

A woman with long brown hair, wearing a black latex outfit with a high collar and a chain around her waist, holding a whip. She is standing against a red background with vertical stripes.

Swing™

VOLUME
FOUR

GUEST STARRING
CHARACTERS FROM

Sunstone™

YISHAN LI
MATT HAWKINS

TOP COW PRODUCTIONS PRESENTS



Created by

LINDA SEJIC, MATT HAWKINS & JENNI CHEUNG



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Los Angeles

Top Cow Productions Presents...



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**BASED ON A STORY
AND CHARACTERS DEVELOPED BY**
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CAST



Cathy Chang



Dan Lincoln



**Blake
Lincoln**



**Ashley
Lincoln**



Mom

In the last two volumes of

Swing



DAN LINCOLN WAS A BRIGHT YOUNG GRAD STUDENT AND A GIFTED WRITER...

DETERMINED TO CRAFT THE NEXT GREAT AMERICAN NOVEL.

WHEN THEY FIRST MET, SPARKS FLEW.

IT WASN'T LONG BEFORE THEIR "TUTORING SESSIONS" TURNED INTO SOMETHING ELSE...



BUT FOR ALL THE FEAR THAT COMES WITH A SHOT-GUN WEDDING, DAN AND CATHY WERE HAPPY.



THEY BELIEVED IN EACH OTHER. WHATEVER CAME NEXT...

THEY COULD FACE IT TOGETHER.

CATHY GRANT WAS A COLLEGE FRESHMAN, ON HER OWN AND CUTTING LOOSE FOR THE FIRST TIME IN HER SHELTERED LIFE.



AND WHEN THEIR FLING TURNED INTO SOMETHING DEEPER...



THEY FOUND THEMSELVES FACING A NEW CHALLENGE - TOGETHER.



BUT 8 YEARS AND TWO KIDS LATER,
THE MAGIC STARTED TO FADE.

ROUTINE REPLACED ROMANCE.

RESPONSIBILITY

DAN STARTED TEACHING HIGH
SCHOOL ENGLISH --

AND SPENT MORE TIME GRIND-
ING AWAY AT 90S THAN WRIT-
ING HIS NOVEL.

CATHY ENDED UP IN THE ENTER-
TAINMENT INDUSTRY --

COURTING CLIENTS AND MANAG-
ING A TEAM OF WEB DESIGNERS
AND ENGINEERS.

THE MORE THEY DRIFTED, THE
MORE TEMPTATION LOOMED.

BUT THEY LOVED EACH OTHER.

THEY DIDN'T WANT TO FEEL THIS
RECENTMENT

THEY BOTH WANTED TO FEEL
CLOSER...

THEY WOULD BECOME SWINGERS.

THEY WANTED TO FEEL
THE HEAT AGAIN.

AND CATHY HAD A PLAN TO PUT
THE SPICE BACK INTO THEIR
MARRIAGE.

I THINK I'D LIKE
TO TRY THAT.



THEY MADE RULES. THEY RESPECTED EACH OTHER'S BOUNDARIES.

AND AT FIRST, MERELY ENTERTAINING THE IDEA SEEMED TO BRING BACK THE OLD EXCITEMENT.

BUT DAN WAS SKEPTICAL AND INSECURE.

CATHY WAS PATIENT...

WHAT THE FUCK?



BUT SHE WORRIED THEIR MARRIAGE WAS ENDING BEFORE THEY COULD EVEN TRY OPENING IT UP.

SHE CONFIDED IN AN OLD FRIEND...



SO WITH DEBBIE'S HELP, CATHY HATCHED A PLAN.

NO STRANGERS, NO SPECIAL CLUBS --

JUST GOOD OLD-FASHIONED SEDUCTION.



IT WAS FAR FROM TRADITIONAL, BUT IT WORKED.

HERE WAS SOMETHING NEW, AND DAN AND CATHY LOVED IT.

AND LOVED EACH OTHER MORE FOR IT.



AFTER CATHY GOT DAN A SERIES OF THREESOMES WITH HER FRIENDS, HE WAS WILLING TO TRY A FOURSOME WITH ANOTHER COUPLE.



HI, GUYS, I'M MARY AND THIS IS MY HUSBAND CLINT. WE USE CHERI AND JACK UNTIL WE SEE THE COUPLE'S LEGIT.

FIGHTING THROUGH A SERIES OF FAKES AND FLAKES VIA THE SWINGERS' ONLINE DATING SITES, THEY FINALLY MET CLINT AND MARY, A COUPLE THEY BOTH LIKED, AND THEY HAD THEIR FIRST SUCCESSFUL COUPLES SWING.



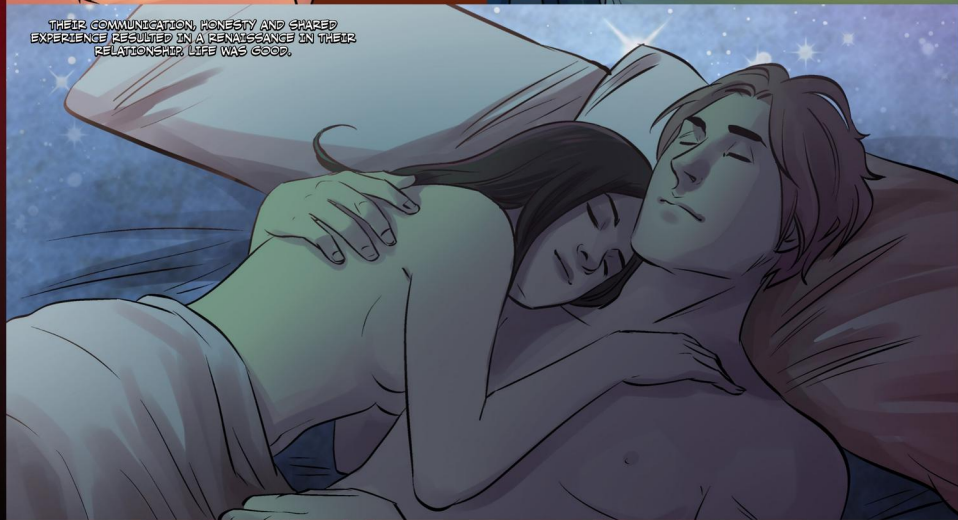
DAN AND CATHY GOT MORE EXPERIENCE AND DAN LEARNED THAT HE MIGHT NEED VIAGRA FROM TIME TO TIME TO MAINTAIN HIS ERECTION BECAUSE OF THE ANXIETY IN THESE SITUATIONS.

ARE YOU OKAY? YOU'RE STILL NOT HARD.

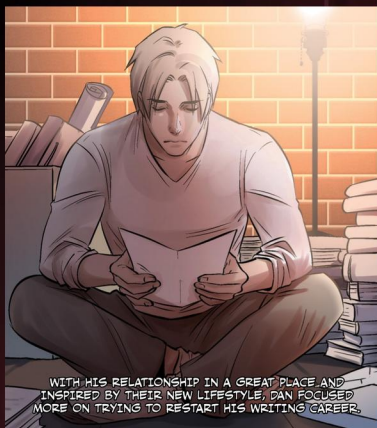


NOT AT ALL. IT'S JUST A REGULAR FRIDAY, BUT I WANTED TO TREAT YOU TO A SPECIAL NIGHT OUT.

WANTING TO MAKE SURE THEIR RELATIONSHIP STAYED ROCK SOLID, THEY INSTITUTED REGULAR DATE NIGHTS FOR JUST THE TWO OF THEM.



THEIR COMMUNICATION, HONESTY AND SHARED EXPERIENCE RESULTED IN A RENAISSANCE IN THEIR RELATIONSHIP. LIFE WAS GOOD.



WITH HIS RELATIONSHIP IN A GREAT PLACE AND INSPIRED BY THEIR NEW LIFESTYLE, DAN FOCUSED MORE ON TRYING TO RESTART HIS WRITING CAREER.



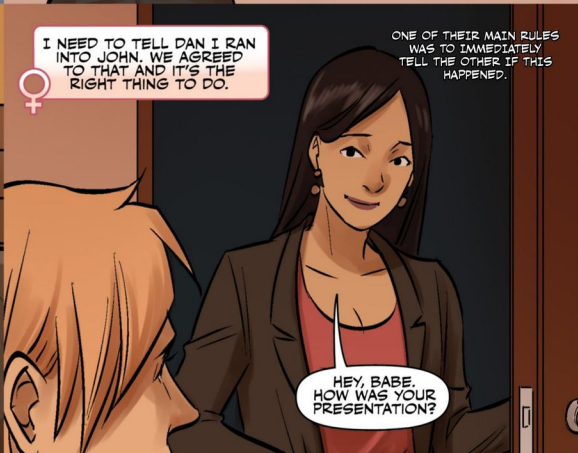
I'M CATHY CHANG. MANY OF YOU KNOW ME ALREADY. FOR THE PAST FIVE YEARS, WE'VE DONE A SERIES OF TRAILERS FOR YOUR FILMS.

SINCE YOU'RE IN THE FILM BUSINESS, I THOUGHT IT APPROPRIATE MY TEAM PUT TOGETHER A SHORT FILM TO SHOW WHAT I'M PITCHING, RATHER THAN JUST TALKING AT YOU.

CATHY WAS ALSO ADVANCING WELL IN HER CAREER AND PITCHED AN OVERALL DEAL TO A MAJOR STUDIO.



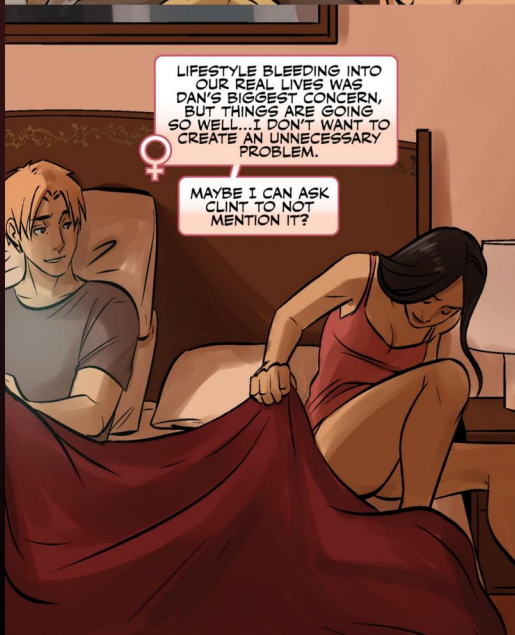
ONE OF DAN'S PRIMARY CONCERNS ABOUT THIS LIFESTYLE WAS IT CROSSING OVER INTO THEIR REAL LIVES. HE WANTED TO KEEP THIS PART OF THEM COMPARTMENTALIZED AND SEPARATE FROM EVERYTHING ELSE, SO IT CREATED A PROBLEM FOR CATHY WHEN SHE RAN INTO CLINT DURING ONE OF HER STUDIO MEETINGS.



I NEED TO TELL DAN I RAN INTO JOHN. WE AGREED TO THAT AND IT'S THE RIGHT THING TO DO.

ONE OF THEIR MAIN RULES WAS TO IMMEDIATELY TELL THE OTHER IF THIS HAPPENED.

HEY, BABE. HOW WAS YOUR PRESENTATION?

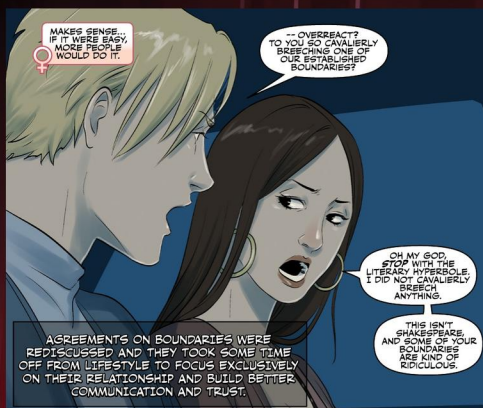


LIFESTYLE BLEEDING INTO OUR REAL LIVES WAS DAN'S BIGGEST CONCERN, BUT THINGS ARE GOING SO WELL...I DON'T WANT TO CREATE AN UNNECESSARY PROBLEM.

MAYBE I CAN ASK CLINT TO NOT MENTION IT?



CONCEALING IT ENDED UP BEING A HORRIBLE IDEA, BECAUSE WHEN IT DID COME OUT, IT SEEMED WAY WORSE THAN IT WAS.



MAKES SENSE. IF IT WERE EASY, MORE PEOPLE WOULD DO IT.

~ OVERREACT? TO YOU GO CAVALIERLY REPEATING ONE OF OUR ESTABLISHED BOUNDARIES?

OH MY GOD, STOP WITH THE LITERARY MISPRISAL. I DID NOT CAVALIERLY REPECH ANYTHING.

THIS ISN'T SWAGSPEARE, AND SOME OF YOUR BOUNDARIES ARE KIND OF RIDICULOUS.

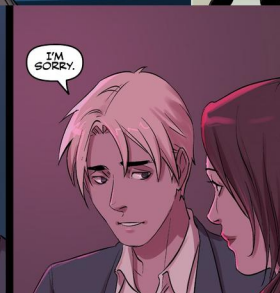
AGREEMENTS ON BOUNDARIES WERE REPEATEDLY AND THEY TOOK SOME TIME OFF FROM LIFESTYLE TO FOCUS EXCLUSIVELY ON THEIR RELATIONSHIP AND BUILD BETTER COMMUNICATION AND TRUST.



ON A FAMILY VACATION, THEY DECIDED TO HIT A SWINGER CLUB OUT OF STATE. JUST THE TWO OF THEM, AND IT REKINDLED THEIR JOINT DESIRE FOR LIFESTYLE.



I LOVE YOU AND WANT TO BE ABLE TO TRY THESE THINGS TOGETHER... BUT I'M JUST NOT READY FOR THIS YET, HONEY.



I'M SORRY.



I DID IT!

CATHY GOT PROMOTED, AND DAN FINALLY SENT IN A FINISHED MANUSCRIPT TO PUBLISHERS.



DAN AND CATHY ALSO MET HIS DAD'S NEW GIRLFRIEND, WHO'S BARELY OLDER THAN CATHY.

HEY, DAN, CATHY, YOU GUYS LOOK FANTASTIC! THIS IS MY GIRLFRIEND ELIZABETH.

CALL ME LIZ.



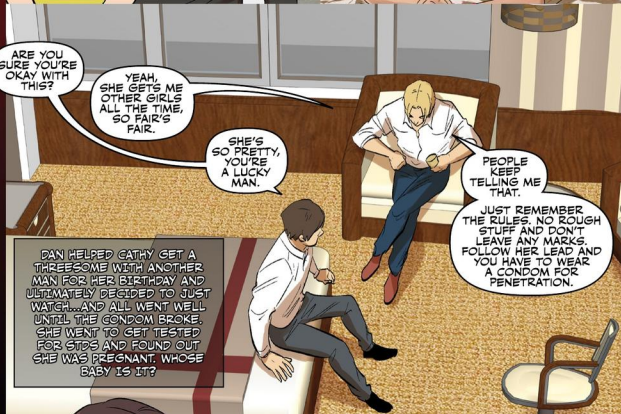
CATHY ALSO SURPRISED DAN WITH A SPECIAL BIRTHDAY TREAT.

SINCE THREESOMES ARE SO PASSE FOR YOU NOW.



THINGS WERE GOING WELL FOR THE FAMILY AS DAN FOUND A PUBLISHER FOR HIS BOOK.

I SOLD MY BOOK.



ARE YOU SURE YOU'RE OKAY WITH THIS?

YEAH, SHE GETS ME OTHER GIRLS ALL THE TIME, SO FAIR'S FAIR.

SHE'S SO PRETTY, YOU'RE A LUCKY MAN.

DAN HELPED CATHY GET A THREESOME WITH ANOTHER MAN FOR HER BIRTHDAY AND ULTIMATELY DECIDED TO JUST WATCH...AND ALL WENT WELL UNTIL THE GONDOM BROKE. SHE WENT TO GET TESTED FOR STDs AND FOUND OUT SHE WAS PREGNANT, WHOSE BABY IS IT?

PEOPLE KEEP TELLING ME THAT. JUST REMEMBER THE RULES. NO ROUGH STUFF AND DON'T LEAVE ANY MARKS. FOLLOW HER LEAD AND YOU HAVE TO WEAR A CONDOM FOR PENETRATION.



OH MY GOD, I'M PREGNANT.

♀
FINALLY! A FULL-BLOWN,
HEH, ORGY AND WE'RE
PARTICIPATING.

THE "DOUBLE
LIFE" IS ONE OF
THE FUN THINGS
ABOUT BEING IN
LIFESTYLE.



I CAN BE IN A
PARENT/TEACHER
CONFERENCE AT 6PM
AND DOING THIS FOUR
HOURS LATER.

THE NAUGHTY
FACTOR, FOR
ME, IS A
DISTINCT
TURN-ON.

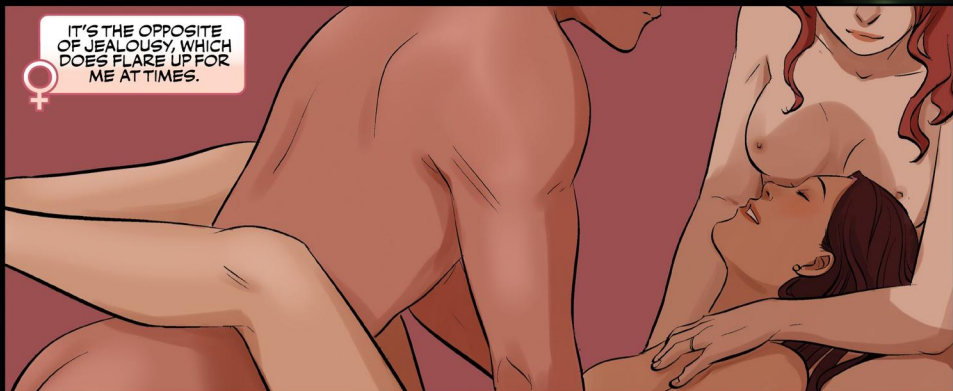
AND DAN SEEMS TO
BE INTO THE *SWING*
OF THINGS.



I *DO* LIKE WATCHING
DAN WITH OTHER
WOMEN, THOUGH.



I THOUGHT
COMPERSON
MIGHT BE A
MADE-UPWORD,
BUT I GET IT NOW.

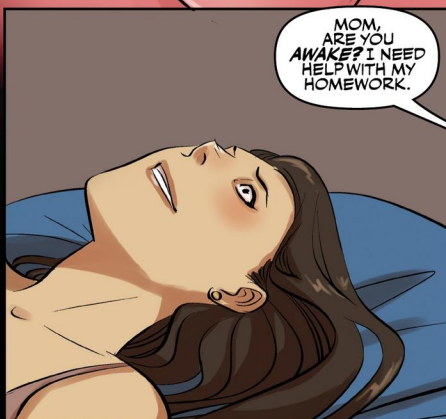


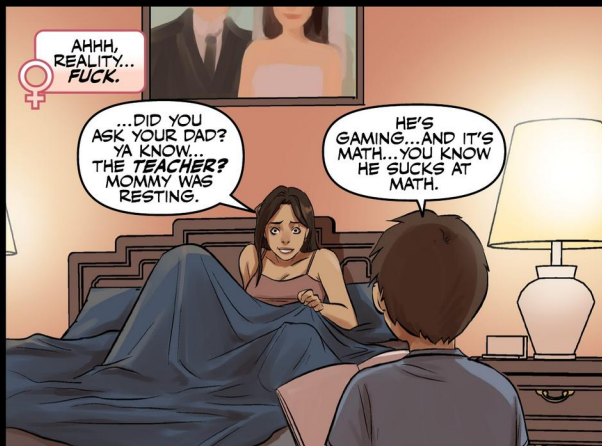
JEALOUSY BREEDS SUSPICION, POSSESSIVENESS, ENVY, INTOLERANCE AND PRETTY MUCH NOTHING GOOD.

WHO WANTS THAT WHEN YOU CAN HAVE TRUST, INDEPENDENCE, GENEROSITY, FAIRNESS AND JOY?

AHHHH...

MOM.





IF DAN ACCIDENTALLY KNOCKED
UP SOME GIRL, I'M NOT SURE
HOW I'D HANDLE IT...



...BUT HE'S
BARELY TOUCHED
ME SINCE WE
FOUND OUT AND
HE SPENDS ALL
HIS FREE TIME
GAMING.

I'D GET MAD ABOUT
THAT...BUT GIVEN THAT
I MIGHT BE PREGNANT
WITH ANOTHER MAN'S
BABY...I DON'T WANT
TO ROCK THE BOAT.

I THINK IF WE
COME IN FROM THE
SOUTH ENTRANCE
WE CAN SURPRISE
THOSE GUARDS

WE'RE BOTH
DEALING WITH
IT IN OUR
OWN WAY.

I TOOK A PATERNITY
TEST, WE'VE BEEN
WAITING FOR THE
RESULT.



WE DISCUSSED
OPTIONS BUT
DECIDED TO WAIT
UNTIL WE HAD ALL
THE FACTS.

I'M PRO-CHOICE, BUT
I'M NOT SURE I COULD
ABORT MY BABY...EVEN
IF IT'S NOT DAN'S.

MORE THAN
ANYTHING, I'M
JUST BUMMED.

WORK IS GOING WELL,
CHRIST...I JUST GOT
PROMOTED TO C.E.O. AND
I'M ONLY TWENTY-NINE.

DAN AND I WERE
FINALLY HITTING
OUR GROOVE WITH
THE LIFESTYLE
STUFF...

...FAMILY'S
GOOD.

I REALLY
THOUGHT I
COULD HAVE
IT ALL.



AFTER TEN YEARS,
I FINALLY LANDED
A BOOK DEAL WITH
A PUBLISHER.

YEAH, THEY'RE A SMALLER
ONE, BUT THE BOOK IS
REAL, AND I CAN ACTUALLY
HOLD IT IN MY HANDS!
HOW COOL IS *THAT*?

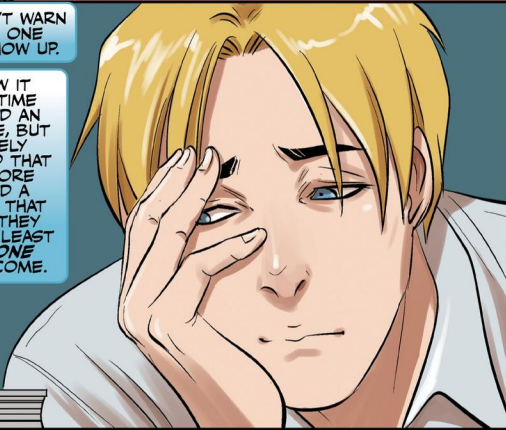
THIS IS THE THIRD
BOOK SIGNING MY
PUBLISHER SET UP.

THIS IS THE PART
OF THE "*DREAM*"
THEY DON'T TELL
YOU ABOUT.



THEY DON'T WARN
YOU NO ONE
MIGHT SHOW UP.

I KNOW IT
TAKES TIME
TO BUILD AN
AUDIENCE, BUT
I NAIVELY
ASSUMED THAT
IF A STORE
WANTED A
SIGNING THAT
MEANT THEY
KNEW AT LEAST
SOMEONE
WOULD COME.

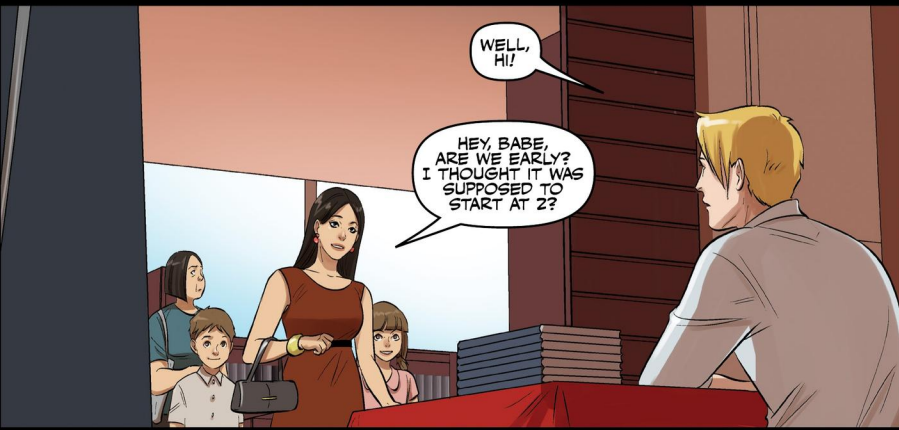


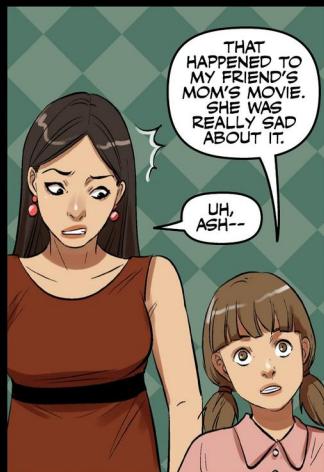
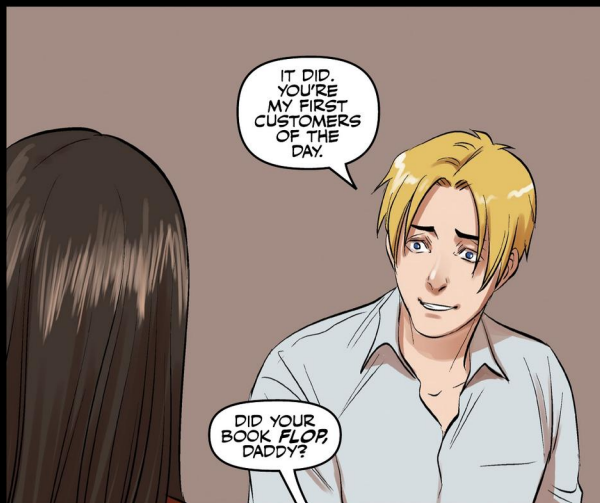
NOPE.



WELL,
HI!

HEY, BABE,
ARE WE EARLY?
I THOUGHT IT WAS
SUPPOSED TO
START AT 2?





THE BOOK'S BEEN OUT FOR LESS THAN A WEEK NOW, REVIEWS ARE SOLID. THESE SIGNINGS, ALBEIT SPARSELY ATTENDED, BRING AWARENESS TO THE STORE STAFF, AT LEAST.

MR. LINCOLN? I'M VICKI, I'VE BEEN ASSIGNED TO TAKE CARE OF ALL YOUR NEEDS.

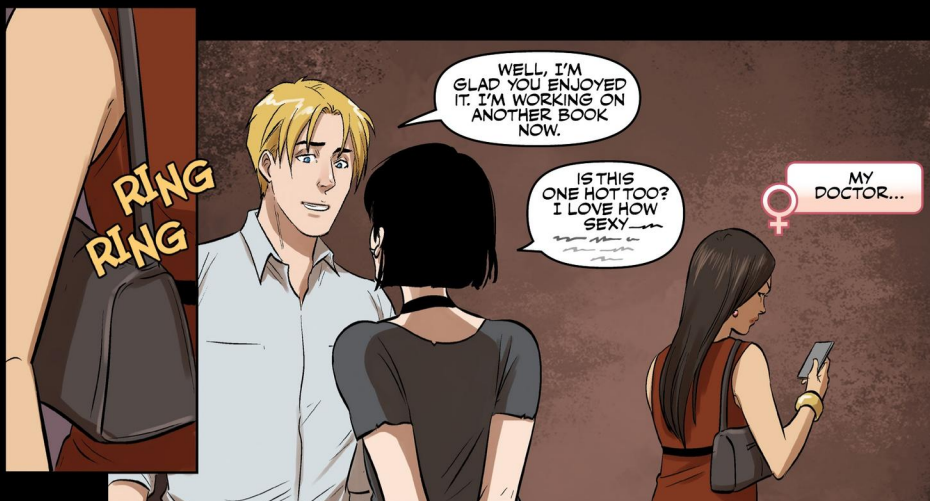
I BROUGHT YOU A BOTTLE OF WATER.

OH, THANKS. WHAT DO I OWE YOU?

FREE FOR AUTHORS... I REALLY ENJOYED YOUR BOOK, BY THE WAY.

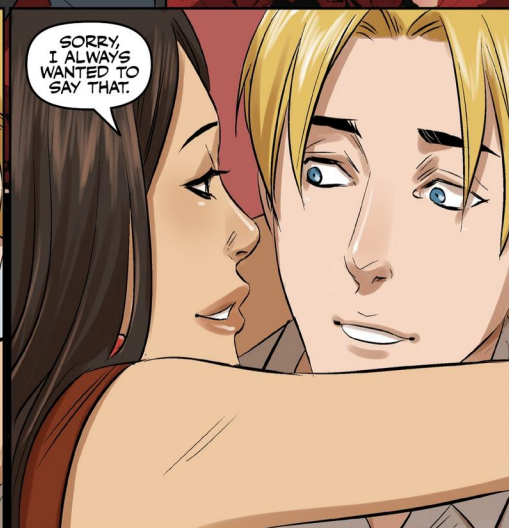
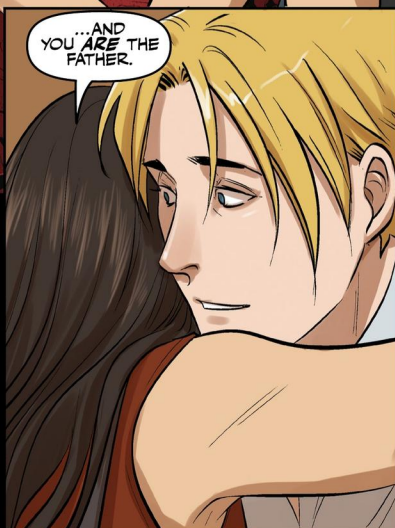
THAT'S REALLY KIND OF HOT HOW HE CONVINCES BOTH OF THOSE GIRLS TO BE HIS LOVERS...

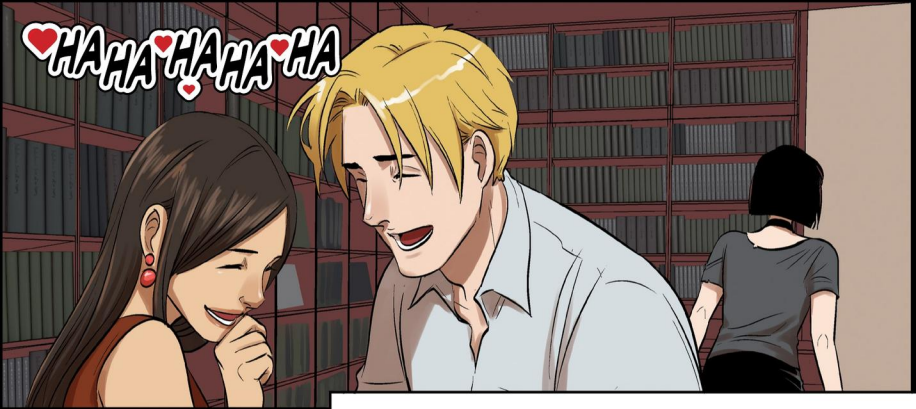
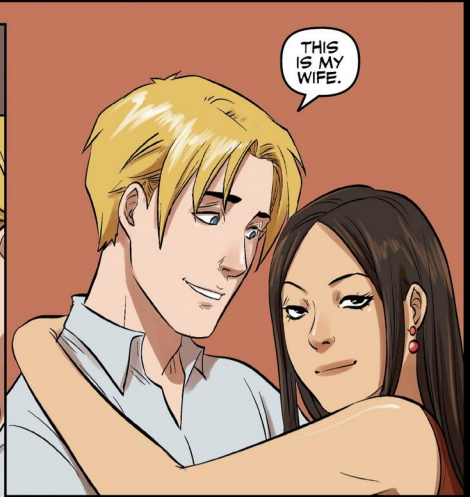
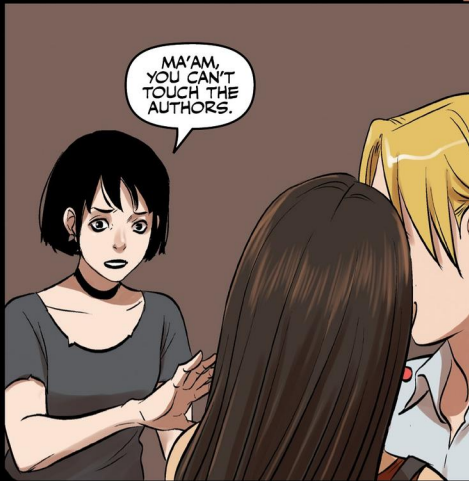
MY ROOMMATE AND I WISH WE COULD FIND A GUY THAT WOULD, YA KNOW, LET US LIVE WITH HIM AND WE COULD ALL HAVE A GOOD TIME.





THE
DNA TEST
RESULTS
ARE IN...





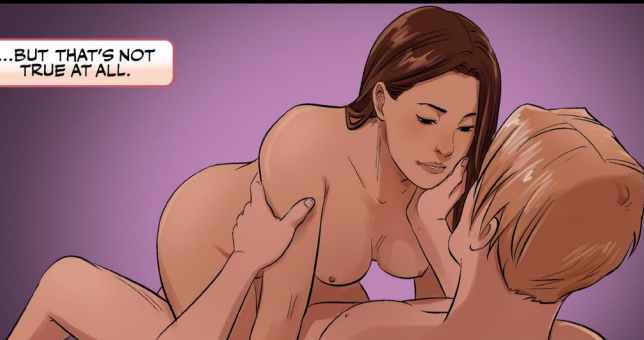
THERE'S SOMETHING
ABOUT THE TOUCH OF AND
INTIMACY WITH SOMEONE
YOU TRULY LOVE THAT
MAKES SEX *WAY* BETTER.



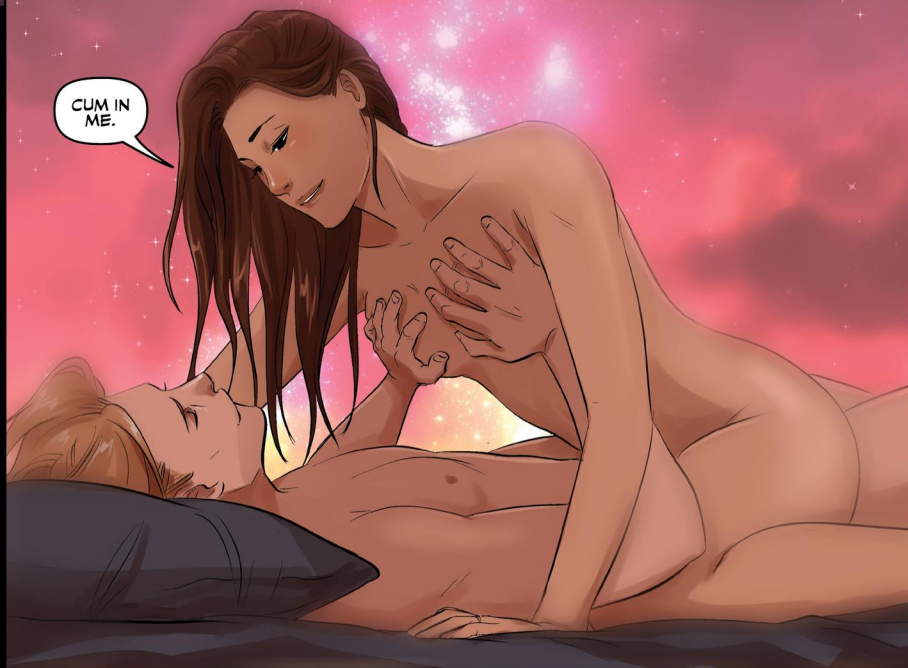
SOME THINK THAT
GOES AGAINST THE
SWINGER ETHOS...



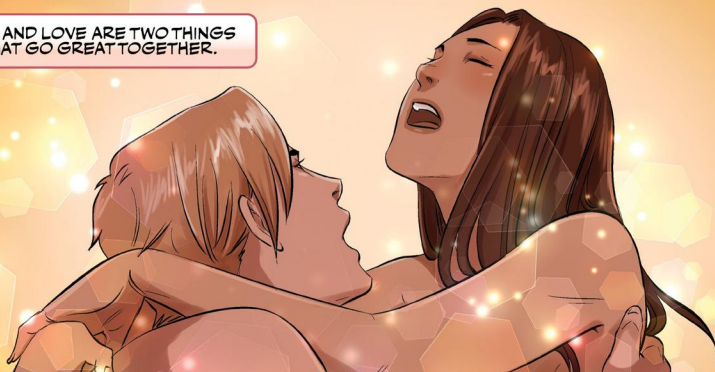
...BUT THAT'S NOT
TRUE AT ALL.

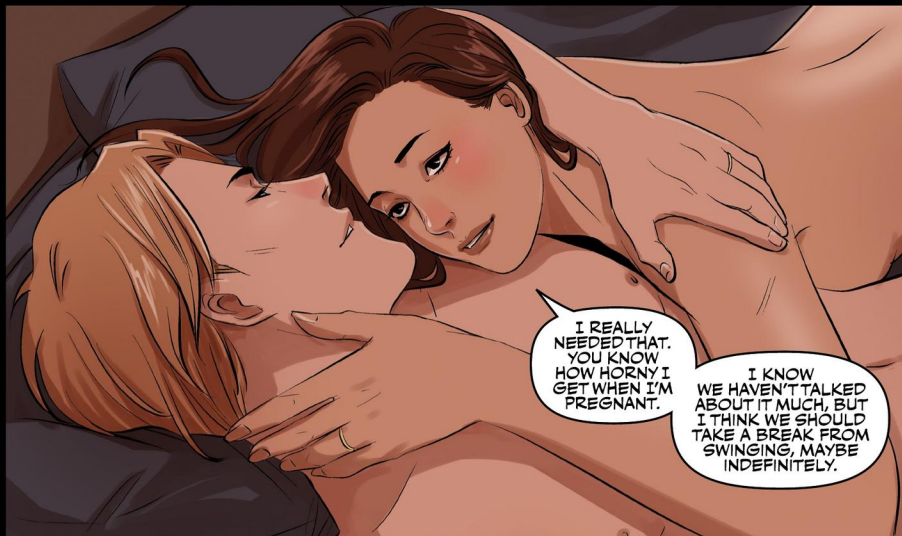


CUM IN
ME.



SEX AND LOVE ARE TWO THINGS
THAT GO GREAT TOGETHER.



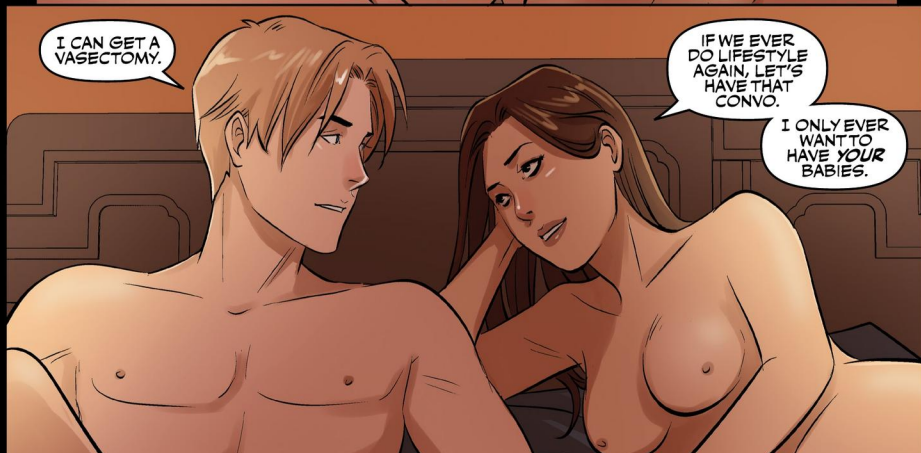


I REALLY
NEEDED THAT.
YOU KNOW
HOW HORNY I
GET WHEN I'M
PREGNANT.

I KNOW
WE HAVEN'T TALKED
ABOUT IT MUCH, BUT
I THINK WE SHOULD
TAKE A BREAK FROM
SWINGING, MAYBE
INDEFINITELY.



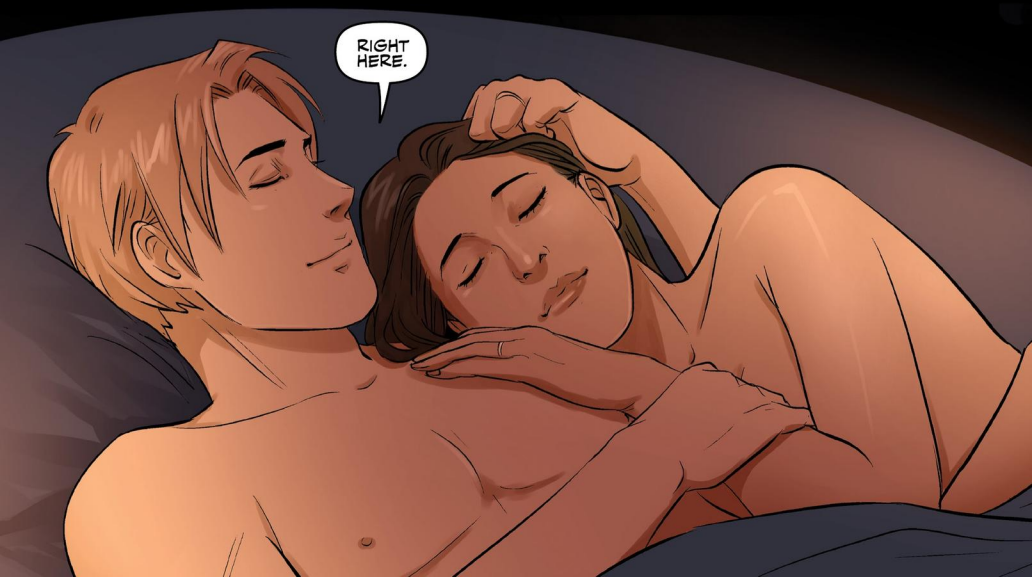
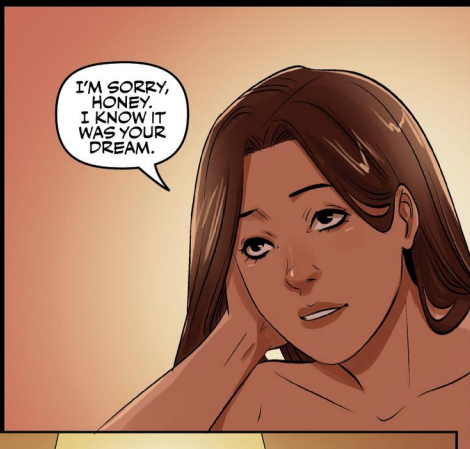
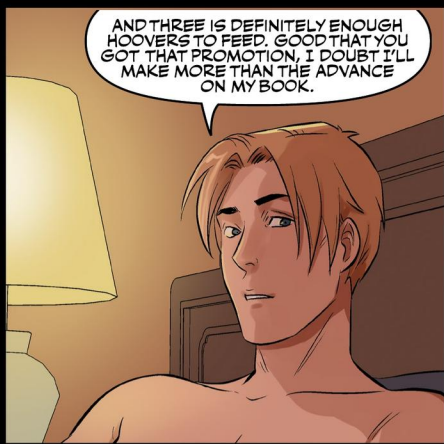
AND I SHOULD
PROBABLY GET MY
TUBES TIED WITH
THE BIRTH...THE IUD
I USE IS ONLY 99%
EFFECTIVE AND YOU
CUM IN ME THREE,
FOUR TIMES A
WEEK.



I CAN GET A
VASECTOMY.

IF WE EVER
DO LIFESTYLE
AGAIN, LET'S
HAVE THAT
CONVO.

I ONLY EVER
WANT TO
HAVE YOUR
BABIES.





EIGHT MONTHS LATER

I AM GOING TO BE THINKING OF MY MOTHER-IN-LAW'S FACE EVERY TIME I SPLIT SOME SKULLS.

CATH IS DUE...SOON...SHIT, I SHOULD REALLY KNOW THAT DATE...AND HER MOM HAS MOVED IN TO "HELP OUT".

SHE STAYED WITH US FOR TWO MONTHS AFTER BLAKE WAS BORN AND I HATED IT THEN TOO...

THIS IS NEW TO ME. ANYONE BEEN THIS FAR?

I MADE IT HERE IN A PUG* ONCE, LORD KNOWS HOW, BUT WE WIPED TWICE AND GAVE UP.

ACCORDING TO ALLAKHAZAM, THIS IS A SUSTAIN FIGHT. WE NEED TO CONSERVE MANA AND STAMINA THROUGH THE WAVES OF MOBS SO WE'RE NEAR PEAK FOR THE BOSS.

THE BOSS APPEARS AND ENGAGES IMMEDIATELY SO NO RECOVERY TIME AND HE HAS AN INVULNERABILITY DAMAGE SHIELD AND AN AREA OF EFFECT DAMAGE OVER TIME SPELL THAT WE'LL HAVE TO DEAL WITH.

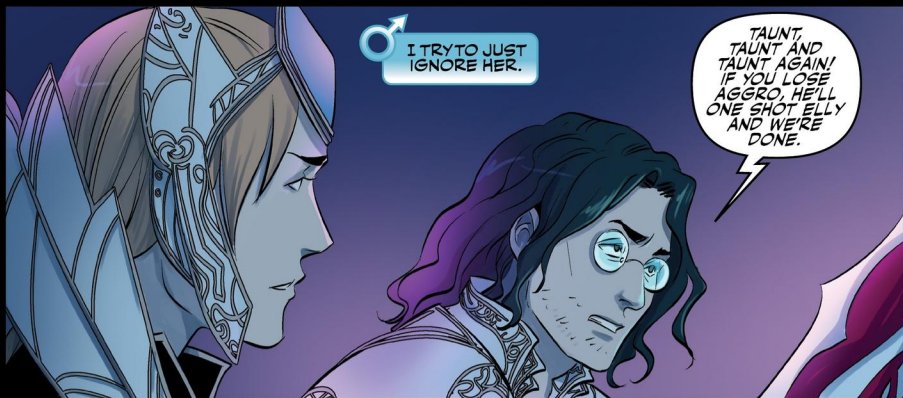
*EDITOR'S NOTE: PICK-UP-GROUP, PLAYING WITH RANDOM PLAYERS. IF YOU DON'T GET THE GAMER LANGUAGE AND ARE CURIOUS CHECK THE APPENDIX.

...BUT SHE SEEMS ANGRIER AND MORE MISERABLE AS EACH YEAR GOES BY.

I CAN CAST REMOVE MAGIC ON THE SHIELD AND ELLY OWNS HEALING.

I'LL GRAB AGGRO AND IF MY SWORD PROCS IT'LL HOLD IT FOR AT LEAST SIXTY SECONDS, EVEN WITHOUT TAUNTING.





♂ I TRY TO JUST IGNORE HER.

TAUNT, TAUNT AGAIN! IF YOU LOSE AGGRO, HE'LL ONE SHOT ELLY AND WE'RE DONE.

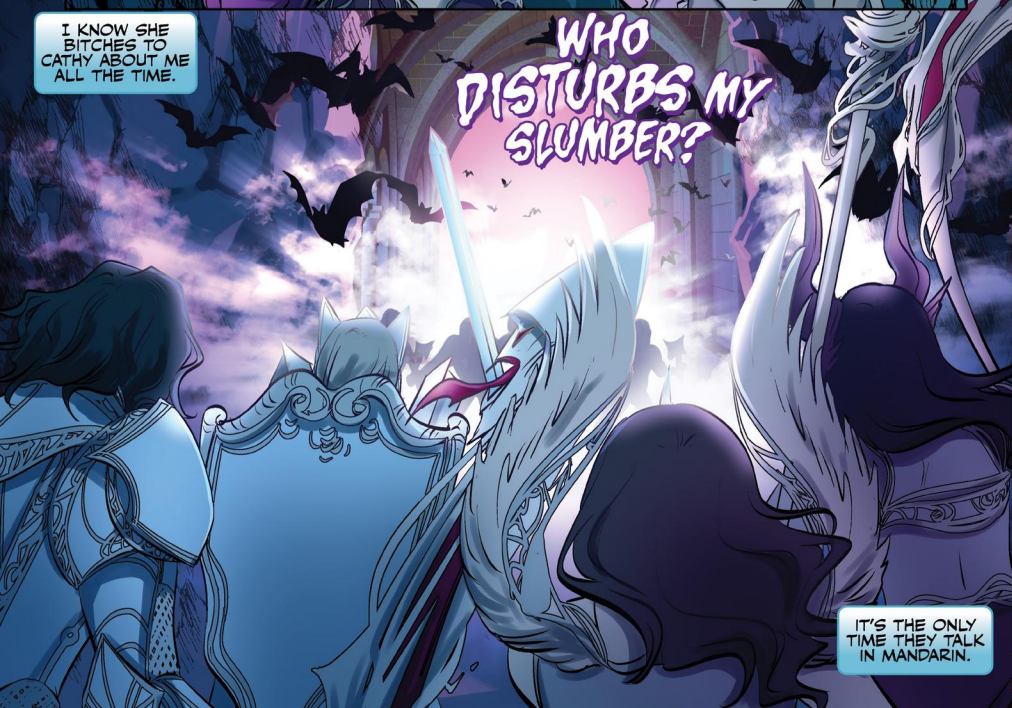


BUT IT'S HARD WHEN SHE'S HERE ALL THE TIME AND HAS NOTHING TO DO BUT BE NOSEY AND COMPLAIN ABOUT EVERYTHING.

WE GOT THIS. DAN HASN'T F'ED UP IN A LONG TIME.

LET'S DO IT!

I'M NOT STUPID.



I KNOW SHE BITCHES TO CATHY ABOUT ME ALL THE TIME.

WHO DISTURBS MY SLUMBER?

IT'S THE ONLY TIME THEY TALK IN MANDARIN.



BUT I FEIGN
IGNORANCE FOR
CATHY'S SAKE.

BUT WHEN SHE GIVES ME THAT,
"YOU RUINED MY DAUGHTER'S LIFE
BY KNOCKING HER UP SO YOUNG"
LOOK, I ENVISION HER FACE
MELTING LIKE THE NAZIS AT
THE END OF RAIDERS.

THAT WAS
BADASS!

CAN YOU
LIFT YOUR
FEET?

UH,
SURE...
SORRY.



IT IS ENTIRELY POSSIBLE
I'M OVERTHINKING AND
EXAGGERATING ALL
THIS...BUT COME ON.

CATH IS REALLY BUSY WITH
HER JOB AND I'M BUSY
TOO...UH...WITH MY BOOK
SEQUEL THAT I...UH...
AHEM...NEED TO START.

I'M GOING
TO OWN YOU
SO BAD.

WE'LL
SEE.





CATHY'S ONLY TAKING TWO MONTHS MATERNITY LEAVE...AND SHE'LL BE ON THE PHONE CONSTANTLY EVEN WHEN HOME, SO MAYBE I SHOULD APPRECIATE THE HELP.



GAME FACES EVERYONE! THIS IS THE CULMINATION OF THREE WEEKS' WORTH OF RAIDING.



THIS IS ONE OF THE
REASONS I LOVE
GAMING SO MUCH.

FOR YOUR
INSOLENCE, YOUR SOULS
WILL REMAIN HERE WITH ME
FOREVER!

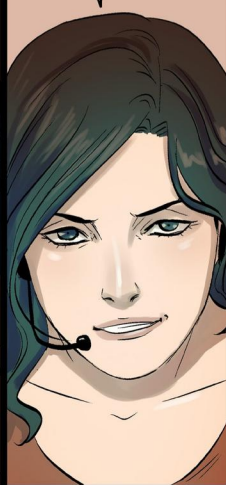
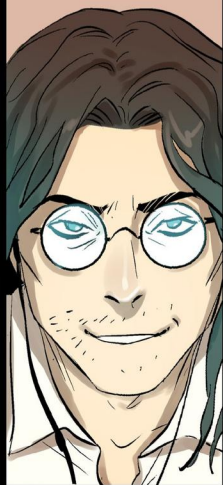


READY
CHECK.

READY.

ALWAYS.

READY.





PLAN, COMMUNICATE
AND EXECUTE.



WE ALL KNOW
OUR PART
AND WORK
TOGETHER
FOR A
COMMON
GOAL...
AS SILLY AS
IT MAY BE.

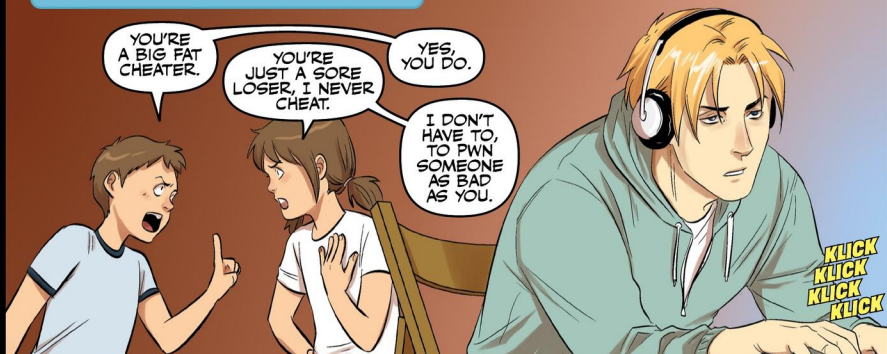
MY MAIN FUNCTION IN THE GROUP IS TO
BE A MEAT SHIELD "TANK" AND HAVE THE
MOBS HIT ME INSTEAD OF THE LESSER
ARMORED AND SQUISHIER PLAYERS.

YOU'RE
A BIG FAT
CHEATER.

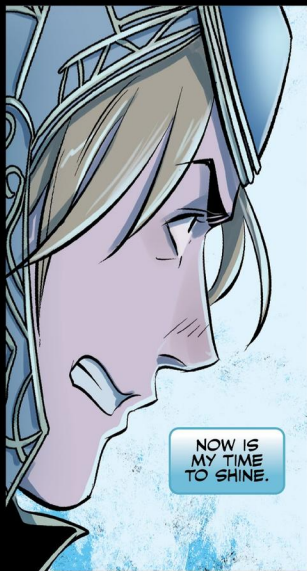
YOU'RE
JUST A SORE
LOSER, I NEVER
CHEAT.

YES,
YOU DO.

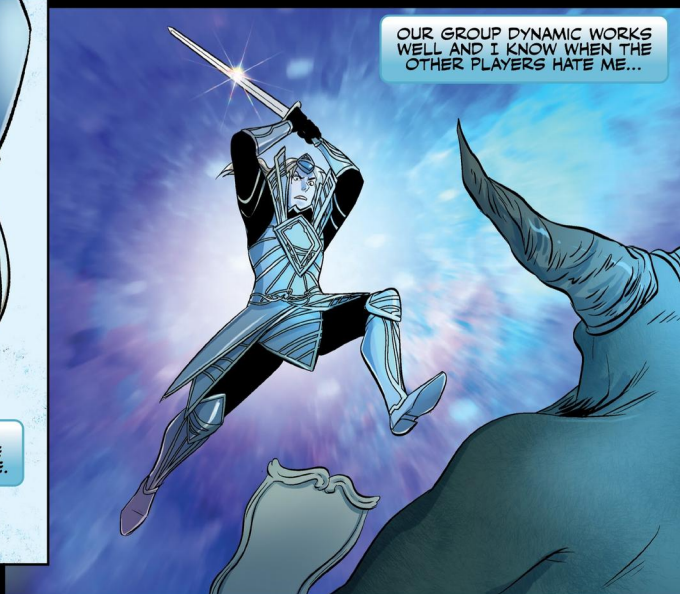
I DON'T
HAVE TO,
TO PWN
SOMEONE
AS BAD
AS YOU.



KLICK
KLICK
KLICK



NOW IS
MY TIME
TO SHINE.



OUR GROUP DYNAMIC WORKS
WELL AND I KNOW WHEN THE
OTHER PLAYERS HATE ME...



♂
...IT'S NEVER AN
UNKNOWN, LIKE
YOU-KNOW-WHO
HERE.



I'M
GETTING
HEAVY
LAG.



HELLO?



THIS IS
KARMA.

HEY,
THE WIFI IS
DOWN.



GRANDMA,
DID YOU
UNPLUG THE
ROUTER?

THE
WHAT?

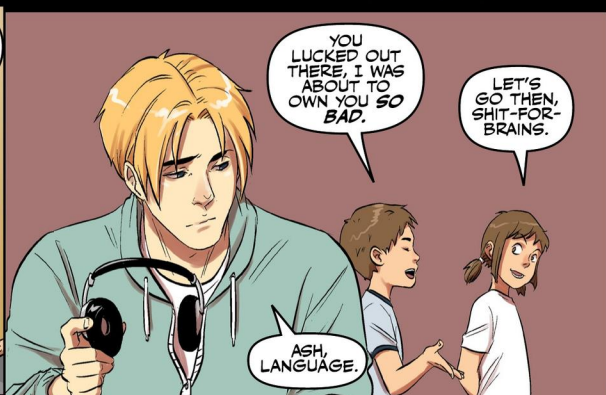
THE
BLACK BOX
THERE, WITH
THE LITTLE
ANTENNAS.



I DUNNO
SORRY IF
I DID, I WAS
JUST TRYING
TO CLEAN
UP.



YEAH,
YOU DID.
I'VE GOT
IT.



YOU
LUCKED OUT
THERE, I WAS
ABOUT TO
OWN YOU **SO**
BAD.

LET'S
GO THEN,
SHIT-FOR-
BRAINS.

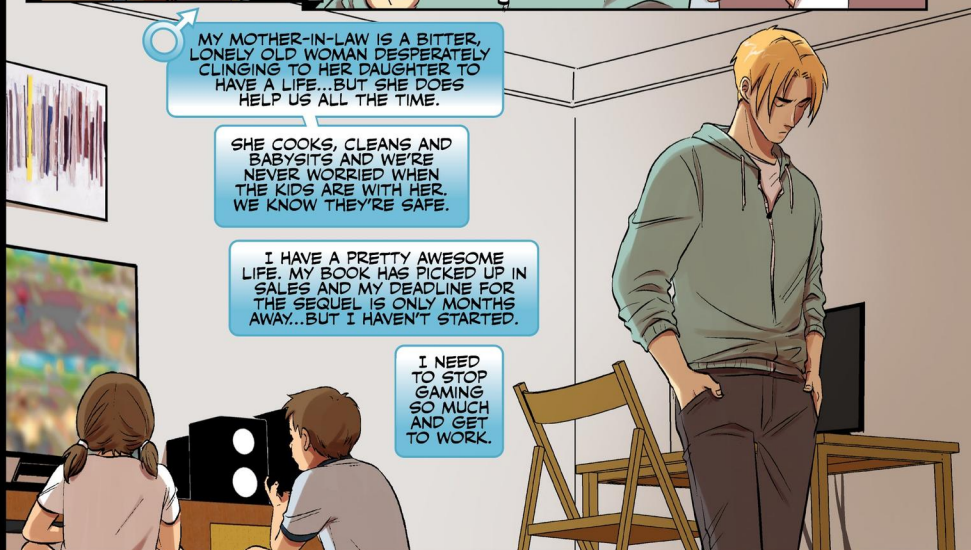
ASH,
LANGUAGE.

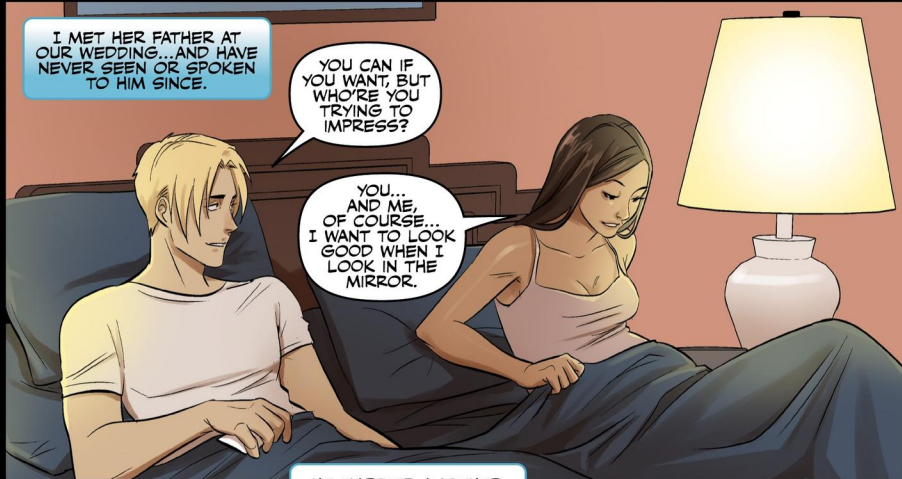
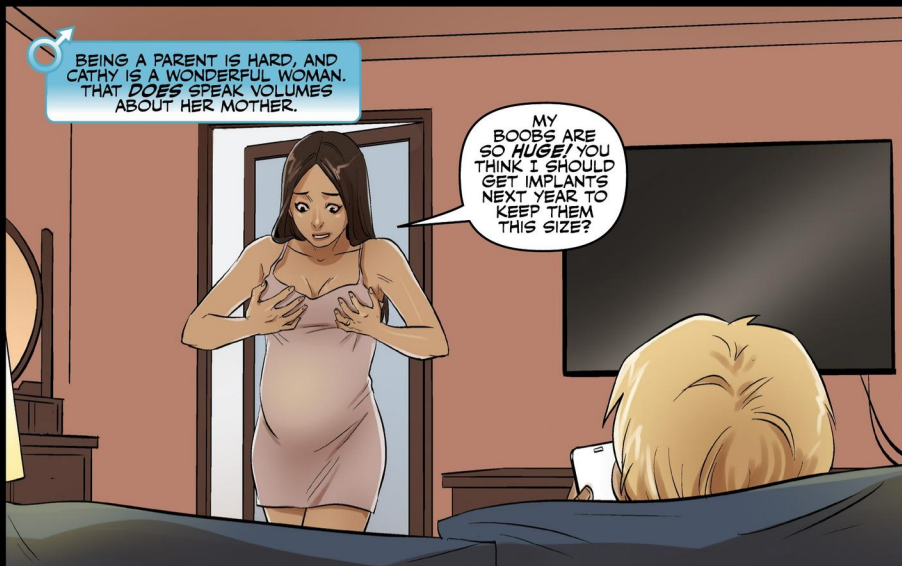
♂
MY MOTHER-IN-LAW IS A BITTER,
LONELY OLD WOMAN DESPERATELY
CLINGING TO HER DAUGHTER TO
HAVE A LIFE...BUT SHE DOES
HELP US ALL THE TIME.

SHE COOKS, CLEANS AND
BABYSITS AND WE'RE
NEVER WORRIED WHEN
THE KIDS ARE WITH HER.
WE KNOW THEY'RE SAFE.

I HAVE A PRETTY AWESOME
LIFE. MY BOOK HAS PICKED UP IN
SALES AND MY DEADLINE FOR
THE SEQUEL IS ONLY MONTHS
AWAY...BUT I HAVEN'T STARTED.

I NEED
TO STOP
GAMING
SO MUCH
AND GET
TO WORK.



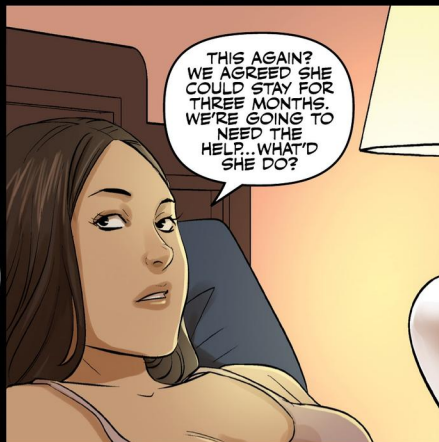




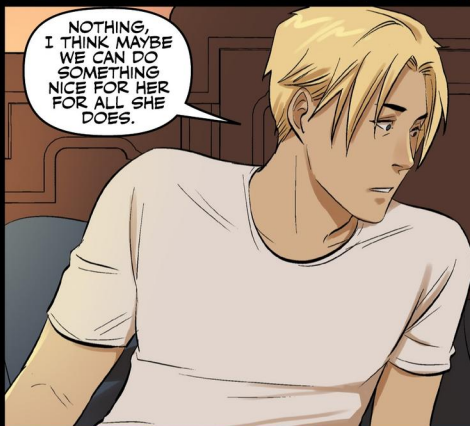
I GIVE MY POPS A LOT OF GRIEF, BUT AT LEAST HE'S STILL IN THE PICTURE, AND HAS MET HIS GRANDCHILDREN.



I WANTED TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT YOUR MOM.

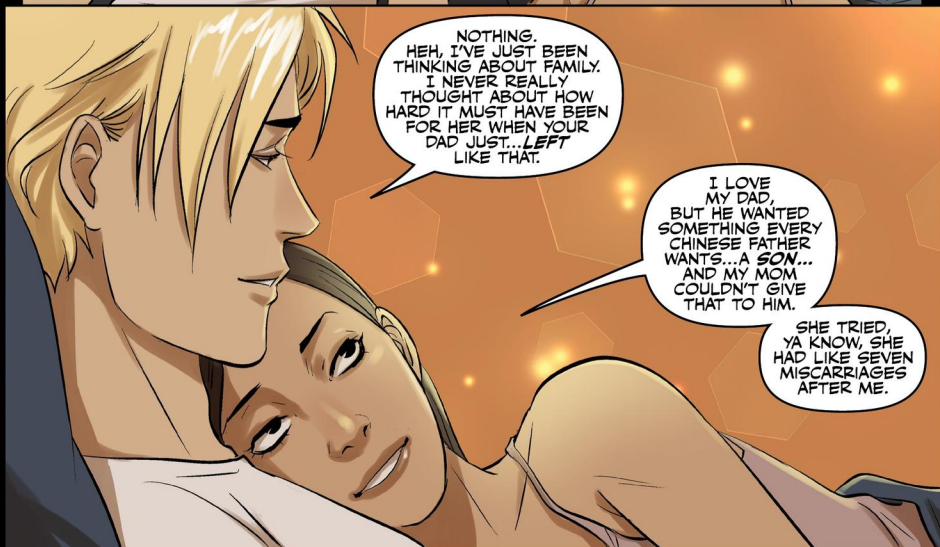


THIS AGAIN? WE AGREED SHE COULD STAY FOR THREE MONTHS. WE'RE GOING TO NEED THE HELP...WHAT'D SHE DO?



NOTHING, I THINK MAYBE WE CAN DO SOMETHING NICE FOR HER FOR ALL SHE DOES.

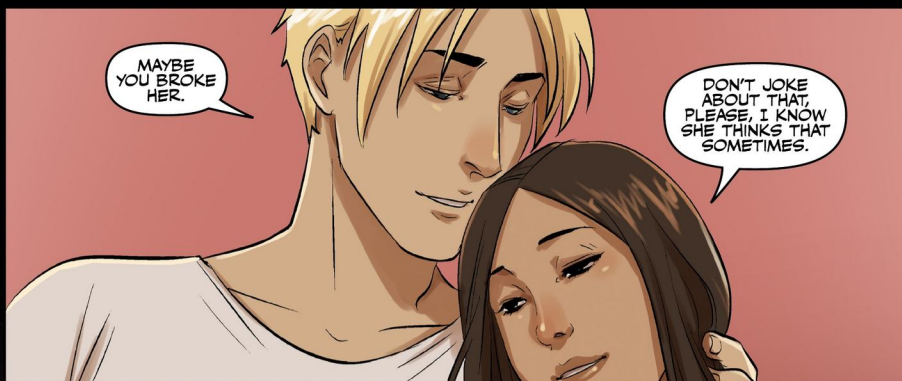
OOOOKAY... WHAT DID YOU DO?



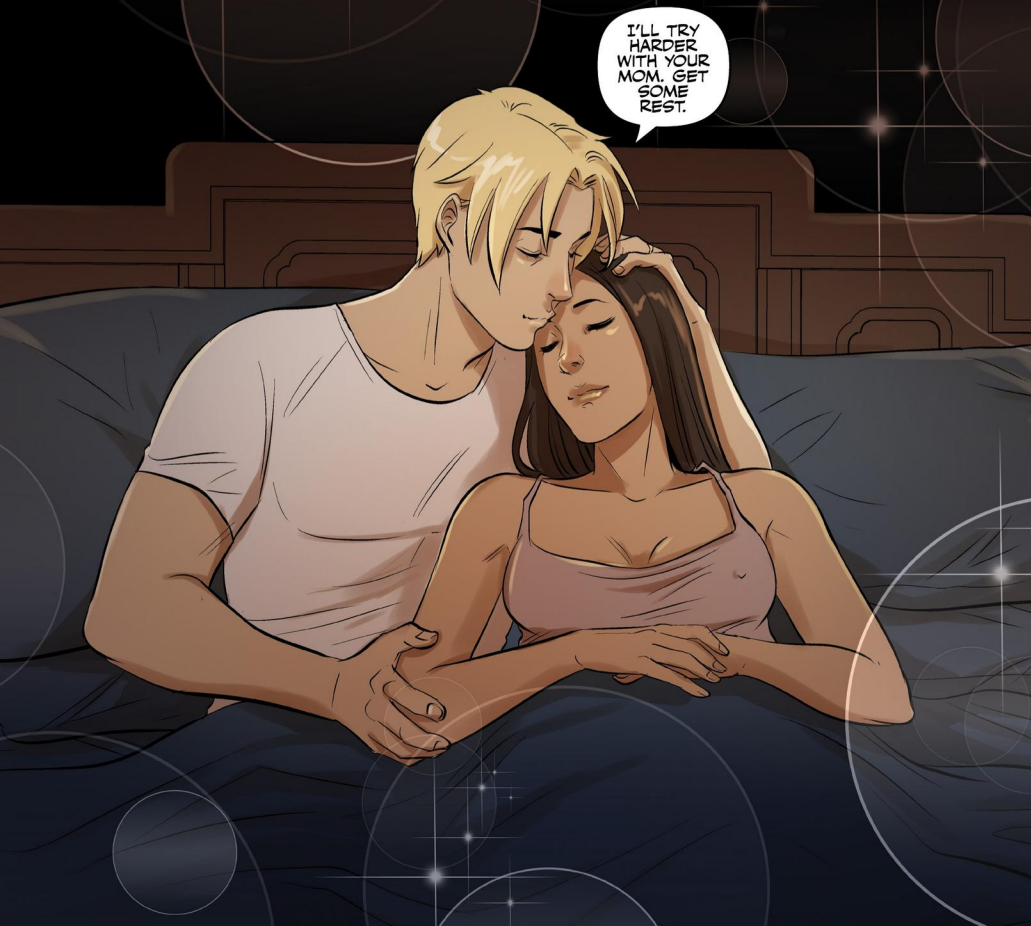
NOTHING. HEH, I'VE JUST BEEN THINKING ABOUT FAMILY. I NEVER REALLY THOUGHT ABOUT HOW HARD IT MUST HAVE BEEN FOR HER WHEN YOUR DAD JUST...LEFT LIKE THAT.

I LOVE MY DAD, BUT HE WANTED SOMETHING EVERY CHINESE FATHER WANTS...A SON... AND MY MOM COULDN'T GIVE THAT TO HIM.

SHE TRIED, YA KNOW, SHE HAD LIKE SEVEN MISCARRIAGES AFTER ME.



♂
FAMILY IS EVERYTHING.

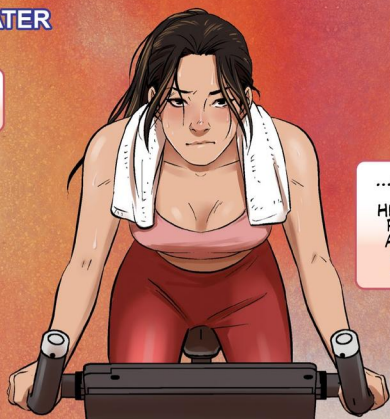




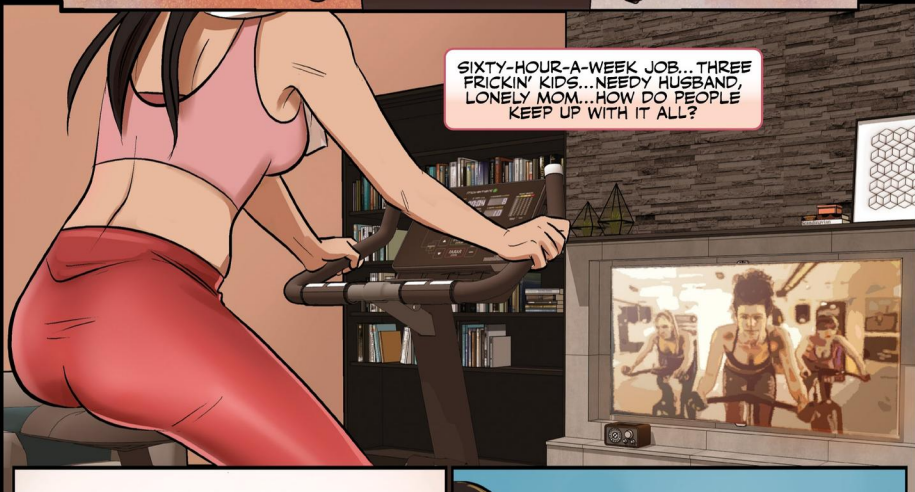
SIX MONTHS LATER

♀
I SHOULD HAVE
GOTTEN THE
BOOB JOB...

...THEN THE EXTRA
INCHES ON MY
HIPS WOULD LOOK
PROPORTIONATE
AND I WOULDN'T
NEED TO WORK
OUT LIKE THIS.



SIXTY-HOUR-A-WEEK JOB... THREE
FRICKIN' KIDS... NEEDY HUSBAND,
LONELY MOM... HOW DO PEOPLE
KEEP UP WITH IT ALL?



I BARELY SEE
MY FRIENDS
ANYMORE.



I KEEP UP
WITH THEM BY
READING THEIR
INSTAGRAM
POSTS.

♀
TIME JUST ROLLS
BY, DOESN'T IT?

I KNOW MY
SITUATION IS
UNUSUAL IN THIS
DAY AND AGE.

CAN'T BELIEVE
I'M GOING TO
BE *THIRTY*
NEXT MONTH.

I SHOULD STILL
FEEL YOUNG...
BUT I *DON'T*.

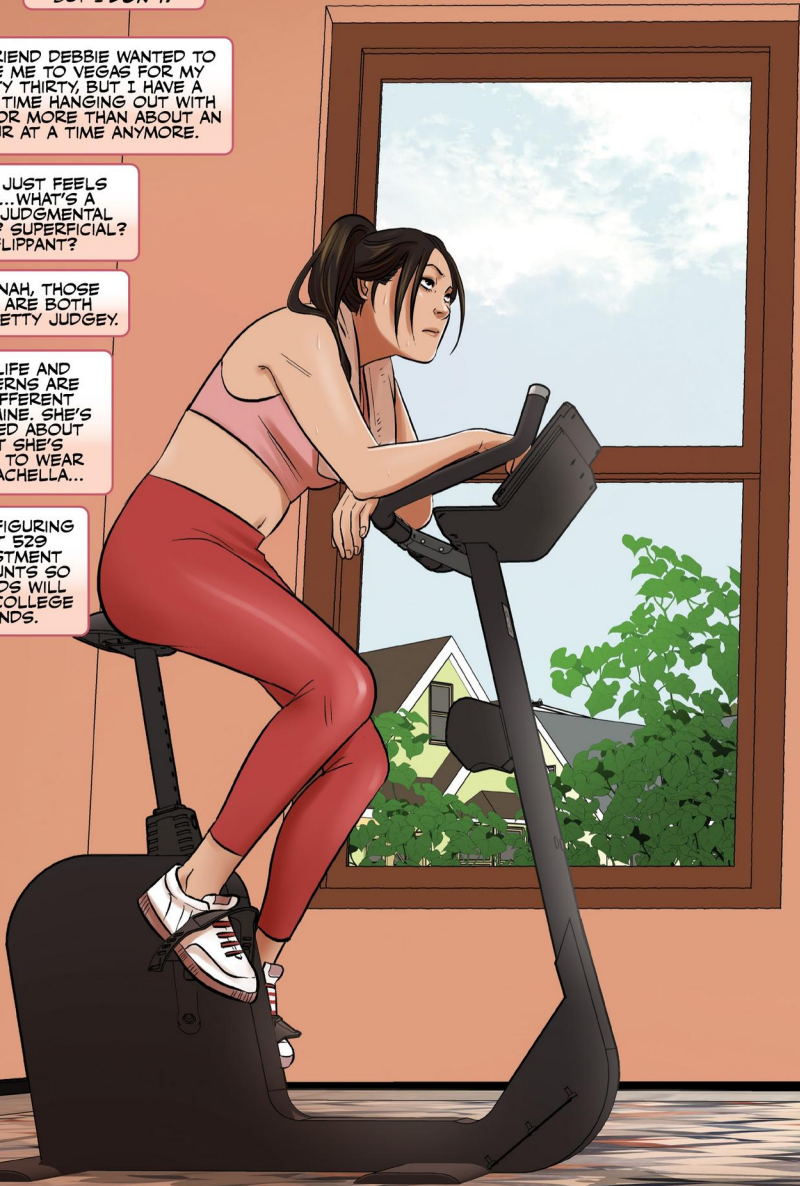
MY FRIEND DEBBIE WANTED TO
TAKE ME TO VEGAS FOR MY
DIRTY THIRTY, BUT I HAVE A
HARD TIME HANGING OUT WITH
HER FOR MORE THAN ABOUT AN
HOUR AT A TIME ANYMORE.

SHE JUST FEELS
SO...WHAT'S A
NON-JUDGMENTAL
WORD? SUPERFICIAL?
FLIPPANT?

NAH, THOSE
ARE BOTH
PRETTY JUDGEY.

HER LIFE AND
CONCERNS ARE
SO DIFFERENT
FROM MINE. SHE'S
WORRIED ABOUT
WHAT SHE'S
GOING TO WEAR
TO COACHELLA...

...I'M FIGURING
OUT 529
INVESTMENT
ACCOUNTS SO
MY KIDS WILL
HAVE COLLEGE
FUNDS.



WHO AM I KIDDING...THE
THING THAT'S BOTHERING
ME THE MOST? AND IT'S
PATHETIC ON MY PART...
IS THAT DAN IS NOW, FOR
THE FIRST TIME IN OUR
MARRIAGE, MAKING
MORE MONEY THAN ME.

HIS BOOK FOUND
ITS AUDIENCE...
AND THEY'RE
ALL *WOMEN*.

"THE DEMOGRAPHICS WORK
IN HIS FAVOR," SAYS HIS
PUBLISHER...SINCE WOMEN
ARE WHO READ THESE DAYS.

THE PUBLICIST SAYS, "HIS
HANDSOME, YET WHOLESOME
APPEARANCE HELPS BUILD
THIS AUDIENCE."

AND I'M SPENDING
MY THIRTIETH WITH
HIM IN NEW YORK AT
A BOOK SIGNING AS
PART OF HIS NEW
ENGLAND TOUR.

LOOKING
FORWARD TO A
FEW DAYS' PEACE
FROM THE KIDS,
BUT TAGGING
ALONG WITH
MY HUSBAND
WAS NOT WHAT
I THOUGHT I'D
BE DOING FOR
MY THIRTIETH.



MANHATTAN

♀
HE'S SO CUTE AT THESE THINGS, THOUGH.

HE WANTED TO BE A SCIENCE-FICTION WRITER, BUT AFTER SEVERAL REJECTIONS AND BEING INSPIRED BY OUR SWINGING ADVENTURES, HE WROTE *VICTORIAN FIRE*.

A BOOK ABOUT A TURN-OF-THE-20TH-CENTURY MAN WHO HAD TWO LOVERS, LOVED THEM BOTH AND ULTIMATELY CONVINCED THEM TO MOVE IN WITH HIM AND BE A PERMANENT THREESOME IN A TIME WHERE THAT WAS WAY FROWND ON.

HI THERE, THANKS FOR WAITING.

I REALLY LOVED YOUR BOOK. I WISH I COULD FIND A MAN LIKE THAT.

I'M SURE YOU WILL, JUST KEEP LOOKING.

"NEVER GIVE UP, NEVER SURRENDER!"

IS THAT FROM YOUR NEW BOOK COMING OUT?

UH...NO, IT'S FROM THE MOVIE *GALAXY QUEST*. HEH, GREAT FILM, UH...NEVER MIND.

AT LEAST I GET THE RANDOM SCI-FI REFERENCES HE USES, HE'S MADE ME WATCH THEM ALL.

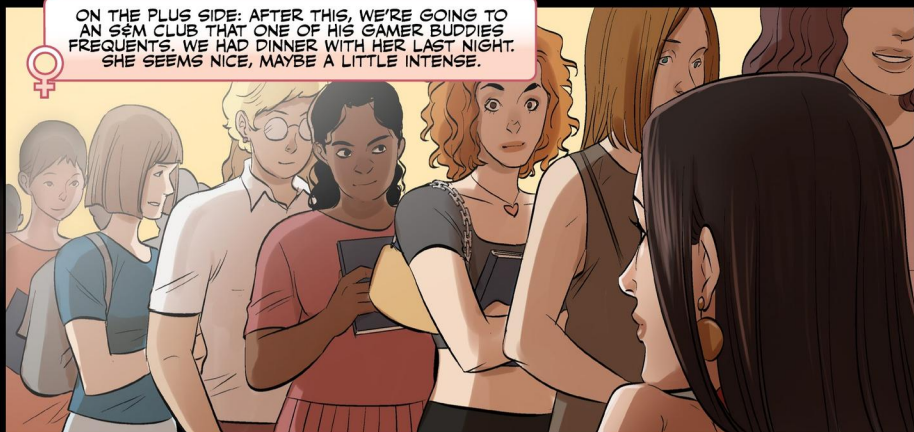
WILL YOU SIGN IT TO STEPFANY?

HOW DO YOU SPELL THAT?

S-T-E-P-F-A-N-Y.

THANKS FOR READING! THE SEQUEL, *VICTORIAN PASSION*, IS OUT IN A FEW MONTHS. YOU CAN PRE-ORDER IT HERE ON THE WAY OUT AND YOU'LL GET A SPECIAL BOOK PLATE SIGNED BY ME ALSO.

ON THE PLUS SIDE: AFTER THIS, WE'RE GOING TO AN SEM CLUB THAT ONE OF HIS GAMER BUDDIES FREQUENTS. WE HAD DINNER WITH HER LAST NIGHT. SHE SEEMS NICE, MAYBE A LITTLE INTENSE.



CURIOUS ABOUT SEM... NEVER TRIED THAT.



EXCUSE ME...



...DO YOU KNOW IF DAN'S SINGLE OR NOT? SORRY IF THAT'S WEIRD, JUST THOUGHT YOU WERE HIS ASSISTANT OR SOMETHING, AND MIGHT KNOW.





YEAH,
HE'S MARRIED...
TO ME.

LIKE IT
SAYS ON
THE BACK
OF THE
BOOK.



OH!
I'M SO
SORRY.

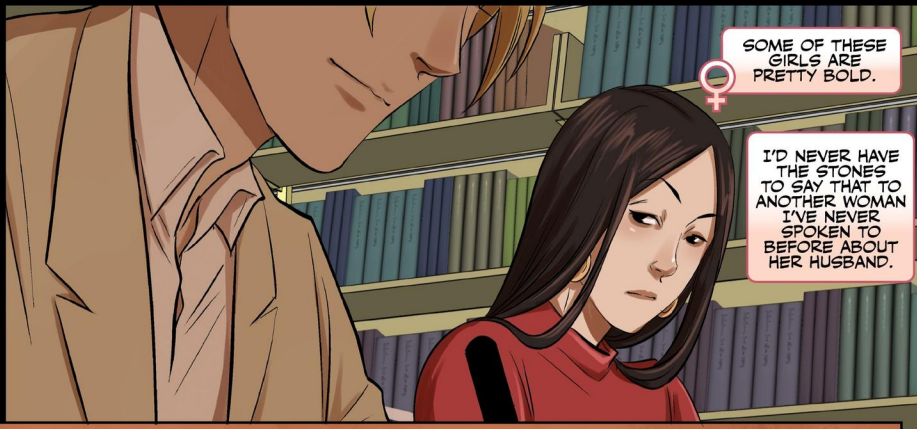


YOU'RE
A LUCKY
GIRL, HE
MUST BE FUN
IN BED.



THANKS.

AND I'VE
GOT THE
STRETCH
MARKS TO
PROVE IT.



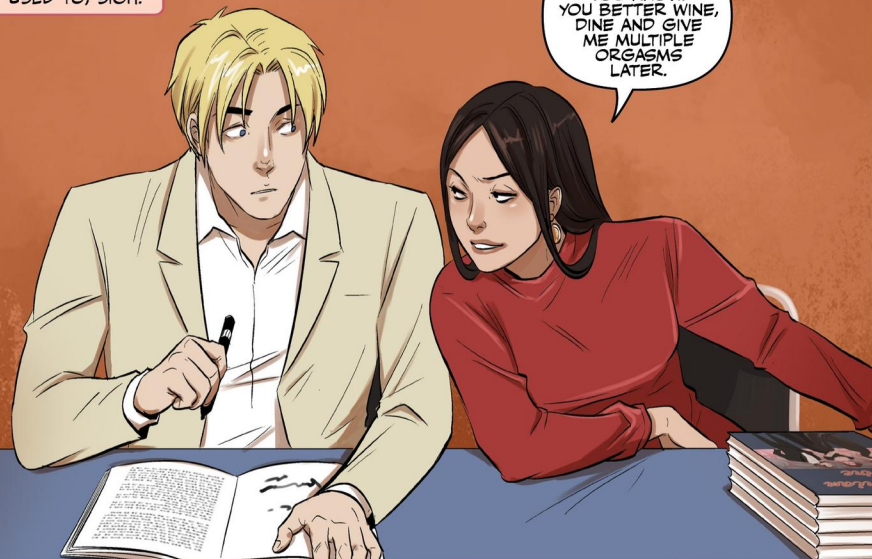
SOME OF THESE
GIRLS ARE
PRETTY BOLD.

I'D NEVER HAVE
THE STONES
TO SAY THAT TO
ANOTHER WOMAN
I'VE NEVER
SPOKEN TO
BEFORE ABOUT
HER HUSBAND.

AND I BANG
OTHER WOMEN'S
HUSBANDS ALL
THE TIME...OR I
USED TO, SIGH.

I MISS
LIFESTYLE.

IT *IS* MY
BIRTHDAY WEEK,
YOU KNOW.
YOU BETTER WINE,
DINE AND GIVE
ME MULTIPLE
ORGASMS
LATER.



IN THE
SPIRIT OF
OUR COMING
ADVENTURE, YES,
MISTRESS.





S&M...UGH. I TRY TO
KEEP AN OPEN MIND, BUT
THIS ONE SCARES ME.

WE WENT TO DINNER
LAST NIGHT WITH MY
GAMING FRIEND ALLY.

SHE HAD READ MY BOOK
AND HAD A LOT OF
"QUESTIONS" SINCE
SOME OF THE PASSAGES
SEEMED "AUTHENTIC."

CATHY, AFTER A FEW GLASSES OF WINE,
OUTED US, OF COURSE, AND WE TALKED
ABOUT SWINGING FOR A WHILE.

ALLY SAYS EVERYONE HAS THEIR
KINK AND PEOPLE SHOULDN'T BE
ASHAMED OF IT IF IT'S ADULT AND
CONSENSUAL, AND MENTIONED
SHE FREQUENTED A S&M CLUB
IF WE WANTED TO GO.

I READ THE
REVIEWS ONLINE
FOR THIS PLACE
AND IT SEEMS
AMAZING.

THERE ARE A
FEW NEGATIVE ONES,
BUT IT LOOKS LIKE
THEIR OBJECTION
IS ON MORAL
GROUNDS.

REMINDS
ME OF
SOME OF
MY BOOK
REVIEWS.

THE BUTTERFLIES IN MY GUT
REMINDE ME OF THE FIRST
TIME WE VISITED THAT
LIFESTYLE CLUB IN L.A.

AND OH!
THERE'S
A SWINGER
CLUB JUST A
FEW BLOCKS
OVER.

IF THIS
IS A BUST,
YOU WANT TO
GO CHECK IT
OUT?

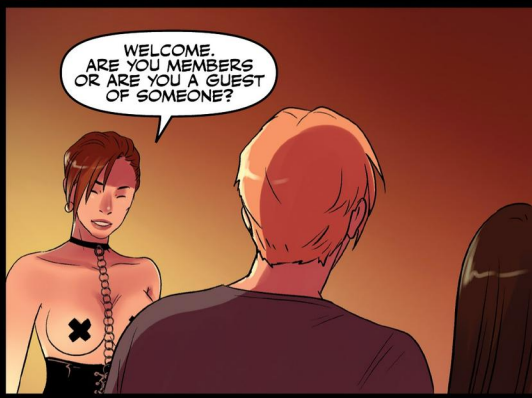
BE FUN
TO JUST LOOK
AROUND. WE DON'T
HAVE TO DO
ANYTHING.

SURE,
THAT DOES
SOUND
FUN.



♂
CATHY WANTS TO BE DOMINATED, WHICH IS WEIRD TO ME SINCE SHE'S CLEARLY THE DOMINANT PERSONALITY OF THE TWO OF US...PLUS I'M WORRIED I MIGHT HURT HER.

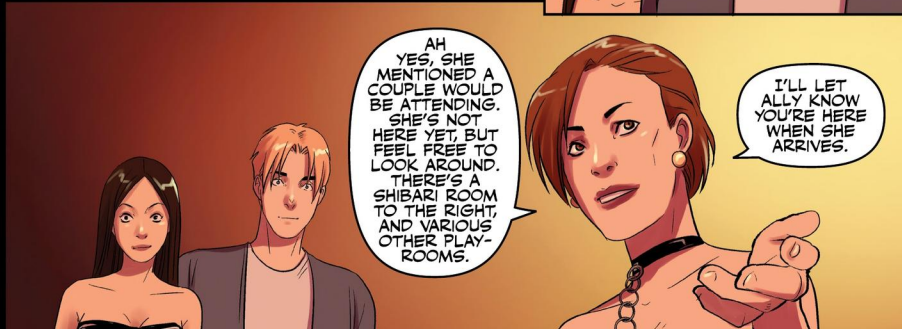
WELL...I DID HATE SWINGING AT FIRST, SO WHY NOT GIVE THIS A TRY?



WELCOME. ARE YOU MEMBERS OR ARE YOU A GUEST OF SOMEONE?

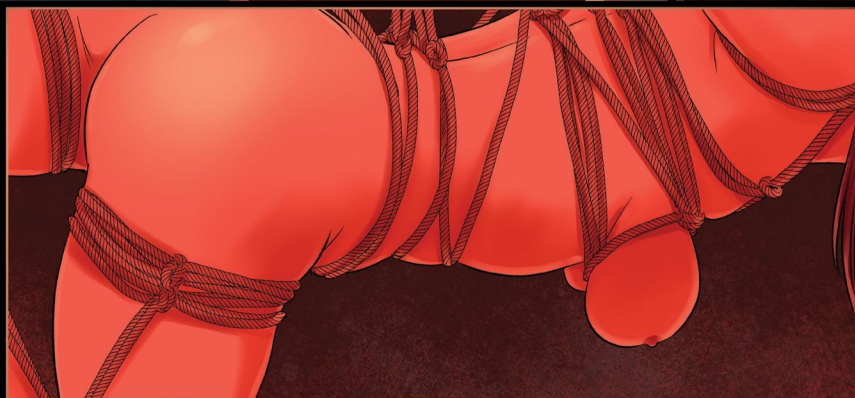
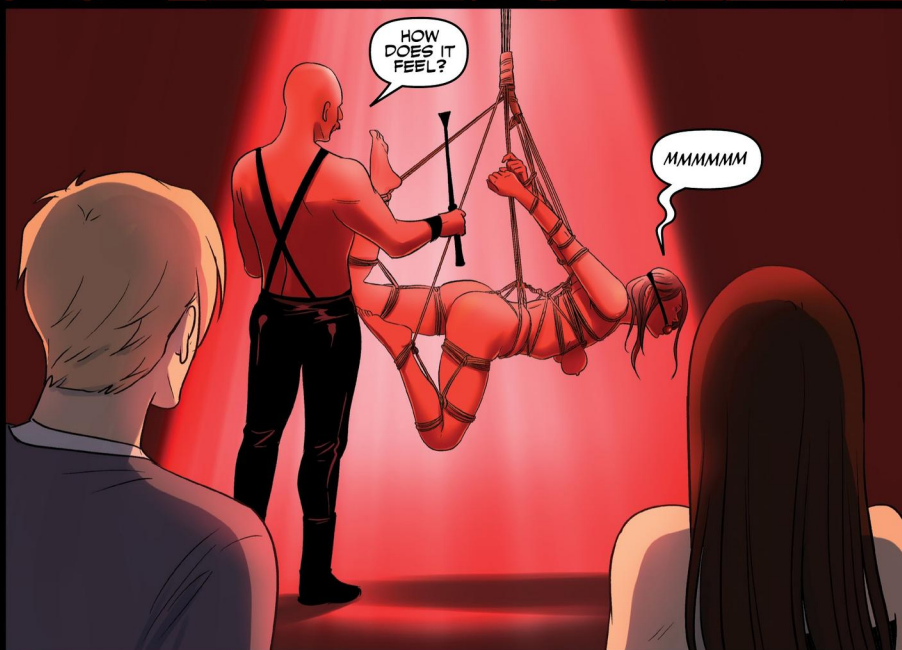


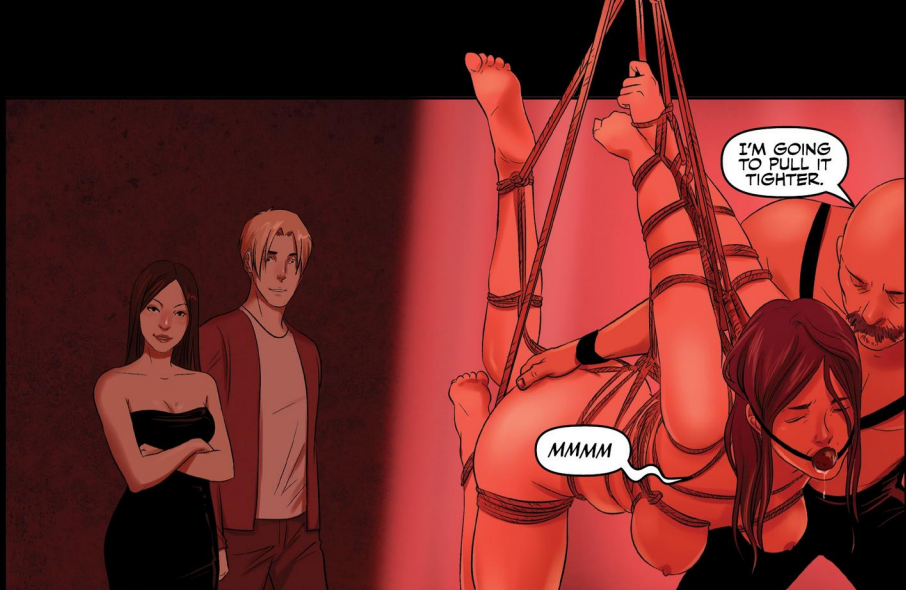
ALLY CARTER INVITED US.



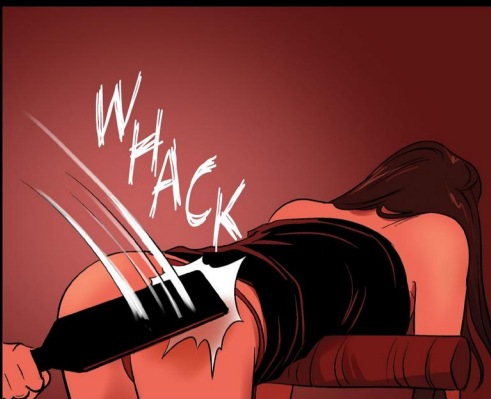
AH YES, SHE MENTIONED A COUPLE WOULD BE ATTENDING. SHE'S NOT HERE YET, BUT FEEL FREE TO LOOK AROUND. THERE'S A SHIBARI ROOM TO THE RIGHT, AND VARIOUS OTHER PLAY-ROOMS.

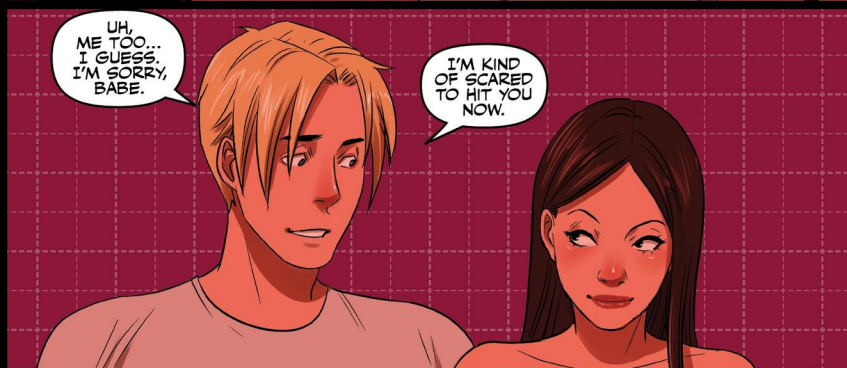
I'LL LET ALLY KNOW YOU'RE HERE WHEN SHE ARRIVES.

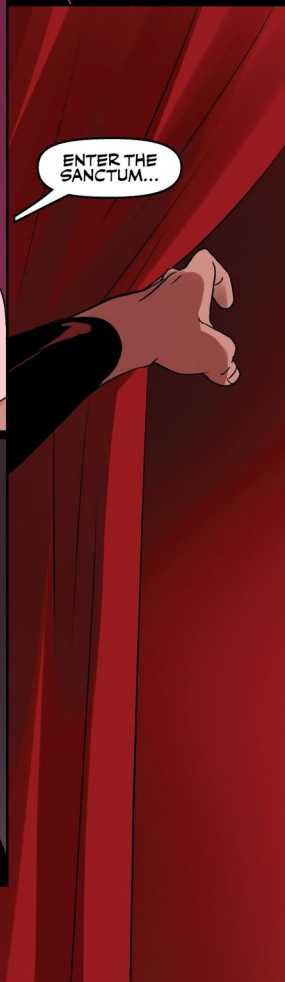
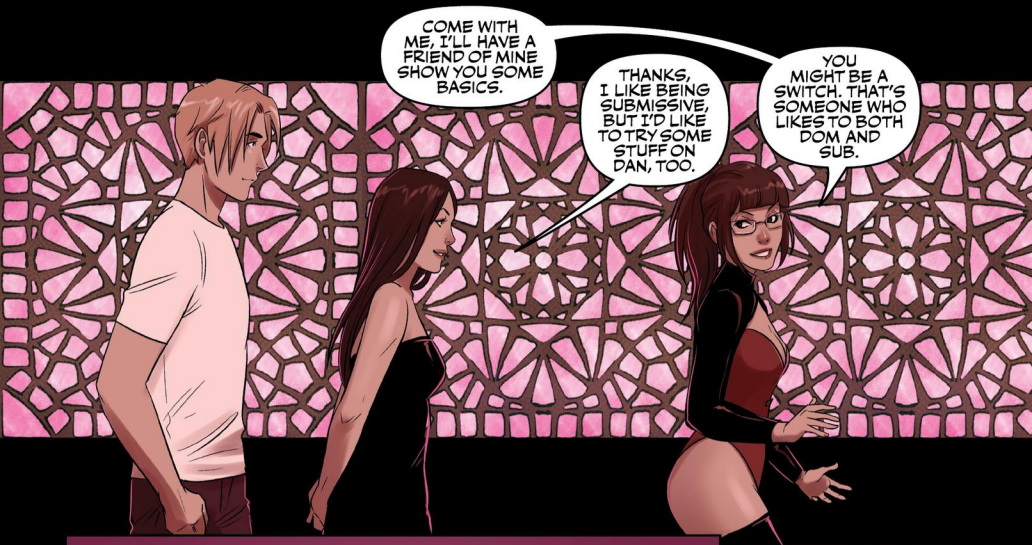












...OF
MISTRESS
MICHELLE.

SHE
IS A DEAR
FRIEND AND
ONE OF THE
BEST.

SHE DOESN'T
TAKE NEWBIES,
BUT SHE'S DOING
ME THIS FAVOR,
SO DON'T MAKE
ME LOOK BAD.

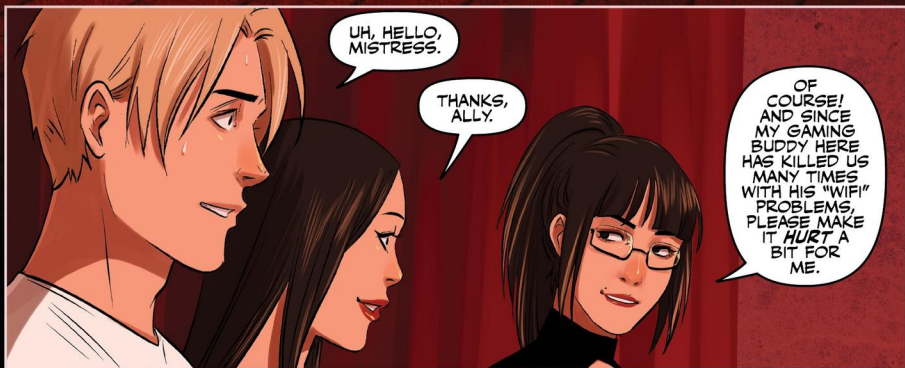
COME
IN.



UH, HELLO,
MISTRESS.

THANKS,
ALLY.

OF
COURSE! AND SINCE
MY GAMING
BUDDY HERE
HAS KILLED US
MANY TIMES
WITH HIS "WIFI"
PROBLEMS,
PLEASE MAKE
IT *HURT* A
BIT FOR
ME.



TWO HOURS LATER

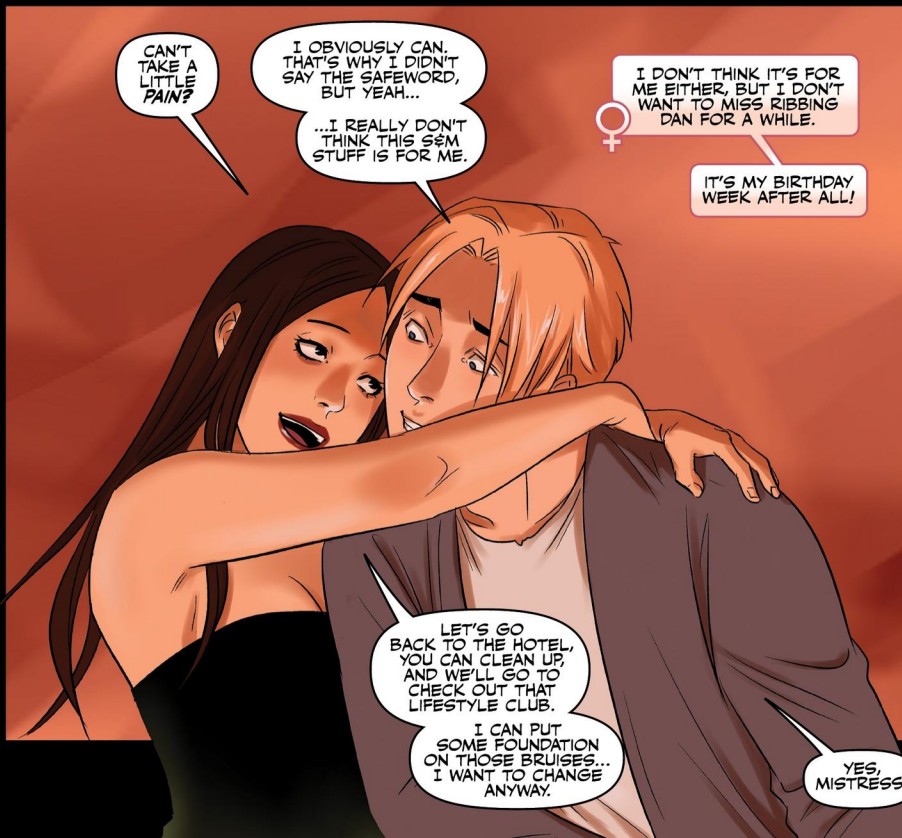


I'M
GOING TO
BE IN PAIN
FOR DAYS.

OH,
COME ON,
I THOUGHT
YOU WERE A
BIG, STRONG
MAN.



SERIOUSLY...
BRUISES?



CAN'T
TAKE A
LITTLE
PAIN?

I OBVIOUSLY CAN,
THAT'S WHY I DIDN'T
SAY THE SAFEWORD,
BUT YEAH...

...I REALLY DON'T
THINK THIS SEM
STUFF IS FOR ME.

I DON'T THINK IT'S FOR
ME EITHER, BUT I DON'T
WANT TO MISS RIBBING
DAN FOR A WHILE.

IT'S MY BIRTHDAY
WEEK AFTER ALL!

LET'S GO
BACK TO THE HOTEL,
YOU CAN CLEAN UP,
AND WE'LL GO TO
CHECK OUT THAT
LIFESTYLE CLUB.

I CAN PUT
SOME FOUNDATION
ON THOSE BRUISES...
I WANT TO CHANGE
ANYWAY.

YES,
MISTRESS.

♀ I'M GLAD WE'RE HERE. I WAS AFRAID DAN WOULDN'T WANT TO GET BACK INTO LIFESTYLE. I HOPE HE WANTS TO PLAY.

♂ I KNOW CATHY HAS BEEN SHY ABOUT HER POST-PREGNANCY BOD, I WONDER IF I COULD GET HER TO PLAY?

HOW LATE DO YOU WANT TO STAY?

DUNNO, WE'RE STILL ON L.A. TIME AND I'M CLEAR ALL MORNING. JUST SOME PRESS STUFF IN THE AFTERNOON... WHAT TIME'S YOUR FLIGHT?

NOON.

YOU EAGER TO GET BACK TO THE KIDS?

YES AND NO. I'VE ONLY BEEN GONE A COUPLE DAYS, BUT I'M FEELING SOME SEPARATION ANXIETY FROM BABY LUKE. I SPOKE TO MY MOM, THEY'RE ALL FINE.

SHE GAVE ME GRIEF OVER THE FORMULA THING, BUT WHATEVER. I BREASTFED THAT BITTER FOR ALMOST SIX MONTHS, MY NIPPLES NEED THE BREAK.





YOU
WANT TO
PLAY?



JINX!
ONE, TWO,
THREE.



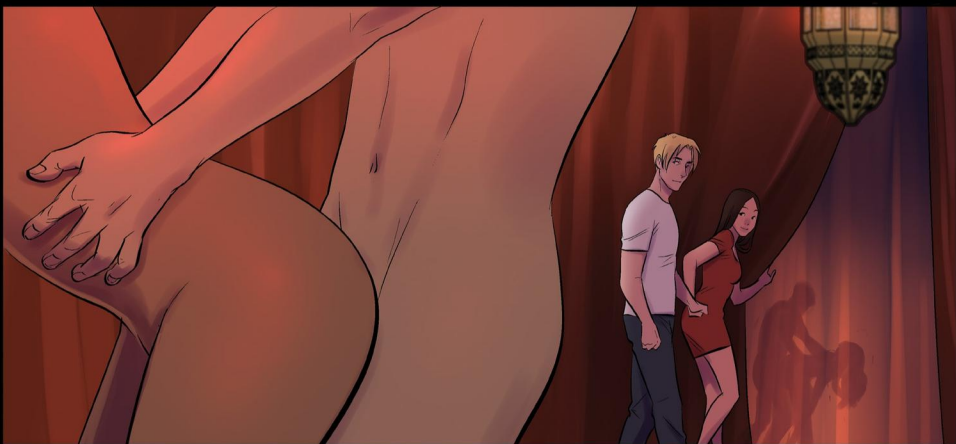
THAT MEANS
I CAN'T TALK,
RIGHT? SO...YOU
WANT MY MOUTH
TO STAY CLOSED
THE REST OF
THE NIGHT?



I
DEFINITELY
DON'T WANT
THAT. YOUR
MOUTH HAS
MANY FINE
USES.

I LOVE
YOU, CATH...I'M
AMAZED AT HOW
EASILY YOU SHED
THAT POST-BABY
WEIGHT. YOU
LOOK HOTTER
THAN EVER.

AWW,
THANKS, LOVE.
IT'S ONE OF THE
ADVANTAGES OF
HAVING BABIES
SO YOUNG...AND
I'M GLAD THAT
ONE WILL BE
MY LAST.



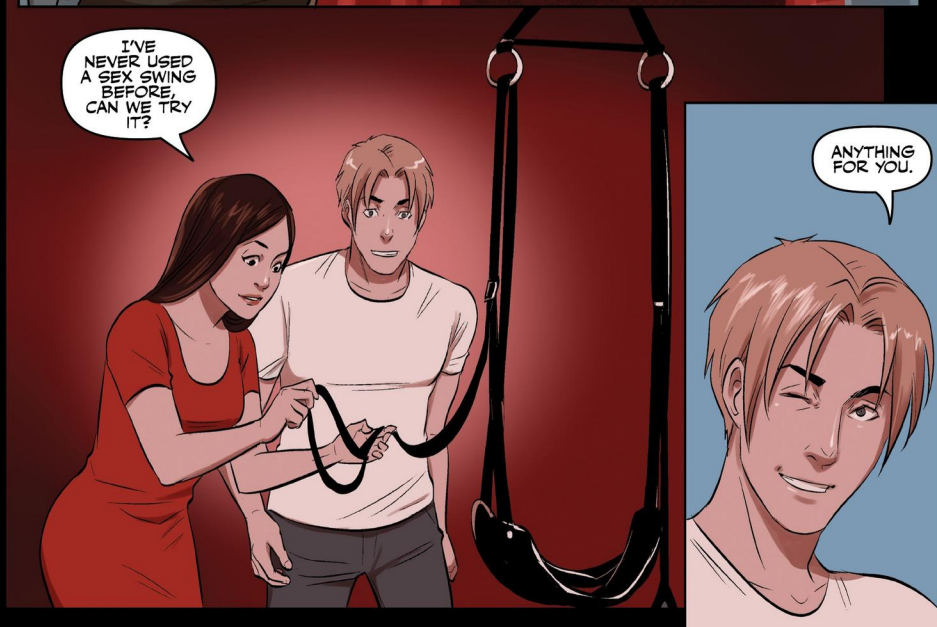


YOU
WANT TO FIND
A DARK CORNER
SOMEWHERE?

THAT
DOESN'T
SOUND
FUN AT
ALL.

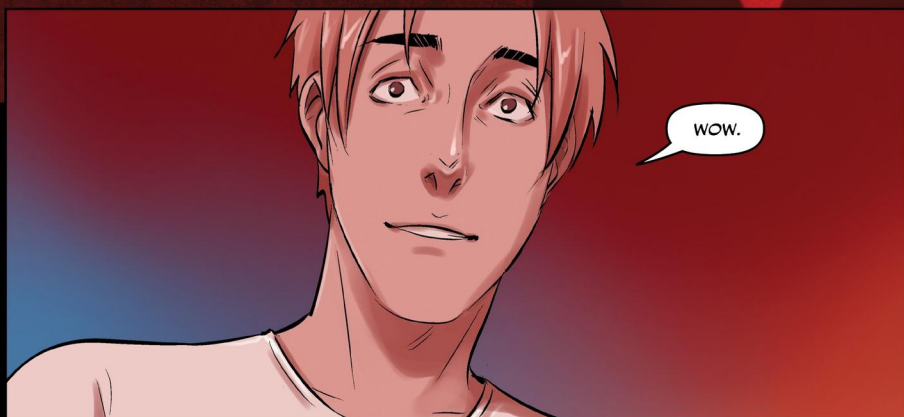


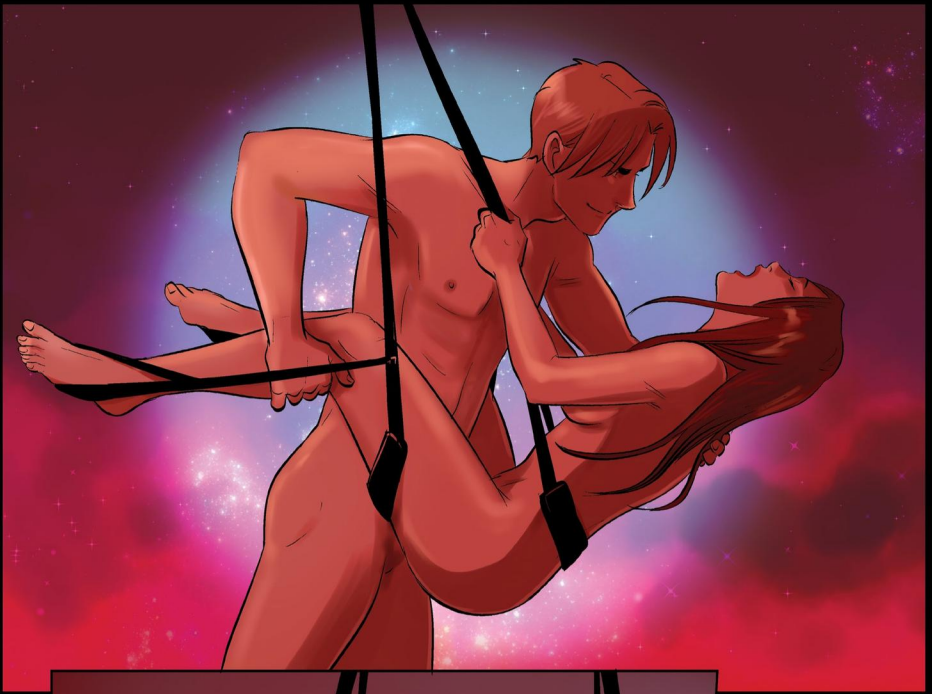
BUT
THAT
DOES.

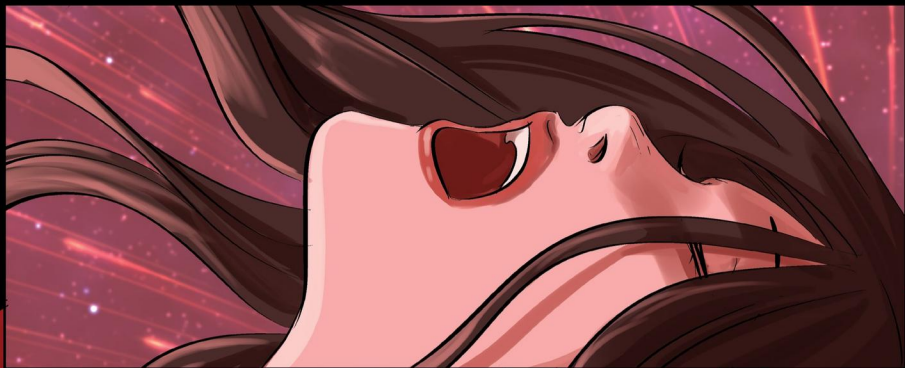


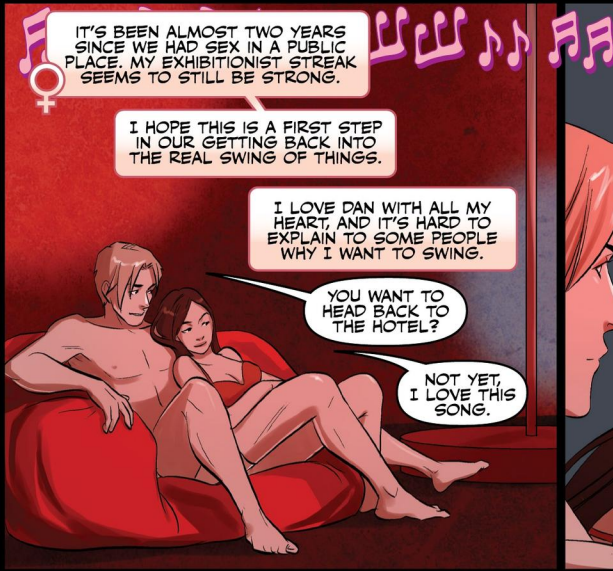
I'VE
NEVER USED
A SEX SWING
BEFORE,
CAN WE TRY
IT?

ANYTHING
FOR YOU.









IT'S BEEN ALMOST TWO YEARS SINCE WE HAD SEX IN A PUBLIC PLACE. MY EXHIBITIONIST STREAK SEEMS TO STILL BE STRONG.

I HOPE THIS IS A FIRST STEP IN OUR GETTING BACK INTO THE REAL SWING OF THINGS.

I LOVE DAN WITH ALL MY HEART, AND IT'S HARD TO EXPLAIN TO SOME PEOPLE WHY I WANT TO SWING.

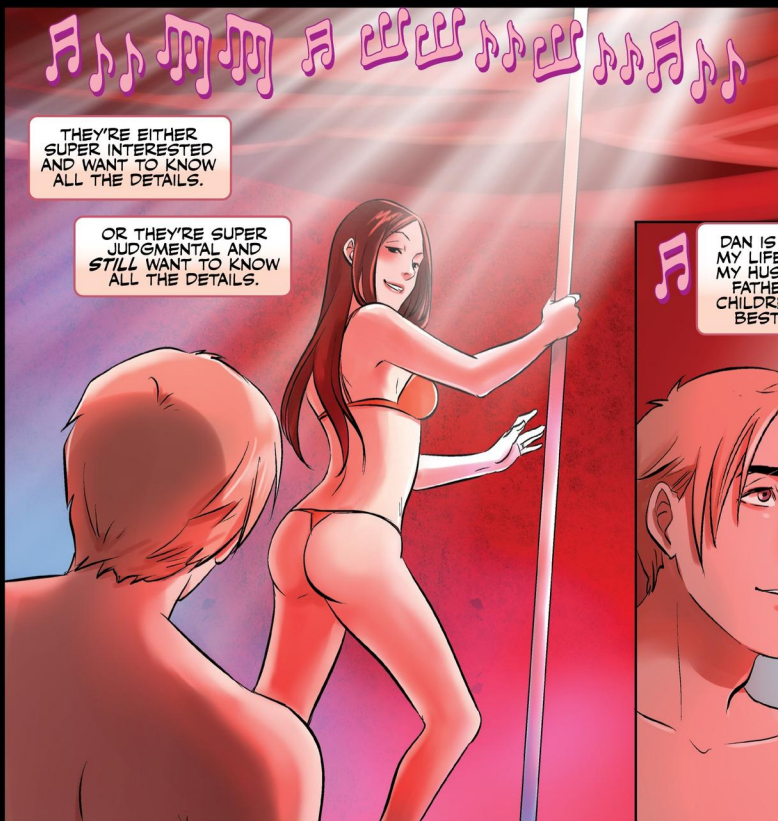
YOU WANT TO HEAD BACK TO THE HOTEL?

NOT YET, I LOVE THIS SONG.



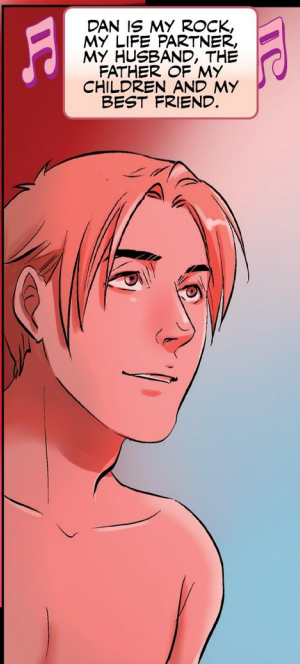
I DON'T CARE IF PEOPLE KNOW WE SWING, BUT IT *IS* INTERESTING THE TWO TYPES OF REACTIONS I GET WHEN PEOPLE FIND OUT.

I WANT TO DANCE FOR YOU.

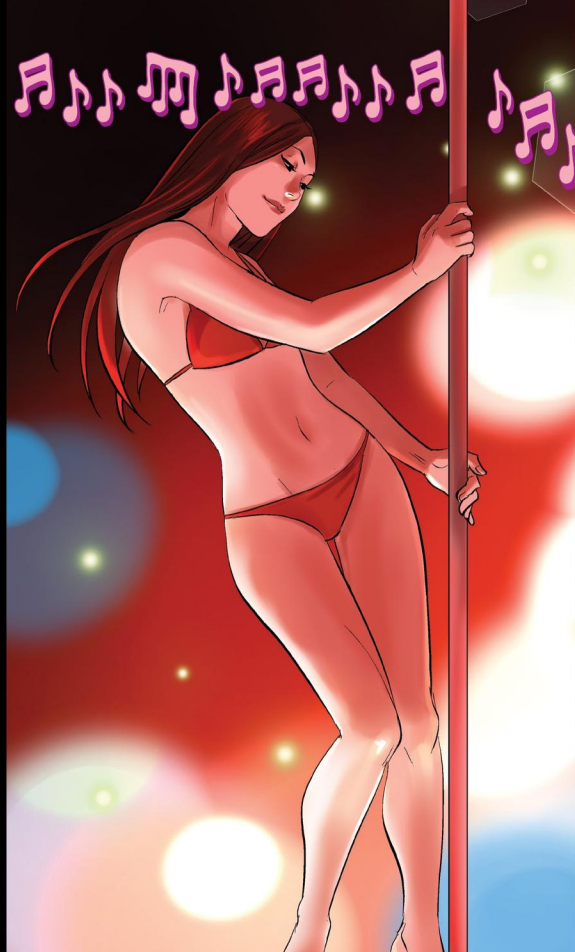


THEY'RE EITHER SUPER INTERESTED AND WANT TO KNOW ALL THE DETAILS.

OR THEY'RE SUPER JUDGMENTAL AND **STILL** WANT TO KNOW ALL THE DETAILS.

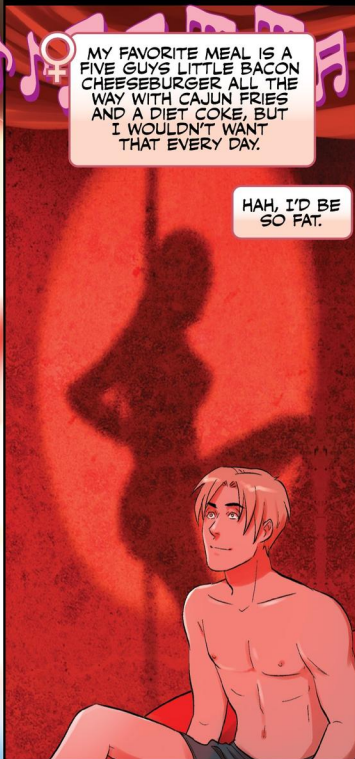


DAN IS MY ROCK, MY LIFE PARTNER, MY HUSBAND, THE FATHER OF MY CHILDREN AND MY BEST FRIEND.

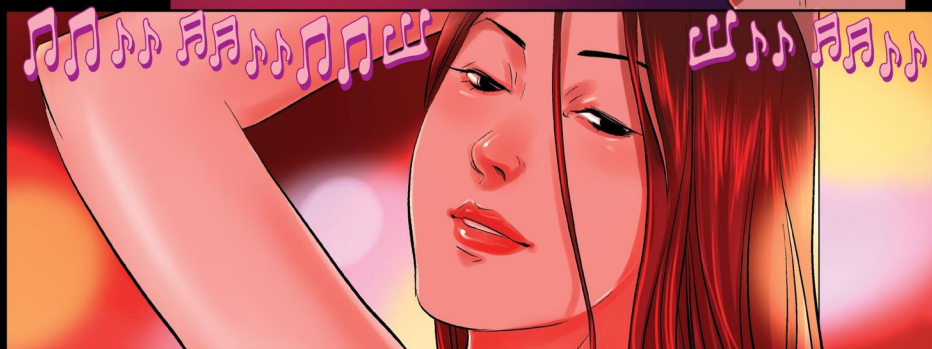
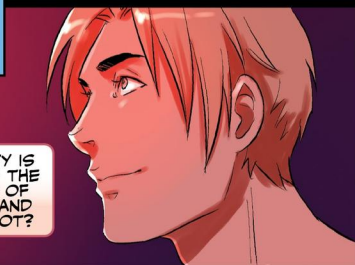


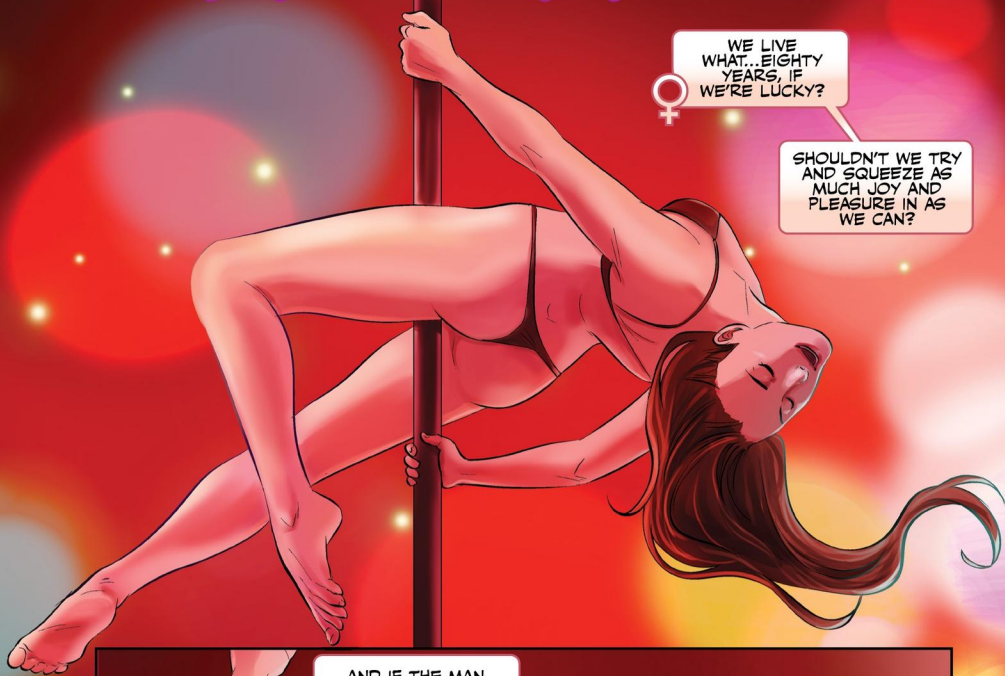
MY FAVORITE MEAL IS A FIVE GUYS LITTLE BACON CHEESEBURGER ALL THE WAY WITH CAJUN FRIES AND A DIET COKE, BUT I WOULDN'T WANT THAT EVERY DAY.

HAH, I'D BE SO FAT.



VARIETY IS INDEED THE SPICE OF LIFE...AND WHY NOT?



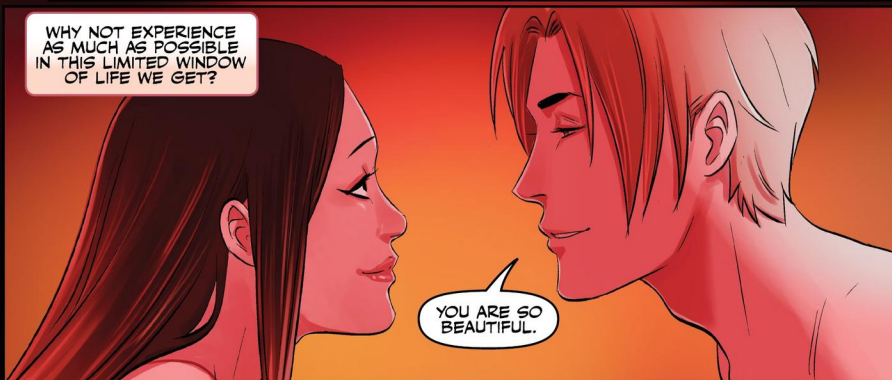


♀ WE LIVE
WHAT...EIGHTY
YEARS, IF
WE'RE LUCKY?

SHOULDN'T WE TRY
AND SQUEEZE AS
MUCH JOY AND
PLEASURE IN AS
WE CAN?

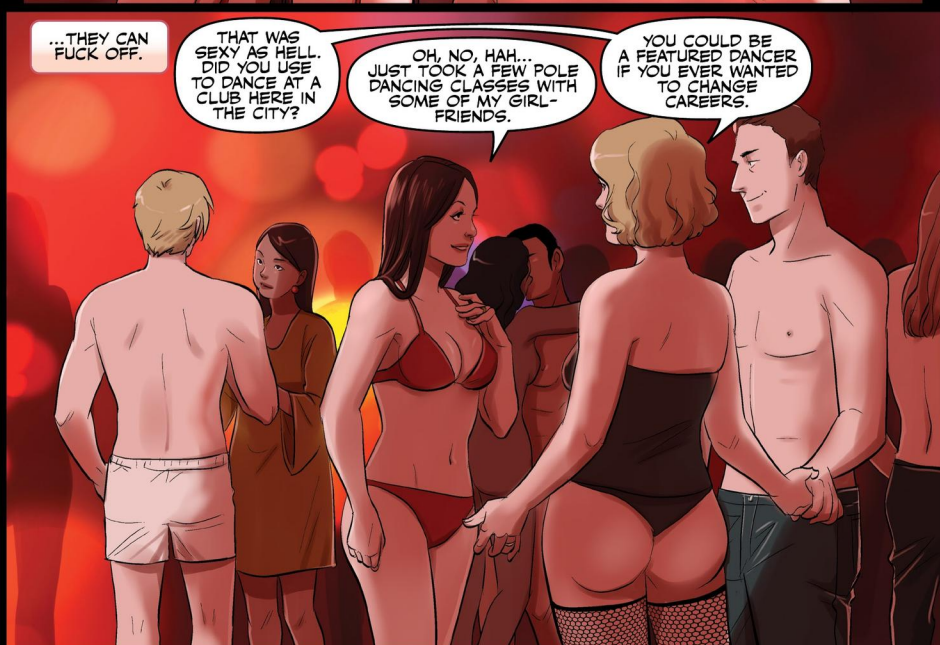
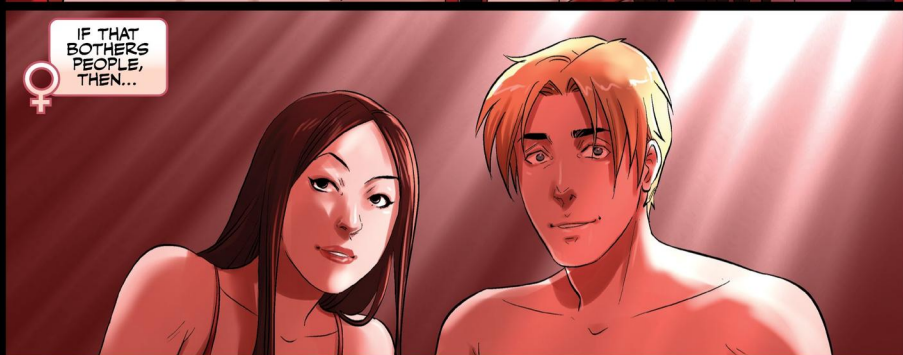


AND IF THE MAN
I LOVE, WHO LOVES
ME, IS INTO IT...THEN
AGAIN...I ASK WHY
NOT? WHO ARE
WE HURTING?



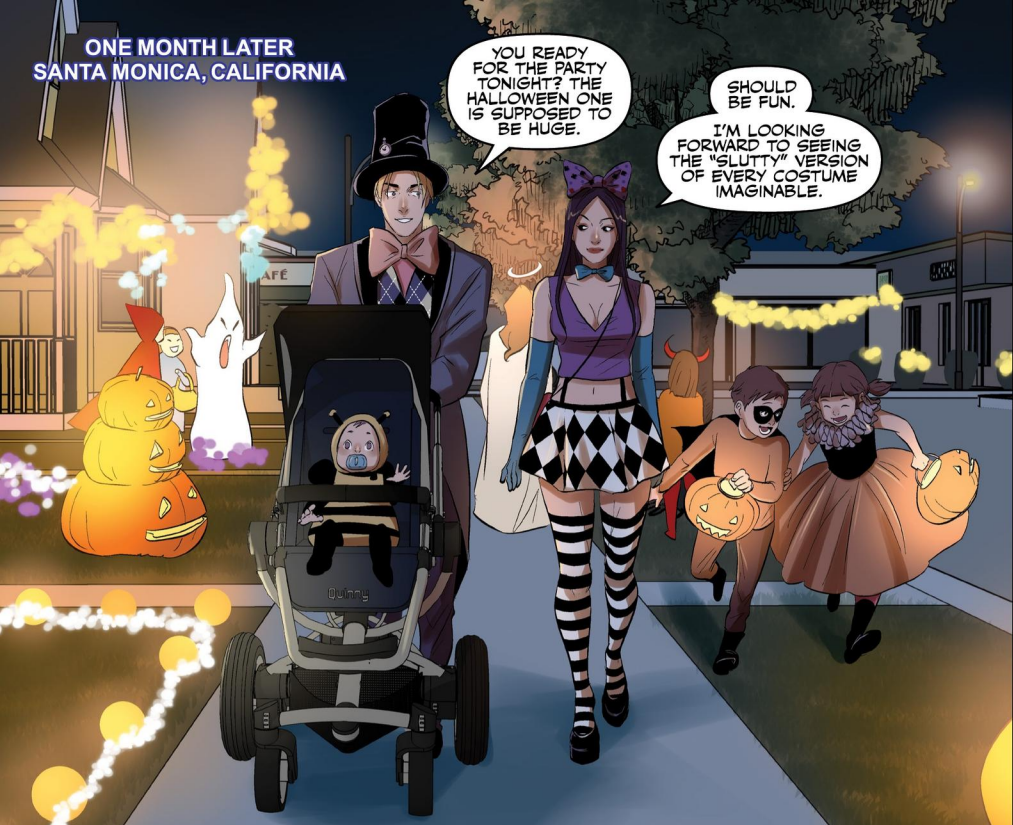
WHY NOT EXPERIENCE
AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE
IN THIS LIMITED WINDOW
OF LIFE WE GET?

YOU ARE SO
BEAUTIFUL.





ONE MONTH LATER
SANTA MONICA, CALIFORNIA



YOU READY FOR THE PARTY TONIGHT? THE HALLOWEEN ONE IS SUPPOSED TO BE HUGE.

SHOULD BE FUN.

I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING THE "SLUTTY" VERSION OF EVERY COSTUME IMAGINABLE.



THERE'S A CONTEST FOR THAT. YOU COULD TOTALLY WIN.

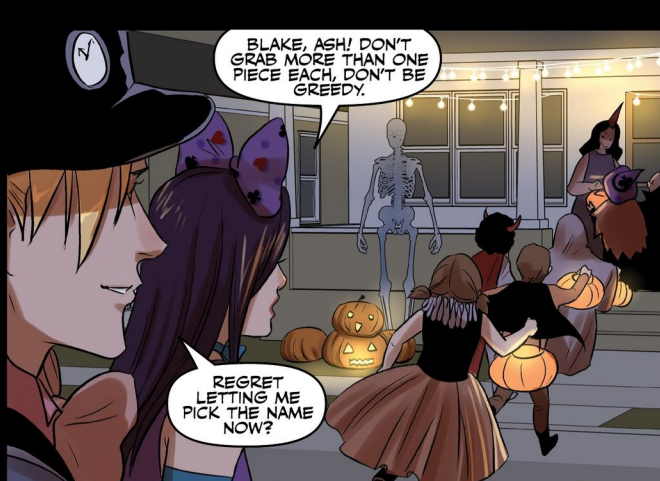
GURGLE GURGLE

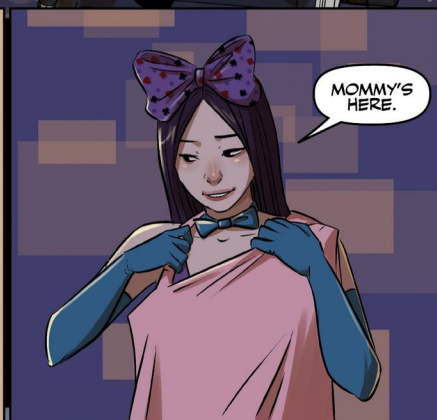
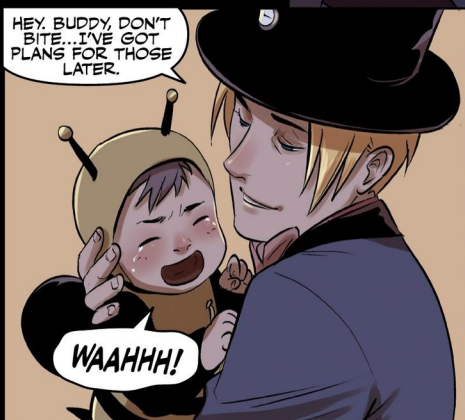


LUUKKE.

OH MY GOD, DON'T "I AM YOUR FATHER" HIM AGAIN.

GURGLE... AWOOO.







WHAT TIME
IS YOUR MOM
COMING
OVER?

SHE
SHOULD BE
THERE NOW. SHE
WANTS TO TEACH
THEM ABOUT
TENG CHIEH...
IT'S A CHINESE
HALLOWEEN THING
AND IT TAKES
TIME TO
SET UP.



YOU THINK
SHE'D
TEACH ME,
TOO?

I THINK
SHE'D LIKE
THAT. YOU'VE
NOT SHOWN
MUCH INTEREST
IN OUR
TRADITIONS
IN THE
PAST.

MIDNIGHT

HALLOWEEN AND NEW YEAR'S EVE ARE THE TWO HOLIDAYS THE SWINGER LIFESTYLE EMBRACES TO THE MAX.

THE CLUBS GO ALL OUT, AND THE "ANNUAL SWINGERS" AND "LOOKIE-LOOS" SHOW UP.

Lifestyle Club

WE'RE SOLD OUT, IF YOU DON'T ALREADY HAVE A TICKET.

WE DO.

IT'S UNDER DAN LINCOLN.

OH... YOU'RE THE GUY.



YOU ARE ON MY LAST NERVE, CARL. YOU KNOW HOW CRAZY TONIGHT IS.

OH! IT'S YOU.



♀

WE'VE NOT BEEN TO ONE OF THESE HALLOWEEN PARTIES BEFORE, BUT CLINT AND MARY GAVE US THEIR PERSPECTIVE... AND IT'S NOTED THEY ARE NOT ATTENDING.

WOW, IT'S PACKED.

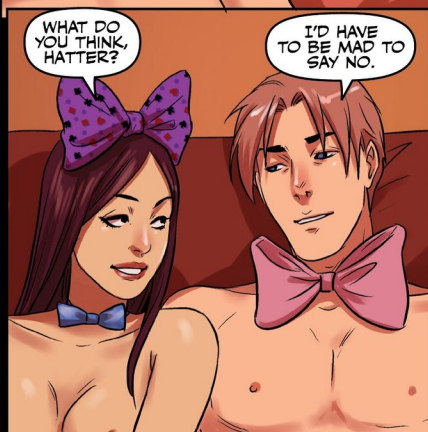
THEY COMMENTED THAT THE LOOKIE-LOOS WHO COME ARE OFTEN VOYEURS AND NOT ACTUAL SWINGERS, AND THAT THE ONCE-A-YEAR "ANNUALS," WHO ONLY SWING ON HALLOWEEN OR NEW YEAR'S, ARE APPARENTLY MORE ANNOYING TO DEAL WITH.

I'M HOPING WE CAN FIND PEOPLE WE CLICK WITH TO PLAY. IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME!

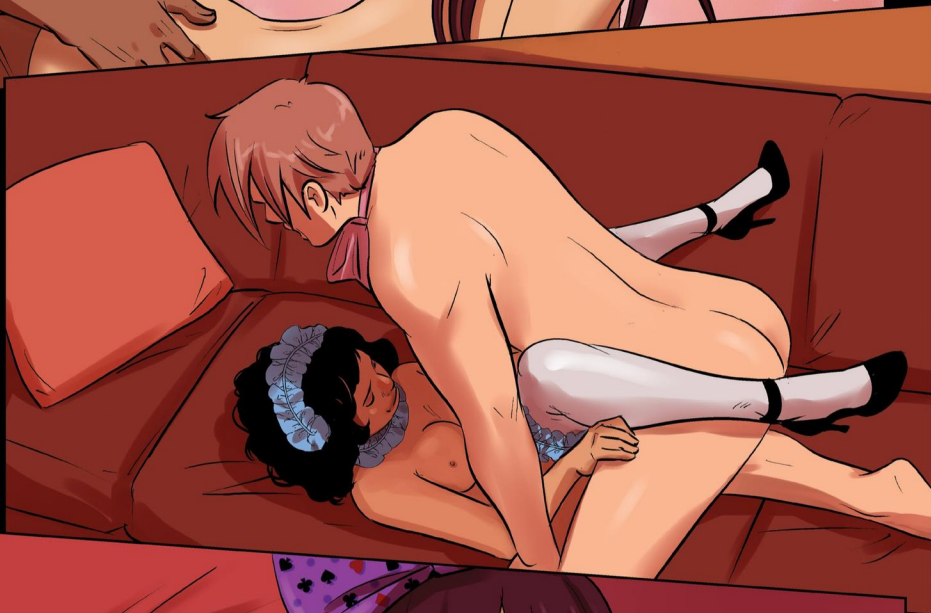
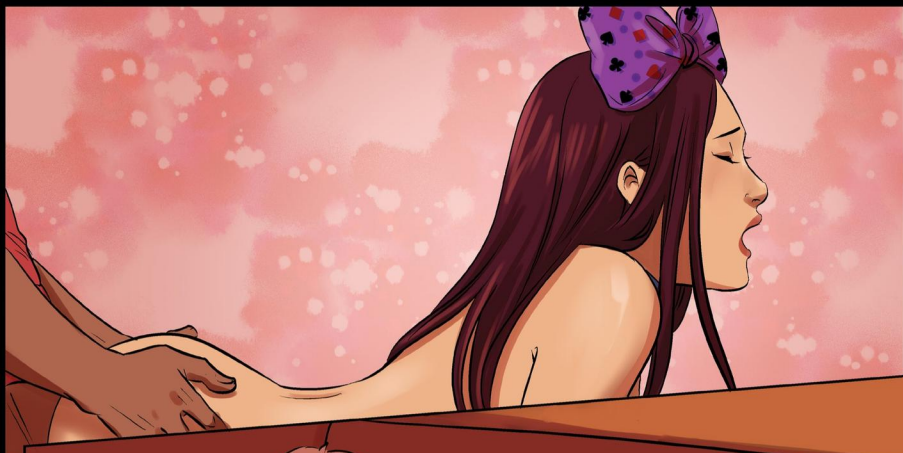
WANT TO CHECK OUT THE PLAYROOMS?

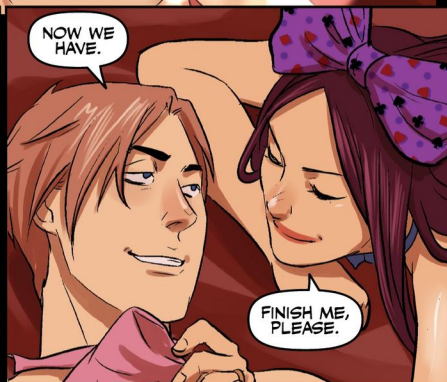
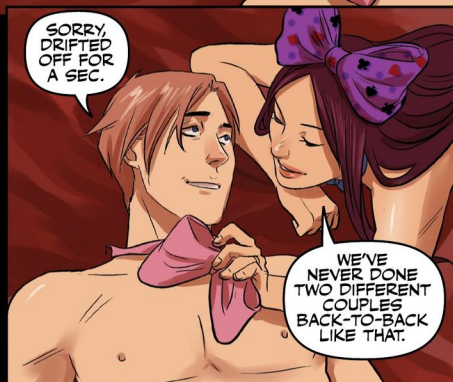
YEAH, LET'S GO.

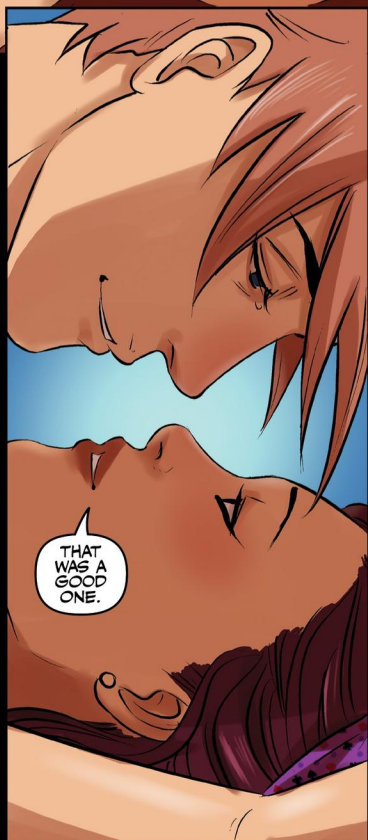


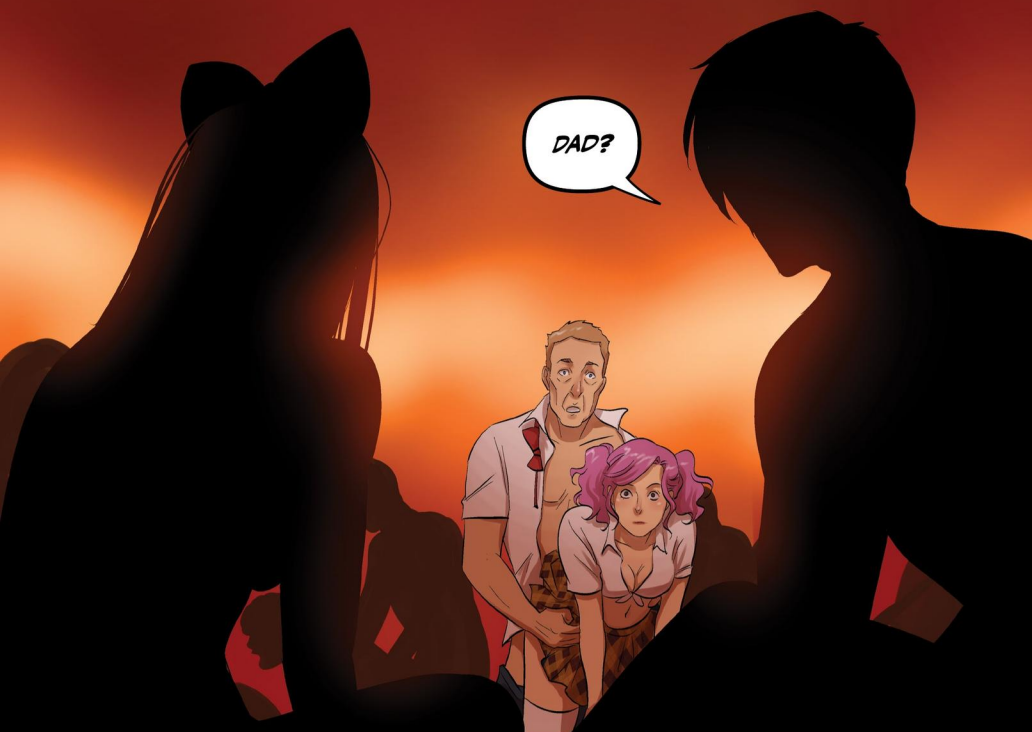




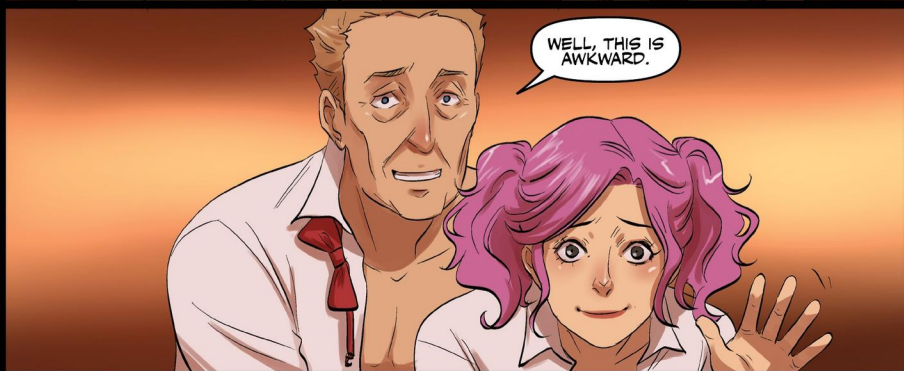






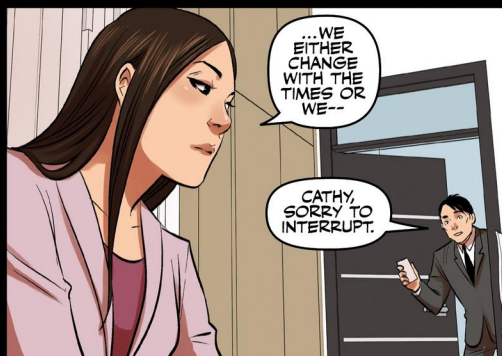


DAD?



WELL, THIS IS AWKWARD.





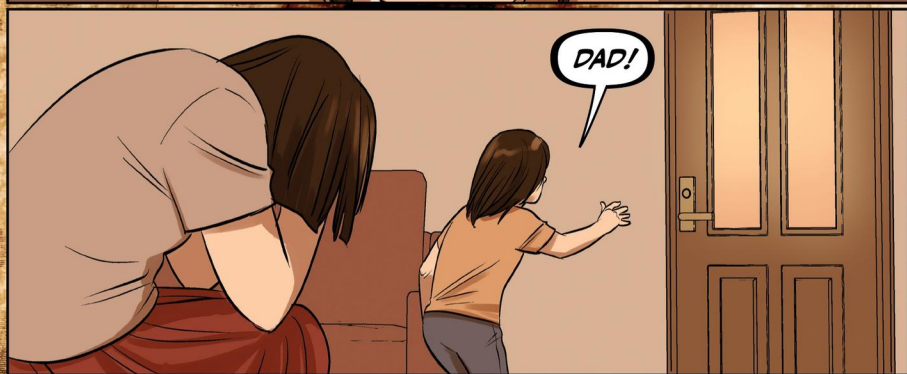


《YOU WILL TRY AGAIN. IT IS YOUR DUTY.》

《THE DOCTOR SAID ANOTHER MISCARRIAGE MIGHT KILL ME. I GAVE YOU ONE CHILD, THAT SHOULD BE ENOUGH.》



《I WANT A SON.》



DAD!



I LOVE MY FATHER, BUT HE WAS A COMPLICATED MAN.

MY MOTHER WENT ON TO HAVE TWO MORE MISCARRIAGES BEFORE HAVING TO HAVE AN EMERGENCY HYSTERECTOMY TO SAVE HER LIFE.

HE WAS A GOOD FATHER
TO ME BUT WAS
OVERLY LENIENT WHILE
MY MOTHER WAS
INSANELY STRICT.



THAT MIXED
MESSAGE WAS
TOUGH TO DEAL
WITH AS A CHILD.

AFTER ME AND
DAN'S WEDDING,
HE LEFT MY MOTHER
AND MOVED BACK
TO CHINA,
MARRIED A WOMAN
HALF HIS AGE, AND
HAD A SON THAT
I'LL MEET TODAY
FOR THE FIRST
TIME...UGH.

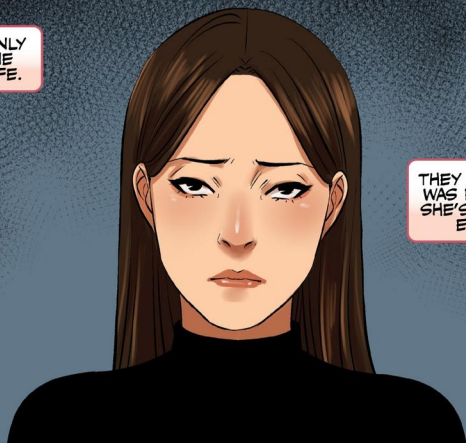


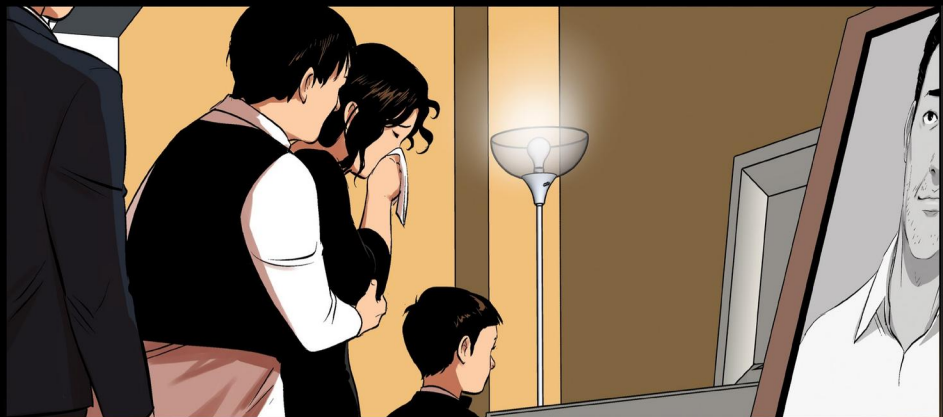
(BOHAI CHANG
LIVED A BLESSED LIFE
AND HAD TWO CHILDREN.
HIS BELOVED SON LEI
CHANG AND HIS DAUGHTER
CATHY CHANG. BOTH
ARE WITH US HERE
TODAY.)



MY MOTHER ONLY
EVER HAD ONE
MAN IN HER LIFE.

THEY MET WHEN SHE
WAS FOURTEEN AND
SHE'S HAD HIS NAME
EVER SINCE.





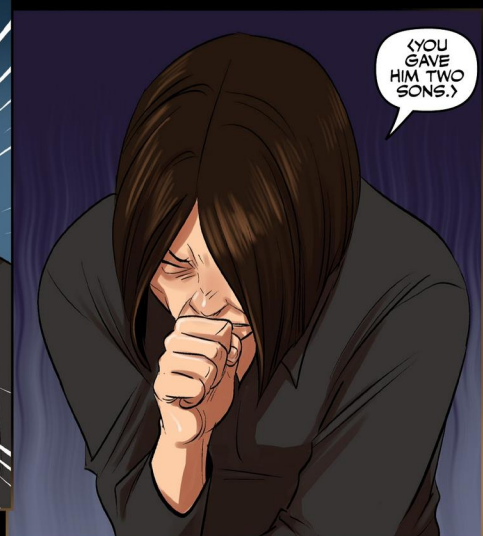
◀THAT'S
HIS WIFE...
MEI...AND
THEIR SON
LEI.▶



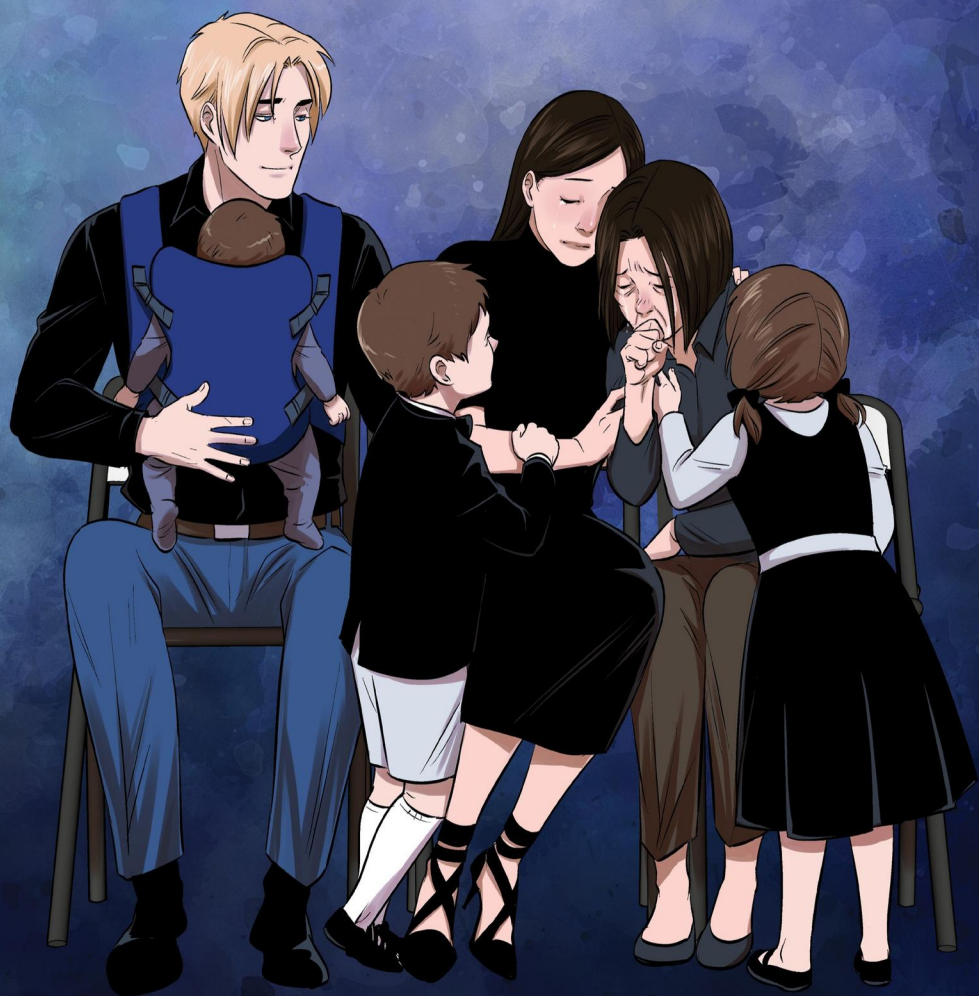
◀YOU
ARE LUCKY
TO HAVE A
MAN LIKE
DAN.▶

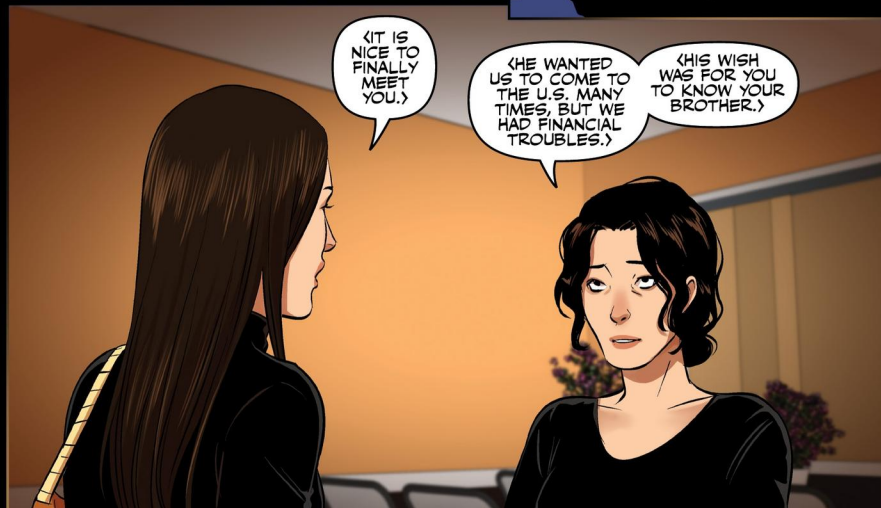
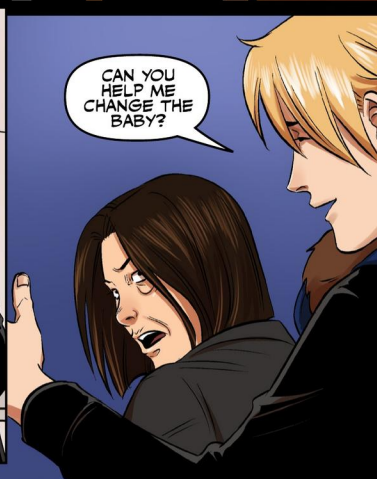
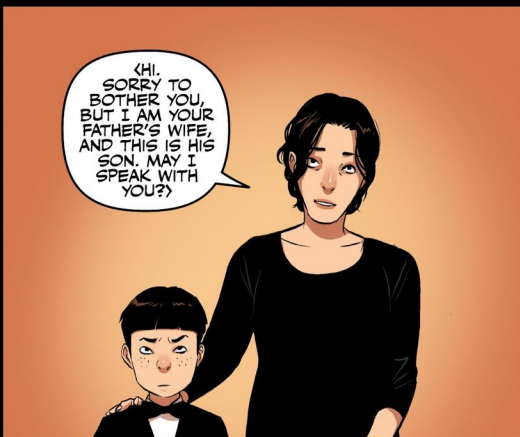
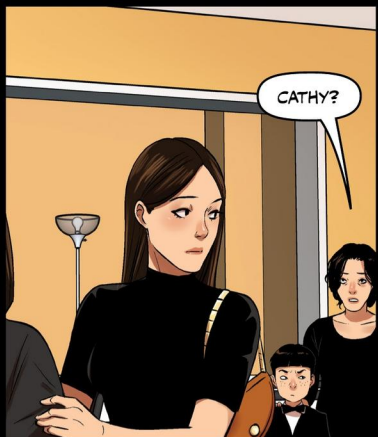


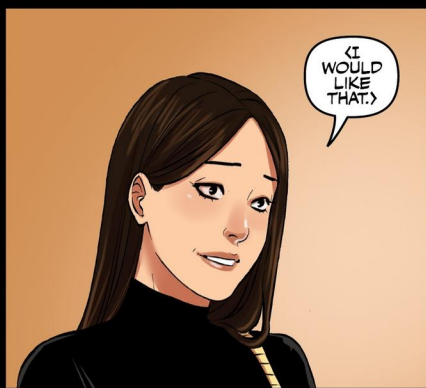
◀HE
WON'T
LEAVE
YOU.▶



◀YOU
GAVE
HIM TWO
SONS.▶



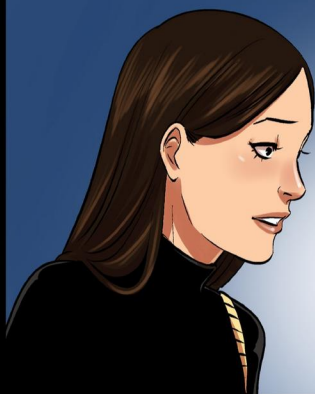




«I
WOULD
LIKE
THAT.»



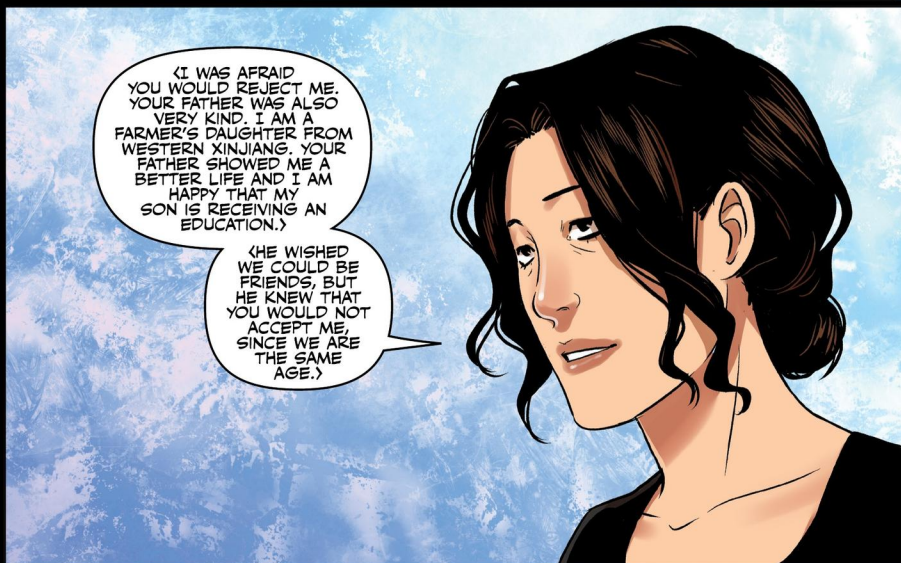
«I AM
STAYING WITH
A COUSIN IN
ALHAMBRA. MAY
WE ARRANGE
A TIME TO
MEET?»



«THAT'S KIND
OF FAR. WOULD IT
BE OKAY IF I GOT
YOU A HOTEL ROOM
CLOSER TO WHERE
WE LIVE? LEI MIGHT
LIKE THAT; IT'S
CLOSE TO THE
BEACH.»



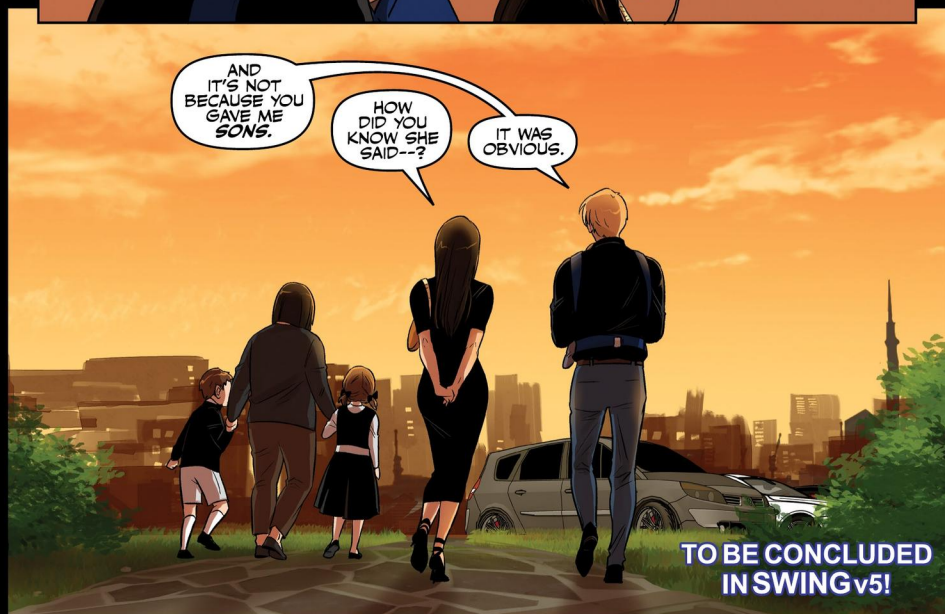
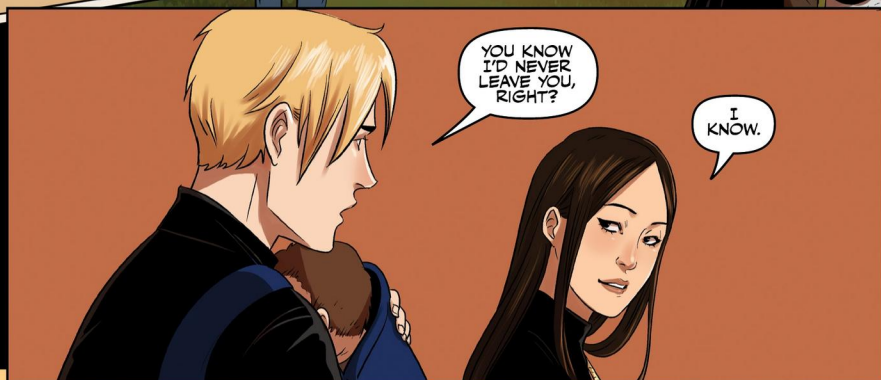
«THAT
WOULD BE
NICE. YOU
ARE VERY
KIND.»



«I WAS AFRAID
YOU WOULD REJECT ME.
YOUR FATHER WAS ALSO
VERY KIND. I AM A
FARMER'S DAUGHTER FROM
WESTERN XINJIANG. YOUR
FATHER SHOWED ME A
BETTER LIFE AND I AM
HAPPY THAT MY
SON IS RECEIVING AN
EDUCATION.»

«HE WISHED
WE COULD BE
FRIENDS; BUT
HE KNEW THAT
YOU WOULD NOT
ACCEPT ME,
SINCE WE ARE
THE SAME
AGE.»





SWI
VOLUME
THE
20

ING

**FIVE
FINALE**

22



MATT HAWKINS

is a veteran of the initial Image Comics launch. Matt started his career in comic book publishing in 1993 and has been working with Image as a creator, writer, and executive for over twenty years. President/COO of Top Cow since 1998, Matt has created and written over thirty new franchises for Top Cow and Image including THINK TANK, THE TITHE, STAIRWAY, GOLGOTHA, and APHRODITE IX as well as handling the company's business affairs.

YISHAN LI

is a British/Chinese comic artist currently living in Shanghai. You can see a list of her projects at www.liyishan.com. Yishan Li has been drawing since 1998 and has been published internationally, including USA, France, Germany, Italy, and the UK. She has worked for publishers such as DC and Darkhorse and her last project was the *Buffy: The High School Years* graphic novels.



LINDA SEJIC

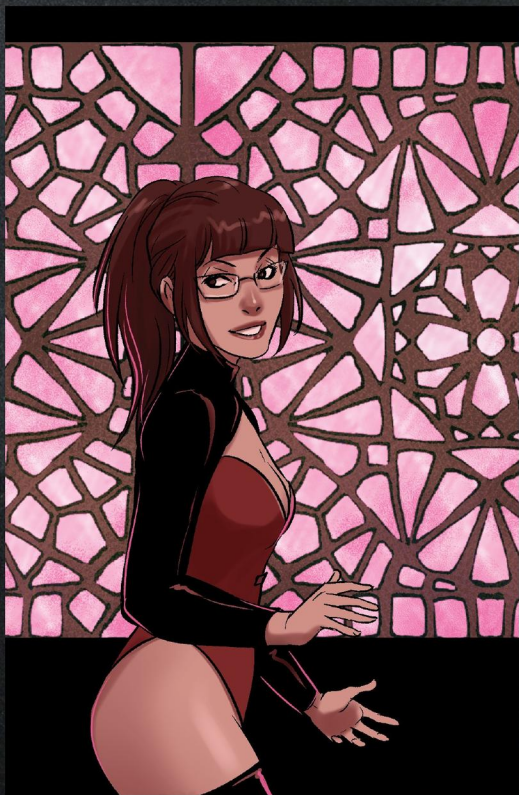
is a digital comics artist specializing in an expressive, dynamic art style. Her first major project with Top Cow was WILDFIRE, written by Matt Hawkins, which showcased her unconventional, character-focused technique and established her as an up-and-coming talent. Her critically acclaimed webcomic BLOODSTAIN is currently published in print from Top Cow, and is on its third volume. Linda lives in Croatia with her husband, illustrator Stjepan Sejic.

SEX ED

Welcome to the penultimate volume of Swing! Penultimate is a fancy word we use in comics to mean second to last or "almost last" I think is the true meaning. The point being Volume 5 will be the final book of Dan and Cathy's journey. That doesn't mean "Swing" as a series is done, I am considering doing other series of volumes with different characters and situations. I had a very specific beginning and end in mind for these characters when I first developed them, and it has worked out well. I have run into this with every series I've ever done where I feel like I've told the stories I wanted to tell, and I need to stop so it doesn't feel contrived or not as meaningful. Have you watched shows or read books where the stories start to meander, or it feels like it's "lost" something? This is that commercialization versus creativity battle that is everlasting. When you have a successful series, you want to keep it going for the financial benefit. It's difficult to have a sales success at all and even harder to maintain it, so cancelling or ending a profitable book is always tough to do. The way most publishers get around this is to bring in new creative teams for their long running titles to inject something different or give it new life. This is much harder to do for a creator-owned series like Swing. Often these projects are very personal to the creators, and they could never imagine someone else writing them. I know this has been a frustration for some people who pitch me arcs or projects involving the characters I've created and exclusively written. I don't think I'd ever let anyone else write Think Tank other than Rahsan Ekedal who was my co-creator and artist on that series. Never say never, but you're infinitely more likely to get a job pitching your own original character ideas or pitching arcs on corporately owned books like Spider-Man.

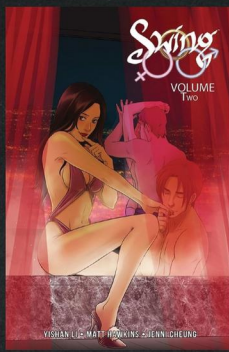
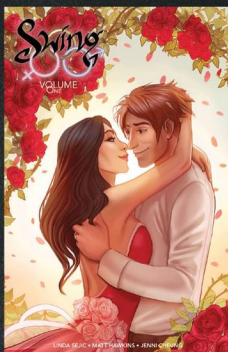
SUNSTONE, NY CLUB, ALLY CARTER

Featured in this volume is Ally from Sunstone and the NY club that Sejic uses in the story. We've had the ongoing video game cross-over which I'll show later in Sex Ed, but this is the first time characters from the two series have met in person and interacted. It's fun to have a little shared universe. We prefer to do it for fun and not make it a requirement, so you don't have to read both books to understand the story.



SWING OVERSIZED HARDCOVER

If you've enjoyed the series, I will be doing an oversized hardcover at some point collecting all 5 volumes into one giant book! We tend to do these as a combination of crowdfunding and regular distribution channels. If you want one, should be easy to get. One caveat is I have not paginated out or priced out what that volume would be or cost, so if the costs are high, we may do two hardcover volumes at a lower price point than one massive one at a higher price point...although I want it to be one! To be determined but hit me up on my social media feeds and let me know your thoughts.



SWING CARD GAME

We are also working on a Swing card game with a board game company so that should be out in 2022-23. I'll talk more about this as it gets closer, but the card game would be multifaceted and playable by couples that don't swing who want to have some sexy fun, couples interested in learning how to swing and by swingers with other swinger couples (either to get to know or to play) and will have vanilla, soft and hardcore play modes. One of the biggest hurdles I see people having in lifestyle is meeting couples they click with. Swingers are like everyone, they're all very different. In this volume I talk about "annual swingers." There are couples out there that go to lifestyle clubs or parties once a year, usually Halloween or New Year's Eve parties to just scratch that itch... they are otherwise monogamous. And if you think the market for this is small, you'd be wrong! Some recent, probably somewhat inflated statistics given the source is a swinger site, show that one in five couples practice some form of ethical non-monogamy. Since about half of swingers won't publicly admit they are, including, ahem, some people I know well, heh. Know thyself!



RELATIONSHIP ADVICE

It always weirds me out when people ask me for advice on how to deal with their partner. I've been divorced twice, so I'm not sure that qualifies me as an expert. Although I think I know what NOT to do! The best advice I always offer anyone is to be honest, kind, communicative, make a conscious effort to consider your partner in every decision you make and establish agreed upon boundaries. One thing I've tried to do as an adult, meaning very recent, heh, is to be less reactionary and more thoughtful. This applies to everything, but one example is when your partner comes at you angrily, snaps whatever...take a deep breath, use that one second to quickly run through your mind, "What did I do or say that is making them act/react this way?" The answer could be nothing and maybe they just need to vent, but the act of TRYING to empathize is significant. I have often realized too late how easily I could have diffused a situation that I made much worse. If someone is angry, don't ask them why they're angry. Ask what you can do to help them. If they say they need you to do X, Y or Z and it's reasonable then do it. If you can't do it in the immediate, for whatever legitimate reason, tell them when you will. Example being if you're in the middle of writing a work email and your partner asks you to take out the trash, tell them let me finish this email and I will and tell them when (ten minutes, whatever) and then follow through and do it. Nothing makes someone madder than having to repeatedly ask or tell someone to do something and this comes across as nagging when you're the one that created the situation in the first place.

CONVEYING DESIRES/HONESTY

The scene in the lifestyle club where they are beating around what they want when they both want the same thing is something that fascinates me. The point I was trying to make with this scene is even with Dan and Cathy, who have excellent communication and trust, there is always this hesitation and fear to tell our partners what we actually want. The fear of offending them or being rejected often stops us from asking...and when you think about that, it's a bit sad.



KINDNESS

What I mean by being kind is do all things with your significant other in a loving manner. If you'd like them to lose weight, there are better ways of doing it than being aggressive ("You're fat and need to lose weight.") or passive aggressive ("You know you're not supposed to eat right before bed."). There seems to be a misperception that this is primarily men directed toward women, but as a guy who started dating again in the year before the shutdown (which has led to a new project called Swipe about a middle-aged couple that meets through online dating post-divorce for both), there are a LOT of women I met who had left their husbands and this was at least one factor. What is the right way? It will depend on your specific circumstances, but if it was me and I loved the other person, I'd be encouraging and try and find healthy outdoor activities that they liked to do...with me. Hiking, what have you! I'd cook or treat meals that were healthier and be supportive. And I would try to show by example. People that are overweight know they're overweight, you don't need to tell them. Find healthy and fun things to do as a couple and your relationship will thrive! Again, I'm no expert and not a psychologist, but I have a wealth of life experience and I share it hoping you can pick and choose what may work for you and try it.



BOUNDARIES

Establishing boundaries of what is and isn't okay is important for any relationship, monogamous or not. One couple hit me up on Facebook and asked if I would give my opinion on something. I did, and kind of regretted doing so, but I stand by what I said. Their situation was interesting, it was a heterosexual married couple with kids where the wife did not like that the husband watches porn. My gut reaction was...come on, the vast majority of people watch porn, whether they admit it or not. This situation was more complex, so I had to set aside my own initial feeling and really think about it. The woman in this relationship had set the boundary from the very beginning of their relationship that she would not be okay with him watching porn...ever. The man then dated her for years, they married and had children and flash forward ten years. He feels she's being ridiculous given the prevalence of porn online. I guess since I write books about non-monogamy, he thought I'd back him up. He was stunned when I did not. She set the boundary, he agreed to it and now he wants to change the terms of their agreement...and she does not. They are still married and together as of this writing.

In looking for porn statistics I found a LOT of religious sites vilifying it and they had statistics that were all over the place so not sure where they get their data. And I do agree that porn, like anything, can be a problem for people. I drink WAY too much coffee, it's a huge problem for me and the hole burning in my stomach. Solution? Drink less. If someone is watching porn for ten hours a day, that seems excessive to me and potentially an addiction issue. For me, moderation is the answer to everything, although hard at times to master. If you can't moderate, then you should look at abstaining. Tough to do, but reality is tough.

I've always trusted PsychologyToday.com as a great source of as impartial data as you can get online. This article has some interesting porn statistics and is worth a read:

<https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/all-about-sex/201803/surprising-new-data-the-world-s-most-popular-porn-site>

MARRIAGE

I've started to think that the construct of marriage needs to be updated somewhat. Most people don't look at marriage for life anymore, even though they might say it in the ceremony. I did vow "Till death do us part" in my first wedding ceremony, but consciously took it out of the second. I think divorce numbers are higher than 50% and likely to grow even higher for a variety of reasons. The marriage for life ideal was created when people got married in their teens, there was no birth control and the average lifespan was in the 30s. It's a lot easier to be married for life when it's less than twenty years and most of those years you're dealing with children. People live a lot longer now and even if you wait until you're 30 to get married, like I did the first time, the average lifespan now is in the seventies. How many of us are radically different after thirty-plus years? I'm 51 at the time I write this and my 21-year-old self is unfathomable to me now. People change. You can either evolve together or apart. Couples that evolve together tend to stay together. Sadly, most don't. I've started to look at my marriages less as failures and more as things that ran their course. My first yielded two beautiful, amazing boys who I love with all my heart. How can I look at the product of their creation as a failure? This could be my own psychological way of dealing with failure, who knows?!? But for my own mental health, trying to look at them through a positive lens is better for me at least. Like jobs and most things, nothing lasts forever. "Till death do us part" is just (at least in my opinion) no longer realistic for most. Do what works for you.



DATE NIGHTS

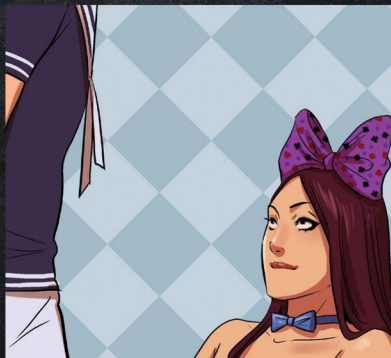
I've never understood married men who don't have a regular date night with their wives. If you love your partner and want to stay with them, show them a little romance once a week. Try! And there is a wealth of relationship advice columns online, many with lists of date night things that are FREE to do. Use google, it's your friend. I found this one in seconds.

<https://www.marriagetrac.com/15-romantic-fun-and-cheap-date-night-ideas-to-try-this-week>



SEX AS PLAY

I never thought of sex as "playful" when I was younger, but I recognize the importance of that as I've gotten older. Swingers refer to sex and hooking up as "play" and clubs refer to the sex areas as "playrooms." It should be fun!



DAN USING BIG WORDS NOW

This is an inside joke. I've intentionally had Dan expand his vocabulary now that he's an "author." My family has made endless fun of me for this, so just me injecting my life experience into the book. I used the word "sophistry" in an argument with my dad and he, a PhD, looked at me and said, "WTF does that mean, is that even a word?"



HALLOWEEN, NEW YEAR'S EVE CLUB PARTIES AND HOTEL TAKEOVERS

If you ever wanted to just look around and see what one of these is like, go to one of these parties. I mentioned the annual swingers and lookie-loos above and in the story. These are expected, so if you want to just walk around, have a drink and watch some of the action you can do it at one of these events and have fun! I really love the Halloween parties. Dressing up as a thematic sexy couple is a lot of fun. Yandy.com is a good source for costumes for this.



BOOK SIGNINGS

Another example of me using real experience in the book is Dan's signing there at a Barnes and Noble-type store. I've had some amazing signings and I've had ones that no one showed up for. I think this has happened to most comic creators, especially after your first early work gets published. You get excited to have a book with your name on it and want to go celebrate! The reality is it takes time to build an audience and if you only have a limited library of work most people will have never heard of you. Every time I'm in a bookstore or a comic shop and an author or artist is there for a signing, and they are alone I go up and talk to them and buy their book. I stayed for an hour chatting with a guy who wrote a nonfiction book about sailing. I hate sailing. My dad had a sailboat and tried to get me into it, but I get motion sickness and it is ungodly boring to me. Not a knock on it, it's just not for me. Point being, if you see someone like this, think good karma and go chat with them. If you don't want to buy the book that's fine but be nice. Nothing brings people to my convention table more than me talking to someone else. In 1998 when I launched *Lady Pendragon* at Image, I did a signing in Salt Lake City that was MASSIVE. Biggest one I've ever done, and I signed hundreds of books and I was on the radio there, it really pumped up my ego. I then drove eight hours to Albuquerque for another signing the next day...and after that long of a drive I get there and...zilch. There are a lot of ways to make signings more effective, but this isn't the space for that.





VIDEO GAME CHARACTERS SECTION

As most of you know the true cross-over between Sunstone, Bloodstain and Swing is the game they play. They are all in the same guild and play together as a team. I found a list of gamer terms bouncing around online and cut/pasted the ones I have used for your edutainment.

DAN = HIGH LEVEL WARRIOR TANK

AFK – ‘away from keyboard’.

Aggro – when a neutral mob becomes hostile and tries to attack you.

Boss – A tough enemy found at the end of levels or the game.

Lag – the delay between the player’s action and the server’s response time.

Mob / Mobs – AI/computer-controlled entities.

Noob / n00b – newbie, a person who is new and not skilled enough yet. Usually used in a derogatory manner.

NPC – ‘non player character’. Characters who interact with you in game, give you quests or have information/items you need to further the game.

Pwn / Pwned – typo of the word ‘owned’, used to describe being completely annihilated by an enemy.

Res – to resurrect/revive a teammate.

Tank – a player who keeps all enemies focused on themselves, protecting their teammates. Usually has strong armor and good weapons.

Taunt – using magic, skill or talent to gain the aggro of the mob or boss engaged.



ELLYOLDCOOT-
LVL. 98 HEALER

BLOODSTEIN-
LVL. 99 PALE KNIGHT
(CASHOAR SUPREME)

TOOK OVER A YEAR
TO LEVEL UP AND EQUIP
HER CHARACTER...STILL
NOT DONE

F@#\$ING
CASHOAR!

BOUGHT EVERYTHING
IN A WEEK. MARATHONLEVELLED
AIDED BY CASHOAR XP
BOOSTERS...

OVER 900 USD SPENT

EPICIN VALUE...

PRICELESS!



ALLYCAT-
LVL 97. DARK MAGE

LIHIIIIISA-
LVL. 1 ASSASSIN
(NOOB)



COME OOOON.
LET'S GO!

SHUSH, I WANNA
SEE WHAT THIS QUEST
LOG THING IS ALL
ABOUT

BUT...WHY????

TO KNOW
THE STORY...
DUUUUUH!

BUT...BUT...NO
ONE CARES ABOUT
THE STORY IN AN MMO!
YOU GO FROM EXCLAMATION
MARK TO EXCLAMATION
MARK AND KILL EVERYTHING
IN BETWEEN!!!!

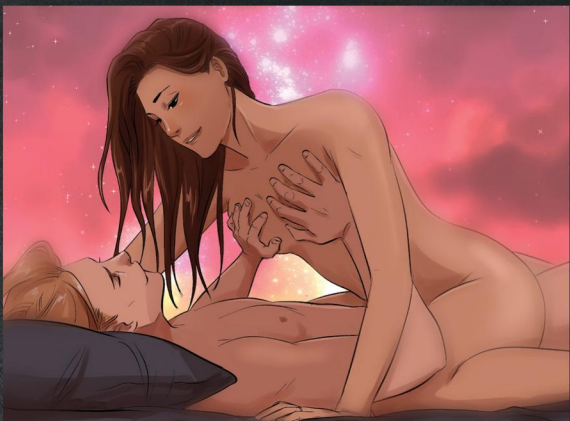
YES...BUT
WHAT IS OUR
MOTIVATION???

SHINEZ!!!!
IF WE KILL THEM
WE GET THEIR
STUFF!!!!

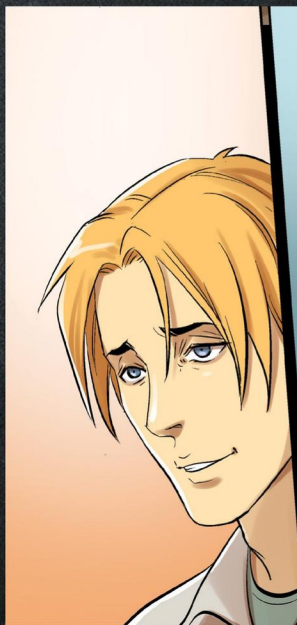
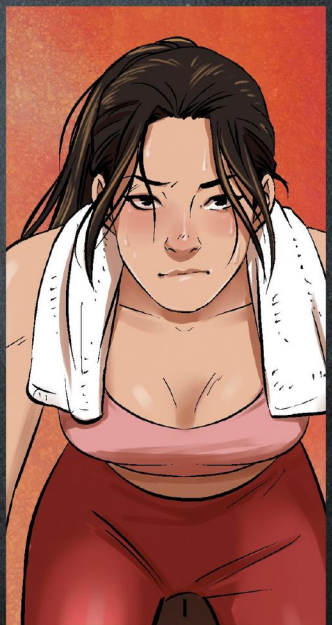
SHHH...THIS
IS SOME GOOD
STUFF HERE!

WRITING SEX SCENES

I write these "Marvel-style" which Stan Lee originated as being a loose plot and the artist fleshes it out and then you add the dialogue after. First Linda Sejic and now Yishan Li both lay out and illustrate sex scenes way differently than I would, and I think their versions are better, more sensual and ultimately sexier. The demographics of this book show that 2 out of 3 readers are women. I surround

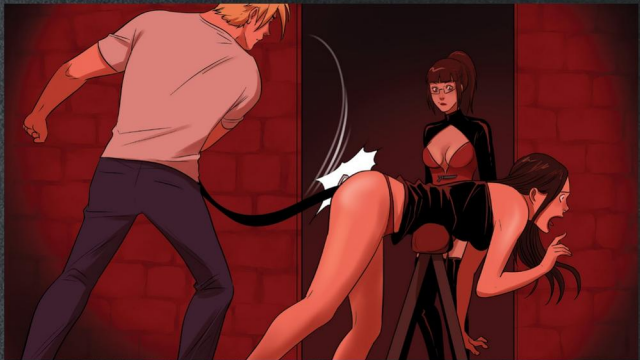


myself with female creators and editors to make sure I do this book without being offensive to women. I think given most men's lifelong relationship to porn and the visual/tactile differences, what is seen from our POV as sexy can be very different from a woman's. I've been a little shocked at times to see some of the sex scenes illustrated as they were more graphic than I would have expected. The crass versus sexy argument is eternal. I routinely ask women in my life their opinions on these things, words used, etc. There's a scene in the book where Cathy is on the bike trying to get back in shape post-pregnancy and she's working some things out in her head. I was worried that her comment that she was bothered by Dan now making more money than her might ring sexist...although one of my wives said this to my face...and both Dan and Cathy are working through their own feelings. Dan's arc with his mother-in-law is one of my favorite subplots in the series that will culminate in the final volume.



S&M

Definitely more of a Sunstone than Swing thing, but I wanted to include it as most swingers I know have experimented with some bondage, choking, what have you. There are so many resources online about S&M that I won't get into it deeply here, but the hitting of the clit with the belt thing was something I did to a woman. It was an accident, and I didn't know what the hell I was doing, so cautionary tale! That ended that fun for the night. I will say that most people who come up to my convention table who like Sunstone tell me how much they hate *Fifty Shades of Grey*. I never read the book, although I did see the first film. Most people in that lifestyle do not feel that *Fifty Shades* properly conveys their ethos which is all about consent and the submissive is actually in control. If memory serves, I remember at least one scene where the rich guy took the girl aggressively without her consent. No knock on the book, I know a lot of people like it, it's just not what they see as a fair representation of their lifestyle.



SHIBARI

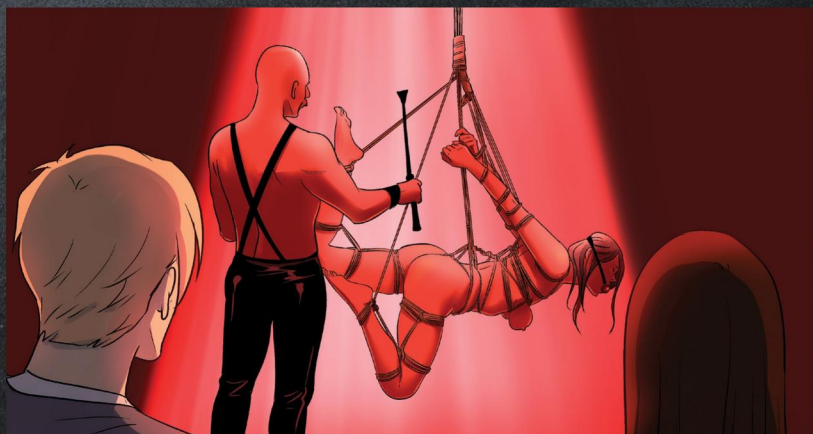
"In Japanese, 'Shibari' simply means 'to tie'". The contemporary meaning of Shibari describes an ancient Japanese artistic form of rope bondage," from that first link.

I saw this done once and this is one I don't personally get; it looks painful and time-consuming.

Lot of resources online:

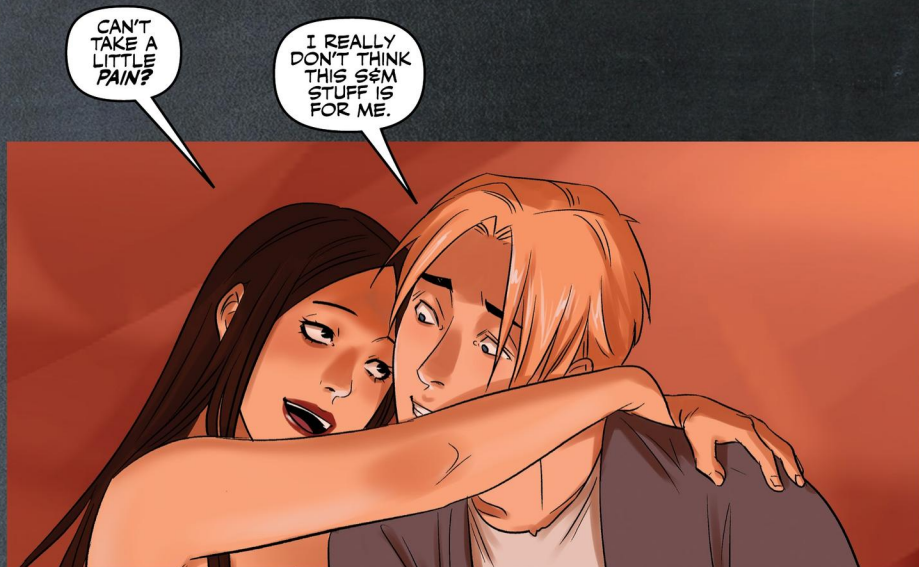
https://artofcontemporaryshibari.com/?page_id=29

<https://www.shape.com/lifestyle/sex-and-love/shibari-japanese-rope-bondage>



TO EACH THEIR OWN

Whatever your kink might be, part of the fun is discovering what it is. I mentioned above Shibari isn't for me, but I know people that absolutely love it. Let's stop shaming people for their kink. My motto is if it's adults who are consenting, it doesn't involve animals or children and no one is getting hurt, go for it. S&M pain to me isn't someone getting "hurt" it's a pleasure/pain threshold that they are toying with voluntarily. It was also fun to show Dan and Cathy experiment with it and decide it wasn't for them. When I first pitched that to Sejjic I thought he'd say no but he loved the idea. Again, it hits the center of the ideal that everyone is different and whatever kink you might be into (given my usual constraints) is okay and you shouldn't be shamed by it.



And that's it for this volume and edition of Sex Ed! I truly hope you enjoyed it and maybe even learned something. Word of mouth is the best way to sell books and get new readers, so if you did enjoy it please spread the word. I am reachable, although please be patient, on my social media feeds and will try to answer your questions if you have some. And don't come to me for advice on relationships! There are significantly better resources at your disposal, so make use of them.

Carpe Diem,

Matt Hawkins

August 1, 2021

Twitter: @topcowmatt | <http://www.facebook.com/selffloatingnarcissist>

Special

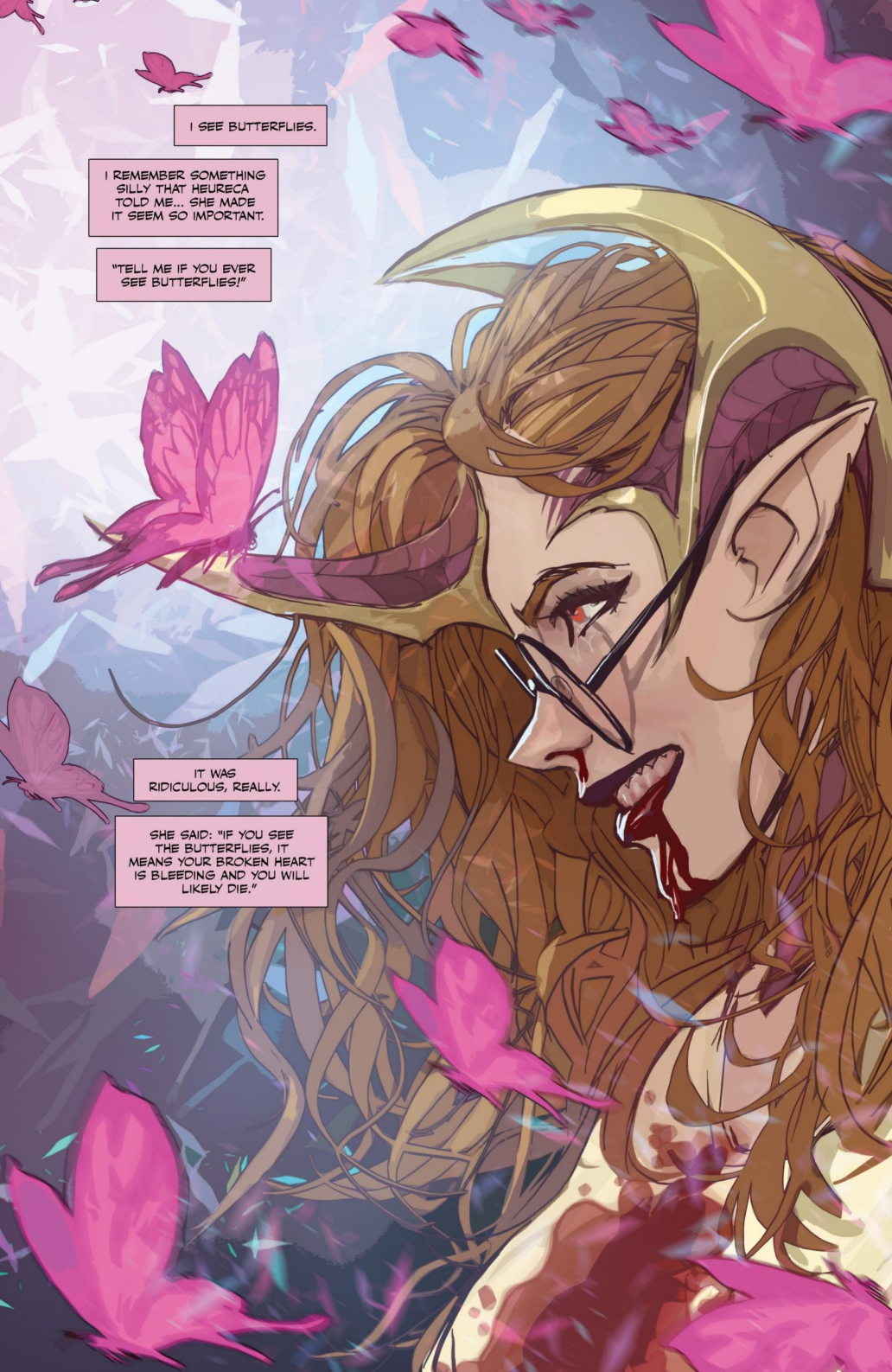


Preview

Prologue

The butterfly
that started
the storm





I SEE BUTTERFLIES.

I REMEMBER SOMETHING
SILLY THAT HEURECA
TOLD ME... SHE MADE
IT SEEM SO IMPORTANT.

"TELL ME IF YOU EVER
SEE BUTTERFLIES!"

IT WAS
RIDICULOUS, REALLY.

SHE SAID: "IF YOU SEE
THE BUTTERFLIES, IT
MEANS YOUR BROKEN HEART
IS BLEEDING AND YOU WILL
LIKELY DIE."



I SAID... I THOUGHT
BUTTERFLIES WERE
SUPPOSED TO BE IN
YOUR STOMACH.

"NO," SHE SAID.

"HEARTBURN COMES
FROM YOUR STOMACH,
BUTTERFLIES COME
FROM YOUR HEART."



IT WAS THE DUMBEST THING
I'VE EVER HEARD.



NEVER EVEN
OCCURRED TO
ME IT COULD
BE TRUE.



AS THE DELIRIUM KICKS
IN I REMEMBER THAT
OTHER THING ABOUT
BUTTERFLIES...

THE BUTTERFLY EFFECT—
YOU KNOW, WHERE
ONE FLAPS ITS WINGS ON ONE
SIDE OF THE WORLD AND STARTS
A CHAIN REACTION THAT CAUSES
A HURRICANE ON THE OTHER
SIDE OF THE WORLD.

WELL, HERE I AM DYING
AT THE EYE OF THAT
HURRICANE...



AND MY LAST
THOUGHTS ARE
OF THAT BUTTERFLY
THAT STARTED IT ALL.



A STORM OF
A LIFETIME
BIRTHED BY ONE...



SIMPLE



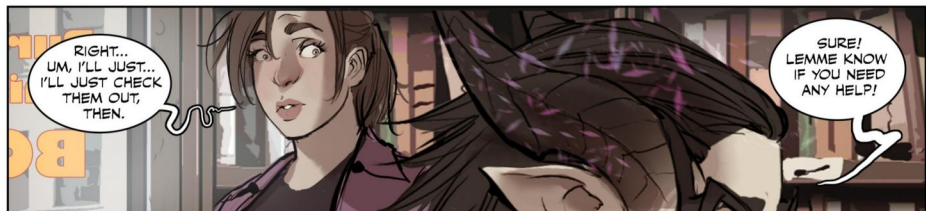
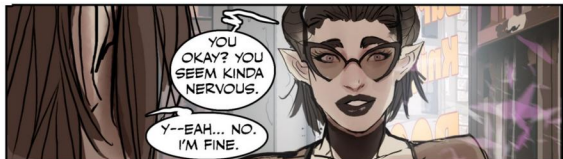
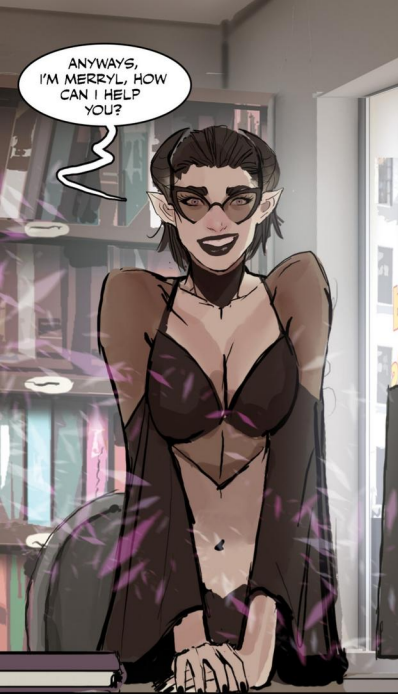
INNOCENT...

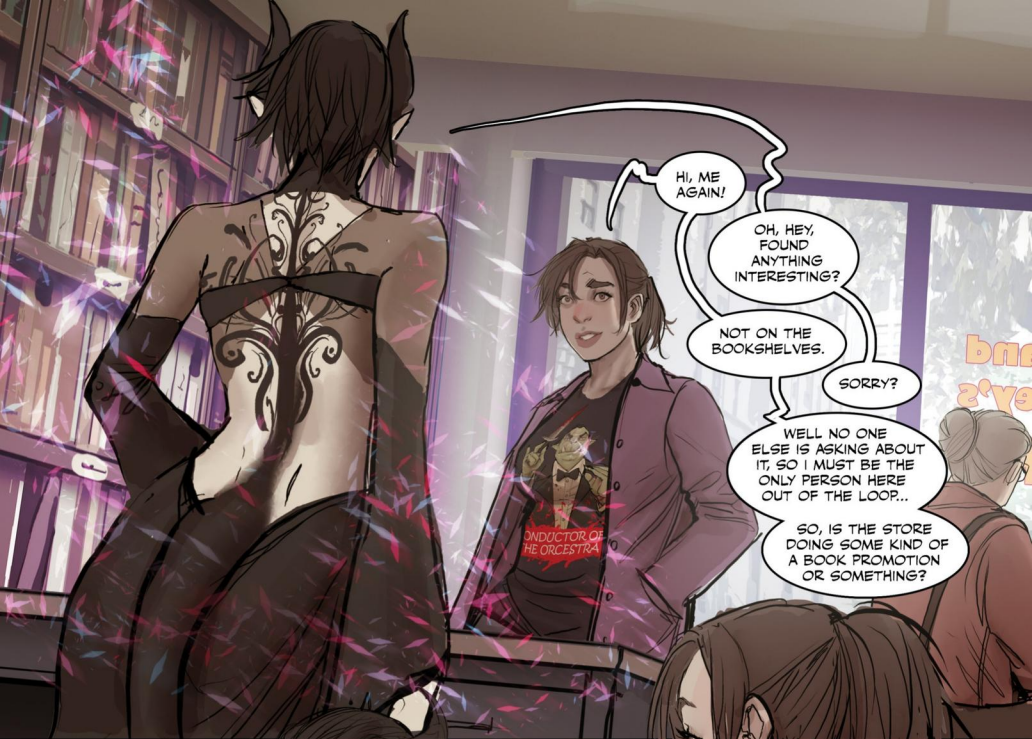


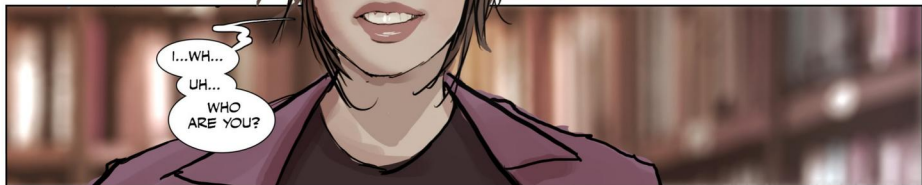
...FLAP.

HI, I'M
MERRYL!
CAN I HELP
YOU?













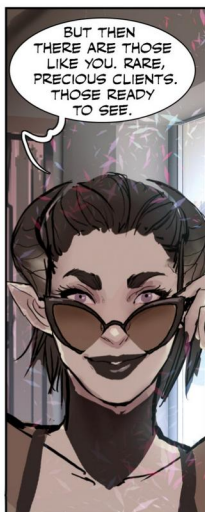
ANYHOW, I'M
JUST HAPPY THAT
SOMEONE FINALLY
NOTICED ME...
I MEAN, JEESH...
IT'S BEEN OVER A
YEAR NOW.



SO,
BASICALLY
PEOPLE JUST
DON'T NOTICE
UH... THE WHOLE
PACKAGE?



NAH. IT'S ALL HIDDEN
BY MY GLAMOUR.
TO EVERYONE ELSE I'M
JUST A REGULAR GIRL
WORKING IN A
BOOKSTORE...

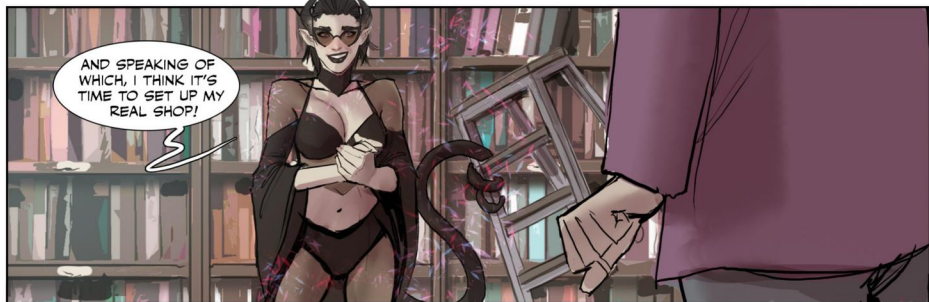


BUT THEN
THERE ARE THOSE
LIKE YOU. RARE.
PRECIOUS CLIENTS.
THOSE READY
TO SEE.

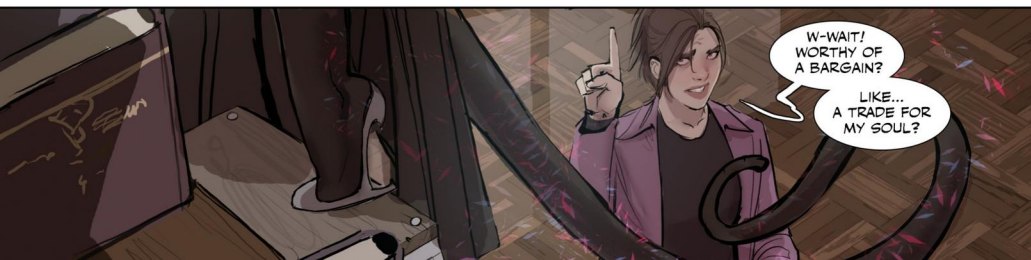


THOSE
THAT SHINE
BRIGHTLY...

THE ONES
THAT ARE WORTHY
OF OUR BARGAIN.

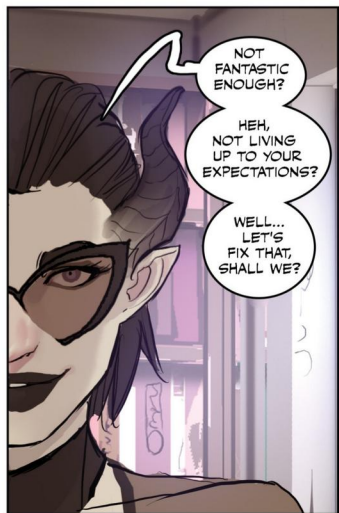
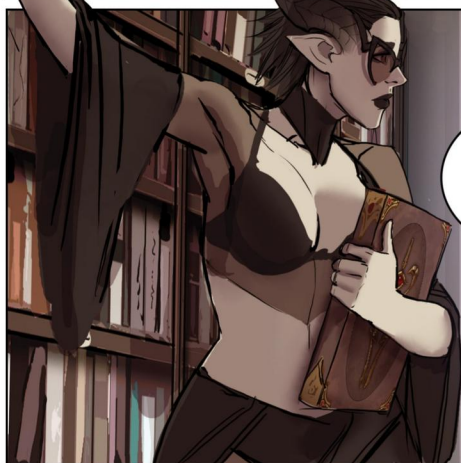


AND SPEAKING OF
WHICH, I THINK IT'S
TIME TO SET UP MY
REAL SHOP!



W-WAIT!
WORTHY OF
A BARGAIN?

LIKE...
A TRADE FOR
MY SOUL?





LIKE I SAID,
I'M A BIT OF A
BLUE COLLAR
WORKER.

BUT IF YOU
WANT GLAMOUR...

IF YOU WANT
BLISS AND
MAGIC...

WELL I GUESS
WE COULD WORK
SOMETHING
OUT!

Coming Soon

Blood Stain



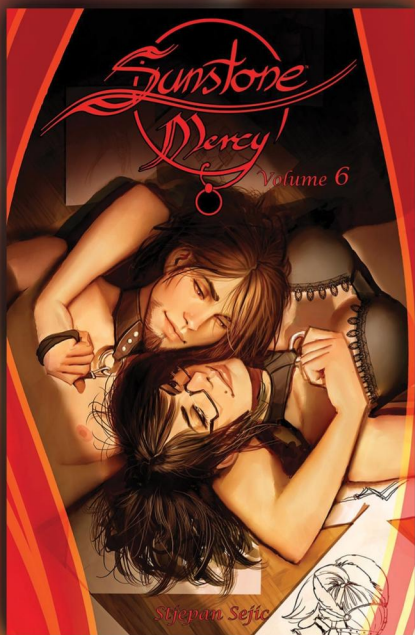
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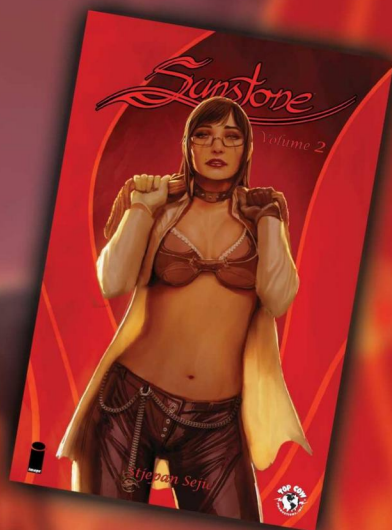


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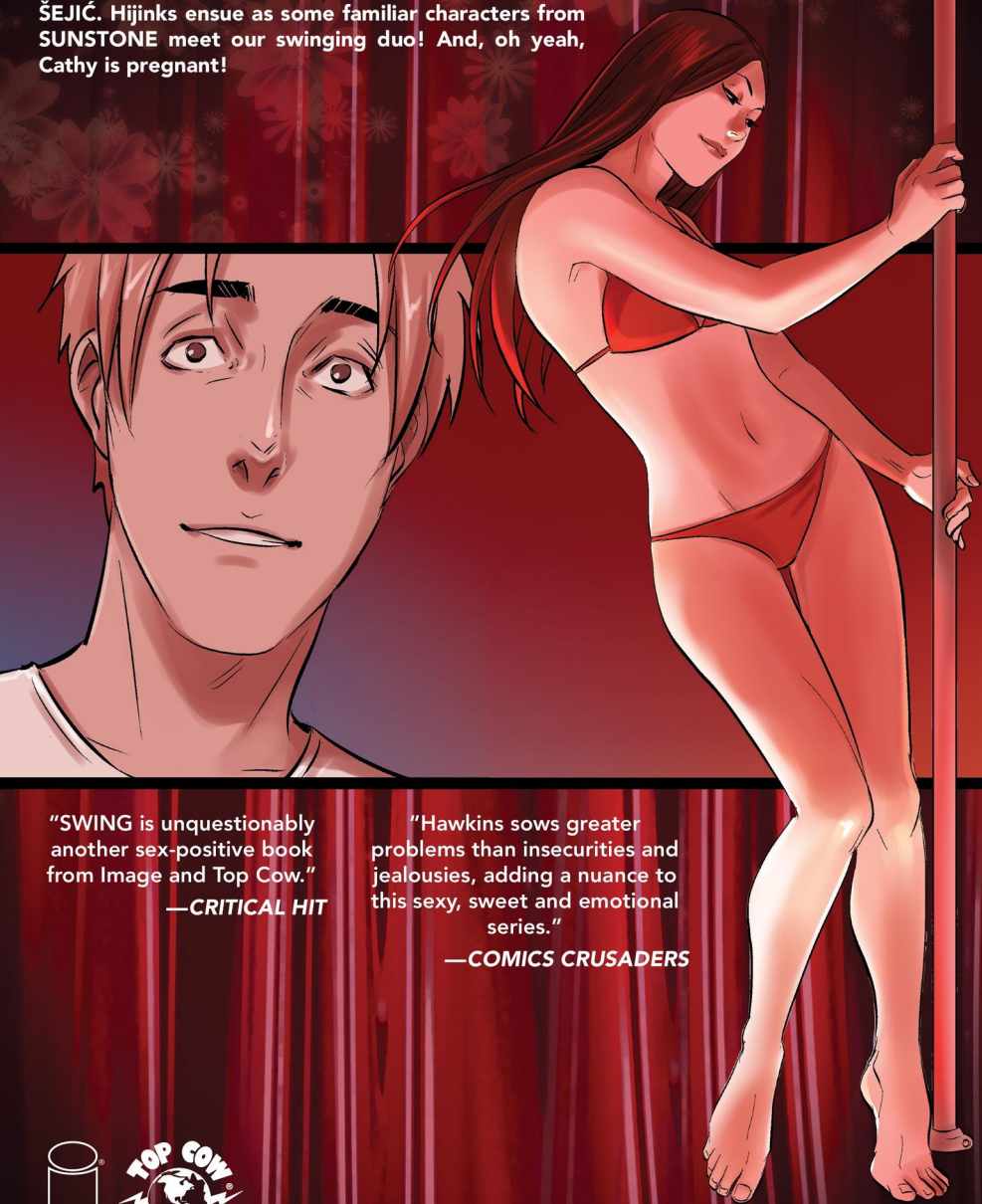
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