

"An addictive and charming college romance."
—RAINBOW ROWELL, author of *ATTACHMENTS*

CHECK PLEASE!

BOOK 2:
STICKS &
SCONES

NGOZI UKAZU

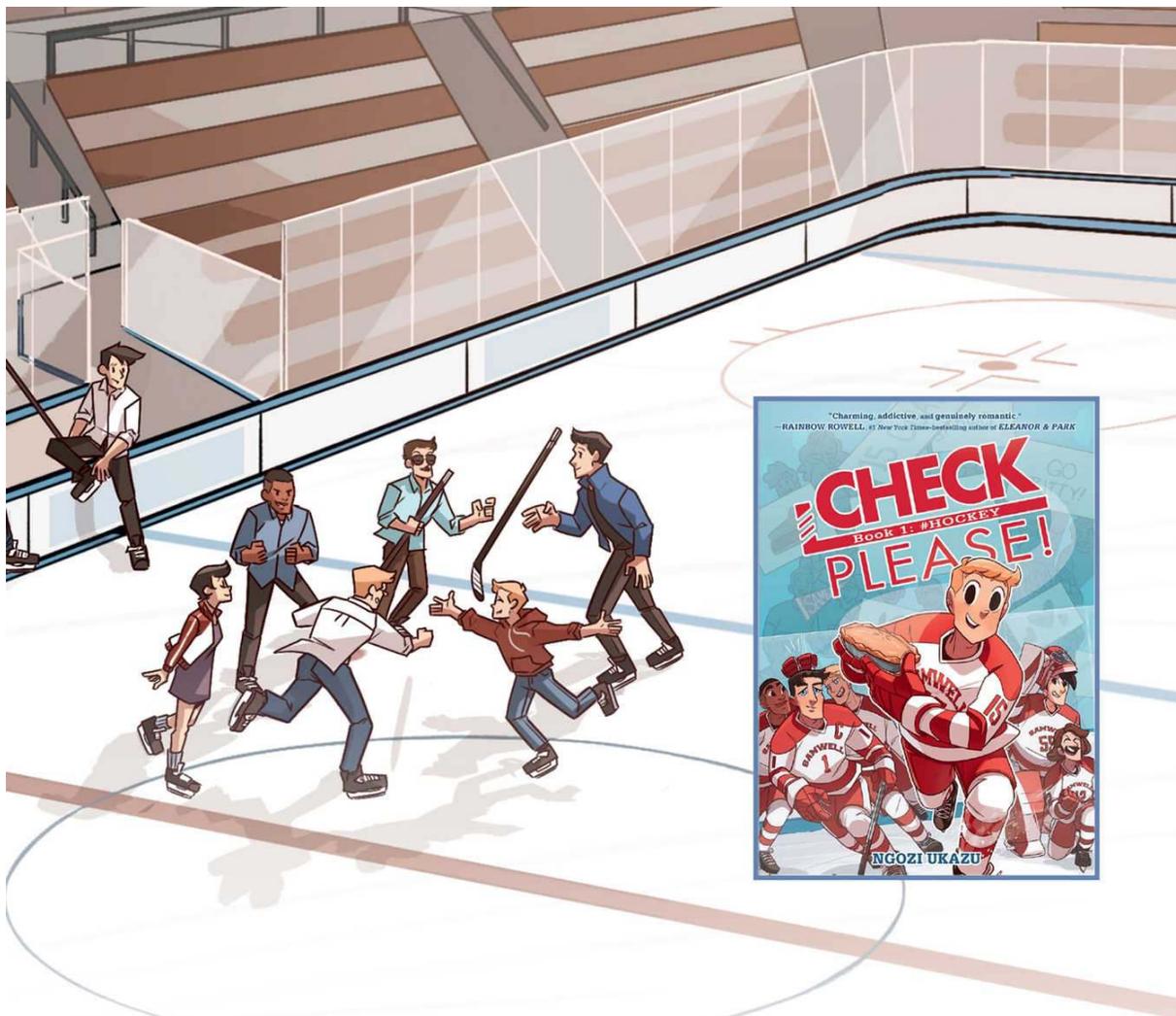
"An addictive and charming college romance."
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CHECK PLEASE!

BOOK 2:
STICKS &
SCONES



NGOZI UKAZU



Praise for
CHECK, PLEASE! #HOCKEY

“*Check, Please!* is a shot of warm, pie-smelling happiness straight to the heart.”

— **MACKENZI LEE**, *The Gentleman's Guide to Vice and Virtue*

“**Adorable** and full of **excellent messages about acceptance**.
Both Ngozi's artistic style and storytelling ability are incredibly charming.”

— **JOE JOHNSON**, *Team USA Ice Dancer*

NGOZI UKAZU

CHECK Book 2: Sticks & Scones **PLEASE!**

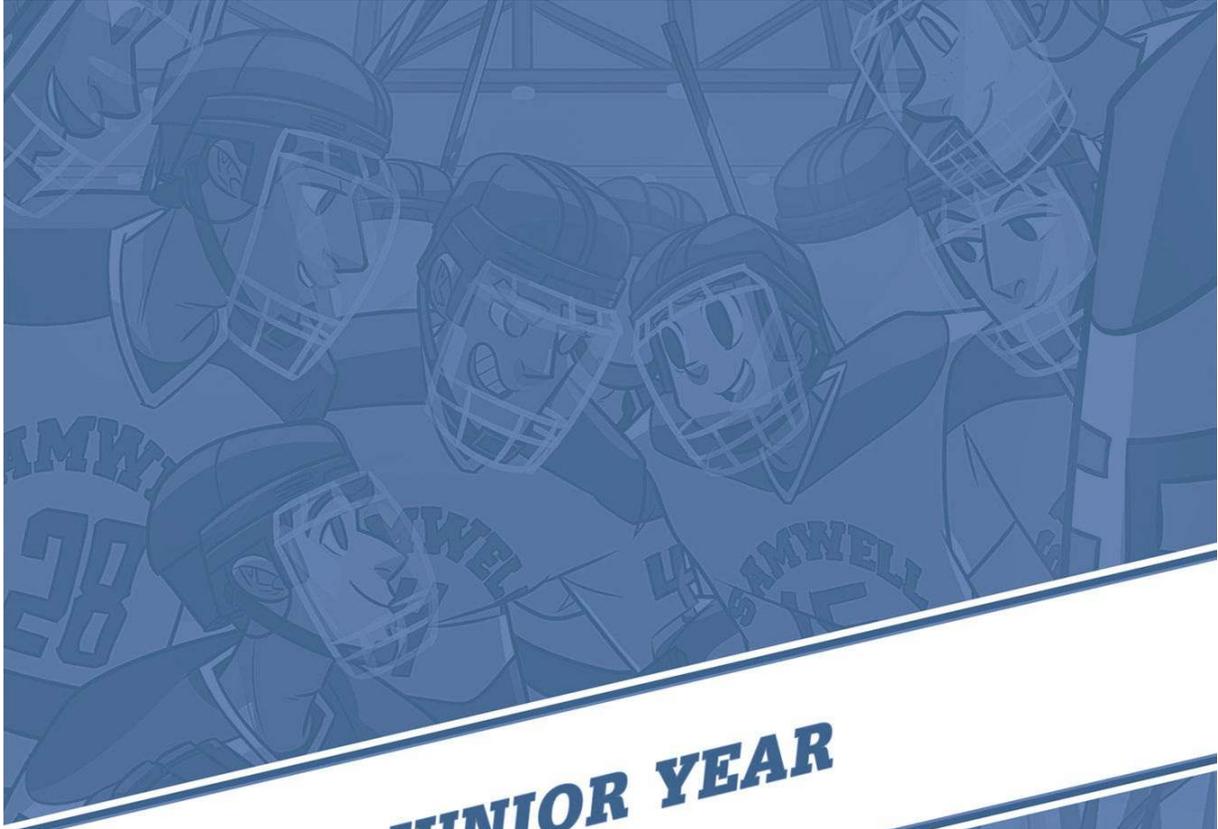


:01
First Second
New York

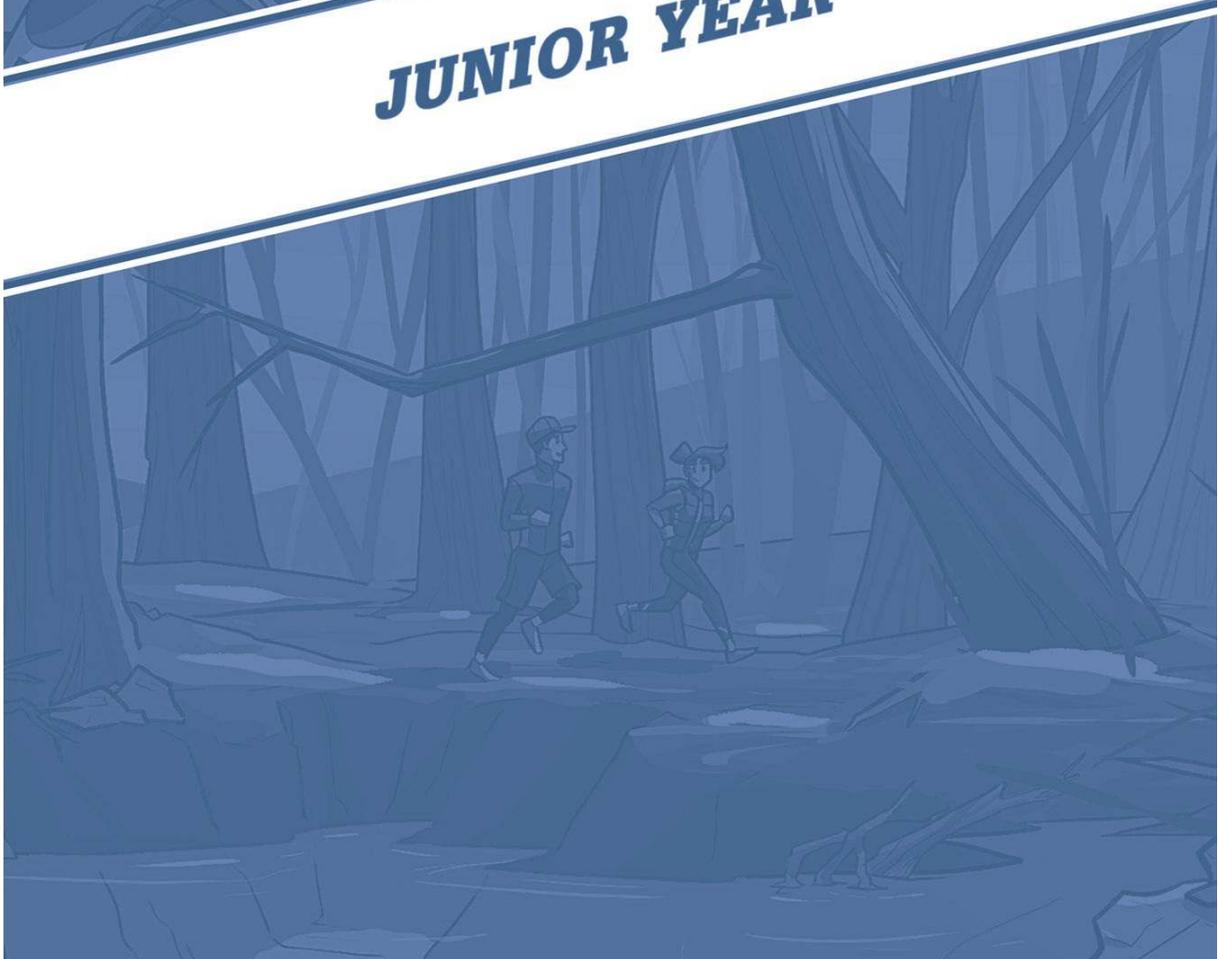




NGOZI!



JUNIOR YEAR



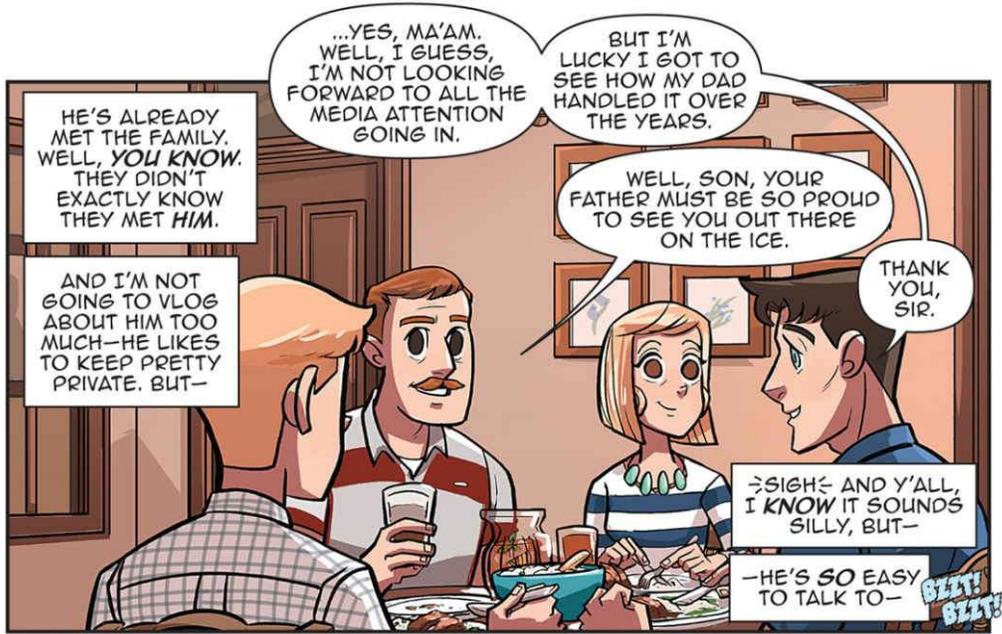
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WAG





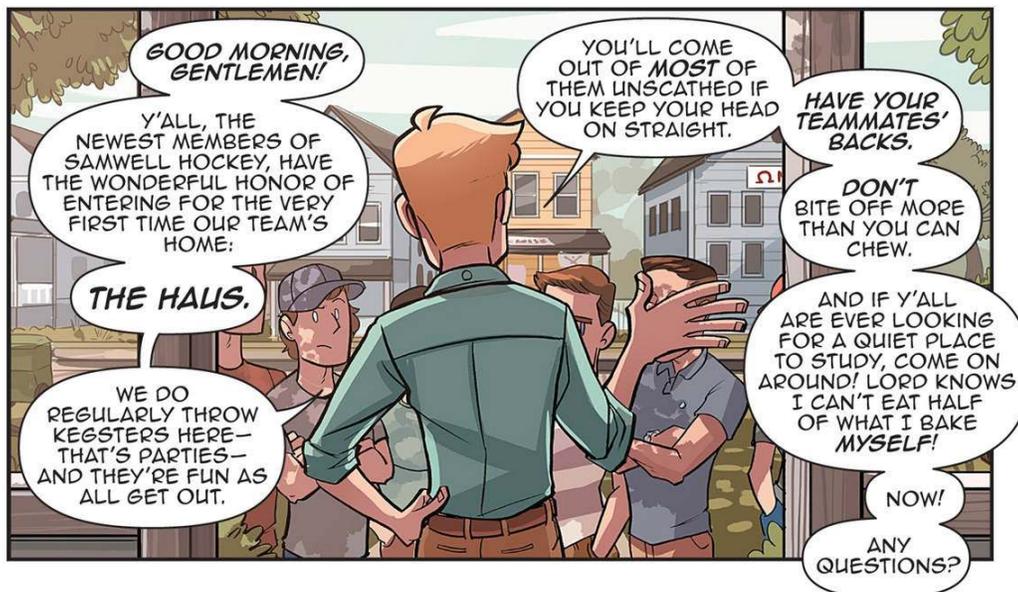


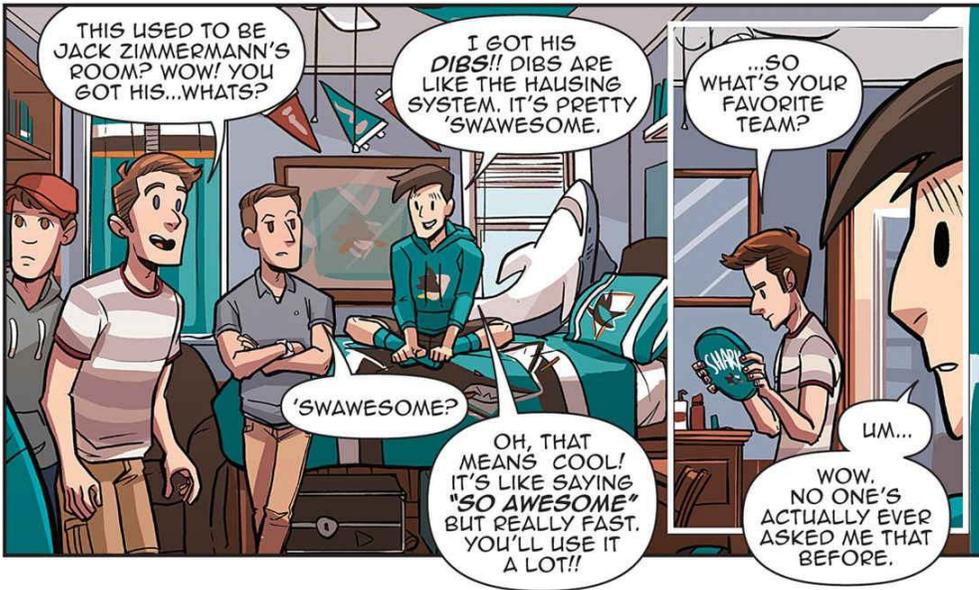


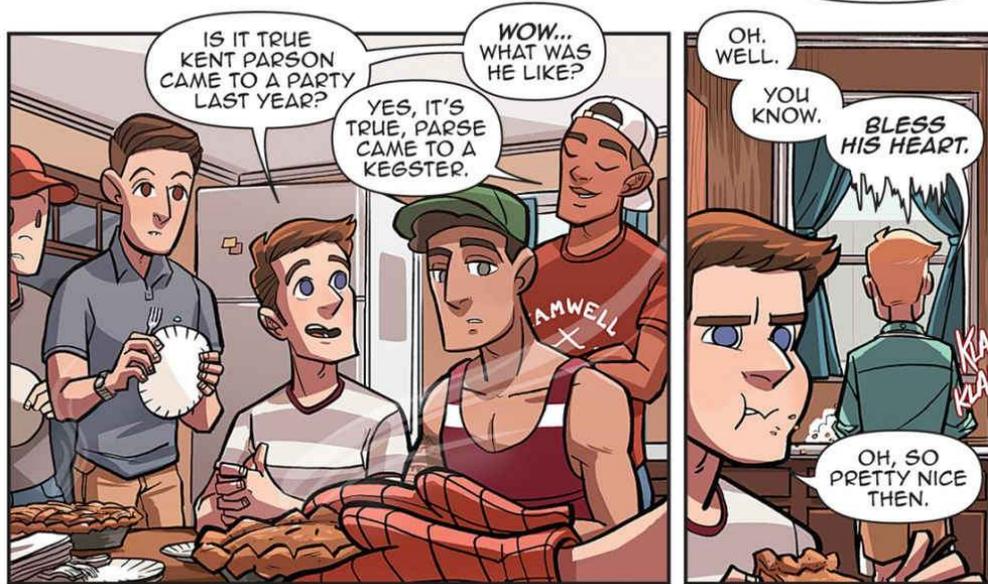
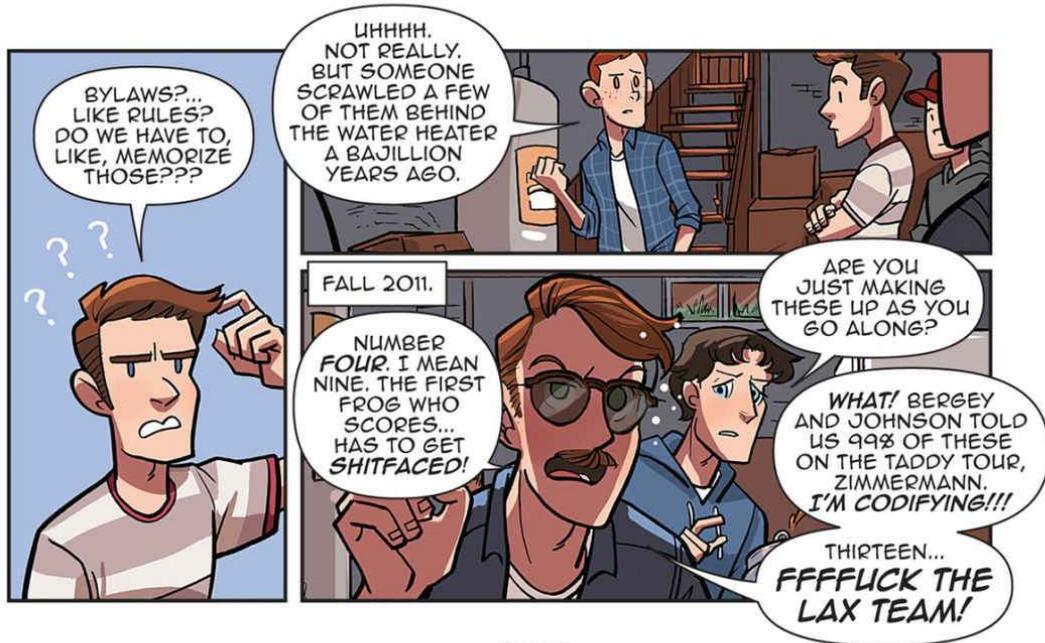




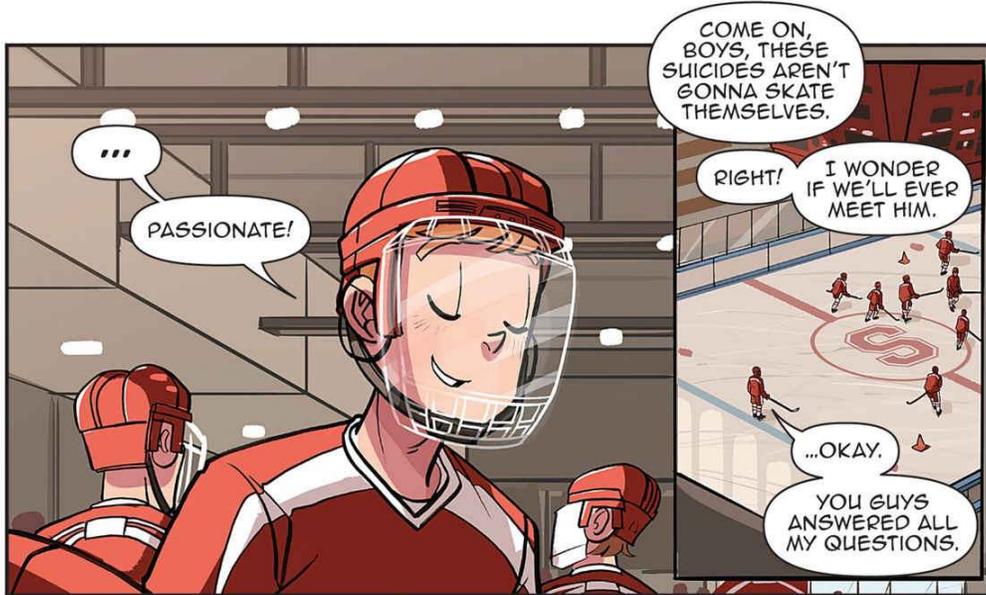
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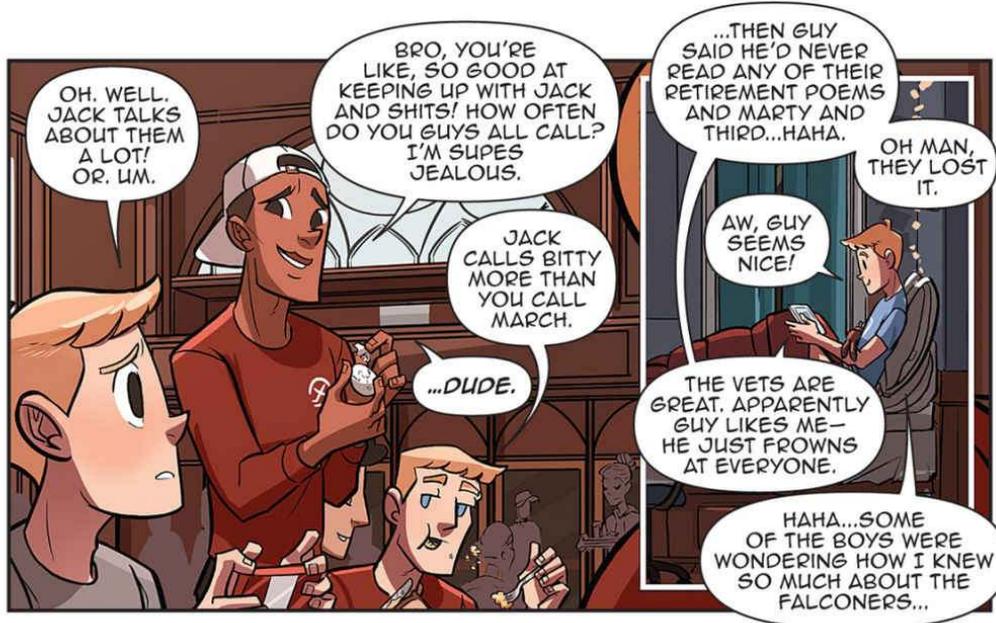


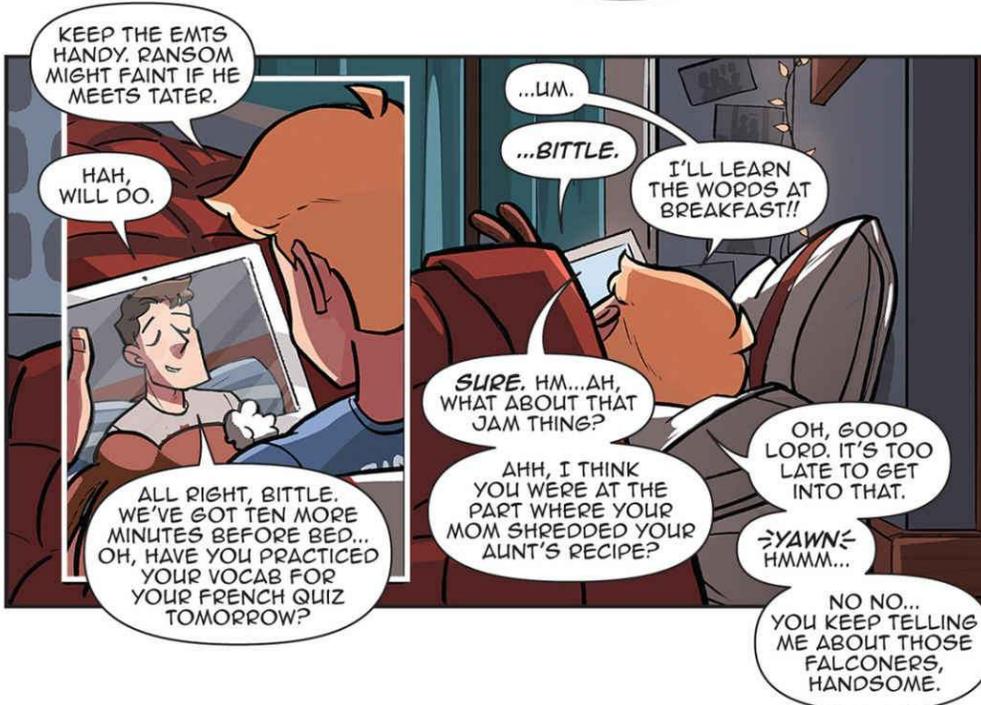
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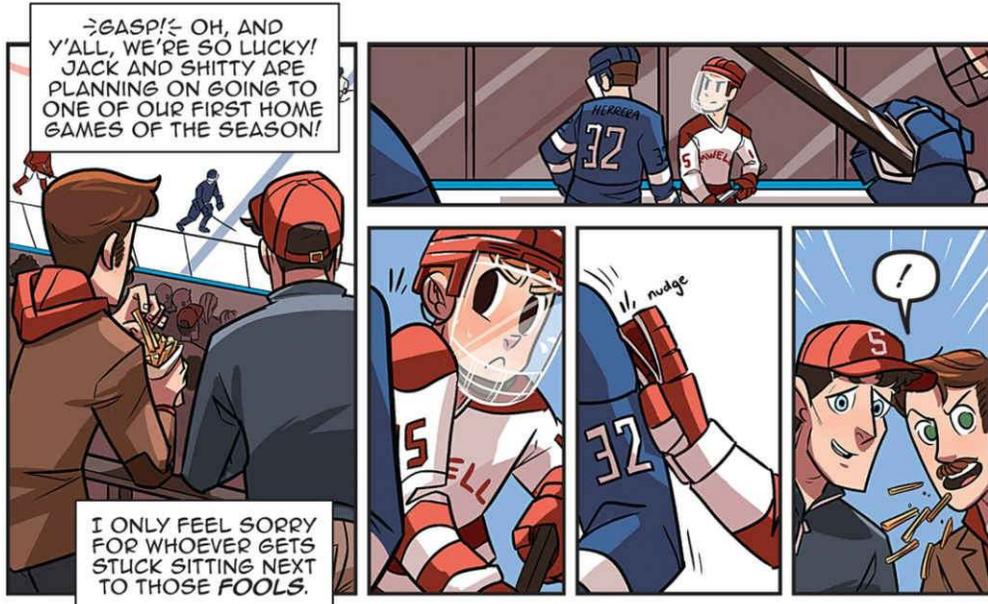


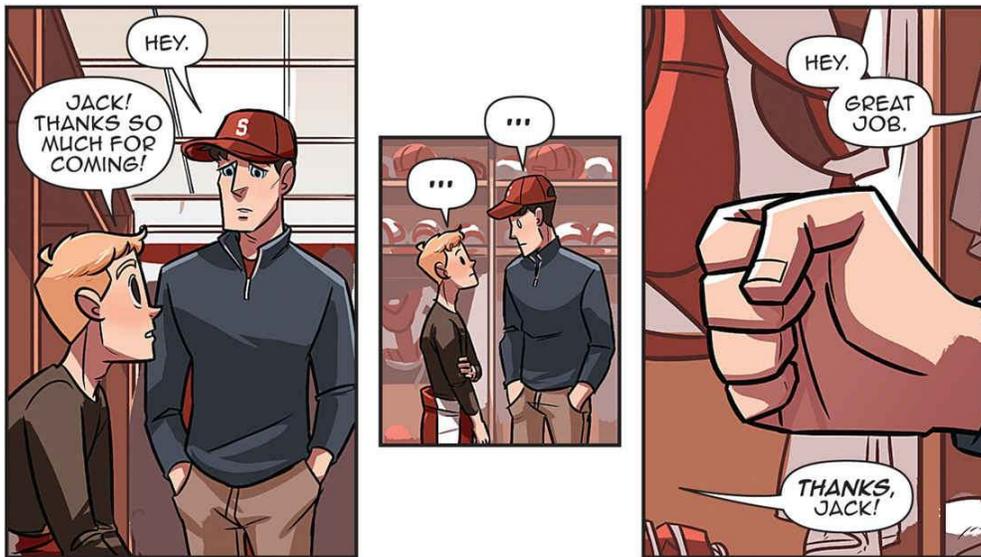
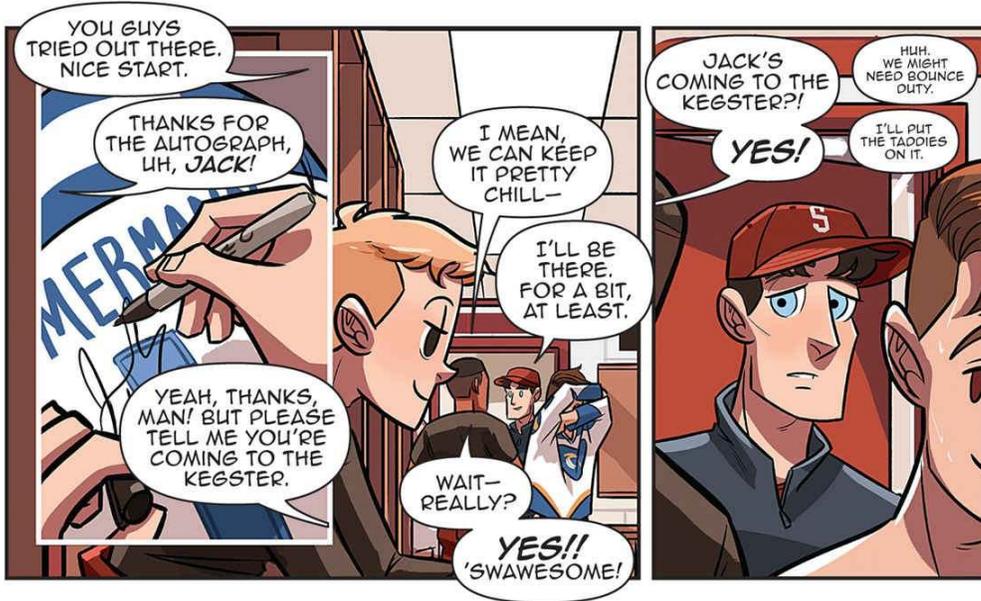


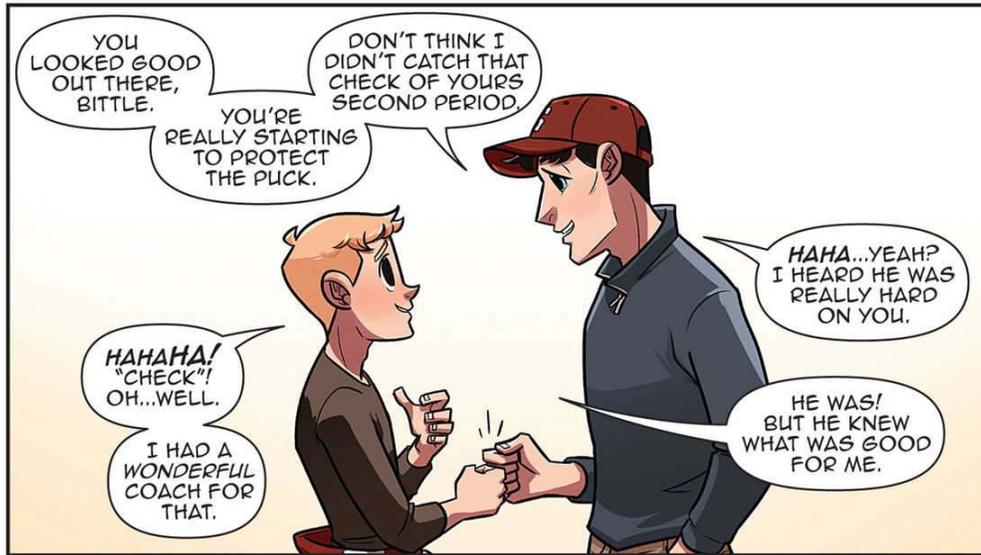
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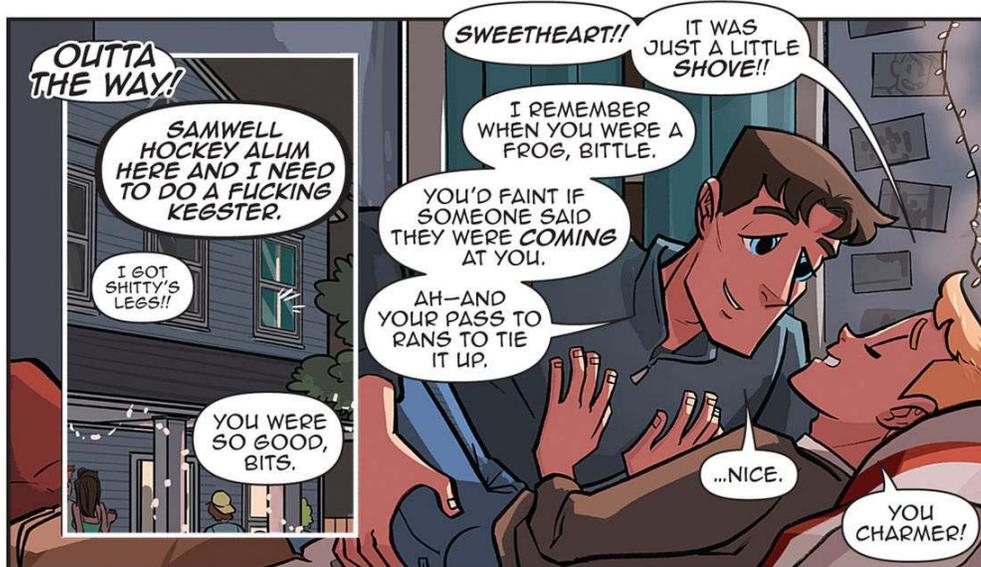




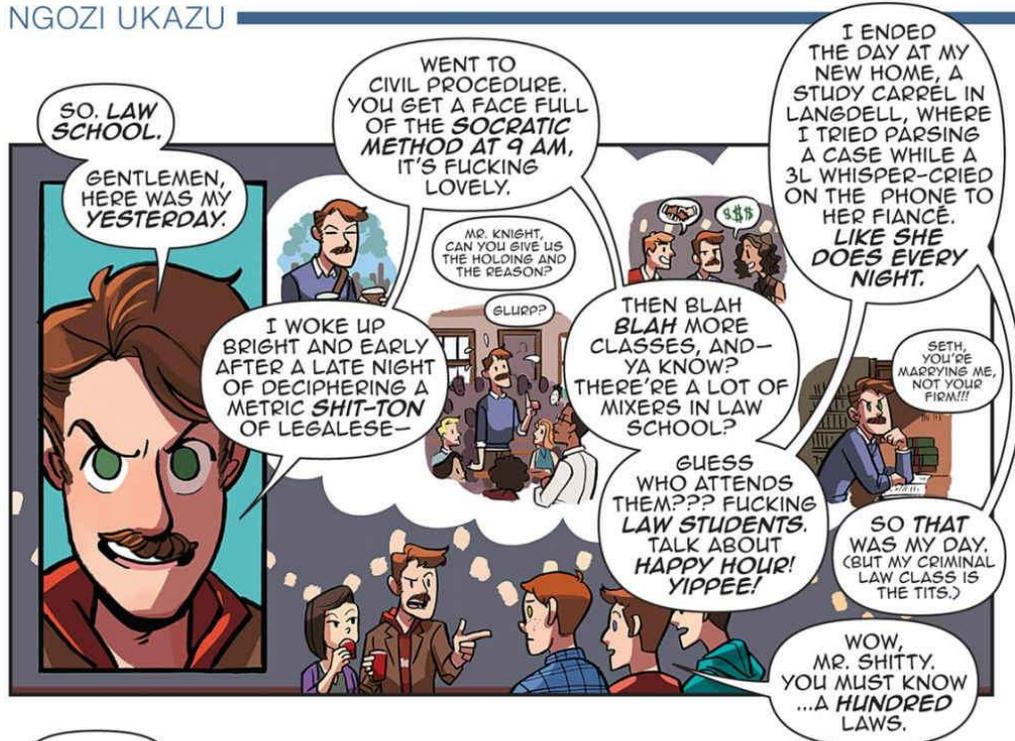


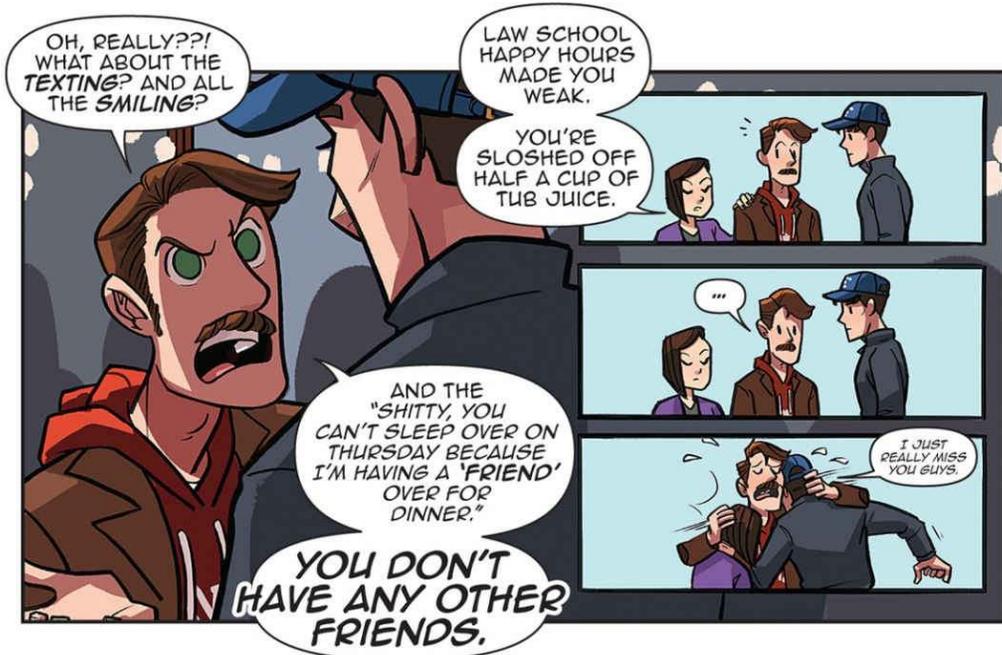


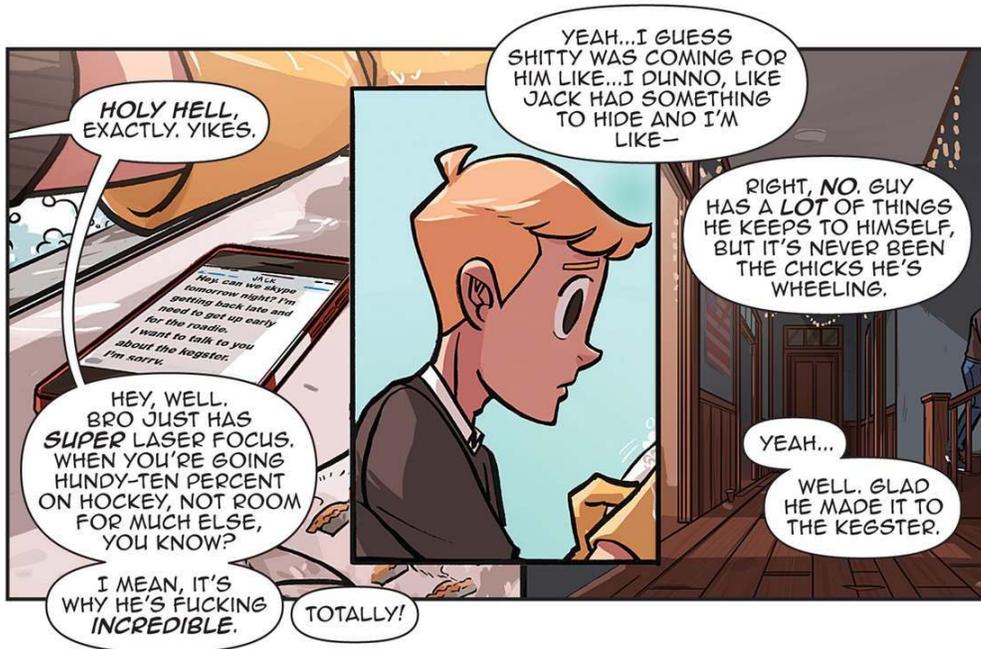
THE AFTER KEGSTER









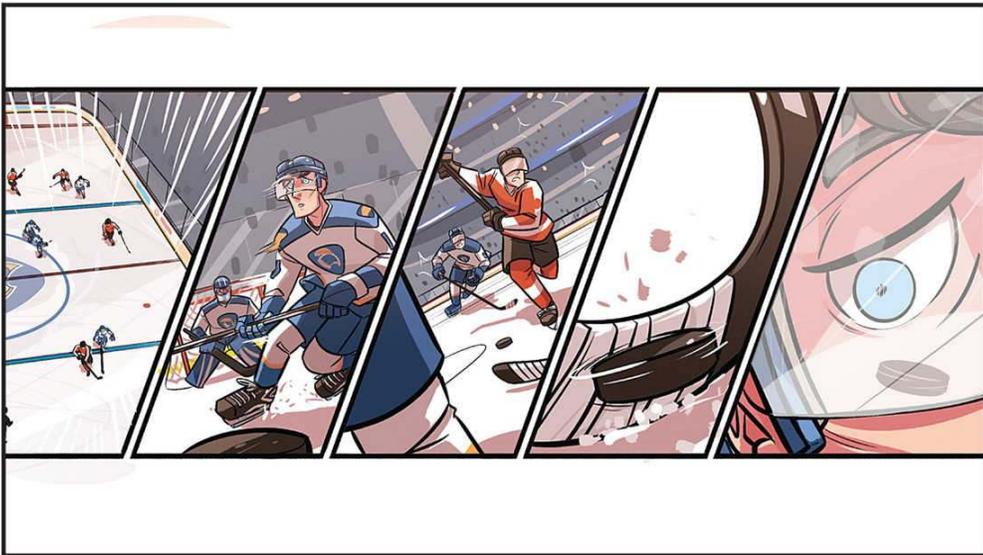


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PB&J







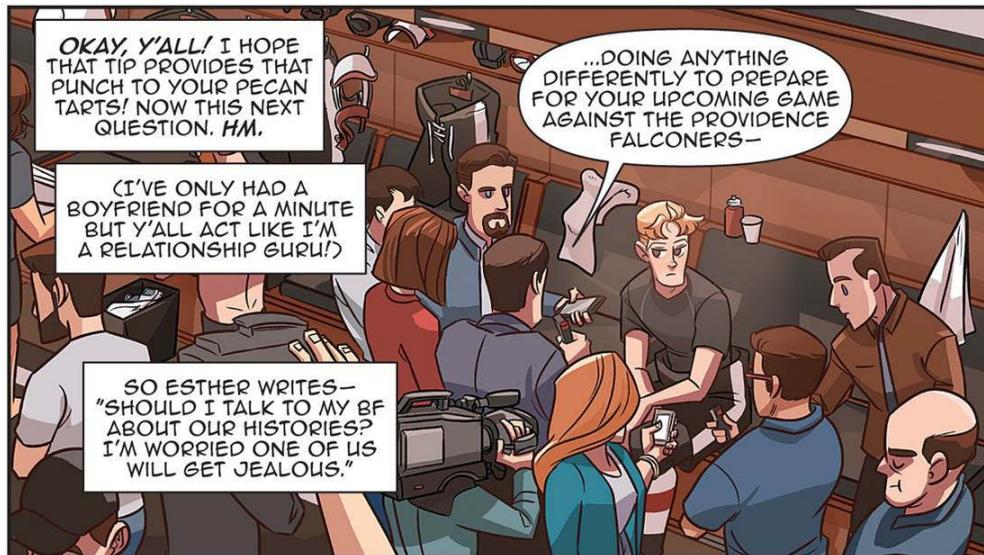


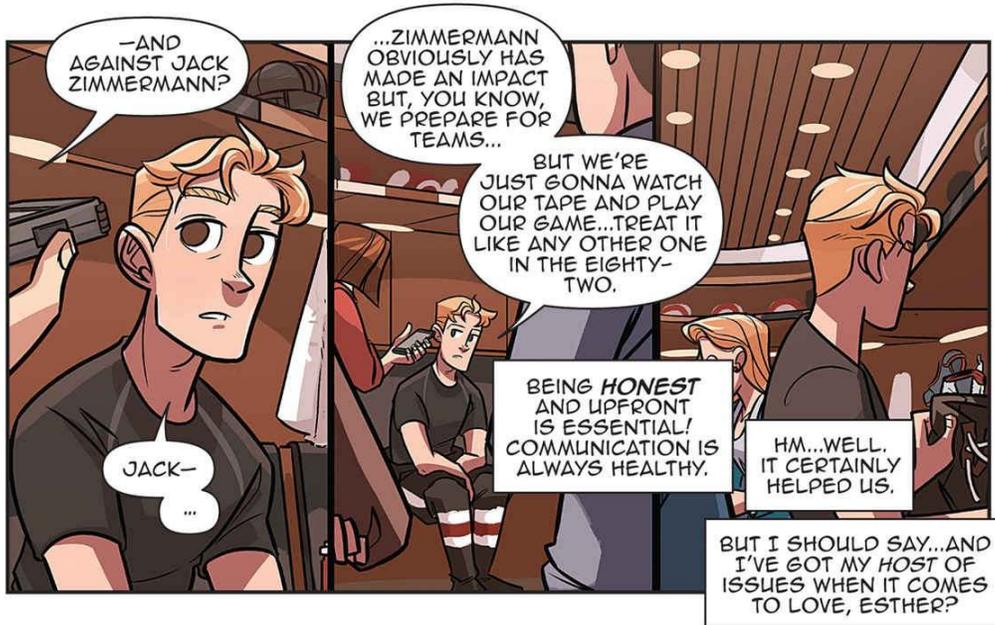


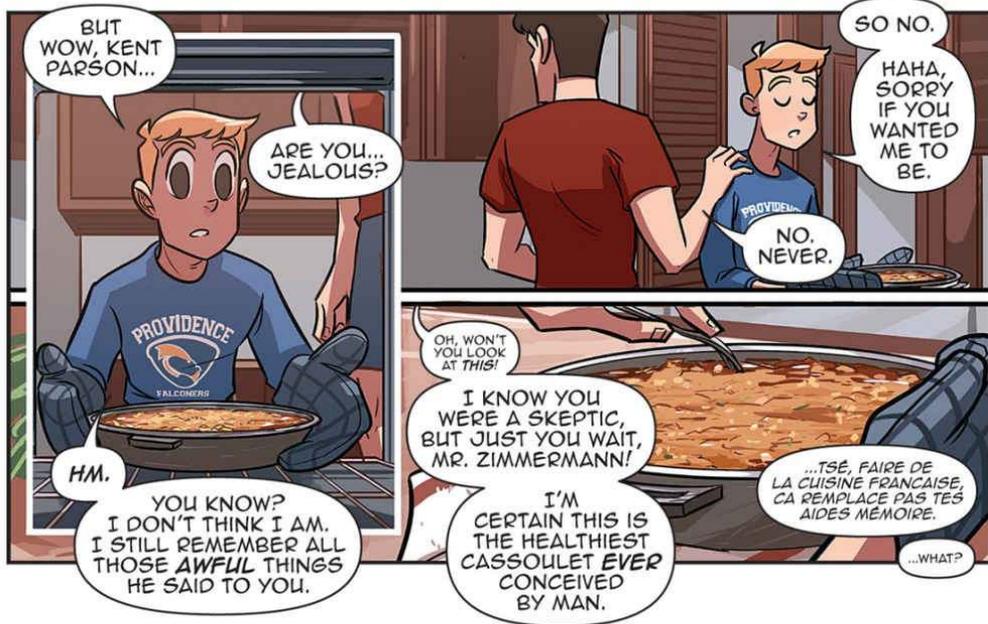


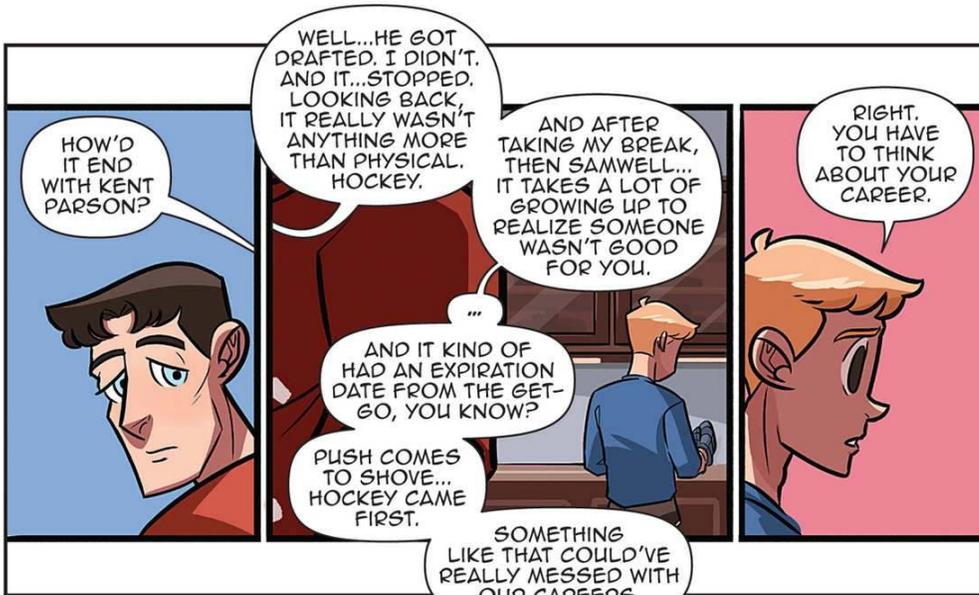
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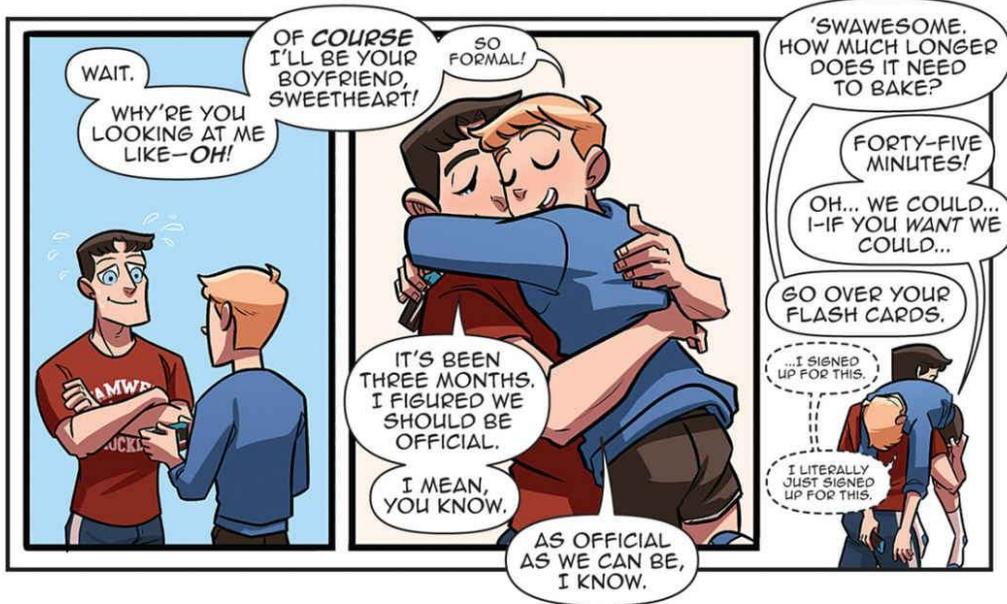
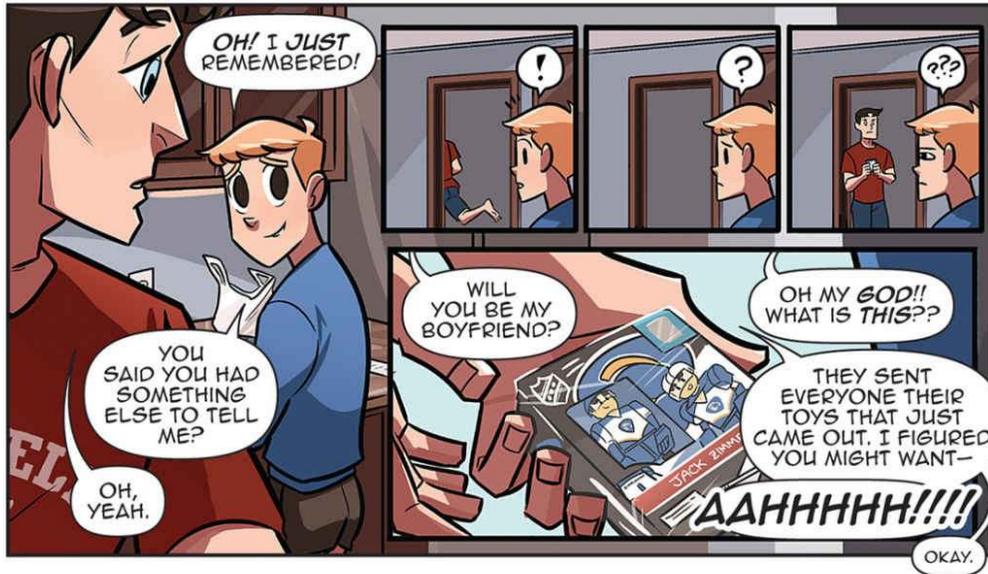
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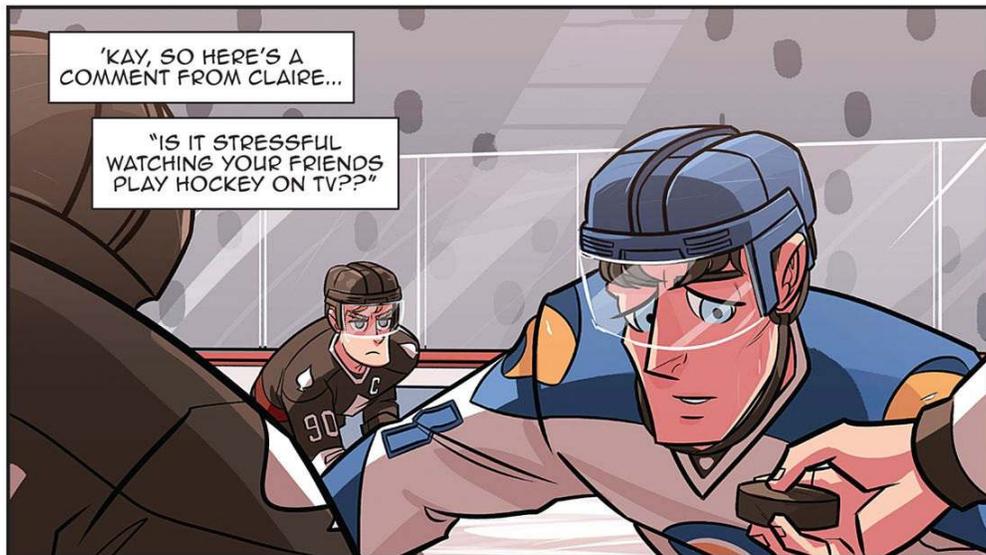




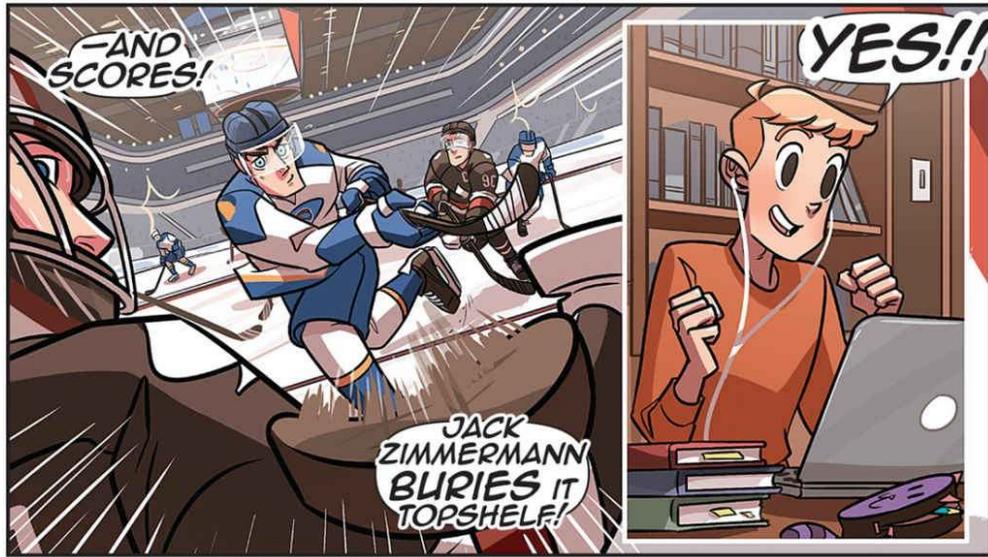


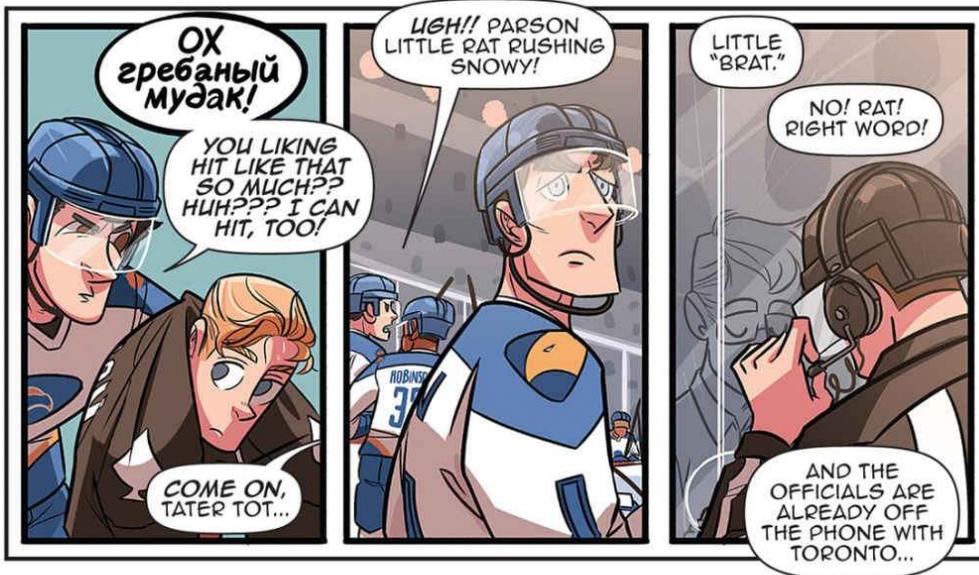


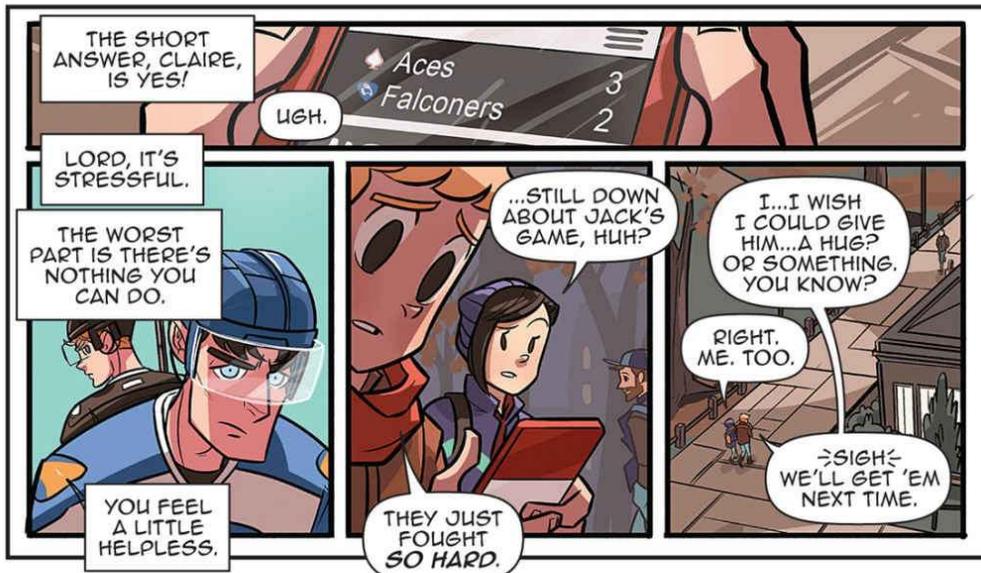
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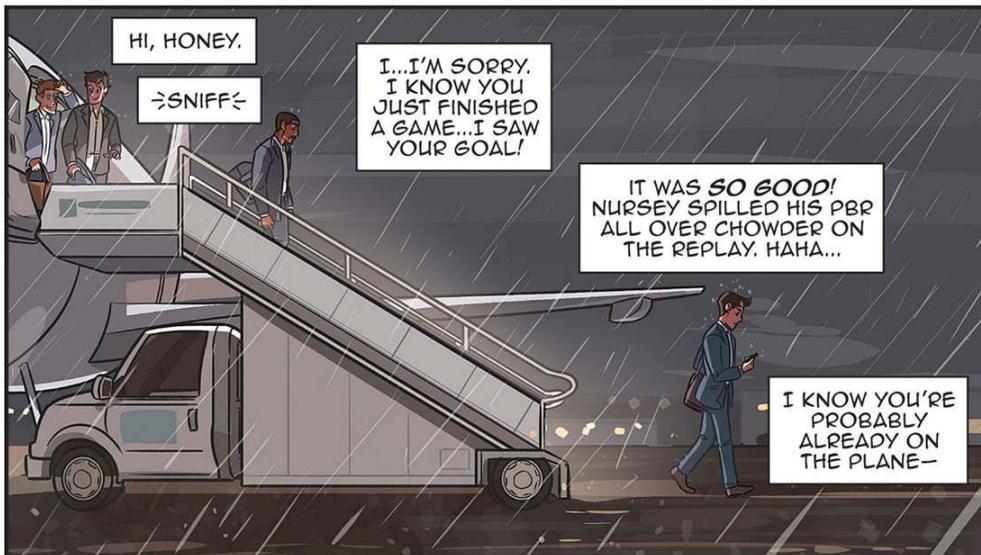


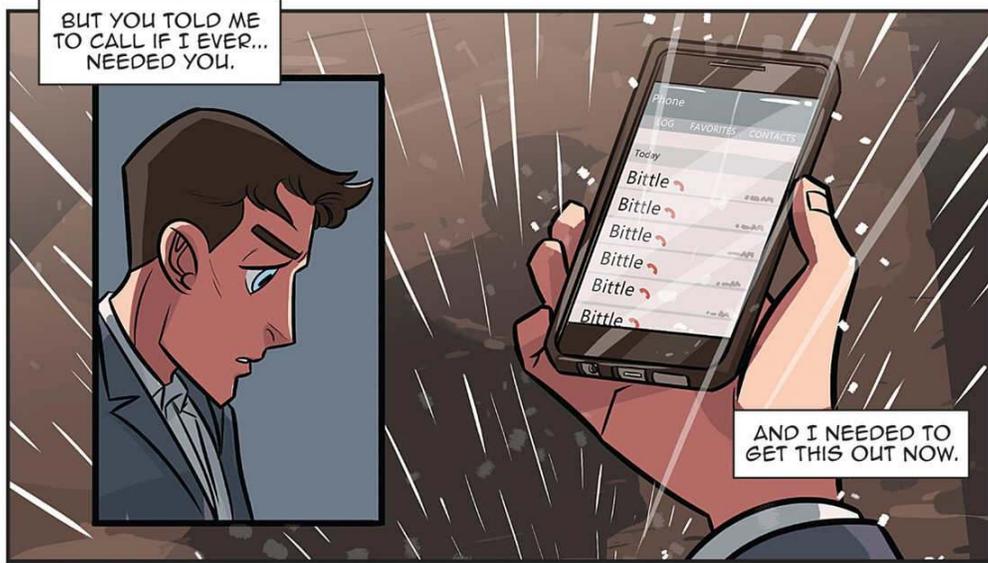


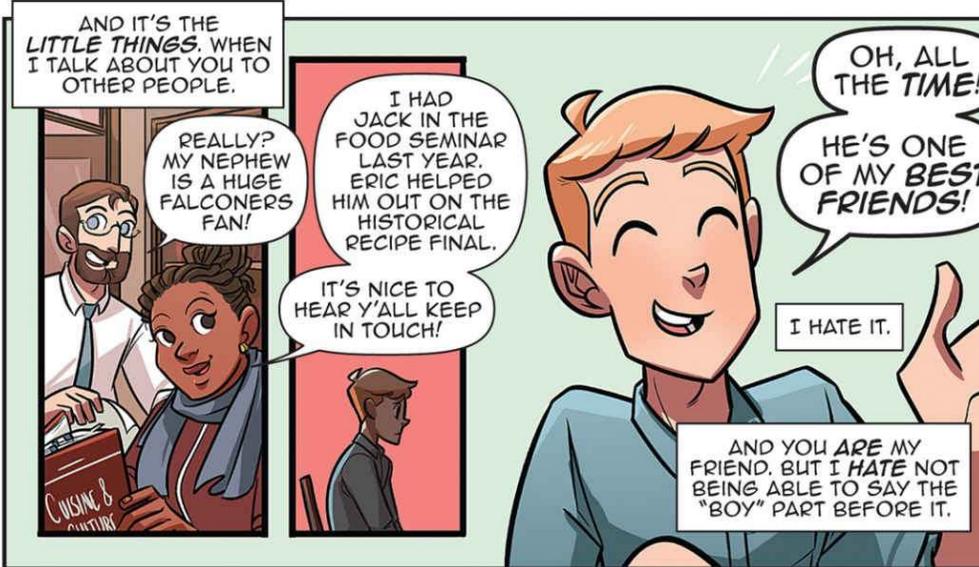
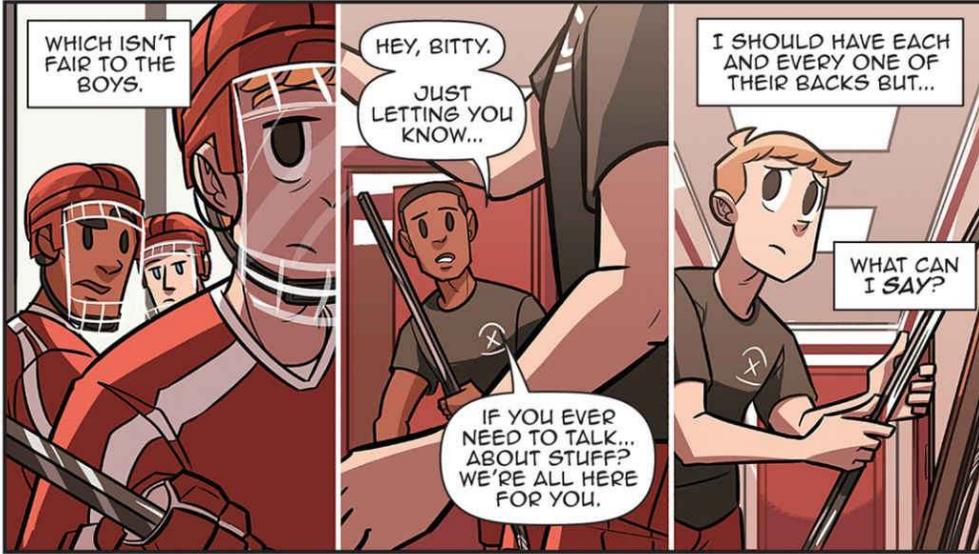


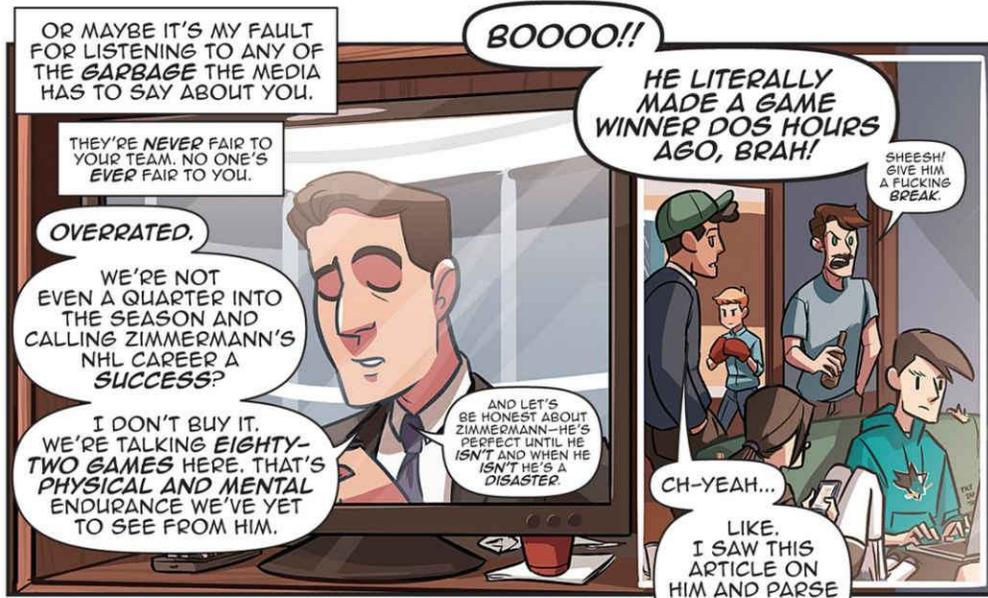


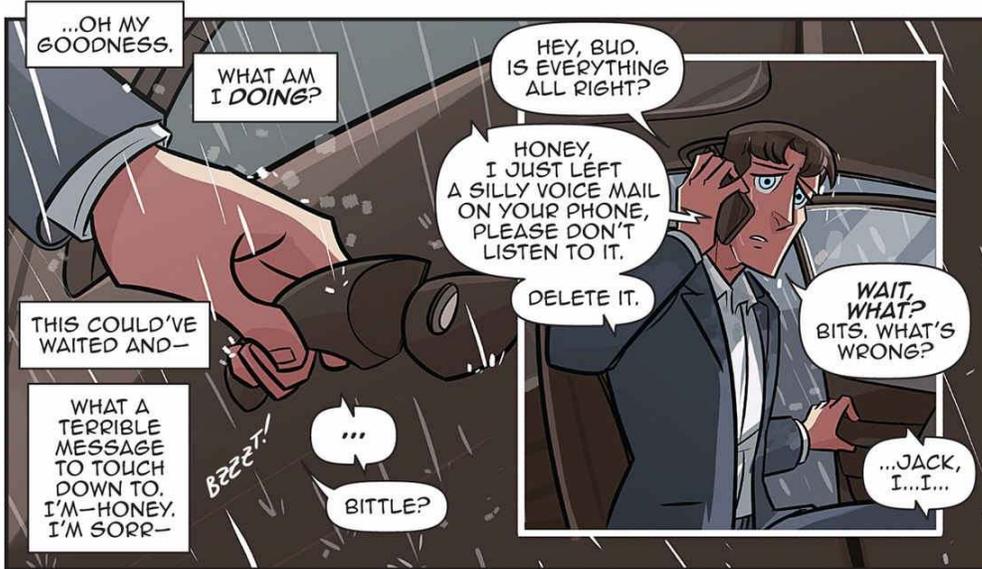
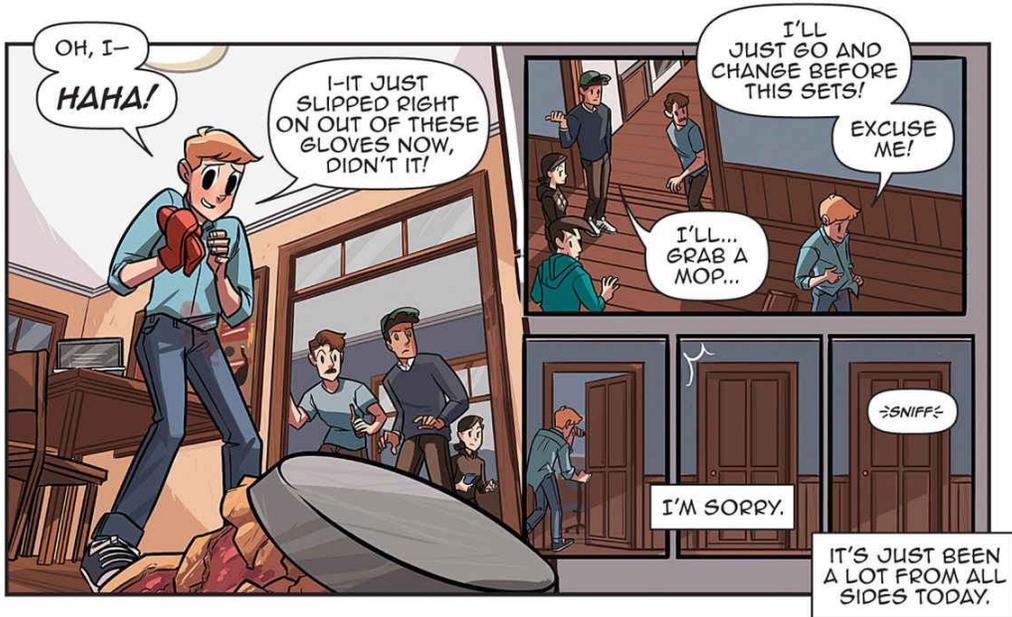
HI, HONEY — I





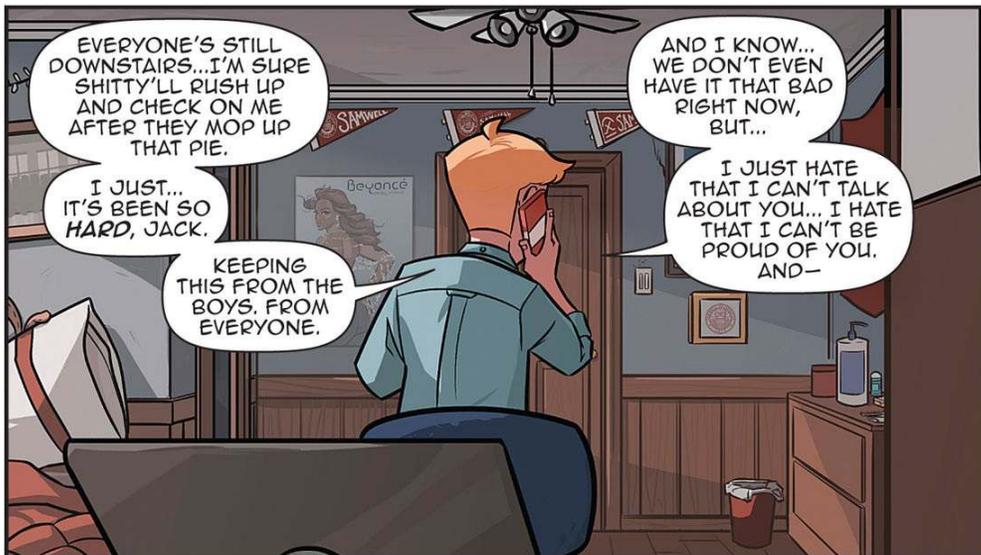


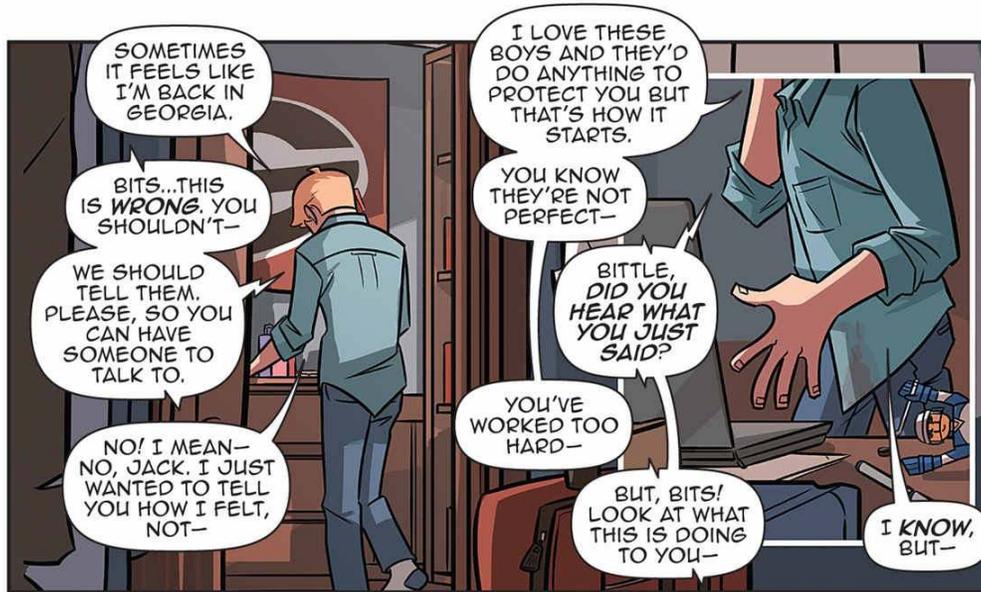




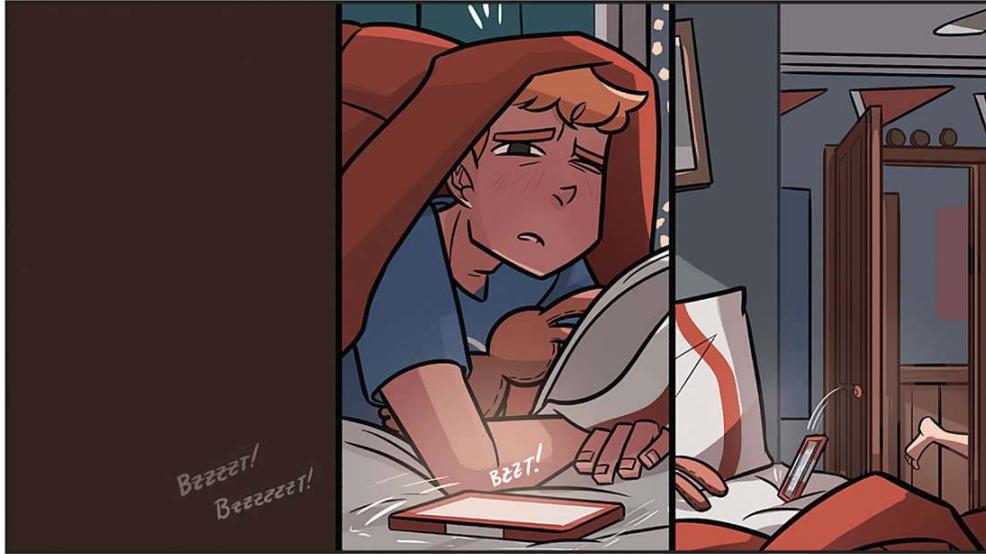


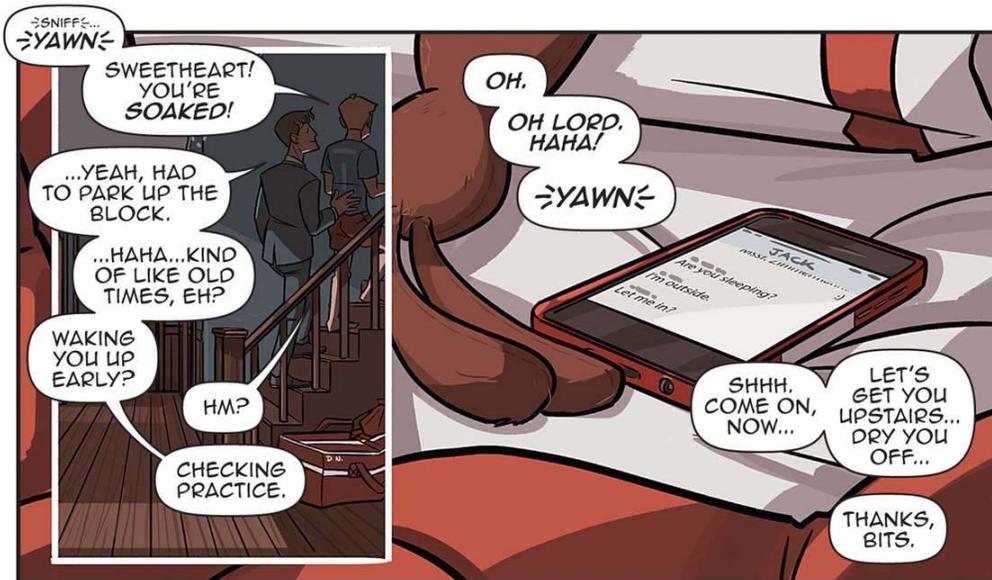
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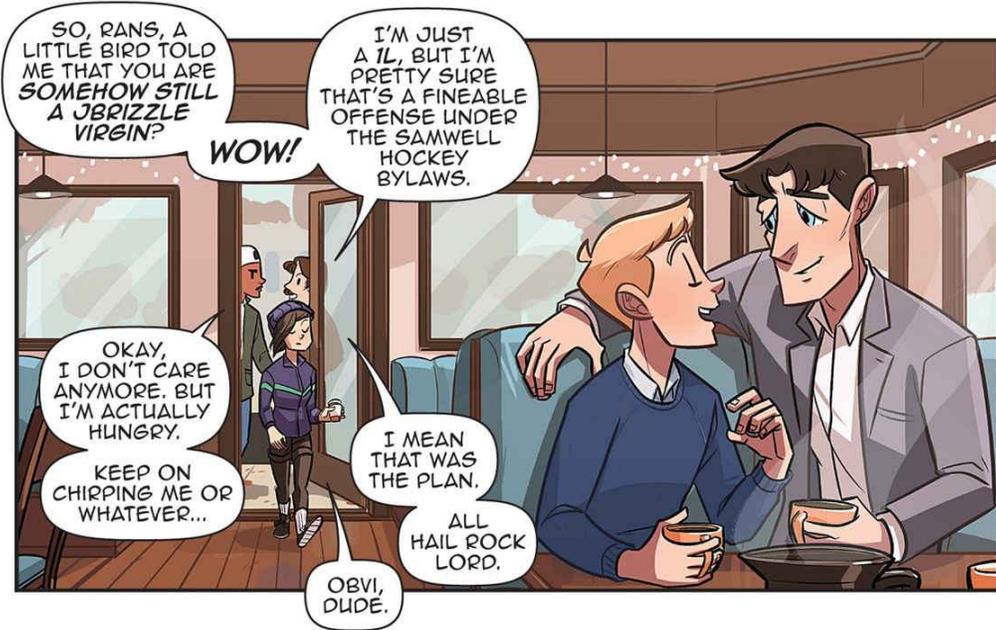
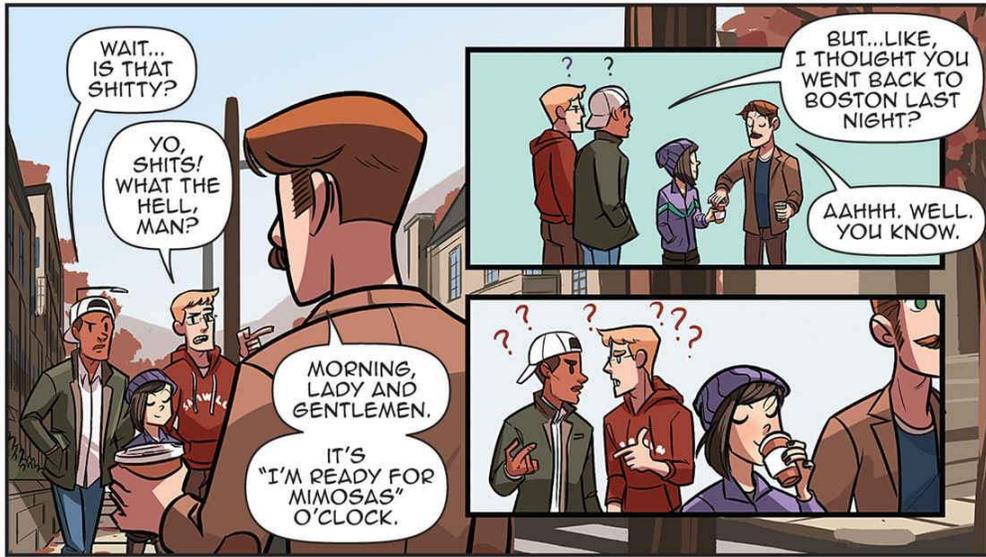


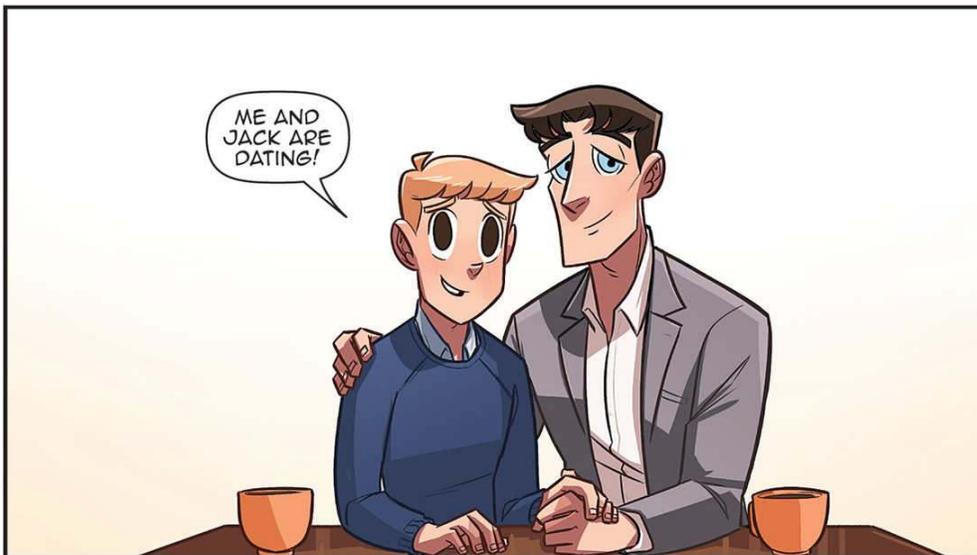
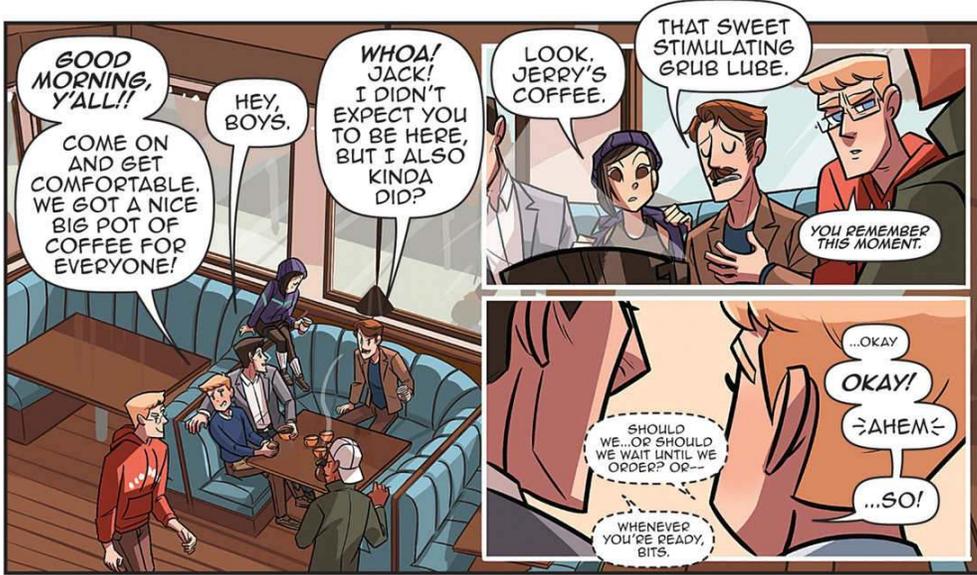


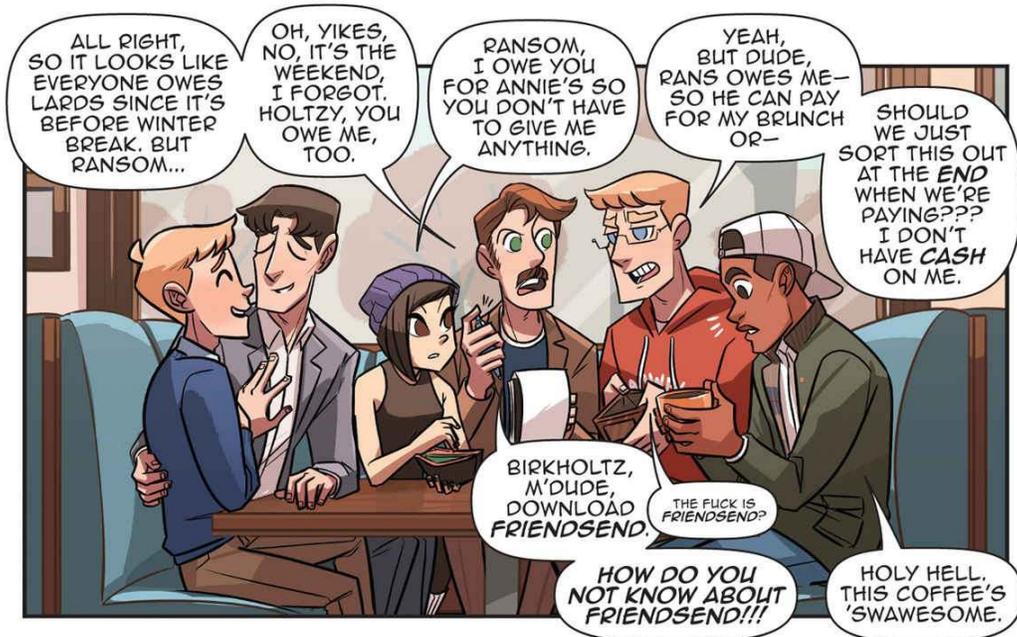
ME & JACK



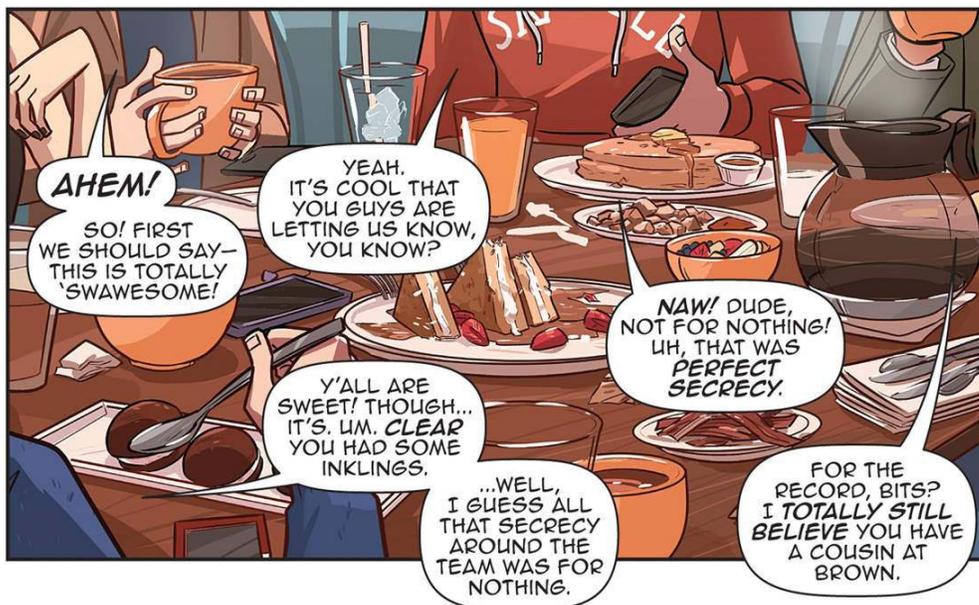


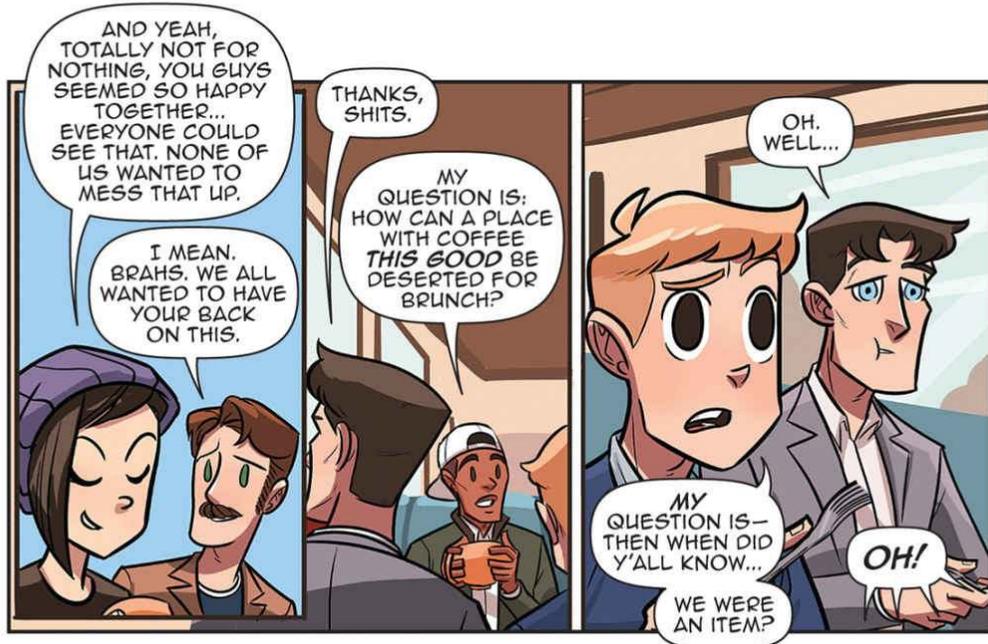


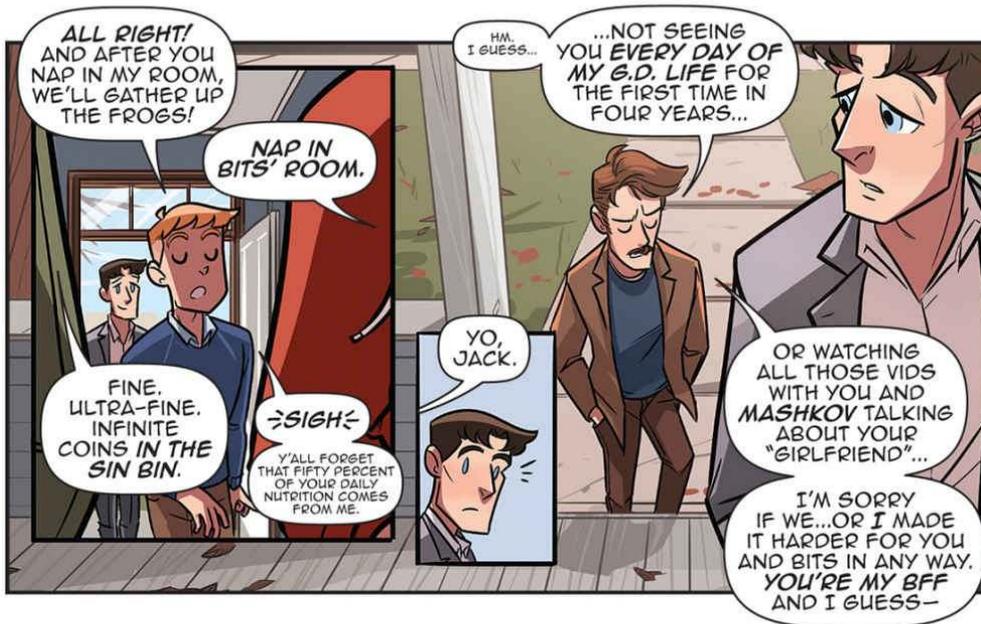
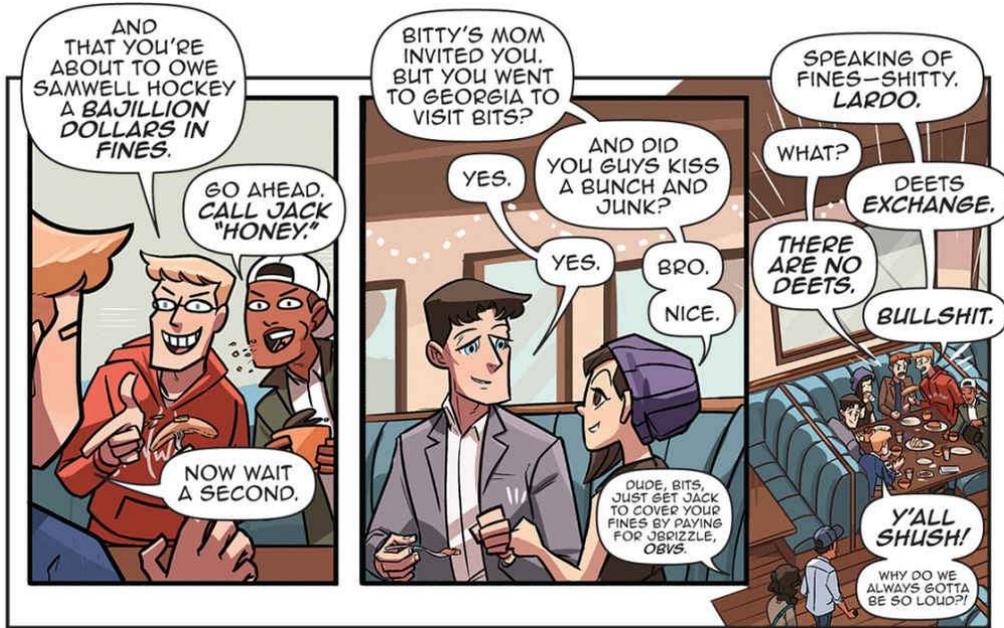


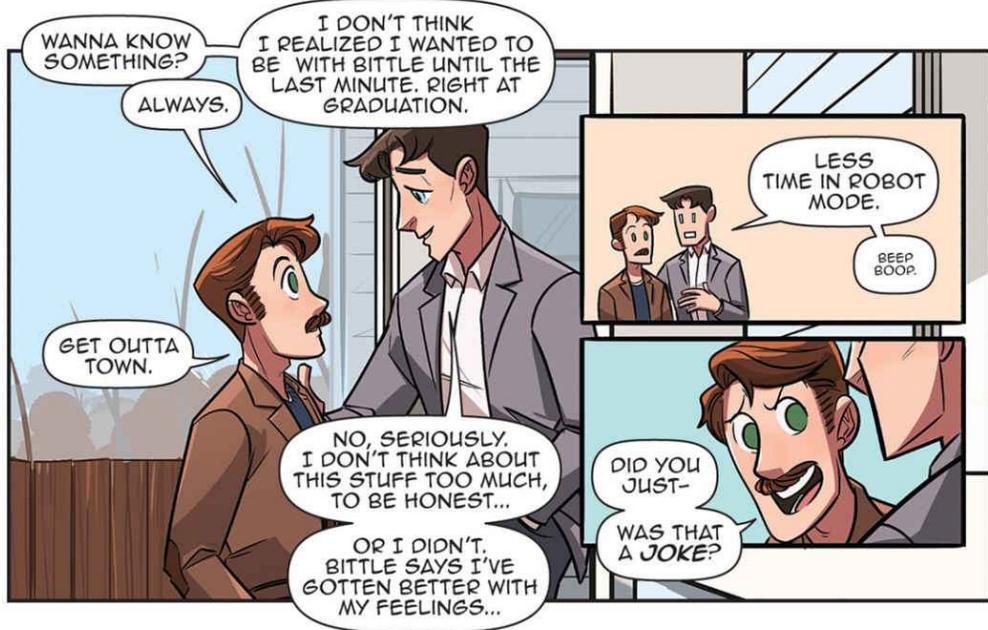


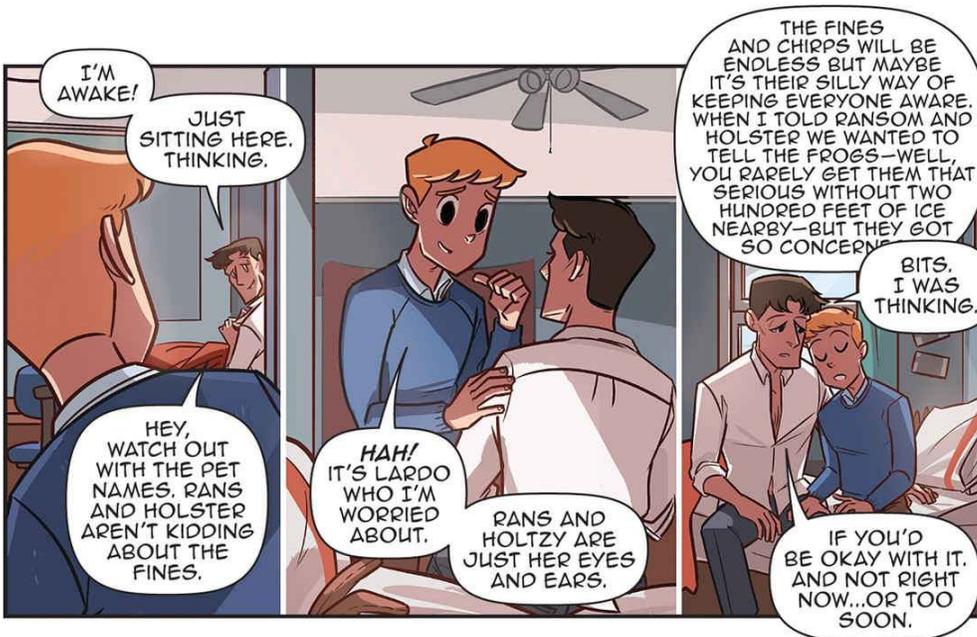
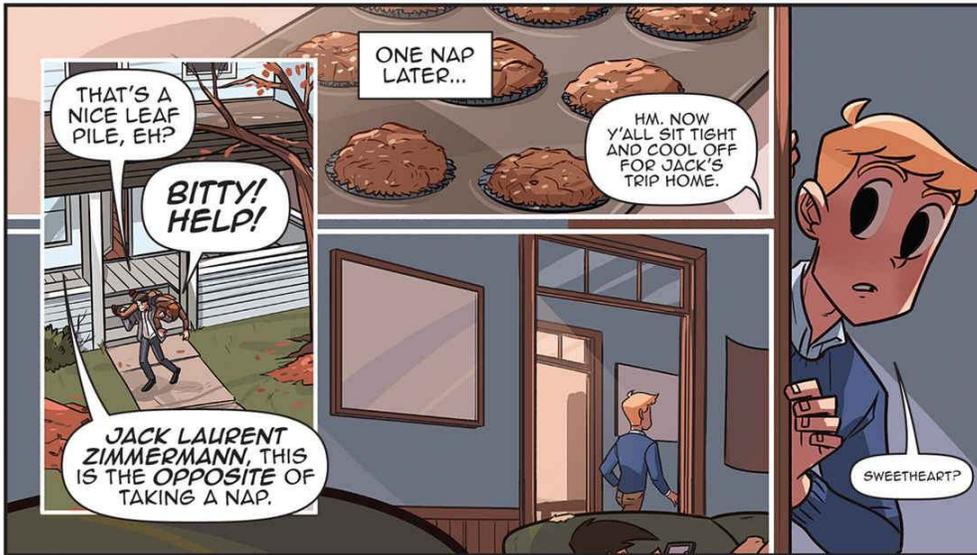
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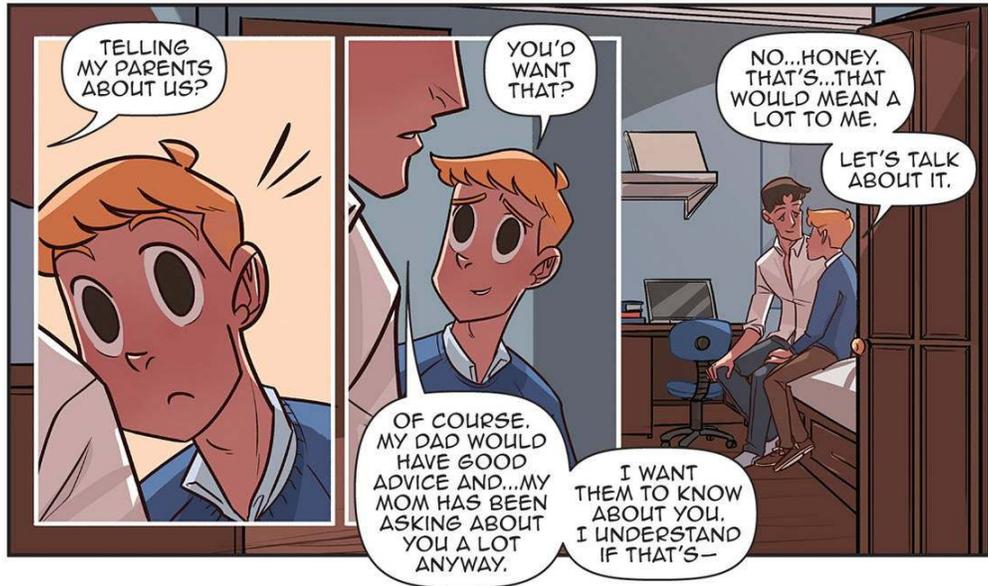












RIVERSIDE





HOCKEY-WISE?
OUR FRIEND JACK—
SAMWELL'S FORMER CAPTAIN
AND STARTER FOR THE NHL'S
PROVIDENCE FALCONERS—

IT'S RARE—
SURE—

—WAS HONORED
WITH THE ROLE OF
ALTERNATE CAPTAIN
FOR HIS IMPACT AND
LEADERSHIP ON
THE TEAM!

—BUT RARELY HAS
ANY PLAYER
CONTRIBUTED SO
MUCH TO THE SUCCESS
AND LEADERSHIP OF
A TEAM SO QUICKLY.

(Y'ALL, THE
FALCS' LEADING
SCORER!)

ALL OF US AT
SAMWELL ARE
SO PROUD OF
THIS BOY.

—SIGH—
I'M SO PROUD
OF HIM!



ALTHOUGH
SAMWELL IS FAR
FROM FIRST IN
THE STANDINGS—

OH, SHE
DID IT.

HM. MAYBE
IT'S EASIER
TO GIVE 100%
WHEN YOU
CAN BE 100%
YOURSELF!

SHE
REALLY
DID IT.

—WE'VE ALL BEEN
PLAYING HOCKEY
TO BE PROUD OF.

I KNOW I'VE FELT
GOOD ON THE ICE
AS OF LATE, TOO.

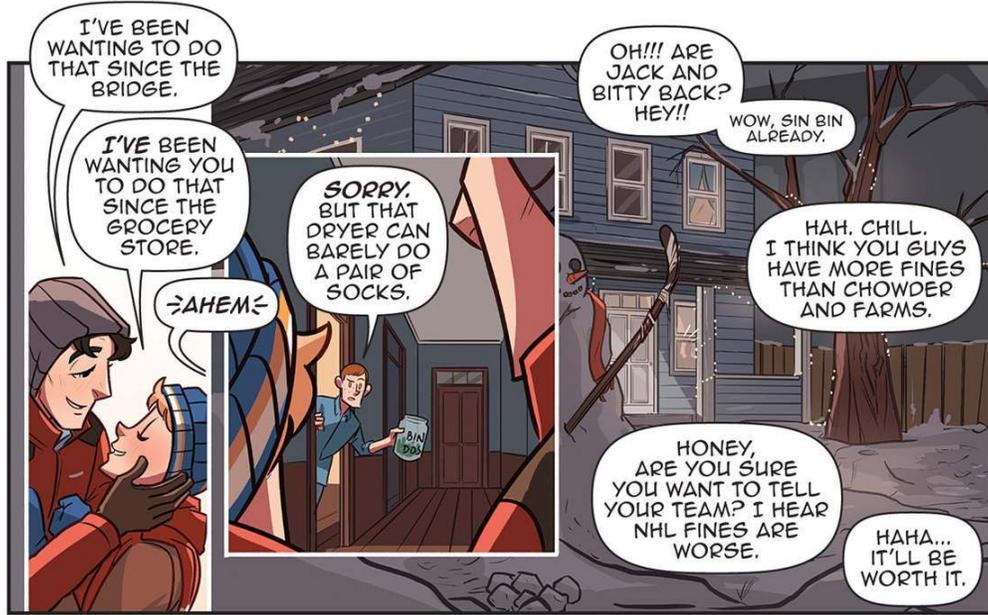
WHAT?
OH, WOW,
HAHA.

THANKS,
SUZANNE.

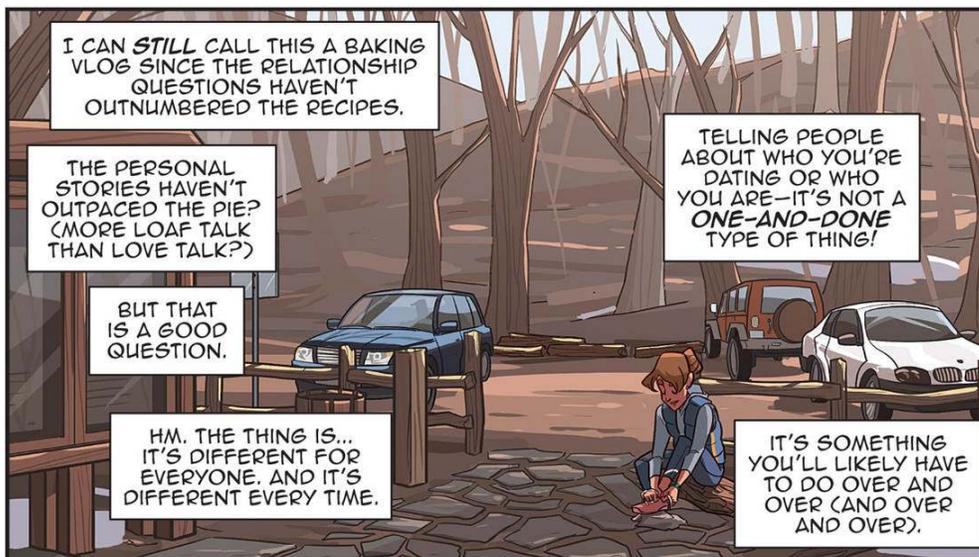








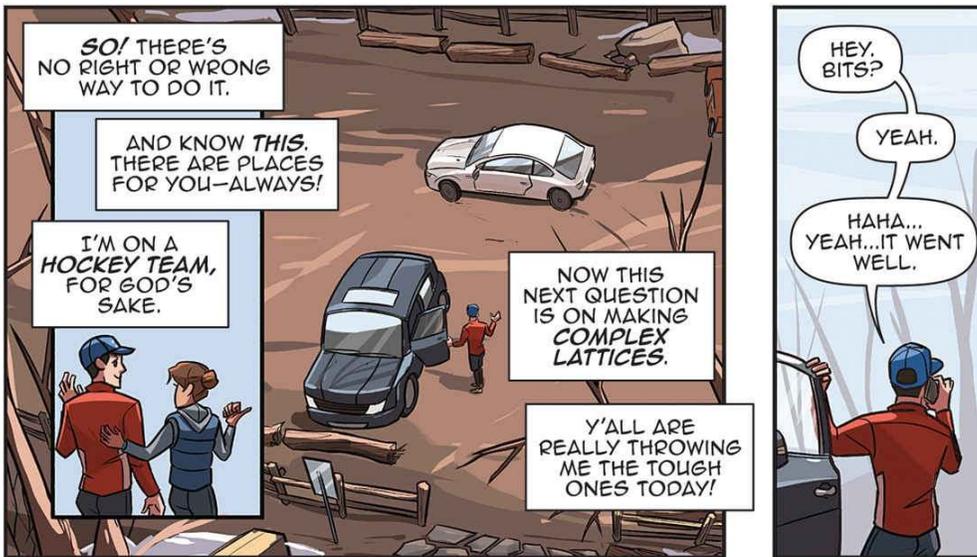
MONDAY IN THE PARK WITH GEORGE







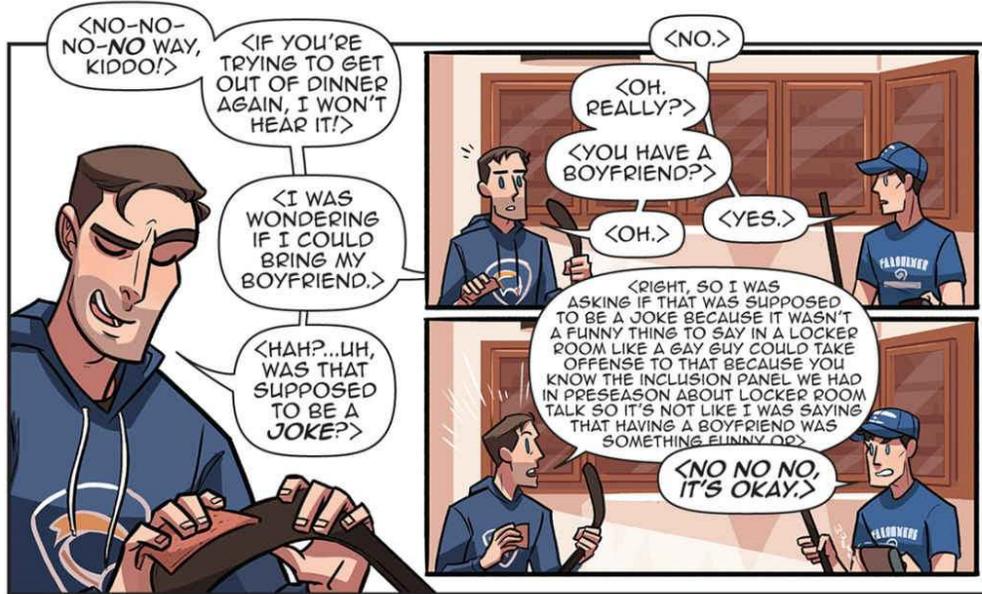


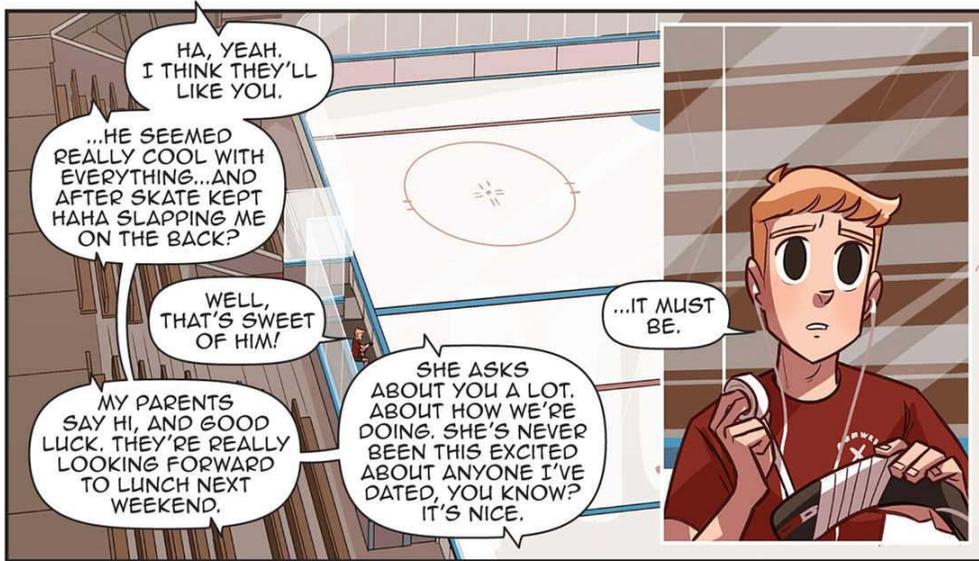


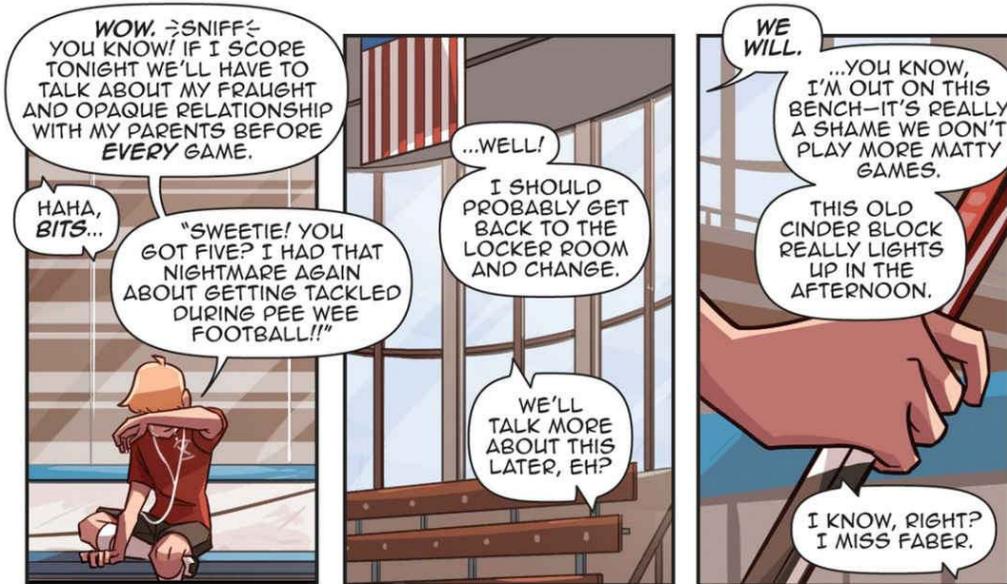
DINNER AT MARTY'S?





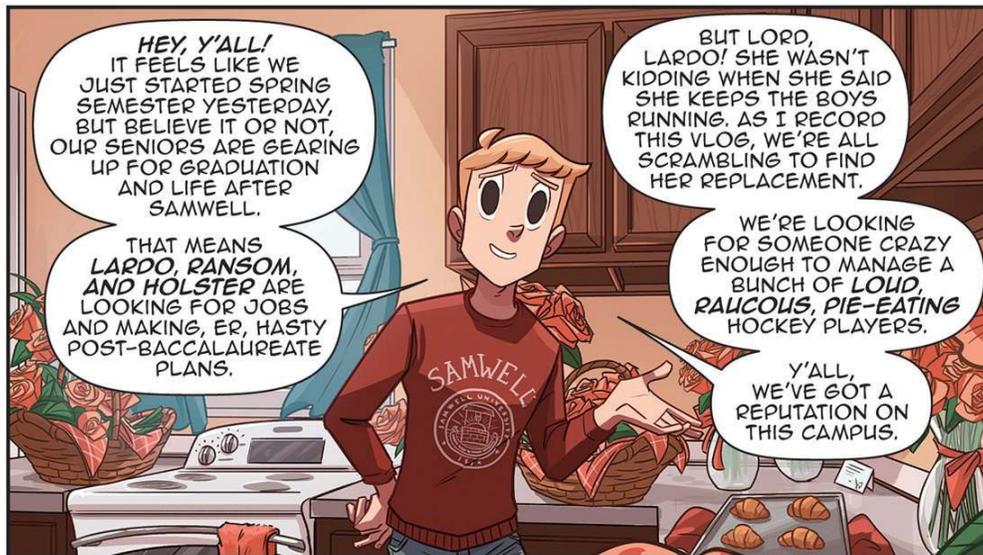


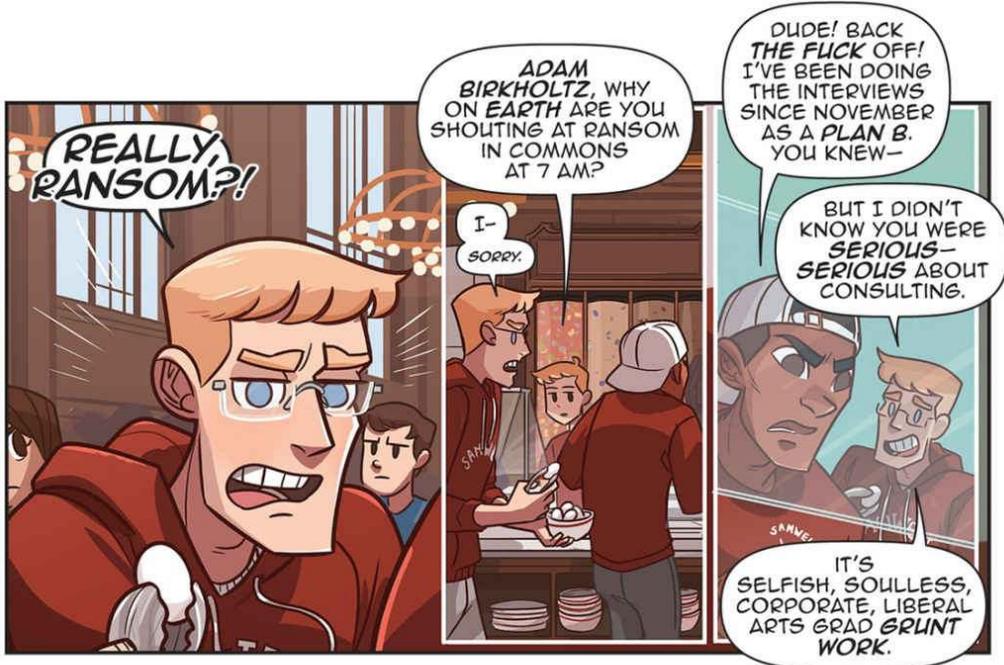


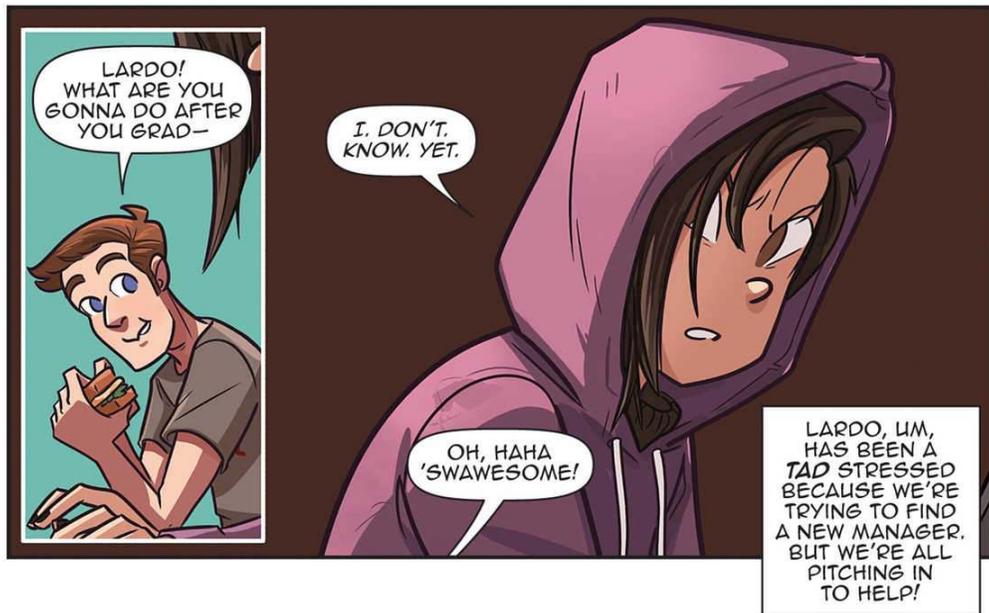
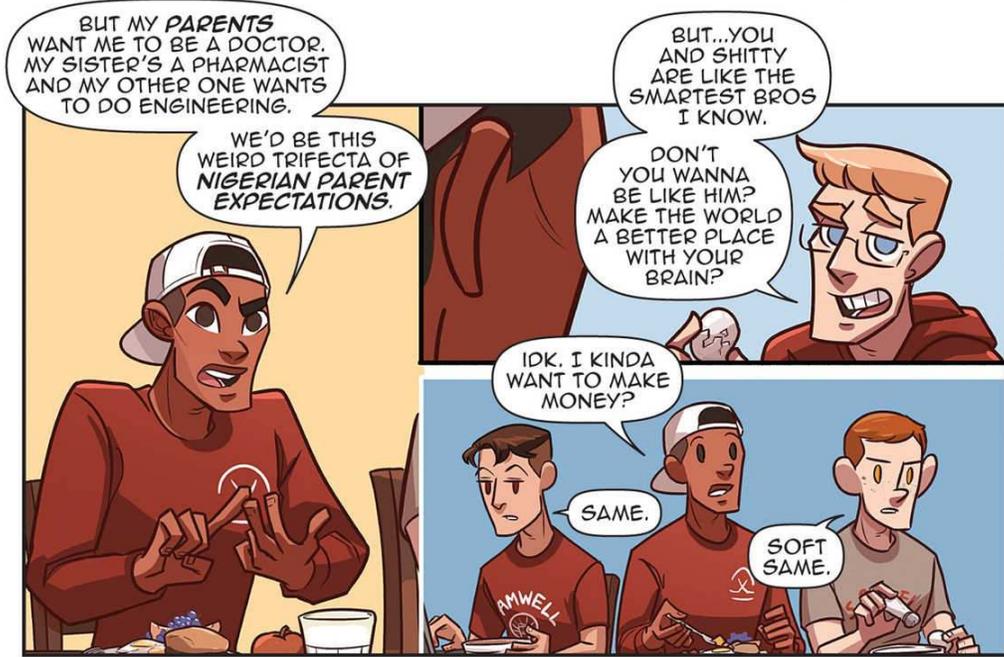


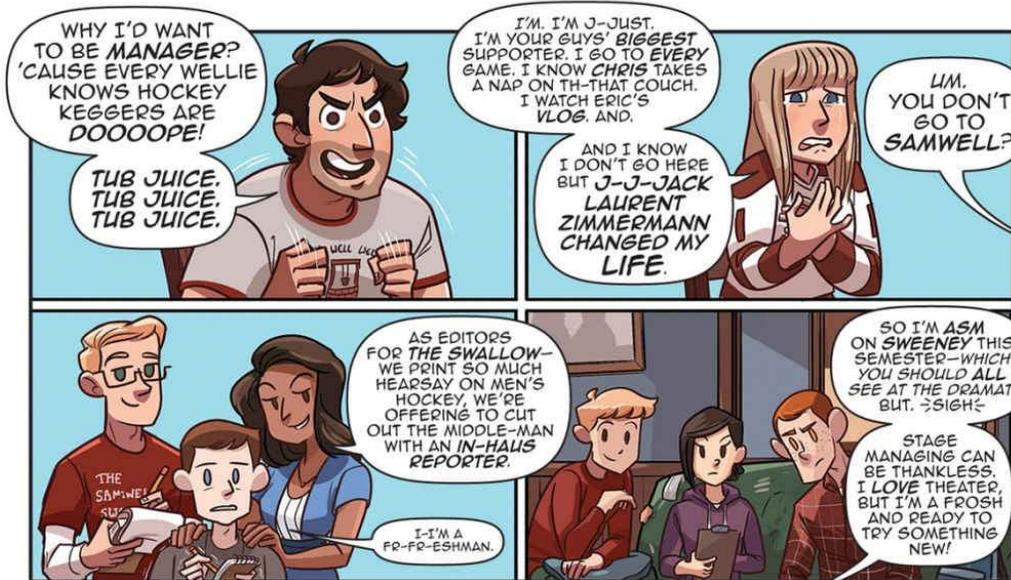


HELP WANTED

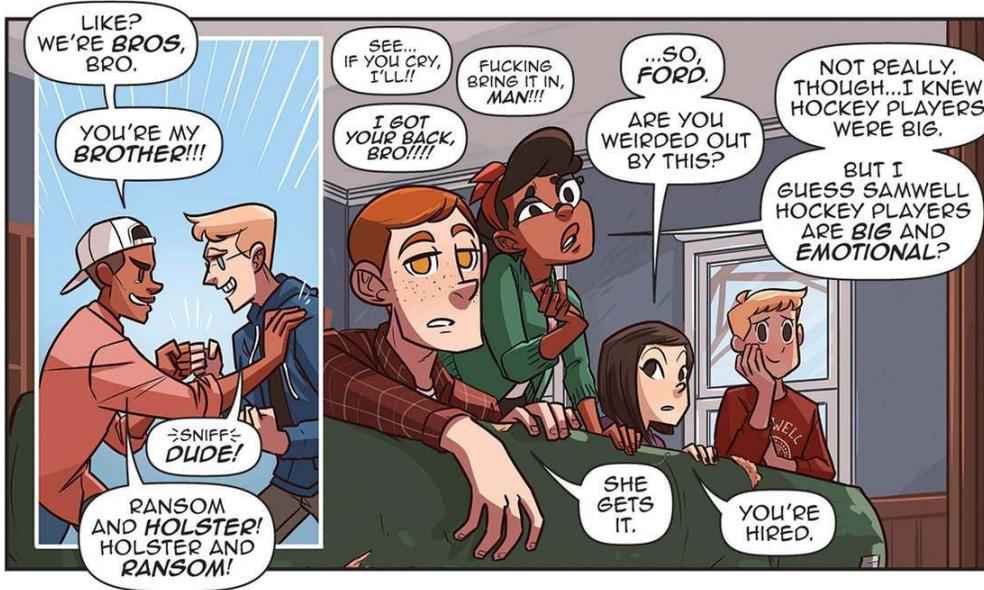




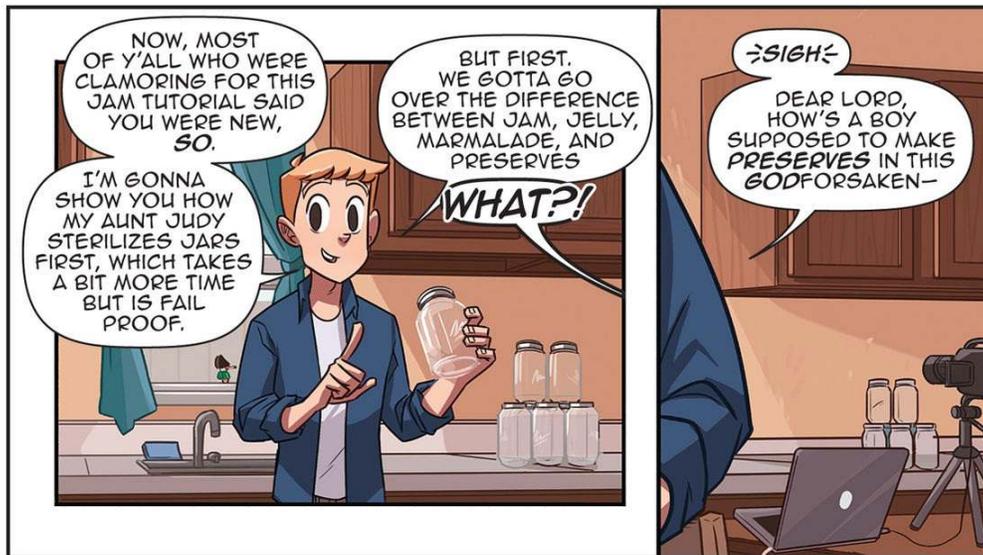


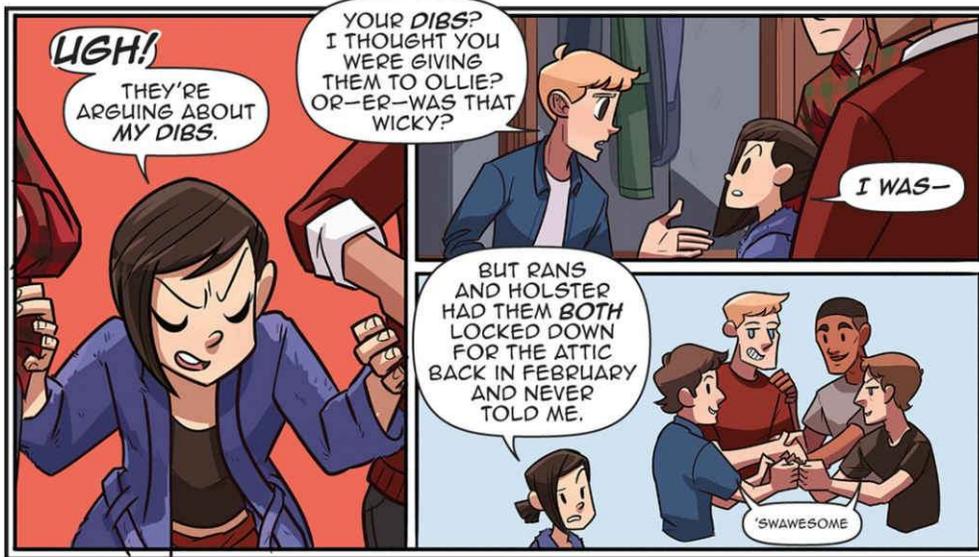
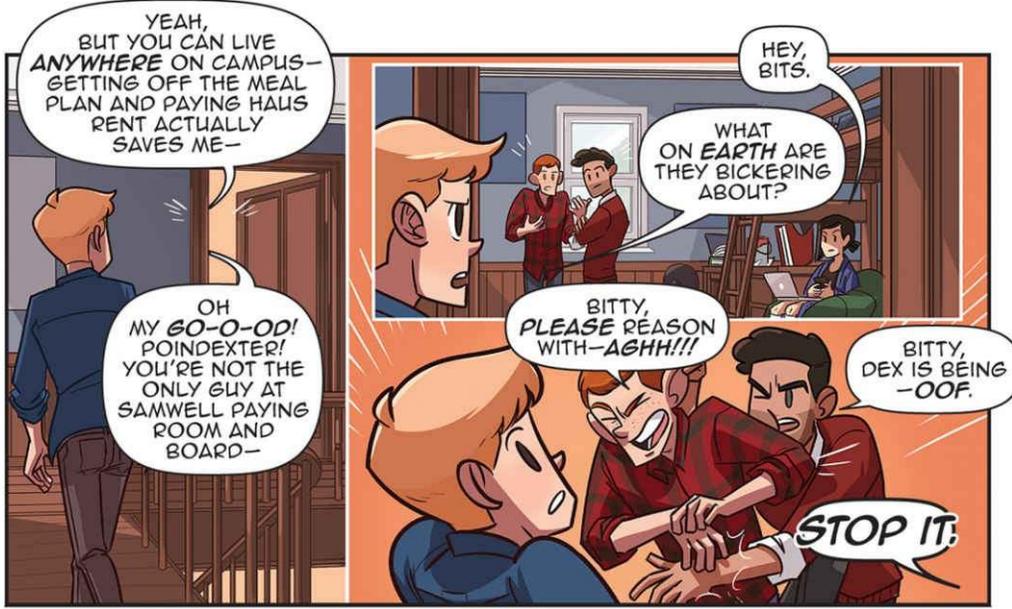


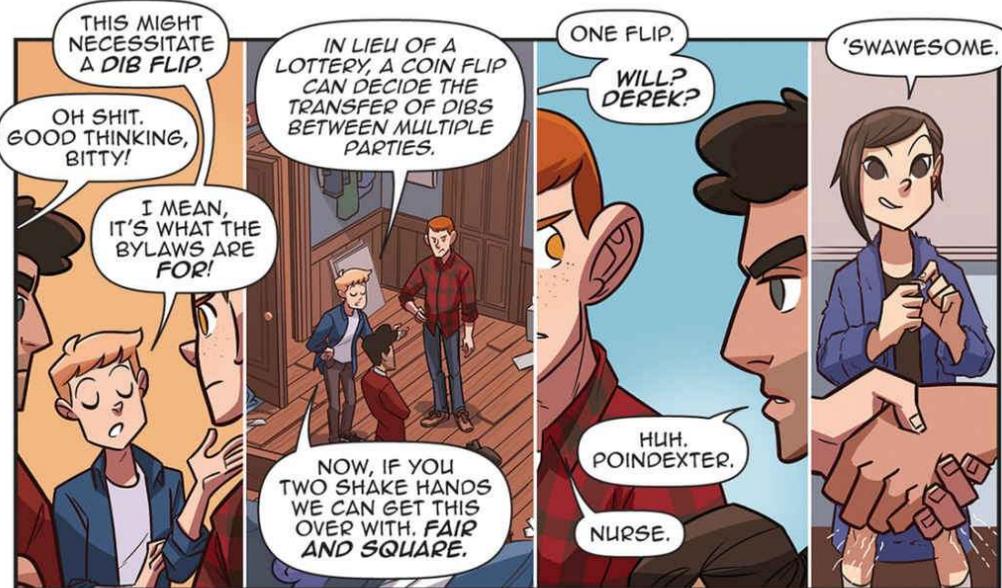
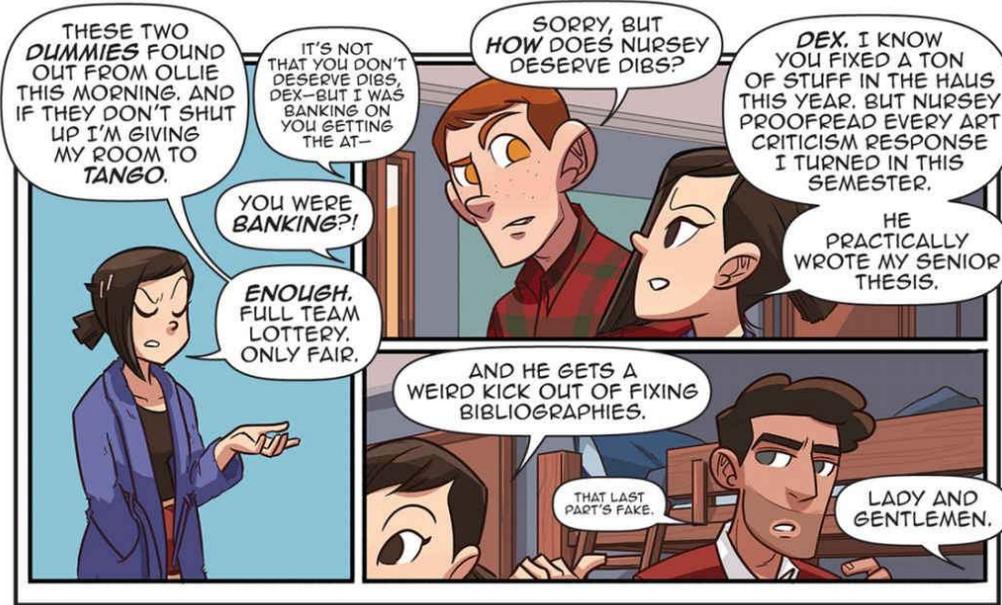


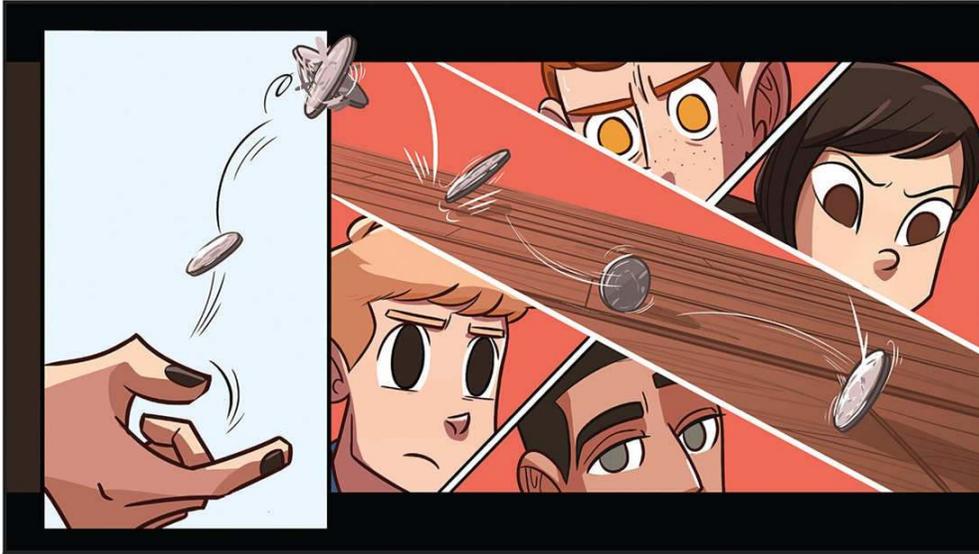


DIB FLIP

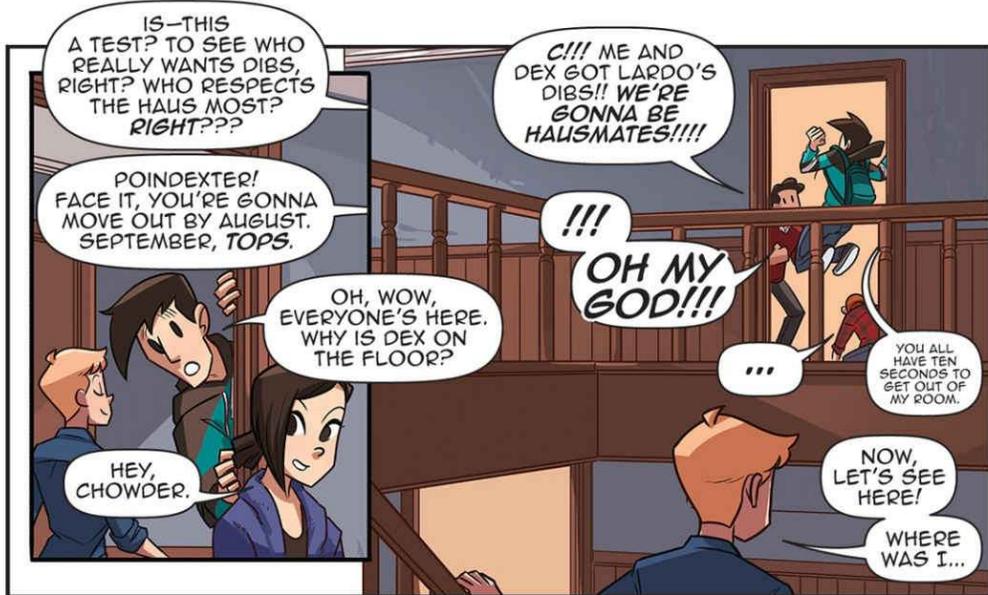








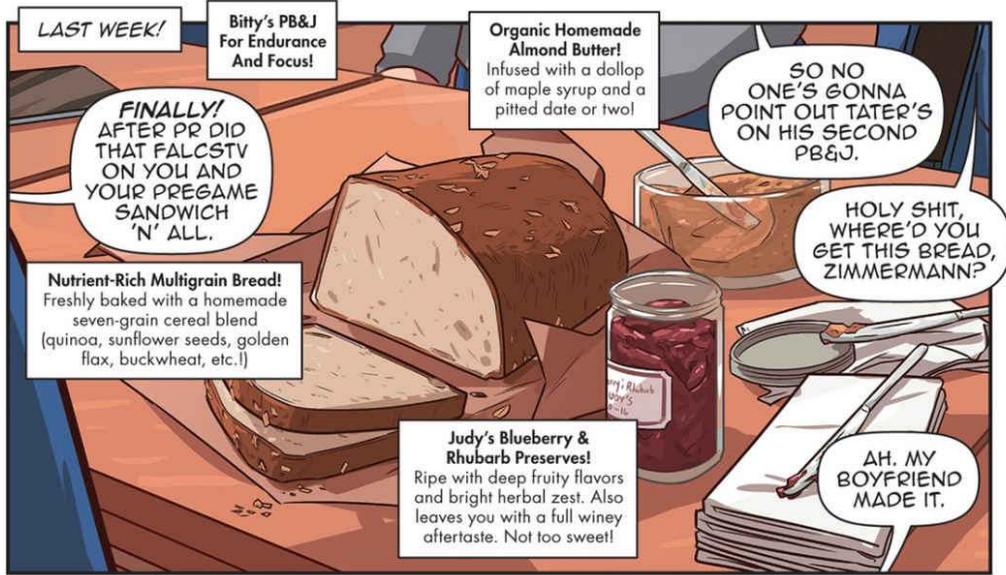
CHECK, PLEASE!

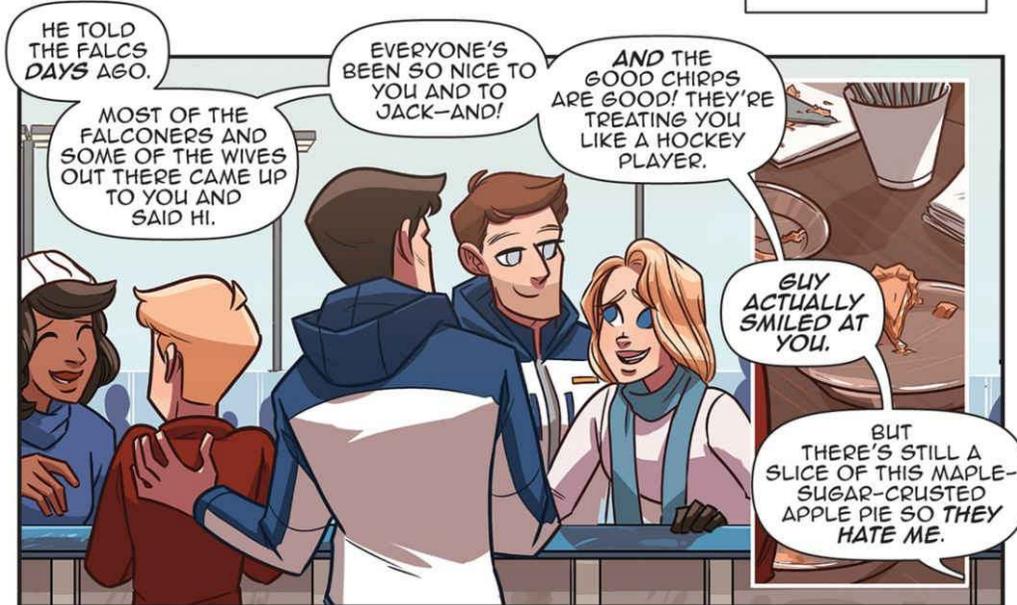
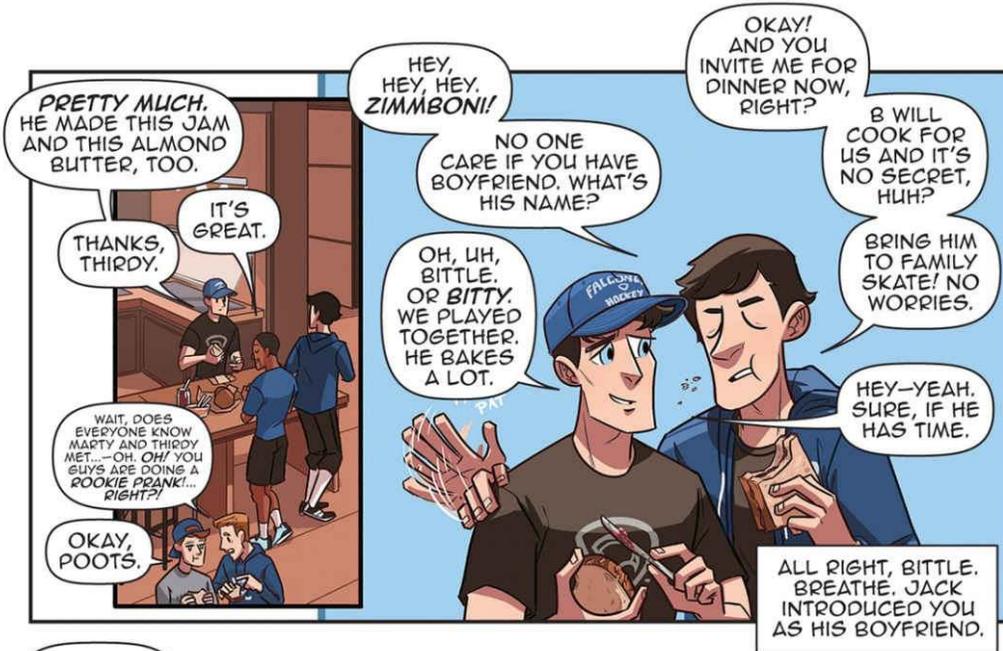


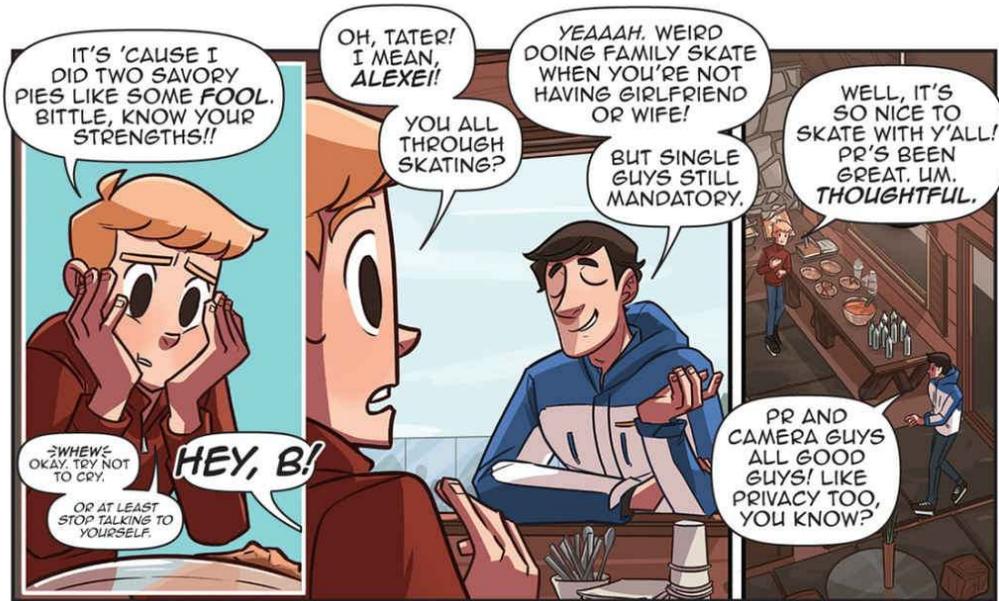
FAMILY SKATE

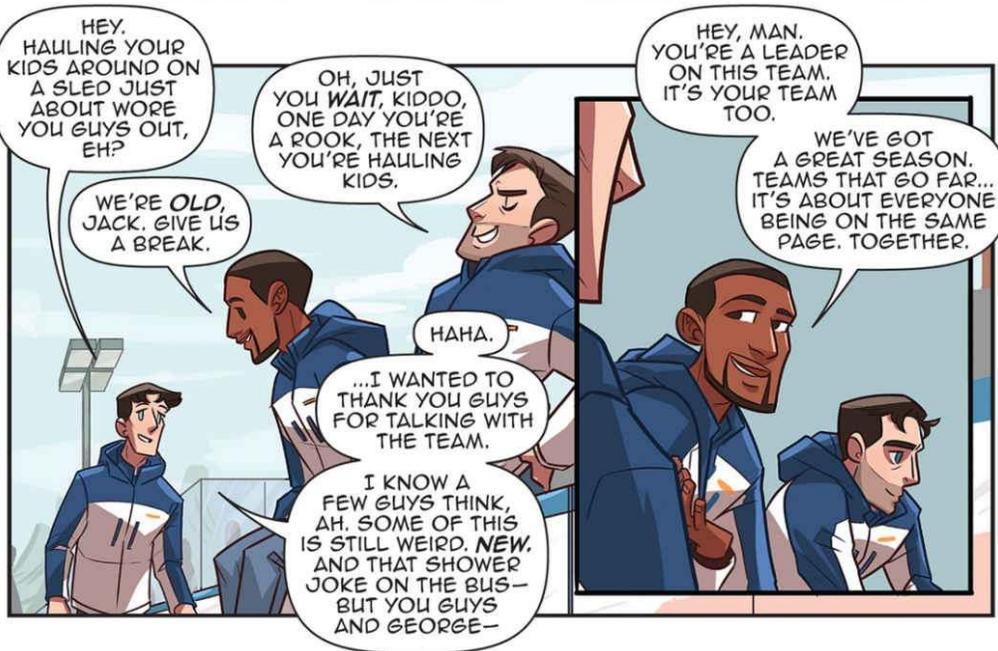


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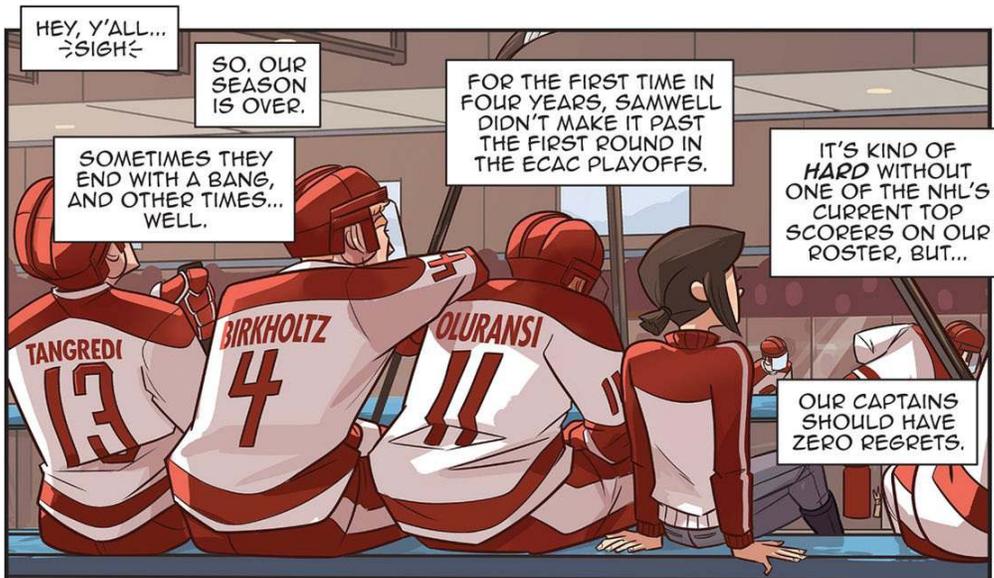








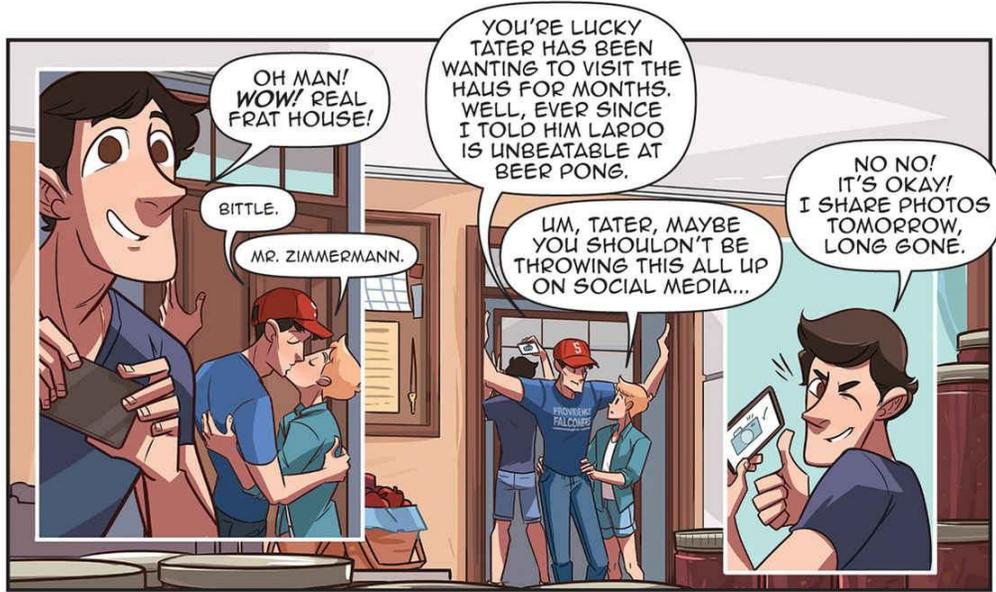
KEAGSTER

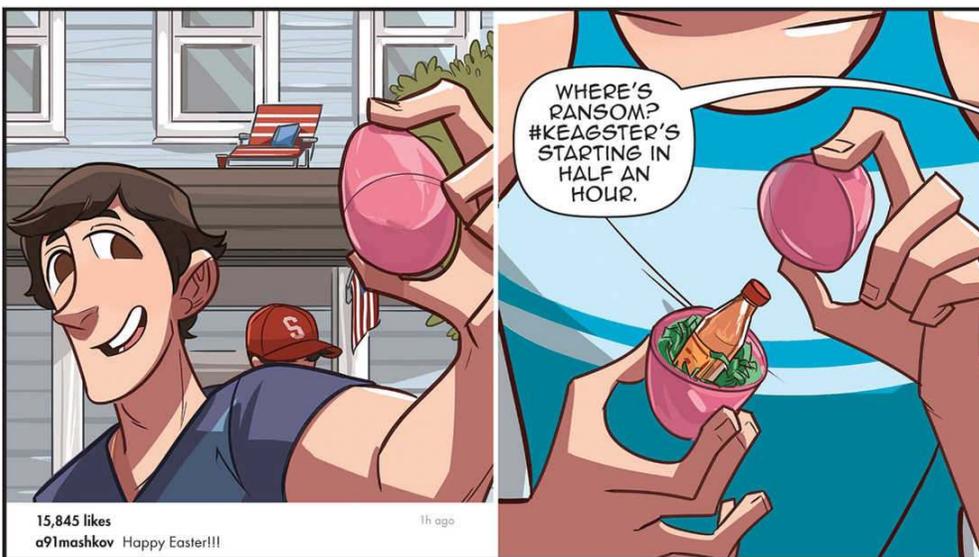


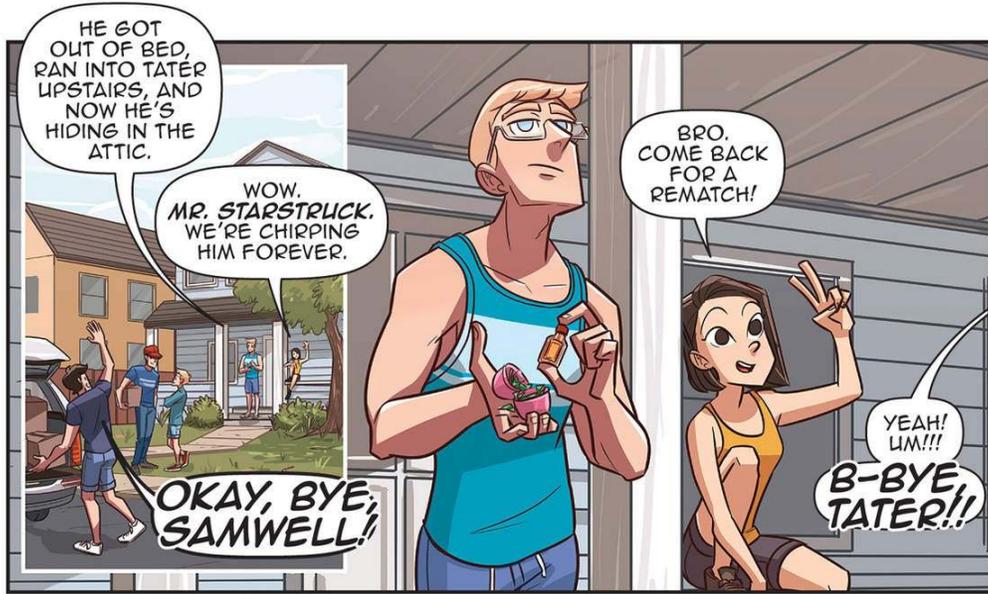




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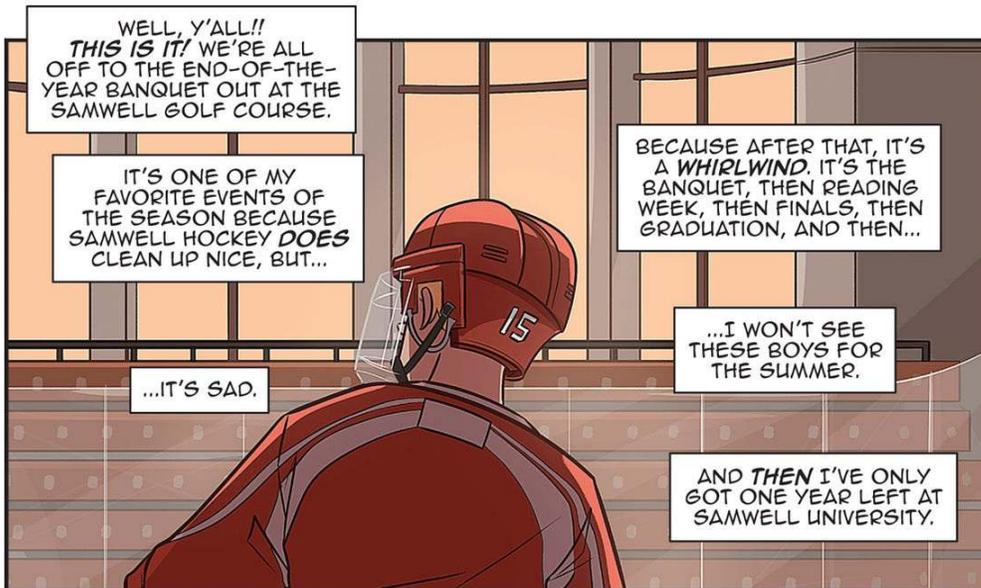




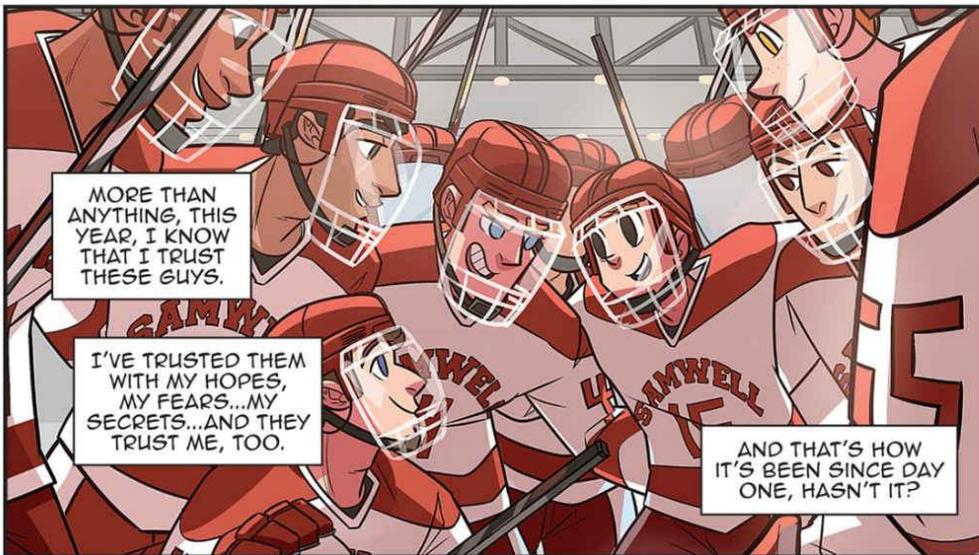


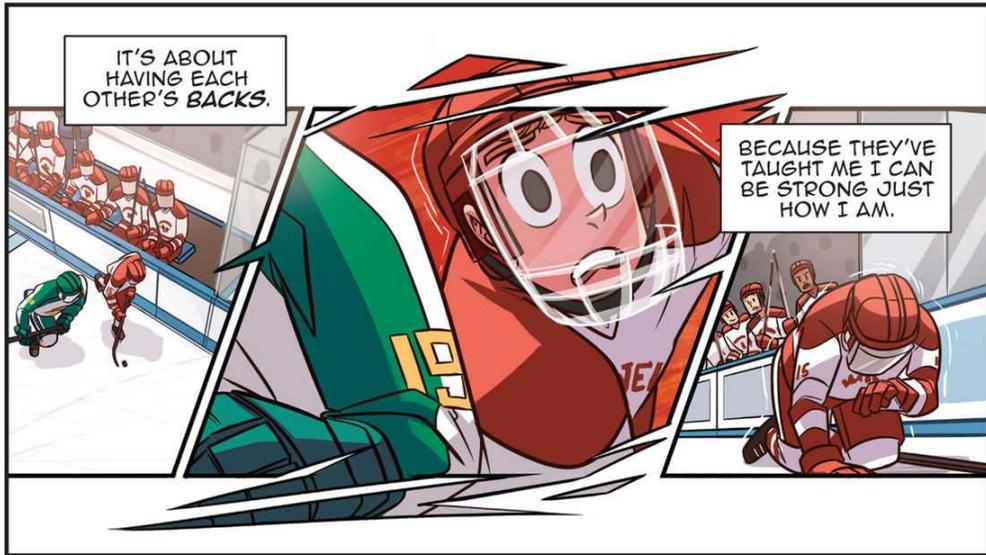
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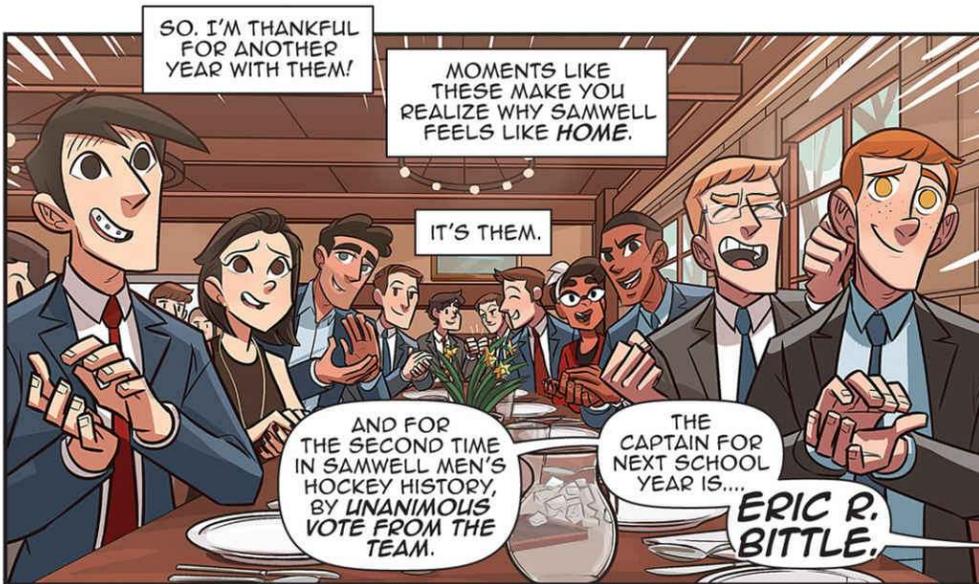
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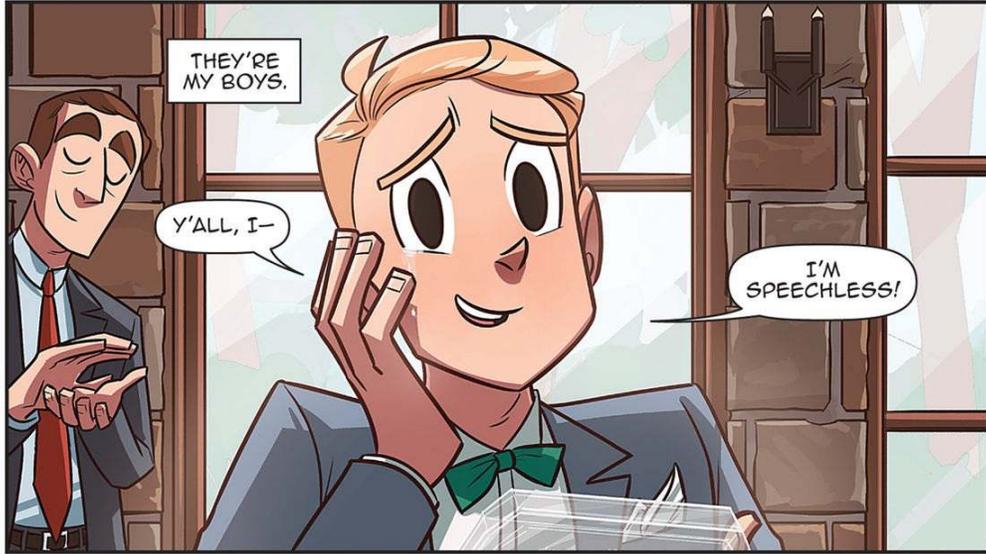




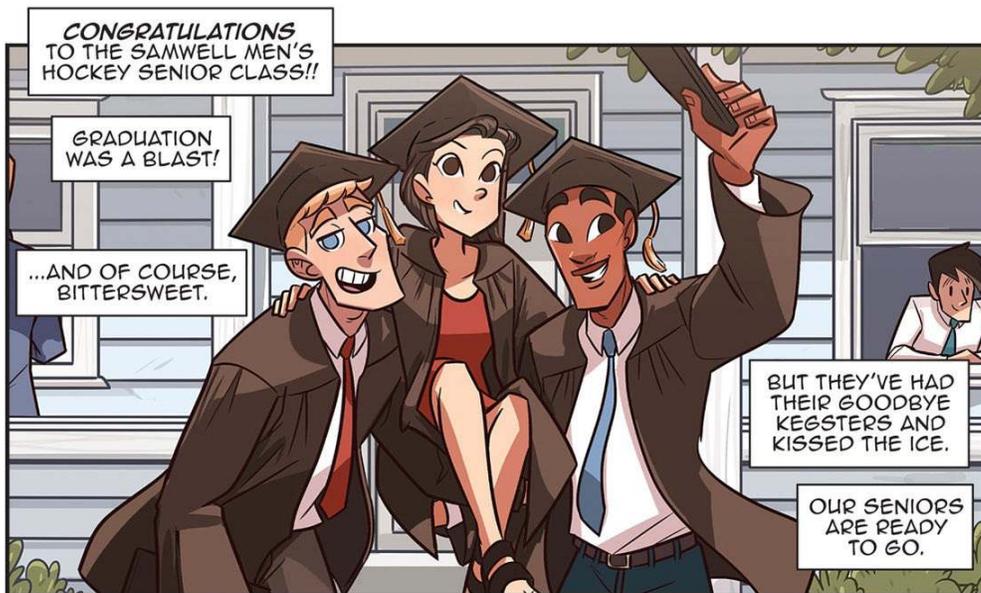


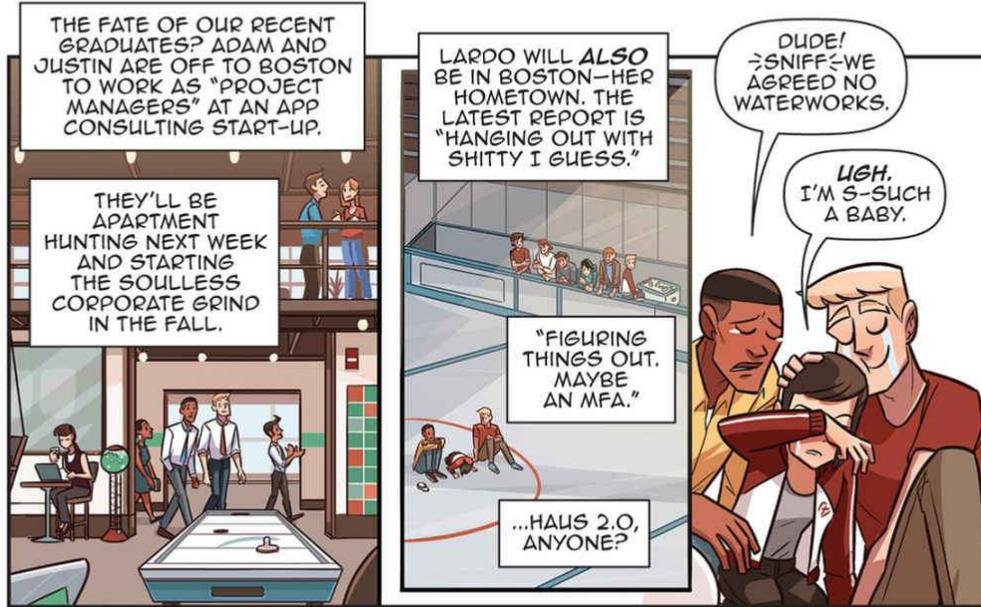


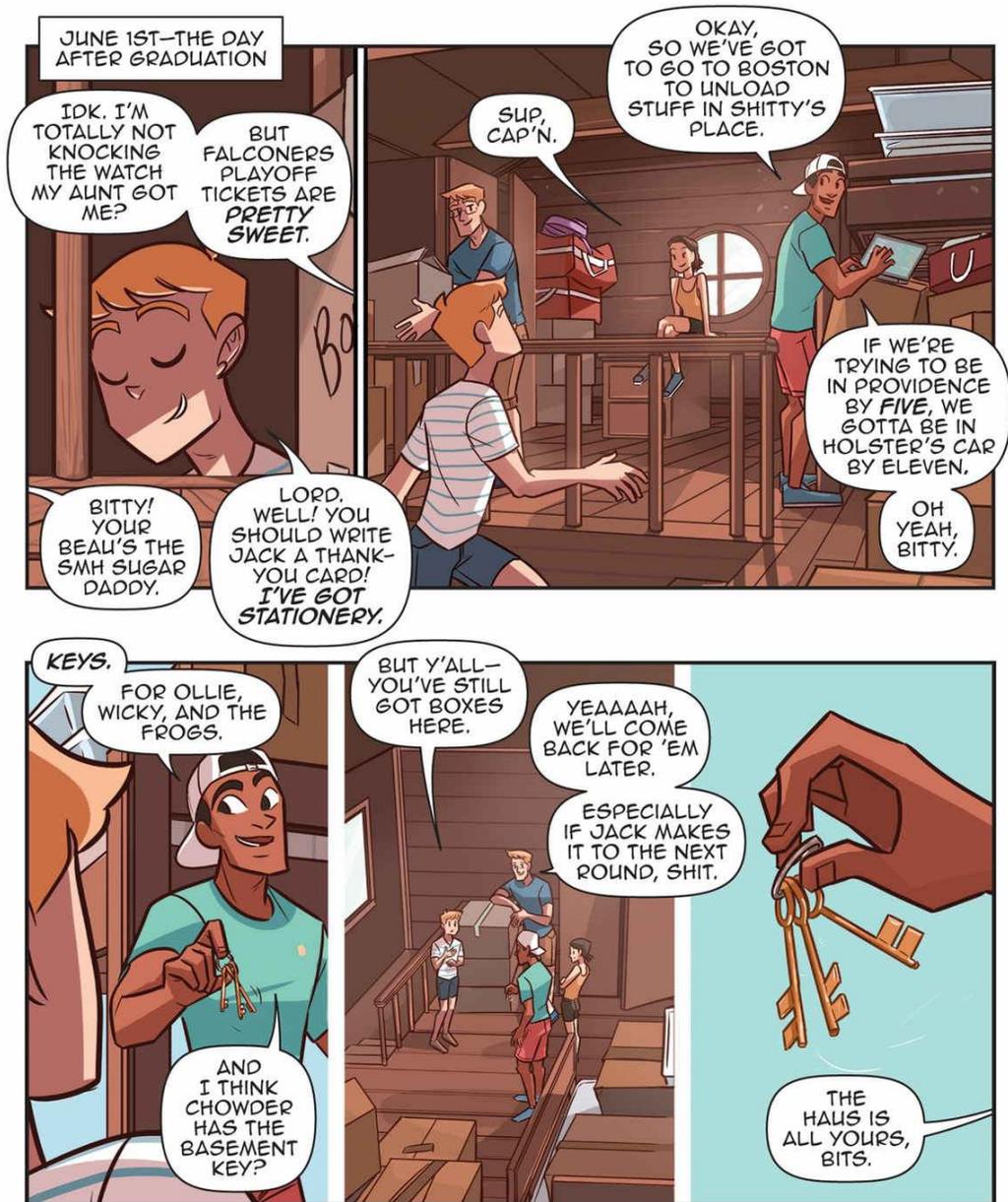


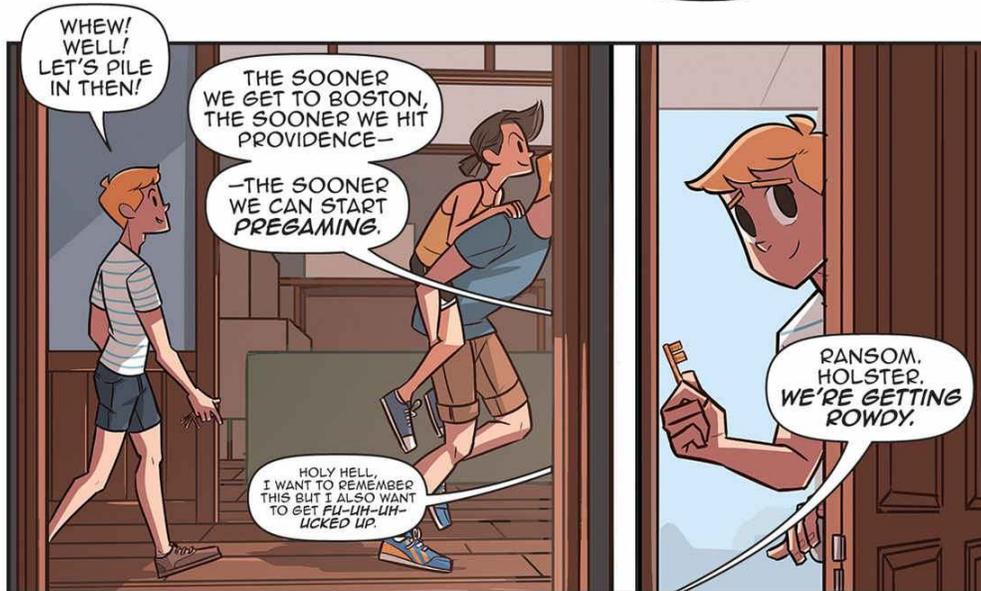
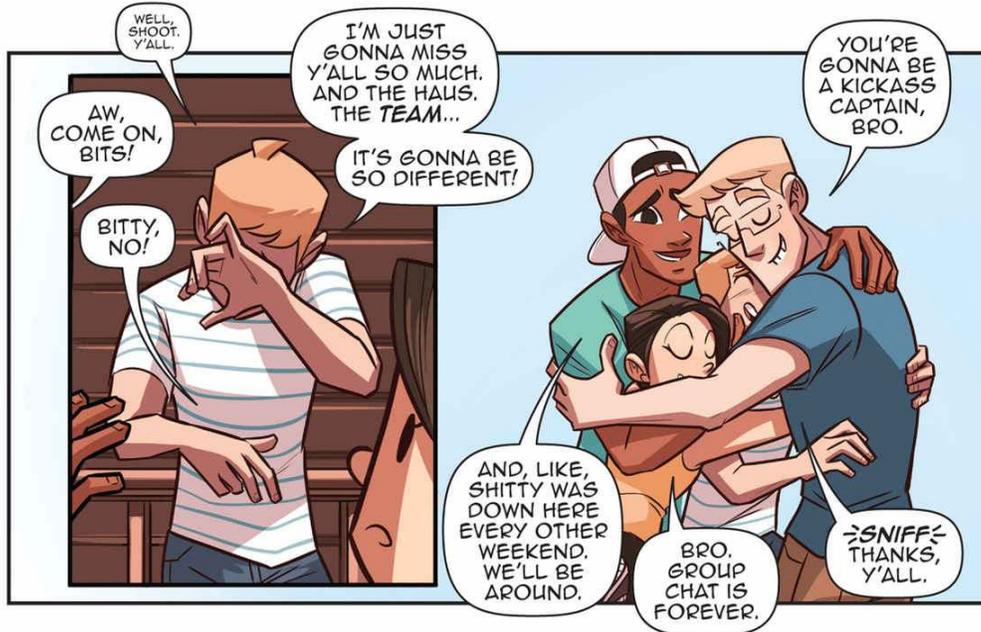


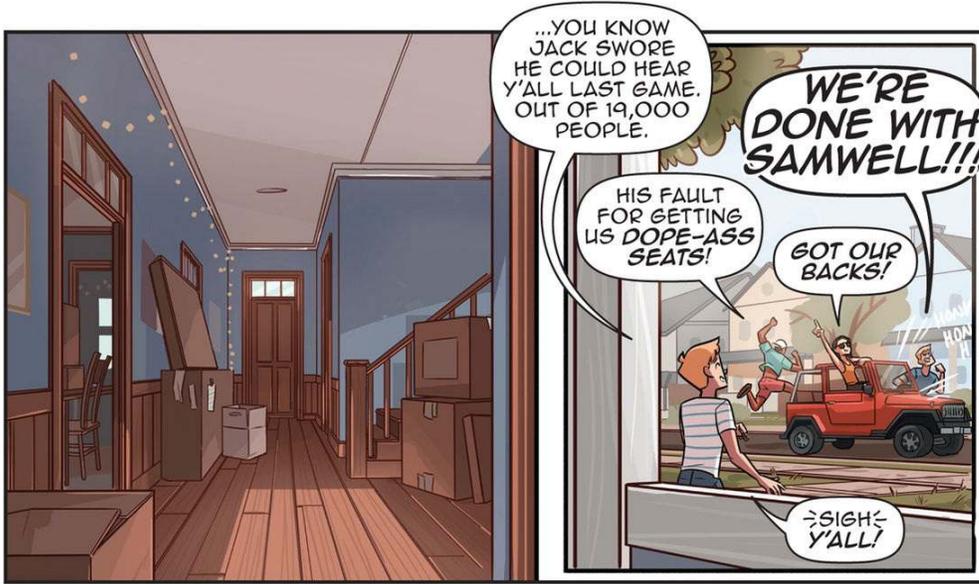
MOVING OUT





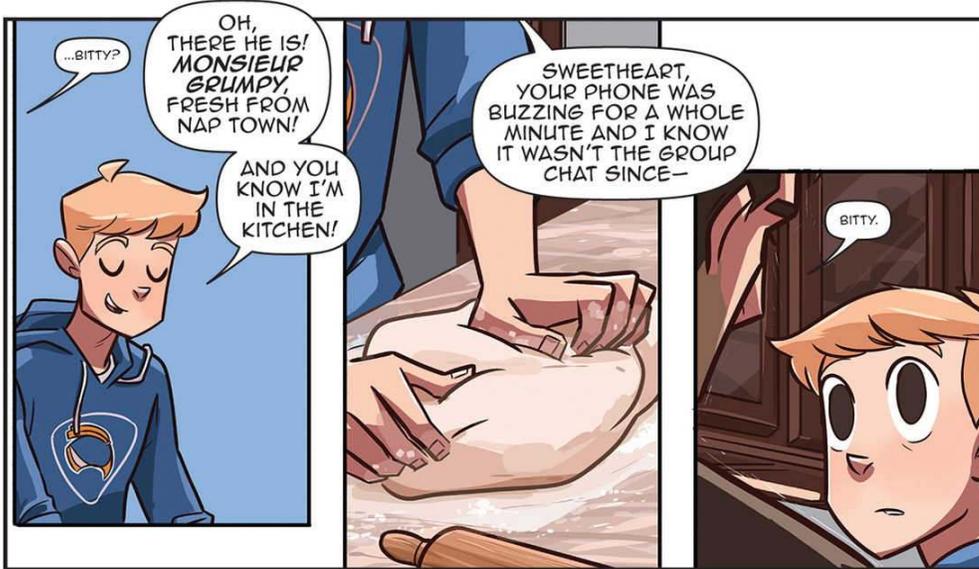
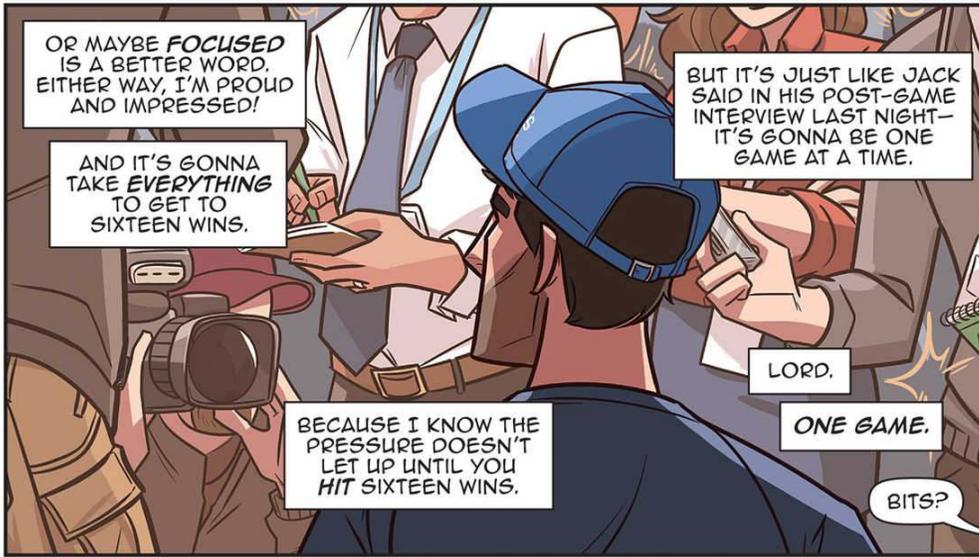




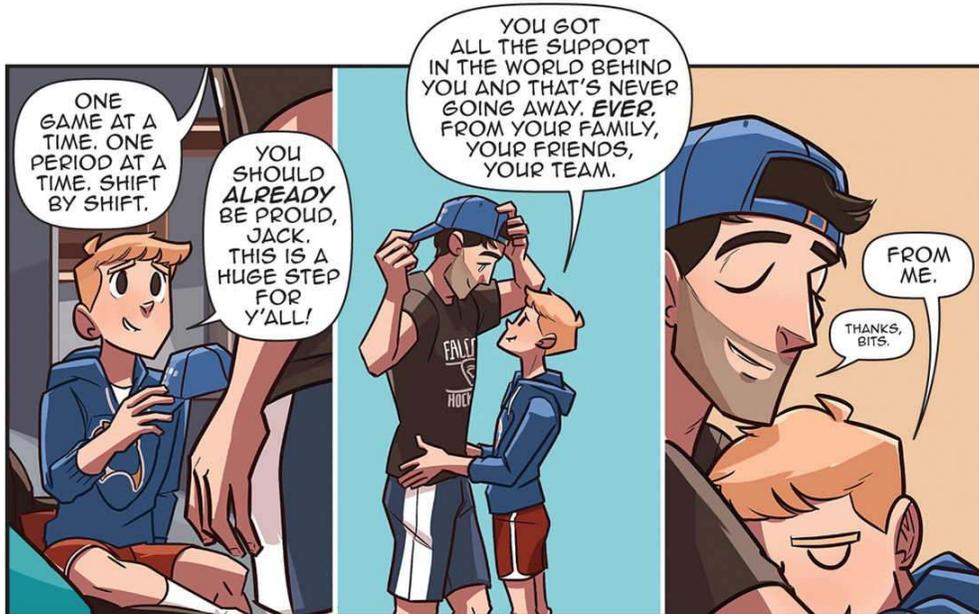


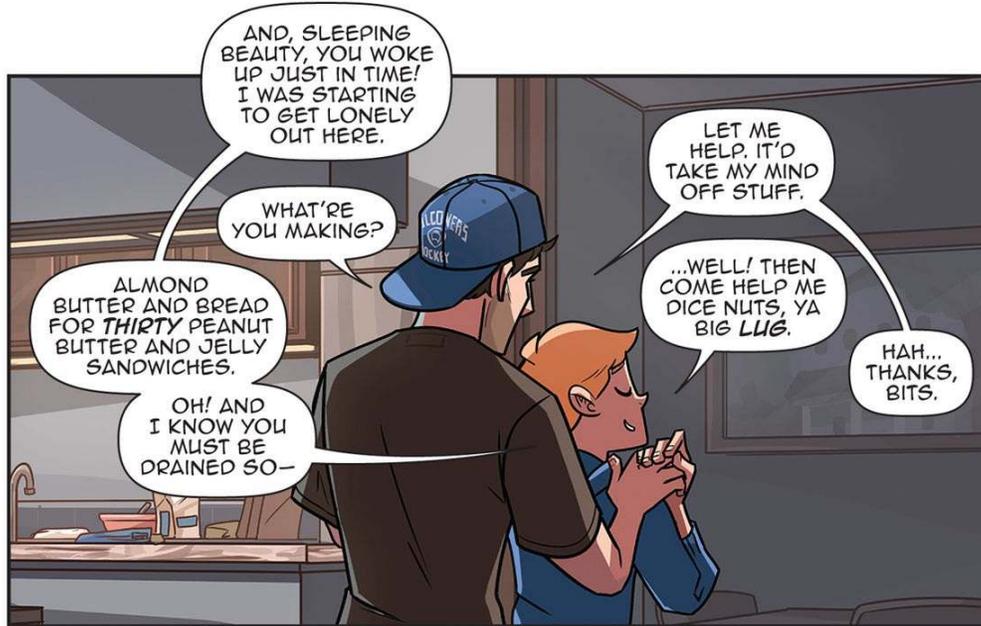
CUP I — PLAYOFFS





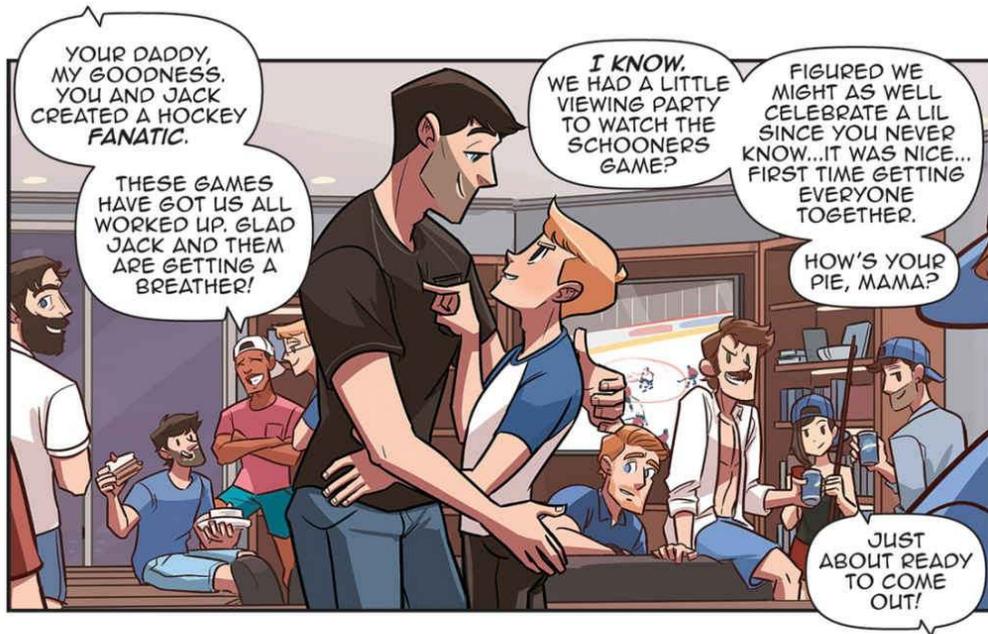


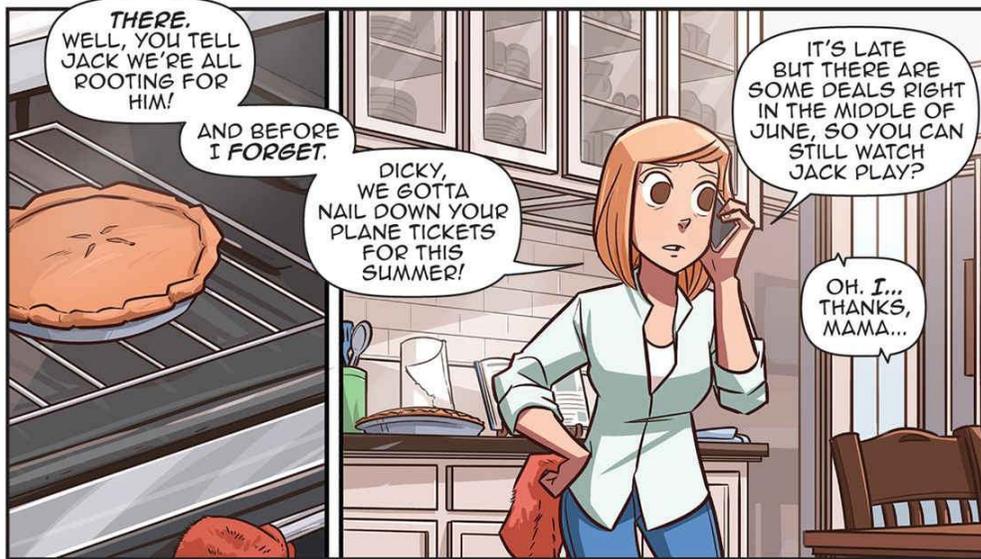




CUP II — SUMMER WITH JACK







THERE. WELL, YOU TELL JACK WE'RE ALL ROOTING FOR HIM!

AND BEFORE I FORGET.

DICKY, WE GOTTA NAIL DOWN YOUR PLANE TICKETS FOR THIS SUMMER!

IT'S LATE BUT THERE ARE SOME DEALS RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE OF JUNE, SO YOU CAN STILL WATCH JACK PLAY?

OH. I... THANKS, MAMA...



AND JACK'S OFFER TO GET US SEATS WAS *SO KIND*. BUT YOUR DADDY HAS THAT ALABAMA CONFERENCE AND THEN JUDY'S LOST HER MIND OVER PLANNING THIS POTLUCK—

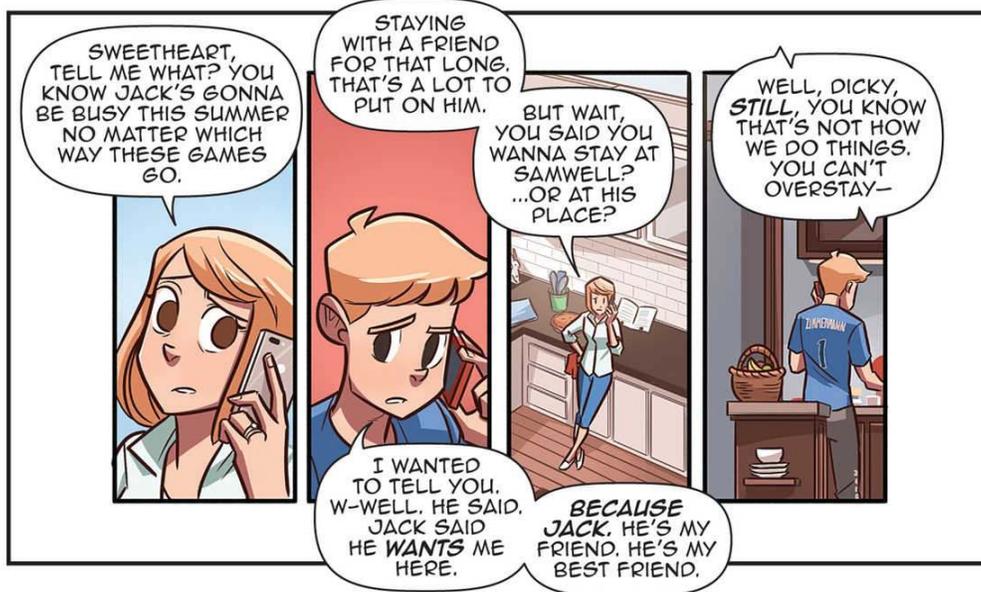
MAMA, I WAS THINKING OF STAYING HERE.

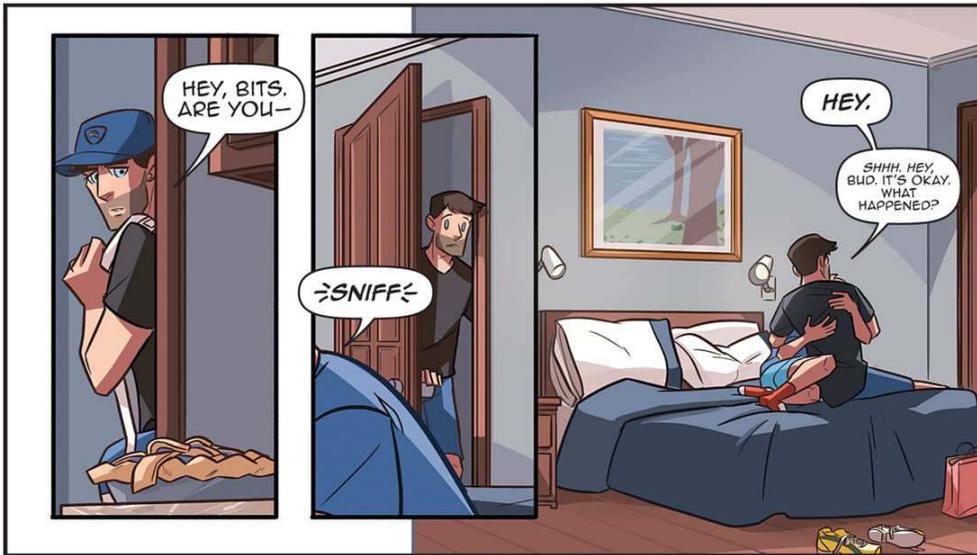
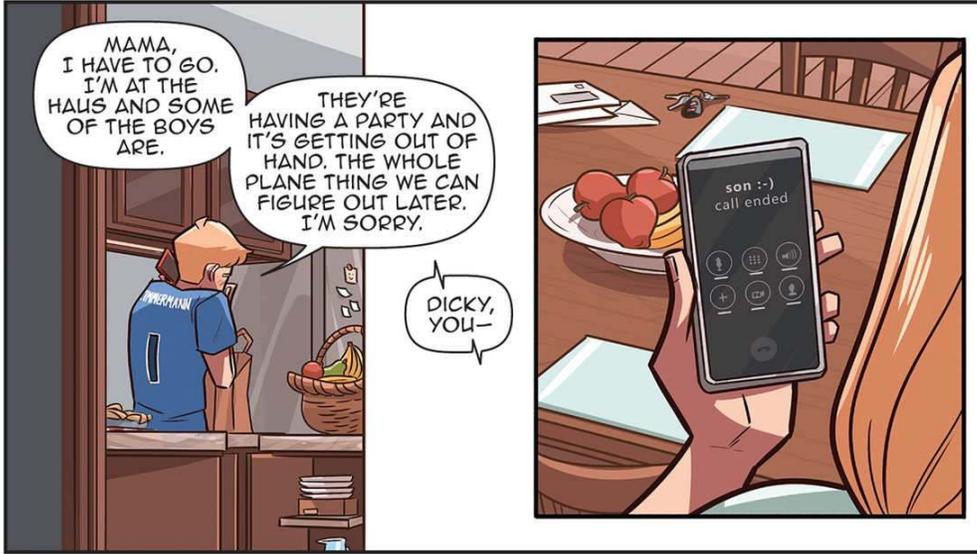
WITH JACK. I—OR UP AT SCHOOL.

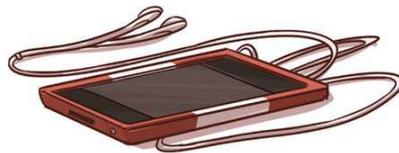
WITH JACK? OH!... OH. YOU'D RATHER NOT COME HOME THIS SUMMER, OR...?

NO. I LOVE COMING HOME, BUT!

...I GOTTA. I THINK I SHOULD TELL YOU.

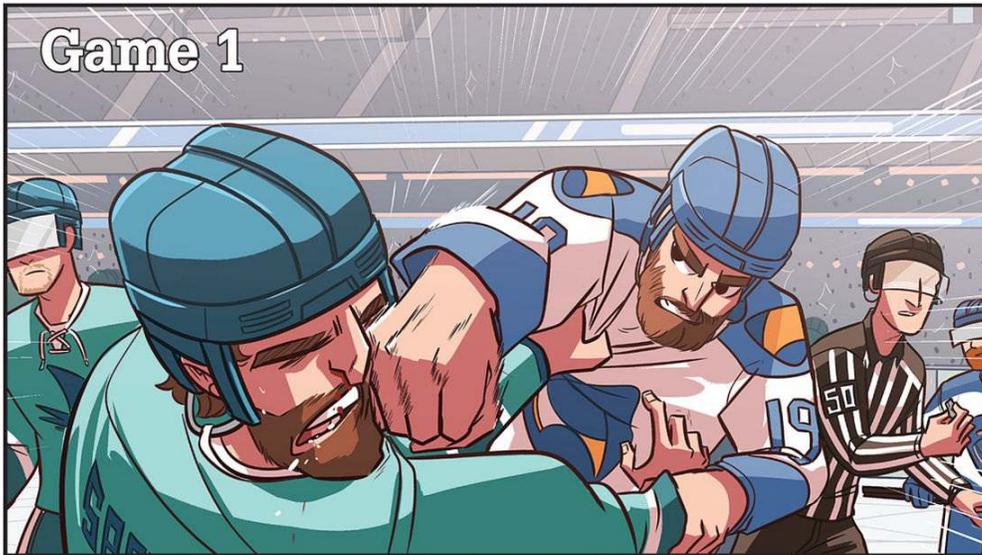






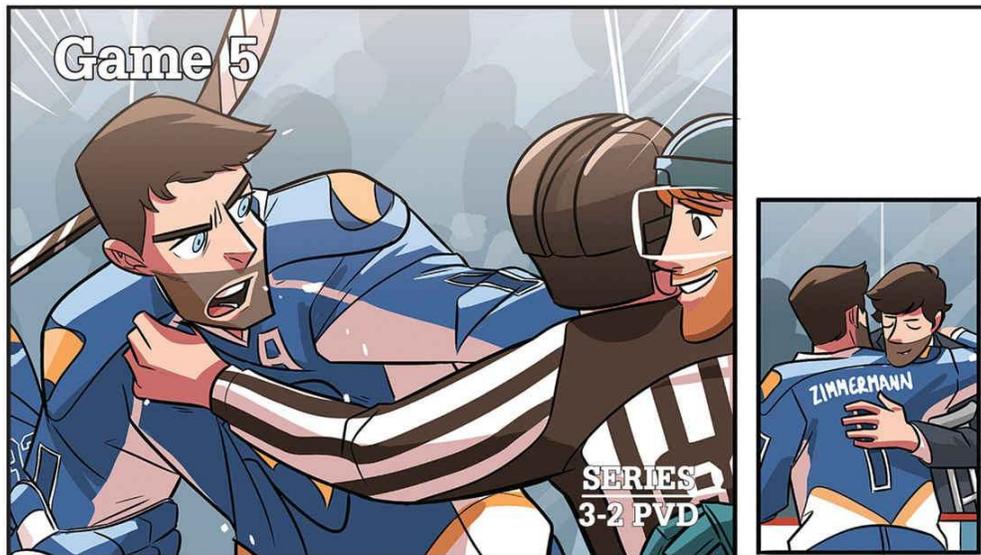
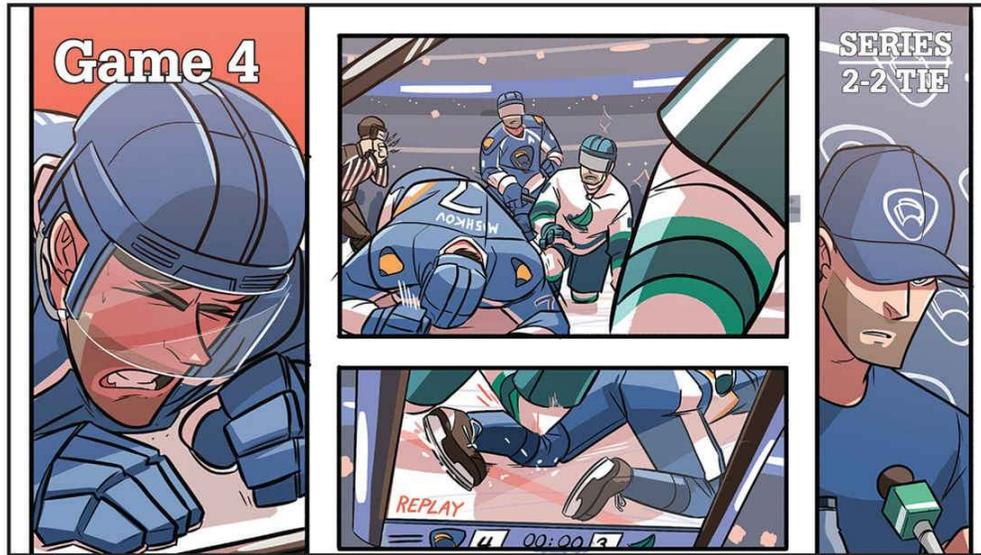
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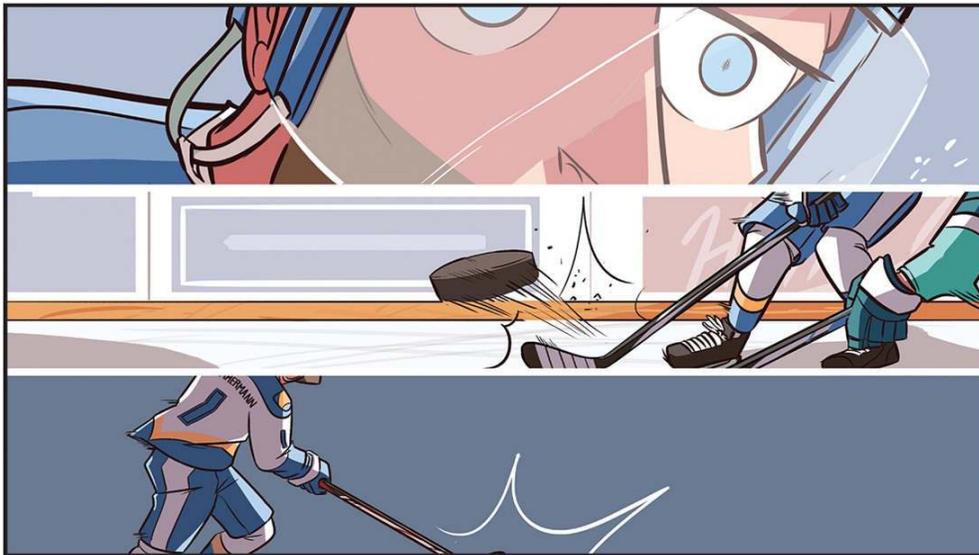
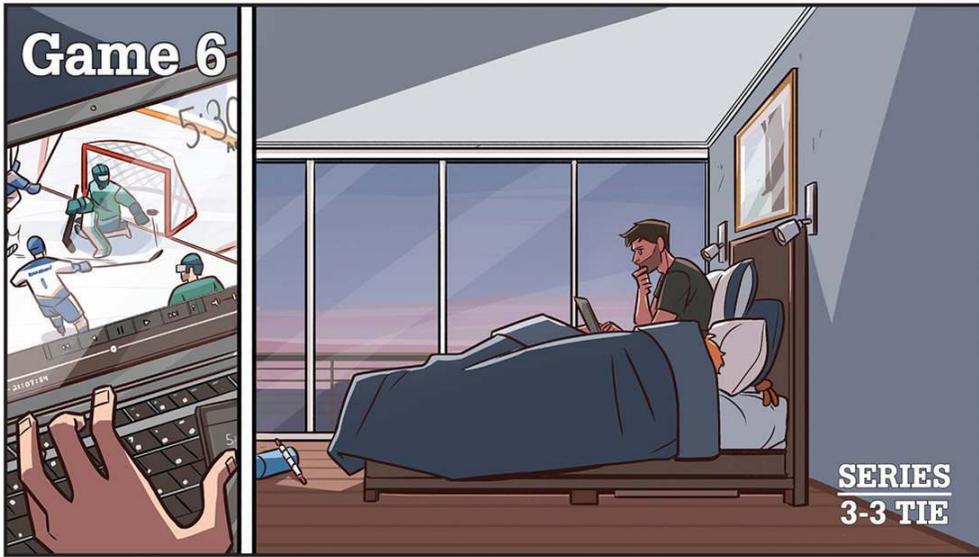
CUP III — 7 GAMES

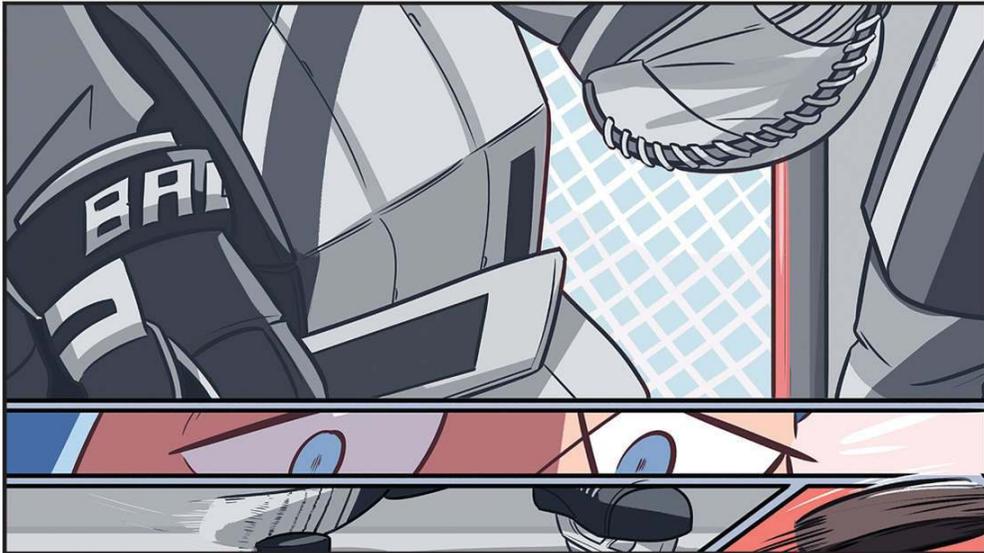








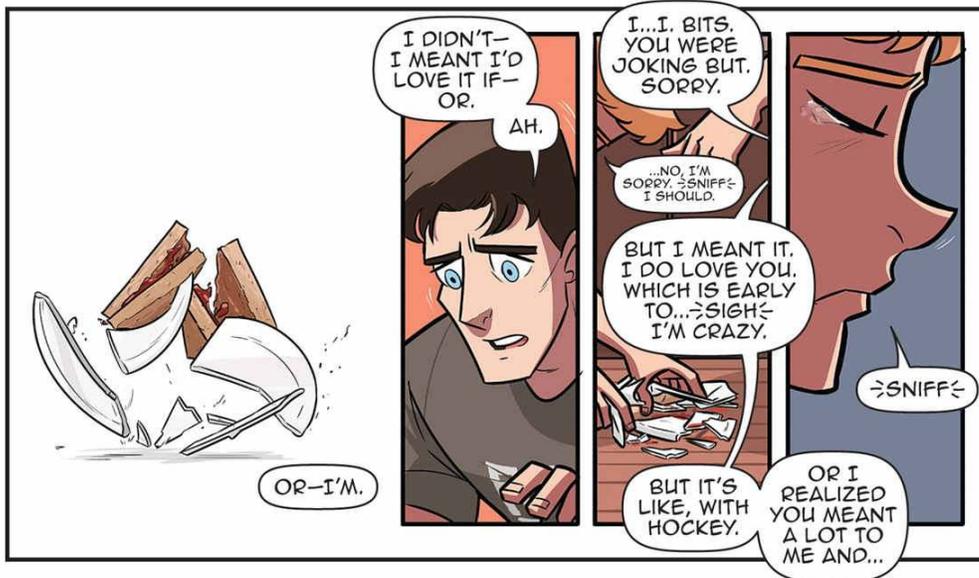
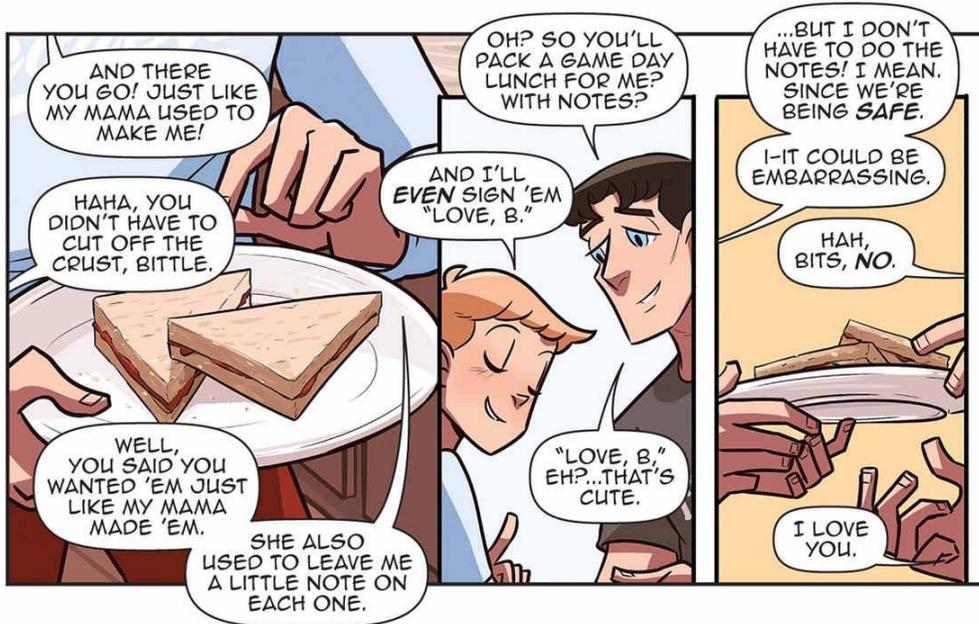


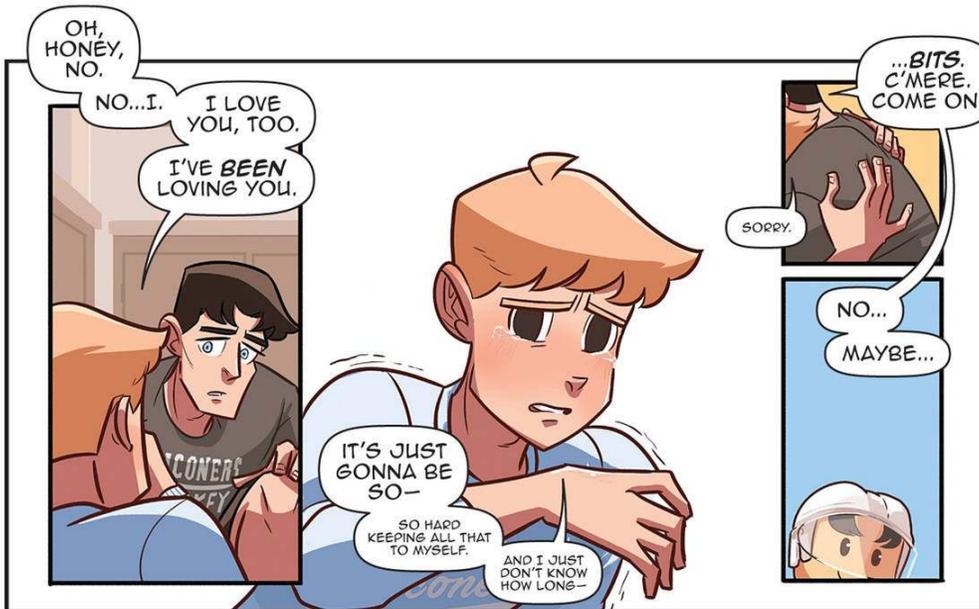




CUP IV — CENTER ICE













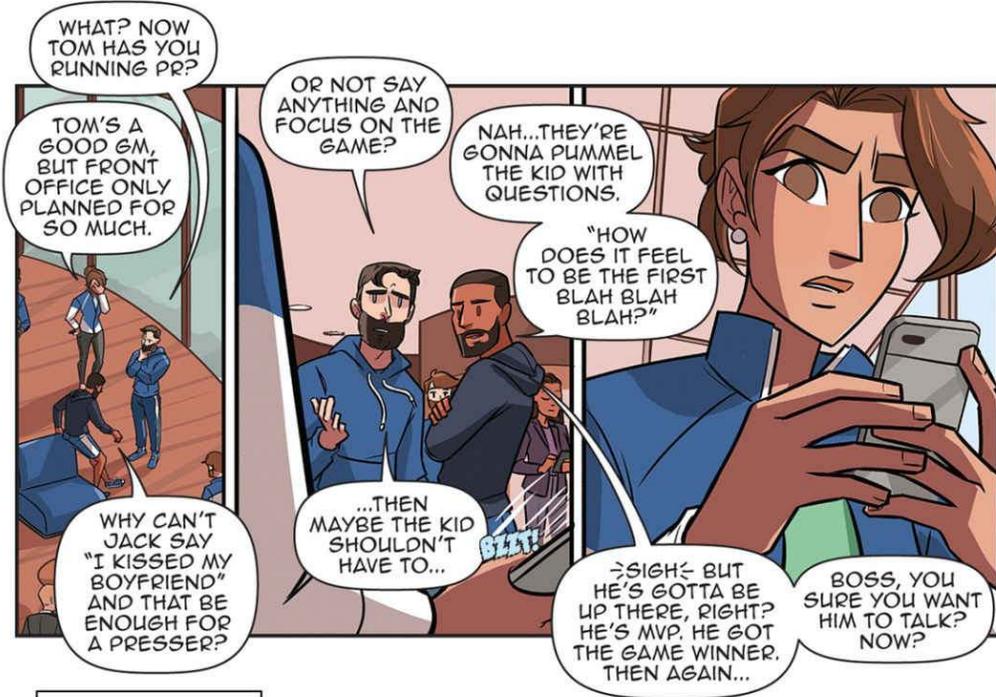




CUP V — POST







WHAT? NOW TOM HAS YOU RUNNING PR?

TOM'S A GOOD GM, BUT FRONT OFFICE ONLY PLANNED FOR SO MUCH.

OR NOT SAY ANYTHING AND FOCUS ON THE GAME?

NAH...THEY'RE GONNA PUMMEL THE KID WITH QUESTIONS.

"HOW DOES IT FEEL TO BE THE FIRST BLAH BLAH BLAH?"

WHY CAN'T JACK SAY "I KISSED MY BOYFRIEND" AND THAT BE ENOUGH FOR A PRESSER?

...THEN MAYBE THE KID SHOULDN'T HAVE TO...

≥SIGH≤ BUT HE'S GOTTA BE UP THERE, RIGHT? HE'S MVP. HE GOT THE GAME WINNER. THEN AGAIN...

BOSS, YOU SURE YOU WANT HIM TO TALK? NOW?

11:00 PM. THE DAY OF THE CUP



SHIT, HOIST IT RIGHT UP.

HAH... LOOK, HE JUST REALIZED HOW HEAVY IT IS.

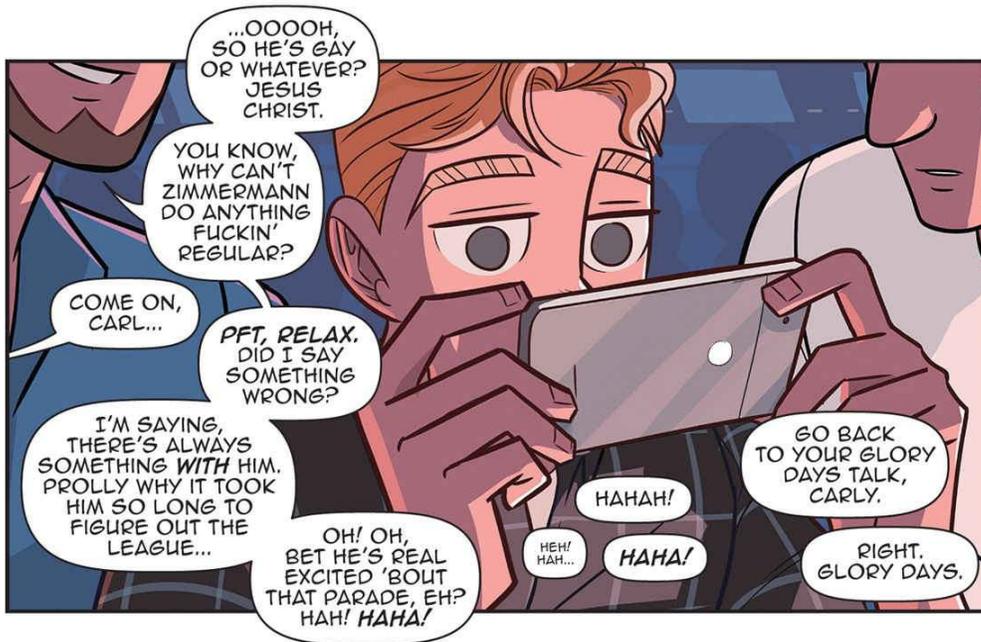
MAN.

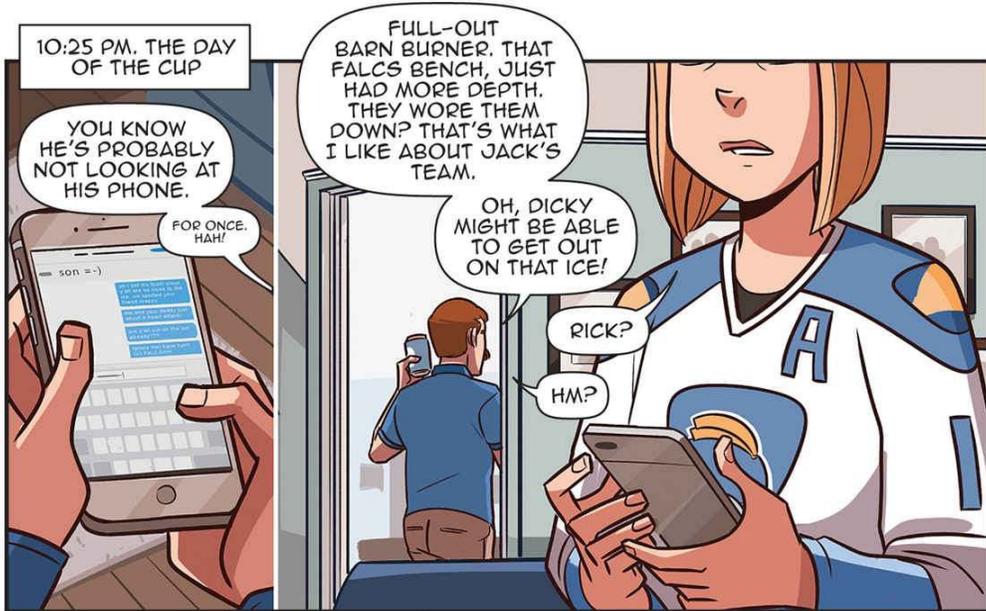
BACK WHEN WE WON. OH GOD. I DO NOT REMEMBER THE NEXT SIX OR SEVEN HOURS.

YOU EVER GO BLACKOUT WITHOUT FALLING ASLEEP? SUDDENLY THE SUN IS UP AND YOU'RE JUST RIGHT THERE??

IT WAS LIKE LOCKER ROOM AND THEN IT WAS MORNING LIKE NO TIME OR ANYTHING. SHIT.

THAT'S A SHAME, EHP? YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO REMEMBER IT.









SENIOR YEAR



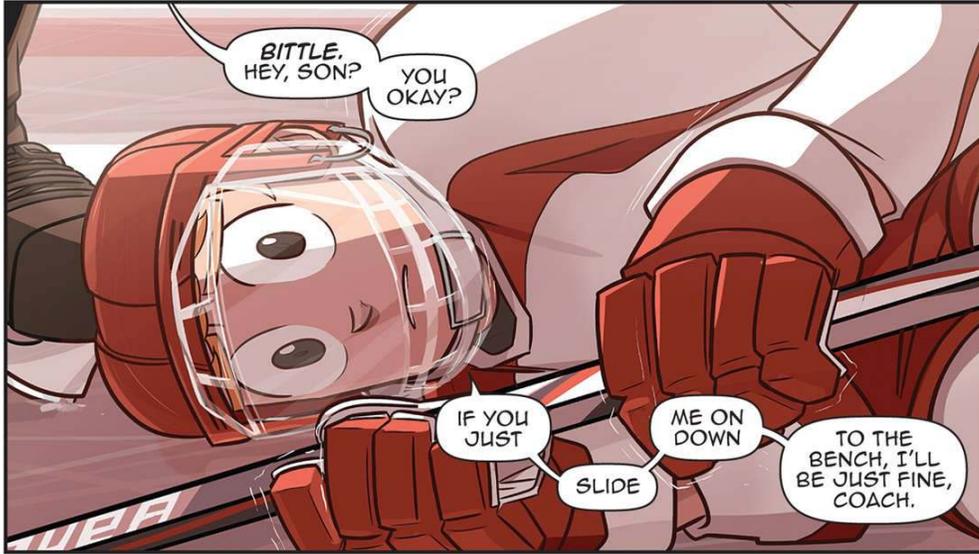
1

WAKE-UP CALL



M-MAMA...
MAMA, I'M NOT
SURE I CAN PLAY
ANYMORE.

OH, DICKY.
SWEETHEART.
WHAT'S
WRONG?



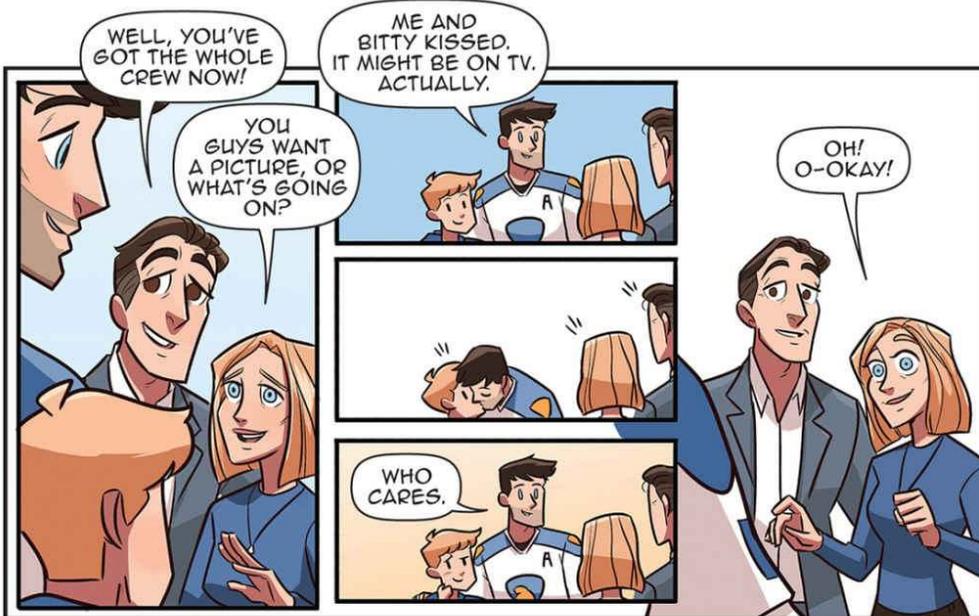
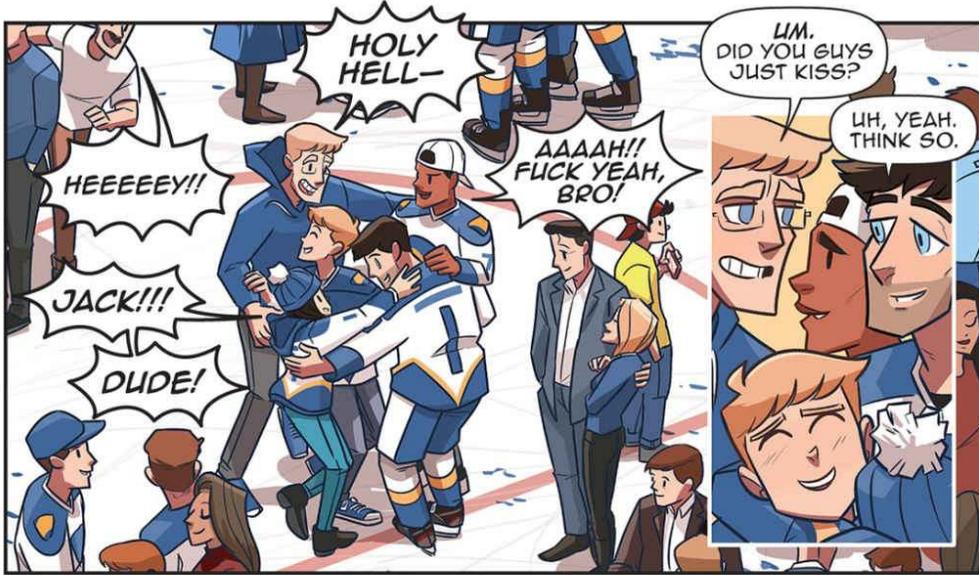




2

NONSTOP CELLY

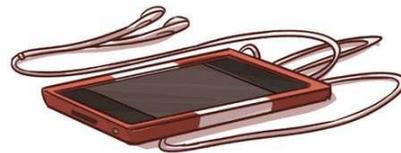
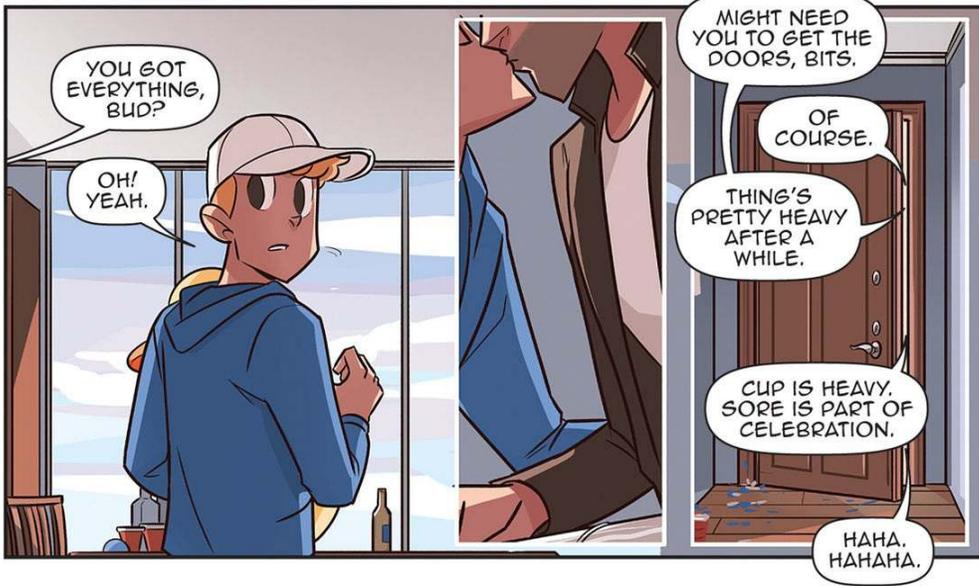




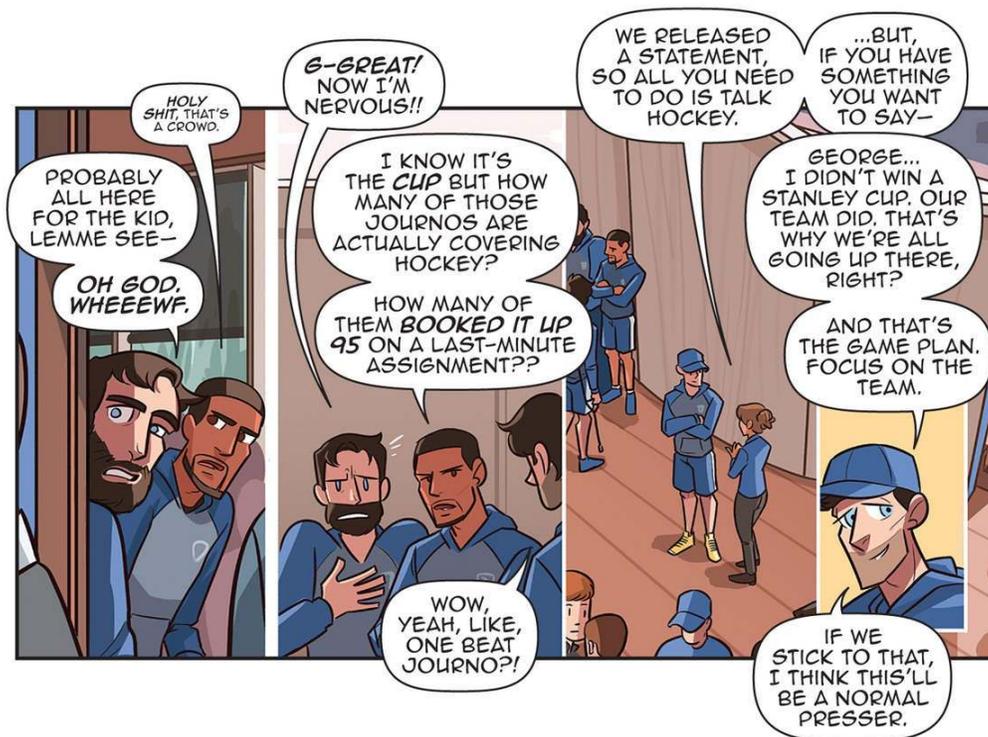


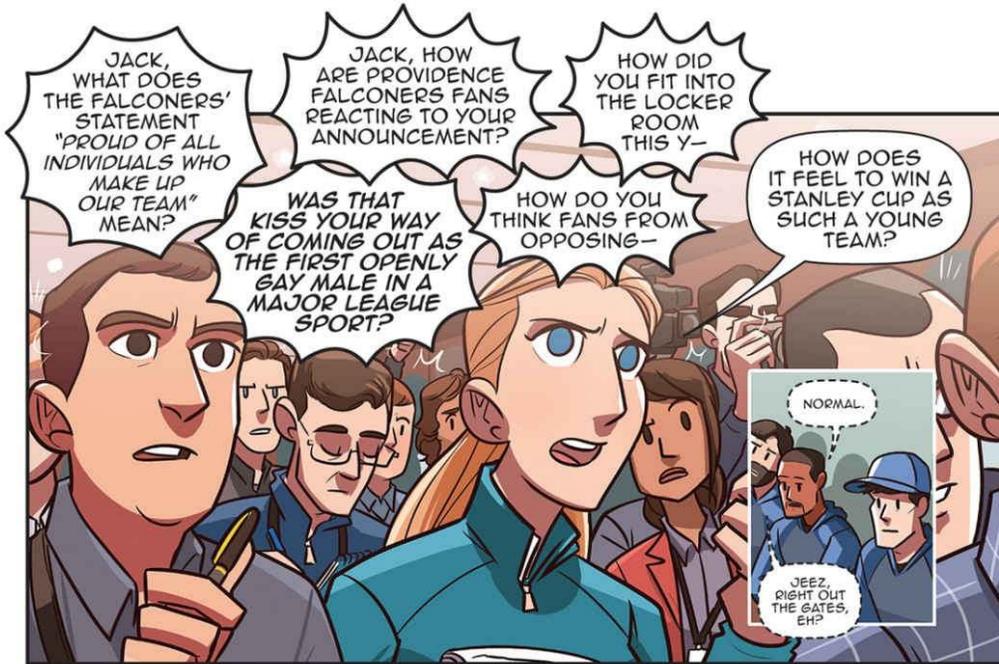


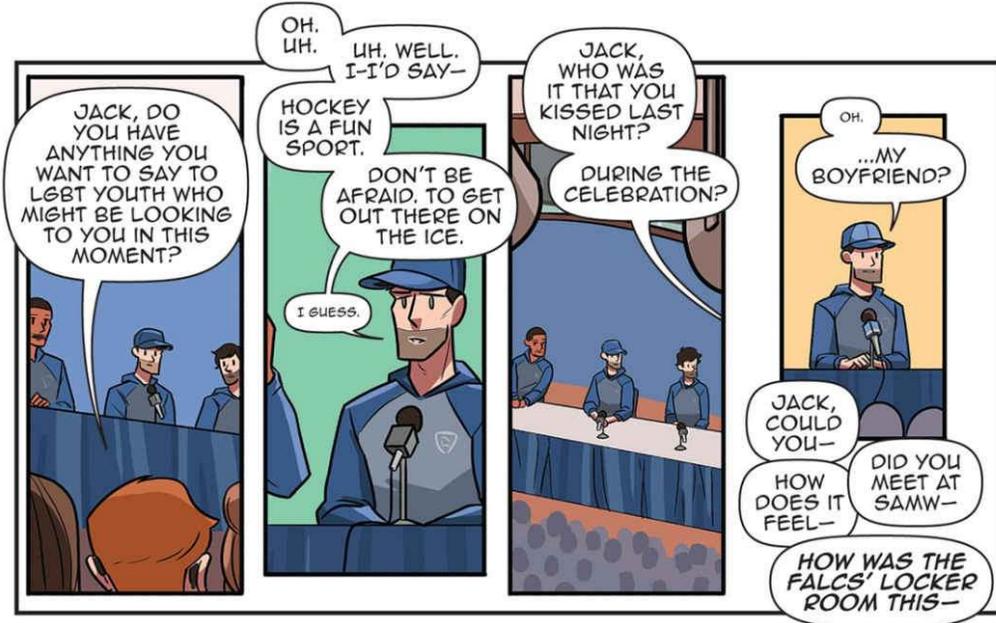


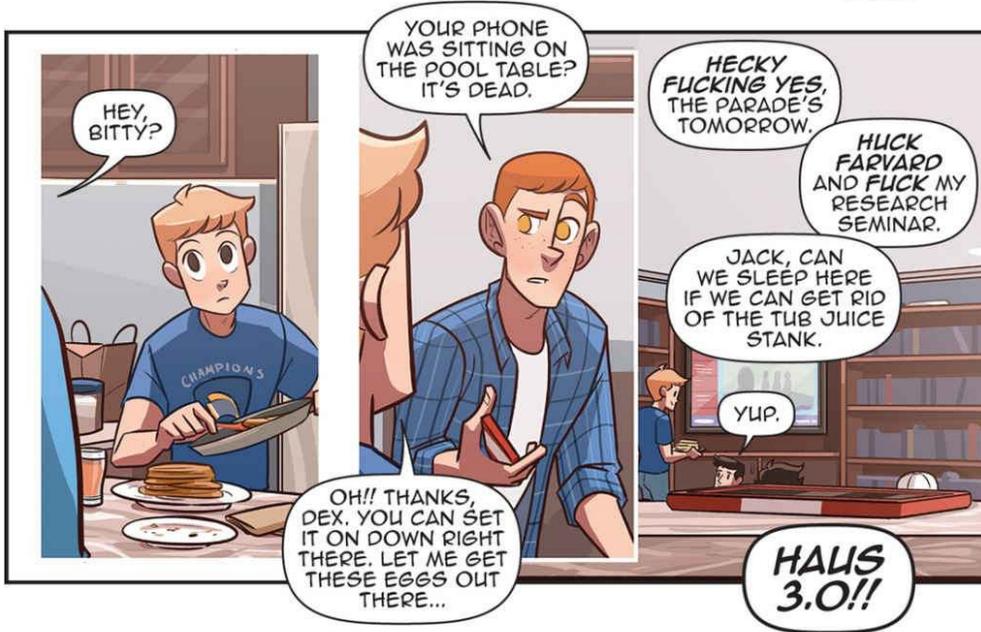


PRESSER

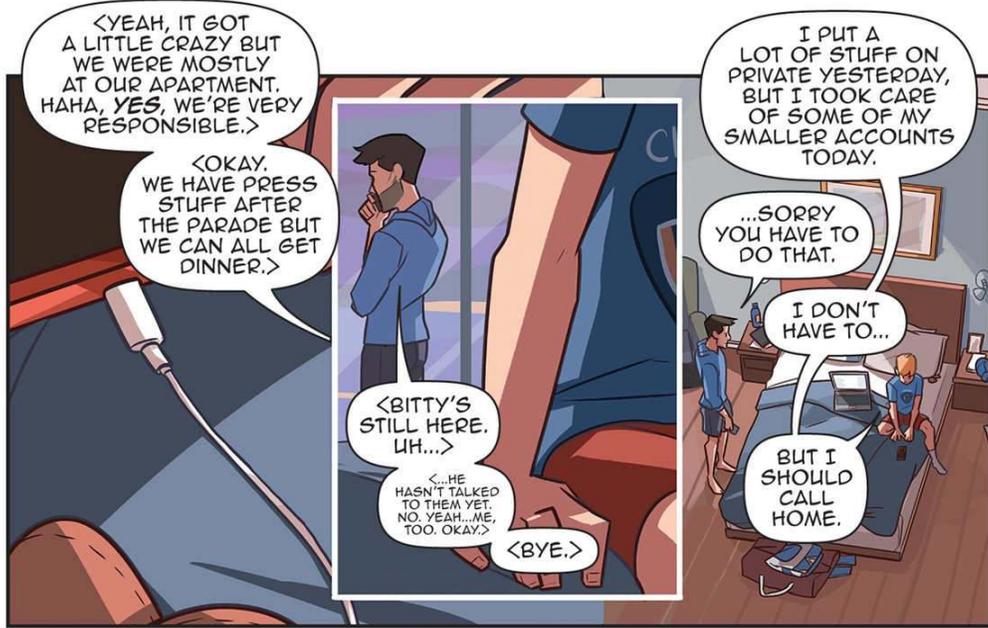








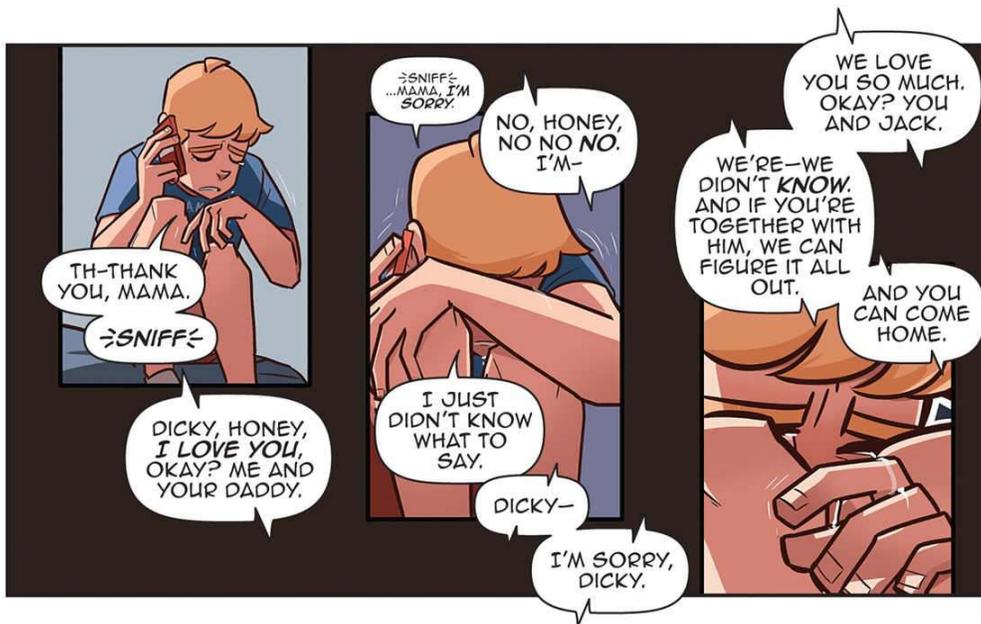
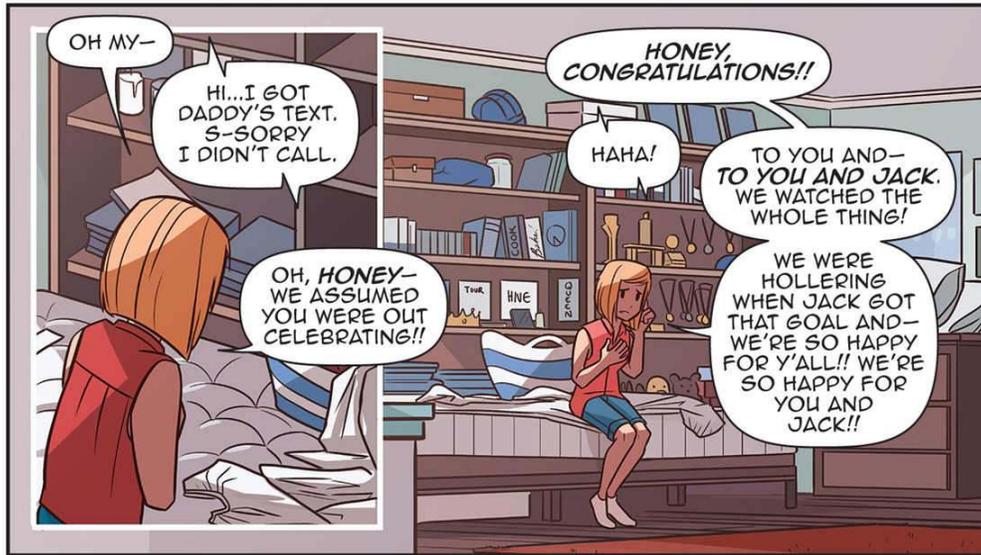
CHECK, PLEASE!

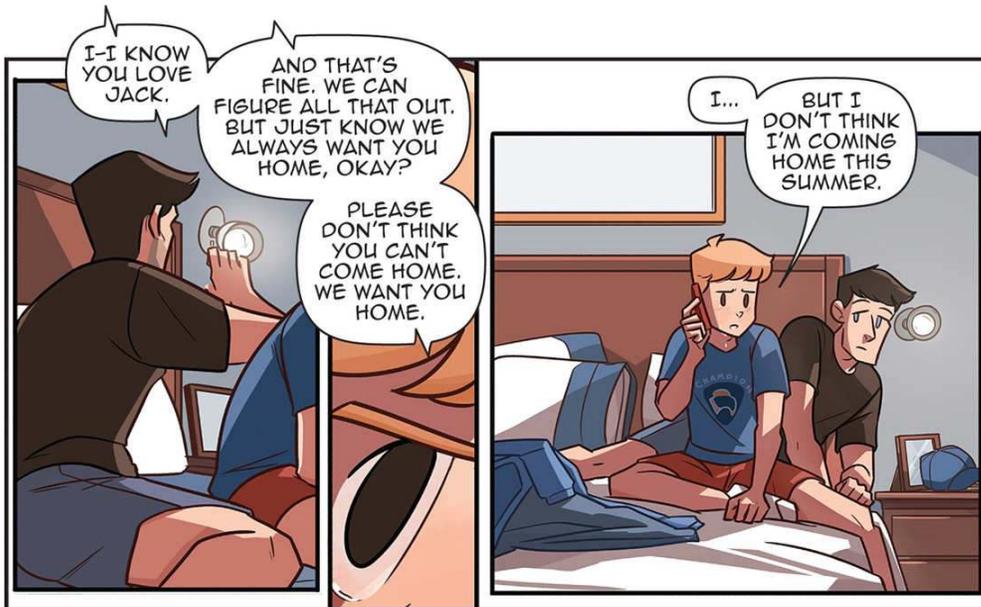
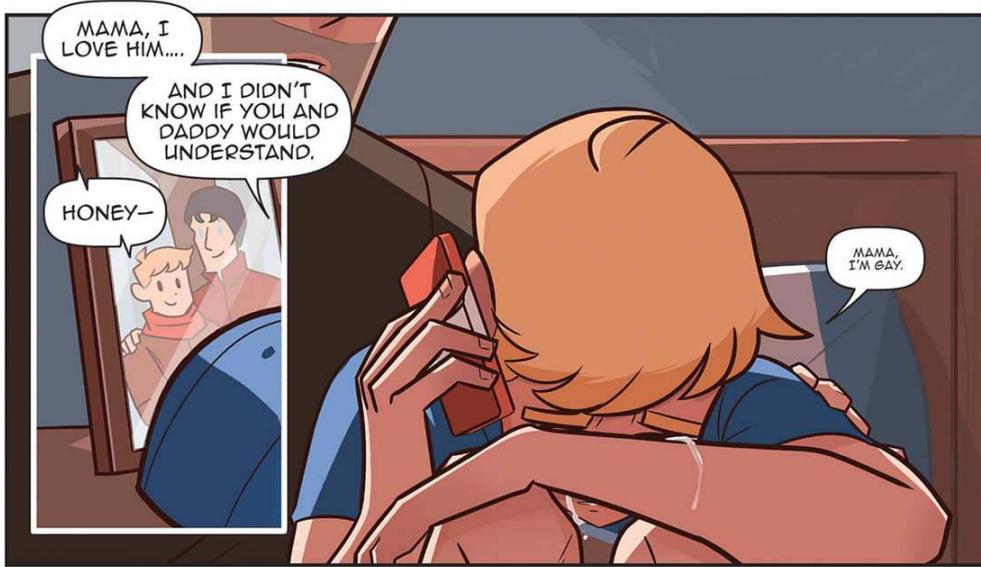


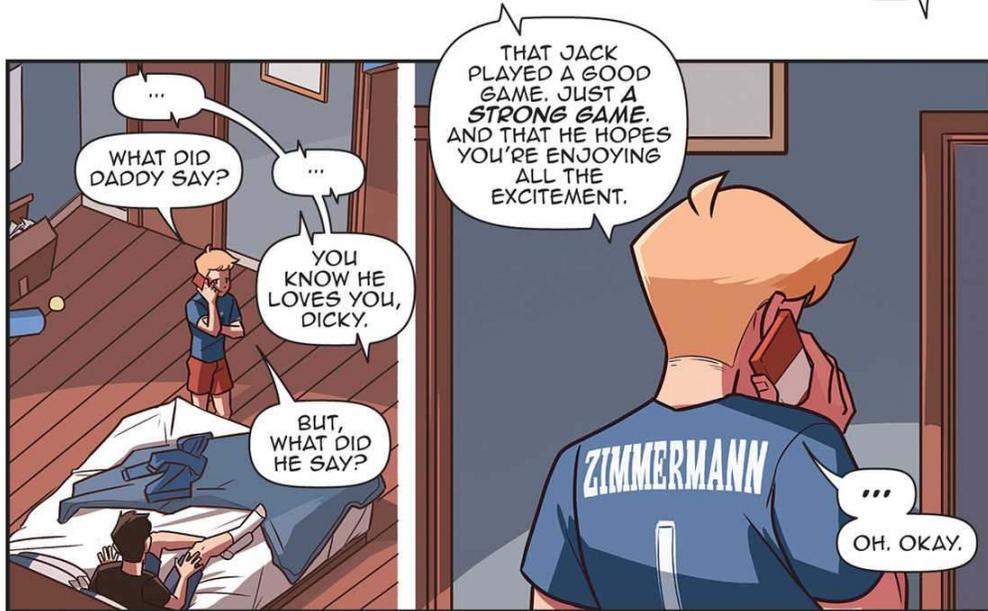
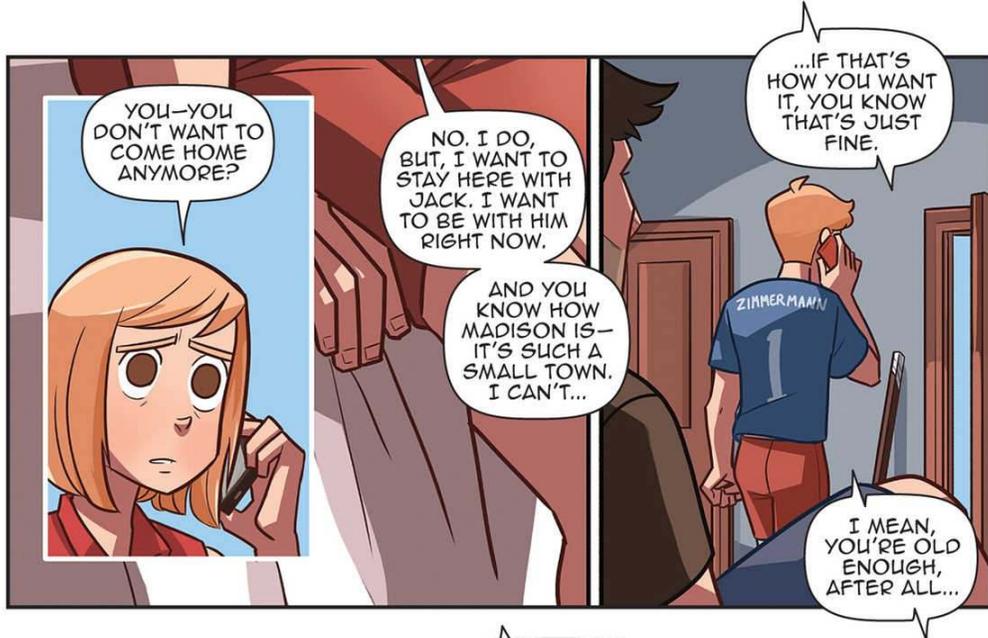
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CALLING HOME





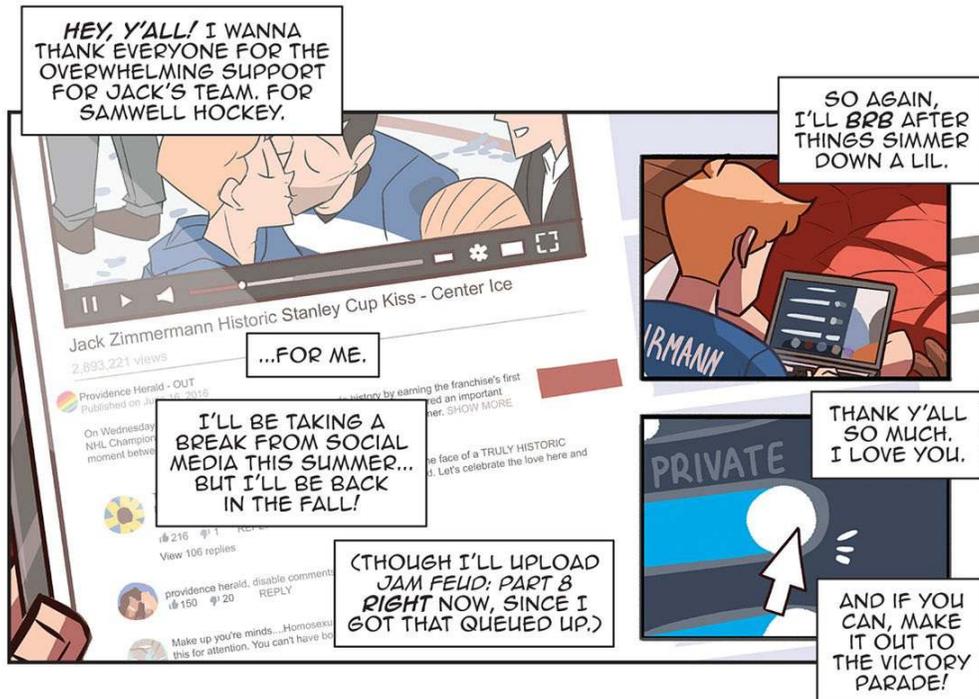




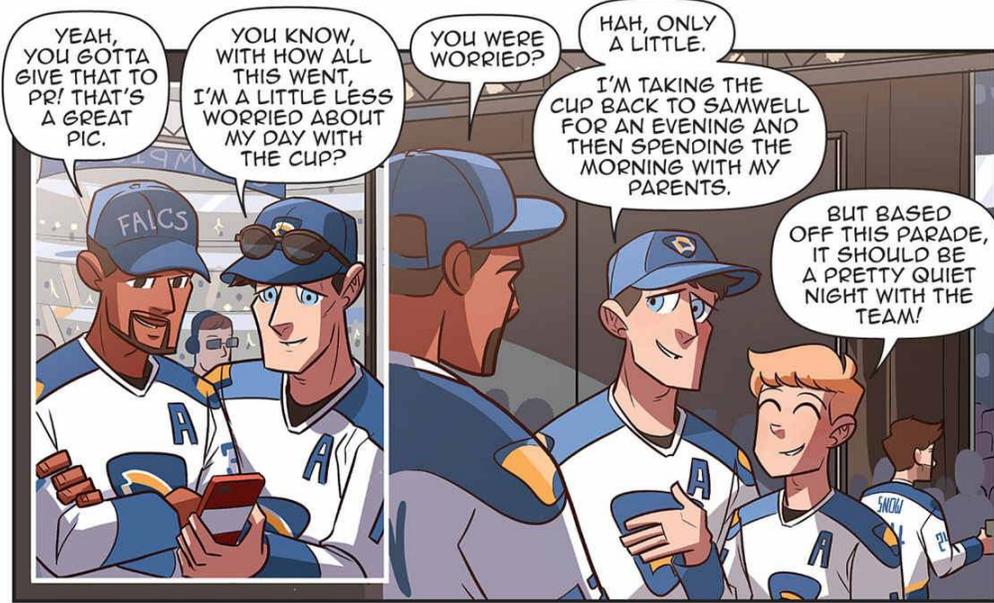


5

#KUPDAY







The Samwell Swallow

The Samwell Swallow Online | Volume 26 | Summer Edition 2



A REAL BARN BURNER!!!

STANLEY CUP CELLY LEAVES SAMWELL SCORCHING

SPECIAL EDITION | SUMMER SCANDAL

ATTENDEES CALL IT "HISTORIC" | HOCKEY TEAM WILL NOT DISCLOSE SOURCE OF FIRE | "HOTTEST RAGER SAMWELL HAS HAD IN 10 YRS LITERALLY" | "I HOOKED UP WITH 3 HOCKEY PLAYERS AND ONLY ONE OF THEM WENT TO SAMWELL"

SPOTTED: FALCS, BRUINS, THAT ONE GUY FROM THAT NETFLIX SHOW, SEXY FIREMEN, YOUR BELOVED SWALLOW EDITORS, A REPREHENSIBLE COUCH!



OUR SWEATY NIGHT WITH STANLEY

We here at the *Swallow* remain dedicated to providing you, dear reader, with reports on the juiciest Wellie gossip and coverage on the raunchiest Samwell orgies. Imagine how *beside ourselves* we were, when we learned our favorite (and now gayest!!) alum of our favorite (far from the gayest!!) athletics cult was coming home with the STANLEY CUP.

That's right! **JACK ZIMMERMANN '15**, newly proud and historic gay of the NHL, angst boy, and a *Swallow's* **50 Most Gold Star**, returned with some serious hardware. We know most Wellies only watch sports by accident, but even the most reclusive Adderall-riddled biochem major knows that **JACK ZIMMERMANN** came out on national TV after the Super Bowl. (Basically.)



Our staffers caught several glimpses of the famed Hockey Cup amidst all of the grinding and binge-drinking, and even spotted current hockey captain **ERIC BITTLE '17** with his beau before the two mysteriously disappeared—with the Stanley Cup. Only Lord Stanley knows how his trophy was later *defiled!* Hopefully, not reenacting Jack's first brush with the trophy??? (...Yuck!)



Anonymous Hockey Player Tells All!

"Uh, well, I've been here all summer cuttin' grass and stuff at the golf course?? So it's cool that Jack Zimmermann came by with the Cup and stuff. I got to, like, touch it and stuff??? It's real cool..."

"Well, it's cold because it's metal. **I think.** But yeah... then the Kegster kinda just happened. There's my team...the Falcs...I think a lot of these kids go to other schools???"

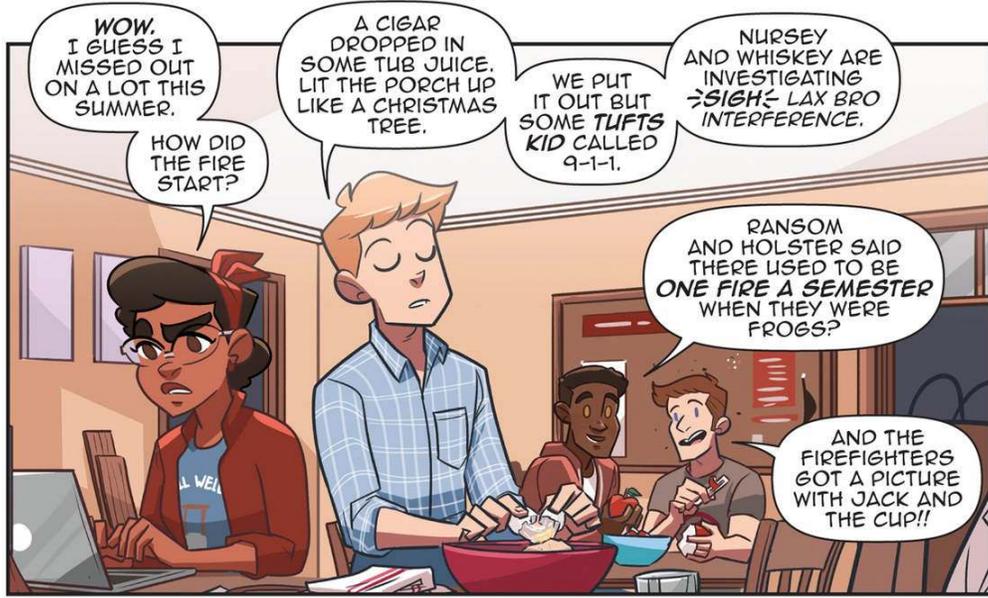
"...Wait, uh, is that a fire on the porch?"

"Uh-oh...BITTY-"



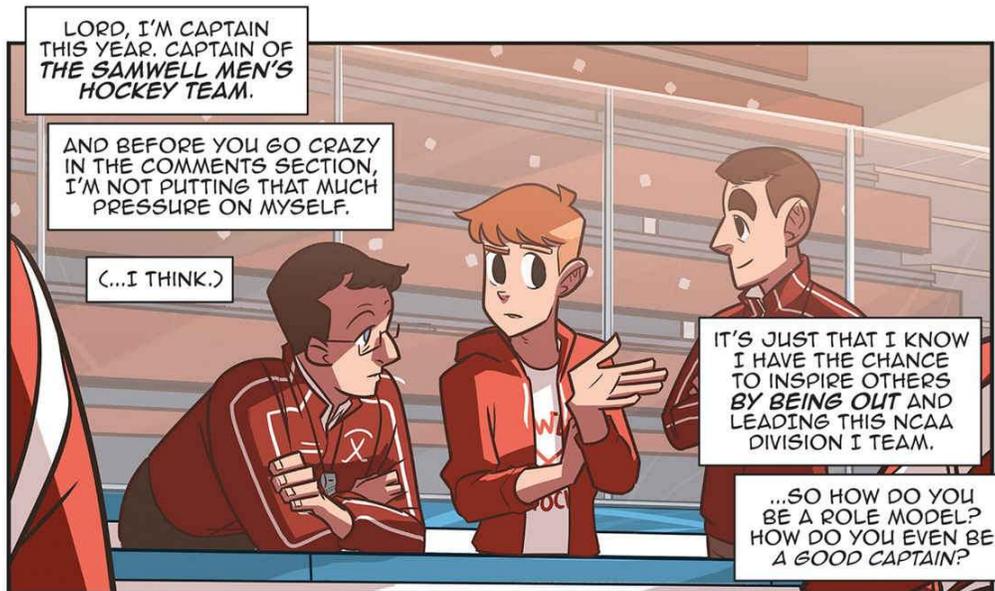
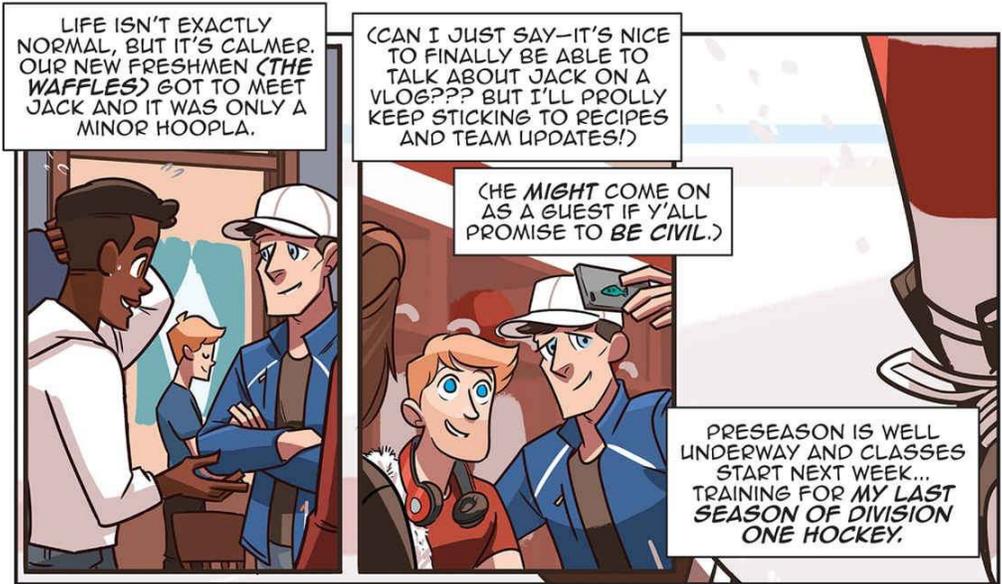
We at the *Swallow* are professional gossipmongers. By the time that one pap showed up, the bacchanalia was over.

Covering college parties? *Well, you're our kind of garbage*, but SMH is our beat, fuck you very much!!

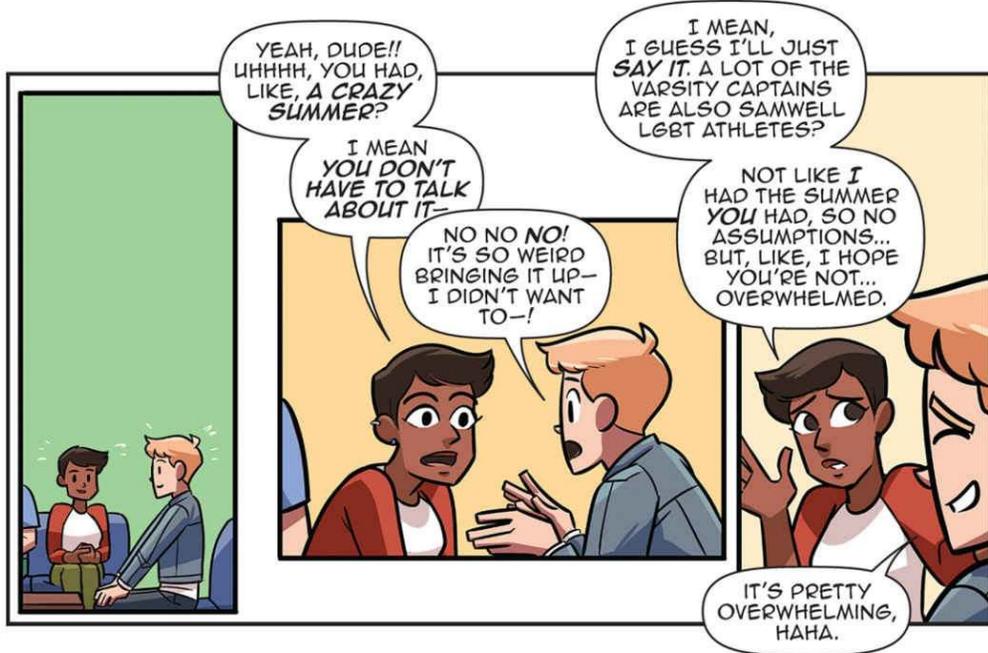


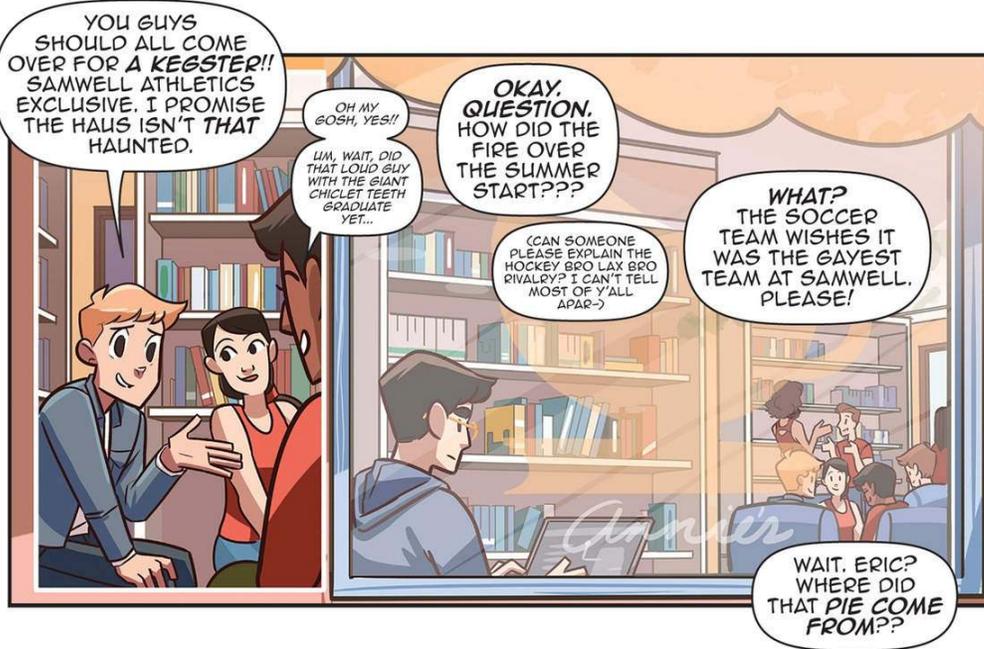
VARSITY CAPTAINS



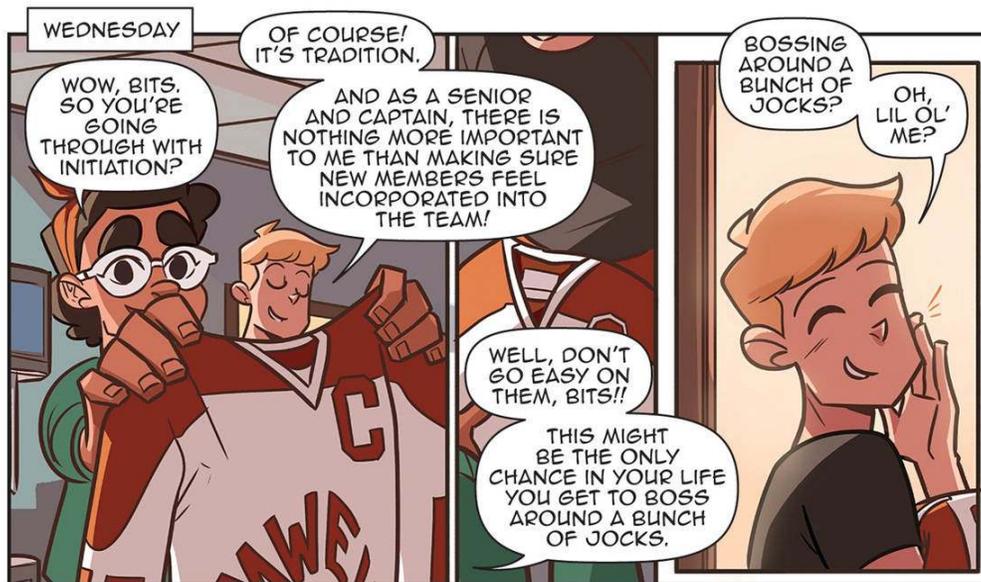


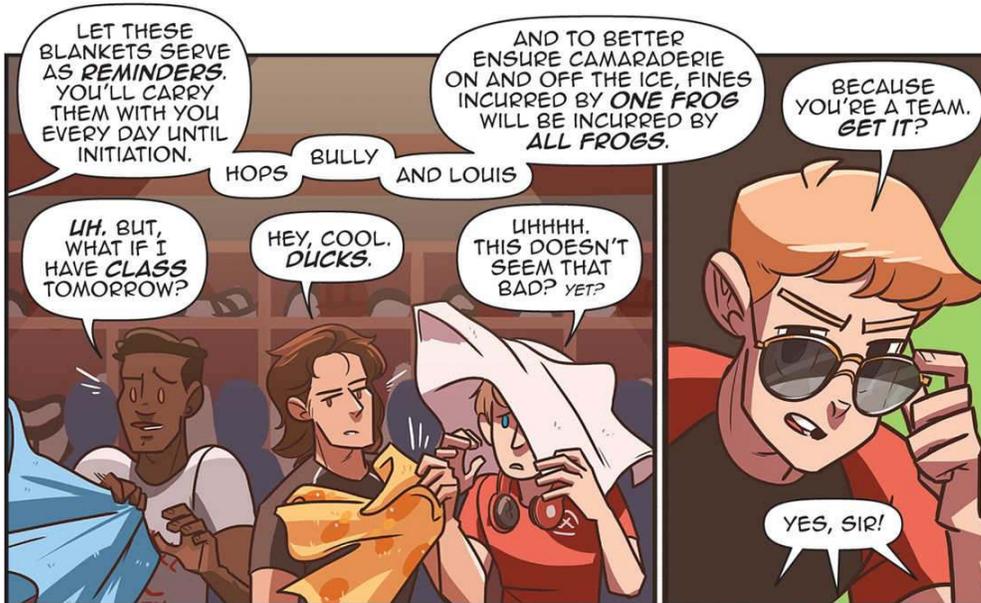


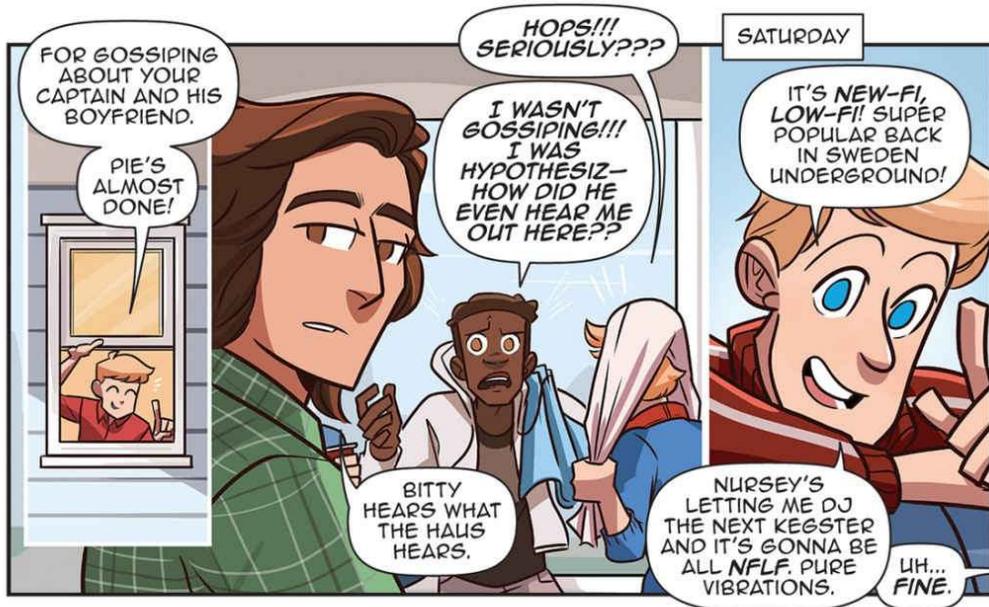
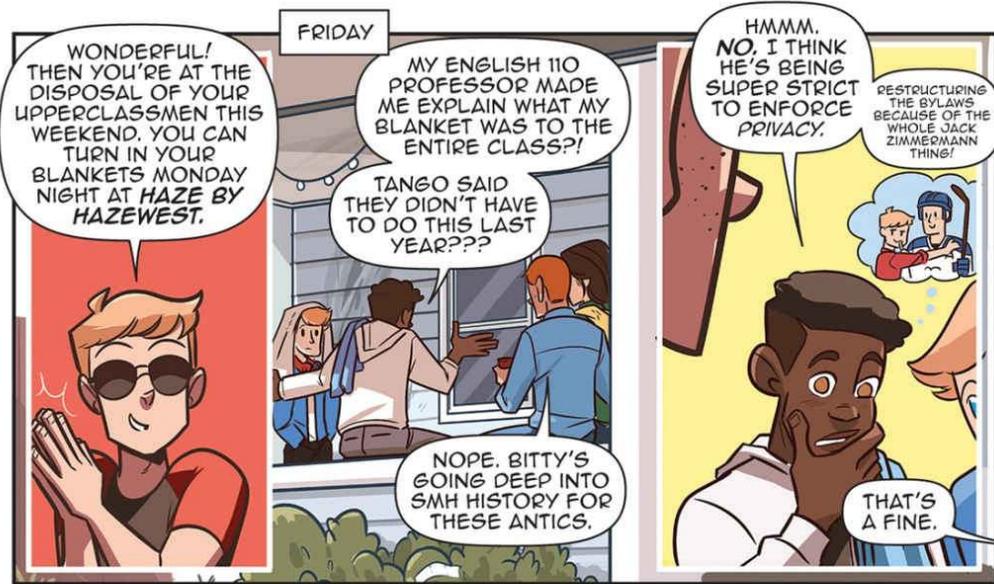


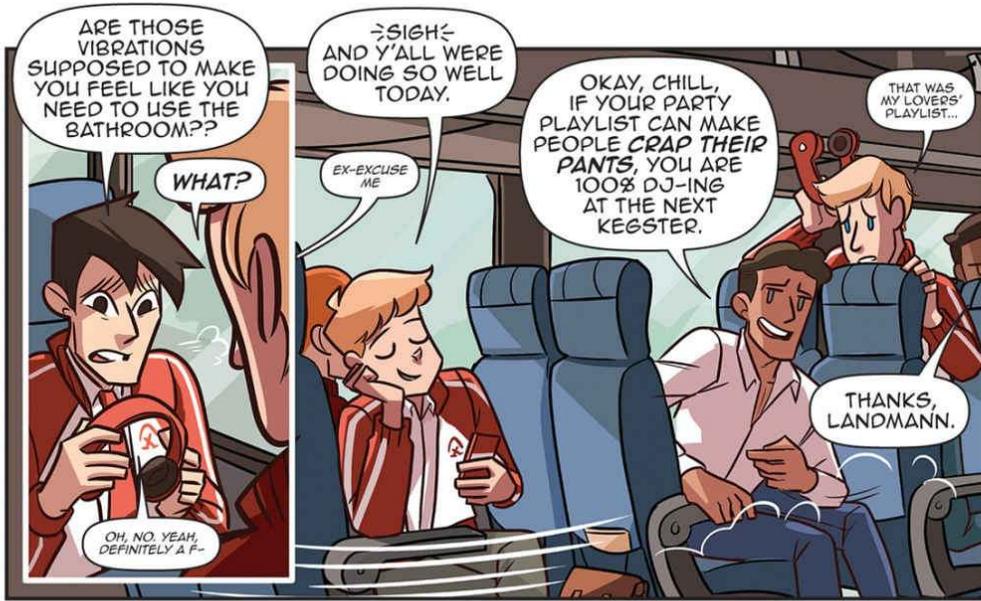


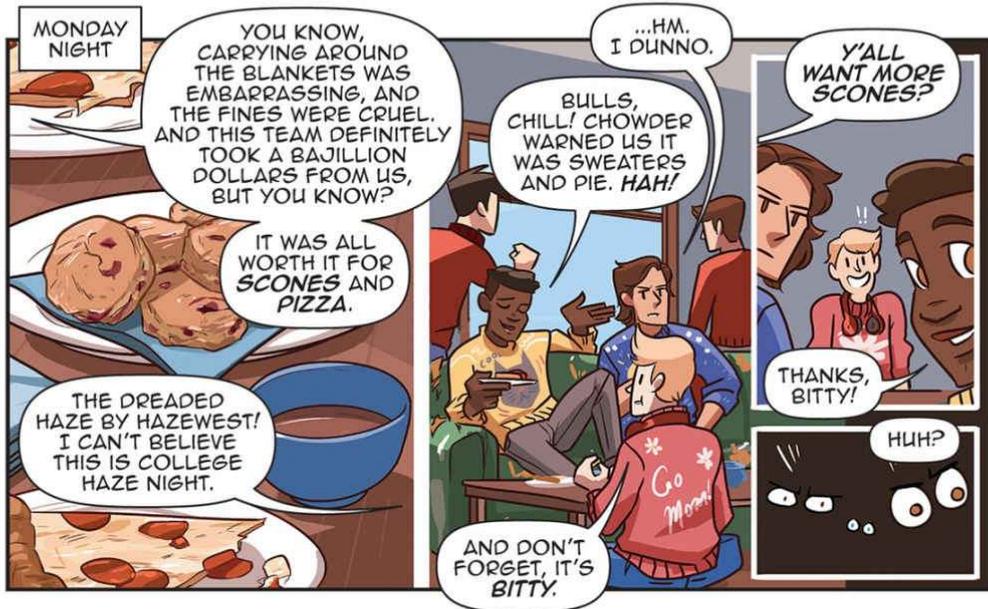
HAZE BY HAZEWEST: ROOKIE BLANKET

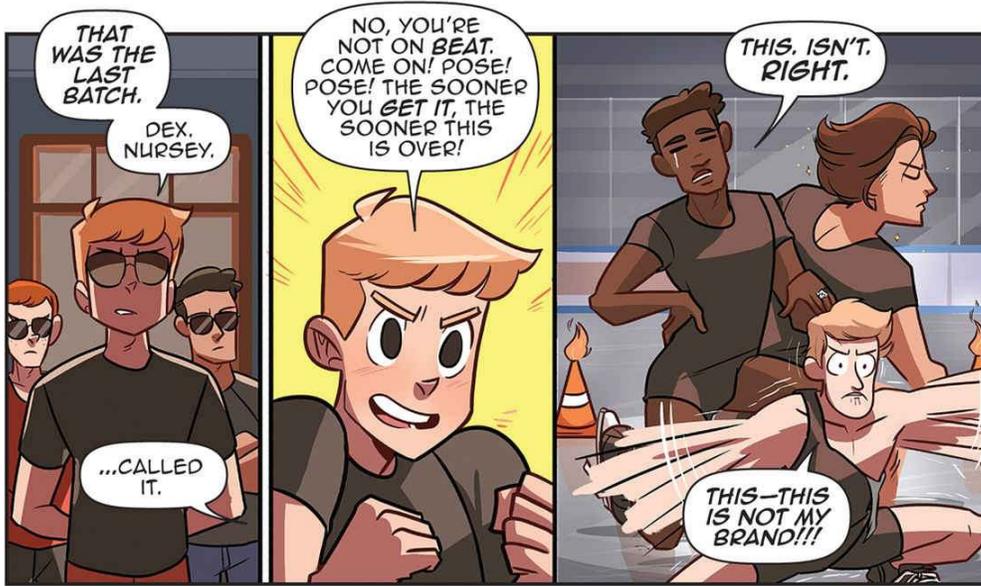






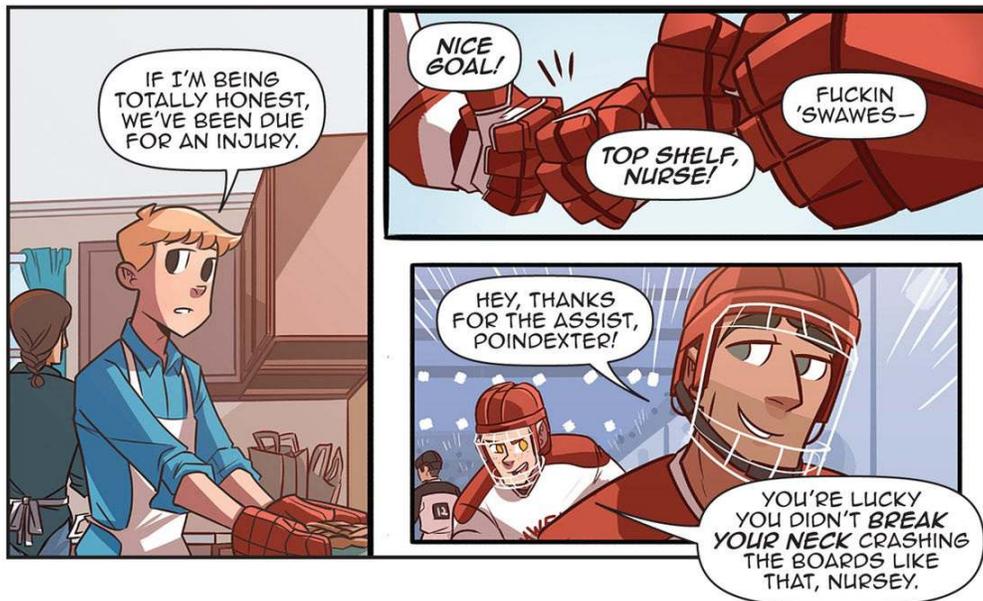




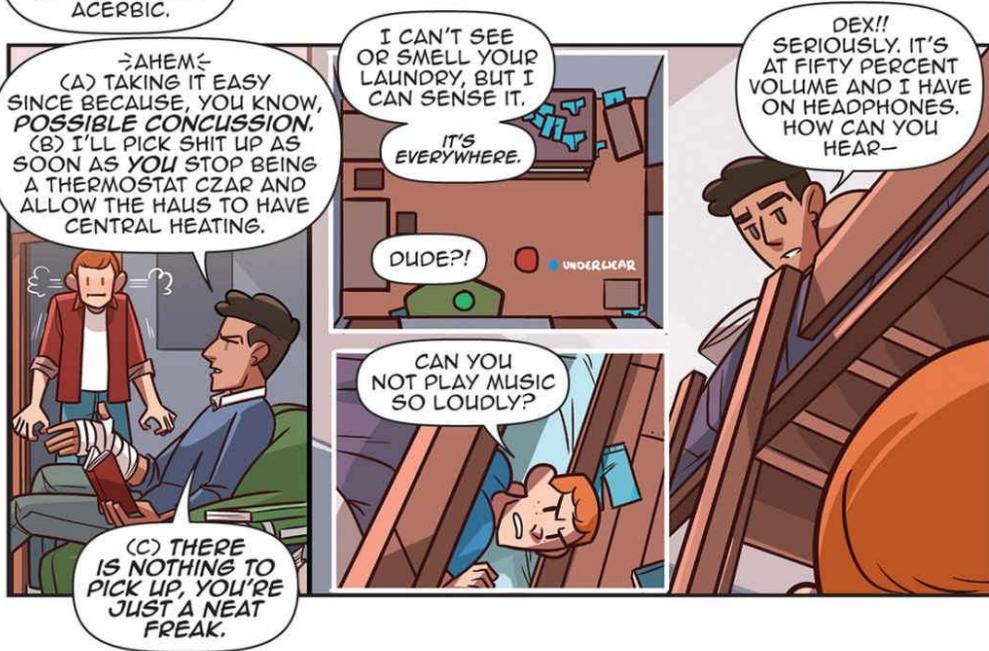


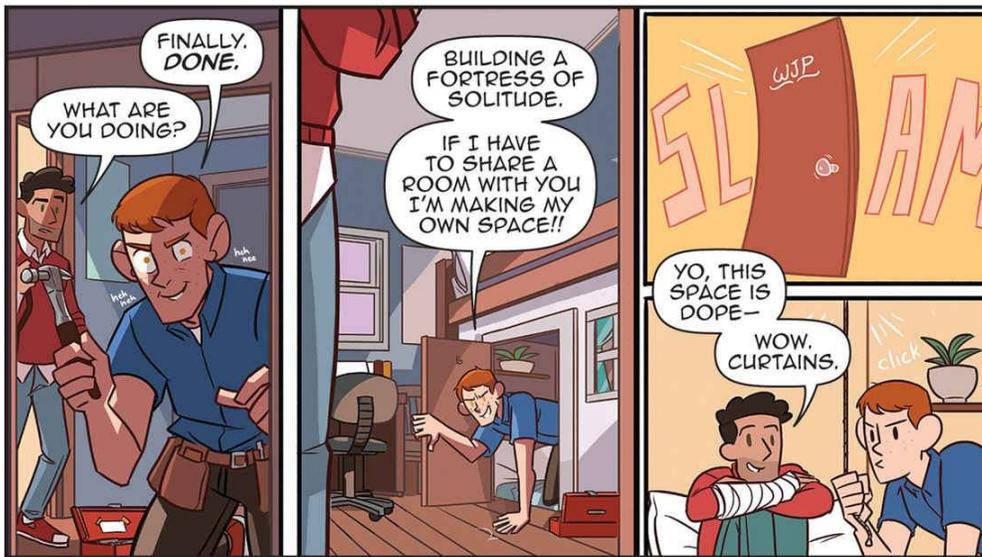
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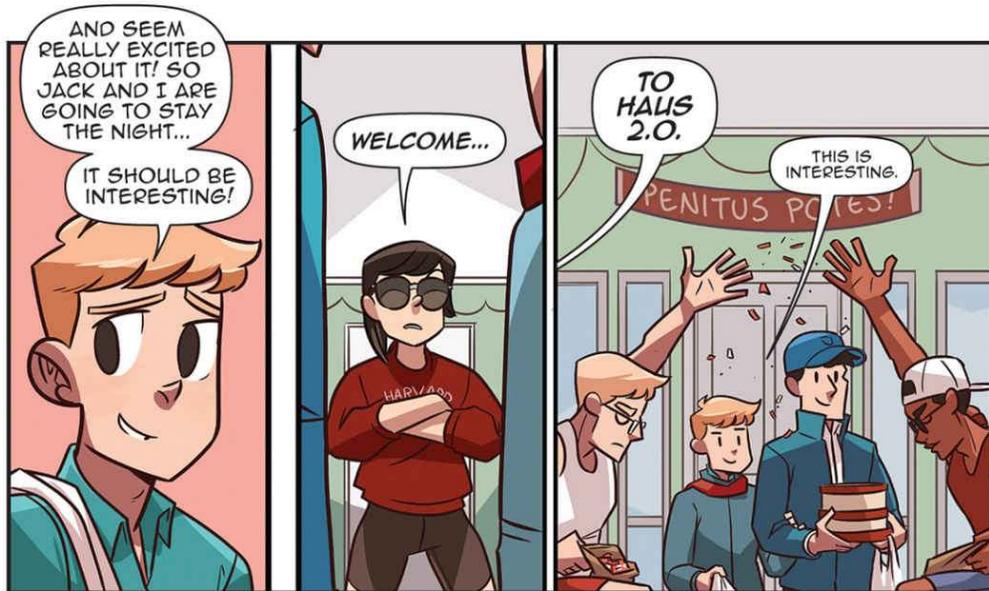
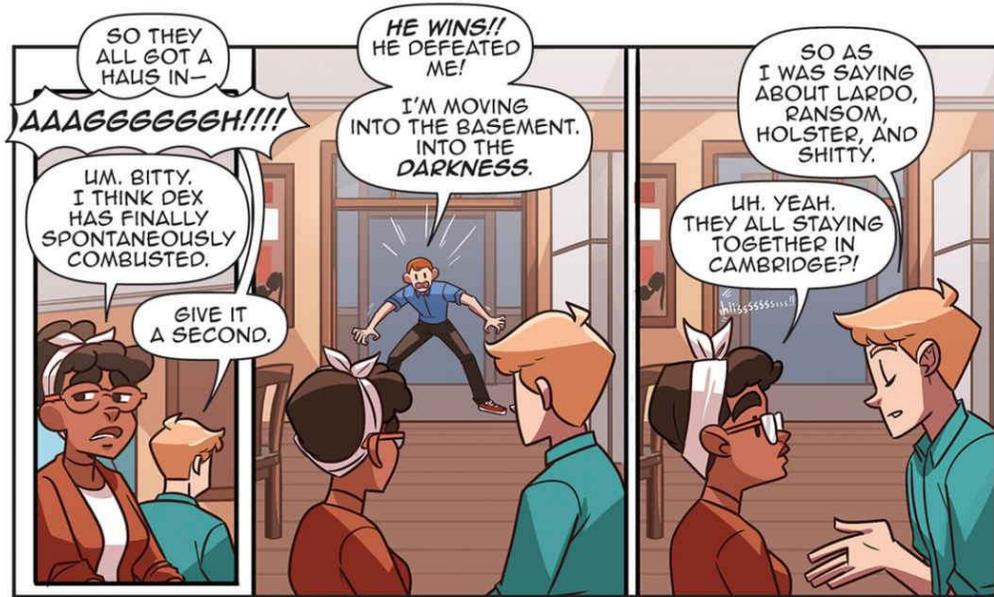
HAUS 2.0

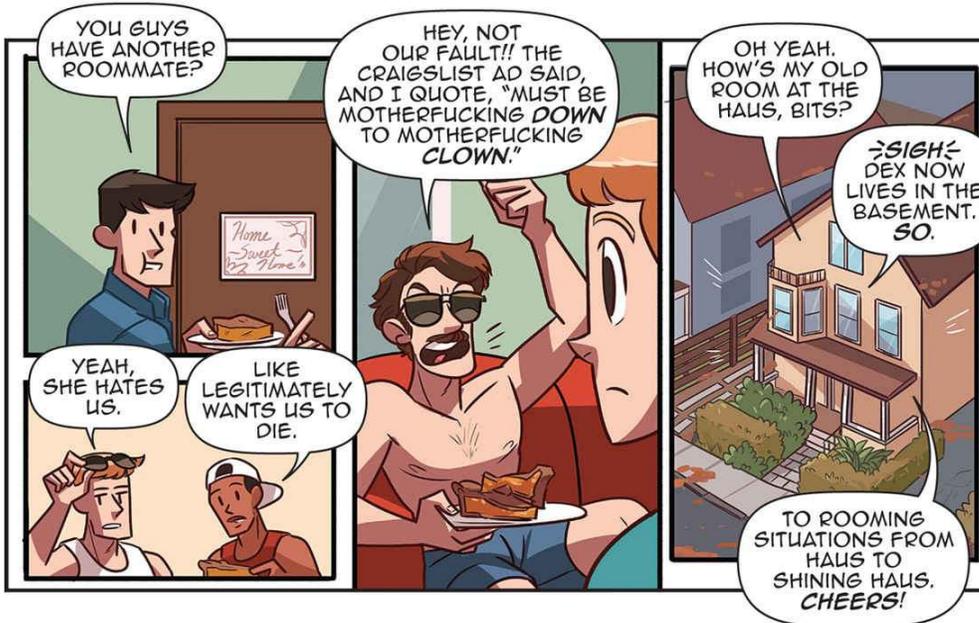
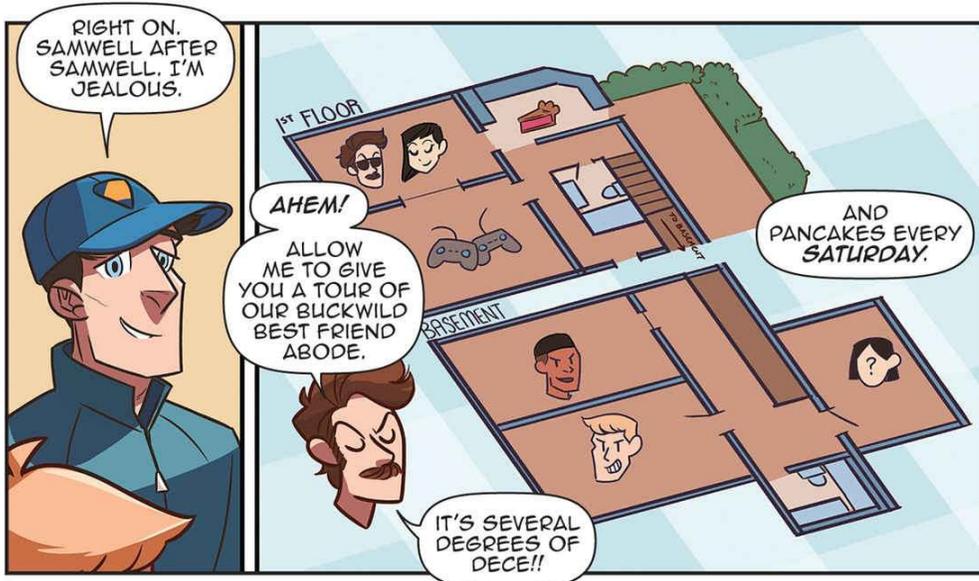






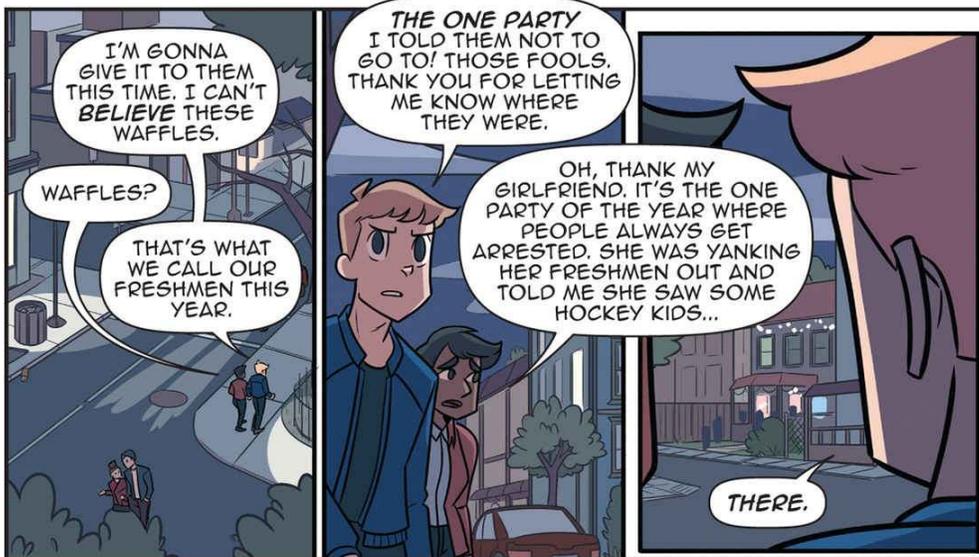
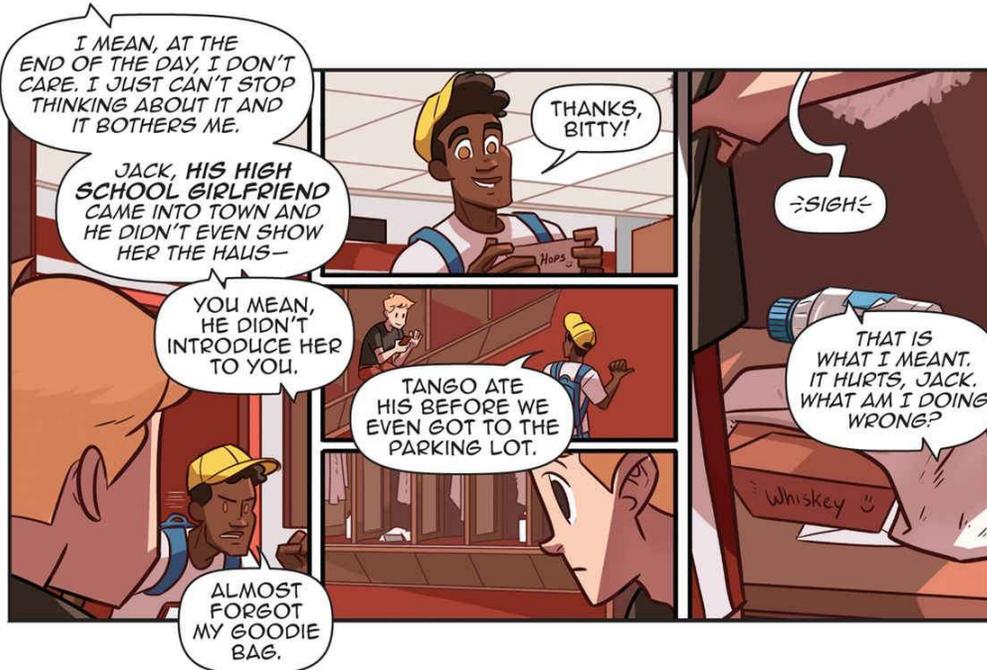


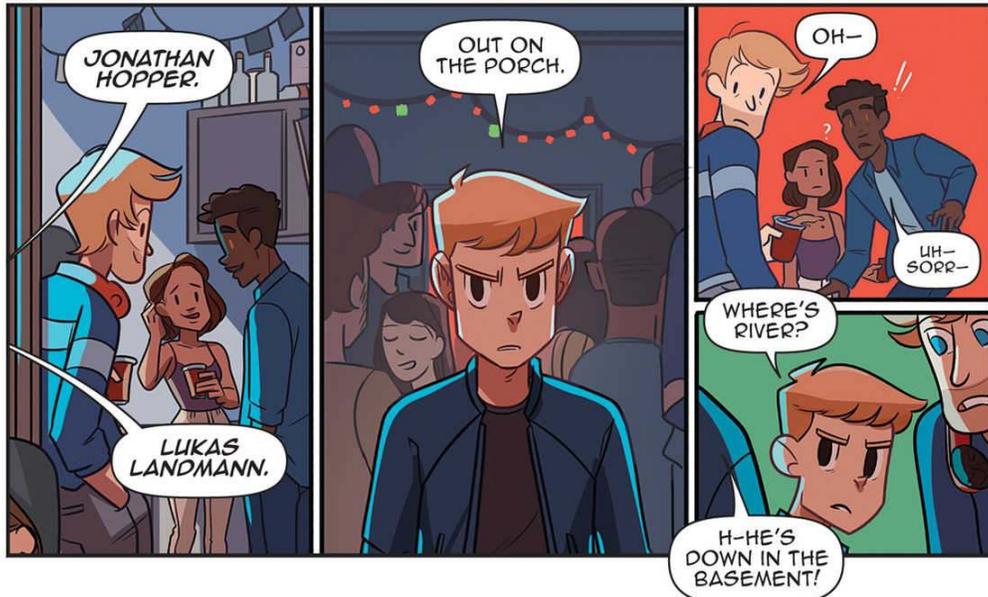




WHISKEY









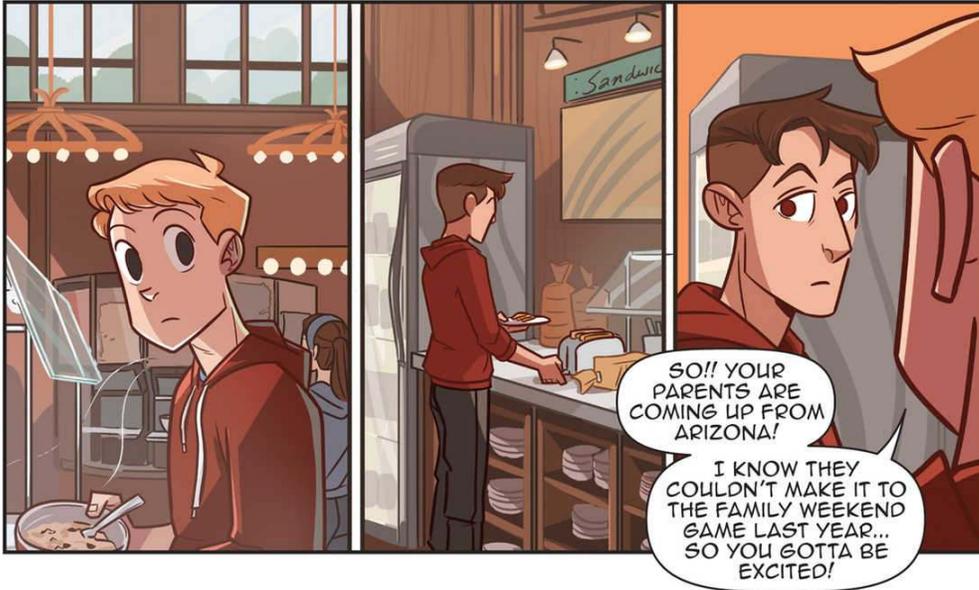


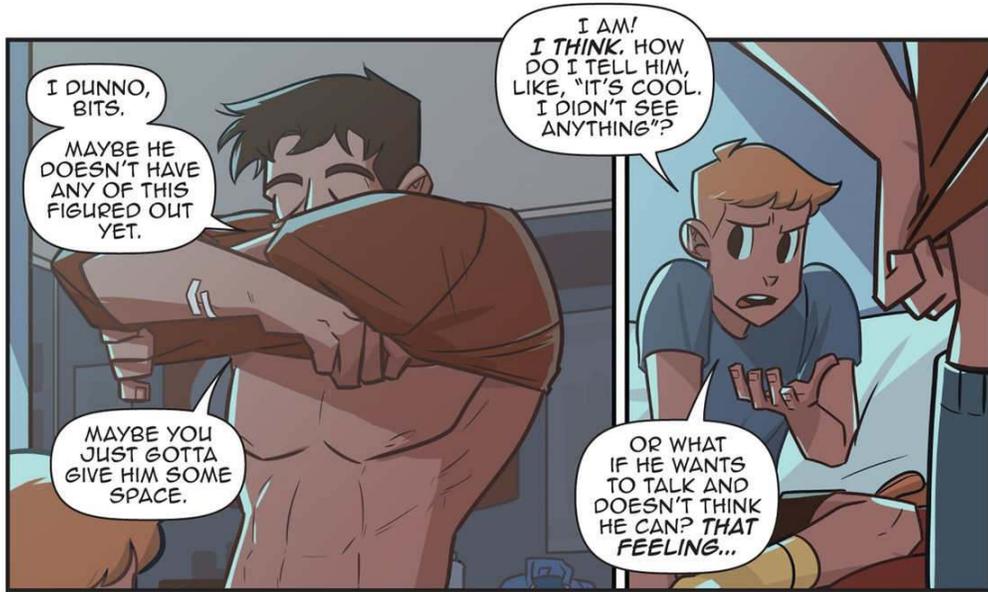


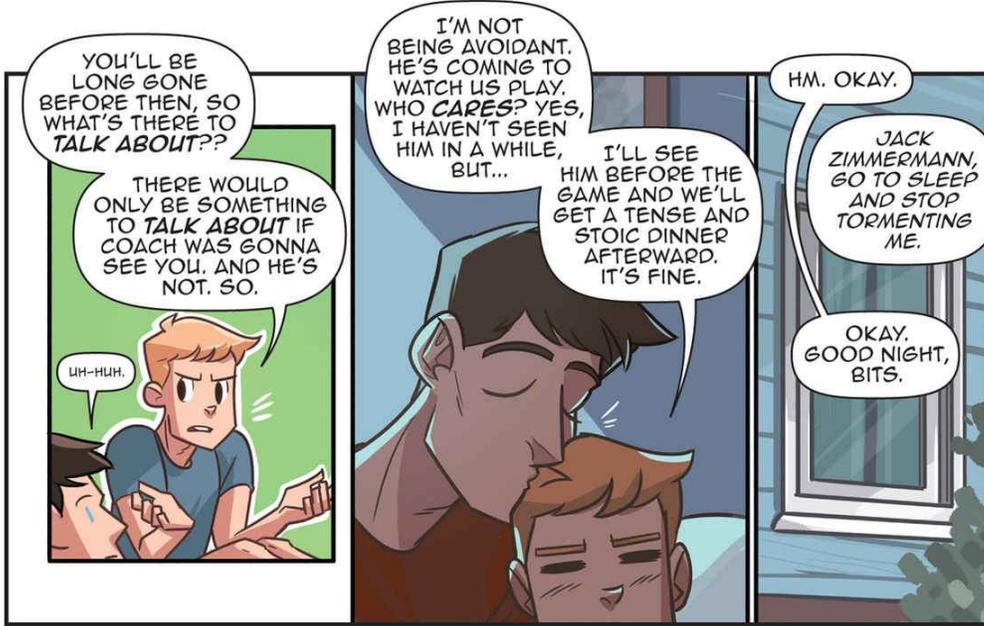
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COACH — I



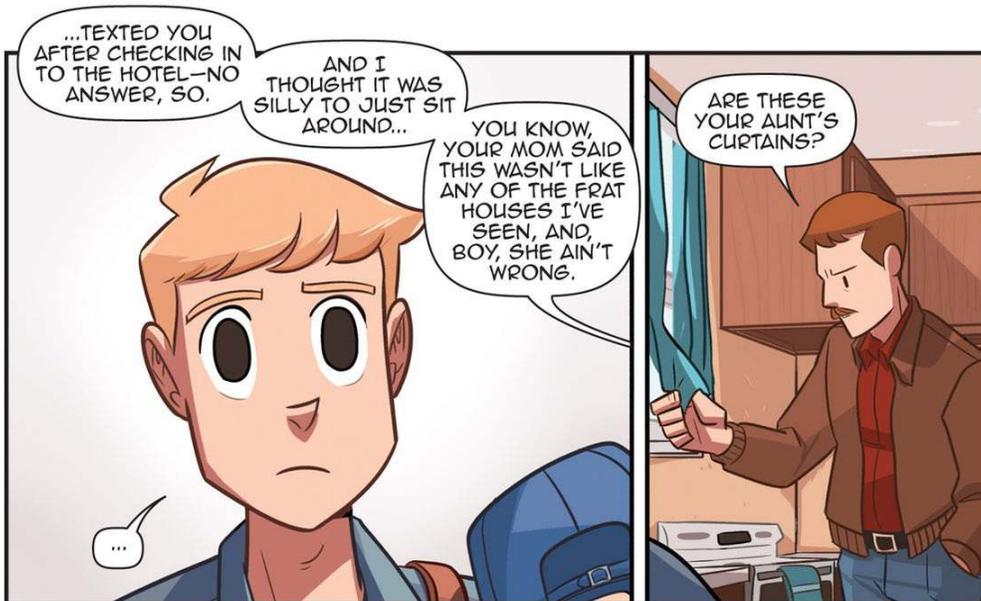






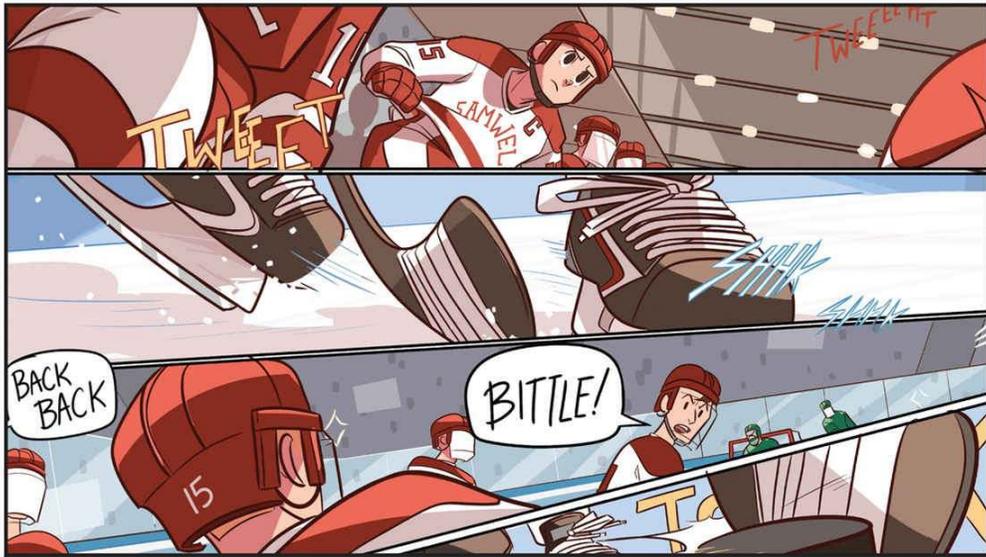


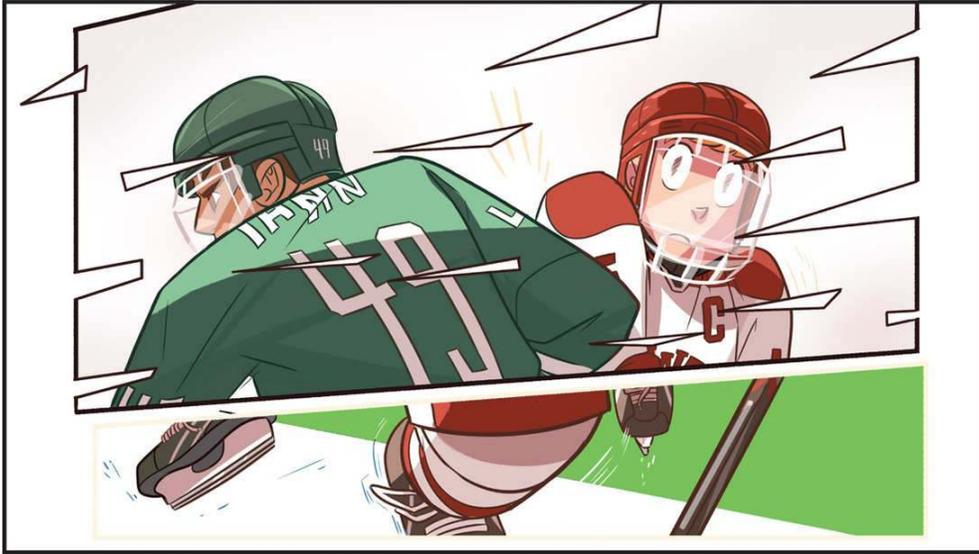
COACH — II



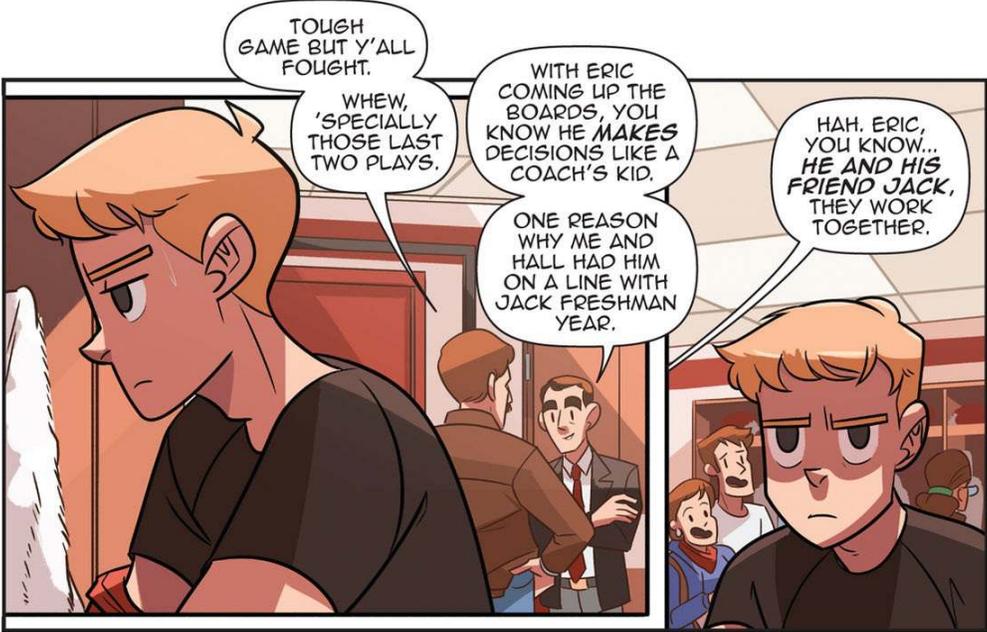




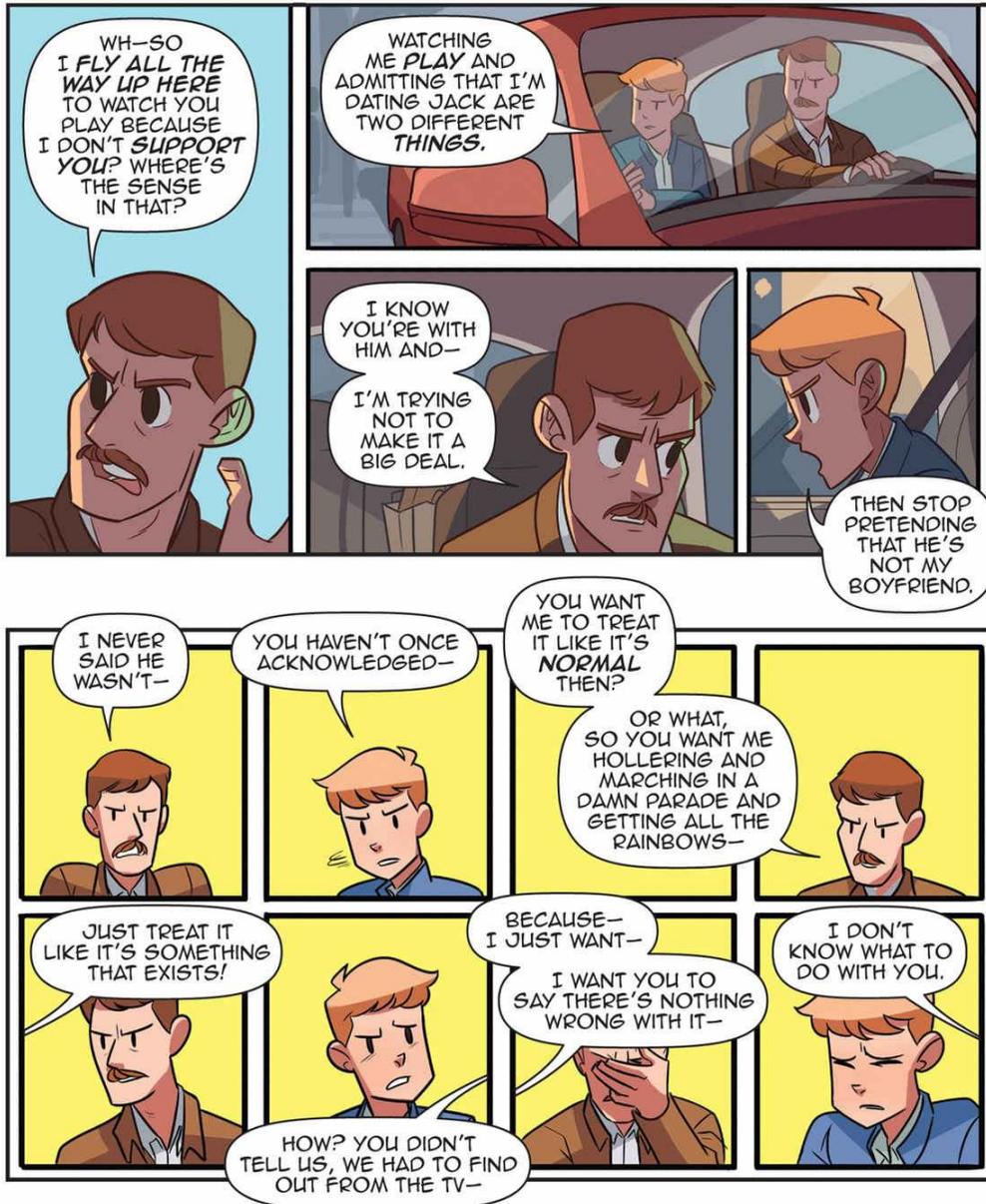




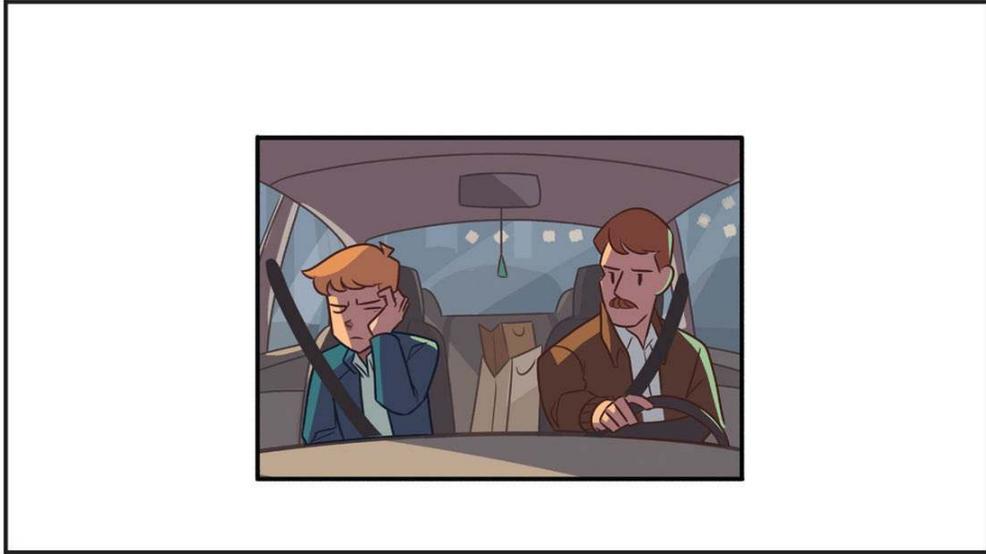
COACH — III







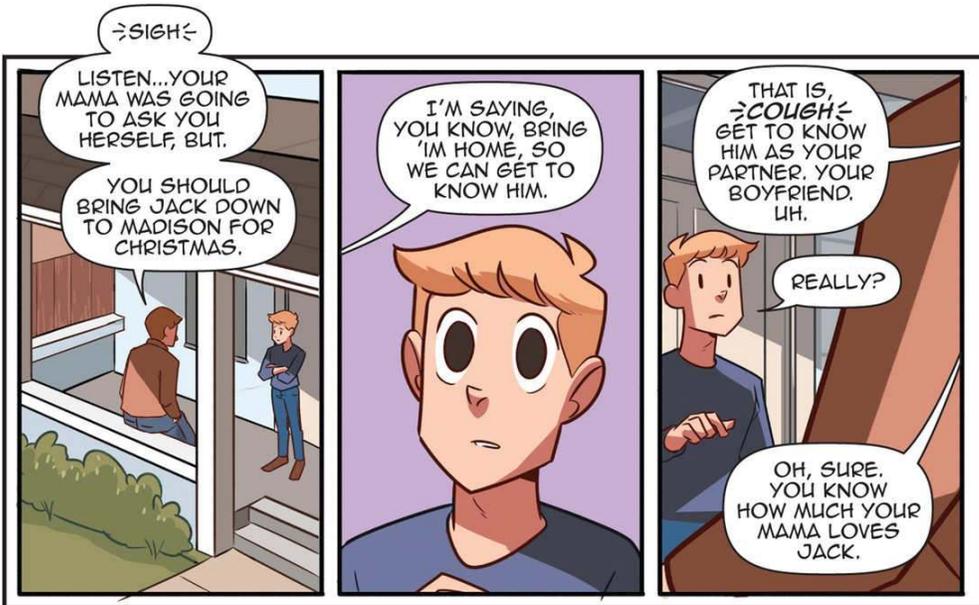






COACH — IV



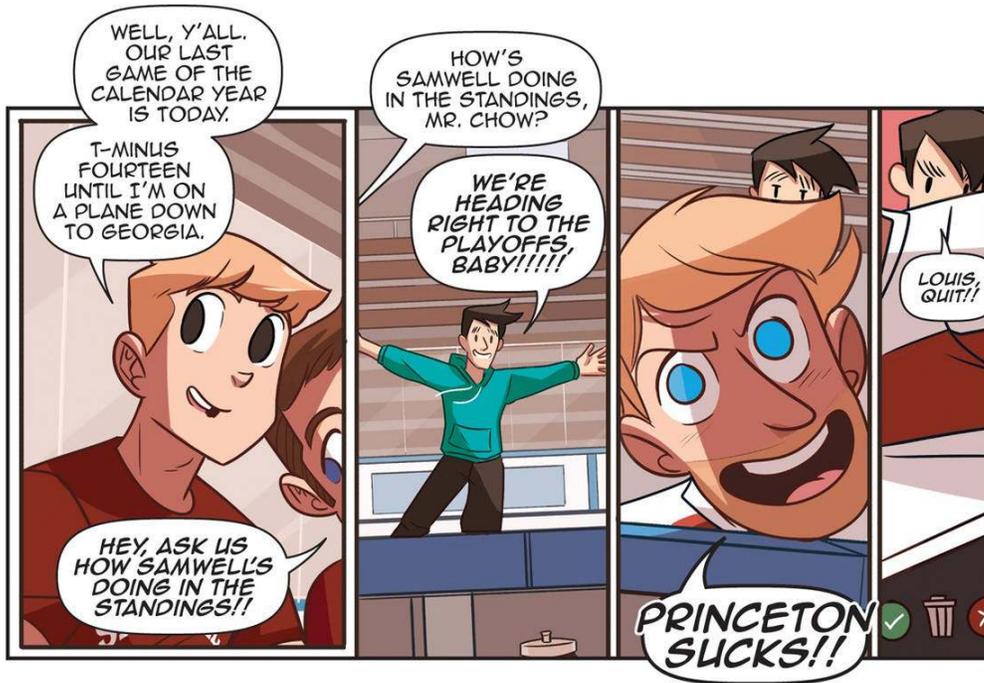




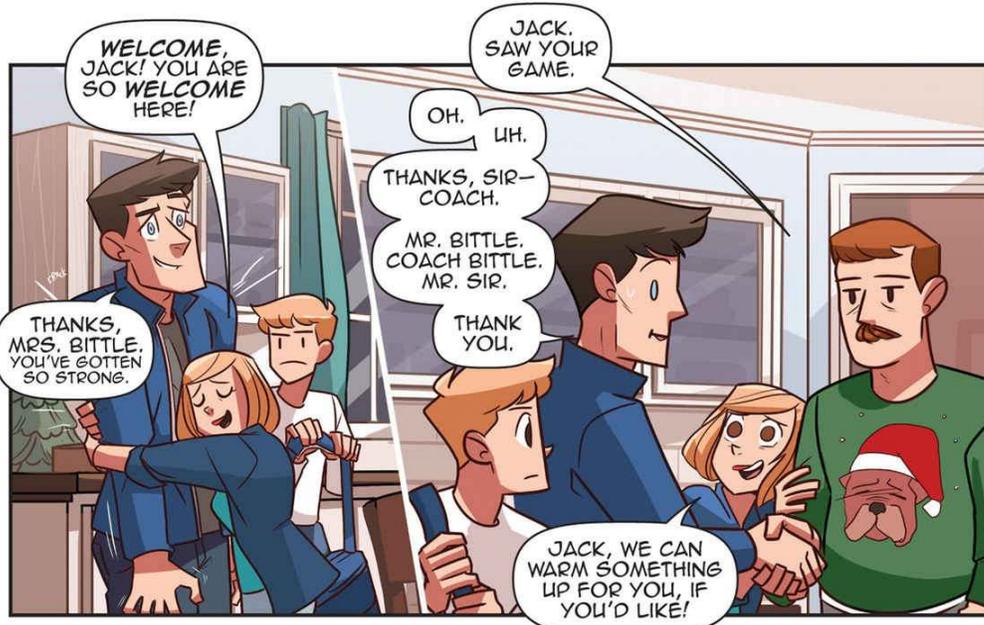


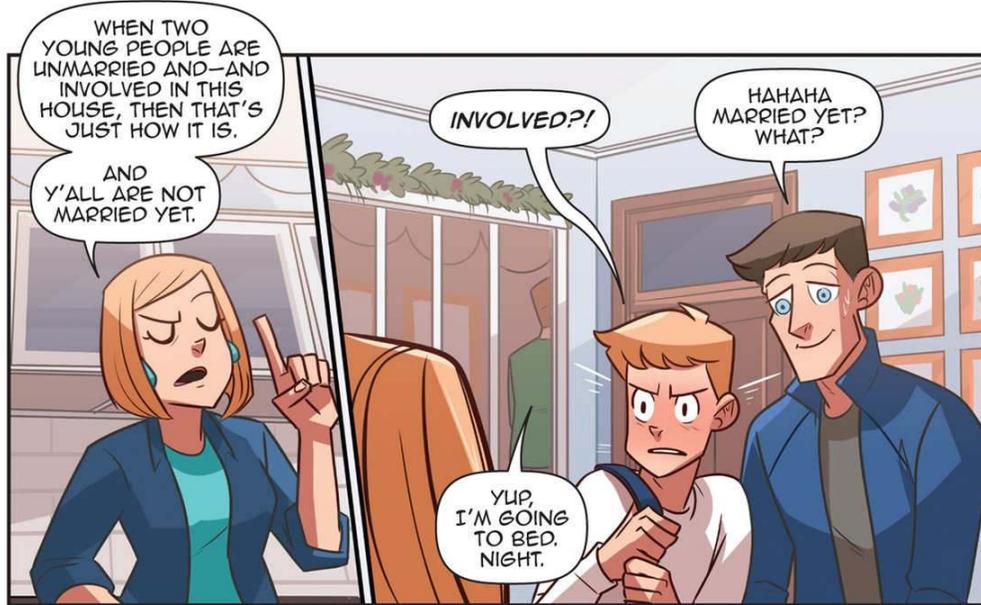


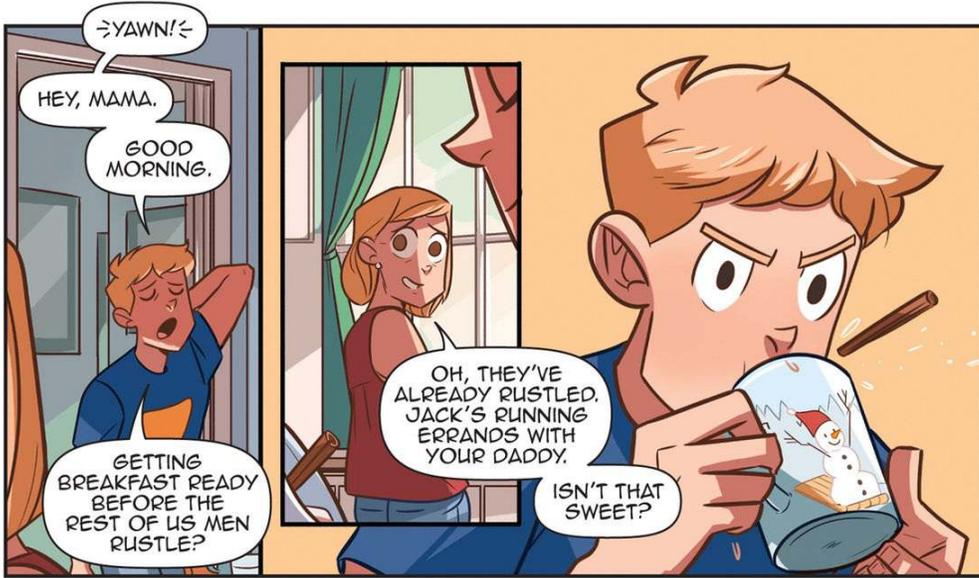
CHRISTMAS IN MADISON — I





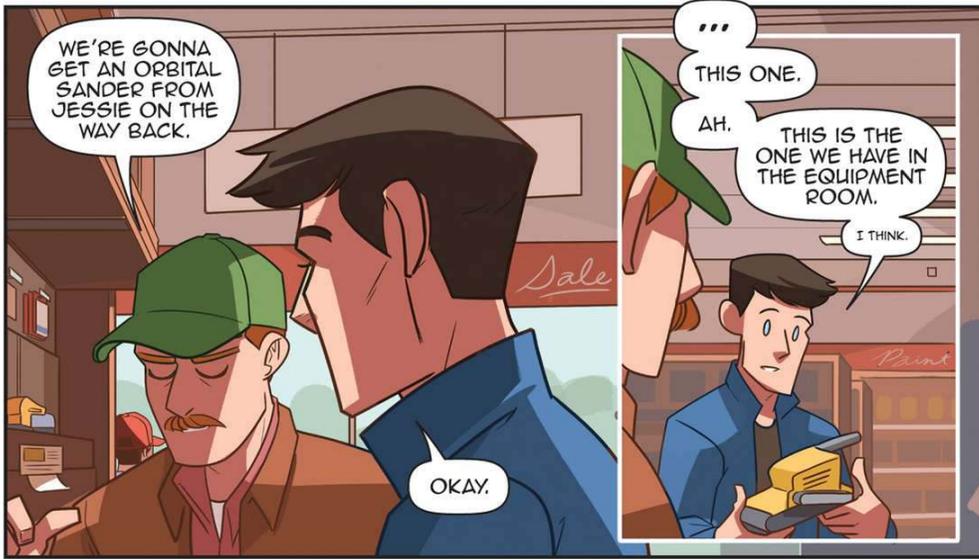




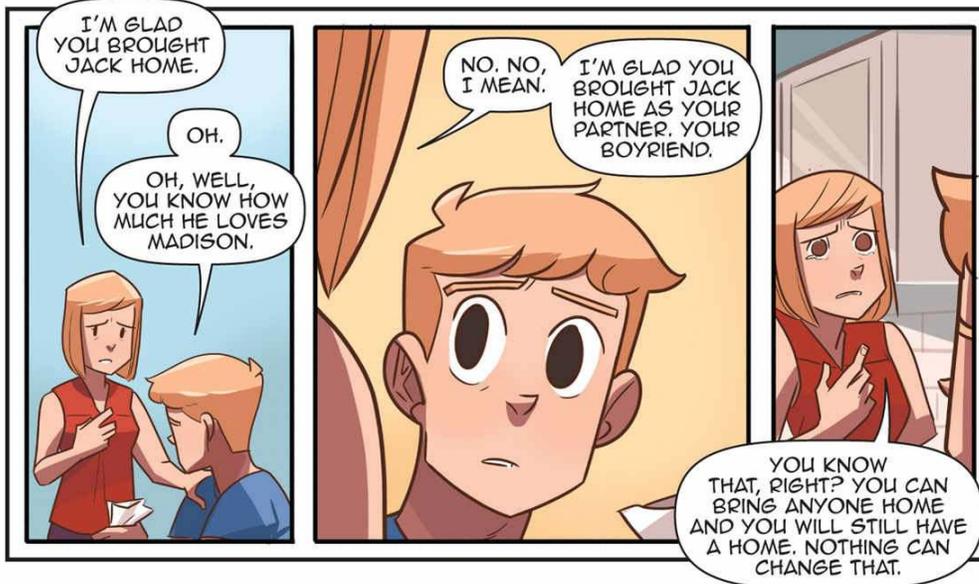


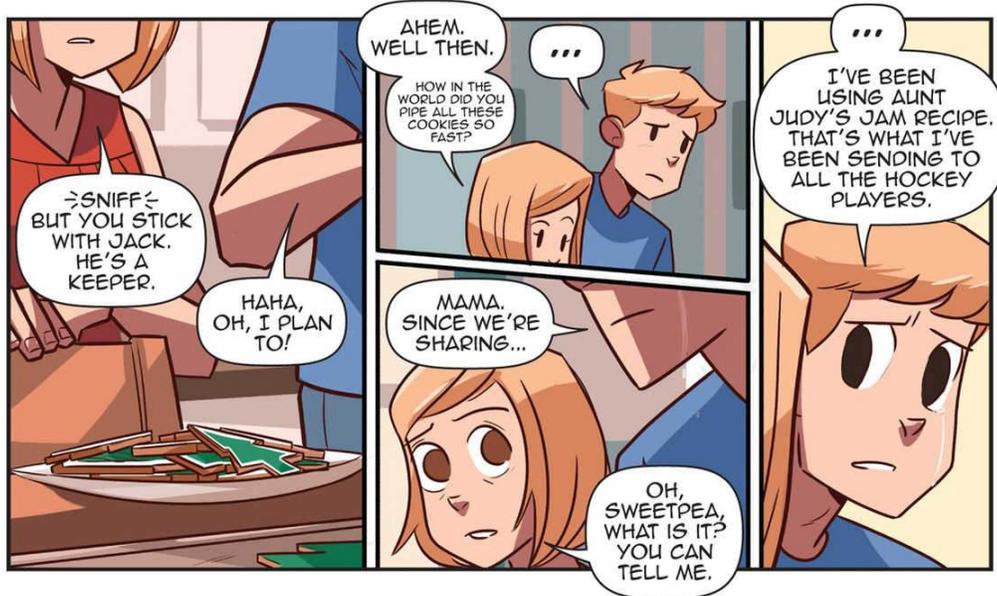
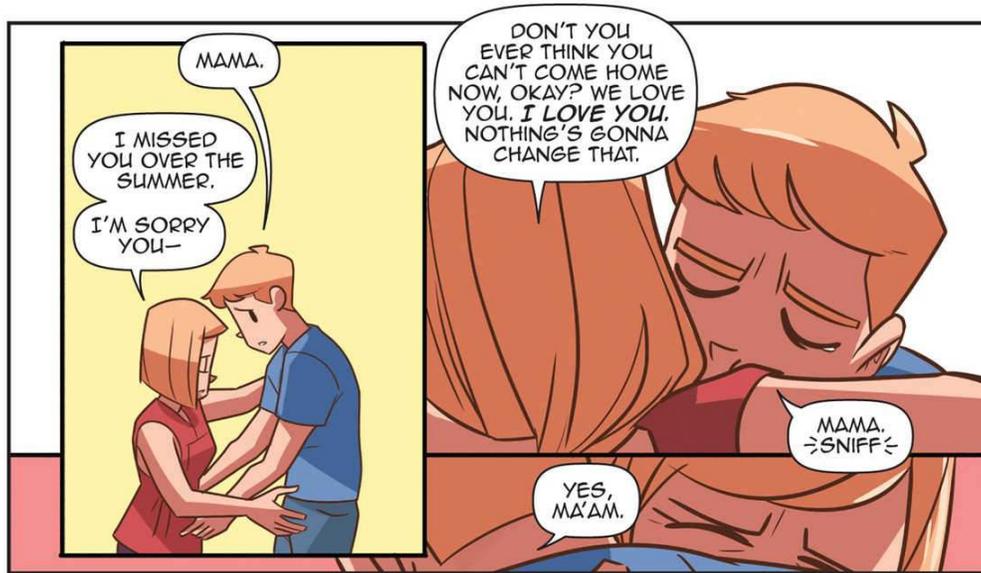
CHRISTMAS IN MADISON — II







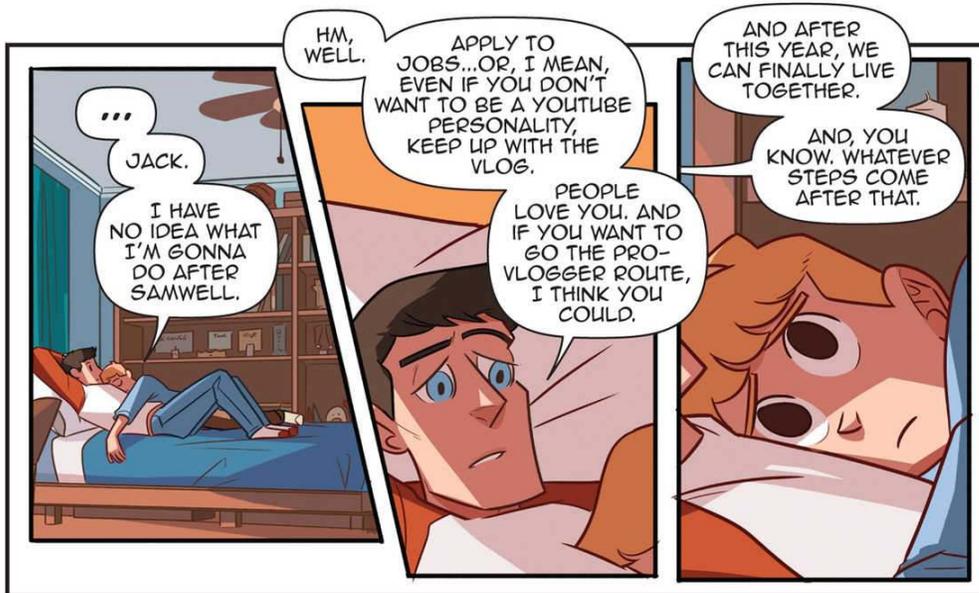






CHRISTMAS IN MADISON — III

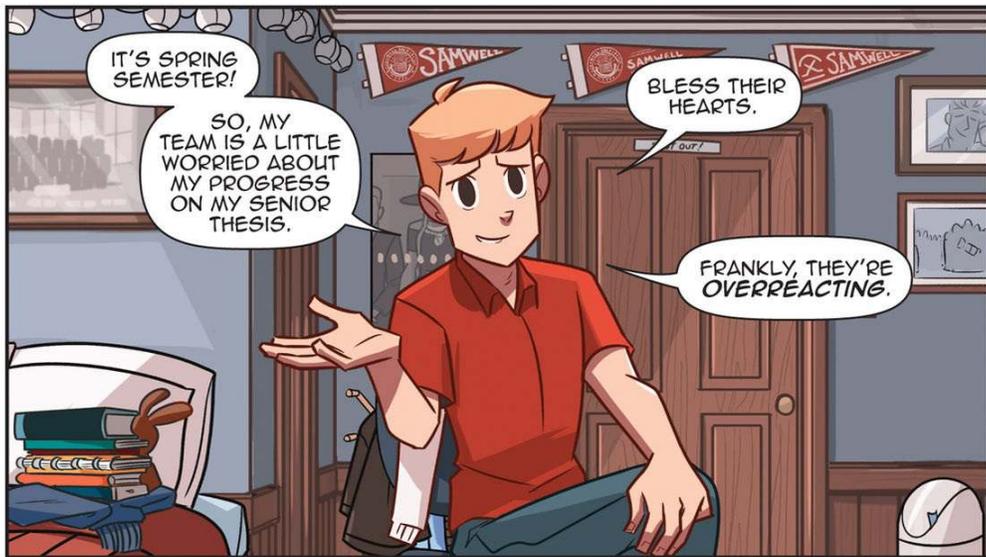


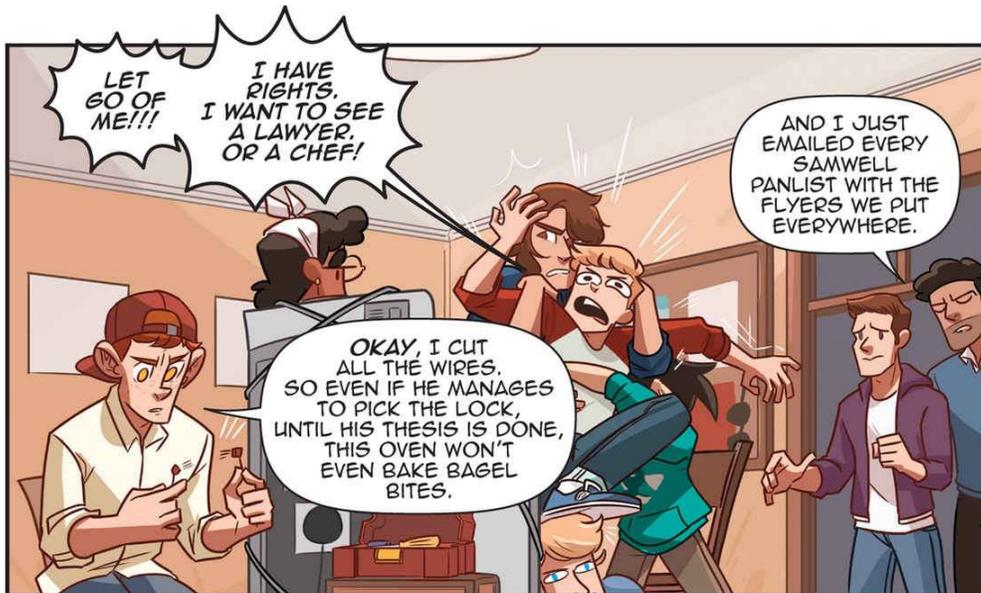






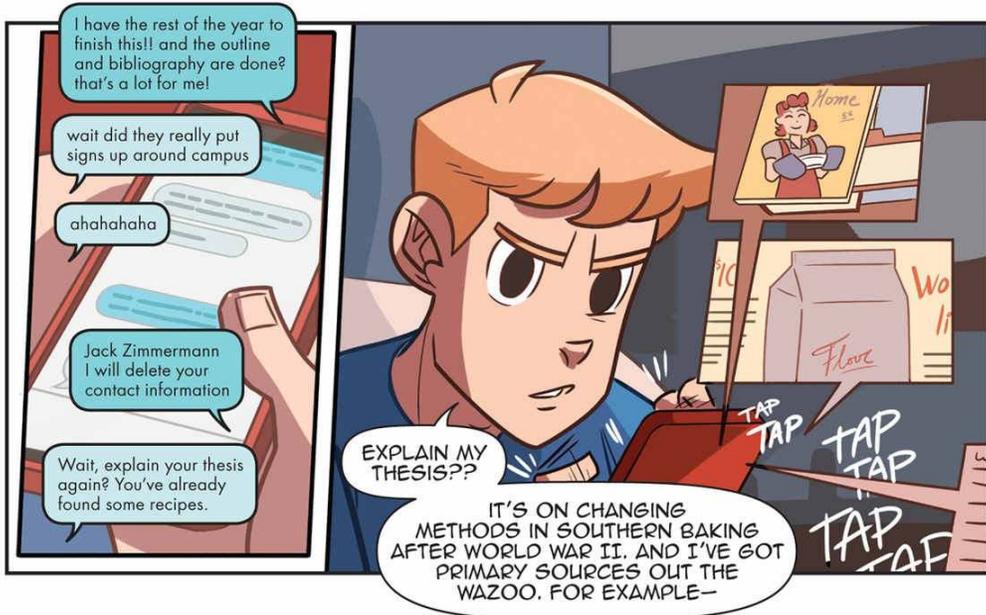
SENIOR THESIS



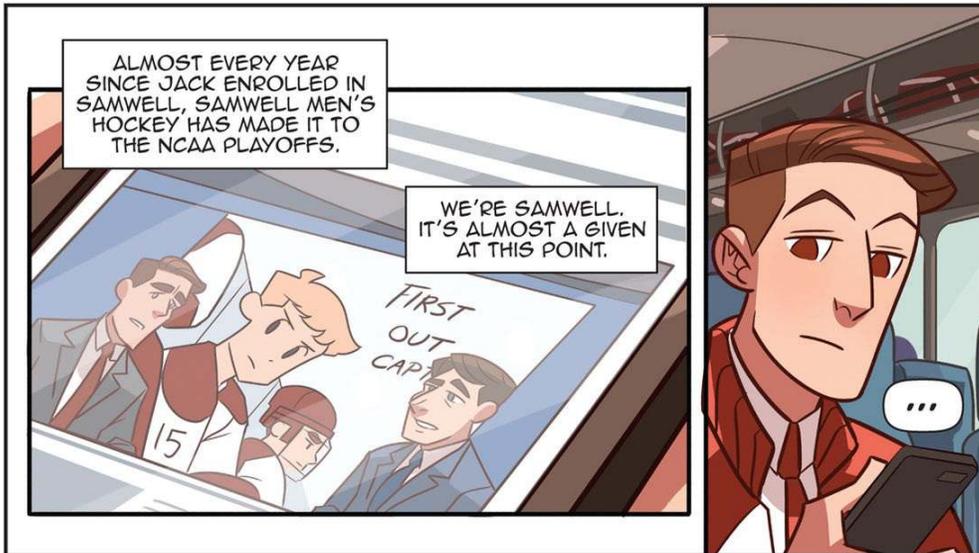




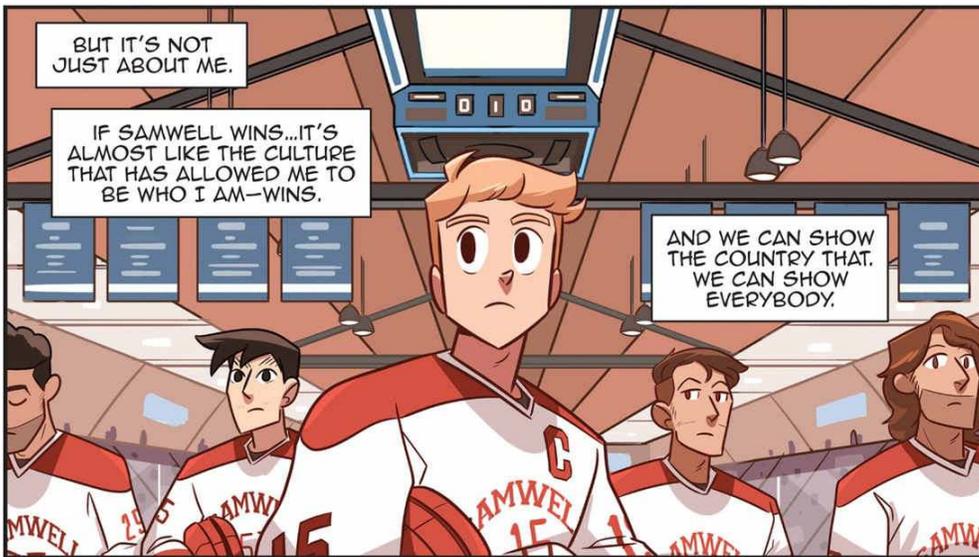


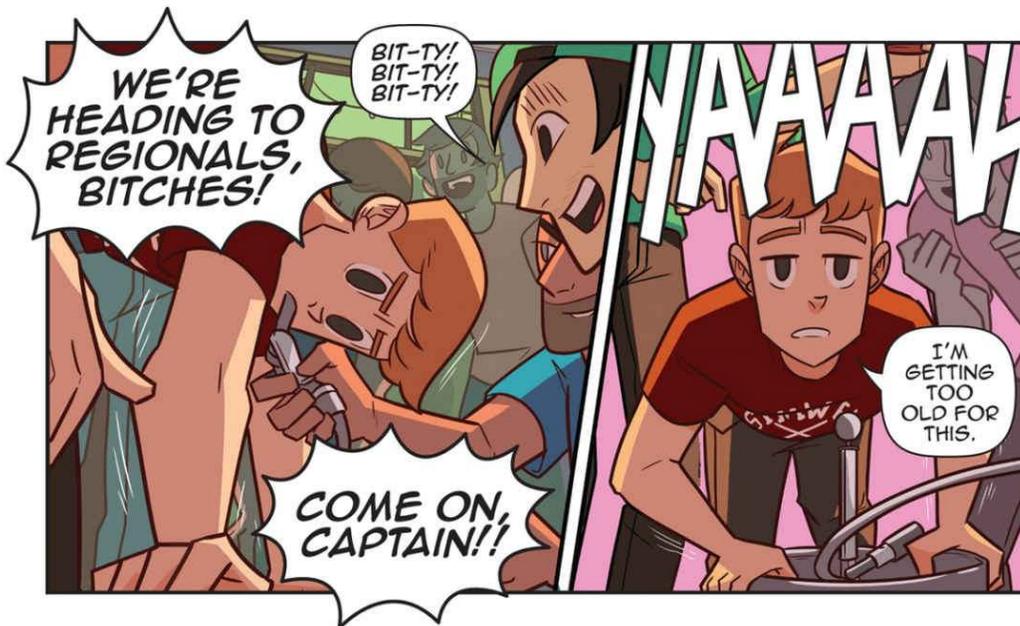


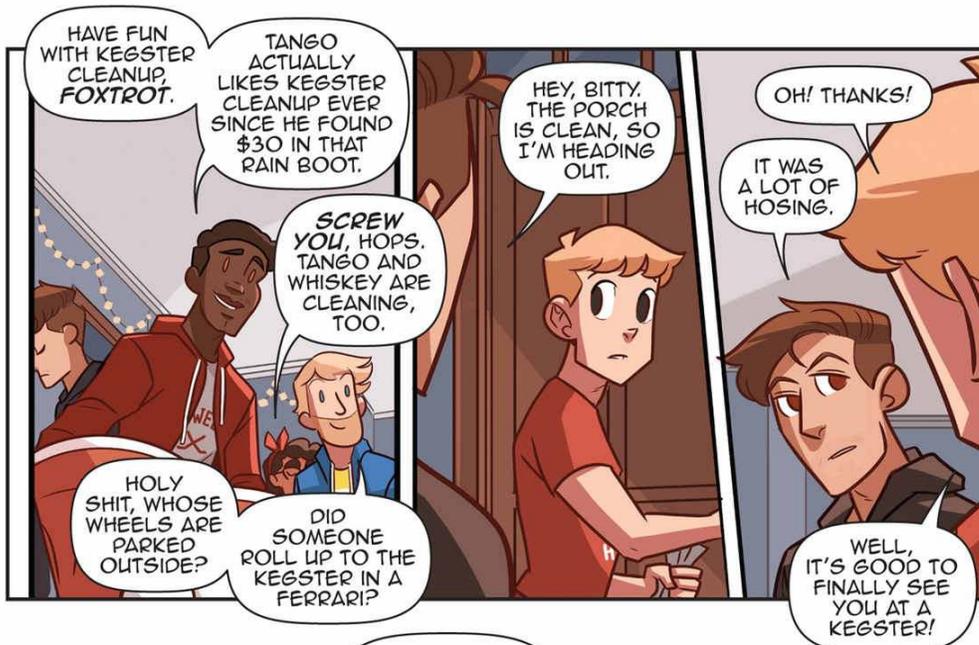
PLAYOFFS













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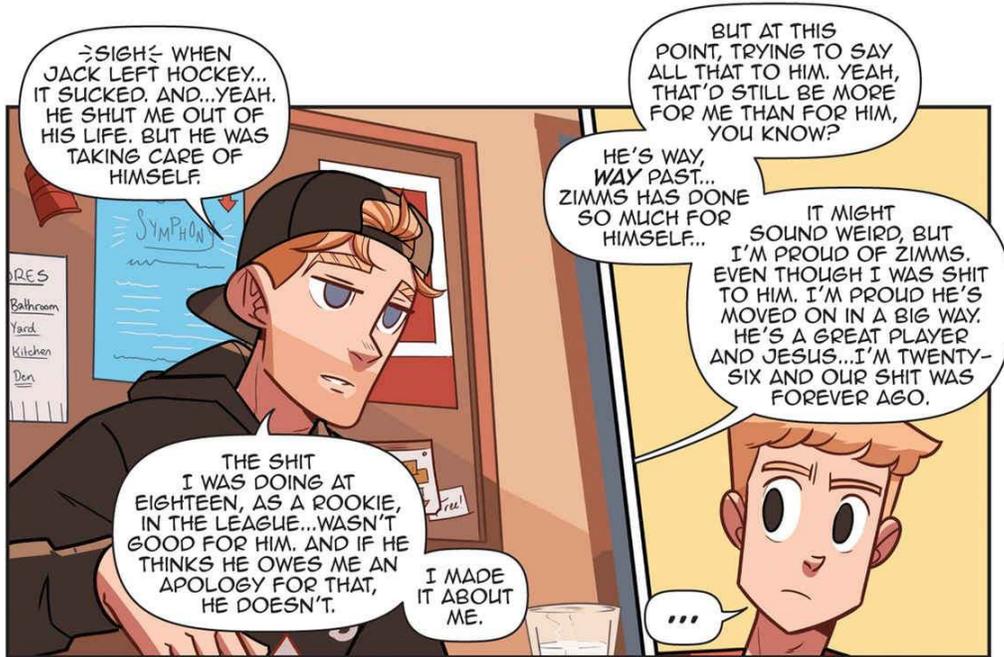
PARSE

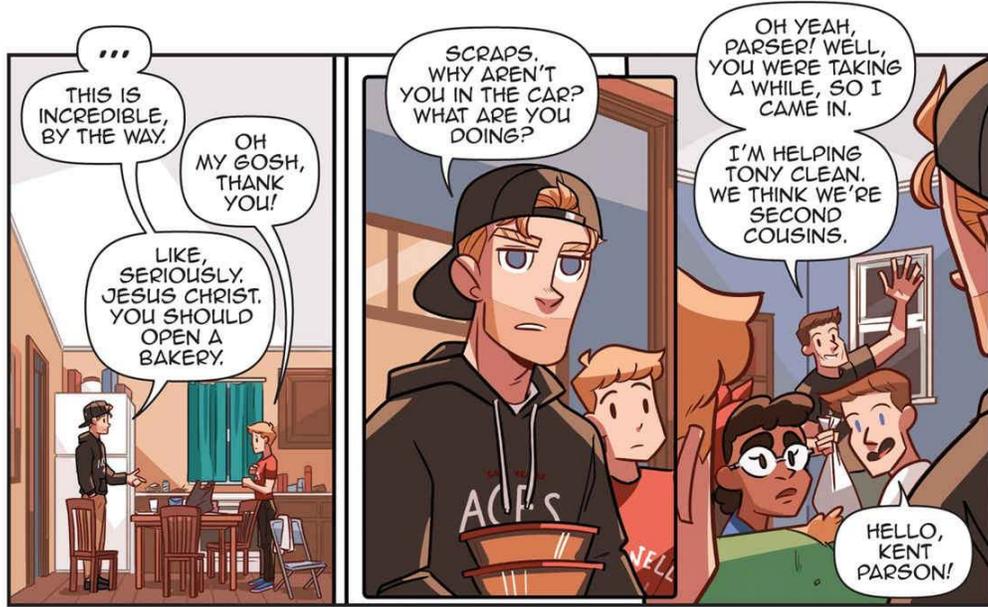




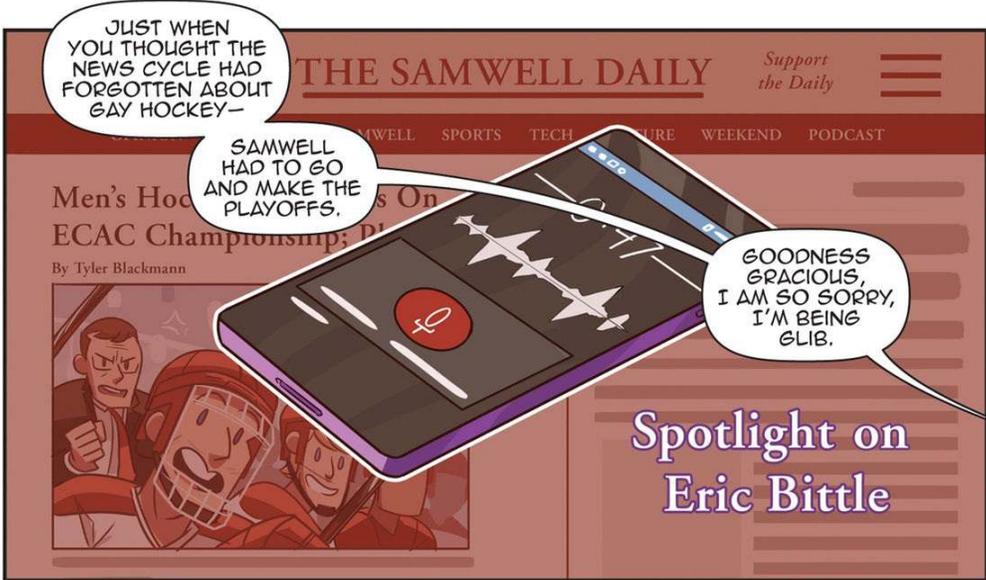




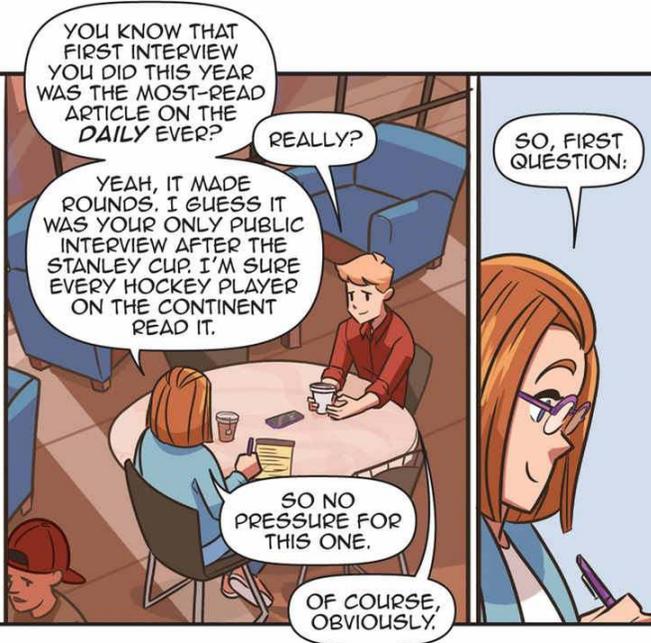




SPOTLIGHT ON ERIC BITTLE



The Samwell men's hockey team is no stranger to the NCAA men's ice hockey playoffs. Since Jack Zimmermann '15 joined the club in 2011, Samwell has enjoyed frequent appearances in the tournament every spring. But with this playoff appearance, another spotlight shines on Samwell hockey, and this light is trained on Eric Bittle '17, the current captain of the men's ice hockey team, who has been in the news for more than just sports. Bittle made headlines last spring when he and Zimmermann shared a history-making kiss at center ice after game 7 of the Stanley Cup playoffs. Now, leading Samwell men's ice hockey to his last NCAA tourney appearance, Bittle is officially the first openly gay Division I men's ice hockey captain in NCAA history.



This is Samwell men's hockey's third time in the NCAA playoffs in four years and second time in the Frozen Four. How does this appearance feel different from past experiences?

Every journey to the playoffs has its own unique challenges, and this season has been no different. But I would definitely say the stakes are higher. I'd be remiss if I didn't attribute those raised stakes to my role as the first openly queer captain of a D-I NCAA men's hockey team, and what a win could mean for queer people everywhere. But other than my personal investment, I'd say we're putting in the same hard work Samwell puts in every year.



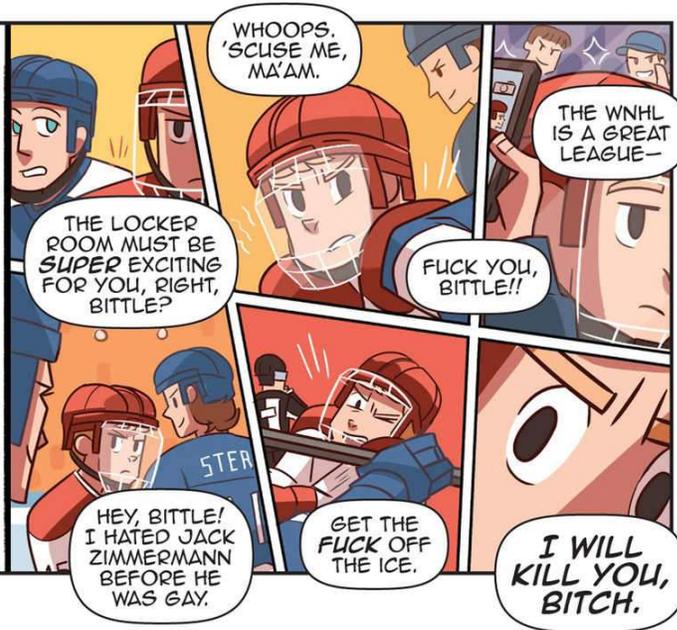
In your interview with the *Daily* this October, you talked about being a role model in two ways: as a captain and as a visible queer athlete. Now that Samwell is back on the national stage, your position as a leader has a much larger impact. As your season closes, what do you think you've learned about being a role model?

That it's hard. [laughs] As a captain, the number one lesson I've learned is that I'm mostly a teammate/linemate first and that I'm a captain second. It's my job to lead and motivate the team—to be a role model in some respects, but at the end of the day, each of us takes turns pushing each other and supporting each other. It's the same for every game, even a playoff match. And as an openly gay athlete...I think sometimes all you need to be a role model is to exist. To show it can work. Being a role model isn't about being perfect, it's giving an example of one way to live life successfully.



Samwell men's hockey has been a welcoming space for you, but hockey is not known as the most inclusive sport. Playing against other teams, did you feel a change stepping out onto the ice this season?

In some ways yes, and in some ways no.



More often than not, our opponents didn't seem to care—I was just another Samwell jersey in a play. You'll always get negative comments here and there, and people who target you, but I'm lucky to have teammates who have my back.



What makes Samwell a safe space for queer athletes? And Samwell men's hockey a safe space for you? How can other teams follow suit?

The culture was set way before I got here, and I hope I helped strengthen it. The type of homophobic or misogynistic talk you see in other locker rooms really gets shut down here. Even when I was a freshman some of the seniors would really be firm on that. I think some of the guys took that stance and everyone else followed suit. I think other teams just have to make that the norm. Which might be scary and might get you made fun of—but if everyone has a zero-tolerance stance on those types of comments, no one can complain.

Finally, any advice to queer athletes out there who might be reading this?

I SWEAR TO GOD, IF ONE MORE ASSHOLE CALLS ME—UGH! WHY ARE PEOPLE SO DAMN EVIL?



SORRY, BITS.

I SHOULDN'T LET IT GET TO ME.

...JACK, WE COULD WIN TOMORROW. LIKE—I DON'T WANT TO LET THE TEAM DOWN, BUT.

AND I KNOW WE CAN DO THIS. BUT THERE'S SO MANY PEOPLE LOOKING AT US RIGHT NOW.

I WANT TO SHOW THEM.





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LAST DANCE

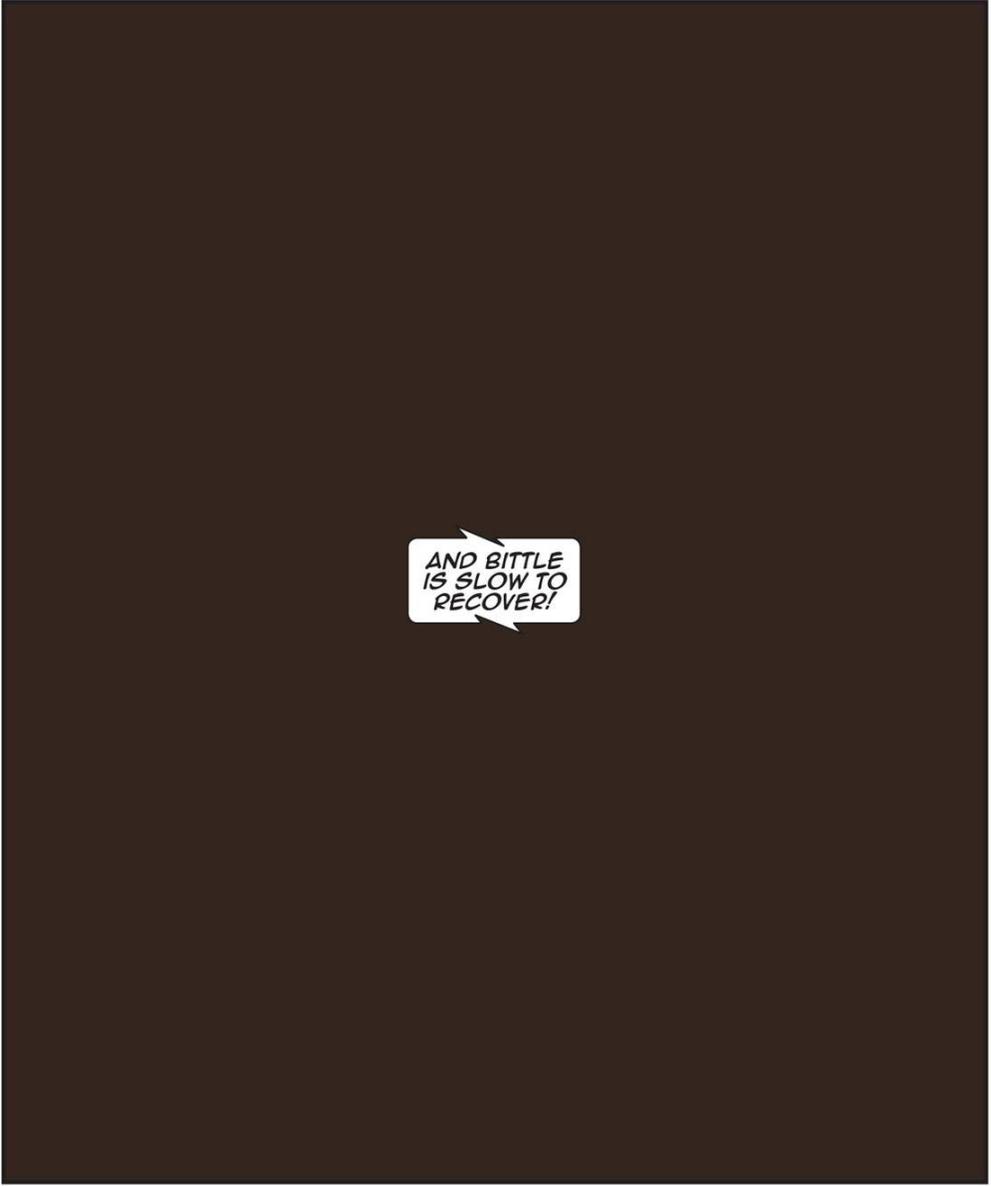












*AND BITTLE
IS SLOW TO
RECOVER!*

22

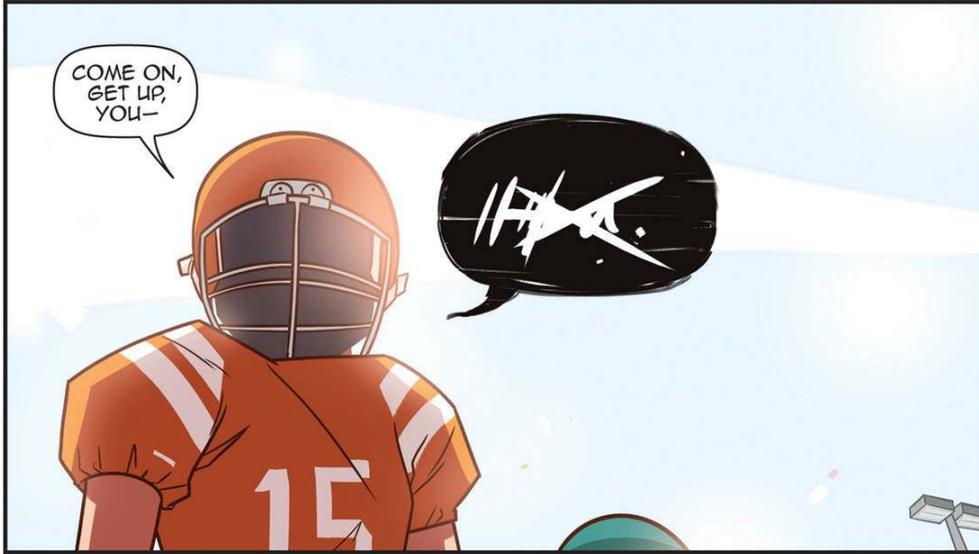
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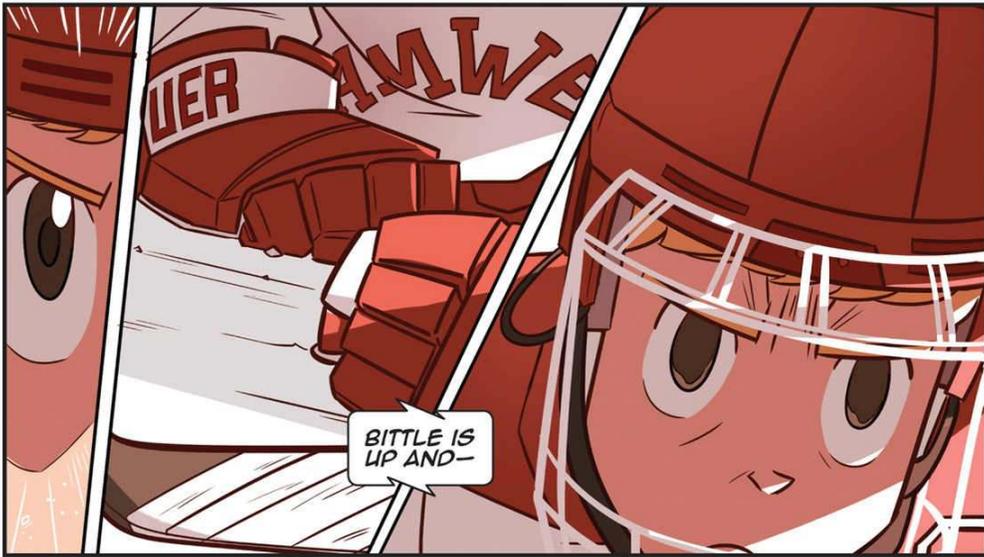


















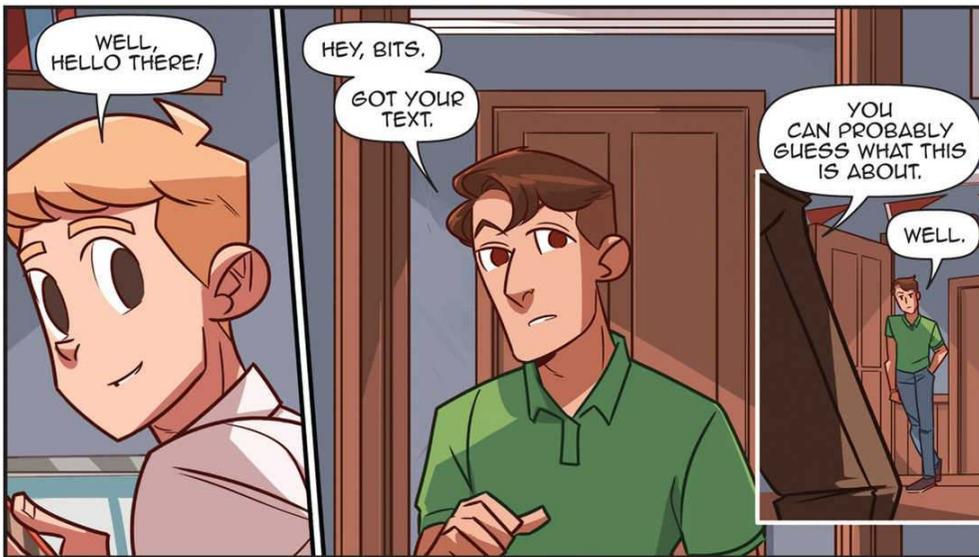
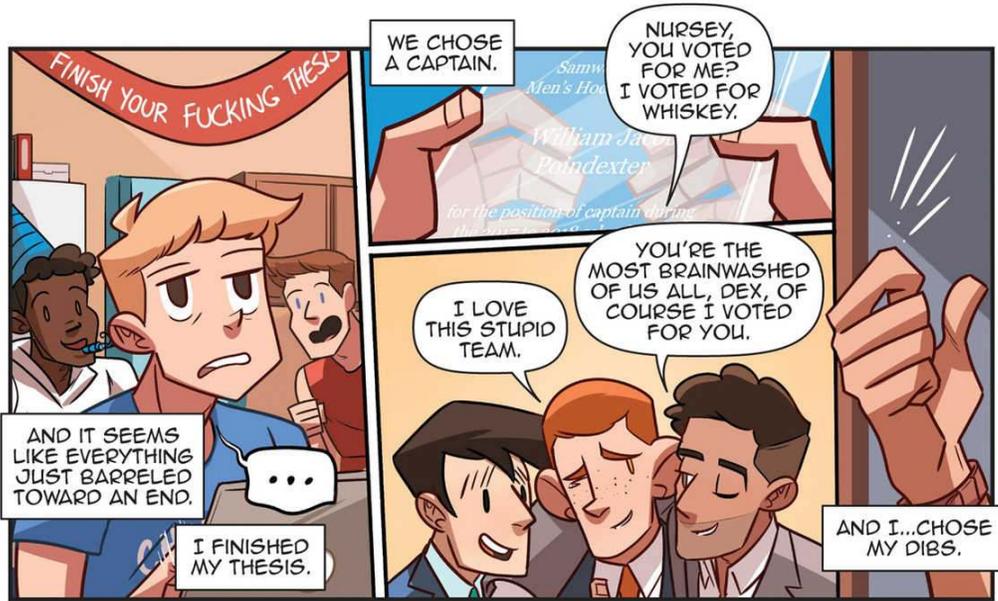
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DIBS



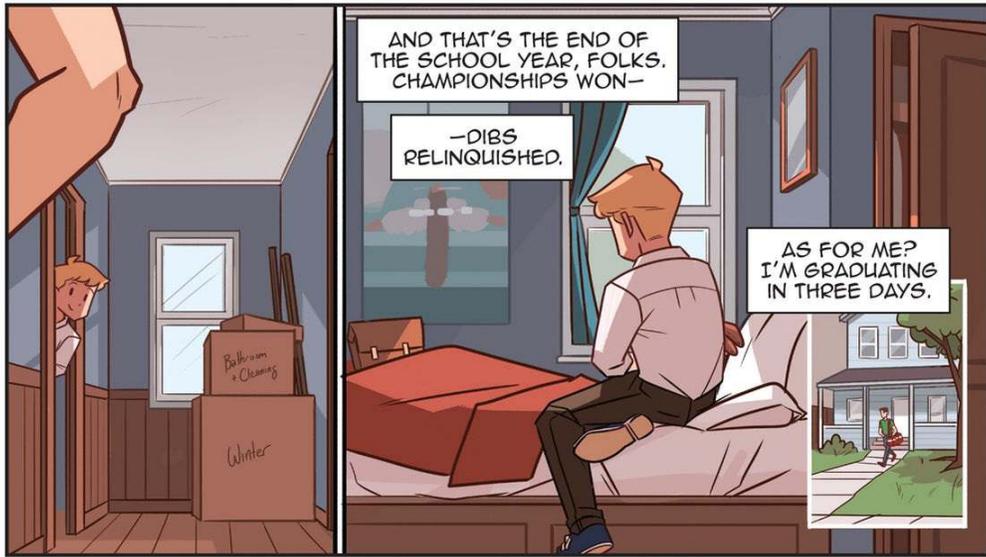










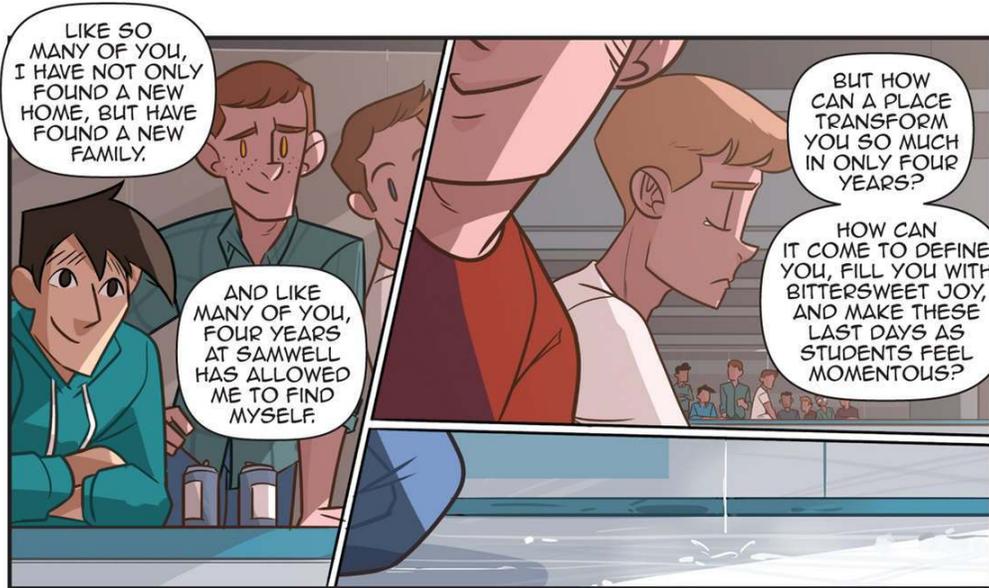


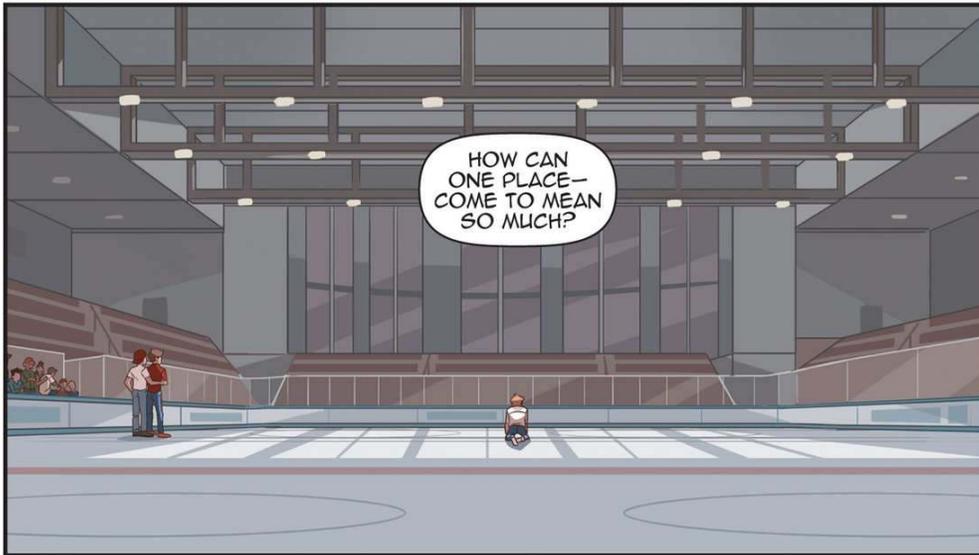
CLASS DAY



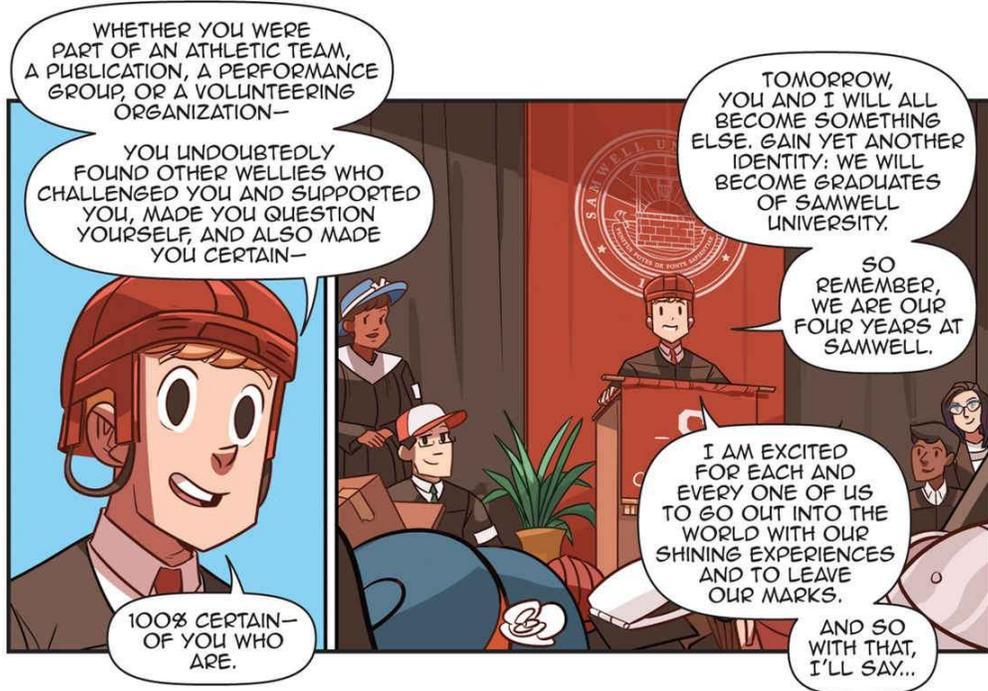








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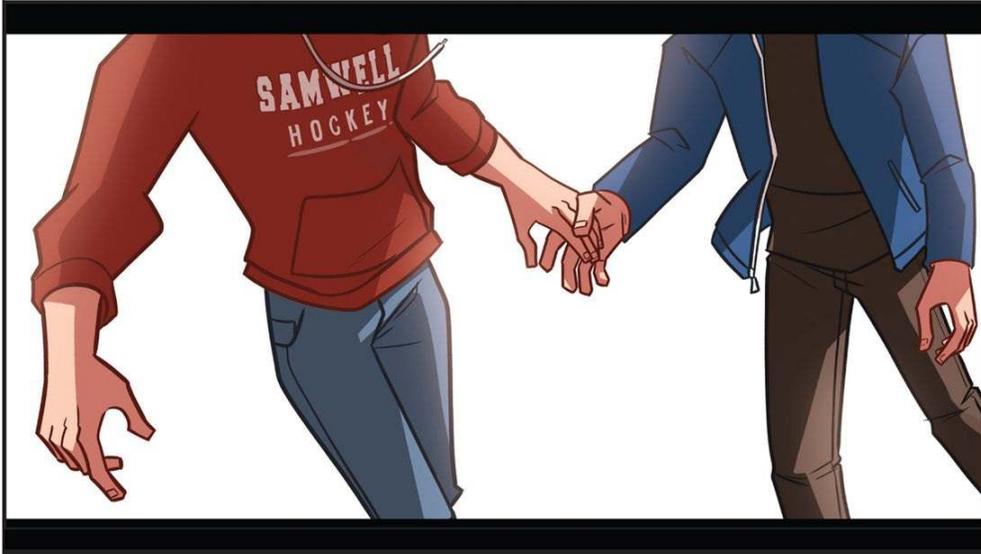


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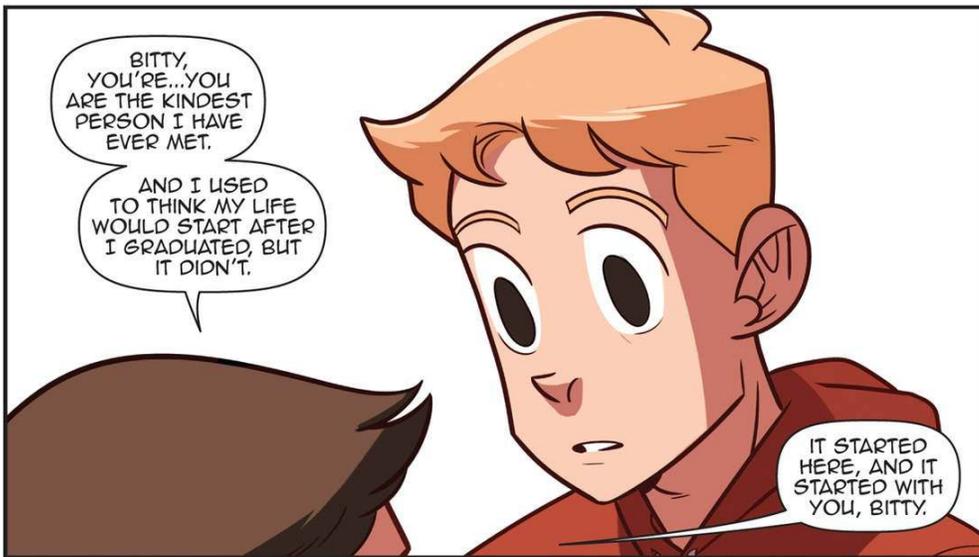
FABER















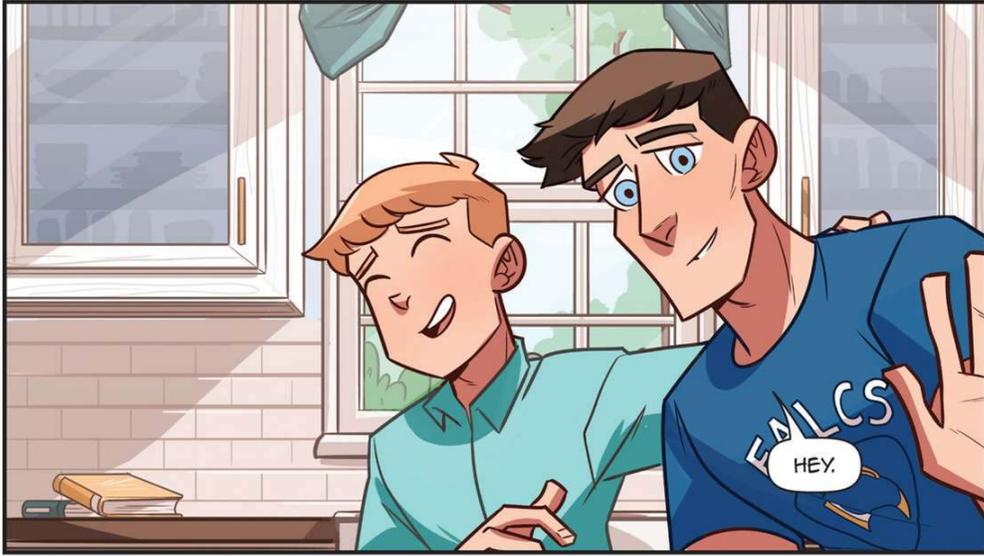


CHECK, PLEASE









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Ngozi Ukazu

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Chelle Finkler,
& Tess Stone**



with special
thanks to

**Gale Galligan,
Max Ritvo,
Madeline Rupert,
Dave Valeza,
Rachel Young,
and Liam**





**This story is dedicated to
my mom & my dad**

**And to
every reader**



**And to anyone
who wants to
thrive in a place
where the world
says they can't.**



The End





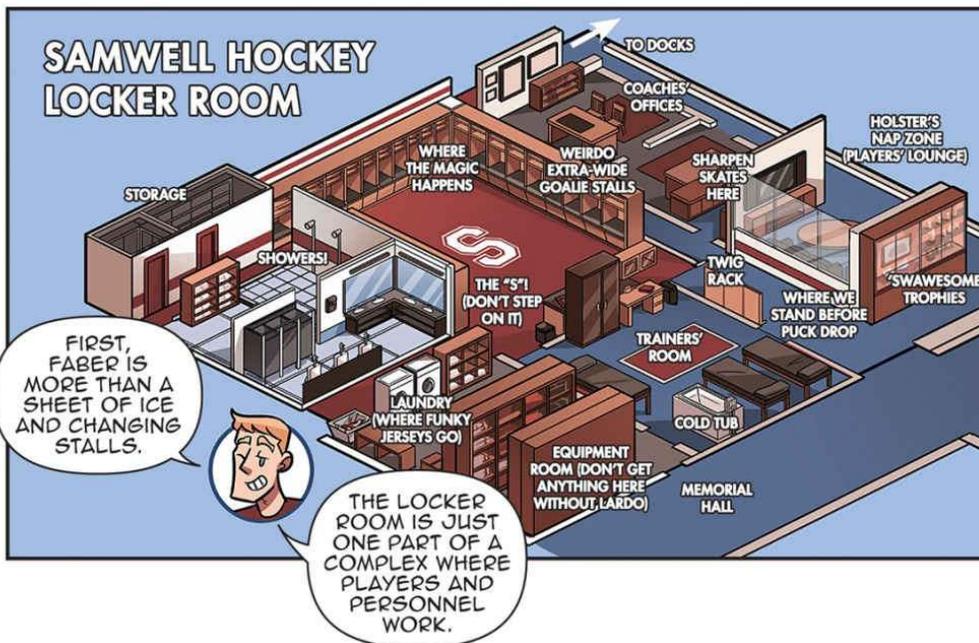
EXTRA COMICS

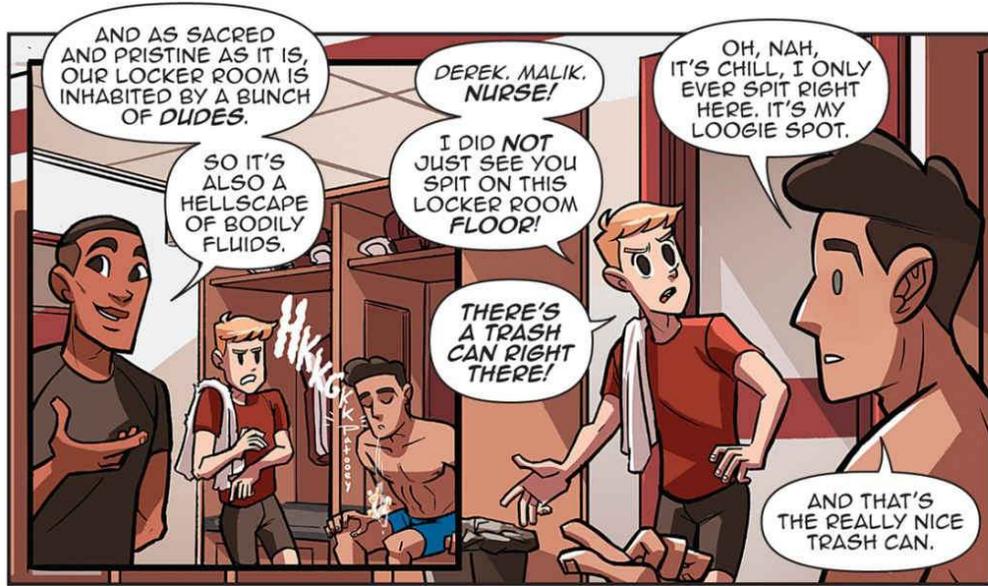


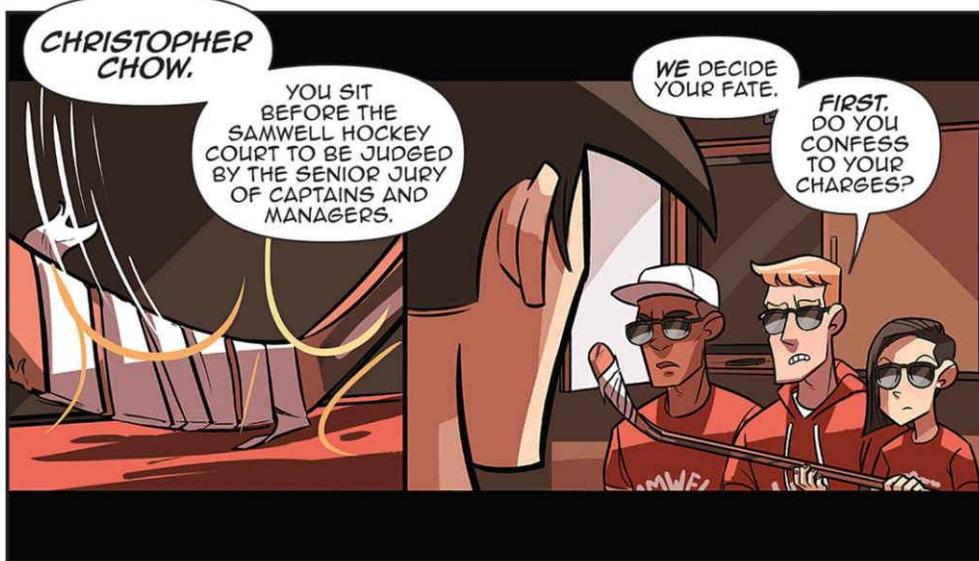
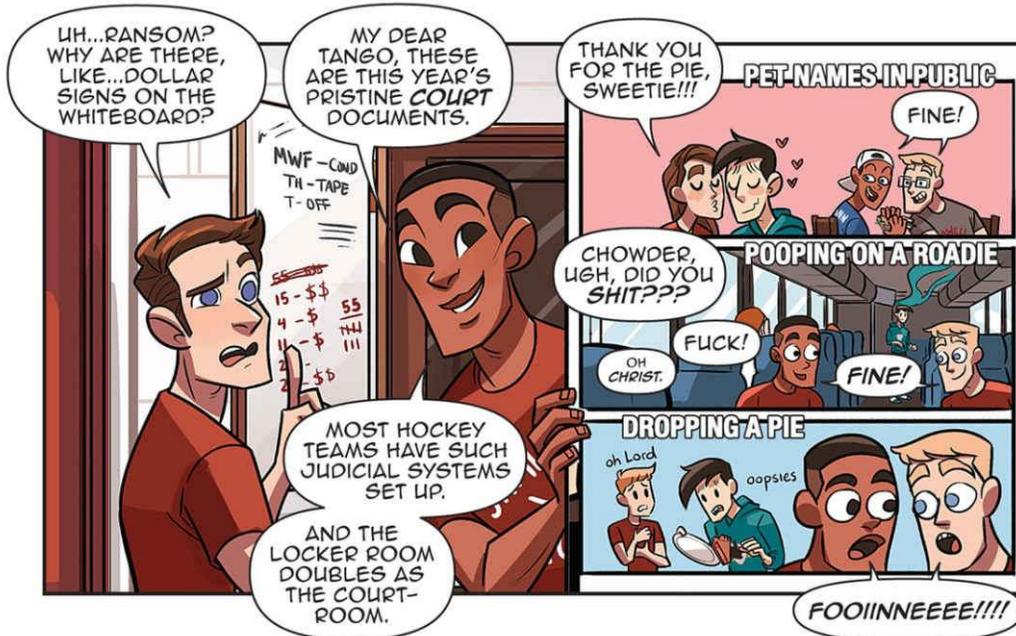
LOCKER ROOM

locker room, n.

1. The hallowed ground where the hockey player prepares for battle. What happens amongst the stalls—gross, heinous, or legendary—stays there.









HOCKEY SPEAK

hockey speak, n.

1. The reserved cadence, tone, and vocabulary used by hockey players during media appearances and moments of observed introspection. A modern cultural phenomenon.

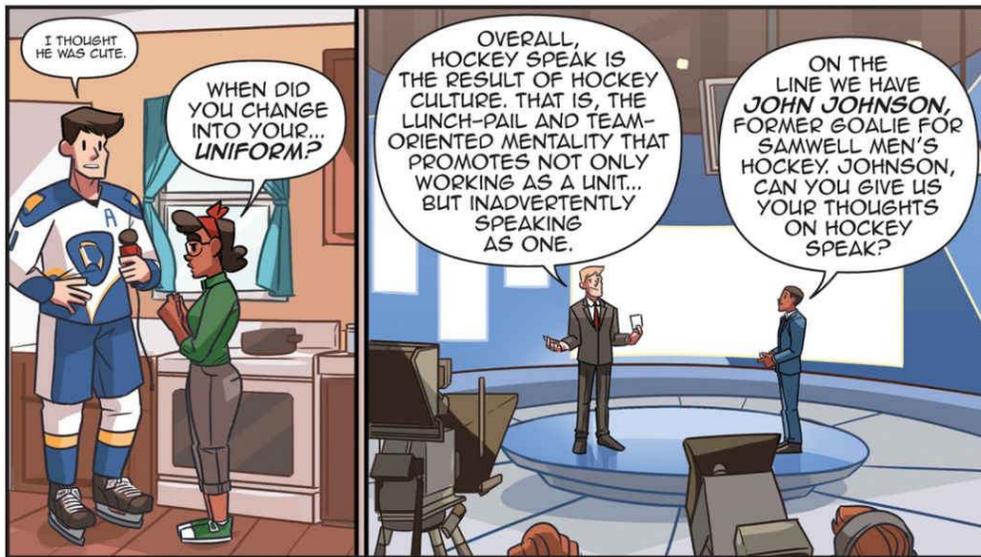


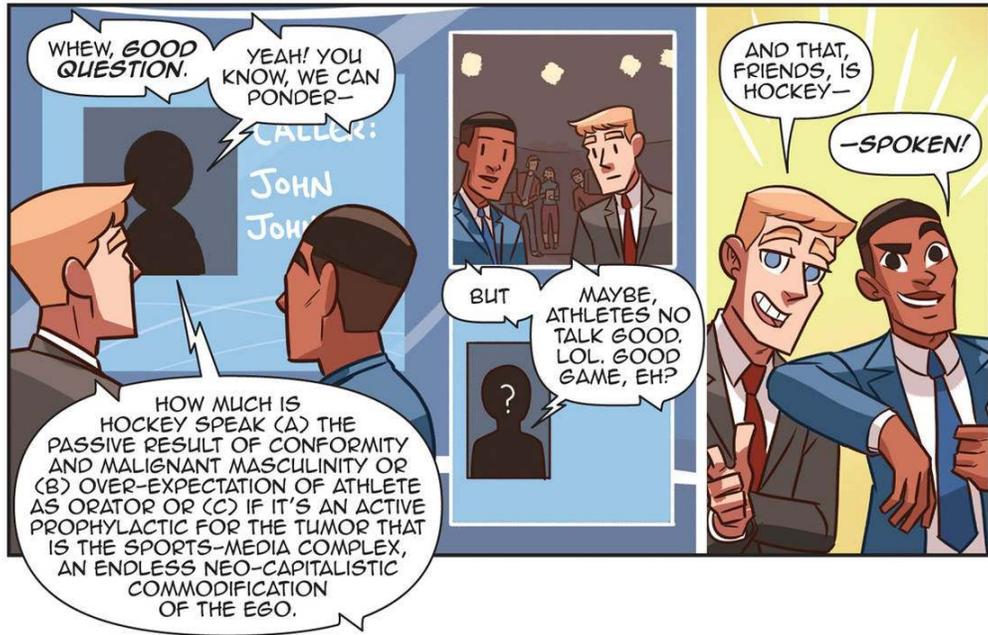
HOCKEY SPEAK!

- A monotone
- Frequent sighing
- Use of top ten hockey catchphrases
- Interjections of "uh," "you know," "obviously," and "there"



- Immense physical discomfort. Torture.
- Spontaneous Canadian accent
- An empty stare that suggests an inner void
- Focus on team play. Go, team!!





PRANKS



Loose Lids

HEY, WHO LEFT THE DOOR EVER SO SLIGHTLY AJA—

HEY, STAY HYDRATED!

OH MY GOD, YOU'RE RIGHT.

AGHH!!

WOW, HOPS!! WHUH-OH!!!

Cutting Laces

ALL RIGHT, WHO WAS IT THIS TIME?

TATER? I KNOW IT WAS YOU.

TATER!!

NOT ME, POOTY!

I KNOW ONE OF YOU BOYS CUT MY LACES!! COME ON!

THIRDY? MARTY?... SNOWY?

NOPE! NOPE!

NOPE!





TWEETS





















































:01
First Second

