

BY Jamila Rowser AND Robyn Smith

WASH DAY

diaries



WASH DAY *diaries*

written by **Jamila Rowser** art by **Robyn Smith**

colors by Robyn Smith, Bex Glendining, and Kazimir Lee



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Wash Day

Group Chat

Bright Side

La Bendición

Ride or Die

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

CREDITS

PROCESS PAGES

To the Black girls around the world,
you are seen,
and you are beautiful.

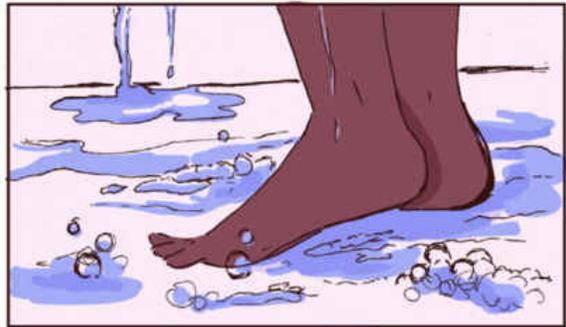
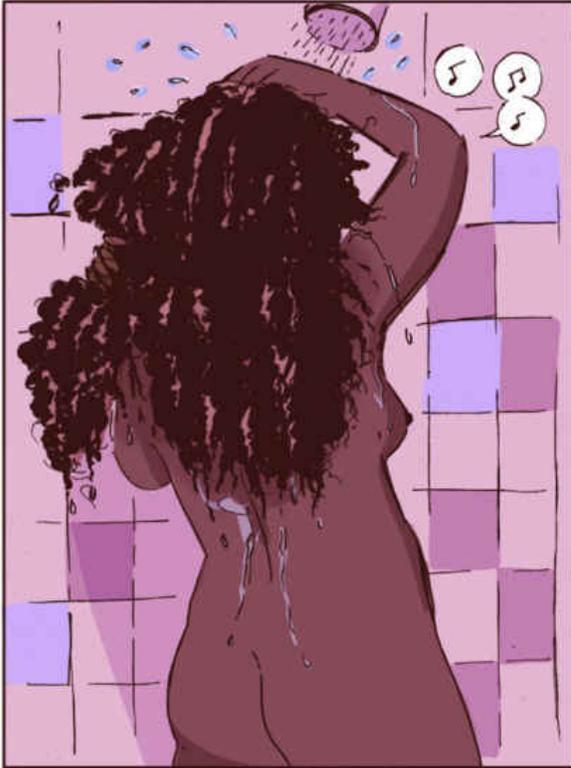
WASH DAY



*STAND CLEAR OF THE
CLOSING DOORS, PLEASE.*



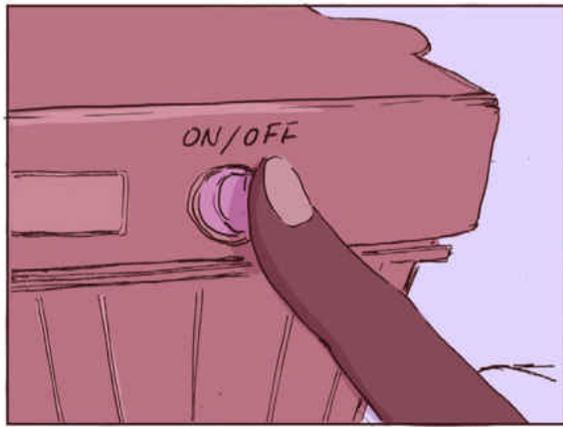






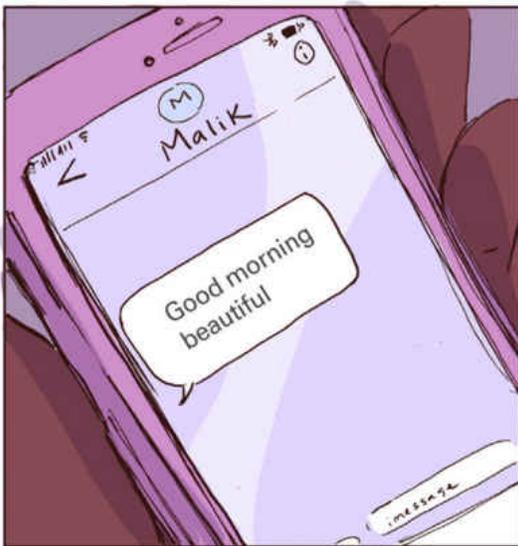


















Morning,
Carlos.

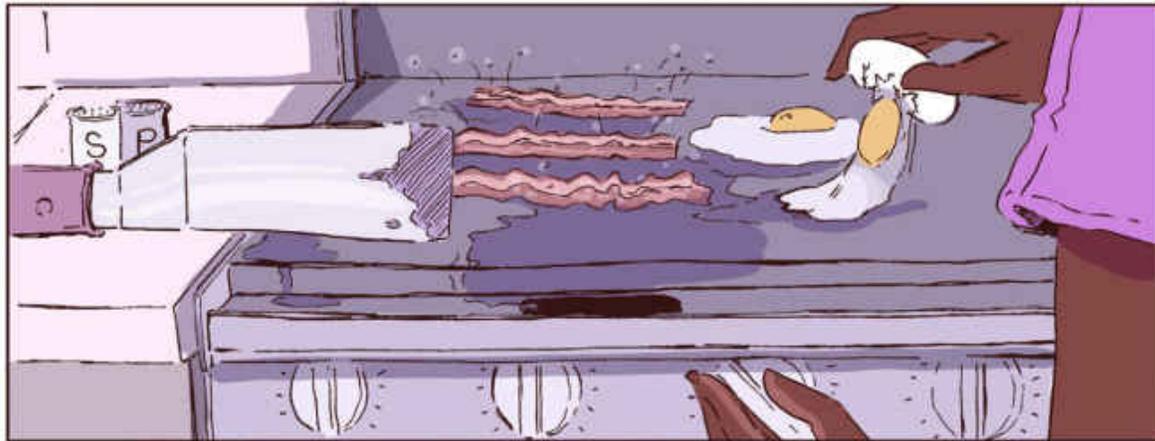


Buenos días,
Kimana.



Hey, Oscar.
Baconeggandcheeseonaroll,
please.

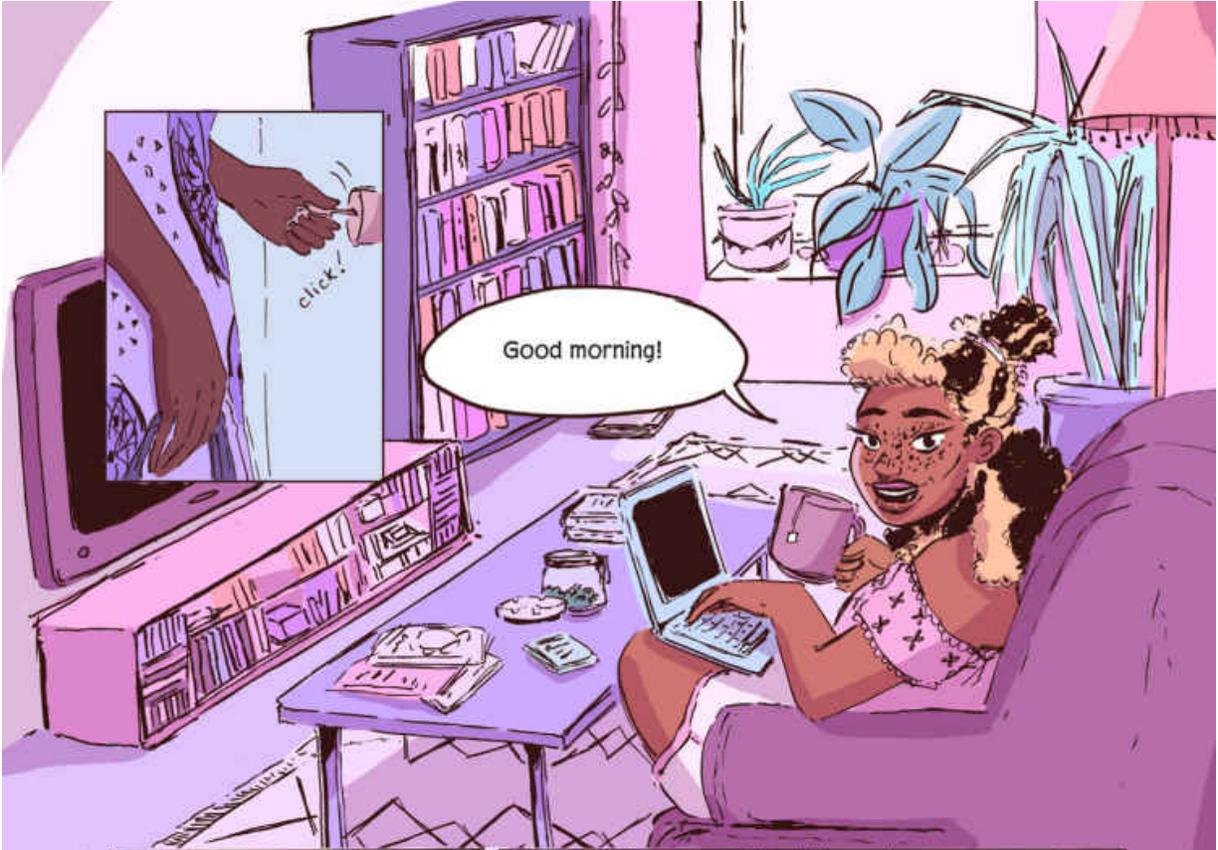
Oh make
that two!











Good morning!



Morning, Cookie!
I got breakfast.

You're the best!

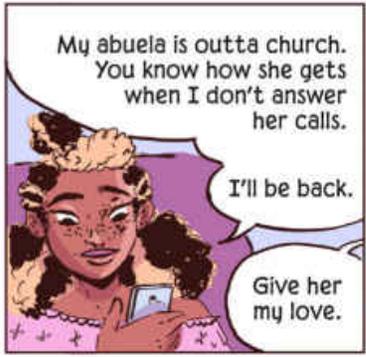


Sooooo Kim, how was the party last night?
Spill it, girl, spill it!



Well, you'll never guess who--

RING RING



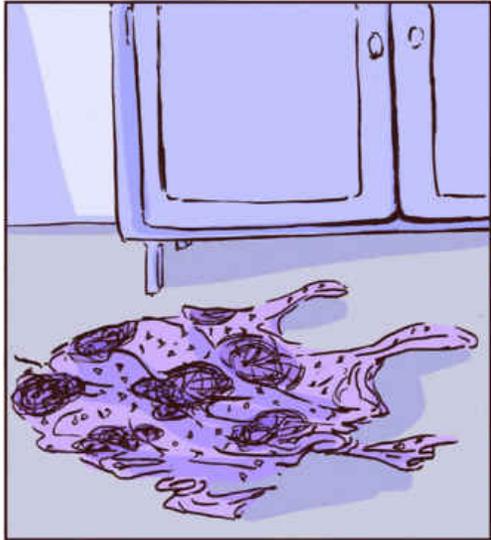
My abuela is outta church. You know how she gets when I don't answer her calls.

I'll be back.

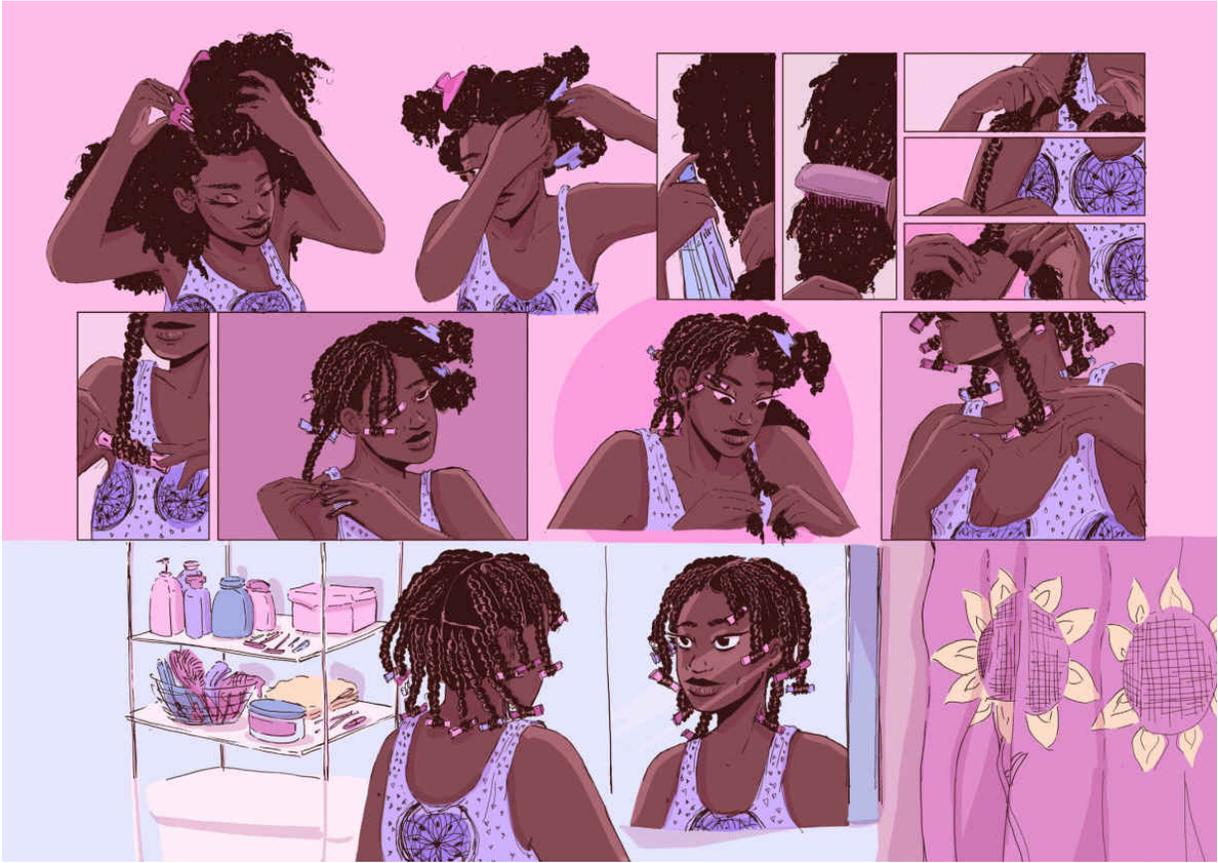
Give her my love.

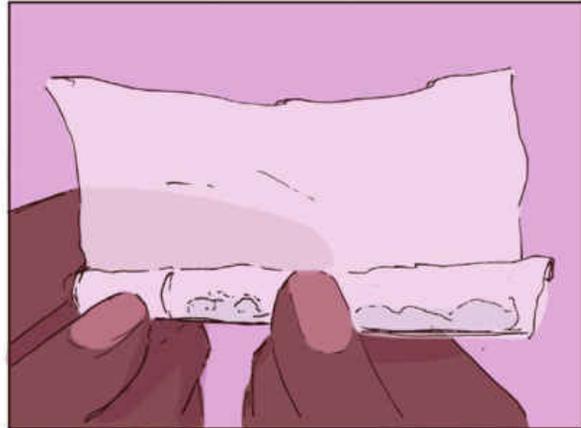


Ción, Abuelita!















I swear to God if this is Malik again...

Bzzz Bzzz

MALIK?!

Is it him?

Yup.

Ugh, what he say?

He wants to see me today.

You gonna go?



Nah, it's wash day.
I ain't goin' nowhere.



GROUP CHAT





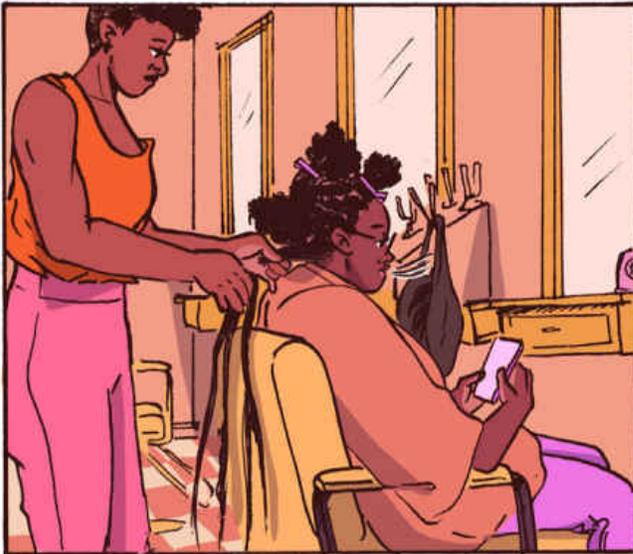


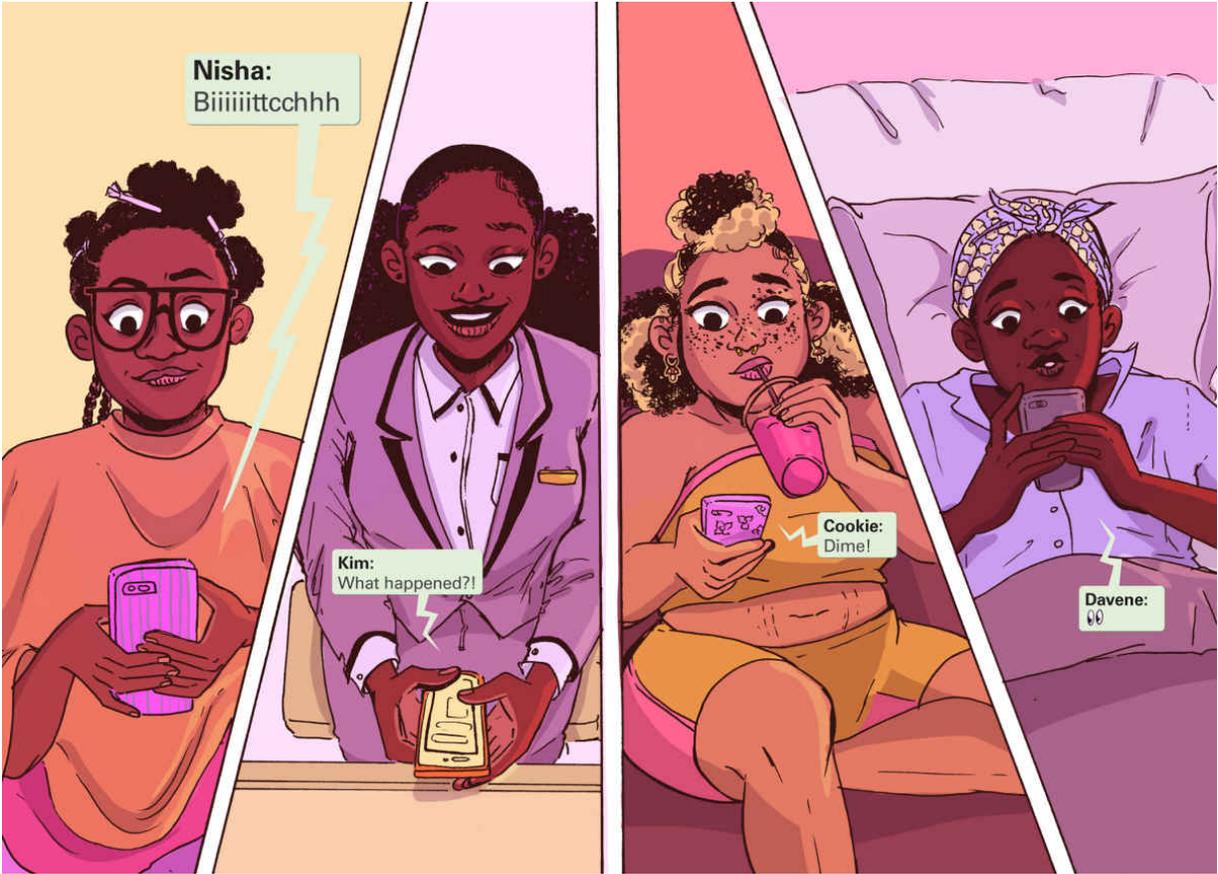










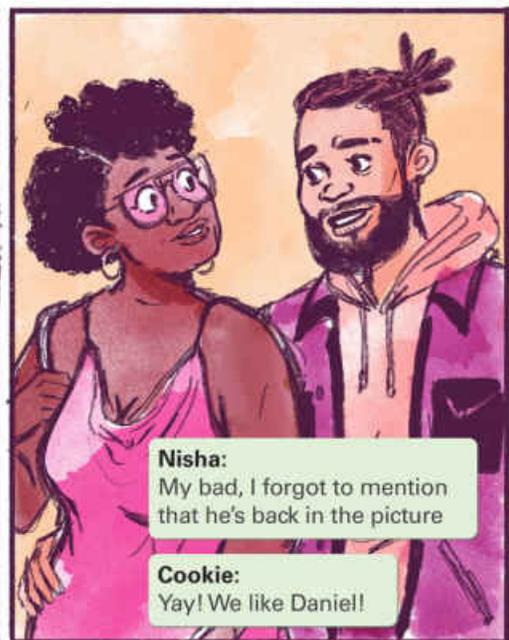


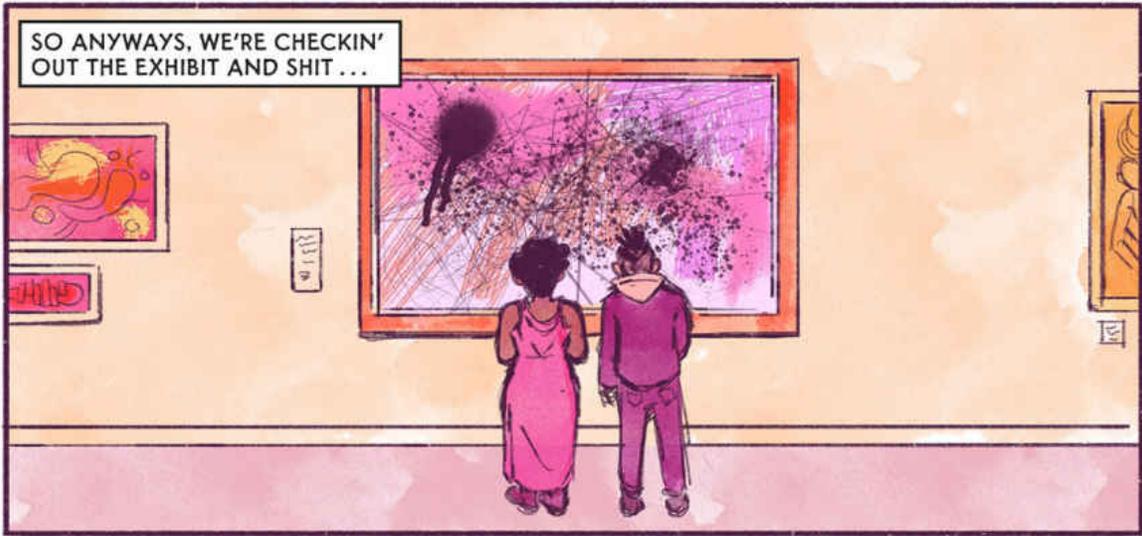
Nisha:
Biiiiittcchhh

Kim:
What happened?!

Cookie:
Dime!

Davene:
00









Bad "Oh wow..." or good "Oh wow"?"



I don't know "oh wow"?"

Davene:
Really? Why aren't you sure?

Nisha:
I ain't about to give my freedom up so easily. Idc how long we been messin' around



Ohh...

Oh no!

I mean it's not bad, I'm just surprised is all.

Kim:
Why aren't you being honest with that poor man! lol 😂

Nisha:
Who's side are you on damn?!

Davene:
Whose*

Nisha:
Damn, you too Davene?! 😂



Cookie:
Ladies ladies, let's get back to the story!



You don't need to answer me now, I was going to head out early anyway.



I still have to finish up some stuff for the campaign.

We'll catch up after the shoot on Monday.



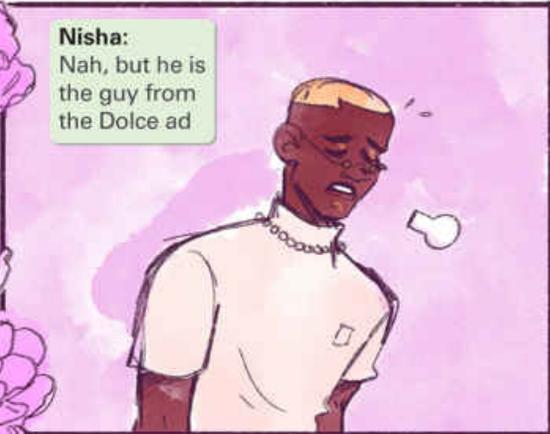
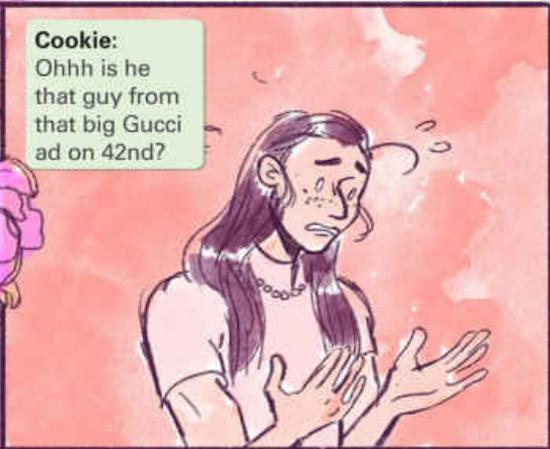
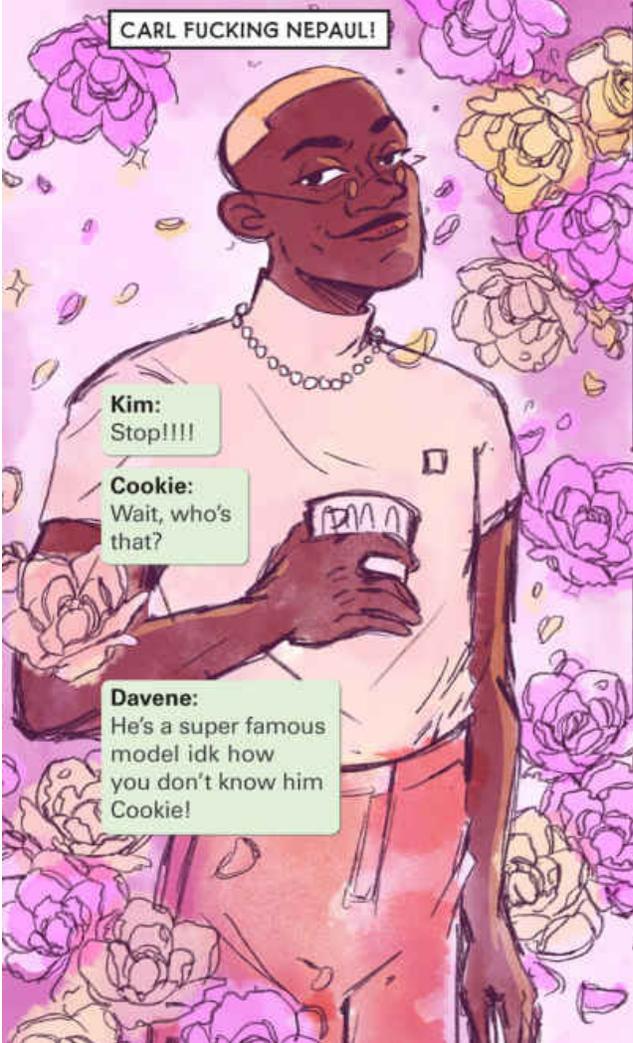
BUT YOU KNOW I STAYED MY ASS THERE BECAUSE THEY HAD AN OPEN BAR.

Davene:
I expect nothing less!

Kim:
Typical! Lmao 😂

Cookie:
I can't with you lololol







ONE THING LEADS TO ANOTHER...





... AND I WAKE UP IN HIS BED.

Kim:
!!!

Cookie:
😬

Davene:
Well, that escalated quickly.



THEN HE ASKS IF I
WANNA GO TO BRUNCH.

Kim:
Brunch?!

Nisha:
Yes girl, I'm like,
"Brunch? Damn,
he must be really
feelin' me!"

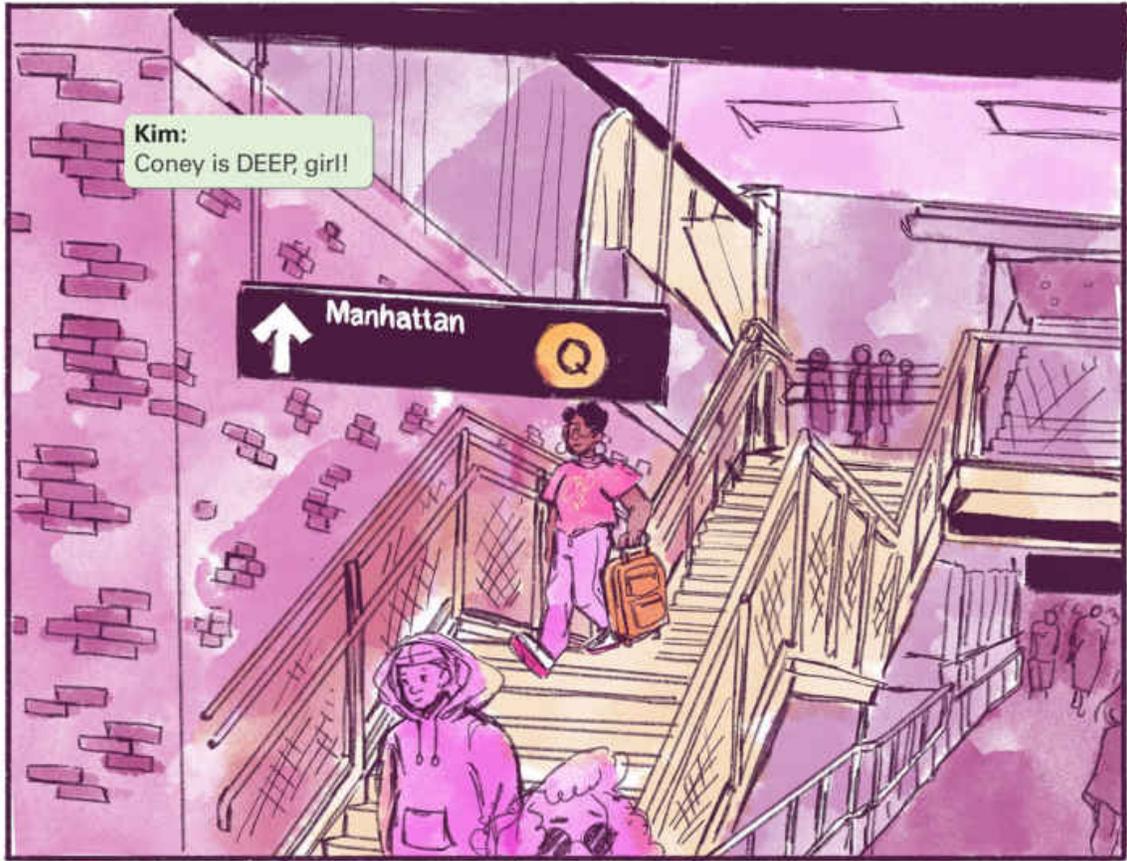
Cookie:
Right!



WE END UP GETTING
DRUNK OFF MIMOSAS
AND SPENT THE WHOLE
DAY TOGETHER ...

LIKE ON SOME REAL ROMANTIC SHIT. 😏

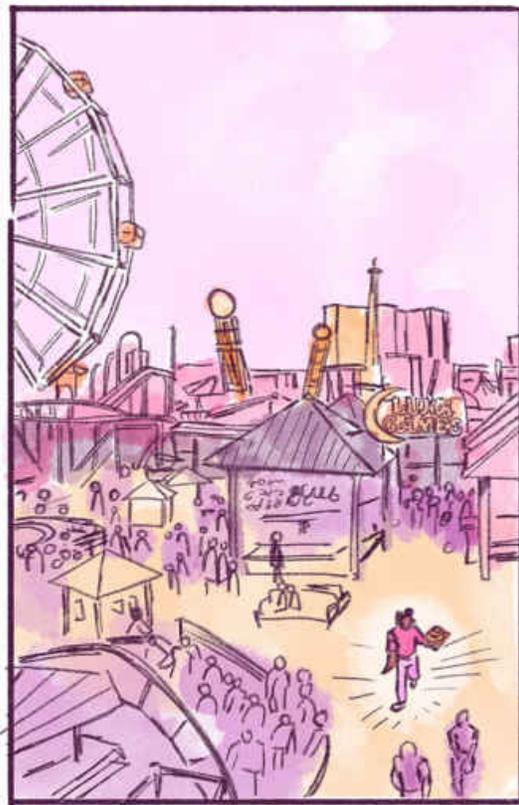


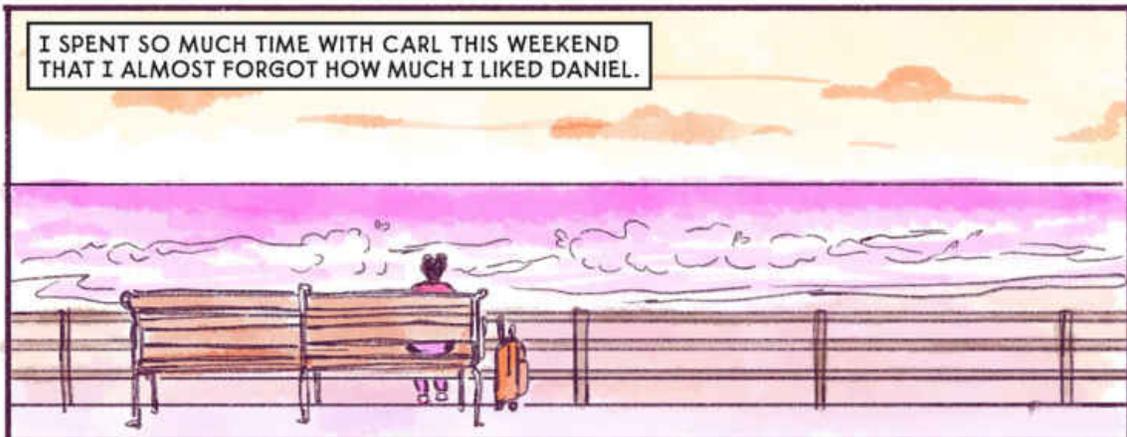
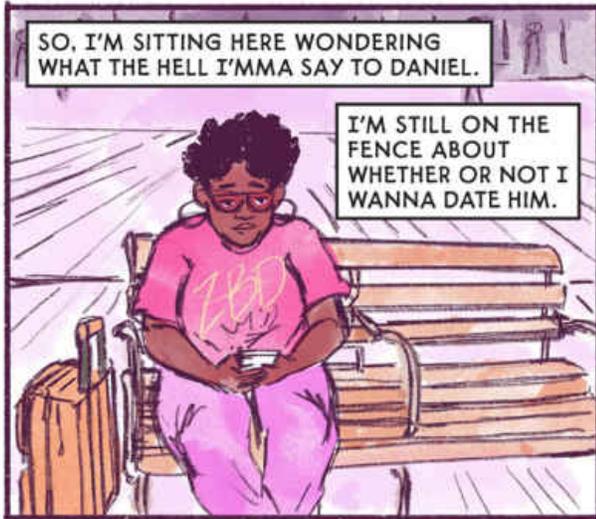


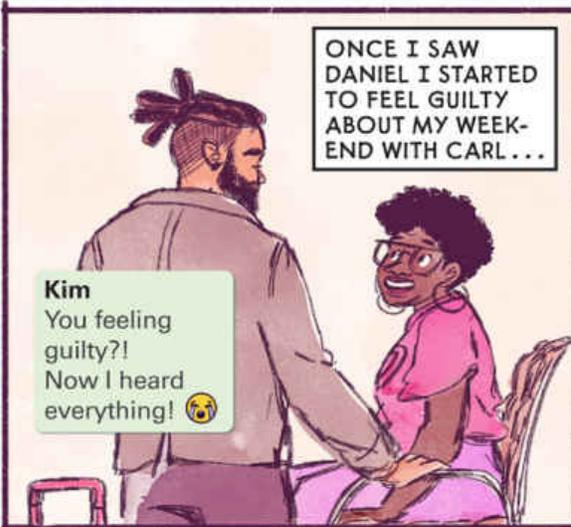
Nisha:
Word. Daniel has
this big "vision" for
the campaign and
it needs to be shot
at Coney Island and
not have a big crew
or anything.



Nisha:
Something to
do with his
childhood.







ONCE I SAW DANIEL I STARTED TO FEEL GUILTY ABOUT MY WEEK-END WITH CARL...

Kim
You feeling guilty?!
Now I heard everything! 😱



Nisha:
I know right?
I'm getting soft! 😔😔😔



ANYWAY, SO TELL ME WHY...

Sup, Daniel!



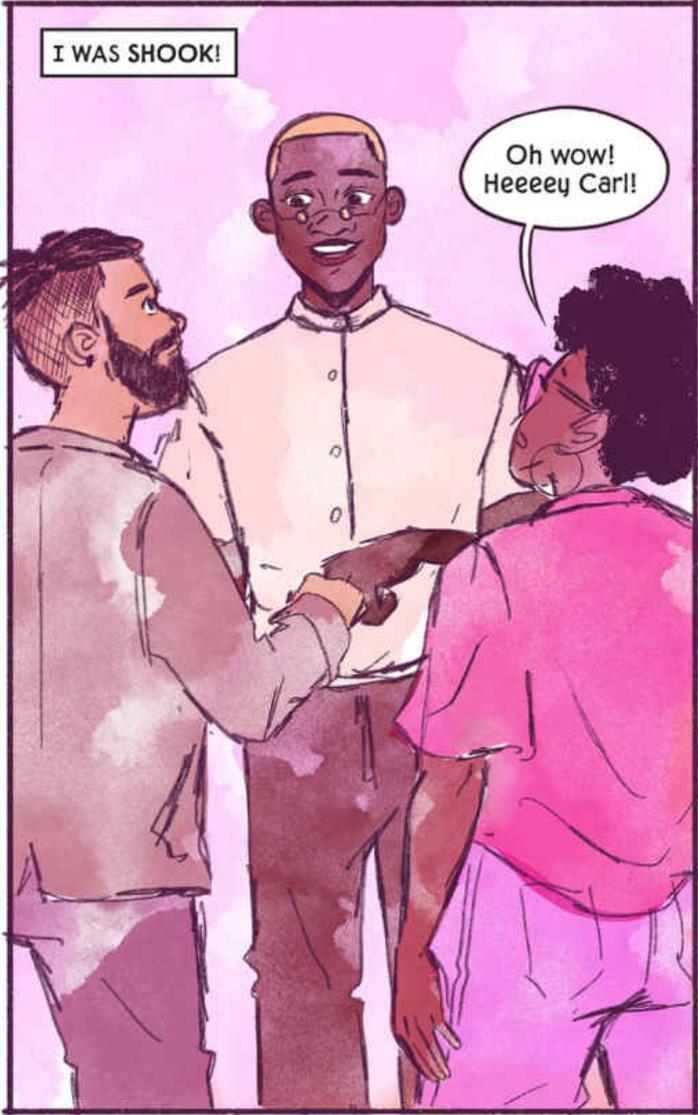
... OUT OF ALL OF THE MODELS IN THIS BIG ASS CITY, DANIEL DECIDES TO HIRE CARL FUCKING NEPAUL?!

Kim:
Nooooo!!!!

Davene:
Whattt!?!?!?

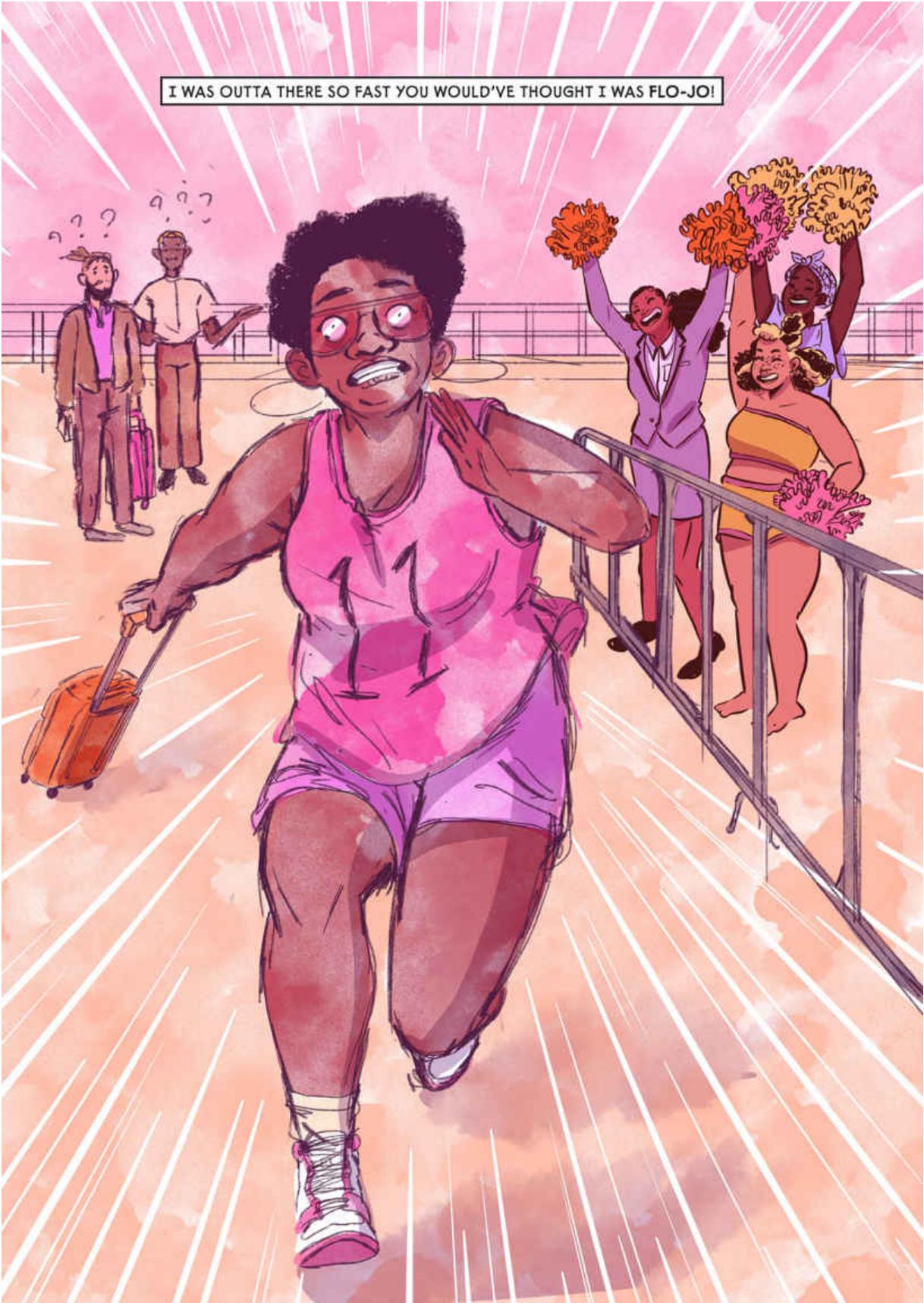
And ... Nisha?

Cookie:
You lie!!!!!





I WAS OUTTA THERE SO FAST YOU WOULD'VE THOUGHT I WAS FLO-JO!

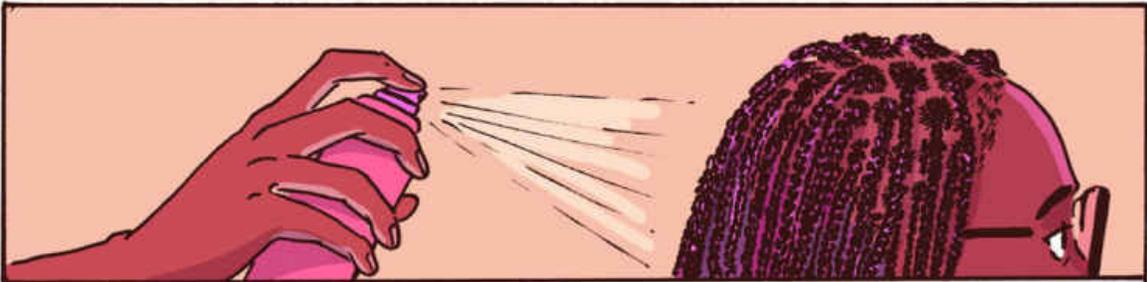
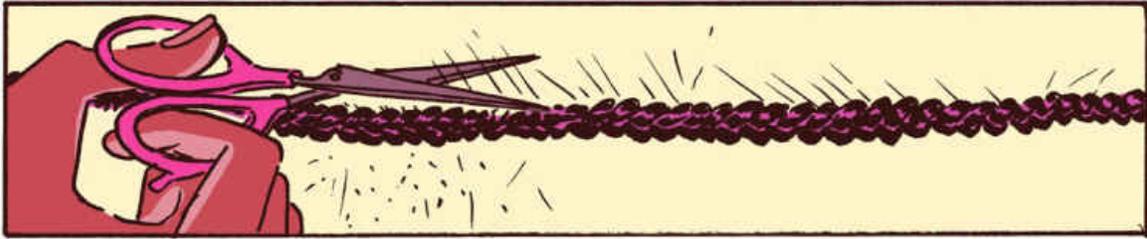














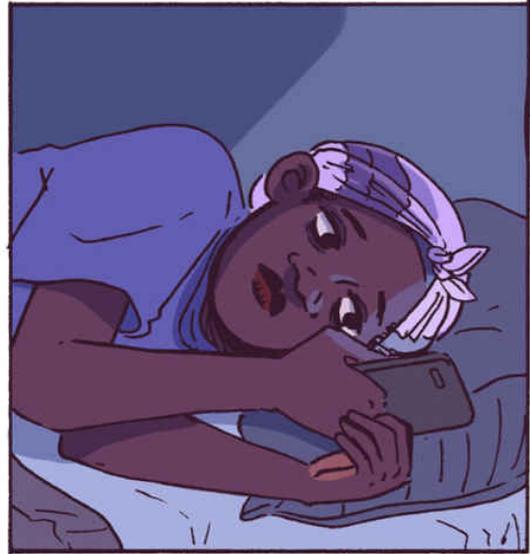




BRIGHT SIDE

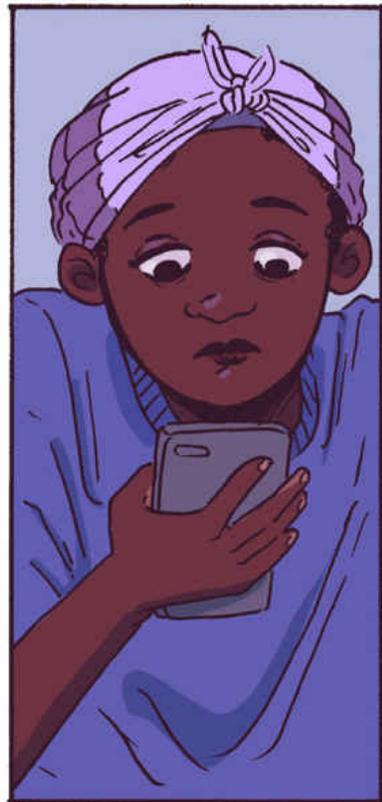
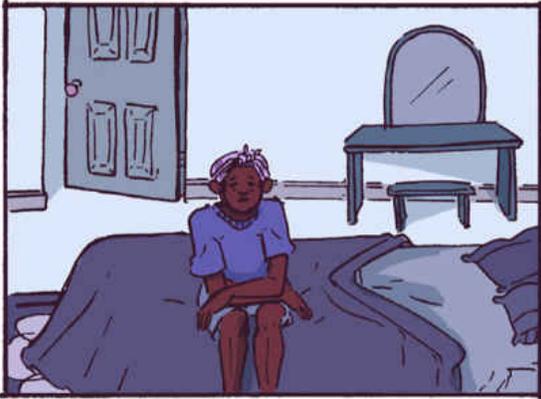












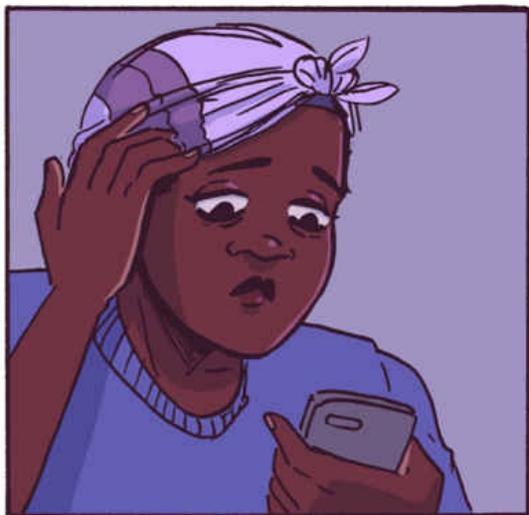


Davene:
Morning, Michelle. I'm so sorry for missing the appointment yesterday. I wasn't feeling well this weekend.

Davene:
Are you free today?



Michelle:
Sorry, I'm booked until next week.



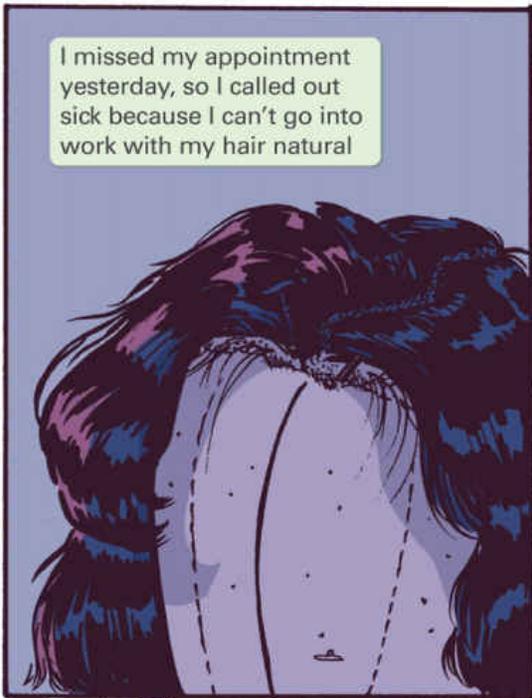








I missed my appointment yesterday, so I called out sick because I can't go into work with my hair natural

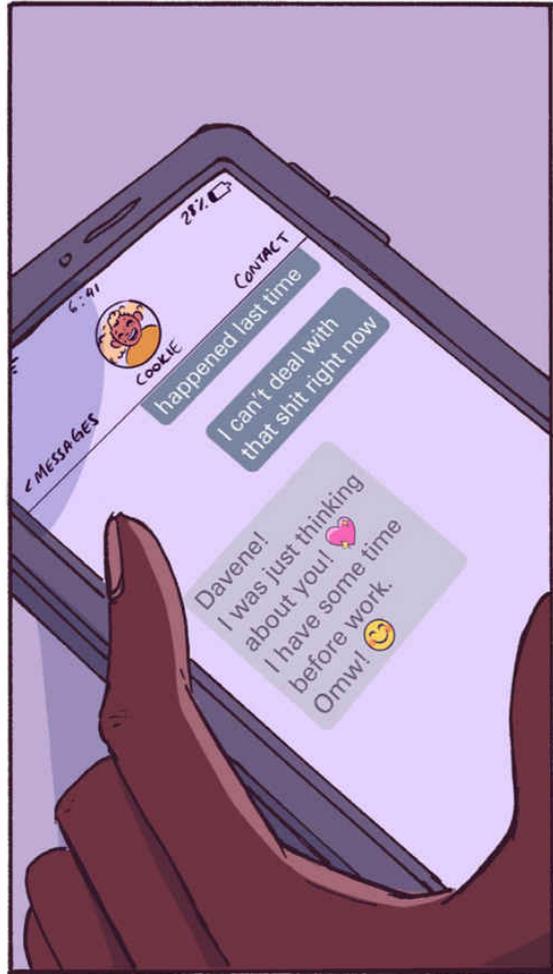


Not after what happened last time



I can't deal with that shit right now





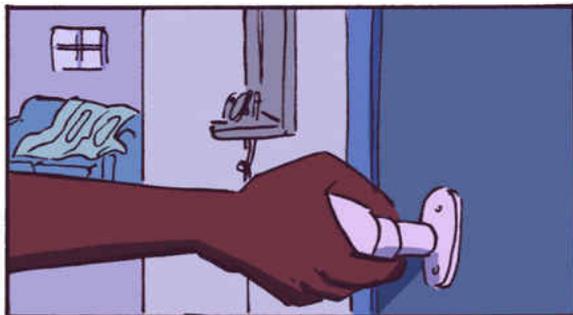
I WAS JUST THINKING ABOUT YOU!













I'll never ...

huff

get used to ...

huff

these stairs.

Hahaha











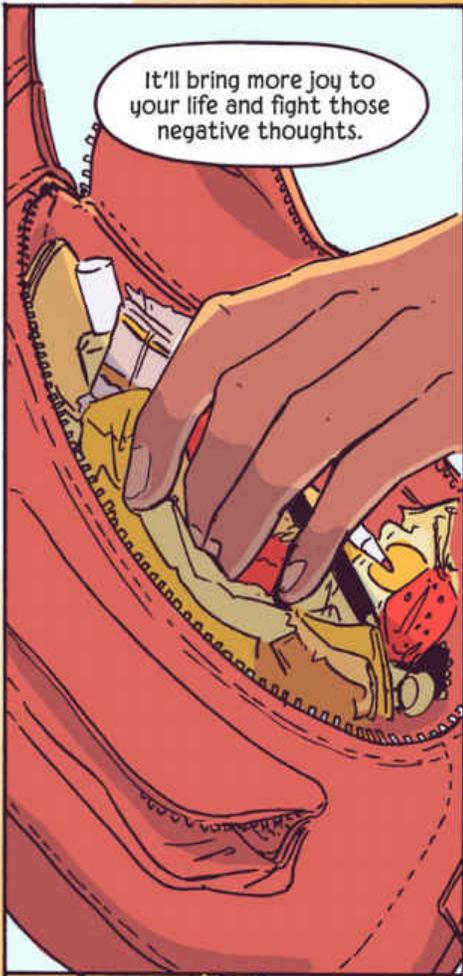




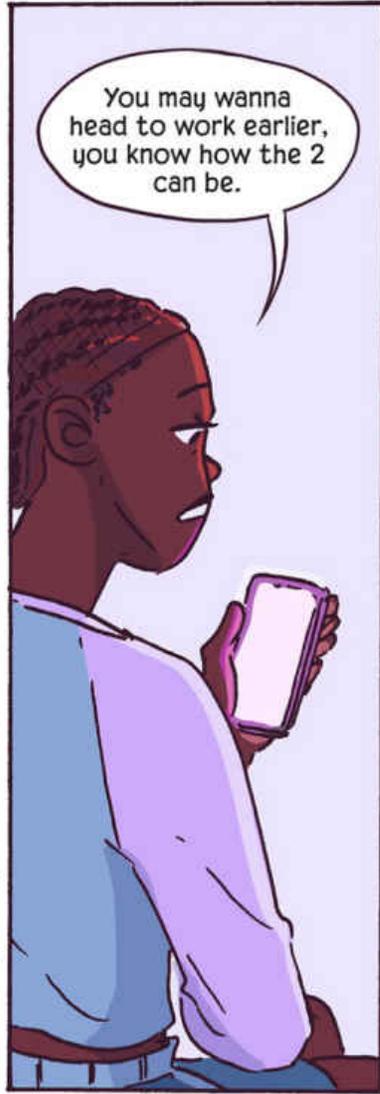














You're still coming to Kim's show on Saturday...

Right?

Um ... I think so.

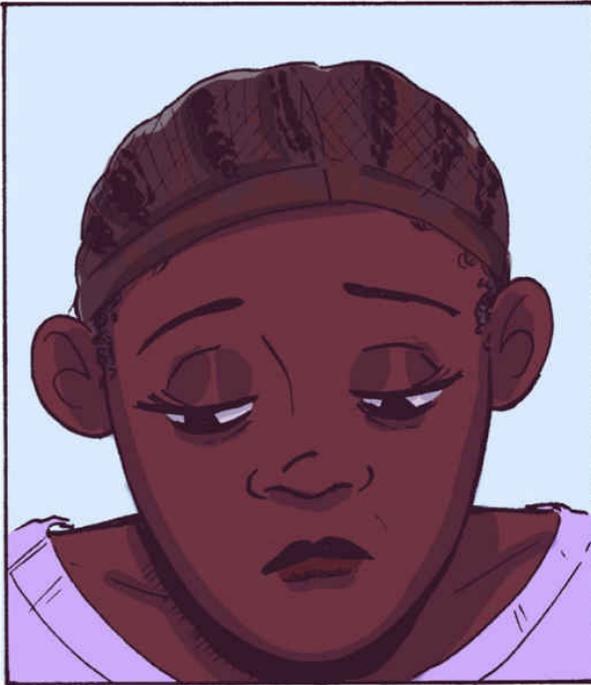
Good!
I bet it'll cheer you up to be around your girls!

Yeah, maybe...

Later, love.

Bye, Cook.







WE MISS YOU!





LA BENDICIÓN







Where you off to, Cookie?

To see my abuela.

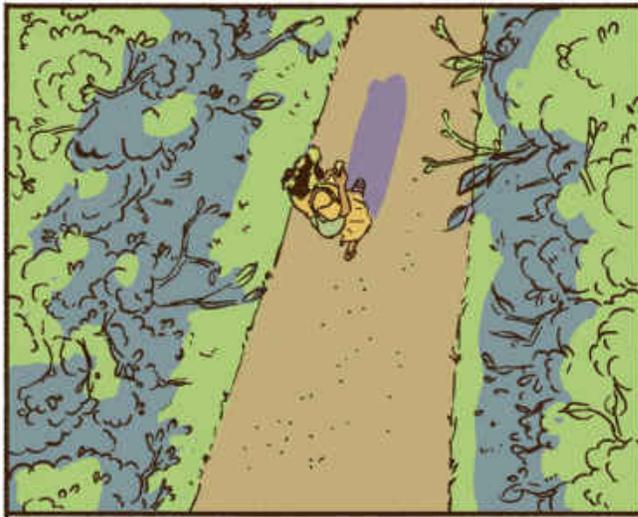


Oh, I didn't know she was back from DR.



No, my other abuela.















<Oh... well, I don't have anyone.>

Well... not yet at least.

Abuela!

<Don't talk like that.>

<Well, I need you to hurry up and get married before I die.>

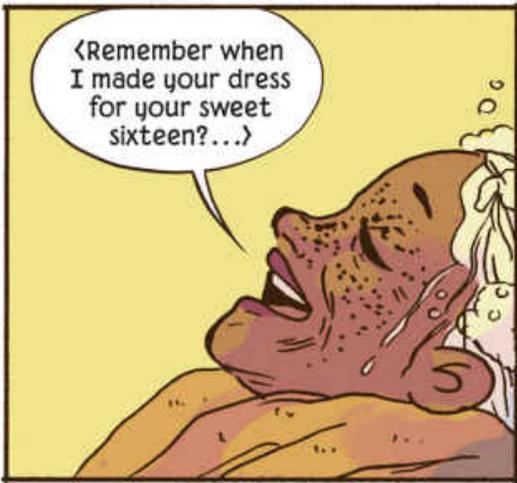
<What?!>

<I'm not getting any younger and I want to make your wedding dress.>

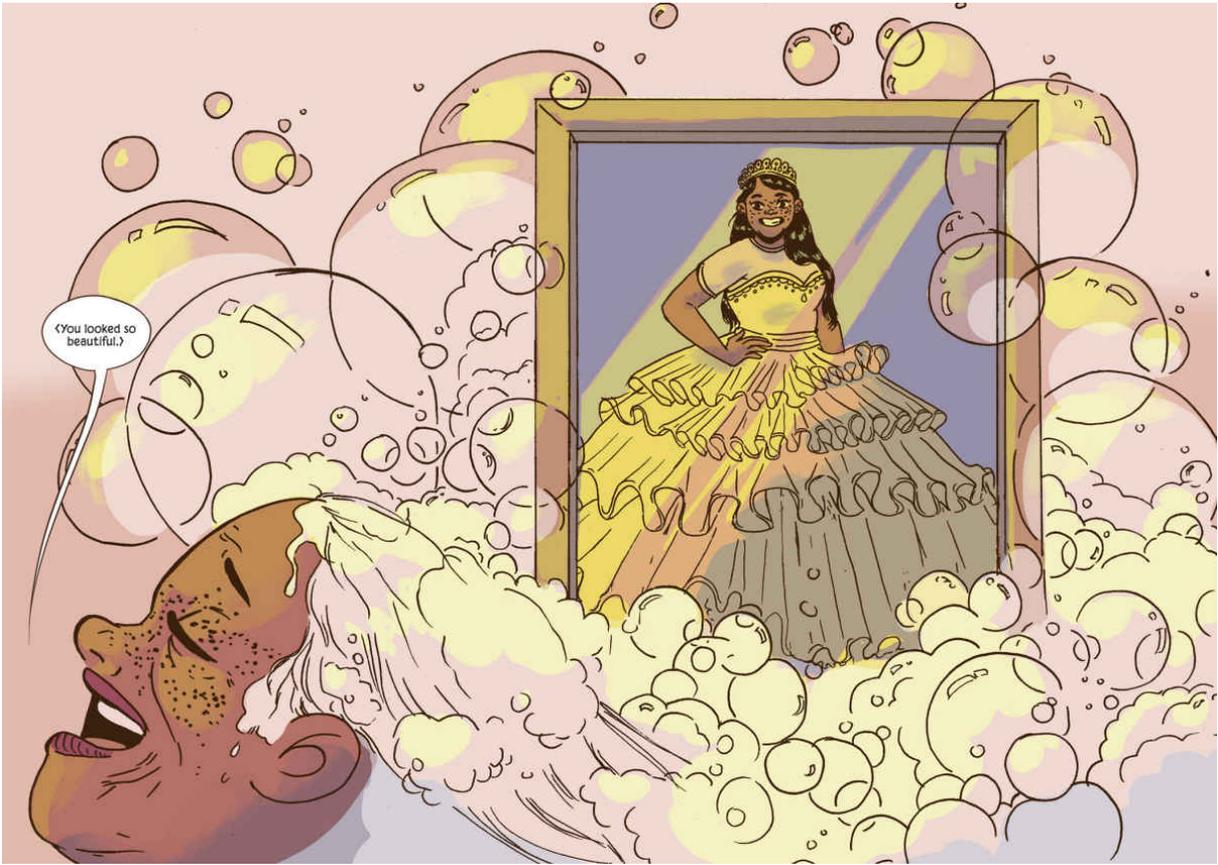


You want to make my wedding dress?

<Yes, of course.>

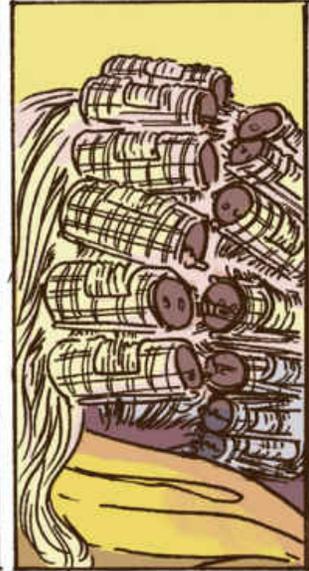


<Remember when I made your dress for your sweet sixteen?...>











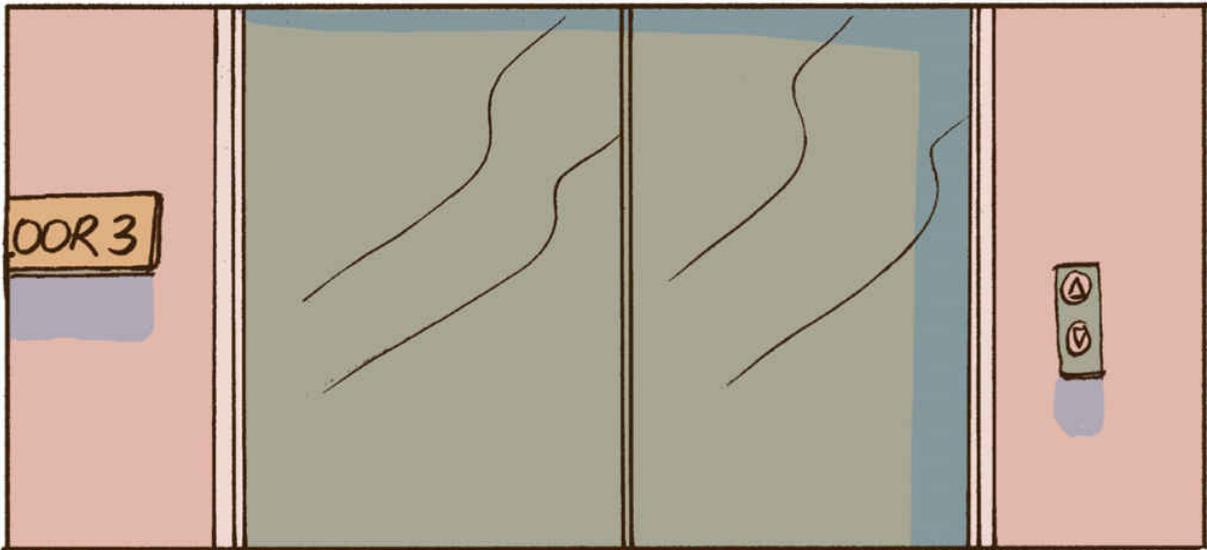


Oh, abuelita.

<This is beautiful.>







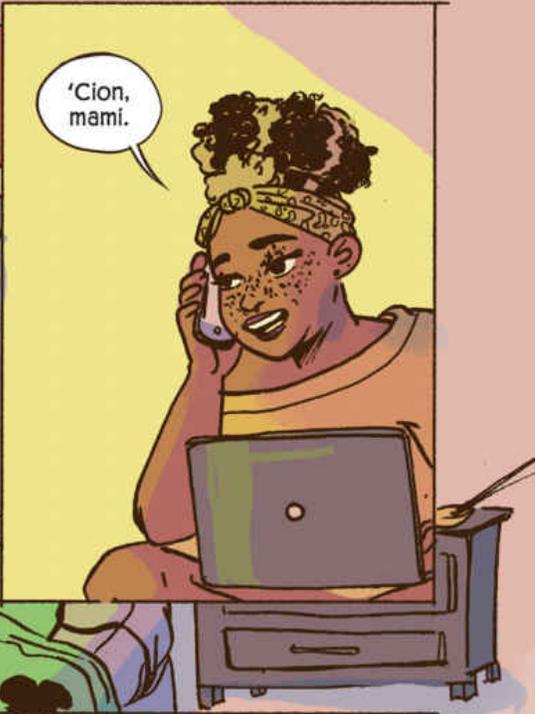




THE NEXT DAY...



RING
RING



'Cion, mami.



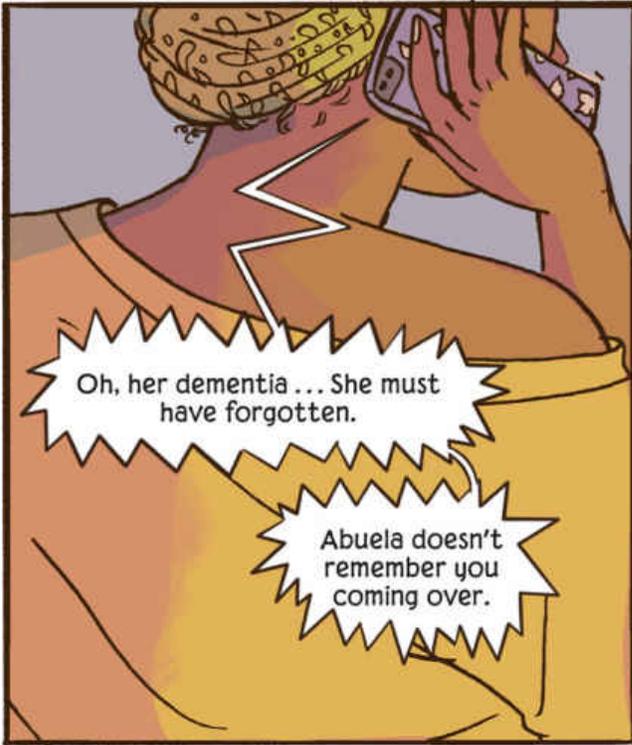
Dios te bendiga, mija. Did you go see your abuela yesterday?

Yeah, I did.



It actually went really well.

Why?





... I remember.



RIDE OR DIE



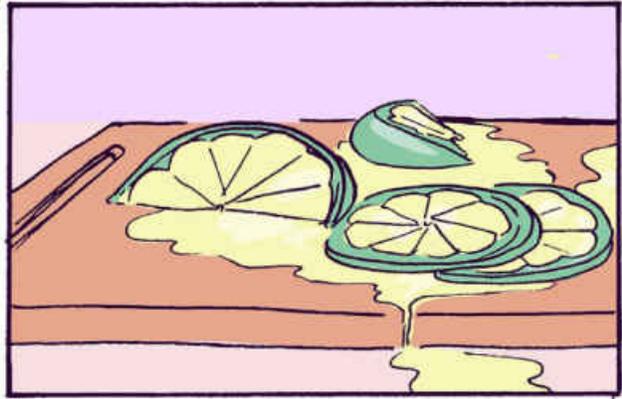


Nisha and Davene are mad late.











But I don't know about getting the police involved. You know I don't fuck with them.



I feel you, love.
But this is about your safety.



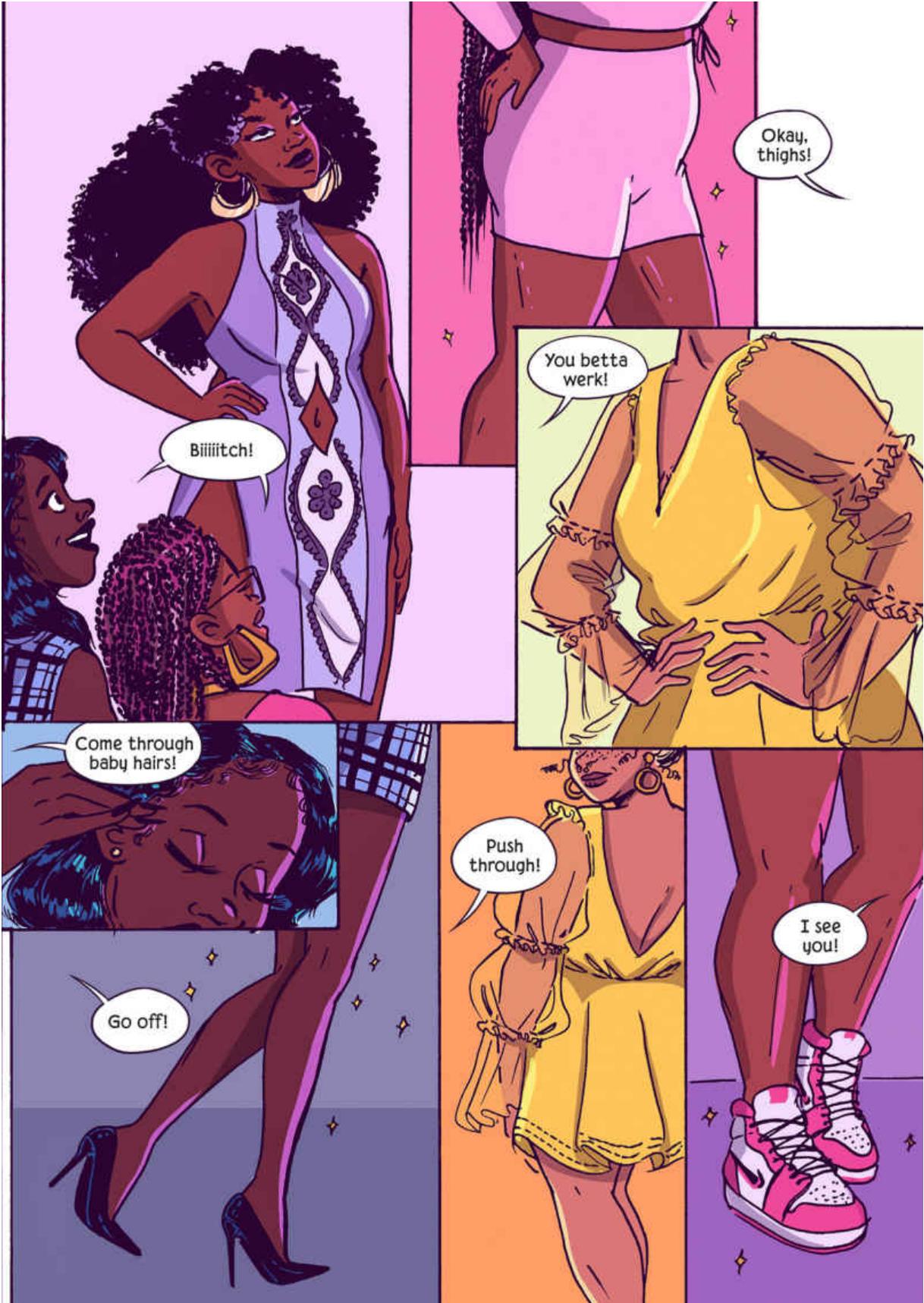
I know, and I want to feel safe...



But at what cost?







Biiiiitch!

Okay, thighs!

You betta werk!

Come through baby hairs!

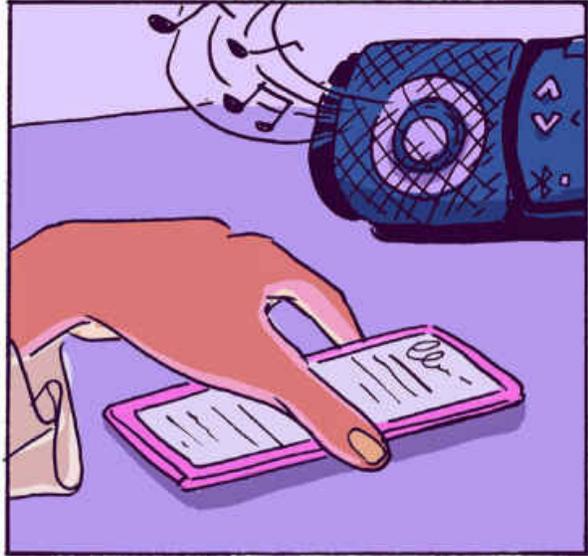
Push through!

I see you!

Go off!

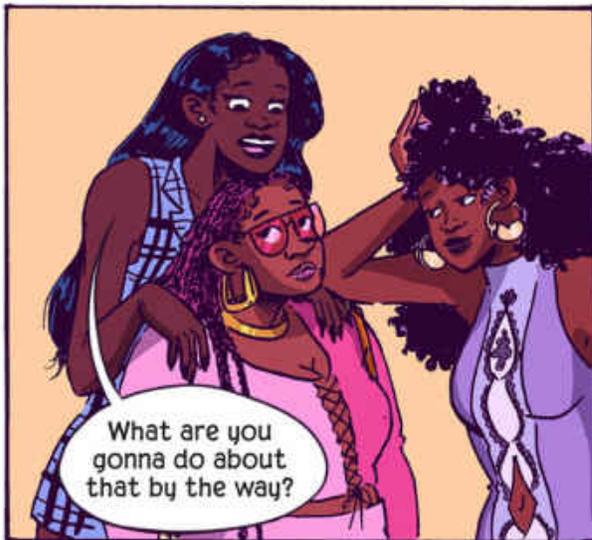








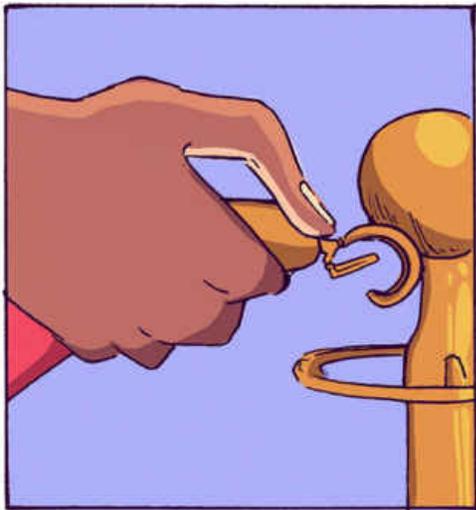




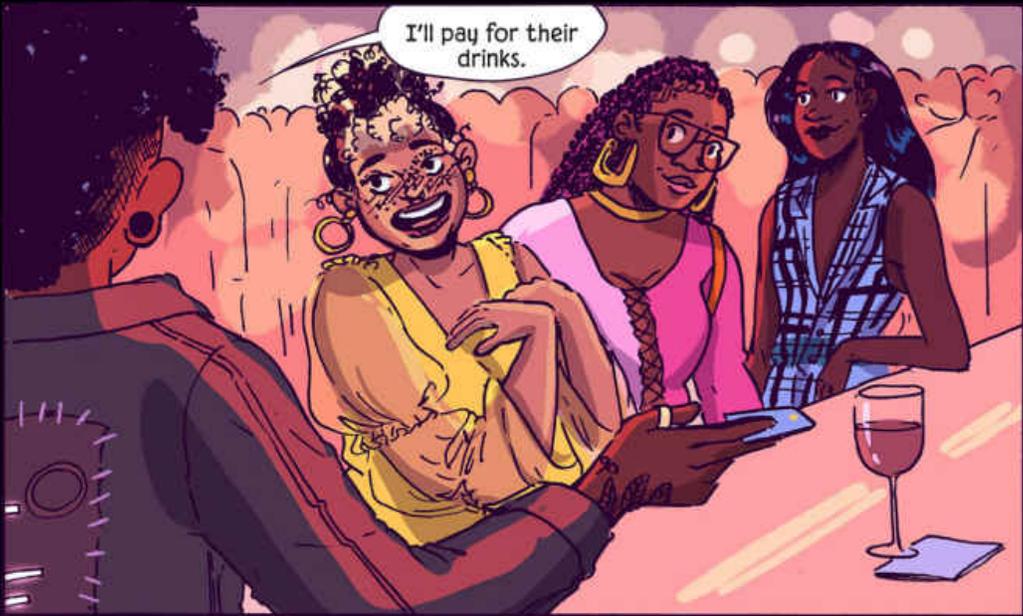










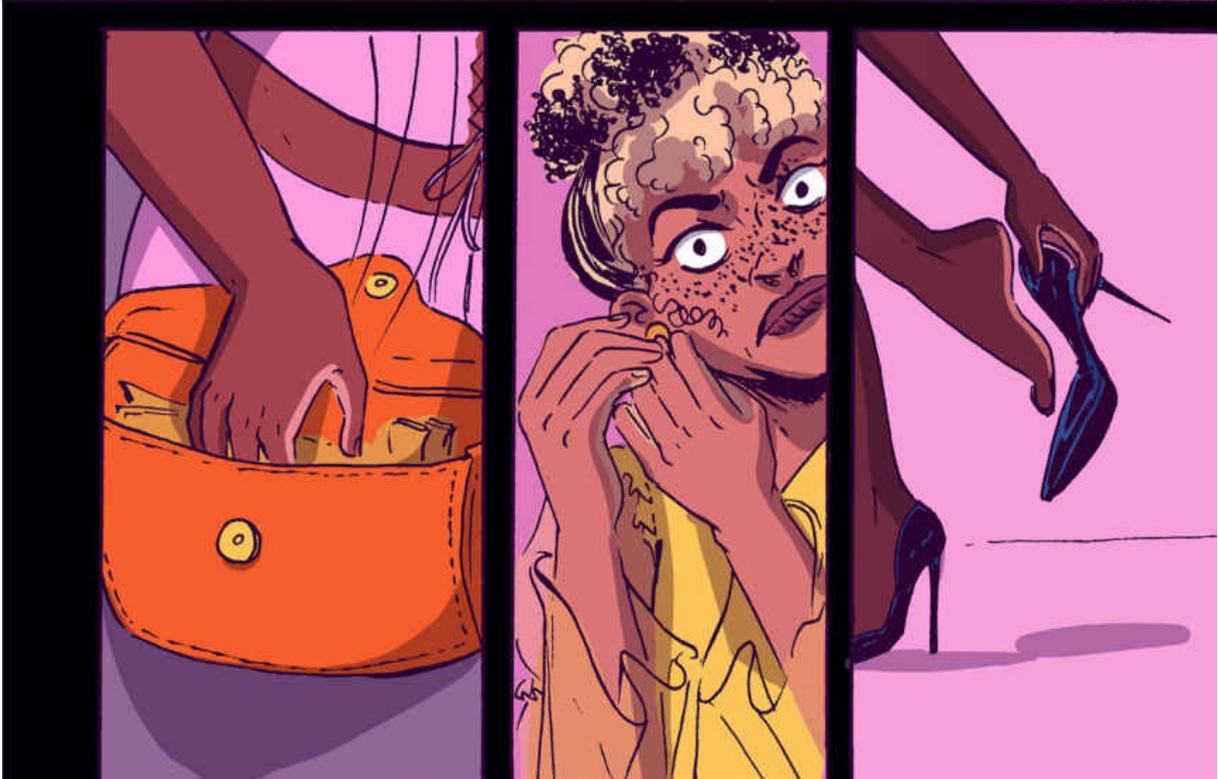
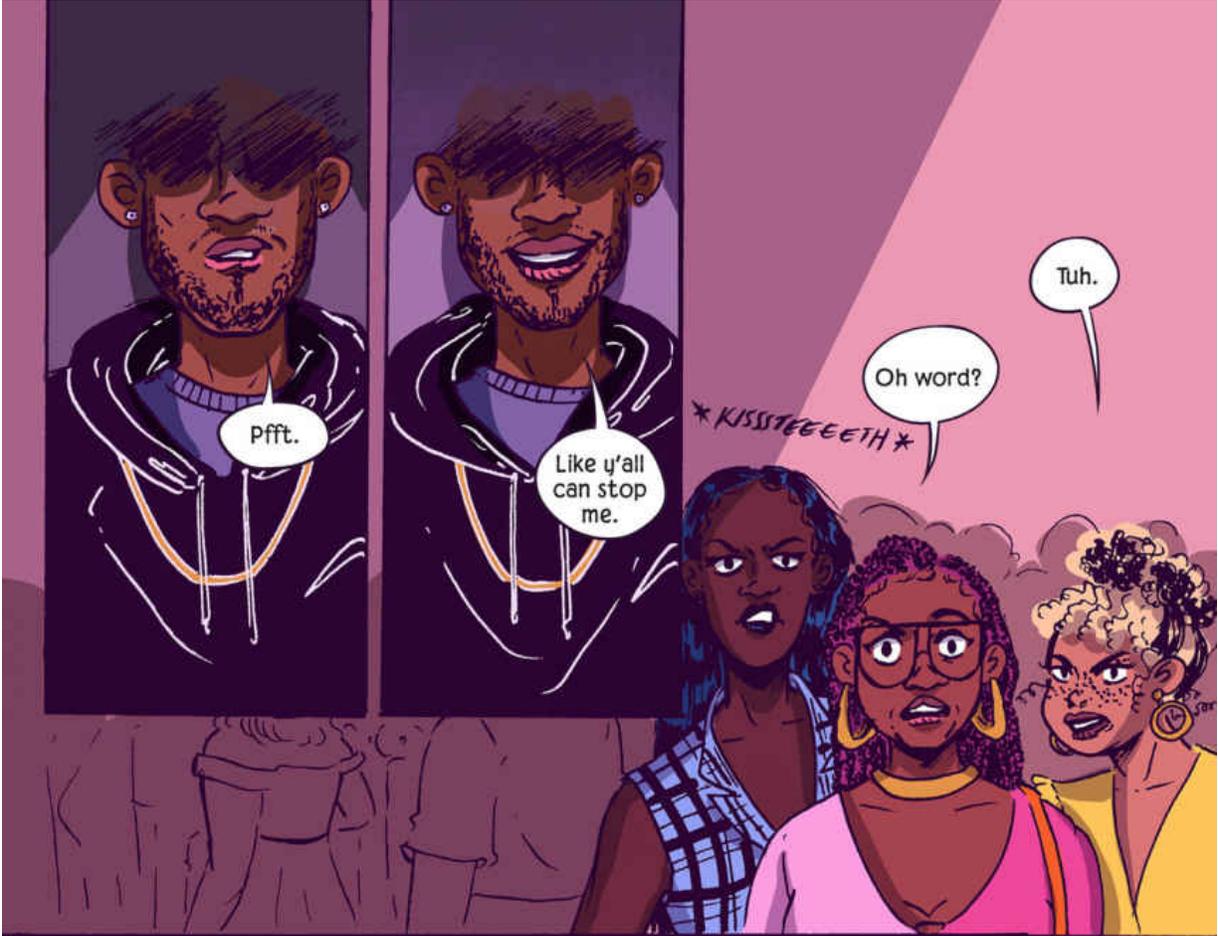














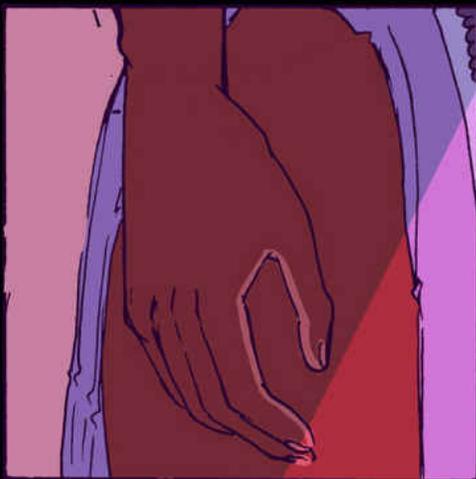






All right beautiful people, the wait is finally over!

Give it up for the Bronx nightingale, Kimana!











You okay?
You wanna head home?



Yeah,
tonight was
already a lot
for me.



Oh wait,
the 5 is under
construction on
the weekends.

It's gonna take
me mad long to
get home.



You should
stay over!

We can
leave now.



You sure? I
don't want to
trouble you.

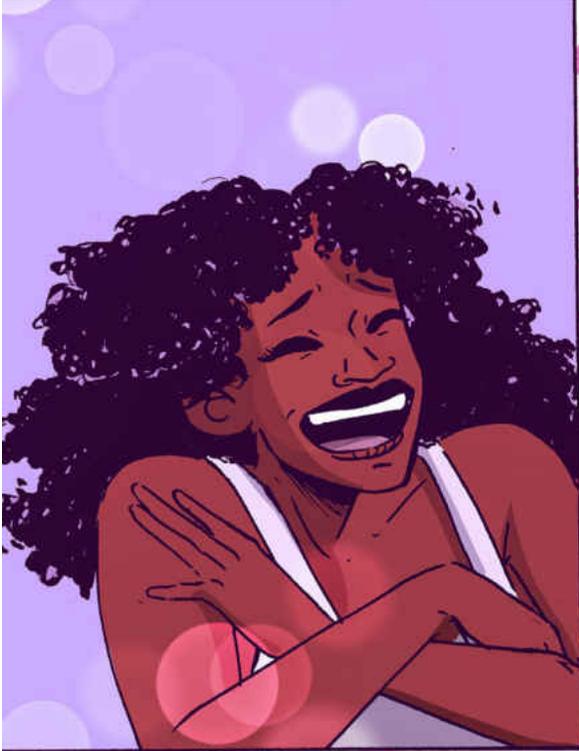


I've never been
more sure.















ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Thank you to my parents for your constant love and support. To my brother, Myles, thank you for being the best brother and friend I could ask for. To my friends who fill my life with love, joy, and laughter. I don't know what I'd do without y'all. You inspire me so much.

Thank you to my partner, Jemar Souza, for always believing in me, especially when I didn't believe in myself. Thank you to Sahara Clement for believing *Wash Day* could and *should* be bigger. To my first editor, J.A. Micheline, and my agent, Jen Linnan. To the Chronicle team for giving Robyn and me the space to make *Wash Day Diaries* the way we wanted.

Robyn, thank you for everything you put into creating this beautiful comic with me. I've developed such a beautiful friendship with you because of our comic, and for that, I'm forever grateful. Thank you to everyone who backed the *Wash Day* Kickstarter and bought and shared the comic. We're here because of your support and we don't take that for granted.

Last but not least, I thank Black women and girls everywhere for being a constant source of inspiration and strength. I do what I do for us.

Jamila

To my parents, my brother and my grandmothers, my cousins, uncles and aunts, friends and Benson (my cat). The emotional support I needed to make it through this was flowing nonstop from you all and

I am so grateful. I always feel loved and in turn was able to put that into this book.

Jamila I am so happy we have each other and I'm so happy that what started so long ago has made it this far. I look forward to what we do together next.

Robyn

CREDITS

Bex Glendining - Colorist

Bex Glendining (she/they) is a biracial queer, UK-based illustrator, comic artist, and colorist. When not working, they can usually be found building Gundams, playing video games with friends, or buying new plants.

lgions.com

Twitter/Instagram: @lgions

Kazimir Lee - Colorist

Kaz lives in Brooklyn with their family. Their work has appeared on *The Nib*, *Oh Joy Sex Toy!* and has garnered a Lambda Literary Award for Queer Erotica. They like country music, karaoke, and body horror. They are trying to do better.

Kazimirlee.com

Instagram: @kazzer.lee

Twitter: @iportmento

J.A. Micheline - *Wash Day* script editor

J. A. Micheline is a writer, editor, and critic based in New York City. As an editor, more than anything, she likes to consider the shapes of things.

Twitter: @elevenafter

Sahara Clement - Editor

Sahara Clement is an editor based in Philadelphia. Inspired by the power of books, she is passionate about finding creative ways to bring diverse and underrepresented stories to life. Like her kitten, Bean, she always tries to appreciate life's little joys.

Juliette Capra - Editor

Juliette Capra is a professional enthusiast and editor of comics, books, and more. She is delighted to find herself on the editorial side of her favorite medium with projects like *Wash Day Diaries*. She lives in the San Francisco Bay Area with her two cats, the fog, and a surprising amount of neighborhood wildlife.

Neil Egan – Designer and lettering layout

Neil is a graphic designer, art director, and life-long comics fan, who can't believe that his job is occasionally to collaborate with incredibly talented and wonderful comics creators to bring their vision to a final printed book. He lives in Oakland, California.

Angie Kang – Lettering assistance

Angie is a Chinese-American illustrator, designer, and writer based in San Francisco. She can be found on Instagram @anqiekang, online at www.angiekang.net, or at the laundromat, separating quarters by where they were minted.

PROCESS PAGES

Script:

Here's a script excerpt from one of our favorite panels in *Group Chat*. This story was inspired by the dynamism and excitement that happens in storytelling amongst friends. Specifically, we wanted to highlight how lively storytelling is in group chats and represent that energy with visual elements as well as the dialogue.

Group Chat Page 10, Panel 2 Description

This is the panel where we'll start to play around visually with storytelling. KIM will interrupt NISHA'S story by physically pushing the flashback panel aside as if it's a curtain (described below). The flashback panel can be sort of bunched up to illustrate how the panel is like a curtain. KIM is technically outside of the panel so there won't be any border around her, it's like she's in the margins or behind the "flashback panel." We don't need to see KIM'S whole body; it could just be her head/upper body, whatever looks best. These images may help inspire this panel: [[link](#)].

Flashback panel: We're still outside of the gallery, but closer and from a different angle. We now see NISHA and DANIEL from a distance as they walk through the semi-crowded exhibit party. Since it's from a distance we don't need to clearly make out all of DANIEL's face and his features, we'll do that in the next panel. The focus is on NISHA AND DANIEL, so we may only make out some faces in the crowd clearly.

Kim:

Hold up, Daniel?!



Thumbnail:

Thumbnails are the next process in making the comic. Here is where the first sketches of the layout are created.

Kim:

Hold up, Daniel?!



Pencils:

The penciling process refines the artwork and adds more details, and also serves as an underdrawing for inking.



Inks:

In this step of the process, you can see the difference in the inking styles of the "flashback scene" versus the "present scene."



Color:

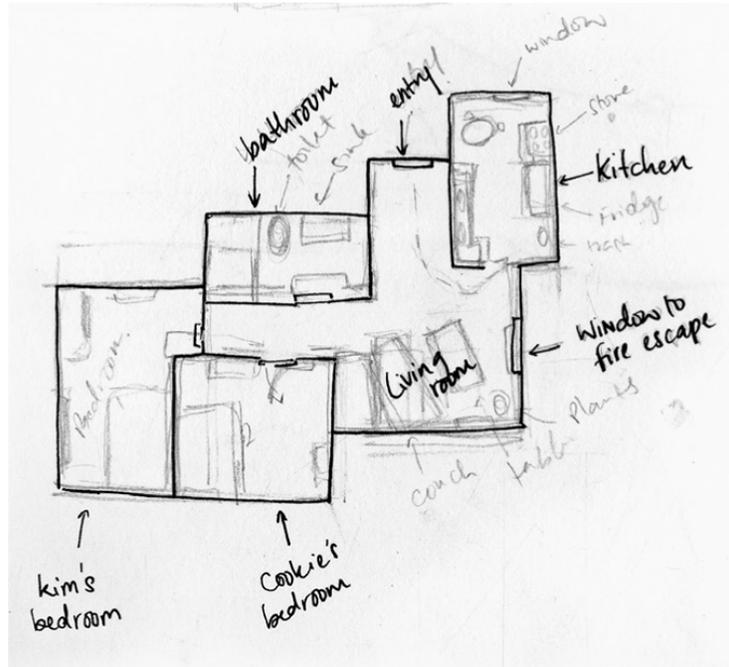
Different coloring methods were also used to differentiate the past versus the present. For the flashbacks, a watercolor texture was used, and for the present scenes, we used flat digital colors.



Our girls! <3 Tanisha's name changed as we developed the characters.



This concept art shows the original stylistic variations for Kim's character design for the *Wash Day* mini-comic back in 2017. These were other options we considered before deciding on her final design.



The layout for Kim and Cookie's apartment.