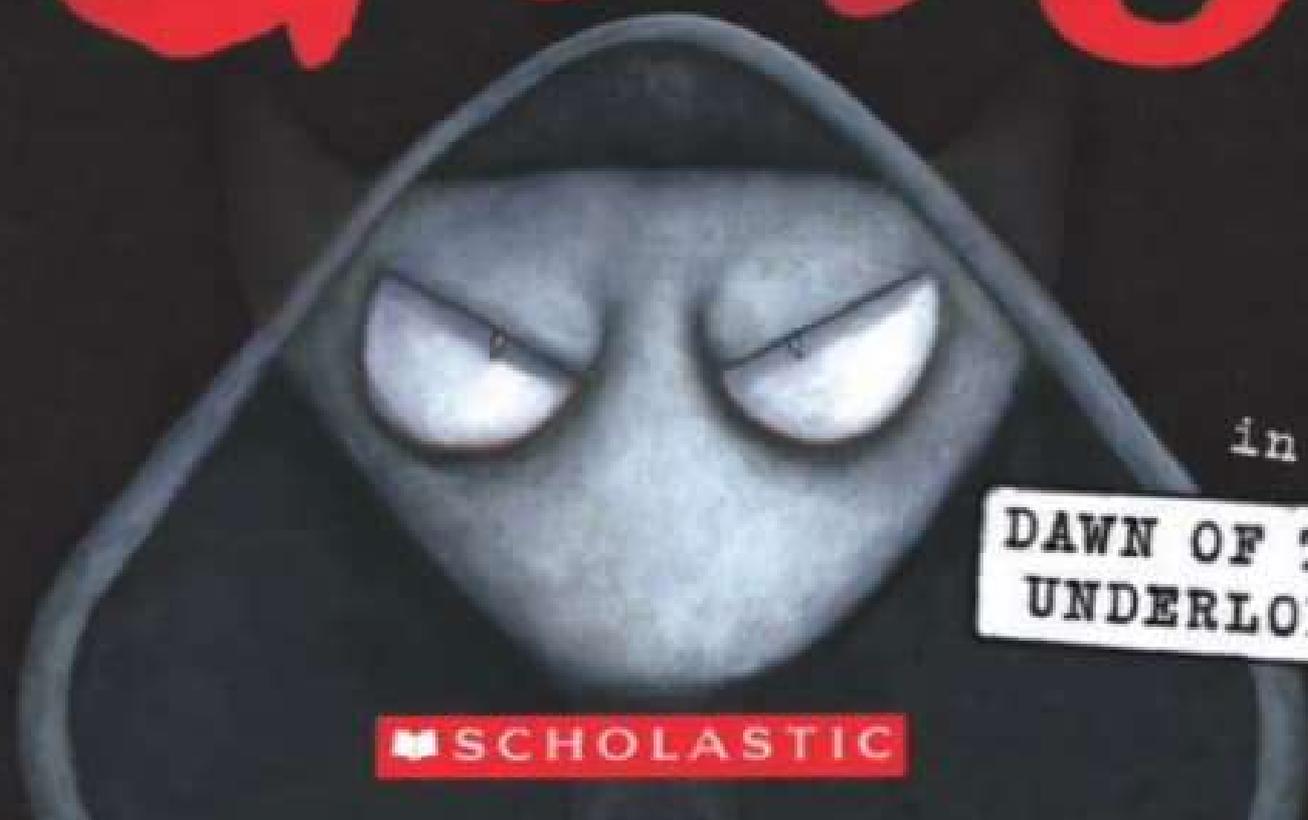


#1 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLING SERIES

• AARON BLABEY •

the **BAD**  
**GUYS**



in

DAWN OF THE  
UNDERLORD

 SCHOLASTIC

**BAD GUYS. GOOD DEEDS. GREAT BOOKS.  
READ THEM ALL!**

THE BAD GUYS

THE BAD GUYS IN MISSION UNPLUCKABLE

THE BAD GUYS IN THE FURBALL STRIKES BACK

THE BAD GUYS IN ATTACK OF THE ZITTENS

THE BAD GUYS IN INTERGALACTIC GAS

THE BAD GUYS IN ALIEN VS BAD GUYS

THE BAD GUYS IN DO-YOU-THINK-HE-SAURUS?!

THE BAD GUYS IN SUPERBAD

THE BAD GUYS IN THE BIG BAD WOLF

THE BAD GUYS IN THE BADDEST DAY EVER

THE BAD GUYS IN DAWN OF THE UNDERLORD



*the* **BAD**  
**GUYS**

in



DAWN OF THE  
UNDERLORD

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SCHOLASTIC INC.

PLANET :(<

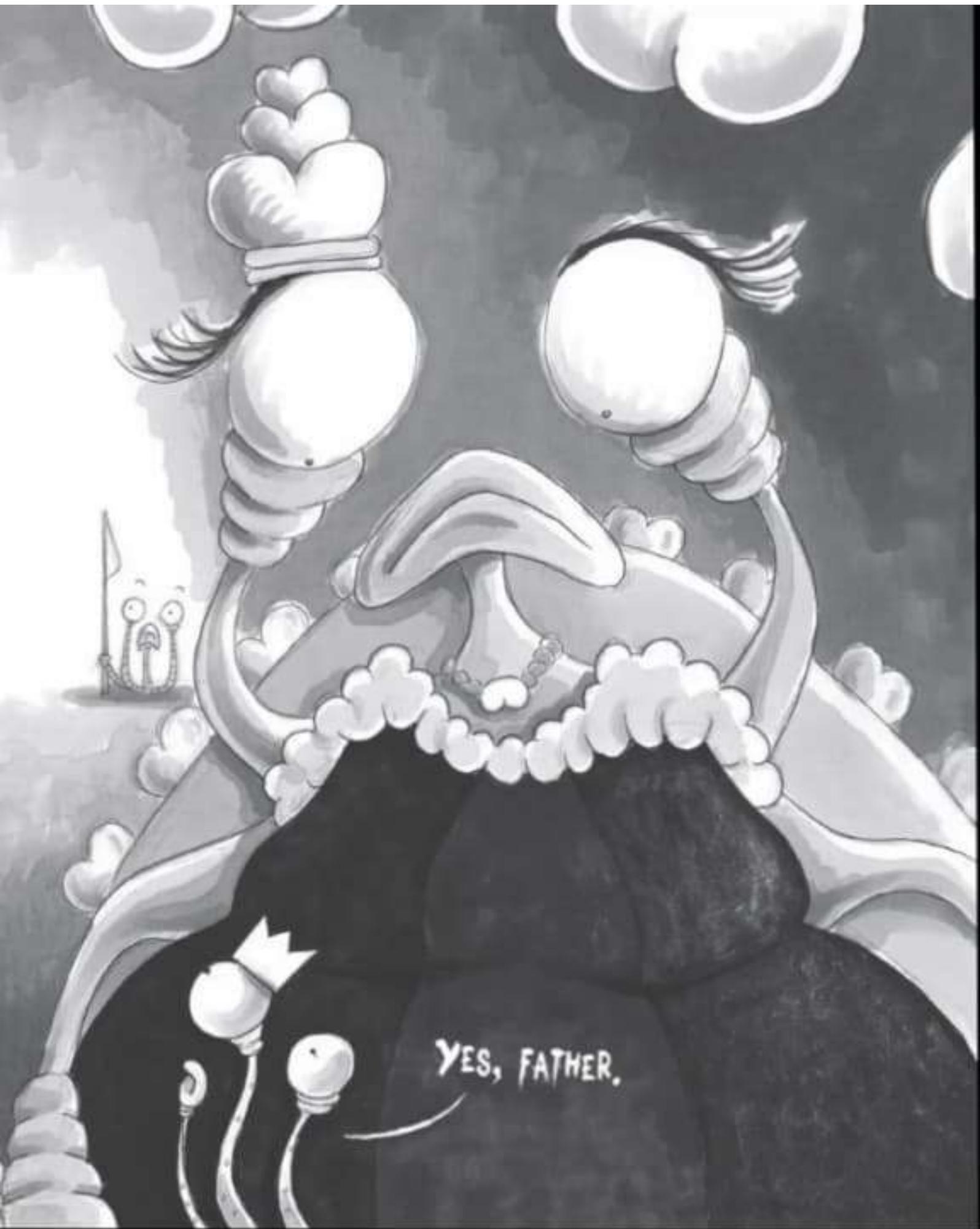




So . . .

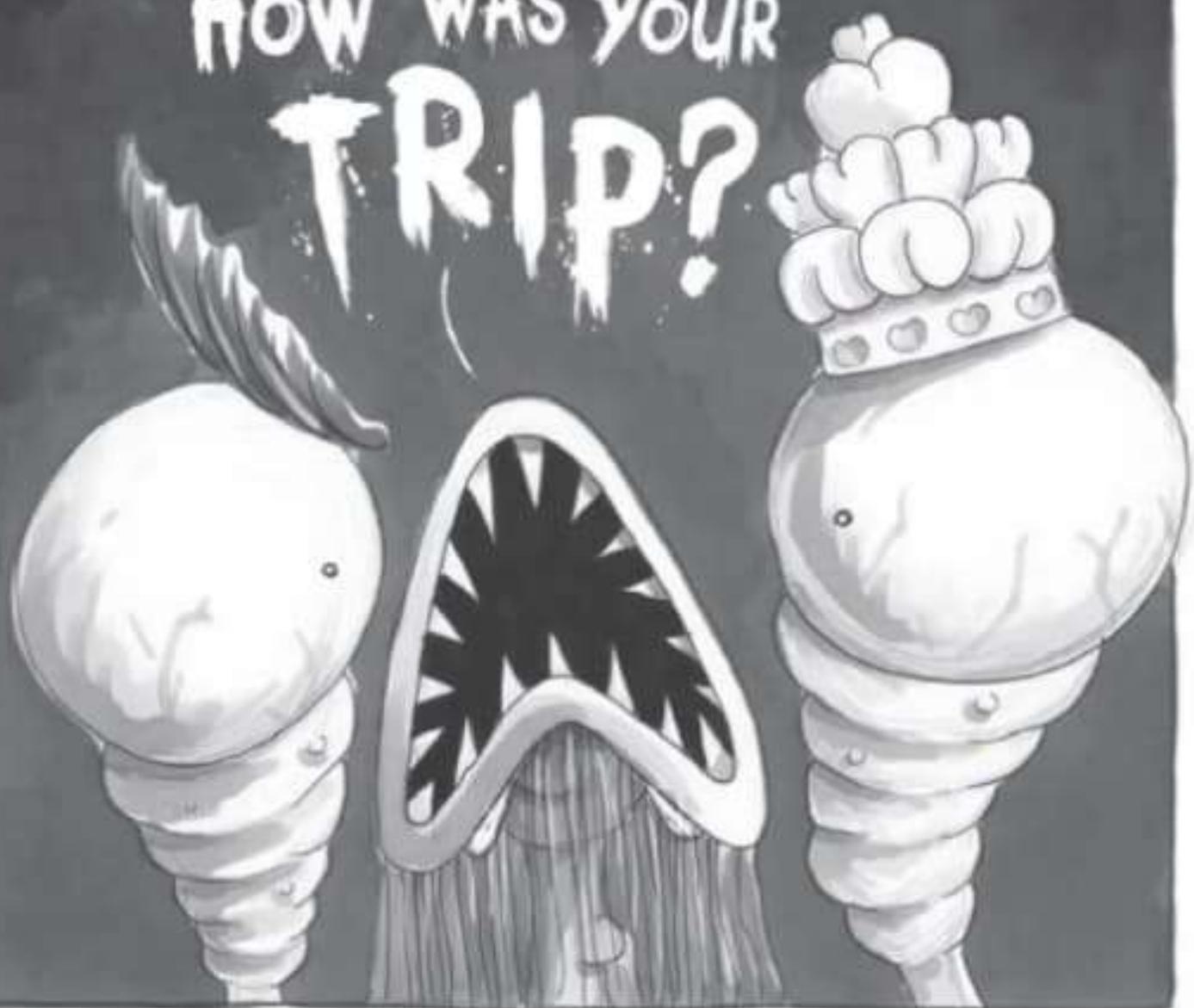


**YOU'RE BACK?**



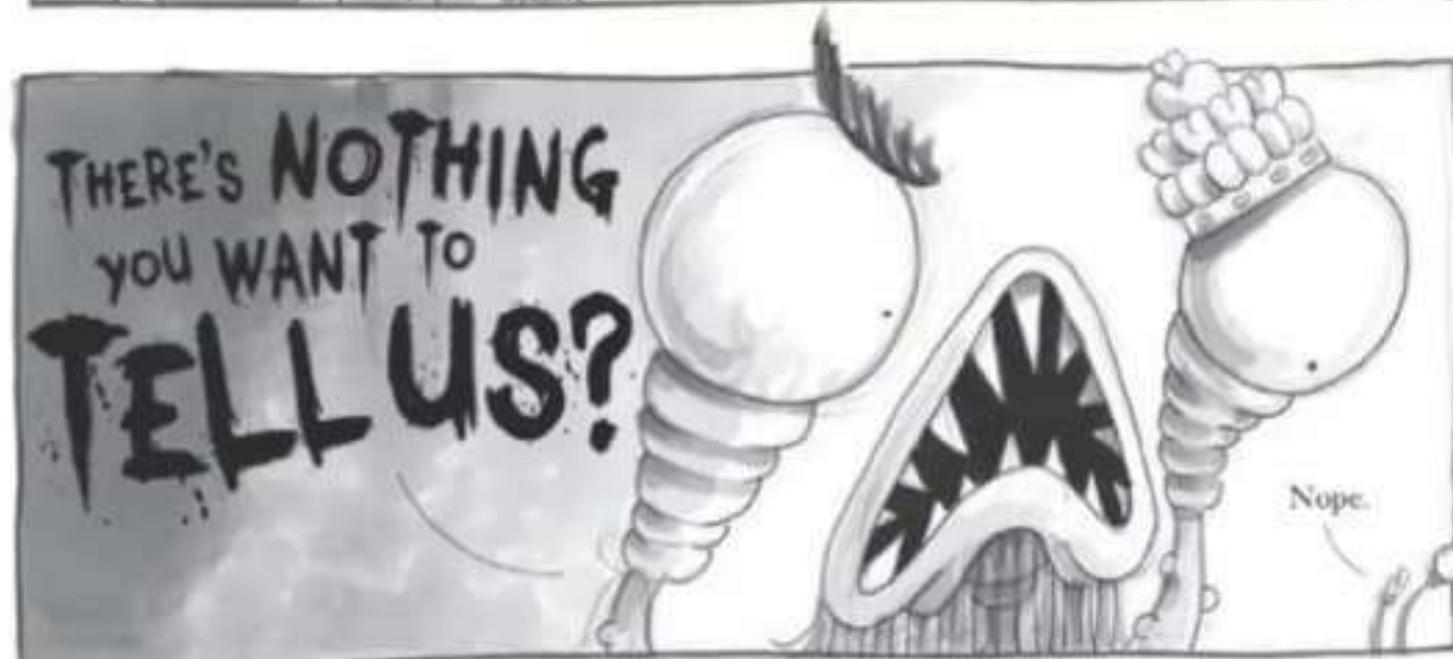
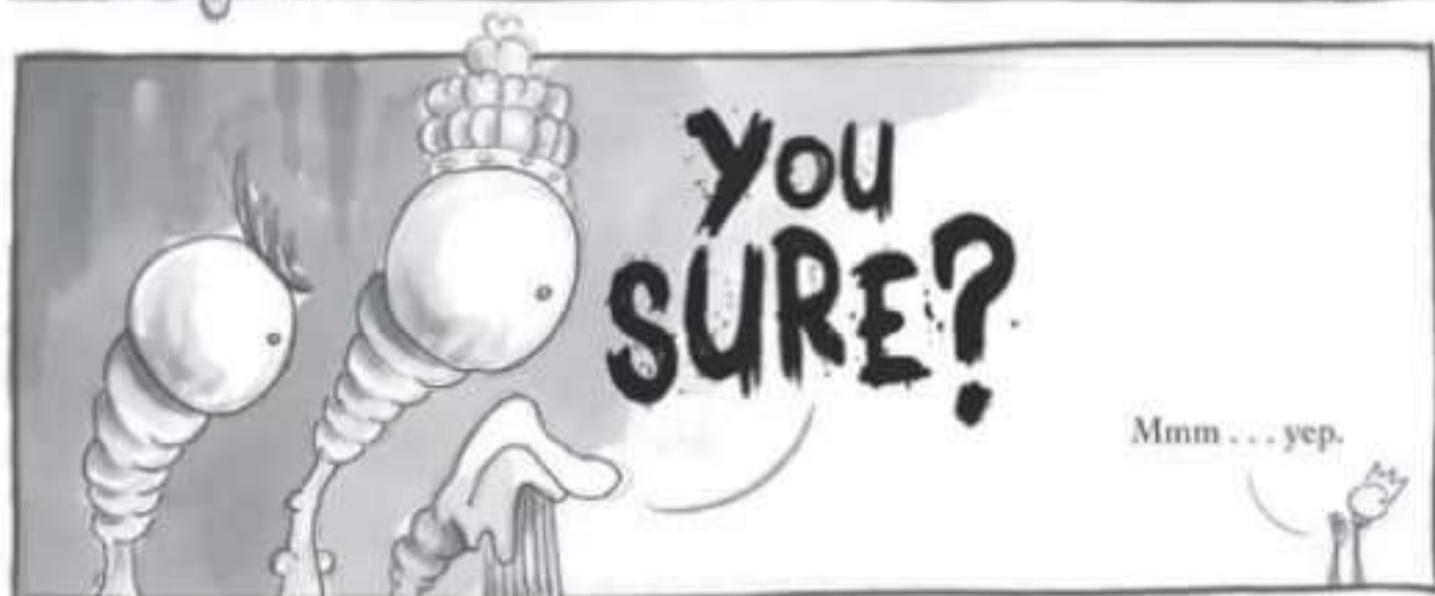
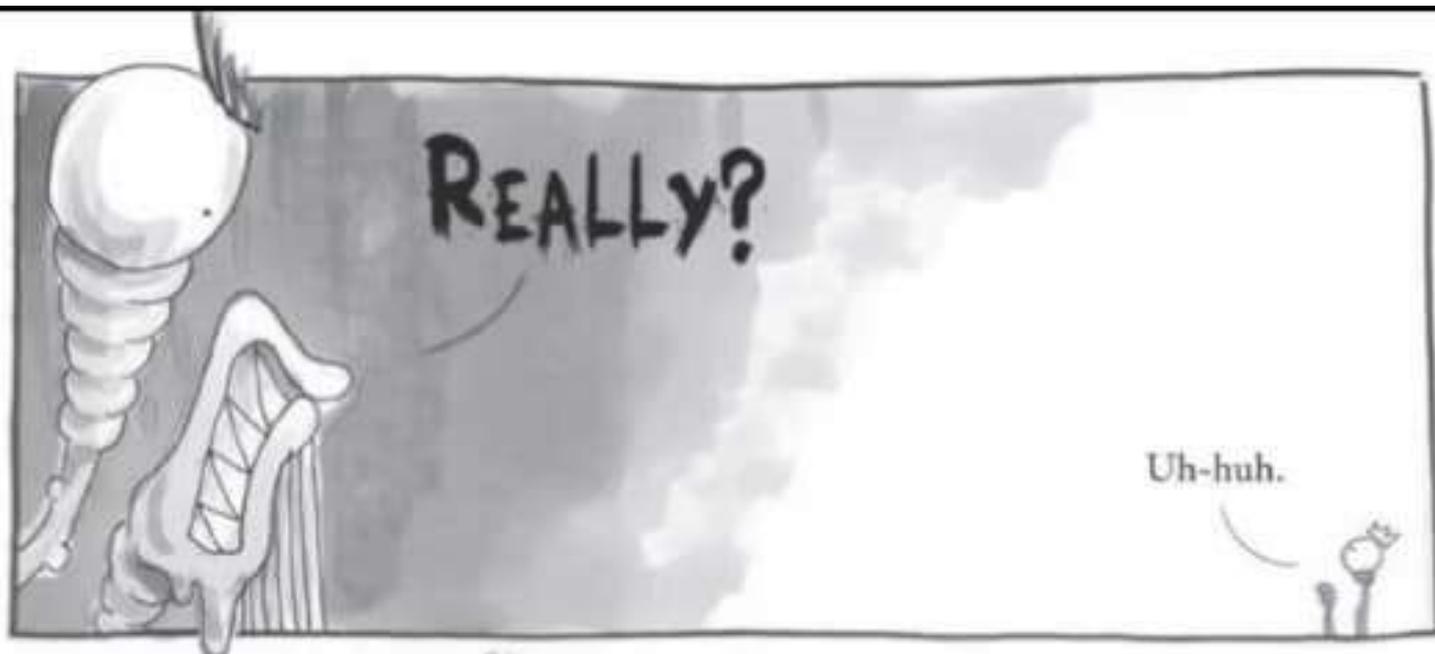
YES, FATHER.

HOW WAS YOUR  
TRIP?

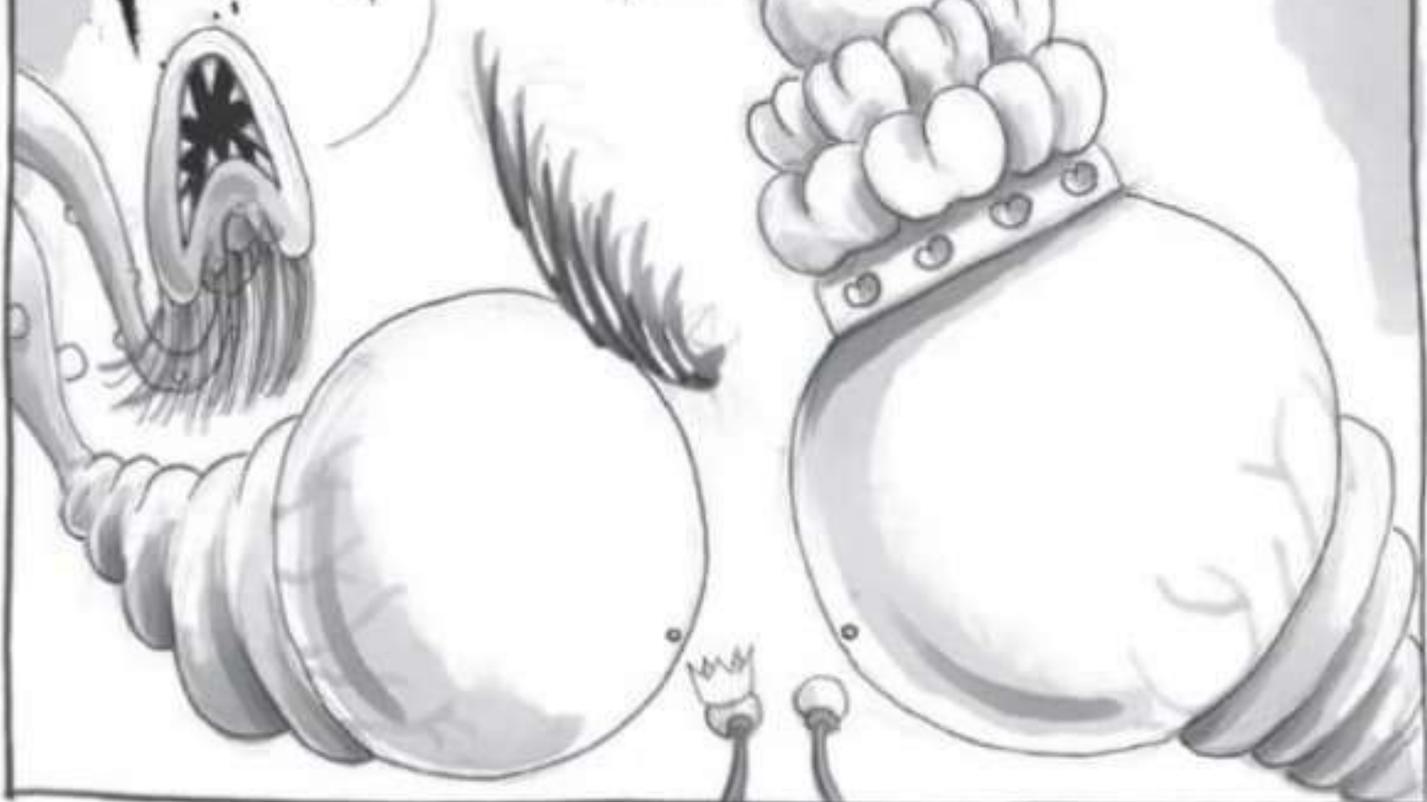


IT WAS . . . PRETTY GOOD . . .





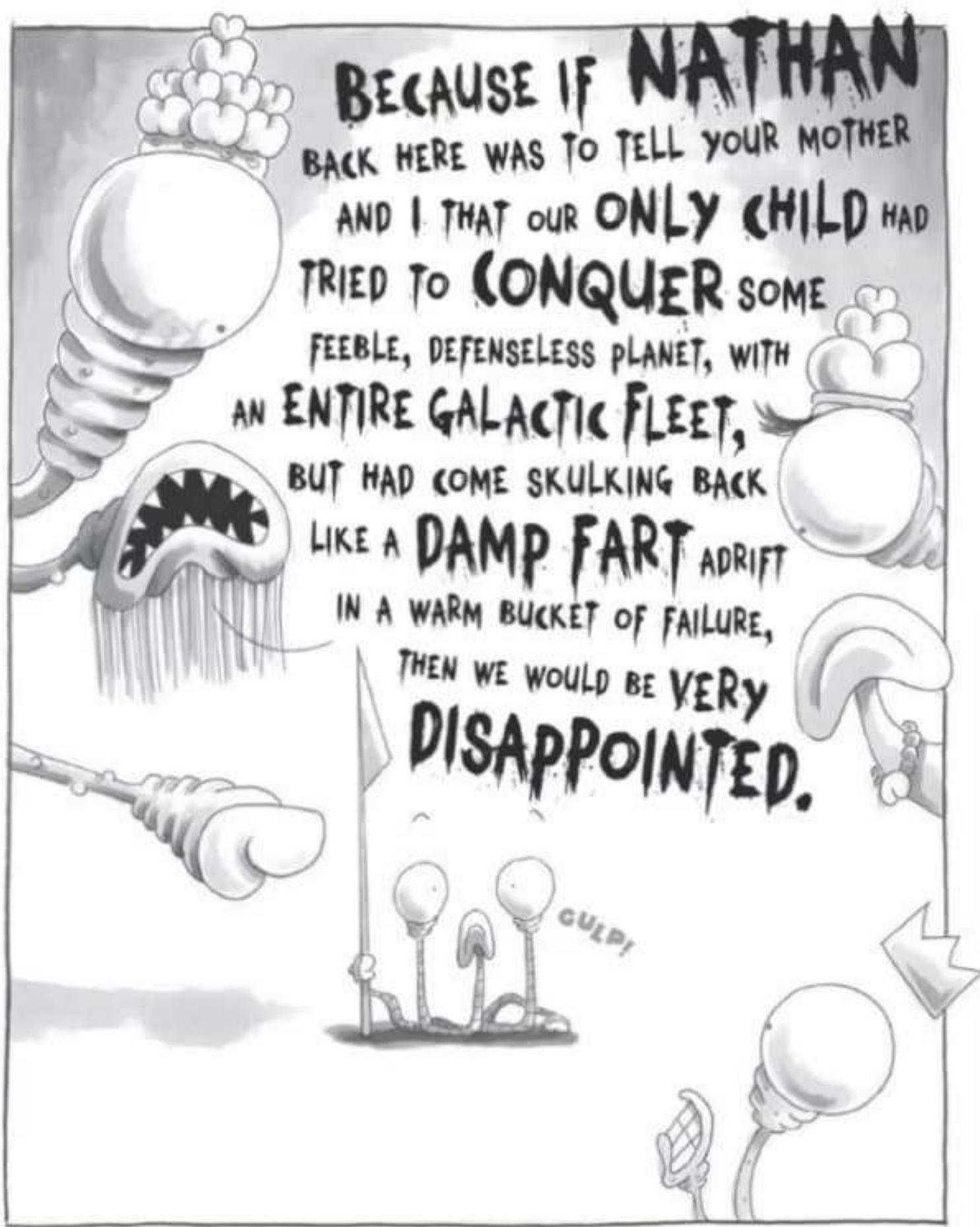
SO, YOU'RE BACK FROM YOUR SACRED  
RITE OF PASSAGE WITH **NOTHING**  
**TERRIBLE** TO CONFESS?



Well . . .  
it's funny you should ask . . .



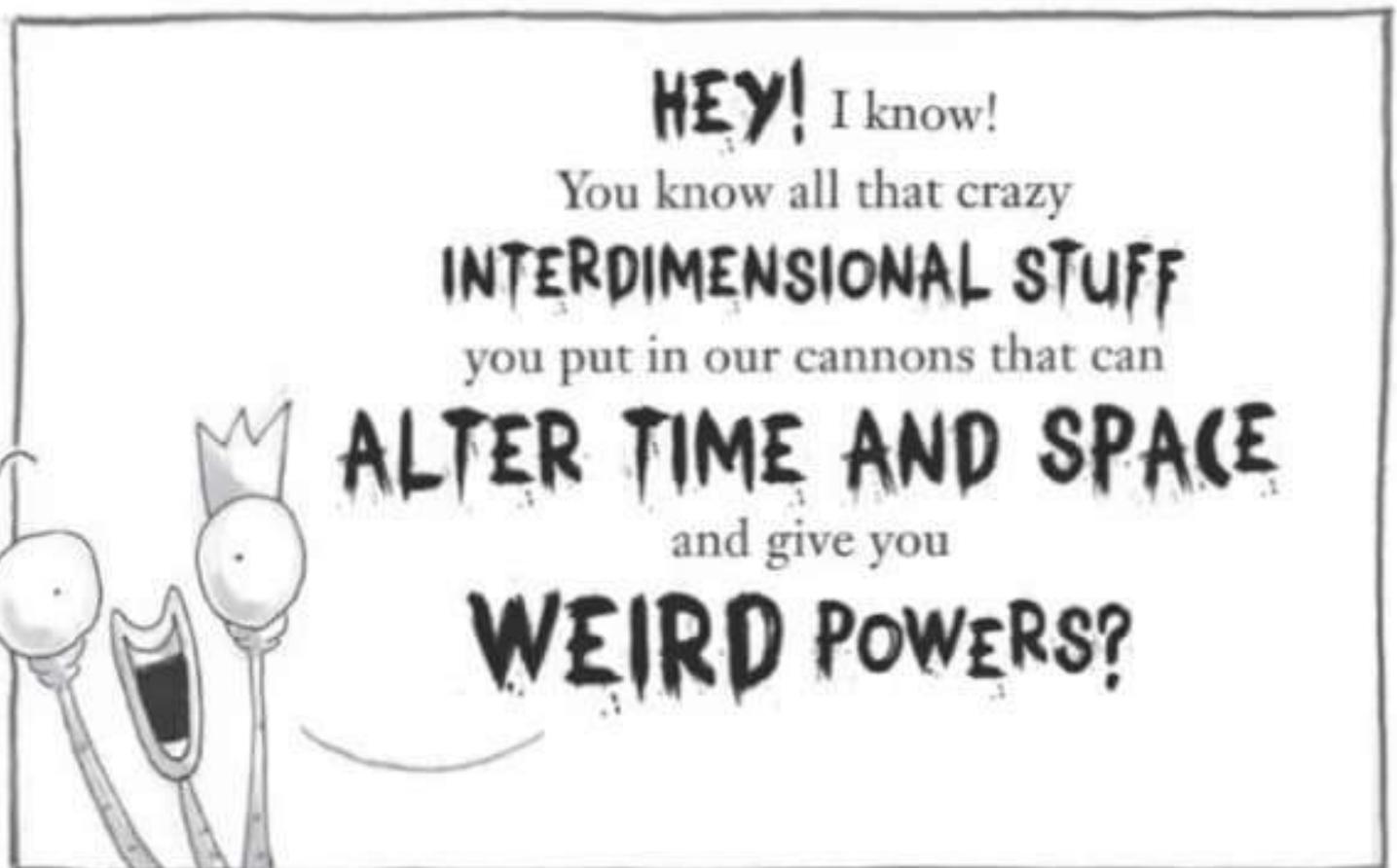
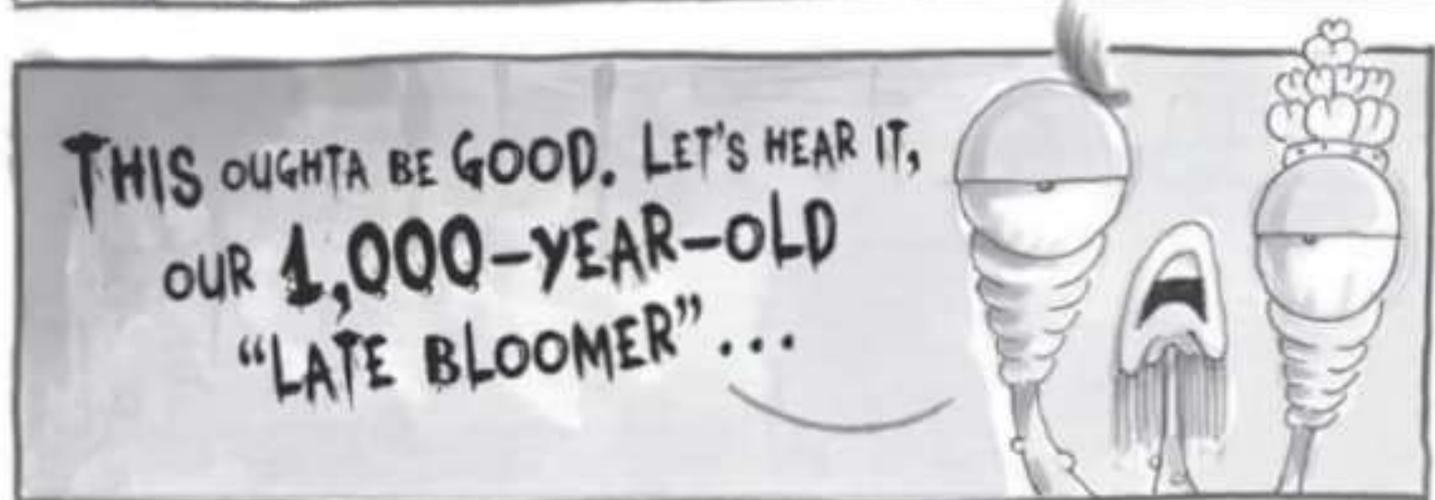
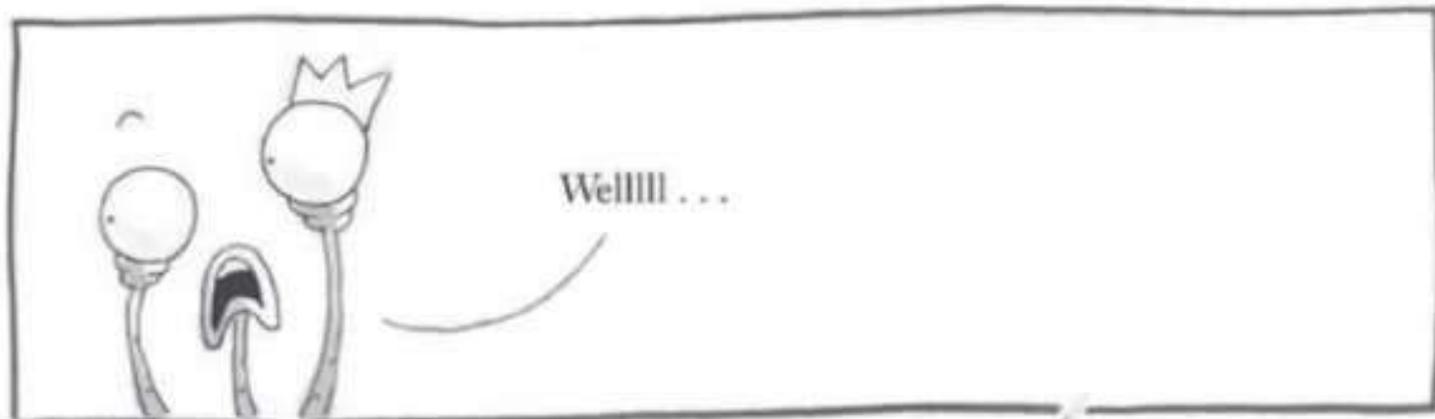
**BECAUSE IF NATHAN**  
BACK HERE WAS TO TELL YOUR MOTHER  
AND I THAT OUR **ONLY CHILD** HAD  
TRIED TO **CONQUER** SOME  
FEEBLE, DEFENSELESS PLANET, WITH  
AN **ENTIRE GALACTIC FLEET**,  
BUT HAD COME SKULKING BACK  
LIKE A **DAMP FART** ADRIFT  
IN A WARM BUCKET OF FAILURE,  
THEN WE WOULD BE **VERY**  
**DISAPPOINTED.**



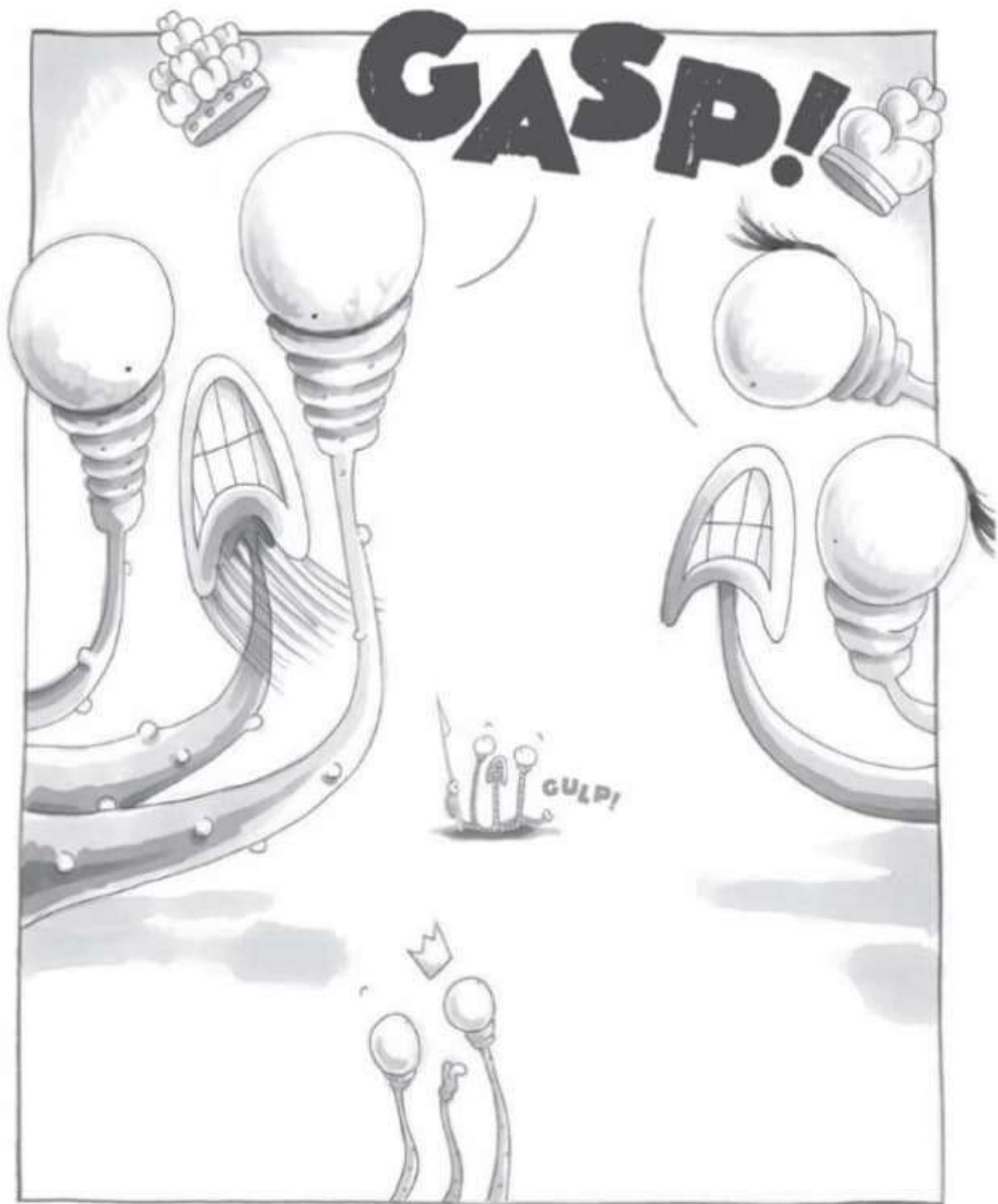
OH, DON'T BE TOO HARD  
ON HIM, DARLING. HE'S JUST A  
LATE BLOOMER.

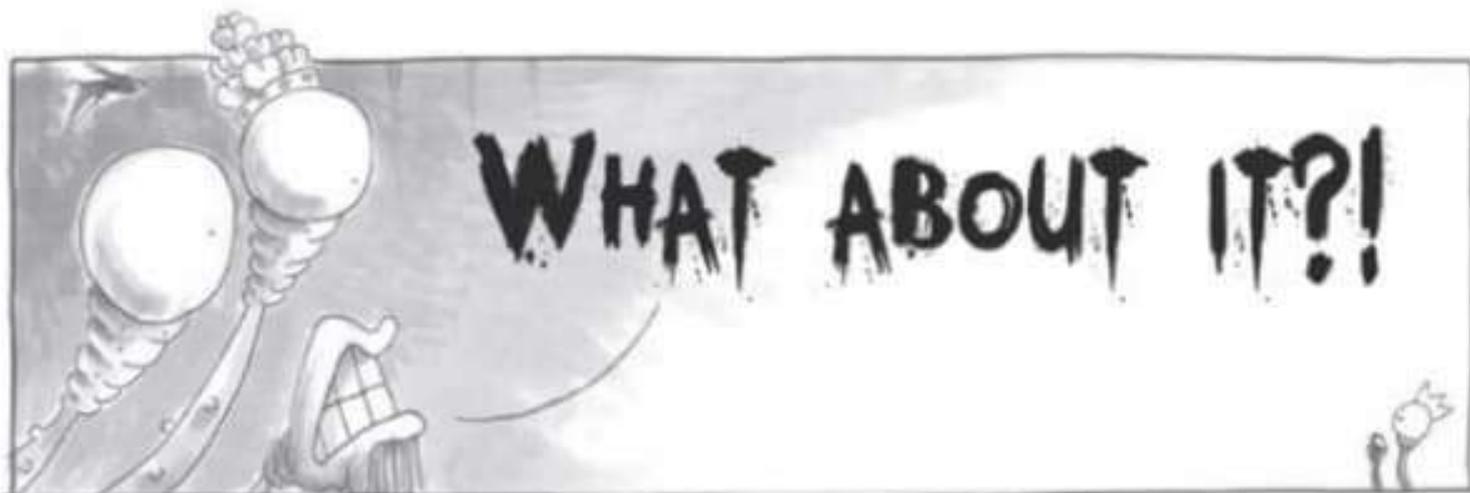
TELL US ABOUT  
YOUR TRIUMPHS,  
SWEET PEA! TELL YOUR  
FATHER ABOUT ALL THE  
**SUCCESSFUL**  
**THINGS** YOU DID  
ON YOUR  
ADVENTURE ...





# GASP!





Well, remember how  
before I left, you were all like,

**"DON'T USE THOSE CANNONS!**

**THEY'RE, LIKE, TOTALLY WHACK AND  
DON'T WORK PROPERLY AND STUFF!"**



... or something.

Well, guess what?



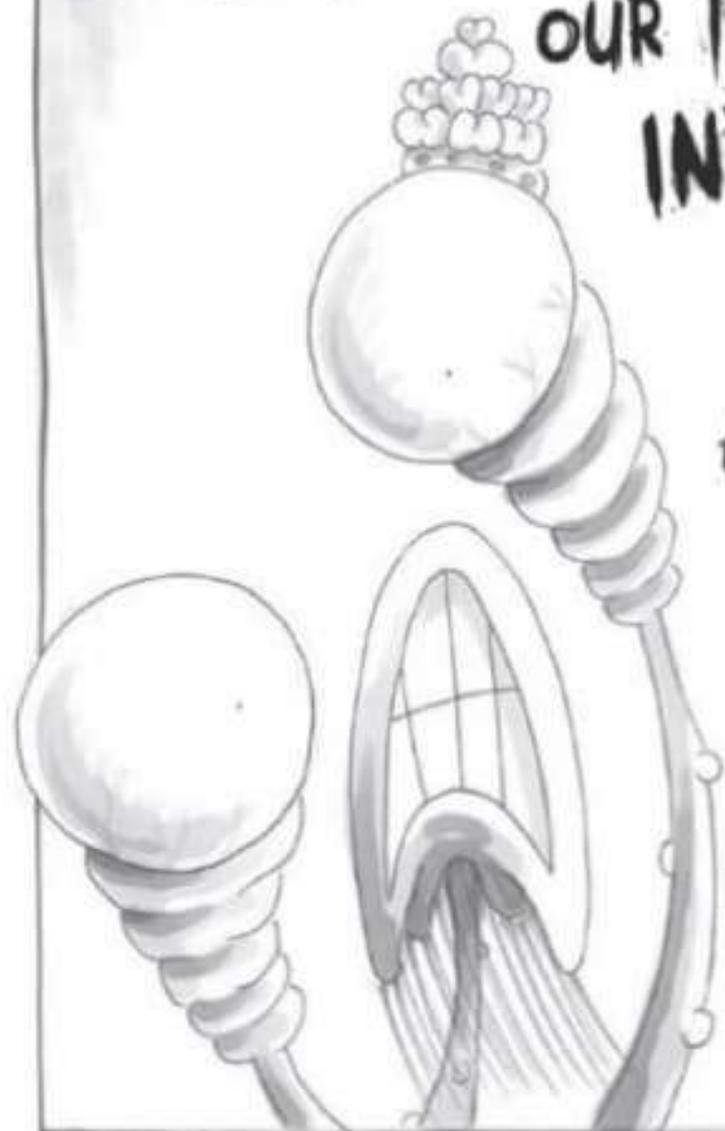
THAT'S **NOT** WHAT I SAID. I SAID—  
“IF THE **POWER** IN THOSE **CANNONS**  
IS **EVER UNLEASHED**, IT  
WOULD ALMOST CERTAINLY CAUSE  
THE **END** OF OUR  
**UNIVERSE!**”



Oh . . . he he . . . riiiiight . . .

AND I WENT ON TO SAY—  
“THE DARKEST DAY IN OUR PLANET’S HISTORY  
WAS THE DAY WE FOOLISHLY ATTEMPTED TO POWER  
OUR TECHNOLOGY WITH THAT  
INTERDIMENSIONAL  
EVIL!

A FORCE WE DIDN’T FULLY  
UNDERSTAND UNTIL IT WAS  
TOO LATE!”



Oh . . . *THAT'S* what you said.

AND FURTHERMORE, I SAT YOU DOWN,  
LOOKED YOU IN THE EYE, AND SAID VERY CLEARLY—

“IF YOU REMEMBER ONE THING, REMEMBER THIS:

WHATEVER YOU DO, **DON'T**  
**FIRE THOSE CANNONS** OR USE ANY  
OF THE **TIME-TRAVEL EQUIPMENT!**

BECAUSE IF YOU **DO**, YOU'LL START A CHAIN REACTION

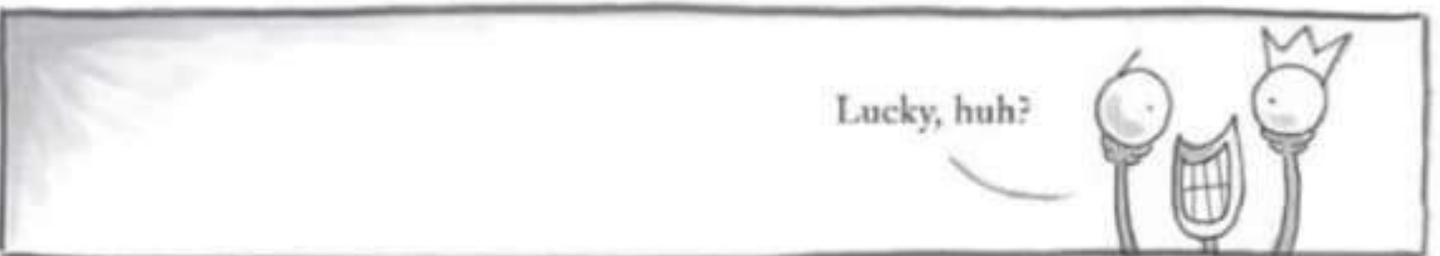
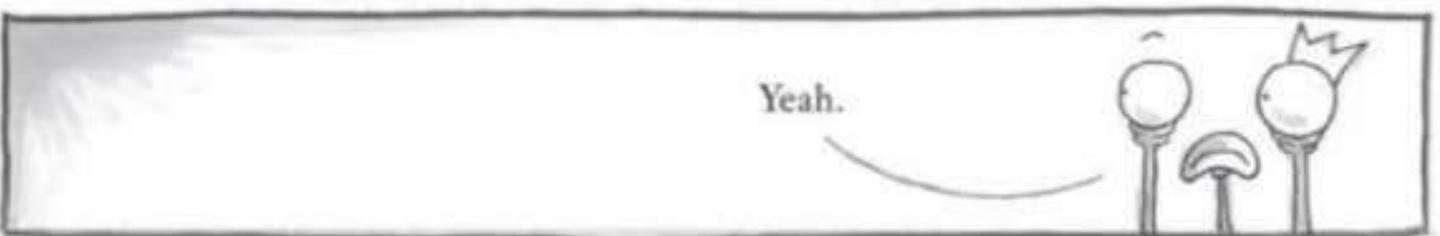
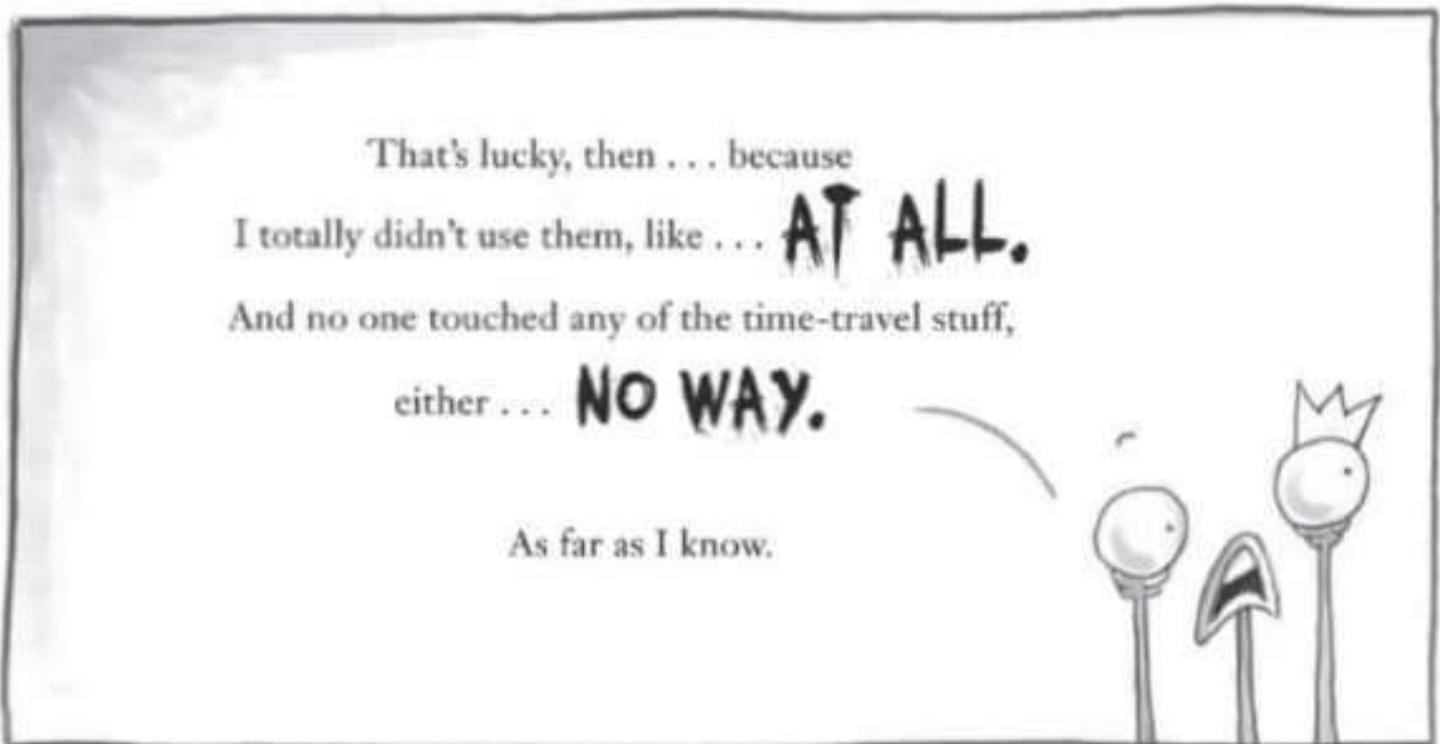
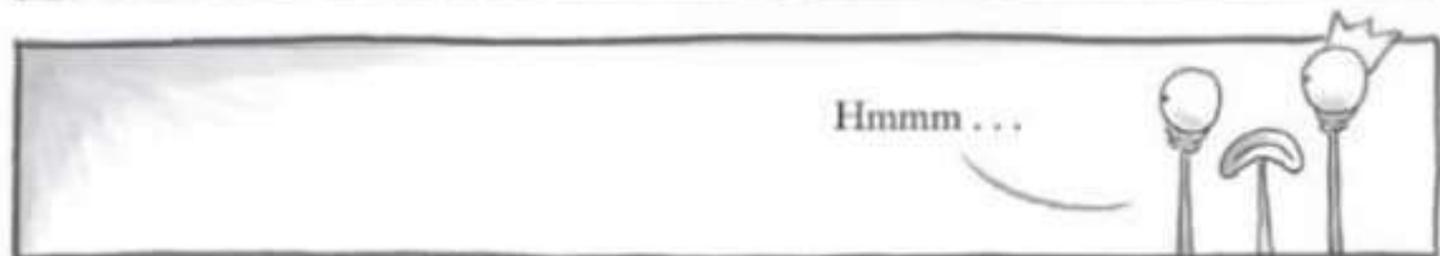
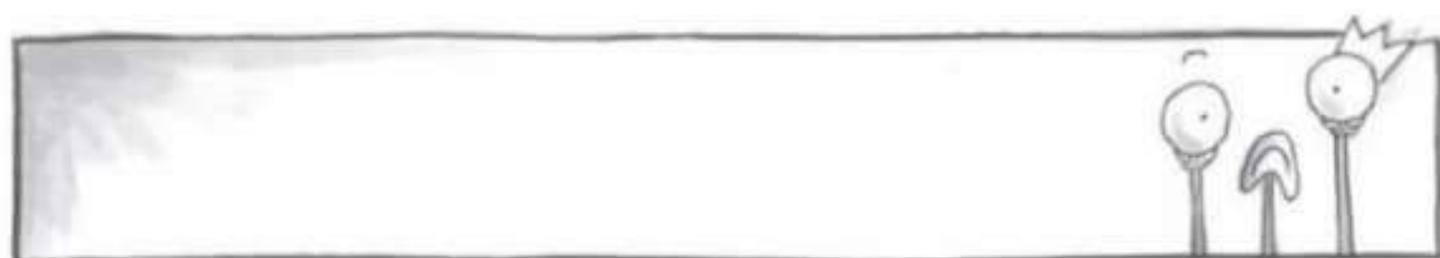
THAT WILL **OBLITERATE OUR UNIVERSE!**

EVERY LIVING CREATURE IN EVERY SINGLE GALAXY

WILL DIE A HORRIBLE,  
**HORRIBLE DEATH.”**



**THAT**  
IS WHAT I SAID.



OH, THANK HEAVENS!  
BECAUSE IF EVEN ONE TINY CREATURE  
WAS AFFECTED BY THE RELEASE  
OF THAT **TERRIBLE POWER,**  
THEN **ALL** HOPE WOULD BE LOST . . .



... AND IF ONE TINY CREATURE  
ATTEMPTED TO **USE** THAT  
TERRIBLE POWER, THEN THE  
**ENTIRE**  
**UNIVERSE**  
WOULD BE ...



PLANET EARTH





... DOOMED.

• CHAPTER 1 •  
**HERO HQ**

Hiiiiiii, everyone!

This is **TIFFANY FLUFFIT**

—A.K.A. **T-FLUFF**—

bringing you the hottest  
new show on the planet:

**HANGIN' with**  
*the* **HEROES!**



# SHADOW SQUAD **G**

That's right!  
I'll be taking you  
**INSIDE**  
their  
not-so-secret

**HEADQUARTERS.**



HERO HQ LIVE



And who better to  
show us around than  
everybody's **FAVORITE**  
team member . . .

Heeeeeeey!

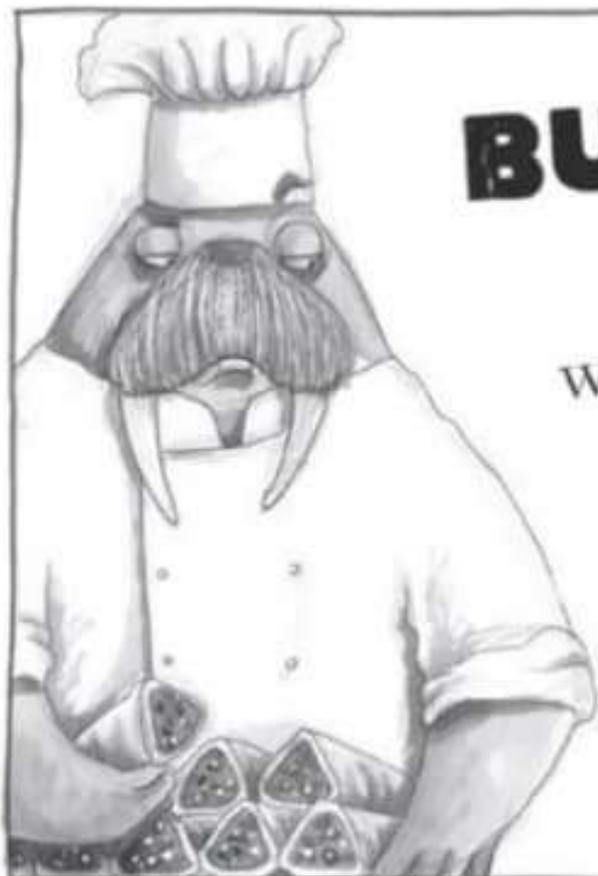
# PIRANHA'S IN DA HOUSE!

Welcome, *señorita!*

What's **COOKIN'?!**



**WAIT!**  
Let me answer that . . .



# BURRITOS!

*That's what's cookin'.*

*Help yourself, *chica!**

*We have a chef making burritos*

## **24 HOURS A DAY!**

*He never stops . . .*



*Like, literally.*

*It's in his contract.*

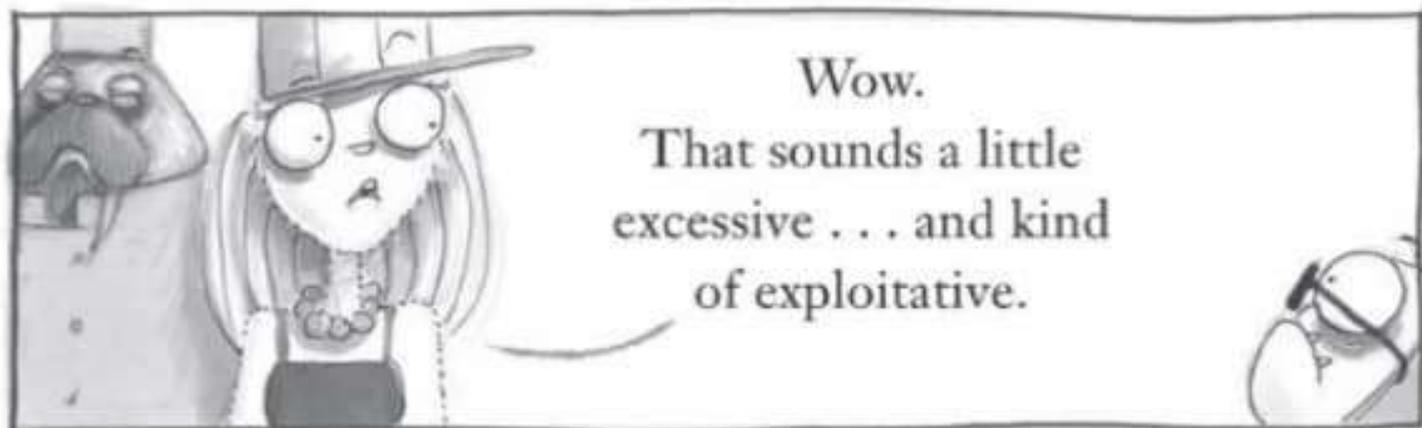
*I can actually*

**SUE** him if he stops!



# *ALL YOU CAN EAT!*

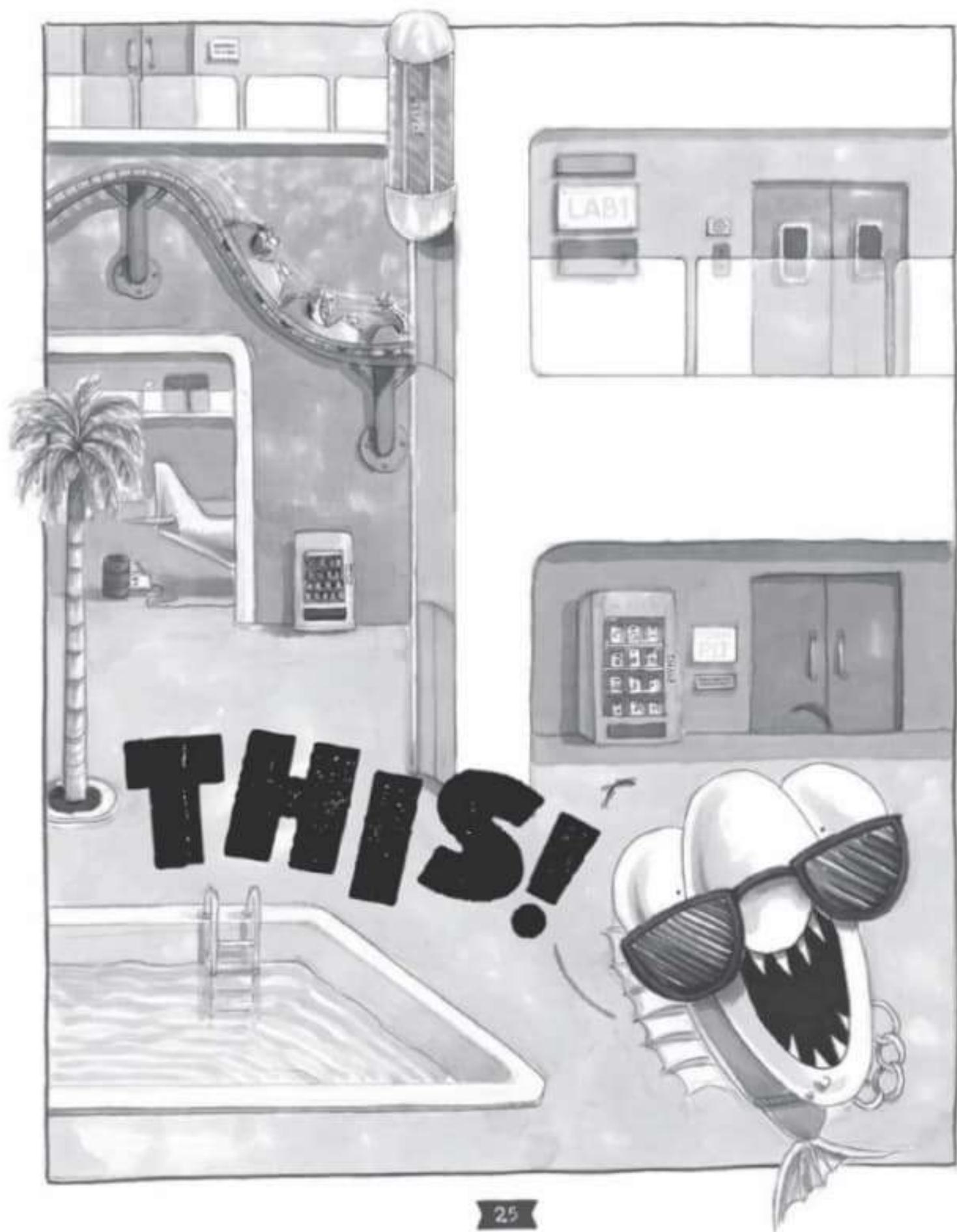


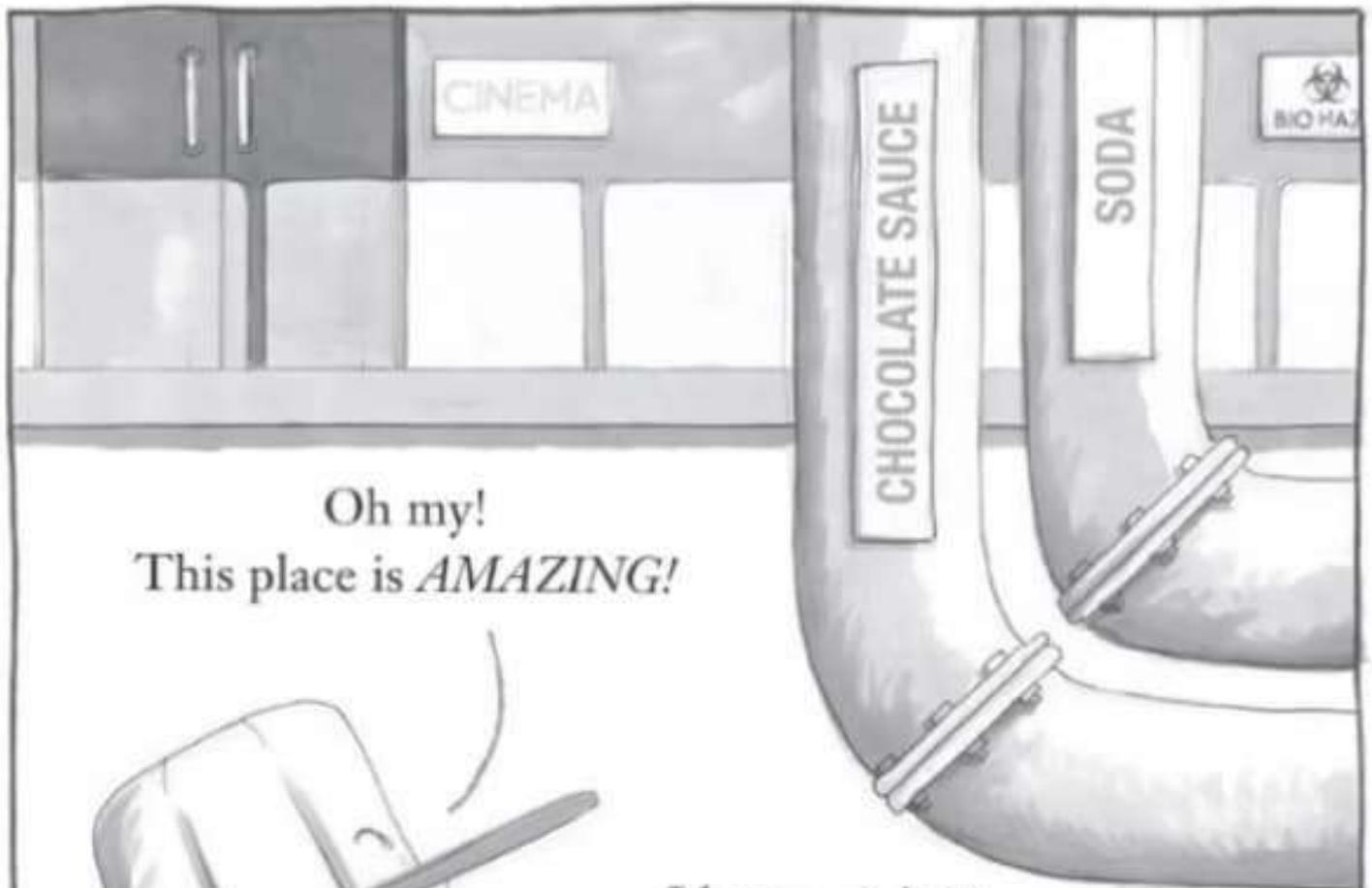


Wow.  
That sounds a little  
excessive . . . and kind  
of exploitative.



**HEY!**  
BE DISTRACTED BY . . .



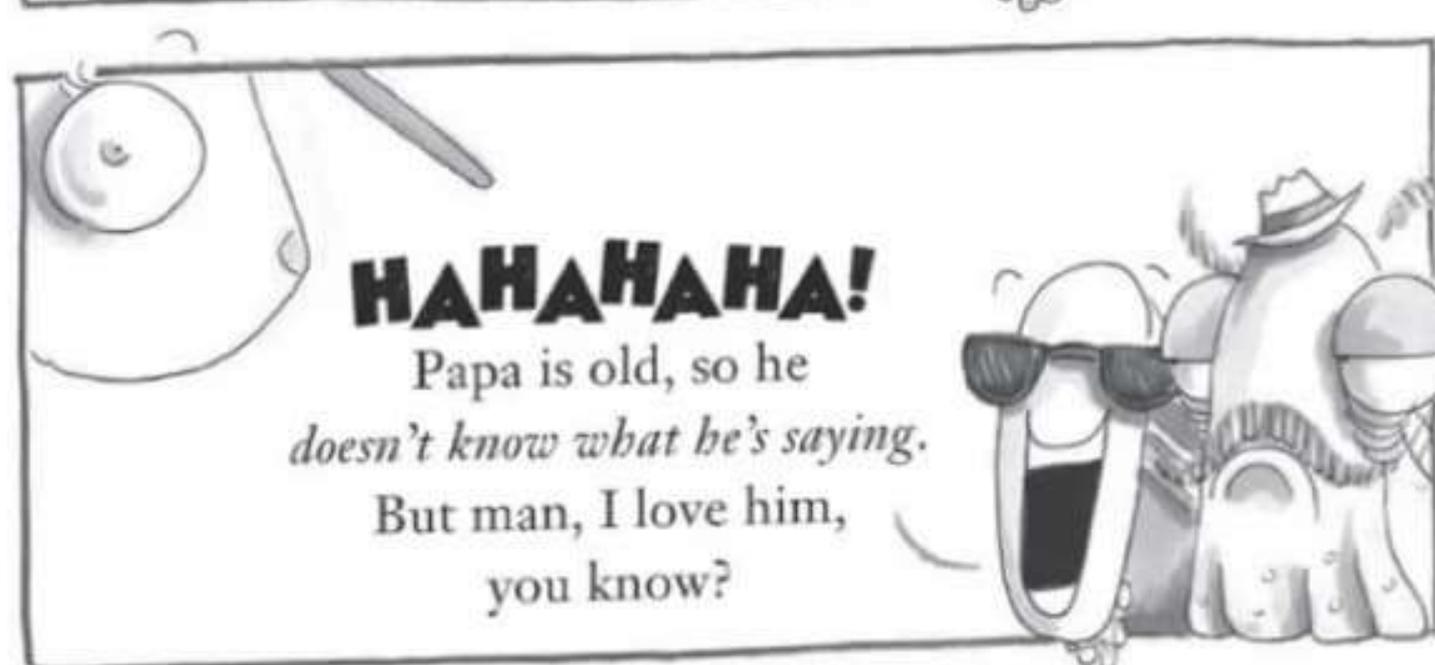
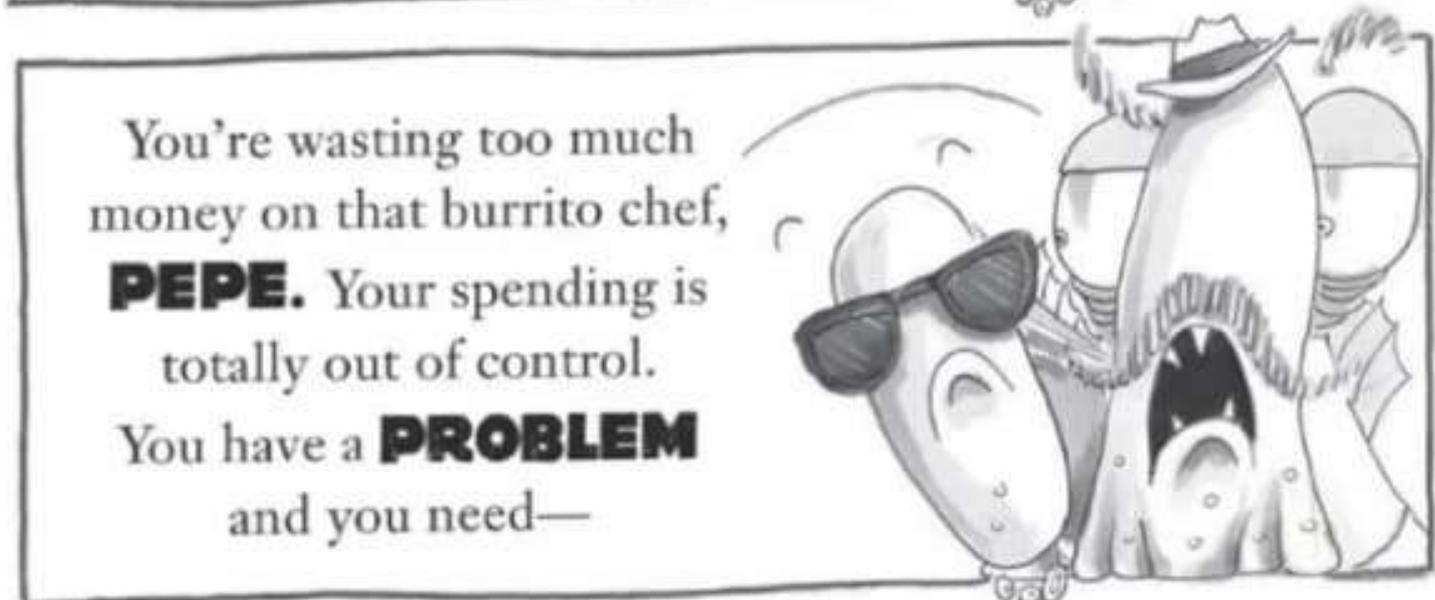


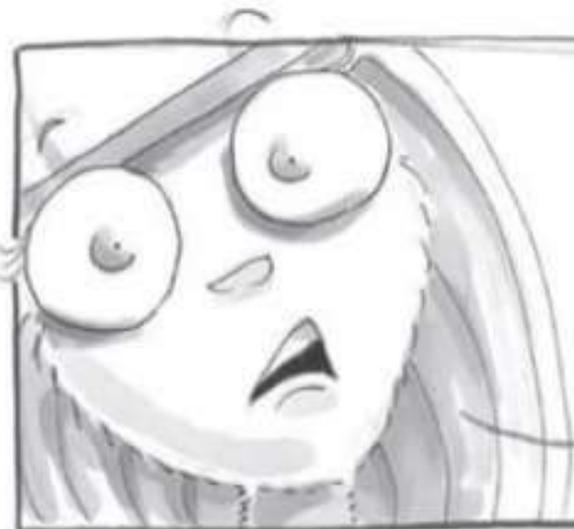
Oh my!  
This place is *AMAZING!*



I know, right?!  
It feels like **HOME**,  
you know?







But . . . how DID you guys  
**AFFORD** all this?  
You don't get paid for  
being heroes.

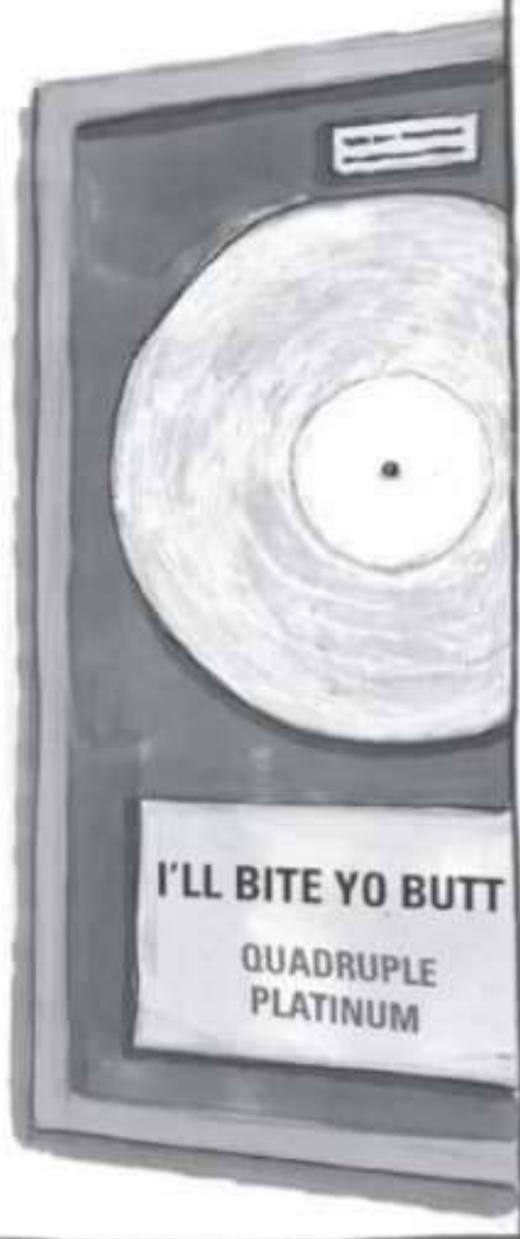
No, but I *diversify*. Once we  
**CLEANED UP THE PLANET**,  
there were no more bad guys to fight,  
so I decided to *follow my dreams*. I took all  
the **LOVE** the world has given me . . .



REDDING FRIDAY  
REDDING FRIDAY

... and started my own  
**RECORD LABEL.**

As you know, my debut  
single was **#1** on the global  
charts for an entire year, and  
that allowed me to really  
spread my fins.



I now have my own  
**FASHION  
LABEL . . .**



*Edgy . . .*

I own a  
**BASKETBALL  
TEAM . . .**



*Go,  
Mayhem!*

I have the  
**THIRD-HIGHEST  
RATED SHOW**  
on the Cooking  
Network . . .



*Eww.*

And my new  
**FRAGRANCE**  
is breaking hearts  
across the nation.



Oh my . . .  
gak!



But it's as a  
**MUSIC PRODUCER**  
that I've really found  
my *sweet spot*. And I've  
just signed a new band that is  
**SMOKIN' HOT.**  
Check *this* . . .



*What did I tell you?*



BAM!

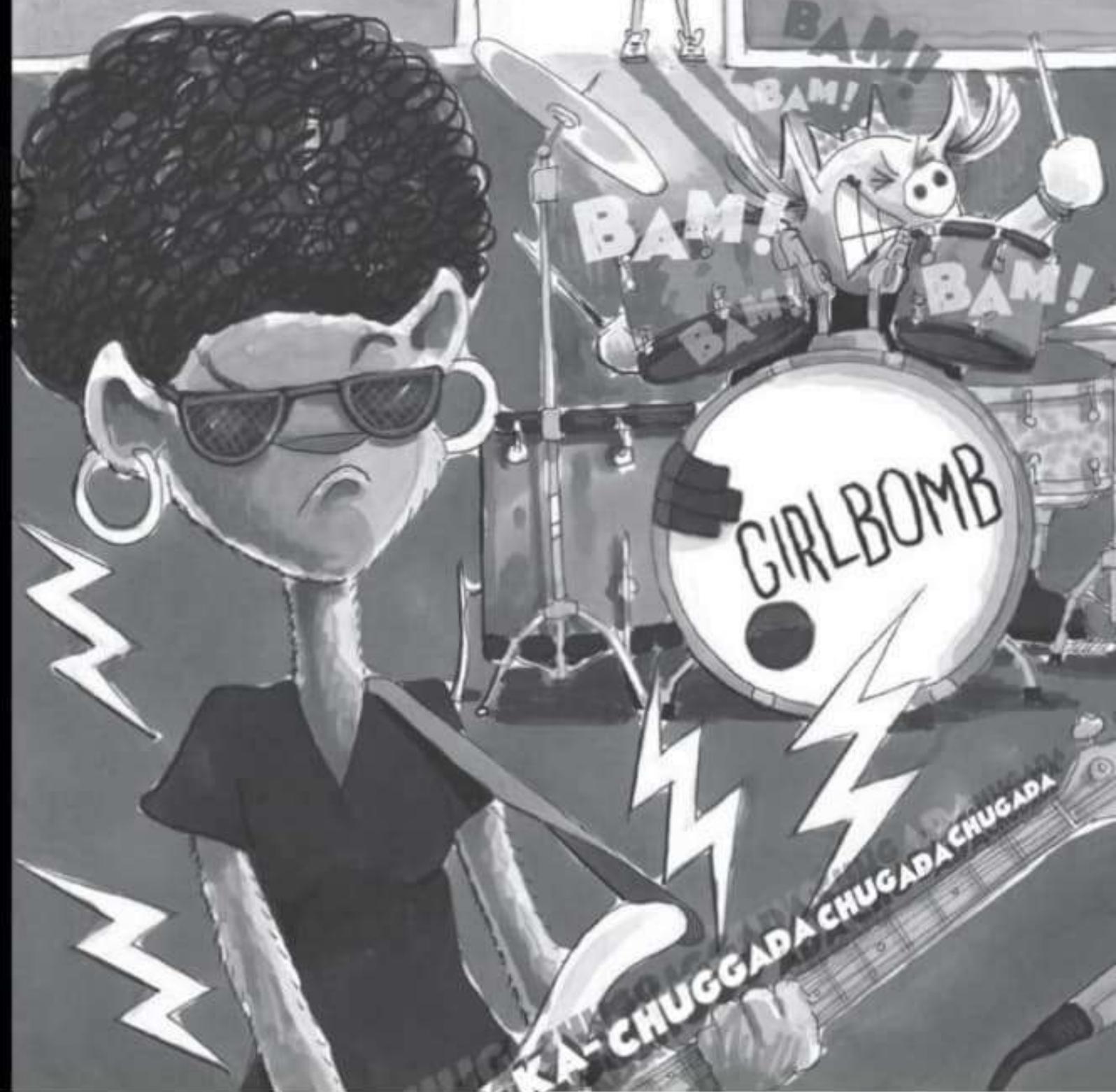
BAM!

BAM!

BAM!

GIRLBOMB

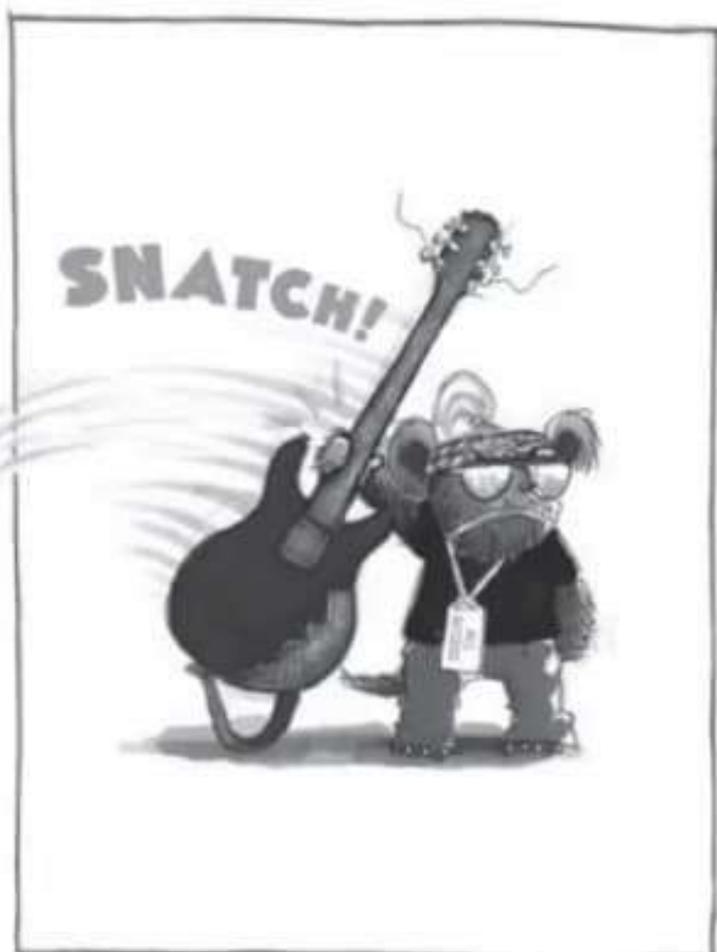
KA-CHUGGADA CHUGADA CHUGADA

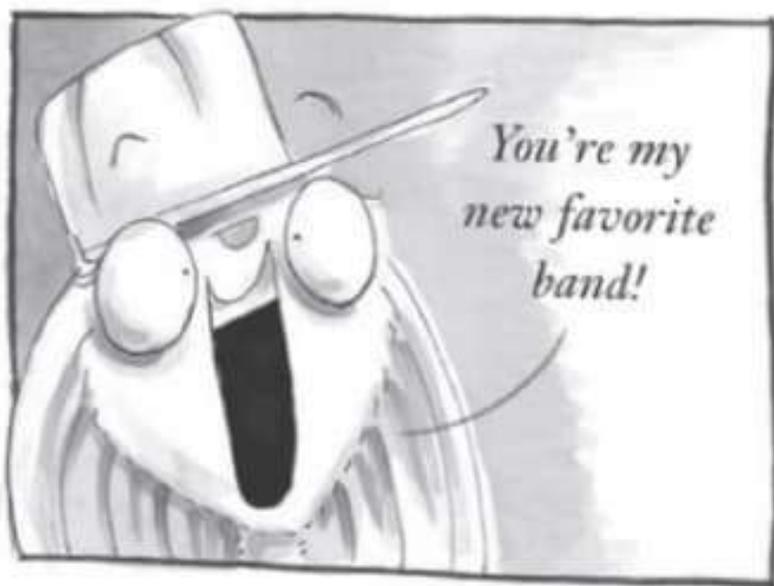
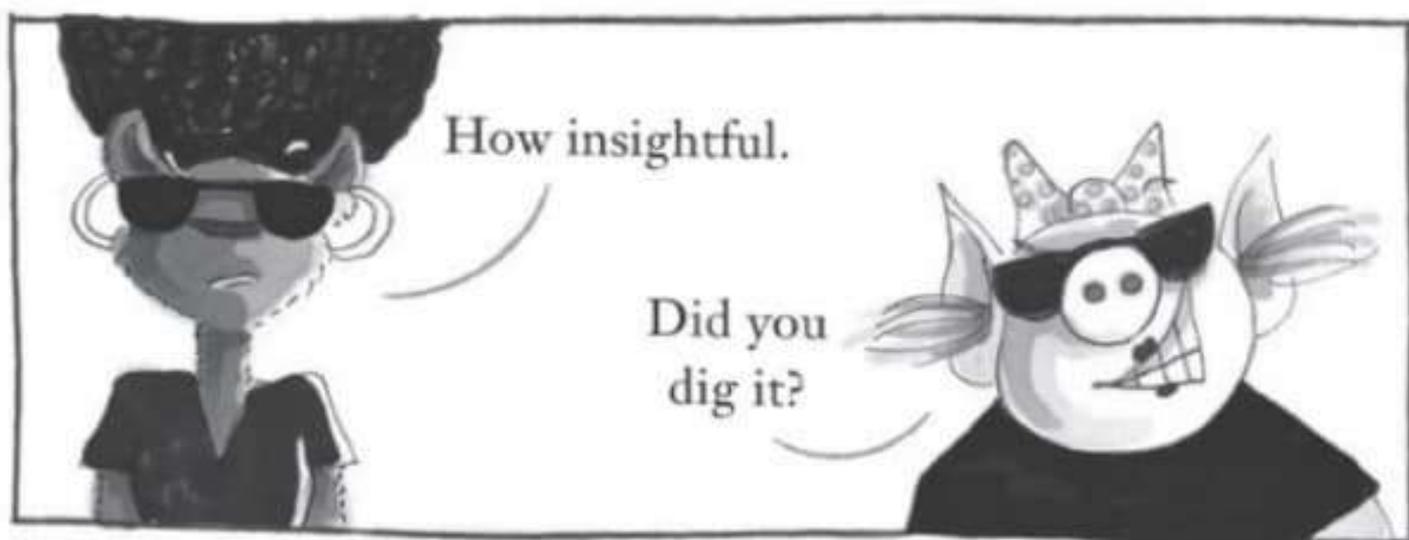


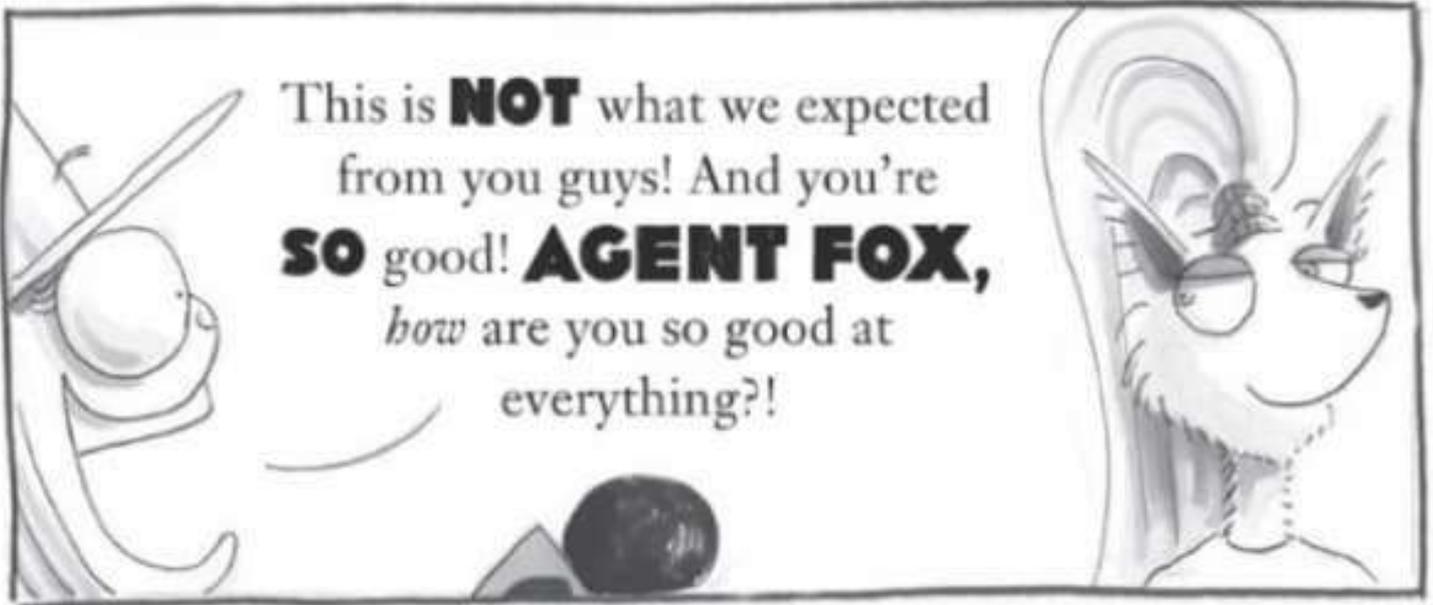
**YEAH!!**  
**YEAH!!**  
**YEAH!!**



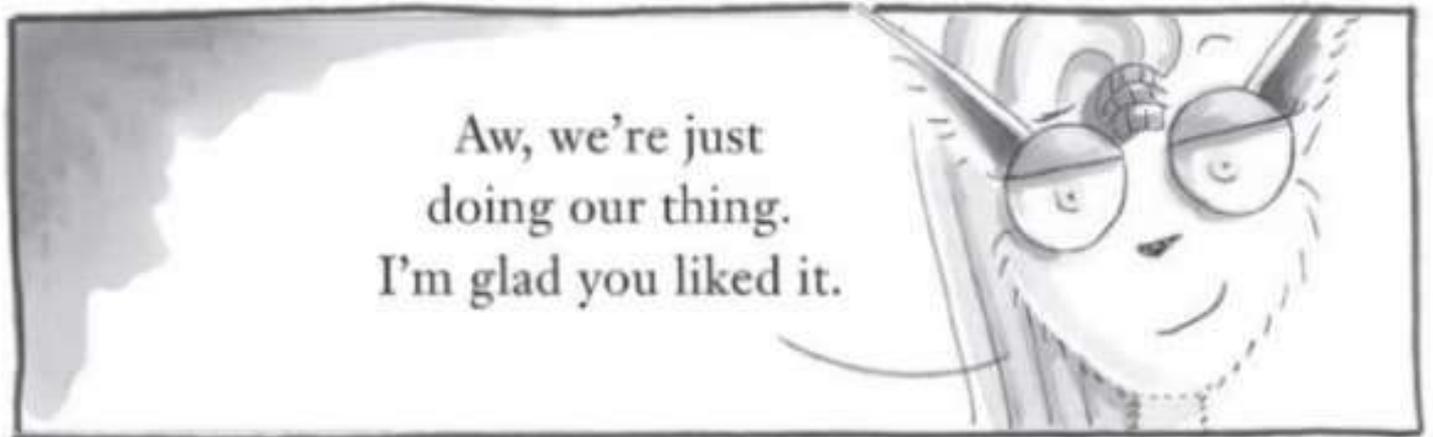








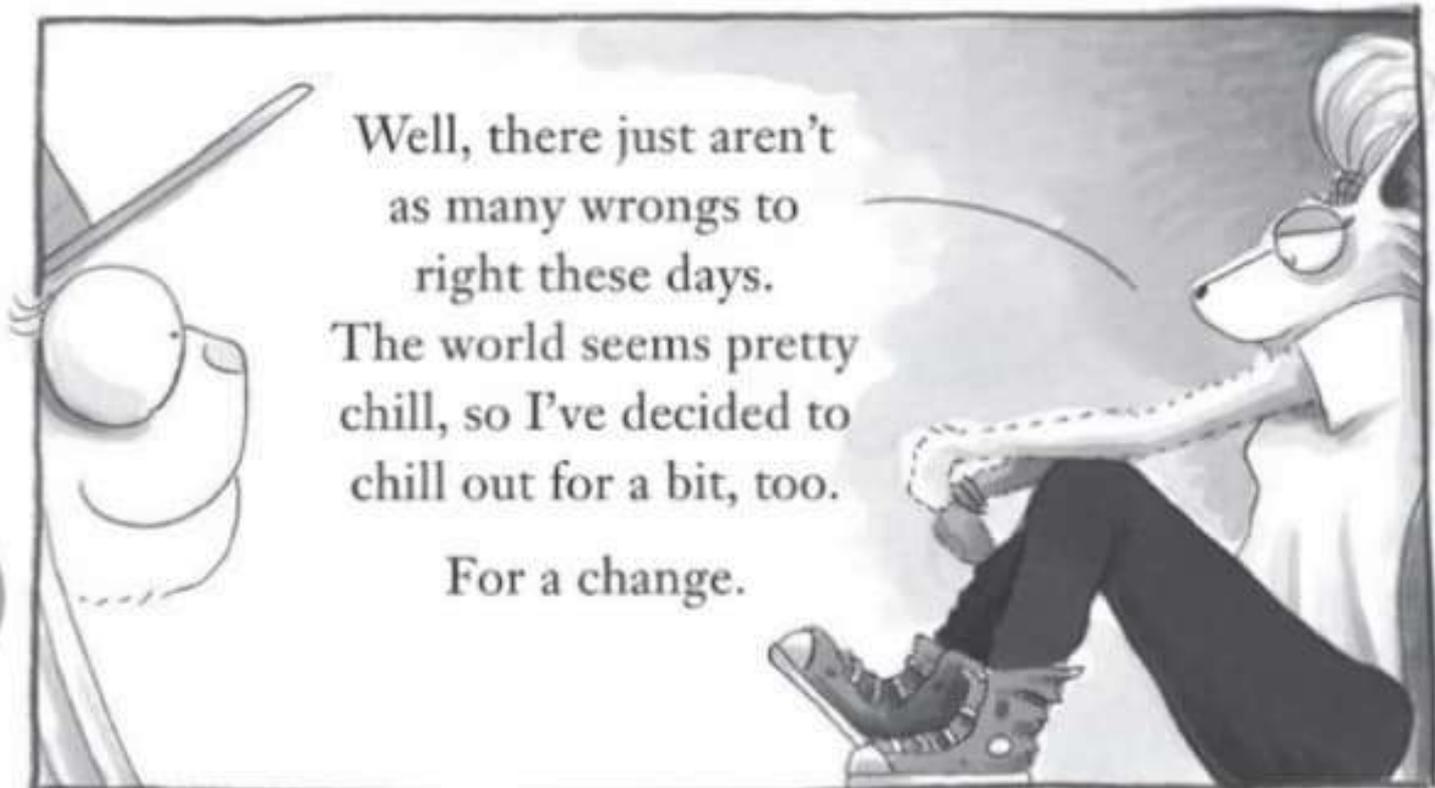
This is **NOT** what we expected from you guys! And you're **SO** good! **AGENT FOX**, *how* are you so good at everything?!



Aw, we're just doing our thing. I'm glad you liked it.

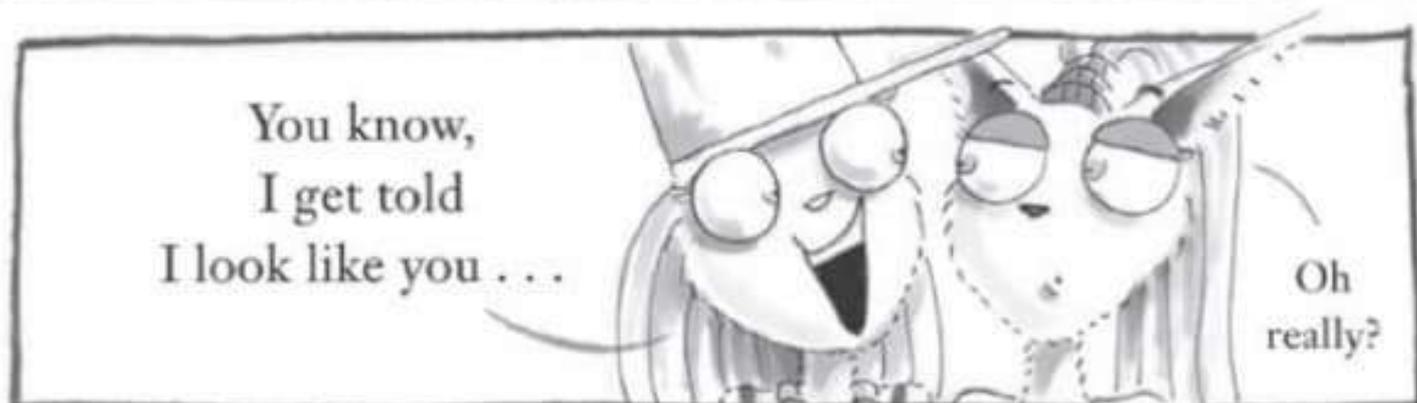


But you're, like, this totally awesome **KUNG FU SUPERFOX** who travels the world righting wrongs and saving the day! How did you have time to start a band as well?!



Well, there just aren't  
as many wrongs to  
right these days.  
The world seems pretty  
chill, so I've decided to  
chill out for a bit, too.

For a change.



You know,  
I get told  
I look like you . . .

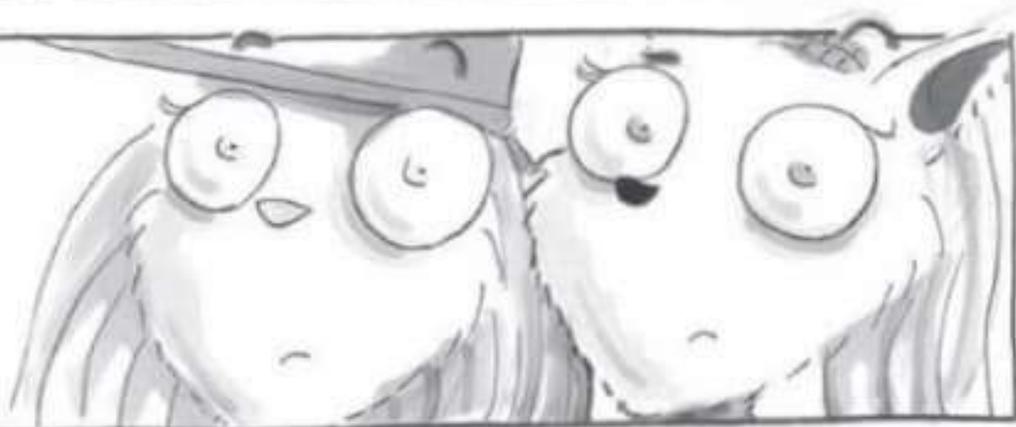
Oh  
really?



**I KNOW!**  
I don't see it, because  
I'm a *cat* and you're . . .  
like . . . a fox.  
We're, like, *totally*  
different, really.

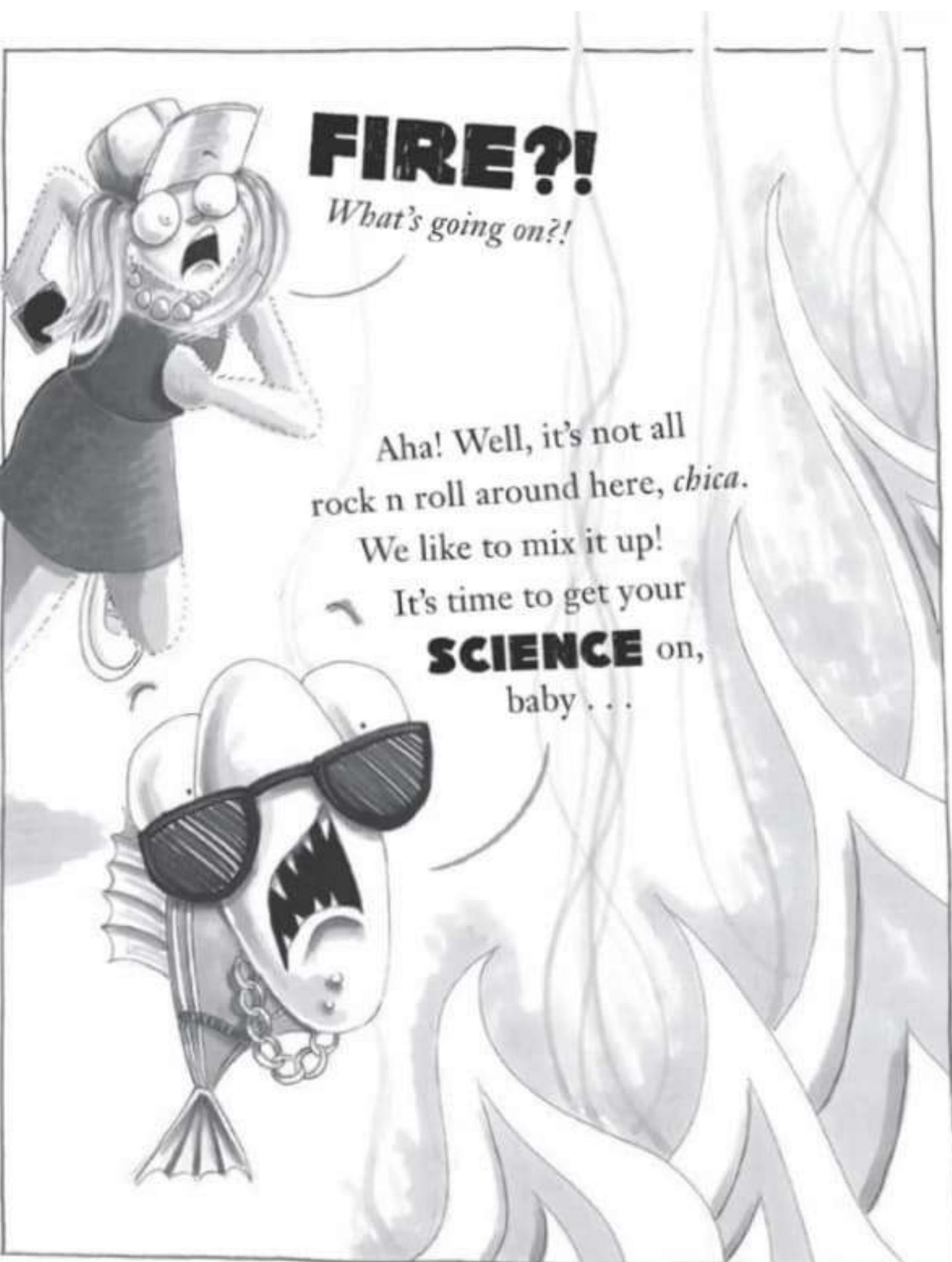


Yeah, but if you were drawn  
by someone who had limited  
drawing skills, then I guess you'd  
maybe look *similar* . . .



Just sayin'.

**BOOOOM!!!**



**FIRE?!**

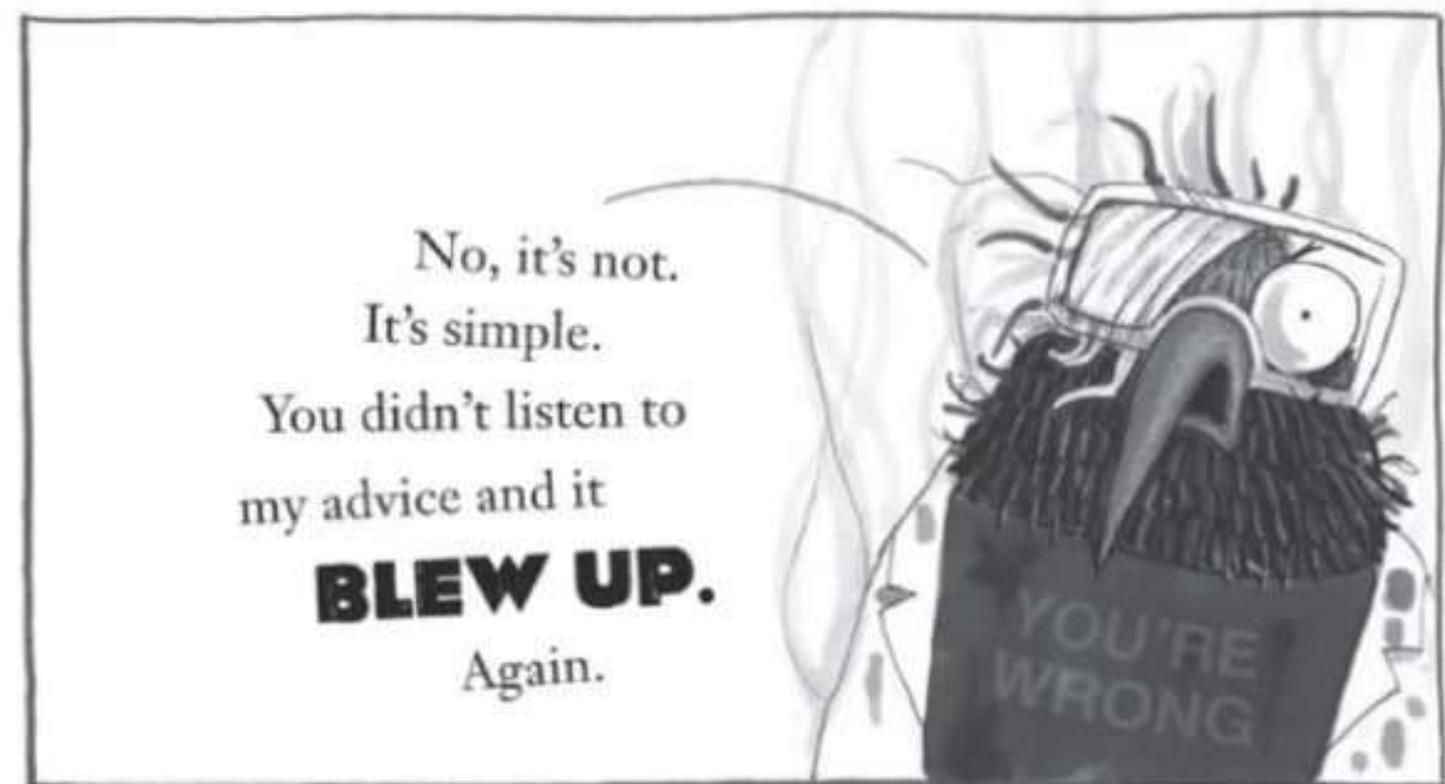
*What's going on?!*

Aha! Well, it's not all  
rock n roll around here, *chica*.

We like to mix it up!

It's time to get your

**SCIENCE** on,  
baby . . .



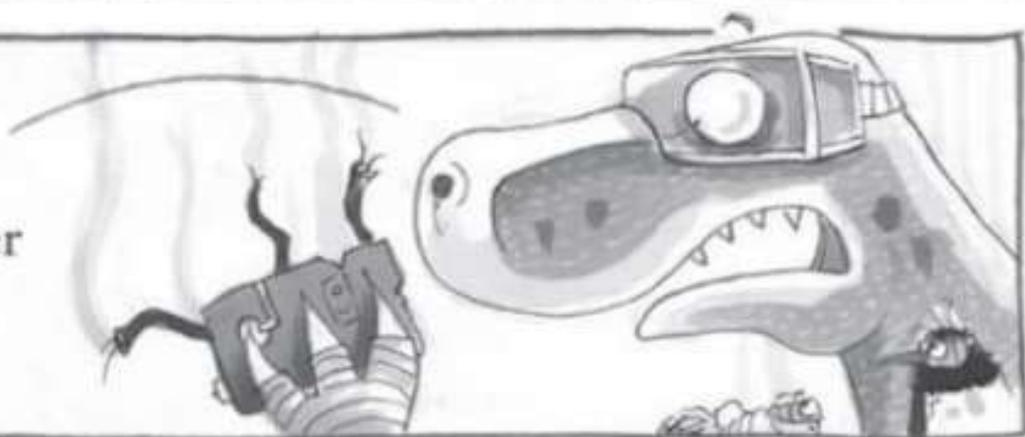
I think we were closer this time, though.



Closer to what? *Death?*



Perhaps it  
needs another  
*capacitor?*



Again with the capacitors! It needs  
another capacitor like it needs  
a pair of **UNDERPANTS.**



Why on Earth would it  
need a pair of—



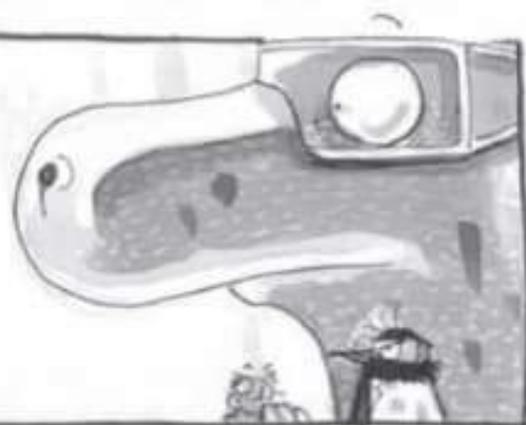
*You* want to  
explain it to him?



Oh well, back to  
the drawing board!



What are you guys  
*up to* in there?!

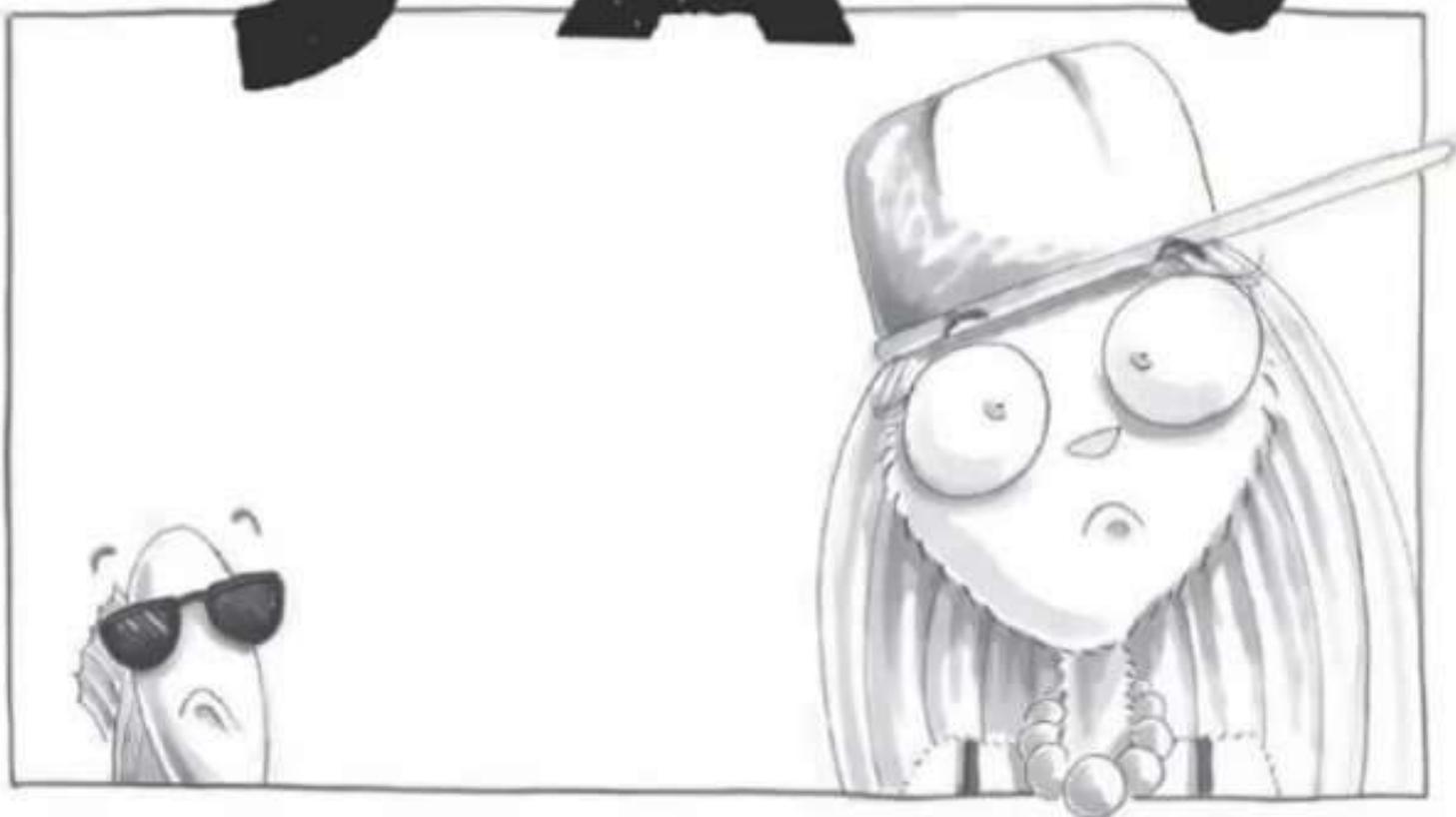


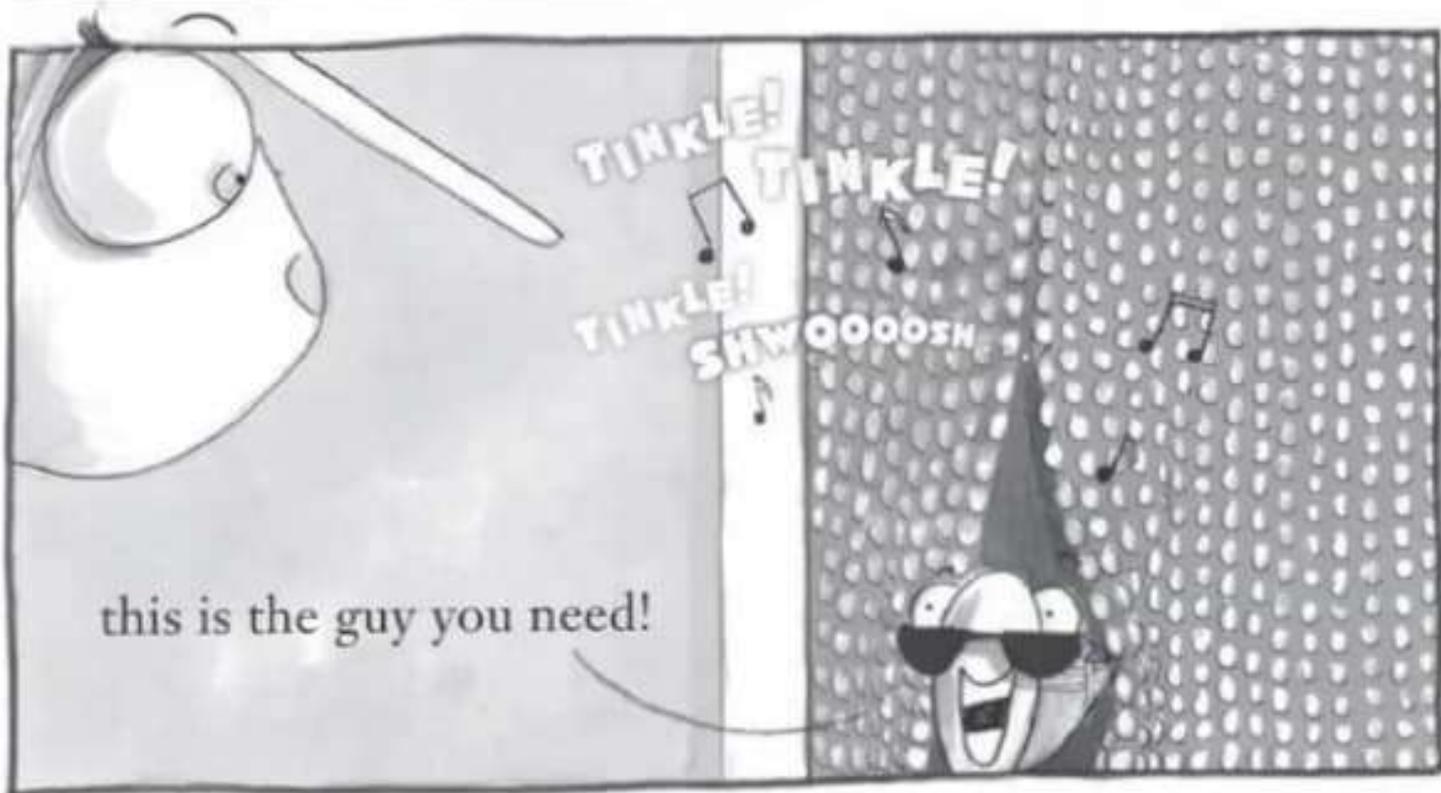
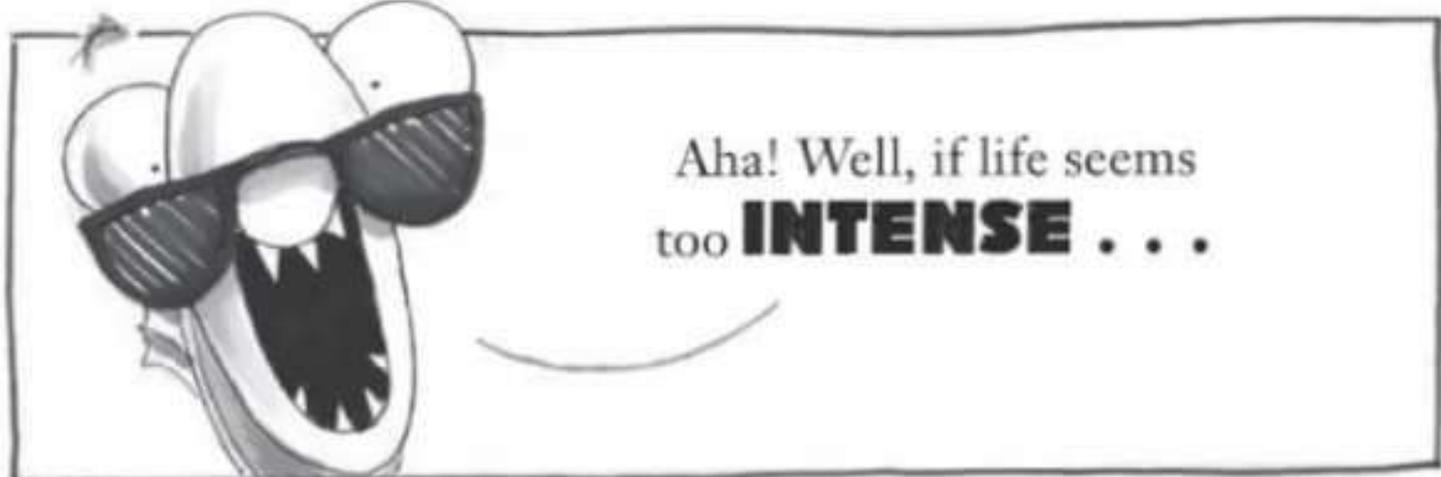
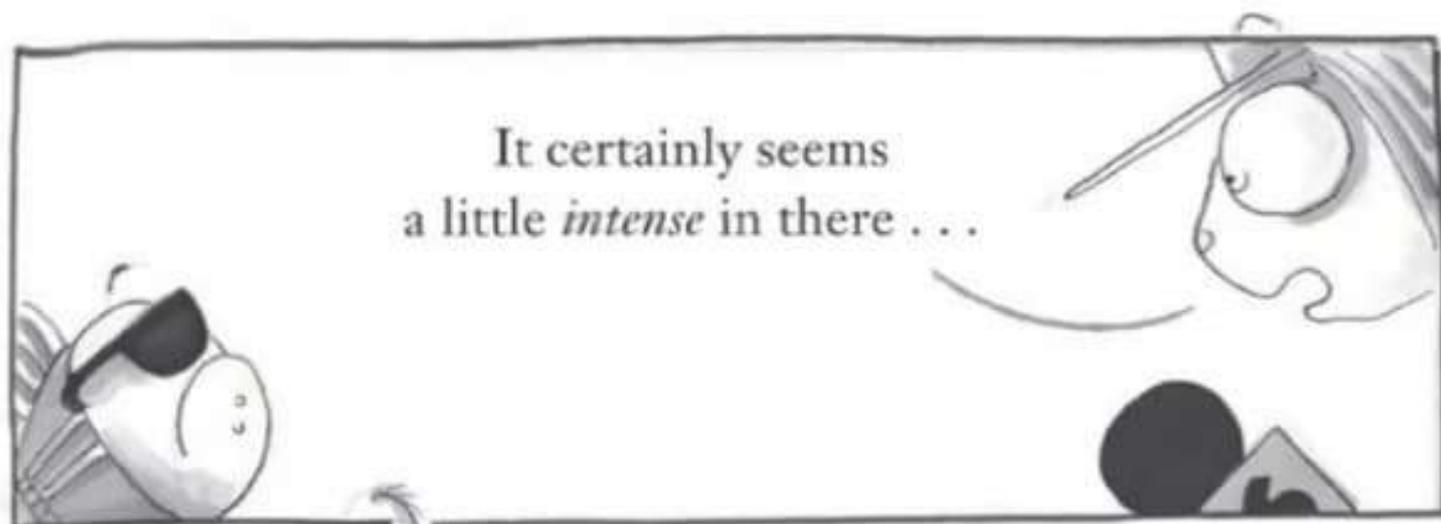


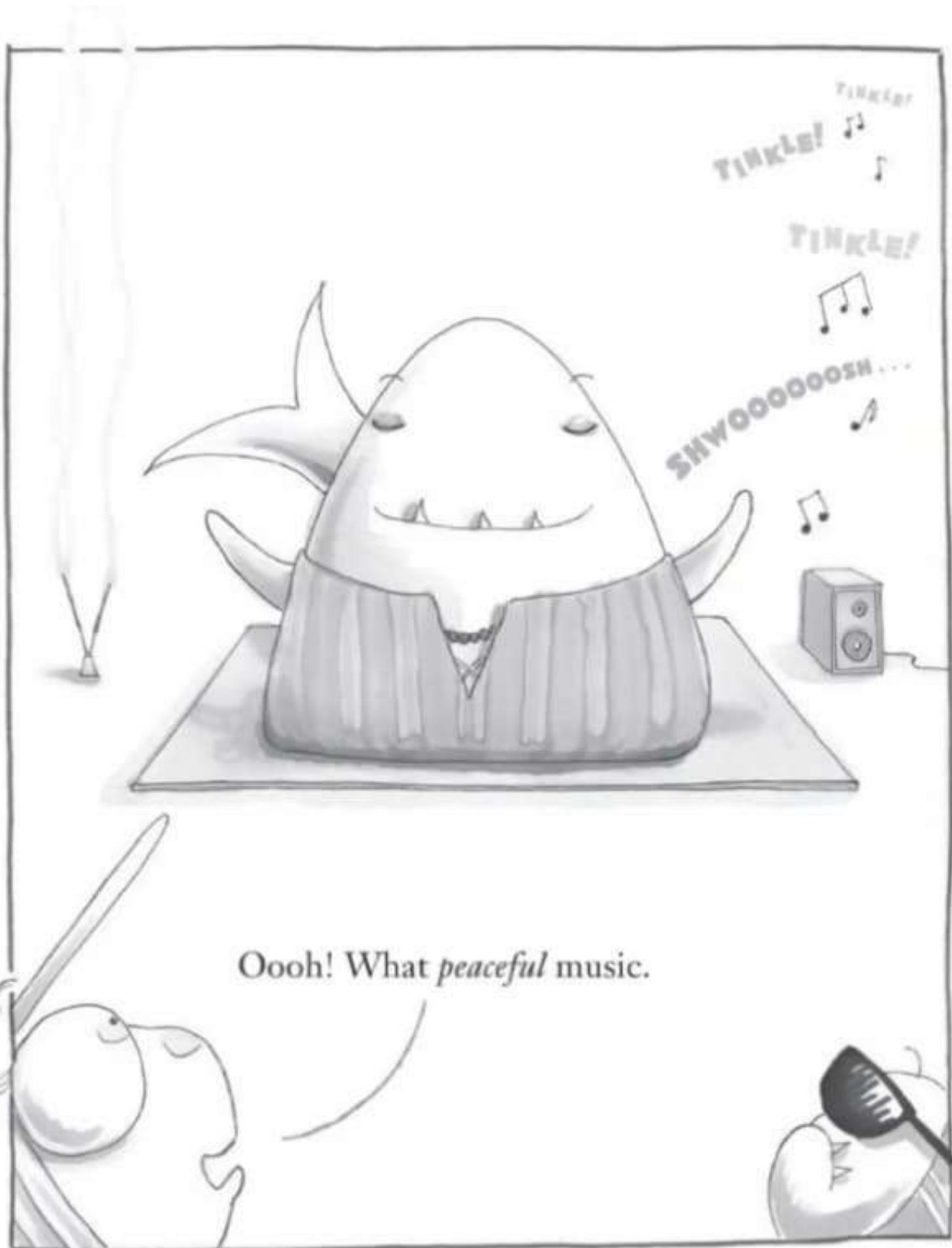
That's  
classified.



**SLAM!!**



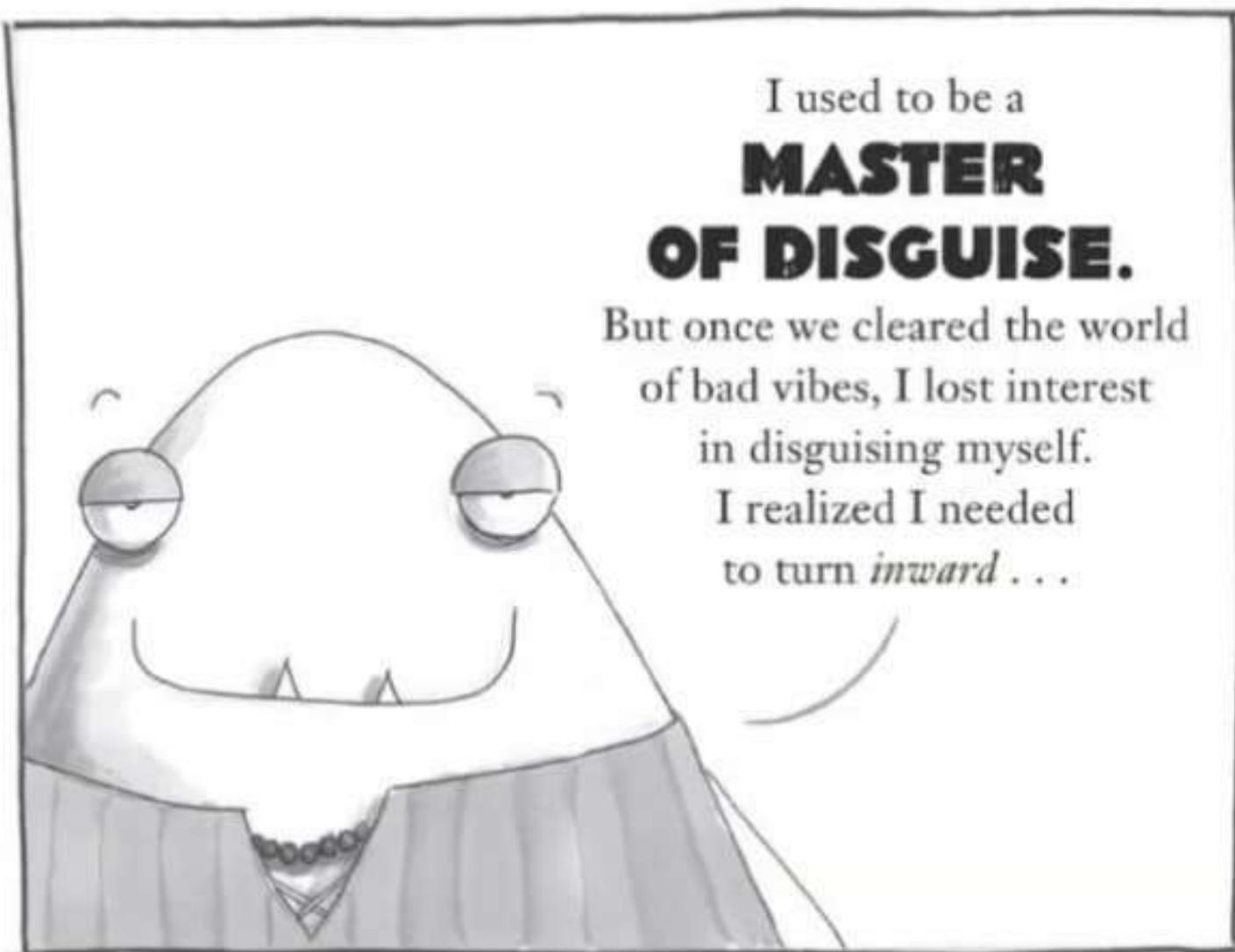




Oooh! What *peaceful* music.



It helps  
**CLEAR THE MIND**  
and brings you back  
in touch with yourself.



I used to be a  
**MASTER  
OF DISGUISE.**  
But once we cleared the world  
of bad vibes, I lost interest  
in disguising myself.  
I realized I needed  
to turn *inward* . . .

... and discover who I really am.



He's a **SHARK.**

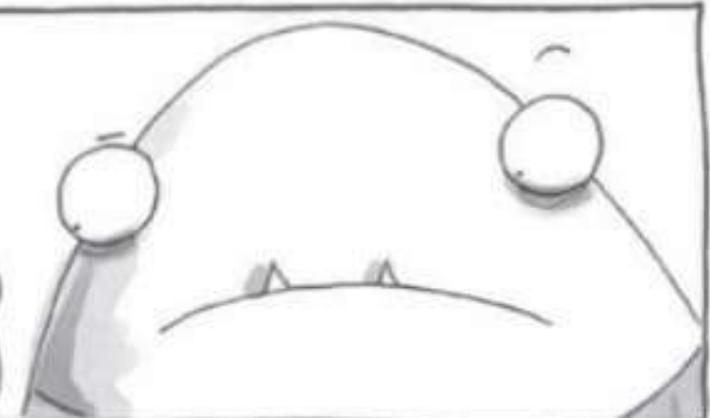


By which I mean, who I am  
on the *inside* ...



Oh man. He's had all of us  
on the *inside*, at one time  
or another. He'll eat

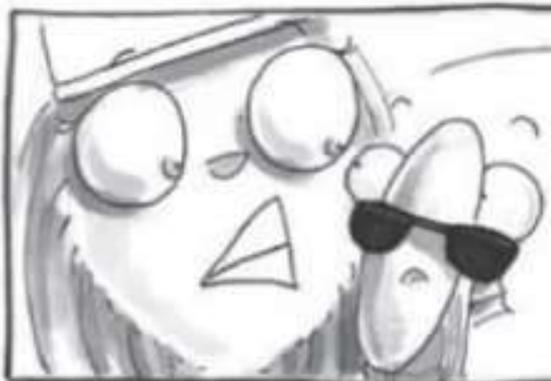
**ANYTHING.**



My friend, I must tell you—  
*with love*—that it would make  
me *happy* if you *stopped talking*  
and *moved onward*, like the  
majestic Amazon River cutting  
through the jungle . . .

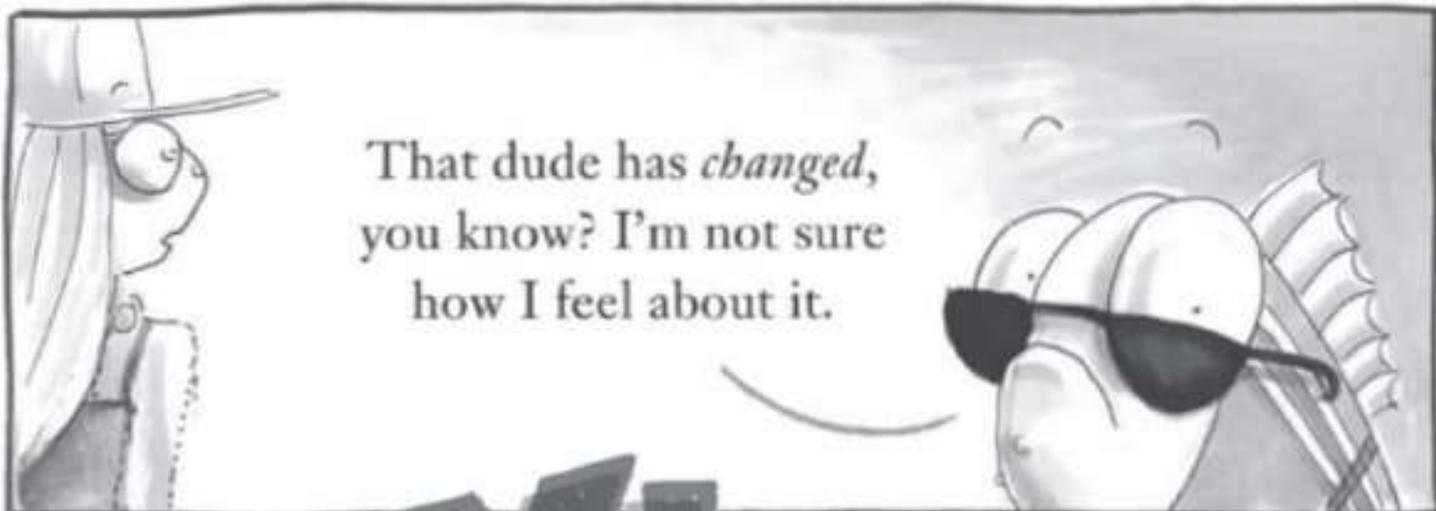


I think that's code  
for "go away."  
Am I right?



Go in peace.





That dude has *changed*,  
you know? I'm not sure  
how I feel about it.

**REV! REV! REV!**



Oh!  
I DON'T BELIEVE IT!  
IS THAT **HIM?!**



... oh, you know who it is.

**SLAM!**

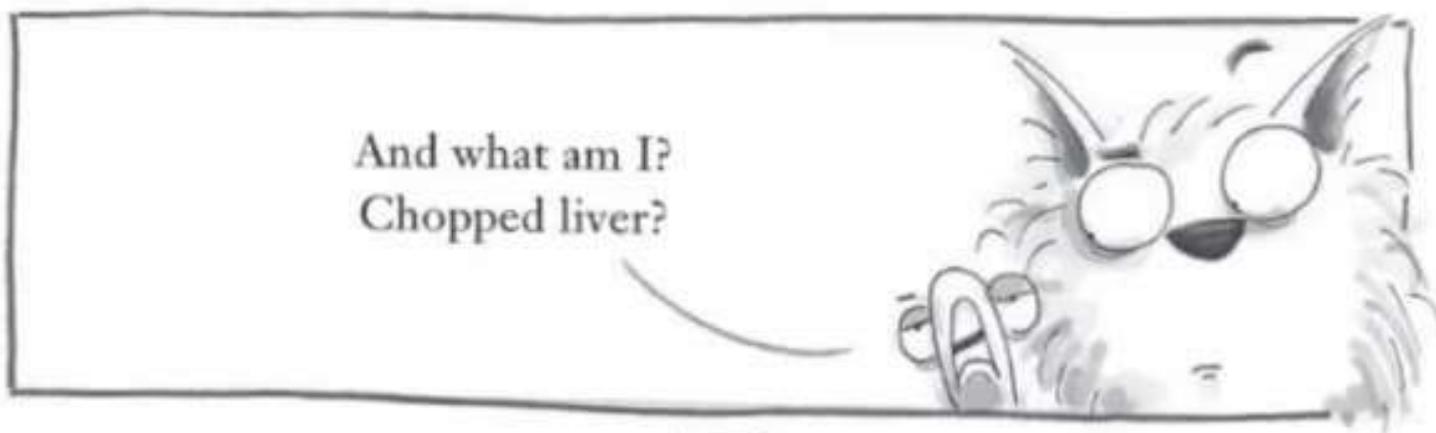
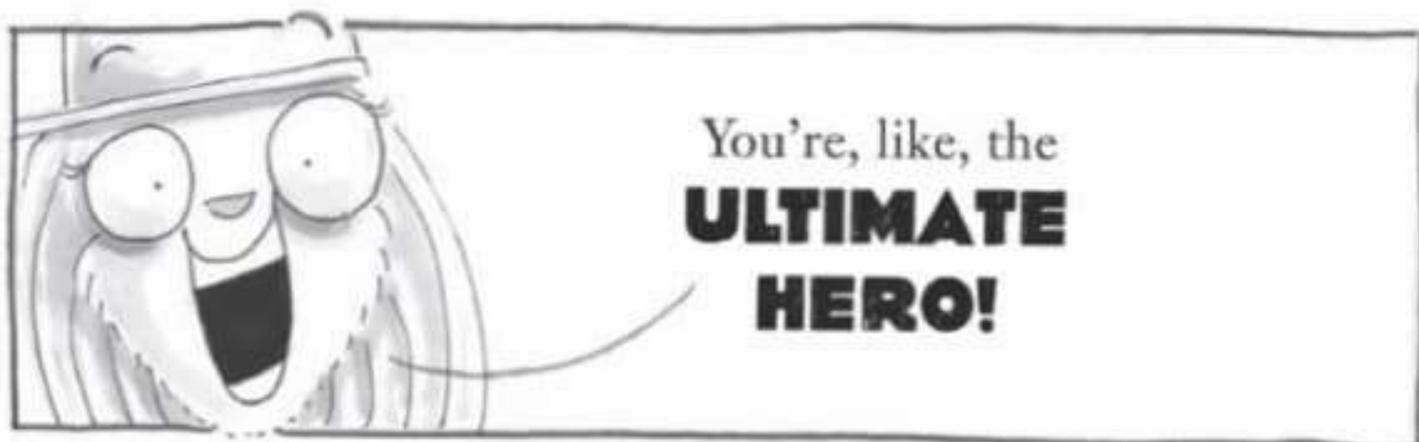
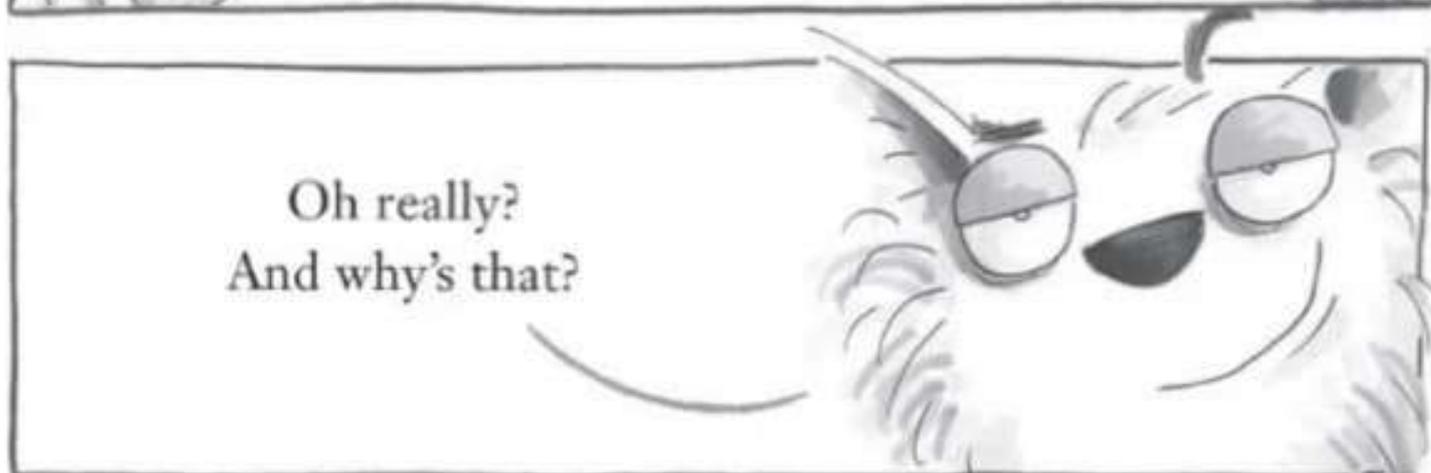
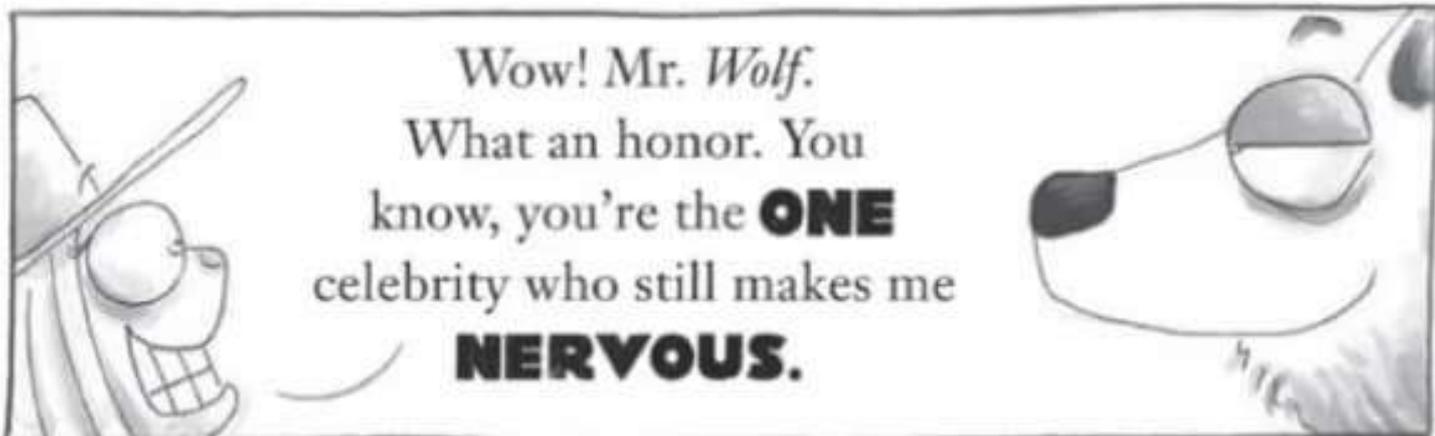


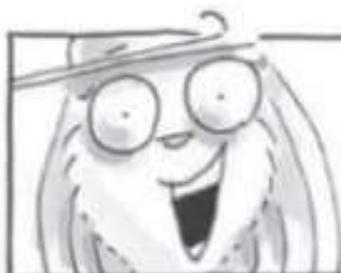


'Sup?

I've gotta hand it to him.  
Those entrances are  
getting pretty good.







You're also the  
**LEADER!**

Hmm . . . Agent Fox  
is kind of the lea—



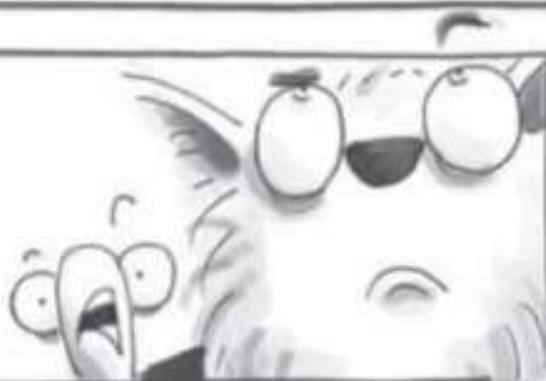
You're the  
**SMARTEST!**

Well, no, our science guys  
are **WAY** smar—

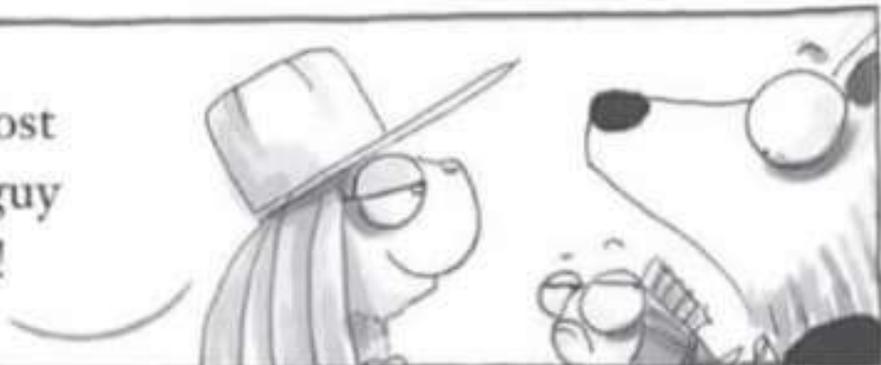


You're the  
**BRAVEST!**

Again, am I suddenly  
*invisible*, or what?



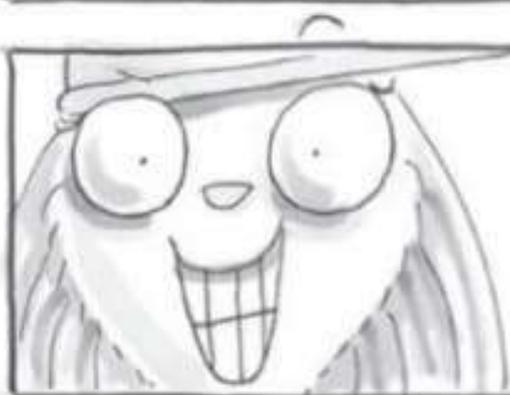
And you're the most  
**POWERFUL** guy  
we've ever seen!



Well, now, I'll have to stop  
you there. Don't *want* to.  
But I will. If it's **POWER**  
you're looking for . . .  
one of us is kind of  
**OFF-THE-CHARTS**  
in that department.

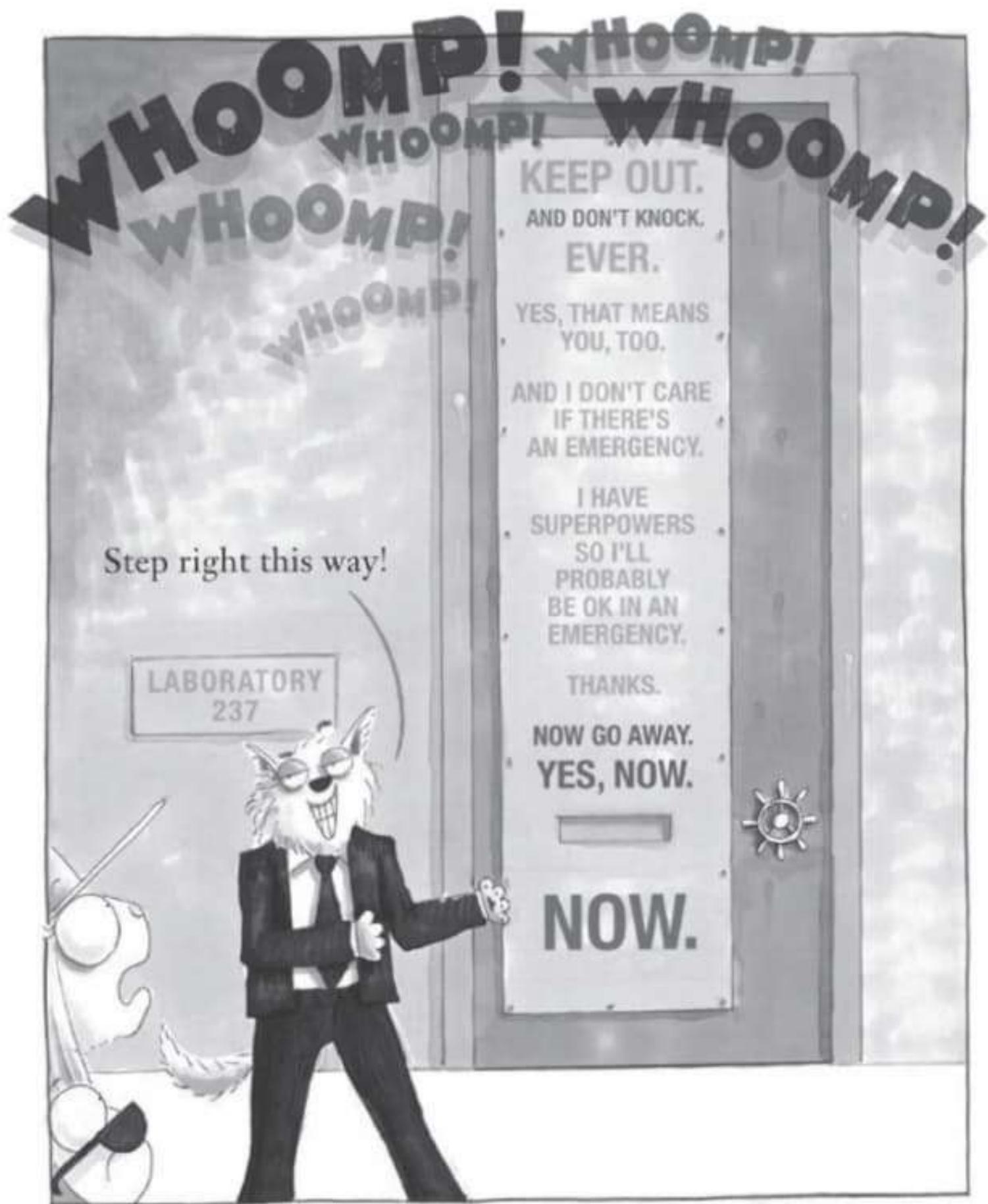


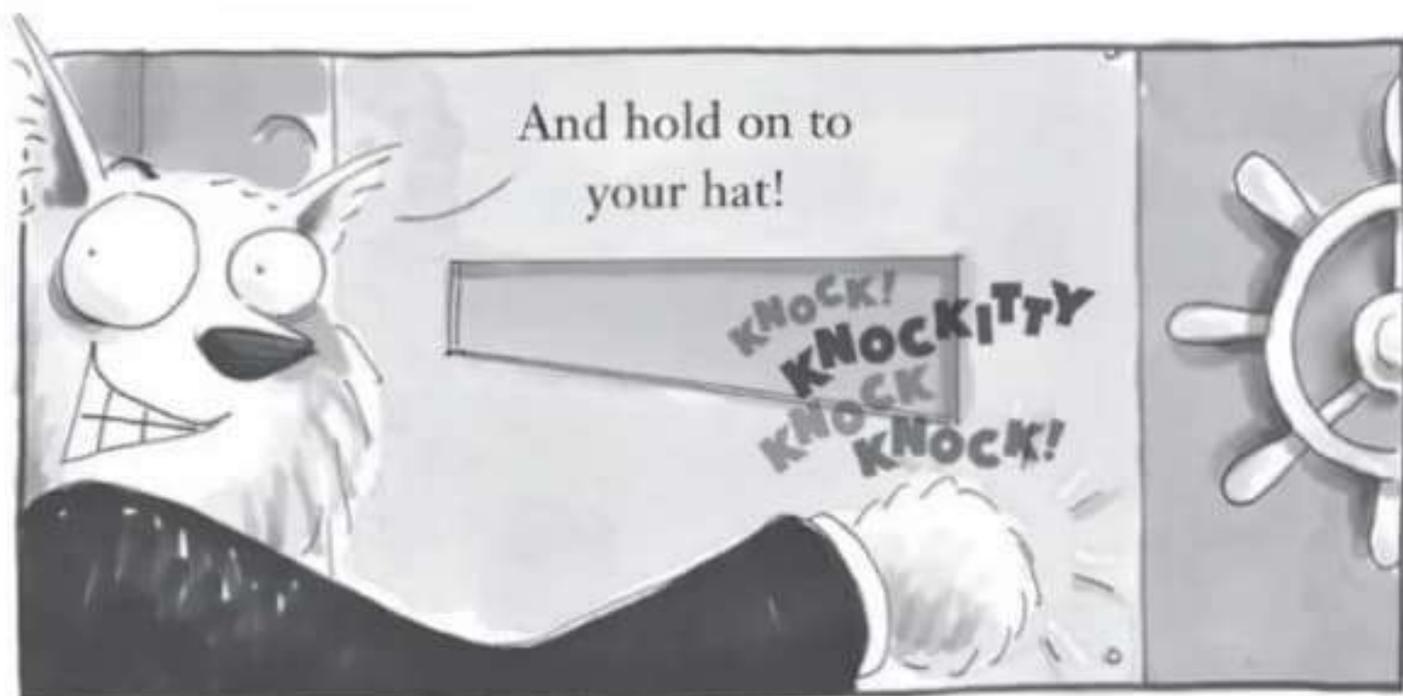
You're talking about  
**MR. SNAKE,**  
aren't you?



Let me show  
you something  
*amazing* . . .





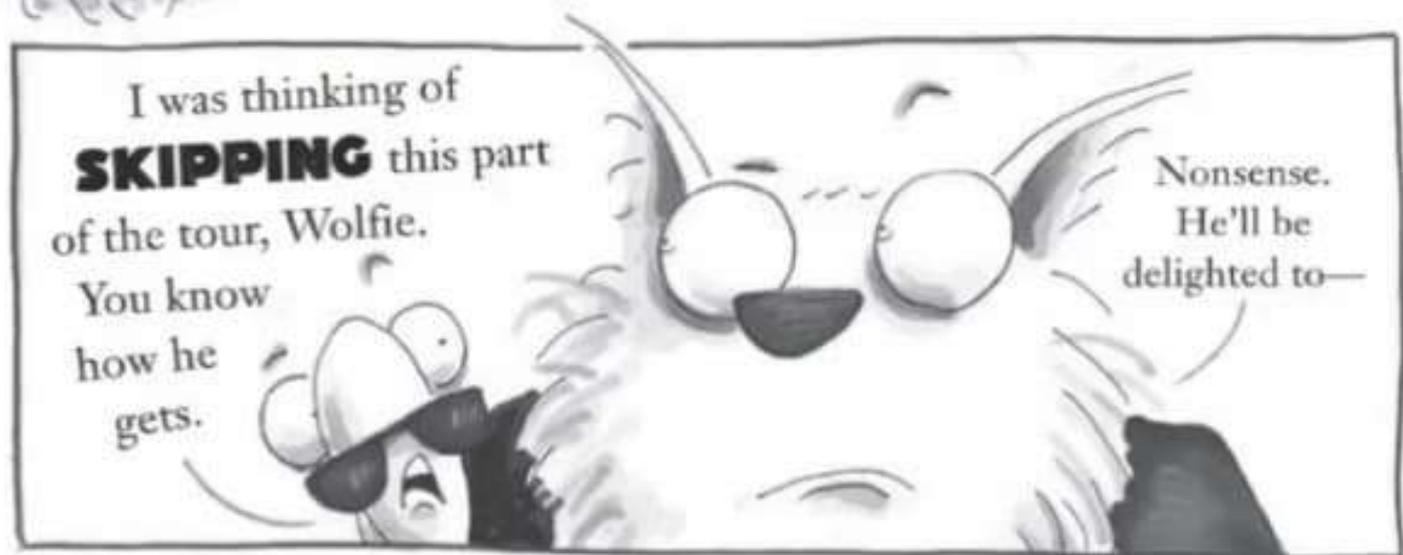


And hold on to  
your hat!

KNOCK!  
KNOCKITTY  
KNOCK  
KNOCK!

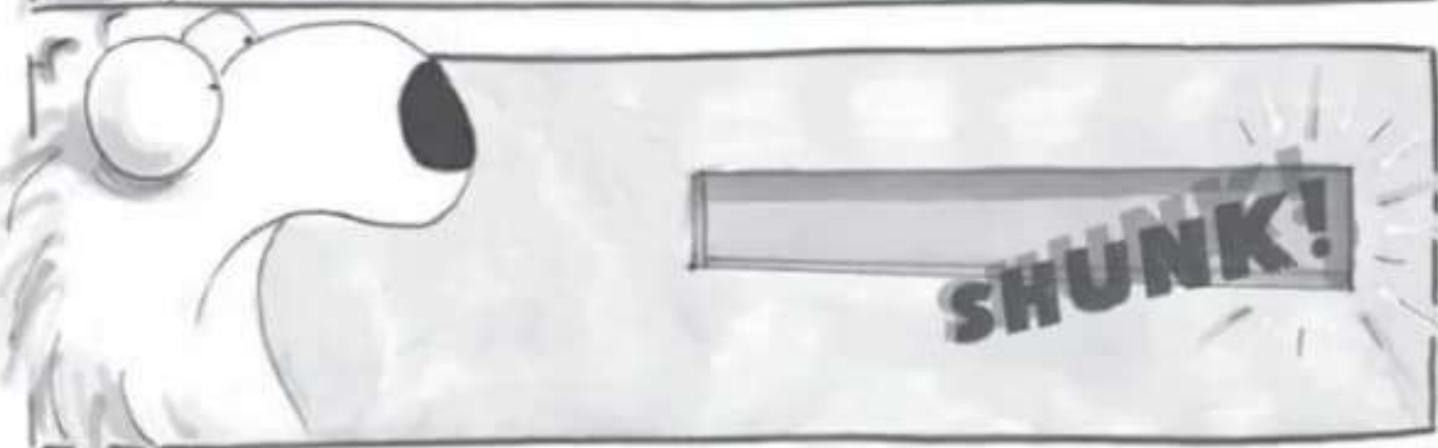
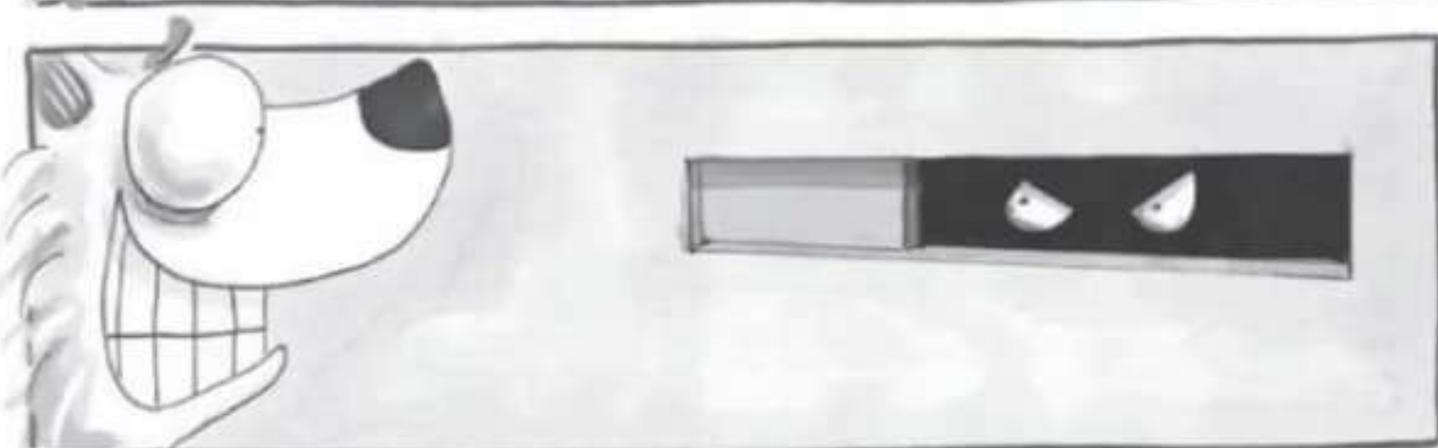
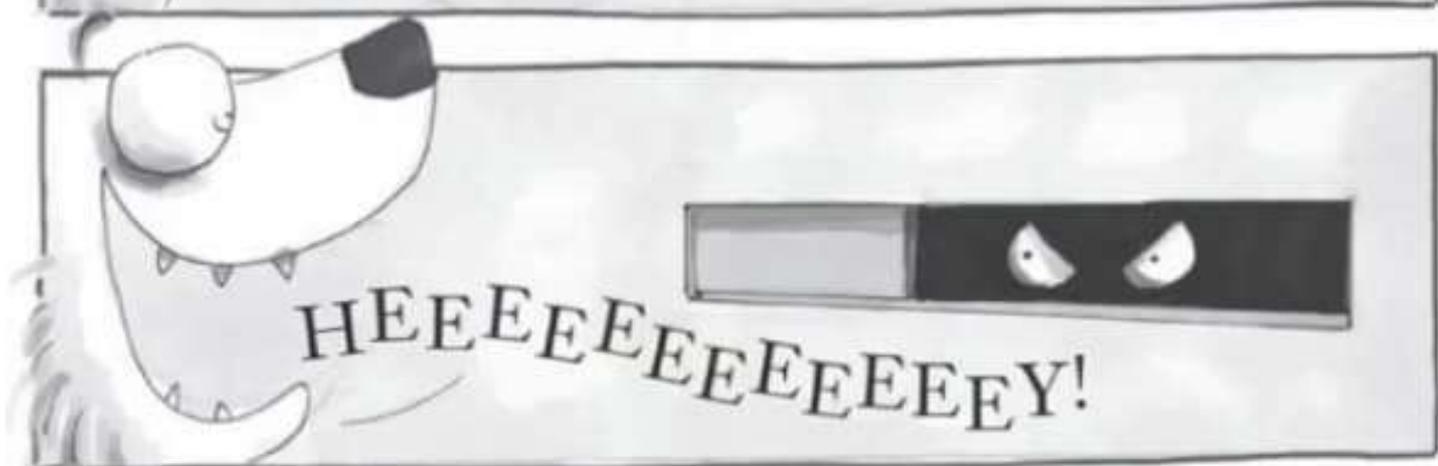
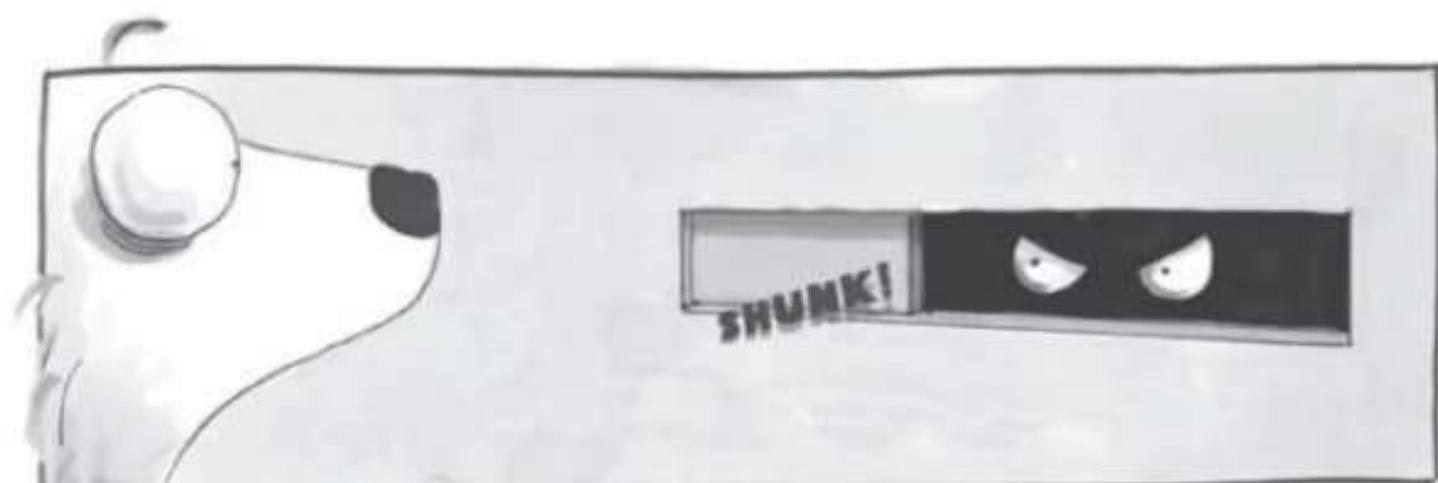


Are you sure  
about this?

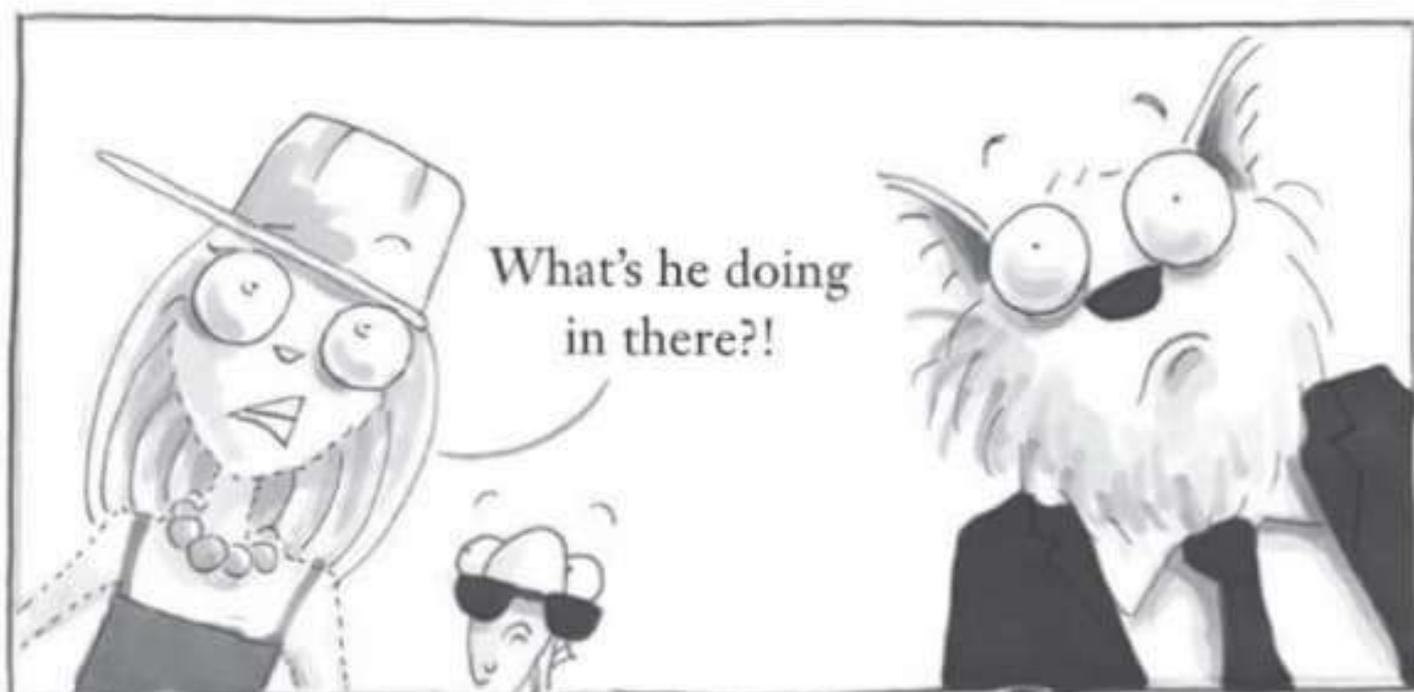


I was thinking of  
**SKIPPING** this part  
of the tour, Wolfie.  
You know  
how he  
gets.

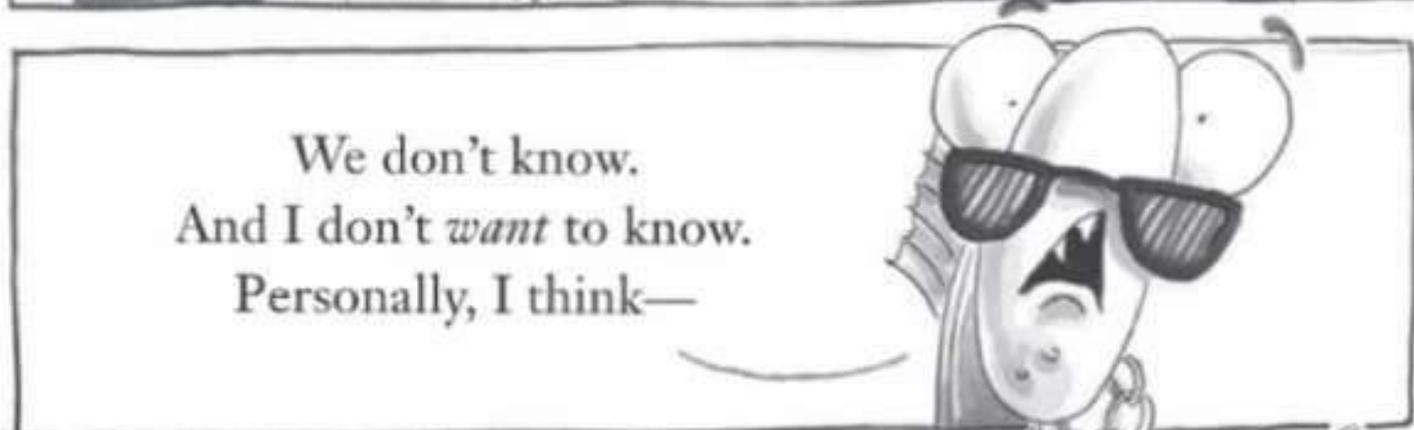
Nonsense.  
He'll be  
delighted to—







What's he doing  
in there?!

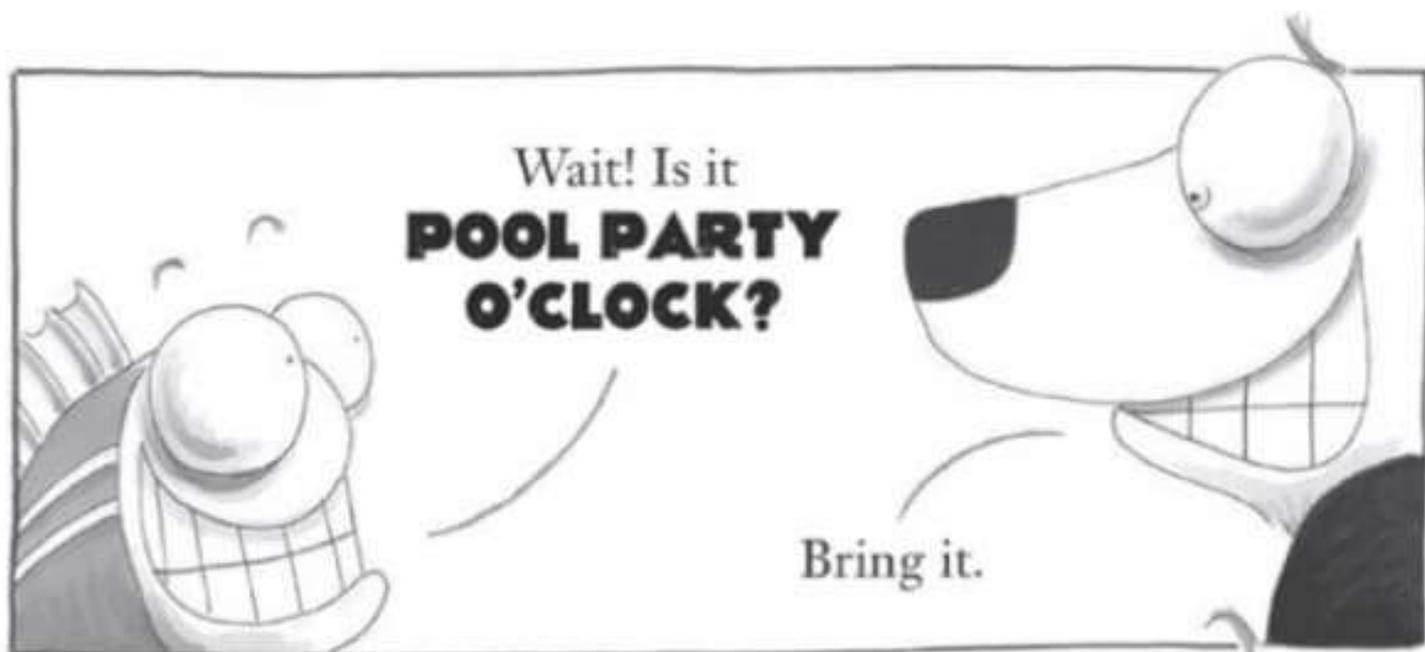


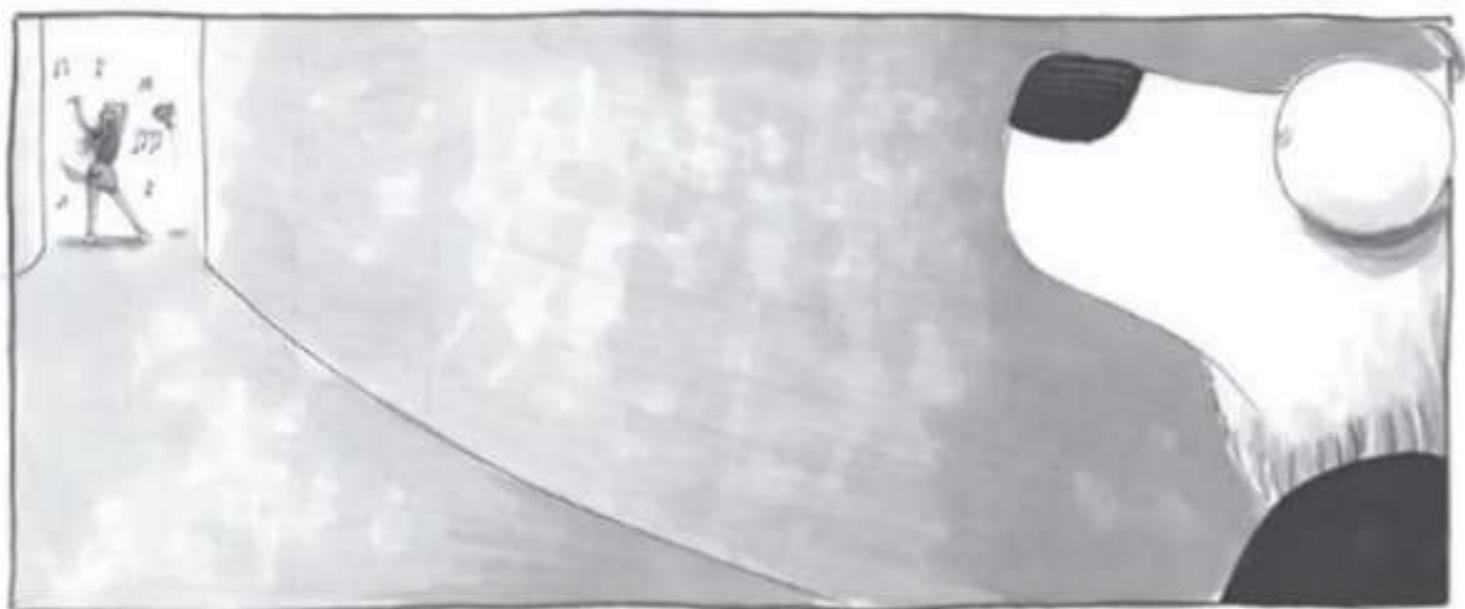
We don't know.  
And I don't *want* to know.  
Personally, I think—



—IT'S TIME  
FOR YOU TO DO  
WHAT YOU DO **BEST**,  
MR. PIRANHA!

MUFFLE!  
MUFFLE!  
MUFFLE!

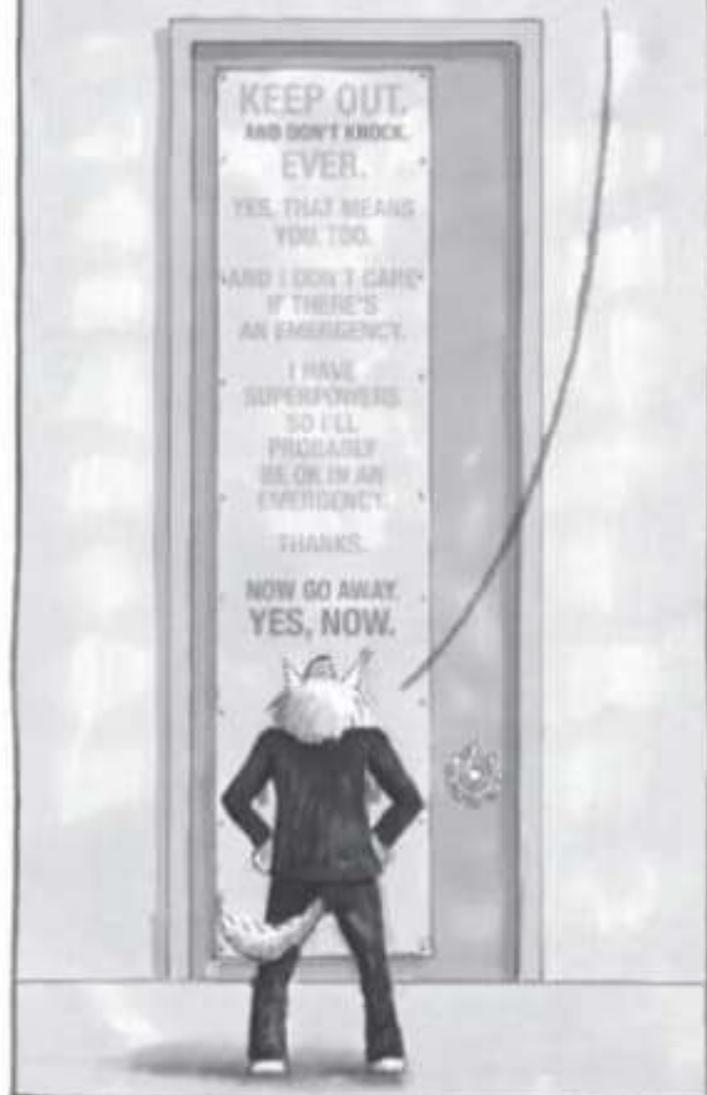




Yeah.



We're something, alright.



• CHAPTER 2 •

# ALONE TIME

OK.  
Back to it.



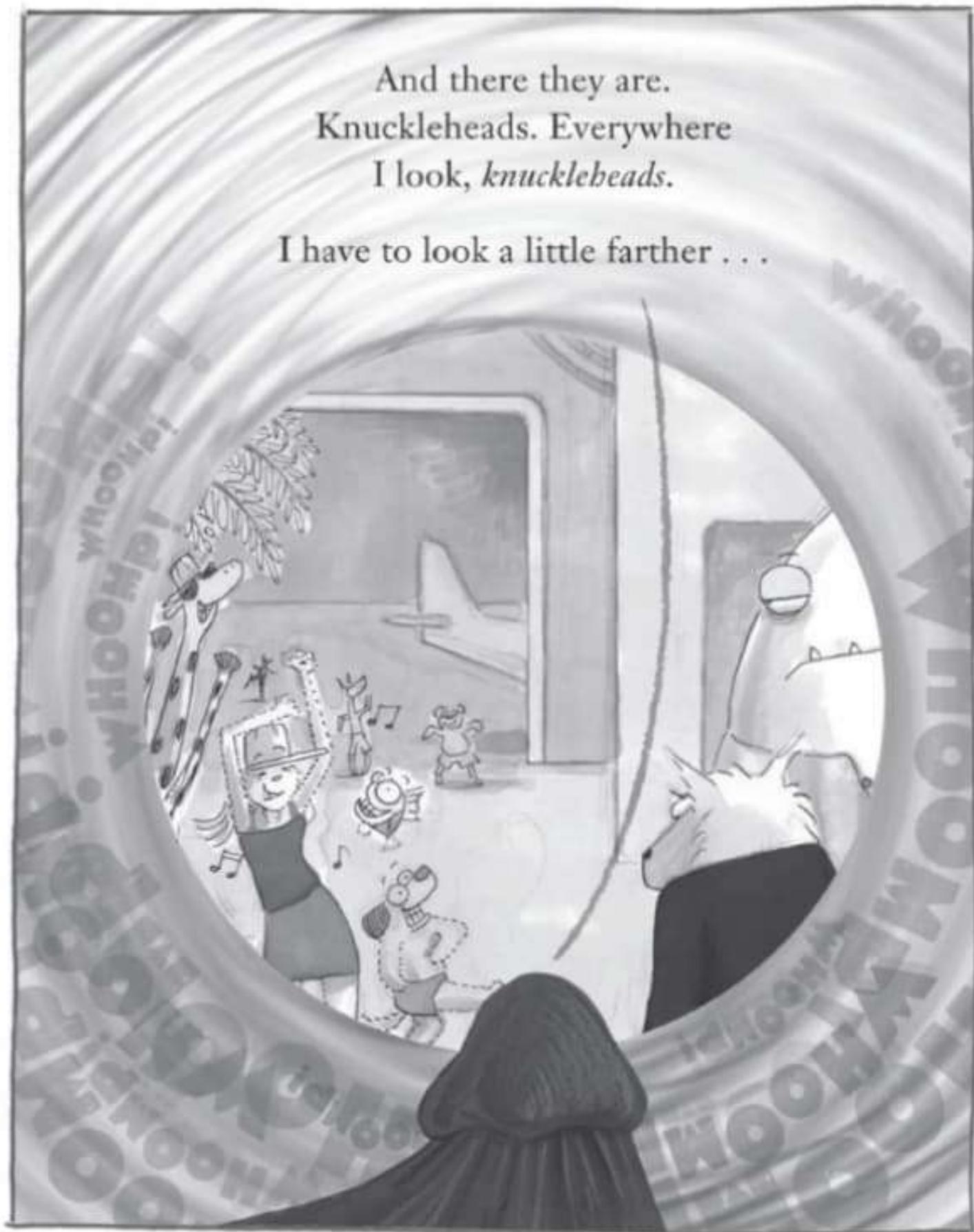
Bored of this room.  
Too much **POWER** for  
one little room.

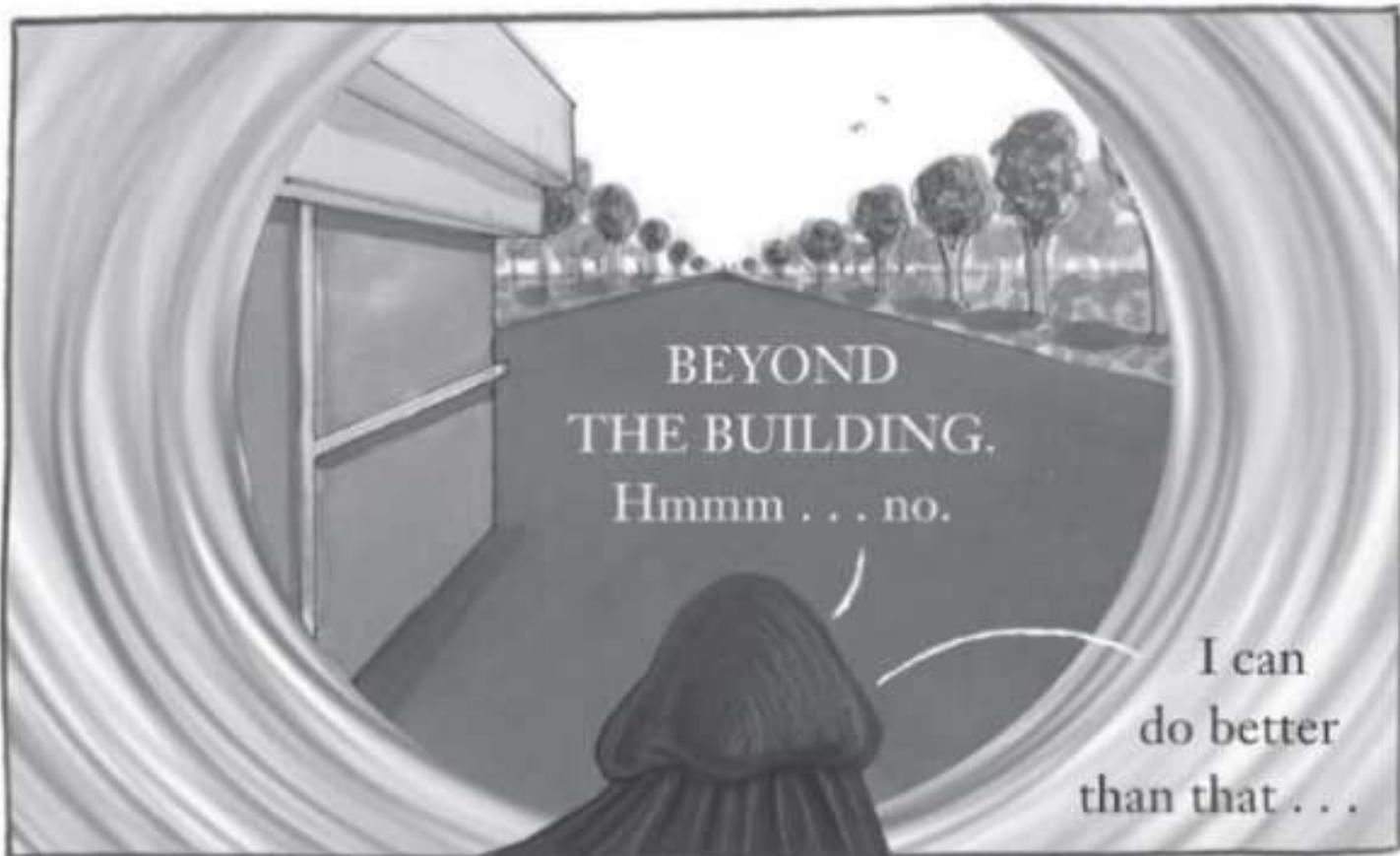
Let's look  
**BEYOND . . .**

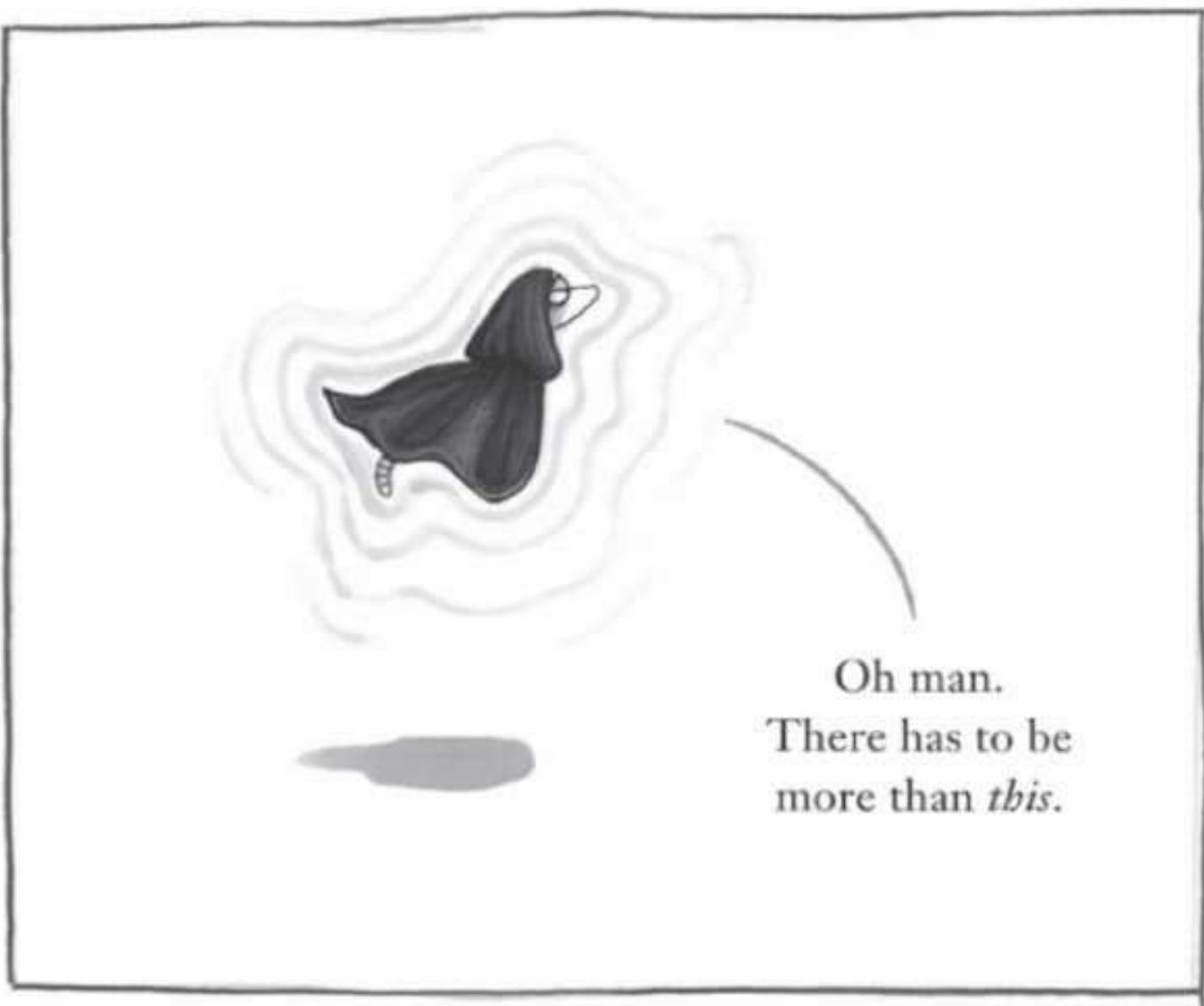


And there they are.  
Knuckleheads. Everywhere  
I look, *knuckleheads*.

I have to look a little farther . . .





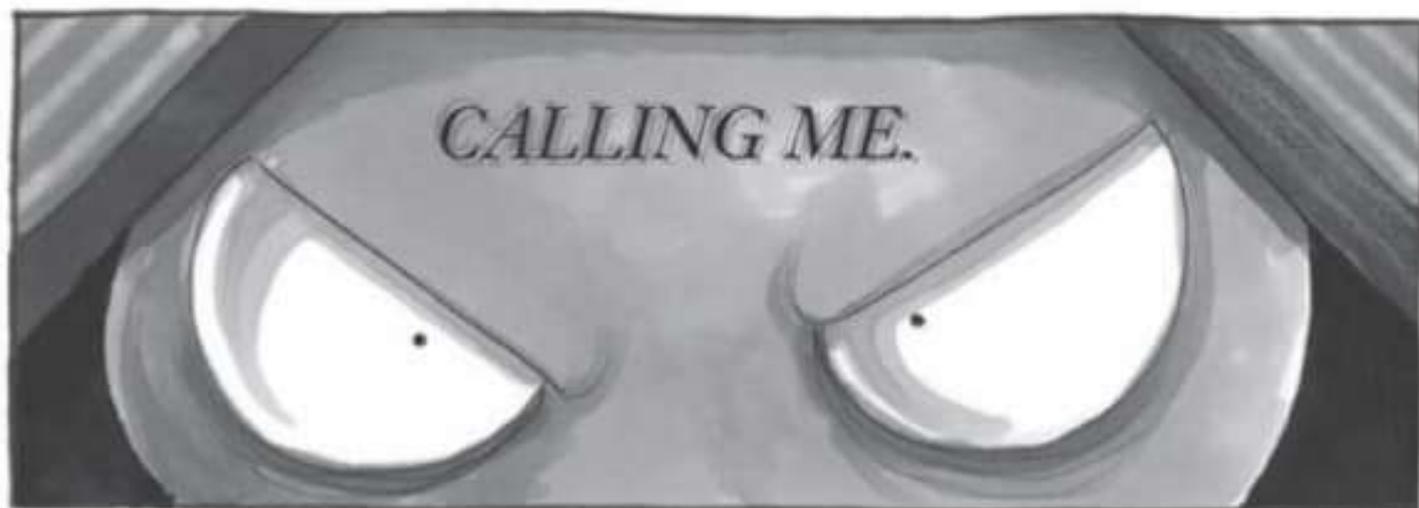


What's the point of all this power if I can't . . .  
if I don't see . . . if I can't *find* something . . . MORE.

**SOMETHING BIGGER  
TO PLAY WITH.**

I feel like it's out there.

I feel like it's . . .



SSSSSNAAAAA AAAAAAKE!



Huh?!  
*Who said that?!*

SSSSSNAAAAA AAAAAAKE!



OK, I feel like  
there's someone *literally*  
calling me . . .

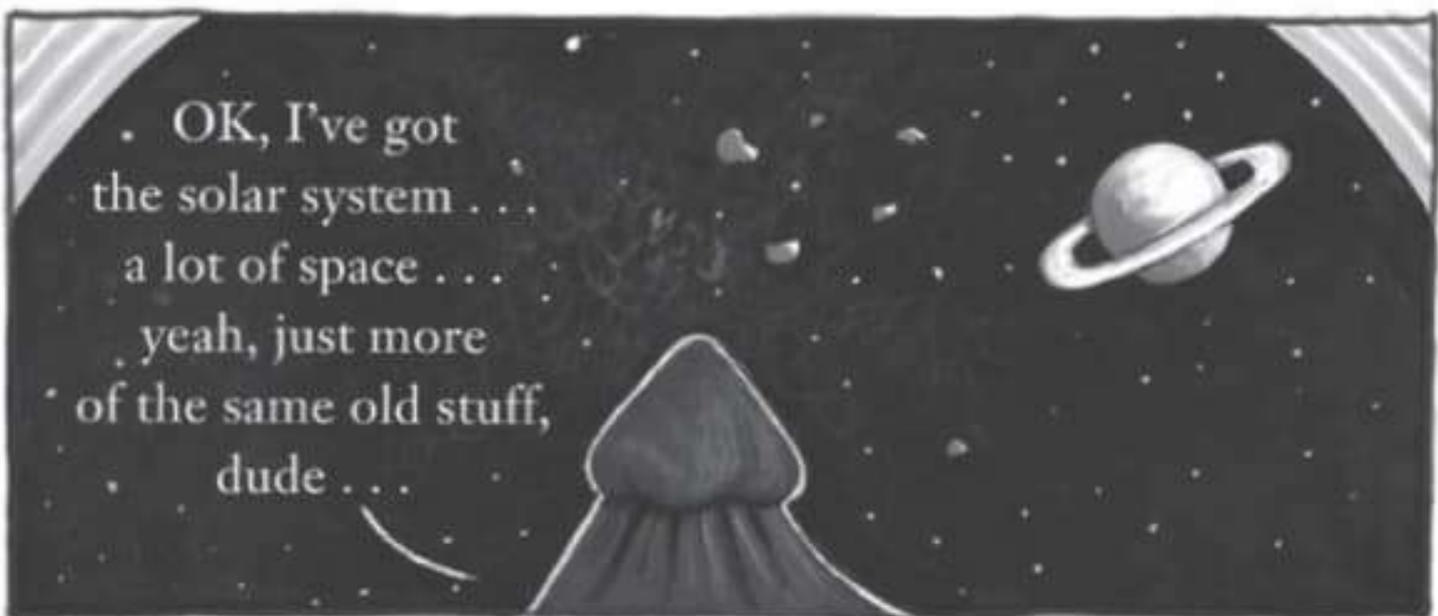


THERE IS  
MORE!



Where?! Where is there more?  
And what does that mean?  
More of *WHAT?*!

USE YOUR POWER!  
PUSH THROUGH,  
YOU'LL SEE!



FOCUS AND PUSH  
THROUGH,  
YOU FOOL!



HEY! BACK OFF, MAN!  
I'LL PUSH THROUGH  
IF I **FEEL** LIKE  
PUSHING THROUGH,  
*OK?!*

USE THAT ANGER!

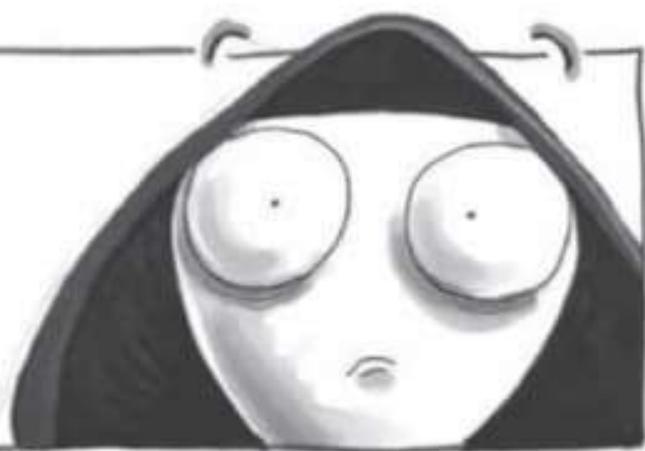
**PUSH!**



*GUHRRRGH!*



OK. That's new. I'll  
give you that.



YOU'VE DONE IT.



I'VE WAITED  
SO LONG, SO MANY MILLIONS  
OF YEARS.



Oh really?  
So . . . what am I looking  
at here, exactly?



A DOOR!



Well, duh. But a door to *what*?  
And why is it floating in that . . .  
I want to say “hole in the universe”?  
Yep, I’m going to say,  
**“WHY IS IT FLOATING IN THAT  
HOLE IN THE UNIVERSE?”**

YOU TELL ME,

SERPENT





WHAT DID YOU JUST CALL ME?



*Whoa! Take it easy, dude.  
My heart just exploded.*





*Seriously! CHILL, DUDE!*  
*Seriously! CHILL, DUDE!*

OPEN THE DOOR,  
SERPENT THIS IS  
YOUR TIME!



MY TIME  
FOR **WHAT?!**

# DOMINATION OF ALL THINGS

Ohhh, *that*.  
Look, I'm intrigued, but . . .



# OPEN THE DOOR



Look, first off, you need to *chill* . . .

**KNOCK!  
KNOCKITTY  
KNOCK KNOCK!**



OK, that *knock* was better. But the **GENERAL ATTITUDE** is still too edgy, you know what I'm saying?

**THAT WASN'T ME**

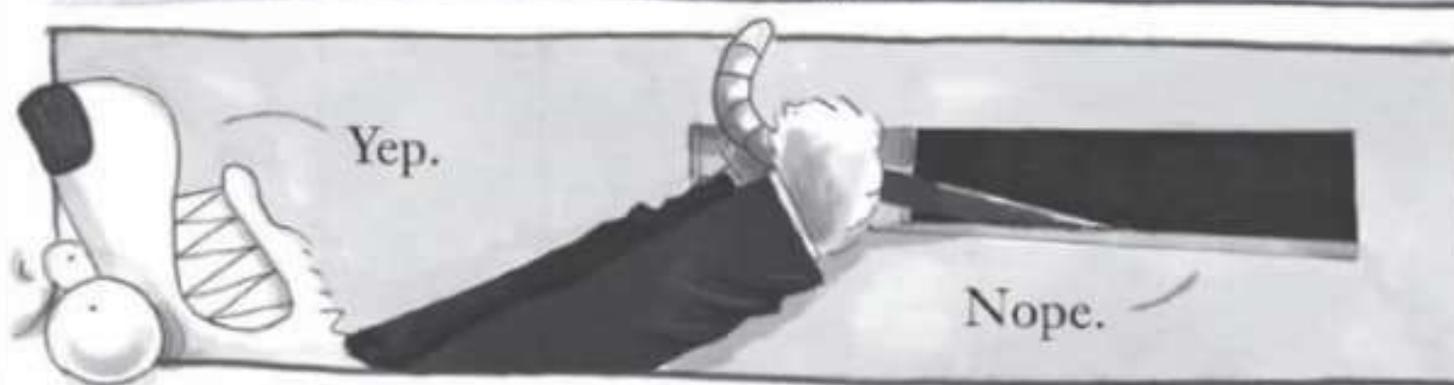
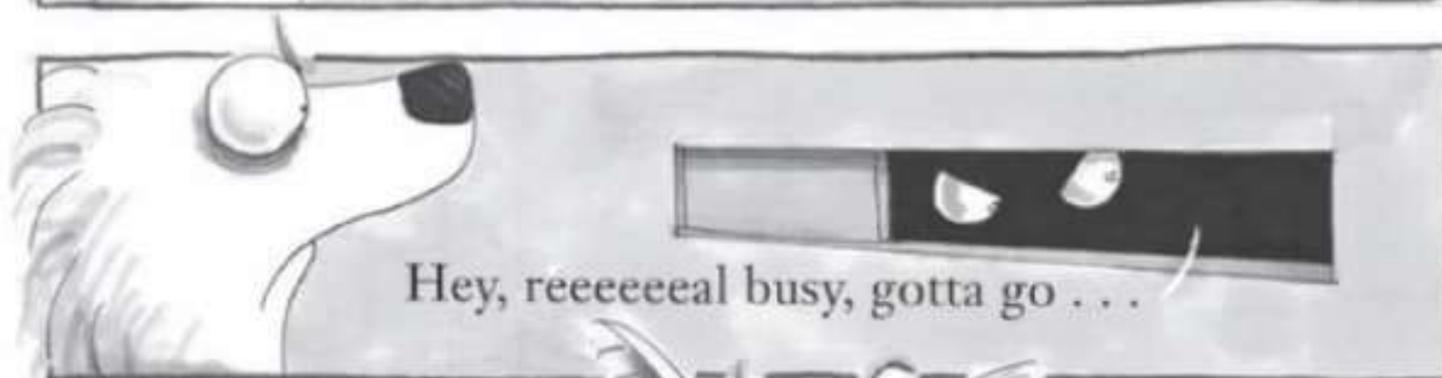
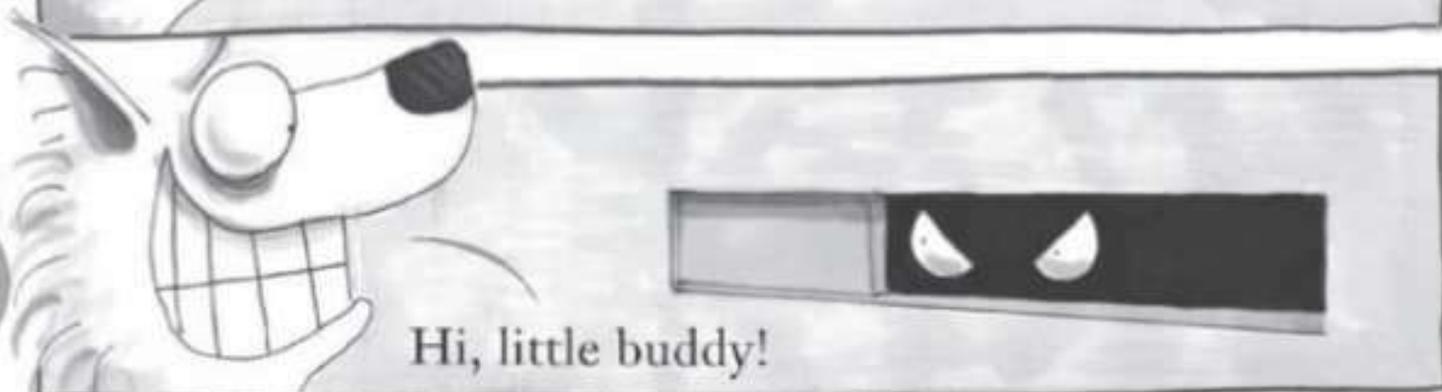


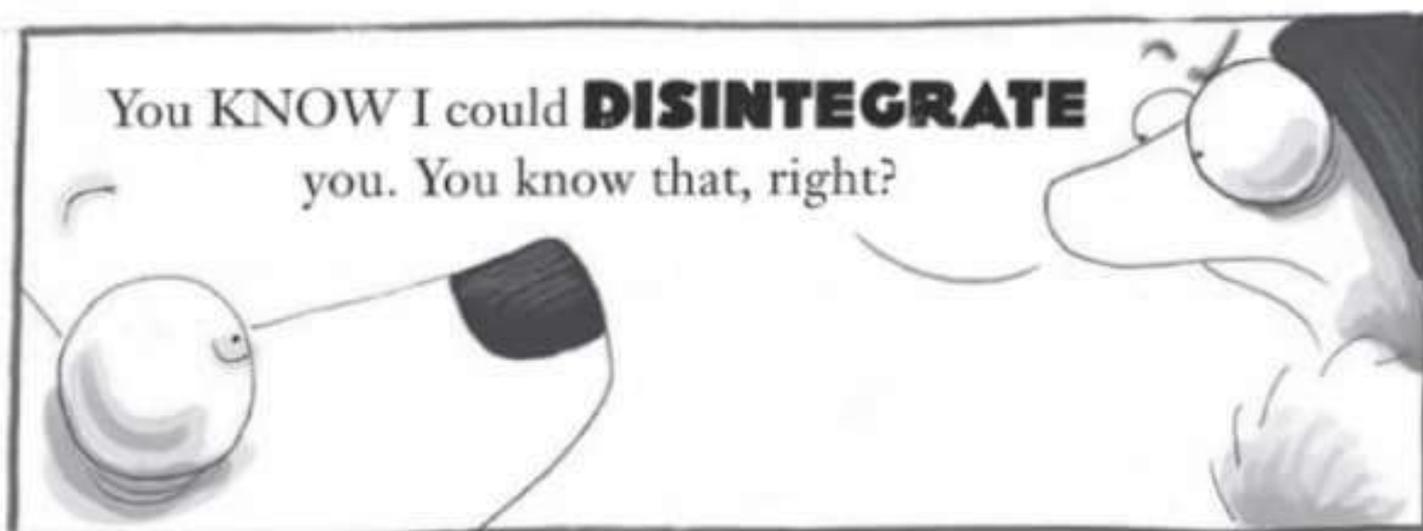
What?

**KNOCK!  
KNOCKITTY  
KNOCK  
KNOCK!**



Seriously? *Again?*  
Sorry, man. Hold on a minute, will you?





So . . . how're things?



. . . Good . . .



Well, the reason I ask . . . is . . . it's funny,  
but we've been through A LOT, right?

**THINK ABOUT IT!**



If you go all the way back to  
my idea about **TURNING GOOD . . .**  
well, that led to **FIGHTING ZOMBIE KITTENS**  
and **ALIENS** and **DINOSAURS**  
and even a **GIANT VERSION OF ME**  
at one point, didn't it?



Yeah, yeah, I know. I was there.

Lots happened. Basically,  
if our life was a **SERIES**,  
it would be like

**10 EPISODES**

worth of stuff.

So, what's your point?



*GOOD ANALOGY!*

*SOOOOO . . .*

*My point is—if our life was a*

**10-PART SERIES,**

*by the end of the tenth episode, you seemed  
like you were in a pretty good place!*

*You were a **HERO!***

**EVERYONE LOVED YOU!**



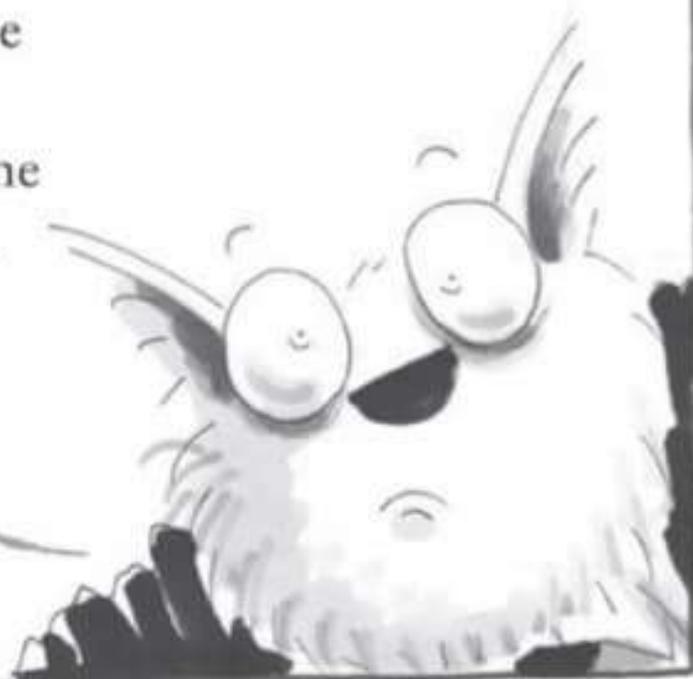
Yeah . . . and?



Well, since then, you've kind of been spending a lot of time

**ALONE.**

Which, for a guy who everyone loves, is a bit . . . surprising.



I like alone time.



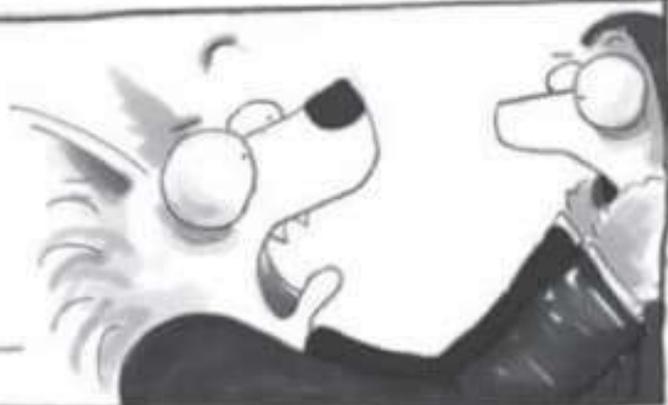
You haven't left that room since *September*.



So I've missed  
a bit of September.  
So what?



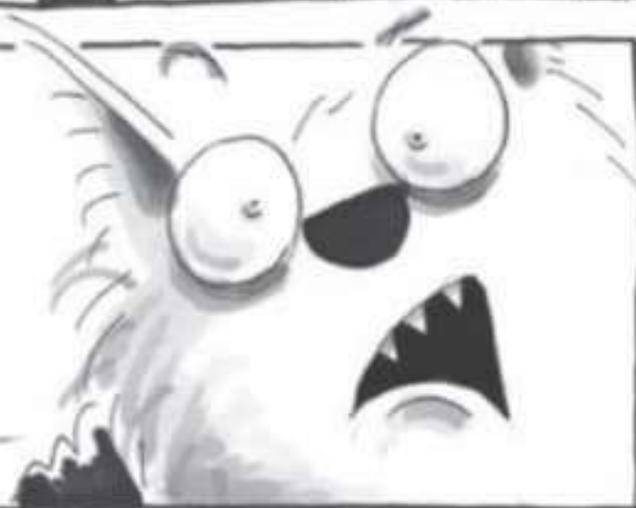
I'm talking about  
**LAST  
SEPTEMBER!**



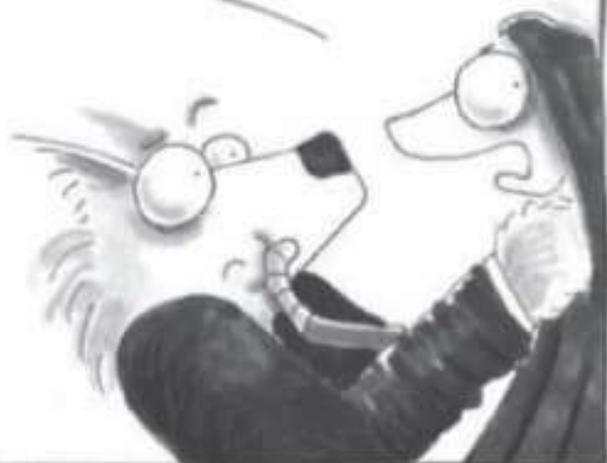
I've been busy.



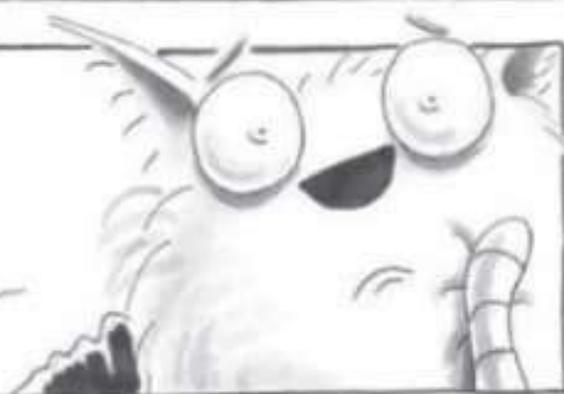
*Busy?!* How busy can  
you be in a locked room  
for an *entire year*? You  
don't even have **WI-FI!**



Look, Wolfie, don't  
worry about me.  
I'm fine. But I do *really*  
have to go.  
Like, **RIGHT NOW . . .**



I **DO** worry about you.  
We all do.



See?!  
**DOOM!**  
Are you worried  
about Snake?





Nope.

You are! You told me the other day. You said, "*I'm worried about Snake.*"



I didn't.

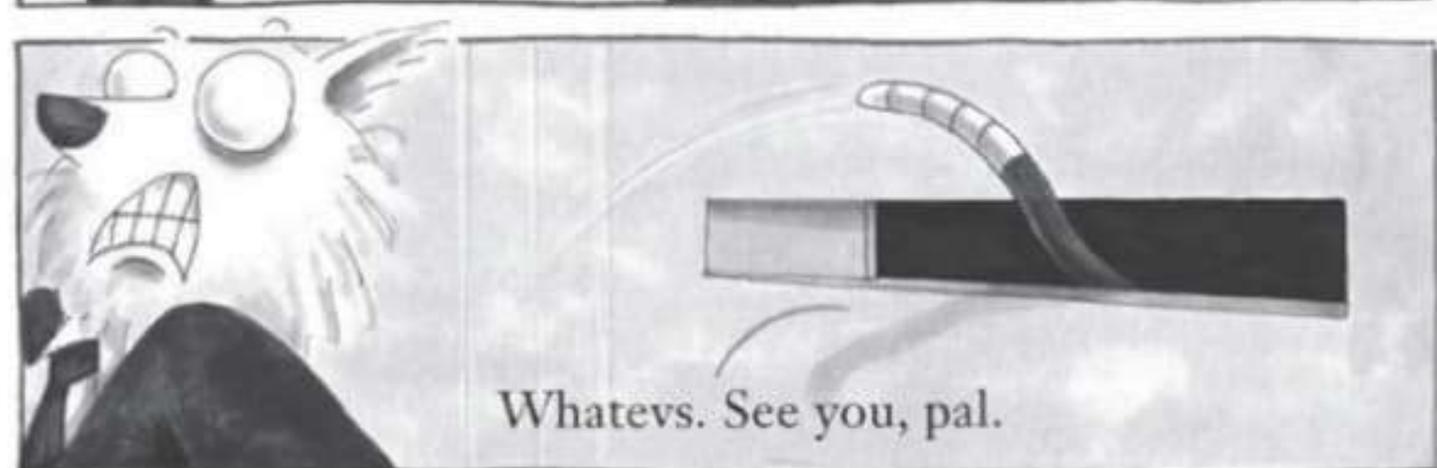
I said . . . uh . . .

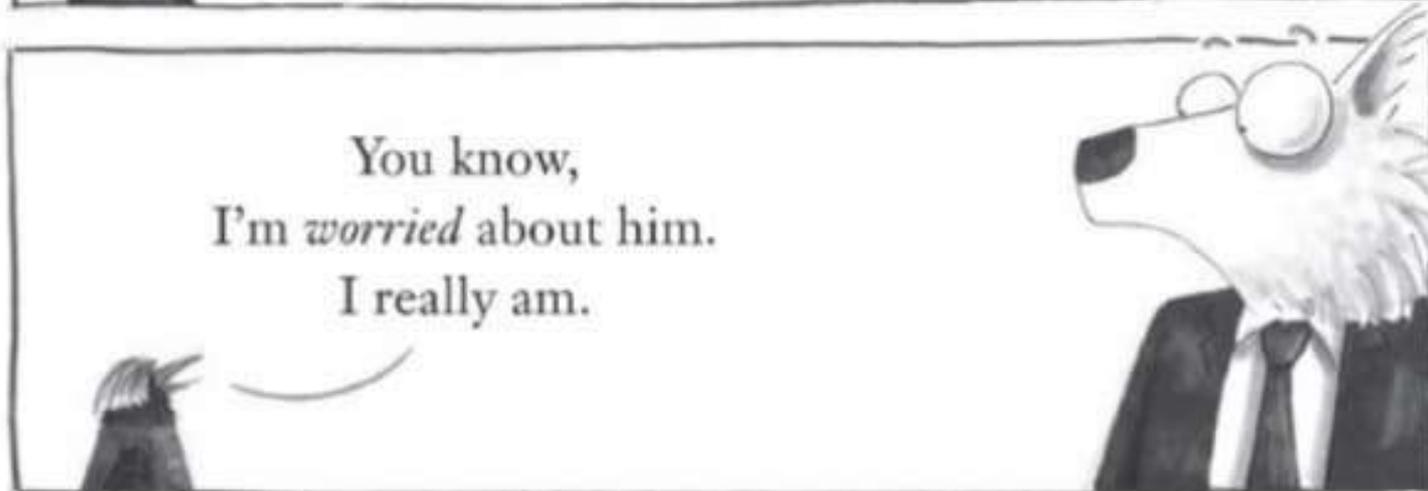
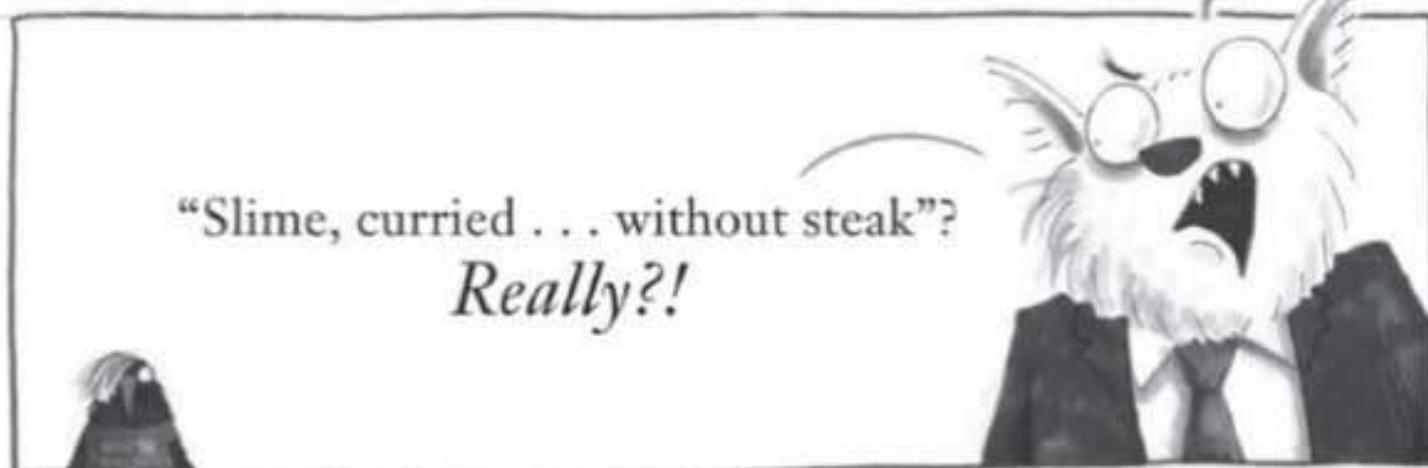
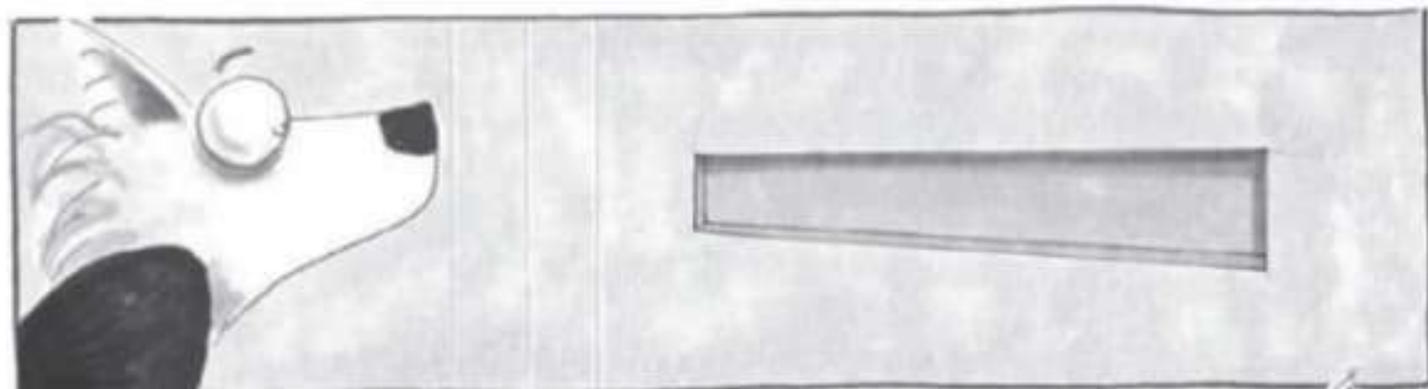
*"Slime, curried . . . without steak."*

Yeah. I was ordering not-great, spicy vegetarian food and you misunderstood.

Yeah.

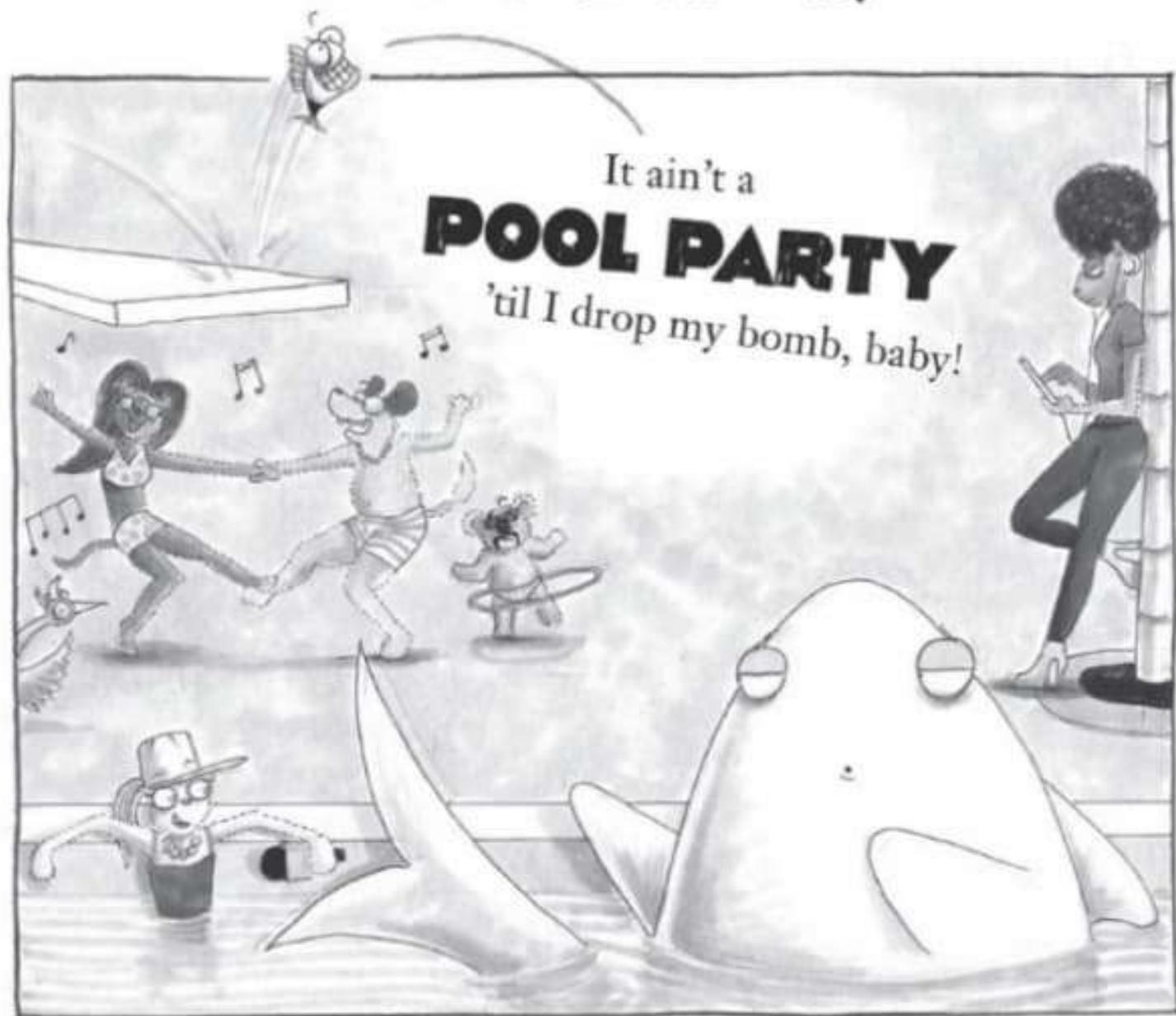




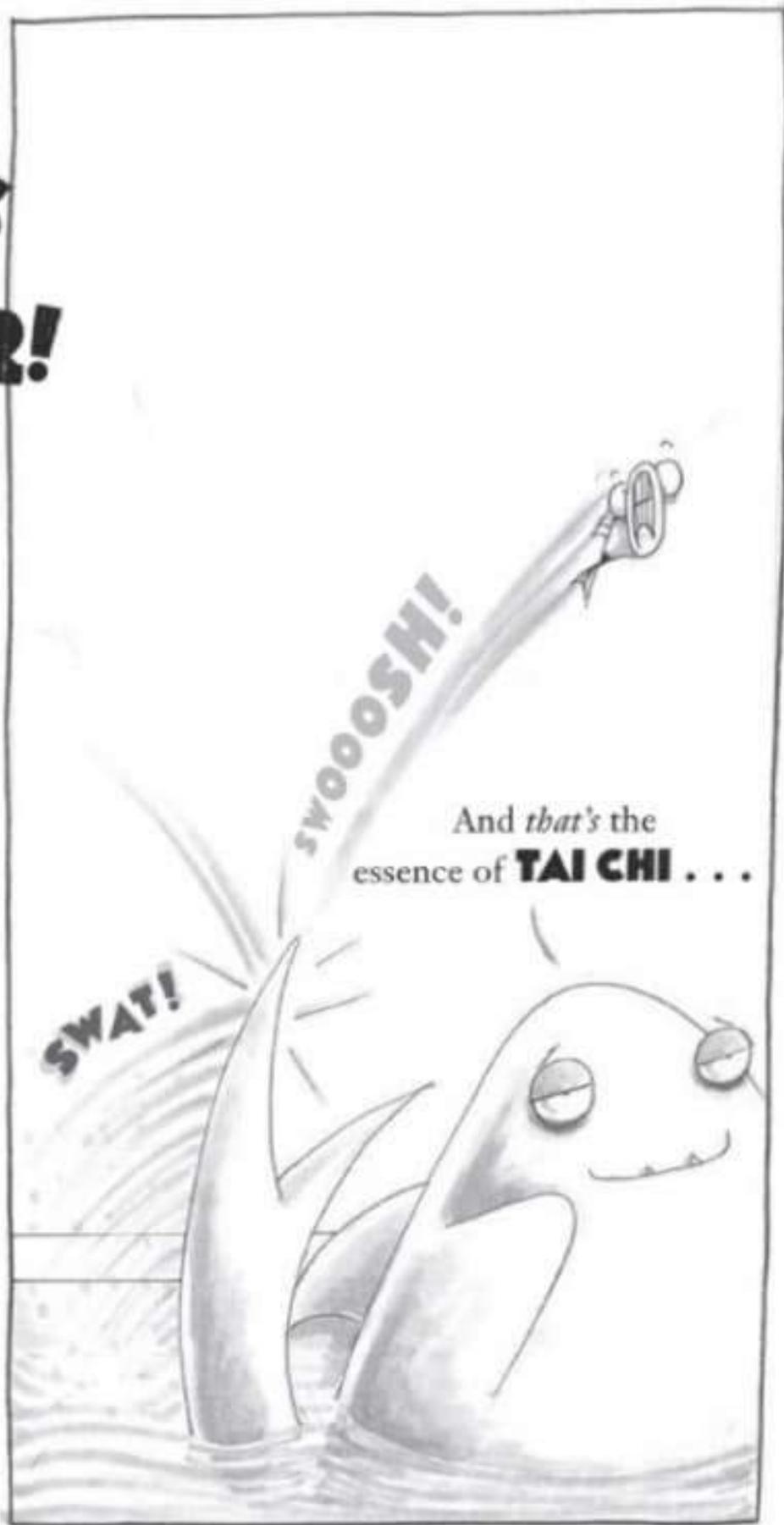


• CHAPTER 3 •

# A BAD FEELING



**HERE  
COMES  
THE  
THUNDER!**

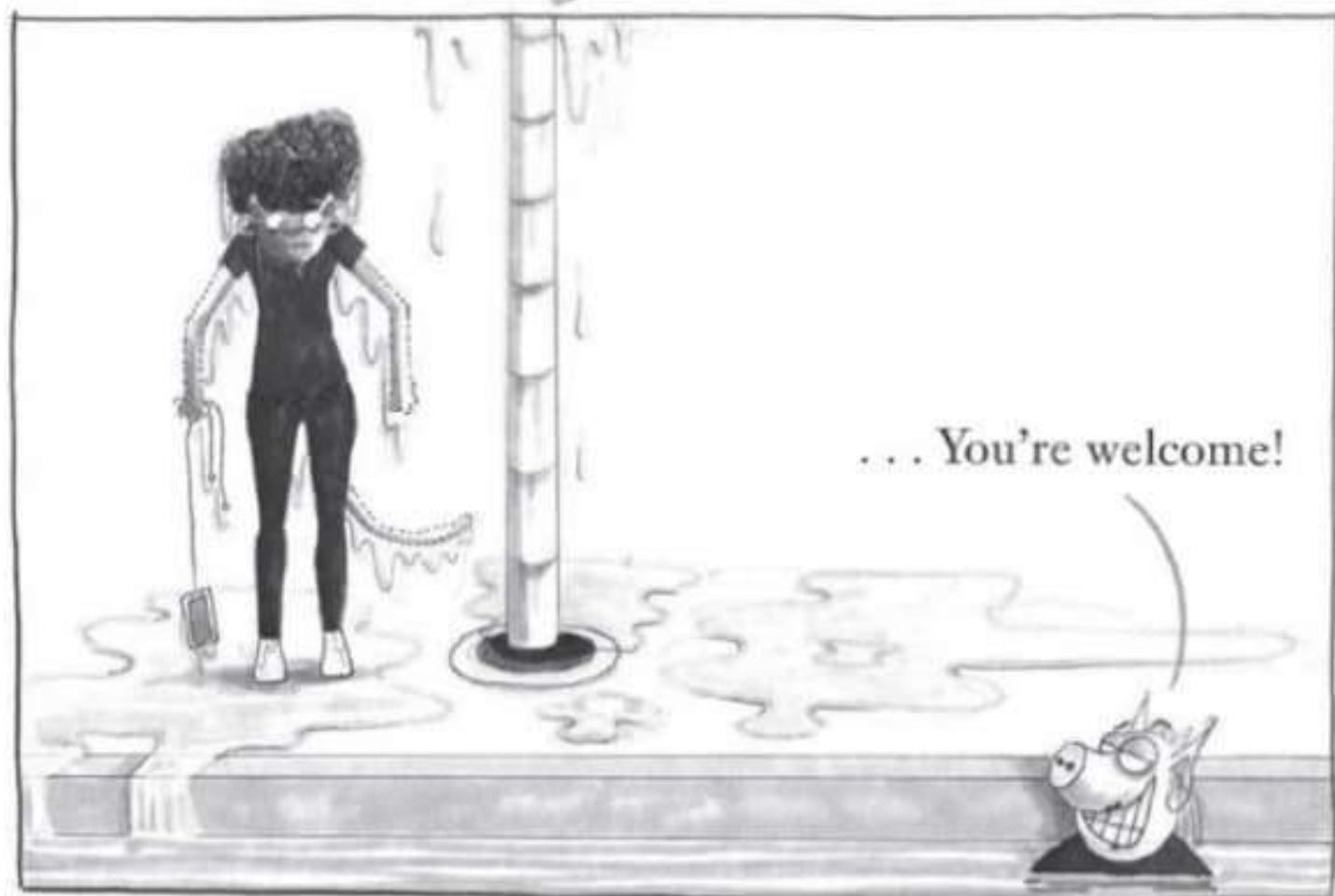


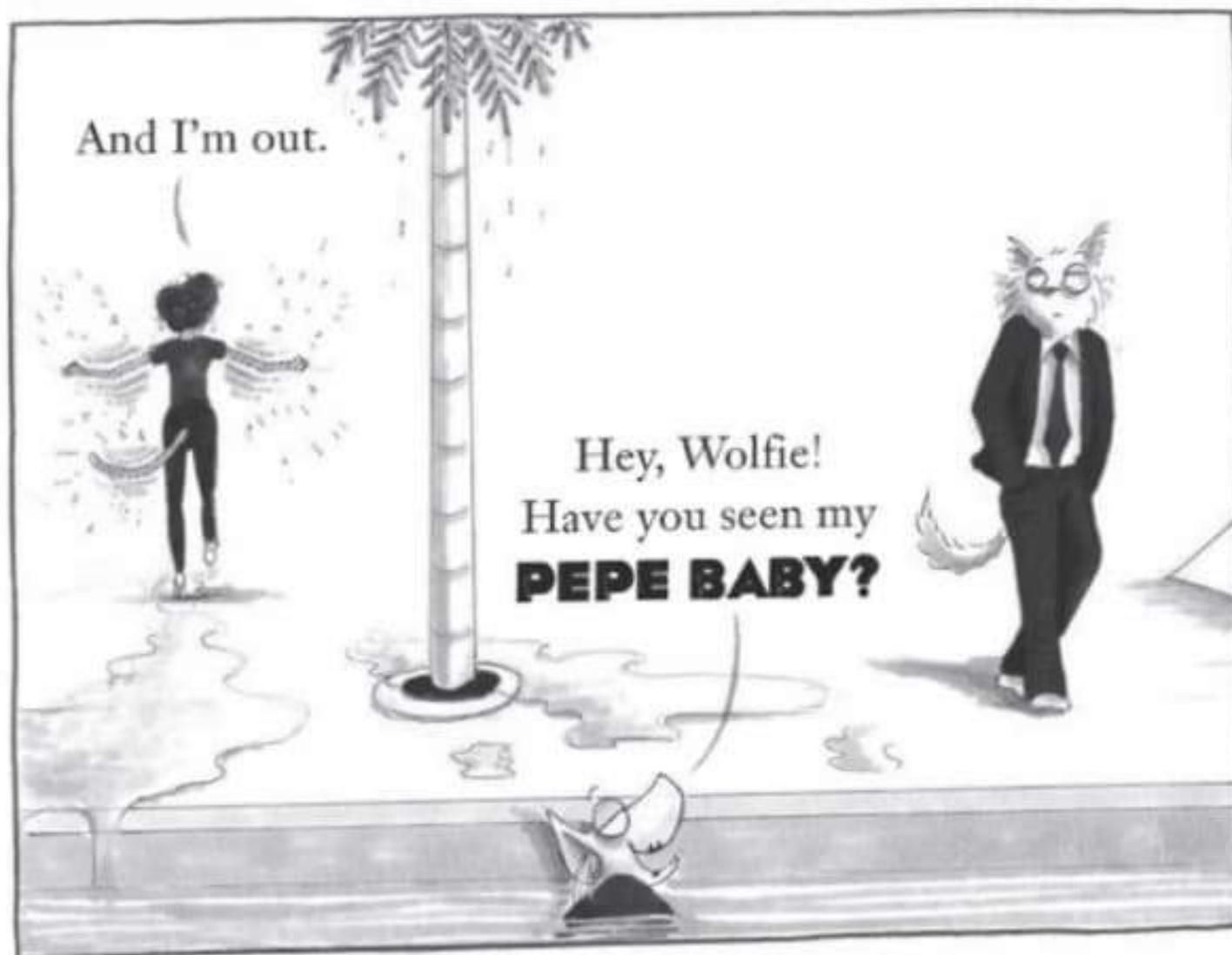
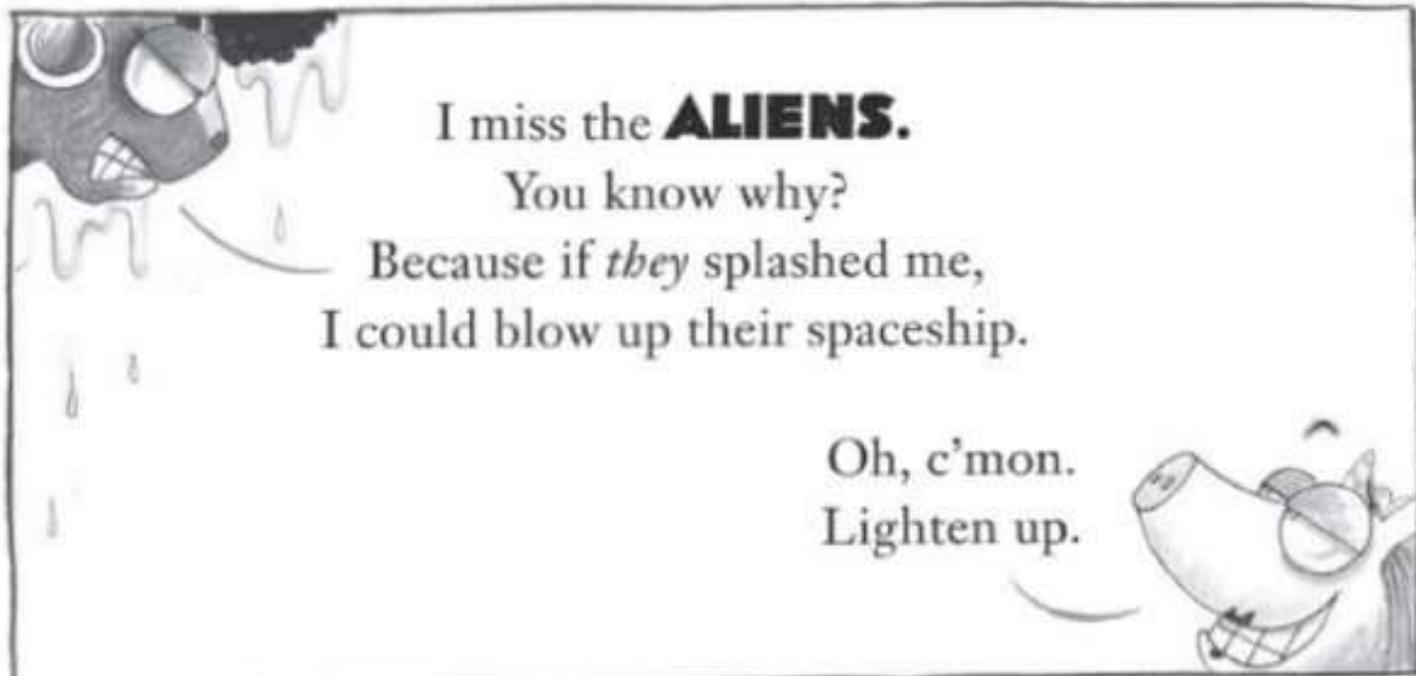
And *that's* the  
essence of **TAI CHI** . . .

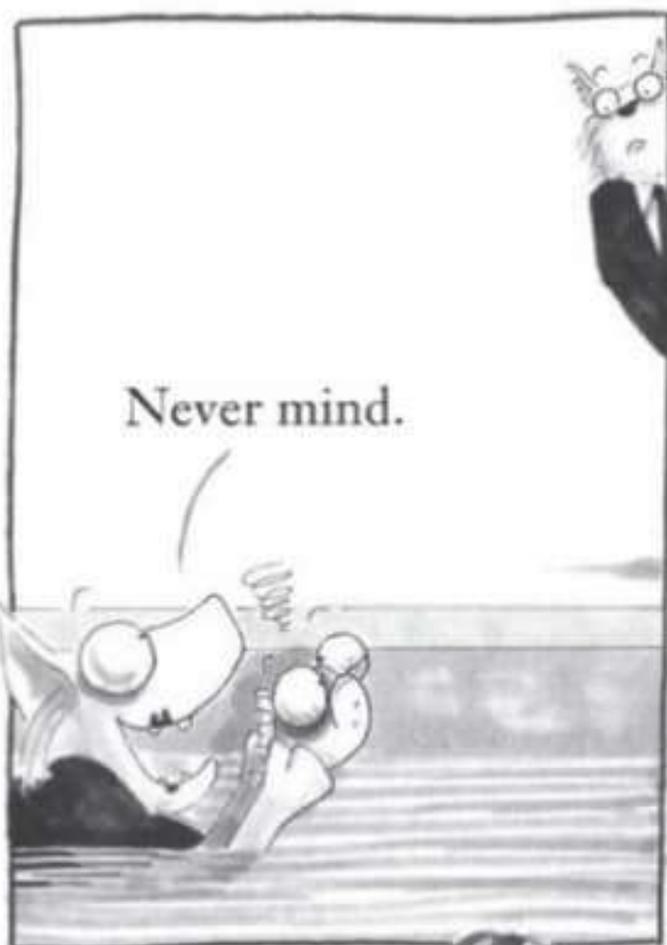


... fluid movement.  
At **ONE** with your  
surroundings.





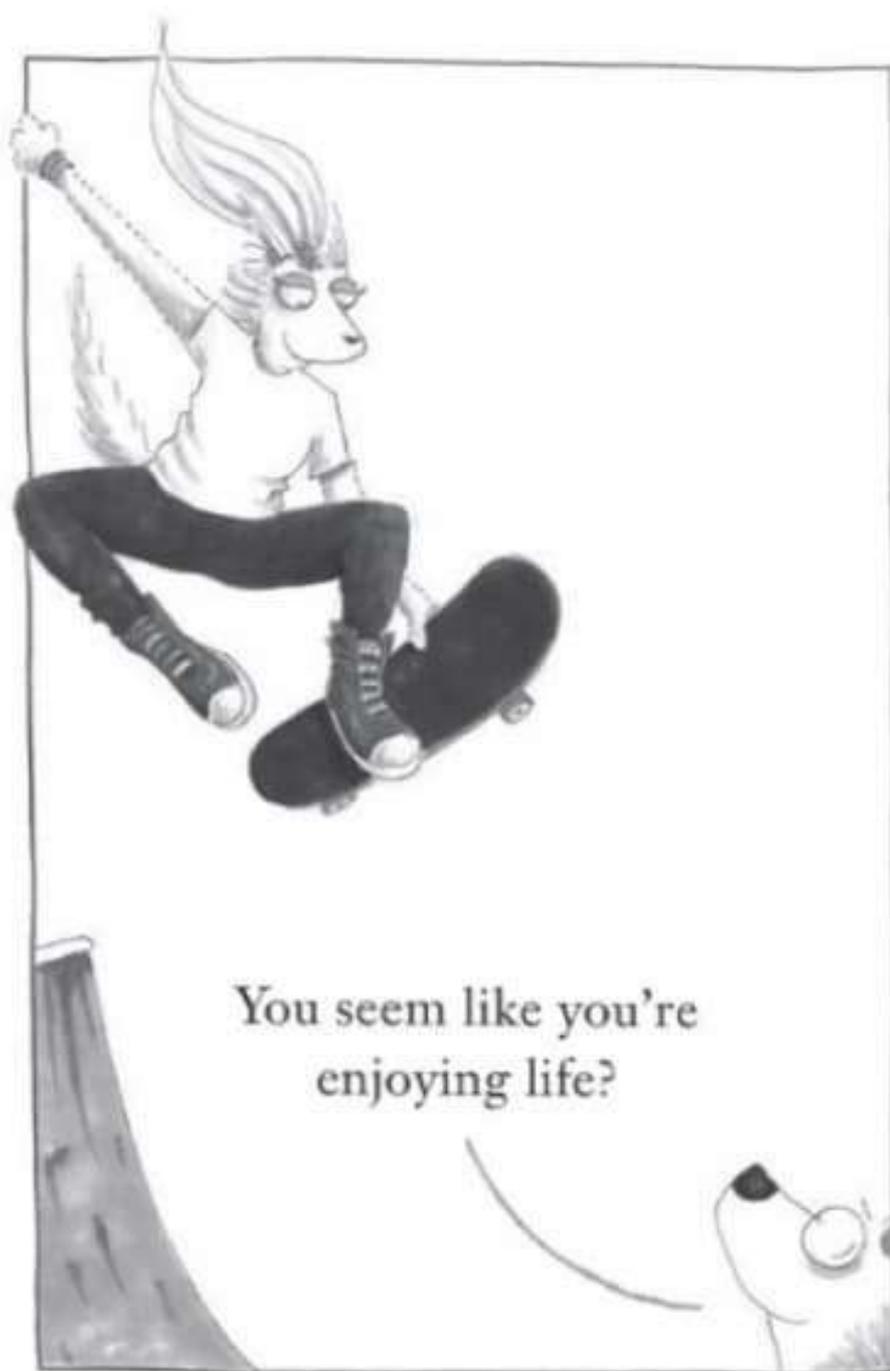




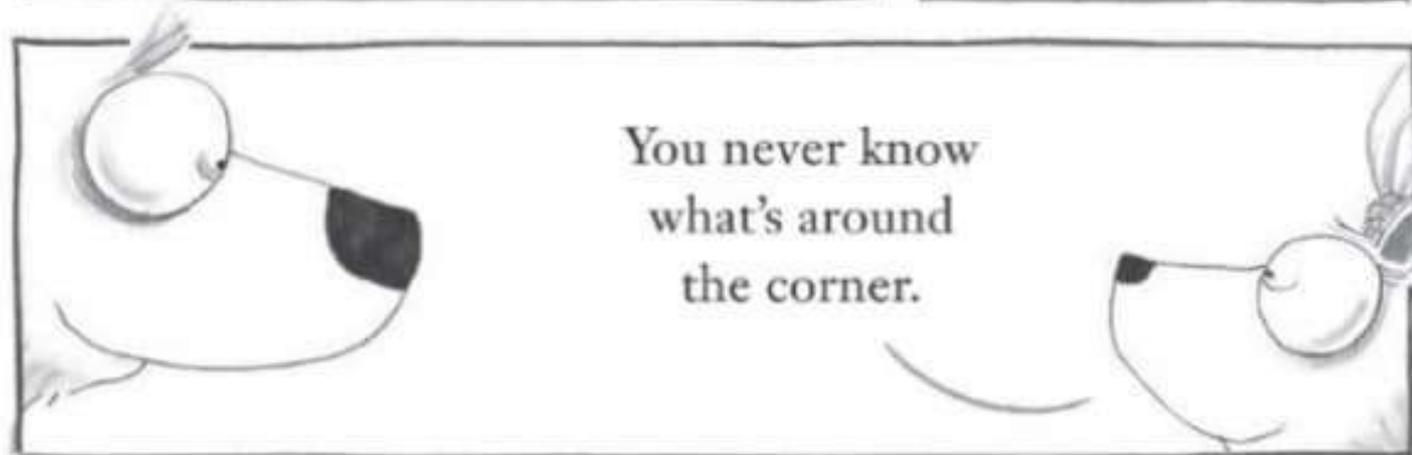


But who needs that kind  
of pressure?





It's important to have **FUN**. I forget that sometimes.

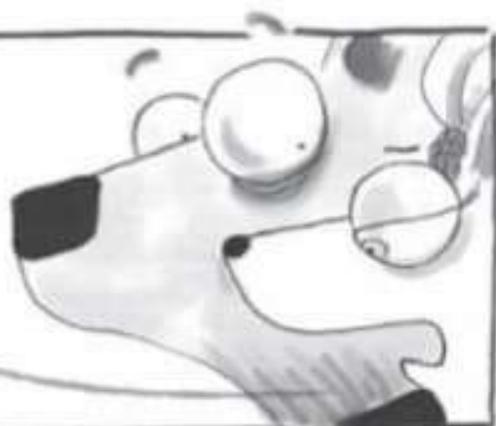




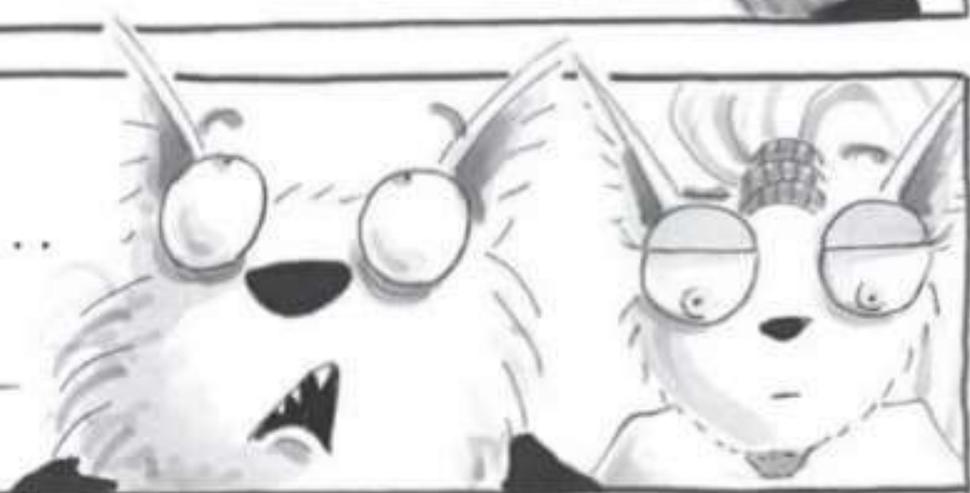
Aw . . . yeah . . .  
it's . . .



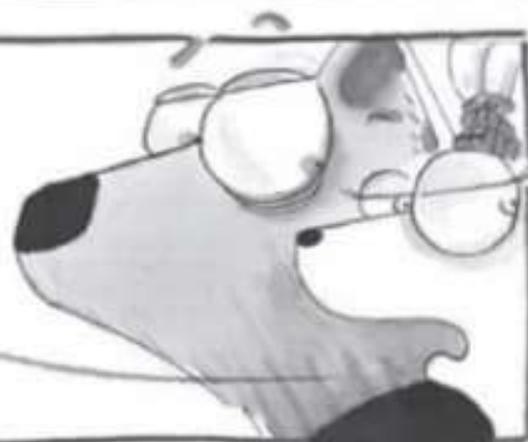
Snake. I know. I'm  
concerned, too.

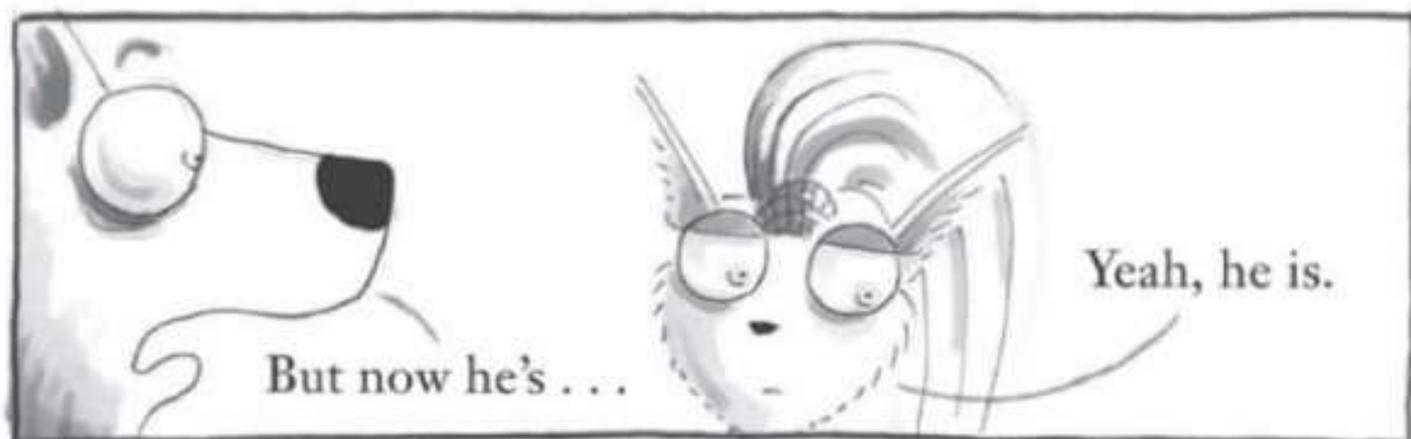


He was doing so . . .



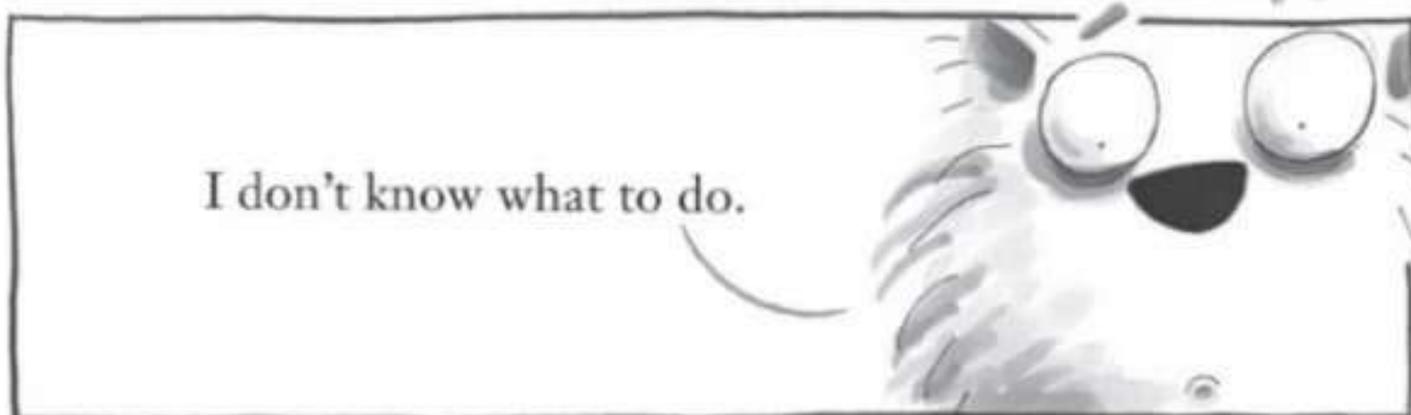
Yes, he was.





But now he's . . .

Yeah, he is.



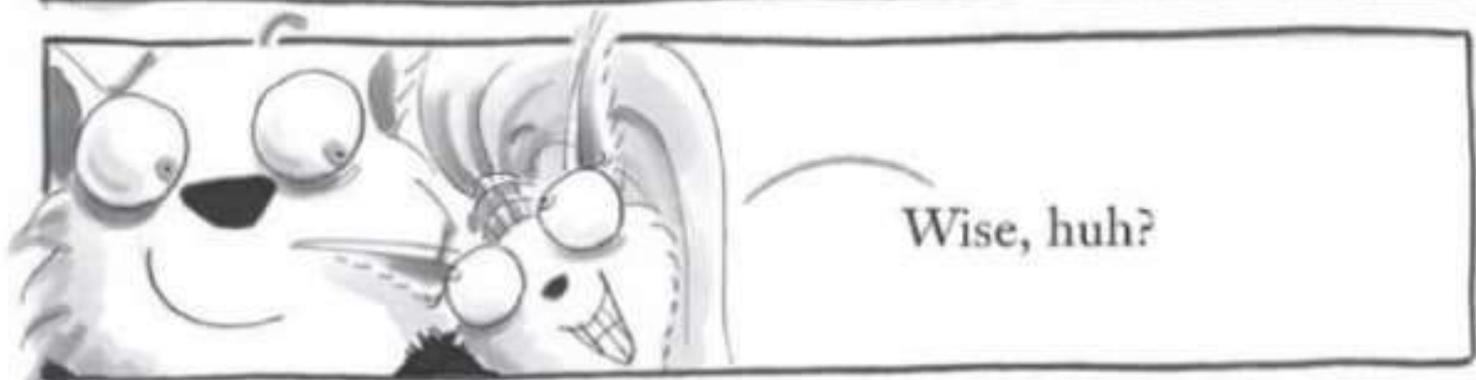
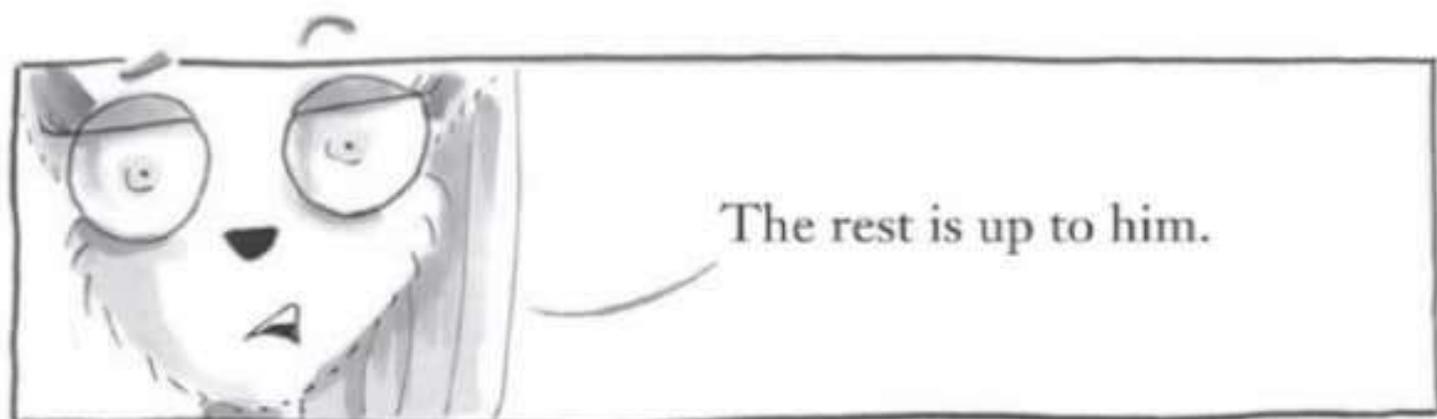
I don't know what to do.



He's on his **OWN PATH.**

You can't control him.

You can only love him and  
help him where you can.



You sure about this?  
I tend to annoy him . . .



It'll be great. I think  
he just needs a little  
guidance . . .



• CHAPTER 4 •

# KNOCKKITTY KNOCK KNOCK

So, like, give me a bit of *guidance* here . . .



What do you mean by  
**DOMINATION OF  
ALL THINGS?**

Like all things on *Earth*?



HAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHA,  
YOU FOOLISH CHILD.  
EARTH IS  
NOTHING!

ONCE YOU OPEN  
THIS DOOR  
THE EARTH WILL SEEM  
LESS IMPORTANT  
THAN A SPECK  
OF DUST.

A white door is centered within a circular frame. The background of the entire image is a dark, swirling, hypnotic pattern. In the bottom right corner, a portion of a cowboy hat is visible.

So, you're talking about what?

DOMINATION over the

**ENTIRE  
UNIVERSE?**



**HAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHA,**

YOUR UNIVERSE IS **PUNY.**

THINK OF IT AS A

**CRUMMY TRUCK STOP**

ON AN ENDLESS HIGHWAY THAT  
LEADS TO AN INFINITE CITY OF

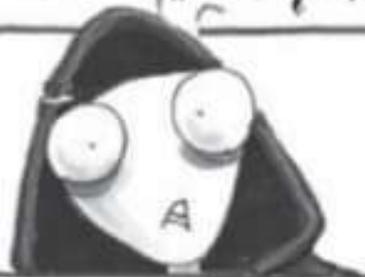


**MAGNIFICENCE!**



OK, you've lost me.  
I'm not ashamed to say it.

DID YOU REALLY THINK  
YOUR UNIVERSE  
WAS THE ONLY ONE?



Well, yep. I kind of did, yeah.

IT IS MERELY ANOTHER LAYER OF  
AN INFINITE MULTIVERSE!  
UNIVERSE UPON UNIVERSE LAYERED  
UPON EACH OTHER,  
SEPARATED ONLY BY



DOORWAYS



... Doorways ...

YES, DOORWAYS.  
DOORWAYS THAT CAN ONLY BE  
OPENED BY

# A TRUE DARK UNDERLORY!

**CRACK!** **CRACK!**



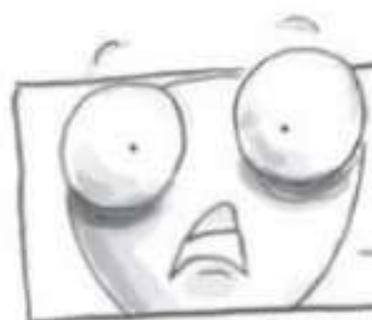


Come again?

YOU HEARD ME, SERPENT.  
IT'S TIME TO FULFILL YOUR  
DESTINY.

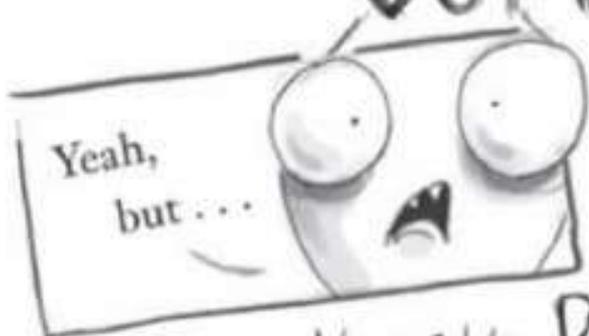


YOUR ENTIRE LIFE YOU'VE BEEN  
MISUNDERSTOOD,  
HATED, AND FEARED.



Well, yes, but then Wolf . . .

YOU'VE FELT DESTINED FOR  
**YOUR ENTIRE LIFE**  
SOMETHING MORE.



Yeah,  
but . . .

YOU'VE BEEN HATED AND  
**FEARED** BECAUSE YOU JUST CAN'T HIDE  
YOUR **TRUE NATURE**



Oh, so this is the part where you call me  
a **MEAN LITTLE SNAKE**, is it?



YOU ARE NOT MEAN ENOUGH!  
STOP WASTING YOUR TIME  
TRYING TO BE LOVED.



WAKE UP, CHILD!  
THAT IS NOT YOUR PATH.  
DEEP DOWN YOU'VE ALWAYS KNOWN  
WHAT YOU ARE

YOU ARE THE **POITISSOO**  
YOU ARE THE **MAGNIIIF**



YOU ARE  
THE **END** OF

POISONOUS CHILD OF DREAD  
EFFICIENT DARKNESS

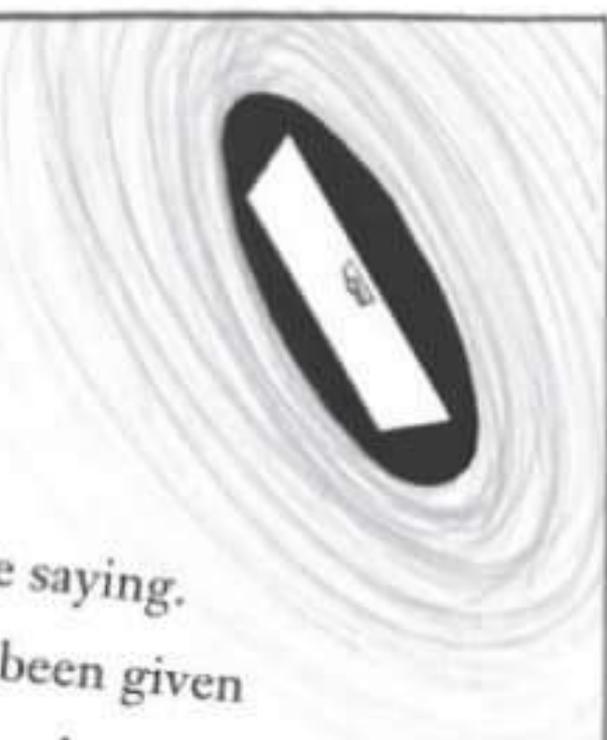


ALLIGHT



Oooookey dokey.  
Food for thought . . .

EVERYTHING IS  
WRONG



Look, I appreciate what you're saying.  
And, yes, this **POWER** I've been given  
has made me wonder if I was maybe destined  
for something more than **POOL PARTIES**  
and **SKATE COMPETITIONS.**

But I've made a commitment  
to my friends here, dude.  
They *believe* in me, and I can't—





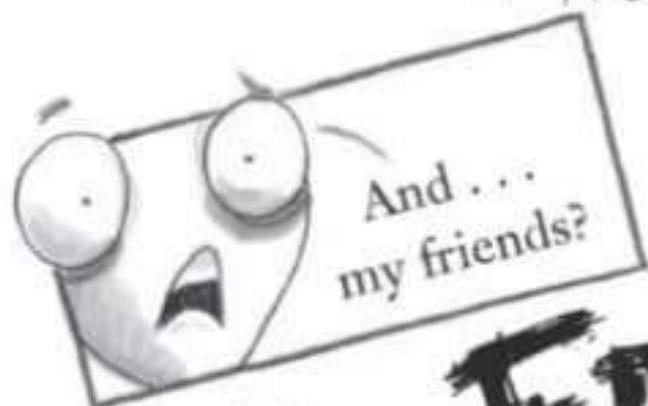


**VOOOOMP!!!**

THAT IS



WHAT ~~AWAITS~~  
YOU ON THE OTHER SIDE  
OF THIS DOOR.



YOUR FRIENDS

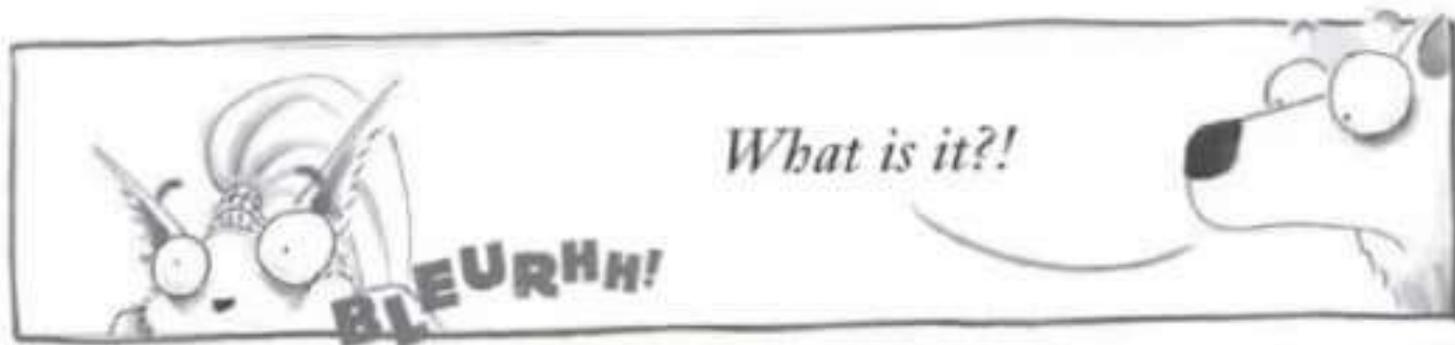
WILL BE  
HAPPIER THAN  
THEY'VE EVER  
DREAMED.  
THIS IS WHY THEY'VE  
FOUND YOU IN THIS  
LIFE.  
LEAD THEM!

Well . . . I guess it  
wouldn't hurt  
to take a peek.



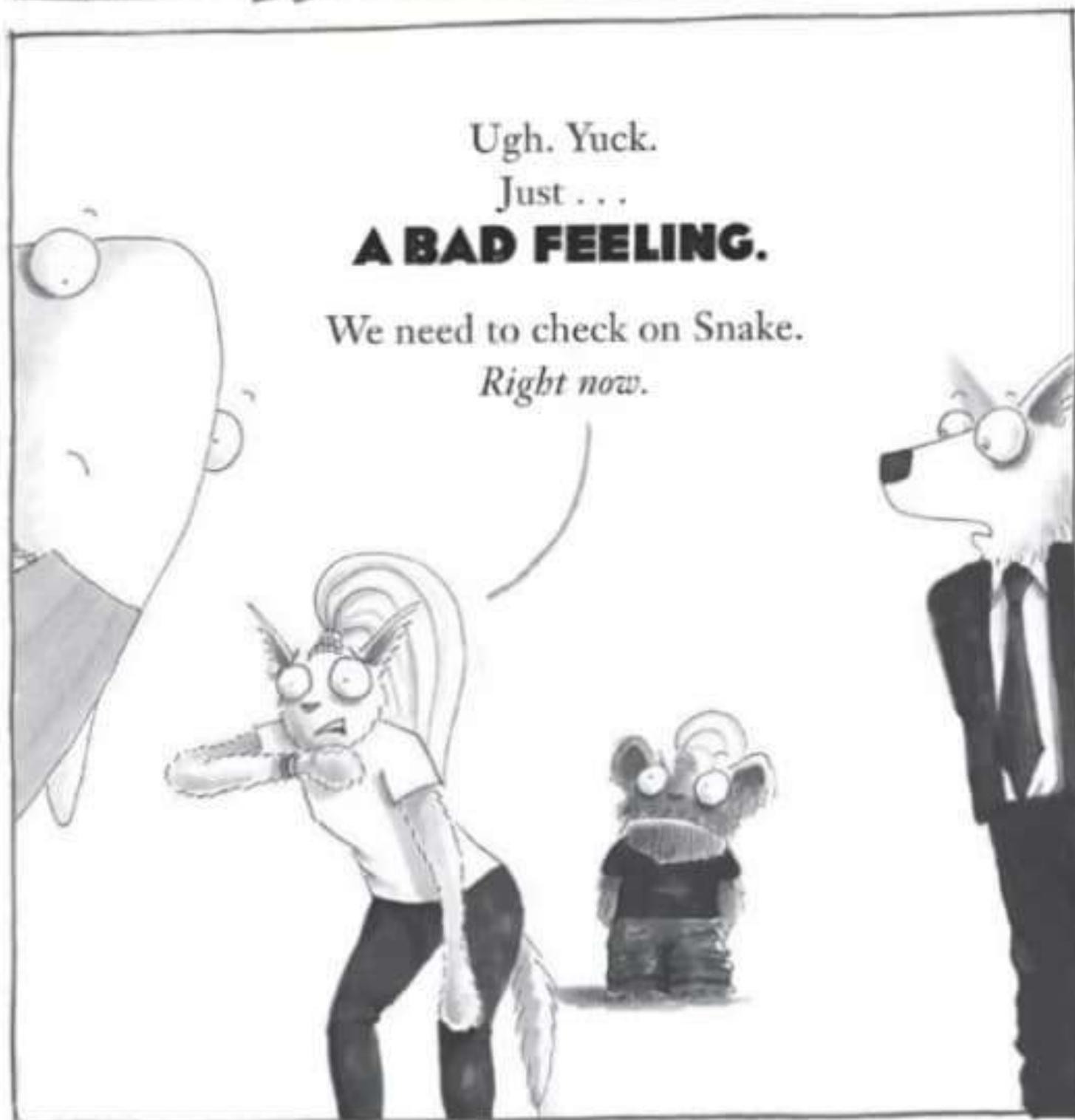
• CHAPTER 5 •  
**PARTY'S  
OVER**





*What is it?!*

**BLEURHH!**



Ugh. Yuck.

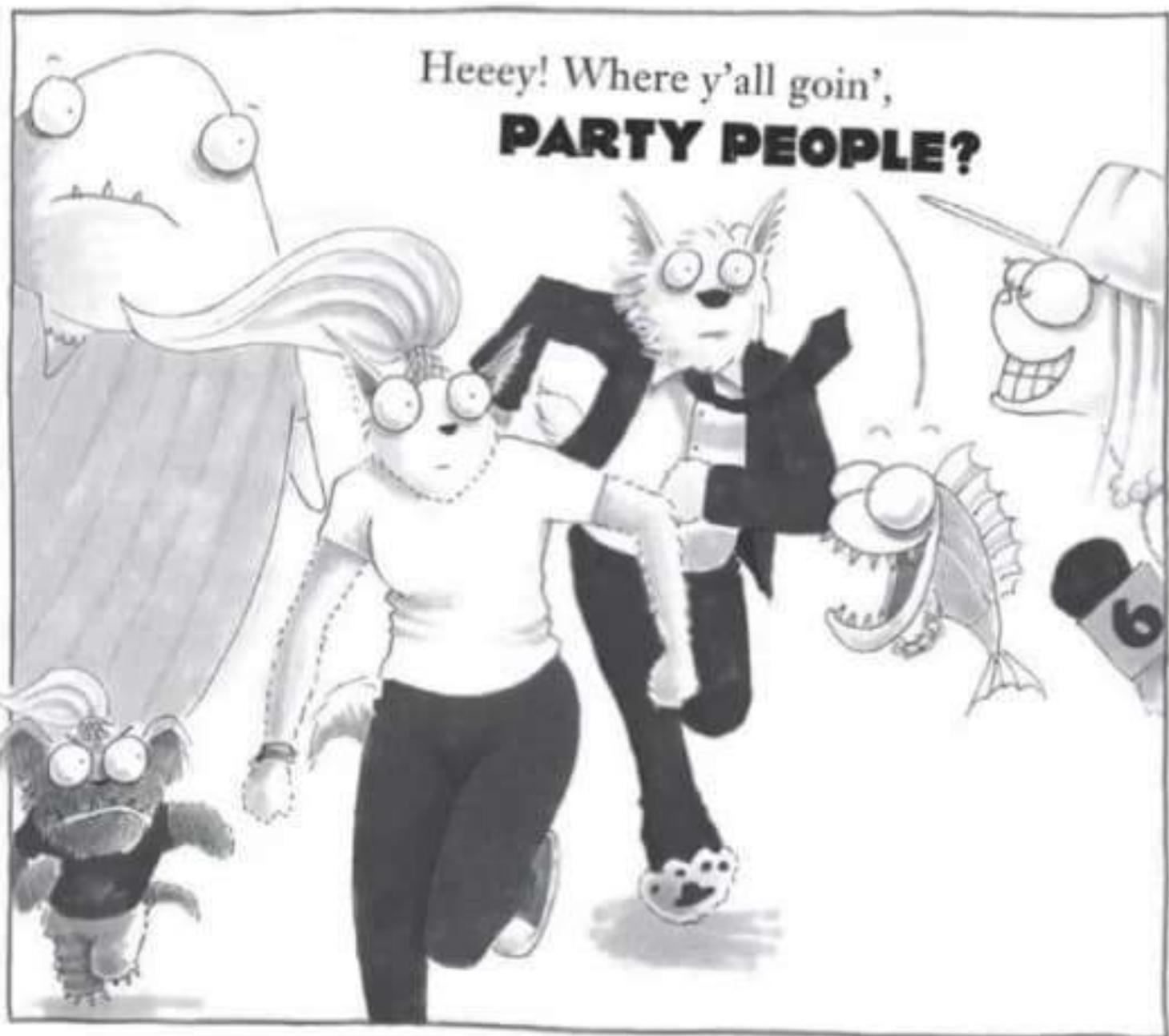
Just . . .

**A BAD FEELING.**

We need to check on Snake.

*Right now.*

Heey! Where y'all goin',  
**PARTY PEOPLE?**



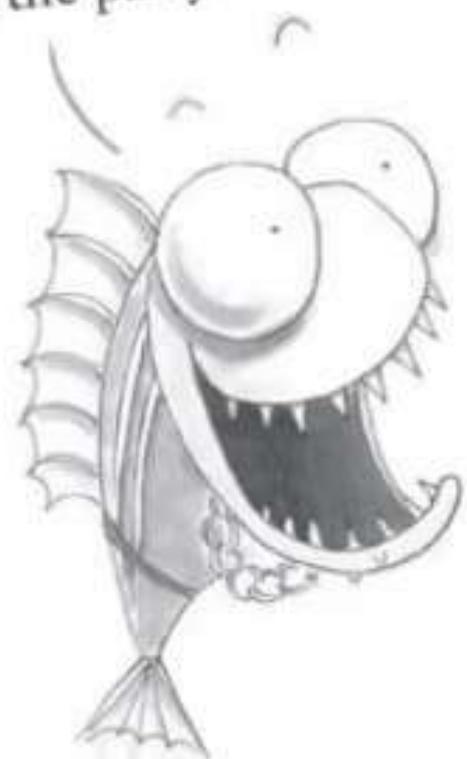
Oh, nowhere really.  
Just seeing if Snake is . . .



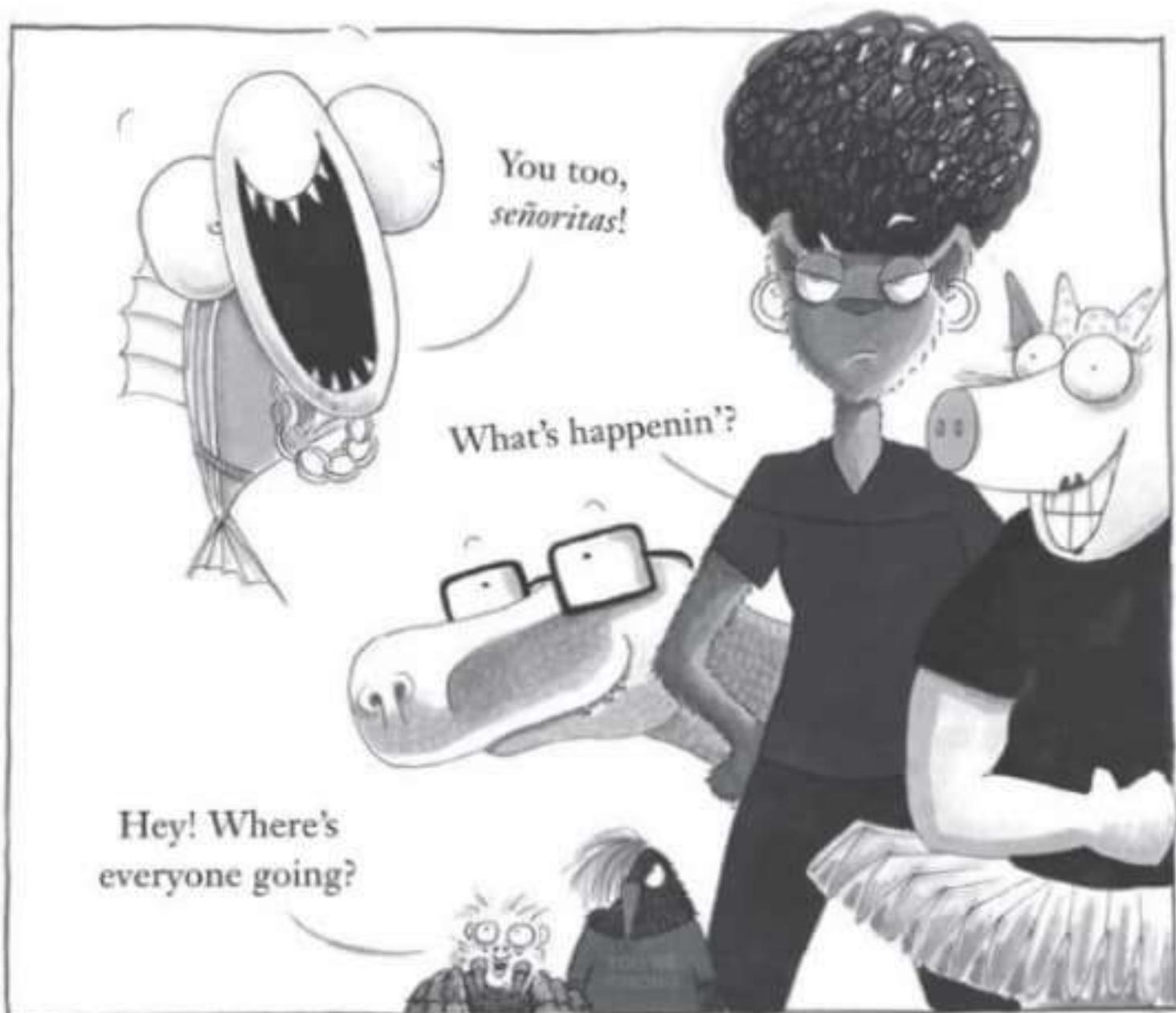
*You read my mind, chicos!*

**MS. FLUFFIT** here is disappointed  
Snake hasn't been **BOOGIE-ING DOWN**  
with the rest of us today, so we're going  
to **MAKE** him join the party!

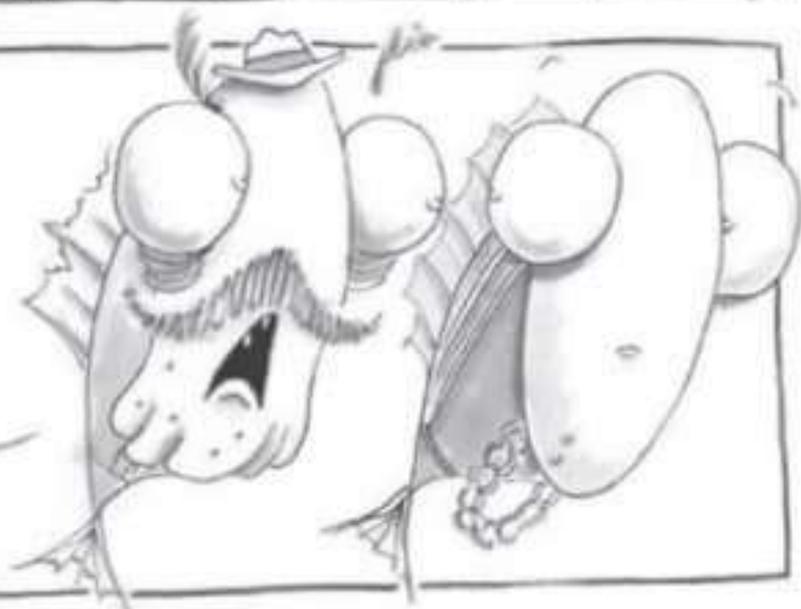
Like, YAY!

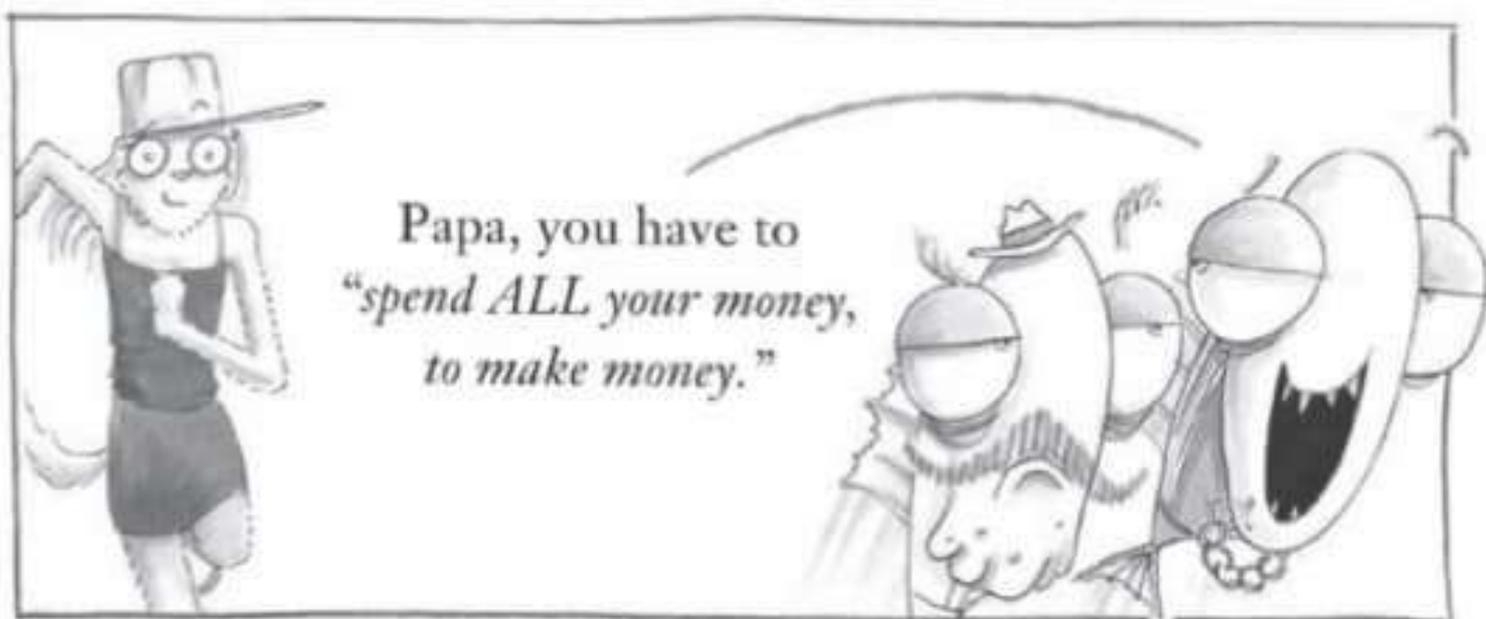


I'm not sure  
that's a good idea.

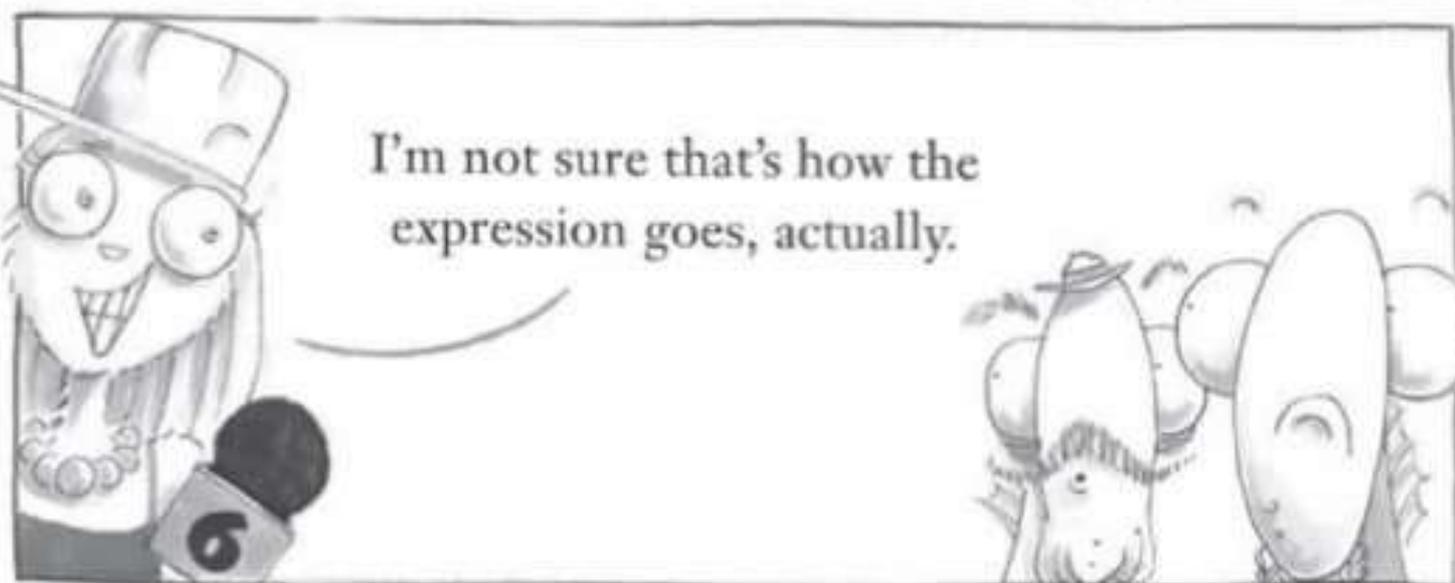


Do you know what these parties are **COSTING,** Pepe?

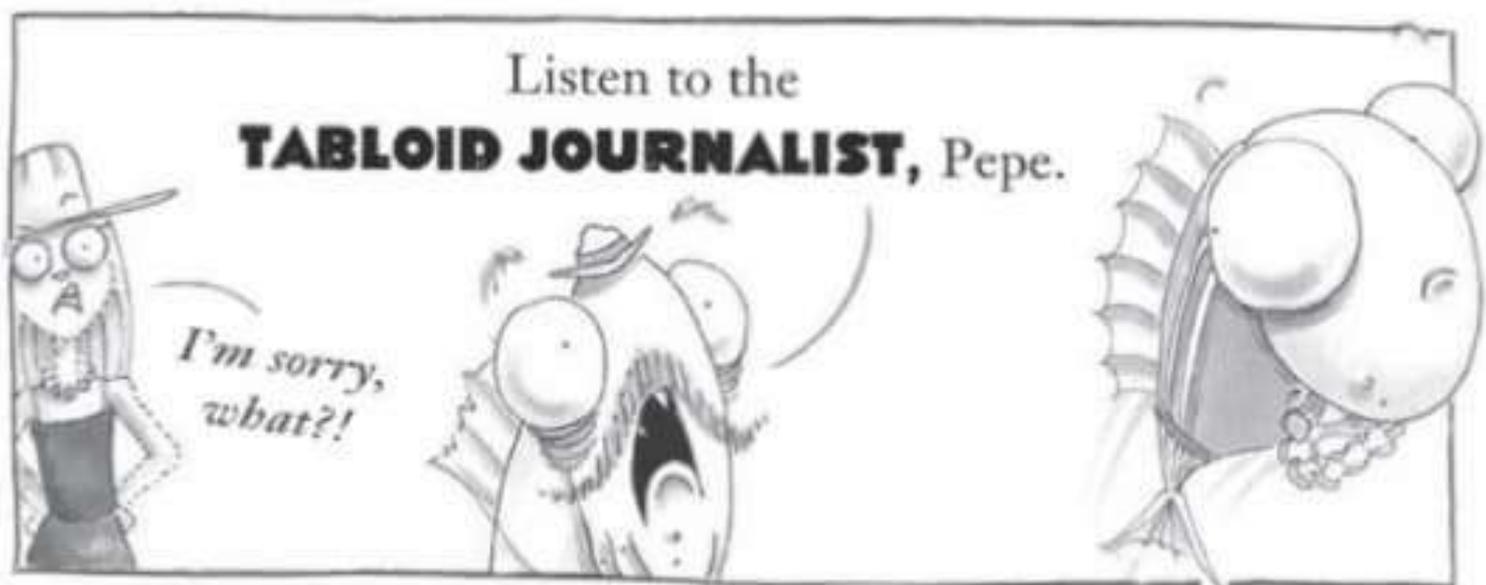




Papa, you have to  
*"spend ALL your money,  
to make money."*



I'm not sure that's how the  
expression goes, actually.



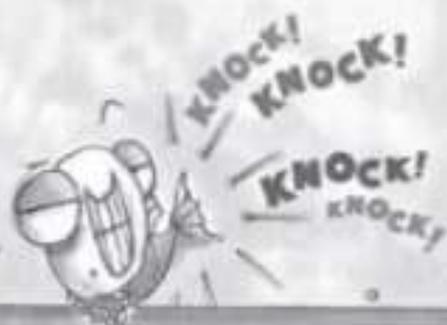
Listen to the  
**TABLOID JOURNALIST**, Pepe.

*I'm sorry,  
what?!*

**NO**, Papa! I won't listen  
to anything but my *heart*.

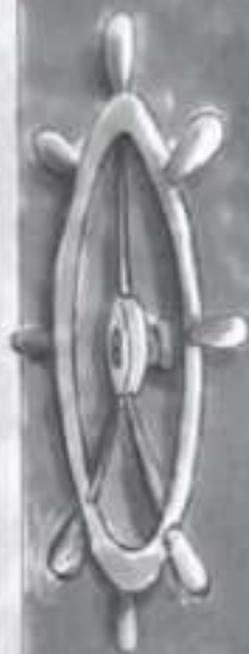
And my heart says—

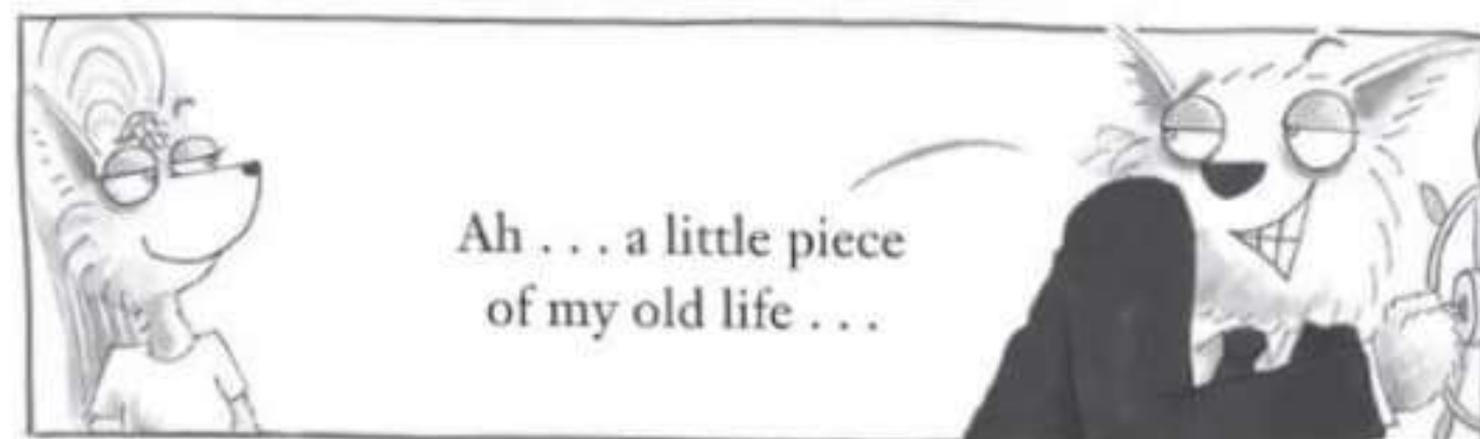
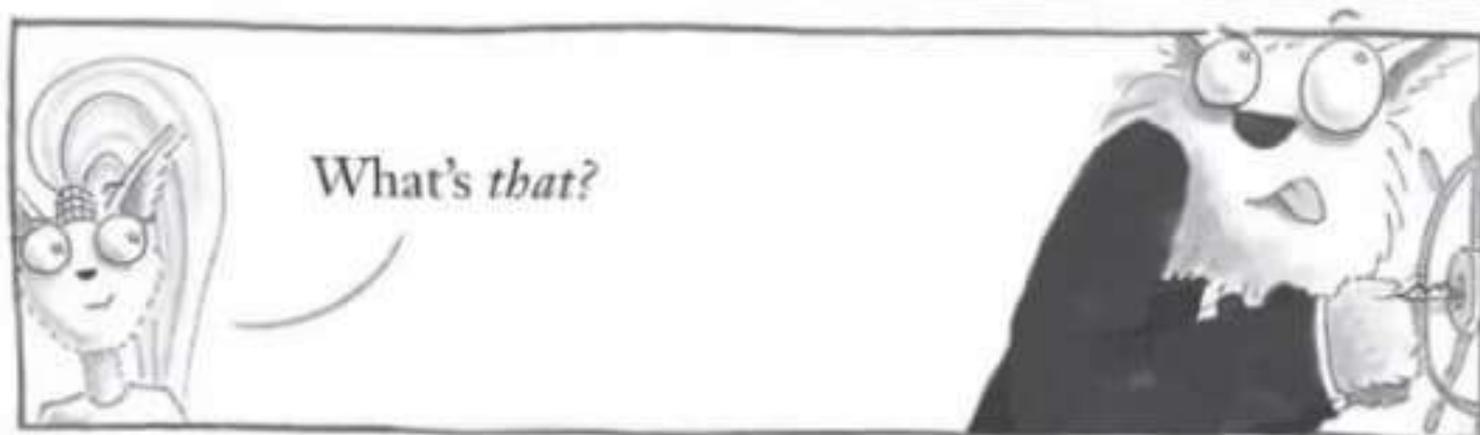
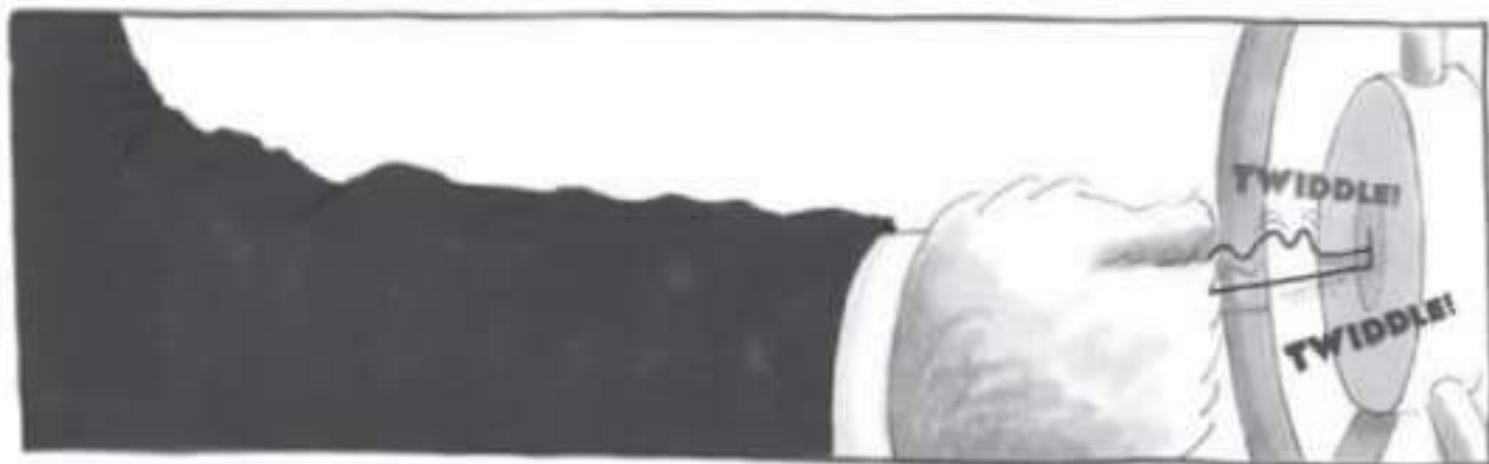
**PARTY!**

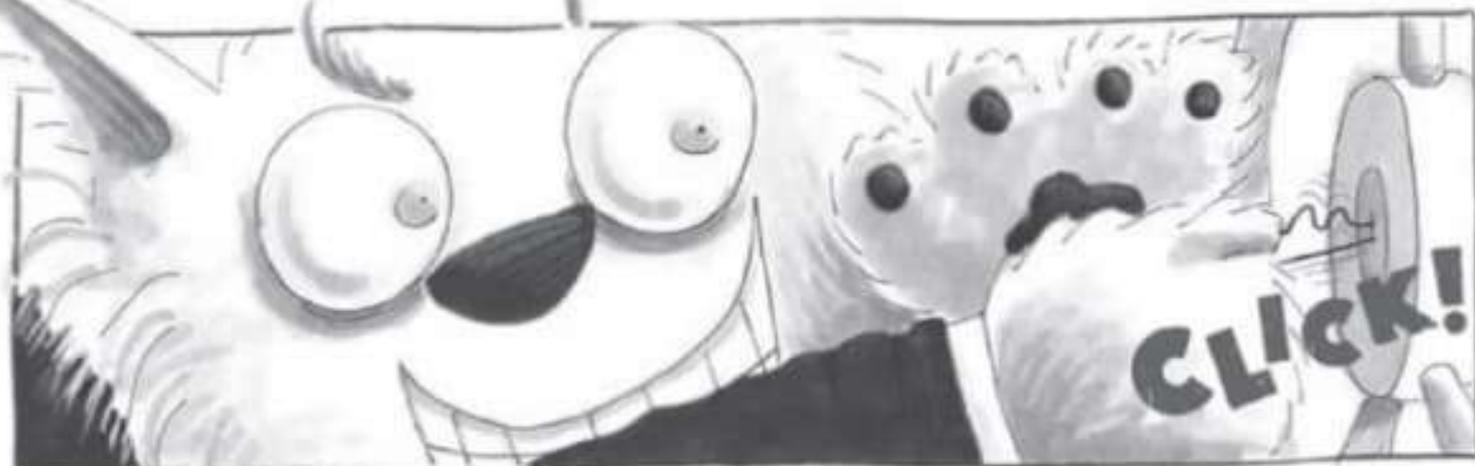


Piranha, hang back, will you, man?

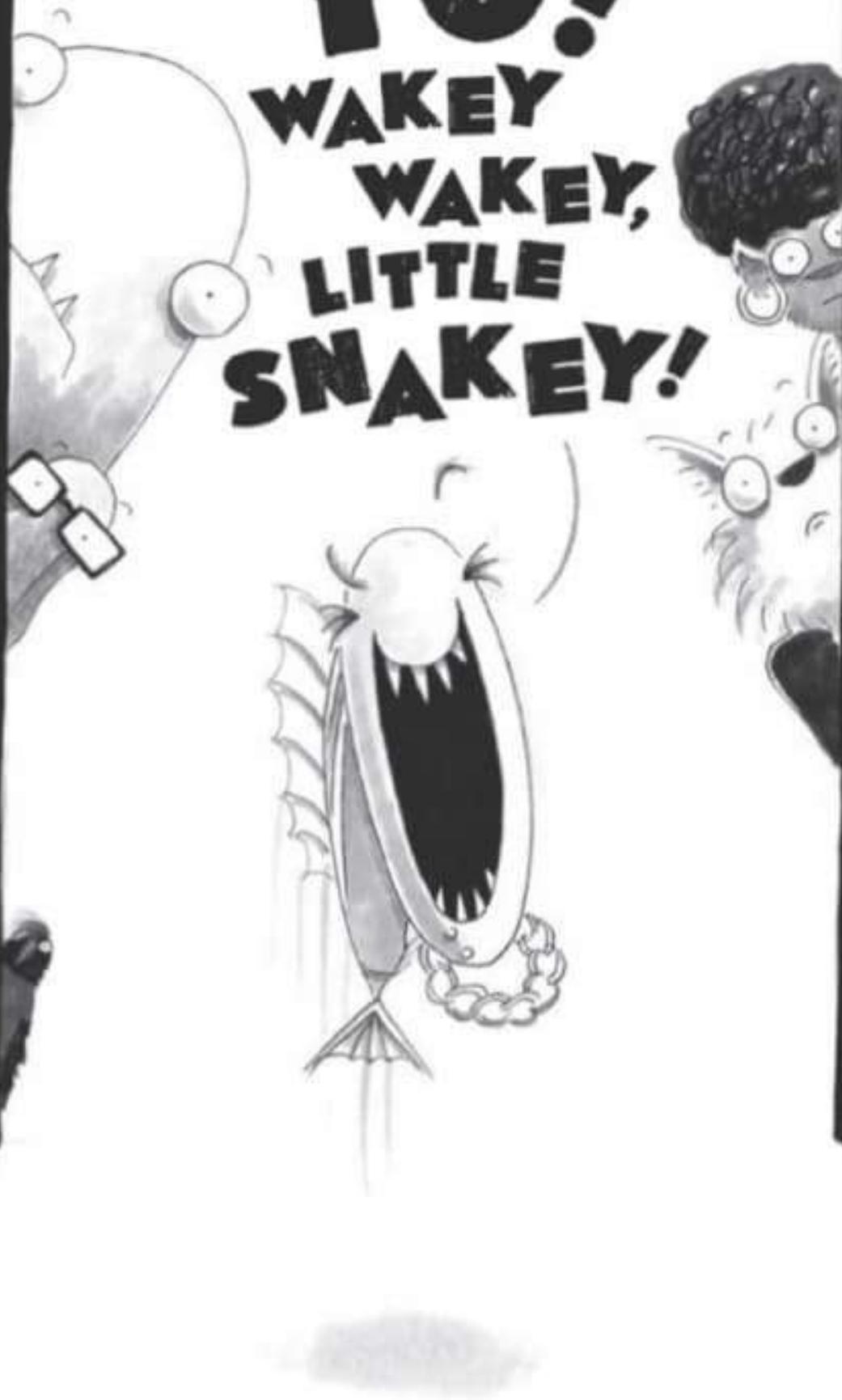
**SNAKE!** *WE'RE COMING  
IN, BUDDY!*

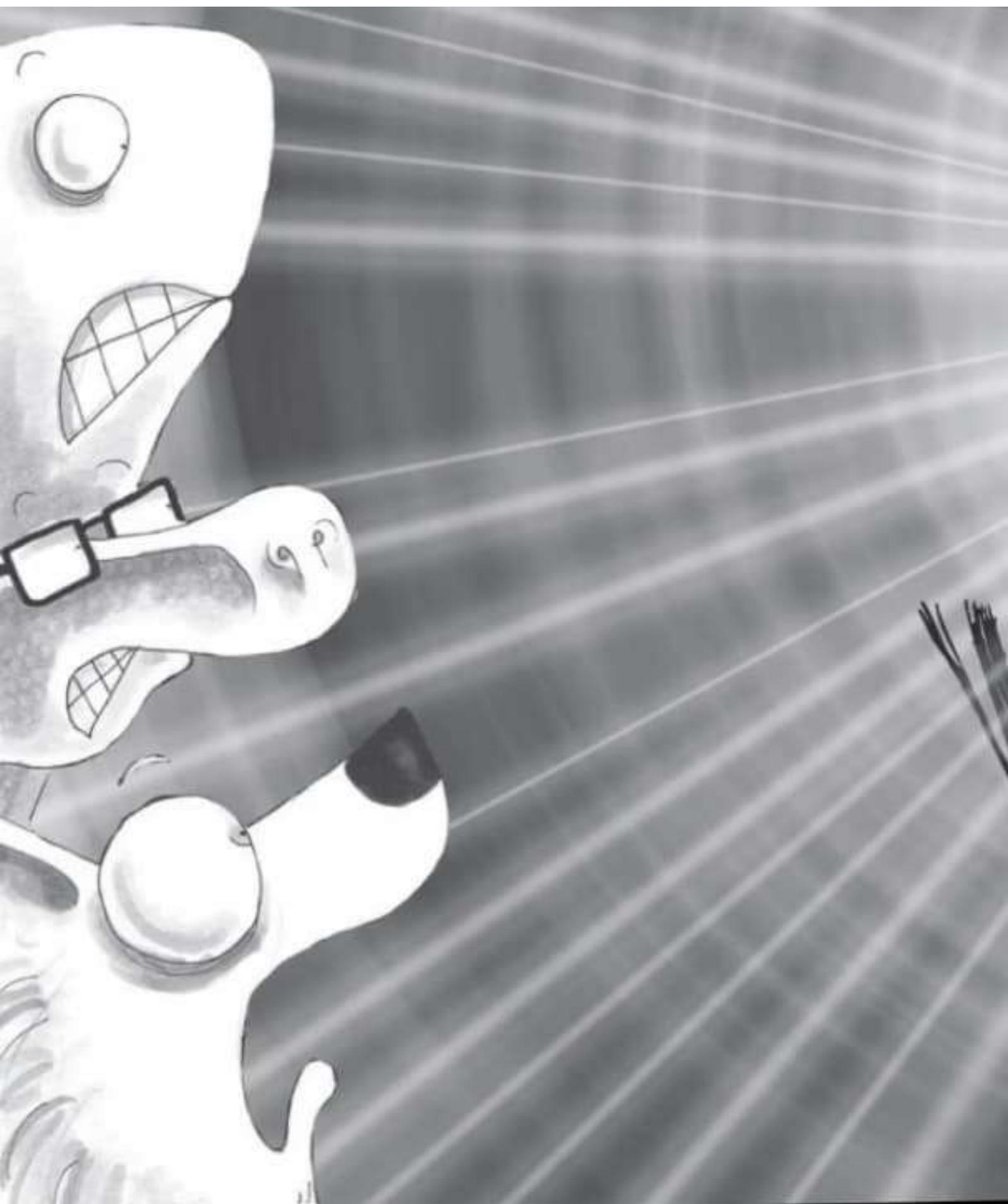






**YO!**  
**WAKEY**  
**WAKEY,**  
**LITTLE**  
**SNAKEY!**

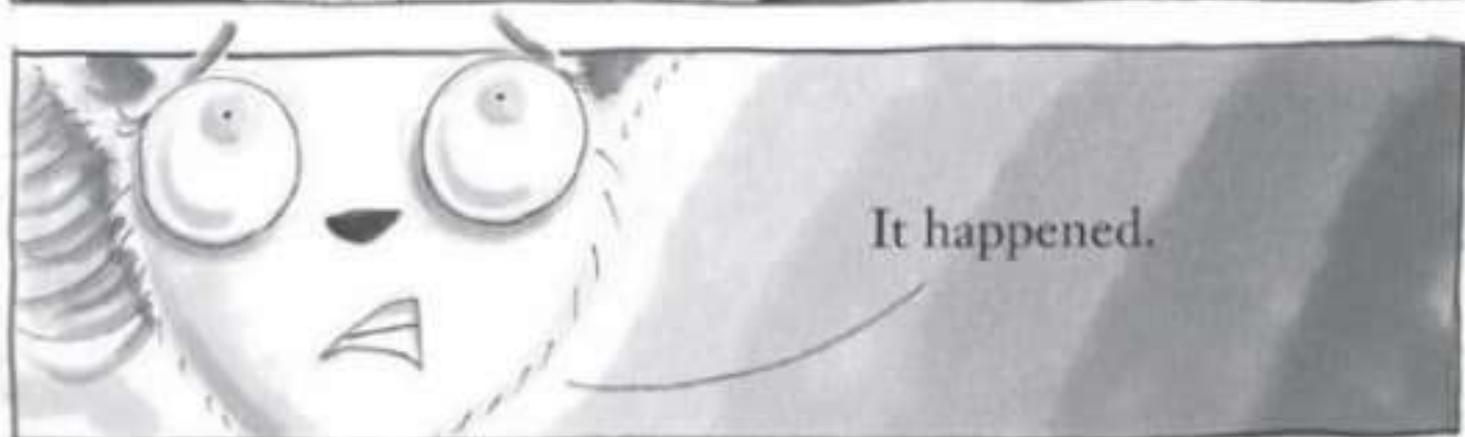






WELCOME!





• CHAPTER 6 •

# BAD INFLUENCE





Sure is, buddy.

It's time to play

**OUTSIDE**

for a bit.

That's enough alone time,

I think . . .





IT'S TIME TO REACH  
**YOUR FULL  
POTENTIAL!**

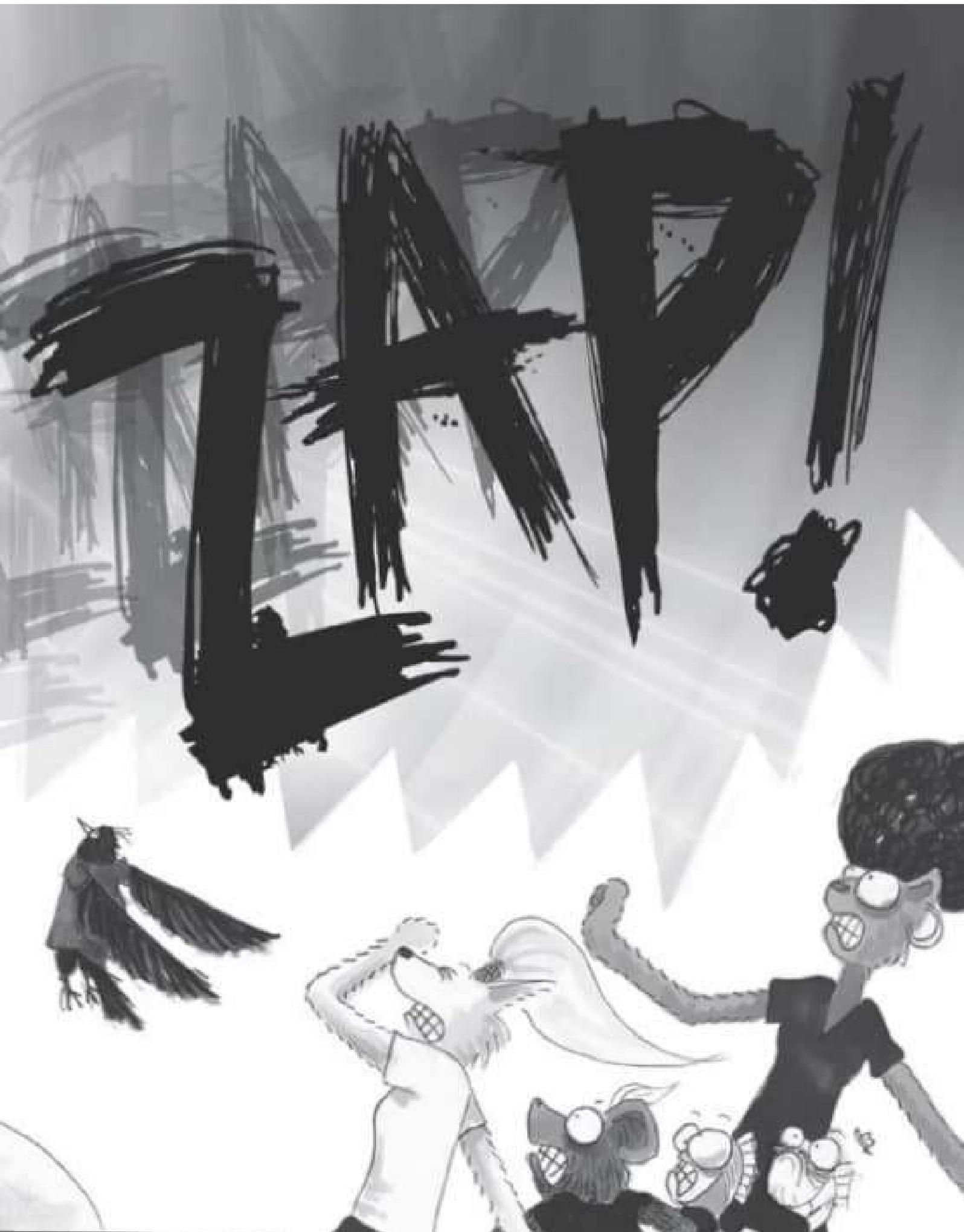


I hope you're talking  
about meditation.



Oh no.  
I've got something  
**WAY**  
better...





GAH!







Buddy! No!  
I feel . . .



SNARL!

**HOGWILD,**  
keep it together,  
will you?



HOGWILD?!

HAHA!



Oh no . . .  
I suddenly feel . . .



What?



BETTER THAN  
EVER!





If you're just joining us  
at home, my little story about  
Hero HQ has taken on an  
unexpected—potentially  
*award-winning*—turn . . .







I feel . . .  
*WHOA, NELLY!*  
I feel . . .



**PIRANHA!**

Fight it!  
You have to  
fight it . . .



OH, LET IT GO.  
**DIVE IN AND  
FEEL THE . . .**



**ZAP!**







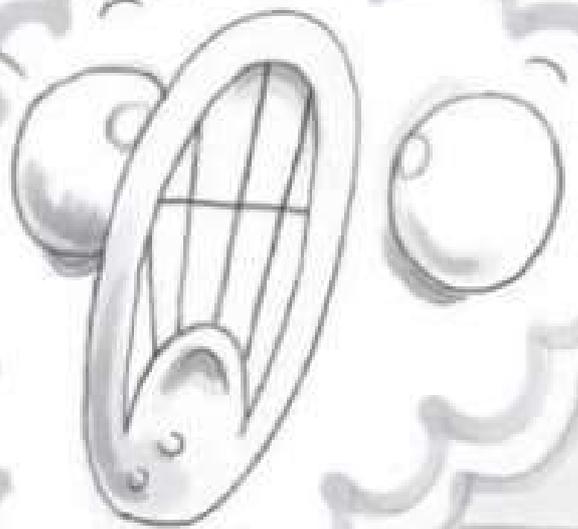


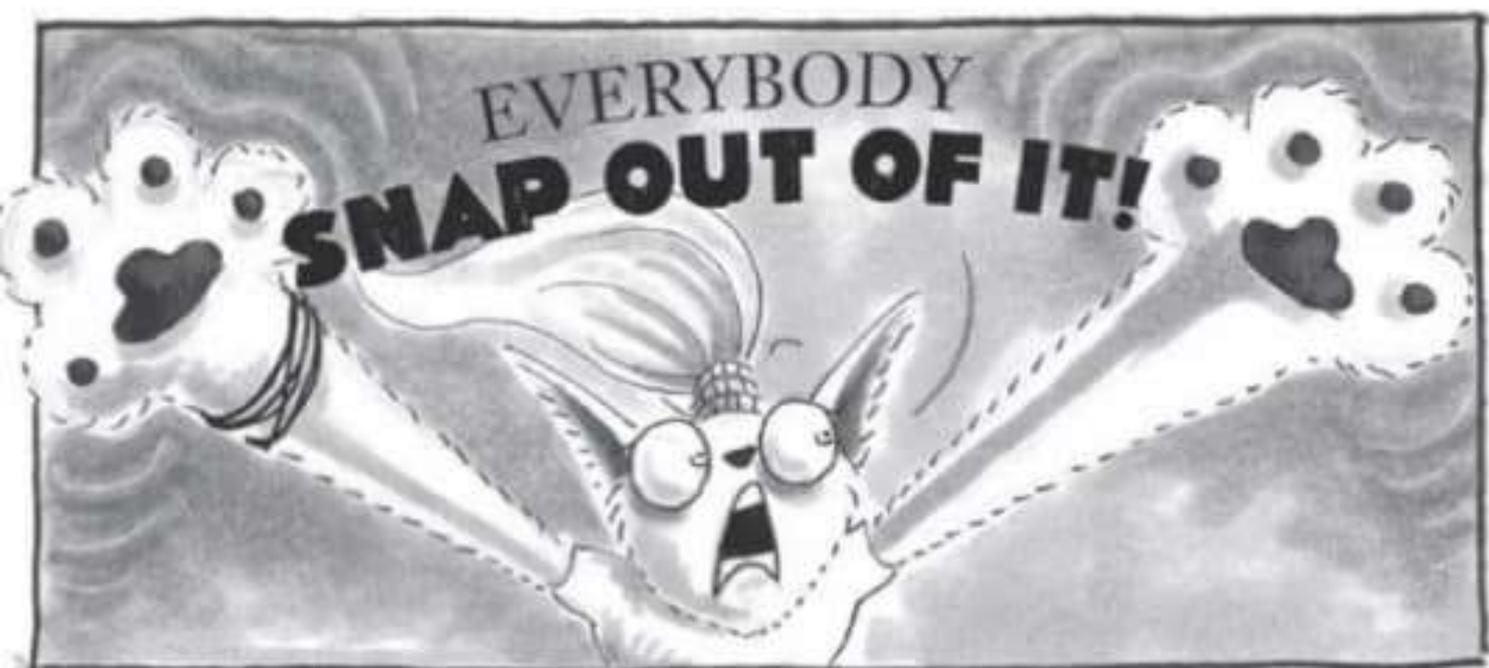
**HOW?!**  
*How is she . . . ?*



idooop!  
idooop!  
idooop!  
idooop!  
idooop!

**THE  
ONE!**





Fox?

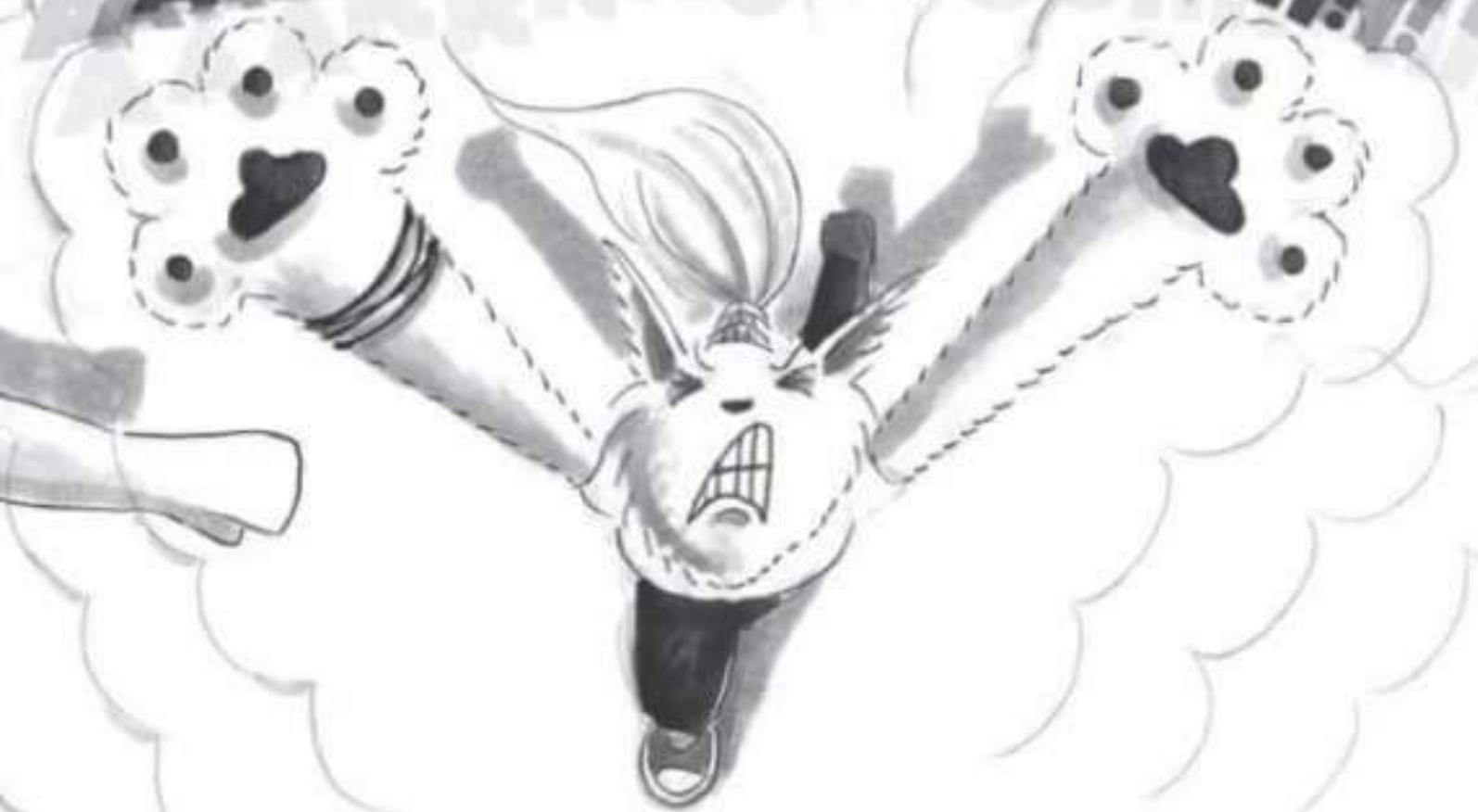
Wha . . . ?!



THE ONE!

Huh?!

AAAAA RGGGGGHHHHH!!!





**SNAKE!**

LISTEN TO ME!

YOU DON'T HAVE TO DO THIS!

**THIS DOESN'T HAVE TO BE  
YOUR PATH!**



**NO!**

**YOU LISTEN!**

**ALL OF YOU!**



YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND THE  
**HAPPINESS** THIS POWER  
WILL BRING YOU!

*IT CAN BE YOURS!*

ALL YOU NEED TO  
DO IS GIVE IN TO IT!



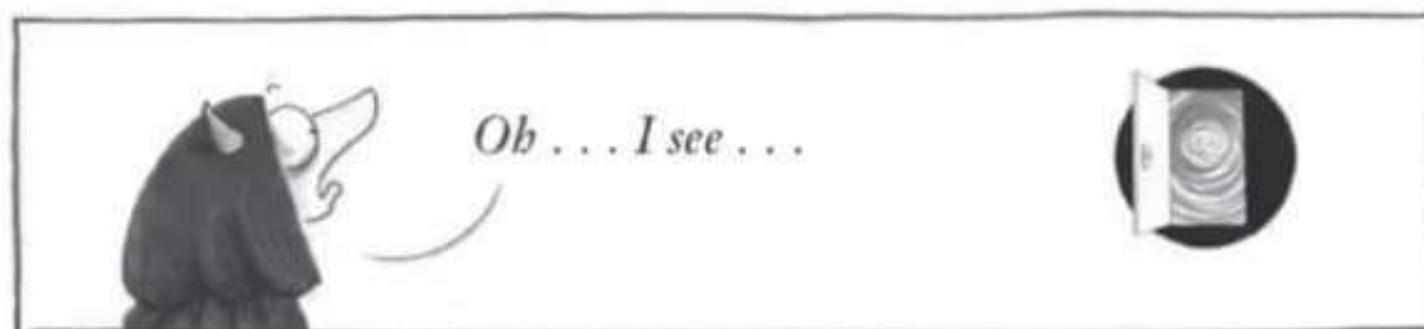
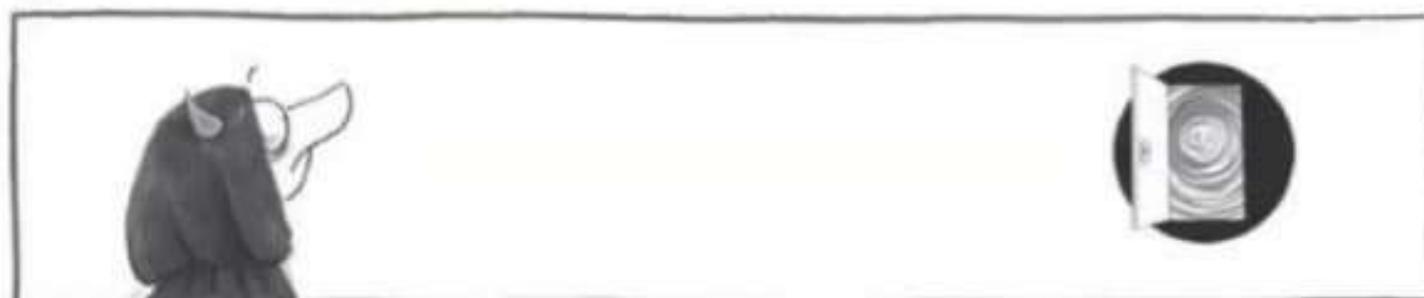
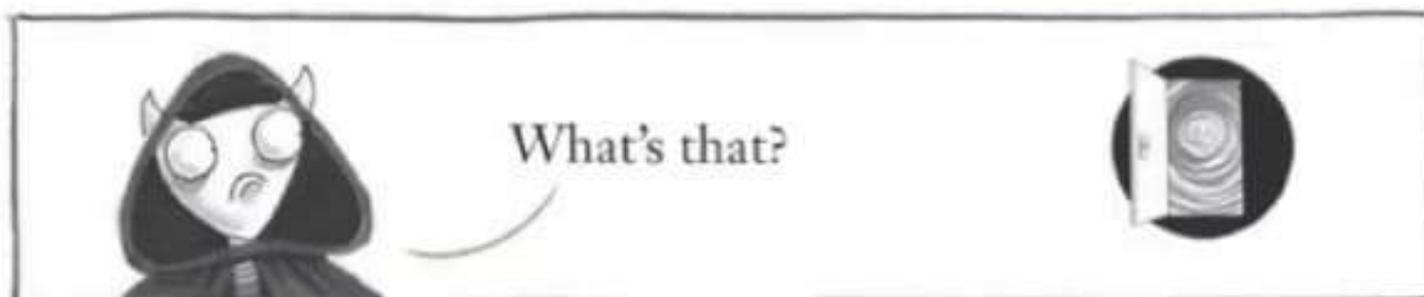
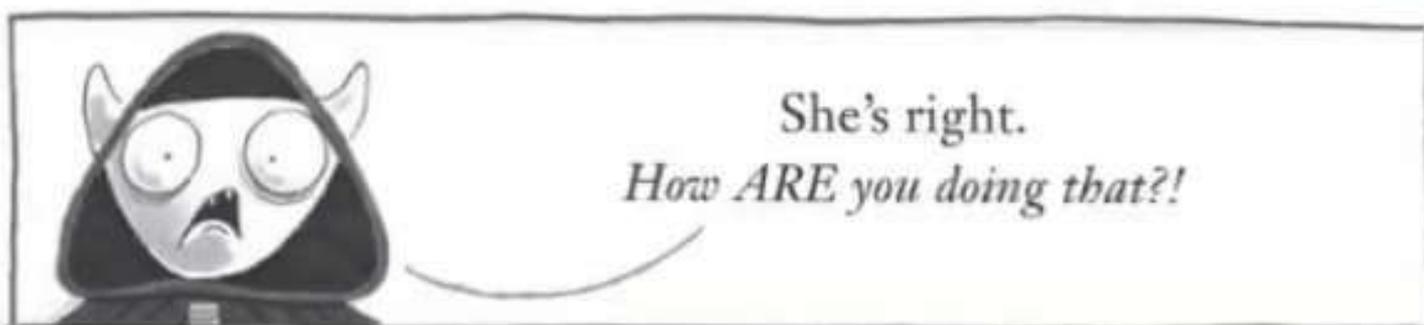
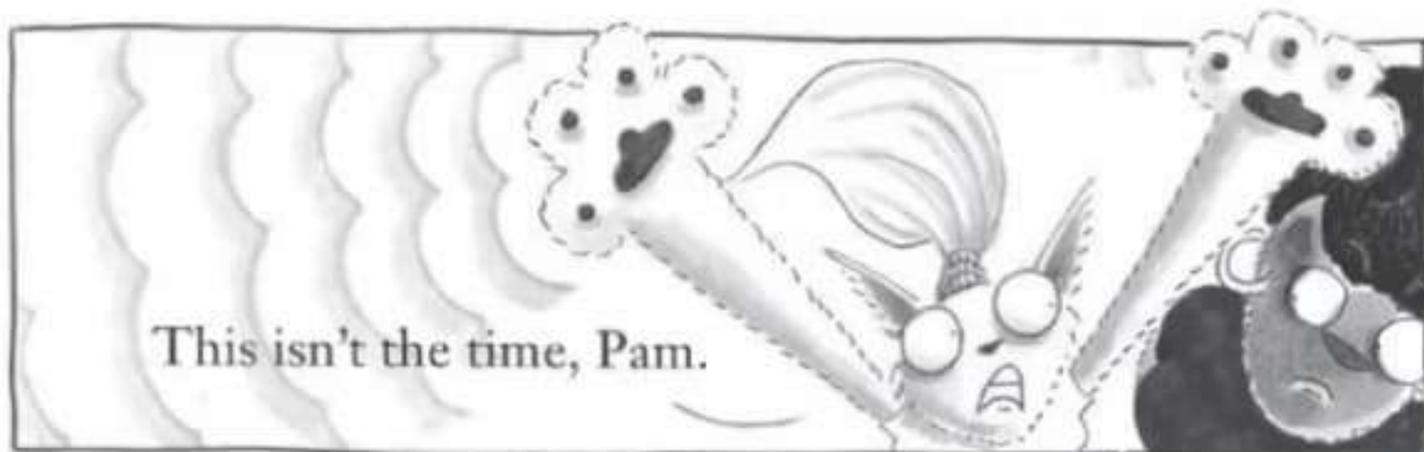
IT'S BEAUTIFUL.

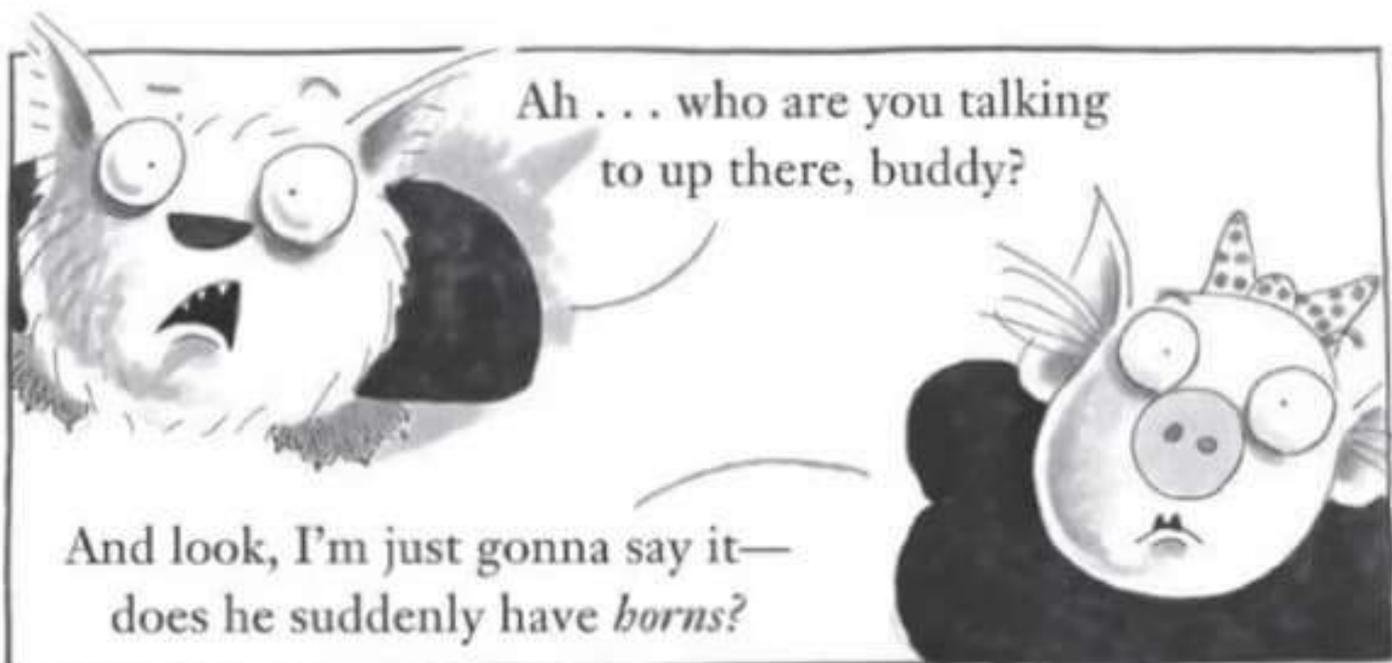




AND HOW IS THERE  
SUDDENLY A  
**FORCE FIELD**  
COMING OUT OF  
**YOU?!**









OR WILL YOU  
EMBRACE YOUR  
DESTINY...

AND  
JOIN ME?



YOU HAVE  
**ONE HOUR**  
TO DECIDE!



What's that?

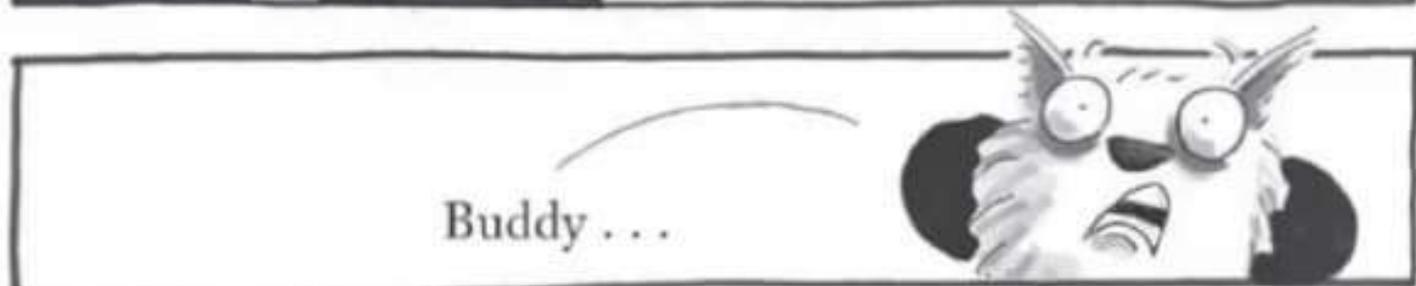
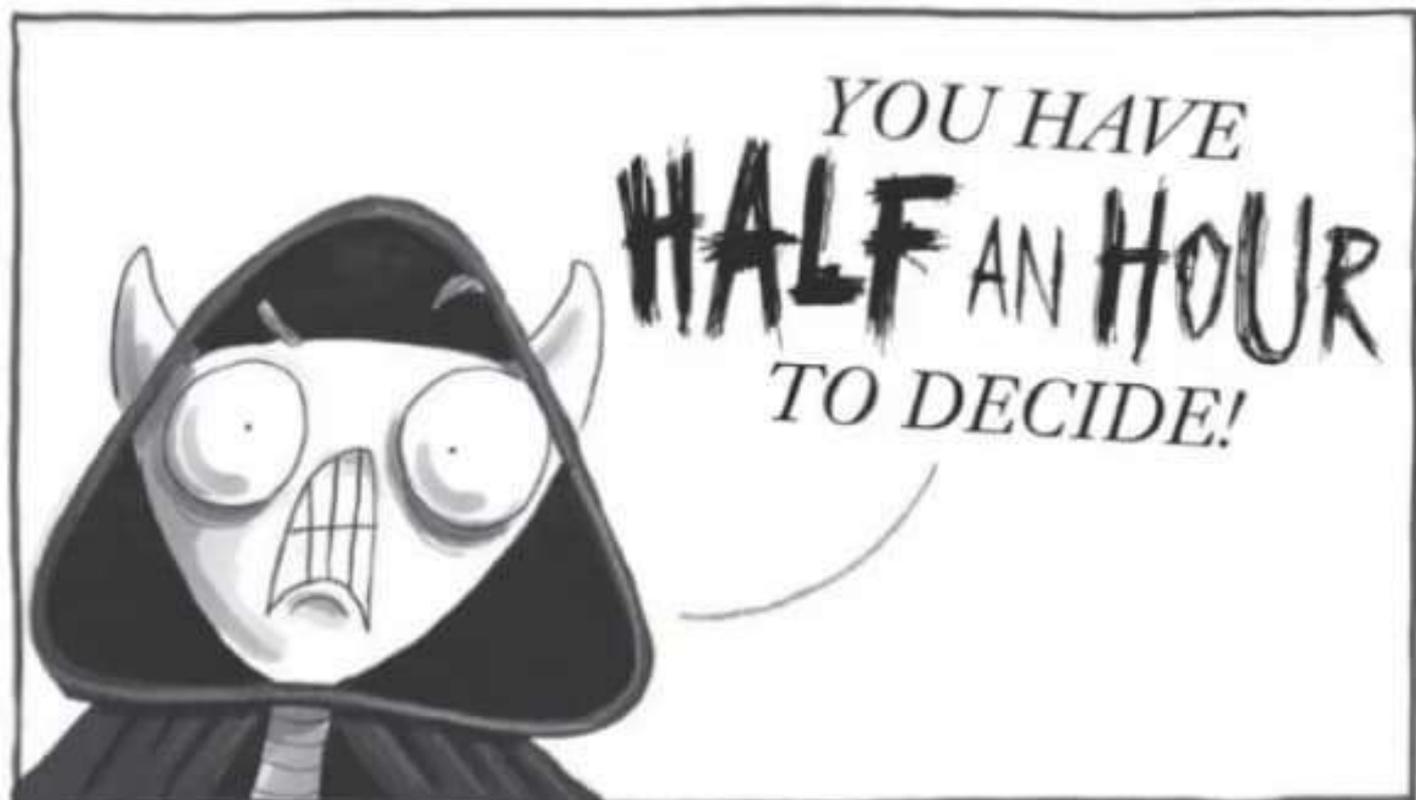


Really?



OK, fair enough.





KA-BLAM!



WHOOSH!

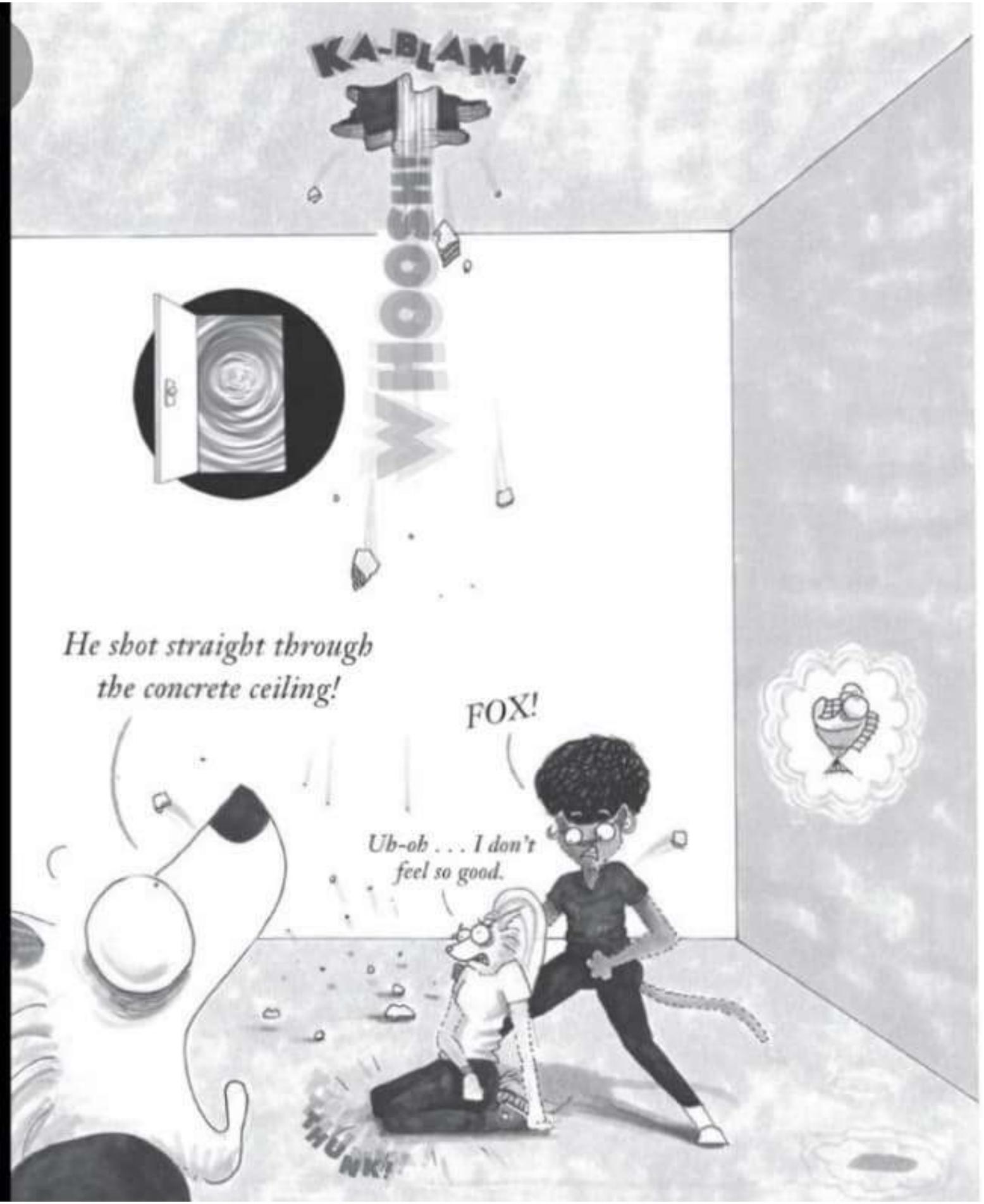
*He shot straight through  
the concrete ceiling!*

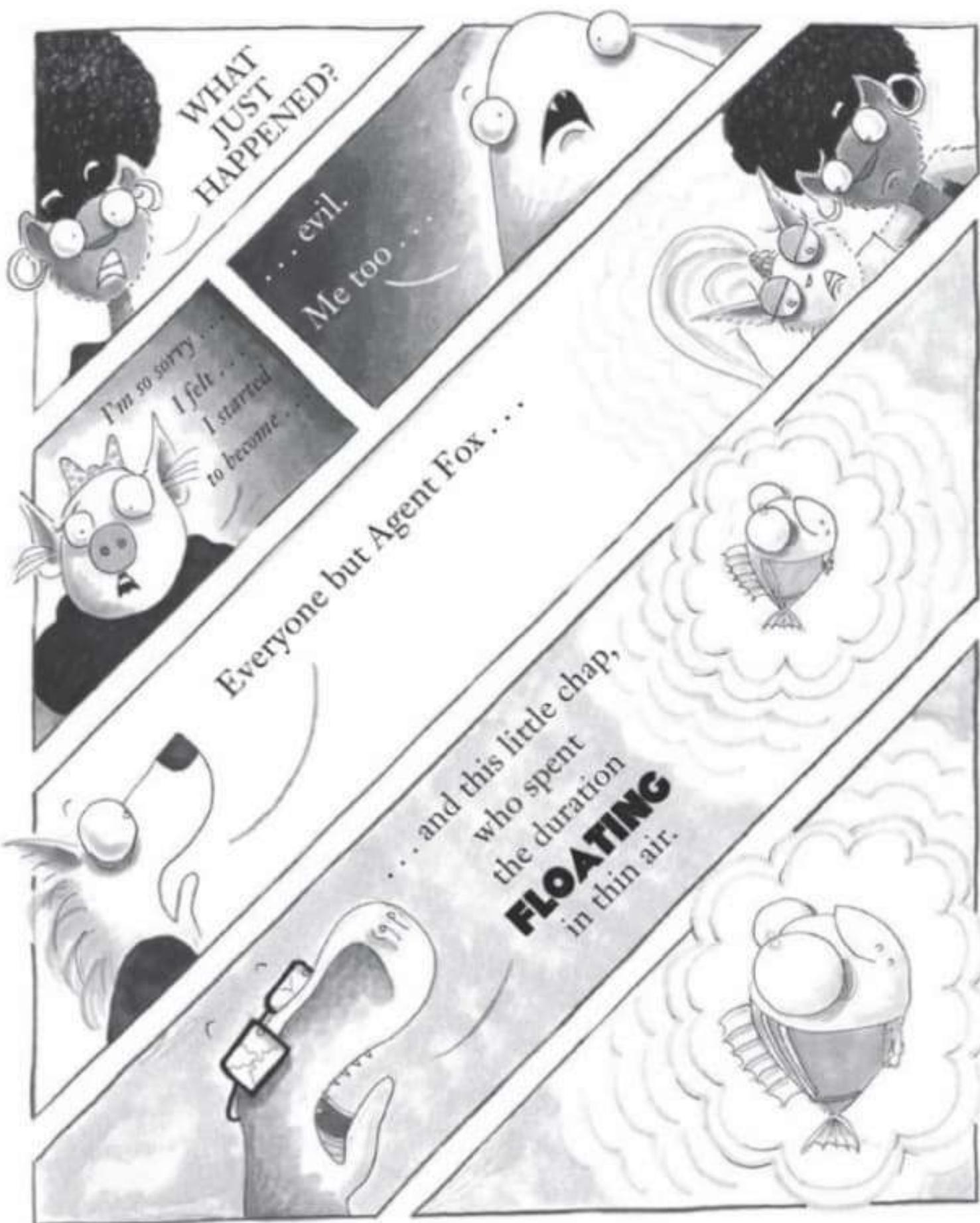
FOX!

*Ub-oh . . . I don't  
feel so good.*



THUNK!





WHAT JUST HAPPENED?

...evil.  
Me too...

I'm so sorry...  
I felt...  
I started  
to become...

Everyone but Agent Fox...

...and this little chap,  
who spent  
the duration  
**FLOATING**  
in thin air.

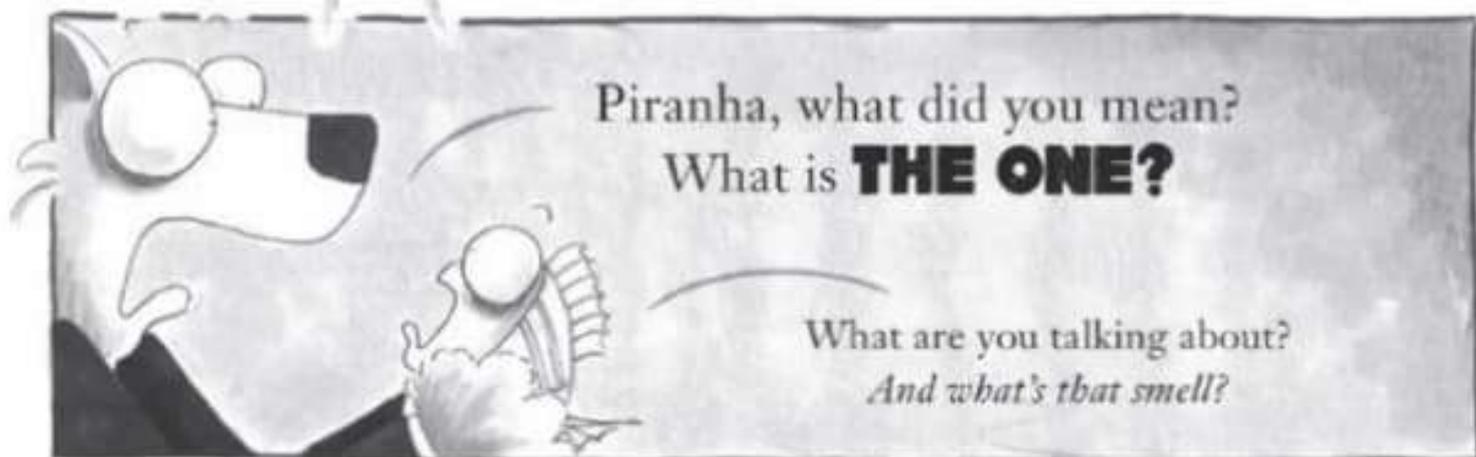
Hey there, little buddy.  
Whatcha doin' up there?



**WE  
MUST  
PROTECT  
THE OONIE!**

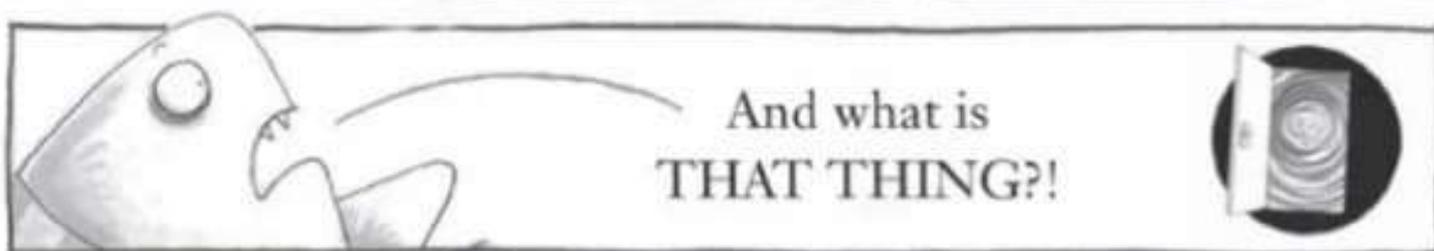


**FAAAAAAAAAAART!**



Piranha, what did you mean?  
What is **THE ONE?**

What are you talking about?  
*And what's that smell?*



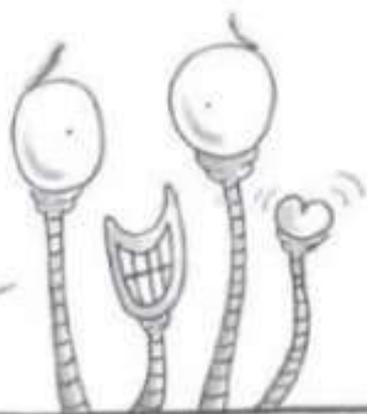
And what is  
**THAT THING?!**



OK, someone better  
start explaining this  
**RIGHT NOW...**

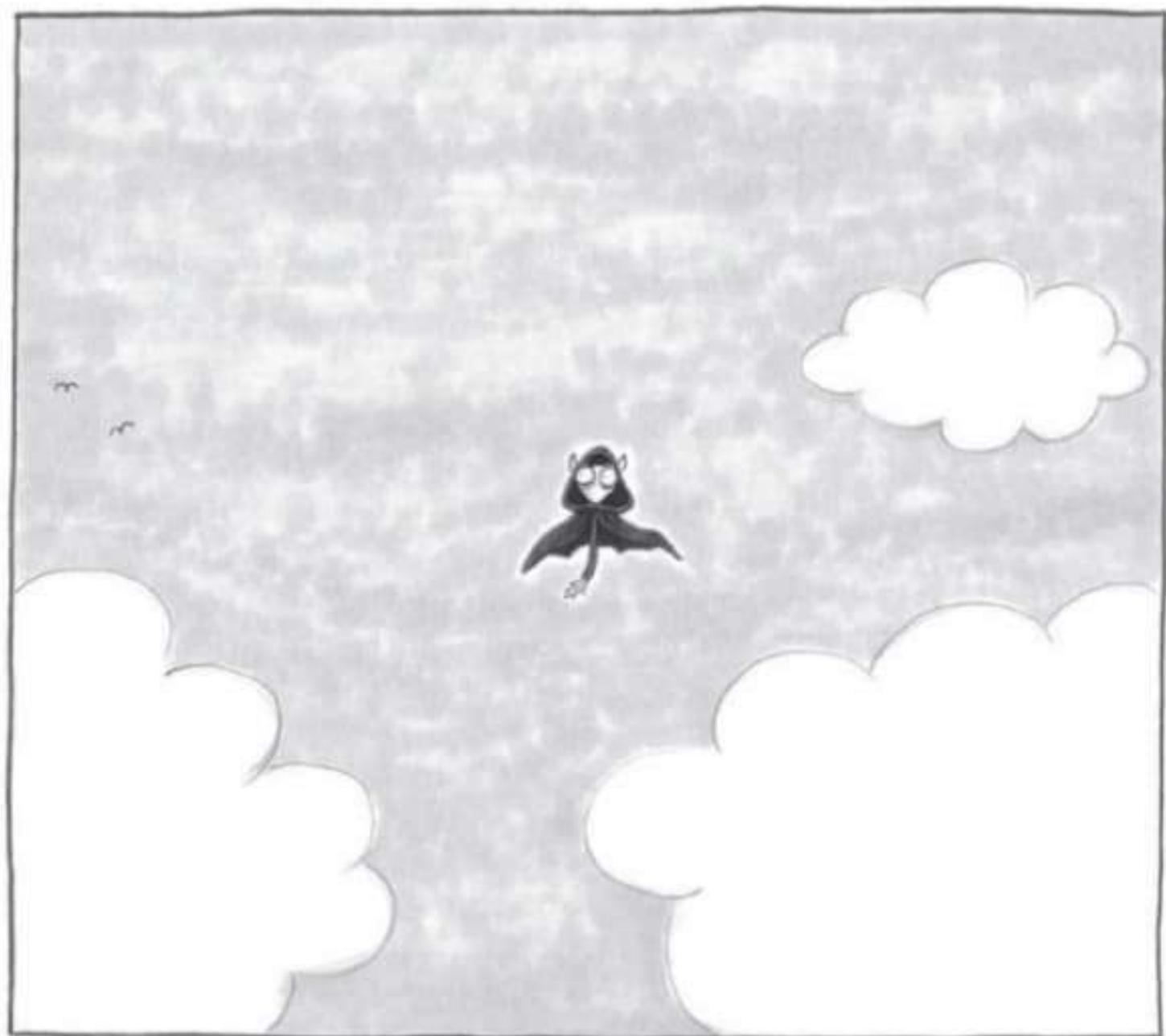
UM... HEY, GUYS?

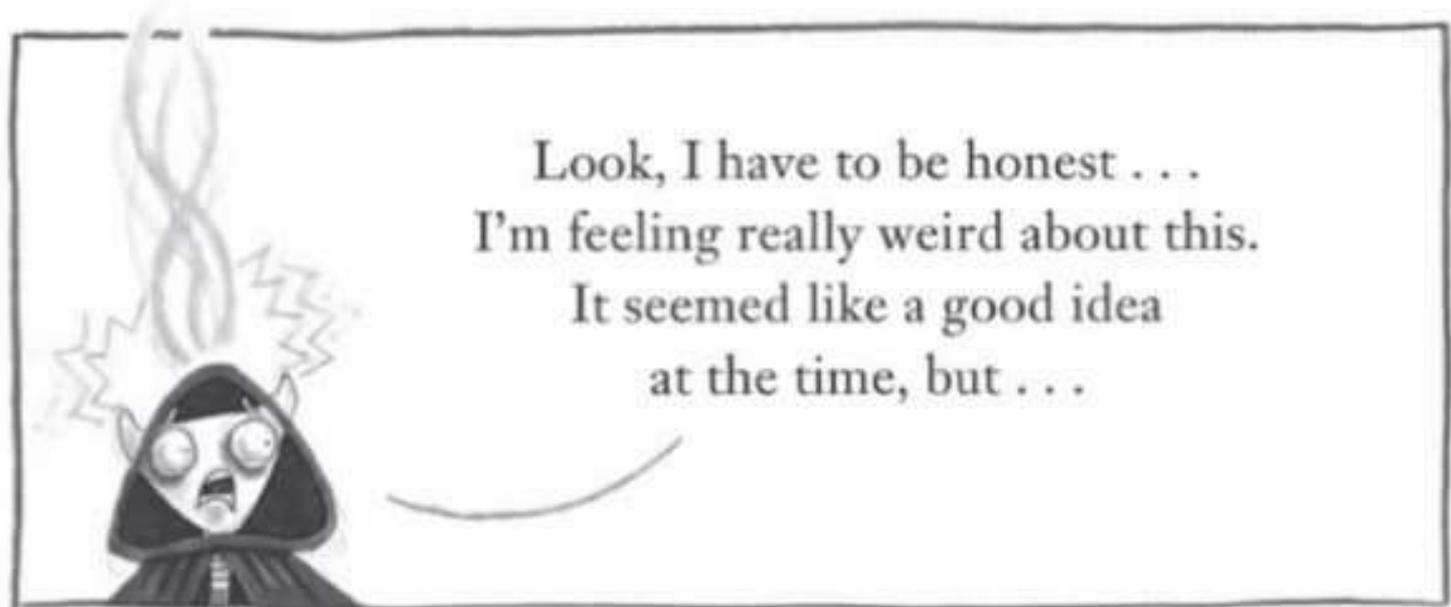
HEY, IT'S NATHAN.  
REMEMBER ME?



• CHAPTER 7 •

# UNDERLORD





REVENGE!

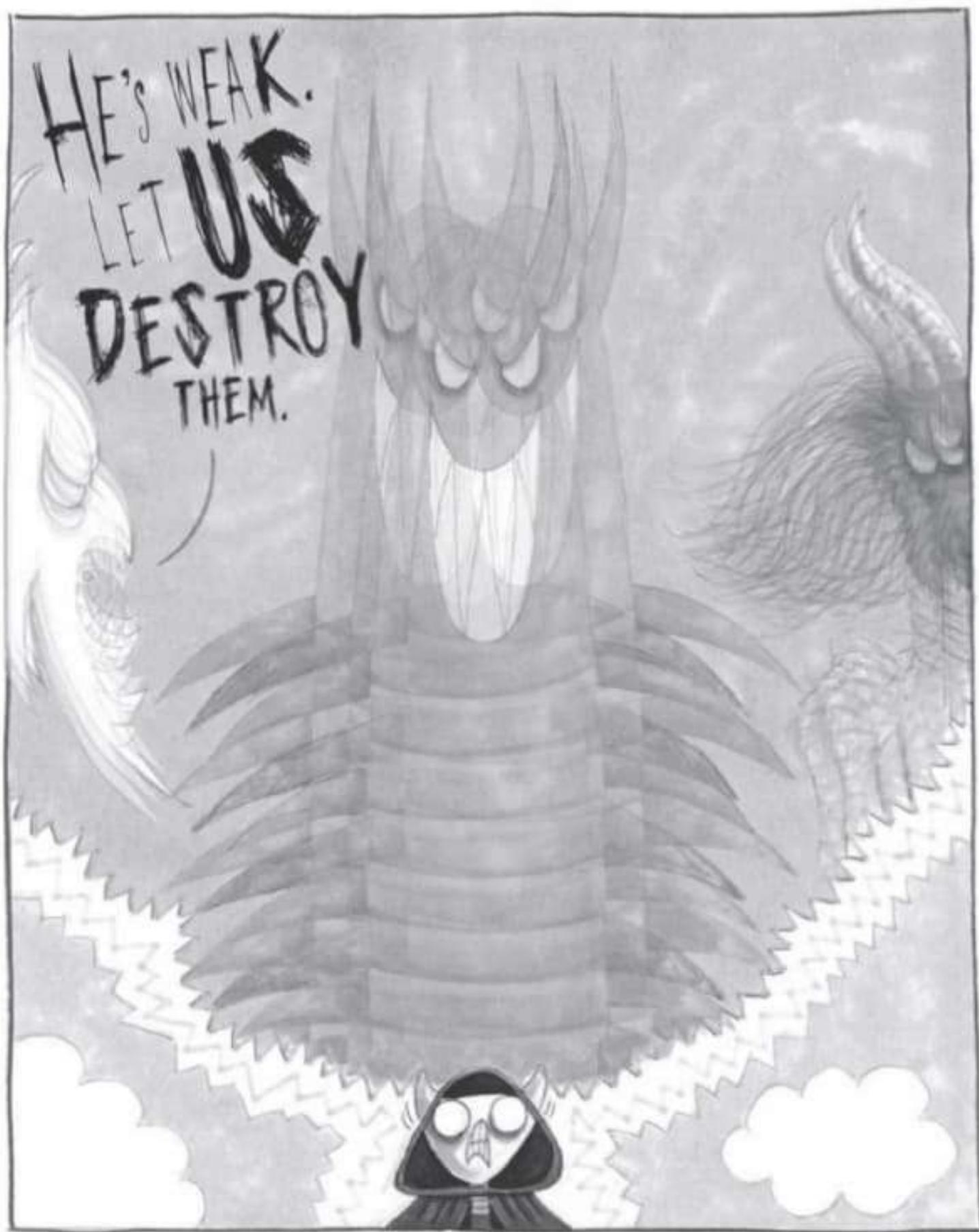


REMEMBER THE  
POWER...

AHHHHH,



THAT'S IT.





IT WILL BE MUCH MORE SATISFYING  
TO WATCH HIM TURN THEM ONE BY ONE.



ARE YOU READY,  
DARK LORD,  
OF  
SERPENTS?

Ooooh . . . I DO like  
the sound of *that*.





It hasn't been quite  
half an hour . . .



THAT'S REALLY  
**NOT IMPORTANT.**



**CRACK!**

**BOOM!**

• CHAPTER 8 •

# YIKES



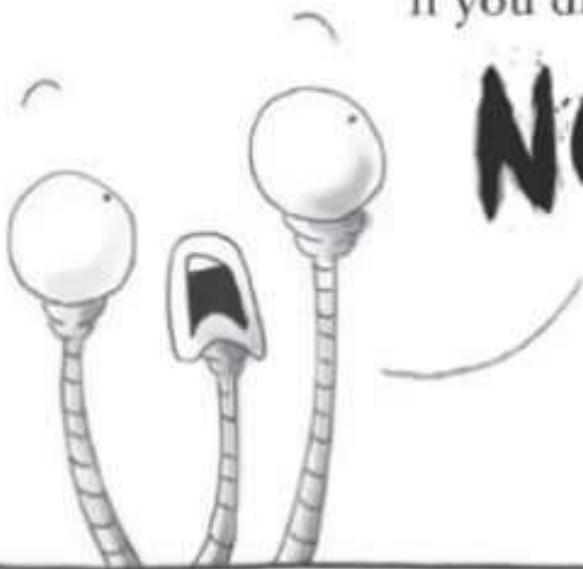
So . . . I sure hope  
nobody used any of those  
**WEIRD POWERS**



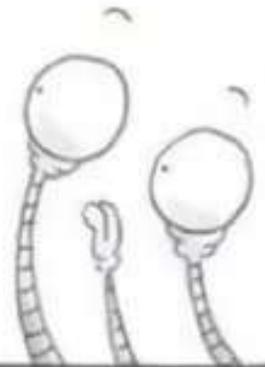
we kind of left you with. Because

if you did . . . that's probably . . .

**NOT GREAT.**



What do you mean, "not great"?







**CRACK!!**

**RUMBLE!!**

**RUMBLE!!**

**CRACK!**

**CRACK!**

**CRACK!**

**CRACK!**

Not anymore . . .



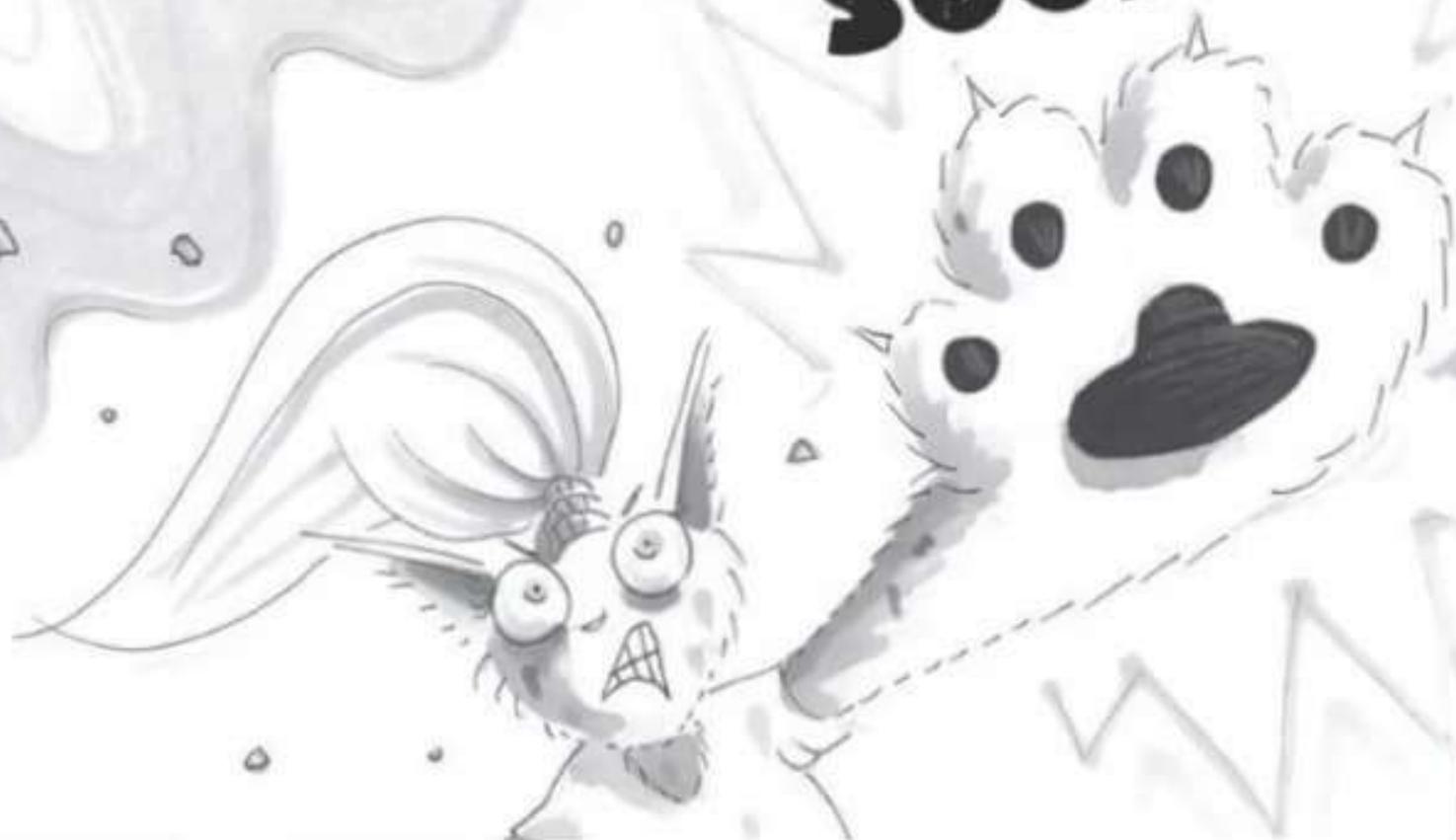
**TO BE CONTINUED . . .**

The **MULTIVERSE?**  
The **DARK LORD OF SERPENTS?**  
The **ONE?**

SAY WHAAAAAAAAAT?!

the **BAD GUYS** in The One?!

**COMING  
SOON ...**



# ABOUT THE AUTHOR

**AARON BLABEY** used to be a really terrible actor. Then he wrote annoying TV commercials. Then he taught art to people who could draw much better than him. But THEN, he decided to write books, and guess what? His books won lots of different awards, many of them became bestsellers, and he fell to his knees and cried, “Being an author is awesome! I think I’ll do *this* for a job!” Aaron lives on an Australian mountain range with his wife, his three kids, and a swimming pool full of great white sharks. Okay, that’s not true. He only has two kids.