



SYNERGY:

a HASBRO CREATORS SHOWCASE





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Language: English

File Source: Comixology

Edition: PDF

Lossless: yes

Original version released by: YayPonies.eu

Translated by: NNOPE

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SYNERGY:

a HASBRO CREATORS SHOWCASE

SALUTING CREATIVE WOMEN AND THE LASTING IMPACT
THEY MAKE ON THE COMICS OF HASBRO!



“GHOST”

WRITTEN AND DRAWN BY: EMMA VIECELI
COLORED BY: RONDA PATTISON

“AN ARCEE SORT OF DAY”

WRITTEN BY: PERI MERCER
DRAWN BY: UMI MIYAO
COLORED BY: ELAINA UNGER

“THE STAGE”

WRITTEN BY: KATIE COOK
DRAWN BY: AGNES GARBOWSKA
COLORED BY: HEATHER BRECKEL

“RECHARGE”

WRITTEN, DRAWN, AND COLORED BY:
SARAH WINIFRED SEARLE

“OF FLYING AND FALLING”

WRITTEN BY: MAIRGHREAD SCOTT
DRAWN BY: SARA PITRE-DUROCHER
COLORED BY: JOANA LAFUENTE

COVER ART BY: SARA PITRE-DUROCHER
LETTERS AND DESIGN BY: CHRISTA MIESNER
EDITS BY: MEGAN BROWN

Special thanks to Ed Lane, Beth Artale, and Michael Kelly for their invaluable assistance.

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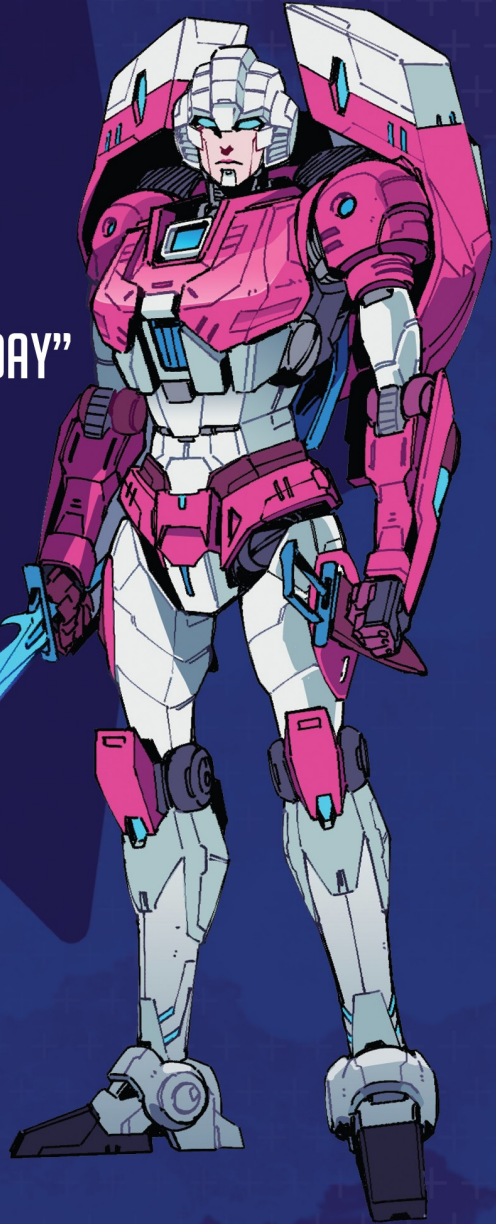
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“AN ARCEE SORT OF DAY”

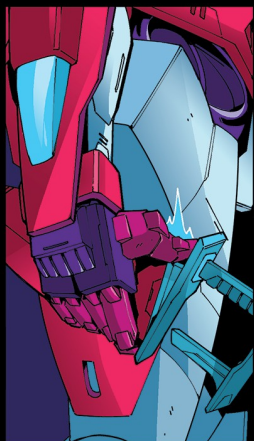
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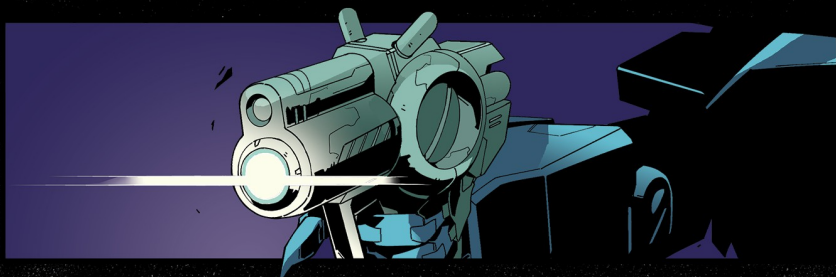
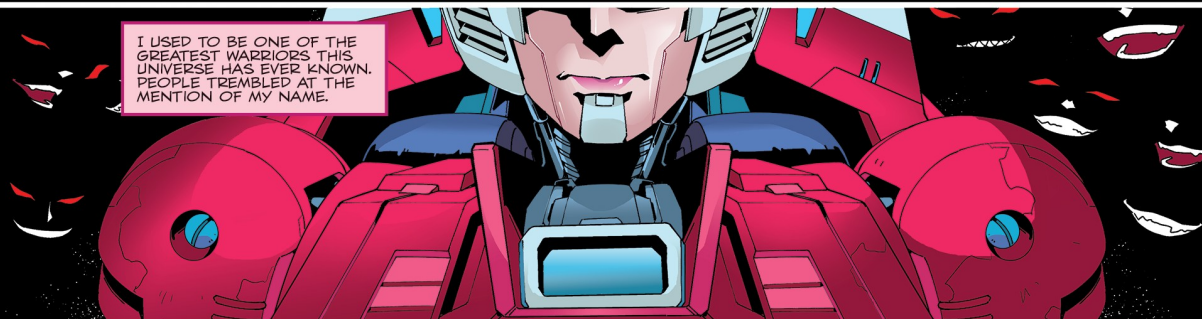
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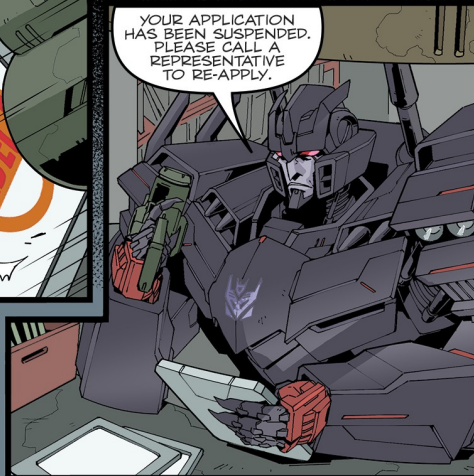
MY NAME IS ARCEE.



I USED TO BE ONE OF THE GREATEST WARRIORS THIS UNIVERSE HAS EVER KNOWN. PEOPLE TREMBLED AT THE MENTION OF MY NAME.



YOUR APPLICATION HAS BEEN SUSPENDED. PLEASE CALL A REPRESENTATIVE TO RE-APPLY.



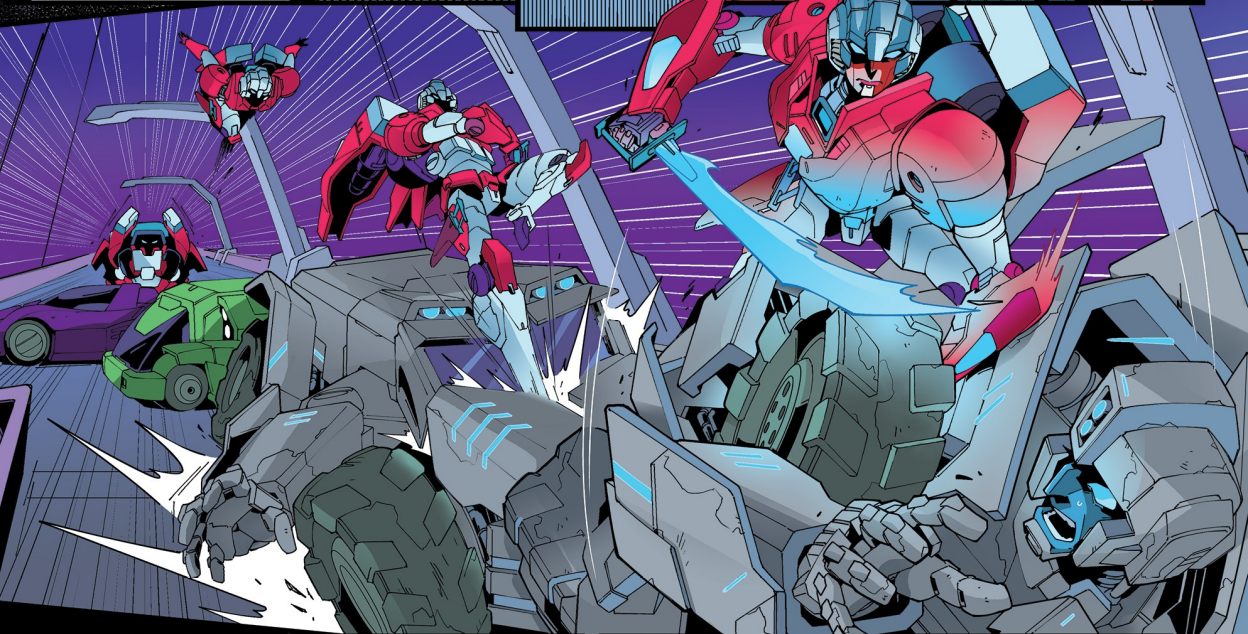
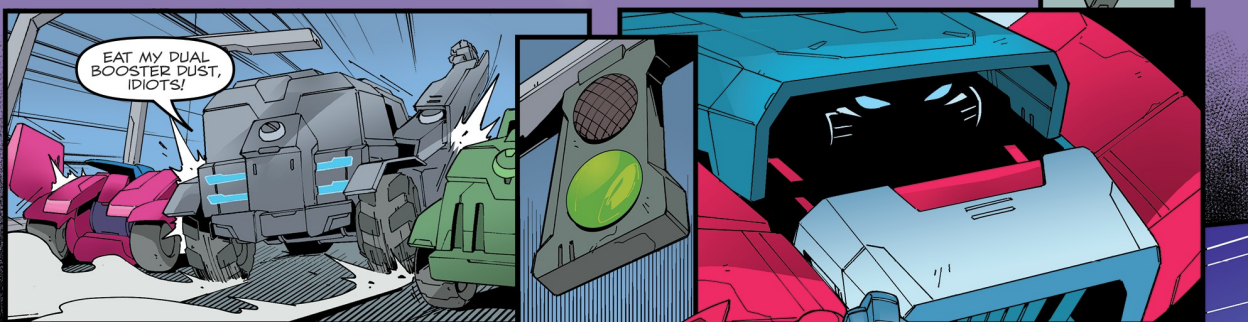
NOW I CAN'T EVEN GET A LOAN FOR A HOUSE.



CYBERTRON HAS
BOUNCED BACK
FROM A LONG
HISTORY OF WAR.
IT ALWAYS DOES.
EVERYONE GOES
ABOUT THEIR
BUSINESS, NOT
CARING ABOUT
ANYONE ELSE.



EAT MY DUAL
BOOSTER DUST,
IDIOTS!



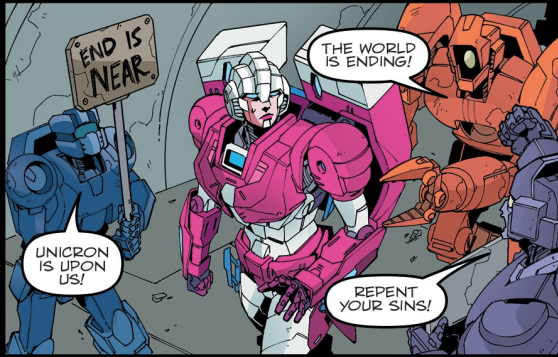
YOU WANT
ME TO SHOW
YOU WHAT
CUTTING TRULY
IS? BACK IN
LINE!

OKAY!
GOT IT! SO
SORRY!





I DON'T KNOW IF I'LL EVER GET USED TO BEING JUST ME, NOT A WARRIOR, NOT A SOLDIER.



END IS NEAR

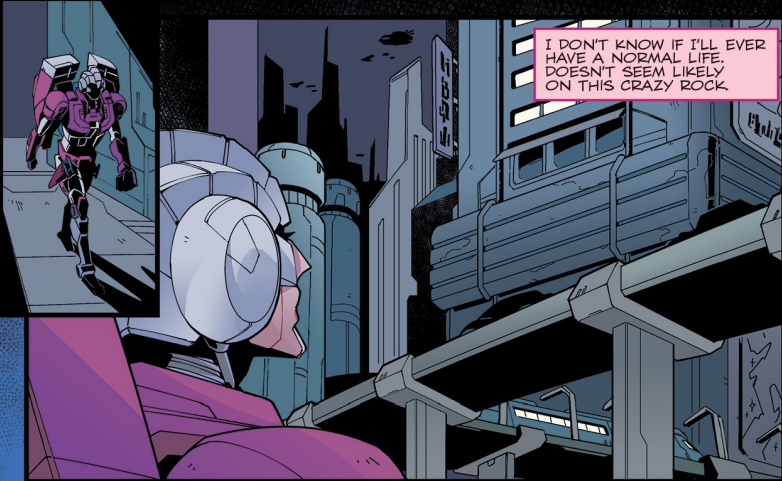
THE WORLD IS ENDING!

UNICRON IS UPON US!

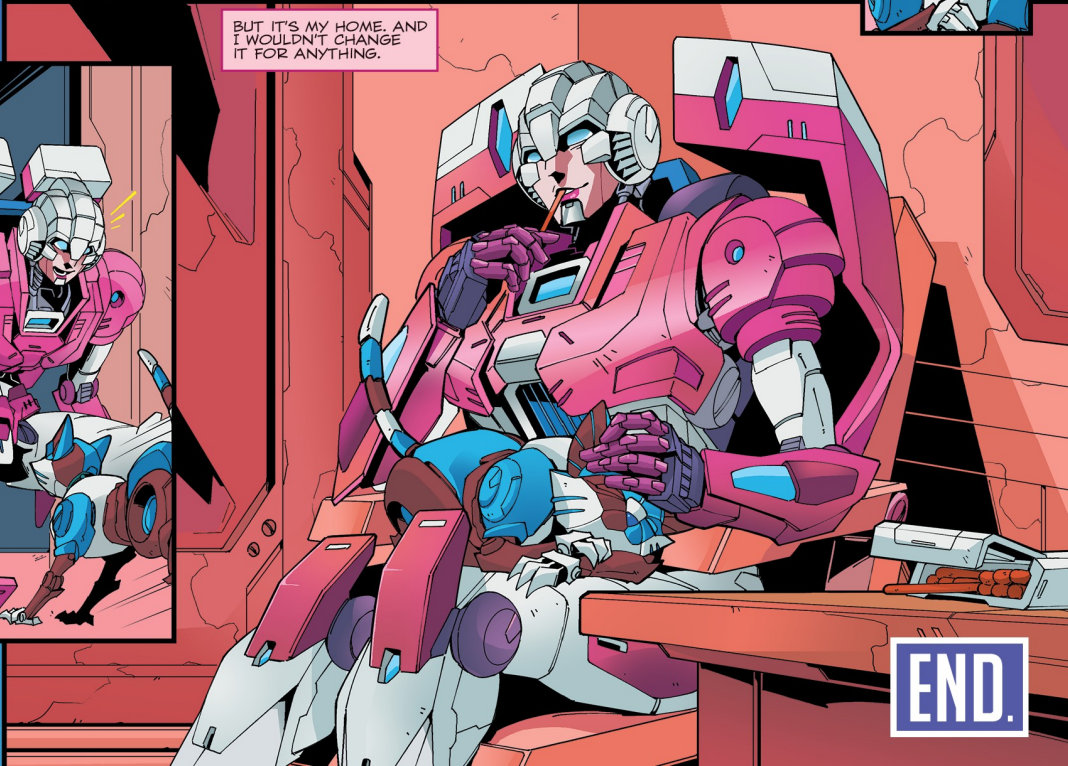
REPENT YOUR SINS!



DO YOU WANT RUST STICKS WITH THAT? ONLY ONE CREDIT EXTRA.



I DON'T KNOW IF I'LL EVER HAVE A NORMAL LIFE. DOESN'T SEEM LIKELY ON THIS CRAZY ROCK.



BUT IT'S MY HOME, AND I WOULDN'T CHANGE IT FOR ANYTHING.

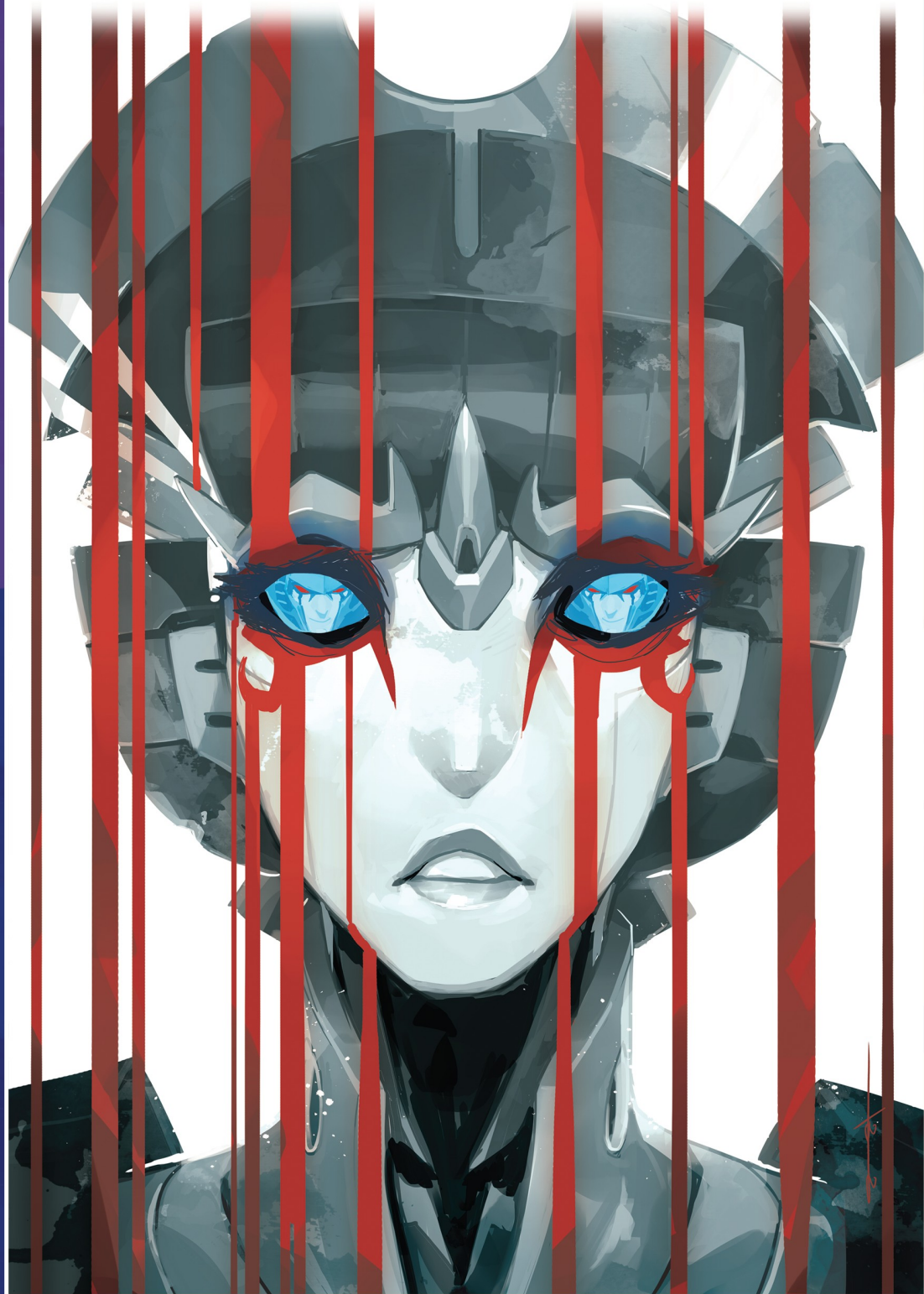
END.



ART BY NICOLETTA BALDARI



ART BY SARA PITRE-DUROCHER



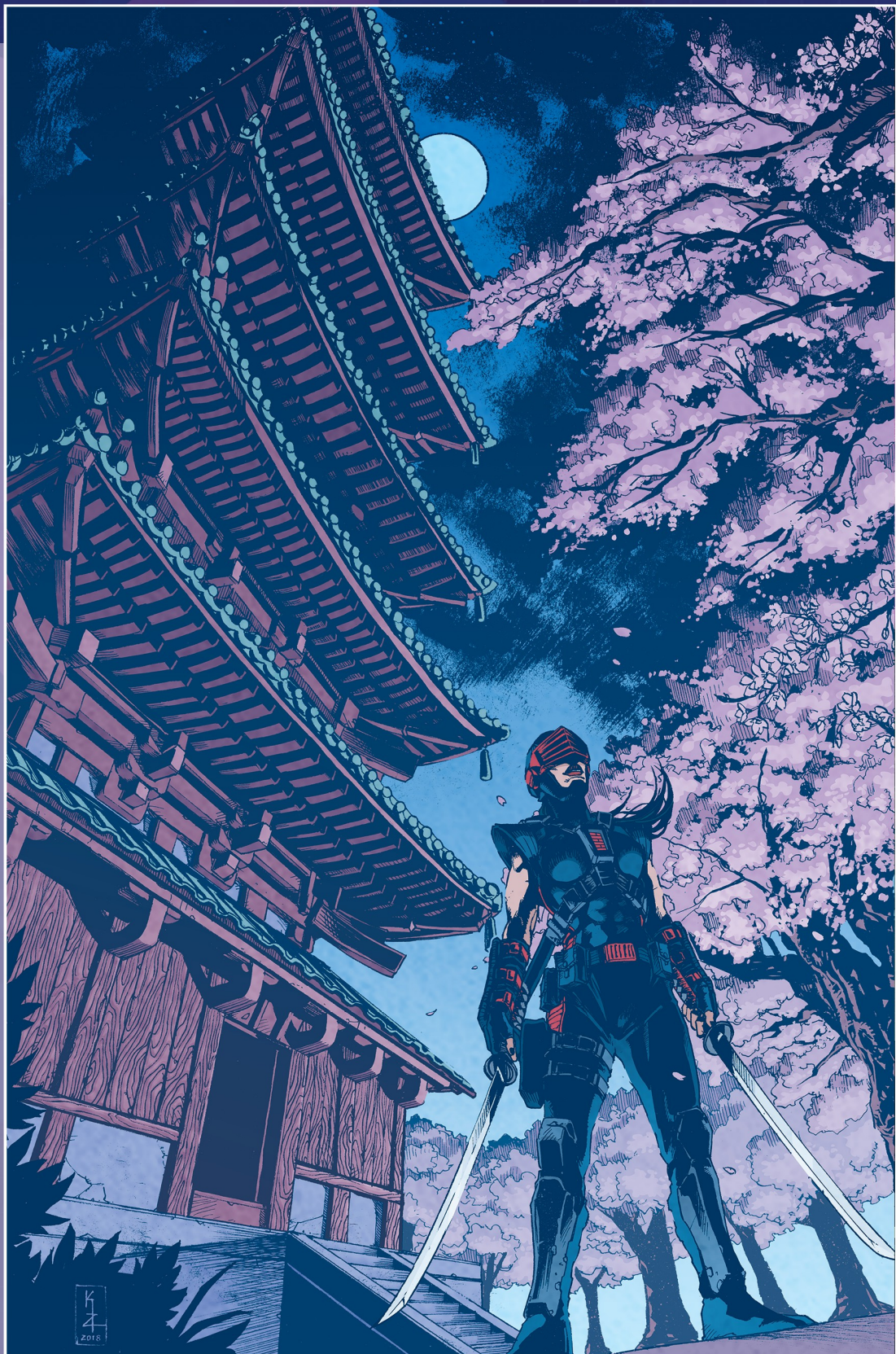
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ART BY JOANA LAFUENTE



ART BY KEI ZAMA



ART BY KEI ZAMA
COLORS BY RONDA PATTISON

“GHOST”

WRITTEN AND DRAWN BY: **EMMA VIECELI**

COLORED BY: **RONDA PATTISON**





WHEN I WAS A KID,
GHOSTS SCARED ME.



I MEAN, I REALIZE
THAT DOESN'T MAKE
ME UNUSUAL.

WHEN WE'RE
LITTLE, A LOT
SCARES US.

AND GHOSTS AND
CLOWNS MAKE MOST
PEOPLE'S TOP FIVE.



GHOSTS HAVE THE CLEARER PR,
I THINK. WHERE CLOWNS SIT IN A
WEIRD DICHTOMY OF FUN AND
FEAR, GHOSTS ARE MOSTLY
SETTLED ON THE LATTER.



BUT WHAT MADE *ME* FEAR
GHOSTS WASN'T THEIR
ETHEREAL PRESENCE, OR
THEIR SPOOKY GLOW...

IT WAS THEIR
SILENCE.



TO ME, A GHOST WAS A
SUPERNATURAL PRISON,
HOLDING ITS HOST MUTE.



UNABLE TO
USE WORDS.

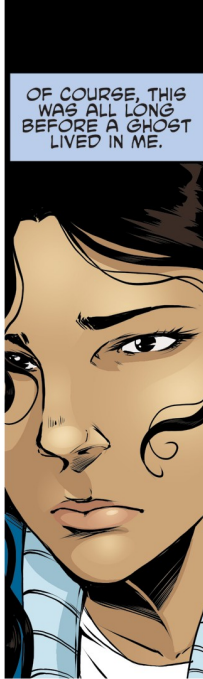
UNABLE TO
COMMUNICATE.

UNABLE TO VOICE THEIR
RAGE, THEIR HURT.

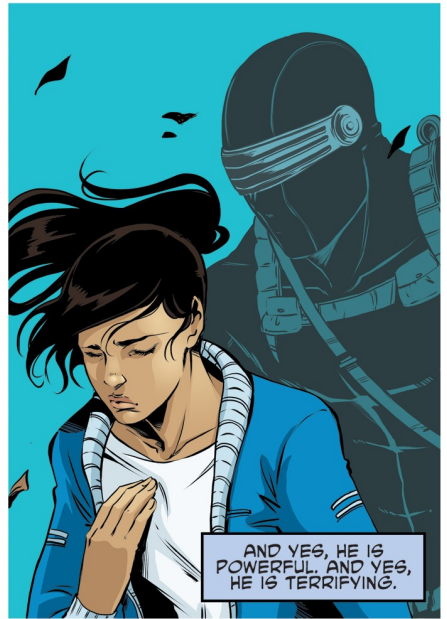


THAT THOUGHT,
ABOVE ANYTHING
ELSE, TERRIFIED ME.

IMAGINE ONLY BEING ABLE TO
COMMUNICATE THROUGH
THROWING AROUND CUPS AND
SAUCERS, OR LEAVING
MYSTERIOUS MARKINGS TO BE
DISCOVERED IF YOU'RE LUCKY.



OF COURSE, THIS
WAS ALL LONG
BEFORE A GHOST
LIVED IN ME.



AND YES, HE IS
POWERFUL. AND YES,
HE IS TERRIFYING.



I TAKE ON HIS
RAGE AND HIS HURT.

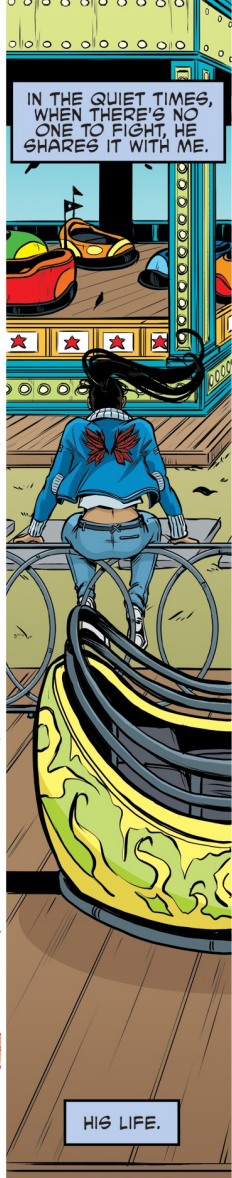
I CAN FIGHT
FOR HIM. WITH
HIM. AS HIM.

BUT THERE'S ALSO...

HE HAD A LIFE.

HE LOVED. HE WORKED.
HE HAD STORIES THAT
WERE LEFT UNFINISHED.

I GET TO
HEAR THEM.



IN THE QUIET TIMES,
WHEN THERE'S NO
ONE TO FIGHT, HE
SHARES IT WITH ME.

HIS LIFE.

HE TELLS ME
ABOUT TIMBER,
HIS WOLF.

ABOUT SCARLETT... RED.

I FEEL HIS LOVE
FOR THEM.



SOMETIMES, I'M
NOT SURE WHERE
HIS FEELINGS END
AND MINE START.



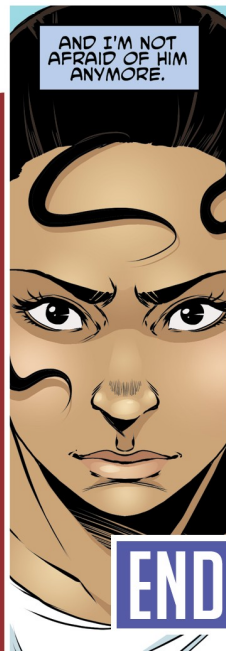
I KNOW,
I KNOW.

THERE'S A
NOT-TOO-SUBTLE IRONY
IN THE FACT THAT I
BECAME A VOICE FOR A
MAN WHO DIDN'T HAVE
ONE WHEN HE WAS ALIVE.



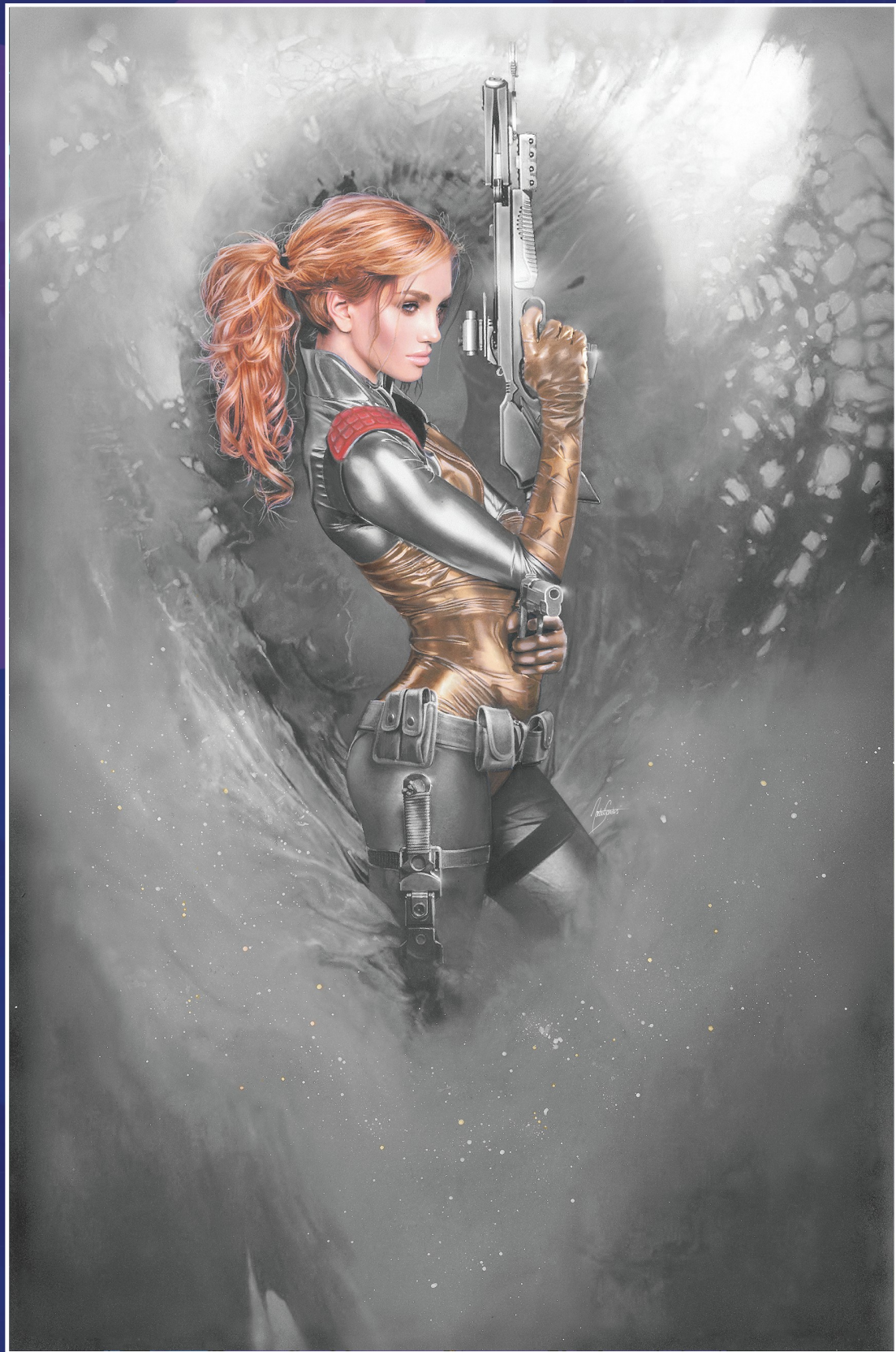
I GUESS...

I GAVE A
GHOST HIS
VOICE.



AND I'M NOT
AFRAID OF HIM
ANYMORE.

END.



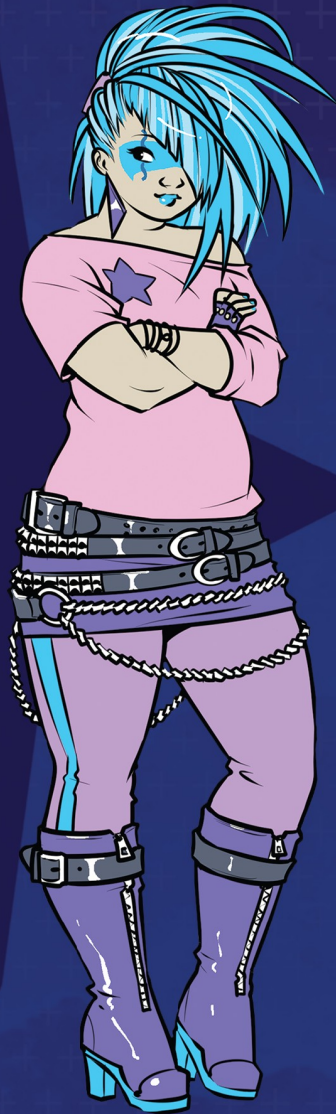
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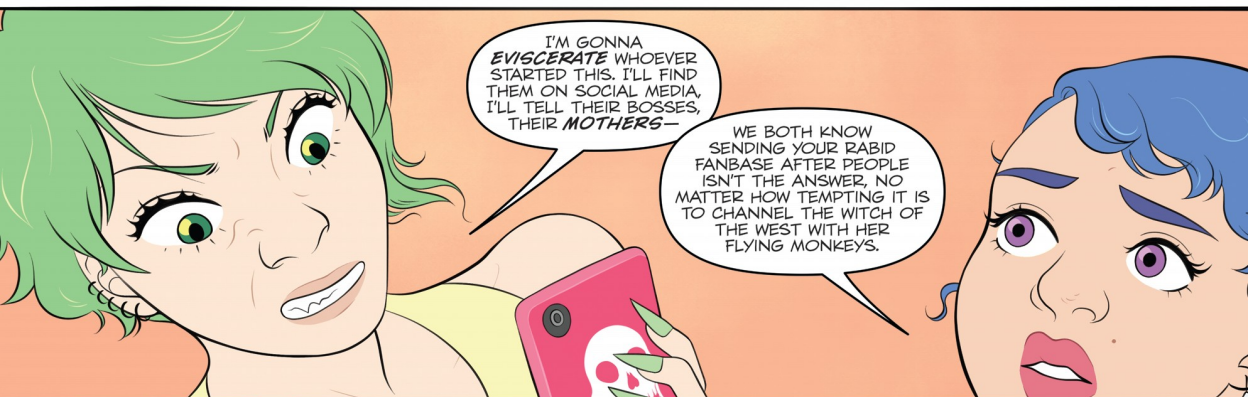


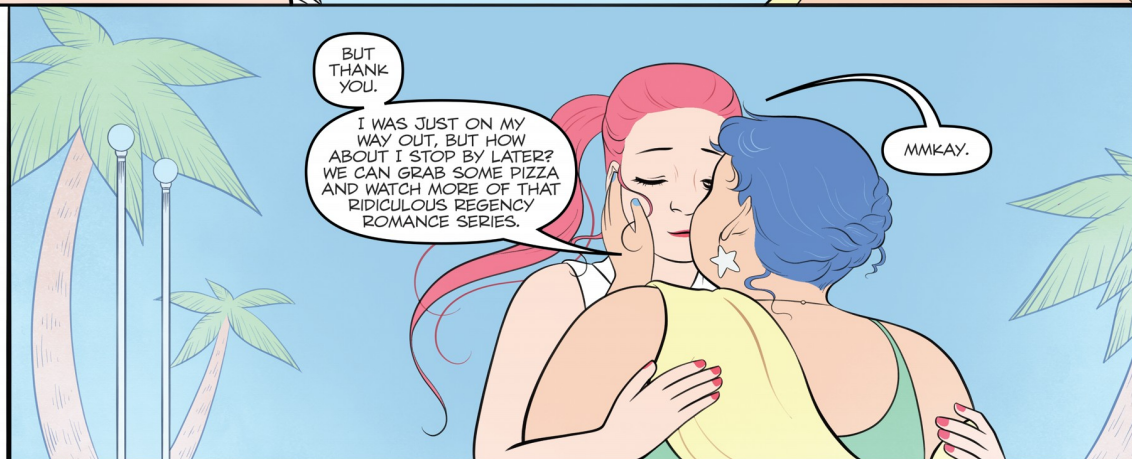
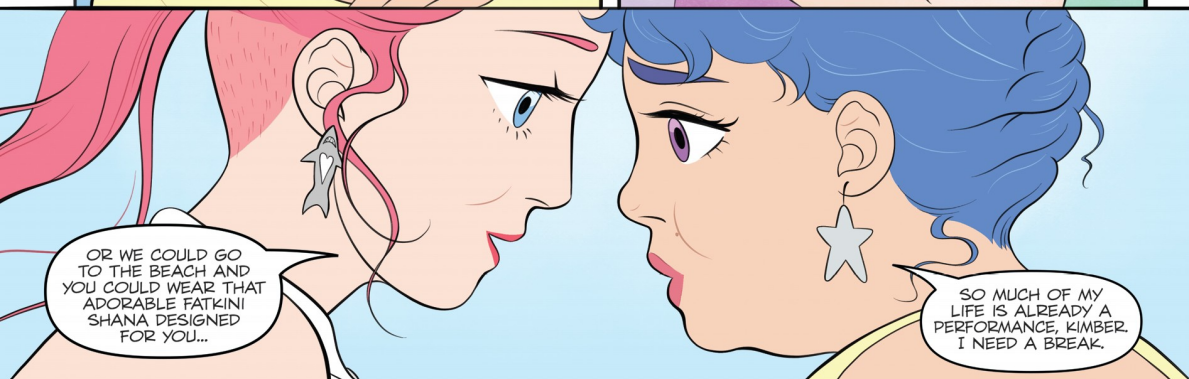
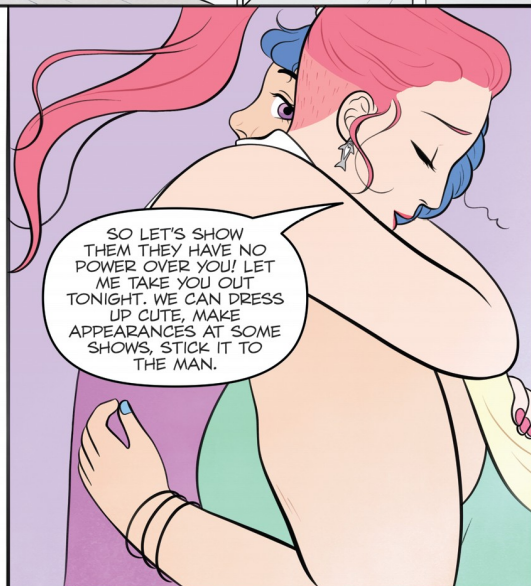
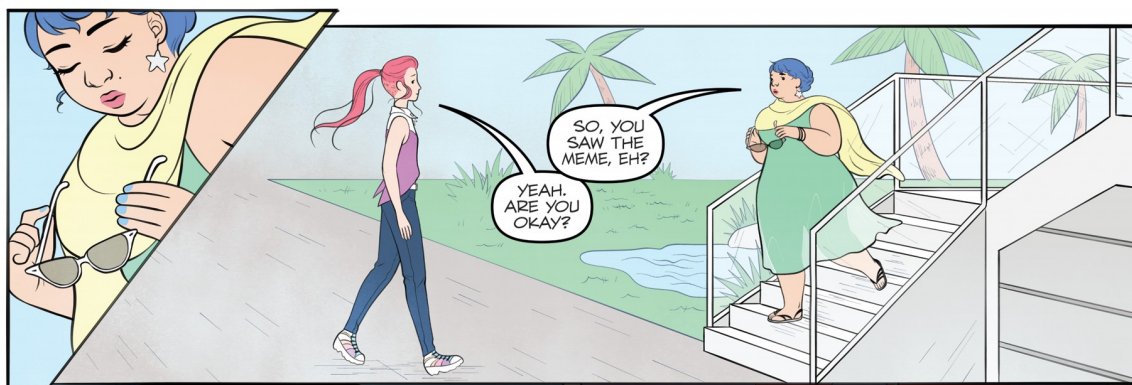
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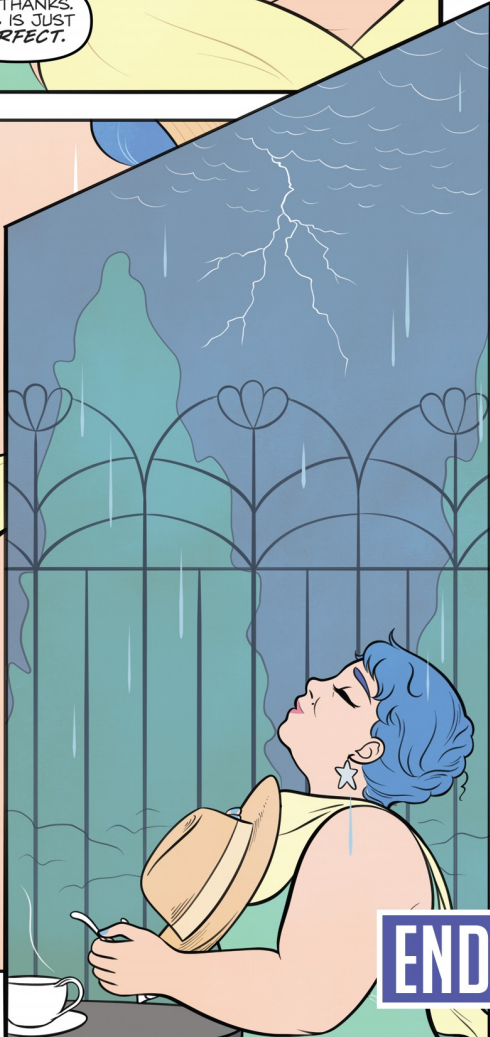
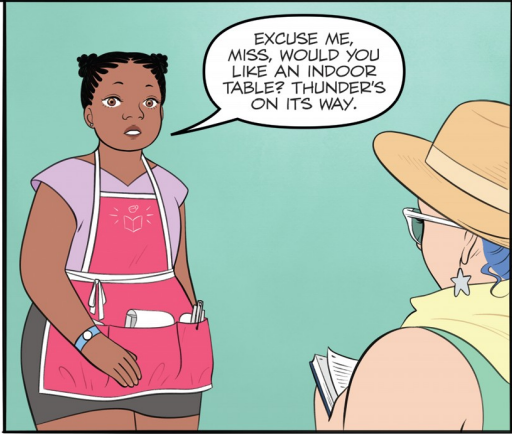
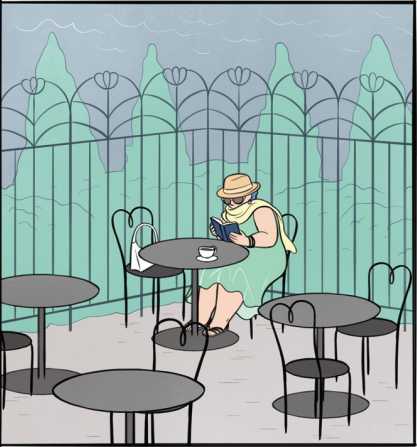
“RECHARGE”

WRITTEN, DRAWN, AND COLORED BY:
SARAH WINIFRED SEARLE







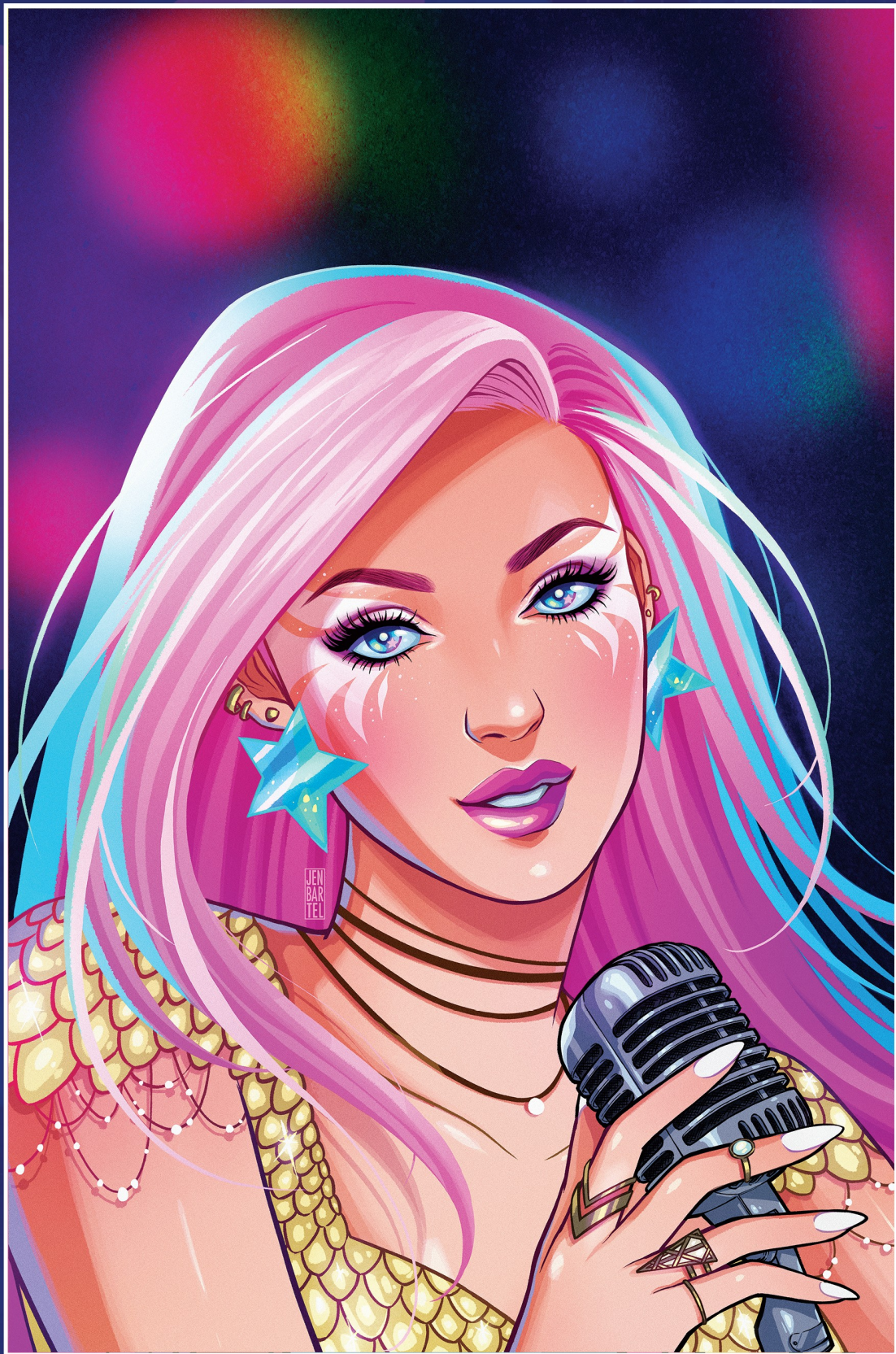




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ART BY SARA RICHARD



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"THE STAGE"

WRITTEN BY: KATIE COOK

DRAWN BY: AGNES GARBOWSKA

COLORS BY: HEATHER BRECKEL

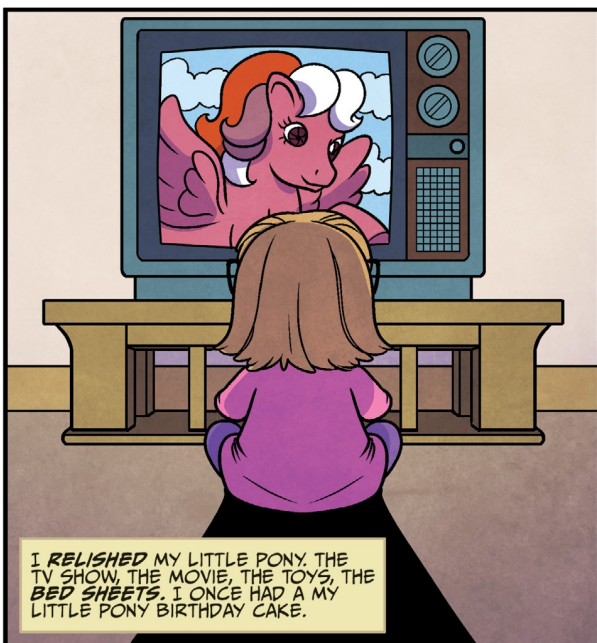




I WAS BORN IN 1981.



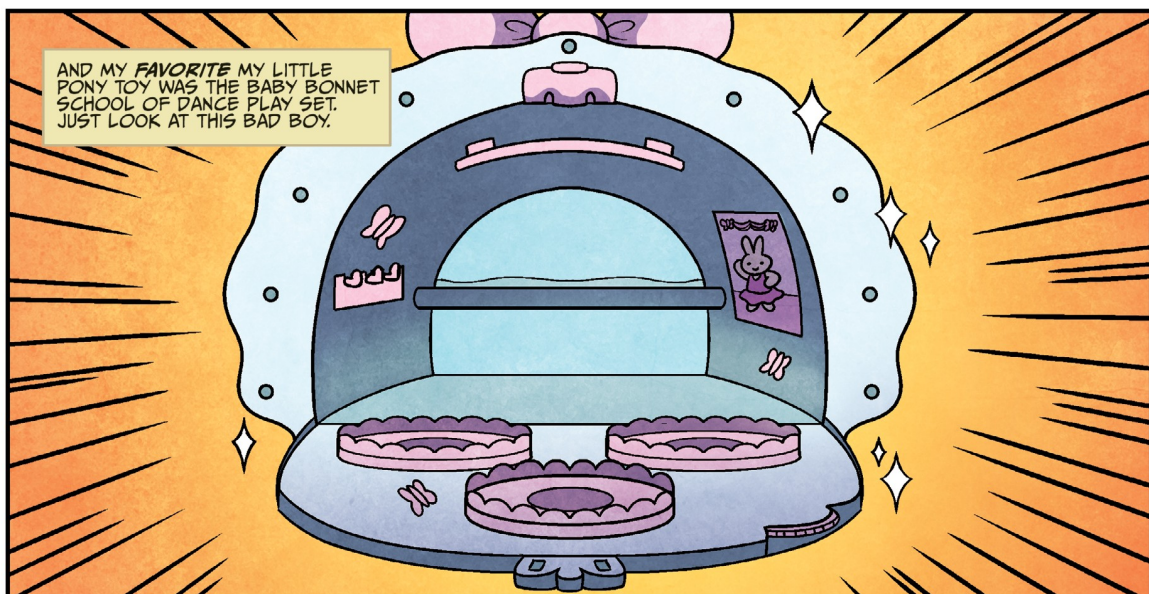
THAT MEANS TWO THINGS: ONE, I AM NOW CONSIDERED TO BE OLD AS DIRT BY MY OWN CHILDREN, AND TWO, I WAS THERE AND OF THE PERFECT AGE FOR THE START OF MY LITTLE PONY.



I **RELISHED** MY LITTLE PONY. THE TV SHOW, THE MOVIE, THE TOYS, THE **BED SHEETS**. I ONCE HAD A MY LITTLE PONY BIRTHDAY CAKE.



YOU MAY THINK I'M MAKING THIS UP FOR THE SAKE OF THE THEME OF THIS BOOK... BUT I'M NOT. MAY I PRESENT EXHIBIT A.



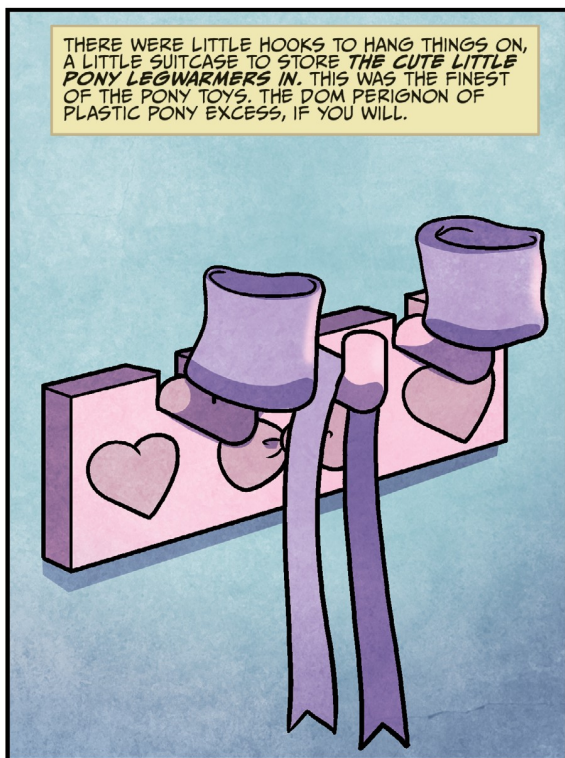
AND MY *FAVORITE* MY LITTLE PONY TOY WAS THE BABY BONNET SCHOOL OF DANCE PLAY SET. JUST LOOK AT THIS BAD BOY.



IT HAD THESE LITTLE CIRCLES THAT *SPUN* SO YOU COULD MAKE THE PONIES DANCE.



THERE WAS A LITTLE WARM-UP BAR IN FRONT OF ONE OF THOSE TERRIBLE, WOBBLY STICKER MIRRORS. YOU KNOW THE ONES I'M TALKING ABOUT.



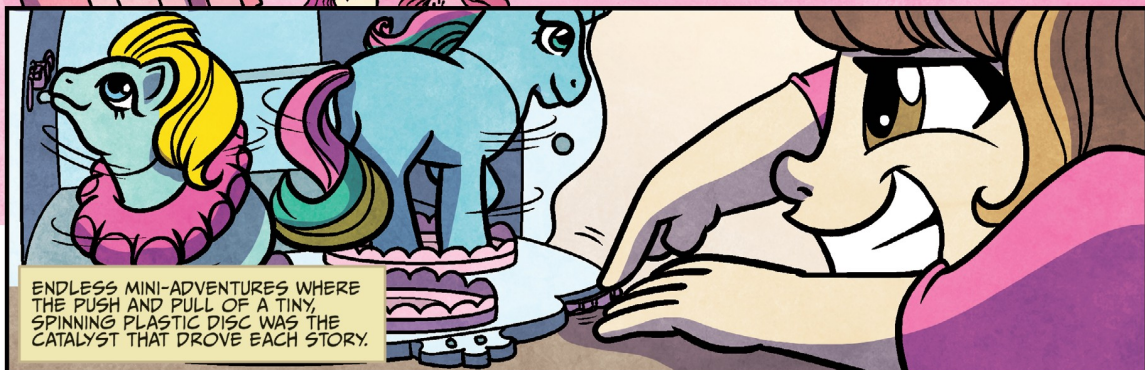
THERE WERE LITTLE HOOKS TO HANG THINGS ON, A LITTLE SUITCASE TO STORE *THE CUTE LITTLE PONY LEGWARMERS* IN. THIS WAS THE FINEST OF THE PONY TOYS. THE DOM PERIGNON OF PLASTIC PONY EXCESS, IF YOU WILL.



AND THIS IS COMING FROM SOMEONE WHO ALSO OWNED THE PARADISE ESTATE AND THE SCRUB-A-DUB-TUB. THE BABY BONNET SCHOOL OF DANCE WAS A KNOCKOUT.



MY FAVORITE THING TO DO WAS TO PUT ON PERFORMANCES WITH ALL MY SMALL TOYS. I'D SET THE STAGE, I'D MAKE PROPS, I'D MAKE UP LITTLE STORIES... AND MY FAVORITE, I'D MAKE THEM *TWIRL*.



ENDLESS MINI-ADVENTURES WHERE THE PUSH AND PULL OF A TINY, SPINNING PLASTIC DISC WAS THE CATALYST THAT DROVE EACH STORY.



CATCH ME, SEA BREEZE!

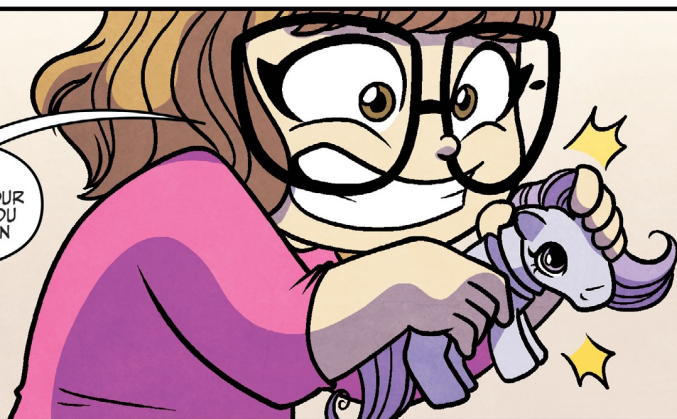


OH NO! I NEVER SHOULD HAVE TRUSTED YOU, YOU HAVE NO ARMS! NOOOOOO!

DON'T BLAME ME FOR YOUR PROBLEMS, STARFLOWER.

I SHOULD MENTION THAT
I WAS A WEIRD KID.

SORRY, APPLEJACK.
I WAS JUST TRYING TO
SEE HOW FAR AROUND YOUR
HEAD COULD TURN SO YOU
COULD WATCH YOUR OWN
BACK! OOPS.



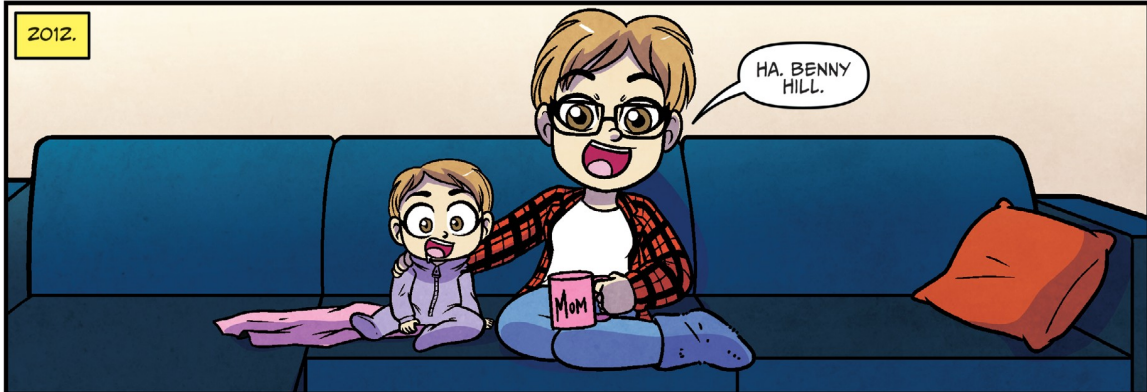
AND THAT'S THAT. THAT'S
PROBABLY WHERE MOST
PEOPLE'S MY LITTLE
PONY STORY ENDS...



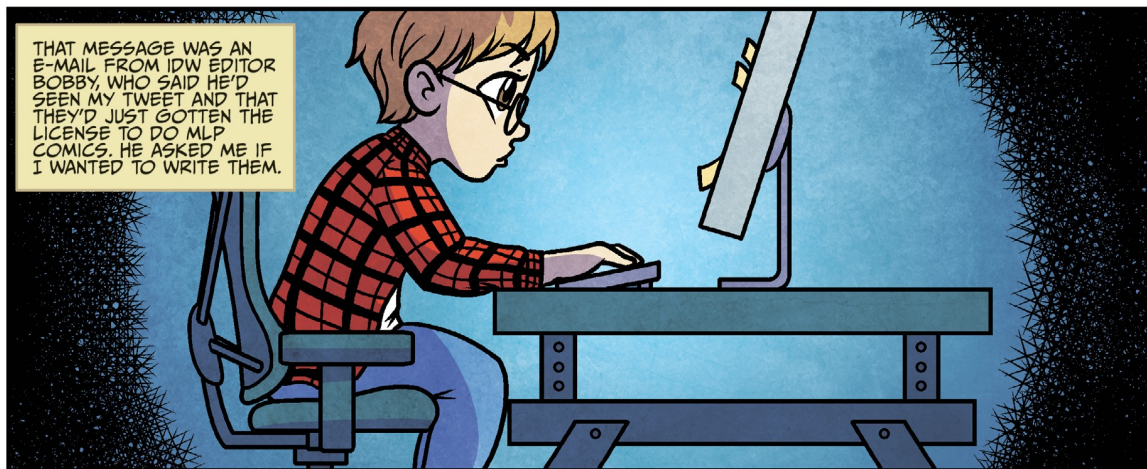
...BUT NOT MINE.

2012.

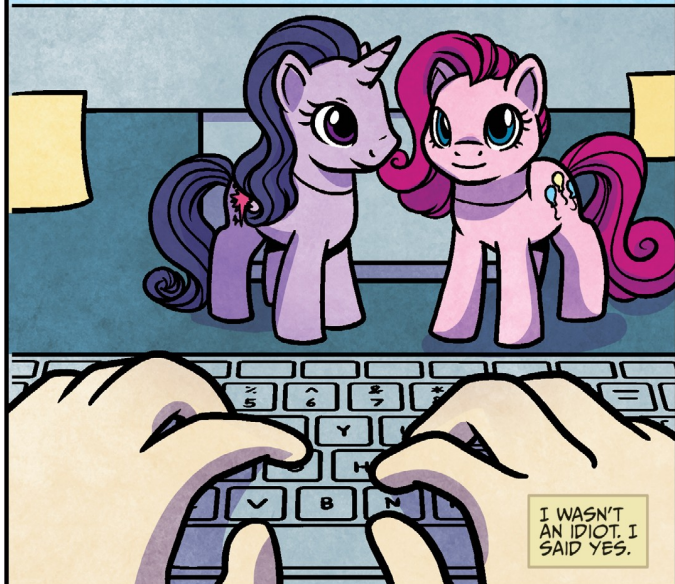
HA. BENNY
HILL.



THAT MESSAGE WAS AN E-MAIL FROM IDW EDITOR BOBBY, WHO SAID HE'D SEEN MY TWEET AND THAT THEY'D JUST GOTTEN THE LICENSE TO DO MLP COMICS. HE ASKED ME IF I WANTED TO WRITE THEM.



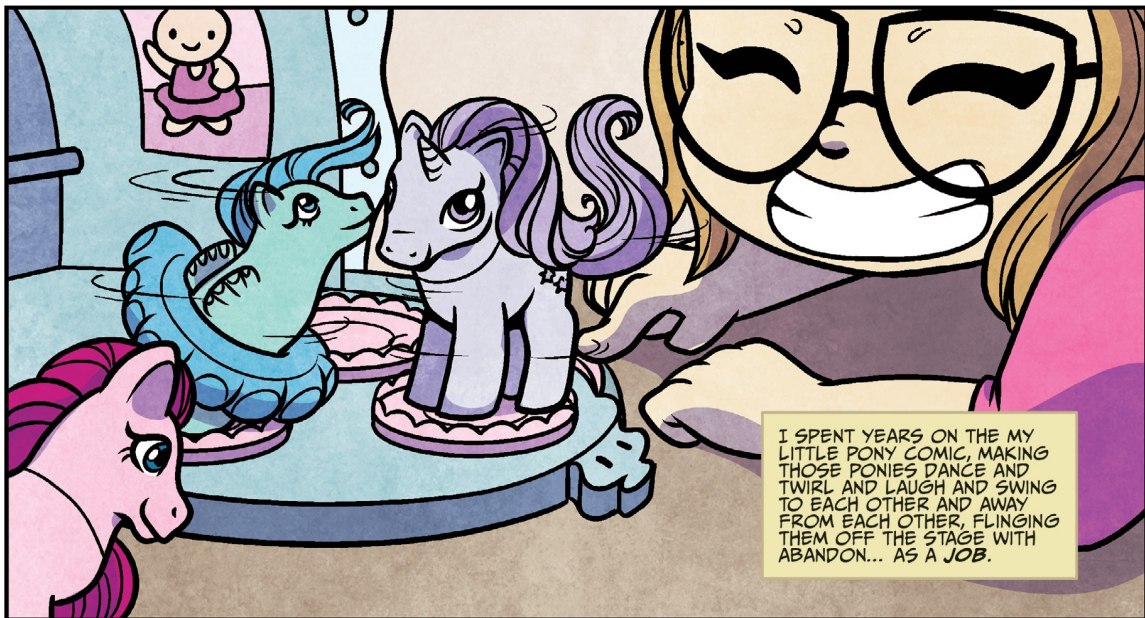
I WAS WORRIED BECAUSE MOST OF THE WORK I'D DONE IN COMICS HAD BEEN SHORT FORM (FOUR-PANEL GAGS, OR THINGS NO MORE THAN EIGHT PAGES). BOBBY WAS ASKING ME FOR A STORY THAT SPANNED FOUR ISSUES.



I WASN'T AN IDIOT. I SAID YES.

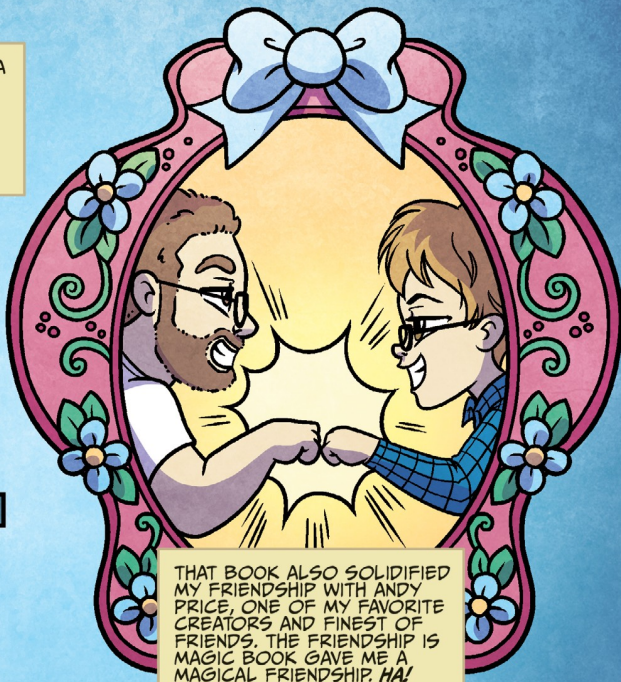


I HAD BEEN HANDED THE OFFICIAL VERSION OF THE BABY BONNET SCHOOL OF DANCE PLAYSET. I WAS GIVEN MY LITTLE PONY AND A STAGE AND WAS TOLD TO TELL MY OWN STORIES.



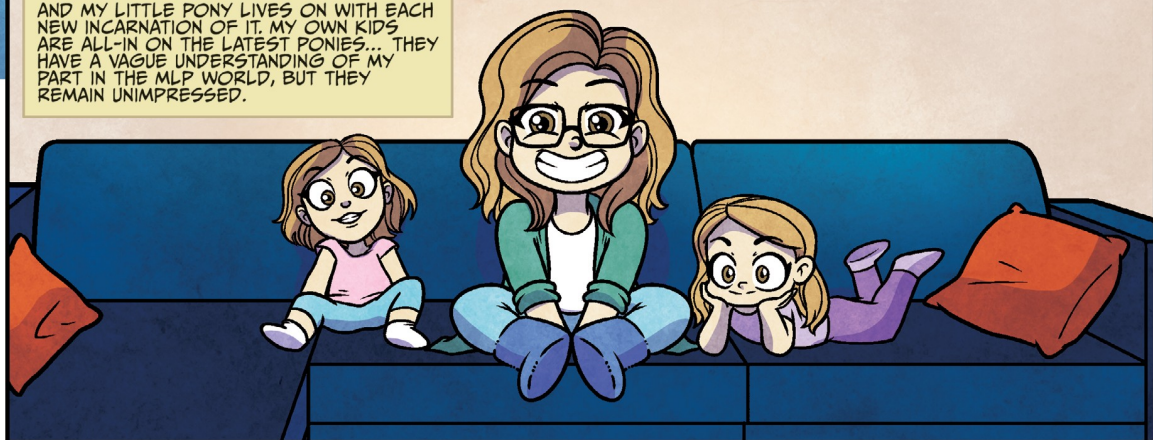
I SPENT YEARS ON THE MY LITTLE PONY COMIC, MAKING THOSE PONIES DANCE AND TWIRL AND LAUGH AND SWING TO EACH OTHER AND AWAY FROM EACH OTHER, FLINGING THEM OFF THE STAGE WITH ABANDON... AS A JOB.

THROUGH MY YEARS ON MLP I LEARNED HOW TO BE A BETTER WRITER, HOW TO BE A BETTER COMIC CREATOR, HOW TO BALANCE MY LIFE AND MY WORK SCHEDULE. THAT BOOK WAS A CONSTANT IN MY LIFE FOR A LONG TIME, UP UNTIL I FADED AWAY FROM IT SO I COULD TRY AND TAKE SOME OF THOSE LESSONS AND WORK ON SOMETHING THAT WAS MINE.



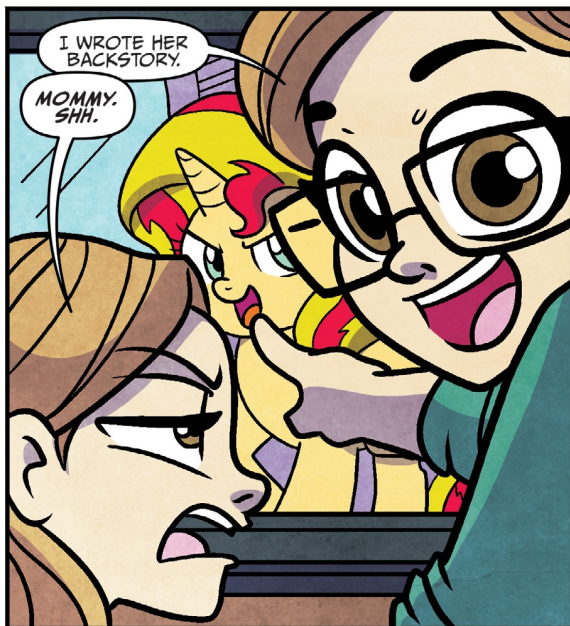
THAT BOOK ALSO SOLIDIFIED MY FRIENDSHIP WITH ANDY PRICE, ONE OF MY FAVORITE CREATORS AND FINEST OF FRIENDS. THE FRIENDSHIP IS MAGIC BOOK GAVE ME A MAGICAL FRIENDSHIP. HA!

AND MY LITTLE PONY LIVES ON WITH EACH NEW INCARNATION OF IT. MY OWN KIDS ARE ALL-IN ON THE LATEST PONIES... THEY HAVE A VAGUE UNDERSTANDING OF MY PART IN THE MLP WORLD, BUT THEY REMAIN UNIMRESSED.



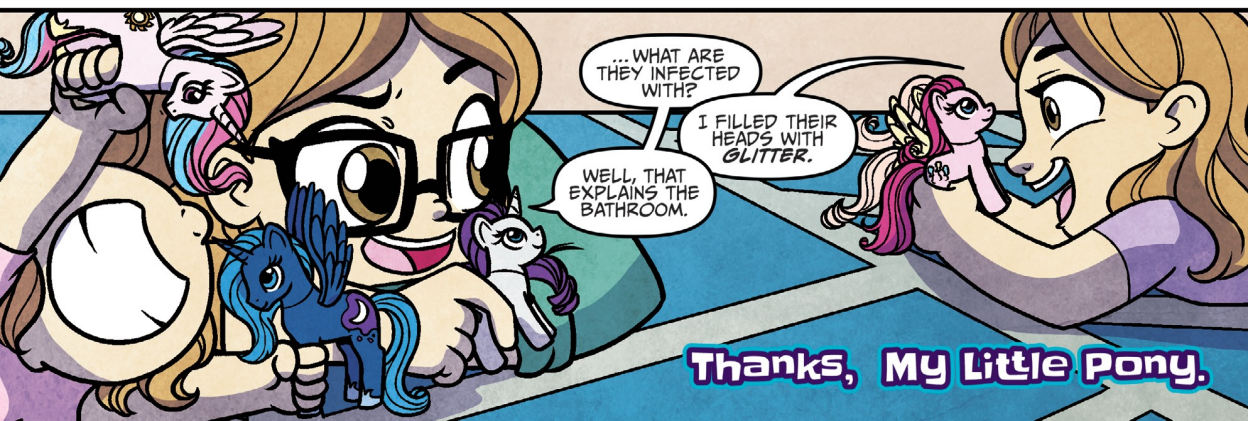
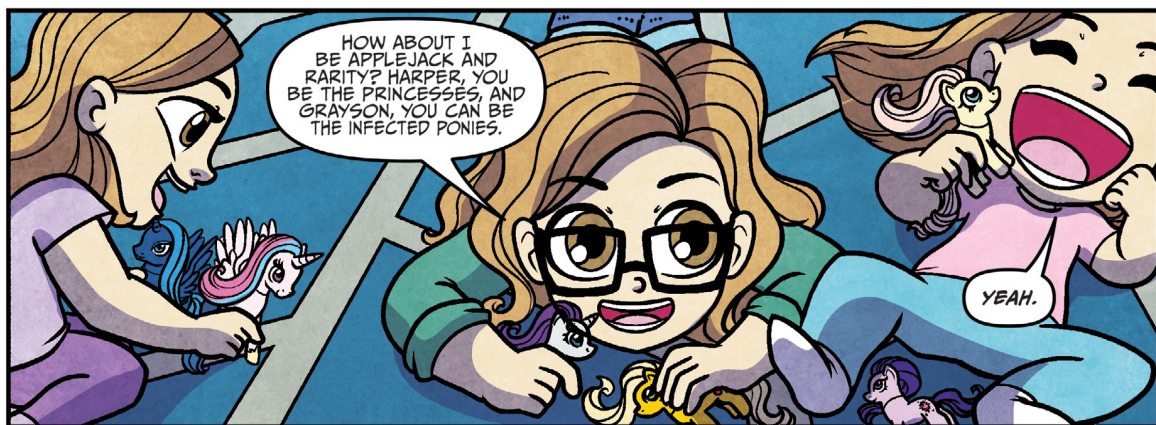
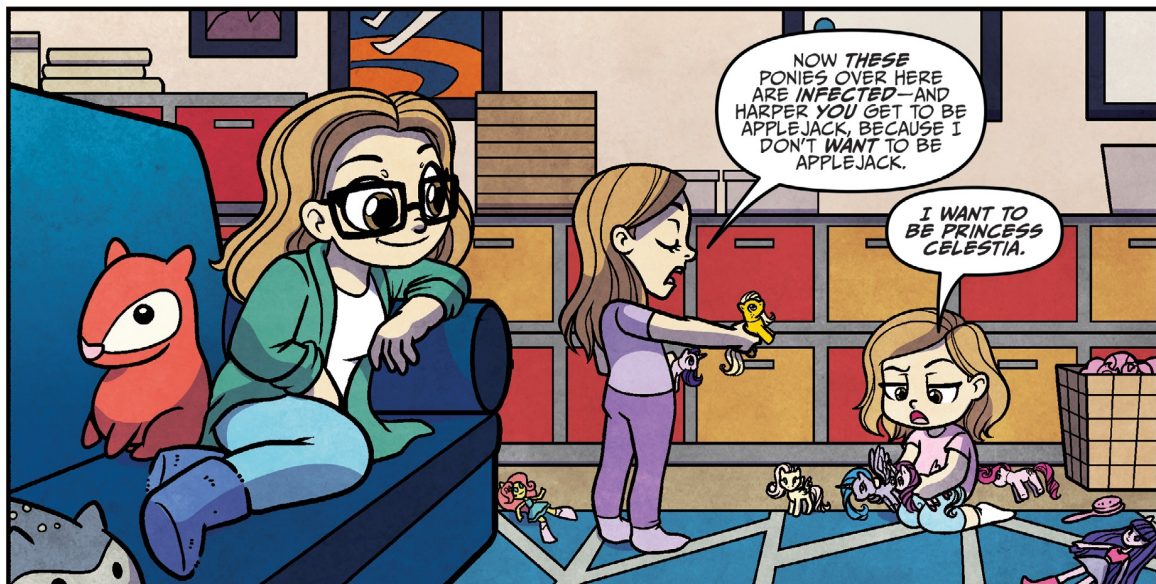
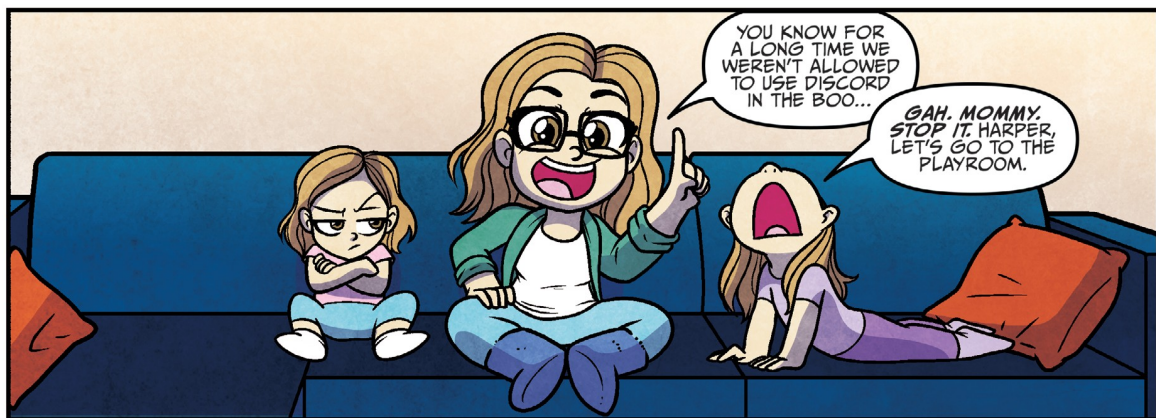
THERE'S MOMMY AS A PONY.

SHHHH.



I WROTE HER BACKSTORY.

MOMMY. SHH.





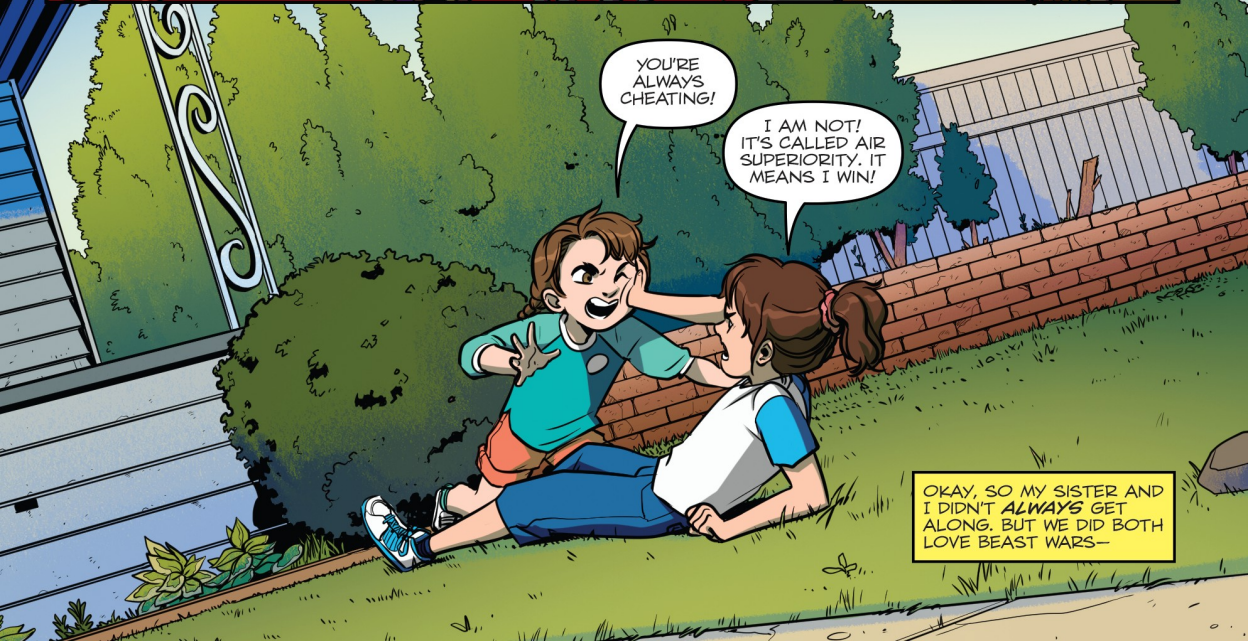
“OF FLYING AND FALLING”

WRITTEN BY: MAIRGHREAD SCOTT

DRAWN BY: SARA PITRE-DUROCHER

COLORS BY: JOANA LAFUENTE







-EVEN THOUGH THERE WAS VERY LITTLE REASON FOR US TO BE SO INTO IT. THERE WERE ALMOST NO GIRLS IN THE SHOW.

BUT IT WAS SLIM PICKINGS EVERYWHERE BACK THEN, AND THERE WERE PLENTY OF ANIMALS THAT **SHOULD** HAVE BEEN GIRLS, AS FAR AS WE WERE CONCERNED.



VELOCIRAPTORS—WELL, EVERYONE KNEW THEY WERE GIRLS. THERE WAS A WHOLE MOVIE ABOUT THAT.



CHEETAHS—CATS WERE GIRLS. ESPECIALLY THE FAST ONES.

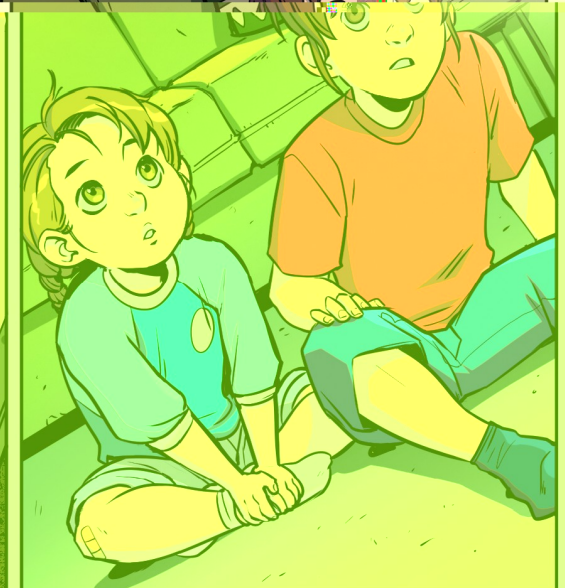
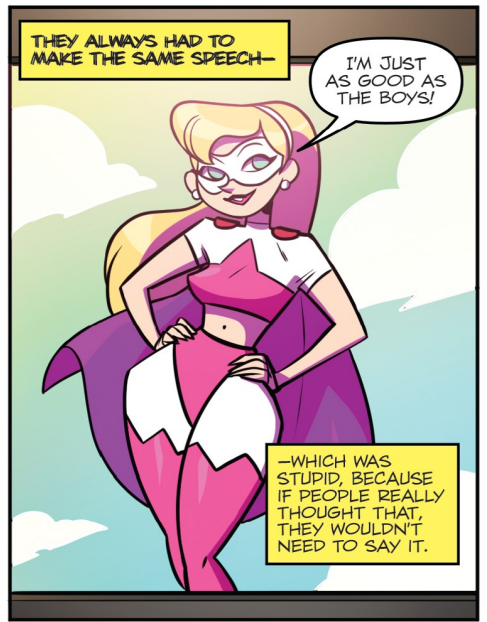
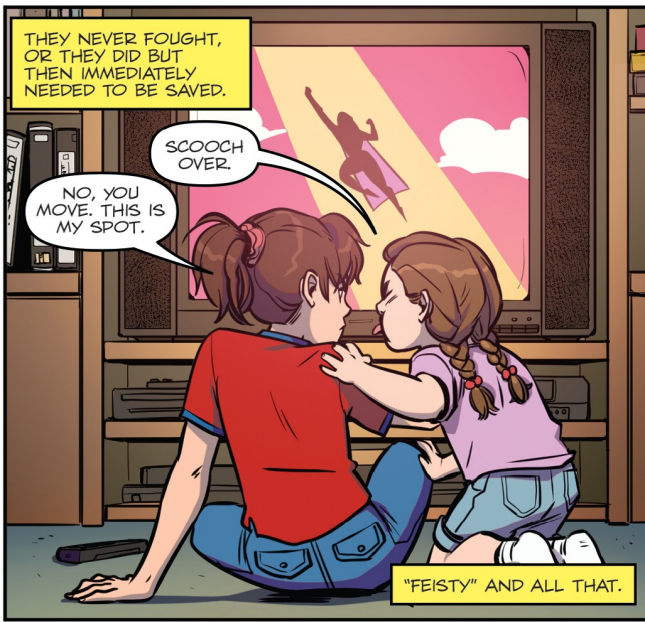
AND THE BIRDS **HAD** TO BE GIRLS.

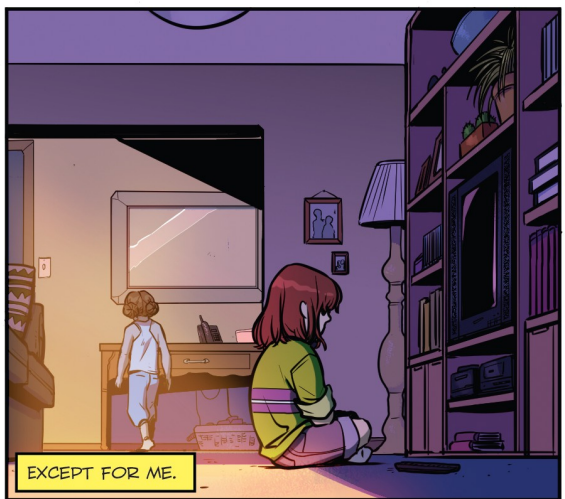
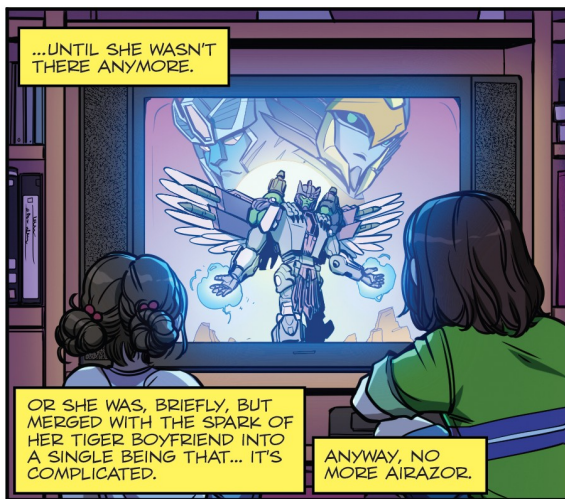
FLYING WAS DEFINITELY A "GIRL POWER" IN OUR MINDS.

BUT AIRAZOR? SHE WAS SPECIAL. BECAUSE SHE WAS A TRANSFORMER, A BIRD-ROBOT. AND TO ME THAT MEANT SHE WASN'T **REALLY** A GIRL AT ALL.



AND THAT WAS GREAT. BECAUSE, GIRLS WERE LAME.





AIRAZOR BECAME THE
BIRD AT THE BOTTOM OF
PANDORA'S BOX FOR ME.

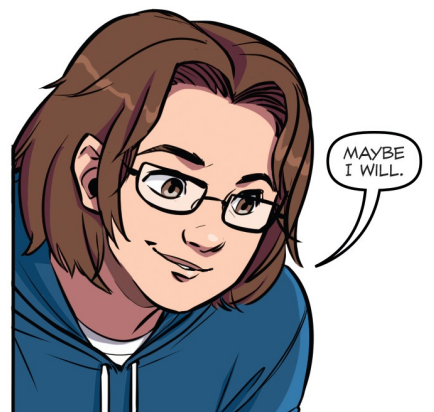
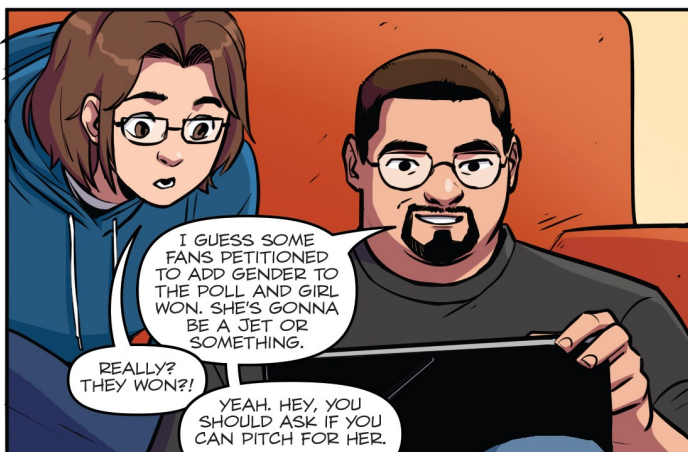
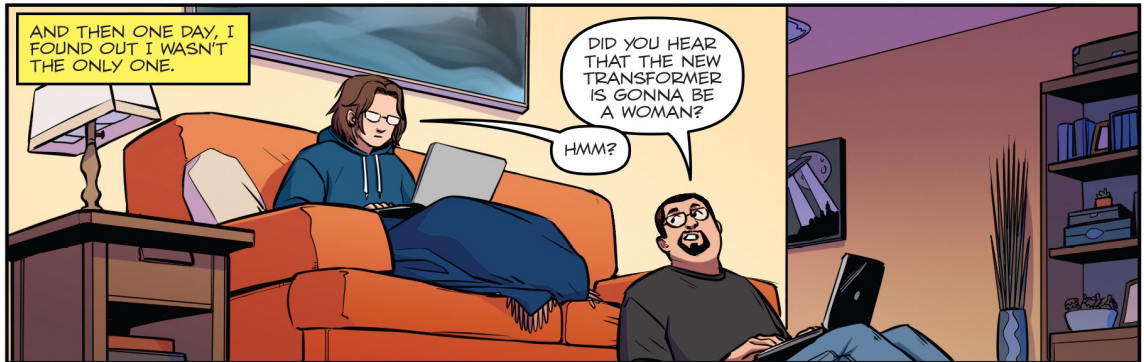
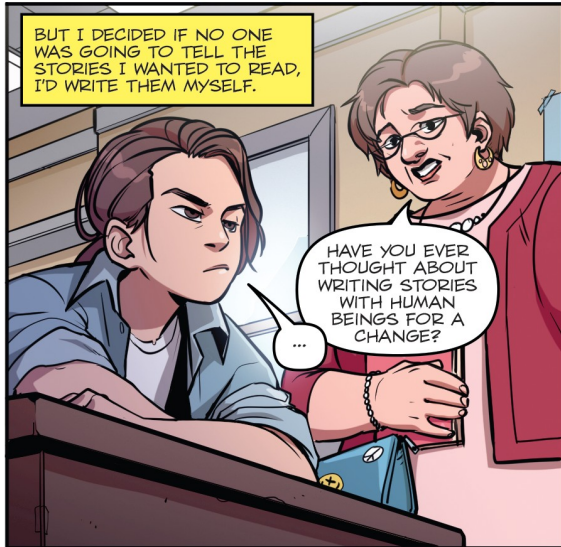


THE TINY FLUTTERING
HOPE THAT SURVIVED
BURIED BENEATH ALL THE
WORLD'S CRUMMINESS.

BECAUSE NO MATTER HOW
SMALL AND FRAIL IT IS,
HOPE CAN NEVER DIE IF
YOU REFUSE TO LET IT.



AND I REFUSED.



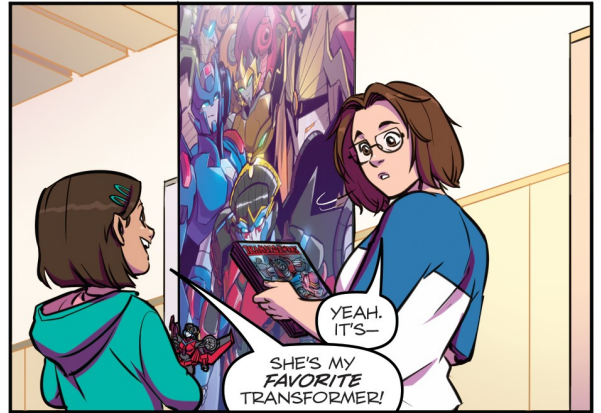


ALL MY HEROES FROM THE 90S COULD FLY. AND THAT TAUGHT ME SOMETHING IMPORTANT.



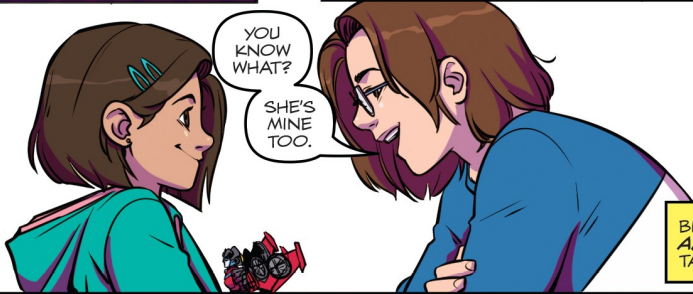
SOMETIMES FLYING HURTS, SOMETIMES YOU FALL.

IS THAT A WINDBLADE BANNER?



YEAH. IT'S—

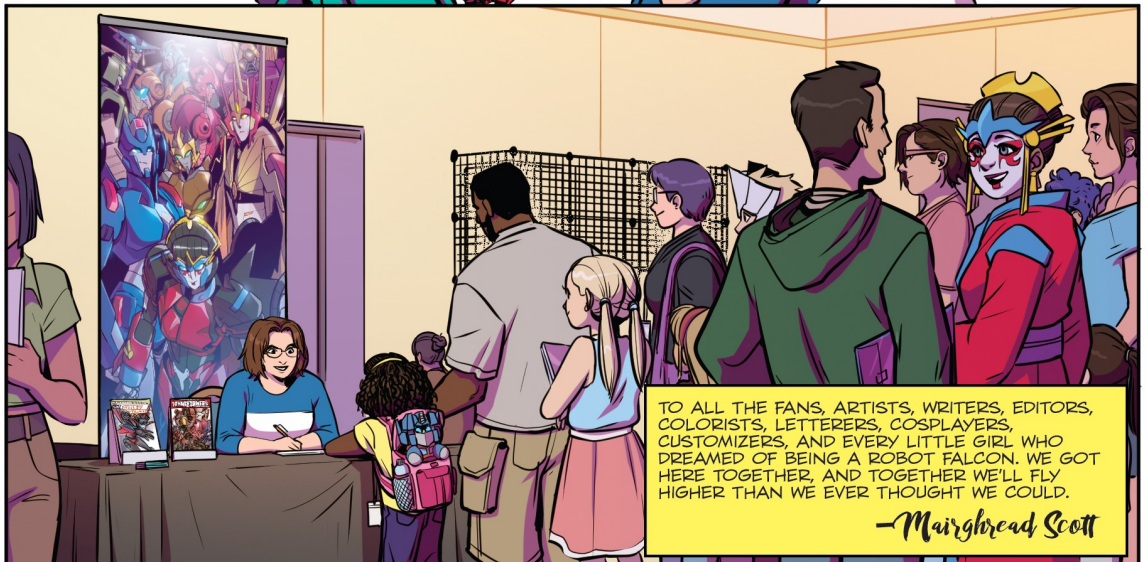
SHE'S MY FAVORITE TRANSFORMER!



YOU KNOW WHAT?

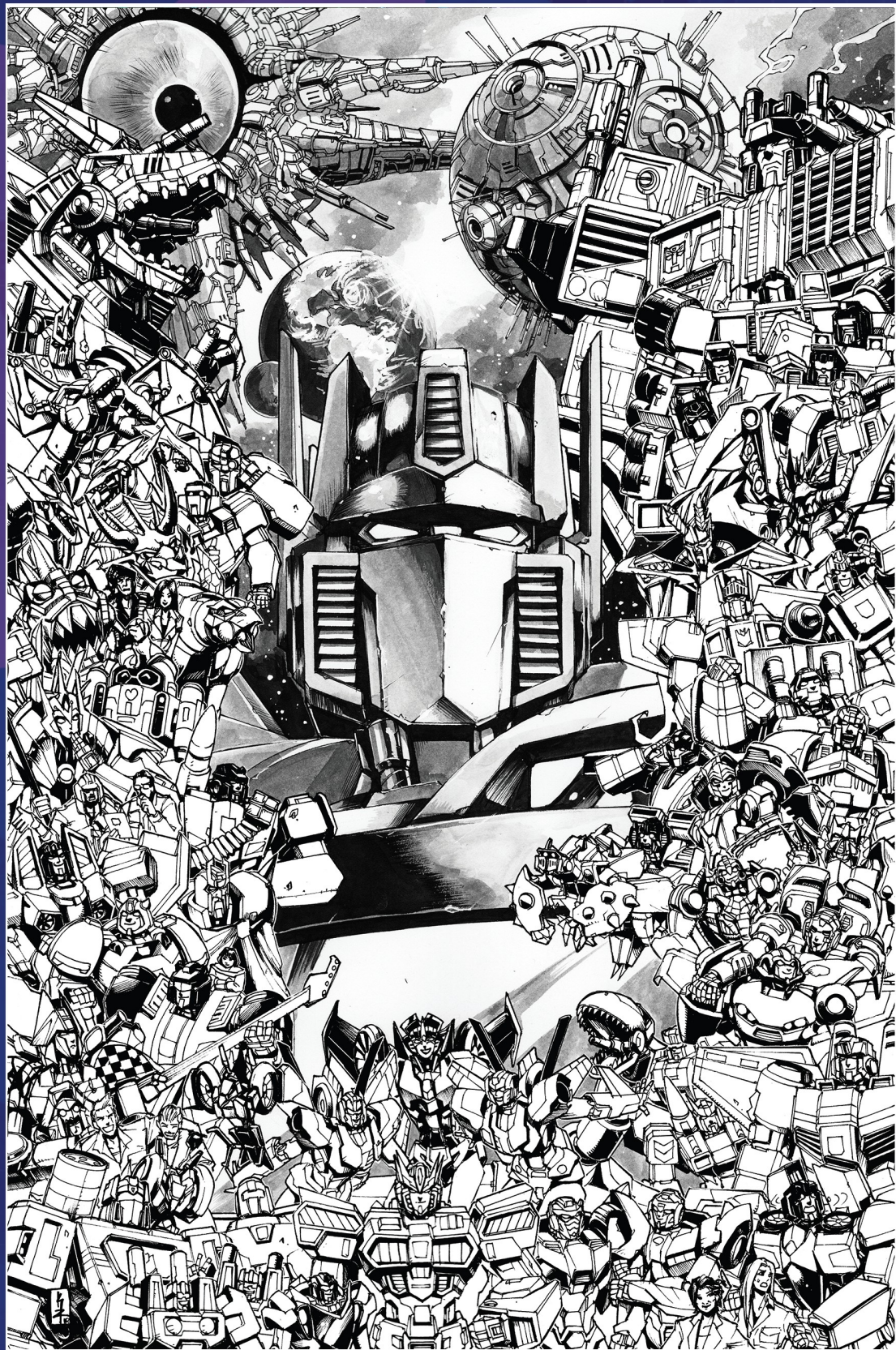
SHE'S MINE TOO.

BUT IT IS ALWAYS, ALWAYS WORTH TAKING THE LEAP.

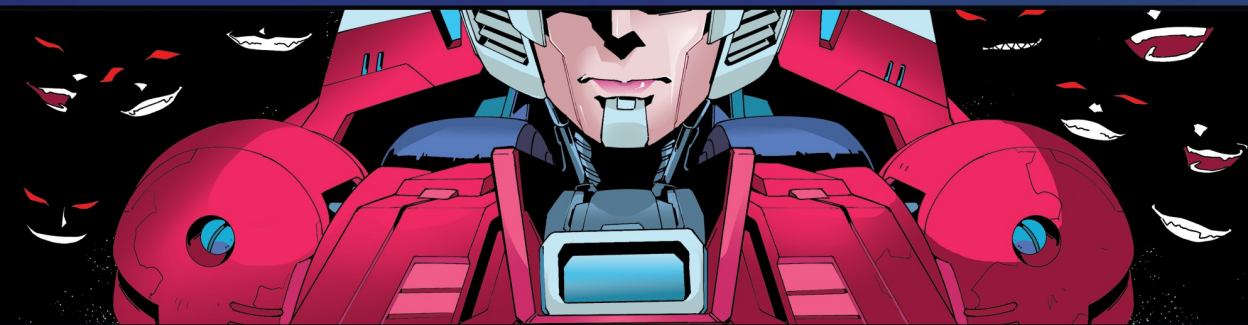


TO ALL THE FANS, ARTISTS, WRITERS, EDITORS, COLORISTS, LETTERERS, COSPLAYERS, CUSTOMIZERS, AND EVERY LITTLE GIRL WHO DREAMED OF BEING A ROBOT FALCON. WE GOT HERE TOGETHER, AND TOGETHER WE'LL FLY HIGHER THAN WE EVER THOUGHT WE COULD.

—Maighread Scott



ART BY KEI ZAMA



cover by Sara Pitre-Durocher

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