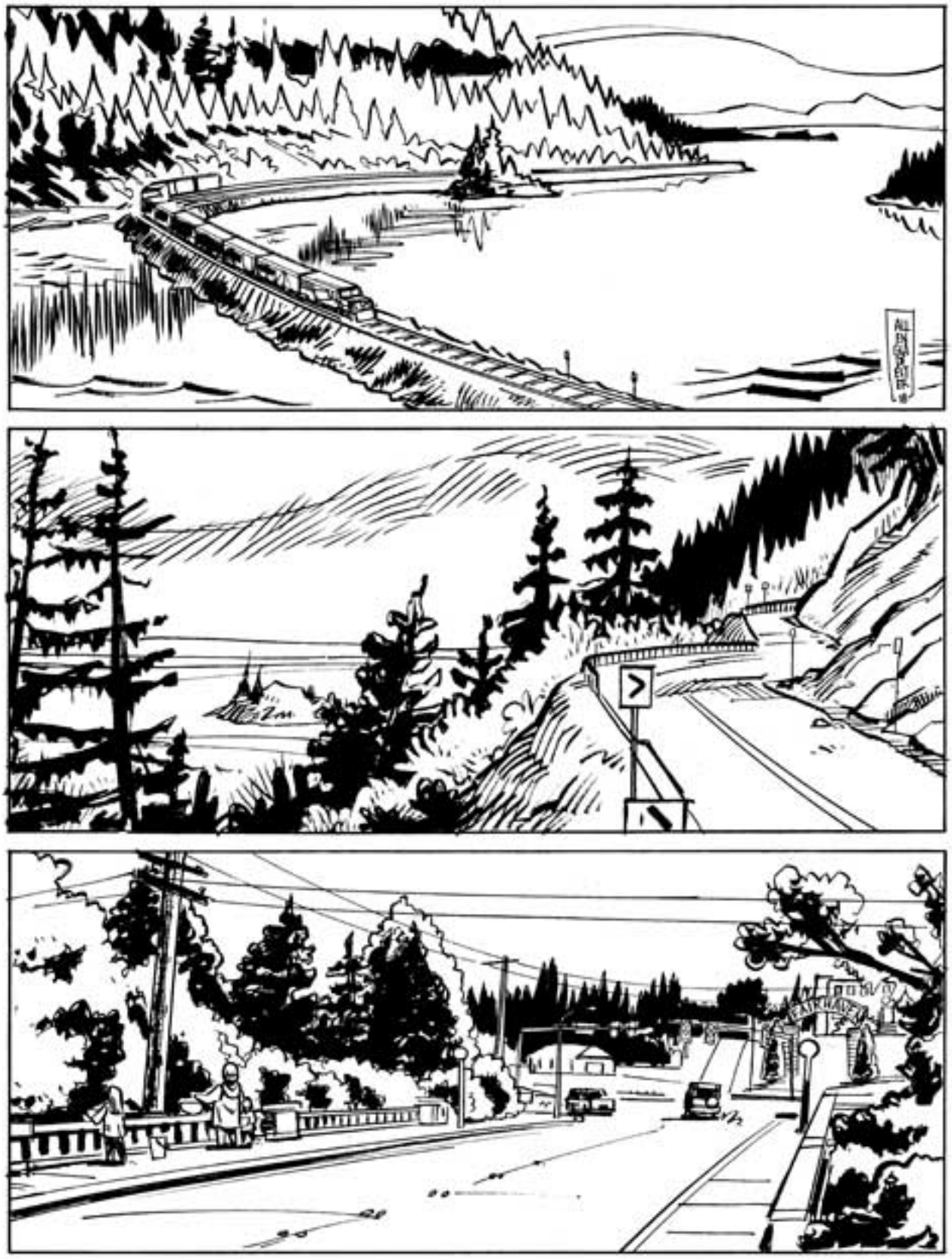
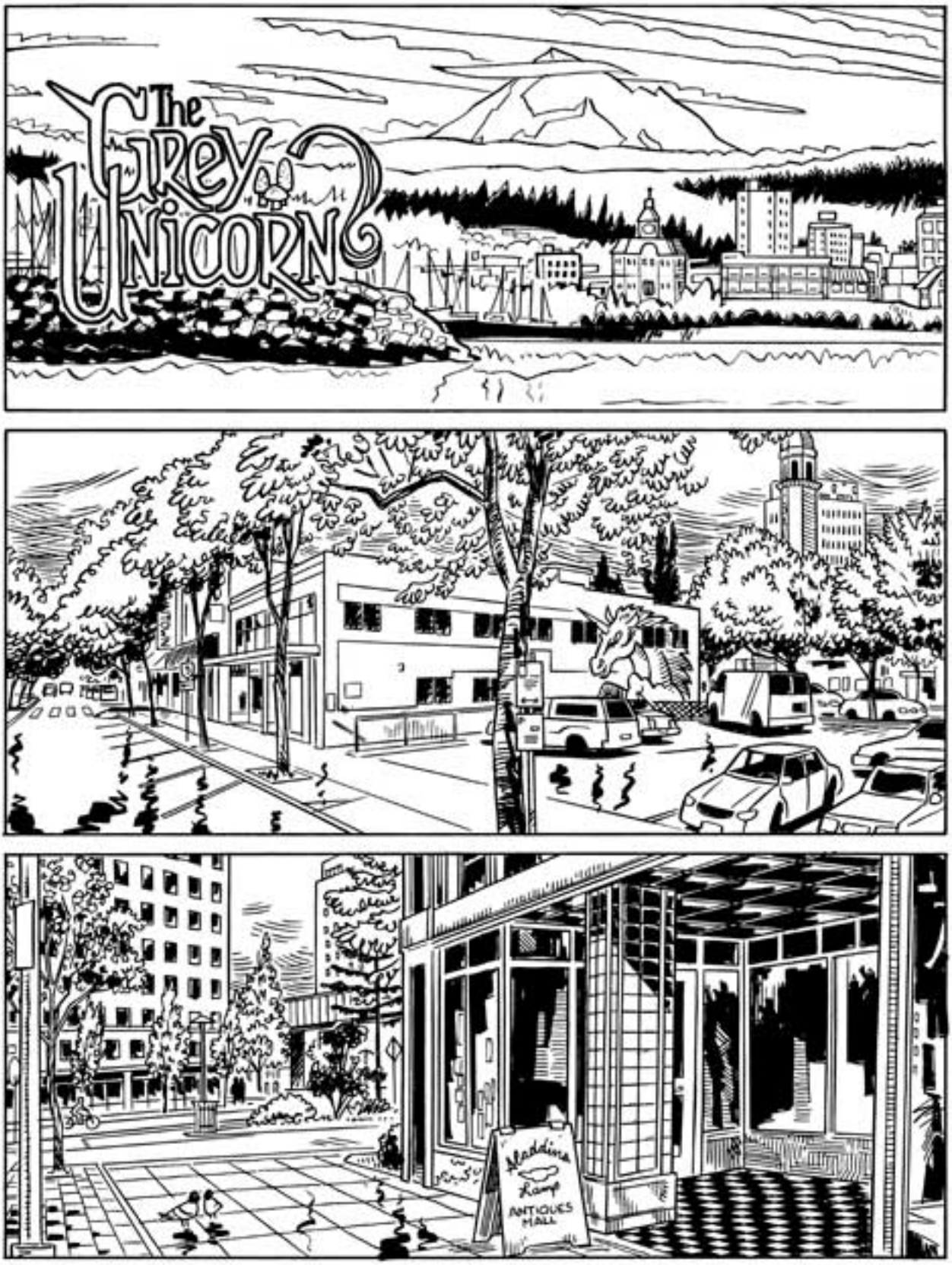
The Grey Unicorn

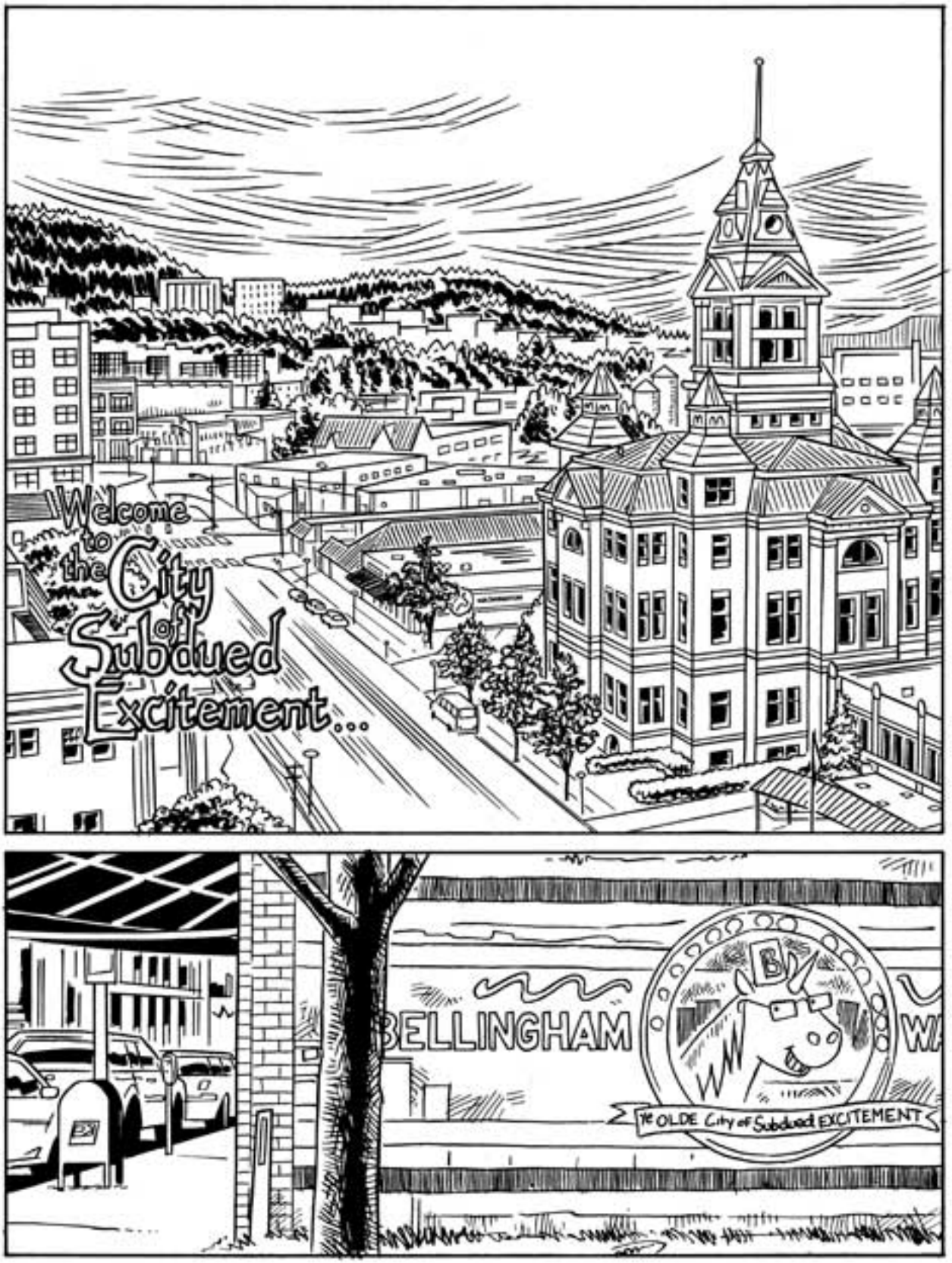
Allen Gladfelter



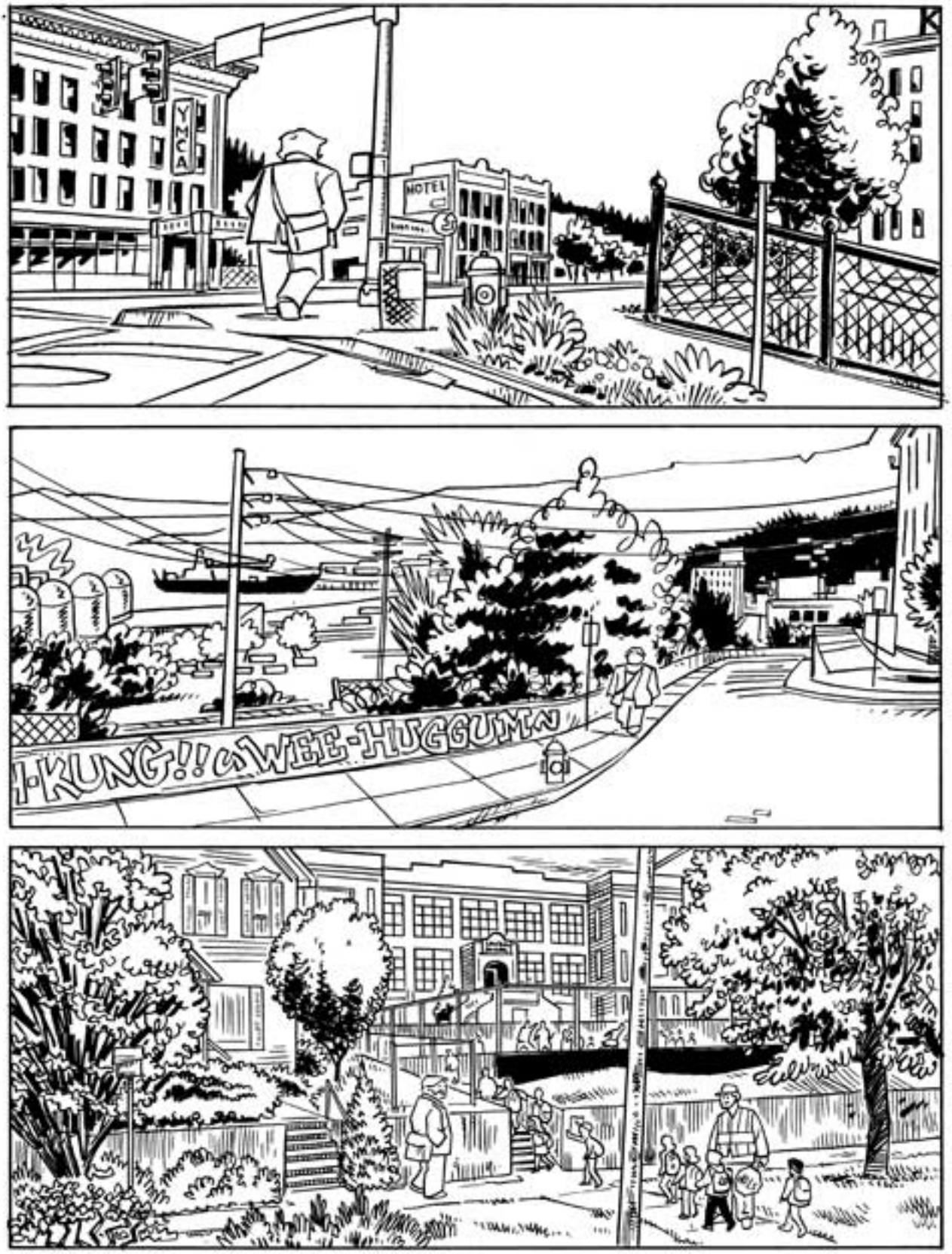

FOR
MATTY



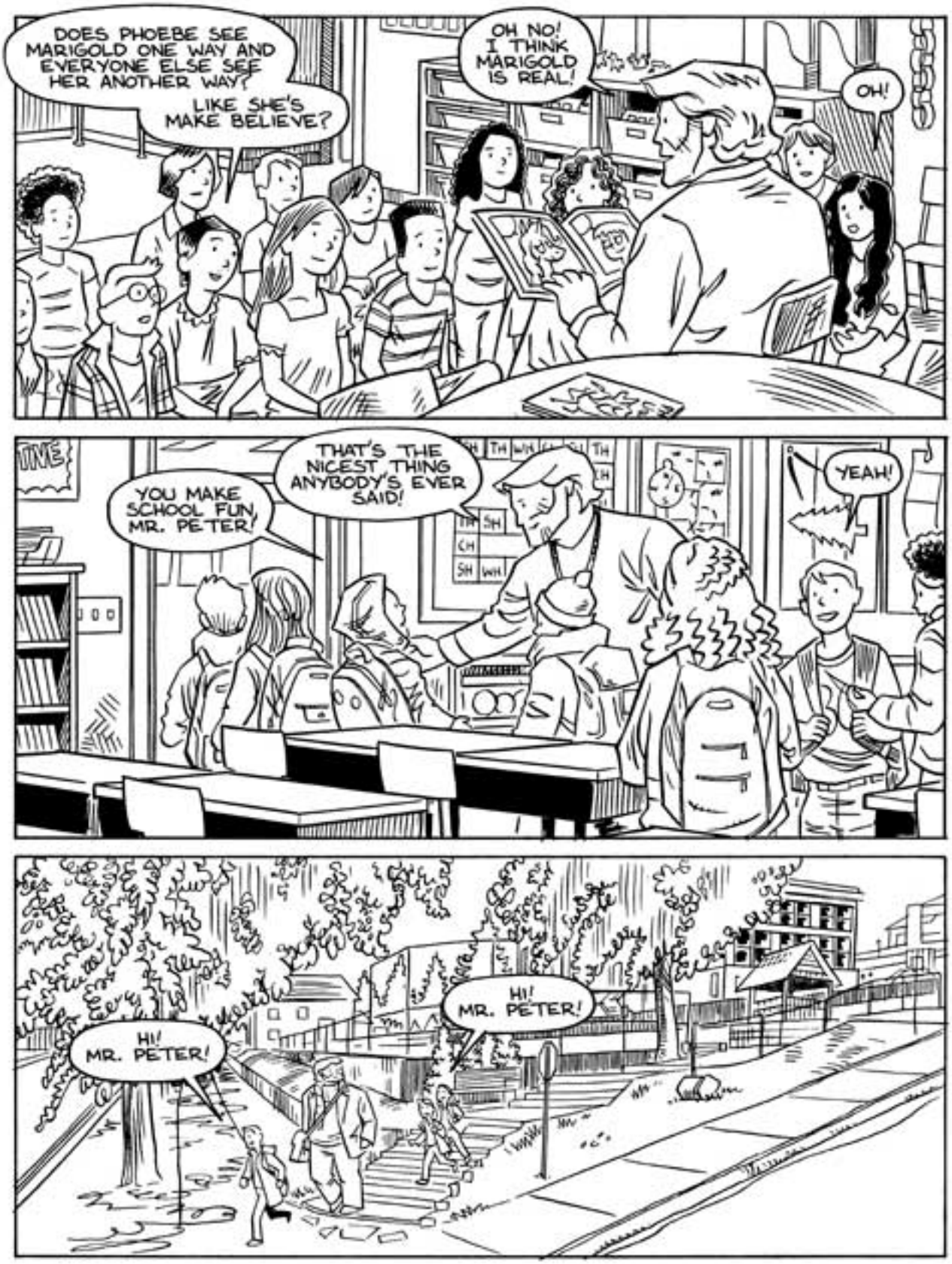

The Grey Unicorn
Aladdins Lamp
ANTIQUES MALL


Welcome to the City of Subdued Excitement...
BELLINGHAM
Ye OLDE City of Subdued EXCITEMENT


CAFE
HORSESHOE
RANCH ROOM
...YOU TAUGHT ME EVERYTHING I KNOW ABOUT CONFUSION.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

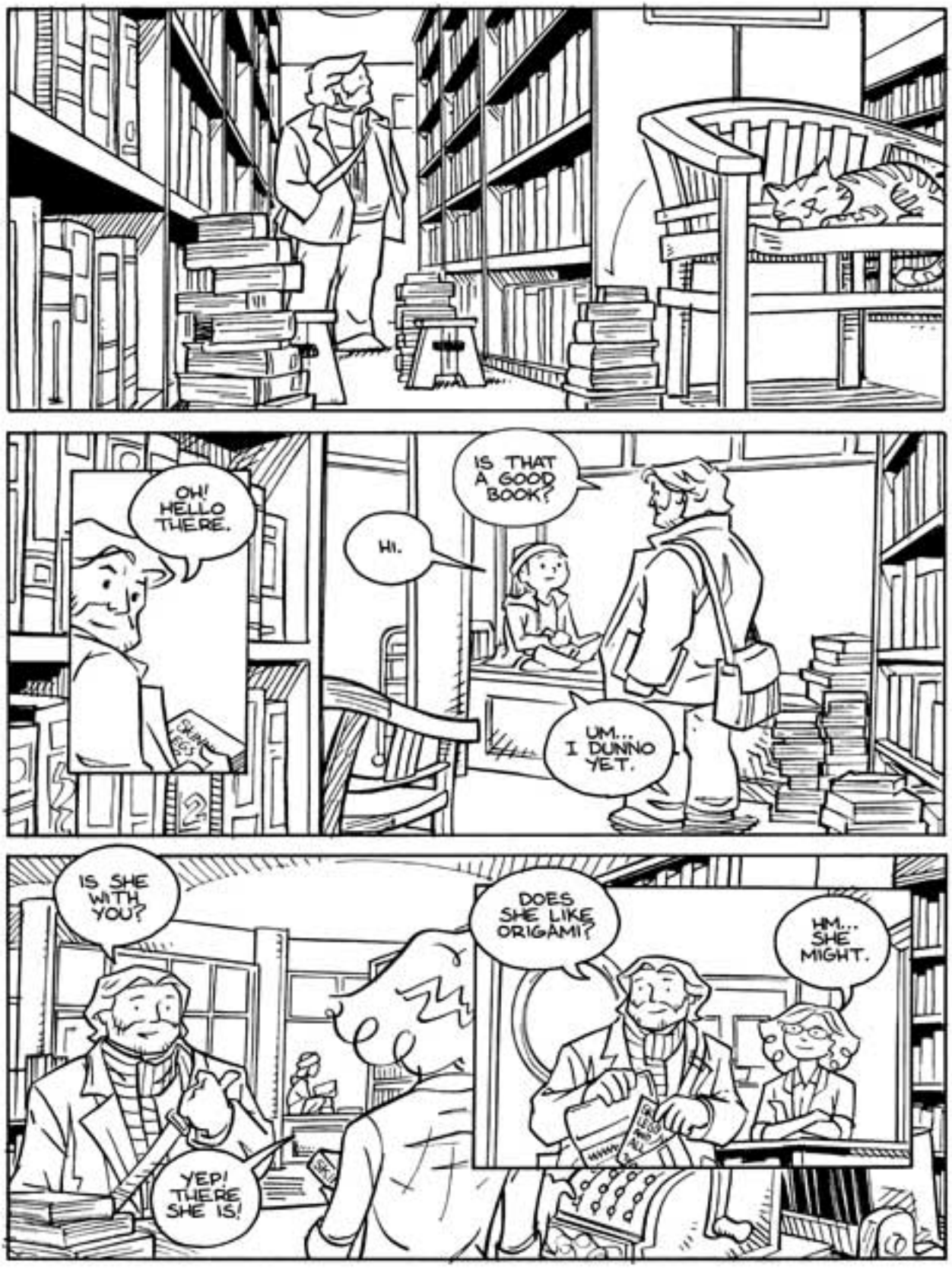

YMCA
MOTEL
-KUNG!!
WEE-HUGGUM


GOOD MORNING, MR. PETER! HAPPY FRIDAY!
READY FOR SPRING BREAK?
WELL I SUPPOSE SO. DON'T HAVE ANY BIG PLANS.
OFFICE
LOWELL ELEMENTARY
HELLO EVERY-BODY!
HELLO, MR. PETER!
SO, WHEN YOU PUT IT TOGETHER WHAT DO YOU GET?
∞!
∞!
∞!
∞!
∞!


DOES PHOEBE SEE MARIGOLD ONE WAY AND EVERYONE ELSE SEE HER ANOTHER WAY?
LIKE SHE'S MAKE BELIEVE?
OH NO! I THINK MARIGOLD IS REAL!
OH!
YOU MAKE SCHOOL FUN, MR. PETER!
THAT'S THE NICEST THING ANYBODY'S EVER SAID!
YEAH!
HI! MR. PETER!
HI! MR. PETER!

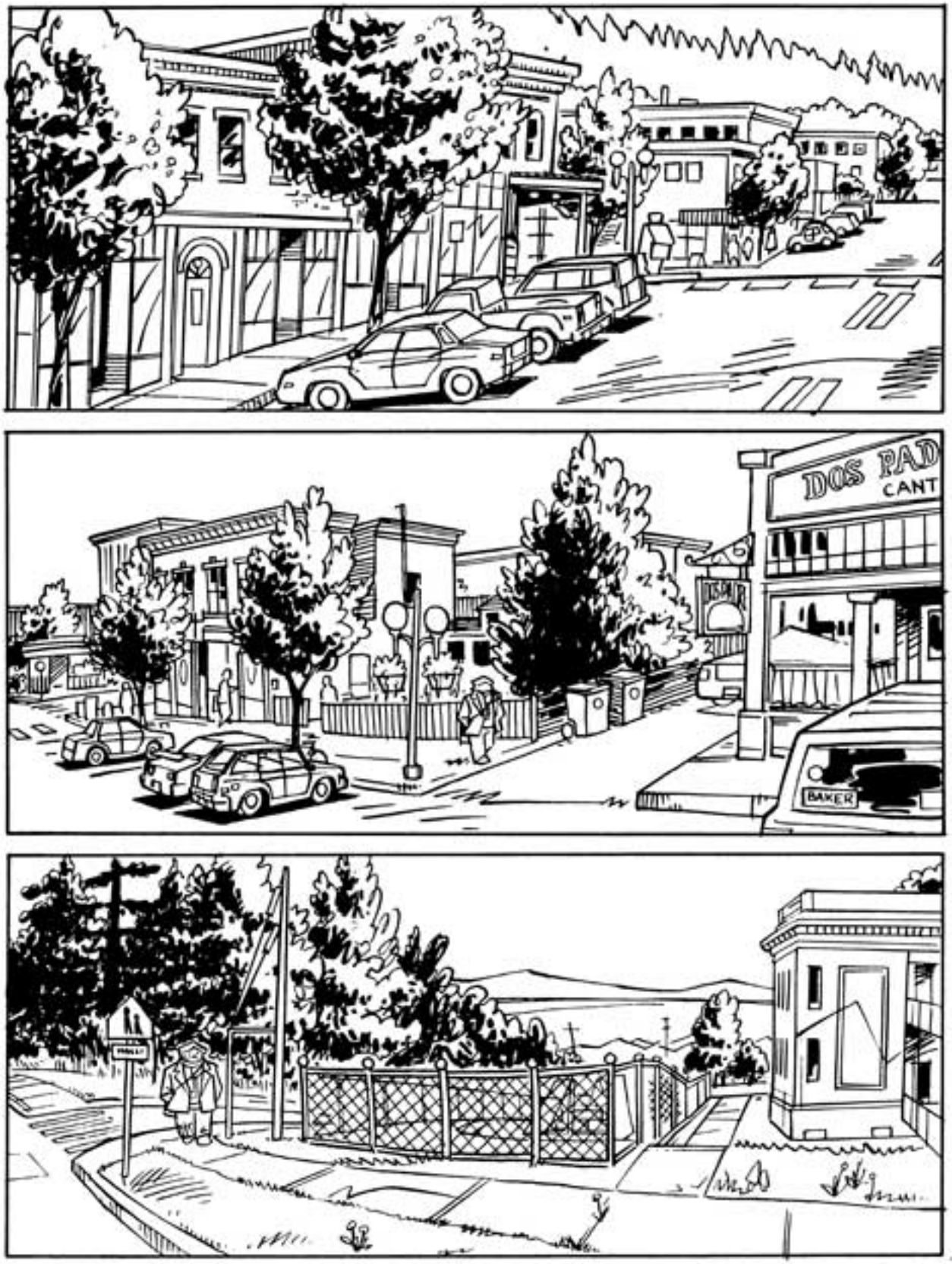

ILLAGE BOOKS
COLOPHON CAFE
DIRTY DAN
CRYSTAL DOLPHIN
A LOT OF FLOWERS
LIPSE
OKS


♪HELLO♪
OH HEY, HELLO. ARE YOU NEW HERE?
KINDA. I JUST STARTED A COUPLE OF WEEKS AGO.
LUCKY YOU!
HA! YEAH, I GUESS SO.
CAN I HELP YOU FIND ANY-THING?
NAH, I'M JUST LOOKING AROUND, THANKS.


OH! HELLO THERE.
HI.
IS THAT A GOOD BOOK?
UM... I DUNNO YET.
IS SHE WITH YOU?
YEP! THERE SHE IS!
DOES SHE LIKE ORIGAMI?
HM... SHE MIGHT.

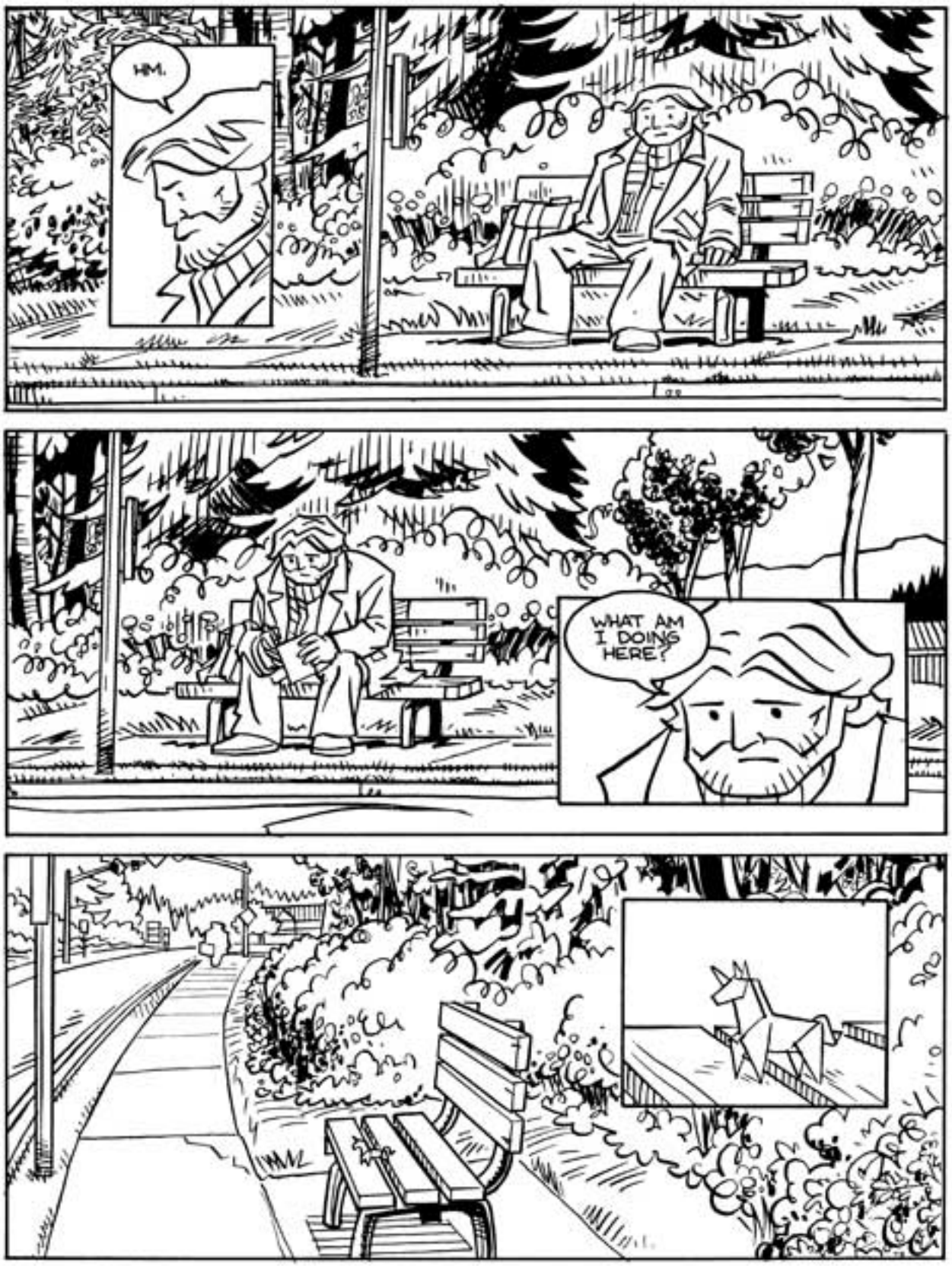

HELLO AGAIN.
MY NAME IS WILEM. WHAT'S YOURS?
RUBY.
DO YOU LIKE YOUR MOM'S NEW BOOKSTORE JOB, RUBY?
IT'S OK...
I LIKE ALL THE BOOKS
THIS ONE IS ABOUT PONIES.
LOTS OF BOOKS TO READ!
PONIES, HUH?
THEN YOU MIGHT LIKE THIS...

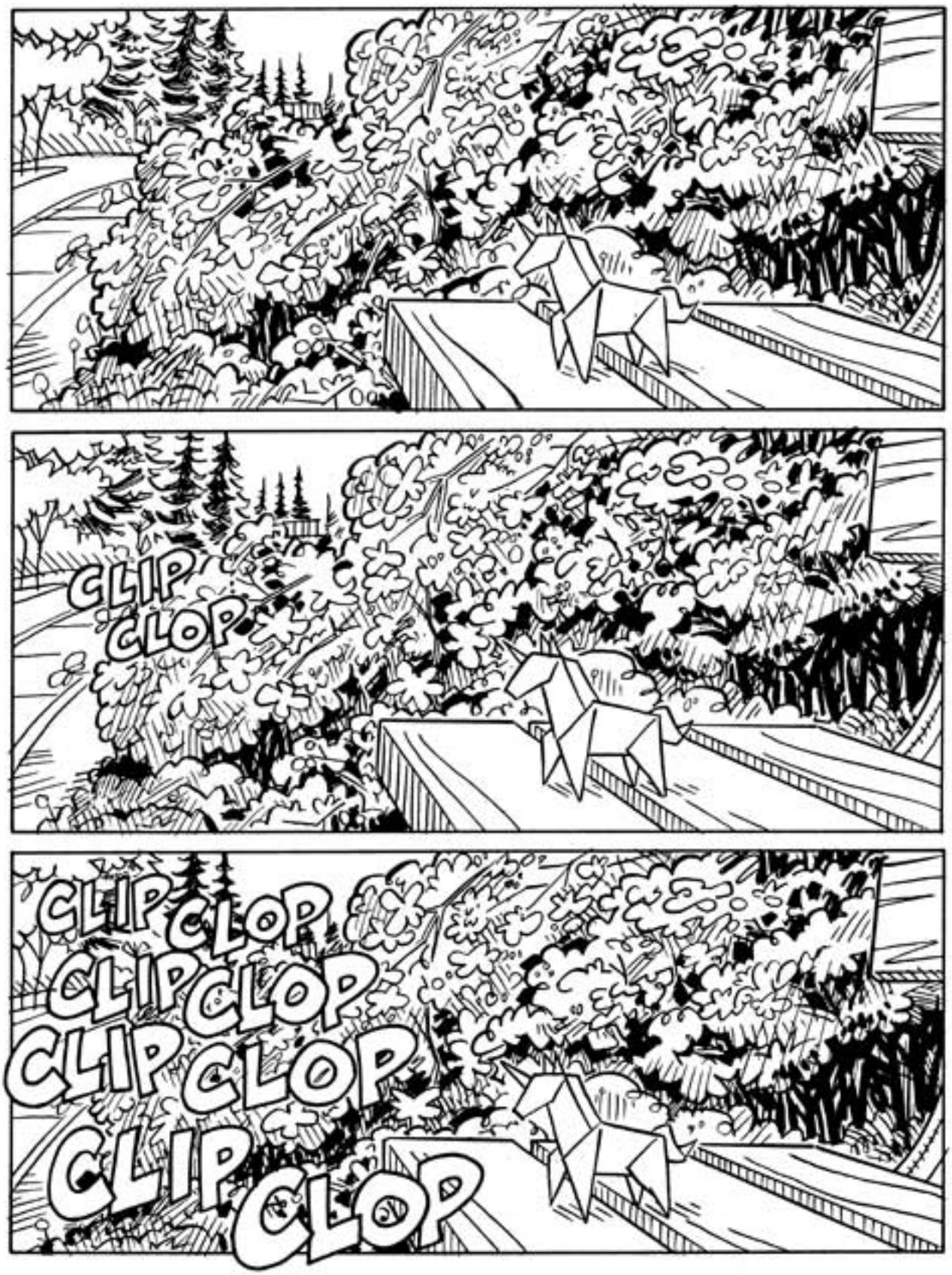

TAH-DAH!
OOHH!
I'M GLAD YOU LIKE IT...
I MADE IT JUST FOR YOU.
WOW!
YOU'RE WELCOME!
AND THANKS FOR THE SMILES.
THAT'S PRETTY NEAT!
JAZZ

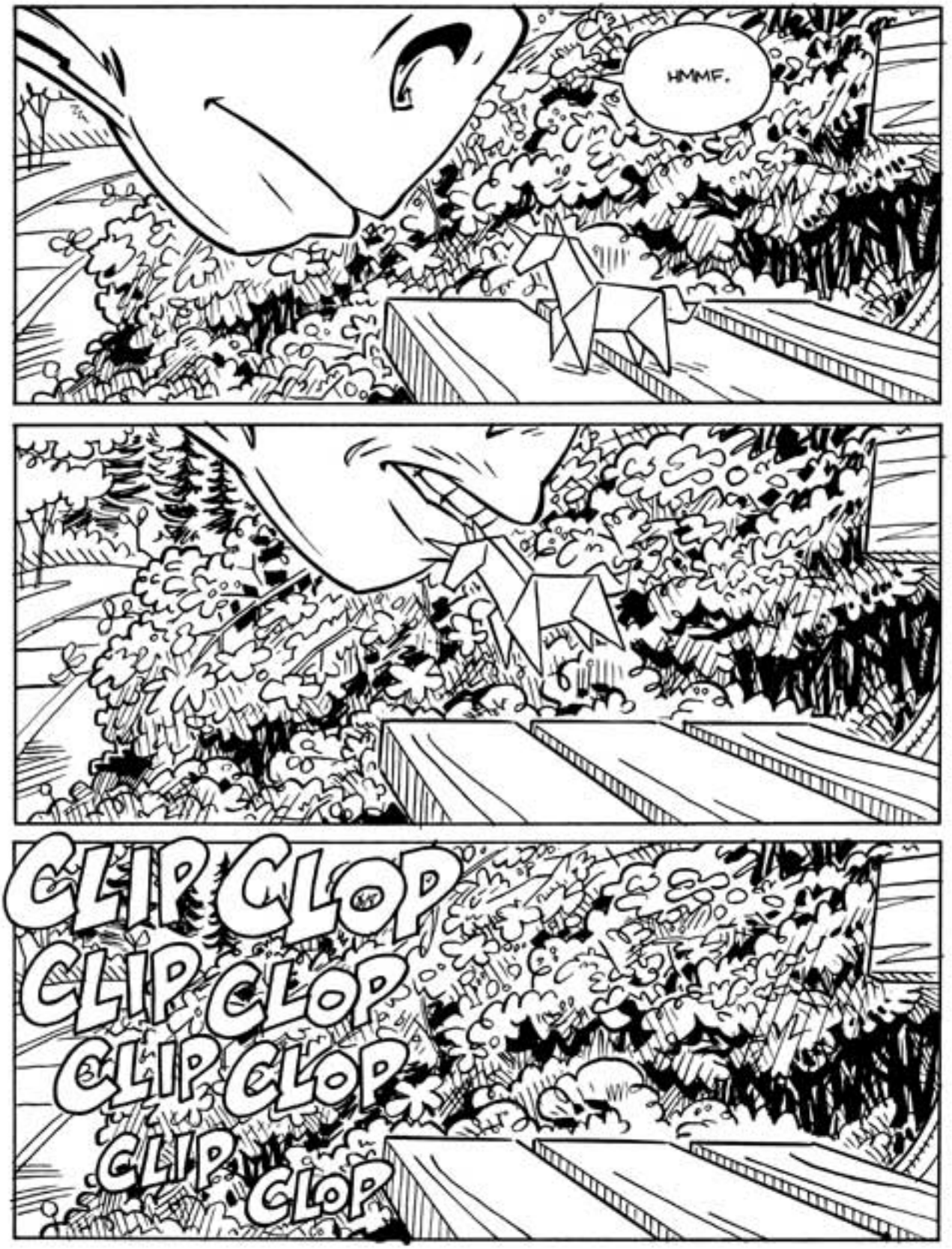

DOS PAD
CANT
BAKER

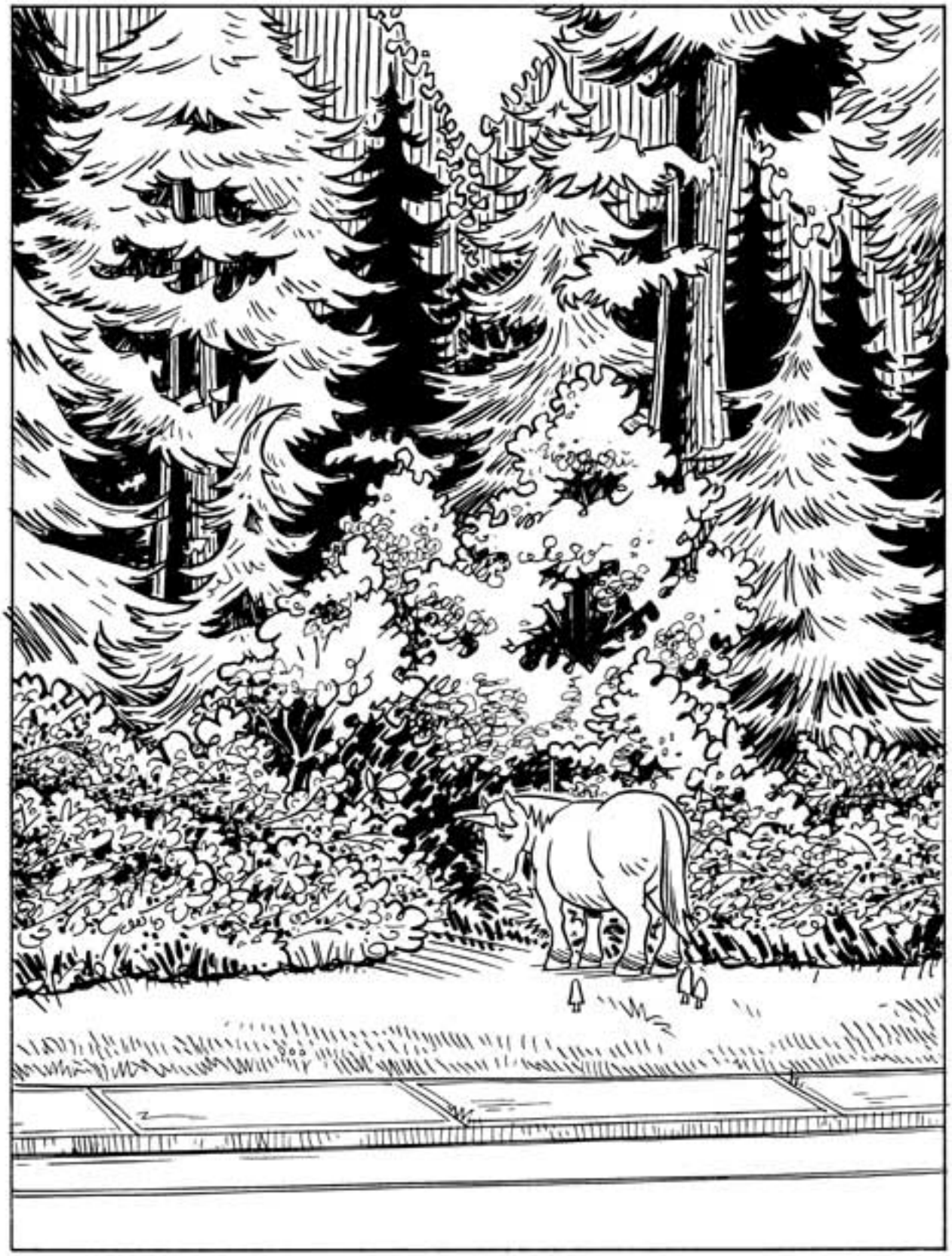

Sehome Hill
Arboretum
ARBORETUM
REGULATIONS



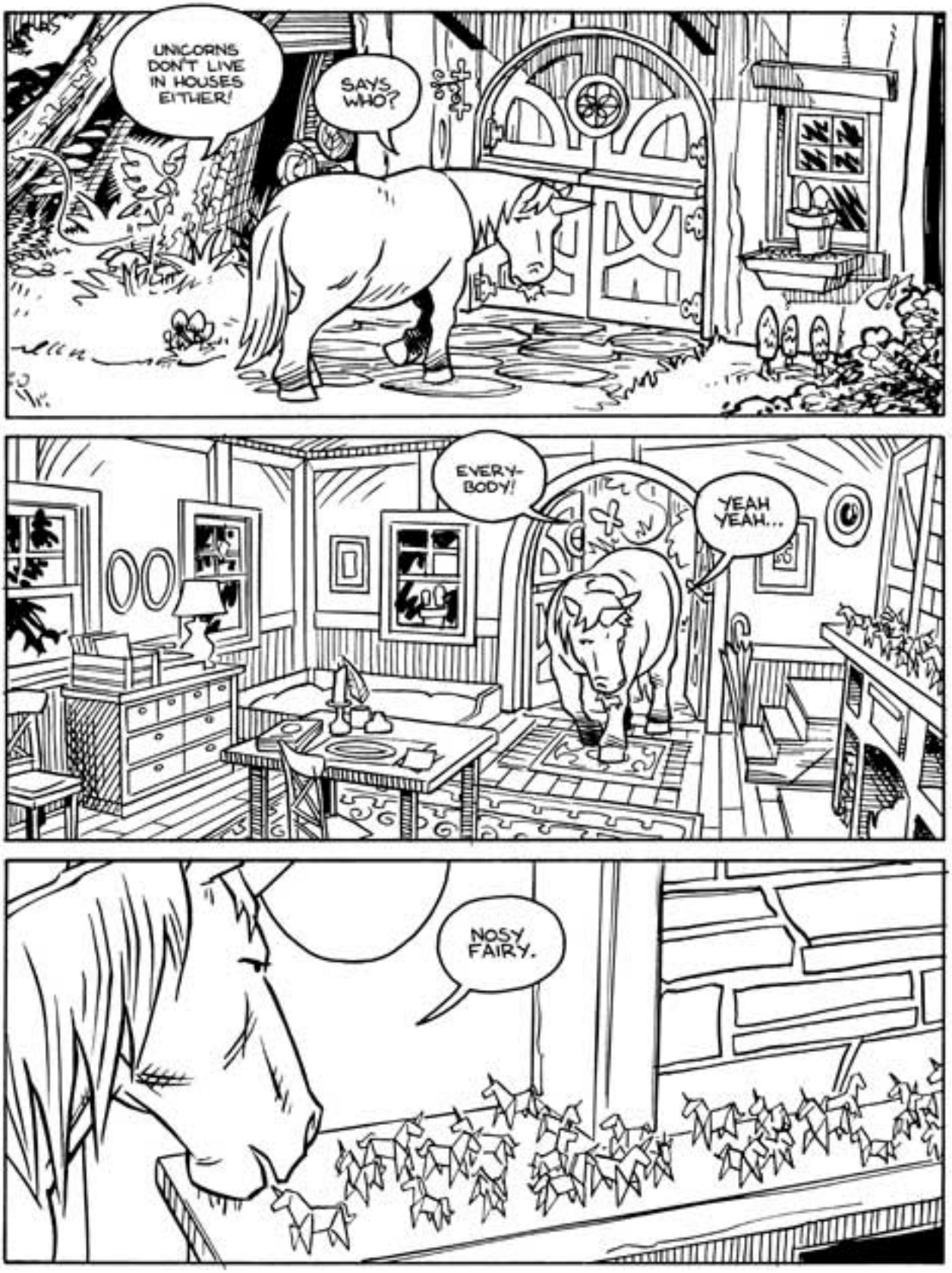

HM.
WHAT AM I DOING HERE?

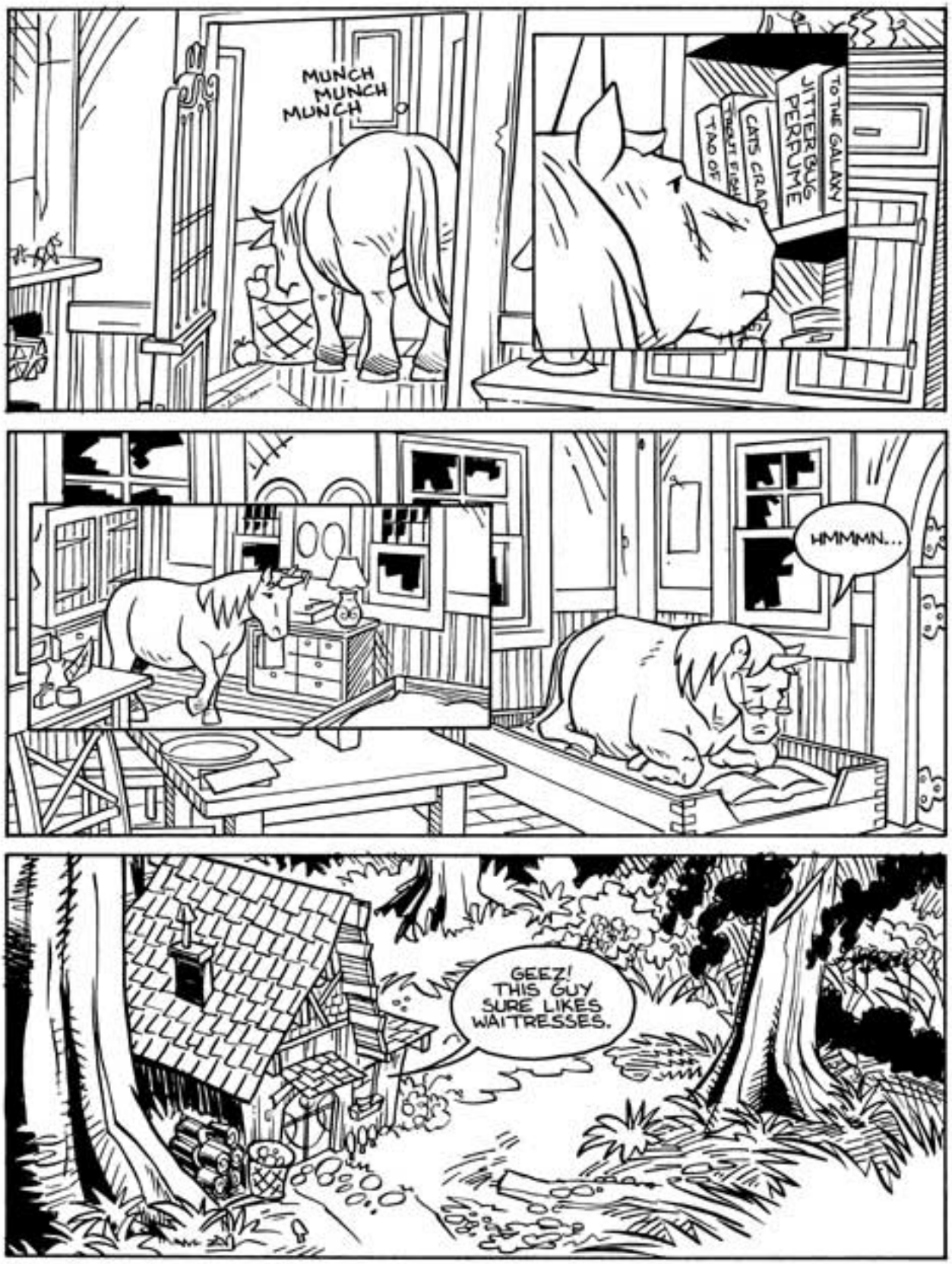

CLIP
CLOP
CLIP CLOP
CLIP CLOP
CLIP CLOP
CLIP CLOP

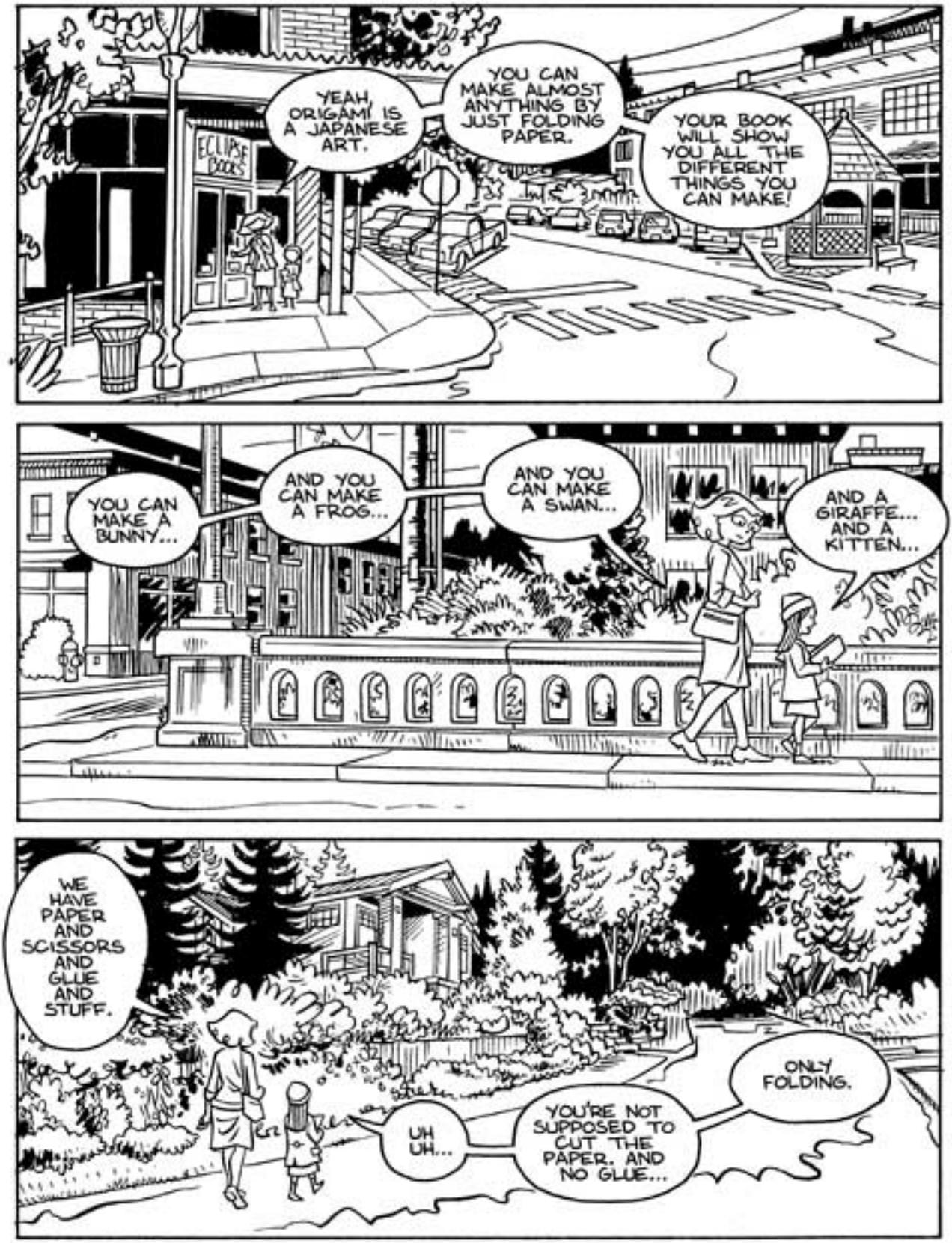

HMMF.
CLIP CLOP
CLIP CLOP
CLIP CLOP
CLIP CLOP




WHAT ARE YOU GONNA DO WITH THAT?
I DUNNO. KEEP IT.
UNICORNS DON'T COLLECT STUFF.
I'M NOT COLLECTING, I'M JUST KEEPING.
IT'S JUST A PEOPLE THING..
SO? I LIKE IT ANY-WAY.
YOU'RE NOT LIKE THE OTHER UNICORNS.
THEN GO HANG OUT WITH THE OTHER UNICORNS

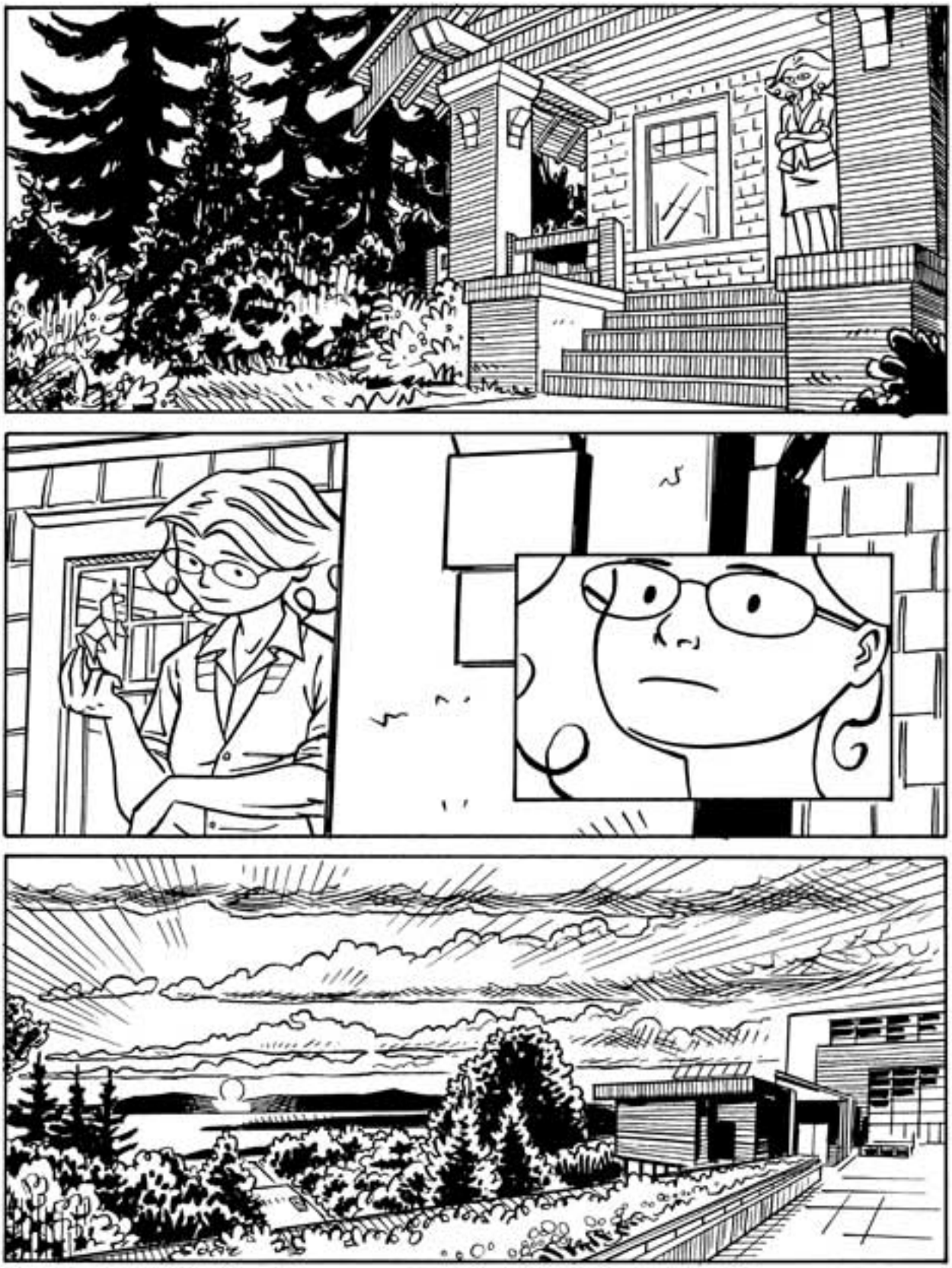

UNICORNS DON'T LIVE IN HOUSES EITHER!
SAYS WHO?
EVERY-BODY!
YEAH YEAH...
NOSY FAIRY.


MUNCH
MUNCH
MUNCH
TO THE GALAXY
JITTERBUG
PERFUME
CATS CRAD
TREAT FISH
TAO OF
HMMMM...
GEEZ!
THIS GUY
SURE LIKES
WAITRESSES.


ECLIPSE BOOKS
YEAH, ORIGAMI IS A JAPANESE ART.
YOU CAN MAKE ALMOST ANYTHING BY JUST FOLDING PAPER.
YOUR BOOK WILL SHOW YOU ALL THE DIFFERENT THINGS YOU CAN MAKE!
YOU CAN MAKE A BUNNY...
AND YOU CAN MAKE A FROG...
AND YOU CAN MAKE A SWAN...
AND A GIRAFFE... AND A KITTEN...
WE HAVE PAPER AND SCISSORS AND GLUE AND STUFF.
UH UH...
YOU'RE NOT SUPPOSED TO CUT THE PAPER. AND NO GLUE...
ONLY FOLDING.


YOU HAVE TO FOLD THE SQUARE INTO A TRIANGLE...
...AND THE TRIANGLE INTO ANOTHER TRIANGLE...
...THEN YOU FOLD IT IN SO IT LOOKS LIKE A FLOWER...
AND THIS ONE, SEE? THIS ONE IS A FROGGY!
AND AFTER YOU FOLD IT, YOU UNFOLD IT, AND THEN YOU CLOSE IT UP THE OTHER WAY, SEE?
IT'S A BIT TRICKY, ISN'T IT?


IT'S TIME FOR BED, MY LITTLE CUTIE PATOOTIE.
mm-mm
MOMMY, I STILL MISS MY DADDY.
I KNOW, HONEY.
I KNOW.






WHAT'S WITH THIS GUY?
I DON'T KNOW. HE STOPS BY HERE MOST DAYS.
THERE'S SOMETHING ON HIS MIND, ISN'T THERE?
YEAH, I THINK SO.
HOLD ON, HE'S LEAVING.
THERE IS SOMETHING BOTHERING HIM...
AND YOU CARE, DON'T YOU?
GREAT. HERE WE GO.

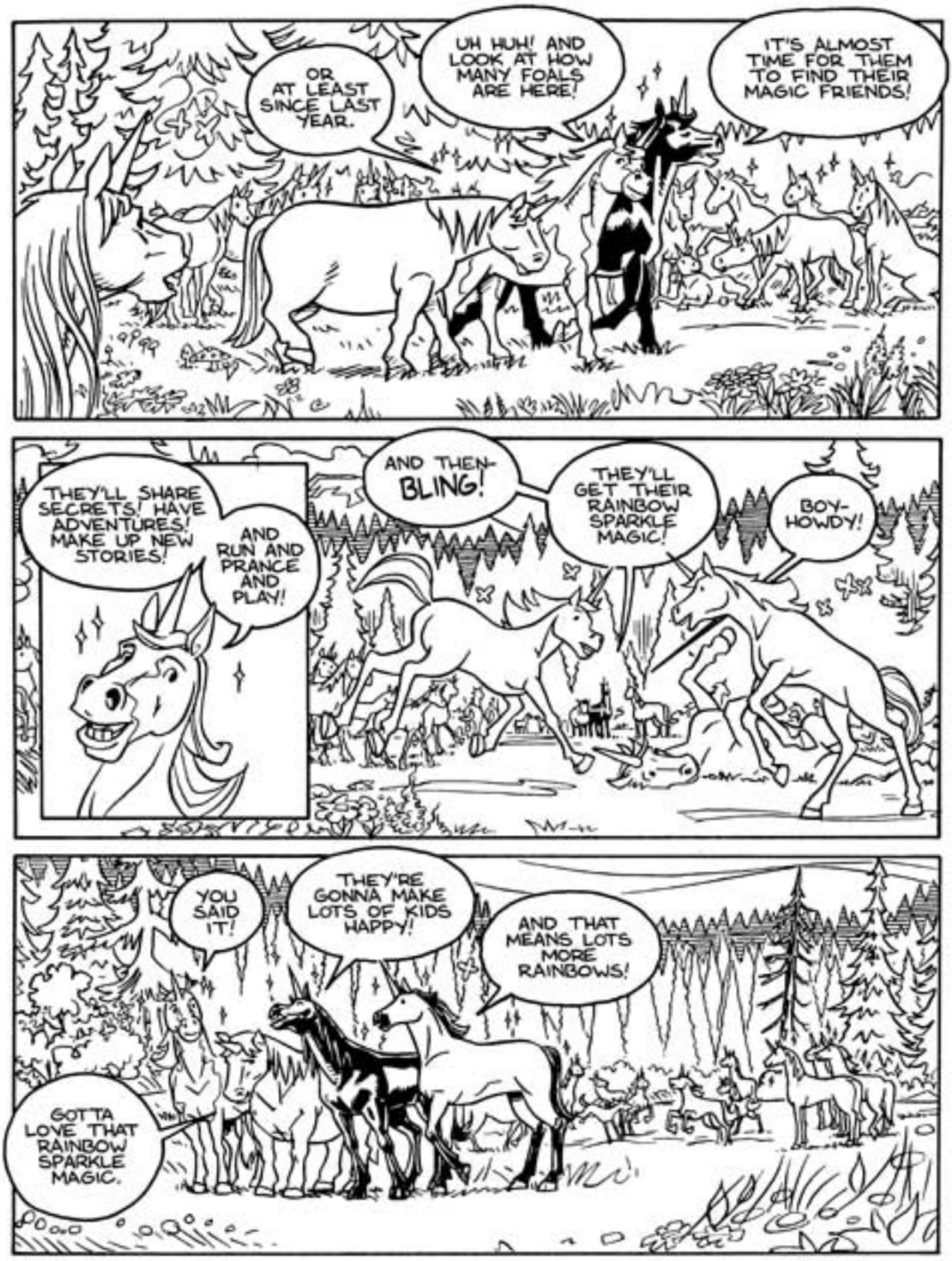

YOU CAN TELL THAT HE'S LONLEY AND YOU CARE!
BECAUSE YOU ARE A MAGIC UNICORN, BUDDY!
STOP TEASING ME.
I'M NOT TEASING!
THAT'S UNICORN MAGIC!
YEAH... WHY ARE YOU HERE ANYWAY?
YOU KNOW! IT'S TIME TO MEET THE FOALS!
AWW NUTS.
COME ON! THEY'RE REALLY CUTE!
AND IT'S TIME FOR THEM TO FIND THEIR MAGIC FRIENDS!
YEAH. OH BOY. YIPPIE. HOORAY.


MEH, I DON'T REALLY FEEL LIKE IT.
AWW! COME ON! YOU NEVER COME TO THE MEADOW!
COME SEE YOUR FRIENDS!
IT'S A PARTY! IT'LL BE FUN!
URRRR
SIGH... ALRIGHT
REALLY?
THAT'S GREAT!
I'M GONNA TELL THEM ALL YOU'RE COMING!
THIS IS THE BEST NEWS EVER!
UNICORNS, YEESH...
WHINNY! WHINNY! WHINNY!

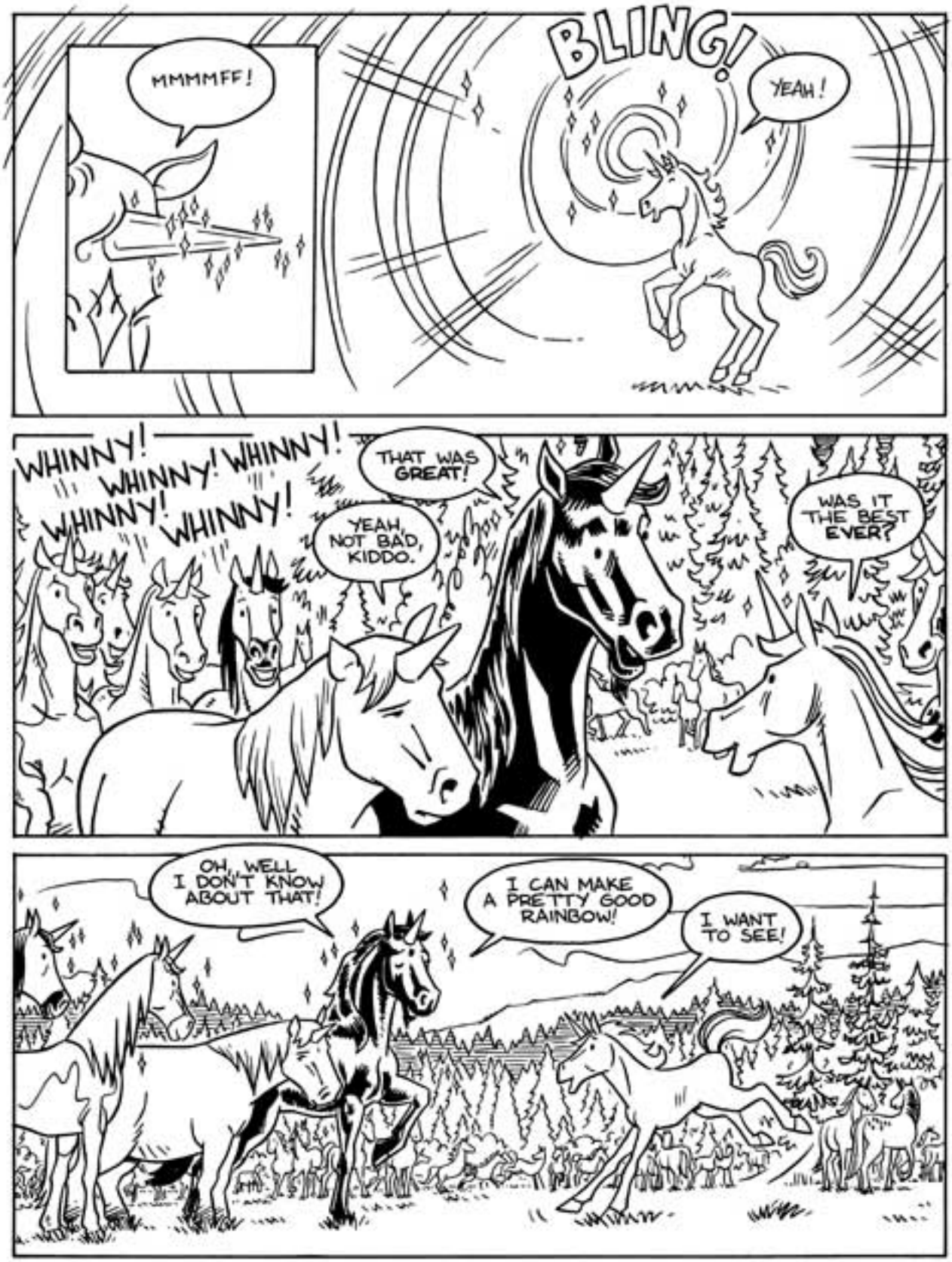

WOW!
WE HAVEN'T BEEN TO ONE OF THESE IN, LIKE FOREVER!
HAVE FUN. I'M ONLY HERE AS LONG AS I CAN STAND IT.
WHY'D YOU EVEN GET OUT OF BED THIS MORNING?
GOOD QUESTION.
ALL THESE GUYS EVER DO IS FROLIC.
SUIT YOURSELF, GRUMPY UNICORN!


HEY! YOU MADE IT! WE'RE SO HAPPY YOU'RE HERE!
YEAH, HERE I AM...
LET'S GET THIS PARTY STARTED...
YOU'RE FUNNY! WE'VE BEEN AT IT FOR A WHOLE WEEK ALREADY!


HEY! LOOK WHO'S HERE!
I SAW HIM FIRST!
TOLD YOU!
YAY!
WOW!
I LIKE HIM! HE'S FUNNY!
AND SMART!
HE READS PEOPLE BOOKS!
DOES HE REALLY LIVE IN A HOUSE?
YEAH!
HI, UNIS HOW'VE YOU BEEN?
GREAT! GREATER THAN GREAT!
EVERY UNICORN FROM ALL OVER IS HERE!
IT'S THE BESTEST FROLIC IN, LIKE, FOREVER!

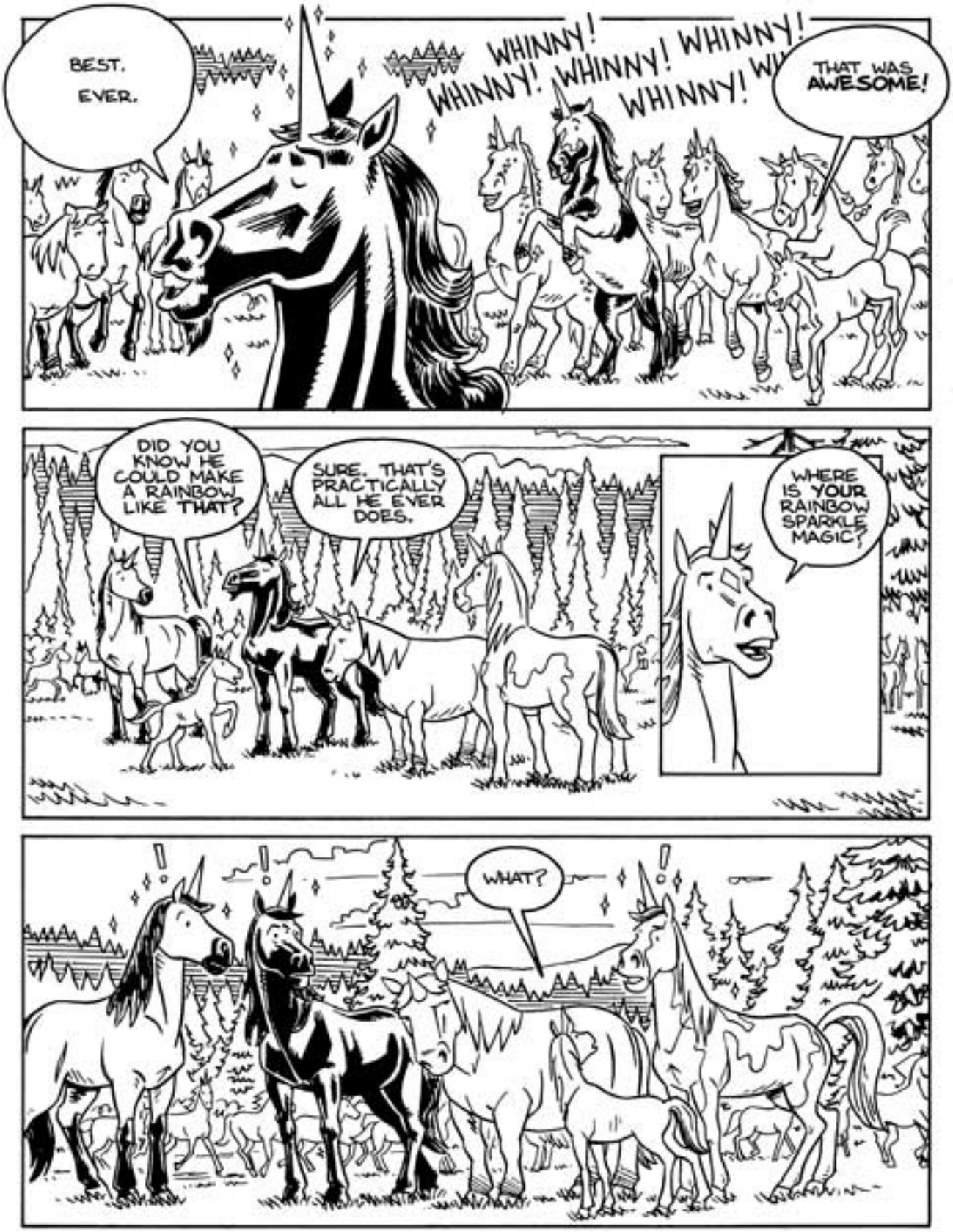

OR AT LEAST SINCE LAST YEAR.
UH HUH! AND LOOK AT HOW MANY FOALS ARE HERE!
IT'S ALMOST TIME FOR THEM TO FIND THEIR MAGIC FRIENDS!
THEY'LL SHARE SECRETS! HAVE ADVENTURES! MAKE UP NEW STORIES!
AND RUN AND PRANCE AND PLAY!
AND THEN- BLING!
THEY'LL GET THEIR RAINBOW SPARKLE MAGIC!
BOY-HOWDY!
YOU SAID IT!
THEY'RE GONNA MAKE LOTS OF KIDS HAPPY!
AND THAT MEANS LOTS MORE RAINBOWS!
GOTTA LOVE THAT RAINBOW SPARKLE MAGIC.

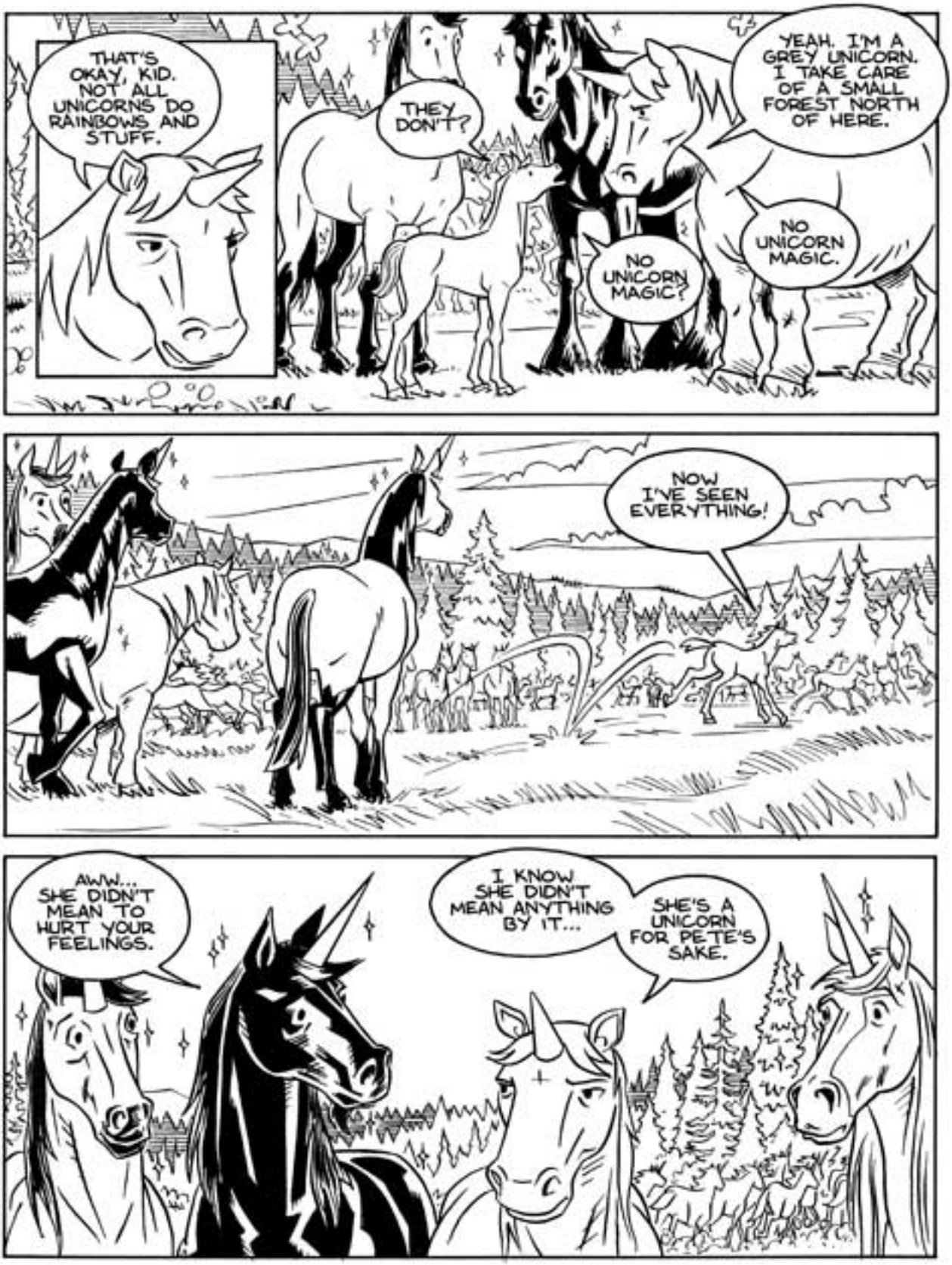

I WENT TO SEE MY MAGIC FRIEND AGAIN THIS YEAR!
DID YOU FROLIC?
WE DID! AND WE WENT ON A RIDE TOGETHER!
NICE!
...
HELLO THERE, KIDDO. YOU HAVING A GOOD TIME?
UH HUH!
I'VE NEVER SEEN SO MANY UNICORNS AND FAIRIES IN ONE PLACE!
THE BIG UNICORNS ARE SHOWING US HOW TO MAKE MAGIC RAINBOWS AND STUFF!
YEAH? LET'S SEE WHAT YOU'VE GOT!
OKAY!
YOU'VE JUST GOTTA-MMMMNH!
YOU JUST GO-MMMING!
IT'S NOT HARD!

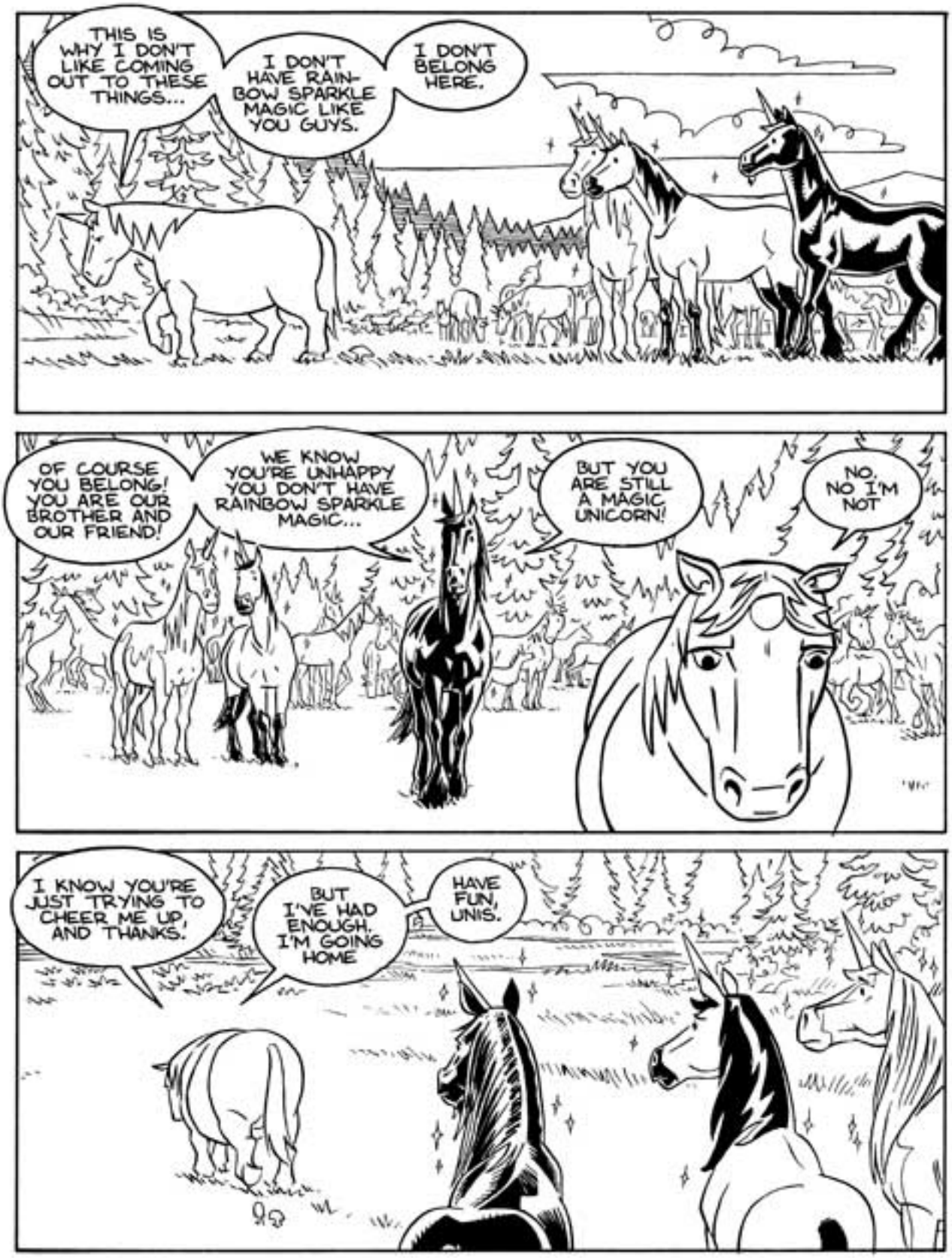

MMMMFF!
BLING!
YEAH!
WHINNY! WHINNY! WHINNY! WHINNY! WHINNY!
THAT WAS GREAT!
YEAH, NOT BAD, KIDDO.
WAS IT THE BEST EVER?
OH, WELL I DON'T KNOW ABOUT THAT!
I CAN MAKE A PRETTY GOOD RAINBOW!
I WANT TO SEE!


YEAH! WE WANT TO SEE!
YEAH!
YEAH!
WHAT HAVE WE BEEN DOING ALL WEEK?
COME ON! SHOW US, BIG SHOT!
YEAH! SHOW US!
OKAY! YOU ASKED FOR IT!
BUT YOU GUYS BETTER STAND BACK!
IT IS TIME TO BRING THE BLING!
OH BOY!
THIS IS GONNA BE A GOOD ONE!
YEAH! HE'S A BIG SHOW OFF!


BLING!
YOW!
OOOO


BEST. EVER.
WHINNY! WHINNY! WHINNY! WHINNY! WHINNY!
THAT WAS AWESOME!
DID YOU KNOW HE COULD MAKE A RAINBOW LIKE THAT?
SURE. THAT'S PRACTICALLY ALL HE EVER DOES.
WHERE IS YOUR RAINBOW SPARKLE MAGIC?
WHAT?


THAT'S OKAY, KID. NOT ALL UNICORNS DO RAINBOWS AND STUFF.
THEY DON'T?
NO UNICORN MAGIC?
YEAH. I'M A GREY UNICORN. I TAKE CARE OF A SMALL FOREST NORTH OF HERE.
NO UNICORN MAGIC.
NOW I'VE SEEN EVERYTHING!
AWW... SHE DIDN'T MEAN TO HURT YOUR FEELINGS.
I KNOW SHE DIDN'T MEAN ANYTHING BY IT...
SHE'S A UNICORN FOR PETE'S SAKE.


THIS IS WHY I DON'T LIKE COMING OUT TO THESE THINGS...
I DON'T HAVE RAIN-BOW SPARKLE MAGIC LIKE YOU GUYS.
I DON'T BELONG HERE.
OF COURSE YOU BELONG! YOU ARE OUR BROTHER AND OUR FRIEND!
WE KNOW YOU'RE UNHAPPY YOU DON'T HAVE RAINBOW SPARKLE MAGIC...
BUT YOU ARE STILL A MAGIC UNICORN!
NO. NO I'M NOT
I KNOW YOU'RE JUST TRYING TO CHEER ME UP, AND THANKS.
BUT I'VE HAD ENOUGH. I'M GOING HOME
HAVE FUN, UNIS.


WAIT! PLEASE WAIT!
BEFORE YOU LEAVE THERE'S SOMETTHING I HAVE TO TELL YOU!
IT'S ABOUT YOUR MAGIC FRIEND...
THE LITTLE GIRL WHO WAS YOUR MAGIC FRIEND. I KNOW IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME. SHE'S ALL GROWN UP NOW.
AND SHE'S JUST MOVED BACK TO TOWN!
MAYBE YOU COULD GO VISIT HER?


HER NAME IS MAX.
SINCE 1886
HORSESHOE
CAFE
MAXINE.
I WENT DOWN THERE TO LOOK FOR A COPY OF DIRK GENTLY'S HOLISTIC DETECTIVE AGENCY.
MUST BE PRETTY GOOD FOR IT TO TAKE SO LONG TO GET TO THE USED BOOKSTORES!
SHE USED TO BE FROM AROUND HERE. WE WERE IN KINDERGARDEN TOGETHER.
SHE MOVED AWAY IN THE SUMMER BEFORE FIRST GRADE, I THINK.
DON'T BE SUCH A CHEAP-SKATE!
JUST GO GET A NEW COPY! IT'S WORTH IT!
IT'LL HAVE THAT NEW BOOK SMELL.


YOU CAN BORROW MY COPY.
I PREFER TO OWN MY BOOKS. WHAT IF I READ IT AND LOVE IT?
I WON'T WANT TO GIVE IT BACK!
AREN'T YOU BANNED FROM THE LIBRARY FOR LIFE?
IN THAT CASE, MAYBE YOU CAN'T BORROW MY COPY.
SO WHY DO YOU ASK? SHE'S A BIT OF ALL RIGHT, ISN'T SHE?
PAY YOUR LIBRARY FINES, DUDE!
SO WHAT'D YOU GET?
OH, I DON'T KNOW ABOUT THAT. I'M JUST ASKING...
FOUND A NICE COPY OF SKINNY LEGS AND ALL.
I LIKE THE BOOK-SIZED PAPERBACKS. THEY'RE WORTH THE WAIT.
COME ON, MAN! YOU'VE BEEN AT THIS SAD SACK ROUTINE LONG ENOUGH! ASK HER OUT!
THAT'S HIPPIE STUFF!
THAT GUY SURE LIKES WAITRESSES.

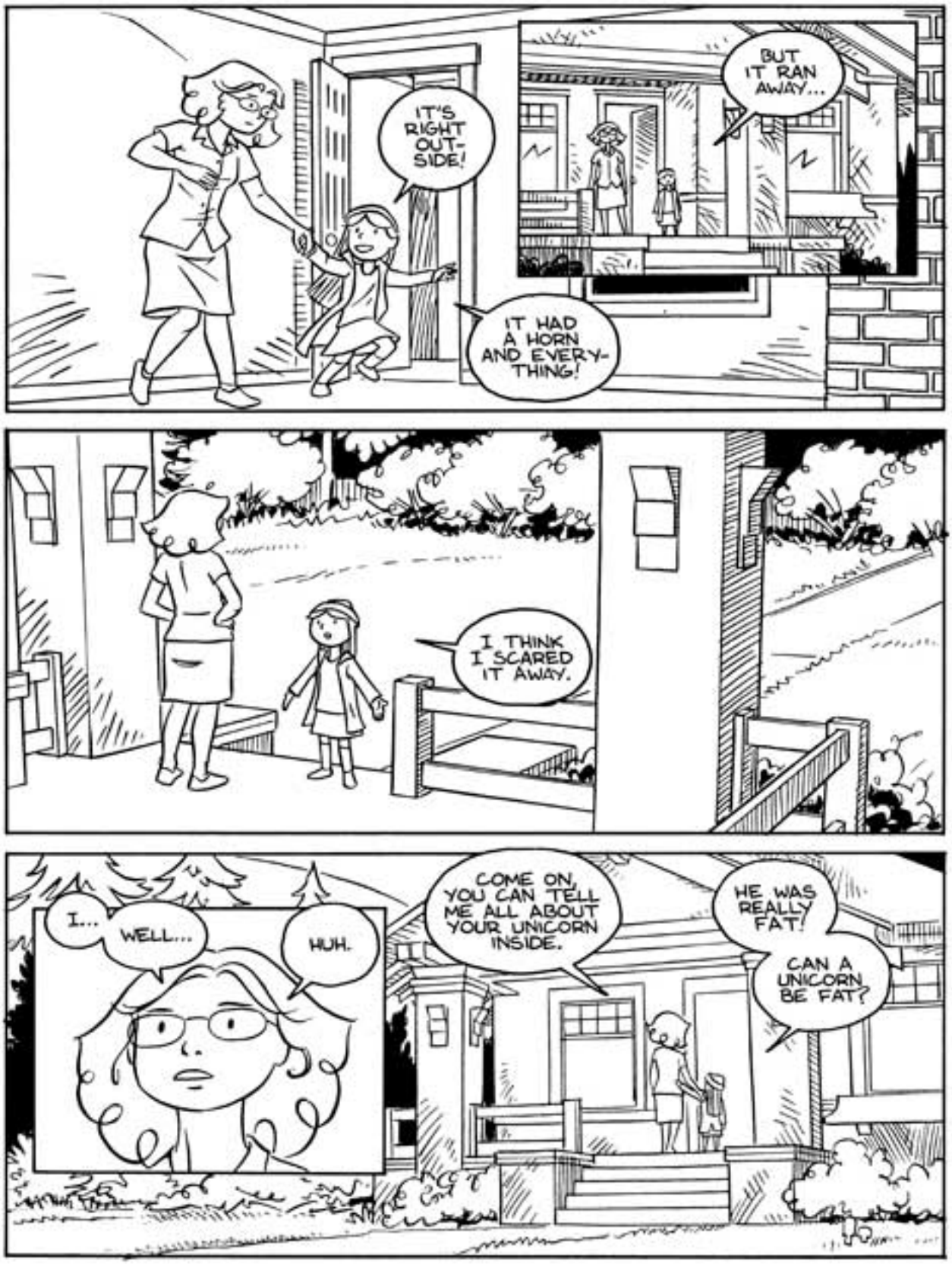

I DON'T KNOW. I'M JUST... WHY SET MYSELF UP FOR MORE DISAPPOINTMENT?
YOU DON'T HAVE TO SETTLE FOR THAT. YOU'RE A GOOD DUDE! MAYBE IT'S TIME TO GO FOR IT?
THE SIZE OF THE BOOK DOESN'T MAKE A DIFFERENCE!
INSERT INAPPRO-PRIATE COMMENT HERE.
IF YOU SAY SO. I'LL BE DOING GOOD TO GET THROUGH LIFE WITH MY DIGNITY INTACT.
THAT'S JUST GIVING UP, MY FRIEND. YOU CAN DO BETTER!
BETTER THAN WHAT? NONE OF US ARE DOING ANY BETTER!
WOULD YOU REALLY WANT TO TEMPT YOUR BLIGHTED HOPES AND DREAMS?
OK. WELL, I'M DONE. TIME TO GET BACK UP TO SCHOOL.
DON'T LISTEN TO THEM!
YOU GUYS NEED TO WORK ON YOUR PEP-TALKS.
WHAT? MY PEP-TALKS ARE THE BEST!
I'M FEELING PEPPIER ALREADY!

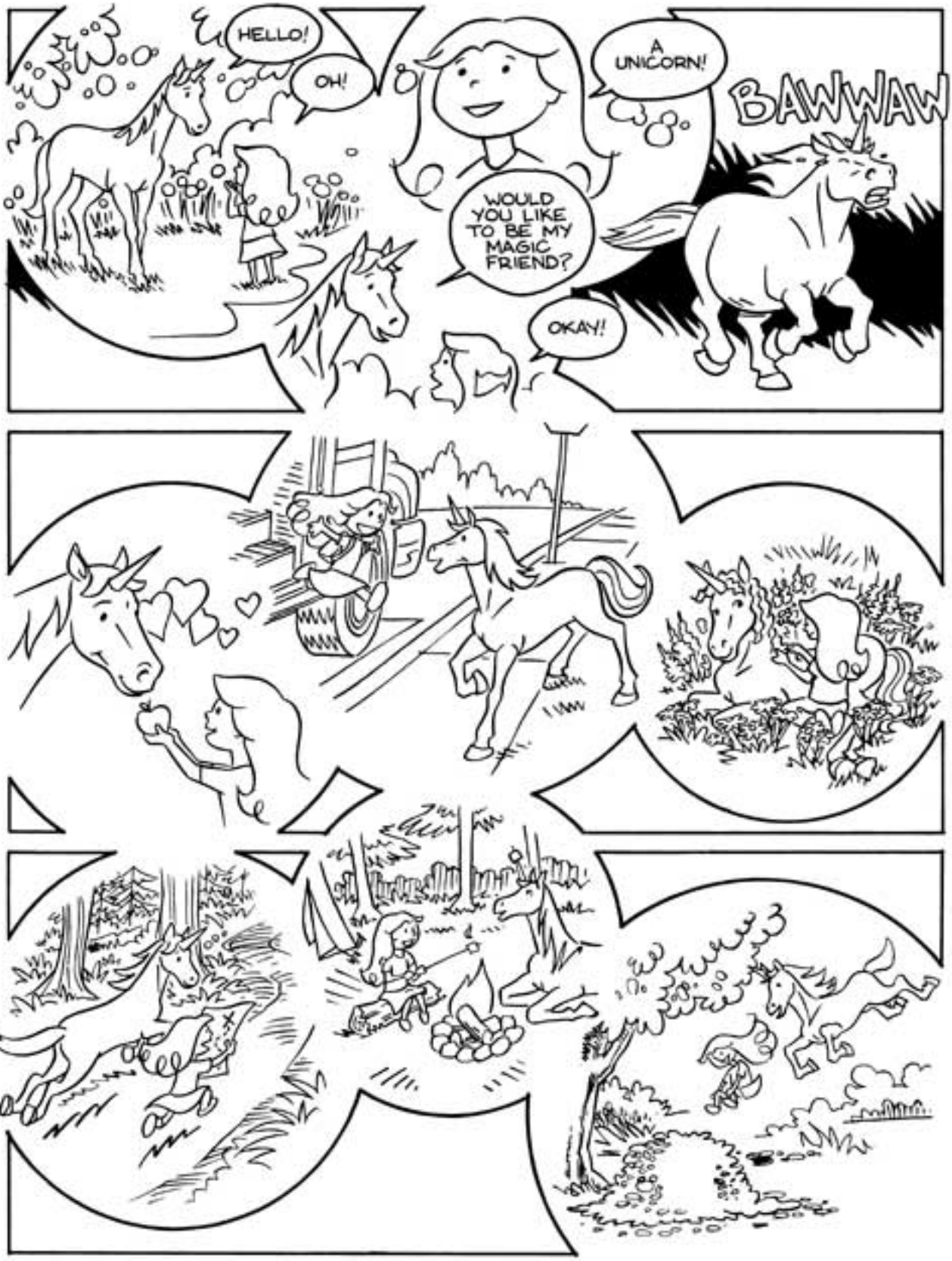

HORSESHO
RANCH ROOM
DON'T STAY HERE ALL DAY...
GET OUT. HAVE A LIFE.
WHAT WOULD WE DO THAT FOR?
HERALD BUILDING
GEEZ, THOSE GUYS.
I DON'T KNOW IF THEY CHEER ME UP OR BUM ME OUT.

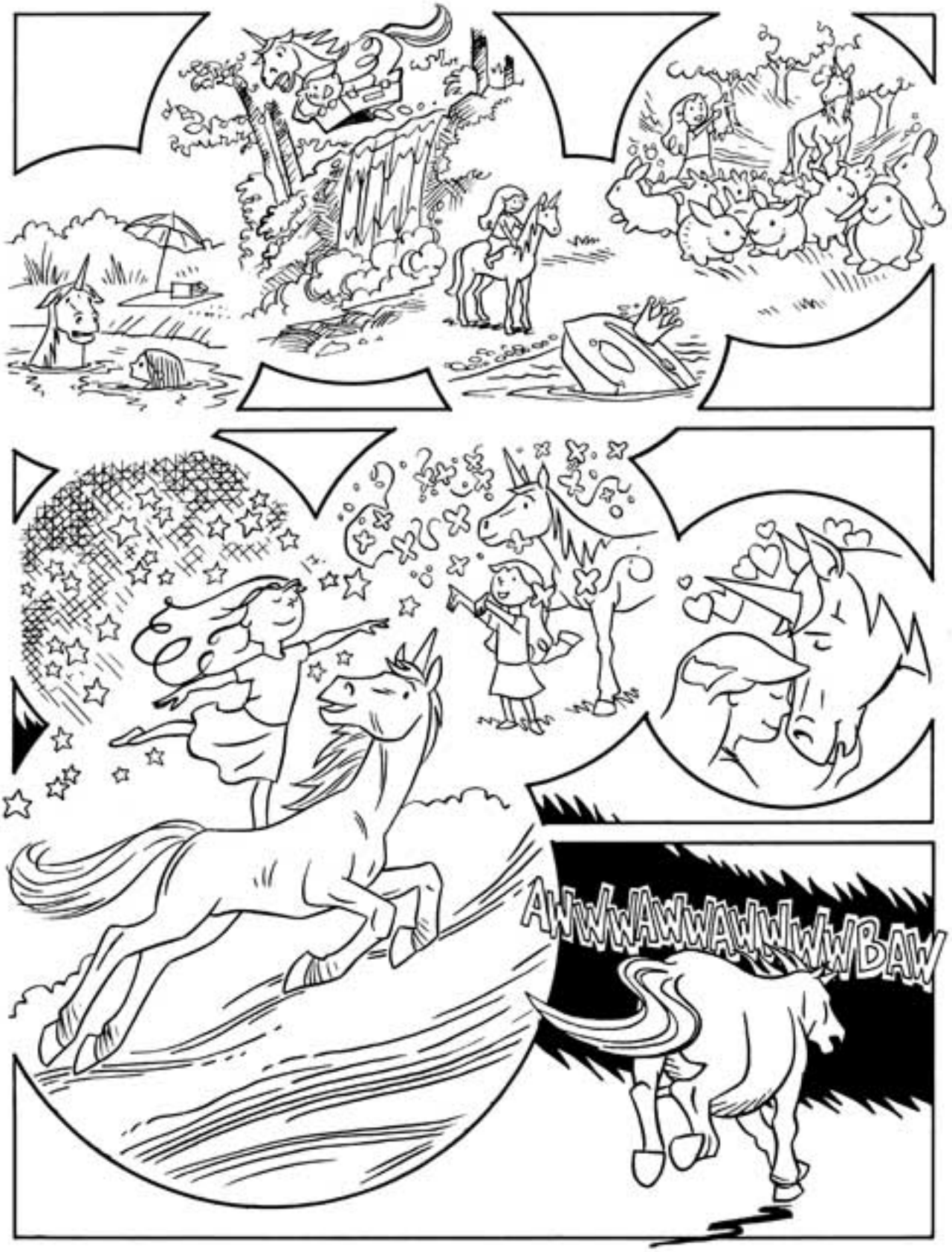



MAX..
A UNICORN!

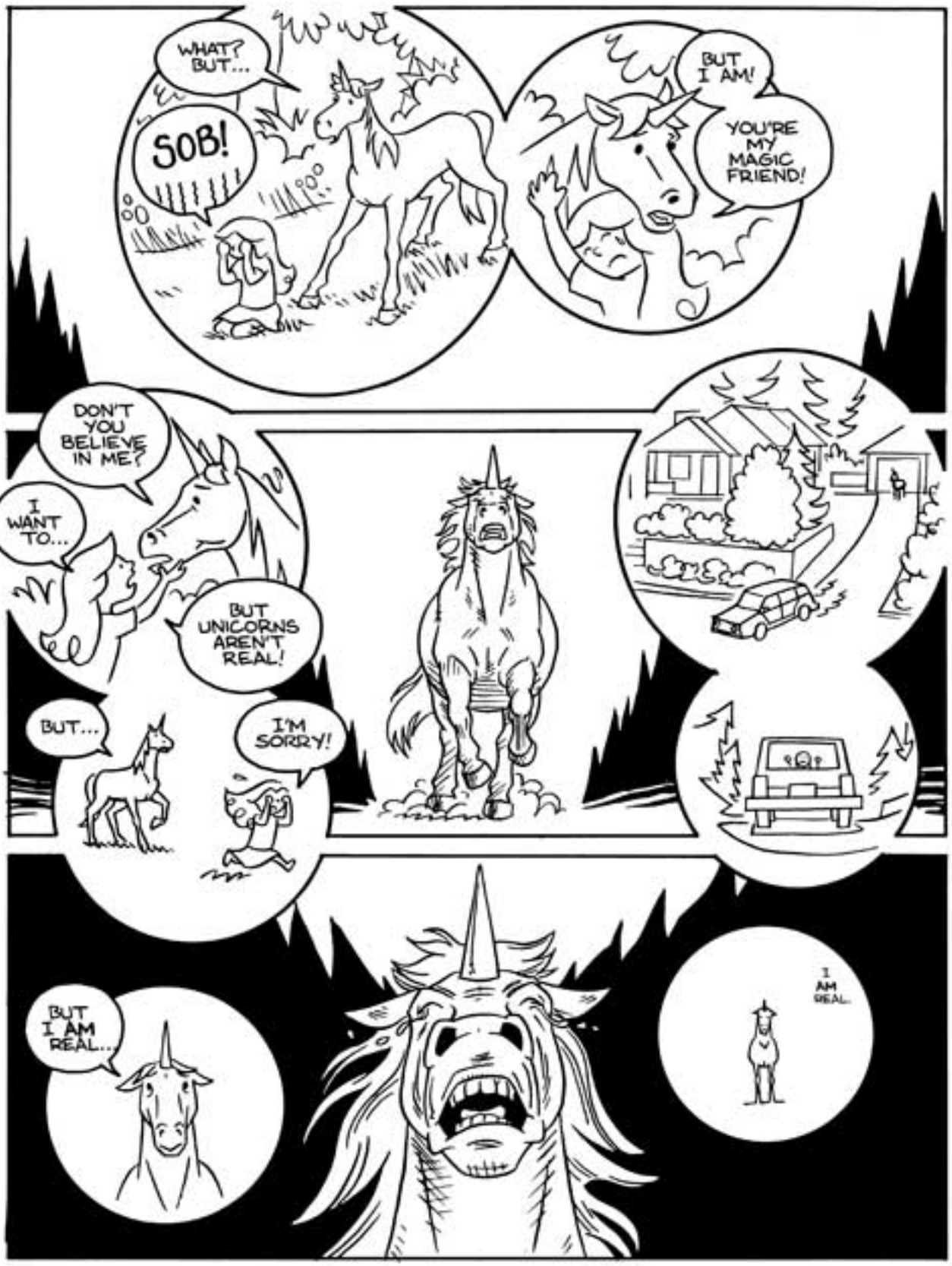

YOU'RE A PRETTY HORSIE
NEIIGH!
MOMMY! MOMMY!
MOMMY! THERE'S A UNICORN!
A WHAT?
IT WAS A REAL UNICORN!
I SAW IT!

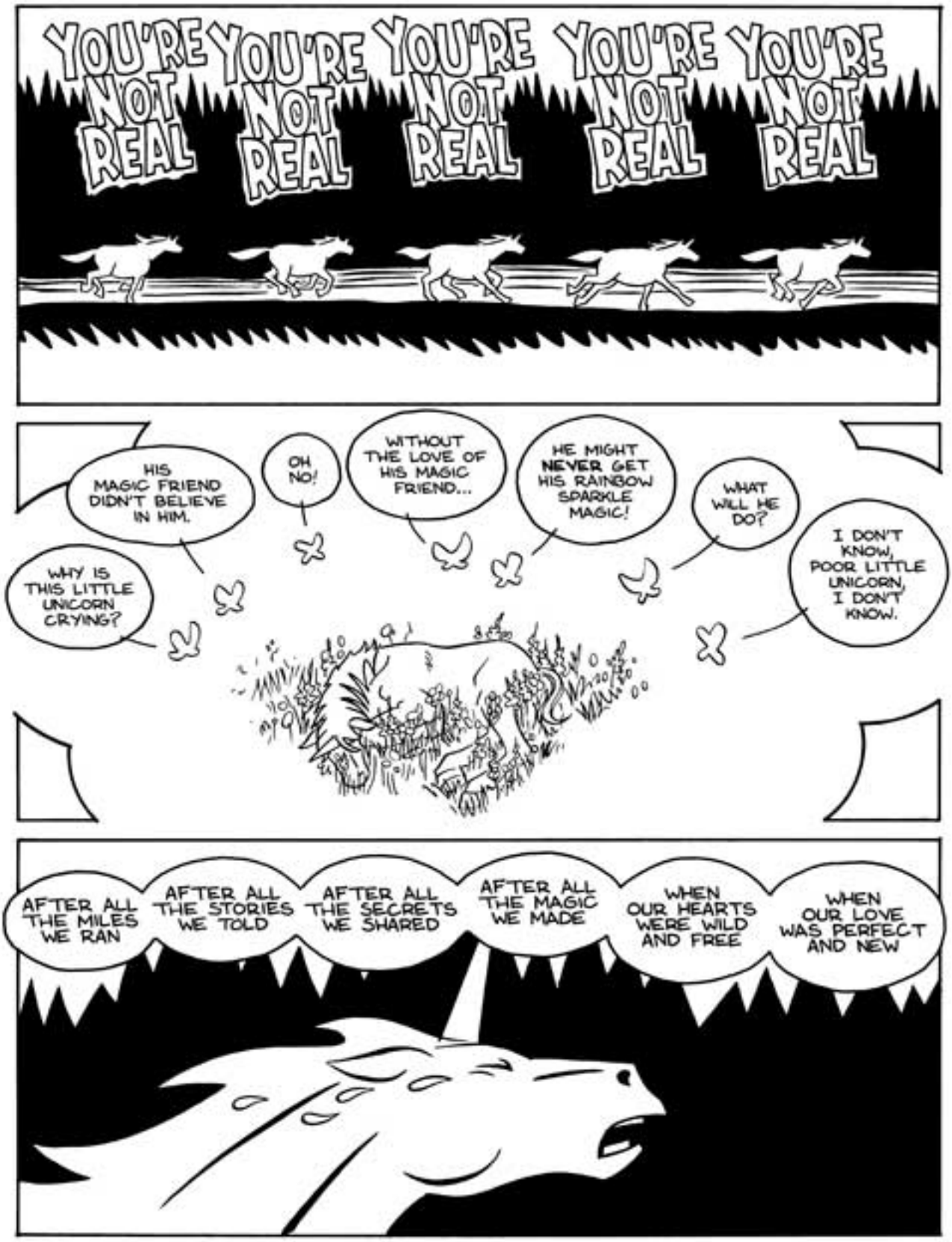

IT'S RIGHT OUT-SIDE!
BUT IT RAN AWAY...
IT HAD A HORN AND EVERY-THING!
I THINK I SCARED IT AWAY.
I... WELL...
HUH.
COME ON, YOU CAN TELL ME ALL ABOUT YOUR UNICORN INSIDE.
HE WAS REALLY FAT!
CAN A UNICORN BE FAT?


HELLO!
OH!
A UNICORN!
BAWWAW
WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE MY MAGIC FRIEND?
OKAY!

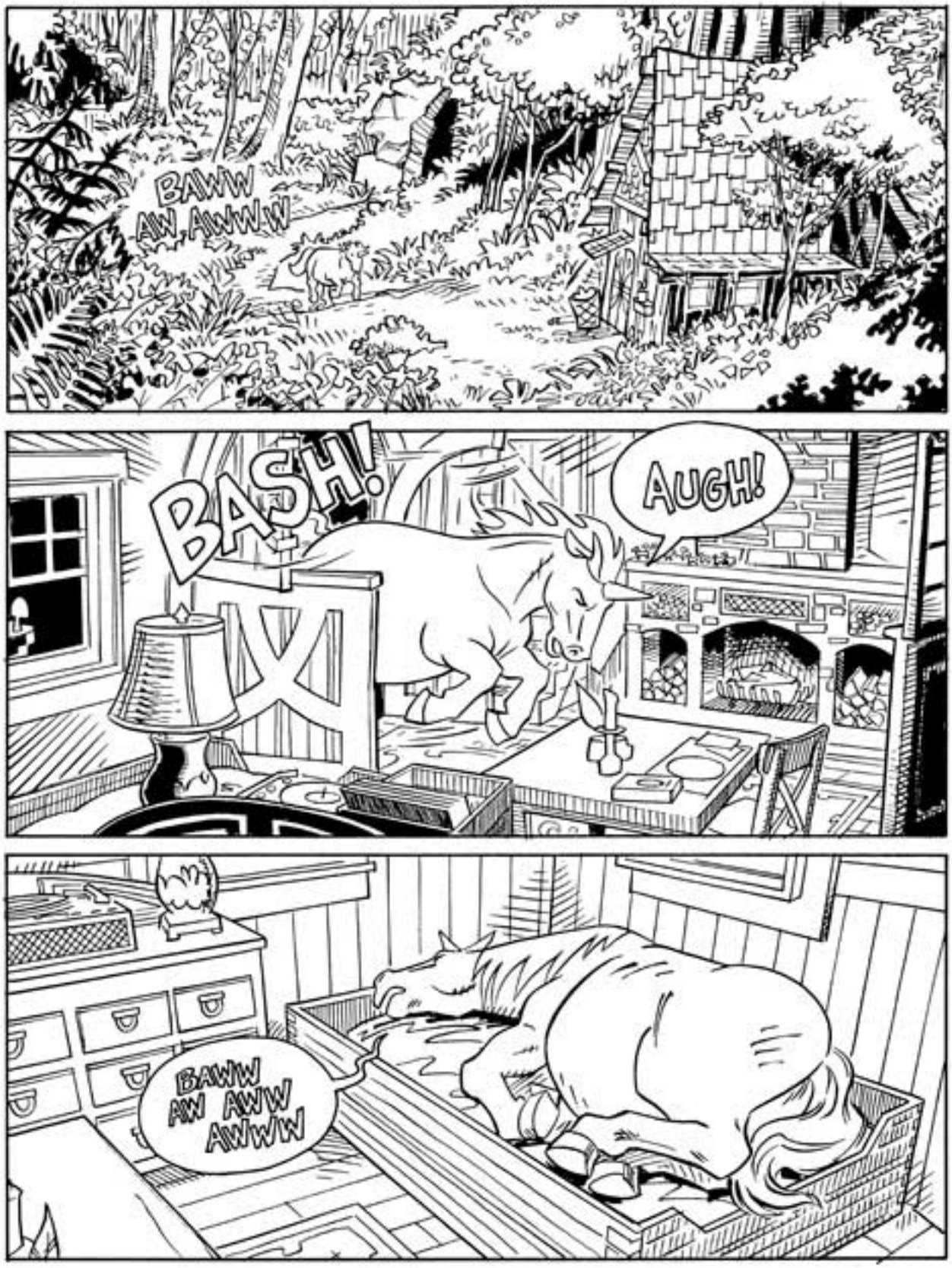

AWWWAWWAWWWWBAW


WAH!
WHAT'S WRONG?
I DON'T WANT TO GO!
I LIKE IT HERE!
MAMA SAID WE HAVE TO MOVE AWAY!
OH NO!
NO. I ASKED ALREADY.
HEY! IT'LL BE OKAY! I CAN COME WITH YOU!
BAWAWAWAW
SOB B-B B
WHAT? I'M YOUR MAGIC FRIEND!
I CAN BE WITH YOU ALWAYS!
N-N-NO YOU CAN'T! B-B-B
BECAUSE YOU'RE NOT REAL!


WHAT? BUT...
SOB!
BUT I AM!
YOU'RE MY MAGIC FRIEND!
DON'T YOU BELIEVE IN ME?
I WANT TO...
BUT UNICORNS AREN'T REAL!
BUT...
I'M SORRY!
BUT I AM REAL...
I AM REAL.

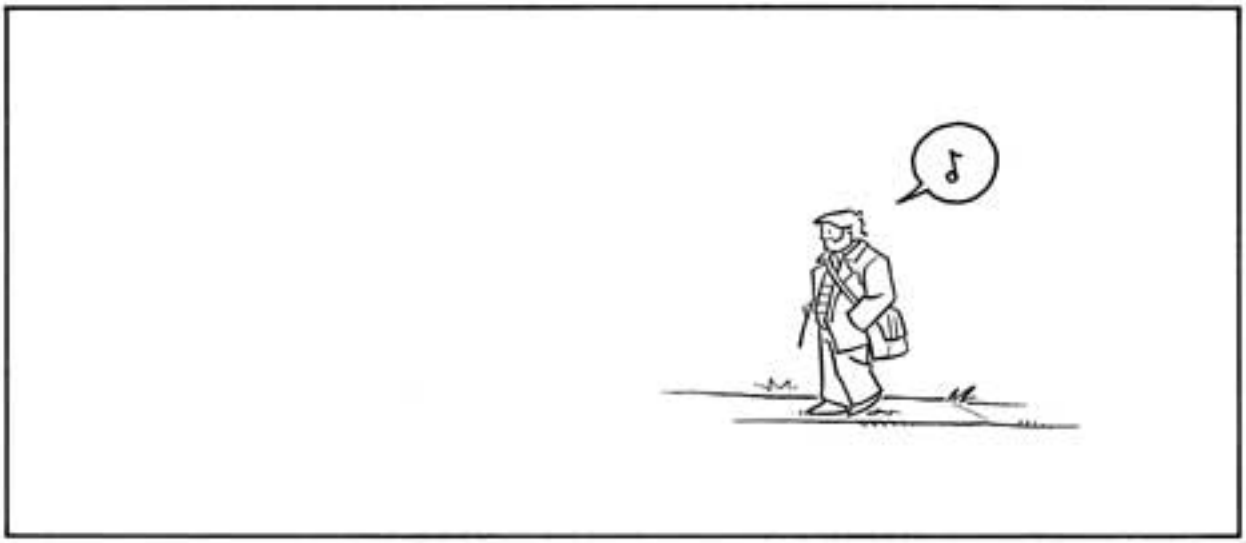

YOU'RE NOT REAL
YOU'RE NOT REAL
YOU'RE NOT REAL
YOU'RE NOT REAL
YOU'RE NOT REAL
WHY IS THIS LITTLE UNICORN CRYING?
HIS MAGIC FRIEND DIDN'T BELIEVE IN HIM.
OH NO!
WITHOUT THE LOVE OF HIS MAGIC FRIEND...
HE MIGHT NEVER GET HIS RAINBOW SPARKLE MAGIC!
WHAT WILL HE DO?
I DON'T KNOW, POOR LITTLE UNICORN, I DON'T KNOW.
AFTER ALL THE MILES WE RAN
AFTER ALL THE STORIES WE TOLD
AFTER ALL THE SECRETS WE SHARED
AFTER ALL THE MAGIC WE MADE
WHEN OUR HEARTS WERE WILD AND FREE
WHEN OUR LOVE WAS PERFECT AND NEW


WHY DIDN'T YOU BELIEVE IN ME?


BAWW
AW AWW
BASH!
AUGH!
BAWW
AW AWW
AWWW


MAX...


WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN?








POSIES
?
BAWW AW AWW AWW


BAW AW W AW
HUNH.
NEVER NOTICED THAT HERE BEFORE.
I WALK THIS TRAIL ALL THE TIME.
HOW HAVE I MISSED THIS?
AWW AW AW


WOW. IT LOOKS LIKE THIS HAS BEEN HERE FOR A LONG TIME, TOO.
BAW AWAW
WHAT'S THAT?
IS THERE SOMEBODY IN THERE?
HELLO?
ANYBODY HOME?


!
HEY, BOSS! HEADS UP!
HUH? WHA?
A UNICORN..

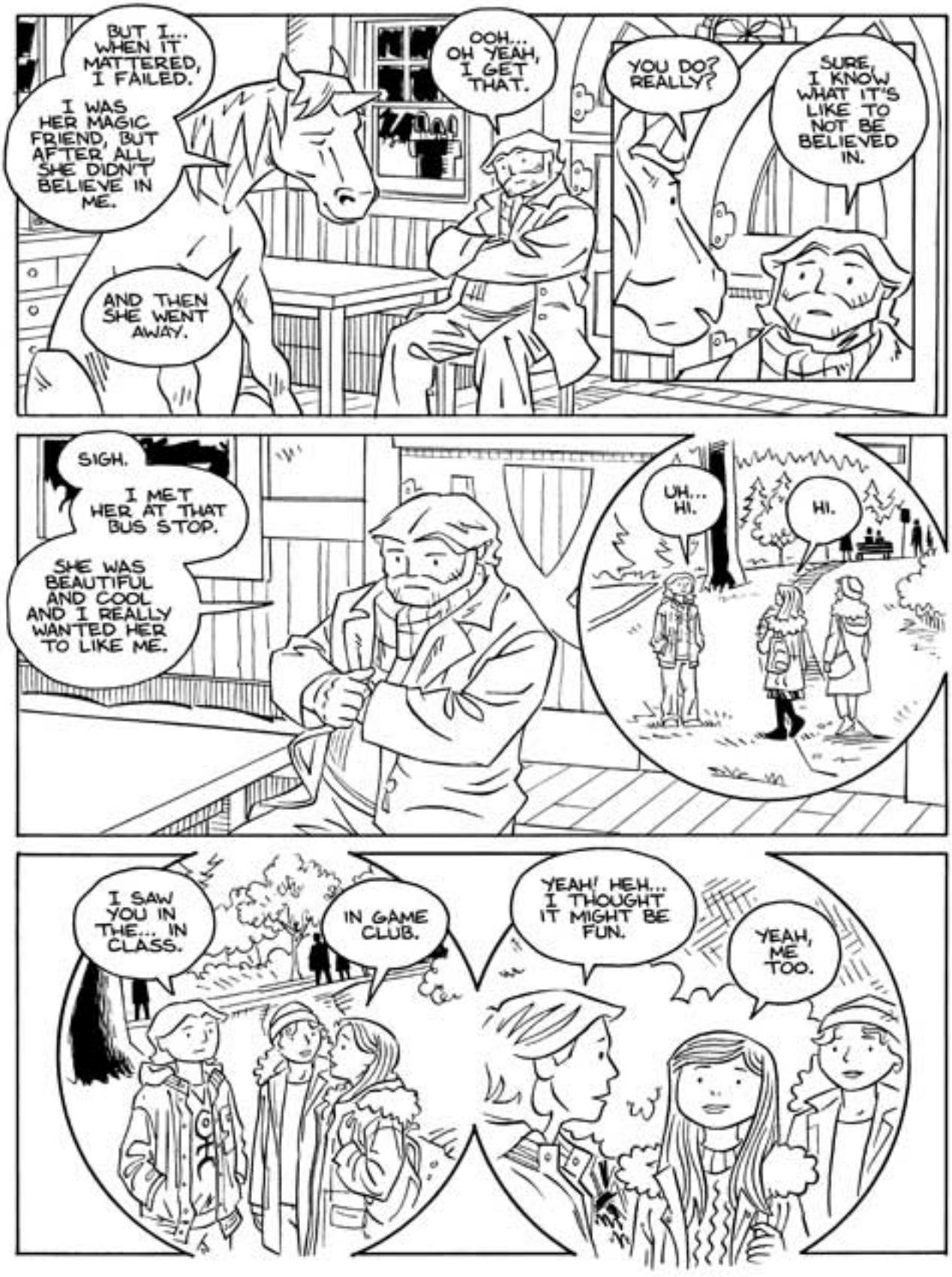

AAK!
CRASH!
GAH!
!!!
OOF!
BUMP!
SKOOT!
TINK
OKAY. I AM A RATIONAL MAN. I AM NOT INSANE.
I AM STANDING. IN A HOUSE. WITH A UNICORN.
ARGH!
YOU!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

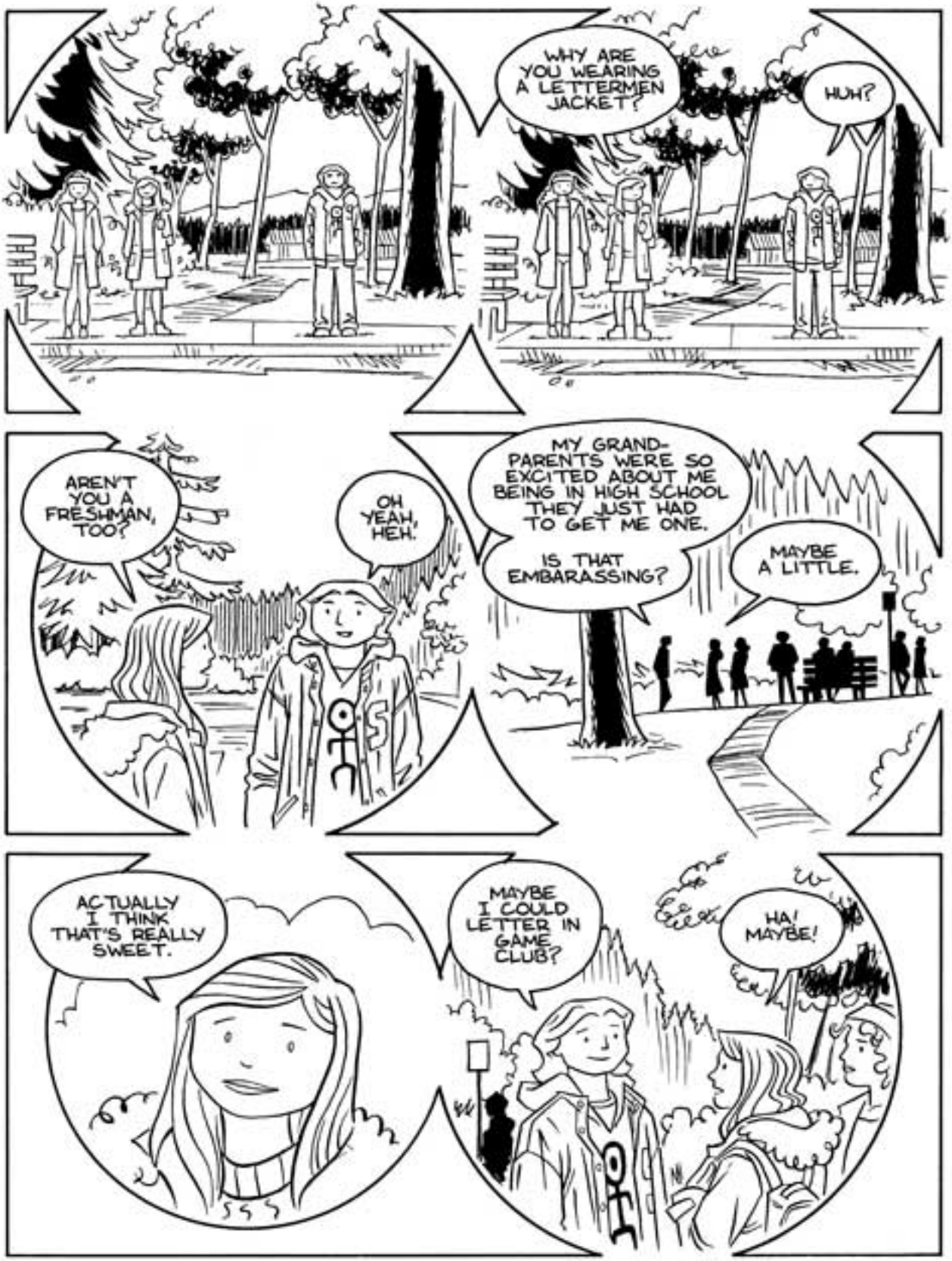

BLINK
BLINK
I WAS WALKING ON THE TRAIL.
AND I HEARD SOME-THING.
I'VE NEVER SEEN THIS PLACE HERE BEFORE
PEOPLE AREN'T VERY OBSERVANT.
I'M TALKING TO A UNICORN.
YEAH! LUCKY YOU!
HAVE YOU BEEN CRYING, MR. UNICORN?
N-NO?
MAYBE?

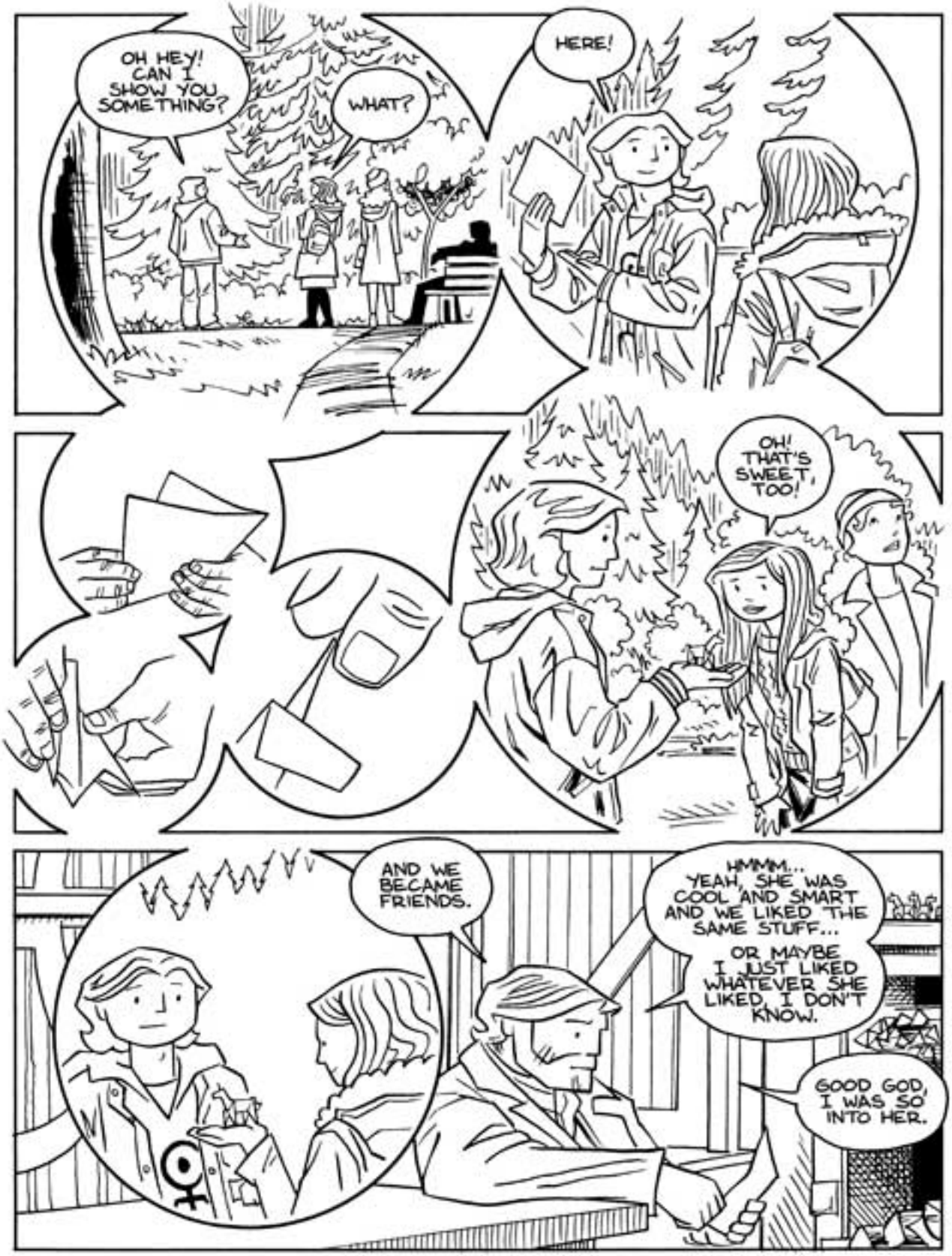

I HAD A BAD DAY.
UNICORNS HAVE BAD DAYS?
WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT UNICORNS?
I... UH...
SORRY, NO. NO THEY DON'T.
JUST ME.
SOMEBODY WHO WAS... WHO WAS VERY IMPORTANT TO ME...
SHE...
SHE DIDN'T BELIEVE IN ME.


WE WERE MAGIC FRIENDS WHEN WE WERE LITTLE.
MAGIC FRIENDS?
YEAH, THAT'S...
IT'S HARD TO EXPLAIN.
LIKE IMAGINARY FRIENDS?
NO! DAMNIT! I'M REAL!
SORRY, MR. UNICORN, I DIDNT MEAN...
SIGH...
NO, MORE LIKE THE TIGER FROM CALVIN AND HOBBES.
HOBBES?
YEAH, WATTERSON GETS IT.


CALVIN IS INTELLIGENT AND SENSITIVE. HE'S ALSO QUITE LONESOME.
KIDS WITH MAGIC FRIENDS LIKE THAT ARE USUALLY PRETTY UPSET ABOUT SOMETHING.
WITH CALVIN, I THINK HE SENSES THE AMBIVALENCE HIS PARENTS FEEL ABOUT HIM.
THEY KIND OF MISS THE TIMES BEFORE THEY HAD HIM.
AND CALVIN KNOWS IT.
HE THINKS THEY DON'T LOVE HIM.
WELL, CRAP.
THAT CARTOON'S RUINED FOR ME NOW.
MAGIC FRIENDS KEEP THAT KIND OF DISAPPOINTMENT AWAY, SO KIDS CAN HAVE THEIR HAPPY CHILDHOODS.
THAT'S UNICORN MAGIC.


BUT I... WHEN IT MATTERED, I FAILED.
I WAS HER MAGIC FRIEND, BUT AFTER ALL SHE DIDN'T BELIEVE IN ME.
AND THEN SHE WENT AWAY.
OOH... OH YEAH, I GET THAT.
YOU DO? REALLY?
SURE, I KNOW WHAT IT'S LIKE TO NOT BE BELIEVED IN.
SIGH.
I MET HER AT THAT BUS STOP.
SHE WAS BEAUTIFUL AND COOL AND I REALLY WANTED HER TO LIKE ME.
UH... HI.
HI.
I SAW YOU IN THE... IN CLASS.
IN GAME CLUB.
YEAH! HEH... I THOUGHT IT MIGHT BE FUN.
YEAH, ME TOO.


WHY ARE YOU WEARING A LETTERMEN JACKET?
HUH?
AREN'T YOU A FRESHMAN, TOO?
OH YEAH, HEH.
MY GRAND-PARENTS WERE SO EXCITED ABOUT ME BEING IN HIGH SCHOOL THEY JUST HAD TO GET ME ONE.
IS THAT EMBARASSING?
MAYBE A LITTLE.
ACTUALLY I THINK THAT'S REALLY SWEET.
MAYBE I COULD LETTER IN GAME CLUB?
HA! MAYBE!


OH HEY! CAN I SHOW YOU SOMETHING?
WHAT?
HERE!
OH! THAT'S SWEET, TOO!
AND WE BECAME FRIENDS.
HMMM... YEAH, SHE WAS COOL AND SMART AND WE LIKED THE SAME STUFF...
OR MAYBE I JUST LIKED WHATEVER SHE LIKED, I DON'T KNOW.
GOOD GOD, I WAS SO INTO HER.


AFTER FOUR YEARS OF HANGING OUT WITH HER, I WAS ABSOLUTELY CONVINCED THAT I WAS IN LOVE.
I HAD TO TELL HER! WHEN YOU'RE IN LOVE WITH A GIRL, YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO TELL HER!
THAT DIDN'T GO WELL...
I LOVE YOU!
YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT.


EVERYTHING AFTER THAT WAS PRETTY MUCH A DISASTER.
YOU ONLY GET ONE SHOT AT FIRST LOVE. ONE SHOT BEFORE YOU LEARN HOW IT CAN ALL GO WRONG.
IF YOU MESS UP. IF IT DOESN'T WORK. IF YOU LET YOUR LIFE GO BY, LIKE I DID...
WELL THEN, MAYBE LOVE ISN'T EVEN POSSIBLE ANYMORE.
DON'T YOU NEED TO FALL IN LOVE BEFORE YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT DISAPPOINTMENT IS ALL ABOUT?
DON'T YOU NEED THAT EXPERIENCE IN ORDER TO FALL IN LOVE AGAIN?
IF YOU'VE NEVER LOVED THAT RECKLESSLY, YOU MAY NEVER, WELL...
YOU JUST MAY NEVER.
IT KIND OF WORKS THAT WAY FOR UNICORNS, TOO,
IF YOUR MAGIC FRIEND DOESN'T BELIEVE IN YOU, THAT'S IT. YOU'RE NOT A MAGIC UNICORN.
YOU'RE JUST A DUMB OLD NOTHING UNICORN.
ME.

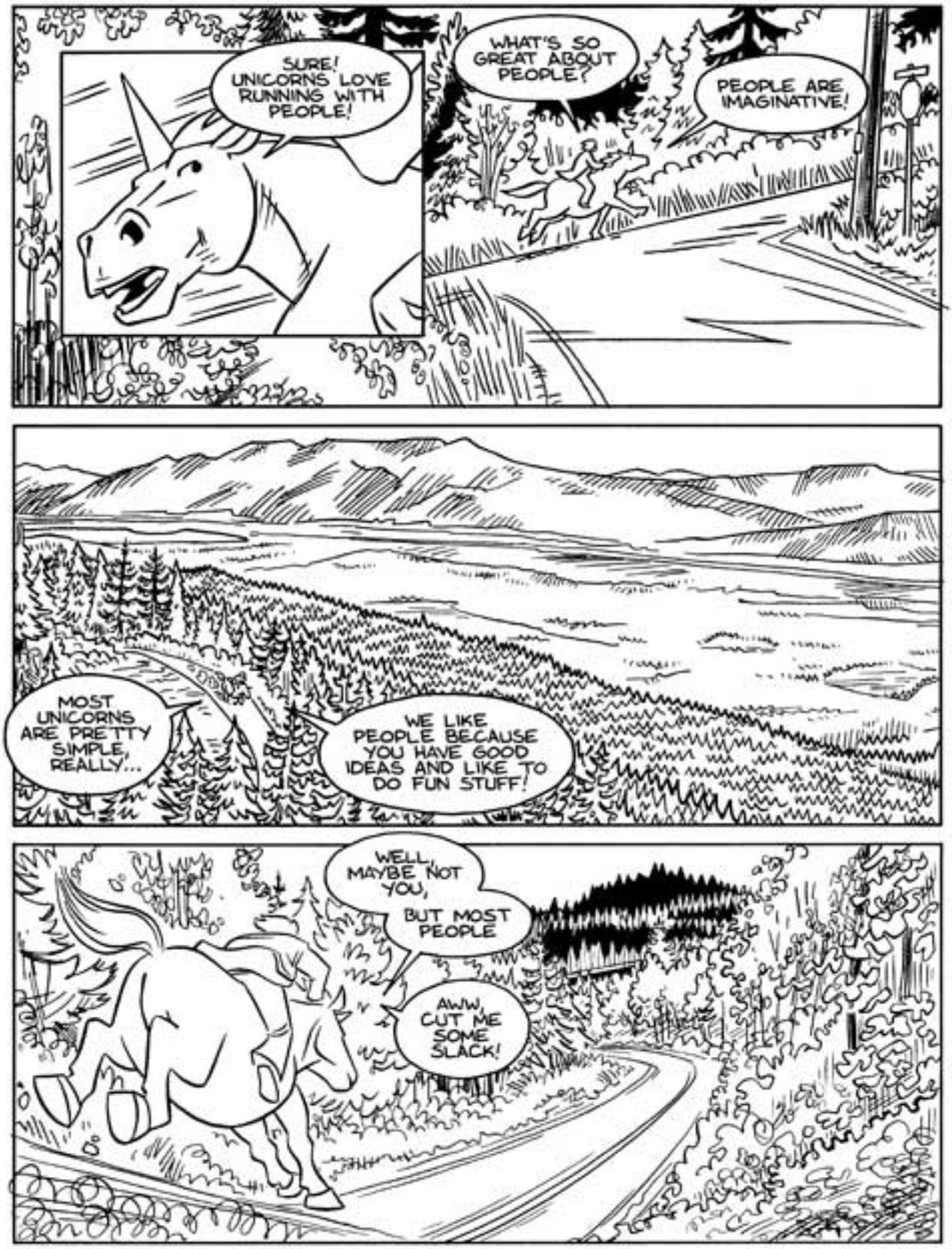

WHEN MY MAGIC FRIEND WENT AWAY, I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT TO DO.
WHAT'S A UNICORN WITH NO RAINBOW SPARKLE MAGIC SUPPOSED TO DO?
UNICORNS DON'T HAVE JOBS, REALLY.
WHAT DO MAGIC UNICORNS DO?
YOU KNOW, FROLIC AND MAKE RAINBOWS, AND...
STUFF...
YOU DON'T REALLY KNOW, DO YOU?
NO. NOT REALLY. THE OTHER UNICORNS TALK ABOUT IT ALL THE TIME, BUT I DON'T, REALLY.
I WAS OUT VISITING A BUNCH OF UNICORNS AND THEY WERE FROLICING ALL OVER THE PLACE AND I JUST DON'T GET IT.
THEY'RE NICE AND ALL, AND THEY WANT ME TO FROLIC, TOO. BUT THEIR IDEA OF CHEERING ME UP IS TO SAY,
"HEY! YOU'RE A UNICORN! WHOOP-DEE-DOO!"

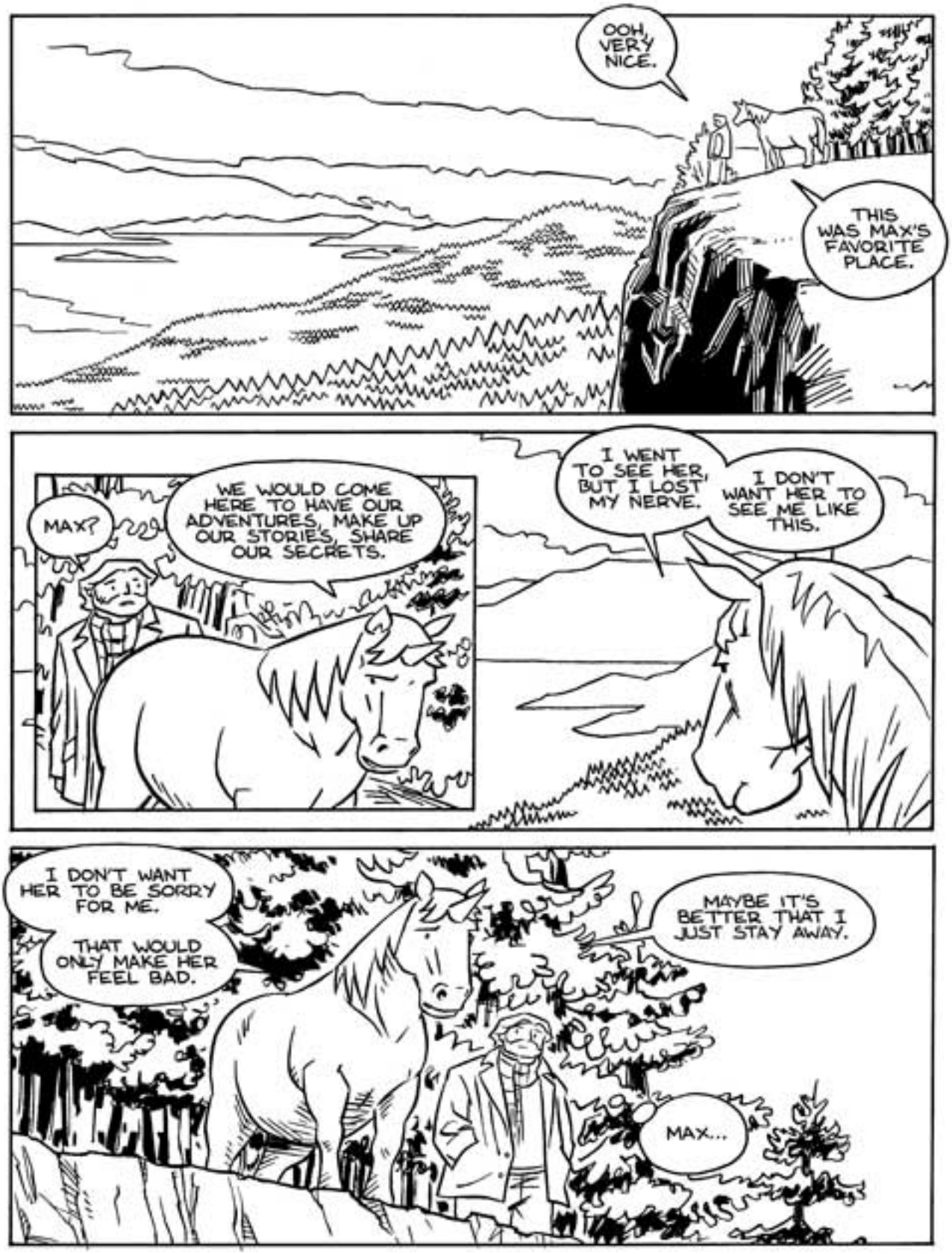

YEAH, YOU KNOW, MY FRIENDS DO THAT TOO...
"HEY! SNAP OUT OF IT! JUST GO FIND YOURSELF A GIRLFRIEND!"
AS IF IT WERE THAT EASY.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT RAINBOW SPARKLE MAGIC IS.
IT'S HOW UNICORNS MAKE RAINBOWS, BUT WHAT IS IT? I DON'T KNOW.
AND I'LL PROBABLY NEVER KNOW.
UNICORNS DON'T KNOW DISAPPOINTMENT, BUT I DO.
THAT'S WHY I'LL NEVER BE LIKE THE OTHER UNICORNS.
YEAH, I THINK I GET IT, MR. UNICORN.
SO YOU SAY.
HEH, WELL, HOW ABOUT THAT?
YEAH, PRETTY WEIRD.
SO YOU SAY.


WHEN DID SUBDUED EXCITEMENT BECOME A THING?
I THINK THAT'S THE GUY FROM ALADDIN'S LAMP.
YOU HEAR THAT?
YEAH, THIS IS GETTING DANGEROUS.
WHAT?
PEOPLE DON'T USUALLY NOTICE THIS PLACE.
BUT AS LONG AS YOU'RE HERE, THEY MIGHT.
HEY, YOU WANT TO GET OUT OF HERE?
LIKE, GO SOMEPLACE?
AAH... OKAY. WHAT DO YOU HAVE IN MIND?


HOOOLY CRAP!
AWW, RELAX, YOU PANSY!
YOU'RE WORSE THAN A SIX YEAR OLD GIRL.
IT'S JUST, I'VE NEVER RIDDEN A HORSE BEFORE!
I'M NOT A HORSE, I'M A UNICORN!
WELL, I'VE NEVER RIDDEN A UNICORN, EITHER!
YOU AIN'T SEEN NOTHING, YET!


I'M A UNICORN, I WON'T DROP YOU!
BUT WHAT IF... AAAH!!!
LEAN INTO IT, BUDDY!
AAAH!!!
HEE HEE!
HOW CAN YOU RUN SO FAST?
I FEEL LIKE YOU'RE GOING TO PEEL THE SKIN OFF MY FACE!
I LIKE MY FACE AS IT IS!
COME ON! LIVE A LITTLE! THIS IS UNICORN FUN!
FUN! THIS IS FUN?


SURE! UNICORNS LOVE RUNNING WITH PEOPLE!
WHAT'S SO GREAT ABOUT PEOPLE?
PEOPLE ARE IMAGINATIVE!
MOST UNICORNS ARE PRETTY SIMPLE, REALLY...
WE LIKE PEOPLE BECAUSE YOU HAVE GOOD IDEAS AND LIKE TO DO FUN STUFF!
WELL, MAYBE NOT YOU, BUT MOST PEOPLE
AWW, CUT ME SOME SLACK!


OOH, VERY NICE.
THIS WAS MAX'S FAVORITE PLACE.
MAX?
WE WOULD COME HERE TO HAVE OUR ADVENTURES, MAKE UP OUR STORIES, SHARE OUR SECRETS.
I WENT TO SEE HER, BUT I LOST MY NERVE.
I DON'T WANT HER TO SEE ME LIKE THIS.
I DON'T WANT HER TO BE SORRY FOR ME.
THAT WOULD ONLY MAKE HER FEEL BAD.
MAYBE IT'S BETTER THAT I JUST STAY AWAY.
MAX...


I DON'T KNOW HOW TO MAKE THINGS ANY BETTER. IT SEEMS FUTILE TO EVEN TRY.
HEH! YOU'RE KINDA LIKE EEYORE, AREN'T YOU?
A WHAT-WHO?
EEYORE, THE DONKEY FROM WINNIE THE POOH.
HE HAD THAT WHOLE MOPEY FUTILITY THING GOING ON, TOO.
"I WISH I COULD SAY YES, BUT I CAN'T..."
"IT'S ALL FOR NAUGHT..."
>SNORT< OKAY, I GUESS I CAN SEE THAT.
AND YOU'RE BOTH RATHER PORTLY EQUINE SPECIMENS...
ALL MY FRIENDS ARE BOOK NERDS.
DO YOU ALWAYS TALK LIKE THAT?
SO COME ON, HOW DO YOU HANDLE IT?
YOU SEEM AS BROKEN UP ABOUT YOUR GIRLFRIEND AS I AM ABOUT...
OH, YEAH, ABOUT THAT...

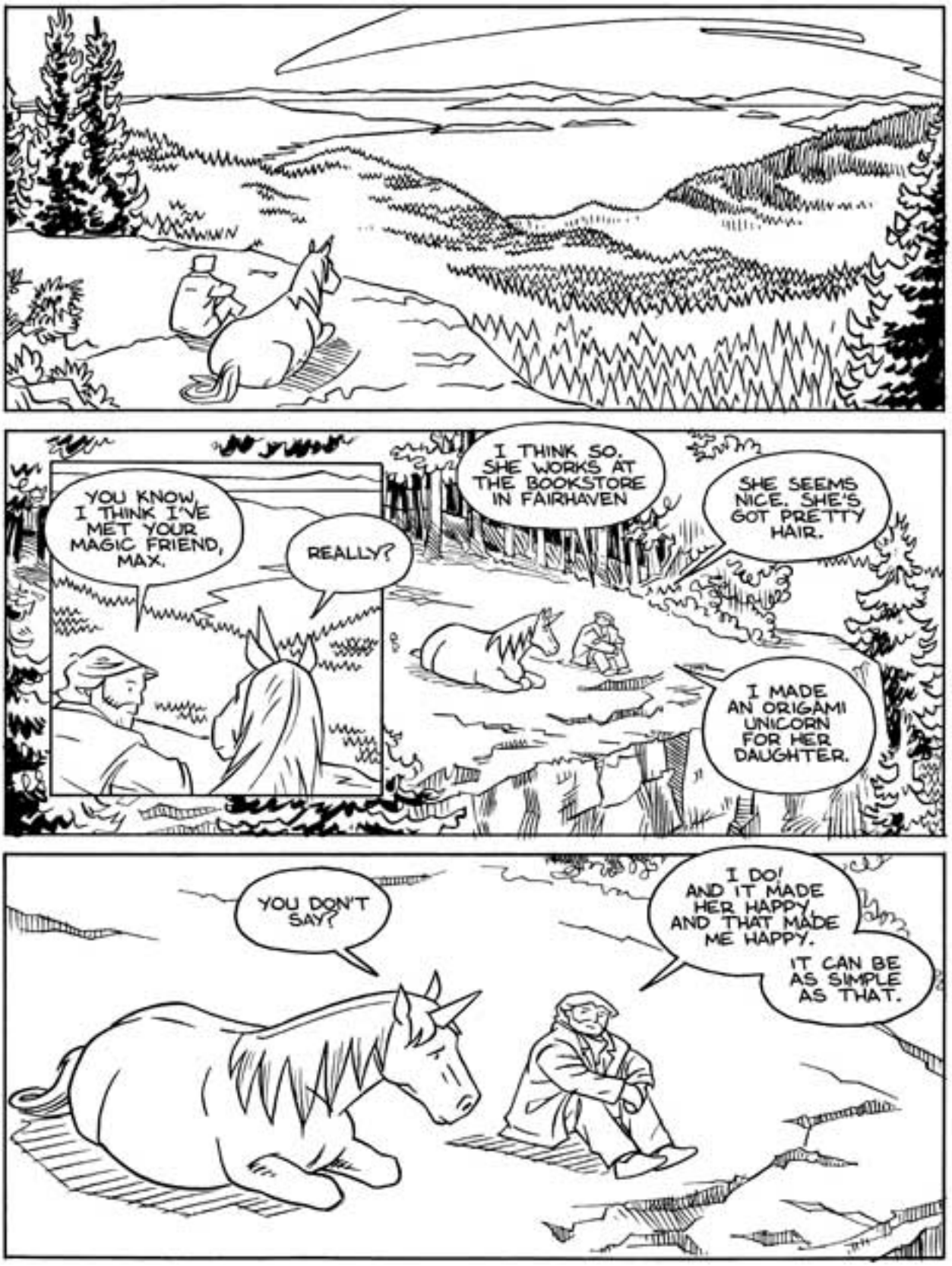

TRUTH IS, SHE WASN'T THAT INTO ME.
AND SHE WAS NEVER MY GIRLFRIEND.
OH SURE, I LIKED HER IMMEDIATELY.
I ASKED HER OUT RIGHT THERE AT THAT BUS STOP.
SHE TOOK OUT A DAILY PLANNER AND PENCILLED ME IN FOR TWO WEEKS FROM SATURDAY.
YEAH, NOT EXACTLY THE BEHAVIOR OF A GIRL WHO ACTUALLY WANTS TO GO OUT WITH YOU.
I SPENT A WEEK FREAKING OUT TRYING TO FIGURE OUT WHAT TO DO WITH HER.
GO TO A PIZZA JOYNT? PLAY A LITTLE SKEE-BALL?
I DON'T WANT TO GO OUT WITH YOU.
I HAD NO IDEA.
I NEEDN'T HAVE WORRIED. SHE CALLED IT OFF A WEEK LATER.


THAT SHOULD HAVE BEEN IT, BUT WE WENT TO THE SAME SCHOOL! FOR FOUR YEARS! I SAW HER ALL THE TIME!
WE BECAME FRIENDS EVENTUALLY. MAYBE. BUT NO. NO. SHE WASN'T THAT INTO ME. NOT EVER.
I WAS CRUSHED OUT ON HER. THAT'S ALL THERE WAS TO IT.
WHY DID IT TAKE ME SO LONG TO SEE IT?
NOT JUST THAT THERE NEVER WILL BE, BUT THAT THERE NEVER REALLY WAS.
THERE NEVER WAS...
ALL THAT TIME, WAS I EVER REALLY THINKING ABOUT HER?
WASN'T I JUST THINKING ABOUT MYSELF? WHAT I WANTED?
I WASN'T LISTENING...


UGH! WHAT A FUCKING MISTAKE.
ALL OF IT.
AND LOOK AT ME NOW. I DID THIS TO MYSELF.
I WISH I HADN'T PUT THIS ON HER.
SHE DIDN'T ASK FOR THIS.
I STILL MISS HER.
I WISH SHE WERE IN MY LIFE AGAIN.
BUT I UNDERSTAND WHY SHE IS NOT.
WHO COULD BLAME HER? I'M JUST A STUPID GUY WHO HAD A STUPID CRUSH ON HER AND WOULDN'T LET IT GO.
WHAT COULD I POSSIBLY HAVE TO SAY TO HER NOW BUT THAT I'M SORRY?
I'M SO SORRY.


SO HOW DO I HANDLE IT?
WELL, I STILL WANT TO BE A GOOD MAN.
I KNOW THAT I'M NOT GOING TO FALL IN LOVE, GET MARRIED, HAVE CHILDREN OF MY OWN.
PEOPLE SAY MAYBE I WILL, BUT I KNOW THAT'S NOT HAPPENING.
I STILL HAVE TO GET UP IN THE MORNING AND GET ON WITH IT LIKE EVERYBODY ELSE. THAT'S LIFE.
I TALK ABOUT GETTING THROUGH LIFE WITH MY DIGNITY INTACT.
I MEAN I DON'T WANT TO CAUSE ANY TROUBLE OR MAKE ANY MORE BIG MISTAKES LIKE THAT.
I WANT TO BE ABLE TO LOOK MYSELF IN THE MIRROR AND KNOW THAT I'M NOT MAKING ANYBODY FEEL SORRY FOR ME.
I WANT TO TO BE BETTER THAN THAT.


NOW I'M JUST GOING TO AMUSE MY FRIENDS AND MAKE CHILDREN SMILE.
I THINK THAT COULD BE ENOUGH.
IF I JUST DO THAT AND NOTHING ELSE, THEN MAYBE I'LL BE ALRIGHT.
ONE OF MY FAVORITE WRITERS SAYS,
"THE UNHAPPY PERSON RESENTS IT WHEN YOU TRY TO CHEER HIM UP."
"THAT MEANS HE HAS TO STOP DWELLING ON HIMSELF AND START PAYING ATTENTION TO THE UNIVERSE."
SO I FIGURE IF I START PAYING ATTENTION TO THE UNIVERSE, THAT MAYBE I'LL START FEELING A LITTLE BETTER, TOO.
YOU'VE BEEN READING TOM ROBBINS.
THE POET OF THE GENIUS WAITRESS.
I LIKE HIS STYLE, HE'S GOT A WAY WITH WORDS.
YOU READ HIS STUFF, SO MAYBE TRY TAKING SOME OF WHAT HE HAS TO SAY TO HEART.


YOU KNOW, I THINK I'VE MET YOUR MAGIC FRIEND, MAX.
REALLY?
I THINK SO. SHE WORKS AT THE BOOKSTORE IN FAIRHAVEN
SHE SEEMS NICE. SHE'S GOT PRETTY HAIR.
I MADE AN ORIGAMI UNICORN FOR HER DAUGHTER.
YOU DON'T SAY?
I DO! AND IT MADE HER HAPPY, AND THAT MADE ME HAPPY.
IT CAN BE AS SIMPLE AS THAT.

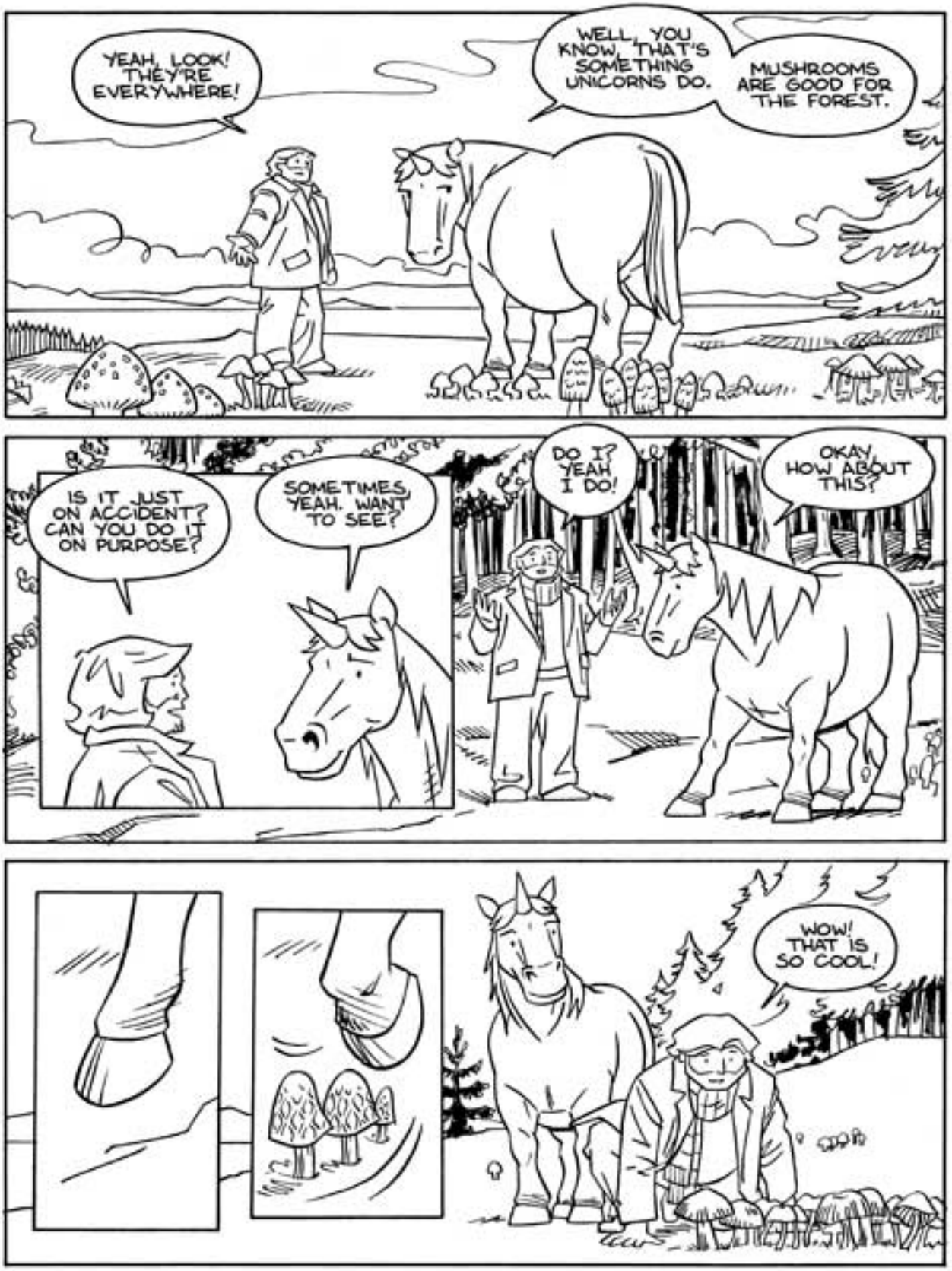

ALL THIS.. THIS SAD STUFF, YOU DON'T HAVE TO PAY SO MUCH ATTENTION TO IT.
YOU'RE HURTING BECAUSE THIS MOMENT IN YOUR LIFE DIDN'T TURN OUT THE WAY YOU HAD HOPED.
BUT THAT MOMENT? IT'S JUST A MOMENT
NOT ONLY ARE THERE GREAT JOYS TO BE FOUND IN LIFE, THERE ARE MANY.
FIRST LOVE IS ONE OF LIFES GREAT JOYS. AND IT'S A BIGGIE, NO DOUBT ABOUT IT.
BUT IT'S JUST ONE OF MANY.


CHILDHOOD IS ONE OF LIFE'S GREAT JOYS, ISN'T IT?
A TIME OF LIFE WHEN YOU ARE LIGHT ON YOUR FEET,
UNAWARE OF ANY TROUBLES BEYOND YOUR MOTHER'S ARMS AND THE BACKYARD FENCE.
LIGHT ON MY FEET?
OR HOOVES! YOU KNOW WHAT I'M TALKING ABOUT, MR. UNICORN!
YEAH..
WE ONLY GET TO EXPERIENCE THAT JOY FOR A SHORT TIME, AND THEN WE LEAVE IT BEHIND.
AND THEN WE ARE INTRODUCED TO THE JOYS OF SEEING THAT IN THE CHILDREN AROUND US.
THERE! LOOK AT THAT!
THERE IS NOTHING LIKE MAKING A LITTLE KID SMILE.
THAT SMILE IS THE PROMISE OF A HAPPY LIFE AND A BETTER WORLD!
THAT IS THE KINDEST, PUREST JOY I KNOW, AND THE NOBLEST CAUSE.


WE SEE HOW WONDERFUL LIFE CAN BE WHEN WE'RE SPENDING TIME WITH CHILDREN.
IS THERE ANY TIME OF LIFE AS DELIGHTFUL AS WHEN WE WERE JUST KIDS, CAUGHT UP IN OUR KID ADVENTURES?
I GOT A LUNKER!
YAY!
OF COURSE PHOENIX HAD TO DIE!
SHE DESTROYED A WHOLE PLANET OF BROCCOLI HEADED ALIENS!
PROBABLY A GREASEMAN ROUTINE
INAPPROPRIATE SOUND EFFECTS
READING X-MEN COMICS WITH MY BUDDIES AT THE OLD ALADDIN'S LAMP..
PLAYING WITH MY BROTHER AND SISTER ON THE BANKS OF OUR GRANDFATHER'S FISHING STREAM...
SORRY YOU BROKE YOUR ARM!
MY BROTHER AND I KNOWING ALL THE SAME DIRTY JOKES AND REPEATING THEM TO EACH OTHER CONSTANTLY..
ROLLER SKATING WITH MY SISTER ON THE DRIVEWAY ON LATE SUMMER AFTERNOONS...


LOOK AT THAT! WORK ON THAT!
TURN AWAY AS MUCH AS YOU CAN, FROM ALL THE UNHAPPY STUFF IN YOUR PAST.
LOOK TOWARD YOUR BETTER SELF. LOOK TO THE JOYS OF YOUR LIFE.
THERE ARE MANY JOYS IN LIFE, AND MANY MORE TO COME.
LOOK AT THAT.
WOW... NOW THAT'S PEOPLE MAGIC!
PEOPLE HAVE ALL THE BEST IDEAS.
PEOPLE MAGIC! HA HA! I LIKE THAT
SPEAKING OF WHICH...
WHAT'S ALL THIS ABOUT YOU NOT HAVING ANY MAGIC?
I MEAN- HEY! YOU'RE A UNICORN! WHOOP-DEE-DOO!
AWW, NUTS... HERE WE GO...


NO! REALLY! I'VE BEEN SEEING MAGIC SINCE THE MOMENT I MET YOU!
I MEAN, LIKE, WE RAN UP HERE IN, WHAT? TWO SECONDS!
UNICORNS RUN FAST. WHAT CAN I SAY?
WELL, WHAT ABOUT YOUR HOUSE?
IT'S RIGHT SMACK-DAB IN THE MIDDLE OF THE ARBORETUM, WITH TRAILS AND PEOPLE ALL OVER THE PLACE.
HOW DOES NOBODY SEE IT?
PEOPLE AREN'T VERY OBSERVANT.
THEY ALWAYS JUST LOOK THE OTHER WAY.
URG! OKAY THEN, WHAT ABOUT THE MUSHROOMS THAT SPROUT UP ALL AROUND YOU?
NOT MAGIC?
OH YEAH, I LIKE THE MUSHROOMS.


YEAH, LOOK! THEY'RE EVERYWHERE!
WELL, YOU KNOW, THAT'S SOMETHING UNICORNS DO.
MUSHROOMS ARE GOOD FOR THE FOREST.
IS IT JUST ON ACCIDENT? CAN YOU DO IT ON PURPOSE?
SOMETIMES, YEAH. WANT TO SEE?
DO I? YEAH I DO!
OKAY, HOW ABOUT THIS?
WOW! THAT IS SO COOL!


HEH HEH, I CAN MAKE COOLER ONES, TOO.
OO! LET'S SEE!
UHH... DUDE, YOU MIGHT WANT TO BE CAREFUL WITH THAT.
WOW! THAT'S SO AMAZING!
OOOOOH WOAH...

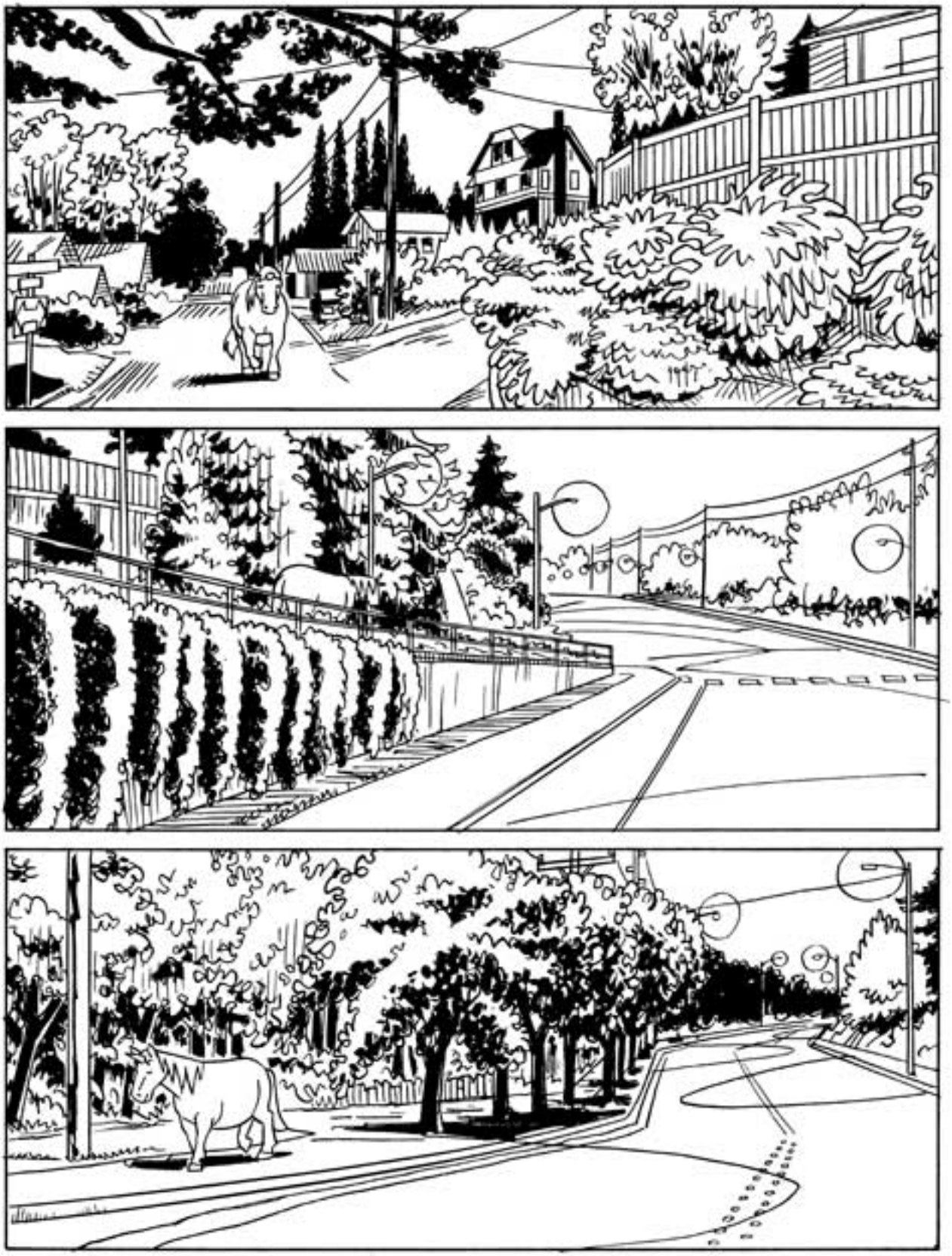

WHOOO
AAAAAAAAAAAA
RAINBOW

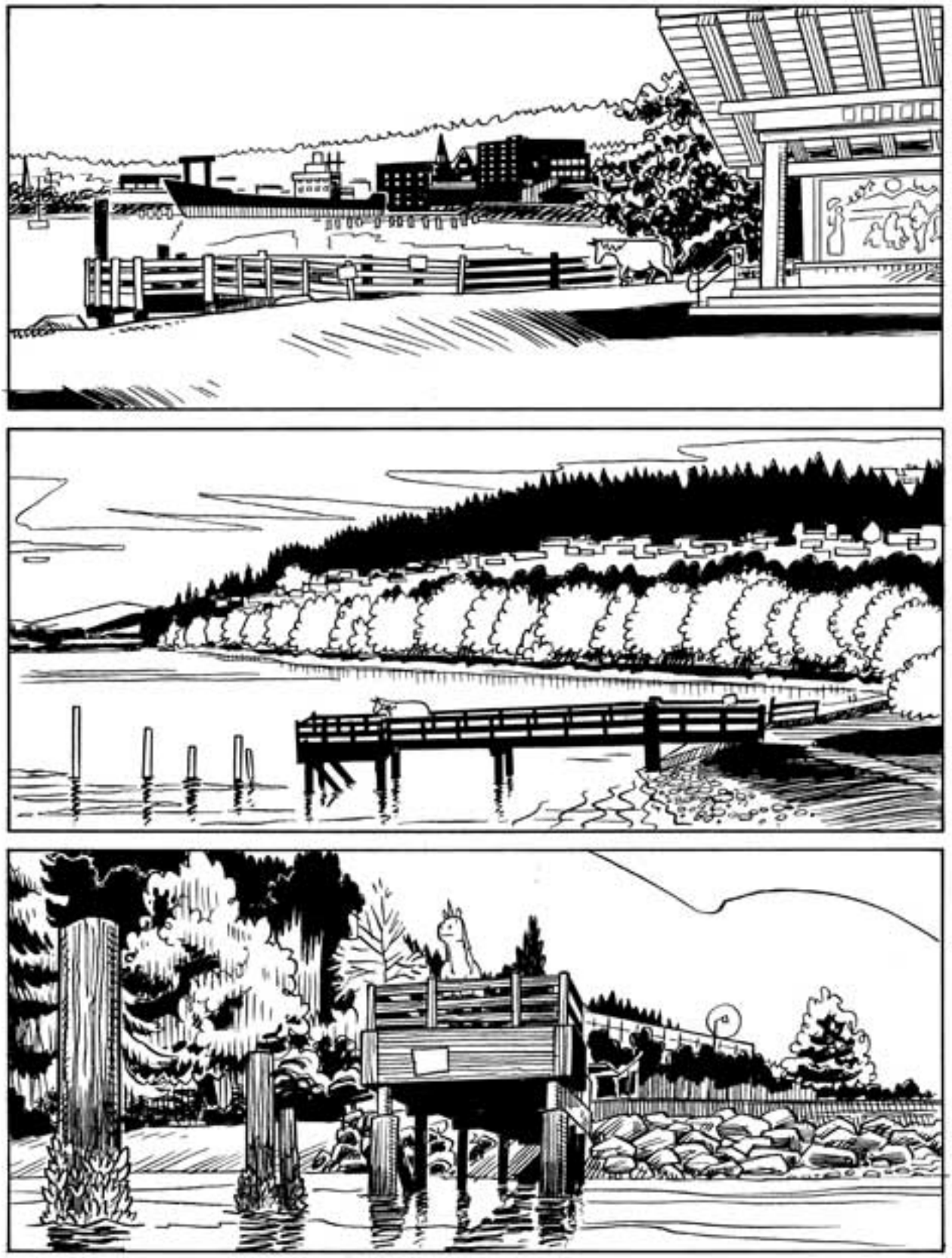

SPARKLE
MAGIC
AH NUTS

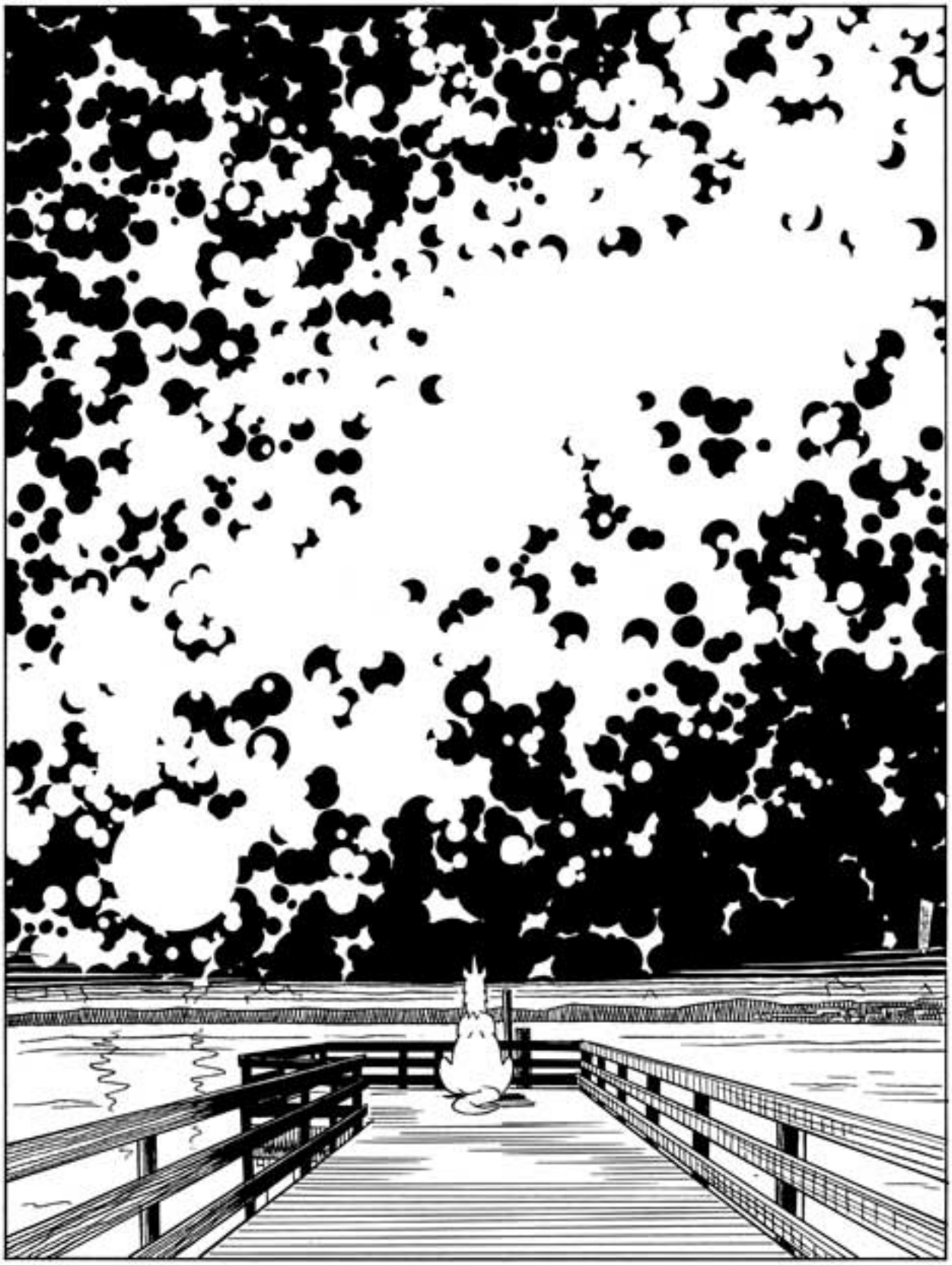

THANKS FOR BRINGING ME HOME, MR. UNICORN.
YOU HUFFED A MIGHTY LUNGFUL, BUDDY, BUT YOU'LL BE OKAY.
MMM...
UNICORNS SMELL LIKE APPLESAUCE.
AGH! FOR CRYING OUT LOUD, REALLY?
I LIKE APPLESAUCE. THAT'S GOOD STUFF.
I LIKE APPLESAUCE WITH CINNAMON.
OR ON PANCAKES.
DO YOU LIKE PANCAKES, MR. UNICORN?
YEAH, I LIKE PANCAKES.
WHO DOESN'T LIKE PANCAKES?
WITH APPLE-SAUCE?
I DON'T KNOW ABOUT THAT.


OOOH... WOW. HEY, YOU WANT TO HANG OUT AGAIN SOMETIME?
SURE, COME BY ANYTIME YOU LIKE.
JUST LOOK THE OTHER WAY WHEN YOU GET THERE AND YOU'LL FIND IT.
RIGHT ON...
YOU KNOW, IT'S COOL TO HAVE A UNICORN FOR A FRIEND.
PAY ATTENTION TO THE UNIVERSE, MR. UNICORN.
YOU CAN BE HAPPY, TOO.
YEAH, WELL, IT'S COOL TO HAVE A PEOPLE FRIEND, TOO.

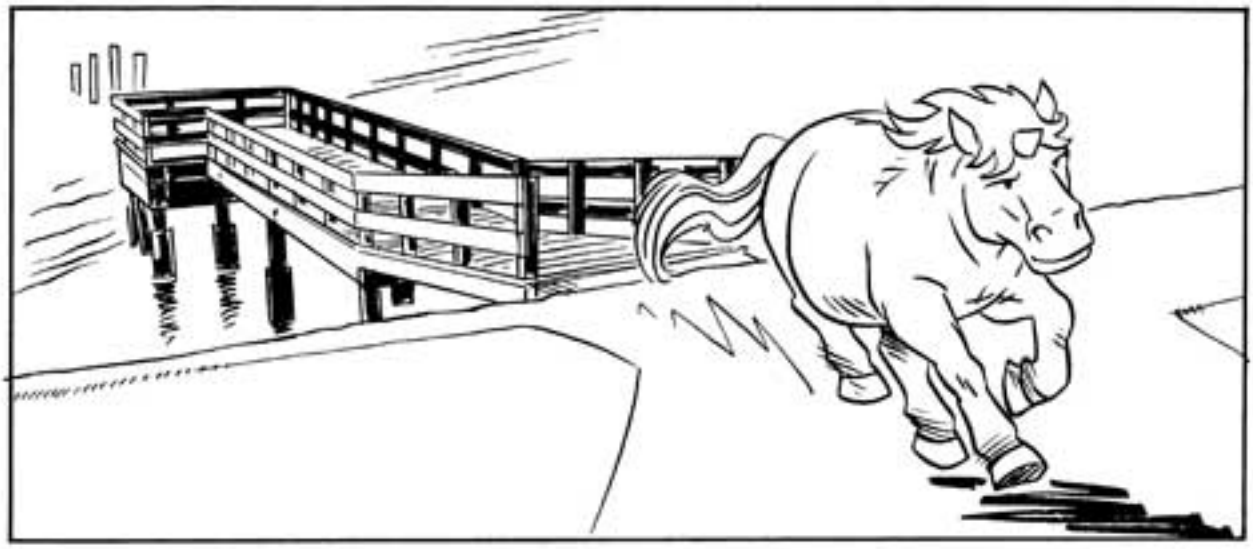


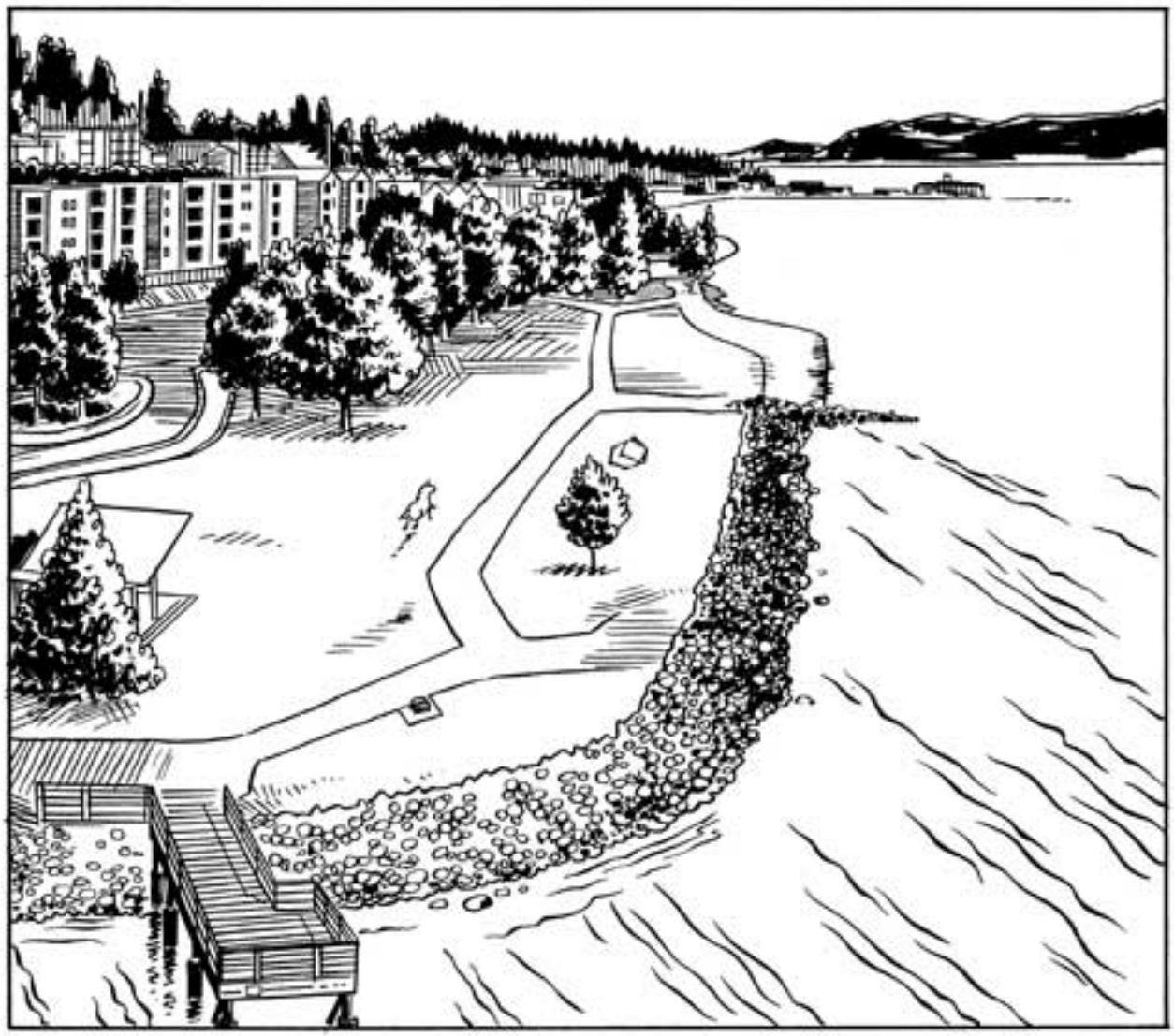







PAY ATTENTION TO THE UNIVERSE.





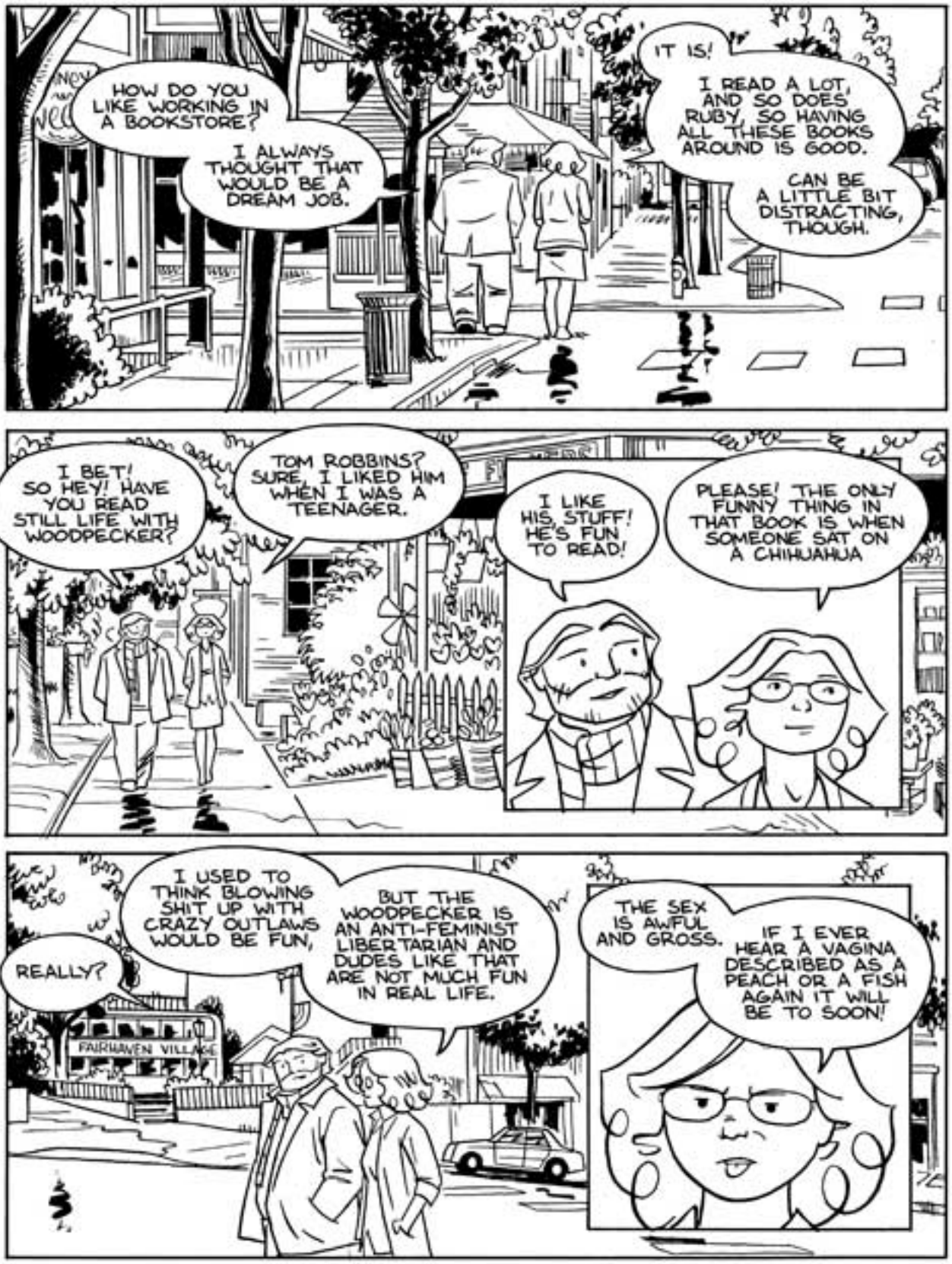

DID...
THAT...
HAPPEN?
UG...




ECLIPSE BOOKS
OH! HELLO AGAIN!
HOW ARE YOU TODAY?
GOOD! I'M... HEH.. I'M GOOD!
DO YOU HAVE THIRTY DAYS IN THE SAMARKAND DESERT WITH THE DUCHESS OF KENT BY A.E.J. ELLIOTT O.B.E.?


NO, BUT WE MIGHT HAVE THE AMAZING ADVENTURES OF CAPTAIN GLADYS STOUTPAMPHLET AND HER INTREPID SPANIEL STIG AMONGST THE GIANT PYGMIES OF BECORD.
VOLUME EIGHT.
NO WI-FI
NO HAGGLING
GOOD ANSWER!
THAT'S A DEEP CUT!
OH, I LOVE MONTY PYTHON!
I THINK WE HAVE THE FINAL RIP-OFF RECORD IN THE VINYL SECTION
OH HEY! LOOK AT THAT!
WE SPENT ALL NIGHT MAKING SWANS AND FROGS AND STUFF.
YEAH, RUBY JUST LOVED IT.
NO KIDDING? THAT'S GREAT!


WE JUST MOVED IN AND RUBY HASN'T MADE ANY NEW FRIENDS YET.
ANYTHING THAT PUTS A SMILE ON HER FACE.
SO, YEAH, THANK YOU FOR A FUN AFTERNOON.
AWW... YOU KNOW I LIVE FOR THAT.
BEING A GEPETTO IS KINDA MY THING.
PINOCCHIO'S DAD?
A NICE OLD GUY WHO MAKES TOYS FOR KIDS
NOT A BAD THING TO ASPIRE TO.
NOT BAD AT ALL.
WELL, OKAY, MR. GEPETTO...
I'M ABOUT DONE HERE. IF YOU'RE JUST KILLING TIME, WOULD YOU LIKE TO GO GET A BURGER?
I AM! I MEAN I WOULD! YEAH!
NO HYDRAULICS

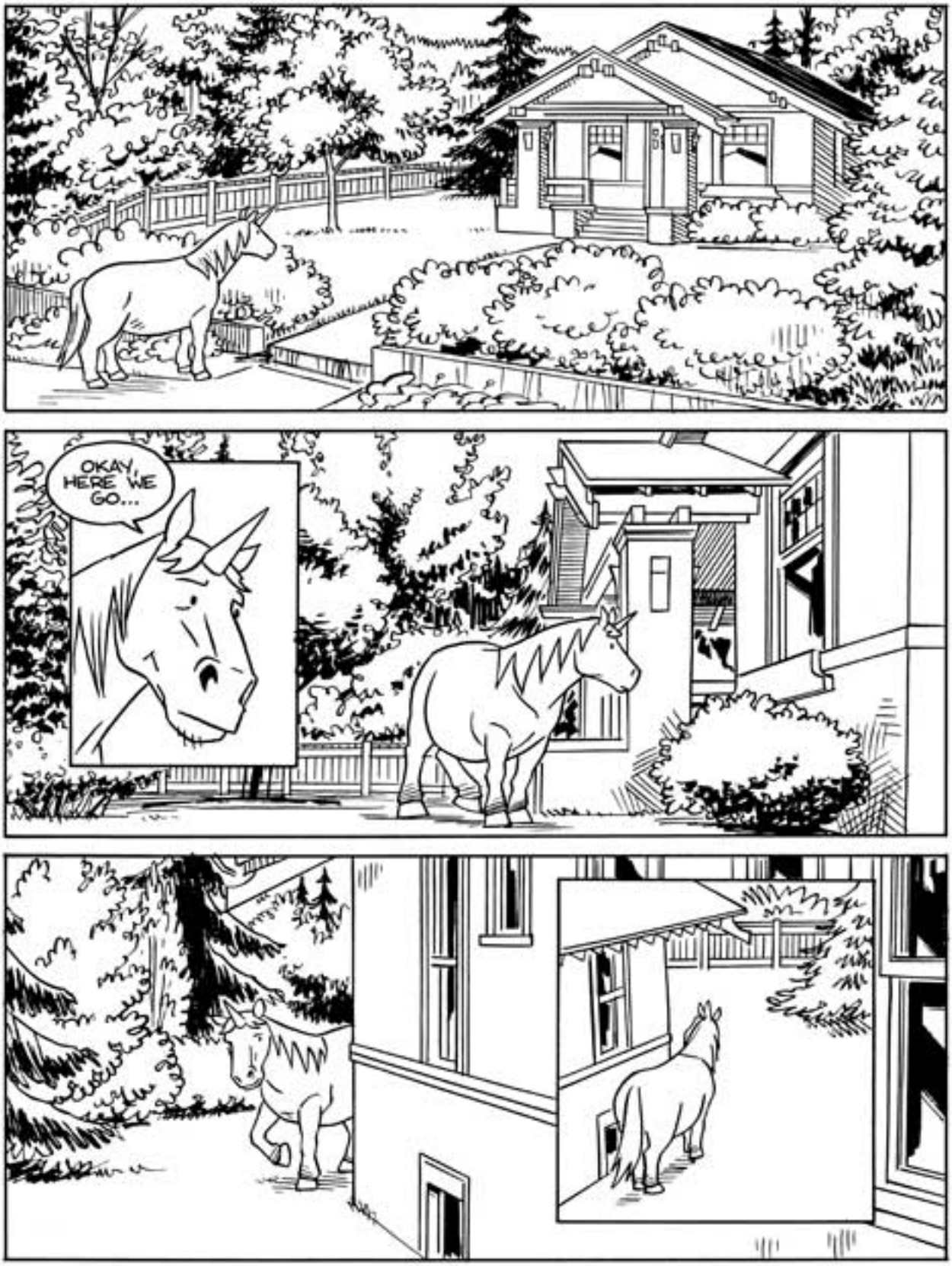

HOW DO YOU LIKE WORKING IN A BOOKSTORE?
I ALWAYS THOUGHT THAT WOULD BE A DREAM JOB.
IT IS!
I READ A LOT, AND SO DOES RUBY, SO HAVING ALL THESE BOOKS AROUND IS GOOD.
CAN BE A LITTLE BIT DISTRACTING, THOUGH.
I BET! SO HEY! HAVE YOU READ STILL LIFE WITH WOODPECKER?
TOM ROBBINS? SURE, I LIKED HIM WHEN I WAS A TEENAGER.
I LIKE HIS STUFF! HE'S FUN TO READ!
PLEASE! THE ONLY FUNNY THING IN THAT BOOK IS WHEN SOMEONE SAT ON A CHIHUAHUA
REALLY?
I USED TO THINK BLOWING SHIT UP WITH CRAZY OUTLAWS WOULD BE FUN,
BUT THE WOODPECKER IS AN ANTI-FEMINIST LIBERTARIAN AND DUDES LIKE THAT ARE NOT MUCH FUN IN REAL LIFE.
FAIRHAVEN VILLAGE
THE SEX IS AWFUL AND GROSS.
IF I EVER HEAR A VAGINA DESCRIBED AS A PEACH OR A FISH AGAIN IT WILL BE TO SOON!

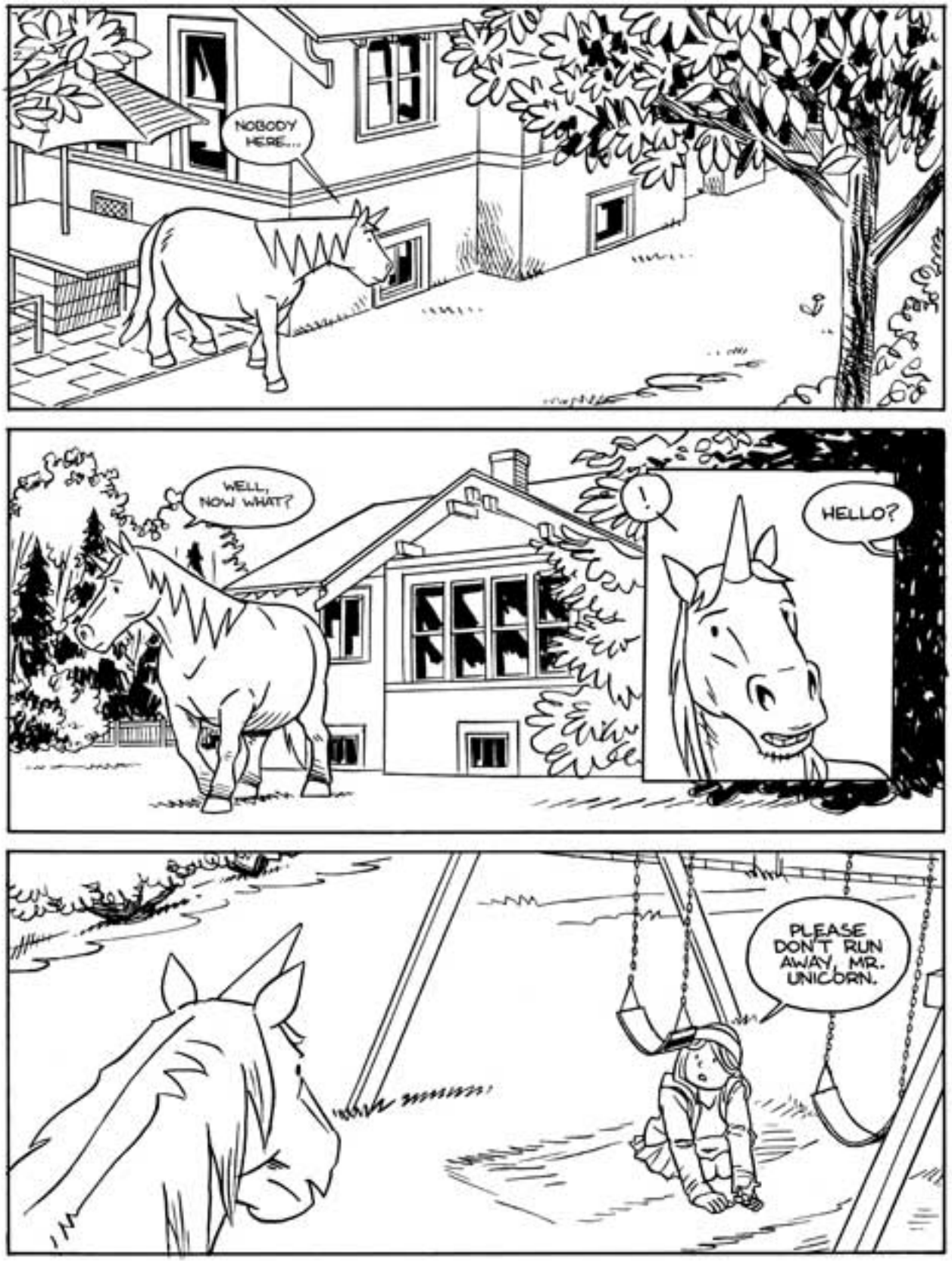

OUCH!
SURE, HE'S GOT A WAY WITH WORDS, BUT HE'S NOT PHILOSOPHY.
OKAY THEN, WHAT SORT OF THING ARE YOU READING?
I'VE BEEN REALLY LIKING CARL SAGAN LATELY.
HE'S A REALIST, BUT ALSO A ROMANTIC.
TONK'S
I APPRECIATE HOW HE LOOKS AT THE UNIVERSE WITH A CLEAR-EYED WONDER, AND HIS DELIGHT WHEN THINGS DON'T TURN OUT AS HE EXPECTS.
HIS WRITING IS PRECISE AND EVOCATIVE.
YEAH, CARL SAGAN IS COOL.
CONTACT IS ONE OF THE BEST SCIENCE FICTION STORIES EVER.
DRIVE IN
HOW ABOUT J.R.R. TOLKEIN?
GABRIEL GARCIA MARQUEZ?
DOUGLAS ADAMS???
YEAH, I'M MORE INTO JOSEPH CAMPBELL.
ANTHONY BOURDAIN.
HEY, IF WE CAN'T AGREE ON DOUGLAS ADAMS, THEN WE ARE DONE HERE!

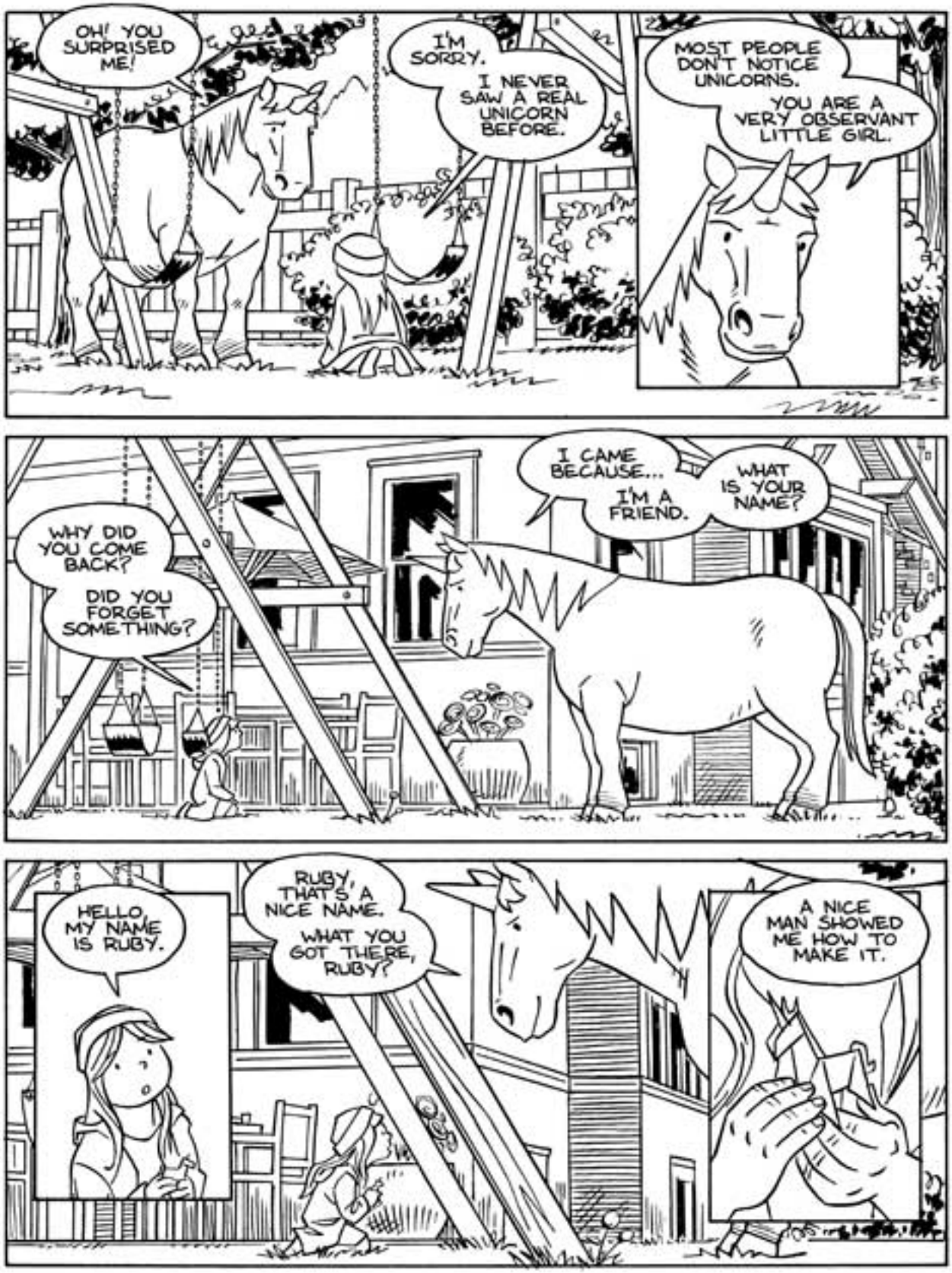

DO YOU READ POP ANTHROPOLOGY TO RUBY FOR HER BEDTIME STORIES?
HA!
WE JUST READ THE TYPICAL KID STUFF.
THE WIND IN THE WILLOWS, HOUSE AT POOH CORNER...
HOW ABOUT THE LAST UNICORN?
YEAH, SURE, SHE LIKED IT. WHAT LITTLE GIRL DOESN'T LIKE UNICORNS?
YOU KNOW, I THINK YOUR LITTLE ORIGAMI UNICORN HAS MADE HER GO A BIT UNICORN CRAZY.
OOPS! SORRY ABOUT THAT!
DON'T BE. IT'S REALLY CUTE.
SAY, WHERE'D YOU PICK UP THAT ORIGAMI UNICORN THING, ANYWAY?
HEH, WELL, I SAW A GUY DO IT IN BLADE RUNNER AND I THOUGHT IT WAS COOL.
REALLY, IT'S JUST A THING I DO, LIKE A PARTY TRICK. SOMETHING TO BREAK THE ICE.

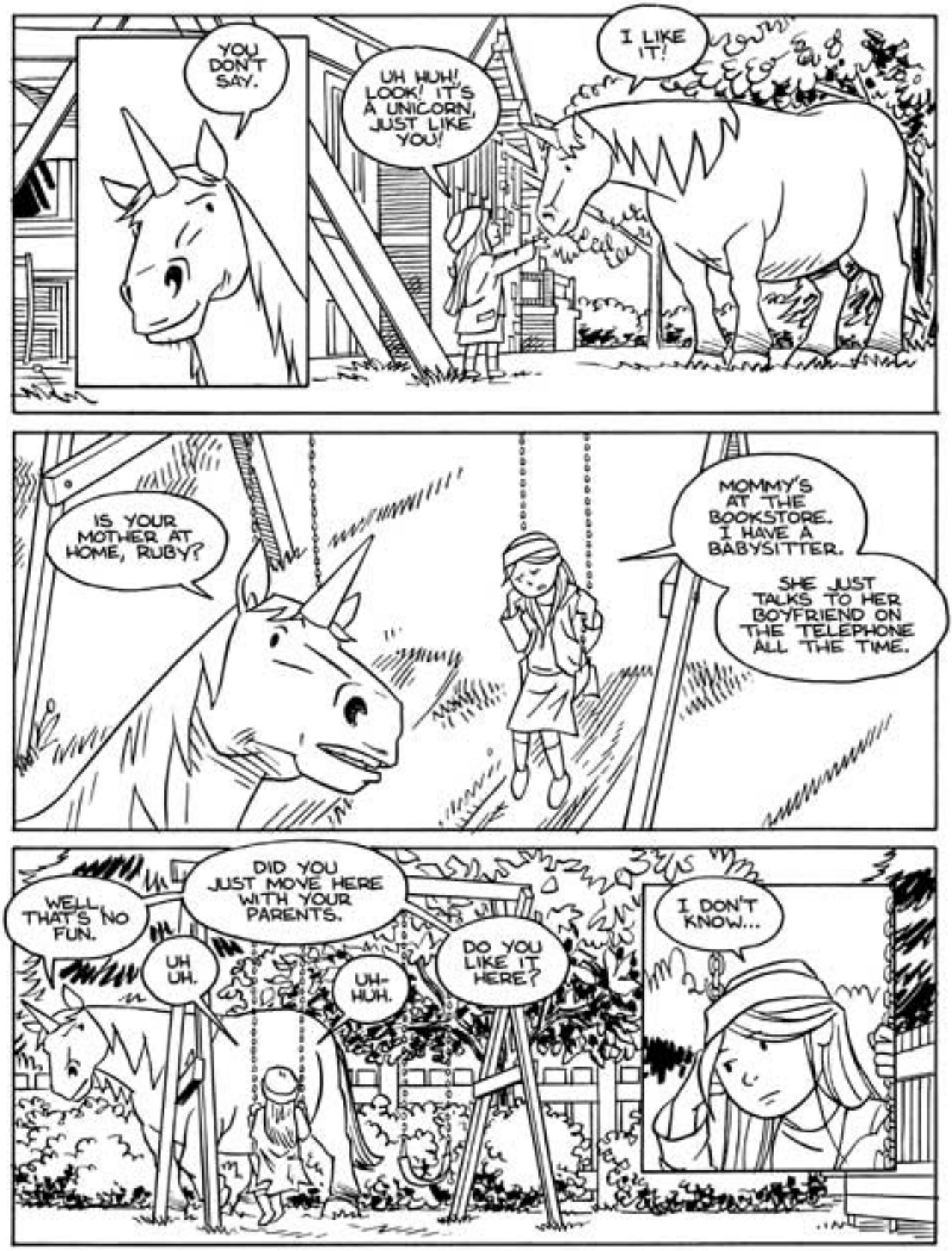

AND THE KIDS LOVE IT.
CUTE.
THE BLADE RUNNER THING IS PRETY NERDY,
BUT CUTE.
WHAT IS IT WITH THIS TOWN AND UNICORNS, ANYWAY?
I MEAN HERE YOU ARE WITH THE ORIGAMI...
THERE'S THAT CRAZY MURAL BY THE MUSEUM DOWNTOWN...
JODI-FRIKKIN'-BERGSMA PRINTS IN EVERYBODY'S KITCHEN...


IT'S GOTTEN TO WHERE SOMETIMES I THINK I'M SEEING UNICORNS OUT OF THE CORNER OF MY EYE!
AWW! DON'T YOU BELIEVE IN UNICORNS?
PLEASE.
I MEAN, SURE, I USED TO PLAY WITH AN IMAGINARY FRIEND IN THE PARK WHEN I WAS LIKE 6 YEARS OLD.
KID STUFF.
THAT SOUNDS LIKE FUN!
I KNOW, RIGHT?
I USED TO RUN FROM ONE END OF SEHOME HILL TO THE OTHER WHEN I WAS A LITTLE KID.
YOU DON'T SAY!
SO.. WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME YOU WENT UP TO THE ABORETUM?


OKAY, HERE WE GO...


NOBODY HERE...
WELL, NOW WHAT?
!
HELLO?
PLEASE DON'T RUN AWAY, MR. UNICORN.


OH! YOU SURPRISED ME!
I'M SORRY.
I NEVER SAW A REAL UNICORN BEFORE.
MOST PEOPLE DON'T NOTICE UNICORNS.
YOU ARE A VERY OBSERVANT LITTLE GIRL.
WHY DID YOU COME BACK?
DID YOU FORGET SOMETHING?
I CAME BECAUSE...
I'M A FRIEND.
WHAT IS YOUR NAME?
HELLO, MY NAME IS RUBY.
RUBY, THAT'S A NICE NAME.
WHAT YOU GOT THERE, RUBY?
A NICE MAN SHOWED ME HOW TO MAKE IT.


YOU DON'T SAY.
UH HUH! LOOK! IT'S A UNICORN, JUST LIKE YOU!
I LIKE IT!
IS YOUR MOTHER AT HOME, RUBY?
MOMMY'S AT THE BOOKSTORE. I HAVE A BABYSITTER.
SHE JUST TALKS TO HER BOYFRIEND ON THE TELEPHONE ALL THE TIME.
WELL THAT'S NO FUN.
DID YOU JUST MOVE HERE WITH YOUR PARENTS.
UH UH.
UH-HUH.
DO YOU LIKE IT HERE?
I DON'T KNOW...


YOU LOOK KIND OF SAD, RUBY.
ARE YOU HAVING A BAD DAY?
DO YOU MISS YOUR FRIENDS?
I DON'T KNOW...
KIND OF...
REALLY I MISS MY DADDY.
WHERE IS YOUR FATHER?
I DON'T KNOW.
THERE WAS SOMETHING HE WANTED TO DO...
HERE? WHY HERE???
WE NEED A HOME, TROUT!
I ONLY GOT ONE LIFE TO LIVE, HONEY.
I DIDN'T SIGN UP FOR THIS!


SO HE GOT IN HIS TRUCK AND DROVE AWAY.
I TRIED TO BE GOOD, SO MAYBE HE WOULD WANT TO COME BACK HOME.
BUT I THINK HE DOESN'T WANT TO BE MY DADDY ANYMORE.
OH HONEY! I'M SURE IT'S NOT BECAUSE OF YOU.
YOU'RE A GOOD GIRL!
I'M A UNICORN! I CAN TELL!
DO YOU KNOW WHAT I THINK?
I THINK YOU JUST NEED A LITTLE UNICORN MAGIC!
UNICORN MAGIC?


SO HOW DOES A REALIST MANAGE TO KEEP HER SUNNY DISPOSITION?
OH, I DON'T... HEY! WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?
DON'T REALISTS TEND TO BE CYNICS?
OH COME ON...
MM. I SUPPOSE I BELIEVE THAT WE'RE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER AND EVERYBODY'S JUST DOING THEIR BEST DEALING WITH IT ALL.
THAT ABOUT SUMS IT UP, DOESN'T IT?
THE WORLD IS A BIG PLACE AND THERE'S A LOT OF PEOPLE IN IT. THEY HAVE THEIR STORIES AND THEIR WAYS, BUT IT USUALLY BOILS DOWN TO THE SAME STUFF...
FAMILY, FRIENDS, FOOD, SHELTER, MONEY, TIME.
WE HAVE SO MUCH IN COMMON, I THINK THAT WE'RE ALL CONNECTED SOMEHOW.


HAVE YOU TRAVELLED A LOT?
I SUPPOSE SO. I'VE LIVED IN A LOT OF PLACES COMPARED TO MOST PEOPLE, SO YEAH.
I WAS A REALLY RESTLESS KID.
SCHOPE HILL
YOU COULD SAY I'VE BEEN A CULTURE GYPSY FOR QUITE A WHILE NOW.
SLEEPING ON EURORAIL TRAINS, FOLLOWING MUSIC FESTIVALS ACROSS THE COUNTRY, EXPLORING.
IF I WANTED TO GO SOMEWHERE NEW, I'D JUST GO.
FIND A JOB, RENT A ROOM, SETTLE IN AND GET TO KNOW THE PLACE.
WOW!
IF YOU WANT TO REALLY EXPERIENCE A NEW PLACE, YOU HAVE TO STAY FOR A WHILE.
YOU KNOW, LONGER THAN A WEEK OR TWO AT SOME HOTEL.
GET TO KNOW THE PEOPLE, LET THEM SHOW YOU AROUND.
THAT'S HOW YOU FIND THE SECRET PLACES OF THE WORLD.


SECRET PLACES?
THERE ARE PLACES IN THE WORLD YOU CAN'T FIND ON A MAP. YOU HAVE TO KNOW WHERE TO LOOK.
IF YOU BLINK, OR LOOK THIS WAY INSTEAD OF THAT, YOU'LL MISS THEM.
AND THAT'S WHERE THE BEST STUFF IS!
OH! KIND OF AN ANTHONY BOURDAIN THING?
YEAH, I THOUGHT HE HAD THE RIGHT IDEA. "MOVE! AS FAR AS YOU CAN, AS MUCH AS YOU CAN! ACROSS THE OCEAN, OR SIMPLY ACROSS THE RIVER."
I LIKED THE SOUND OF THAT I KIND OF MADE A LIFESTYLE OUT OF IT.
THAT'S COOL. HEH. HONESTLY... WELL, I HAVEN'T TRAVELED MUCH, ACTUALLY.
OH, IF YOU CAN, I THINK YOU SHOULD! SURE, IT CAN BE HARD AND UNCOMFORTABLE SOMETIMES, BUT TRAVEL CHANGES YOU FOR THE BETTER AND YOU'LL CARRY THAT FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE!
THAT'S PRETTY COOL.
OH YEAH, BUT LATELY I'M NOT SO SURE I CAN KEEP LIVING LIKE THAT ANYMORE.
REALLY? WHY'S THAT?

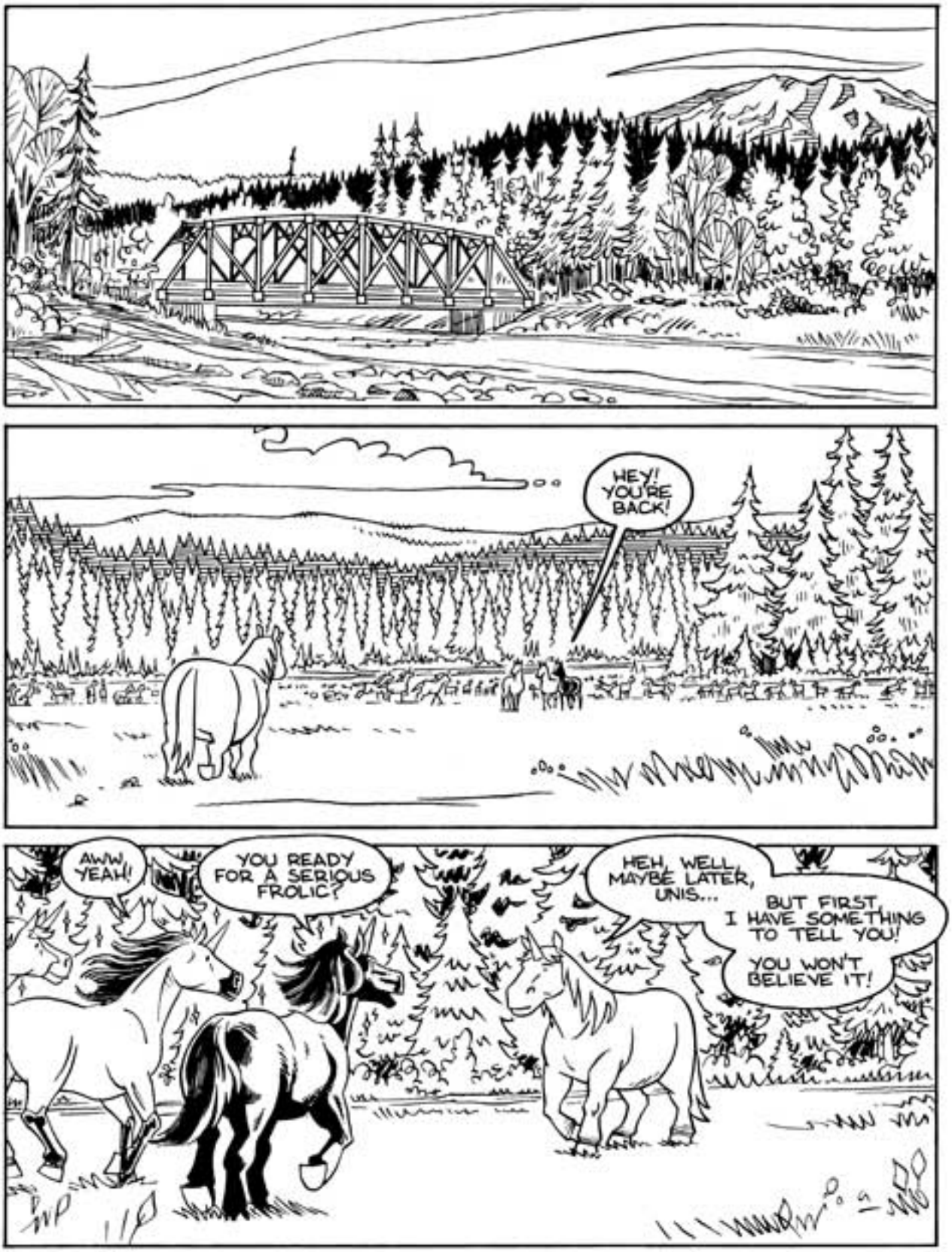

I HAVE RUBY NOW, AND WE TRIED LIVING THAT WAY.
BUT I THINK SHE NEEDS A HOME.
AND, WELL, MAYBE I NEED A HOME, TOO.
I WAS HAPPY HERE. I THINK THIS COULD BE A GOOD PLACE FOR RUBY AND I.
BUT YOU KNOW, IT'S KIND OF HARD. IT'S BEAUTIFUL, BUT IT'S HARD. THERE'S NOT A LOT OF WORK HERE.
I LIKE THE BOOKSTORE, BUT IT'S REALLY NOT ENOUGH.
YEAH, I HEAR THAT A LOT.
BUT I REALLY LIKE IT HERE! I THINK IT MIGHT BE THE NICEST PLACE ON EARTH!
AND YOU WOULD KNOW, WOULDN'T YOU?
ME, I MOVED HERE WHEN I WAS FOURTEEN YEARS OLD AND I NEVER WANTED TO LEAVE.

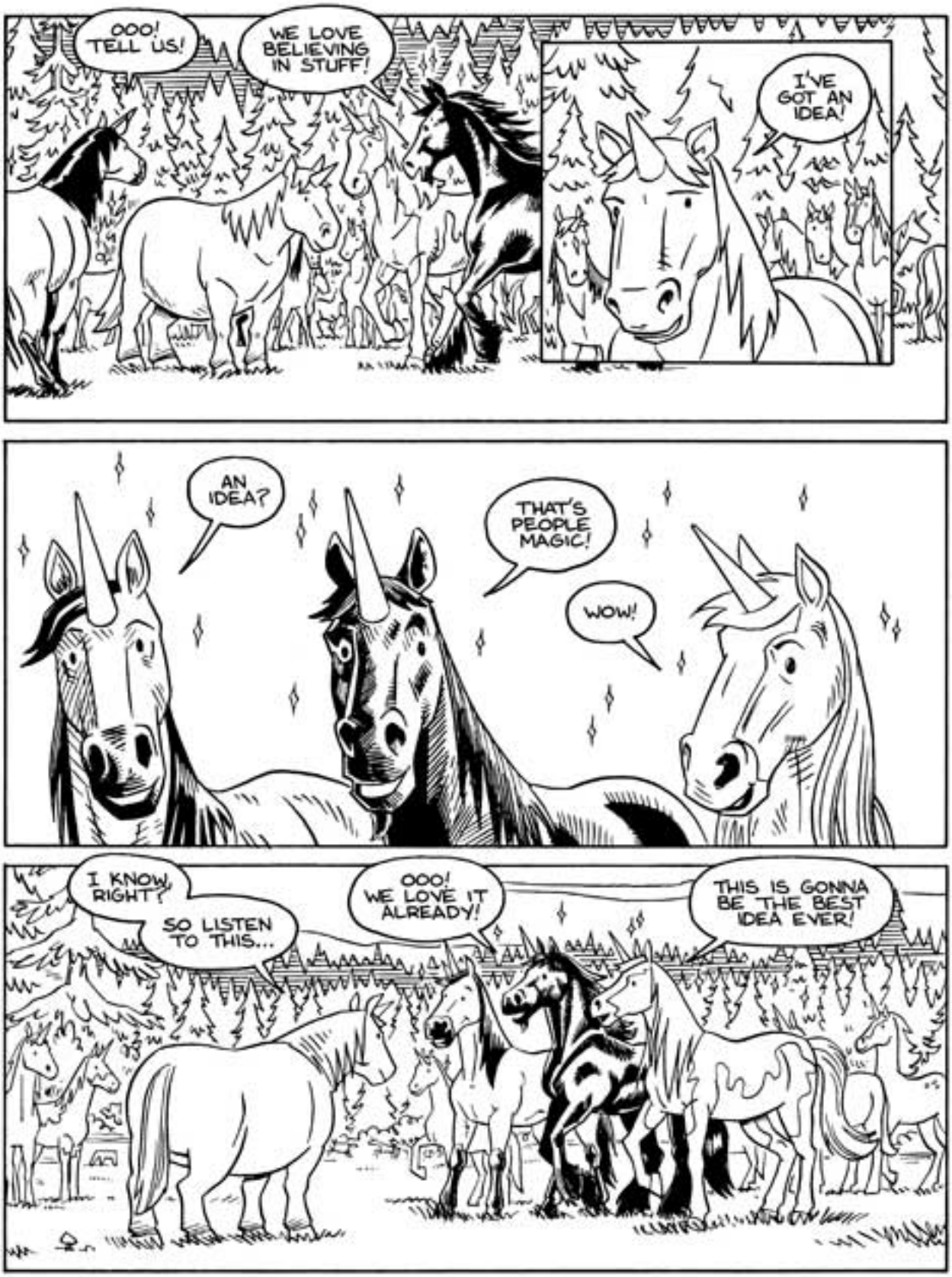

WE CAME FROM A LOUD, AGGRESSIVE CITY IN THE MIDWEST, ALL SOOT AND NOISE AND TROUBLE
THIS PLACE WAS SO MUCH BETTER! THE PEOPLE ARE NICER. THE AIR IS CLEANER. I FELL IN LOVE WITH EVERYTHING!
THE FIRST TREE, THE FIRST ISLAND, THE FIRST NEW FRIEND, THE FIRST CUTE GIRL... EVERYTHING!
OH LOOK! I REMEMBER THIS!
HEH. MAYBE I SHOULD HAVE BEEN A BIT MORE CIRCUMSPECT WHEN I WAS FOURTEEN.
WOW! LOOK AT THAT! I USED TO THINK THIS WAS A CASTLE!
THIS WAS ONE OF MY FAVORITE PLACES TO PLAY WHEN I WAS A LITTLE KID!


I'D COME UP HERE WITH IDEAS ABOUT WHERE TO GO LOOKING FOR SECRET PLACES IN THE FOREST.
SO YEAH, I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR SECRET PLACES SINCE I WAS A LITTLE GIRL!
SECRETS MAKE THE BEST STORIES!
IT WAS RIGHT HERE I FIRST HAD THE IDEA THAT THE WORLD IS A REALLY BIG PLACE.
I WOULD STAND HERE AND LOOK OUT THERE AND THINK ABOUT HOW FAR AWAY ALL THAT WAS, AND HOW THE WHOLE WORLD IS EVEN FARTHER AWAY THAN THAT!
AT FIRST I DIDN'T KNOW HOW I WOULD EVER FIND MY WAY OUT THERE. MAYBE I WOULD GET LOST IN IT! MAYBE NOBODY WOULD FIND ME!
THE BIG WORLD CAN BE SCARY FOR A KID.
BUT THAT BIG BAD WORLD WASN'T SCARY TO ME!
THERE WAS ALWAYS... SOMETHING KEEPING ME SAFE.


LIKE WHAT?
I DON'T KNOW...
I COULD MAKE UP SOME PRETTY CRAZY STUFF...
AND NO MATTER HOW SCARY...
...OR EXCITING...
...OR BIZARRE...
...OR FANTASTIC...
I ALWAYS FELT SAFE HERE.
THIS WAS MY HAPPY CHILDHOOD.


ARE THERE FAIRIES IN THESE SECRET PLACES?
HA HA! YEAH, THERE WERE FAIRIES.
HOW ABOUT TROLLS?
AND TROLLS.
AND ELVES AND HOBBITS??
HOBBITS? I DON'T...
UNICORNS?
HEY! YOU'RE MAKING FUN OF ME!
NO! I REALLY LIKE IT!
YOU'RE NOT A CYNIC AFTER ALL!
I GET IT. YEAH, I KNOW. KID STUFF.
SIGH.
SOMETIMES I WISH I WERE A KID AGAIN AND THAT IT ALL COULD HAVE BEEN FOR REAL.


HEY! YOU'RE BACK!
AWW, YEAH!
YOU READY FOR A SERIOUS FROLIC?
HEH, WELL, MAYBE LATER, UNIS...
BUT FIRST, I HAVE SOMETHING TO TELL YOU!
YOU WON'T BELIEVE IT!


OOO! TELL US!
WE LOVE BELIEVING IN STUFF!
I'VE GOT AN IDEA!
AN IDEA?
THAT'S PEOPLE MAGIC!
WOW!
I KNOW, RIGHT?
SO LISTEN TO THIS...
OOO! WE LOVE IT ALREADY!
THIS IS GONNA BE THE BEST IDEA EVER!


I'M A CHUBBY UNICORN. DO YOU WANT TO PLAY WITH ME?
UH HUH, BUT I'M JUST A NORMAL HORSIE.
THAT'S OKAY, WE CAN STILL PLAY.
HELLO, RUBY.
I'M BACK!
HELLO AGAIN, MR. UNICORN.
WHERE DID YOU GO?
I WENT TO VISIT MY UNICORN FRIENDS.
I WANTED TO TELL THEM ALL ABOUT YOU!
MORE UNICORNS?
HOW MANY UNICORNS ARE THERE?
THERE'S A WHOLE BUNCH!
AND THEY FROLIC ALL OVER THE PLACE.
THAT SOUNDS LIKE FUN.
YEAH, IT IS. IT'S LOTS OF FUN.


I WAS TALKING TO MY UNICORN FRIENDS AND WE THINK WE HAVE A REAL GOOD IDEA FOR YOU!
FOR ME?
WE THOUGHT YOU MIGHT LIKE TO MAKE A NEW FRIEND.
A MAGIC FRIEND!
A BABY UNICORN!
DO YOU WANT TO BE MY MAGIC FRIEND?
WHAT DO YOU SAY?


OKAY!
WELL NOW, ISN'T THAT A THING?
WHAT GAMES TO UNICORNS LIKE TO PLAY?
ALL OF THEM!
THAT'S UNICORN MAGIC.
LOOK WHAT I CAN DO!
WOW! I CAN DO THIS!

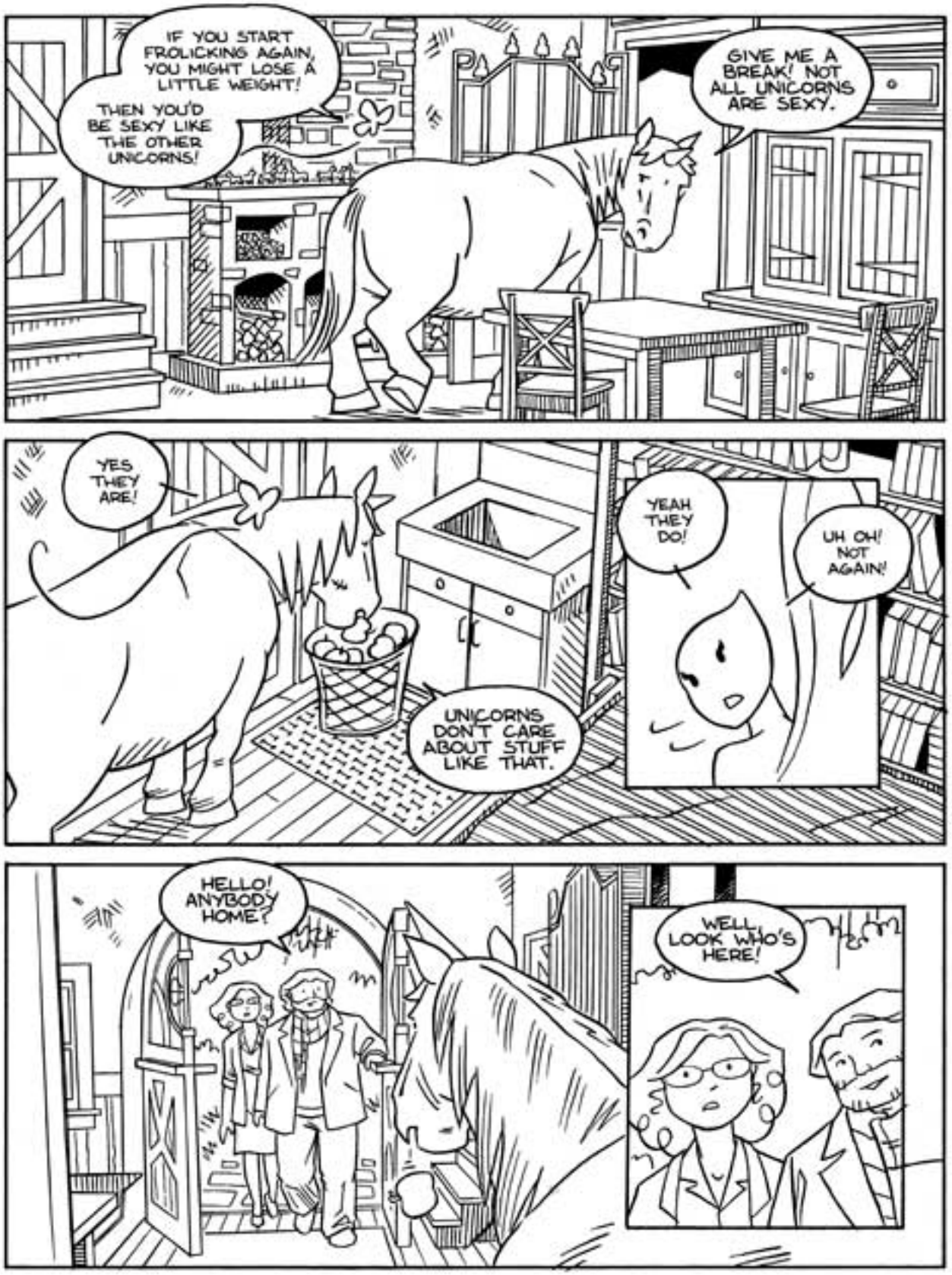

YOU USED TO BE CUTE LIKE THAT.
BEFORE YOU GOT ALL MOPEY.
I WAS PRETTY CUTE, WASN'T I?
YOU WERE ADORABLE!
YOU LOOK HAPPY.
ARE YOU GONNA BE A HAPPY UNICORN AGAIN?
I DON'T KNOW, MAYBE?
I HOPE SO!
THAT WOULD BE A LOT BETTER THAN BEING A GRUMPY UNICORN FOREVER!
YEAH, I GUESS SO.
SOMETHING ABOUT SEEING THOSE KIDS MADE ME FEEL PRETTY GOOD, GOTTA ADMIT IT.
MAYBE WILEM WAS RIGHT?


SO YOU FELL IN LOVE WITH THE FIRST EVERYTHING, DID YOU?
YEAH, I WAS A NERDY TEENAGER WITH LARGELY INCORRECT IDEAS ABOUT HOW THAT STUFF WORKS.
HAVE YOU EVER BEEN IN LOVE?
OH WOW! I... WELL, I USED TO THINK SO, BUT YOU KNOW HOW IT GOES...
HOW ABOUT YOU?
MM, YEAH, MAYBE. I MEAN, YEAH, THERE WAS SOMEBODY.
WE WERE TOGETHER FOR A COUPLE YEARS. WE KIND OF GREW UP TOGETHER, AND THEN WE GREW APART.
IS THAT RUBY'S FATHER?
OH, THAT WAS TROUT.
I MET HIM DOING THE GYPSY THING.
I WAS CASTING BELLS IN ARCOSANTI WHEN I MET HIM. HE WAS BUILDING A STRAW BALE HOUSE IN PRESCOTT.
THEN WE HEARD ABOUT A PROTEA FARM ON MAUI THAT NEEDED A HAND AND WE THOUGHT THAT SOUNDED COOL...
YOU WERE WHAT? HOLY COW! WHAT IS THAT?


OH, THAT WAS JUST THE BEGINNING.
TROUT WAS FUN, I'LL GIVE HIM THAT. WE RAN AROUND FOR A FEW YEARS MOSTLY BECAUSE WE WERE ALWAYS UP FOR THE NEXT WHATEVER.
SO YOU AND TROUT AND RUBY?
FOR A WHILE, YEAH, BUT HAVING RUBY REALLY SPUN ME AROUND, AND TROUT JUST WASN'T INTO IT.
HE HEARD ABOUT A GIG RESTORING AN OLD BOAT IN KEY WEST AND HASN'T LOOKED BACK.
HOW LONG AGO WAS THAT?
A WHILE. NOT LONG.
OH...
THAT'S OKAY, I MEAN, FOR ME. I NEVER REALLY EXPECTED FOR HIM TO HANG AROUND FOREVER...
WE WERE ALWAYS JUST LIVING IN THE MOMENT LIKE THAT, AND I GUESS HE STILL IS.
BUT RUBY...

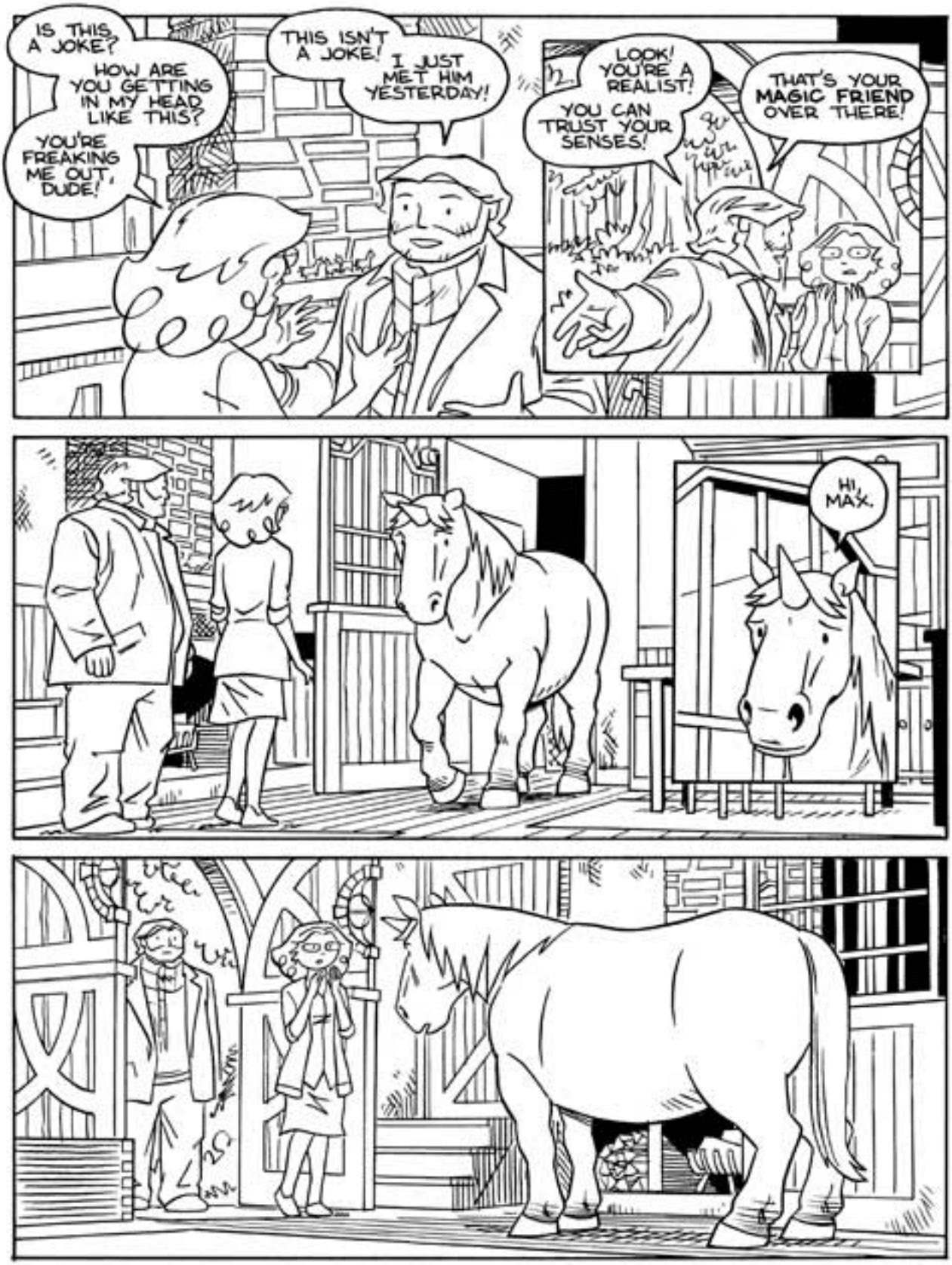

?
HEY, DUDE, WHAT'RE YOU LOOKING AT?
YOU KNOW, I HAVE BEEN WANDERING AROUND IN THIS PARK FOR MOST OF MY LIFE.
I'VE PROBABLY WALKED ON THIS TRAIL MORE THAN A THOUSAND TIMES.
AND EVERY TIME I WALK BY THIS SPOT, I ALWAYS LOOK OVER THERE.
YOU LOOKED OVER THAT-A-WAY TOO, JUST NOW.
WHEN ALL WE EVER HAD TO DO WAS JUST LOOK...
OVER...


...THERE!
WELL, WOULD YOU GET A LOAD OF THAT!
WANT TO GO CHECK IT OUT?


IF YOU START FROLICKING AGAIN, YOU MIGHT LOSE A LITTLE WEIGHT!
THEN YOU'D BE SEXY LIKE THE OTHER UNICORNS!
GIVE ME A BREAK! NOT ALL UNICORNS ARE SEXY.
YES THEY ARE!
UNICORNS DON'T CARE ABOUT STUFF LIKE THAT.
YEAH THEY DO!
UH OH! NOT AGAIN!
HELLO! ANYBODY HOME?
WELL, LOOK WHO'S HERE!


DUCKY?

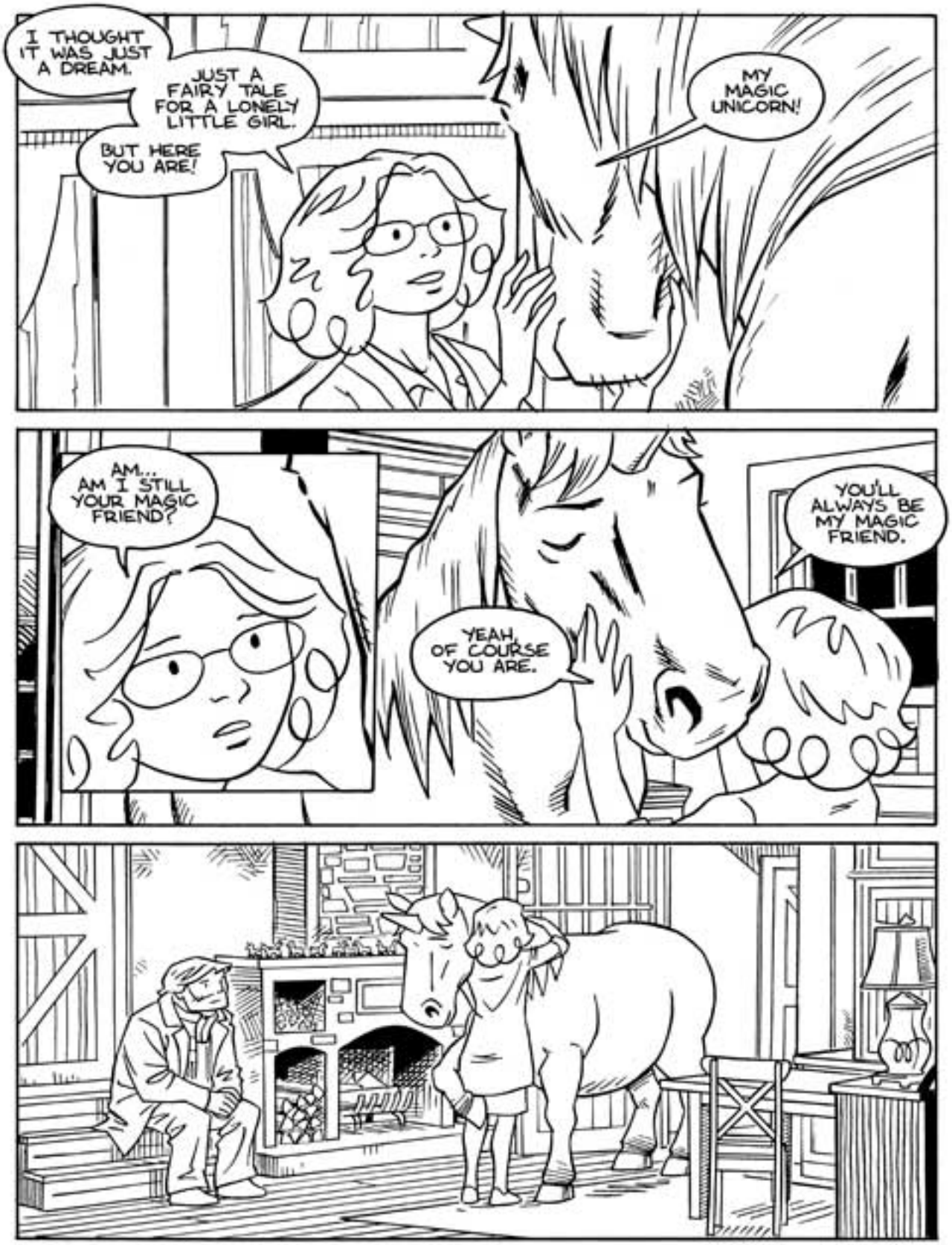

AAAK!
BONK!
AH!
CRASH!
BUMP
SKOOT
>TINK<
>TINK<
AM I INSANE?
IS THAT MY UNICORN?
AM I STANDING IN A HOUSE WITH MY UNICORN?
WOAH! ARE YOU OKAY?
OOF!
DUCKY?
YEAH, THAT'S MY NAME.
WHAT IS THIS?!?
HOW DID YOU?!?
I KNOW, RIGHT? ISN'T THIS AMAZING?
OW.


IS THIS A JOKE?
HOW ARE YOU GETTING IN MY HEAD LIKE THIS?
YOU'RE FREAKING ME OUT, DUDE!
THIS ISN'T A JOKE!
I JUST MET HIM YESTERDAY!
LOOK! YOU'RE A REALIST!
YOU CAN TRUST YOUR SENSES!
THAT'S YOUR MAGIC FRIEND OVER THERE!
HI, MAX.


OH DUCKY, I MISSED YOU!
I MISSED YOU SO MUCH!
I MISSED YOU TOO, MAX.
SO SO MUCH!!
DUCKY WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN?
I'VE BEEN HERE ALL ALONG.
YOUR MOTHER TOOK YOU AWAY AND I COULDN'T...


I DIDN'T BELIEVE IN YOU.
WHEN YOU WENT AWAY I DIDN'T HAVE THE MAGIC TO FOLLOW.
YOU'VE BEEN HERE THIS WHOLE TIME? IN THIS HOUSE?
YEAH, THE FAIRIES BUILT IT FOR ME.
I DIDN'T WANT TO GO BACK TO THE MEADOW WITH ALL THE RAINBOW SPARKLE UNICORNS.
YOU DON'T HAVE RAINBOW SPARKLE MAGIC?
NO.
WHAT? CAN'T YOU MAKE RAINBOWS?
WELL, UNICORNS AREN'T BORN WITH RAINBOW SPARKLE MAGIC.
I'M JUST A GREY UNICORN NOW...


BUT I DIDN'T BELIEVE IN YOU.
I THOUGHT YOU WEREN'T REAL.
AND I WENT AWAY.
OH NO!
I KNOW HOW IMPORTANT THAT WAS TO YOU!
DUCKY, I'M SO SORRY!
SOB!
WHAT DO YOU DO IF YOU CAN'T MAKE RAINBOWS?
I'M ALRIGHT. I TAKE CARE OF THE FOREST.
I READ PEOPLE BOOKS!
YOU CAN READ?
I'M NOT LIKE THE OTHER UNICORNS.
I'M SORRY I DIDN'T BELIEVE IN YOU, DUCKY. I DIDN'T MEAN TO HURT YOU.
I >SNIF< I JUST DIDN'T KNOW...
MAX, MAX, PLEASE DON'T CRY.
I'M JUST SO HAPPY THAT YOU'RE BACK.
IT'S ALL I'VE EVER WANTED, EVER!


I THOUGHT IT WAS JUST A DREAM.
JUST A FAIRY TALE FOR A LONELY LITTLE GIRL.
BUT HERE YOU ARE!
MY MAGIC UNICORN!
AM... AM I STILL YOUR MAGIC FRIEND?
YEAH, OF COURSE YOU ARE.
YOU'LL ALWAYS BE MY MAGIC FRIEND.

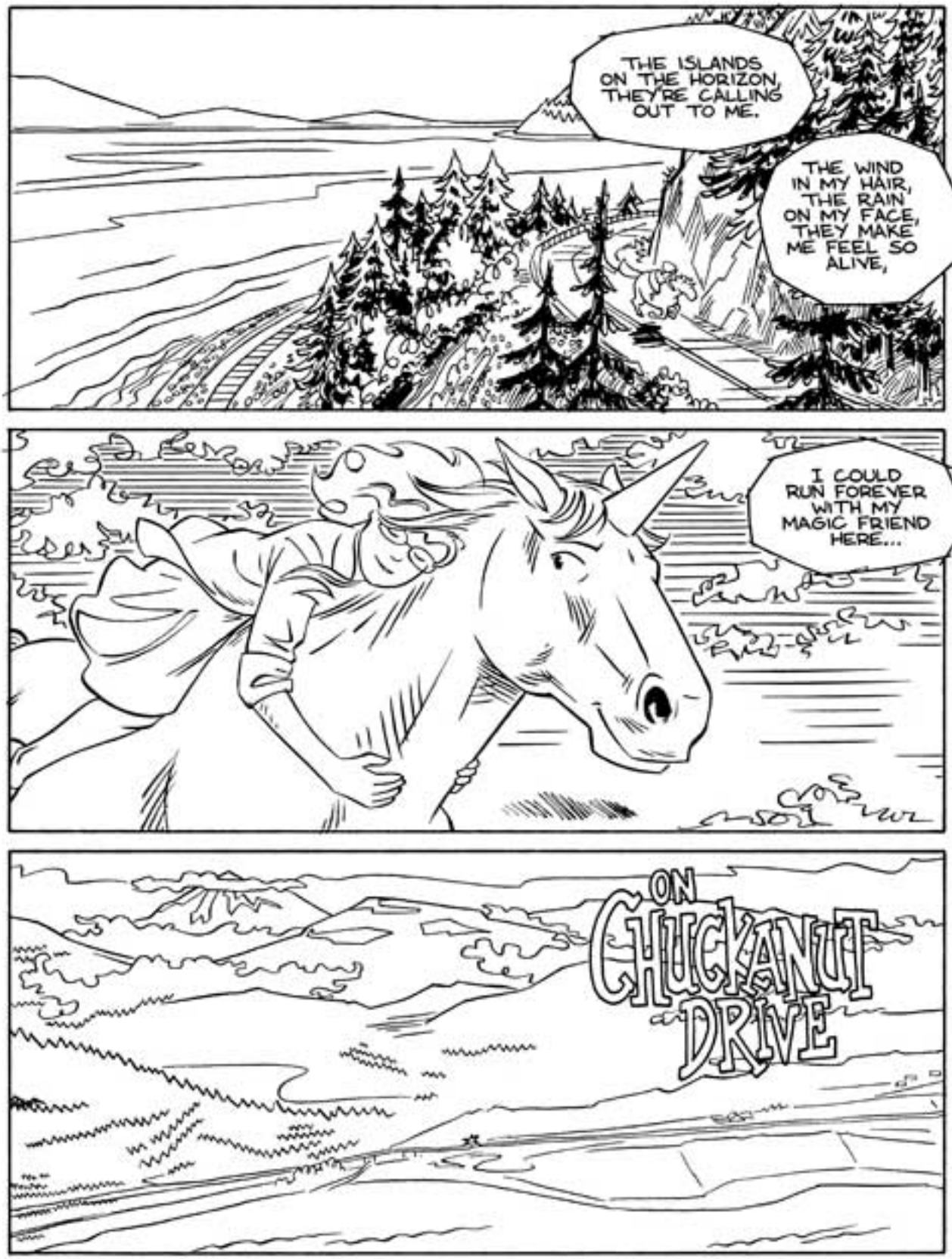

CAN WE RIDE? LIKE WE USED TO?
YEAH, I'D LIKE THAT!
LET'S RIDE!
WILEM, YOU KNEW THIS WHOLE TIME, DIDN'T YOU?
HEH, KINDA...
I KNEW YOU WERE FRIENDS AND ALL...
AND YOU SEEM LIKE YOU LIKE SURPRISES.
ARE YOU SURE YOU TWO JUST MET?
YOU HAVE A PRETTY BIG COLLECTION OF THESE THINGS.
OOP!
HE'S NOT COLLECTING, HE'S JUST KEEPING!


YOU REALLY JUST MET EACH OTHER YESTERDAY?
HOW DOES THAT WORK?
I WAS JUST WALKING BY AND SURPRISED HIM.
THAT'S BEEN HAPPENING A LOT LATELY!
I'M GLAD YOU CAME BY THE BOOKSTORE TODAY.
ALLEZ-OOP!
WELL, THAT'S WHERE THE BOOKS ARE.
THANK YOU, WILEM, FOR LISTENING.
FOR EVERY-THING.
YOU'RE A SWEET GUY,
AND A GOOD FRIEND!
AND YOU'RE RIGHT,
I DO LIKE SURPRISES!


OKAY, WELL, YOU GUYS HAVE FUN...
THANKS AGAIN, BUDDY!
LET'S DO IT AGAIN SOMETIME!
Woo!
I'M A SWEET GUY.
A GOOD FRIEND.
YEAH.
GREAT.


CHUCKANUT DRIVE IS USUALLY CLEAR THIS TIME OF YEAR.
WE'LL HAVE THE ROAD TO OURSELVES.
ALRIGHT THEN!
LET'S OPEN IT UP!
YEAH!
WOAH!
LEAN INTO IT!


WOW!
YOU'VE STILL GOT IT, DUCKY!
UNICORN FUN!
WAHOO!
ON ROADWAY
YOU OKAY BACK THERE?
ARE YOU KIDDING?
I'M RIDING MY UNICORN ON CHUCKANUT DRIVE!
THE ROAD, THE TREES, THE HILLSIDE,
THE SHORELINE, AND THE SEA...

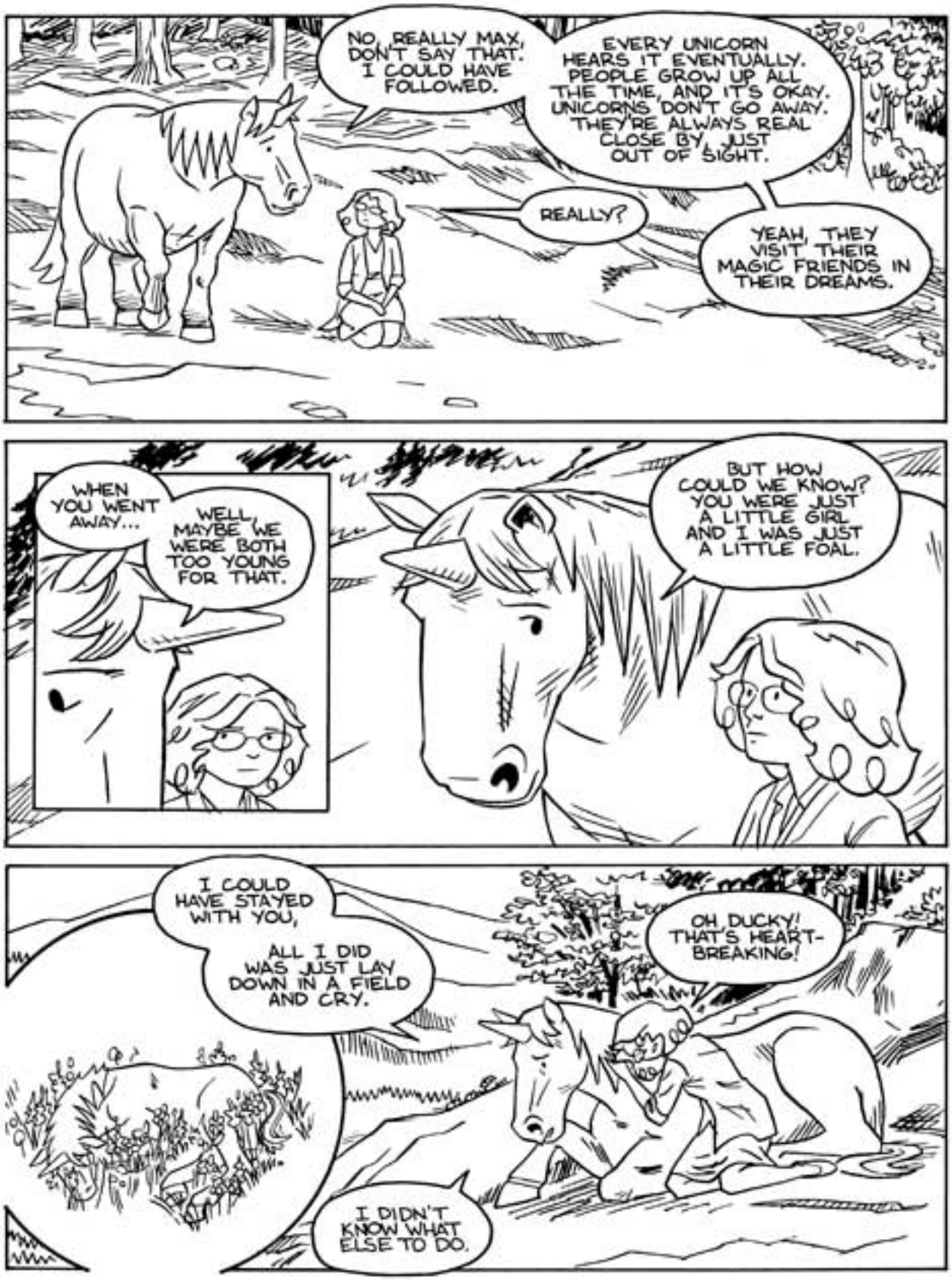

THE ISLANDS ON THE HORIZON, THEY'RE CALLING OUT TO ME.
THE WIND IN MY HAIR, THE RAIN ON MY FACE, THEY MAKE ME FEEL SO ALIVE,
I COULD RUN FOREVER WITH MY MAGIC FRIEND HERE...
ON CHUCKANUT DRIVE


I MISSED YOU, TOO!
WE MISSED YOU!
YOU'RE STILL THE PRETTIEST LITTLE FAIRY!
I'M SORRY I ALMOST FORGOT ABOUT YOU.
THAT'S OKAY! PEOPLE ALWAYS FORGET WHEN THEY GROW UP!
LUCKY!
WELL, I REMEMBER YOU NOW!

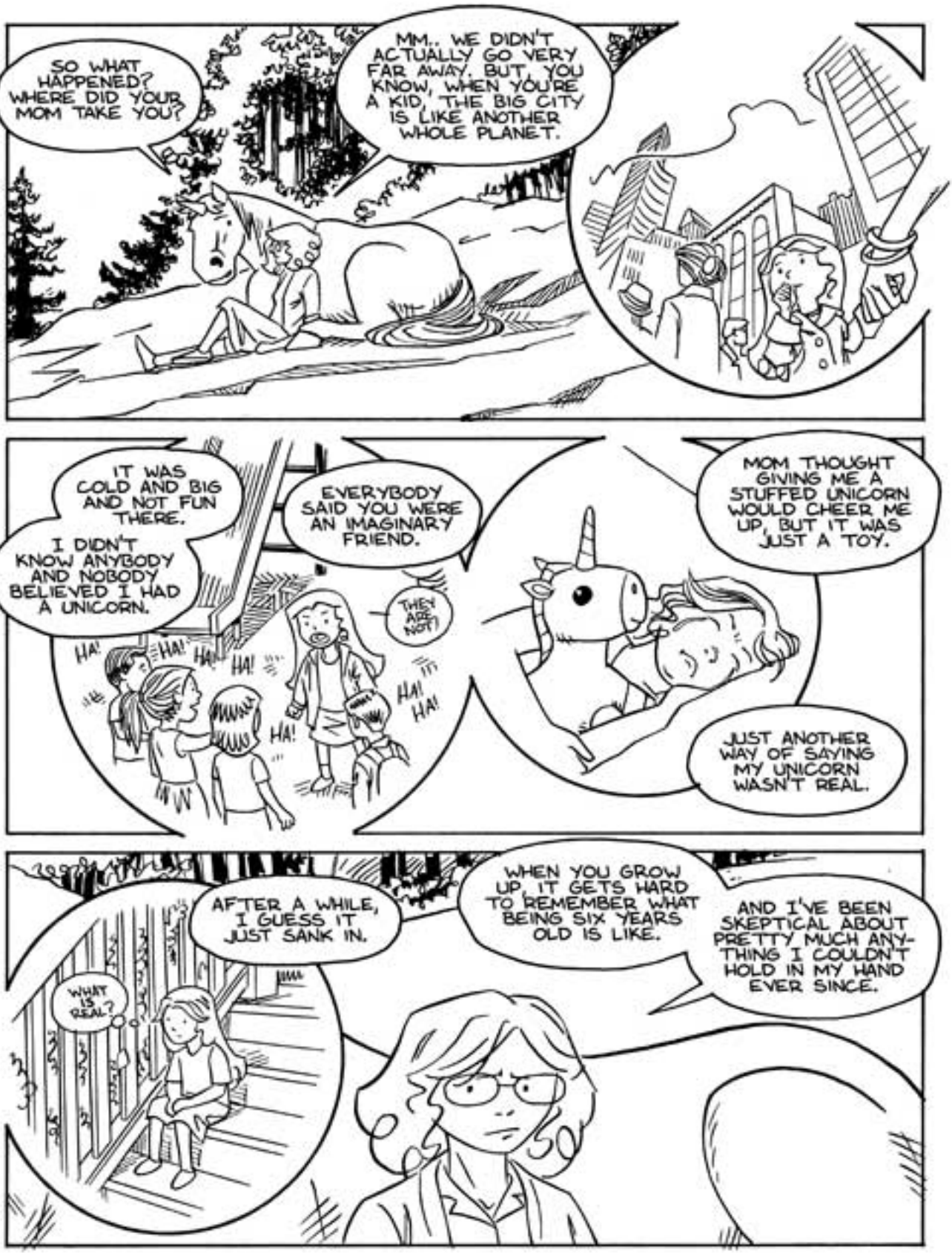

I REMEMBER... EVERYTHING.
YOU'RE NOT REAL!
IT BROKE MY HEART WHEN WE MOVED AWAY. I DIDN'T WANT TO GO.
I DIDN'T WANT TO LEAVE MY UNICORN BEHIND.
WHAT HAPPENED?
AFTER ALL THE MILES WE RAN, ALL THE STORIES WE TOLD, THE SECRETS...
SNIF
I KNOW.
THE MAGIC.


I BELIEVED IN YOU, I REALLY DID.
I WAS HAPPY HERE.
BUT THEN ONE DAY MOM SAID WE WERE GOING AWAY.
MAXINE, IT'S TIME TO TELL YOU WE'RE MOVING TO THE CITY.
I DON'T WANT TO GO AWAY!
WHY DO WE HAVE TO GO?
I HAVE A NEW JOB THERE.
WE CAN'T STAY WITH YOUR GRANDPARENTS FOREVER,
BUT DON'T WORRY HONEY, YOU'LL HAVE A NEW SCHOOL AND NEW FRIENDS.
BUT WHAT ABOUT MY UNICORN?
THAT'S REALLY CUTE, SWEETIE, BUT YOU KNOW UNICORNS AREN'T FOR REAL.


I DIDN'T UNDERSTAND HOW SHE COULD SAY THAT.
I KNEW YOU WERE REAL.
I TRIED TO TELL HER.
YES, THEY ARE!
THAT'S JUST YOUR IMAGINATION, MAXINE.
YOU HAVE SUCH A BIG IMAGINATION THAT WHEN YOU PLAY MAKE-BELIEVE IT FEELS REAL.
YOU'RE NOT LEAVING ANYTHING BEHIND, SWEETIE.
YOU CAN PLAY MAKE BELIEVE IN THE CITY, TOO.
NOT REAL?
I DON'T THINK SHE WAS TRYING TO HURT ME.
THAT'S JUST HOW SHE SAW THINGS.
SHE WAS... SIGH... A REALIST.
BUT I NEVER PLAYED MAKE-BELIEVE AGAIN.
AND THAT'S WHY YOU DON'T HAVE RAINBOWS, ISN'T IT?


NO, REALLY MAX, DON'T SAY THAT. I COULD HAVE FOLLOWED.
EVERY UNICORN HEARS IT EVENTUALLY. PEOPLE GROW UP ALL THE TIME, AND IT'S OKAY. UNICORNS DON'T GO AWAY. THEY'RE ALWAYS REAL CLOSE BY, JUST OUT OF SIGHT.
REALLY?
YEAH, THEY VISIT THEIR MAGIC FRIENDS IN THEIR DREAMS.
WHEN YOU WENT AWAY...
WELL, MAYBE WE WERE BOTH TOO YOUNG FOR THAT.
BUT HOW COULD WE KNOW? YOU WERE JUST A LITTLE GIRL AND I WAS JUST A LITTLE FOAL.
I COULD HAVE STAYED WITH YOU,
ALL I DID WAS JUST LAY DOWN IN A FIELD AND CRY.
OH DUCKY! THAT'S HEART-BREAKING!
I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT ELSE TO DO.


LATER ON, I WANTED TO FIND YOU, BUT I DIDN'T KNOW WHERE YOU WERE.
I DIDN'T HAVE THE MAGIC TO FIND YOU ANYMORE.
THE OTHER UNICORNS TRIED TO MAKE ME FEEL BETTER.
BUT FROLICKING IS THEIR ANSWER TO EVERYTHING, AND I'M NOT REALLY A FROLICKER.
I DIDN'T WANT TO GO TO THE MEADOW ANYMORE, AND I DIDN'T HAVE ANYWHERE ELSE TO GO, SO I JUST STAYED HERE.
I LIKE THE TREES, THEY REMIND ME OF... US.
THEY REMIND ME OF YOU, TOO.
THE WHOLE TIME I'VE BEEN BACK I'VE BEEN THINKING ABOUT UNICORNS.
NOW I KNOW I'VE BEEN THINKING OF YOU.
THAT MAKES ME FEEL PRETTY GOOD, ACTUALLY THAT YOU DIDN'T FORGET.
BUT... I KIND OF DID FORGET.
MY WHOLE LIFE I THOUGHT YOU WERE JUST SOMETHING I MADE UP.

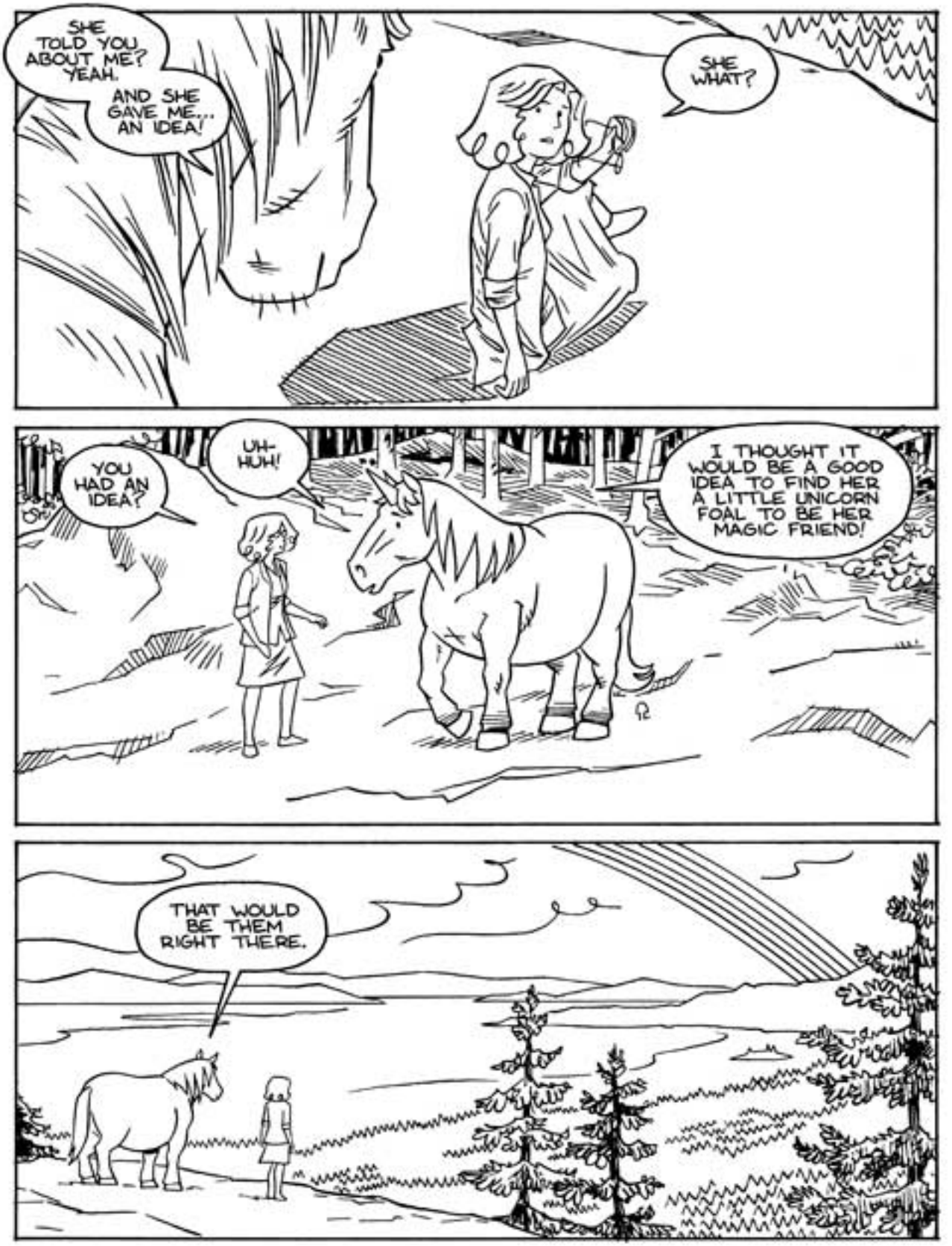

SO WHAT HAPPENED? WHERE DID YOUR MOM TAKE YOU?
MM.. WE DIDN'T ACTUALLY GO VERY FAR AWAY. BUT, YOU KNOW, WHEN YOU'RE A KID, THE BIG CITY IS LIKE ANOTHER WHOLE PLANET.
IT WAS COLD AND BIG AND NOT FUN THERE.
I DIDN'T KNOW ANYBODY AND NOBODY BELIEVED I HAD A UNICORN.
EVERYBODY SAID YOU WERE AN IMAGINARY FRIEND.
THEY ARE NOT!
HA!
HA!
HA!
HA!
HA!
HA!
HA!
MOM THOUGHT GIVING ME A STUFFED UNICORN WOULD CHEER ME UP, BUT IT WAS JUST A TOY.
JUST ANOTHER WAY OF SAYING MY UNICORN WASN'T REAL.
AFTER A WHILE, I GUESS IT JUST SANK IN.
WHAT IS REAL?
WHEN YOU GROW UP, IT GETS HARD TO REMEMBER WHAT BEING SIX YEARS OLD IS LIKE.
AND I'VE BEEN SKEPTICAL ABOUT PRETTY MUCH ANY-THING I COULDN'T HOLD IN MY HAND EVER SINCE.


MOST OF MY LIFE I'VE BEEN RUNNING AROUND LOOKING FOR THE SECRET PLACES IN THE REAL WORLD.
THE PLACES WE USED TO GO. I WANTED TO BELIEVE IN THEM BUT I JUST...
I GUESS I JUST NEEDED TO SEE THEM FOR REAL.
THERE ARE SOME THINGS YOU CAN'T HOLD IN YOUR HANDS.
MOST PEOPLE SEEM CONTENT TO BELIEVE IN MYTHS AND CONSPIRACIES, GODS AND GHOSTS.
THE THINGS THAT PEOPLE ARE STRIVING AND FIGHTING AND FALLING IN LOVE OVER... THEY'RE JUST IDEAS, AREN'T THEY?
IT'S ALL IN OUR HEADS.
JUST BECAUSE IDEAS ARE IN YOUR HEAD DOESN'T MEAN THEY'RE NOT REAL. THEY'RE AS REAL AS YOU OR ME.
HAVEN'T YOU EVER BEEN IN LOVE?
I DON'T KNOW...
SOMETIMES I THINK THAT'S SOMETHING PEOPLE SAY BECAUSE THEY JUST WANT TO BELIEVE IN IT.
PEOPLE THINK THEY'RE IN LOVE, THEN THEY CHANGE THEIR MINDS, THEN THEY MOVE ON.
IT HAPPENS ALL THE TIME.


THERE HAVE BEEN GUYS WHO SAID THEY WERE IN LOVE WITH ME, BUT IT WASN'T REALLY ME THEY WERE FLIPPING OUT OVER.
IT WAS SOMETHING IN THEIR IMAGINATIONS THEY HOPED THEIR LIVES MIGHT BECOME THAT THEY WERE JUST PROJECTING ON ME.
I KNOW WHO I AM!
I WANT PEOPLE TO TAKE ME AS I AM AND NOT CONFUSE ME WITH THEIR PLANS FOR ME!
IT SOUNDS AS IF YOU HAVEN'T BEEN LOOKING FOR LOVE.
AHHH POOP!
BUT... I HAVE A DAUGHTER, DUCKY.
AND... SHE'S MY BABY, AND I LOVE HER!

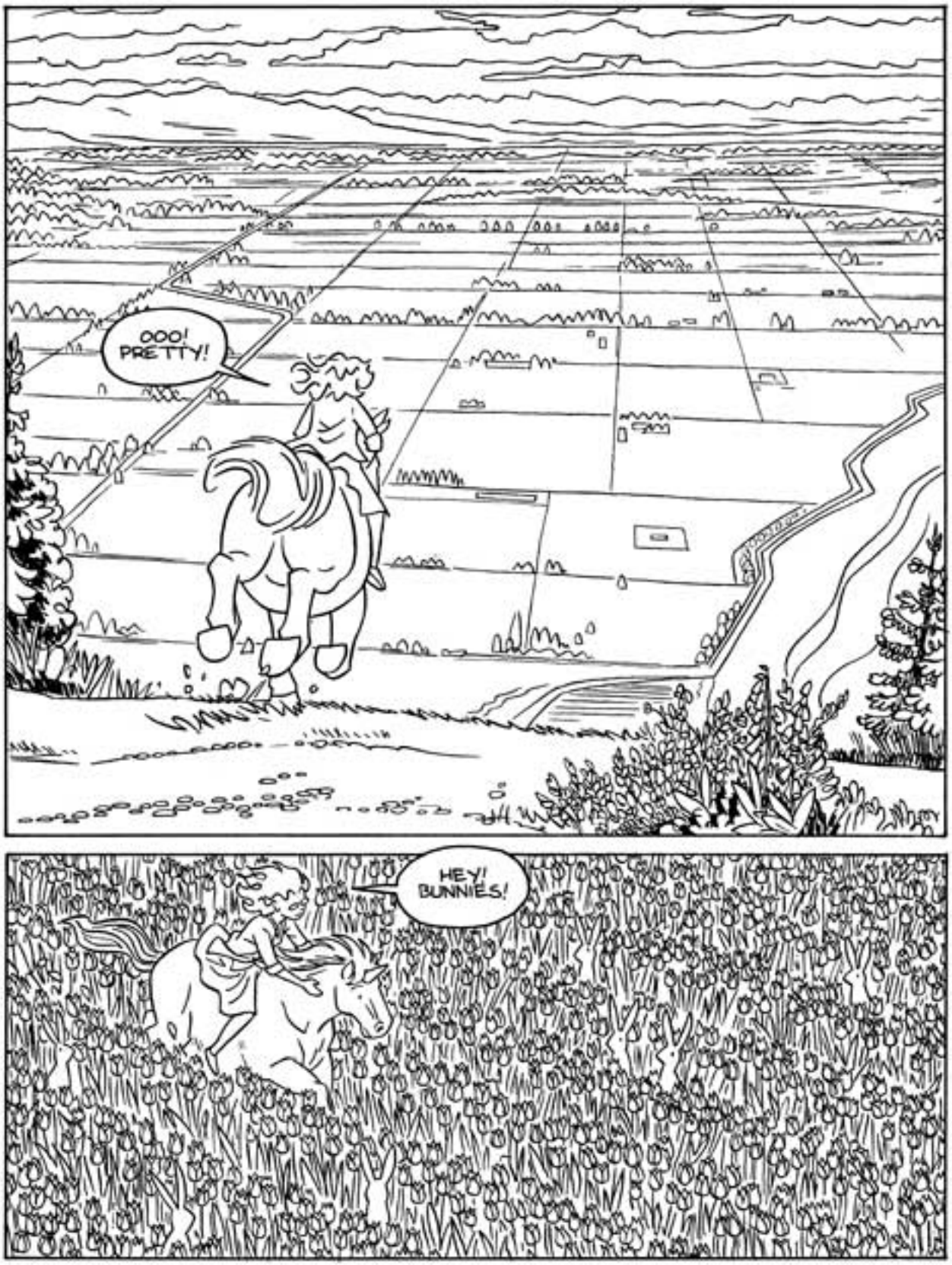

THAT'S ABOUT AS REAL AS IT GETS, ISN'T IT?
IT'S REAL. IT'S ALL REAL.
AND SHE'S SO SAD, DUCKY.
I USED TO WANDER AROUND A LOT, YOU KNOW, I WAS KIND OF A GYPSY.
BUT WHEN I HAD RUBY, THAT LIFESTYLE WASN'T WORKING FOR ME ANYMORE.
I WANT A HOME FOR HER.
AND HER FATHER? WELL, THAT WASN'T HIS THING AND HE JUST COMES AND GOES, LIKE HE ALWAYS HAS.
AND RUBY DOESN'T UNDERSTAND WHY HE DOESN'T STAY.
I KNEW THIS ABOUT HIM. FROM THE MOMENT I MET HIM I KNEW WHAT KIND OF GUY HE IS.
AND NOW, I DON'T KNOW. MAYBE I SHOULD HAVE WAITED.
COULDN'T I HAVE FOUND SOMEONE WHO WOULD STAY AND LOVE US?
SHE'S SO SAD, DUCKY.
AND I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO FOR HER.


SOB.
HEY, HEY, DON'T CRY.
IT'S GOING TO BE OKAY.
YOU KNOW WHAT? I'VE MET HER, YOUR DAUGHTER, RUBY.
THAT WAS YOU?


SHE TOLD YOU ABOUT ME? YEAH.
AND SHE GAVE ME... AN IDEA!
SHE WHAT?
YOU HAD AN IDEA?
UH-HUH!
I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE A GOOD IDEA TO FIND HER A LITTLE UNICORN FOAL TO BE HER MAGIC FRIEND!
THAT WOULD BE THEM RIGHT THERE.

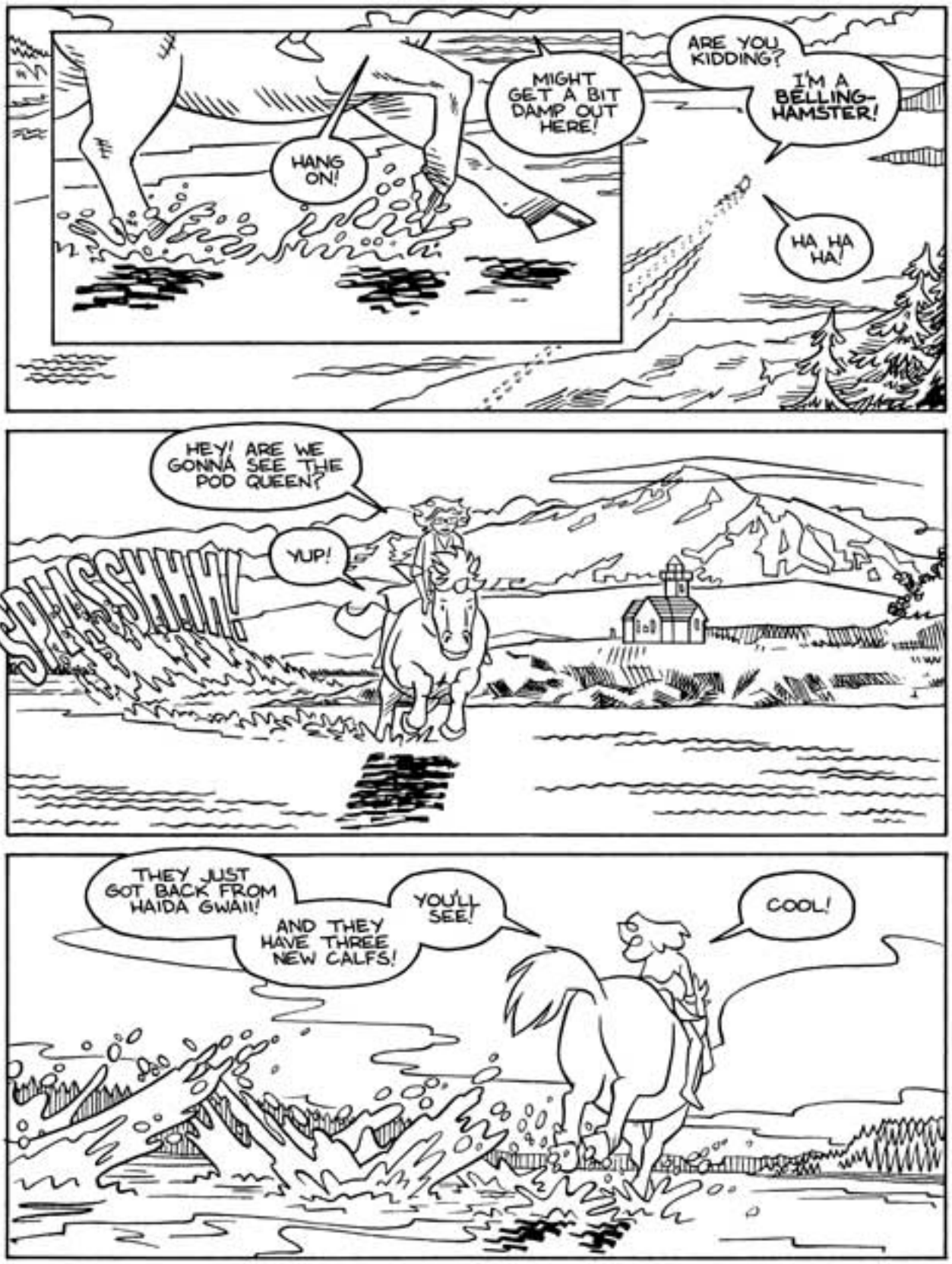

RUBY'S GOING TO BE OKAY.
OH DUCKY! THANK YOU!
THANK YOU SO MUCH!
I LOVE YOU DUCKY! I ALWAYS HAVE!
I LOVE YOU, MAX.
I'M YOUR MAGIC UNICORN FOREVER.
I'M SORRY I DIDN'T BELIEVE IN YOU.
MAX, THAT WAS YESTERDAY.

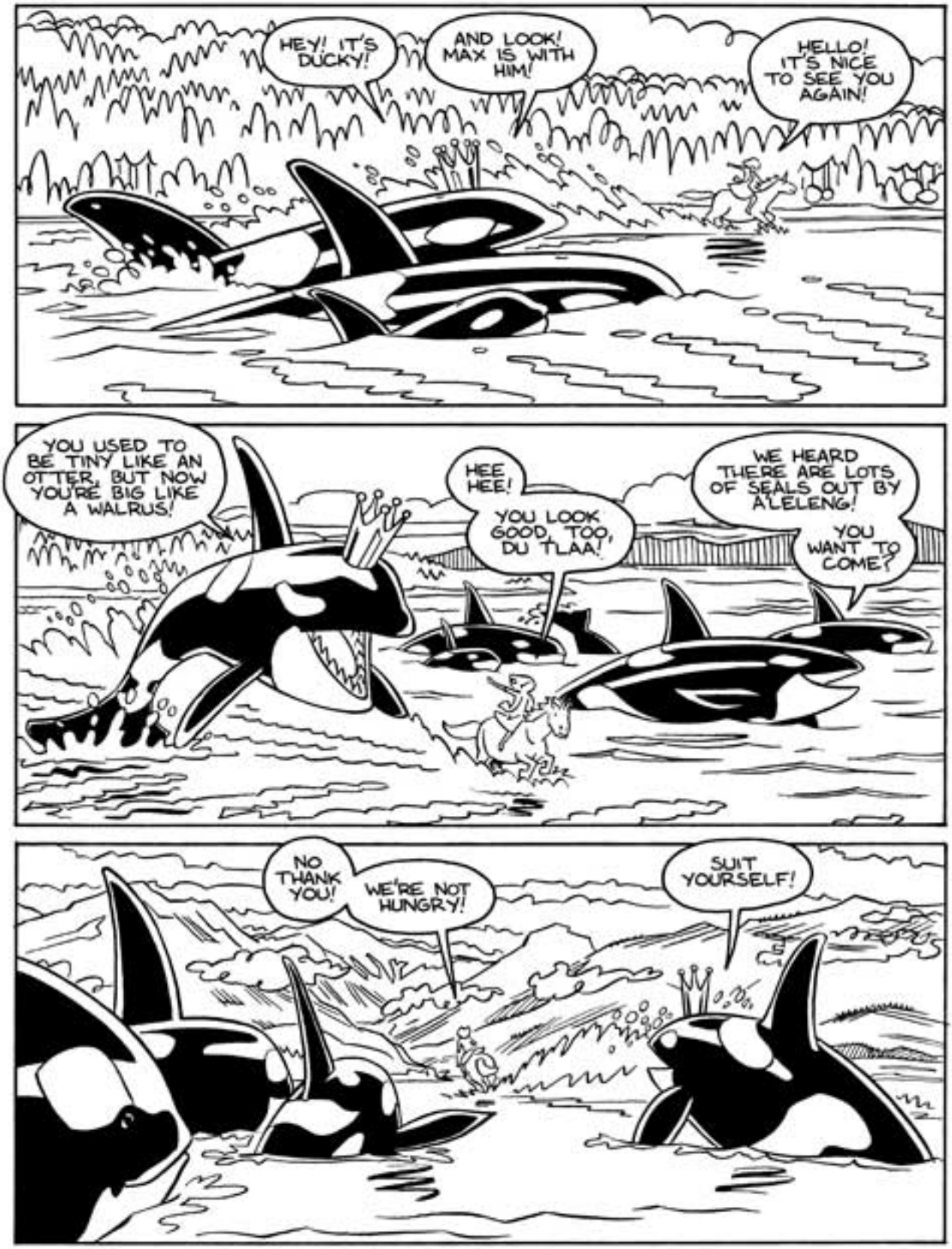

FOREVER ISN'T YESTERDAY.
FOREVER IS TODAY AND TOMORROW AND FOREVER.
YOU KNOW WHAT, MAX?
THE SECRET PLACES ARE REAL!
LET'S RIDE, MAX.
I'LL SHOW YOU!

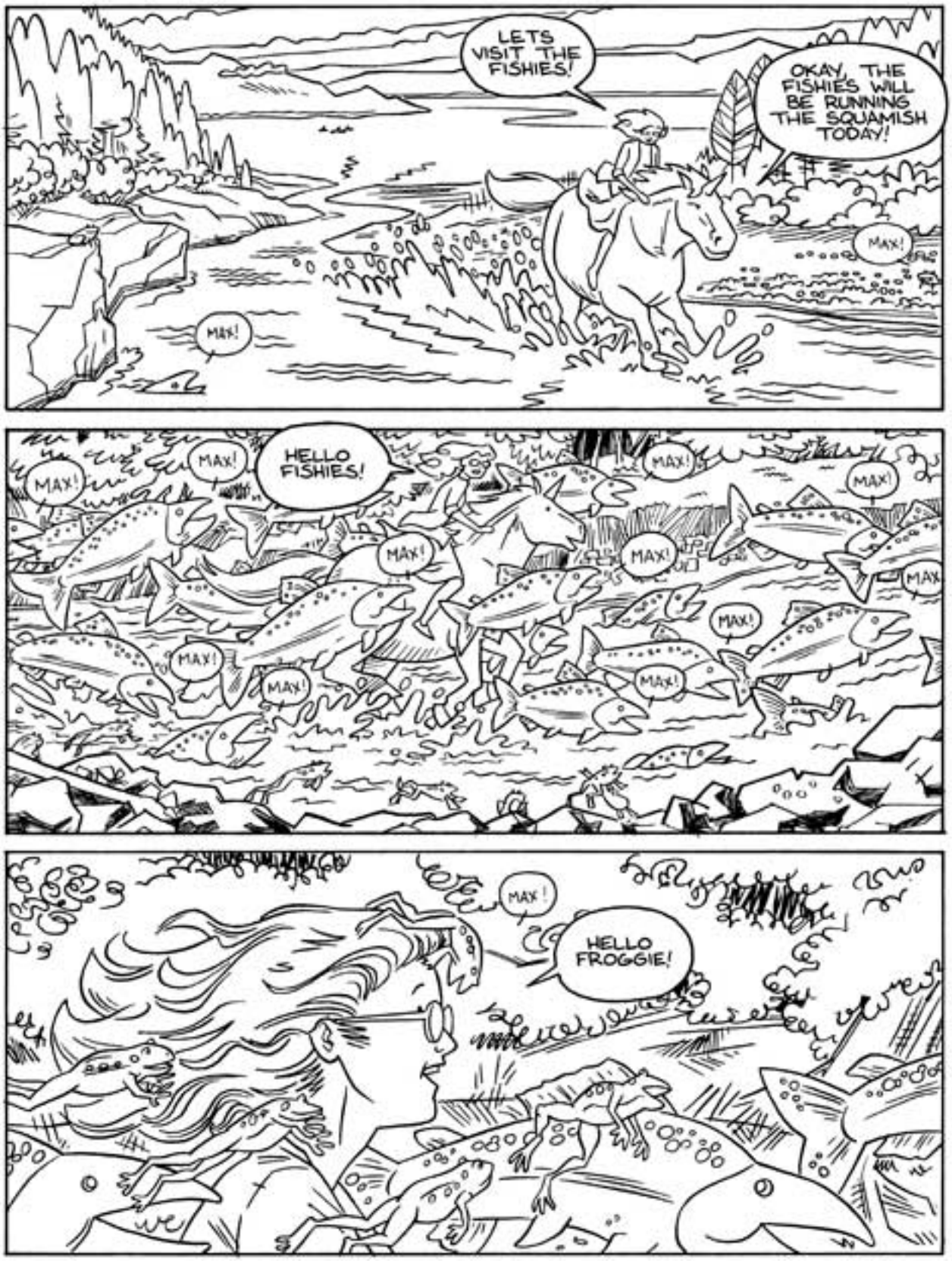

OOO! PRETTY!
HEY! BUNNIES!


HI MAX!
HI DUCKY!
WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
WE'RE GOING ON A RIDE!
COME VISIT US AGAIN!
BRING CARROTS!
OKAY!
OKAY, LET'S GO SOMEWHERE WE CAN REALLY OPEN IT UP!

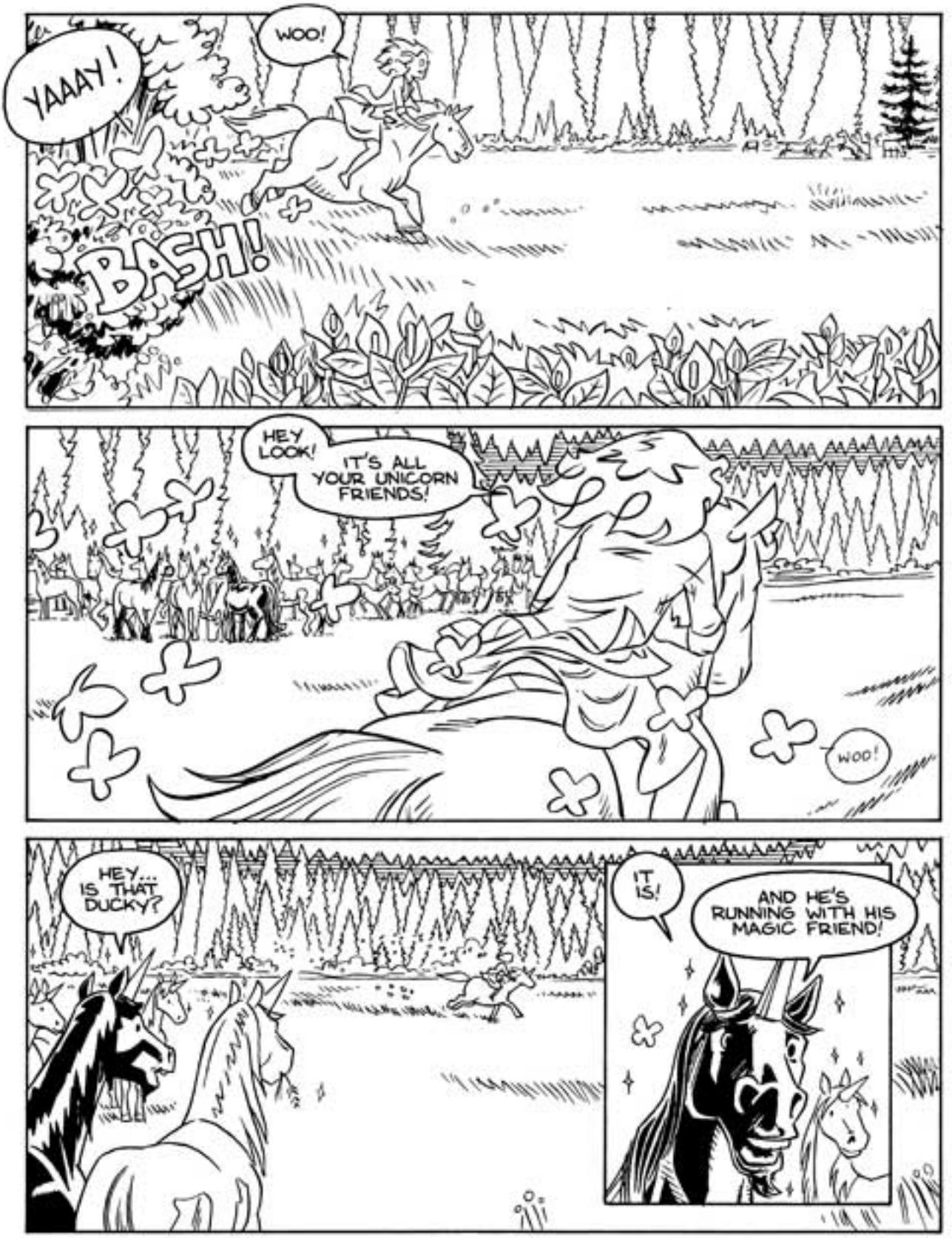

WOW!
I SURE MISSED THIS!
WHERE DO YOU WANT TO GO?
RUN!
JUST RUN!
OH YEAH!
ALL RIGHTY!


HANG ON!
MIGHT GET A BIT DAMP OUT HERE!
ARE YOU KIDDING?
I'M A BELLING-HAMSTER!
HA HA HA!
HEY! ARE WE GONNA SEE THE POD QUEEN?
YUP!
SPLASHH
THEY JUST GOT BACK FROM HAIDA GWAII!
AND THEY HAVE THREE NEW CALFS!
YOU'LL SEE!
COOL!


HEY! IT'S DUCKY!
AND LOOK! MAX IS WITH HIM!
HELLO! IT'S NICE TO SEE YOU AGAIN!
YOU USED TO BE TINY LIKE AN OTTER, BUT NOW YOU'RE BIG LIKE A WALRUS!
HEE HEE!
YOU LOOK GOOD, TOO, DU TLAA!
WE HEARD THERE ARE LOTS OF SEALS OUT BY A'LELENG!
YOU WANT TO COME?
NO THANK YOU!
WE'RE NOT HUNGRY!
SUIT YOURSELF!

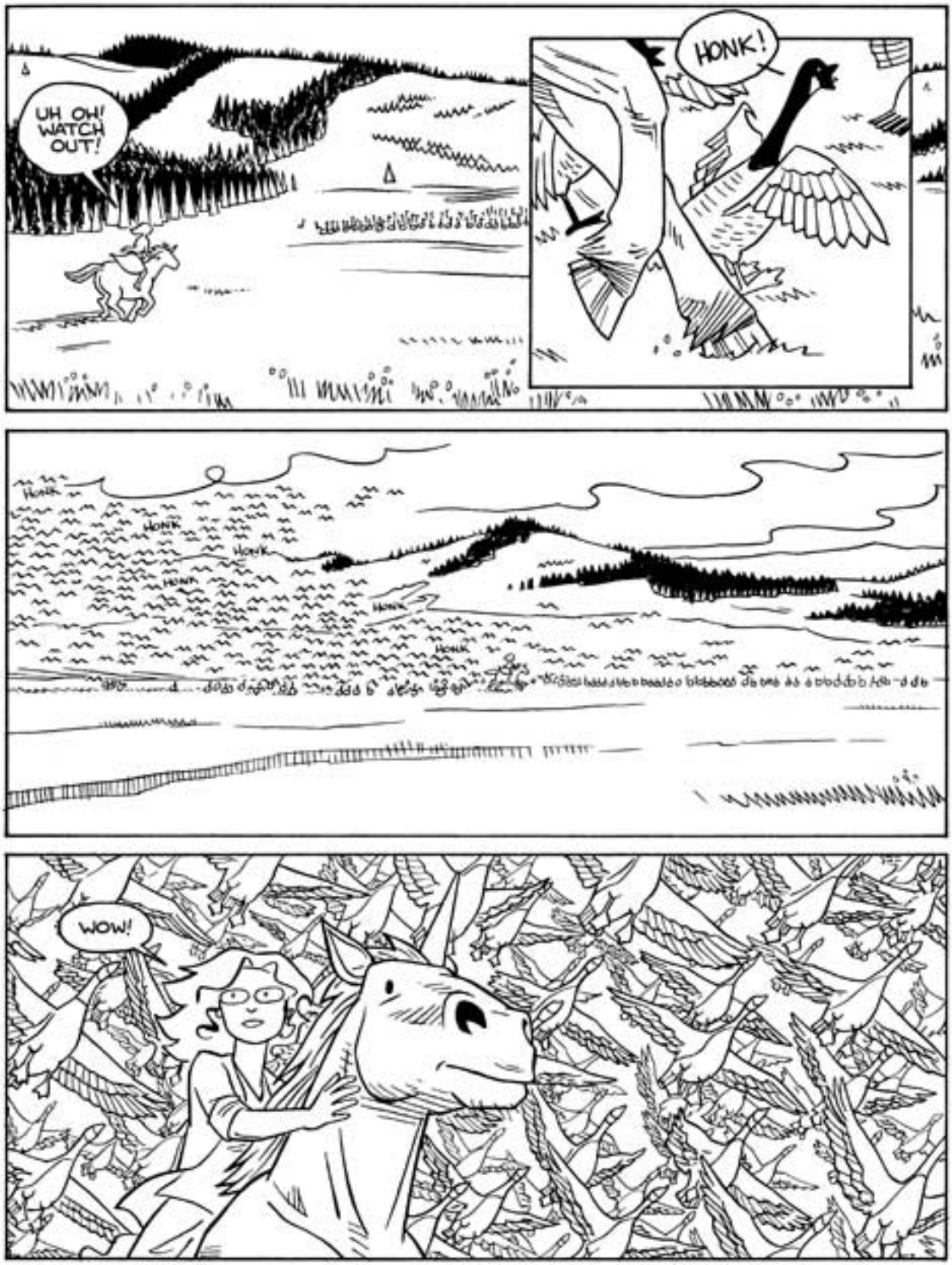

LETS VISIT THE FISHIES!
OKAY, THE FISHIES WILL BE RUNNING THE SQUAMISH TODAY!
MAX!
MAX!
HELLO FISHIES!
MAX!
MAX!
MAX!
MAX!
MAX!
MAX!
MAX!
MAX!
MAX!
MAX!
MAX!
HELLO FROGGIE!

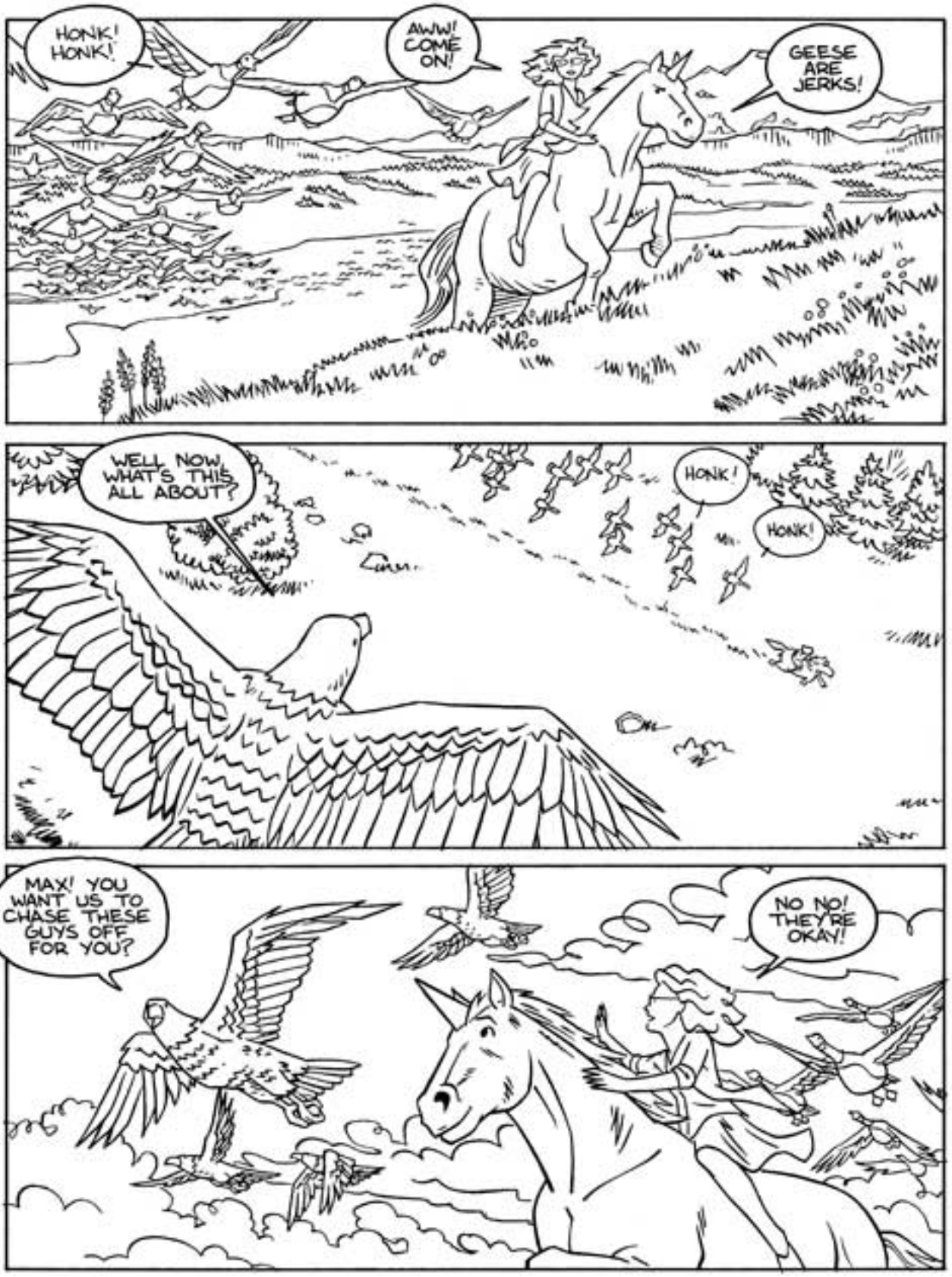

DID YOU CATCH ALL THAT?
YEAH, THEY ARE A CHATTY BUNCH!
MAX!
MAX!
MAX!
WHOOPS!
GOOD MORNING!
MAX!
EYYYY...
ARE YOU GOING TO THE MEADOW?
ARE WE GOING TO THE MEADOW?
WE ARE GOING TO THE MEADOW!


YAAAY!
WOO!
BASH!
HEY LOOK!
IT'S ALL YOUR UNICORN FRIENDS!
WOO!
HEY... IS THAT DUCKY?
IT IS!
AND HE'S RUNNING WITH HIS MAGIC FRIEND!

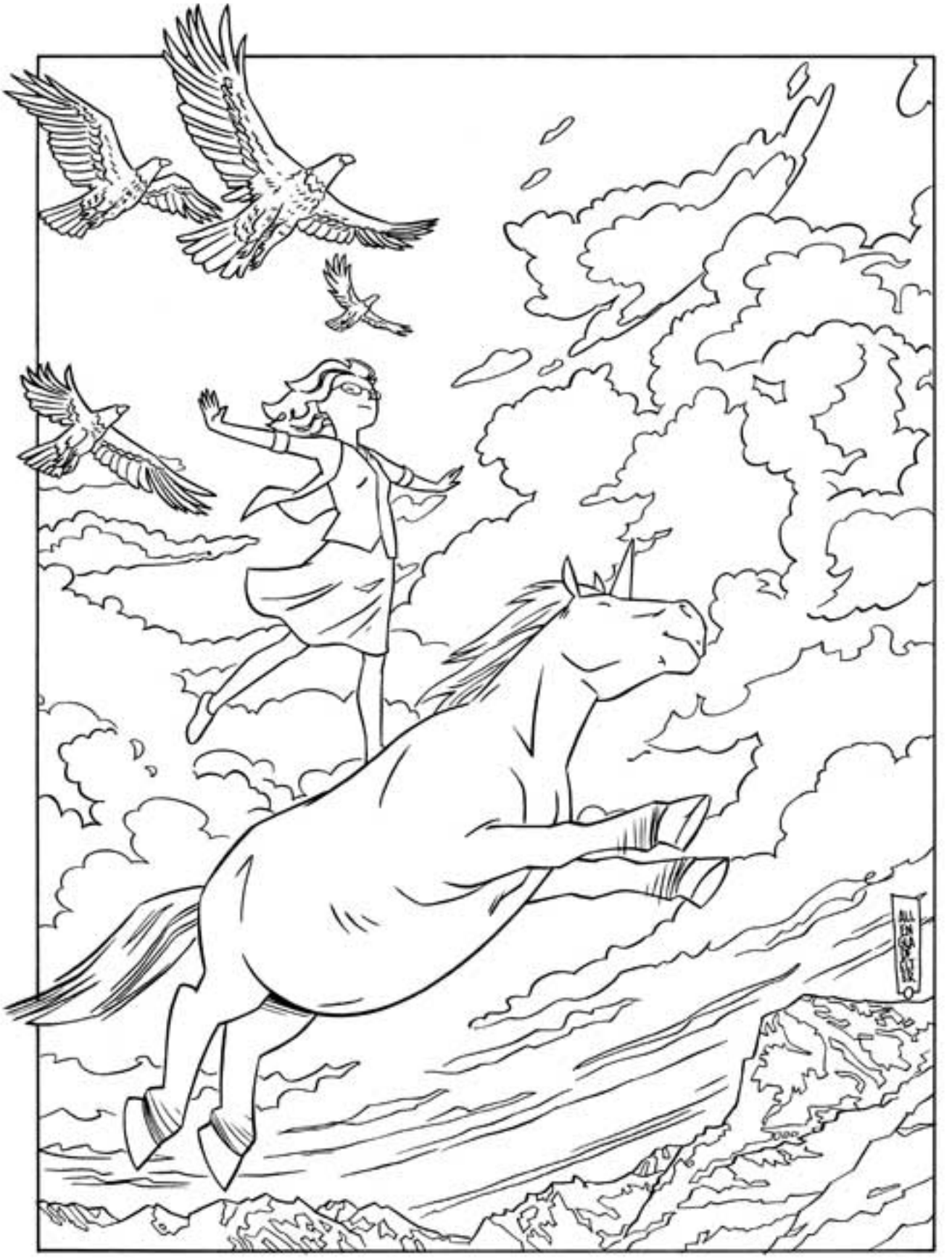

WHINNY!
YOW!
GO DUCKY!
YEAH!
WHINNY!
WHINNY!
WHINNY!
THEY LOOK EXCITED TO SEE YOU!
OH BOY! HERE WE GO!
OMIGOD! WHEEEEEEE! HA HA HA!
OMIGOD! YOUR HAIR!
AAAK! DON'T TELL ME!


LOOK AT YOU! FROLICKING LIKE A BOSS!
IS THIS THE BEST EVER OR WHAT?
PRETTY GOOD, YEAH! HEE HEE!
I TOLD YOU SO!
DIDN'T I TELL YOU SO?
THANKS, UNICORNS! YES YOU DID!
YOUR FRIENDS LOVE YOU!


UH OH! WATCH OUT!
HONK!
HONK
HONK
HONK
HONK
HONK
HONK
WOW!


HONK! HONK!
AWW! COME ON!
GEESE ARE JERKS!
WELL NOW, WHAT'S THIS ALL ABOUT?
HONK!
HONK!
MAX! YOU WANT US TO CHASE THESE GUYS OFF FOR YOU?
NO NO! THEY'RE OKAY!


THINK WE CAN STILL DO IT?
I... I THINK SO.
YOU WANT TO?
YE... YEAH?
I'M A LITTLE NERVOUS!
DON'T BE SCARED!
I WON'T DROP YOU!
I'M READY! I'M READY!
I BELIEVE IN YOU!

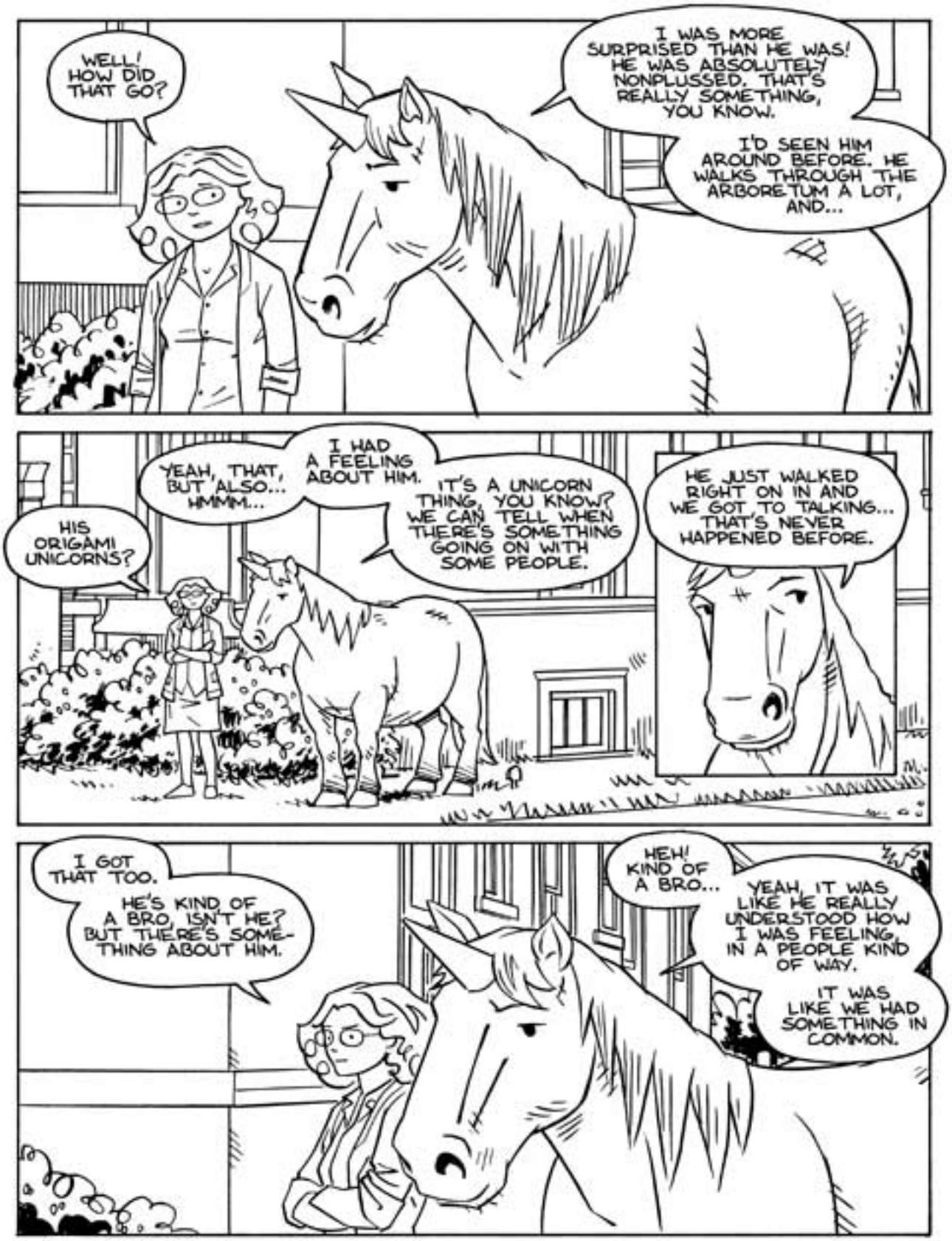


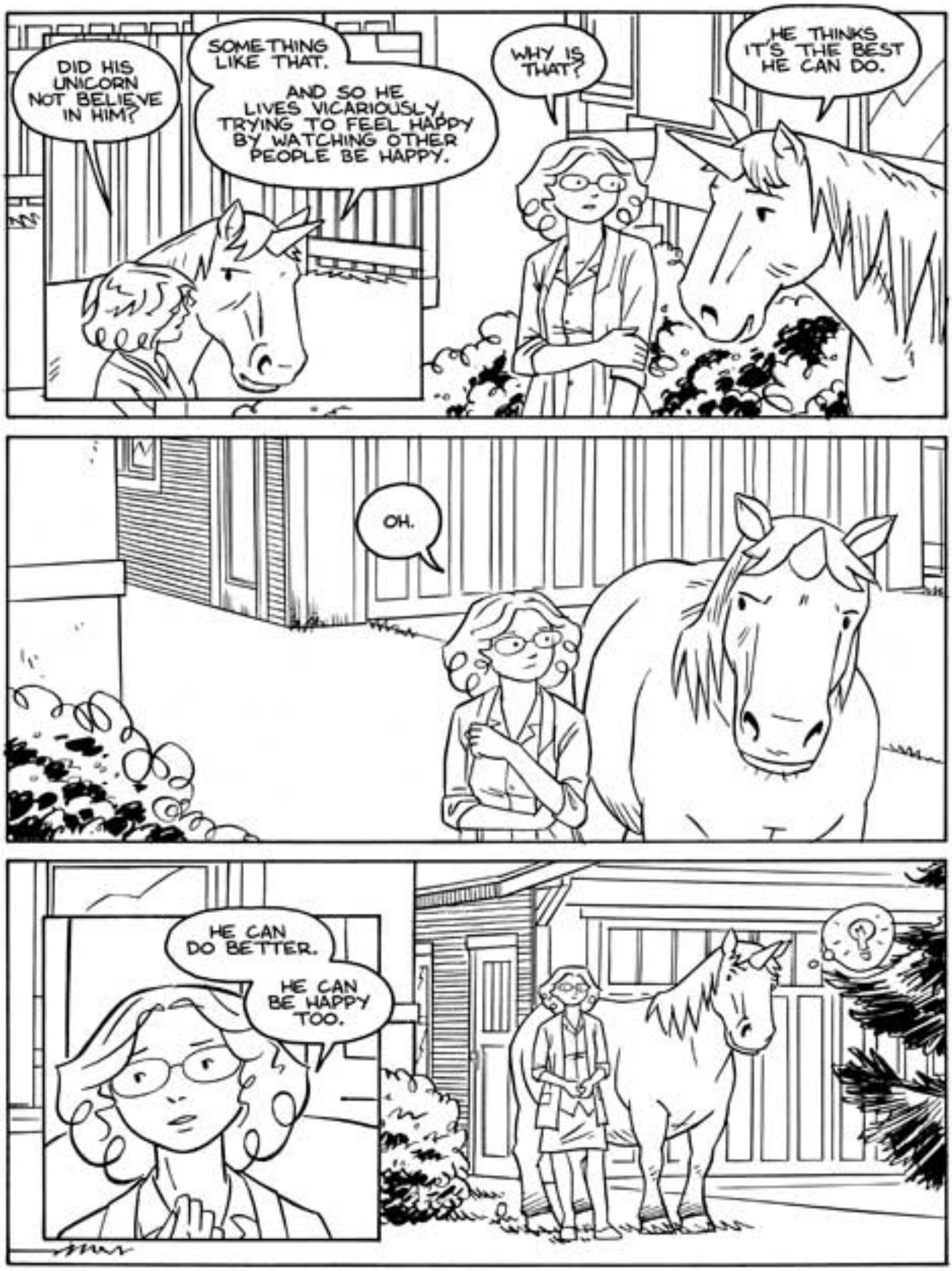

I WILL ALWAYS BELIEVE IN YOU!


The Secret Places Are Real


PEOPLE CAN'T CATCH UNICORNS!
CAN TOO!
HA! HA! HA! HA! HA!
SEE? I GOT YOU!
WE WERE THAT CUTE, WEREN'T WE?
WE WERE ADORABLE!
HEE HEE!
I WAS EXACTLY THAT HAPPY BEING YOUR MAGIC FRIEND...
ARE UNICORNS TICKLISH?
NO! WHINNY WHINNY!
SEEING RUBY LIKE THIS MAKES ME EVEN HAPPIER THAN THAT.
I FEEL LIKE A KID AGAIN.

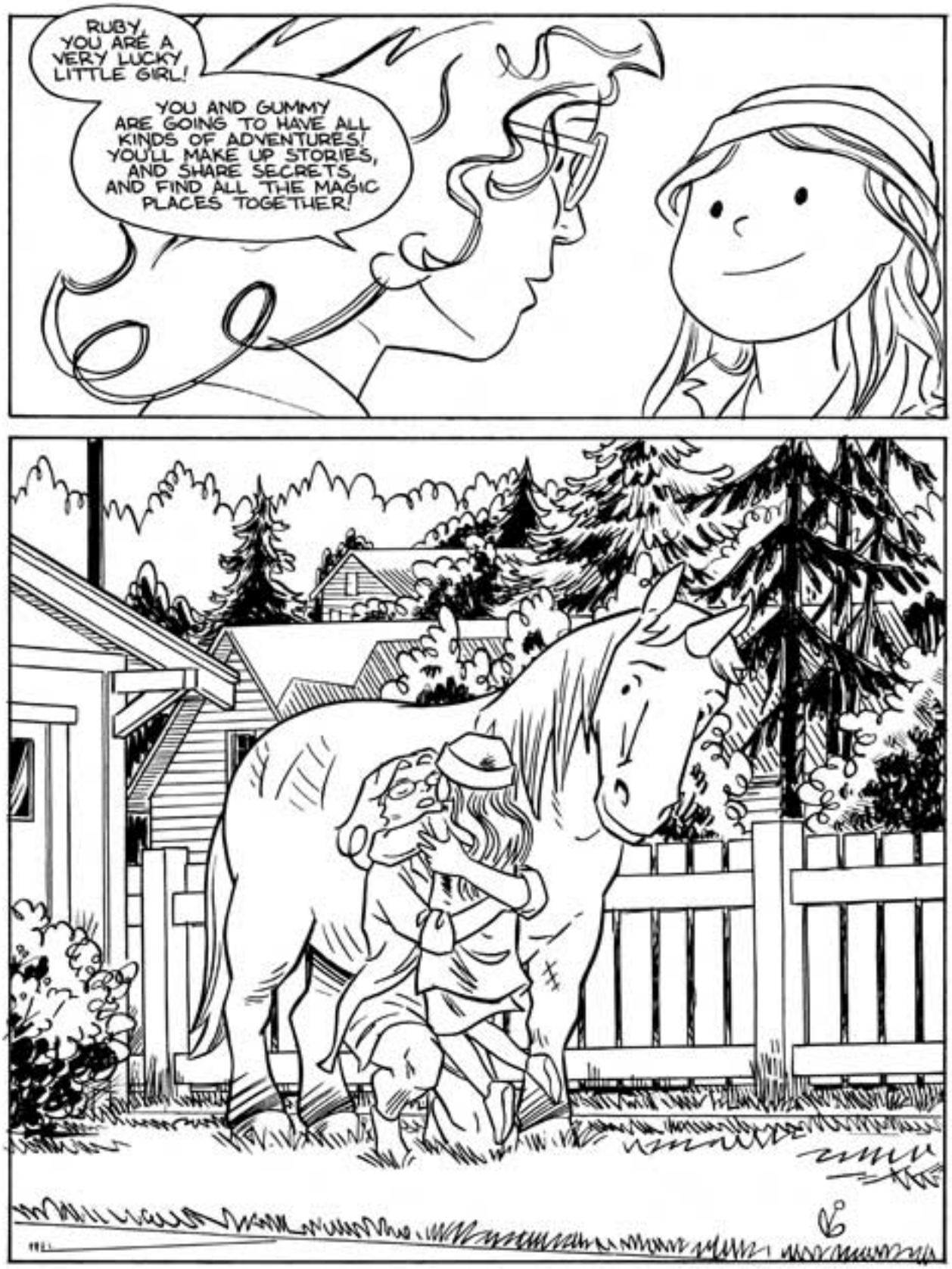

WILEM SAID THE SAME THING.
WITNESSING THE HAPPINESS OF CHILDREN IS ONE OF LIFE'S GREAT JOYS.
OH DEAR! WILEM!
WE KINDA DITCHED HIM, DIDN'T WE?
HEH. YEAH, KINDA.
DO YOU THINK HE'S ALRIGHT?
I THINK SO, HE'S A GOOD GUY.
HOW DID YOU BECOME FRIENDS?
HE JUST WALKED RIGHT IN MY HOUSE YESTERDAY.
JUST LIKE THAT?
JUST LIKE THAT!
HE OPENED THE DOOR AND WALKED RIGHT ON IN AND WHOOP DE DOO!


WELL! HOW DID THAT GO?
I WAS MORE SURPRISED THAN HE WAS! HE WAS ABSOLUTELY NONPLUSSED. THAT'S REALLY SOMETHING, YOU KNOW.
I'D SEEN HIM AROUND BEFORE. HE WALKS THROUGH THE ARBORETUM A LOT, AND...
HIS ORIGAMI UNICORNS?
YEAH, THAT, BUT ALSO... HMMM...
I HAD A FEELING ABOUT HIM.
IT'S A UNICORN THING, YOU KNOW? WE CAN TELL WHEN THERE'S SOMETHING GOING ON WITH SOME PEOPLE.
HE JUST WALKED RIGHT ON IN AND WE GOT TO TALKING... THAT'S NEVER HAPPENED BEFORE.
I GOT THAT TOO.
HE'S KIND OF A BRO, ISN'T HE? BUT THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT HIM.
HEH! KIND OF A BRO...
YEAH, IT WAS LIKE HE REALLY UNDERSTOOD HOW I WAS FEELING, IN A PEOPLE KIND OF WAY.
IT WAS LIKE WE HAD SOMETHING IN COMMON.


DID HIS UNICORN NOT BELIEVE IN HIM?
SOMETHING LIKE THAT.
AND SO HE LIVES VICARIOUSLY, TRYING TO FEEL HAPPY BY WATCHING OTHER PEOPLE BE HAPPY.
WHY IS THAT?
HE THINKS IT'S THE BEST HE CAN DO.
OH.
HE CAN DO BETTER.
HE CAN BE HAPPY TOO.
?


MOMMY! MOMMY! I HAVE A UNICORN!
OH RUBY! LOOK AT HER! SHE'S SO CUTE!
I MADE A RAINBOW!
YEAH, WE SAW! IT WAS REAL PRETTY!
HELLO, MR. UNICORN!
RAIN BOWS!
RAIN BOWS!
RAIN BOWS!
ARE YOU MOMMY'S UNICORN?
I SURE AM, RUBY.
HIS NAME IS DUCKY.


RUBY GAVE ME A NAME!
RUBY MADE IT UP ALL BY HERSELF!
MY UNICORN'S NAME IS GUMMY!
BECAUSE SHE'S LIKE MY ORIGUMMY UNICORNS!
YOU'RE A CUTE LITTLE UNICORN, GUMMY, AND NOW YOU HAVE A NAME!
THAT'S A REAL GOOD NAME FOR A UNICORN!
YAY!
OH BOY! LOOK AT HER GO!
HA! HA! HA!
GUMMY!
GUMMY!
GUMMY!
MY NAME IS GUMMY!


RUBY, YOU ARE A VERY LUCKY LITTLE GIRL!
YOU AND GUMMY ARE GOING TO HAVE ALL KINDS OF ADVENTURES! YOU'LL MAKE UP STORIES, AND SHARE SECRETS, AND FIND ALL THE MAGIC PLACES TOGETHER!


HEY, YOU GUYS HAVE FUN, OKAY?
I'VE GOT SOME... UNICORN STUFF I NEED TO DO.
BUT I'LL BE BACK REAL SOON.
WHERE ARE YOU GOING, MR. DUCKY UNICORN?
WELL... I'VE GOT AN IDEA!


HOW LONG YOU BEEN SITTING AT THIS BUS STOP?
I DUNNO, A WHILE.
HOW LONG YOU BEEN WATCHING ME AT THIS BUS STOP?
I DUNNO A WHILE?
HEH! SO YOU SAY.


HEY! YOU'RE RIGHT OUT HERE ON THE STREET! WHAT IF SOMEBODY DRIVES BY? IS IT OKAY FOR PEOPLE TO SEE YOU?
NAH. PEOPLE DON'T USUALLY NOTICE UNICORNS UNLESS THEY'RE REALLY LOOKING FOR THEM.
VROOM!
THERE WAS A KID IN THE BACK SEAT WHO PROBABLY SAW ME, BUT THAT'S OKAY...
PEOPLE AREN'T VERY...
OBSERVANT.
SEE?
WOW.
PEOPLE SHOULD PAY CLOSER ATTENTION TO THEIR KIDS.


DID YOU HAVE FUN?
HECK YEAH! WE FROLICKED ALL OVER THE PLACE, LIKE WE USED TO!
THAT'S A GOOD FRIEND THAT YOU CAN PICK UP RIGHT WHERE YOU LEFT OFF.
YEAH, BUT WE PROBABLY STILL HAVE STUFF TO WORK OUT.
I DIDN'T KNOW SHE WAS HURT, TOO.
BUT HEY! WE'RE MAGIC FRIENDS! WE'RE GOING TO FIGURE IT OUT!
UNICORNS DON'T USUALLY TALK LIKE THAT, DO THEY?
I'M NOT LIKE THE OTHER UNICORNS.
ALL THEY EVER DO IS FROLIC.
I KNOW, RIGHT?
BUT REALLY, I MEAN IT! WE'RE MAGIC FRIENDS.


SO... WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT MAX?
SHE'S A LITTLE BIT OF ALL RIGHT, ISN'T SHE?
YOU SOUND LIKE A GUY I KNOW.
THAT GUY KNOWS WHAT HE'S TALKING ABOUT!
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? IS THIS WHAT UNICORNS TALK ABOUT?
THIS IS THE ONLY THING UNICORNS TALK ABOUT!
I'M STARTING TO THINK YOU'RE MORE LIKE THE OTHER UNICORNS THAN YOU LET ON.
OKAY, YEAH, I THINK SHE'S COOL. SHE'S TRAVELLED A LOT, SHE'S INTO BOOKS, SHE'S FUNNY AND ISN'T AFRAID TO CALL BULLSHIT, AND YEAH, I LIKE HER.
SHE LIKES YOU!


GREAT CAESAR'S GHOST...
DUDE...
WE HAD A GOOD AFTERNOON, SHE AND I, OKAY? NOTHING MORE TO IT THAN THAT. AND NOW WE'RE ALL FRIENDS...
THAT'S GOOD, ISN'T IT?
THAT'S ENOUGH.
THAT'S ENOUGH?
DUDE...
LOOK, MR. UNICORN, I'VE BEEN THROUGH THIS ENOUGH.
IT WASN'T JUST THAT ONE GIRL I TOLD YOU ABOUT. THERE HAVE BEEN OTHERS.
AND WITH EVERY ONE IT'S ALWAYS BEEN PRETTY MUCH THE SAME...
I'VE BEEN A PITIFUL CREEP, WITH NOTHING MUCH TO OFFER.
IT'S NOT LIKE THEY WERE WRONG.
THEY'RE JUST LIVING THEIR BEST LIVES AND BEING HONEST WITH THEMSELVES WHEN THEY MAKE UP THEIR MINDS ABOUT ME.
THEY'RE GOOD PEOPLE AND ALL I'VE EVER DONE IS MAKE THEM FEEL BAD FOR ME.
AND EACH TIME...
IF I'D LISTENED...
KEPT IT ALL TO MYSELF...

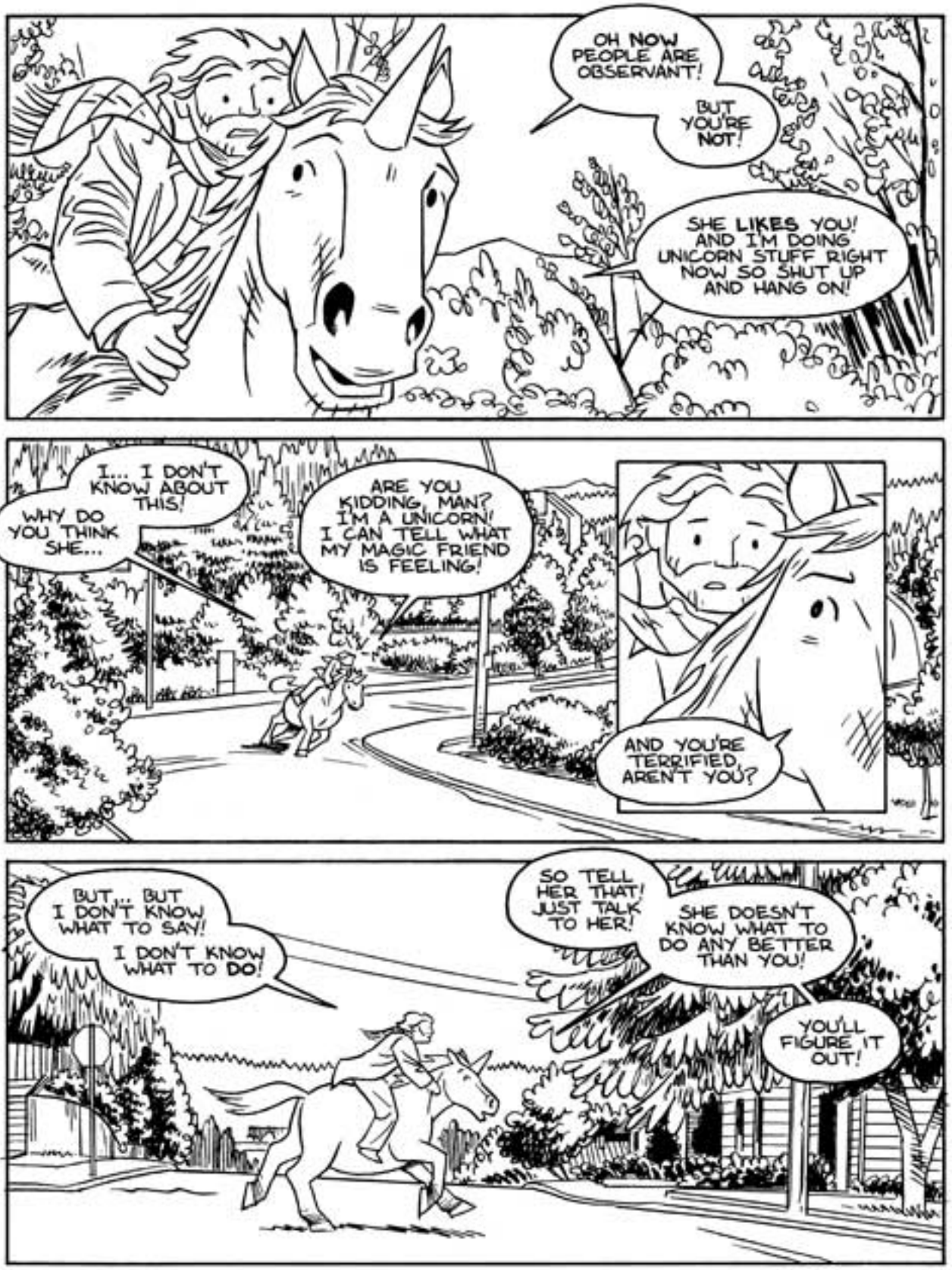

WILEM, YOU'VE MADE MISTAKES AND YOU'VE HURT PEOPLE.
THAT'S WHY PEOPLE GROW UP, THEY START HURTING EACH OTHER.
SOMETIMES THEY START HURTING THEMSELVES.
THING IS, PEOPLE ALSO HEAL EACH OTHER. NOTHING ELSE DOES THAT.
THAT'S ALSO PEOPLE MAGIC, THAT YOU CAN HEAL MORE THAN YOU HURT.
YOU'RE A GOOD MAN, WILEM, AND I'D LIKE TO THINK THAT YOU'VE HEALED MORE THAN YOU'VE HURT. YOU SEEM LIKE THAT KIND OF GUY.
I KNOW YOU'VE GIVEN ME SOME OF THAT PEOPLE MAGIC. MAYBE YOU COULD GIVE SOME OF IT TO YOURSELF?
YOU KNOW, I HAVE A REAL GOOD FRIEND WHO ONCE TOLD ME,
YOU CAN BE HAPPY TOO!
HEH. THANKS, DUCKY.
YOUR NAME IS REALLY DUCKY?
YEAH. SHE WAS ONLY FIVE YEARS OLD WHEN SHE GAVE ME MY NAME.


SIGH... YEAH, WELL, THAT'S A NICE THOUGHT AND ALL...
OH COME ON!
NO! DON'T YOU GET IT?
ALL THAT STUFF THAT HAPPENED?
SHE TOLD ME!
PLEASE DON'T.
IT'S NOT THAT SHE TOLD ME ON THAT HILL...
OR THAT SHE TOLD ME... OVER AND OVER AGAIN...
I DON'T THINK OF YOU THAT WAY.
IT'S JUST, I REALLY LIKE TALLER GUYS.
I KNOW THAT'S REALLY SHALLOW, BUT...
SO... MMMM... COULD YOU TELL ME MORE ABOUT YOUR BEST FRIEND?
SHE TOLD ME THAT NIGHT, OUT ON THE BALCONY!
LESS THAN TWO WEEKS FROM THE DAY I MET HER!
I DON'T WANT TO GO OUT WITH YOU.
BUT WE CAN STILL BE FRIENDS?
AND I DIDN'T, FUCKIN' LISTEN!


FRIEND!
WHEN WAS IT EVER GOOD TO HAVE ME AS A FRIEND?
I WAS A PRETTY CRAPPY FRIEND TO HER, THAT'S THE ACTUAL TRUTH.
ALWAYS FOLLOWING HER AROUND,
INTERFERING WITH HER RELOATIONSHIPS,
INTRUDING INTO HER LIFE.
I THOUGHT THAT I COULD CHANGE HER MIND, BUT IT JUST DOES NOT WORK THAT WAY.
THEN MAYBE SHE WOULD BE MY FRIEND.
AND IF I HADN'T DONE... ANY OF IT...
I AM NOT GOING TO DO THAT TO MAX! OKAY?
I'M A SWEET GUY!
I'M A GOOD FRIEND!
THAT'S GOOD, ISN'T IT?
GOOD IS GOOD, ISN'T IT?
YEAH, GOOD IS GOOD.
YEAH.
GOOD.


HEY, BUDDY, IT'S GOING TO BE OKAY.
LOOK! IT'S GOING TO BE FUN HAVING ANOTHER PEOPLE FRIEND!
I'M NOT FUN.
SURE YOU ARE! ALL PEOPLE ARE FUN!
I'M NOT.
OKAY NOW, STOP BEING A GRUMP.
COME ON, HOW ABOUT A RIDE HOME?
DO I WANT TO RIDE A UNICORN?
THERE'S REALLY ONLY ONE ANSWER TO THAT QUESTION ISN'T THERE?
WE DON'T HAVE TO GO AS FAST AS LAST TIME, DO WE?
AWWW RELAX YA PANSY!!!


WHINNY! WHINNY! WHINNY!
AAACK!
WOOOAH!
HEY HEY! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
THIS ISN'T THE WAY HOME!
HEE HEE!


OH NOW PEOPLE ARE OBSERVANT!
BUT YOU'RE NOT!
SHE LIKES YOU! AND I'M DOING UNICORN STUFF RIGHT NOW SO SHUT UP AND HANG ON!
I... I DON'T KNOW ABOUT THIS!
WHY DO YOU THINK SHE...
ARE YOU KIDDING, MAN? I'M A UNICORN! I CAN TELL WHAT MY MAGIC FRIEND IS FEELING!
AND YOU'RE TERRIFIED, AREN'T YOU?
BUT... BUT I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY!
I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO!
SO TELL HER THAT! JUST TALK TO HER!
SHE DOESN'T KNOW WHAT TO DO ANY BETTER THAN YOU!
YOU'LL FIGURE IT OUT!


IT'S SCARY, I KNOW! BUT DEEP DOWN YOU ALSO HOPE I'M RIGHT, DON'T YOU?
LISTEN, BUDDY, MAYBE YOU THINK LOVE IS IMPOSSIBLE,
BUT WHAT'S IMPOSSIBLE?
YOU'RE RIDING ON THE BACK OF A UNICORN!
OKAY THEN, GIDDYAP, UNICORN!
WOO-HOO!


TOM ROBBINS
STILL LIFE WITH WOODPECKER
THIS GUY SURE LIKES WAITRESSES.
MOMMY! LOOK!
I'M ON A UNICORN!
WHEEE!
THAT'S TERRIFIC!
WHAT'S NOT TO LIKE ABOUT WAITRESSES, ANYWAY?
MOMMY LOOK!
THEY'RE BACK!


WHINNY!
WHINNY!
WHINNY!
WHINNY!
WOAH!


OOP!
HEE HEE!


YOU GUYS SURE KNOW HOW TO MAKE A BIG ENTRANCE.
UNICORNS ALWAYS MAKE A BIG ENTRANCE
ARE YOU SURE?
SURE I'M SURE! YOU GOT THIS!
IS THIS THE UNICORN STUFF YOU HAD TO DO?
YUP!
HE JUST SHOWED UP AND ASKED ME IF I WANTED A RIDE AND, WELL...
THERE'S ONLY ONE ANSWER TO THAT QUESTION.
RIGHT!
I'M HAPPY YOU'RE HERE.
THANK YOU FOR FINDING MY UNICORN.
THANK YOU FOR BRINGING HIM BACK TO ME.
YEAH?
YEAH!


I DON'T KNOW WHAT I EXPECTED WHEN I MET YOU, BUT I'M SURE IT WASN'T THIS.
I'M GLAD WE CAME BACK HERE.
I THINK IT WAS THE RIGHT THING TO DO.
BELLINGHAM MIGHT BE THE SECRET PLACE I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR ALL ALONG.
I'VE STILL GOT THINGS TO FIGURE OUT.
THIS HAS ALL BEEN SO SUDDEN...
BUT IF THERE'S ANYBODY WHO COULD UNDERSTAND, I THINK IT MIGHT BE YOU.
YOU ARE KIND AND GENTLE AND DEAR.
SO WHAT BRINGS YOU HERE?


HOW COULD ANYONE PREDICT ANY OF THIS? I DON'T REALLY HAVE A PLAN.
I MET A UNICORN WITH A CRAZY IDEA, SO NOW HERE I AM!
HE SAYS WE'RE MAGIC FRIENDS NOW!
YOU ARE?
WE ARE!
WOW, THAT'S COOL.
YEAH. I SPENT THE WHOLE DAY RIDING AROUND ON A UNICORN!
I MEAN, WHO KNEW?
BUT THE CRAZIEST THING OF ALL?
I'VE ONLY BEEN THINKING ABOUT YOU!

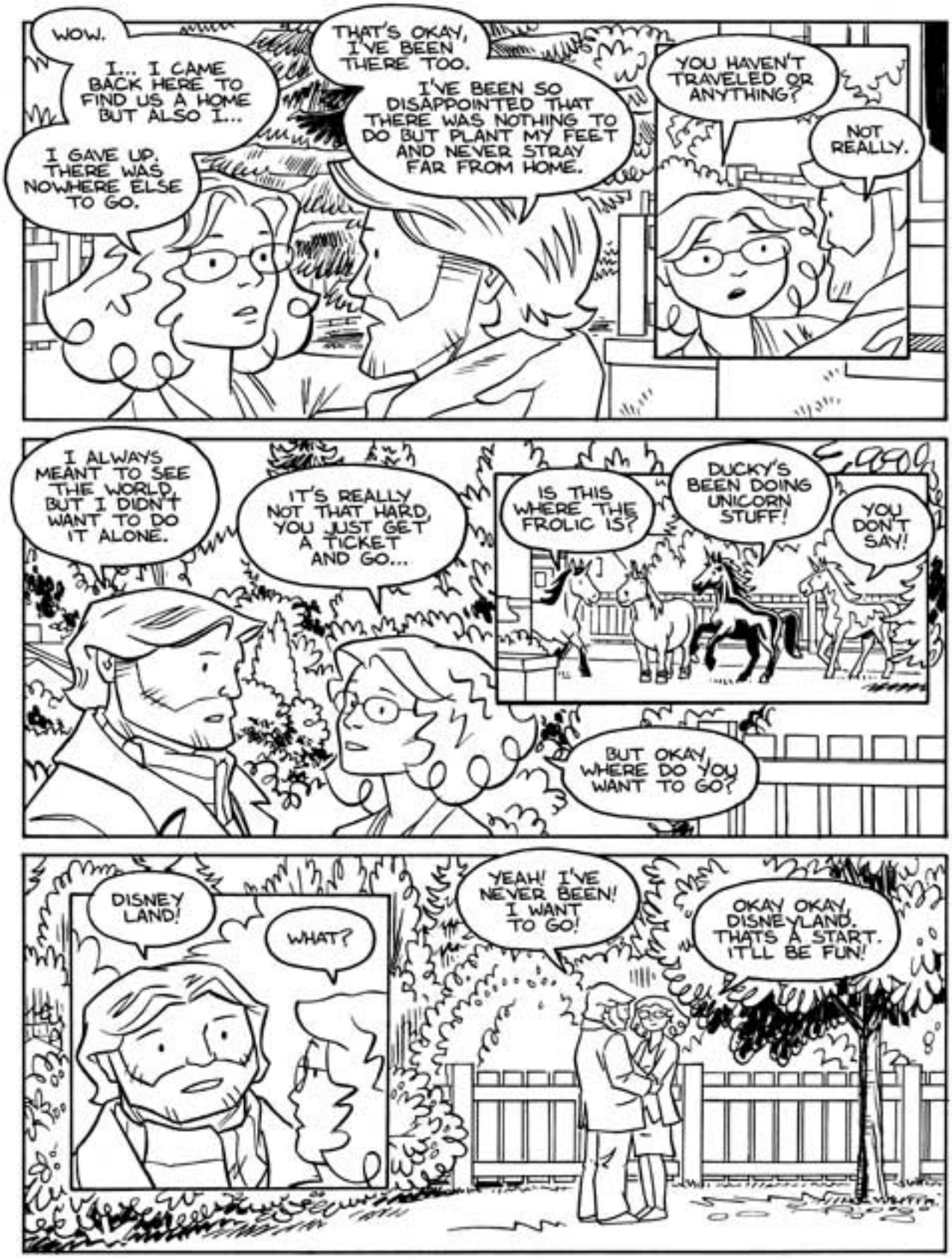

GO ON...
WELL, I JUST... I... HEH!
I JUST RODE HERE ON A REAL UNICORN!
HAVE YOU EVER HAD A DAY LIKE THIS, THAT COMES RIGHT OUT OF THE BLUE TO CHALLENGE EVERY-THING YOU THOUGHT YOU KNEW?
YESTERDAY UNICORNS WERE JUST A CHILDREN'S FANTASY, TODAY I WONDER WHAT ELSE COULD THERE BE?
AND IF THERE'S MORE THAT'S REAL AND POSSIBLE AND TRUE,
THEN MAYBE I'M HERE TO FALL IN LOVE WITH YOU!


I HAVEN'T ALWAYS BELIEVED THAT LOVE IS REAL.
THAT LOVE IS SOMETHING THAT JUST COMES AND GOES.
IS THAT TRUE?
DOES IT COME AND GO FOR YOU, TOO?
I'VE BEEN FEELING SO TURNED AROUND, IT'S BEEN A ROUGH DECEMBER.
NOW ALL THE THINGS THAT I'D FORGOTTEN THAT SUDDENLY I REMEMBER.
AND I THINK MAYBE IF I HANG OUT WITH YOU THAT I COULD FEEL BETTER?
WHAT IS IT ABOUT YOU, WILEM?
I LOOKED EVERYWHERE FOR THE SECRET PLACES, AND YOU JUST TURNED YOUR HEAD AND WALKED RIGHT ON IN?


I KNOW! THAT'S HOW WE MET!
I JUST LOOKED THE OTHER WAY WHEN I GOT THERE IS ALL.
YOU MAKE IT SOUND SO EASY, BUT YOU KNOW IT'S A LOT TO TAKE IN...
UNICORNS ARE REAL!
MAGIC IS REAL!
LOVE IS...
REAL?
I KNOW I LOVE MY RUBY, SHE WAS MY FIRST CLUE.
MAYBE THE NEXT WAS FINDING YOU?
THE SECRET PLACES HAVE ALWAYS BEEN HERE, I'D JUST FORGOTTEN TO BELIEVE AND NOW YOU'RE HERE TO FALL IN LOVE WITH ME?


I'VE OFTEN THOUGHT I MISSED OUT ON SOMETHING A REAL LONG TIME AGO.
SOMETHING THAT YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO LEARN WHILE THE WORLD IS NEW.
AND EVEN IF IT DOESN'T LAST FOREVER, YOU FIND OUT WHAT YOU HAVE TO OFFER, AND YOU SEE HOW DEEP YOUR LOVE CAN GO.
THAT'S ALL I REALLY WANT TO KNOW.
I'VE TRIED TO NOT LET THIS THOUGHT GET THE BEST OF ME, TO FIND A WAY TO LIVE A LIFE WORTH LIVING.
THERE ARE MANY JOYS WORTH LIVING FOR, LOVE IS ONE, THERE ARE MANY MORE...
HEY! WHAT'S THIS?
AND IF THIS IS THE LIFE GIVEN TO ME, WHAT KIND OF MAN DO I WANT TO BE?
YOU HAVE TWO MAGIC FRIENDS?
HOW DO YOU LIKE THAT?
I LIKE IT A LOT!
A KIND, PATIENT, OBSERVANT MAN WHO GAVE A LITTLE UNICORN TO MY DAUGHTER JUST TO MAKE HER HAPPY.
MAKING CHILDREN SMILE IS ONE OF THE GREATEST JOYS I KNOW.


SO MAYBE I DON'T QUITE KNOW WHAT I'M TALKING ABOUT?
CAN THERE BE MORE TO LIFE THAN THE WAY WE'VE BEEN LIVING?
I THINK THERE IS, WILEM!
I KNOW THERE IS!
HEY, I READ STILL LIFE WITH WOODPECKER AGAIN.
JUST NOW.
JUST NOW?
WOW!
I'M STILL NOT ENTIRELY CONVINCED. IF I'M GOING TO READ THAT WACKY HIPPY SHIT, I'M READING BRAUTIGAN.
BUT HE WAS RIGHT ABOUT ONE THING...
IT'S NEVER TOO LATE TO HAVE A HAPPY CHILDHOOD!
HEH! YOU SEE THAT? THAT WAS REALLY GOOD!
I LIKED EVERYTHING ABOUT THAT!
ALL THAT TIME YOU'VE BEEN A ROLLING STONE, HAVE YOU BEEN TRYING TO REMEMBER OR TRYING TO FORGET THAT MAGIC IS REAL IF ONLY YOU COULD BELIEVE?
AND NOW THAT YOU'VE FOUND WHAT YOU'VE ALWAYS KNOWN IS IT SO HARD FOR YOU TO COME TO ACCEPT THAT ALL THIS COULD BE REAL IF YOU JUST TURN YOUR HEAD TO SEE?
YOU COULD BE HERE TO FALL IN LOVE WITH ME!


WOW.
I... I CAME BACK HERE TO FIND US A HOME BUT ALSO I...
I GAVE UP. THERE WAS NOWHERE ELSE TO GO.
THAT'S OKAY, I'VE BEEN THERE TOO.
I'VE BEEN SO DISAPPOINTED THAT THERE WAS NOTHING TO DO BUT PLANT MY FEET AND NEVER STRAY FAR FROM HOME.
YOU HAVEN'T TRAVELED OR ANYTHING?
NOT REALLY.
I ALWAYS MEANT TO SEE THE WORLD, BUT I DIDN'T WANT TO DO IT ALONE.
IT'S REALLY NOT THAT HARD, YOU JUST GET A TICKET AND GO...
IS THIS WHERE THE FROLIC IS?
DUCKY'S BEEN DOING UNICORN STUFF!
YOU DON'T SAY!
BUT OKAY, WHERE DO YOU WANT TO GO?
DISNEY LAND!
WHAT?
YEAH! I'VE NEVER BEEN! I WANT TO GO!
OKAY OKAY, DISNEYLAND. THATS A START. IT'LL BE FUN!

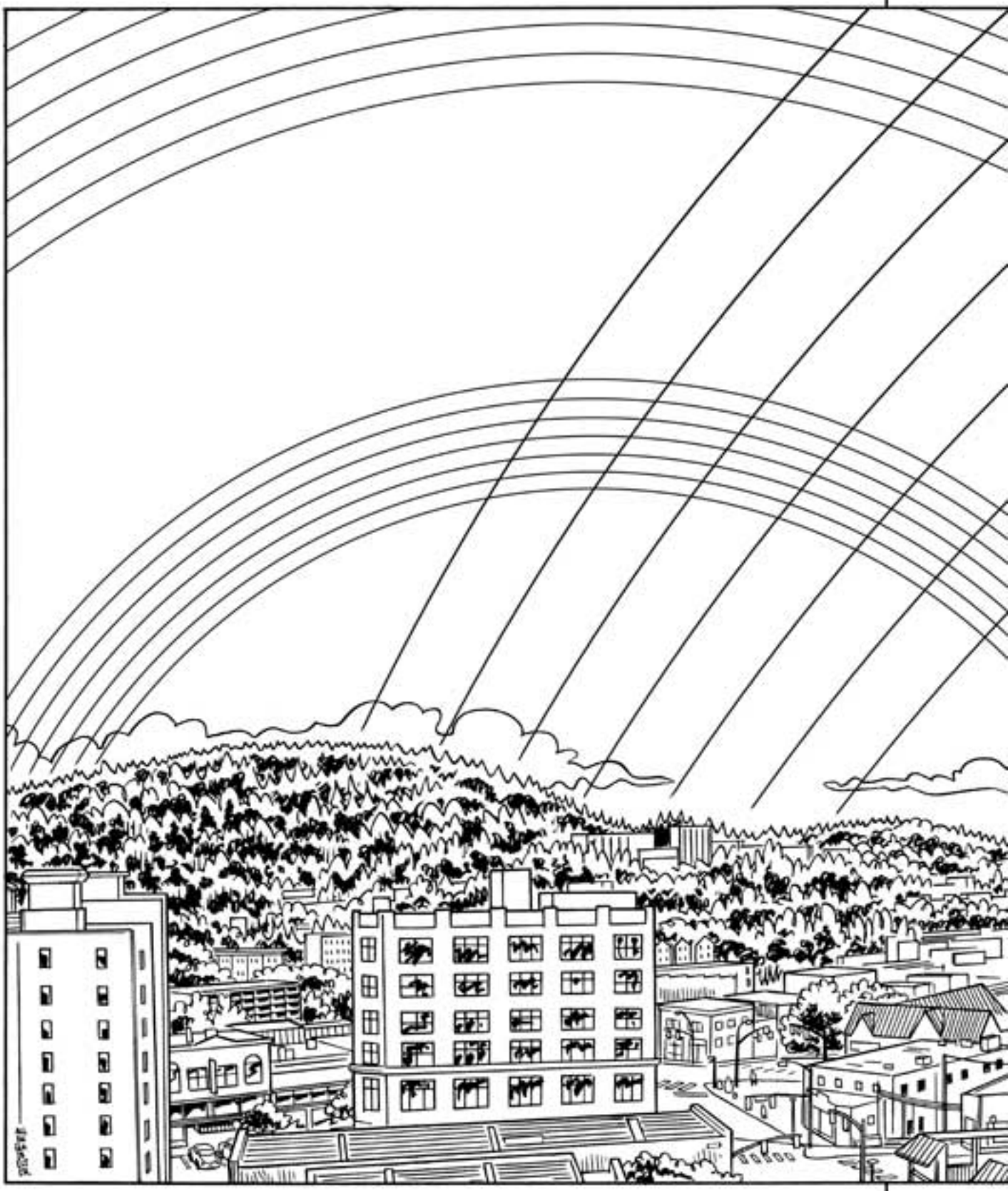

WILL YOU STAY WITH US? AND NOT JUST COME AND GO?
I'LL GIVE IT EVERYTHING I'VE GOT. EVERYTHING I KNOW.
WAS THIS YOUR IDEA, DUCKY?
I KNEW THIS WOULD BE THE BEST IDEA EVER!
OOO! THIS IS GETTING GOOD!
JUST THINK OF ALL THAT WE CAN SHARE!
THE SECRETS!
THE STORIES!
THE MAGIC!
YES! I'M HERE TO FALL IN LOVE WITH YOU!
YES! I'M HERE TO FALL IN LOVE WITH YOU!

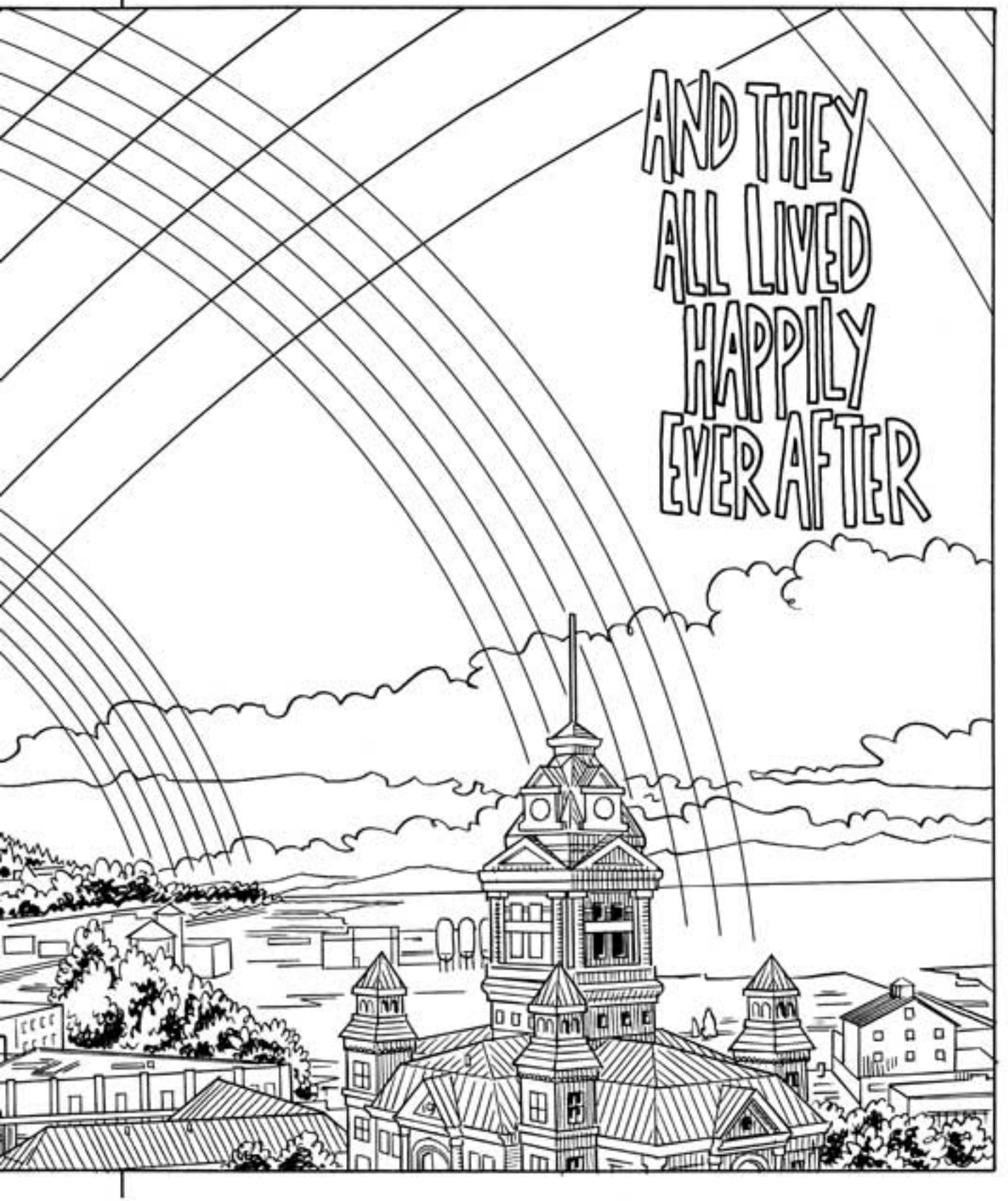

IS THIS REAL?
IS THIS POSSIBLE?
THERE'S A BUNCH OF UNICORNS OVER THERE!
A BLESSING.
A BUNCH OF UNICORNS IS CALLED A BLESSING.


YES I'M HERE TO FALL IN LOVE WITH YOU!
YEAH!


AWESOME!
DUCKY! YOU ROCK!
YOU ARE THE ROCKINGEST UNICORN EVER!
DIDN'T I TELL YOU?
HEH. YEAH YOU DID.
THAT'S RIGHT I DID! YOW!
OMIGOD! ALL THE UNICORNS ARE FROLICKING HERE TODAY!
YEP! THERE'S A WHOLE LOT OF FROLICKING GOING ON...
HEY LOOK! NOW YOU HAVE A MAGIC FRIEND, TOO!
AWESOME!
UH HUH!


AND LOOK!
THOSE PEOPLE ARE FALLING IN LOVE!
WOULD YOU LOOK AT THAT?
YOU SEE THAT?
YOU DID THAT!
THAT'S UNICORN MAGIC, BUDDY!
YOU ARE A MAGIC UNICORN!




AND THEY
ALL LIVED
HAPPILY
EVER AFTER

THIS WILL BE A CREDITS AND DEDICATION PAGE.
I HAVE A LOT OF PEOPLE, FRIENDS AND FAMILY,
WHO CARE ABOUT ME AND WHO TOOK AN INTEREST
IN THIS PROJECT THAT HAS DEFINED MY LIFE
FOR THE YEARS IT HAS TAKEN TO ASSEMBLE.
IF YOU ARE READING THIS NOW,
YOU ARE AMONG THESE KIND PEOPLE,
FRIENDS AND FAMILY,
AND I WANT TO THANK YOU.
THESE PAGES ARE FOR YOU.


THE BEST MILITARY SCI-FI? THAT'S GOTTA BE SCALZI.
YOU'RE OUTTA YOUR MIND!
HAVEN'T YOU READ FORVER WAR?
FIGHT ME!
HALDEMAN SAYS EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT WAR!
BULLSHIT, MAN!
OH MY GOSH!
YOU BOTH NEED TO READ ENDER'S GAME AND SHUT THE HELL UP!
WORD.
HEY GUYS, YOU'VE GOTTA SEE THIS!
DUDES, CHECK IT OUT!
WOW!
HAVE YOU SEEN ANYTHING LIKE THAT?


OH!
AMAZING!
HUH! LOOKS LIKE A UNICORN JUST GOT THEIR RAINBOW SPARKLE MAGIC.
?
SAY WHAT?
?
WELL, HEY! YOU KNOW!
IT'S A THING!