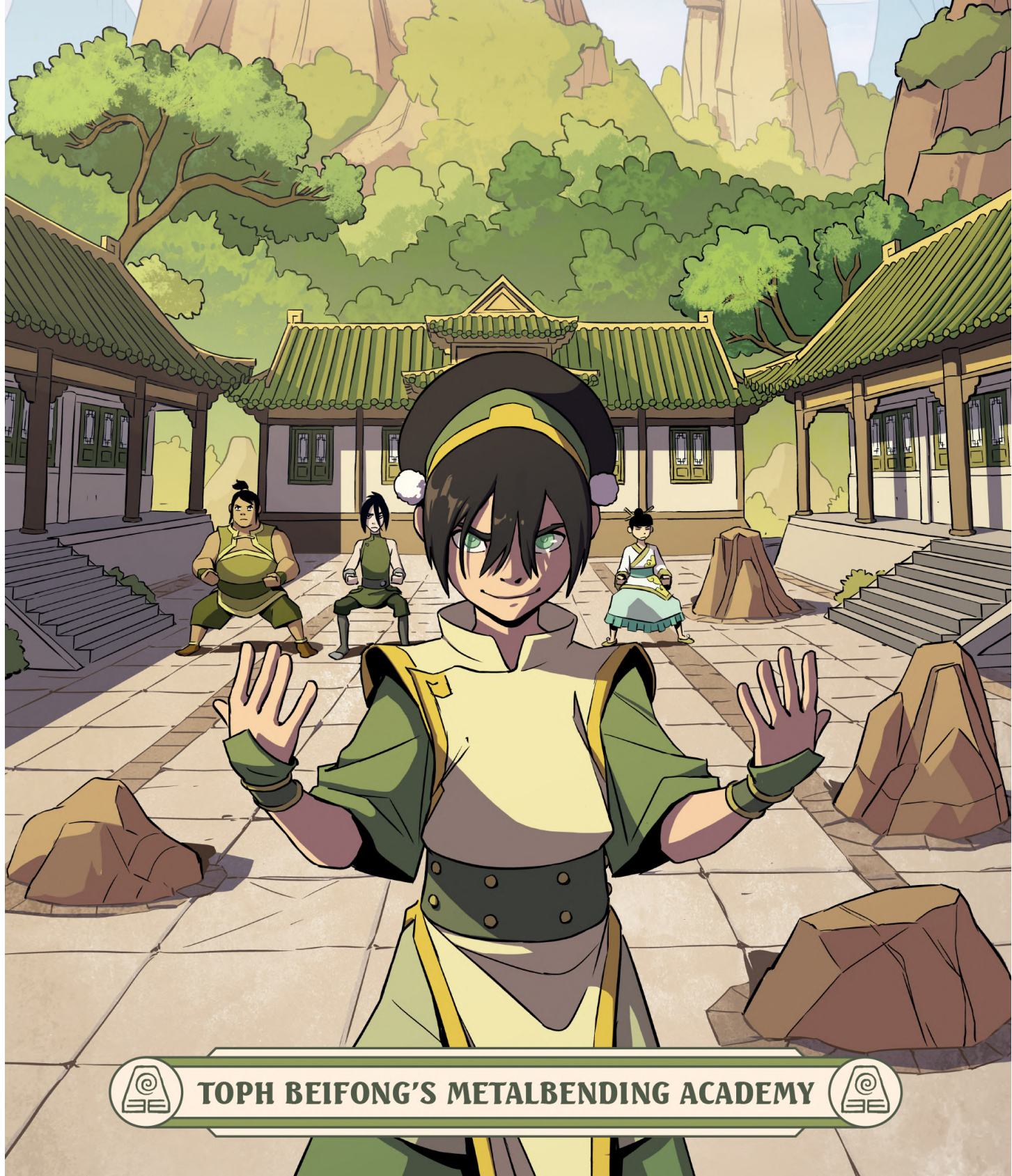
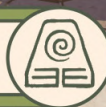


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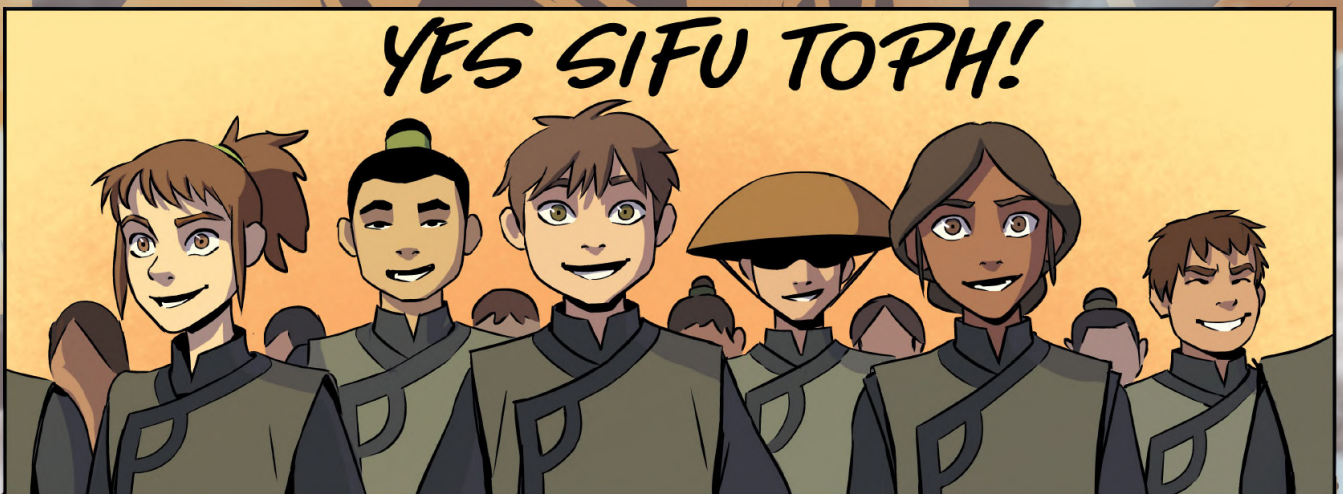
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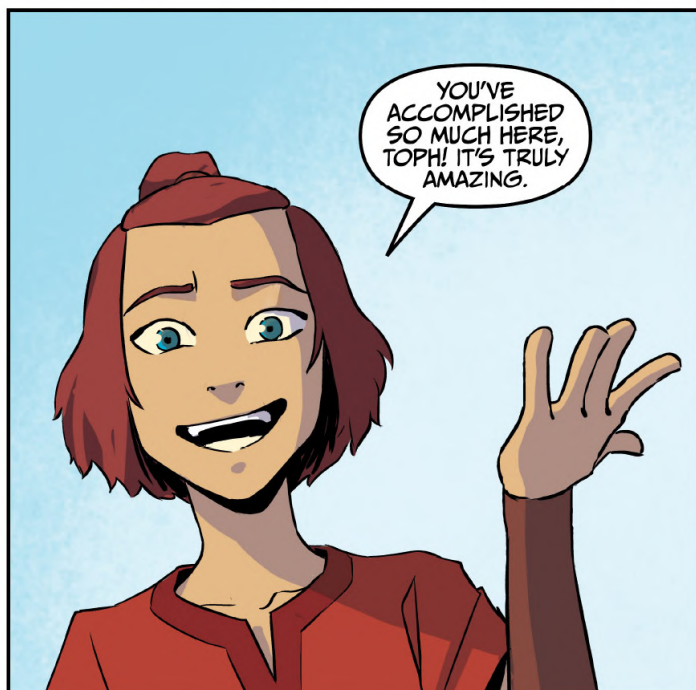
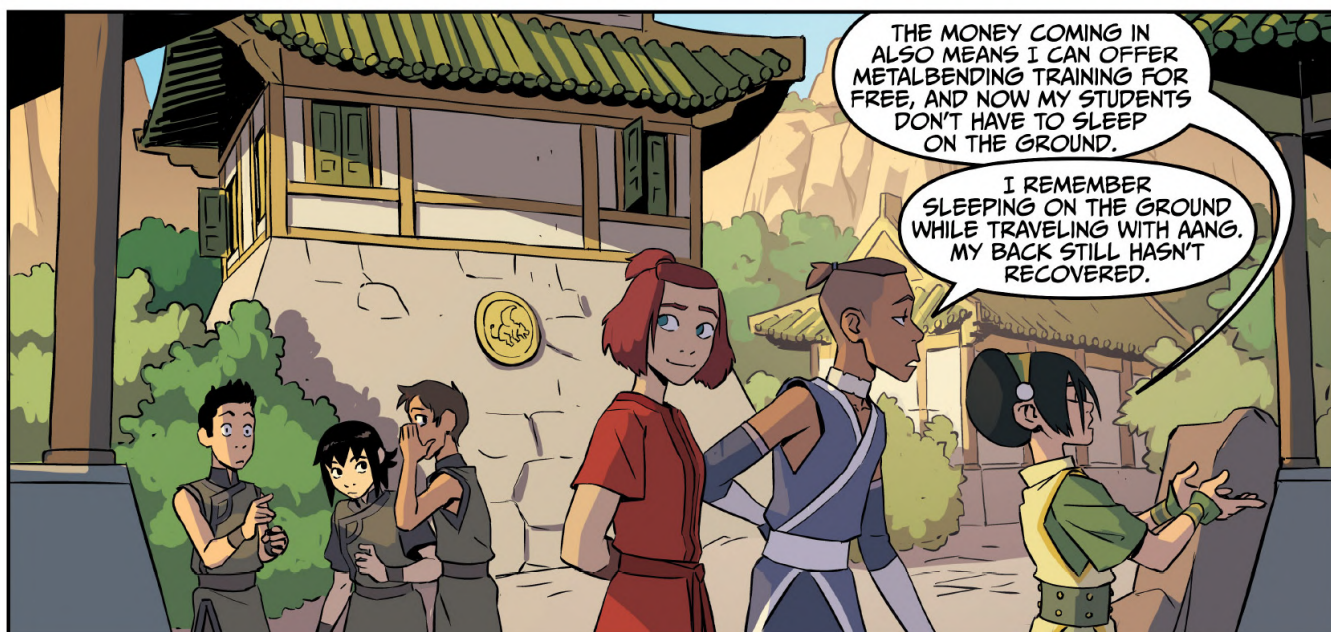
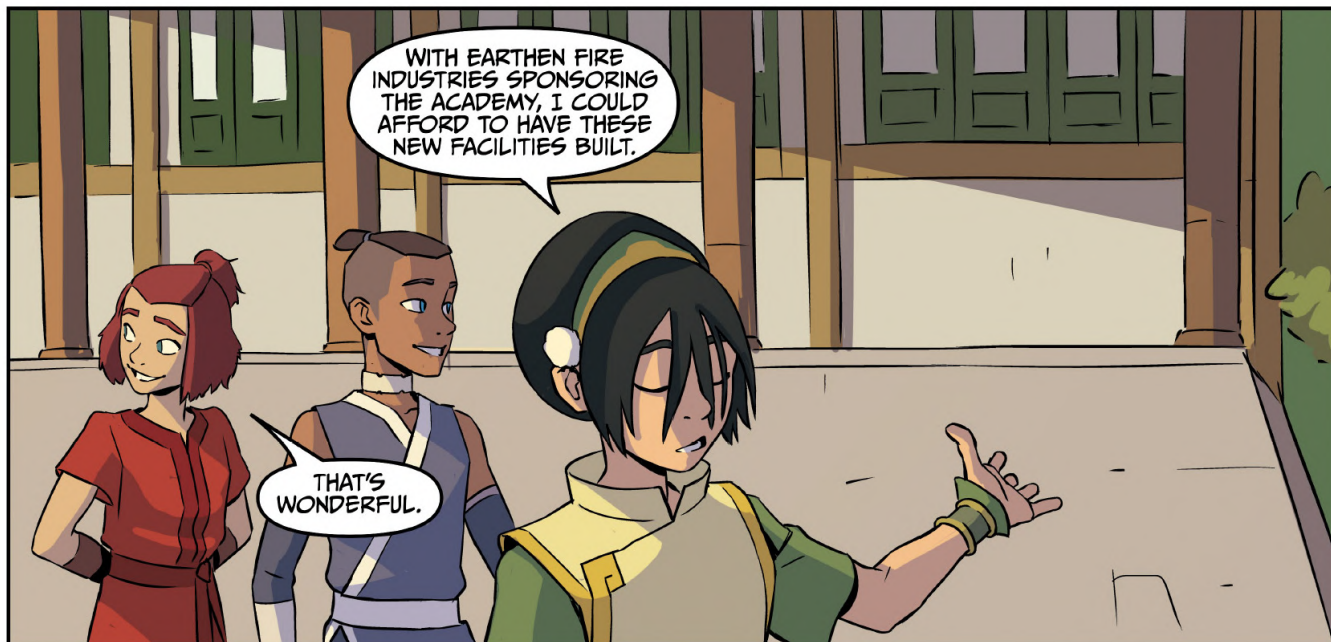
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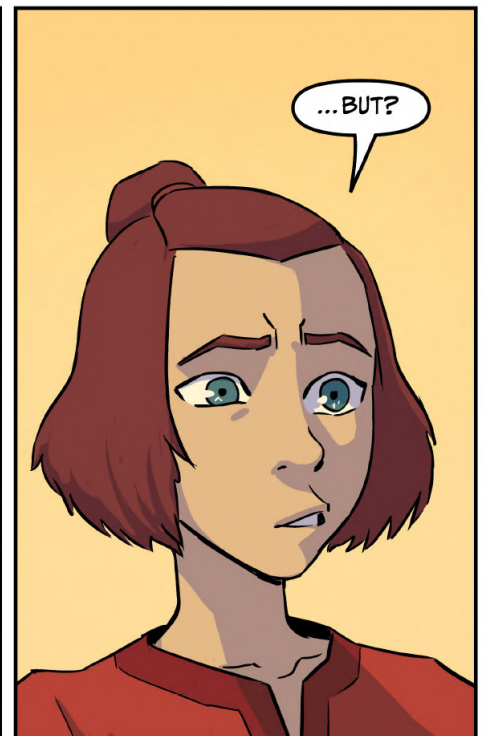
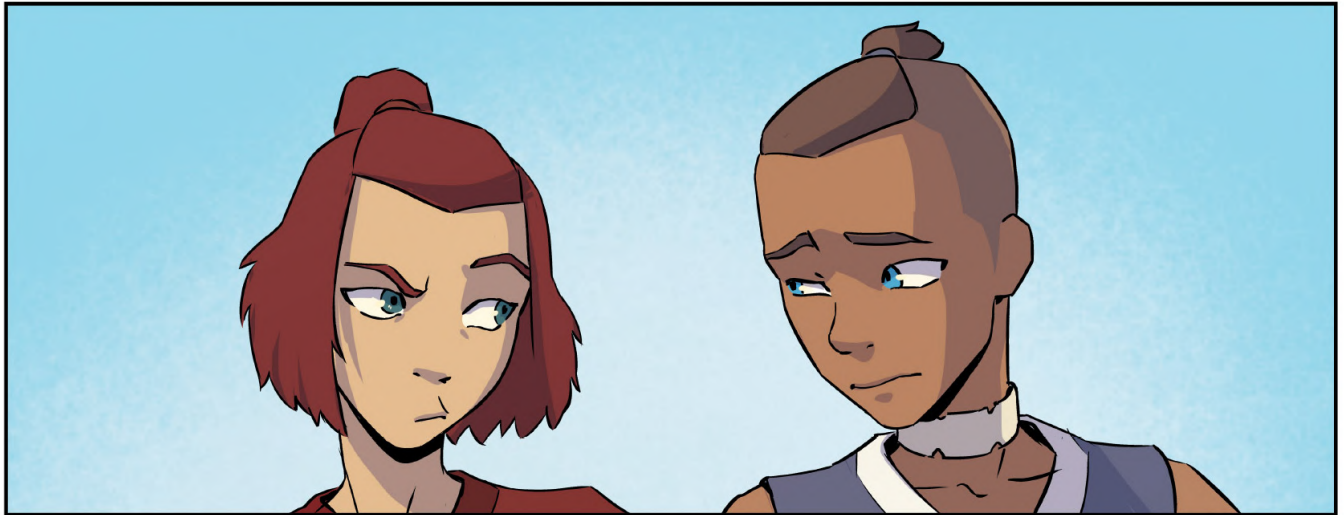


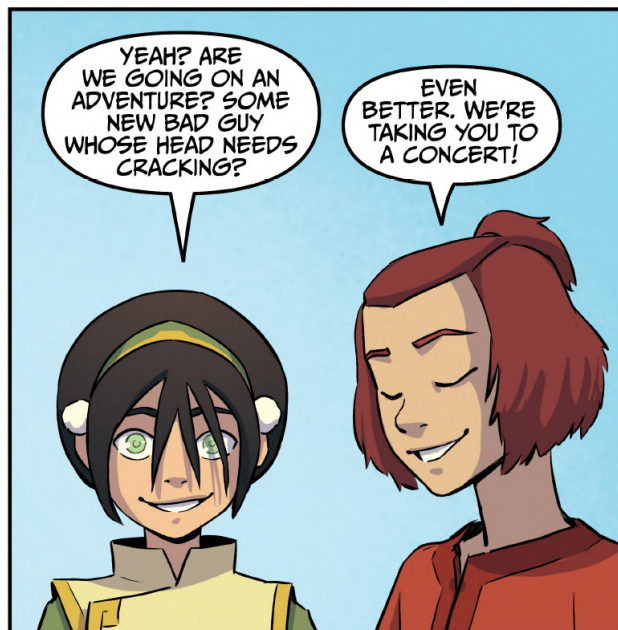
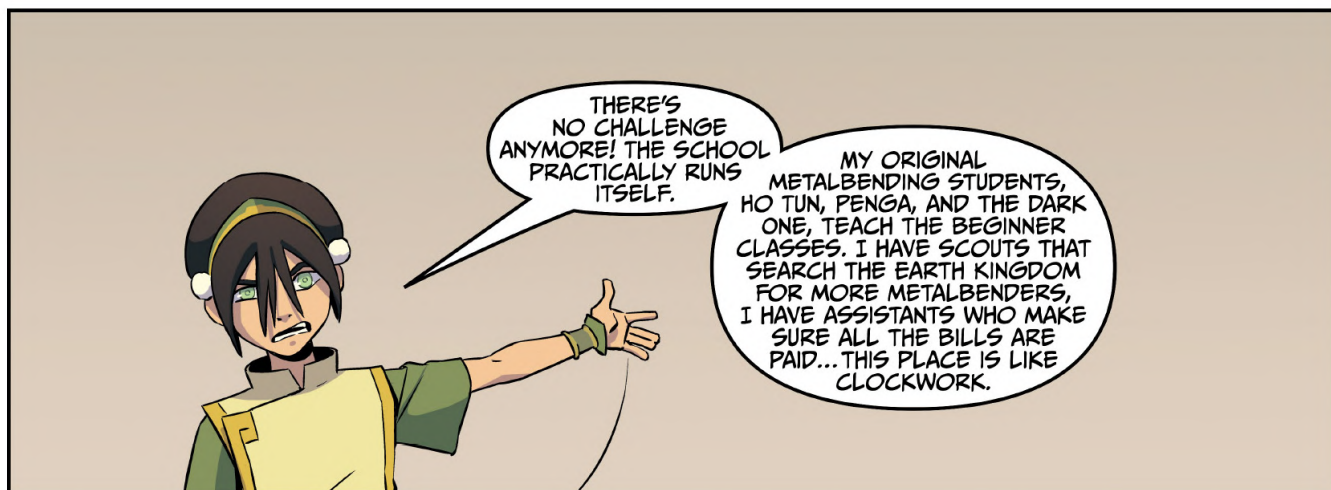


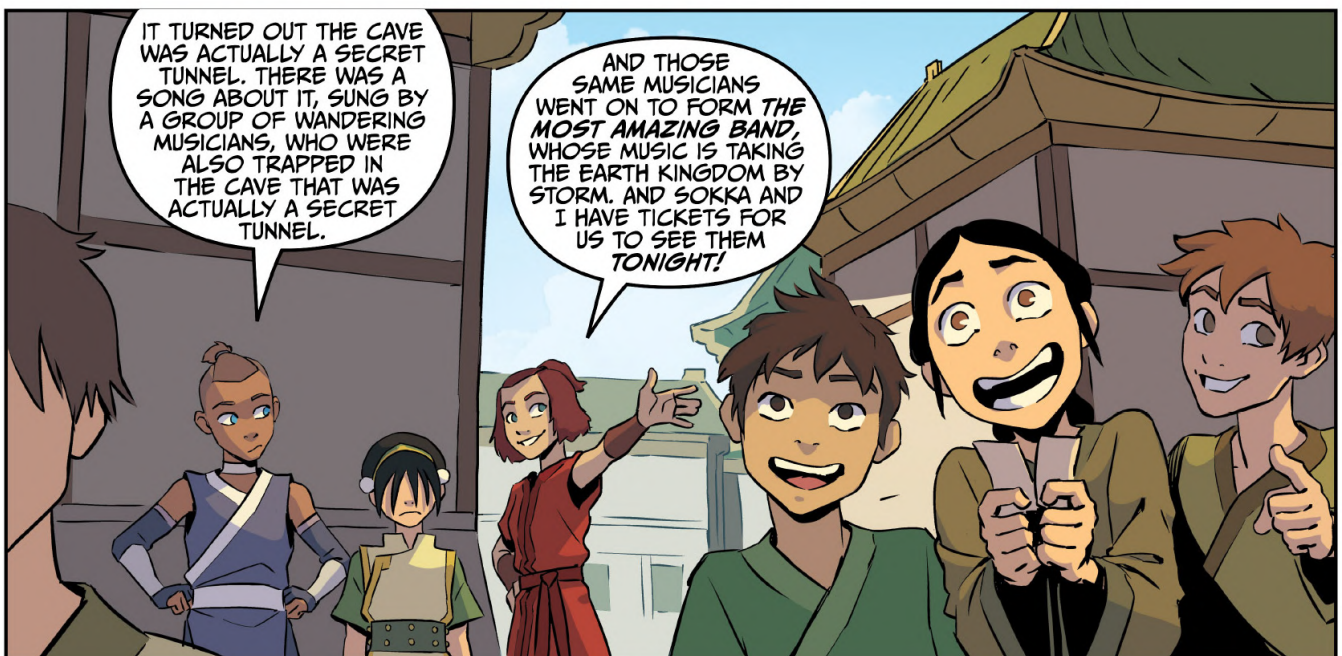
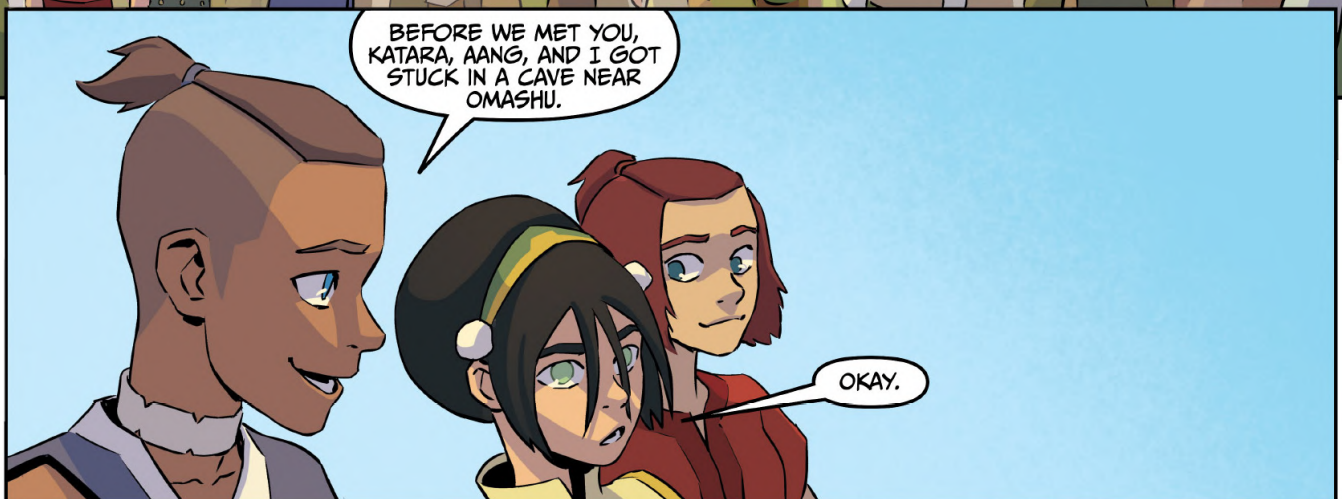
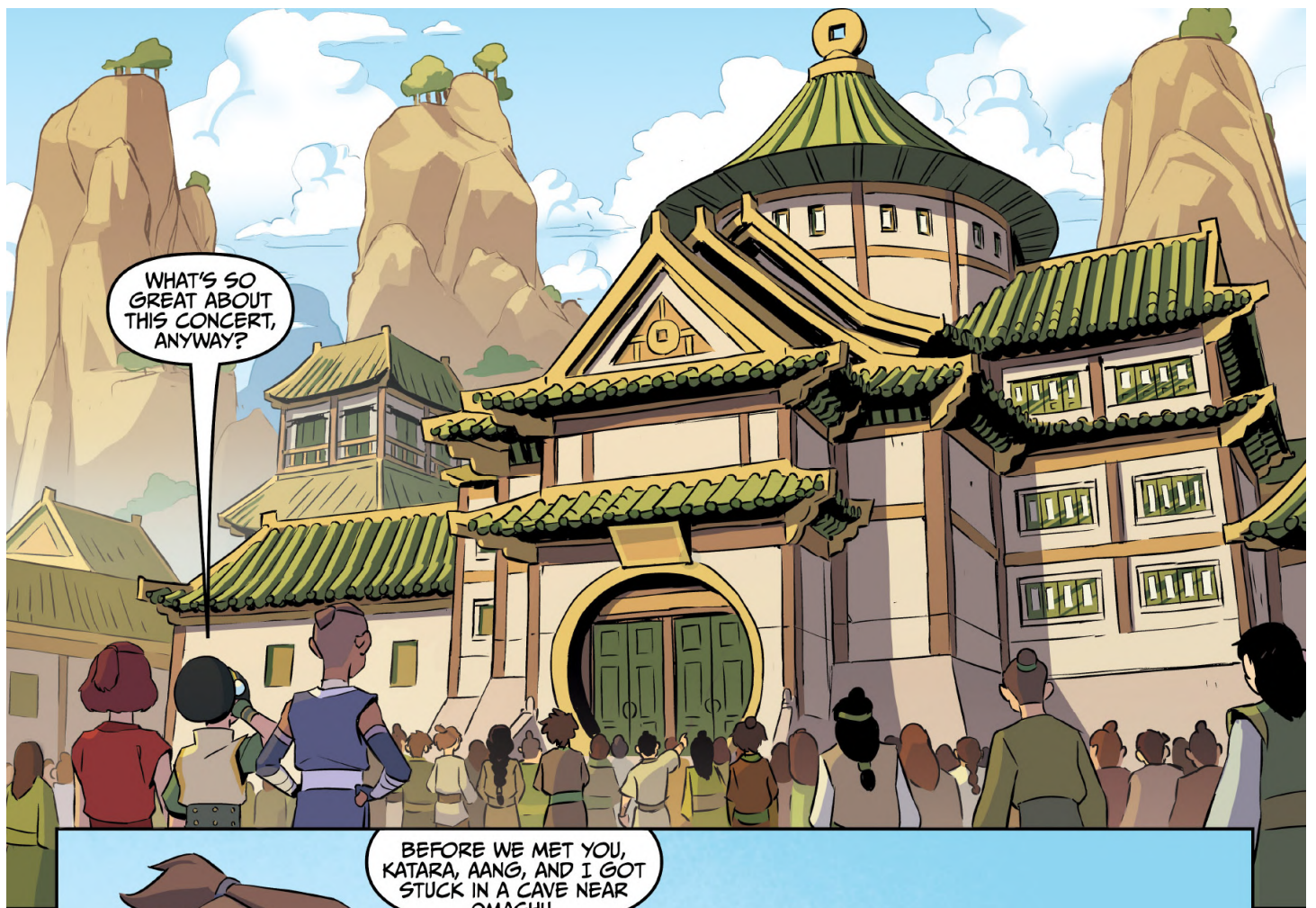


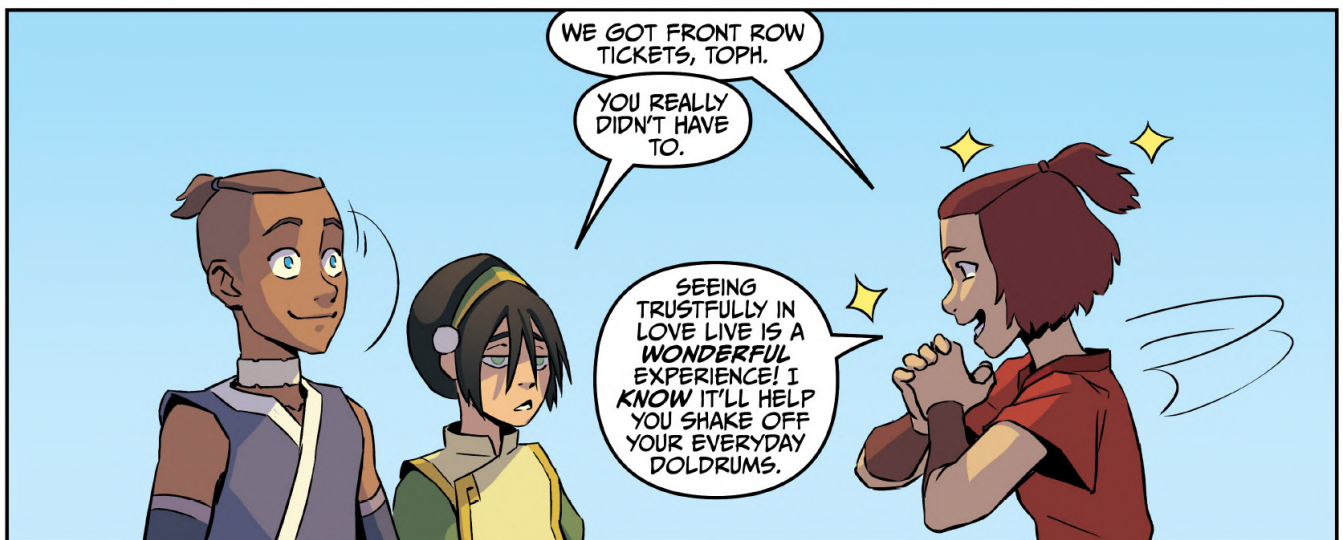
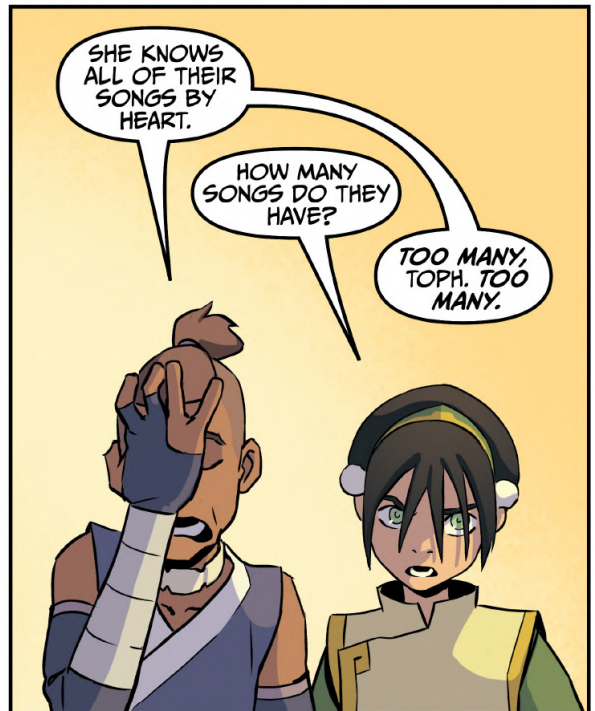




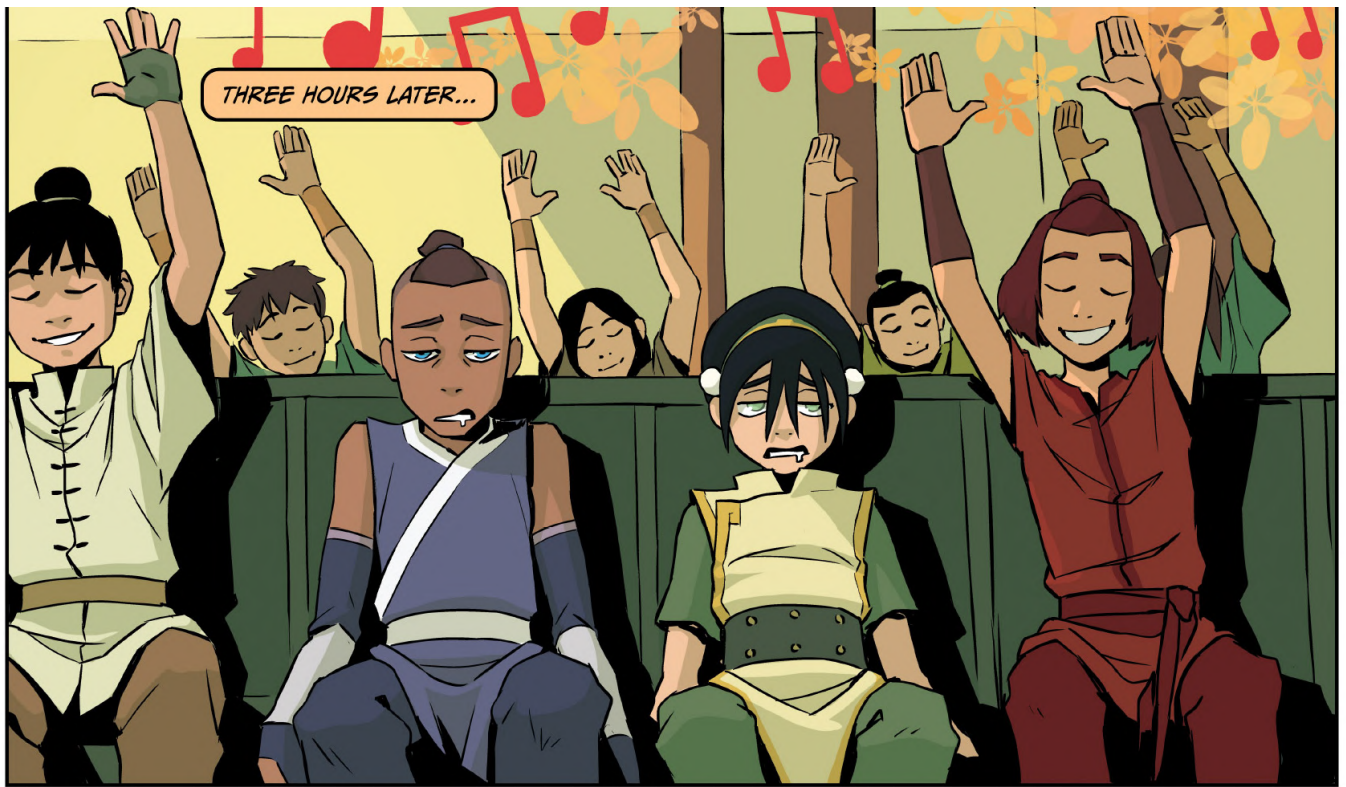




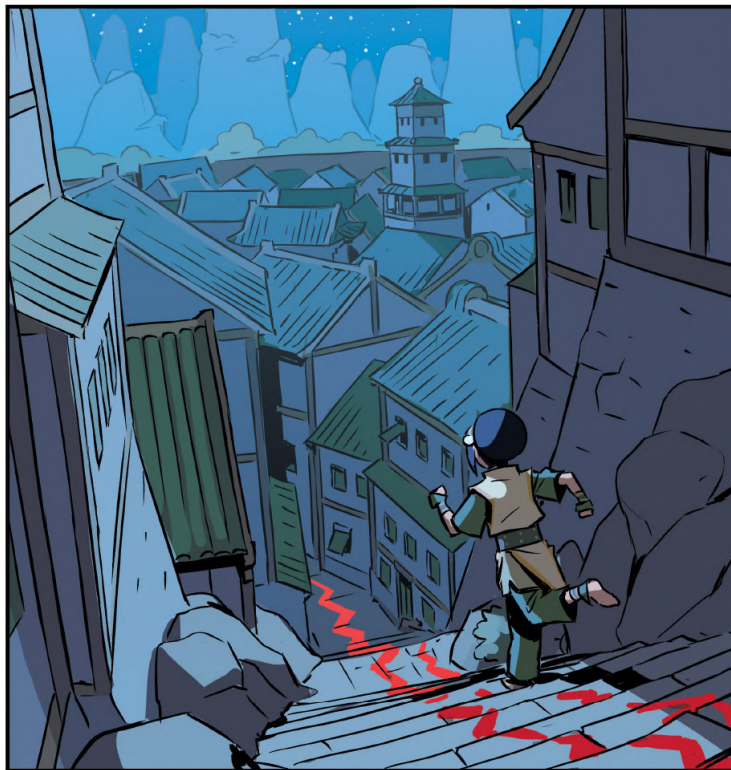












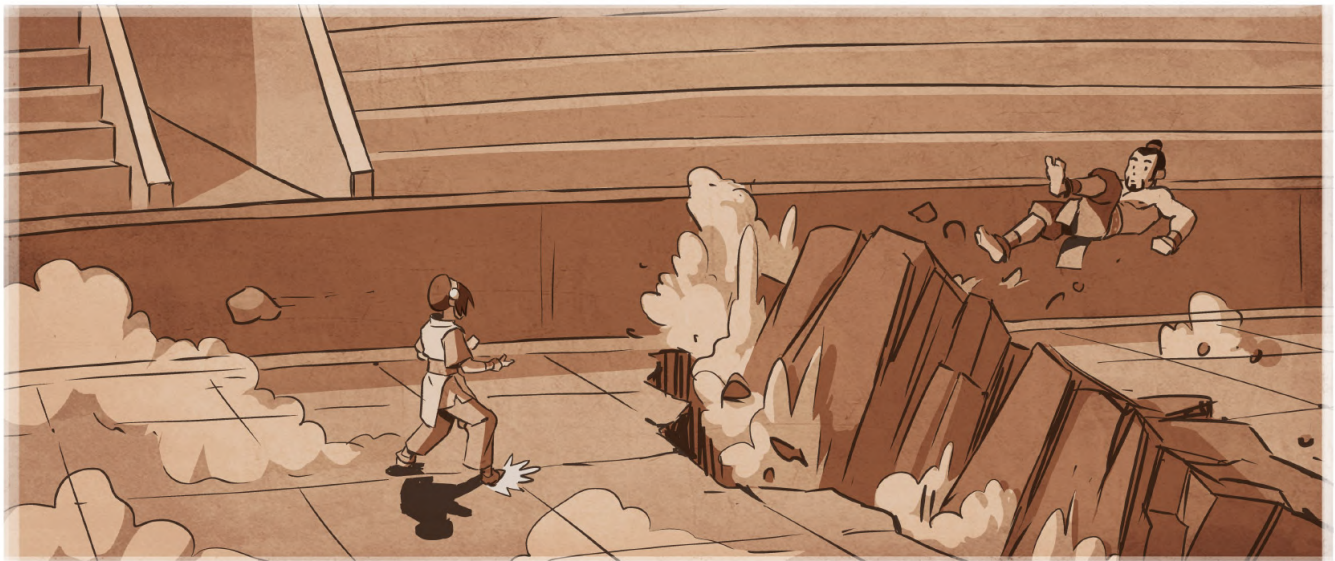


FWOOSH
WOOSH



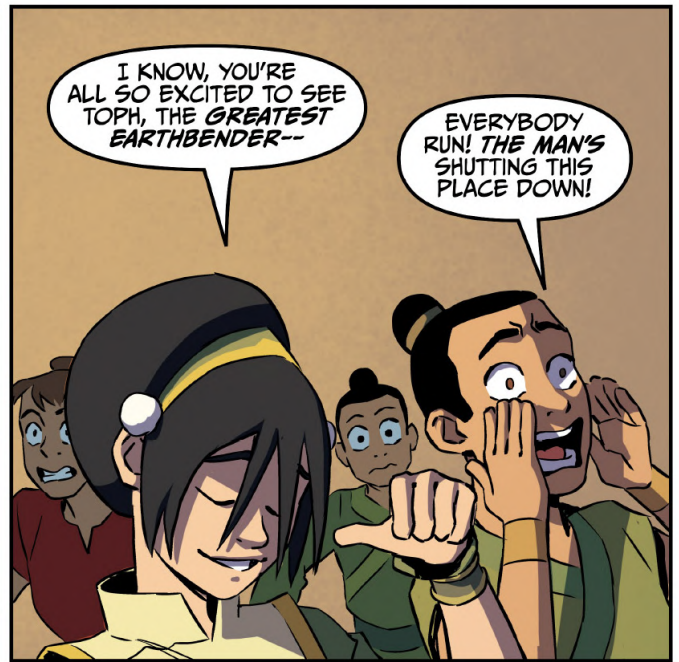
AN
UNDERGROUND
BENDING
TOURNAMENT!



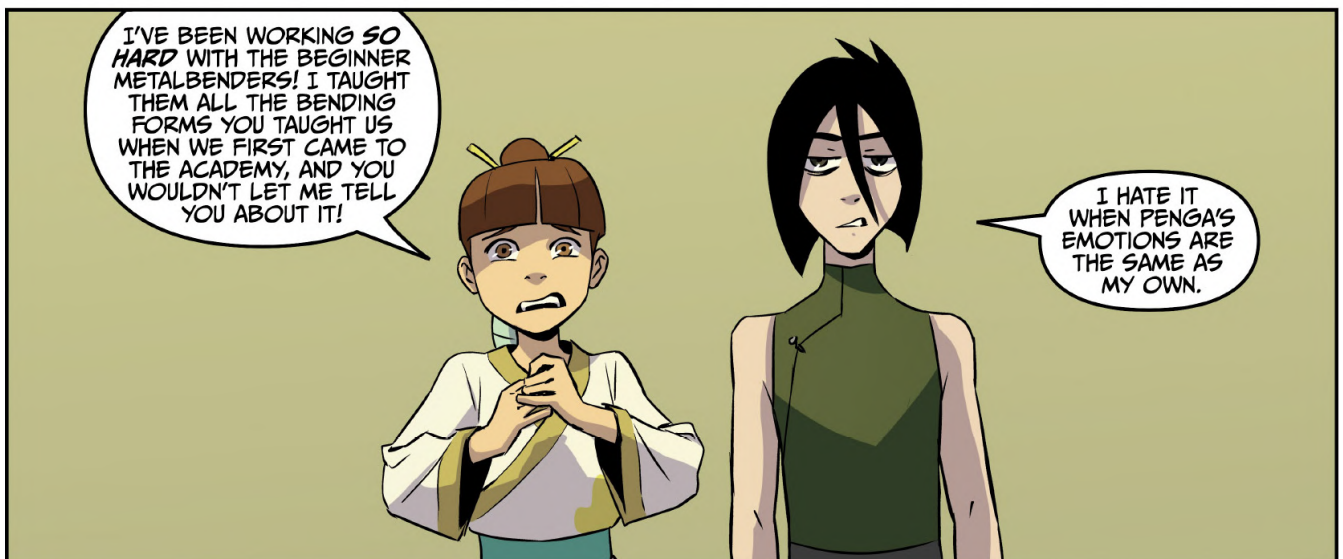
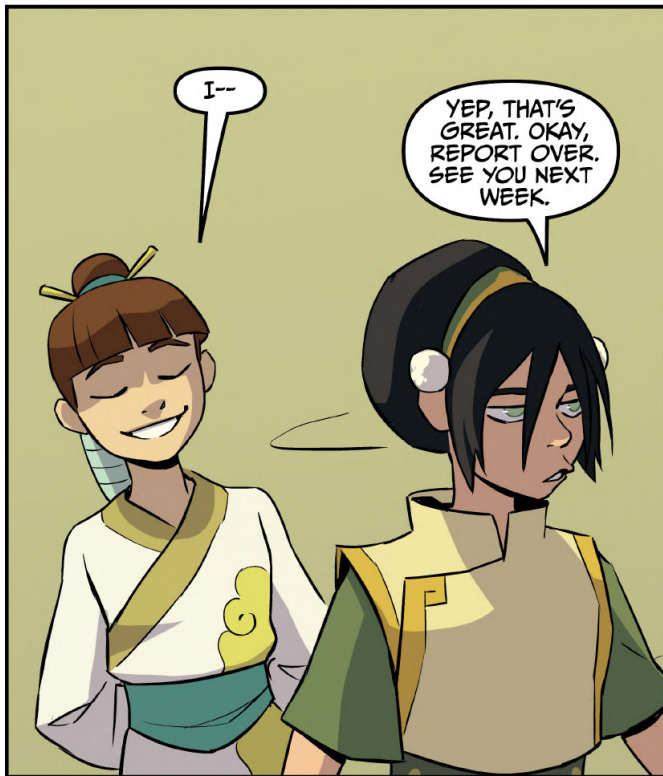


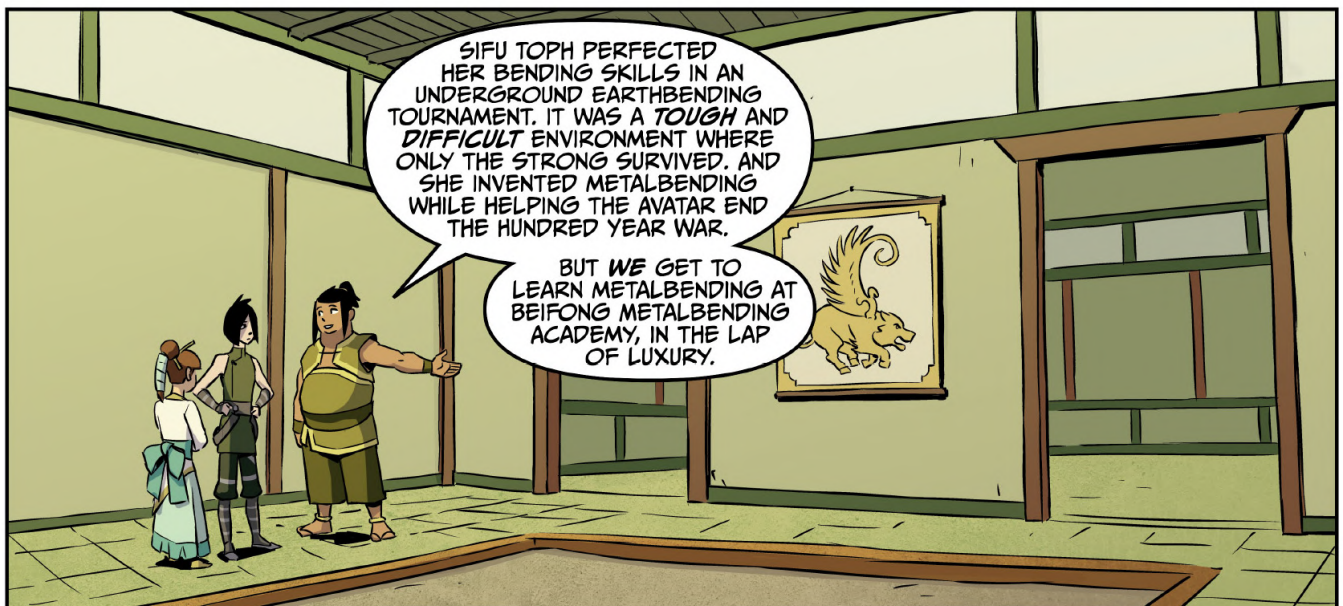
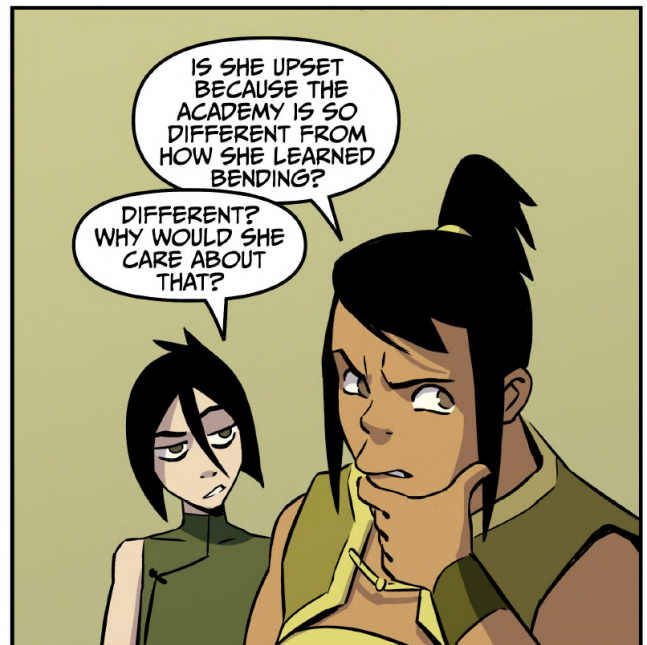
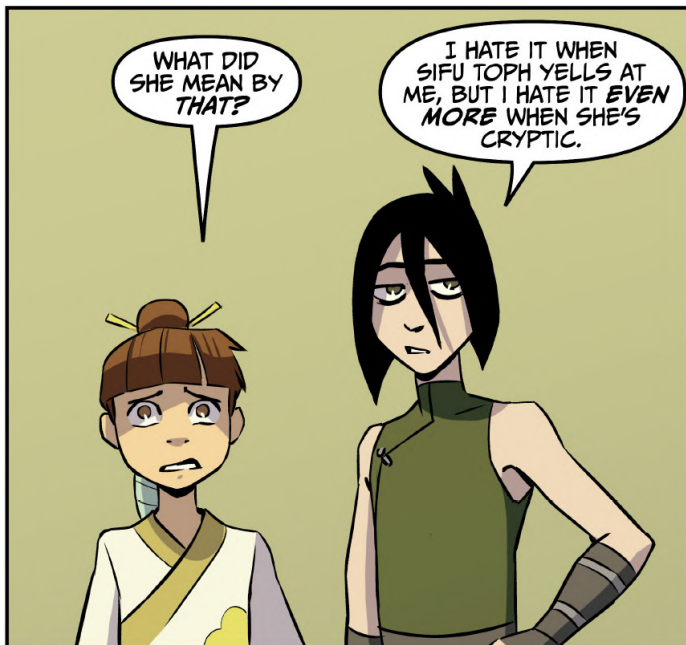


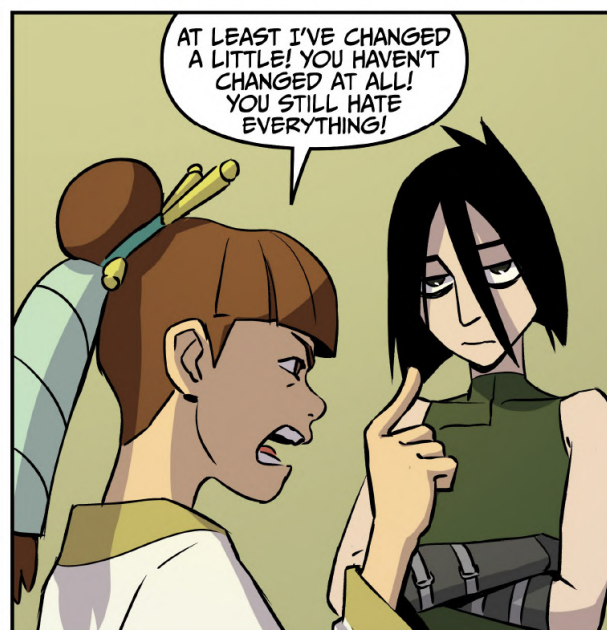
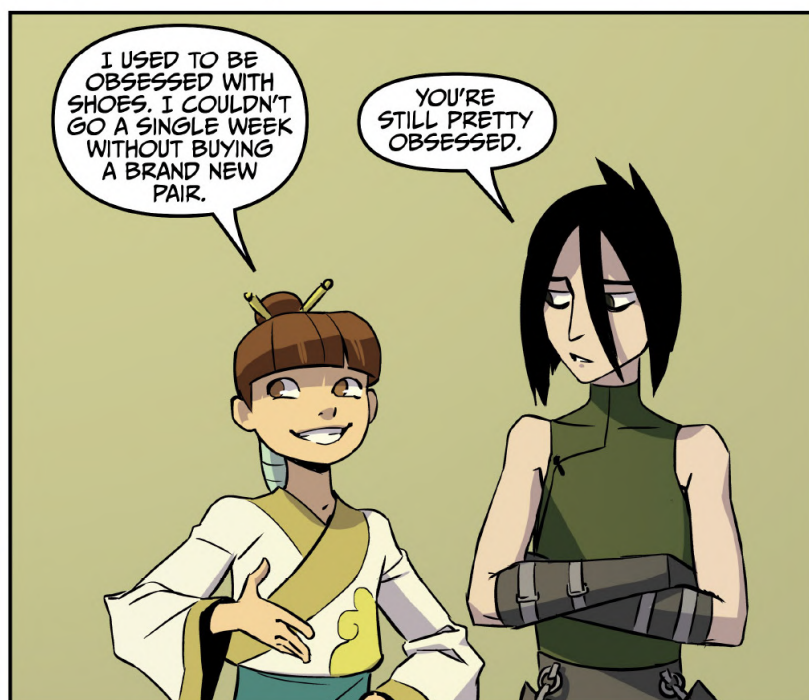
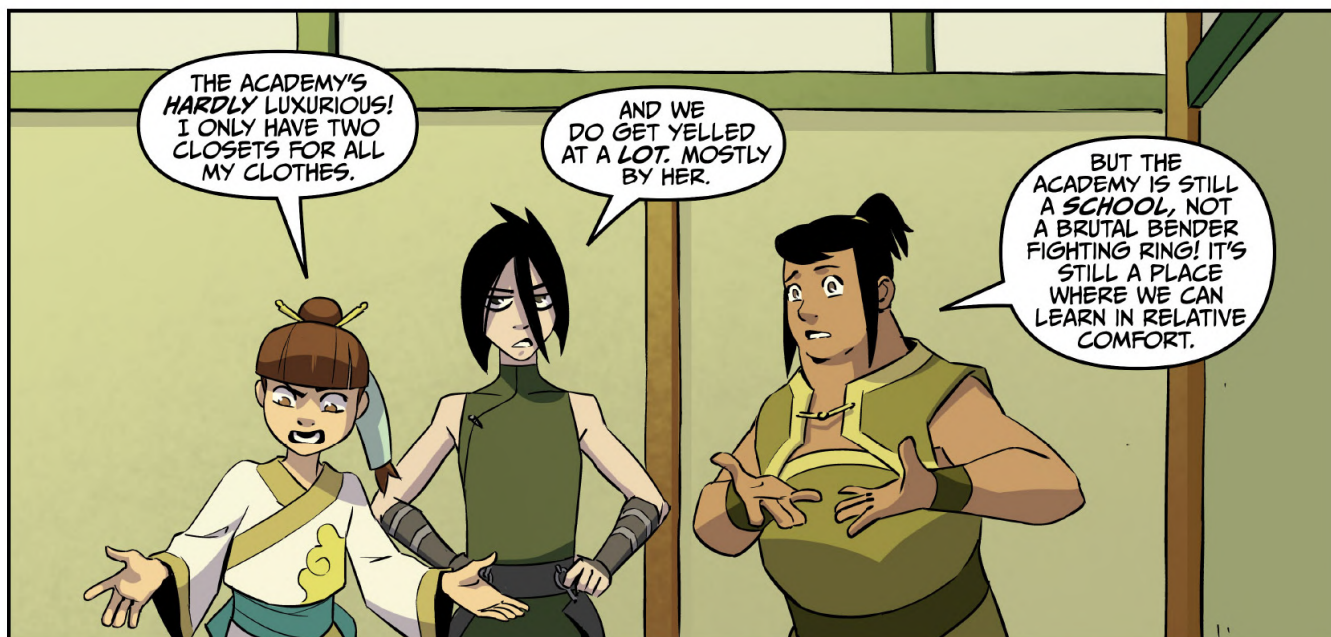


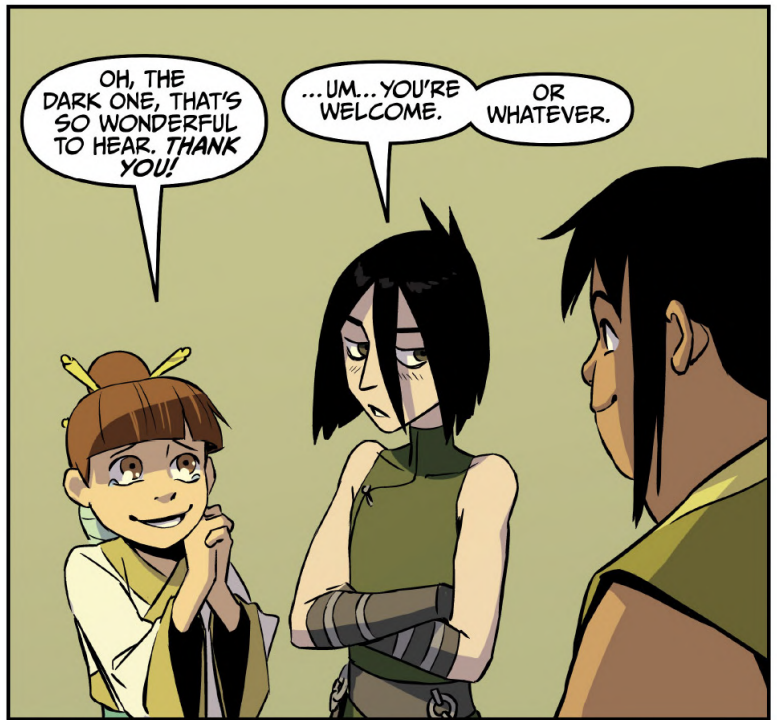


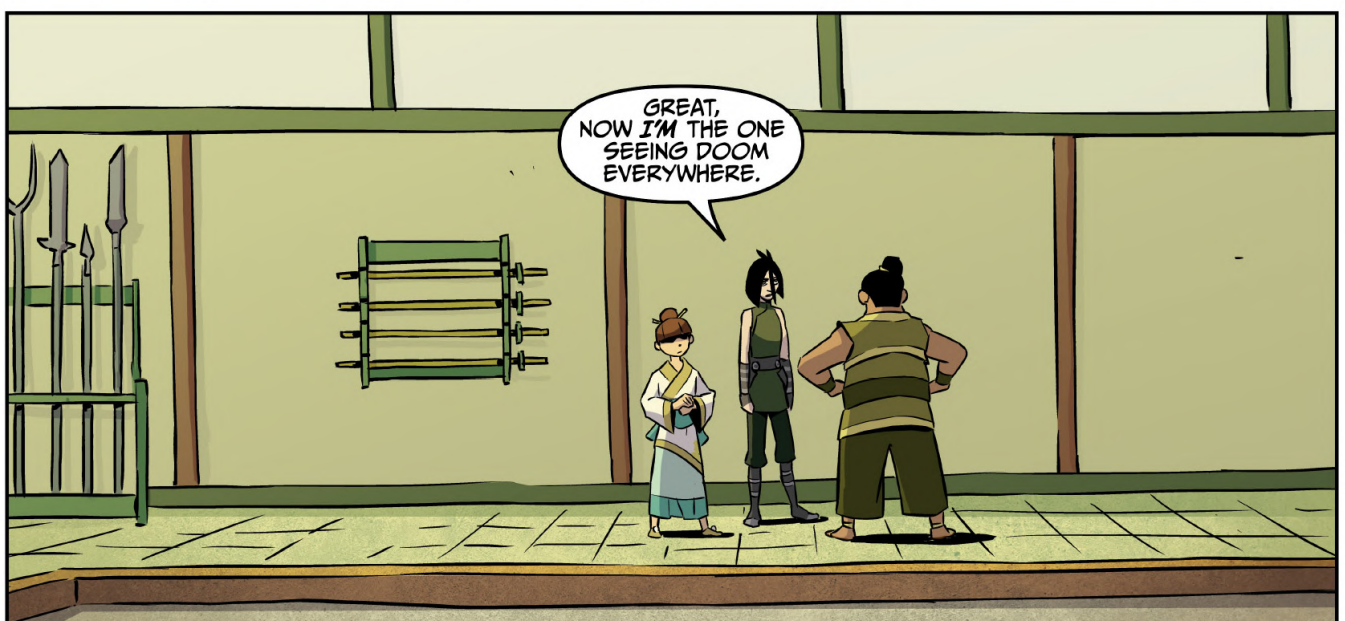
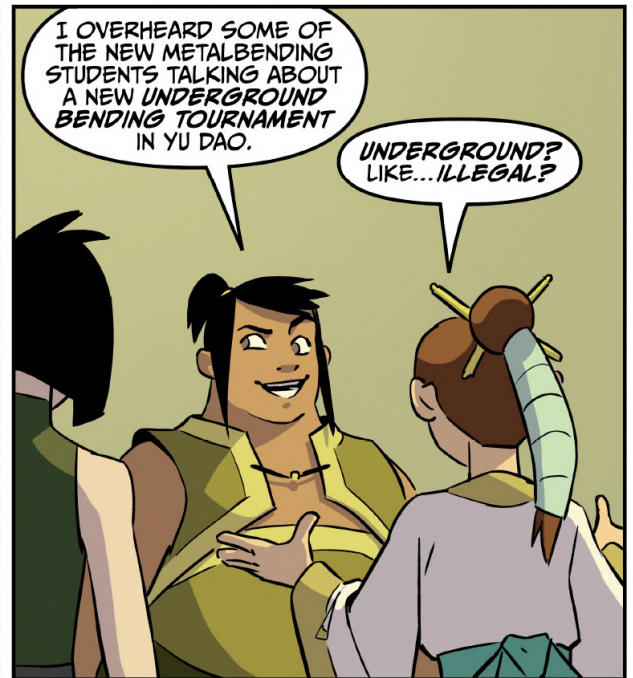
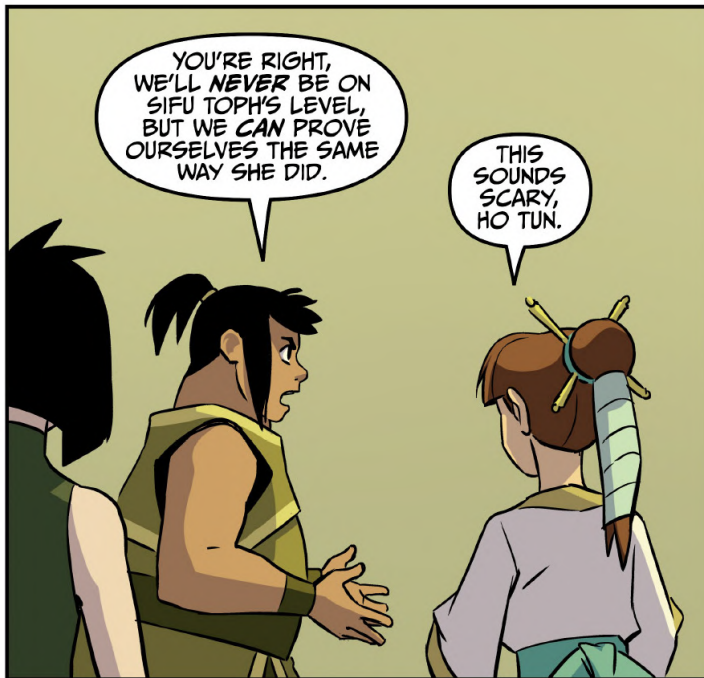






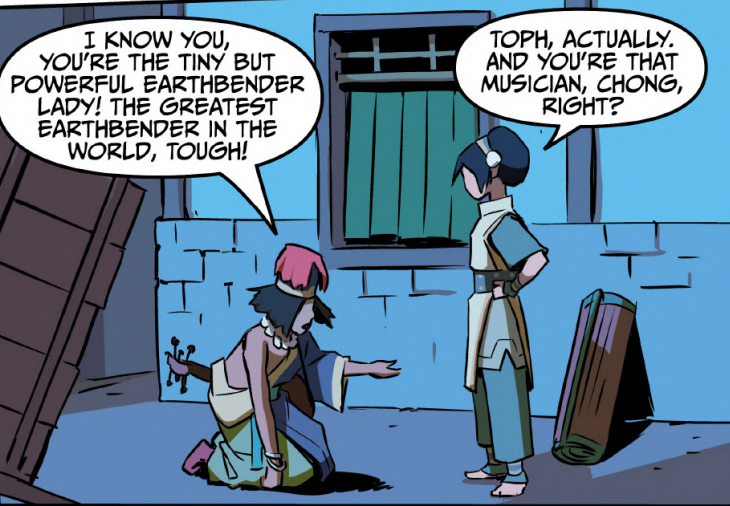















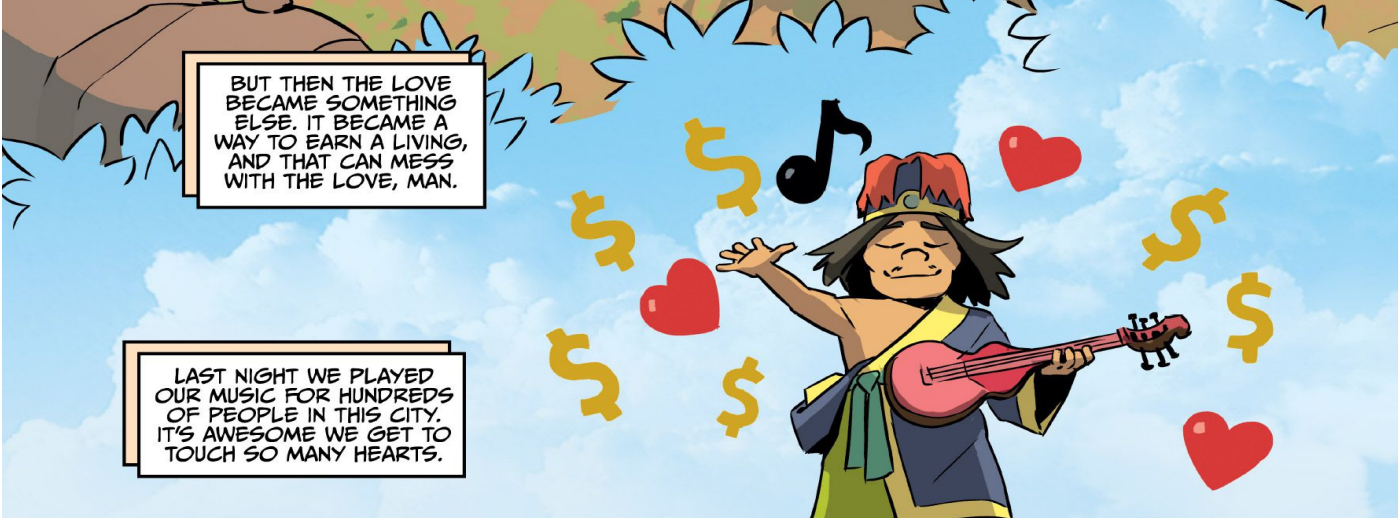






BACK IN THE DAY, ME, LILY,
AND MOKU USED TO PLAY
OUR MUSIC BECAUSE IT WAS
WHAT WE DID, MAN. WE
WERE ALL ABOUT THE
LOVE. THE LOVE OF MUSIC.

The scene shows three characters in a forest. On the left, a woman with a pink flower in her hair plays a flute. In the center, a man with a red and blue hat plays a red guitar. On the right, an older man with a yellow hat and a blue backpack plays a red guitar. There are large red hearts and black musical notes floating in the air above them.



BUT THEN THE LOVE
BECAME SOMETHING
ELSE. IT BECAME A
WAY TO EARN A LIVING,
AND THAT CAN MESS
WITH THE LOVE, MAN.

The scene shows the same man from the previous panel, now standing on a wooden barrel. He is playing a red guitar and has his arms outstretched. The air around him is filled with yellow dollar signs, red hearts, and black musical notes.



LAST NIGHT WE PLAYED
OUR MUSIC FOR HUNDREDS
OF PEOPLE IN THIS CITY.
IT'S AWESOME WE GET TO
TOUCH SO MANY HEARTS.

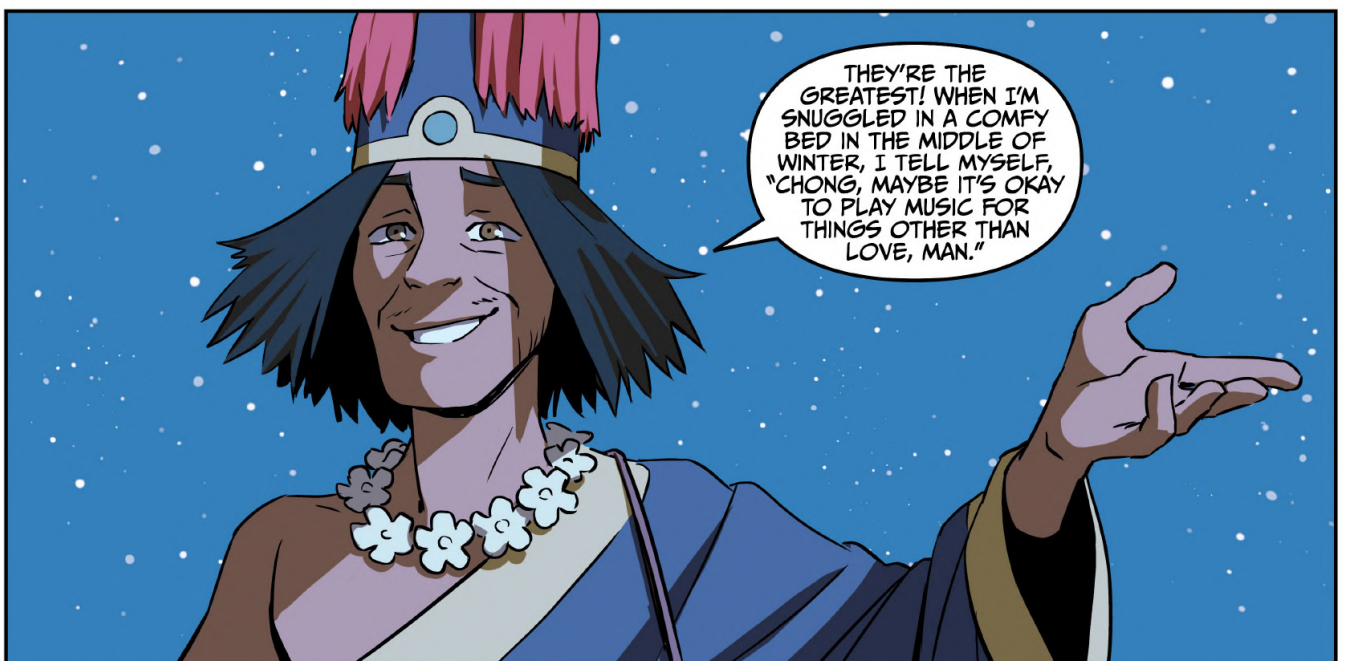
The scene shows the man from the previous panel, still on the wooden barrel, playing a red guitar. He is surrounded by a crowd of people, mostly men with dark hair, who are reaching up towards him. The background is a bright blue sky with white clouds.

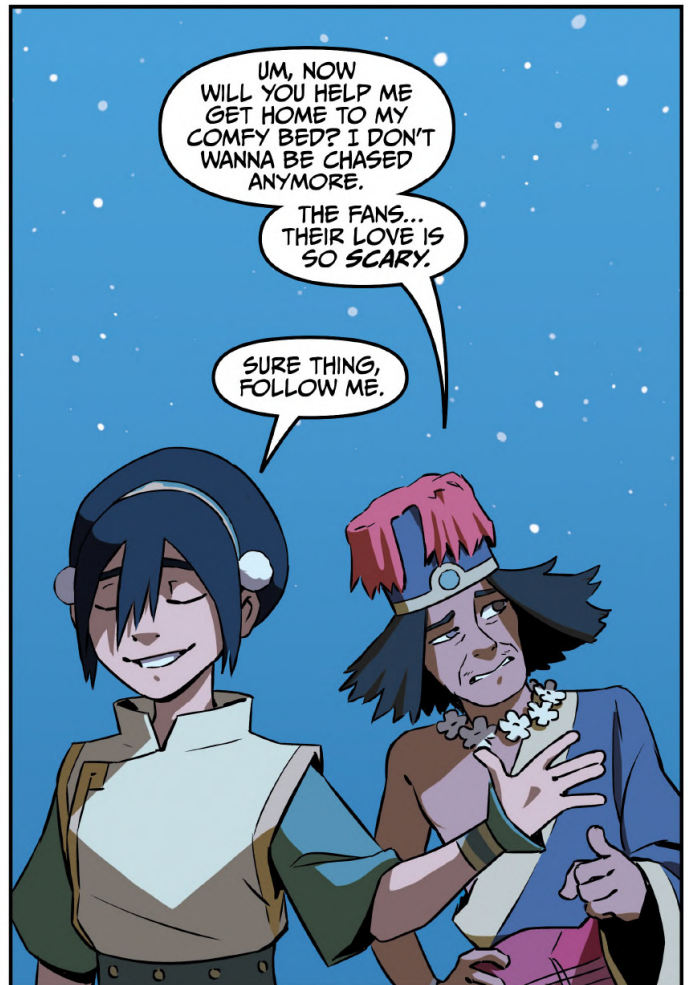
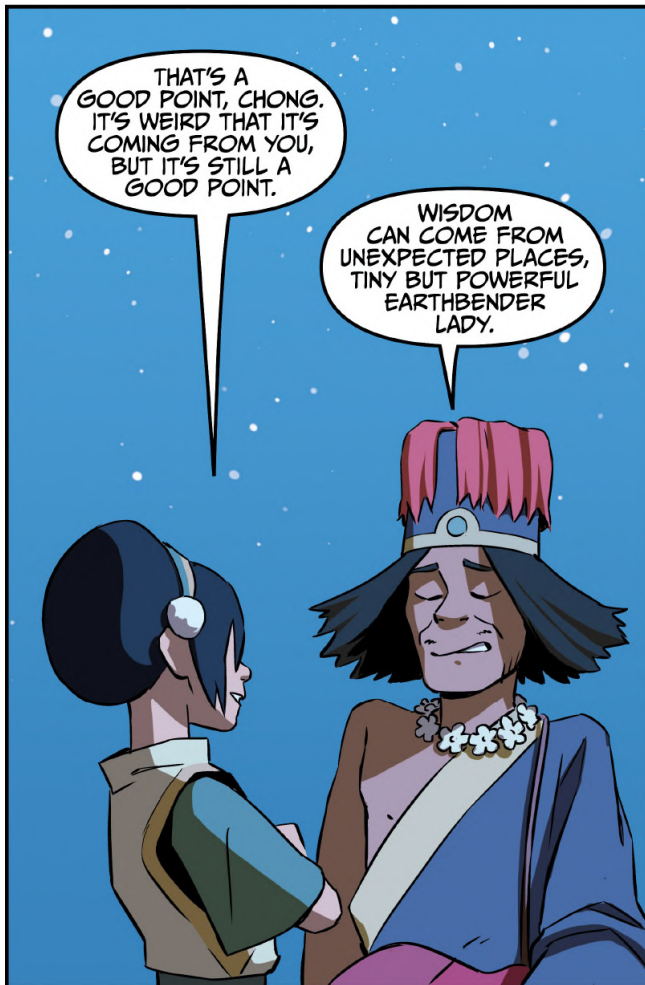


BUT AFTERWARD I SAW THIS KID PLAYING MUSIC IN THE STREET. AND I WANTED TO BE THAT KID, MAN. NO MONEY, NO FANS. ALL THAT KID HAD WAS THE LOVE OF HIS MUSIC. JUST LIKE HOW IT WAS WHEN ME, LILY, AND MOKU MET OUR MAN SOKKA.

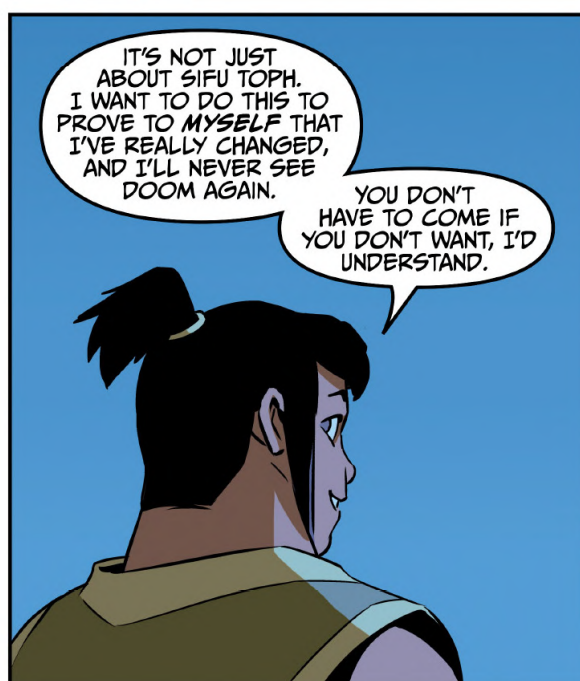
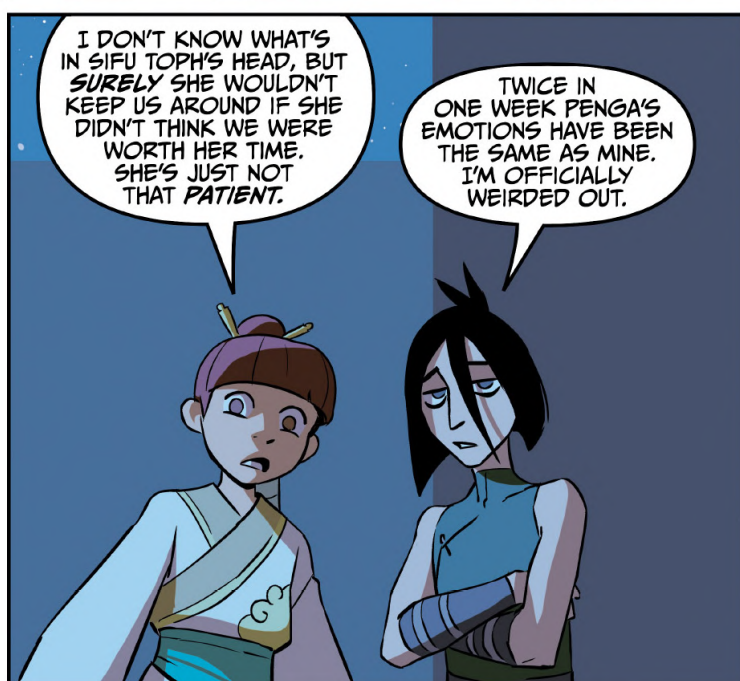
WHEN THE MUSIC YOU MAKE BECAUSE YOU LOVE IT BECOMES MUSIC YOU MAKE BECAUSE IT'S YOUR JOB, IT CHANGES HOW YOU FEEL ABOUT THE MUSIC, POWERFUL EARTHBENDER LADY.

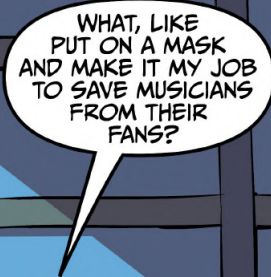
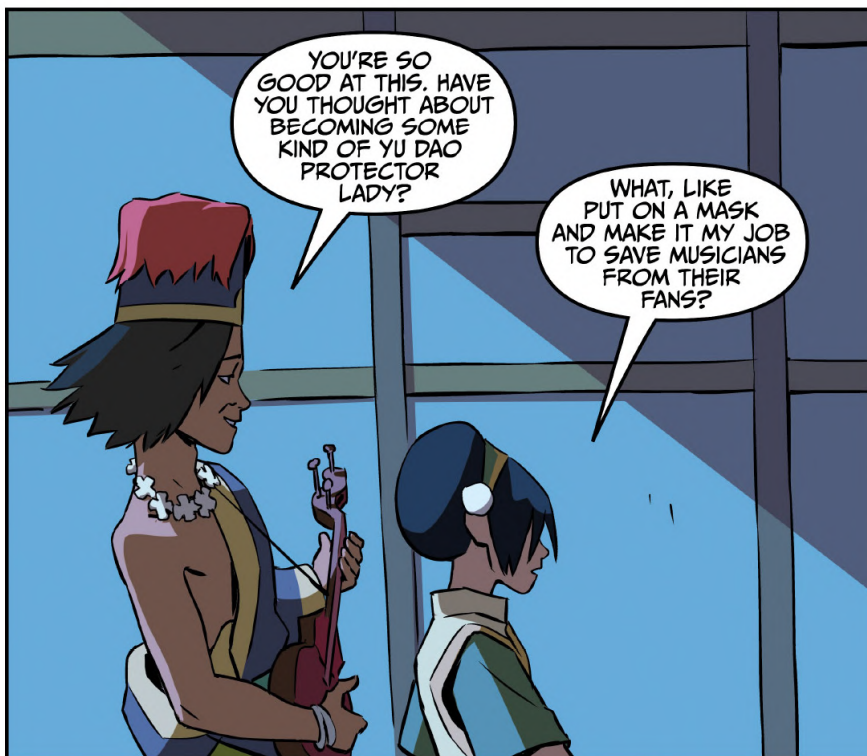


















HO TUN, I'M
HAVING SECOND
THOUGHTS ABOUT
PROVING OUR WORTH
TO SIFU TOPH. WHY
DON'T WE JUST
GO HOME?

NOW I'M
HAVING THE SAME
EMOTIONS AS THE
DARK ONE! HE'S
RIGHT, IT *IS*
WEIRD.



THIS IS A
LEVEL OF GRITTISS
THAT EVEN I, MY SOUL
STAINED WITH DEEPEST
EBON, AM LOATHE TO
PARTAKE IN. I SEE NO
POETRY IN THIS.

GUYS, WE'RE
METALBENDERS.



NO MATTER
WHAT OTHER
BENDERS THROW
AT US, WE'LL BE
ABLE TO TAKE
THEM.

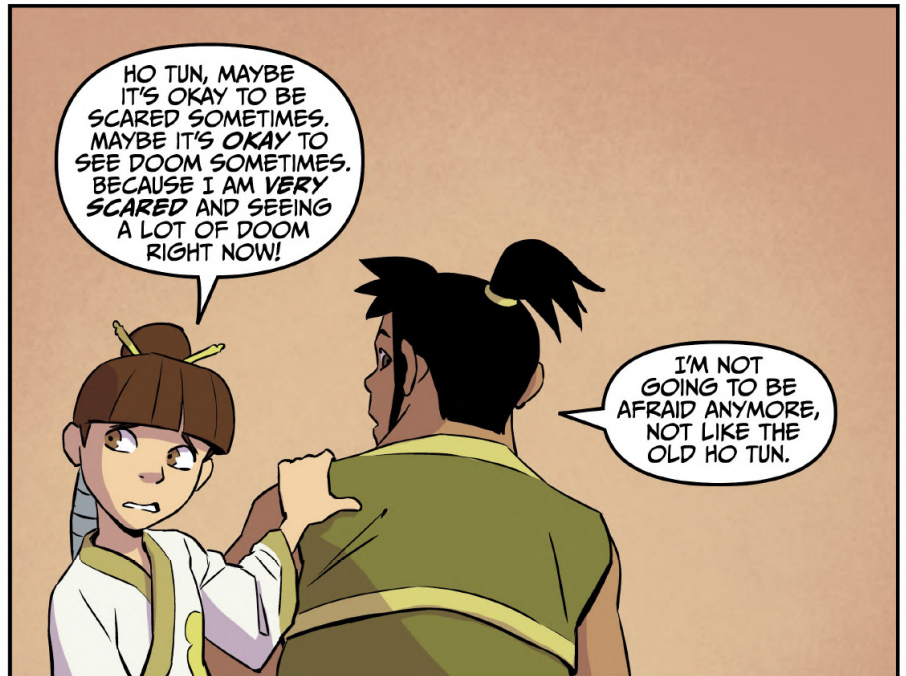
















ALL THAT
YELLING AND FIGHTING
REMINDS ME OF A MUSIC
TEACHER I HAD AS A KID.
HE WAS ALWAYS YELLING
AT ME AND TELLING ME I
WASN'T GOOD ENOUGH,
AND IT WAS REALLY
HURTFUL, YOU
KNOW?



YELLING
AT KIDS WHO'RE
TRYING THEIR BEST
MAKES ME SO
SAD, MAN.



I YELL
AT MY STUDENTS.
BUT...I ALSO REALLY
CARE ABOUT THEM.
I **WANT** THEM TO
DO WELL.



I BUILT A
SAFE PLACE WHERE
YOUNG BENDERS CAN
DEVELOP THEIR SKILLS
SO THEY DON'T **HAVE** TO
FIGHT IN UNDERGROUND
BENDING TOURNAMENTS
THE WAY I DID.

YOU **DID**
THAT, POWERFUL
EARTHBENDER
LADY!





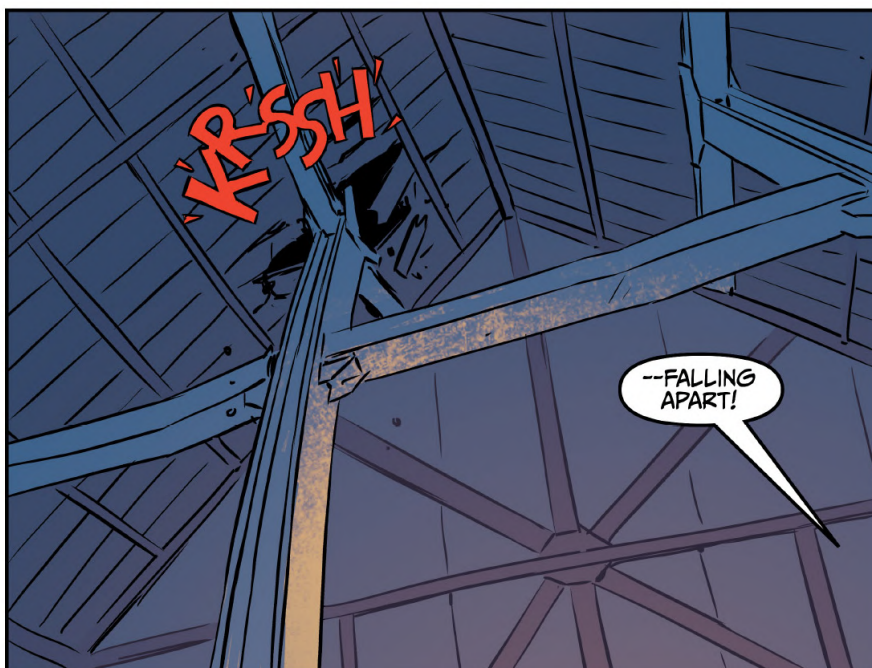
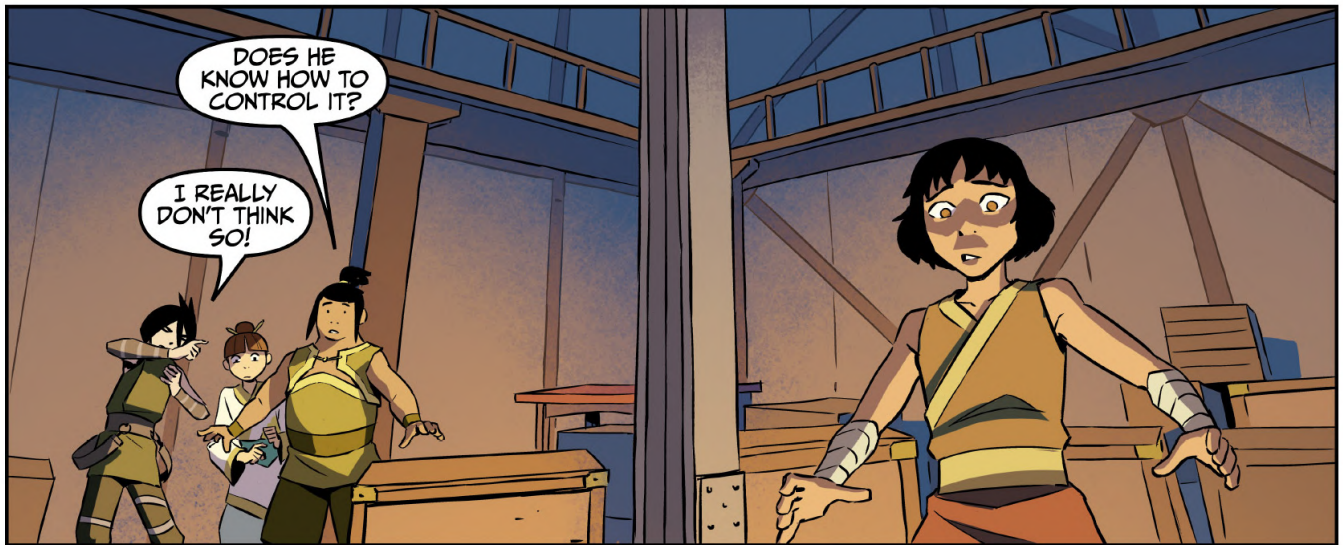


















CREEEAK

WHAMM

WHAT DO WE DO? WE CAN'T HOLD UP THE ENTIRE BUILDING BY OURSELVES, CAN WE?

WE-WE HAVE TO! OTHERWISE PEOPLE MAY DIE!

IF WE WORK TOGETHER, I KNOW WE CAN SAVE EVERYONE!

LET'S SHOW WHAT THE STUDENTS OF BEIFONG METALBENDING ACADEMY CAN DO!

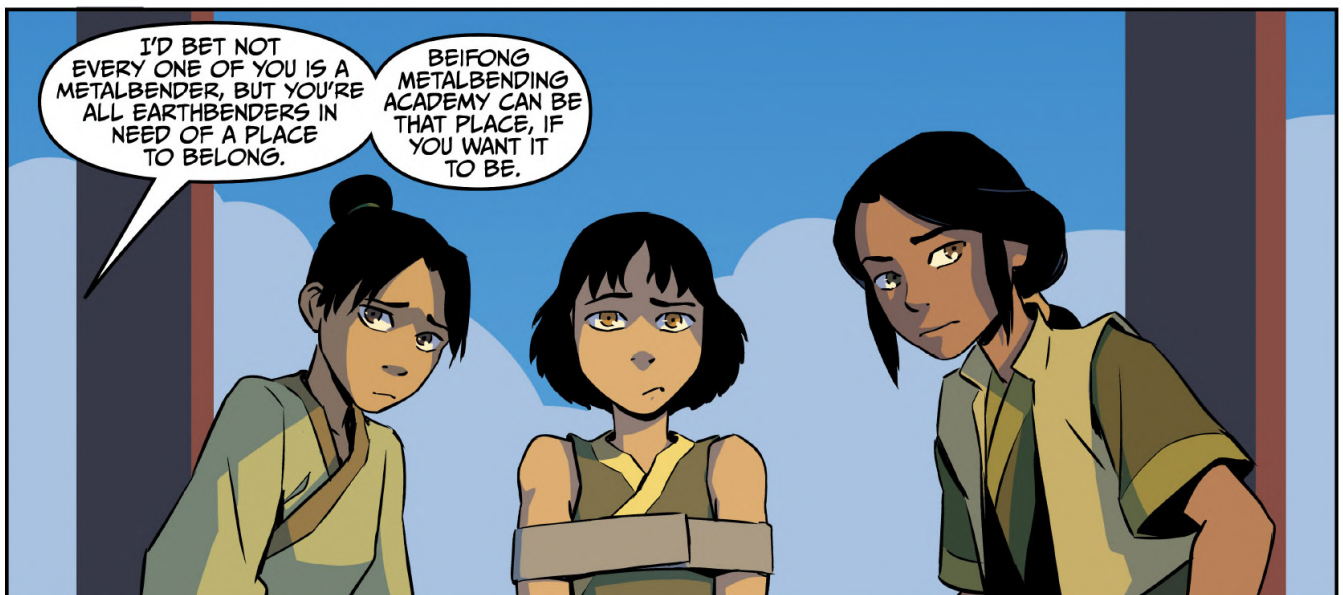
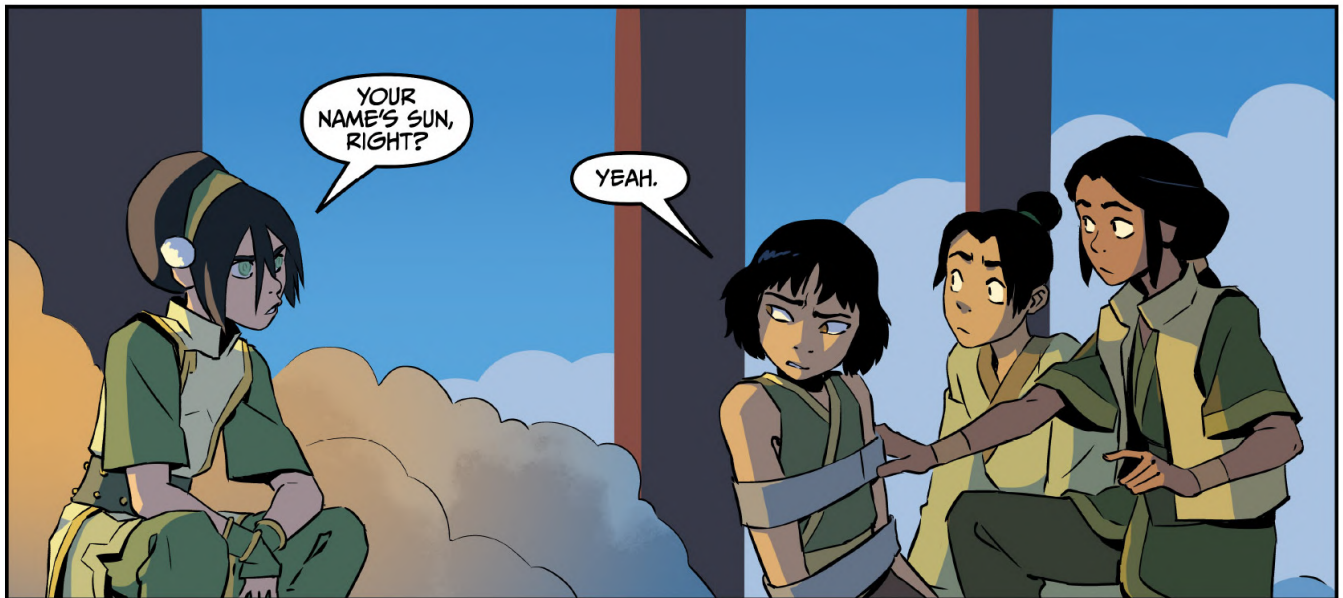
RUMBLE

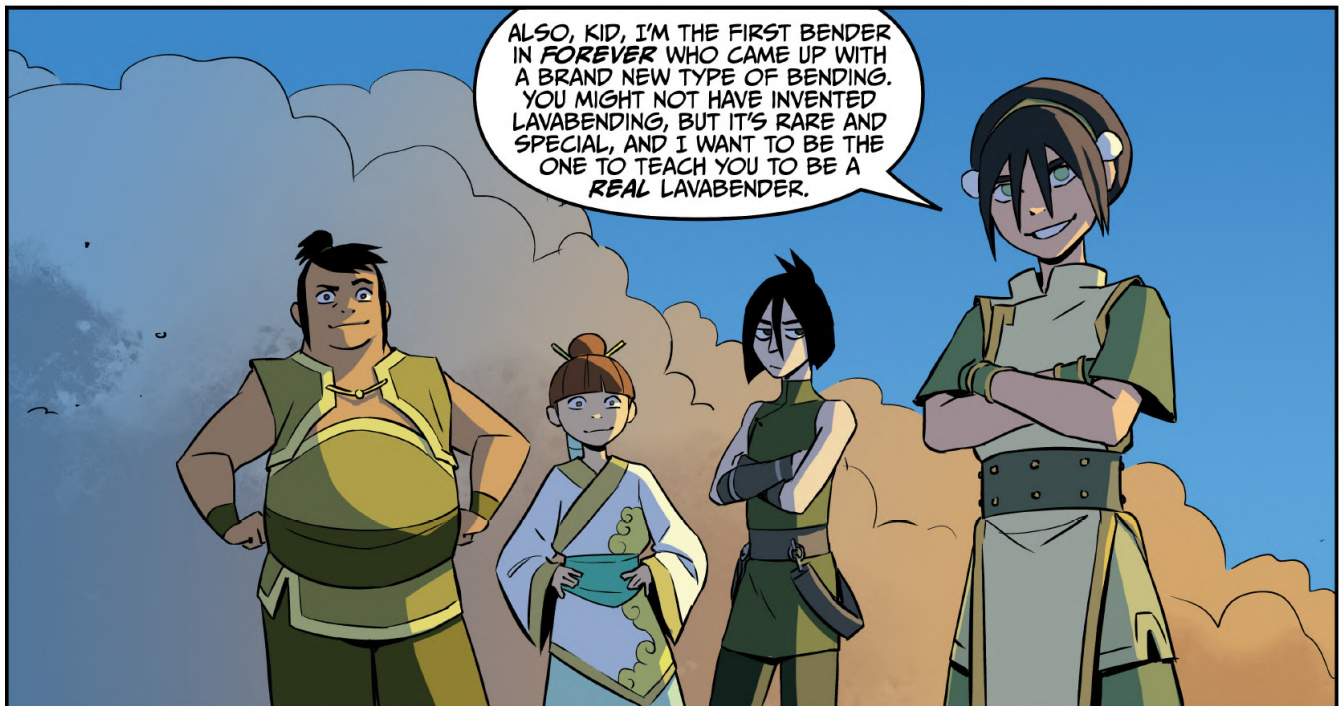
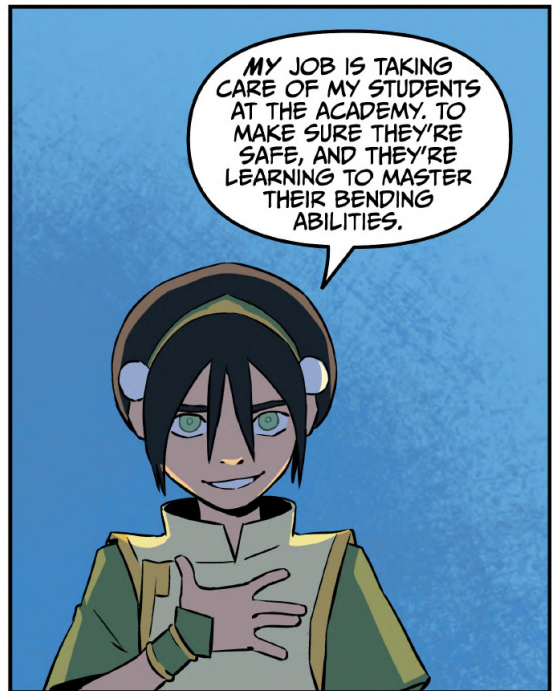


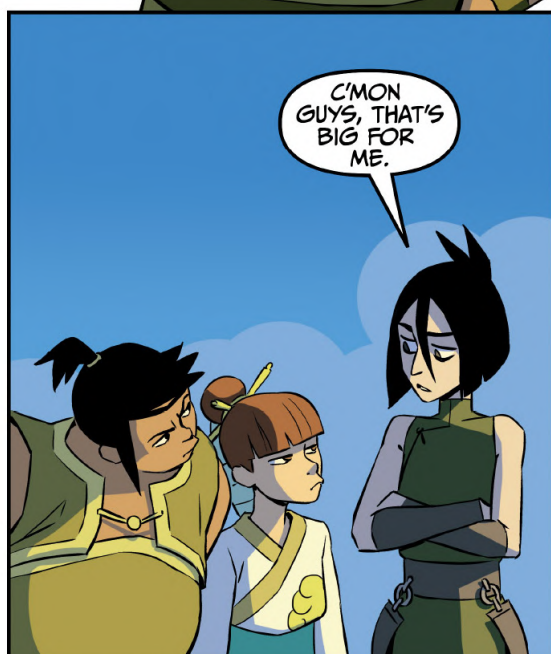
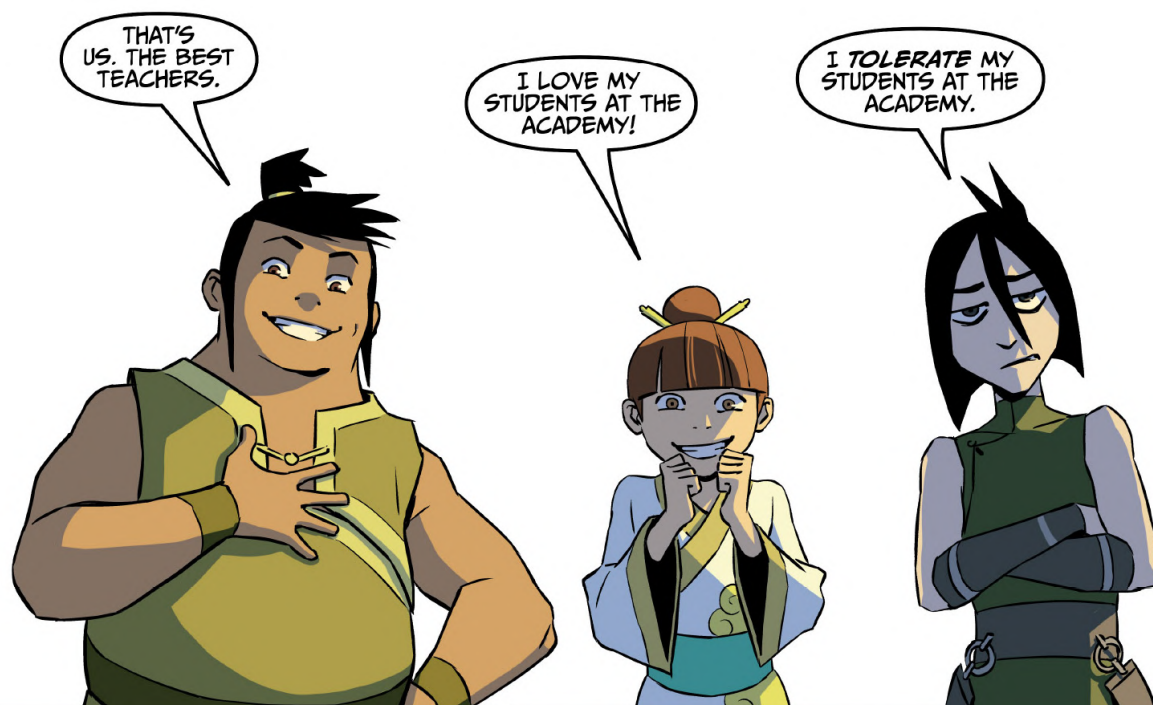










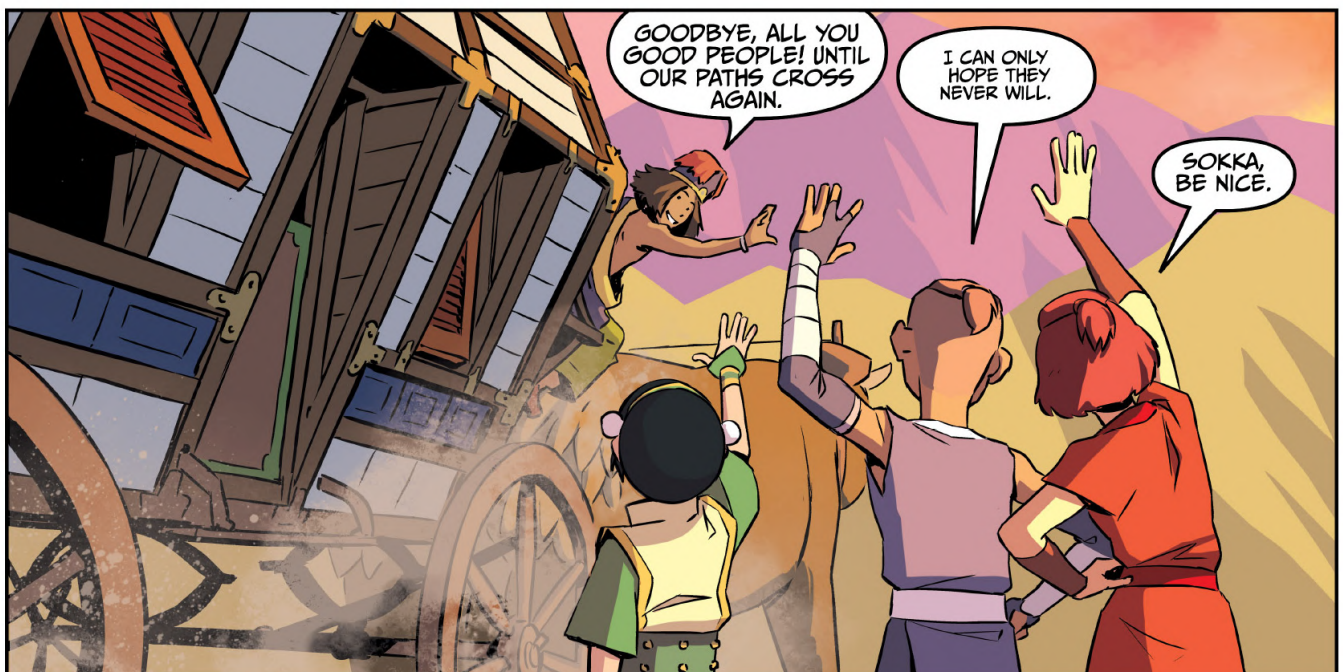
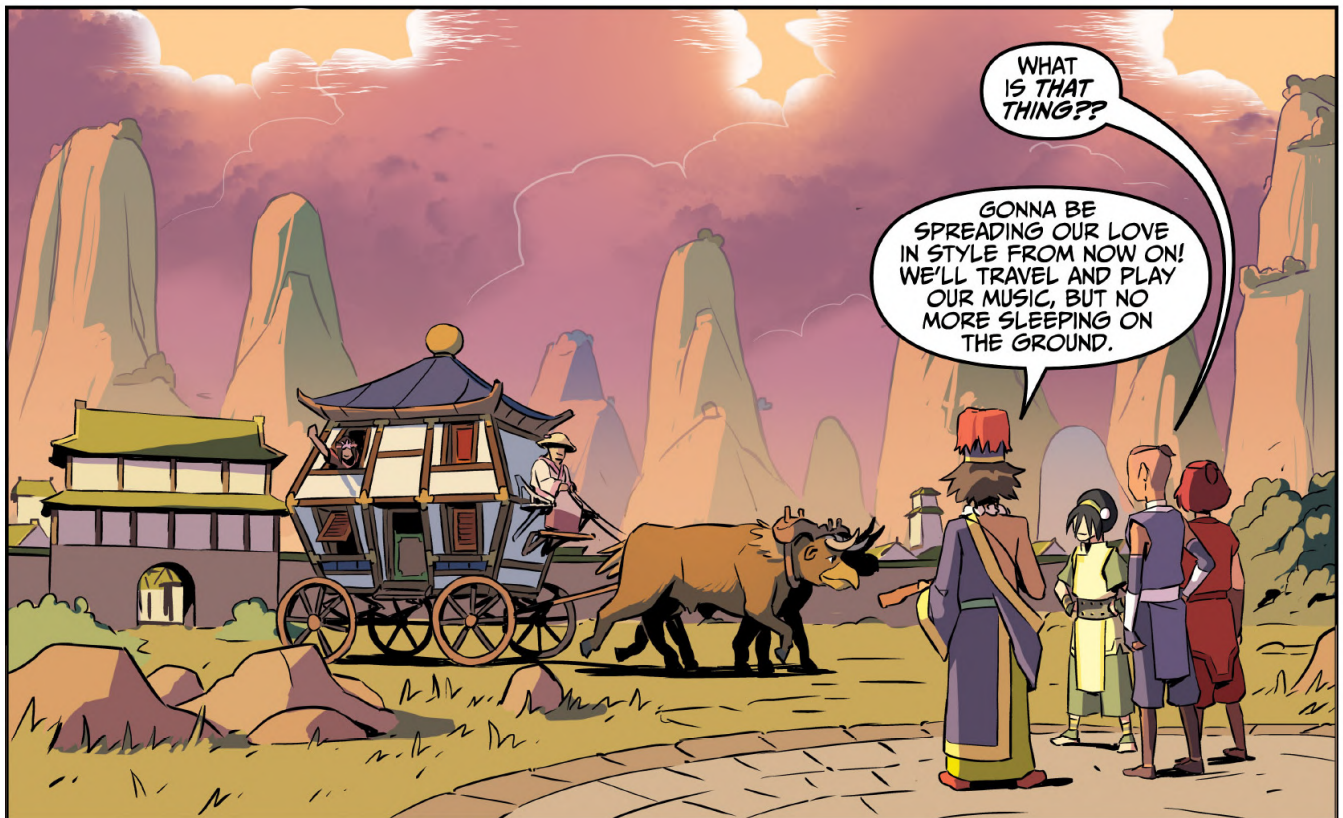


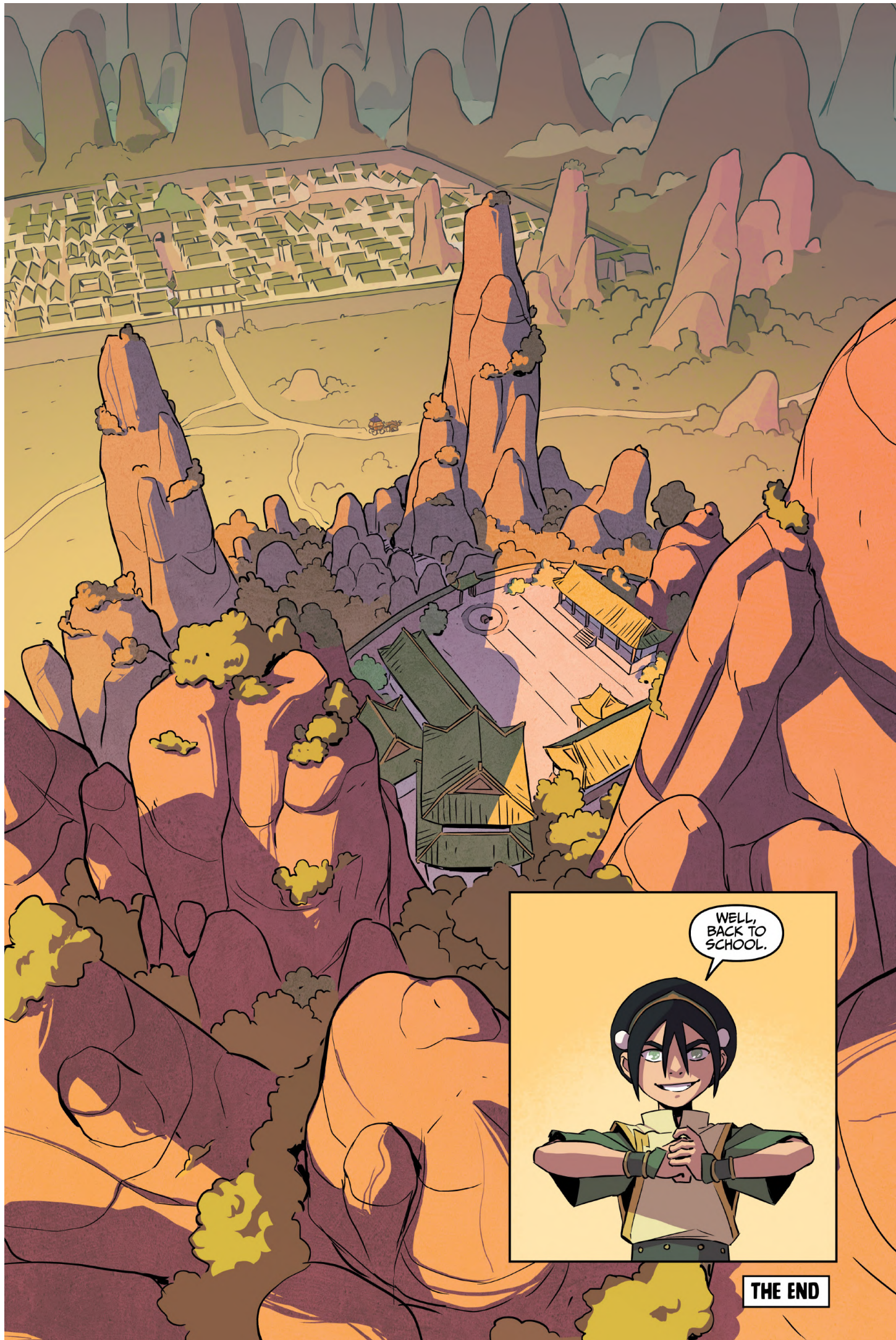






RUMBLE





WELL,
BACK TO
SCHOOL.



THE END





For some, perfection just isn't enough.

Things are looking bright at the Beifong Metalbending Academy! But after all the adventures Toph's had with Aang, Sokka, Zuko, and Katara, the whole thing feels a bit dull. Luckily, Sokka and Suki come to visit and reintroduce some familiar faces from their wandering days. And while out and about to celebrate, Toph discovers something that just might put the sparkle back in her eye....

Written by Faith Erin Hicks (*The Adventures of Superhero Girl*, *The Nameless City*) and drawn by Peter Wartman (*Stonebreaker*), with colors by Adele Matera, letters by Jimmy Betancourt, and collaboration from *Avatar: The Last Airbender* animated series writer Tim Hedrick, this is the ultimate continuation of the hit animated series!



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