

20
YEARS OF
IDW
ONE-SHOT

SYNERGY:

a HASBRO CREATORS SHOWCASE





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SYNERGY:

a HASBRO CREATORS SHOWCASE

SALUTING CREATIVE WOMEN AND THE LASTING IMPACT
THEY MAKE ON THE COMICS OF HASBRO!



“GHOST”

WRITTEN AND DRAWN BY: EMMA VIECELI
COLORED BY: RONDA PATTISON

“AN ARCEE SORT OF DAY”

WRITTEN BY: PERI MERCER
DRAWN BY: UMI MIYAO
COLORED BY: ELAINA UNGER

“THE STAGE”

WRITTEN BY: KATIE COOK
DRAWN BY: AGNES GARBOWSKA
COLORED BY: HEATHER BRECKEL

“RECHARGE”

WRITTEN, DRAWN, AND COLORED BY:
SARAH WINIFRED SEARLE

COVER ART BY: SARA PITRE-DUROCHER
LETTERS AND DESIGN BY: CHRISTA MIESNER
EDITS BY: MEGAN BROWN

“OF FLYING AND FALLING”

WRITTEN BY: MAIRGHEAD SCOTT
DRAWN BY: SARA PITRE-DUROCHER
COLORED BY: JOANA LAFUENTE

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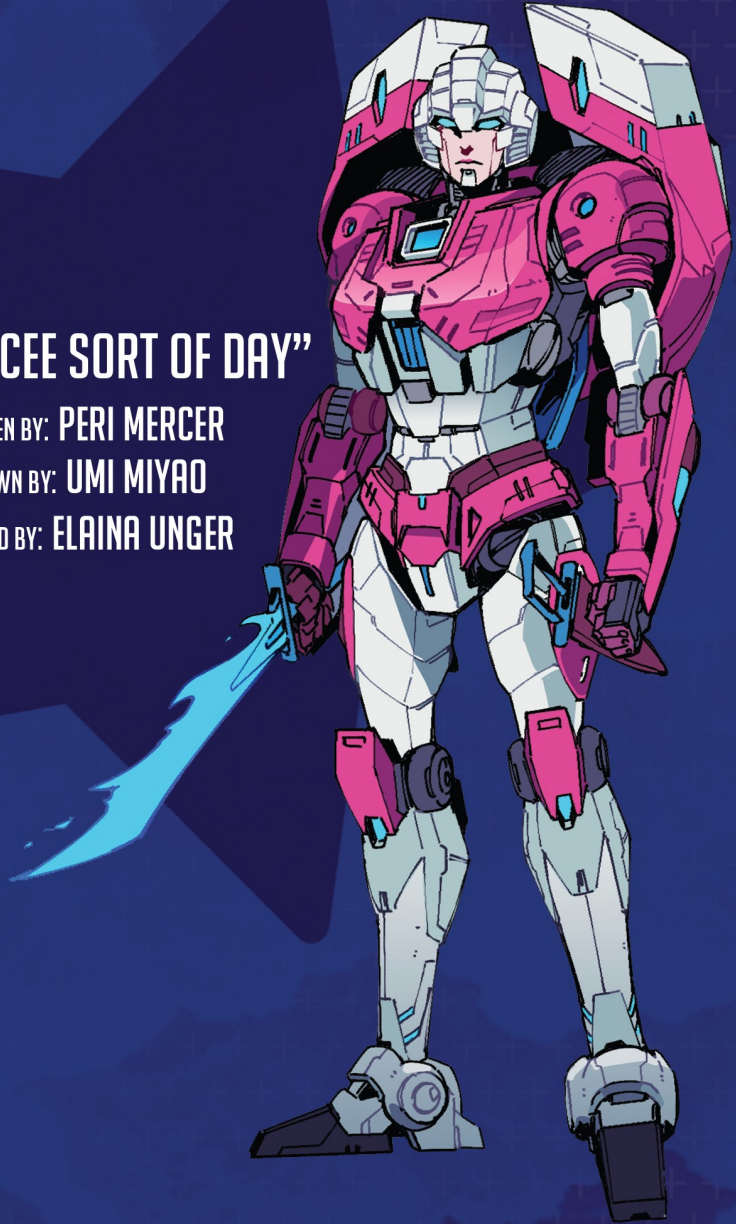
ART BY PRISCILLA TRAMONTANO

“AN ARCEE SORT OF DAY”

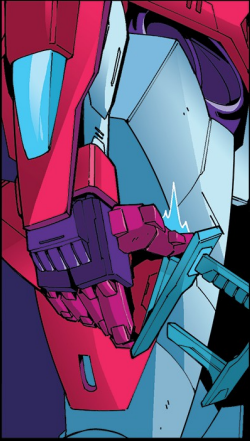
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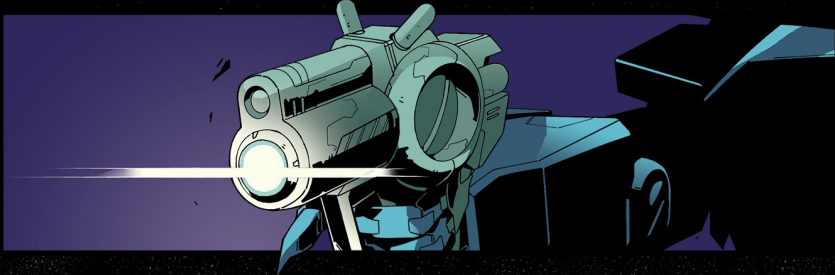
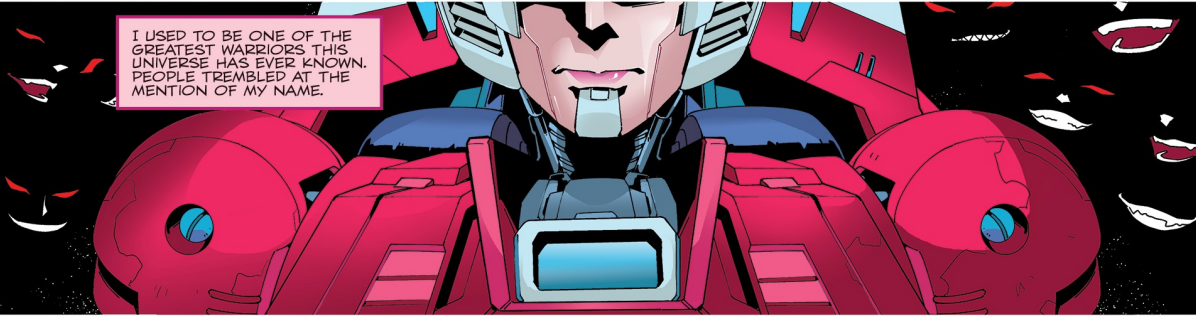
COLORED BY: ELAINA UNGER



MY NAME IS ARCEE.



I USED TO BE ONE OF THE GREATEST WARRIORS THIS UNIVERSE HAS EVER KNOWN. PEOPLE TREMBLED AT THE MENTION OF MY NAME.



YOUR APPLICATION HAS BEEN SUSPENDED. PLEASE CALL A REPRESENTATIVE TO RE-APPLY.



NOW I CAN'T EVEN GET A LOAN FOR A HOUSE.

CYBERTRON HAS BOUNCED BACK FROM A LONG HISTORY OF WAR. IT ALWAYS DOES. EVERYONE GOES ABOUT THEIR BUSINESS, NOT CARING ABOUT ANYONE ELSE.

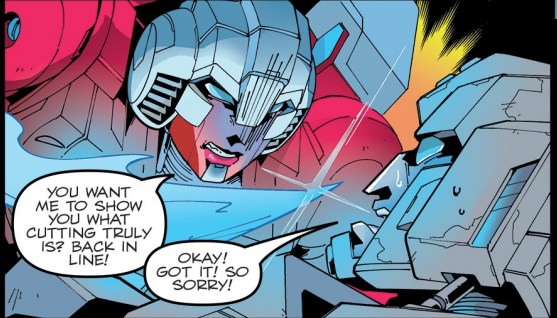


EAT MY DUAL BOOSTER DUST, IDIOTS!



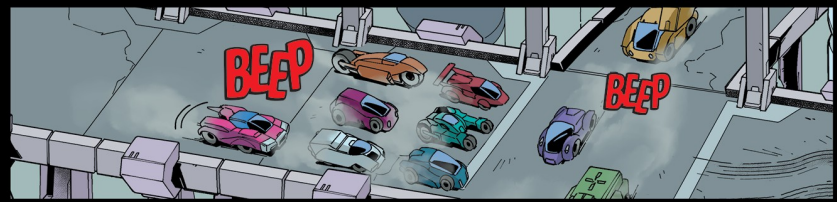
YOU WANT ME TO SHOW YOU WHAT CUTTING TRULY IS? BACK IN LINE!

OKAY! GOT IT! SO SORRY!



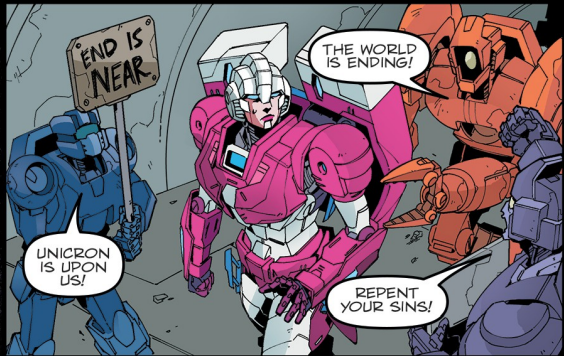
BEEP

BEEP





I DON'T KNOW IF I'LL EVER GET USED TO BEING JUST ME, NOT A WARRIOR, NOT A SOLDIER.



THE WORLD IS ENDING!

UNICRON IS UPON US!

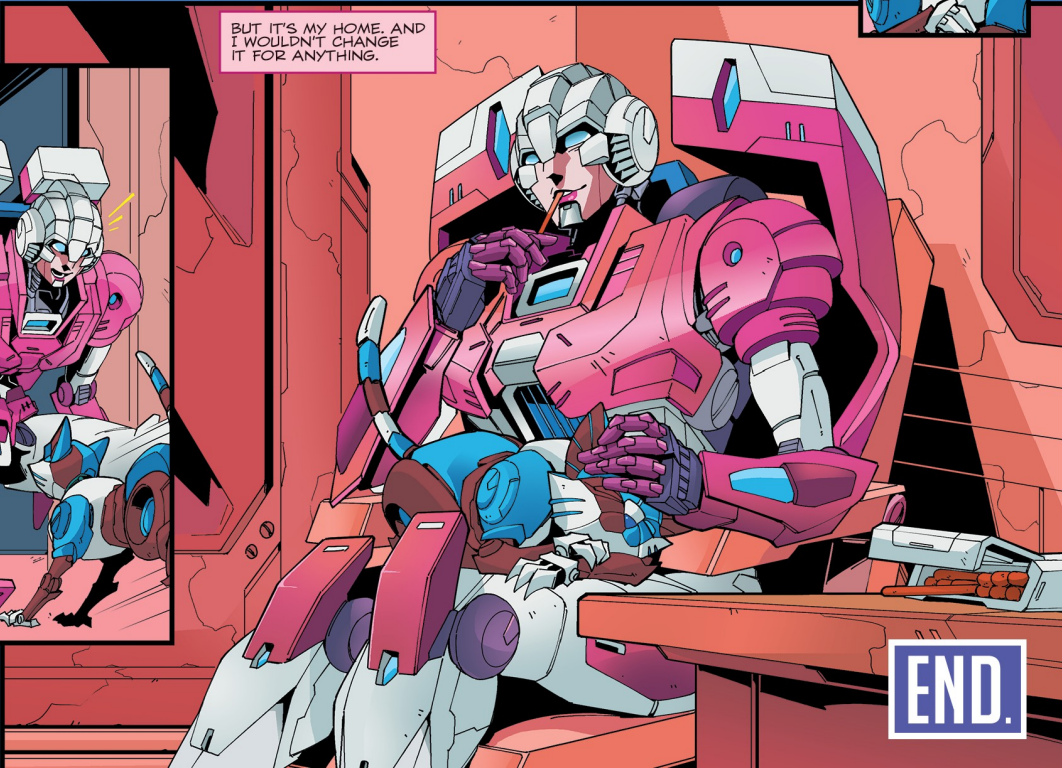
REPENT YOUR SINS!



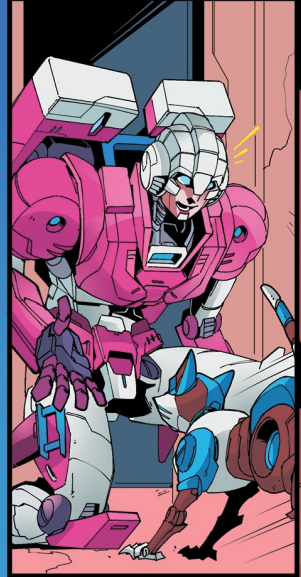
DO YOU WANT RUST STICKS WITH THAT? ONLY ONE CREDIT EXTRA.



I DON'T KNOW IF I'LL EVER HAVE A NORMAL LIFE. DOESN'T SEEM LIKELY ON THIS CRAZY ROCK.



BUT IT'S MY HOME, AND I WOULDN'T CHANGE IT FOR ANYTHING.



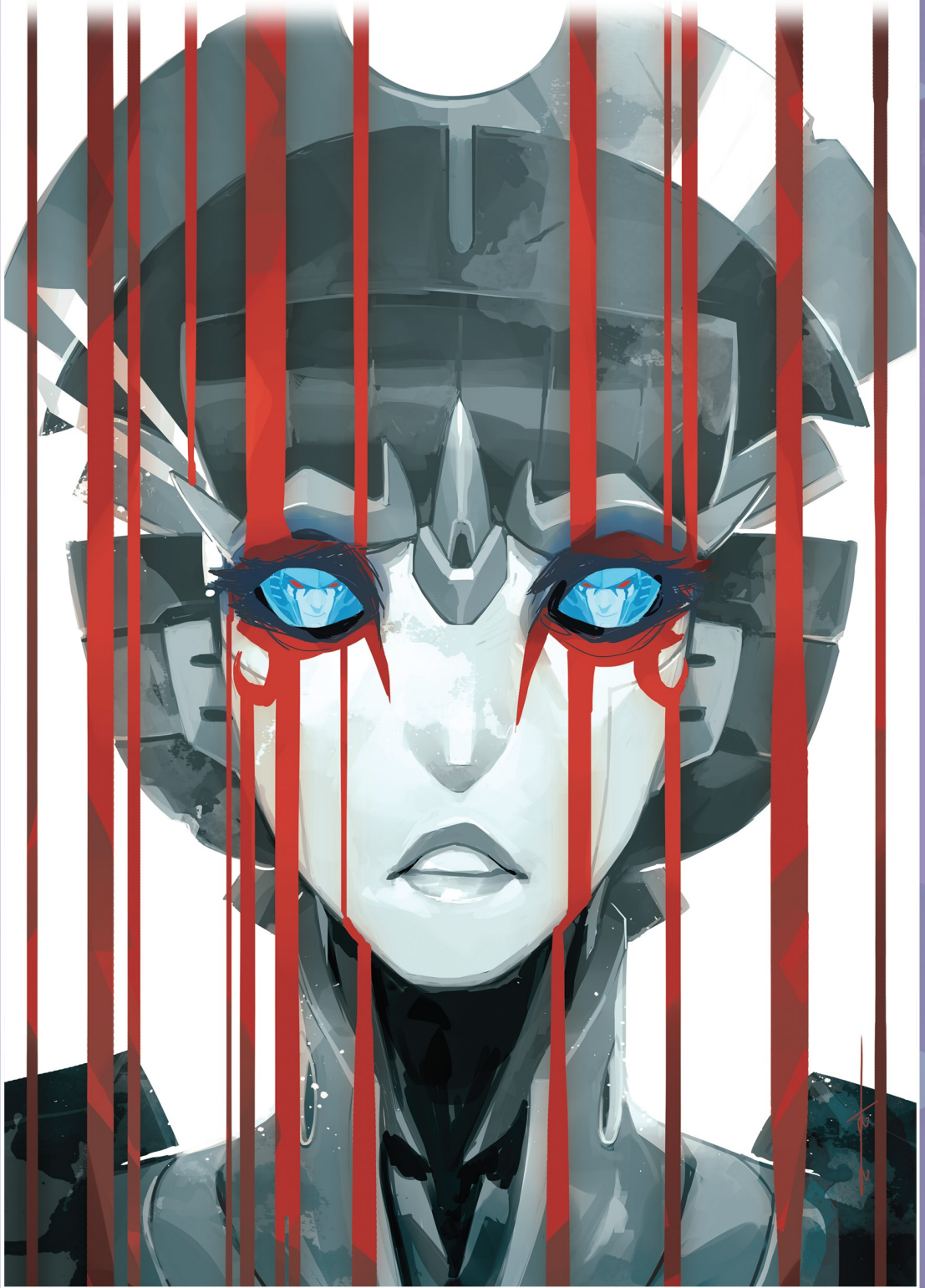
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ART BY NICOLETTA BALDARI



ART BY SARA PITRE-DUROCHER



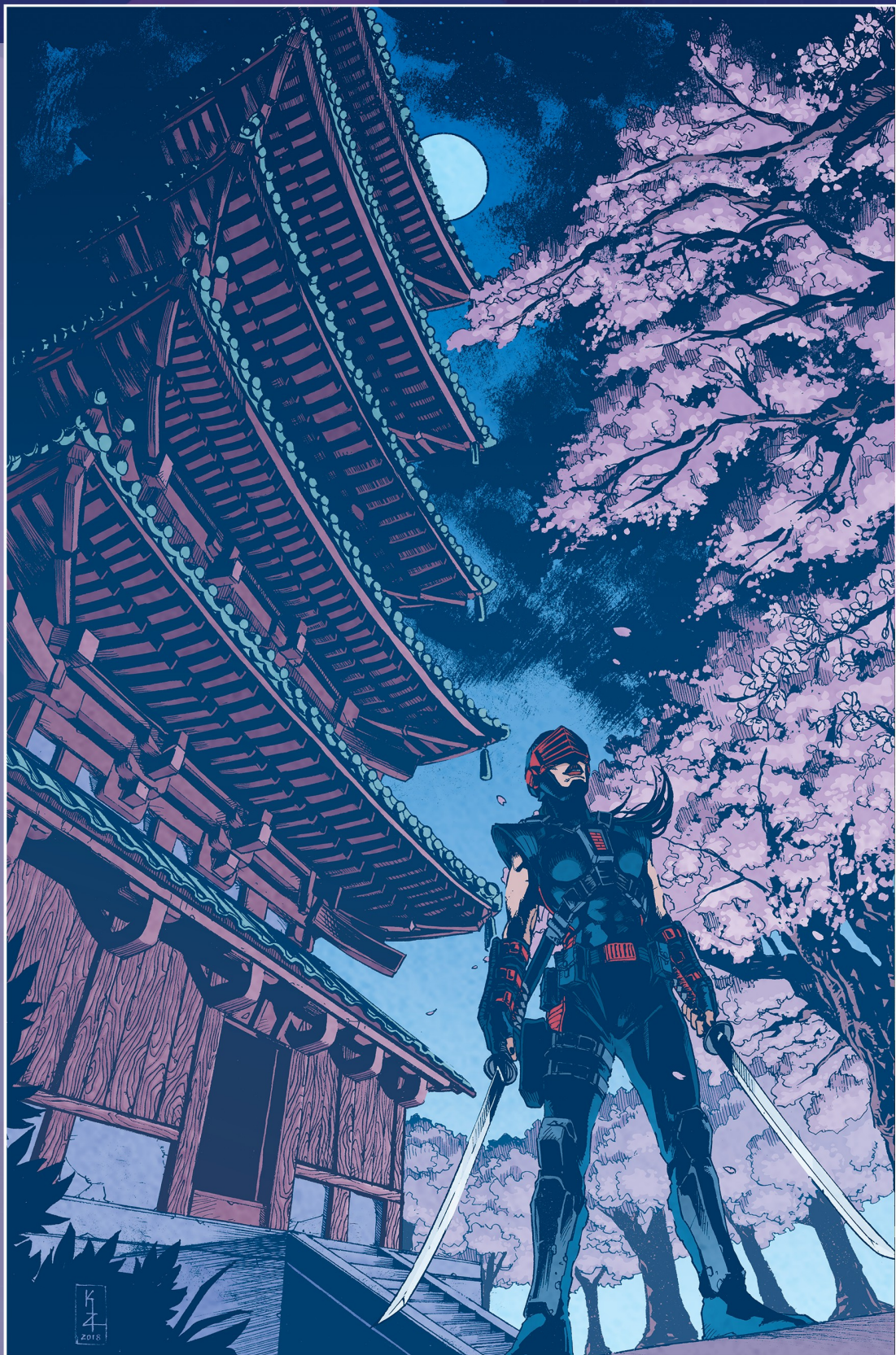
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“GHOST”

WRITTEN AND DRAWN BY: EMMA VIECELI

COLORED BY: RONDA PATTISON





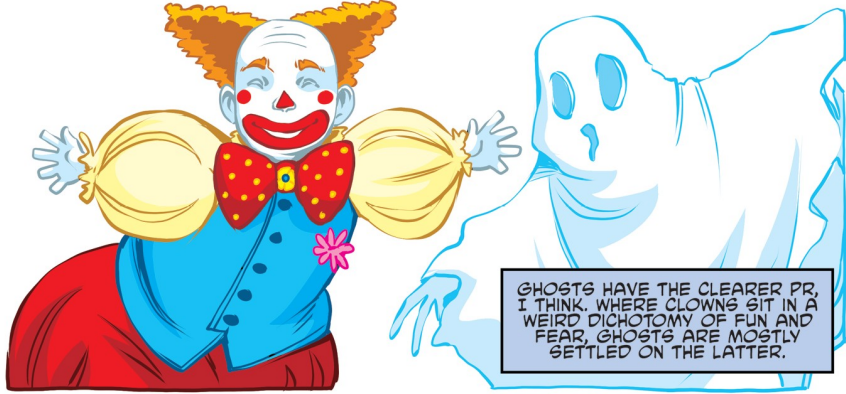
WHEN I WAS A KID, GHOSTS SCARED ME.



I MEAN, I REALIZE THAT DOESN'T MAKE ME UNUSUAL.

WHEN WE'RE LITTLE, A LOT SCARES US.

AND GHOSTS AND CLOWNS MAKE MOST PEOPLE'S TOP FIVE.



GHOSTS HAVE THE CLEARER PR, I THINK. WHERE CLOWNS SIT IN A WEIRD DICHTOMY OF FUN AND FEAR, GHOSTS ARE MOSTLY SETTLED ON THE LATTER.

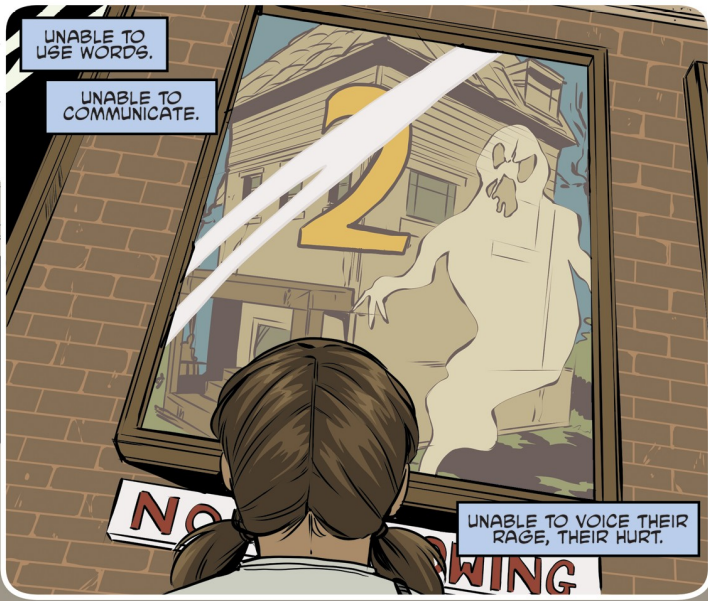


BUT WHAT MADE *ME* FEAR GHOSTS WAGNT THEIR ETHEREAL PRESENCE, OR THEIR SPOOKY GLOW...

IT WAS THEIR SILENCE.



TO ME, A GHOST WAS A SUPERNATURAL PRISON, HOLDING ITS HOST MUTE.



UNABLE TO USE WORDS.

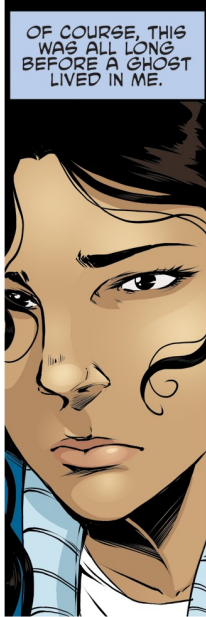
UNABLE TO COMMUNICATE.

UNABLE TO VOICE THEIR RAGE, THEIR HURT.

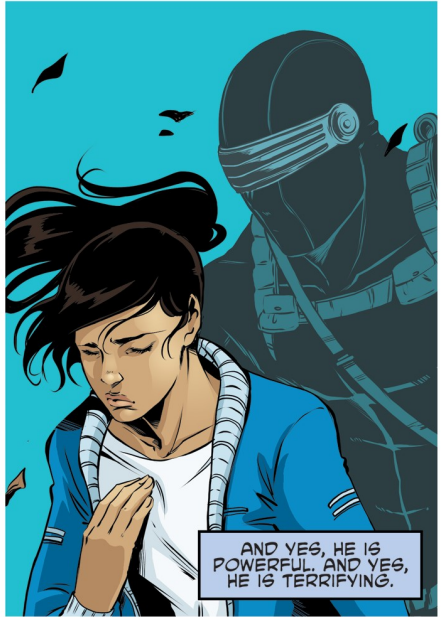


THAT THOUGHT, ABOVE ANYTHING ELSE, TERRIFIED ME.

IMAGINE ONLY BEING ABLE TO COMMUNICATE THROUGH THROWING AROUND CUPS AND SAUCERS, OR LEAVING MYSTERIOUS MARKINGS TO BE DISCOVERED IF YOU'RE LUCKY.



OF COURSE, THIS WAS ALL LONG BEFORE A GHOST LIVED IN ME.



AND YES, HE IS POWERFUL. AND YES, HE IS TERRIFYING.



I TAKE ON HIS RAGE AND HIS HURT.

I CAN FIGHT FOR HIM. WITH HIM. AS HIM.

BUT THERE'S ALSO...

HE HAD A LIFE.

HE LOVED. HE WORKED. HE HAD STORIES THAT WERE LEFT UNFINISHED.

I GET TO HEAR THEM.

IN THE QUIET TIMES,
WHEN THERE'S NO
ONE TO FIGHT, HE
SHARES IT WITH ME.

HE TELLS ME
ABOUT TIMBER,
HIS WOLF.

ABOUT SCARLETT... RED.

I FEEL HIS LOVE
FOR THEM.



HIS LIFE.



SOMETIMES, I'M
NOT SURE WHERE
HIS FEELINGS END
AND MINE START.



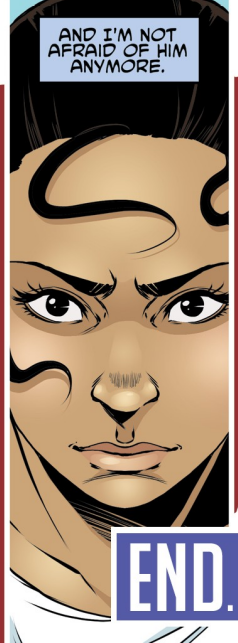
I KNOW,
I KNOW.

THERE'S A
NOT-TOO-SUBTLE IRONY
IN THE FACT THAT I
BECAME A VOICE FOR A
MAN WHO DIDN'T HAVE
ONE WHEN HE WAS ALIVE.



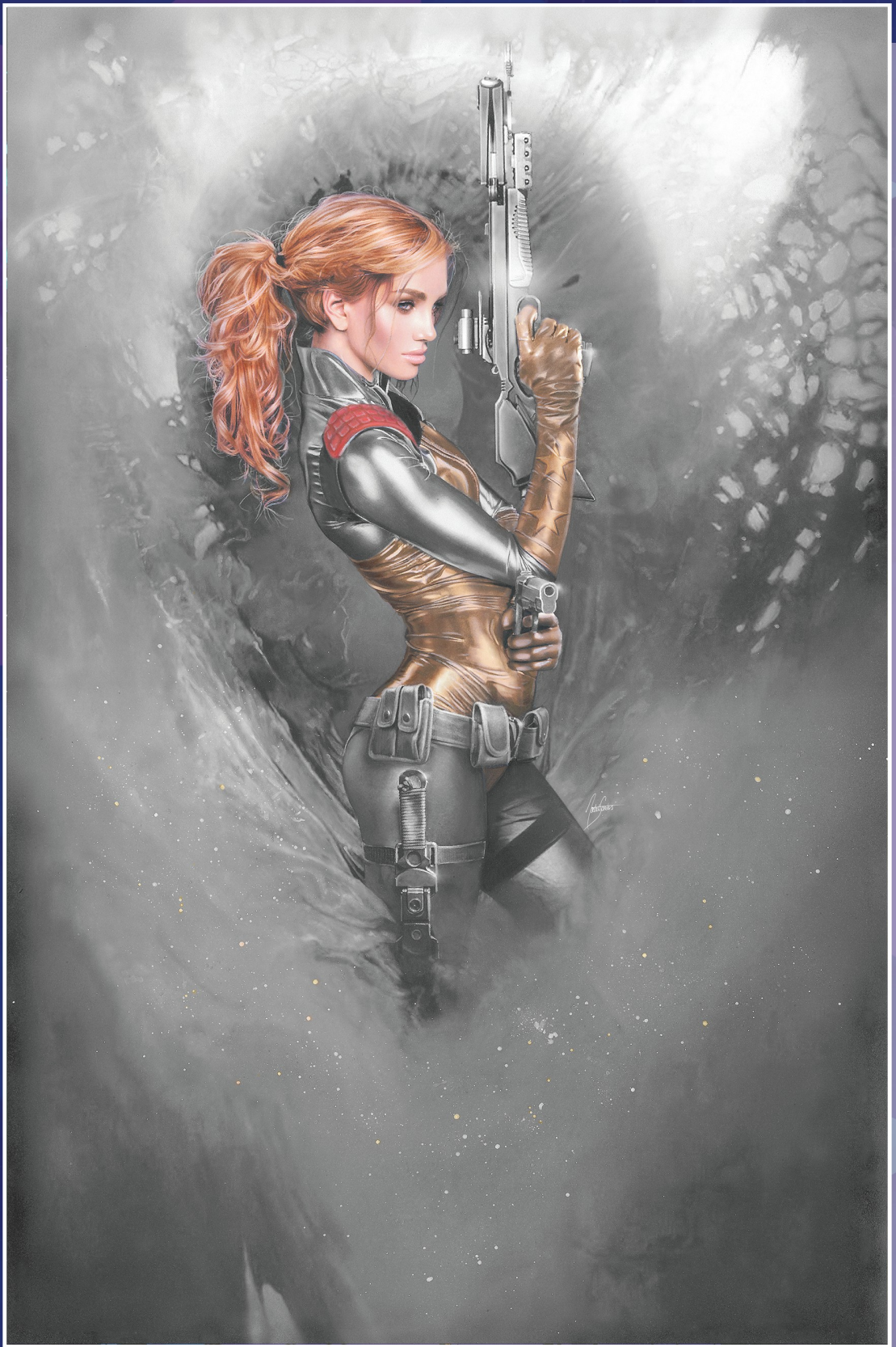
I GUESS...

I GAVE A
GHOST HIS
VOICE.



AND I'M NOT
AFRAID OF HIM
ANYMORE.

END.



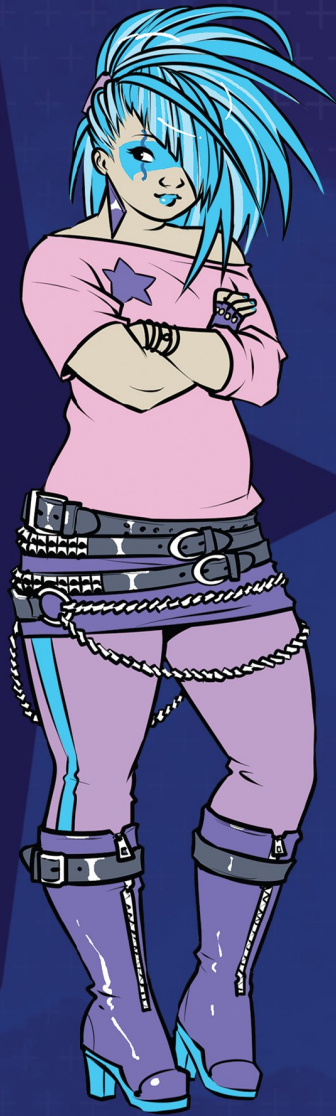
ART BY NATALI SANDERS



ART BY SOPHIE CAMPBELL

“RECHARGE”

WRITTEN, DRAWN, AND COLORED BY:
SARAH WINIFRED SEARLE





THOSE—
THOSE
MISCREANTS!



I KNOW THIS IS SUPPOSED TO BE AN INSULT OR SOMETHING, BUT I DON'T REALLY MIND BEING COMPARED TO MANATEES. THEY'RE SO PEACEFUL AND MAJESTIC.

I'M OKAY WITH BEING MAJESTIC.



I'M GONNA *EVISCERATE* WHOEVER STARTED THIS. I'LL FIND THEM ON SOCIAL MEDIA, I'LL TELL THEIR BOSSES, THEIR *MOTHERS*—

WE BOTH KNOW SENDING YOUR RABID FANBASE AFTER PEOPLE ISN'T THE ANSWER, NO MATTER HOW TEMPTING IT IS TO CHANNEL THE WITCH OF THE WEST WITH HER FLYING MONKEYS.



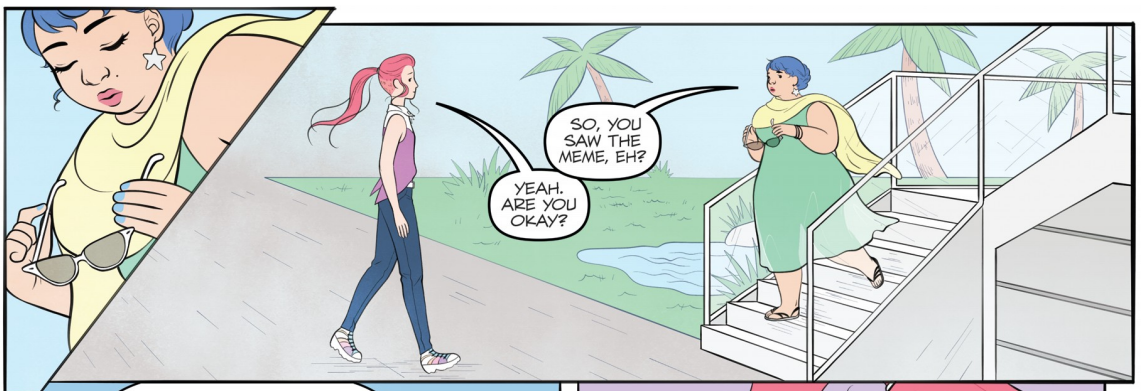
BUT STORMER... I WANT TO HELP.

I KNOW. I APPRECIATE THAT.



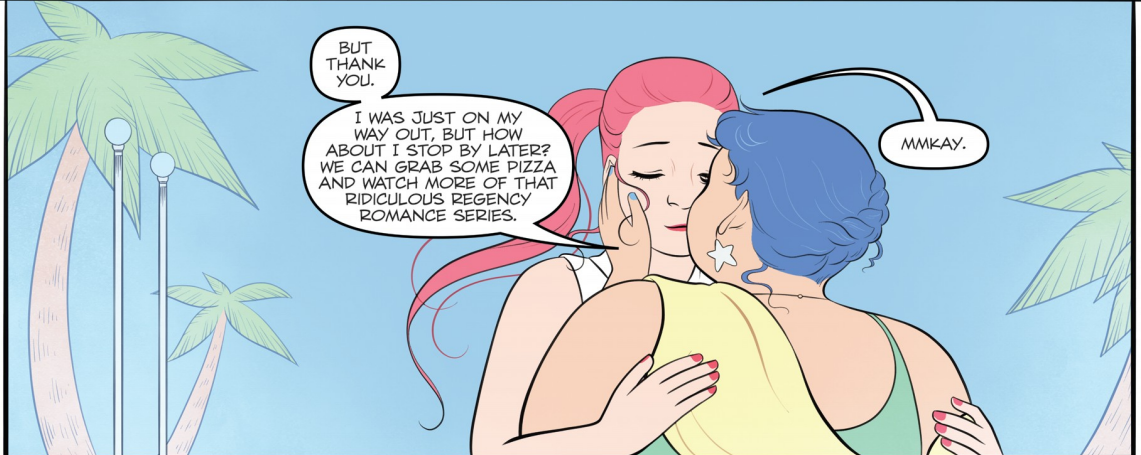
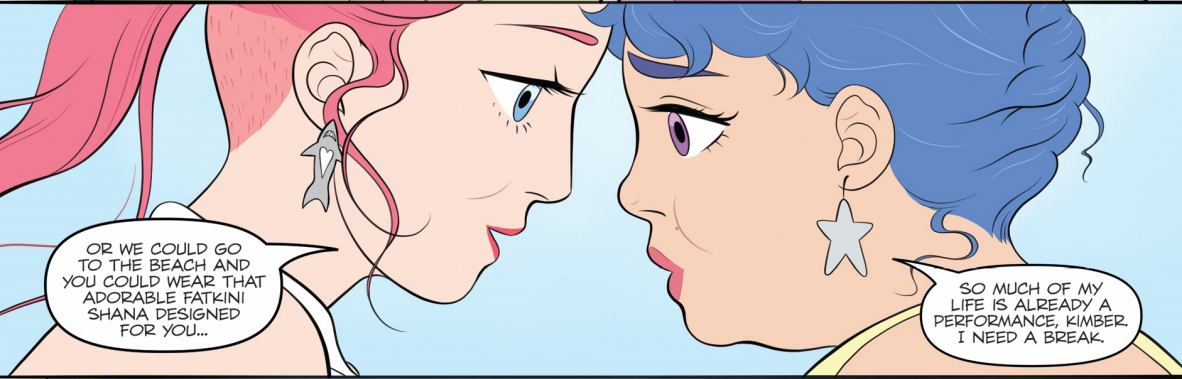
I THINK I JUST NEED TO GET OUT AND CLEAR MY HEAD. PROMISE ME YOU WON'T DO ANYTHING EXTREME.

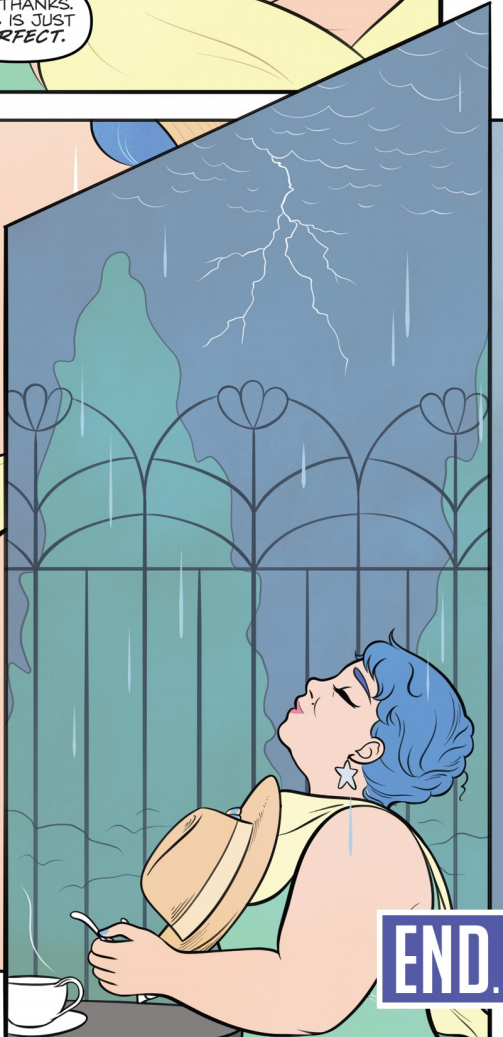
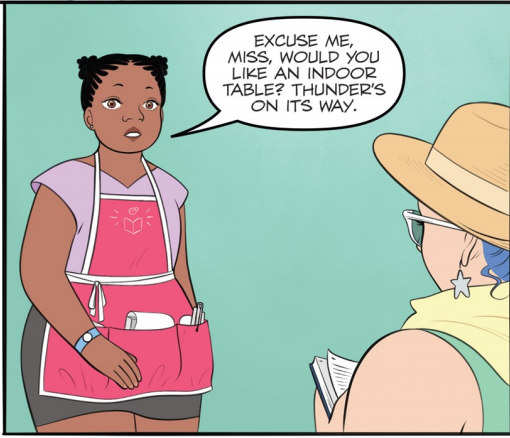
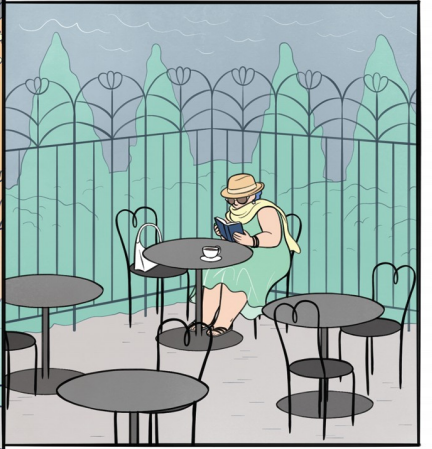
FIINE.

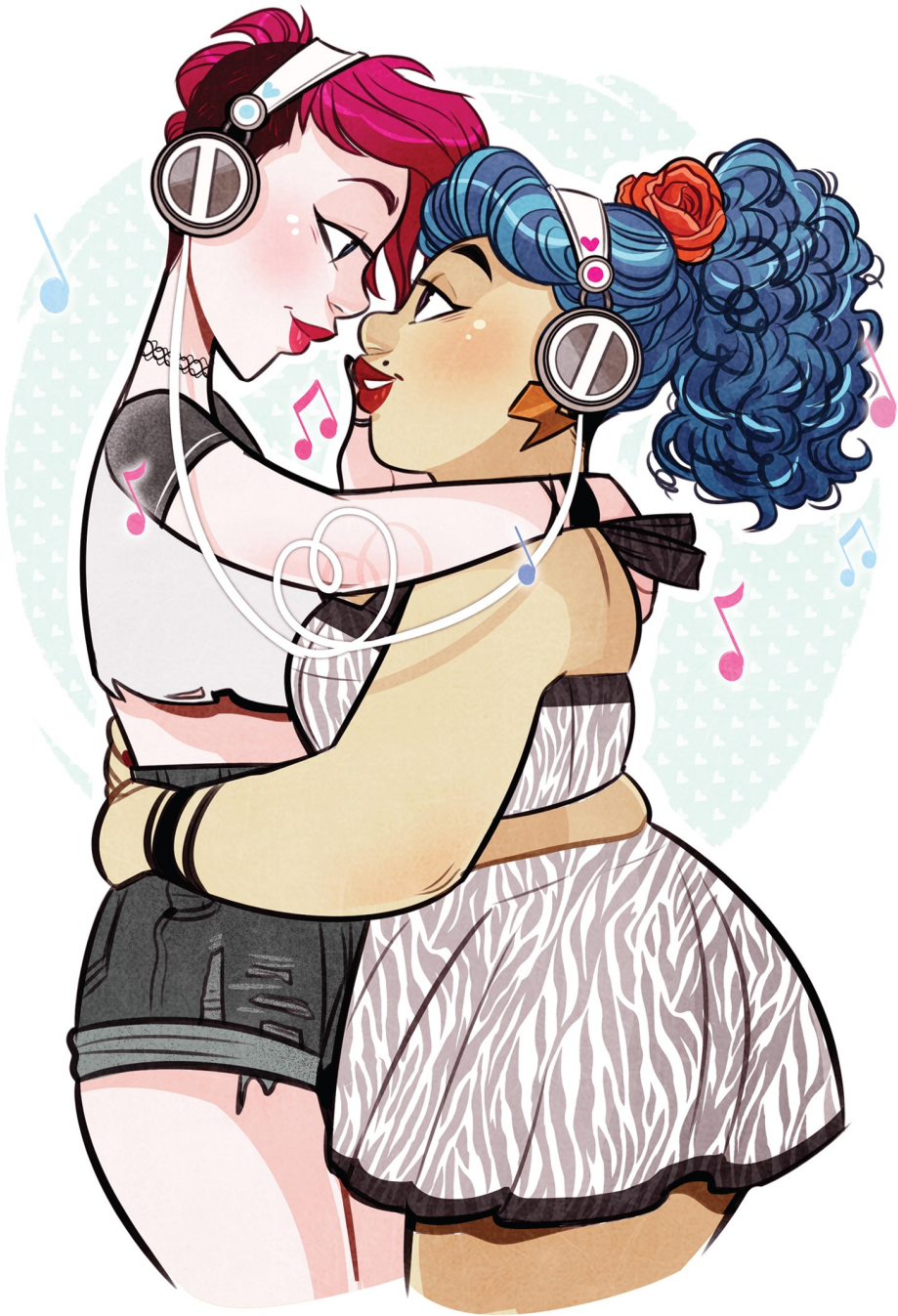


IF I LET EVERY ATTEMPT AT FAT SHAMING GET TO ME, I'D NEVER LEAVE THE HOUSE. IT'S NOT EVEN WORTH WASTING ENERGY ON GETTING ANGRY ANYMORE.

LUCKILY, PIZZAZZ HAS ENOUGH FURY FOR THE BOTH OF US.



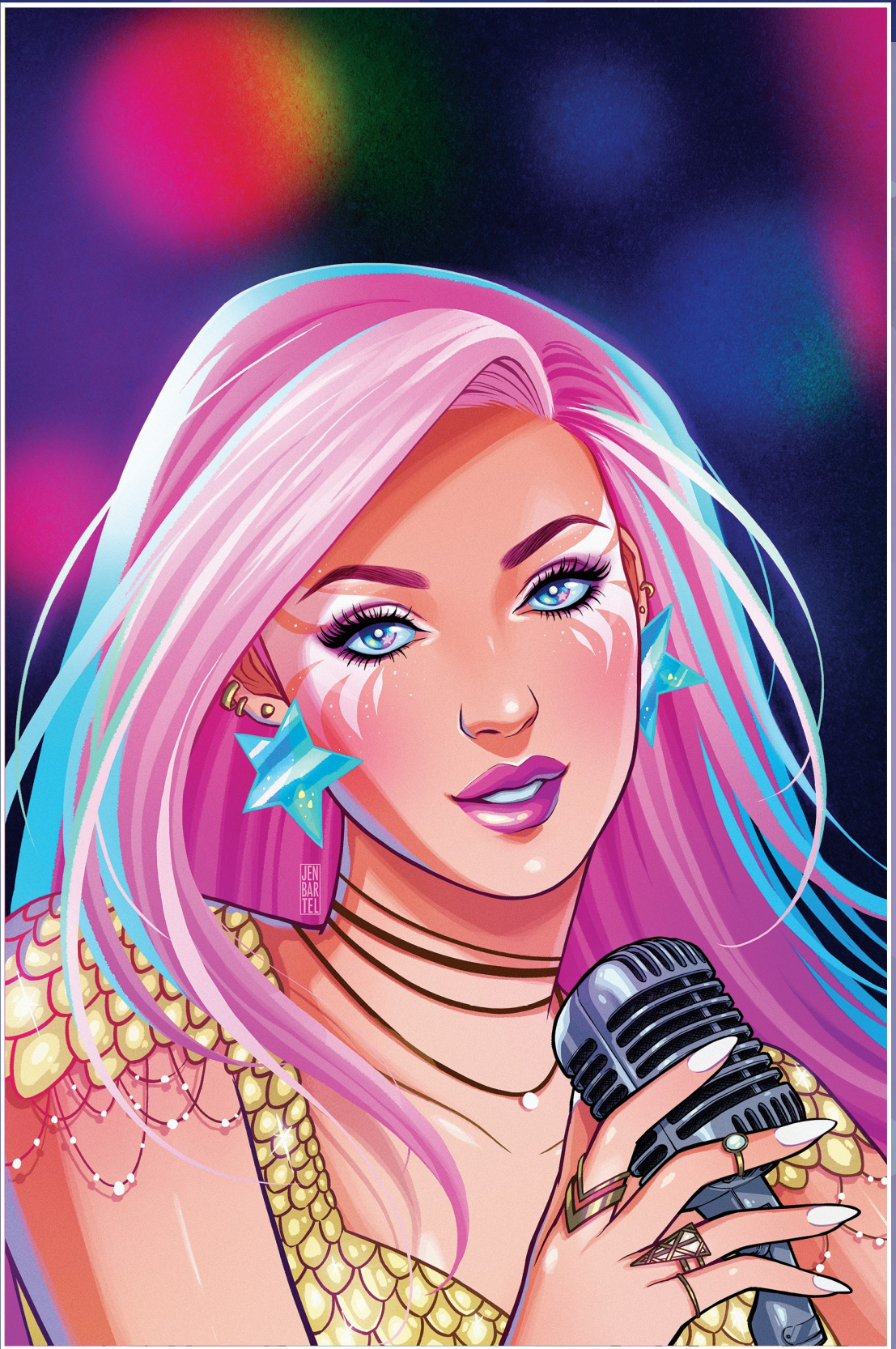




ART BY JENN ST-ONGE



ART BY LISA STERLE



ART BY JEN BARTEL



ART BY AMY MEBBERSON



ART BY SARAH LEUVER



ART BY JUSTASUTA



ART BY SARA RICHARD



ART BY KATE SHERRON

“THE STAGE”

WRITTEN BY: KATIE COOK

DRAWN BY: AGNES GARBOWSKA

COLORS BY: HEATHER BRECKEL

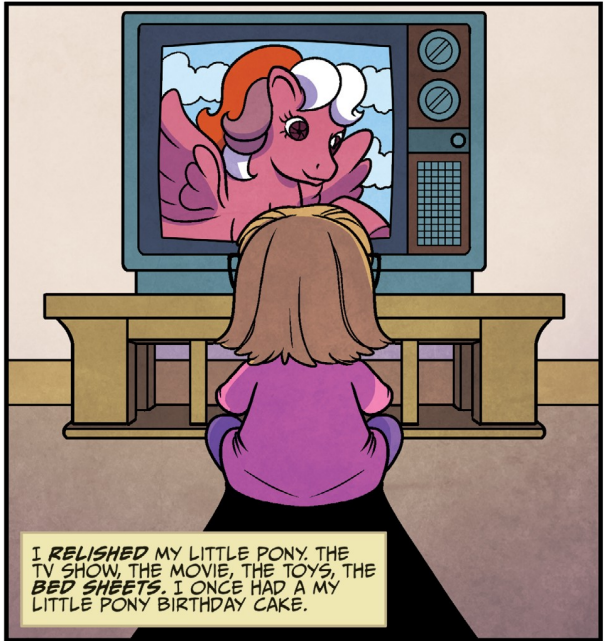




I WAS BORN IN 1981.



THAT MEANS TWO THINGS: ONE, I AM NOW CONSIDERED TO BE OLD AS DIRT BY MY OWN CHILDREN, AND TWO, I WAS THERE AND OF THE PERFECT AGE FOR THE START OF MY LITTLE PONY.

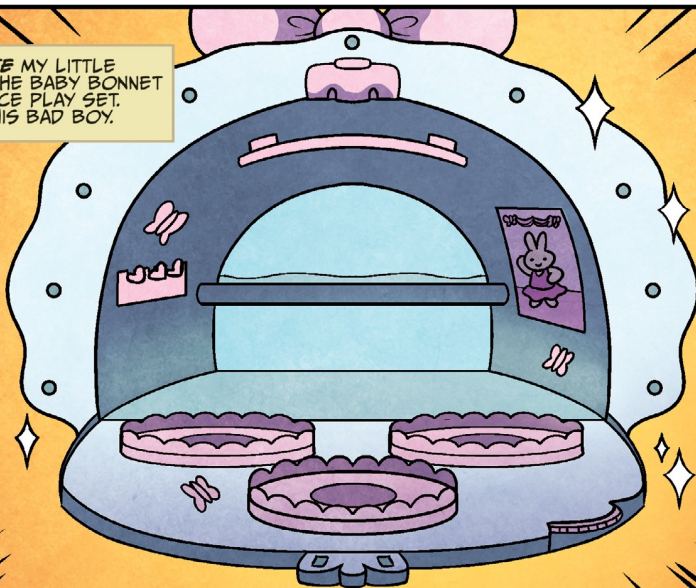


I RELISHED MY LITTLE PONY. THE TV SHOW, THE MOVIE, THE TOYS, THE BED SHEETS. I ONCE HAD A MY LITTLE PONY BIRTHDAY CAKE.

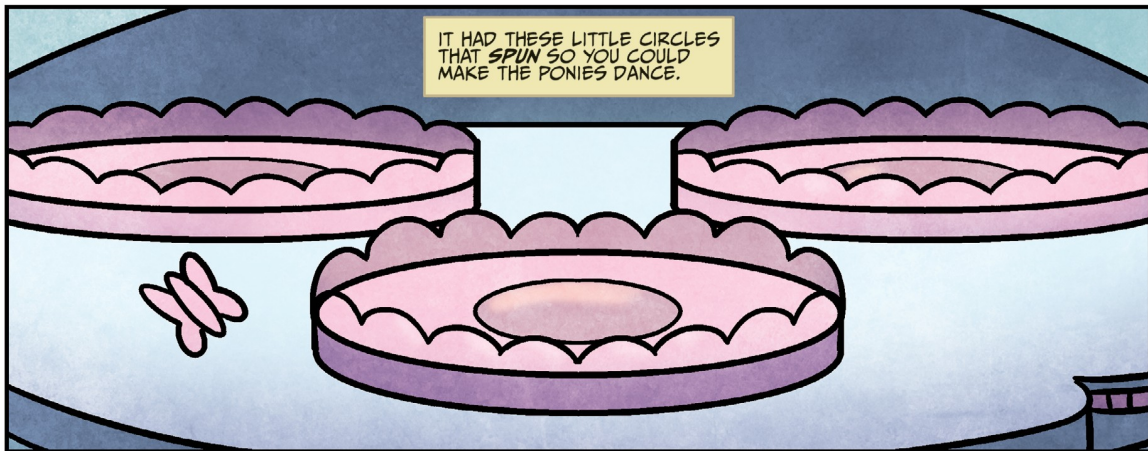


YOU MAY THINK I'M MAKING THIS UP FOR THE SAKE OF THE THEME OF THIS BOOK... BUT I'M NOT. MAY I PRESENT EXHIBIT A.

AND MY *FAVORITE* MY LITTLE PONY TOY WAS THE BABY BONNET SCHOOL OF DANCE PLAY SET. JUST LOOK AT THIS BAD BOY.



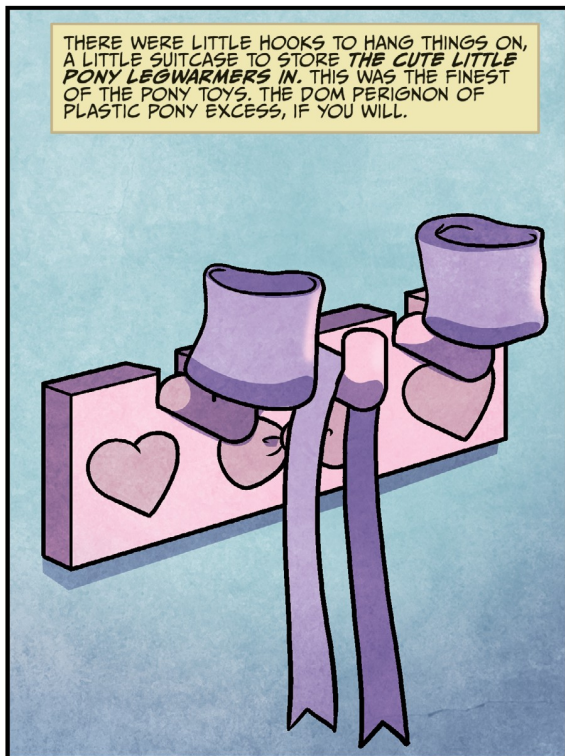
IT HAD THESE LITTLE CIRCLES THAT *SPUN* SO YOU COULD MAKE THE PONIES DANCE.



THERE WAS A LITTLE WARM-UP BAR IN FRONT OF ONE OF THOSE TERRIBLE, WOBBLY STICKER MIRRORS. YOU KNOW THE ONES I'M TALKING ABOUT.



THERE WERE LITTLE HOOKS TO HANG THINGS ON, A LITTLE SUITCASE TO STORE THE *CUTE LITTLE PONY LEGWARMERS* IN. THIS WAS THE FINEST OF THE PONY TOYS. THE DOM PERIGNON OF PLASTIC PONY EXCESS, IF YOU WILL.





AND THIS IS COMING FROM SOMEONE WHO ALSO OWNED THE PARADISE ESTATE AND THE SCRUB-A-DUB-TUB. THE BABY BONNET SCHOOL OF DANCE WAS A KNOCKOUT.



MY FAVORITE THING TO DO WAS TO PUT ON PERFORMANCES WITH ALL MY SMALL TOYS. I'D SET THE STAGE, I'D MAKE PROPS, I'D MAKE UP LITTLE STORIES... AND MY FAVORITE, I'D MAKE THEM TWIRL.



ENDLESS MINI-ADVENTURES WHERE THE PUSH AND PULL OF A TINY, SPINNING PLASTIC DISC WAS THE CATALYST THAT DROVE EACH STORY.



CATCH ME, SEA BREEZE!

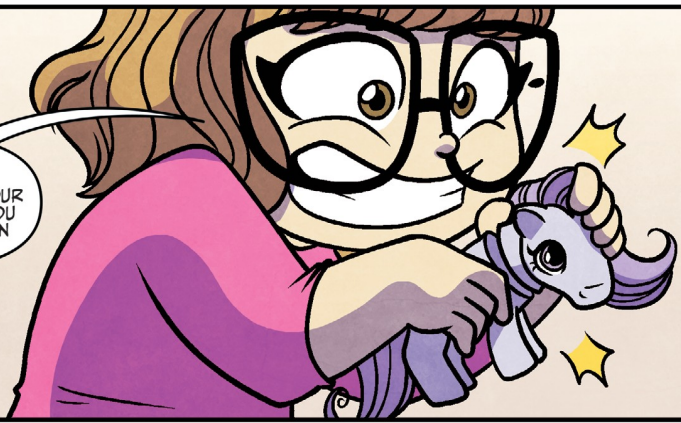


OH NO! I NEVER SHOULD HAVE TRUSTED YOU, YOU HAVE NO ARMS! NOOOOOO!

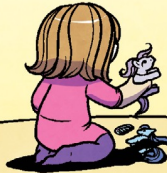
DON'T BLAME ME FOR YOUR PROBLEMS STARFLOWER.

I SHOULD MENTION THAT I WAS A WEIRD KID.

SORRY, APPLE JACK. I WAS JUST TRYING TO SEE HOW FAR AROUND YOUR HEAD COULD TURN SO YOU COULD WATCH YOUR OWN BACK! OOPS.



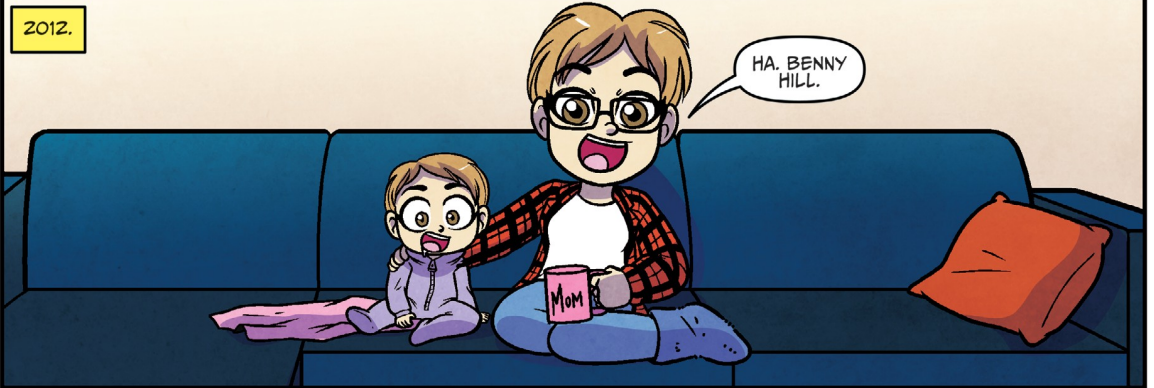
AND THAT'S THAT. THAT'S PROBABLY WHERE MOST PEOPLE'S MY LITTLE PONY STORY ENDS...



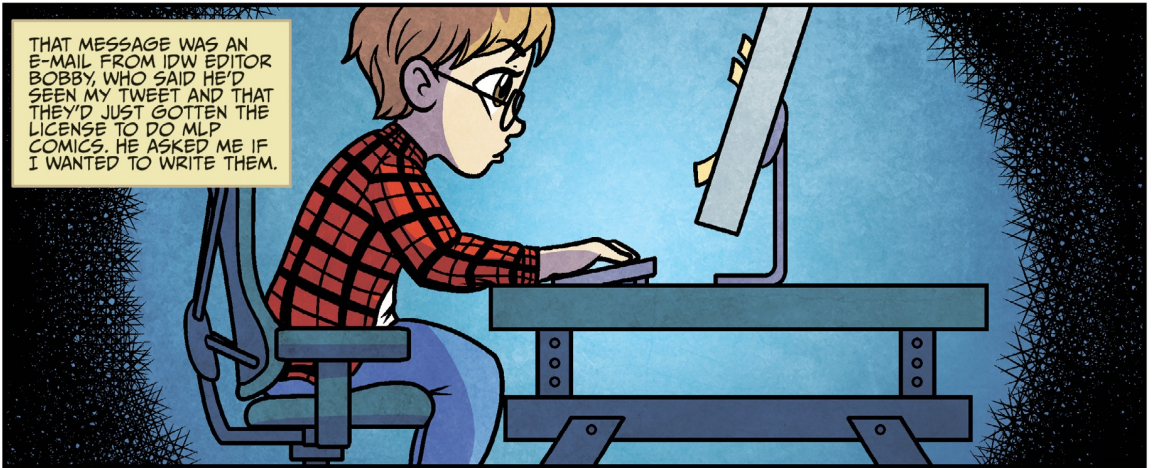
...BUT NOT MINE.

2012.

HA, BENNY HILL.



THAT MESSAGE WAS AN E-MAIL FROM IDW EDITOR BOBBY, WHO SAID HE'D SEEN MY TWEET AND THAT THEY'D JUST GOTTEN THE LICENSE TO DO MLP COMICS. HE ASKED ME IF I WANTED TO WRITE THEM.

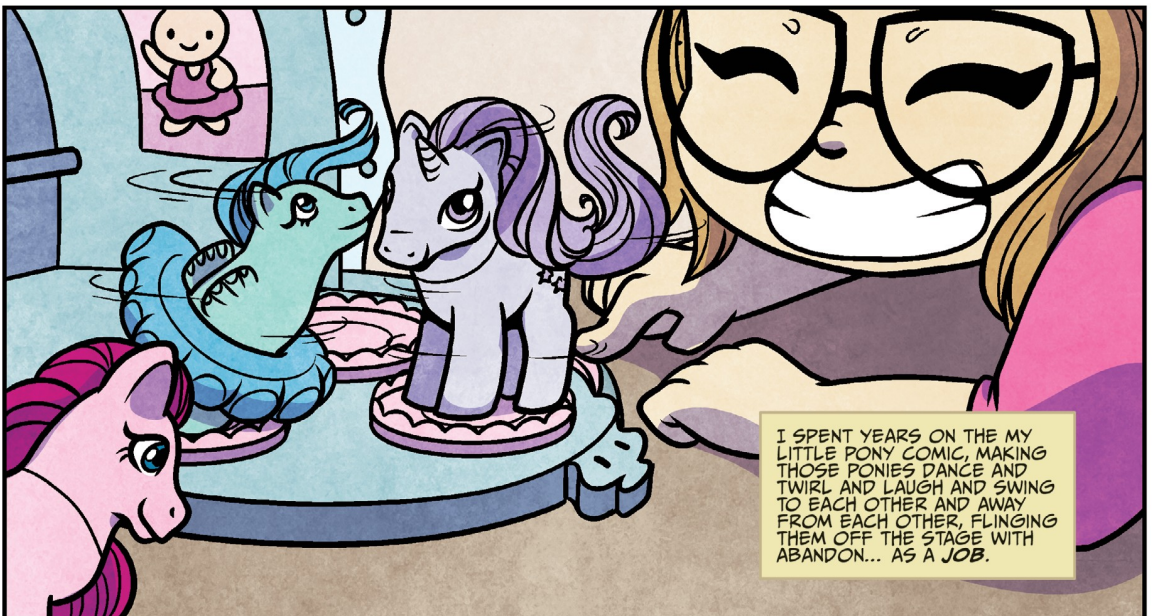


I WAS WORRIED BECAUSE MOST OF THE WORK I'D DONE IN COMICS HAD BEEN SHORT FORM (FOUR-PANEL GAGS, OR THINGS NO MORE THAN EIGHT PAGES). BOBBY WAS ASKING ME FOR A STORY THAT SPANNED FOUR ISSUES.



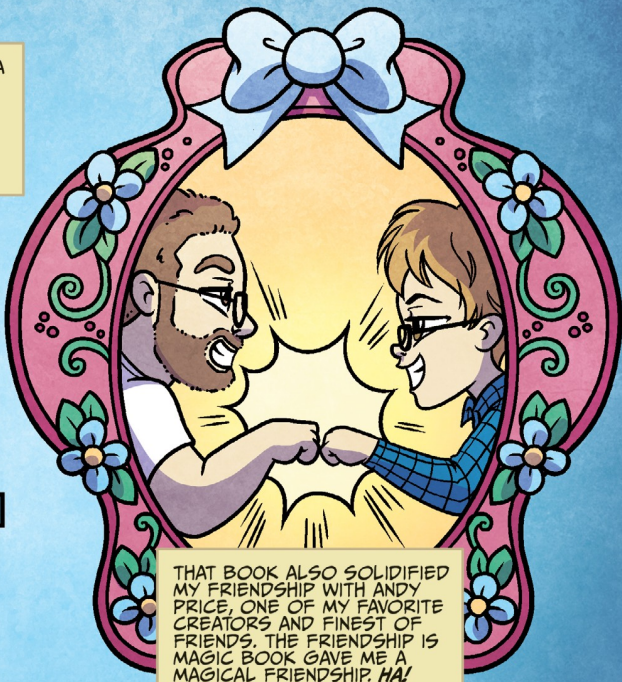
I WASN'T AN IDIOT. I SAID YES.

I HAD BEEN HANDED THE OFFICIAL VERSION OF THE BABY BONNET SCHOOL OF DANCE PLAYSET. I WAS GIVEN MY LITTLE PONY AND A STAGE AND WAS TOLD TO TELL MY OWN STORIES.



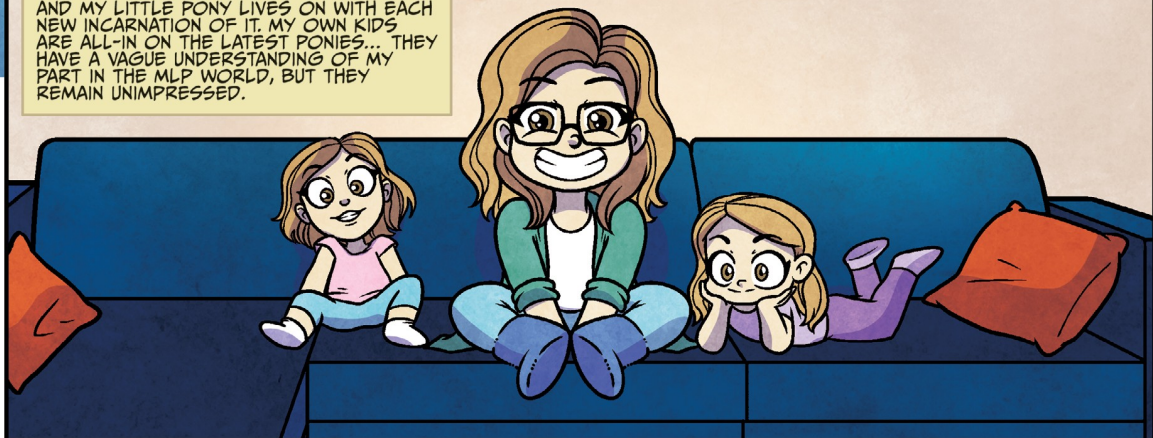
I SPENT YEARS ON THE MY LITTLE PONY COMIC, MAKING THOSE PONIES DANCE AND TWIRL AND LAUGH AND SWING TO EACH OTHER AND AWAY FROM EACH OTHER AND AWAY FROM EACH OTHER, FLINGING THEM OFF THE STAGE WITH ABANDON... AS A JOB.

THROUGH MY YEARS ON MLP I LEARNED HOW TO BE A BETTER WRITER, HOW TO BE A BETTER COMIC CREATOR, HOW TO BALANCE MY LIFE AND MY WORK SCHEDULE. THAT BOOK WAS A CONSTANT IN MY LIFE FOR A LONG TIME, UP UNTIL I FADED AWAY FROM IT SO I COULD TRY AND TAKE SOME OF THOSE LESSONS AND WORK ON SOMETHING THAT WAS MINE.



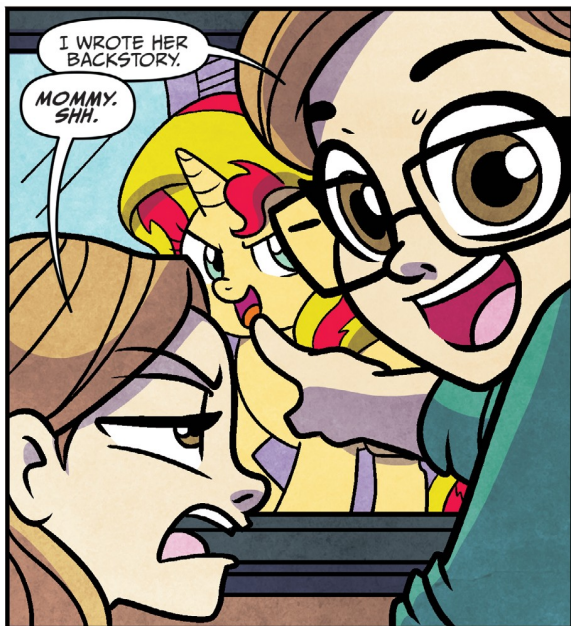
THAT BOOK ALSO SOLIDIFIED MY FRIENDSHIP WITH ANDY PRICE, ONE OF MY FAVORITE CREATORS AND FINEST OF FRIENDS. THE FRIENDSHIP IS MAGIC BOOK GAVE ME A MAGICAL FRIENDSHIP. HA!

AND MY LITTLE PONY LIVES ON WITH EACH NEW INCARNATION OF IT. MY OWN KIDS ARE ALL-IN ON THE LATEST PONIES... THEY HAVE A VAGUE UNDERSTANDING OF MY PART IN THE MLP WORLD, BUT THEY REMAIN UNIMPRESSED.



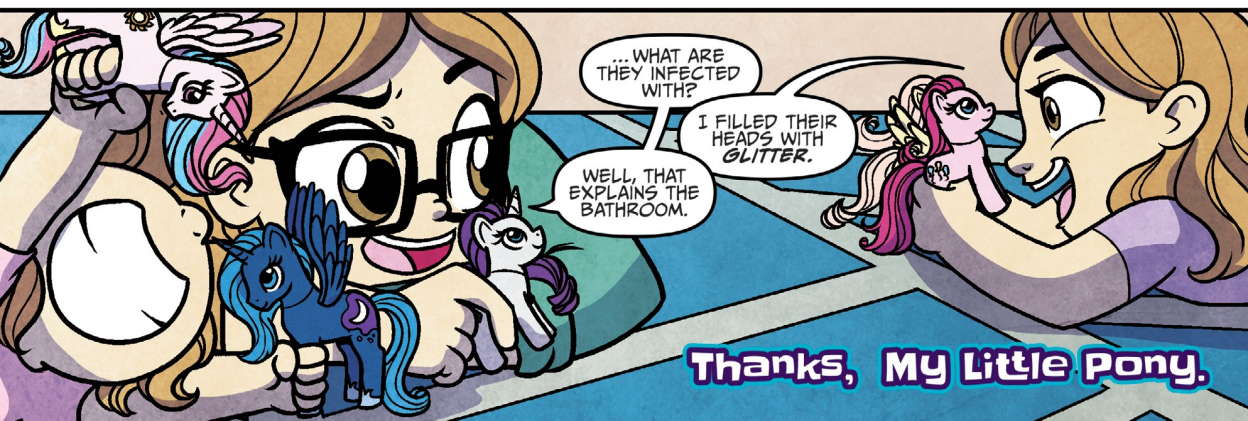
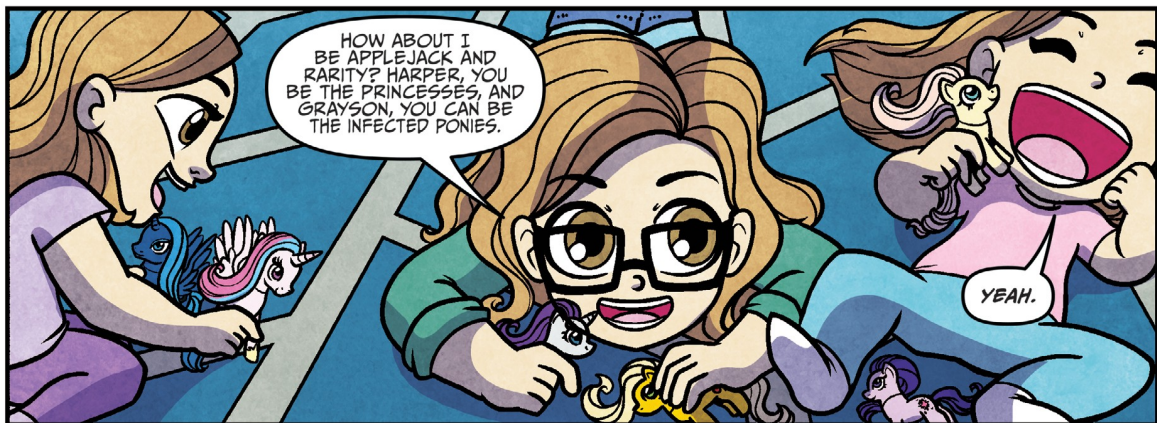
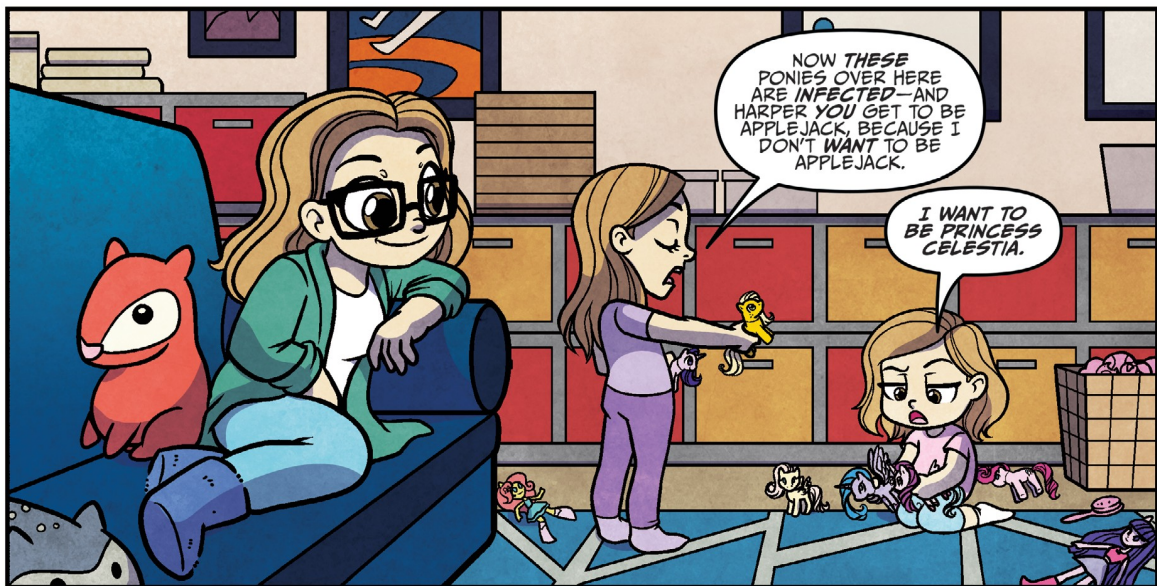
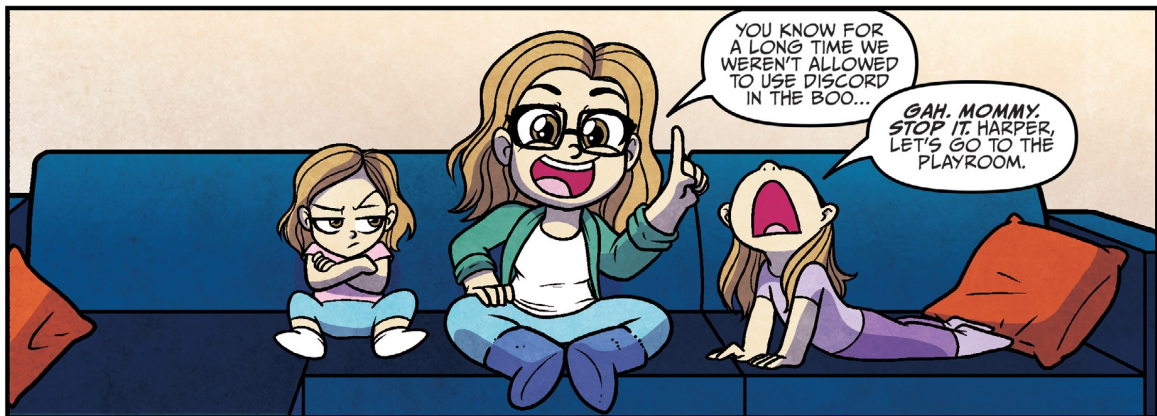
THERE'S MOMMY AS A PONY.

SHHHH.



I WROTE HER BACKSTORY.

MOMMY. SHH.





“OF FLYING AND FALLING”

WRITTEN BY: MAIRGHEAD SCOTT

DRAWN BY: SARA PITRE-DUROCHER

COLORED BY: JOANA LAFUENTE





NO FAIR! AIRAZOR DOESN'T HAVE SHOULDER GUNS IN BEAST MODE!

FINE, THEN I TRANSFORM AND USE MY WRIST BLASTERS!

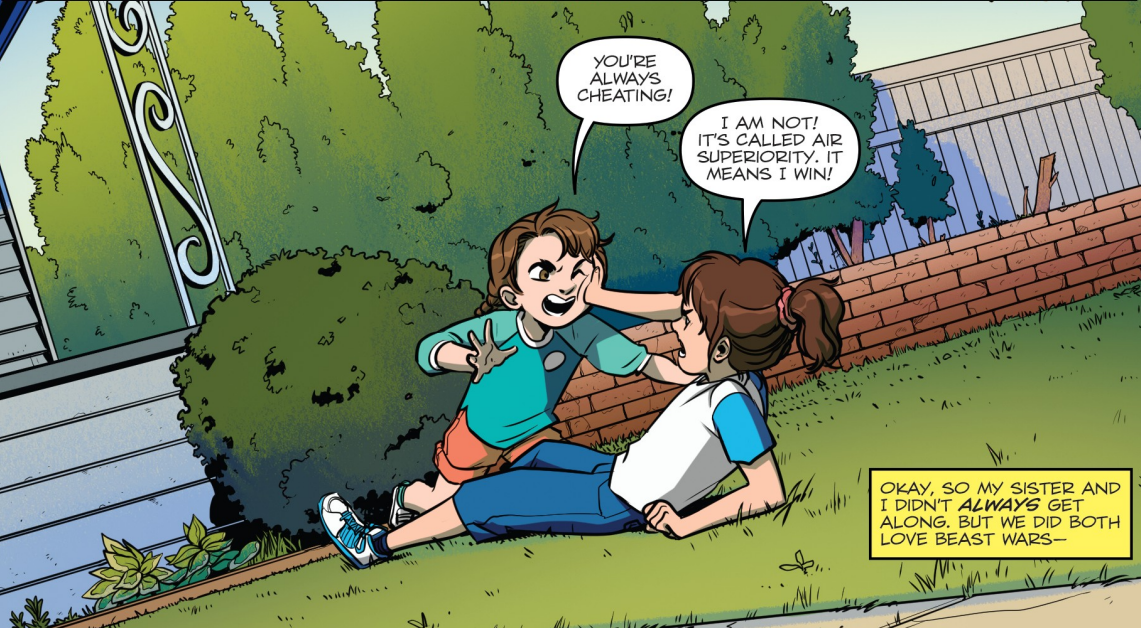


THEN YOU HAVE TO SAY THAT FIRST!

YOU'RE JUST MAD BECAUSE YOU CAN'T FLY!



RAHH!



YOU'RE ALWAYS CHEATING!

I AM NOT! IT'S CALLED AIR SUPERIORITY, IT MEANS I WIN!

OKAY, SO MY SISTER AND I DIDN'T ALWAYS GET ALONG, BUT WE DID BOTH LOVE BEAST WARS—

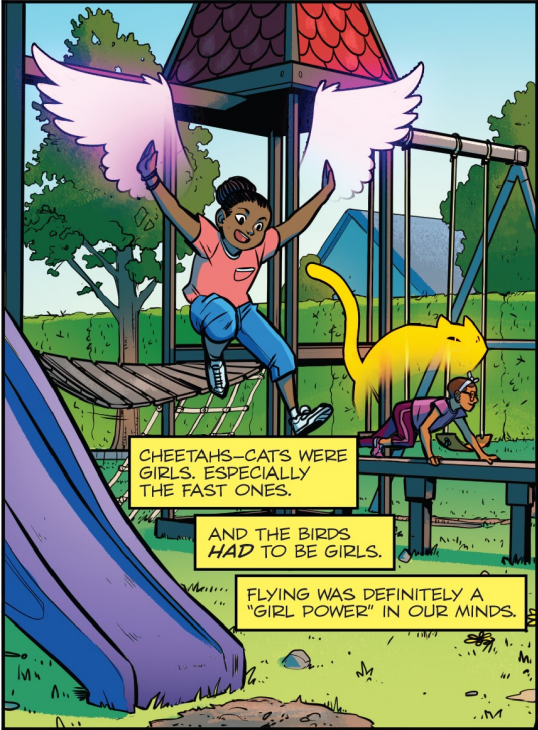


-EVEN THOUGH THERE WAS VERY LITTLE REASON FOR US TO BE SO INTO IT. THERE WERE ALMOST NO GIRLS IN THE SHOW.

BUT IT WAS SLIM PICKINGS EVERYWHERE BACK THEN, AND THERE WERE PLENTY OF ANIMALS THAT **SHOULD** HAVE BEEN GIRLS, AS FAR AS WE WERE CONCERNED.



VELOCIRAPTORS—WELL, EVERYONE KNEW THEY WERE GIRLS. THERE WAS A WHOLE MOVIE ABOUT THAT.



CHEETAHS—CATS WERE GIRLS. ESPECIALLY THE FAST ONES.

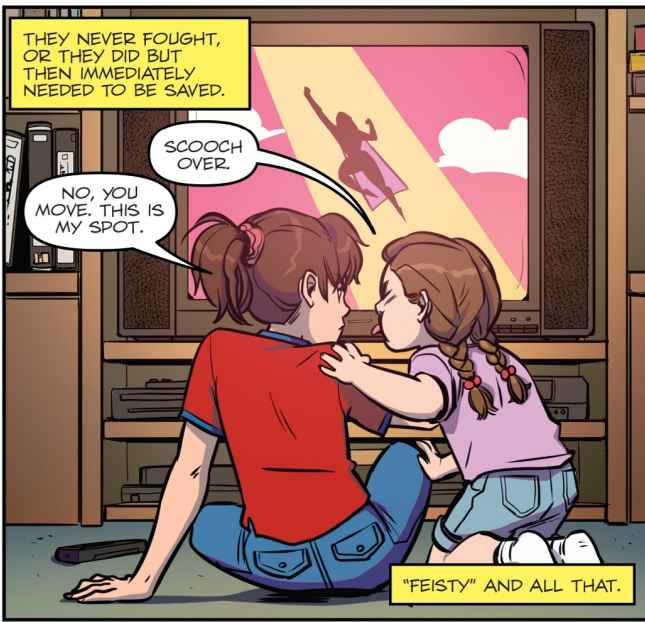
AND THE BIRDS **HAD** TO BE GIRLS.

FLYING WAS DEFINITELY A "GIRL POWER" IN OUR MINDS.

BUT AIRAZOR? SHE WAS SPECIAL. BECAUSE SHE WAS A TRANSFORMER, A BIRD-ROBOT. AND TO ME THAT MEANT SHE WASN'T **REALLY** A GIRL AT ALL.



AND THAT WAS GREAT. BECAUSE, GIRLS WERE LAME.

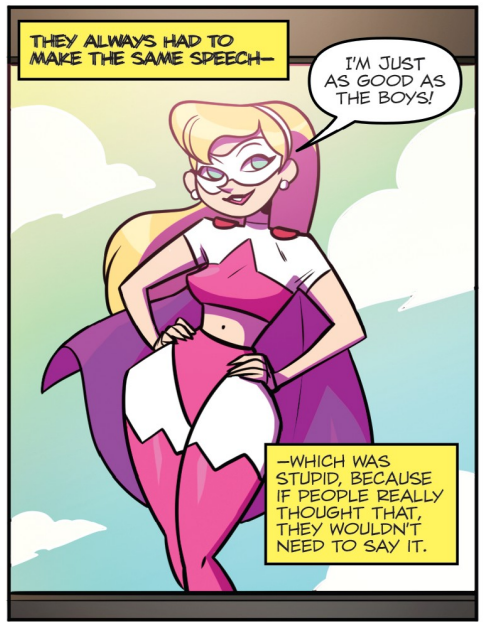


THEY NEVER FOUGHT, OR THEY DID BUT THEN IMMEDIATELY NEEDED TO BE SAVED.

SCOOCH OVER.

NO, YOU MOVE. THIS IS MY SPOT.

"FEISTY" AND ALL THAT.



THEY ALWAYS HAD TO MAKE THE SAME SPEECH—

I'M JUST AS GOOD AS THE BOYS!

—WHICH WAS STUPID, BECAUSE IF PEOPLE REALLY THOUGHT THAT, THEY WOULDN'T NEED TO SAY IT.

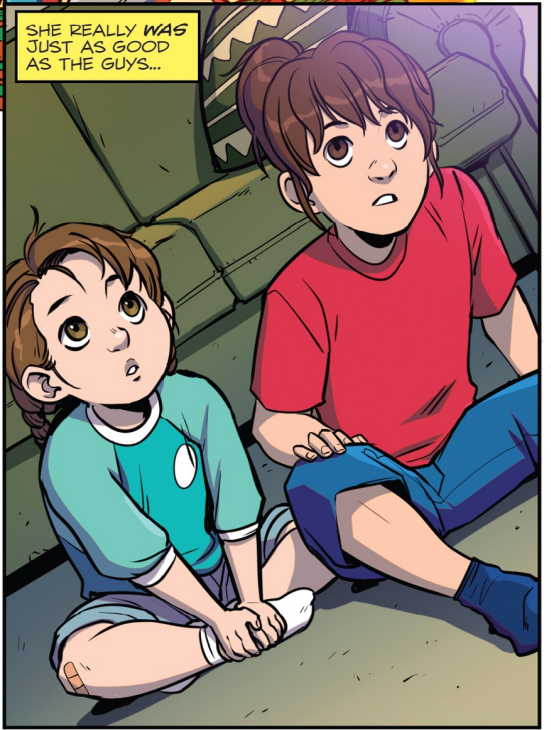


AFTER ALL, THE BOYS NEVER HAD TO REMIND PEOPLE THEY WERE GOOD AT THINGS.

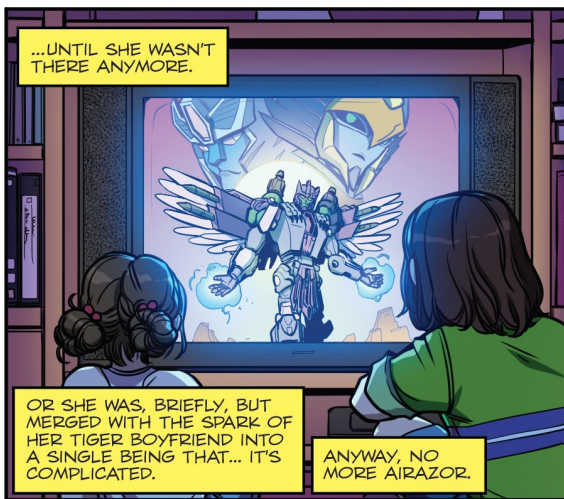
IT WAS WHAT MADE THEM "HEROIC" TO BEGIN WITH.



BUT AIRAZOR DIDN'T HAVE TO MAKE THOSE SPEECHES. SHE COULDN'T FAINT. SHE WAS BORN FIGHTING.



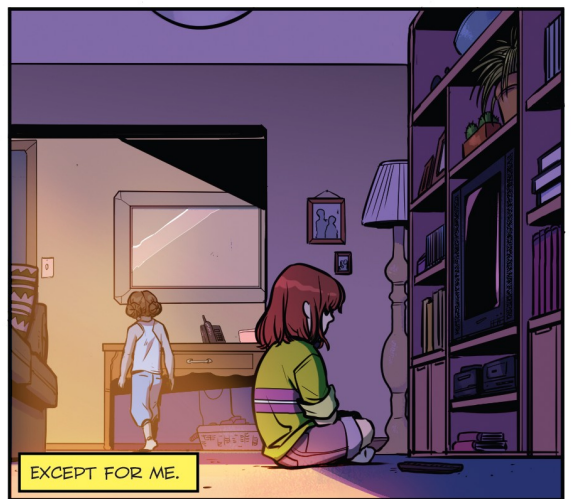
SHE REALLY WAS JUST AS GOOD AS THE GUYS...



...UNTIL SHE WASN'T THERE ANYMORE.

OR SHE WAS, BRIEFLY, BUT MERGED WITH THE SPARK OF HER TIGER BOYFRIEND INTO A SINGLE BEING THAT... IT'S COMPLICATED.

ANYWAY, NO MORE AIRAZOR.



EXCEPT FOR ME.

AIRAZOR BECAME THE BIRD AT THE BOTTOM OF PANDORA'S BOX FOR ME.

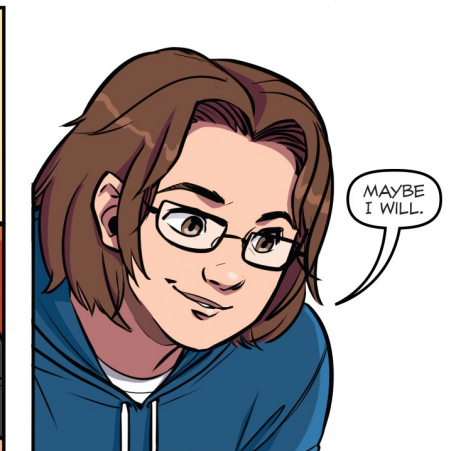
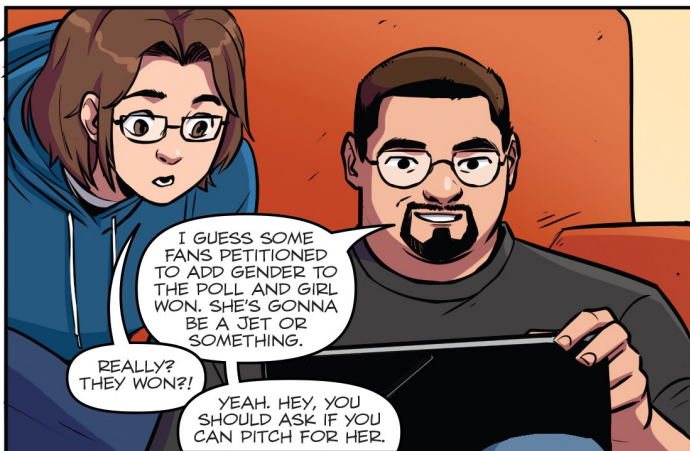
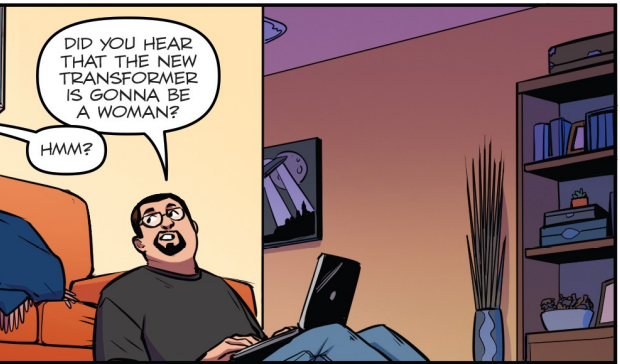
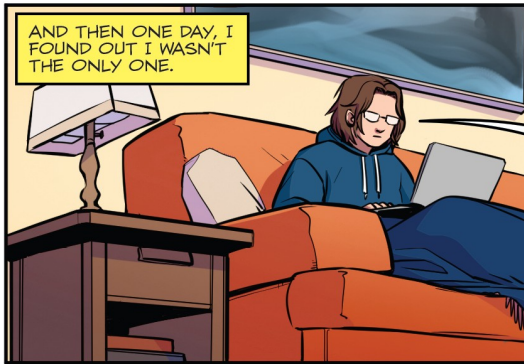
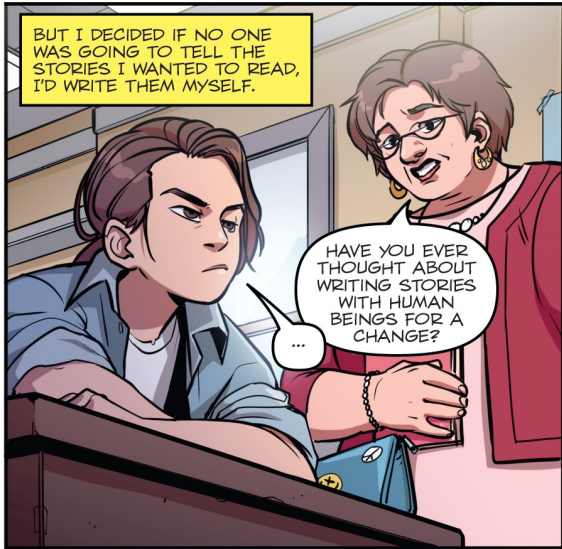
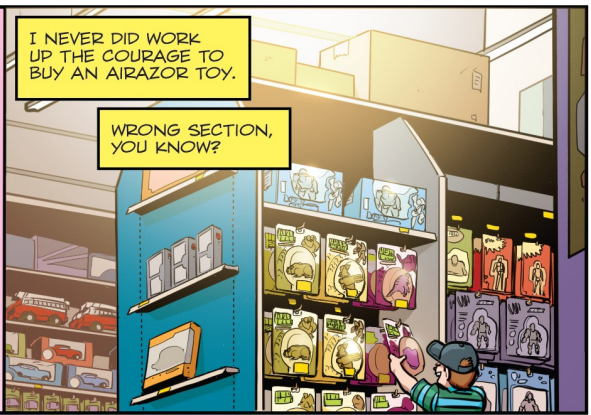


THE TINY FLUTTERING HOPE THAT SURVIVED BURIED BENEATH ALL THE WORLD'S CRUMMINESS.

BECAUSE NO MATTER HOW SMALL AND FRAIL IT IS, HOPE CAN NEVER DIE IF YOU REFUSE TO LET IT.

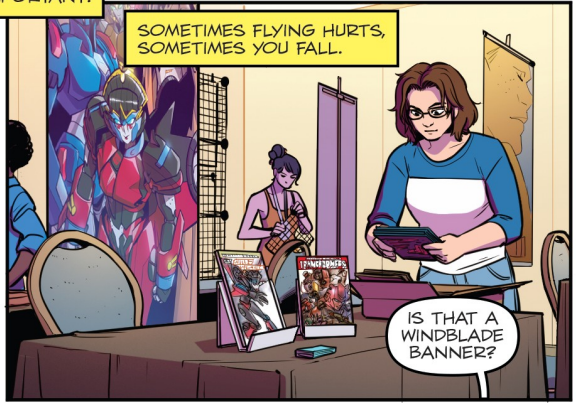


AND I REFUSED.



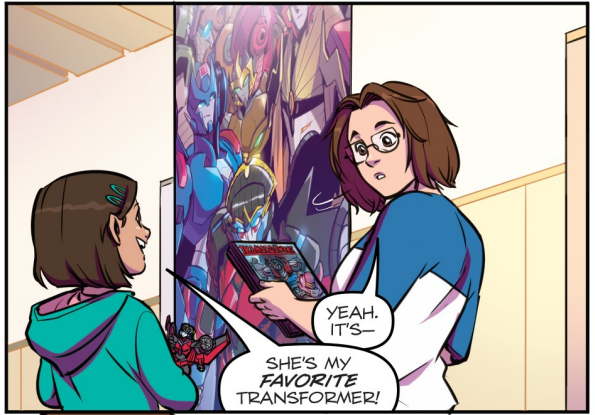


ALL MY HEROES FROM THE 90S COULD FLY. AND THAT TAUGHT ME SOMETHING IMPORTANT.



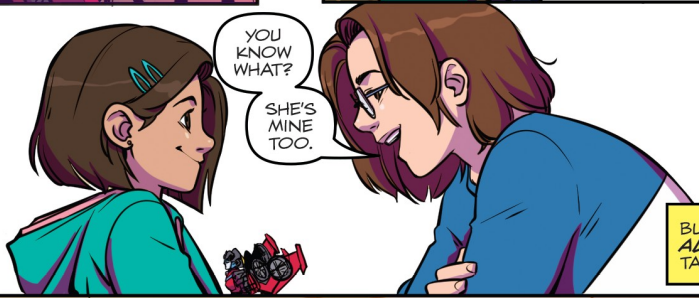
SOMETIMES FLYING HURTS, SOMETIMES YOU FALL.

IS THAT A WINDBLADE BANNER?



YEAH. IT'S—

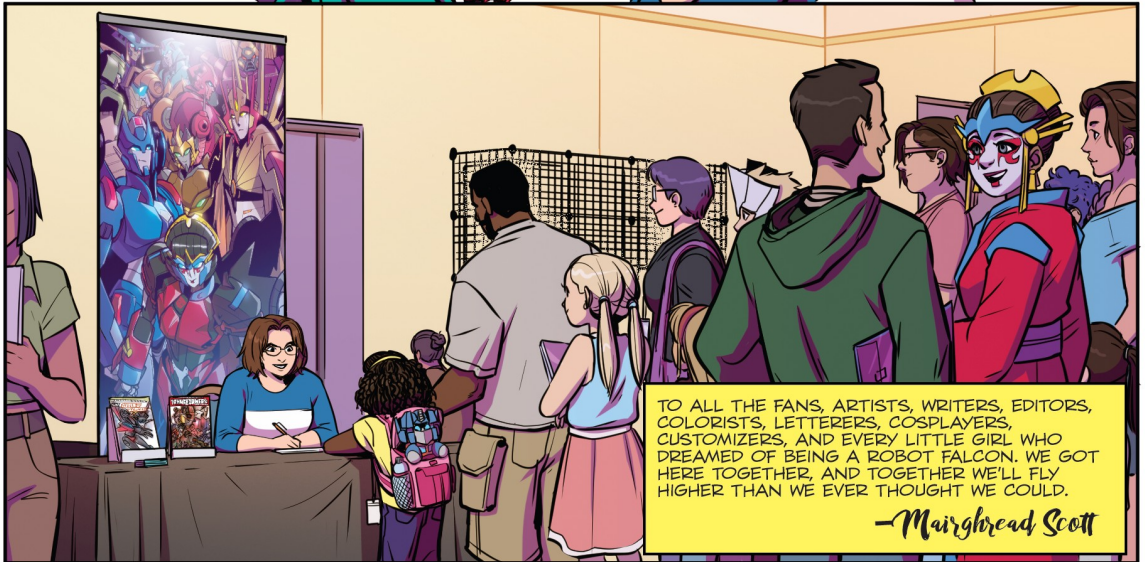
SHE'S MY FAVORITE TRANSFORMER!



YOU KNOW WHAT?

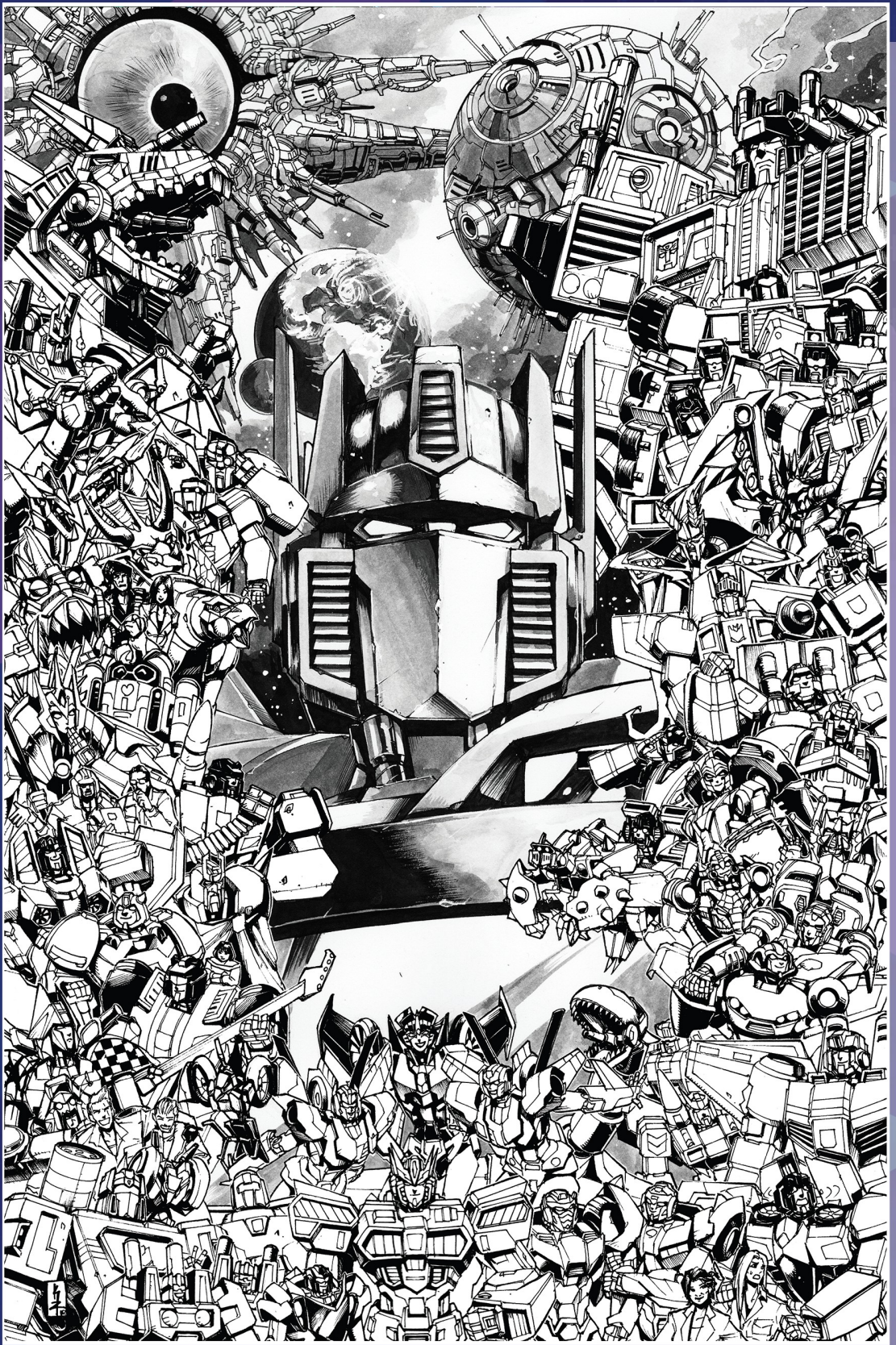
SHE'S MINE TOO.

BUT IT IS ALWAYS, ALWAYS WORTH TAKING THE LEAP.

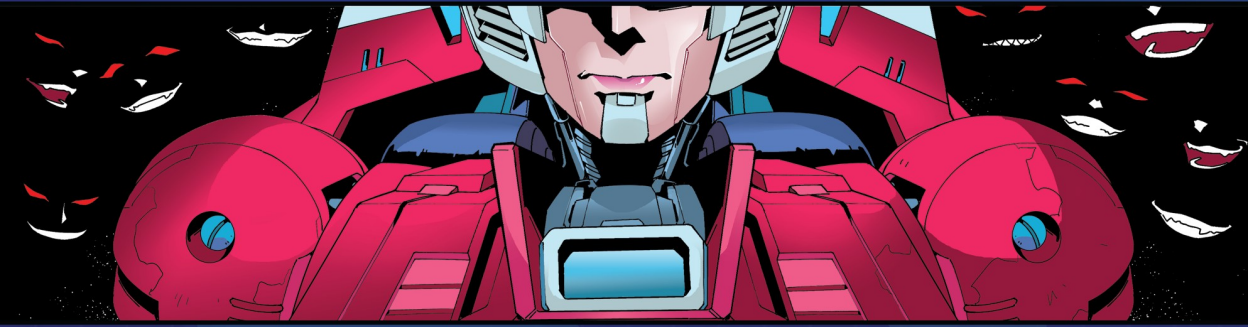
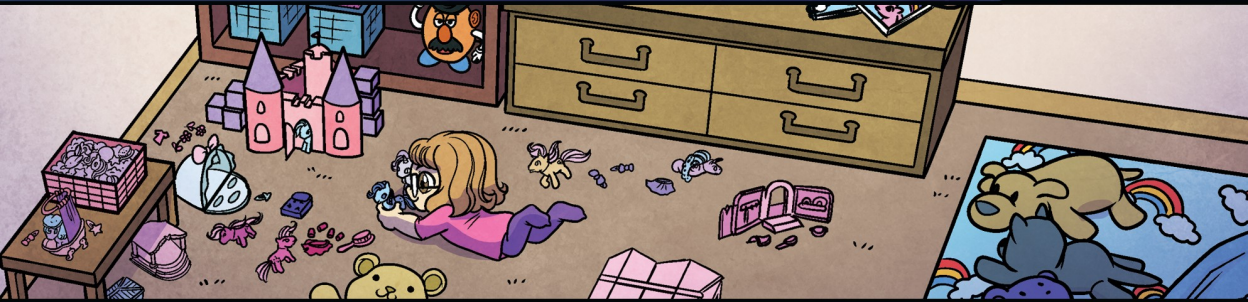


TO ALL THE FANS, ARTISTS, WRITERS, EDITORS, COLORISTS, LETTERERS, COSPLAYERS, CUSTOMIZERS, AND EVERY LITTLE GIRL WHO DREAMED OF BEING A ROBOT FALCON. WE GOT HERE TOGETHER, AND TOGETHER WE'LL FLY HIGHER THAN WE EVER THOUGHT WE COULD.

—Maighread Scott



ART BY KEI ZAMA



cover by Sara Pitre-Durocher

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