANCINE?



Hi honey.

I was trying to wait up.



OH BABE, I'VE MISSED YOU SO MUCH.

COME HERE.



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

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



SHE HAS?

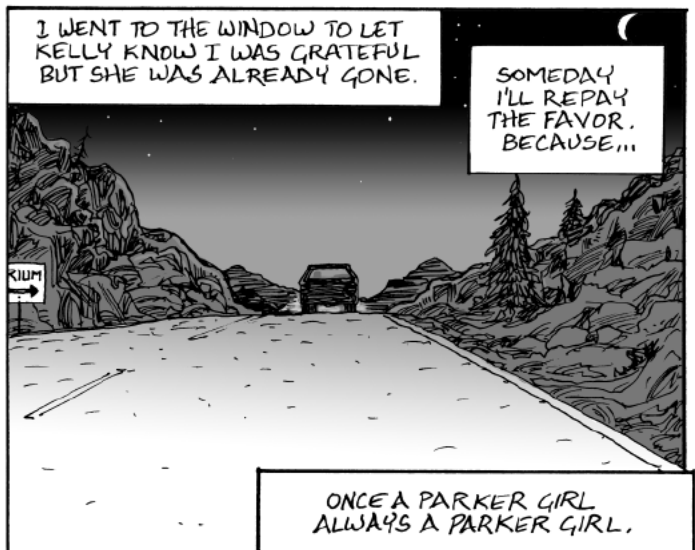
JUST UNTIL YOU GET BACK. I HAVE TO TELL YOU I KIND OF LIKED IT. I'VE NEVER FELT SO SAFE!

HONEY, YOUR FACE, WHAT HAPPENED?



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

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



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

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

ONCE A PARKER GIRL ALWAYS A PARKER GIRL.

Other books by Terry Moore

Strangers In Paradise

Echo

Rachel Rising

Motor Girl

Strangers In Paradise XXV

Five Years

Ever

Serial

