


All Jin Wang wants is to fit in. When his family moves to a new neighborhood, he suddenly finds that he's the only Chinese-American student at his school. Jocks and bullies pick on him constantly, and he has hardly any friends. Then, to make matters worse, he falls in love with an all-American girl...

Born to rule over all the monkeys in the world, the story of the Monkey King is one of the oldest and greatest Chinese fables. Adored by his subjects, master of the arts of kung-fu, he is the most powerful monkey on earth. But the Monkey King doesn't want to be a monkey. He wants to be hailed as a god...

Chin-Kee is the ultimate negative Chinese stereotype, and he's ruining his cousin Danny's life. Danny's a basketball player, a popular kid at school, but every year Chin-Kee comes to visit, and every year Danny has to transfer to a new school to escape the shame. This year, though, things quickly go from bad to worse...

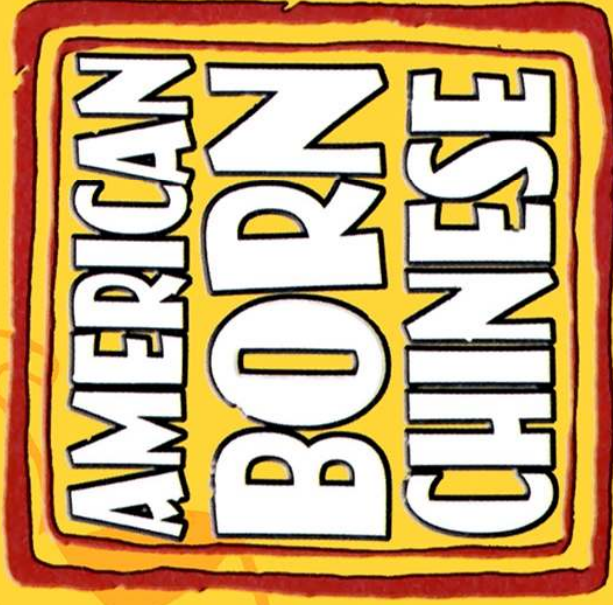
These three apparently unrelated tales come together with an unexpected twist, in a modern fable that is hilarious, poignant, and action-packed. *American Born Chinese* is an amazing ride, all the way up to the astonishing climax—and confirms what a growing number of readers already know: Gene Yang is a major talent.



AMERICAN
BORN
CHINESE

Gene Luen Yang

**AMERICAN
BORN
CHINESE**



**AMERICAN
BORN
CHINESE**

Gene Luen Yang

Color by Lark Pien



First Second

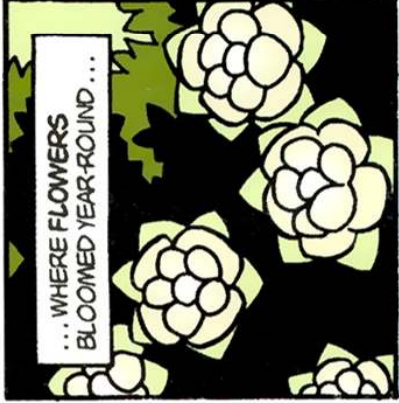
NEW YORK & LONDON

To Ma,
for her stories of the Monkey King

And Ba,
for his stories of Ah-Tong, the Taiwanese village boy

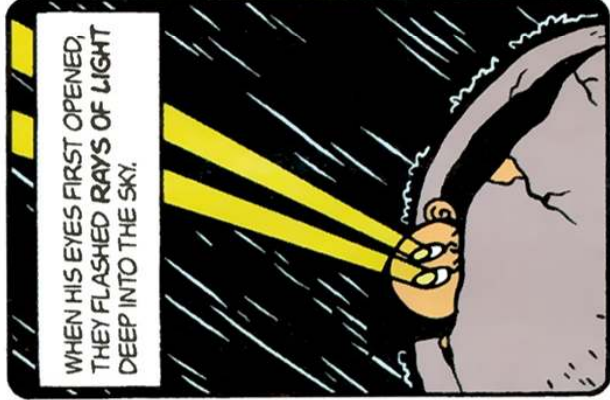




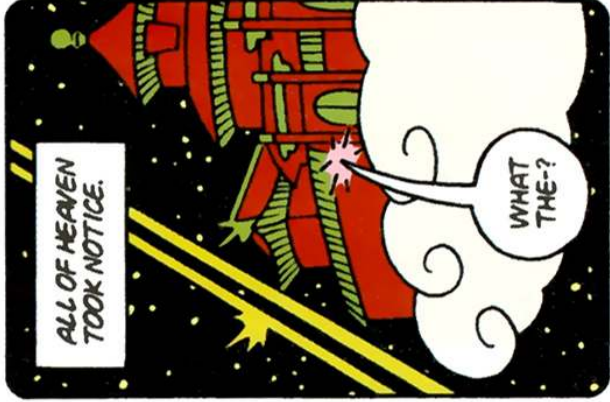




LEGEND HAD IT THAT LONG AGO, LONG BEFORE ALMOST ANY MONKEY COULD REMEMBER, THE MONKEY KING WAS BORN OF A ROCK.



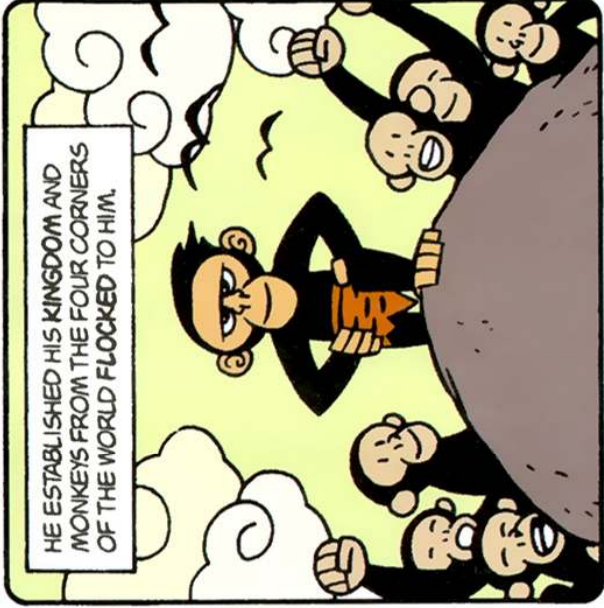
WHEN HIS EYES FIRST OPENED, THEY FLASHED RAYS OF LIGHT DEEP INTO THE SKY.



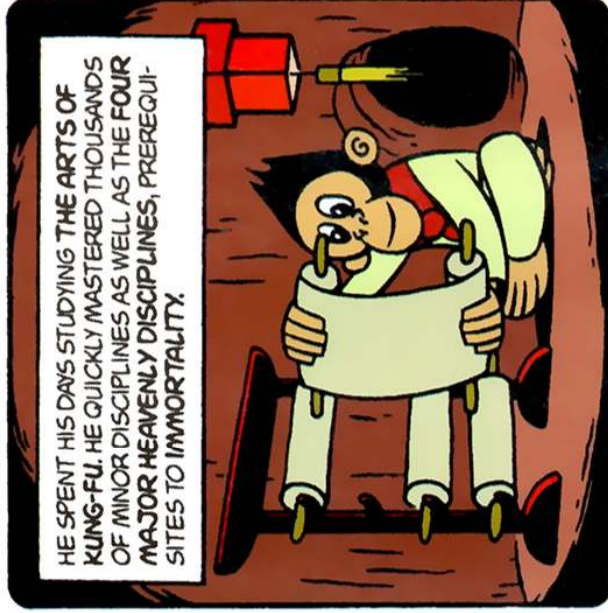
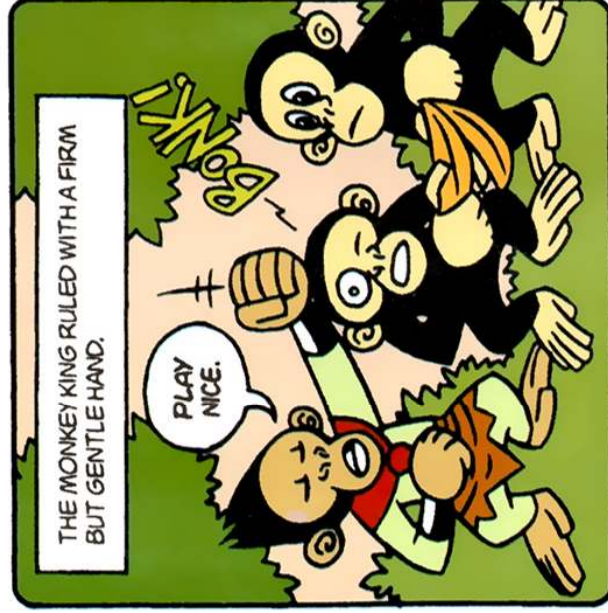
ALL OF HEAVEN TOOK NOTICE.



SOON AFTER, HE PURGED FLOWER-FRUIT MOUNTAIN OF THE TIGER-SPIRIT THAT HAD HAUNTED IT FOR CENTURIES.



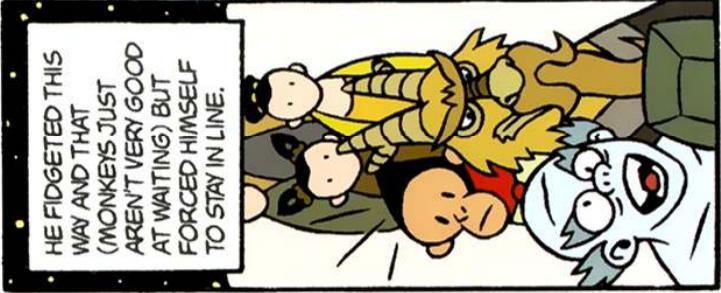
HE ESTABLISHED HIS KINGDOM AND MONKEYS FROM THE FOUR CORNERS OF THE WORLD FLOCKED TO HIM.







THE MONKEY KING
WAITED IN LINE FOR
WHAT SEEMED LIKE
AN ETERNITY.

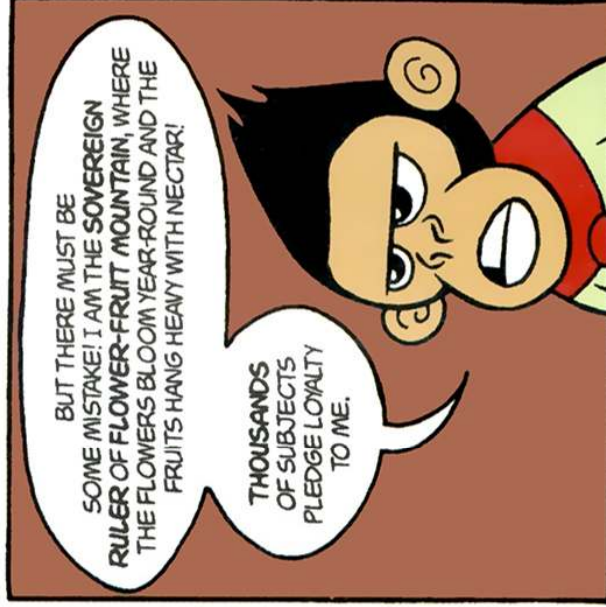


HE FIDGETED THIS
WAY AND THAT
(MONKEYS JUST
AREN'T VERY GOOD
AT WAITING) BUT
FORCED HIMSELF
TO STAY IN LINE.



ALL THE WHILE
HE THOUGHT
ABOUT HOW MUCH
HE LIKED DINNER
PARTIES.







DOE OF





DOE
OF





THE MONKEY KING
COULDN'T STOP
SHAKING AS HE
DESCENDED ON
FLOWER-FRUIT
MOUNTAIN.



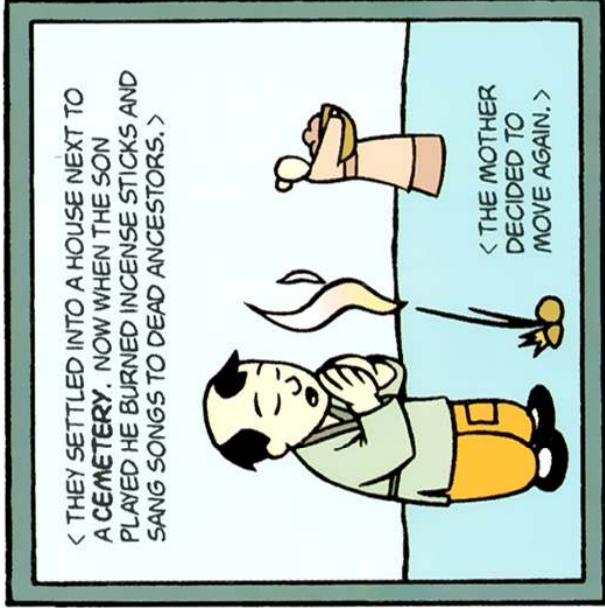
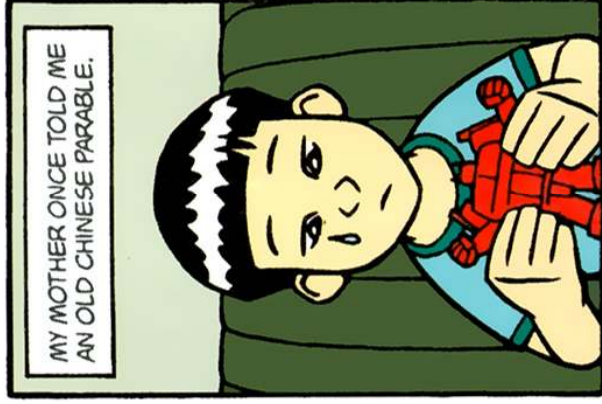
WHEN HE ENTERED HIS
ROYAL CHAMBER, THE
THICK SMELL OF MONKEY
FUR GREETED HIM.

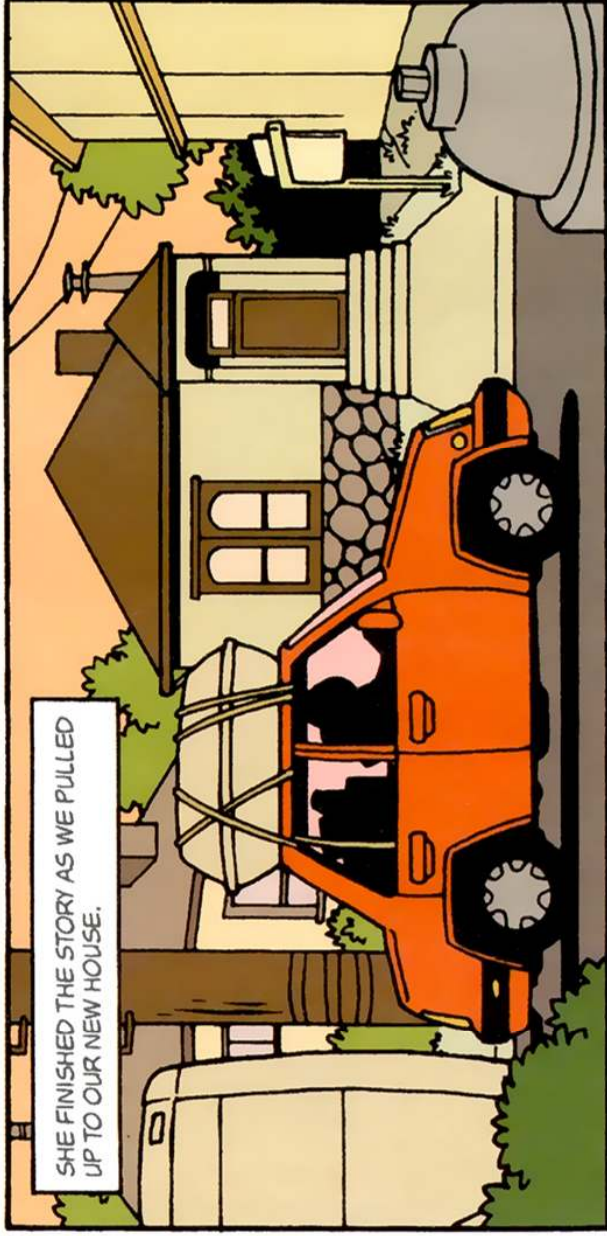
HE'D NEVER
NOTICED
IT BEFORE.

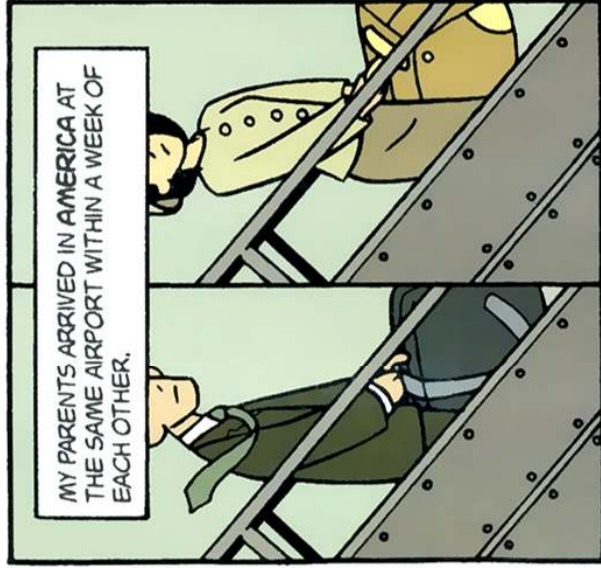


HE STAYED AWAKE
FOR THE REST OF
THE NIGHT THINKING
OF WAYS TO GET RID
OF IT.

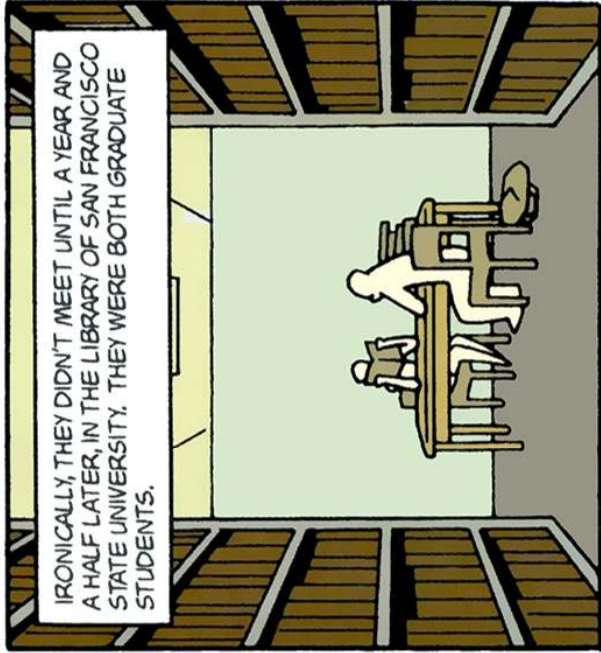








MY PARENTS ARRIVED IN AMERICA AT THE SAME AIRPORT WITHIN A WEEK OF EACH OTHER.



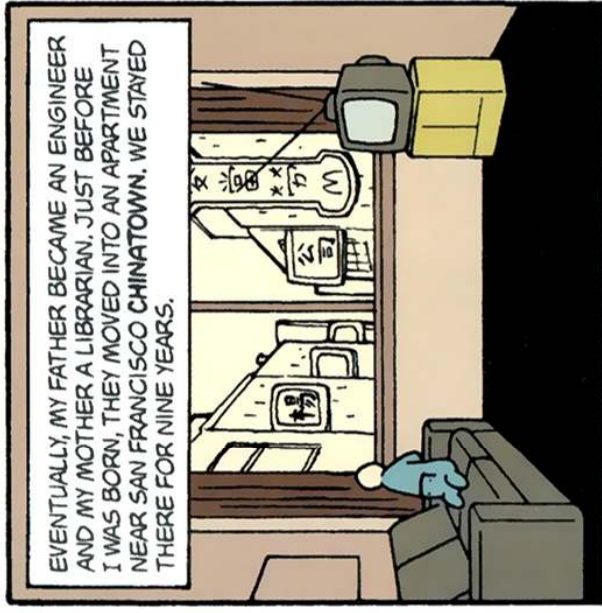
IRONICALLY, THEY DIDN'T MEET UNTIL A YEAR AND A HALF LATER, IN THE LIBRARY OF SAN FRANCISCO STATE UNIVERSITY. THEY WERE BOTH GRADUATE STUDENTS.



FOR TUITION MONEY, MY MOTHER WORKED AT A CANNERY.

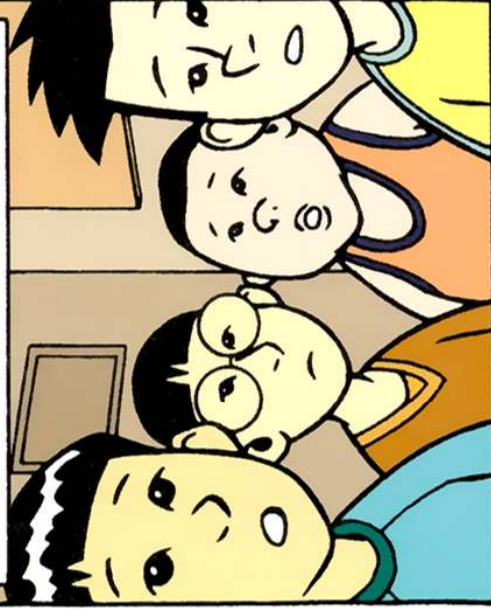
MY FATHER SOLD WIGS DOOR-TO-DOOR.

SUJAVE!

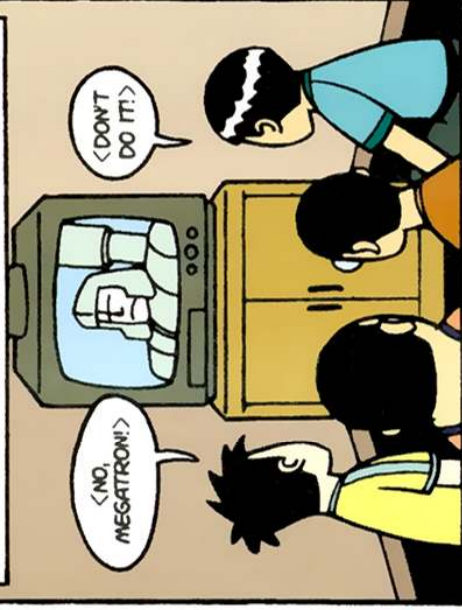


EVENTUALLY, MY FATHER BECAME AN ENGINEER AND MY MOTHER A LIBRARIAN. JUST BEFORE I WAS BORN, THEY MOVED INTO AN APARTMENT NEAR SAN FRANCISCO CHINATOWN. WE STAYED THERE FOR NINE YEARS.

THERE WAS A GROUP OF BOYS AROUND MY AGE THAT LIVED IN THE SAME COMPLEX.

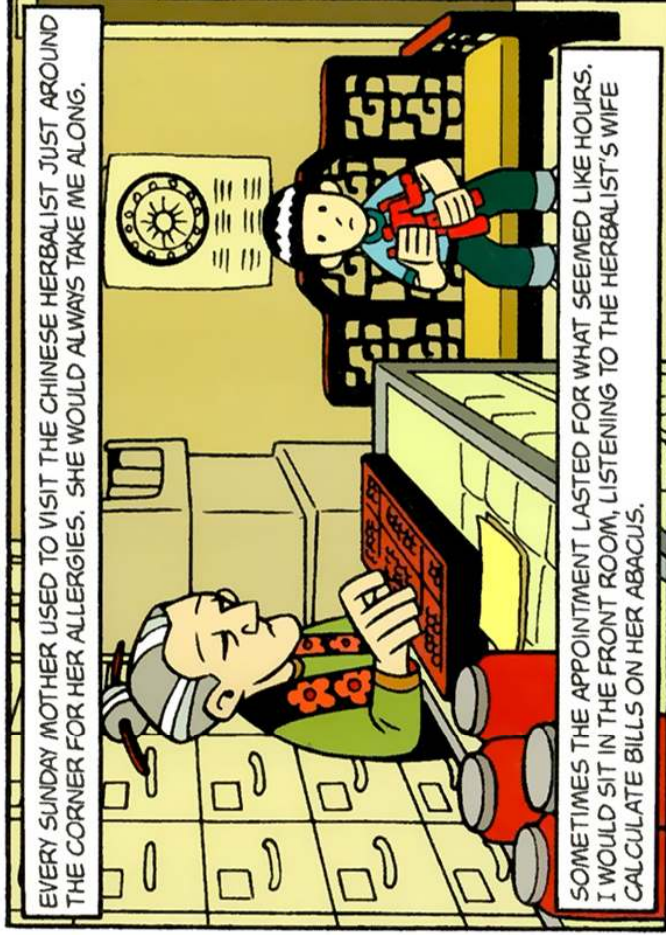


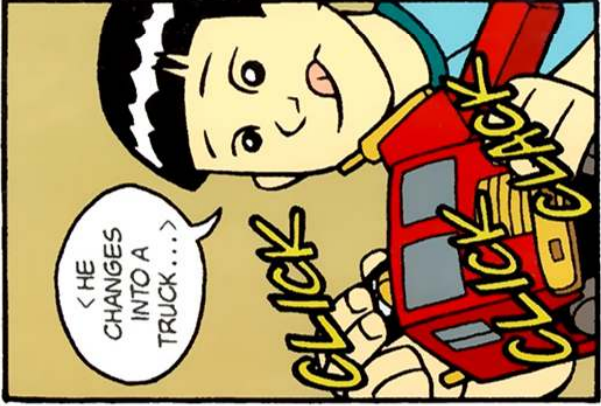
THEY CAME OVER ON SATURDAY MORNINGS TO WATCH CARTOONS. (OUR APARTMENT, BEING ON THE TOP FLOOR, HAD THE BEST RECEPTION.)



AFTERWARDS, WE WOULD STAGE EPIC BATTLES THAT LEFT OUR TOYS SMELLING LIKE SPIT.





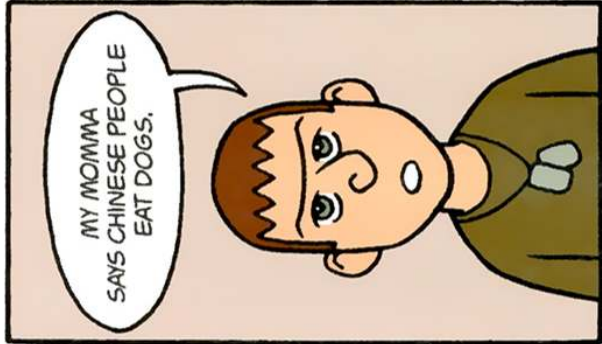








YES, TIMMY.

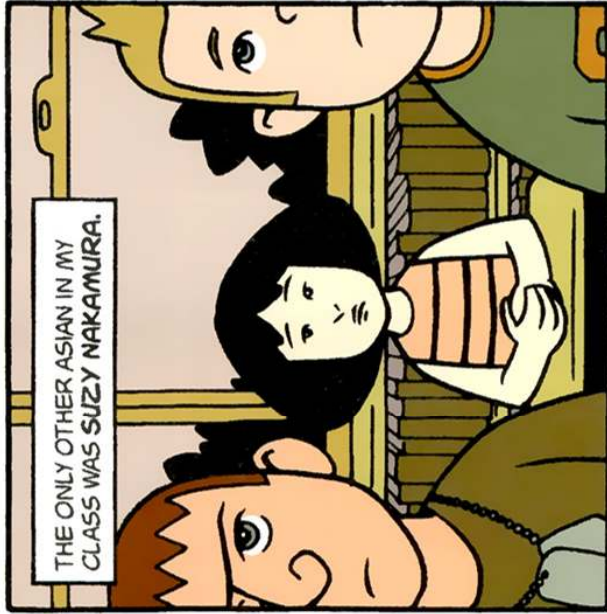


MY MOMMA SAYS CHINESE PEOPLE EAT DOGS.

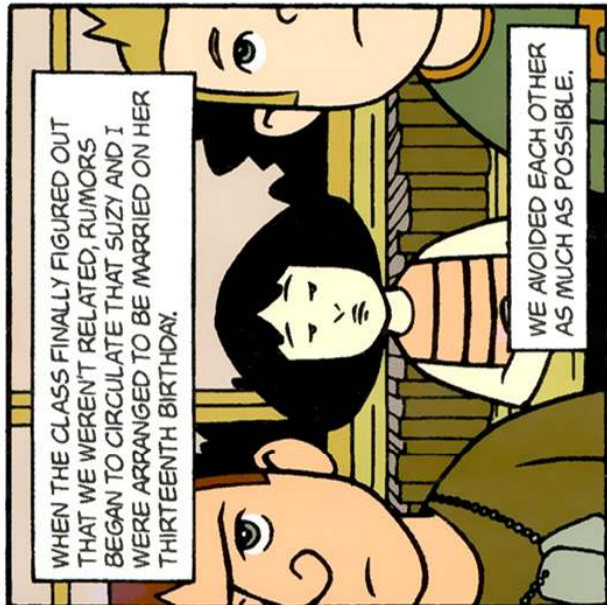


NOW BE NICE, TIMMY!

IN FACT, JIN'S FAMILY PROBABLY STOPPED THAT SORT OF THING AS SOON AS THEY CAME TO THE UNITED STATES!



THE ONLY OTHER ASIAN IN MY CLASS WAS SUZY NAKAMURA.

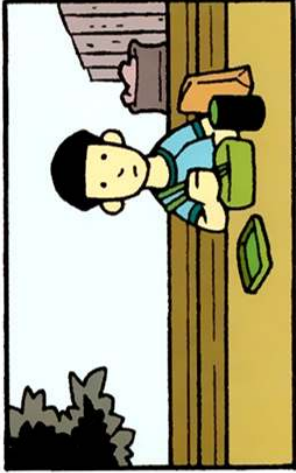
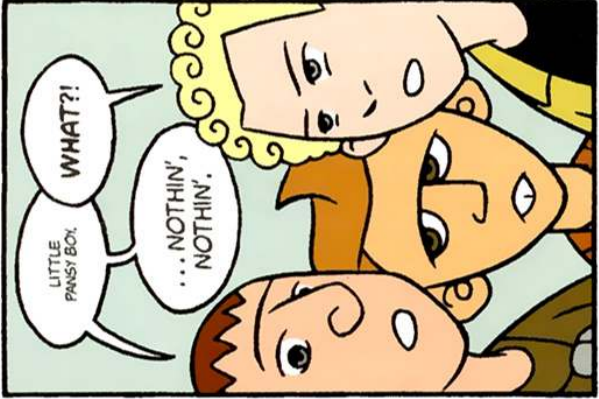
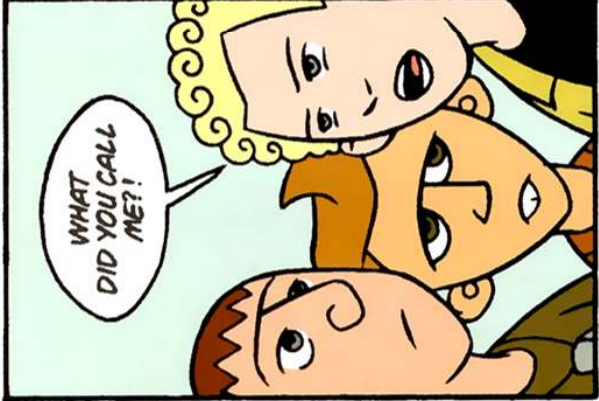


WHEN THE CLASS FINALLY FIGURED OUT THAT WE WEREN'T RELATED, RUMORS BEGAN TO CIRCULATE THAT SUZY AND I WERE ARRANGED TO BE MARRIED ON HER THIRTEENTH BIRTHDAY.

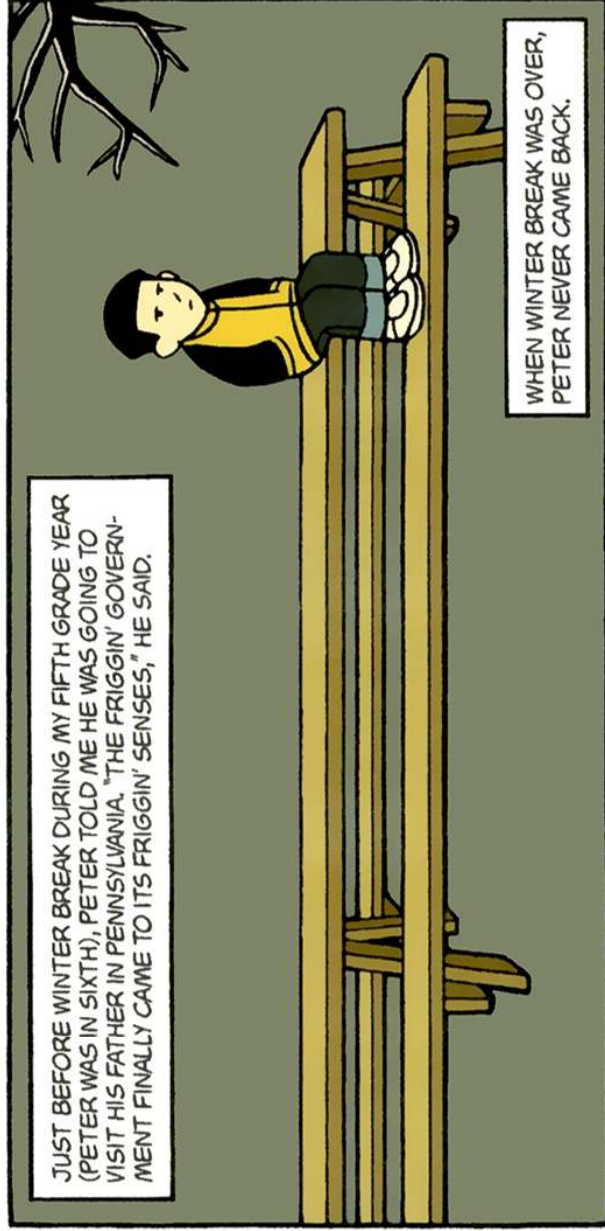
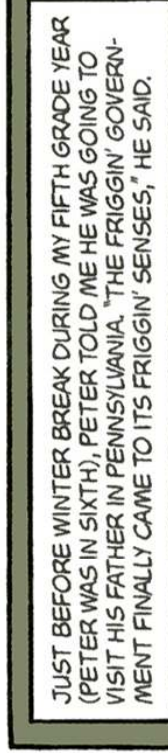
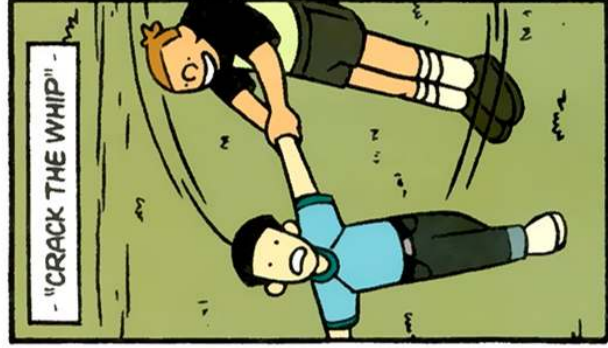


WE AVOIDED EACH OTHER AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE.

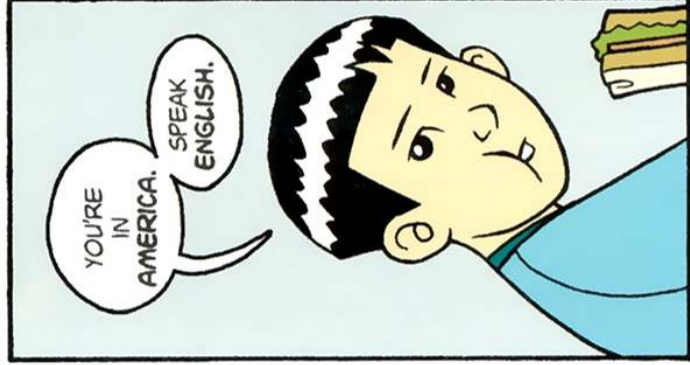
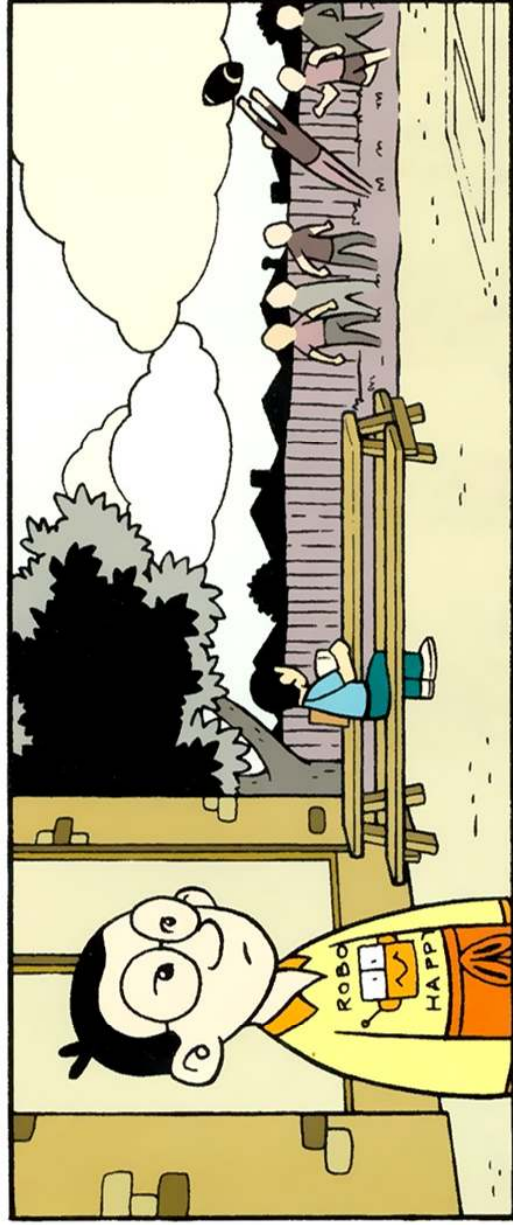








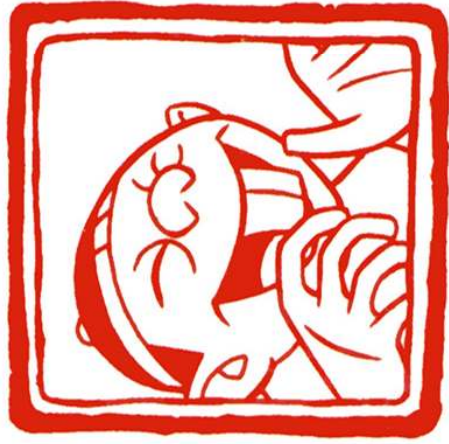






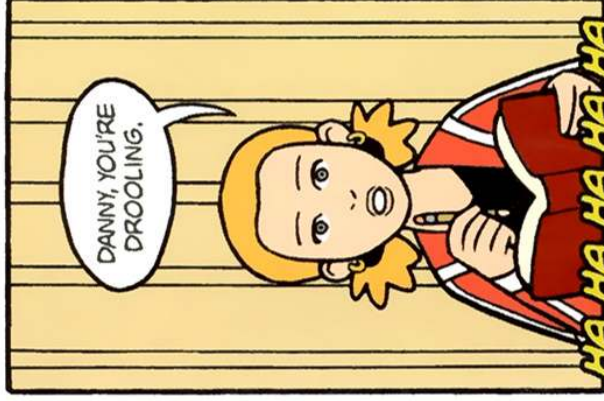
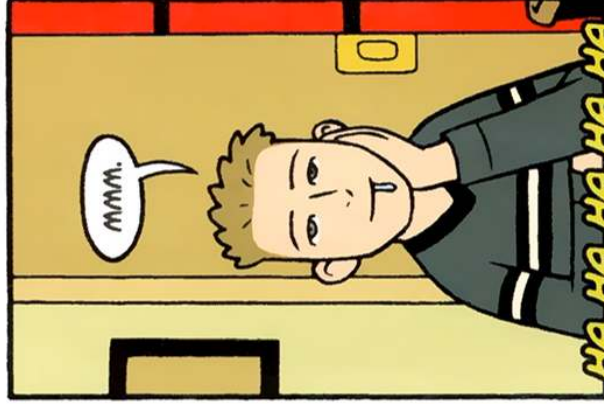


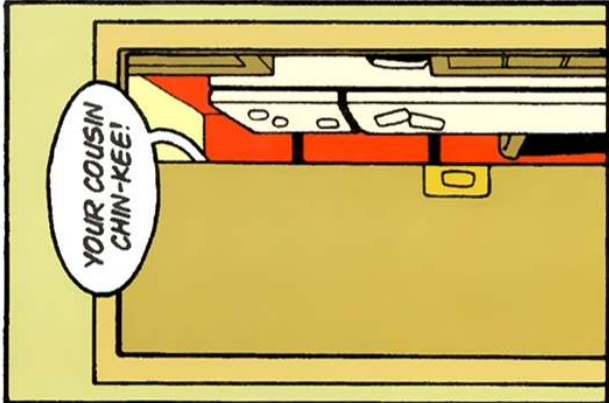
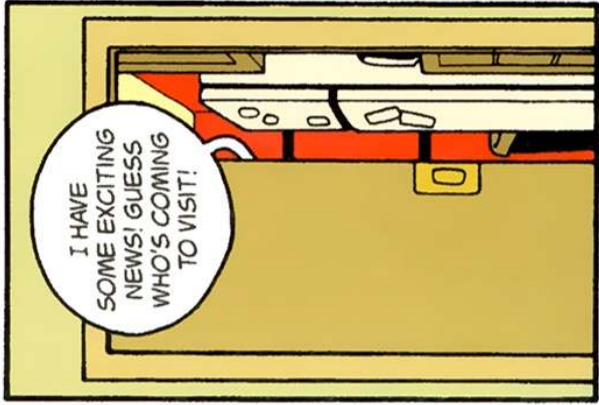


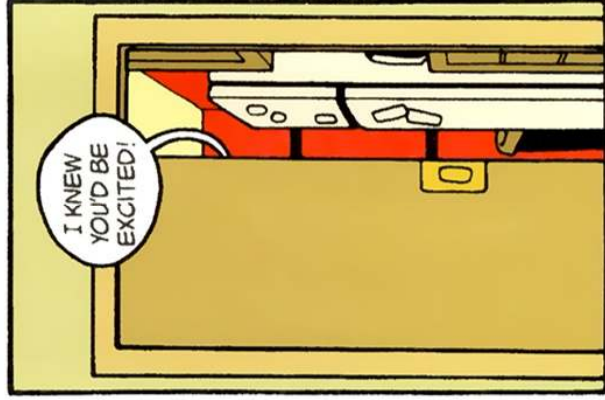
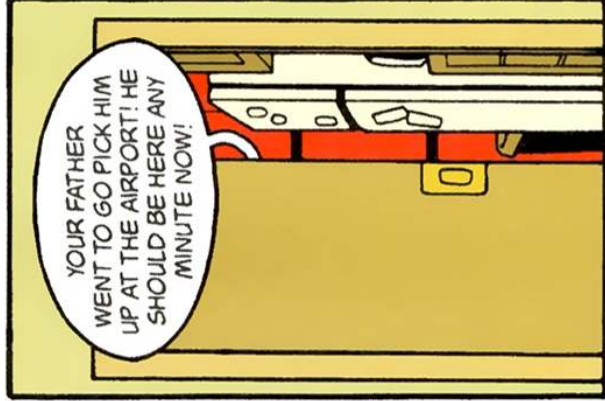


金西





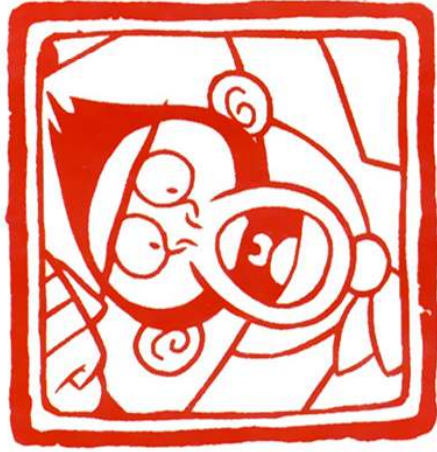






金西

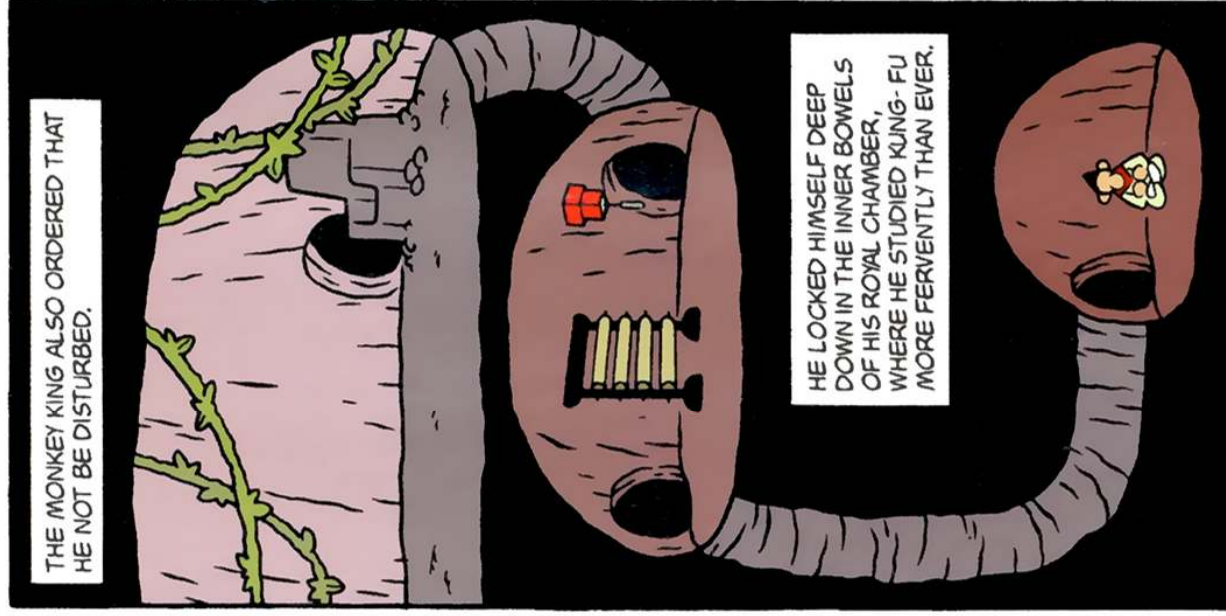






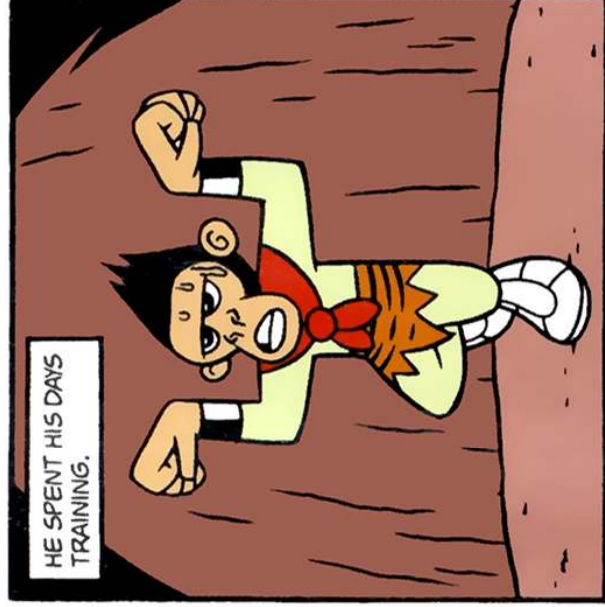
THE MORNING AFTER THE DINNER PARTY THE MONKEY KING ISSUED A DECREE THROUGHOUT ALL OF FLOWER-FRUIT MOUNTAIN:

ALL MONKEYS MUST WEAR SHOES.



THE MONKEY KING ALSO ORDERED THAT HE NOT BE DISTURBED.

HE LOCKED HIMSELF DEEP DOWN IN THE INNER BOWELS OF HIS ROYAL CHAMBER, WHERE HE STUDIED KUNG-FU MORE FERVENTLY THAN EVER.

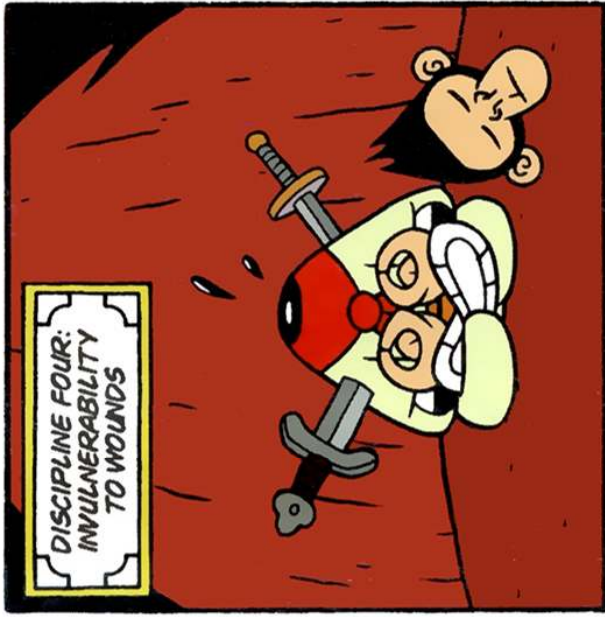


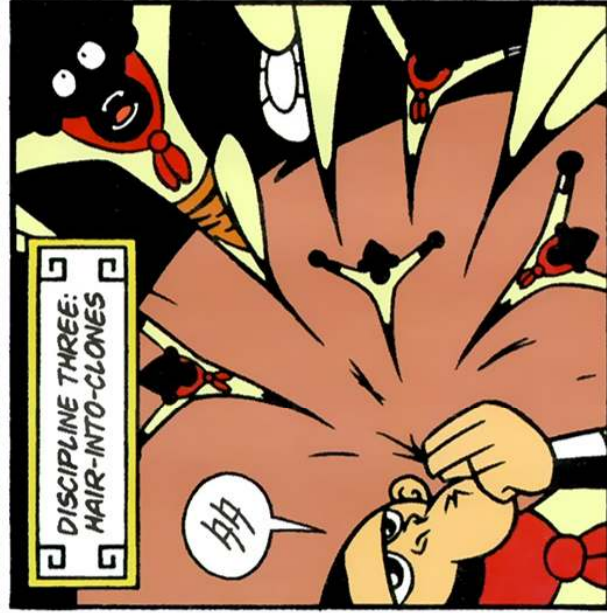
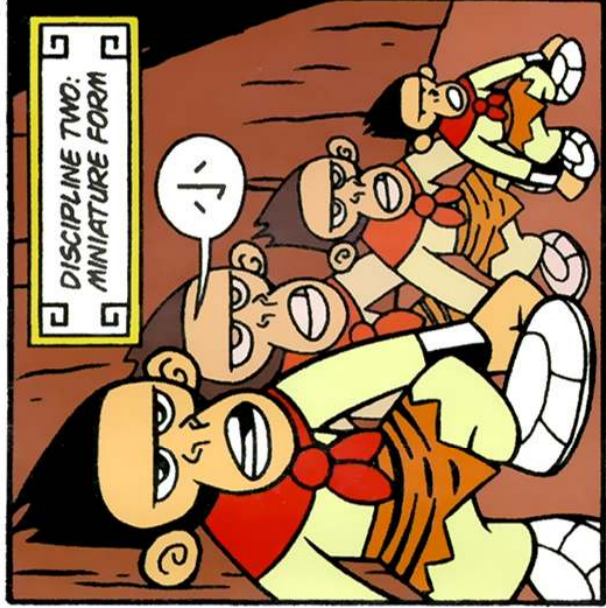
HE SPENT HIS DAYS TRAINING.



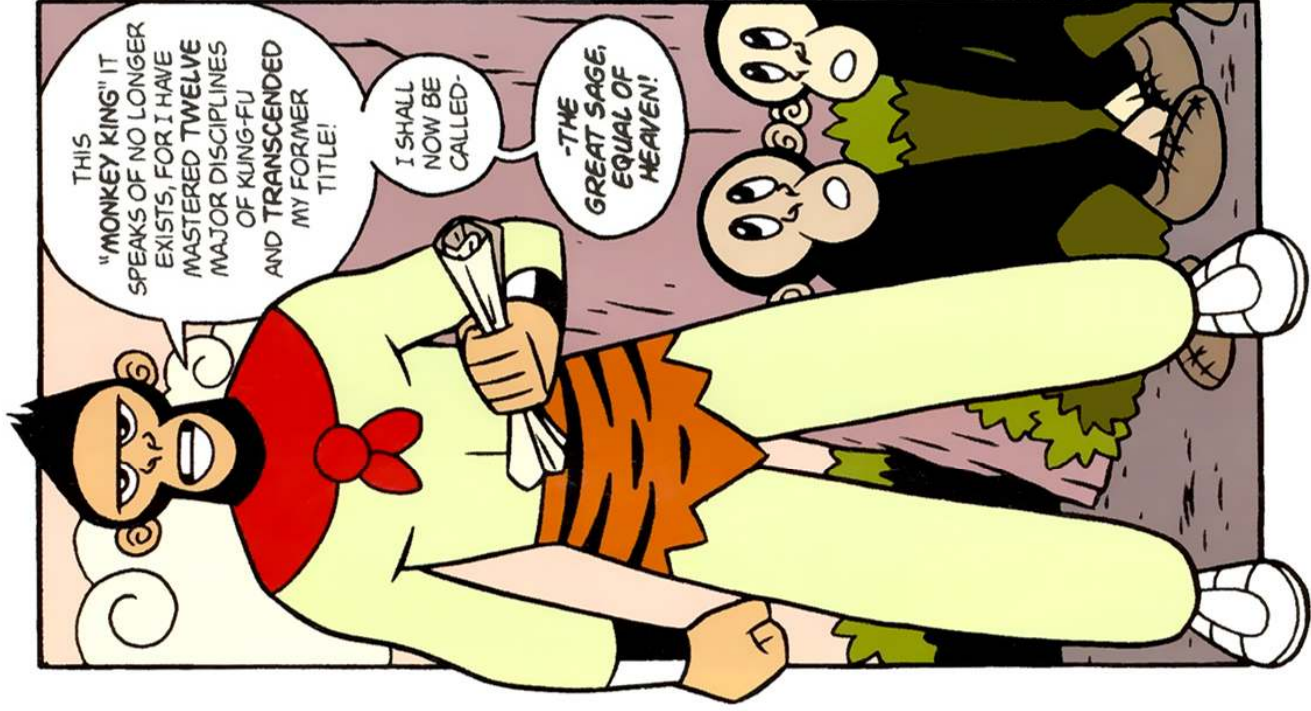
HE SPENT HIS NIGHTS MEDITATING.

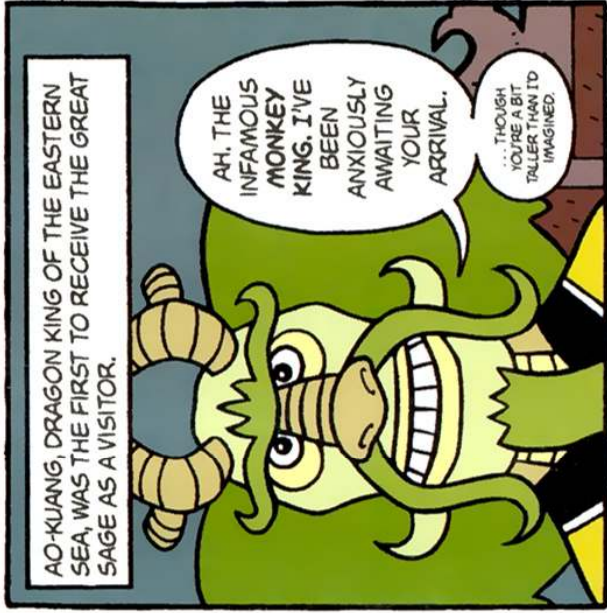
HE ATE AND DRANK NOTHING.

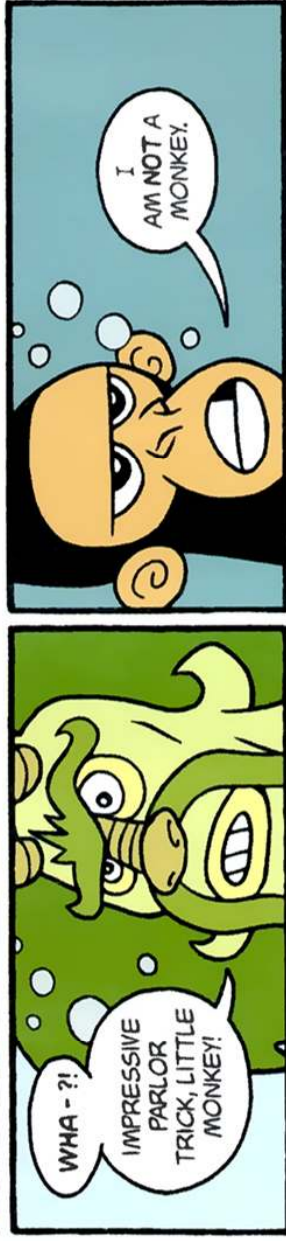


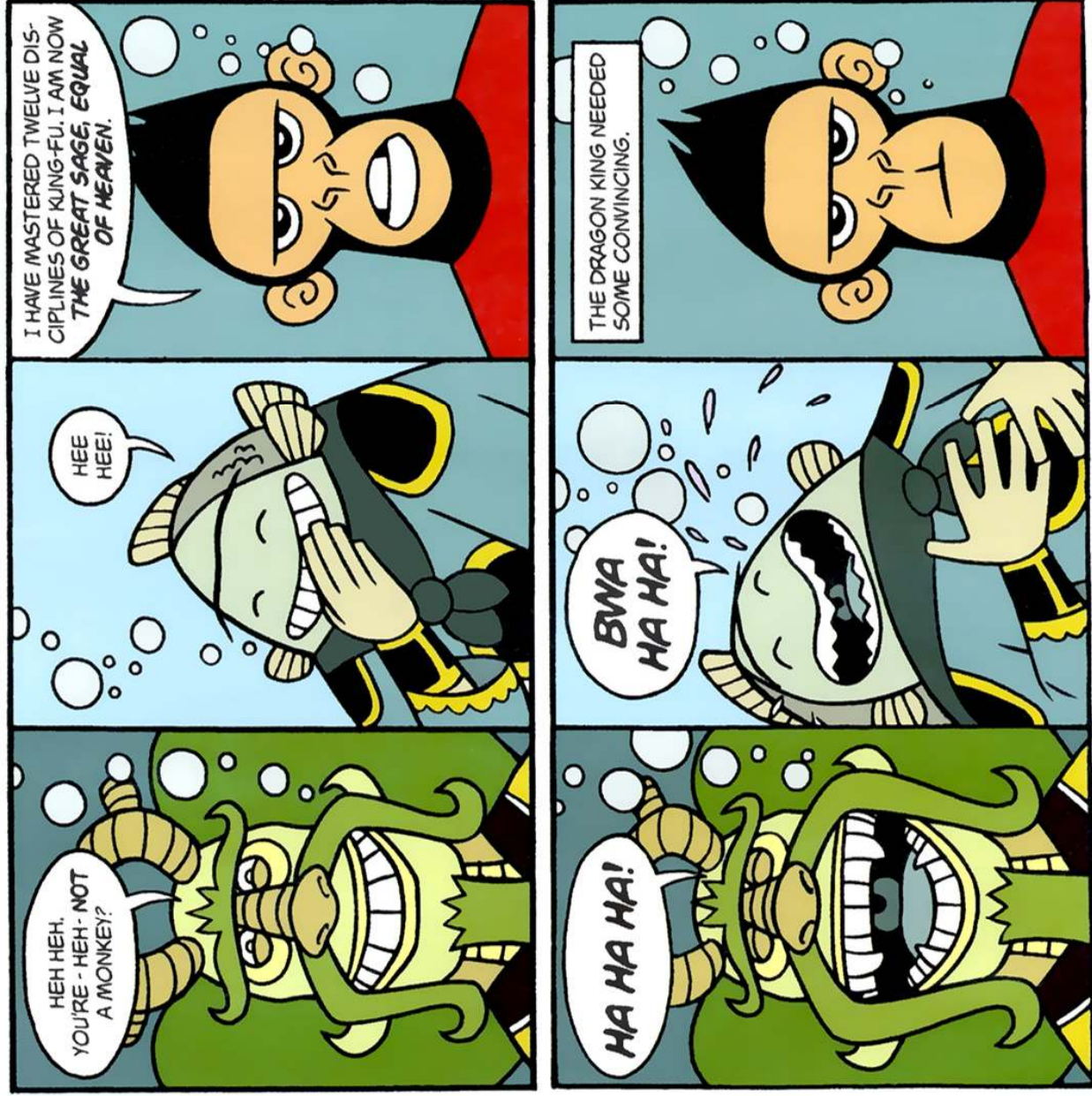


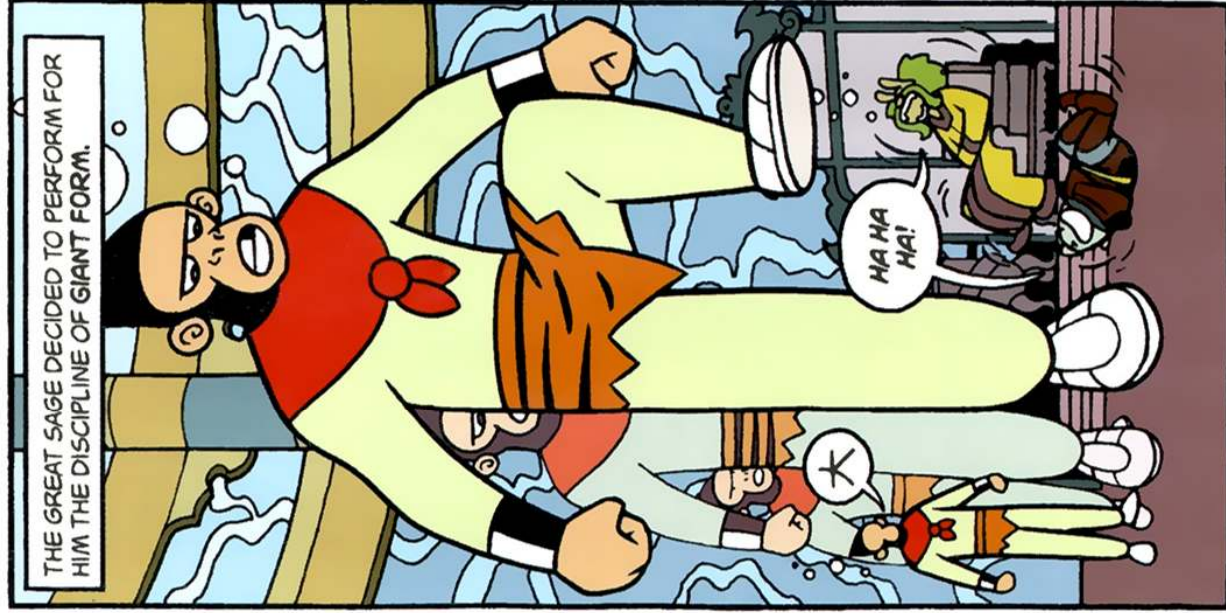




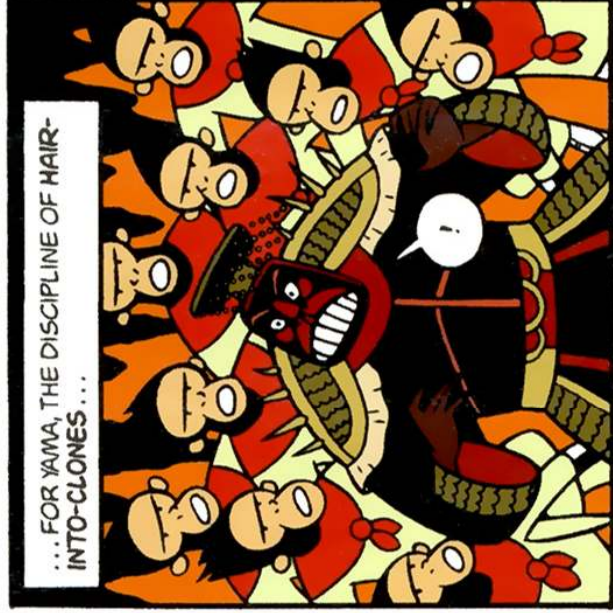
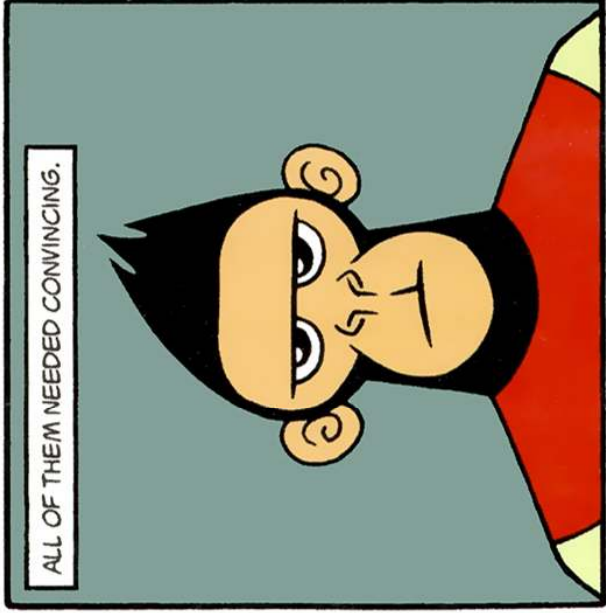






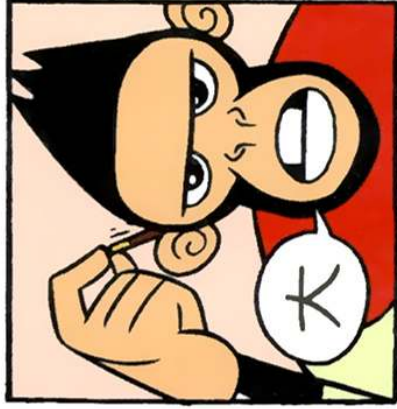




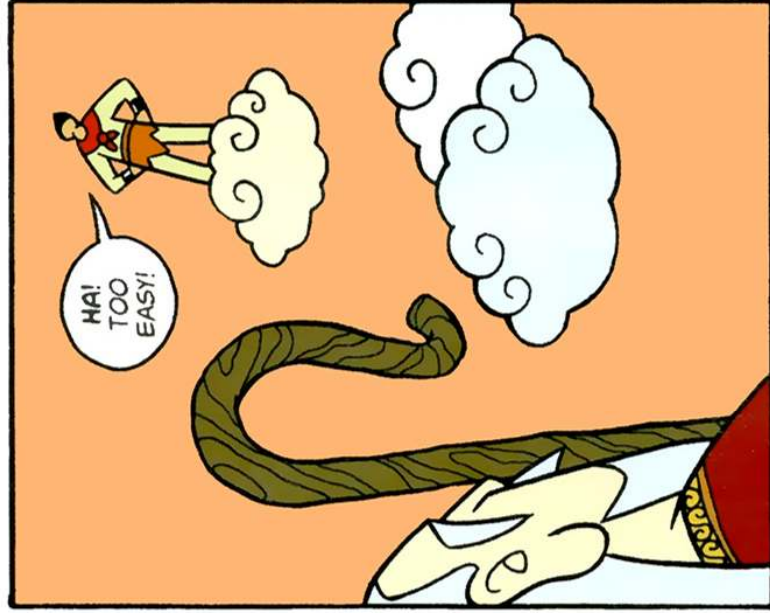












THE GREAT SAGE FLEW WITH AS MUCH
FURY AS HE COULD MUSTER.

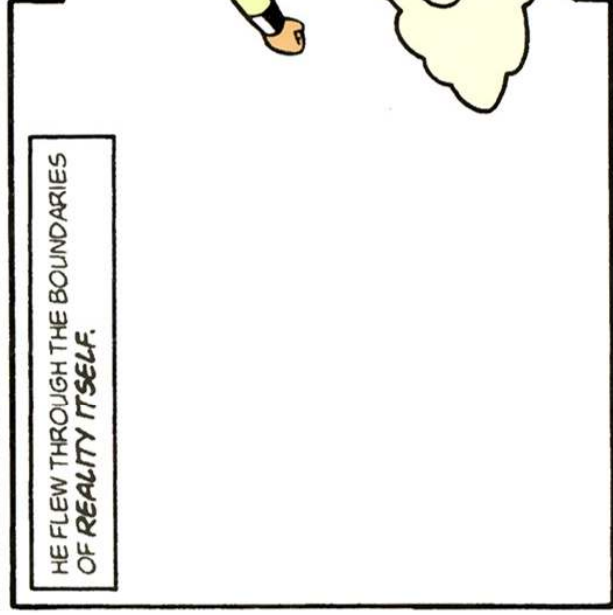




HE FLEW PAST THE PLANETS AND THE STARS.

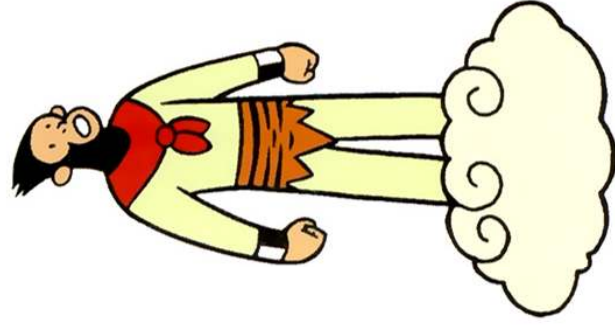


HE FLEW PAST THE EDGES OF THE UNIVERSE.

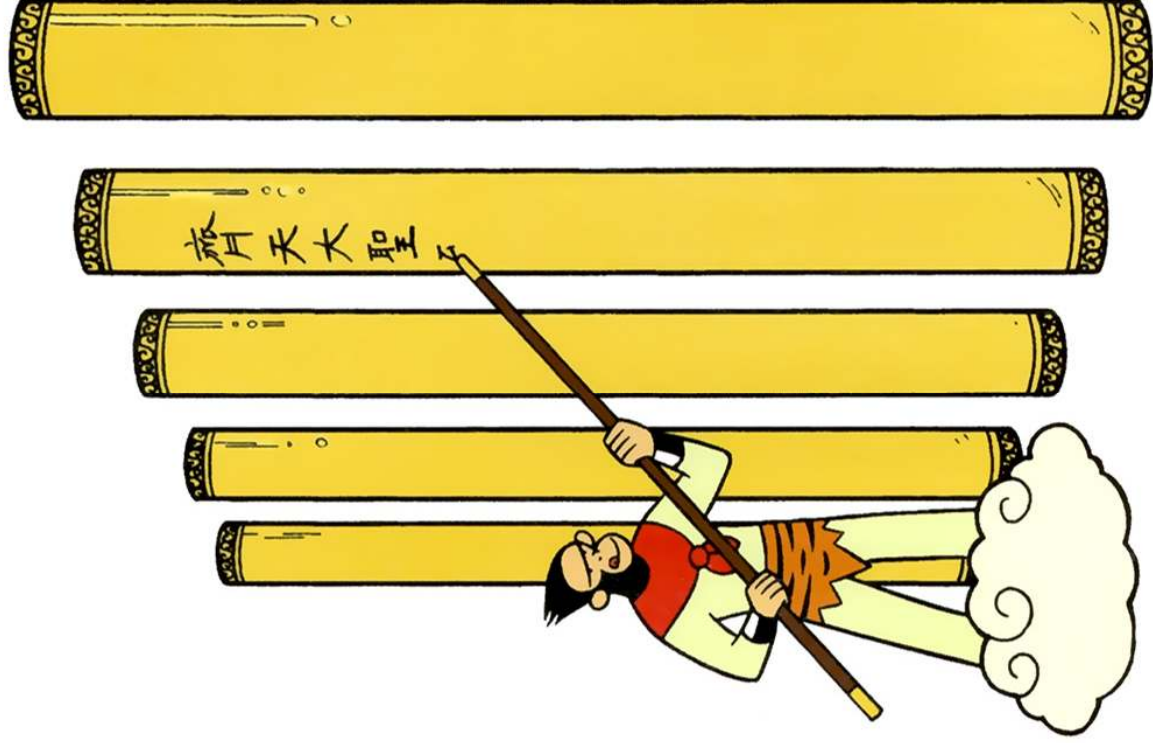


HE FLEW THROUGH THE BOUNDARIES OF REALITY ITSELF.

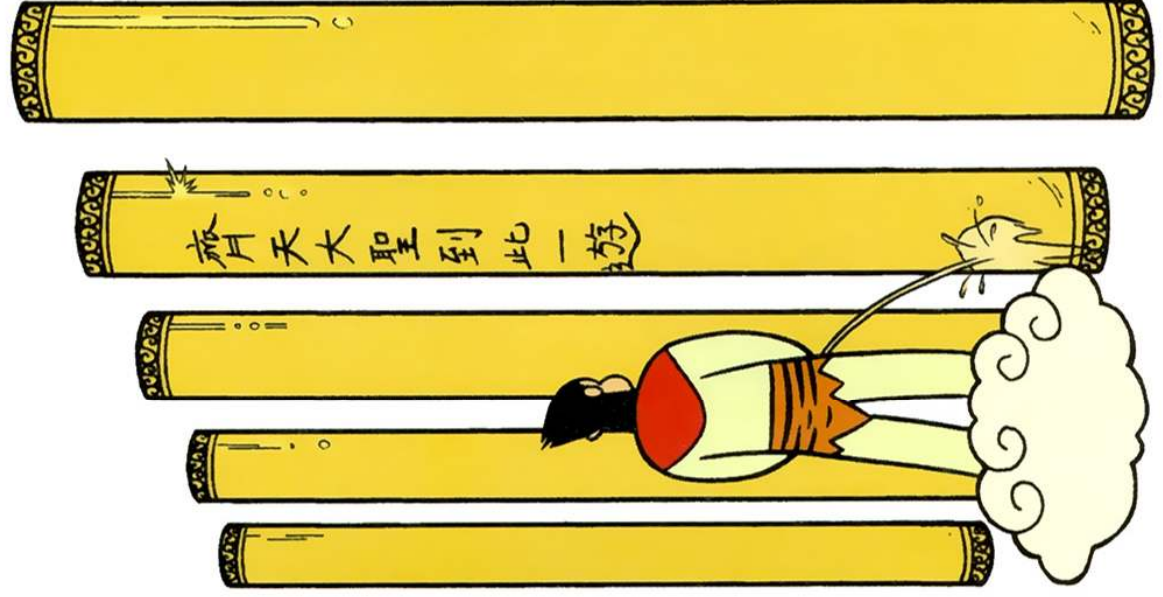
THERE, AT THE END OF ALL THAT IS, THE GREAT SAGE CAME UPON FIVE PILLARS OF GOLD.

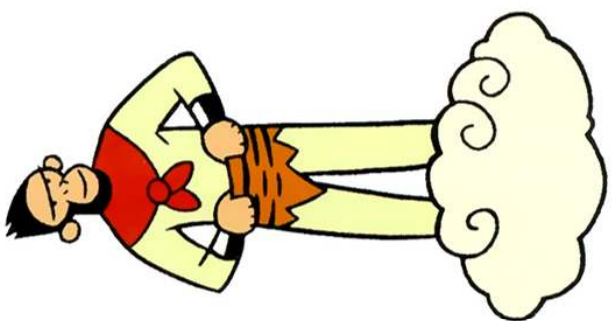


NEVER ONE TO MISS OUT ON A
CHANCE FOR RECOGNITION, THE
GREAT SAGE CARVED HIS NAME
INTO ONE OF THE PILLARS.



THEN HE RELIEVED HIMSELF.
(IT HAD BEEN AN AWFULLY
LONG TRIP.)







I JUST
FLEW THROUGH
THE BOUNDARIES
OF REALITY
OF ITSELF, AND
WHERE WAS YOUR
"EVER- PRESENT
REACH"?

NOWHERE!



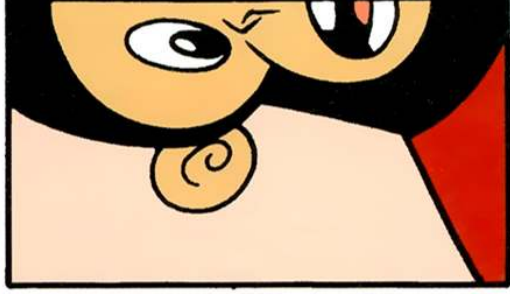
HA!
OF ALL
THE GODS I'VE
ENCOUNTERED,
YOU ARE BY FAR
THE MOST
PITTIABLE.

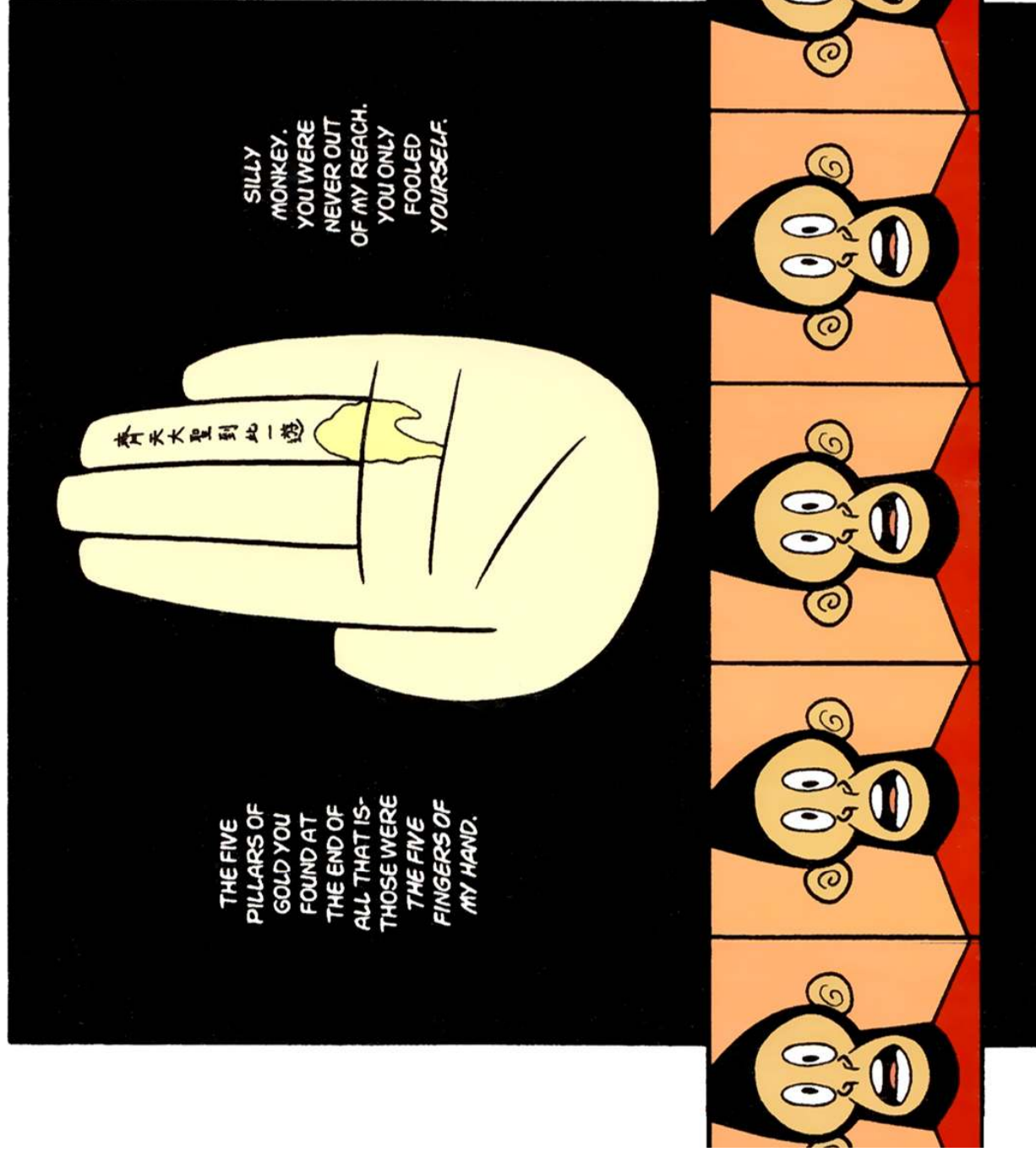


NOW
GET OUT OF MY
SIGHT BEFORE I
MAKE YOU RECITE
MY NAME UNTIL
YOUR TONGUE
BLEEDS.



COME
CLOSER, LITTLE
MONKEY, AND
TAKE A LOOK AT
MY HAND.

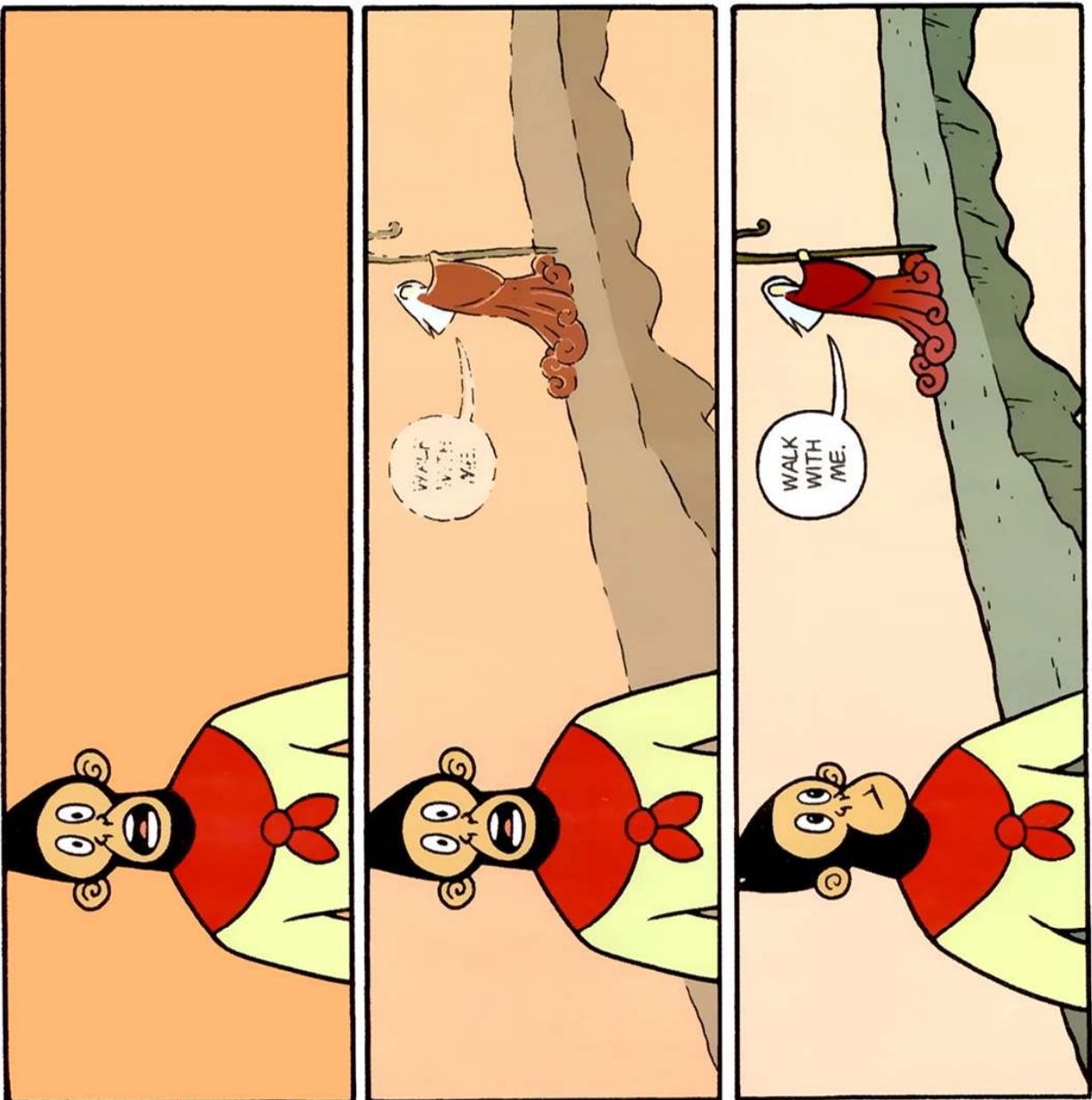




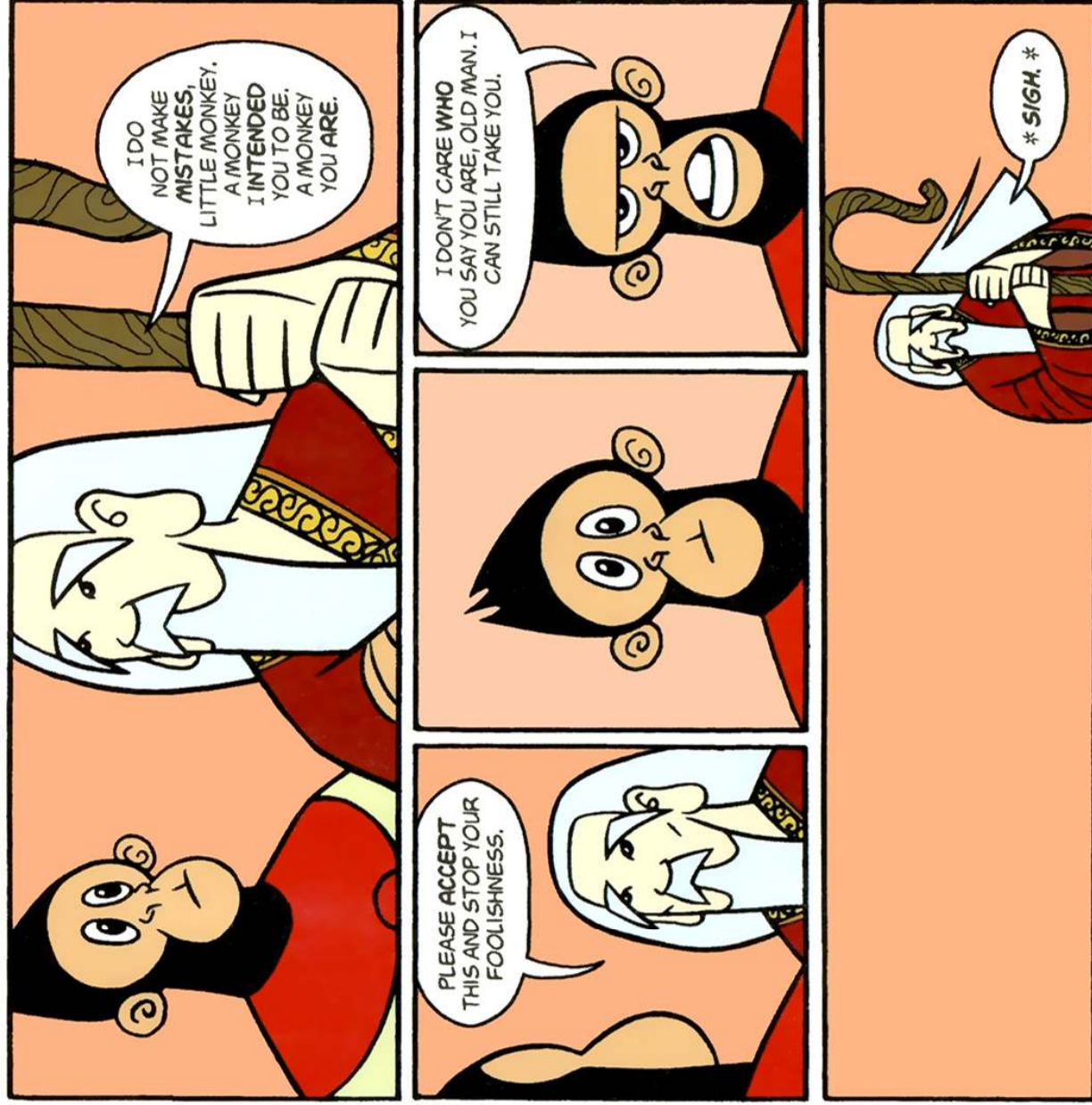
THE FIVE
PILLARS OF
GOLD YOU
FOUND AT
THE END OF
ALL THAT IS-
THOSE WERE
THE FIVE
FINGERS OF
MY HAND.

齊天大聖到此一遊

SILLY
MONKEY.
YOU WERE
NEVER OUT
OF MY REACH.
YOU ONLY
FOOLED
YOURSELF.





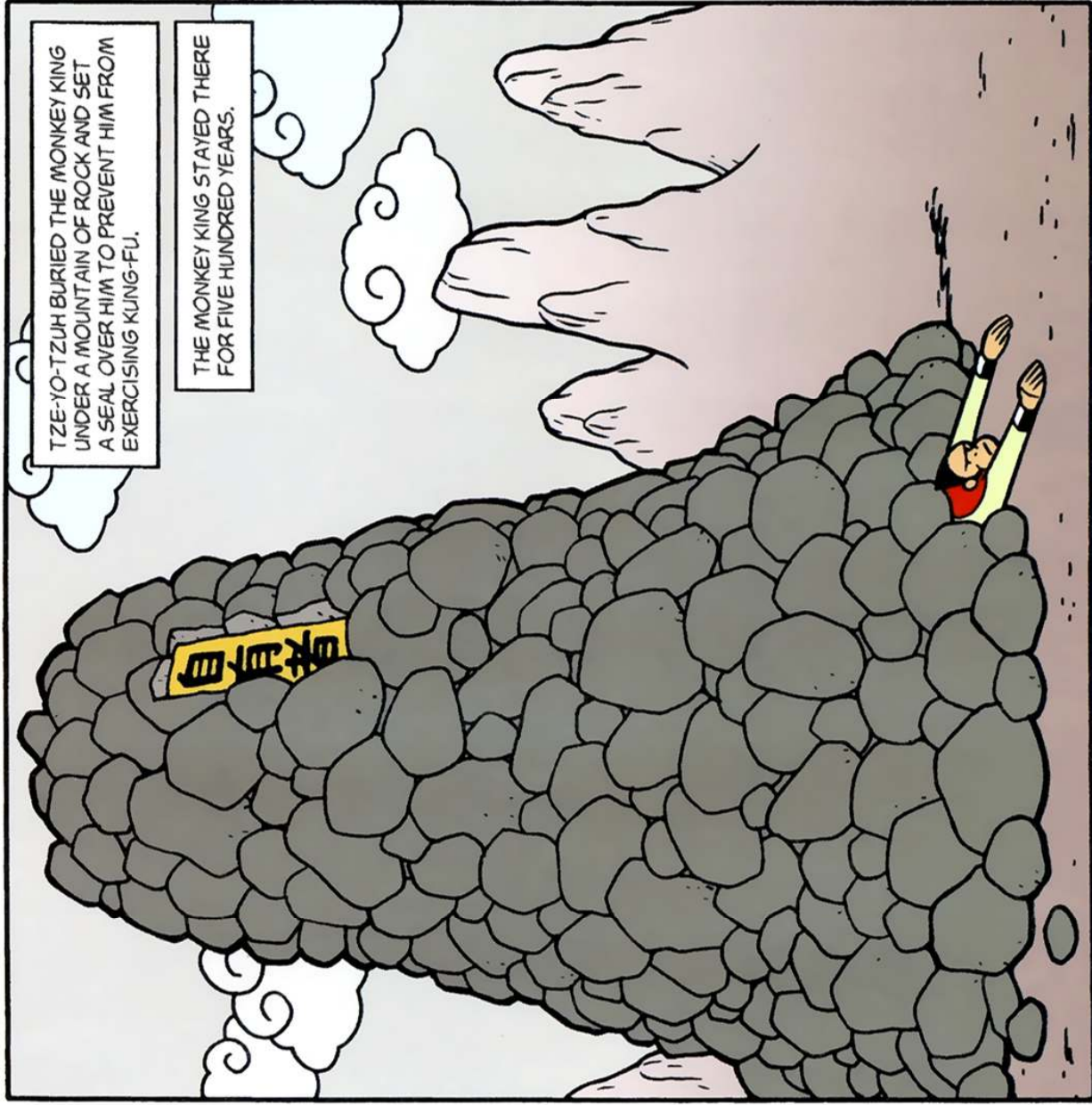


DOE
OF



TOE
OF

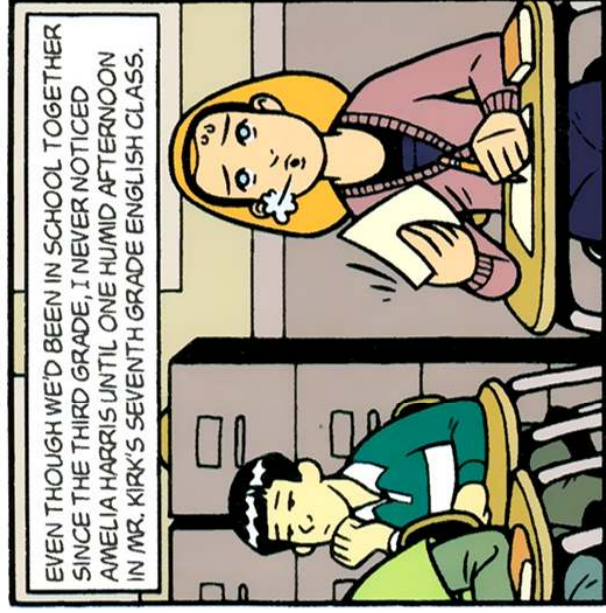


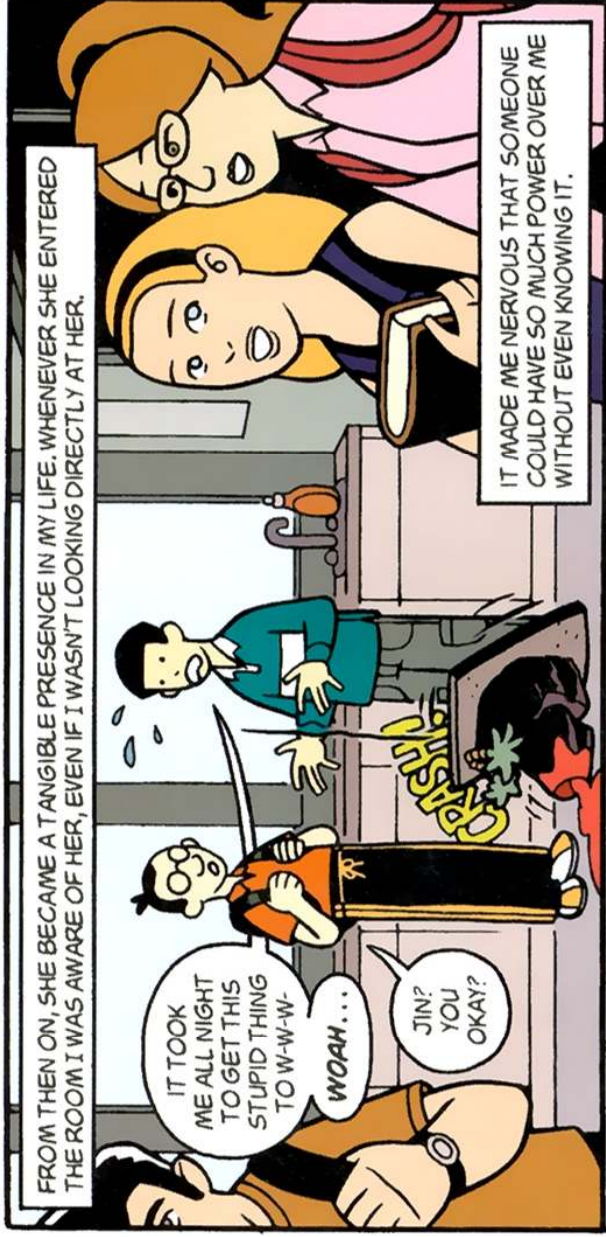


TZE-YO-TZUH BURIED THE MONKEY KING UNDER A MOUNTAIN OF ROCK AND SET A SEAL OVER HIM TO PREVENT HIM FROM EXERCISING KUNG-FU.

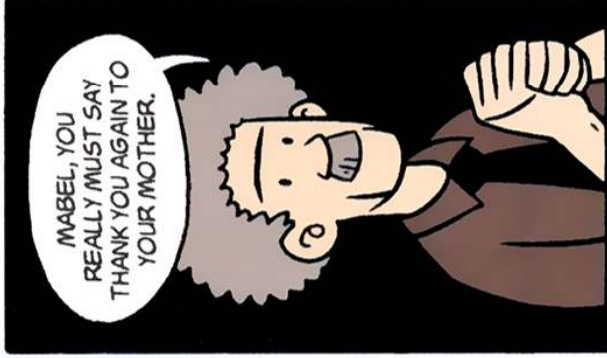
THE MONKEY KING STAYED THERE FOR FIVE HUNDRED YEARS.



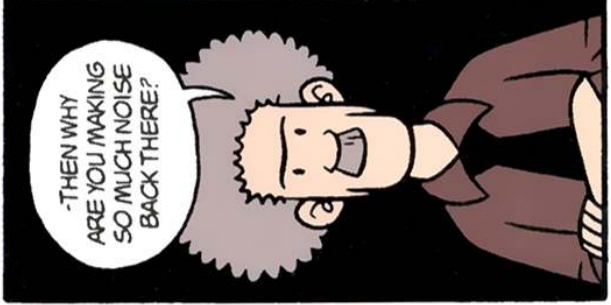
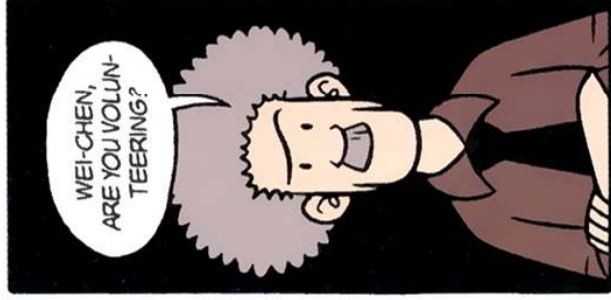
















YOU THINK SHE LIKES HIM?



SORRY, JIN, PLEASE SAY AGAIN? SUZY AND I WERE LOOKING AT EACH OTHER WITH EYES OF LOVE.

HA HA!



I WAS ASKING - BEFORE THE TWO OF YOU ALMOST MADE ME PUKE - DO YOU THINK AMELIA LIKES GREG?

GREG ...?



GREG, THAT GUY WHO SITS NEXT TO HER IN SCIENCE.

COME ON, JIN. DON'T BE SO PARANOID, THEY WERE JUST TALKING!

BUT TALKING IS MORE THAN HE HAS EVER DONE.

BECAUSE HE IS A LITTLE COWARDLY TURTLE.



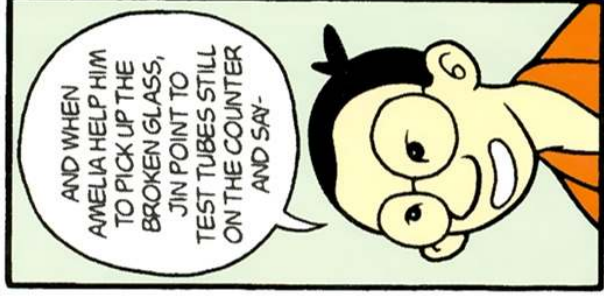
SHUT UP. I'VE TALKED TO HER BEFORE.

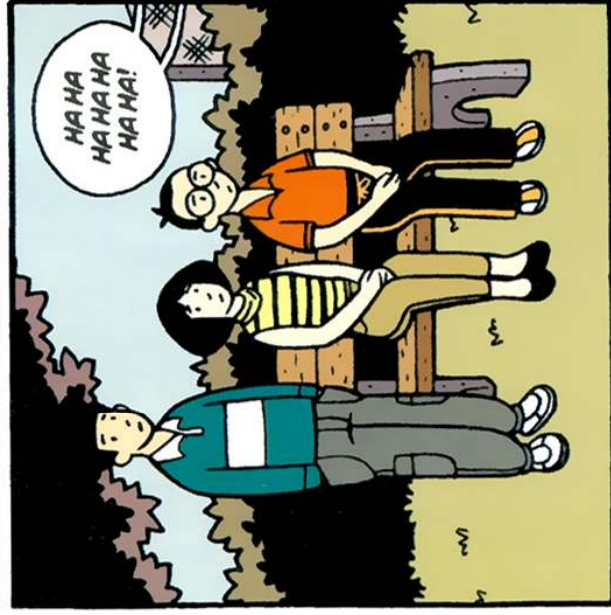
YOU KNOW, I COULD BE WRONG -

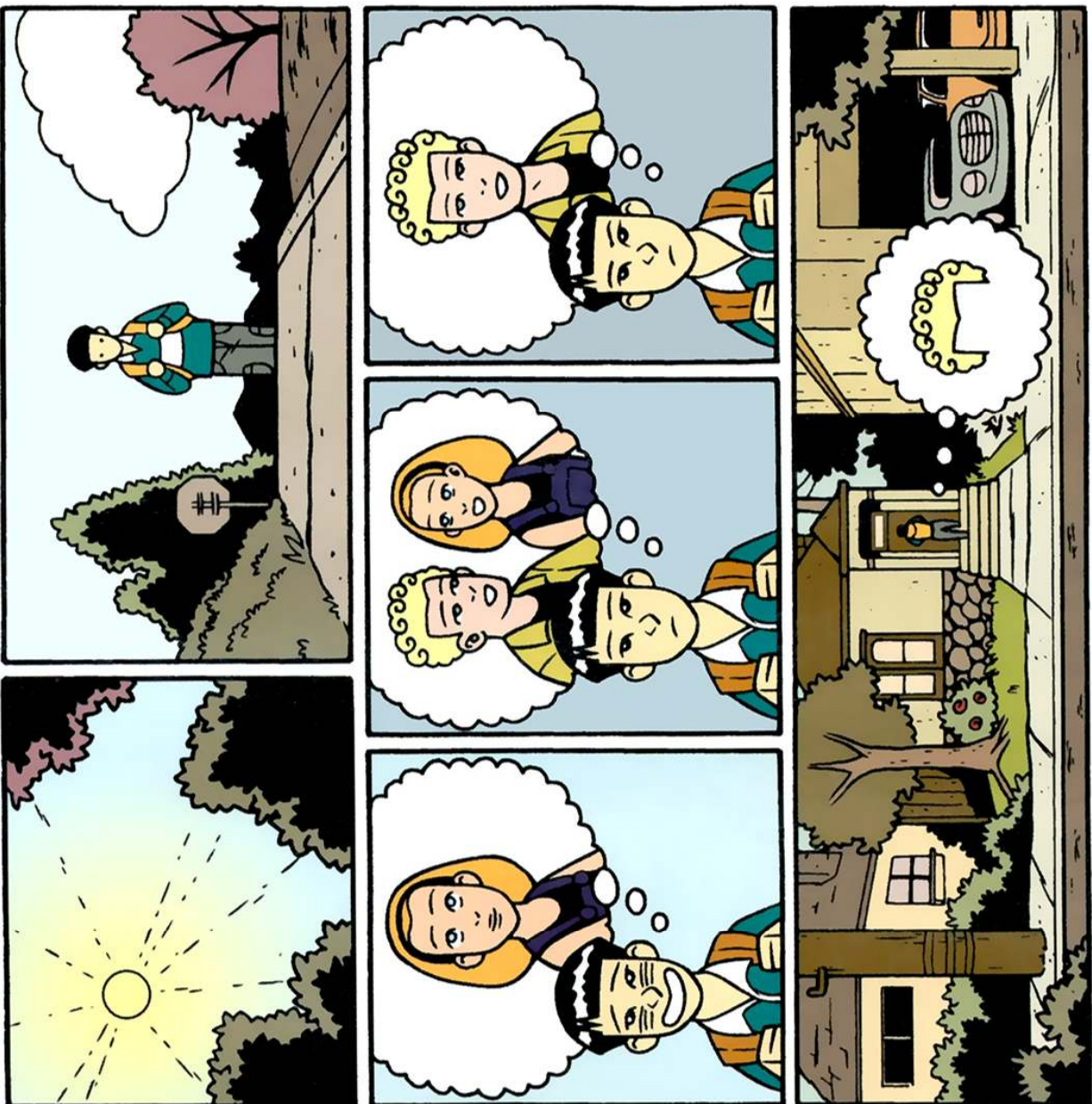


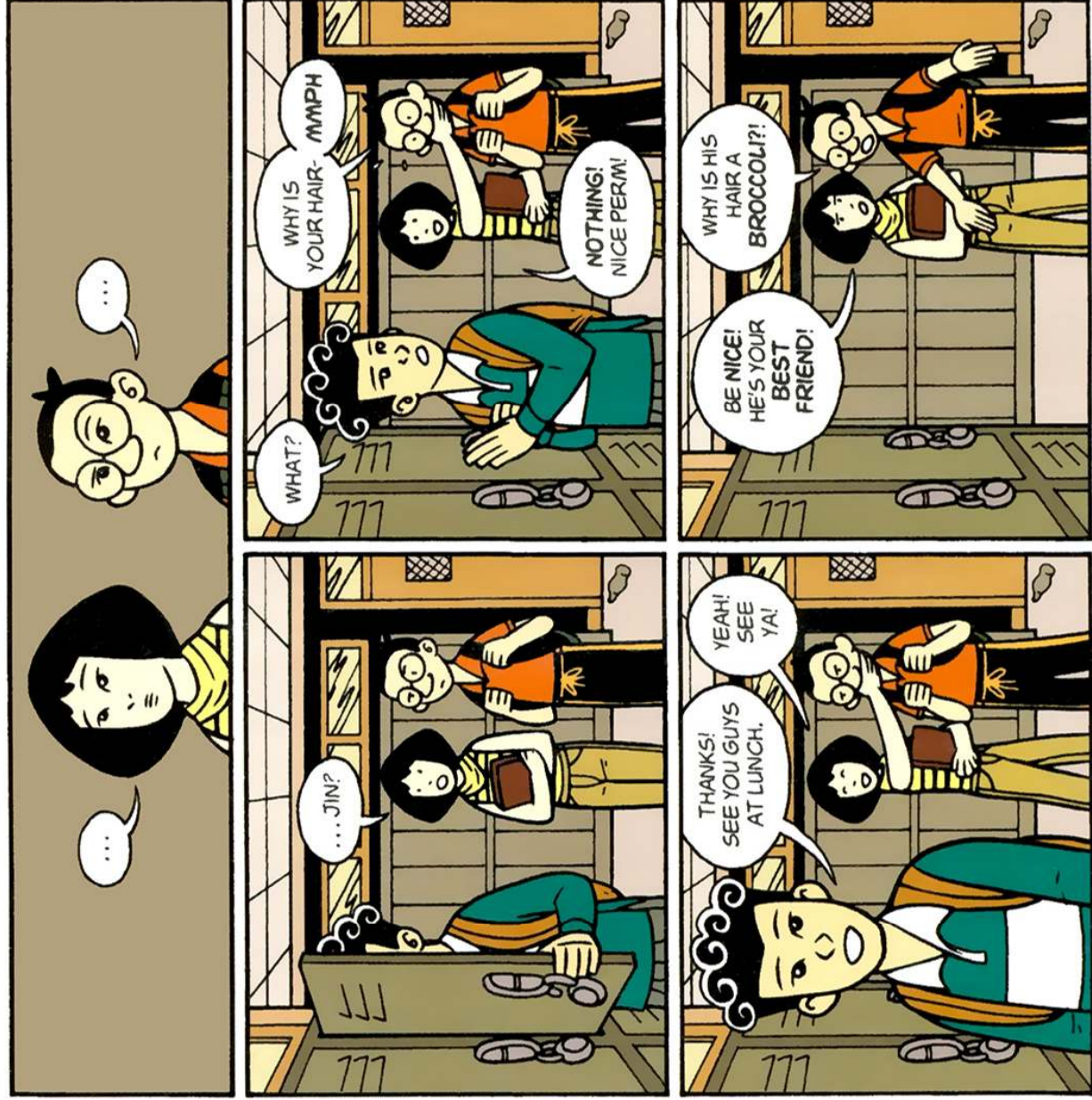
-BUT I DON'T THINK DROPPING YOUR BOOKS IN FRONT OF HER AND THEN GIGGLING TO YOURSELF COUNTS AS CONVERSATION.

NO, WAIT, SUZY! WHAT HE SAY IS TRUE! REMEMBER LAST WEEK IN SCIENCE?





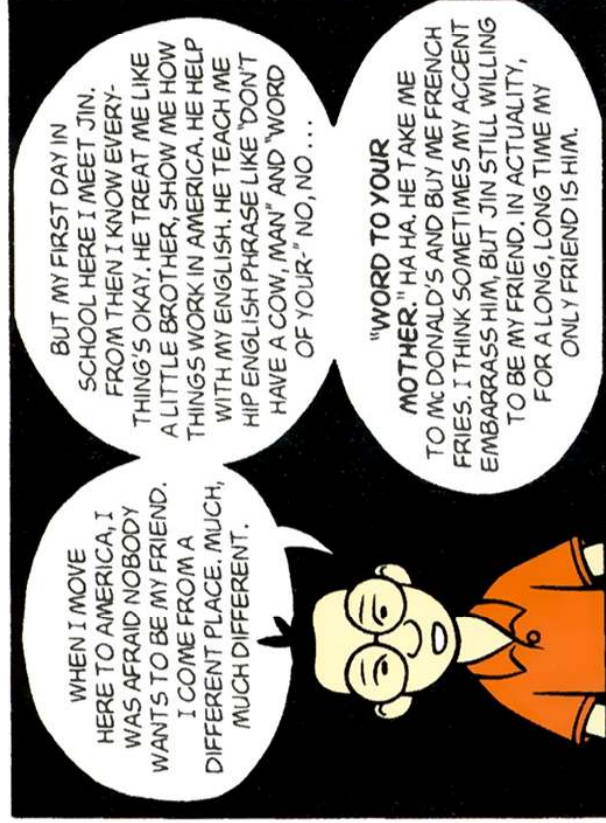






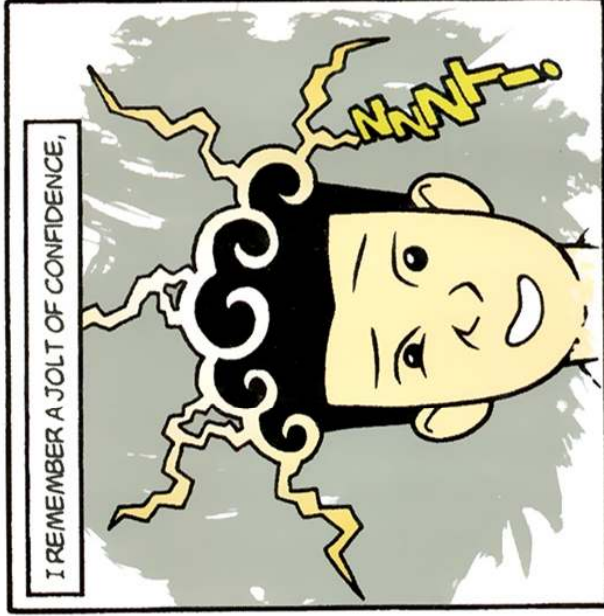








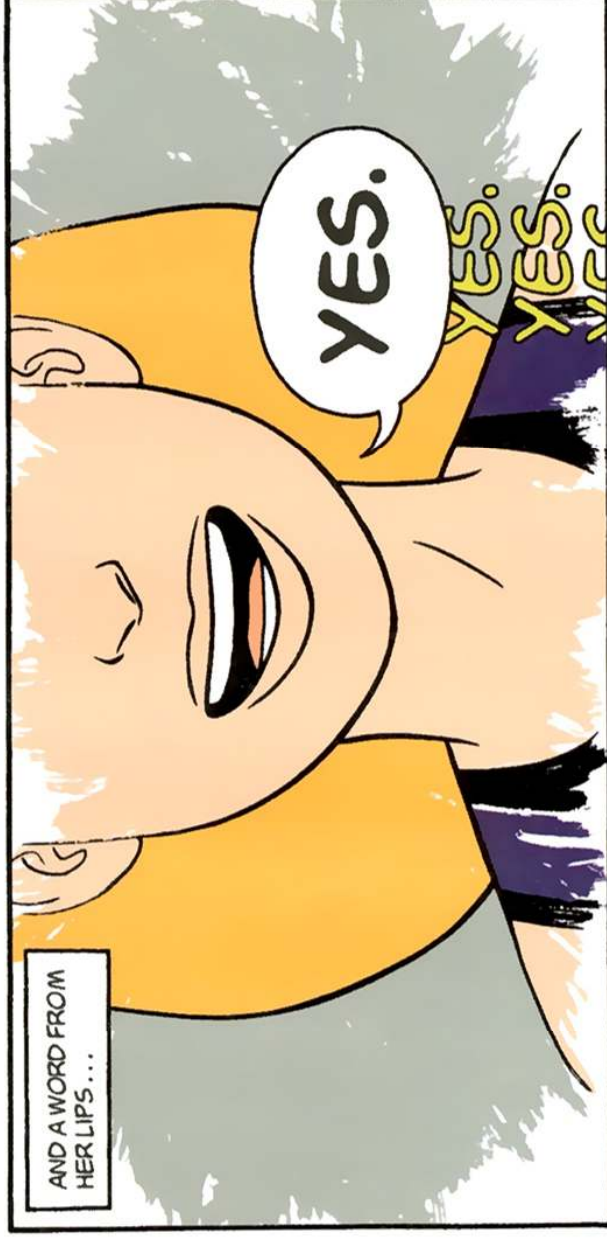




I REMEMBER A JOLT OF CONFIDENCE,



A STILTED QUESTION,

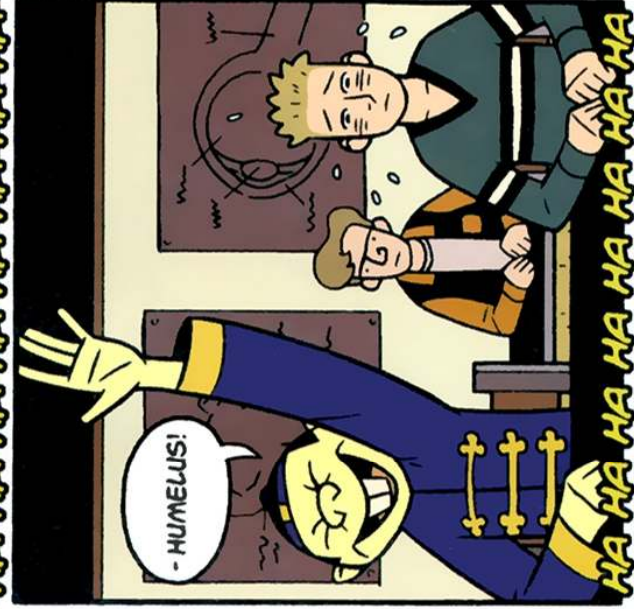


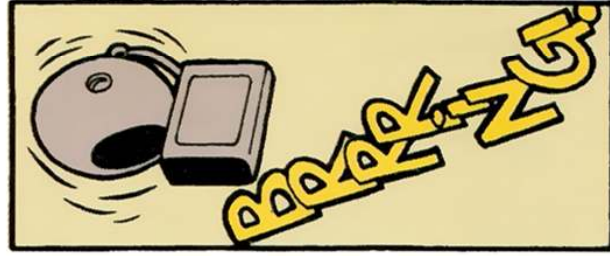
AND A WORD FROM HER LIPS...





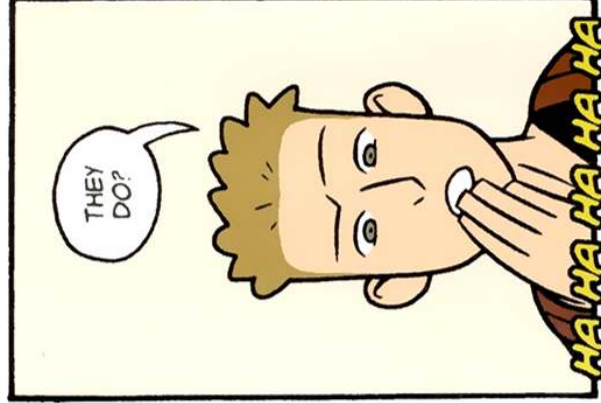














HATE TO TELL YOU THIS, KID, BUT PRACTICE ENDED TWENTY MINUTES AGO.

I KNOW. I HAD DETENTION.



TOO BAD. YOU MISSED THE THREE-POINTER OF THE CENTURY-

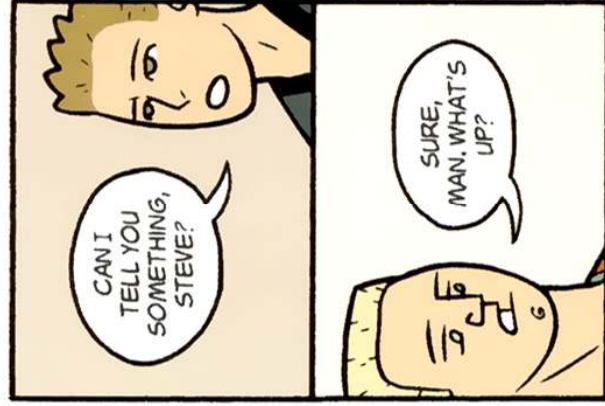
- MADE BY YOURS TRULY, OF COURSE.

HEH.

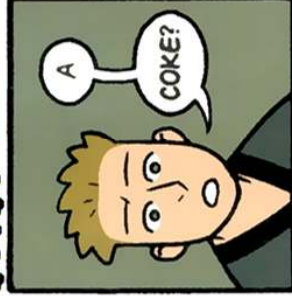
HA HA HA HA HA HA



YOU ALL RIGHT, DANNY?

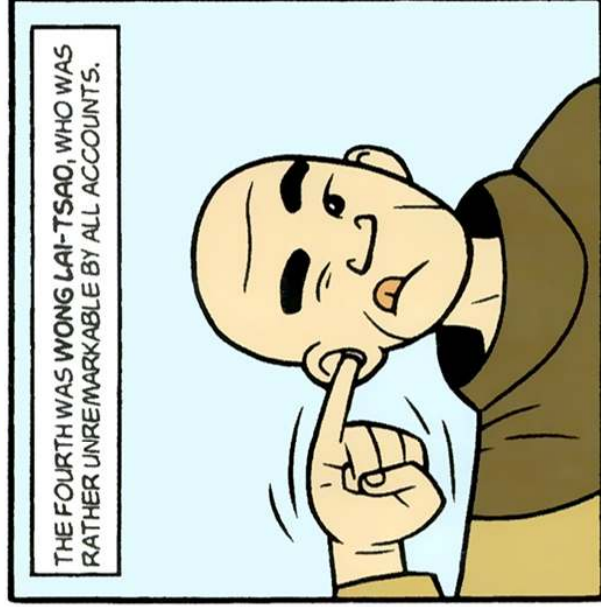


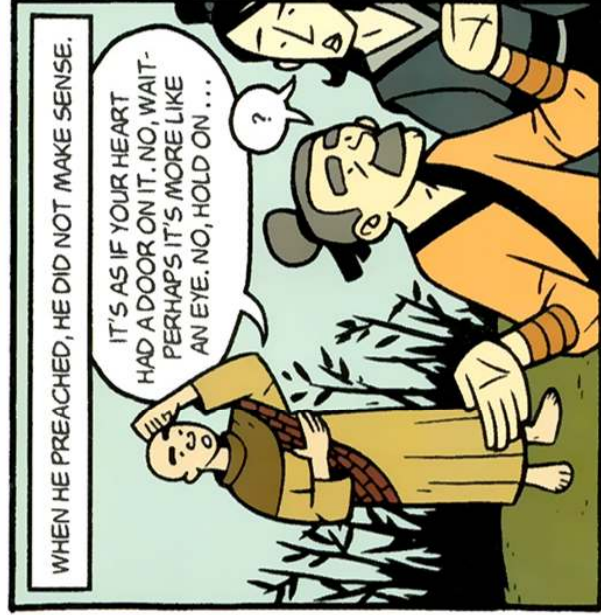


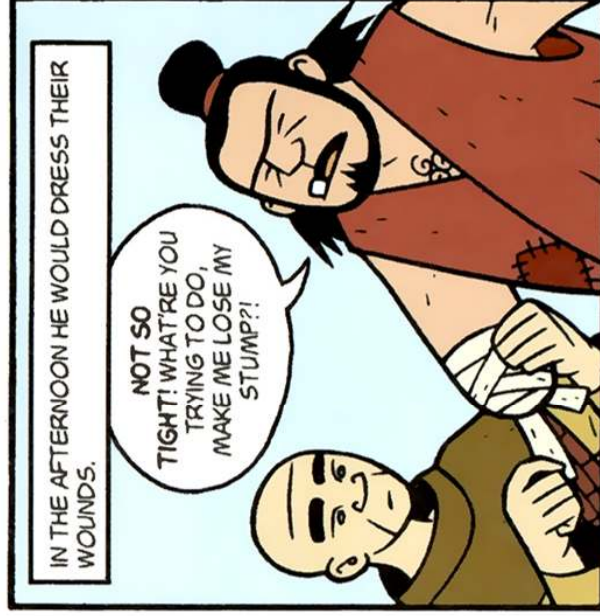


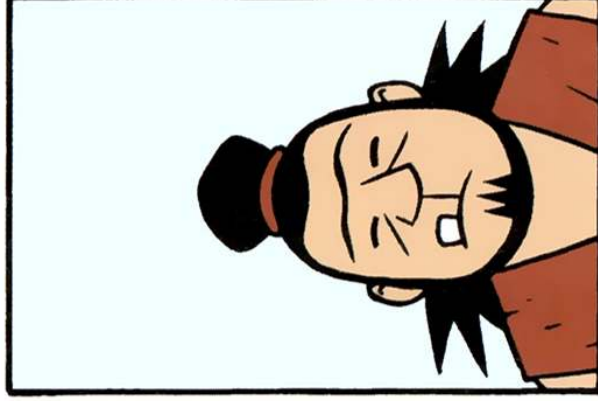
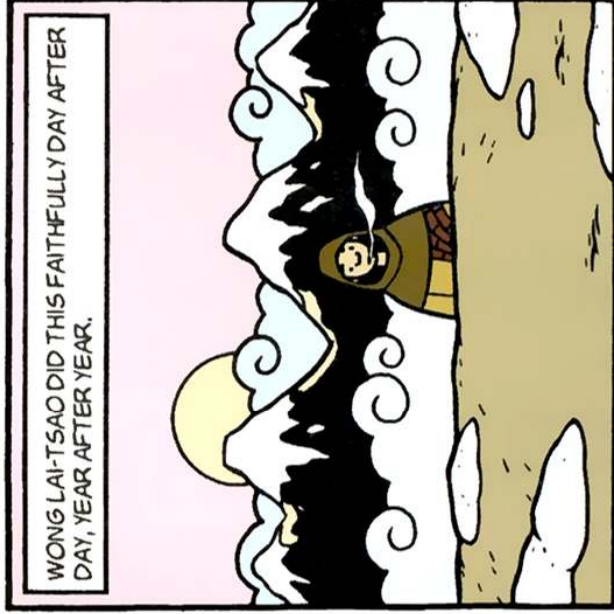




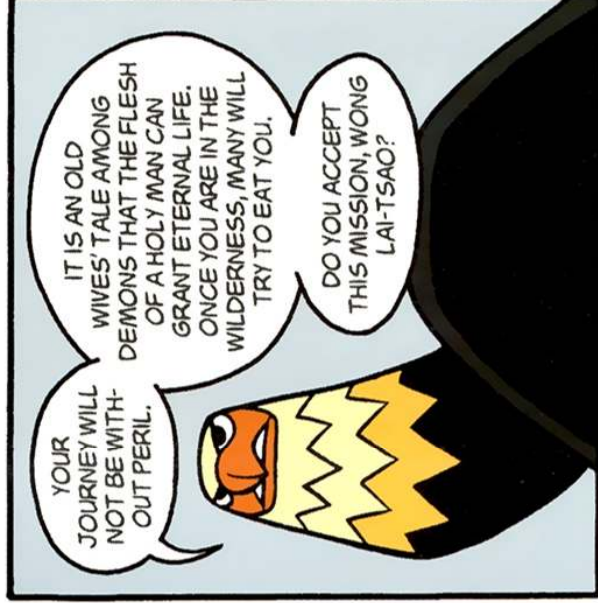




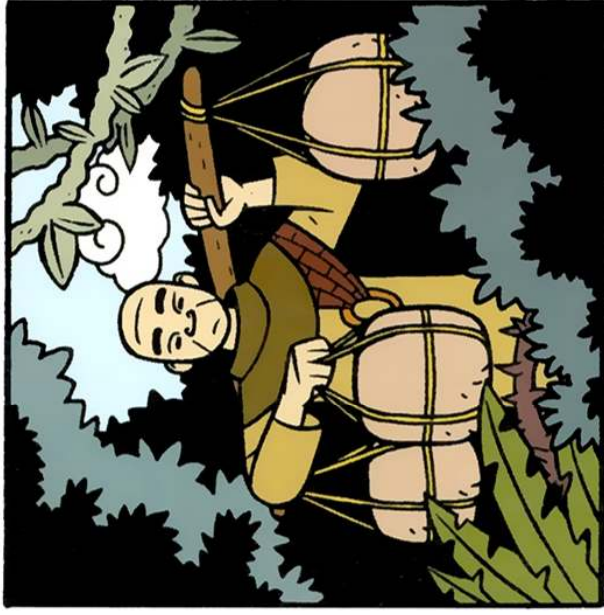


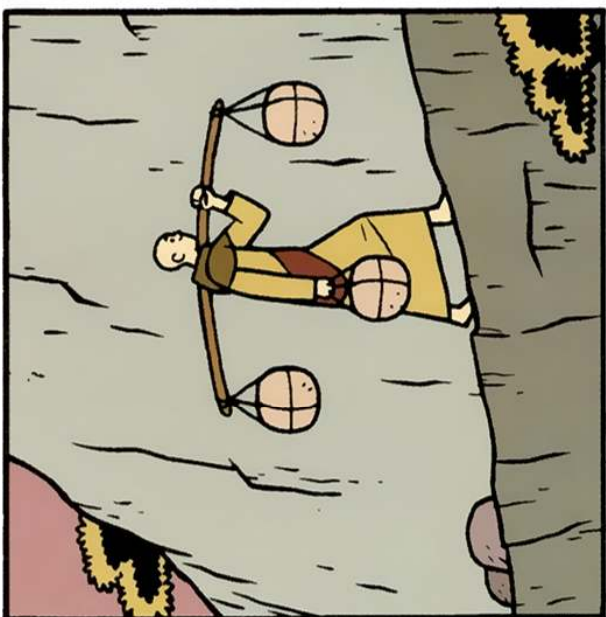
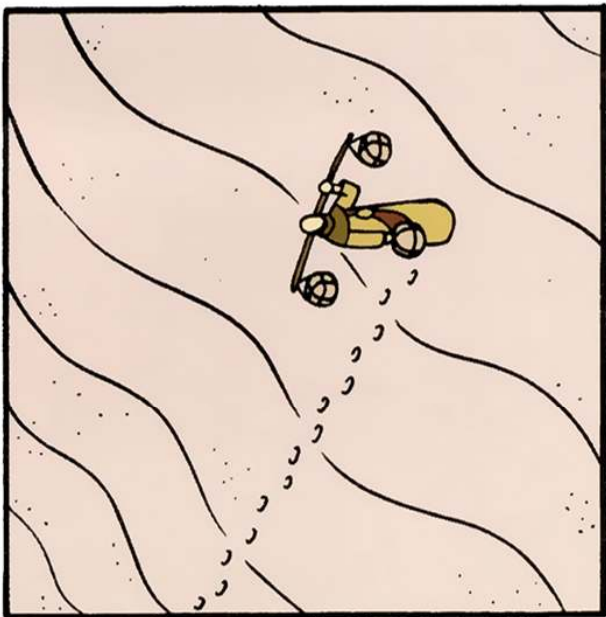




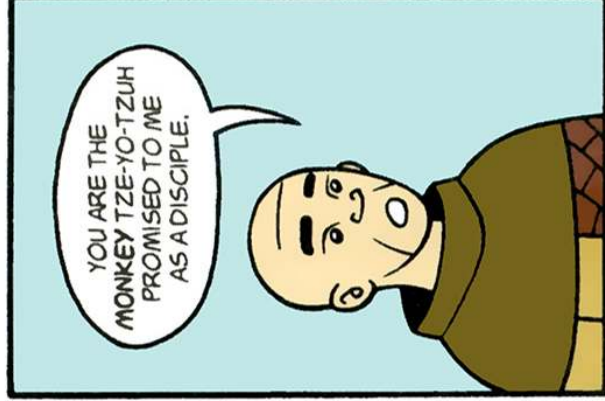












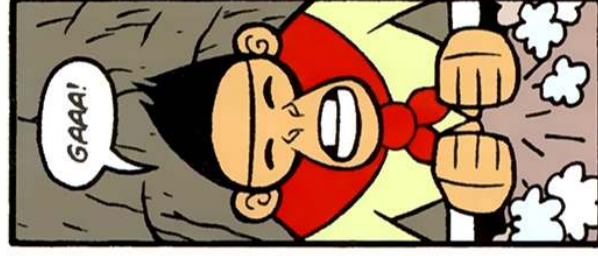
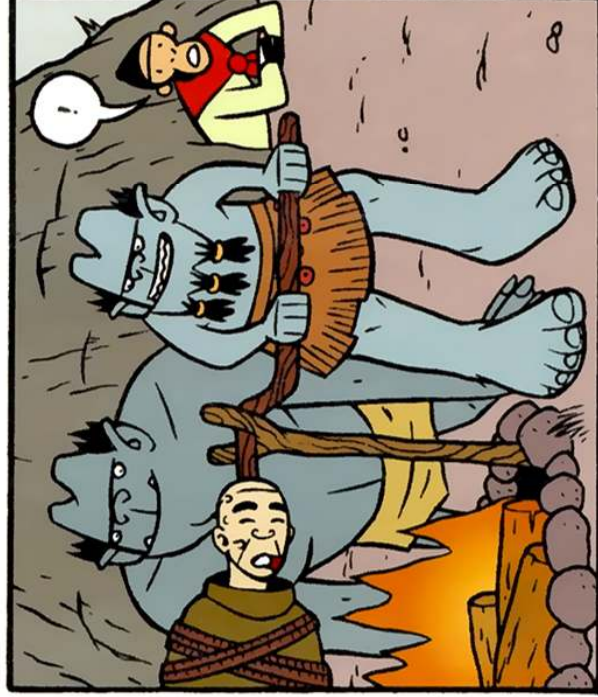
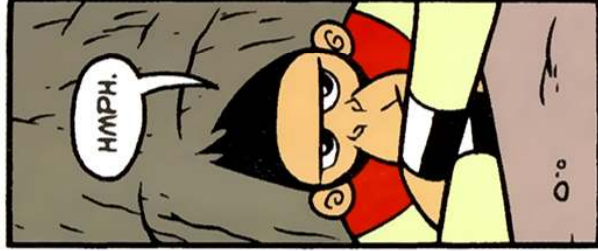


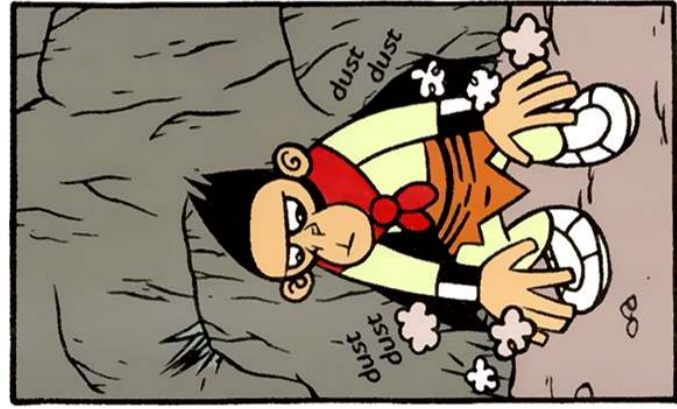
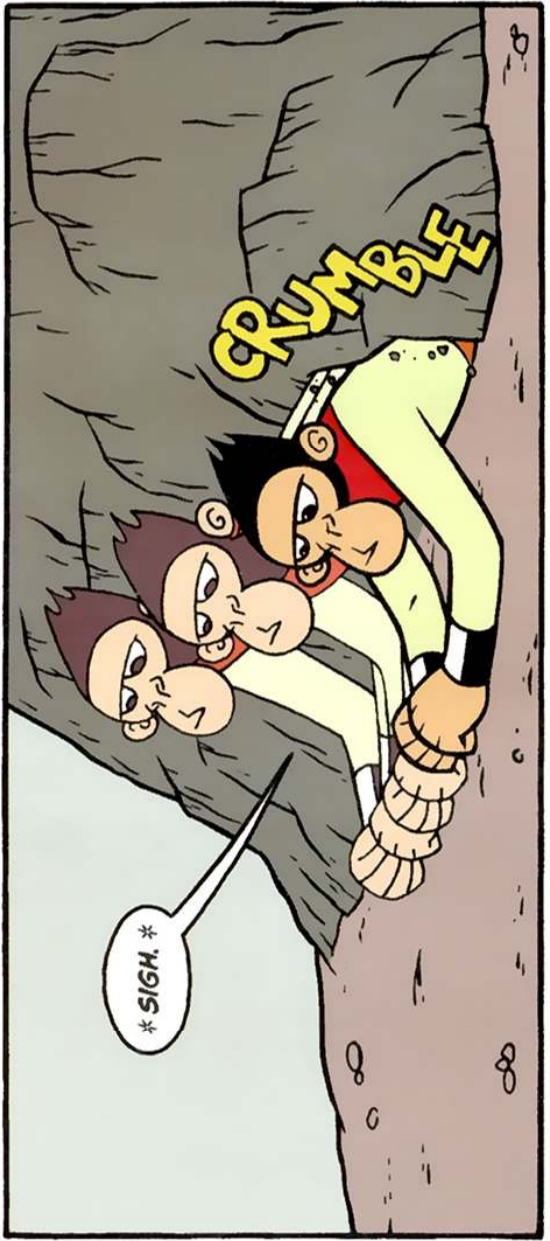




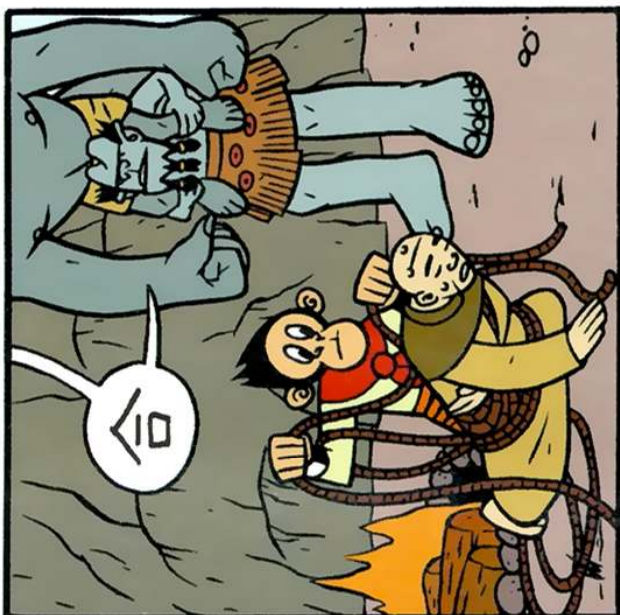
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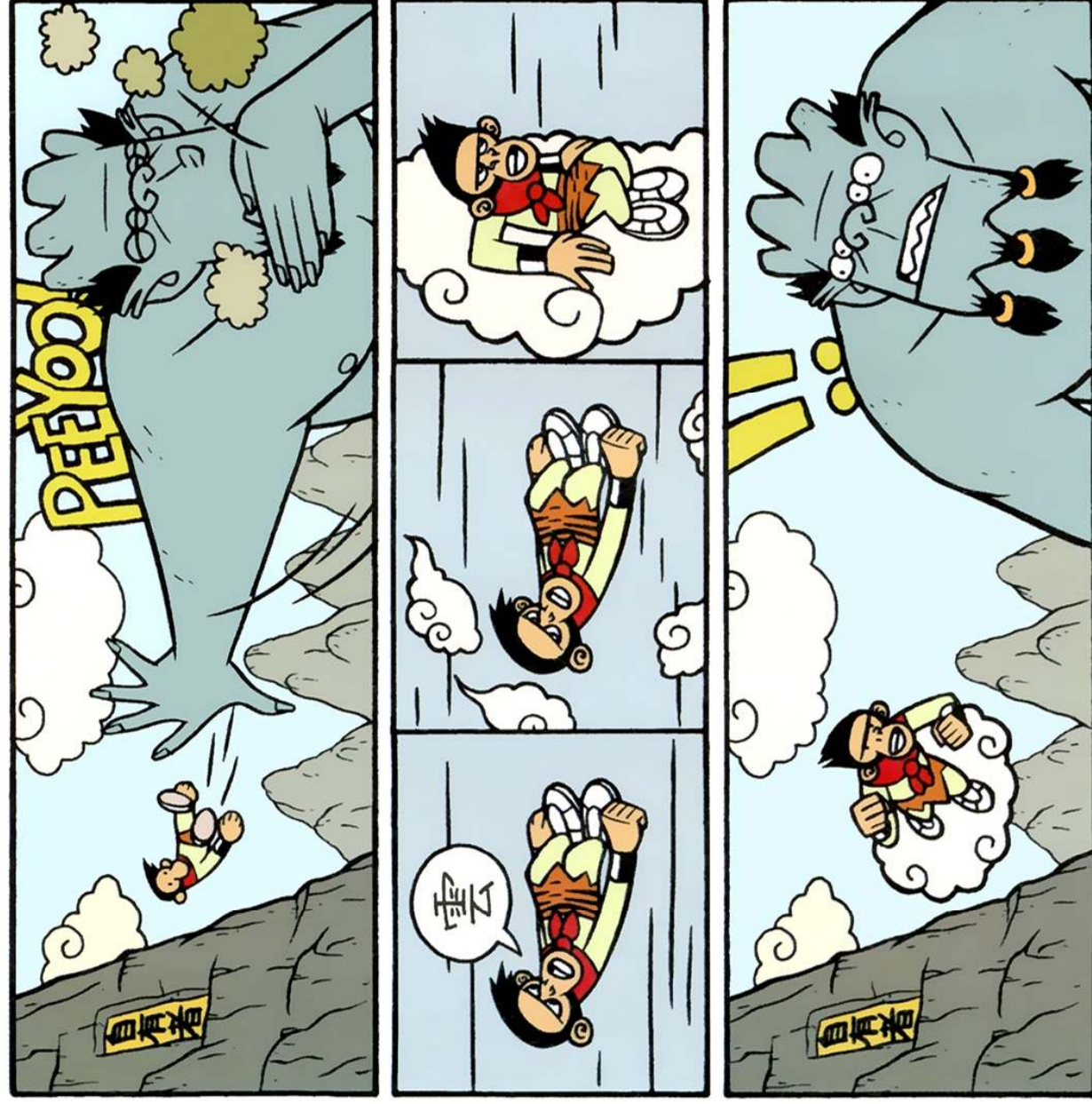




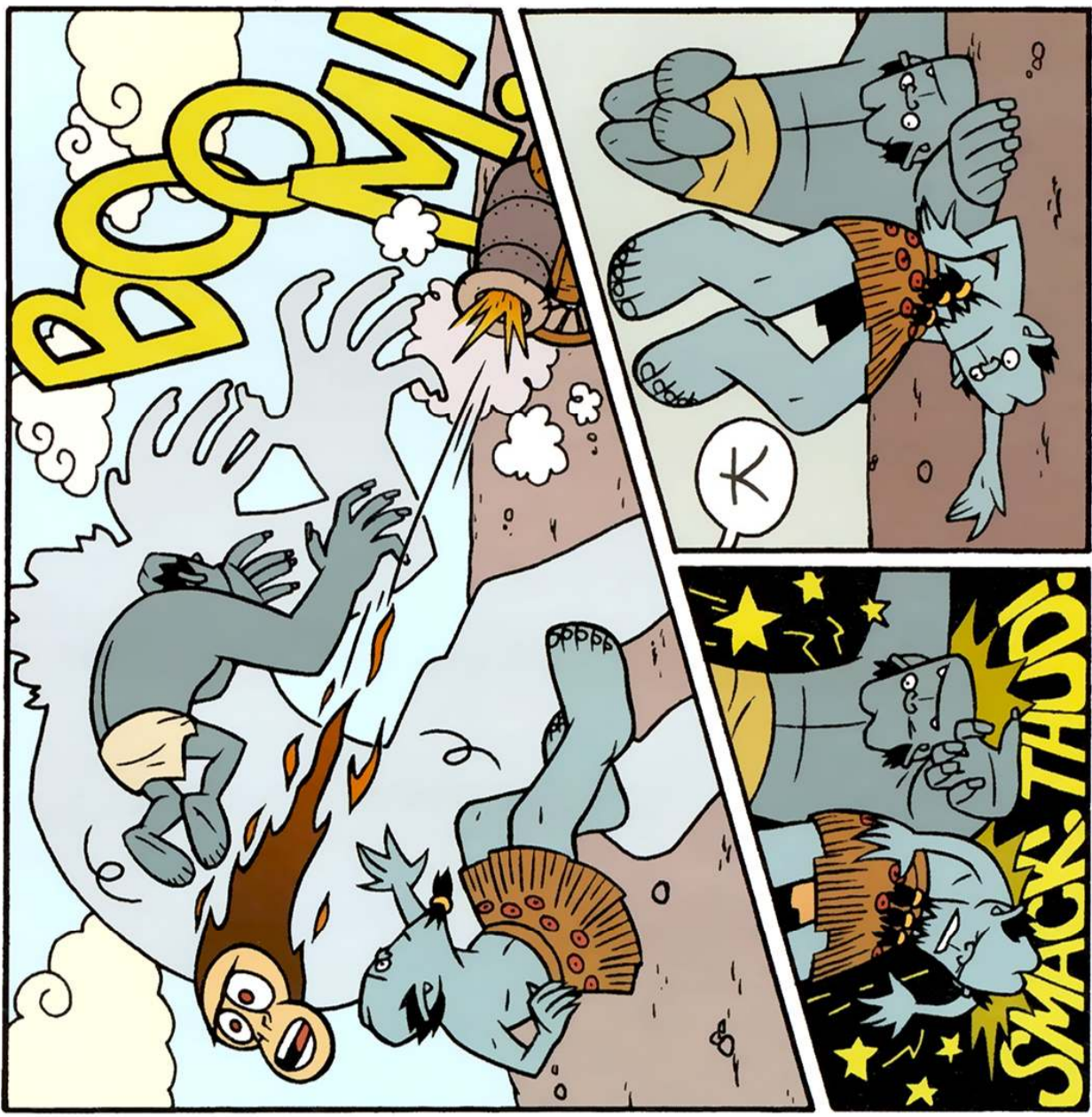


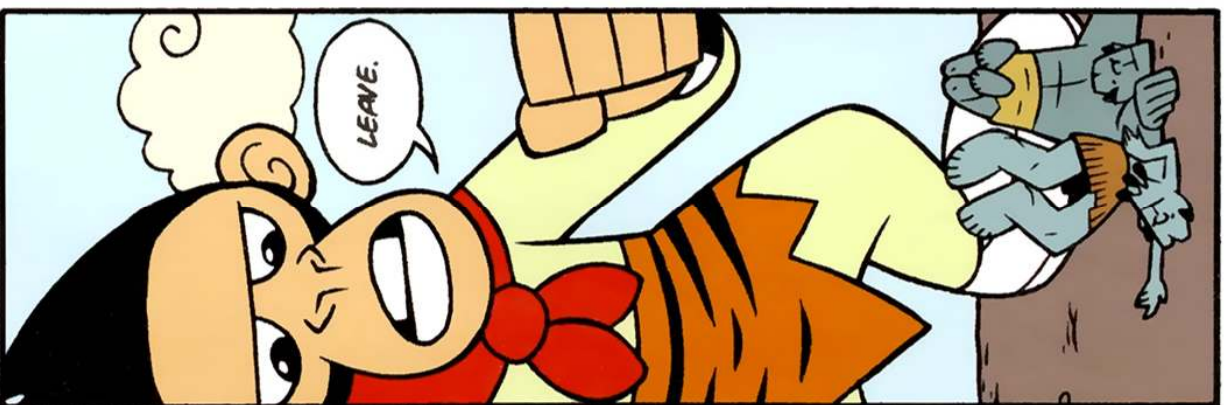
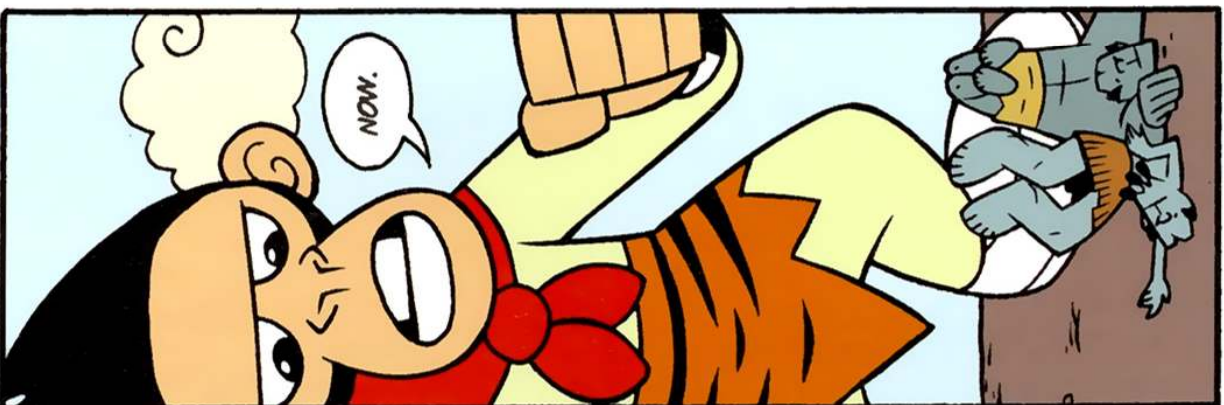
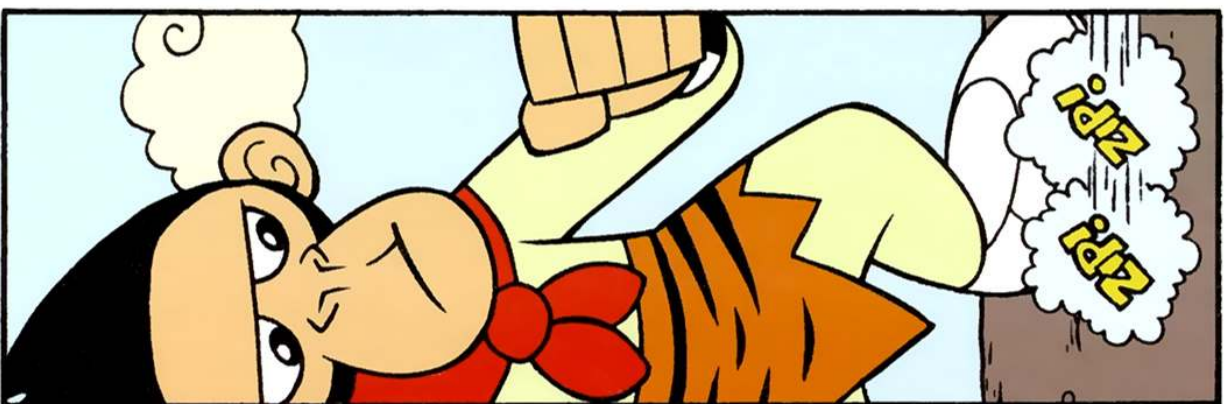






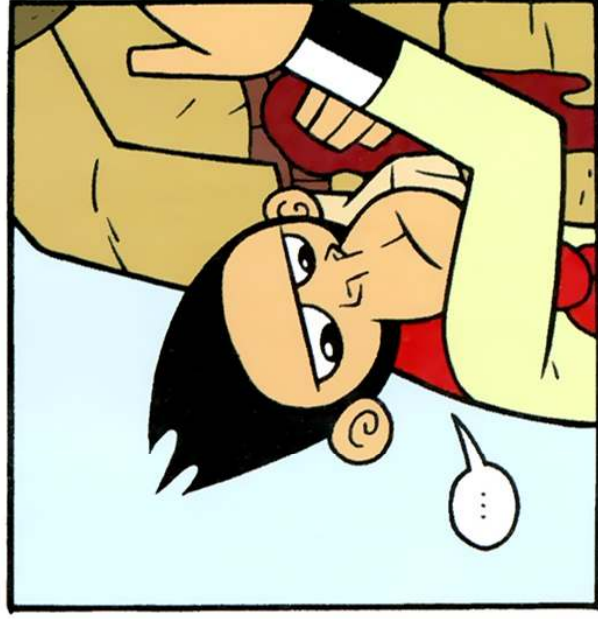


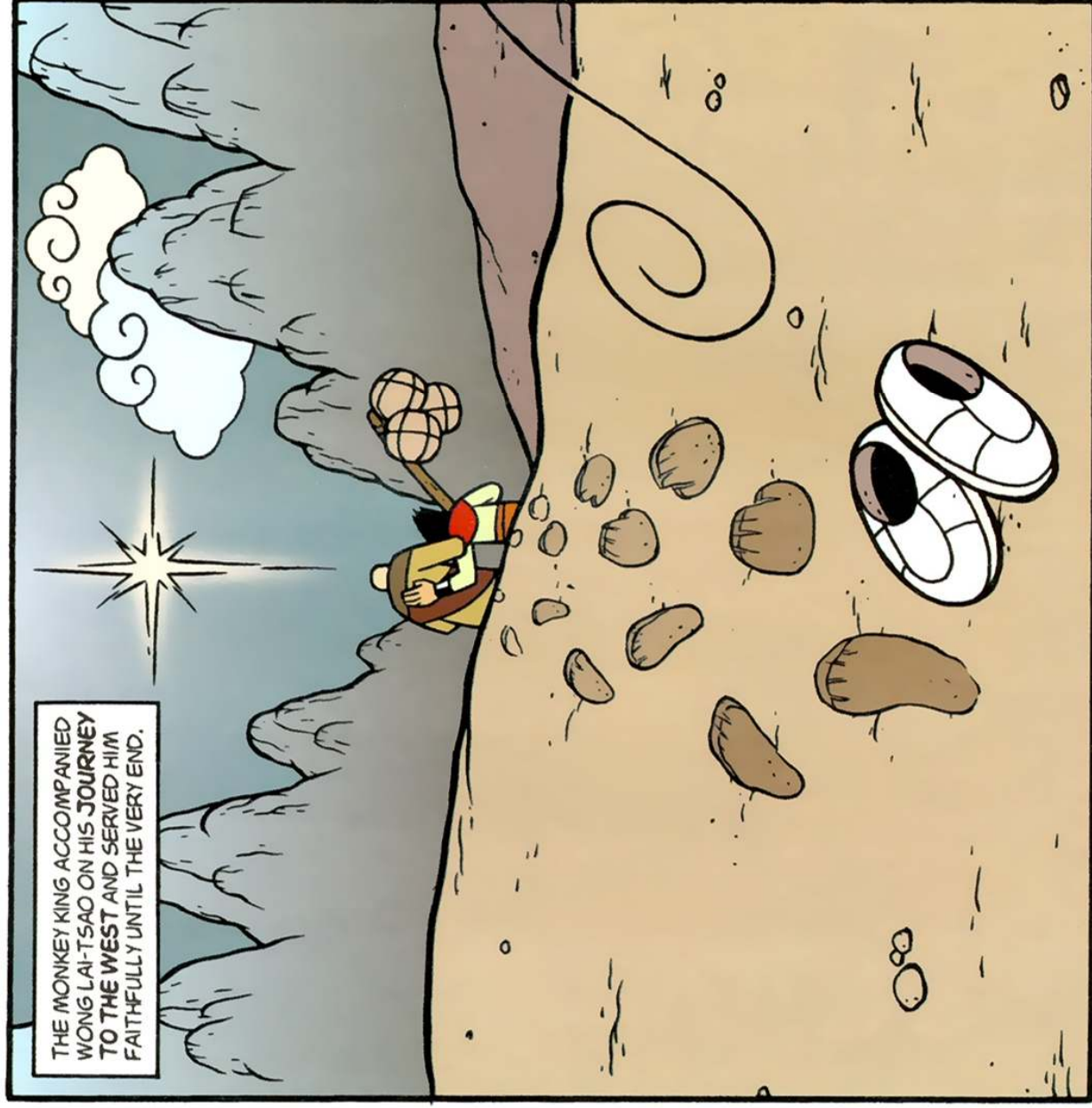




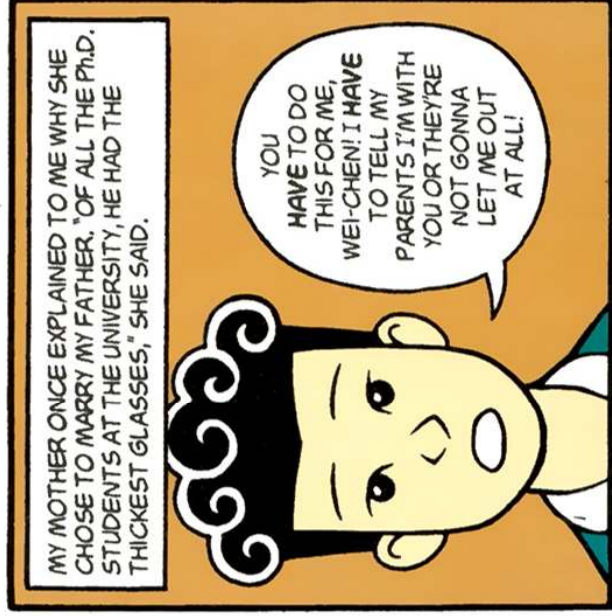
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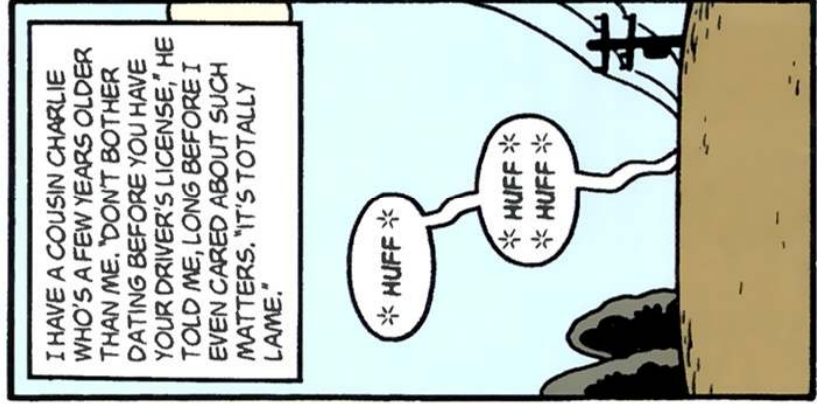
















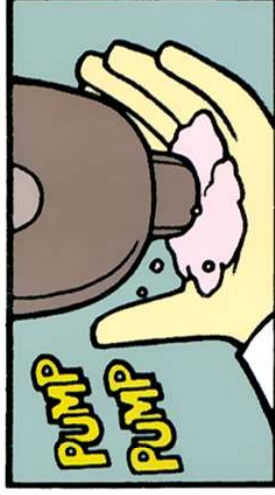


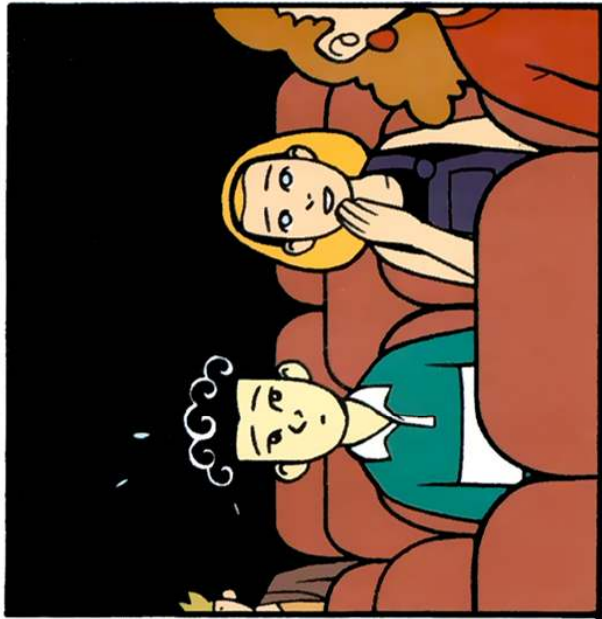
WHEN MY PARENTS WERE GROWING UP IN CHINA, NEITHER OF THEM HAD EVER HEARD OF - LET ALONE USED - DEODORANT, SO IT NEVER OCCURRED TO THEM TO BUY SUCH A PRODUCT FOR ME.



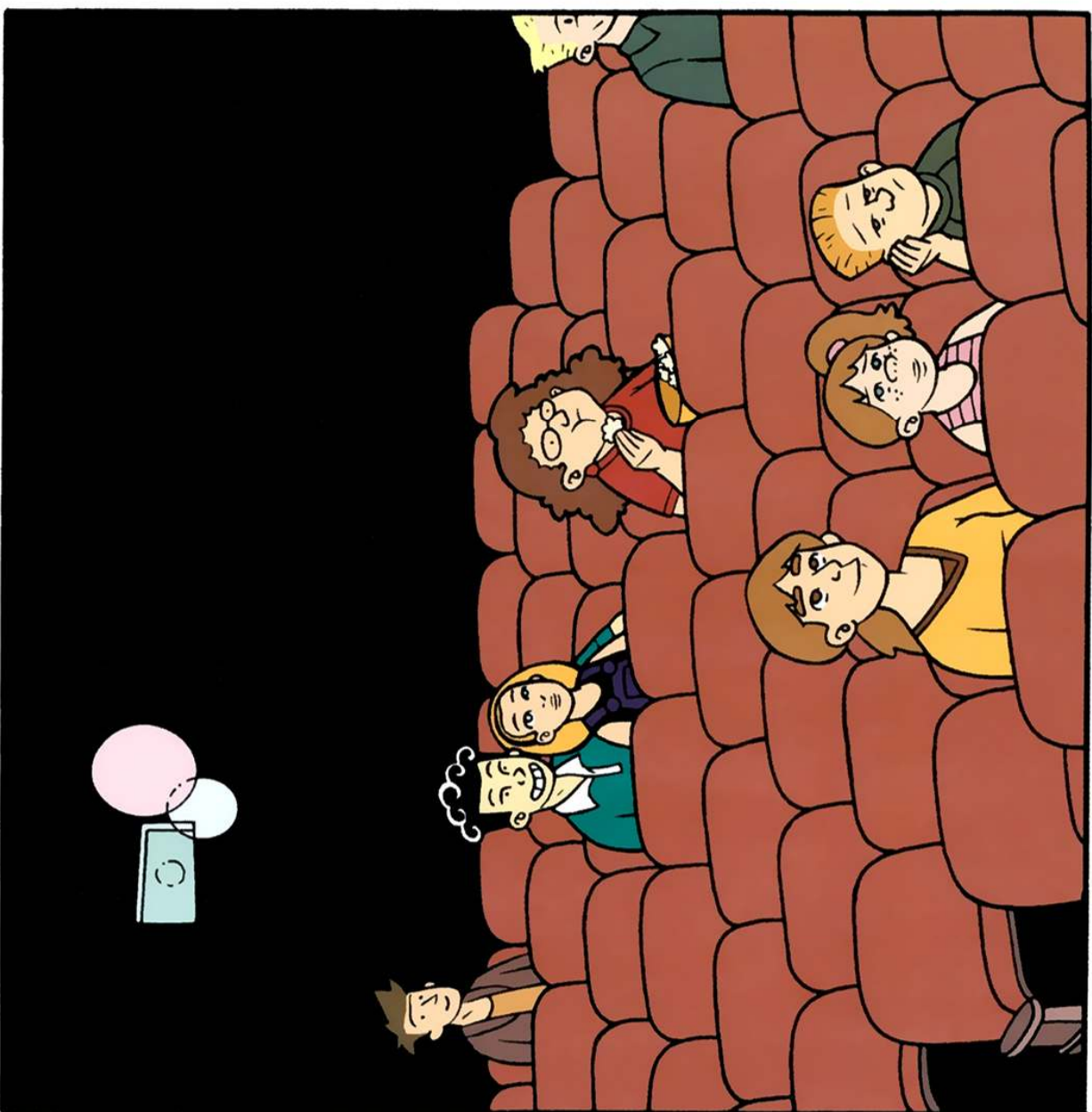
FORTUNATELY, CHARLIE HAD SOME ADVICE ABOUT THIS PARTICULAR ISSUE, TOO.

GET SOME OF THAT POWDERED SOAP THEY GOT IN PUBLIC BATHROOMS AND RUB IT INTO YOUR PITS. WORKS THE SAME AS RIGHT GUARD.









三笑



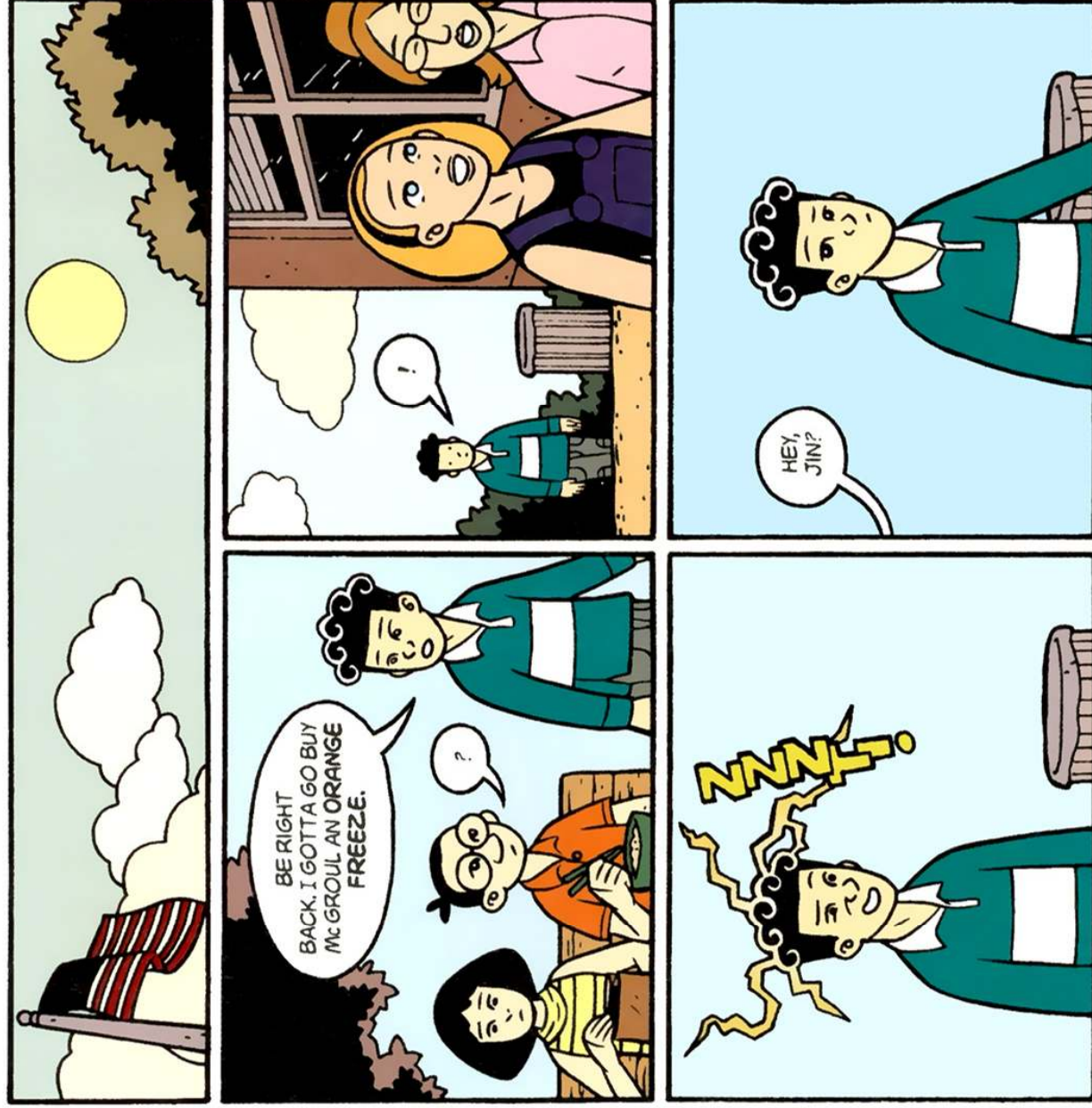


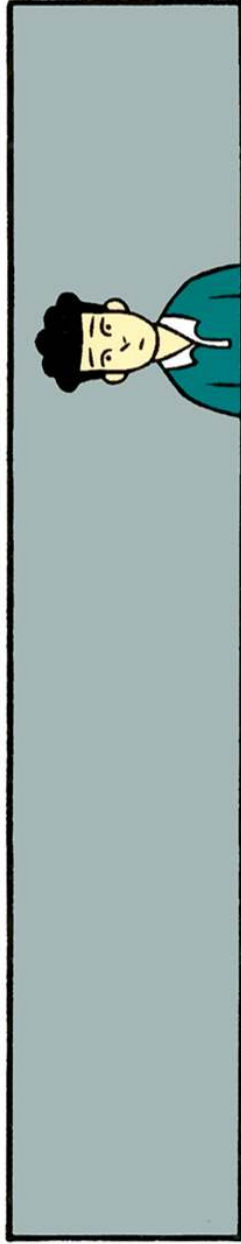


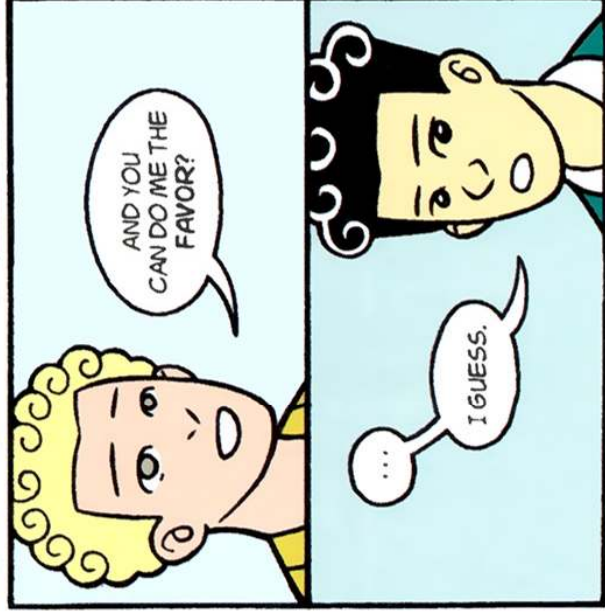


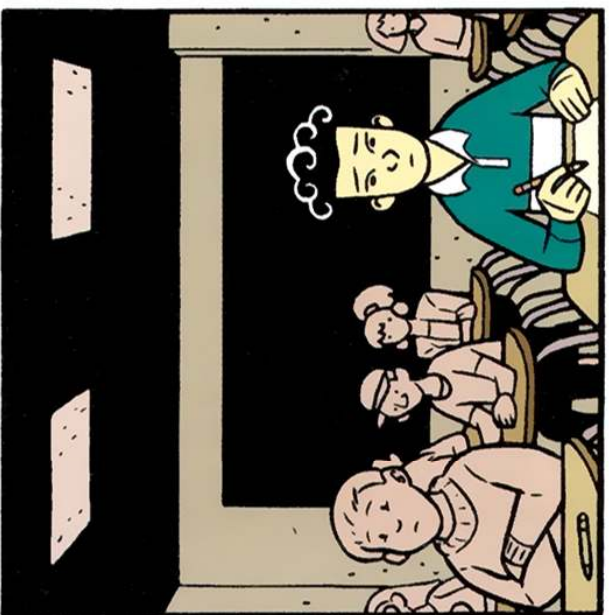




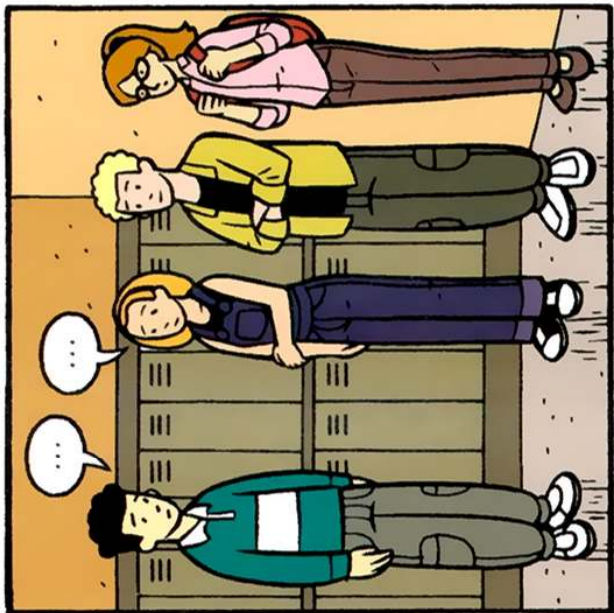
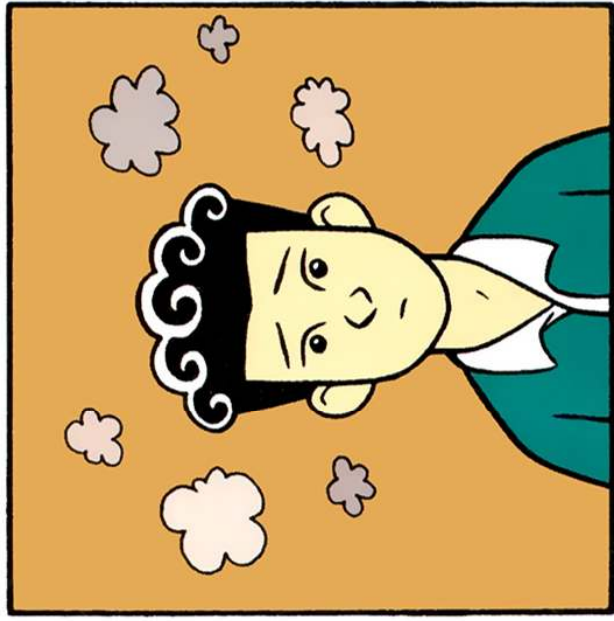


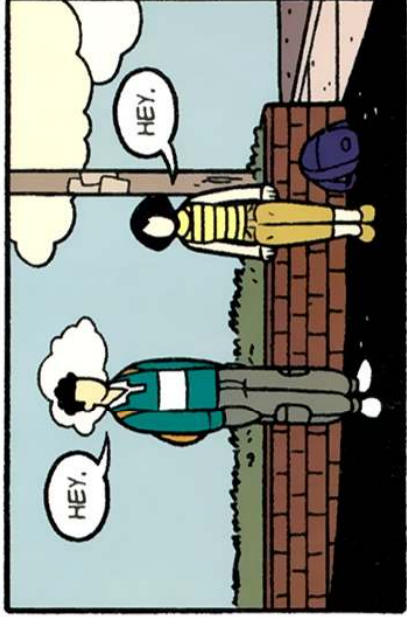




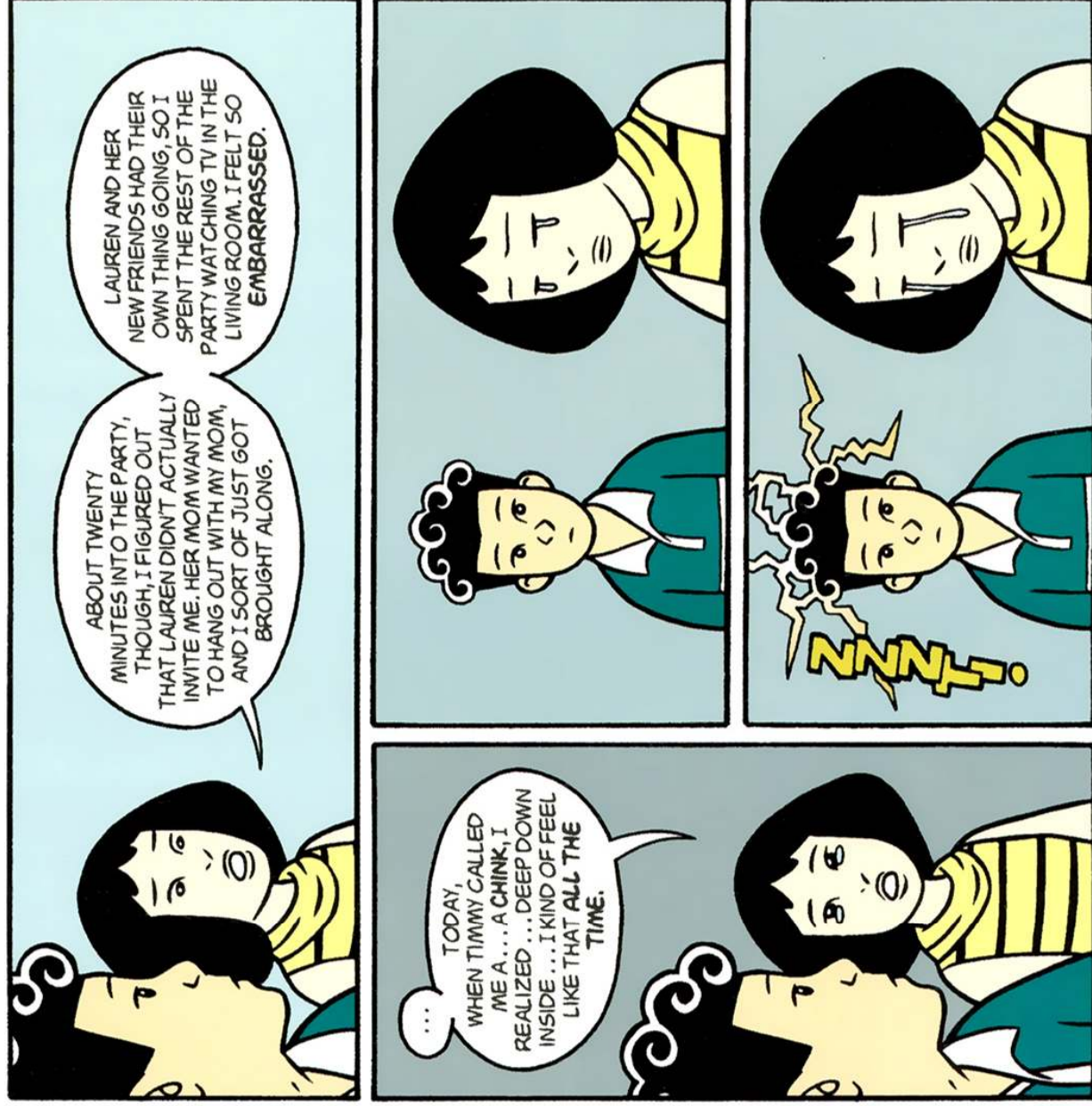


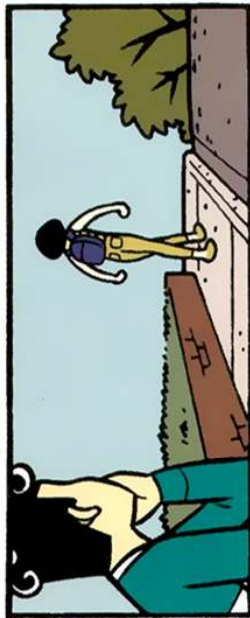
















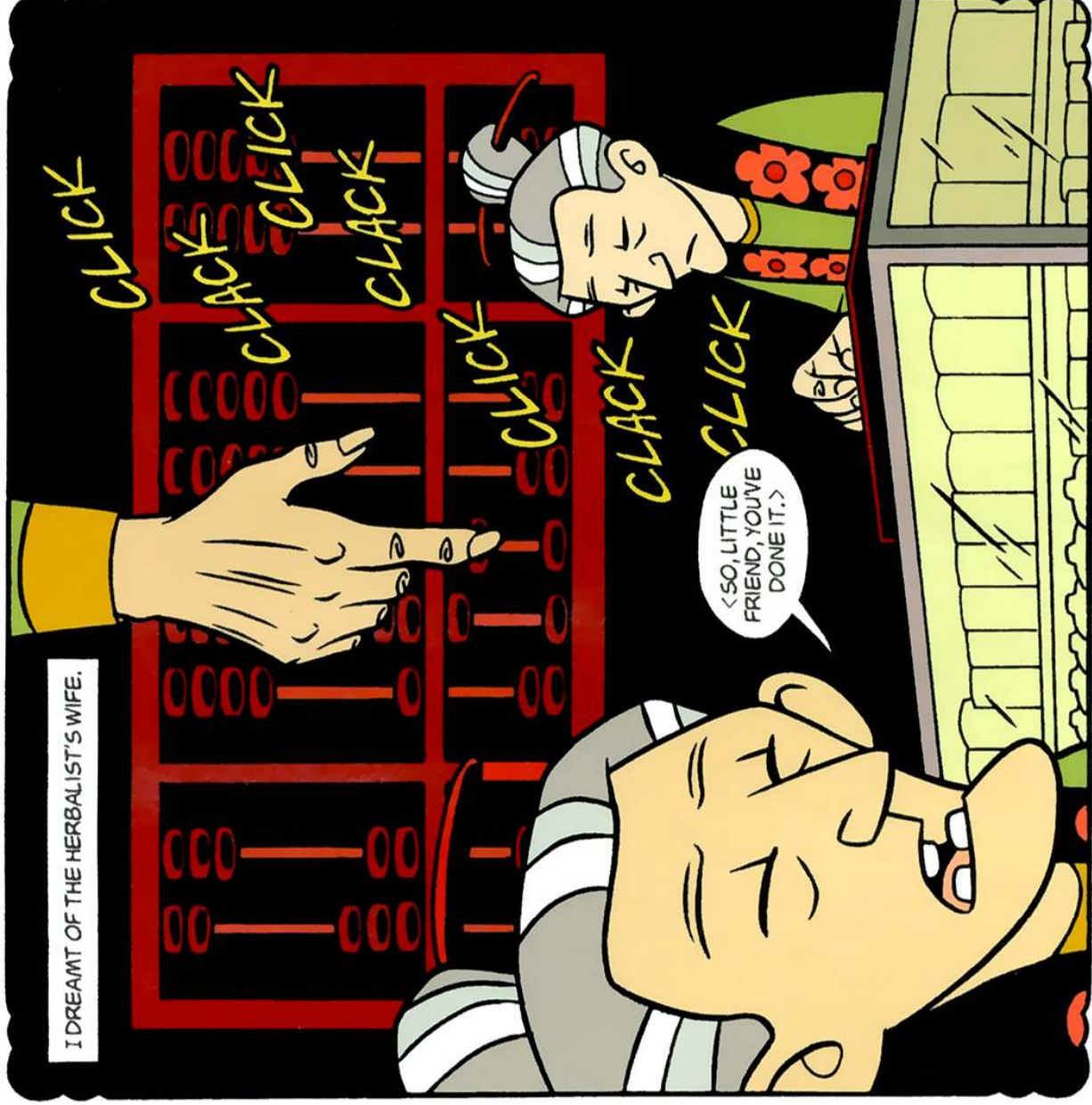




I HAD TROUBLE FALLING ASLEEP THAT NIGHT. I REPLAYED THE DAY'S EVENTS OVER AND OVER AGAIN IN MY MIND.

AND AT AROUND THREE IN THE MORNING, I FINALLY BELIEVED MYSELF.

EACH TIME I REACHED THE SAME CONCLUSION: WEI-CHEN NEEDED TO HEAR WHAT I HAD TO SAY. IT WAS, AFTER ALL, THE TRUTH.



I DREAMT OF THE HERBALIST'S WIFE.

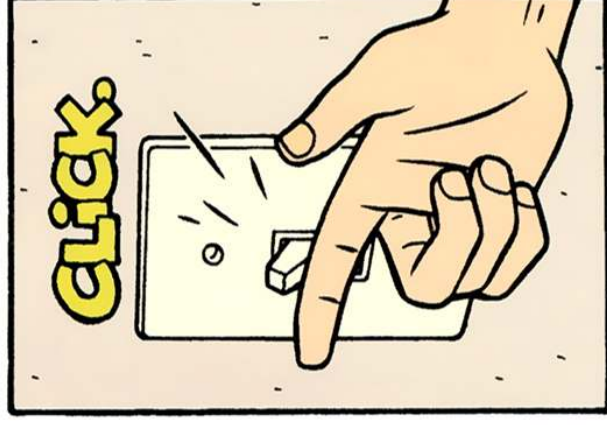
<SO, LITTLE FRIEND, YOU'VE DONE IT.>

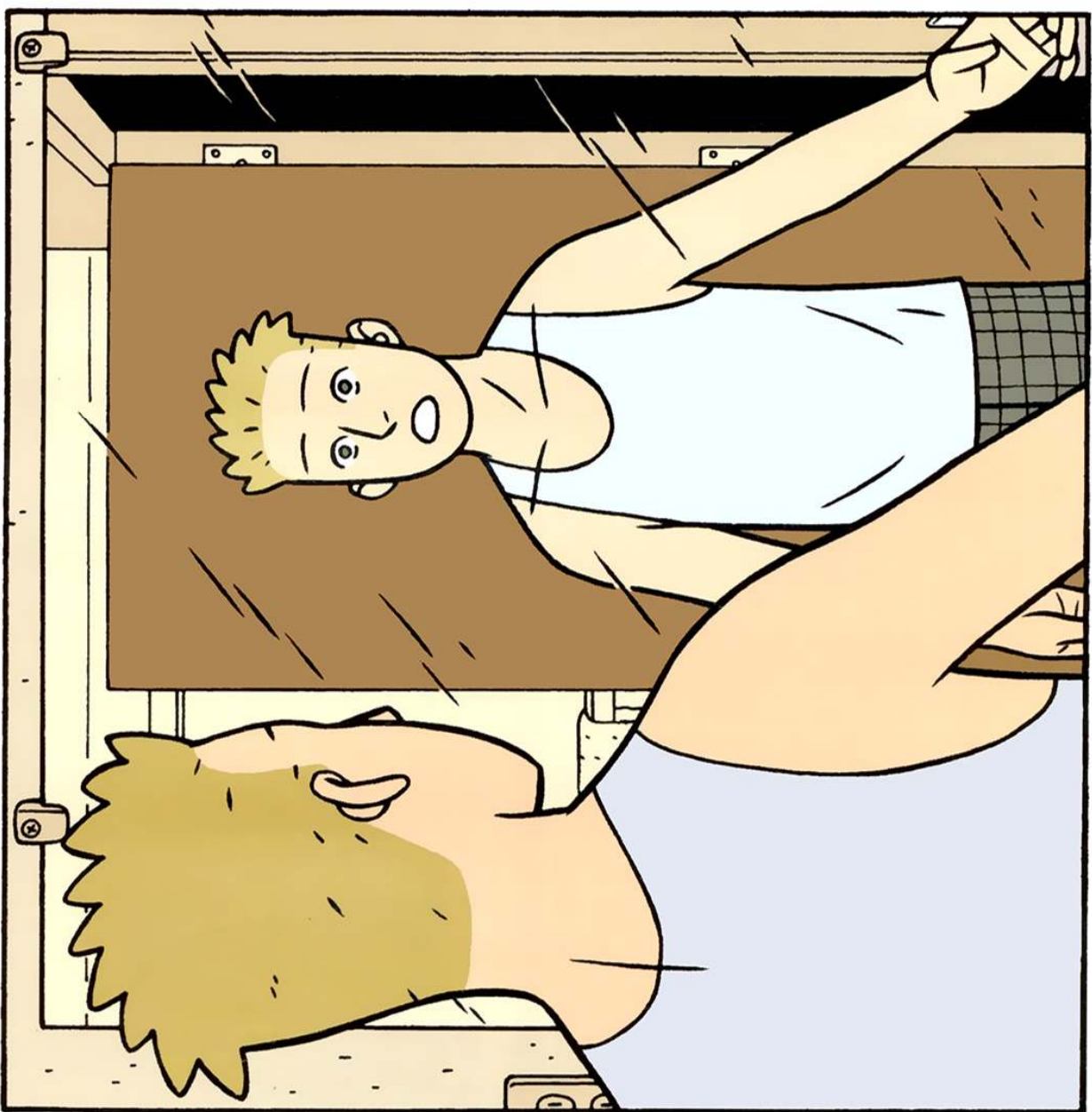
CLICK
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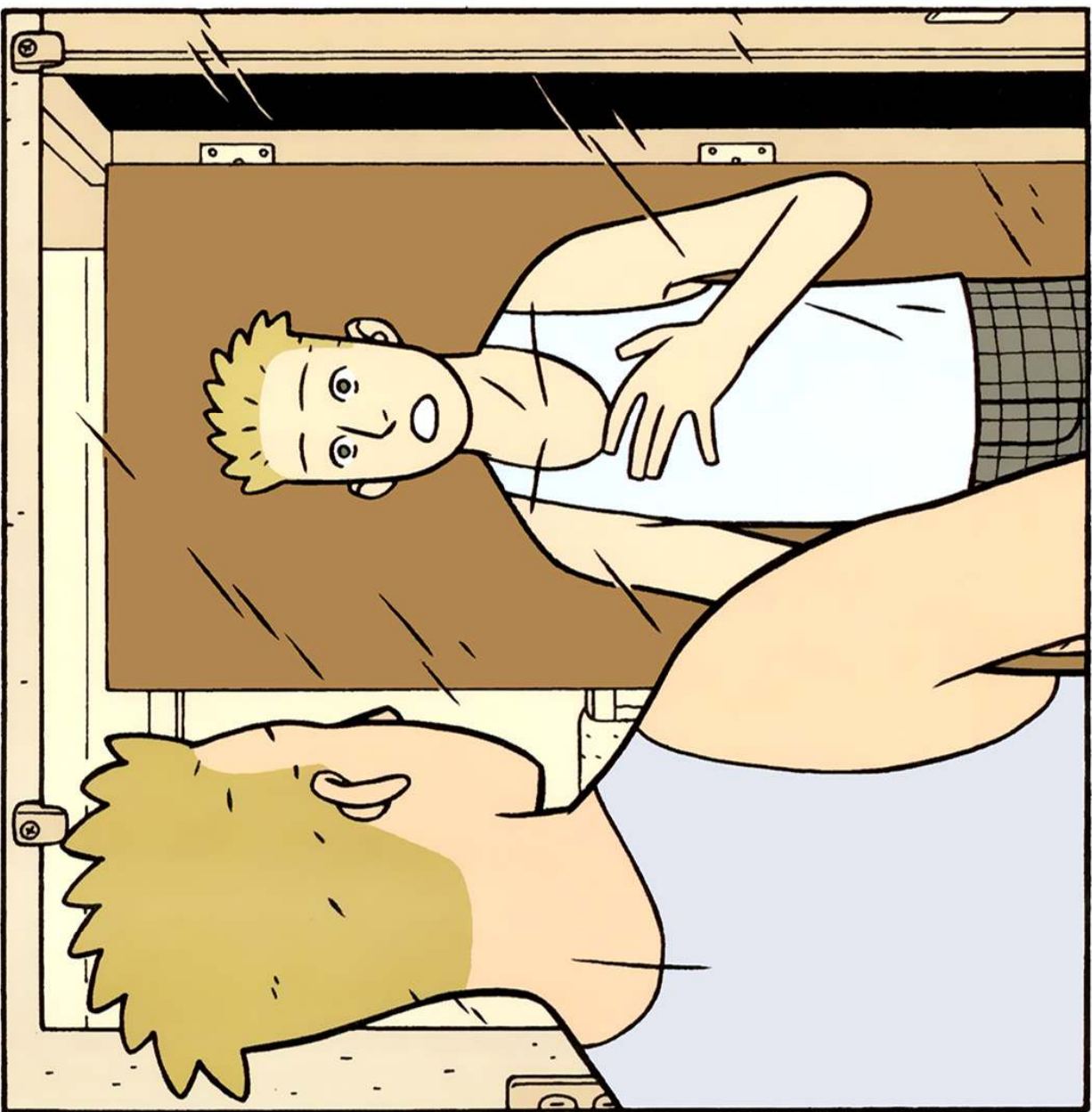




MY HEAD HURT, BUT THE BRUISES ON MY FACE WERE GONE.

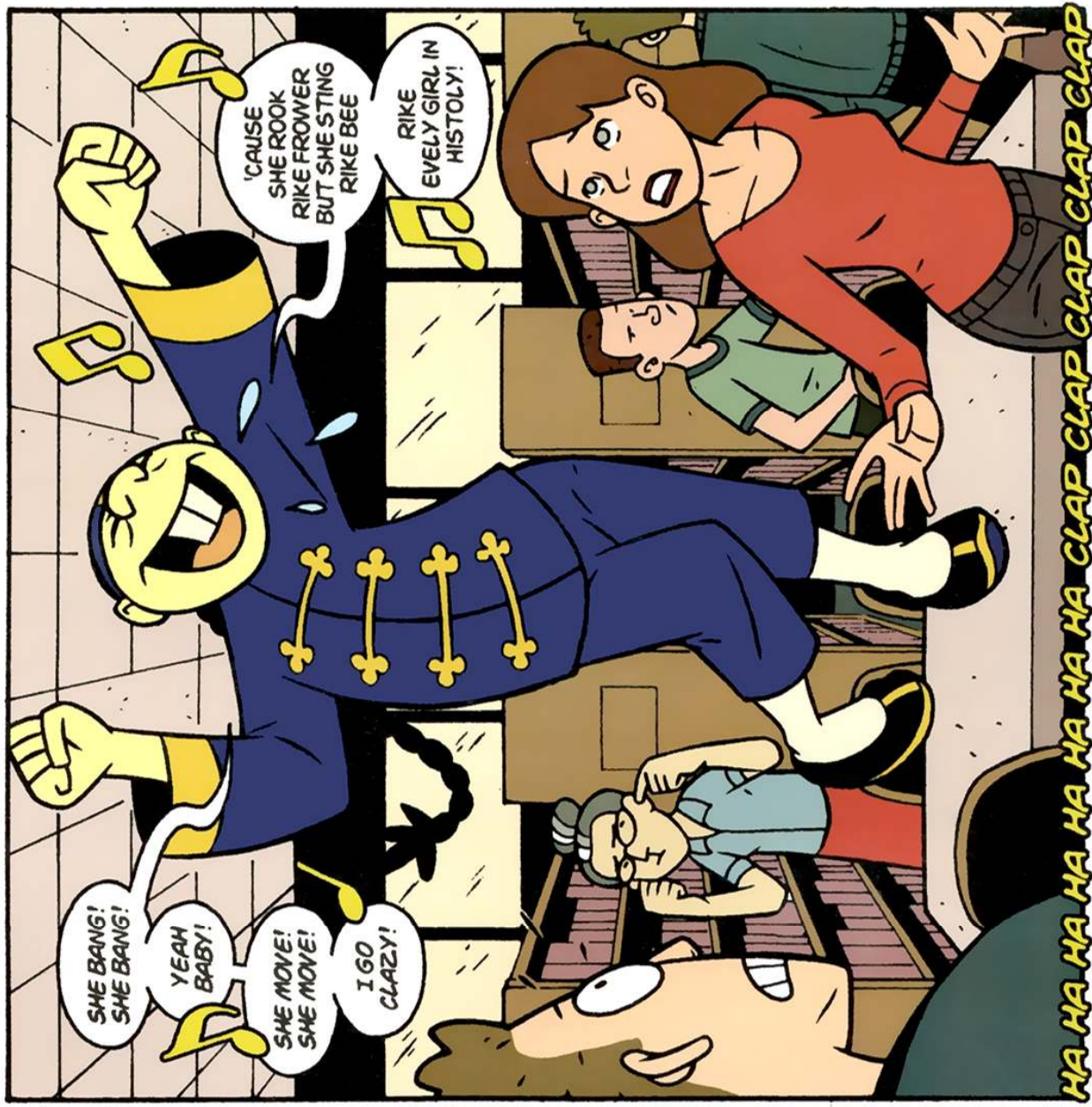








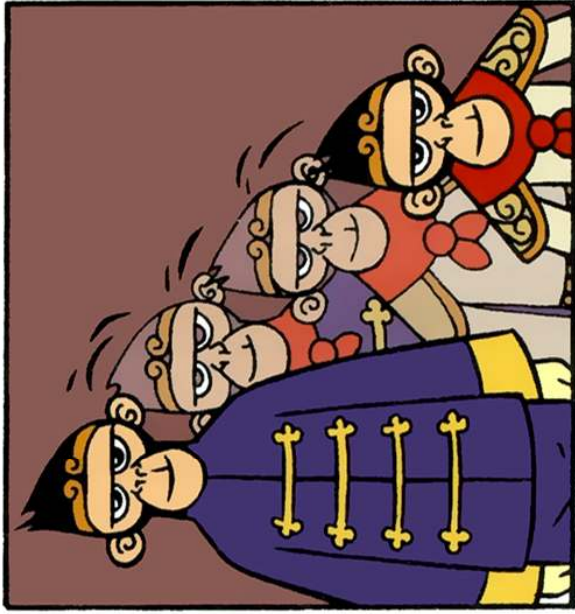




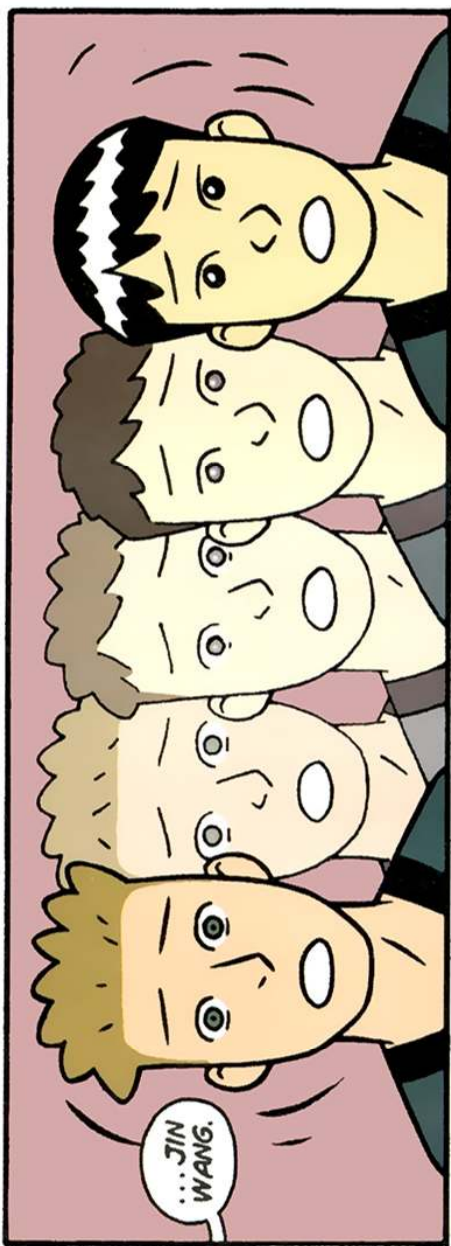








PERHAPS IT IS TIME TO REVEAL YOURS...









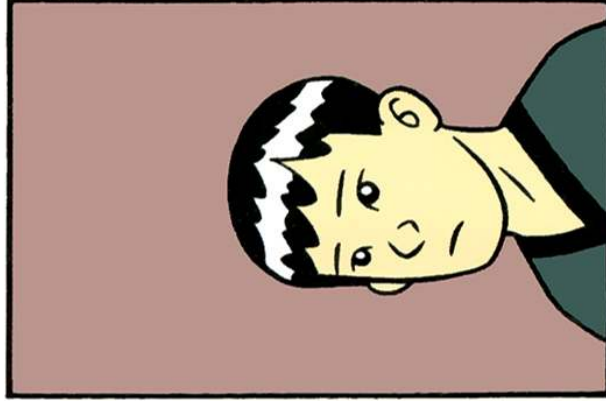
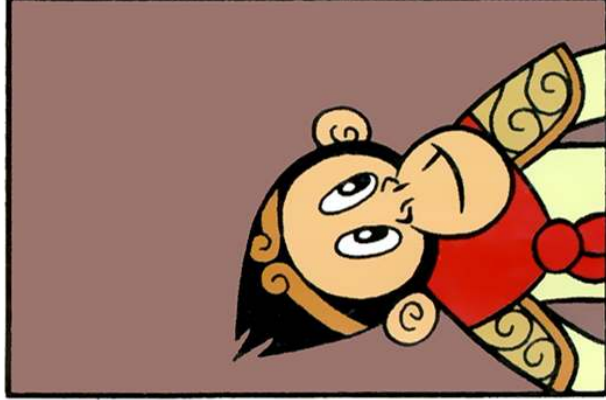












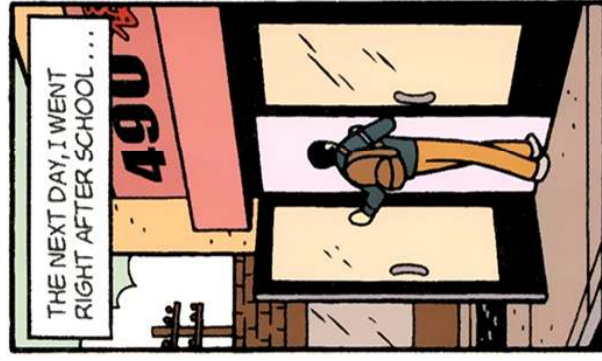
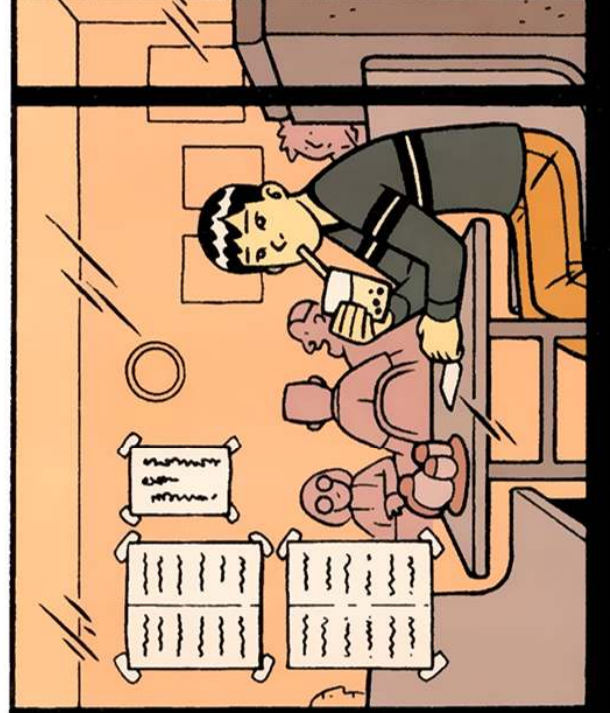








I STAYED THERE UNTIL CLOSING THAT NIGHT.



THE NEXT DAY, I WENT RIGHT AFTER SCHOOL ...

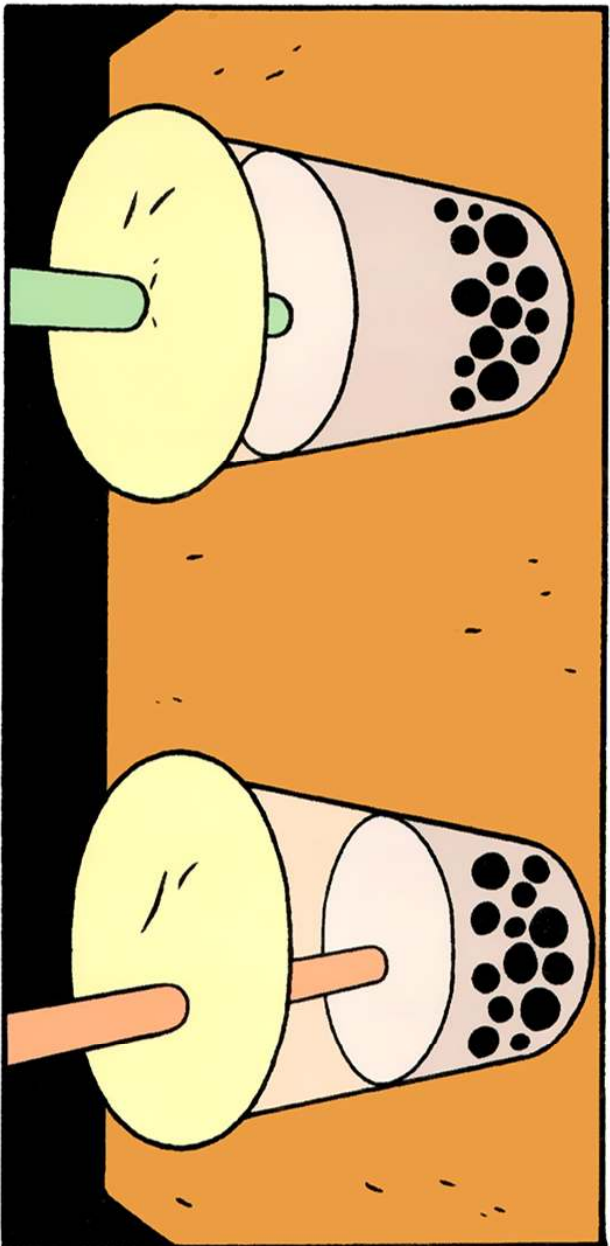


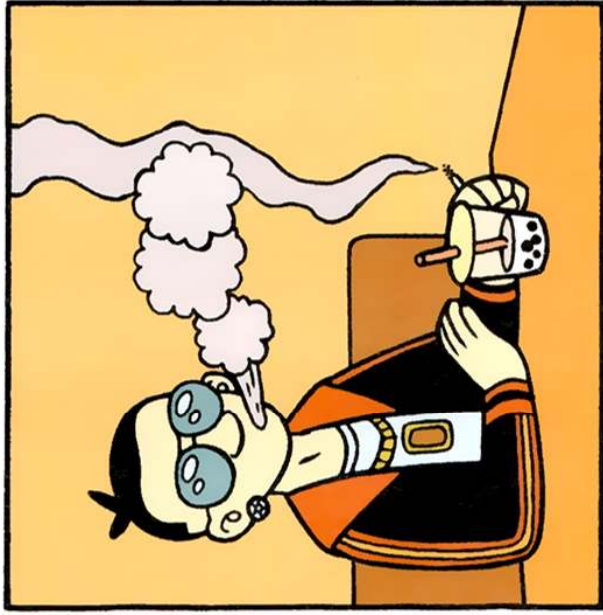
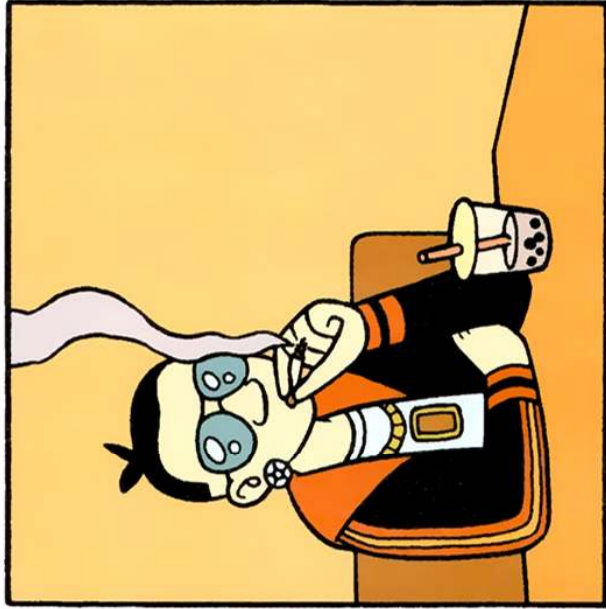
... AND STAYED UNTIL CLOSING AGAIN.



I DID THIS EVERY DAY FOR OVER A MONTH.









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The End



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Jon Yang

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Lark Pien

Mark Siegel

Judy Hansen

Danica Novgorodoff

Thien Pham

Jesse Hamm

Jason Shiga

Jesse Reklaw

Andy Hartzell

Joey Manley

Alan Davis

Rory Root

Albert Olson Hong

Shauna Olson Hong

Hank Lee

Pin Chou

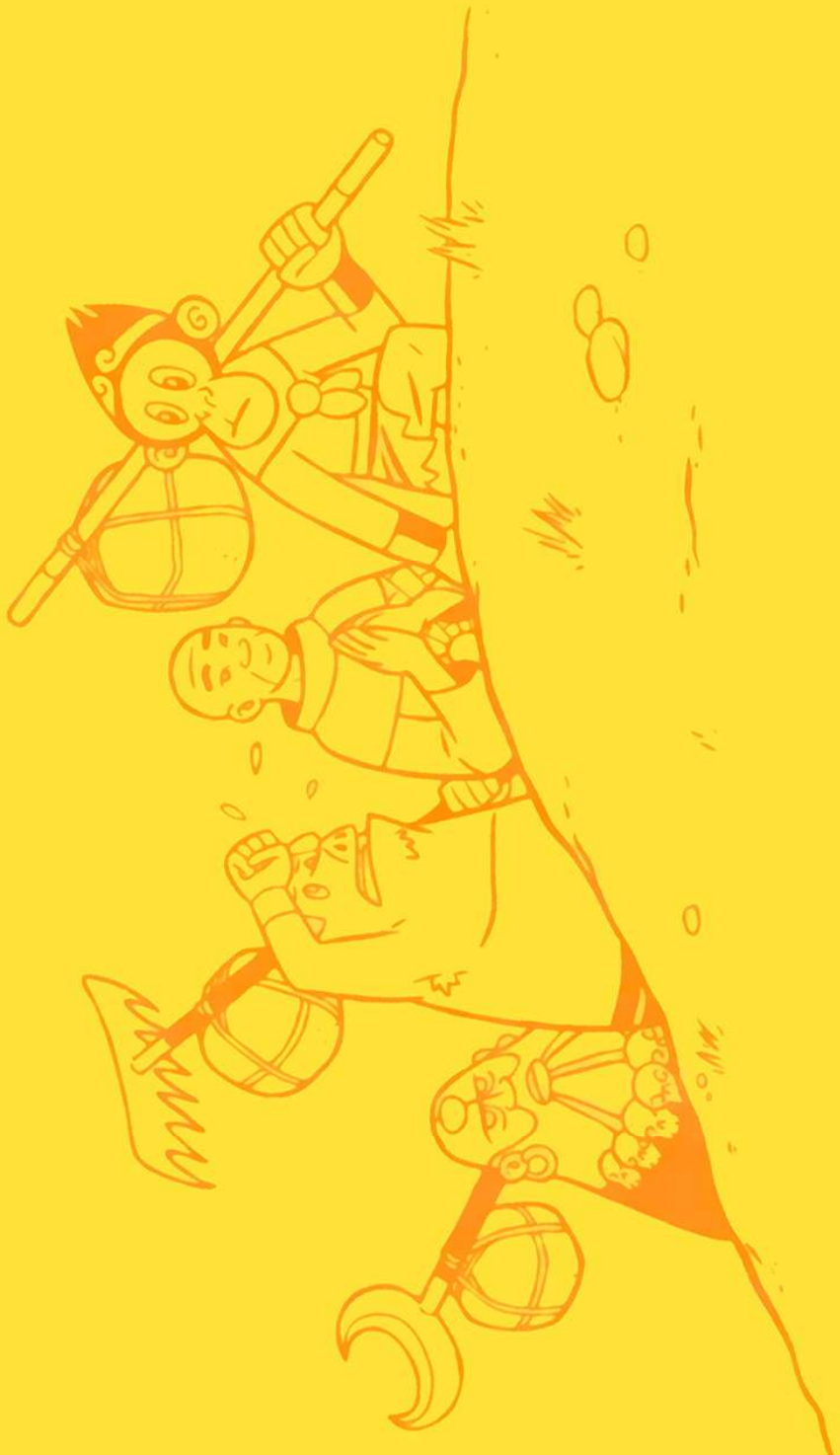
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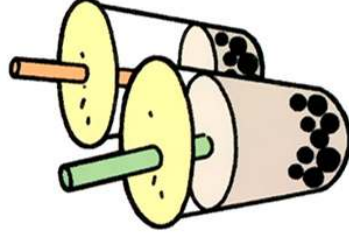
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Loyola Chin and the San Peligran Order

The Rosary Comic Book

The Motherless One







ene Yang began drawing comic books in the fifth grade. In 1997, he received the Xeric Grant, a prestigious comics industry grant, for *Gordon Yamamoto and the King of the Geeks*, his first comics work as an adult. He has since written and drawn a number of titles, including *Duncan's Kingdom* (with art by Derek Kirk Kim) and *The Rosary Comic Book*.

He lives in the San Francisco Bay Area with his lovely wife, Theresa, and son, Kolbe, and teaches computer science at a Roman Catholic high school.



"As an Asian American, *American Born Chinese* is the book I've been waiting for all my life."

— Derek Kirk Kim

*Jacket art © 2006 by Gene Yang
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