

ISSUE #11

SLICED

(QUARTERLY)

An Experimental Comic Anthology



S
(Q)



Editorial

Comics are for everyone.

There is a comic in existence that will appeal to every single person on the planet for one reason or another. Not because it's been thought out or specific people have been targeted as a demographic, but because comics are a narrative and communicative form. They are not a genre, they are not a banner around which to assemble ugly ideologies, they don't belong to anyone. They are available for all to use and enjoy.

There is a strange insistence in fandom that has grown stronger in recent times. It is the obsession of some to claim ownership over the things they profess to love. The immediate by-product of this mentality is exclusion of others. If you believe you own a thing it then becomes your mission to protect it, keep others you judge as harmful away from it. Might sound like a perfectly natural instinct until you realise that this ownership is completely illusory. It's simply a construct to act despicably towards people and groups that they already have an ingrained and unnatural negative bias towards. It's base tribalism, finding the protection of a group from which to make attacks you've always wanted to make but never felt safe or secure enough to mount alone.

Anyone that believes 'comics' are only one thing for a very specific section of society are blatantly ignorant. They have not attempted to study the range of content available or the historical context of the books they hold in high esteem.

Comics have always been the medium of new ideas, new ways of doing things. Old ideas and doctrines quickly fall away; get discarded so everything can move forward and get better.

I hope this trend will continue.

Ken Reynolds
Editor

August 2018

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Cover

Art by
Ben Peter Johnson



William

By Ethan Wiltshire



Used and Abused

By Rick Perez



Corporate Growth

By Tom Curry



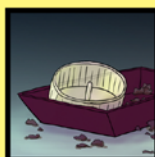
Monsters Break

By Craig Dixon



Ruth Farms

Script by Ryan Haack
Art by Przemyslaw R. Dedelis
Colours by Daniel Morales



The Lifespan of the Common House Hamster

Script by Dino Caruso
Art by Kacee Navarro



Apartments

Script by Charlie Bazaldua
Art by Craig Dixon



Contact

Script by Tim Perry
Art by Ken Best



Small Press Preview - The Pull List

By Alex Thomas

WORDTOWN IDAHO

RUTH FARMS

SCRIPT: RYAN HAACK • ART: PRZEMYSŁAW R. DEDELIS
COLORS: DANIEL MORALES • LETTERS: KEN REYNOLDS

"I CAN TELL YOU THAT
THERE'S NO PLACE IN
THE WORLD LIKE
WORDTOWN, IDAHO.

"A GLANCE AT ITS 2,000
ACRES OF CROP LAND MIGHT
GIVE YOU THE IMPRESSION ITS
LIKE ANY OTHER FARM TOWN...

"...BUT YOU'D BE
VERY, VERY WRONG.

"WHERE OTHER
AGRICULTURAL-BASED
COMMUNITIES GROW
CORN, BEANS, POTATOES
AND OTHER NUTRIENTS WE
NEED FOR DAILY LIFE.

"THE PEOPLE OF WORDTOWN
GROW SOMETHING WE USE
TO COMMUNICATE AND MAKE
RELATIONSHIPS WITH PEOPLE.

"SOMETHING THAT EDUCATES
US, MAKES US GROW. THE BASIC
BUILDING BLOCK OF SOCIETY...

"NO, THEY DON'T GROW
LIBRARIES SILLY..."

WORDS...
DEFINITIONS...
LETTERS AND
NUMBERS...

WE GROW
JUST ABOUT
ANYTHING
HERE.

"ROD RUTH HAS GROWN OVER TWO HUNDRED WORDS, HALF THEIR DEFINITIONS, AND NEARLY THREE HUNDRED CHARACTERS AND LETTERS."

lagniappe

GROWING WORDS IS VERY DIFFICULT. THERE'S YEARS OF TRAINING, EDUCATION, AND HARD WORK REQUIRED TO HAVE A GOOD SEASON.

BUT THE REWARDS ARE ENDLESS.

"ALL OF WHICH HAVE BEEN SOLD TO DICTIONARIES OR THESAURUSES AND ENTITIES THAT USE CODE."

malapropsim

YOU HAVE TO BE PATIENT. YOU HAVE TO STRATEGIZE AND WAIT FOR WHEN THE MOMENT IS RIGHT.

THERE WAS A TIME I HAD TO WAIT FIFTY YEARS TO GET A DEFINITION FOR A WORD.

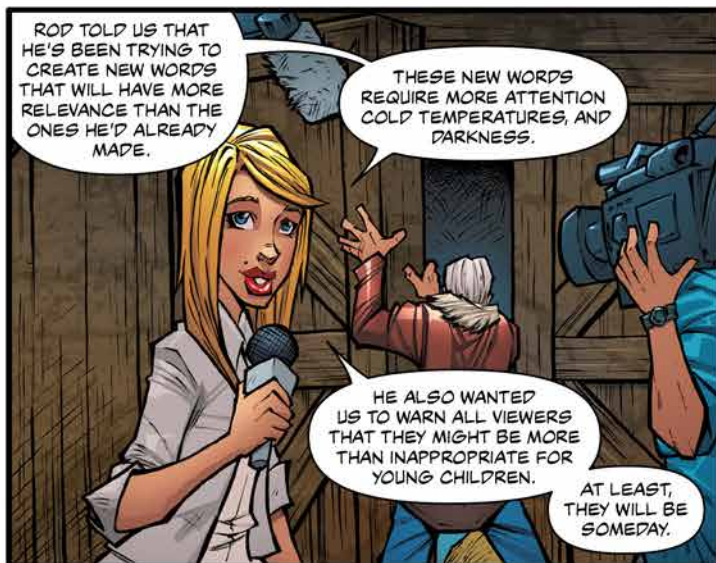
"HE TOOK ME OUT TO A FIELD WHERE HE GREW PRIMARILY PUNCTUATION MARKS AND ABBREVIATIONS TO PICK ME OUT SOMETHING."

"THIS REPORTER WAS A LITTLE MORE THAN STARSTRUCK!"

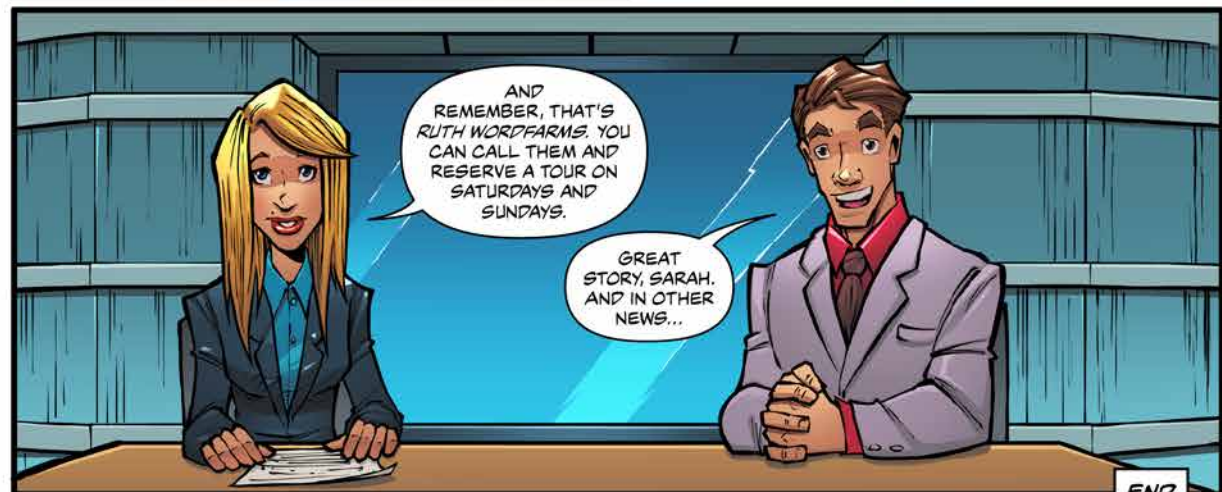
ITALIAN, FROM THE SMELL.

WORDS AND LANGUAGES LONG LOST OFTEN TURN UP DURING THE FARMING YEAR, AND THIS SEEMS TO BE AN EARLY VERSION OF THE SEMI-COLON.

LITTLE BUGGERS WERE CONFUSING EVEN IN THEIR INCEPTION.



EXPLICIT CONTENT PARENTAL GUIDANCE SUGGESTED



END

WILLIAM

BY ETHAN WILTSHIRE

WILLIAM JOSEPH SORENSON, HAVING BEEN COMMISSIONED OF JESUS CHRIST, I BAPTIZE YOU IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER, AND OF THE SON, AND OF THE HOLY GHOST... AMEN.



WE'RE JUST SO PROUD OF YOU WILLIAM!



YOU KNOW WILLIAM, NOW THAT ALL OF YOUR SINS HAVE BEEN WASHED AWAY IN THE WATERS OF BAPTISM, YOU'RE THE PUREST, CLEANEST BOY ON THE WHOLE PLANET!



WILLIAM JOSEPH SORENSON, WITH THE AUTHORITY OF THE MELCHIZEDEK PRIESTHOOD THAT I HOLD, I CONFER UPON YOU THE AARONIC PRIESTHOOD, AND ORDAIN YOU TO THE OFFICE OF DEACON...



1969

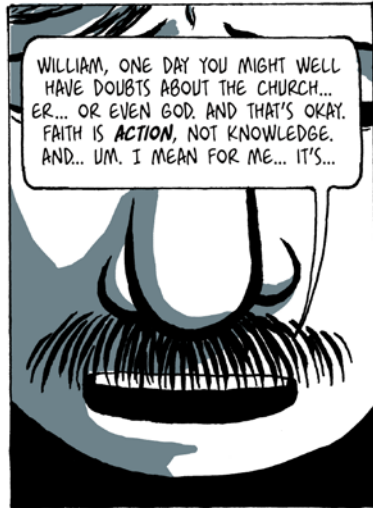
...AND BESTOW ALL THE RIGHTS, POWER AND AUTHORITY OF THAT OFFICE. WILLIAM, I NOW BLESS YOU WITH THE KNOWLEDGE THAT YOUR FATHER IN HEAVEN LOVES YOU AS DEARLY AS I, YOUR FATHER ON EARTH, LOVE YOU.



YOU KNOW WILL, THE PRIESTHOOD IS THE AUTHORITY TO ACT IN THE NAME OF OUR HEAVENLY FATHER...



IT IS A GREAT RESPONSIBILITY THAT YOU NOW HOLD... BE TRUE TO WHAT YOUR MOTHER AND I HAVE TAUGHT YOU, SON...





Dear Mom & Dad,

I can't believe it's already been two years to love life in the desert. I have grown very much, and a life in even service of the Lord. I know more of the Lord than I did before. This is heaven. You both for the faith that you gave me. I love you very much and look forward to seeing you again. Love, Will.



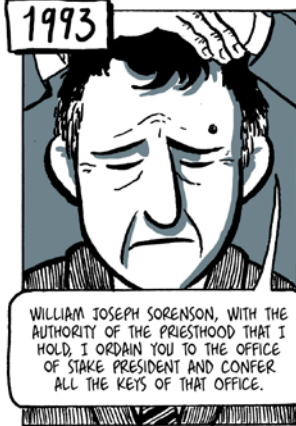
1982

WILLIAM JOSEPH SORENSON, WITH THE AUTHORITY OF THE PRIESTHOOD I HOLD, I ORDAIN YOU TO THE OFFICE OF BISHOP AND SET YOU APART AS SUCH, AND BESTOW... UPON YOU...



BUT WHY HAVE YOU STOPPED COMING? I'M BISHOP OF TEH WARD NOW... WHAT WILL PEOPLE THINK?

YOUR MOTHER IS GONE NOW WILL. SHE LEFT US TOO EARLY AND I AM OLD AND TIRED...



1993

WILLIAM JOSEPH SORENSON, WITH THE AUTHORITY OF THE PRIESTHOOD THAT I HOLD, I ORDAIN YOU TO THE OFFICE OF STAKE PRESIDENT AND CONFER ALL THE KEYS OF THAT OFFICE.



HEY, OLD TIMER, SORRY IT'S BEEN A LITTLE WHILE SINCE MY LAST VISIT. BETWEEN THE STAKE AND THE KIDS I HARDLY GET TIME TO SLEEP!



2013

WILLIAM JOSEPH SORENSON, WITH THE AUTHORITY OF THE PRIESTHOOD THAT WE HOLD, WE LAY OUR HANDS UPON YOUR HEAD AND ORDAIN YOU AN APOSTLE OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST, AND ONE OF HIS SPECIAL WITNESSES.



HEY DAD, WE'RE ALL GOING TO MISS GRANDPA... HOW ARE YOU HOLDING UP?..

HE'S WITH YOUR GRAND-MOTHER NOW. HE'S HAPPIER.



LATER IN THE INNER SANCTUM OF THE HOLY TEMPLE



DEAR FATHER IN HEAVEN, I AM GRATEFUL AND HUMBLER BY MY CALLING AS AN APOSTLE... YET I... I FEAR THAT I CANNOT FULFIL MY CALLING TO THE... BEST OF MY ABILITY... WHEN I HAVE NOT SEEN THY SON, JESUS CHRIST... WITH MY OWN EYES... PLEASE... FATHER, BLESS ME...



PLEASE BLESS ME WITH A VISITA* WITH A... WITH A VISITATION FROM... THY... THY SON. THAT I MIGHT FEEL THE... THE PR-PRINTS IN HIS HANDS... SO I MIGHT KNOW!... AND NOT ONLY BELIEVE...



HOW CAN I HELP THE MILLIONS OF MEMBERS OF THY CHURCH... IF I... CANNOT HELP MY OWN F-F FATHER...

P-P- PLEASE... F-FATHER... PLEASE...



The Lifespan of the
Common House Hamster

Written by Dino Caruso
Art by Kacey Navarro

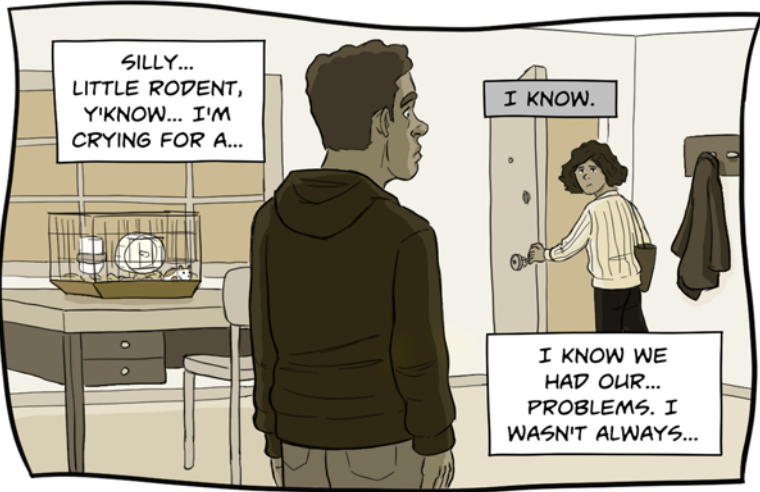




I PUT HER IN THE FRESH CAGE REALLY GENTLY AND I JUST SAT WITH HER. I COVERED HER UP WITH THOSE LITTLE SCRAPS OF BLANKET. AND I JUST KEPT WISHING YOU WERE THERE WITH ME. WITH US.

SHE'S OUR PET.

SHE WAS.



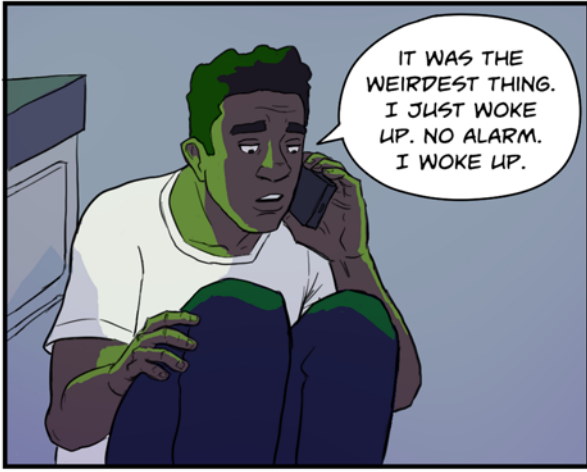
SILLY... LITTLE RODENT, Y'KNOW... I'M CRYING FOR A...

I KNOW.

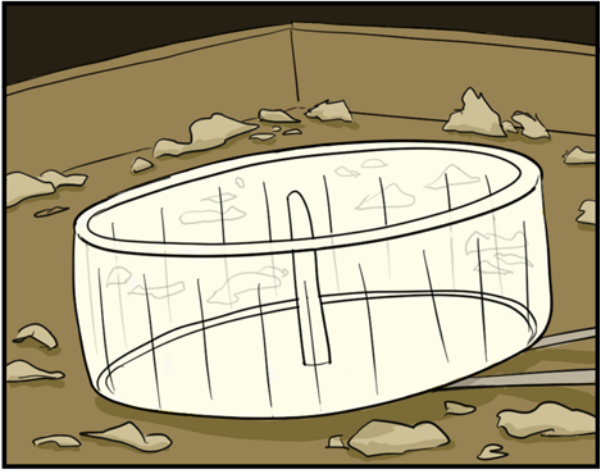
I KNOW WE HAD OUR... PROBLEMS. I WASN'T ALWAYS...



BUT, DO YOU EVER THINK THAT MAYBE WE COULD... TRY AGAIN? MAYBE GET BACK TOGETHER?



IT WAS THE WEIRDEST THING. I JUST WOKE UP. NO ALARM. I WOKE UP.



USED AND ABUSED

STORY AND ART BY:
RICK PEREZ

HMM...
DON'T KNOW WHY
I FEEL LIKE GOING
FOR A SWIM?



I USE YOU AND YOU USE ME.

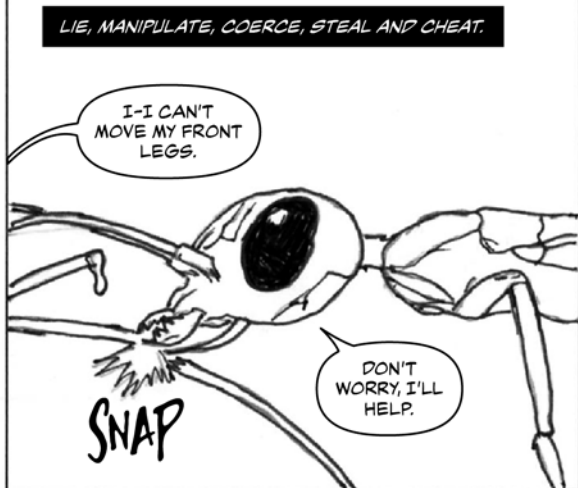


THE UNSPOKEN CORE RULE OF OUR SOCIETY.



GAKE

LIE, MANIPULATE, COERCE, STEAL AND CHEAT.



I-I CAN'T
MOVE MY FRONT
LEGS.

SNAP

DON'T
WORRY, I'LL
HELP.

ALL IS OVERLOOKED IF ONE SMILES AND ACTS SWEET.



HERE, YOU
CAN RECOVER
IN MY HOME.

UHH...
OK.

MENTALLY, SPIRITUALLY AND PHYSICALLY USED.



YOU HAD
A STROKE. JUST
REST HERE.

POLITICALLY, FINANCIALLY AND SEXUALLY ABUSED.

WHAT
ARE YOU
DOING?

EMERALD WASP LARVA

LET ME
GIVE YOU SOME
PRIVACY.

SHE IS
SO NICE.

THANKS!

A FEW DAYS
LATER....

MUNCH MUNCH

MUNCH MUNCH

MUNCH MUNCH MUNCH

AN
INTRUDER!

?

BEAT IT!
THIS IS OUR
TURF!

JUST USE, USE AND KEEP USING, UNTIL NOTHING REMAINS BUT A LIFELESS HUSK.

GET HIM!



SO, YOU SEE, WE CAN NEVER TRULY BE FREE...

THIS BODY HAS HAD IT. LETS GET OUT OF HERE.



UNLESS I STOP USING YOU...

HOPEFULLY THAT POND IS NEARBY.



AND YOU STOP USING ME.

END

APARTMENTS

SCRIPT - CHARLIE BAZALDUA
ART - CRAIG DIXON
LETTERS - KEN REYNOLDS
SPECIAL THANKS - RAUL GONZALEZ

HONEY,
I'M TAKING THE
CAR TO THE STORE.
YOU DON'T NEED TO
GO ANYWHERE RIGHT
NOW, DO YOU?

NO, I
DON'T. CAN YOU
REMEMBER TO GET
ME A PREGNANCY
TEST, BOB?

SURE KAT,
I'M ALSO GONNA
STOP BY ARNOLD'S
BEFORE I GO. IF YOU
NEED ANYTHING ELSE
TEXT ME.

I LOVE
YOU.

DITTO.

≡COUGH COUGH≡
SO DO YOU REMEMBER
HOW I SAID 2017 WAS THE
YEAR OF HIP HOP DANCE
CREW?

WELL 2018
IS THE YEAR OF
69 WITH GUY
ON TOP.

WHAT THE
FUCK MAN?
HOW IS THAT
NOT GOLD?

YEAH,
AND?

≡COUGH COUGH≡
THAT IS LITERALLY THE
DUMBEST THING I'VE
EVER HEARD.

IT'S NOT.
DON'T SAY THAT
AGAIN.

CAN YOU
TURN OFF THE
LIGHTS BEFORE
YOU GO?

DIANA, HOW
LONG ARE YOU JUST
GONNA MOPE AROUND THE
APARTMENT? YOU MUST GET OUT
AND DO SOMETHING, YOU'RE
GONNA GO CRAZY SURROUNDED
BY THESE WALLS.

WHAT'S THE POINT?
AS SOON AS I FIND SOMETHING
TO BE HAPPY ABOUT, IT'S JUST GONNA
BE TAKEN AWAY. SOMEONE MUST BE
THE UNIVERSE'S PUNCHING BAG AND
TAKE ALL THE NEGATIVE CRAP, SO
PEOPLE CAN BE HAPPY.

WELL IF THAT'S
THE CASE, HOW DOES YOUR
MISERY TIE INTO PEOPLE YOU
HAVEN'T EVEN MET, OR PEOPLE
YOU DON'T EVEN HAVE CONTACT
WITH ANYMORE. YOUR LOGIC
DOESN'T MAKE SENSE.

...DON'T
WAKE ME UP
WHEN YOU COME
HOME LATER.

I WANT TO HEAR YOU SAY IT BECAUSE I LOVE YOU AND YOU NEED HELP!

WHAT THE FUCK?! DO I LOOK LIKE I NEED SAVING? DO I HAVE A HUGE ARROW POINTING DOWN AT ME WITH SIGN THAT SAYS, 'PLEASE SAVE ME?'

NO, YOU MOTHER FUCKER! I'M DOING THIS BECAUSE I LOVE YOU--

DON'T BULLSHIT ME YOU BITCH! DON'T BULLSHIT ME!!!

CLAM
I LOVE YOU...

OH, THAT DOES NOT SOUND GOOD.

BECAUSE ALBERT, IF HE HURTS HER PHYSICALLY I MUST DO SOMETHING. I'M NOT GONNA STAND BY AND LET THE UNIMAGINABLE HAPPEN. I WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO LIVE WITH MYSELF.

WHY MUST YOU CONSTANTLY EAVESDROP ON THEM EDNA?

I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY SHE JUST DOESN'T LEAVE HIM.

SHE LOVES HIM, AND SHE FEELS GUILTY THAT SHE LET HIM FALL INTO THIS HOLE. EVERY NIGHT HE COMES HOME DRUGGED OUT OF HIS MIND AND TEARS INTO HER.

AND HOW DO YOU KNOW THIS?

I'VE JUST PUT TOGETHER THE PIECES I'VE EAVESDROPPED ON AND I MAY HAVE LISTENED IN ON HER PHONE CALLS TO HER FRIENDS.

WHAT'S UP BOB? HOW'VE YA BEEN?

NOT MUCH I'M JUST ON MY WAY TO SEE SLOAN IN BUILDING FOUR. KATHY THINKS I'M GOING TO THE STORE, SO I HAVE TIME FOR A QUICKIE.

BOB, WE'RE FRIENDS. WE HAVE BEEN SINCE HIGH SCHOOL AND I'VE WATCHED YOU SLEEP WITH DIFFERENT WOMEN ALL THROUGH LIFE, BUT YOU'RE MARRIED NOW.

KATHY WANTS KIDS AND YOU'RE STILL PLAYING THIS GAME. IT NEEDS TO STOP.

TO BE HONEST. I DIDN'T THINK YOU'D REACT LIKE THIS. YOU HAVE ALWAYS BEEN SUPPORTIVE, BUT IN THE END ITS MY LIFE I'LL DO WHAT I WANT.

FUCK YOU I'LL GO SEE MARK IN THE NEXT BUILDING. HE'S ALWAYS BEEN MORE OF A FRIEND THAN YOU.

CLAM
WAIT BOB! GOD DAMMIT.

I THINK IT'S MY BEST PANTING YET. IT JUST GETS BETTER WITH EVERY TIME I LOOK AT IT.

YES OF COURSE I'M GONNA GO DROP IT OFF AFTER LUNCH.

HMM THAT TREE IS A LITTLE OFF. NO WORRIES I DOUBT ANYONE WILL NOTICE IT.

COME TO THINK OF IT, THE COLORS ON THIS PART OF THE BUILDING ARE OFF FROM THE OTHERS BY A SHADE, AS A MATTER OF FACT THE WHOLE THING WOULD LOOK BETTER IF THE LIGHT SOURCE WAS ON THE OPPOSITE SIDE.

I'M STARTING OVER AGAIN. TELL THE CURATOR THAT I'M GONNA BE LATE SUBMITTING MY WORK AGAIN.

HEY BOB, HOW'S IT GOING?

NOT MUCH I JUST FINISHED SEEING ARNOLD. HE'S A DICK.

YEAH, HE CAN BE A LITTLE MUCH AT TIMES. WHAT HAPPENED?

I JUST TOLD HIM THAT I WAS ON MY WAY TO SEE SLOAN NEXT DOOR FOR A LITTLE FUN, AND HE GAVE ME THIS SPEECH ABOUT KATHY AND I WAS DESTROYING HER TRUST.

LOOK, IT'S MESSED UP I KNOW, BUT KAY CAN'T GIVE ME THE THINGS SLOAN DOES. SLOAN IS SPECIAL AND SHE...

I'M GONNA STOP YOU RIGHT THERE. ARNOLD AND I HAVE BEEN TALKING ABOUT THIS FOR A WHILE, THIS NEEDS TO STOP BOB.

YOU'RE NOT EIGHTEEN ANYMORE. YOU'RE GONNA REALLY DO SOME DAMAGE IF YOU KEEP GOING DOWN THIS ROAD. THE GIRL LIVES ONE BUILDING NEXT TO YOU! HOW LONG DO YOU THINK YOU CAN KEEP THIS UP?

AS LONG AS I WANT. I'LL TALK TO YOU LATER MARK.

YOU HAVE ONE SAVED MESSAGE.

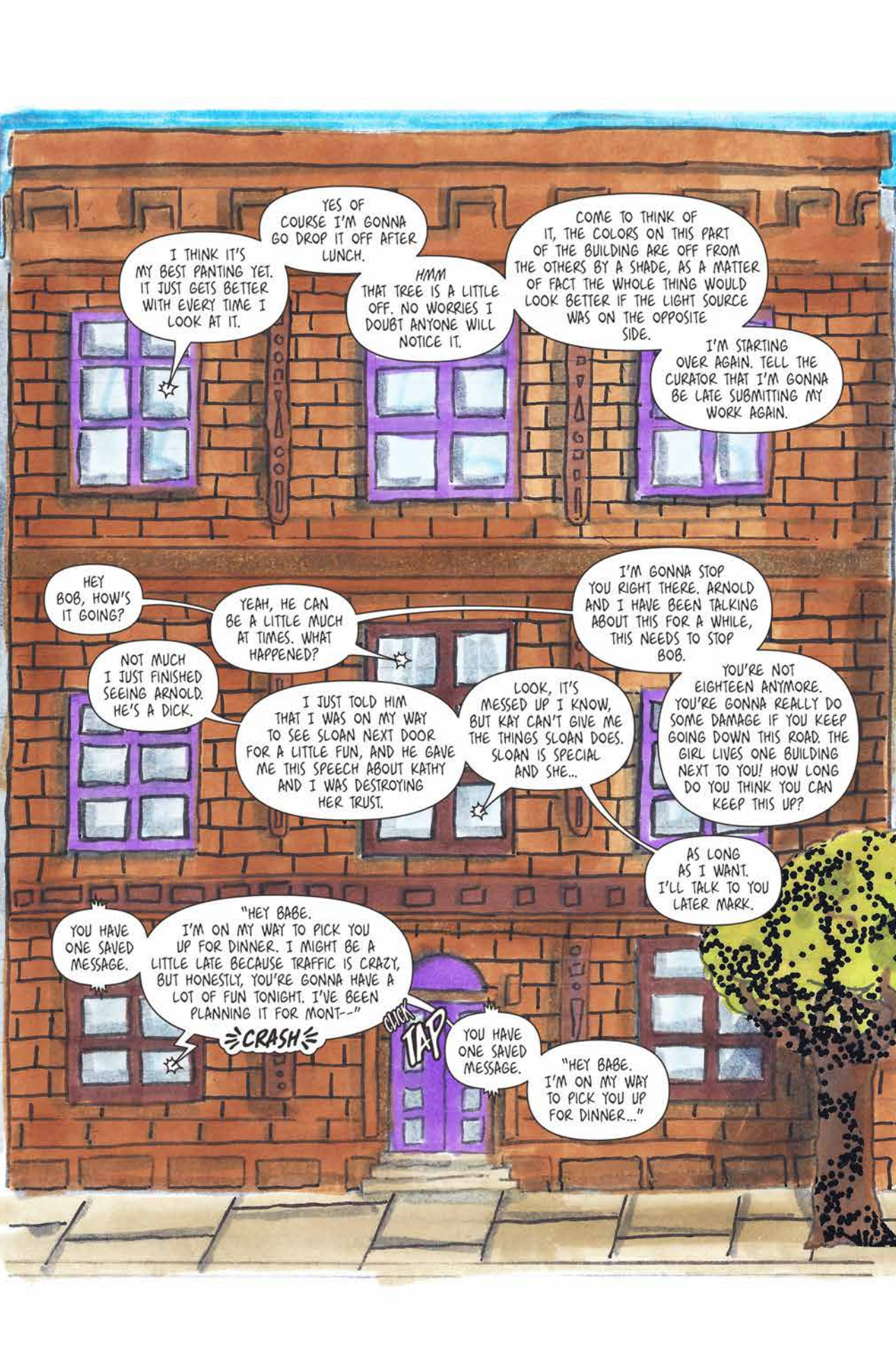
"HEY BABE. I'M ON MY WAY TO PICK YOU UP FOR DINNER. I MIGHT BE A LITTLE LATE BECAUSE TRAFFIC IS CRAZY, BUT HONESTLY, YOU'RE GONNA HAVE A LOT OF FUN TONIGHT. I'VE BEEN PLANNING IT FOR MONT--"

CRASH

YOU HAVE ONE SAVED MESSAGE.

"HEY BABE. I'M ON MY WAY TO PICK YOU UP FOR DINNER..."

TAP



OH, THANK YOU FOR LETTING ME COME IN DR. GOMEZ. I'M JUST WORRIED ABOUT MY GRADE I CANNOT AFFORD TO FAIL THIS SEMESTER I'D DO ANYTHING TO PASS!

OH, BUT PROFESSOR THERE HAS TO BE SOMETHING I CAN DO. MAYBE I CAN HELP YOU OUT WITH THIS?

I JUST THOUGHT THAT THIS WOULD HELP ME GET THE GRADE I NEED. I DON'T MIND DOING THIS, I'VE ALWAYS THOUGHT YOU WERE SO ATTRACTIVE SINCE THE FIRST DAY OF CLASS.

BABE, WHAT THE HELL KIND OF ROLEPLAY WAS THAT!

HMM LET ME CHECK MY GRADEBOOK. I'M SORRY FIONA, BUT YOU HAVE A SIXTY-NINE IN MY CLASS AND I DO NOT ALLOW EXTRA CREDIT AT ALL! IF YOU WANTED A BETTER GRADE YOU SHOULD OF STUDIED HARDER.

WHAT IN GOD'S HOLY NAME ARE YOU DOING?

THIS IS HIGHLY INAPPROPRIATE, AND I AM GOING TO REPORT YOU TO THE DEAN. YOU WILL BE EXPELLED FROM THIS SCHOOL. NOW I AM GOING TO WALK OUT AND GET SECURITY TO THROW YOU OUT OF HERE!

SLAM

SO, THIS IS MY FAVORITE MOVIE OF ALL TIME. I DON'T WANT TO SPOIL TOO MUCH, BUT ESSENTIALLY RICHARD PRIOR INHERITS 30 MILLION DOLLARS, AND HAS 30 DAYS TO SPEND IT SO HE CAN INHERIT 300 MILLION DOLLARS.

BUT THERE ARE RULES. ONLY 5% CAN BE GAMBLERD OR GIVEN TO CHARITY, HE CANNOT TELL ANYONE ABOUT THE CHALLENGE, AND HE'S NOT ALLOWED TO HAVE ANYTHING HE BOUGHT WITH THE 30 MILLION AFTER THE 30 DAYS.

IT'S EASIER TO WATCH IT HAPPEN THAN EXPLAIN. WHAT WOULD YOU DO IF THAT HAPPENED TO YOU?

THAT SEEMS EASY.

WOW THAT SEEMS CONVOLUTED.

WELL APPARENTLY YOU KNOW ABOUT THE CHALLENGE, SO I JUST LOST MY CHANCE AT 300 MILLION DOLLARS. THANKS A LOT.

HELLO? SLOAN? WHERE ARE YOU?

I'M IN THE BATHROOM BOB.

I TOLD MY WIFE I WAS GOING TO THE STORE, SO I DON'T HAVE LONG. SHE DID ASK ME TO GET A PREGNANCY TEST FOR HER, SO I NEED TO MAKE SURE I HAVE TIME TO GO AND GET IT FROM THE GAS STATION ACROSS THE STREET.

SHIT, SHIT, SHIT, FUCK!

WHAT HAPPENED? ARE YOU OKAY?

I'M PREGNANT.

OH SHIT.

END





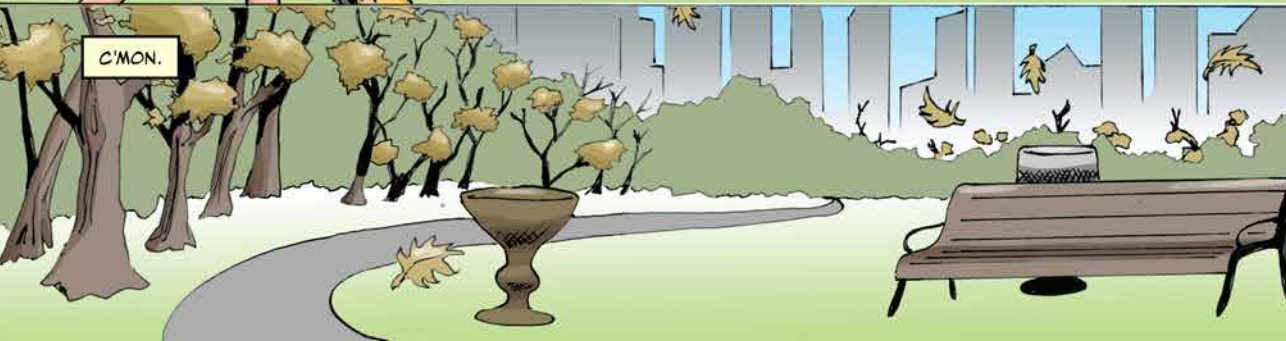
CORPORATE GROWTH

BY TOM CURRY

THAT'S A
HAIRY SITUA--

DON'T
SAY IT!

END 8



SHE'S BEAUTIFUL.



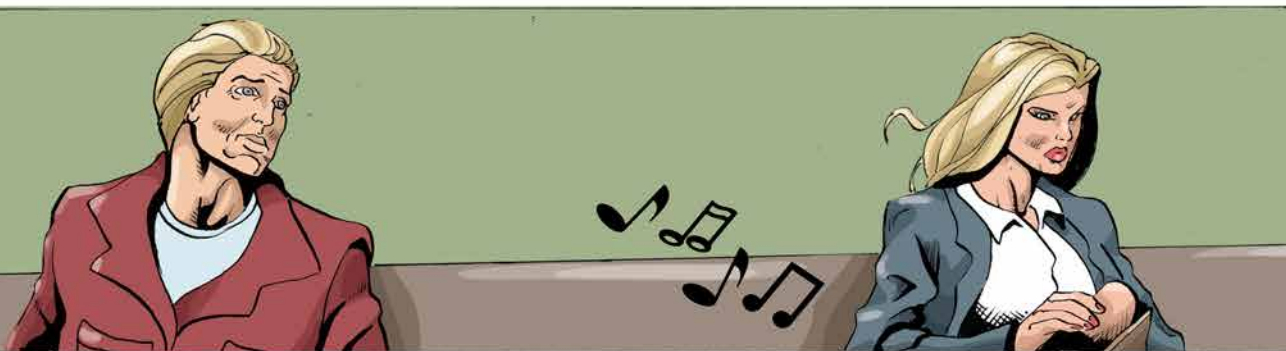
I WISH I DIDN'T
HAVE TO DO THIS.

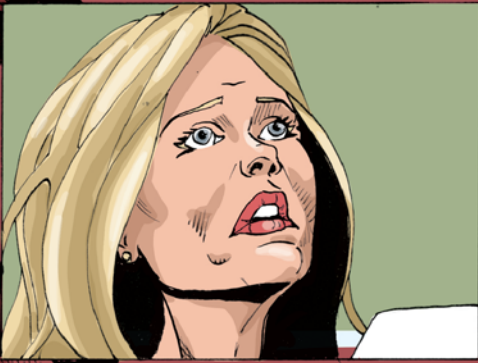


NOT HERE.
NOT LIKE THIS.

BUT THERE'S
NO OTHER WAY.







"IT WAS
NOTHING."



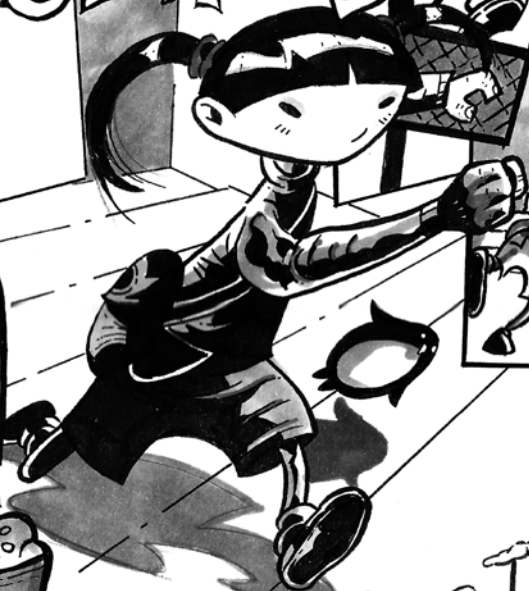
END

WHEN THE UMBRELLAS
SWEEP AND SWIRL AND SOAR...

ACROSS THE WIDE
EXPANSE OF SKY...

THE LIGHTHOUSE SPRINGS
INTO LIFE ONCE MORE...

ACTION STATIONS!



AND MONSTERS MOVE TO
OUR DESOLATE SHORE...



AS IF A SIGN...

SKREEEEONGK

THE MONSTER ROARS

SETS UMBRELLAS
A TWIRL...

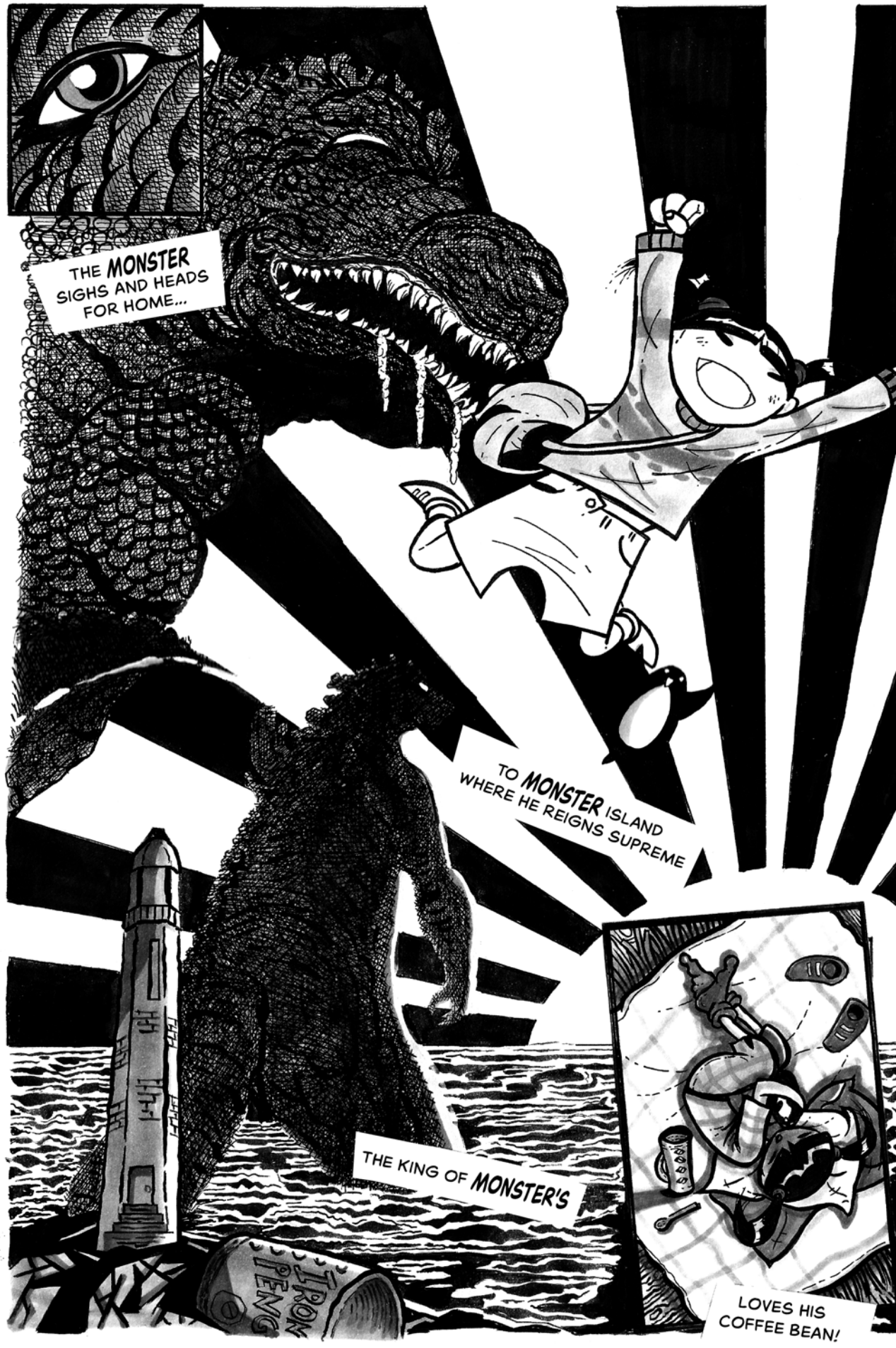
IN NEED OF COFFEE
AND A FRIENDLY FACE

THE MONSTER HEADS TO HIS
FAVOURITE PLACE...

A DOUBLE EXPRESSO, LATTE WITH
POPPING CANDY AS A TREAT...

TO KEEP THE MONSTER
ON HIS FEET...





THE MONSTER
SIGHS AND HEADS
FOR HOME...

TO MONSTER ISLAND
WHERE HE REIGNS SUPREME

THE KING OF MONSTER'S

LOVES HIS
COFFEE BEAN!

IRON
PENG



SMALL PRESS PREVIEW



The Pull List

Introducing, The Pull List - the indie comics magazine and small press fanzine.

But hang on, isn't this Sliced Quarterly, the experimental small press anthology? What does that have to do with some fanboy fanzine? This isn't the avant grade and thought provoking comics I came here for?

Well, it has everything to do with the title you are reading actually!

The Pull List and Sliced Quarterly have a lot more in common than you might think. We both started as digital only projects, put together by creators who wanted to do something different from the traditional. We were inspired by the Can Do attitude of our contemporaries and decided to leap head first into this wonderful world as we both wanted to give something back to the community we were a part of, but in our unique ways.

Both started with modest goals, and have grown from tiny digital editions that were read by a loyal faithful to larger print volumes that now sit in people's comic boxes. This crazy journey has even seen both Ken and Myself, step out from behind the editor's table and sit behind an actual table at a convention, allowing us to experience the world of small press comic creativity in a new light and meet the great British comic buying public in person!

Oh, and we're also quarterly.

So there you have it, we're not that different really, after all. Just as Sliced Quarterly celebrates the best of small press by encouraging new and exciting creators to showcase their work for the first time, at The Pull List we champion the best new indie and small press creators by reviewing their work, interviewing writers about what makes them tick and showcasing some of our favourite artists work.

We also both look to be part of a wider comics community, celebrating what it is that we love about the quirky and strange comics which we discover every day. But also do our bit to encourage and develop that community in our own way. Because it is that sense of inclusion and friendship that is why we have dragged this tin pot hobby out for 10+ issues and spend all our waking hours worrying about page counts and deadlines. After all, somebody's got to!

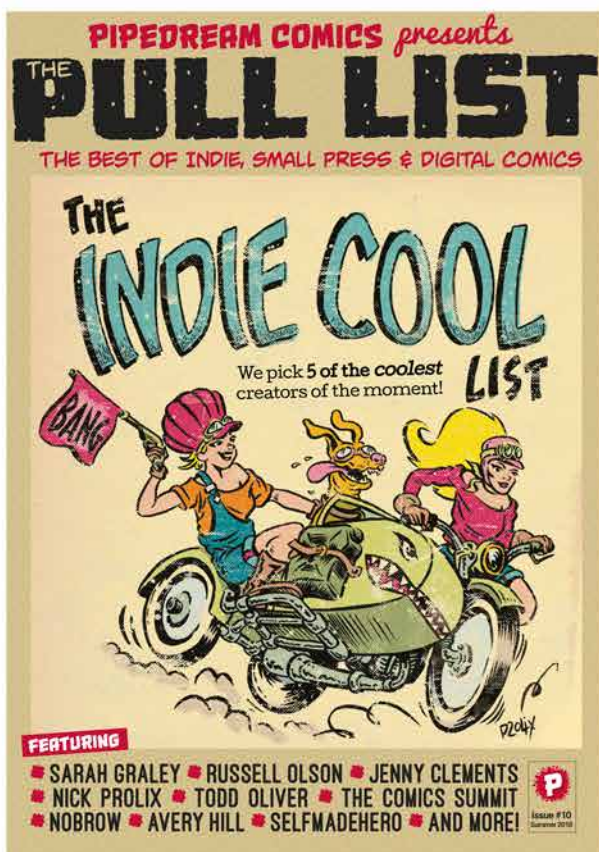
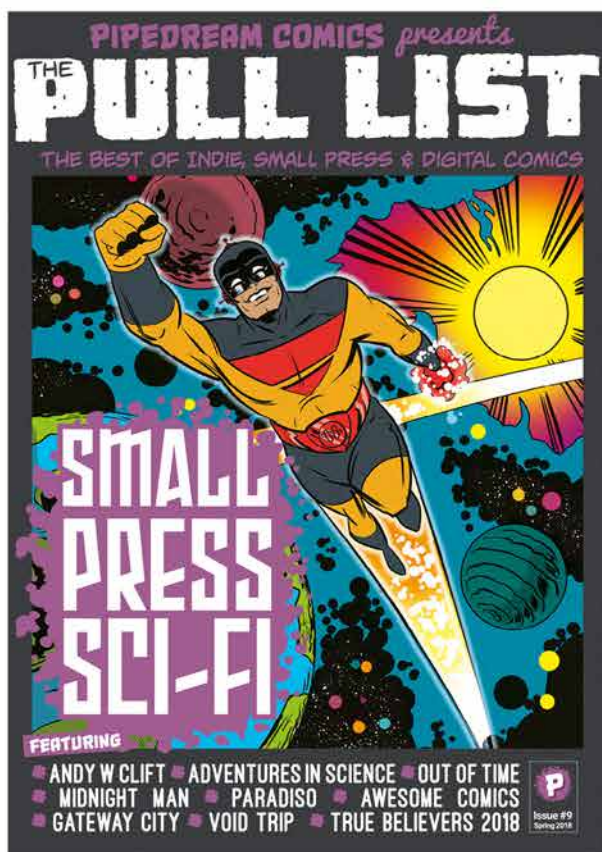
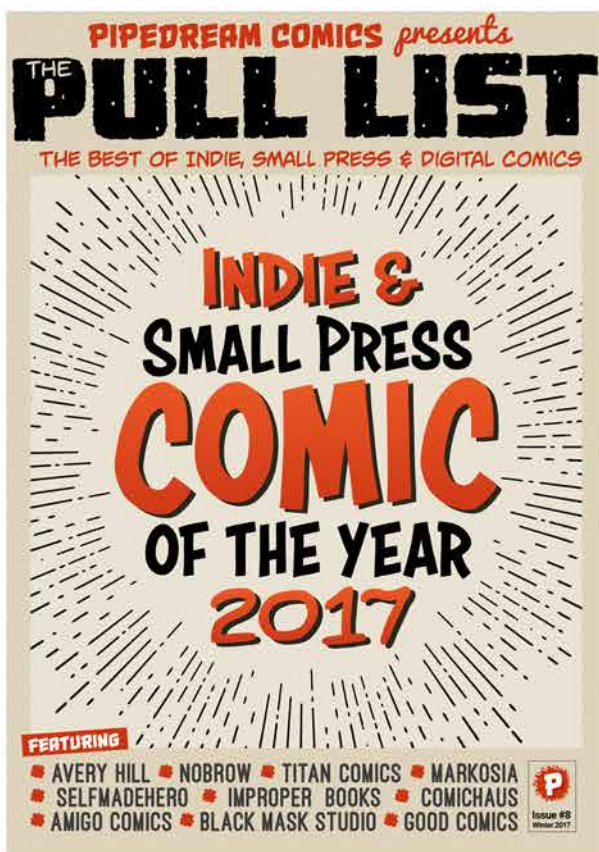
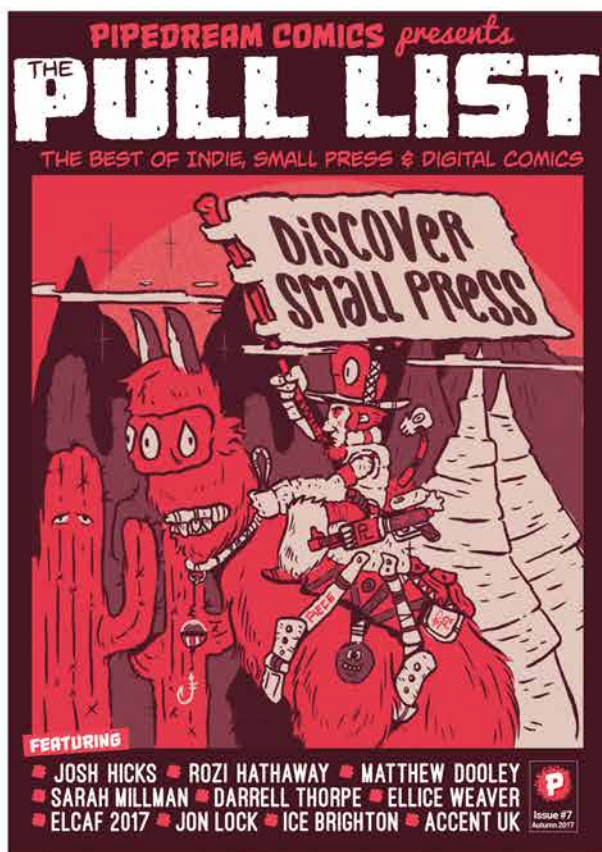
So if you want to know more, our latest issue is out now and features 5 of the Coolest Indie Comics creators round, including Sarah Graley, Russell Olson, Todd Oliver and Jenny Clements. And we also have reviews of some of the best new indie and small press comics around. Previous issues have included our rundown of the Best Indie and Small Press Comics of the past 12 months, a look at The Future Of Digital Comics, A Guide to Kickstarter Secrets and also an exclusive cover from comics legend Shaky Kane. Not bad for a fanboy fanzine, eh?

You can download back issues digitally at

www.gumroad.com/pipedreamcomics

and you can find even more great indie and small press comics comment and talk at our spiritual home **www.pipedreamcomics.co.uk**.

PIPEDREAM COMICS presents
THE PULL LIST



SPLASH!

SHOWCASING NEW WORK FROM THE BEST INDIE ARTISTS



**The Siren by Chris Imber
and Chris Jenkins**

This fishy female is one of the many stunning images in the new *Reckless Hero Art Book* featuring a host of new characters as well as some old favourites from the creators of *The Last Sheriff* and *Operation Boom!*

www.recklesshero.com

DISCOVER SMALL PRESS

Rozi Hathaway's beautiful, thought-provoking, poetic style is showcased in her new book *Cosmos And Other Stories* We find out more about what inspires her highly personal style.

Can you tell us a bit more about the idea behind *Cosmos* and the way you go about crafting your stories?

Rozi Hathaway: *Cosmos* started off as an idea to write about my own loneliness, as a way of dealing with it and turning it into something beautiful. It was also a totally different way of working for me. Although I've created short stories for a number of years for different anthologies (*Broken Frontier* Small Press Yearbook, *Dirty Rotten Comics*, *A Bit of Undigested Potato*, *Sneaky Business*), this was the first time I created stories with the intent of collecting them together in one book.

It's published by Good Comics, how did you get involved with them?

RH: I've known Sam and Paddy through the comics scene before the Good Comics name was born, and after tabling at the same events and supporting each other's ventures (*Dead Singer's Society*, *Sneaky Business*) it seemed like a natural progression to have them as my publishers first time round. Sam brought up the idea of publishing my next work as an option at BCZF 2016 and again at Thought Bubble, and it just seemed like a great idea – and it really was! Sam has been my editor throughout the process and we made a fantastic team as he had no qualms about pushing me to make better work.

***Cosmos* focuses on themes of loneliness and isolation, are you quite an independent character?**

RH: I am a fairly solitary person, but as I mentioned above, my reasons for writing *Cosmos* started more as a cathartic process in dealing with a failing relationship and cutting loose from some unhealthy friendships rather than any deep desire to inspire people.



Rozi's artwork uses colour to convey emotion and mood in a way that words simply can't

Talk us through your creative process – what materials do you use and how long does it take to create a page?

RH: Generally speaking I write first, and then hash out my idea in sketchy pencil alongside a sketchbook containing character development and ideas. After this I work on a small-scale mock-up book to figure out the layouts and how to best emphasise certain elements of the story, which can be one of the longer parts of the process. After I've figured out exactly what I'm doing, I draw up the pages double the size they'll be printed at just in pencil until I'm 100% happy with the composition. From there I use a lightbox to ink up the lines with Indian ink pens onto cartridge paper, and then paint onto the same surface. These

“COLOUR GIVES FAR MORE OF A FEEL TO THE STORY THAN MY WORDS EVER COULD”

days I tend to do four to six layers of paint on the final artwork, though there can also be layers of coloured pencils and digitally added layers of other painting work, depending on the project. Although there are a lot of stages it take as long as one might think – I started *Cosmos* and *Other Stories* around mid-November and it was completed and ready for print by early-mid March.

We love your use of colour!

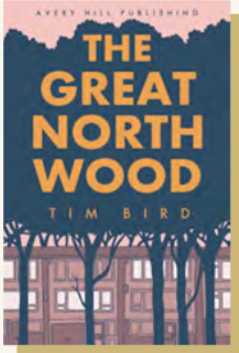
RH: Thank you! Colour is a very significant part of my creation process, with the colour palette for the story often firmly decided before I've even written it. Anyone familiar with my work will know that I'm fairly speech-light in my stories with some being totally wordless – so for me colour gives far more of a feel to the story than my words ever could.

Your books also have a quite 'Scandi' feel. Are you inspired by Scandinavian landscapes and people? You seem to love drawing a fir tree!

RH: I do love a good fir tree and a mountain range, I can't deny that! I spent a couple of years learning Danish, and almost two years ago I spent some time travelling through the main cities of Norway, Sweden and Denmark. The research I gathered on that trip led me to write *Njál's Saga* about the Sami people, but I had a lot of experiences I wanted to feed into my comics that I didn't get to use right away. Within comics and outside in the wider world I have a keen interest in history and different cultures, with my first comic *The Red Road* telling a Native American tale, and *Ø* being set in Polynesia.

Buy *Cosmos And Other Stories* from www.etsy.com/uk/shop/rozihathaway or goodshop.bigcartel.com

REVIEWS



Publisher: Avery Hill Publishing
Writer: Tim Bird
Artist: Tim Bird
Price: £9.99 from
averyhillpublishing.bigcartel.com

THE GREAT NORTH WOOD

A fox and a chicken go down to the woods

Thanks to his thoughtful musings on the world around us Tim Bird has created a unique voice for himself in the UK small press scene. After a brief sojourn into snooker with *The Rocket*, Tim heads back into the woods to tell a story of urban growth and decay, via the nocturnal habits of a fox and a late-night chicken shop.

The Great North Wood in question, is actually in south London, and stretches from Lambeth in the west, to Lewisham in the East, Deptford in the north and Croydon in the south. Bird's book looks at the history of this once-great wooded area and its influence on everything around it, as well as the impact that deforestation and urbanisation had on society in general during that period.

The chapters and stories are threaded together by the presence of a fox, who we first see rooting through the boxes from a late-night chicken shop. We then follow

his journey and that of the wood, from the moment the trees began to grow, right through to the modern world and their subsequent takeover of a decaying city in a non-specific rural future.

As you might expect, *The Great North Wood* reads like a slow Sunday walk through a forest and it almost feels as if you come across these moments of narrative clarity in the same way you would a clearing in the wood. This makes for a very tranquil and calming read, as well as one that informs and inspires, and encourages you to think about the world around you.

Bird's artwork has a glorious simplicity to it, with very few wasted lines. However, he manages to capture the rural scenes in a way that is really special.

Whether you are an urbanite or a country soul, this is a truly magical read and it's a book you'll find yourself returning to again and again.



Publisher: Throwaway Press
Writer: Kathryn Briggs
Artist: Kathryn Briggs
Price: £8.99 from
Amazon.co.uk

MAGPIE

Comics on maps, whatever next?!

The fine line between comics and art is blurred even further by the fascinating work of Kathryn Briggs.

This new collection, courtesy of Throwaway Press (publishers of small press anthology *Dirty Rotten Comics*), brings together a selection of Kathryn's work in one fascinating package.

Magpie really is something to behold as Kathryn's unique approach to storytelling sees her break down what makes a traditional comic page and turns each into a work of art as well as a narrative.

She even manages to push the boundaries of what comics can be produced on by using different textures of paper including graph paper, calendars and even maps, to give her books a unique angle. And rarely does that adjective mean as much as it does with *Magpie*.

The tales are eclectic, and range from

personal reflections and family anecdotes to scenes from Shakespeare, each one told in a different style of artwork that showcases what an exciting and diversely skilled artist Briggs is.

From stylish pen and ink, through to beautiful watercolours to multimedia and more, it's worth picking up just to see the variety on every page and it certainly rewards re-reading as you pick over every brushstroke.

Although the stories are more towards the artier and contemplative end of the comics spectrum, they are presented in such a way that you can't help but be drawn into them, as you read slowly to truly digest and appreciate every panel.

As such it's not the easiest of reads for those who prefer their comics to be quicker paced, but for those looking for that next star in small press then Kathryn could well be the one to watch.

REVIEWS

Indie Comics Round-up

The digital comics giant introduces *ComiXology Originals*. We look at the opening collection of four titles

Our favourite of the four, *Super Freaks* has an all ages appeal, but it's smart enough to leave some meat on the bones for adults to read and enjoy. When all the superheroes disappear, the sidekicks must step up but will they be up to the task when an alien invasion looks set to defeat them. At a time when folks online are grumbling about not being able to get their superhero fix from the Big Two, *Super Freaks* is a really fun and readable adventure in a very classic mould. The characters are interesting and diverse without feeling like a box-ticking exercise, and the story also includes super-villain sidekicks, which adds a nice twist. The artwork is vibrant and colourful with bags of expressive facials and some eye-popping visuals. The dialogue crackles with youthful banter and is augmented with social media and instant messaging to make it feel young and contemporary. It has that same sense of vibrancy that *Ultimate Spider-Man* had when it burst onto the scene, and mixes a smart understanding of superhero lore with enjoyable storytelling. It really does remind you just how great superhero stories can be.

Get Super Freaks for £1.99 from www.comixology.co.uk

Elephantmen 2261: The Death of Shorty is an exclusive new chapter of Richard Starkings' long-running series and provides a fantastic jumping-on point. While it invites new readers



in, it also provides enough depth for long-time readers too. The story focuses on Shorty an elephantman who is shocked when he discovers a group of tortured and crucified animals. This sets him off on a hunt to track the killer and also sees him cross paths with veteran characters Hip Flask and Jack Farrell. As with all *Elephantmen* books the star is the art with Axel Medellin's rendering of the animals being truly breathtaking. The level of detail is exceptional with every hair, wrinkle and eyelash rendered in immaculate detail – especially in the opening scenes. However, this detail can also cause

problems with some of the other panels, as occasionally the wide angle artwork looks simplistic compared to the more detailed close-ups. An intriguing glimpse into what makes this long-running series such a firm favourite.

Buy Elephantmen 2261: The Death of Shorty for £1.99 from www.comixology.co.uk

Ask For Mercy is also from Richard Starkings, and opens with an estate agent trying to do business over the phone when a stranger strikes up a conversation. He persuades her to come and meet some friends, before taking her through a mysterious red door into another world. And it's here that things get really interesting... The introduction of this otherworldly realm allows artist and



co-creator Abigail Jill Harding to cut loose with some spectacular visuals thanks to her painterly, mixed-media style that reminded us of Lyndon White (albeit more intricate). Her work is the real star here, as there is not much story to discuss and the character work in the first half feels a bit formulaic. Fortunately, the outstanding world-building in the second half makes up for this and

creates a book that is definitely worth going beyond the door for!

Buy Ask For Mercy for £1.99 per from www.comixology.co.uk

Savage Game is a mix of Jurassic Park and Running Man with hints of The Island Of Dr Moreau, *Savage Game* sees scientist Conner Bowen head to an island to visit his estranged brother, a world famous bio-engineer. Here, Conner discovers his brother's interesting sideline, which involves genetically altering animals to pit against each other in deadly combat, known as the Savage Game. Writers Ryan Kalil and Shawn Kittleson have crafted a fairly generic, albeit very readable, thriller with the odd interesting twist along the way. The

artwork from Chris B. Murray is a mix of fairly slick linework on the characters, mixed with some interesting, albeit slightly cheesy animal hybrids that feel more like cut-and-pastes rather than an interesting genetic development. With gaudy digital colours it lacks anything that makes it really stand out, but at 60 pages you get a full story for a bargain price. In other words, *Savage Game* is not such a total beast!

Buy Savage Game for £2.99 from www.comixology.co.uk

EVENTS

SHOW REPORT:

TRUE BELIEVERS COMIC FESTIVAL 2018

Event: True Believers Comic Festival 2018

Date: February 3rd 2018

Location: Cheltenham Race Course

As convention season comes around again, it's time for Stuart Mulrain and his team of agents to lead the charge with the *True Believers Comic Festival* (TBCF). Now in its fourth year, TBCF doesn't look like it's going anywhere any time soon, but can it continue to impress with its events or has it reached its peak?

From the outset, the festival appeared to stick with what had worked well last year. Stewards directed traffic towards the busy car park and queuing was set up perfectly to make sure not too much time was spent waiting in the rain.

Inside was similar to the previous year with the Cheltenham Racecourses' main hall filled wall-to-wall with an array of incredible talent and sellers – some now veterans of this Gloucestershire con, while other newer creators were making their mark for the first time. This year's convention also returned to its original focus of small press with a great deal more presence than the previous year.

The event rooms upstairs were filled from beginning to end with interesting and eclectic panels and workshops offering something for everyone, including a 'discover something new' panel to a zine-making workshop, and there was even a live episode of the tremendous *Awesome Comics Podcast*. However one of our only negatives for the day was these were very poorly attended and we can't help but think it might have been due to them being so far out of the way.

Our other negative is a minor one, and was that the day was so packed



Cosplayers were out to solve all kinds of mysteries at TBCF2018



The exhibition hall was packed with the best of indie and small press.

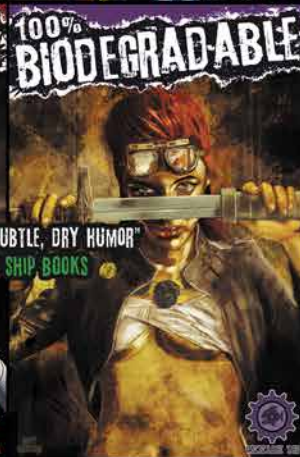
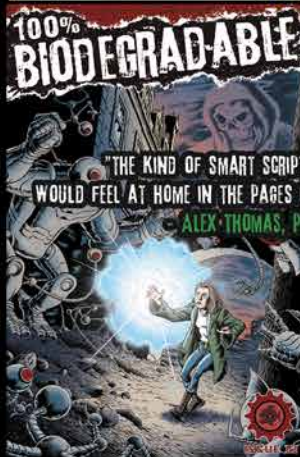
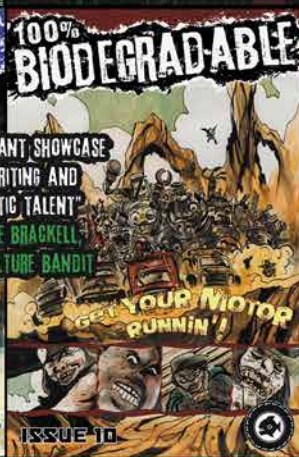
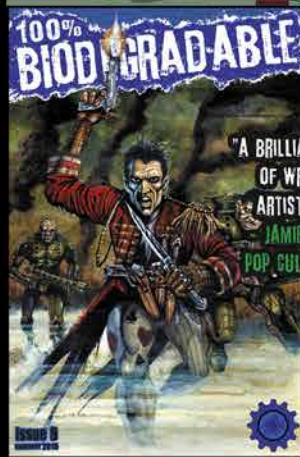
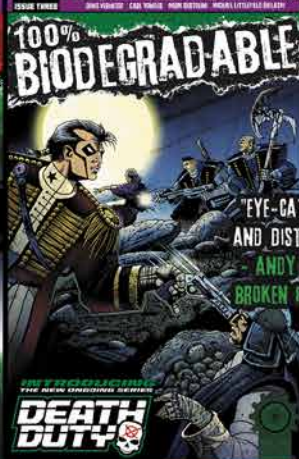
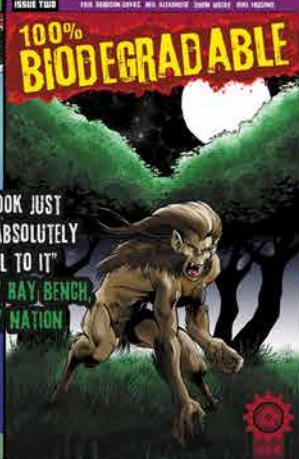
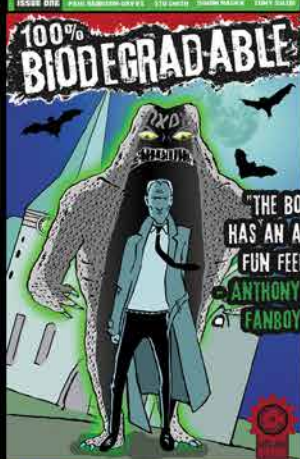
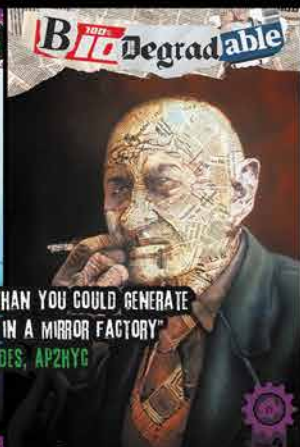
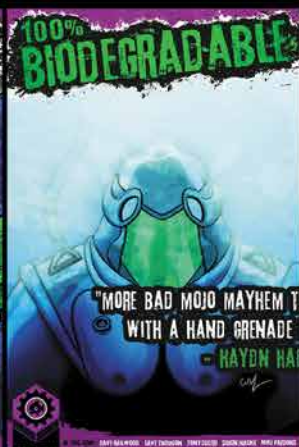
with panels, guests and traders, it felt as if there was just too much to do in a single day. Of course, that is a happy problem for a convention to

"THE DAY WAS SO PACKED IT FELT AS IF THERE WAS JUST TOO MUCH TO DO!"

have, as it speaks volumes about the event drawing in so much talent. And, hopefully, it will give Stuart Mulrain an incentive to spread the event over two days?

Overall, 2018's *True Believers Comic Festival* was another success, having overcome many of the obstacles presented in its first three years. However, the question is what can the organisers do to beat this fantastic year? There's only one way to find that out, but, for now, TBCF should be proud of what it has accomplished. **JB**

DON'T MISS THE QUARTERLY DIGITAL COMIC AVAILABLE FROM COMIXOLOGY, DRIVETHRU AND COMICSY!



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CREATOR INDEX

SLICED

(QUARTERLY)

Are you a comic creator?

If you've enjoyed this issue, and like what we're all about, get involved. We are beginning to look for long form stories, especially new creators looking for help to make their first book.

We're looking for '*slice of life*' stories told in experimental and innovative ways, this includes comics, narrative illustrations and infographics. We aren't interested in zombies, vampires, aliens or superheroes; there are plenty of comics that have those bases covered.

We want stories that communicate. They can be funny, serious, moving, thought provoking. You can do whatever you want, as long as it isn't offensive or inappropriate.

We put the spotlight on the narrative potential of comics. **HOW** the story is told is as important as **WHAT** it's about.

Writers, artists, or all-round creators are welcome.

slicedquarterly.co.uk/submissions

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