

THE LONG-LIVED KING

AN ORIGINAL OWL HOUSE GRAPHIC NOVEL
INTENDED FOR OLDER READERS

Written by
Dana Terrace
& Mikki Crisostomo
Illustrated by
Daun Han

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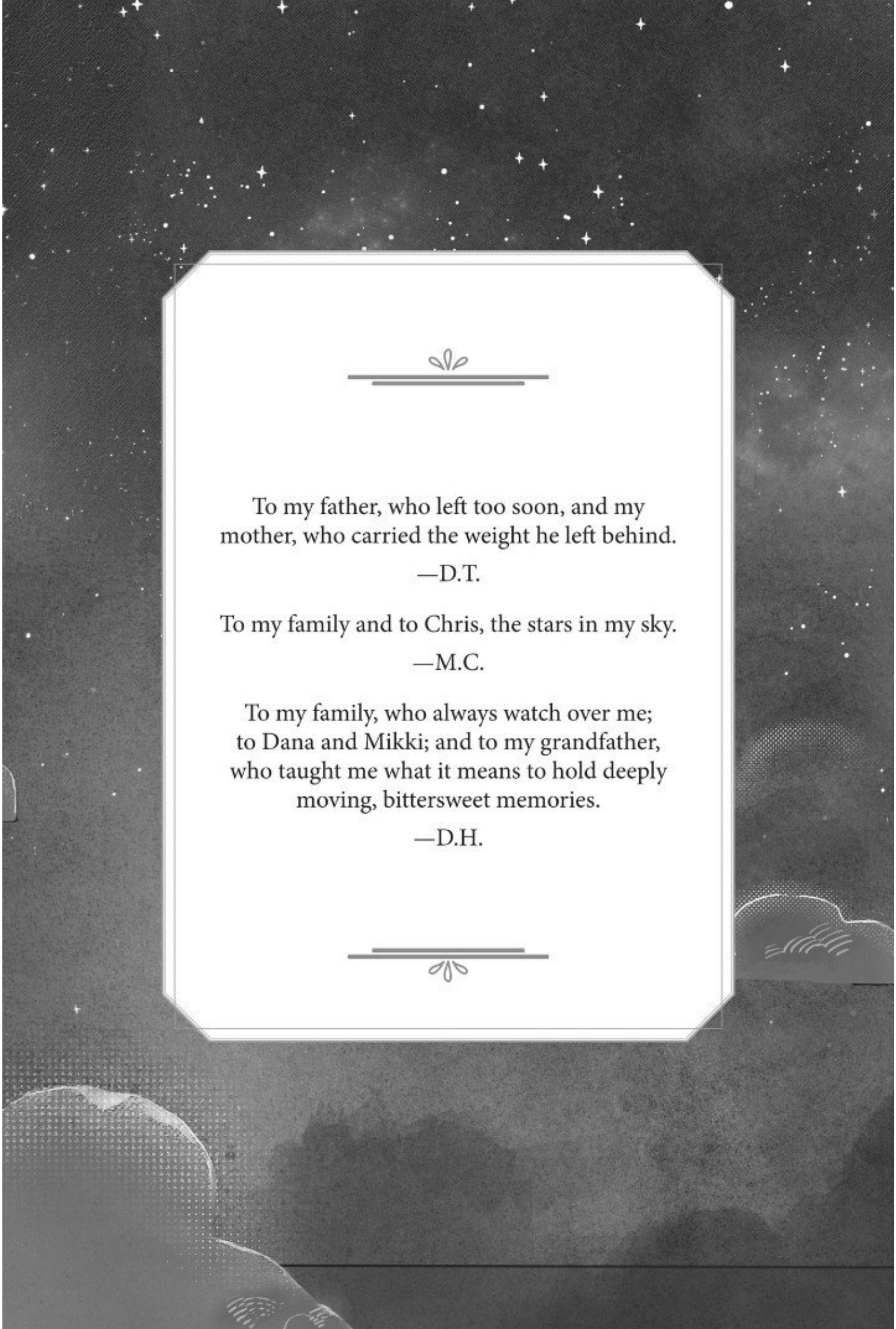
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To my father, who left too soon, and my mother, who carried the weight he left behind.

—D.T.

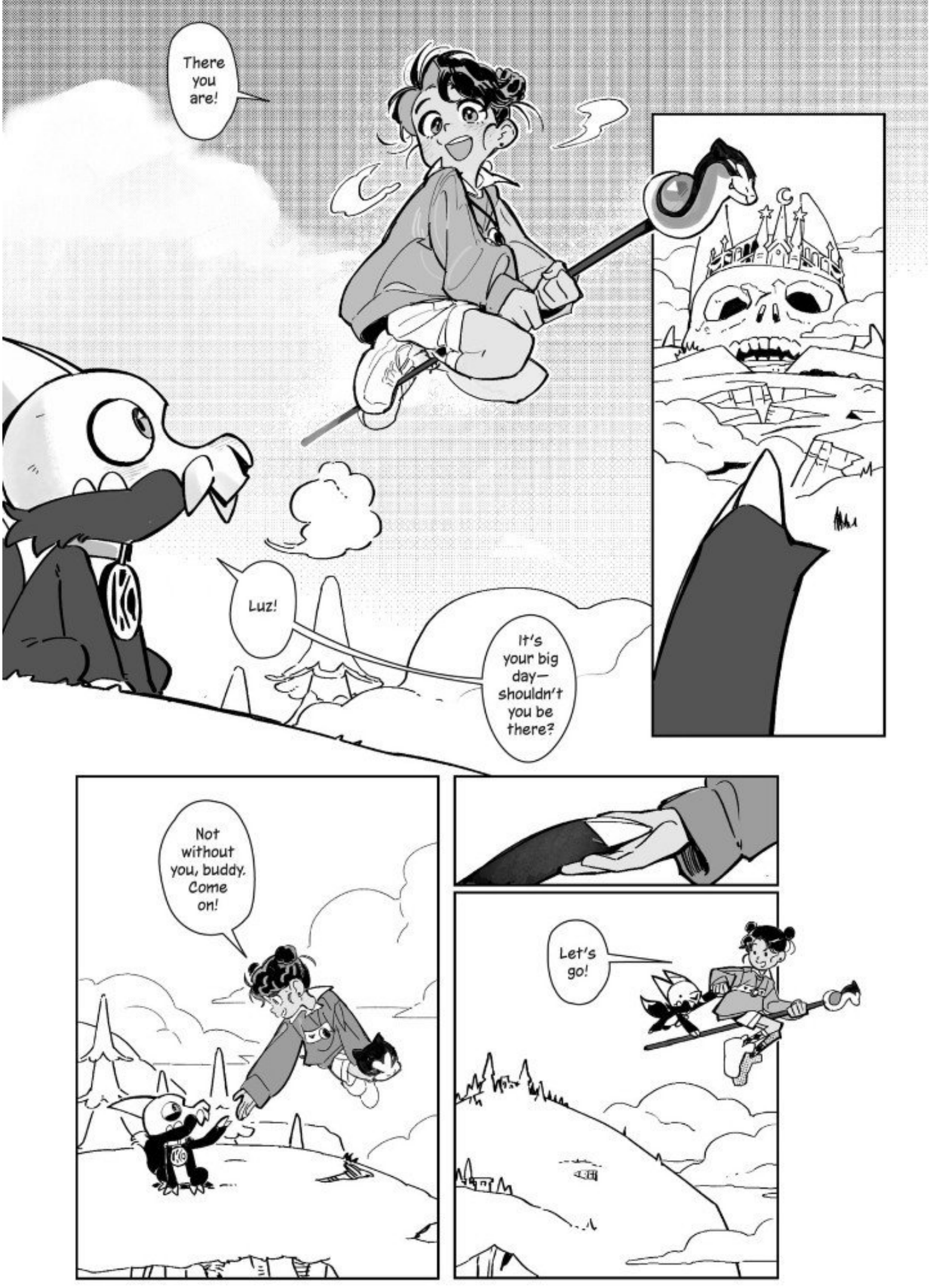
To my family and to Chris, the stars in my sky.

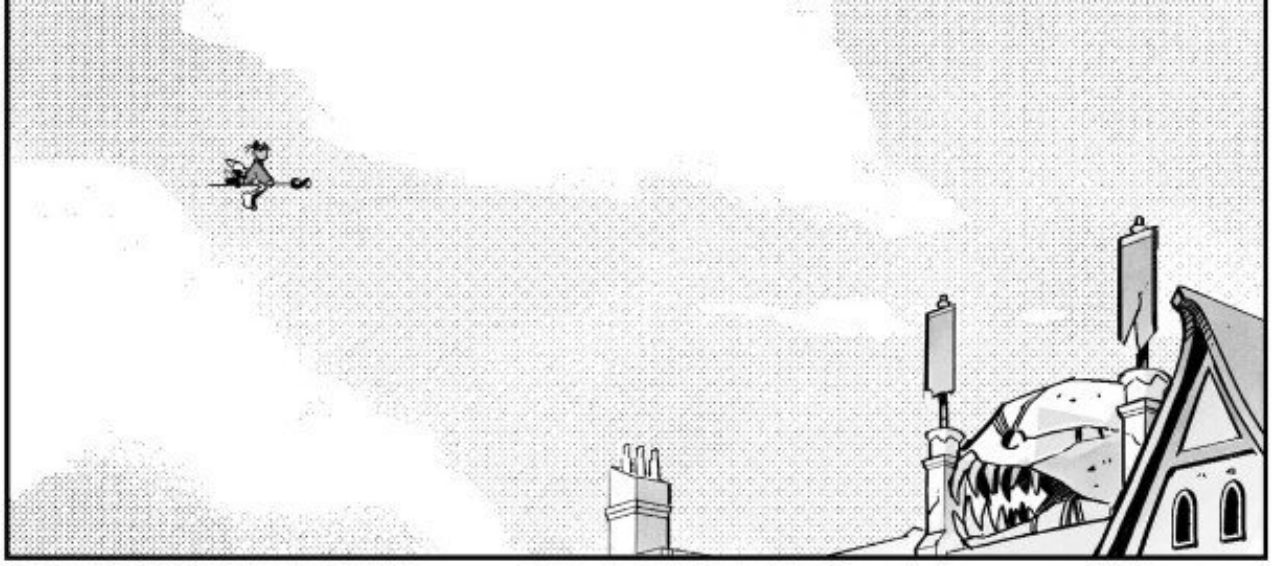
—M.C.

To my family, who always watch over me; to Dana and Mikki; and to my grandfather, who taught me what it means to hold deeply moving, bittersweet memories.

—D.H.


Boiling Isles. The Knee. Morning.
King!


There you are!
Luz!
It's your big day— shouldn't you be there?
Not without you, buddy. Come on!
Let's go!




You nervous, Luz?


Maybe a little.


But this day isn't just for me. Everyone's been working so hard.
RDED AFFAIRS
MUD & SUNDRY
POISON HUT


It's for all of us.
All right, everybody,
TIME TO HUSTLE!
Doors open in ten minutes!


BLIGHT BOY! GRIFFIN GIRL!
If you get even one griffin hair on this *pristine* floor, you won't live to see the next F on your exams.
Picking on children, Eda?
Not pickin'. *Inspirin'*. Besides, this place has gotta look good for—
Luz!


You worked your lil human butt off to get this place off the ground. I'm proud of you.
Don't forget Lilith!
She triple-checked every bit of tape, nail, and construction magic . . .
No seriously, she's watching the paint dry right now.
HMM?!
Yeah yeah, sure. I'm proud of your butt too, Lily.


What about *miiine?*
Does Hooty even *have* a booty?
NOPE. Moving on from this line of questioning.
ANYWAY.
Everyone is waiting for us. Are you ready, Luz?
Always.


Luz and I wish to thank you all for your help clearing the traps, defeating the leftover toys—
—and making the Collector's Archive House safe for everyone.
We couldn't have done it without you!
And we wouldn't want to, because this is for everyone in the Boiling Isles.

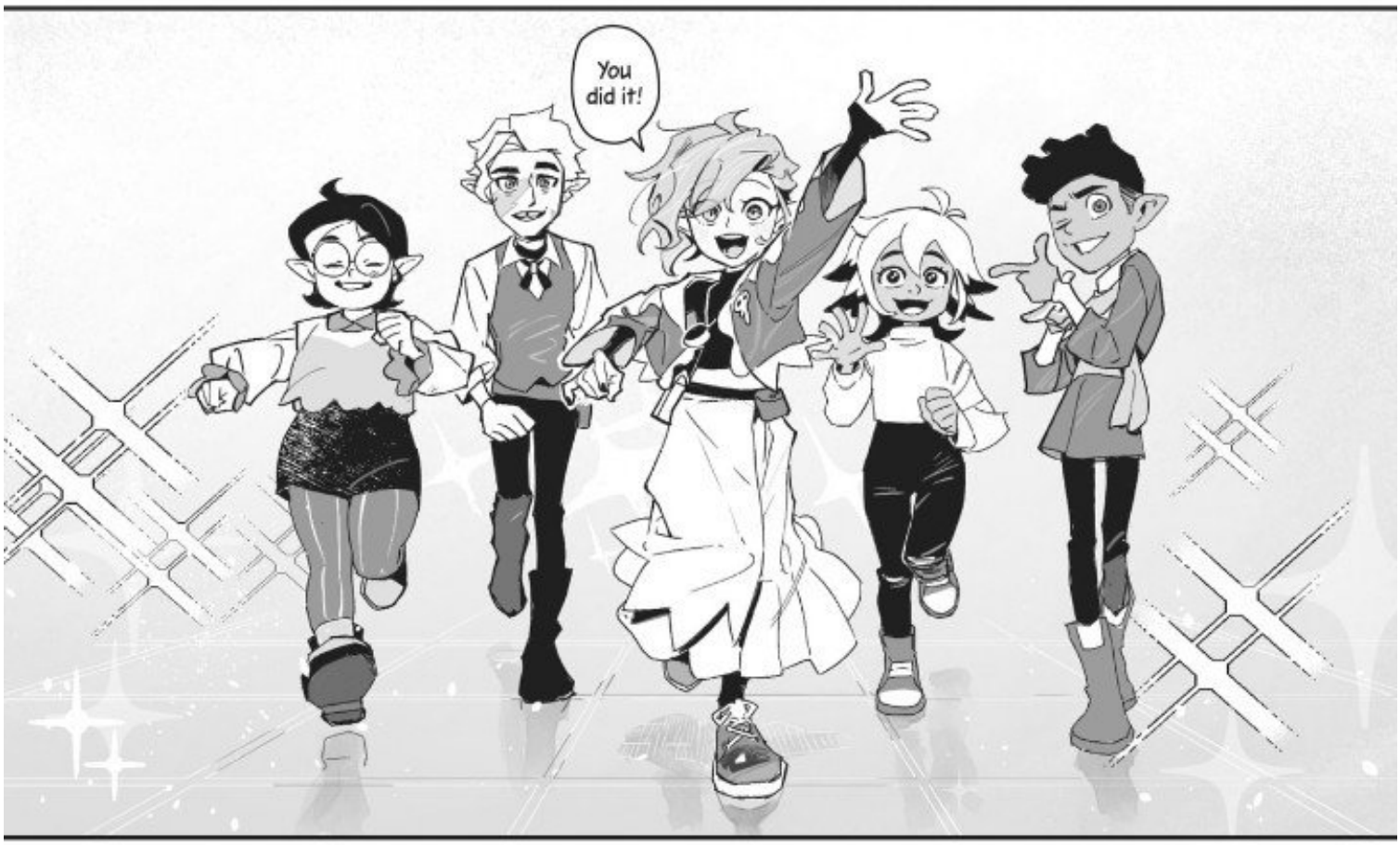

Centuries of Belos's reign have filled our past with propaganda and lies.
His tyranny cut us off from our culture, our roots, and without that we couldn't stand against him.
So we're making sure that no one can steal the past—or rob the Boiling Isles of its future ever again.






MUSEUM OF
THE BOILING ISLES
Welcome to the grand opening of the Museum of the Boiling Isles!
YAY!
CLAP CLAP
WOOHOO!


Luz!


You did it!


I'm so, so proud of you.




Congrats, Luz! I love what you've done with the place!
Yeah! It's like we didn't all almost die here.
The basilisk exhibit *RIPS!* I can't wait to show everyone.
I want to see the *Palismen Wing . . .*


Thanks, everyone! But the work's just beginning.
We want to document life after Belos.
Show how the Isles are recovering from everything he did.
There's an ancient abomination death ritual that we're bringing back. Belos forbade it centuries ago.
Abomination death ritual?
I'm IN.
Respectfully.
I can show you around the Palistrom Forest!
The new airship line's gonna connect the island, from head to toe!
Or how about my next flyer derby match?
We can grab a not dog when you're hungry or whatever.
TAP
Vee, I'm excited for that most of all.
RUMBLE
RESPECTFULLY!!!






YOUNG BLOOD,
OLD SOULS:
HEXSIDE'S HEROES.


YOUNG BLOOD,
OLD SOULS:
HEXSIDE'S HEROES.


Ah, where did the time go? Look at them.
Babies! Babb-os!
Little . . . little biblings. Bibliotecas.
That's not what that means, Eda. Also I get the point.
Except for you. You're still exactly the same pint-sized fur ball I found wandering the wilderness.
We'll see who's pint-sized when I'm as big as a whole island!
Well, you got me there. But I won't be seeing that.
A full-grown Titan is kind of hard to miss.


Yeah, but who knows when your first growth spurt's gonna hit? Could be centuries!
We'll all be worm mulch and bone dust by then.
Weh?
Them's the perks of living forever, eh?
Worm mulch . . .


. . . and bone dust . . . ?


Do you hear that? It sounds like music. Bad music . . .
There!
Crap! We missed one of the Collector's toys!




CRASH!!

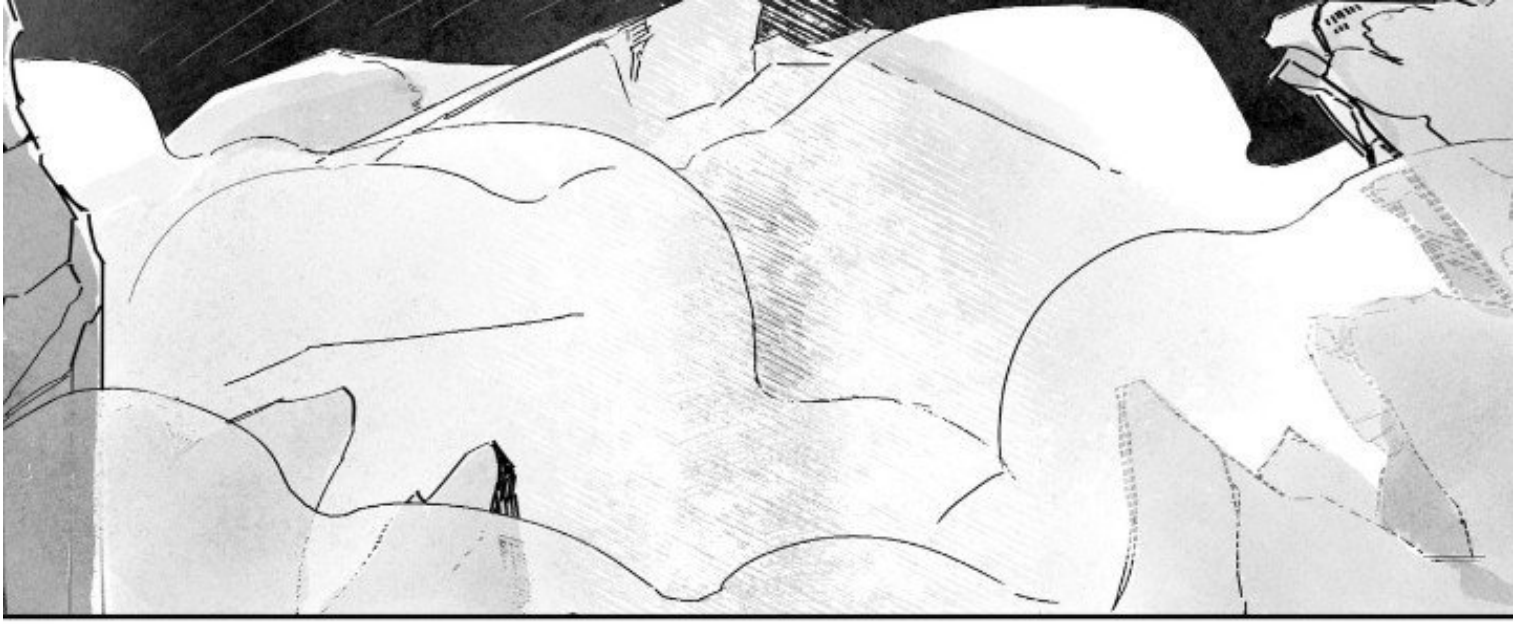

Raine! The pillars!


Eda, you'll get trapped!


NOW, DAMMIT, NOW!




EDA!!!
Hold on!





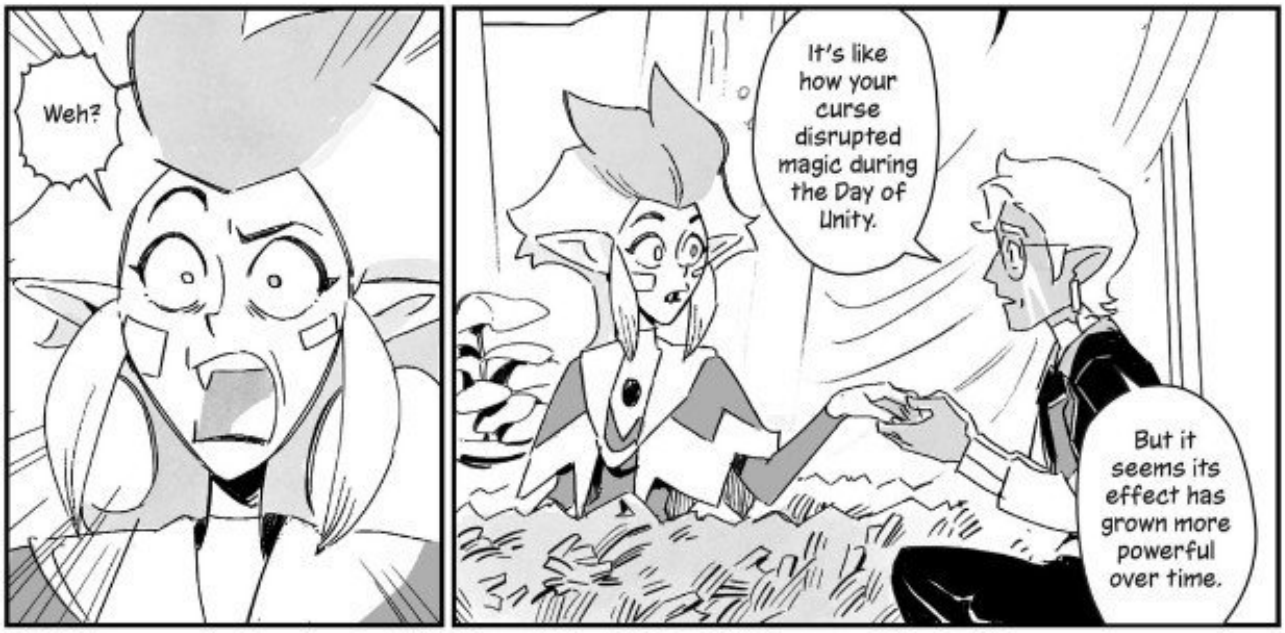

Heh.


you should see the other guy.

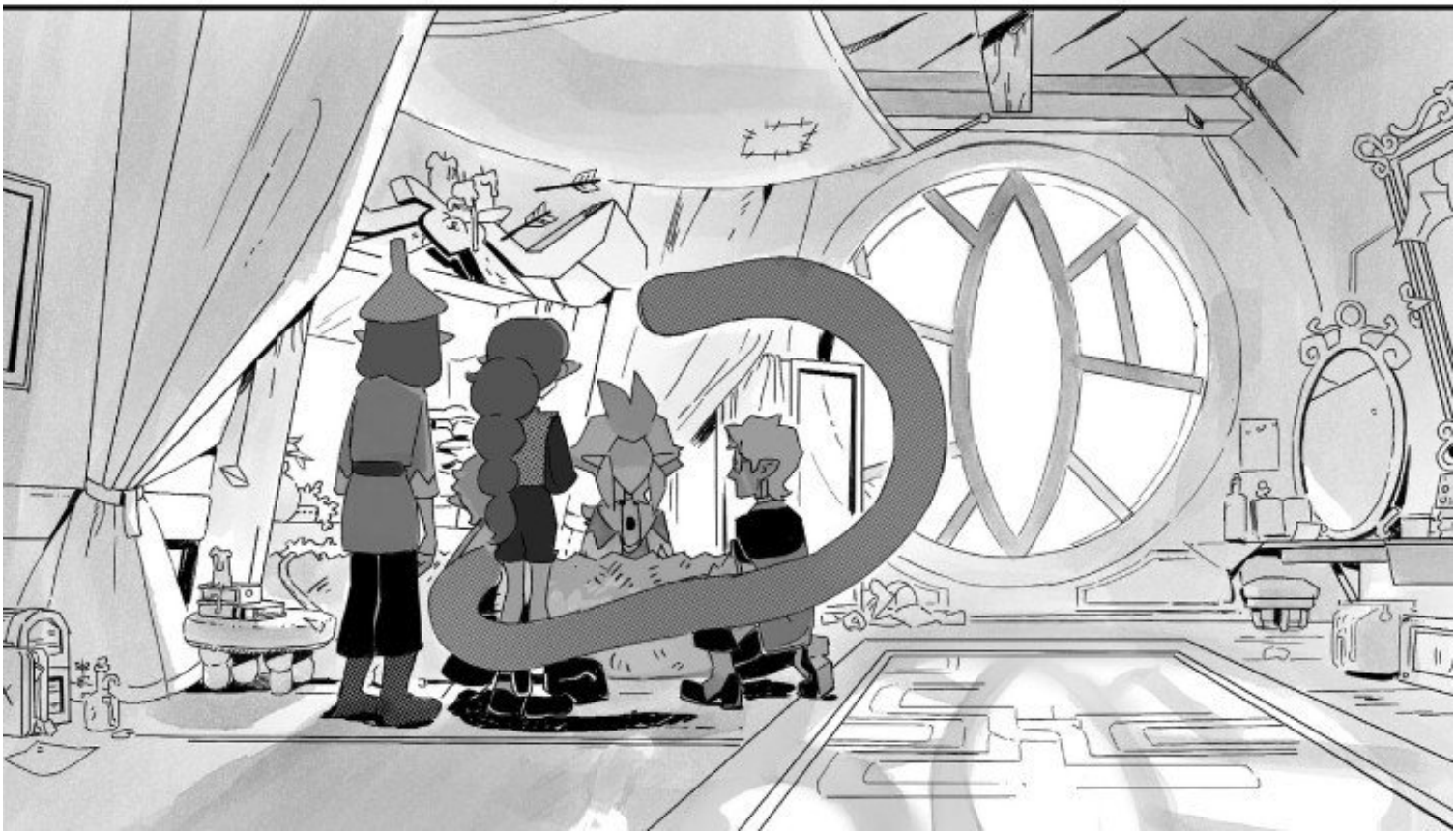

Eda . . .
I think you *are* the other guy.
Ah shi—
EDA!!!


Edalyn! You're awake!
If it isn't all of my favorite people—
—and Morton.

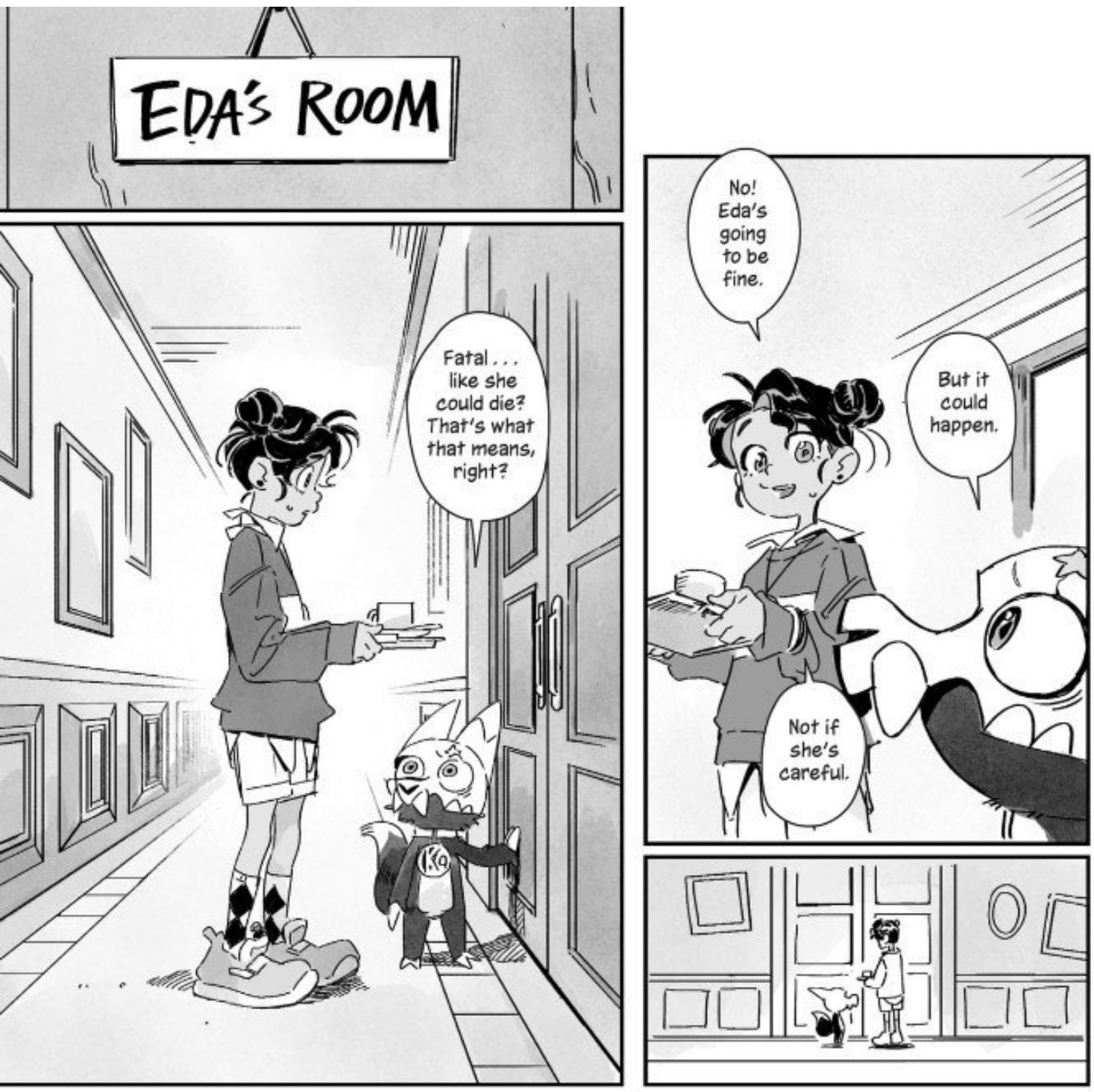

If this is another apple-blood intervention—
AGH!
Agh . . . my leg!!!
Anyone wanna fire up some healing magic and help an owl-gal out?
What's with your faces? Out with it!
Ms. Eda, we tried to heal you with magic . . .
. . . and potions . . .
BUT NOTHING WORKED!
They think it's because of the curse.
Our curse.

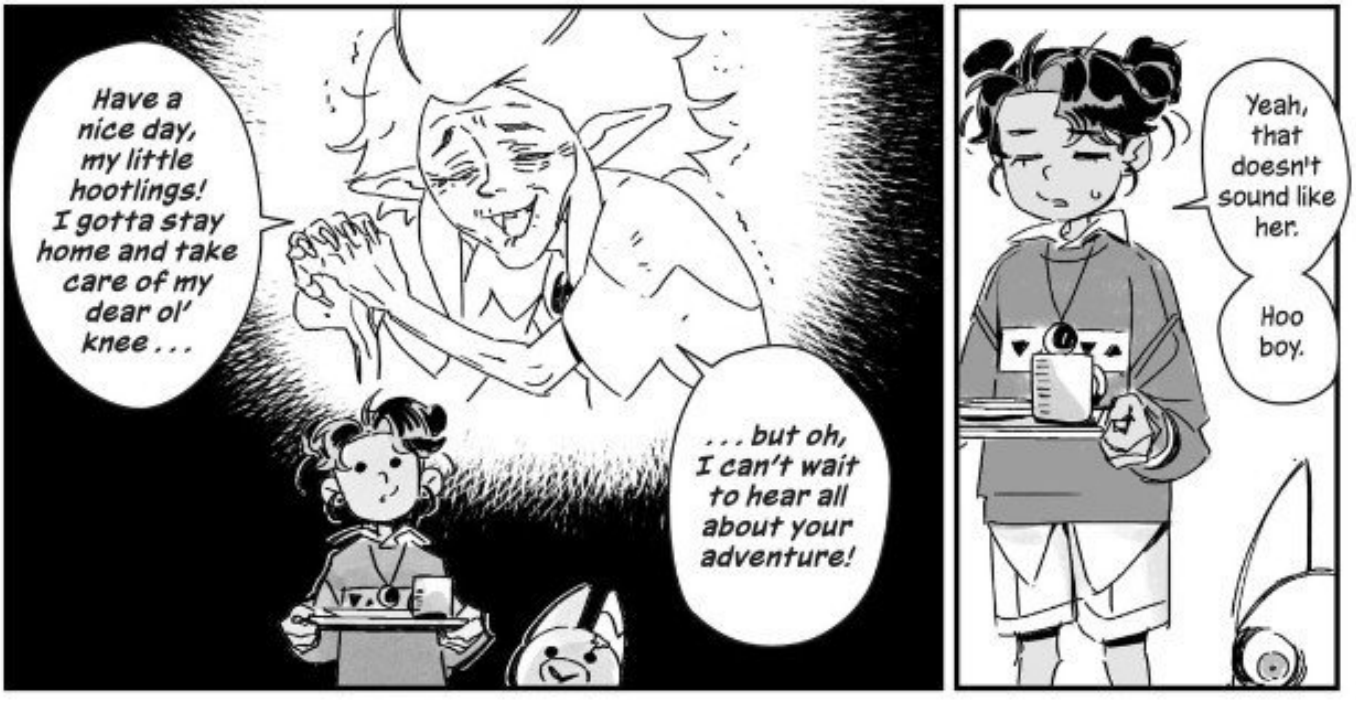

Weh?
It's like how your curse disrupted magic during the Day of Unity.
But it seems its effect has grown more powerful over time.


You mean . . . one day, magic won't work on me at all?




But I'll still be able to turn into a sexy harpy, right?
GREAT question.
Morton?
I have no idea and no desire to be a part of this conversation.
Try to take this situation a little seriously, Edalyn.
What, I'm supposed to start crying just because this curse found another way to be a gigantic pain in the butt?
Oh, I know. You're worried about it happening to you!
Is that a problem, dear sister?
DON'T YOU DEAR SISTER ME. NEED I REMIND YOU—
Like me and Edric sometimes . . . haha . . .
HOOT!
Thank you, Hooty.
Eda, if you can't rely on healing magic, the next time you get hurt . . .
. . . it could be fatal.


EDA's ROOM
Fatal . . . like she could die? That's what that means, right?
No! Eda's going to be fine.
But it could happen.
Not if she's careful.


Have a nice day, my little hootlings! I gotta stay home and take care of my dear ol' knee . . .
. . . but oh, I can't wait to hear all about your adventure!
Yeah, that doesn't sound like her.
Hoo boy.

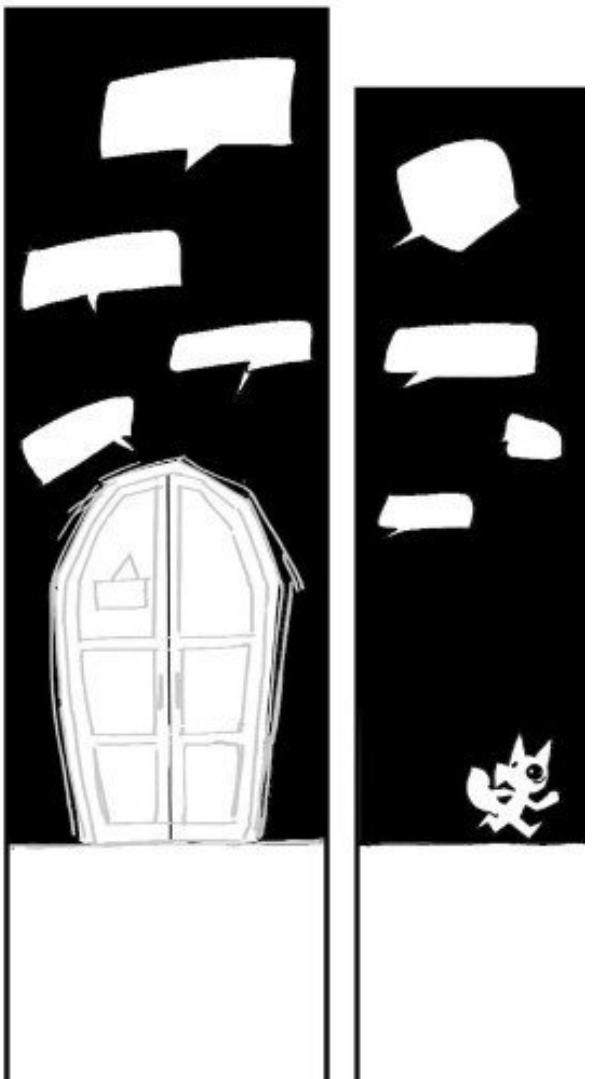

...
King!
LUZ!

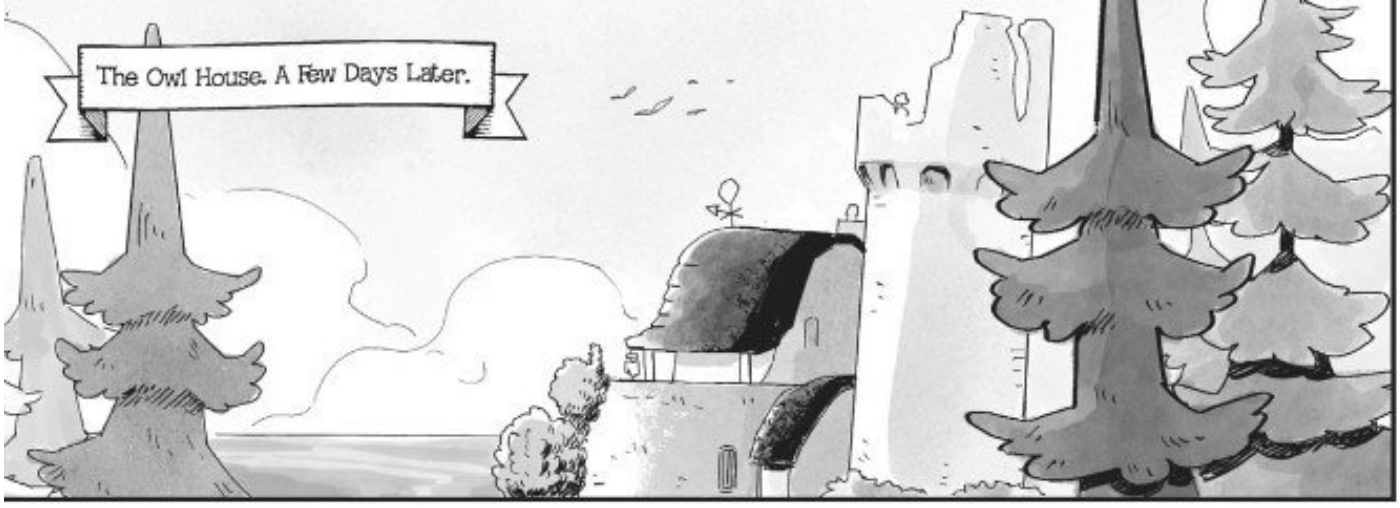

I came as fast as I could!
MAMA!
Hola, King.
Hola, *mija.* Where's the patient?
I'll show you.
I hear there's a bird with a broken leg—


¡Ay, no! I'm a vet for *animals.*
NOT a doctor for people.
This better?




WAIT, YOU DIDN'T TELL ME NEEDLES WOULD BE INVOLVED!
GRAB HER LEG!
Eda, hold still—
MR. HOOTY! We need you!
I'LL DO ANYTHING FOR YOU, MOM!




The Owl House. A Few Days Later.


AZURA


Morning, buddy—


XX.XXX.XX




¡Hola, batata! I hope Eda's doing better.
It would have been nice to watch the ritual with you, but I'll take lots of pictures.
Love you!
Luz! Sure you can't join us on the airship's maiden voyage?
It's gonna be sick.
By sick, I mean cool and also the gross kind, because Mattholomule can't hold his lunch—
LUUUUZ! Send my wishes to Eda.
We just had our game. I'll save you the best seats in the house next time!
Let me know if you still want to drop by the forest!
You're welcome whenever.
Phew!


Eda!
I've found a few more pillows for you!
Because the first two hundred weren't enough?
And ta-da!
Mom says you still can't leave the house, but you can start walking around on this cute little number!
I'm fine, okay? My leg may be toasted, but I can still fly back to the Crown.
The Crown?! Why do you wanna go back up there?
That freak-in-a-box is still out there. And the Owl Lady's got a rep to uphold . . .
. . . know what I mean?


I guess not.
Didn't you have some nerd stuff to see with your nerd friends?
It sounded like it was gonna be a real hoot.
Hoo!
I can't make any of 'em. But it's fine, there's always next time.
But this is for your first special exhibit!
You're gonna miss out on some valuable knowledge and traveling with your pals?
Luz, you simply gotta go!


Listen, Luz, I couldn't stub a toe in here if I tried.
So you might as well go see the world while I can't.
No sense in both of us being stuck in here, right?
HMMMMMMMM
Okay. But only if you'll use this!
Mama said you have to stay off your feet.
Mama knows best. And so does Mama Noceda.
Pinkie promise?
Yeah, yeah, Titan's sake . . .


King!
Weh?


I'm gonna go meet up with Amity and the others after all!
Wanna come?
Sounds like fun!
You look like you're having a good day. Where've *you* been this morning?
I dunno. Just feeling good.
At least one of us is. I'm still worried about Eda's leg.
What leg?
:SQUEAK:
Ah, right! We're gonna miss Amity!
Let's fly, Stringbean!


Finally!
I've had warts that were easier to get rid of!
AGGHH!
Crap . . .
Damn it.

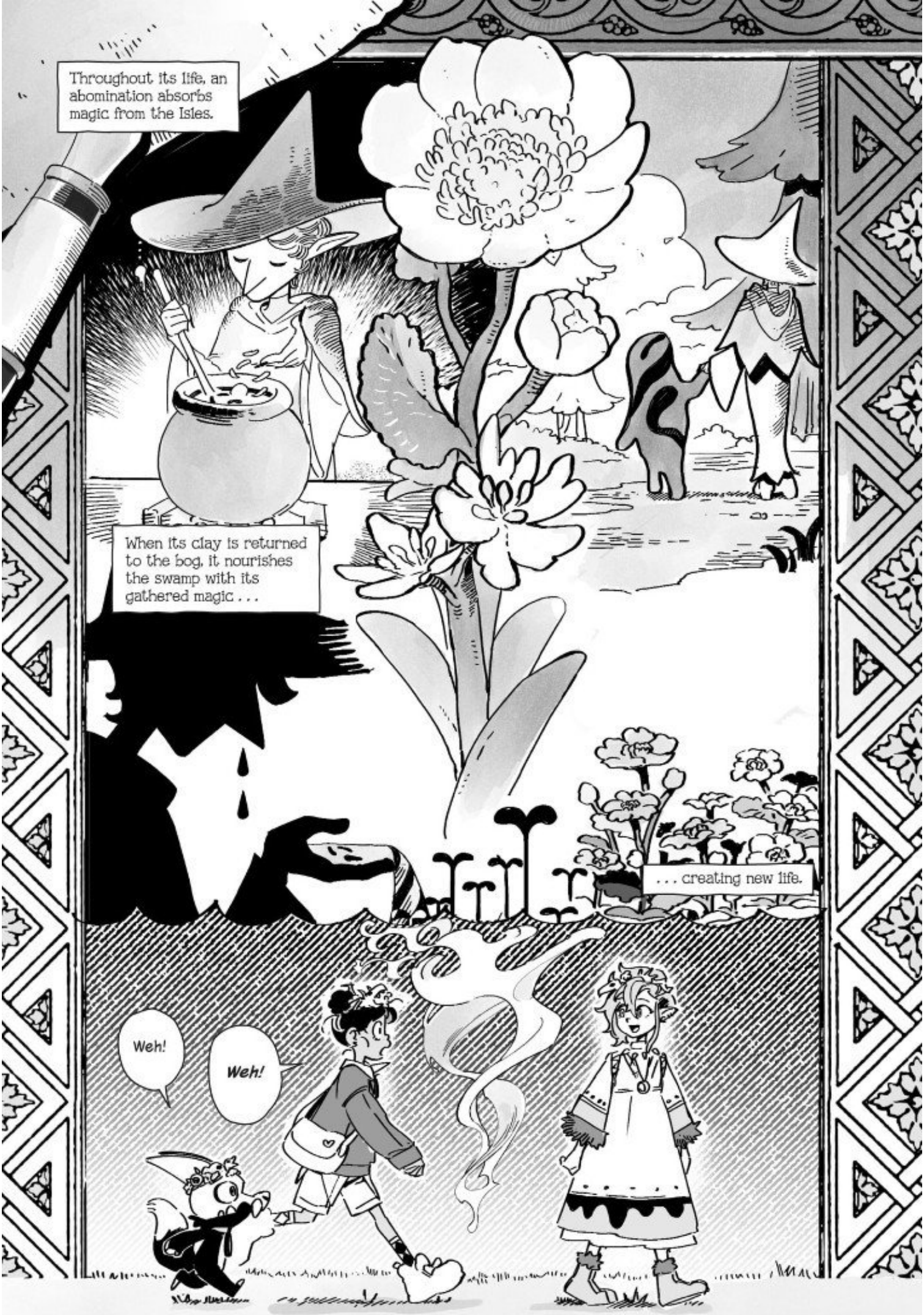

Boiling Isles.





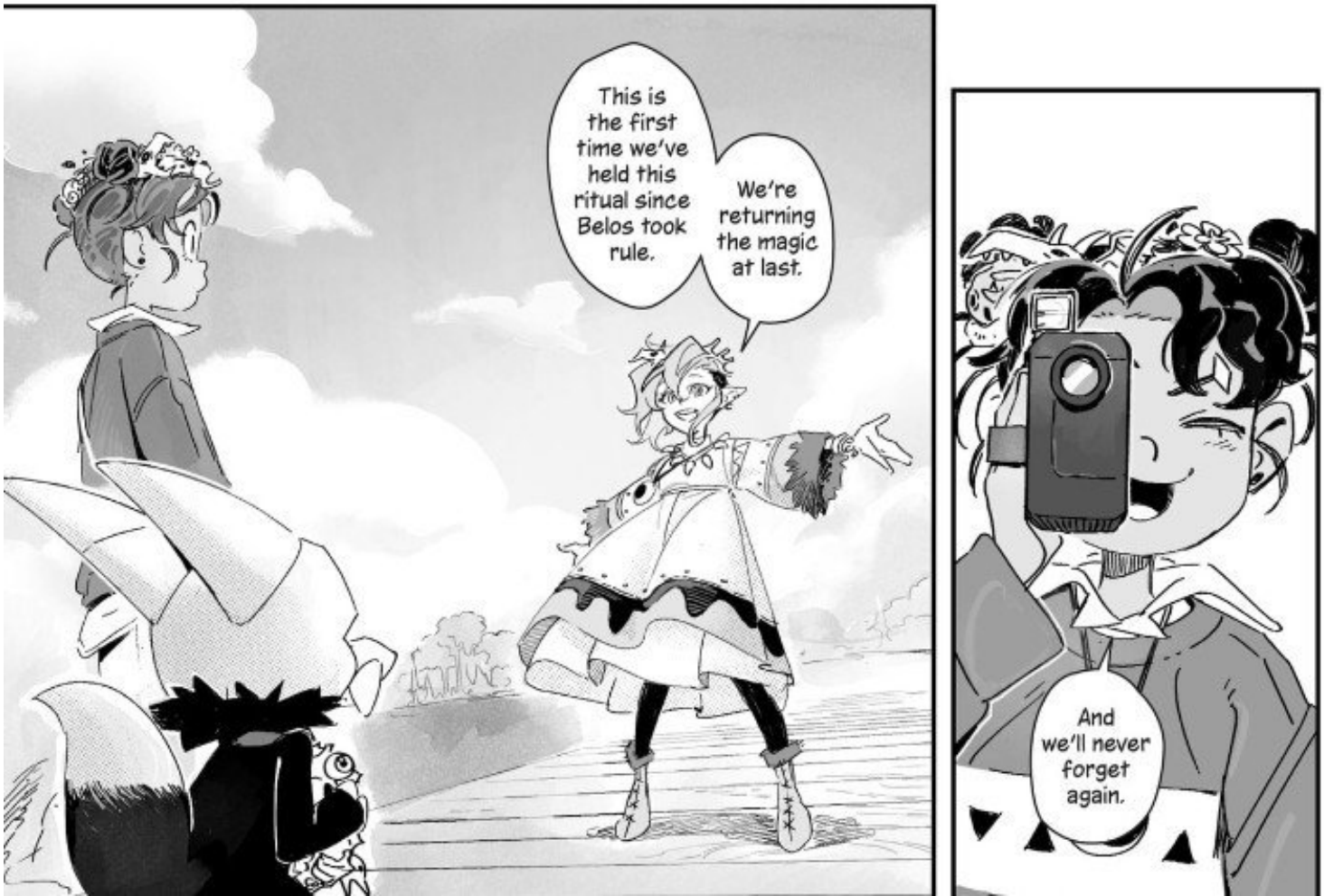

Boiling Isles Swamp.


You made it!
We're just getting to the most arcane part.
I love rituals! The arcanier the better.
So what do abominations do once they've retired?
Play Hexes Hold 'Em all day?


Throughout its life, an abomination absorbs magic from the Isles.
When its clay is returned to the bog, it nourishes the swamp with its gathered magic . . .
. . . creating new life.
Weh!
Weh!


Wow. I didn't know any of this.
I didn't either. My dad had to tell me about it.


Belos outlawed abomination funerals . . .
. . . forcing witches to use abominations until they dried up and withered away.
I-i-it's a funeral?


This is the first time we've held this ritual since Belos took rule.
We're returning the magic at last.
And we'll never forget again.








Good-bye, old friend. Live on in the world.
GGRRROOHANNN












No . . .
no!


I'm
here!


Don't
leave
me . . .


King!
King, you're gonna fall in!
If you're not feeling well—
I'm fine! I'll just . . . I'll be right back.
Did something happen?
I'm not sure.


Palistrom Grove.

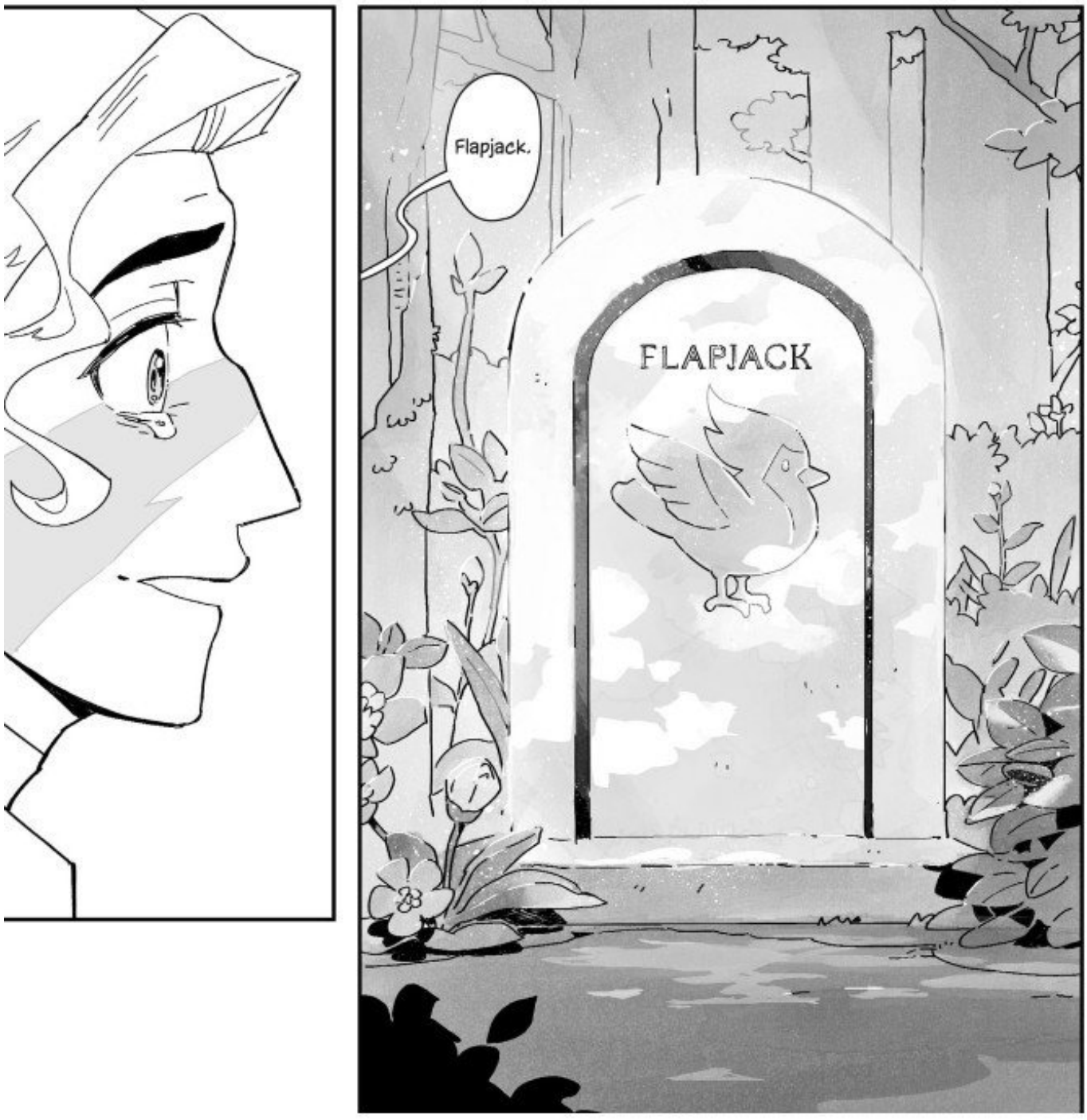

Welcome to the Palistrom Grove!


REC
Hunter, this is incredible!
We've been helping Dell restore the Palistrom Forest.
You're just in time for our first ever harvest!
Palisman eggs!
Stringbean, look! This used to be you!
I heard you gave your palisman the freedom to choose its form.
It only seems fair to let the new generation choose as well.
It's a new dawn for palismen.
And those who have yet to find homes still have a pretty eventful life thanks to these two.
Last one to the Bat Queen is a rotten giraffe egg!
Honey, please play nice.

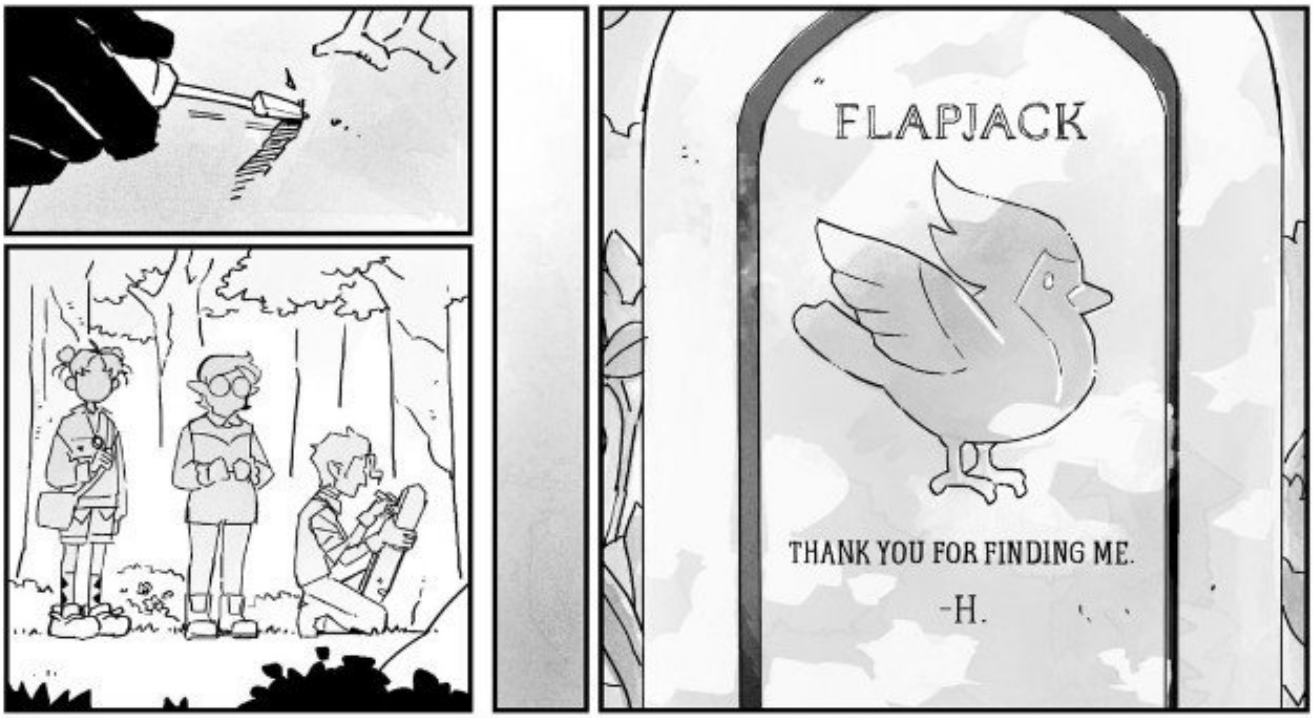

Hun—
Hunter!


Hunter. We've got something to show you.




Flapjack.
FLAPJACK

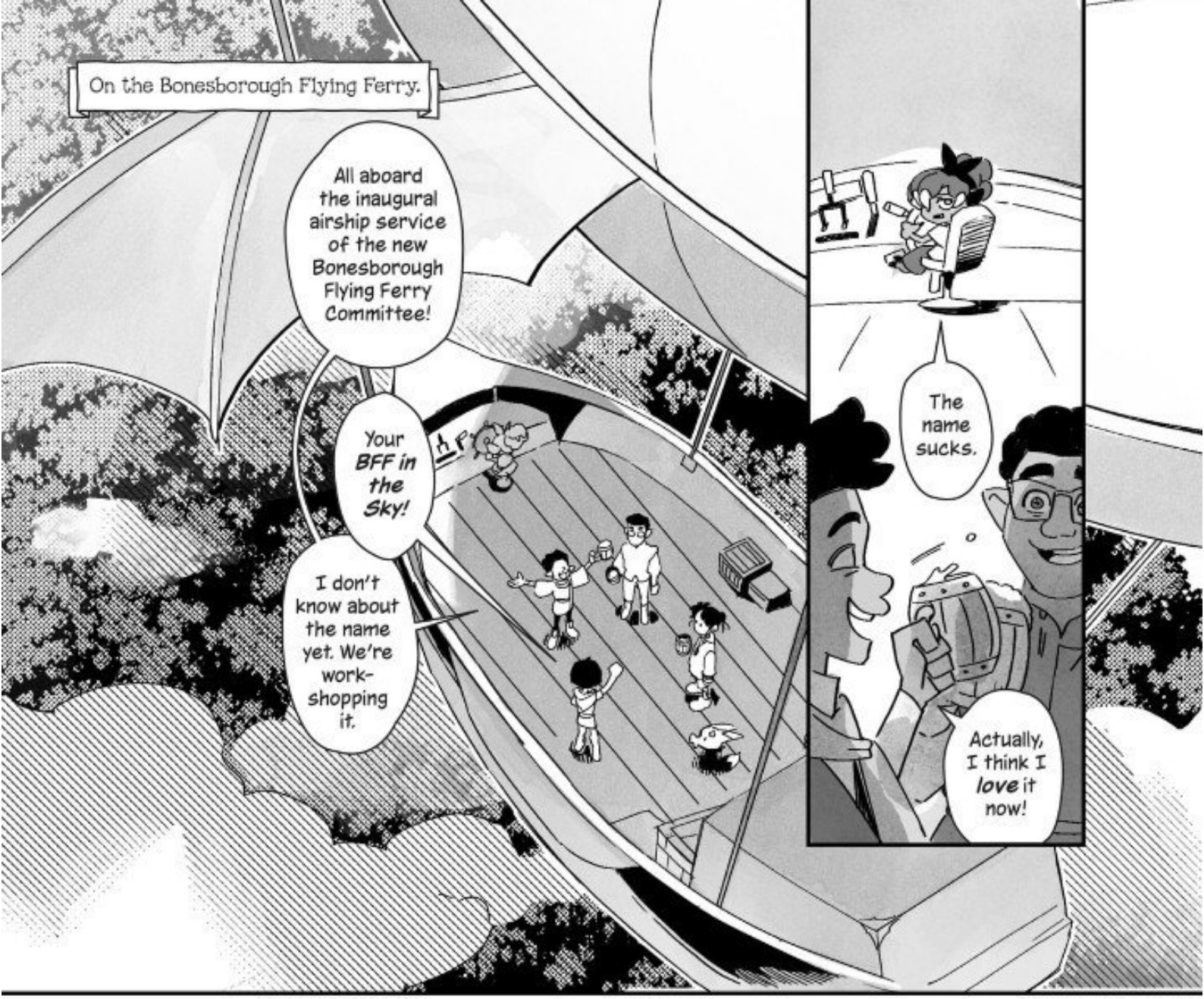

I know you still miss him.
We thought he might like to rest here, to watch over the others.
Do . . . do you like it?
Willow, it's perfect.
Just one thing . . .


FLAPJACK
THANK YOU FOR FINDING ME.
-H.




WWMMMM
WWMMMM
WWMMMM
KO




On the Bonesborough Flying Ferry.
All aboard the inaugural airship service of the new Bonesborough Flying Ferry Committee!
Your BFF in the Sky!
I don't know about the name yet. We're work-shopping it.
The name sucks.
Actually, I think I love it now!


Hehe, me too!
What?


I didn't mean to stare . . .
. . . but, like . . .
. . . you've been acting weird all day. Is something bothering you?
No. I feel good. Great, even! You can leave me alone now.
King, if you—
—wanna talk about my fee-fees? Maybe I don't!
Maybe I don't have any except the good kind today. Is that okay?
Look . . .
I just . . .
. . . don't feel like talking right now, okay?
I'm . . . just tired. Think I'm just gonna take a nap.
Sure, buddy. I'll be right here.

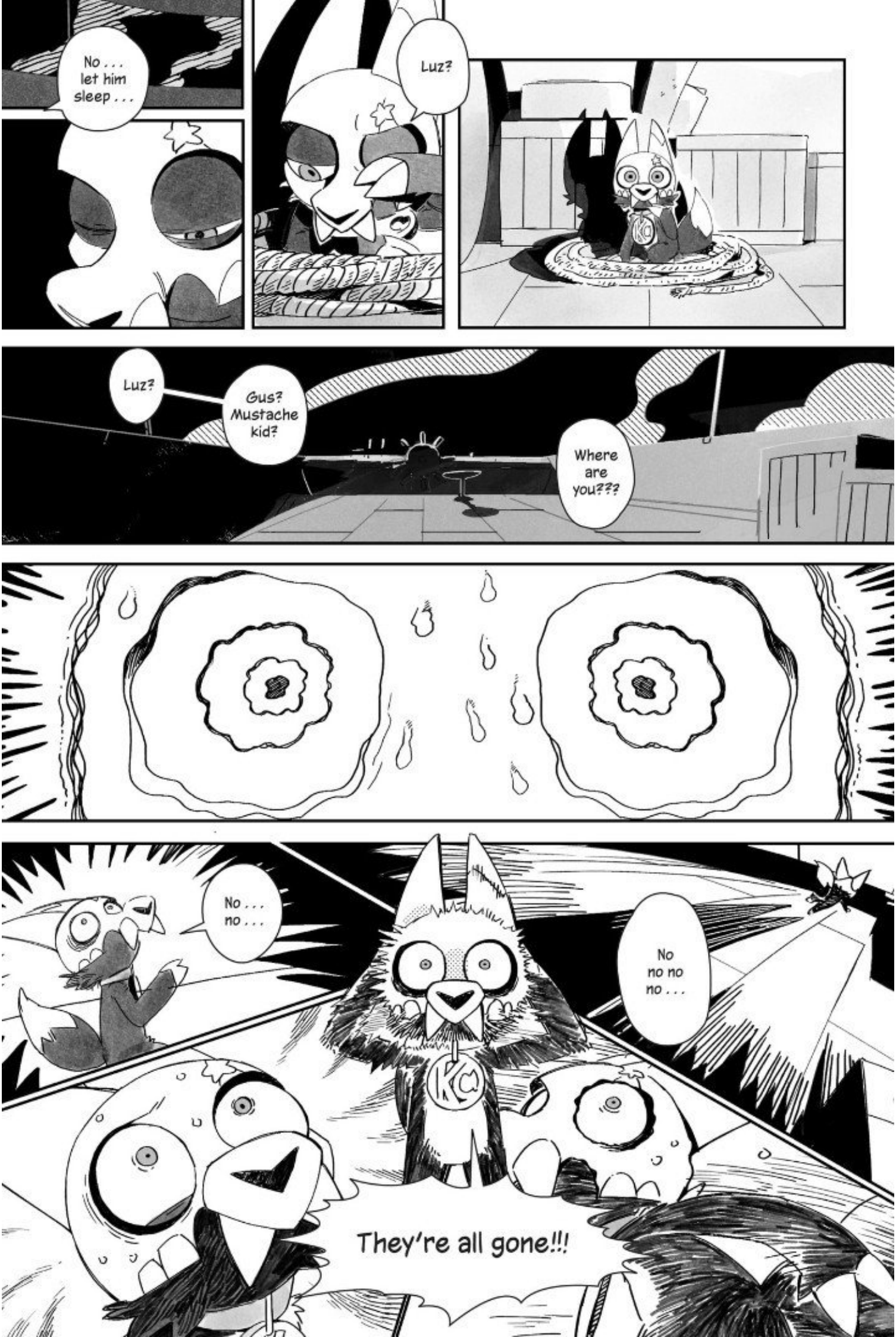

First stop: Latissa!
Gas masks available on request. Highly encouraged.


Wanna swing by Glandus High?
I don't think that's a great idea . . .


You know they turned Gus into a local ghost story!
The Hexside Terror, the Manipulator of Mist, the Graveyard Boy—
Say another word, and I will end you, Tholomule.
Gus, I have a feeling you could do a lot of damage if you were evil.

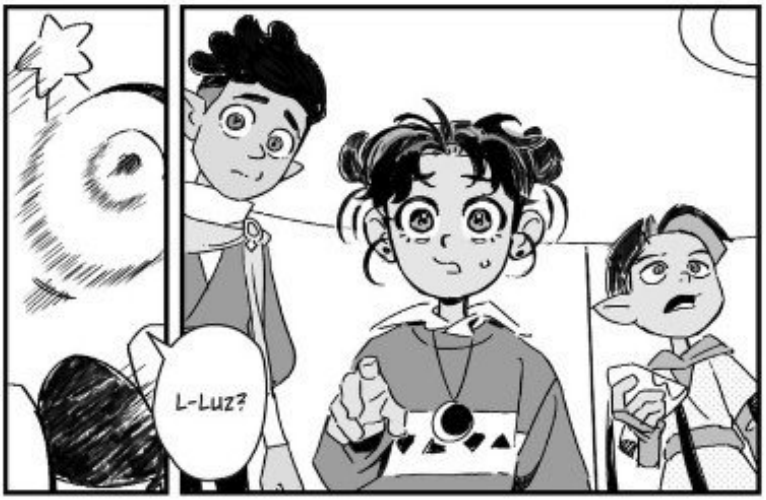

Everyone should be thanking their lucky stars I'm very anti-evil.
Hehe.


Should we wake him up?


No . . . let him sleep . . .
Luz?
Luz?
Gus? Mustache kid?
Where are you???
No . . . no . . .
No no no no . . .
They're all gone!!!


I'm alone . . .
Everyone is gone.
WEH!!!
WEHHHHHHHH!!!


King!
You're having a nightmare!


L-Luz?


Hey, I'm sorry, I— We just left to grab some food.
I— I thought you'd prefer to be left alone—







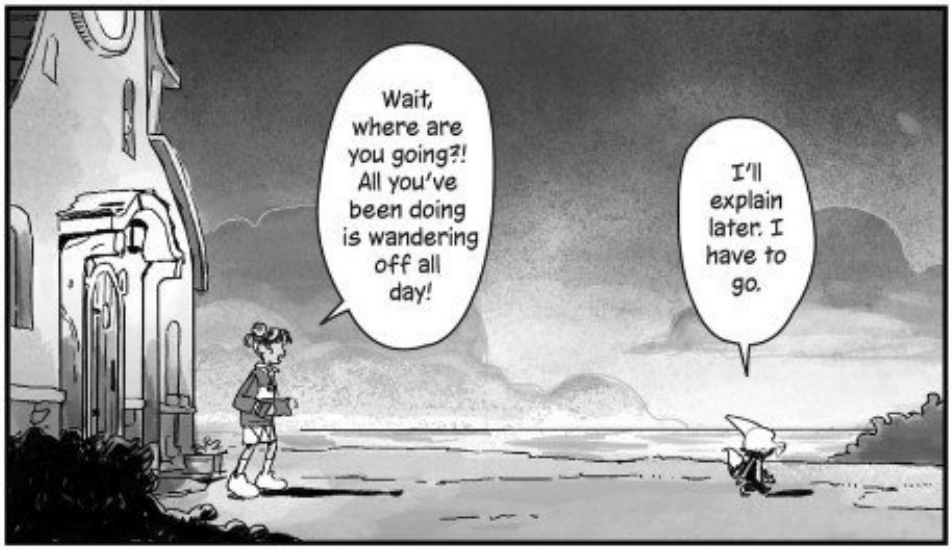


SOB

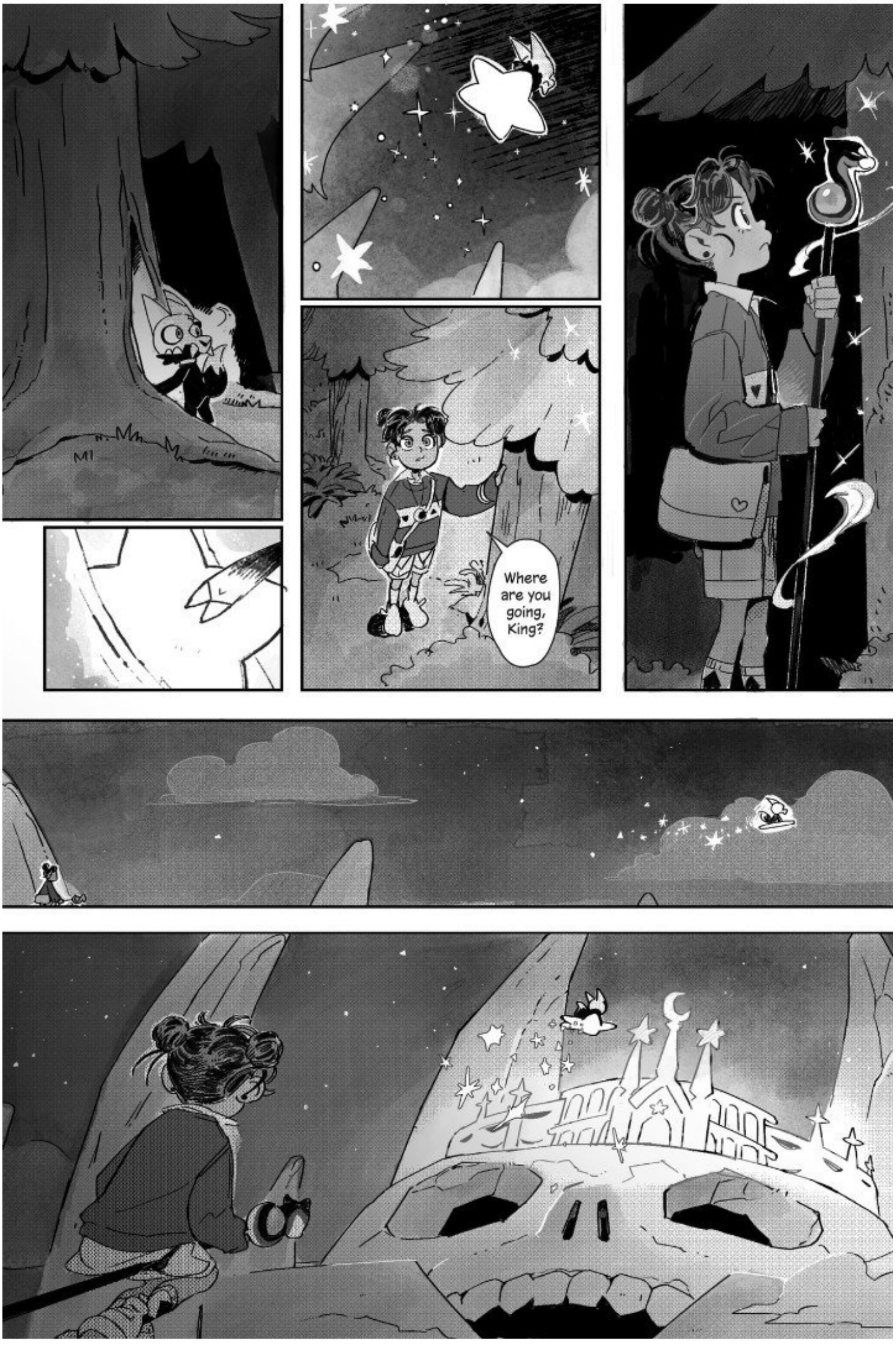



We're home.

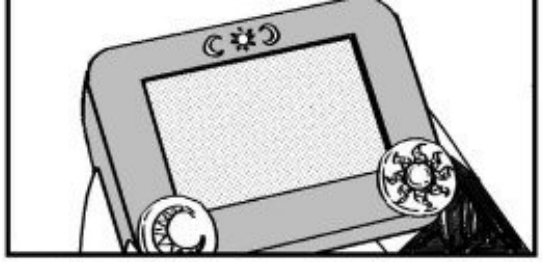

King?


Wait, where are you going?! All you've been doing is wandering off all day!
I'll explain later. I have to go.

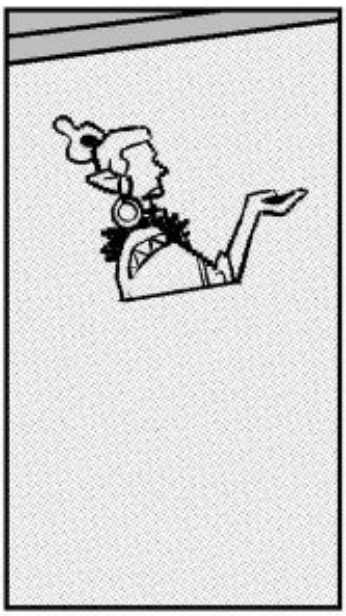

KING!


Where are you going, King?


Come on,
come on,
come on . . .



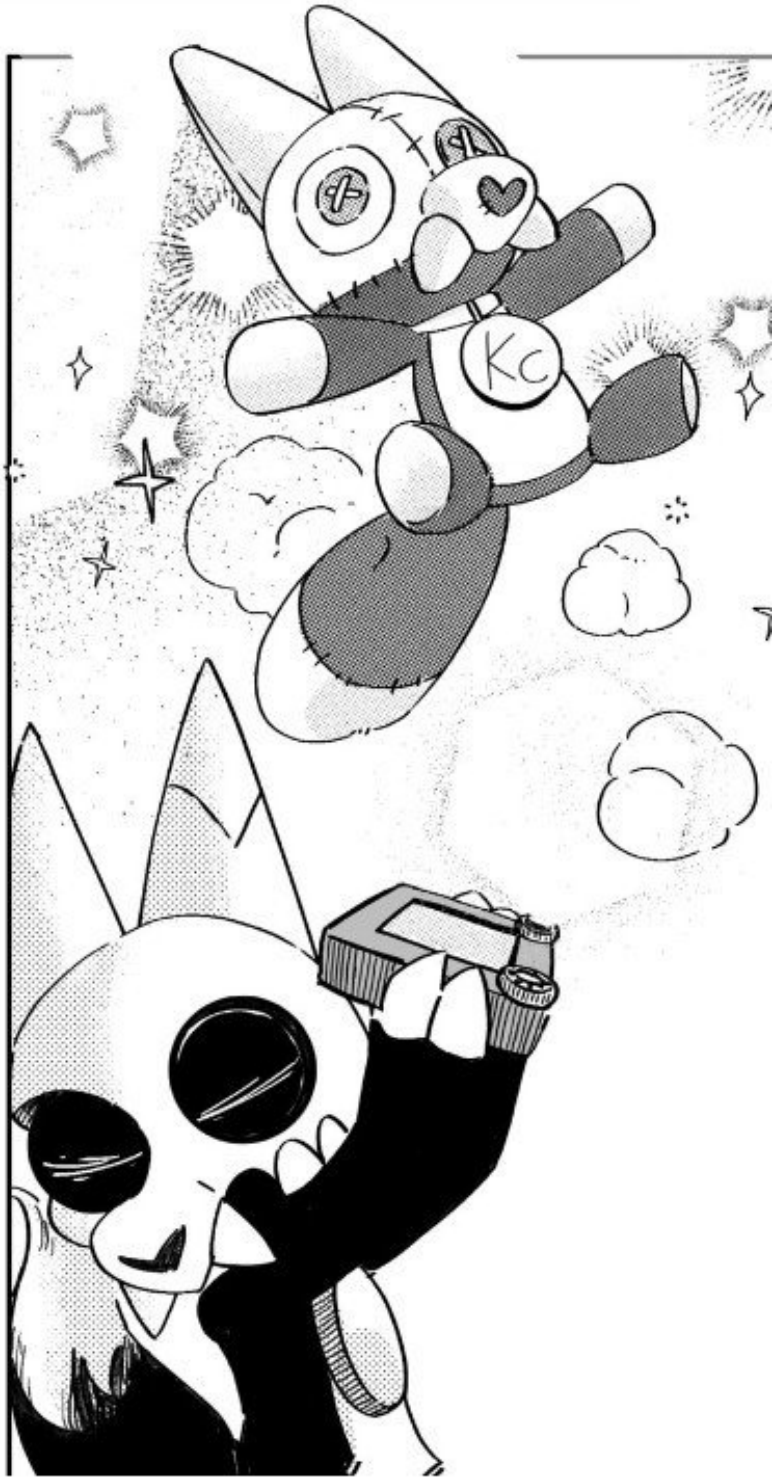




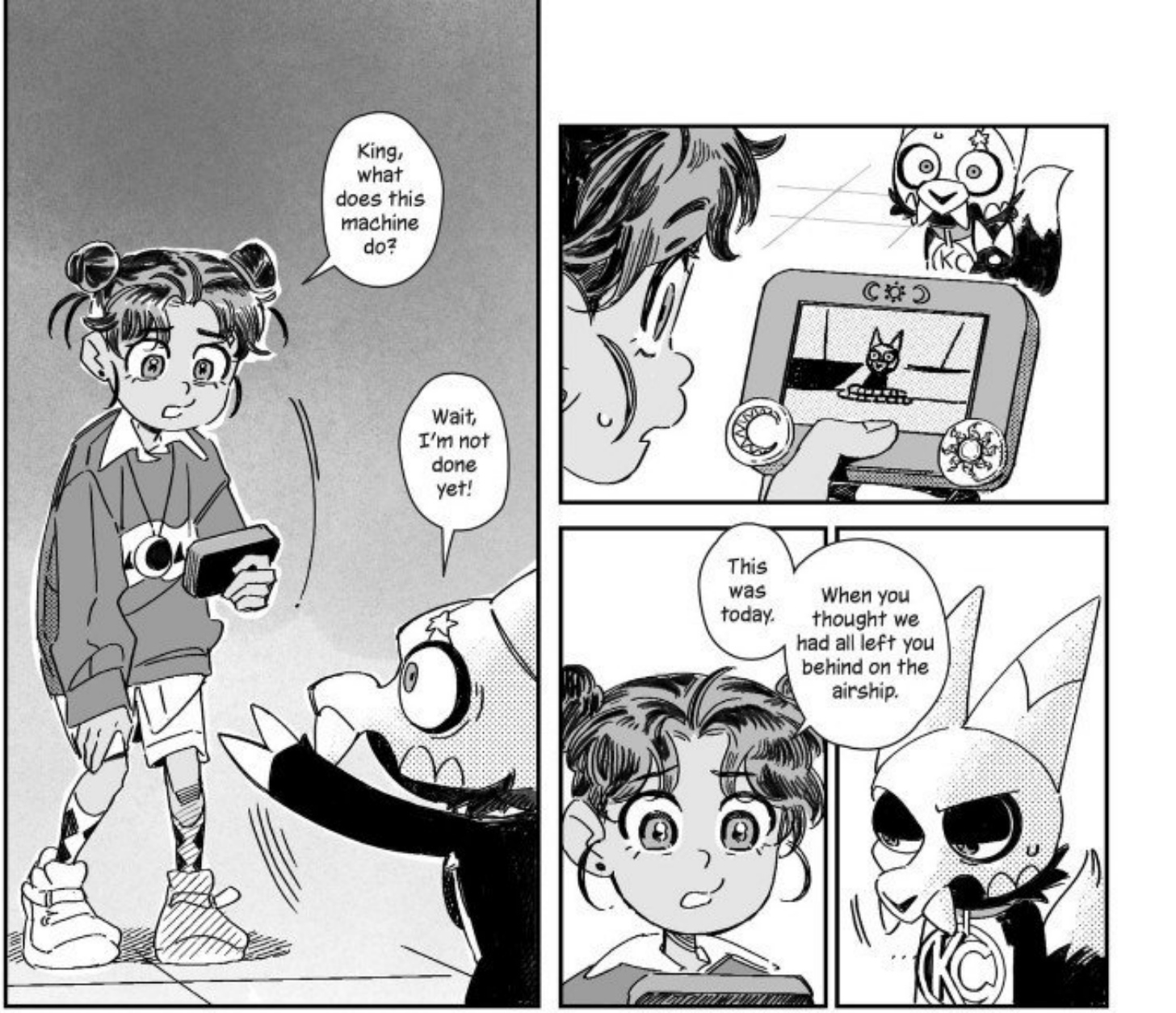





Memory, begone!

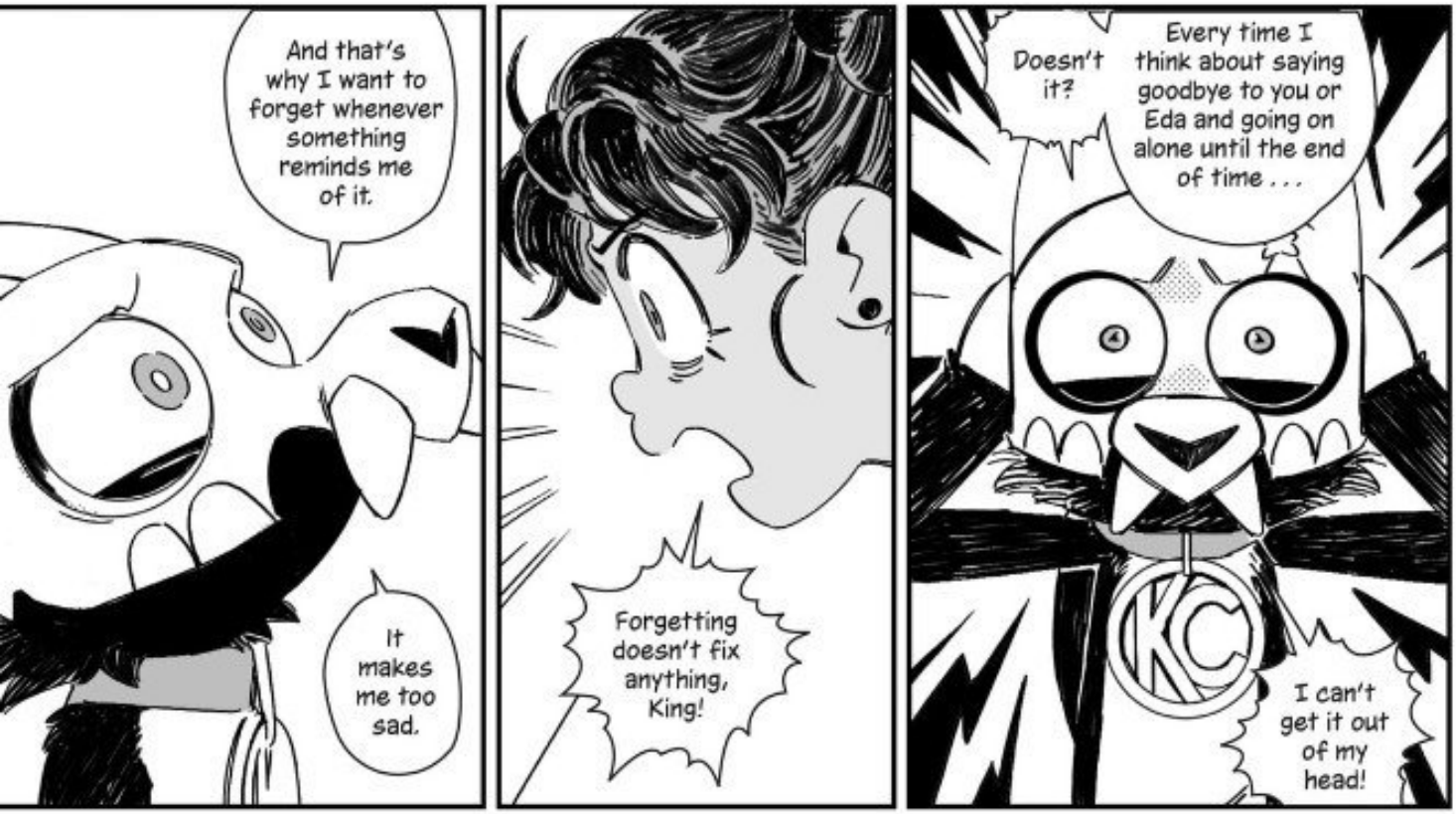

Kc


Next.
King . . . what is that thing?
Luz!
Wh-what are you doing here?


King, what does this machine do?
Wait, I'm not done yet!
This was today.
When you thought we had all left you behind on the airship.


What does this device do, King?


You're all going to leave me.
I'm a Titan, Luz.
You're all going to grow old and die, and I'm going to be left alone.


And that's why I want to forget whenever something reminds me of it.
It makes me too sad.
Forgetting doesn't fix anything, King!
Doesn't it?
Every time I think about saying goodbye to you or Eda and going on alone until the end of time . . .
I can't get it out of my head!


But with this thing . . .
. . . I can *literally* get it out of my head.
I can be happy again.


You've been using this . . .
. . . to erase your memories?
I've been using it to keep myself from falling apart!
Let me erase this one . . .
Please let me forget . . .
King . . .
CRACKLE
WHA!!!
EDA???


Why aren't you at home? How did you get here? Have you been here all—
Oh! Uh. Well, this is awkward.
Details, details! What's important is, I'm about to kick this guy's butt.
And I brought the crutch!
Soooo, ya know. Pinkie promise kept!
Scold me later.
I wanna enjoy this.

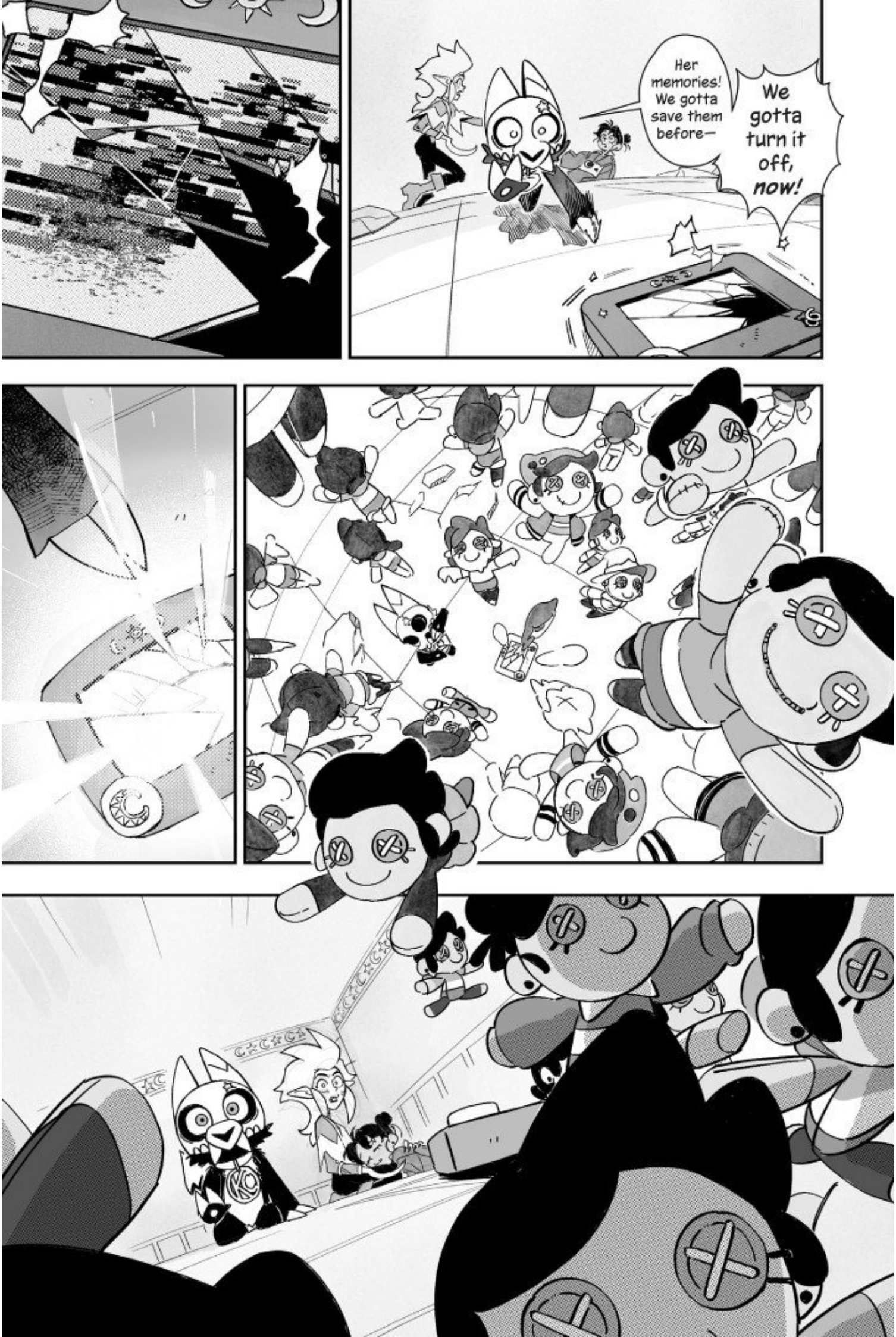



Thanks for the crutch, Luz.
It's surprisingly good at bashing in monster skulls.
This isn't a JOKE. It's your life, Eda!
What part of "healing magic can't save you" don't you understand?
Ah, quit your worrying, will ya?
Luz, if you want to stop thinking about it, this could help . . . !
WHAT?! Are you KIDDING ME?!
What is going ON with you two today?!
King, you're doing WHAT?
Eda's going to get herself killed, and King is gonna get himself goofy on memory erasers!


Eda, you're out here fighting a monster when you can barely stand up! What were you thinking?
Did you two hear anything I just said? I—
Watch out!
LUZ!
!
WEH!!!




Luz!
Oh Titan, Luz!
King, what's it doing?


Her memories! We gotta save them before—
We gotta turn it off, now!


What the—


Oh, wow . . . my head . . .
Luz, are you in there?

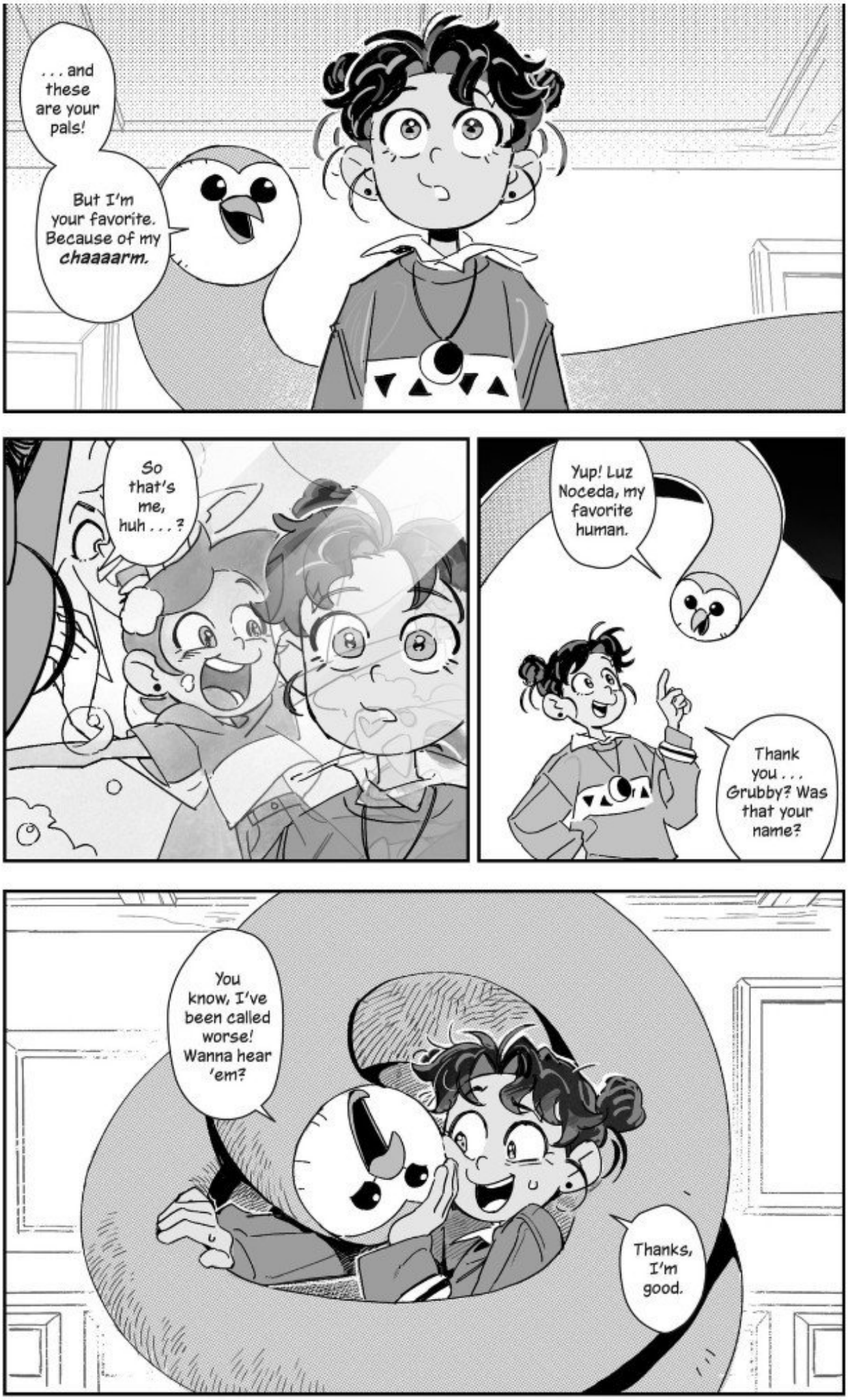

Whoa!
Hi!
Talking cat!
Luz?!

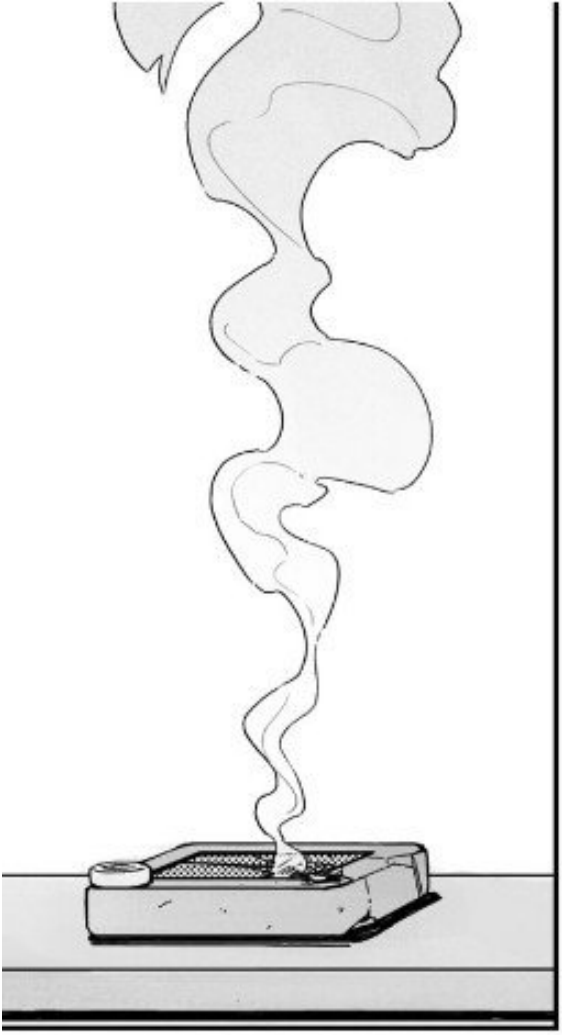

Uh . . .
Who's Luz?



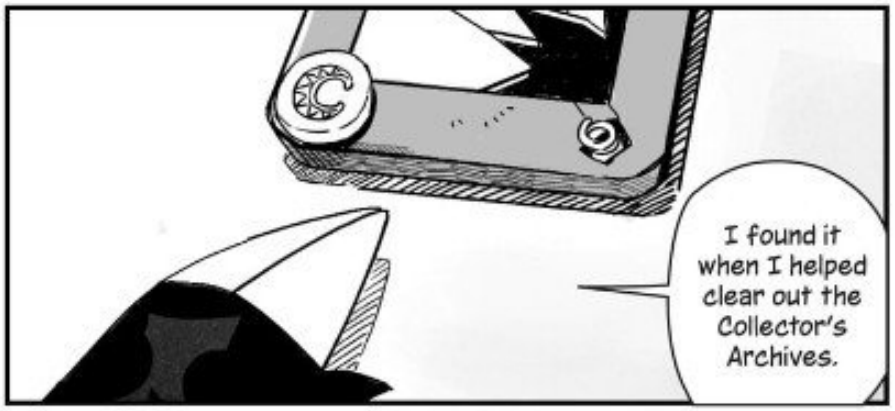





. . . and these are your pals!
But I'm your favorite. Because of my *chaaaarm.*
So that's me, huh . . . ?
Yup! Luz Noceda, my favorite human.
Thank you . . . Grubby? Was that your name?
You know, I've been called worse! Wanna hear 'em?
Thanks, I'm good.




So this thing took away all her memories, huh?
What do we know about this doodad?


I found it when I helped clear out the Collector's Archives.


He taught me how to use it.
Why would he teach you how to use something so—


Ugh, these *children.*


Looks like we're paying the star baby a little visit.




It was an accident.
You couldn't have known this would happen.


And believe me . . .
I understand wanting to forget certain things in your life.


But we have to help Luz right now.
She needs us.


You're right.


So you'll be using this, right?
. . .
You know, *for Luz, right?*
. . . !!!


MS. EDA!
MR. YOUR HIGHNESS!


WHO IS THIS?!


Someone who's gonna be pissed when she finds out what happened . . .


We can help you remember her. Come with us . . .


TA—DA
. . . and we'll get your memories back!


And stop calling me Ms! It makes my skin crawl.
And not in the good way.
You can keep calling me Your Highness, that's kinda nice. Reminds me of the good ol' days.
Good ol' days? You're, like, ten years old, Hoot!


Whatever, Hooty. At least I have an age.
I'm telling Lilith!!!
Just watch the house, Hooty . . .





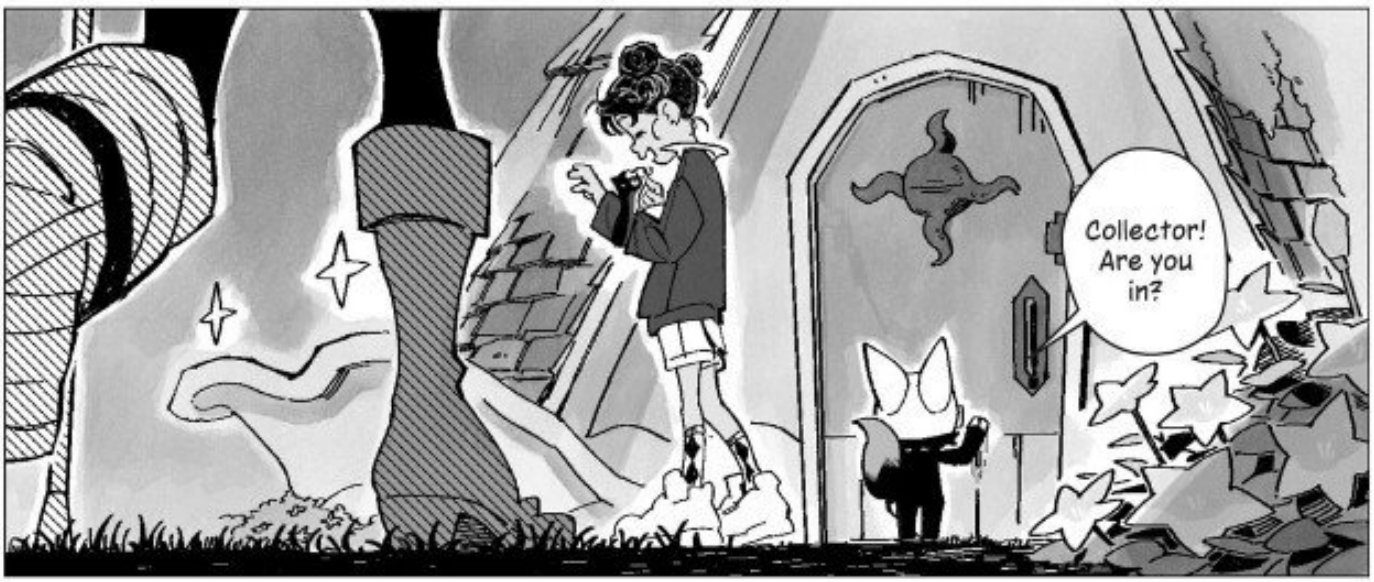





Whoa.




Thank you, little snake . . . cat . . . thing!
I don't know what you are, but I like you already.
:SQUEAK!:
Whoa! I— Did I just understand that?!
Can you understand me?!


Collector! Are you in?


BLINK
CLICK! CHK! CLACK! SHHH-CRACK!
Owl Family! Took you long enough to visit!
I was getting mad enough to turn the Isles inside out to find ya.
Please don't do that to my dad.
Hehe, just kidding. C'mon in!

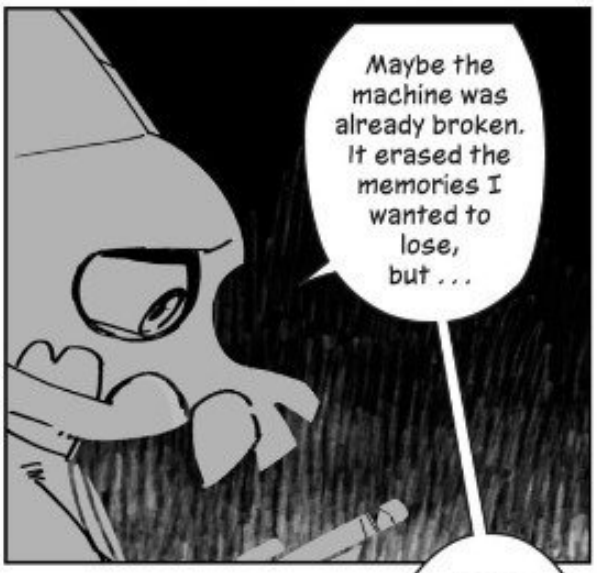

What *is* this place? Is that a black hole???
Yeah, do you like it? I made it with a little extra love.






Magic. Right there.
Hoo boy. I need a moment.
You came here on a snake that turned into a flying stick, I'm half bird, and *this* is what breaks you?


Why is Luz being weird?
I'm weird? The tea is singing to me. That's weird.
My Recollecta-Sketch! What happened to it?
Luz tried to stop me from using it, and then, uh—
Your beast-in-a-box attacked us, and the Crappa-Sketch exploded in Luz's face.
Clean up your murder toys, kid!
Beast-in-a . . . Oh! You mean Binklestink!
Binklestink?!
He watched over the other toys.
I got my ass kicked by a tricked-out babysitter named Binklestink?
I gotta sit down . . .


Maybe the machine was already broken. It erased the memories I wanted to lose, but . . .


I still feel like an invisible ceiling is crushing me into the ground. Only now I can't remember why.


Well, duh. As you said, the Recollecta-Sketch only erases the details of what happened, not the mark it leaves.
Weh?


Hmm. It's like this tea.

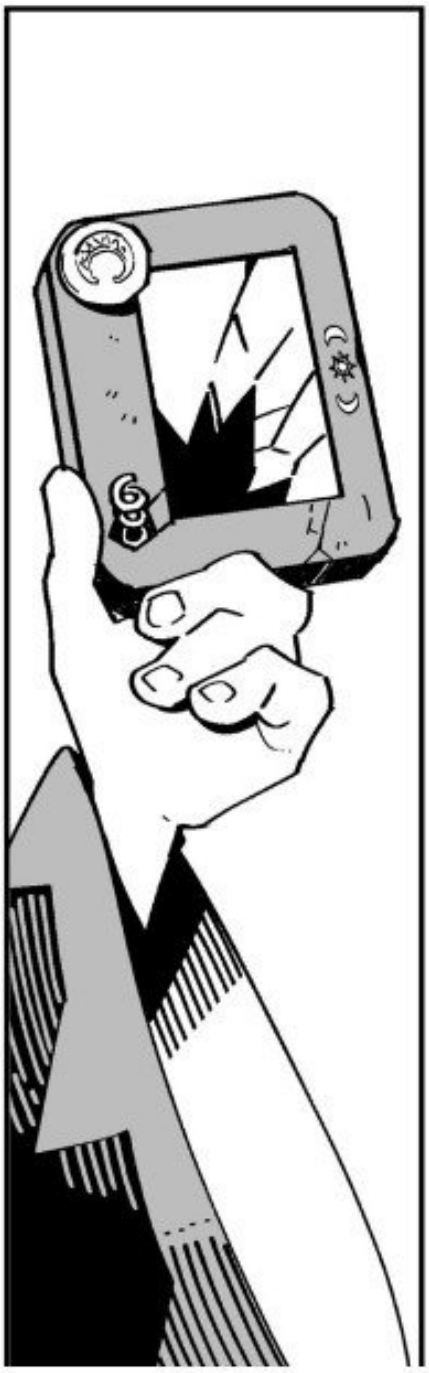

Wah!!!


That is *grim* looking.
The tea is easy enough to spell away . . .
. . . but it could still leave a stain. Look—
Strong memories leave behind strong feelings that seep in, deep, deep down. Much harder to get rid of.
So it was all for nothing.
Nothing can make me forget that I'm going to lose everyone.
And Luz paid the price.


You lost all your memories, Luz?
You don't even remember me?
I wish, little dude! Did I use to babysit you or something?


Oh, human. I'm hundreds of thousands of years older than you.
?!?!
Eh? Eh???


So can you fix it so we can fix her?

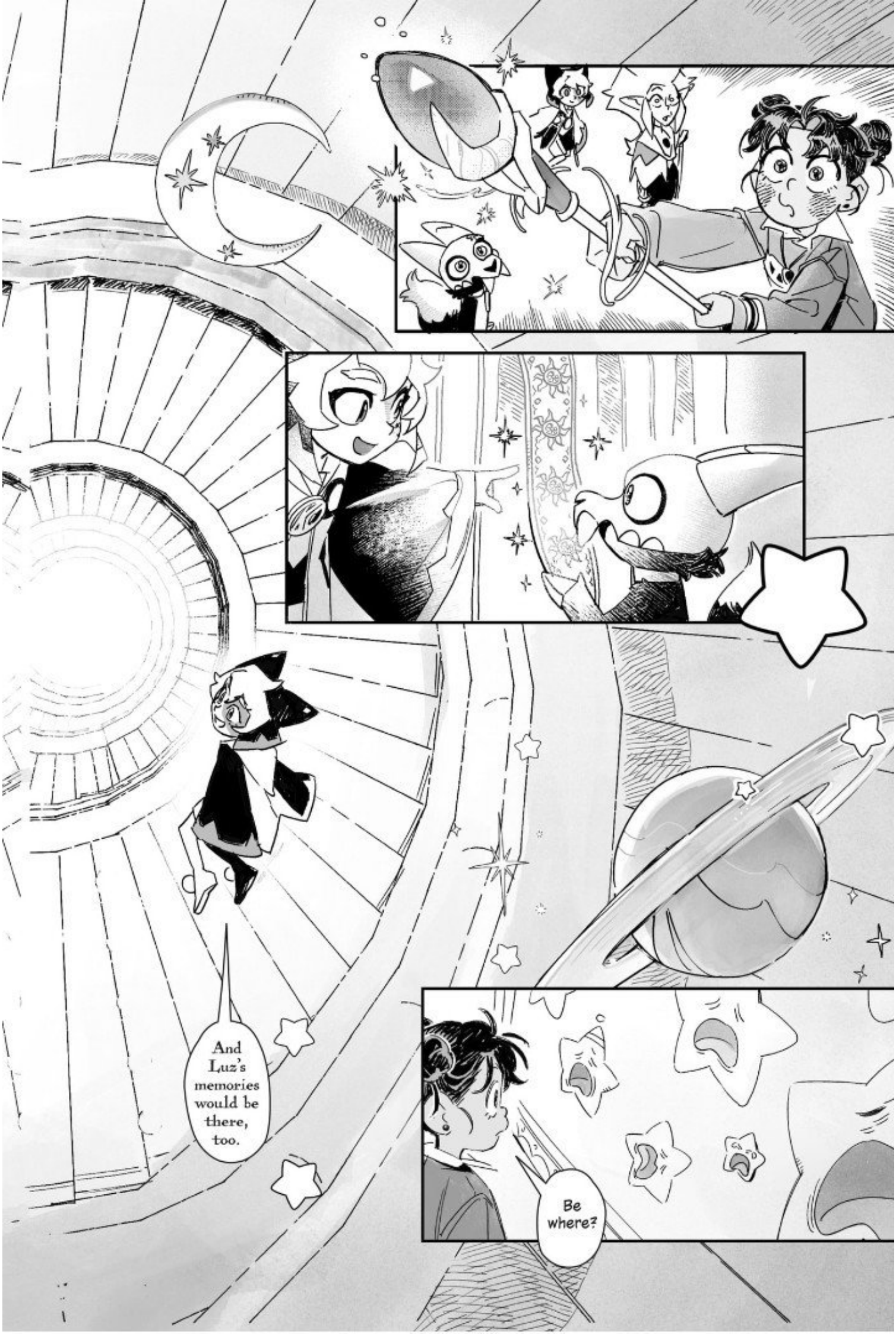





Nope.

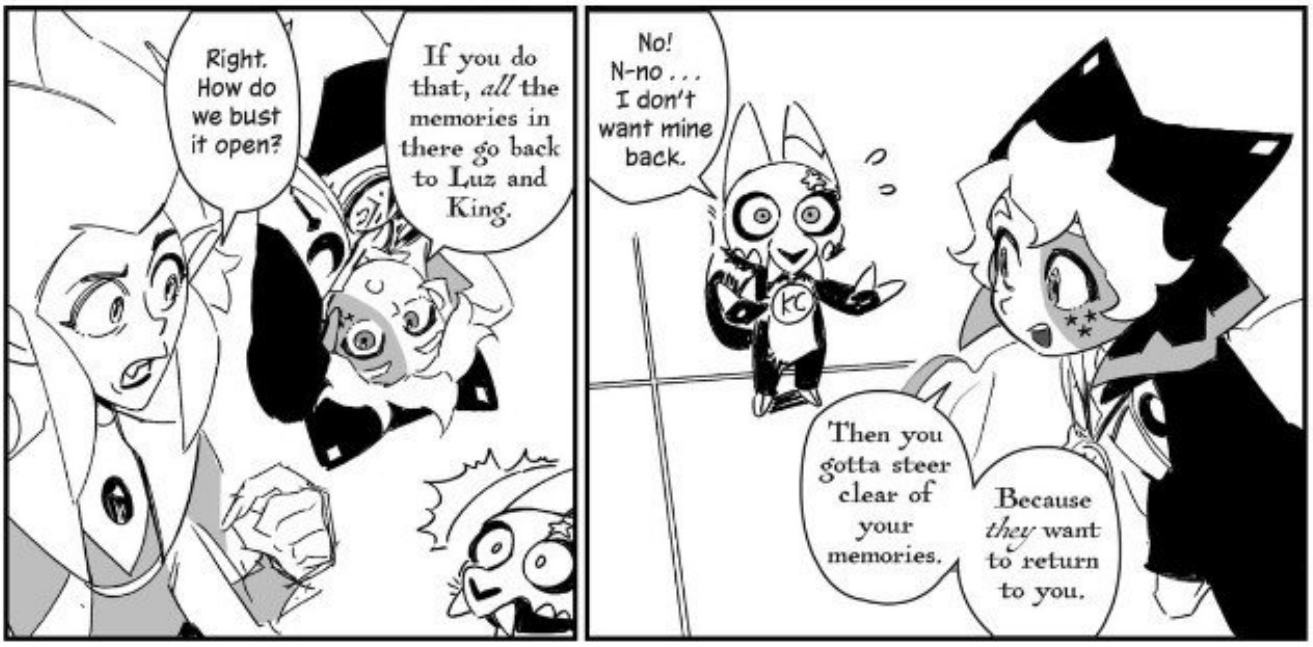

"Nope"?
"NOPE"?!
You're so powerful you go by a TITLE instead of a NAME. NOPE shouldn't be in your vocabulary!
What? That thing's pretty much dunzo.
Buuuut there's another way to return Luz's memories.


I love magic!!!
You kept my memories? I thought they were destroyed!
Of course I kept them! I'm the Collector. It's what I do.
He's got you there, King.


And Luz's memories would be there, too.
Be where?


My Boiling Diorama.


I made it special, just for King's memories. And now Luz's too, I guess.
Whoa.


Right. How do we bust it open?
If you do that, *all* the memories in there go back to Luz and King.
No! N-no . . . I don't want mine back.
Then you gotta steer clear of your memories.
Because *they* want to return to you.

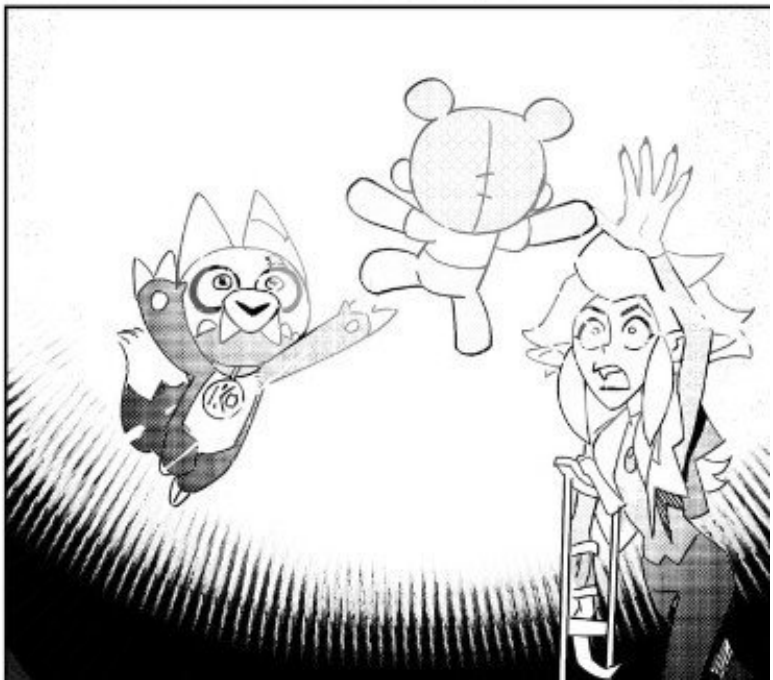

Will it be dangerous?
I dunno! My babiest baby toy for babies is apparently too powerful for you guys.
Binklestink . . .
But I'll be able to watch and hear everything from here.


Buckle up, kiddo.
We're saving Luz.
WEH!
Don't forget this!
Also, I'm coming, so—
Oh, sorry. I don't know what came over me. Just the thought of you getting hurt—
Ha! Don't worry, kiddo. I'll be careful this time. Promise.
You be careful, too.
Something tells me you're very important to me and I'd be devastated to lose you.
Yeah. Me too.


This place feels . . . weird. Like it's cold, but instead of making me shiver, it makes me want to cry.


There's one over there!



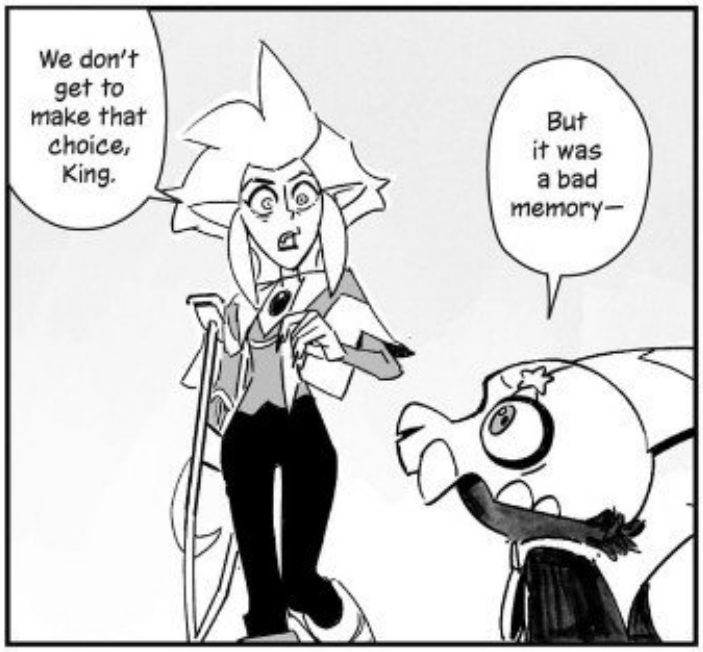



Huh?
Luz!
Wait, King.
This must be a memory. She can't see or hear us.

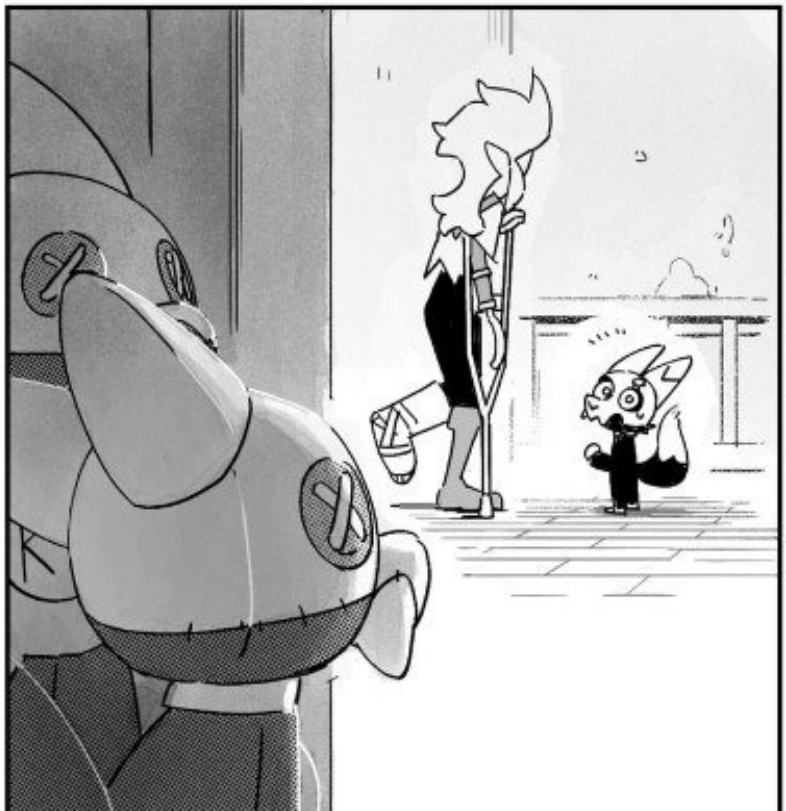

Luz? It's time to go say goodbye to Papa.
She must already be down-stairs . . .
SNIFF


SOB
That's enough of that.
¿Mija? ¿Dónde está?
The car is outside!


So. If we touch one of these toys, we get to see the memory it's made of.
Maybe we should let this one go.
Luz doesn't need to remember that.
It's . . . sad.


We don't get to make that choice, King.
But it was a bad memory—


And an important one. That memory is *hers.*
And we're going to get *all* of Luz back.



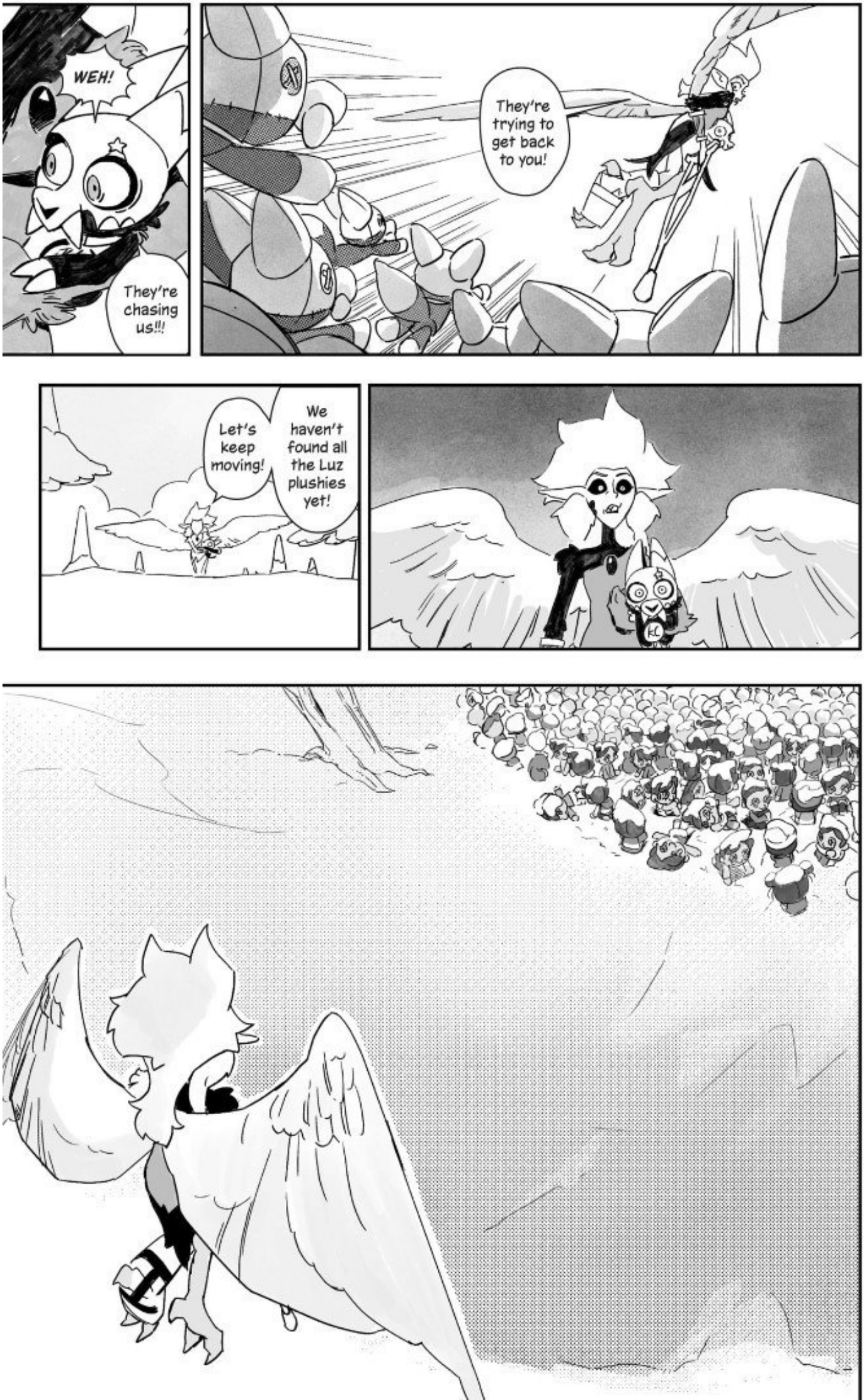

Yeah, you're right. L-let's go after it, this way!






I'm slowing you down, King.
You'll get used to that thing soon.
I'd rather break the damn thing!
Whoa, what's wrong?!
I'm scared, all right?
I've always known I wasn't invincible. I lost my ARM!
But I could pretend that nothing could hurt me, 'cause I always bounced back!
The worst part is . . .
. . . knowing that the best-case scenario in this life is that I go first. That I leave you and Luz behind . . .
But I'm not ready to go yet.
And I don't know if I'm strong enough to stay, and keep you safe.


Better to leave than to be left behind.
What's so good about being an immortal Titan, if it means being alone forever?
When you go, we'll be there. You won't be alone.
But I'm going to blink, Eda, *blink*—
—and I'll be the only one left.
Weh?!


WEH!
They're chasing us!!!
They're trying to get back to you!
Let's keep moving!
We haven't found all the Luz plushies yet!


Are they crying . . . ?
Oh, Titan.
Even after all that we only scratched the surface, huh?
King, I want to console you and hug you until you pop, and I will.
But right now—
—we gotta deal with them.
Get away from me!
KING!



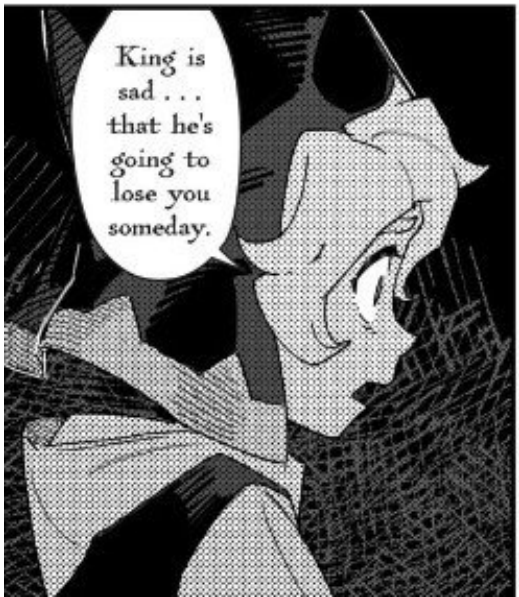

This isn't a *joke.* It's your life, Eda!
Forgetting doesn't fix anything, King!


I got you.


This seems bad.


GGRAAW!
Ah nuts.


What's going on in there?!
Can you see anything?


King is sad . . . that he's going to lose you someday.


But, Luz . . .
. . . I'll lose *everyone.*


Even King, one day. Then what?
WEH!
I... I don't know!
It'll feel like I felt when you died, but forever.
Like a black hole buried itself in my heart...


SMASH
I died...?


Maybe King had the right idea. Maybe it's better to forget . . .
It's going to keep rebuilding itself! How do we stop it?


It . . . it can be good to remember the bad times in your life. I think.
Why? What's the point . . .


Does there have to be a point?! Here you are, and here I am.
You have hundreds of thousands of years' worth of memories and I have maybe about five hours.
And isn't it funny that neither of us knows what to do about the bad stuff?


Might as well enjoy the here and now . . .
We can't fight it head-on. We're going to have to run, King.
But what about Luz's memories?
If she stays like this . . . is she even Luz anymore?
I don't know . . . but I can't keep going.
I've reached my limit, King.
Titan help me, it's time for the Owl Lady to run.

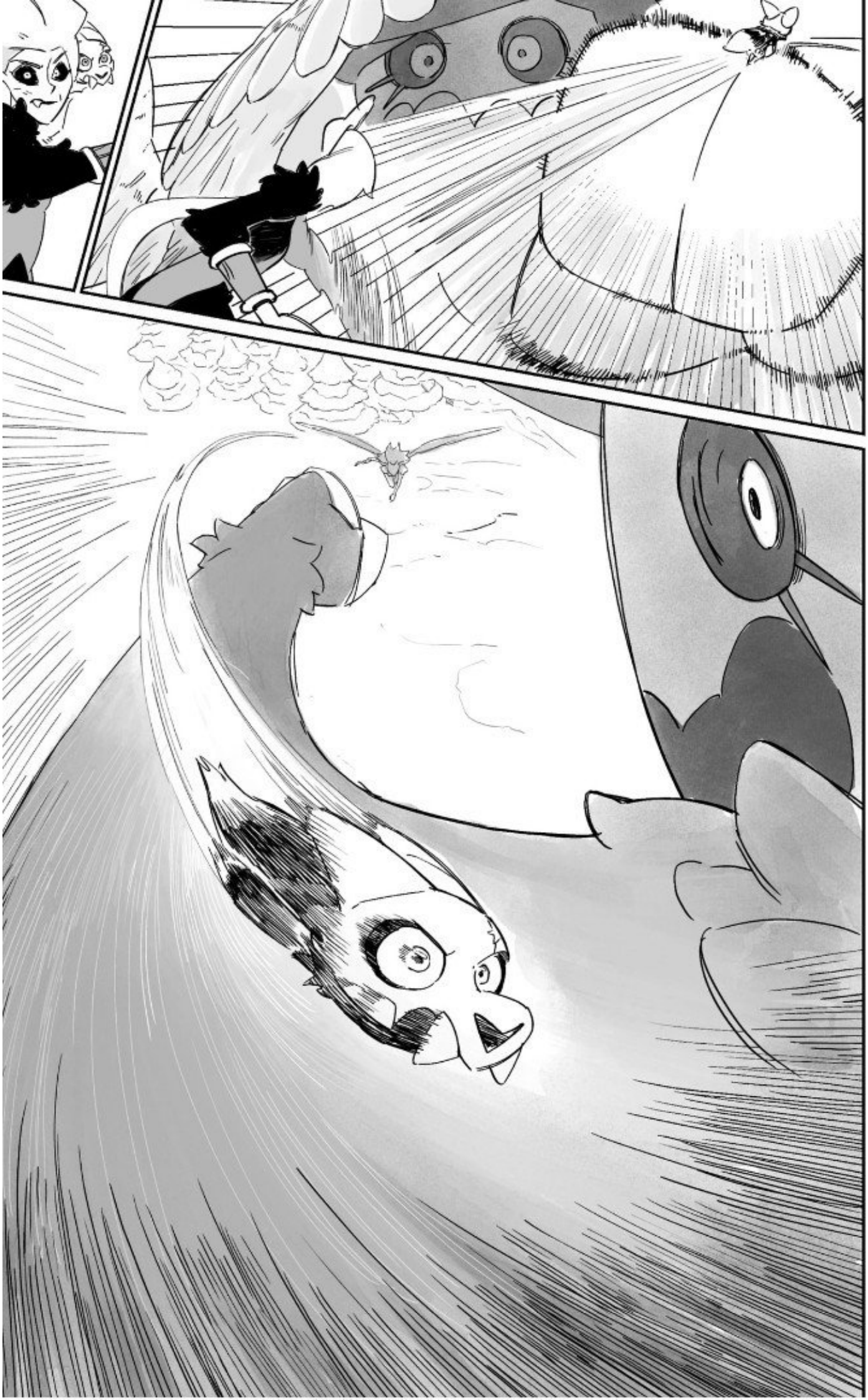

And when you feel like you're not strong enough . . .
. . . because sometimes you aren't . . .
. . . and that's okay . . .


. . . you can remember the people who were there to be strong for you.
I'd give anything to remember everyone again.






Throw me. As far up as you can.
But your memories—
You'll get them all back!
NOW!
Before I change my mind!

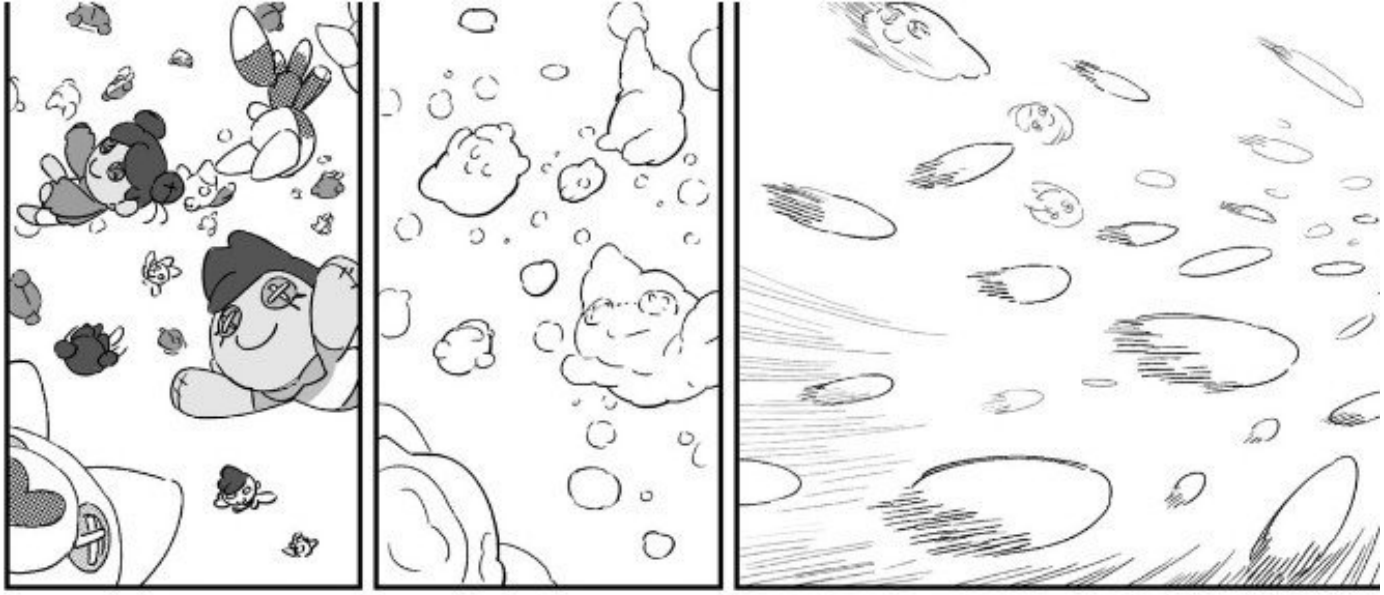


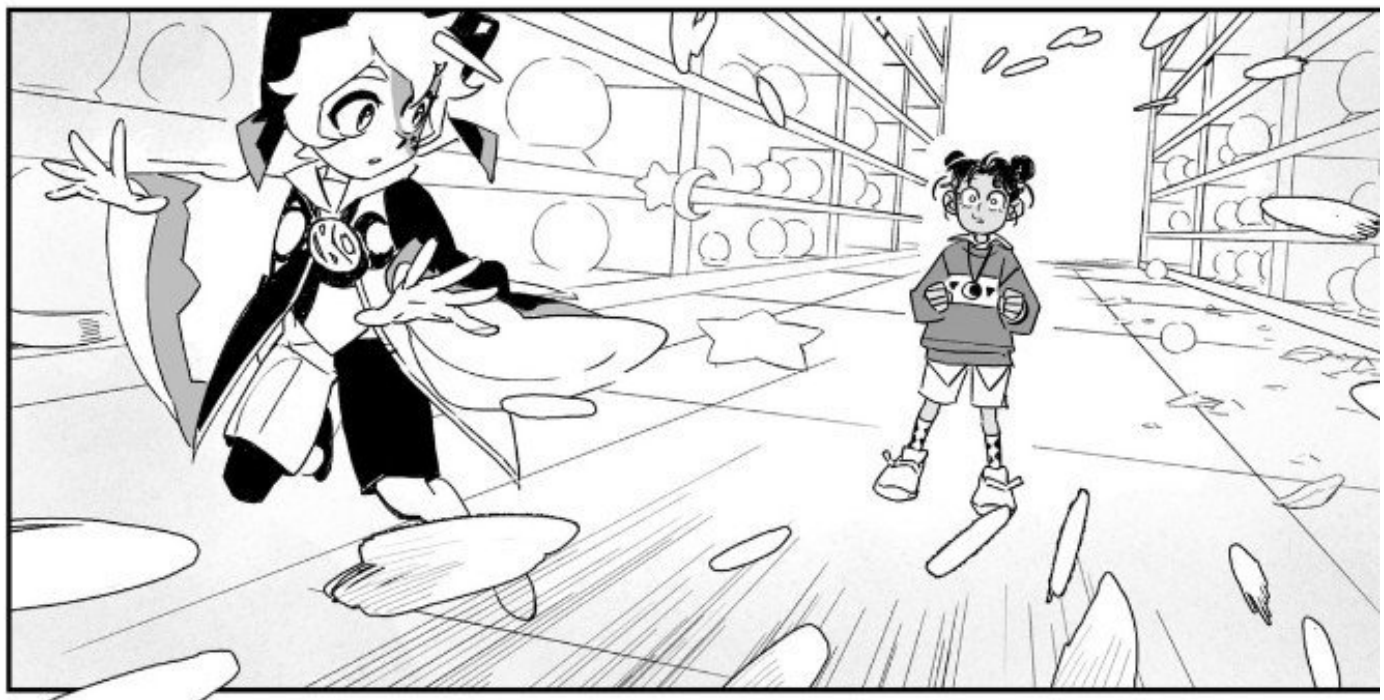

KING!

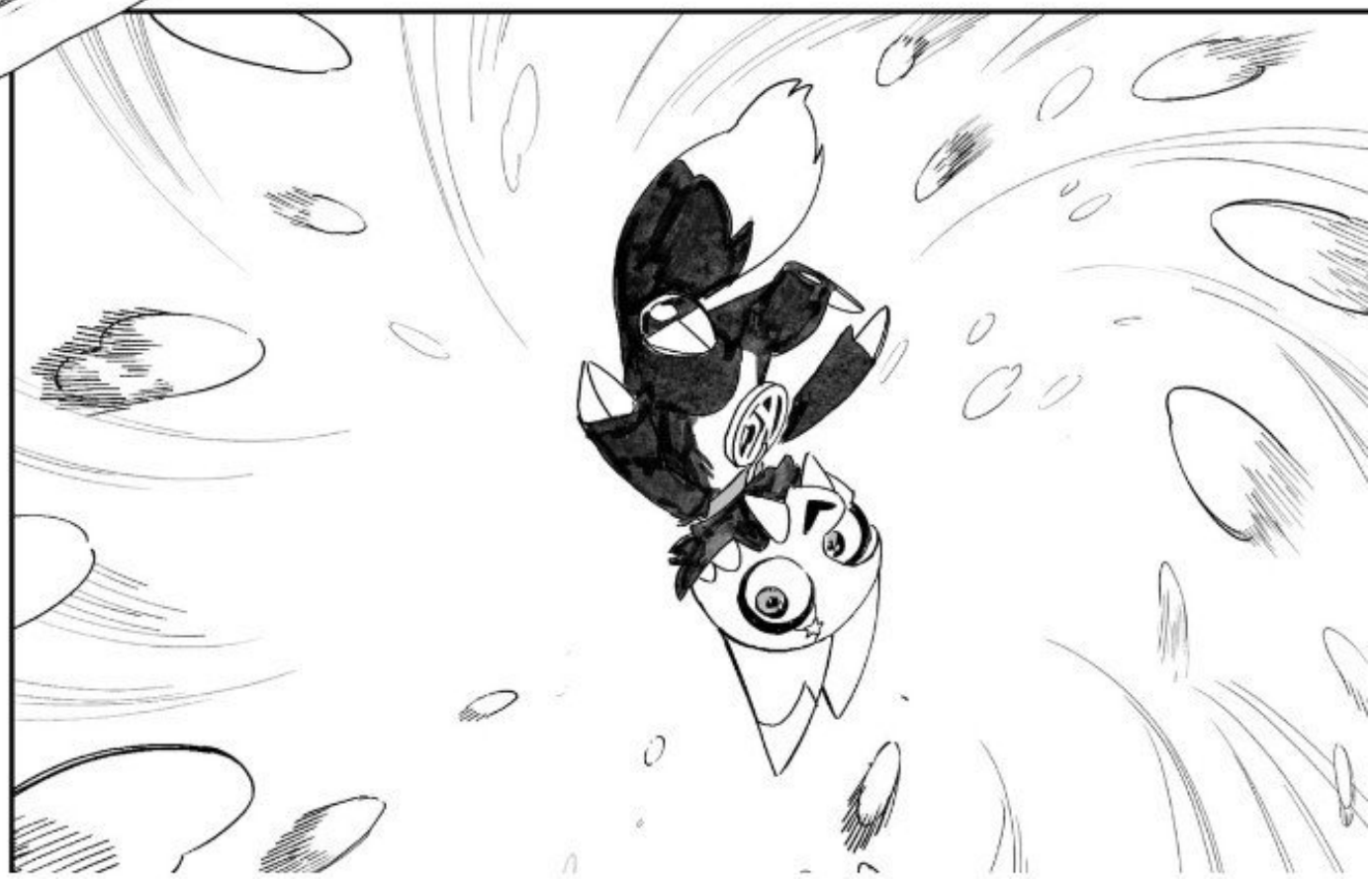














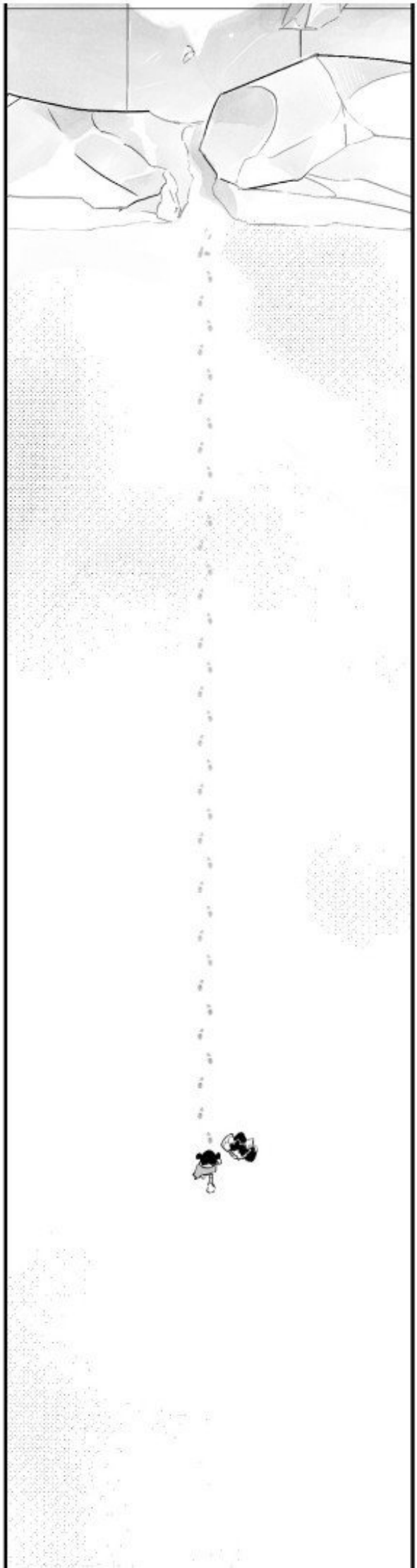



Luz? Are you okay?


Wowza. That's a head rush.


Is it weird that I feel like I haven't seen you in ages?









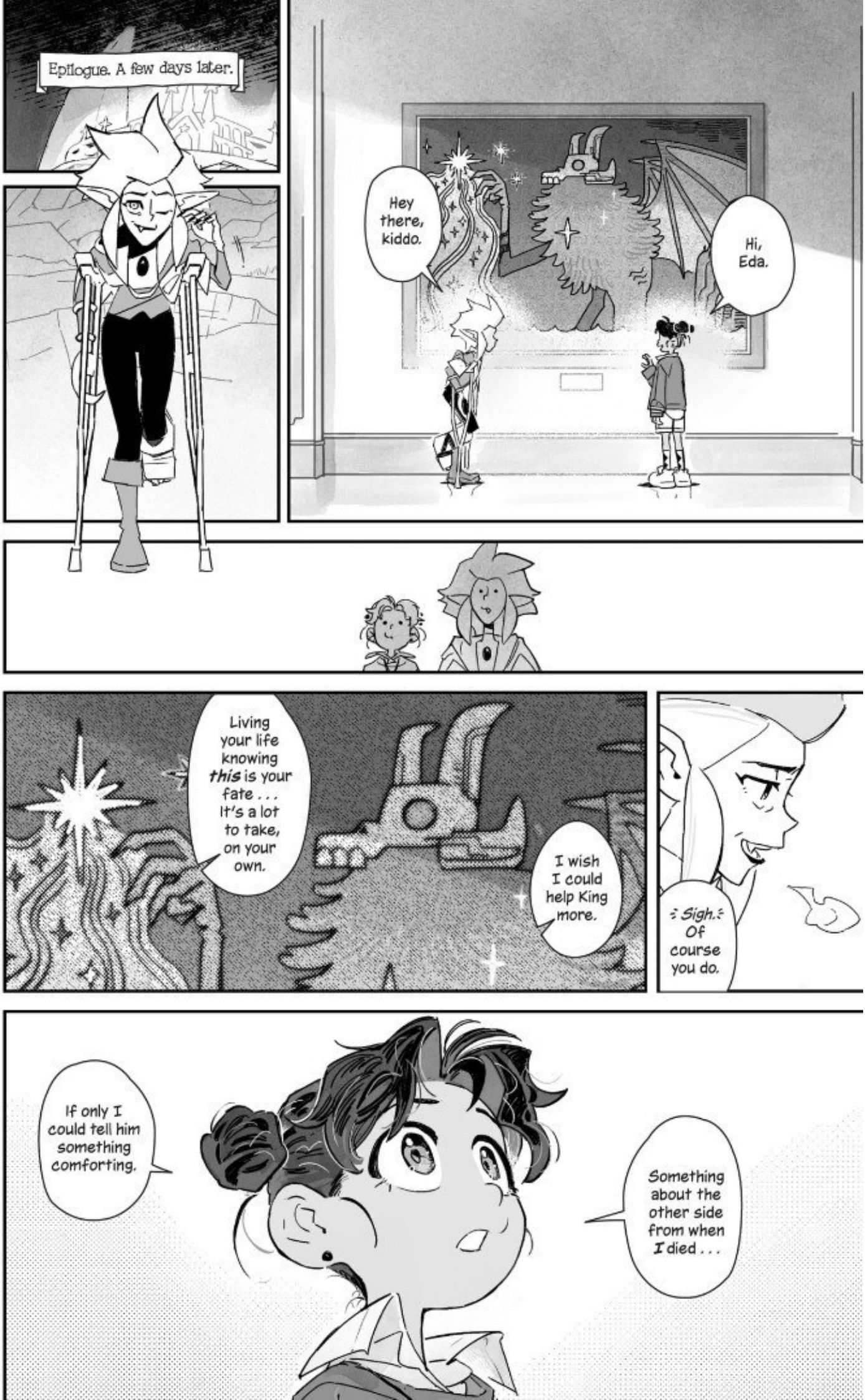

Luz!
Are you . . . ?


Yes. I am. You did it!


Pinkie promise kept.


Luz?




Epilogue. A few days later.
Hey there, kiddo.
Hi, Eda.
Living your life knowing *this* is your fate . . . It's a lot to take, on your own.
I wish I could help King more.
: Sigh. : Of course you do.
If only I could tell him something comforting.
Something about the other side from when I died . . .


Before the Titan pulled me up out of that weird pool . . .
. . . it's all a blur.
Hehe. After all that trouble to return my memories, I'm already forgetting about one of the wildest things that's ever happened to me!
Don't worry. You'll experience that again . . .
Everyone does.
Yes. That's true. But not for a VERY long time, you hear me???
For both of us.


You've got me, kid. And so does King.
For as long as I can muster.
Ah, that's enough of that.
No it isn't.





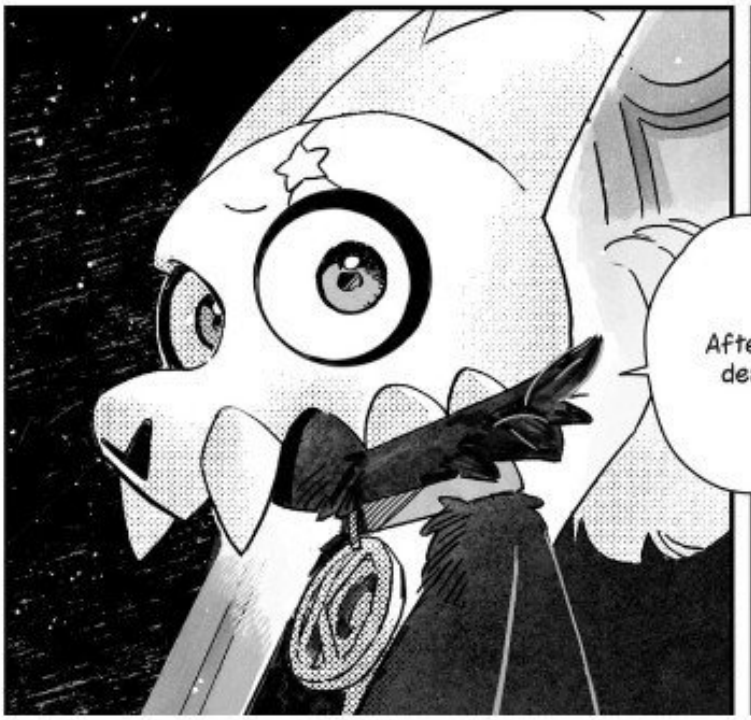



You're back!
I'm back.


I've been pretty thinky.
It's weird. But good.
I've been pretty thinky, too . . .


Can, uh, can I ask you something?
Yeah.
Do you know what comes after?
After what?

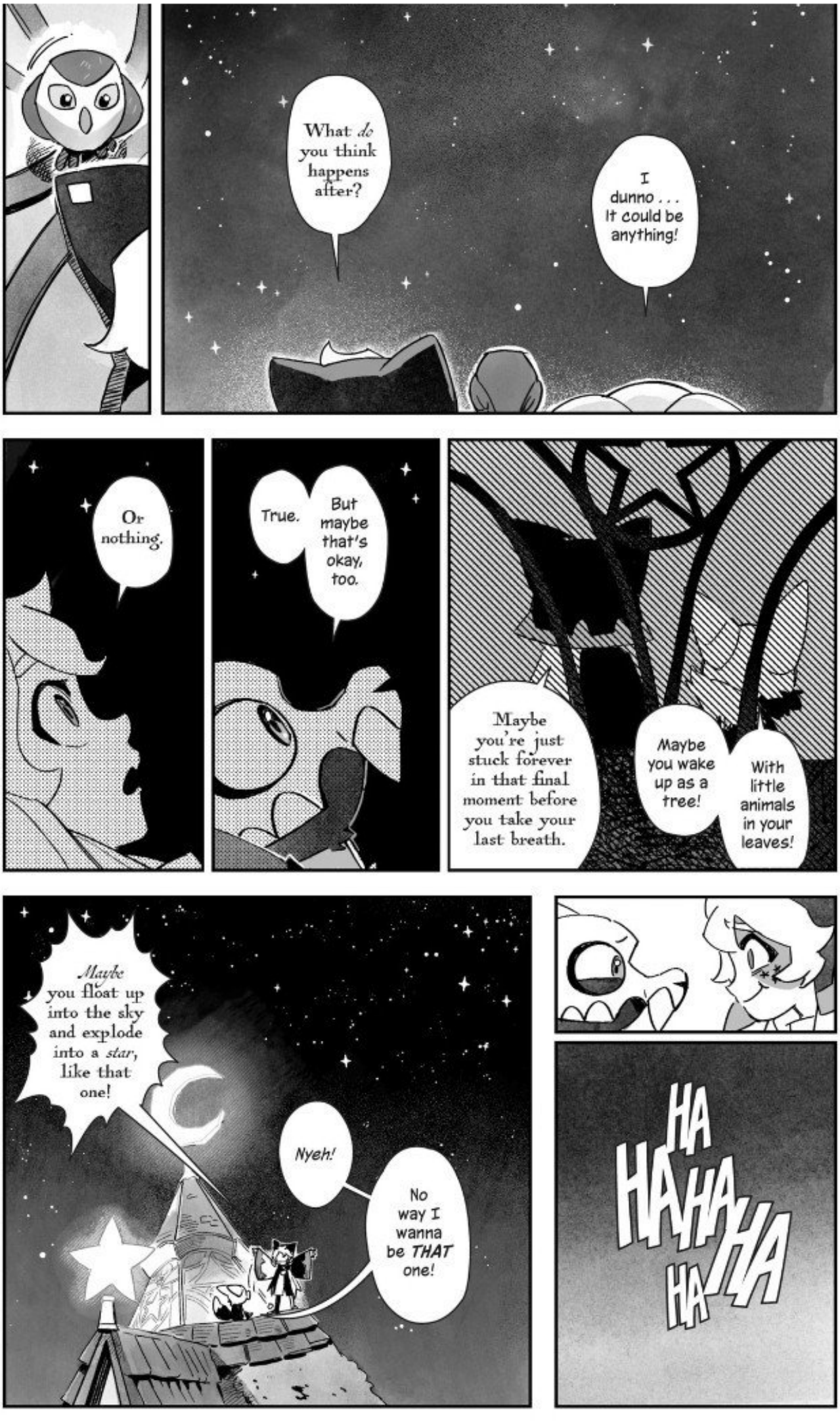



After . . . death.

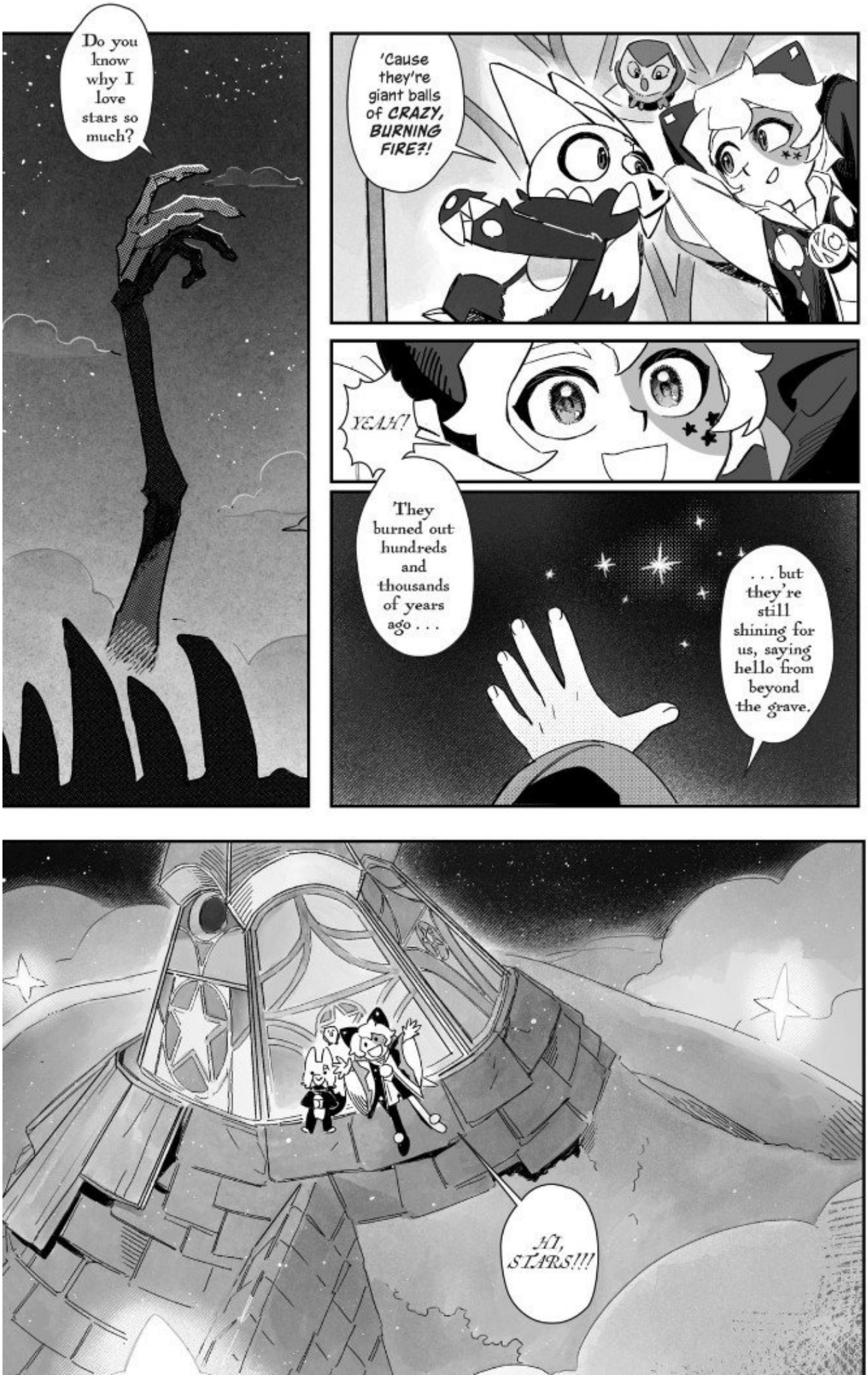



HA!
You're asking the immortal kid what death's like.
That's like asking a selkidomus what it's like to fly.
I guess so . . .
Does your kind, er—
Do other Collectors or Archivists . . . die?
I dunno.
Never thought about it till I came here. Never had to.
That means you'll still be around when even I—
Yep.

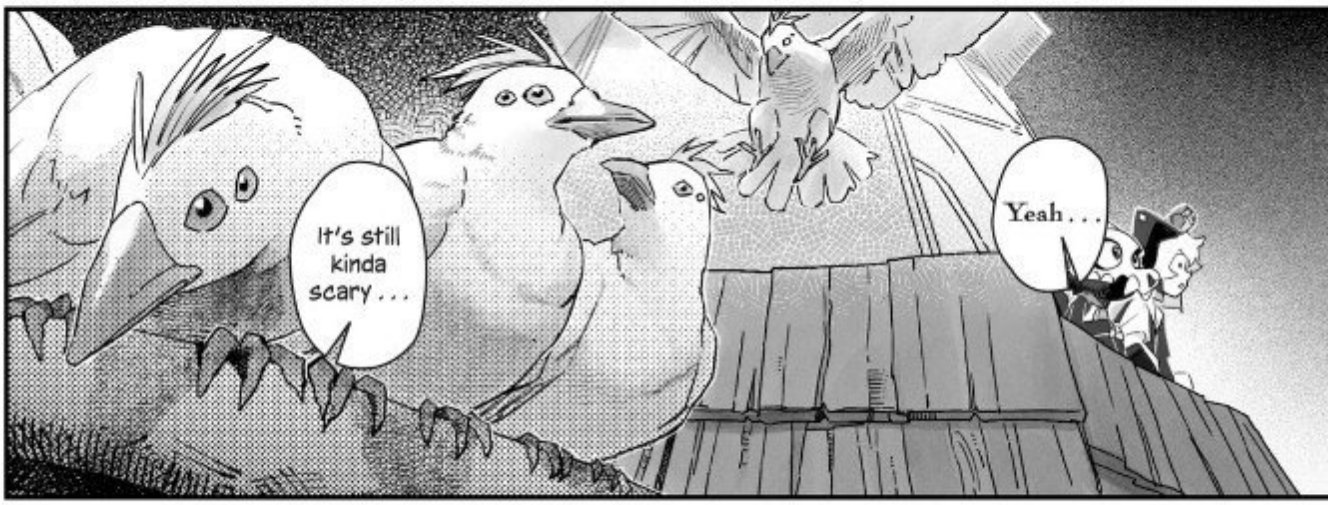

AGH!
I wanna talk about it but don't know what to say!
Death is weird!
Why do some people go first, and where do they go?!
Why does it exist like this?!
What happens after???
Death *is* weird.
But maybe it's weird because nobody talks about it.
Yeah, 'cause it's scary.
Only 'cause it's unfamiliar. I used to think you were scary.


What *do* you think happens after?
I dunno . . . It could be anything!
Or nothing.
True.
But maybe that's okay, too.
Maybe you're just stuck forever in that final moment before you take your last breath.
Maybe you wake up as a tree!
With little animals in your leaves!
Maybe you float up into the sky and explode into a *star*, like that one!
Nyeh!
No way I wanna be ***THAT*** one!
HA HA HA HA HA


Luz said no one likes talking about it in her world.
I guess they're scared, too.
As if talking about it will make it happen sooner than it's supposed to or something.
:PFFT.:
Some ding-dongs act like they know everything about death—
—but what do *they* know?! I call shenanigans.
It is nice to talk about. Out loud.
It feels less scary now!
And it's good to be reminded that you're not alone.


Do you know why I love stars so much?
'Cause they're giant balls of CRAZY, BURNING FIRE?!
YEAH!
They burned out hundreds and thousands of years ago . . .
. . . but they're still shining for us, saying hello from beyond the grave.
HI, STARS!!!


Whatever dying is...
...it's the most natural thing in the universe!
Nothing to be scared of at all!


It's still kinda scary...
Yeah...


But that's natural, too.


Because it makes moments like this so much more special!
I'm so happy to be here.








Me
too.

Dana Terrace is the creator and executive producer of Disney Channel's Peabody Award–winning series *The Owl House*. She attributes much of her success and sanity to her cat, Ghost.

Mikki Crisostomo grew up in the Philippines, haunting the local bookstores for things to daydream and write about. It is a constant source of joy for her that she gets to use her love for all things genre in her work as a screenwriter on TV shows like *The Owl House*, *Primos*, and *Starfire!*

Daun Han is a storyboard artist and character designer. She worked as a storyboard artist on *The Owl House* and is a character designer on *Knights of Guinevere*.