



BRIAN K. VAUGHAN writer
CLIFF CHIANG artist
MATT WILSON colors

JARED K. FLETCHER letters + design

DEE CUNNIFFE color flats

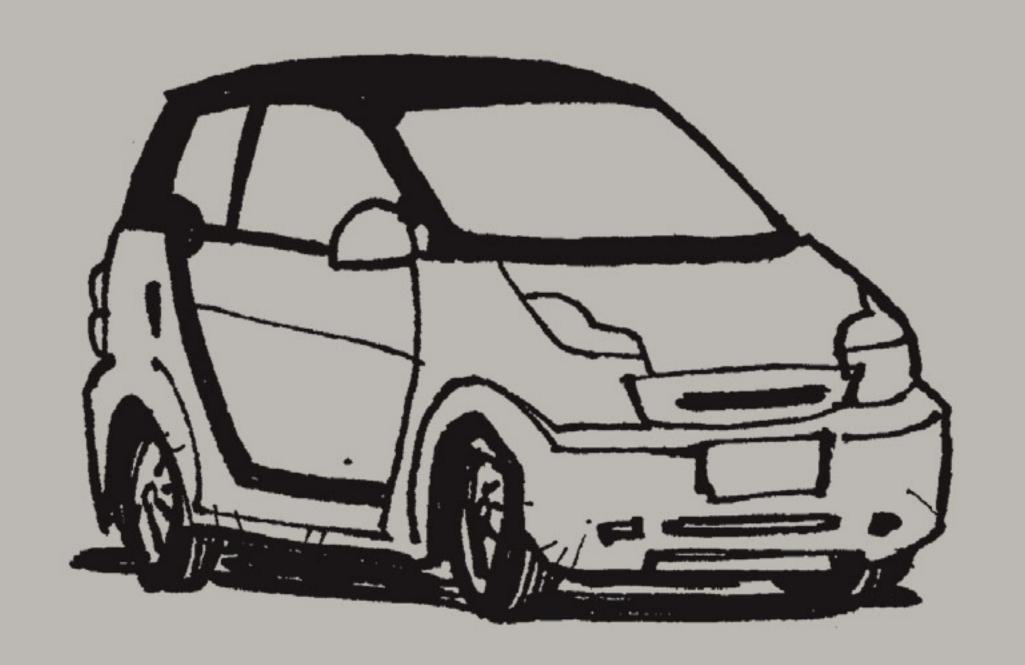


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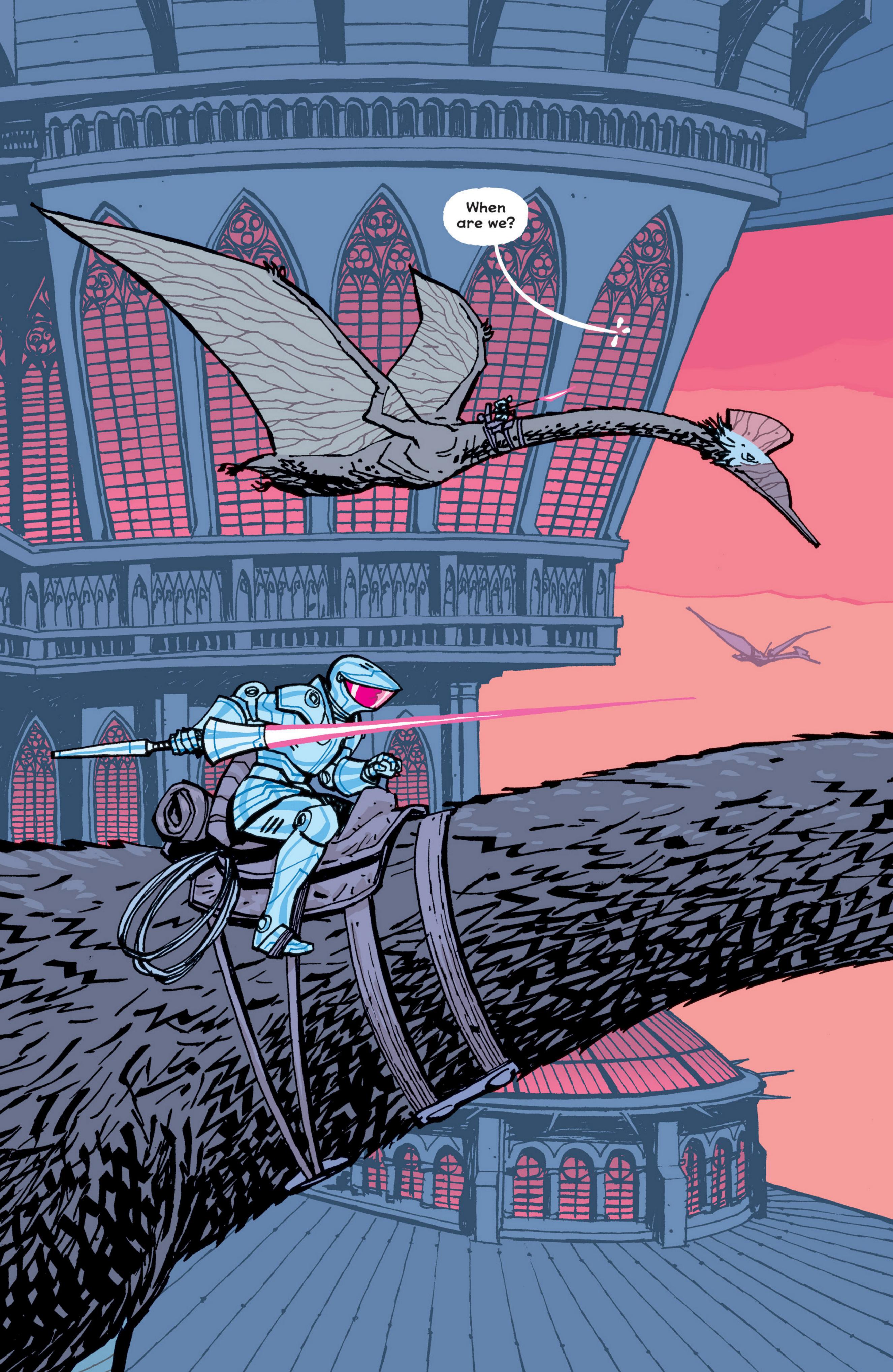
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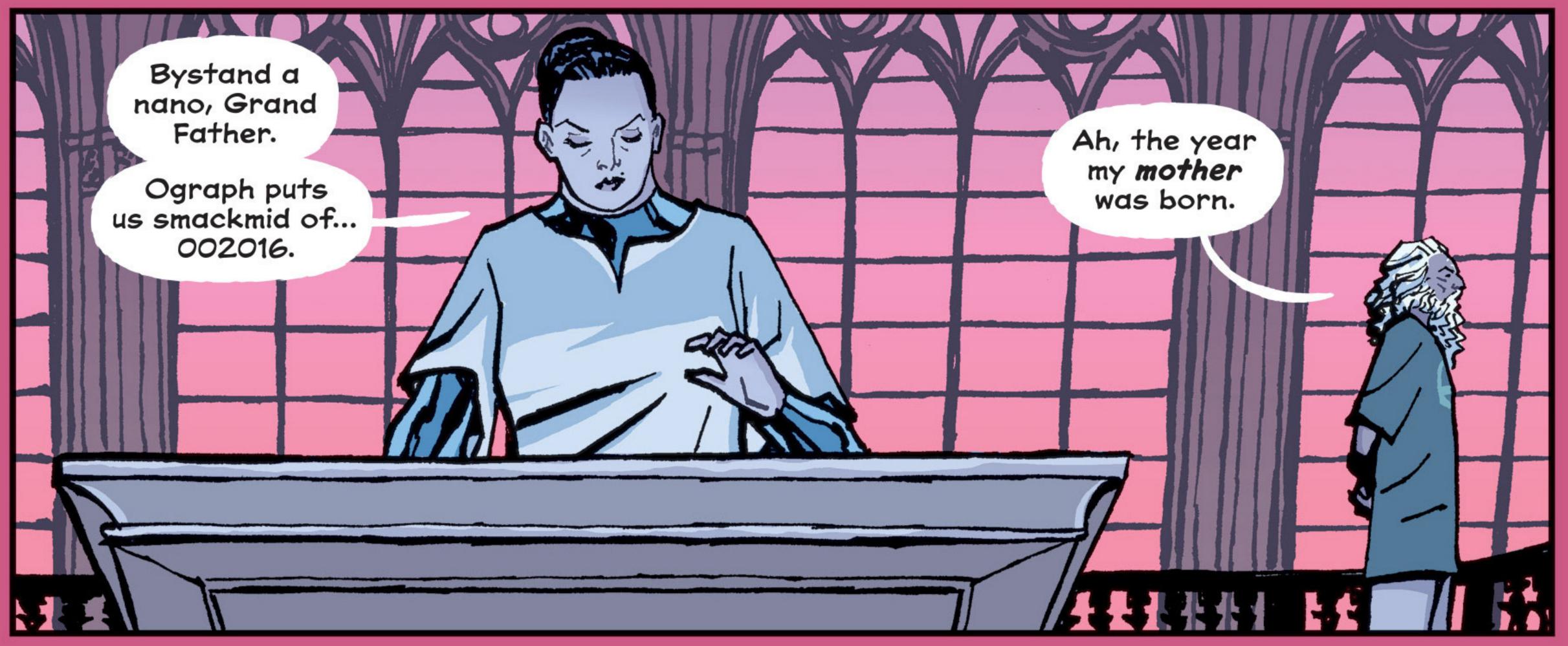
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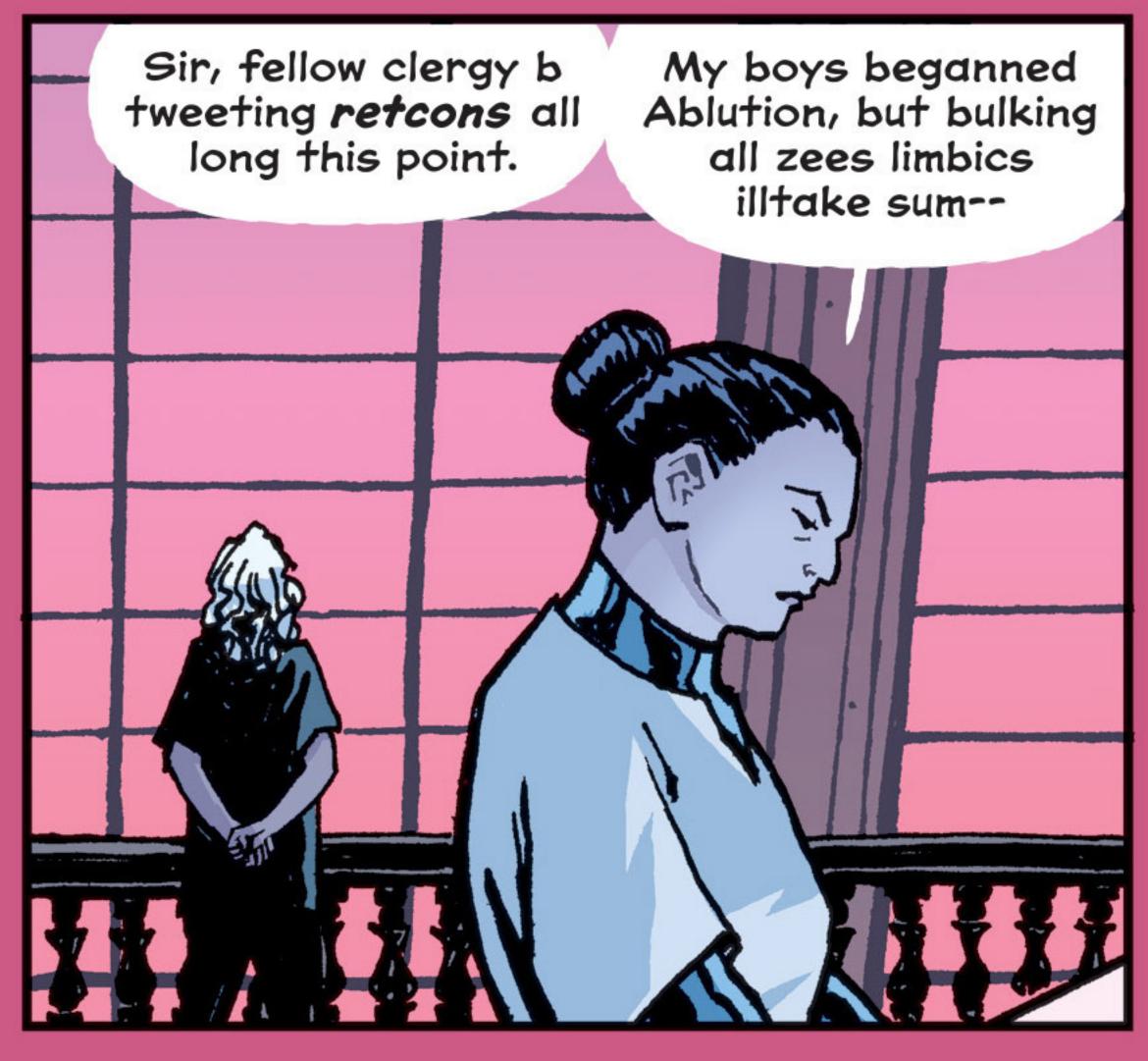
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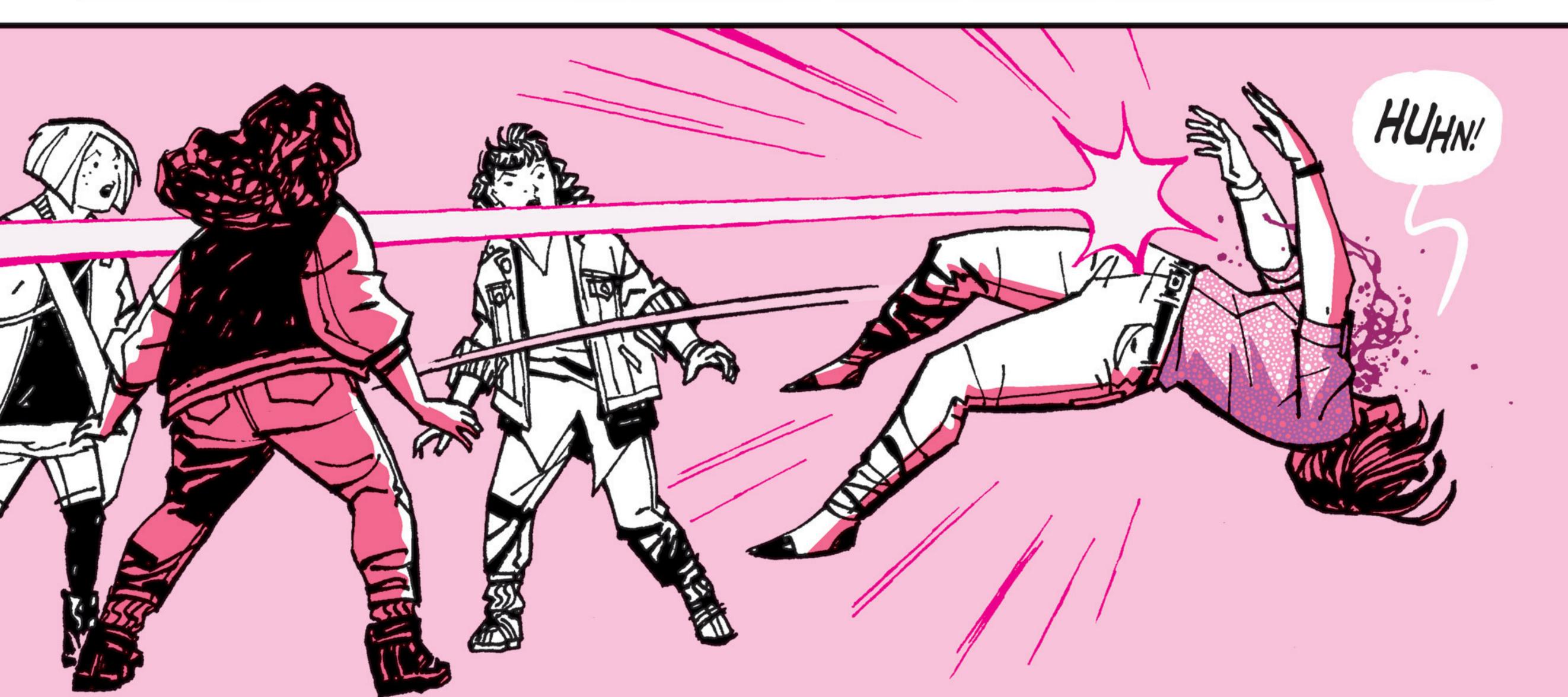














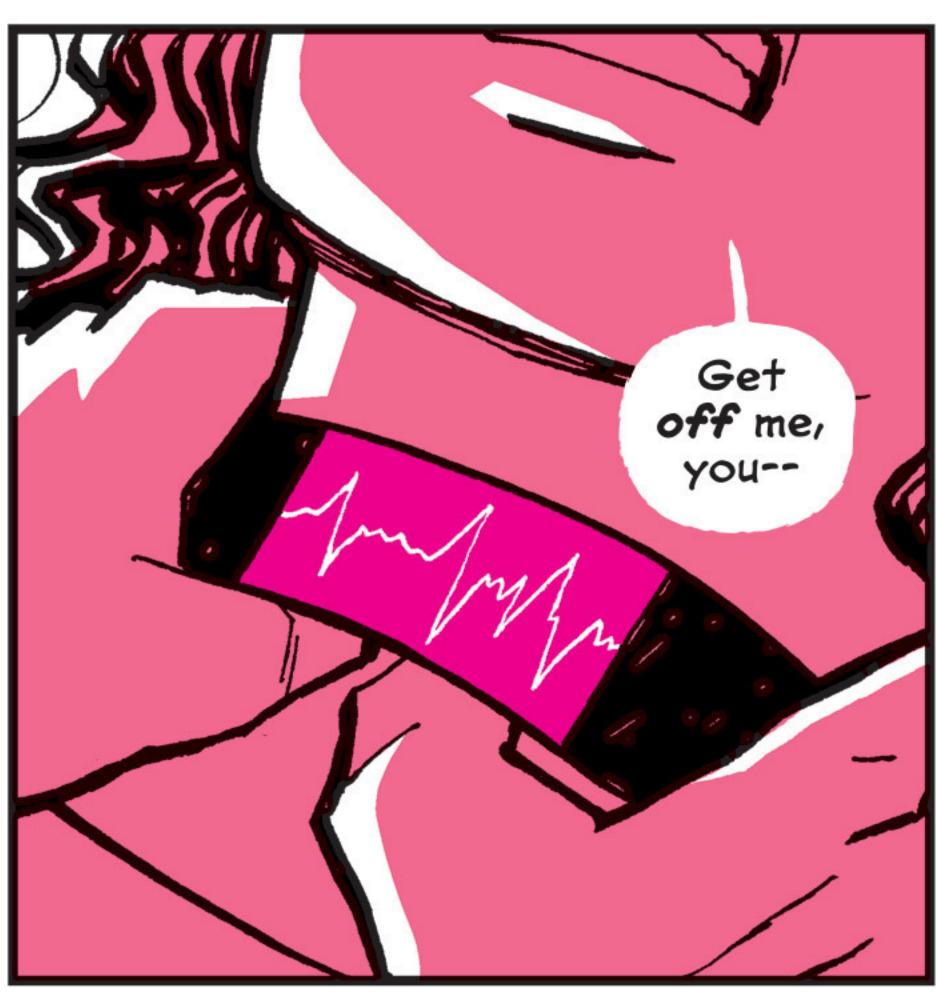






























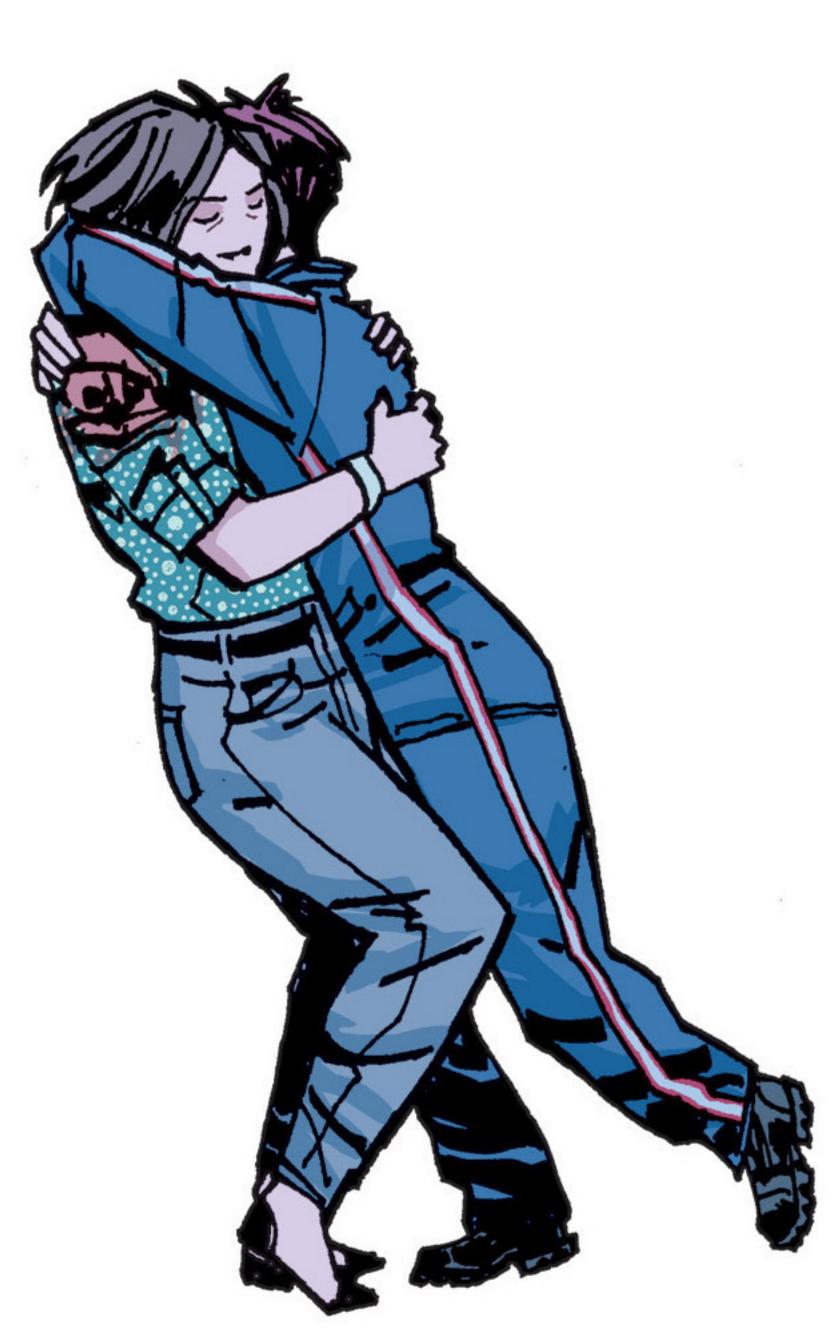






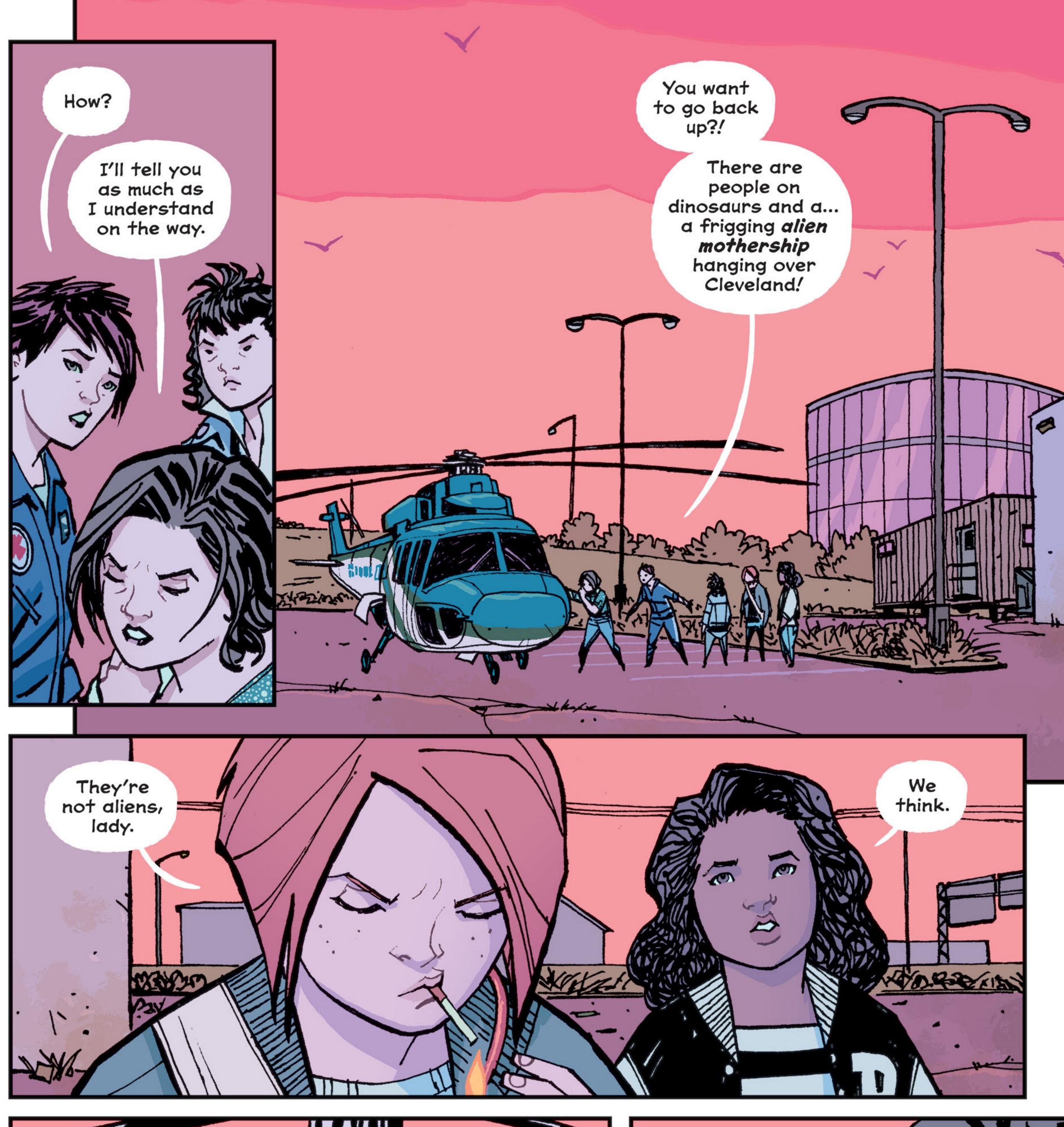






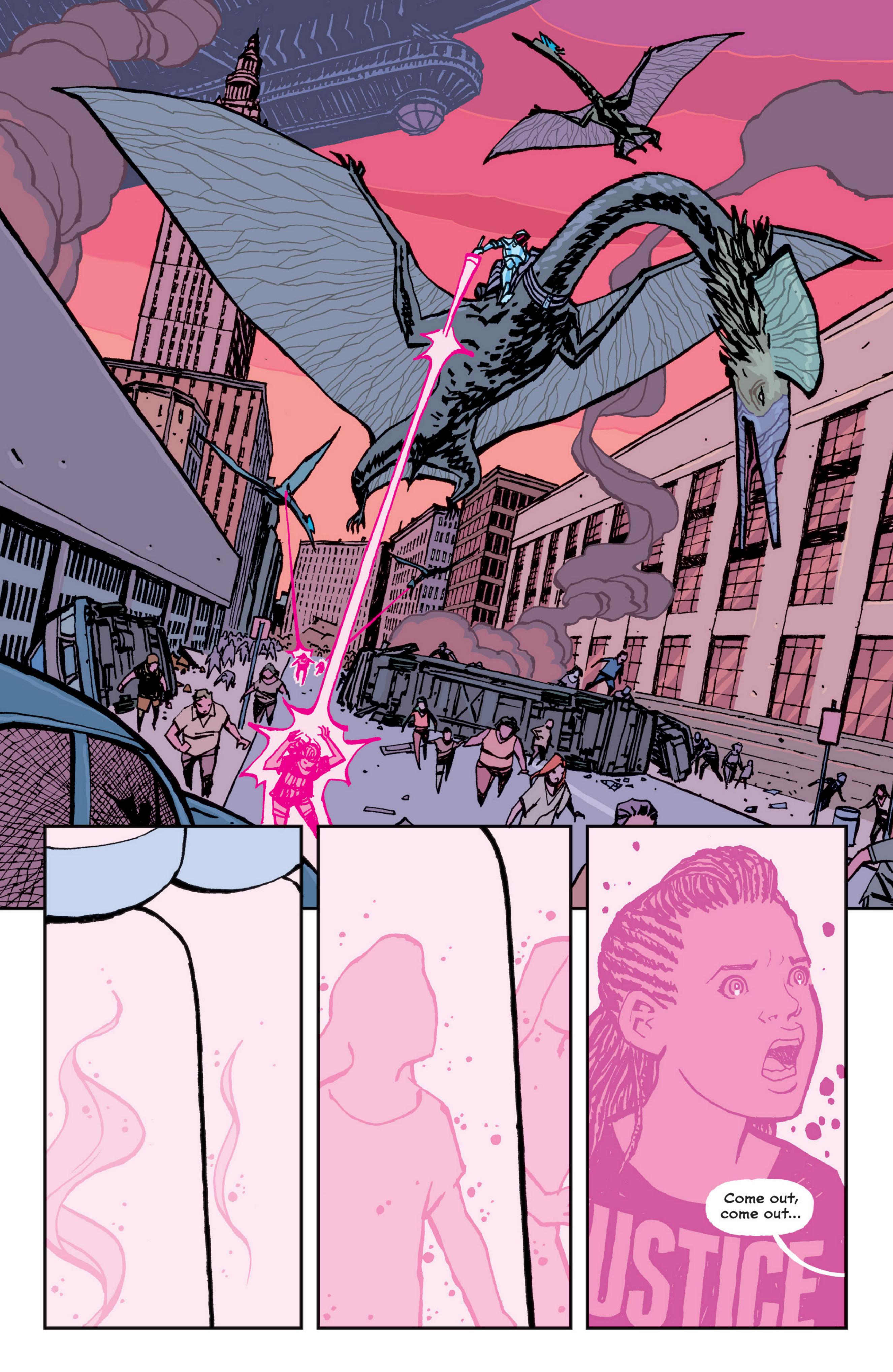






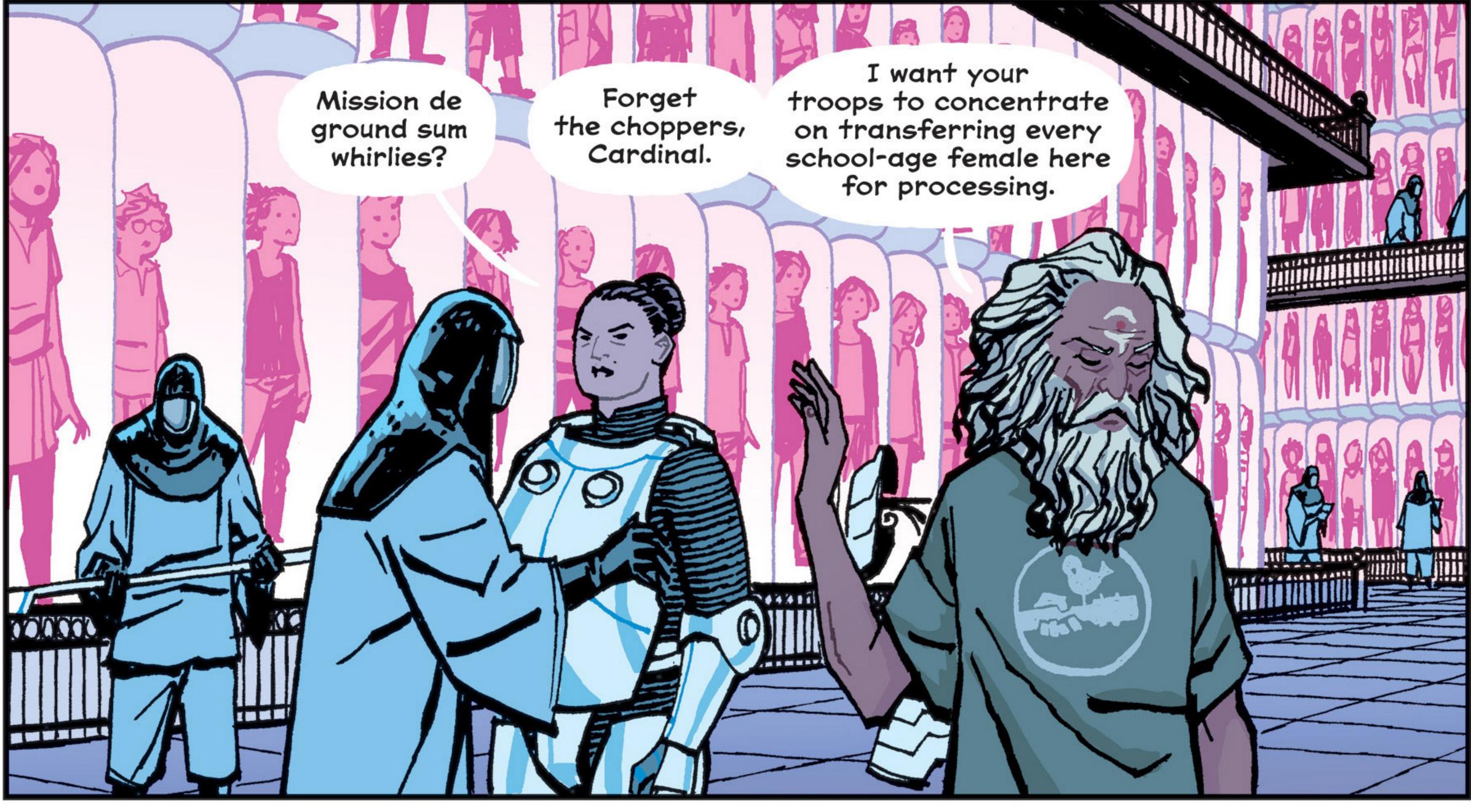








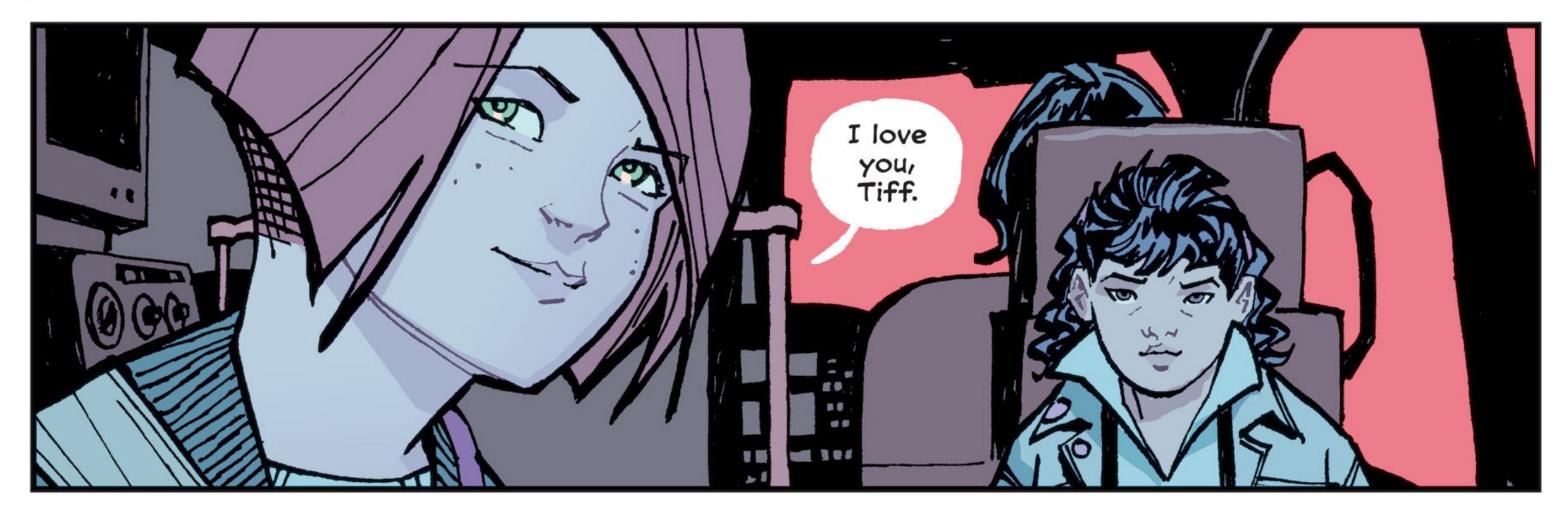








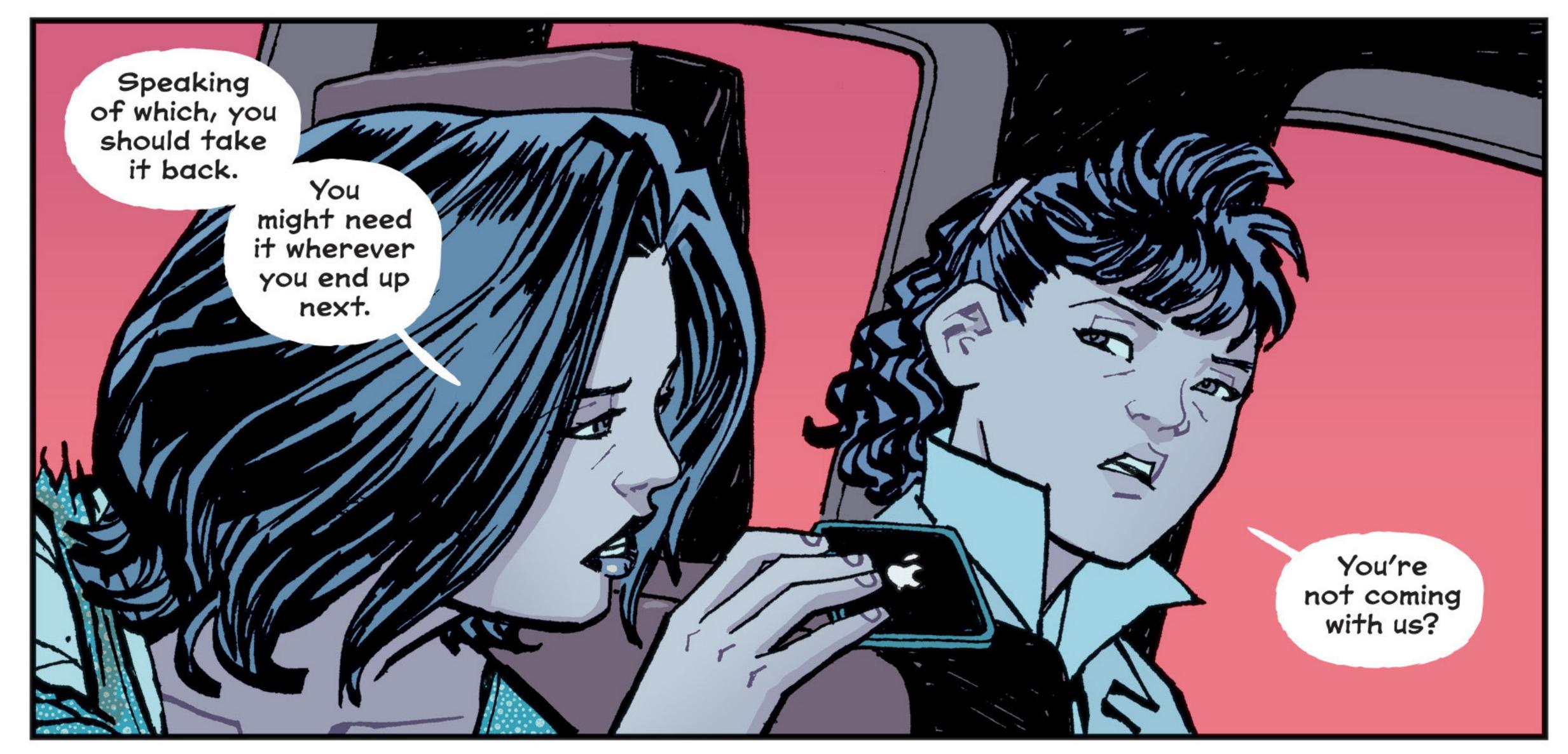




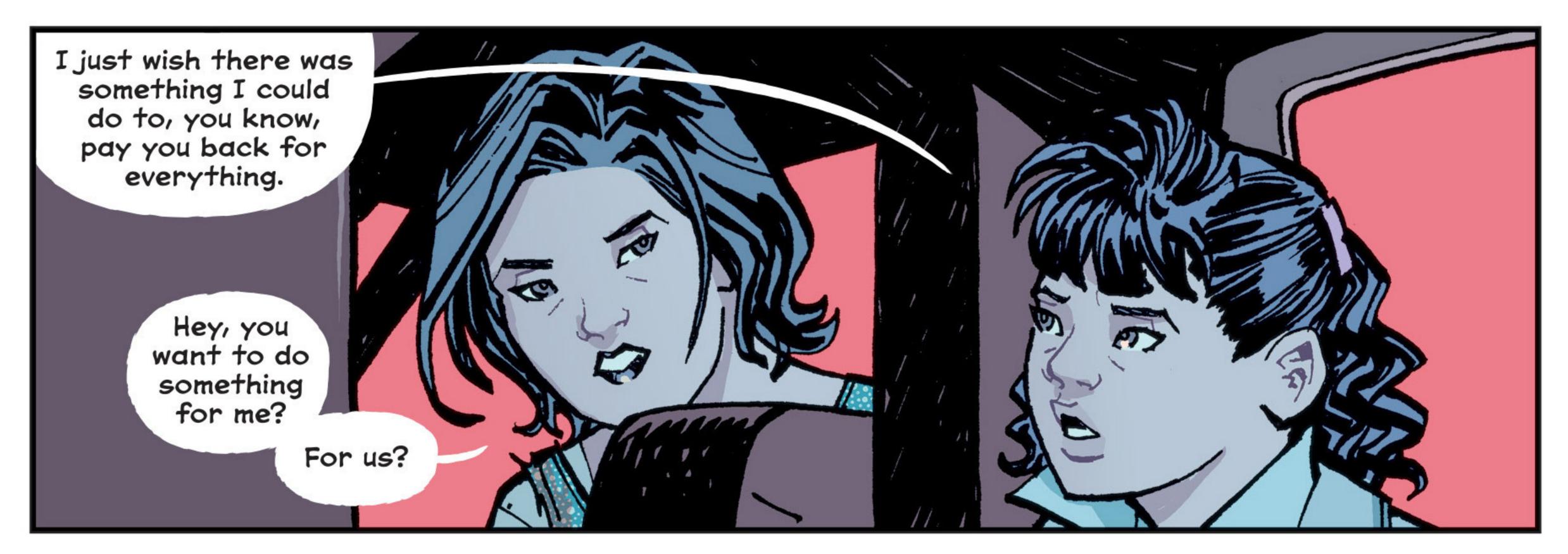






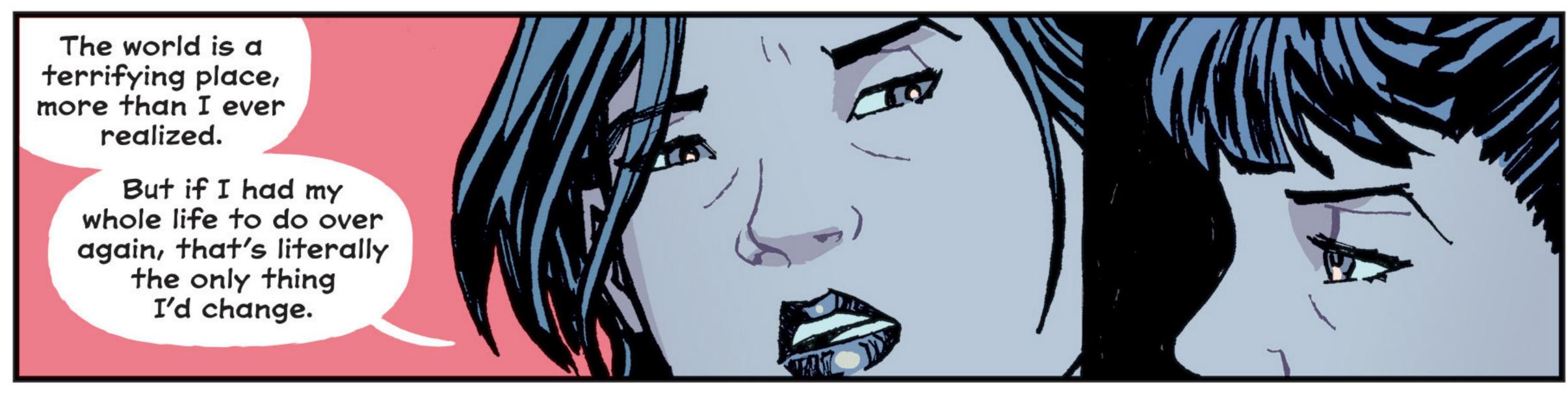






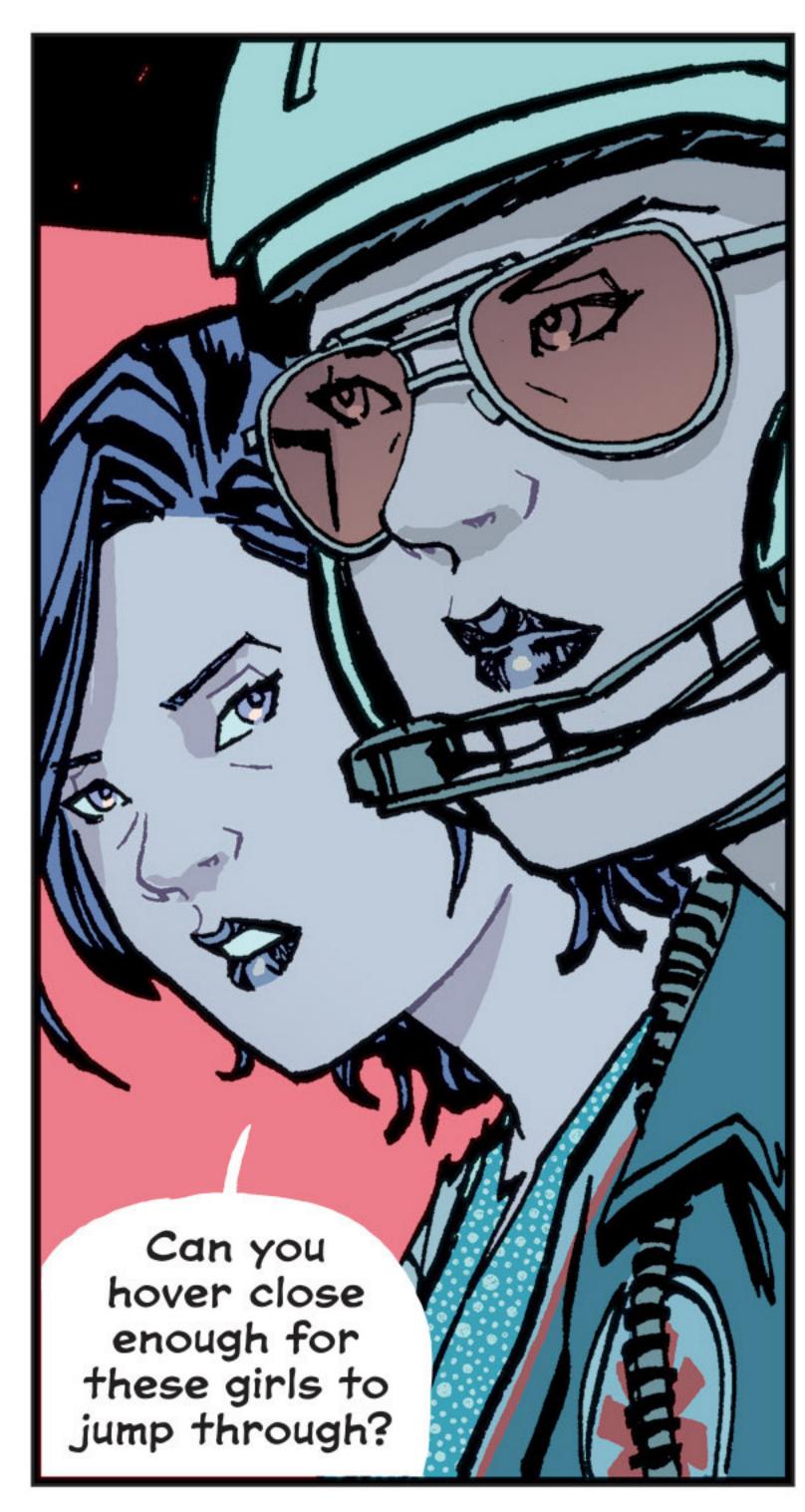


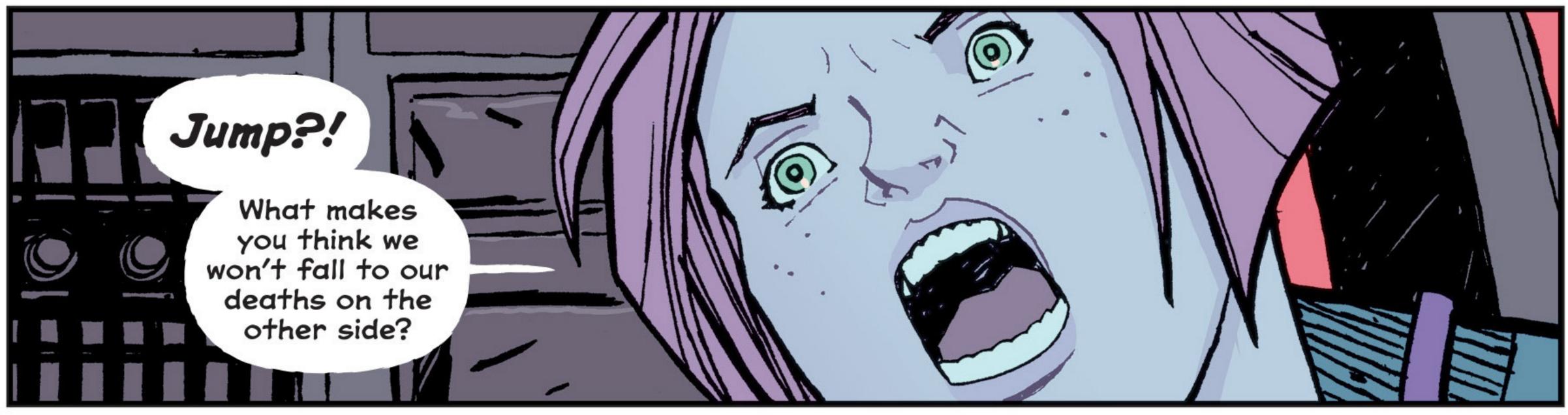






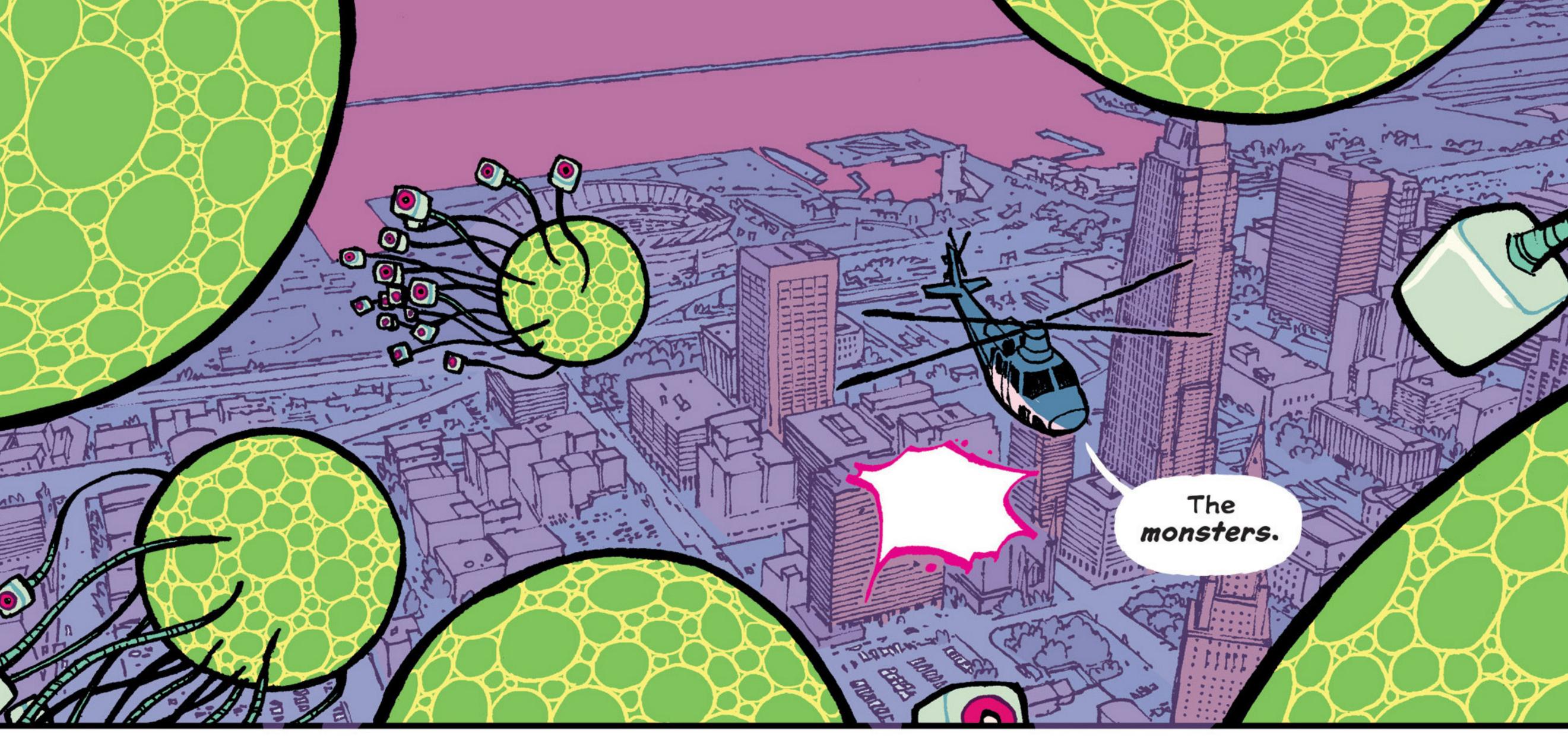












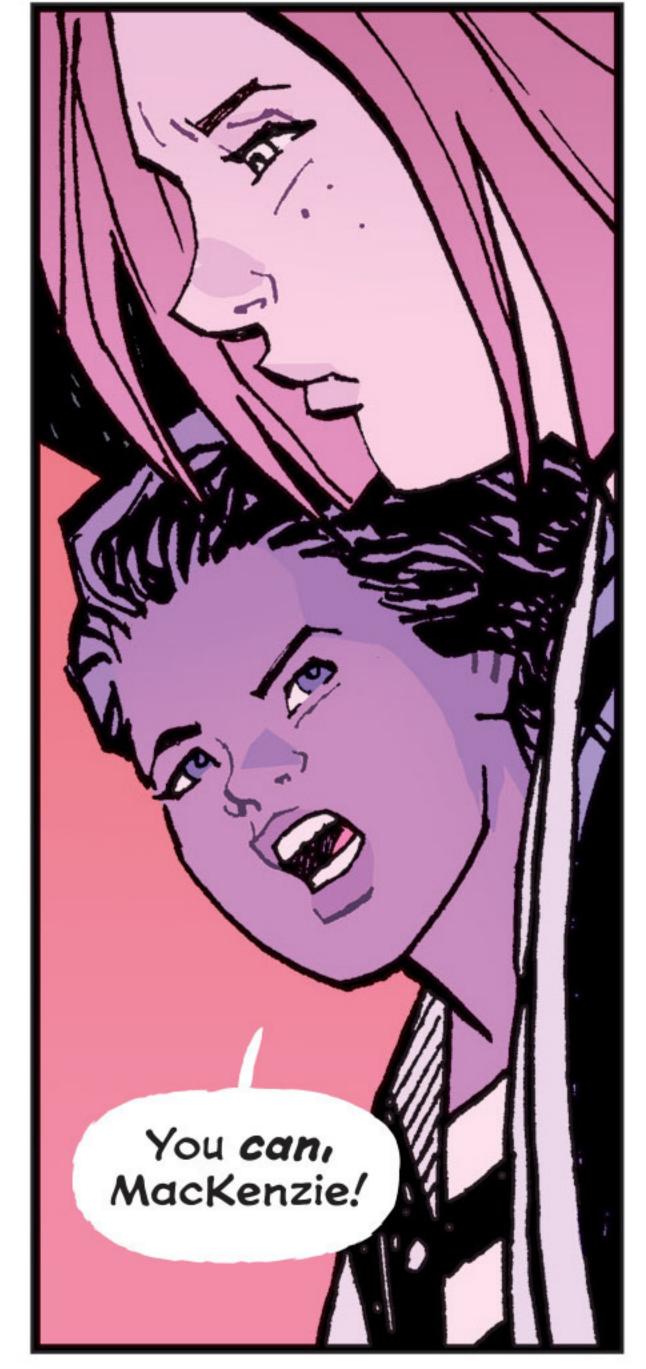




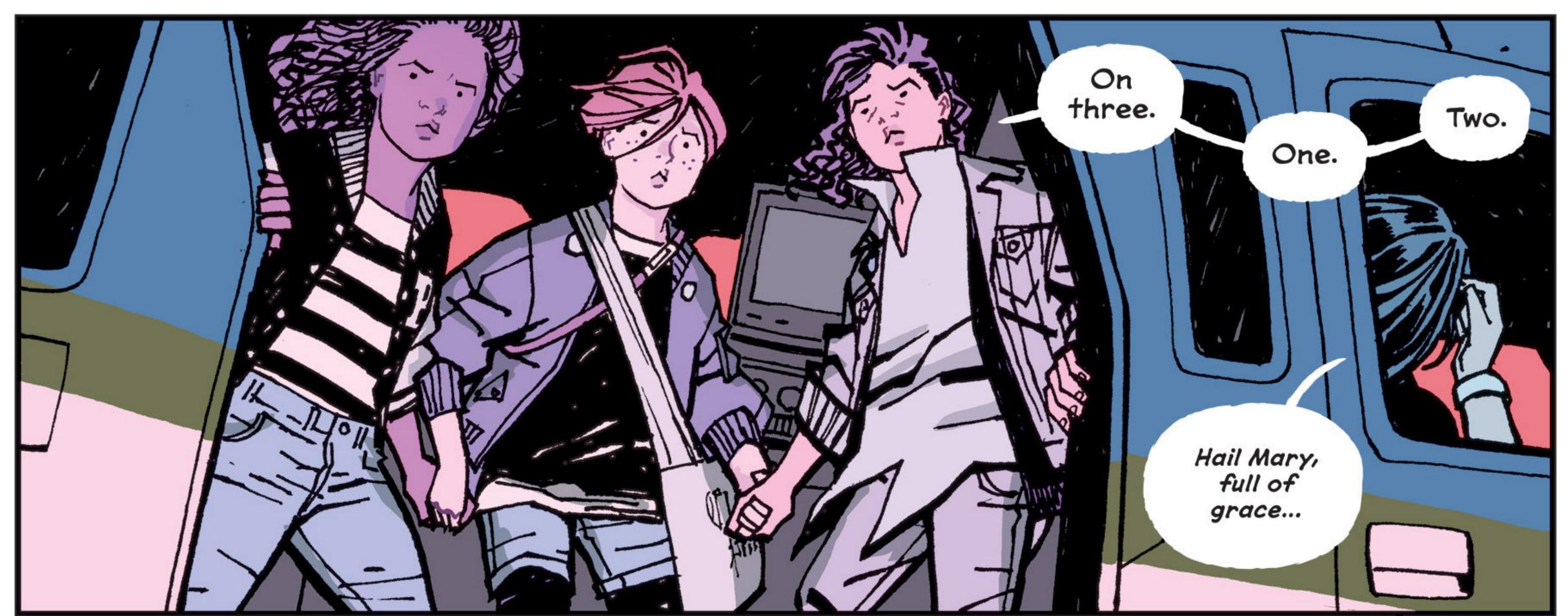






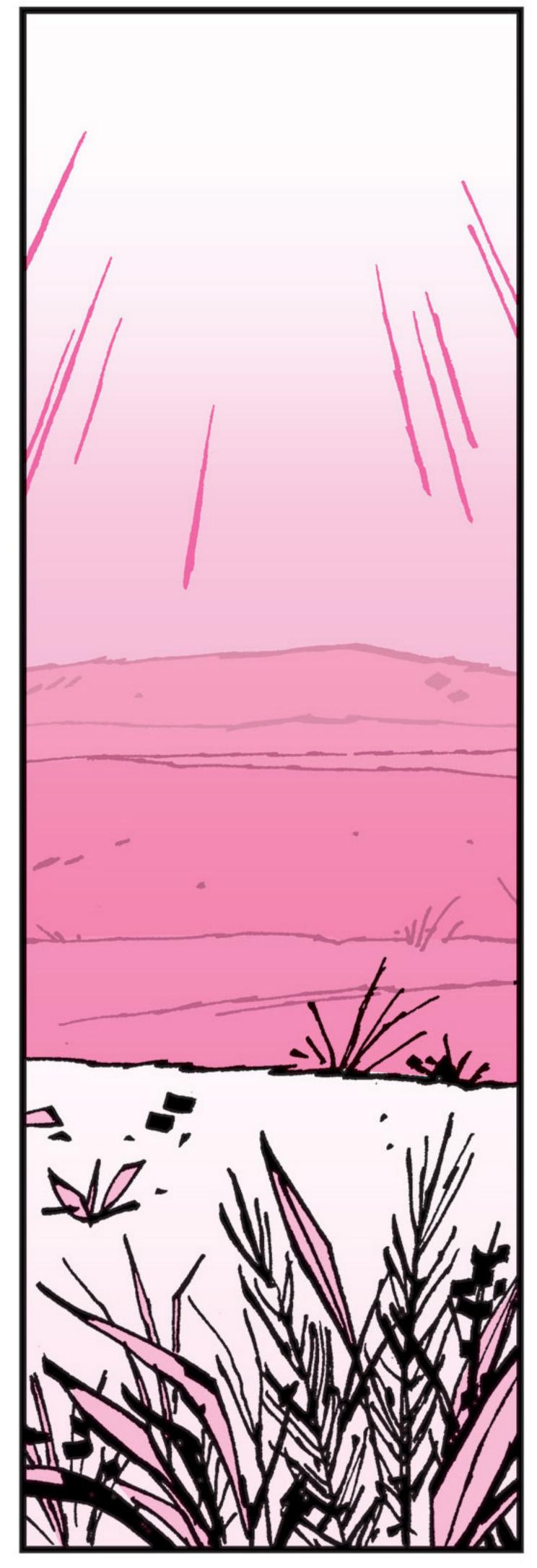


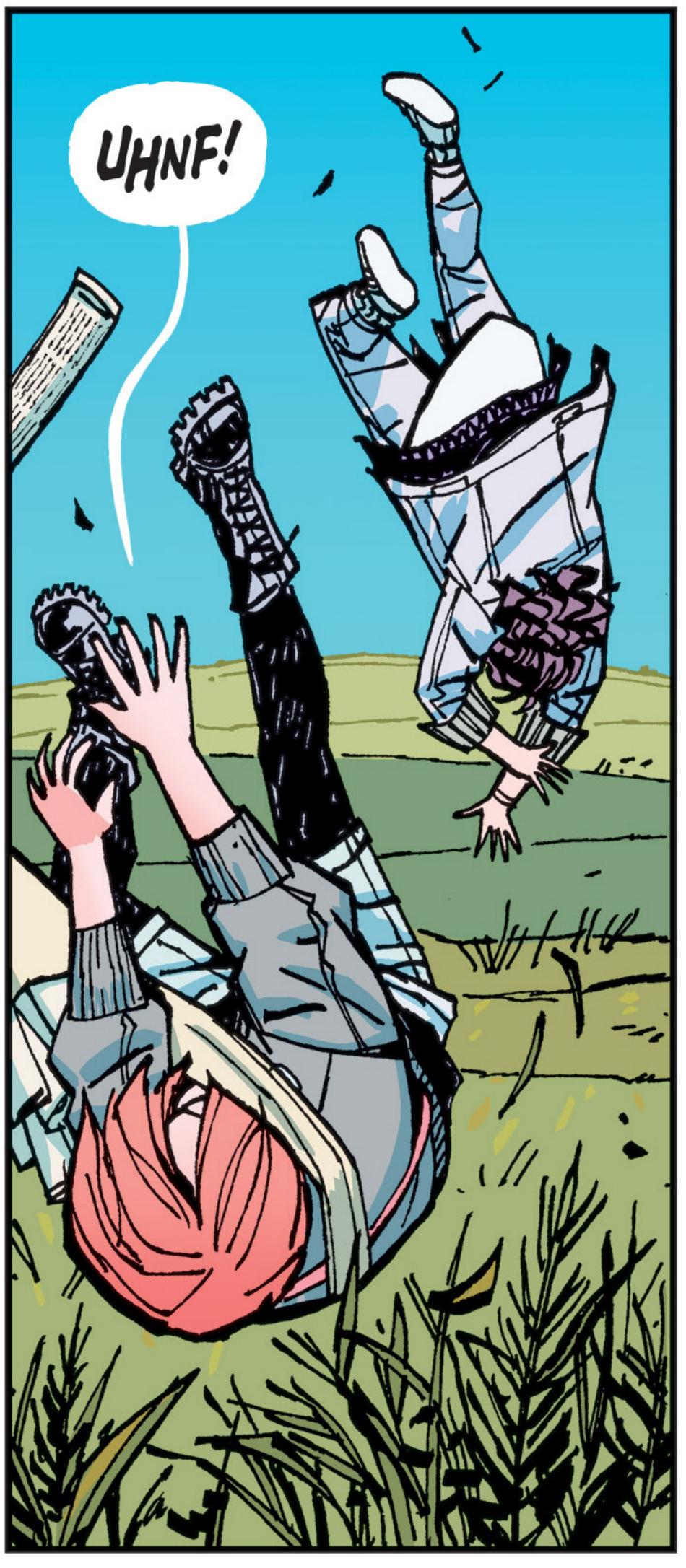








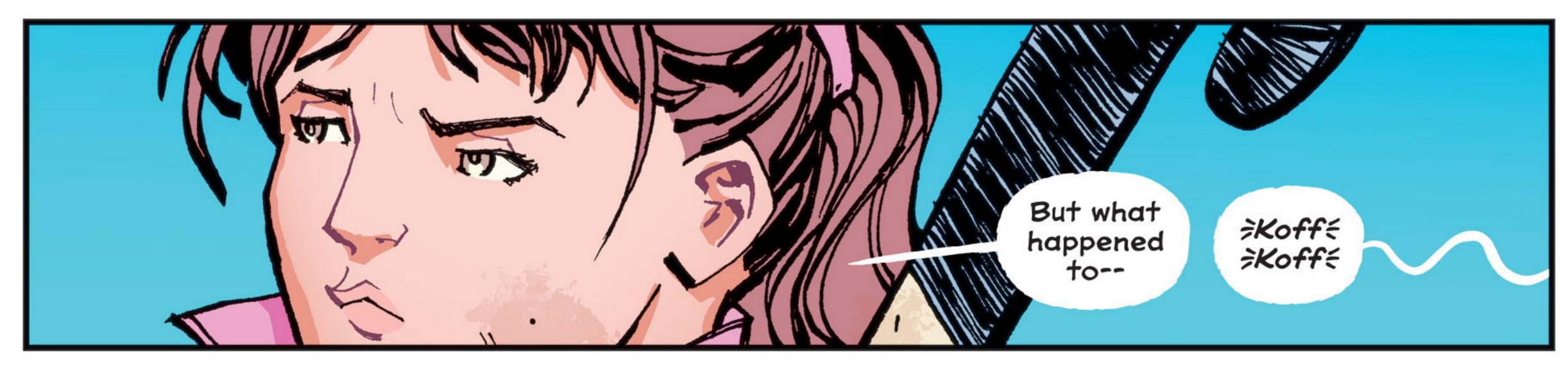










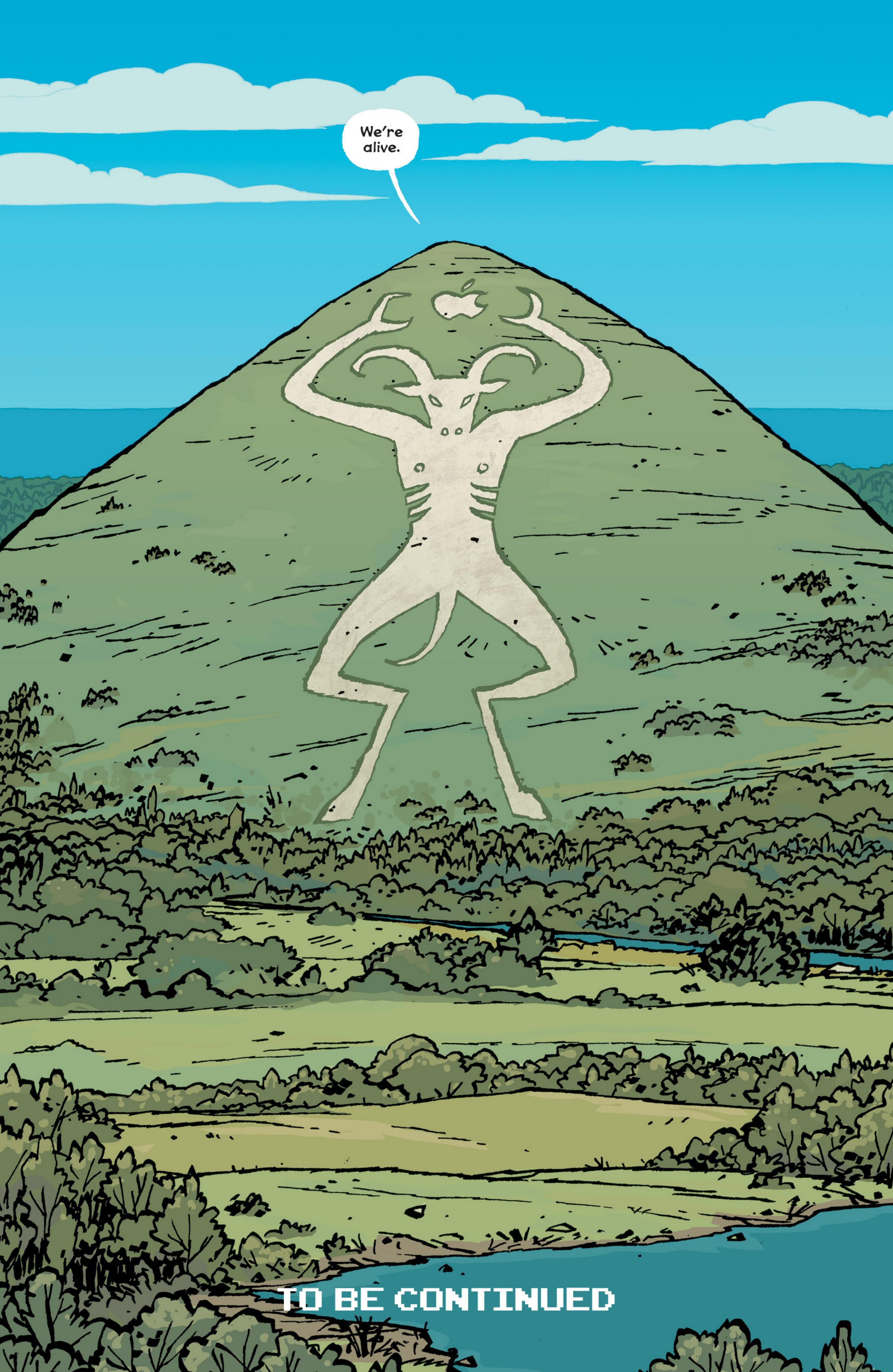












THE AMERICAN NEWSPAPER DELIVERY GUILD

4335 Van Nuys Boulevard - Suite 332, Sherman Oaks, CA 91403 U.S.A.

SINCE 1899!



Phew! My laminator and I are worn out, but as of this writing I am happy to announce that the new round of A.N.D.G. membership cards (with the classic Petey logo) have now been delivered into the capable hands of the US Postal Service. So—if you managed to pull it together and send in an S.A.S.E. to our illustrious office, then you should probably have a little yellow piece of magic in your hands by now. If you received your card with a misspelled name, then I have one thing to say to you: you have totally craptastic handwriting! That said, if you want to return the card (with an apology for your faulty penmanship), I will gladly issue you a corrected one. And if you think you sent in an S.A.S.E, but haven't gotten a card...? Go ask your mom what an S.A.S.E. is, my friend. And better luck next time.

But whether you have a membership card or not, please know that you're always welcome to take advantage of this column and send in your questions, queries and ask for advice—even on stuff that's not strictly newspaper related. I'm here for you, friends!



Rita Pearl the **Papergirl**



Dear Rita,

Boy am I glad to see you! Don't get me wrong, I have the utmost respect for Peter Roy, but I'm so excited to see a cool gal like you taking over the reigns. The A.N.D.G. has finally caught up with the times and I commend them on their smart decision to put you in charge. I've always wanted to be a papergirl but now I'm afraid I'm too old. Do you think it's too late for me, Rita? I'd love to be a proud member of the A.N.D.G.!

Your friend, Tipper N.

Los Angeles, CA

Thanks for your vote of confidence! I'll admit that I was a little nervous taking this thing over, but the feedback from you and all the other readers has been a huge boost! You are literally the best. And there are no age limits on joining the A.N.D.G. I hope you found your card in the mail.

Dear A.N.D.G.,

I am no longer young and I confess I did not know of your fine organization when I was delivering papers along a rural swath of the 14075 many years ago. My most vivid memory of this time is of the comet Hale-Bopp hovering over cornfields, illuminating the summer sky while I went door to door collecting dues.

Though I consider myself a member of your guild in spirit, I do not write to solicit membership for myself. You see, there is another profession that specializes in deliveries and when I read the

deadline for guild applications was set for August 1, I could only think of my wife's due date, which is the following day.

While Lara is more partial to some rag called *Saga* than then exploits of fearless teen delivery girls, we were wondering if you could do something a bit unorthodox. Though our daughter will grow up and be anything she wishes, we think a membership in the A.N.D.G. will give her a leg up in a tumultuous world.

Also, as of writing this, nobody save Lara and I knows our daughter's name, not our closest friends, not even our immediate family, so it is very strange and mildly exhilarating to share it with you (all typed out, on a page no less!) before anyone else. Anyhow, by the time anyone will have a chance to read this Imogen will be here and the world remade all new again.

Yours, Douglas R.

Medford, MA

Aww, how sweet! Thanks so much for trusting me with this super top-secret info. It really means a lot. Imogen is a lucky girl to have a dad who is already thinking about a future where she gets to strike out on her own and have adventures like yours. We'll be there for her. Congrats and welcome, Midge!

Ms. Pearl,

I recently read about the resurrection of the American Newspaper Delivery Guild in a recent issue of *Paper Girls*, a well-written, visually stunning, exciting, comic book about a group of girls delivering newspapers in 1988, and, well, a very interesting and compelling story ensues.

I had a paper route one summer, but it was not a normal paper route. It was for a weekly, free newspaper that had little news and mostly advertisements. Although I did not have to get up at ridiculous hours in the morning (I did that later in the Army!), nor did I have to collect payment, I still had to get the paper out on time and contend with things like several mean dogs on the route! My mother had a rural paper route for the afternoon paper, and after school I would often ride along and help put the papers in the box underneath the mail box. No putting newspapers in the mail box – that is a federal regulation! I hope that this still qualifies me for the American Newspaper Delivery Guild!

Enclosed is my self- addressed, stamped envelope for a membership card. I'm glad to see that the Guild is much more inclusive now, as I believe that girls should have the same opportunities as boys!

Sincerely, Taylor E. Mack

Ruston, LA

Welcome to the A.N.D.G.! Those experiences definitely qualify you. Thank you for your service in the Army as well. I'm sure all of our readers (as well as their neighborhood letter carriers) will appreciate the reminder about mailboxes. Technically, the federal regulation states that no one other than a USPS employee may put ANYTHING into that box: not even your neighbor dropping off a flyer for a garage sale. Now, normally, letter carriers don't mind too much, but if the box gets full they can't deliver the mail! So it's very important that we don't stuff newspapers in there, because everyone loves getting mail.

If you're concerned about dropping a paper on the ground in the rain or snow, why not point that customer in the direction of a convenient newspaper-only mailbox that they can hang next to their letterbox? I'm sure they will thank you for it!

Also interesting to note is that the one exception to the federal regulation is for Sunday papers. As Sundays are a no-maildelivery day, you should totally feel free to stuff the newspaper in the box on Sunday.

Dear Petey Roy,

Please enroll me in your guild. I really hope that you get this letter in time. The postal service is so slow sometimes (unlike newspaper delivery service) maybe they should go back to pneumatic tubes.

Smiles, Kaisa

San Rafael, CA

Pneumatic tubes were pretty awesome, right? I totally wish these had caught on, too! But I think the technology was always going to be limited because of how totally sprawling this country is! I mean, can you imagine the suction power needed to pull a letter from San Diego to Boston?

But the US Postal service gets mail to every corner of the country, six days a week. So while I am happy to welcome you into the guild, let's please not knock the USPS. Many of the A.N.D.G.'s finest have grown up to be leaders in the Postal Service (I want to believe rumors that our current Postmaster General, Megan J. Brennan, keeps her membership card in her wallet).

As much as we may knock them for being slow, we need to acknowledge this fine organization for delivering mail to EVERY ADDRESS IN THE NATION, and doing so in a way that is entirely self-sustaining. Seriously, no tax dollars involved. It's actually quite a feat if you take the time to think about it.

Thank you for your contribution to the A.N.D.G.

I carried, delivered, and collected via my mom's car and my own roller blades on a route for the Community Journal in little Batavia, OH back in 1995-96 (I think), maybe longer. I got a "real job" at fifteen years old in 1997. I held that job for eight years, a little time traveling later and I'm still hankering for an employment that would give me the freedom and flexibility of my first wage-earning enterprise.

Delivering and collecting at my own pace, respect and recognition from my faithful readers, and half of the take, plus tips; that's a good thing.

It's a little after the fact, but if you would be so obliging as to send me an A.N.D.G. membership card I will display it proudly.

Thanks again!

Seth A. Hershey

Cincinnati, OH

Have you considered a career in the US Postal Service?

Dear Rita Pearl,

I will gladly join your guild. And if the boss gets in the way, we're gonna roll right over him. Roll the union on!

Solidarity, Justus B.

Portland, OR

PS. If you're looking for goons to help persuade the right-to-work carriers, please keep me in mind.

I think this is a good time to remind you and the rest of our readers that the A.N.D.G. is a guild in the traditional sense of the word and not a formal labor union. As a guild, we strive to uphold the standards of our trade, and through this column we also hope to provide support if your employer is doing something that seems a little fishy. But since we don't charge dues we don't have the resources to organize as a unit for collective bargaining. I think at the moment we want to keep it this way-but hey, we're here to serve you, and are always open to suggestions!

Hey Rita Pearl,

Congrats on the new gig! Replacing good ol' Petey won't be easy, but I think you got what it takes. Namely Google and Wikipedia which are both a bit easier than going to the library, and searching through microfiche to find information for your book report.

Good luck in the future, and please enroll me in the A.N.D.G. Thanks!

Delivery Guy 4eva, Jeremy K.

Ypsilanti, MI

Oh, Jeremy, it's like you just looked through my office wall and saw me googling about "right-to-work," "federal regulations about mailboxes" and "pneumatic tubes." It's true, you got me, it's so much more convenient. My mom always reminds me about

her days using microfiche, and it sounds totally tedious. But don't you also find yourself talking to people these days who get all their information from the Internet and somehow have a totally different impression of what is going on in the world from what you have? With so much information available, I personally find it harder and harder to figure out what the "truth" is. It's like, at least with those microfiche files, at least with hard copy newspapers, you got the sense that people have taken the time to verify that what they are printing is factual.

Or maybe not. Maybe the news has always been bent to the will of the capitalist newspaper's owners? And now that it's being democratized we're getting closer to the truth?

I don't know. All I know is, you guys really make me think sometimes...

Dear Rita,

What's the deal?! I thought we were friends... maybe in another life... but after last month's Cryptography Corner, I just know anymore! By the way, that was super fun, although my coworker ended up asking me if I was the Zodiac Killer after looking at my notepad of scribbled attempts at deciphering the message. Glad Ovaltine was not involved. Hope to see more puzzles like that in the future! So fun!

Also, are there any fun obscure movie suggestions from the 1980s that the A.N.D.G. can recommend, other than *Monster Squad* and *Goonies*, of course?

Keep keepin' on, and where's the beef?

Dwight

Staten Island, NY

Wow, other than applications to join the A.N.D.G., we've never received more mail for anything

than we did for our recent installment of Cryptography Corner. You gals and guys really love breaking codes!

I'm not much for puzzles myself, so I'm not quite sure why so many of you suddenly seem suspicious of me, Petey Roy and our glorious guild, but Dwight, I'm happy to announce that you've been randomly selected as our GRAND PRIZE WINNER, so be on the lookout for some gorgeous original artwork from the folks behind the acclaimed publication in back of which you likely found our newsletter.

Oh, and as for obscure '80s movies, I've always been partial to the underrated masterpiece The Journey of Natty Gann. Unlike the films you mentioned, it's got a badass female protagonist, but I think deliverers of any and all gender identities will enjoy the adventures of Natty and her wolfdog sidekick. Plus, young John Cusack! It's got a beautiful script by Jeanne Rosenberg, screenwriter of The Black Stallion, and if you can track the movie down, I guarantee you'll love it.

Before I jet, one last question that I (and Seth from Cincinnati, too, I'm sure) would love to hear about: has anyone out there moved on from delivering papers to find a job that they really love? What jobs are actually, really and truly dreamy, once you have them?

Can't wait to hear from you!

Lotsa love,

Rita Pearl, Papergirl

ART CONTEST WINNERS!

4335 Van Nuys Boulevard - Suite 332, Sherman Oaks, CA 91403 U.S.A.

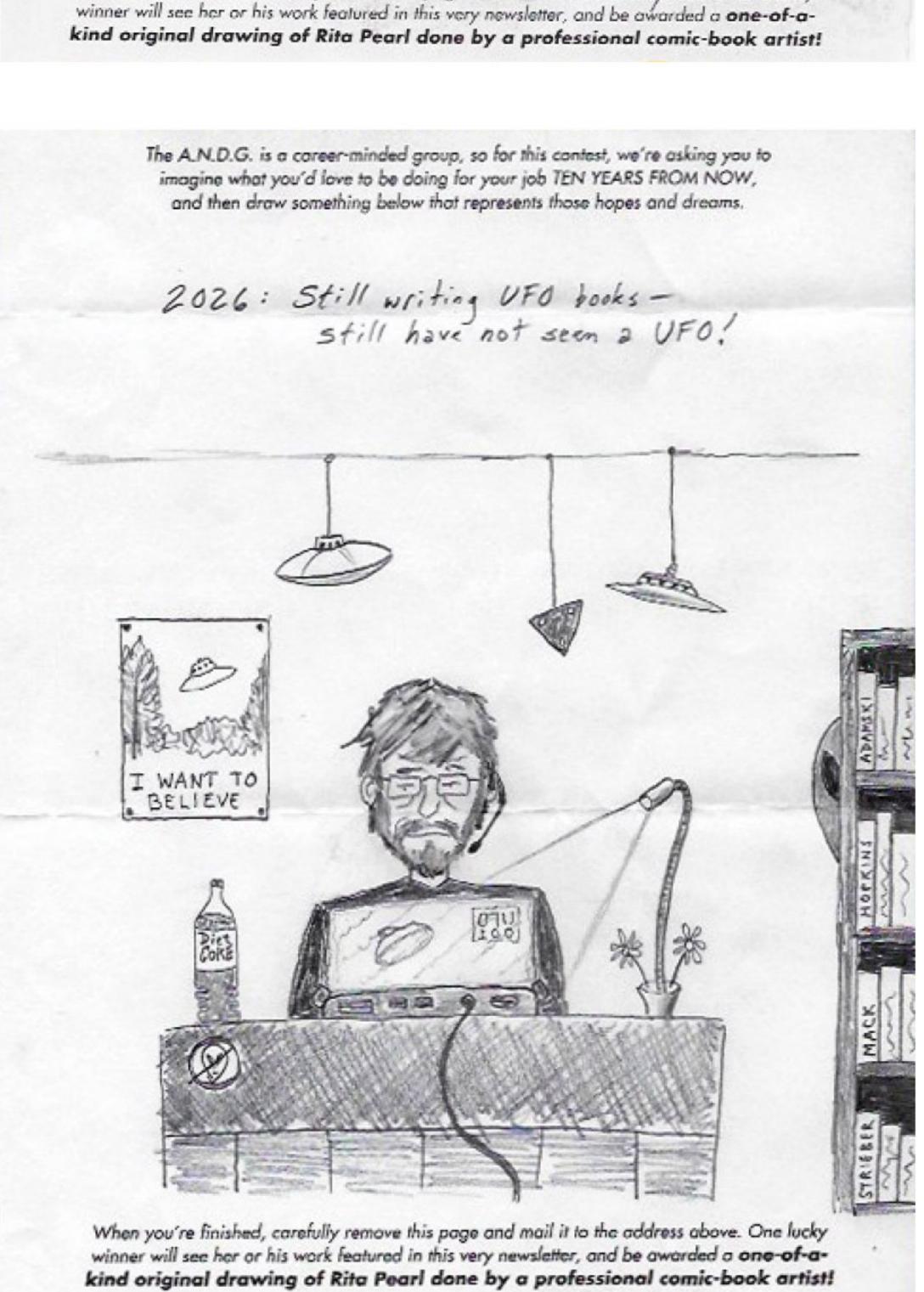
Way back in June, the A.N.D.G asked you to imagine what you'd love to be doing for your job TEN YEARS FROM NOW, and then draw something that represents those hopes and dreams.

We were flooded with lots of excellent entries, and we'd like to celebrate three runners-up: aspiring artists Paul Richey of Kendallville, IN, and Arianna Daniels of St. Louis, MO, as well as relentless writer of UFO books (who worries he still won't have seen a UFO by 2026) Jordan Hofer of Salem, OR.

Our GRAND PRIZE WINNER, who will receive a **one-of-a-kind original drawing of Rita Pearl,** is future art teacher and cunning cryptographer Emily F. Perez of New York City.

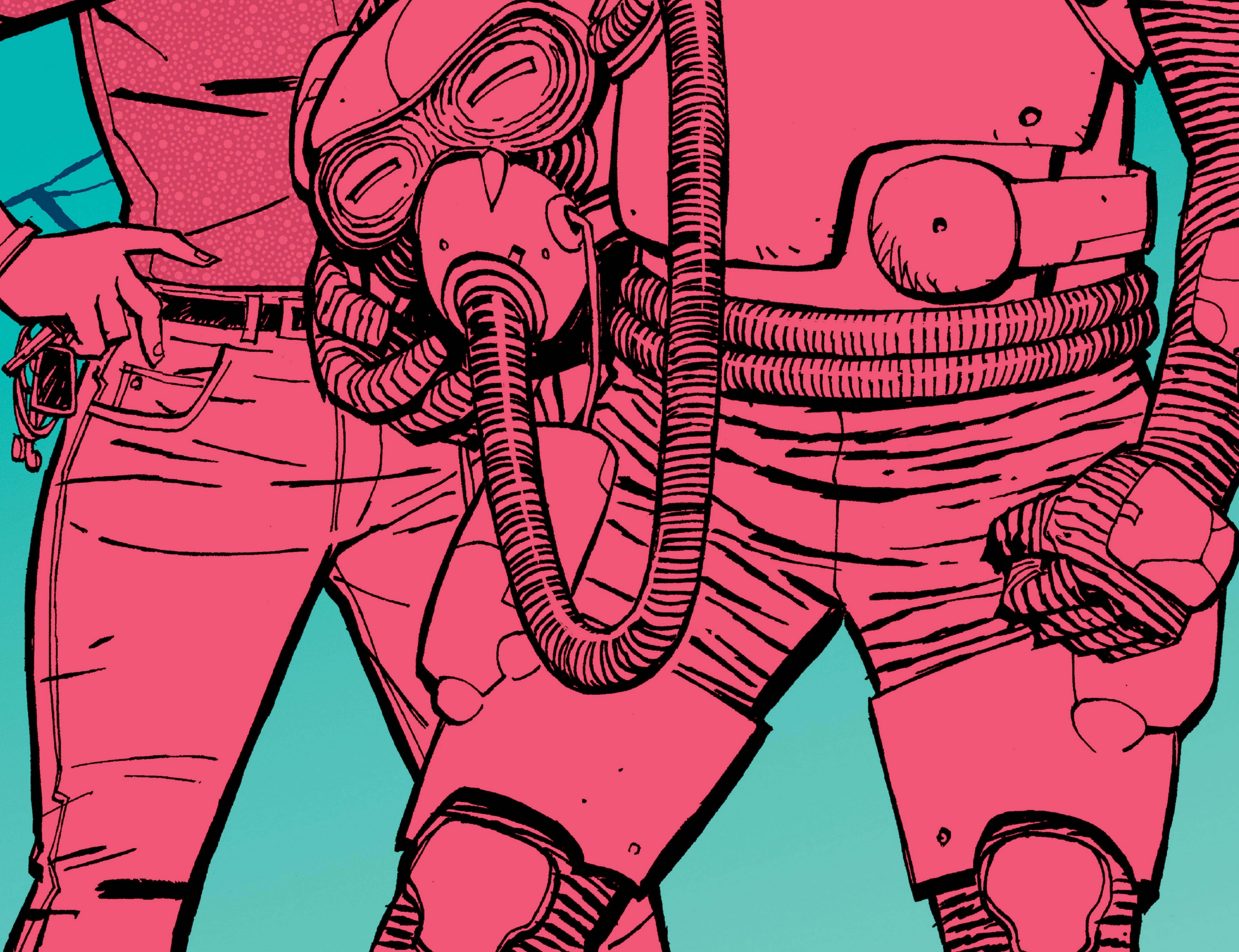
Congratulations to all the deliverers who shared their dreams with us!













Carefully remove each poster and connect all four posters to see the bigger picture!



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CLIFF CHIANG
MATT WILSON
JARED K. FLETCHER

