

LOUD PAINTINGS PRESENTS

THE GOOD ONES

MIKE WIETÉCHA
BK PEÑA





THE GOOD ONES

WRITTEN BY

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MARINELLA MATEO

NUMEROUS CITIES IN JAPAN HAVE REPORTED STORIES OF DECEASED SOLDIERS RETURNING BACK FROM THE DEAD. MANY HAVE APPEARED AT THEIR PREVIOUS RESIDENCE WITHOUT EXPLANATION. THE GOVERNMENT IN TOKYO IS CLAIMING TO HAVE NO CONNECTION TO THE PHENOMENON, BUT THEY ARE INVESTIGATING THE MATTER.

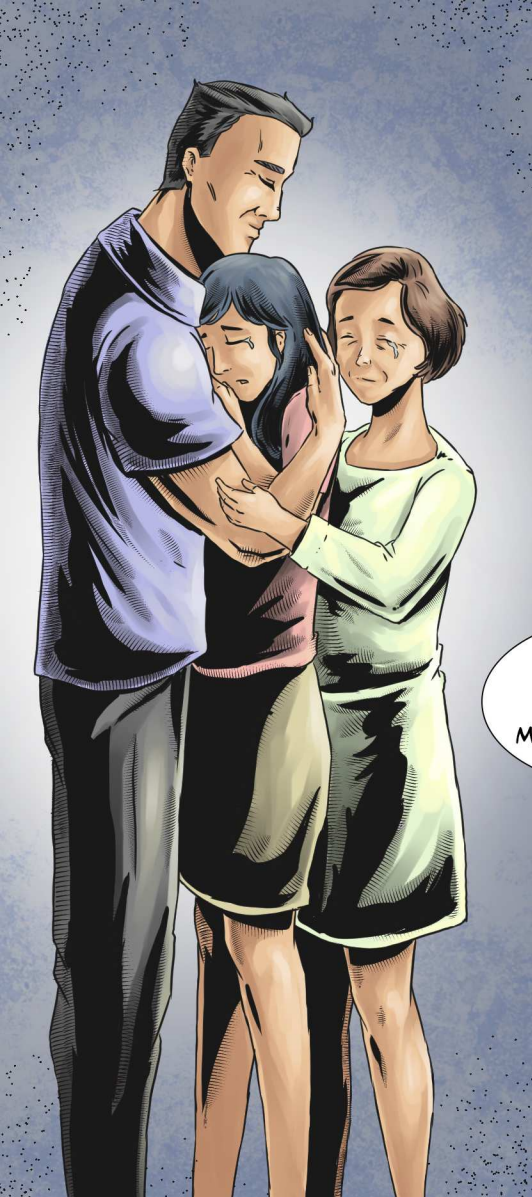
BREAKING NEWS

LAST THING I REMEMBER WAS MY BODY WASTING AWAY FROM CANCER. 20 YEARS AGO YOU SAY, BUT IT FEELS LIKE YESTERDAY. NEXT THING I KNOW, I'M ALIVE AND HEALTHY, STANDING AT MY OWN GRAVE. I DON'T UNDERSTAND ANY OF THIS.

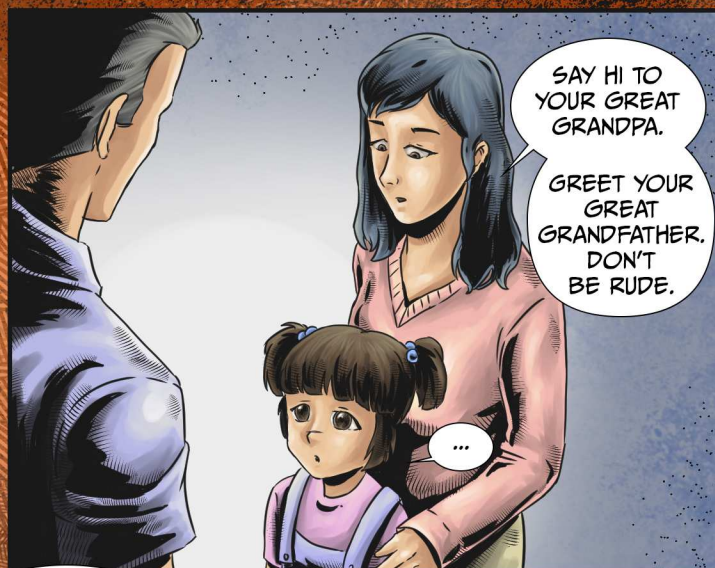
IT DOESN'T MATTER WHY. I'M JUST HAPPY YOU'RE HOME.

GRANDFATHER...

SORA...

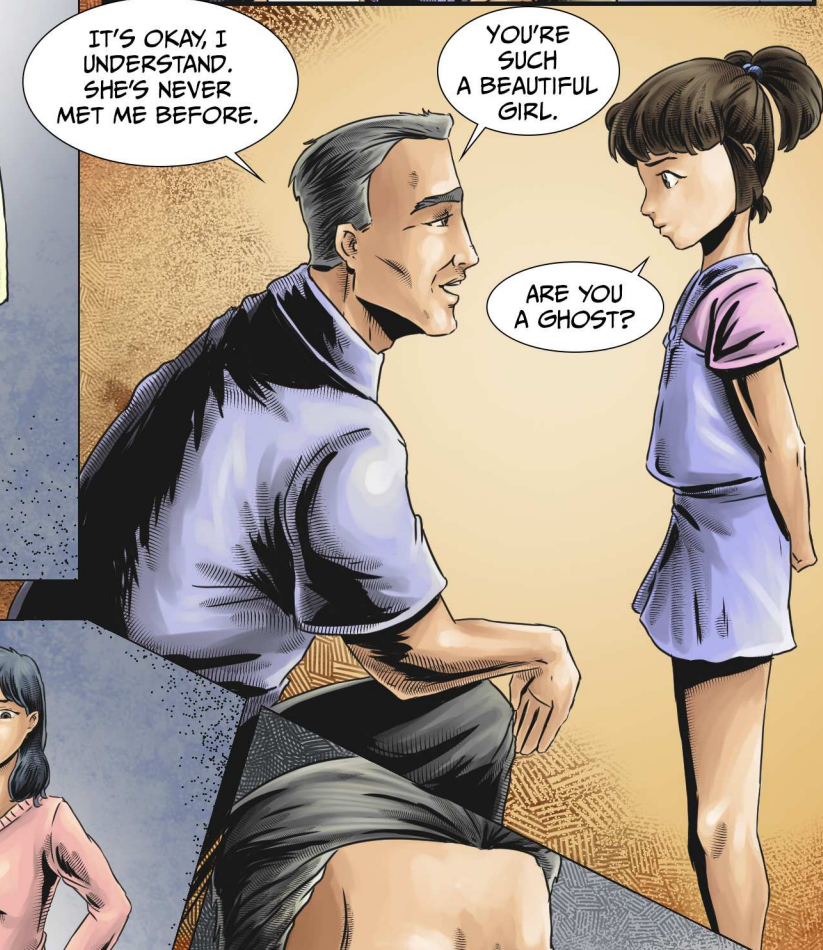


IT'S OKAY, I UNDERSTAND. SHE'S NEVER MET ME BEFORE.



SAY HI TO YOUR GREAT GRANDPA.
GREET YOUR GREAT GRANDFATHER. DON'T BE RUDE.

...

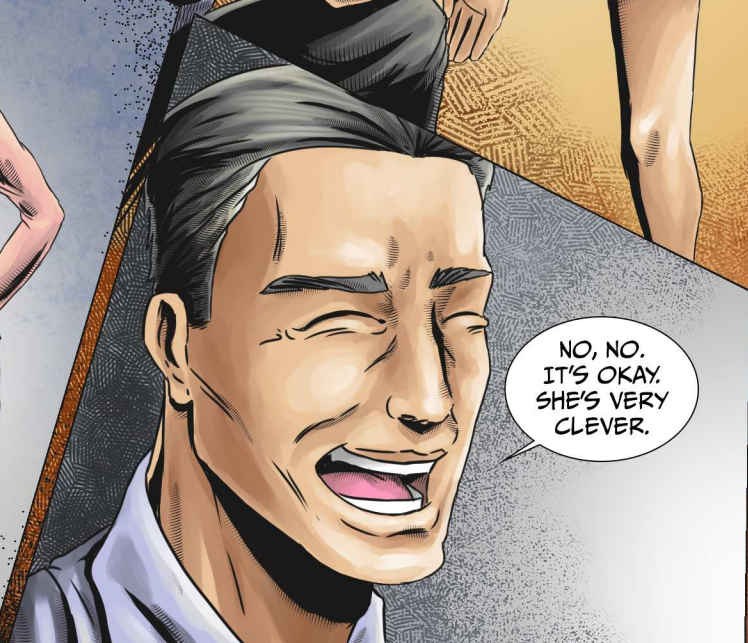


YOU'RE SUCH A BEAUTIFUL GIRL.

ARE YOU A GHOST?



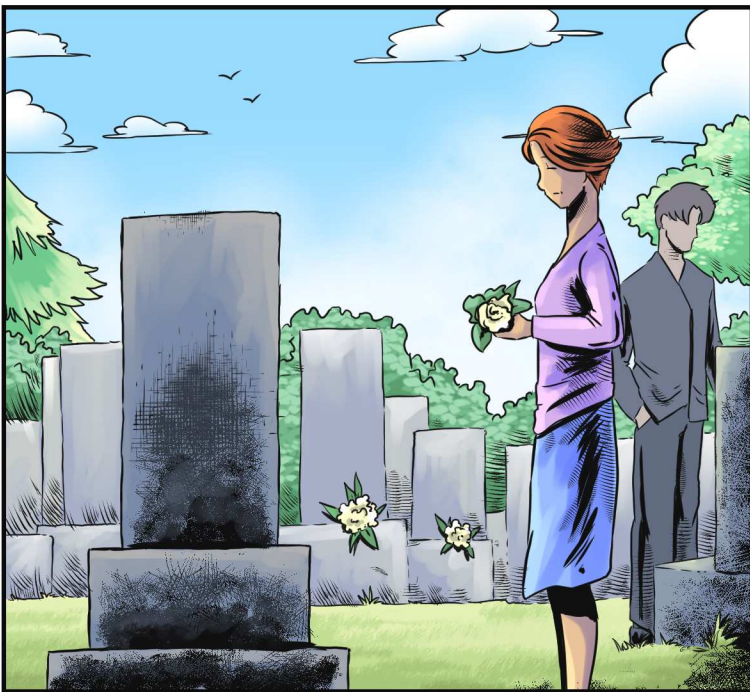
ME!!
APOLOGIZE!



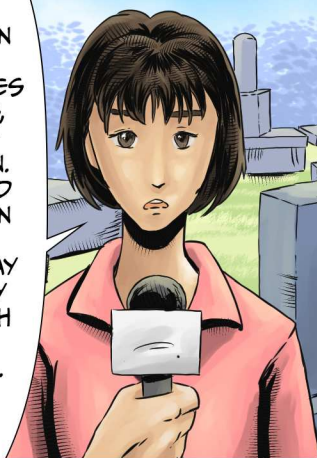
NO, NO. IT'S OKAY. SHE'S VERY CLEVER.



THE NEXT DAY...

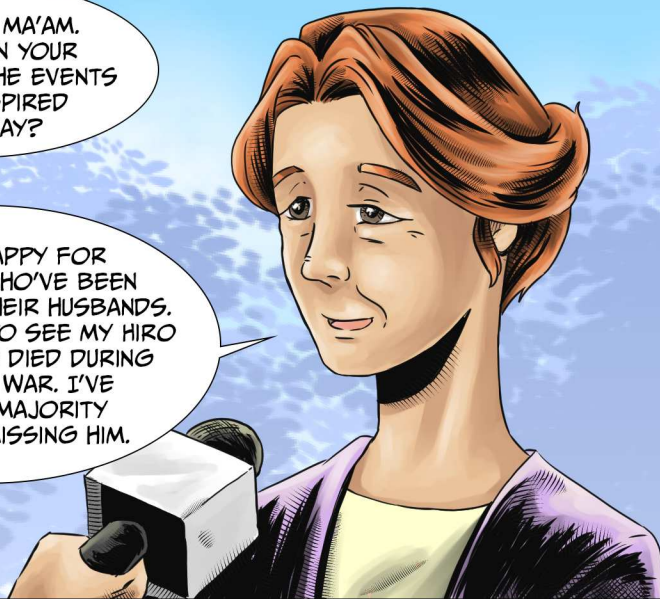


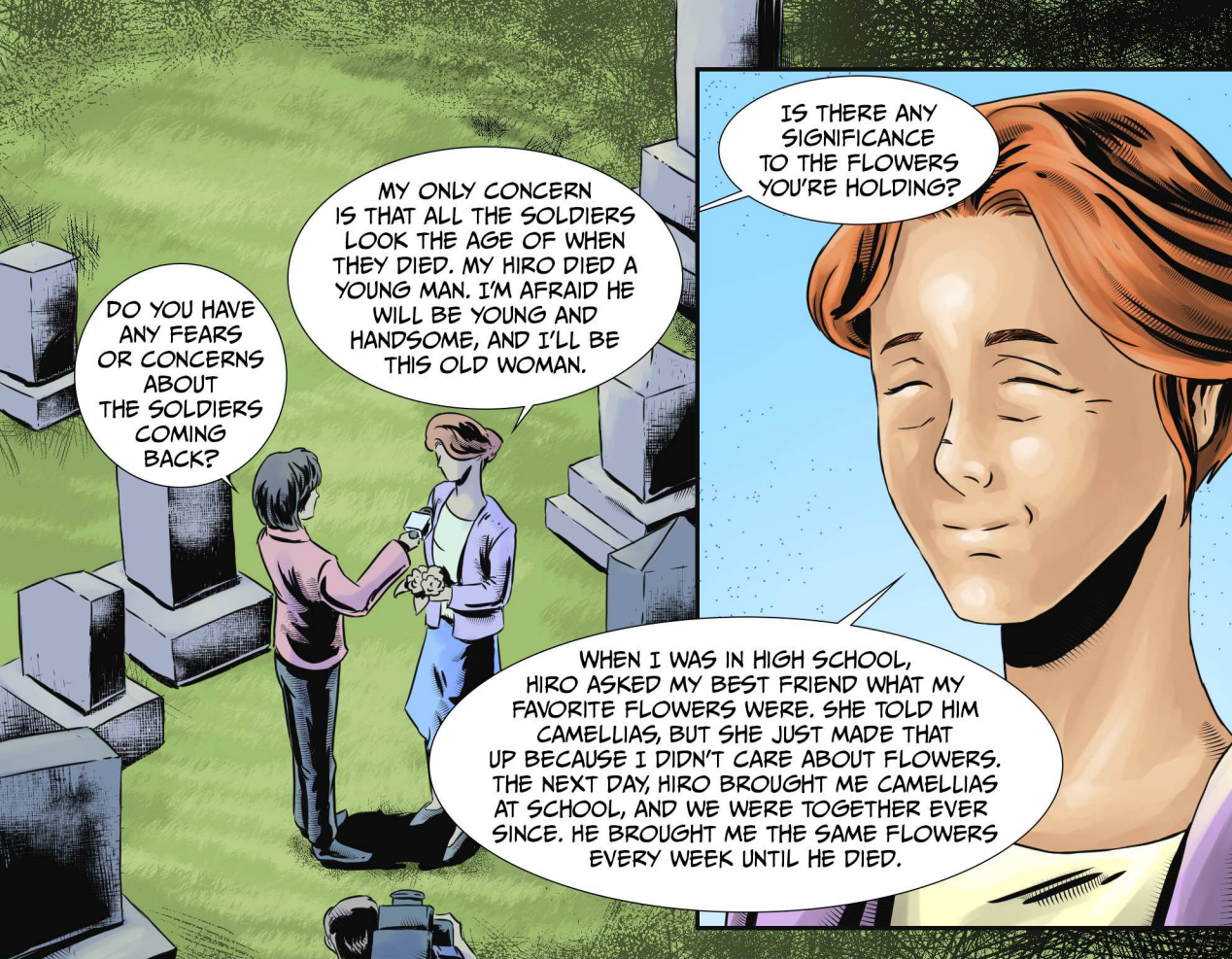
TODAY, A COMMON SIGHT ACROSS JAPAN IS MILITARY WIVES WAITING AT THE GRAVES OF THEIR HUSBANDS, HOPING THEY'LL BE THE NEXT TO RETURN. IT'S BEEN CONFIRMED THAT ALL OF THE MEN WHO REAPPEARED SUDDENLY YESTERDAY HAVE PRIOR MILITARY SERVICE, GIVING HIGH HOPES TO THESE DEDICATED WOMEN.



EXCUSE ME, MA'AM. WHAT'S BEEN YOUR REACTION TO THE EVENTS THAT TRANSPIRED YESTERDAY?

I'M VERY HAPPY FOR THE WOMEN WHO'VE BEEN REUNITED WITH THEIR HUSBANDS. I'M SO EXCITED TO SEE MY HIRO ONCE AGAIN. HE DIED DURING THE PACIFIC WAR. I'VE SPENT THE MAJORITY OF MY LIFE MISSING HIM.





DO YOU HAVE ANY FEARS OR CONCERNS ABOUT THE SOLDIERS COMING BACK?

MY ONLY CONCERN IS THAT ALL THE SOLDIERS LOOK THE AGE OF WHEN THEY DIED. MY HIRO DIED A YOUNG MAN. I'M AFRAID HE WILL BE YOUNG AND HANDSOME, AND I'LL BE THIS OLD WOMAN.

IS THERE ANY SIGNIFICANCE TO THE FLOWERS YOU'RE HOLDING?

WHEN I WAS IN HIGH SCHOOL, HIRO ASKED MY BEST FRIEND WHAT MY FAVORITE FLOWERS WERE. SHE TOLD HIM CAMELLIAS, BUT SHE JUST MADE THAT UP BECAUSE I DIDN'T CARE ABOUT FLOWERS. THE NEXT DAY, HIRO BROUGHT ME CAMELLIAS AT SCHOOL, AND WE WERE TOGETHER EVER SINCE. HE BROUGHT ME THE SAME FLOWERS EVERY WEEK UNTIL HE DIED.

I'M SURE A MAN THAT WONDERFUL WILL BE COMING BACK SOON. THE WORLD NEEDS MORE PEOPLE LIKE HIRO.

YES, I AGREE.

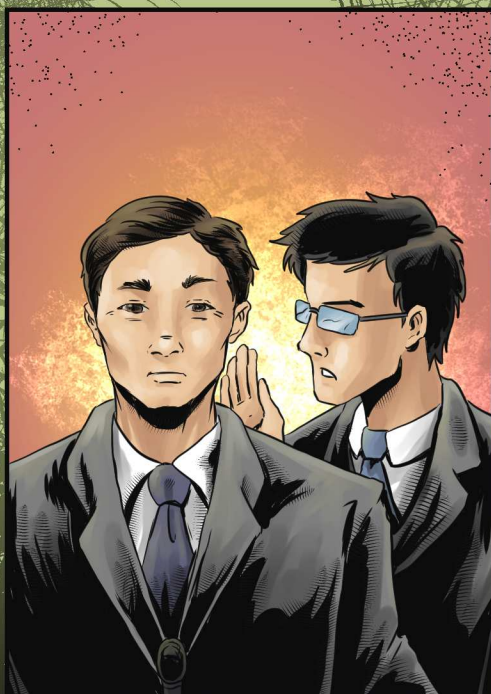
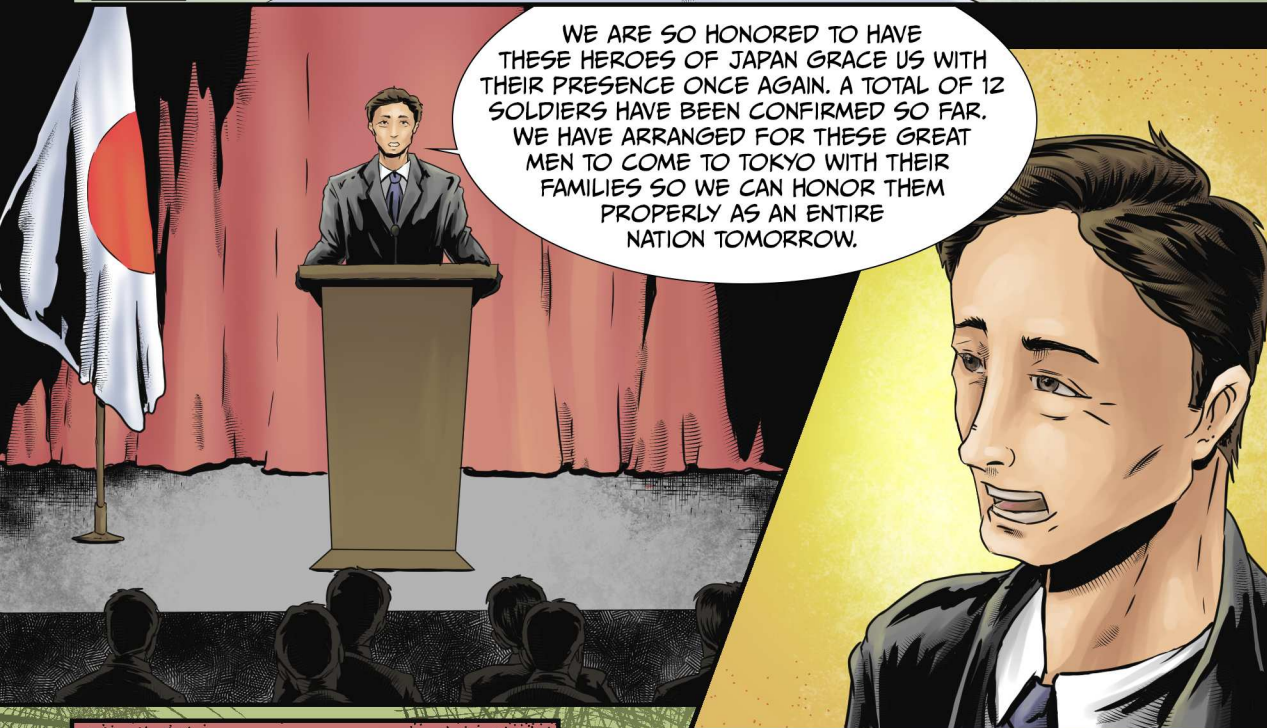


WE NOW GO LIVE TO
THE PRIME MINISTER GIVING
AN UPDATE ON THE SITUATION
OF THE RETURNING SOLDIERS.



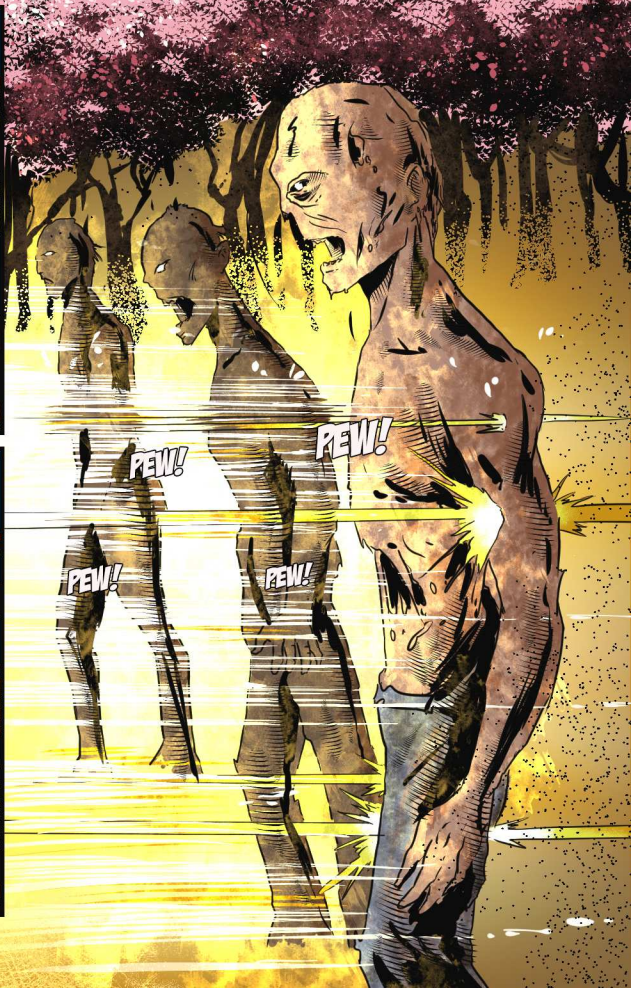
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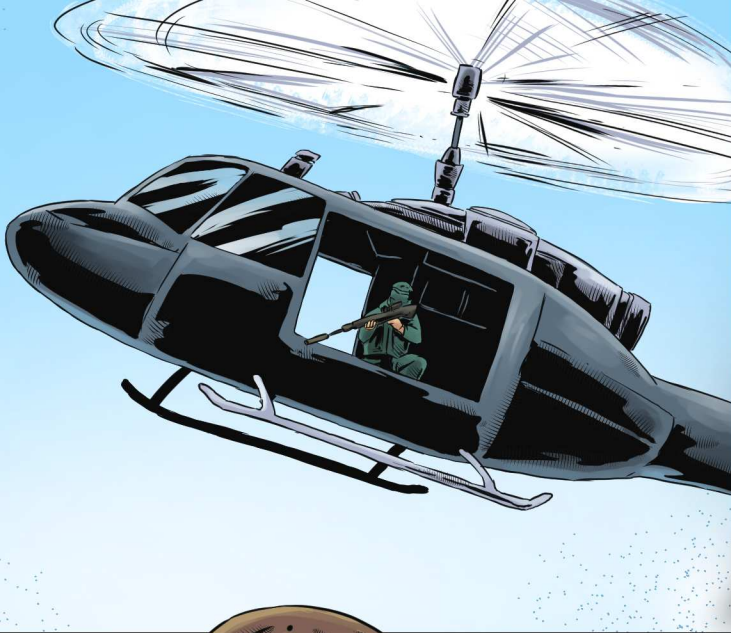
WE ARE SO HONORED TO HAVE
THESE HEROES OF JAPAN GRACE US WITH
THEIR PRESENCE ONCE AGAIN. A TOTAL OF 12
SOLDIERS HAVE BEEN CONFIRMED SO FAR.
WE HAVE ARRANGED FOR THESE GREAT
MEN TO COME TO TOKYO WITH THEIR
FAMILIES SO WE CAN HONOR THEM
PROPERLY AS AN ENTIRE
NATION TOMORROW.

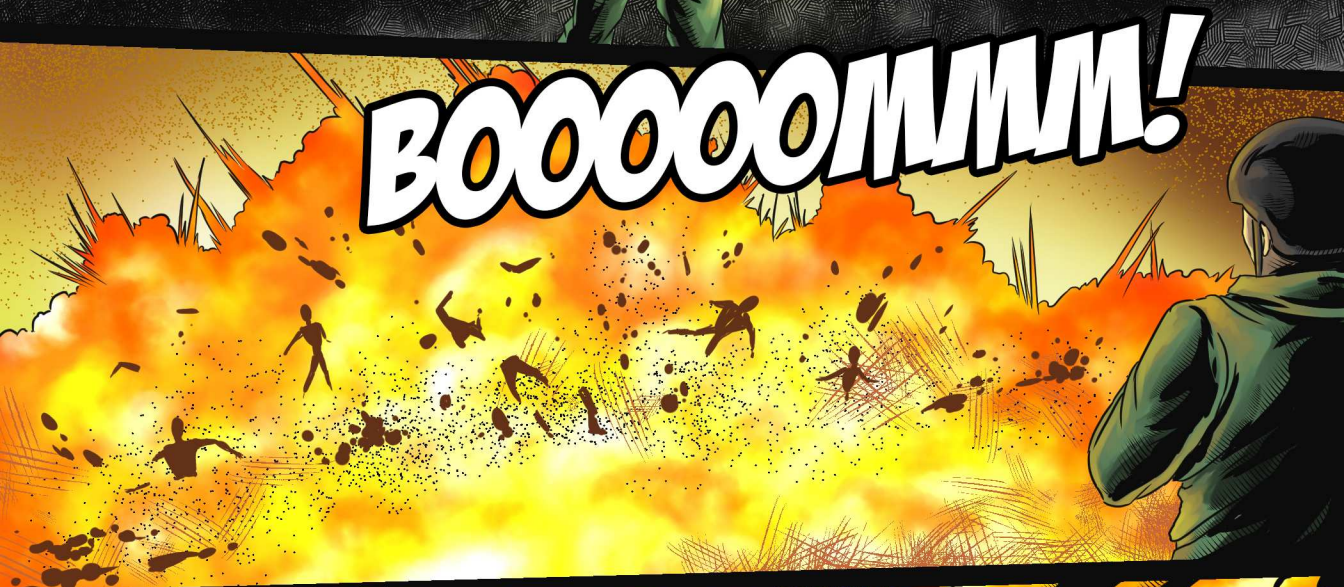




PLEASE EXCUSE THE ABRUPT DEPARTURE OF THE PRIME MINISTER. WE'VE JUST RECEIVED WORD THAT THERE'S A SITUATION NEAR UENO PARK. WE ASK YOU TO REMAIN CALM AND RETURN TO YOUR HOMES. THE POLICE AND MILITARY HAVE BEEN DEPLOYED AND WILL RESOLVE THE MATTER SHORTLY.

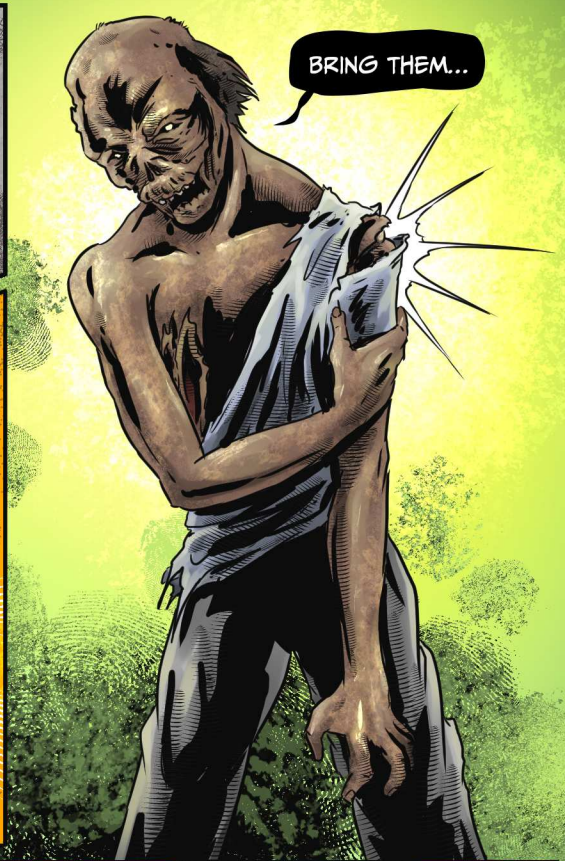
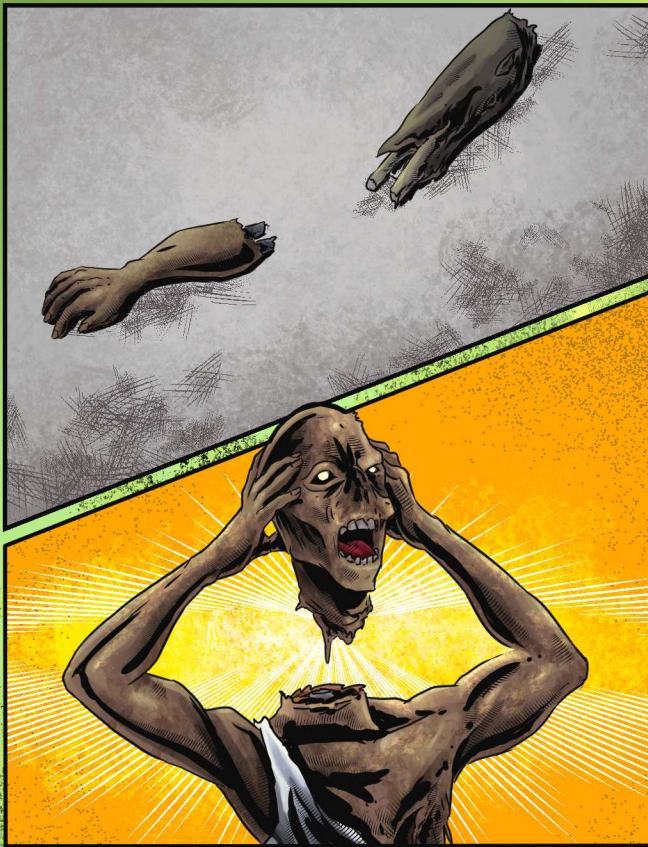








THREAT
CONTAINED.

COPY THAT.
A FORENSICS TEAM
WILL COME COLLECT
THE BODIES TO FIGURE
OUT WHAT THE HELL
THESE THINGS ARE.

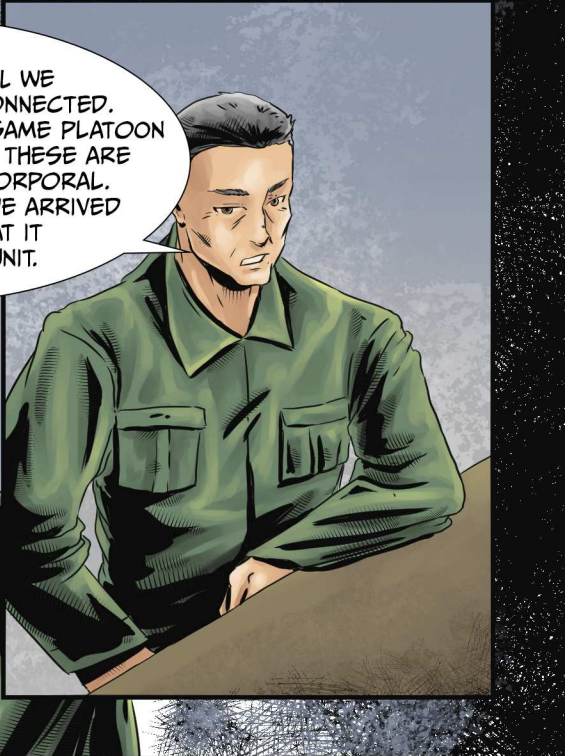




IT'S AN HONOR TO MEET YOU, GENTLEMEN. MY INITIAL PLAN WAS FOR A CELEBRATORY MEETING, BUT THE CIRCUMSTANCES HAVE CHANGED. TWO DAYS AGO, YOU ALL ARRIVED BACK FROM THE DEAD, AND NOW WE HAVE DEMONS ROAMING THE STREETS OF TOKYO.



PLEASE TELL ME, DO YOU HAVE ANY UNDERSTANDING OF WHAT'S GOING ON?




PRIME MINISTER, ALL WE KNOW IS THAT WE'RE CONNECTED. WE ALL BELONGED TO THE SAME PLATOON DURING THE PACIFIC WAR. THESE ARE MY MEN. I WAS THEIR CORPORAL. WE DIDN'T KNOW UNTIL WE ARRIVED HERE IN TOKYO THAT IT WAS THE ENTIRE UNIT.



ANY IDEA ON HOW TO STOP THESE DEMONS FROM DESTROYING THE CITY?



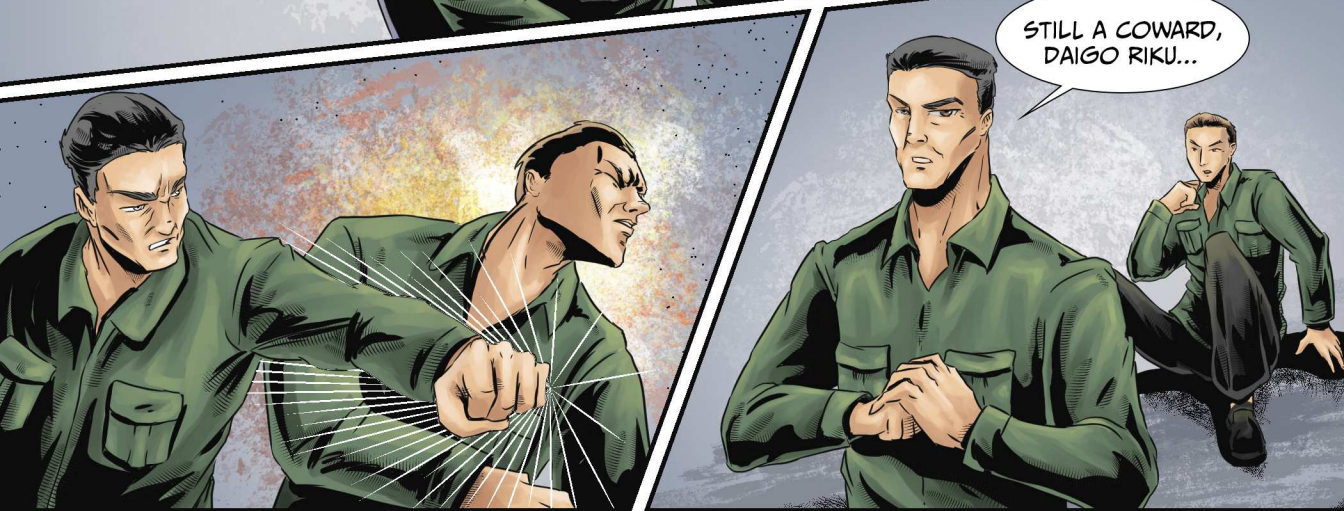
SORRY, PRIME MINISTER, I HAVE NO CLUE.



PRIME MINISTER, IF I MAY. THEY'RE NOT ACTUALLY CAUSING ANY DAMAGE. THEY'VE JUST BEEN WALKING, AND ACTUALLY, THEY'VE STOPPED.

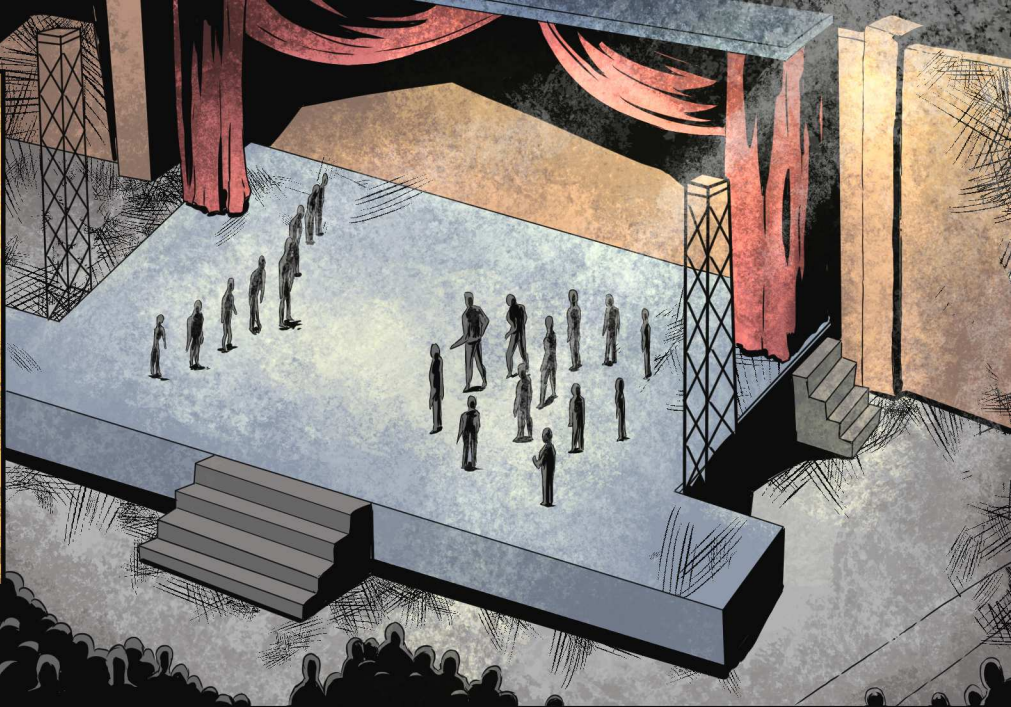
WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

OUTSIDE.





BRING THEM...



WE'RE HERE.
NOW, WHAT IS
IT THAT YOU
WANT?

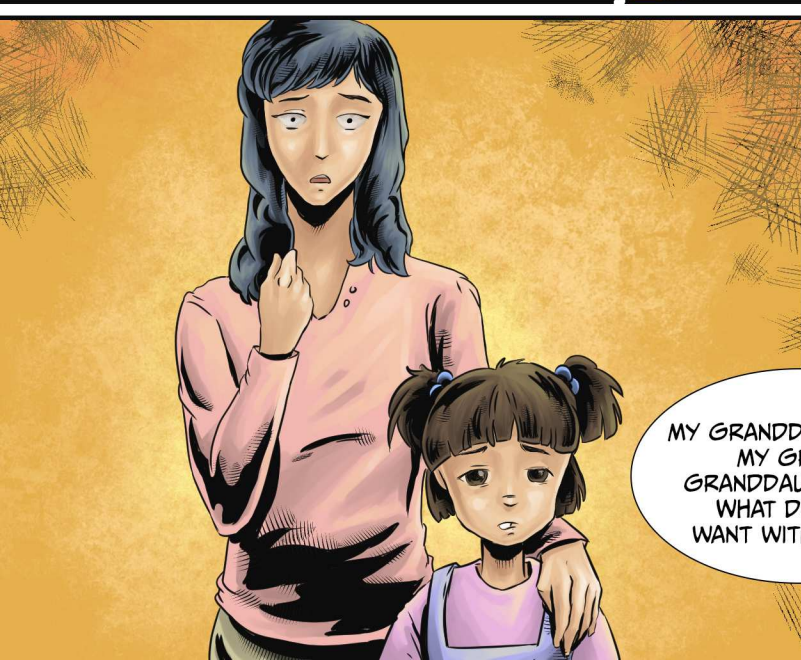
WHO DO
YOU WANT?
BRING WHO?

BRING THEM...

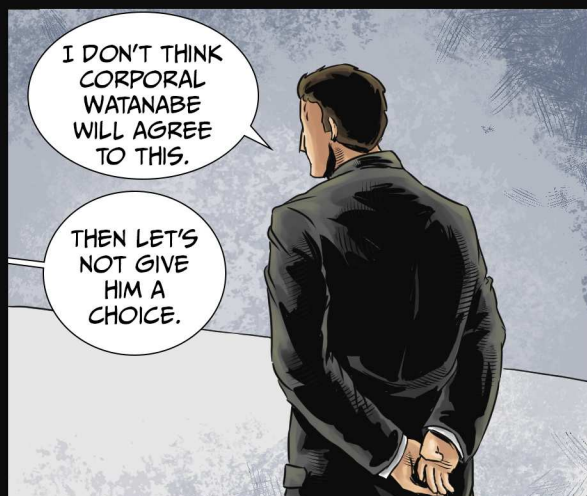
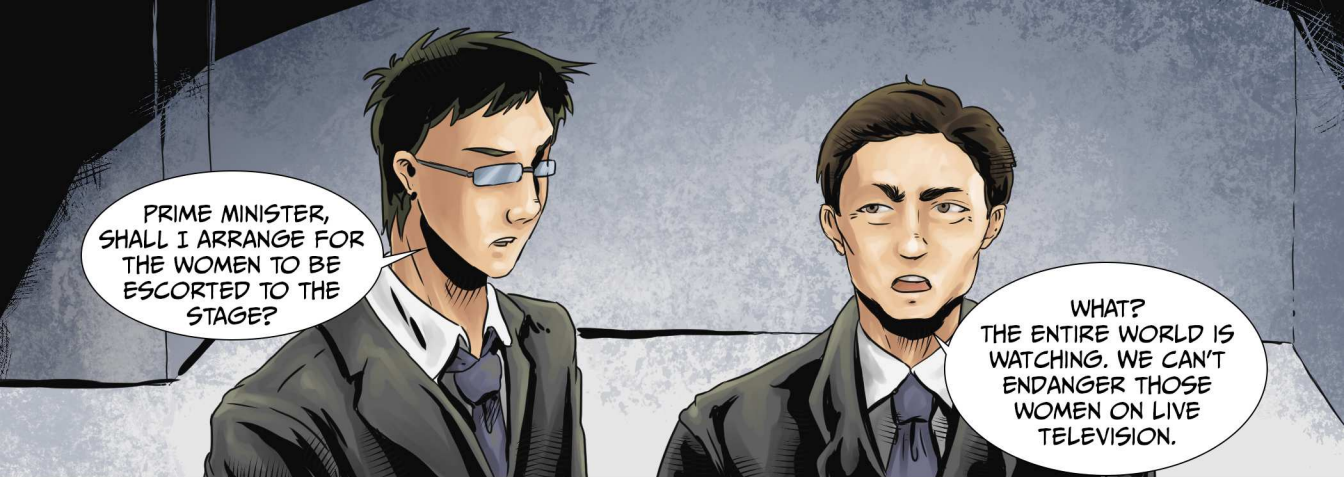


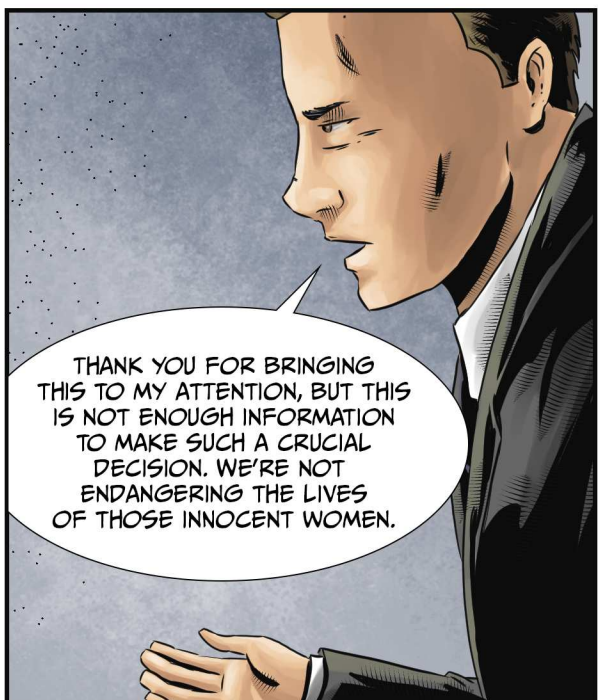
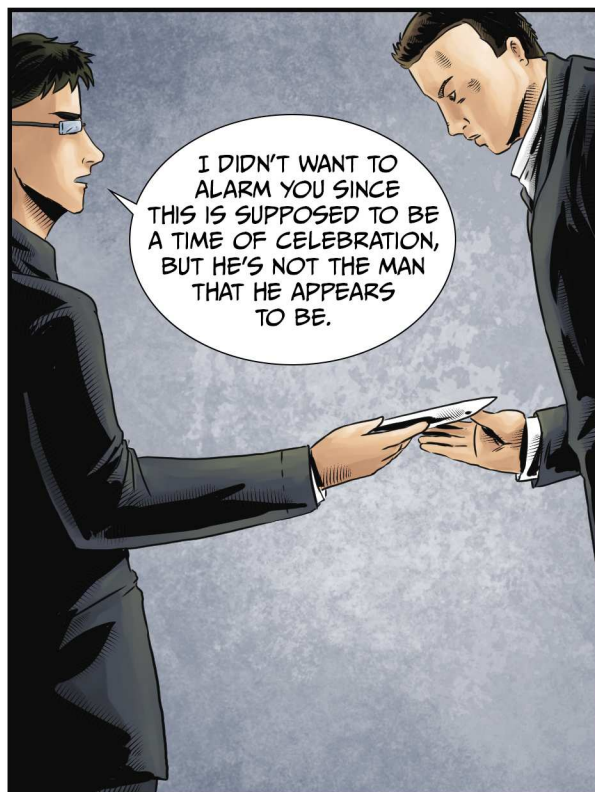
MEI...

SORA...



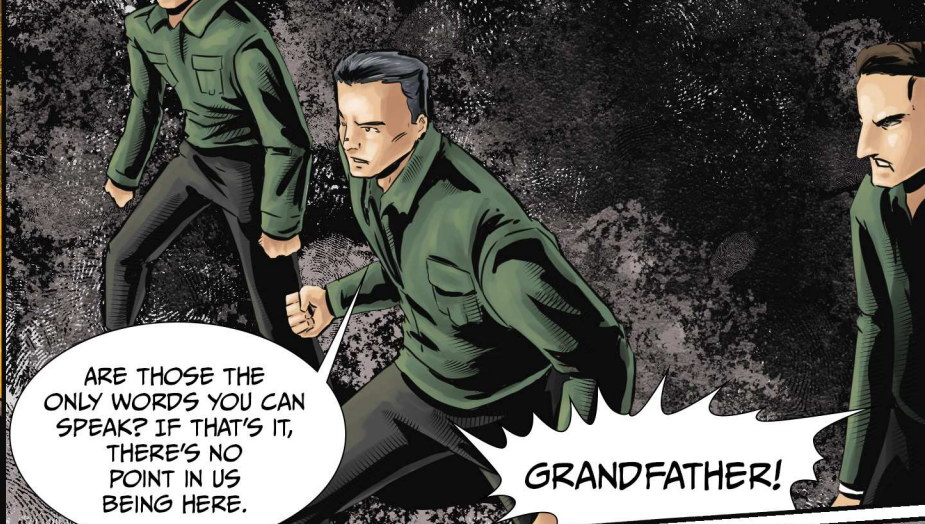
MY GRANDDAUGHTER?
MY GREAT
GRANDDAUGHTER?
WHAT DO YOU
WANT WITH THEM?





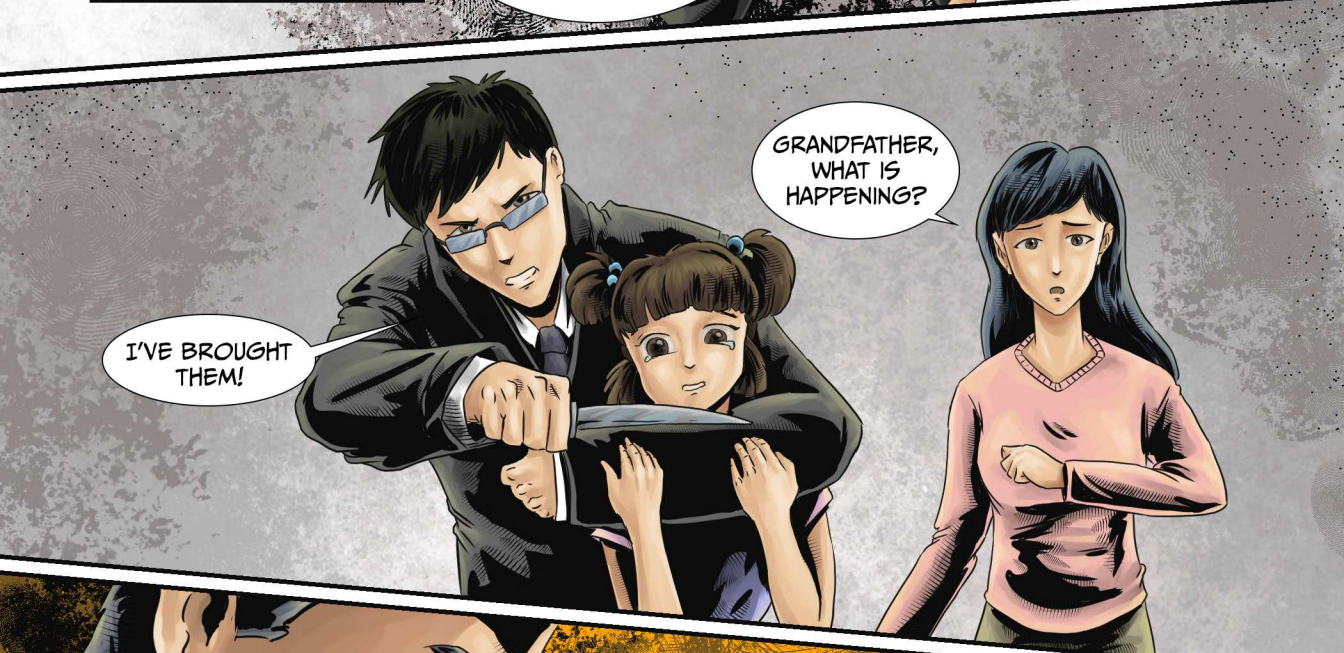


BRING THEM...



ARE THOSE THE ONLY WORDS YOU CAN SPEAK? IF THAT'S IT, THERE'S NO POINT IN US BEING HERE.

GRANDFATHER!



I'VE BROUGHT THEM!

GRANDFATHER, WHAT IS HAPPENING?

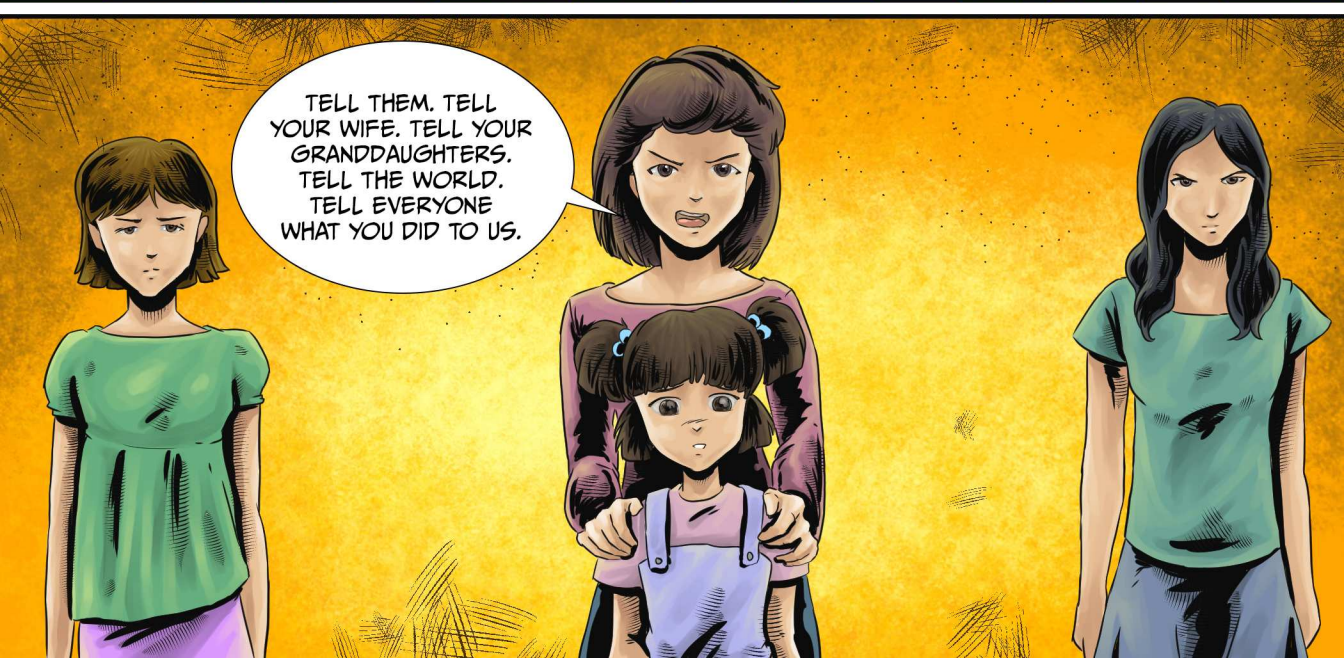
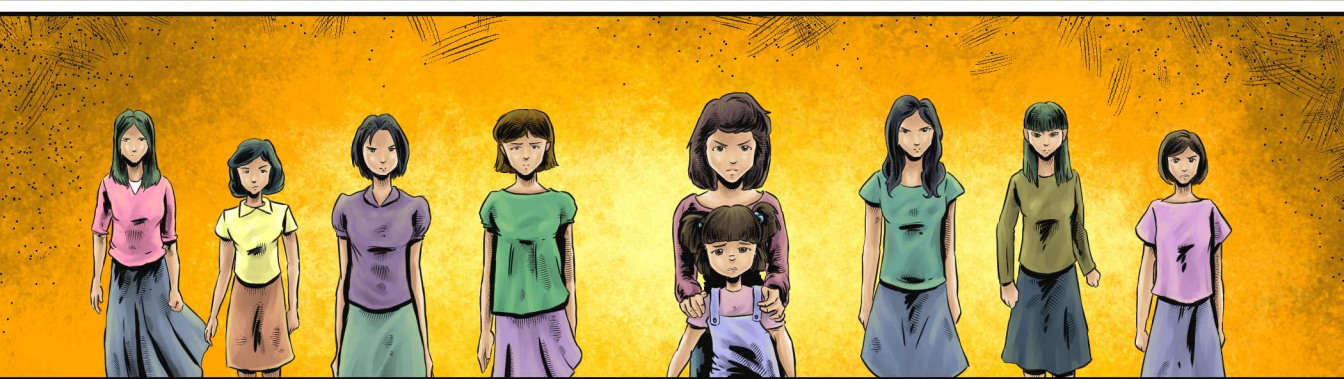
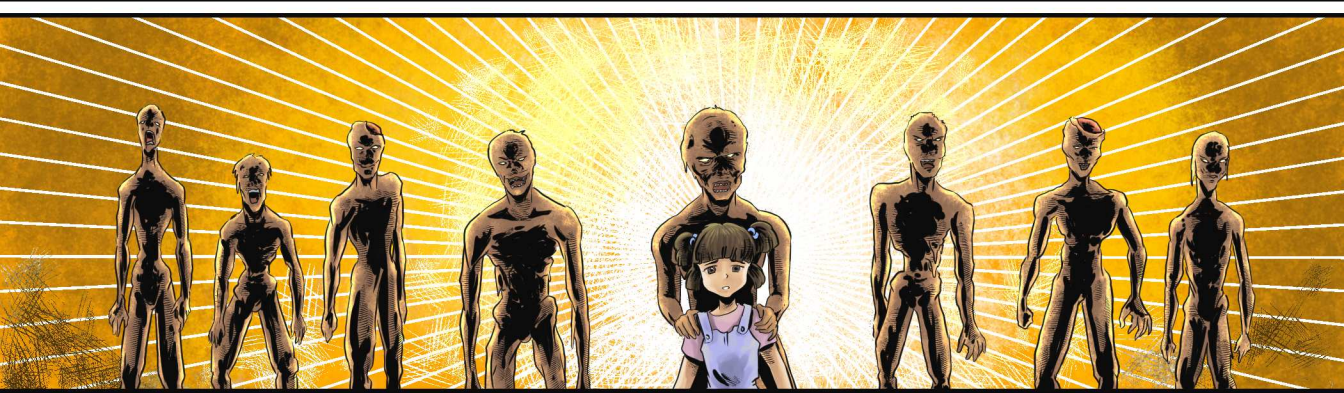


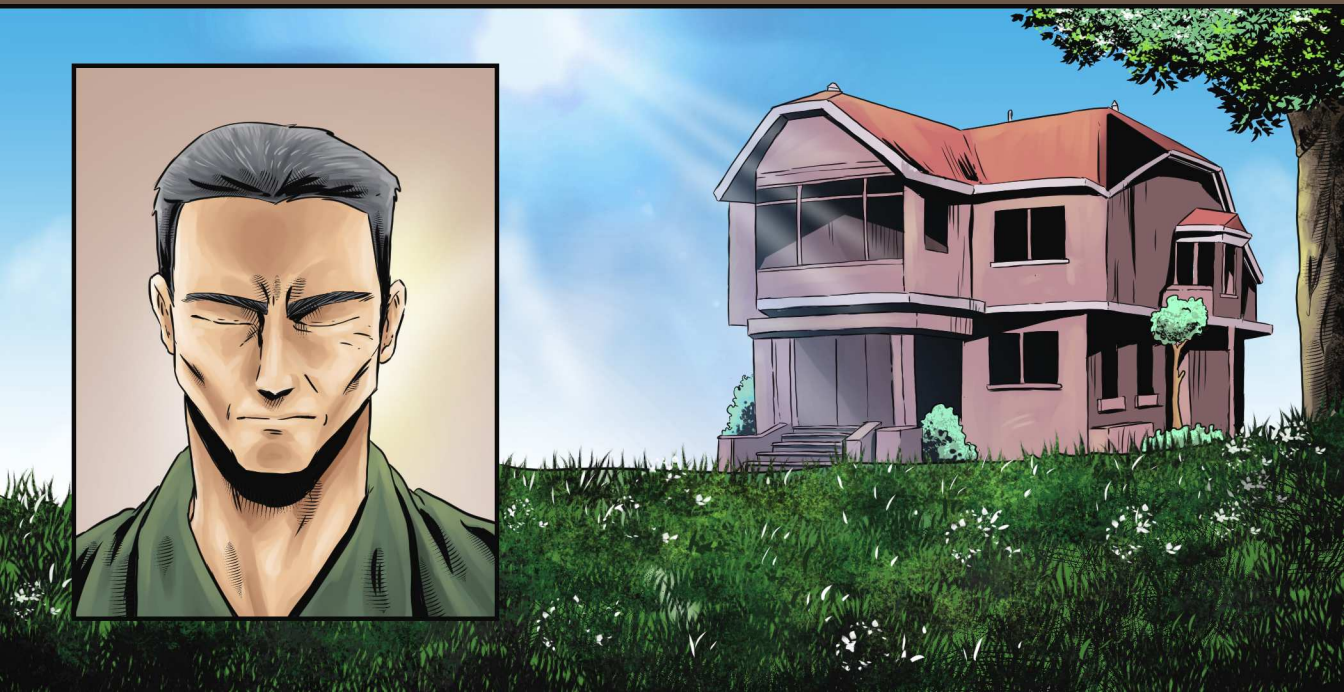
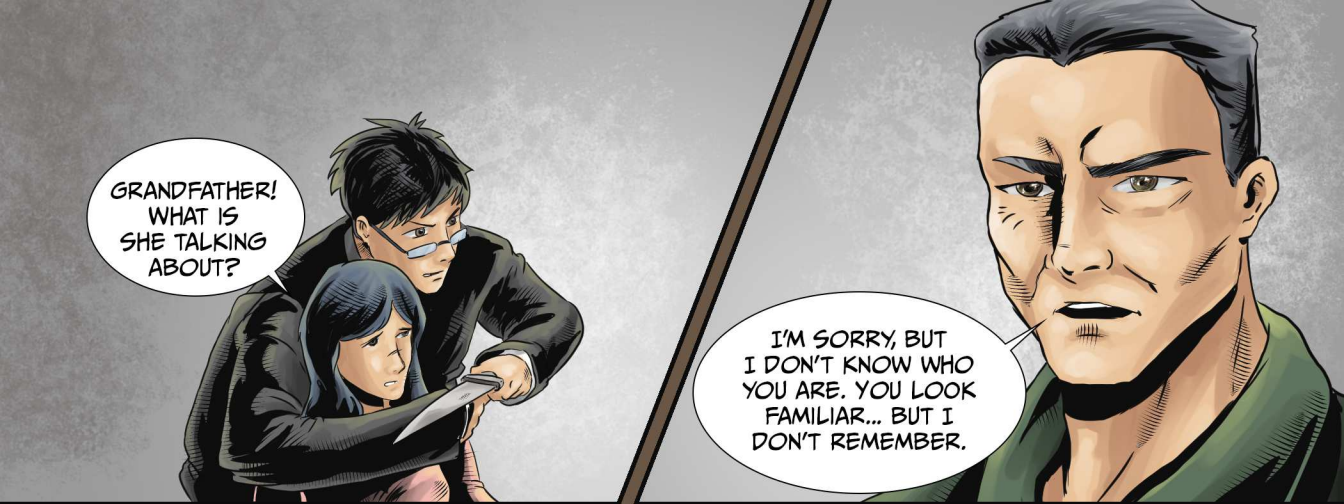
WHAT THE HELL? WHY WOULD YOU LISTEN TO THESE DEMONS?

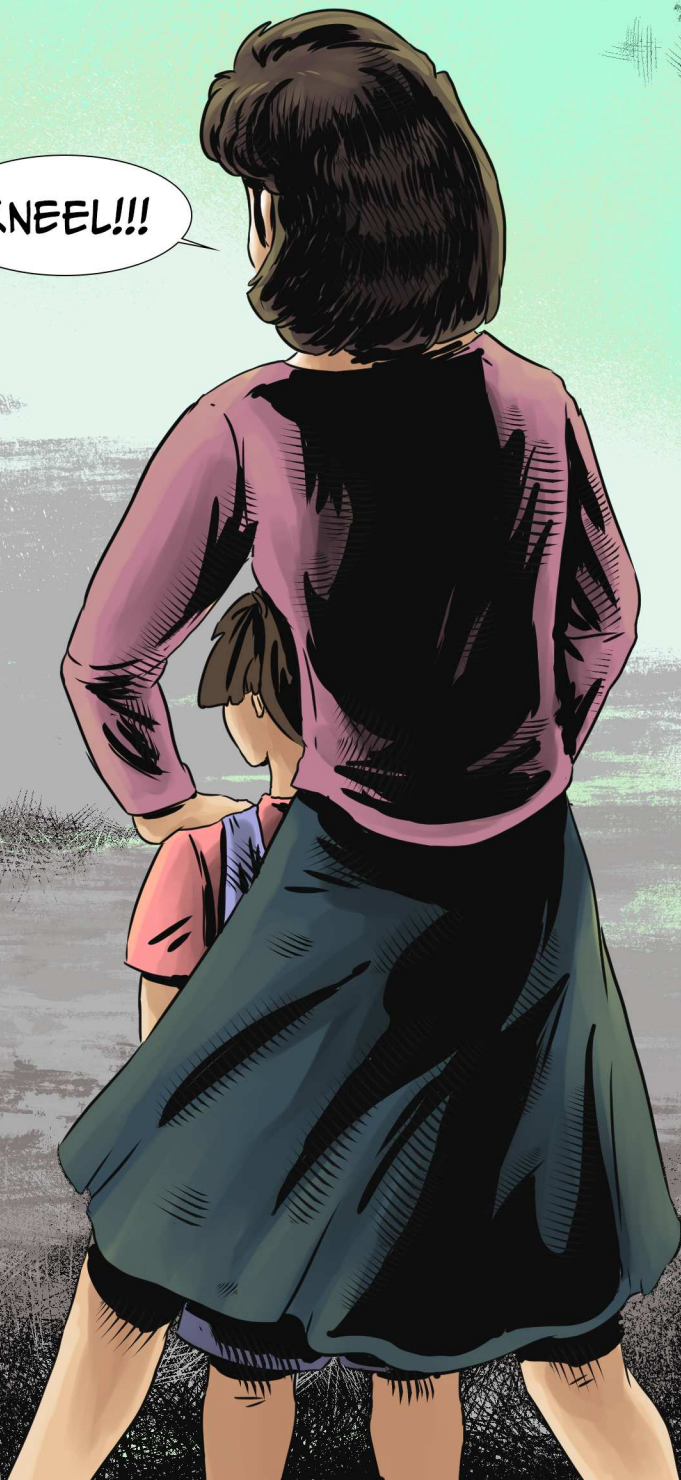


MEI... BRING MEI...







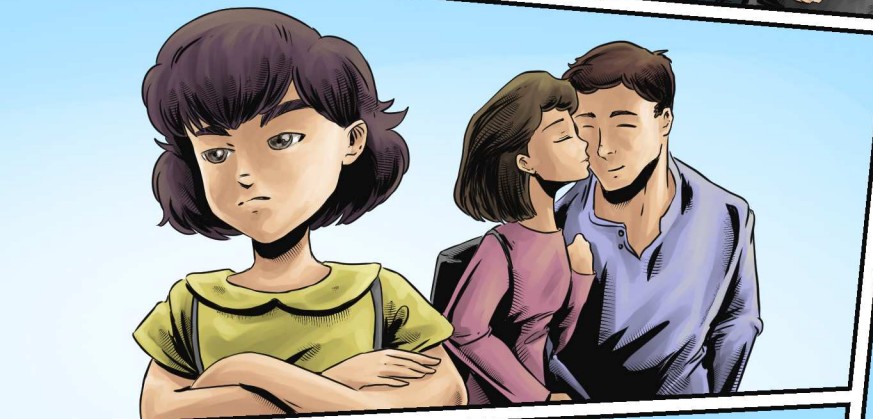




CAN WE GO NOW? I WANT TO DO MY HOMEWORK SO I CAN GO SWIMMING.

GOD, SHE'S SO ANNOYING.

IT'S OKAY. I SHOULD GET GOING TOO. I'LL SEE YOU TOMORROW.



OH... NO, NOT YET. MOM TOLD ME IT WILL HAPPEN SOON. BUT I DO LIKE BOYS.

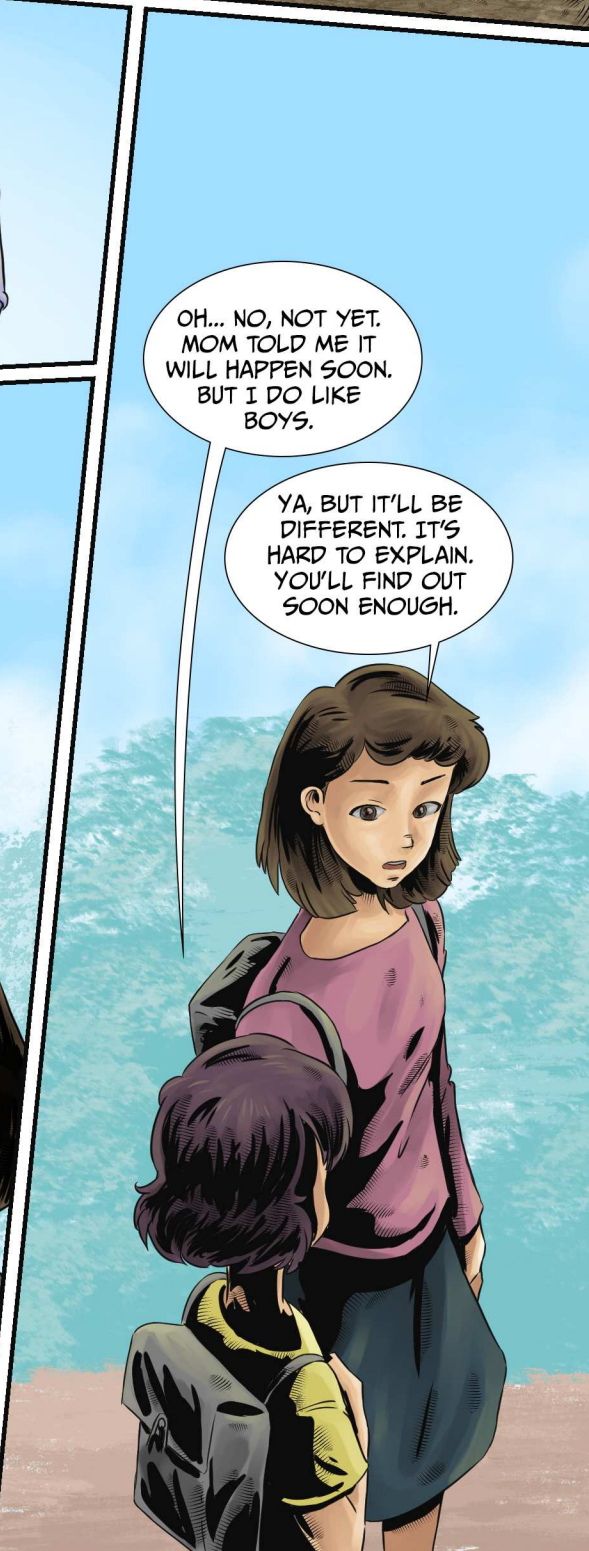
YA, BUT IT'LL BE DIFFERENT. IT'S HARD TO EXPLAIN. YOU'LL FIND OUT SOON ENOUGH.

MARISOL, I'M TIRED OF WAITING FOR YOU TO FLIRT WITH BOYS EVERY DAY AFTER SCHOOL. I'M GOING TO START WALKING HOME ALONE FROM NOW ON.

IF YOU'RE NOT OLD ENOUGH TO UNDERSTAND WHY I WANT TO TALK TO BOYS, THEN YOU'RE NOT OLD ENOUGH TO WALK HOME ALONE.

WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?

WELL, HAVE YOU BECOME A WOMAN YET?





CORPORAL WATANABE,
THESE TWO HAVE
SYPHILIS.

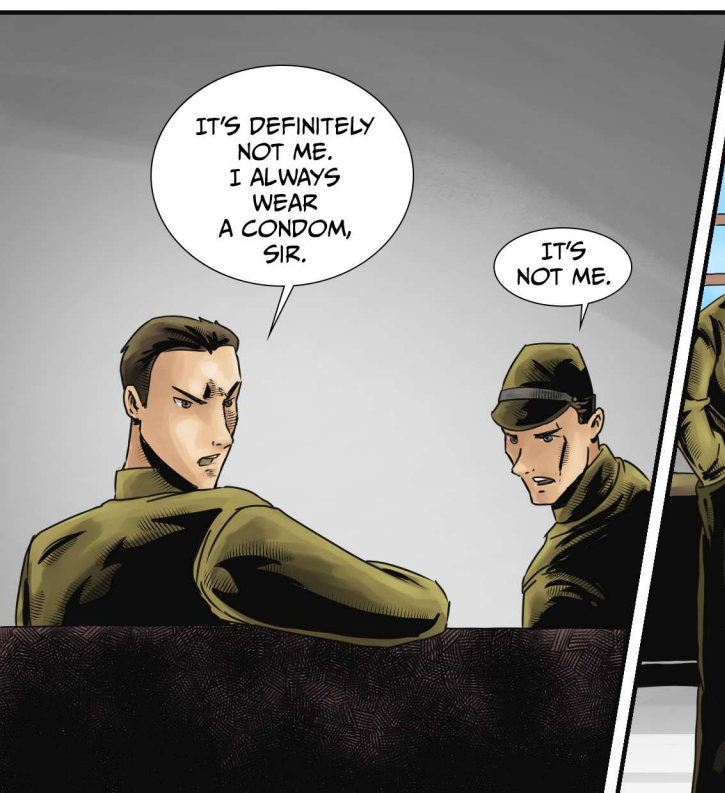
WELL, WE
GOT A GOOD
YEAR OUT OF
THEM. GIVE THEM
THE BLUE PILLS AND
TELL PRIVATE SAITO
AND TANAKA THAT
THEY'RE ON
DIG DUTY.



C'MON,
EVENS!



HEY. HAVE YOU
BEEN CHECKED BY
THE MEDIC? ONE OF
YOU ASSHOLES IS
SPREADING
SYPHILIS.



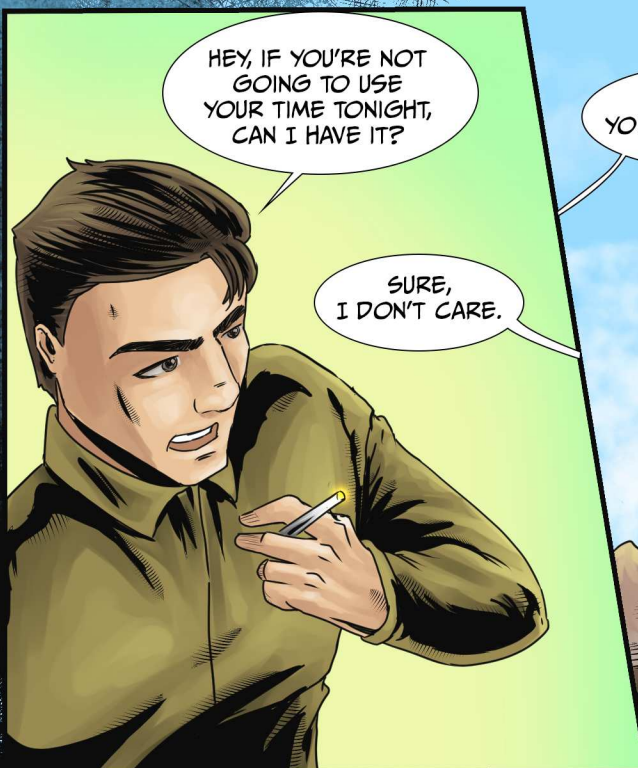
IT'S DEFINITELY
NOT ME.
I ALWAYS
WEAR
A CONDOM,
SIR.

IT'S
NOT ME.



RIKU, GO GET TWO
MORE GIRLS IF YOU
WANT TO KEEP
YOUR SAME SCHEDULE
FOR TONIGHT.

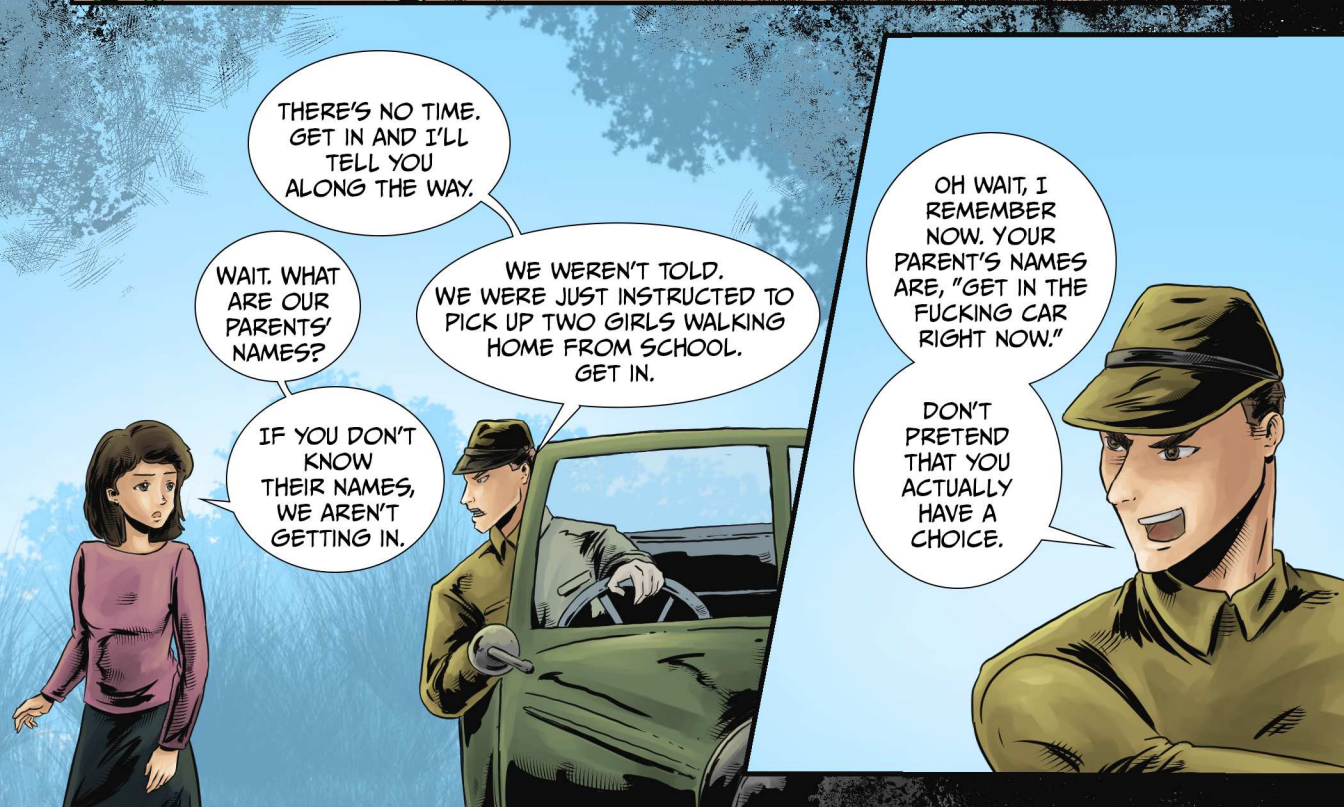
I ALWAYS
PICK THE BEST, SIR.





EXCUSE ME GIRLS.
SOMETHING HAS HAPPENED
TO YOUR PARENTS. WE'RE
HERE TO PICK YOU UP.

WHAT HAPPENED?
ARE THEY OKAY?



THERE'S NO TIME.
GET IN AND I'LL
TELL YOU
ALONG THE WAY.

WAIT. WHAT
ARE OUR
PARENTS'
NAMES?

IF YOU DON'T
KNOW
THEIR NAMES,
WE AREN'T
GETTING IN.

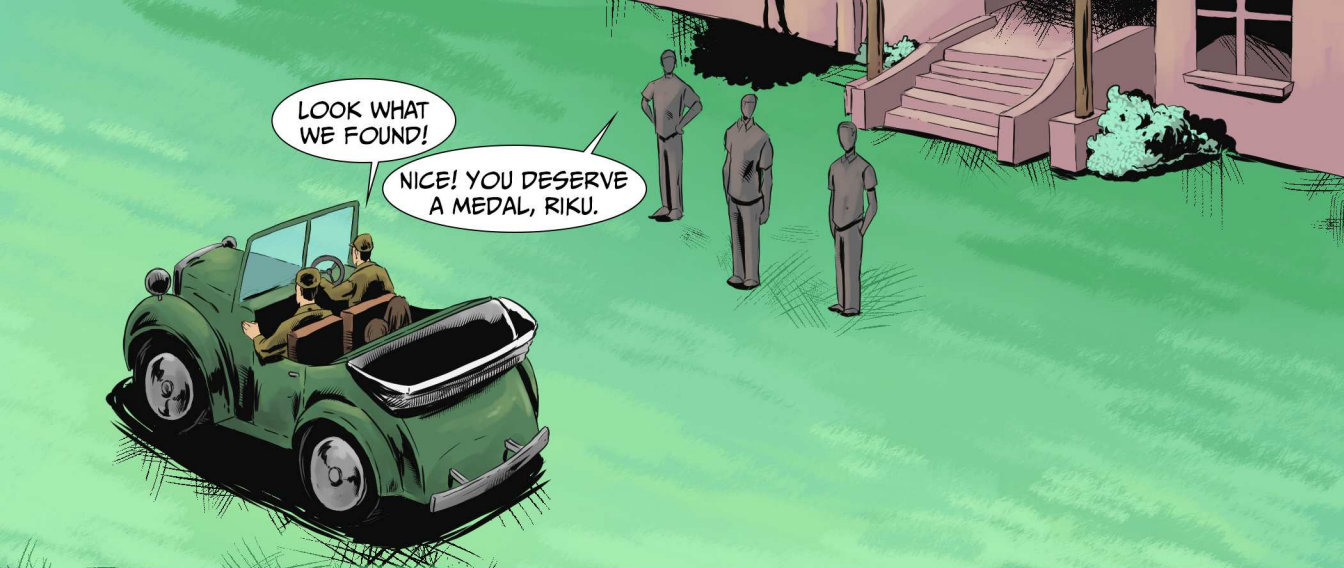
WE WEREN'T TOLD.
WE WERE JUST INSTRUCTED TO
PICK UP TWO GIRLS WALKING
HOME FROM SCHOOL.
GET IN.

OH WAIT, I
REMEMBER
NOW. YOUR
PARENT'S NAMES
ARE, "GET IN THE
FUCKING CAR
RIGHT NOW."

DON'T
PRETEND
THAT YOU
ACTUALLY
HAVE A
CHOICE.

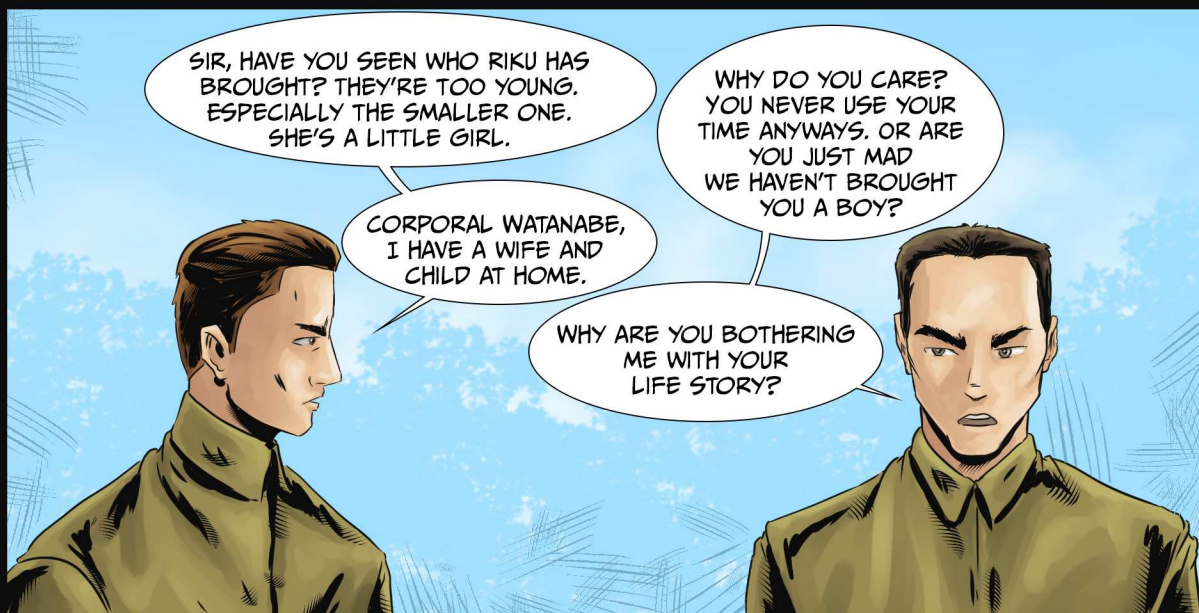
HAHAHAA!!





LOOK WHAT WE FOUND!

NICE! YOU DESERVE A MEDAL, RIKU.

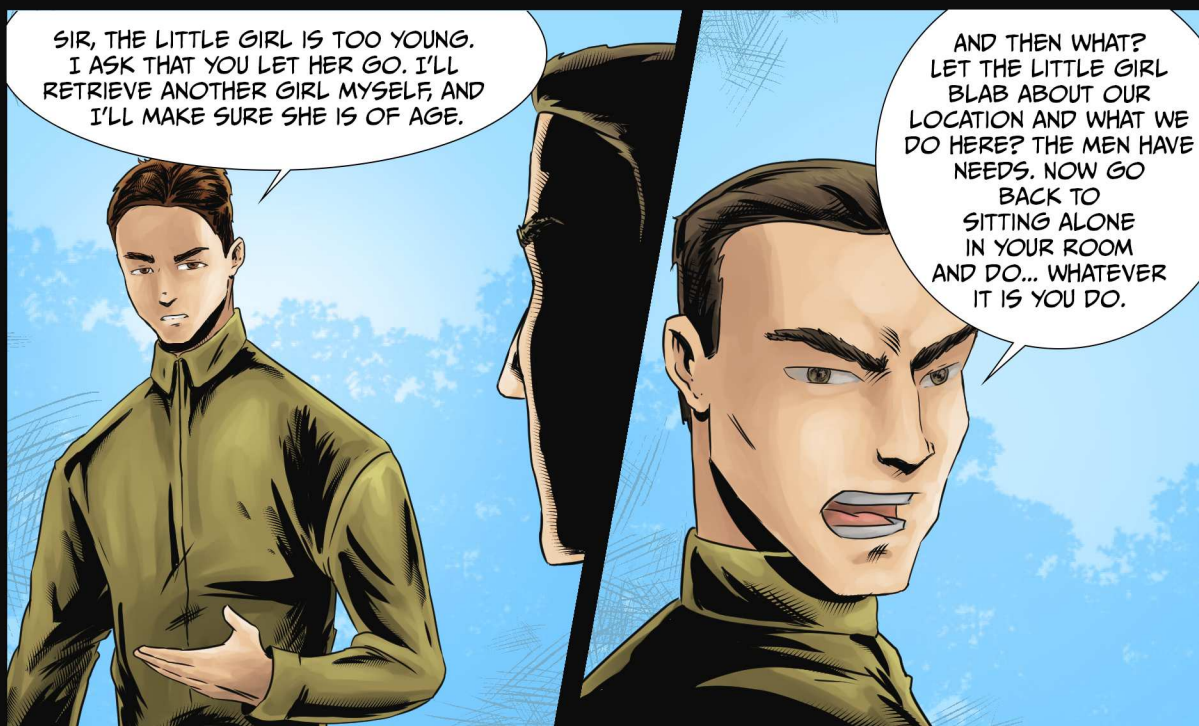


SIR, HAVE YOU SEEN WHO RIKU HAS BROUGHT? THEY'RE TOO YOUNG. ESPECIALLY THE SMALLER ONE. SHE'S A LITTLE GIRL.

CORPORAL WATANABE, I HAVE A WIFE AND CHILD AT HOME.

WHY DO YOU CARE? YOU NEVER USE YOUR TIME ANYWAYS. OR ARE YOU JUST MAD WE HAVEN'T BROUGHT YOU A BOY?

WHY ARE YOU BOTHERING ME WITH YOUR LIFE STORY?

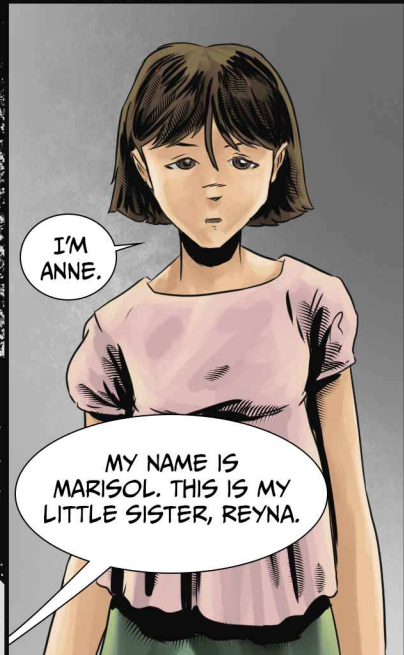


SIR, THE LITTLE GIRL IS TOO YOUNG. I ASK THAT YOU LET HER GO. I'LL RETRIEVE ANOTHER GIRL MYSELF, AND I'LL MAKE SURE SHE IS OF AGE.

AND THEN WHAT? LET THE LITTLE GIRL BLAB ABOUT OUR LOCATION AND WHAT WE DO HERE? THE MEN HAVE NEEDS. NOW GO BACK TO SITTING ALONE IN YOUR ROOM AND DO... WHATEVER IT IS YOU DO.

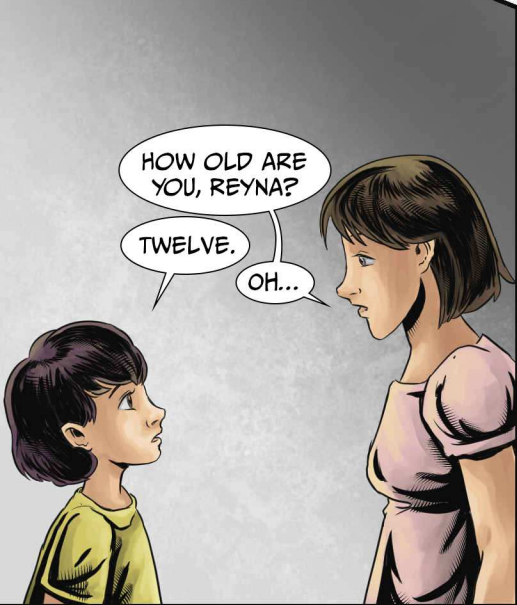


MEET YOUR NEW SISTER.



I'M ANNE.

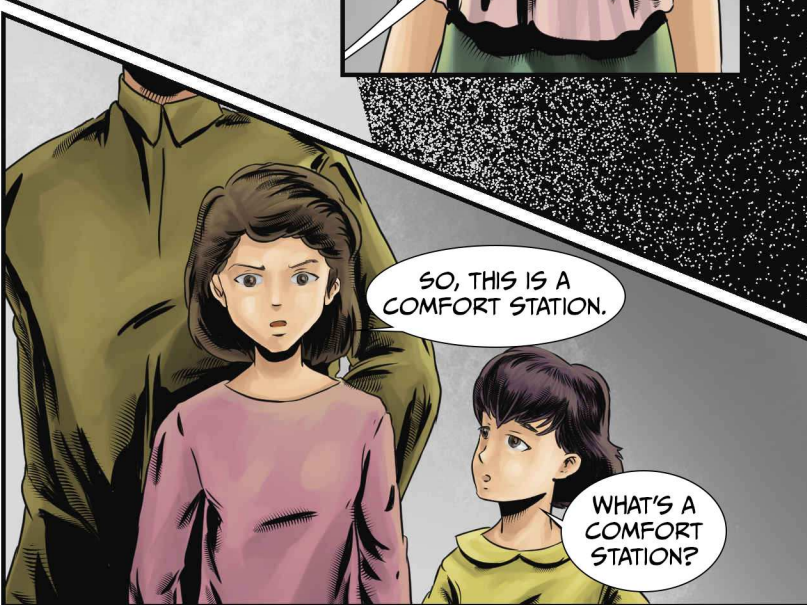
MY NAME IS MARISOL. THIS IS MY LITTLE SISTER, REYNA.



HOW OLD ARE YOU, REYNA?

TWELVE.

OH...



SO, THIS IS A COMFORT STATION.

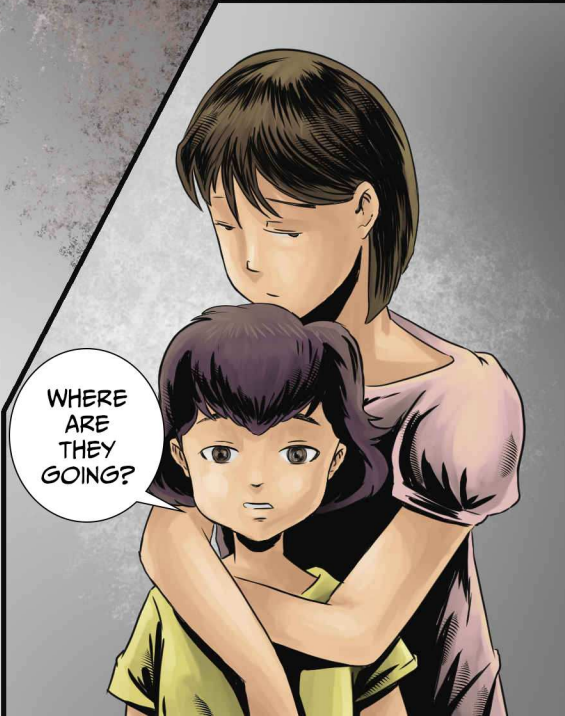
WHAT'S A COMFORT STATION?



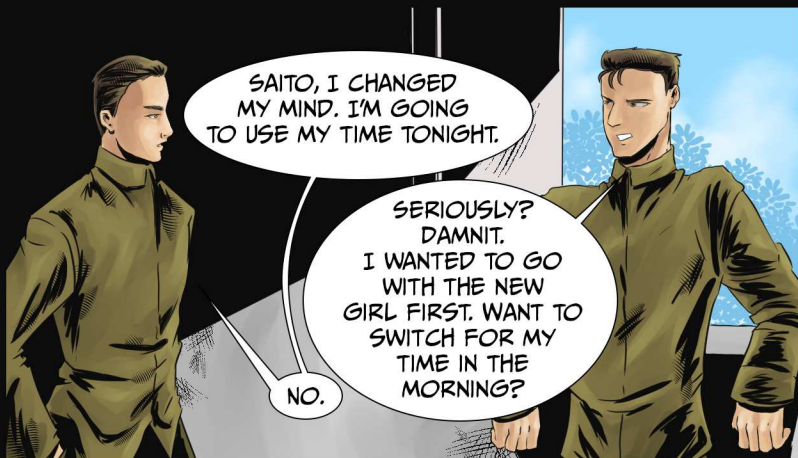
ENOUGH TALKING OUT OF YOU. COME WITH ME.

MARISOL?

IT'S OKAY, REYNA. STAY HERE WITH OUR NEW SISTER.



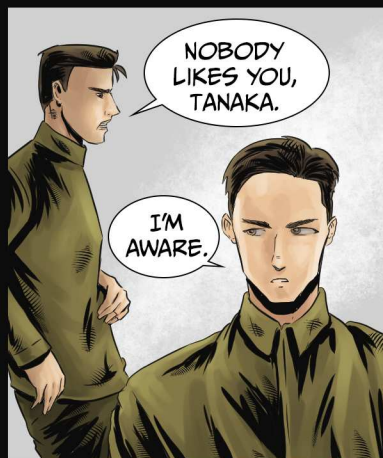
WHERE ARE THEY GOING?



SAITO, I CHANGED MY MIND. I'M GOING TO USE MY TIME TONIGHT.

SERIOUSLY? DAMNIT. I WANTED TO GO WITH THE NEW GIRL FIRST. WANT TO SWITCH FOR MY TIME IN THE MORNING?

NO.



NOBODY LIKES YOU, TANAKA.

I'M AWARE.



SIR, I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S WRONG WITH TANAKA. I THINK HE'S UP TO SOMETHING.

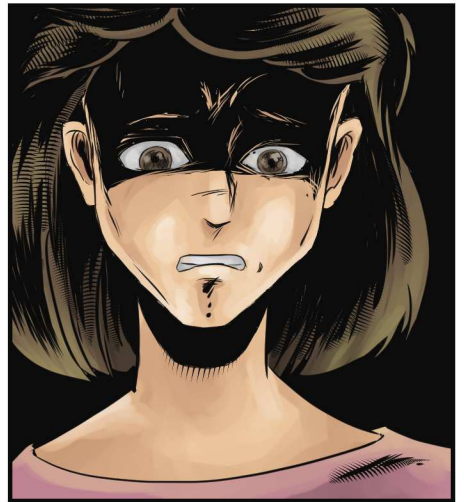
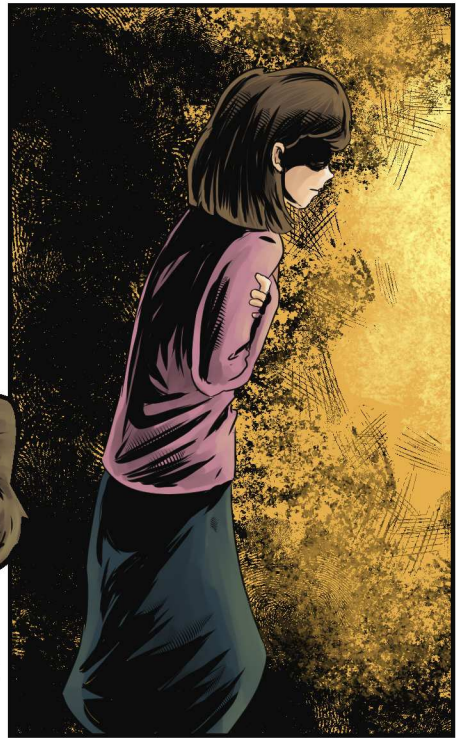


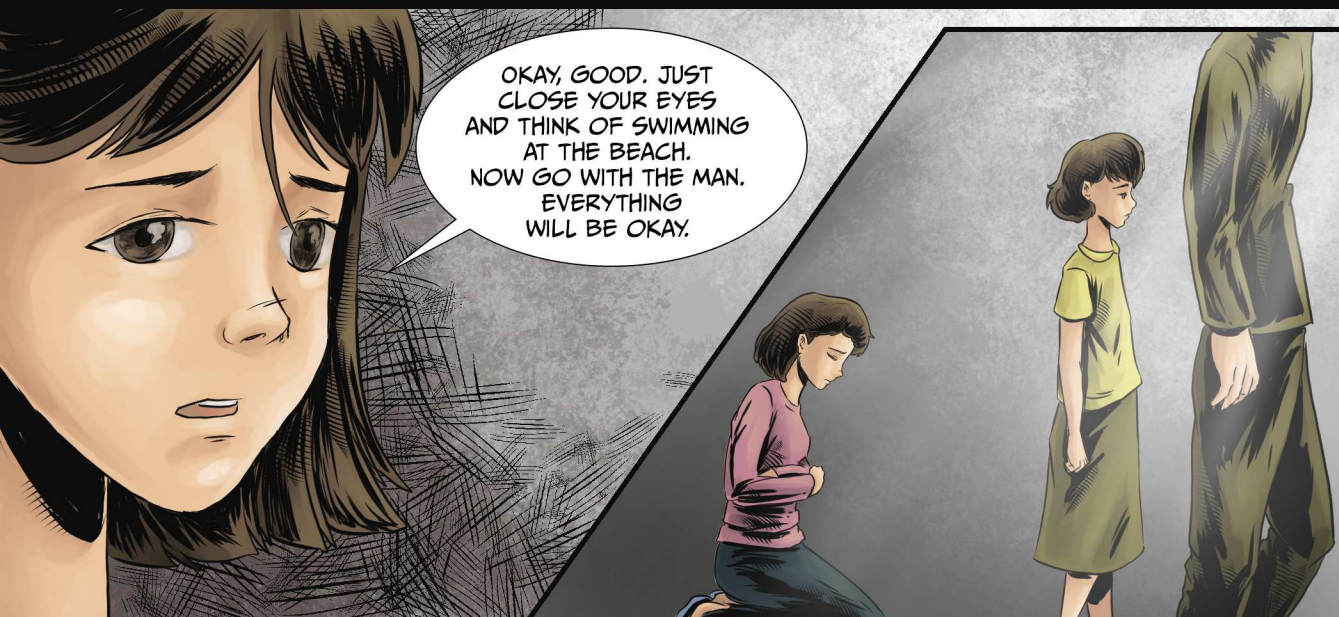
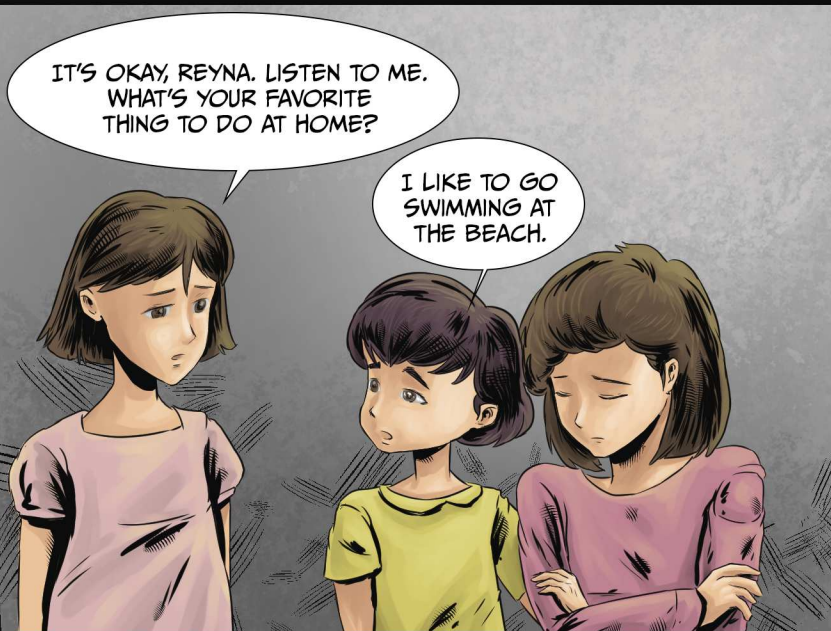
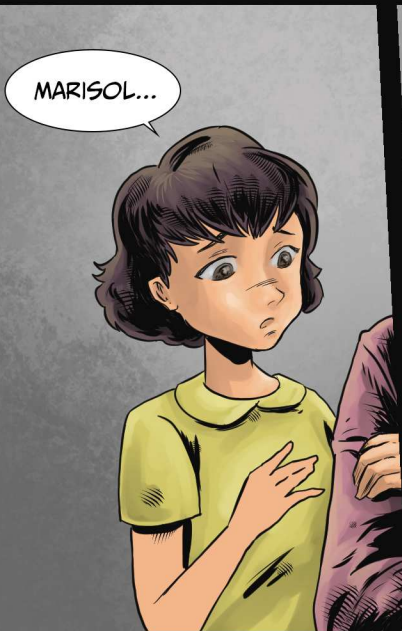
HE'S JUST AN ASSHOLE. LET HIM BE.

HE SAID HE'S GOING TO USE HIS SCHEDULE FOR THE FIRST TIME TONIGHT.



REALLY? WHAT TIME IS HE SCHEDULED?







PLEASE, DON'T. ANNE TOLD
ME WHAT YOU'RE GOING
TO DO TO ME.
PLEASE, SIR. DON'T...

I NEED YOU TO
BE QUIET, OKAY? I'M
GOING TO GET YOU
OUT OF HERE.

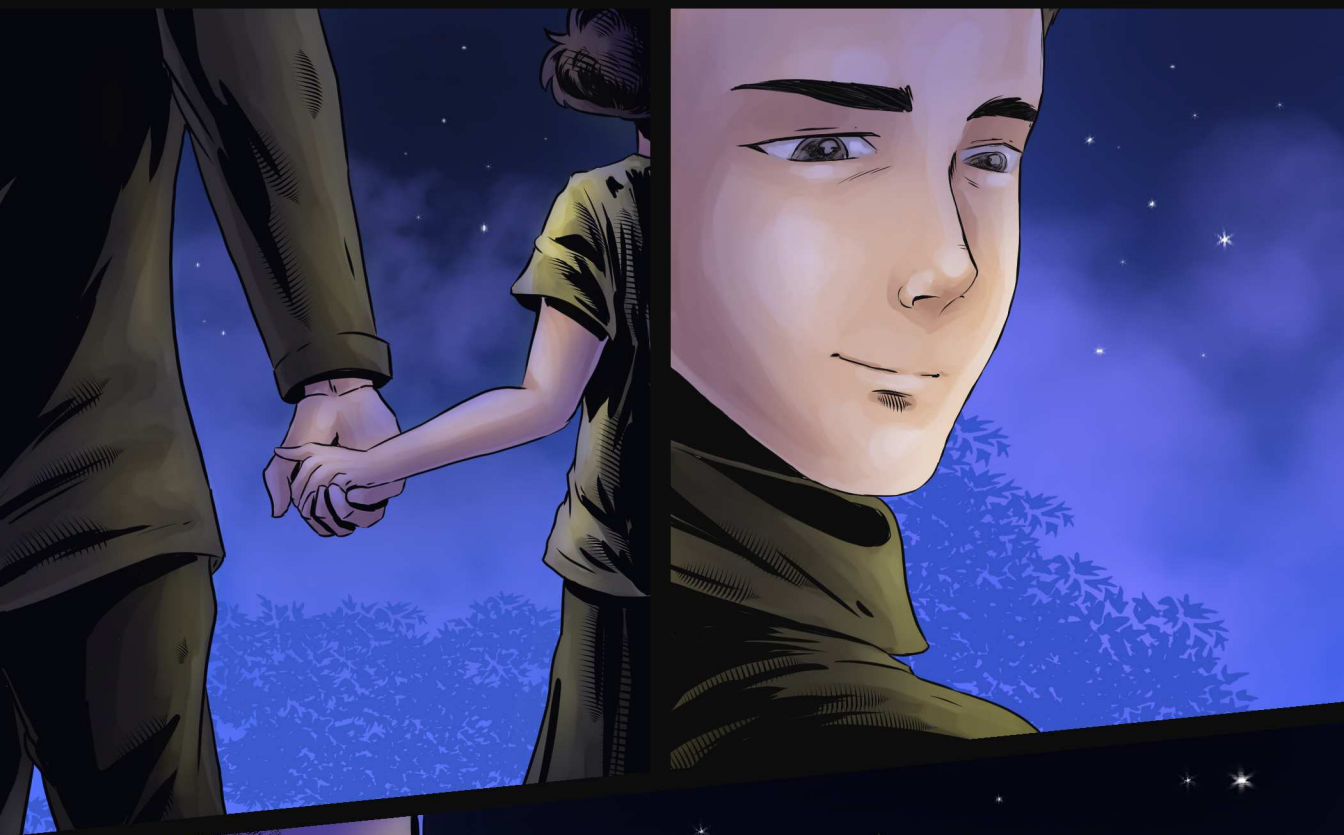
REALLY? HOW?
WHAT ABOUT
MARISOL AND
ANNE?

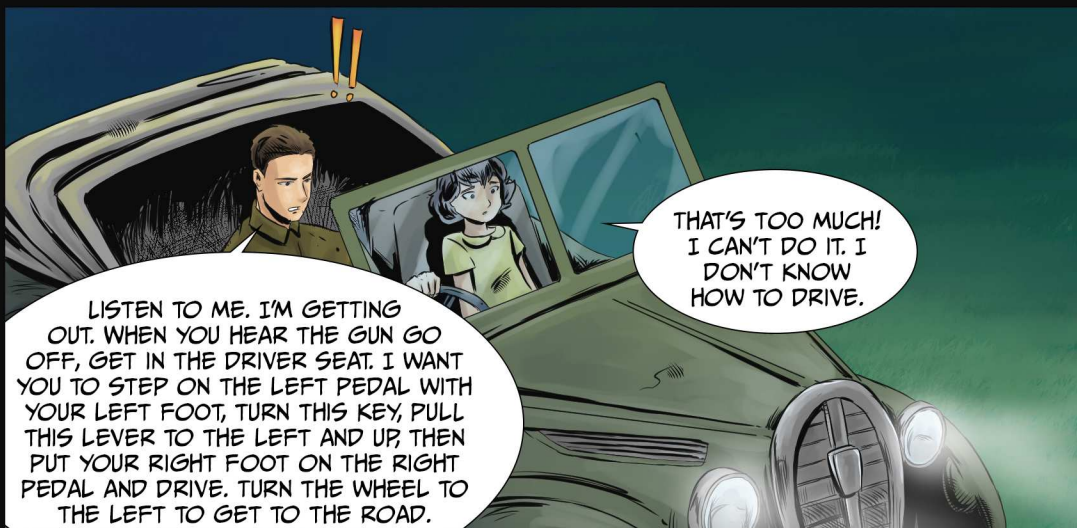


I'LL HAVE TO GET
THEM LATER.
TRUST ME. FIRST, I NEED
TO GET YOU TO SAFETY.
CAN YOU CLIMB?

NO.

THEN I'LL
LOWER YOU.





LISTEN TO ME. I'M GETTING OUT. WHEN YOU HEAR THE GUN GO OFF, GET IN THE DRIVER SEAT. I WANT YOU TO STEP ON THE LEFT PEDAL WITH YOUR LEFT FOOT, TURN THIS KEY, PULL THIS LEVER TO THE LEFT AND UP, THEN PUT YOUR RIGHT FOOT ON THE RIGHT PEDAL AND DRIVE. TURN THE WHEEL TO THE LEFT TO GET TO THE ROAD.

THAT'S TOO MUCH!
I CAN'T DO IT. I
DON'T KNOW
HOW TO DRIVE.



YOU CAN DO IT.
JUST DO EVERYTHING
I SAID, AND GET OUT
OF HERE. FOLLOW
THE ROAD AND GO AS
FAST AS YOU CAN.

GET OUT OF THE
FUCKING CAR!

OKAY.



WHAT'S YOUR NAME,
LITTLE GIRL?

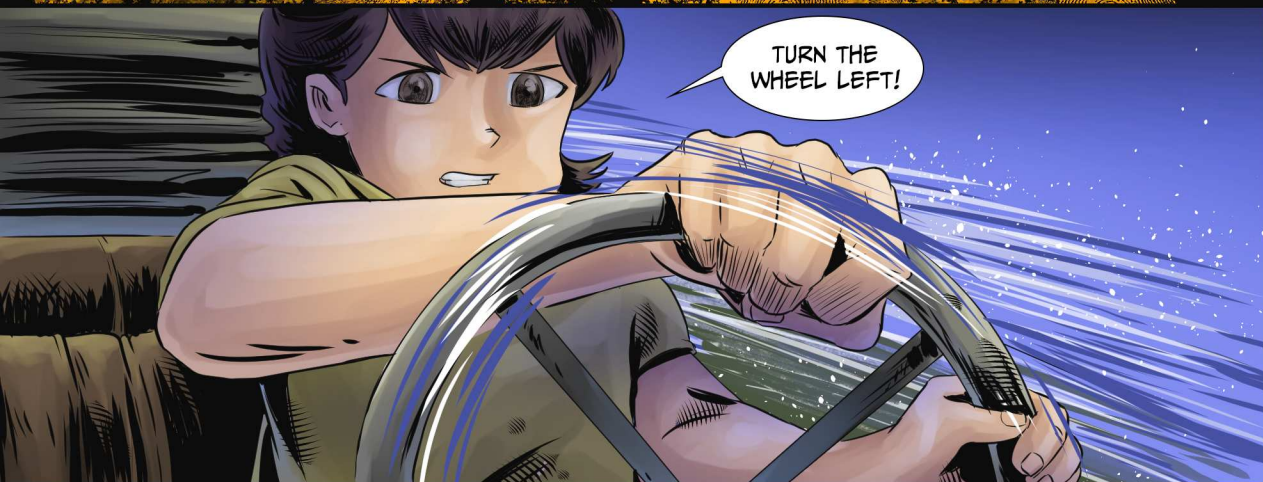
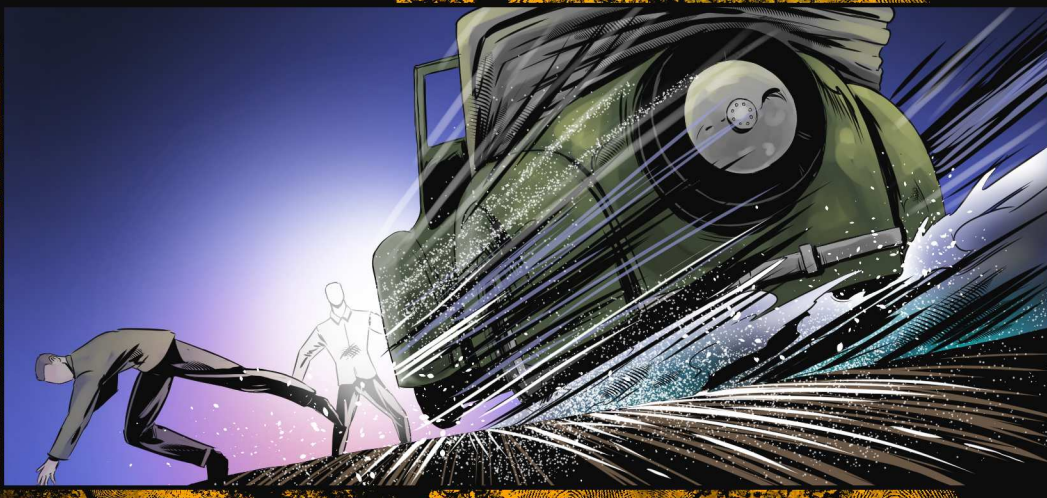
REYNA.



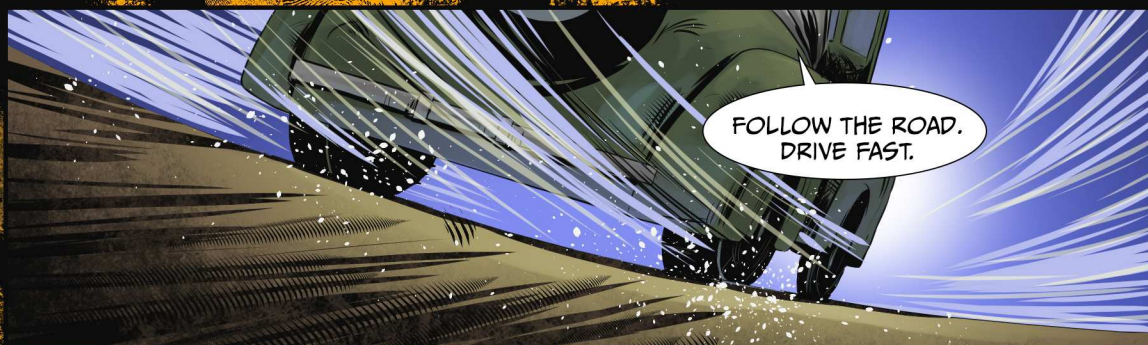




LEFT FOOT, LEFT PEDAL. TURN KEY.
KNOB LEFT, UP. RIGHT FOOT, RIGHT
PEDAL. DRIVE!



TURN THE
WHEEL LEFT!



FOLLOW THE ROAD.
DRIVE FAST.



WHAT'S HAPPENING?
WHY DID YOU STOP?
C'MON!

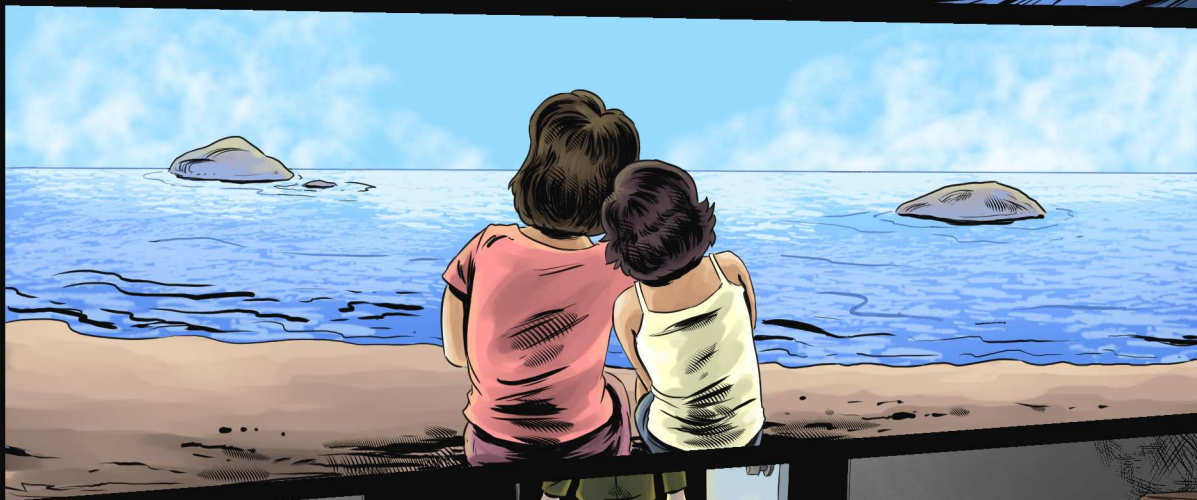
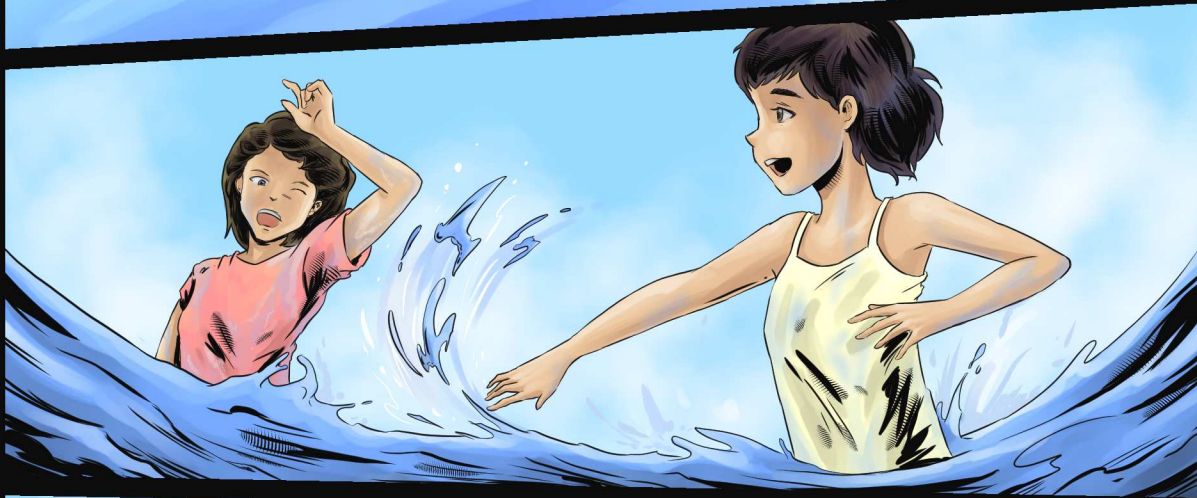


THE FIRST ONE OF
YOU LITTLE WHORES
TO TRY AND ESCAPE.
I LIKE YOU.

I THINK I'LL
HAVE TO TAKE
TANAKA'S TURN
FOR HIM.

I DON'T THINK
HE'LL MIND,
CORPORAL.





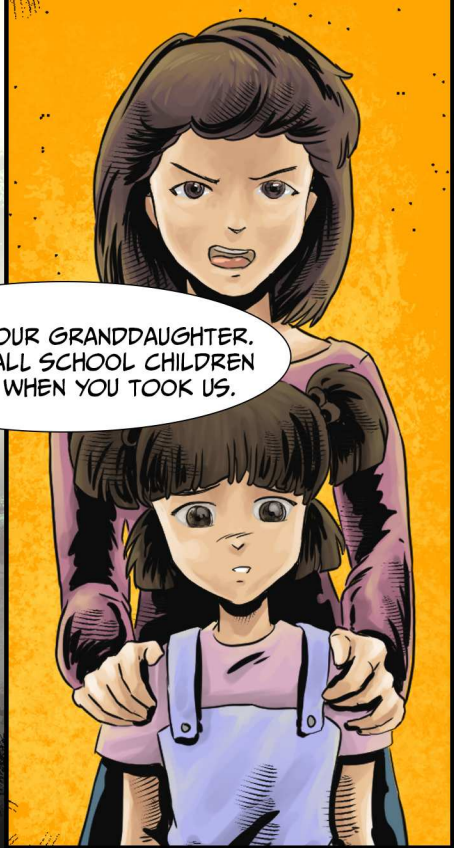
TWO YEARS LATER...







LOOK AT YOUR GRANDDAUGHTER.
WE WERE ALL SCHOOL CHILDREN
LIKE HER WHEN YOU TOOK US.

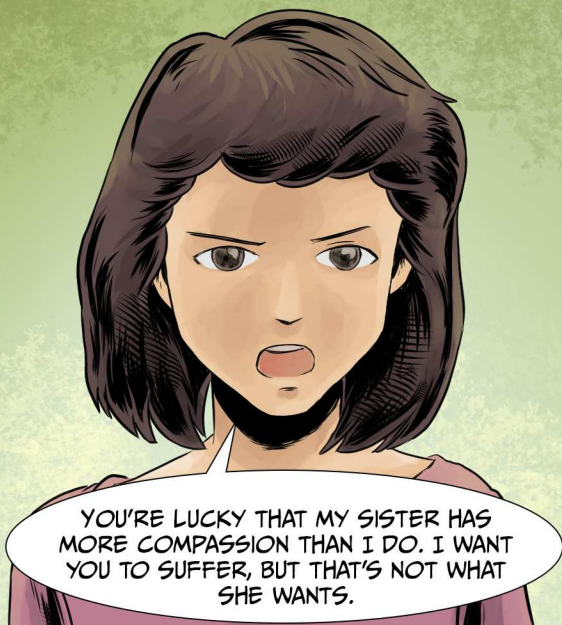
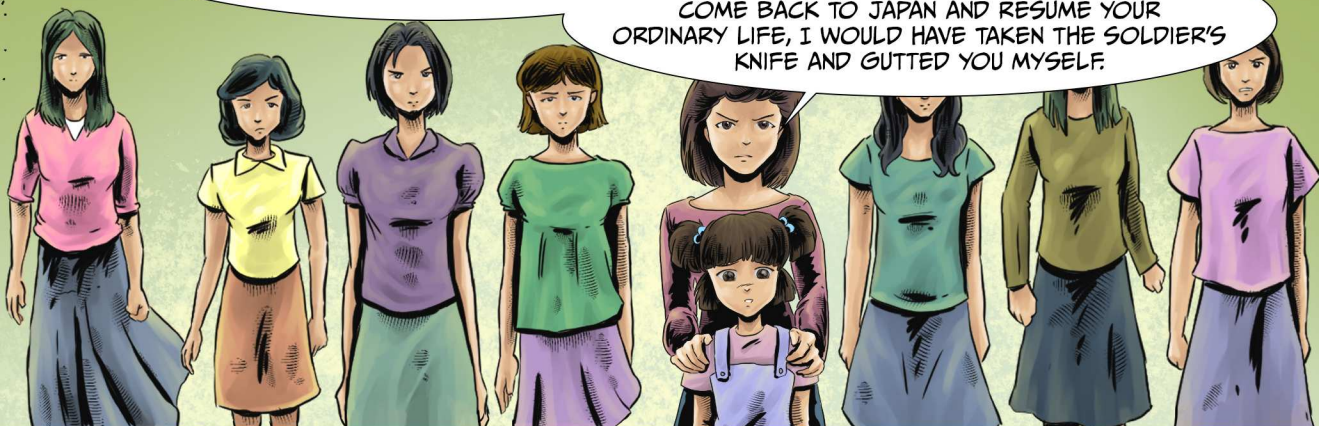


LOOK
AT HER!



YOU KILLED SO MANY GIRLS, THEN LEFT THE REST OF US TO LIVE LIFE LIKE ZOMBIES. WE NEVER MARRIED. NEVER COULD LOVE A MAN. NEVER COULD BE A MOTHER. YOU STOLE OUR LIVES, AND DON'T EVEN REMEMBER OUR FACES.

HAD I KNOWN THAT YOU WOULD SIMPLY COME BACK TO JAPAN AND RESUME YOUR ORDINARY LIFE, I WOULD HAVE TAKEN THE SOLDIER'S KNIFE AND GUTTED YOU MYSELF.



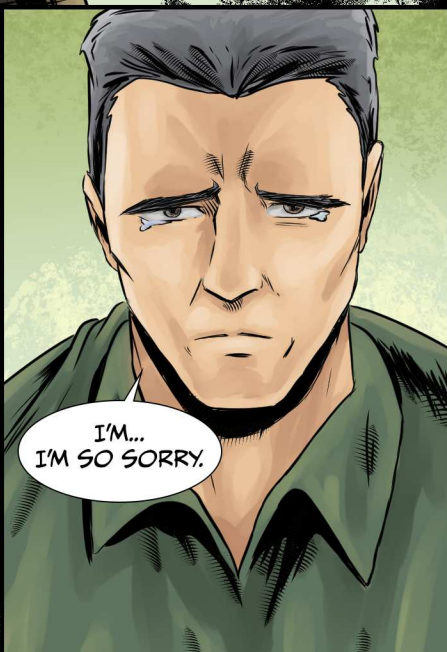
YOU'RE LUCKY THAT MY SISTER HAS MORE COMPASSION THAN I DO. I WANT YOU TO SUFFER, BUT THAT'S NOT WHAT SHE WANTS.



WHAT DOES SHE WANT?



AN APOLOGY.

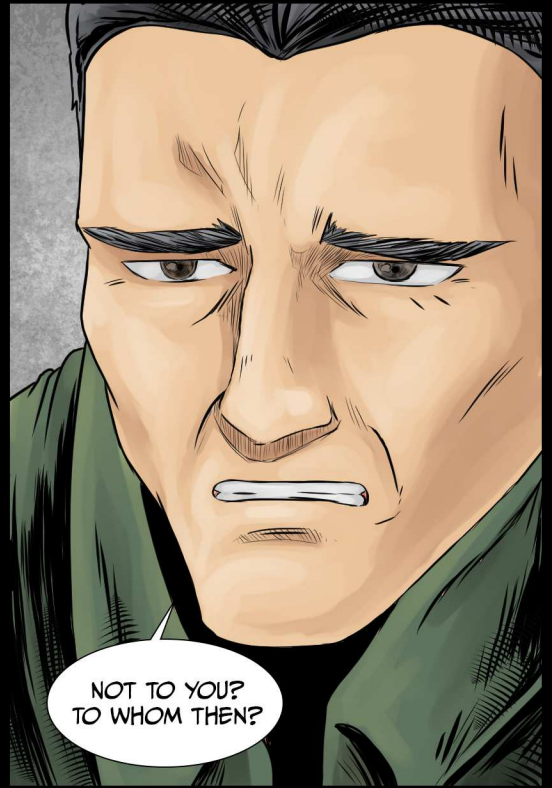


I'M...
I'M SO SORRY.

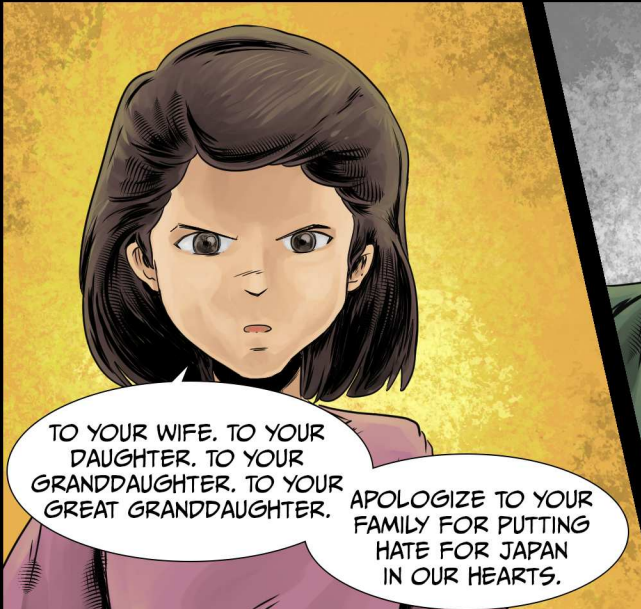


NOT TO ME.

NOT TO US.



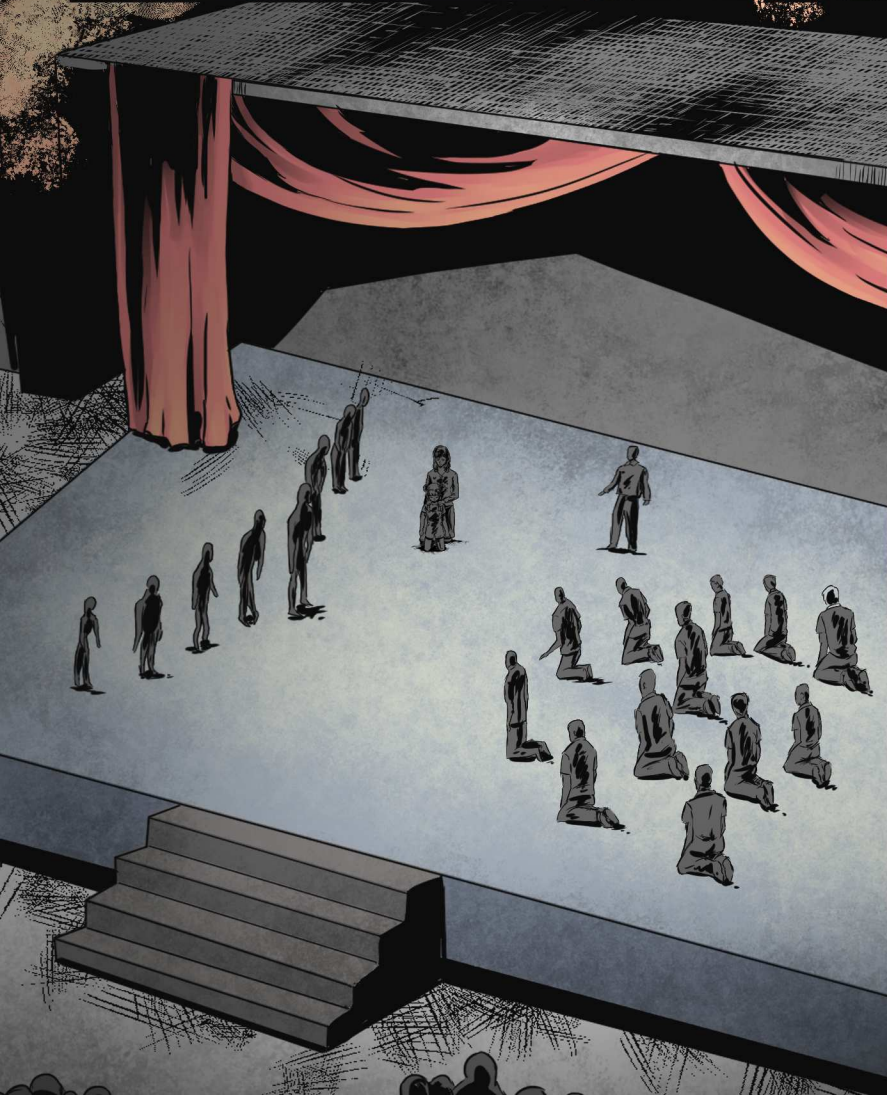
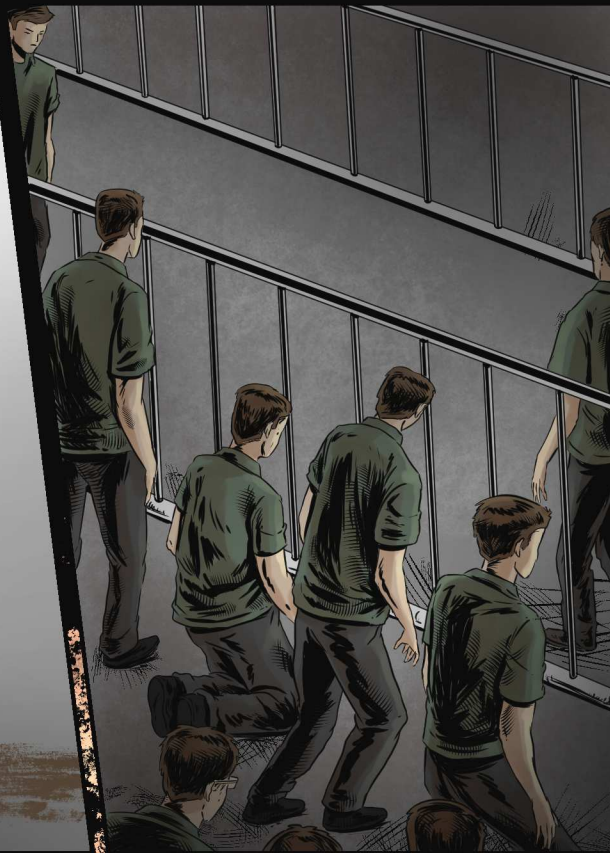
NOT TO YOU?
TO WHOM THEN?

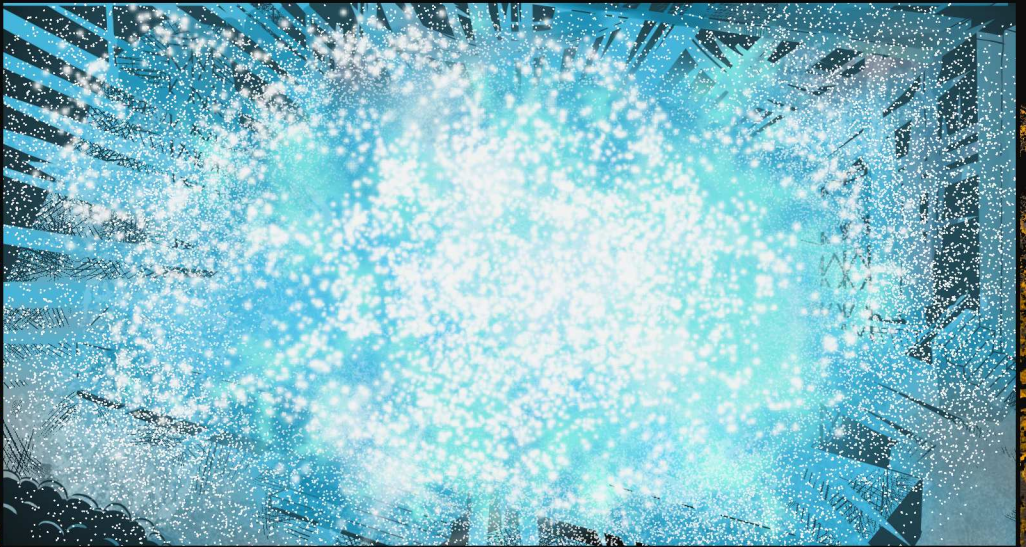
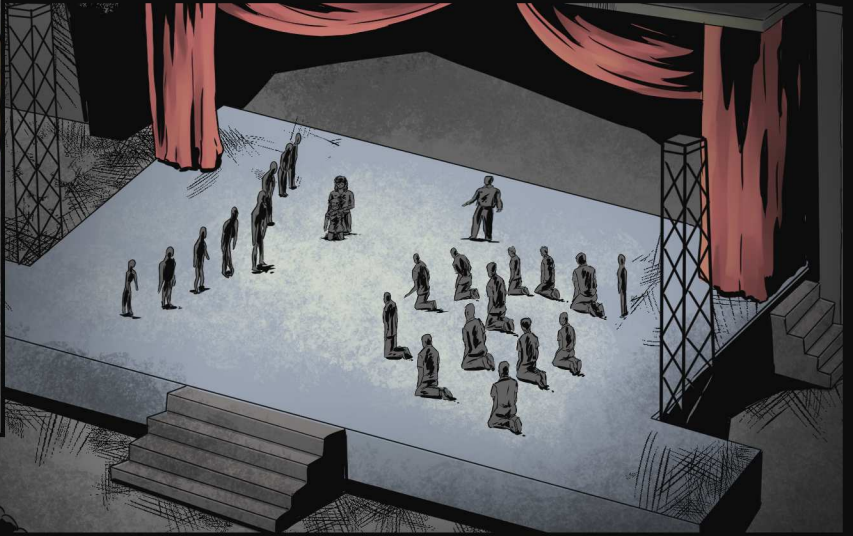


TO YOUR WIFE. TO YOUR
DAUGHTER. TO YOUR
GRANDDAUGHTER. TO YOUR
GREAT GRANDDAUGHTER.

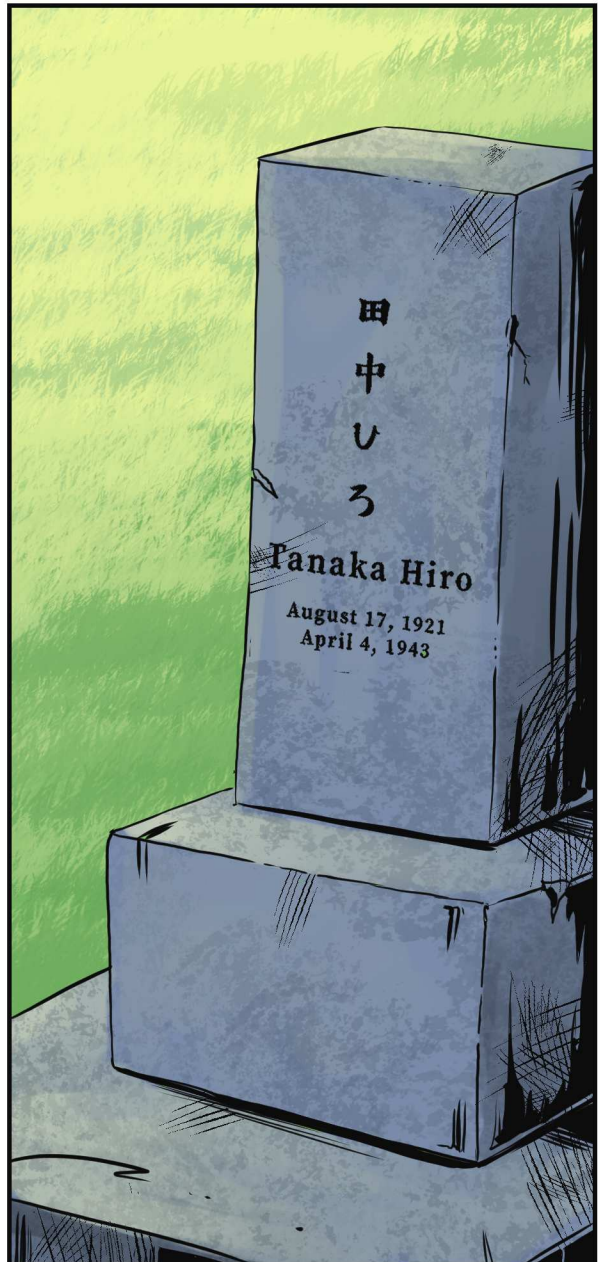
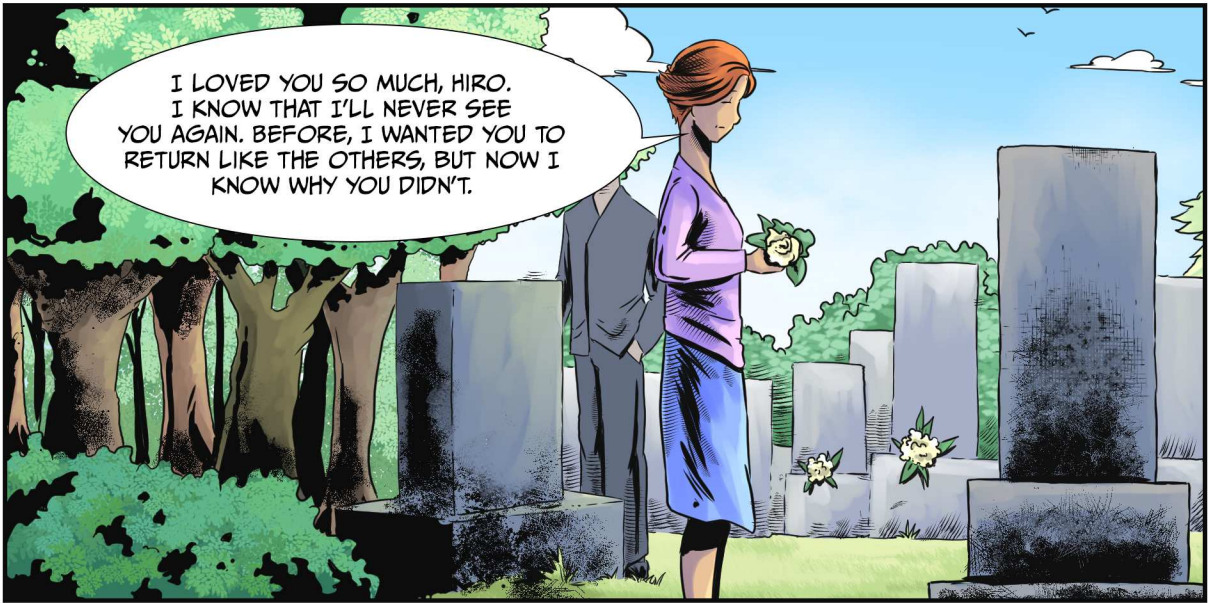
APOLOGIZE TO YOUR
FAMILY FOR PUTTING
HATE FOR JAPAN
IN OUR HEARTS.

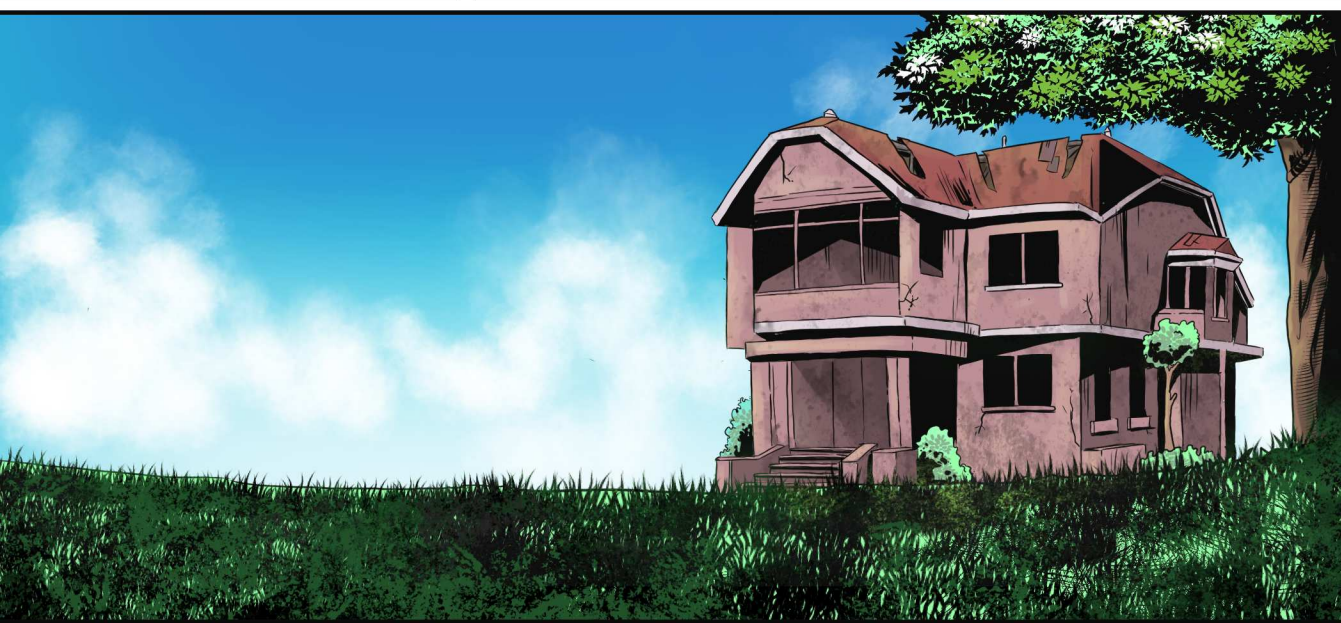












THE GOOD ONES

The fortitude of a battle-hardened soldier is beyond compare, but it takes a special hero to fulfill a call to arms from beyond the grave.

On Japanese Veteran's Day, deceased servicemen throughout the country are mysteriously brought back to life. As they arrive in Tokyo for a celebration in their honor, a mass of zombies emerges from the shoreline and descends upon the city. Corporal Watanabe takes command of the opposition force and fights for his country once again.



About the Author

Mike Wietecha is a Filipino American sumo wrestler, actor, and writer. He represented the United States at the 2017 World Games and has appeared in multiple international feature films. As a former history and philosophy student, ideas and storytelling are a major part of his life. His works include articles, poetry, and comics books.

