

# COPING WITH PHYSICAL CHANGES

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AMANDA STEVENS

WITH ART BY  
K.D. BOUCHER



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# MANIFESTATION

K.D. BOUCHER



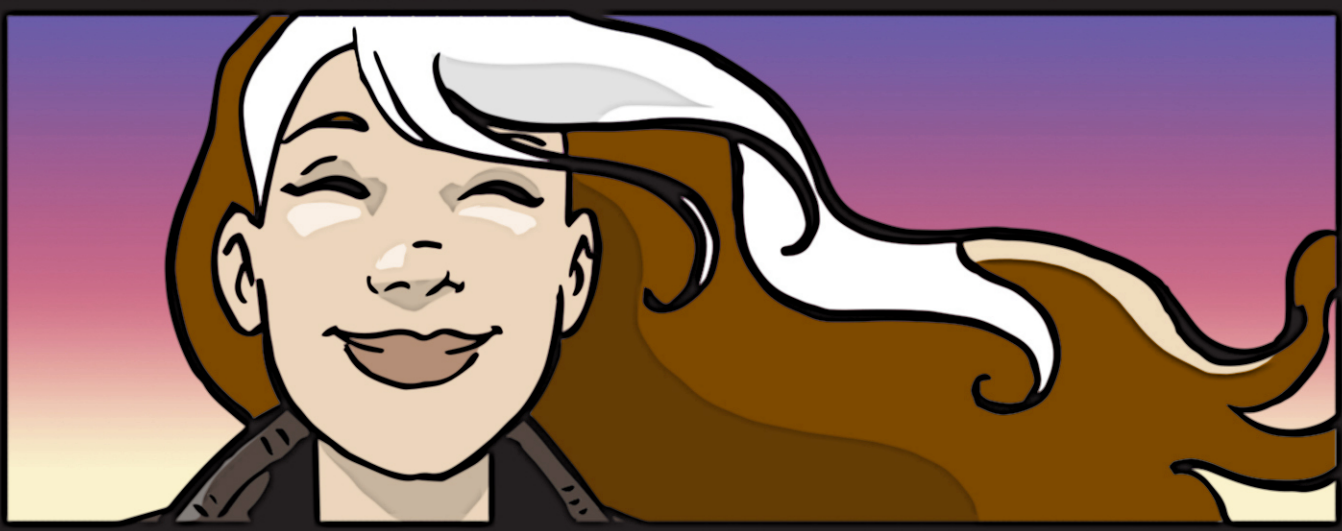






# THE THING ABOUT KISSING

KALLANDA LEE

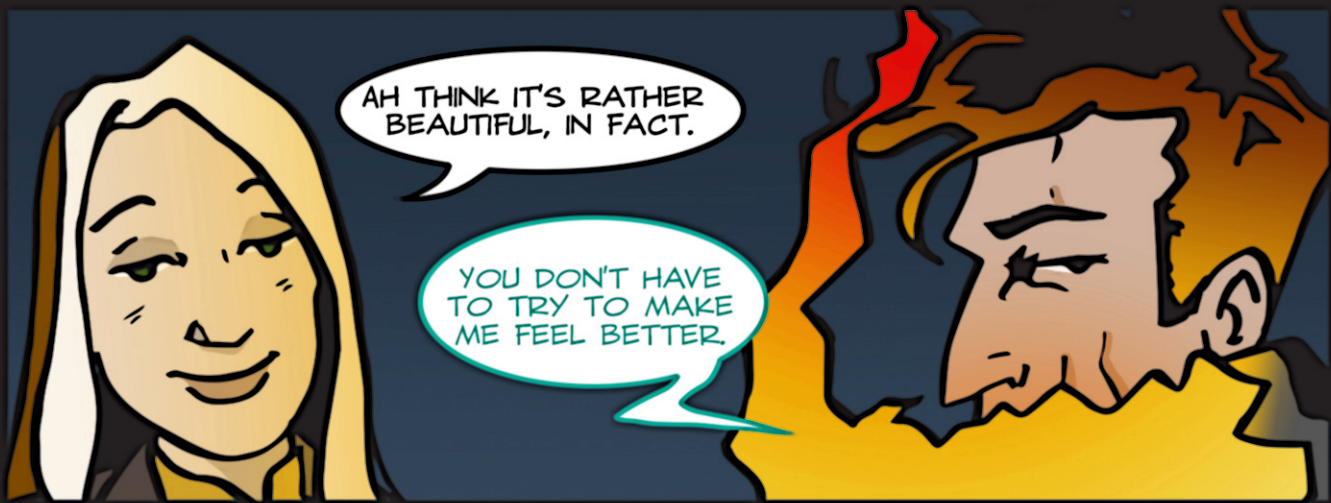
















DOESN'T IT DRIVE  
YOU BONKERS, LUV?

WHAT EXACTLY,  
JONOTHON ?



NOT BEING ABLE  
TO KISS. CAUSE I  
CAN'T BLOODY BEAR IT.  
NOW I THOUGHT IT WOULD  
GET BETTER WITH TIME,  
I REALLY DID.

BUT IT JUST DOESN'T.  
EVERY DAY WITHOUT IT  
I'M JUST REMINDED OF  
WHAT I'VE LOST.



AT LEAST YOU  
CAN TOUCH.



GOD, JONO,  
THERE'S SO MANY  
THINGS YOU CAN DO.  
THINGS AH CAN ONLY  
DREAM ABOUT

I KNOW.  
THAT'S WHY I WONDER  
HOW YOU CAN BEAR IT.




AH TAKE ONE  
DAY AT A TIME.

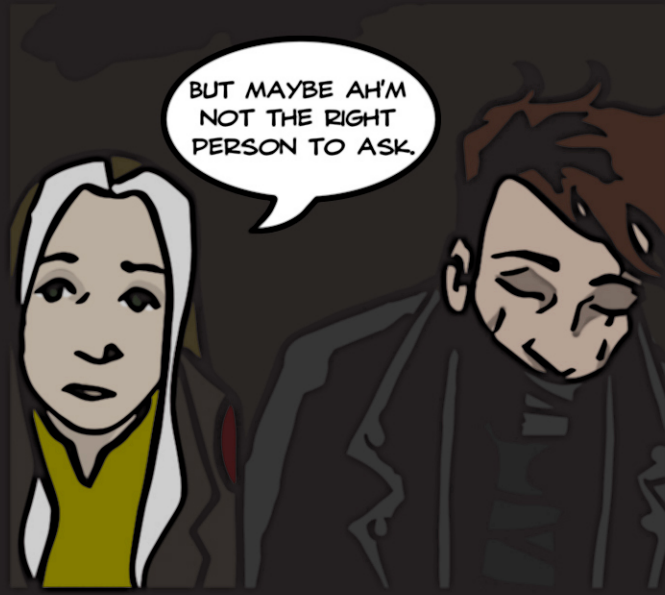





AND WHAT ABOUT LOVE?



AH THINK LOVE IS MORE THAN JUST KISSING.



BUT MAYBE AH'M NOT THE RIGHT PERSON TO ASK.

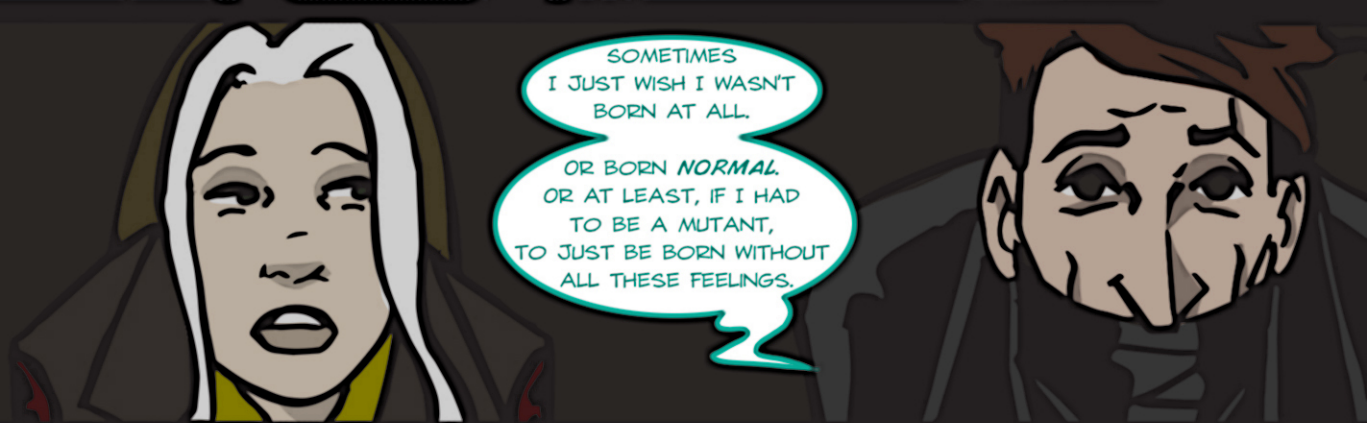
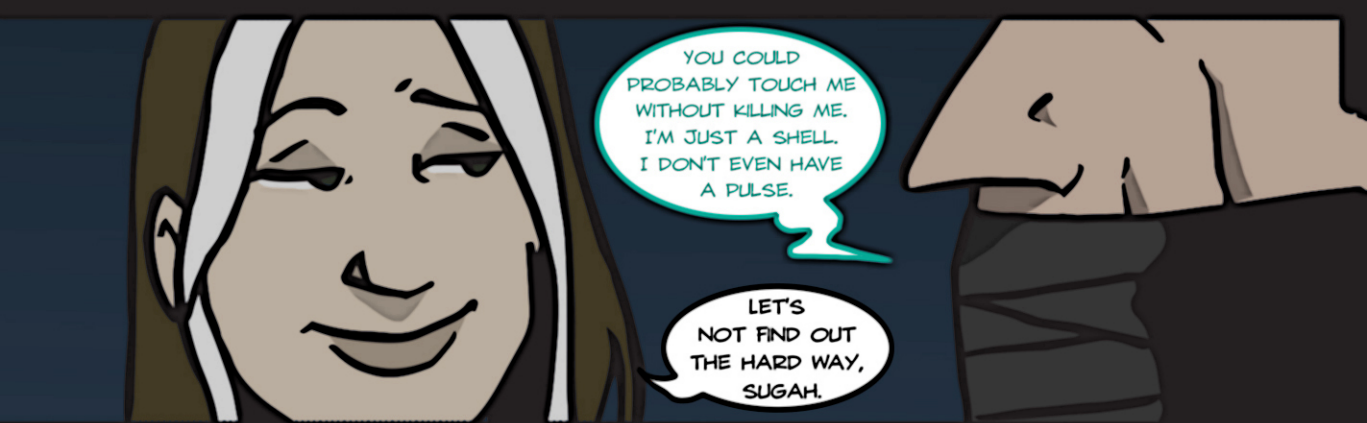



IT'S FUNNY. YOU SOUND A BIT LIKE HER. YER ACCENT'S SIMILAR, I MEAN.

LIKE HUSK?









IT'S HER LOSS,  
YOU KNOW




NAH.

THAT'S JUST WHAT PEOPLE  
SAY TO MAKE THEMSELVES  
FEEL BETTER. A GAL LIKE HER  
COULD NEVER LOVE A BLOKE LIKE  
ME. SHE DESERVES MUCH MORE.  
IT JUST TOOK HER A LONG  
TIME TO FIGGER IT OUT.



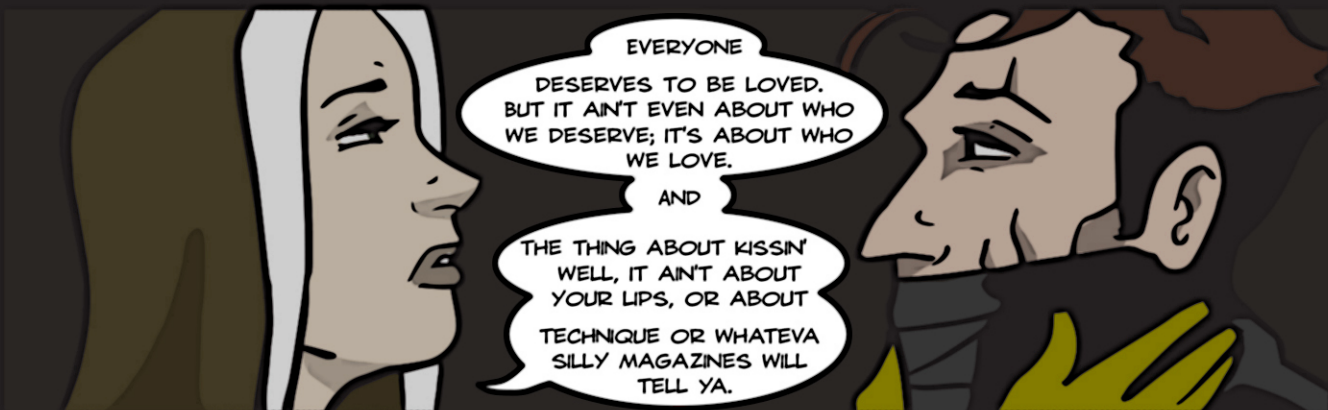
SUGAH...

THING IS,  
WE ALL GOTTA  
FIND OURSELVES  
A PLACE IN THIS  
WORLD.



AN' FEELING  
SORRY FOR YOURSELF  
AIN'T GONNA MAKE  
IT ANY EASIER.





EVERYONE  
DESERVES TO BE LOVED.  
BUT IT AIN'T EVEN ABOUT WHO  
WE DESERVE; IT'S ABOUT WHO  
WE LOVE.

AND  
THE THING ABOUT KISSIN'  
WELL, IT AIN'T ABOUT  
YOUR LIPS, OR ABOUT  
TECHNIQUE OR WHATEVA  
SILLY MAGAZINES WILL  
TELL YA.



IT'S  
ABOUT SHOWING  
PEOPLE HOW MUCH  
YOU CARE.







ROGUE,  
WE CAN'T...



HUSH, DARLIN'.  
I KNOW.  
BUT WE'LL ALWAYS  
HAVE THIS.




LOVE'S  
WORTH FIGHTIN'  
FOR, JONO.  
YOU'RE WORTH FIGHTIN'  
FOR. DON'T YOU EVAH  
FORGET THAT.



# *TURN ABOUT*

*AMANDA STEVENS*



IF  
YOU COULD HAVE  
ANY WOMAN  
YOU WANTED, WHO  
WOULD IT BE?

HOW?

FOR, LIKE, AN ACTUAL  
RELATIONSHIP OR JUST FOR  
A NIGHT OR SOMETHING?

SEX.

OBVIOUSLY  
WE'RE NOT MATURE  
ENOUGH TO HAVE  
ANYTHING RESEMBLING  
A RELATIONSHIP.

I'D  
LIKE TO THINK  
WE HAVE A GREAT  
RELATIONSHIP,  
ACTUALLY.

NOT *US*,  
YOU IDIOT.

YOU  
DON'T THINK  
WE DO?

JUST  
ANSWER THE  
BLOODY  
QUESTION.



GODDAMN

YOU'RE GROUCHY.  
IS IT THAT TIME OF THE MONTH?  
ANYWAY, I'D SAY ANGELINA JOLIE.  
NOT THIS NEW AGE, TREE-HUGGING,  
BABY-MAKING-MACHINE POD PERSON  
THAT'S REPLACED HER.

I'M TALKIN' OLD SCHOOL ANGELINA  
WITH THE BLACK HAIR AND PALE SKIN  
AND...YOU KNOW. MORE LIKE  
ELVIRA THAN SKELETOR.

YOU MEAN THE  
BATSHIT INSANE  
VERSION.

EXACTLY.

DIDN'T REALIZE YOU  
WERE INTO BORDERLINE  
PSYCHOTIC GOTHS.

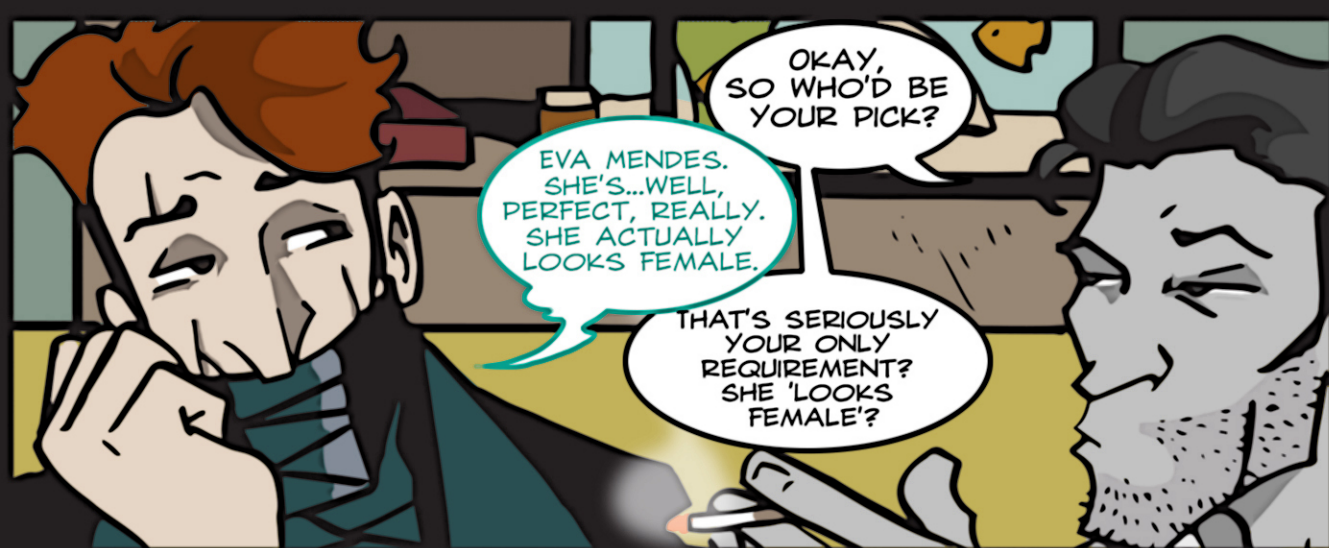
YOU  
NEVER  
ASKED.

PROBABLY  
BECAUSE I WAS  
NEVER CURIOUS.

SEE WHAT I MEAN  
ABOUT US BEING IN  
A RELATIONSHIP?

NOT  
REALLY A CATCHER,  
'MIGO, BUT IF YOU  
INSIST...

GET BENT.



OKAY,  
SO WHO'D BE  
YOUR PICK?

EVA MENDES.  
SHE'S...WELL,  
PERFECT, REALLY.  
SHE ACTUALLY  
LOOKS FEMALE.

THAT'S SERIOUSLY  
YOUR ONLY  
REQUIREMENT?  
SHE 'LOOKS  
FEMALE'?



YOU KNOW  
WHAT I MEANT.

DIDN'T REALIZE  
YOU WERE INTO  
LATINAS.

YOU NEVER  
ASKED.

NO,

SEE, I'M ALMOST  
POSITIVE IT WAS IMPLIED  
THAT TIME I DOWNED  
LIKE AN ENTIRE BOTTLE OF  
JOSE AND SAT IN YOUR  
LAP PETTING YOUR  
HAIR AND TELLING YOU  
HOW PRETTY  
YOU WERE.

YOU FORGOT THE  
PART ABOUT YOU  
SINGING THAT SONG  
FROM GREASE AS  
WELL.

MAYBE I WAS JUST  
OMITTING IT FOR  
MY SANITY?

MAYBE.

MAN, I'VE SEEN PEOPLE  
DO SOME REALLY WEIRD  
THINGS WHEN DRUNK, HAVE  
DONE MYSELF MORE THAN  
ONCE, BUT THAT WAS  
SERIOUSLY THE MOST  
FUCKED UP DRUNKEN  
EXPERIENCE I'VE  
EVER BEEN  
INVOLVED IN.

CAN WE STOP  
TALKING ABOUT  
THAT NOW?

YES, PLEASE.





*I DARE YOU TO LIVE*

*K.A. MAPLES*





STIR YOURSELF FROM YOUR FOUL PIT!

BUGGER OFF.



NO.  
WE,  
THAT IS YOU AND I,  
ARE GOING OUT.

BAYWATCH IS ON.



WE'RE  
GOING TO SHOW  
THESE TOWNIES HOW  
PEOPLE IN  
THE REAL WORLD  
PLAY POOL.

BOLLOCKS.



YOU LOVE PLAYING POOL.

NOT GOING,  
SUNSHINE.



PAIGE IS  
GOING.

THAT'S LOW,  
OLD SON.  
REAL LOW.



I KNOW, AMIGO.  
LET'S GO PLAY POOL.

# MISERY LOVES COMPANY

DIRK VKEMA

# COPING WITH PHYSICAL CHANGES



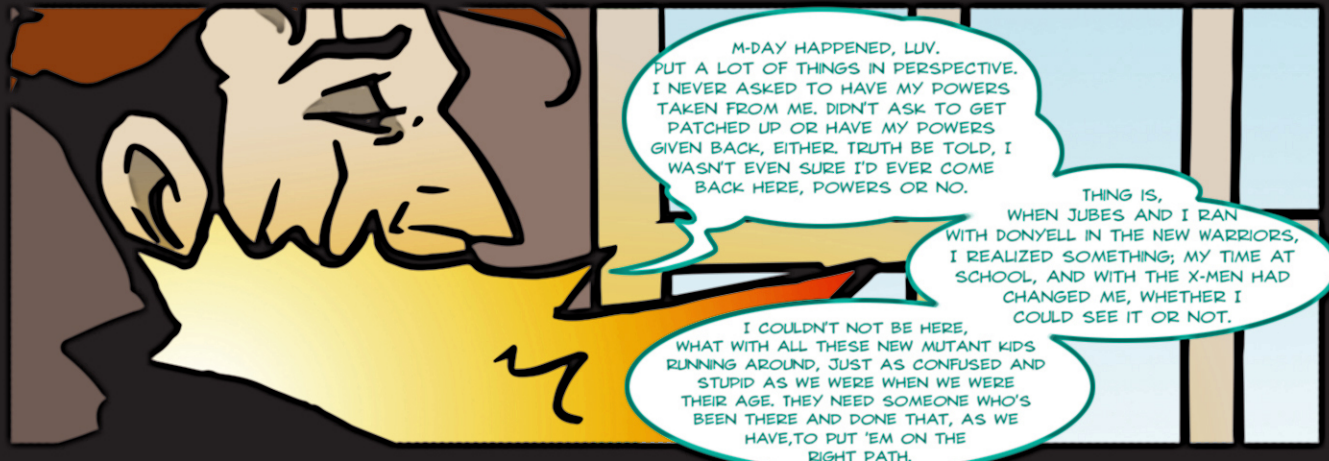
REPORT  
DANGERROOM  
INJURIES



I DID, YEAH.  
I'VE HEARD SOME OF THE  
STUDENTS TALK ABOUT  
YOUR CLASS,  
HOW YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT  
NOT GIVING UP HOPE AND ACCEPTING  
YOURSELF FOR WHAT YOU ARE.  
YOU'VE COME A LONG WAY  
SINCE THE LAST TIME I SAW YOU.  
WHAT HAPPENED?



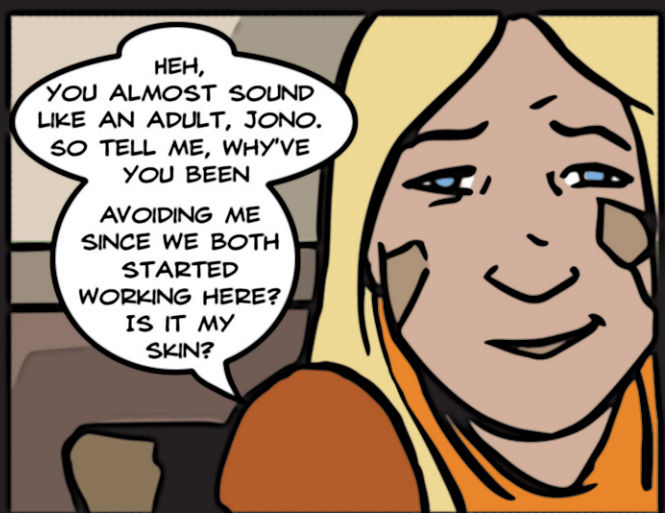




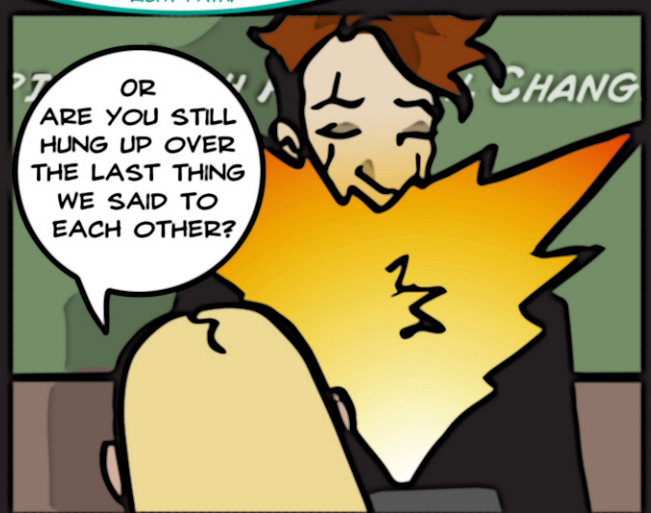
M-DAY HAPPENED, LUV.  
PUT A LOT OF THINGS IN PERSPECTIVE.  
I NEVER ASKED TO HAVE MY POWERS  
TAKEN FROM ME. DIDN'T ASK TO GET  
PATCHED UP OR HAVE MY POWERS  
GIVEN BACK, EITHER. TRUTH BE TOLD, I  
WASN'T EVEN SURE I'D EVER COME  
BACK HERE, POWERS OR NO.

THING IS,  
WHEN JUBES AND I RAN  
WITH DONYELL IN THE NEW WARRIORS,  
I REALIZED SOMETHING; MY TIME AT  
SCHOOL, AND WITH THE X-MEN HAD  
CHANGED ME, WHETHER I  
COULD SEE IT OR NOT.

I COULDN'T NOT BE HERE,  
WHAT WITH ALL THESE NEW MUTANT KIDS  
RUNNING AROUND, JUST AS CONFUSED AND  
STUPID AS WE WERE WHEN WE WERE  
THEIR AGE. THEY NEED SOMEONE WHO'S  
BEEN THERE AND DONE THAT, AS WE  
HAVE, TO PUT 'EM ON THE  
RIGHT PATH.



HEH,  
YOU ALMOST SOUND  
LIKE AN ADULT, JONO.  
SO TELL ME, WHY'VE  
YOU BEEN  
AVOIDING ME  
SINCE WE BOTH  
STARTED  
WORKING HERE?  
IS IT MY  
SKIN?



OR  
ARE YOU STILL  
HUNG UP OVER  
THE LAST THING  
WE SAID TO  
EACH OTHER?



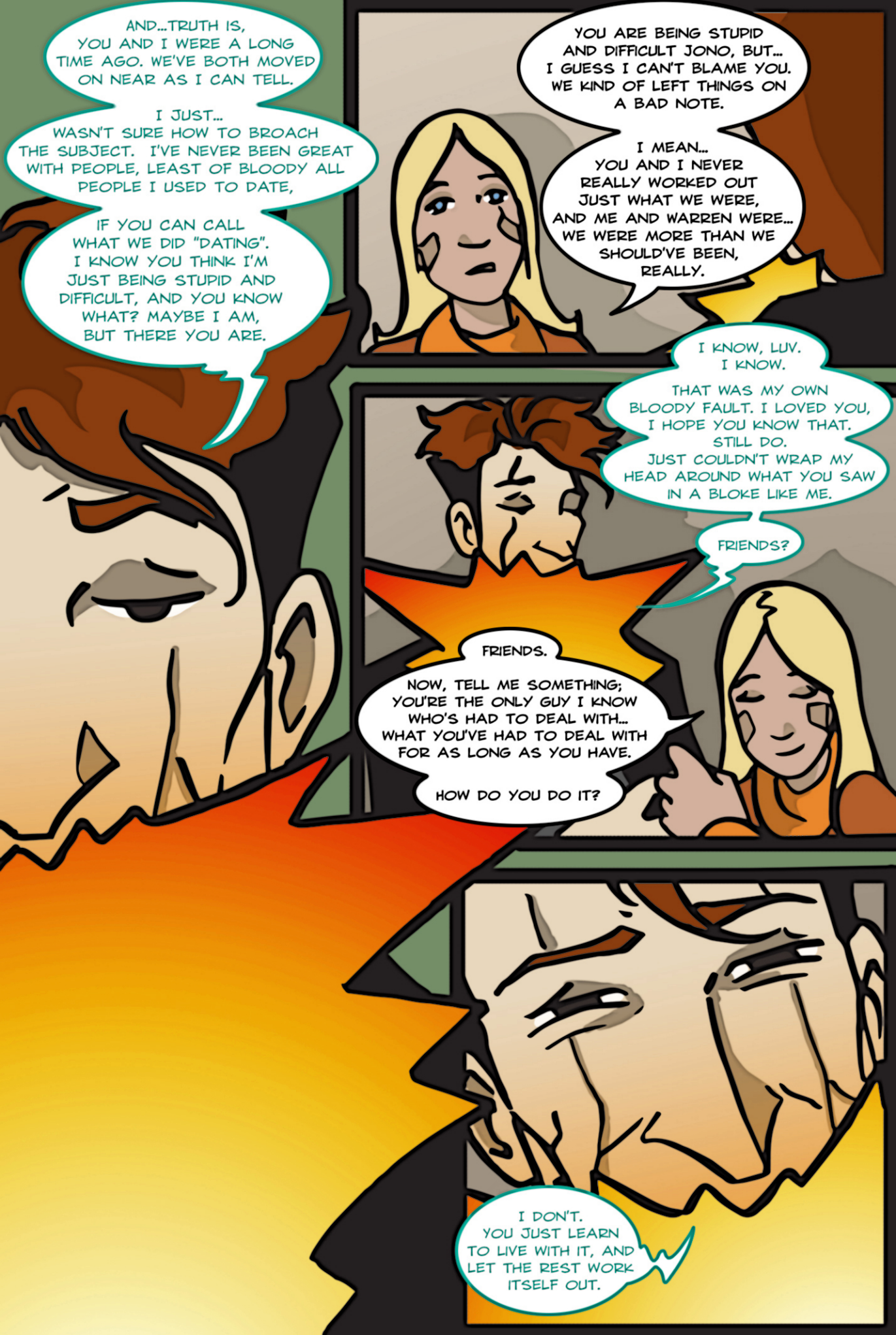
WELL,  
IF WE'RE BEING BRUTALLY  
HONEST...  
*BOTH.*



NOT LIKE YOU MIGHT THINK.  
I'VE NOTICED THE PROBLEMS  
YOU'VE BEEN HAVING WITH YOUR HUSKS,  
AND THEY REMIND ME OF THE TROUBLES  
I'VE ALWAYS HAD WITH MY OWN POWERS.  
YOU WERE ALWAYS THIS FLAWLESS,  
OVERACHIEVING GODDESS  
OF A MUTANT.

I LOOKED UP TO YOU, IN A WAY,  
THAT YOU ALWAYS MANAGED TO BE  
SO JOHNNY ON THE SPOT,  
WHEN THE REST OF US STRUGGLED  
JUST TO BLEEDIN' LIVE NORMALLY.  
KINDA MESSED WITH MY HEAD,  
YOU KNOW?





AND...TRUTH IS,  
YOU AND I WERE A LONG  
TIME AGO. WE'VE BOTH MOVED  
ON NEAR AS I CAN TELL.

I JUST...  
WASN'T SURE HOW TO BROACH  
THE SUBJECT. I'VE NEVER BEEN GREAT  
WITH PEOPLE, LEAST OF BLOODY ALL  
PEOPLE I USED TO DATE,

IF YOU CAN CALL  
WHAT WE DID "DATING".  
I KNOW YOU THINK I'M  
JUST BEING STUPID AND  
DIFFICULT, AND YOU KNOW  
WHAT? MAYBE I AM,  
BUT THERE YOU ARE.

YOU ARE BEING STUPID  
AND DIFFICULT JONO, BUT...  
I GUESS I CAN'T BLAME YOU.  
WE KIND OF LEFT THINGS ON  
A BAD NOTE.

I MEAN...  
YOU AND I NEVER  
REALLY WORKED OUT  
JUST WHAT WE WERE,  
AND ME AND WARREN WERE...  
WE WERE MORE THAN WE  
SHOULD'VE BEEN,  
REALLY.

I KNOW, LUV.  
I KNOW.

THAT WAS MY OWN  
BLOODY FAULT. I LOVED YOU,  
I HOPE YOU KNOW THAT.  
STILL DO.  
JUST COULDN'T WRAP MY  
HEAD AROUND WHAT YOU SAW  
IN A BLOKE LIKE ME.

FRIENDS?

FRIENDS.

NOW, TELL ME SOMETHING;  
YOU'RE THE ONLY GUY I KNOW  
WHO'S HAD TO DEAL WITH...  
WHAT YOU'VE HAD TO DEAL WITH  
FOR AS LONG AS YOU HAVE.

HOW DO YOU DO IT?

I DON'T.  
YOU JUST LEARN  
TO LIVE WITH IT, AND  
LET THE REST WORK  
ITSELF OUT.

# THE MOURNING AFTER

K.A. MAPLES

KITTY TOOK ONE LOOK AT THE CALENDAR, DECIDING NOT TO QUESTION JONO'S REQUEST FOR A SICK DAY.

SHE JUST SMILED SYMPATHETICALLY, AND JONO SLOUCHED OFF TO BE ALONE.

EVERYONE ELSE WISELY KEPT THEIR DISTANCE; WHILE JONO COULD BE APPROACHABLE, EVEN FRIENDLY AT TIMES, TODAY WAS NOT ONE OF THOSE DAYS.

PAIGE MADE A TENTATIVE OVERTURE,

BUT HE HELD HER OFF WITH A SHAKE OF HIS HEAD AND LOCKED HIS DOOR.

CLICK

TODAY, JONO JUST WANTED TO BE ALONE. HE'D NEVER BEEN GOOD AT SHARING HIS PAIN, EVEN WITH THOSE WHO WERE FEELING THE SAME THING.

HE SPENT THE DAY ALONE WITH HIS GUITAR, WRITING SONGS NO ONE WOULD EVER HEAR.



# *BAD TEACHER- PART 1*

*AMANDA STEVENS*



JUST DON'T KILL ANY MINORS. LIABILITY ISSUES.



I MAKE NO PROMISES.



TRY.

I CAN TRY.


THANK YOU.



BUT IF ONE MORE OF THOSE LITTLE BLIGHTERS ASKS ME IF I CAN MAKE POPCORN IN MY CHEST,

I SWEAR TO CHRIST-

NO.



WHILE YOU'RE HERE,  
WE NEED TO HAVE A  
TALK ABOUT AN ANONYMOUS  
COMPLAINT I GOT IN WHICH YOU  
TOLD A STUDENT YOU WOULD,  
AND I QUOTE, 'RIP OUT YOUR  
SNIVELING, TASTELESS BRAIN IN  
ONE OF THE LESS SAVORY WAYS  
EMMA FROST TAUGHT ME.'

CARE TO EXPLAIN?

THERE WAS  
A DISAGREEMENT.



OBVIOUSLY.  
ABOUT WHAT?

THE BEATLES VS.  
JUSTIN BIEBER.

JONO.  
YOU'RE BETTER  
THAN THAT.

...NO,  
I'M REALLY NOT.

LIABILITY ISSUES!



LOOK,  
WOLVERINE'S EMPLOYED  
HERE. YOUR JANITOR'S  
PREVIOUS TWO JOB  
REFERENCES ARE MAGNETO  
AND BLOODY MYSTIQUE.

I AM NOT YOUR  
BIGGEST  
PROBLEM HERE.

NO HOMICIDE,  
JONOTHON.

I MEAN IT.

WHAT  
ABOUT MANSLAUGHTER?  
THAT'S DIFFERENT, YEAH?

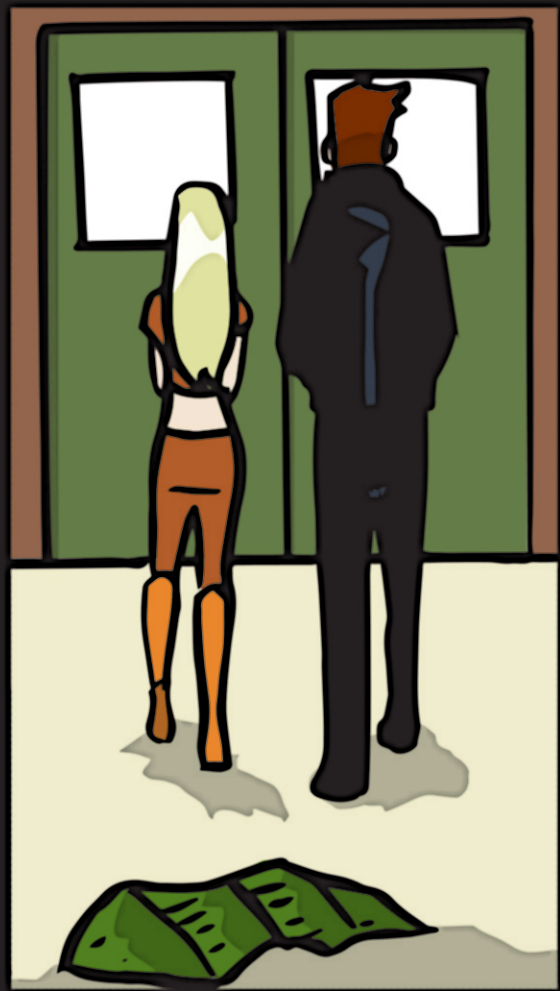


...GET OUT.



# TEA AND SYMPATHY

K.A. MAPLES





YOU GONNA TELL ME  
WHAT YOU REALLY  
WANT?

WORRIED  
'BOUT YOU,  
SUNSHINE.

NOTHING  
TO BE WORRIED  
ABOUT.



KITTY  
DOESN'T THINK  
SO.



SINCE WHEN DO  
YOU LISTEN TO  
KITTY?



WELL,  
MAYBE IF YOU'D STOP  
THREATENING TO  
LOBOTOMIZE PEOPLE-

ONLY  
THE  
DESERVING.

AND  
CLAIMING THE GRILL  
IN THE NAME OF QUEEN  
AND COUNTRY.

ALL IN GOOD FUN.  
FOR A SCHOOL THAT PRIDES  
ITSELF ON INCLUSIVENESS,  
WE'RE VERY  
AMERICA-CENTRIC.

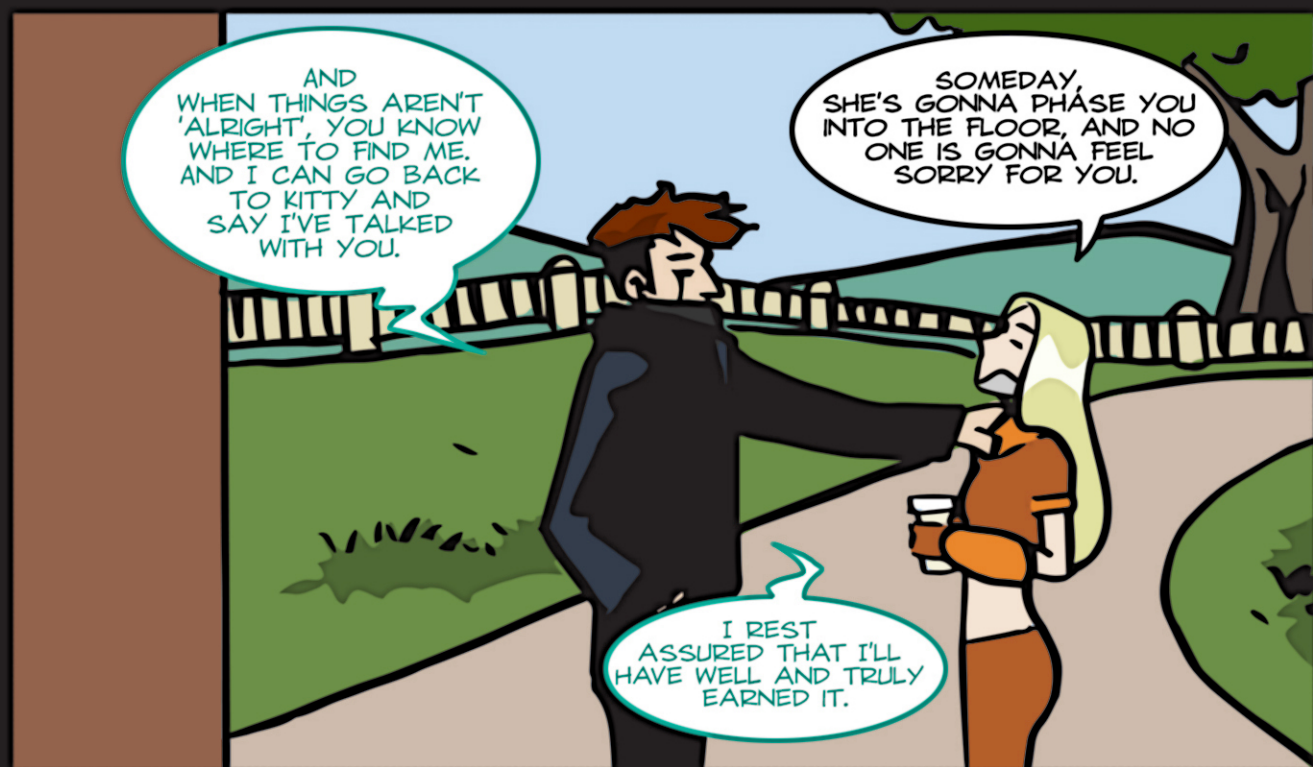


AND  
WRITING ODES  
TO EMMA-

THE POINT,  
IS THAT PEOPLE  
EXPECT ME TO  
BE A BASTARD  
TO THEM. IF I  
WEREN'T, THEY MIGHT  
THINK SOMETHING  
WAS WRONG.

NOW, YOU...





*COME BACK*

*K.D. BOUCHER*

CUMBERLAND COUNTY  
KENTUCKY

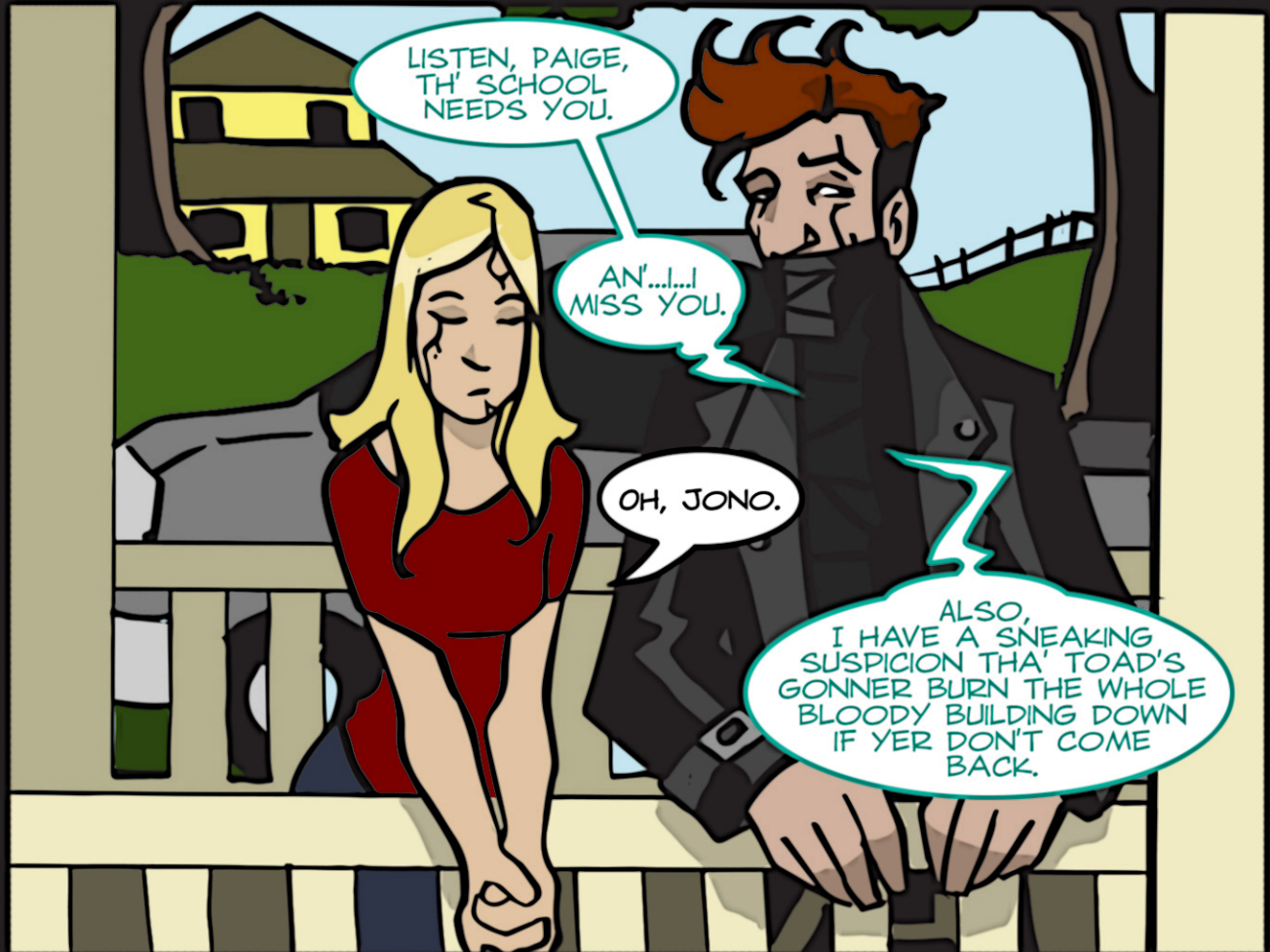
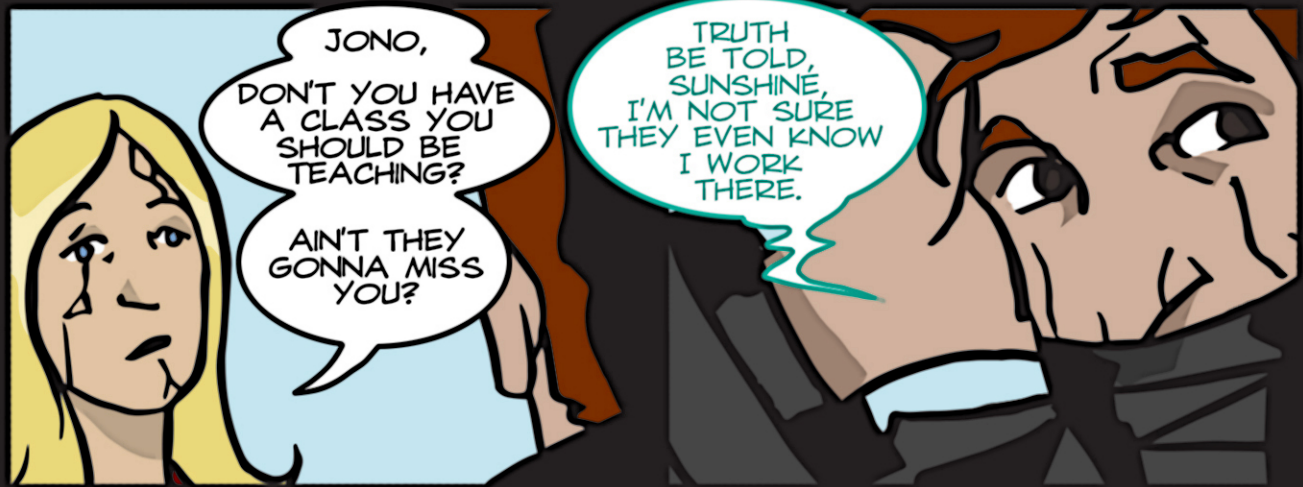
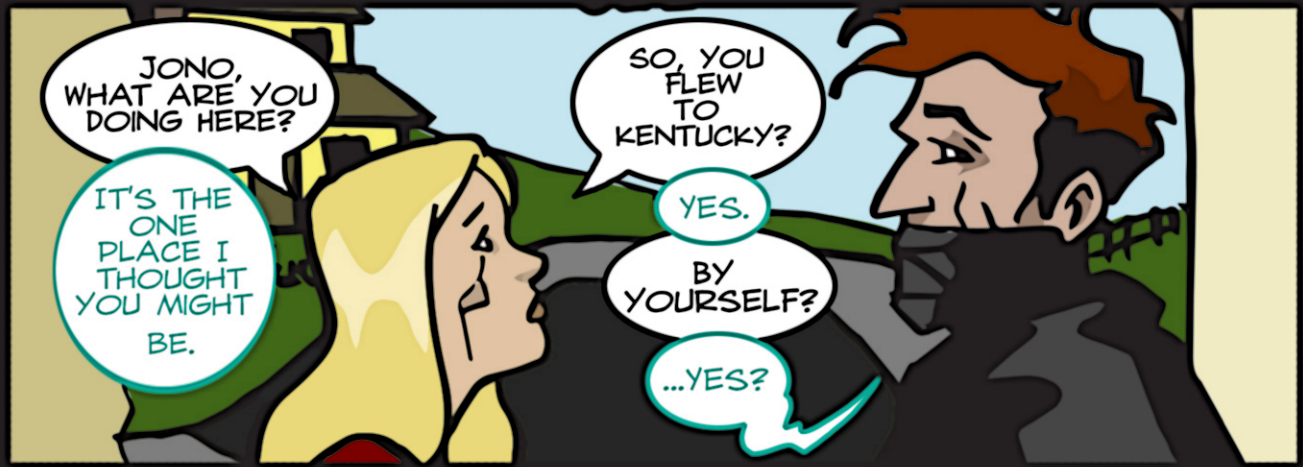
KNOCK  
KNOCK

I GOT IT,  
MAMA!

JONO?

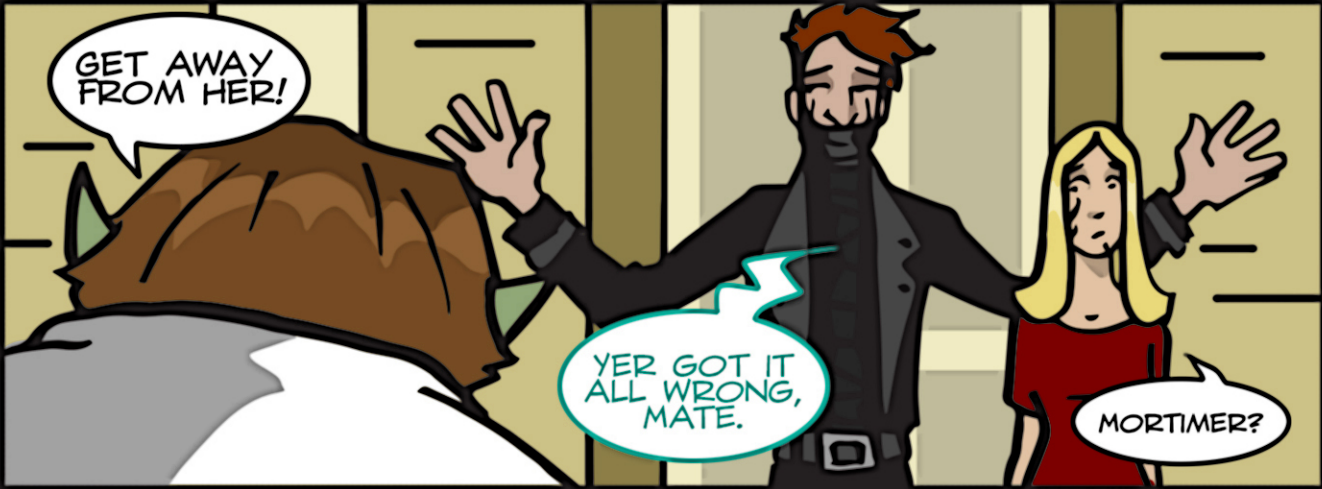
'ELLO,  
LUV.

















LOOK AT ME!  
AH'M LITERALLY  
FALLIN' APART  
HERE!

JUS'...GET OUT.

AH'LL COME BACK  
WHEN AH'M GOOD N'  
READY.

IF THAT  
EVER  
HAPPENS.

AN' YOU TWO  
COME INTO MY  
HOME AN'  
START A FIGHT  
RIGHT IN MY  
FRONT  
YARD?!



AH SAID.  
GET. OUT.



YOU STUPID  
GIT.

SORRY...



END.

# *BAD TEACHER- PART 2*

*AMANDA STEVENS*



KITTY PRYDE'S OFFICE.  
AGAIN. APPROX. 2:12 PM.

I'M BEGINNING  
TO WONDER IF  
I SHOULD JUST MOVE MY  
OFFICE NEXT TO YOUR ROOM.  
IT MIGHT SAVE US  
BOTH SOME TIME.

I GET THE FEELING  
I'M IN TROUBLE.

THIS ISN'T  
HIGH SCHOOL, JONO.  
WELL, NOT FOR YOU.  
YOU'RE NOT IN  
TROUBLE.

WAIT.

SIT DOWN.  
I DIDN'T SAY YOU  
COULD LEAVE.

LOOK,  
I'VE GOTTEN A FEW MORE  
COMPLAINTS SINCE THE THREATS  
TO LOBOTOMIZE ONE OF BOBBY'S  
STUDENTS

AND BOBBY  
HIMSELF.



I HAVEN'T THREATENED  
BODILY HARM ON ANYONE  
IN AT LEAST A WEEK.

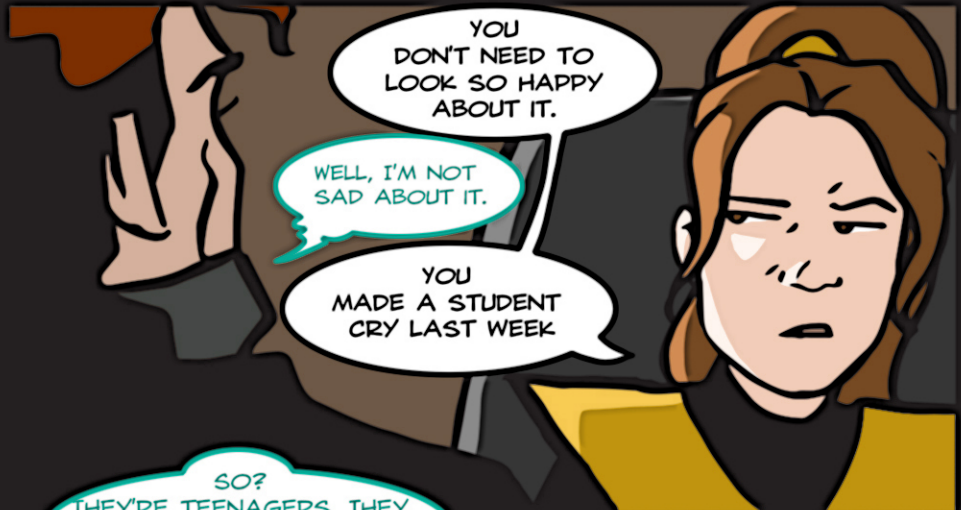
YES,  
AND EVEN THOUGH I FIND IT  
DEEPLY DISTURBING YOU ACTUALLY  
EXPECT TO BE CONGRATULATED  
FOR THAT, I APPRECIATE IT.

NO,

I'M TALKING ABOUT THE  
FACT THAT THE WEEKLY FRIDAY  
NIGHT ROCK BAND TOURNAMENT  
IN THE REC ROOM HAS BEEN  
CANCELLED INDEFINITELY, BARRING  
YOUR REASSIGNMENT  
OFF-CAMPUS.



YEAH?



YOU  
DON'T NEED TO  
LOOK SO HAPPY  
ABOUT IT.

WELL, I'M NOT  
SAD ABOUT IT.

YOU  
MADE A STUDENT  
CRY LAST WEEK



SO?  
THEY'RE TEENAGERS. THEY  
CRY OVER SHIT REALITY  
TV AND CAT VIDEOS.

YOU TOLD HIM HE  
SHOULD HANG HIMSELF  
WITH HIS GUITAR  
STRAP.

NO,  
THAT WOULD JUST BE  
IRRESPONSIBLE OF ME.

WHAT I ACTUALLY SAID  
WAS THAT JOE STRUMMER  
WOULD WANT TO STRANGLE  
HIM WITH HIS GUITAR STRAP,  
IF HE WASN'T TOO BUSY ROLLING  
IN HIS GRAVE OVER HAVING  
HIS MUSIC BUTCHERED BY  
SOME NO-TALENT,  
TONE-DEAF BRAT.

JOE STRUMMER  
WAS CREMATED

WHICH WOULD MAKE IT ALL  
THE MORE IMPRESSIVE IF HE WAS  
ROLLING IN HIS GRAVE AND/OR CAME  
BACK TO STRANGLE  
SOMEONE AS A GHOST