

DOUBLE-SIZED ISSUE!



passageways

through the

METAVEVERSE

8



Pete Nguyen
Jose Gutierrez

passageways

through the

METaverse

created by
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Passageways through the Metaverse is a comic about Aliza and her father's crazy, cynical friend, Barney, and their adventures in different metaverses using a golden book that has a troublesome sense of humor. Sometimes the metaverse they visit is an alternate universe, and sometimes it's just a strange place in the universe altogether.

Throughout their adventures, Barney wants to get out of the adventure as soon as possible because he's been there and done that for over 8000 years, but Aliza wants to connect with the people. Sometimes there's a lesson to be learned, but not if Barney can help it.

Issue 8

"Let's Go In"



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Passageways through the Metaverse. June 2020.

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TAX'S MANSION.

CAN CAUSE WORLD DESTRUCTION AS WELL, HUH?



I KNEW YOU WOULD EVENTUALLY COME FOR ME.



DELPHINE IS NO LONGER SAFE.

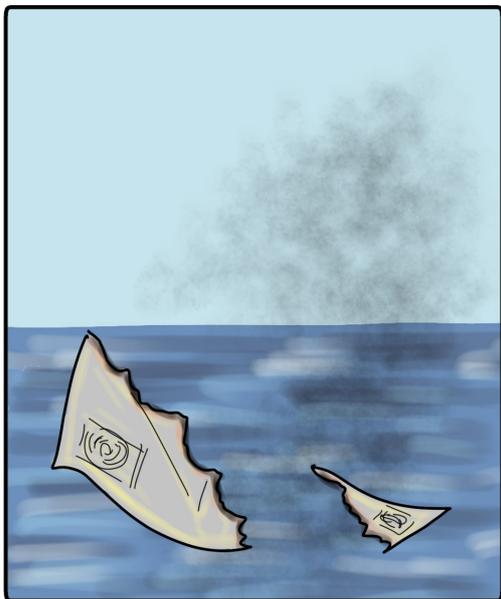


YOU'RE RIGHT.

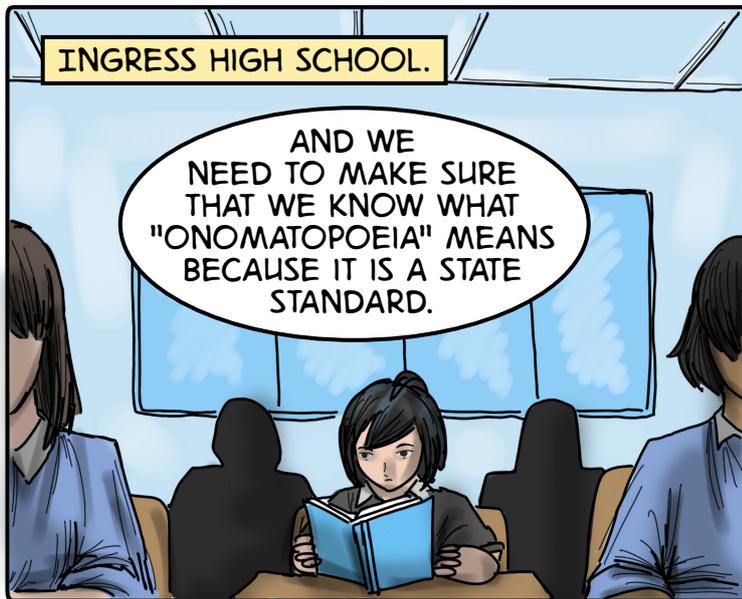


WHOOM





INGRESS HIGH SCHOOL.



AND WE NEED TO MAKE SURE THAT WE KNOW WHAT "ONOMATOPOEIA" MEANS BECAUSE IT IS A STATE STANDARD.



YES, CAN I HELP YOU?



OUTSIDE CLASS.

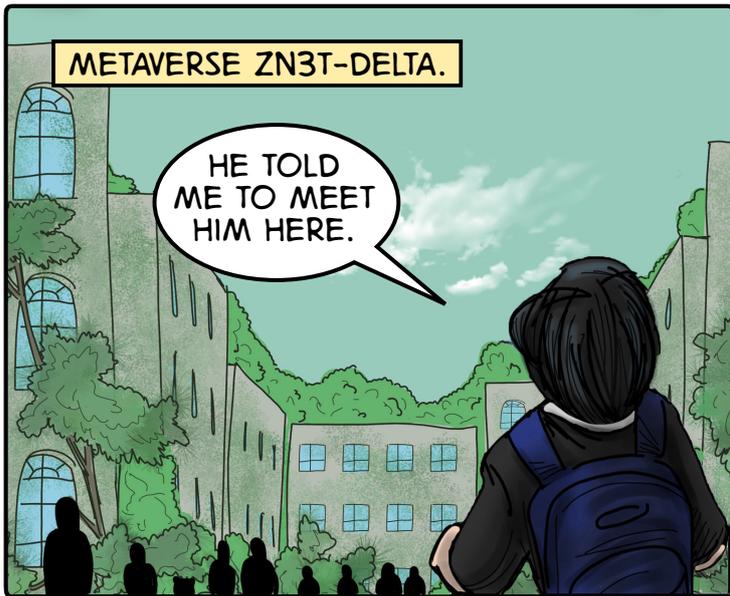
BARNEY, WHY DID YOU GO IN LOOKING LIKE A GOVERNMENT AGENT?

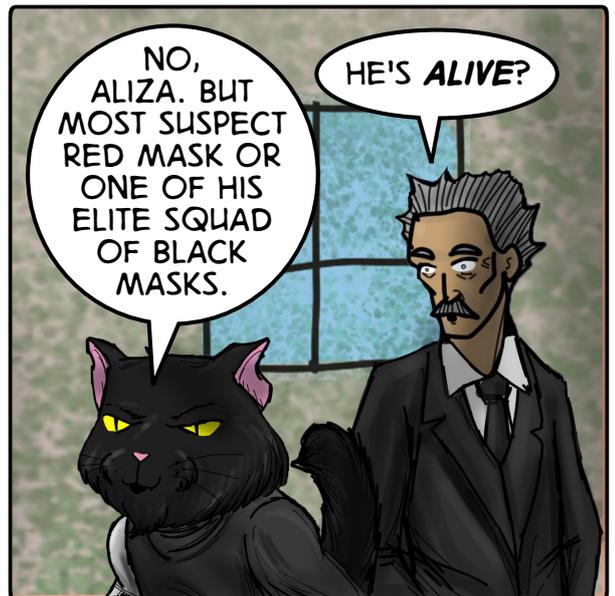
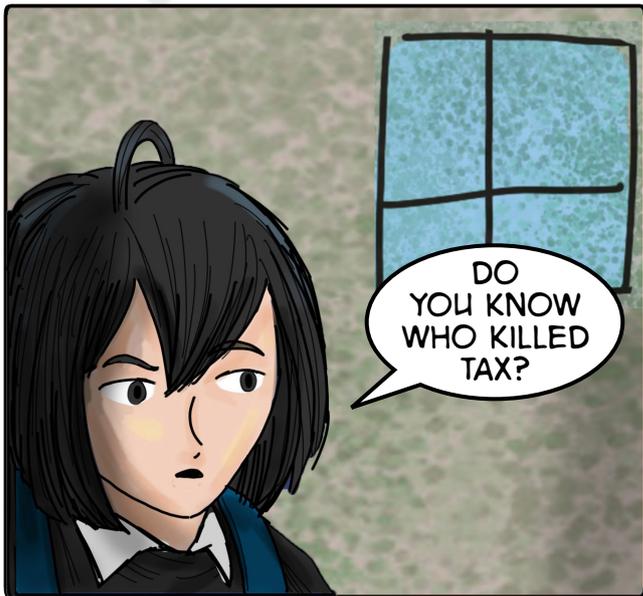
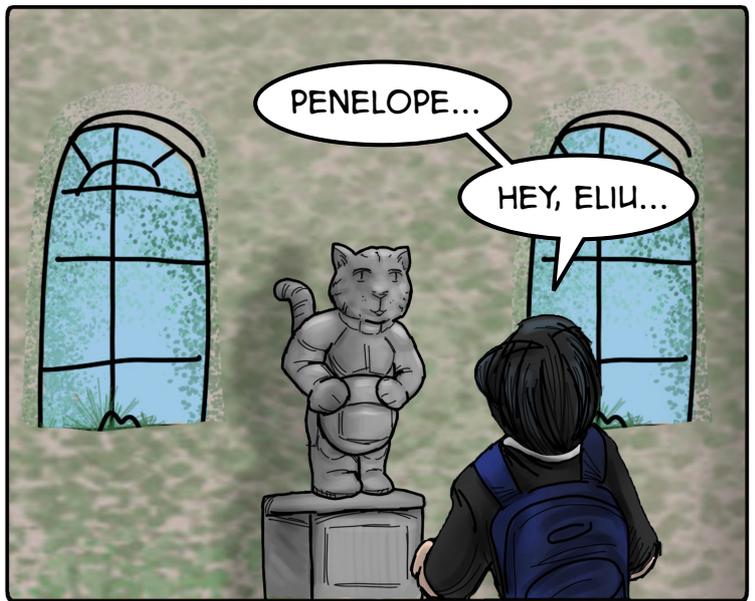


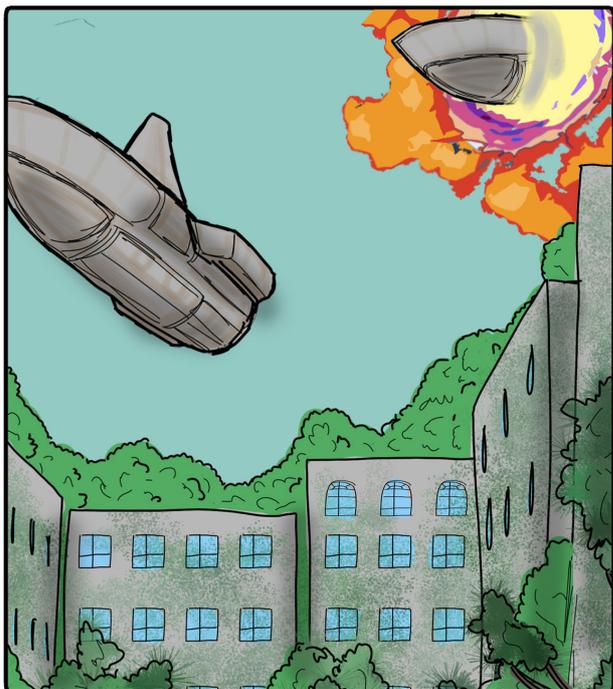
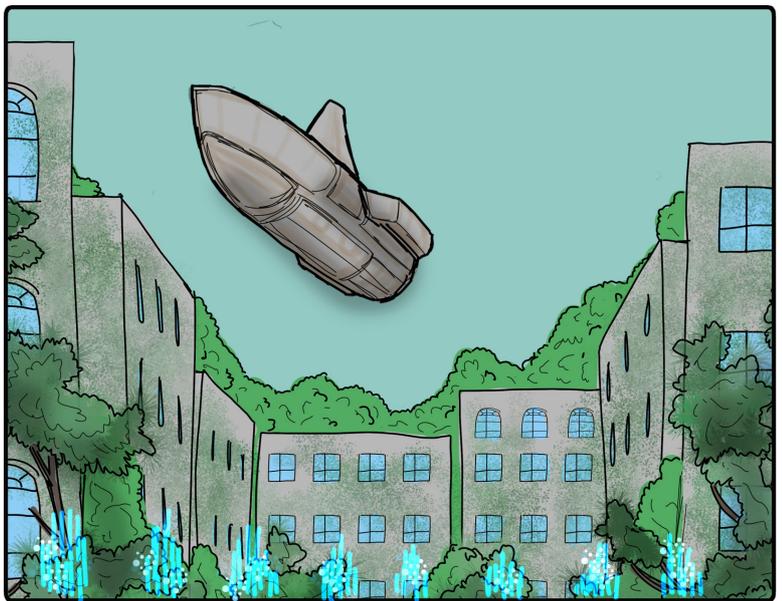
TO MAKE YOU LOOK COOL.

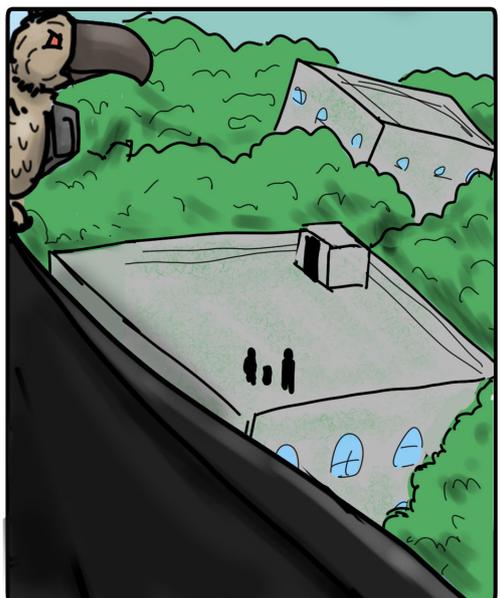
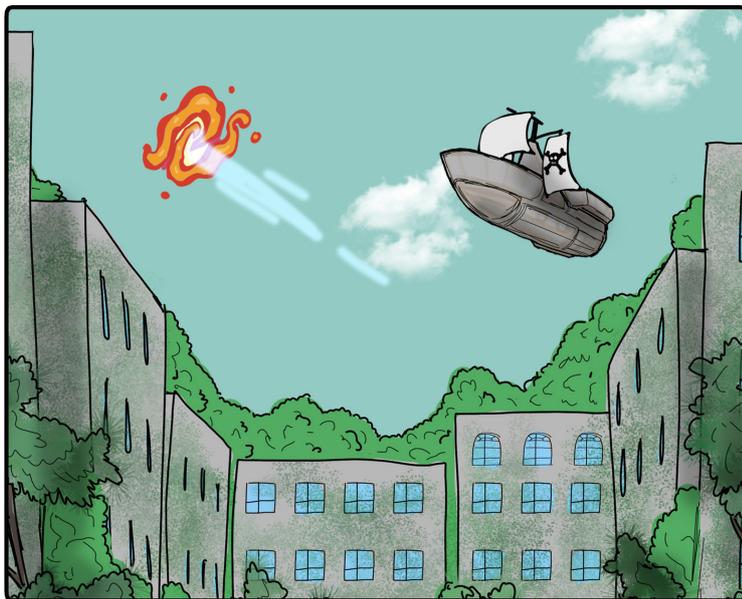
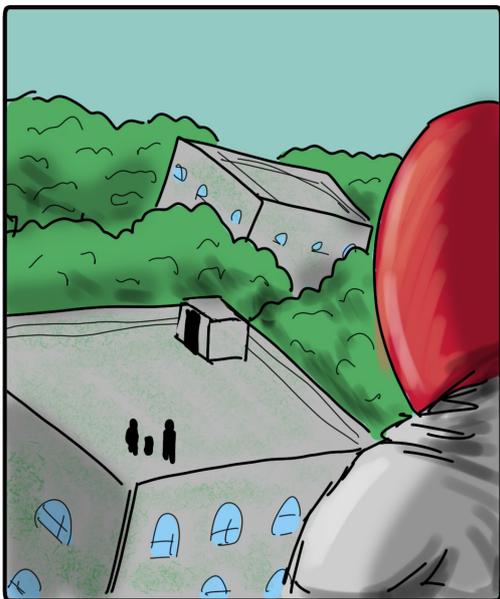


BARNEY, I TURN 18 TODAY. I DON'T FEEL LIKE GOING ON AN ADVENTURE RIGHT NOW. I WAS READING THE BOOK AND IT SAID THAT TODAY MIGHT BE A BAD DAY TO HAVE AN ADVENTURE.









WHO **WAS** THAT PIRATE?

THE LOCALS CALL HIM "CAPTAIN GEEPLUS." HE'S A MURDEROUS PIRATE...

...HELLBENT ON A QUEST FOR SOME TREASURE.

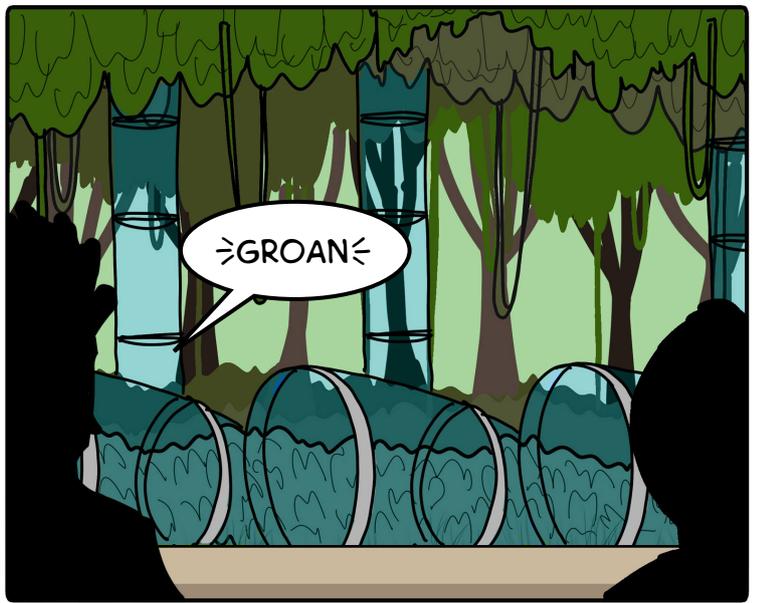
DOESN'T SOUND LIKE HE'S **ALL** BAD IF HE DOESN'T LIKE RED MASK.

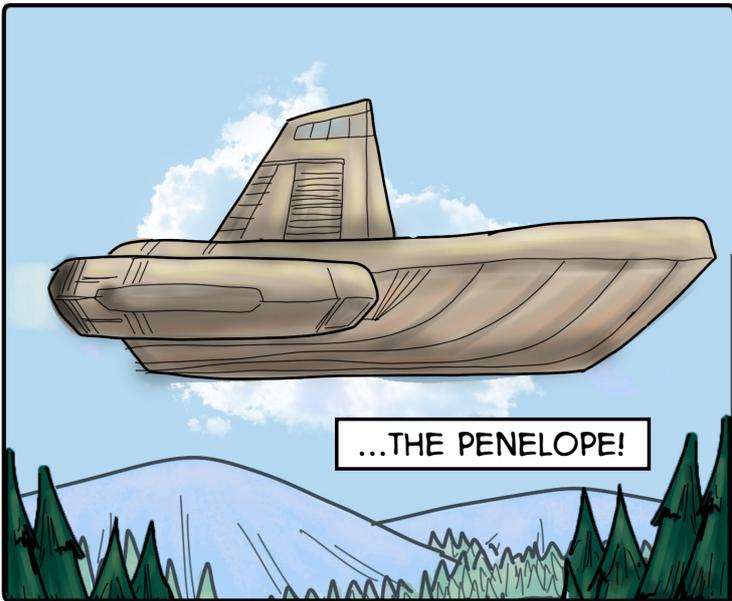
EXCEPT FOR THE "MURDEROUS" PART.

I DON'T JUDGE. WHY WOULD HE BE MAD AT RED MASK?

APPARENTLY, RED MASK EITHER HAS THE TREASURE CAPTAIN GEEPLUS WANTS, OR RED MASK PREVENTED HIM FROM GETTING THE TREASURE. EITHER WAY, THEY'RE **BOTH** BAD NEWS AND WE SHOULD CHASE THEM.







...THE PENELOPE!



WE CAN PICK UP BARBON THE MIGHTY TO HELP US.



WHAT'S THAT YOU HAVE, ALIZA?



IT'S A TEDDY BEAR THAT BELONGED TO MY SISTER FROM ANOTHER METAVERSE.



I THINK IT'LL BRING US LUCK.

METaverse PG6-ALPHA.



WHAT'S GOING ON OUT THERE?



THOSE BLACK MASK ELITES...



...ARE KILLING THE YETIS!



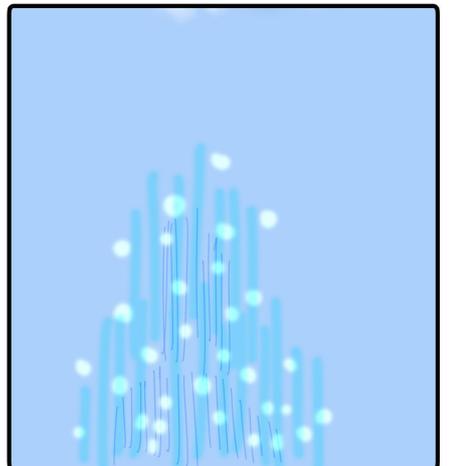
WE HAVE TO STOP THEM!

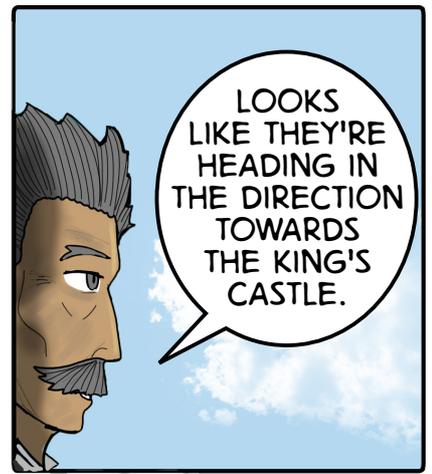


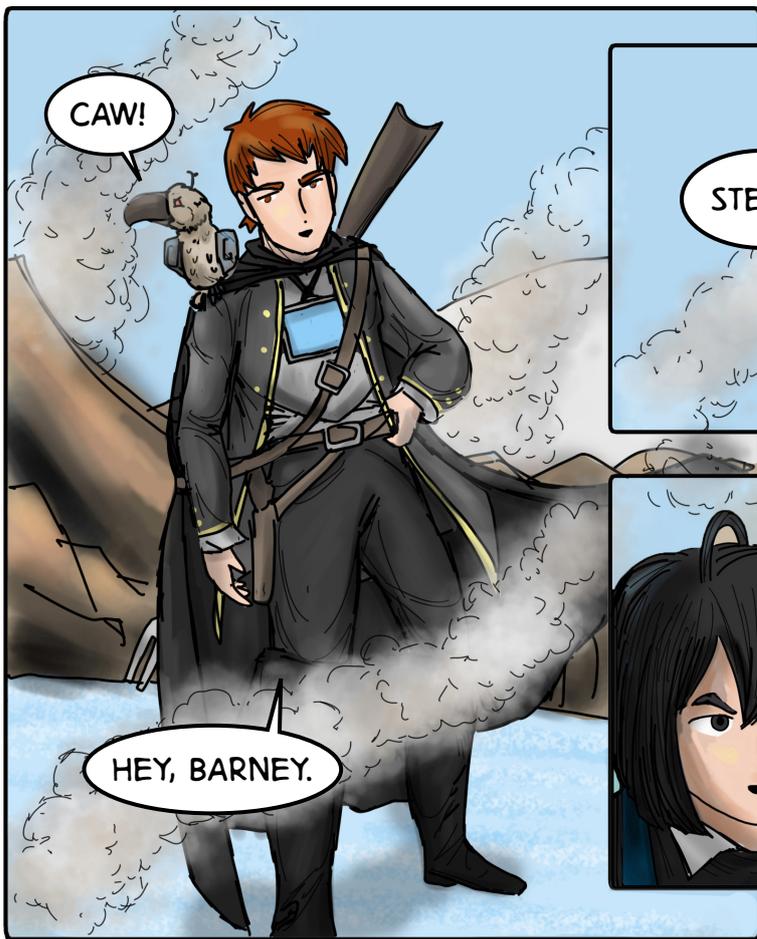
OH NO!



FALL BACK.







CAW!

HEY, BARNEY.



STEVE?



STEVE!
HOW DID YOU
GET HERE?

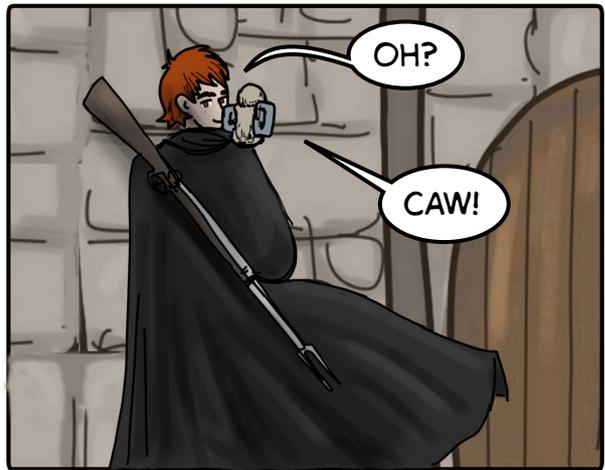
I
TELEPORT TO
THINGS NOW. NO
TIME TO EXPLAIN.
WAIT...



WHAT'S THAT?



MY
SISTER'S TEDDY
BEAR.

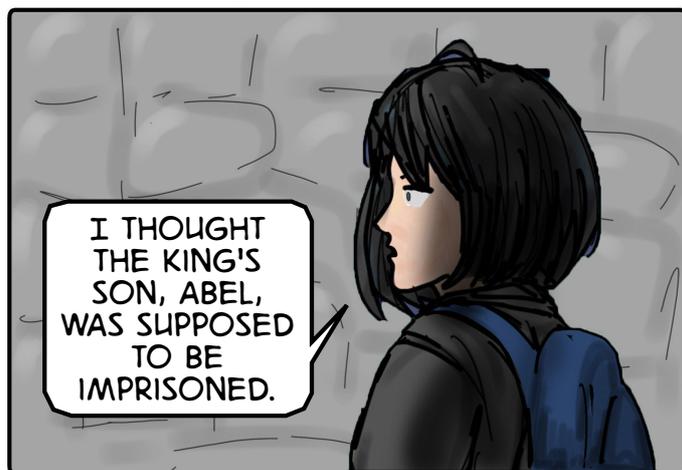


OH?

CAW!

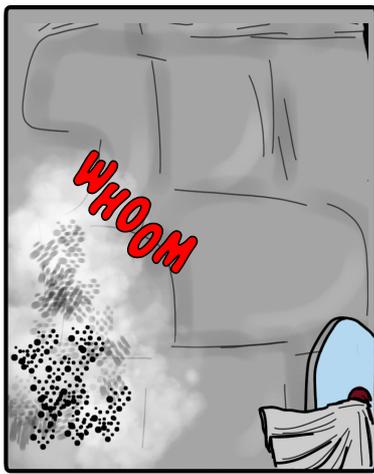


STOP!
WHY DO YOU
ATTACK MY
KINGDOM?

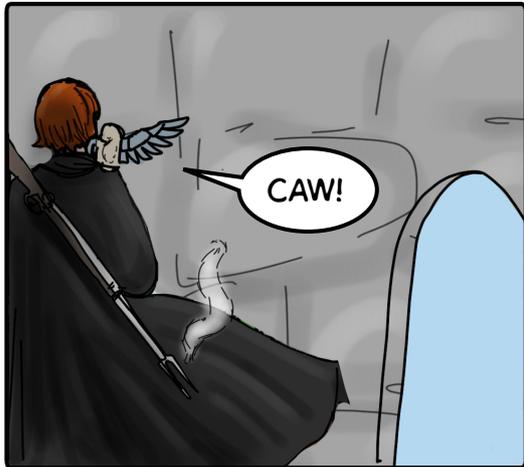
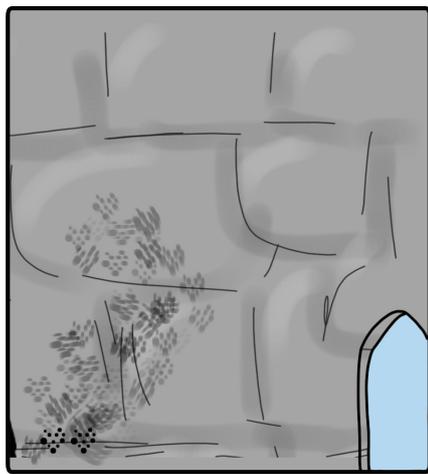




I WILL END YOU ALL.



WHOOM



CAW!

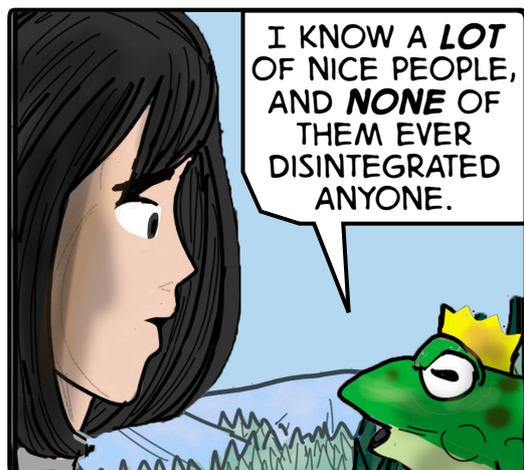


LATER.

THE GUY IS CRAZY. HE'S A **MURDERING** PIRATE!



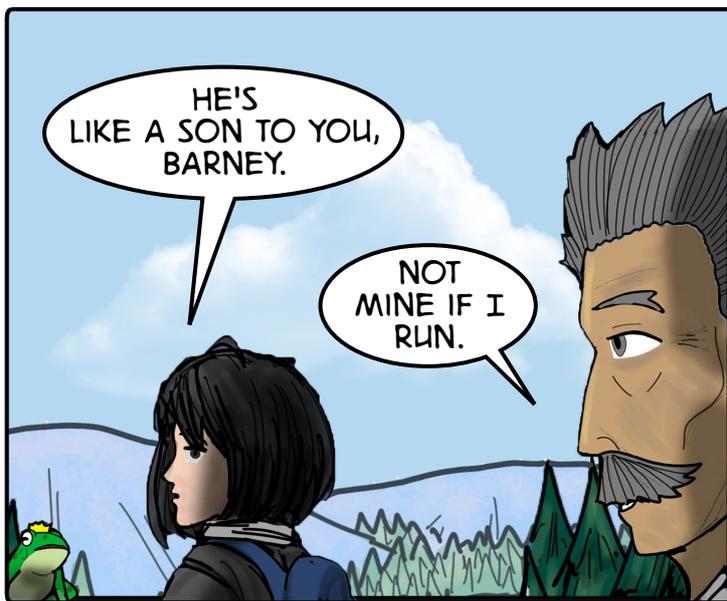
HE WASN'T LIKE THAT BEFORE. HE WAS ONE OF THE NICEST PEOPLE I KNEW.



I KNOW A LOT OF NICE PEOPLE, AND **NONE** OF THEM EVER DISINTEGRATED ANYONE.



MAN, I HATE THIS FROG, BUT I SORT OF AGREE. WE JUST NEED TO KEEP HIM LOCKED UP AND STOP RED MASK.





COULDN'T HURT.



GO TALK TO HIM, ALIZA.



HEY, STEVE.

OR IS IT, "CAPTAIN GEEPLUS"?



≧SIGH≦

HI, ALIZA.



WHAT'S HAPPENING?

WITH WHAT?

WITH **EVERYTHING.**



TAX WAS ACTUALLY SELLING OUT EVERYONE AS AS SPY FOR RED MASK.

HE LURED YOU TO RED CITY FOR RED MASK USING PENELOPE.



WHEN RED MASK REALIZED HE COULDN'T GET YOU, HE WENT FOR ANA INSTEAD...



...USING TAX'S CONNECTIONS AND GOT TO OUR METAVERSE AND TOOK HER.



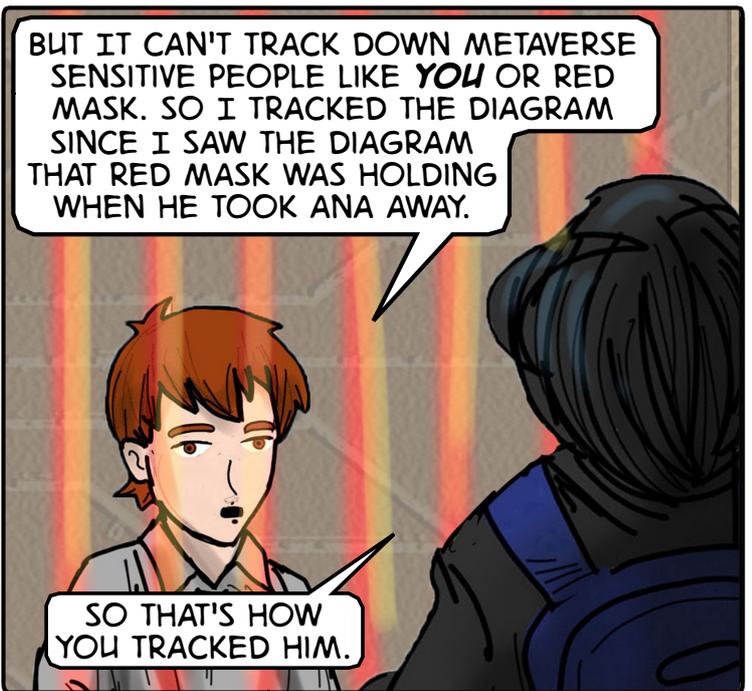
DID YOU FIND ANA?



NO. BUT I FOUND TAX. YOU SEE, THE GPS BARNEY MADE WITH MAGIC IS MORE POWERFUL THAN A NORMAL GPS. I CAN TRACK PEOPLE OR OBJECTS WITH IT IF I SEE THEM.

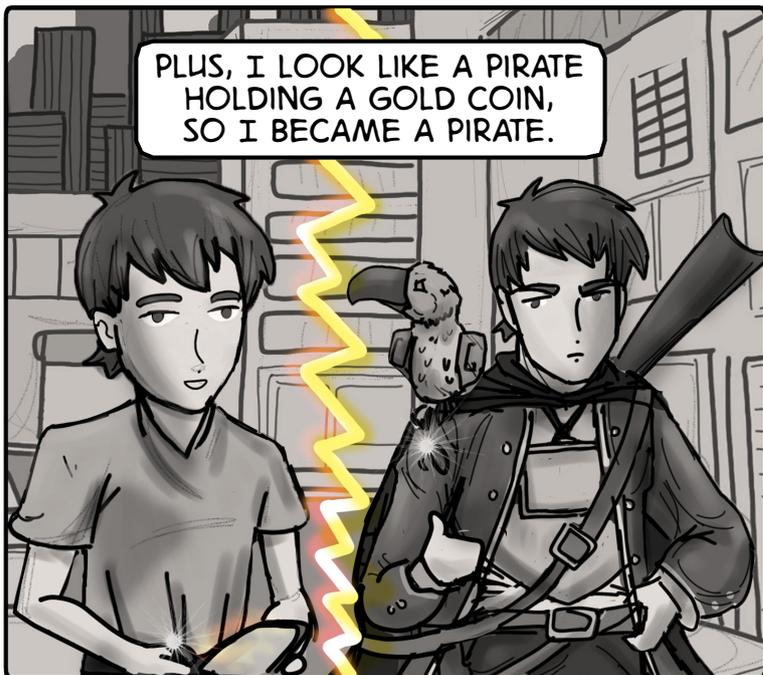
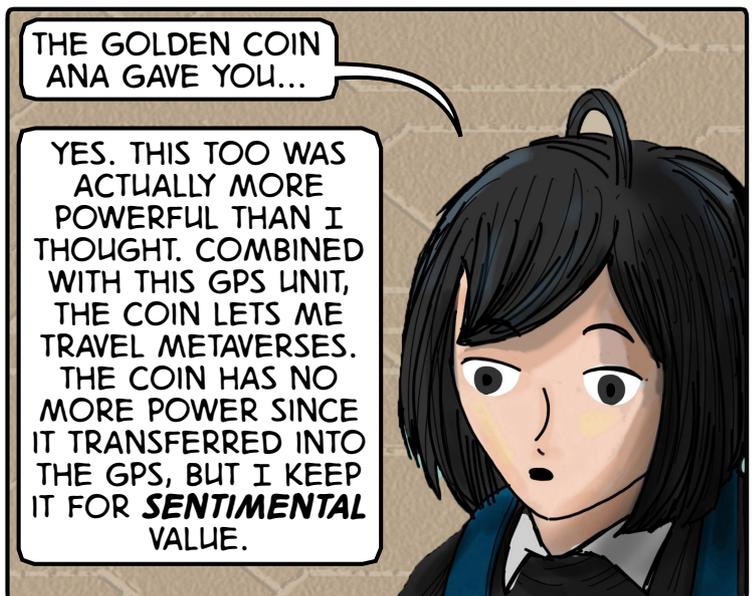
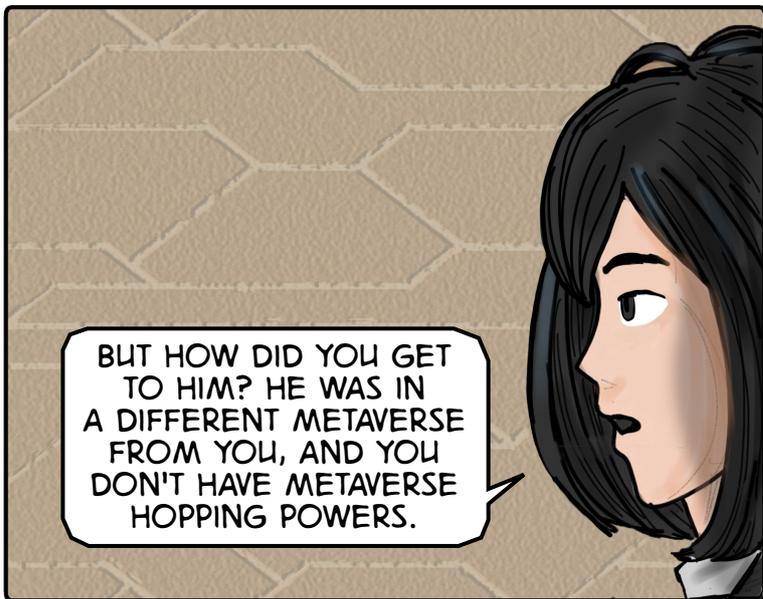


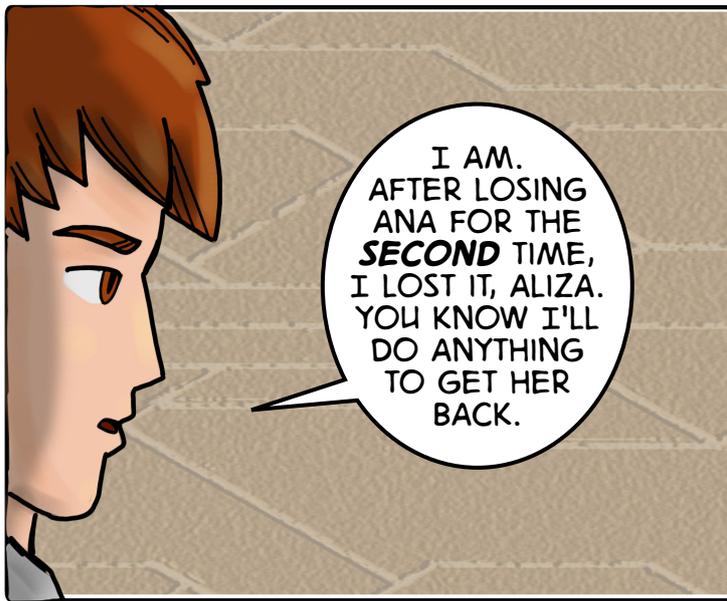
AND I'D DO **ANYTHING** TO FIND ANA.



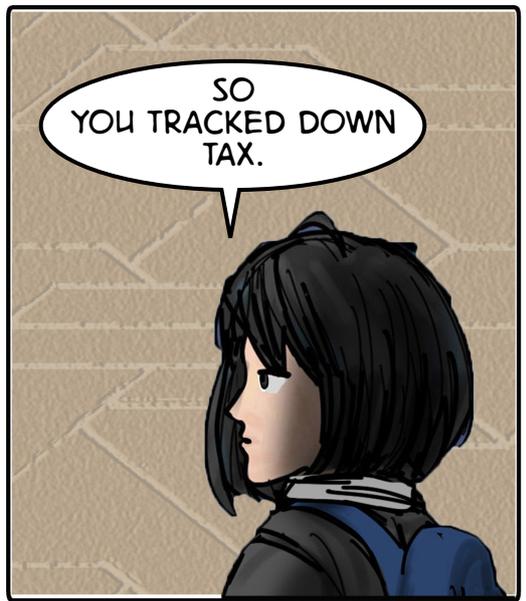
BUT IT CAN'T TRACK DOWN METAVERSE SENSITIVE PEOPLE LIKE **YOU** OR RED MASK. SO I TRACKED THE DIAGRAM SINCE I SAW THE DIAGRAM THAT RED MASK WAS HOLDING WHEN HE TOOK ANA AWAY.

SO THAT'S HOW YOU TRACKED HIM.





I AM. AFTER LOSING ANA FOR THE **SECOND** TIME, I LOST IT, ALIZA. YOU KNOW I'LL DO ANYTHING TO GET HER BACK.



SO YOU TRACKED DOWN TAX.

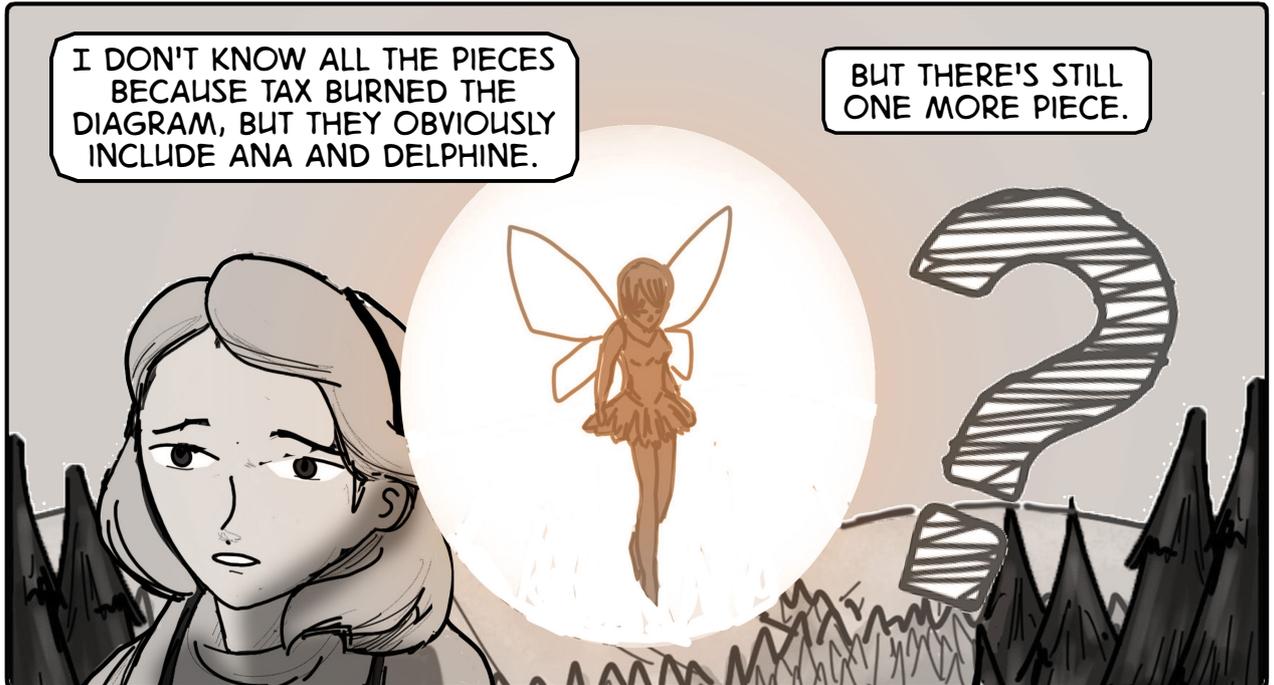


YES. AND DISCOVERED SOME OF RED MASKS' PLAN.



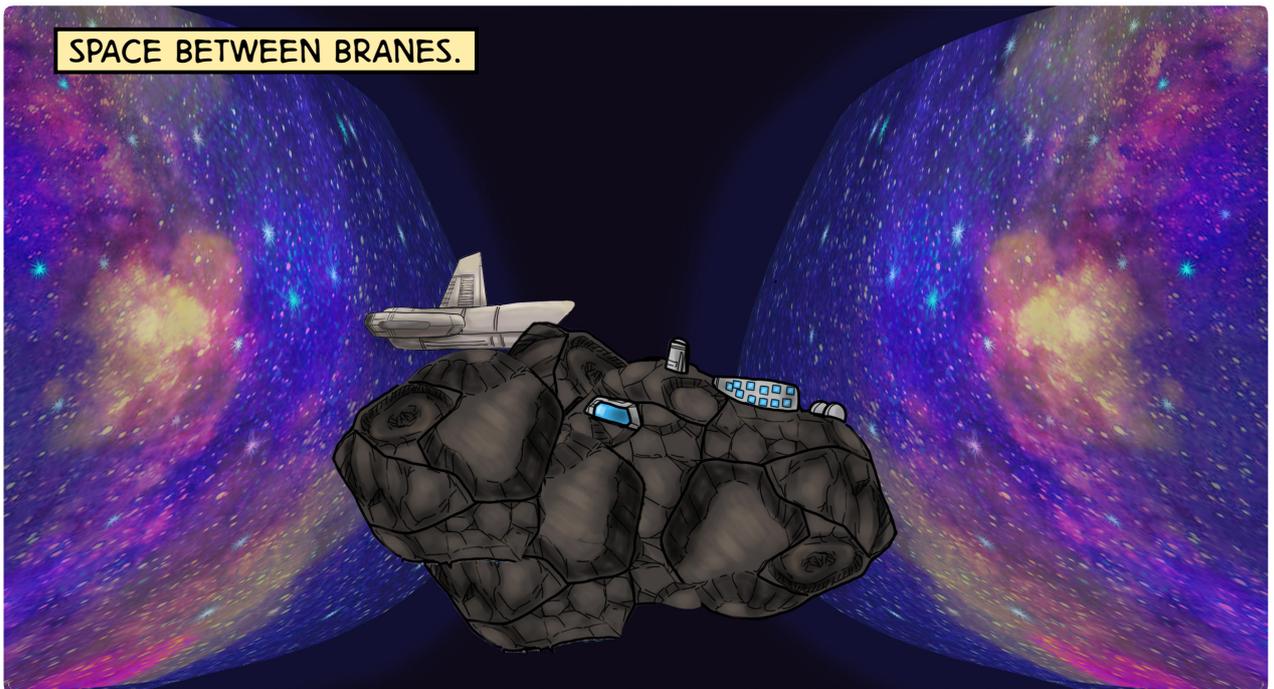
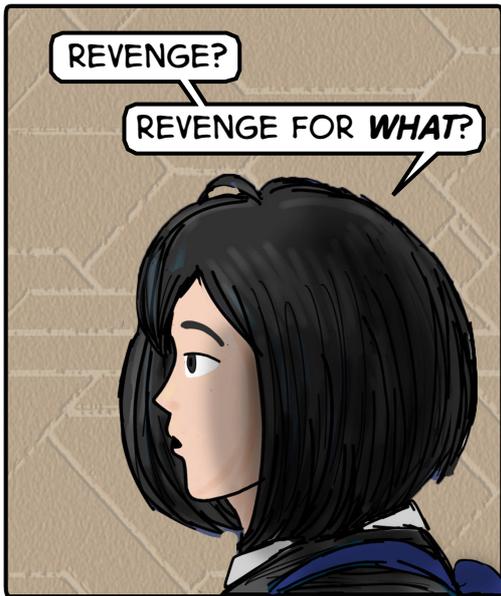
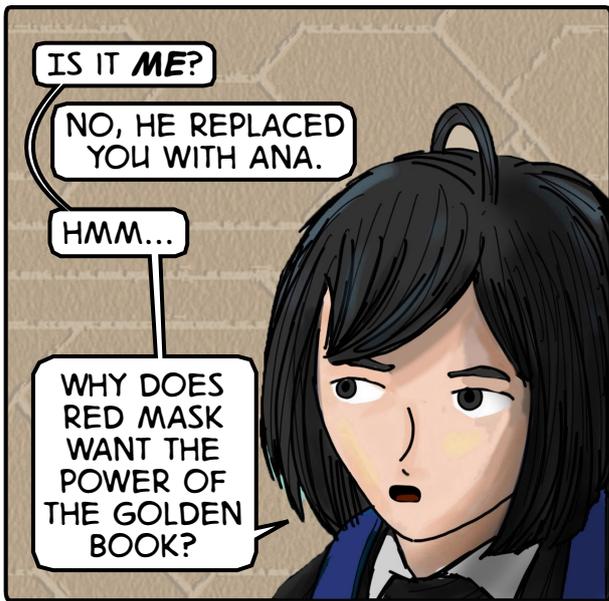
WHAT'S RED MASK PLANNING. WHAT DOES HE WANT WITH PEOPLE LIKE ME, ANA, AND DELPHINE?

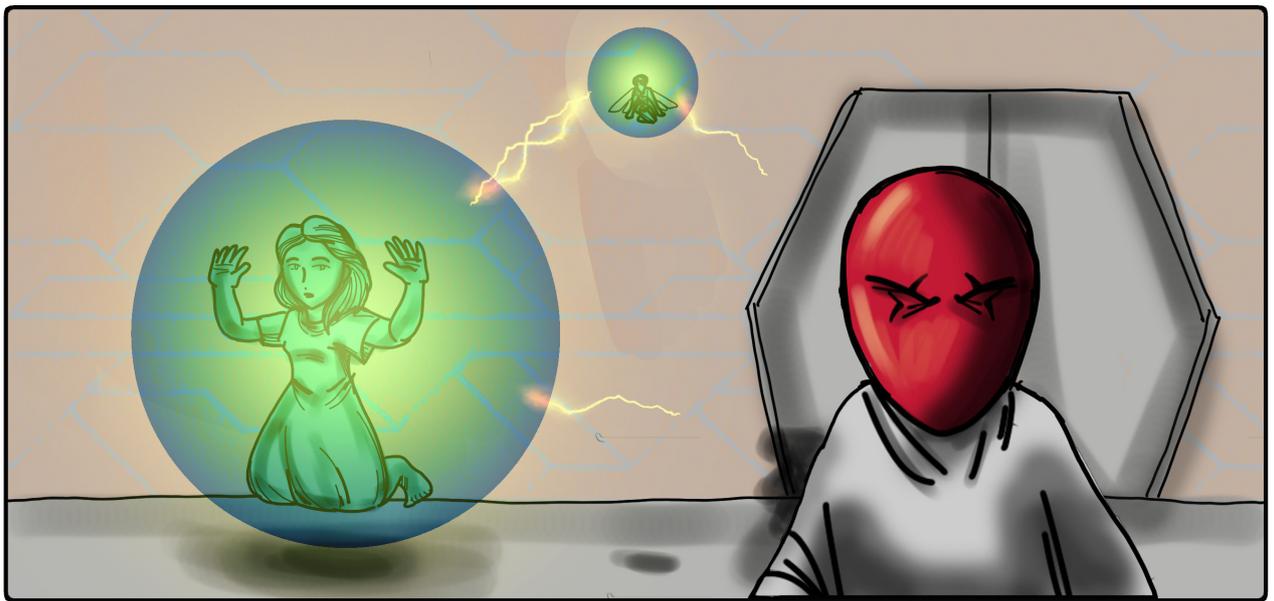
HE'S COLLECTING PIECES TO HAVE THE POWER OF YOUR GOLDEN BOOK.



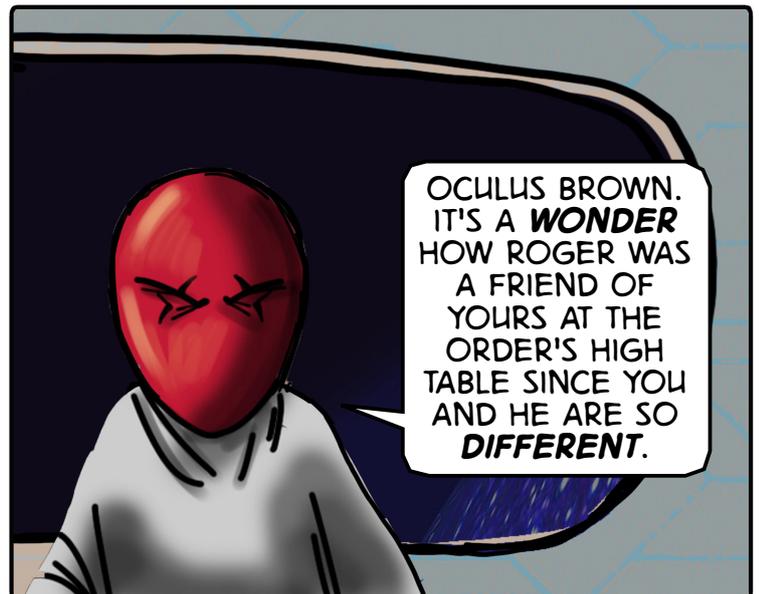
I DON'T KNOW ALL THE PIECES BECAUSE TAX BURNED THE DIAGRAM, BUT THEY OBVIOUSLY INCLUDE ANA AND DELPHINE.

BUT THERE'S STILL ONE MORE PIECE.

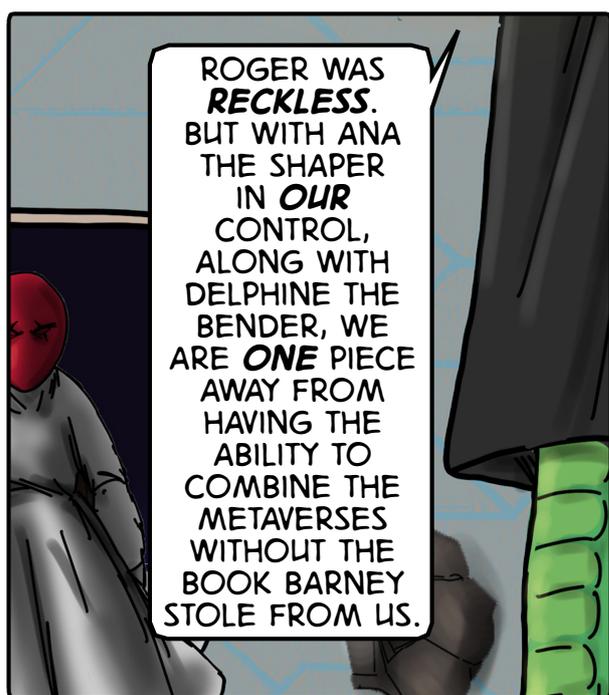




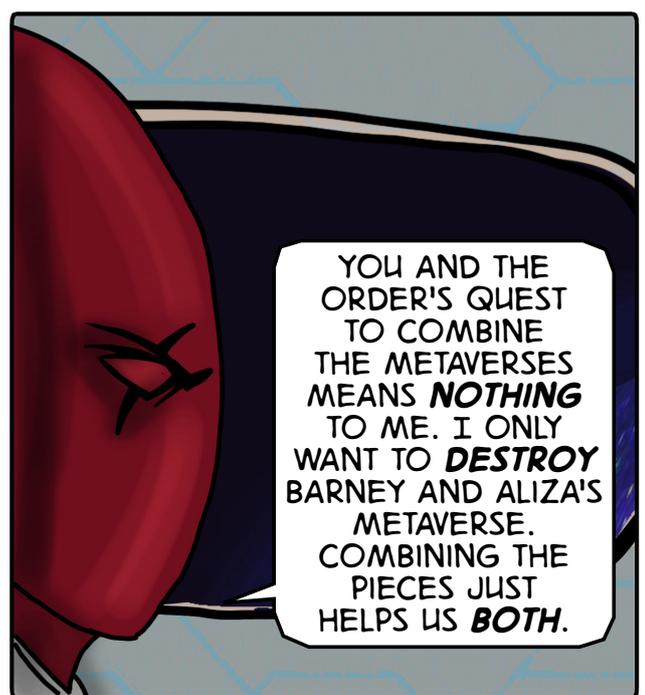
RED MASK.



OCULUS BROWN.
IT'S A **WONDER**
HOW ROGER WAS
A FRIEND OF
YOURS AT THE
ORDER'S HIGH
TABLE SINCE YOU
AND HE ARE SO
DIFFERENT.



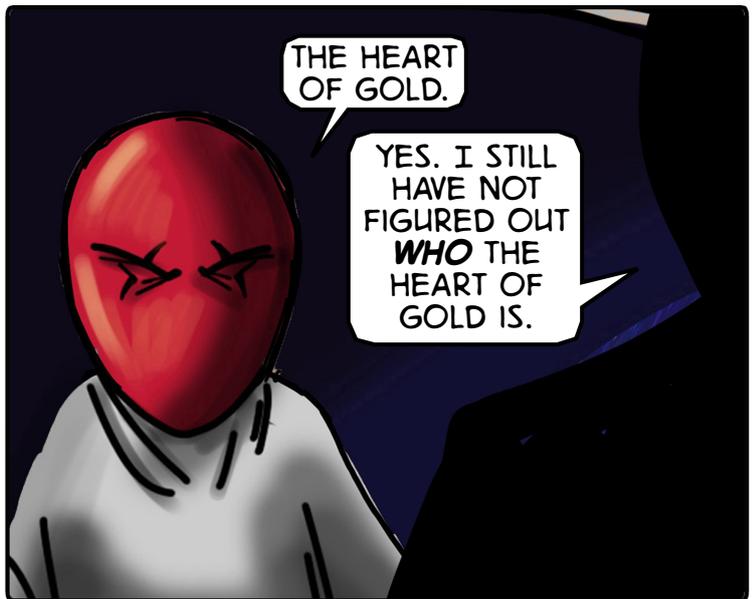
ROGER WAS
RECKLESS.
BUT WITH ANA
THE SHAPER
IN **OUR**
CONTROL,
ALONG WITH
DELPHINE THE
BENDER, WE
ARE **ONE**
PIECE
AWAY FROM
HAVING THE
ABILITY TO
COMBINE THE
METAVERSES
WITHOUT THE
BOOK BARNEY
STOLE FROM US.



YOU AND THE
ORDER'S QUEST
TO COMBINE
THE METAVERSES
MEANS **NOTHING**
TO ME. I ONLY
WANT TO **DESTROY**
BARNEY AND ALIZA'S
METAVERSE.
COMBINING THE
PIECES JUST
HELPS US **BOTH.**



WE NEED THE FINAL PIECE.



THE HEART OF GOLD.

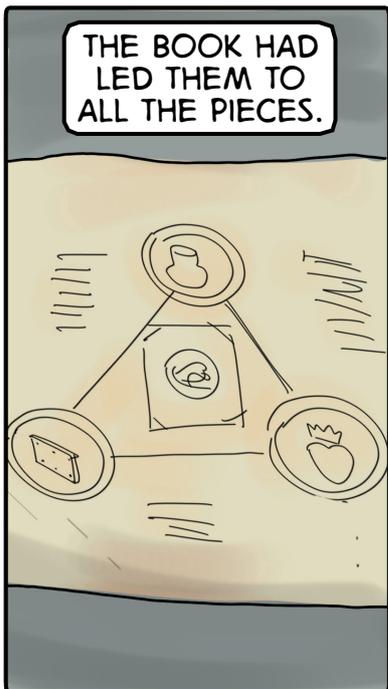
YES. I STILL HAVE NOT FIGURED OUT **WHO** THE HEART OF GOLD IS.



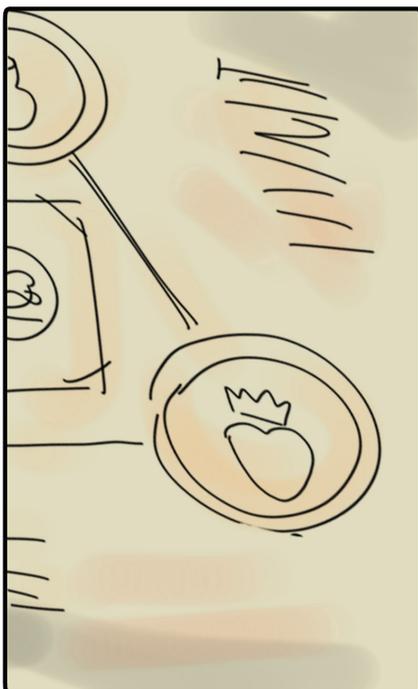
TAX HAD BURNED HIS COPY OF THE DIAGRAM, BUT I HAVE A COPY.



I'VE BEEN DOING RESEARCH ABOUT THIS DIAGRAM, AND THE OLD MAN AND HIS DUMB KID WILL BRING THE THIRD PIECE TO US.

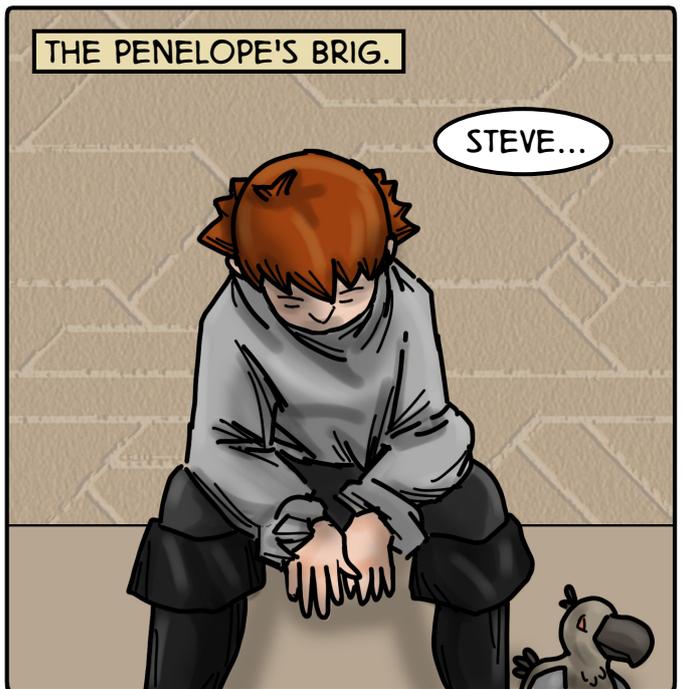
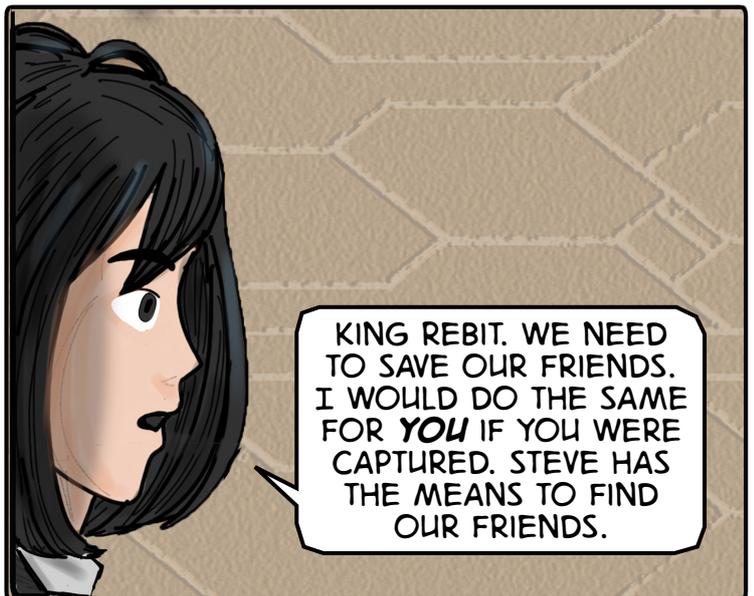


THE BOOK HAD LED THEM TO ALL THE PIECES.



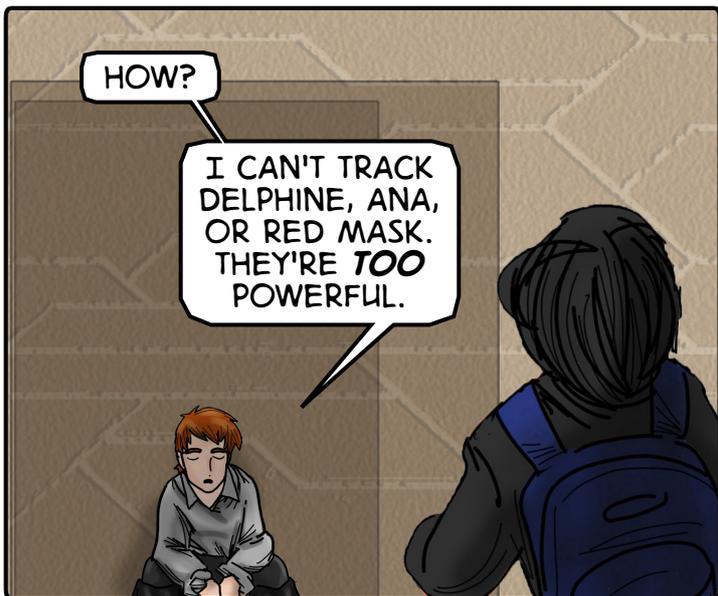
THE PENELOPE.

ARE YOU **CRAZY?**





WE NEED YOUR HELP TO GET ANA AND DELPHINE. YOUR GPS WILL HELP US GET TO THE **RIGHT** METAVERSE TO WHERE THEY ARE.

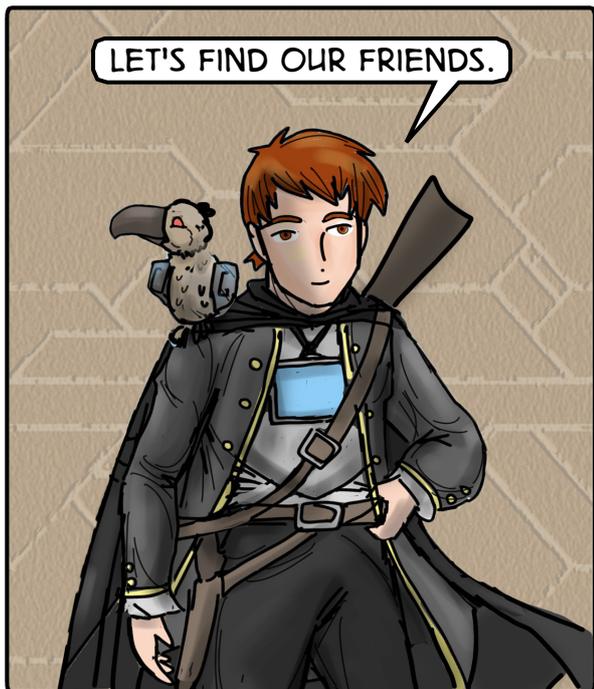
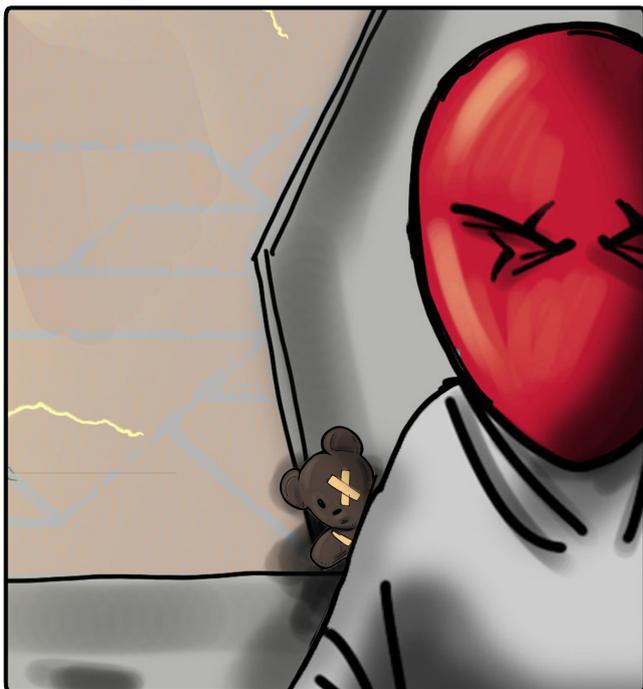


HOW?

I CAN'T TRACK DELPHINE, ANA, OR RED MASK. THEY'RE **TOO** POWERFUL.



TRACK CHARA'S TEDDY BEAR.



LET'S FIND OUR FRIENDS.

ASTEROID BASE
OF THE ORDER.



SWAMI BARNEY
MICHAELS. AND
THE LOVELY
ALIZA I'VE BEEN
HEARING SO MUCH
ABOUT. IF BARNEY
HASN'T TOLD YOU,
I'M OCLLUS
BROWN, A
MEMBER OF
THE HIGH TABLE
FOR THE ORDER.



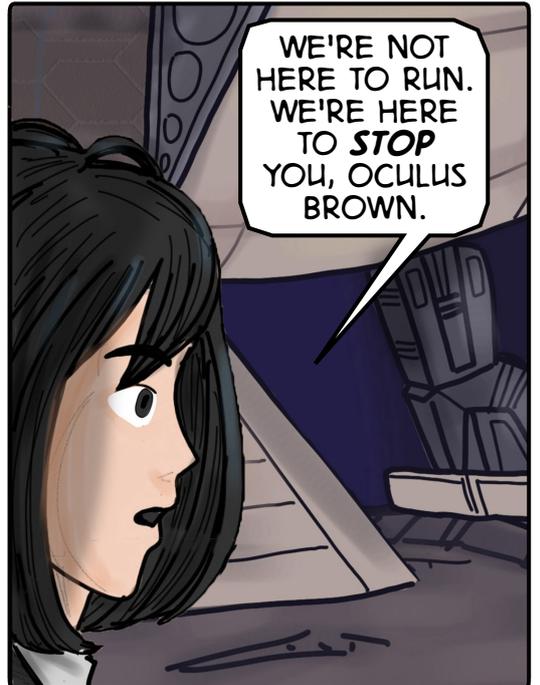
WHAT'S UP,
LIZARD FACE?

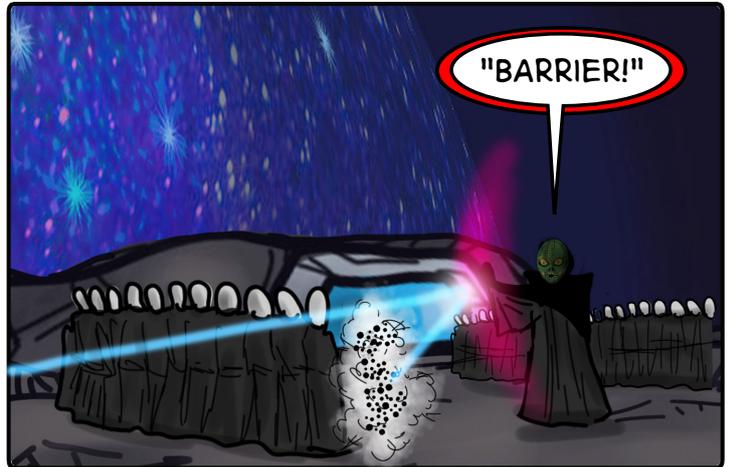
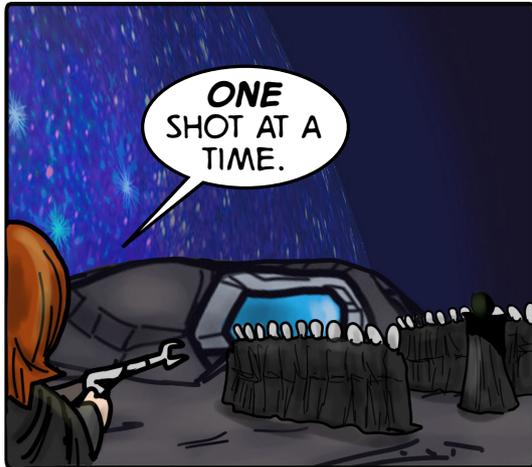


I SEE THAT
QUITTING
YOUR JOB AS
JANITOR
HASN'T
CORRECTED
YOUR **MANNERS**.
8000 YEARS
OF AVOIDING
THE INEVITABLE
HAS NOW COME
TO AN END.
NO MORE
RUNNING.



WE'RE NOT
HERE TO RUN.
WE'RE HERE
TO **STOP**
YOU, OCLLUS
BROWN.







ALIZA,
THEY GOT KING
REBIT!



STOP! LET NATURE *BE!*

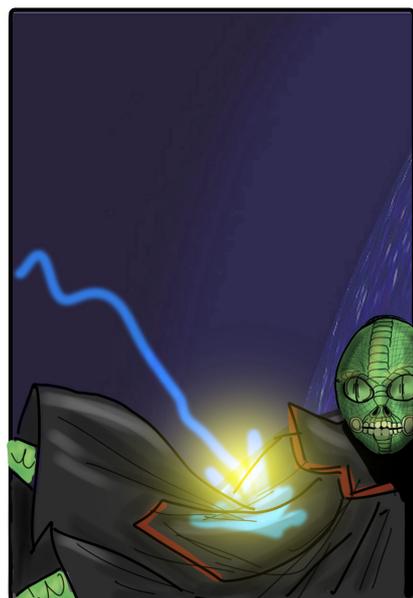
NATURE DID NOT
INTEND FOR THERE
TO BE MULTIPLE
METAVERSES WHERE
DIFFERENT VERSIONS
OF OURSELVES EXIST
ONLY CHANGED BY
SLIGHT DECISIONS.
THERE SHOULD ONLY
BE *ONE* METAVERSE.



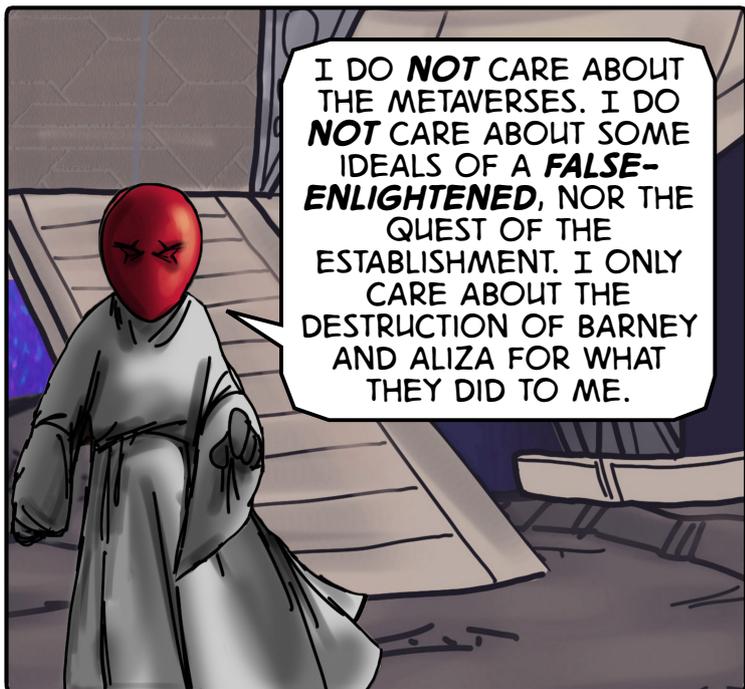
THAT'S
NOT FOR *YOU* TO
DECIDE.



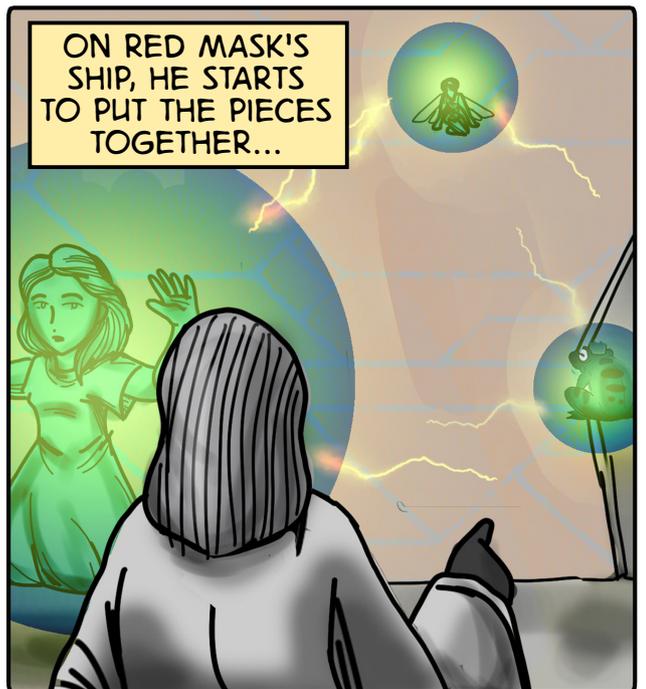
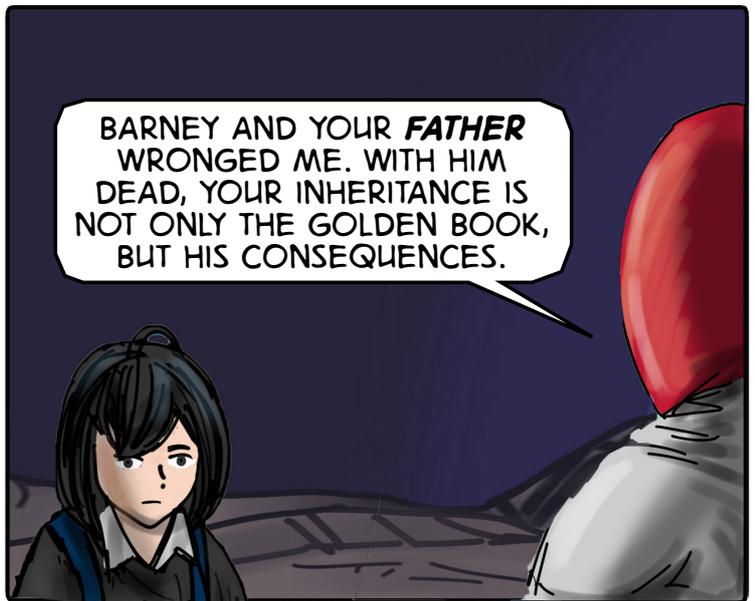
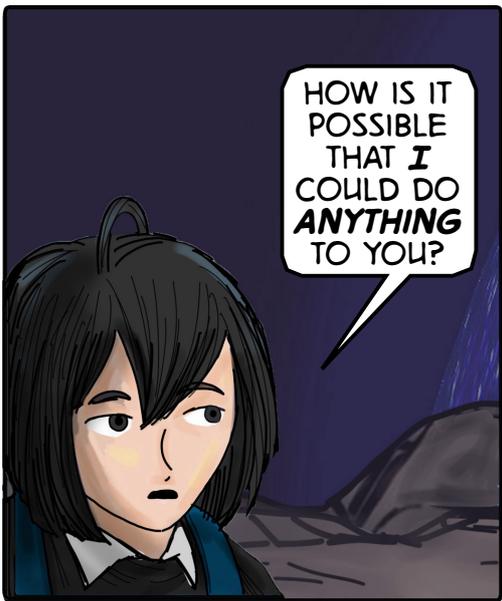
THE ORDER WAS
CREATED TO ESTABLISH
ORDER. WE *WILL*
MAINTAIN ORDER.



WHAT...*WHY?*



I DO *NOT* CARE ABOUT
THE METAVERSES. I DO
NOT CARE ABOUT SOME
IDEALS OF A *FALSE-
ENLIGHTENED*, NOR THE
QUEST OF THE
ESTABLISHMENT. I ONLY
CARE ABOUT THE
DESTRUCTION OF BARNEY
AND ALIZA FOR WHAT
THEY DID TO ME.

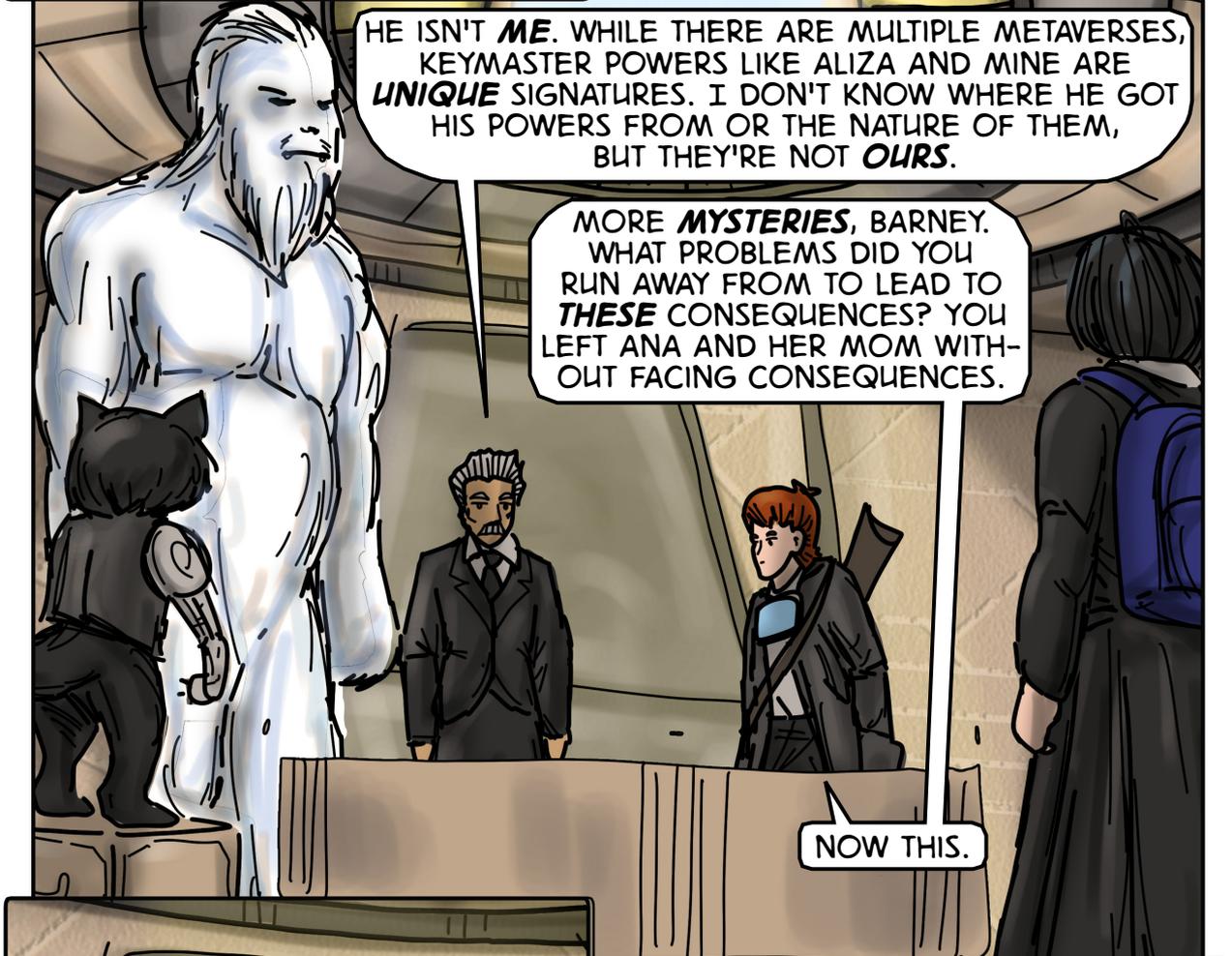




WE HAVE TO **STOP** RED MASK.



WE **CANNOT** STOP ANOTHER SWAMI BARNEY MICHAELS.



HE ISN'T *ME*. WHILE THERE ARE MULTIPLE METAVERSES, KEYMASTER POWERS LIKE ALIZA AND MINE ARE **UNIQUE** SIGNATURES. I DON'T KNOW WHERE HE GOT HIS POWERS FROM OR THE NATURE OF THEM, BUT THEY'RE NOT **OURS**.

MORE **MYSTERIES**, BARNEY. WHAT PROBLEMS DID YOU RUN AWAY FROM TO LEAD TO **THESE** CONSEQUENCES? YOU LEFT ANA AND HER MOM WITHOUT FACING CONSEQUENCES.

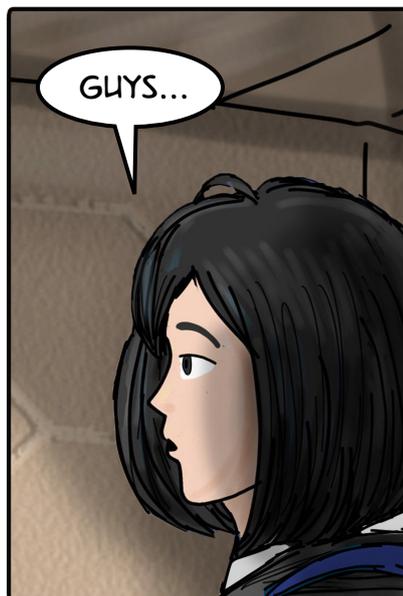
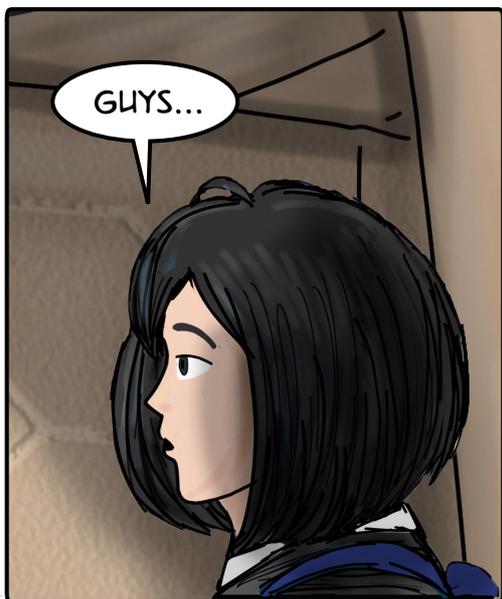
NOW THIS.



THAT WAS TO KEEP HER SAFE.

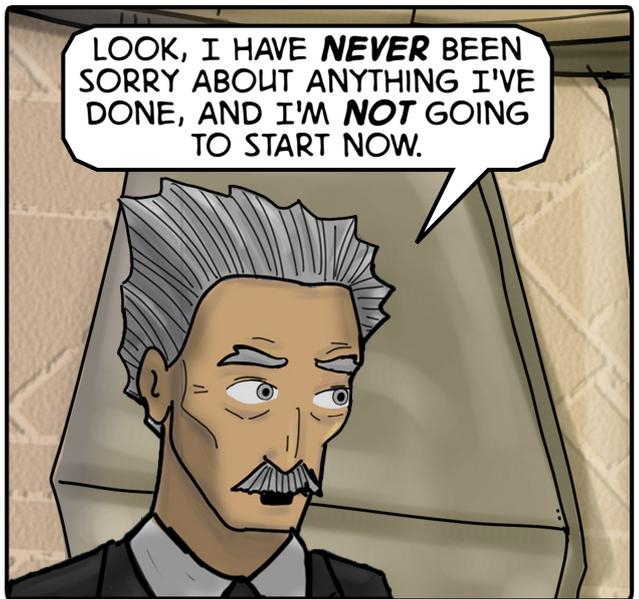


HOW'S **THAT** WORKING FOR HER?

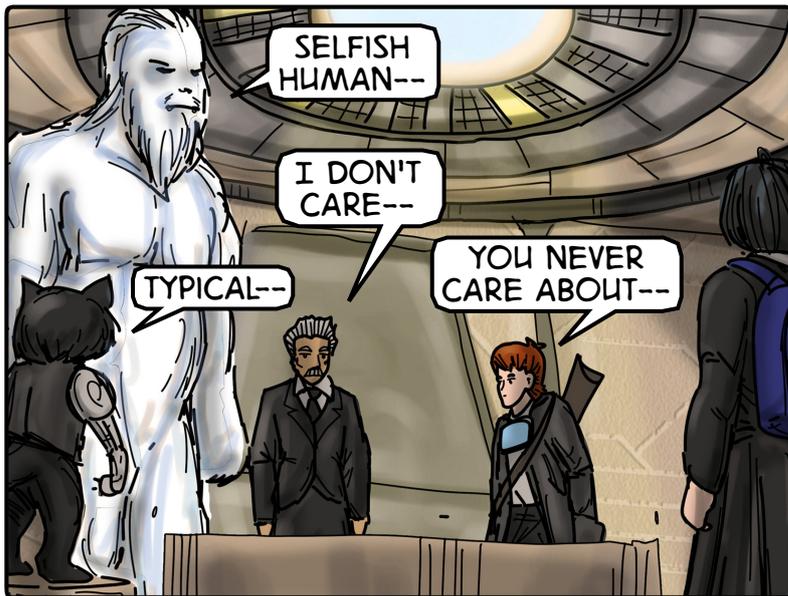




THIS HUMAN SHOULD BE RESPONSIBLE FOR HIS OWN MISTAKES.



LOOK, I HAVE **NEVER** BEEN SORRY ABOUT ANYTHING I'VE DONE, AND I'M **NOT** GOING TO START NOW.

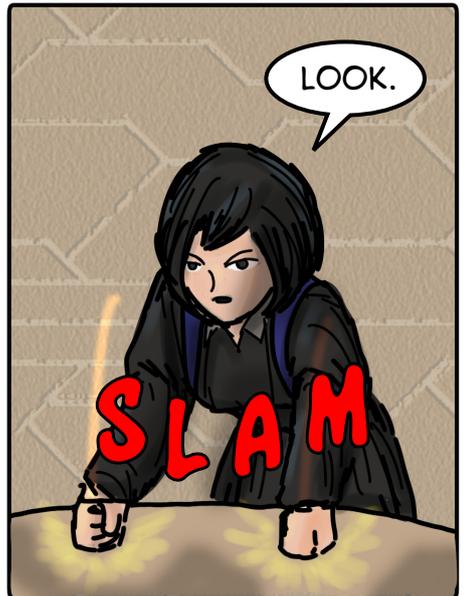


SELFISH HUMAN--

I DON'T CARE--

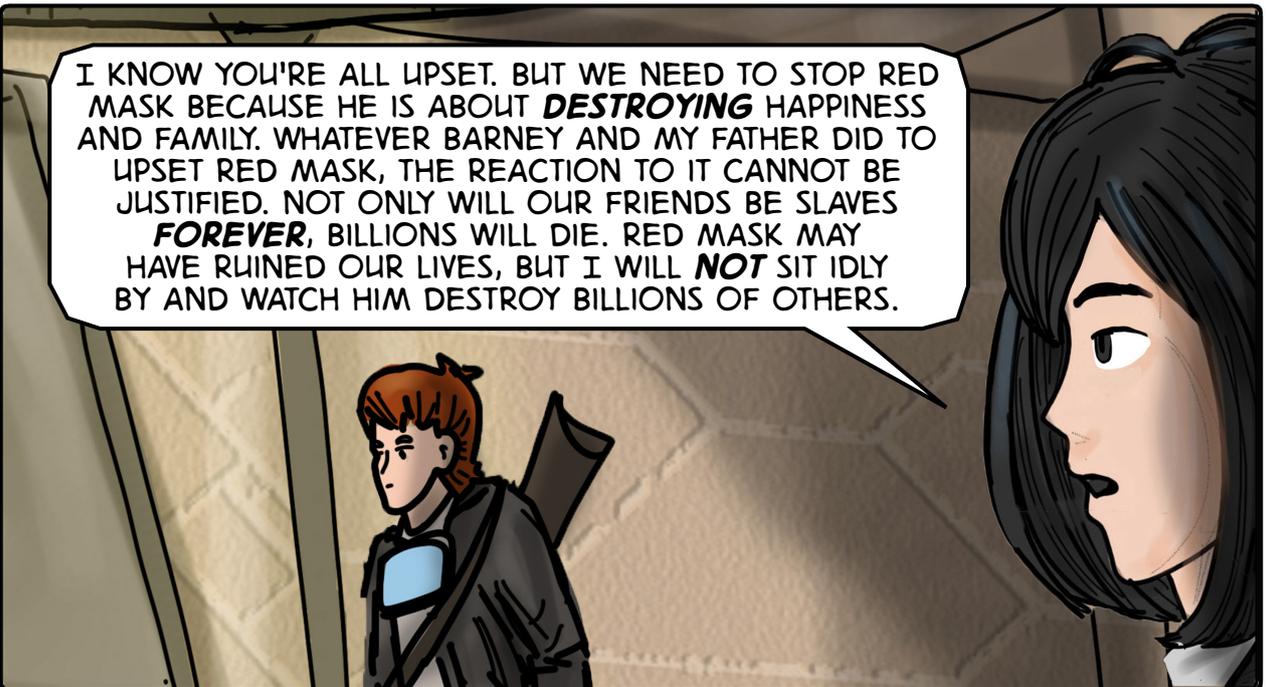
TYPICAL--

YOU NEVER CARE ABOUT--



LOOK.

SLAM



I KNOW YOU'RE ALL UPSET. BUT WE NEED TO STOP RED MASK BECAUSE HE IS ABOUT **DESTROYING** HAPPINESS AND FAMILY. WHATEVER BARNEY AND MY FATHER DID TO UPSET RED MASK, THE REACTION TO IT CANNOT BE JUSTIFIED. NOT ONLY WILL OUR FRIENDS BE SLAVES **FOREVER**, BILLIONS WILL DIE. RED MASK MAY HAVE RUINED OUR LIVES, BUT I WILL **NOT** SIT IDLY BY AND WATCH HIM DESTROY BILLIONS OF OTHERS.



I HAVE **ALWAYS** RUN AND LET THE METAVERSES **BE**. THE METAVERSE **ALWAYS** FINDS A WAY TO BALANCE ON ITS OWN.

IT'S TIME TO RUN, ALIZA.



ALL MY LIFE I'VE CLEANED UP THE CONSEQUENCES OF OTHERS, BUT NOW I CAN FIGHT TO CREATE MY **OWN** CONSEQUENCE.

I WILL **NOT** RUN.



PENELOPE WOULDN'T WANT ME TO GET REVENGE, BUT SHE WOULD **DEFINITELY** WANT ME TO HELP ALIZA STOP RED MASK OR **DIE** TRYING. SO I'LL DO WHAT SHE WANTS ME TO DO FOR A CHANGE.

I WILL **NOT** RUN.



I AM BEING SELFISH. LIFE DEBT OR NOT, ALIZA ALWAYS IS DIRECTED BY HER KIND HEART.

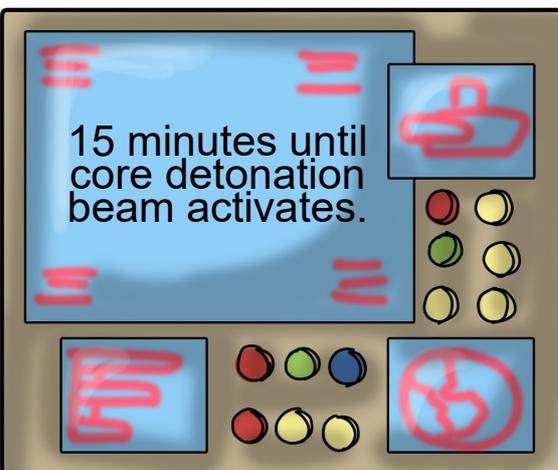
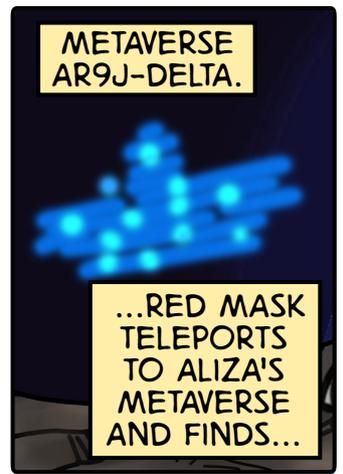
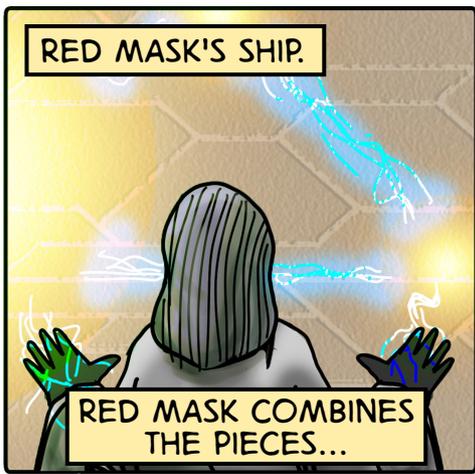
I WILL NOT RUN AWAY FROM THE CHANCE TO BE ON THE SIDE OF KINDNESS.

BARNEY? PLEASE?



⇒SIGH⇐

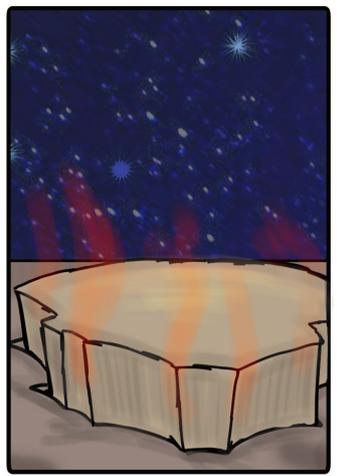
8000 YEARS WAS A LONG "RUN." GUESS IT'S TIME TO FACE A CONSEQUENCE.

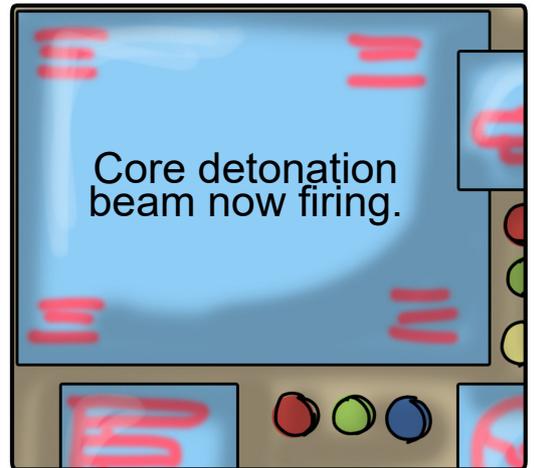
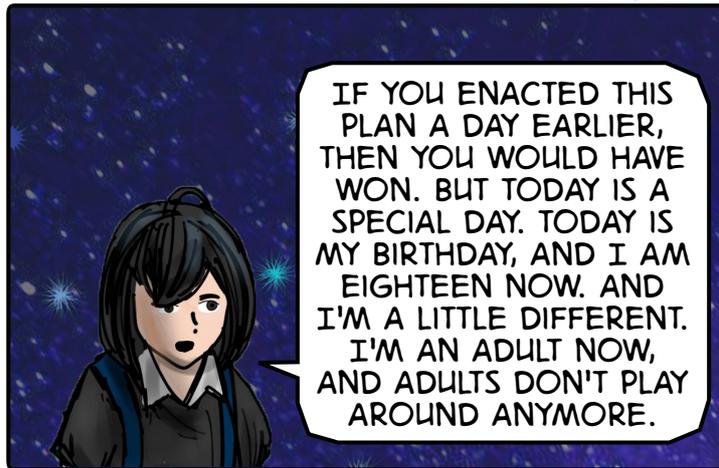




AS CAPTAIN GEEPLUS CHOOSES TO SAVE HIS FRIENDS BY BLASTING A HOLE IN THE HULL NEAR HIMSELF, THE EXPLOSION HITS HIMSELF INTO SPACE.









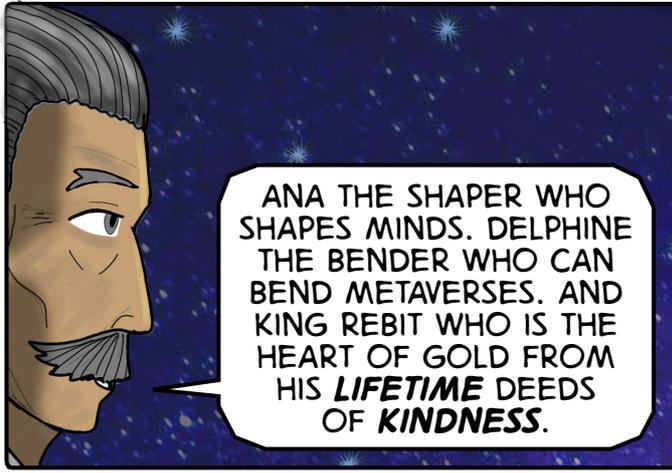
NOTHING HAPPENED.



I DON'T UNDERSTAND.



I HAD ALL THREE PARTS.



ANA THE SHAPER WHO SHAPES MINDS. DELPHINE THE BENDER WHO CAN BEND METAVERSES. AND KING REBIT WHO IS THE HEART OF GOLD FROM HIS *LIFETIME* DEEDS OF *KINDNESS*.



WAIT, DOESN'T KING REBIT HAVE SLAVES?



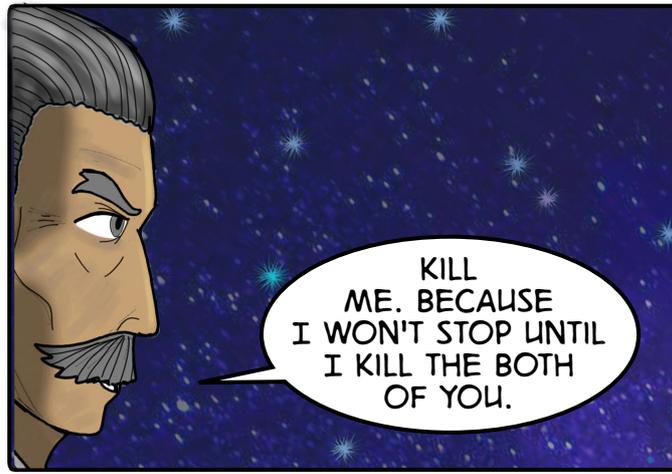
WHAT?



SHH.



DO IT.



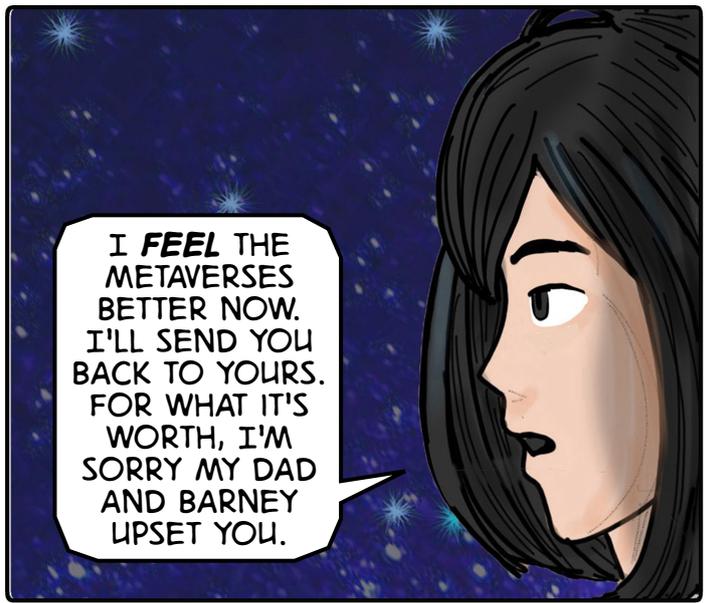
KILL ME. BECAUSE I WON'T STOP UNTIL I KILL THE BOTH OF YOU.



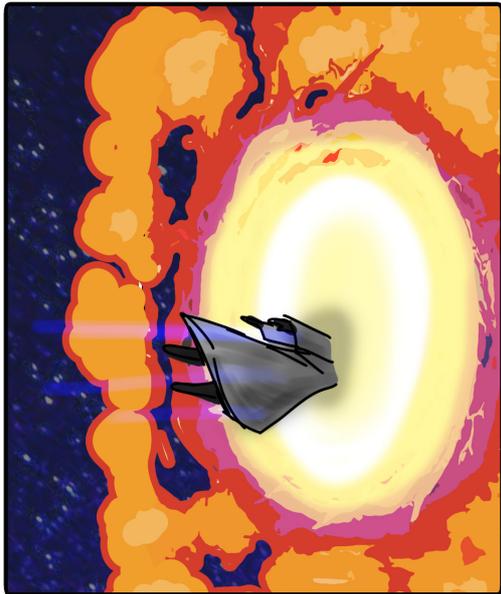
I DON'T DO THAT.



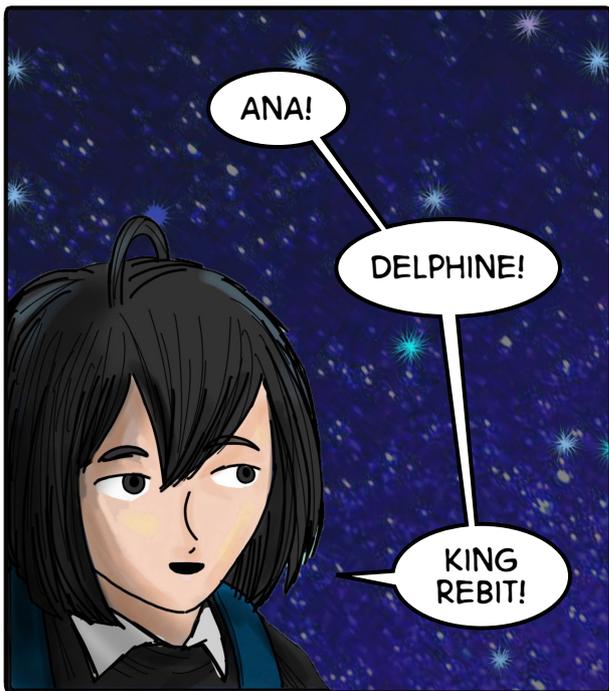
"LEECH."



I **FEEL** THE METAVERSSES BETTER NOW. I'LL SEND YOU BACK TO YOURS. FOR WHAT IT'S WORTH, I'M SORRY MY DAD AND BARNEY UPSET YOU.



LOOK WHO **I** FOUND.



ANA!

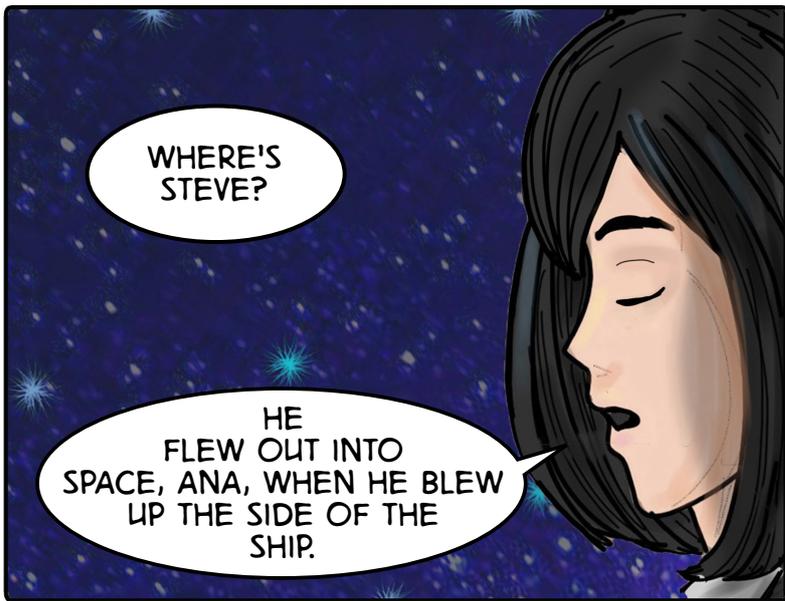
DELPHINE!

KING REBIT!



ELIU!

BARBON!



WHERE'S STEVE?

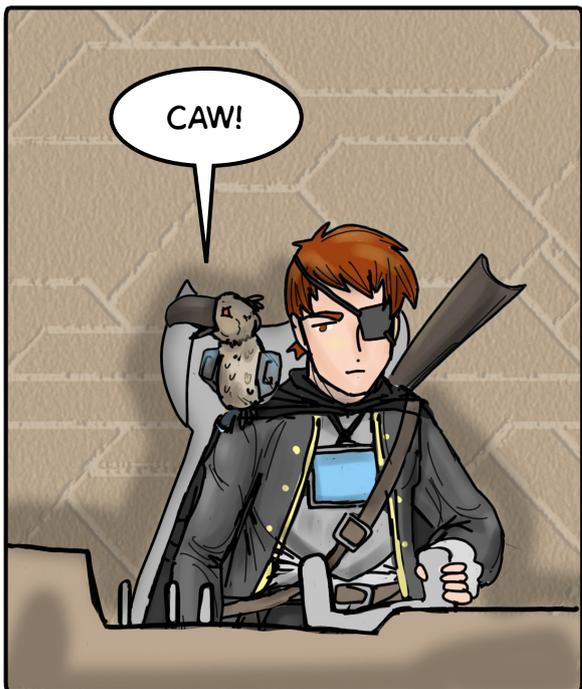
HE FLEW OUT INTO SPACE, ANA, WHEN HE BLEW UP THE SIDE OF THE SHIP.



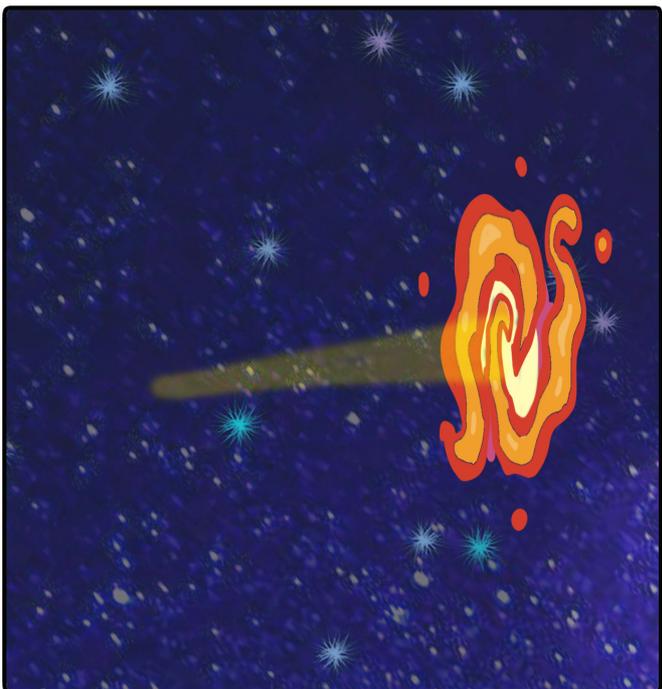
HEY!



THAT PIRATE TOOK MY SHIP!



CAW!



ALIZA'S HOME.

SO ME OWNING SLAVES SAVED THE METAVERSES, HUH?

THERE'S EVERYONE IN MY HOUSE.

I DON'T THINK I'M READY TO BE EIGHTEEN.

I HAVE SOMETHING FOR YOU FROM STEVE.

ARE YOU READY NOW?

BARNEY--

LET'S GO IN.

END.

