

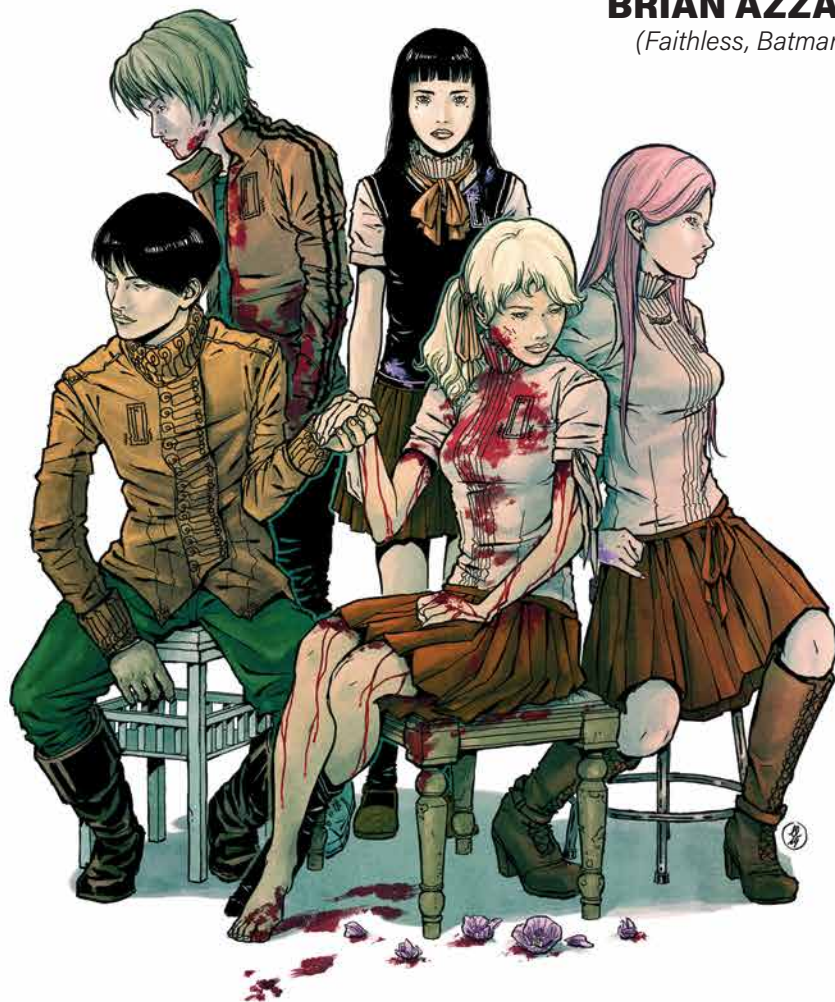
MARIA LLOVET

HEARTBEAT™

"Maria Llovet is **one of the most important cartoonists today**. Her work is bursting with joy, sensuality, and passion."

BRIAN AZZARELLO

(Faithless, Batman: Damned)



MARIA LLOVET

HEARTBEAT™

Published by

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STUDIOS



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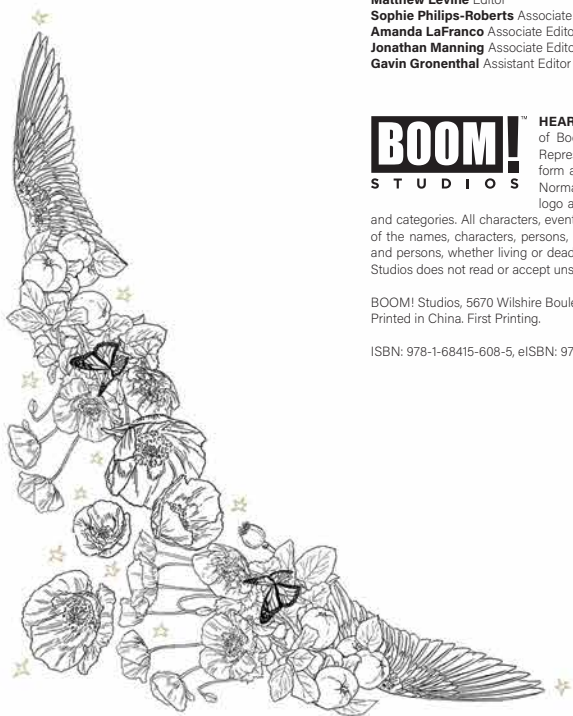
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HEART BEAT™



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MARIA LLOVET

Lettered by
ANDWORLD DESIGN

Translated by
ANDREA ROSENBERG





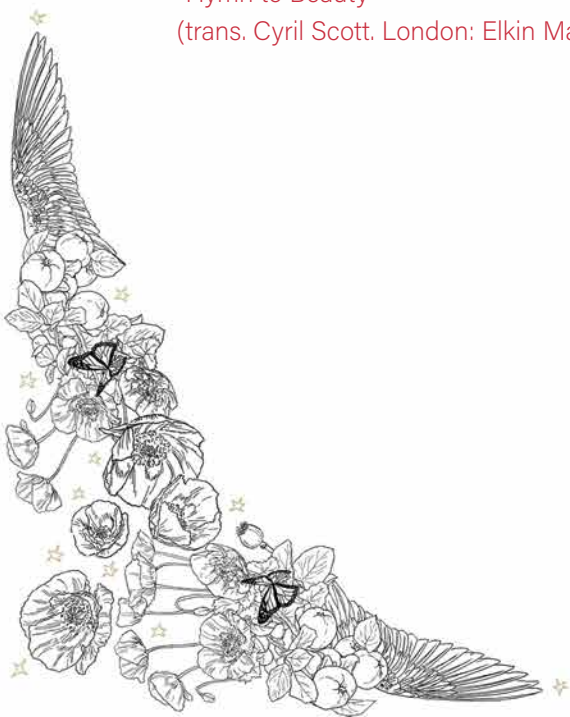
What matter, if thou comest
from the Heavens or Hell,
O Beauty, frightful ghoul,
ingenuous and obscure!
So long thine eyes, thy smile,
to me the way can tell
Towards that Infinite I love,
but never saw.

—**Charles Baudelaire**

The Flowers of Evil

"Hymn to Beauty"

(trans. Cyril Scott. London: Elkin Mathews, 1909)





THE INNOCENT.

AN ENDANGERED
SPECIES.

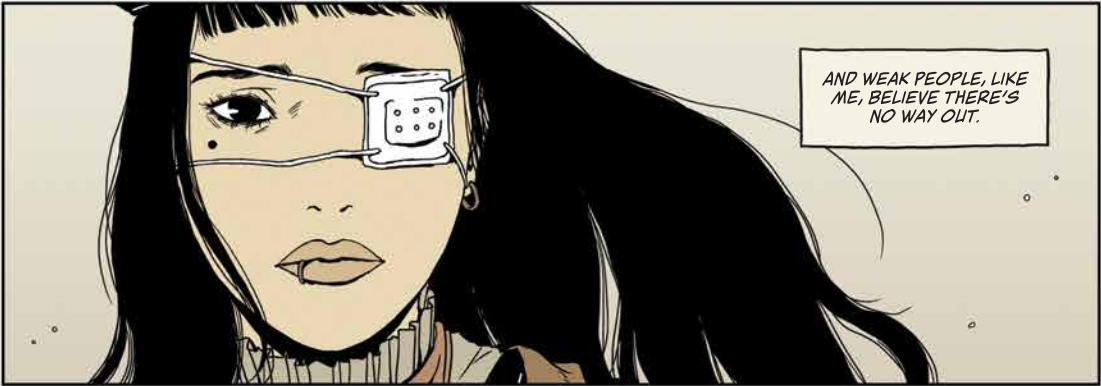
WHOSE FAULT
WAS IT?

"SOMETIMES IT'S
SIMPLY NOBODY'S
FAULT."

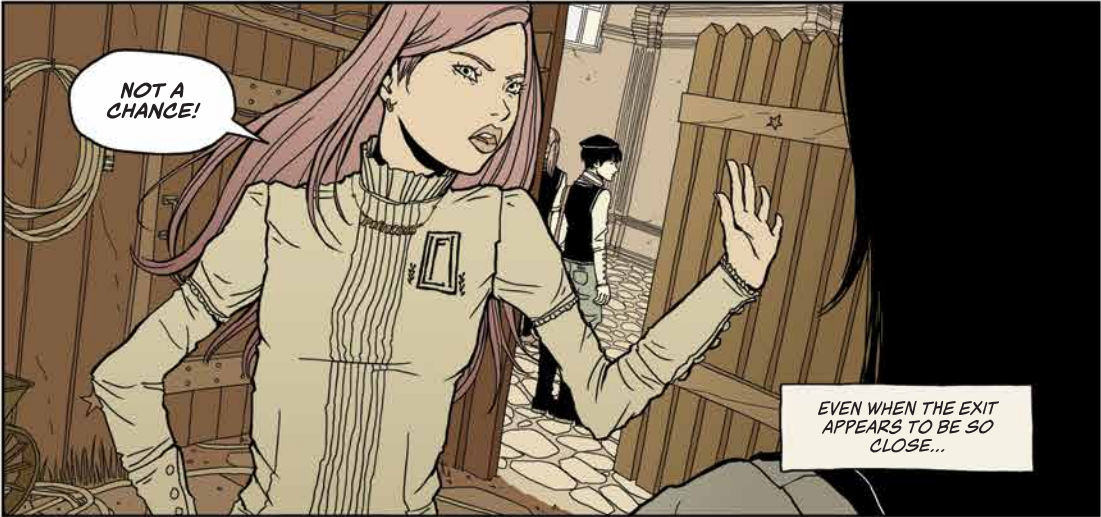
DO YOU REALLY
BELIEVE THAT?

















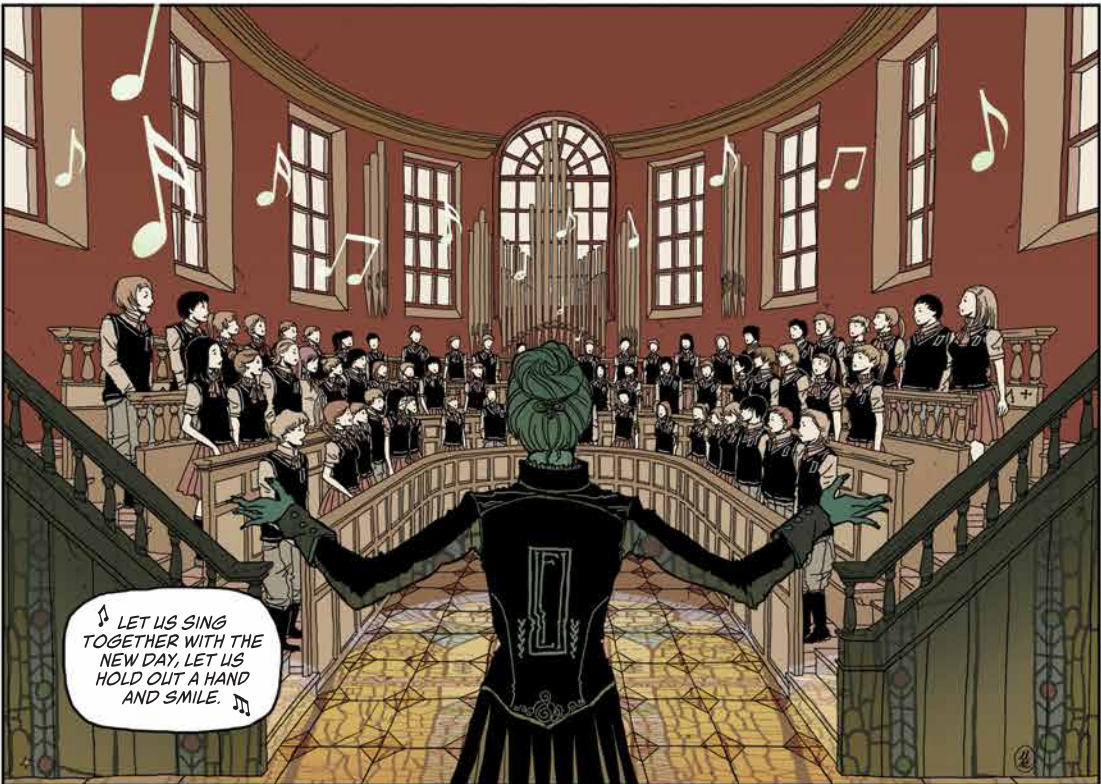




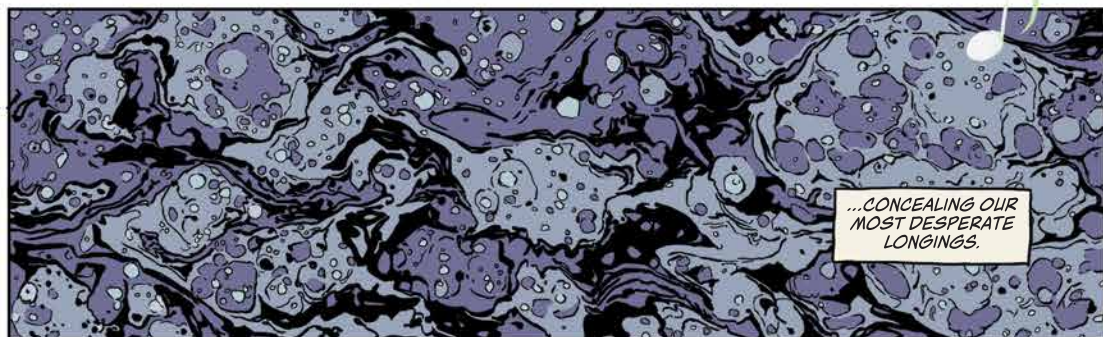


EVERYTHING
AROUND US WAS A
PURE FAÇADE...

♪ LET
JUSTICE BE
DONE THOUGH
THE HEAVENS ♪
FALL.

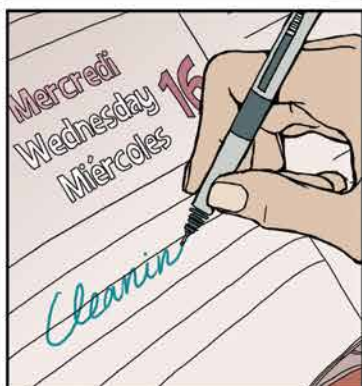


♪ LET US SING
TOGETHER WITH THE
NEW DAY, LET US
HOLD OUT A HAND
AND SMILE. ♪











TUESDAY, MARCH 15, I
DON'T BELONG HERE.



I KNOW IT. **EVERYBODY**
KNOWS IT. EXCEPT MY
MOTHER, OF COURSE.
SHE'S THE ONLY ONE WHO
DOESN'T UNDERSTAND.

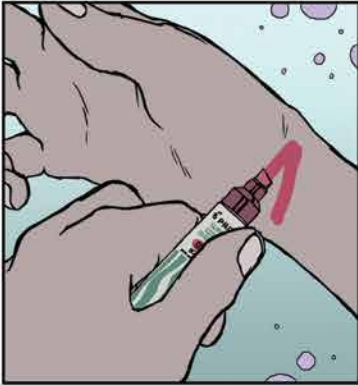


"SO YOU CAN HAVE
THE OPPORTUNITIES
I NEVER DID, EVA."

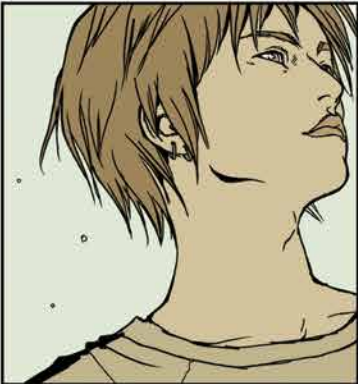
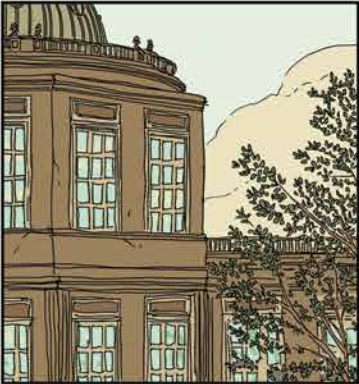


AND SHE KEEPS WORKING
HER FINGERS TO THE BONE
TO PAY FOR MY VERY PRICEY
PERSONAL HELL.





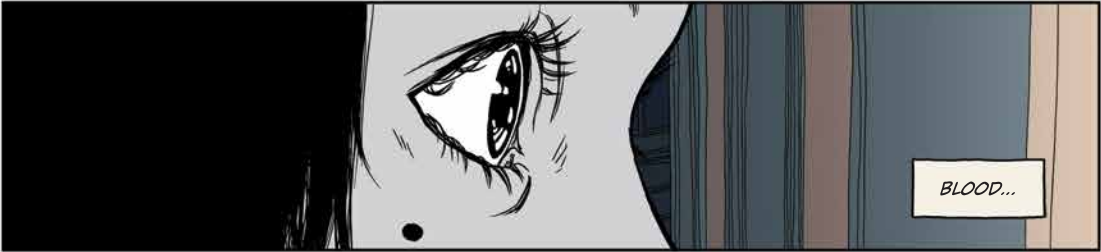
WHO IS RESPONSIBLE
FOR THE BAD THINGS
THAT HAPPEN?



YOU CAN'T BELIEVE
IT'S ALWAYS EVERYBODY
ELSE'S FAULT.











HOW CAN WE DISCERN
WHAT'S EVIL...



...WHEN WE'VE
LOST THE NOTION OF
WHAT'S GOOD?

WHEN WAS IT THAT I
STOPPED CARING?



THE FACE OF DEATH
TURNED OUT TO BE
MUCH PRETTIER THAN
I EXPECTED.





OF COURSE, THIS MATTER WILL NOT GO UNRESOLVED. ALL STUDENTS WILL BE INTERVIEWED INDIVIDUALLY BY THE DETECTIVE, WHO WILL HEAR YOUR STATEMENTS.

I URGE YOU TO SPEAK FRANKLY. ANY SMALL DETAIL COULD BE OF GREAT HELP.



TODAY, MORE THAN EVER, "LET JUSTICE BE DONE THOUGH THE HEAVENS FALL."



♪ EVEN IF THE WALLS COLLAPSE OR THE BANNERS FADE, OUR SCHOOL WILL REMAIN IN OUR HEARTS, BECAUSE IT IS PURE AND TEACHES US THE VALUE OF WHAT IS ESSENTIAL. ♪



♪ FIAT JUSTITIA RUAT CAELUM, LET US SING TOGETHER. OUR EDUCATION LIVES ON. ♪

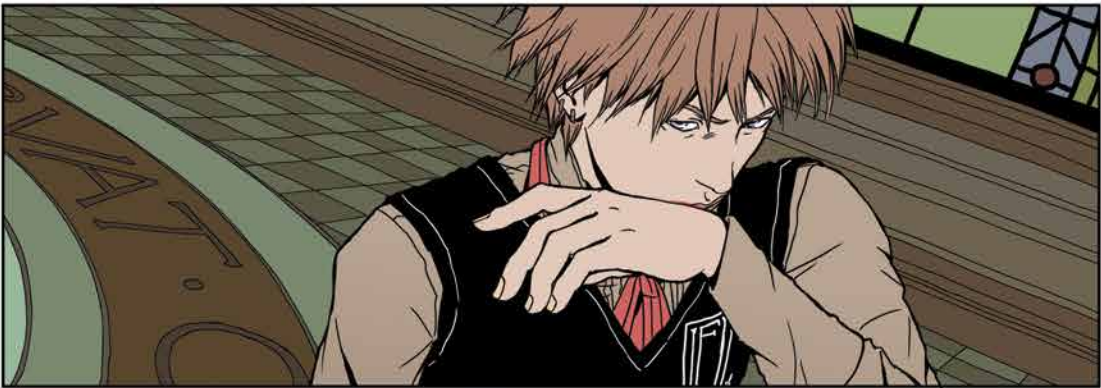




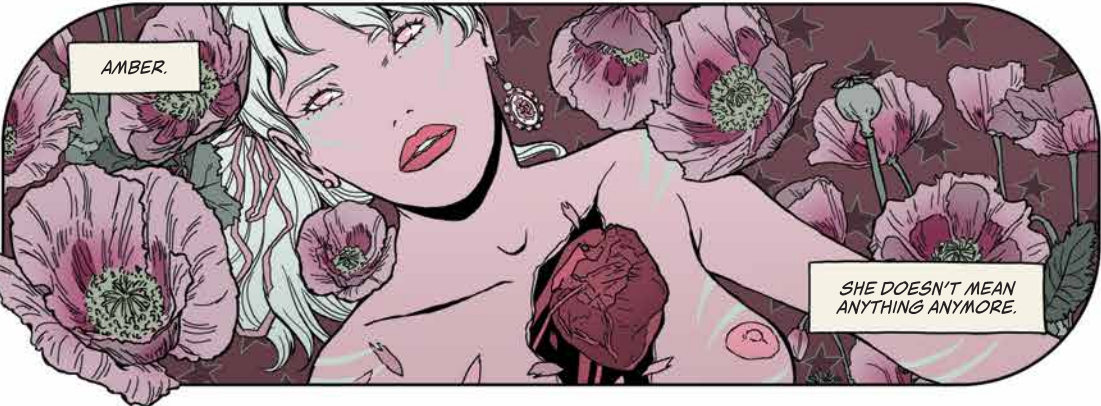


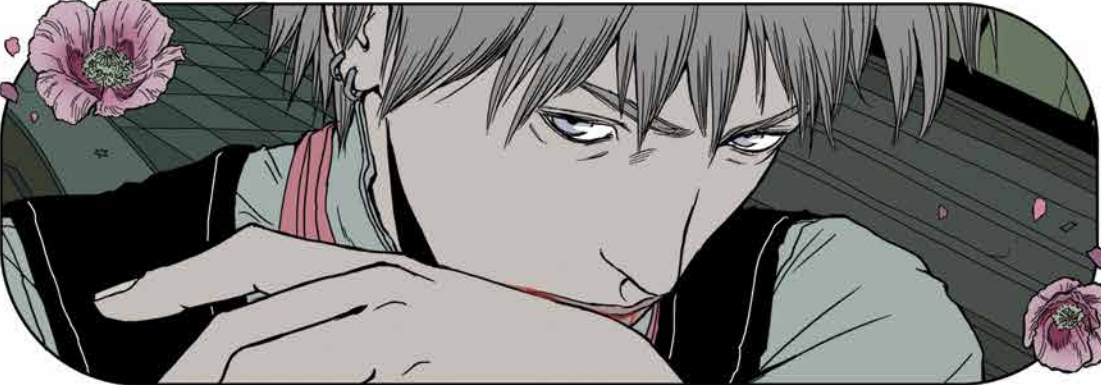






THURSDAY, MARCH 17.
DONATIEN SAW ME
LEAVING THE CHORUS
ROOM.







...WHICH SEES
WHAT IT WANTS
TO SEE...



EVA.

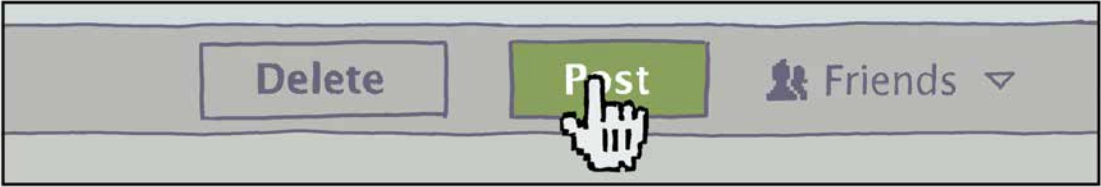


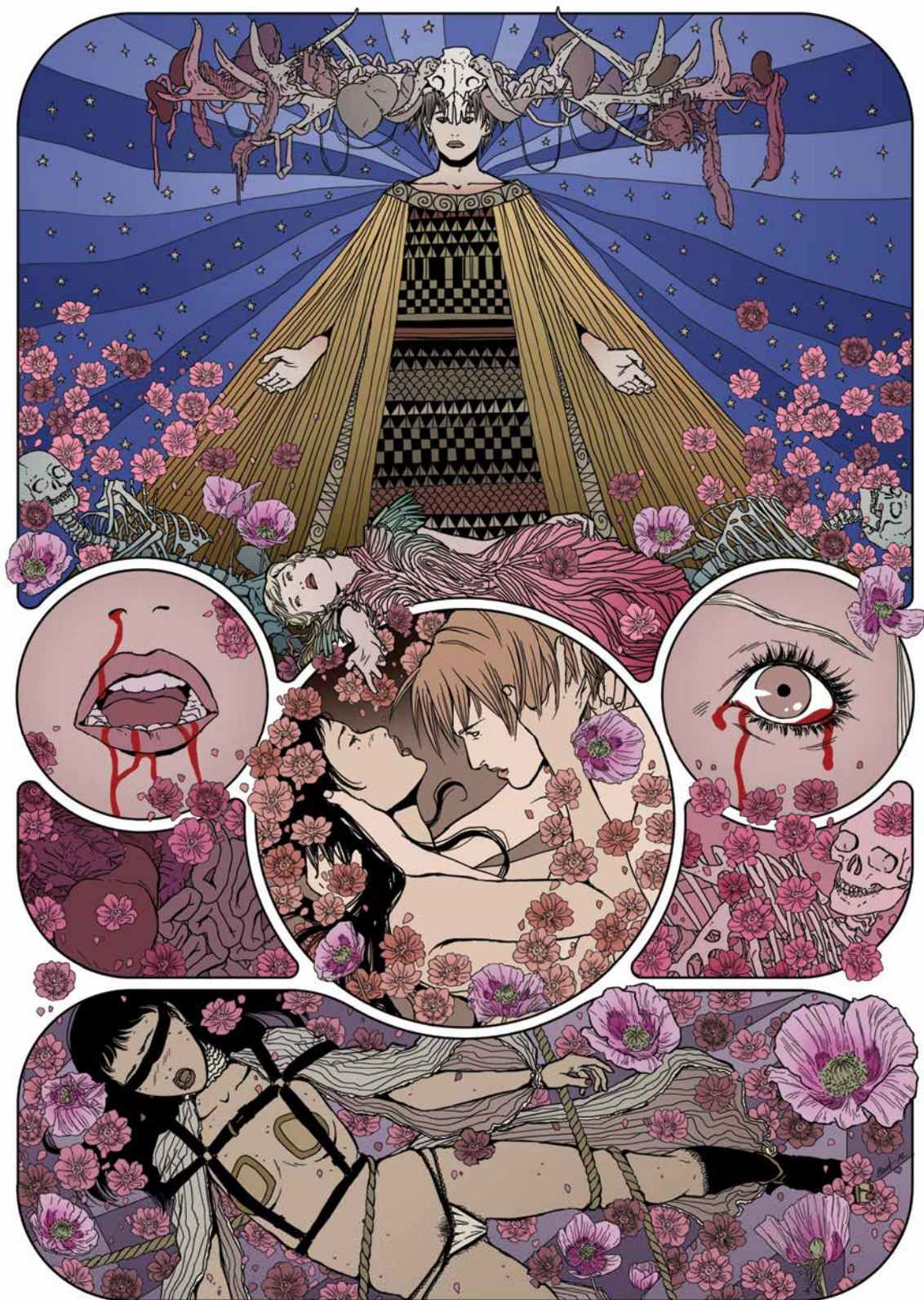
...WHERE THERE IS ONLY
THE VEIL OF A SHADOW,
REFLECTED ON RAYS OF
LIGHT AND FLECKS OF SKY.

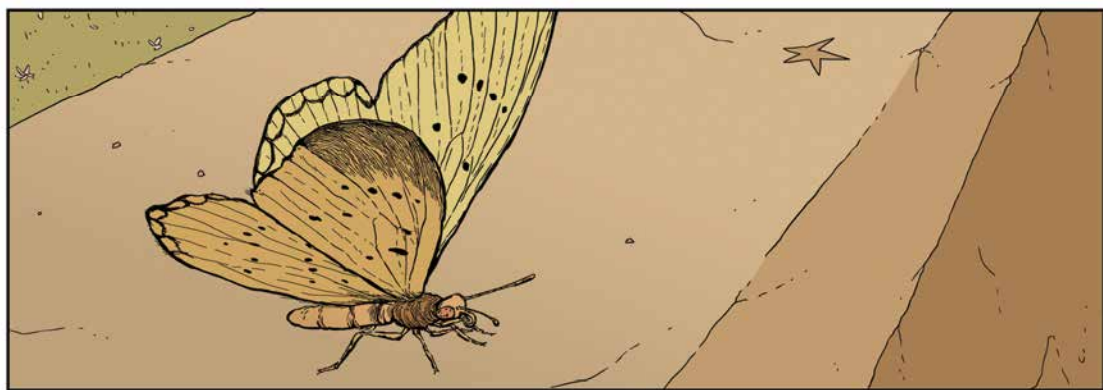


Amber. She doesn't mean anything anymore.
And Mack...?

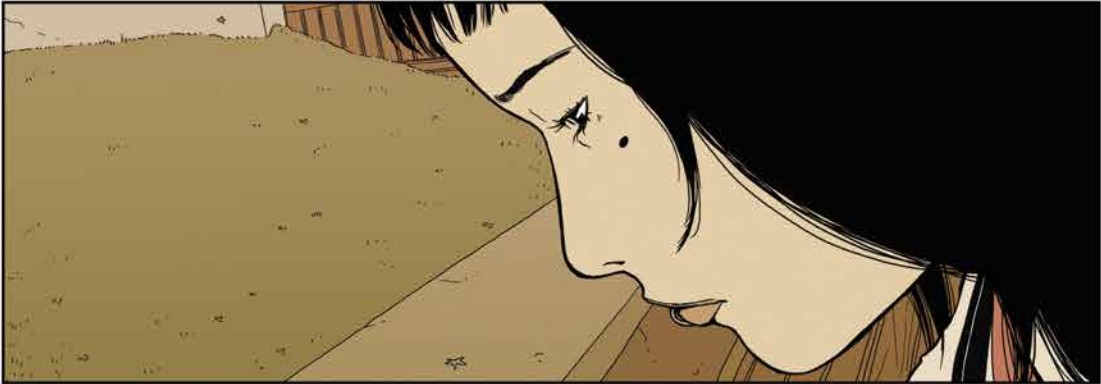










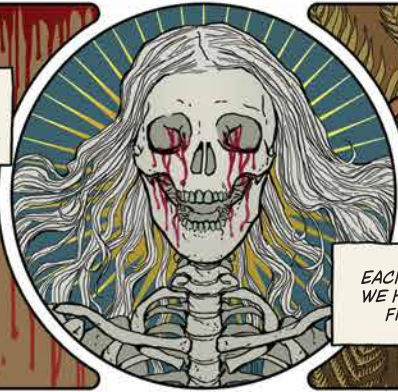




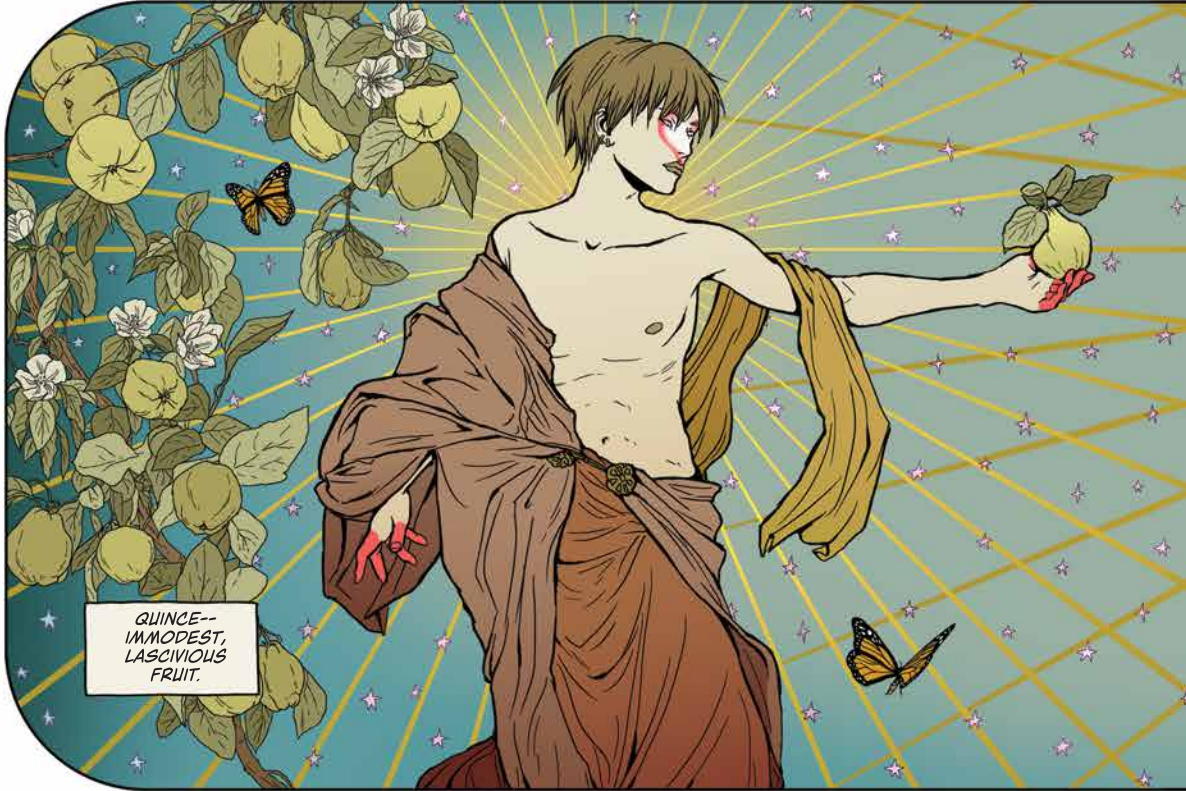
THAT'S HOW YOU BREW
THE POISON THAT WILL
ULTIMATELY KILL YOU.



THEY SAY DESTINY IS WOVEN
FROM RED THREADS THAT
INTERWINE AGAIN AND AGAIN.



EACH THREAD IS A PATH, AND ALL
WE HAVE TO DO IS FOLLOW IT TO
FIND OUT WHAT IT OFFERS.



QUINCE--
IMMODEST,
LASCIVIOUS
FRUIT.











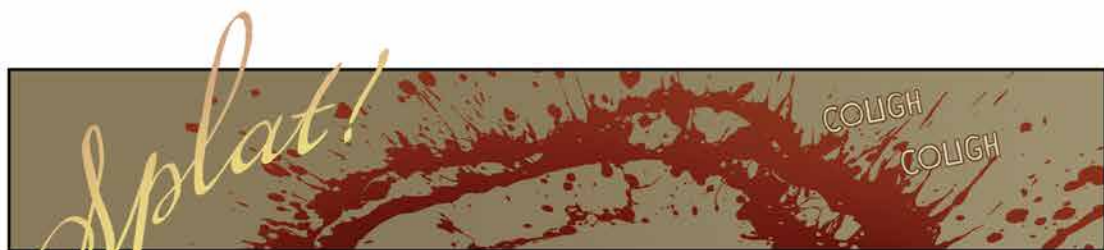


REGRETS?



WHAT GOOD ARE THEY
ONCE IT'S TOO LATE?



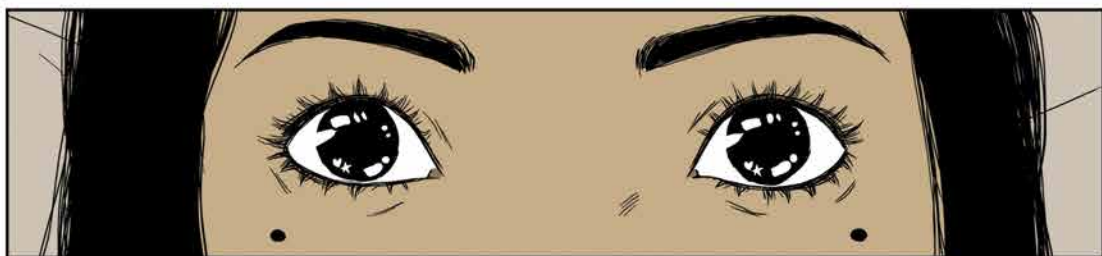


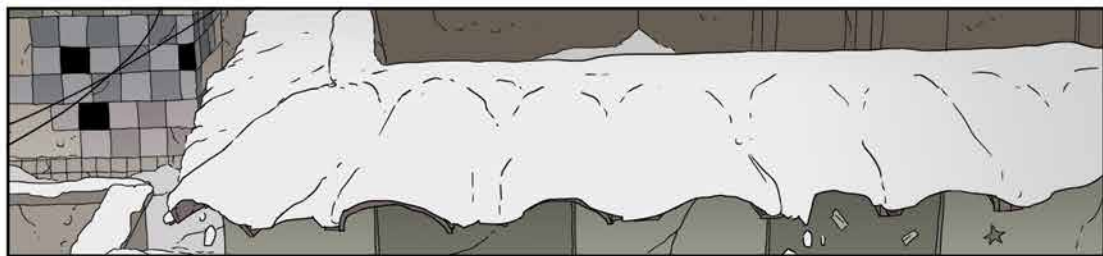






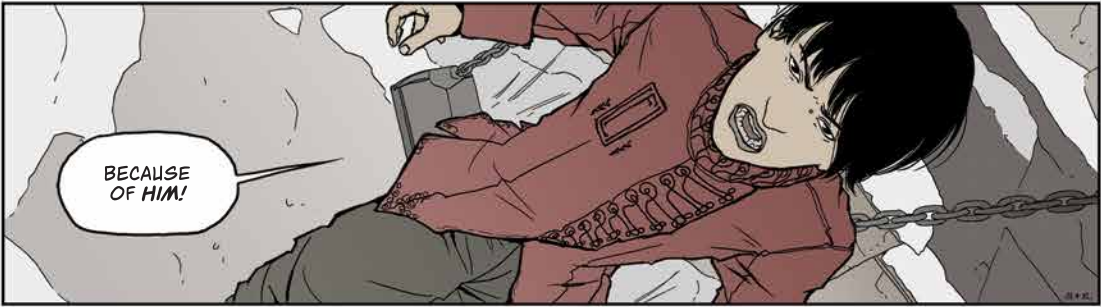
WHEN IT SEEMS LIKE
OUR DREAMS ARE
COMING TRUE...

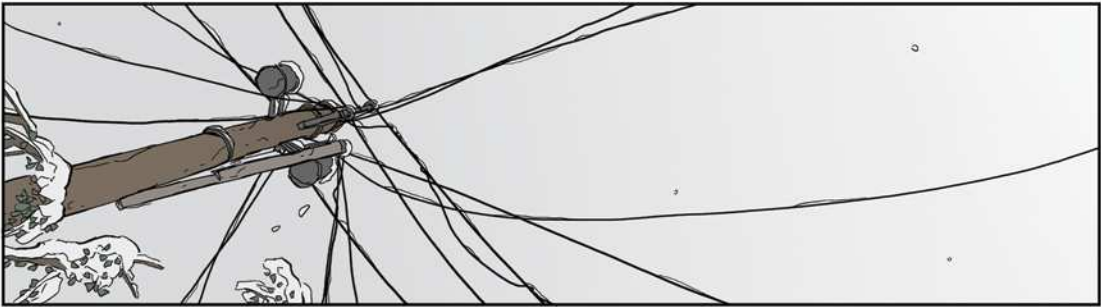






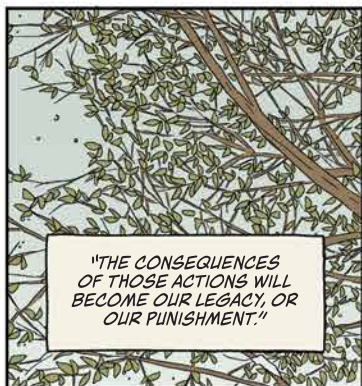
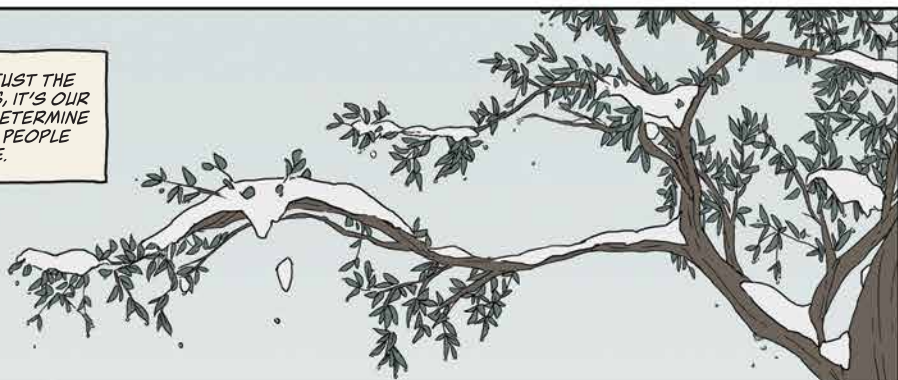






I ONCE READ:

"HOWEVER UNJUST THE
CIRCUMSTANCES, IT'S OUR
ACTIONS THAT DETERMINE
WHAT KIND OF PEOPLE
WE ARE."

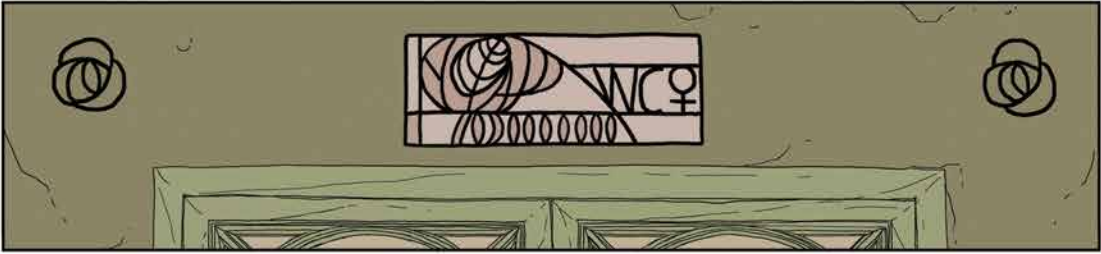


"THE CONSEQUENCES
OF THOSE ACTIONS WILL
BECOME OUR LEGACY, OR
OUR PUNISHMENT."









A SECRET IS
REVEALED.

THE MASK FALLS, A
NEW AND UNEXPECTED
PIECE OF REALITY IS
UNCOVERED...





PLEASE, DAD,
LISTEN TO ME...

NO!

DAD...PLEASE...
YOU CAN'T DECIDE
THIS ON YOUR
OWN!

BITCH



CAN'T WE AT
LEAST TALK?

NO! DON'T
YOU GET IT? IT'S
MY FUTURE!

DAD...I KNOW,
BUT...I'VE TRIED TO
TELL YOU A MILLION
TIMES AND--

NO! YOU KNEW
PERFECTLY WELL...

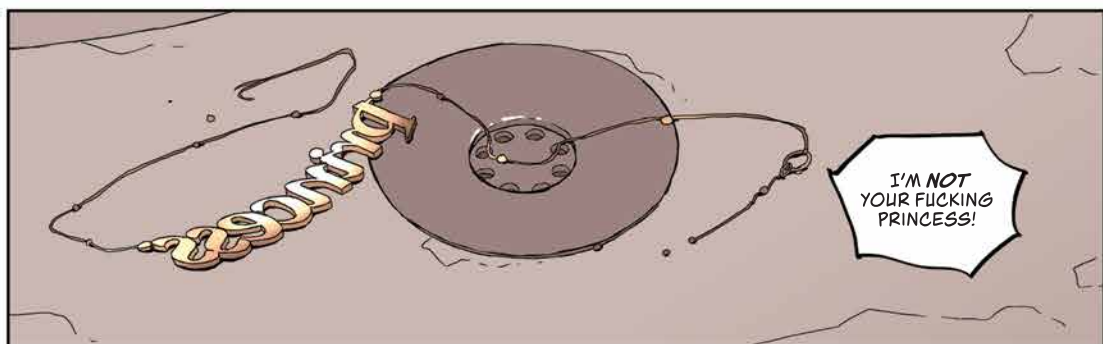
NO!



DAD, WAIT,
PLEASE! DAD...?

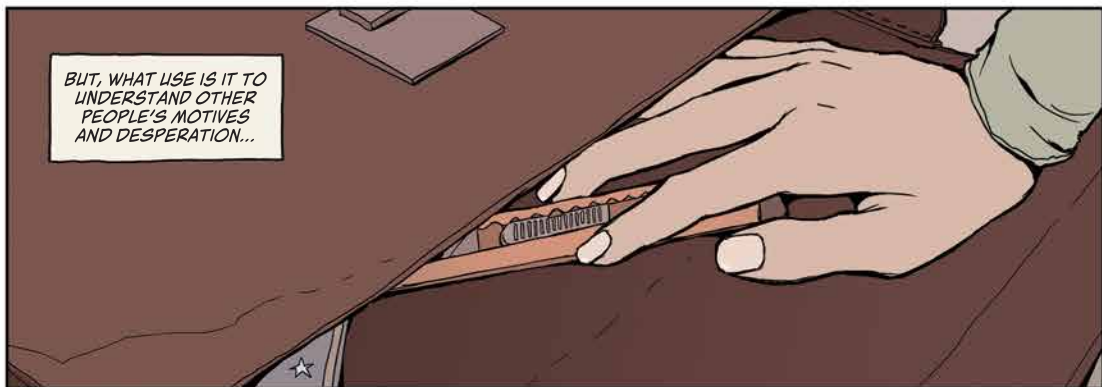


FUCK!

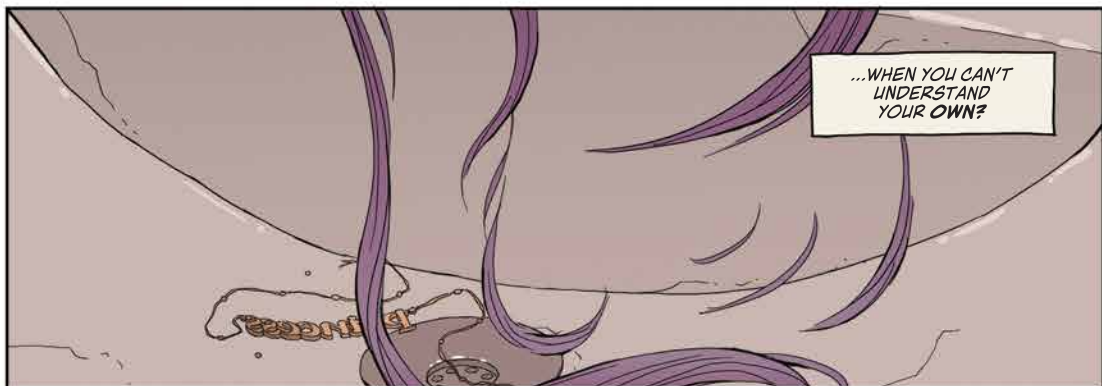




BUT, WHAT USE IS IT TO
UNDERSTAND OTHER
PEOPLE'S MOTIVES
AND DESPERATION...



...WHEN YOU CAN'T
UNDERSTAND
YOUR OWN?















Mom:
I won't be home tonight,
I'm staying at a classmate's home
to finish a project.
See you tomorrow!
EVA.

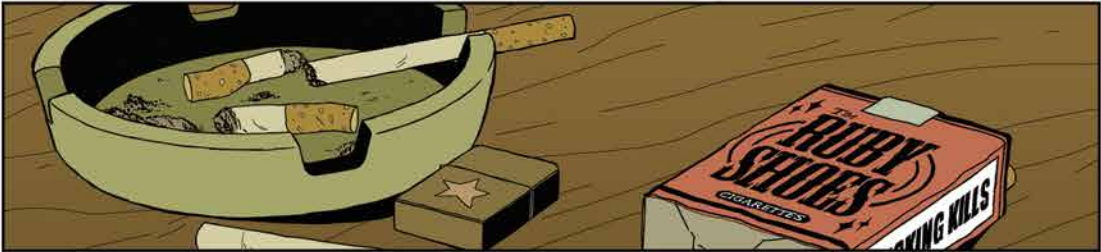


...HOW CAN YOU
BE SURPRISED BY
THE EXPLOSION?

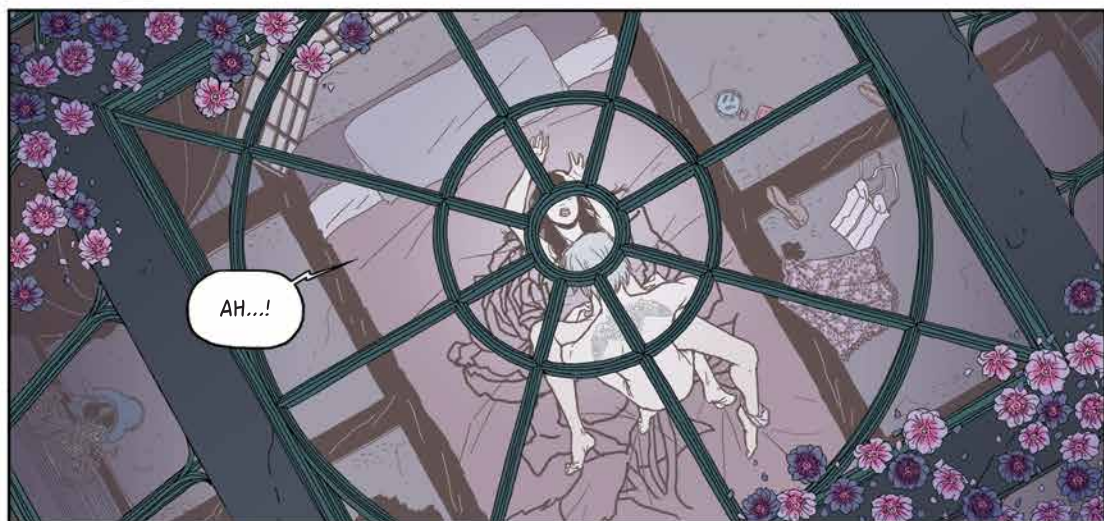




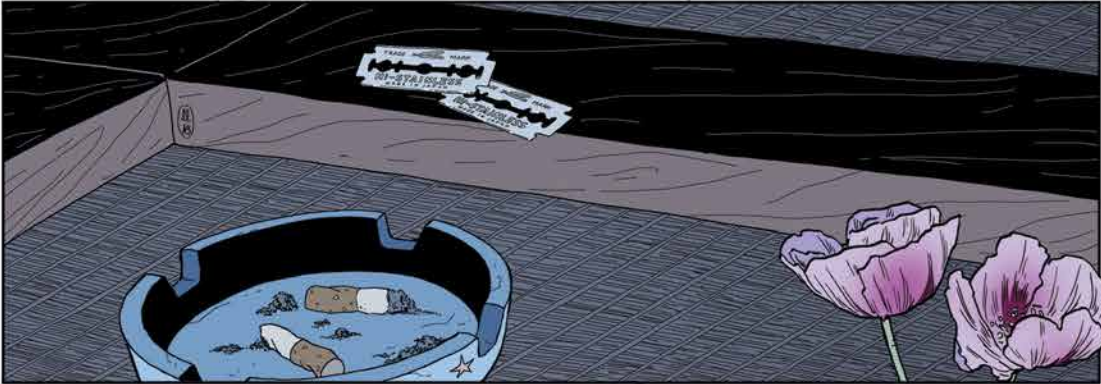
THE
SUBTLETIES.

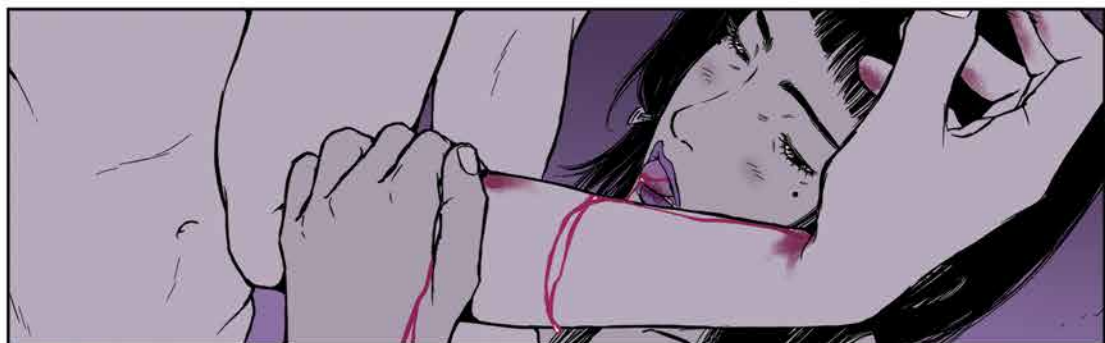




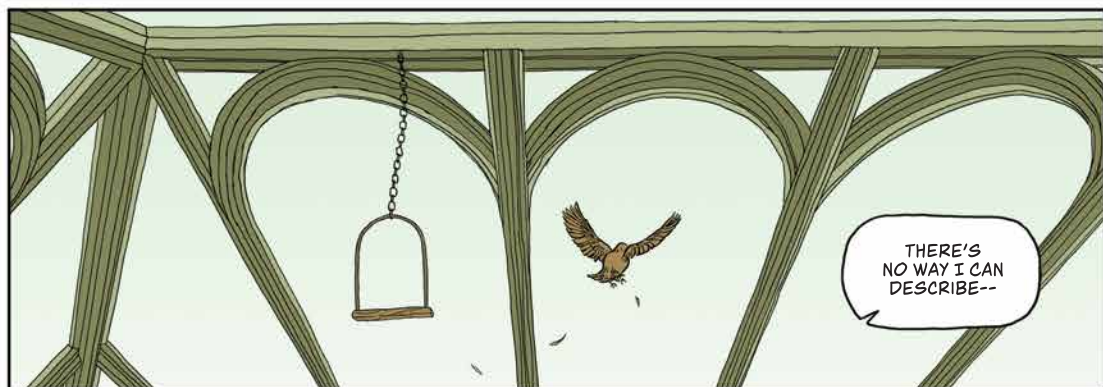
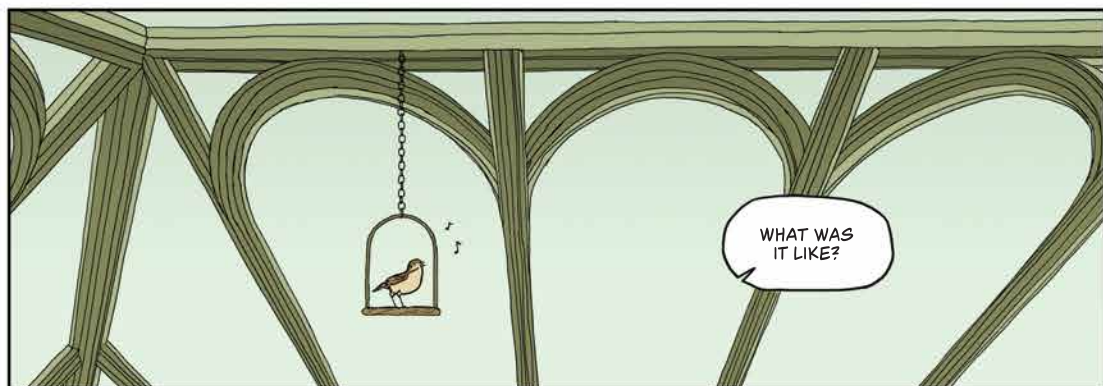


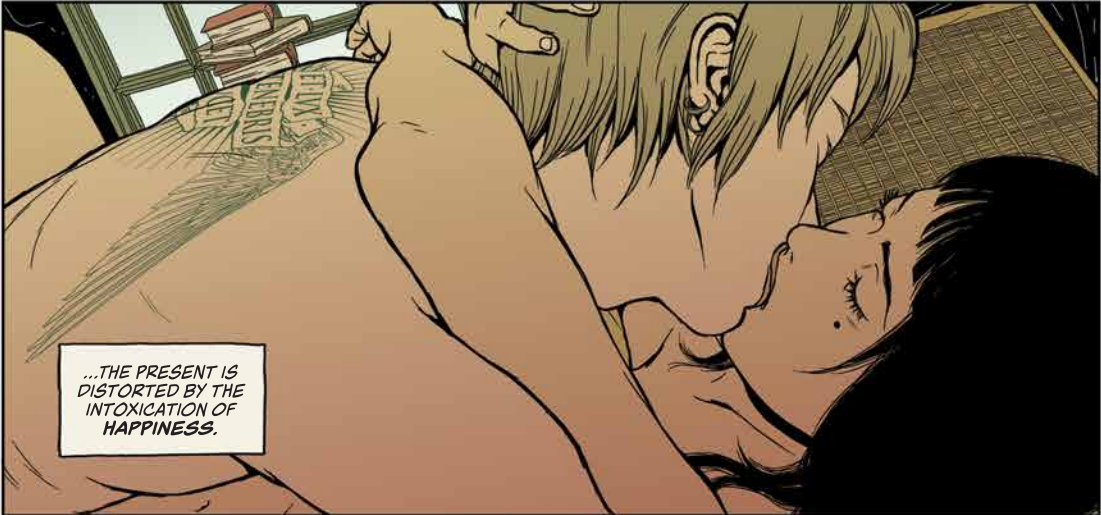


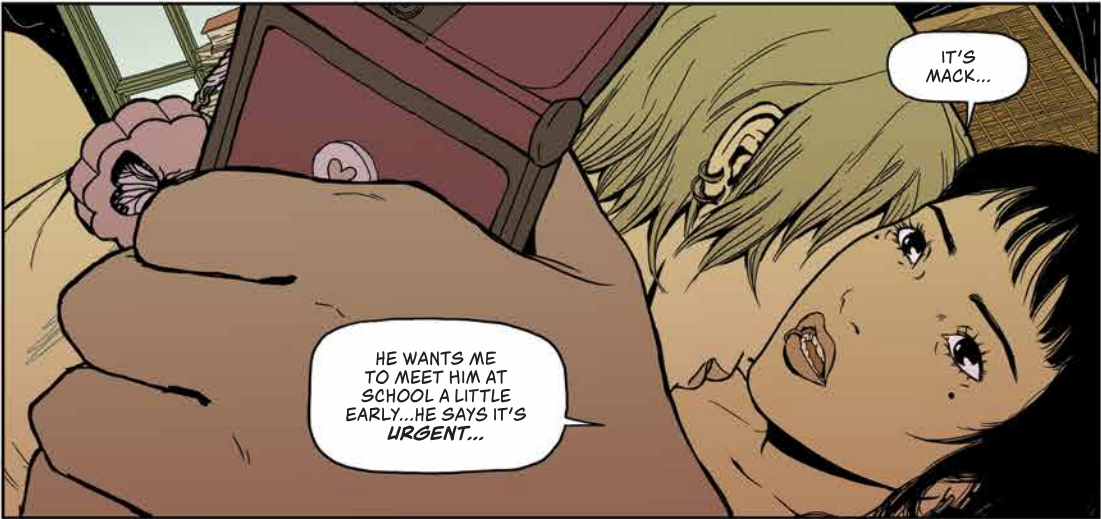
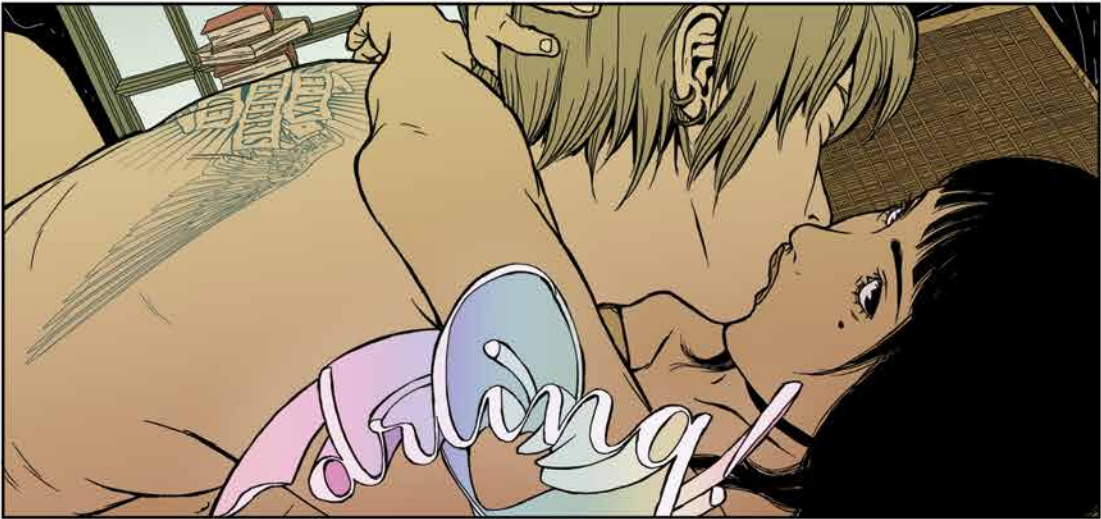


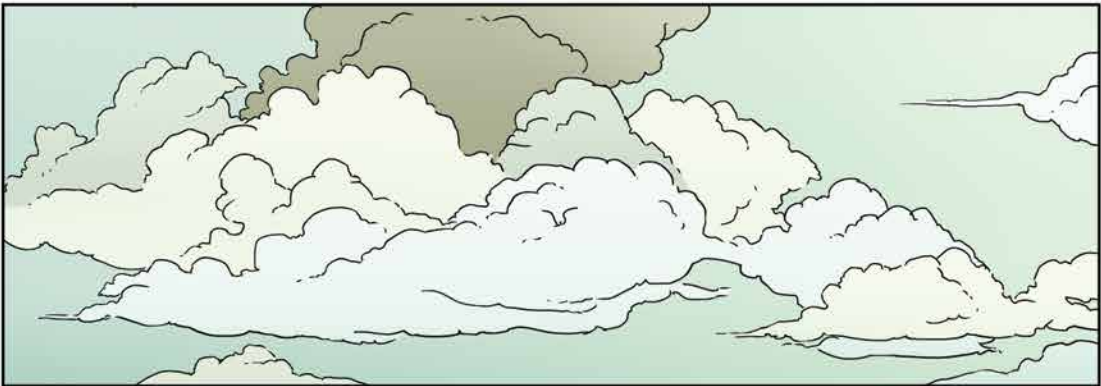


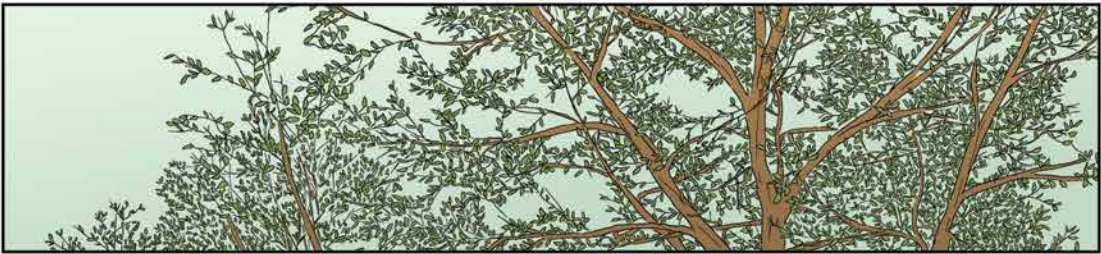




















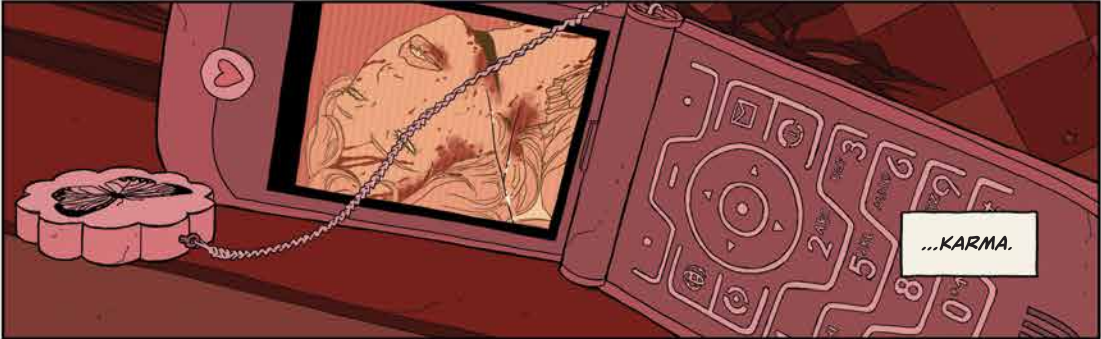
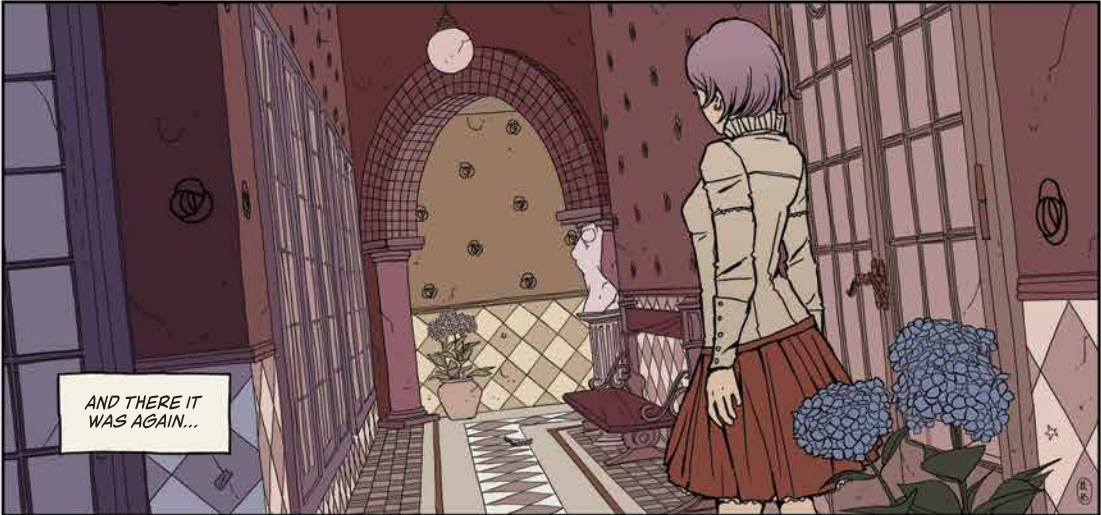


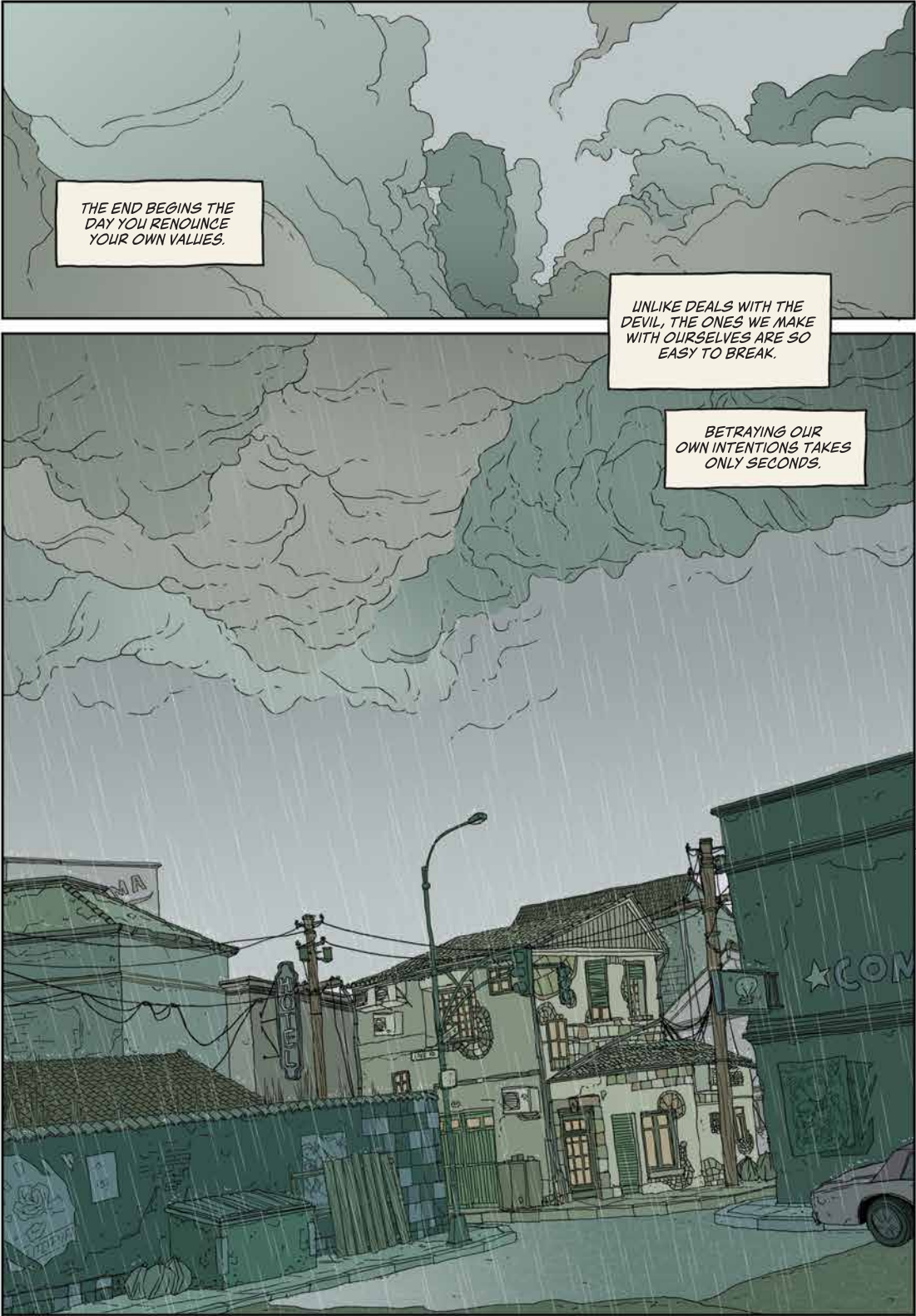










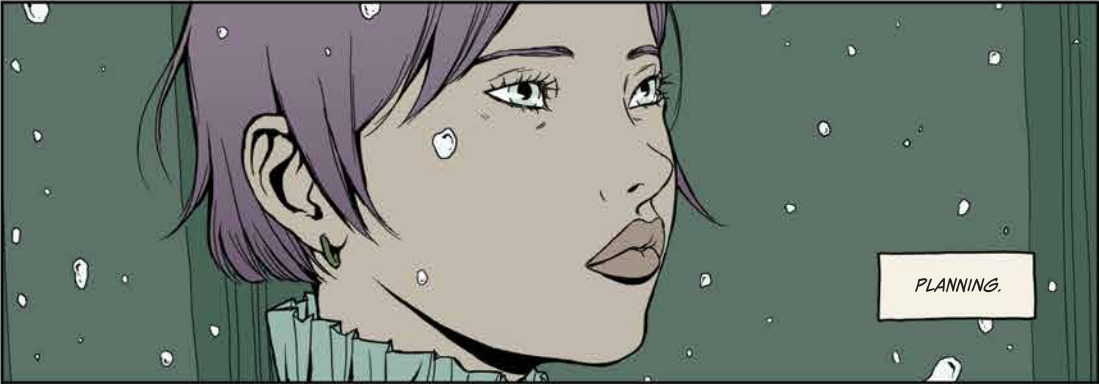


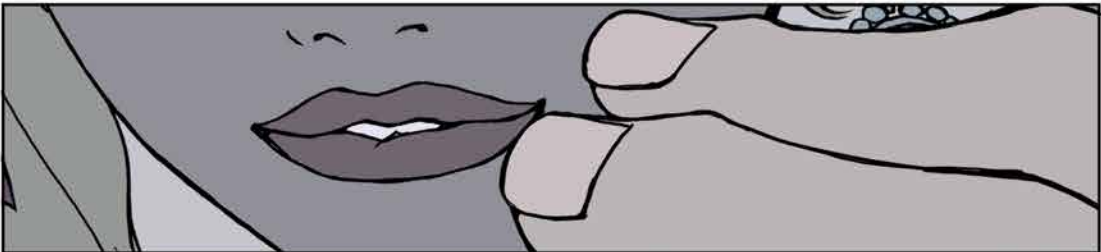
THE END BEGINS THE
DAY YOU RENOUNCE
YOUR OWN VALUES.

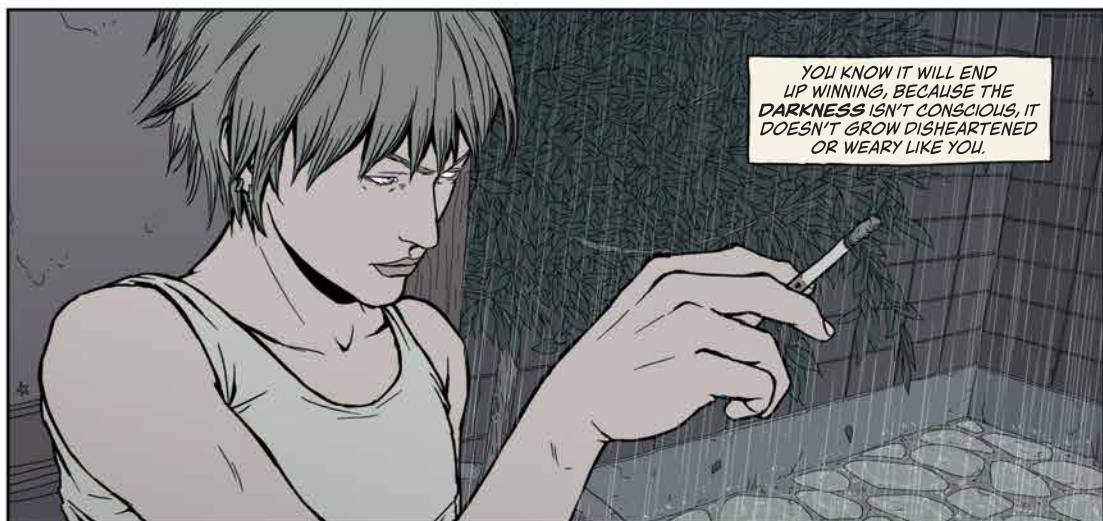
UNLIKE DEALS WITH THE
DEVIL, THE ONES WE MAKE
WITH OURSELVES ARE SO
EASY TO BREAK.

BETRAYING OUR
OWN INTENTIONS TAKES
ONLY SECONDS.









YOU KNOW IT WILL END
UP WINNING, BECAUSE THE
DARKNESS ISN'T CONSCIOUS, IT
DOESN'T GROW DISHEARTENED
OR WEARY LIKE YOU.



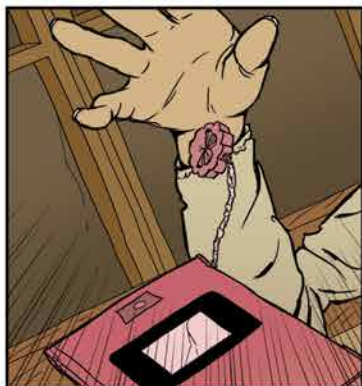
Pii
Pii

IF YOU DECIMATE ITS NUMBERS,
IT DOESN'T SUFFER THE WAY
YOU DO, BECAUSE IT'S NOT
A SINGULAR BEING, BUT ALL
BEINGS TO COME.













I WAS ALWAYS WEAK.
SUFFERING THROUGH MY
SAD REALITY WITHOUT
DOING ANYTHING
TO CHANGE IT.



OVERNIGHT, MY
LIFE HAD BECOME
EVERYTHING I
COULD HAVE DESIRED.



BUT NOW, ALSO
OVERNIGHT, IT WAS
ALL GOING TO SLIP
THROUGH MY FINGERS.



MY FLASK OF
DREAMS WAS EMPTY.

IT WAS TOO
LATE.



AND YET...



...I WASN'T
GOING TO
ALLOW IT.



IF YOU'VE ALREADY
TOSSED YOUR
VALUES AWAY...

HOW MUCH MORE
CAN YOU REALLY
BETRAY YOURSELF?

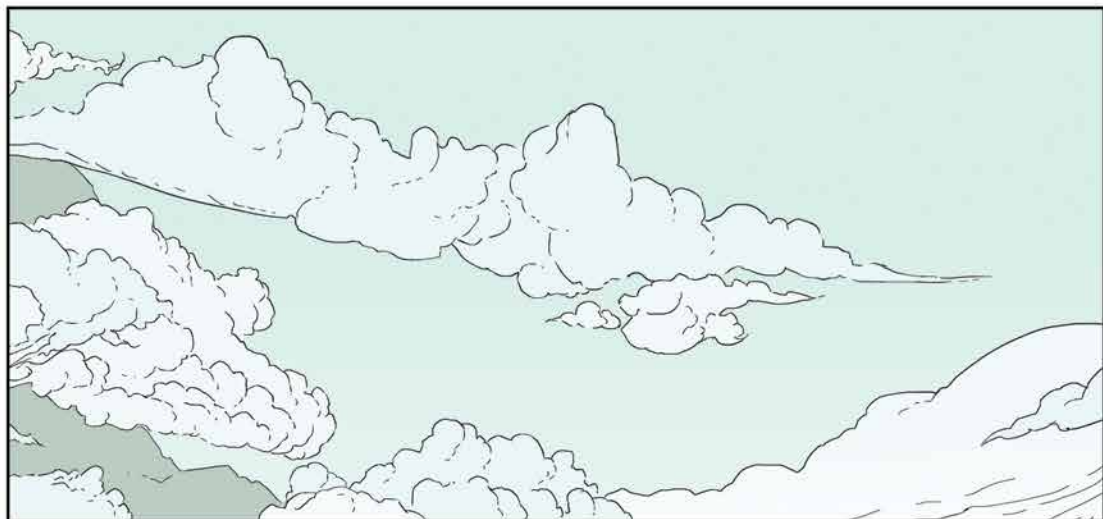
IT'S SO STUPID
TO FIGHT FOR THE
WRONG CAUSE.

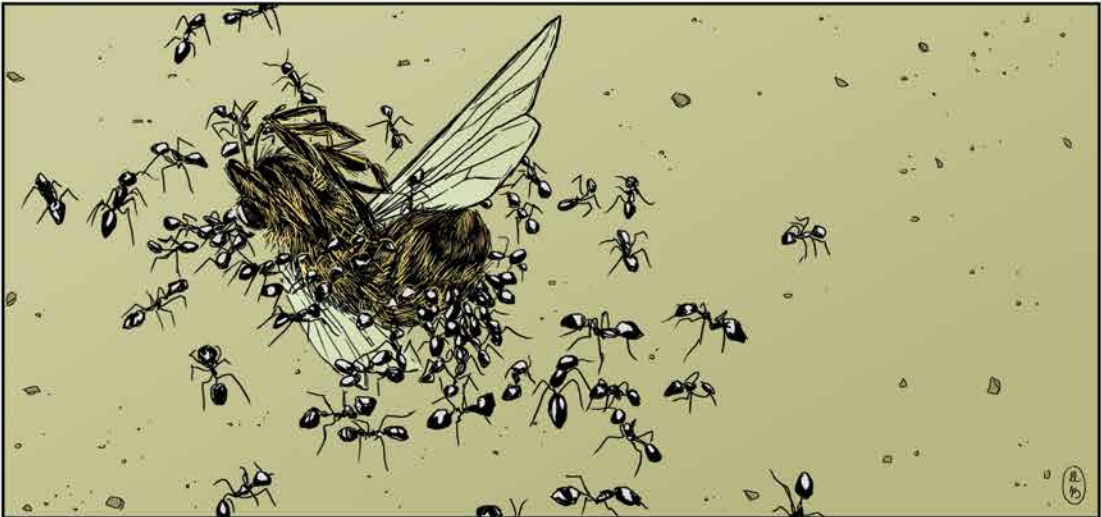


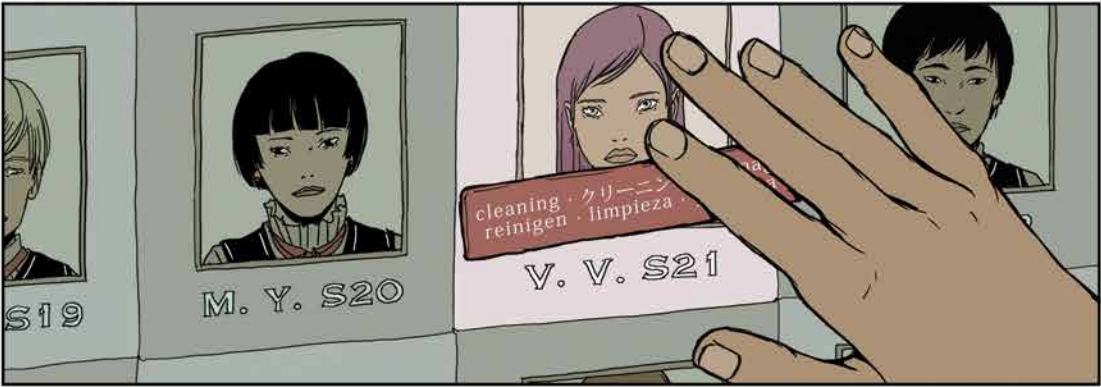
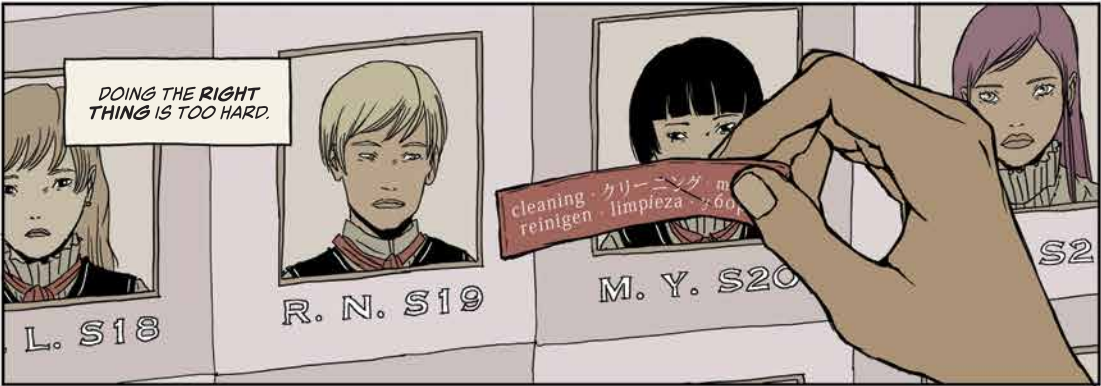














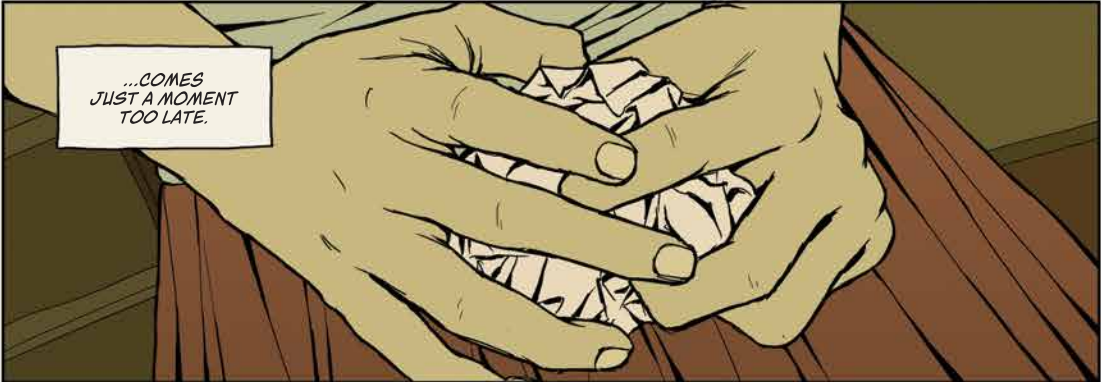


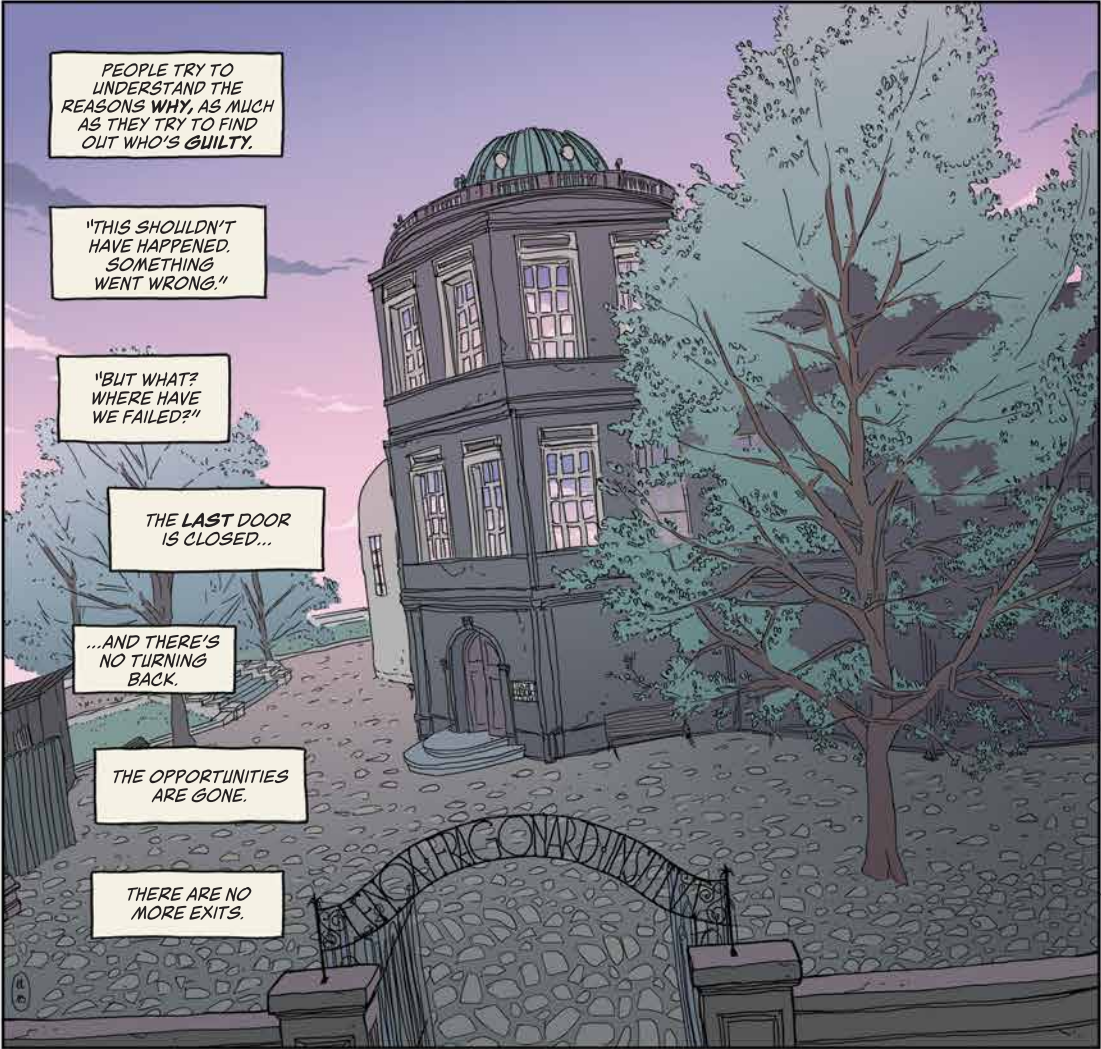
THE FINAL LINE WAITS
TO BE CROSSED...

AND THERE'S
STILL HOPE...









PEOPLE TRY TO
UNDERSTAND THE
REASONS WHY, AS MUCH
AS THEY TRY TO FIND
OUT WHO'S GUILTY.

"THIS SHOULDN'T
HAVE HAPPENED.
SOMETHING
WENT WRONG."

"BUT WHAT?
WHERE HAVE
WE FAILED?"

THE LAST DOOR
IS CLOSED...

...AND THERE'S
NO TURNING
BACK.

THE OPPORTUNITIES
ARE GONE.

THERE ARE NO
MORE EXITS.



AND NIGHT
FALLS IN HELL.





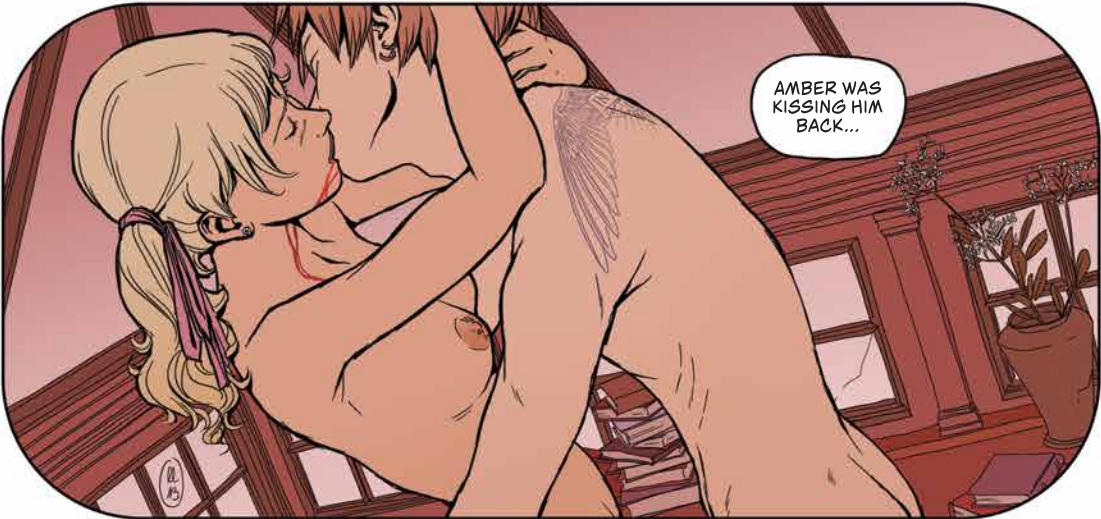






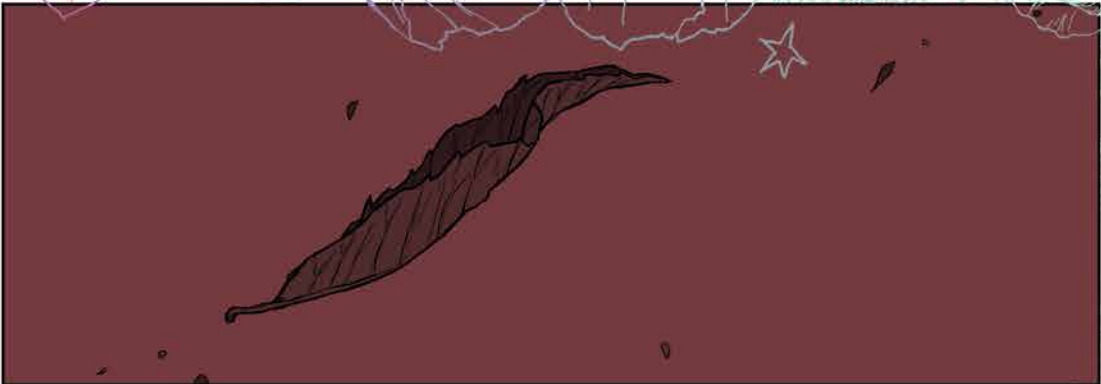




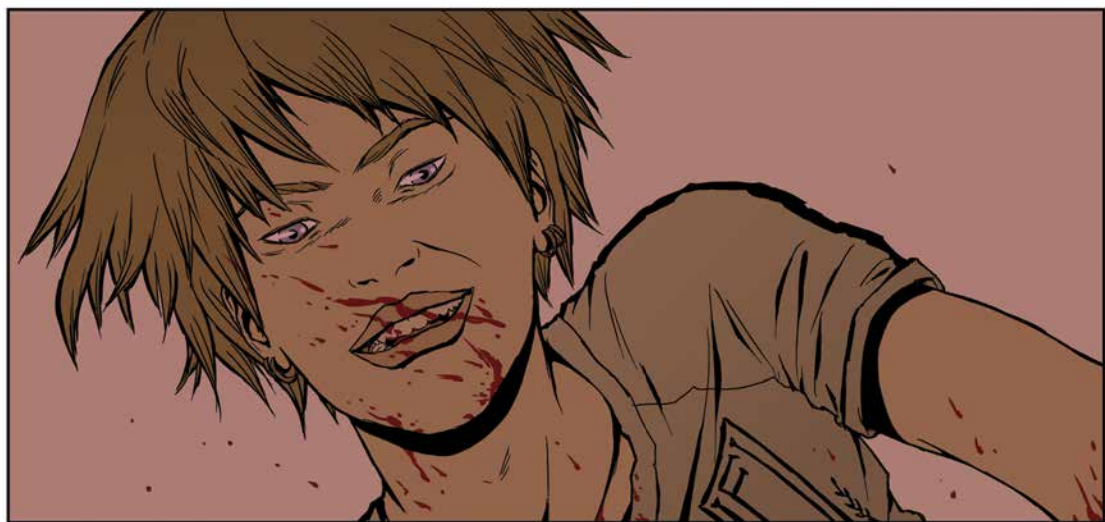


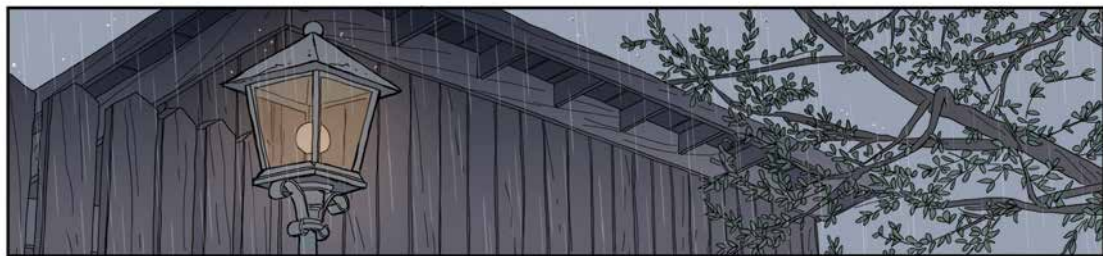






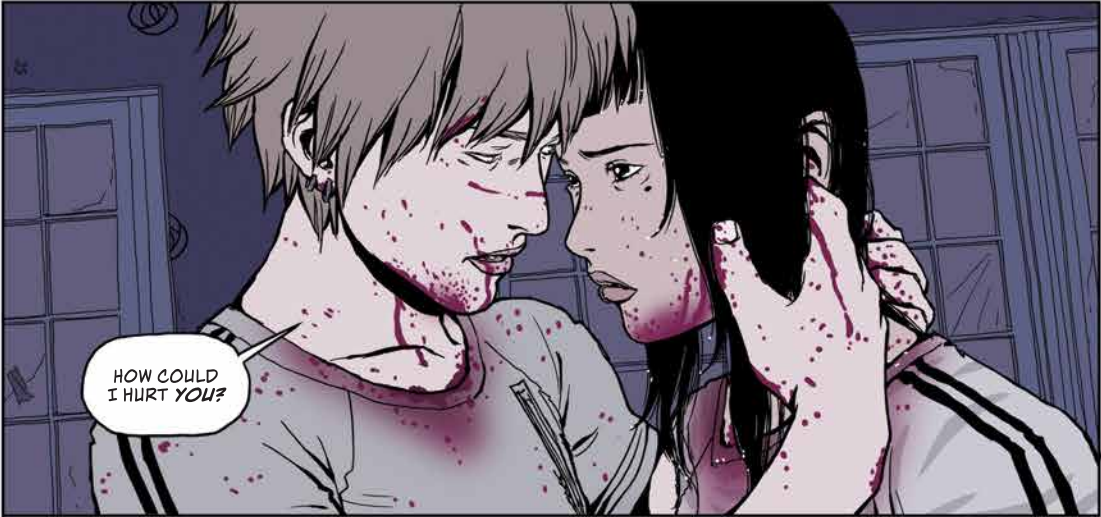


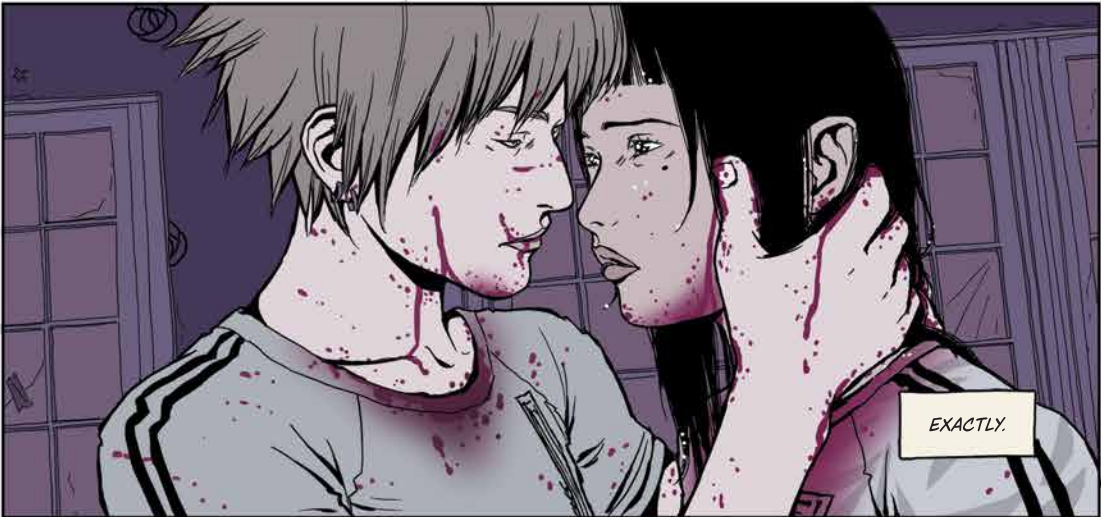


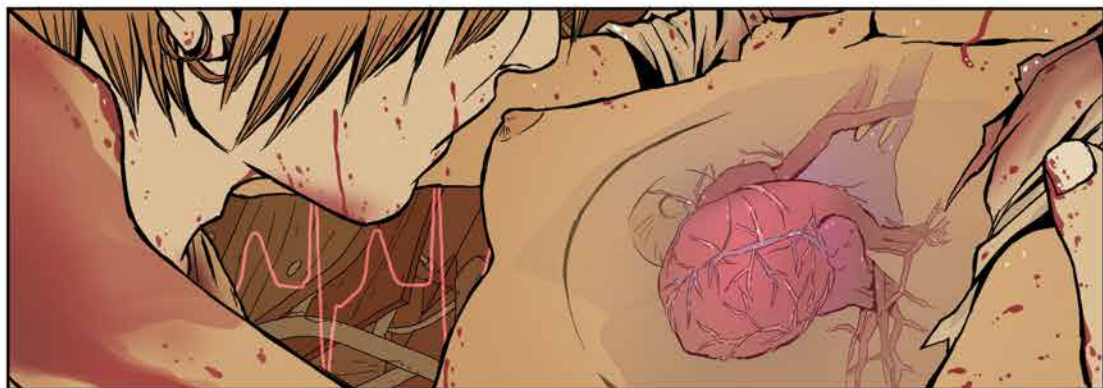














HOW CAN WE
RECOGNIZE THE
TRUTH IF TIME CAN
TURN IT INTO A LIE?



WHO IS GUILTY?
WHO IS TO BLAME?



MY MOTHER.

DIDN'T SHE DESPISE HERSELF
AS MUCH AS THE SNOBS SHE
SERVED DID? SHE FORCED ME
INTO SOLITUDE, REJECTION,
SADNESS! WHAT DOES IT
MATTER WHAT HER REASONS
WERE?



MACK.

OBSESSED AND IN LOVE
WITH HIS SISTER...IF HE
HADN'T NEGLECTED OUR
FRIENDSHIP...IF HE HADN'T
STUCK HIS NOSE WHERE
IT DIDN'T BELONG...

WE COULD HAVE
BEEN EACH OTHER'S
SUPPORT!



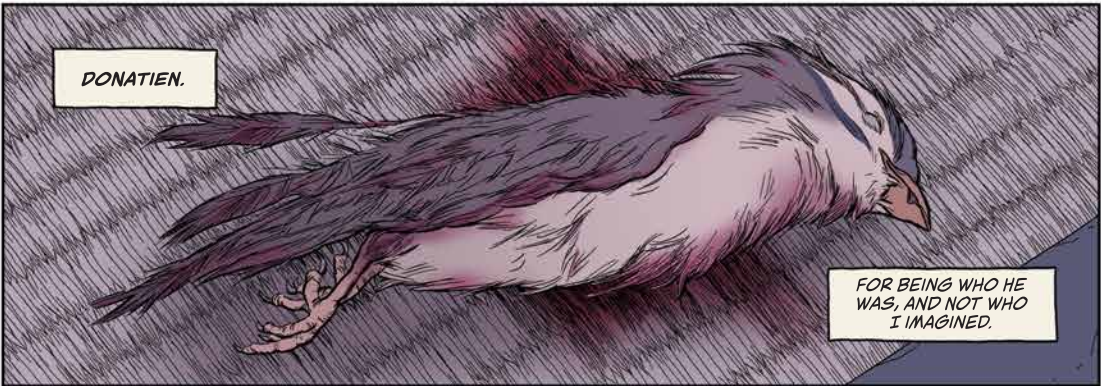
AMBER.

STUPID, MEAN-SPIRITED, AND CLASSIST! WE COULD HAVE BEEN SISTERS! AND THEN MAYBE I WOULD HAVE CARED ABOUT HER DEATH, AT LEAST A LITTLE...



VIOLETTA.

MANIPULATIVE COWARD! TOO SCARED TO TRY GETTING WHAT SHE WANTED WITHOUT COERCION! PUNCHING BAG OR WHORE, SHE DIDN'T CARE...



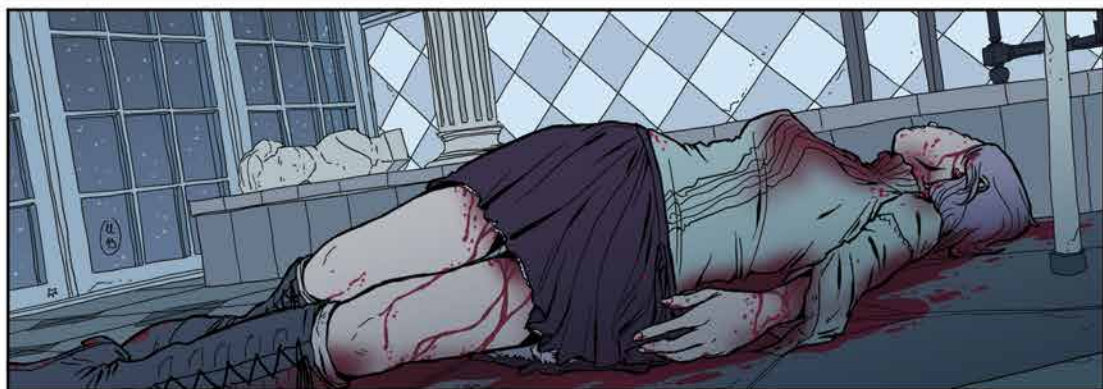
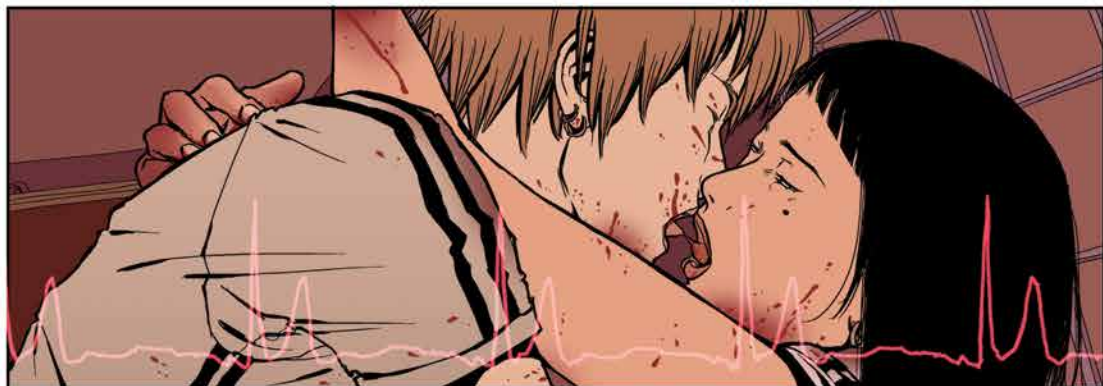
DONATIEN.

FOR BEING WHO HE WAS, AND NOT WHO I IMAGINED.

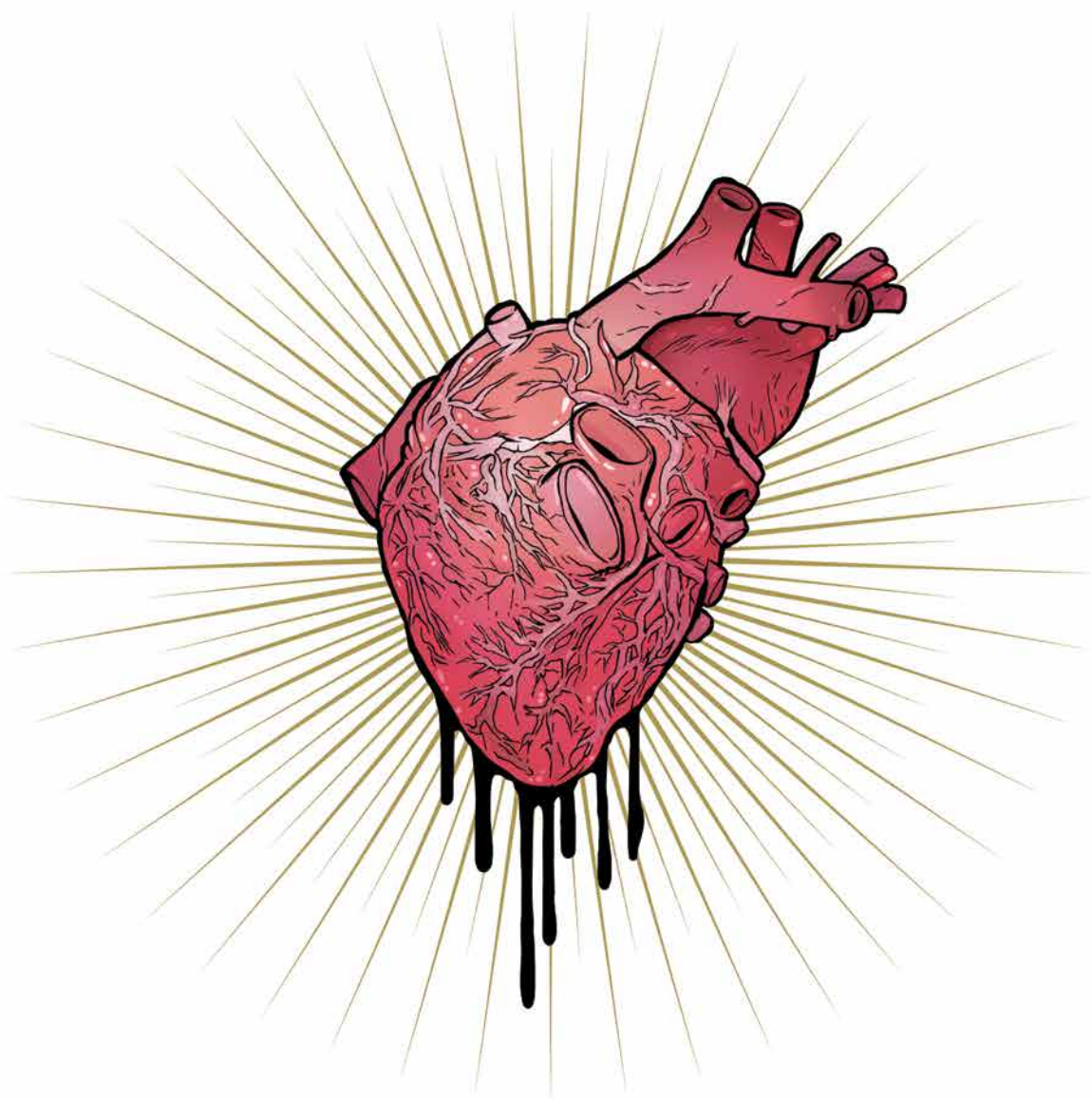


FOR NOT FULFILLING MY EXPECTATIONS. NO ONE DID.

OR...MAYBE THE FAULT WAS MINE?









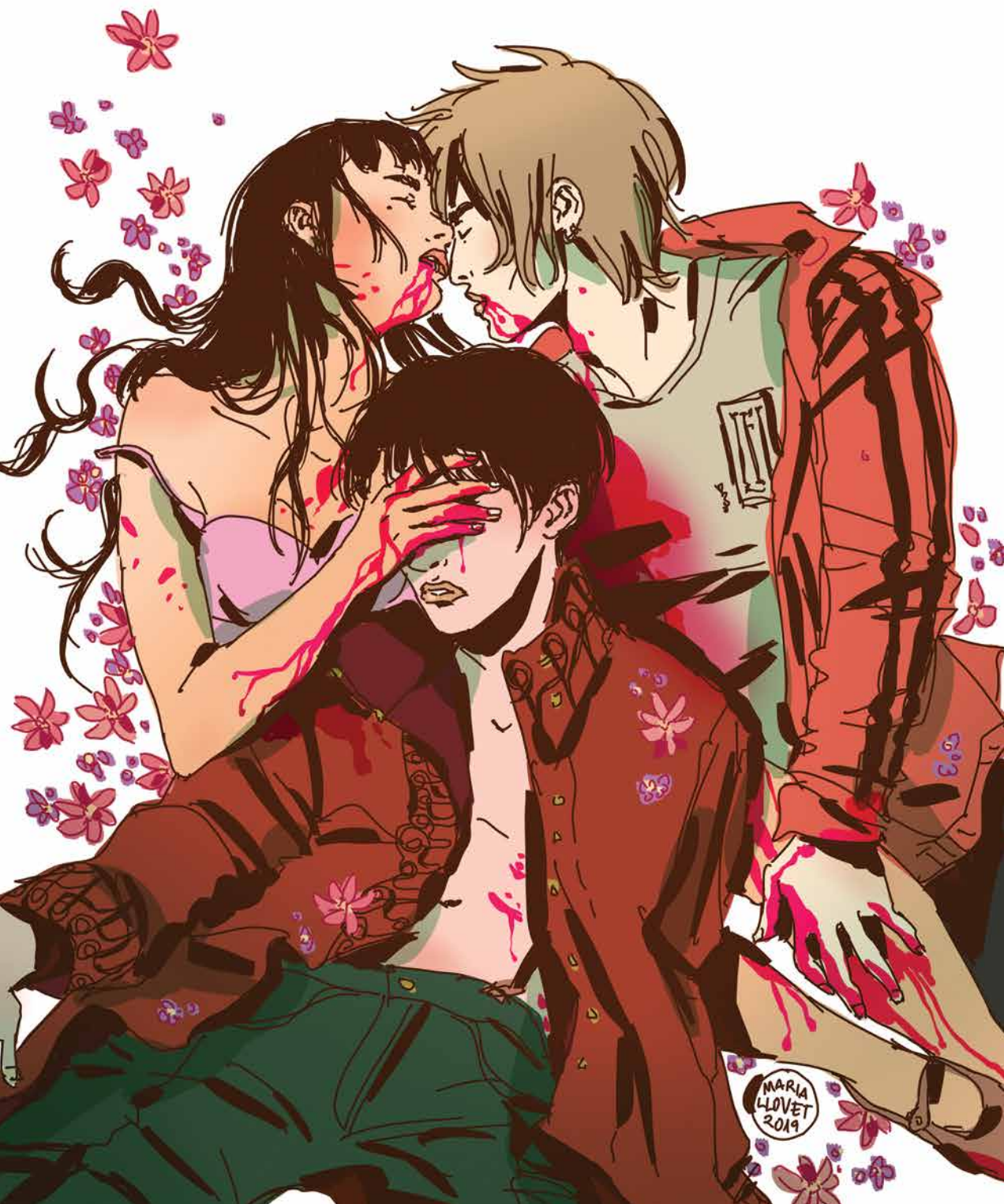
COVER GALLERY

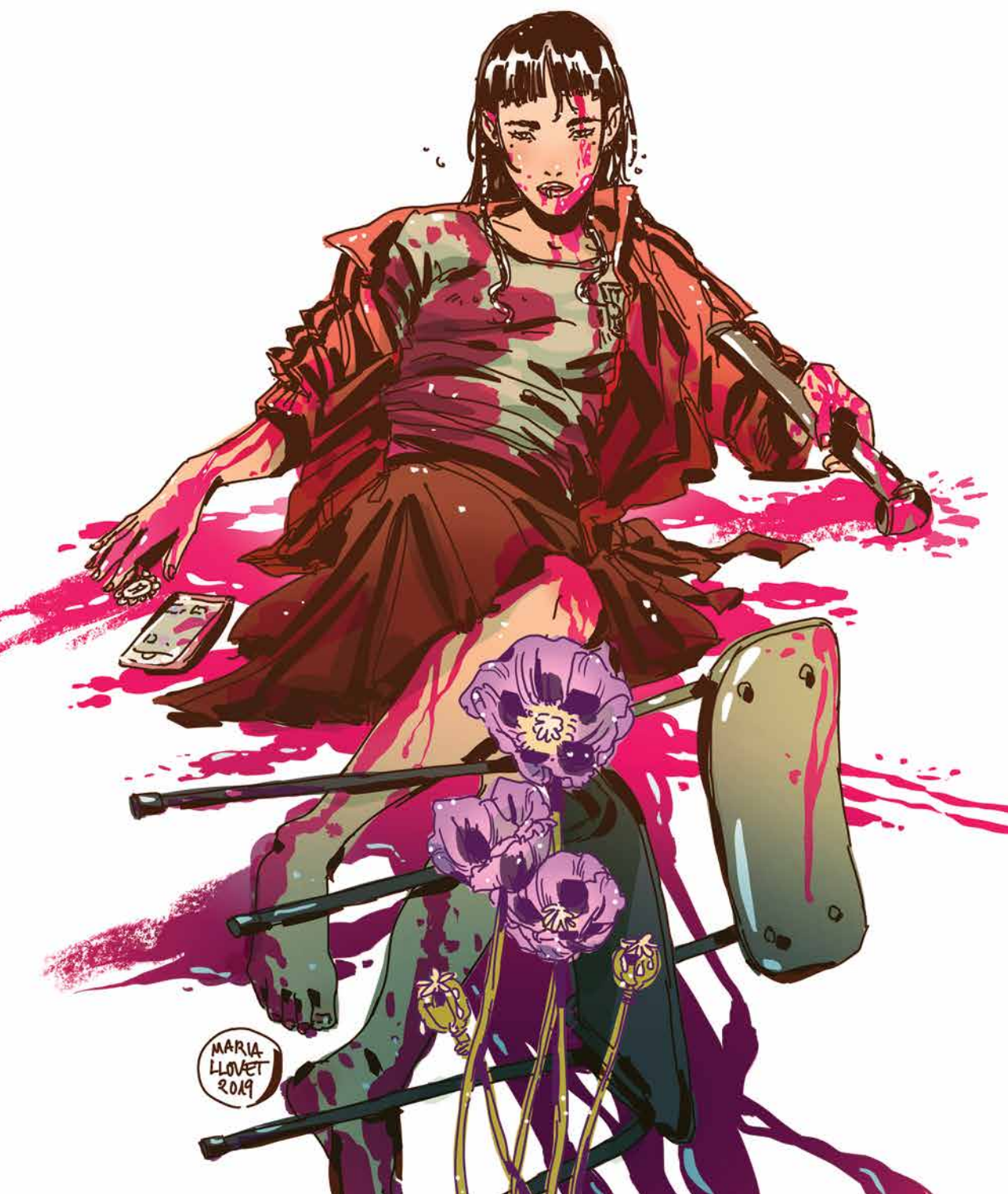
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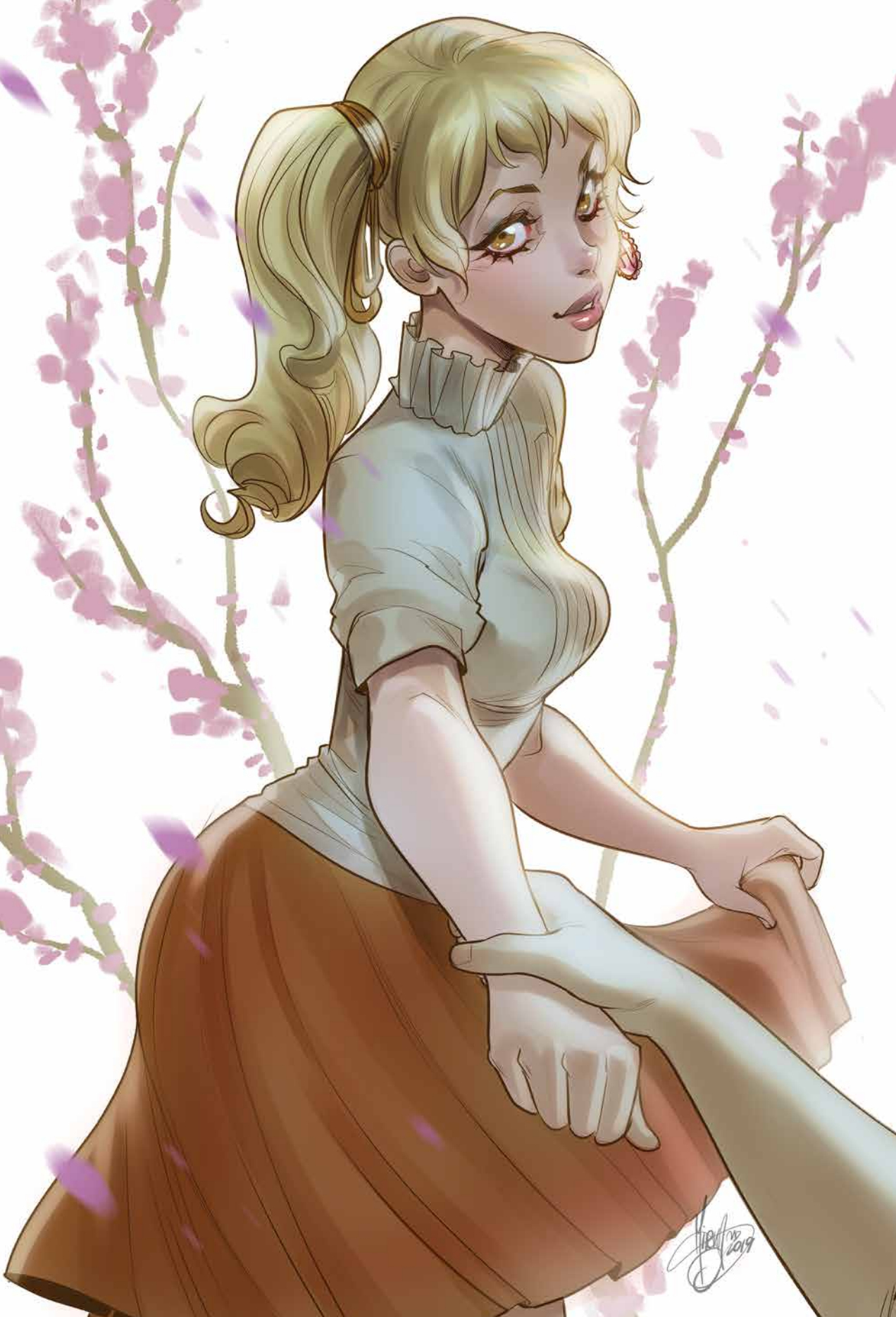








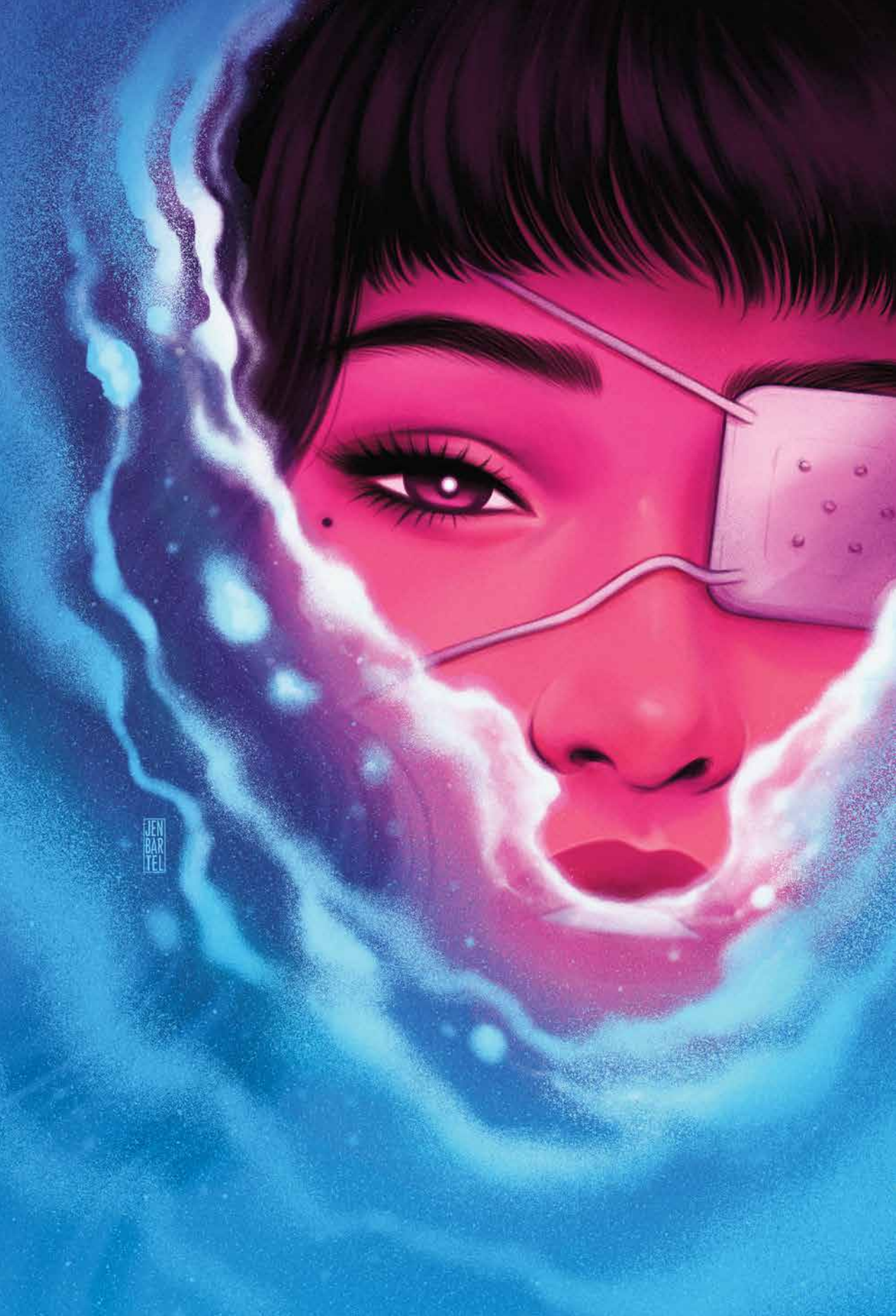




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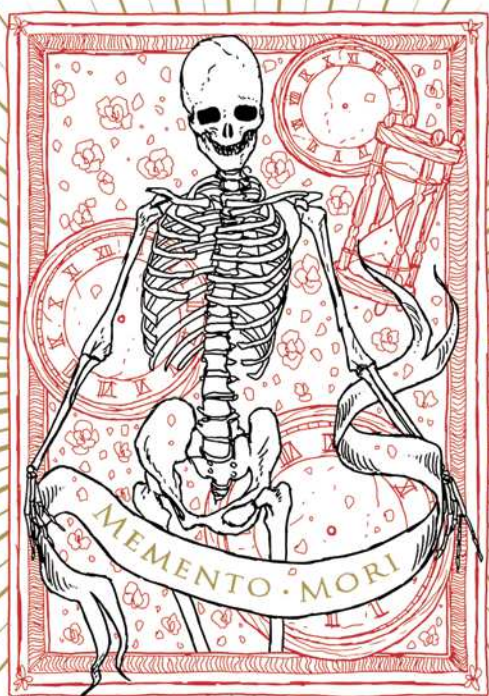
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IF NO ONE IS **INNOCENT**, IS ANYONE **TRULY GUILTY**?

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