

FROM THE #1 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLING AUTHOR OF SMILE

RAINA TELGEMEIER

DRAMA



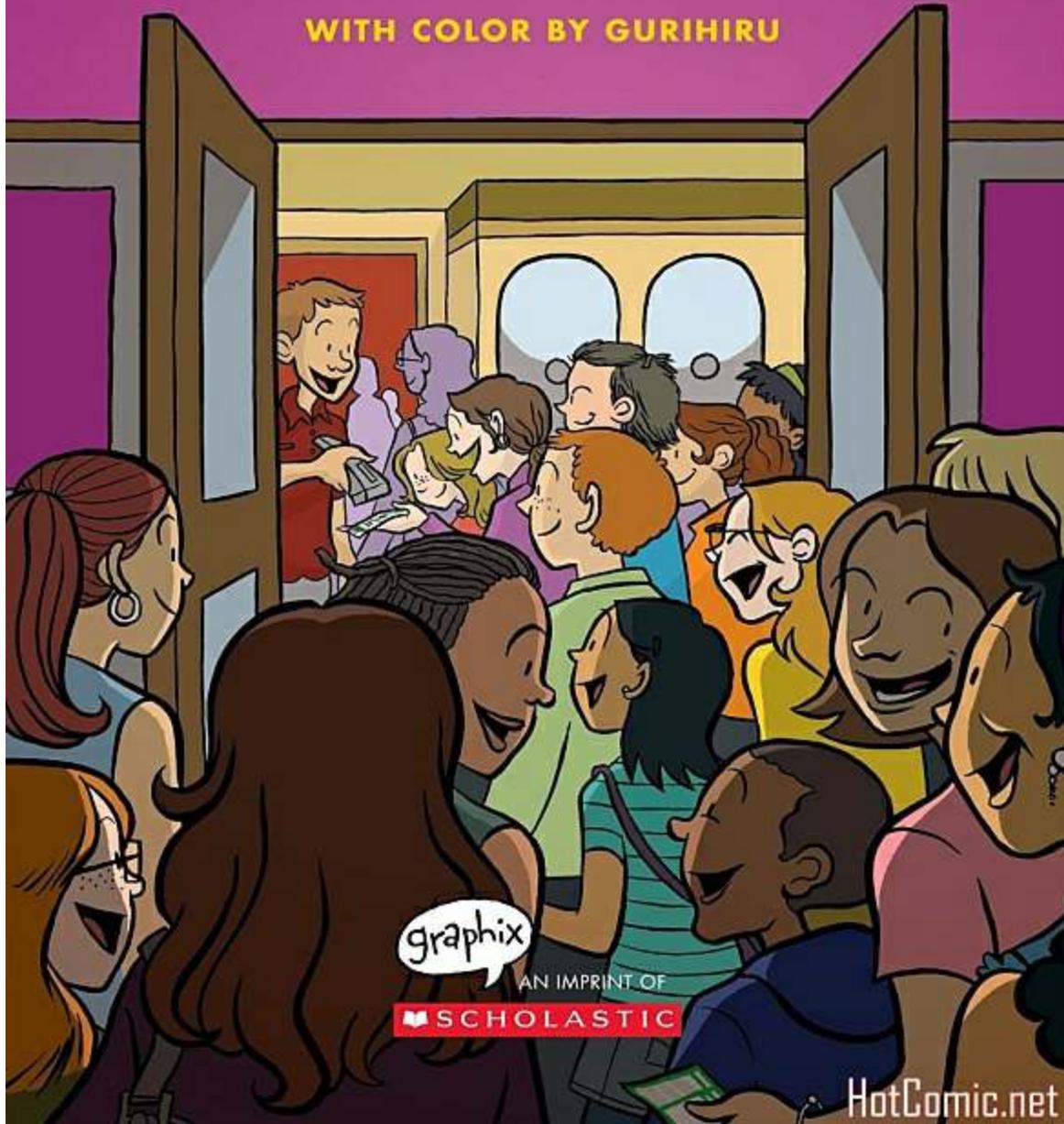
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RAINA TELGEMEIER

DRAMA

WITH COLOR BY GURIHIRU



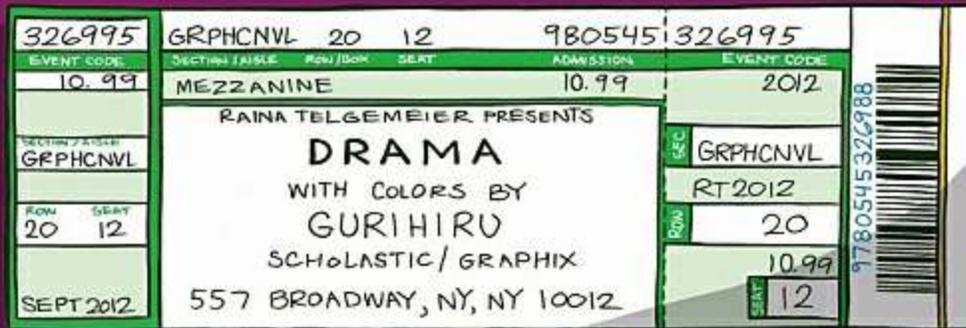
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For Jake and Jeff, who continue to inspire me.



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Summary: Callie rides an emotional roller coaster while serving on the stage crew for a middle school production of *Moon over Mississippi* as various relationships start and end, and others never quite get going.

1. Graphic novels. [I. Graphic novels. 2. Theater—Fiction. 3. Interpersonal relations—Fiction. 4. Middle schools—Fiction. 5. Schools—Fiction.] I. Gurihiru. II. Title.

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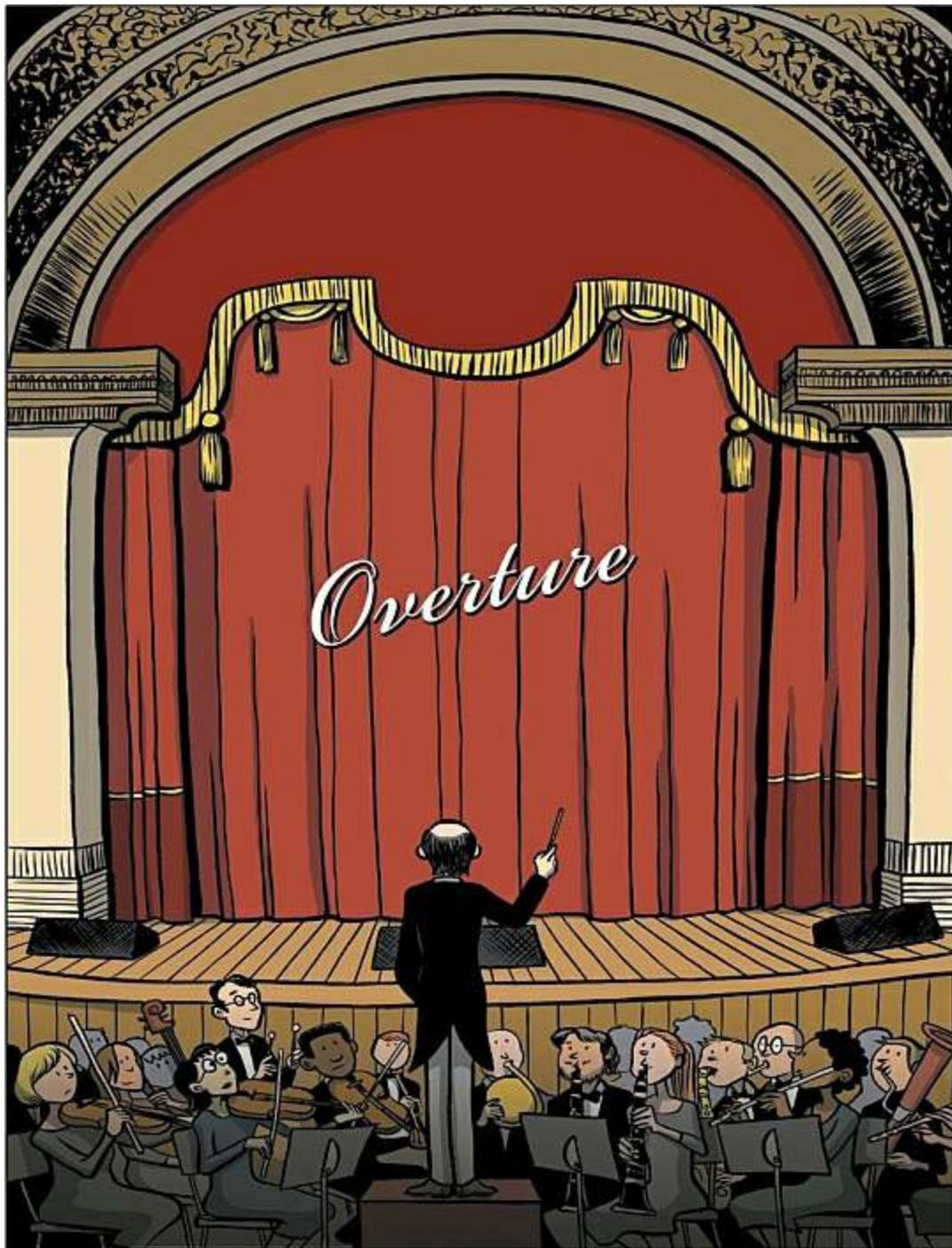
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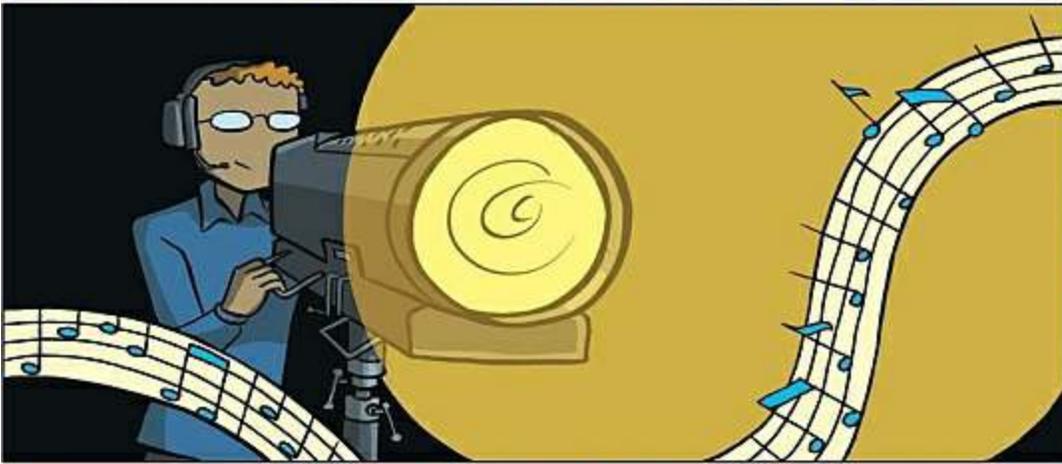
Lettering by John Green

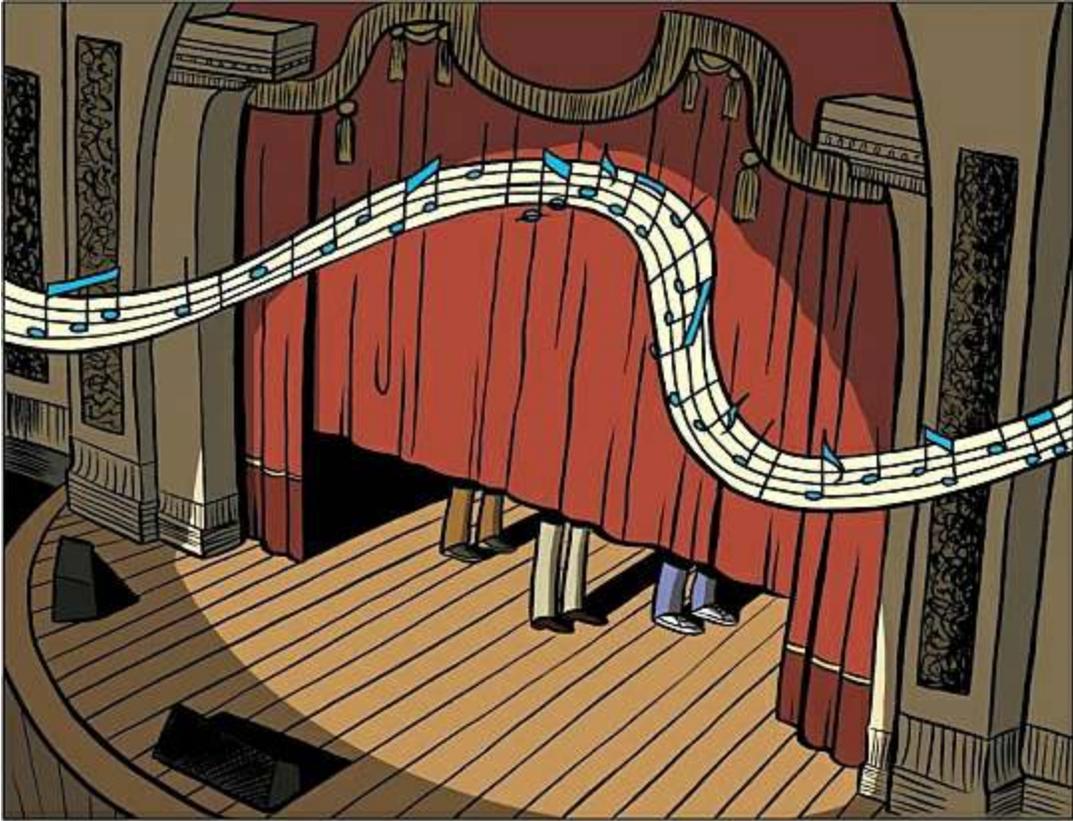
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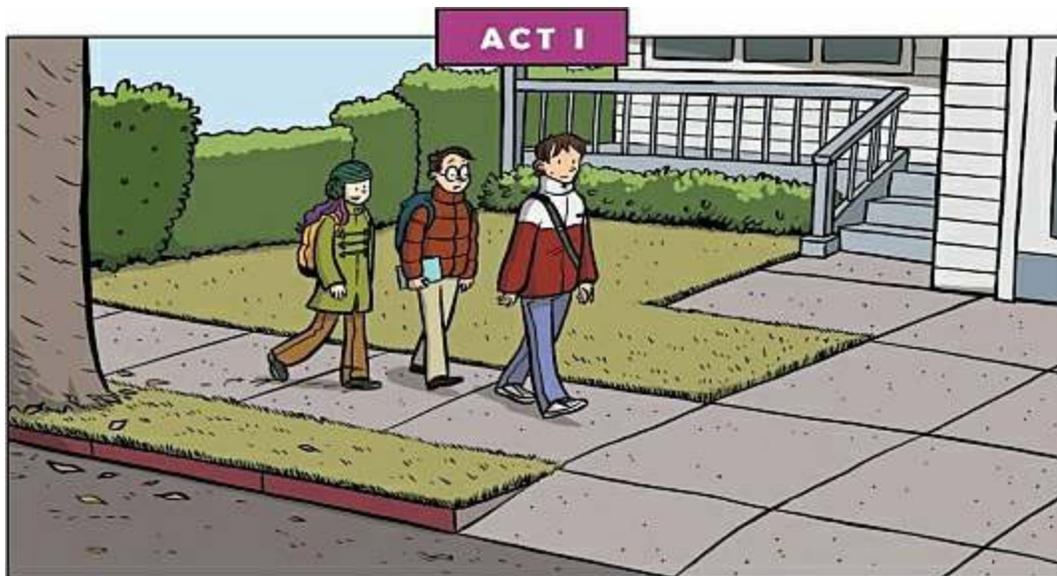
Creative Director: David Saylor

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OH, I DON'T KNOW.

JUST SOMETHING I'VE BEEN WANTING TO DO FOR A WHILE.



BUT, YOU'RE... I MEAN, YOU'RE COOL, CALLIE, BUT...



BUT WHAT?

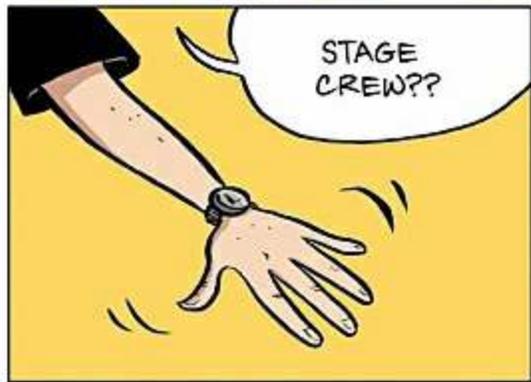


ALL YOU'VE EVER SAID ABOUT BONNIE IS THAT SHE'S ANNOYING AND STUCK-UP AND ONLY CARES ABOUT HERSELF.













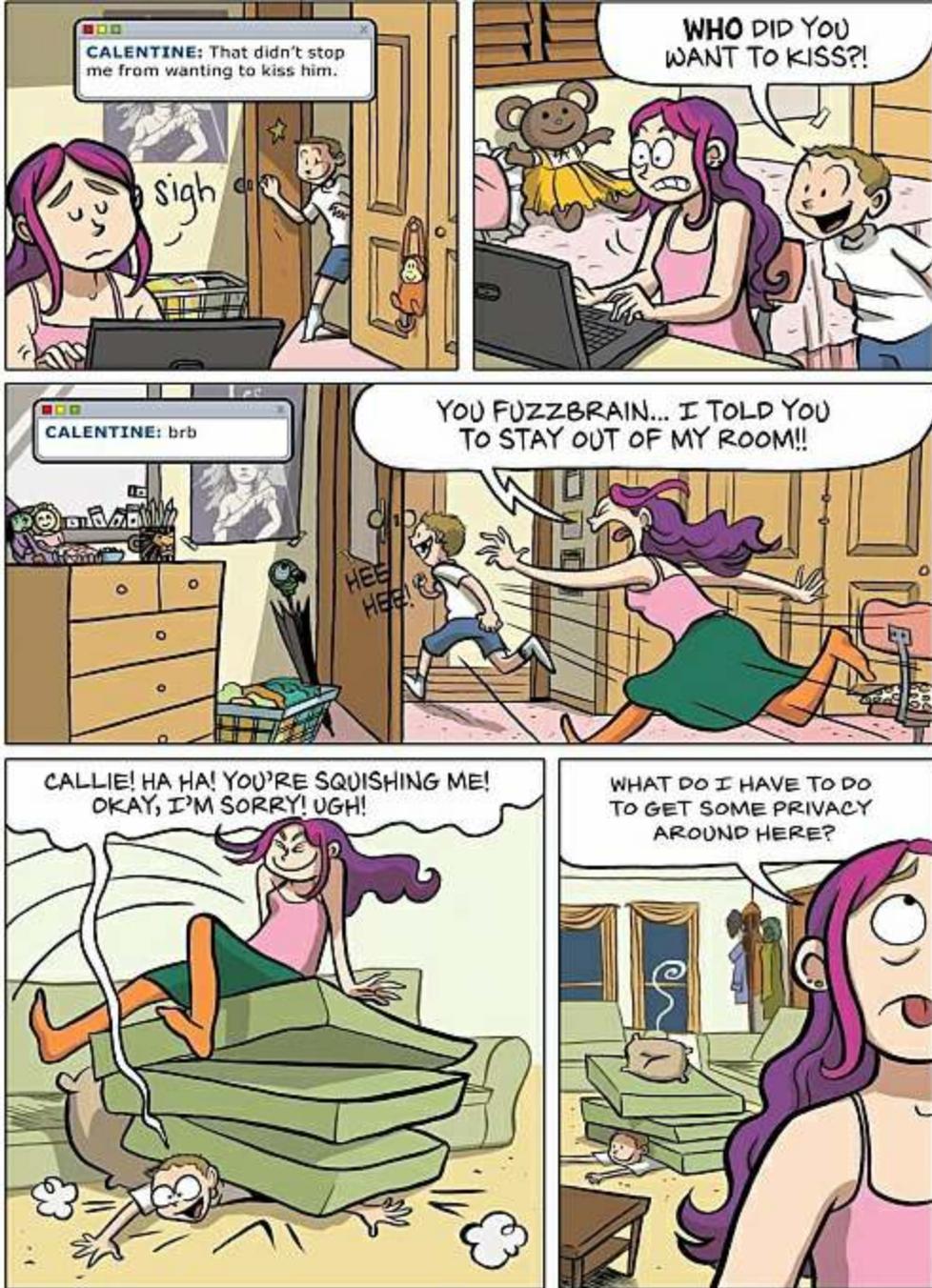


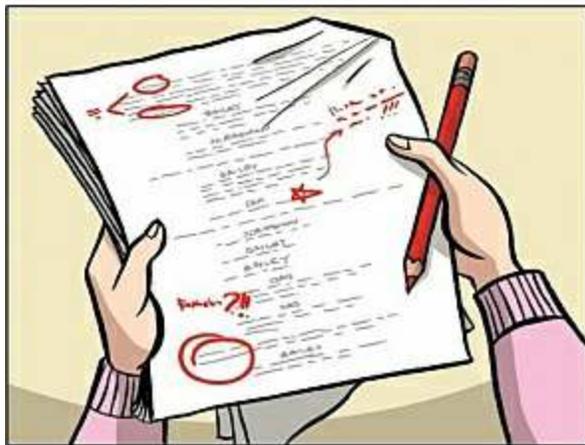


















BEYOND THAT, WE NEED A GAZEBO AND AN INTERIOR AND EXTERIOR FOR THE HOUSE.

OKAY, FIRST OF ALL...



I'M WORRIED ABOUT THE CANNON. EUCALYPTUS MAY BE A PROGRESSIVE MIDDLE SCHOOL, BUT HAVING **REAL** PYROTECHNICS ONSTAGE WILL NEVER FLY.

SECOND, WE'VE ONLY GOT ROOM IN THE BUDGET THIS YEAR FOR TWO SET PIECES, TOPS.



THE CANNON HAS **GOT** TO BE ONE OF THEM, MR. MADERA.

SANJAY, HOW MUCH LEFTOVER SCRAP MATERIAL DO WE HAVE FROM LAST YEAR?

PROBABLY ENOUGH.

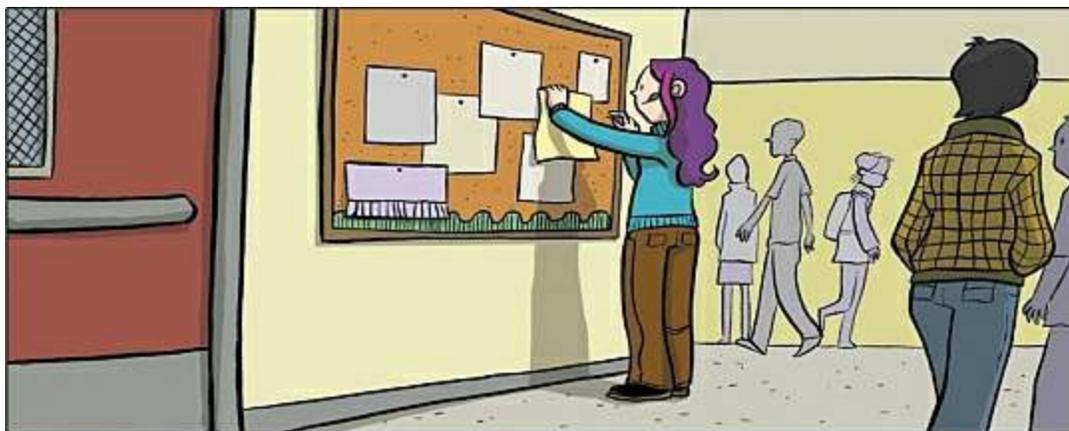


I'LL DEFINITELY NEED ANOTHER PERSON TO HELP WITH CONSTRUCTION.



ACT II

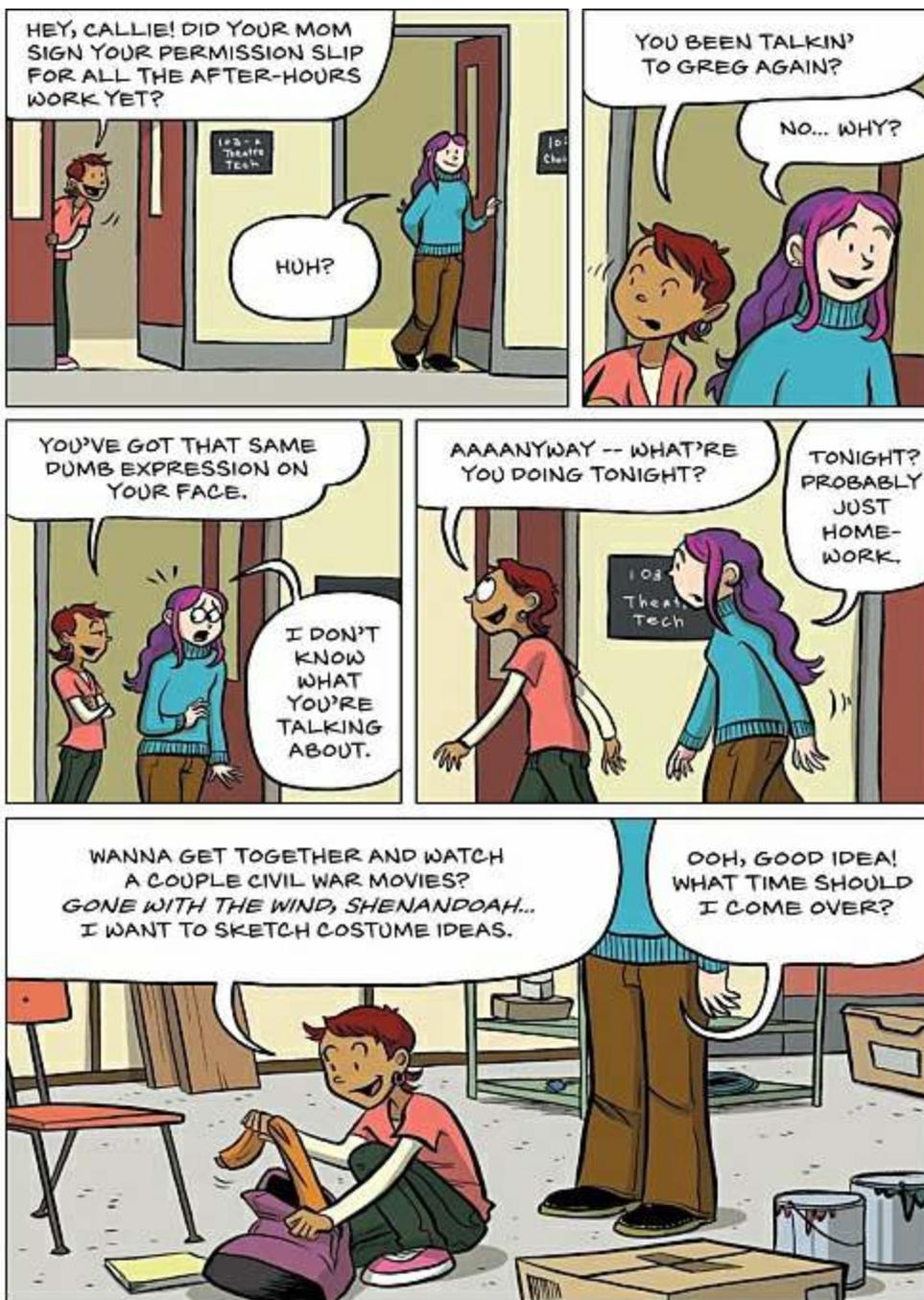














ACTUALLY... CAN WE DO IT AT YOUR HOUSE? YOU GUYS HAVE THE BETTER TV.



FINE. JUST GET READY FOR MY BROTHER AND HIS TWELVE BILLION QUESTIONS.

WOOP!



LATER



AS GOD IS MY WITNESS, I'LL NEVER BE HUNGRY AGAIN!

sketch sketch

sketch sketch



MAKING BONNETS FOR THE LADIES SHOULDN'T BE TOO DIFFICULT.

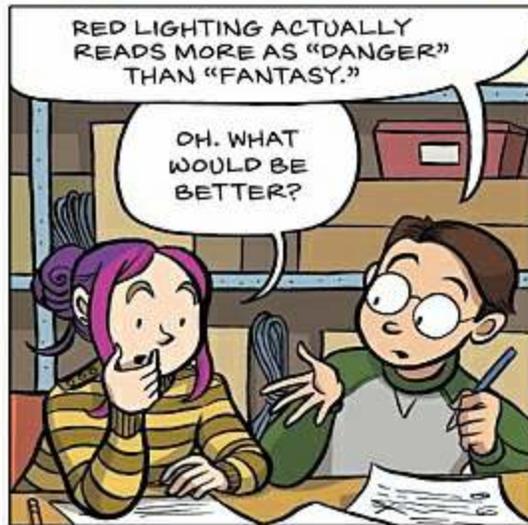
sketch sketch



WHAT DO YOU THINK?

I LIKE IT! WE SHOULD THINK ABOUT COLOR SCHEMES, TOO.









...FIFTEEN PAIRS OF SLACKS, VARIOUS COLORS... TWELVE PAIRS OF CHARACTER SHOES...







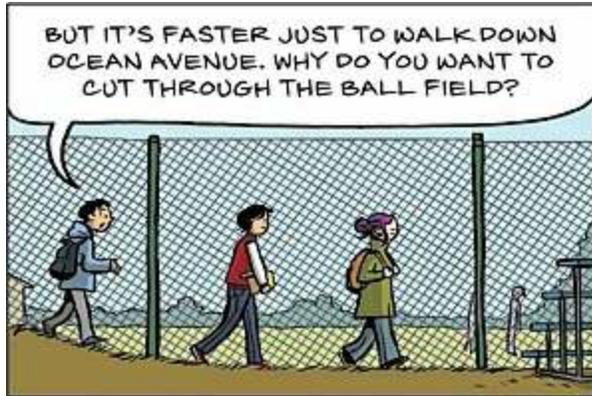
























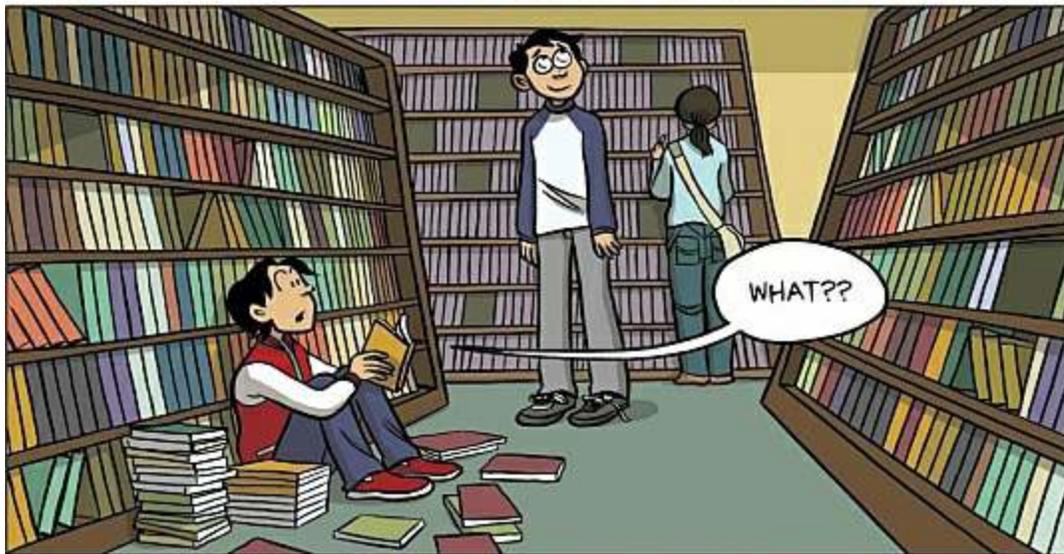
I WANT THE AUDIENCE TO BELIEVE THAT THE ACTORS REALLY LIVE INSIDE OF THE WORLD ONSTAGE.



I'D LIVE IN A WORLD LIKE THIS.



IT'S ONE THING TO DREAM IT... AND ANOTHER THING TO ACTUALLY BUILD IT.









I'D NO PLANS FOR A MAN FROM A NORTHERLY LAND, TILL I FIRST SAW YOUR FACE.

BUT I KNEW, YES I KNEW, THOUGH MY DADDY HATED YOU, WE'D MEET AGAIN...







ACT III





THANK YOU, CAL! I CAN TOTALLY USE THIS WHILE I'M WORKING ON THE COSTUMES.



NICE. DID YOU GET THAT AT YOSHI'S J-MART?

YEAH! HAVE YOU BEEN THERE?



NOT IN YEARS. THEIR STUFF'S WAY TOO CUTESY FOR ME.



WELL, I HAD A LOVELY TIME THERE, THANK YOU VERY MUCH.



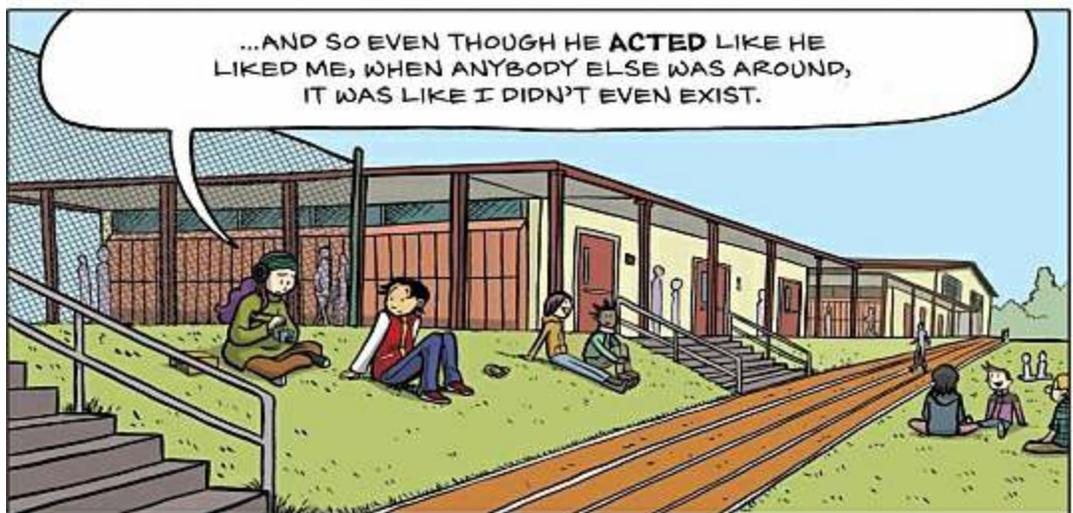
WHAT IS MATT'S PROBLEM?!



WHO CARES? I STILL LIKE MY PRESENT!

OKAY, EVERYONE, ROLL CALL...







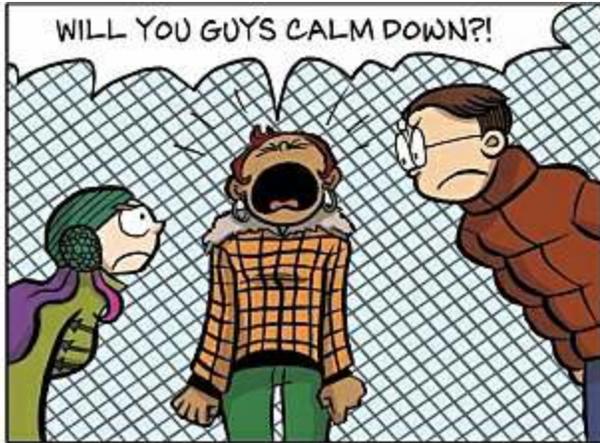


JESSE'S THE FIRST PERSON I EVER TOLD.











LOOK, HE JUST NEEDED SOMEONE TO TALK TO. WE'RE **NOT** GOING OUT, IF THAT'S WHAT YOU'RE THINKING.

OKAY.



YOU GUYS WOULD GET ALONG, I KNOW IT. HE'S REALLY TALENTED.



SO IS HIS TWIN BROTHER!

HE'S GOT A TWIN BROTHER?! CALLIE, YOU'RE TOO MUCH!



OH, HEY, DID I TELL YOU THAT MY AUNT BOUGHT A NEW SEWING MACHINE, AND SHE'S GIVING ME HER OLD ONE?

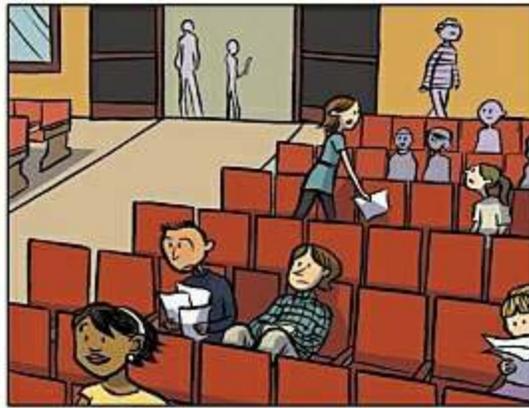
NO! THAT'S AWESOME!



YOU'VE BEEN WANTING YOUR OWN MACHINE FOR AGES.

YUP, AND NOW I WON'T HAVE TO BORROW THE SCHOOL'S...







WE'LL BE IN THE AUDIENCE,
CHEERING YOU ON!

SWEET!



THINK HE'S
NERVOUS?

NAH. HE EATS
THIS STUFF UP.



THIS OKAY?

SURE.



FIRST UP.. JESSICA YUBA,
TRYING OUT FOR THE ROLE
OF MAYBELLE. JESSICA?

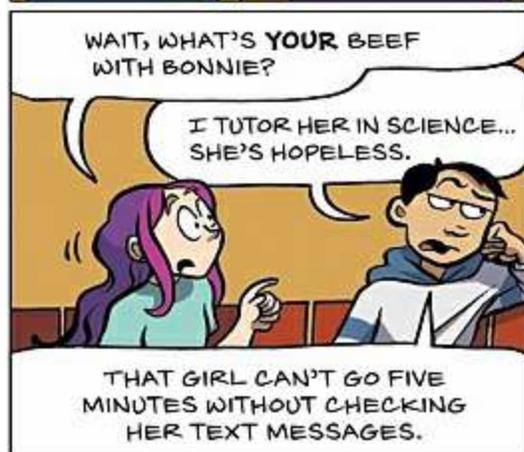
HERE.

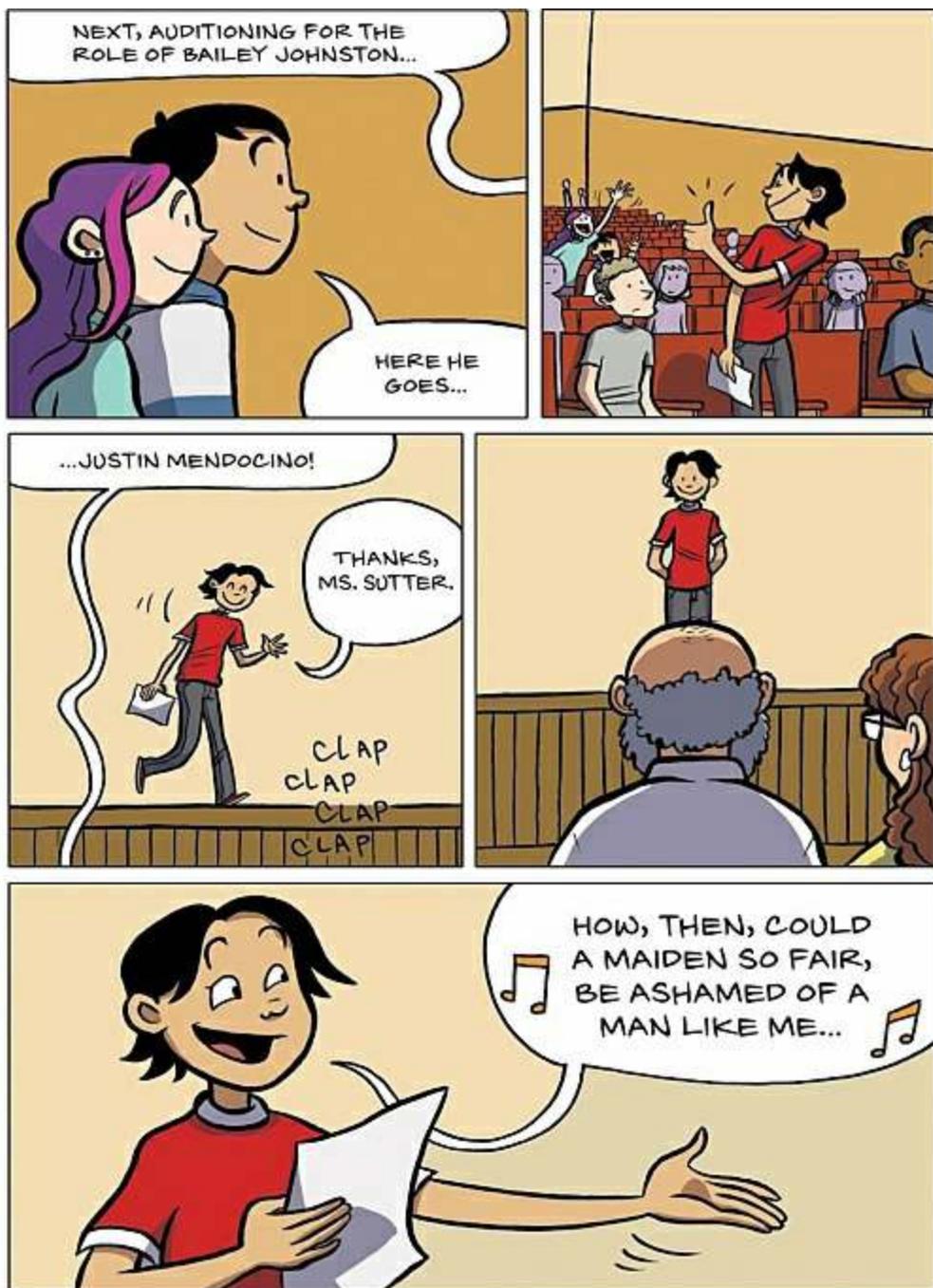


YOU MAY BEGIN.

OKAY.
>AHEM<



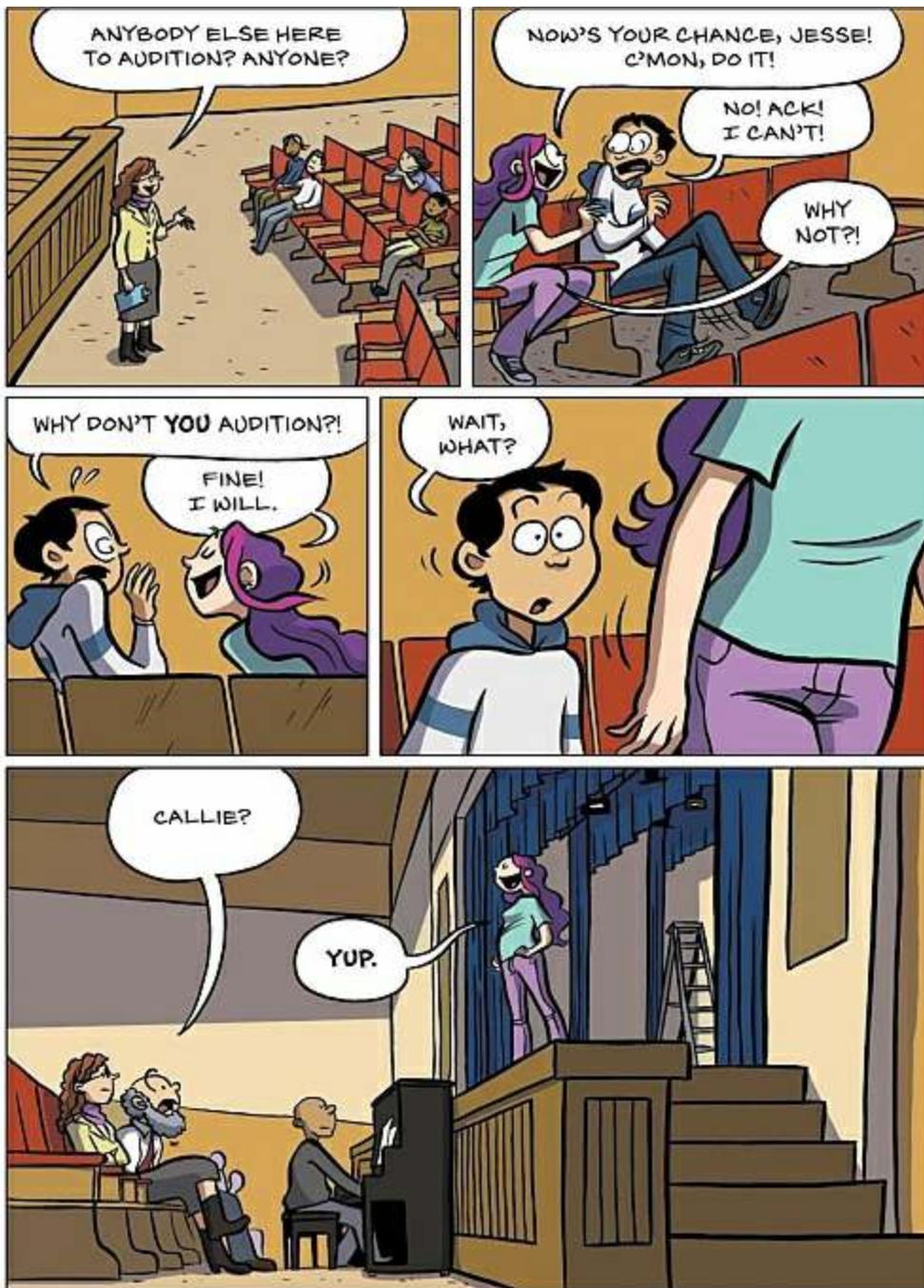
















NOW YOU SEE WHY I STAY BACKSTAGE?

YEAH.



I GUESS WE CAN'T ALL BE GOOD AT EVERYTHING.

NOPE.

CALLIE?



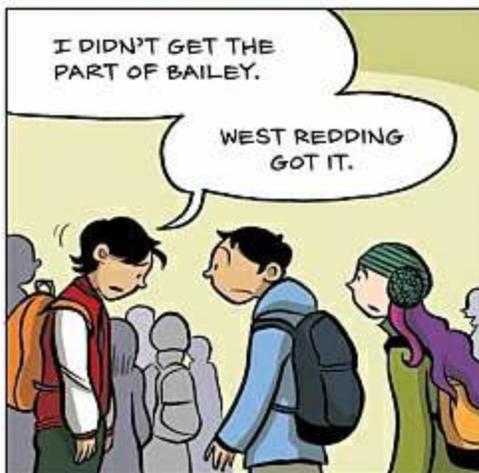
THAT WAS AWESOME.



I THINK WE SHOULD TAKE YOU FOR A BUBBLE TEA TO CELEBRATE YOUR STAR TURN.

OH, KNOCK IT OFF.

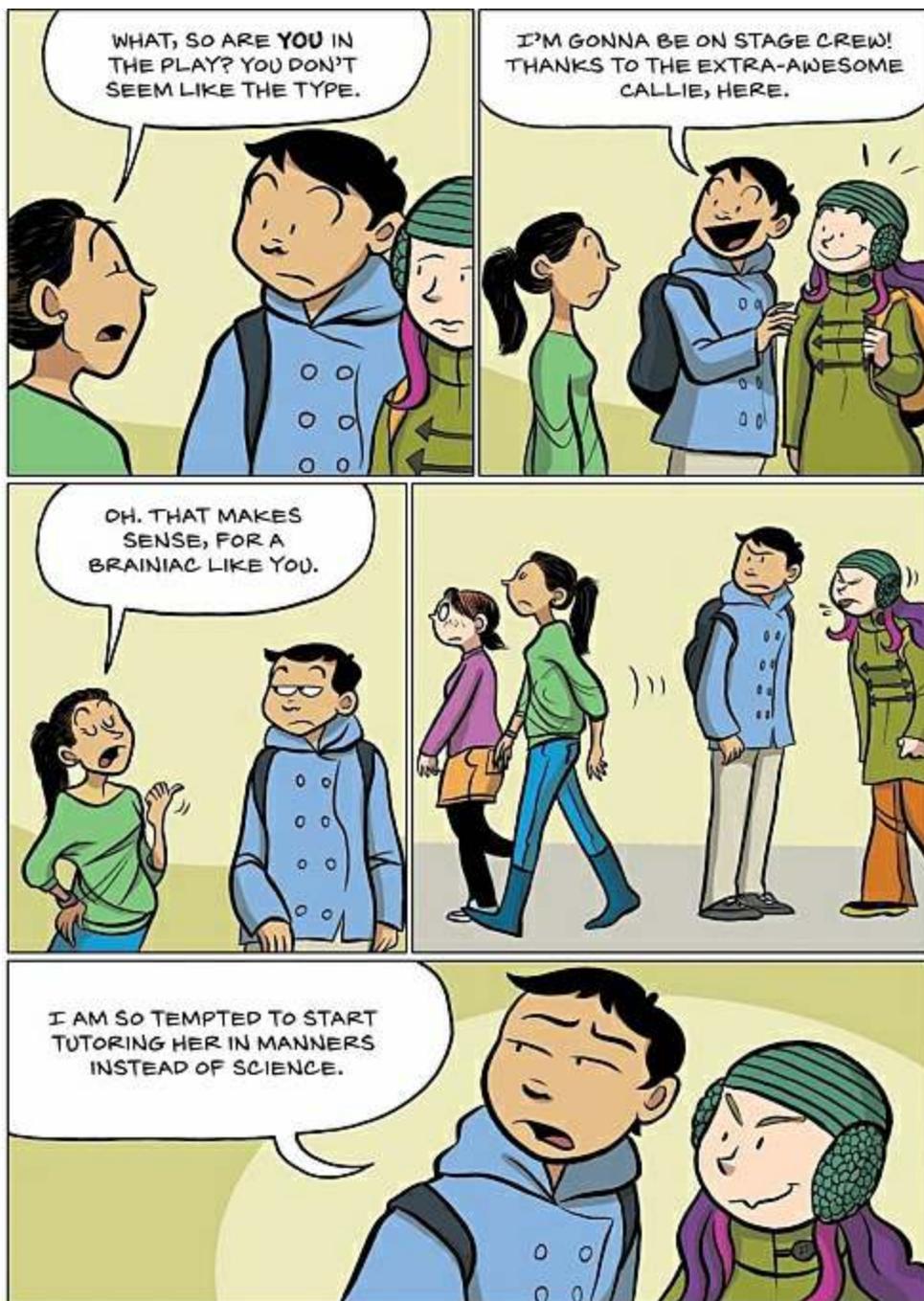
BUBBLE TEA DOES SOUND GOOD...



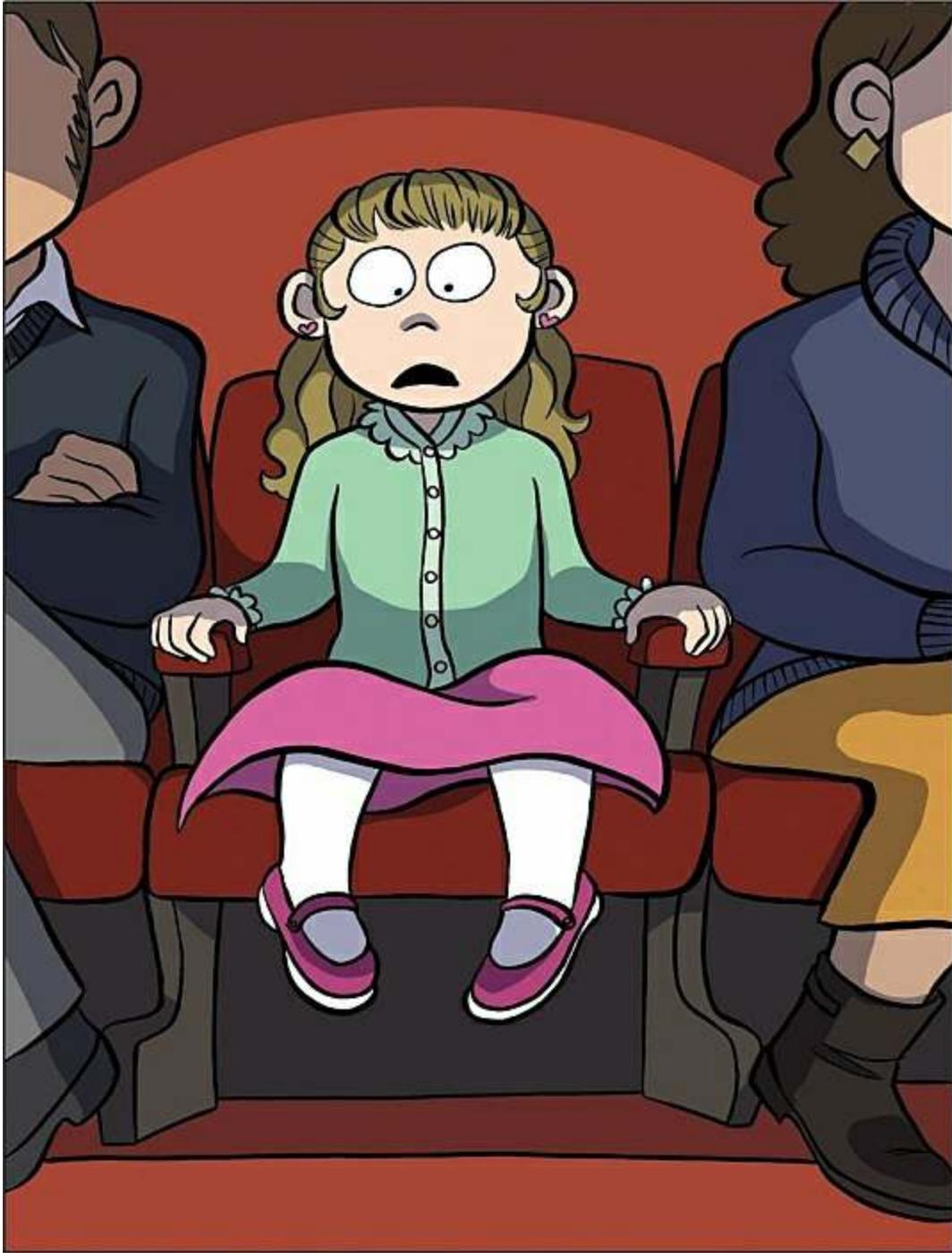






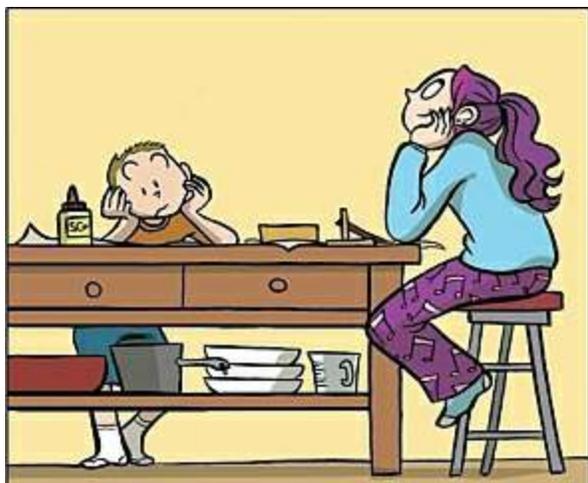


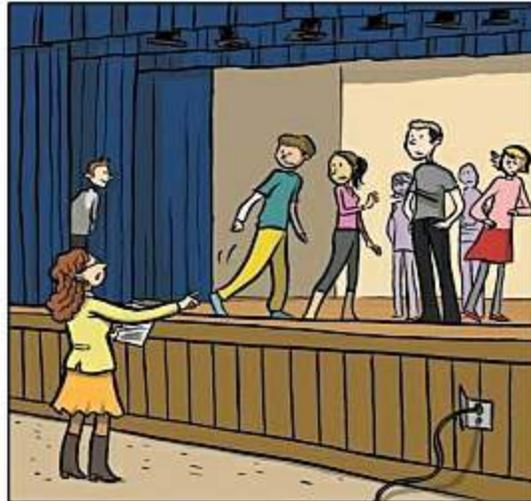


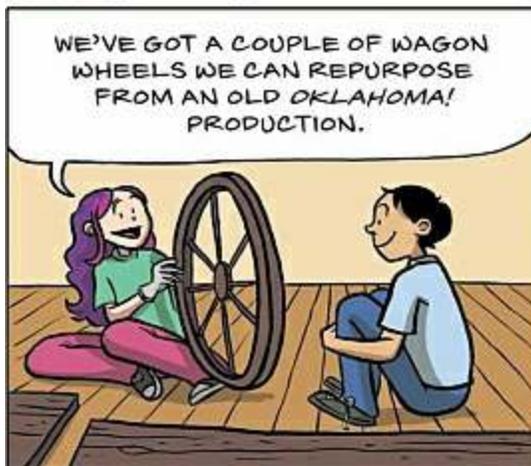




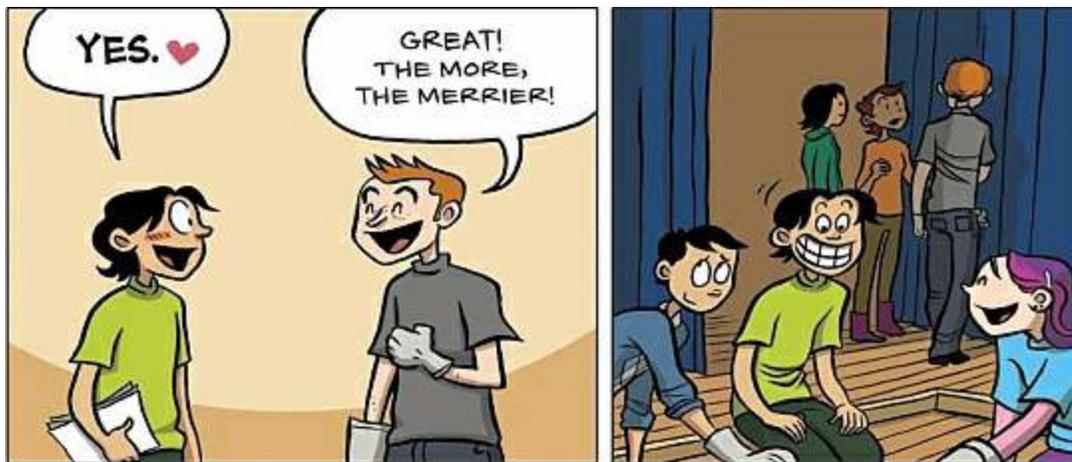


















IT'S REALLY WHAT YOU WANT, RIGHT? TO SING?



I DON'T KNOW WHAT I WANT. I KNOW JUSTIN REALLY WANTS TO SING, BUT...

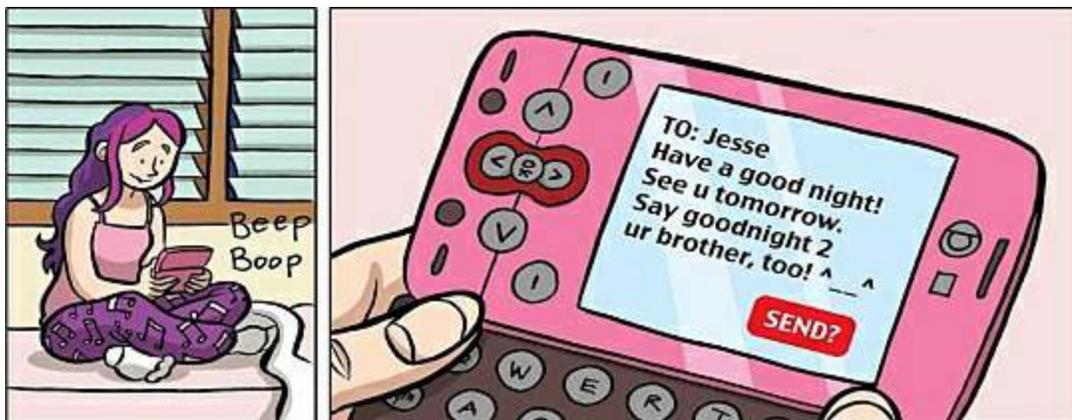


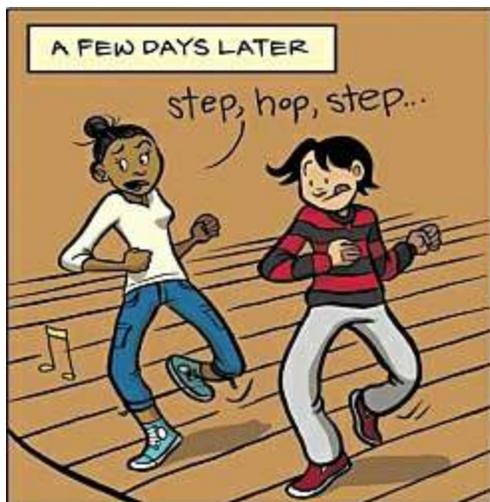
I GUESS... ALL OUR LIVES, WE'VE DONE THE SAME THINGS, BEEN IN THE SAME CLASSES, HUNG OUT WITH THE SAME PEOPLE.







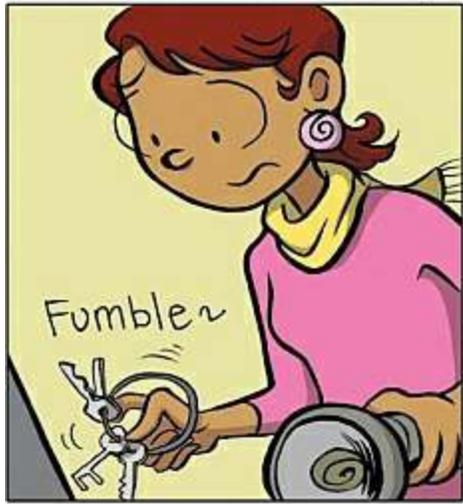
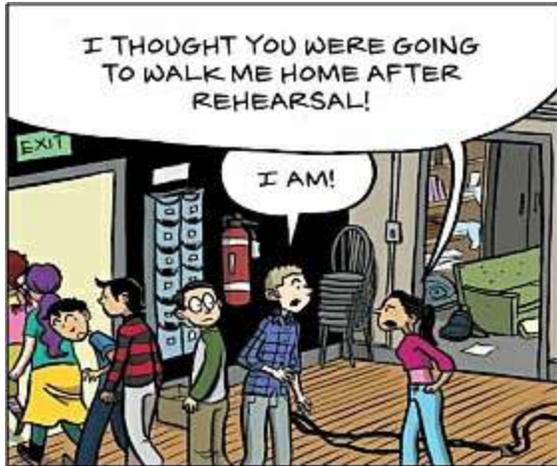














WOW! THIS PLACE IS LIKE A HAUNTED MANSION!

click



I BET THERE'S SPIDERS AND COBWEBS AND SPOOKY STUFF HIDING IN EVERY CORNER!

DON'T REMIND ME.



I WONDER IF ANYONE'S EVER DISAPPEARED DOWN HERE...

WILL YOU STOP?!

HEY -- WHERE'D WEST AND BONNIE GO?

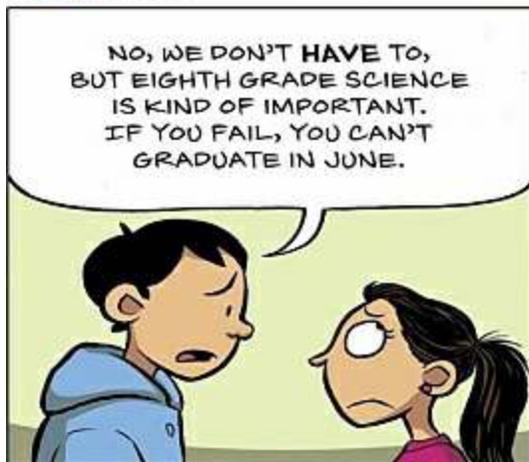


Shuffle



HEE HEE!







DOES IT REFLECT BADLY ON YOU IF SHE FLUNKS OUT?

NOT EXACTLY.



I STILL GET CREDIT FOR TUTORING HER, BUT I'LL FEEL CRUMMY ABOUT IT. LIKE I DIDN'T TRY HARD ENOUGH.

GOT IT.



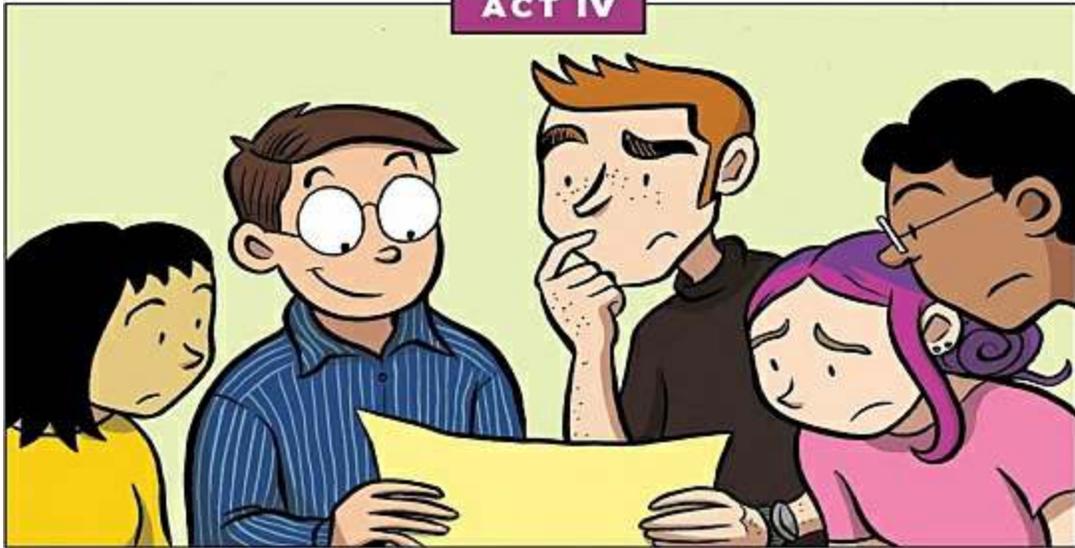
BESIDES, IF SHE DOESN'T GRADUATE...



YOU'LL BE STUCK WITH HER FOR ANOTHER YEAR.

OH JEEZ, THAT'S TRUE!!

ACT IV

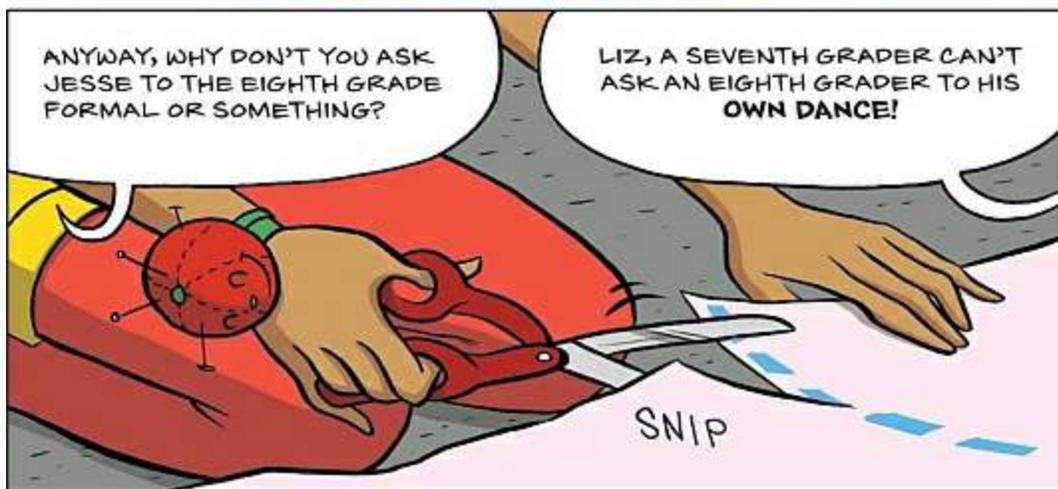




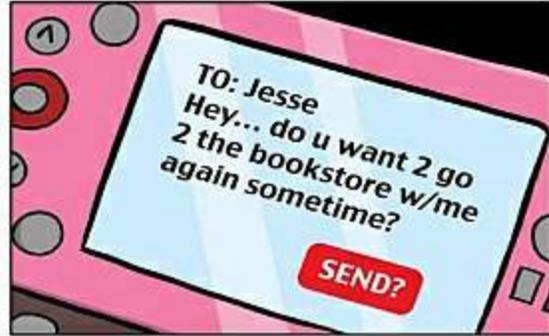


























THEY HAVE A COSTUME SECTION, A SET ARCHITECTURE SECTION, A SHEET MUSIC SECTION...

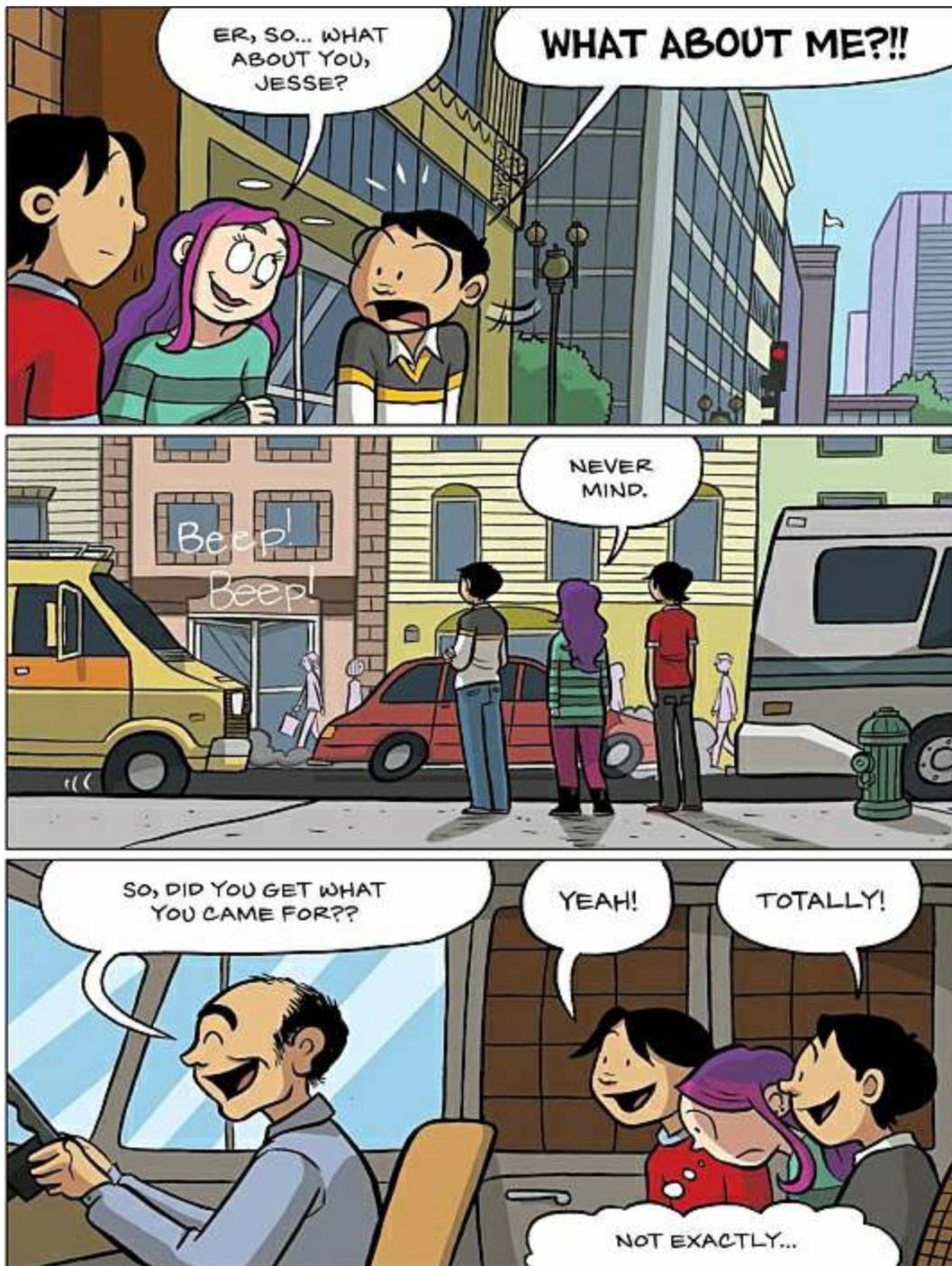
THIS PLACE IS AMAZING!!!



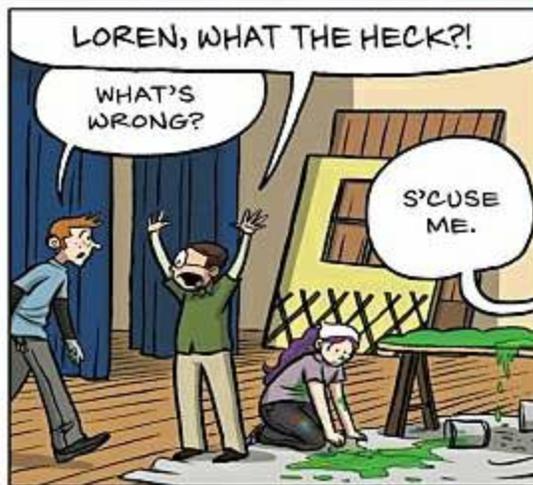




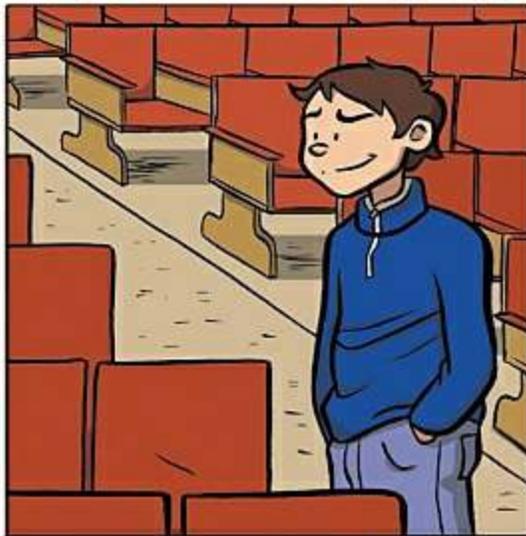


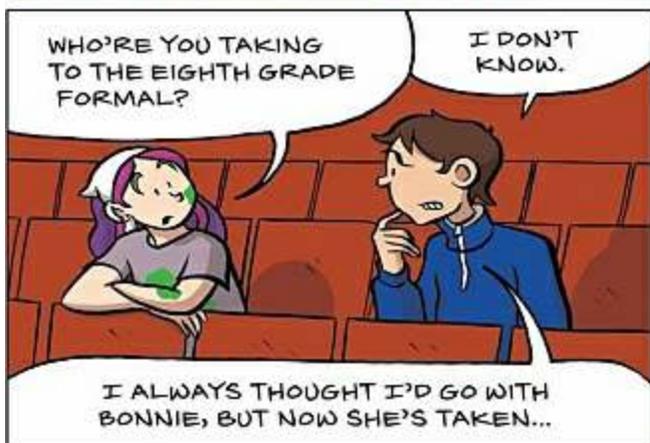
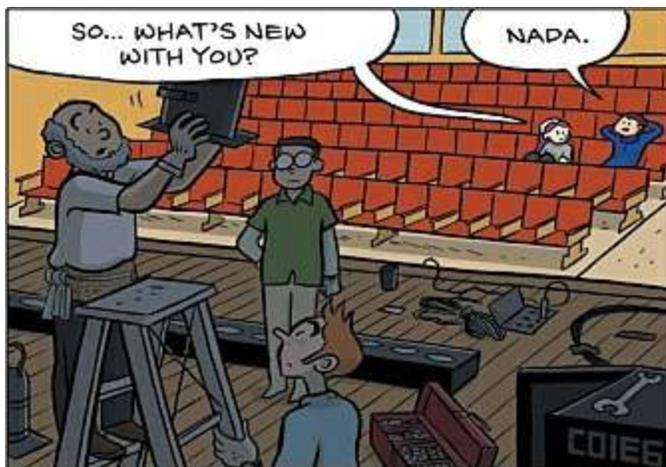




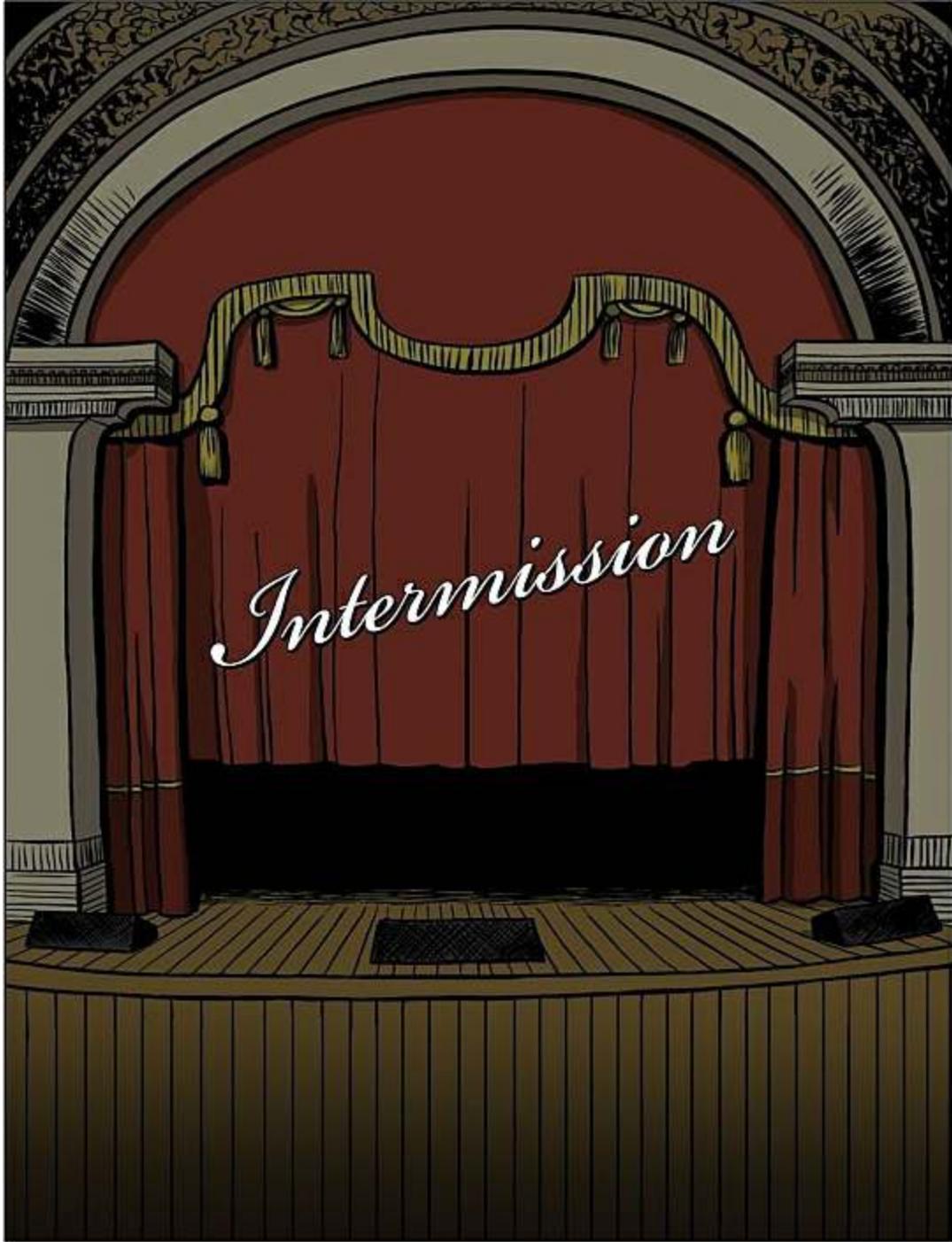






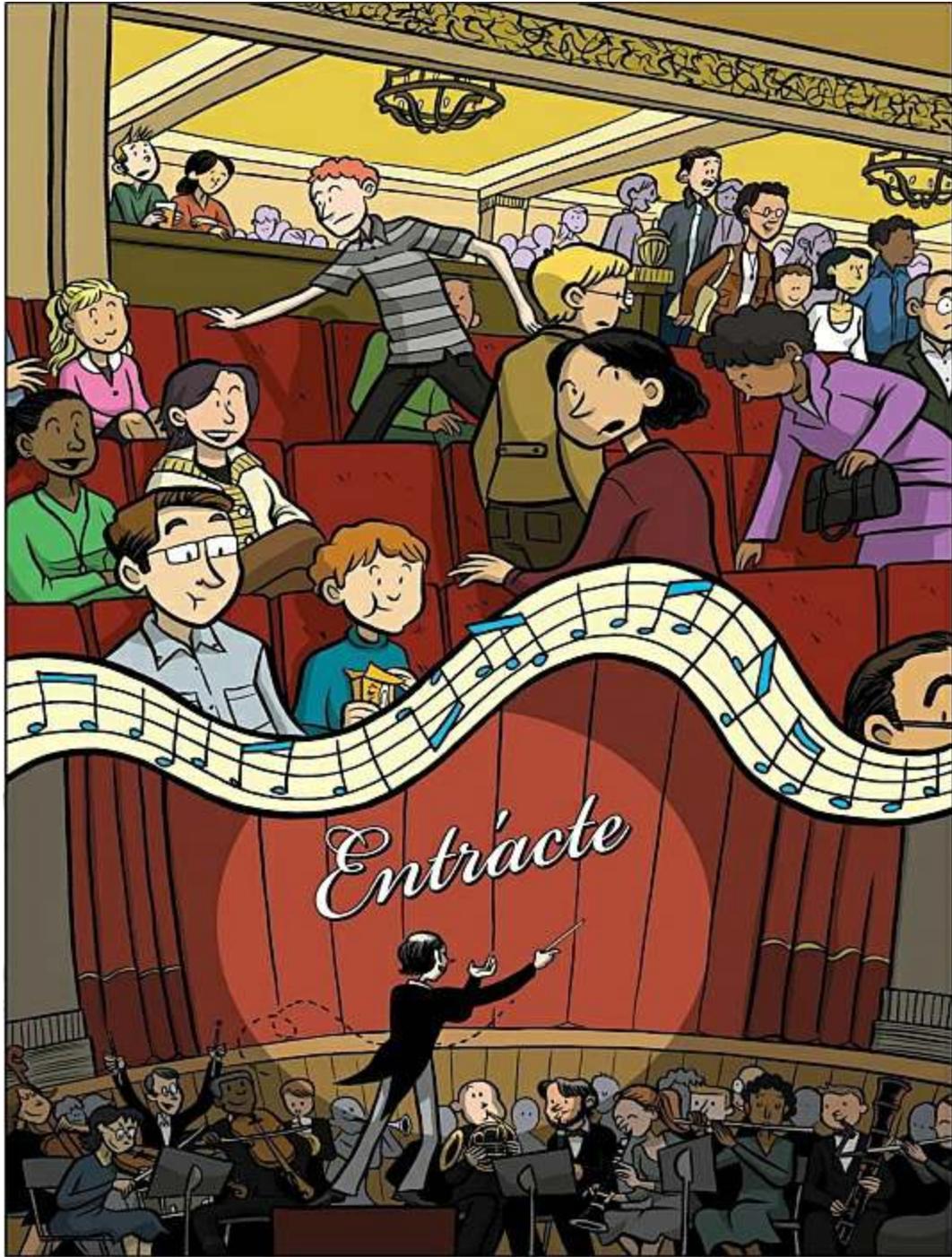












ACT V

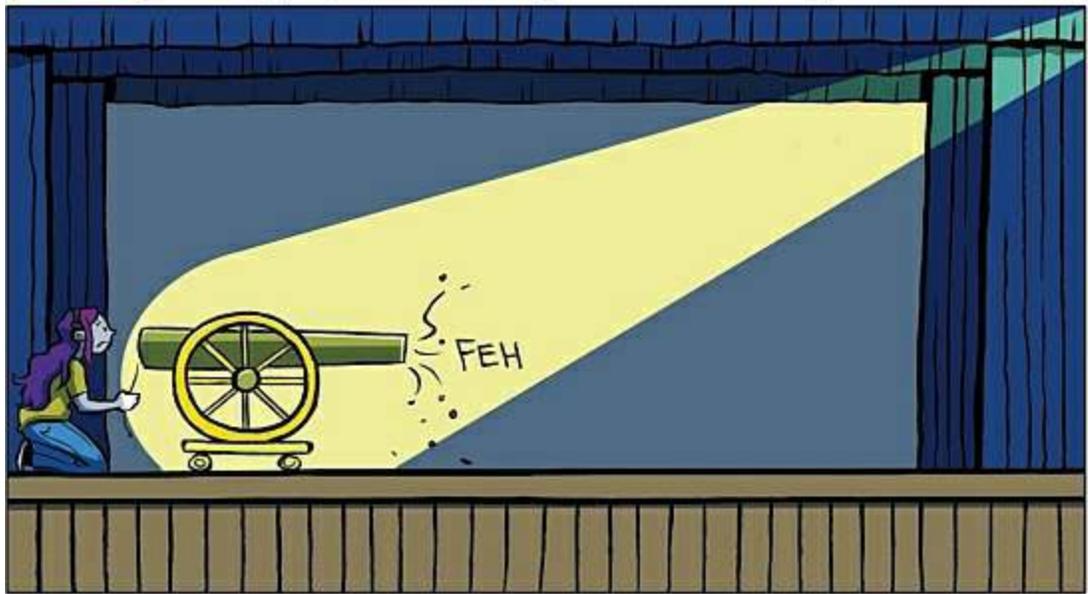




*LIGHTING CUE









OH, COME ON! THAT WAS WEAK!

HEY, CALLIE?



MR. MADERA, THESE POPPERS SAY RIGHT HERE, "AN EXPLOSIVE BURST OF CONFETTI EVERY SINGLE TIME!"

THAT'S MARKETING FOR YOU.

ANYWAY, LISTEN...



IF THIS ISN'T WORKING NOW, IT MAY NEVER. WE'VE ONLY GOT EIGHT DAYS TILL OPENING!

BUT...

IT'LL STILL BE COOL IF WE ONLY HAVE SOUND AND LIGHTING EFFECTS.



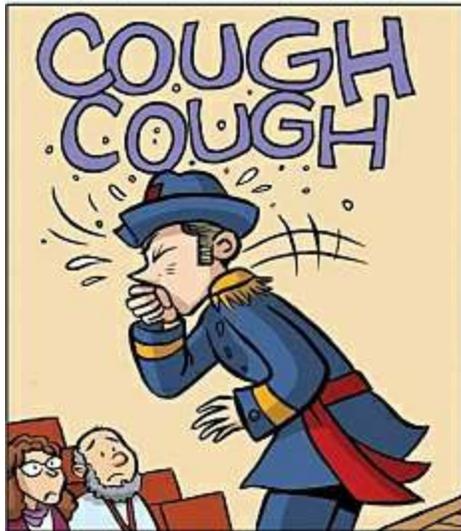
LOOK, I CAN MAKE IT WORK. YOU'VE GOT TO GIVE ME A CHANCE. I'LL EVEN BRING IT HOME AND WORK ON IT.



FINE. BUT WE NEED AT LEAST ONE SUCCESSFUL TEST BEFORE OPENING NIGHT.

I WON'T LET YOU DOWN!







SFX-2, TAKE 2,
ACTORS CLEAR...



PLEASE, PLEASE,
PLEASE...



YANK!



FSS'SST!



CALLIE...

THERE'S STILL
A WHOLE WEEK!
I CAN DO THIS!!



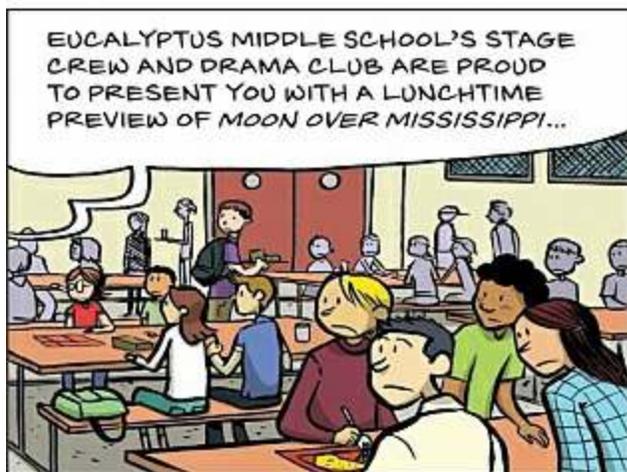
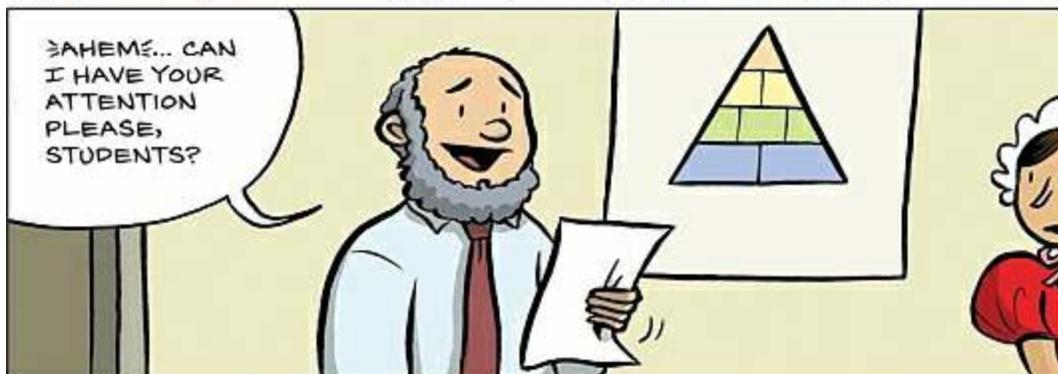




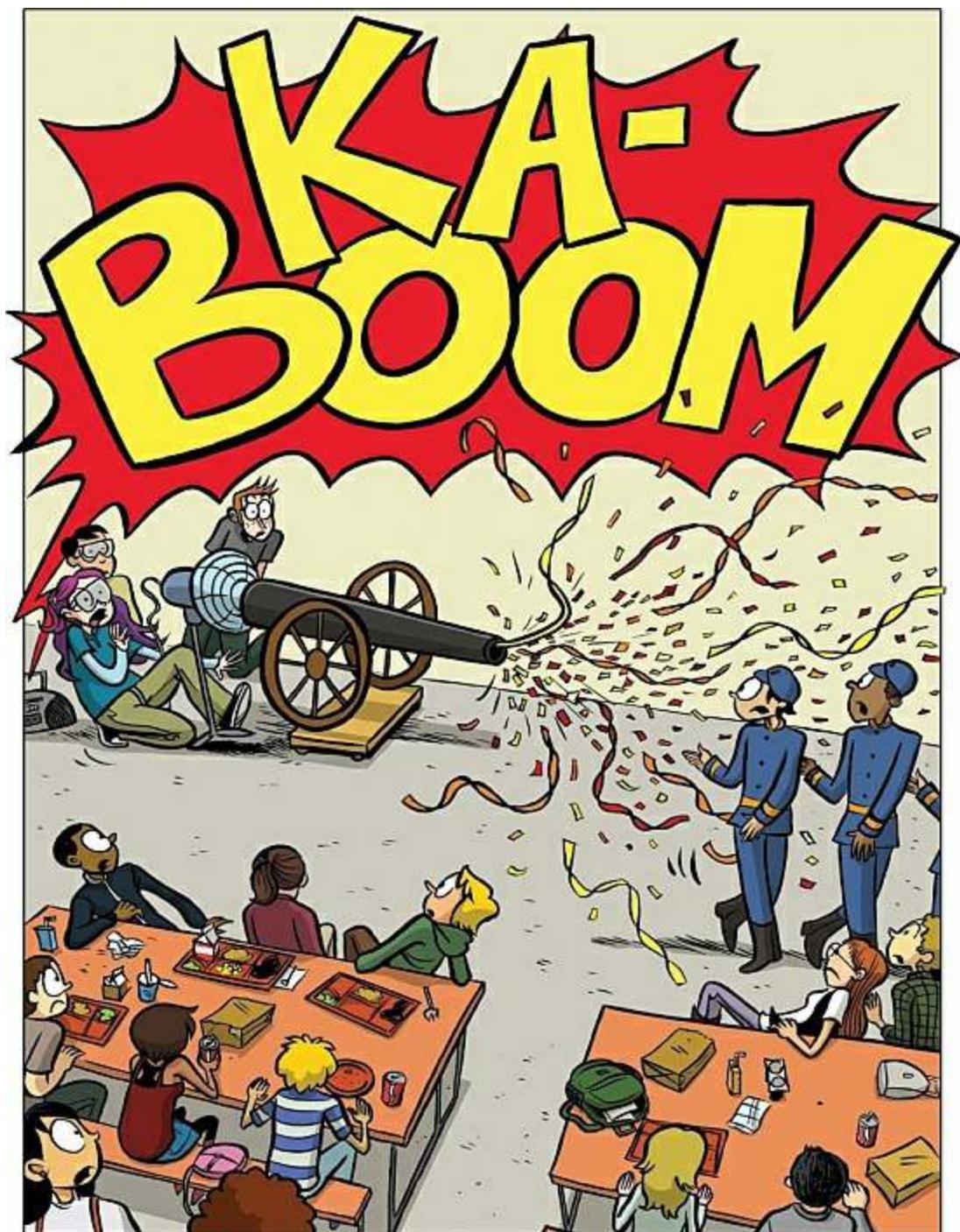


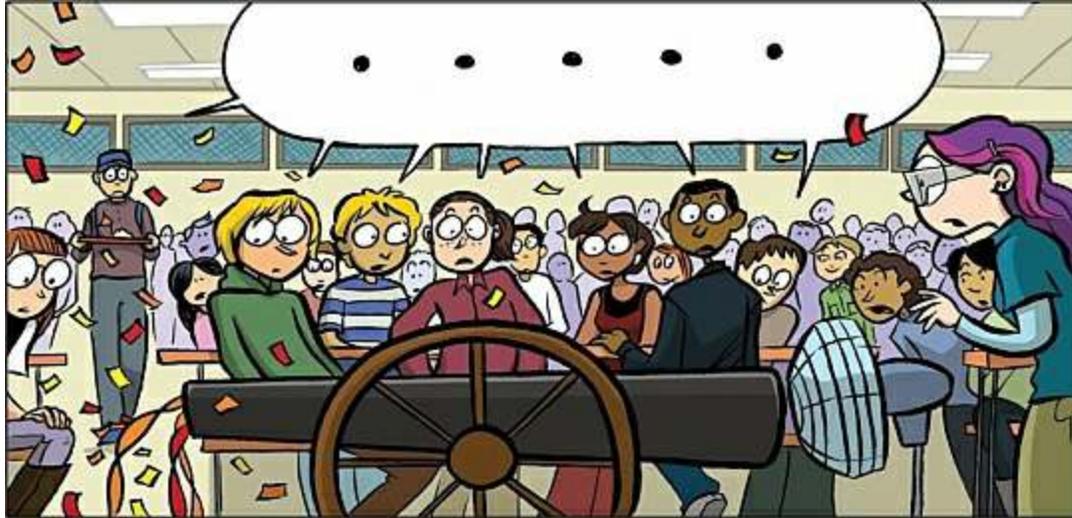




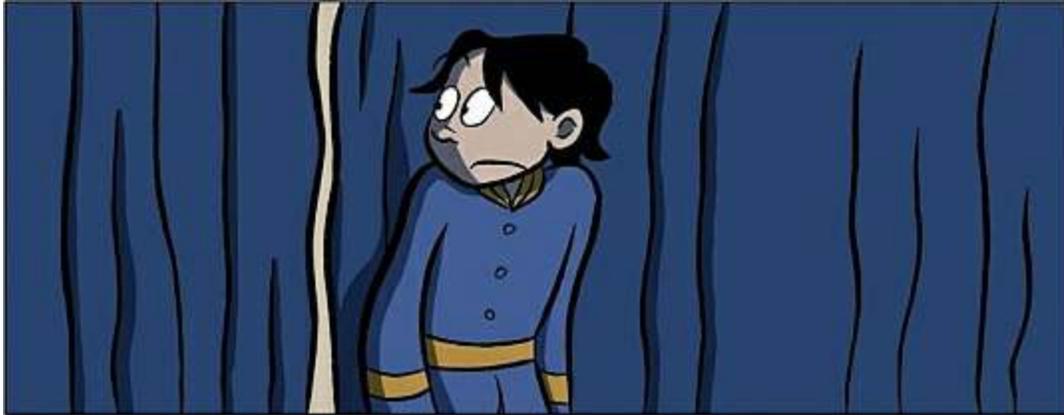






























SEE? THINGS GET A LITTLE CRAZY SOMETIMES, BUT WE KEEP IT TOGETHER.

YEAH, I'M PROUD OF US!



THANKS AGAIN FOR LOOKING OUT FOR ME TONIGHT, GUYS.

HEY, NO SWEAT.

HOW'S YOUR KNEE?



I THINK I'LL SURVIVE. AND, JESSE, THANKS FOR HELPING BONNIE STUDY. SHE'S ACTUALLY IN DANGER OF PASSING NOW!

HEY, THAT'S GOOD NEWS!

YEAH...

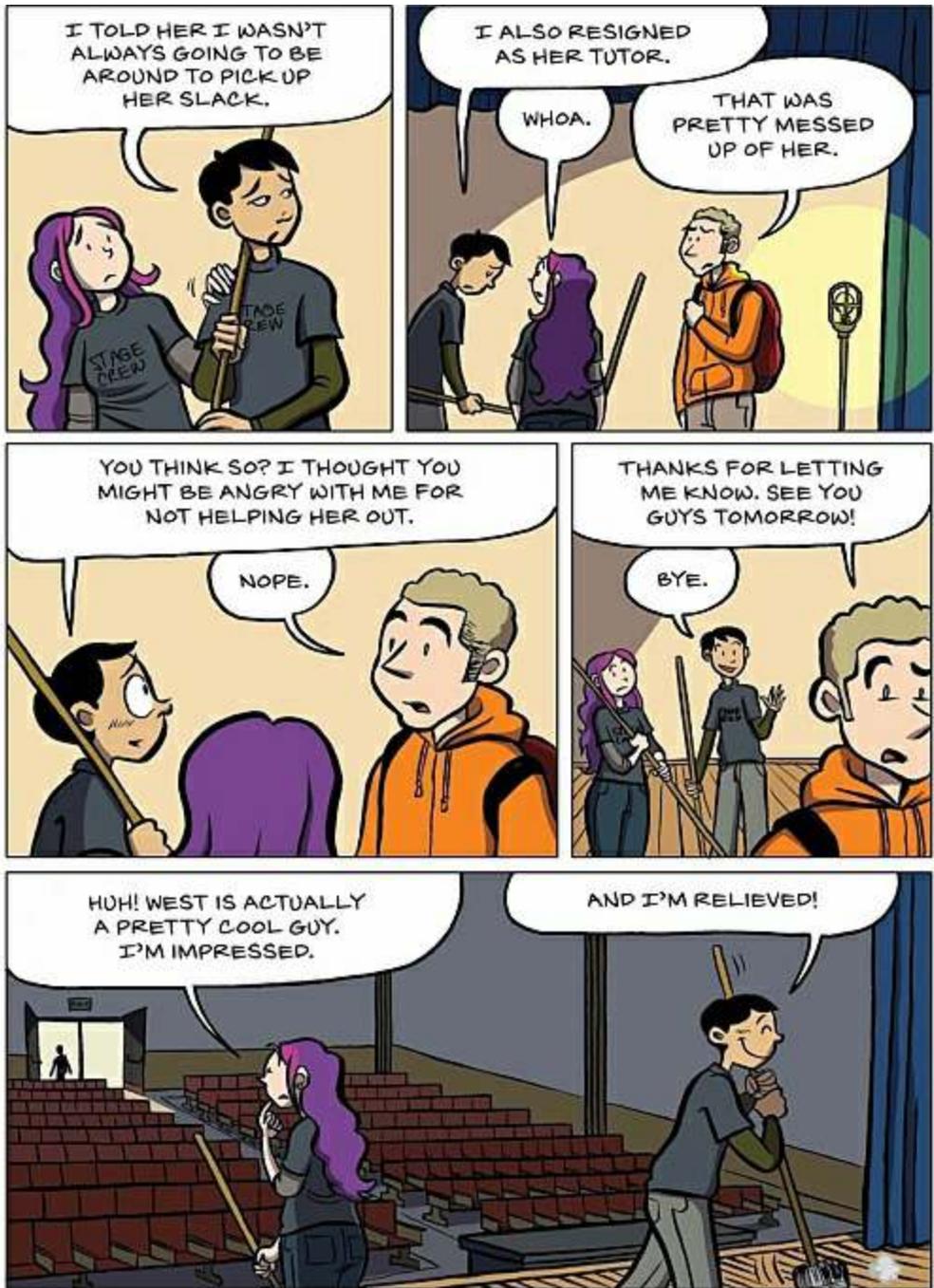


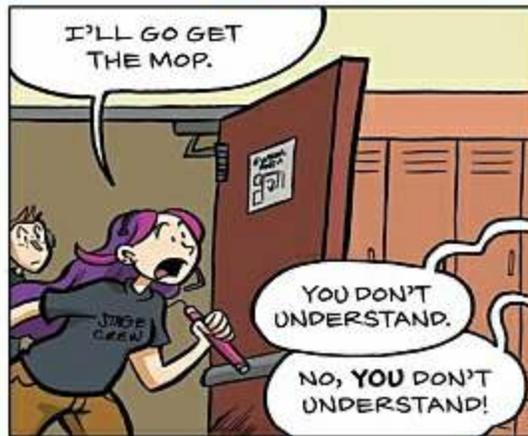
SHE... KINDA ASKED ME TO HELP HER CHEAT ON HER LAST TEST, THOUGH.



WHAT?!

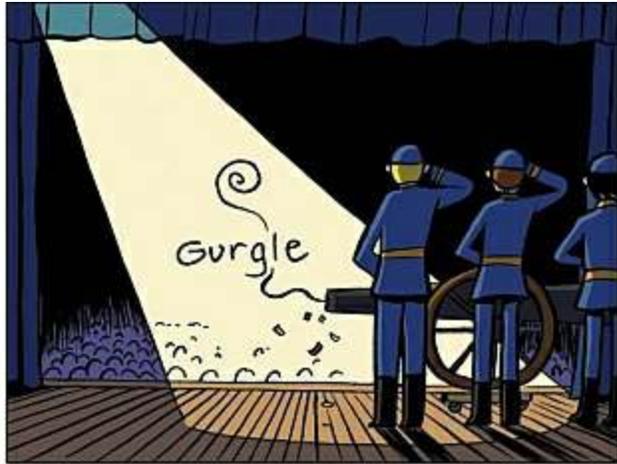
I DIDN'T DO IT! SHE WAS MAD, BUT SHE MUST'VE STUDIED HARDER AS A RESULT...









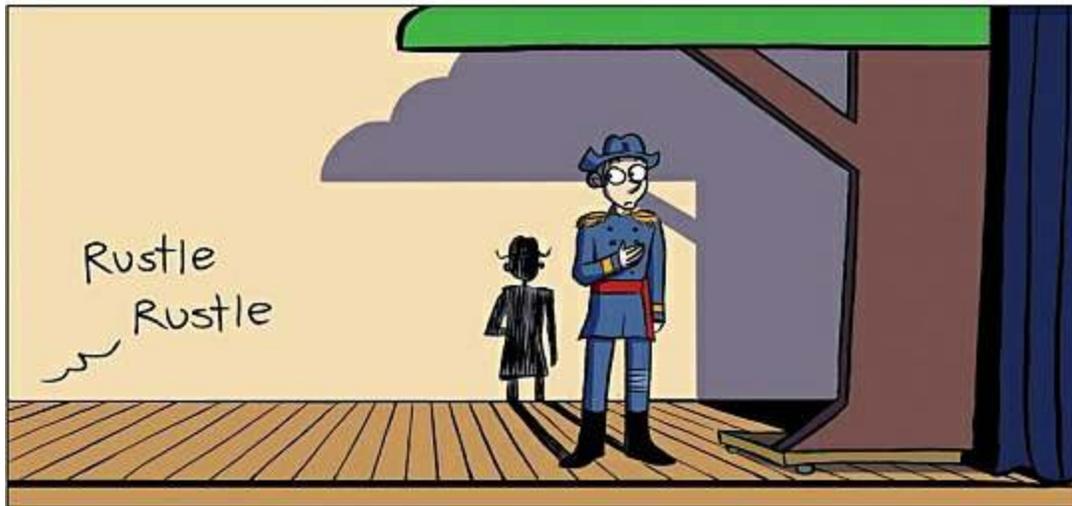




















IS JESSE GONNA SING?!
DOES HE KNOW THE PART?

WAIT FOR IT.



I'D NO PLANS FOR A MAN
FROM A NORTHERLY LAND,
TILL I FIRST SAW YOUR FAAAAACE...



BUT I KNEW -- YES, I KNEW! -- THOUGH MY DADDY
HATED YOU, WE'D MEET AGAIN...





WHAT'S GOING ON IN THE HOUSE?

A COUPLE OF PEOPLE ARE LAUGHING UP FRONT.

LET 'EM LAUGH. THIS SHOW'S NOT STOPPING FOR THEM.



CALLIE, CAN YOU DO THE SET CHANGE WITHOUT JESSE HELPING?

ON IT.



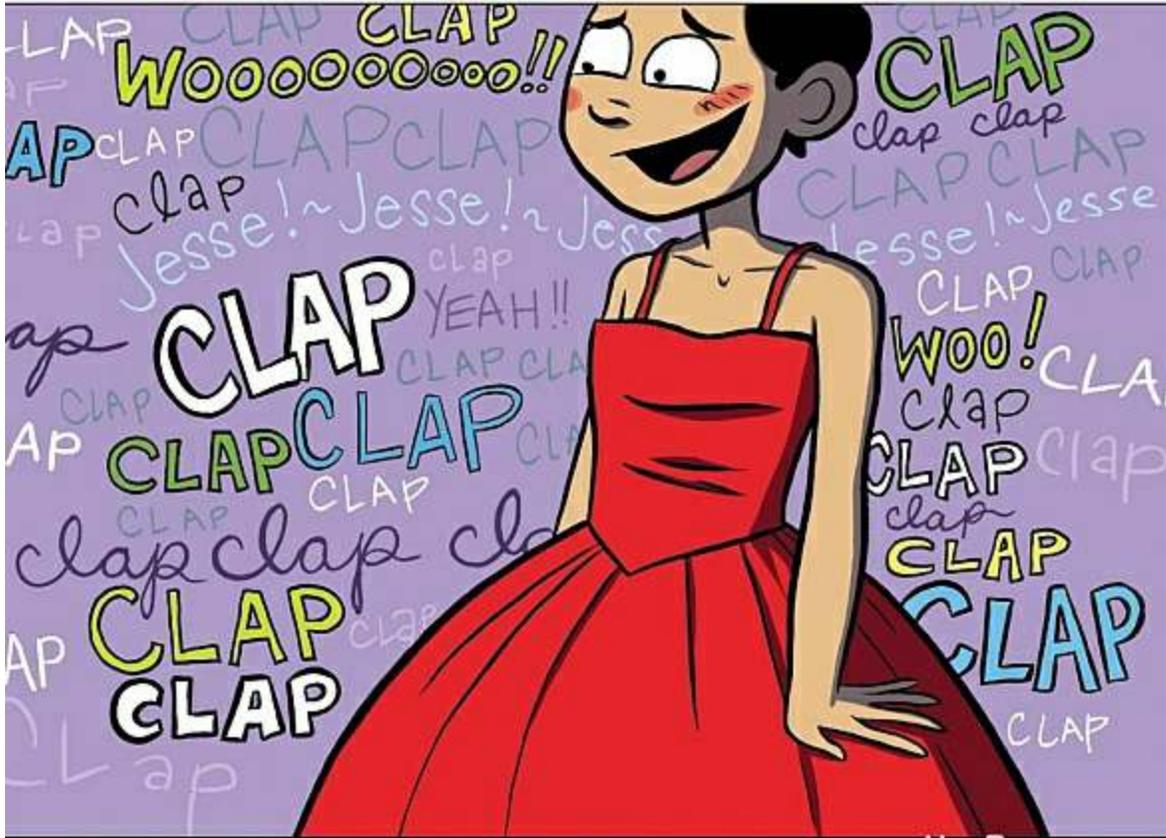
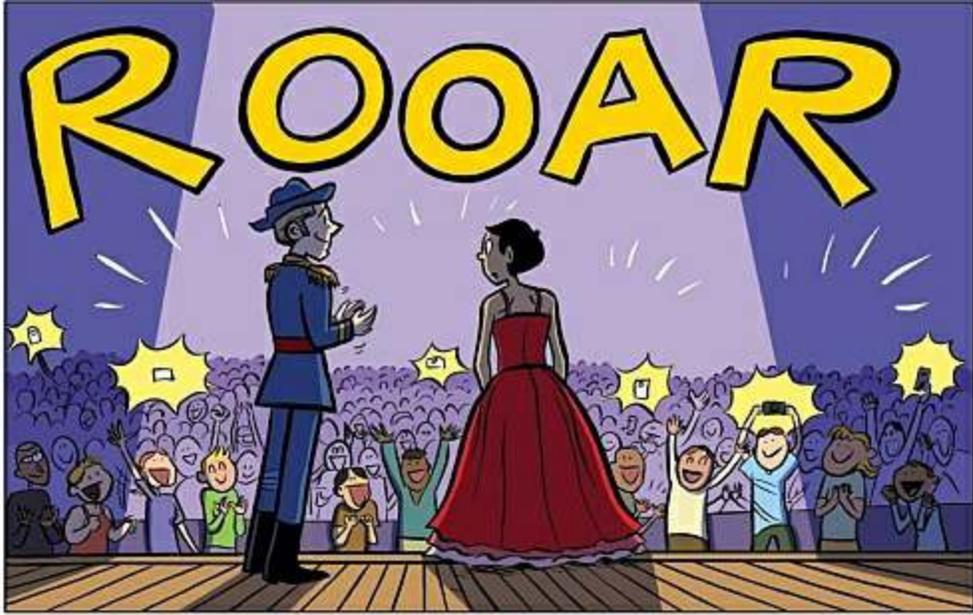
DADDY, PLEASE! HAVE A HEART.



I'LL HAVE NOTHING OF THE SORT! NO DAUGHTER OF MINE IS MARRYING A YANKEE -- CASE CLOSED.











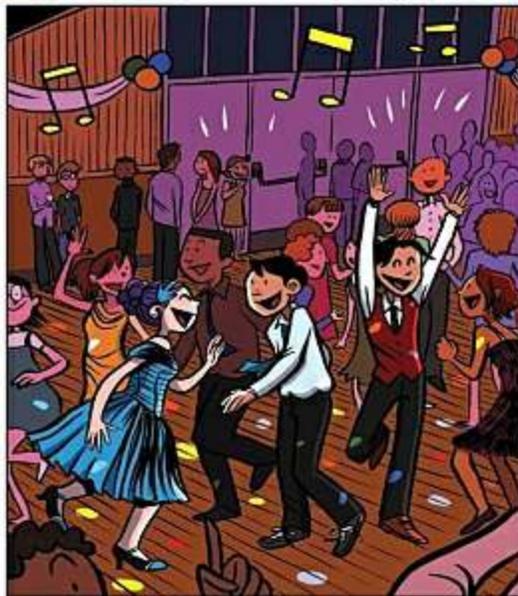




ACT VII













CALLIE!
WHAT'S
WRONG?



I CAN'T FIND JESSE ANYWHERE,
AND I'VE LOOKED ALL OVER!
HAVE YOU SEEN HIM? WHERE'S
JUSTIN? IS HE MISSING TOO?



JUSTIN'S TALKING TO LOREN, SO I'M
GIVING THEM SOME SPACE. C'MON, LET'S
GO TO THE BATHROOM AND TALK.













ER... I THINK I'LL GO GET SOME PUNCH.



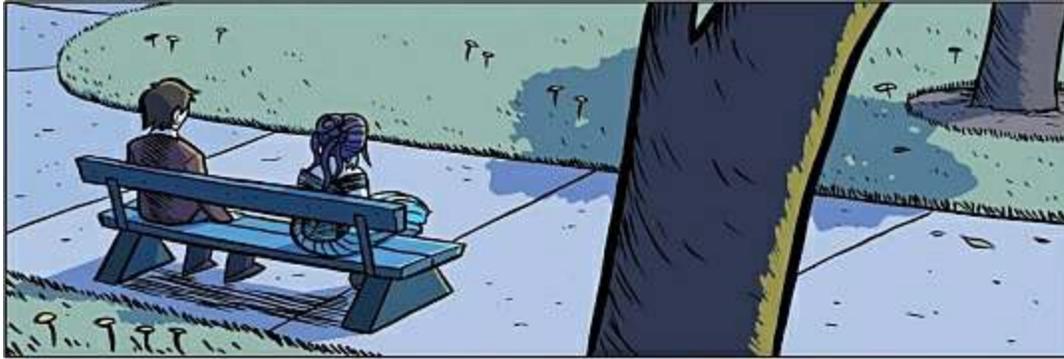












CALLIE, I MESSED UP. BIG-TIME. I'VE BEEN SO CAUGHT UP WITH MISSING BONNIE...

...I DIDN'T REALIZE THAT THE GIRL I SHOULD REALLY HAVE BEEN WITH WAS RIGHT BEFORE MY EYES.

SO WHAT DO YOU SAY?

WILL YOU GIVE ME ANOTHER SHOT?
HUH?

I KNOW I'VE BEEN OUT OF THE PICTURE FOR A WHILE,
BUT I PROMISE I'LL BE DIFFERENT THIS TIME AROUND.



MY BROTHER WAS SO MAD AT ME
FOR GETTING TO YOU FIRST, BUT I
THINK HE'S FORGIVEN ME BY NOW.



WHAT? MATT? HE
WAS... HUH? I'M SO
CONFUSED!



DON'T BE CONFUSED...
BE MY GIRLFRIEND.







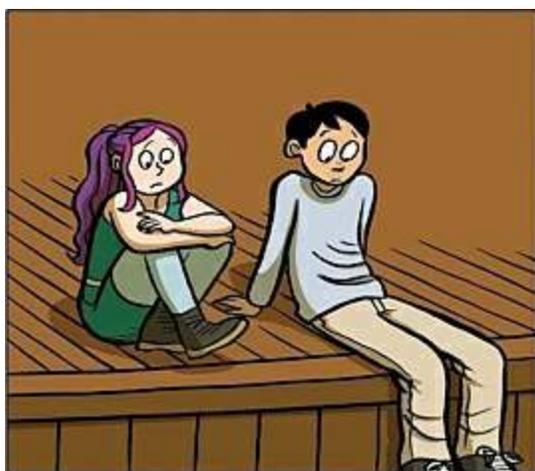
FINAL ACT





HEY.

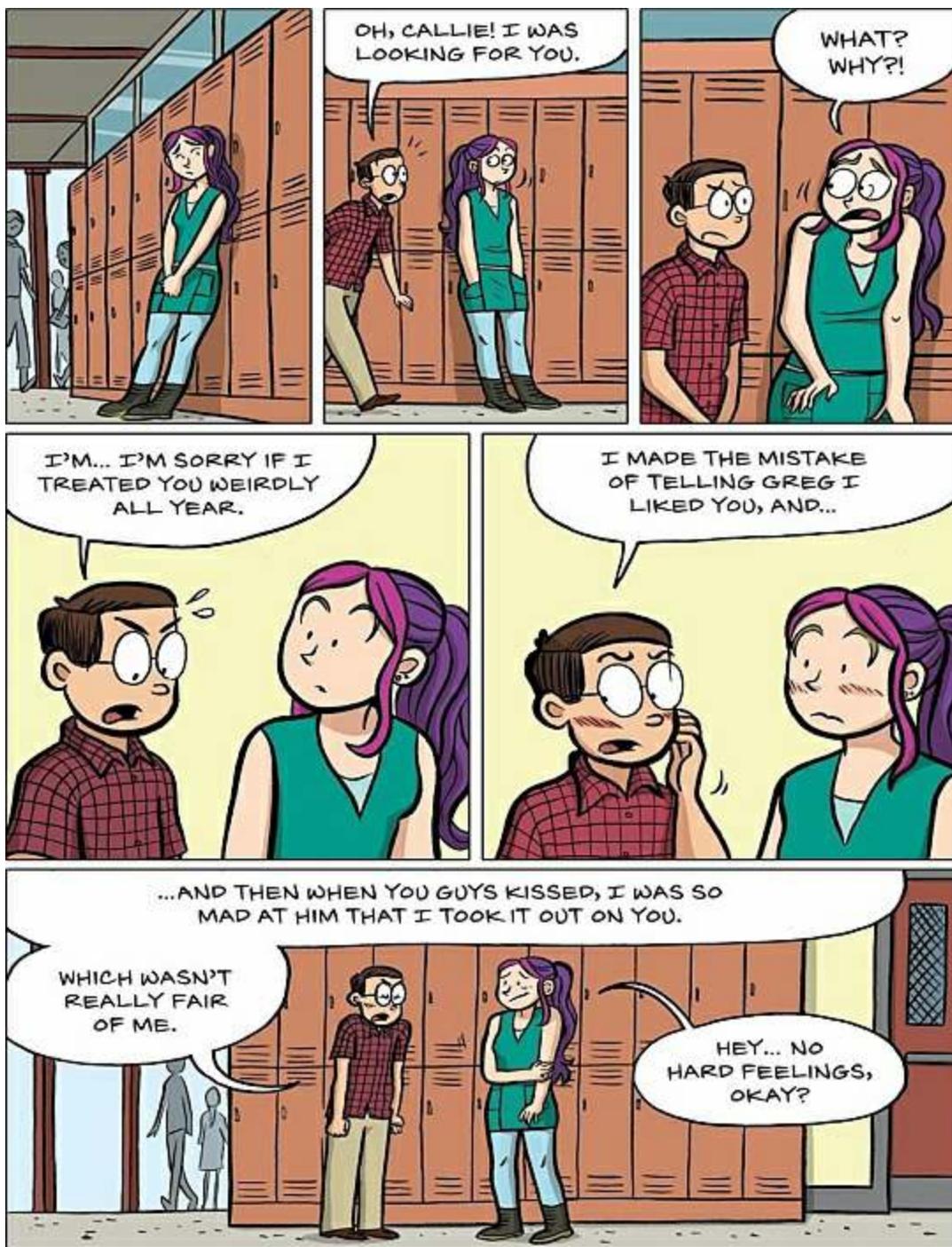
HI.



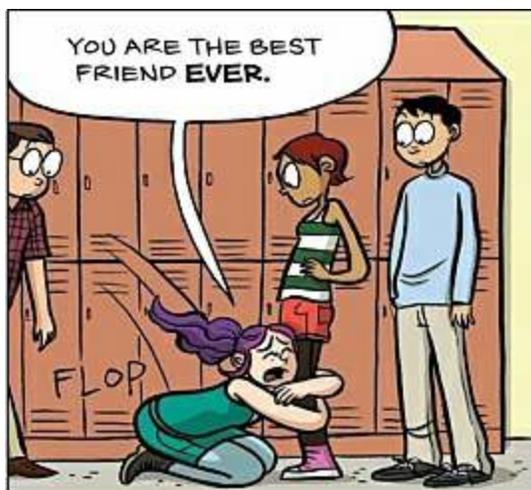












YOU ARE THE BEST FRIEND EVER.



DARN RIGHT, I AM.



SOOO! WE SHOULD PROBABLY HEAD OVER TO THE STAGE CREW MEETING.



IS YOUR BROTHER JOINING US, JESSE?

I DON'T THINK HE'D WANT TO IMPOSE...



EH -- YOU TWO HAVE EARNED YOUR WINGS. IT'S COOL IF HE WANTS TO COME.



I WANT A "GET OUT OF JAIL FREE" CARD IF I EVER FALL HEAD OVER HEELS FOR THE WRONG GUY.

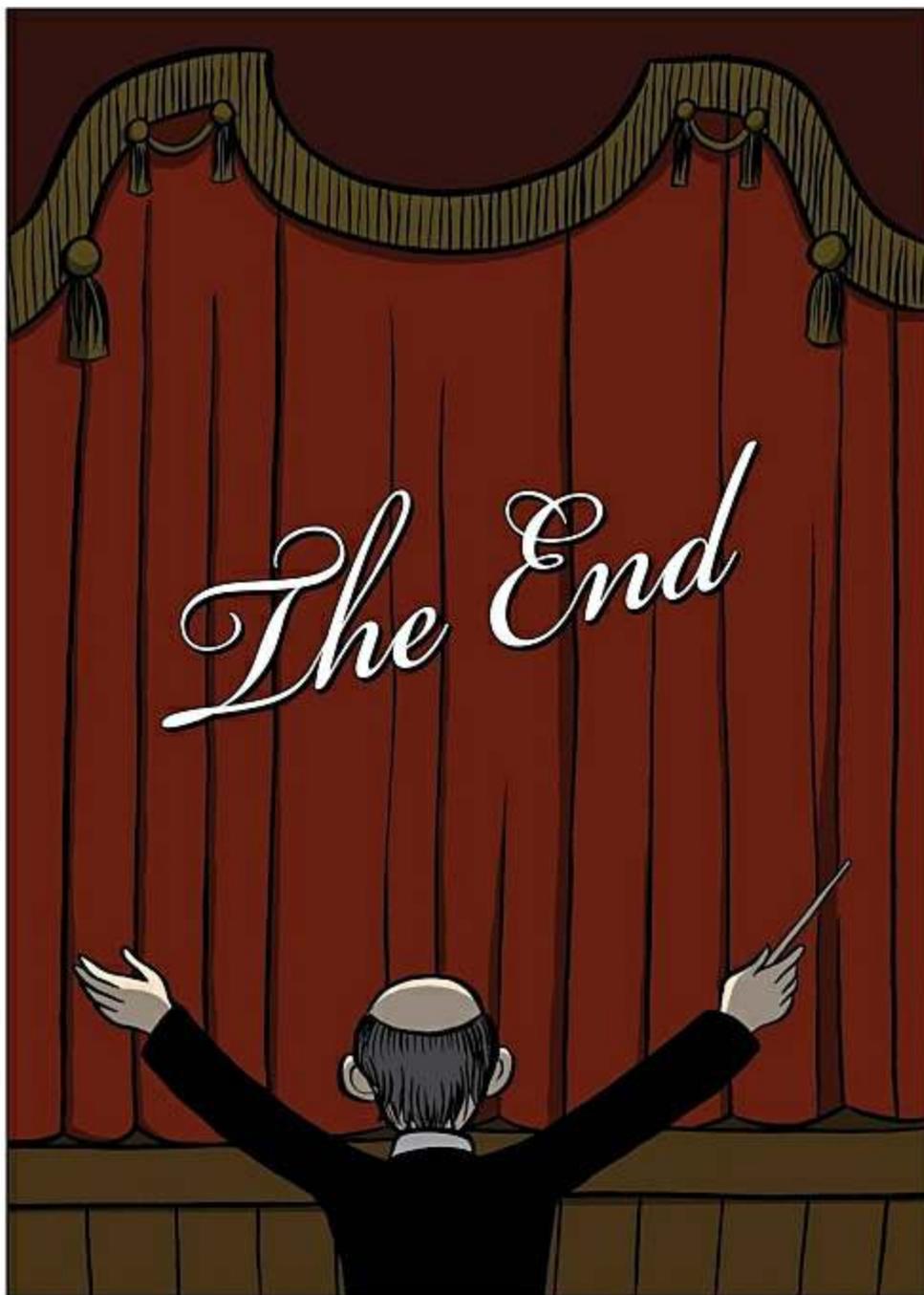












AUTHOR'S NOTE

This book would not exist without my friends and instructors from the theater, choir, and stage crew communities in high school.

As a teenager, I took drama and choir classes, which led to small roles in school productions of *Guys and Dolls*, *Sweeney Todd*, *Evita*, and *City of Angels*. I sang exactly one solo line in my four years of high school, but enjoyed being part of the ensemble (singers who play lots of different characters, mostly in the background or crowd scenes) so much that I did it every chance I got.



More important than any of the parts I sang were the people I met: singers, dancers, actors — many of them surprisingly modest or shy! — set designers, stage managers, directors, band members . . . every person on or behind the stage had an important role to play, and pulling off a live show together was thrilling.

In a way, those years of my life helped me to find my voice and gave me a wealth of artistic material to draw from. Callie's experiences are different from my own, but many of the characters and events in this story are inspired by things I was a part of. And the talent, courage, and dedication of my friends continue to inspire me every single day.

-Raina



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THANKS TO . . .

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My family, who got me hooked on movie musicals when I was a kid.

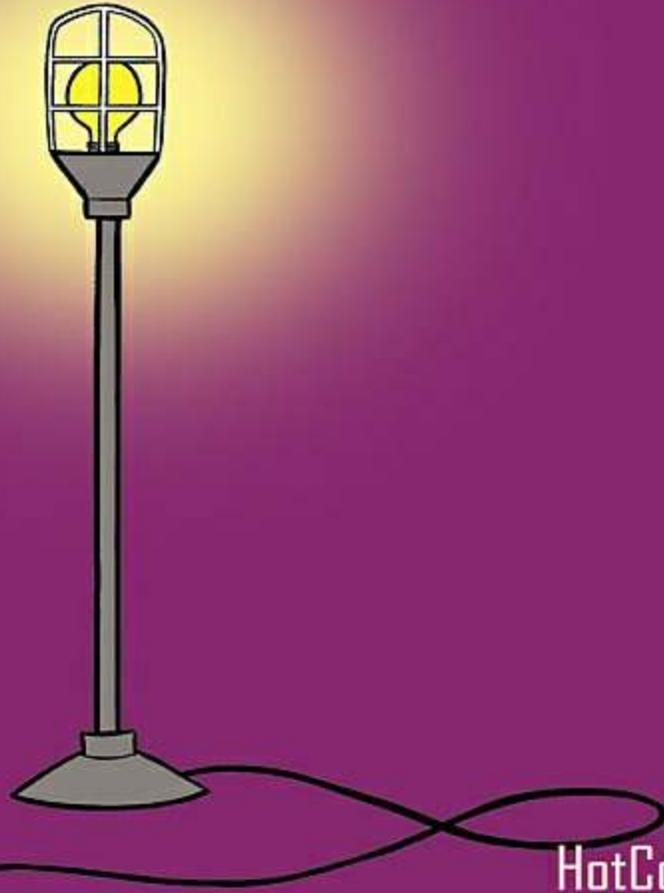
And Dave Roman, my husband, who contributes so much of himself to my work, and cannot be thanked enough. I'm lucky to have him as my co-star.

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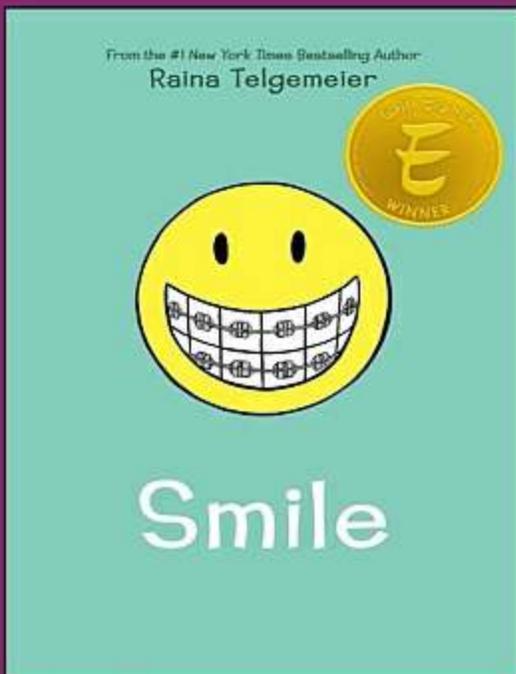


ABOUT THE AUTHOR

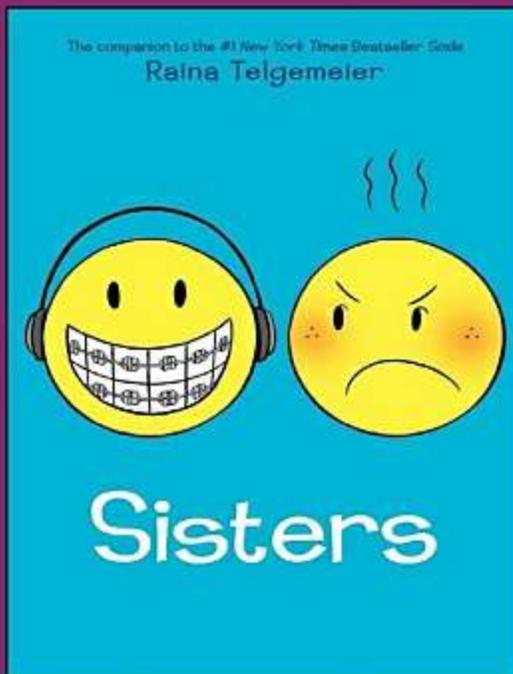
Raina Telgemeier grew up in San Francisco, then moved to New York City, where she earned an illustration degree at the School of Visual Arts. She is the creator of *Smile*, a #1 *New York Times* bestselling graphic memoir based on her childhood. It won a Will Eisner Award for Best Publication for Teens, received a Boston Globe–Horn Book Honor, and has appeared on many state reading lists. She is also the creator of *Drama*, a #1 *New York Times* bestseller, recipient of a Stonewall Book Award Honor, and one of YALSA’s Top Ten Great Graphic Novels for Teens. Raina also adapted and illustrated *The Baby-sitters Club* graphic novels, which were selected for YALSA’s Great Graphic Novels for Teens list and *Booklist*’s Top 10 Graphic Novels for Youth list.

Raina lives in Astoria, New York, with her husband and fellow cartoonist, Dave Roman. To learn more about Raina, visit her online at www.goRaina.com.

Also by
RAINA TELGEMEIER



This is the true story of how Raina severely injured her two front teeth when she was in the sixth grade, and the dental drama - on top of boy confusion, a major earthquake, and friends who turn out to be not so friendly - that followed!



Raina can't wait to be a big sister. Amara is cute, but she's also cranky and mostly prefers to play by herself. Their relationship doesn't improve much over the years, but they must figure out how to get along. They are sisters, after all!



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