

COPING WITH PHYSICAL CHANGES

1) MANIFESTATION - K.D. BOUCHER

2) THE THING ABOUT KISSING - KALLANDA LEE 7) BAD TEACHER PART 1 -

3) TURN ABOUT - AMANDA STEVENS

AMANDA STEVENS

4) I DARE YOU TO LIVE - K.A. MAPLES

8) TEA AND SYMPATHY -
K.A. MAPLES

5) MISERY LOVES COMPANY - DIRK YAKEMA

9) COME BACK - K.D. BOUCHER

6) THE MOURNING AFTER - K.A. MAPLES

10) BAD TEACHER PART 2 -
AMANDA STEVENS



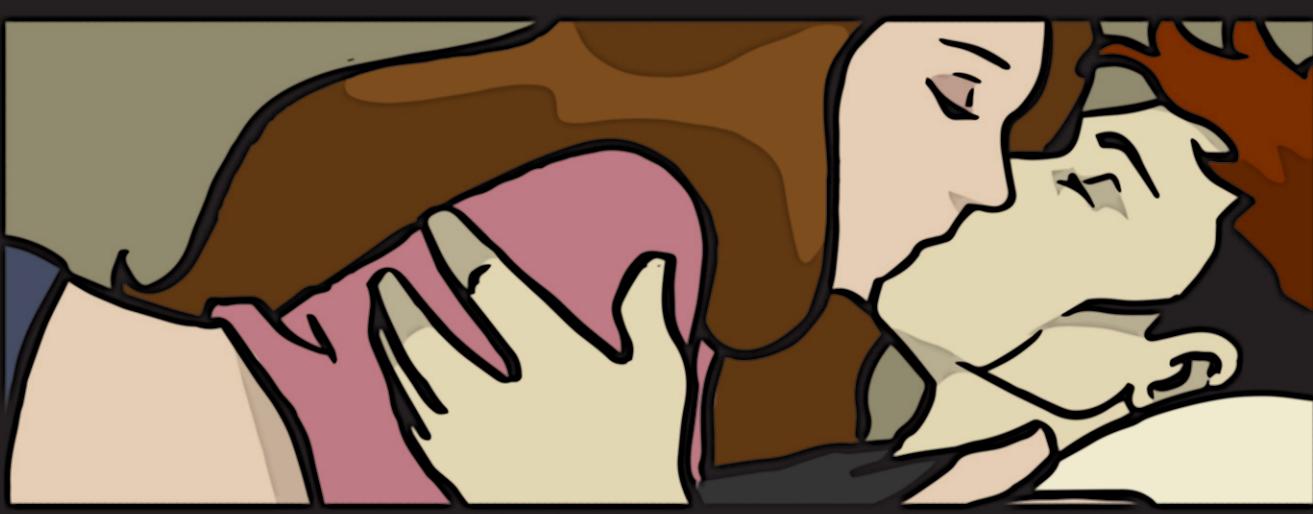
WITH ART BY
K.D. BOUCHER

Disclaimer: The stories included in this volume were created for entertainment purposes only. No profit has been made. All characters are property of Marvel Entertainment.

MANIFESTATION

K.D. BOUCHER





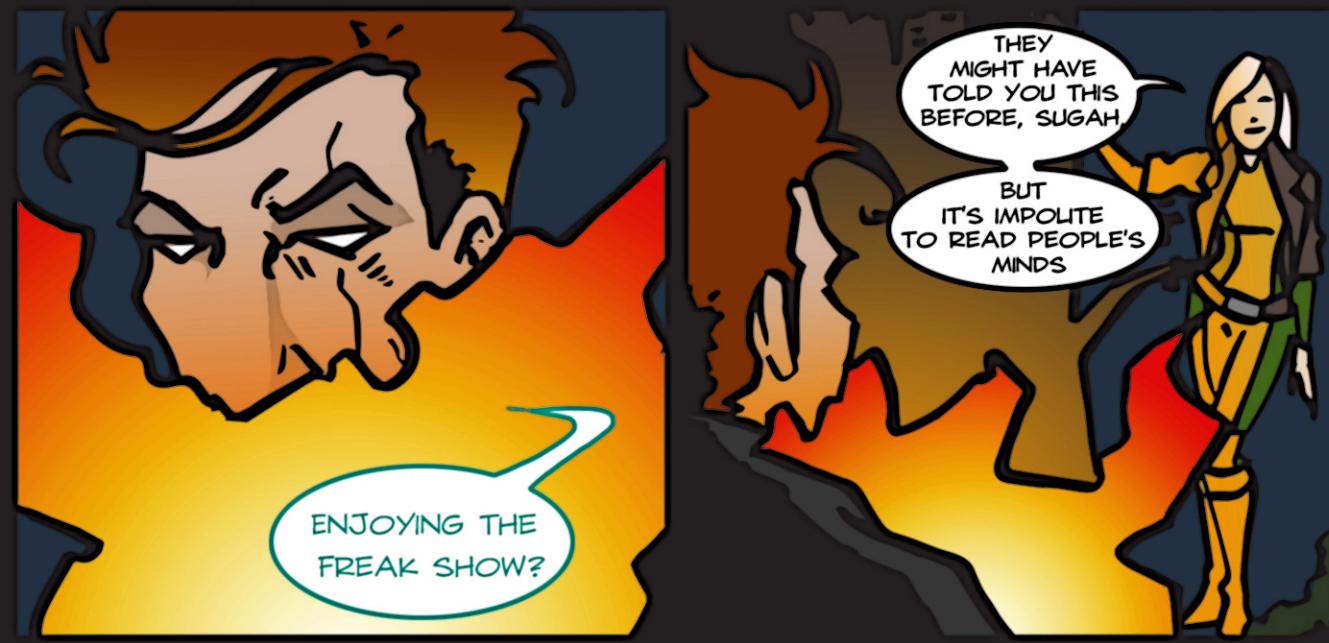


THE THING ABOUT KISSING

KALLANDA LEE











DOESN'T IT DRIVE
YOU BONKERS, LUV?



WHAT EXACTLY,
JONOTHON?



AT LEAST YOU
CAN TOUCH.



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.



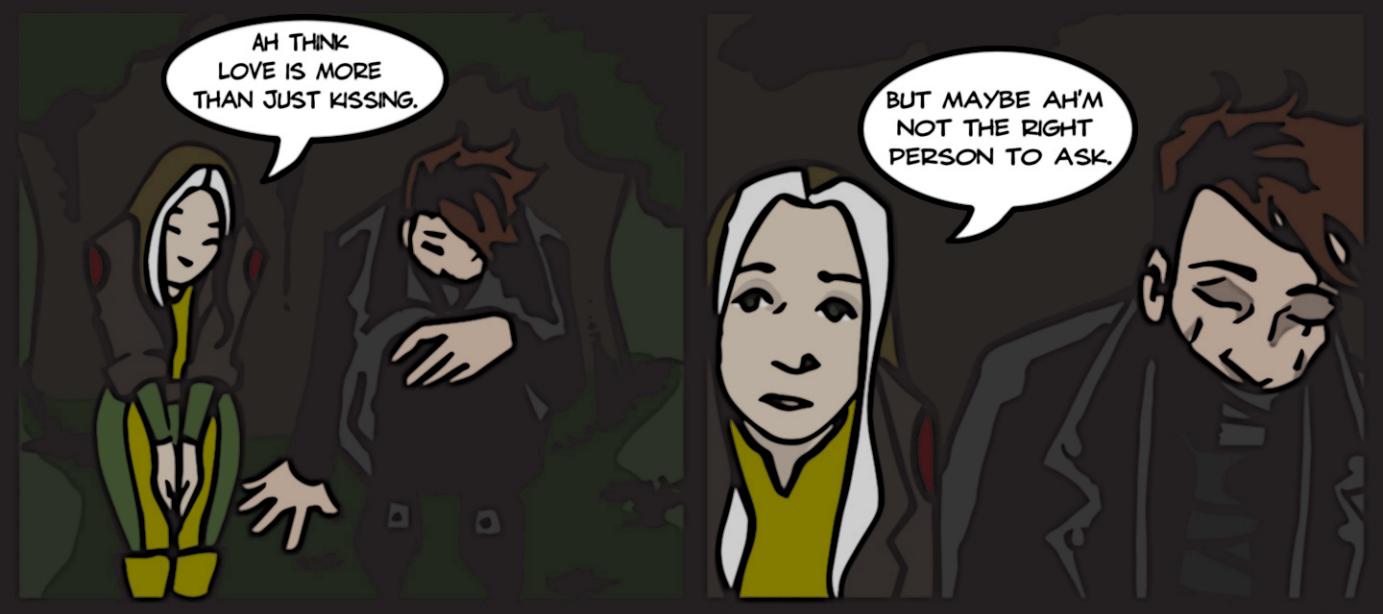
GOD, JONO,
THERE'S SO MANY
THINGS YOU CAN DO.
THINGS AH CAN ONLY
DREAM ABOUT

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?





YOU COULD
PROBABLY TOUCH ME
WITHOUT KILLING ME.
I'M JUST A SHELL.
I DON'T EVEN HAVE
A PULSE.

LET'S
NOT FIND OUT
THE HARD WAY,
SUGAH.



SOMETIMES
I JUST WISH I WASN'T
BORN AT ALL.

OR BORN NORMAL.
OR AT LEAST, IF I HAD
TO BE A MUTANT,
TO JUST BE BORN WITHOUT
ALL THESE FEELINGS.



BUT THEN WHAT'S
THE POINT OF FIGHTIN'?
IF THERE'S NOTHIN'
TO FIGHT FOR?

I DON'T KNOW.
BUT IT JUST MIGHT
MAKE THINGS
BEARABLE.



JONO?

*





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.

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

OKAY,
SO WHO'D BE
YOUR PICK?

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 DOWND
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.

SO,
SINCE I DON'T REMEMBER
YOU RETURNING THE FAVOR --
NOT THAT I REMEMBER MUCH
OF ANYTHING FROM THAT
NIGHT --

IS THIS WHOLE 'IN
SEARCH OF A LATIN
LOVER' THING
A RECENT
DEVELOPMENT?

POSSIBLY.

IS IT
WORKING?

ARE YOU TRYING
TO PROPOSITION
ME?

POSSIBLY.

FOR
WHAT IT'S WORTH,
MATE, I THINK OUR
RELATIONSHIP, HOWEVER
YOU INTERPRET THAT,
IS JUST FINE.

MMM. YEAH.

HEY,
IF YOU PROMISE
NOT TO FRY ME
WE COULD --

SHUT IT.

KAY.

RECORDS

...MAYBE
AFTER
SOUTH PARK.

REALLY?

POSSIBLY.

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.

PAIGE IS GOING.

NOT GOING, SUNSHINE.

THAT'S LOW,

OLD SON.

REAL LOW.

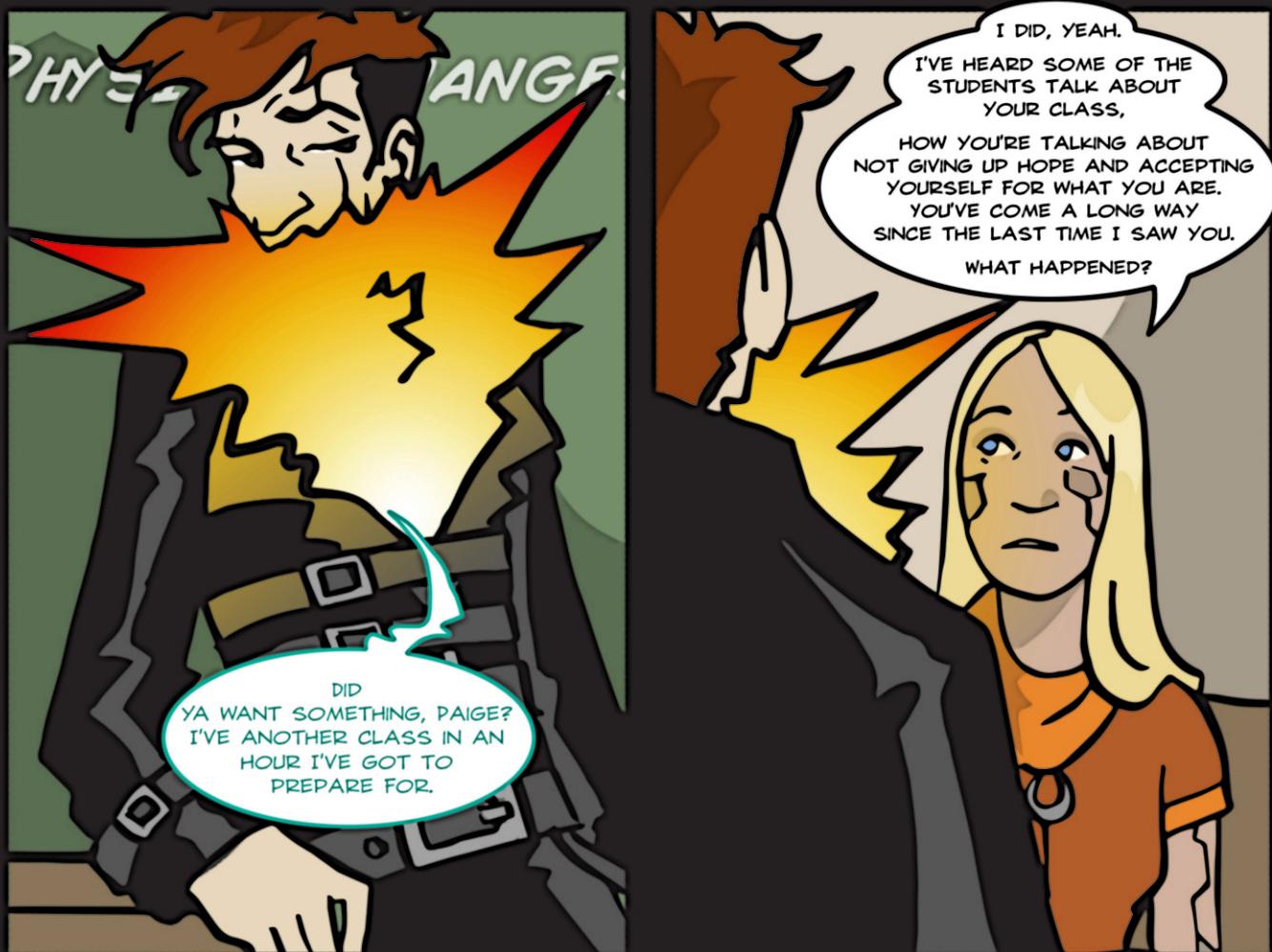
I KNOW, AMIGO.

LET'S GO PLAY POOL.

MISERY LOVES COMPANY

DIRK YKEMA

COPING WITH PHYSICAL CHANGES

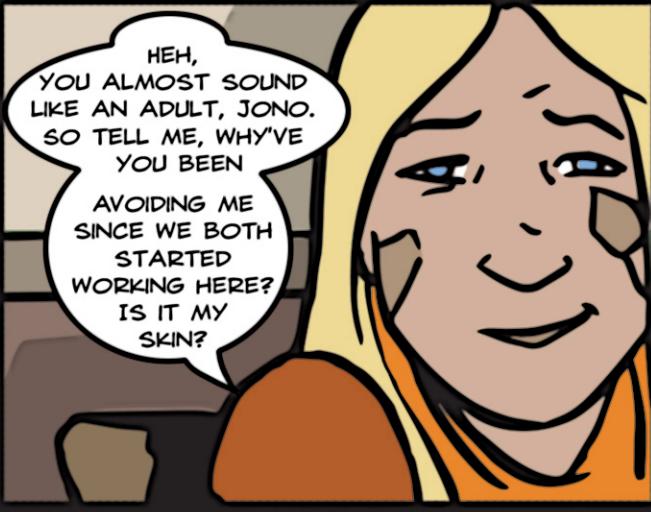




M-DAY HAPPENED, LUV. PUT A LOT OF THINGS IN PERSPECTIVE. I NEVER ASKED TO HAVE MY POWERS TAKEN FROM ME. DIDN'T ASK TO GET PATCHED UP OR HAVE MY POWERS GIVEN BACK, EITHER. TRUTH BE TOLD, I WASN'T EVEN SURE I'D EVER COME BACK HERE, POWERS OR NO.

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.



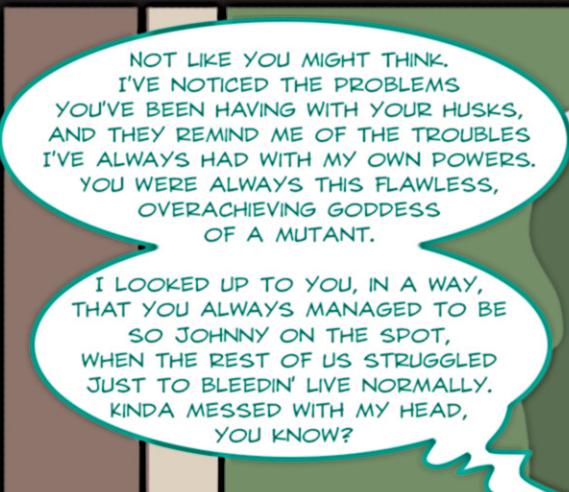
HEH, YOU ALMOST SOUND LIKE AN ADULT, JONO. SO TELL ME, WHY'VE YOU BEEN AVOIDING ME SINCE WE BOTH STARTED WORKING HERE? IS IT MY SKIN?



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.

TRY.

I CAN TRY.

THANK YOU.

I MAKE NO PROMISES.

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!

...GET OUT.

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

I AM NOT YOUR
BIGGEST
PROBLEM HERE.

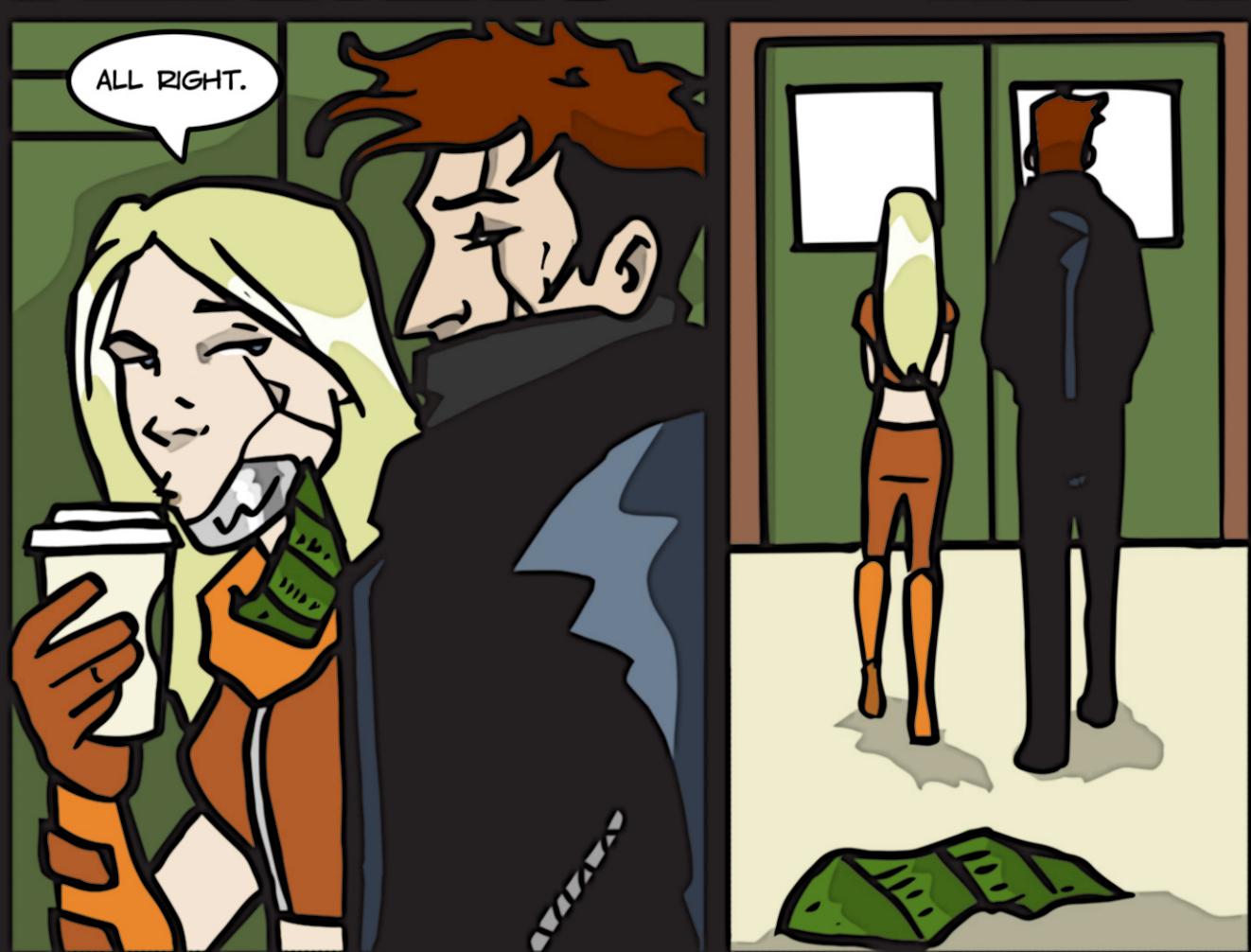
NO HOMICIDE,
JONOTHON.

I MEAN IT.

WHAT
ABOUT MANSLAUGHTER?
THAT'S DIFFERENT, YEAH?

TEA AND SYMPATHY

K.A. MAPLES



YOU GONNA TELL ME
WHAT YOU REALLY
WANT?

WORRIED
'BOUT YOU,
SUNSHINE.

NOTHING
TO BE WORRIED
ABOUT.

SINCE WHEN DO
YOU LISTEN TO
KITTY?

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

ONLY
THE
DESERVING.

ALL THE BLOODY TIME,
SINCE I'M IN HER DAMN
OFFICE EVERY OTHER DAY.

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.

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

NOW, YOU...

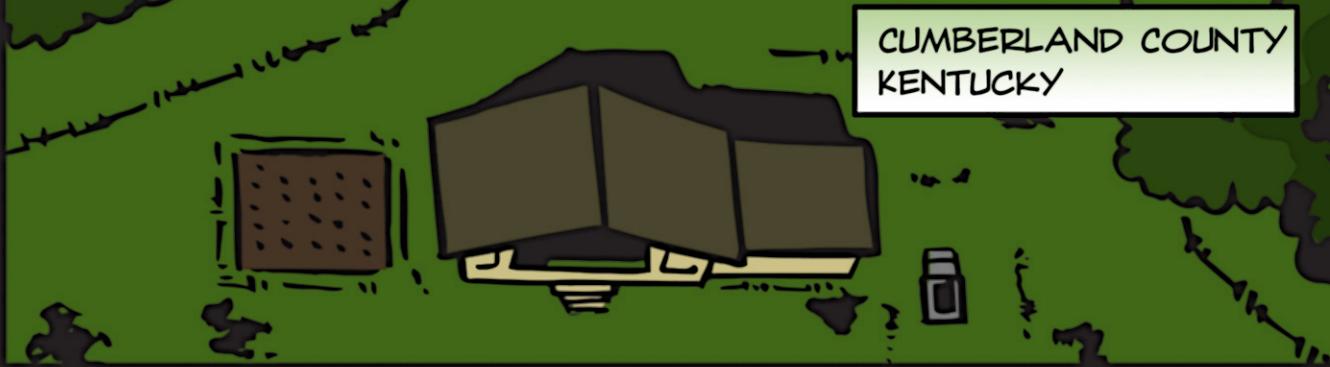
ALL IN GOOD FUN.
FOR A SCHOOL THAT PRIDES
ITSELF ON INCLUSIVENESS,
WE'RE VERY
AMERICA-CENTRIC.

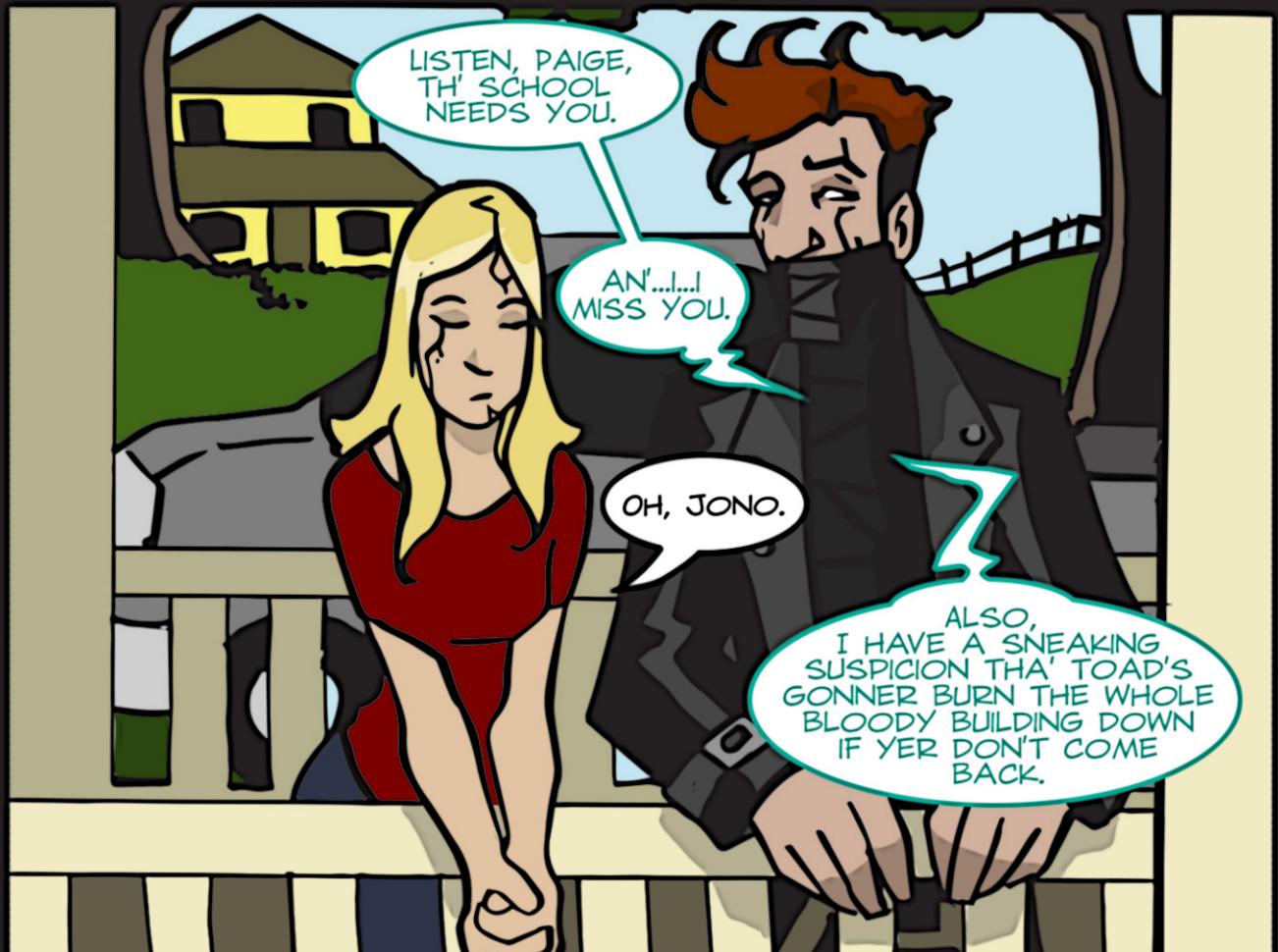
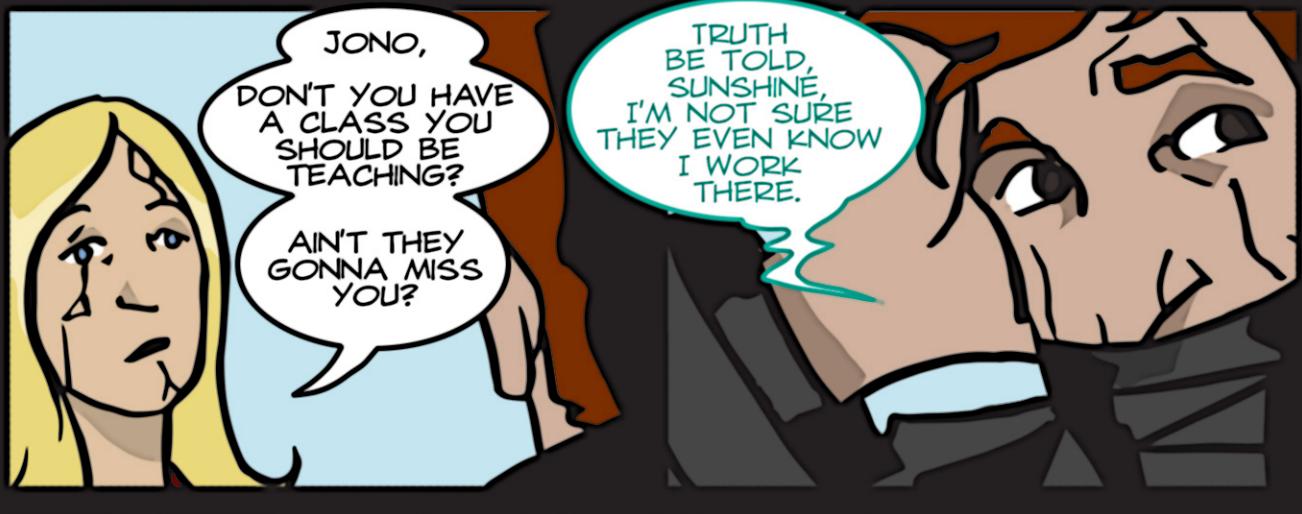


COME BACK

K.D. BOUCHER

CUMBERLAND COUNTY
KENTUCKY







GET AWAY
FROM HER!

YER GOT IT
ALL WRONG,
MATE.

MORTIMER?

SHE'S
MINE!

OW!
WOT TH'
'ELL!

YOU HAD
YOUR
CHANCE!

I DON'T THINK
YER WANNA GET
INTO THIS.

ALWIGHT,
YOU BLOODY
WELL ASKED
FER IT.



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

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

JUS'...GET OUT.

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

IF THAT
EVER
HAPPENS.



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