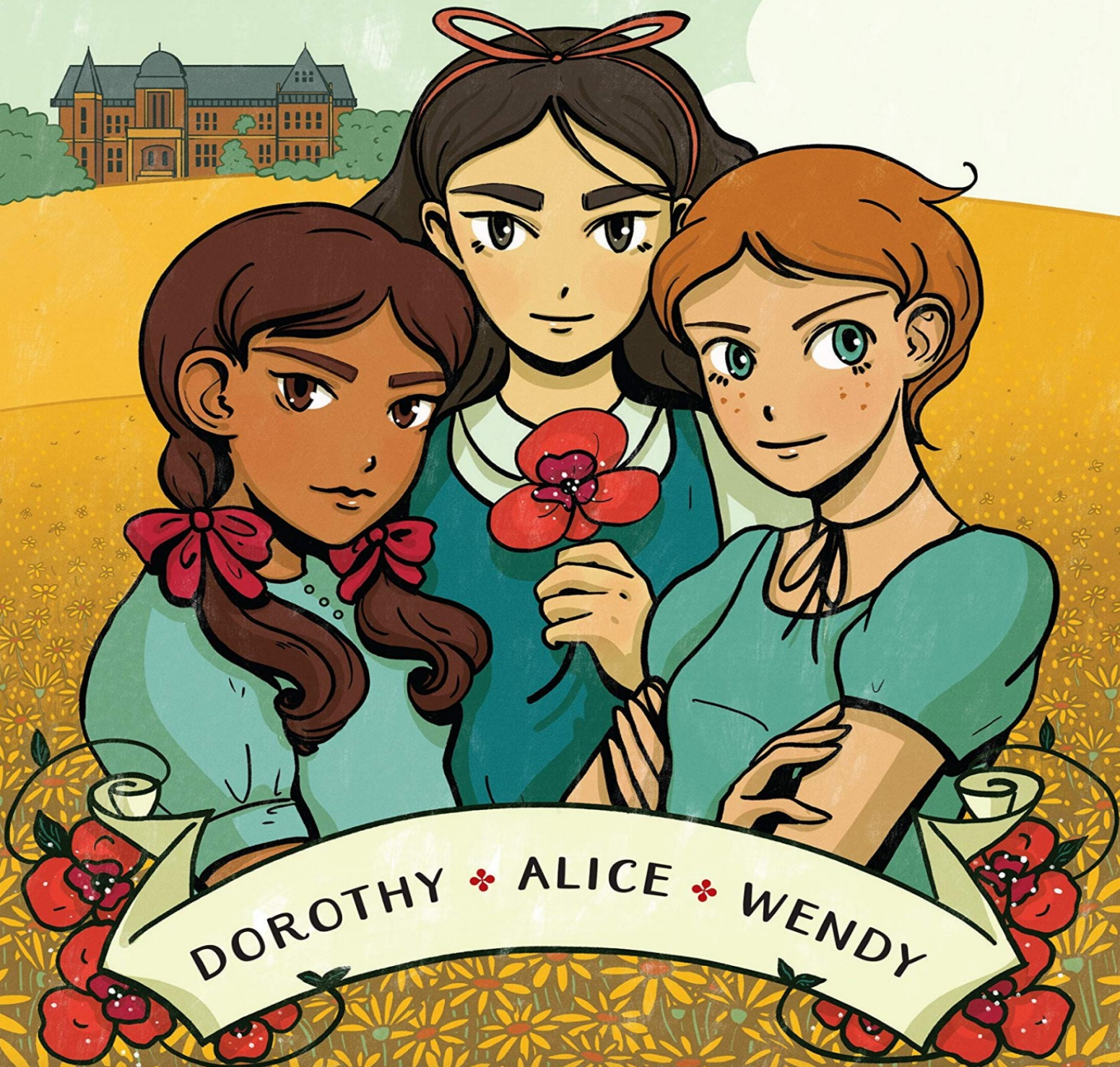


CHESHIRE CROSSING



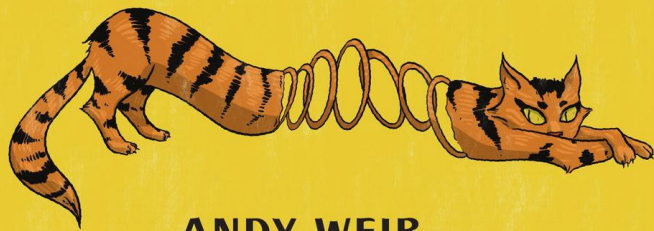
ANDY WEIR & SARAH ANDERSEN



**CHESHIRE
CROSSING**



CHESHIRE CROSSING



ANDY WEIR

ILLUSTRATED BY
SARAH ANDERSEN


TEN SPEED PRESS
California | New York

FOR DEMI AND JOJO

-ANDY

**TO BANI AND PATRICK
FOR THEIR PATIENCE, LOVE, SUPPORT, AND ROOF.**

-SARAH



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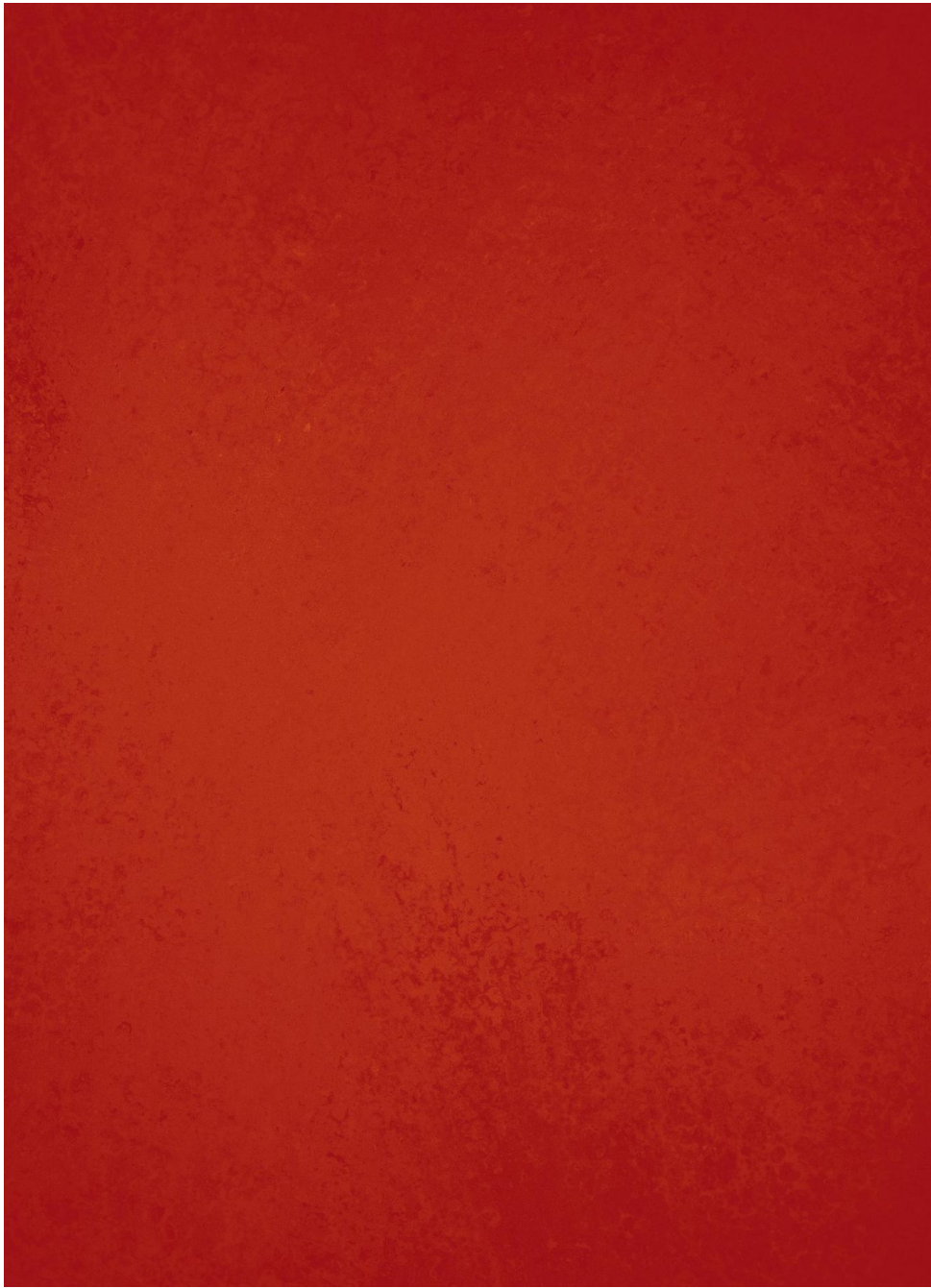
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PREFACE

I know what you're thinking: Andy Weir isn't known for graphic novels, or for fantasy writing. Also he's extremely handsome. Well, you're right. But before I broke into writing and found a niche in hard sci-fi, I wrote a lot of fanfiction, and a few webcomics, and tossed them all up on my crappy website. Hell, I still write fanfiction. It's fun! (Not so much on the comics, though—more on that later.)

Plus, I've always loved crossovers. Give me some *Star Trek* vs. Daleks and I'll devour it. One day back when I was still writing webcomics, I started wondering about how the events of *Alice in Wonderland* would affect Alice later in life. Wouldn't she be a little messed up? She was a little girl who was put in mortal danger repeatedly and saw people die left and right. Then I thought, hey, Dorothy from *The Wizard of Oz* had kind of the same experience. Would she be messed up, too? Oh, and Wendy Darling from *Peter Pan* also had a bunch of horrifying adventures.

I guess that's when the kernel of the idea took root. What if these girls all met? Basically, they're mutants—they have the ability to go to other dimensions. That's kind of cool.

At first, I planned to make them all about 10 years old—the ages they were during their adventures. But I changed my mind on that pretty quickly. First off, I wanted some time to have passed since their previous adventures. Also, I wanted them to be clever. While little kids can certainly be intelligent and wary, after a while, it would start to seem really unlikely that such young kids would be so level-headed in life-or-death situations.

Once I'd decided to make them teenagers, the answer to how to put them together seemed obvious. What else do you do with teenage mutants but send them to boarding school, hopefully with a teacher who understands (or maybe even shares) their abilities?

And then there's the villains. An adventure story is only as good as its villain. *Alice in Wonderland* is sort of a stream-of-consciousness kind of story with no real enemy. Yeah, the Queen of Hearts is insane and generally seen as the Big Bad, but if you go back and read the original book you'll see she's just one of a menagerie of lunatics Alice runs into. So in effect, "Wonderland" is the antagonist of her story.

Luckily for the other two, you couldn't ask for better enemies. Captain Hook and the Wicked Witch of the West? We grew up hearing about those baddies all our lives. Having them team up is, frankly, even more awesome than the protagonists teaming up. And hey—evil love story!

I'm a terrible artist. Always have been. That didn't stop me from making the comic, though. I wanted to tell the story so I gutted it out. During that process I discovered three things:

1. Art is hard work.
2. I don't like doing it.
3. I'm not going to get any better at it.

So I never continued the story beyond the first adventure. In fact, the grueling artwork on *Cheshire Crossing* convinced me to return to narrative fiction. That's when I wrote *The Martian*.

Fast-forward a bit. *The Martian* came out and was successful beyond my wildest dreams, and all of a sudden people started reading that stuff I'd posted on my ugly old website. And interestingly enough, someone got interested in publishing *Cheshire Crossing*.

I reminded them my art was utter crap and they agreed. They said they'd get an artist to redraw everything.

And then came the best news of all! Sarah Andersen would be doing the art.

I've been a fan of *Sarah's Scribbles* for years. So many of her comics speak to me at a deep level. The joys of chronic anxiety, insecurity, and a general inability to get your life together. I think we all feel that way sometimes, and Sarah is excellent at turning it into humor. Her comics aren't just funny, they're therapeutic. And with her illustrations here, we're getting to see a whole new side of her artistic abilities. The only downside is, with the comic already written, we only get to tap into her artistic talents and not her writing talents. But who knows? If this takes off, maybe we can collaborate on future issues.

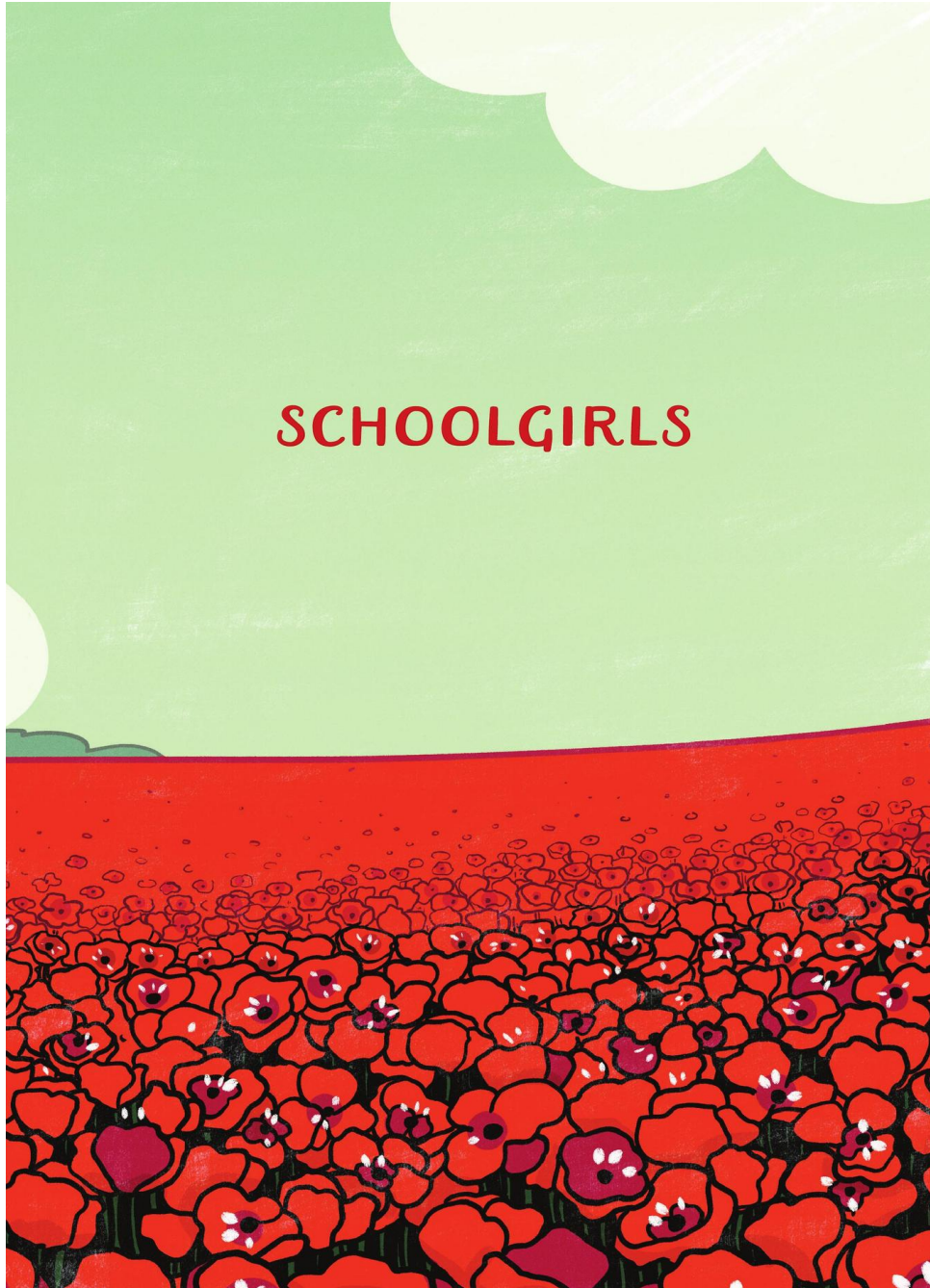
Anyway, it's fitting that this crossover of classic stories ends up coming to you via a crossover of creative authors.

Enjoy!

-ANDY WEIR



SCHOOLGIRLS



1904





DADDY'S HERE, SWEETHEART! IT'S ALL RIGHT...



OH LORD, PLEASE LET HER BE ALL RIGHT...

PLEASE.



SHE NEEDS REST BUT SHE'LL RECOVER. WHAT HAPPENED TO HER?

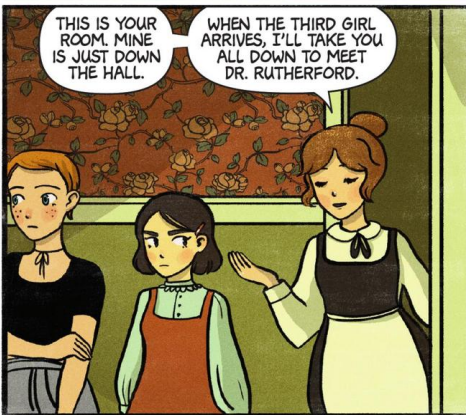


WE SEARCHED THE GROUNDS CONSTANTLY! WHERE WAS SHE ALL THAT TIME?

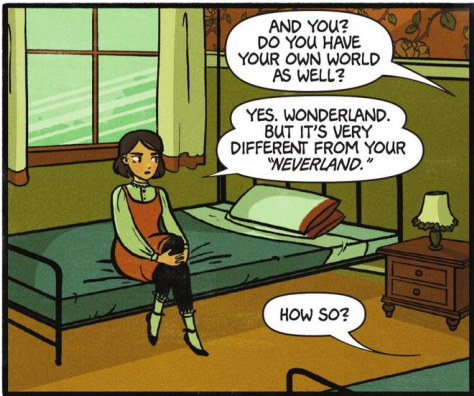
WHAT HAPPENED TO MY LITTLE GIRL?

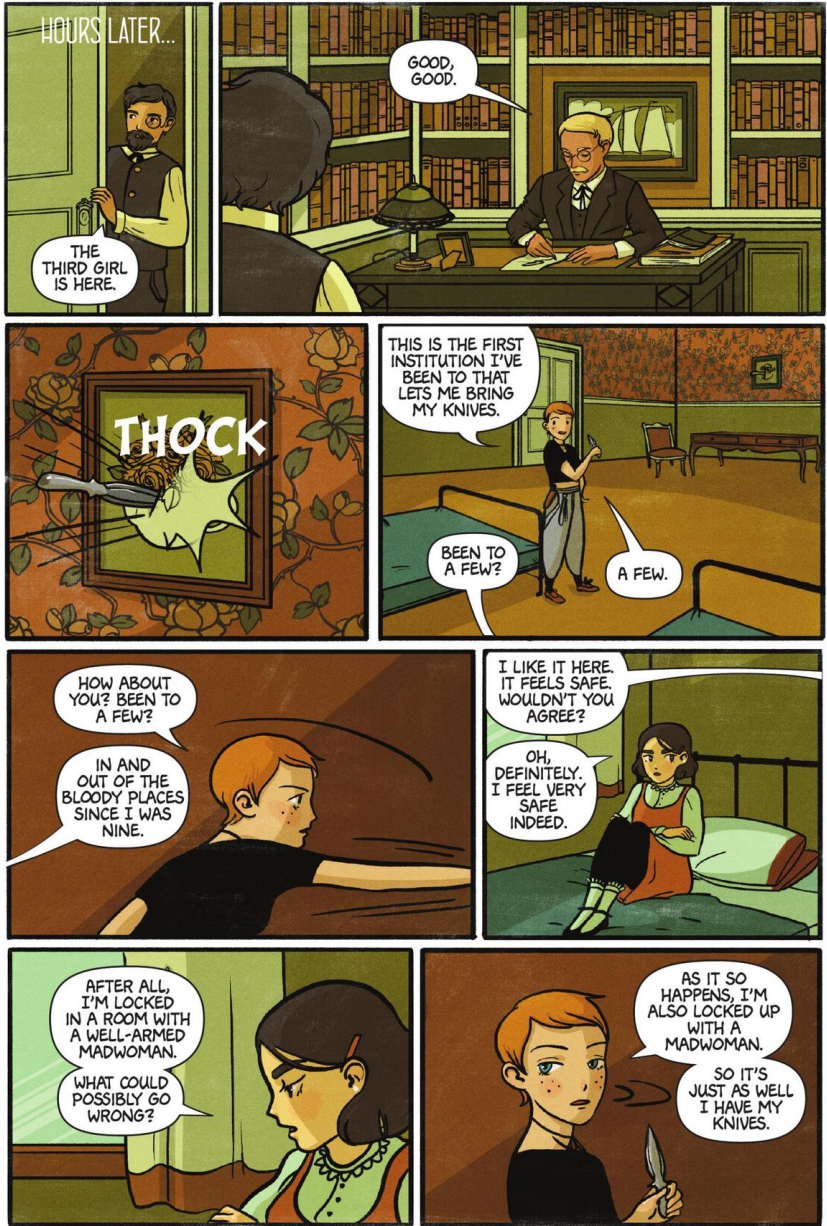


WE WISH WE KNEW! SHE WAS MISSING FOR SIX DAYS!



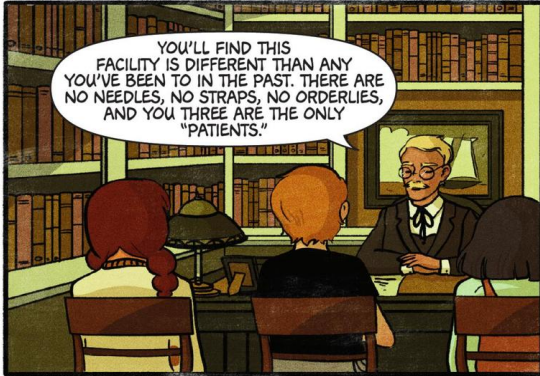












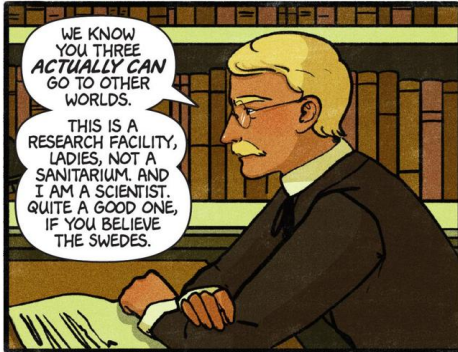
YOU'LL FIND THIS FACILITY IS DIFFERENT THAN ANY YOU'VE BEEN TO IN THE PAST. THERE ARE NO NEEDLES, NO STRAPS, NO ORDERLIES, AND YOU THREE ARE THE ONLY "PATIENTS."



BECAUSE WE HAPPEN TO KNOW YOU ARE **NOT** INSANE.



WHAT?!



WE KNOW YOU THREE **ACTUALLY CAN** GO TO OTHER WORLDS.

THIS IS A RESEARCH FACILITY, LADIES, NOT A SANITARIUM. AND I AM A SCIENTIST. QUITE A GOOD ONE, IF YOU BELIEVE THE SWEDES.



YOU'VE ALREADY MET YOUR NANNY AND TUTOR.

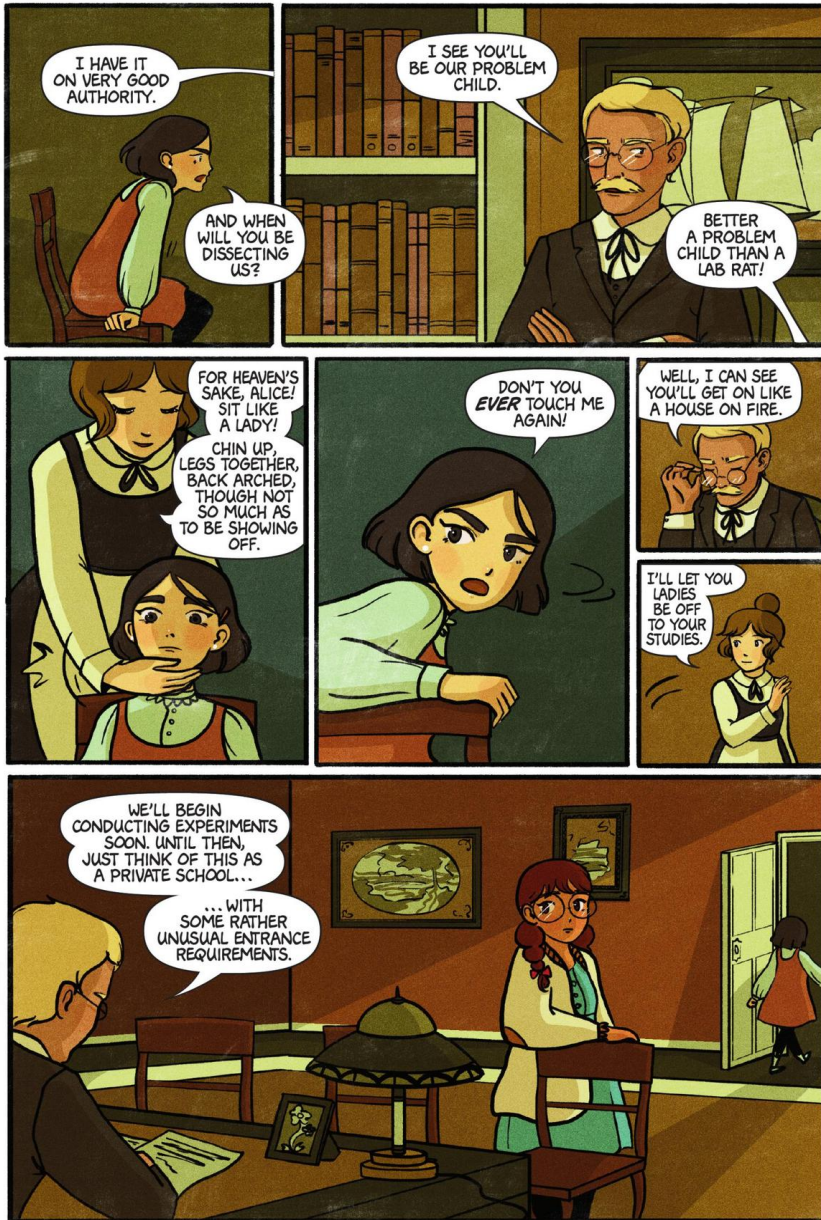
CALL ME MISS POOLE. WE SHALL GET ALONG FAMOUSLY.

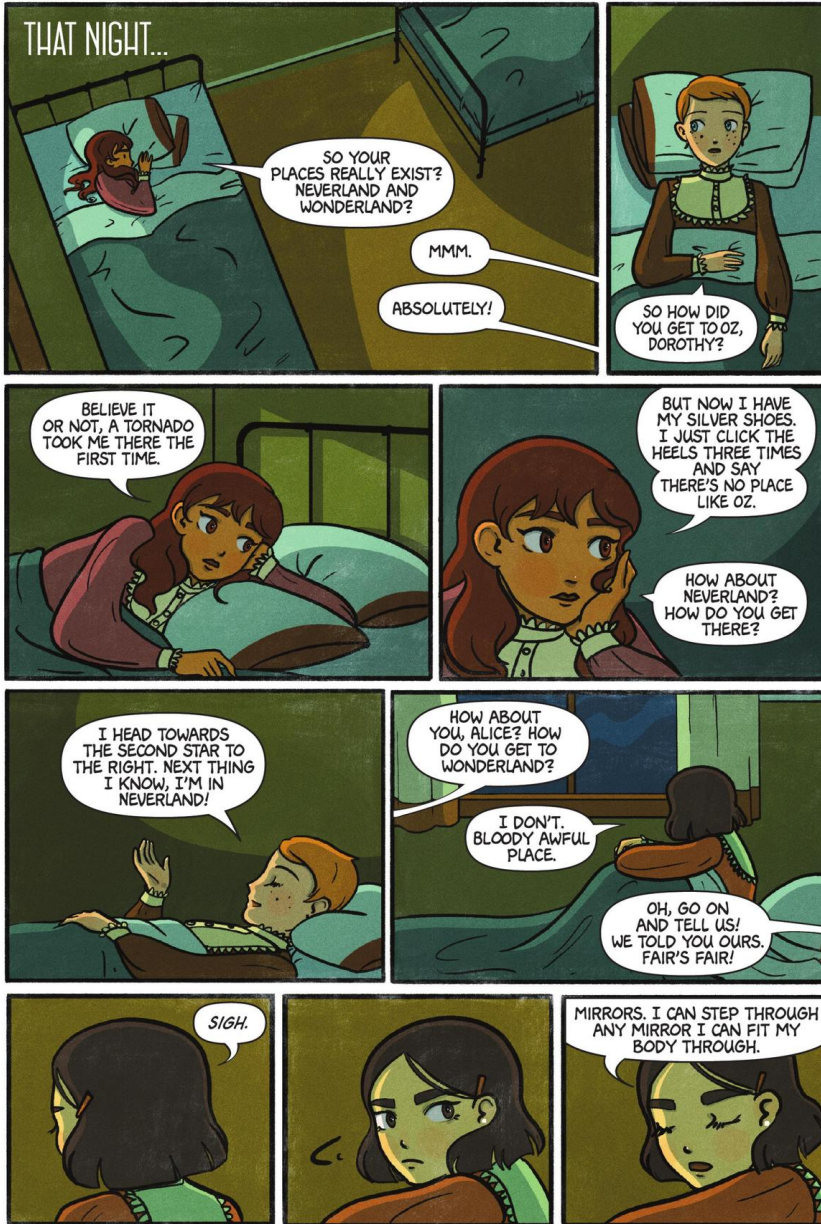
SHE CAME **HIGHLY** RECOMMENDED FOR THE POSITION.

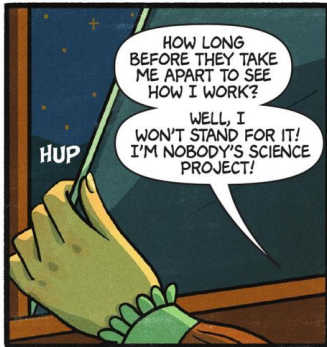


RIGHT, THEN ANY QUESTIONS?

HOW DO YOU KNOW WE'RE NOT CRAZY?









JUST LET ME FINISH THIS PARAGRAPH--
--AND I'LL ESCORT YOU BACK TO YOUR ROOM.



I TRUST WE'LL HAVE NO MORE SUCH ATTEMPTS?

TRUST WHAT YOU LIKE. I SHALL ESCAPE EVENTUALLY. YOU'LL SLIP UP.

AND I AM STUBBORN.

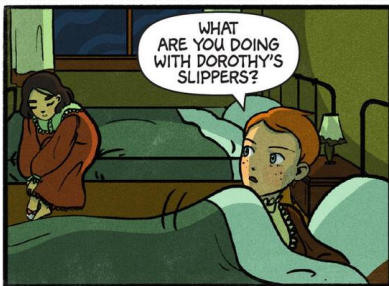
AS AM I, MY DEAR. GOOD NIGHT.



ARROGANT COW.

THERE MUST BE SOME WAY OUT.

JUST GO TO SLEEP, ALICE.

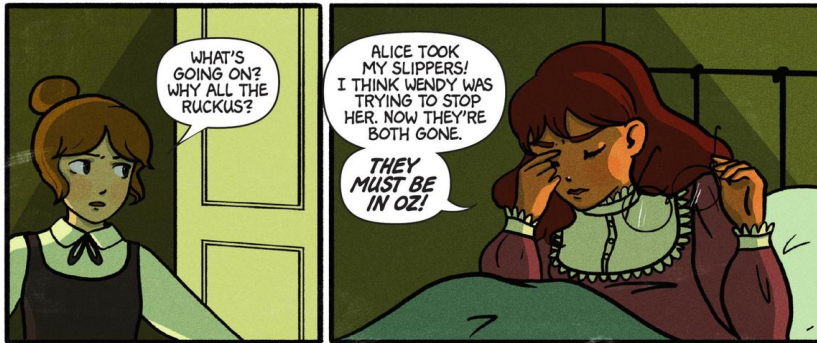


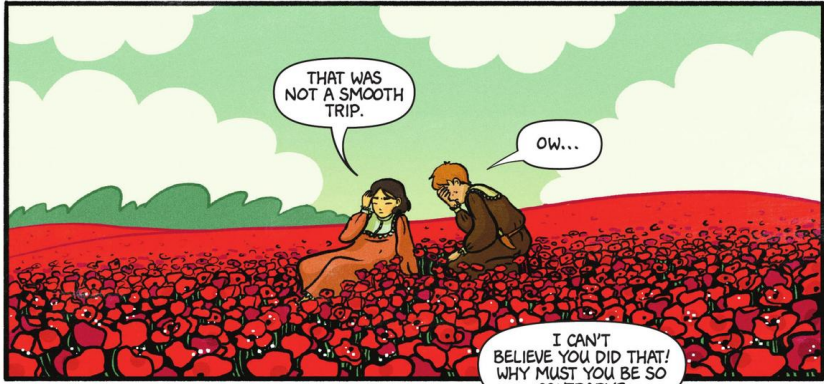
WHAT ARE YOU DOING WITH DOROTHY'S SLIPPERS?



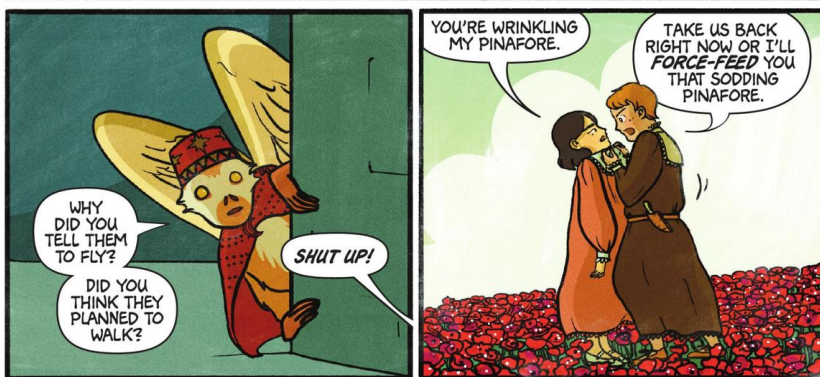
WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE?



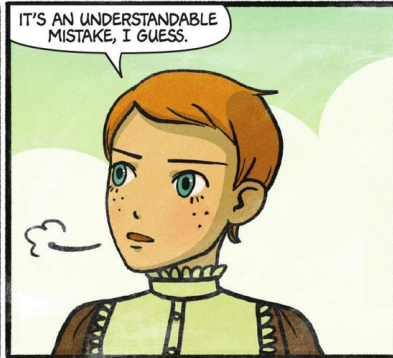
















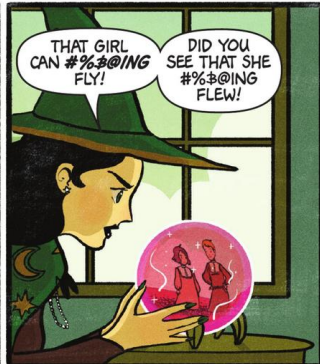
THIS IS AS GOOD A PLACE TO LAND AS ANY.



I THINK WE LOST THEM FOR THE MOMENT.



YOU CAN #%&@ING FLY?!



THAT GIRL CAN #%&@ING FLY!

DID YOU SEE THAT SHE #%&@ING FLEW!

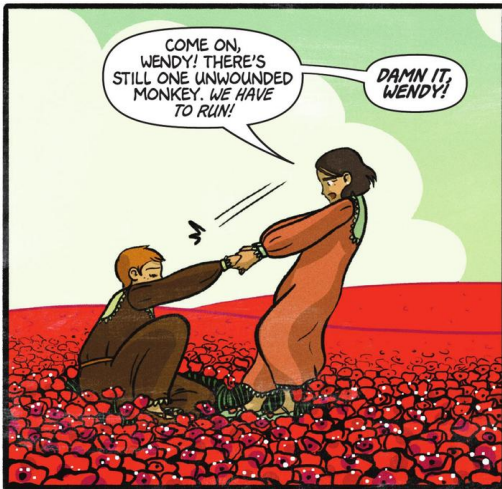
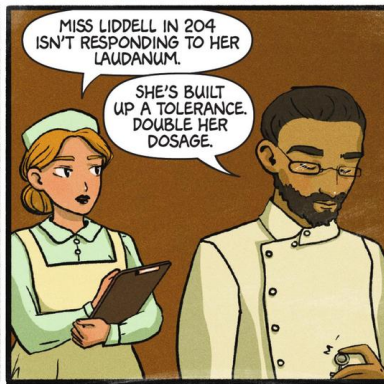


YES, YOUR VILENESS. I SAW.



IT'S NOT OVER YET. THEY MADE A MISTAKE.

THEY LANDED IN THE GREAT POPPY FIELD. IT'S TIME FOR ME TO HELP OUT YOUR MONKEYS.





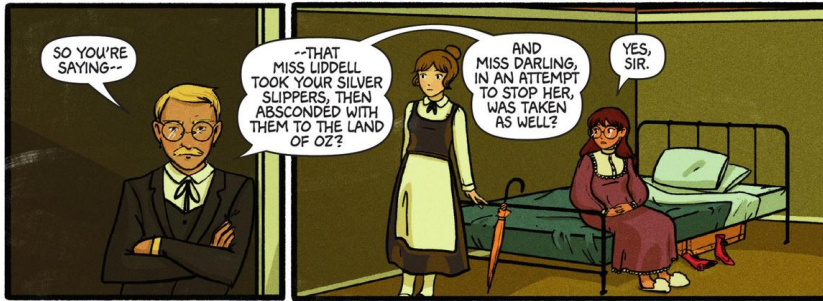


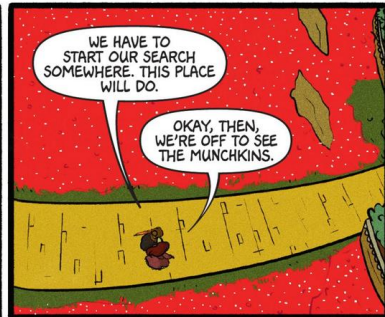
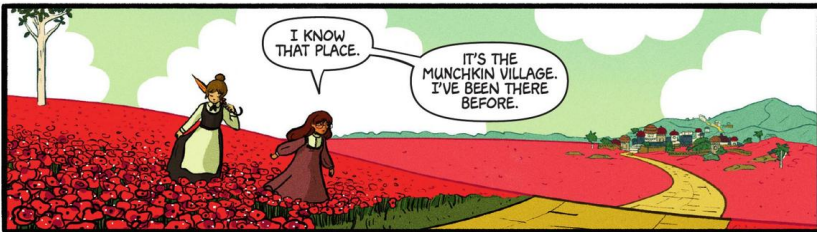
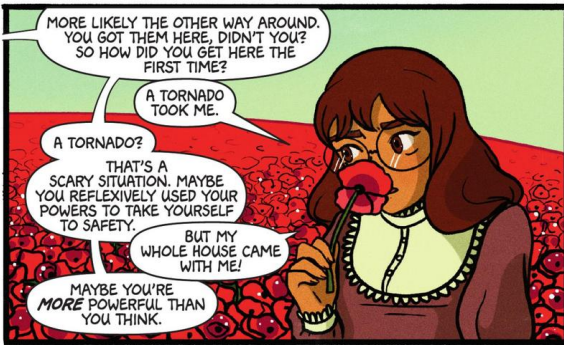
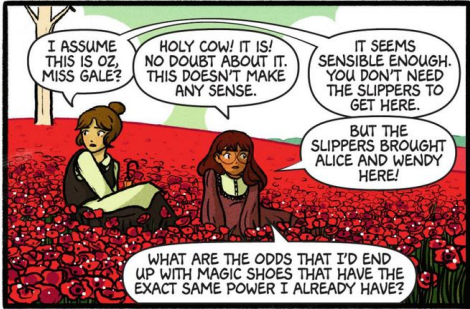


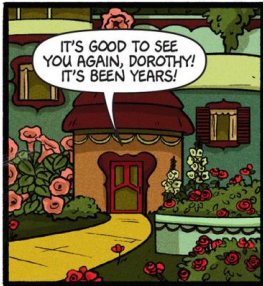
02











IT'S GOOD TO SEE YOU AGAIN, DOROTHY! IT'S BEEN YEARS!



GOOD TO BE BACK, MR. MAYOR.

NOW, ABOUT MY FRIENDS...



AH, RIGHT WELL, RUMOR HAS IT THE WITCH OF THE WEST HAS A PRISONER... A GIRL FROM AFAR.



THE WITCH?! BUT I KILLED HER!

KILLED?



WE ALL THOUGHT SHE WAS DEAD, TOO. BUT A FEW MONTHS AGO, SHE CAME BACK, AS MEAN AS EVER!



I'M SORRY... DID YOU SAY YOU KILLED SOMEONE?



SHE WAS TRYING TO KILL ME!

WHY?

UH... I KIND OF KILLED HER SISTER.

IT'S INAPPROPRIATE FOR A YOUNG LADY TO KILL PEOPLE.



THEY WERE ACCIDENTS!

ACCIDENTALLY KILLING ONE PERSON IS MISFORTUNE. ACCIDENTALLY KILLING TWO IS JUST SHEER CARELESSNESS!



:GROANS...

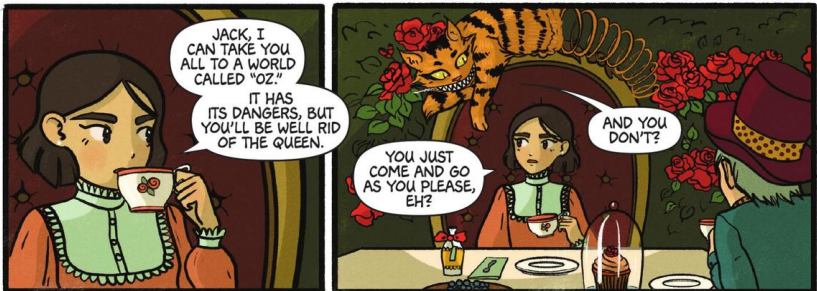
DO YOU KNOW WHERE THE WITCH IS HOLDING MY FRIEND?

IN HER CASTLE.

WHERE ELSE?

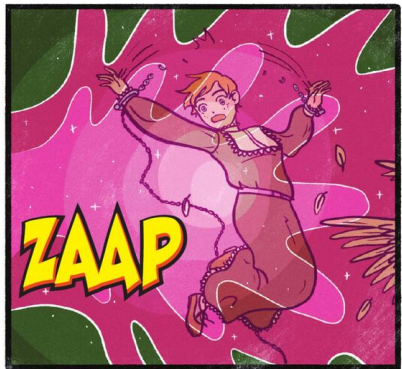
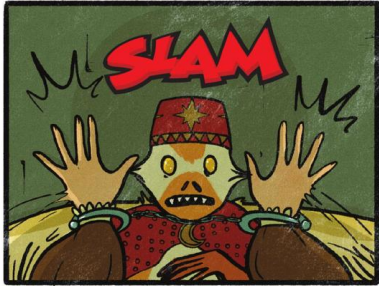














NOT SO TOUGH AS YOU THOUGHT YOU WERE, EH?



I THINK A BLACK EYE WILL BE A GOOD REMINDER OF--



=:GASPI!:

THIS GIRL IS A CONDUIT TO ANOTHER WORLD!! A TRUE PLANAR ADEPT?! UNBELIEVABLE!



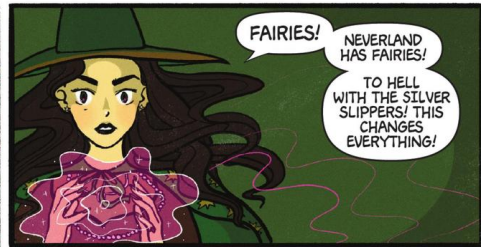
I MUST KNOW MORE!! I'LL CONTACT THE DARK SPIRITS!



TELL ME, O SPIRITS... TELL ME OF THIS OTHER LAND...

NEVERLAND...

...YES... TELL ME MORE...



FAIRIES!

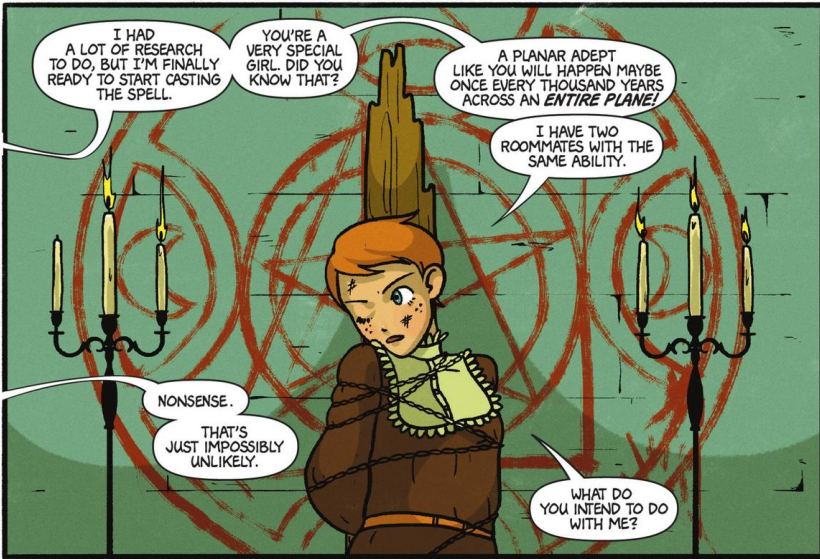
NEVERLAND HAS FAIRIES!

TO HELL WITH THE SILVER SLIPPERS! THIS CHANGES EVERYTHING!

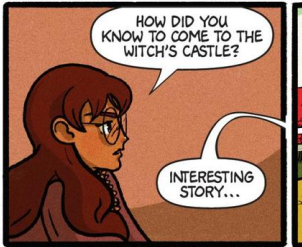


CHAIN THE GIRL UP AGAIN, THEN TAKE HER TO MY CASTING CHAMBER!

MPH... YES, MISTRESS.

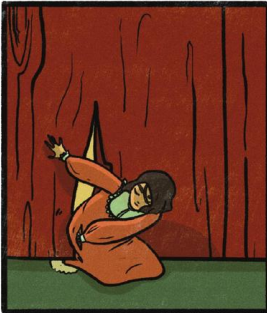




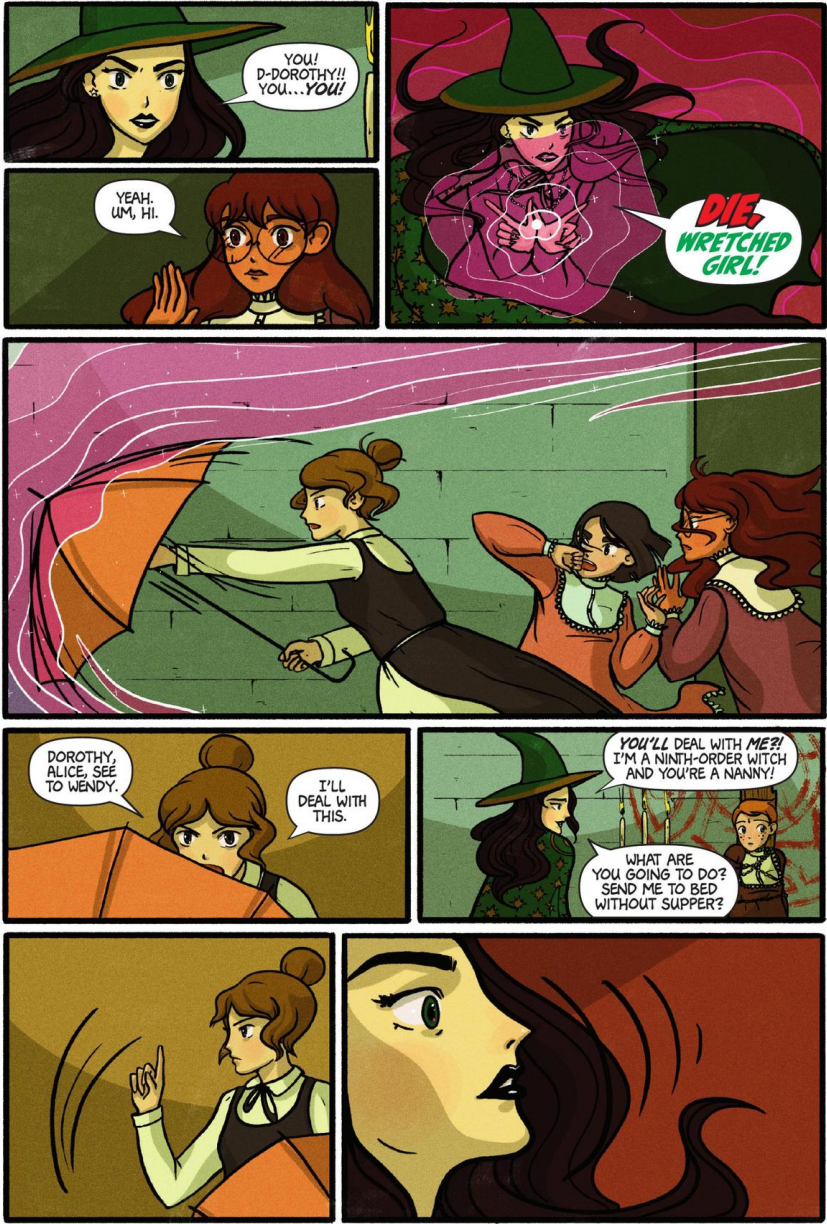


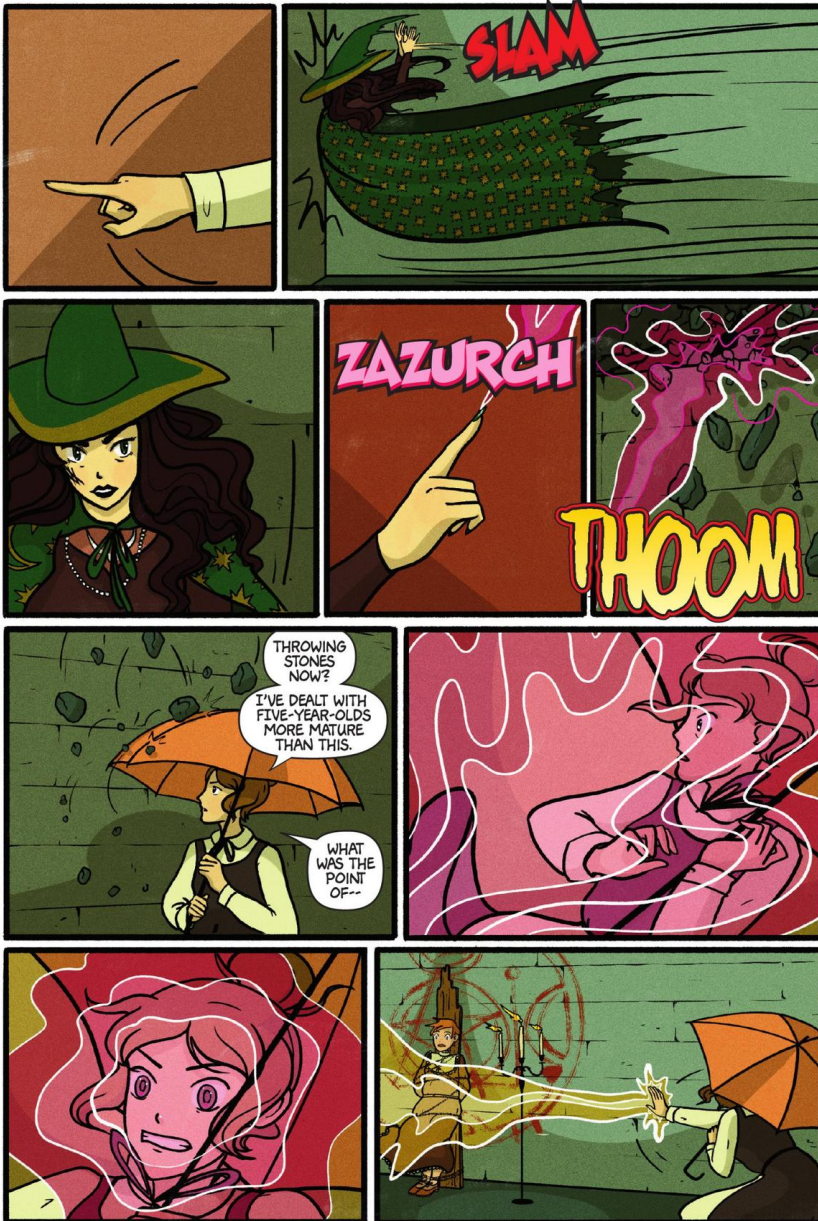














HOLD IT RIGHT THERE!



OUT OF MY WAY, NIKKO, OR I'LL MAKE A THROW PILLOW OUT OF YOU!

THAT'S KING NIKKO TO YOU, GIRL!
IT'S HIGH TIME YOU LEARNED TO RESPECT YOUR BETTERS!



TSK. SUCH DRAMA.

A TALKING CAT?!

YES. FOCUS ON THE TALKING CAT. IT'S NOT LIKE THERE'S ANYTHING ELSE ODD IN THE ROOM.



NOW, HUSH, WHILE I USE MY NATURAL LOCK PICKS.



THANKS, TALKING CAT!

YOU'RE WELCOME, FLYING GIRL.



WHACK



DOROTHY! I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU CAME TO RESCUE ME!

WE MAGIC GIRLS NEED TO STICK TOGETHER!



EVEN ALICE CAME TO HELP. I'M SHOCKED!

YOU SAVED MY LIFE EARLIER. I OWED YOU.

I NEVER KNEW YOU WERE SO HONOR-DRIVEN!

I MAY BE SNOTTY, BUT I'M STILL ENGLISH.



SO, UM... SHOULD WE TRY TO HELP OUR NANNY?

SHE SEEMS TO HAVE THINGS WELL IN HAND.

I THINK I SHALL BE ON GOOD BEHAVIOR FROM NOW ON BY THE WAY.



YOU'RE NO ORDINARY NANNY... YOU'RE A WITCH.

A VERY POWERFUL WITCH.



I MUST APOLOGIZE. I HATE TO COME TO YOUR WORLD AND BE RUDE TO YOU--

--BUT YOU THREATENED A GIRL IN MY CHARGE.

I SIMPLY CANNOT ALLOW THAT.



NOT FROM OZ... THAT EXPLAINS THE CATASTROPHIC TACTICAL BLUNDER YOU JUST MADE.

OZ IS A STRANGE WORLD WITH STRANGE RULES.

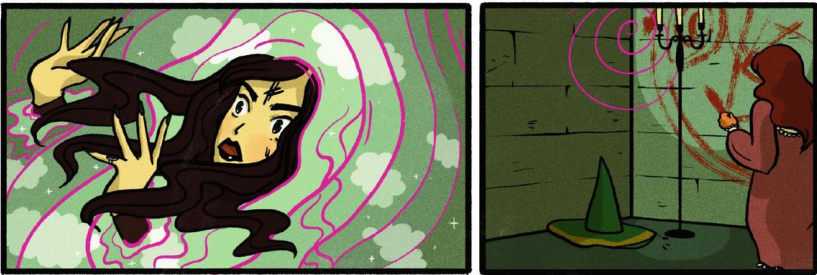


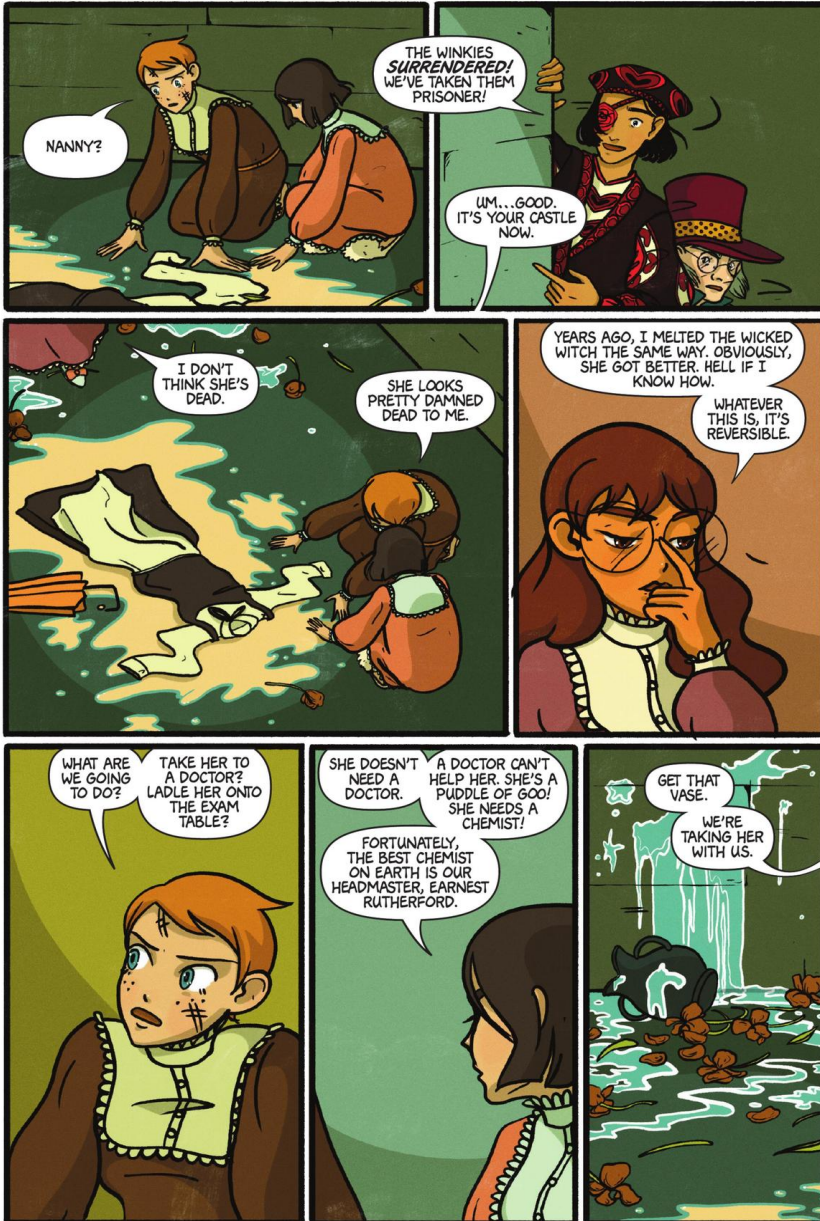
WELCOME TO OZ, WITCH!



HONESTLY, WHAT WAS THE POINT OF--



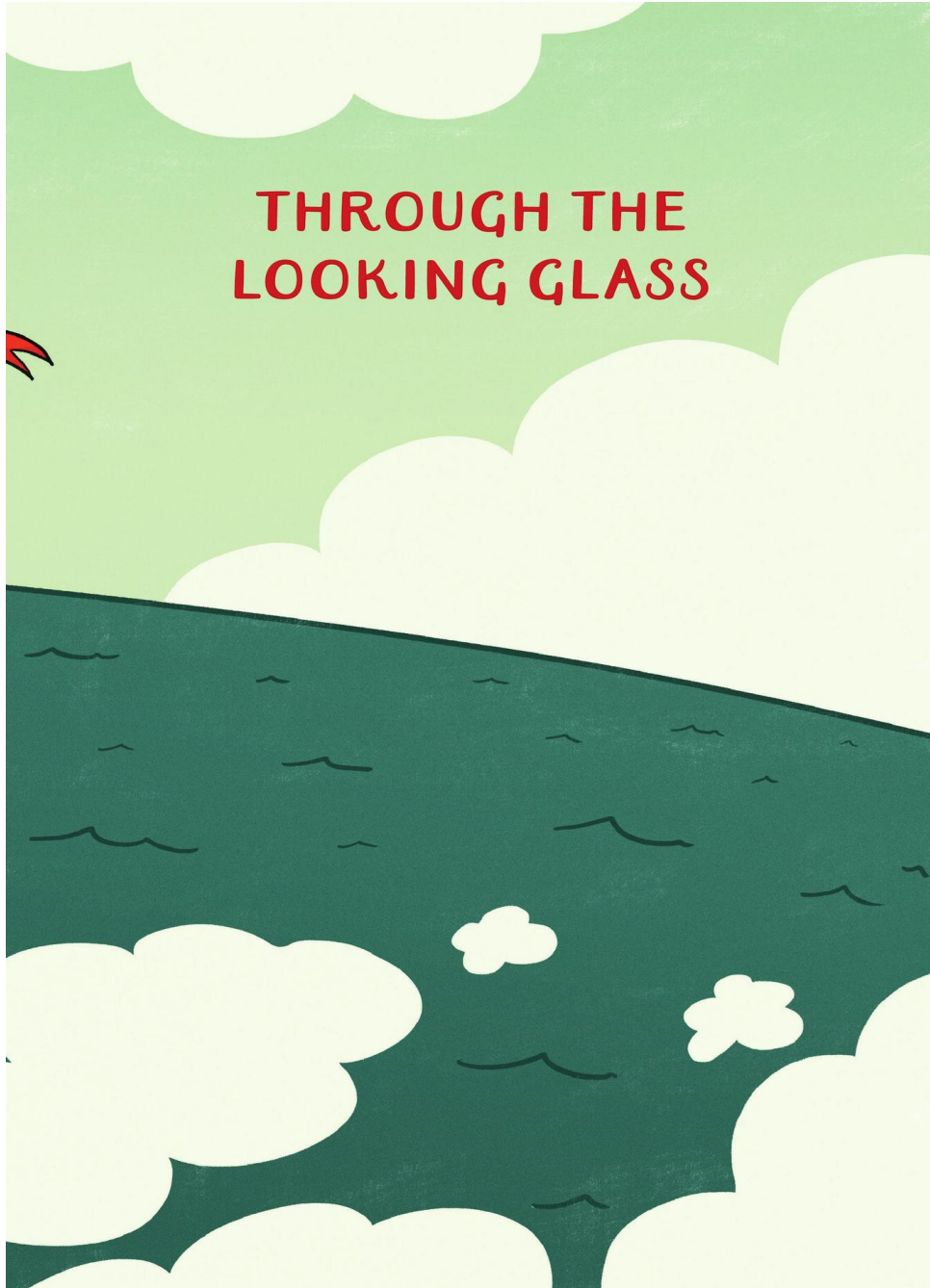






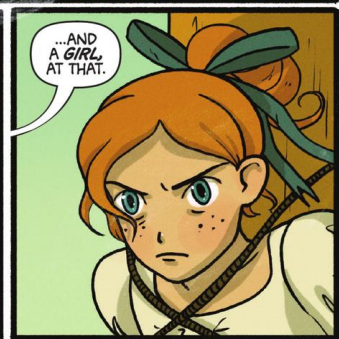


**THROUGH THE
LOOKING GLASS**



NEVERLAND







HAR HAR HAR!

AND THEN I TURNED AWAY FROM HER AND DIDN'T SPEAK ANOTHER WORD.

THOUGH I MUST ADMIT, IN SUBSEQUENT YEARS SHE PROVED TO BE AS MUCH A NUISANCE AS THAT WRETCHED PETER PAN.

I TRUST YOU ARE SATISFIED WITH THE FAIRIES MY CREW HAS COLLECTED FOR YOU?

OH, YES! DEFINITELY!

FAIRIES ARE CREATURES OF PURE MAGIC, AND NOW *THEIR* MAGIC WILL BE *MINE!* YOU WON'T REGRET THIS PARTNERSHIP, CAPTAIN!

I HOPE NOT.

WE HAD TO RAID HALF THE FAIRY VILLAGES ON THE ISLAND TO GET THAT MANY.

CAP'N HOOK!

PETER PAN BE HERE! FLYIN' AROUND AN' WHATNOT!

ABOUT BLOODY TIME.



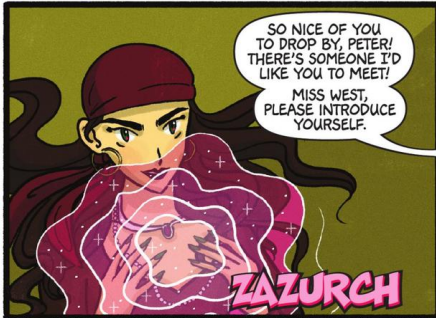
WHY DOES HE MAKE THAT SOUND?

IT'S AS POINTLESS AS IT IS IRRITATING.



WE'VE COME FOR THE FAIRIES, HOOK!

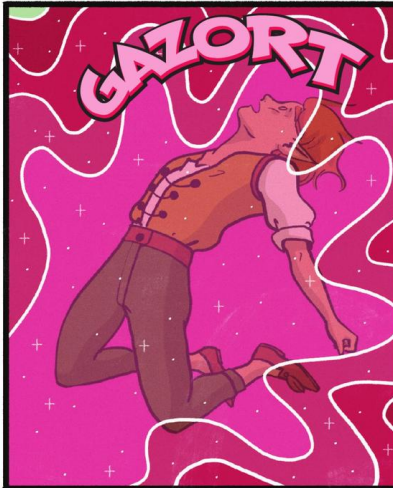
TURN 'EM LOOSE OR ELSE!



SO NICE OF YOU TO DROP BY, PETER! THERE'S SOMEONE I'D LIKE YOU TO MEET!

MISS WEST, PLEASE INTRODUCE YOURSELF.

ZAZURCH



ZAZURCH

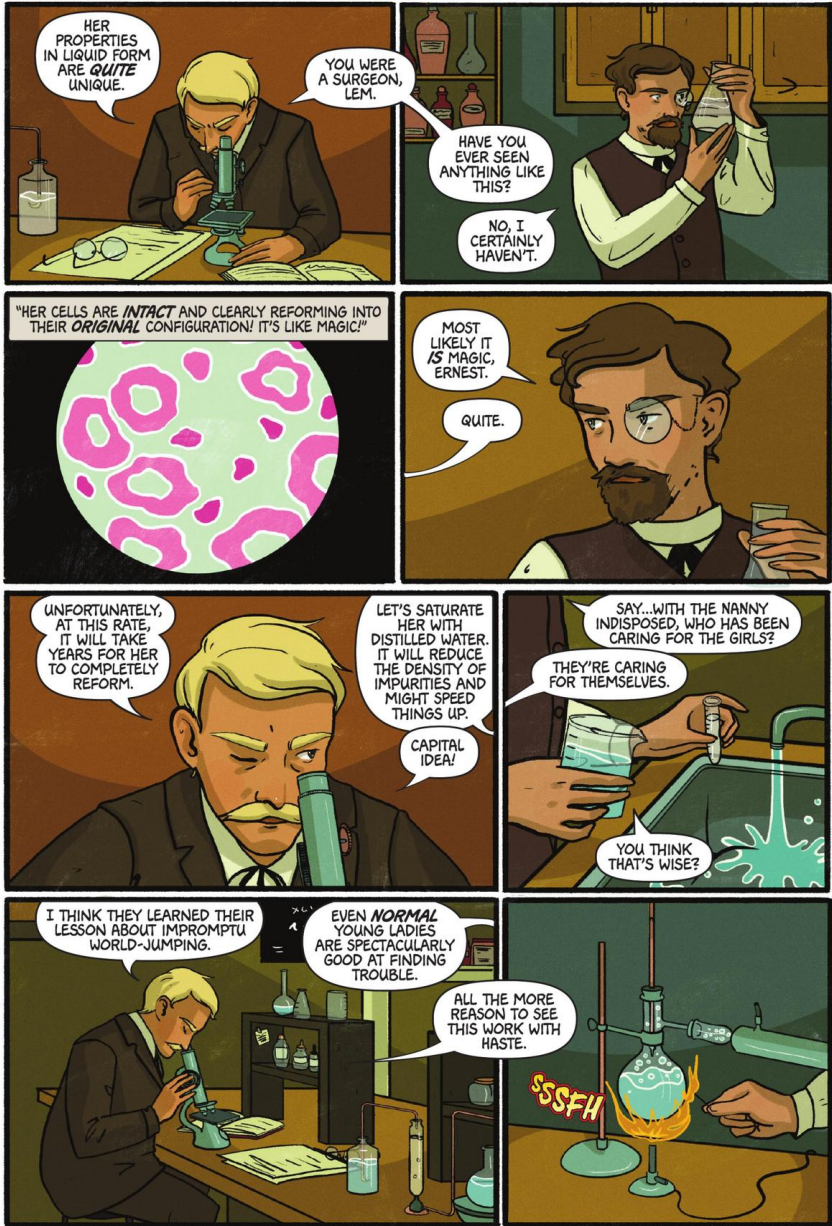


GOOD FORM, MISS WEST.

I HATE LETTING THAT JUICY FAIRY GET AWAY.

YOU CAN LIVE WITHOUT ONE FAIRY. STICK TO MY PLAN.

WHUMP





=SIGH=



IT'S A BEAUTIFUL DAY AND THIS PLACE HAS PLENTY OF LAWN.

LET'S ALL PLAY CROQUET!

ABSOLUTELY NOT. AND IT'S DISCONCERTING WHEN YOU DO THAT.

WHEN I DO WHAT?



THAT.

STOP IT.

MAKE ME!



HEY, YOU TWO! PLAY NICE!

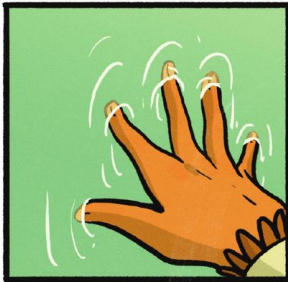


SORRY. I'M JUST ANNOYED. WHY WON'T RUTHERFORD LET US CHECK UP ON NEVERLAND?

WHO KNOWS WHAT THAT WITCH HAS BEEN UP TO?



I'M JUST AS WORRIED AS YOU. BUT WE SHOULD WAIT TILL NANNY GETS BETTER--

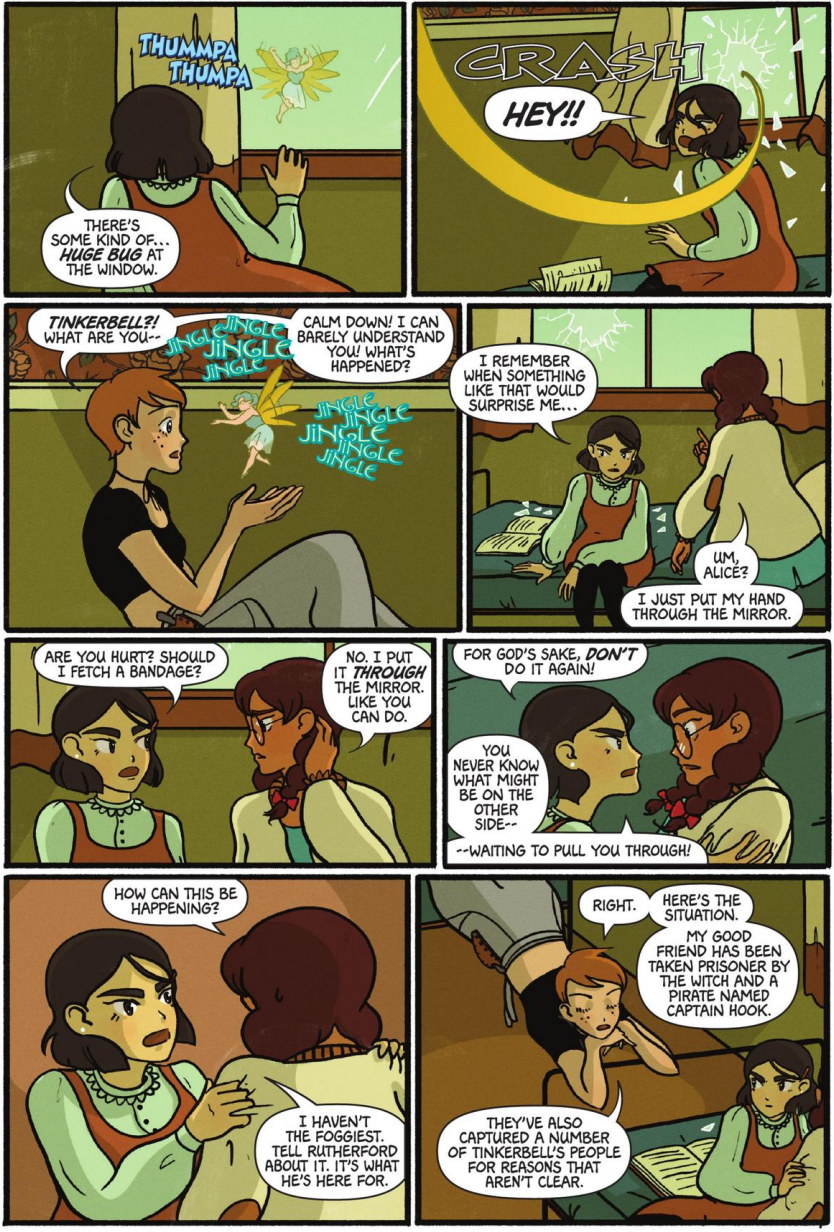


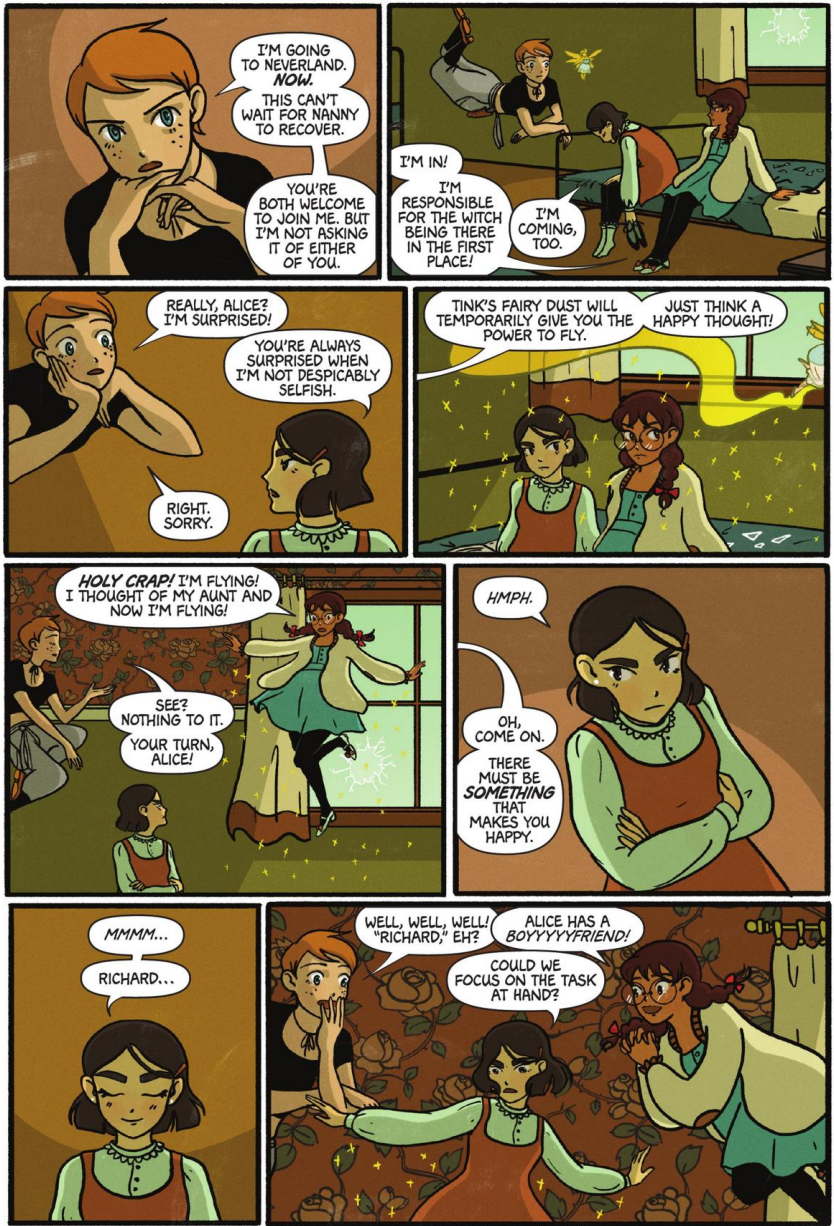
GASP!



UM, ALICE... I JUST PUT MY HAND--

THUMMPA THUMPA











THIS BARNACLE-INFESTED TURD PROBABLY ONLY STAYS AFLOAT OUT OF HABIT!



WENDY DARLING!
YOU LOOK DIFFERENT SOMEHOW!
WHAT IS IT...

AH, YES. YOU'RE NOT TIED UP AND HELPLESS.
LET'S SEE TO THAT.

MISS WEST?



FLYING GIRL!
OH, THIS WILL BE A PLEASURE!



SHE THREW WATER ON YOU?
WHY WOULD SHE DO THAT?



BAD FORM, DARLING. BAD FORM.

KLANG



ALL GROWN UP AND READY FOR A SCRAP, EH?

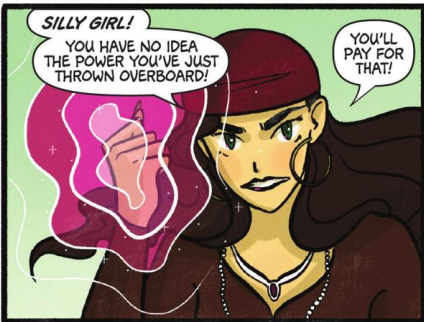


OH HOW I'VE LOOKED FORWARD TO THIS DAY!



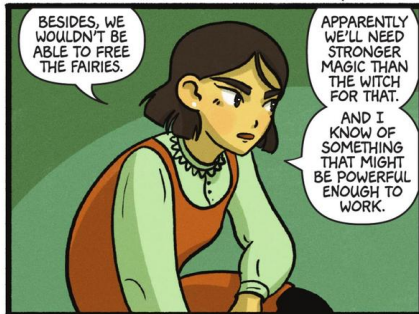














BY THE SPIRITS!
IS THAT WENDY DARLING?

SHE'S BADLY WOUNDED. I ONLY JUST NOW GOT HER BREATHING AGAIN.



A MERMAID AIDING AN AIR BREATHER?
MY PEOPLE OWE HER MUCH.

SO DO MINE. I WILL TAKE HER TO MY VILLAGE.



TAKE THESE, TOO. THEY FELL IN RIGHT AFTER SHE DID.

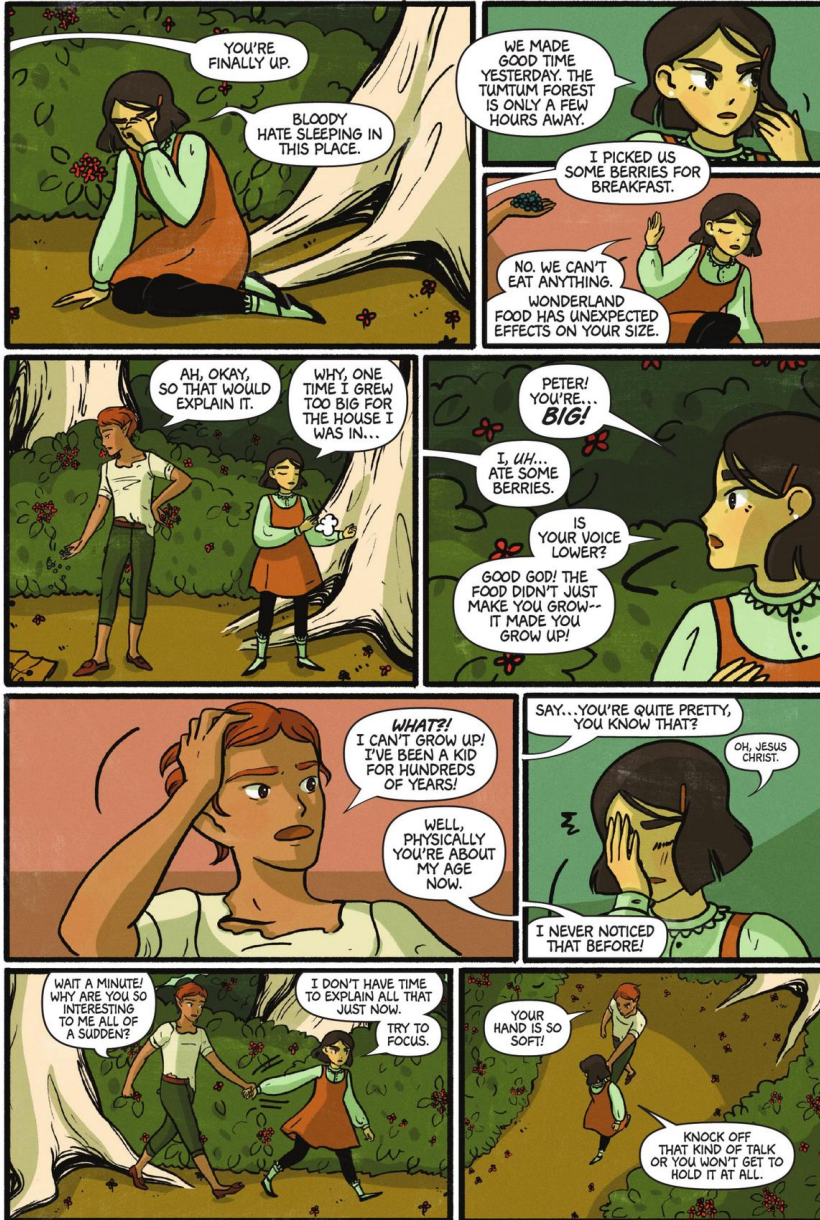


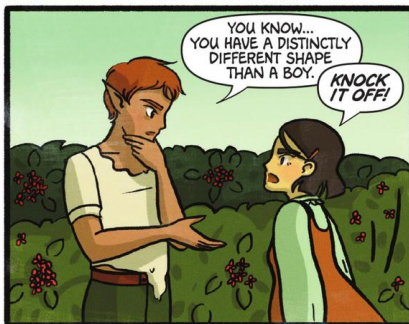
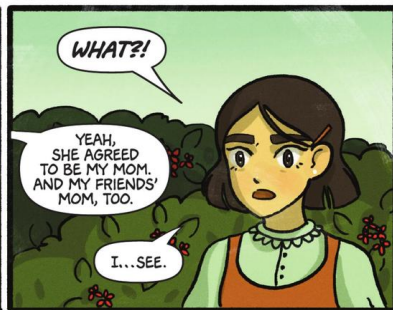
THE PAN-MOTHER?
TAKE HER TO THE MEDICINE HUT!



PREPARE BEDDING FOR HER, AND GET MY HERBS.
IT'S GOING TO BE A LONG NIGHT.









THAT'S FOR MY SISTER!



WHAT'S THE MATTER, DOROTHY?

CAN'T DO YOUR LITTLE DISAPPEARING ACT WHEN YOU'RE TIED DOWN?

THAT'S A SHAME.

I'VE GOT ALL SORTS OF IDEAS FOR HOW YOU'RE GOING TO DIE, GIRL.

IT'LL TAKE DAYS.



PLEASE, MISS WEST.

BEATING PRISONERS IS BAD FORM. BESIDES, WE NEED HER ALIVE AND KICKING.



SO MY FRIENDS WILL COME TRY TO SAVE ME AND FALL INTO A TRAP?

SPOT ON!

WHAT A CLEVER GIRL.



MR. SMEE! SET COURSE FOR NEVERLAND ISLE! WE'LL PICK UP MORE FAIRIES FOR MISS WEST WHILE WE WAIT.

OH, CAPTAIN! YOU SPOIL ME SO!

FULL SPEED, MR. SMEE! IT'S BAD FORM TO KEEP A LADY WAITING.



HEY, HOOK. WHAT HAPPENS--

--WHEN A SHIP RUNS AGROUND AT FULL SPEED?



UTTER DISASTER.

WHY DO YOU ASK?

BECAUSE--



THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE OZ!









SATURATING HER WITH PURE WATER DOESN'T SEEM TO BE HELPING HER RECOVER.

NOT TO WORRY, LEM.

I KNOW HOW TO SPEED UP THE REACTION.



I'VE ISOLATED A CATALYST: *SUCROSE!*

ARE YOU SERIOUS?



YES, BELIEVE IT OR NOT, ORDINARY TABLE SUGAR ACCELERATES THE REACTION SPEED DRAMATICALLY.

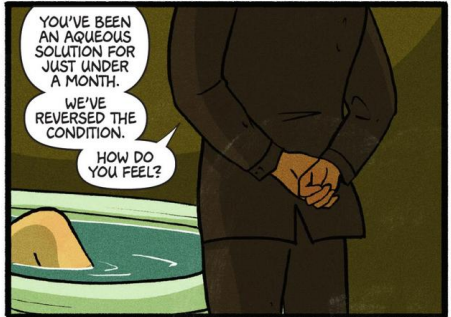
AND IF MY CALCULATIONS ARE CORRECT, WE'LL ONLY NEED A VERY SMALL AMOUNT OF IT--



--ROUGHLY A TEASPOON!



AMAZING!



YOU'VE BEEN AN AQUEOUS SOLUTION FOR JUST UNDER A MONTH.

WE'VE REVERSED THE CONDITION.

HOW DO YOU FEEL?

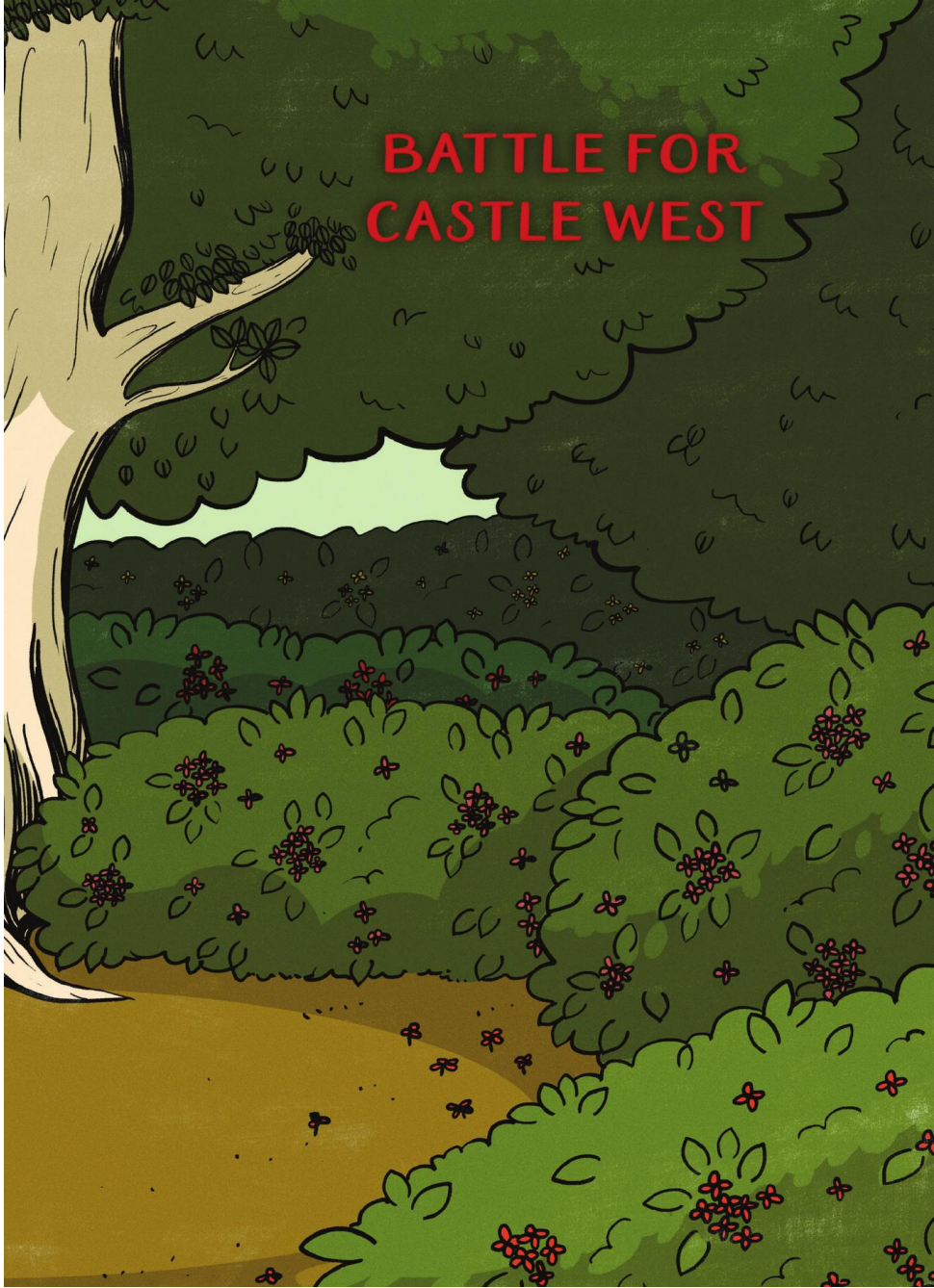


HOW DO I FEEL?

PEEVED, DR. RUTHERFORD. QUITE PEEVED.

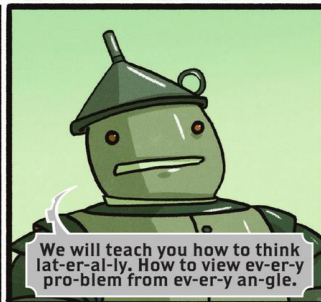
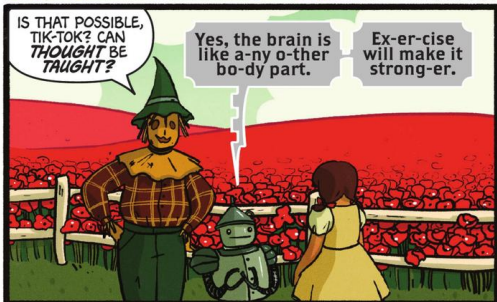
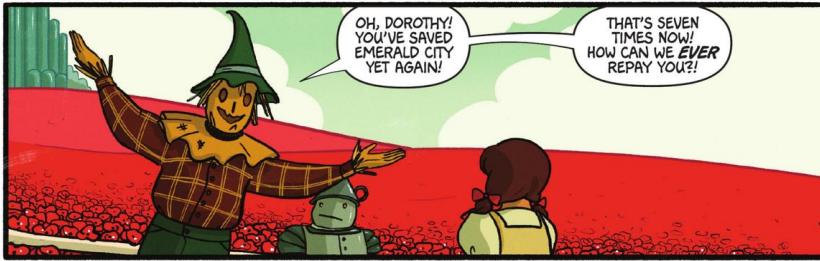


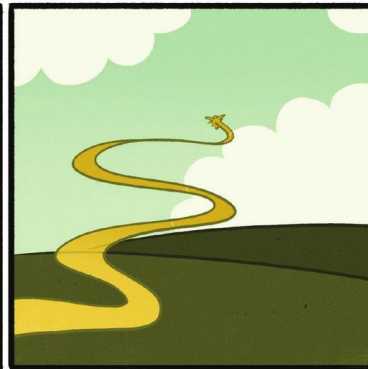


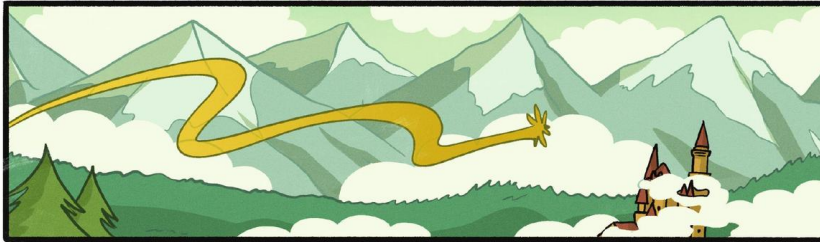


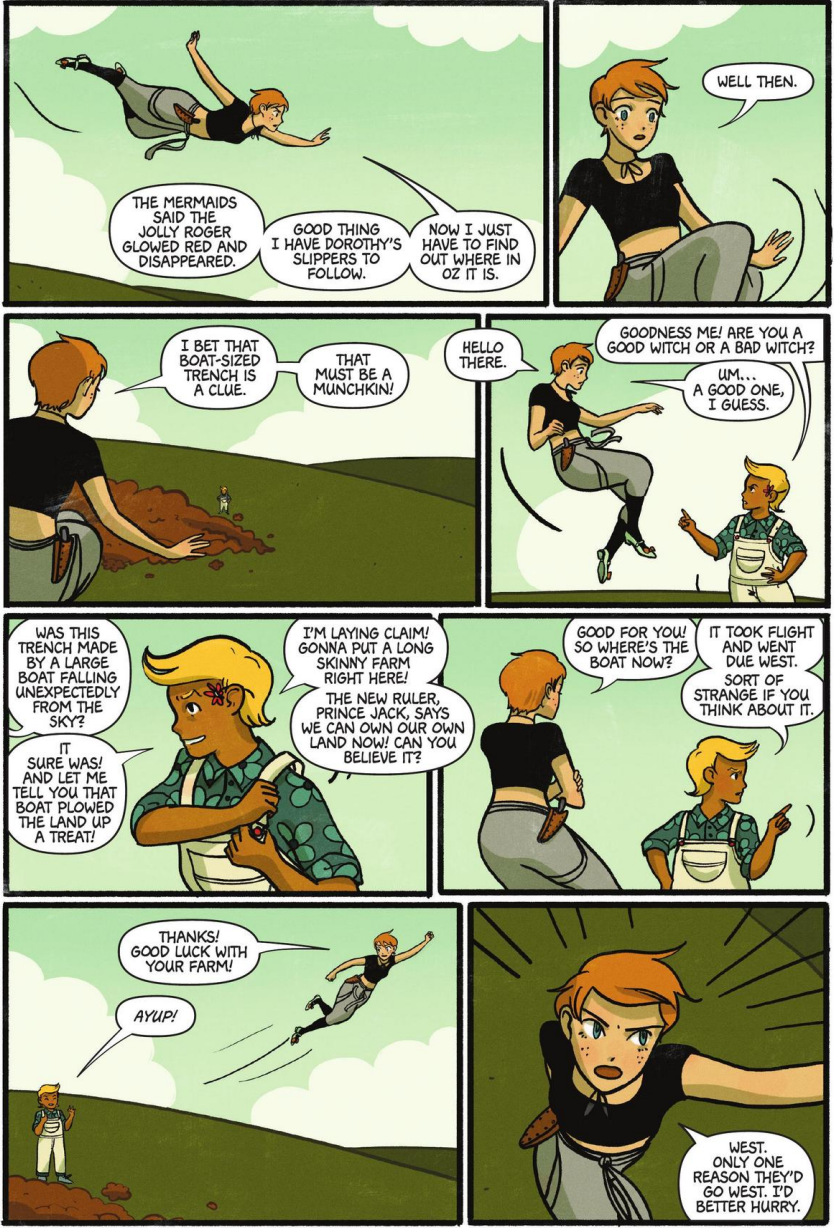
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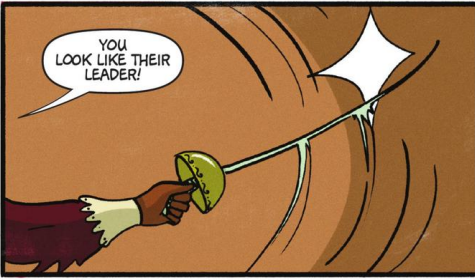












YOU LOOK LIKE THEIR LEADER!



I CHALLENGE YOU!



VERY WELL.

NICE EYE PATCH! YOU'D MAKE A GOOD PIRATE!

NICE HOOK. YOU'D MAKE A BAD MASSEUSE.



THOSE BRIGHT RED HEARTS DON'T EXACTLY INSPIRE FEAR.



HA HA HA! BURN, YOU FOOLS!

ZAZURCH



THAT'S WHAT YOU GET FOR CROSSING THE WITCH OF THE WEST!









AT LEAST WE GET TO TAKE THE FAST WAY BACK TO THE MIRROR. NO MORE SEARCHING AROUND FOR THE SWORD!

I HORRIBLY ENVY YOU AND WENDY! FLYING IS AMAZING!

YEAH, OKAY...



SOMETHING WRONG? WELL... YEAH.

I REALLY LIKE HAVING YOU HANG ON TO ME! IT'S DRIVING ME CRAZY! WHY AM I FEELING LIKE THIS?!



IT'S ALL PART OF BECOMING A MAN, PETER.

IS IT REVERSIBLE?

NOT NORMALLY. BUT IN YOUR CASE, WHO KNOWS?!



I HATE IT! I CAN'T THINK STRAIGHT. IT'S GETTING HARDER AND HARDER TO FLY.

I'VE GOT ALL THESE STUPID URGES THAT DON'T MAKE SENSE TO ME.



I'LL TELL YOU WHAT. IF WE SURVIVE THE DAY, I'LL SEE TO ALL THOSE PHYSICAL NEEDS YOU'VE BEEN HAVING.

REALLY? HOW ARE YOU GOING TO DO THAT?

BEST WE DISCUSS THAT LATER.



DOWN THERE. THE MIRROR.

I SEE IT.



SO NOW I GET TO FIGHT PIRATES, RIGHT?

HOOK'S QUARTERS LOOK EMPTY. NOW IS AS GOOD A TIME AS ANY TO GO THROUGH.



THEY'VE MOVED THE FAIRY BALL. WE'LL HAVE TO FIND IT.



WAIT A MOMENT! THIS IS OZ! HOW DID WE GET TO OZ?!

WE'D BEST BE CAUTIOUS UNTIL WE FIND OUT WHAT'S GOING ON.

ALL RIGHT, PETER?



PREPARE TO DIE, EVIL WITCH!

SNK



YOU JUST CAN'T GET ENOUGH OF ME KICKING YOUR ASS, EH?



PUNCH



IDIOT.

AT LEAST THE SWORD FELL NEARBY. I NEED ONLY BIDE MY TIME UNTIL SHE'S DISTRACT--

SNK



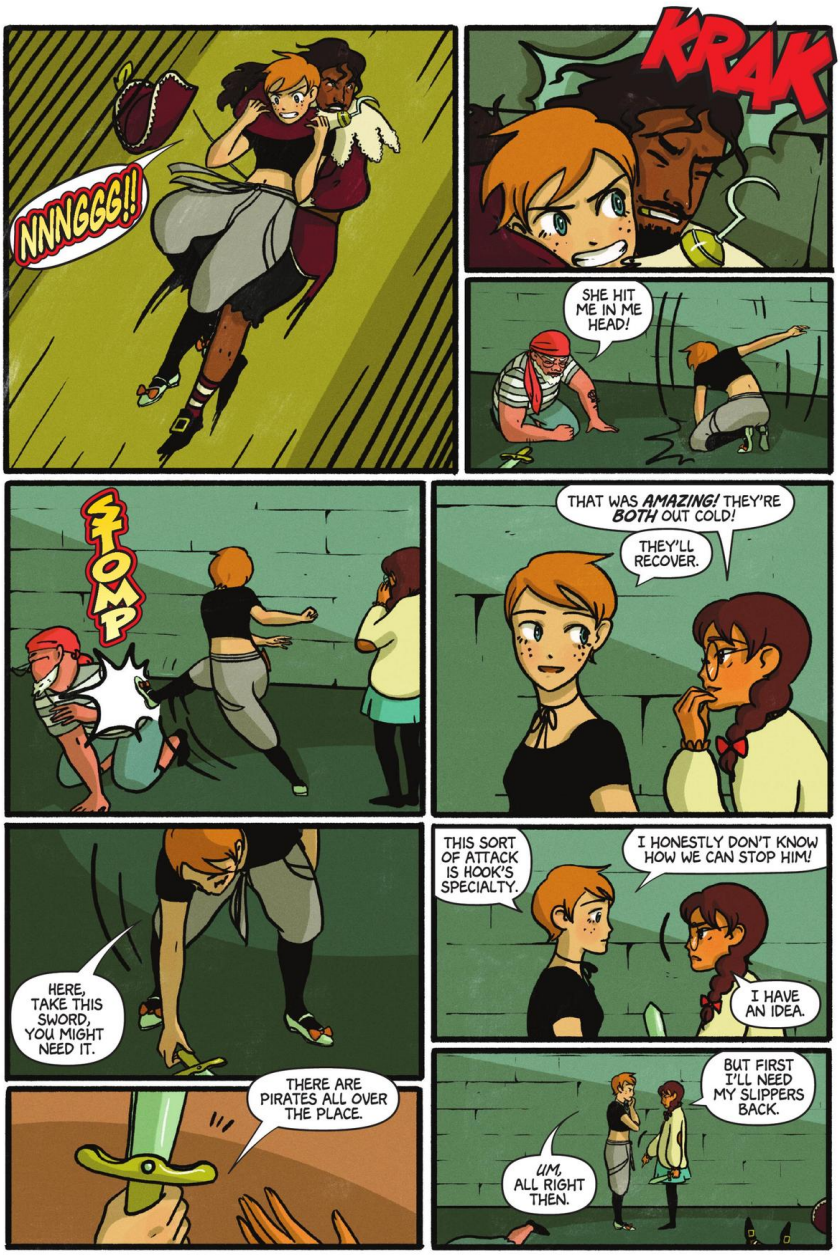
FLIK

I SEE YOU THERE, GIRL!



WELL NOW! LOOKS LIKE I GET A MAGIC GIRL TO DISSECT ONCE THIS BATTLE IS OVER!











OH, NANNY, I'M SO GLAD YOU'RE HERE! THERE'S SOMETHING I'D LIKE TO GIVE YOU!



A BLAST OF ELDRITCH FIRE IN YOUR \$\$\$%\$ING FACE!



IMPUDENT GIRL.



RIGHT, YOU LOT. A DEAL'S A DEAL.



SHE'S FOR YOU.



O! SUM'FIN T'BREAK!
DIBS ON 'ER EYES!
WHAT ARE THESE THINGS?

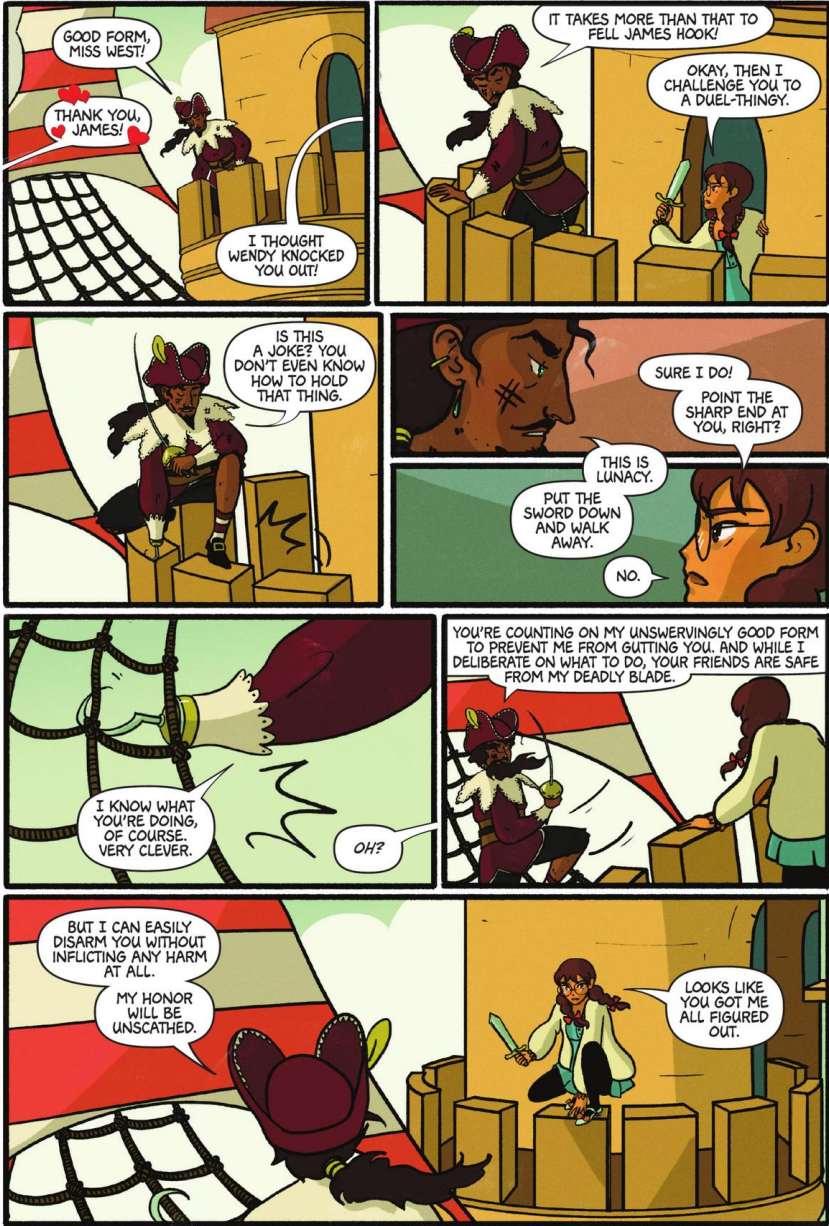


THEY'RE THE SPIRITS OF NAUGHTY CHILDREN.
YOU REALLY HAVE NO IDEA WHAT YOU'RE UP AGAINST, DO YOU?



BE GONE!
O! THE LIGHT!
AIEEE!













MISSED ME!
WASN'T AIMING FOR YOU.



NO!
WANNINGH!



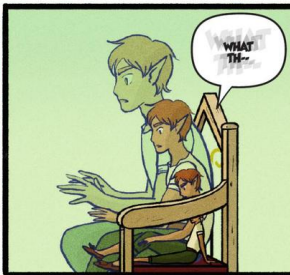
I'M BEAT, BUT THIS AIN'T OVER.
I'LL SEE YOU AGAIN SOON. REAL SOON, NANNY!

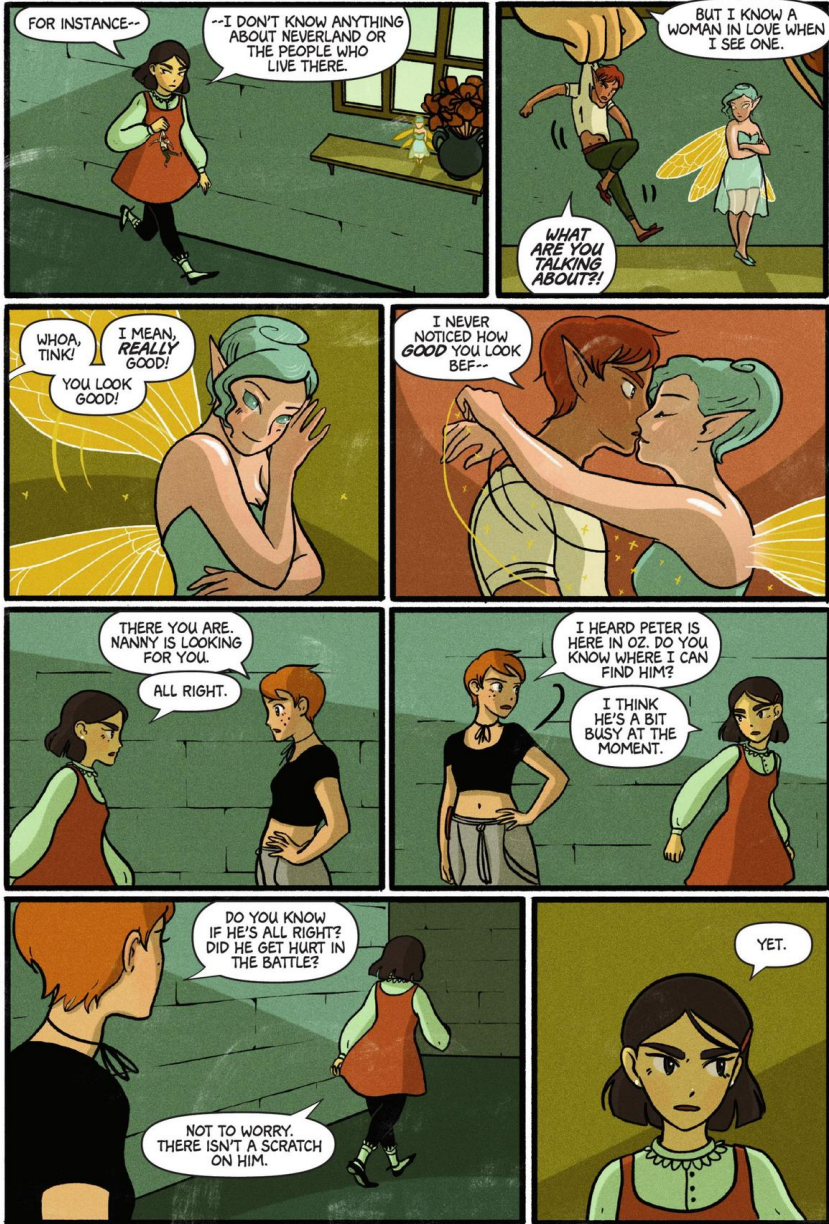


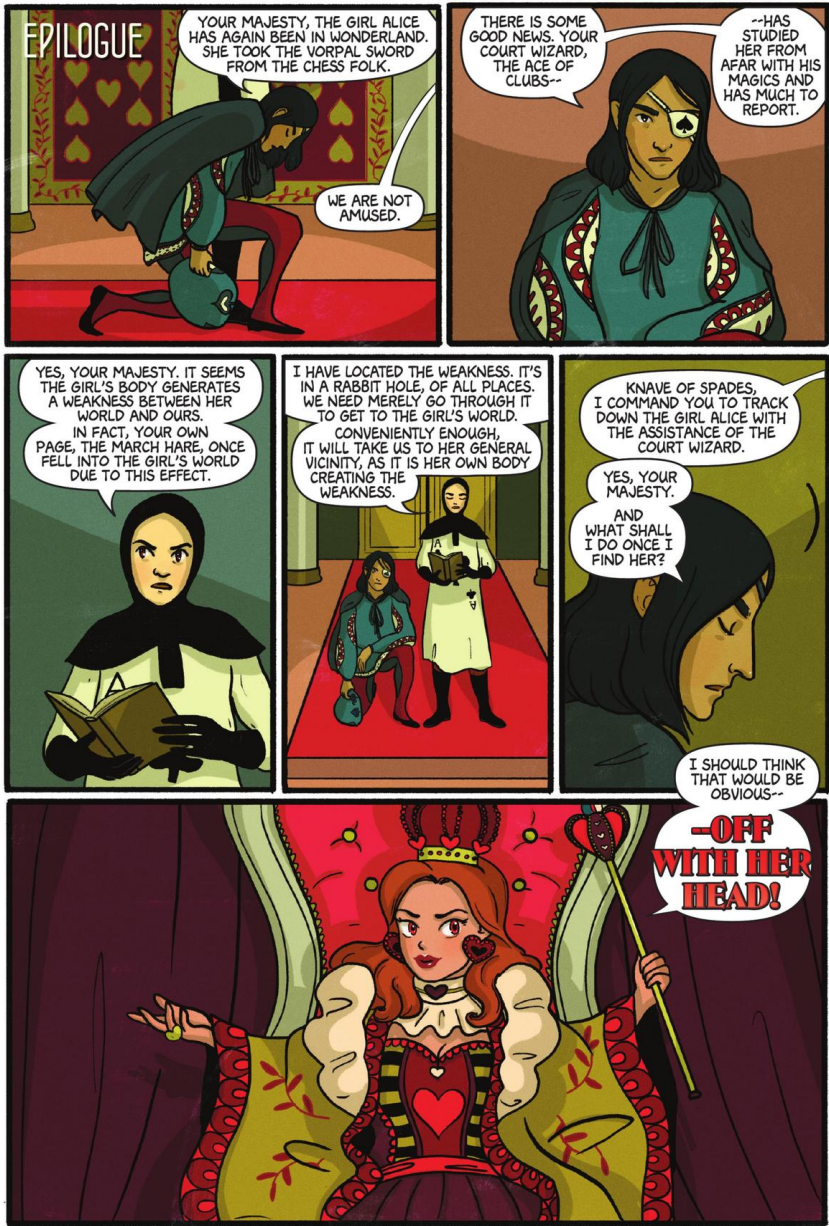
WELL DONE, ALICE. JUST IN THE NICK OF TIME.
I DON'T THINK WE HAD MUCH MORE IN US.

SHE CAN #%#@ING TELEPORT?!
LANGUAGE, ALICE.









ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

ANDY: My gratitude goes out to illustrator Sarah Andersen for her beautiful illustrations as well as Alison George, Kayla Bickers, and Dave Lanphear for their color work and lettering. Many thanks to the people who worked behind the scenes to bring this book to life, including Julian Pavia, Patrick Barb, Ashley Pierce, Mikayla Butchart, Chloe Rawlins, Jane Chinn, Natalie Mulford, Daniel Wikey, Windy Dorresteyn, Hannah Rahill, and Aaron Wehner.

SARAH: Thank you to Adrienne McWhorter Bamford and Michael Son of Tapas Media for years of *Sarah's Scribbles* support as well as the opportunity to try something new and exciting. Thank you to my agent Seth Fishman for having my back and encouraging my work. Thank you to the brilliant colorists Alison George and Kayla Bickers who made *Cheshire Crossing* look the very best it possibly could. Lastly, an eternal thank-you to my friends and family who always push me to be my best.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR AND ILLUSTRATOR

ANDY WEIR built a career as a software engineer until the success of his first published novel, *The Martian*, allowed him to live out his dream of writing full-time. He is a lifelong space nerd and a devoted hobbyist of subjects such as relativistic physics, orbital mechanics, and the history of manned spaceflight. He also mixes a mean cocktail. He lives in California.

SARAH ANDERSEN is a 26-year-old cartoonist and illustrator. She graduated from the Maryland Institute College of Art in 2014 and currently lives in Norwalk, Connecticut. She is known for the webcomic *Sarah's Scribbles* and is a three-time Goodreads Choice Award winner. She is also a proud black cat owner.

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Published in the United States by Ten Speed Press, an imprint of
Random House, a division of Penguin Random House LLC, New York.
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www.tenspeed.com

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Originally published in four separate volumes in 2006, 2007, and
2008 in different form by the author on www.cheshirecrossing.net.

Library of Congress Control Number: 2019930344

ISBN 9780399582073
Ebook ISBN 9780399582080

Editors: Julian Pavia, Patrick Barb, and Michael Son (Tapas Media)
Design: Chloe Rawlins
Colors: Alison George
Color Assists: Kayla Bickers and Dojo Gubser
Lettering: Dave Lanphear
In association with Tapas Media



