



Digital Commons@

Loyola Marymount University
LMU Loyola Law School

LMU/LLS Theses and Dissertations

2022

Witchcraft Anonymous

Molly Vogel

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.lmu.edu/etd>



Part of the [Screenwriting Commons](#)

This Thesis is brought to you for free and open access by Digital Commons @ Loyola Marymount University and Loyola Law School. It has been accepted for inclusion in LMU/LLS Theses and Dissertations by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons@Loyola Marymount University and Loyola Law School. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@lmu.edu.

Witchcraft Anonymous

by

Molly Vogel

A thesis presented to the

Faculty of the Department of
School of Film and Television
Loyola Marymount University

In partial fulfillment of the
Requirements for the Degree
Master of Arts in Writing and Producing for Television

May 3, 2022

FINAL THESIS
TELEVISION PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Student Name: Molly Vogel

Thesis Logline: An addict to magic in an (alternate reality) magical world wakes up with the ability to talk to the dead and must navigate sobriety while reluctantly solving cold cases for the cops.

FINAL THESIS
TELEVISION PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Student Name: Molly Vogel

Thesis Logline: An addict to magic in an (alternate reality) magical world wakes up with the ability to talk to the dead and must navigate sobriety while reluctantly solving cold cases for the cops.

Witchcraft Anonymous

Title

A teleplay written and produced and presented to the faculty of
the Writing and Producing for Television MFA Program in the
School of Film & Television at Loyola Marymount University of
Los Angeles, California

In partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree

Master of Fine Arts

Writing and Producing for Television

By

Molly Vogel

Student Name


Molly Vogel (Apr 27, 2022 16:22 PDT)

Student Signature

APPROVAL TO ADVANCE TO CANDIDACY

The following student has met all the criteria to advance to candidacy for an M.F.A. in Fine Arts with an emphasis in Writing and Producing for Television:

Molly Vogel

Student Name

Apr 27, 2022

Date



SCWR 680 Instructor Signature

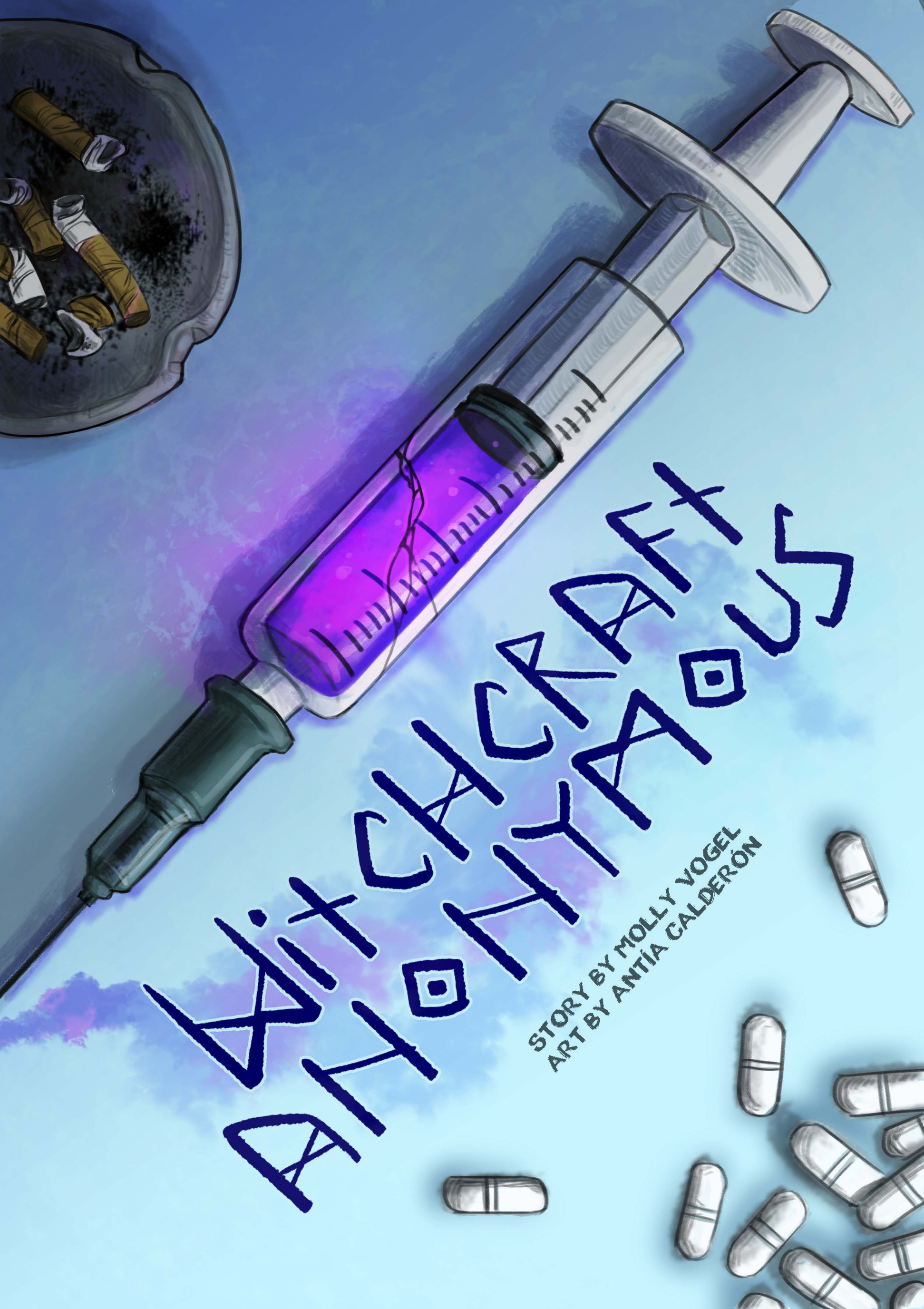
John Strauss

John Strauss (May 2, 2022 18:36 PDT)

SCWR 681 Instructor Signature

Patricia K. Meyer

Graduate Director Signature



KITCHY APOUS

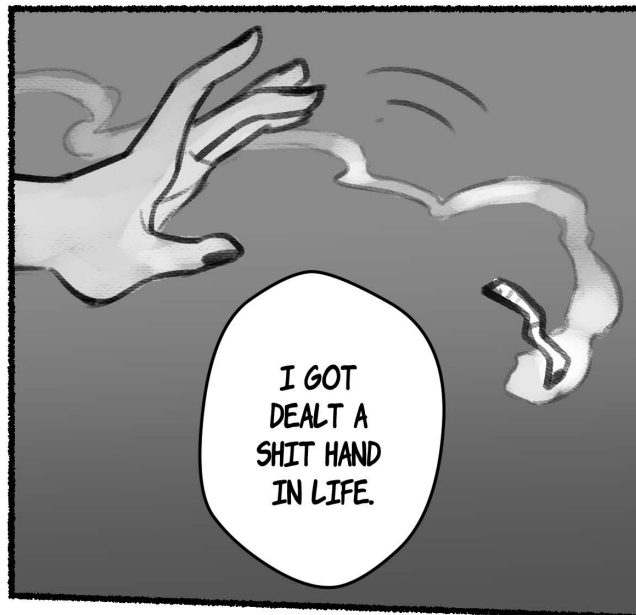
STORY BY MOLLY VOGEL
ART BY ANTÍA CALDERÓN

WITCHCRAFT ANONYMOUS

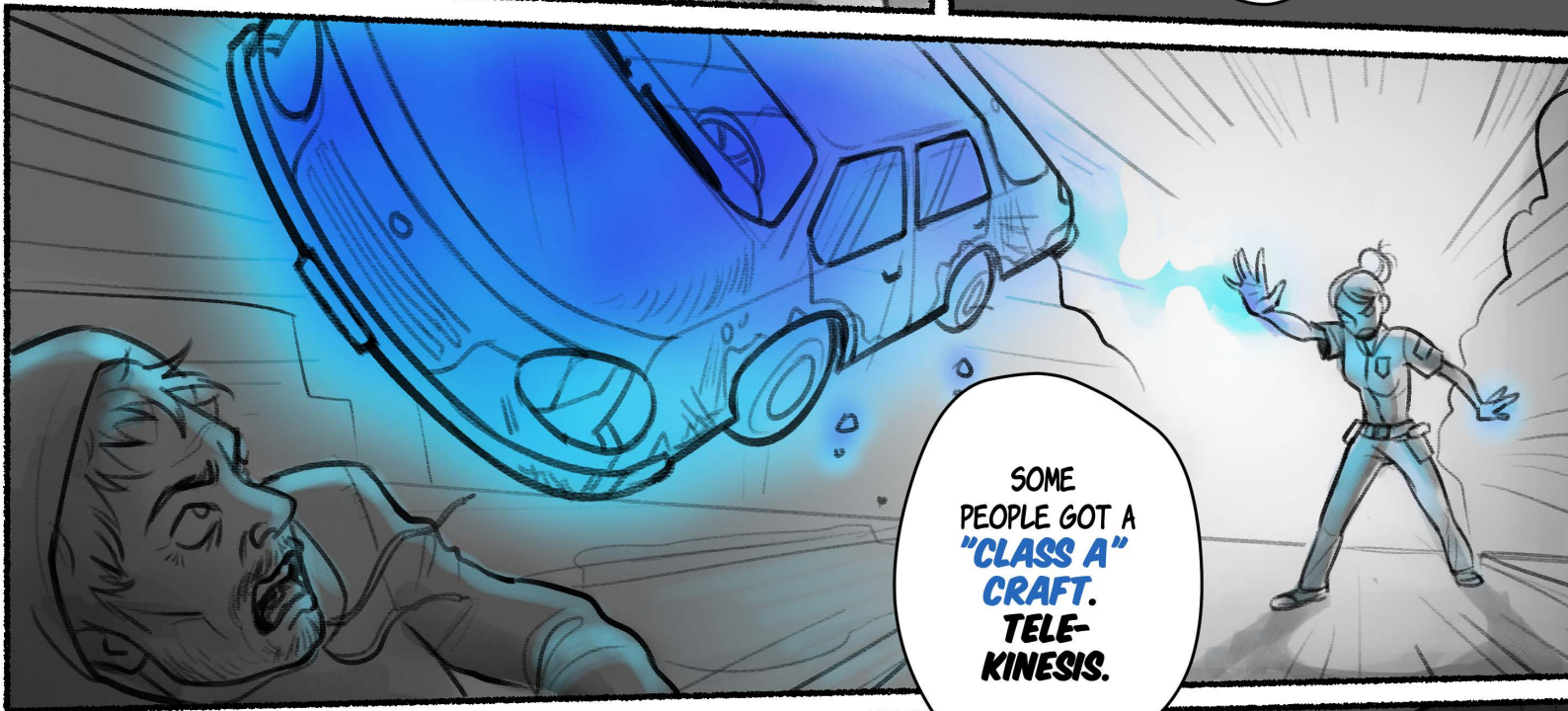
STORY BY MOLLY VOGEL
ART BY ANTÍA CALDERÓN



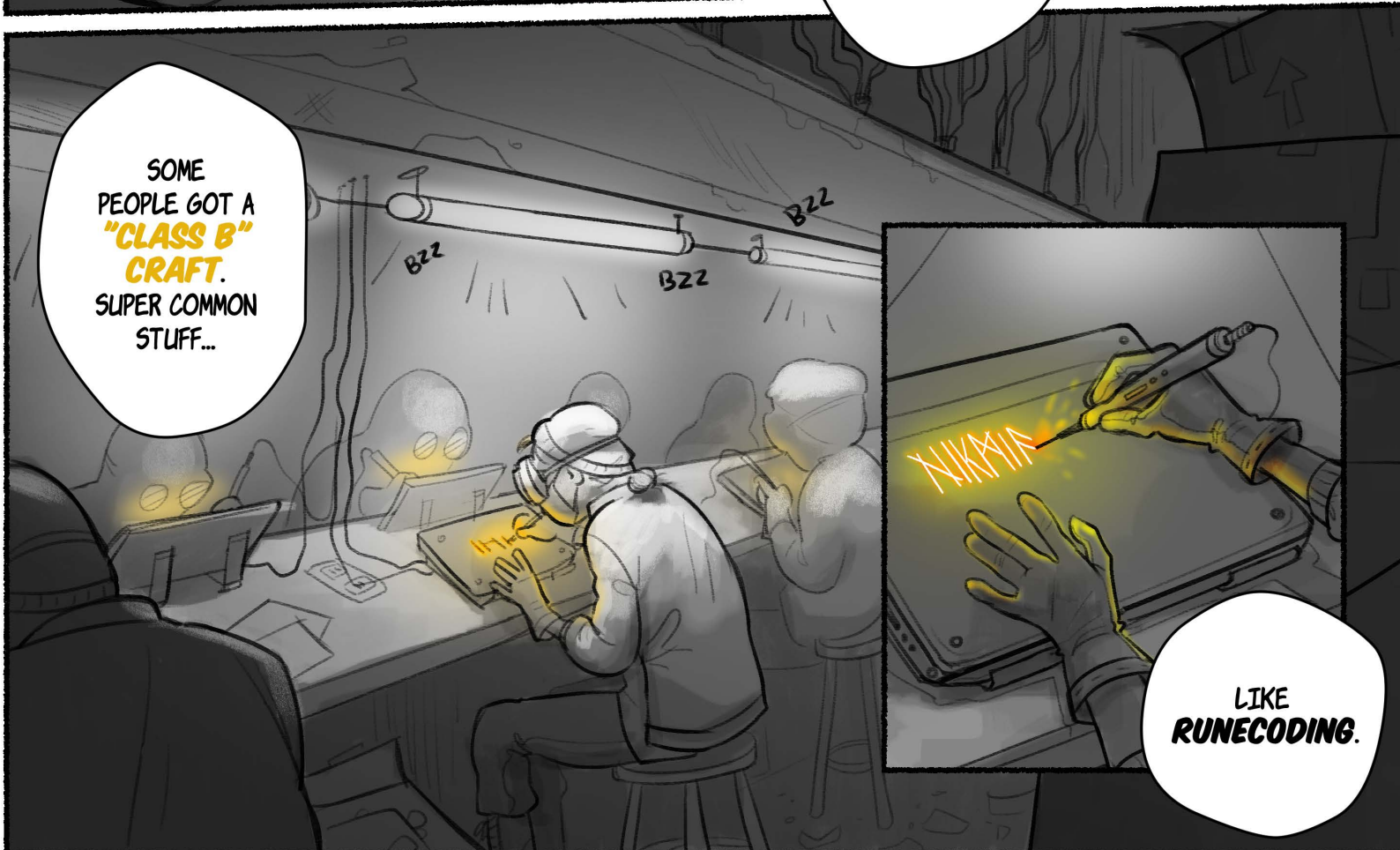
HI,
MY NAME'S
POPPY.
AND I'M AN
ADDICT.



I GOT
DEALT A
SHIT HAND
IN LIFE.



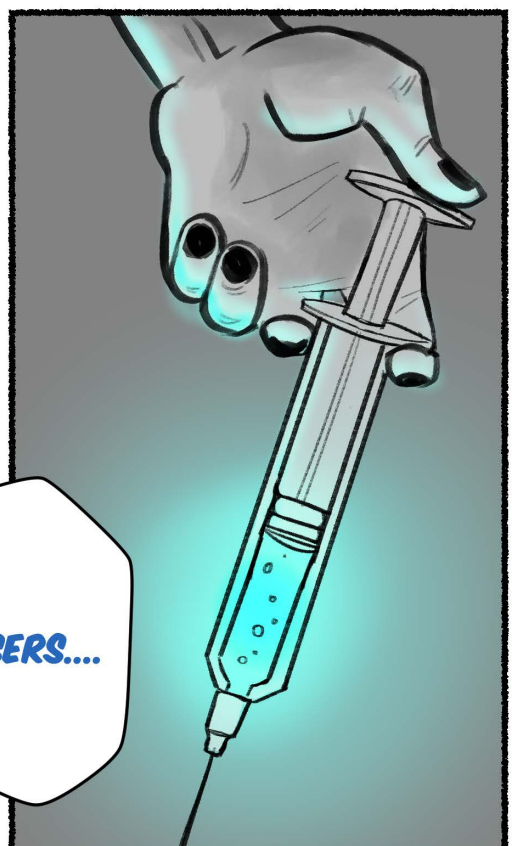
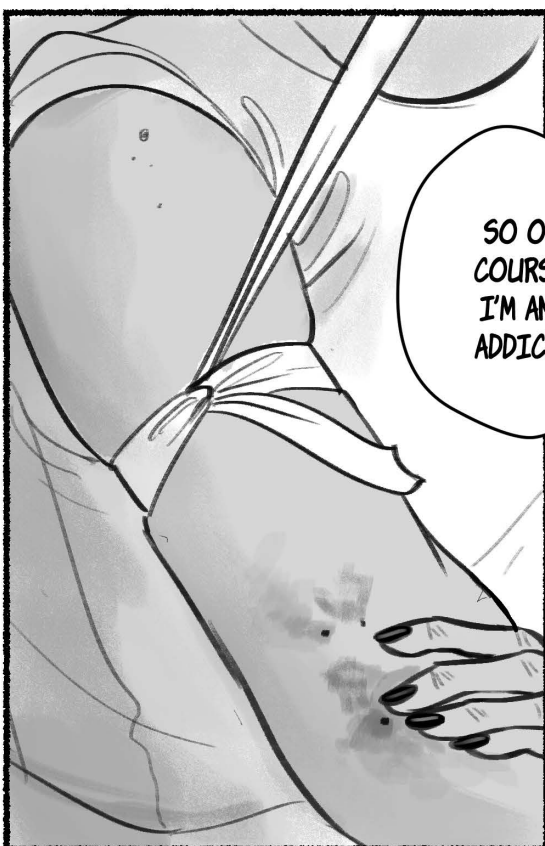
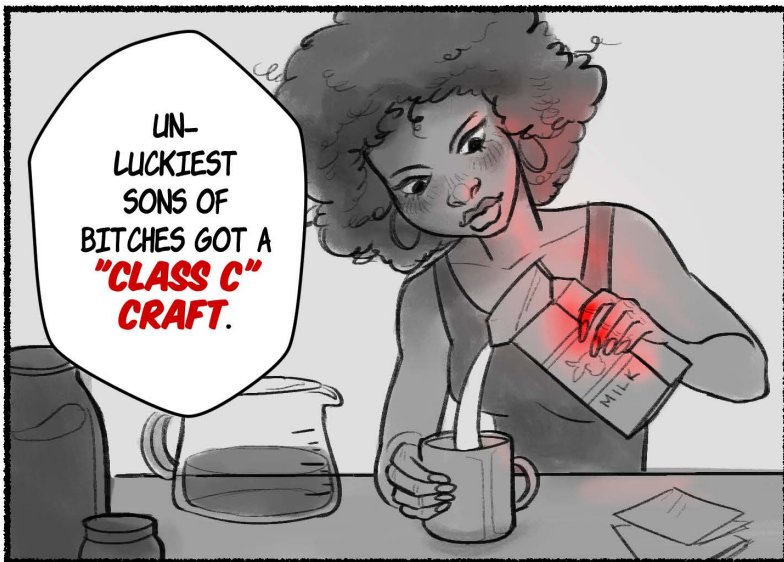
SOME
PEOPLE GOT A
"CLASS A"
CRAFT.
TELE-
KINESIS.

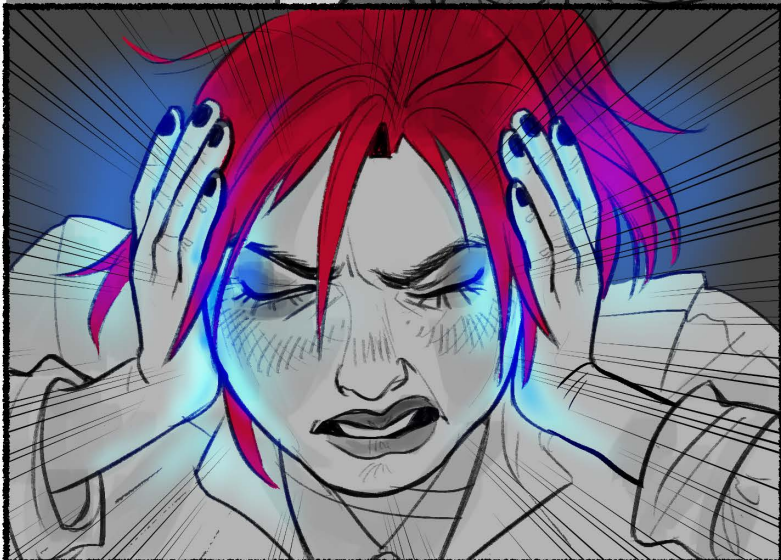
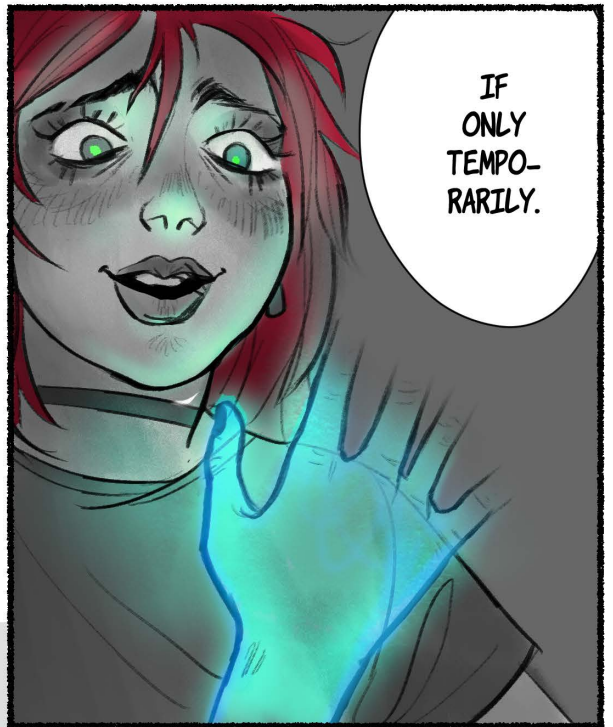
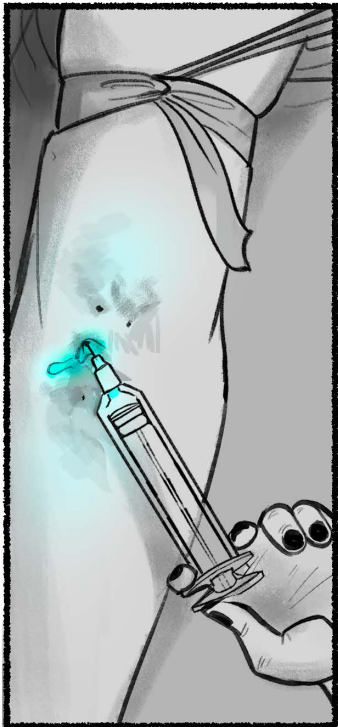


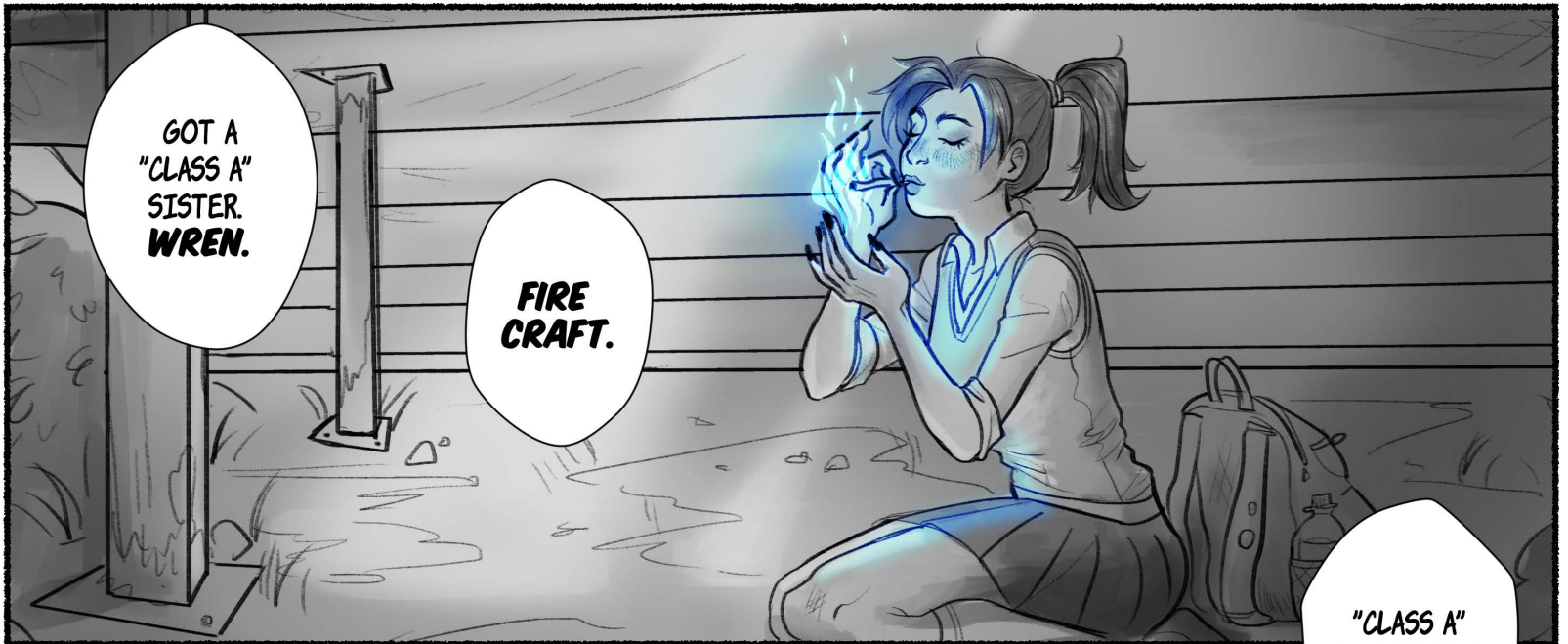
SOME
PEOPLE GOT A
"CLASS B"
CRAFT.
SUPER COMMON
STUFF...



LIKE
RUNECODING.



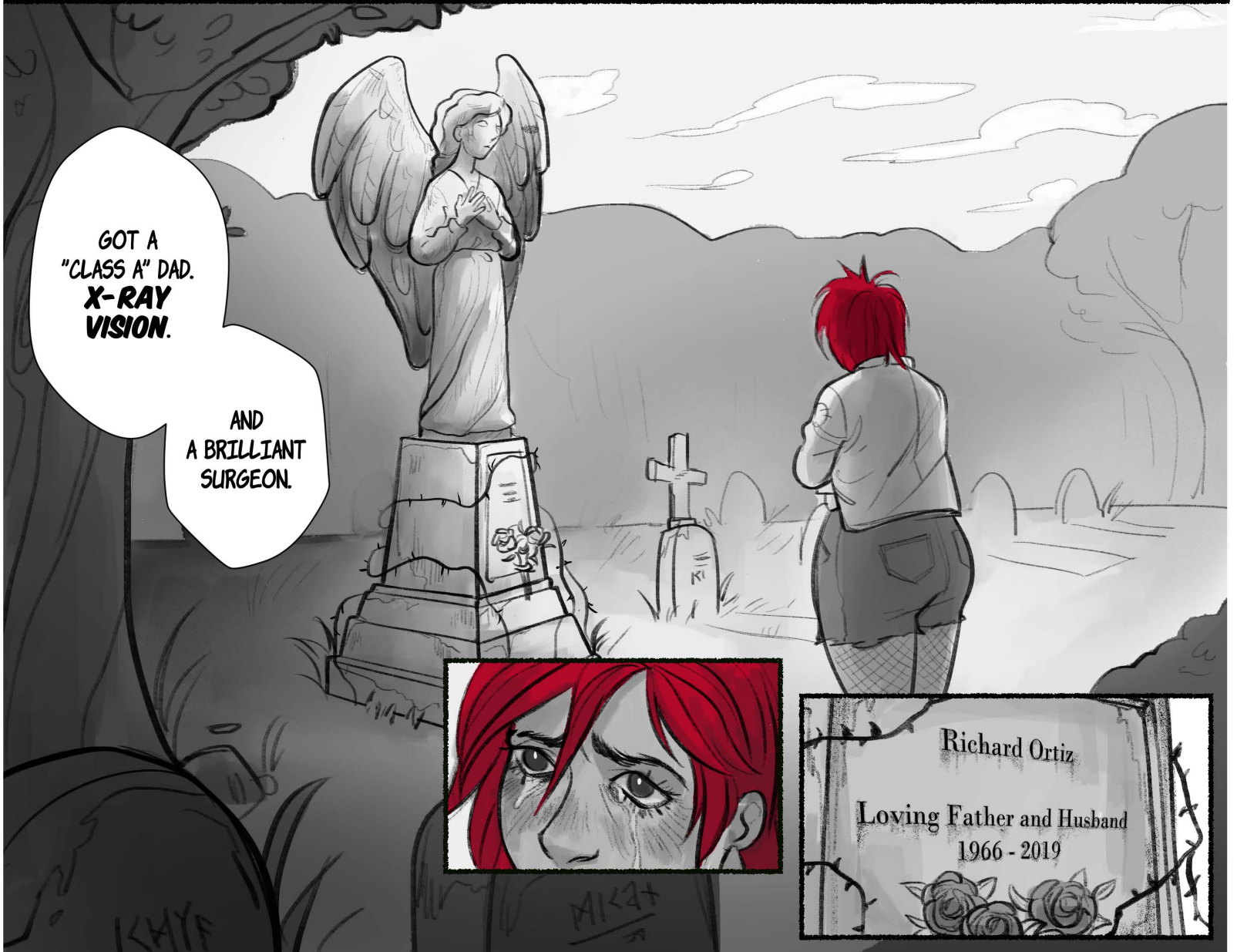
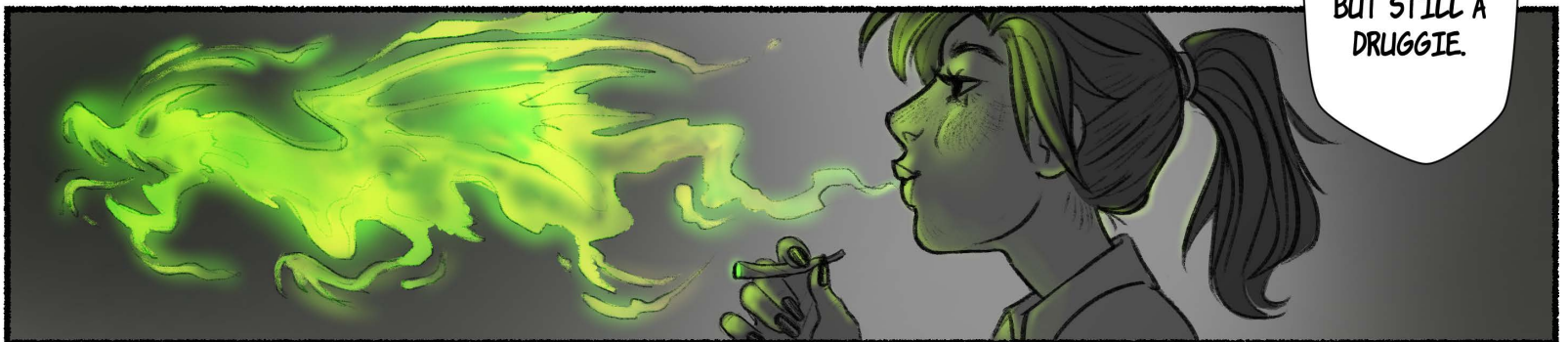




GOT A
"CLASS A"
SISTER.
WREN.

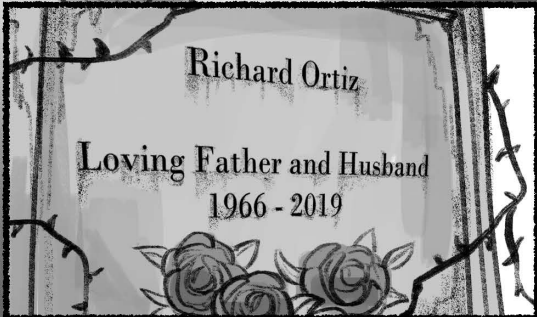
**FIRE
CRAFT.**

"CLASS A"
BUT STILL A
DRUGGIE.

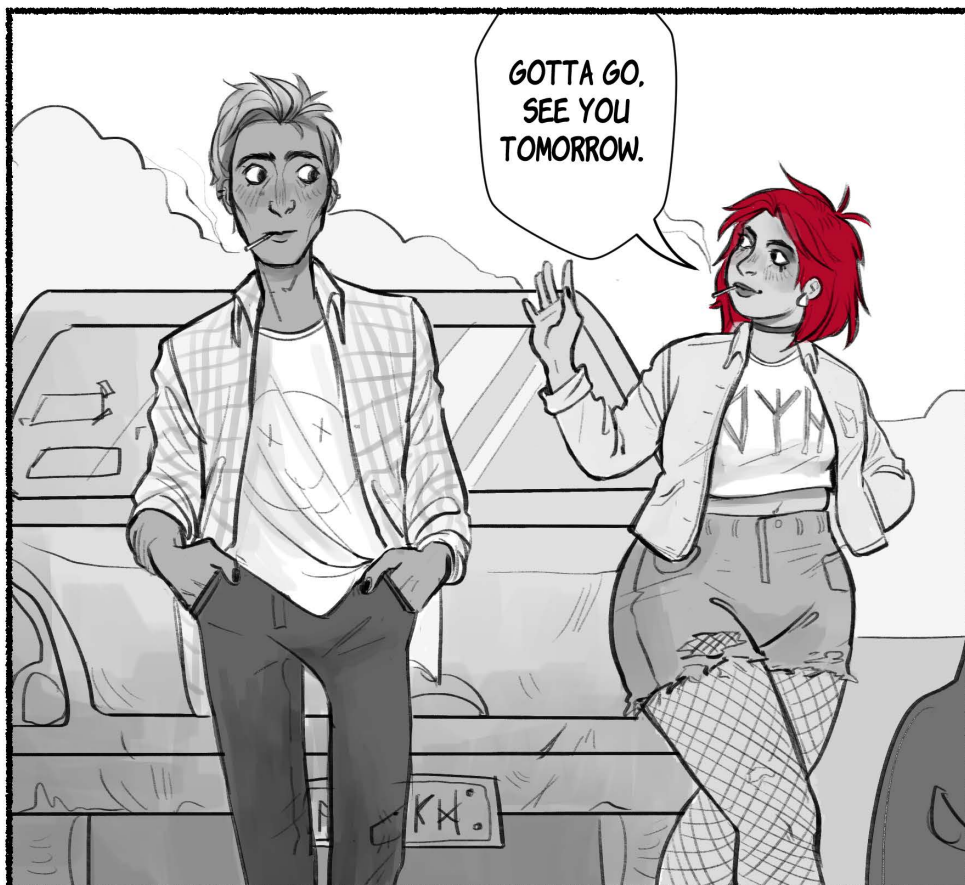
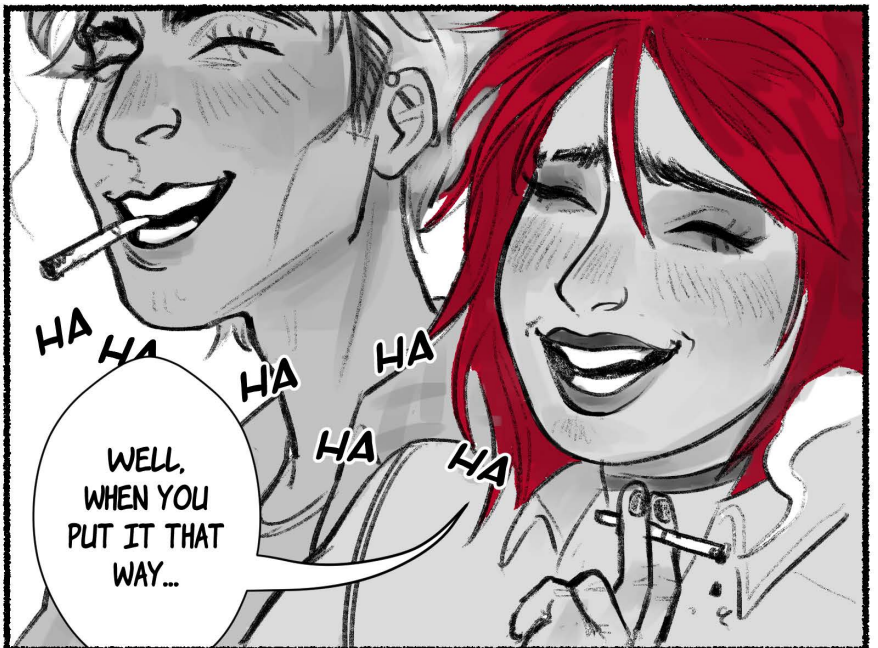
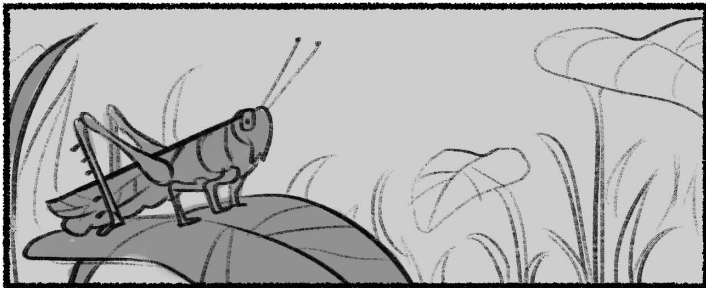


GOT A
"CLASS A" DAD.
**X-RAY
VISION.**

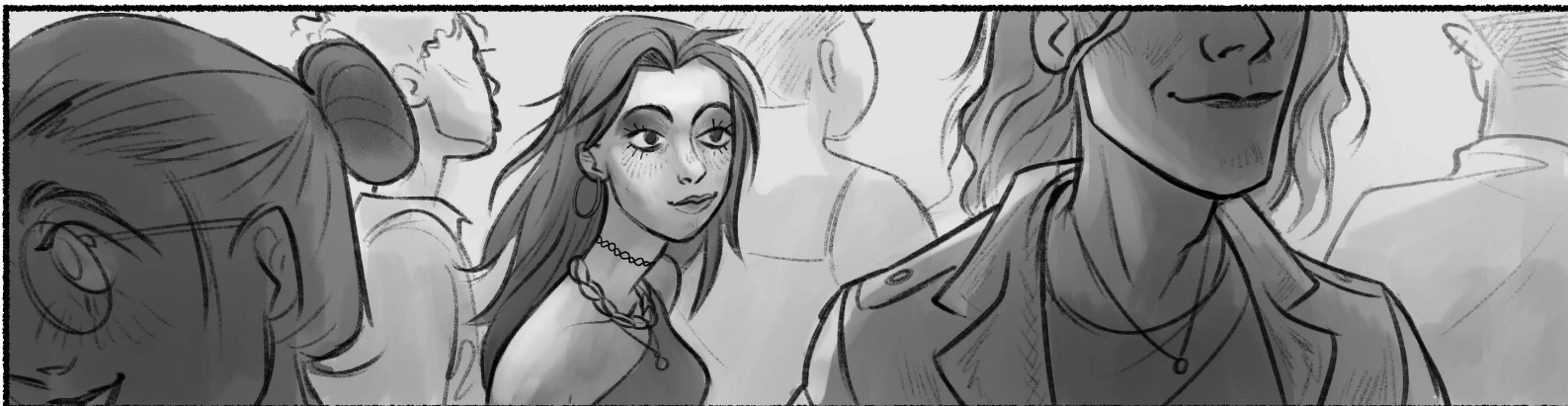
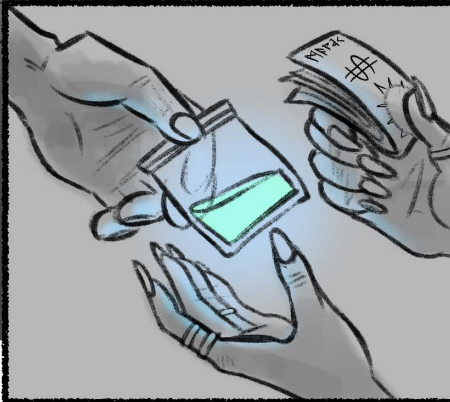
AND
A BRILLIANT
SURGEON.

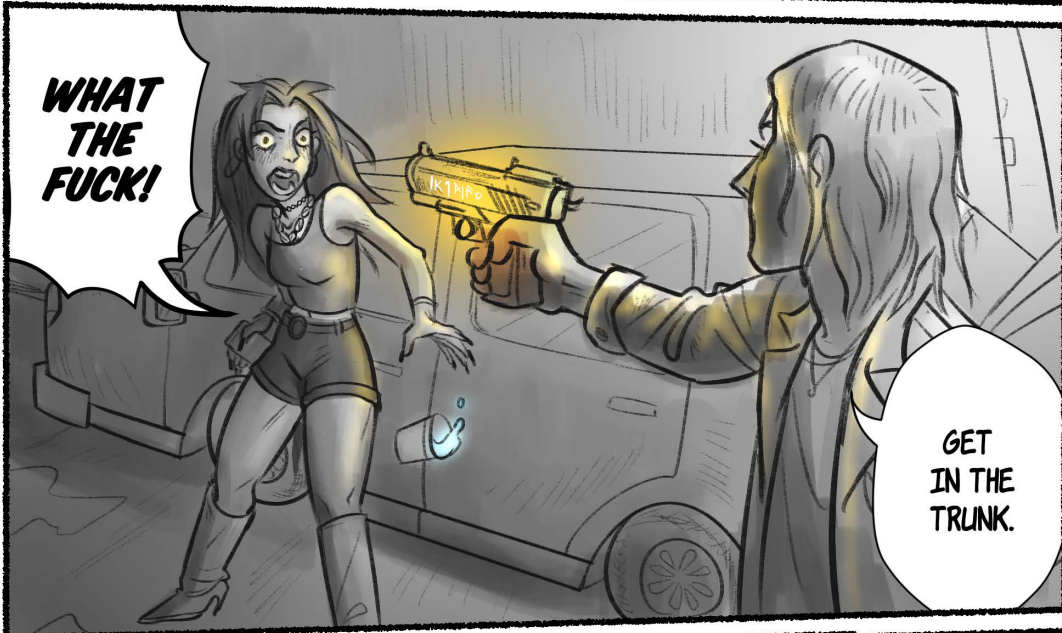
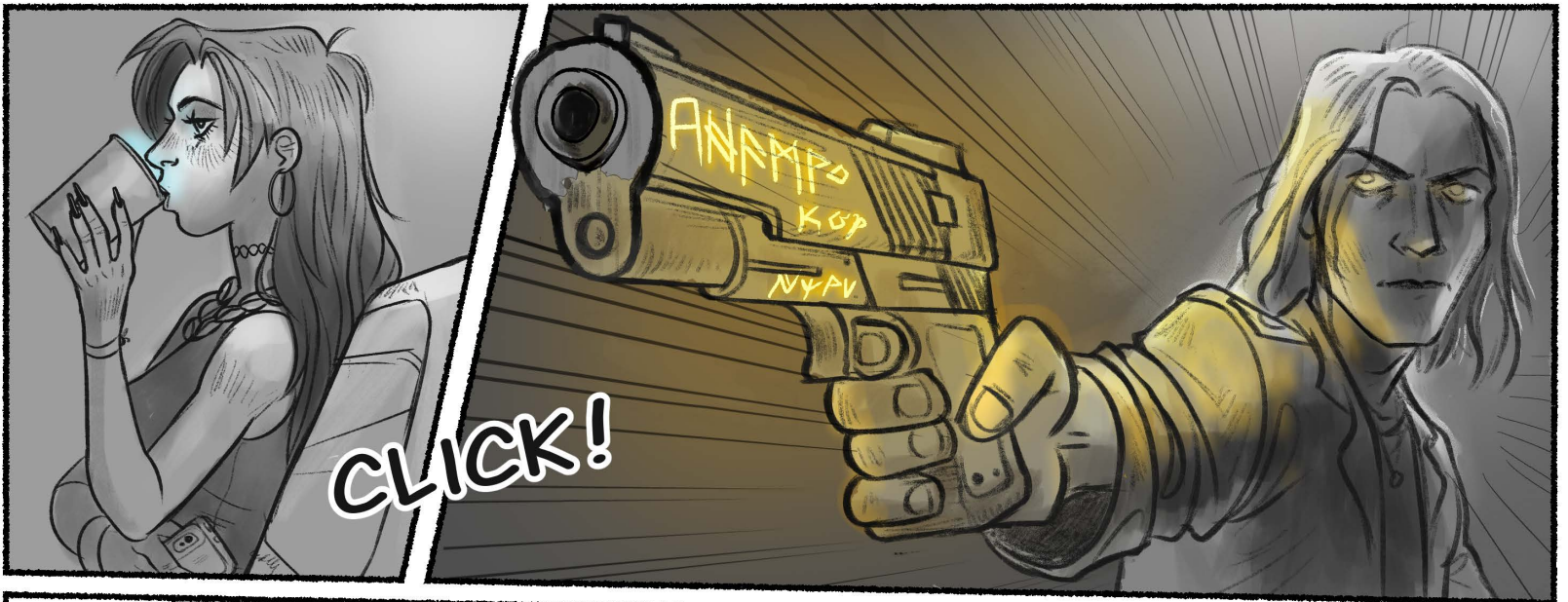


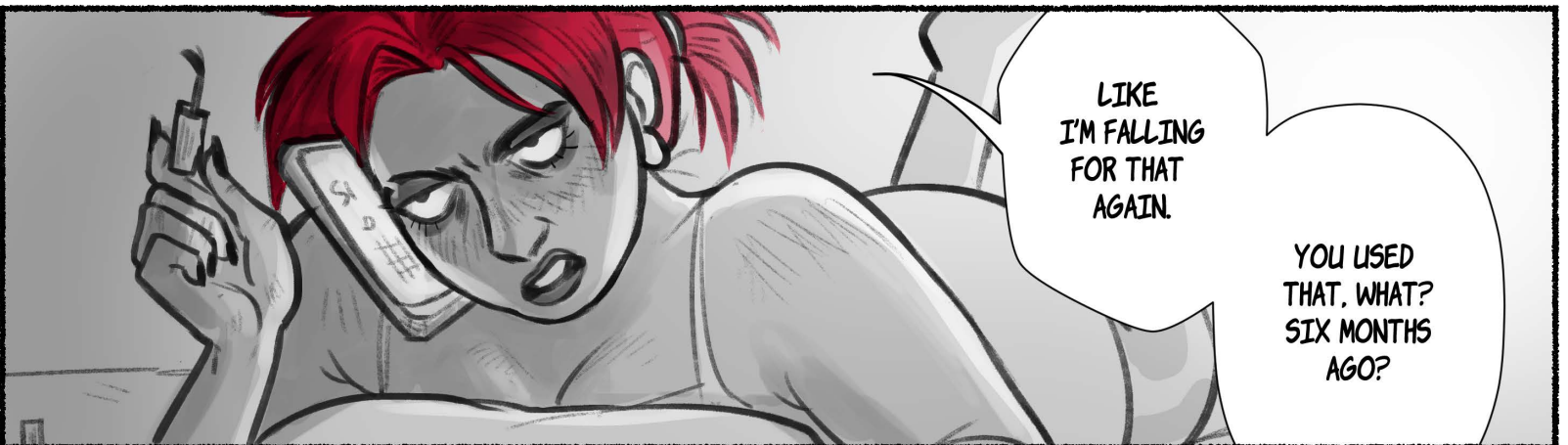
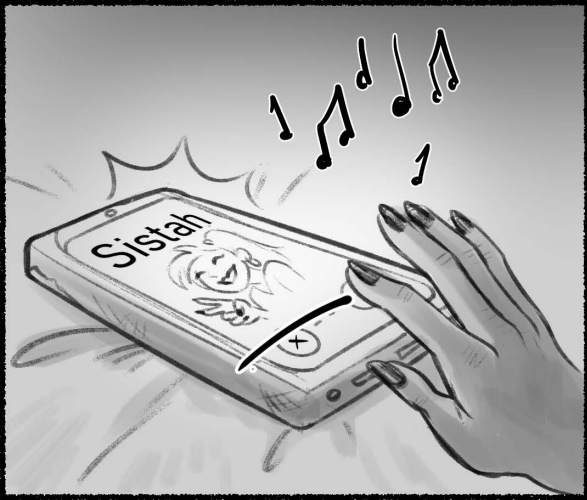
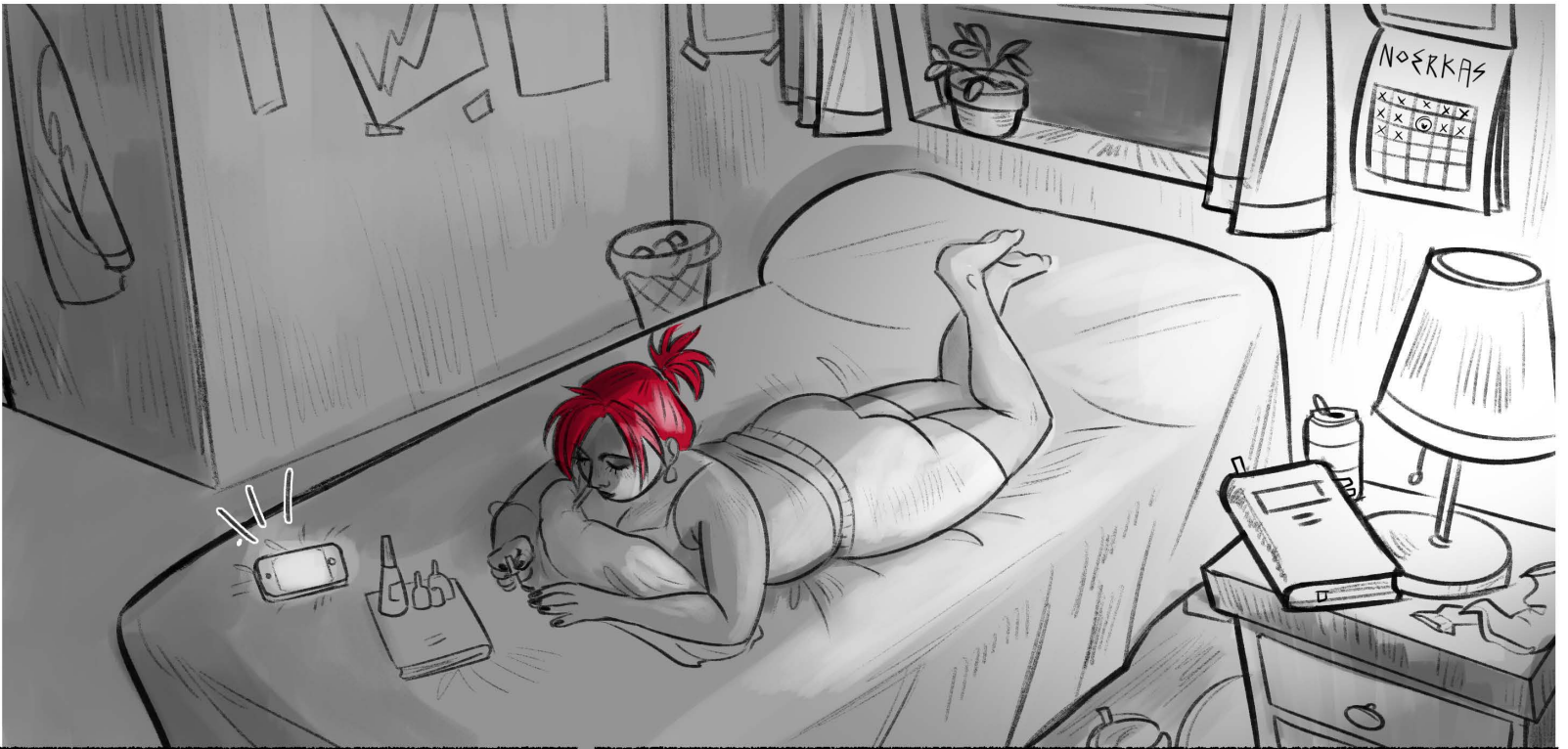


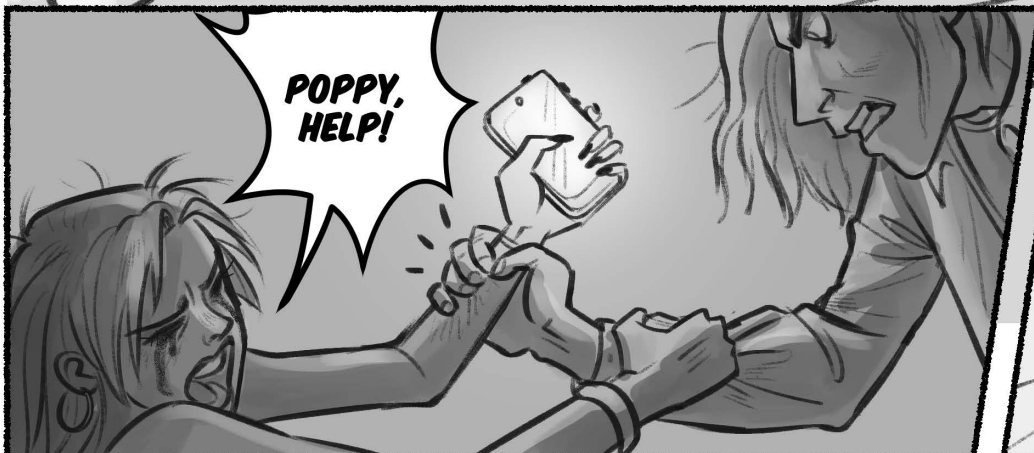
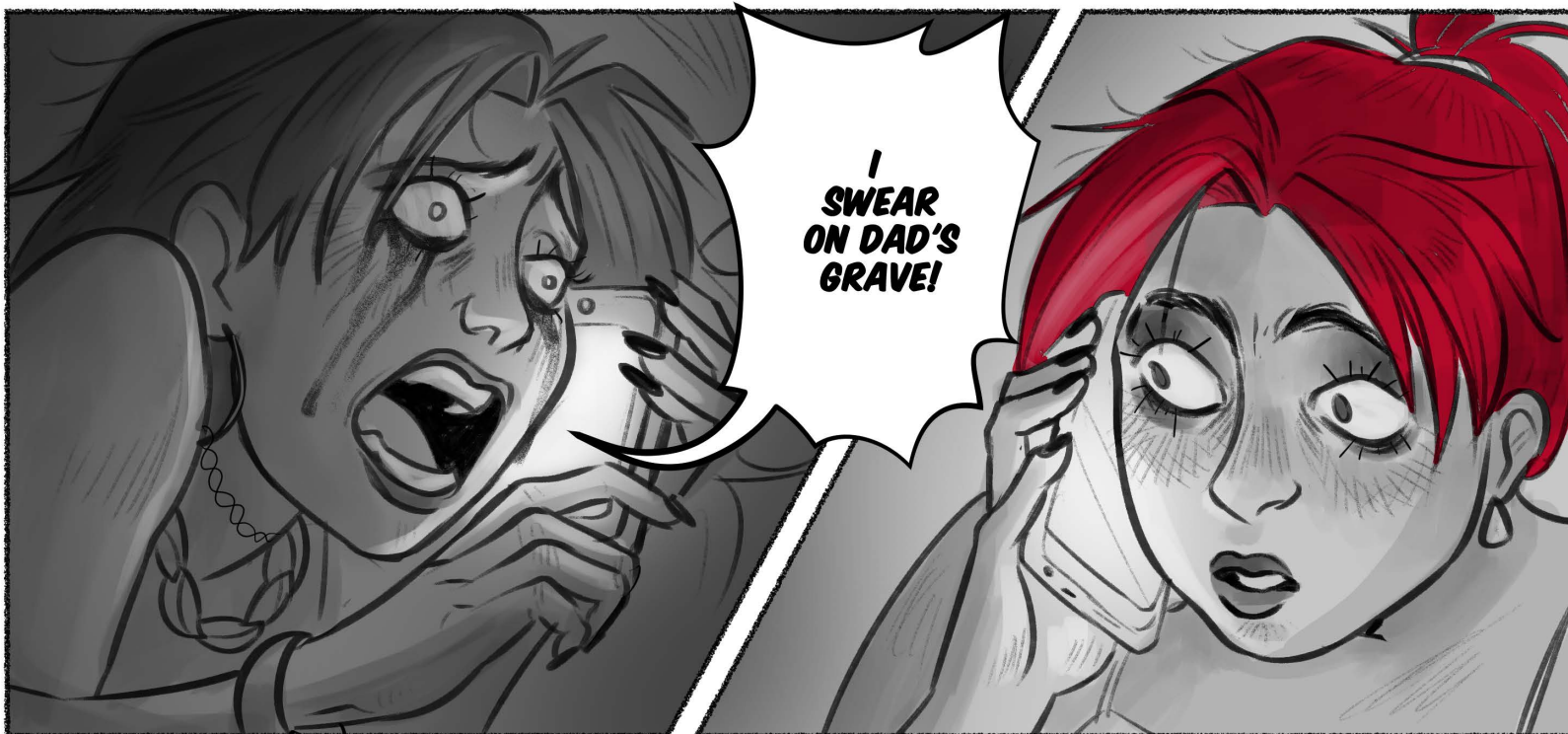


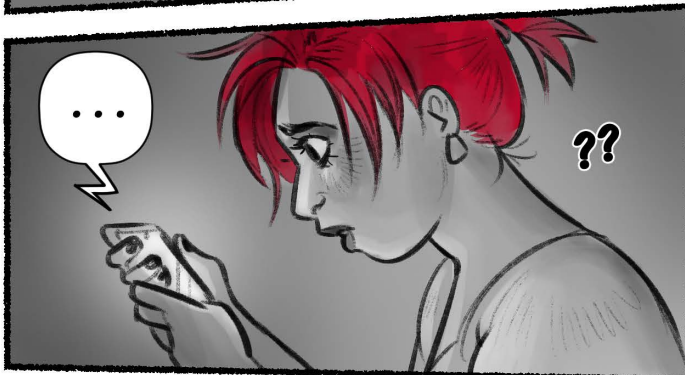
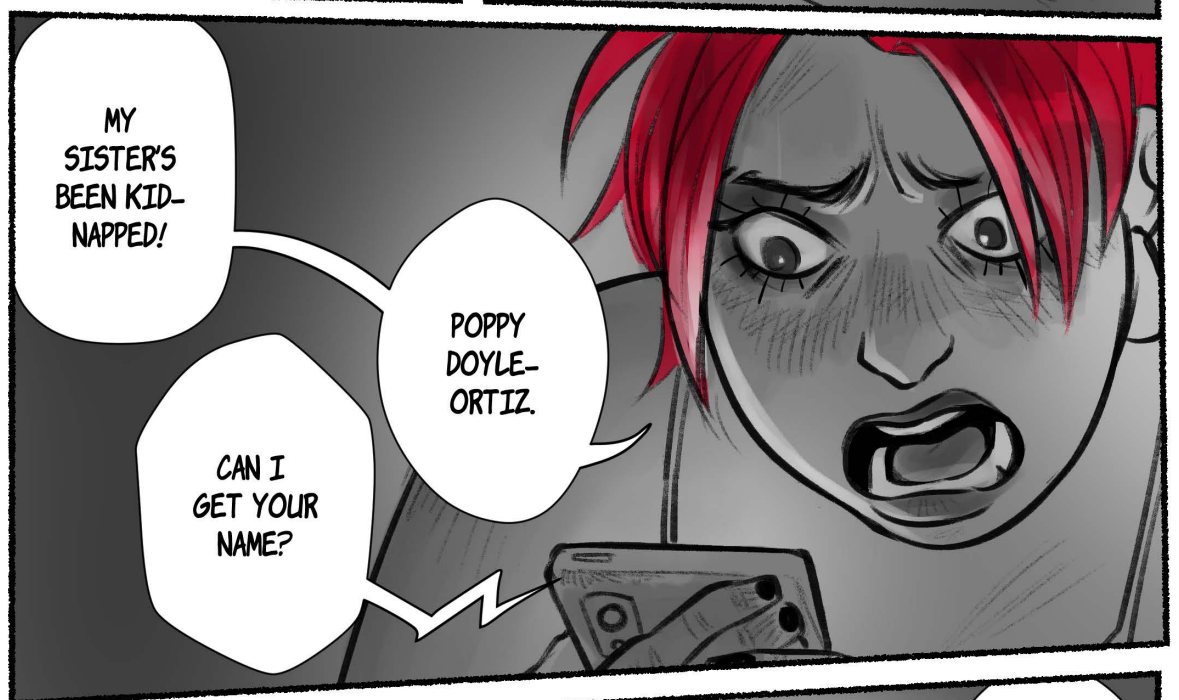
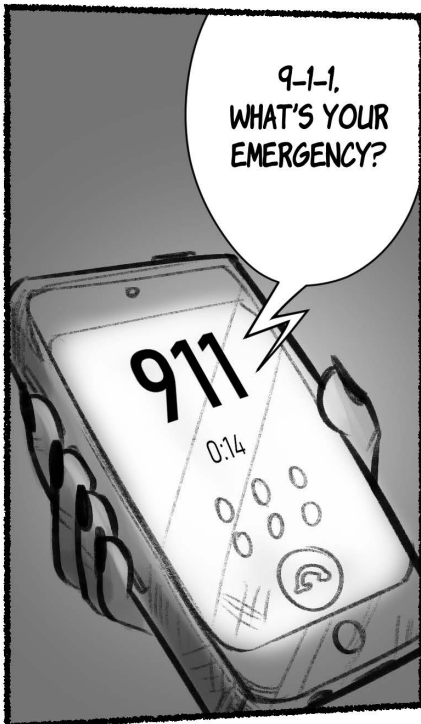
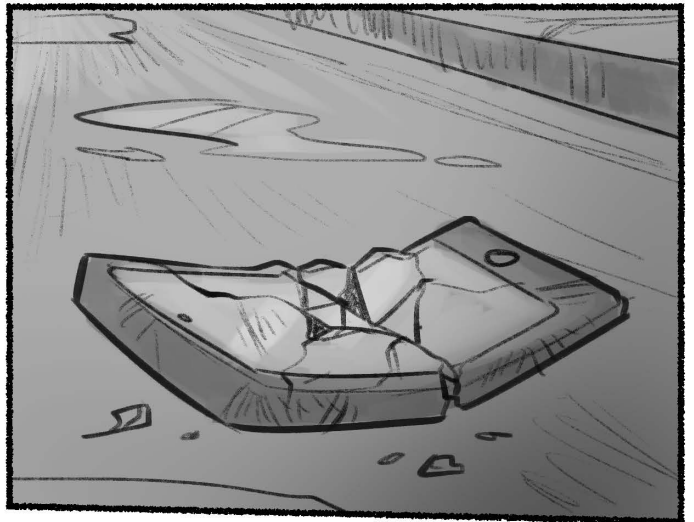


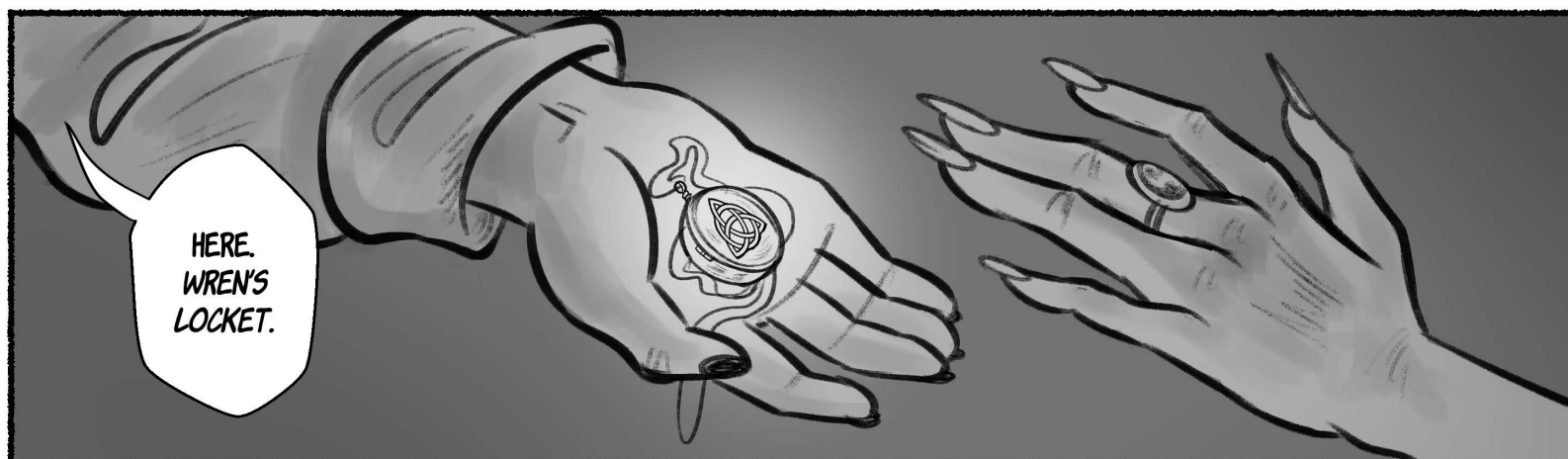
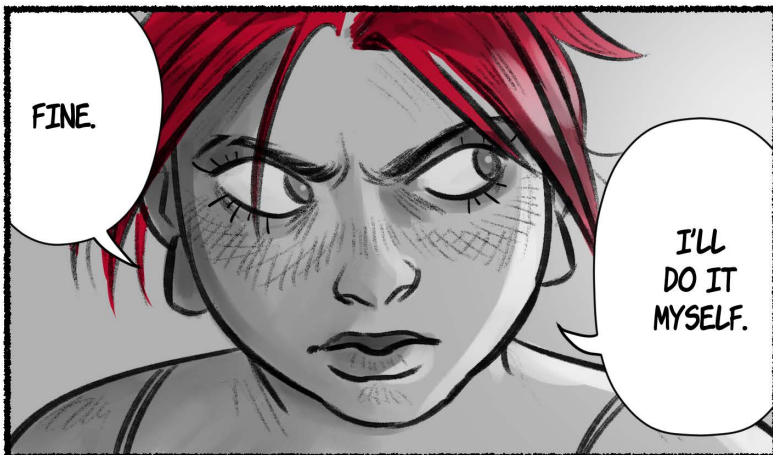


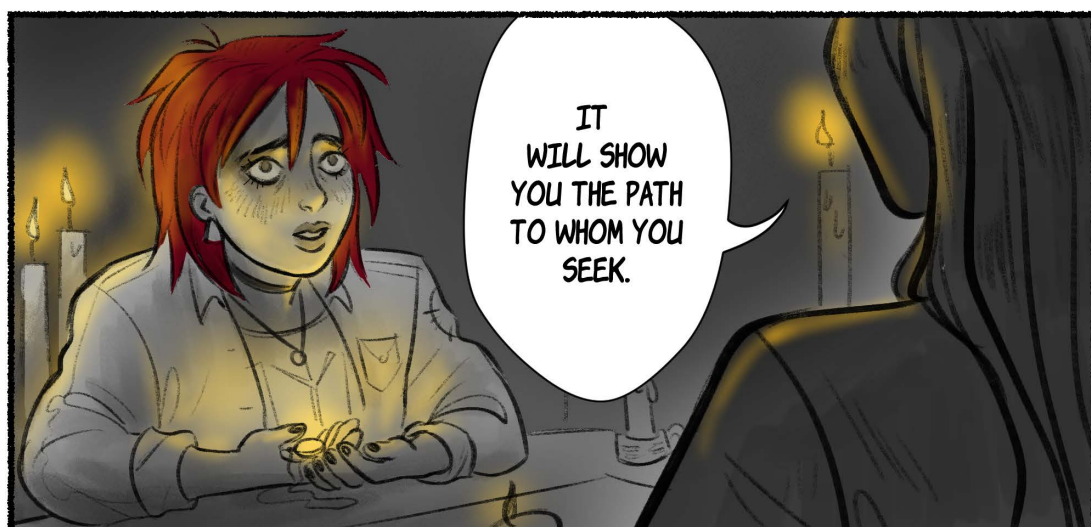
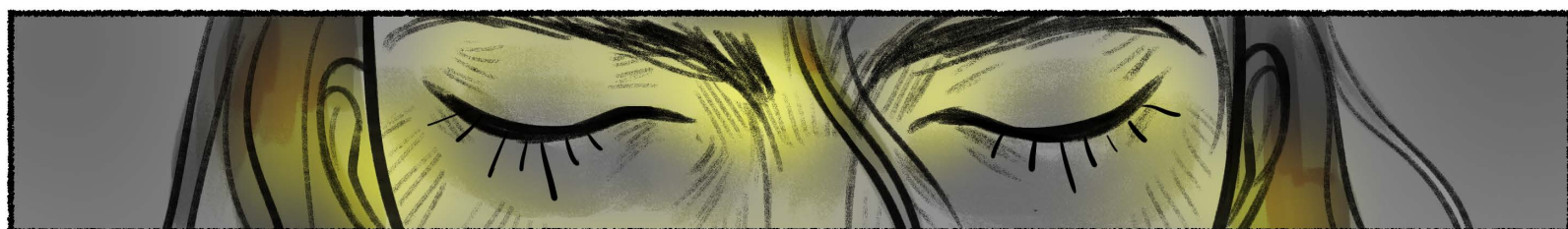
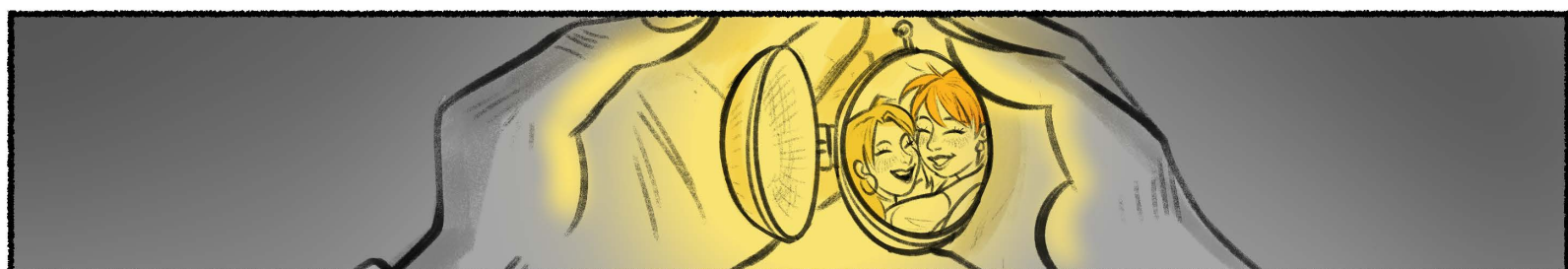


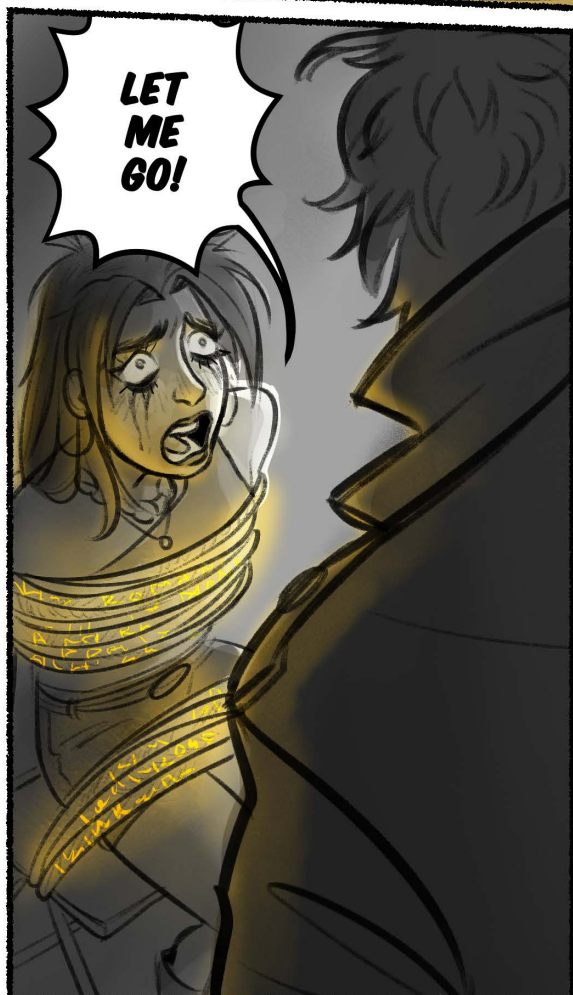
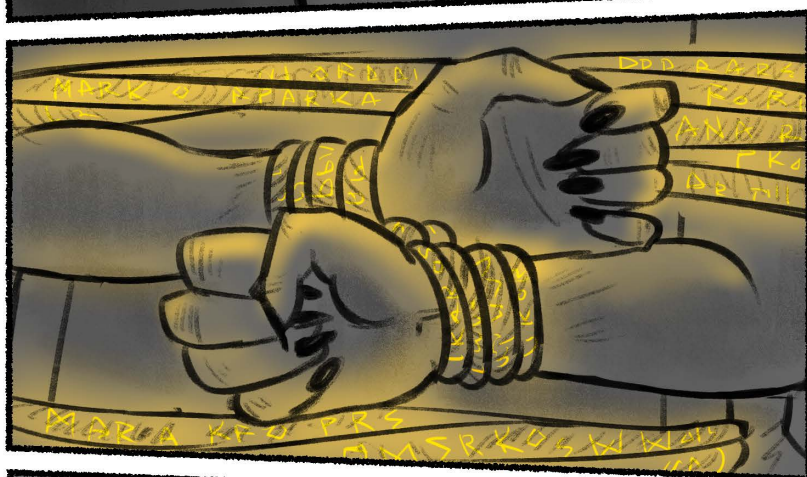
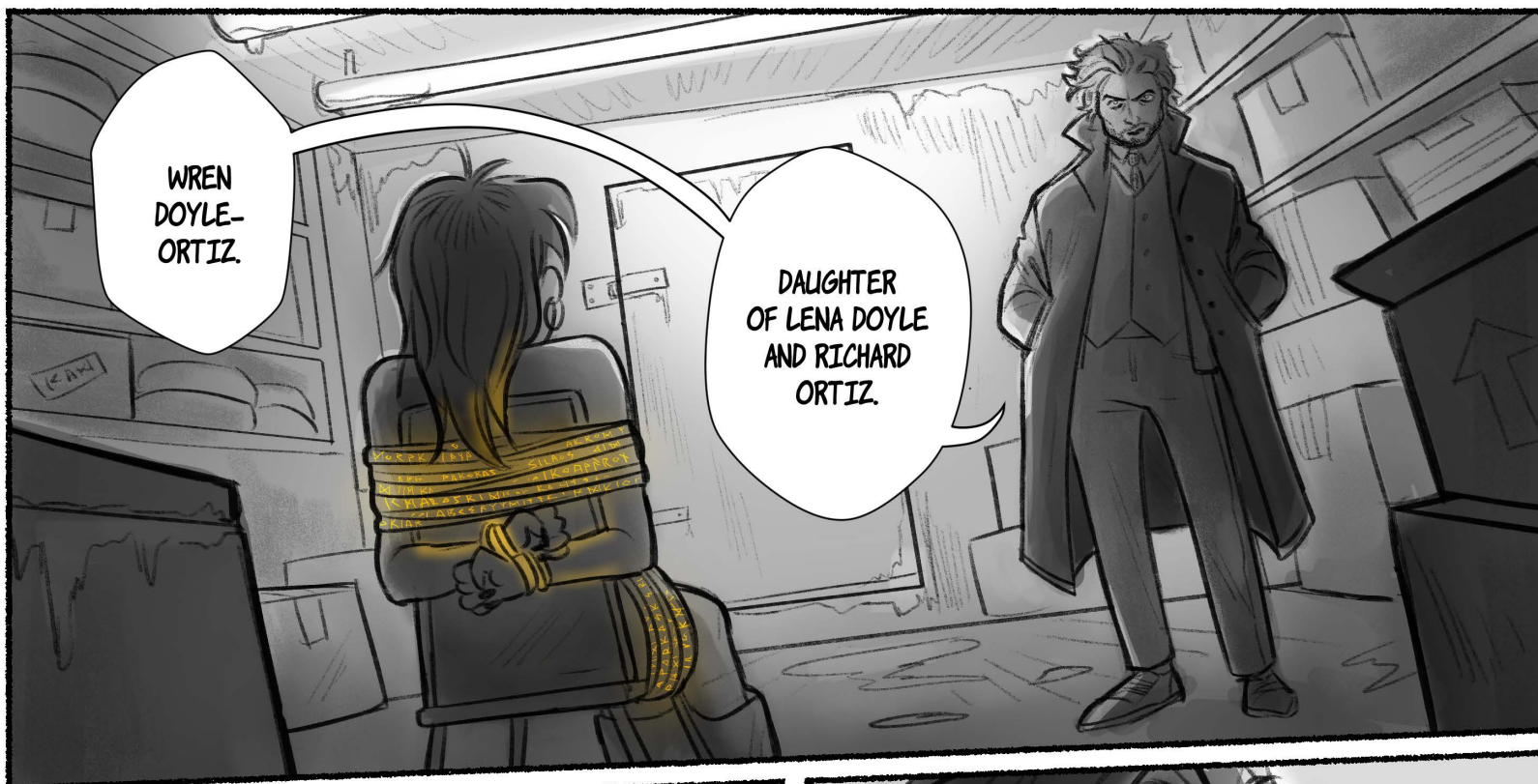


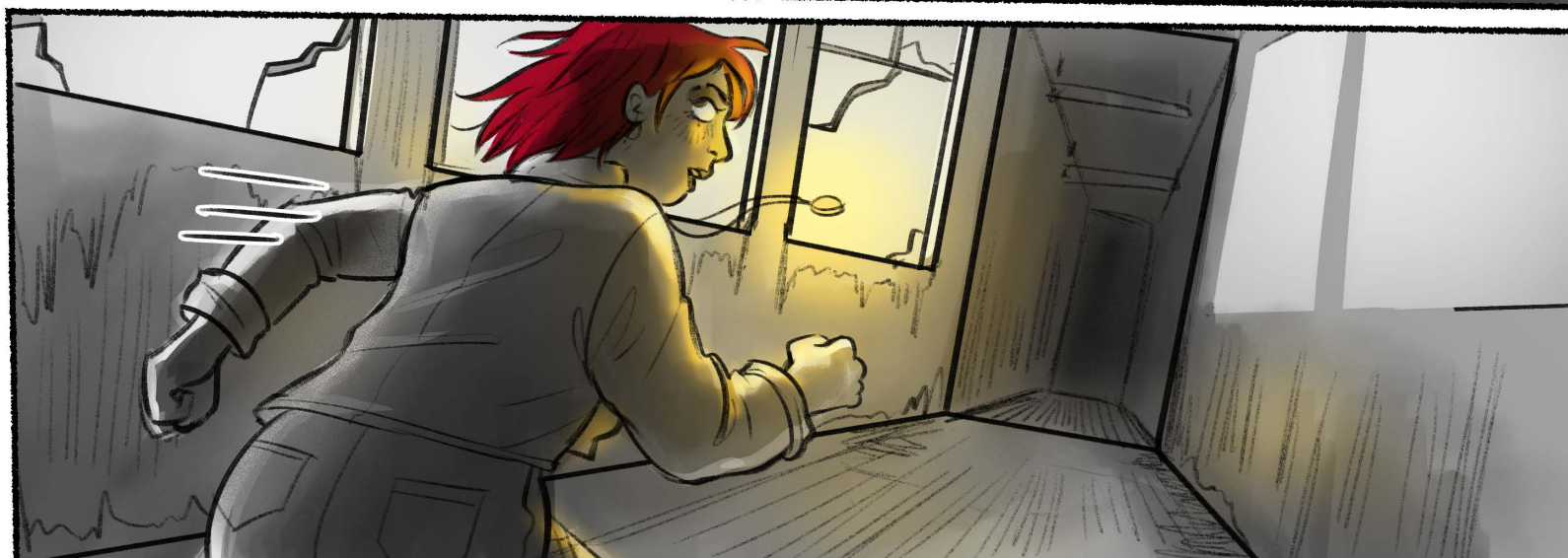
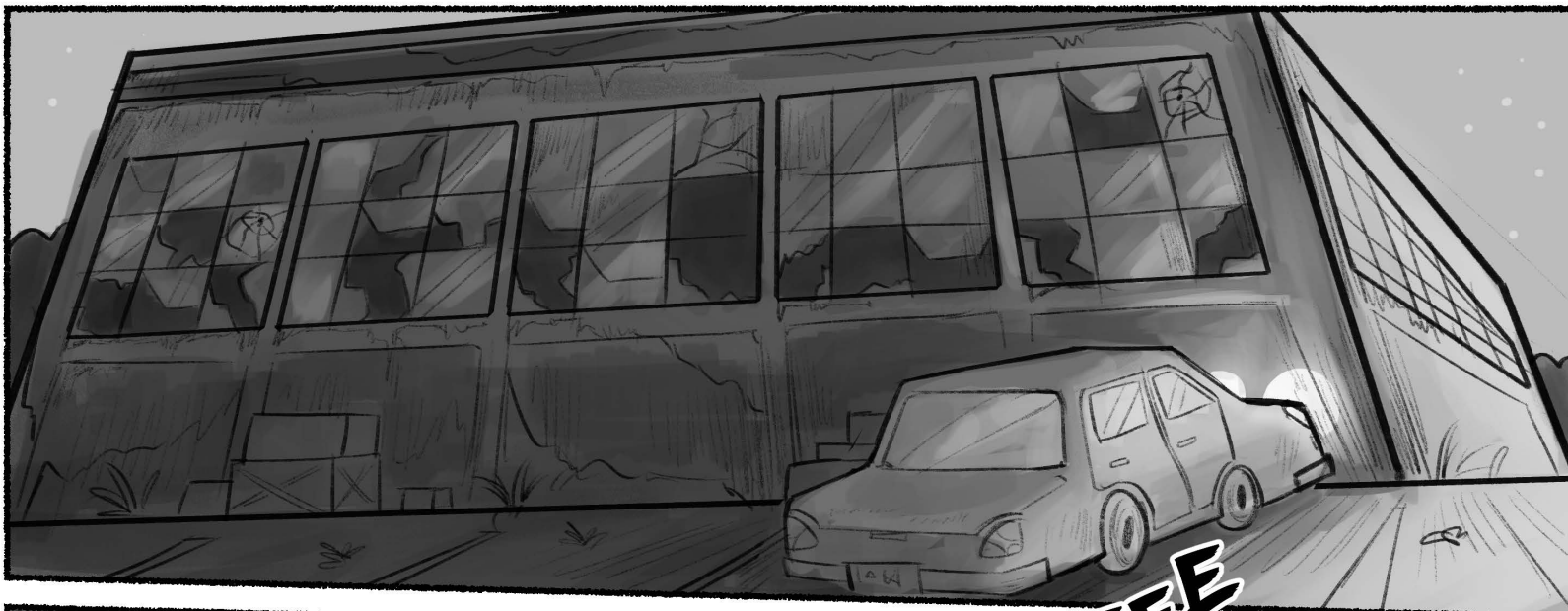


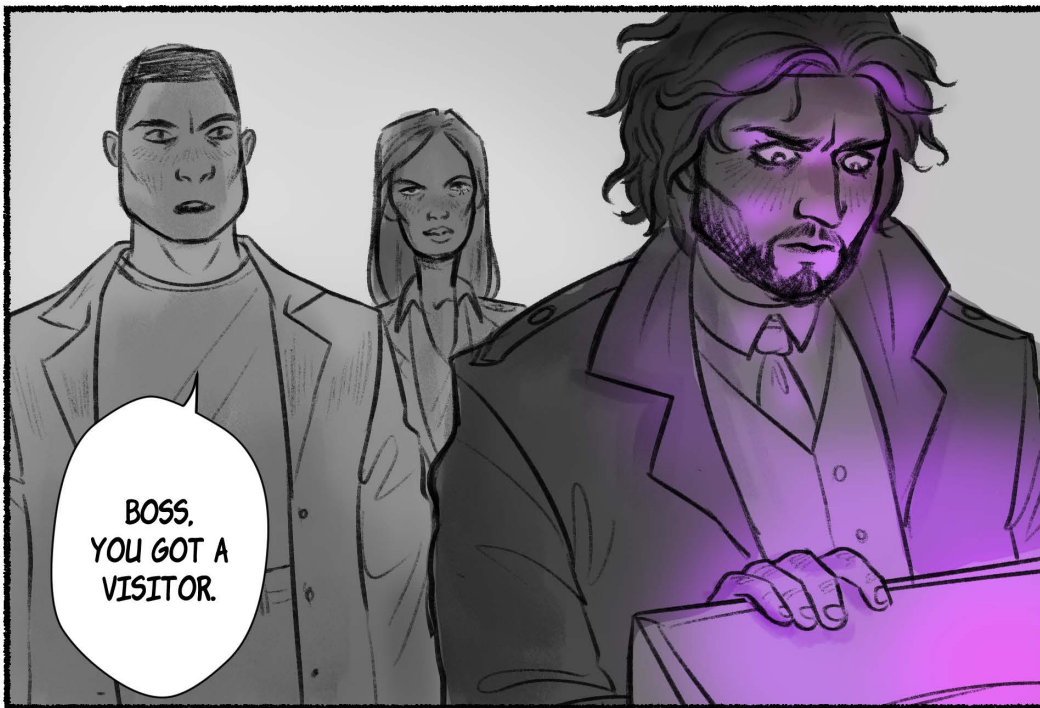
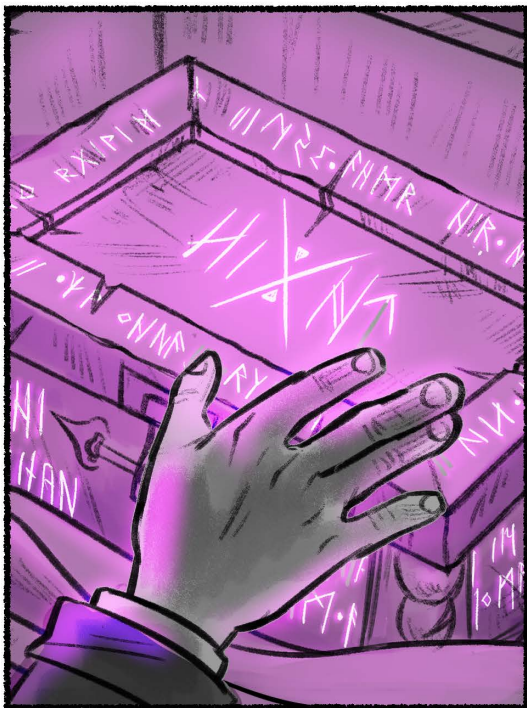












BOSS,
YOU GOT A
VISITOR.



NAME'S
VIC.

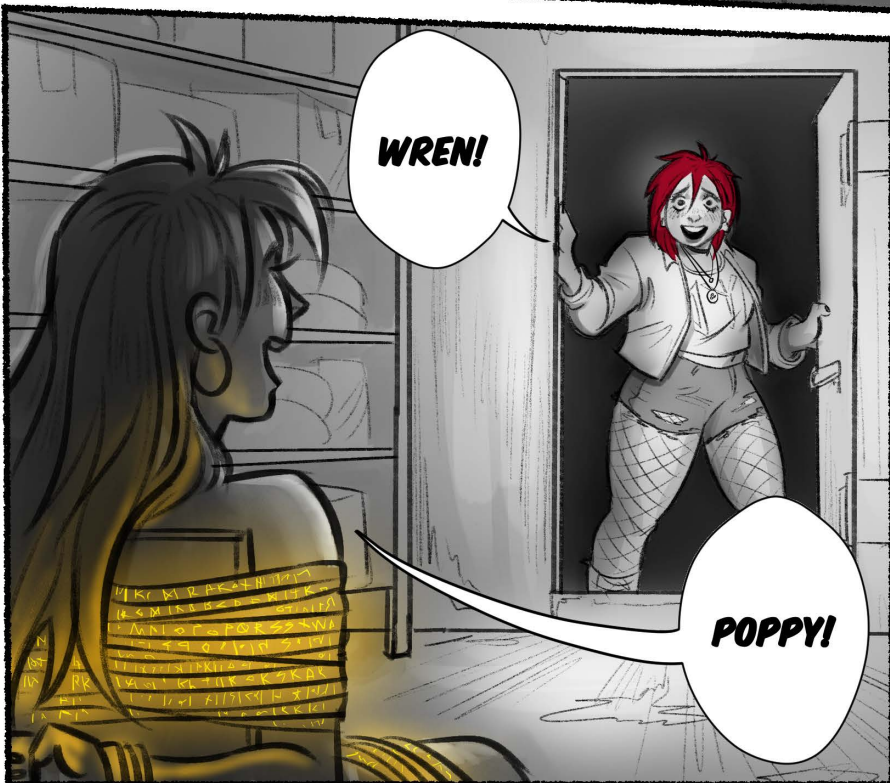
HEAR
YOU'VE BEEN
MAKING DEALS
IN OUR TERRI-
TORY.

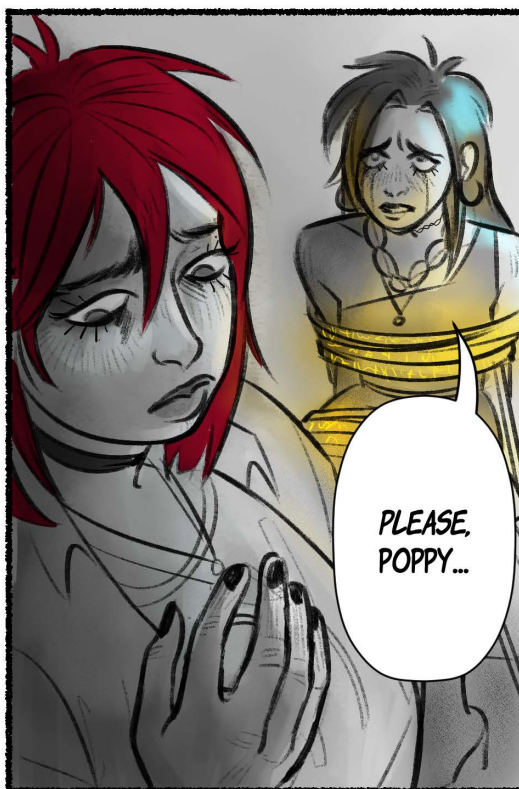
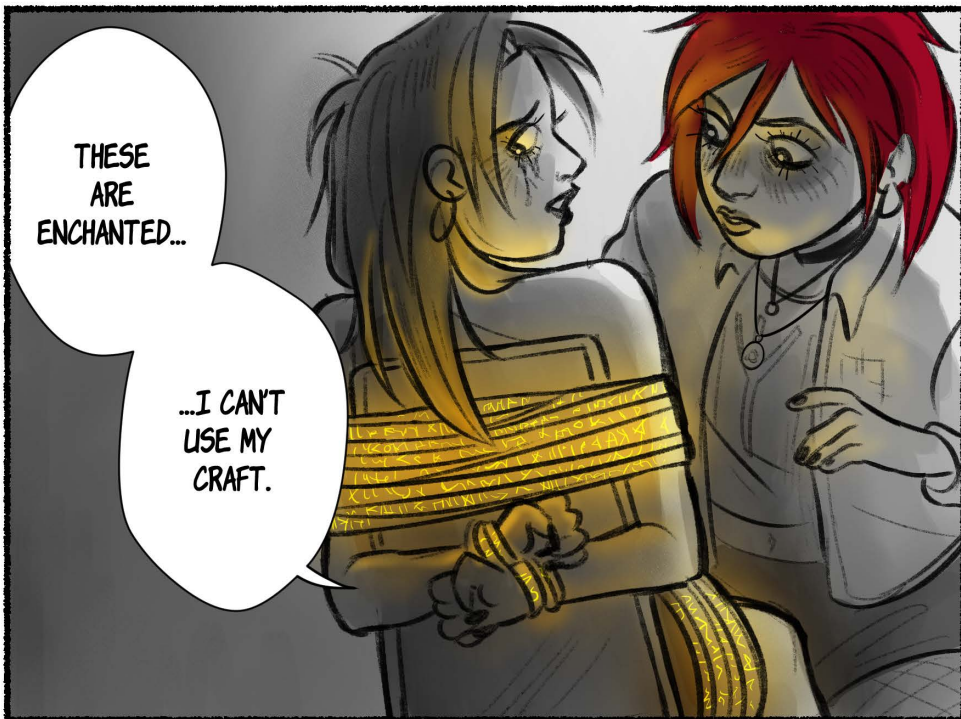
WEST COAST
BELONG TO
THE YAKUZA

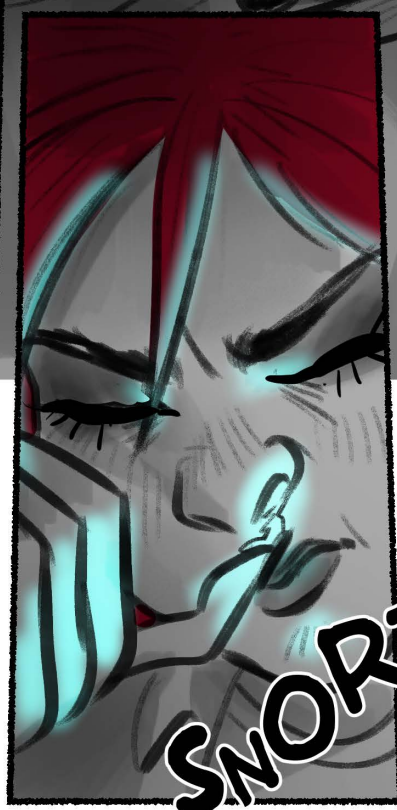
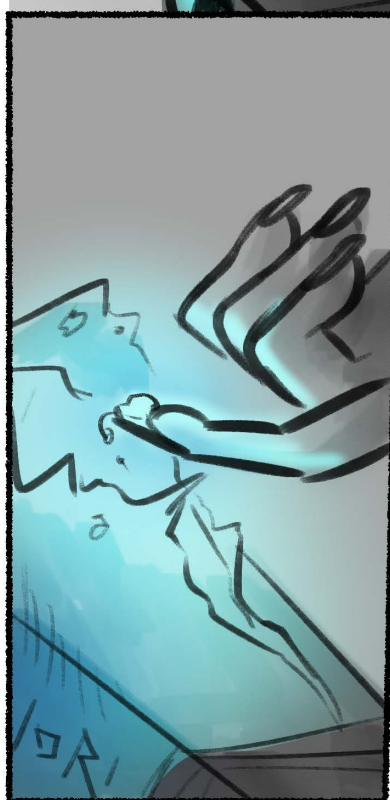


DOES IT
NOW?



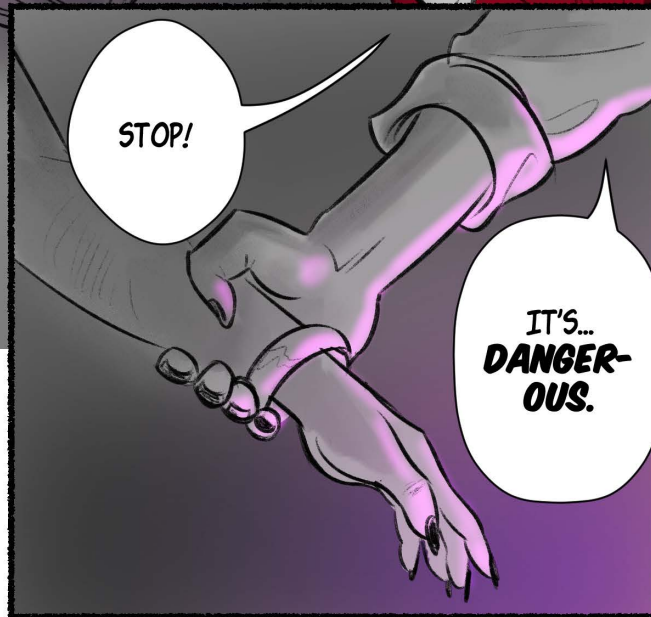
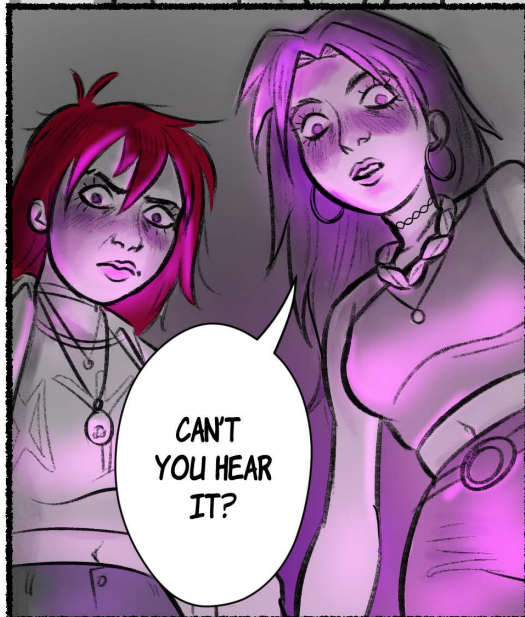
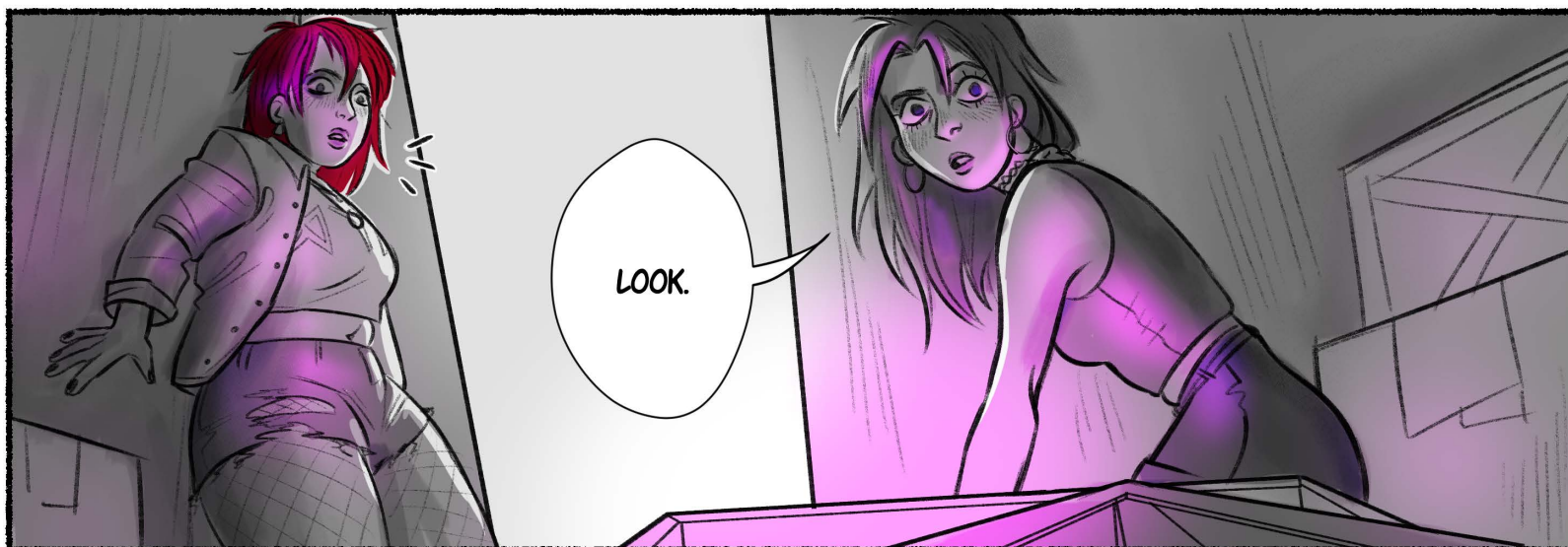


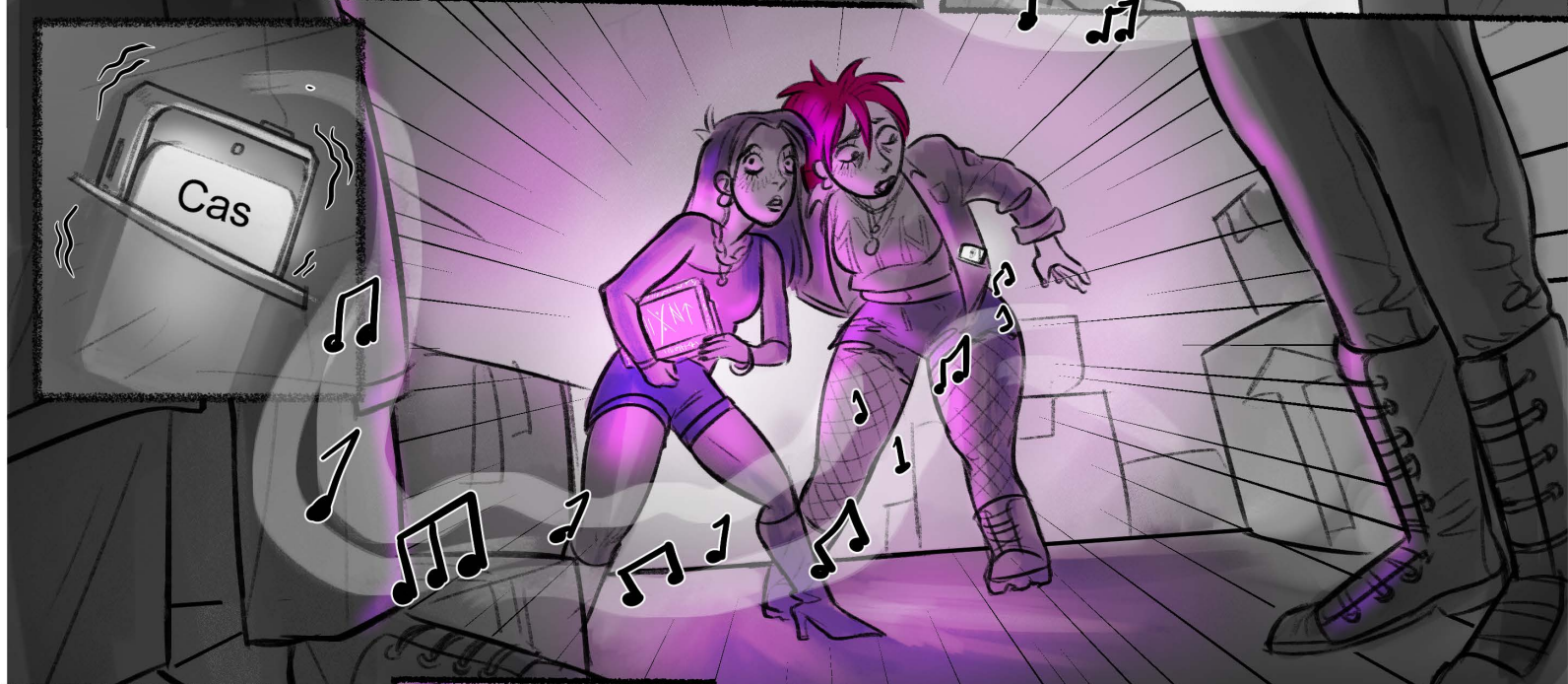
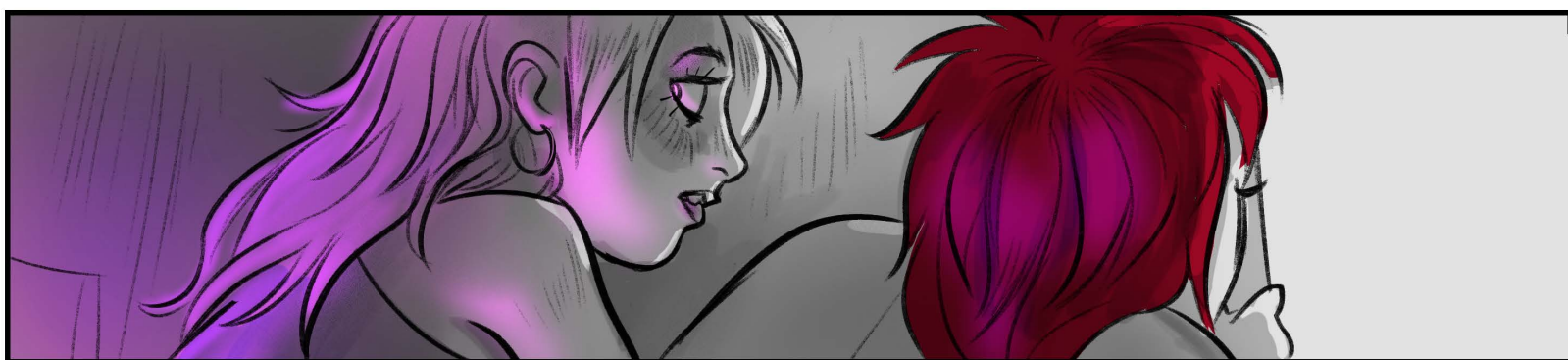
















LEAVE
IT!



WREN,
COME
ON!



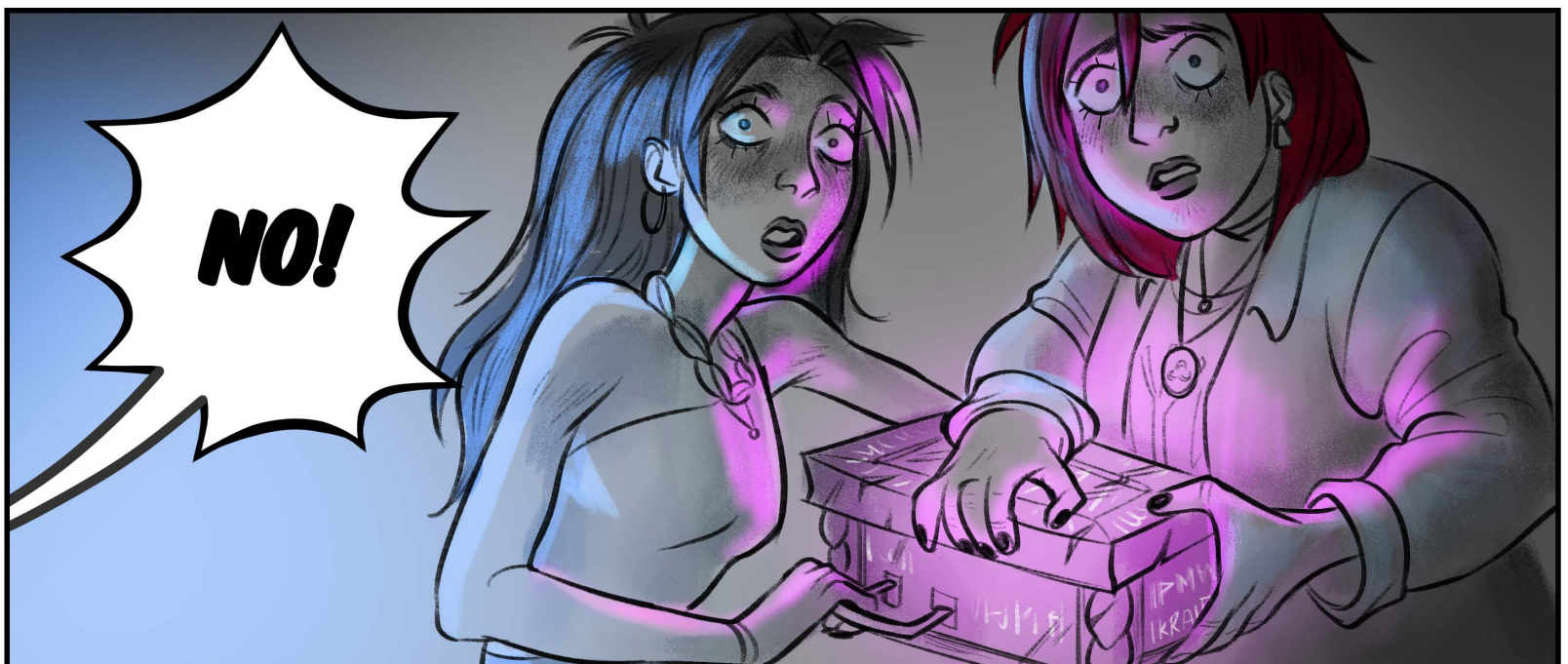
CAN'T
YOU HEAR
IT?

...IT'S
CALLING
ME.

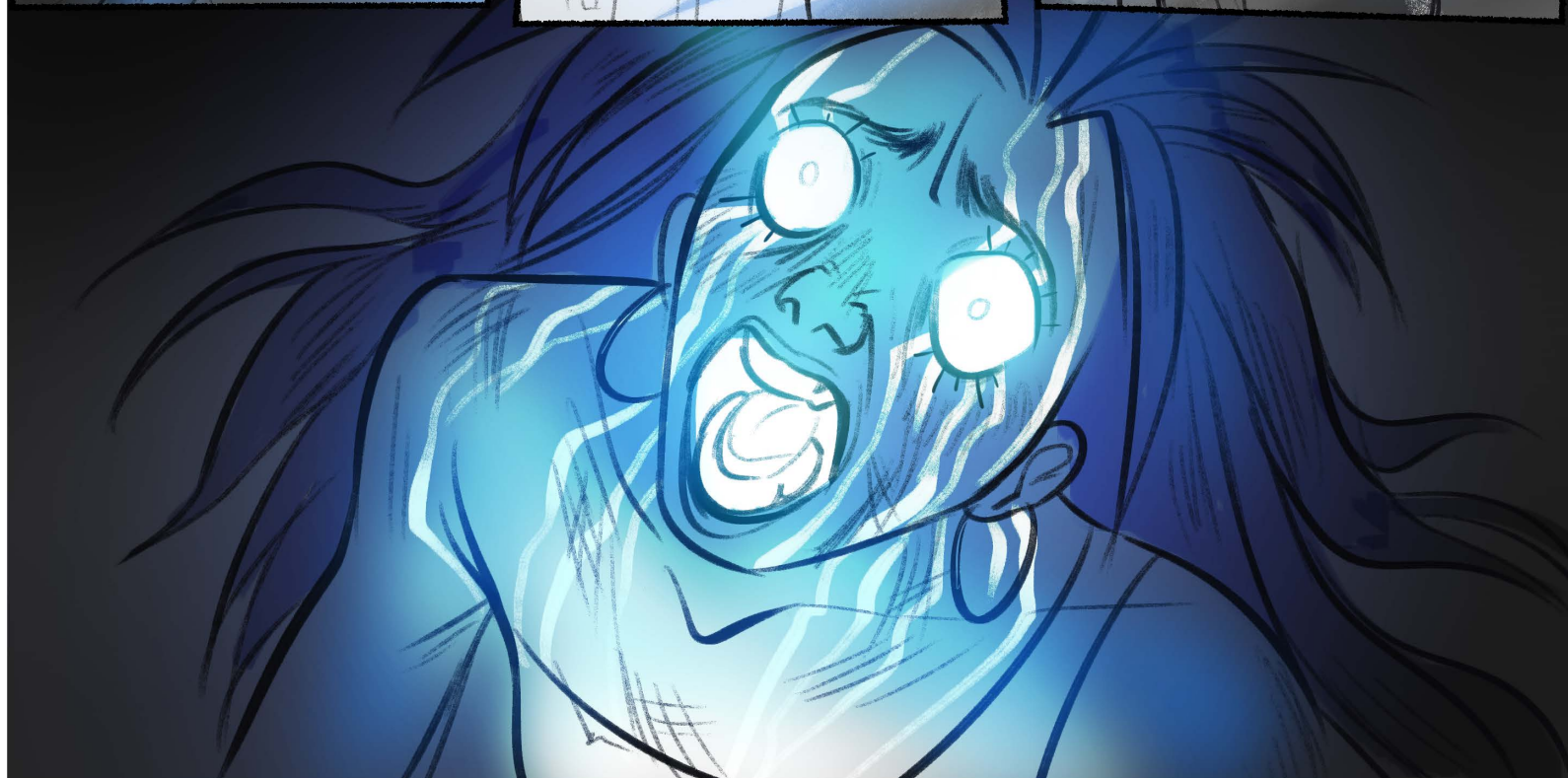
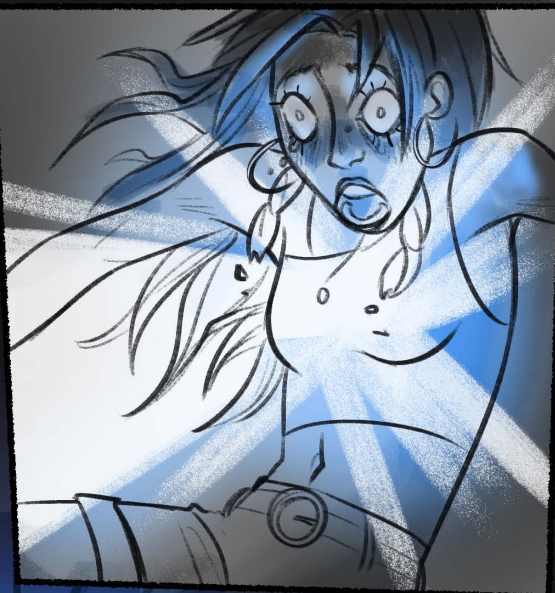
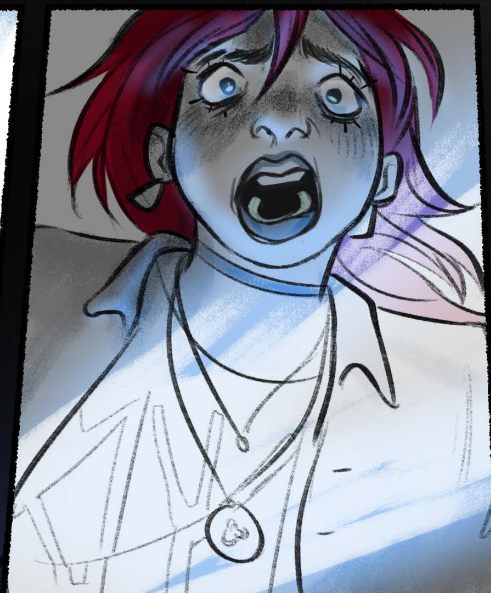
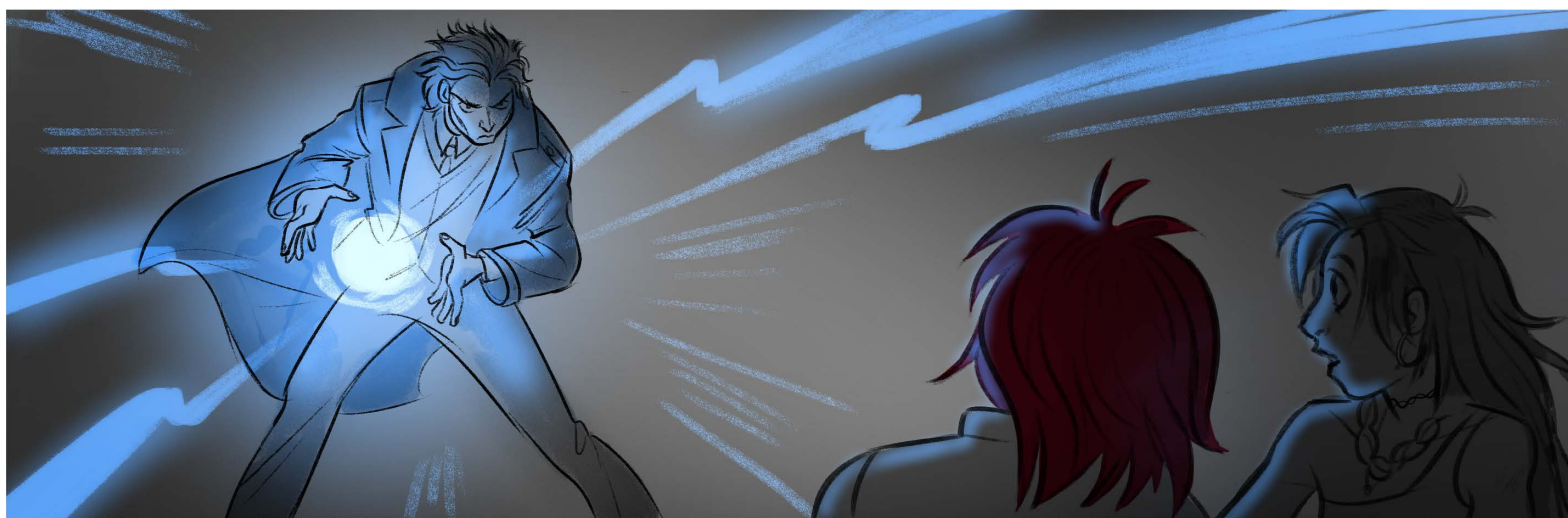
Sjá hvat ek sjá...

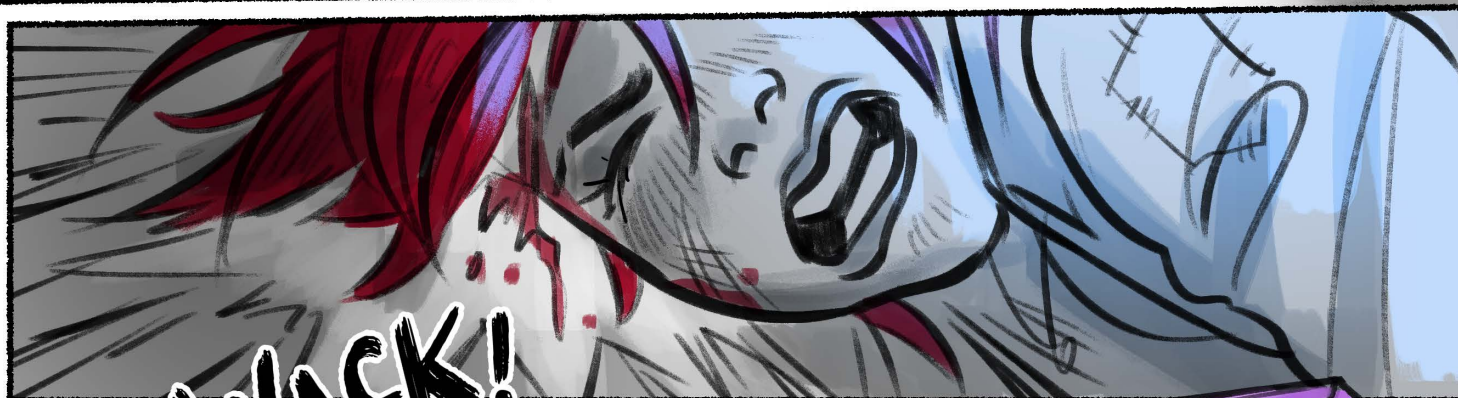
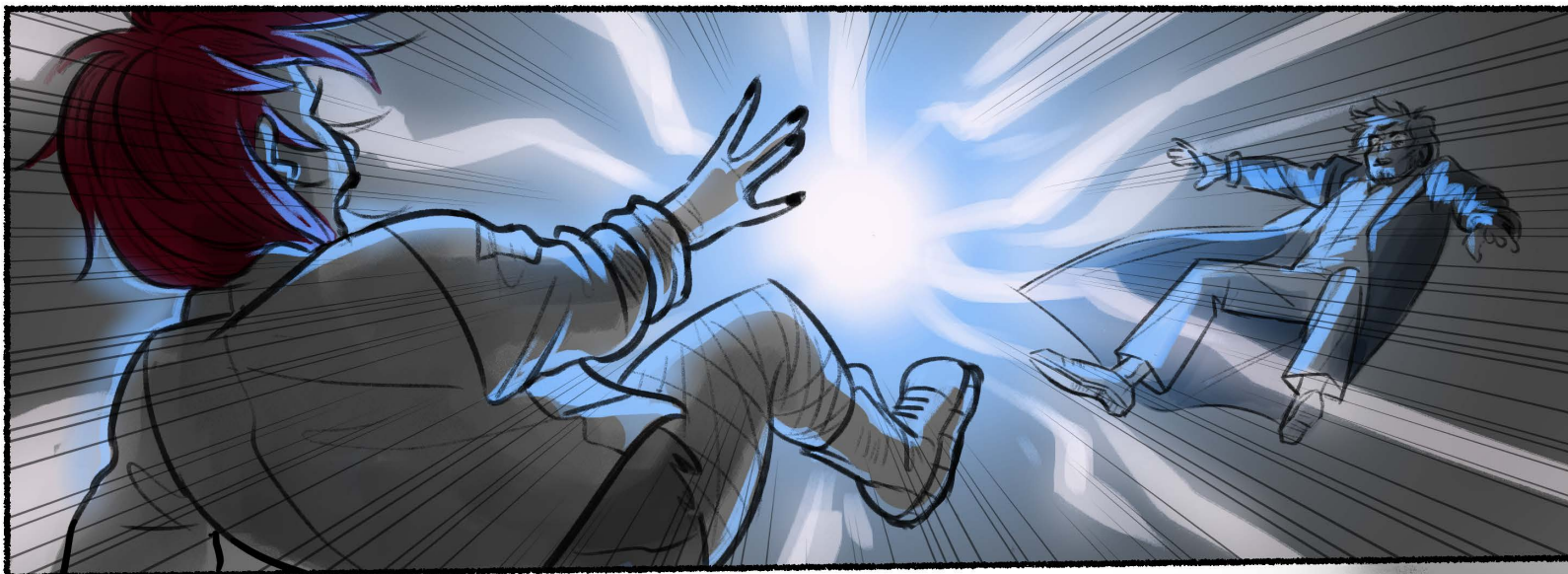


DROP
IT!

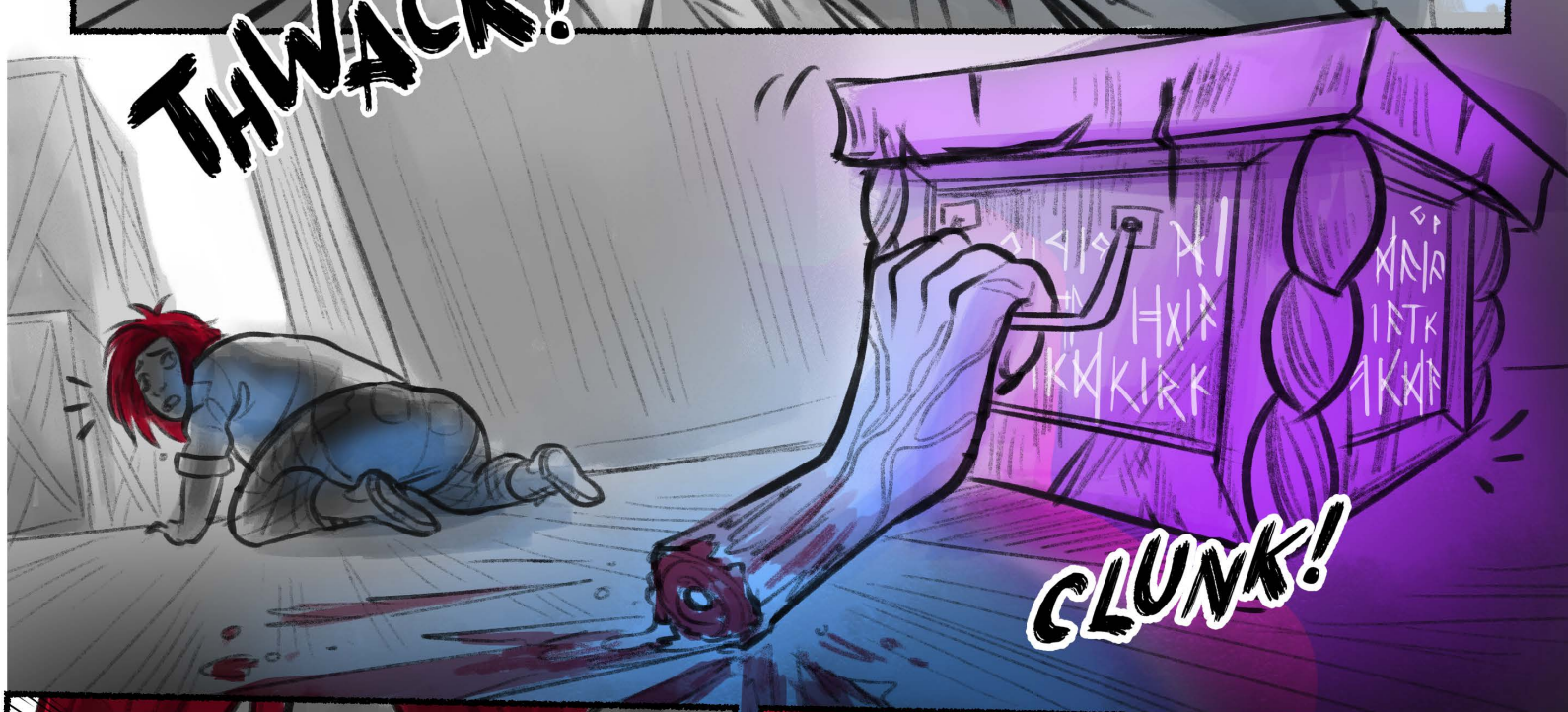


NO!





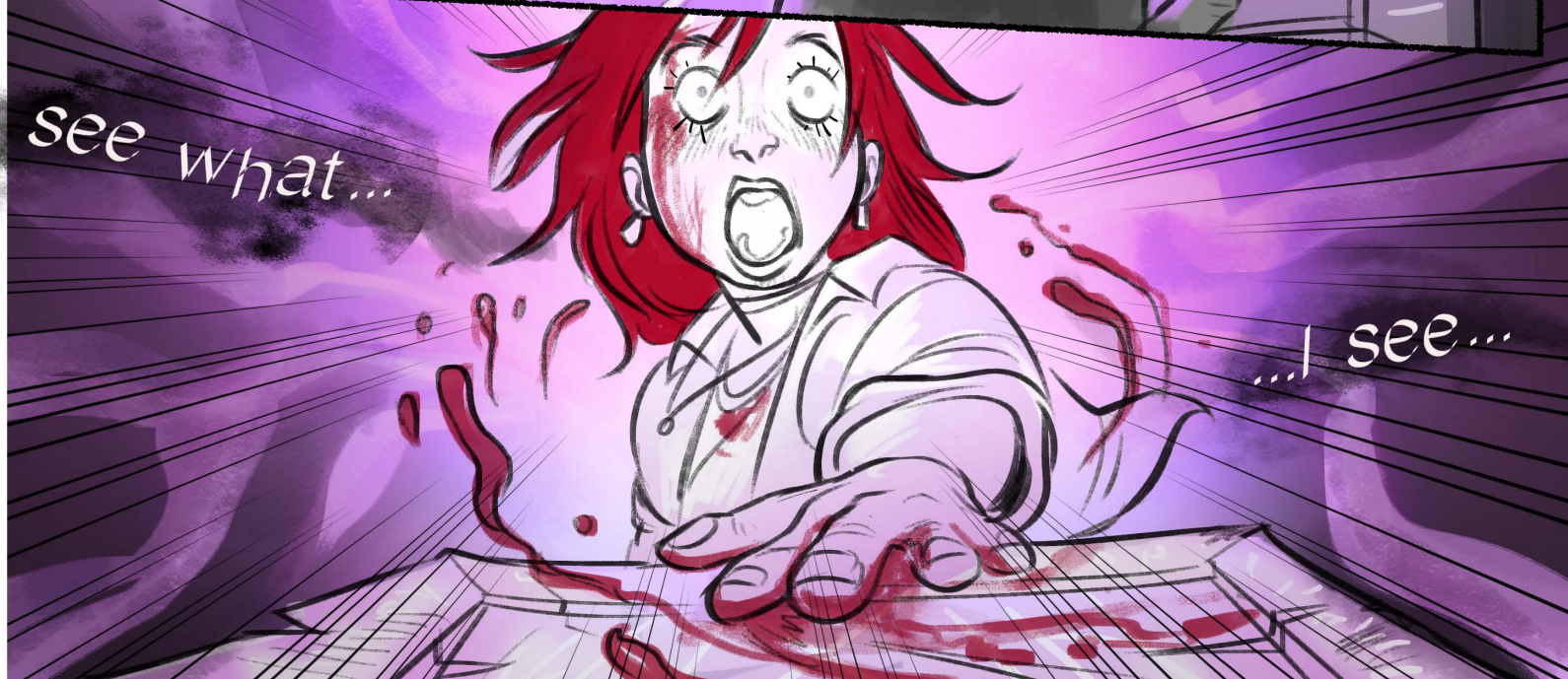
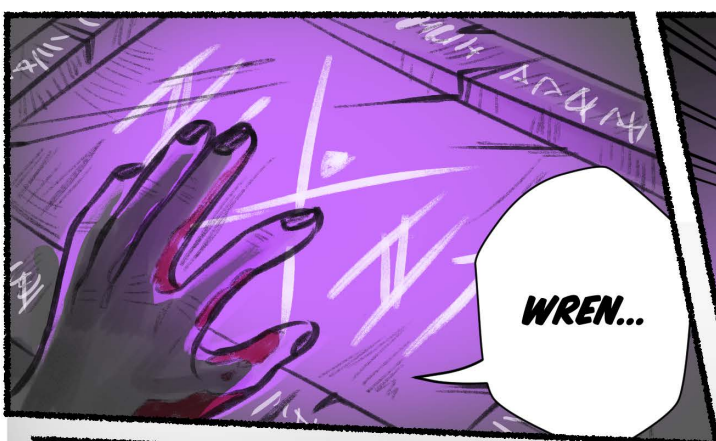
THWACK!



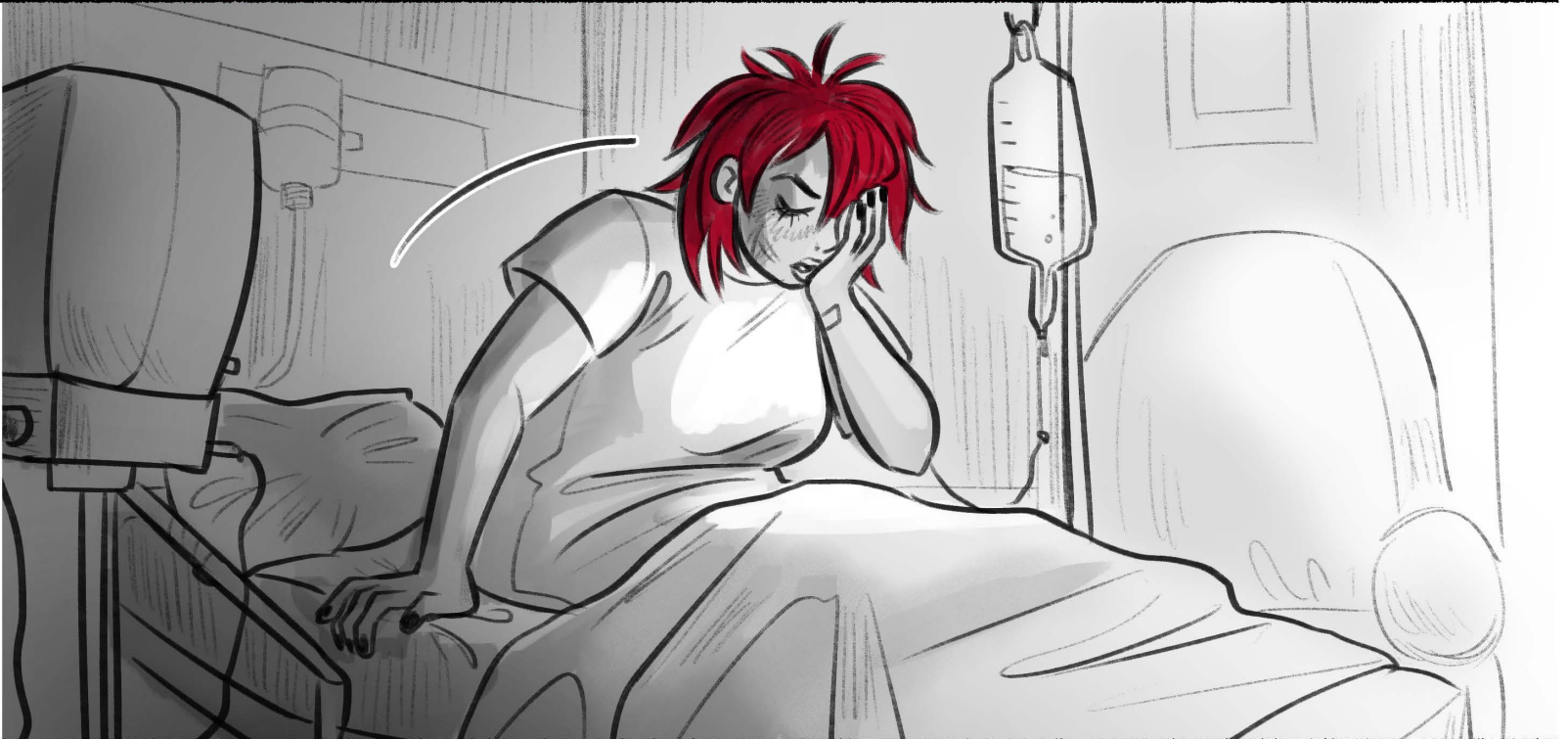
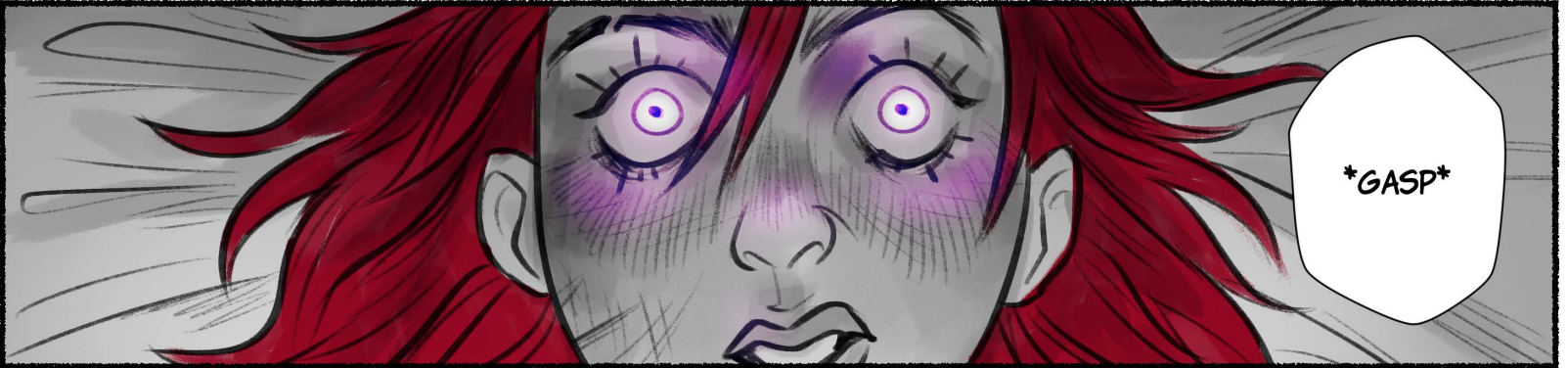
CLUNK!

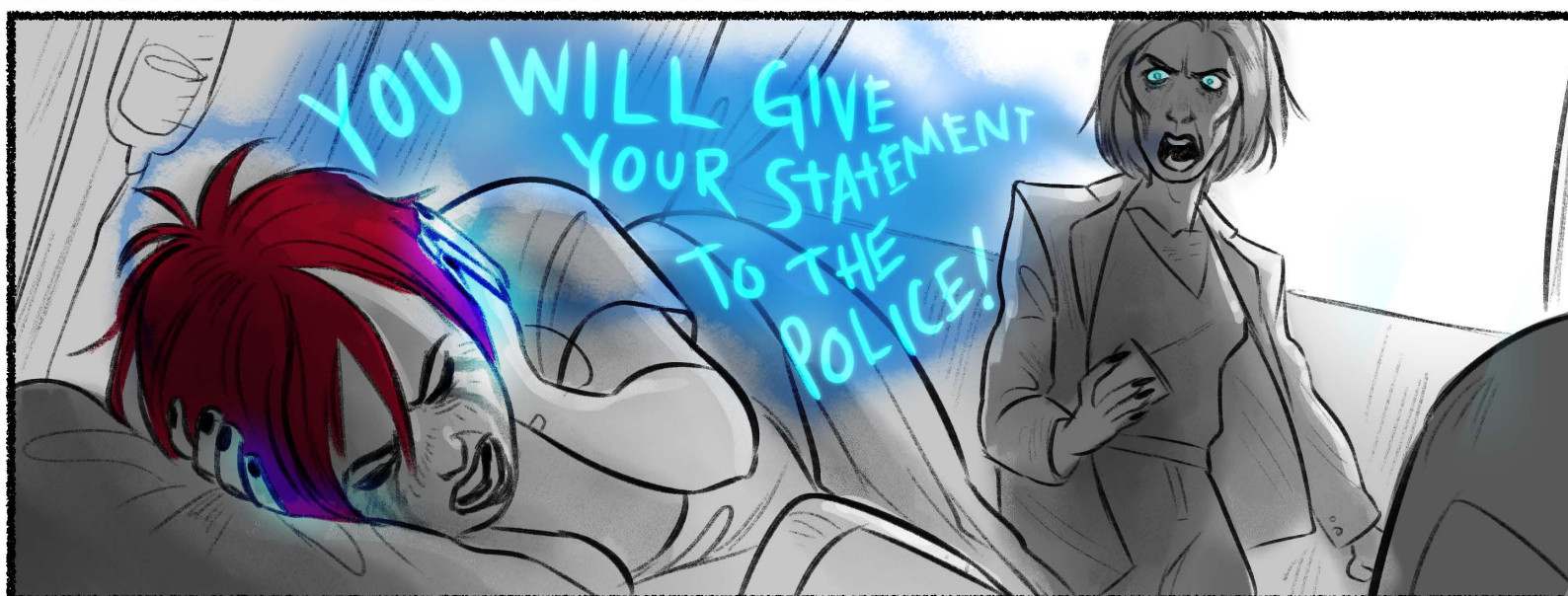
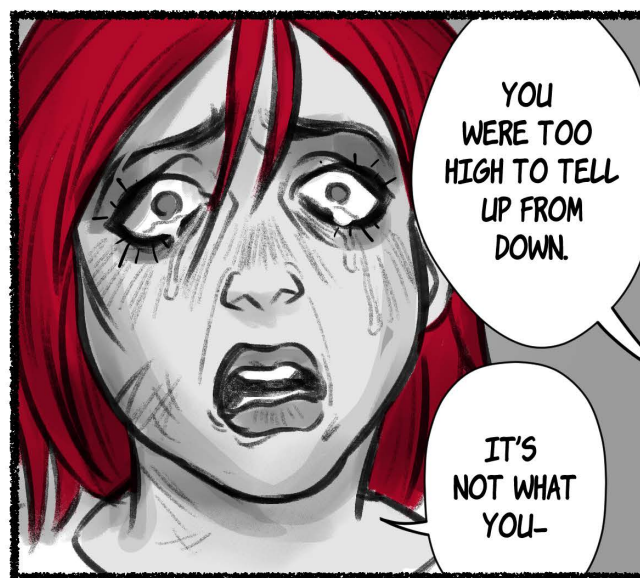
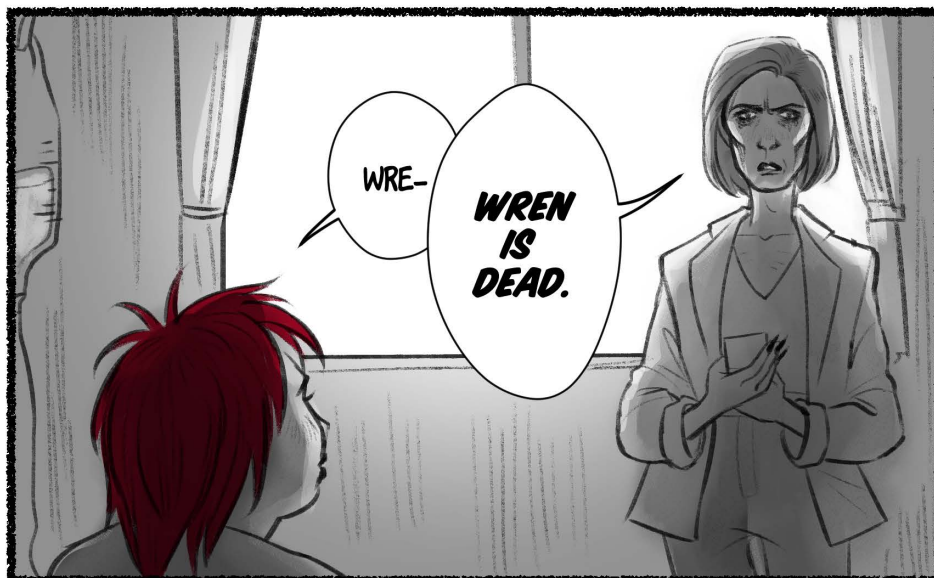


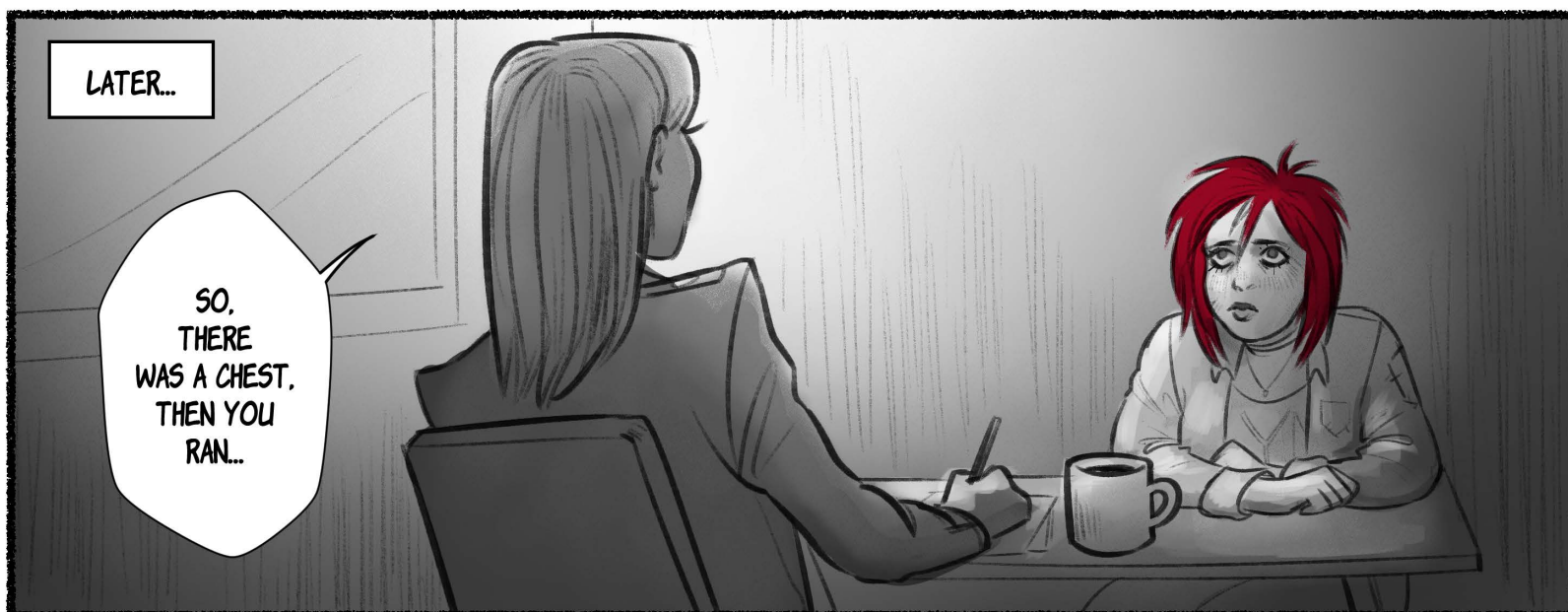
WREN...













see what I see...



see what I see...

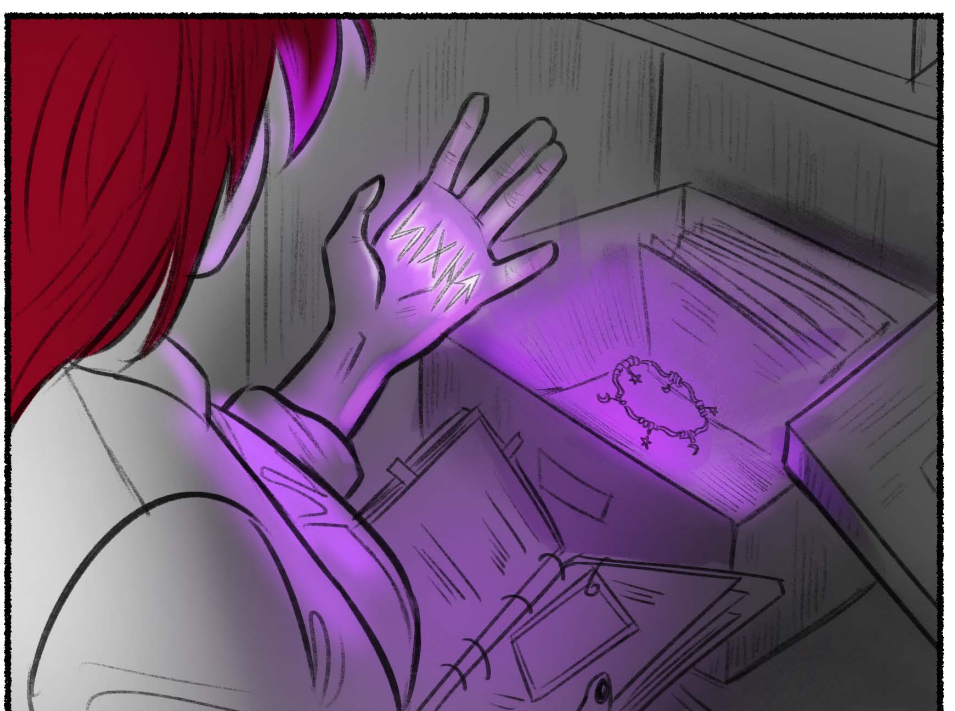
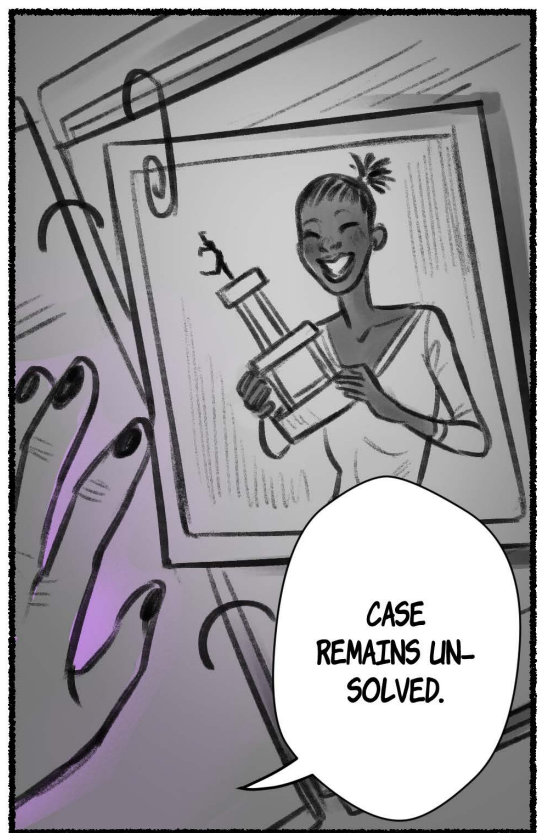
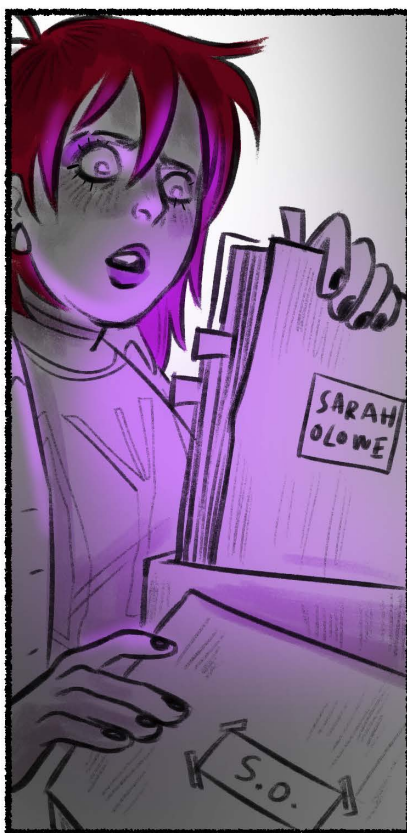
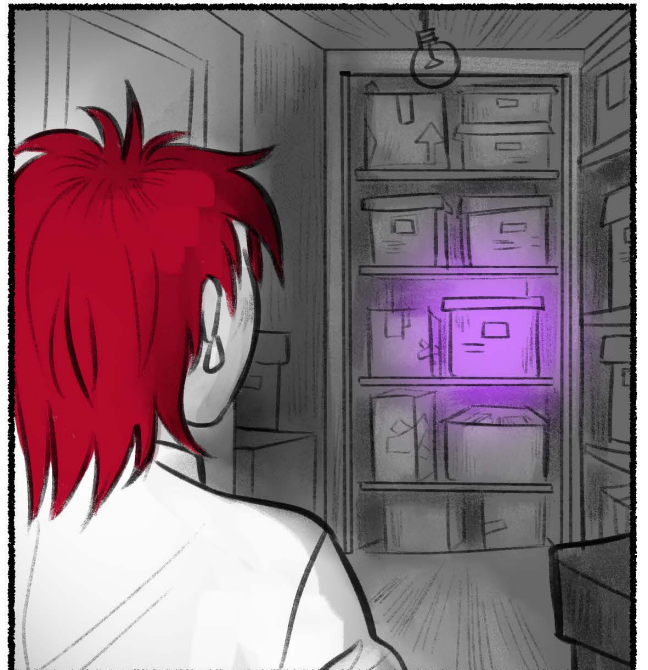


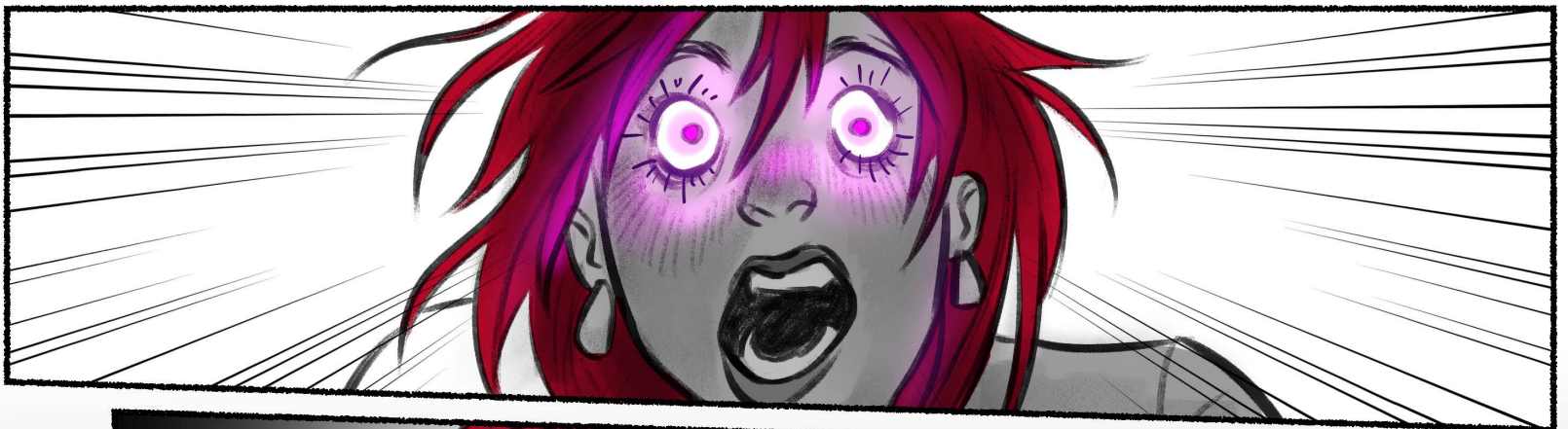
see what I see...

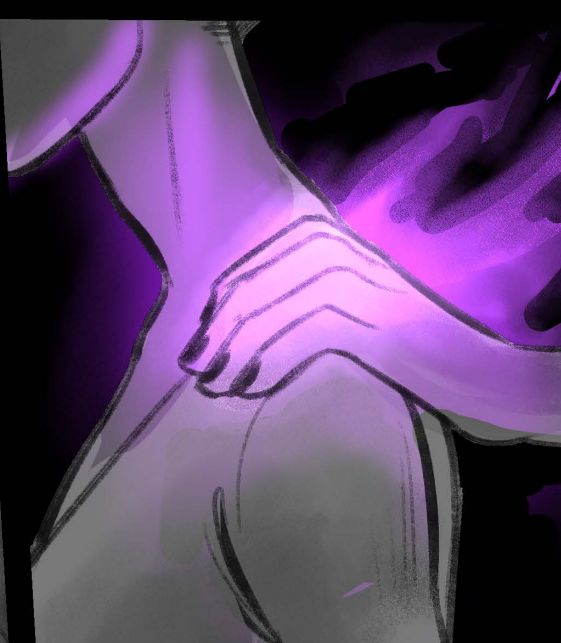


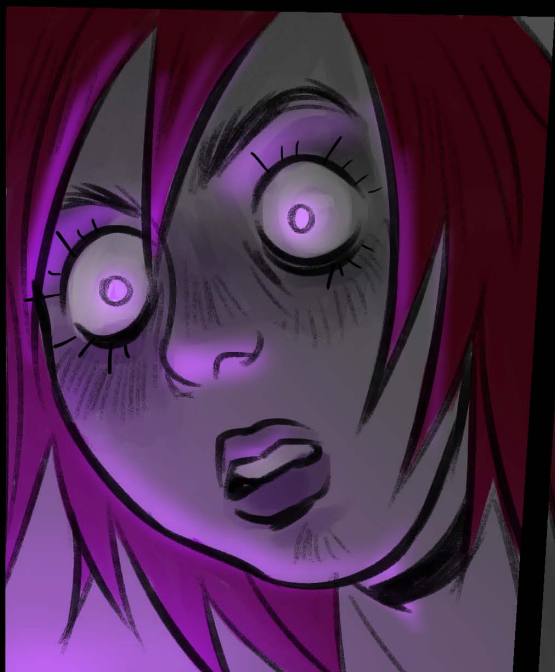
see what I see...

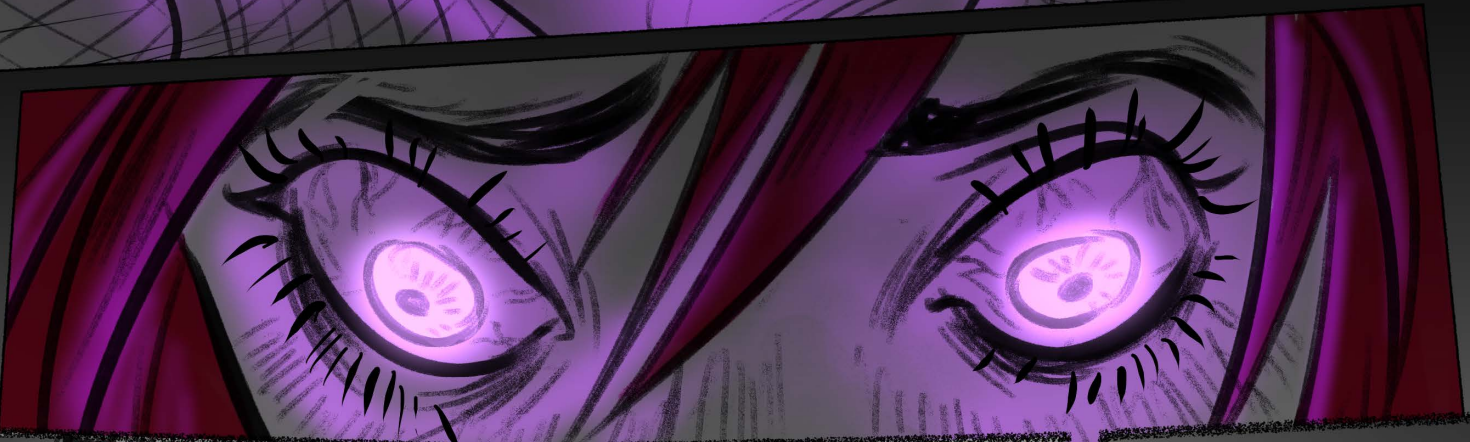
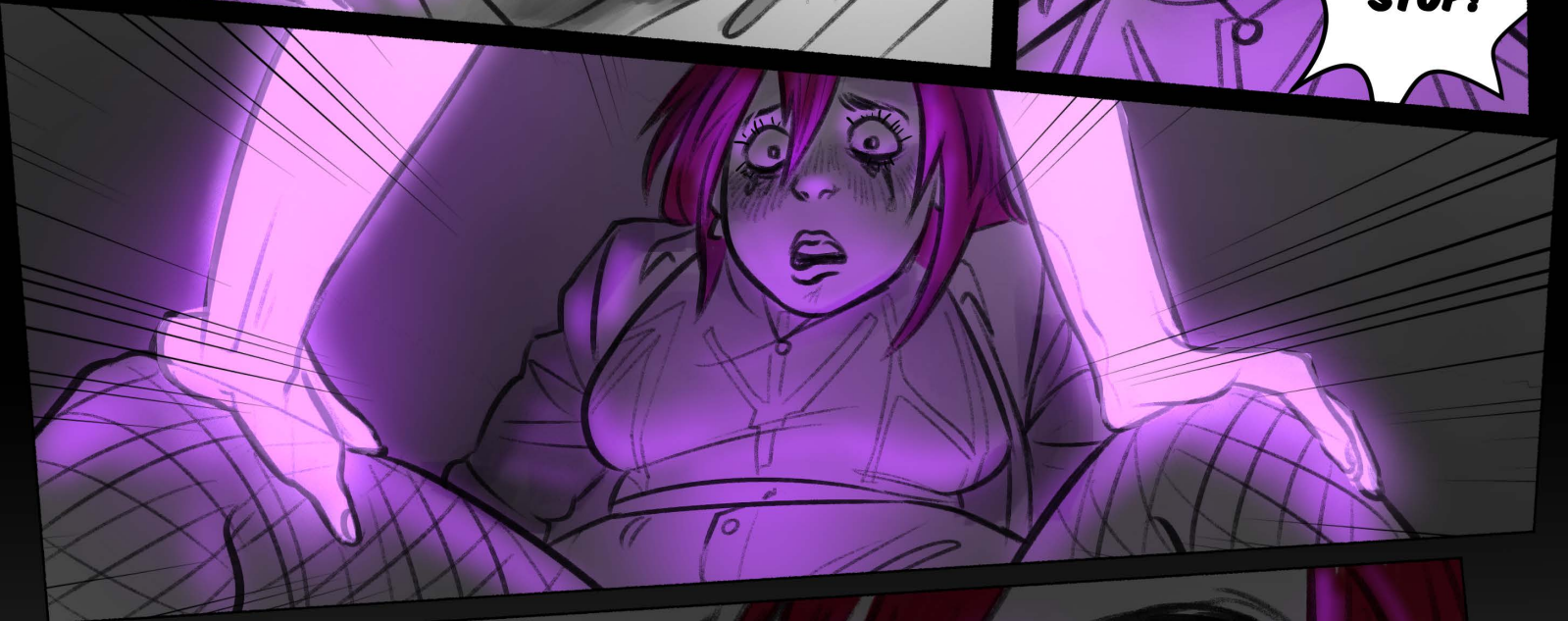


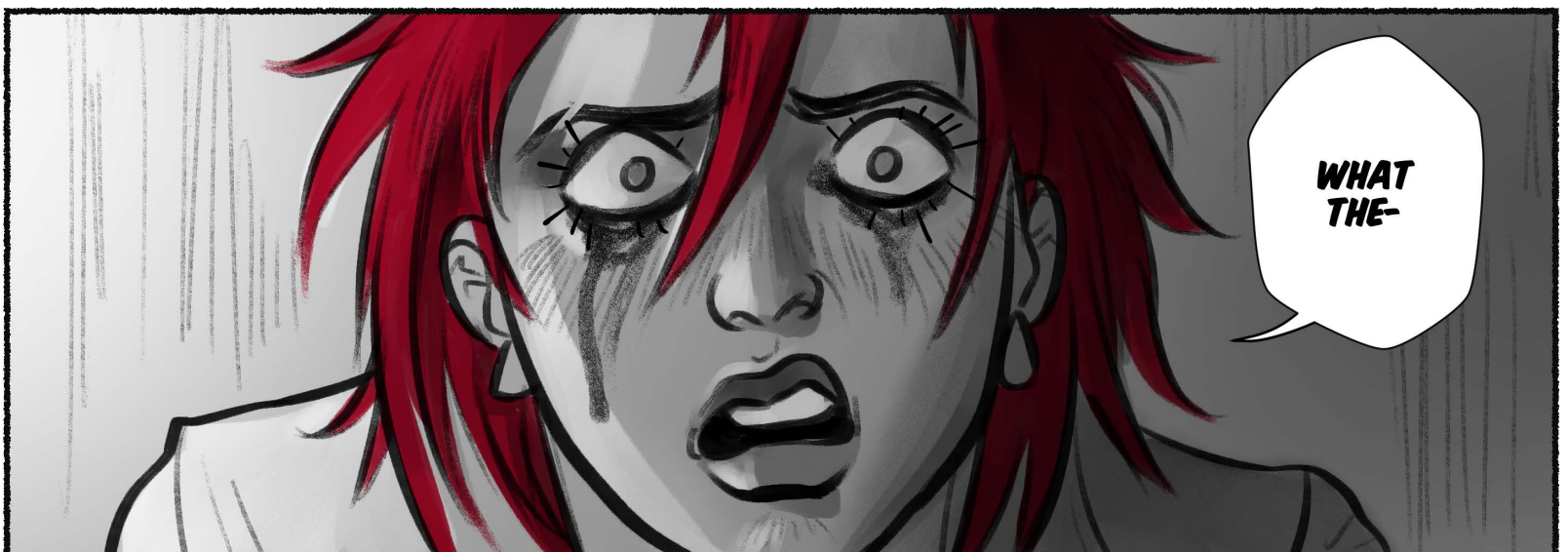
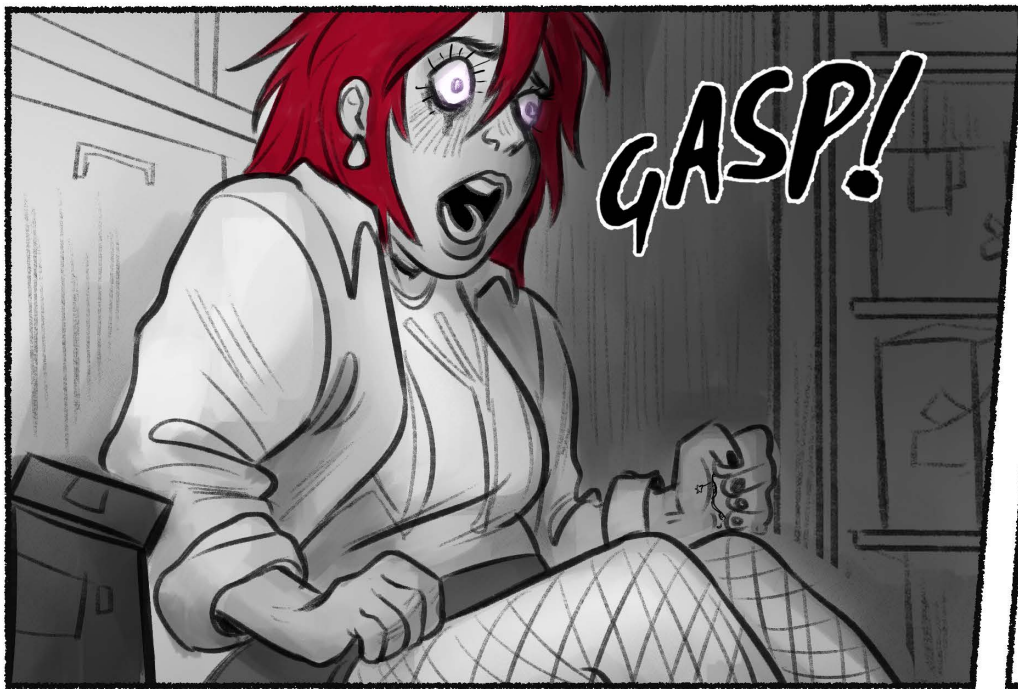
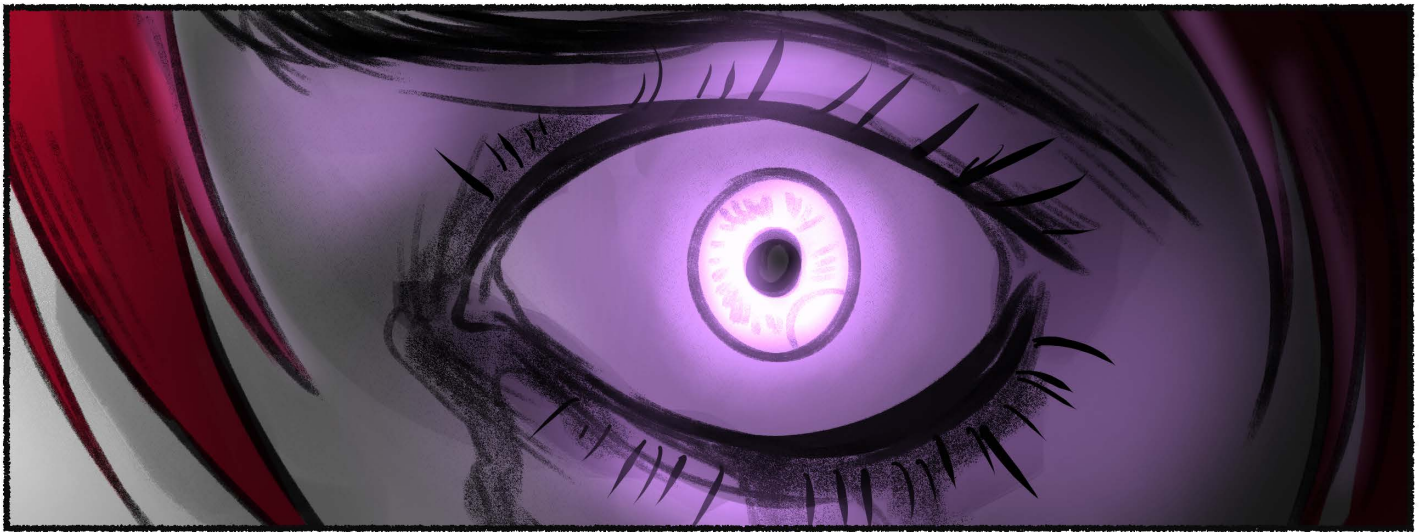








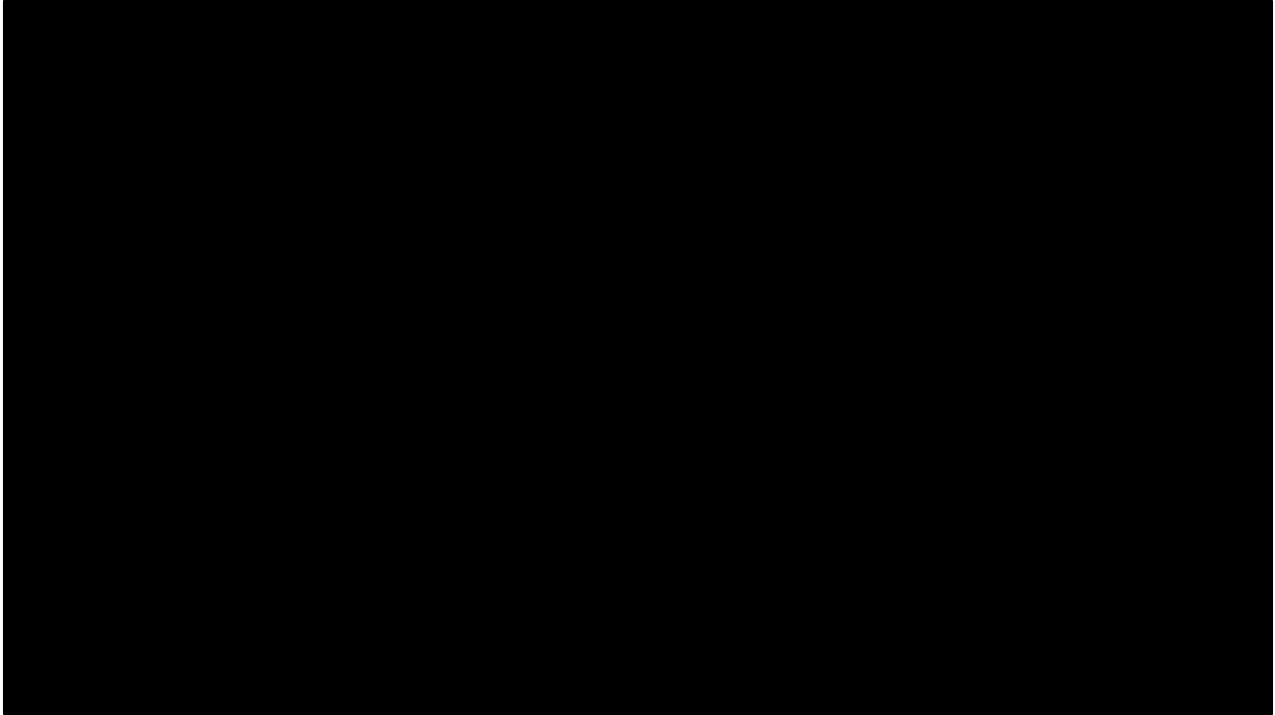




TO BE CONTINUED...

WITCHCRAFT ANONYMOUS

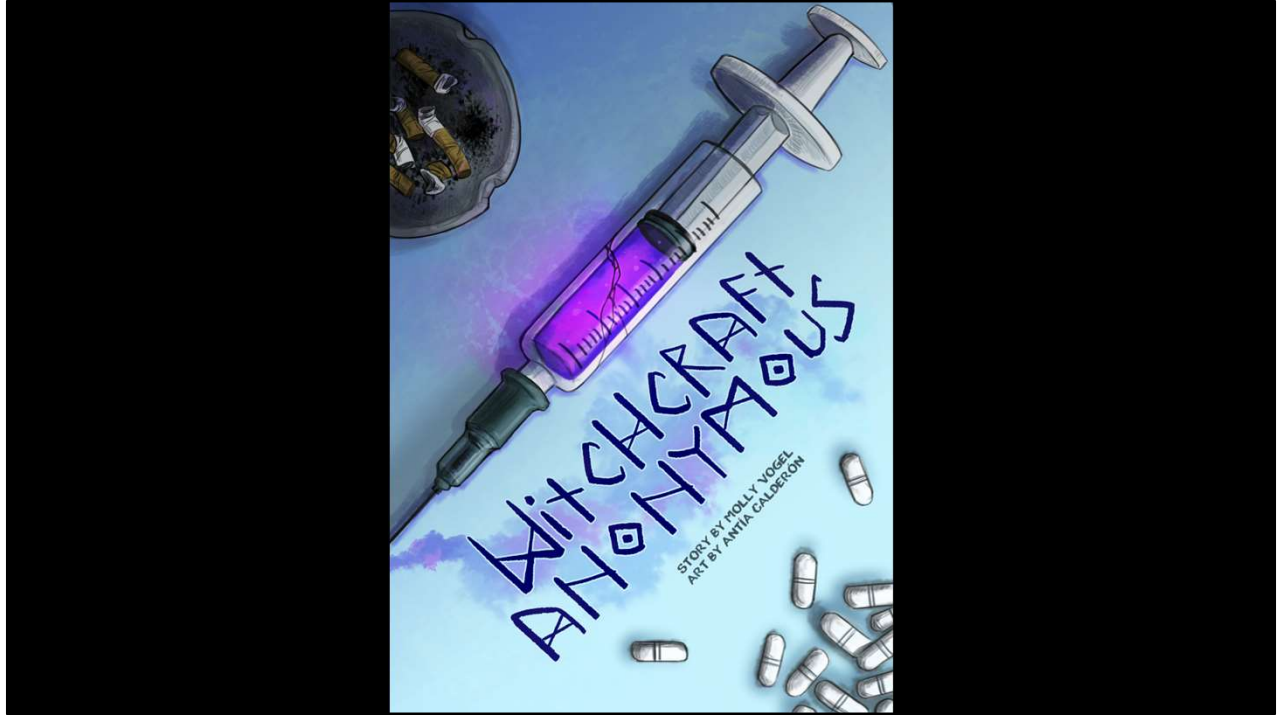
STORY BY MOLLY VOGEL
ART BY ANTÍA CALDERÓN



Hi, I'm Molly, and I'm an alcoholic. I like to get that out of the way up front because it weeds out assholes. I've gone to rehab. I've lived in sober living. I've pissed in a cup every morning for weeks on end.

###

Which is where I got the idea for...



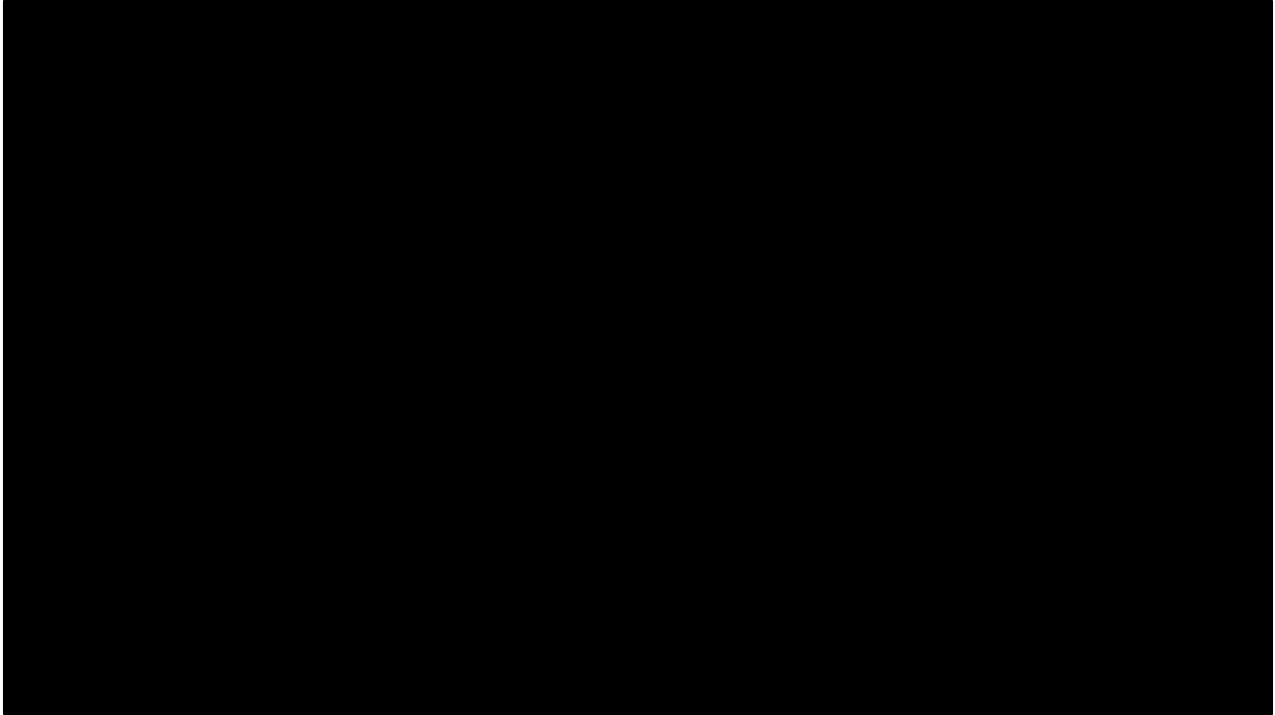
Witchcraft Anonymous. A graphic novel which I wrote, and I'm out to a lot of people—including you! The first issue of the comic sets up an hour-long procedural TV show—featuring our

protagonist--



Poppy Doyle-Ortiz (28)

Poppy. An addict. Fuckup. In sober living. Her anthem is Joan Jett's Bad Reputation. I wrote Poppy's story because I want to draw from my experience to grow empathy and understanding around the battle of addiction. **However, Poppy's addiction is more complicated than most—she's addicted to MAGIC.**



Imagine a world where magic sprung forth 2,000 years ago, and everyone has a specific power called a “Craft.” But not all magicfolk are created equal. **Crafts are split into A, B, and C classifications, with Class A as the most valuable, Class B as the most common, and**

###

Class C as the most undesirable.



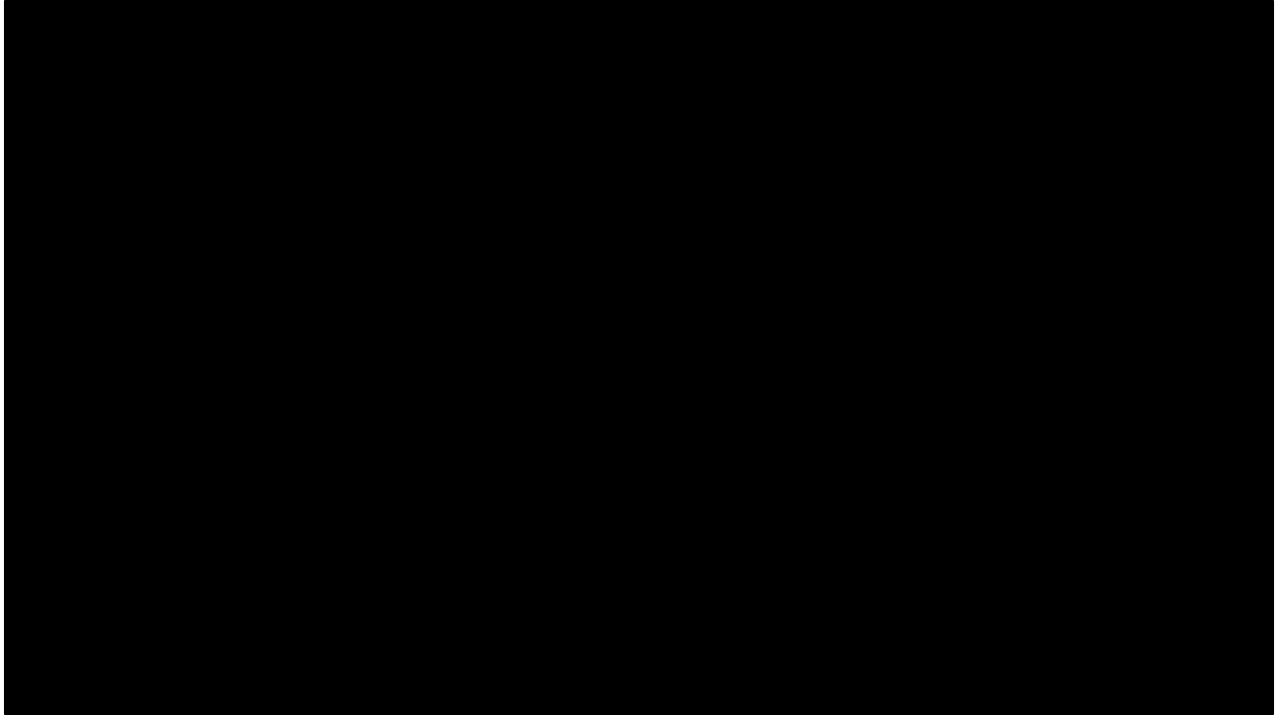
Some people can move shit with their mind—that's a Class A Craft.



Class B Crafts, like potioners, are useful but too common to have a good market value.



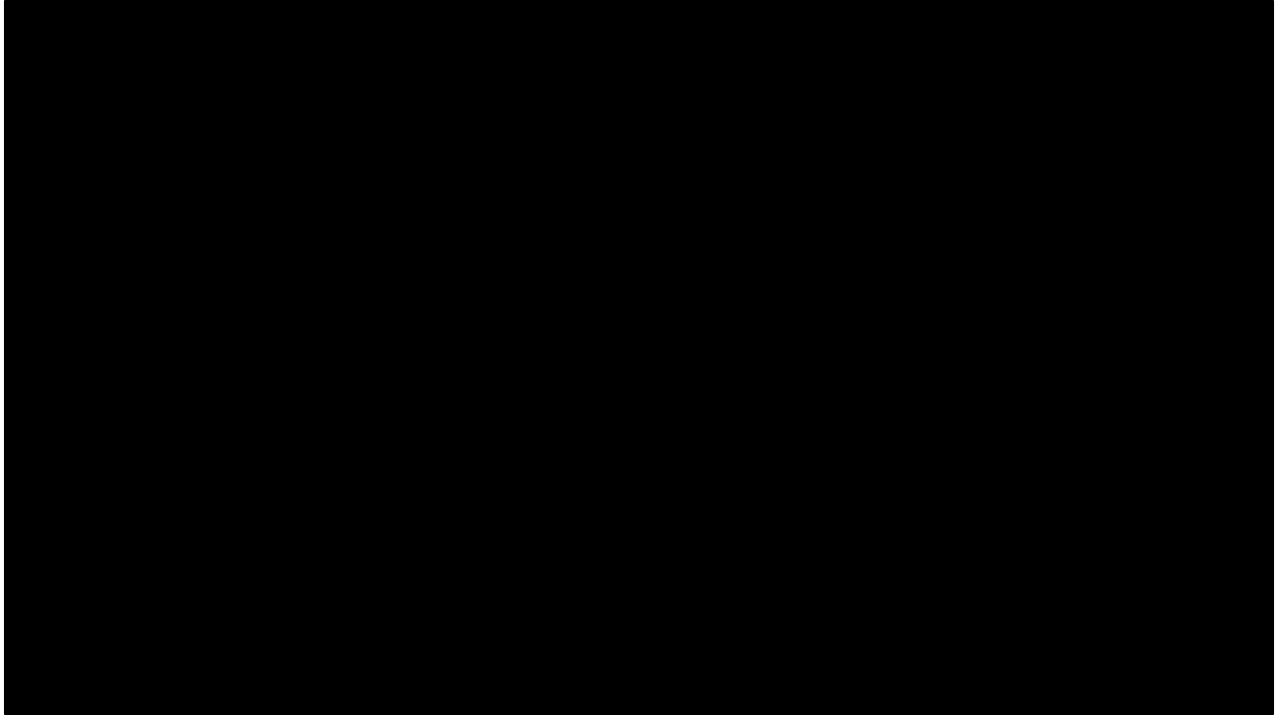
And some sorry Class C souls have the ability to hear grasshoppers' thoughts... and all they do is scream.



Your Craft dictates your opportunities in life. Underwater breathing? Seal Team Six. Curdle milk uncontrollably? Sewage worker. And then there's Poppy—who was born with *no powers*.



So of course, she's addicted to "*risers*"—or, illegal drugs that temporarily lend you a Craft. But, like all drugs, withdrawal can be deadly. Which leads to the show's theme – I am not my addiction. Most media of addiction focuses on the addict and their evils, and not the society which causes and enables the addiction in the first place.



In Poppy's world, we take a more literal approach. People resort to drugs and fall prey to addiction because their world isn't fair. The only way to escape poverty is through taking performance enhancing substances... sound familiar? Poppy is our shining star—she's human. She laughs, she cries, she fucks, she falls—and she might just save the world.

###

In terms of tone--



This show is dramatic with dark humor. Think *iZombie* meets *Euphoria*. Fun, dark, gritty, vibrant, and powerful. The show's structure is like *Supernatural*, with cases of the week that eventually tie together against a seasonal "Big Bad." The Big Bad causes problems in the weekly cases, and vice versa. The show is capable of both extreme humor and intense emotion. Because addicts are people, capable of both hilarity and heinousness. Just like everyone else.



Poppy lives in modern day Seattle, which has a thriving black market. The magic in this world is Norse-inspired, and Seattle has a rich Scandinavian history (in the real world). They even have a National Nordic Museum! My spin on Seattle tweaks history, where Christian colonizers never settled the city because Christianity doesn't exist. However, a just-as-corrupt equivalent emerged in Norse paganism—



"Matronism." Oppressive, orthodox churches are still very much a thing—but they worship The Mother, instead of Christ.



The Mother is the goddess who gifted humanity with Crafts over 2,000 years ago. Matronism preaches that you must be content with your Craft, which, in theory, could be a helpful mindset. Unfortunately, the government/society uses that mentality to enforce a caste system. Matronism has just as insidious of a foothold in their government as far-right Christianity does in ours, despite an

###

official separation of Church and state.



**Poppy
(28)**



Let's meet the characters.

POPPY (28) – our kickass, fatass hero with an addiction to painting her nails, among other things. She has a festering anger under the surface. She related way too much with Elsa's "conceal, don't feel."



WREN
The Sister (16)

Poppy's partying younger sister, vapid but repressing real emotions. Her penchant for sneaking out bites her in the ass, as does her simmering addiction to Risers. She can be both cruel and kind; and boasts a Class A fire craft.



LENA
The Mom (50s)



Poppy's cutthroat, Class A, silvertongued mother. If she tells you to do something, you can't help but magically comply. Recently widowed, but a bitch long before that, she's embarrassed and disappointed by Poppy, unable to see that her own actions as a mother contributes to Poppy's downhill path in life.



CIARAN
The Kingpin (30)

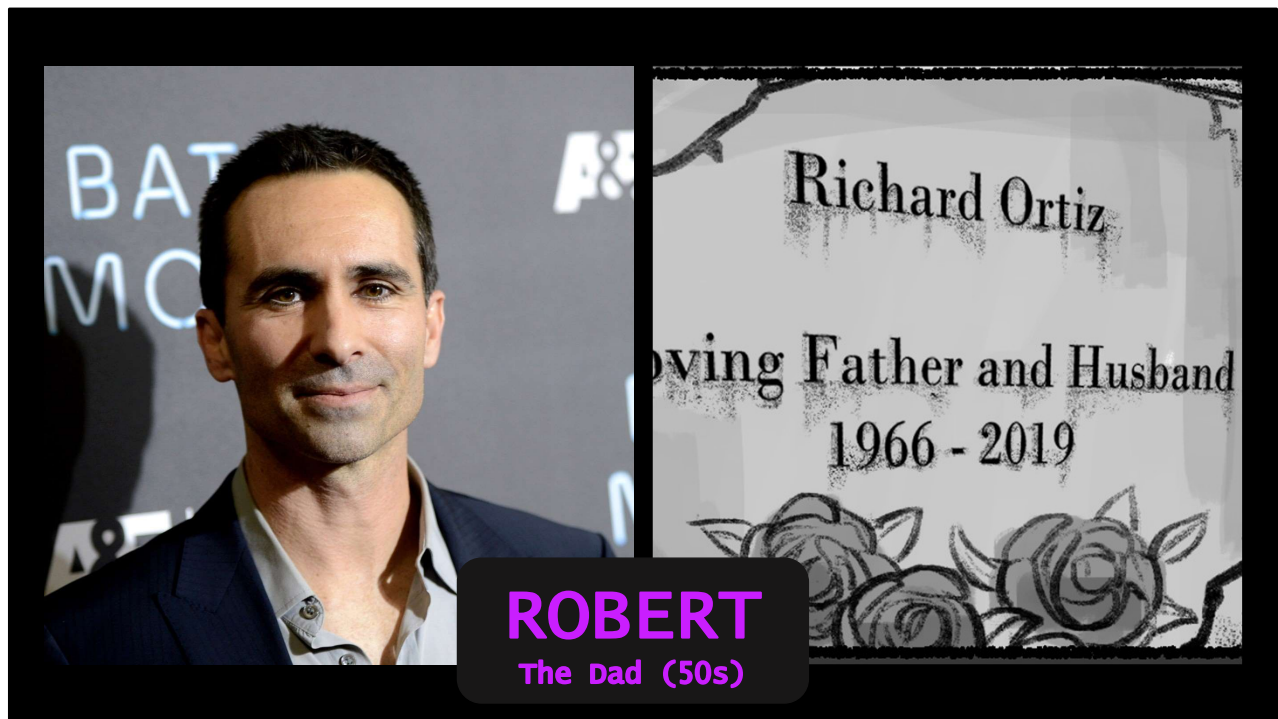
A local drug dealing kingpin Ciaran, Fearsome and cruel, he goes to extreme lengths to complete his mission, devoted to ridding the world of Crafts to achieve equality by any means necessary. As Jake Peralta says—
“Cool motive. Still murder.”



VICTORIA
The Cop (32)



A street savvy, exasperated cop saddled with Poppy, and her eventual love interest. She has the Class A Craft of dimensional storage—or, she can keep items in a pocket dimension. Initially a non-believer, she comes to value Poppy, both for her Craft and her heart.



Poppy's recently deceased father, whose death might be suspicious...



The religious entity upon which the Church is founded. She gave humanity Crafts, but according to religious texts, The Mother was punished by Elder Gods for her crime and imprisoned. But some matronists believe that The Mother will return one day and bless her true believers. Now, the Elder Gods are all dead, and

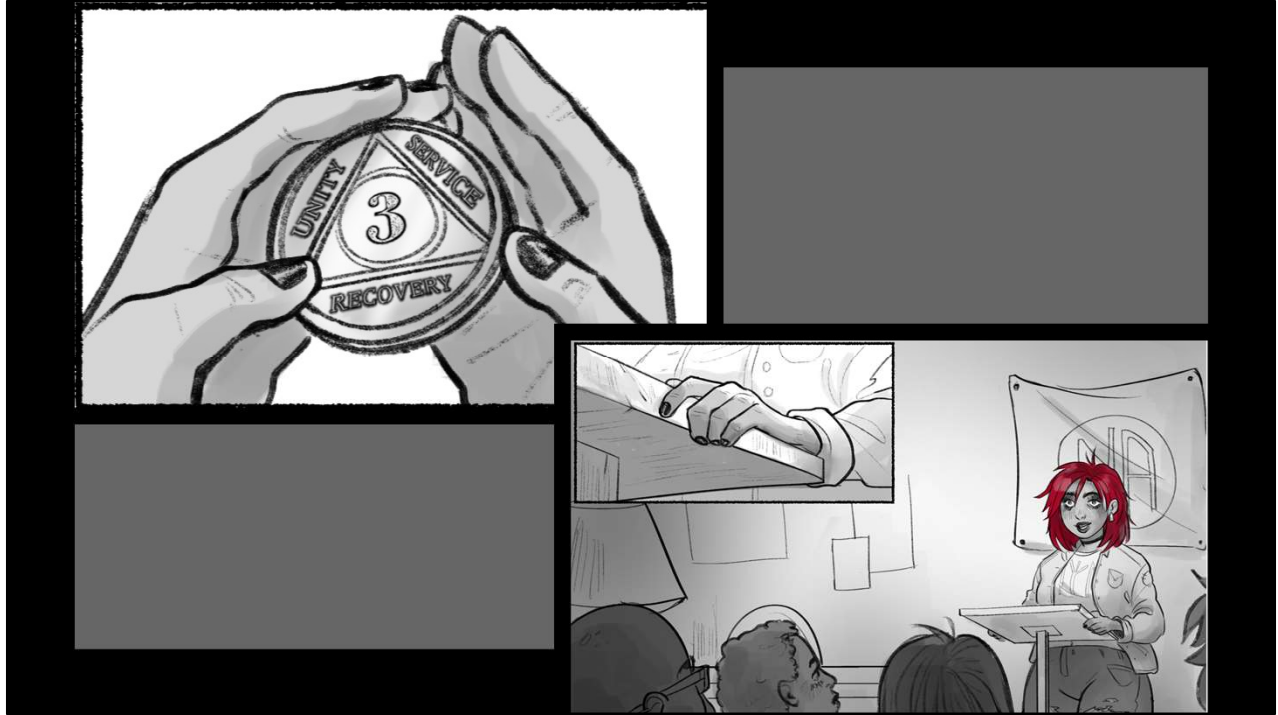
###

The Mother's prison is cracking...

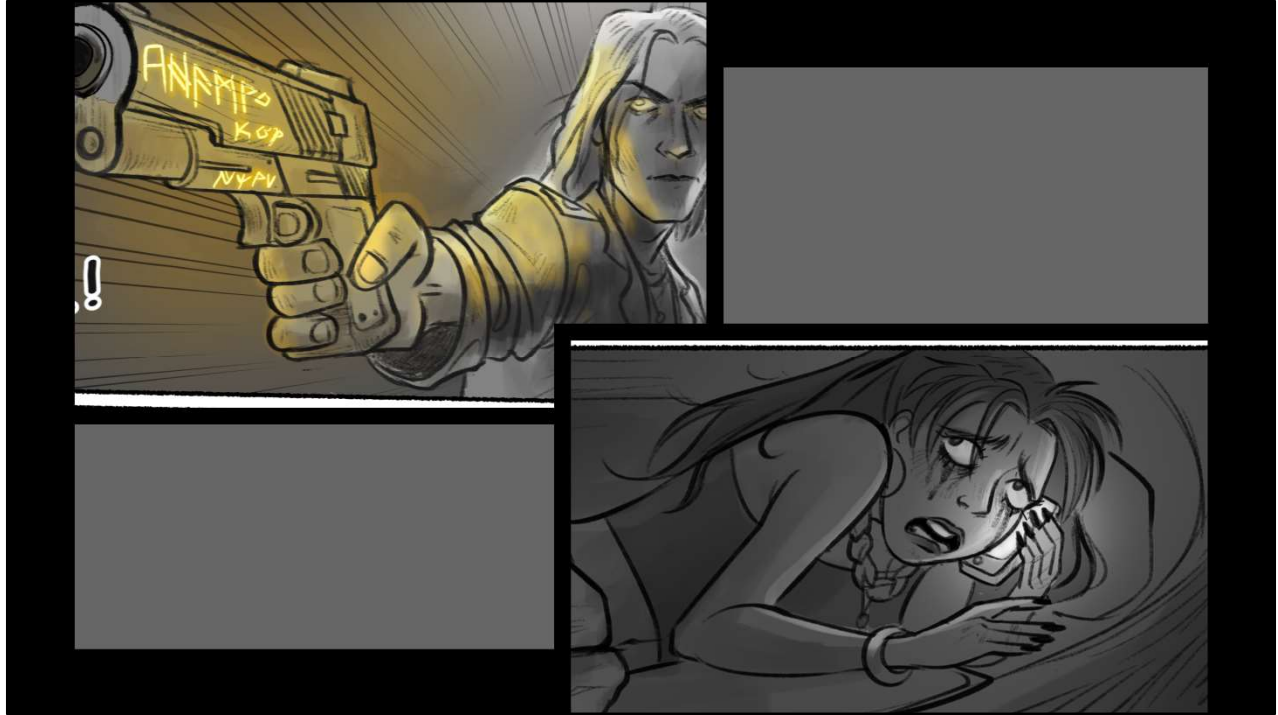


Which brings us to the pilot, following our protagon Poppy as she stumbles into solving cold cases for the cops.

Poppy's life without a Craft sucks, as she gets abused by her mom and society.



Her one refuge is AA, where she gets her 3 month sobriety chip. That peace doesn't last long—



when Wren gets kidnapped at a party by drug lord Ciaran's goon, who takes her to Ciaran's warehouse HQ.



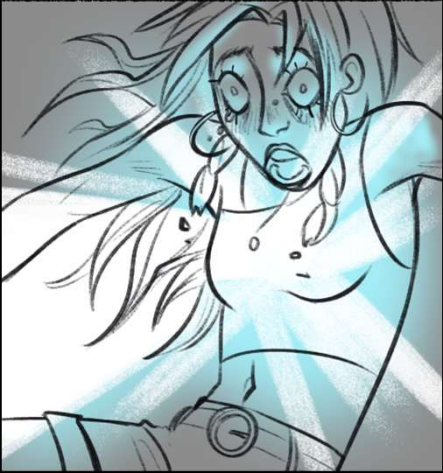
Ciaran needs Wren's blood to unlock a glowing Ancient Chest.



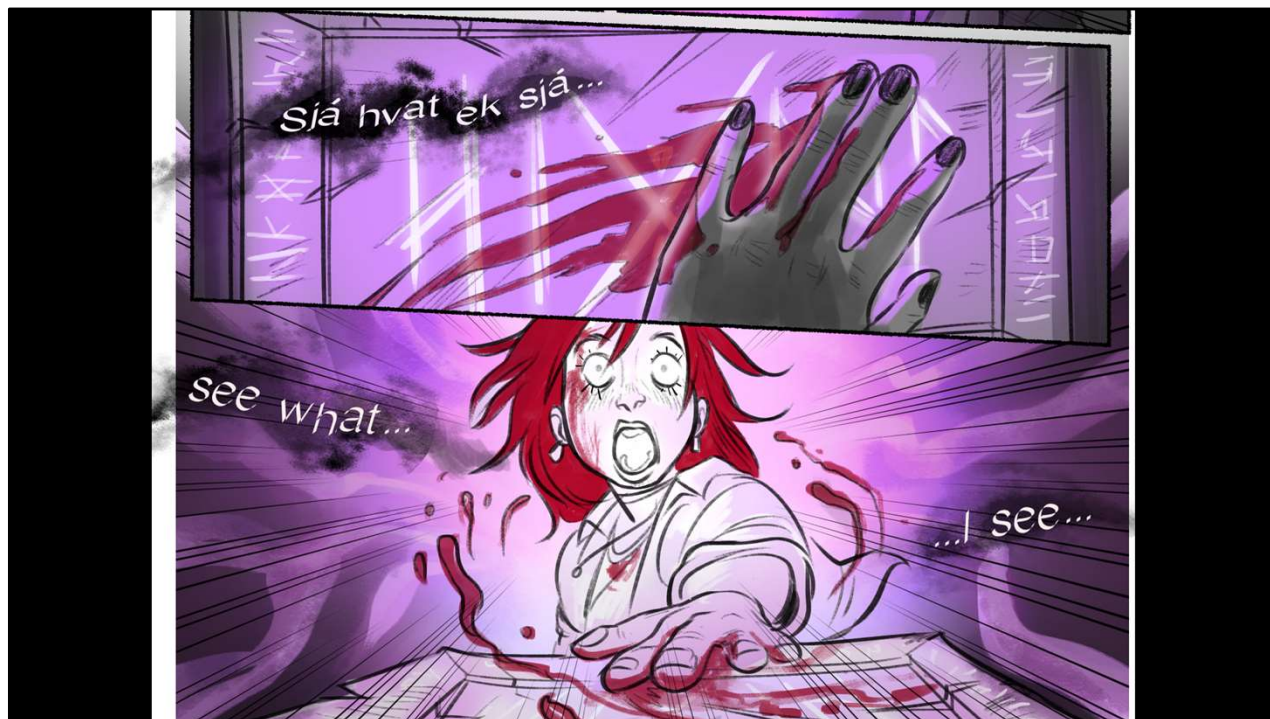
Poppy tracks Wren to the warehouse, and backed into a corner, she relapses on super-strength risers to break Wren free.



In their escape, Poppy and Wren stumble across the Ancient Chest, and when Wren tries to steal it—they get caught!



Ciaran vaporizes Wren with a fireball to the sternum!



Poppy touches her bloody palm to the ancient, glowing Chest--



purple glowing fractals sprout up Poppy's arm until it covers her whole body—her eyes and mouth shoot beams of purple energy—and she collapses.



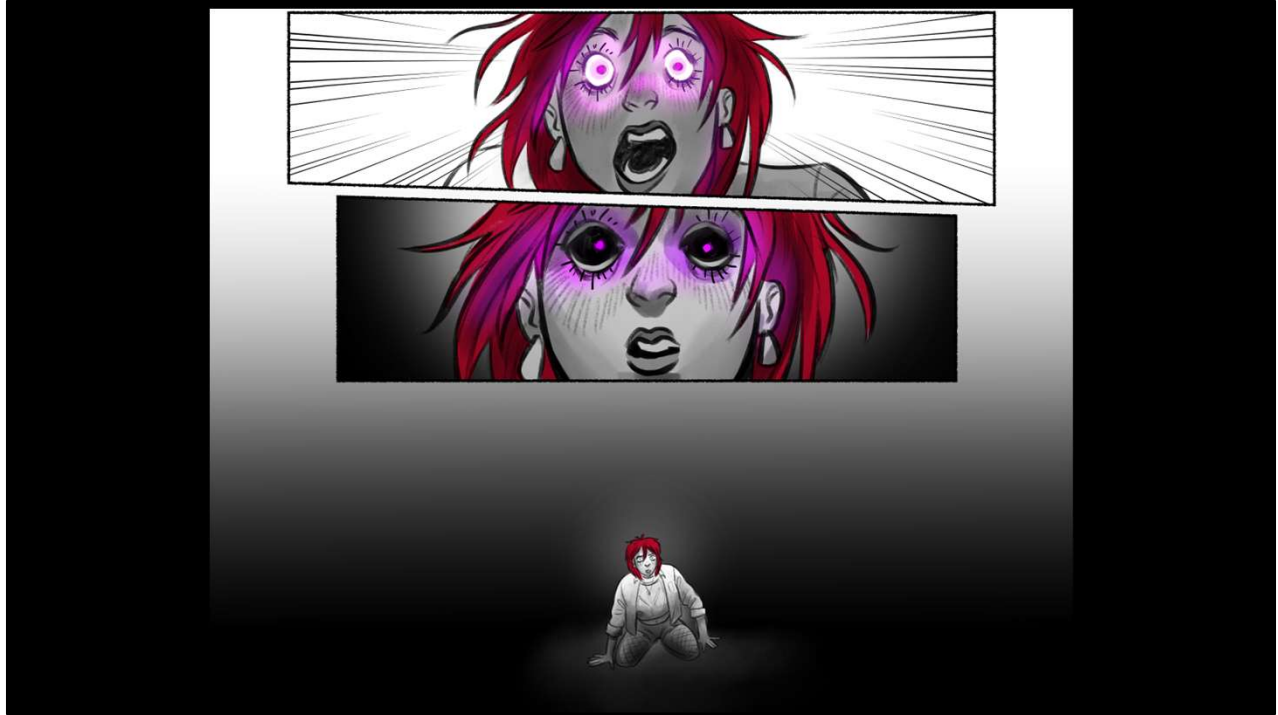
Poppy wakes in the hospital. Wren is dead, and Poppy needs to give her statement to the police.



At the station, an ethereal voice calls Poppy to a basement file room. Poppy opens a glowing file about a murdered gymnast.



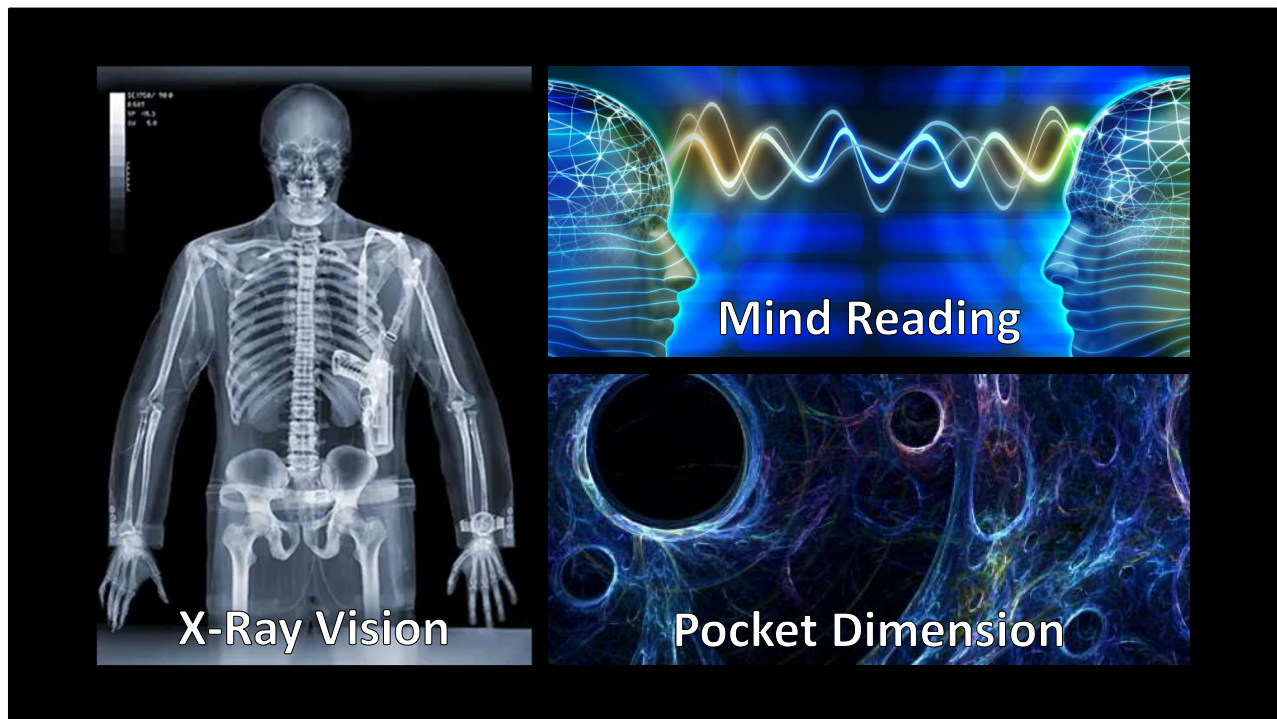
Poppy holds an item of the deceased in her magically burnt hand—



her eyes glow purple and black—she wakes up in The Void. A vast waste of space, inky black and limitless.



On this ethereal plane, Poppy can talk to the victims —who are stuck in limbo, unaware they are dead. When in harmony, Poppy can access and use the victim’s Craft—and discovers a new high. However, the dead can also possess Poppy if agitated enough. When Poppy touches the victim’s shoulder—she sees flashes of pain and clues!



Poppy goes to Vic, but they butt heads over the case, so Poppy conducts her own investigation—which leads to a physical therapist using x-ray vision as a peeping tom, a bigoted mindreading church counselor, and stalker ex-boyfriend who can create pocket dimensions, just like Vic. Poppy finds and arrests the killer— a Larry-Nassar-esque predator in plain sight— and she helps the victim move on into the light.

But the intense experience leaves Poppy rattled, and she cries by her sister and father’s graves—trying to resist the siren call of Risers.

From the shadows—a slight figure watches.



It's her sister, Wren, very much not dead—missing a hand. A dark look in her eyes.



Here's a brief look at season 1.

Poppy reluctantly works for the cops, slowly establishing a true friendship with Vic, and together they catch a serial killer targeting addicts. Possible cases include: an undercover cop addicted to Risers; a straight A, Class A teen who could sense lies; a dude with a Class A levitation craft who somehow skydived to his death; an opera singer with perfect pitch; a veterinarian who could talk to cats.

Meanwhile, drug lord Ciaran holds Wren prisoner, because as we said, plot twist—she's not dead! Just down a severed hand—and *her Craft*. Ciaran sweeps in to capitalize on her vulnerability, serving as both drug dealer and mentor. Suffering Stockholm Syndrome and radicalized to his anti-magic agenda, Wren helps Ciaran with his plan—a bomb that will strip the Craft from anyone caught in the blast.

At the end of the season, Poppy and Vic arrest Wren and Ciaran, but they can't stop the attack. The bomb goes off, hitting both Poppy and Vic *and* half of Seattle.



In season two, Poppy struggles with sobriety after losing her Craft—until a vision from her dead father ROBERT restores her power. When Vic gets fired, she and Poppy decide to open a private-eye business.

Their cases lead them to this season's big bad-- Matron Una Bigelow, the head of Seattle's Matronist church, who has a secret ritual to release The Mother from her prison. The ritual requires a Craft stripped from a mother by her child—and newly released and religious Wren kidnaps Lena for the Church. Wren and the spirit of Robert convince Poppy to help complete the ritual and unleash The Mother on the world.

###

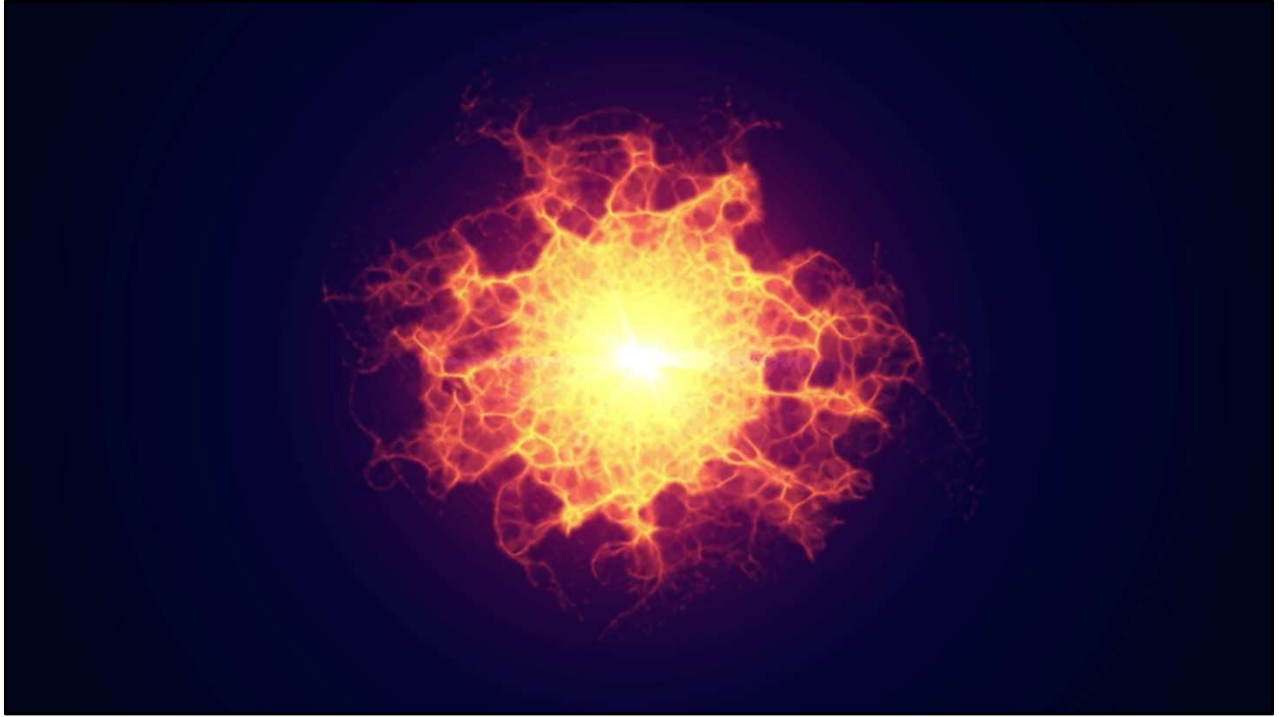
In season three, Poppy faces her biggest rival yet—



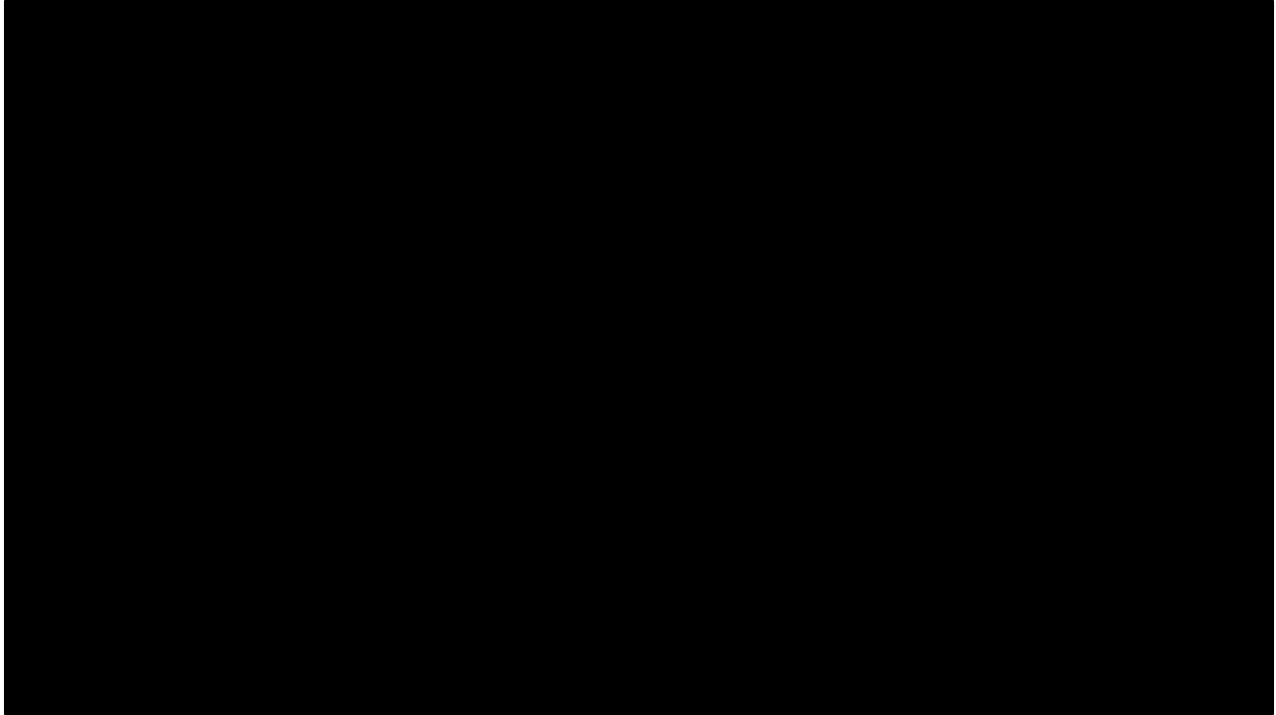
God. Turns out, Poppy never spoke to her dead father—it was The Mother, wearing his face to trick Poppy. The world has been thrown into chaos, with The Mother gifting Crafts to power-hungry megalomaniacs across the globe.



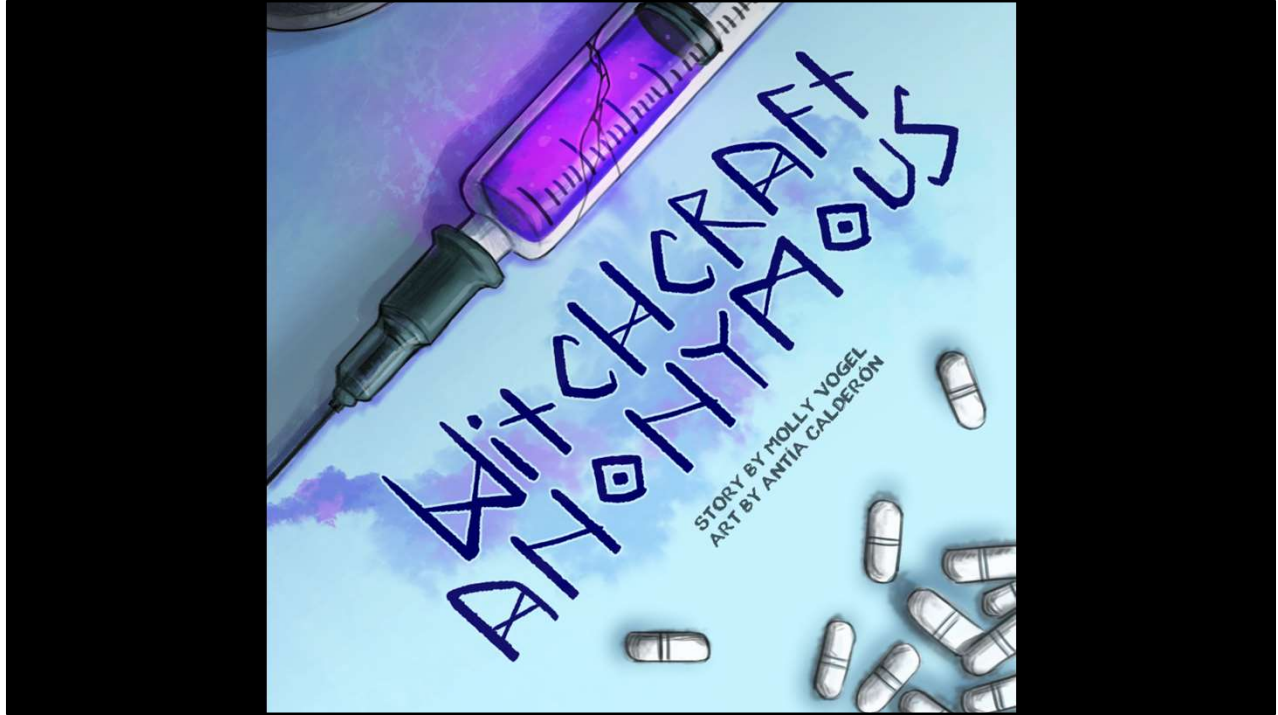
Poppy and Vic's cases of the week conflict with The Mother, but when the REAL ghost of Poppy's father reveals The Void is actually The Mother's prison— now empty— Poppy and her allies build a nuclear de-power bomb to trap The Mother back in the Void.



It explodes, killing not only The Mother, but magic everywhere.



Risers no longer work. A new world is born from the ashes of magic, but Poppy has her family (both found and biological) for support. Poppy and Vic finally kiss. (Because yes, it's a three season slow-burn).



Ultimately, WCA is a story about pain, fear, addiction, and healing. It's about a lovable fuckup coming into her own, too late in the game. It's about the transformation within, drawing from my own sobriety journey. It's about social inequality enforced by systems, including the police and religious institutions.

We have a drug epidemic in our country, and as long as any drug is illegal, shame and fear will continue to fuel addiction and hate. Society will continue to condemn addicts as weak-willed and morally corrupt, rather than address the reasons people turn to drugs in the first place. I want to build empathy in a world where addicts are othered—because the truth is addiction is an illness. And it can happen to anyone. It happened to me.