

BOBBINS

OUT OF THE WOODS



2

2014/15

JOHN ALLISON

patreon.com/scarygoround

***These comics were originally published at
scarygoround.com from 18/4/2014 to 28/3/2015***

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So I pressed on.

I began work on a new Bad Machinery story on the web, and continued to fill Friday gaps with my Bobbins strips. I've always struggled with standalone strips, the basic unit of comics, one joke executed to the best of one's ability, but I continue to chase it. It's hard to quiet the voice that whispers, *if you strung this out to a week, it could be the sort of thing you're better at*. This collection starts with a few of what I've always referred to as "mixed nuts", before descending into chaos with the return of the then-divisive (but in 2021, I would say "beloved") Desmond Fishman. Des represents my worst impulses, but also my best creative efforts. He opens doors to the right kind of madness. The truth is, I don't enjoy writing mixed nuts very much.

There's also a brief segment where Ryan and Amy attempt to make "couple friends", notable for the first appearance of Ken Lord, who subsequently appeared in my *Giant Days* comic series. These strips have appeared previously in the back of Bad Machinery book 8, but this version reinstitutes a reef-er-smoking panel that was considered "not T-for-teen enough".

When the Bad Machinery story was done, I didn't feel desperate to make another one. I was beginning to write Giant Days, and wanted to give it my best efforts. So I leaned hard into continuity again for a big Bobbins story that would run across Christmas 2015. I had only a loose outline, with no predetermined conclusion, and just went week to week. This is a dangerous way for me to work.

Early in my webcomic career, readers would comment on the occasional story that petered-out quickly (usually due to my inability to end it satisfactorily). I had long put a stop to my petering, but with no roadmap, I'm forced to solve the story problems and plotlines I irresponsibly create at the start, no matter how long this takes. There was a story in the original *Scary Go Round* series, Super Crisis Quests, that I swear I could not get to the end to, no matter how many flow charts I drew.

Now, puffed up on my own confidence, I figured I would embark on a new, personal, Super Crisis Quest. I would march into the woods, then out of the

woods, hence the name. I would even explicitly reference Super Crisis Quests with the first page of the story. Maybe I should have just walked under a series of ladders, or actively sought out black cats whose paths I could cross.

They say that those who do not learn the lessons of history are doomed to repeat them. While I was writing the first few (I think very accessible) Giant Days issues, I was also deep in a thicket of Bobbins plot threads that I could not for the life of me untangle. Months rolled by and I attempted to resolve them utilising a sort of broken logic that required me to reach further and further back into the past. Oh, to peter out!

Now, I like all the crazy things I put in these comics - heavy plant fights, dimensional portals, eco-warriors, pro-hunting bear costumes, workplace reunions, erotic bathing. But it's a lot for one story to hold.

I only tried this trick once more, to wrap up the loose ends from this story. You might say that I wasn't "out of the woods" yet! Ha ha! Ha ha ha! HA HA!

- JA

Re: mixed nuts, when a friend became a syndicated newspaper cartoonist, he was regularly contacted by "gag-men" who would offer him punchlines for comics, as a very reasonable price. In a bid to undercut the market, here are a few royalty-free punchlines for your gag strip.

"Try to oscillate more slowly!"

"That's more than enough corn - and believe me, I know corn."

"Listen to Noam Chomsky here!"

"If you could just try to stop bleeding."

"Abraca-DAB-ra!" (Character is performing the now-dated "dabbing" dance move.)

"Abraca-TAB-ra!" (Character has approximately 60 browser tabs open.)

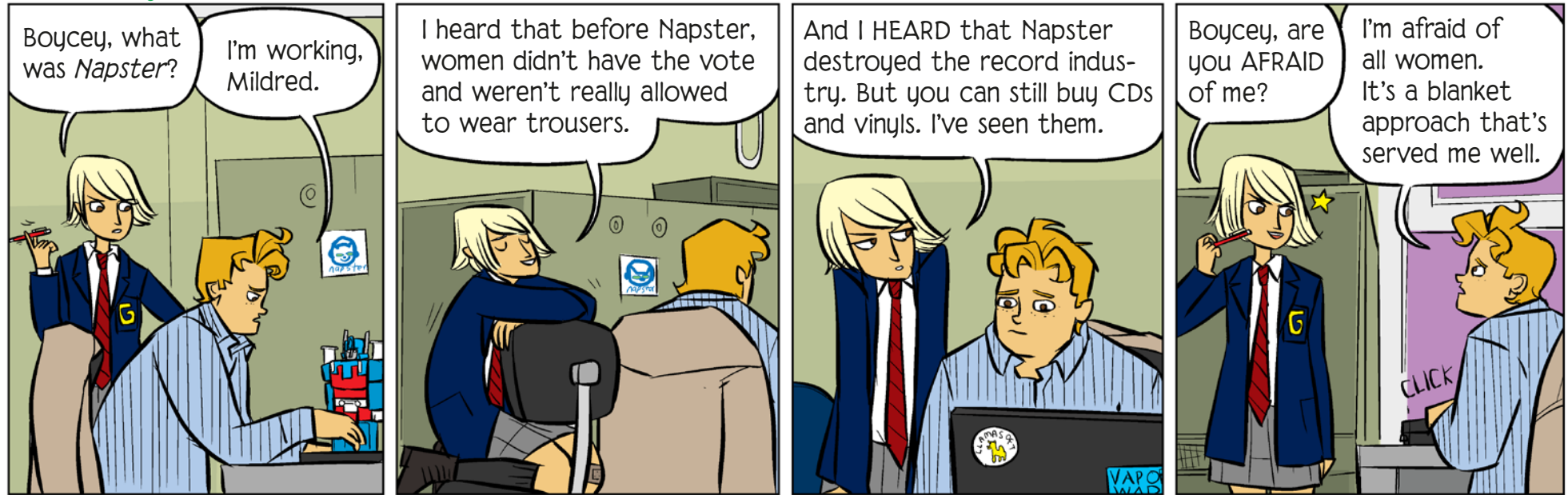
"Abraca-MUMM-ra!" (Mumm-ra, the ever-living mummy from the TV show *Thundercats*, appears in the last panel for no reason. Please obtain the proper licences first.)

"I can't even PLAY saxophone!"

"Abraca-SAXOPHONE-ra!"

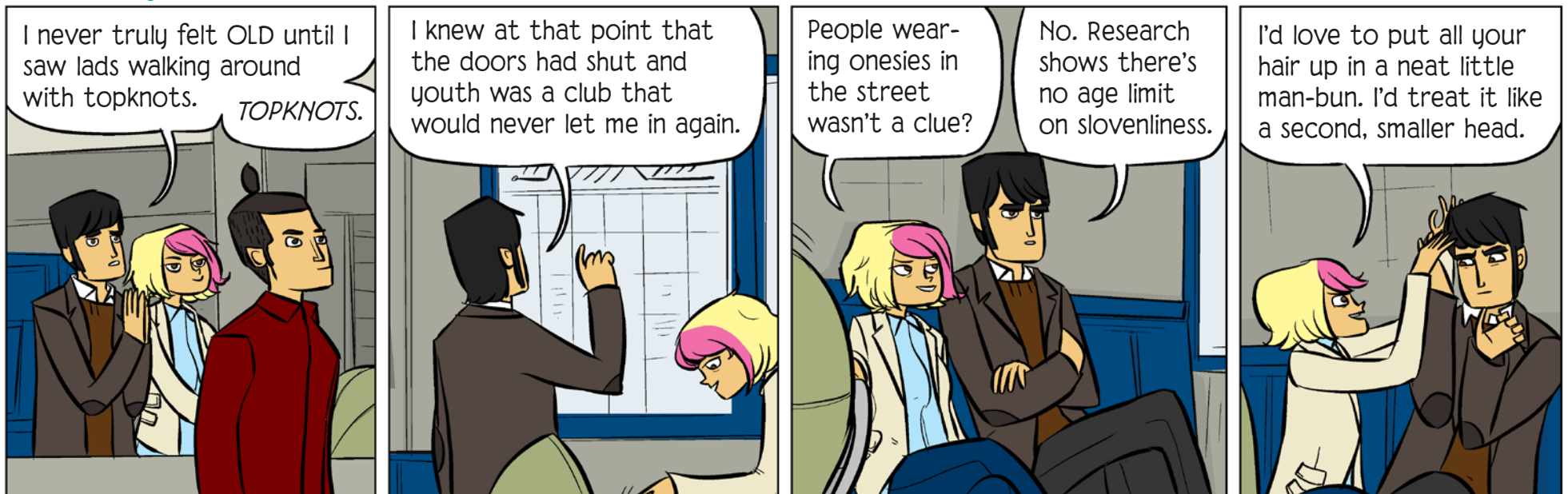
MIXED NUTS / KEN LORD

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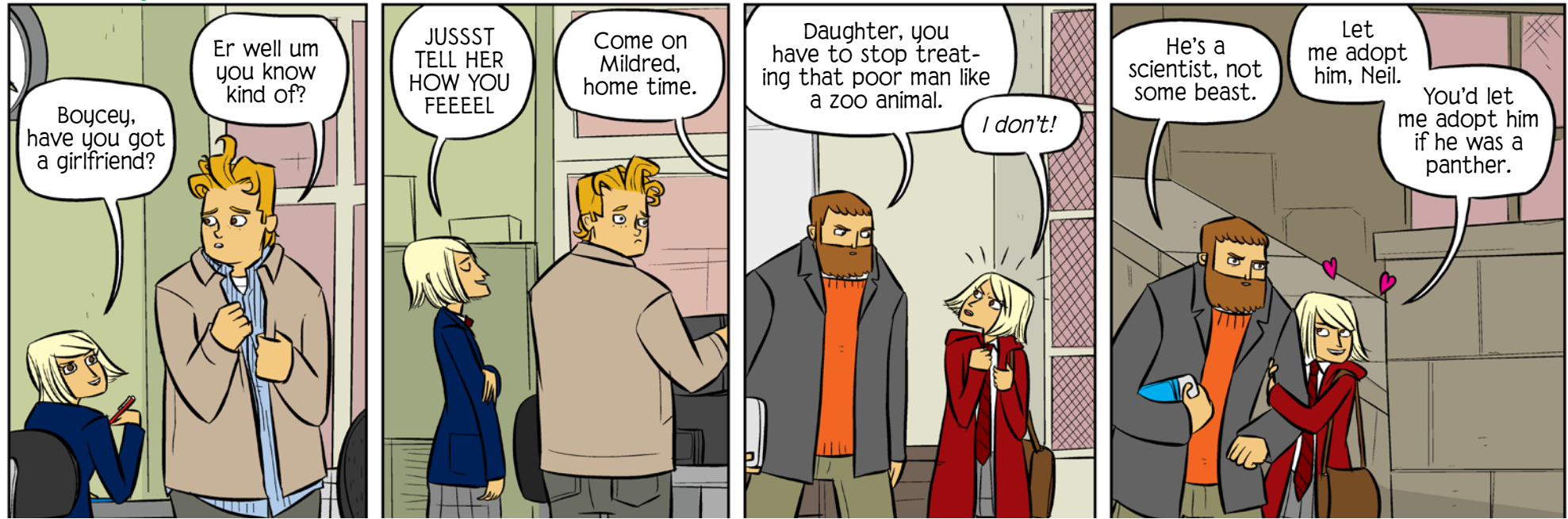
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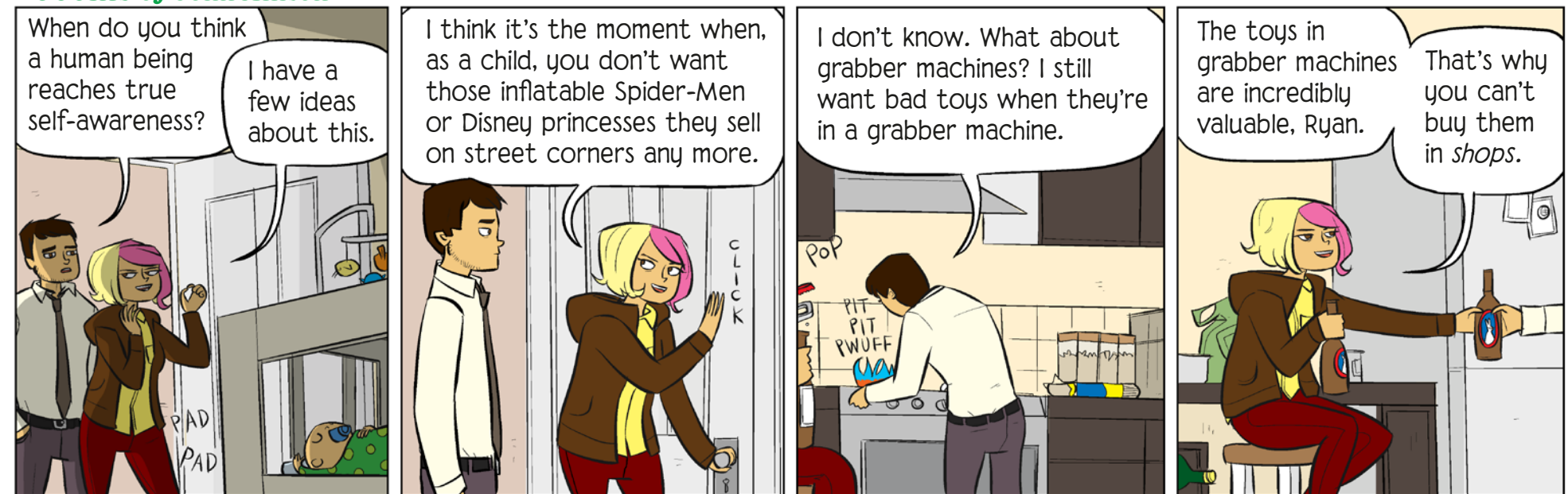


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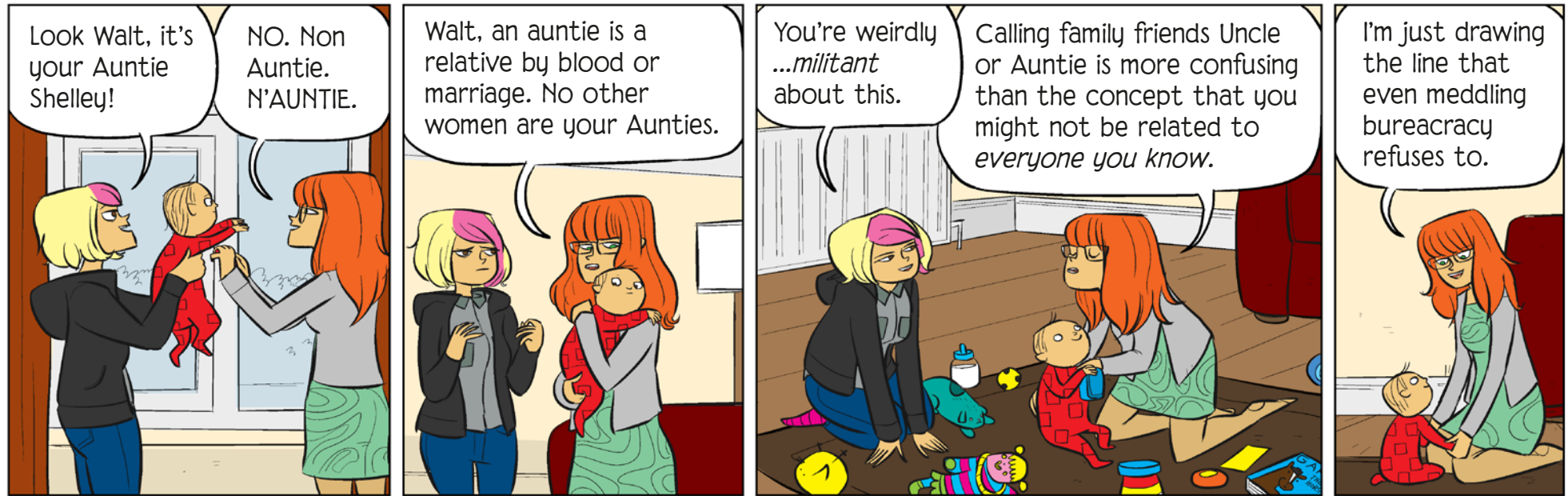
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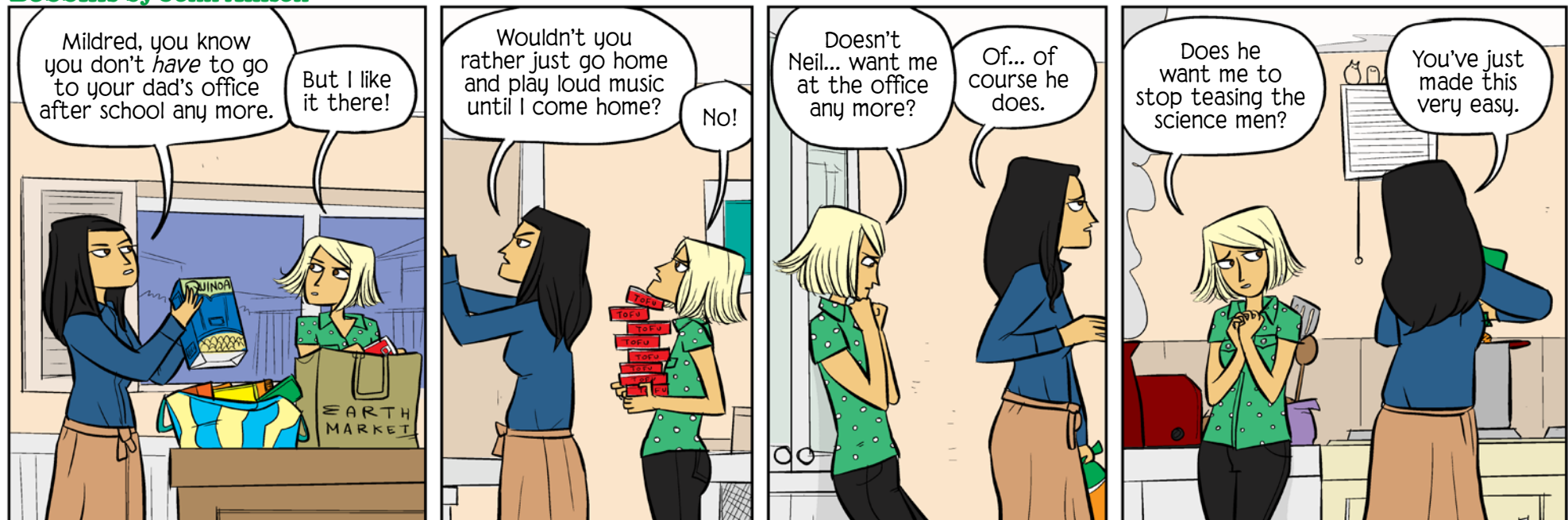


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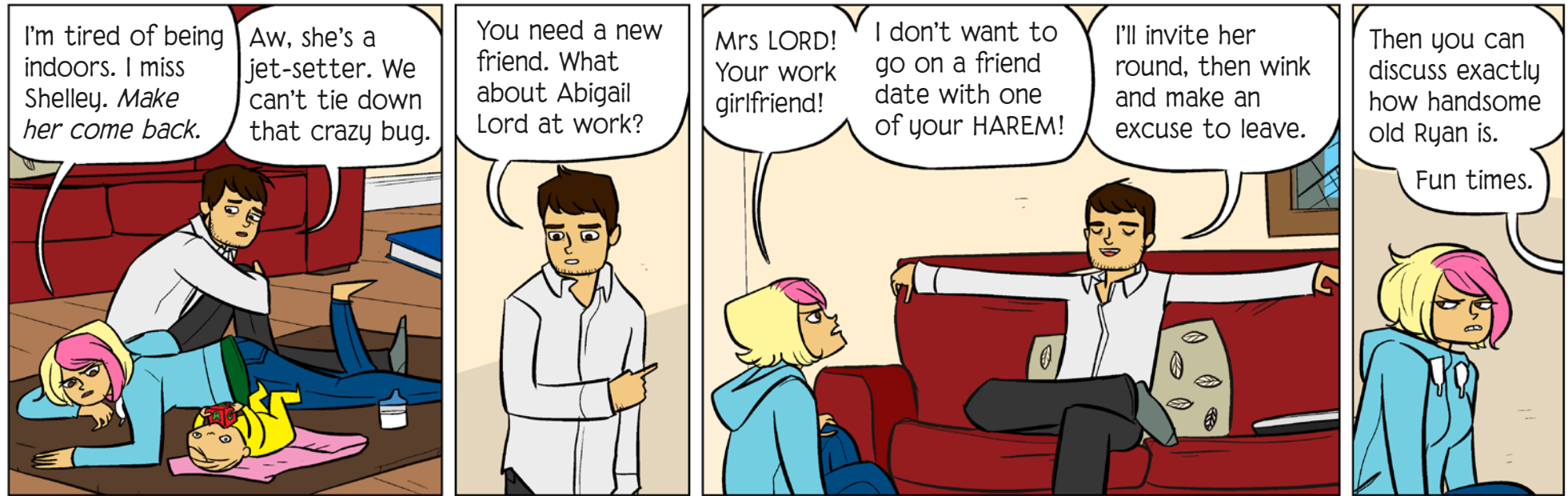


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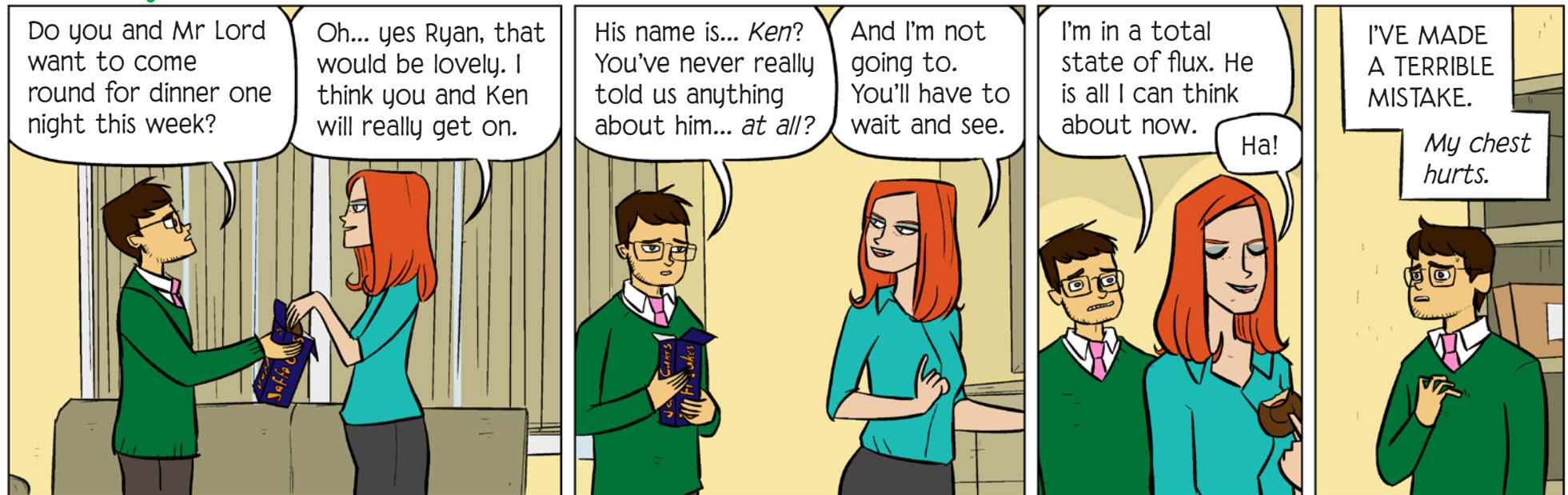


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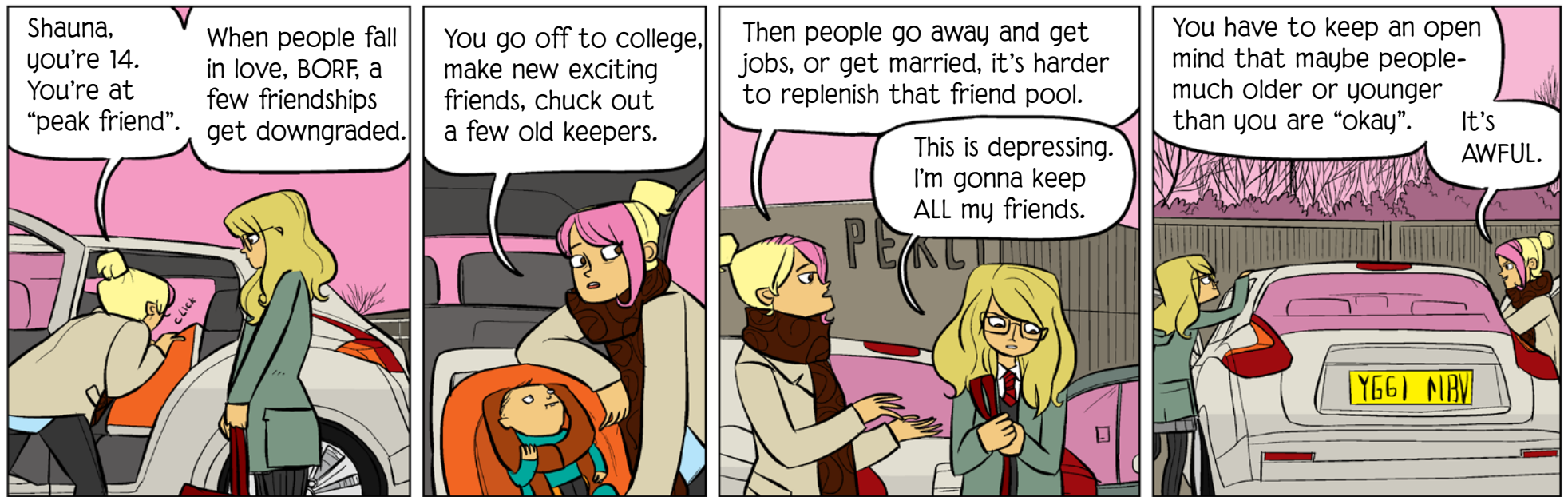


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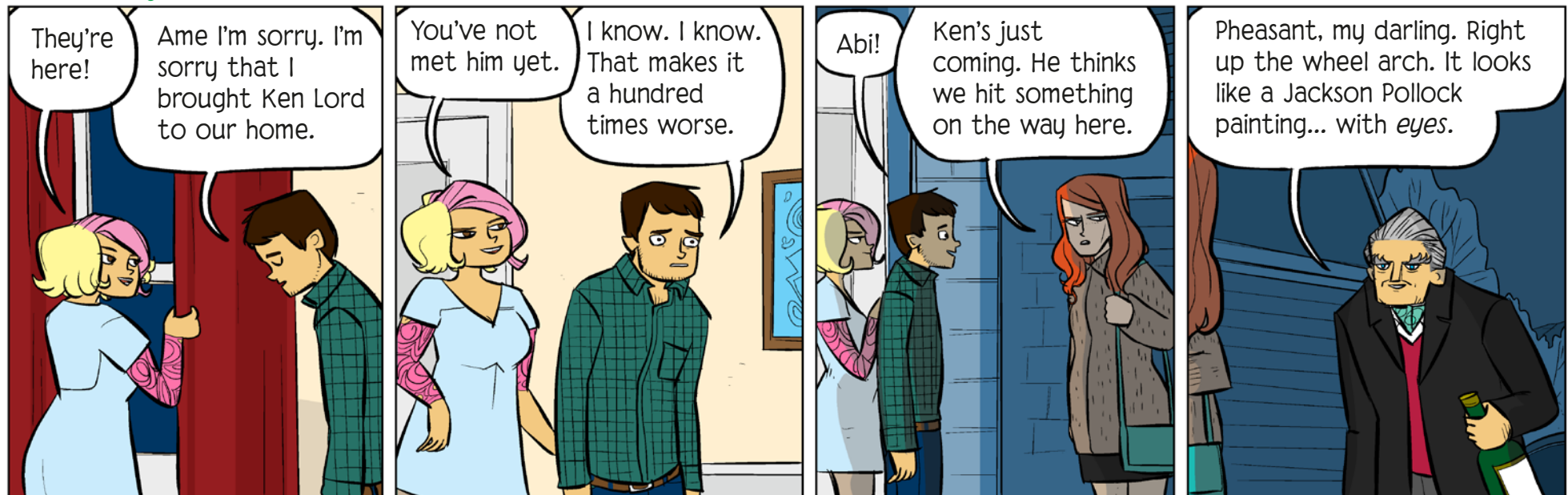
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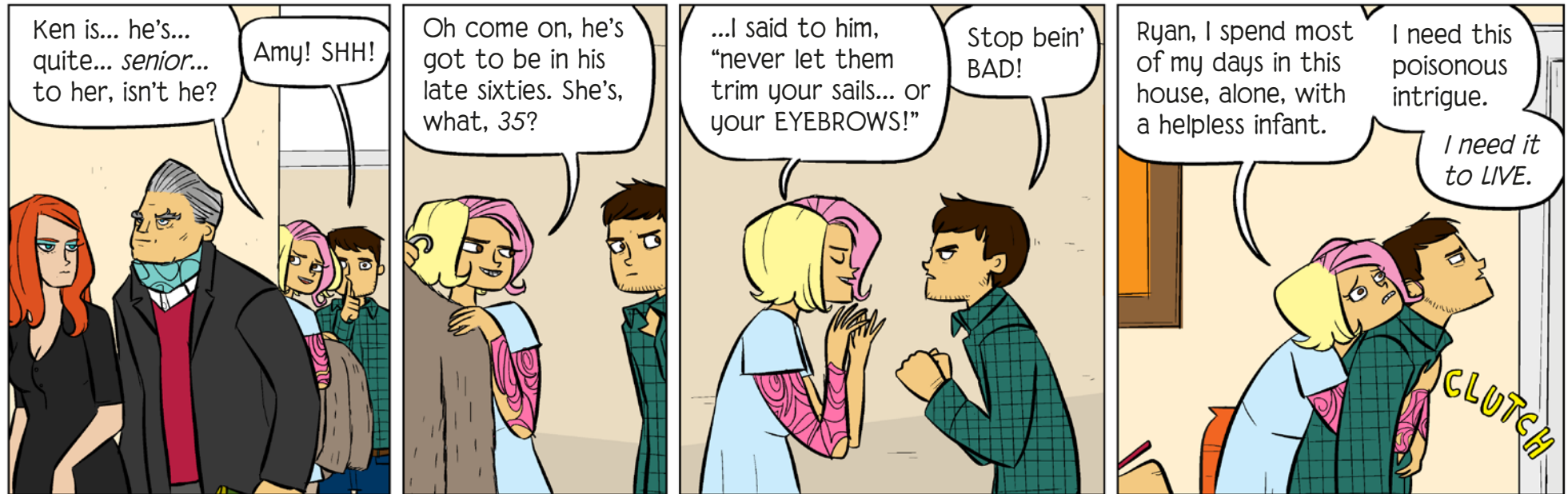
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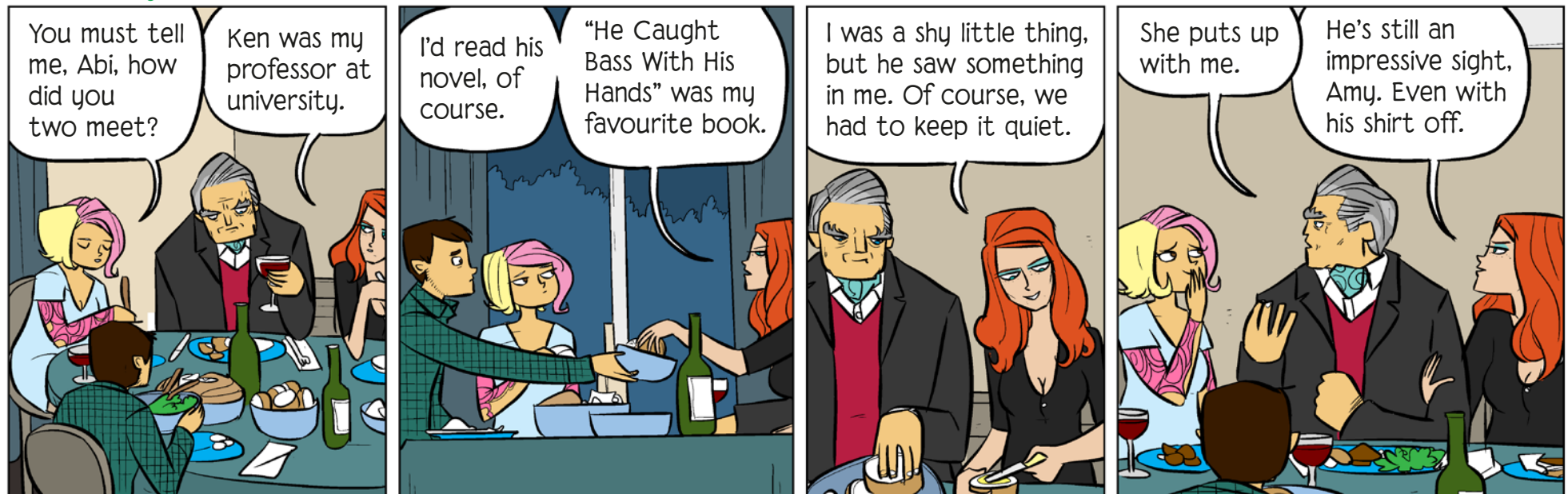


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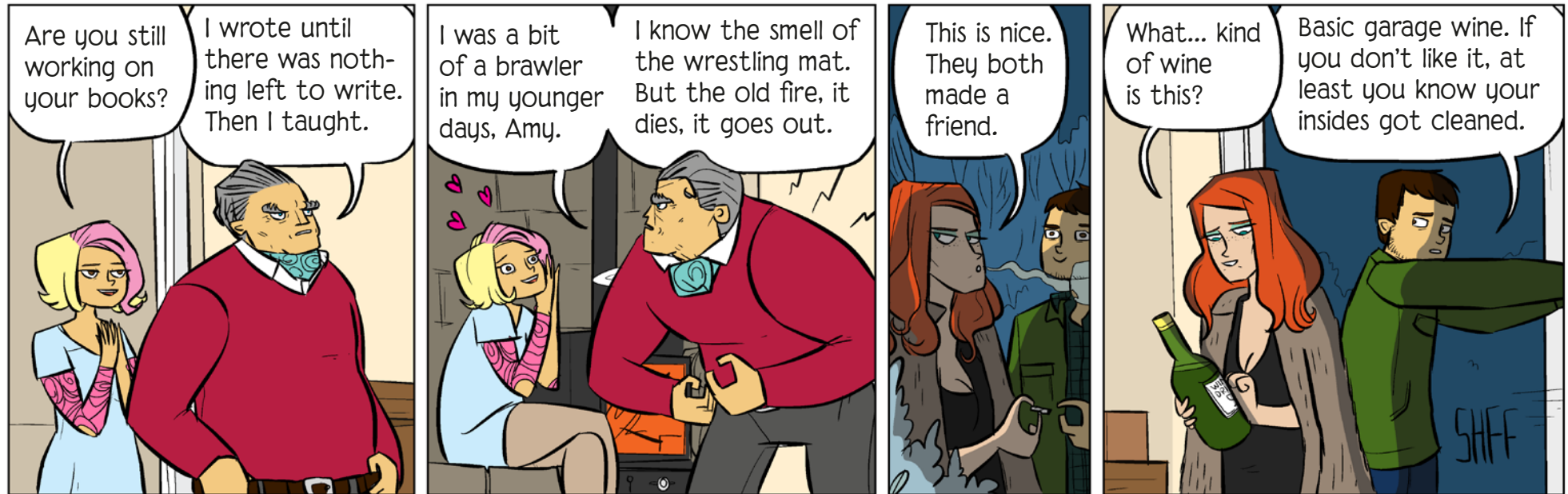
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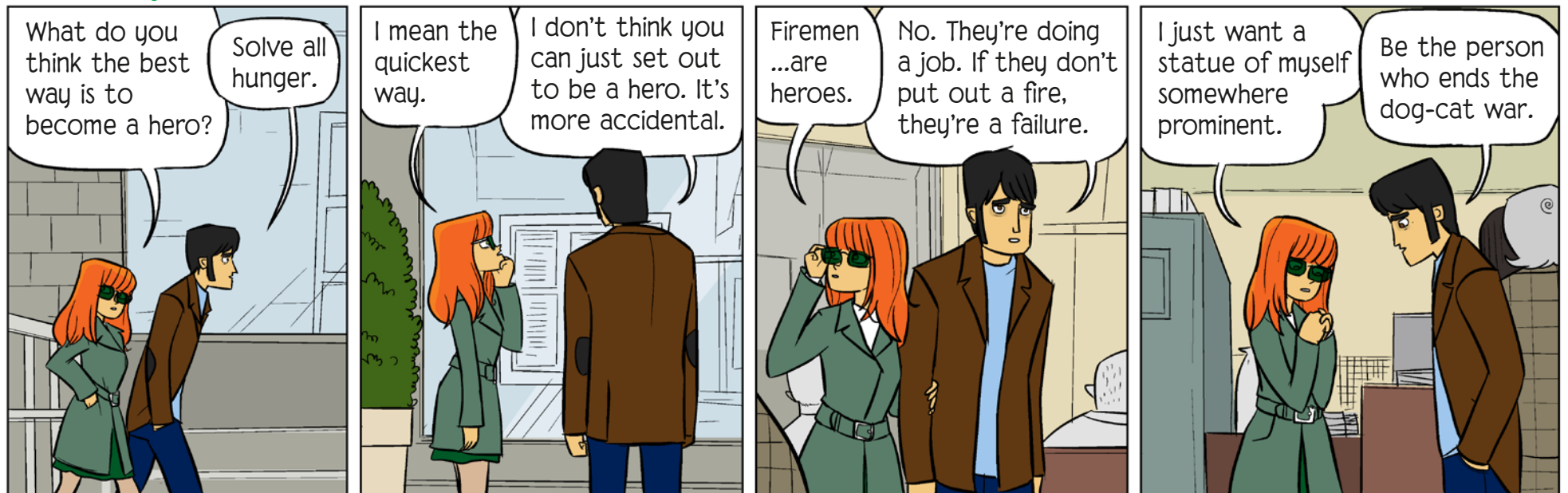
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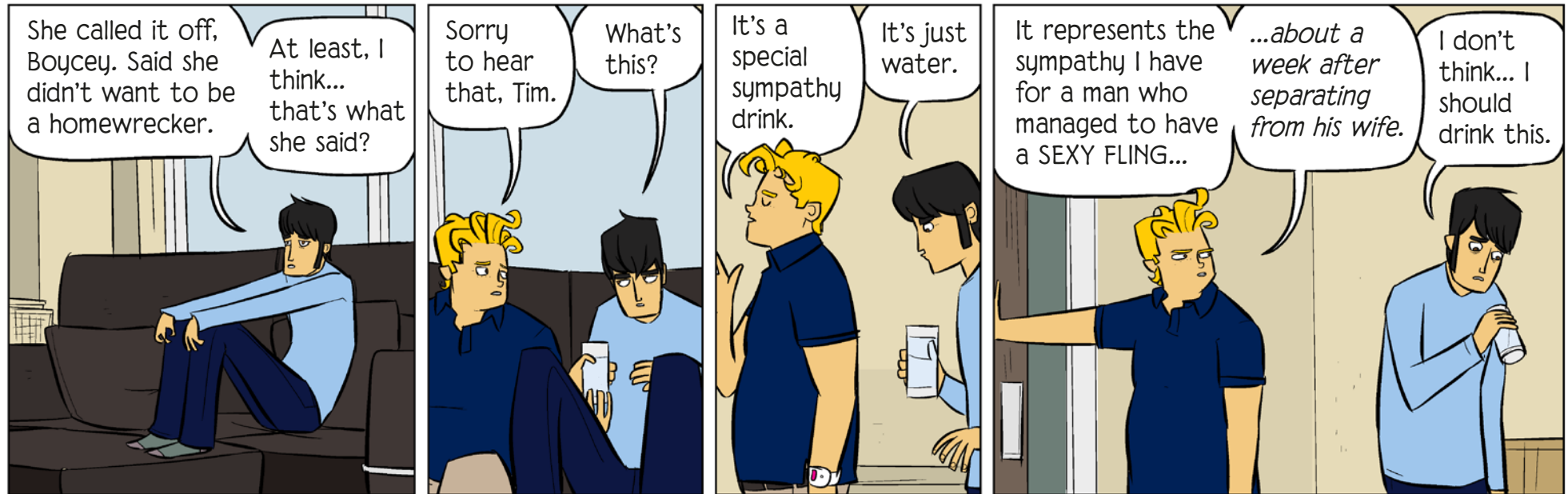
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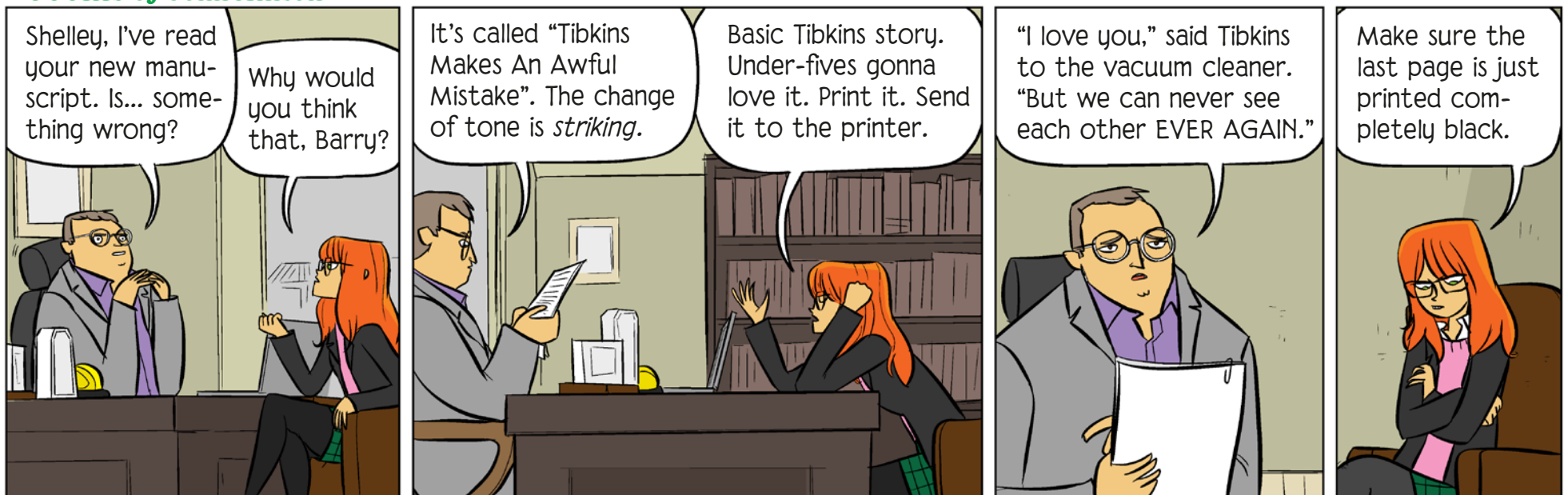
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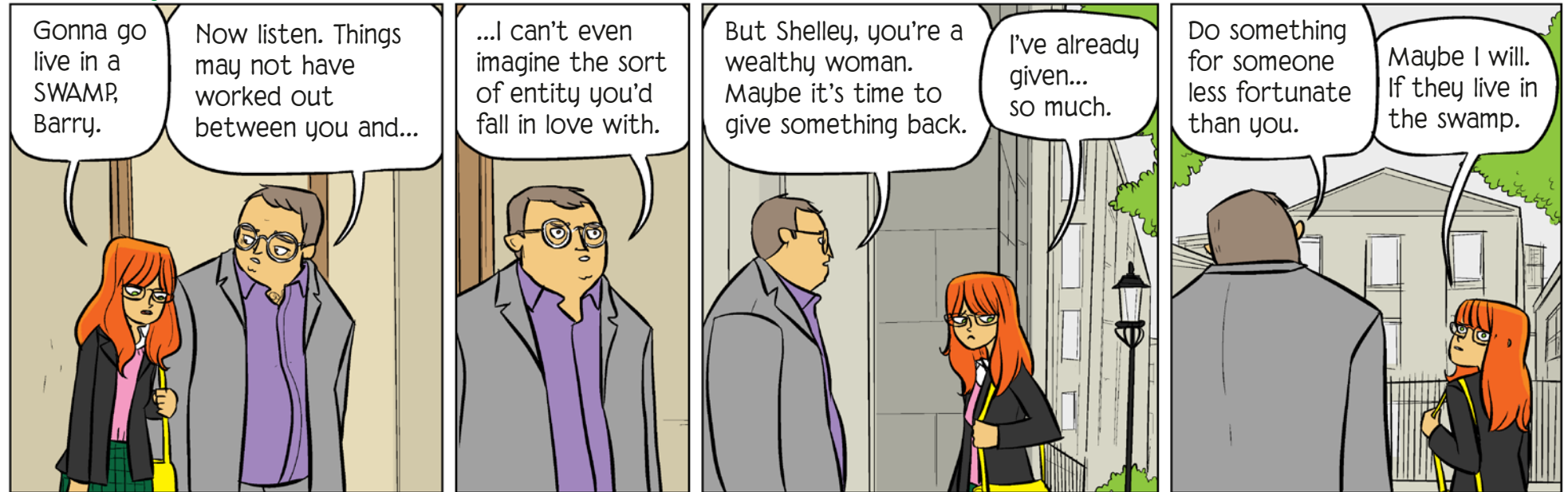
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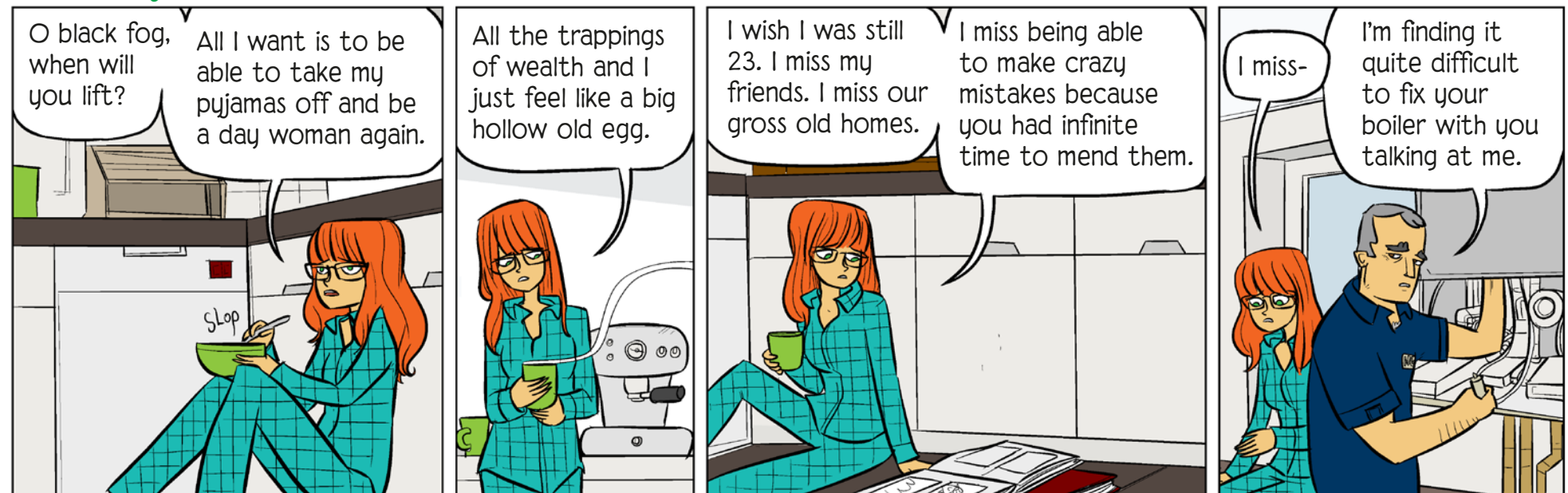
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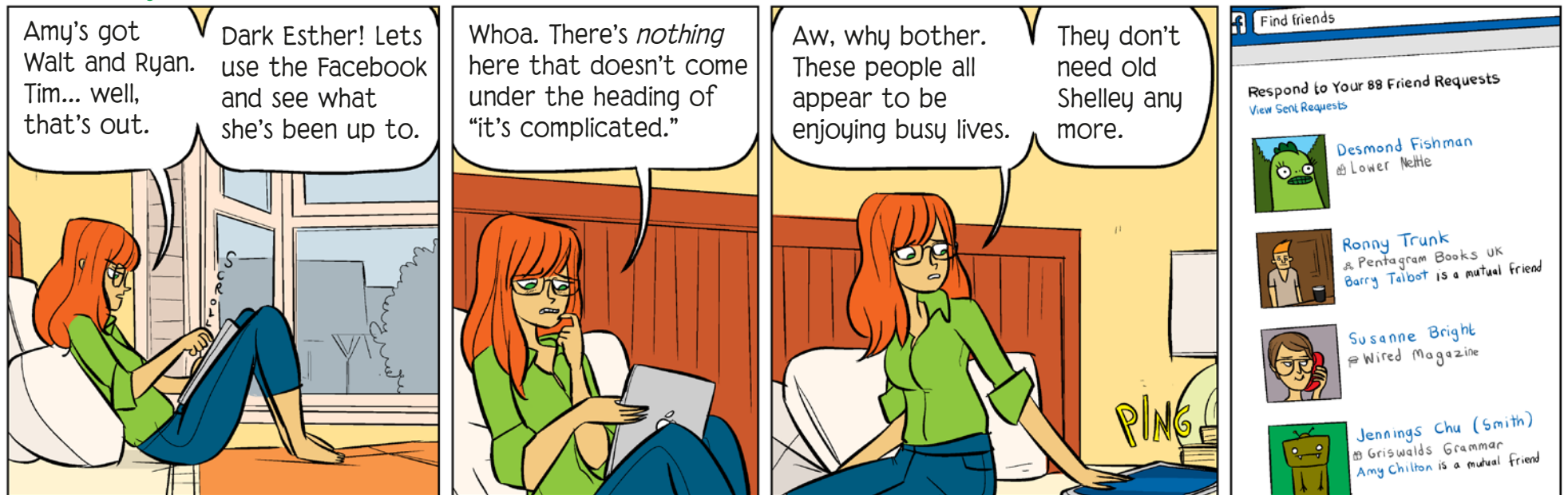
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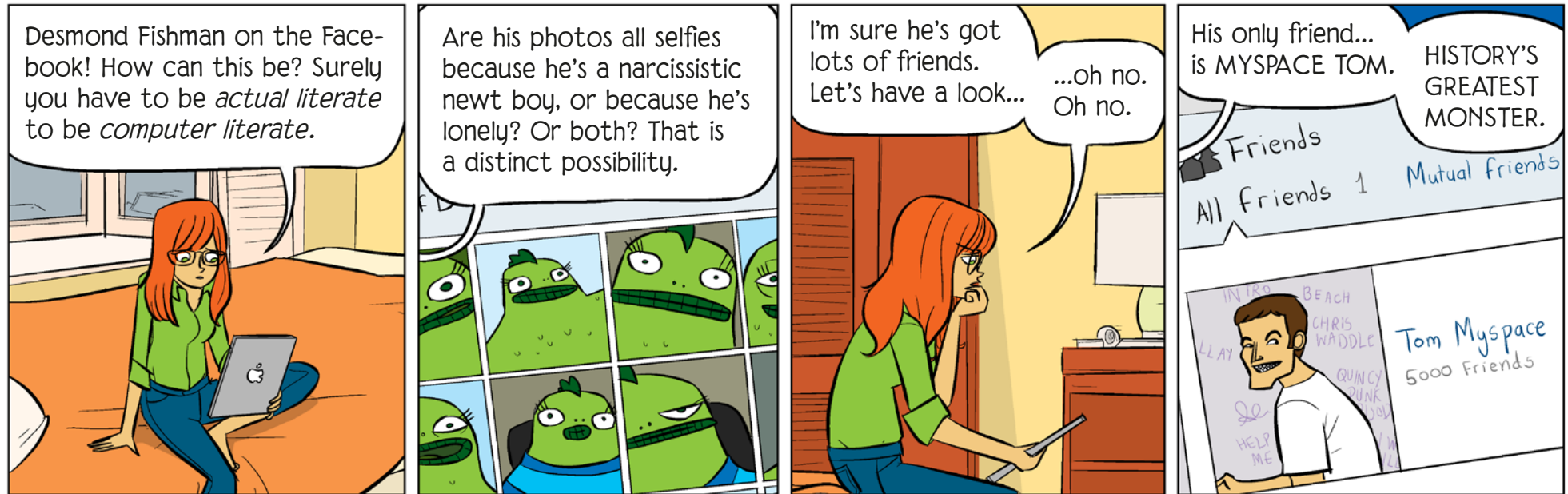
FISHMAN'S RETURN

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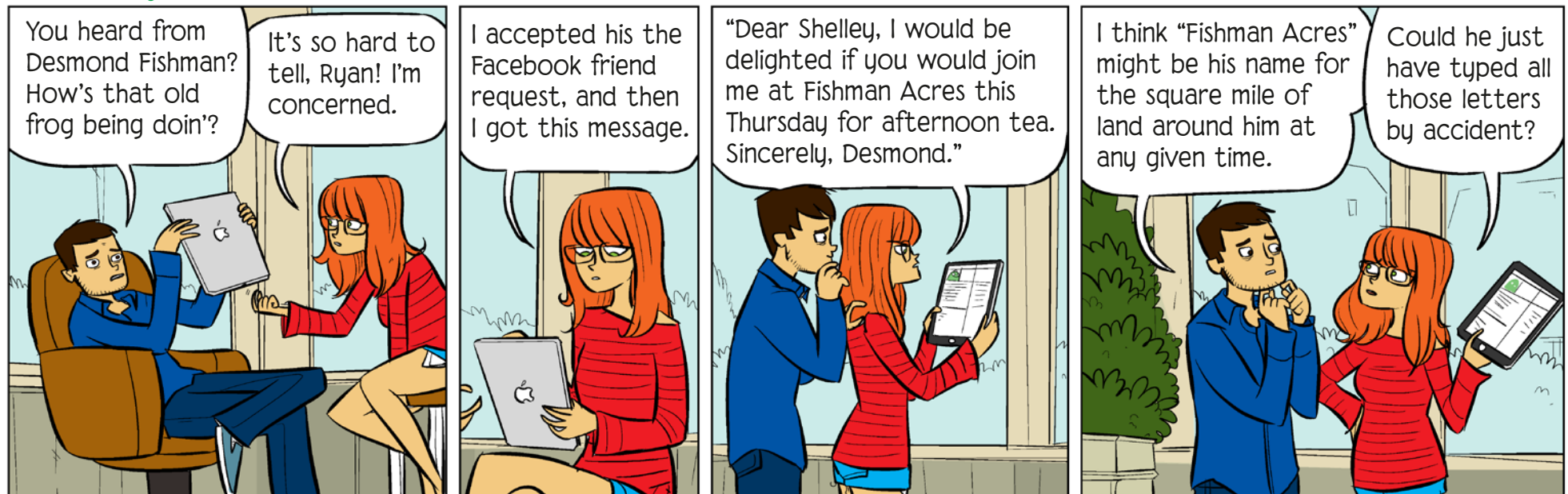
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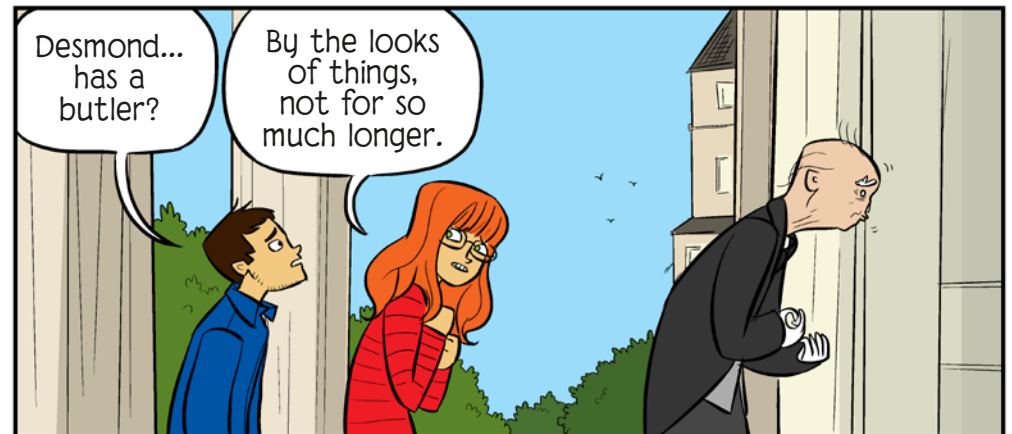
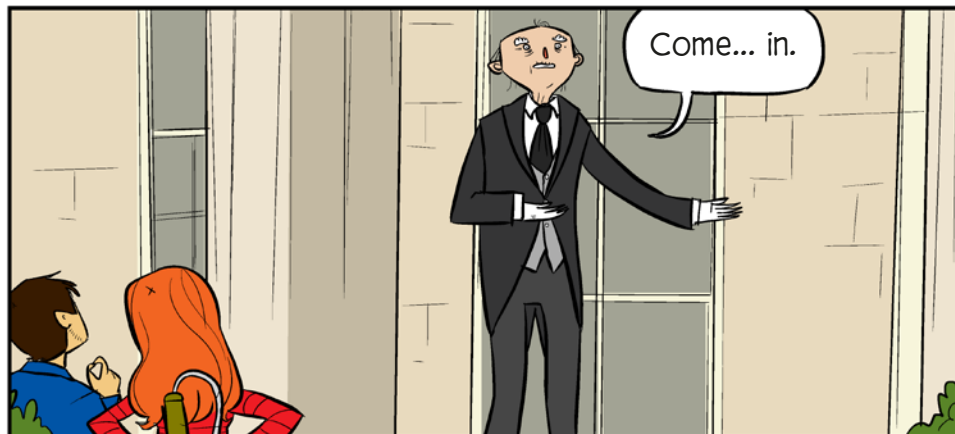
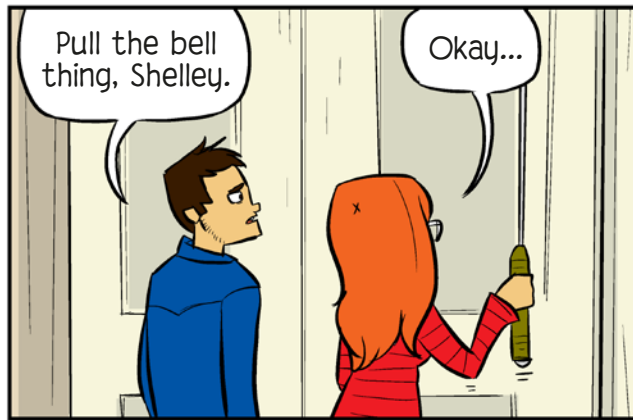


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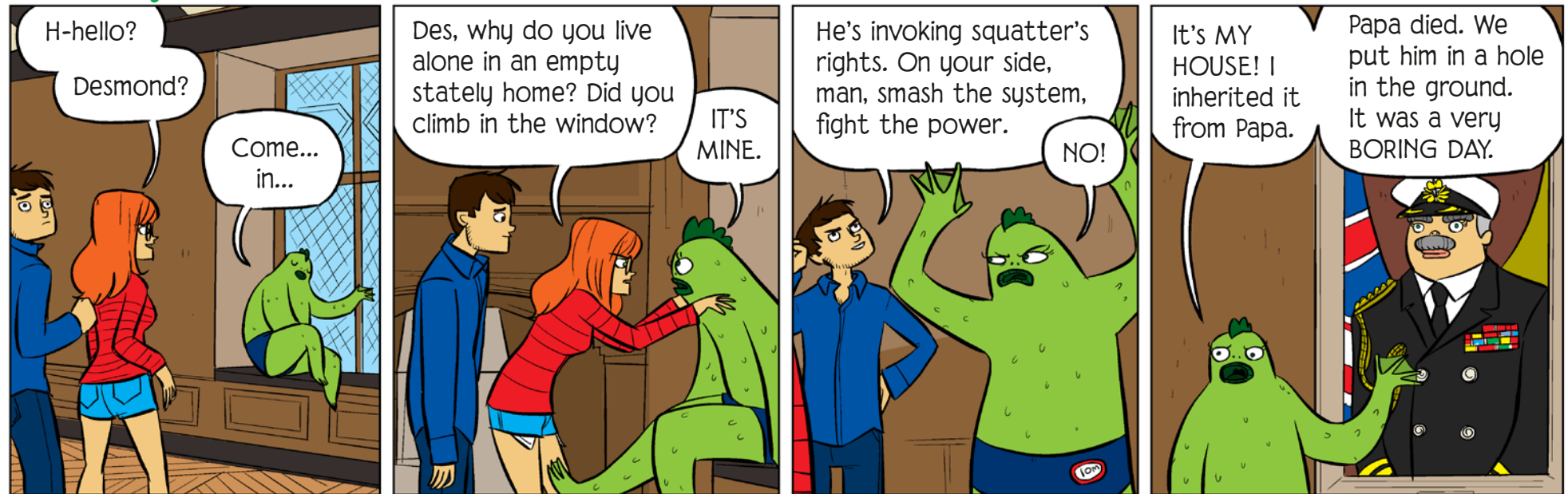
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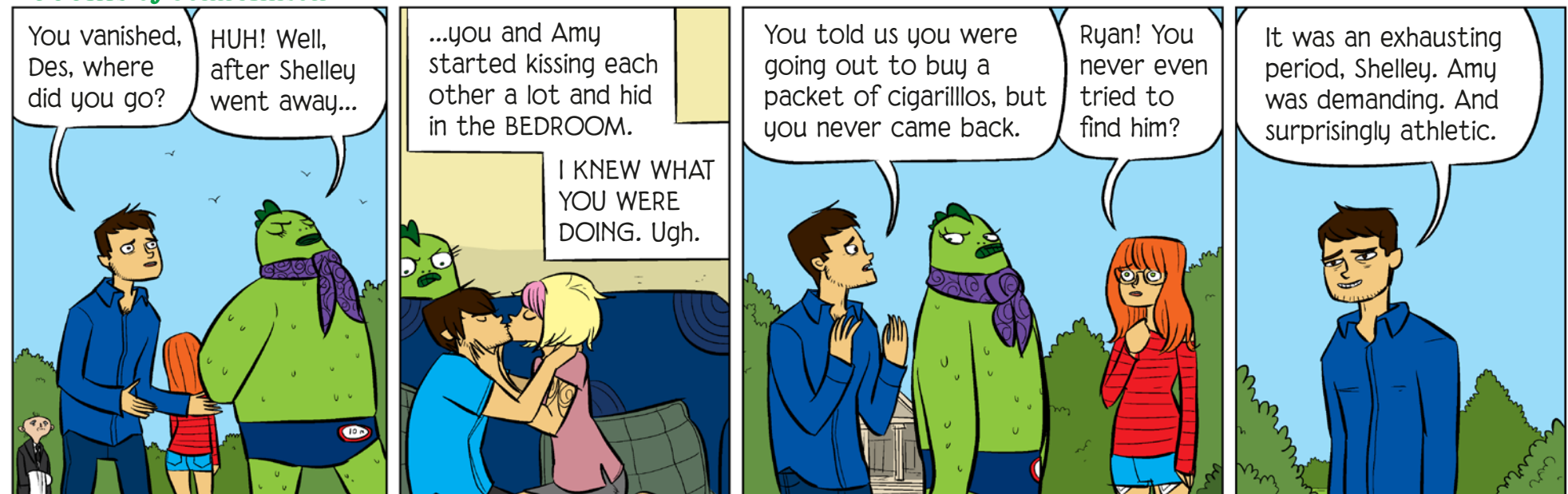


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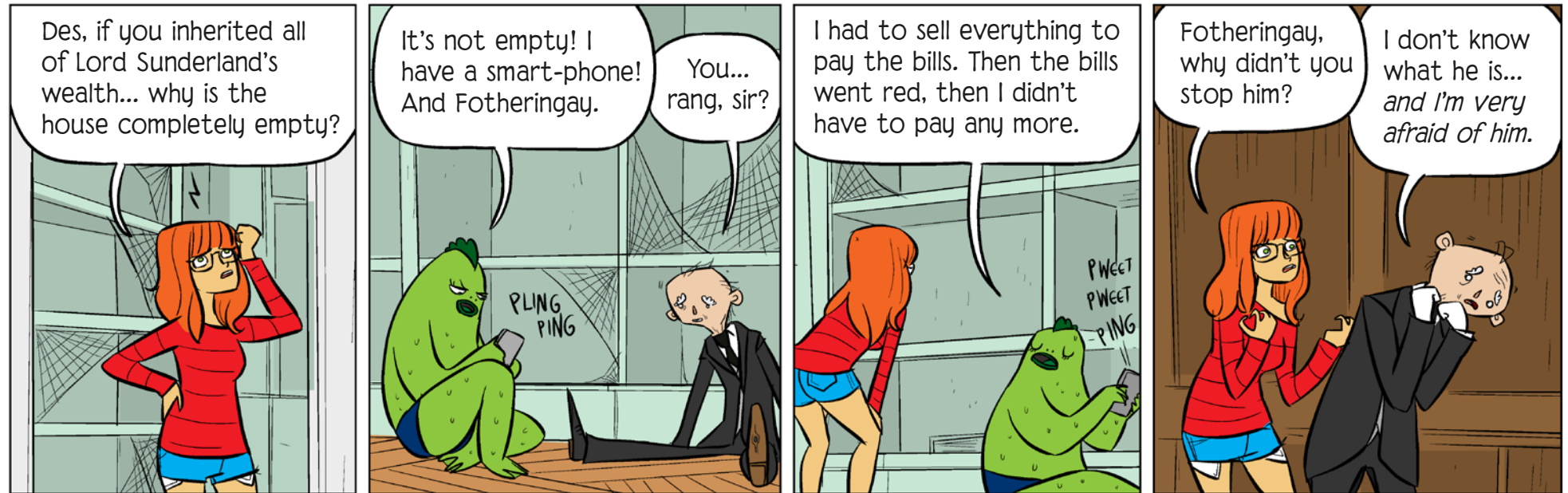
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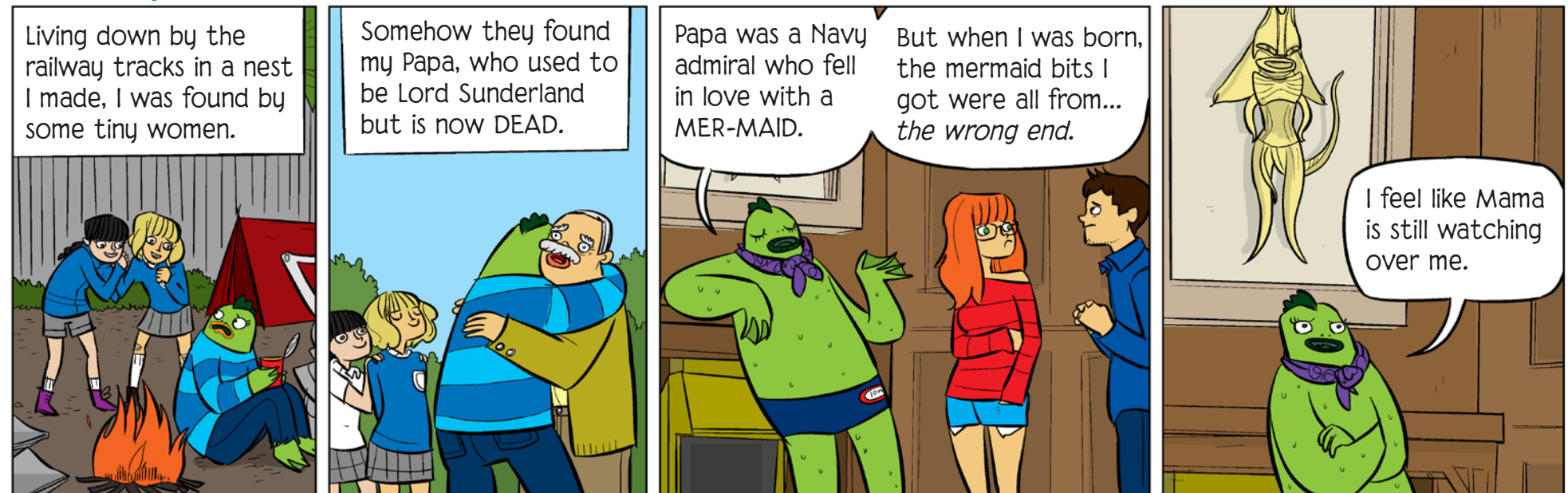
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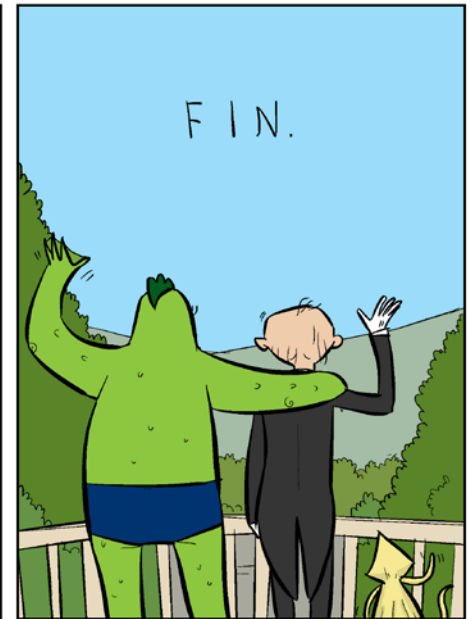
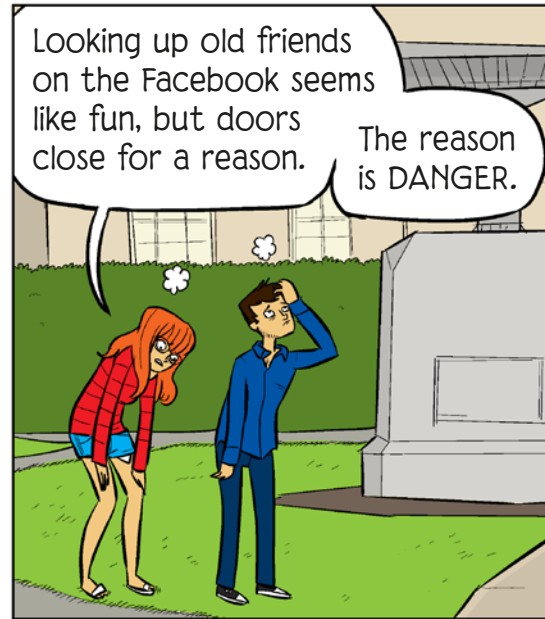
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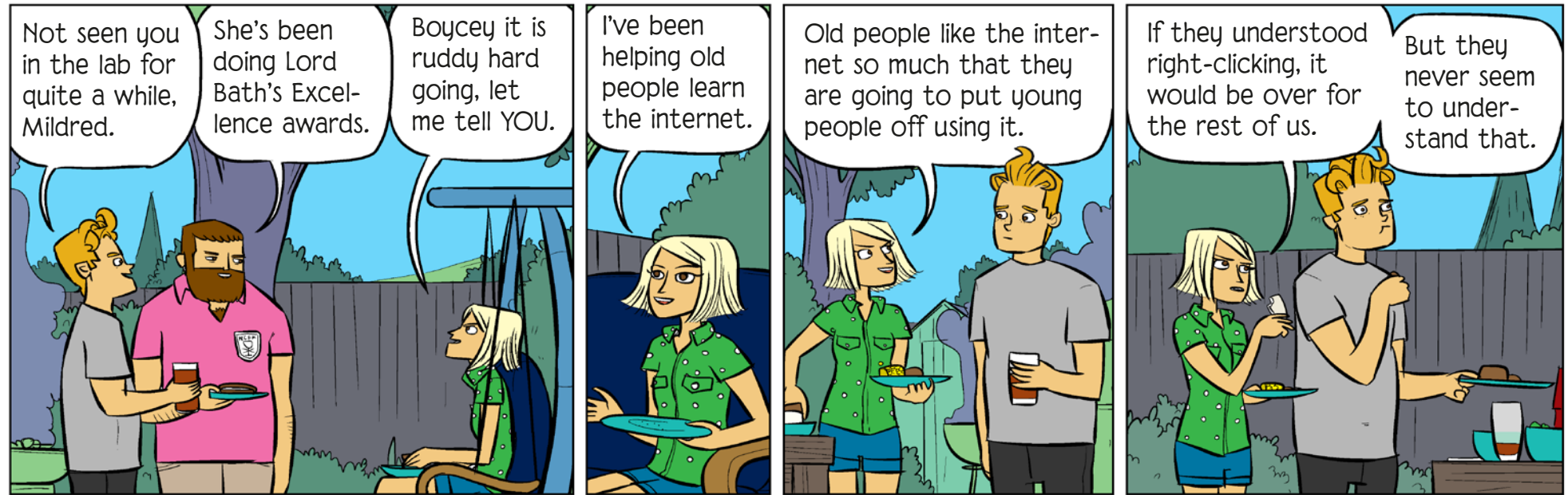


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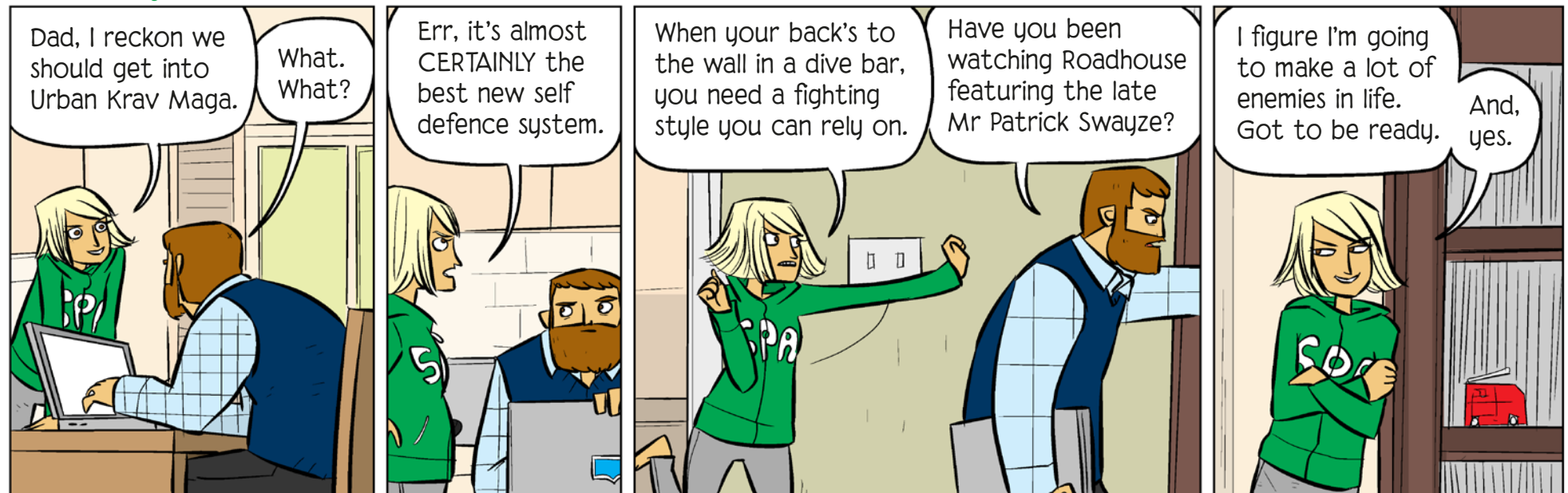


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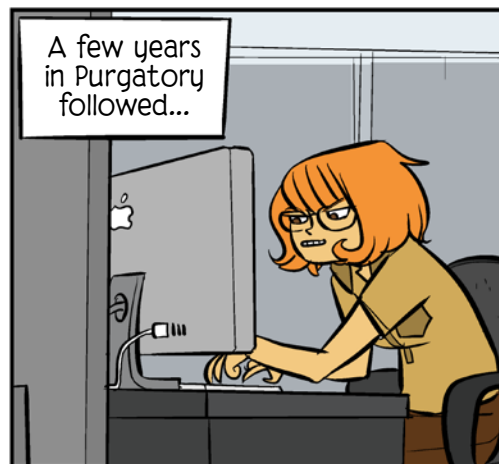
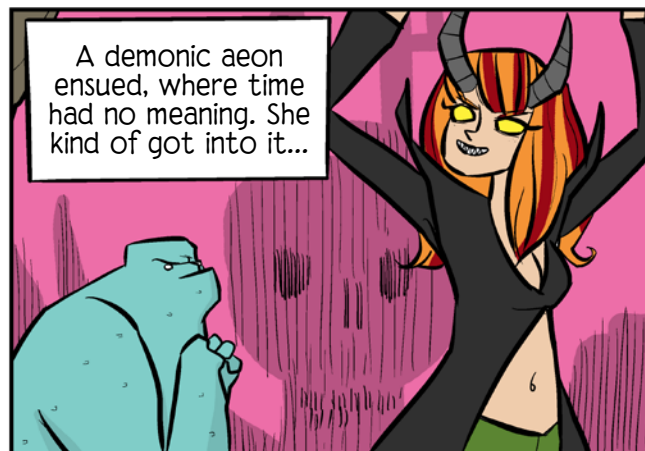
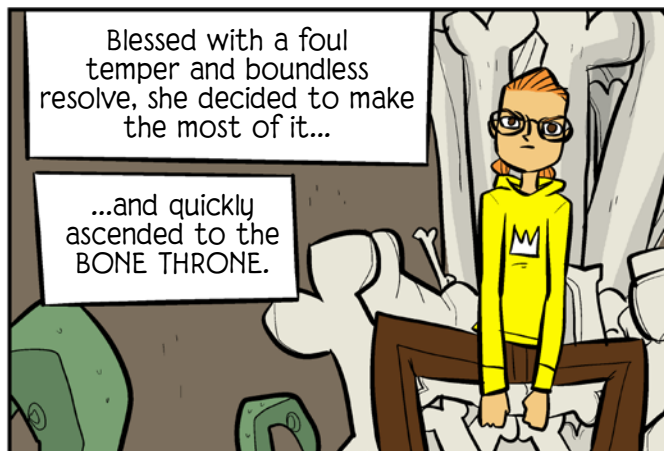
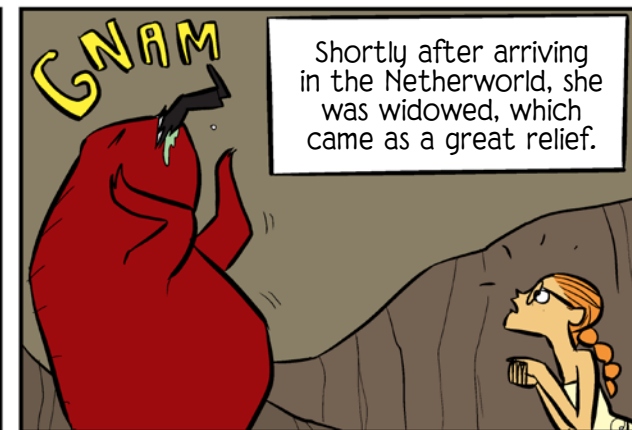
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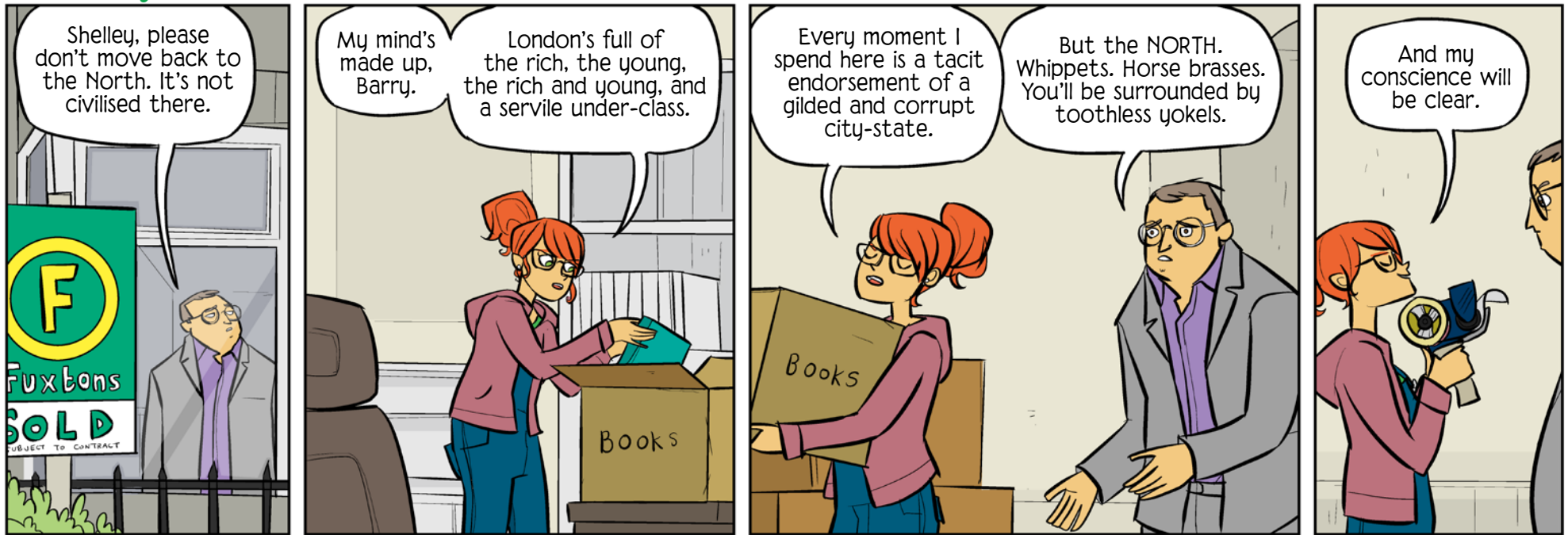


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OUT OF THE WOODS

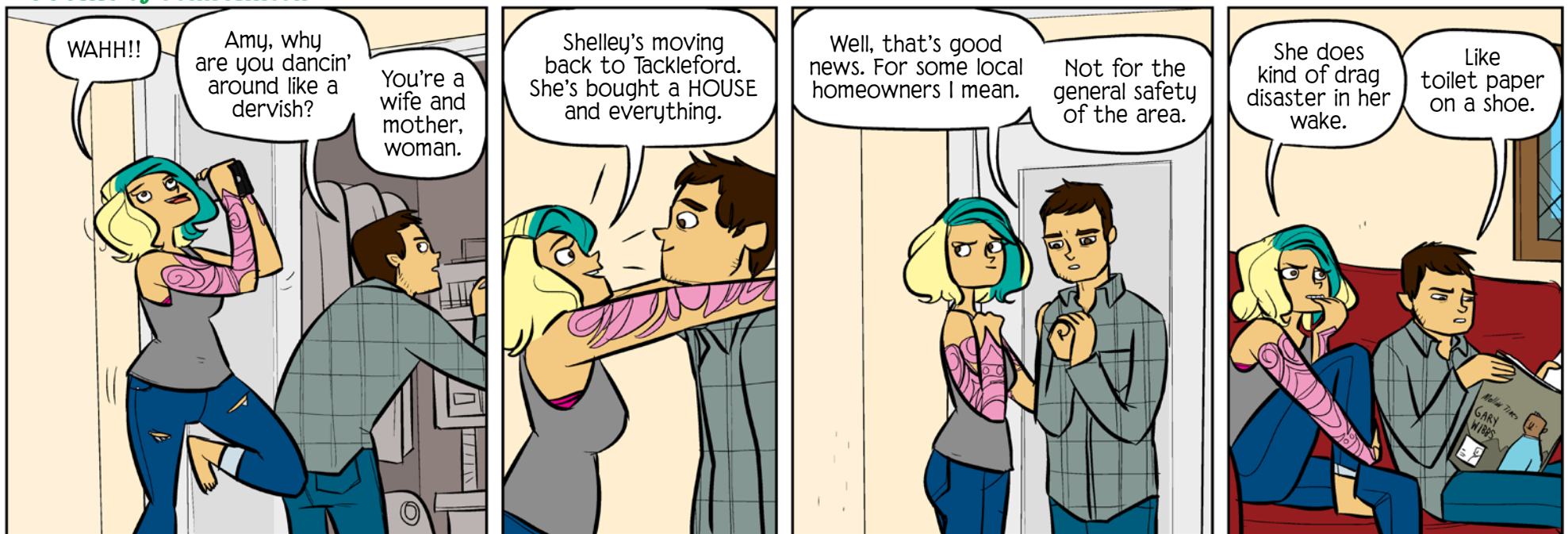


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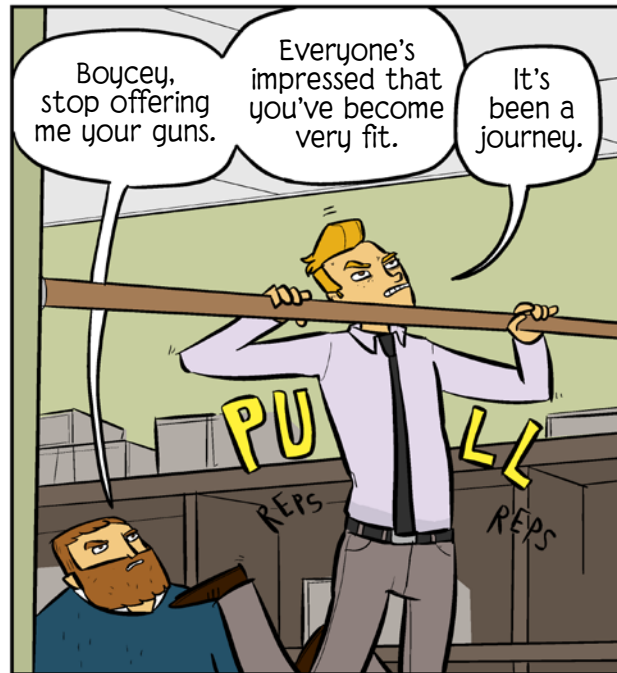
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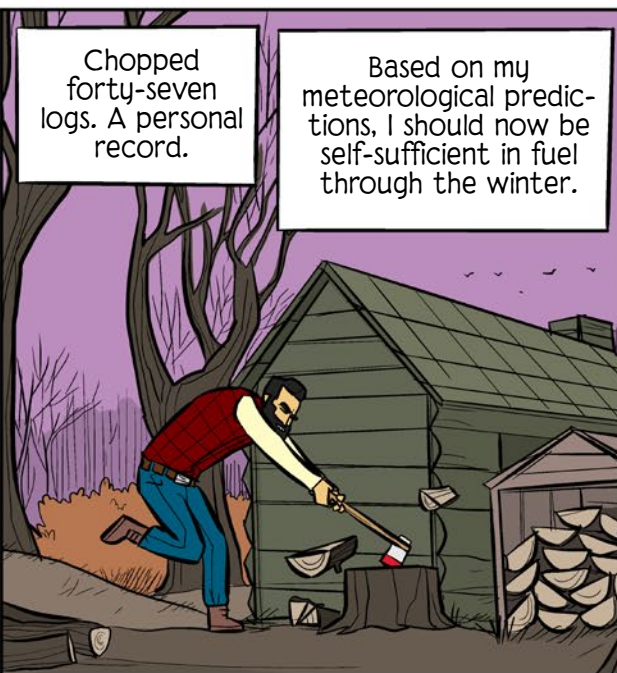
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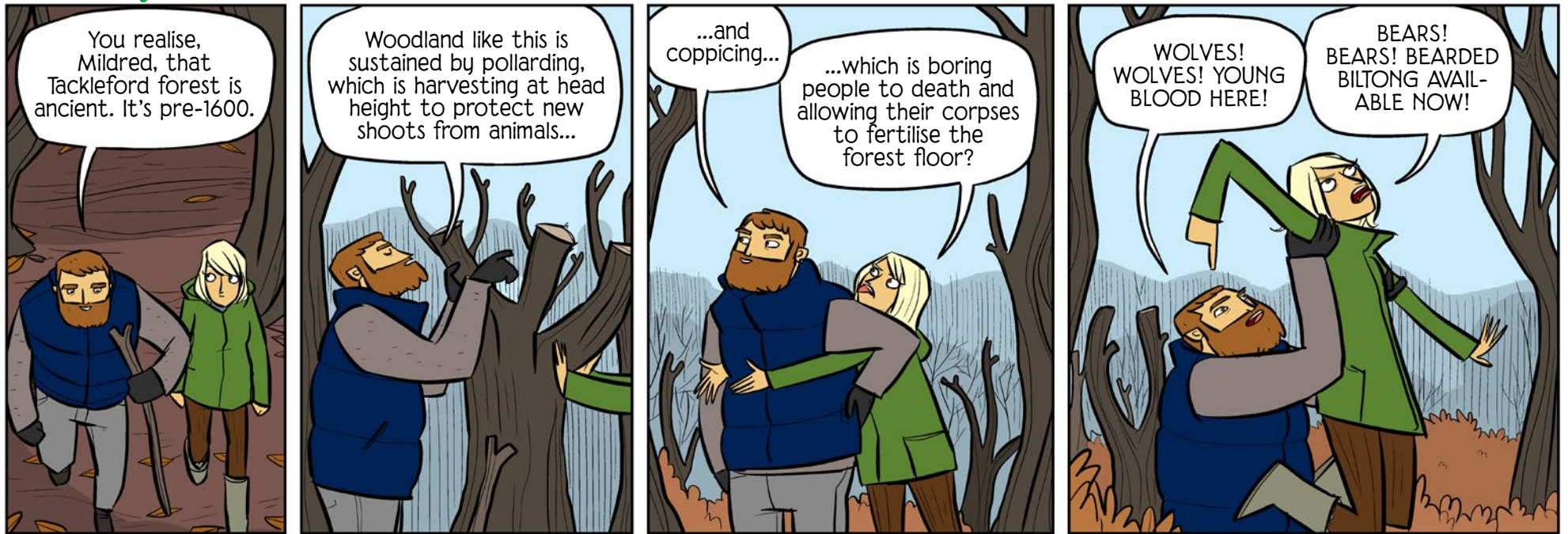
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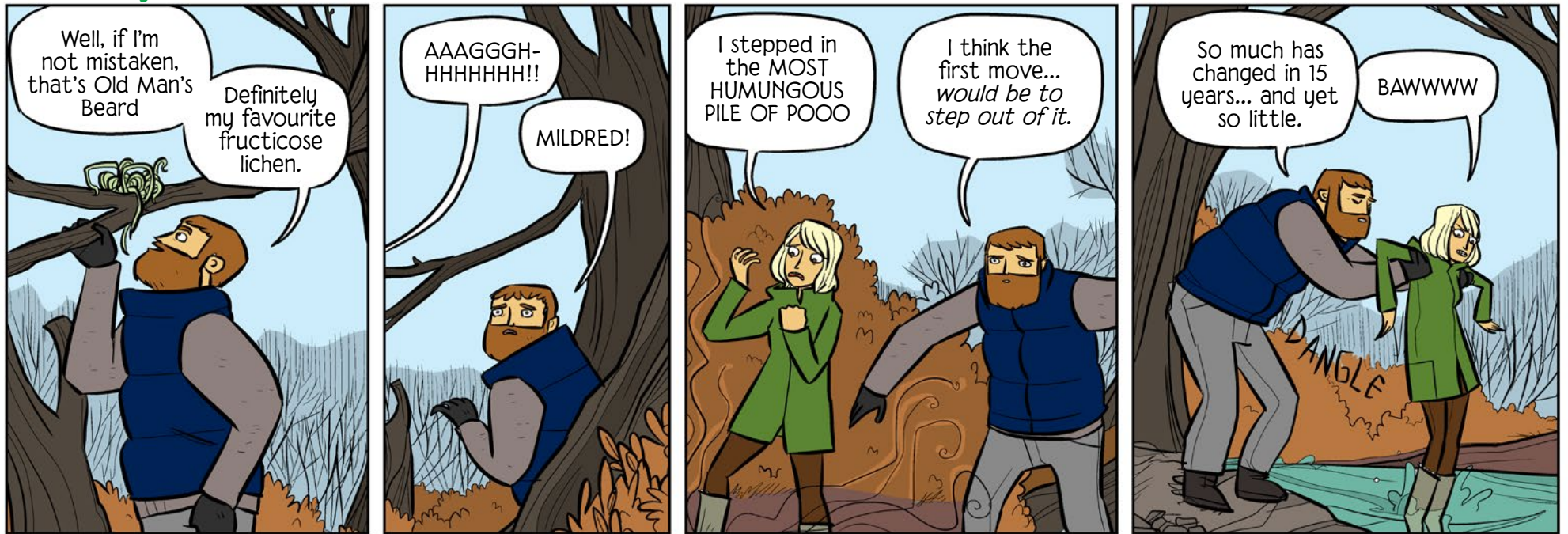
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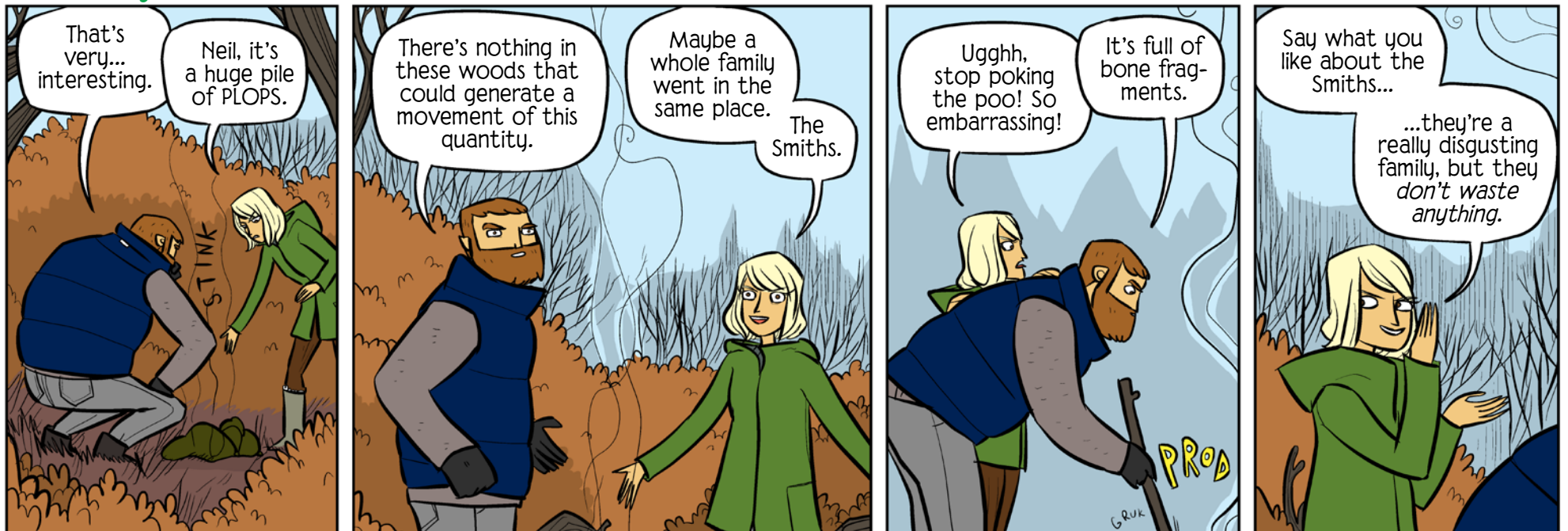
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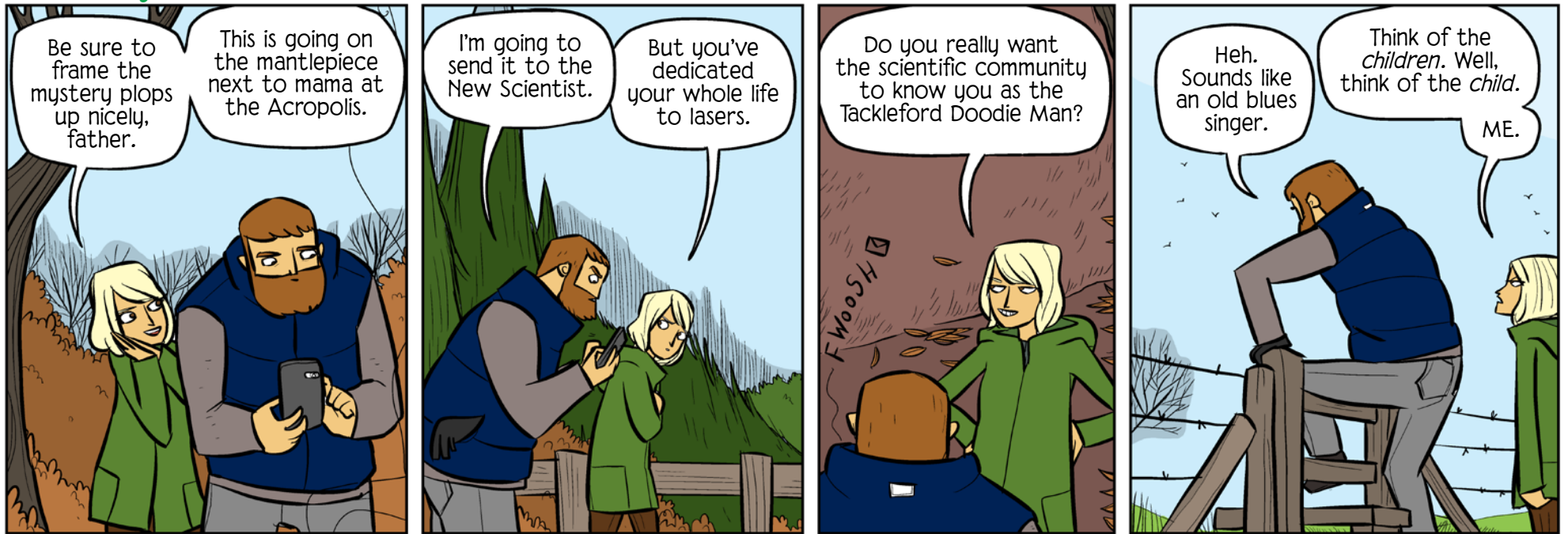
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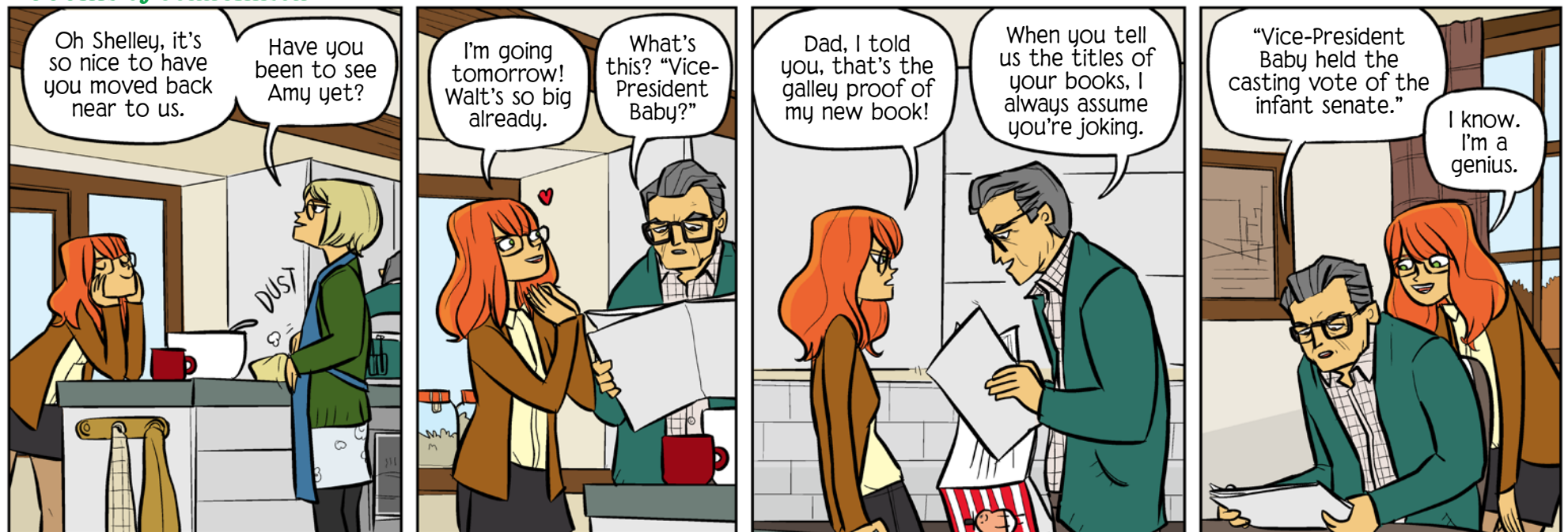
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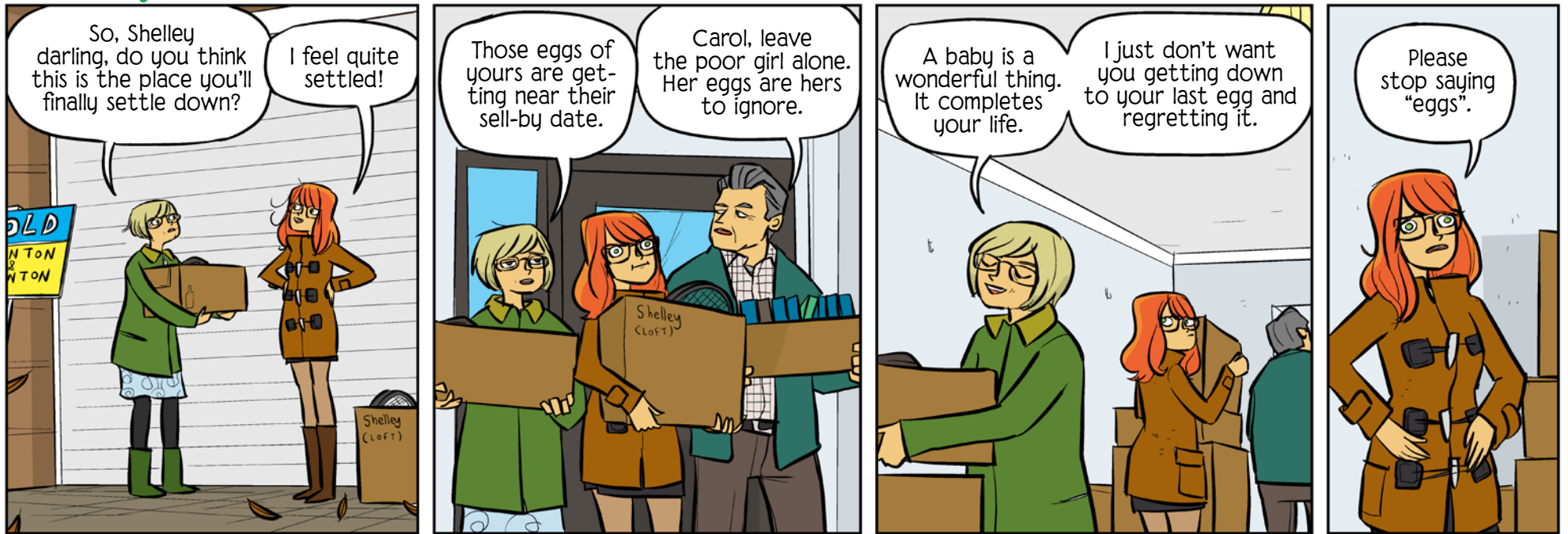
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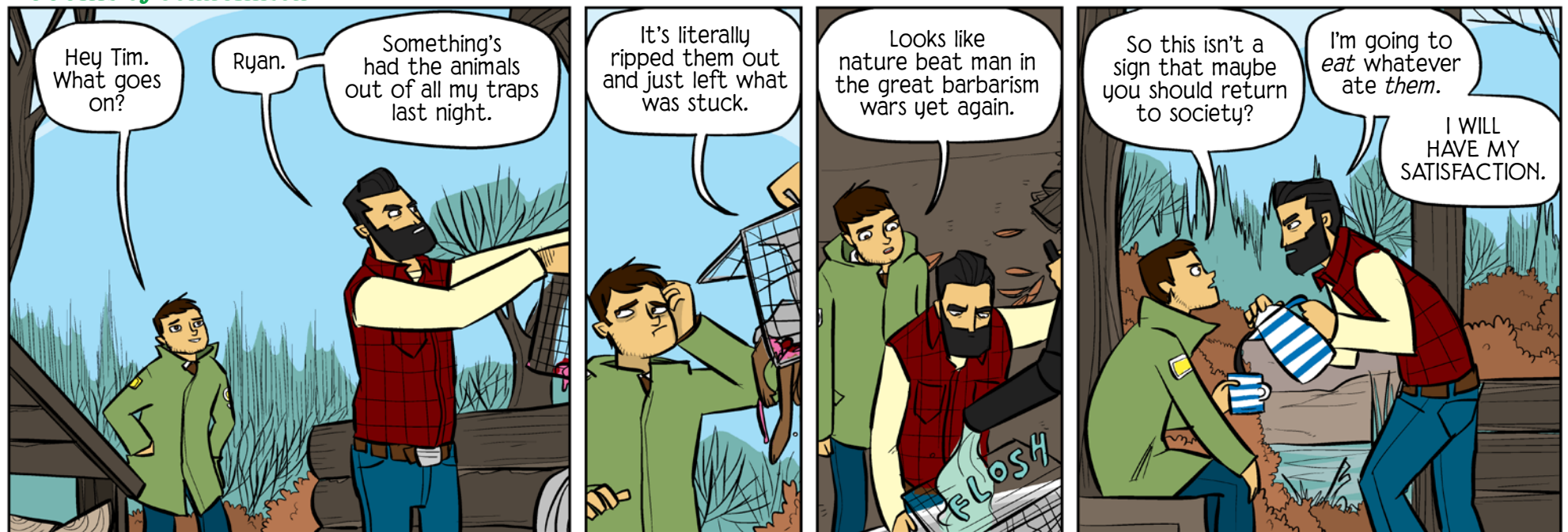
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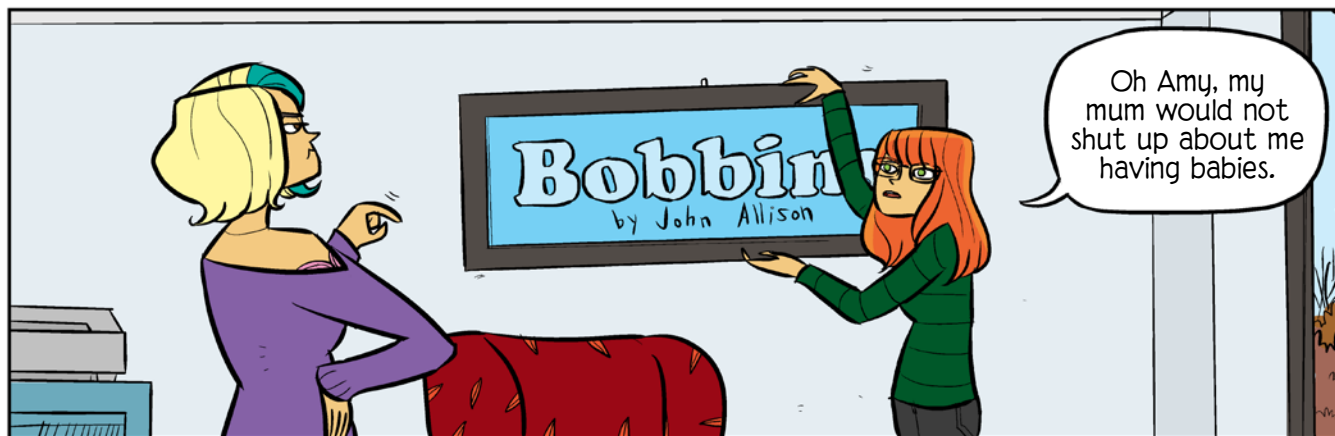


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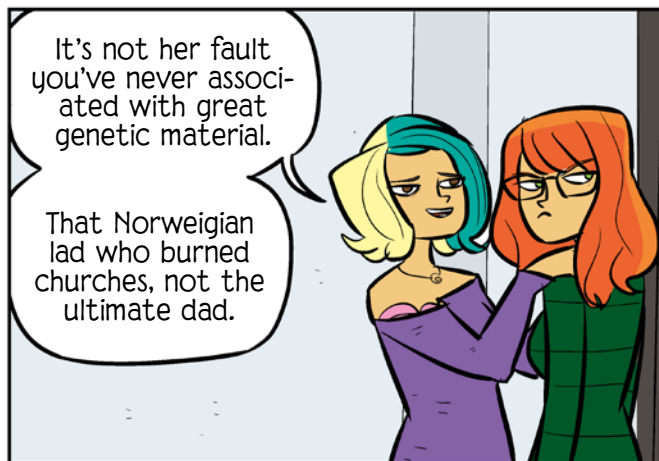
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Oh Amy, my mum would not shut up about me having babies.

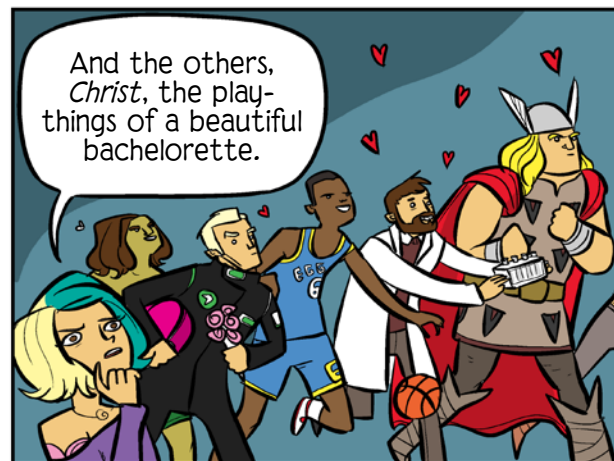


Momma Winters just wants to sniff that ginger baby head, kiss that tiny bespectacled face.



It's not her fault you've never associated with great genetic material.

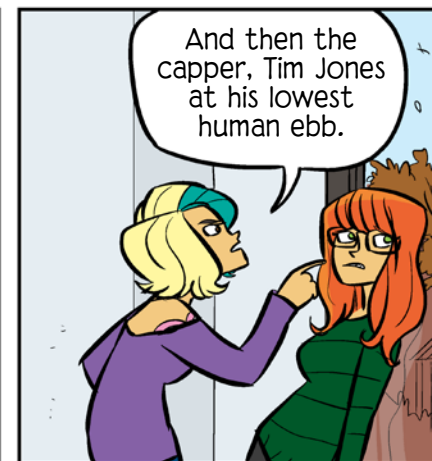
That Norwegian lad who burned churches, not the ultimate dad.



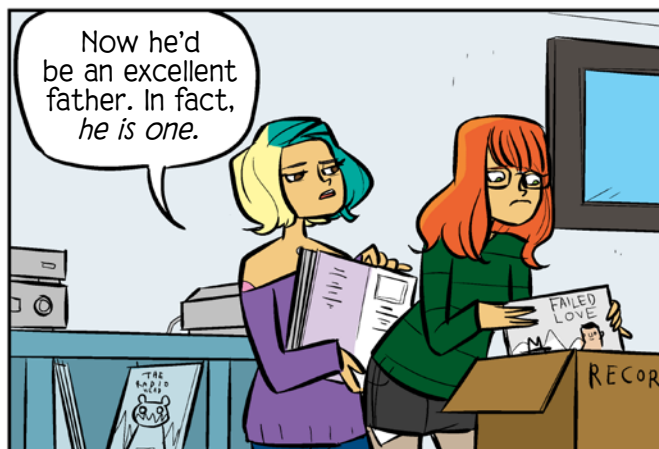
And the others, *Christ*, the playthings of a beautiful bachelorette.



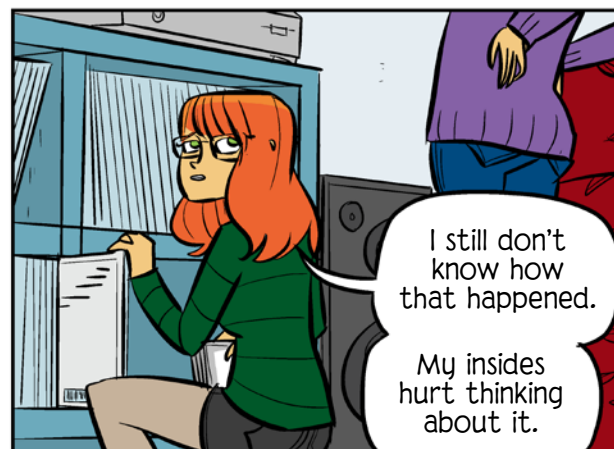
SO VAPID.



And then the capper, Tim Jones at his lowest human ebb.

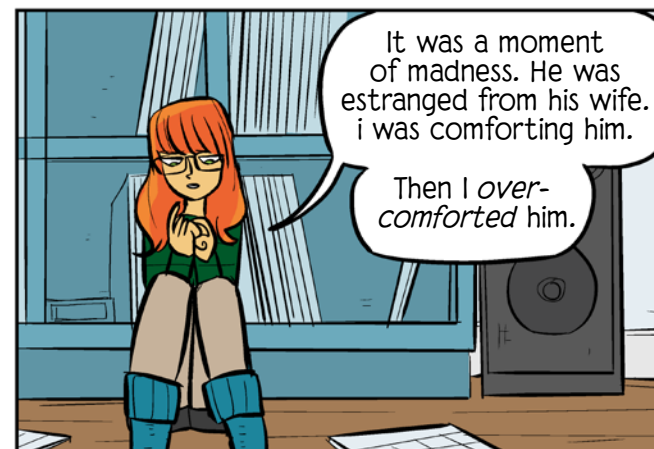


Now he'd be an excellent father. In fact, *he is one*.



I still don't know how that happened.

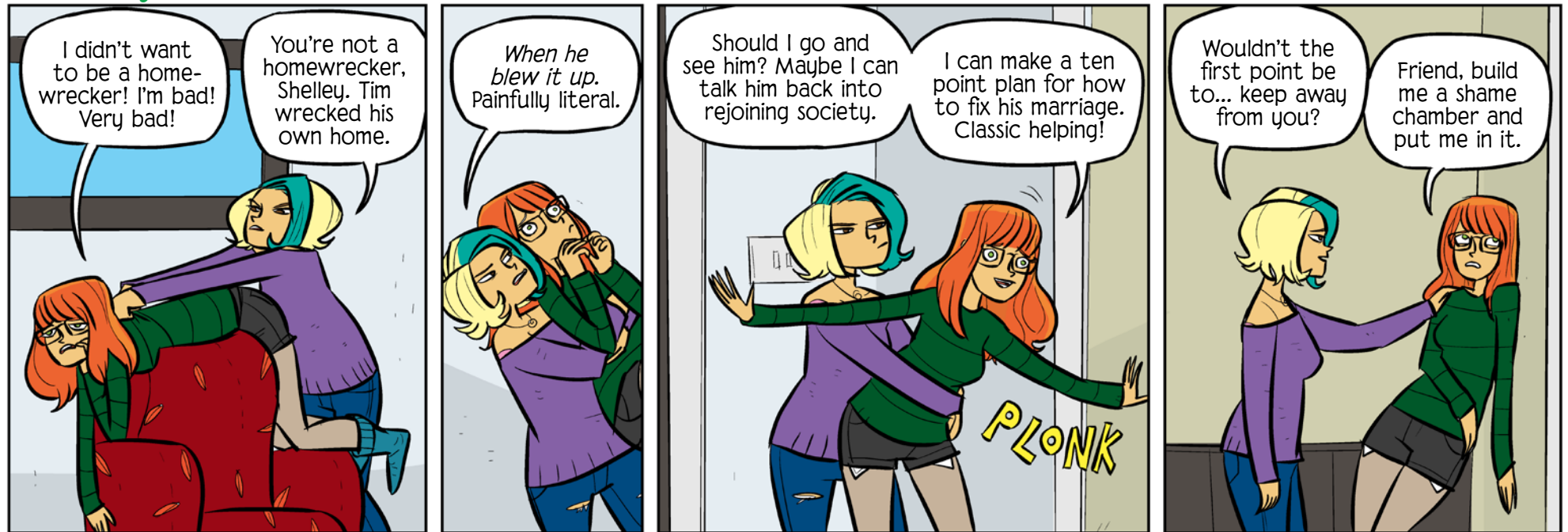
My insides hurt thinking about it.



It was a moment of madness. He was estranged from his wife. i was comforting him.

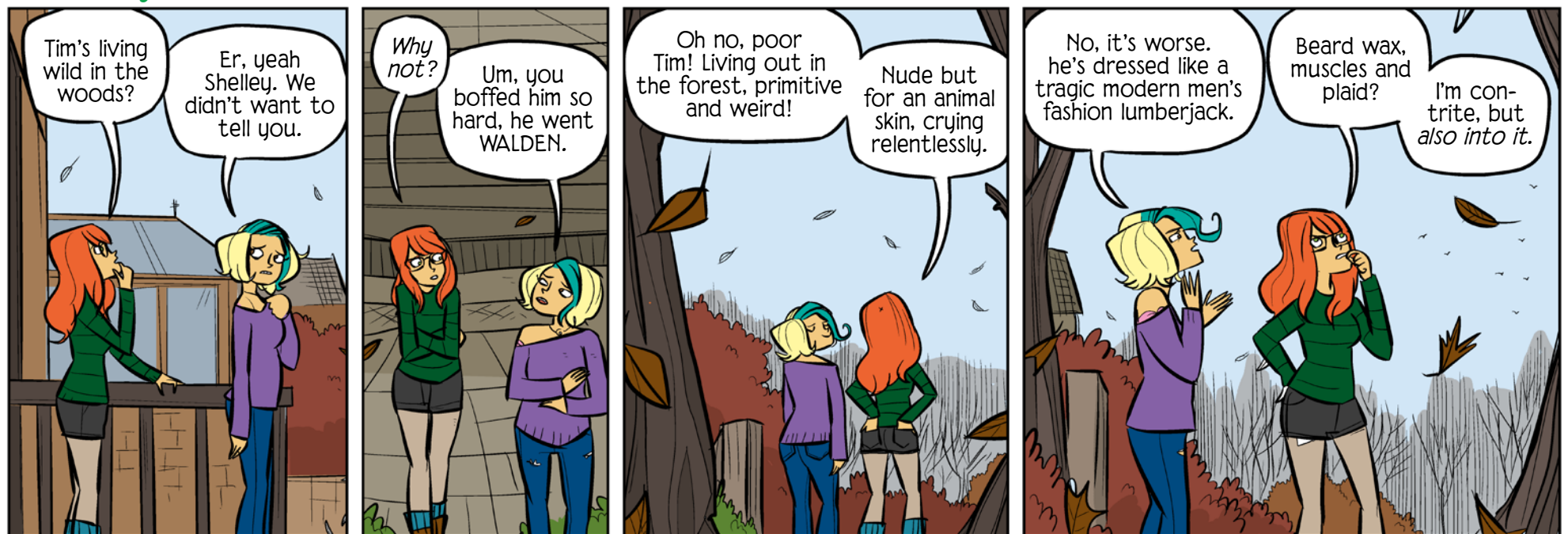
Then I *over-*comforted him.

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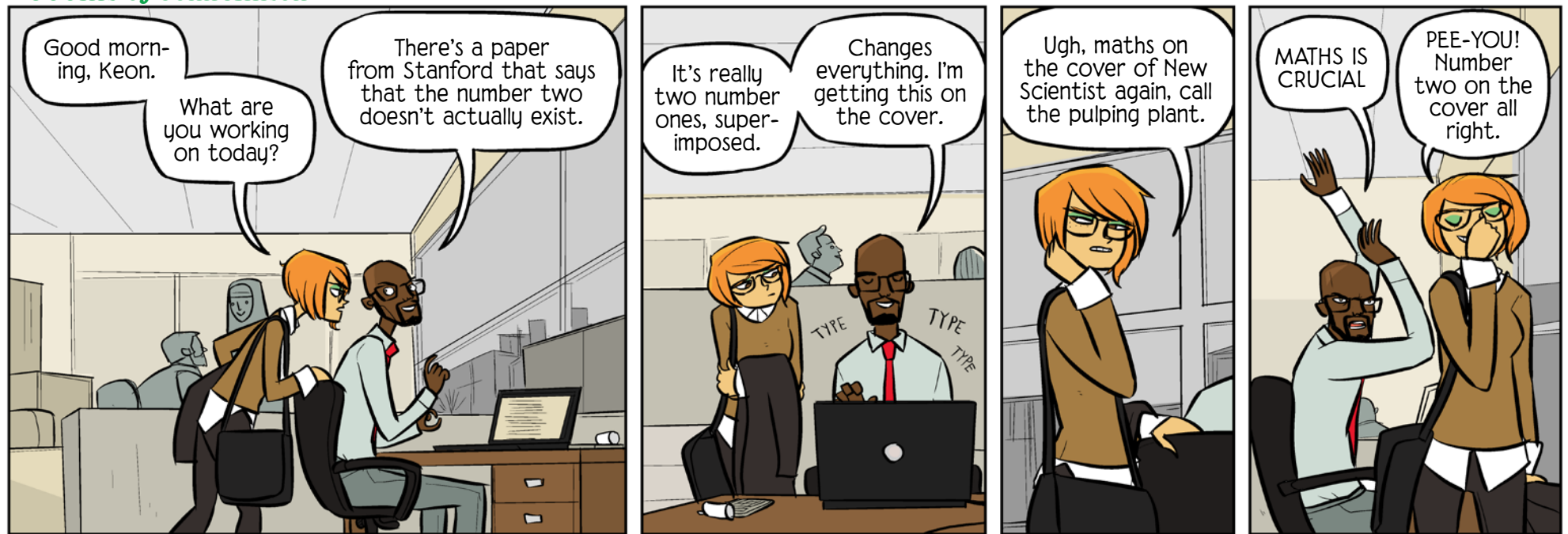
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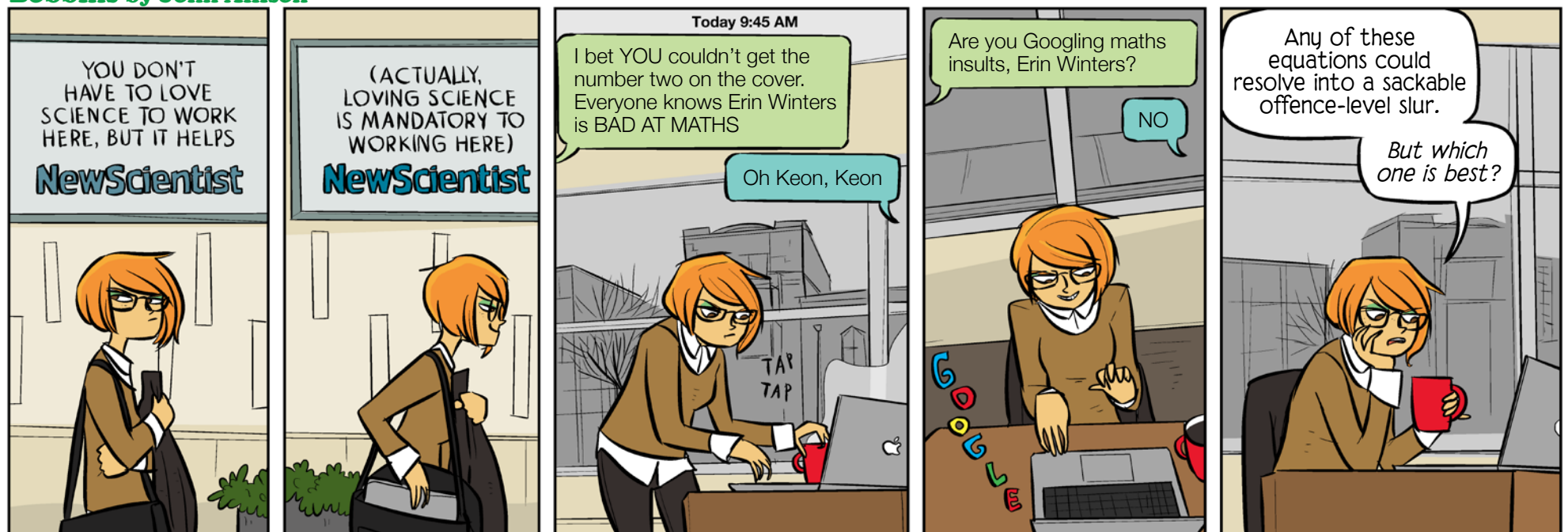
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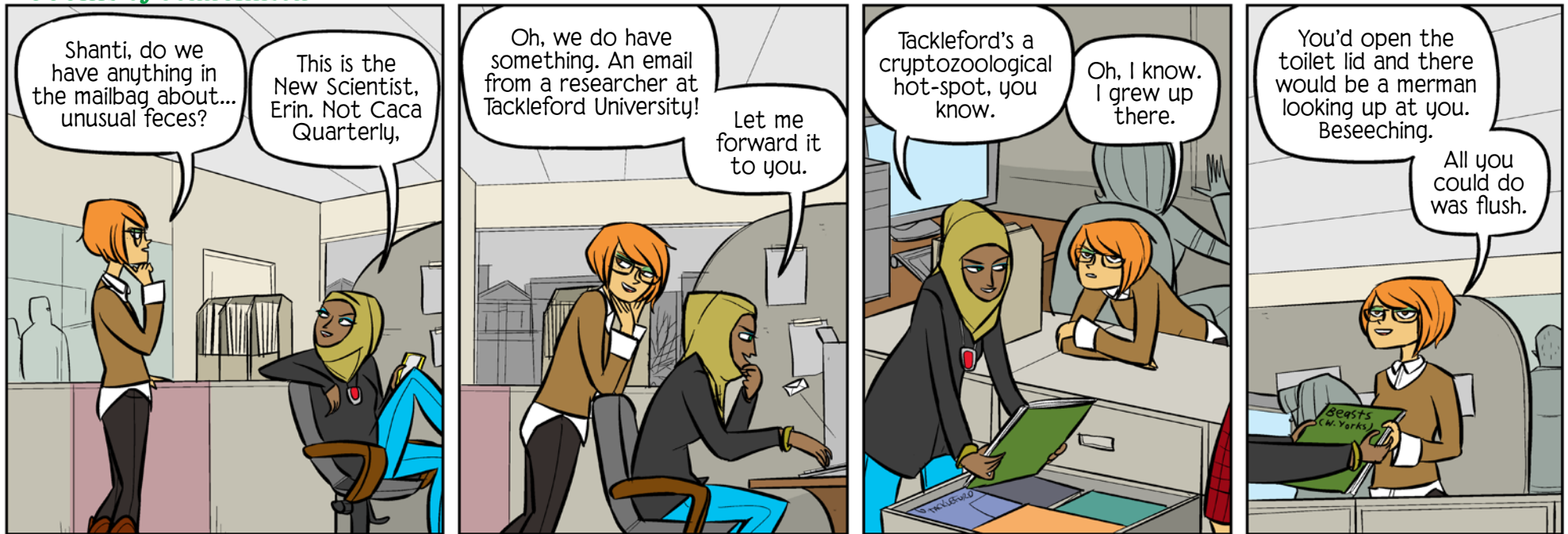
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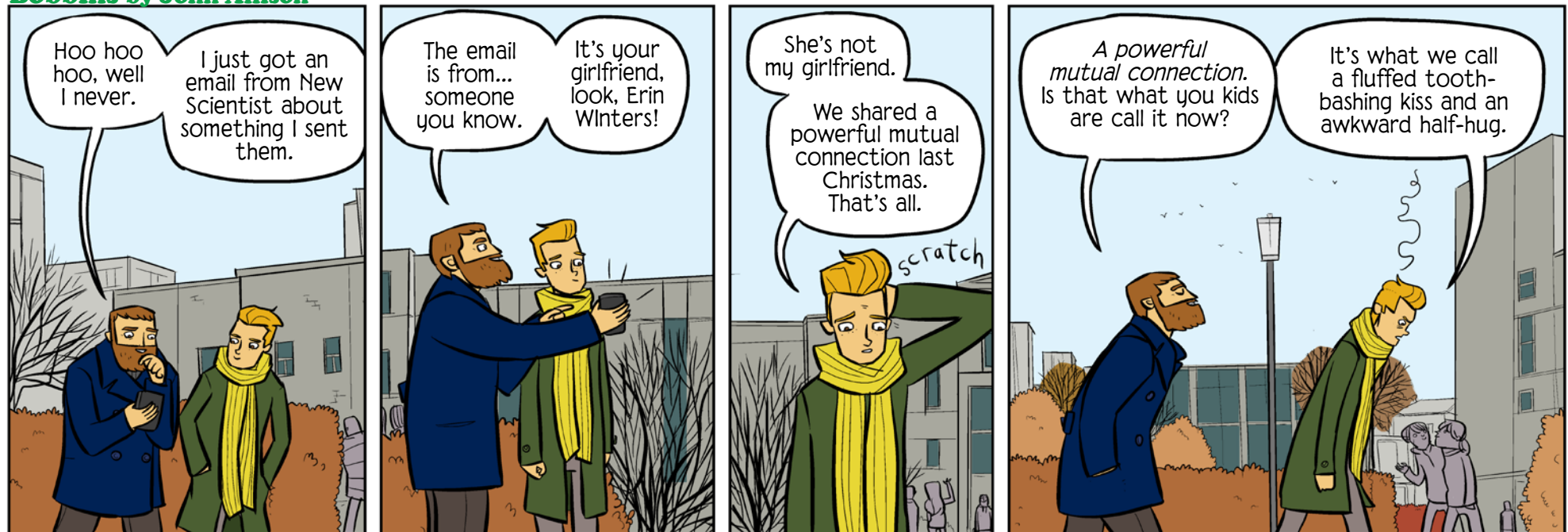
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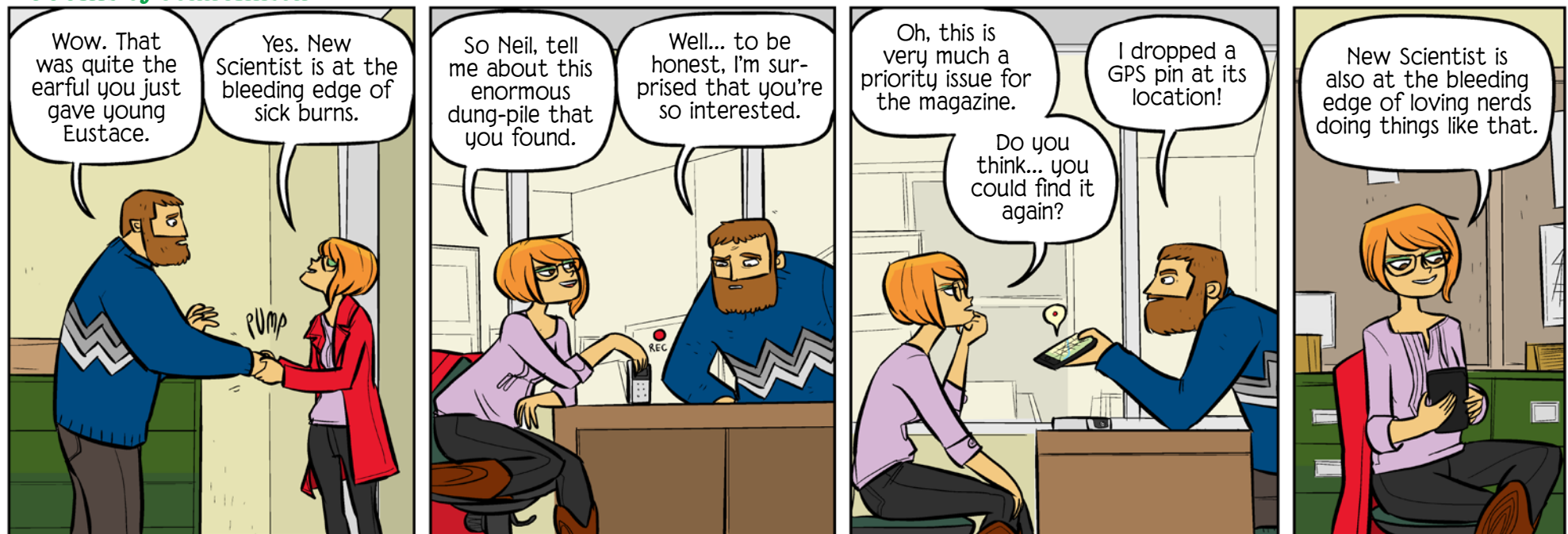


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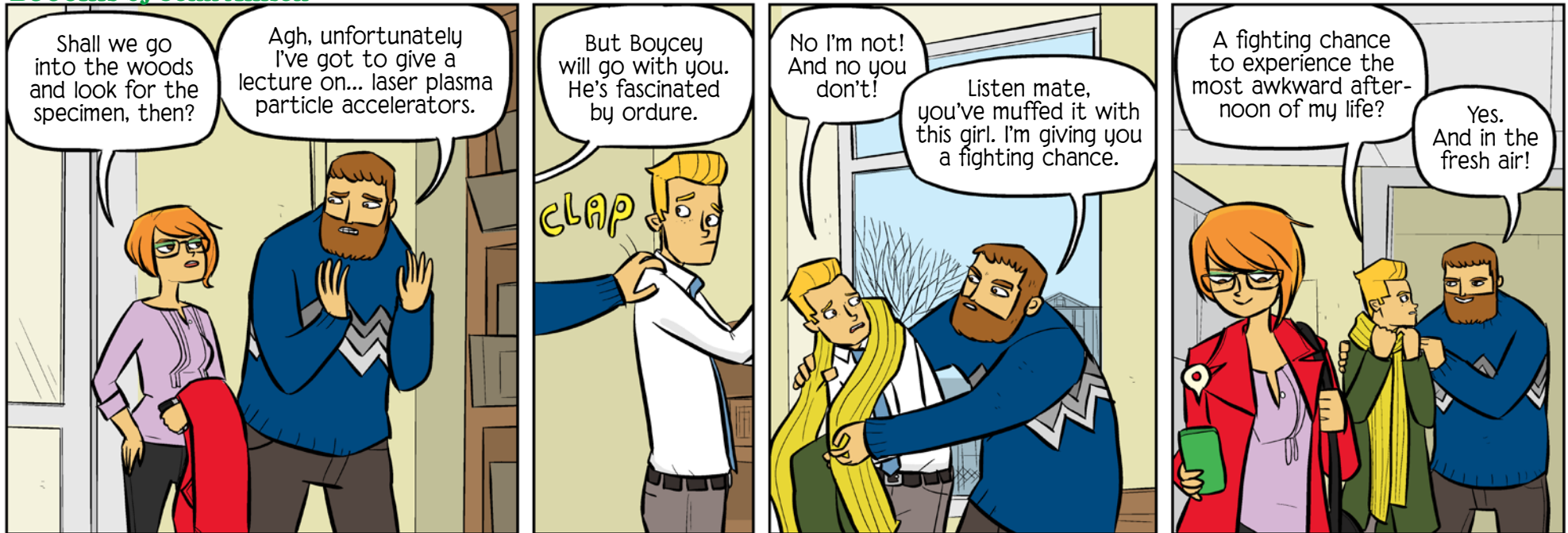
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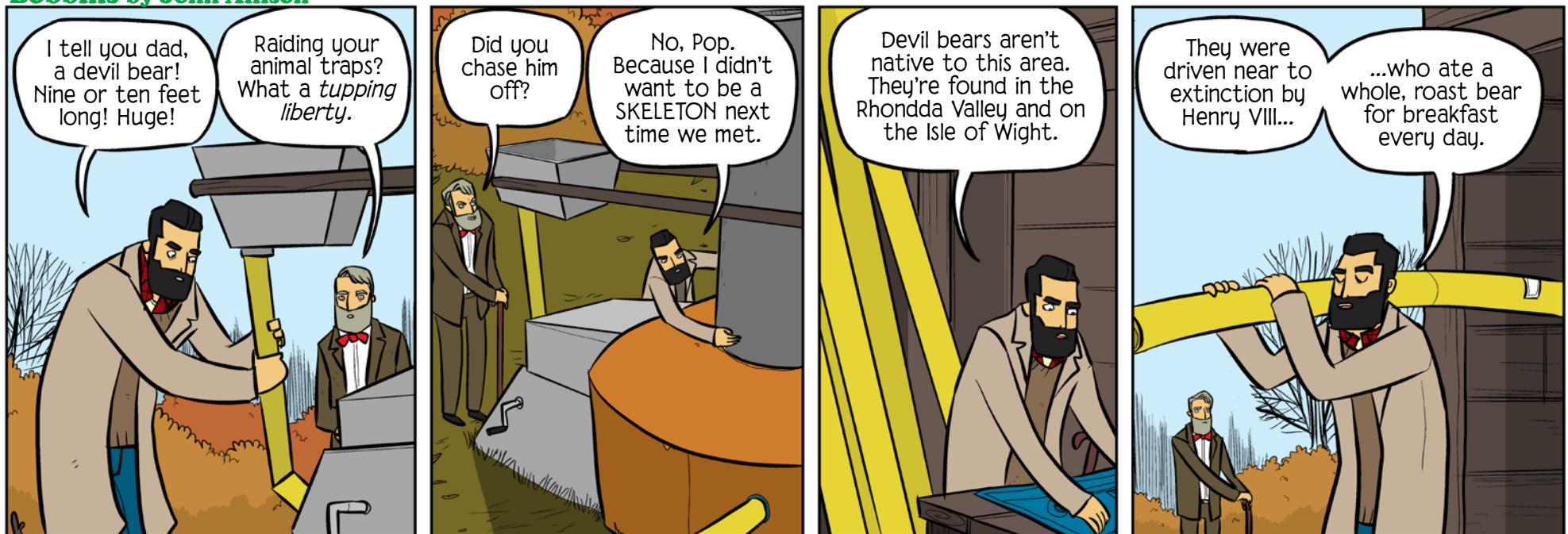
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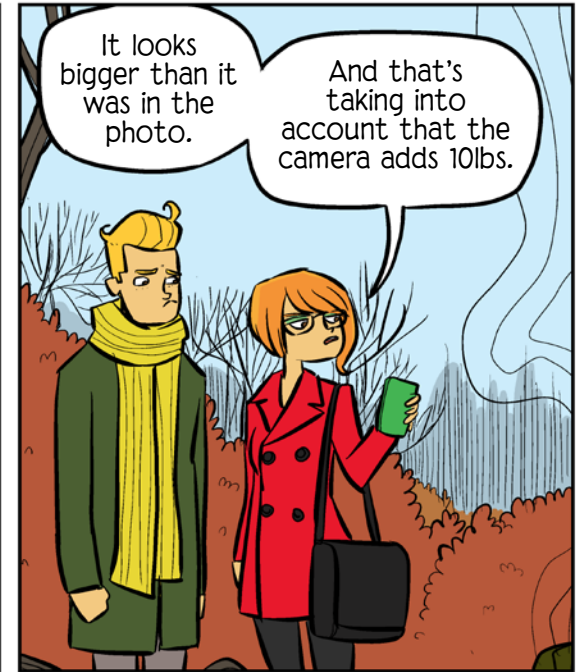
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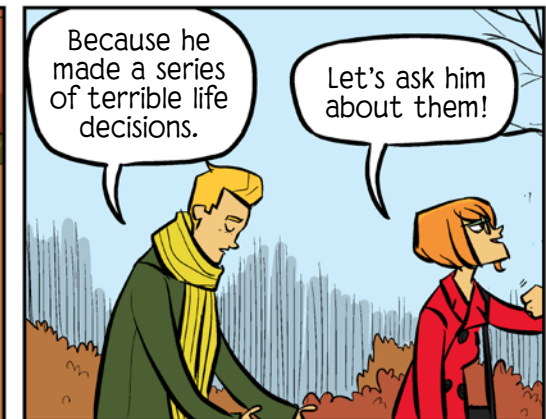
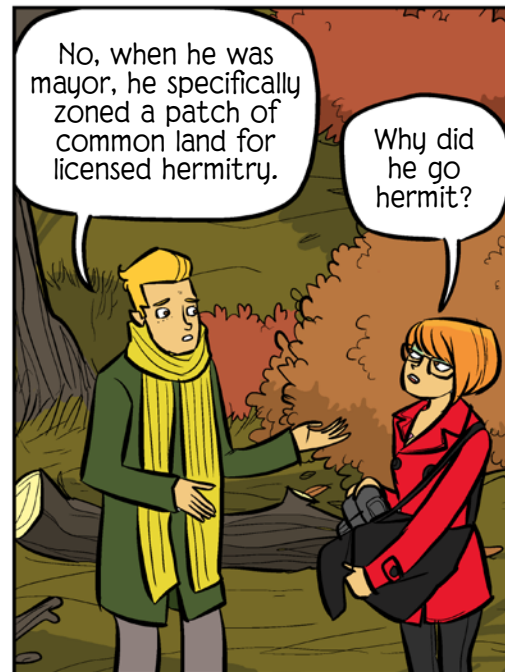
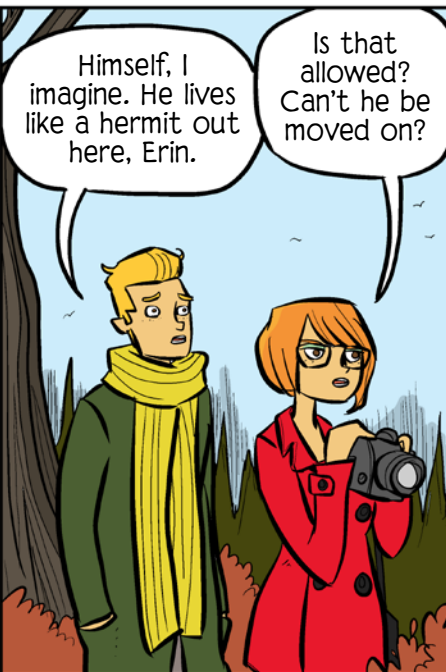
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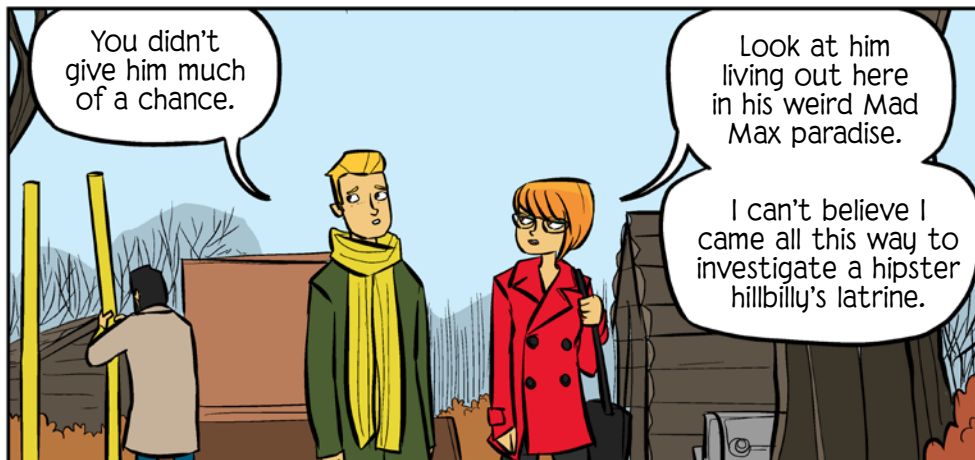
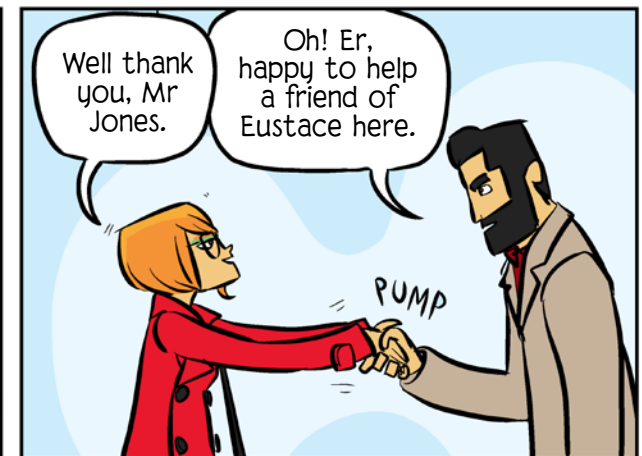
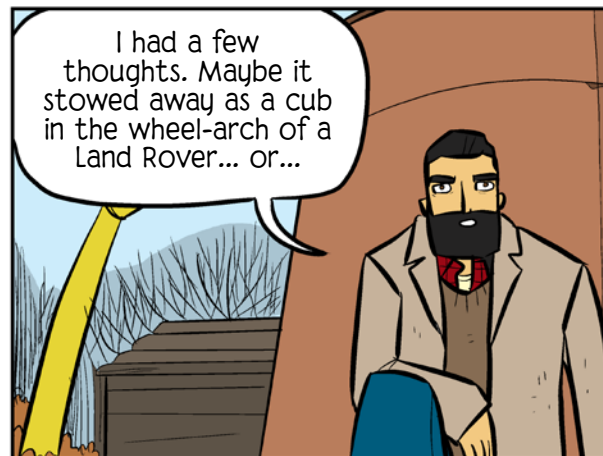
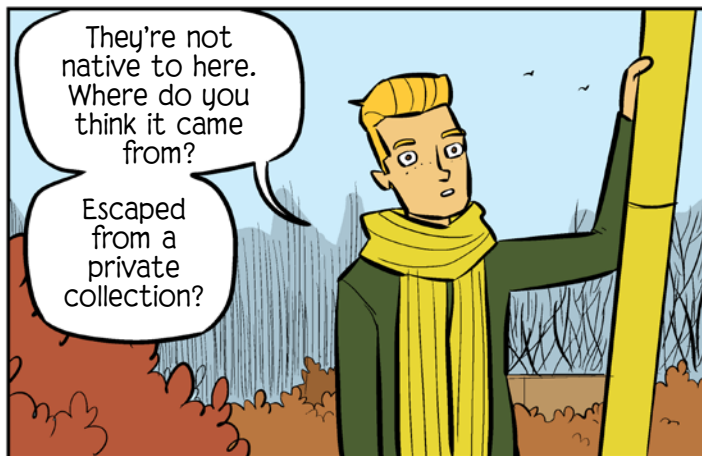


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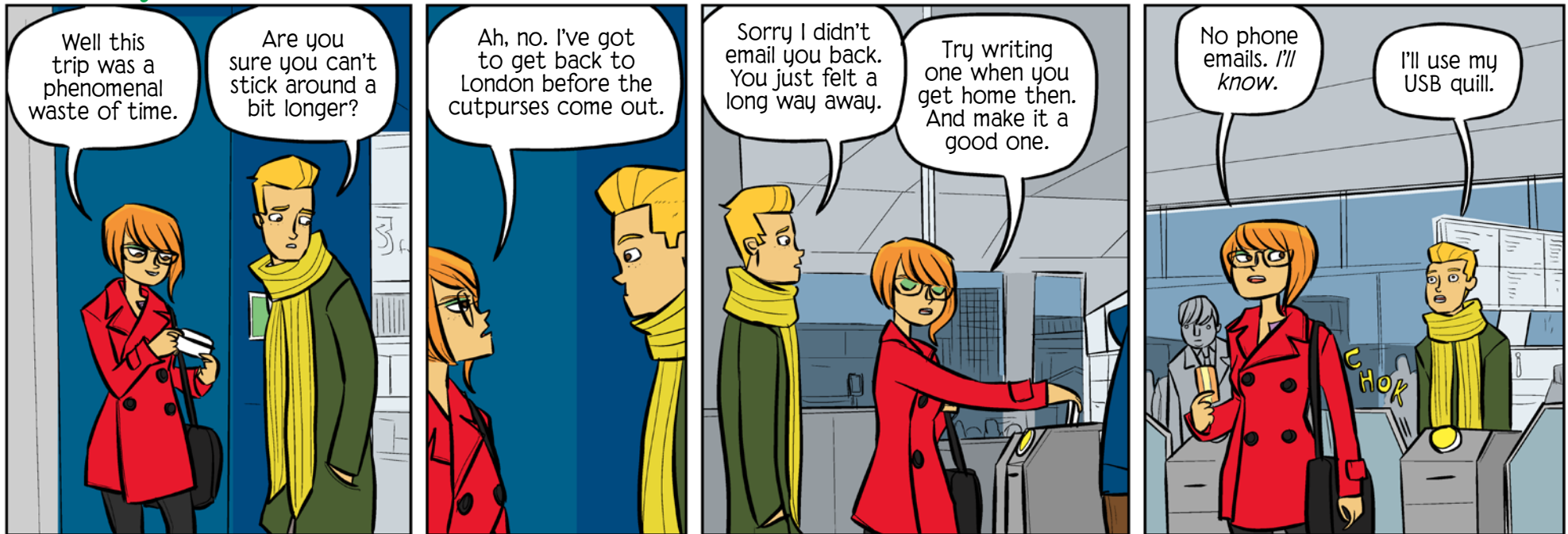
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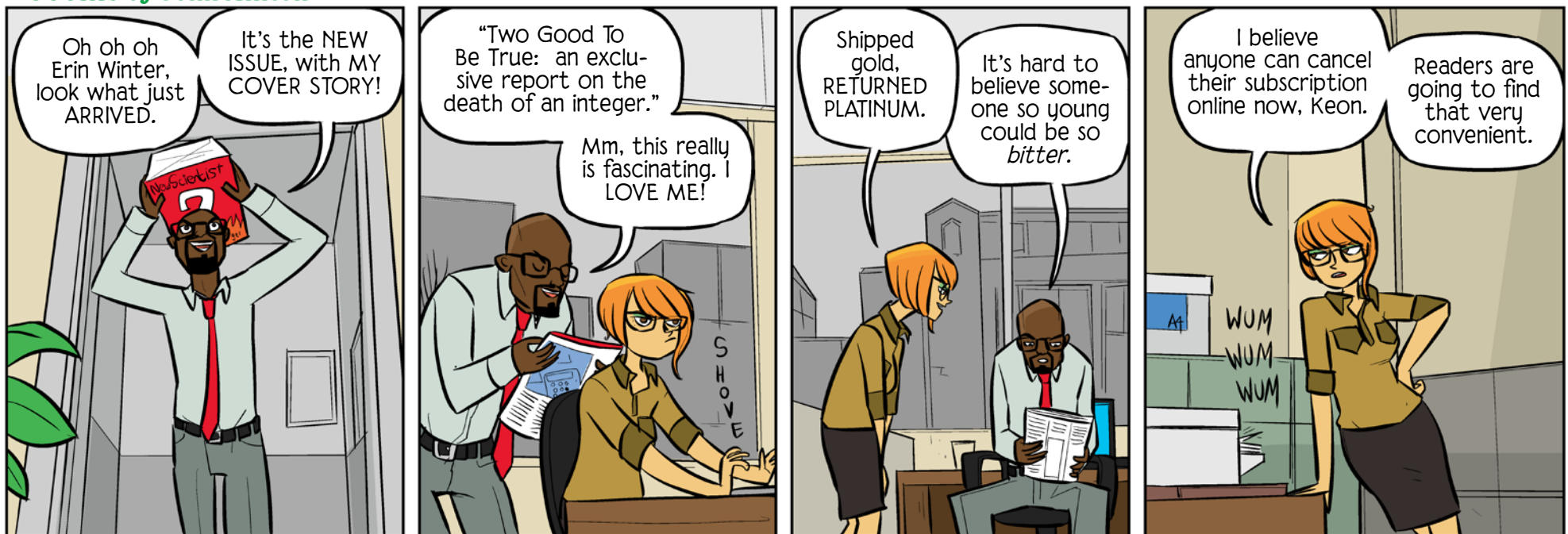


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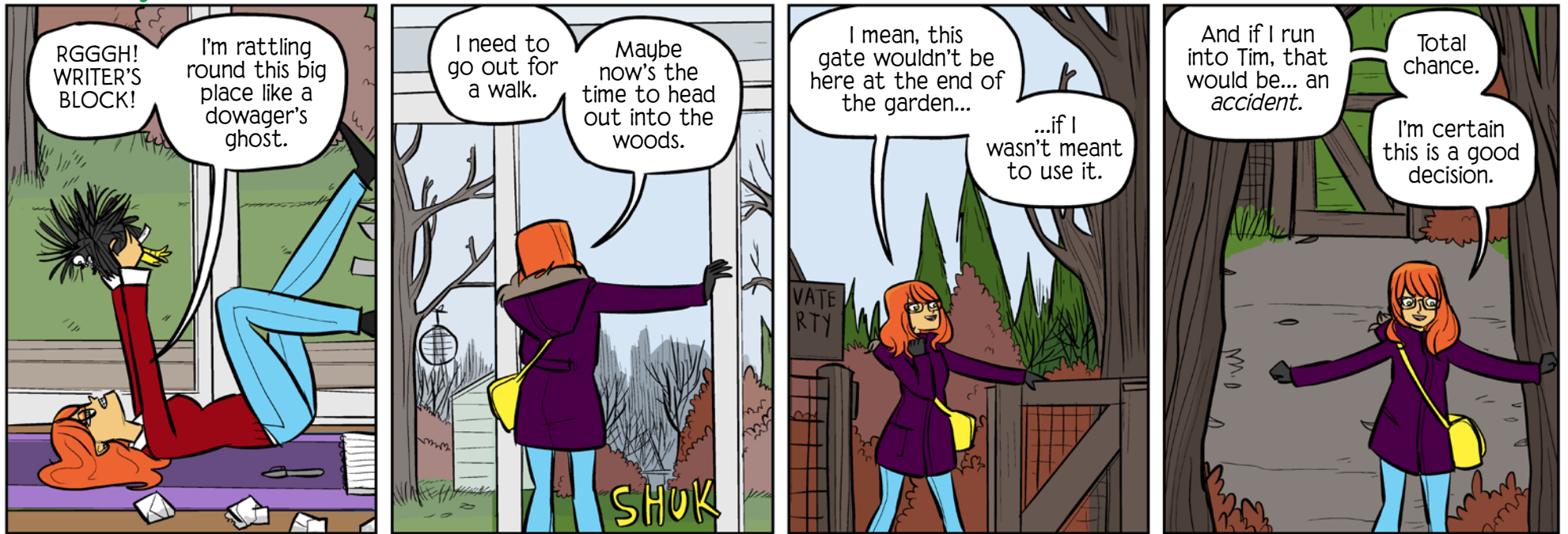
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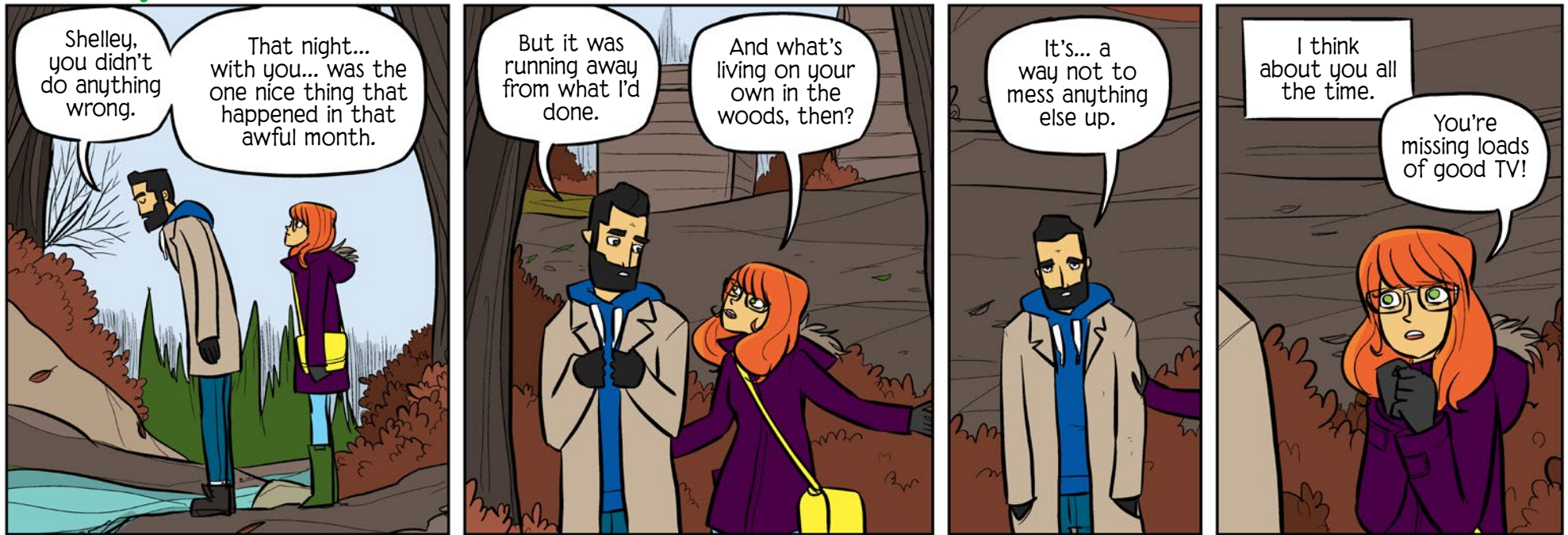
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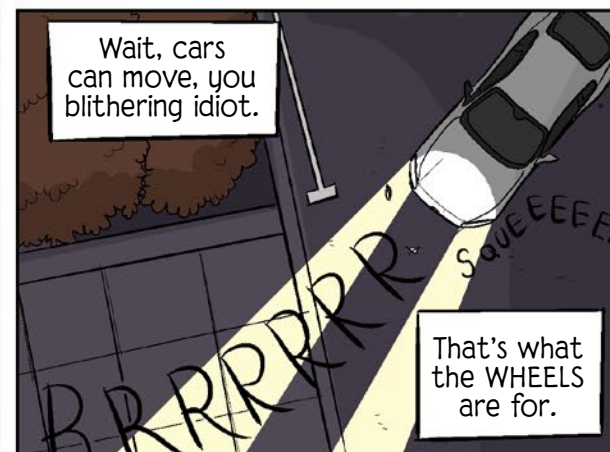


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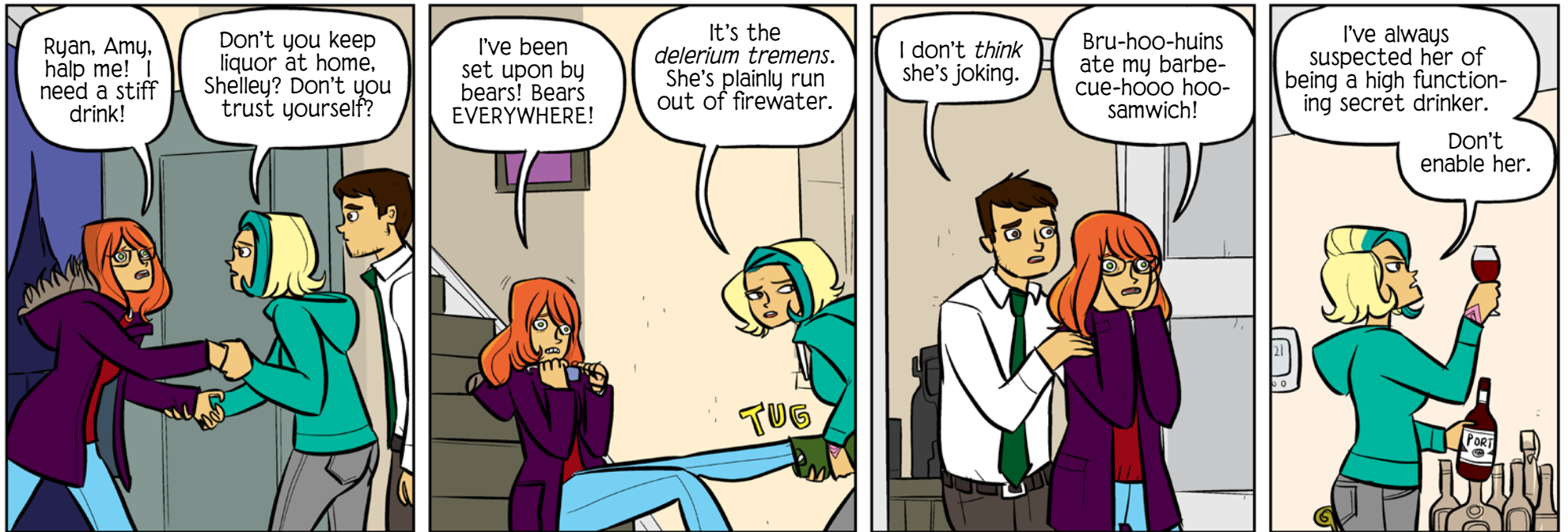
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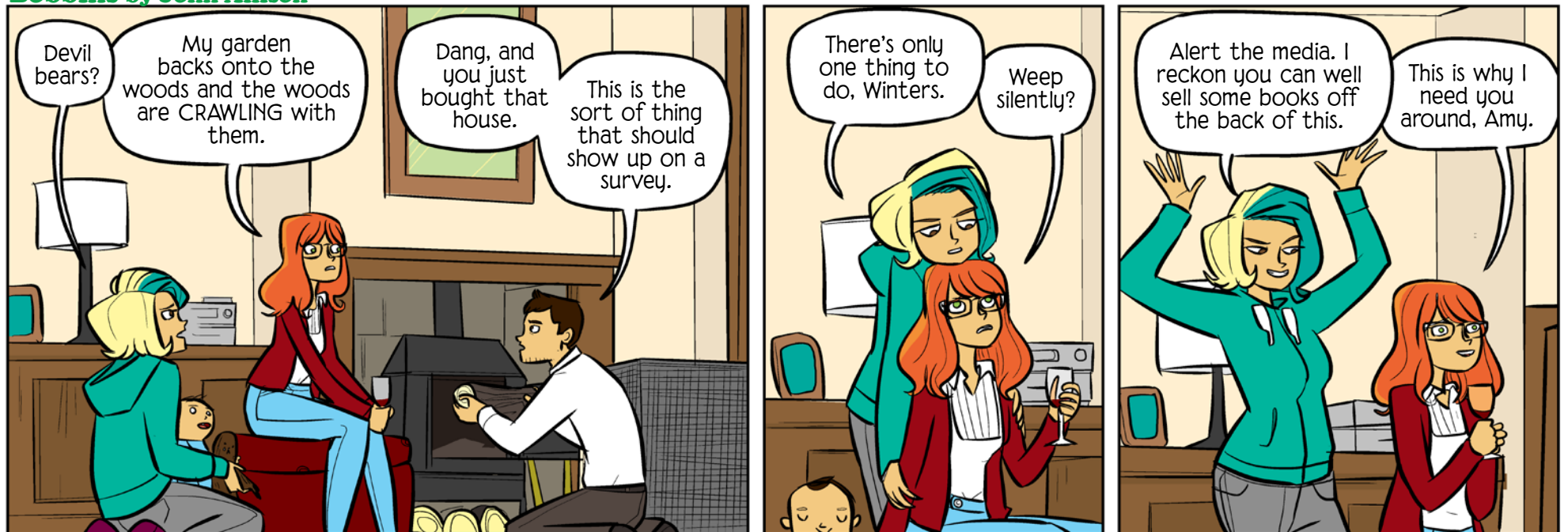


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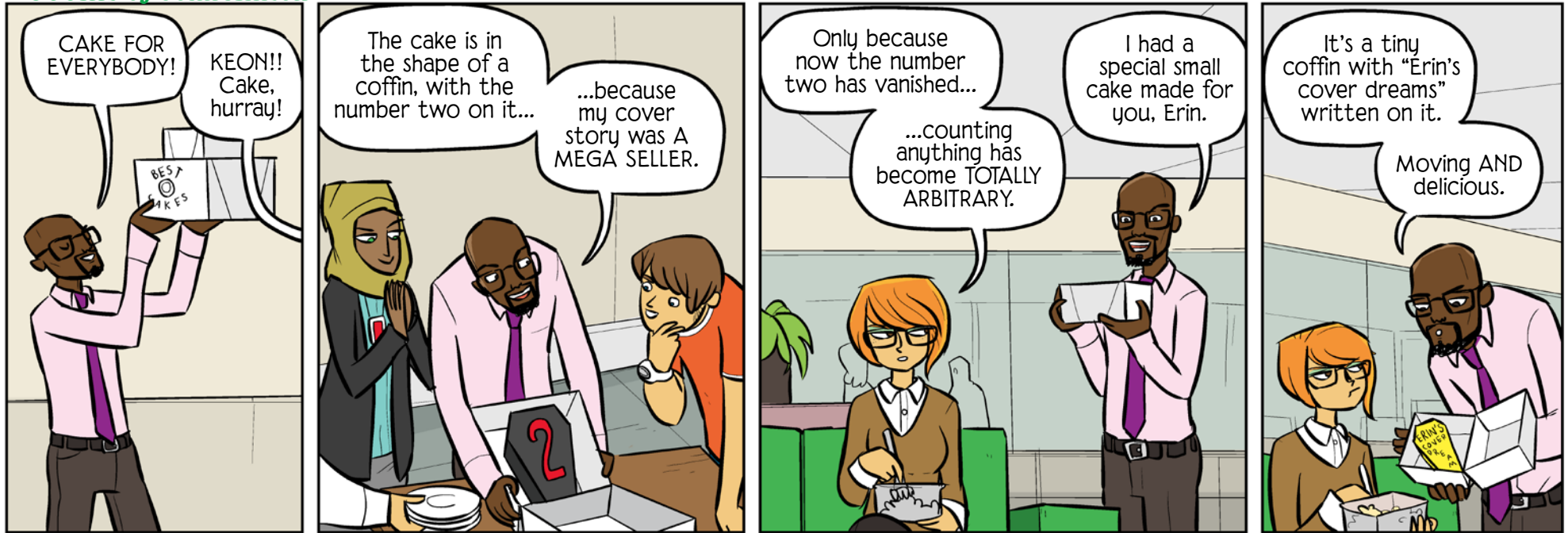
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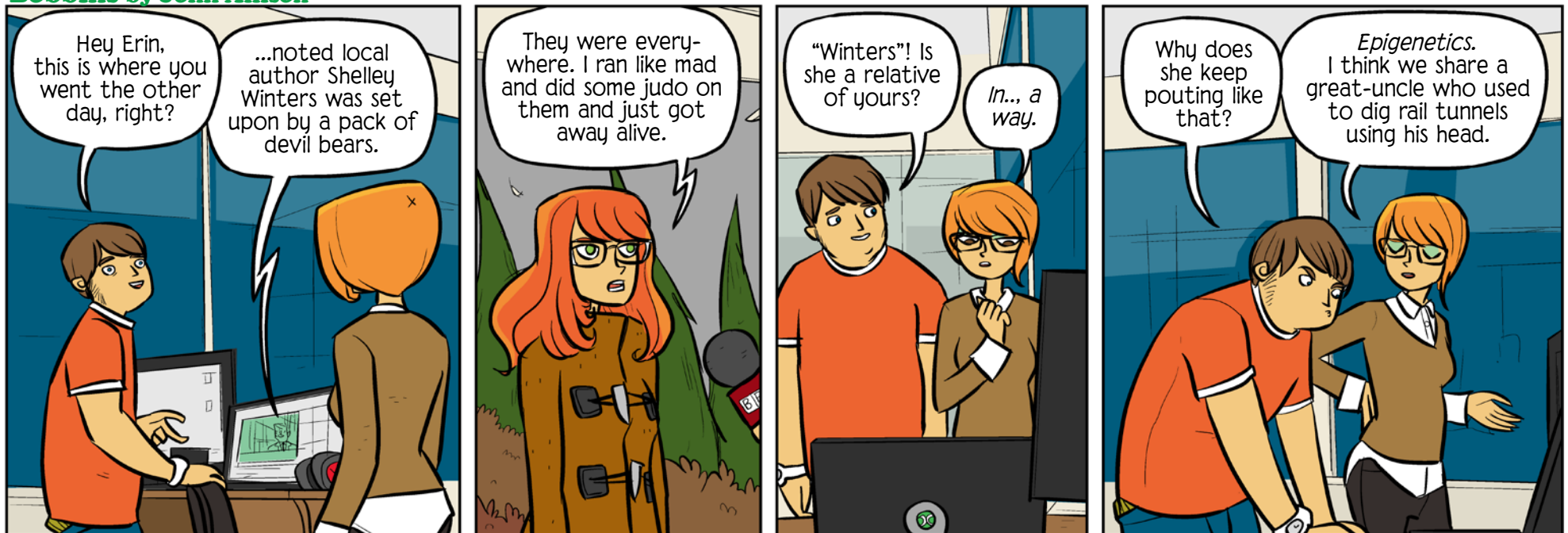
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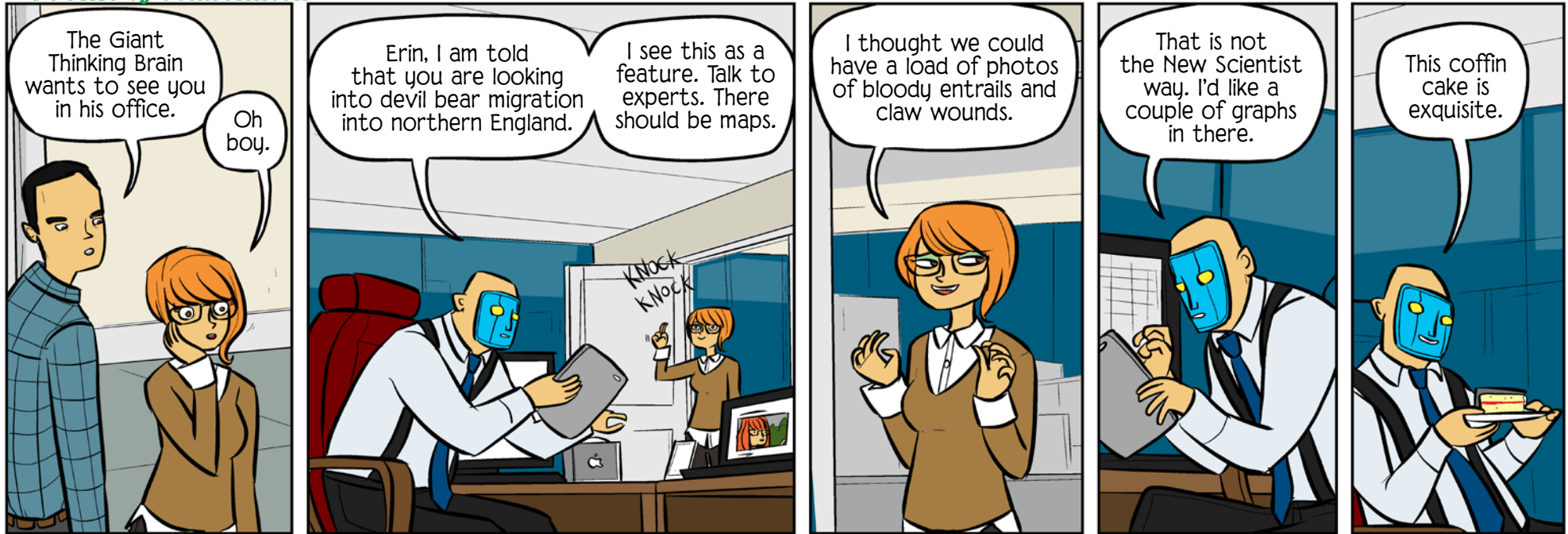
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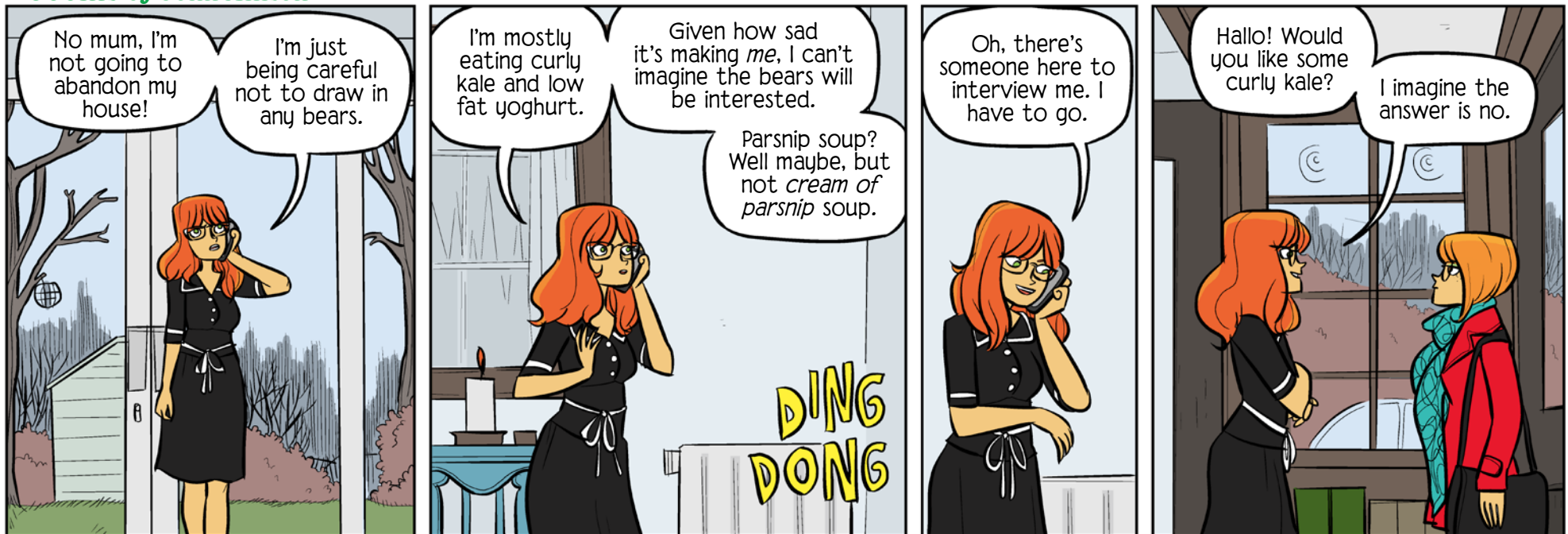
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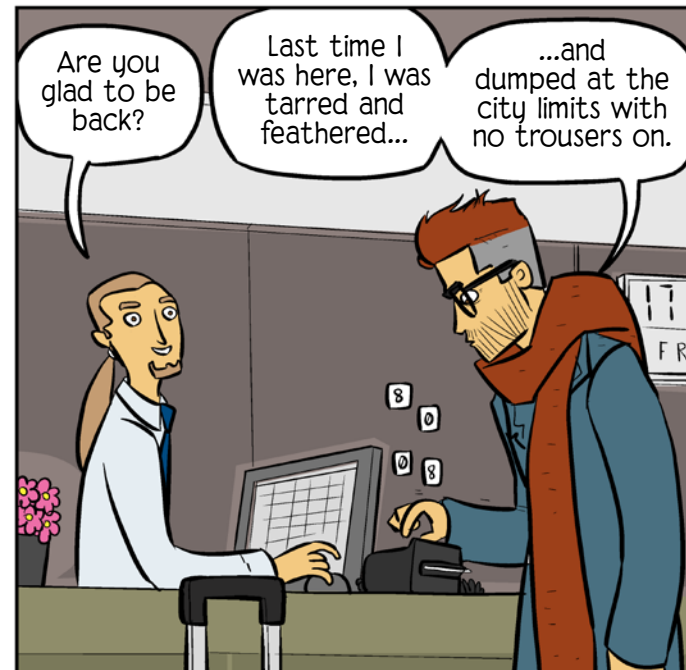
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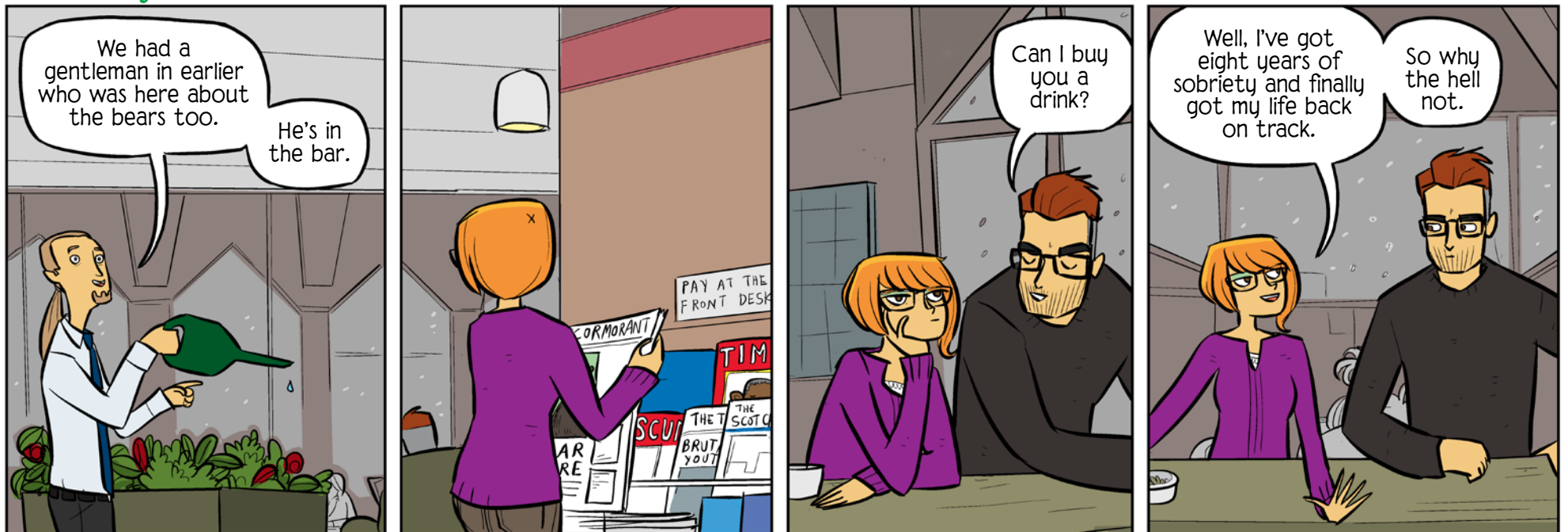
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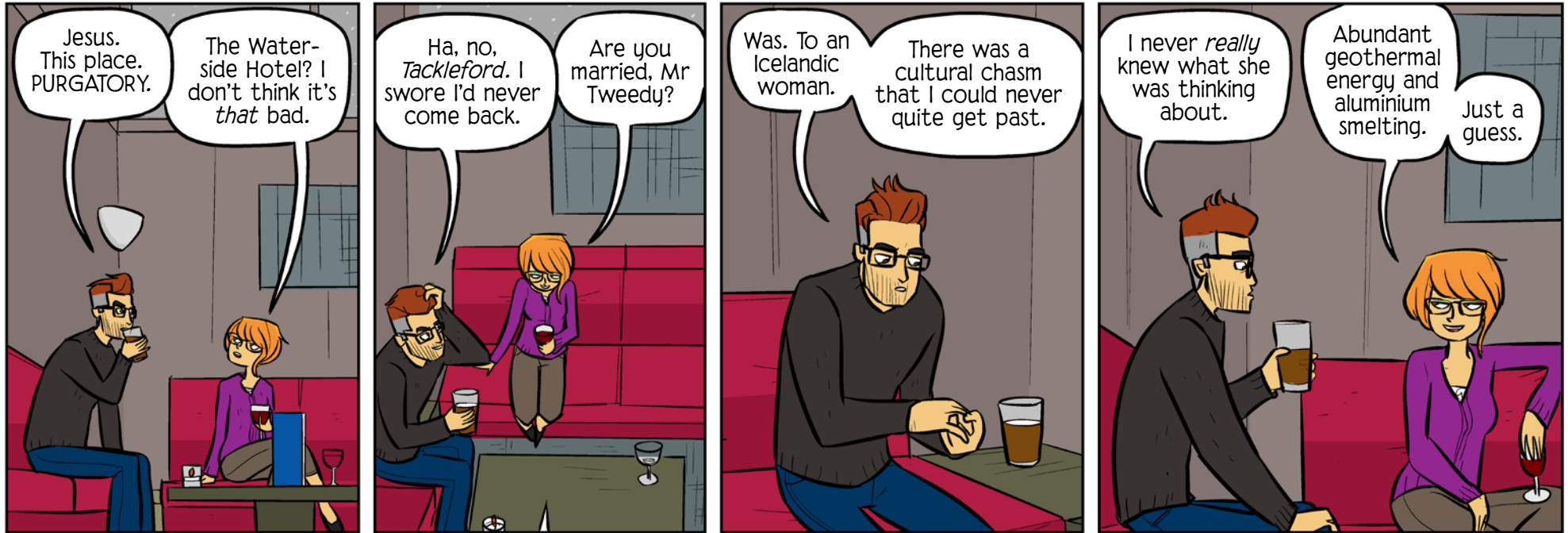
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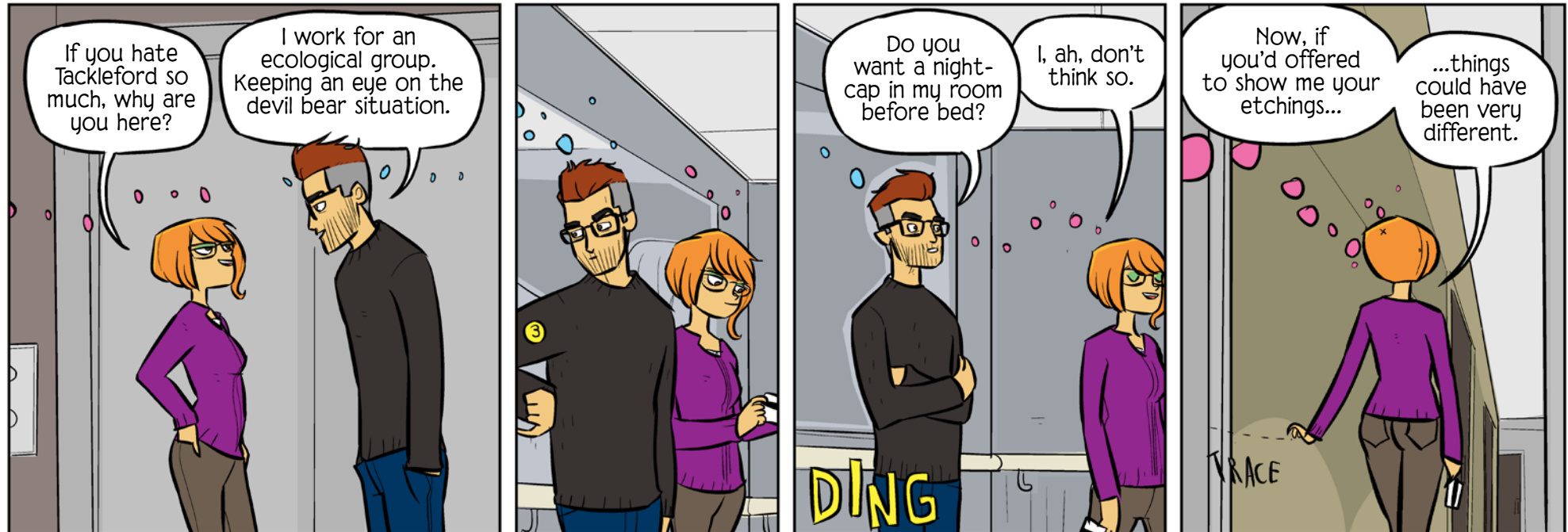
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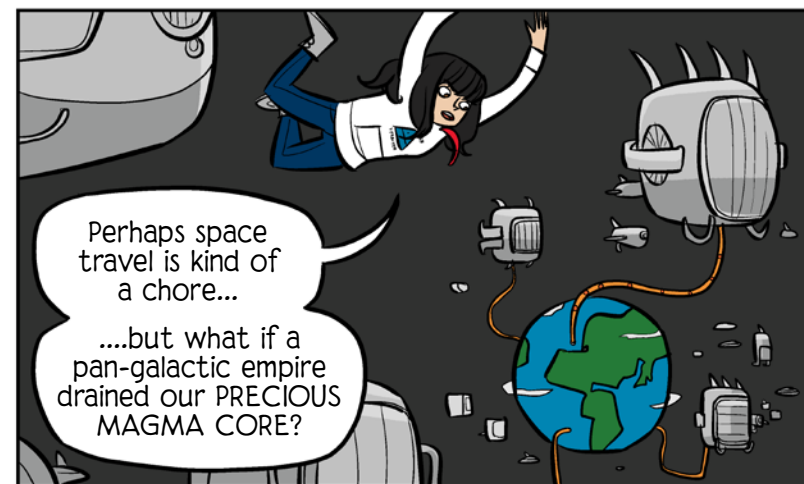
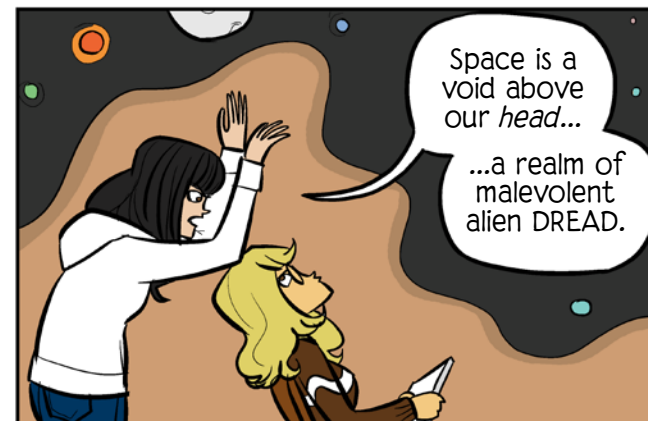
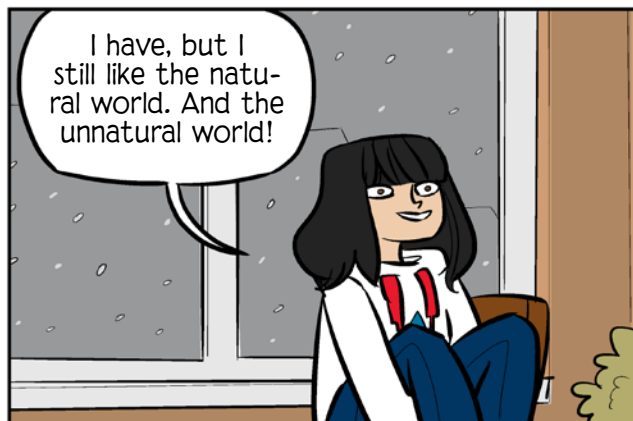
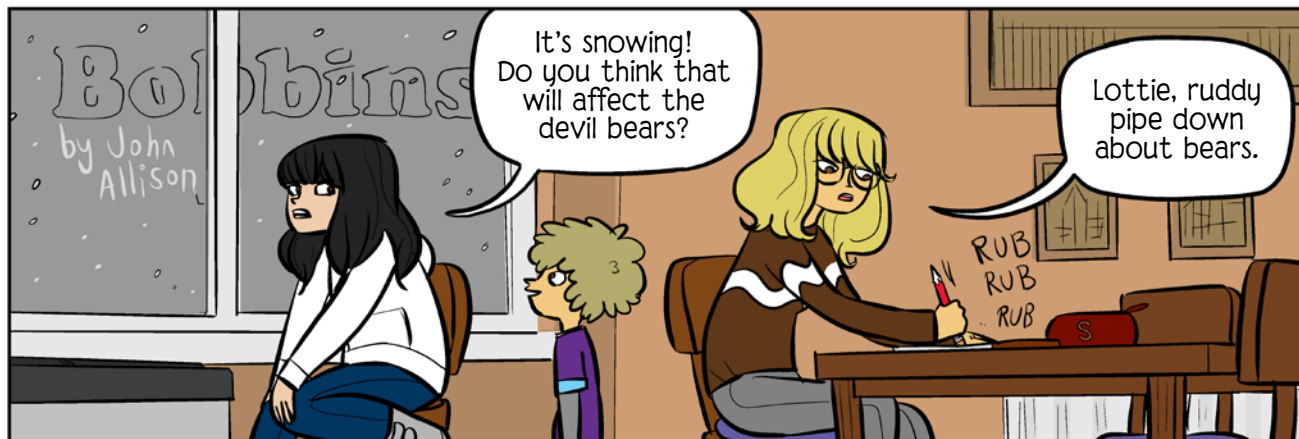


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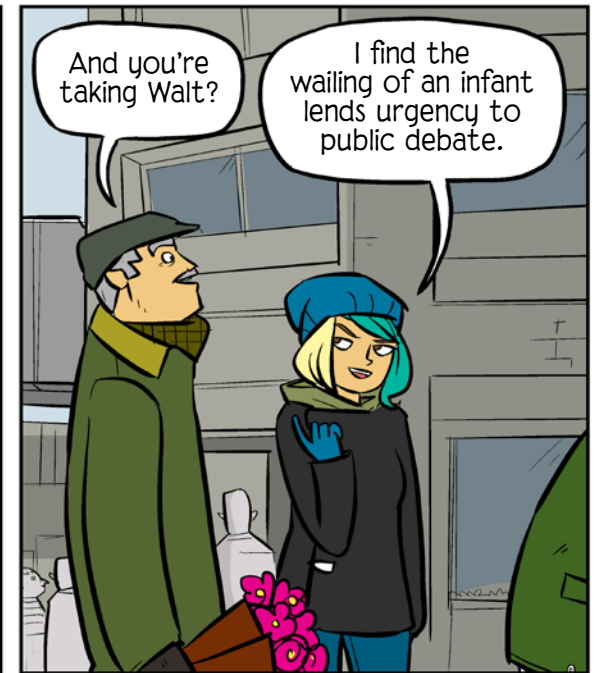
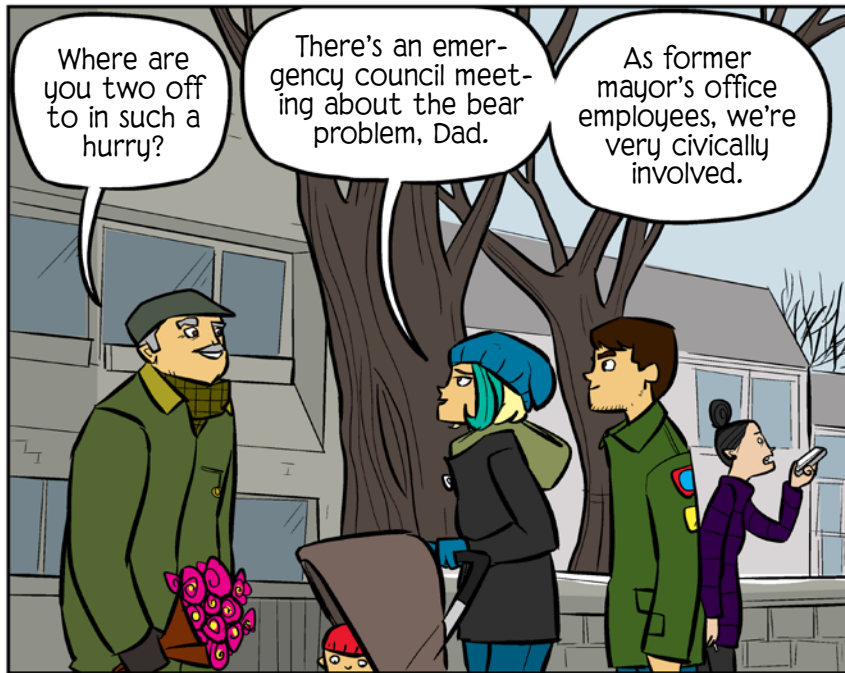
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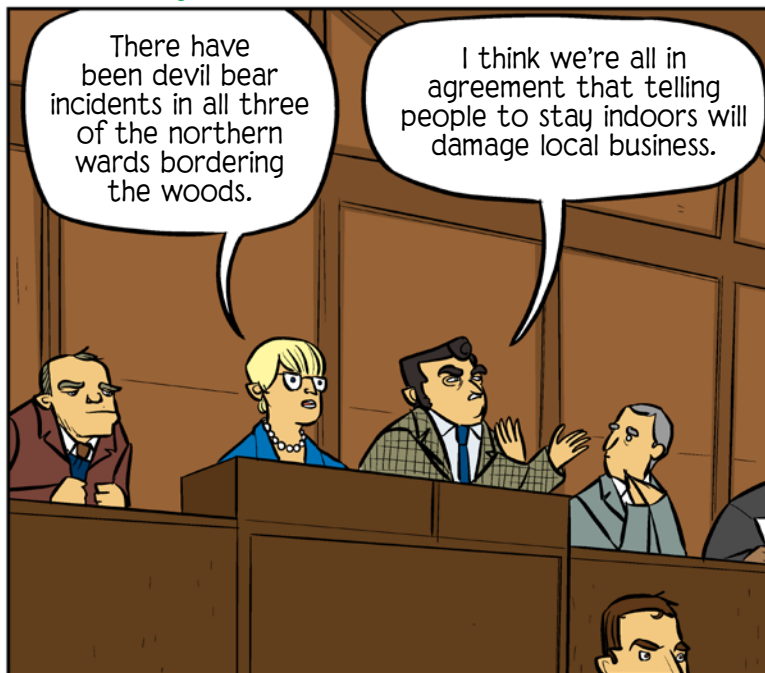


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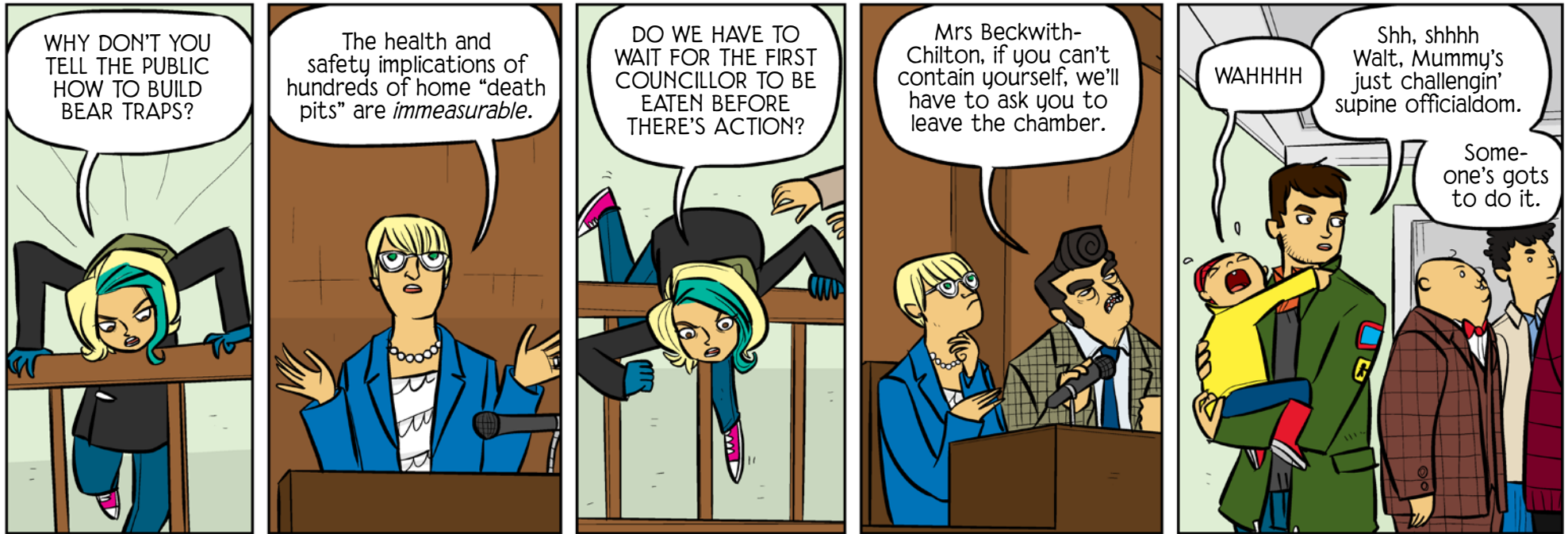
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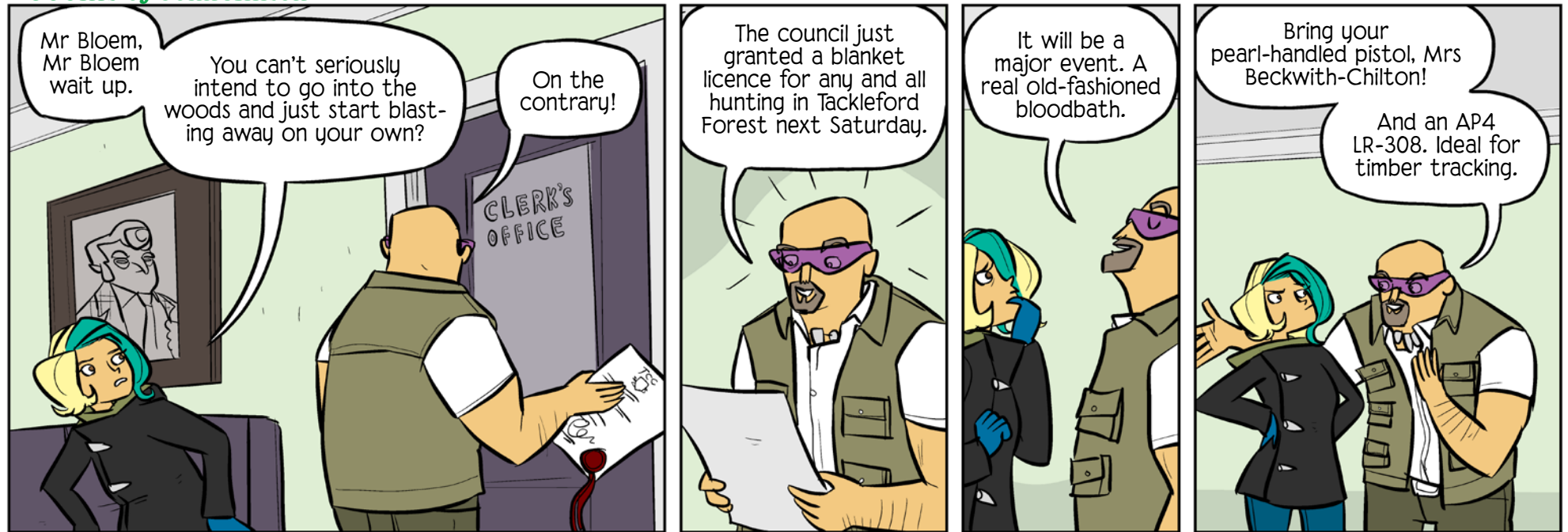
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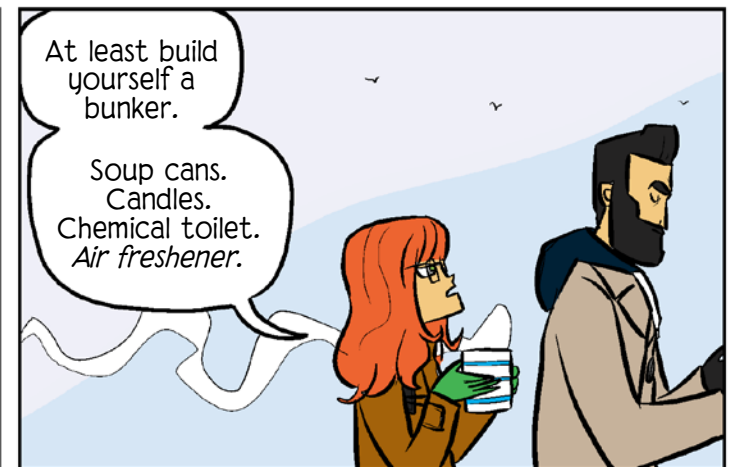


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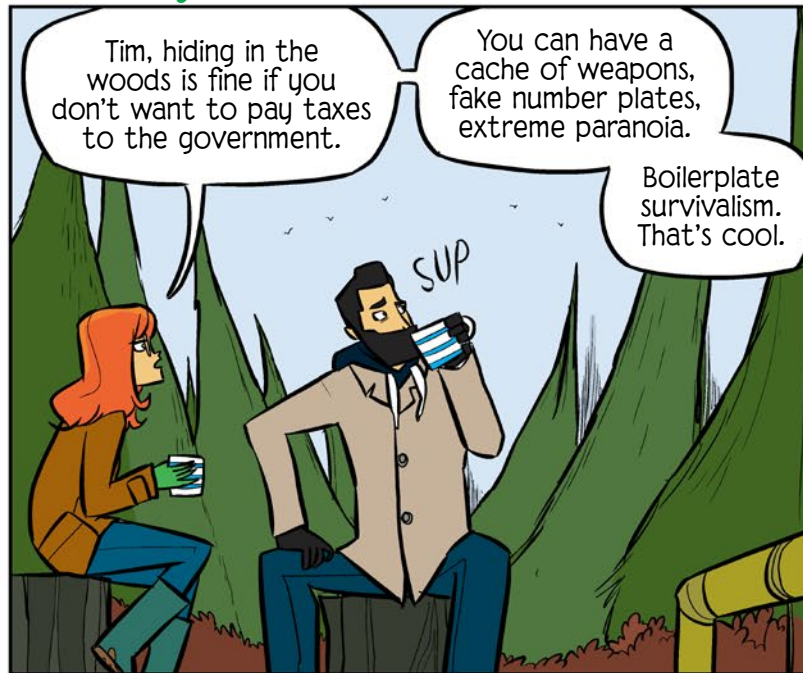
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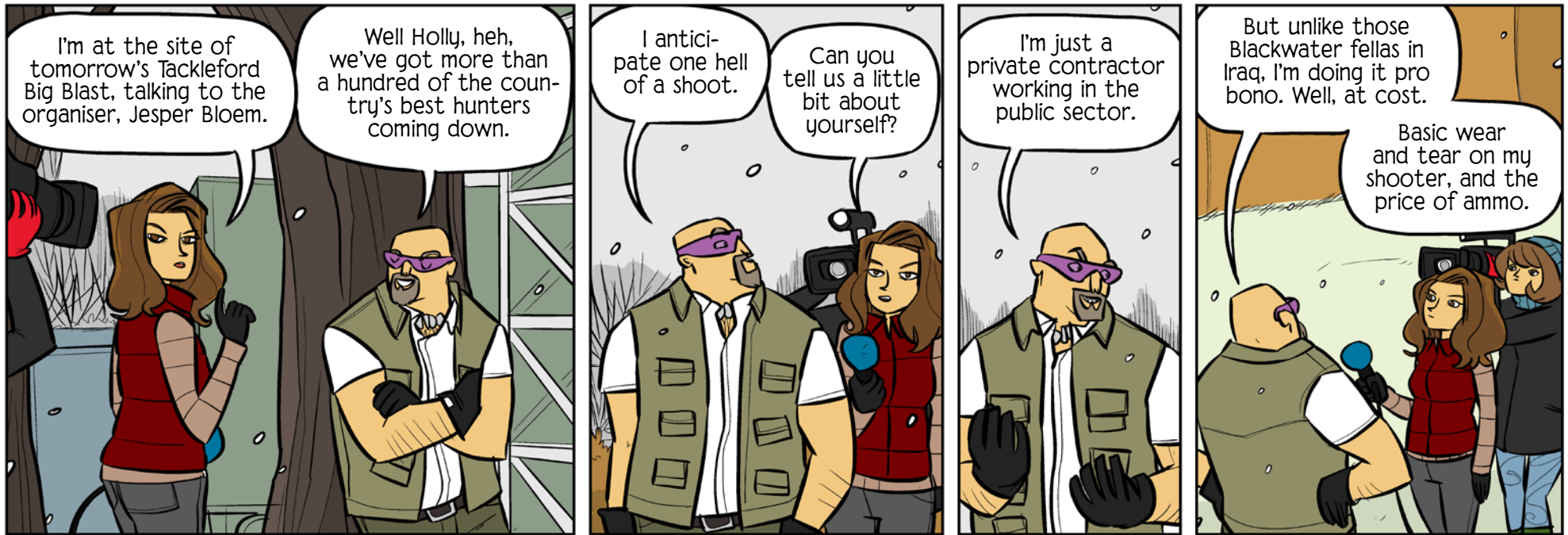
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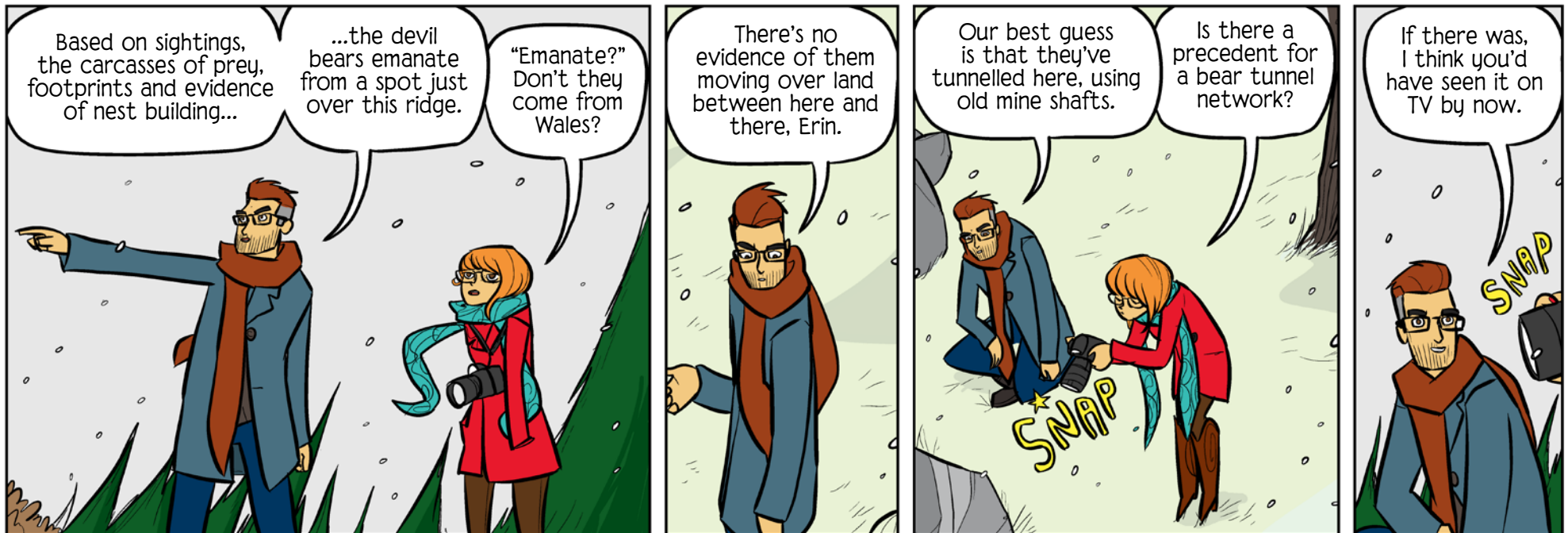
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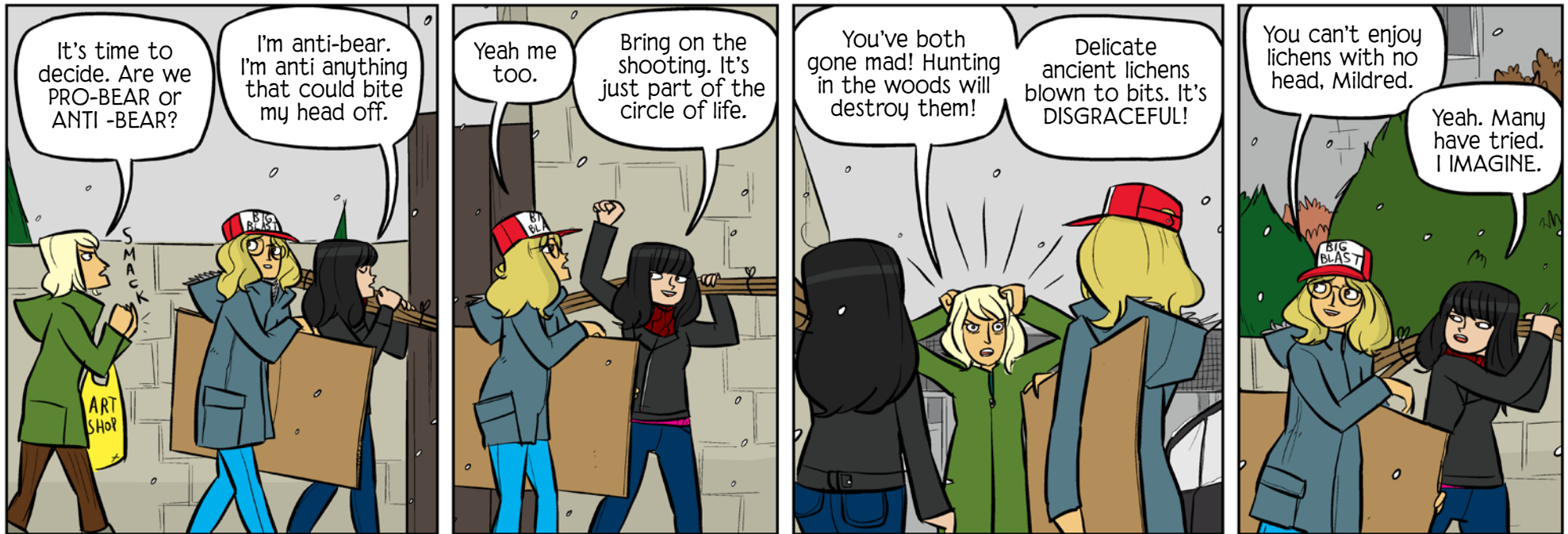
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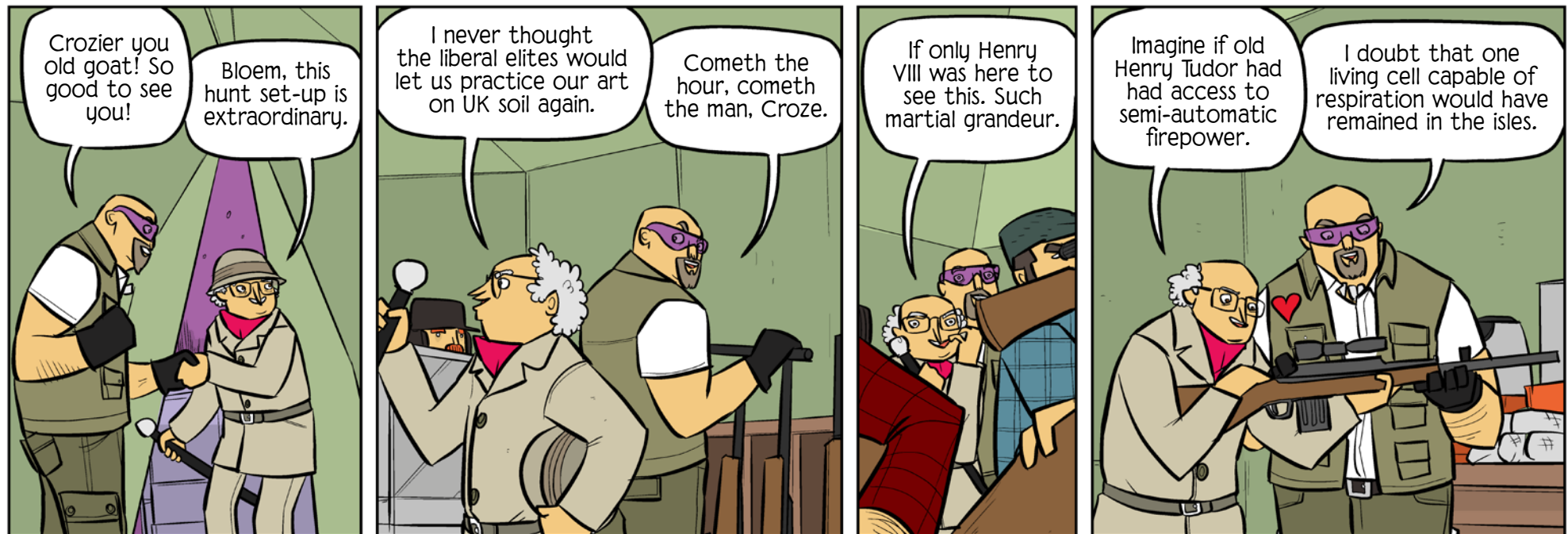
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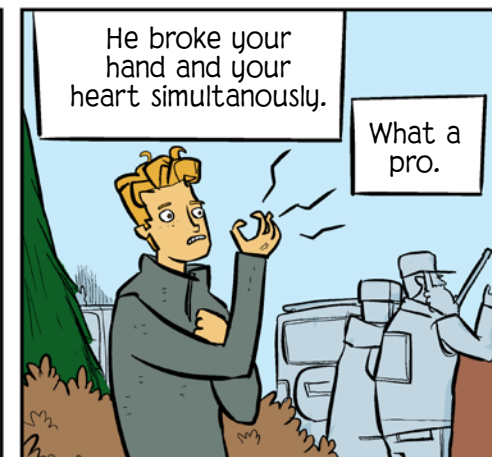
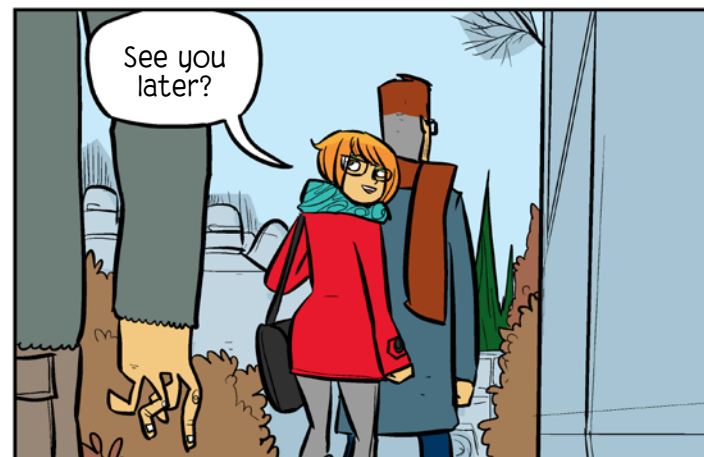
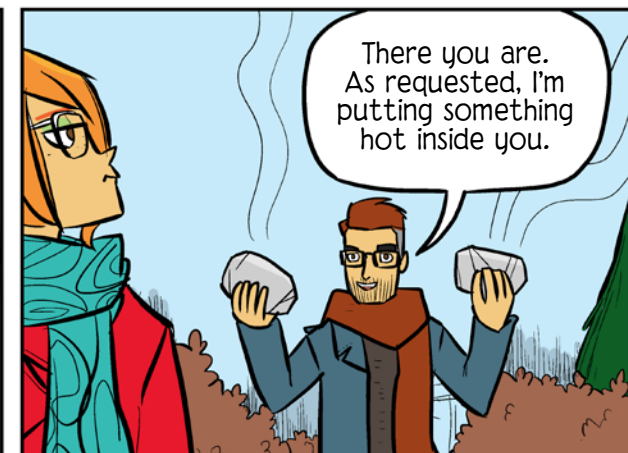
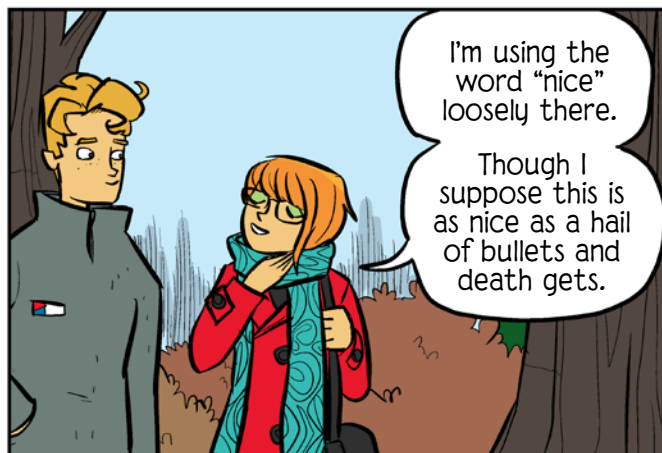
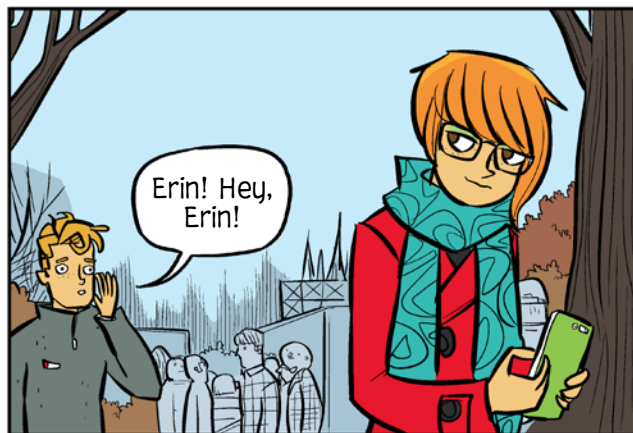


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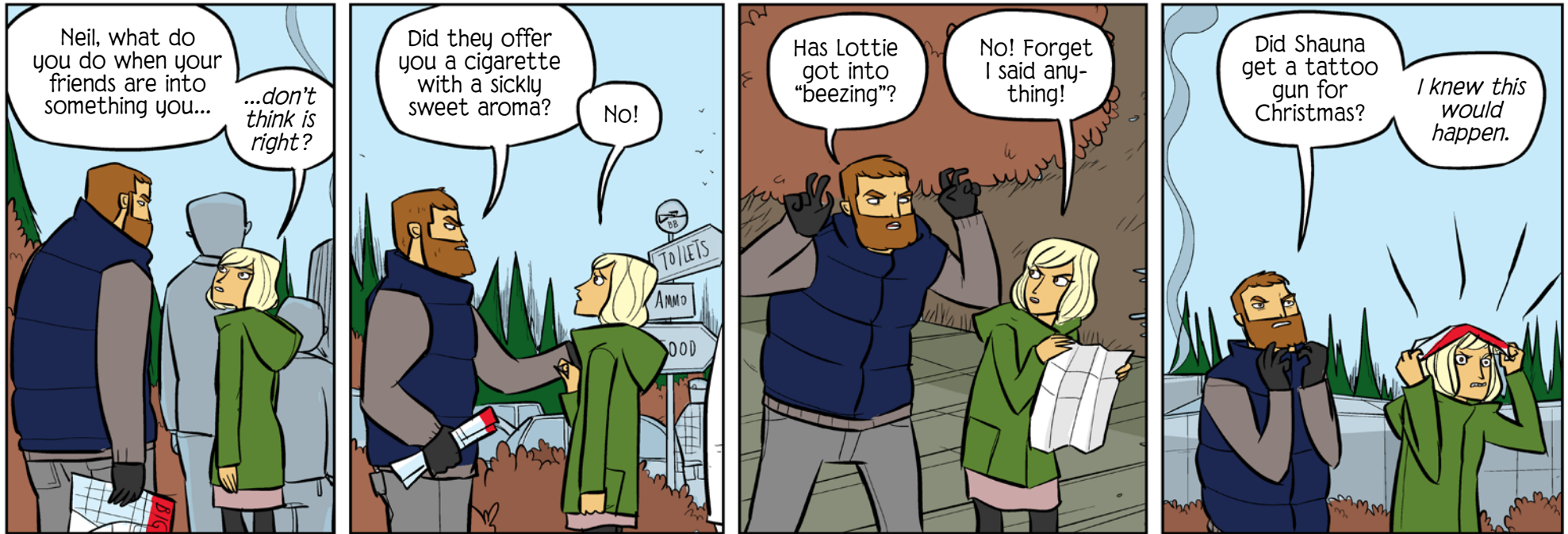
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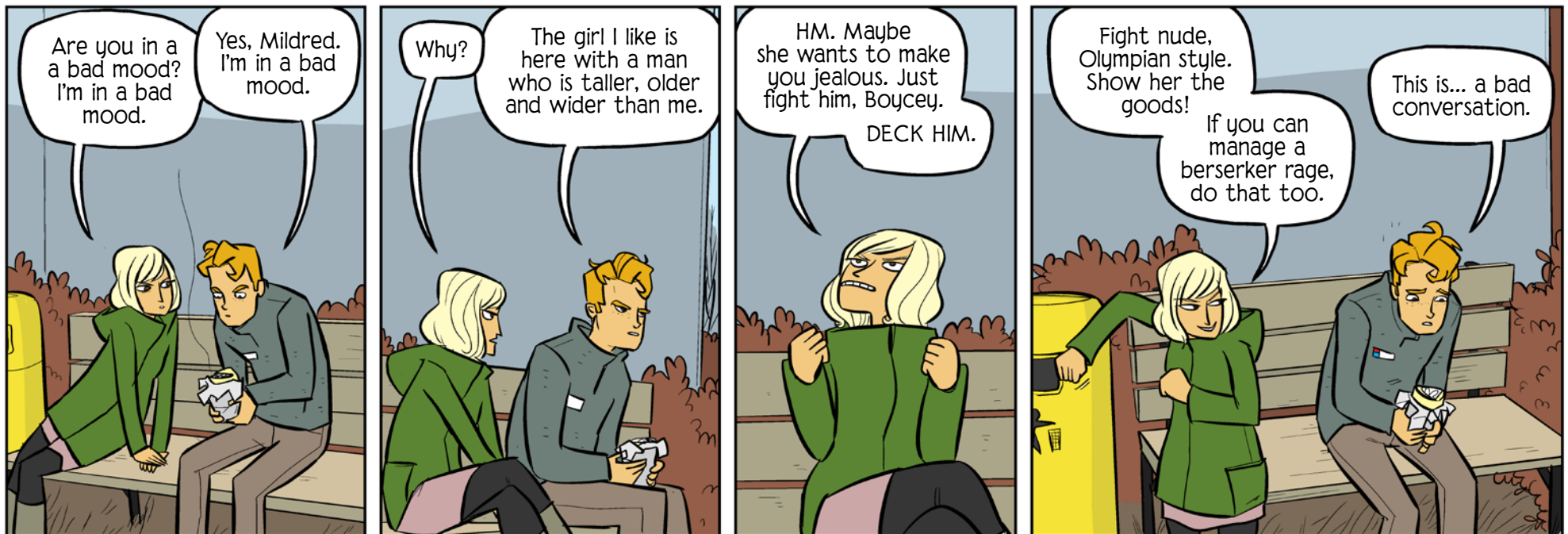


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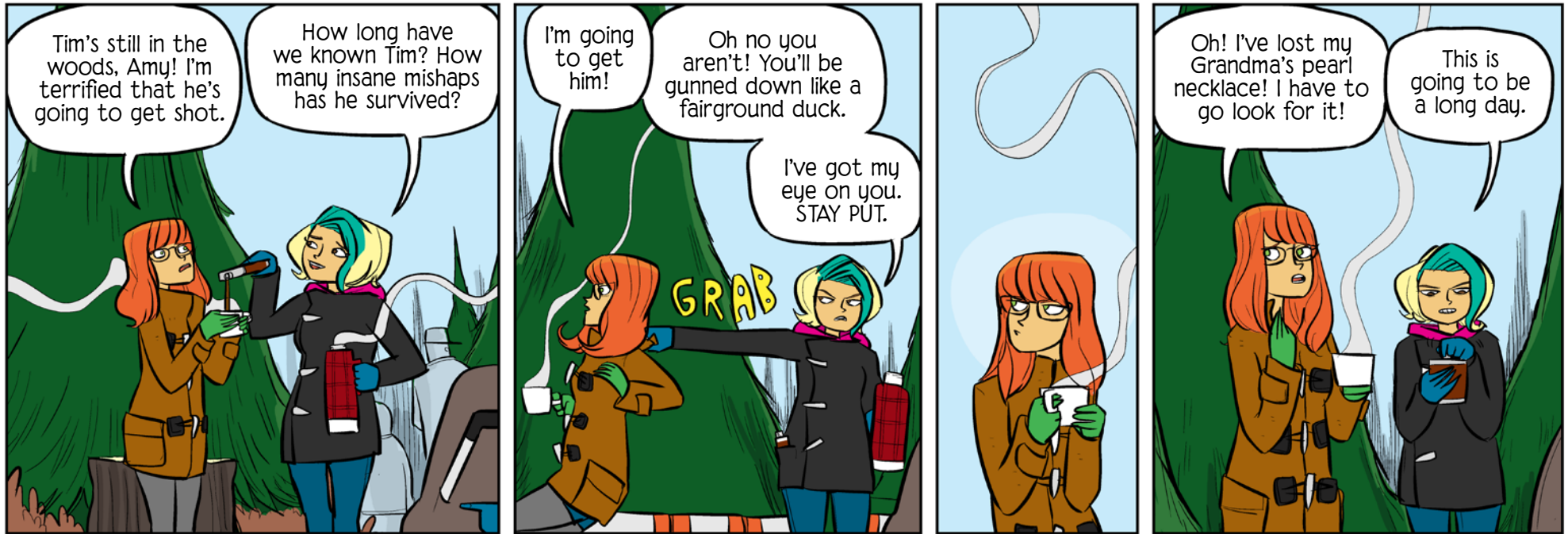
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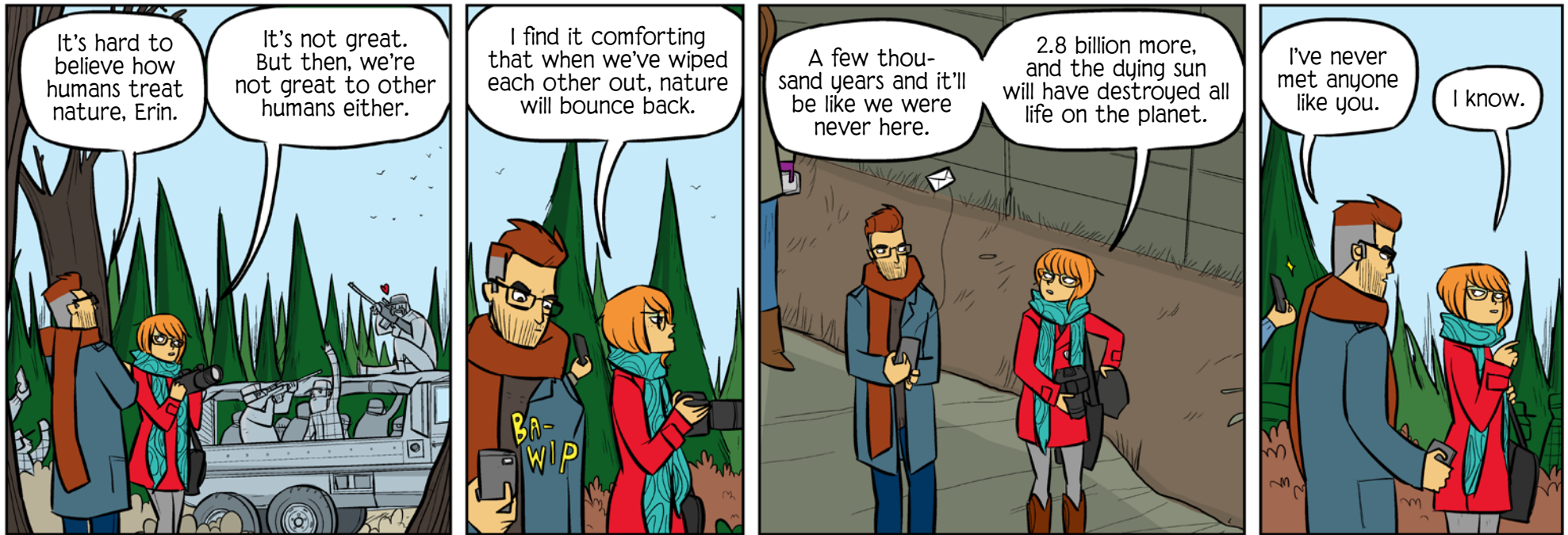
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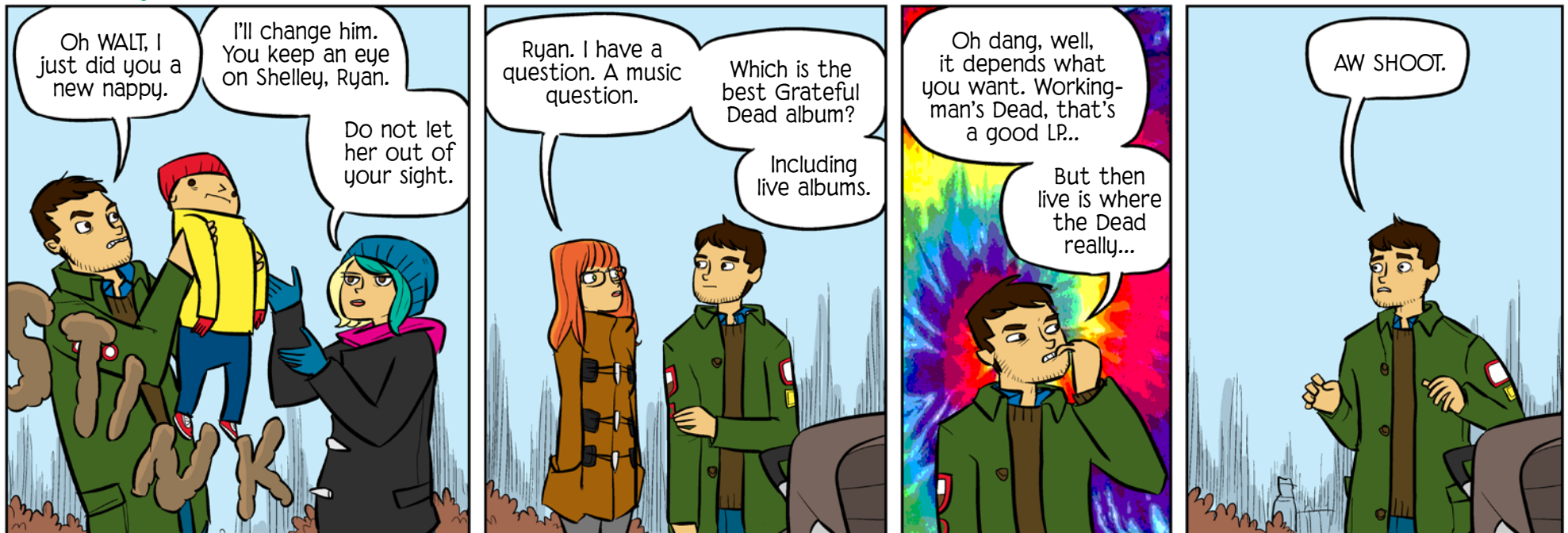
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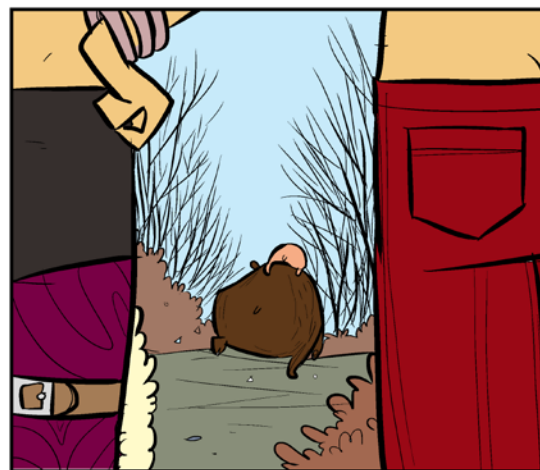


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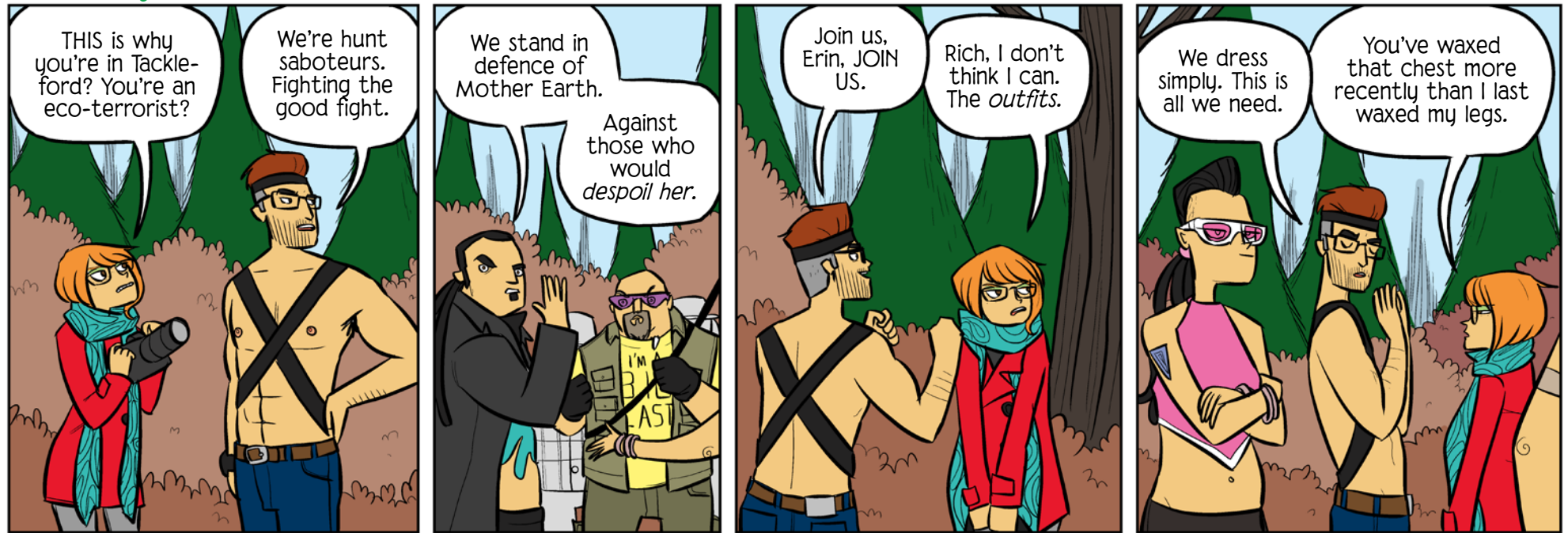
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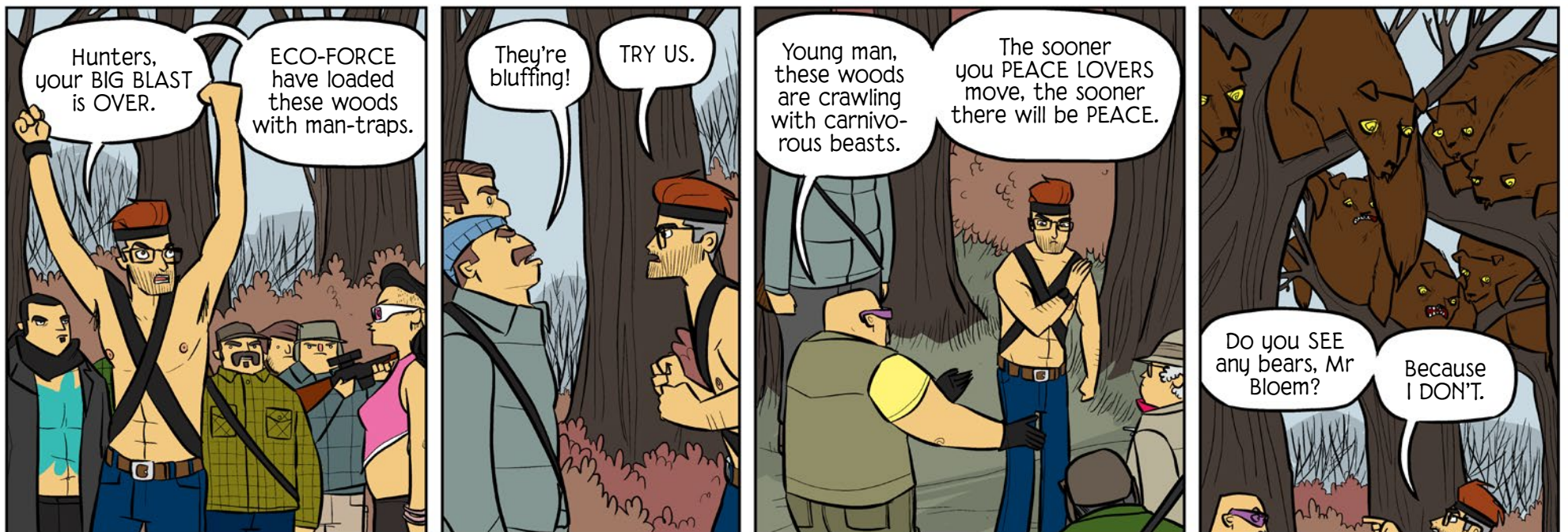


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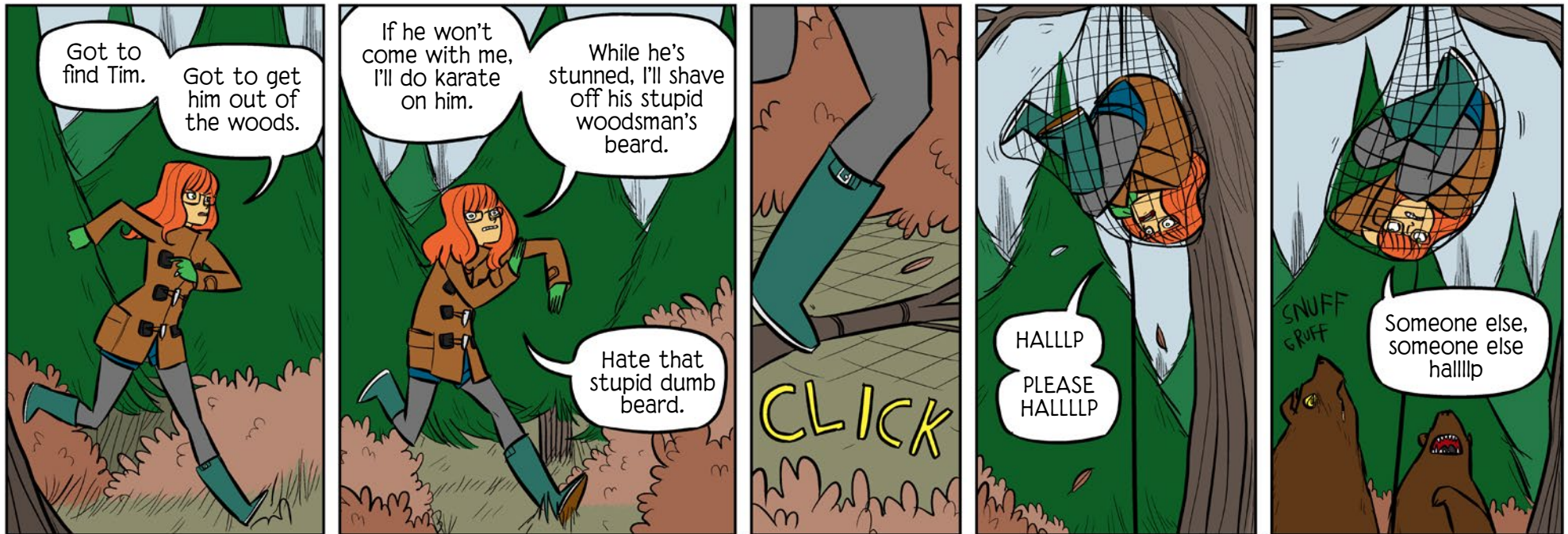
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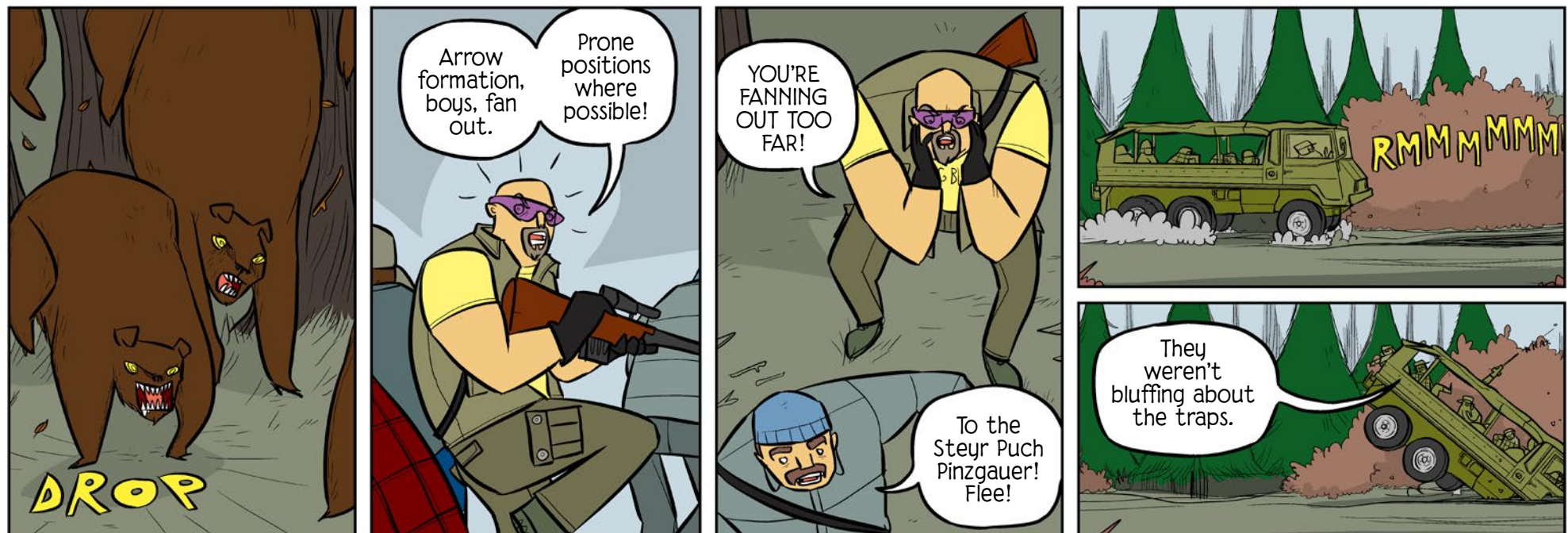
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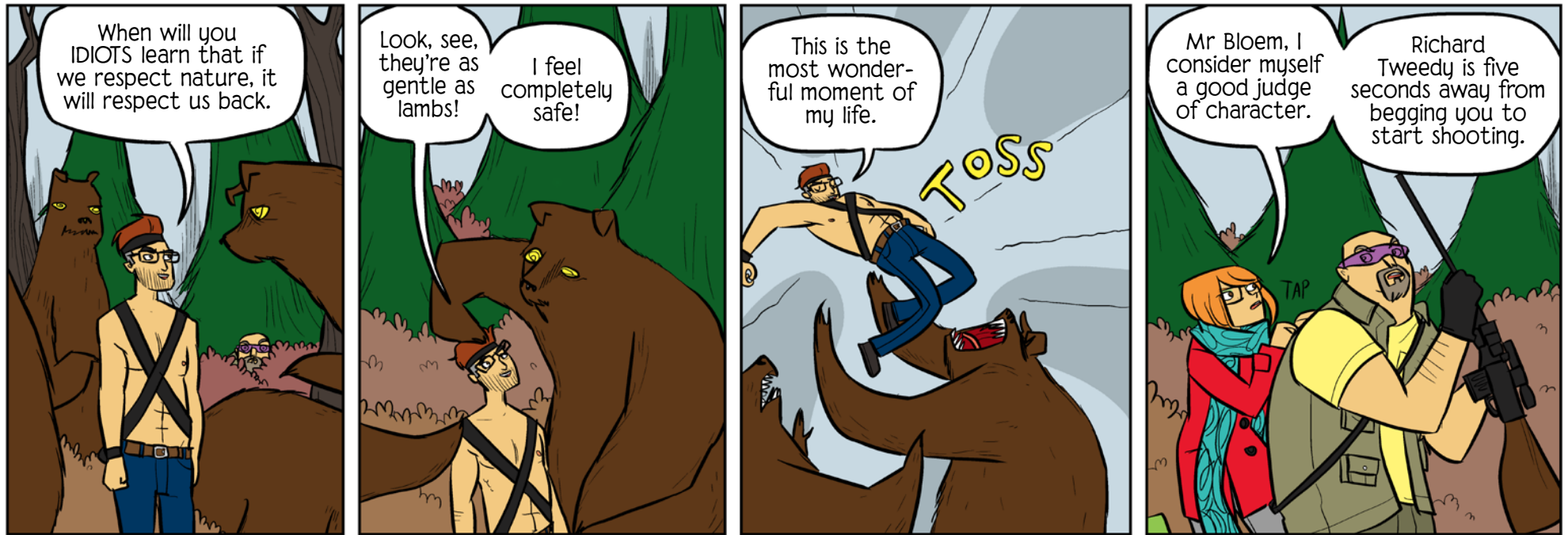
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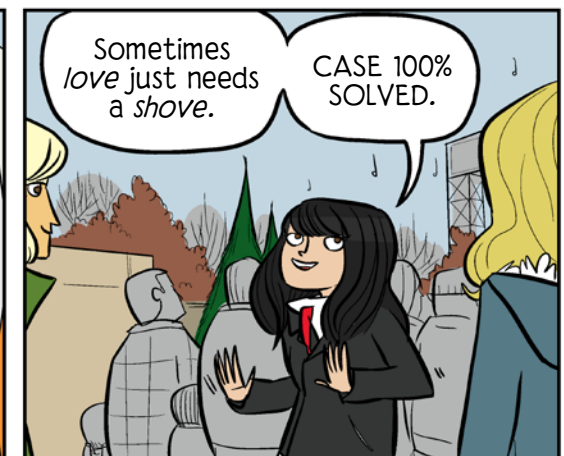
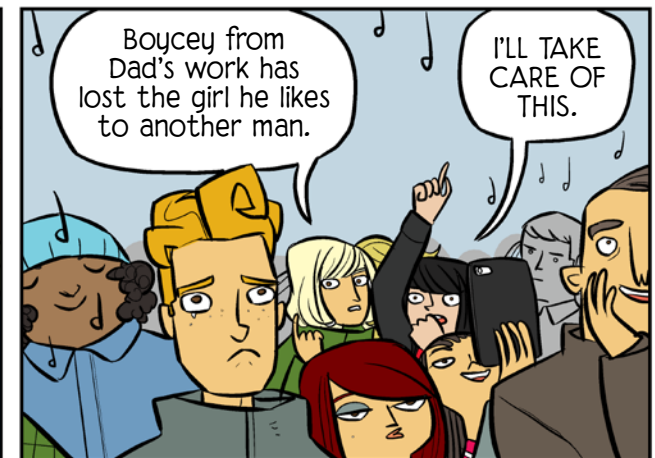
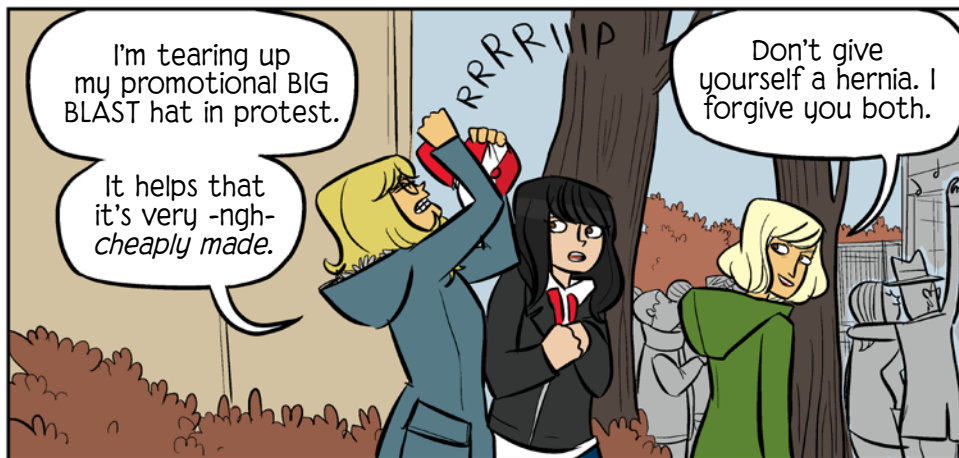


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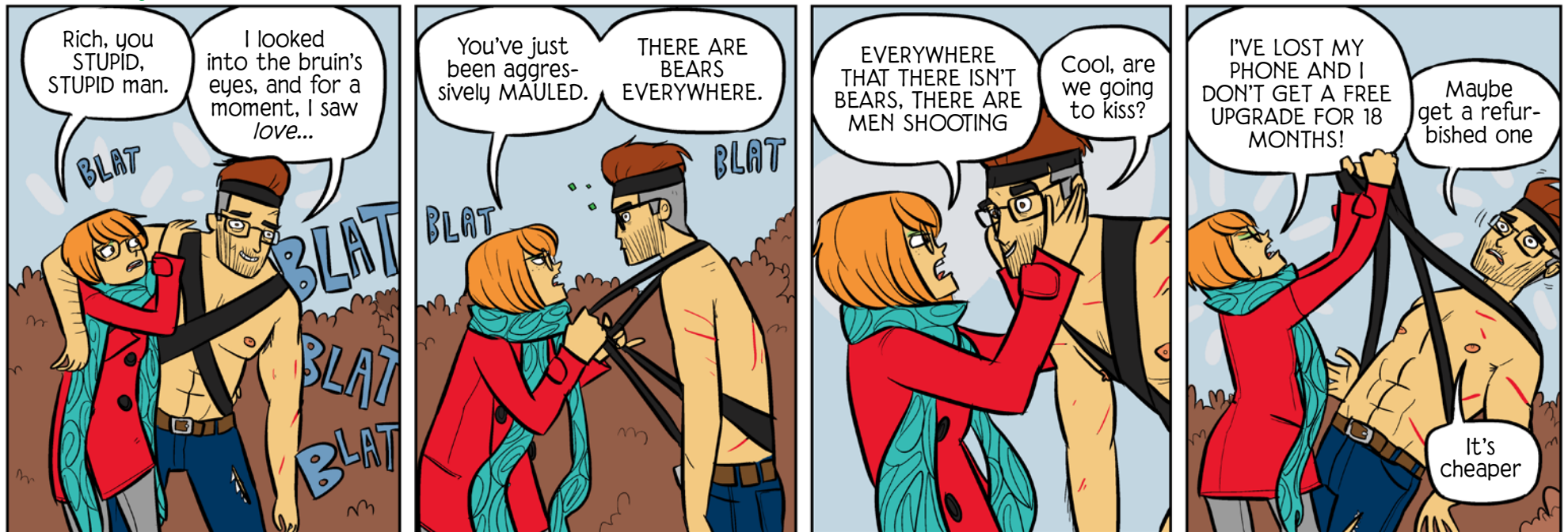


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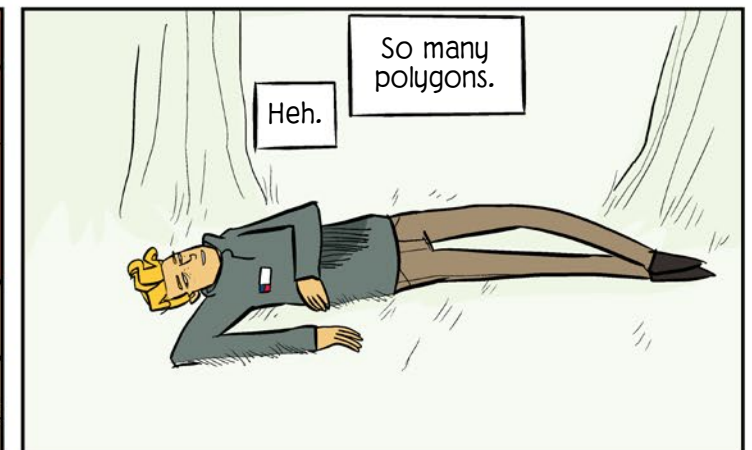
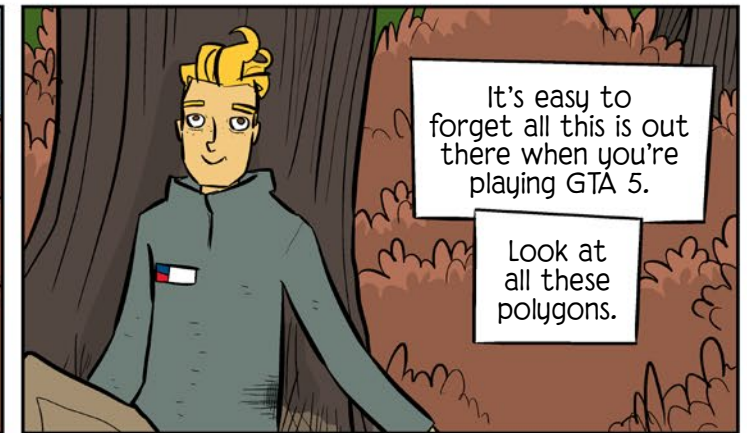


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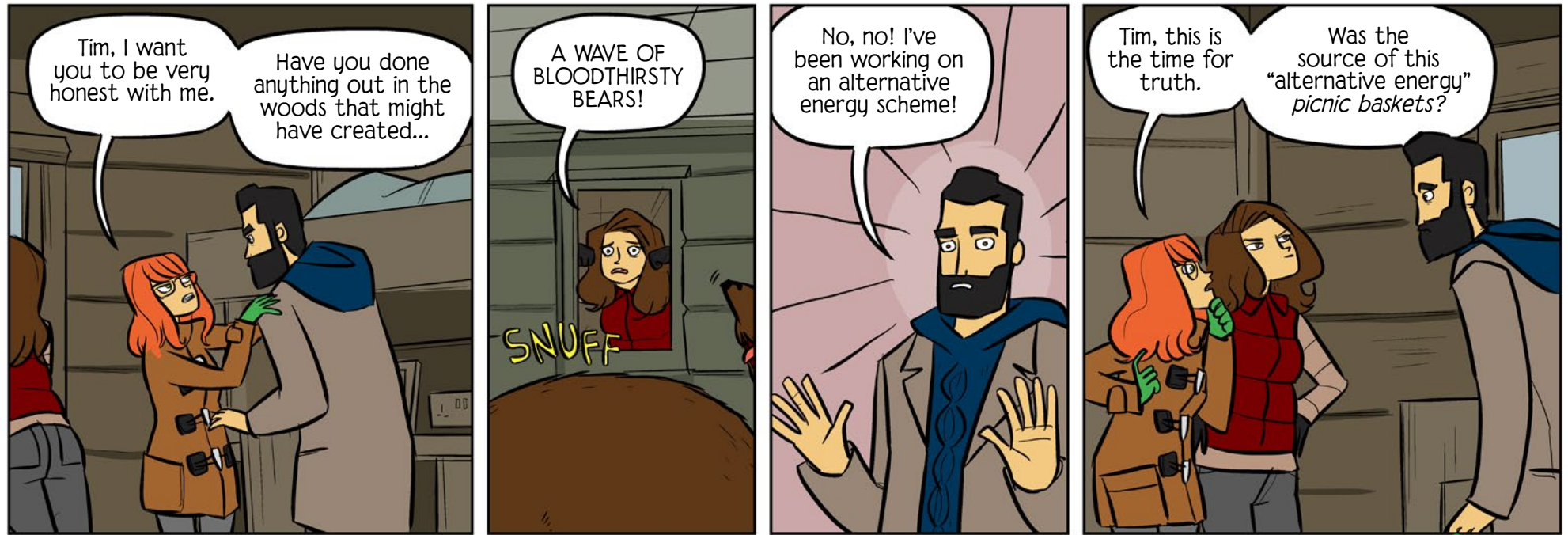
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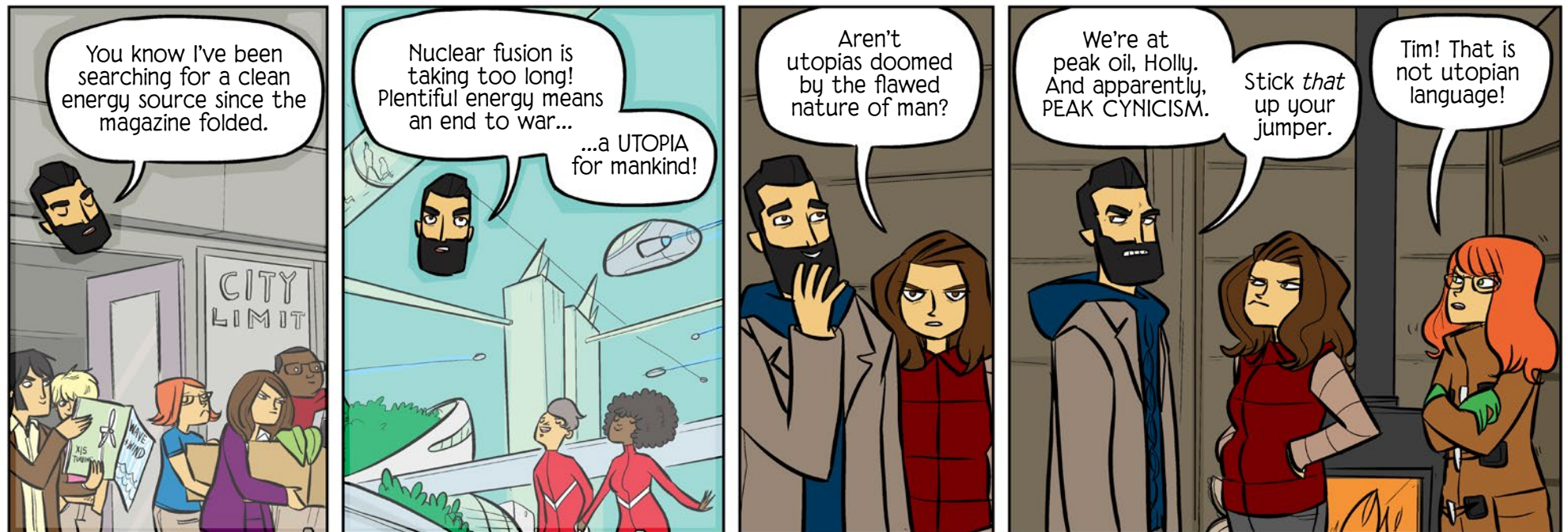


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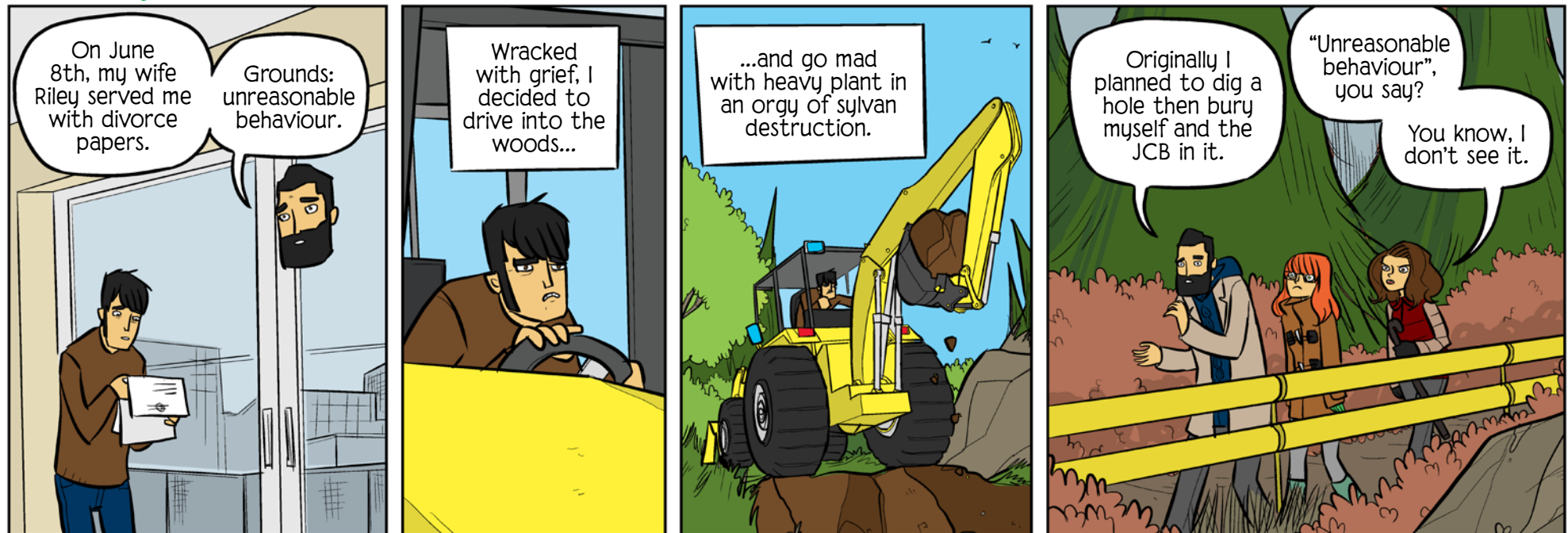
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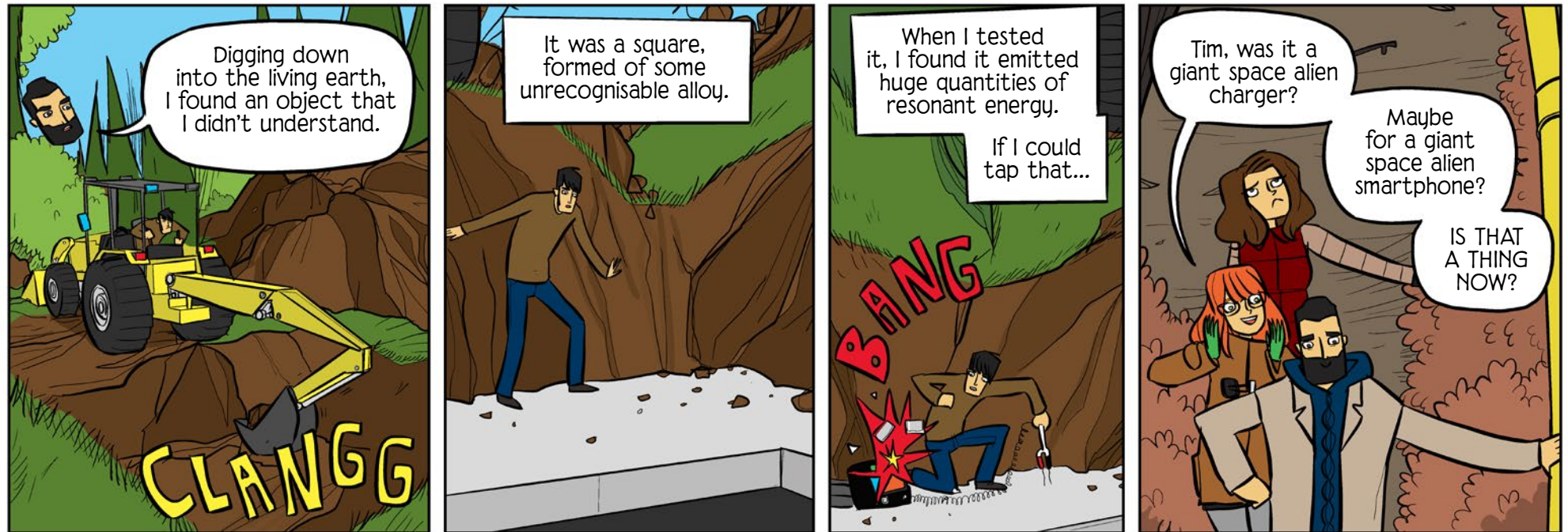


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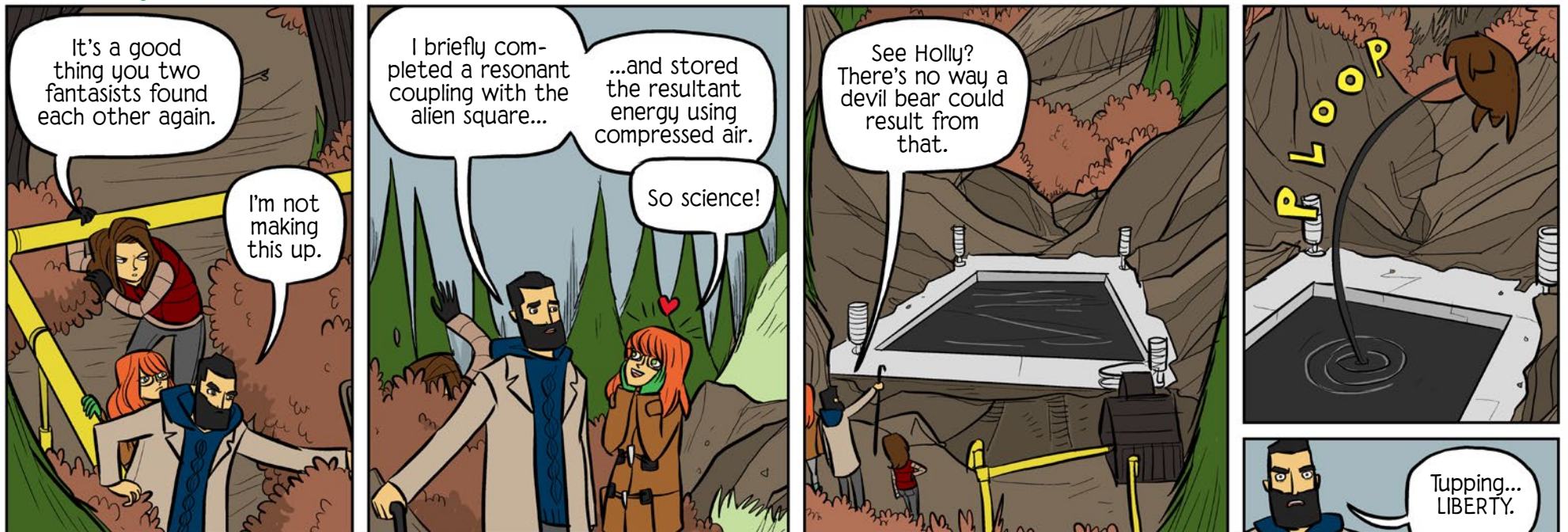
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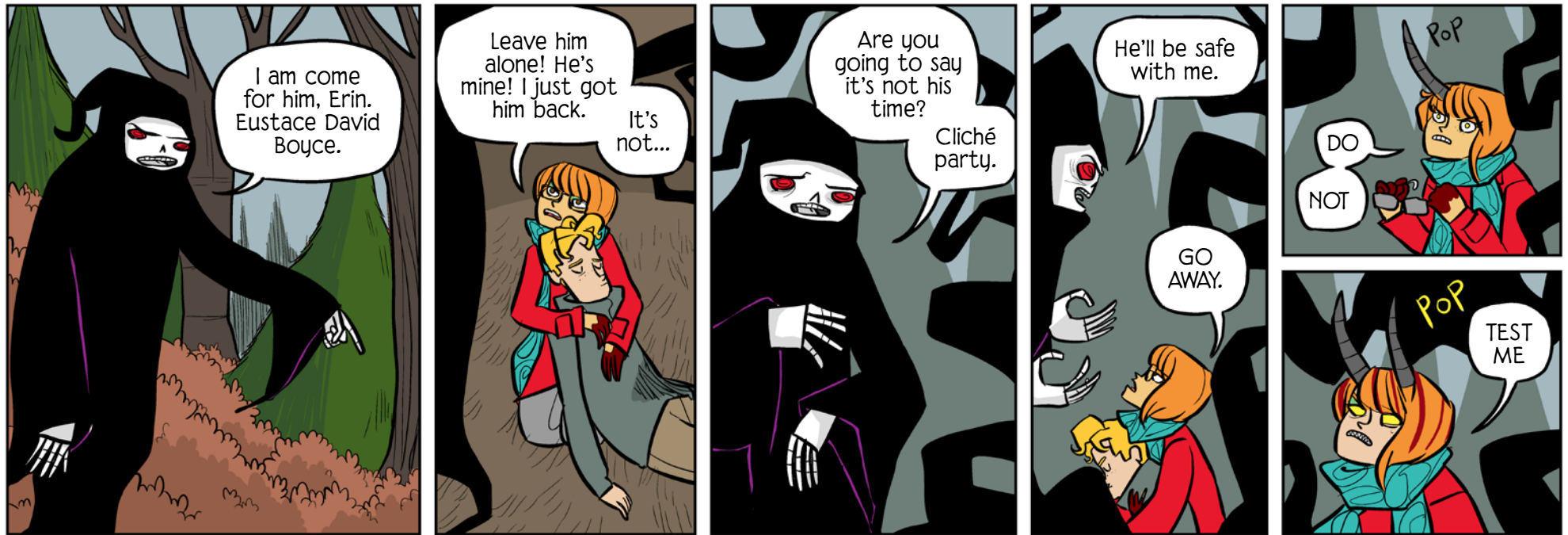


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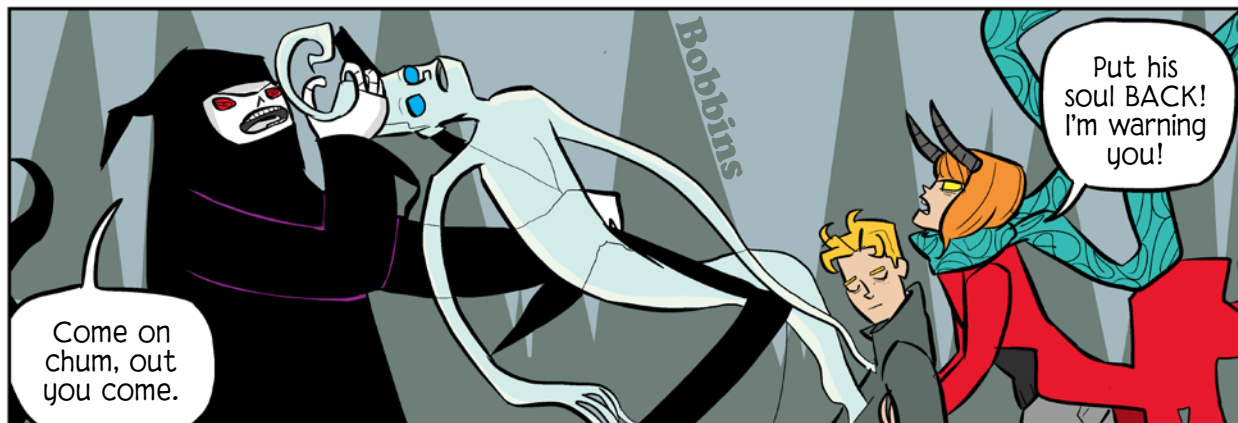


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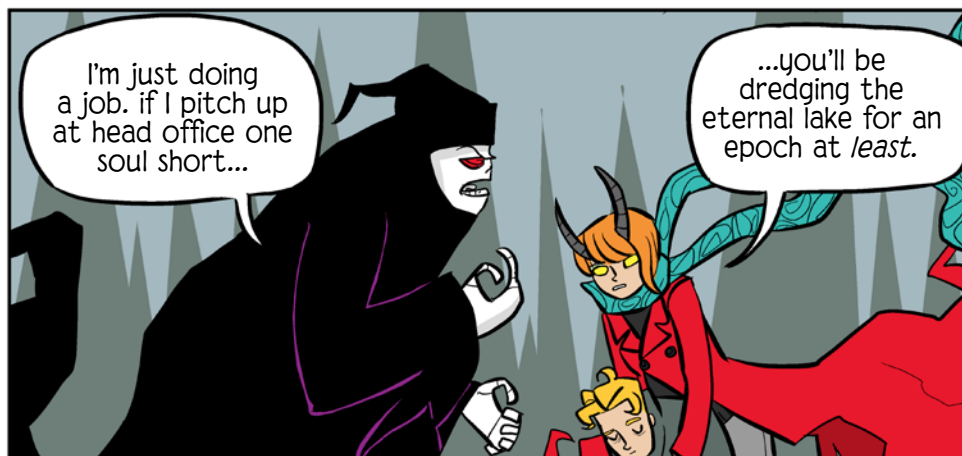


Come on chum, out you come.

Put his soul BACK! I'm warning you!



Look. I'm not going to argue with you, Erin.



I'm just doing a job. if I pitch up at head office one soul short...

...you'll be dredging the eternal lake for an epoch at *least*.

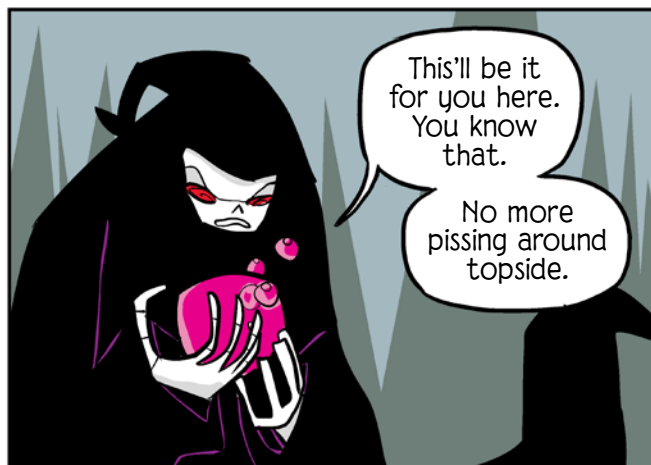


He's just so young. He's seen nothing.



Take my soul instead.

Like for like. The books will balance.



This'll be it for you here. You know that.

No more pissing around topside.



Fine.



The paper-work on this is going to be *brutal*.

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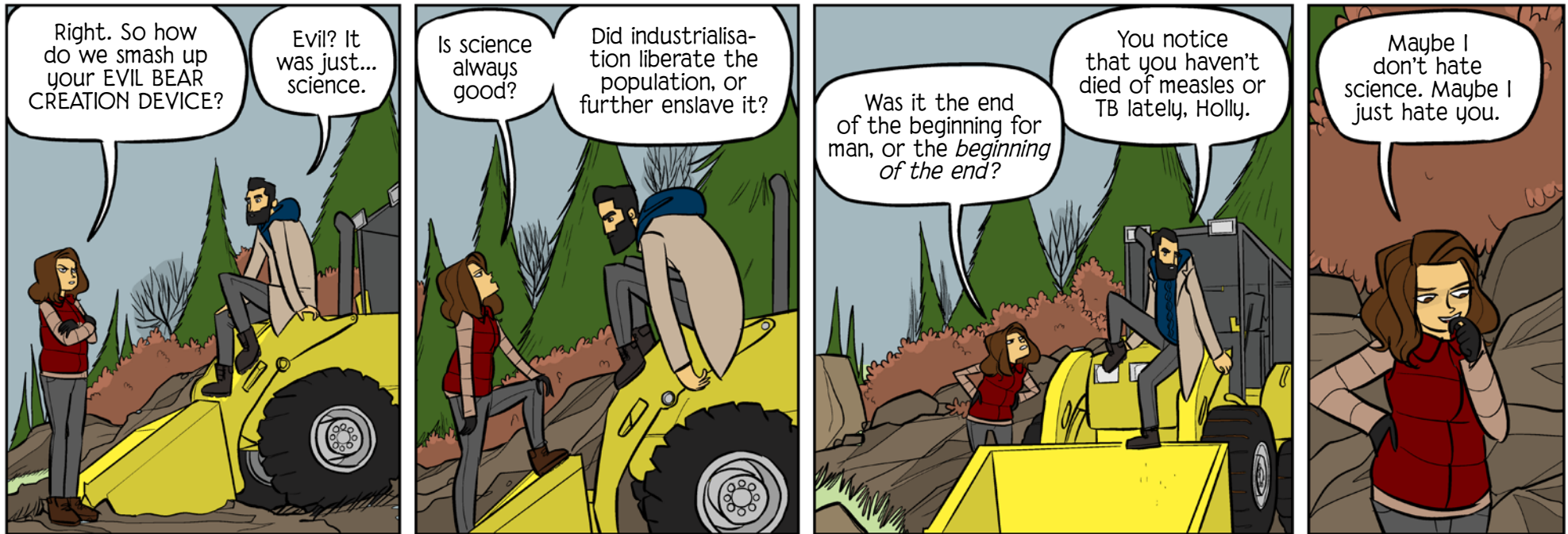
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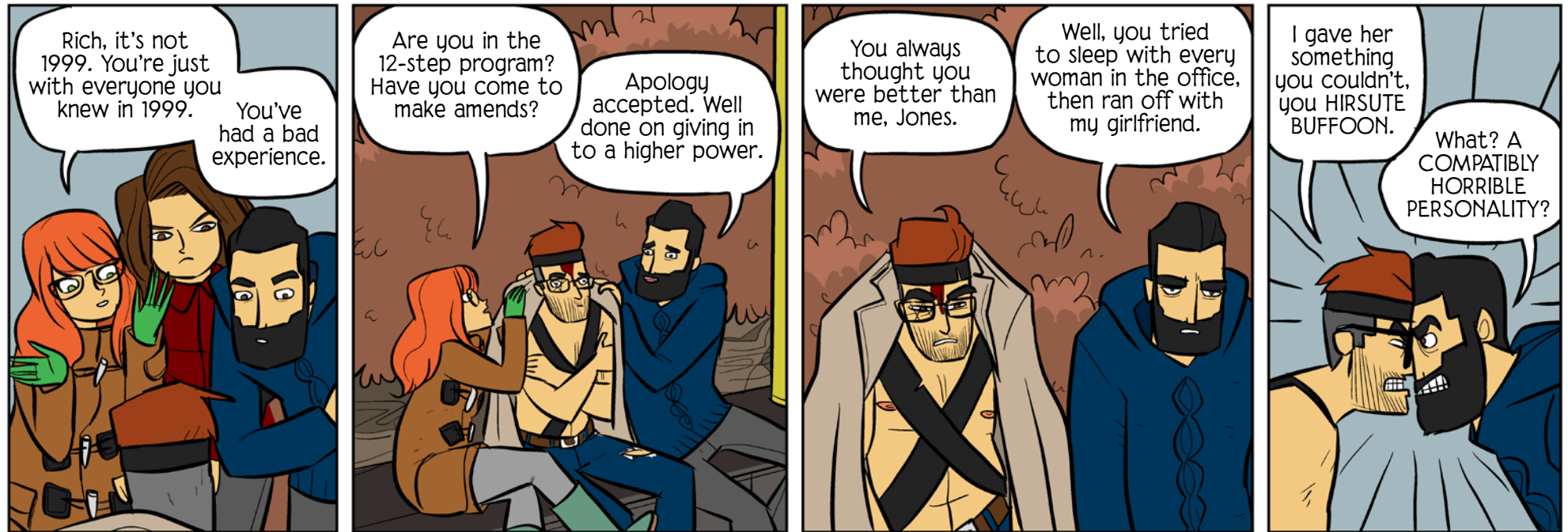
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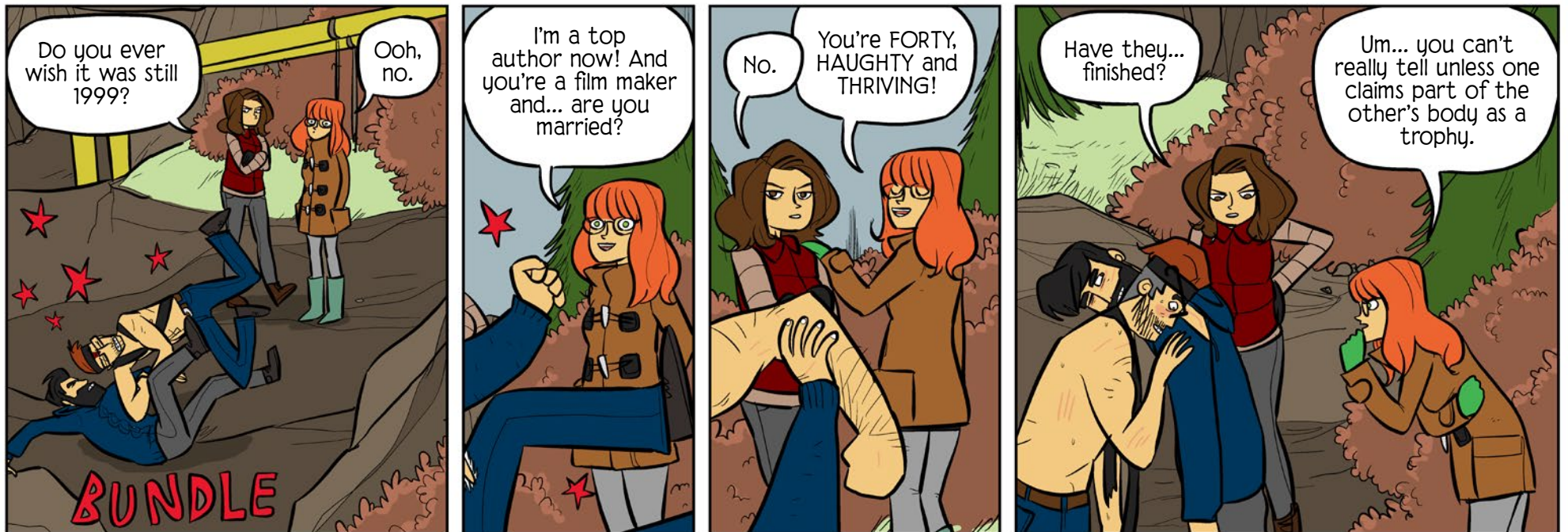
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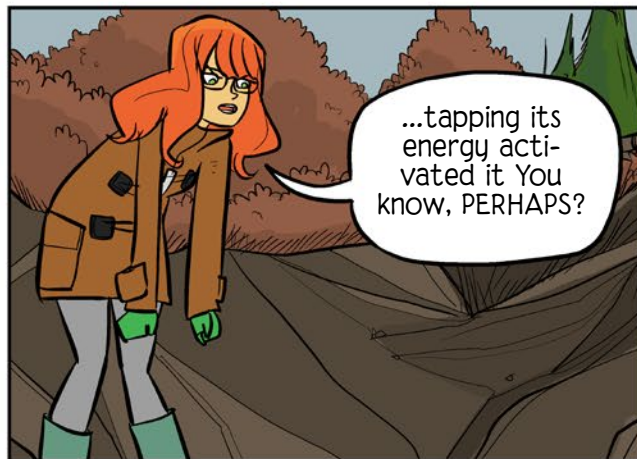


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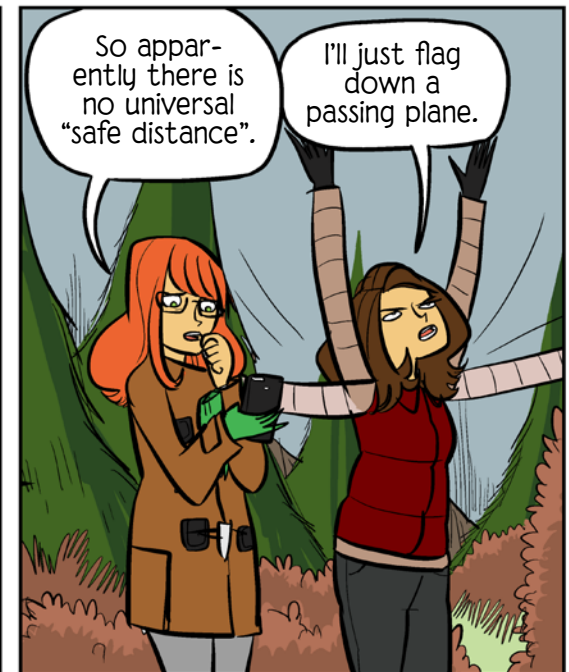


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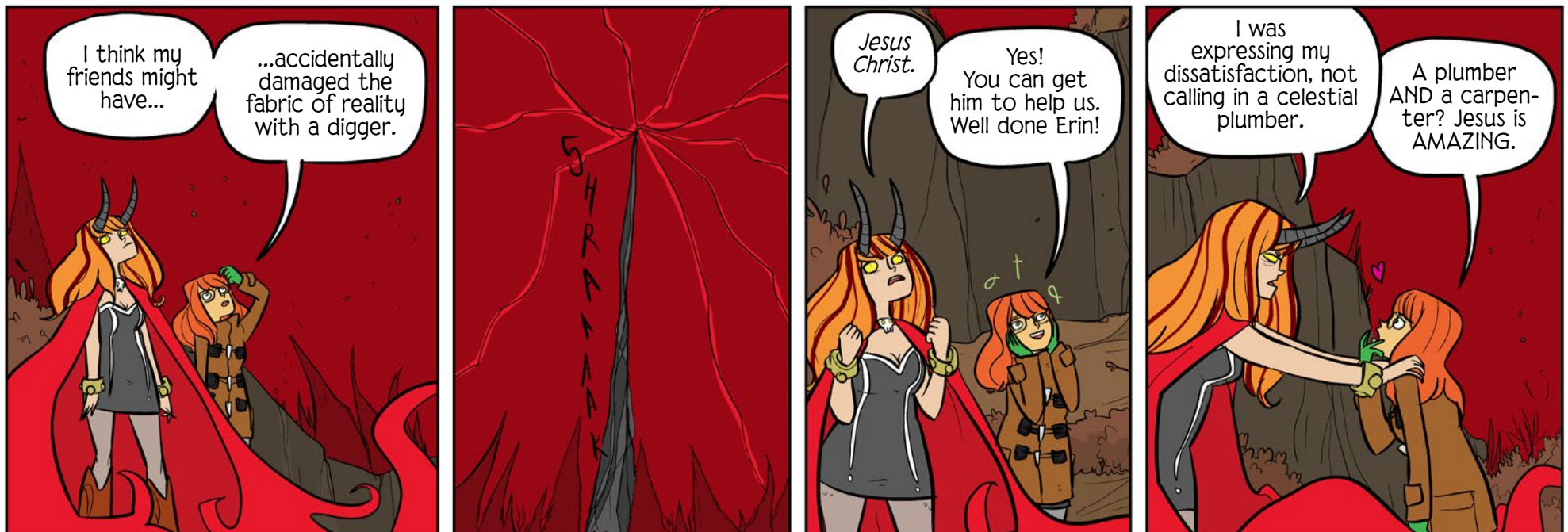
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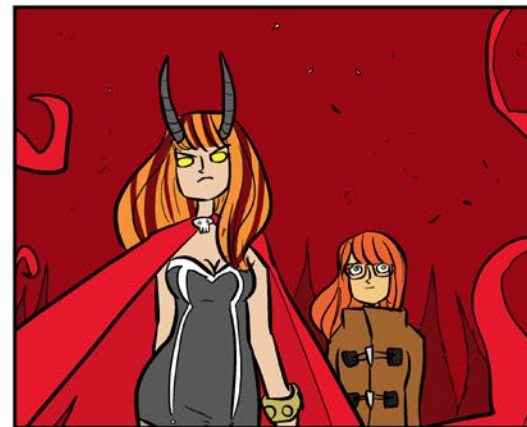


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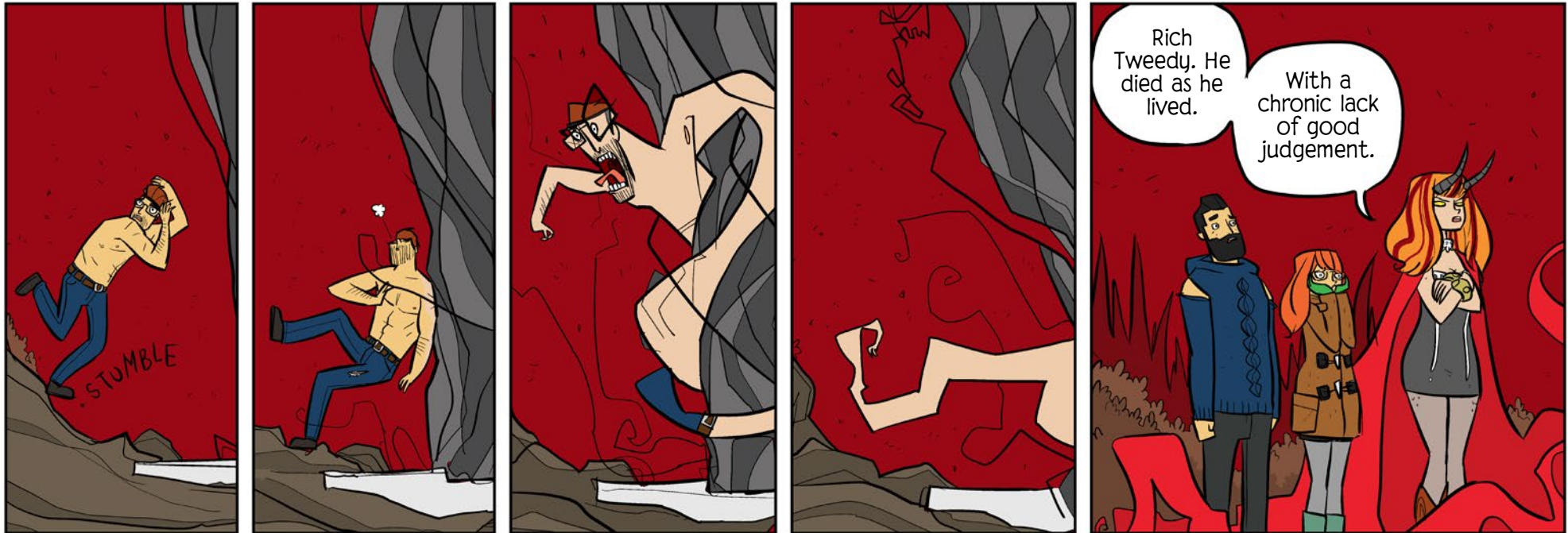
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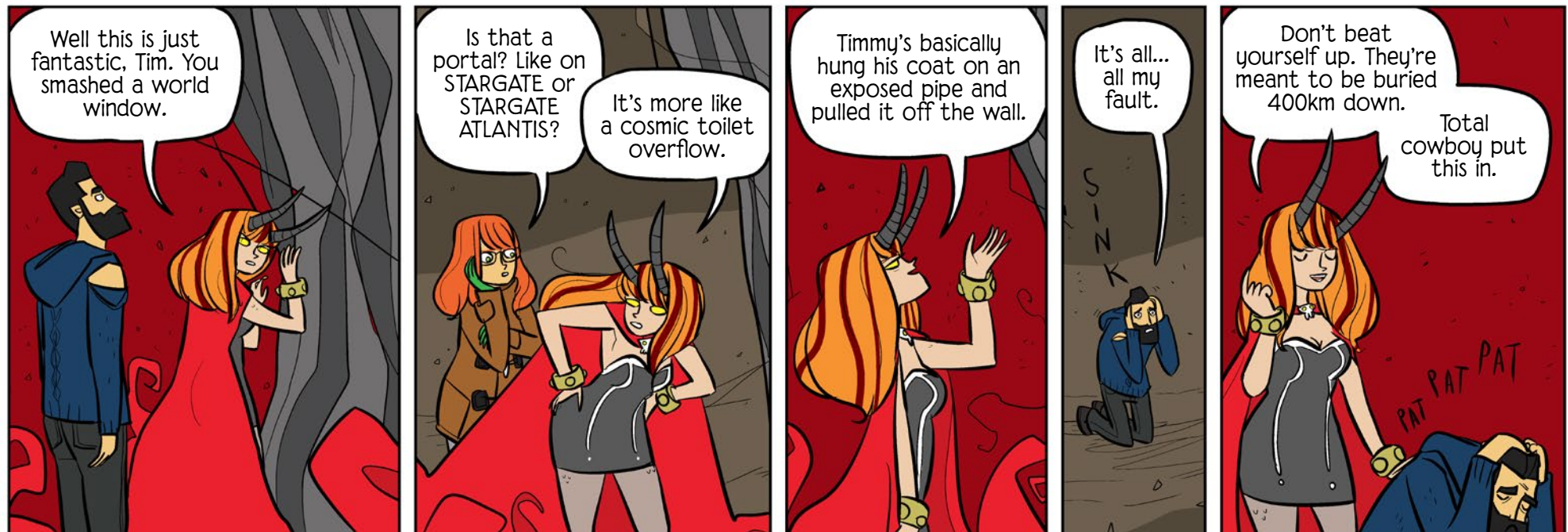


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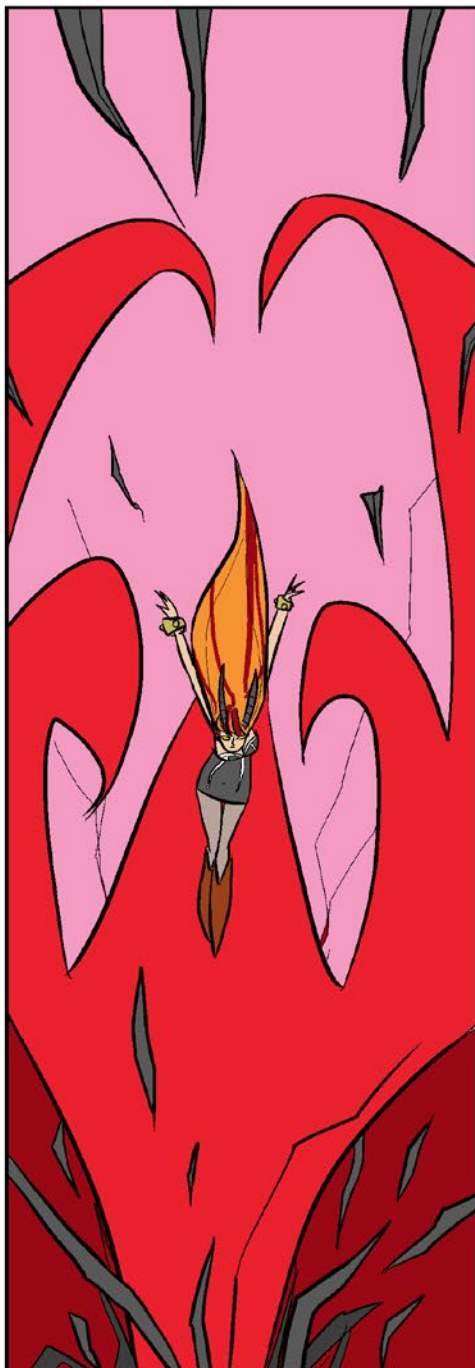
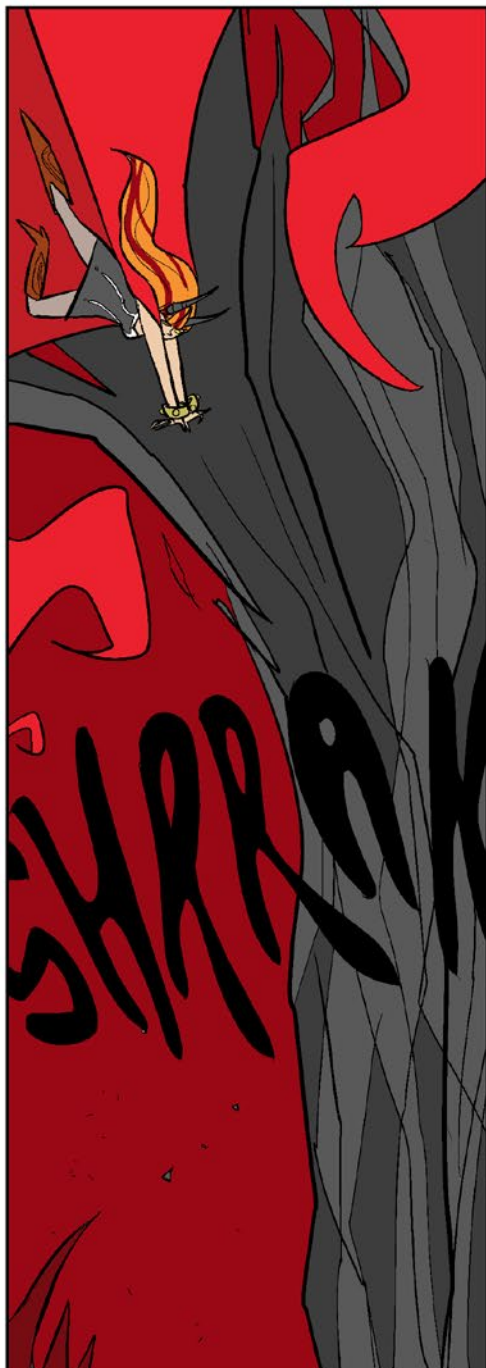
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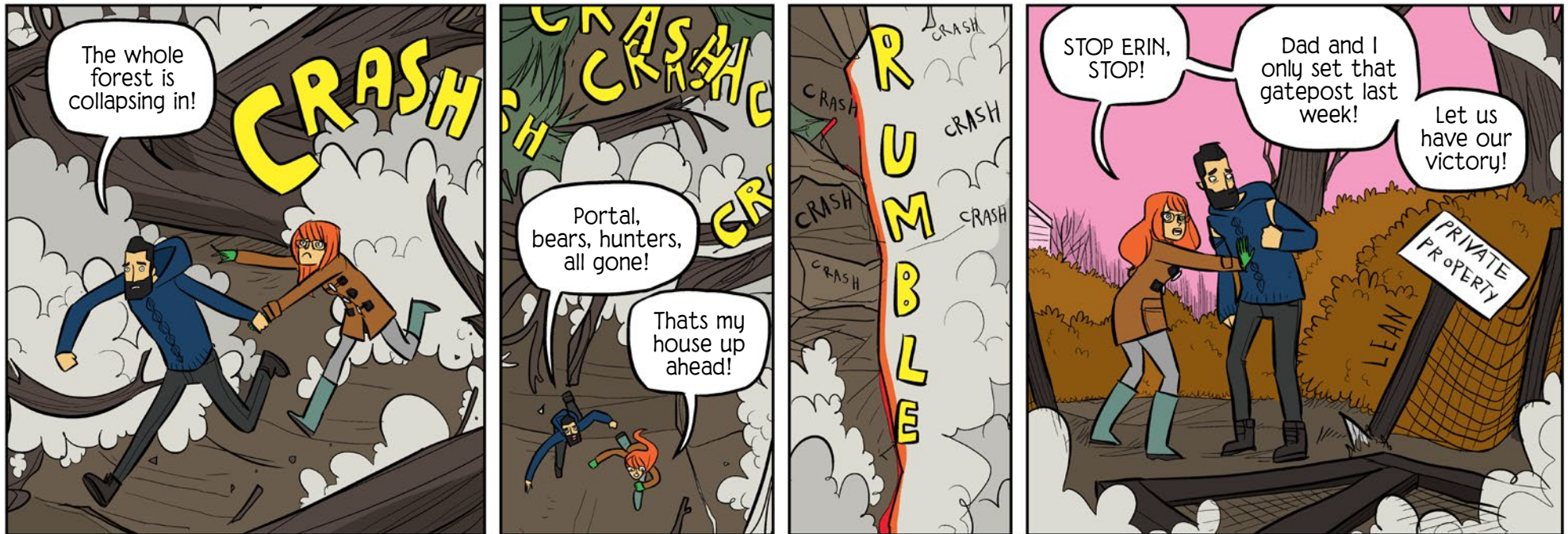
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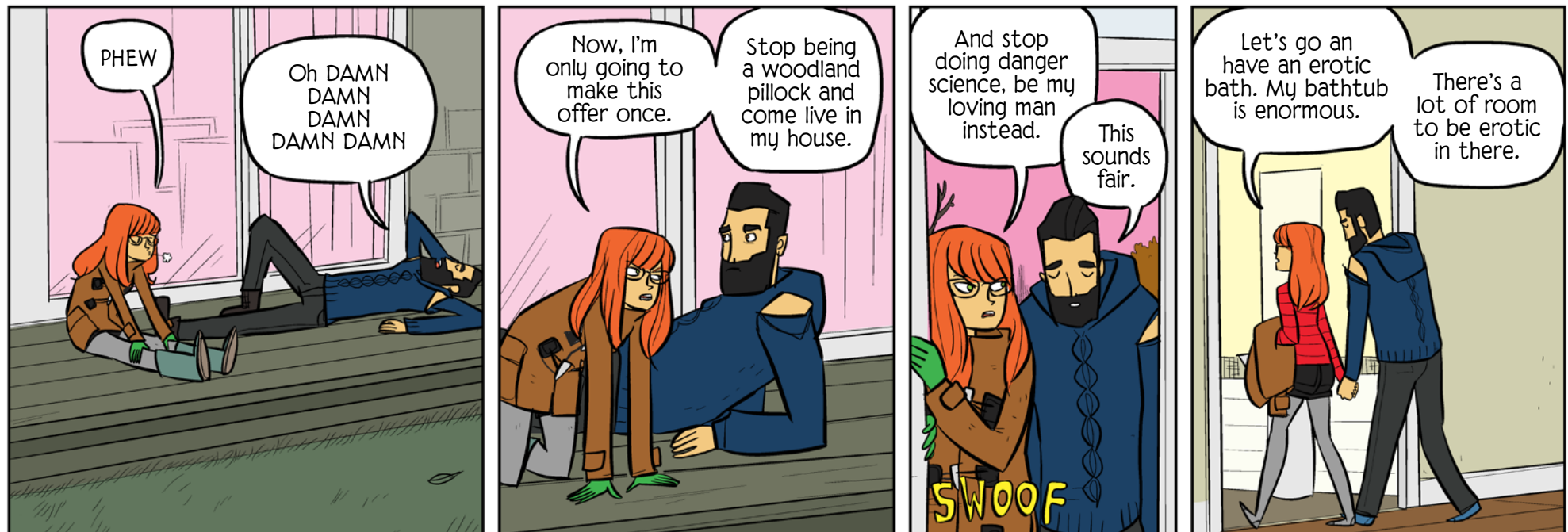


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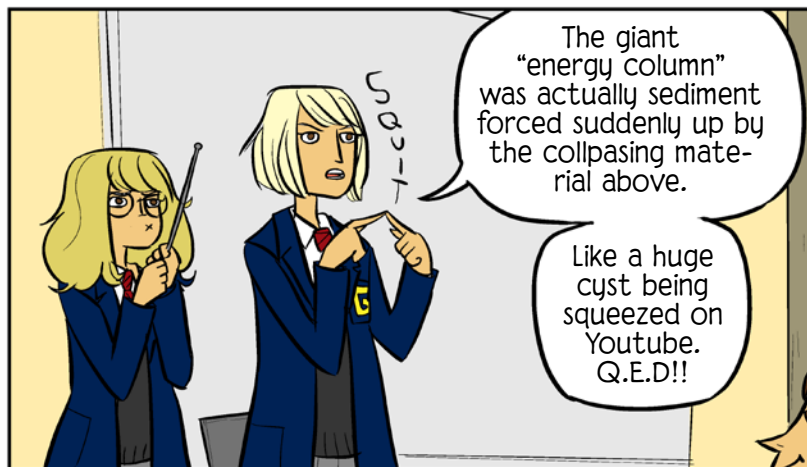
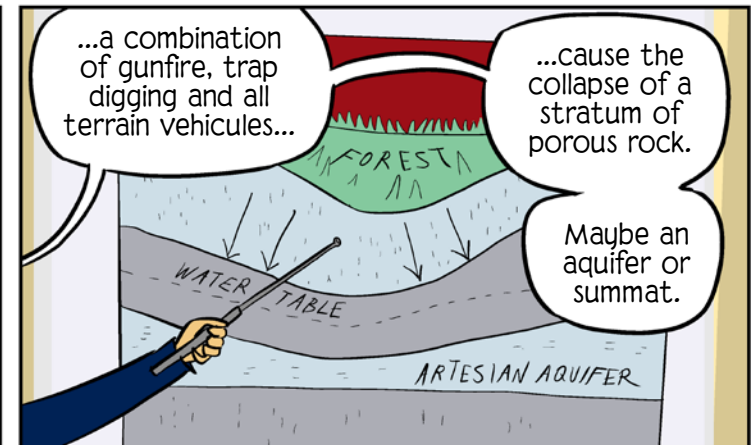
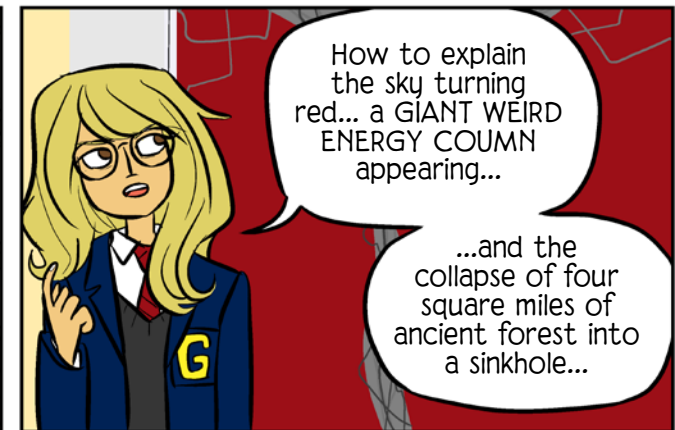


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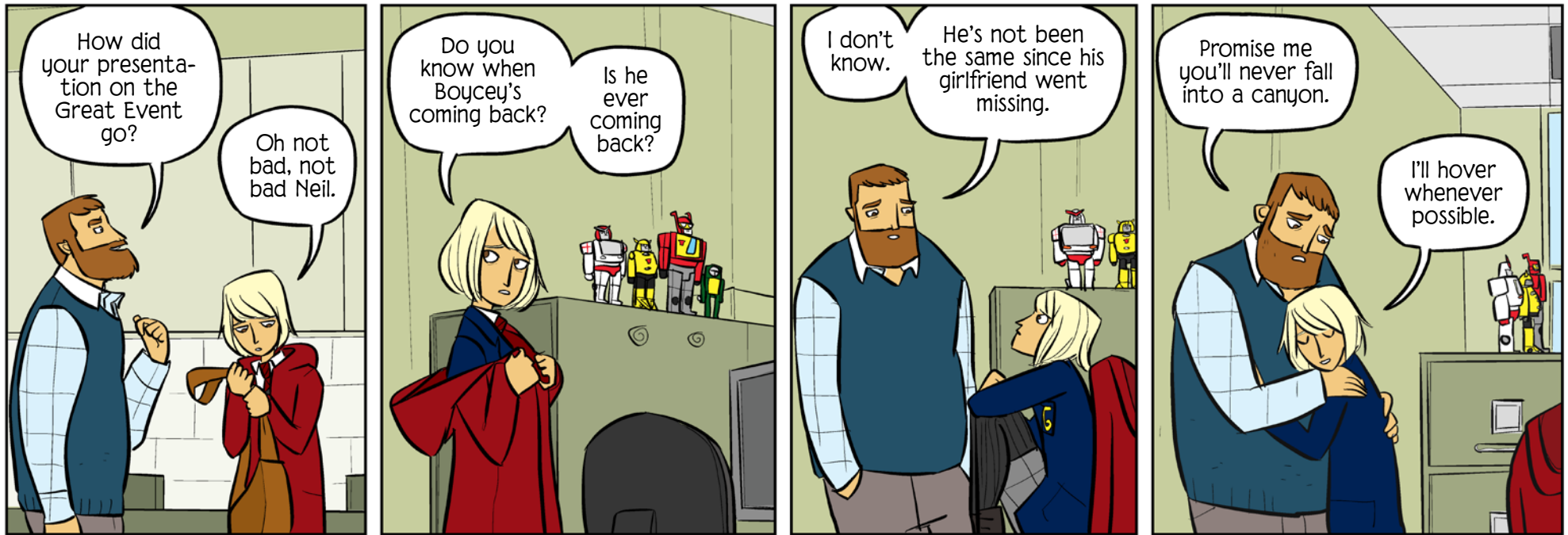
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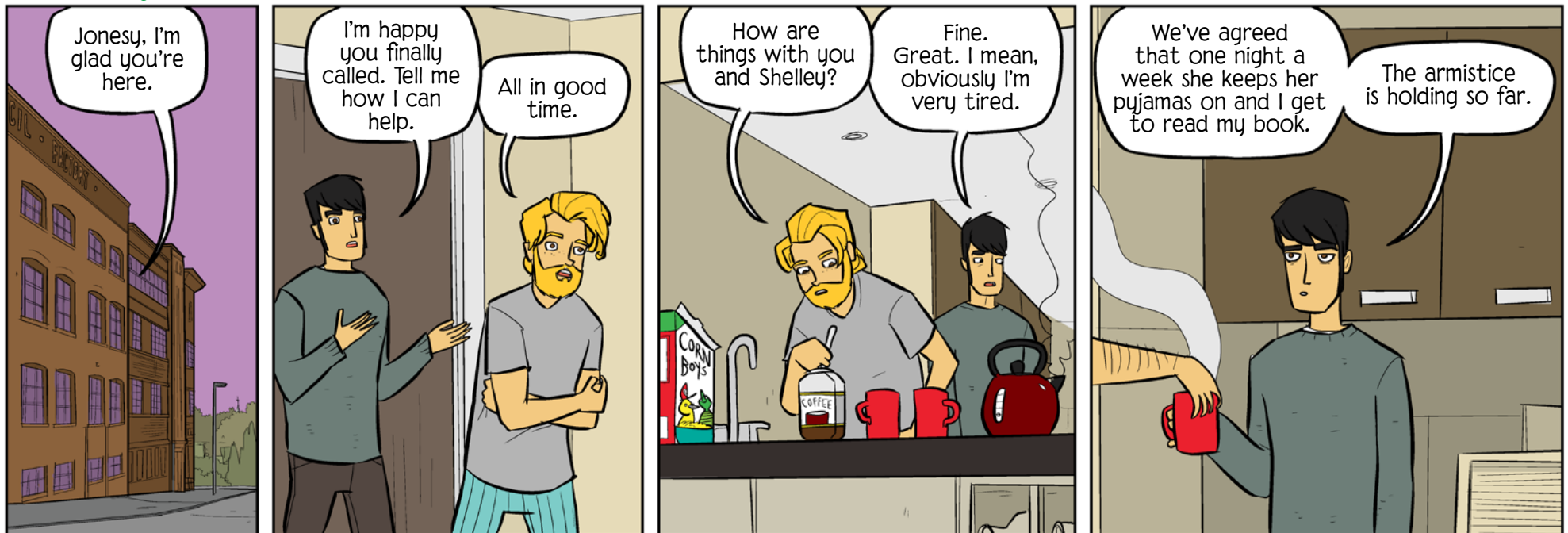


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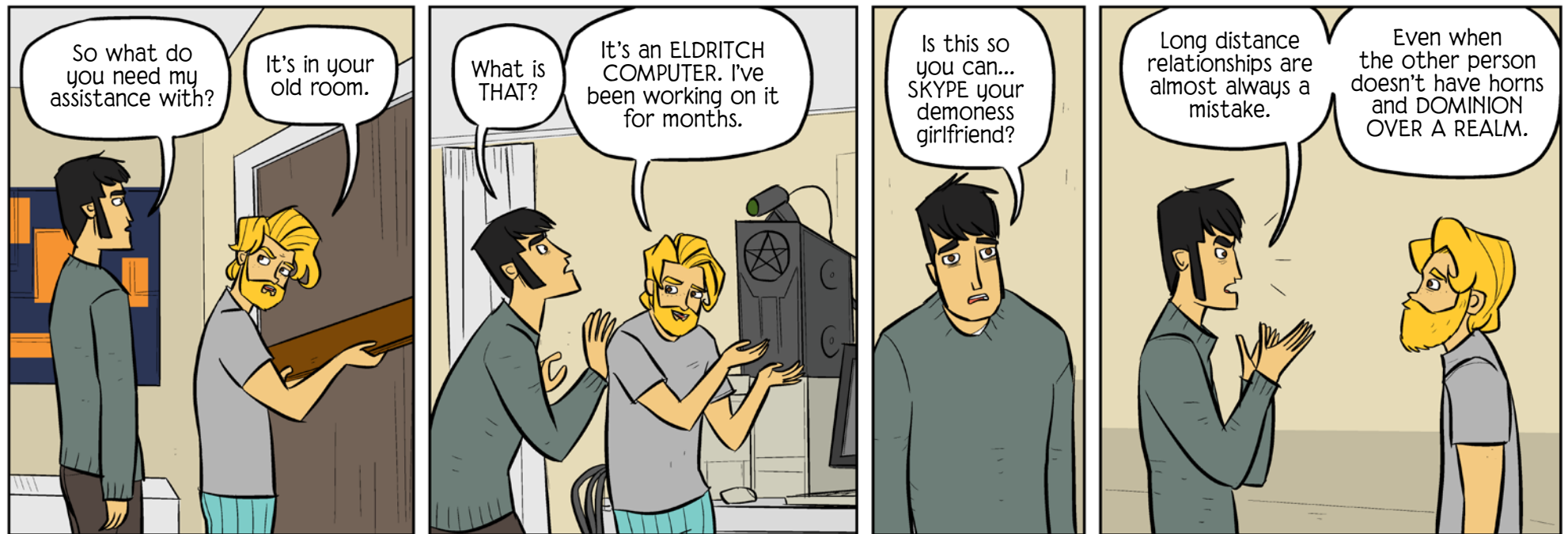
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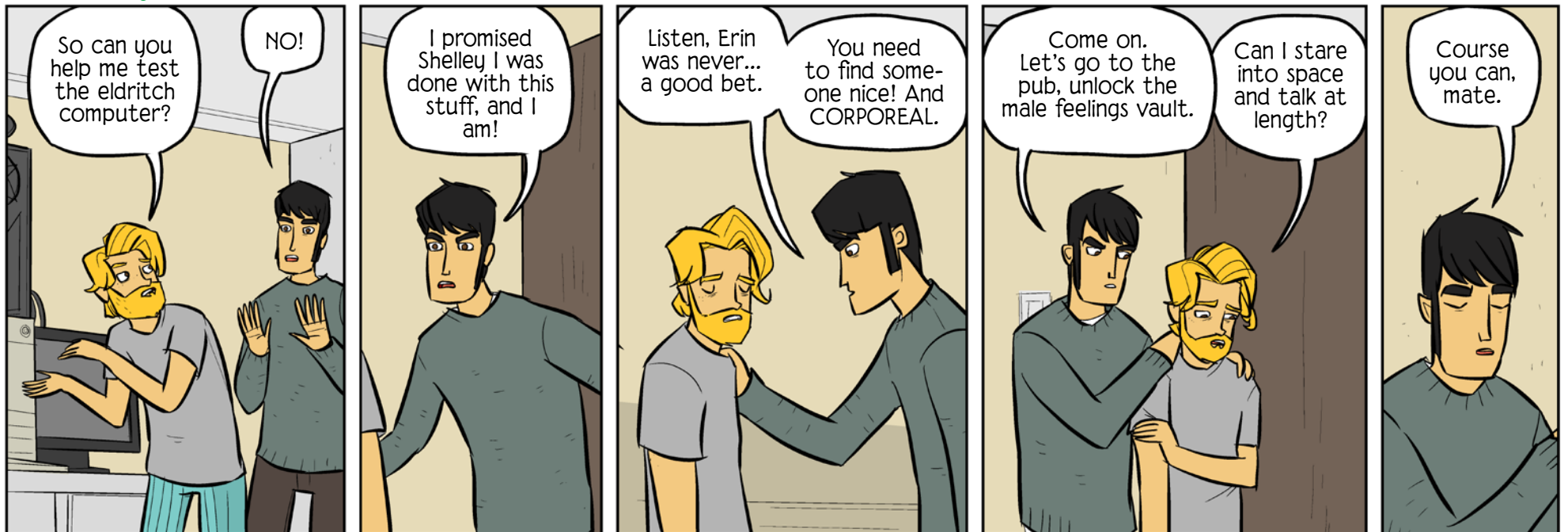
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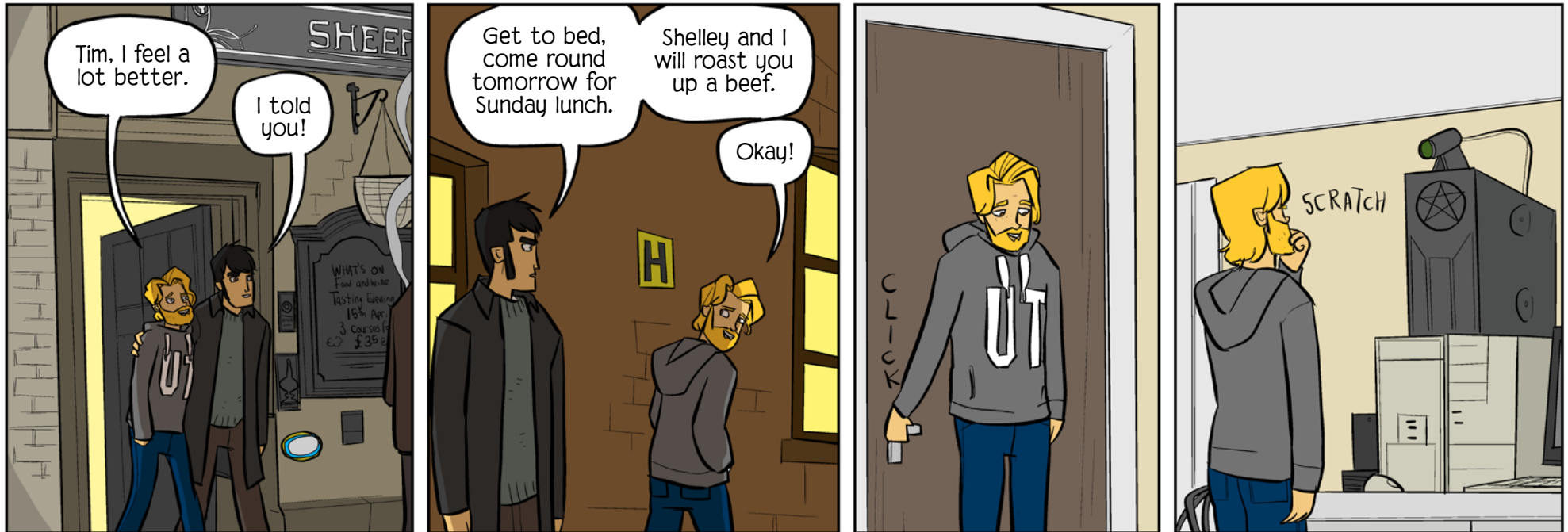
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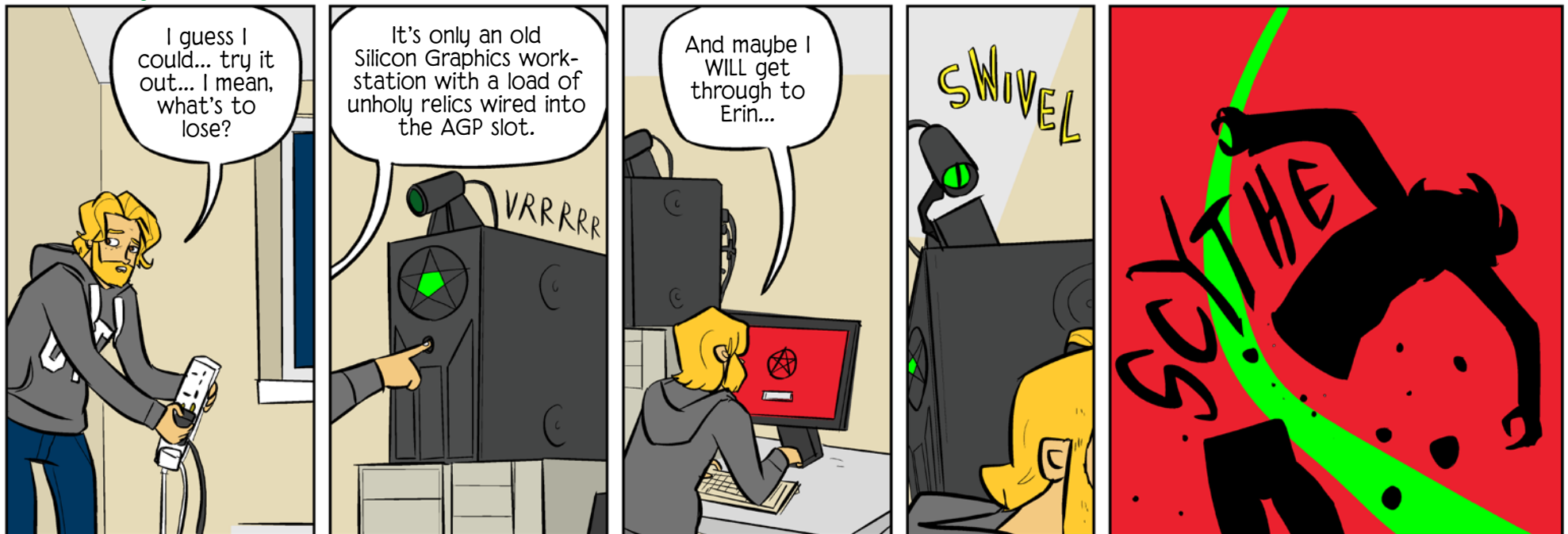
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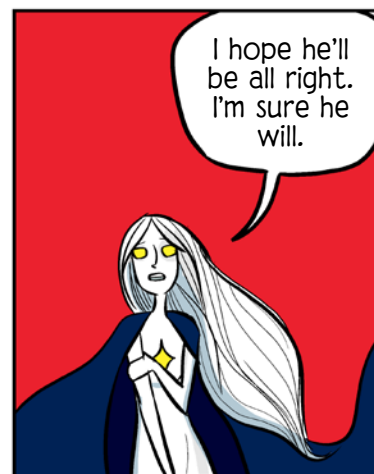
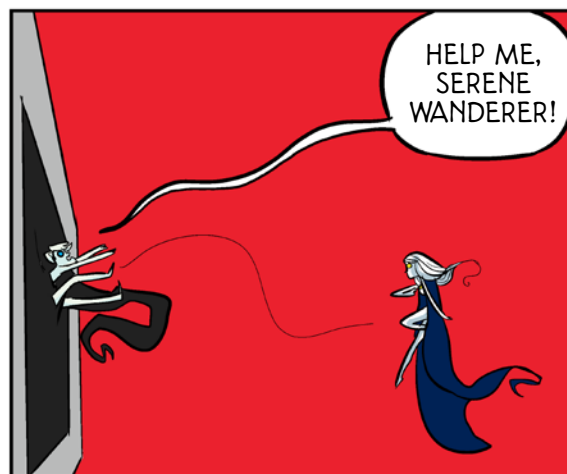
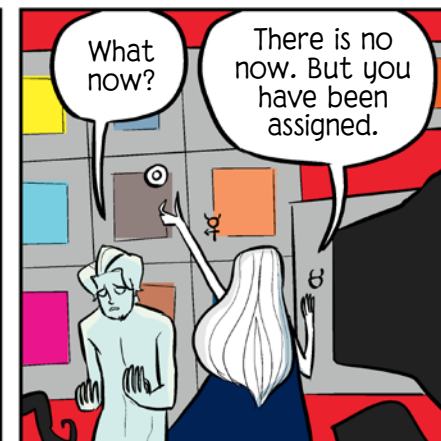
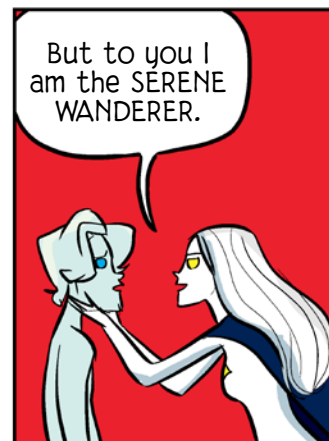
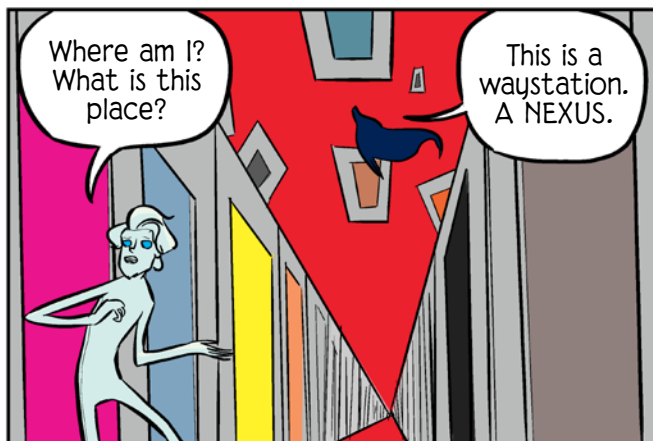
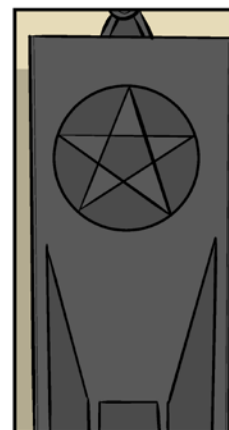
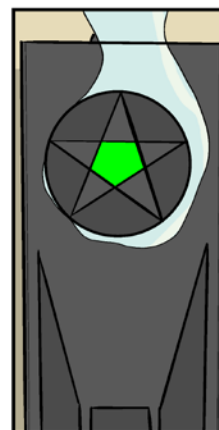
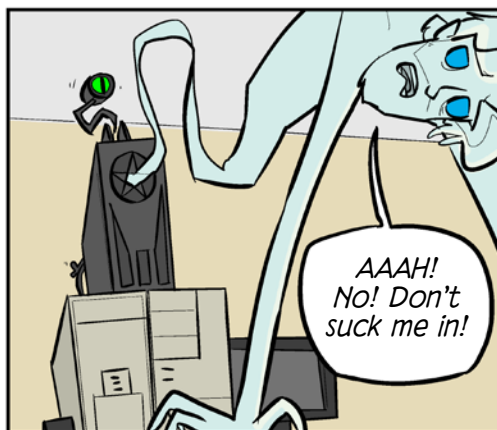


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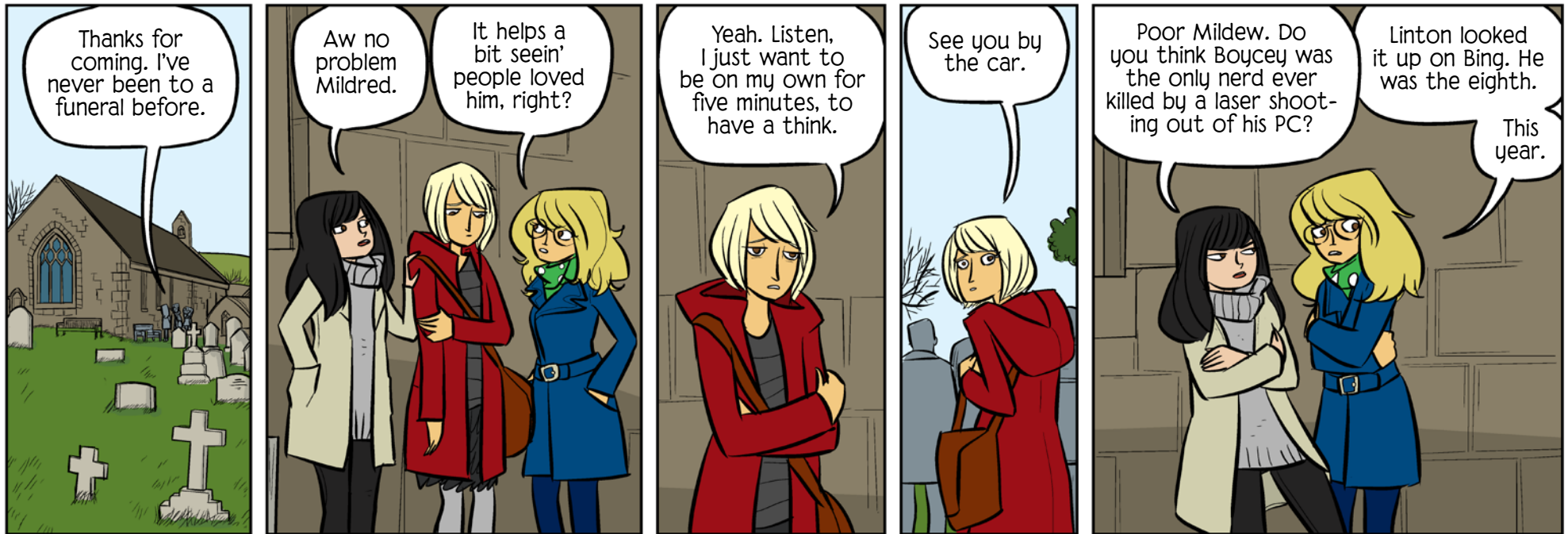
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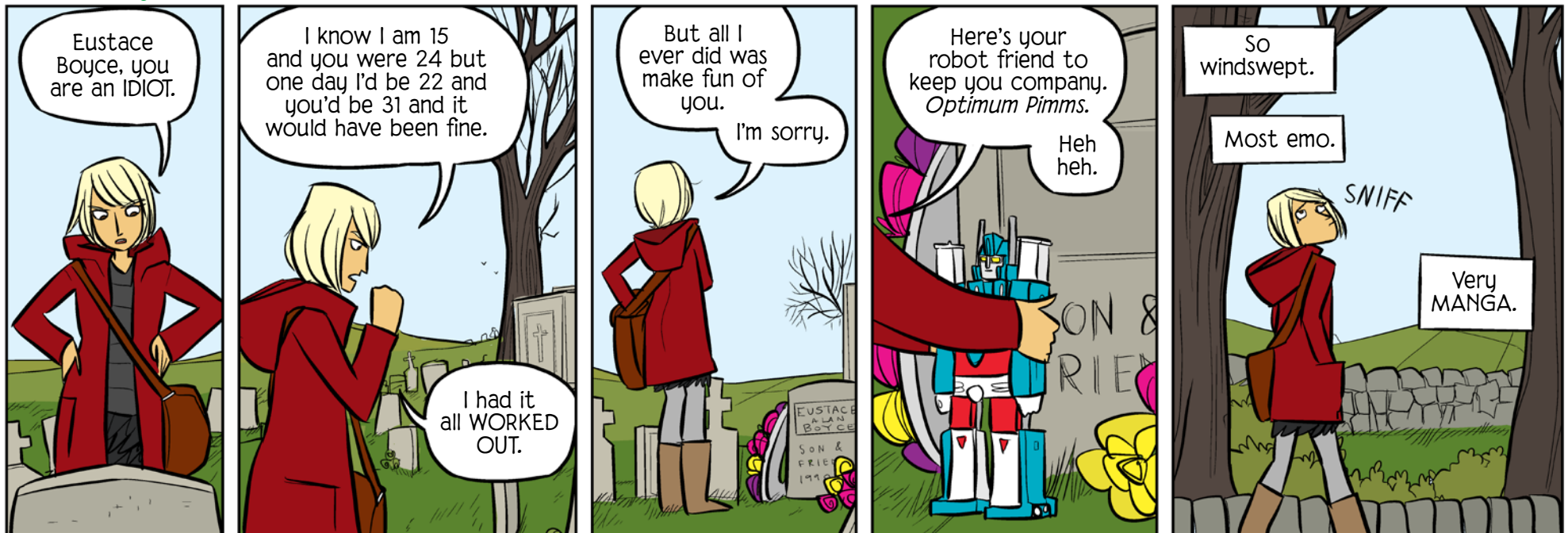


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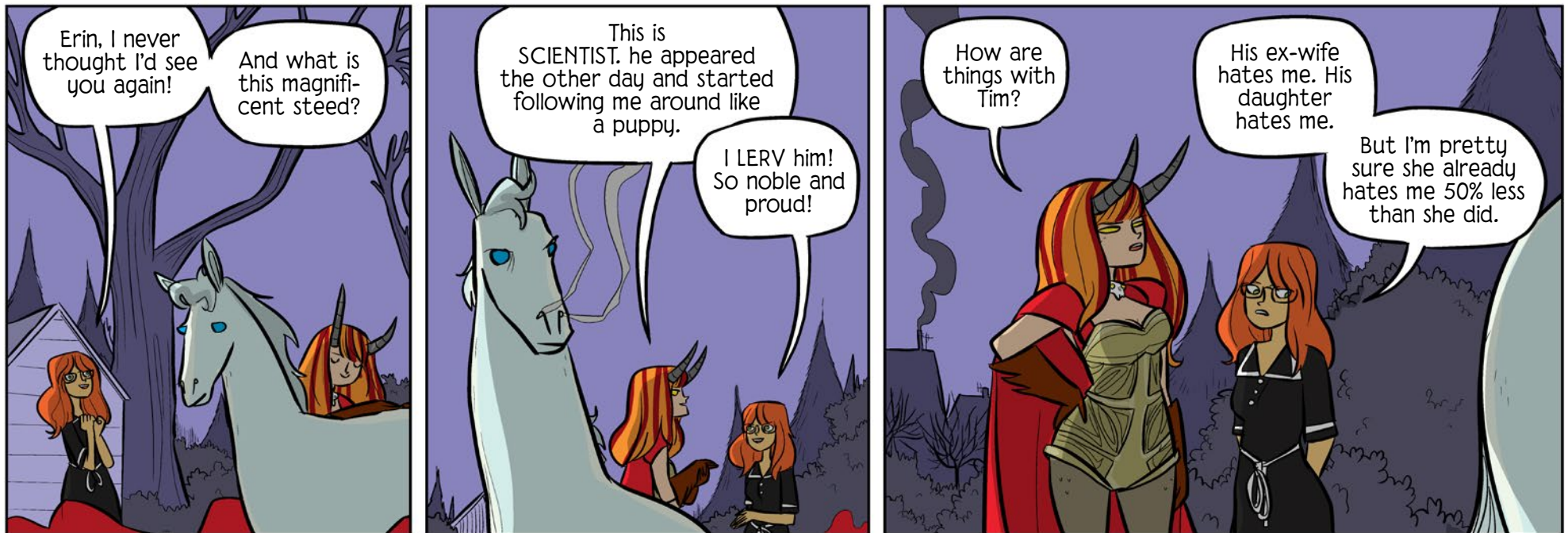
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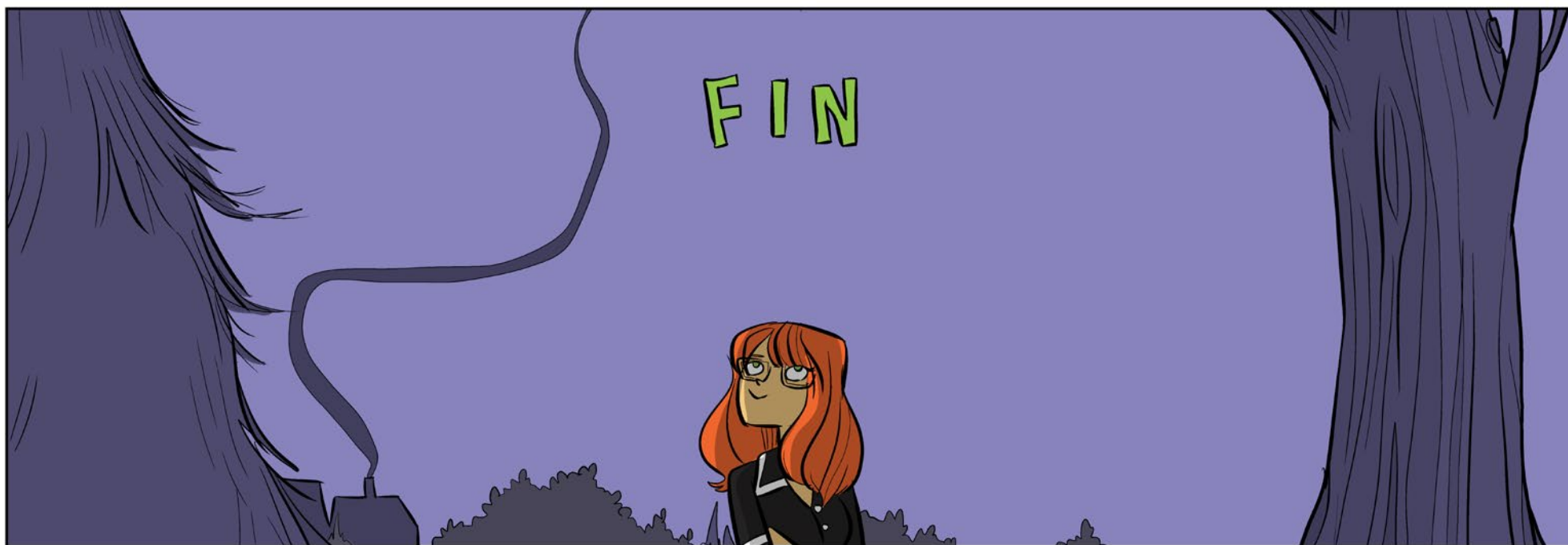
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