

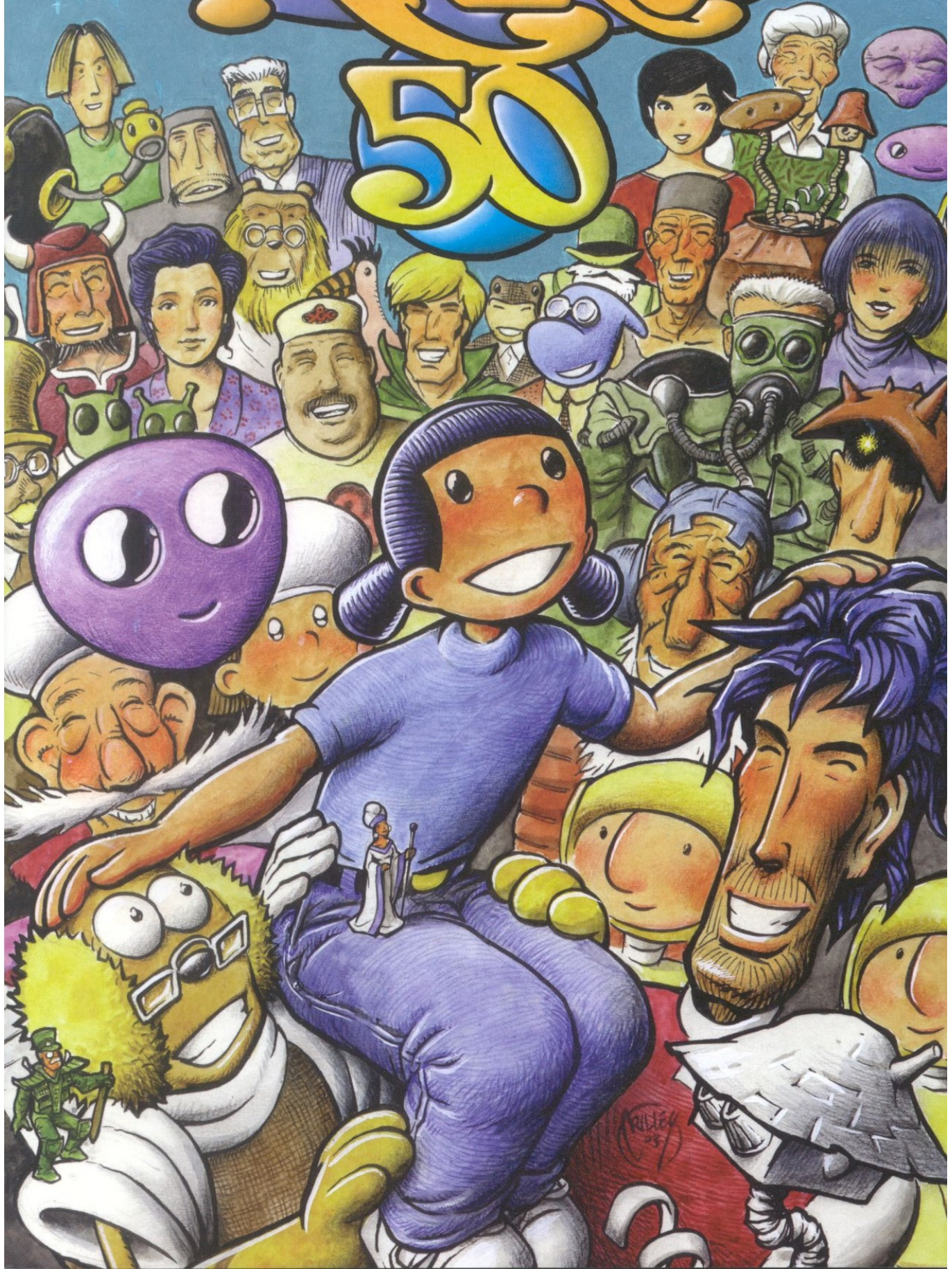
SIRIUS

MARK CRILLEY'S



\$3.50 US

# Akiko 50





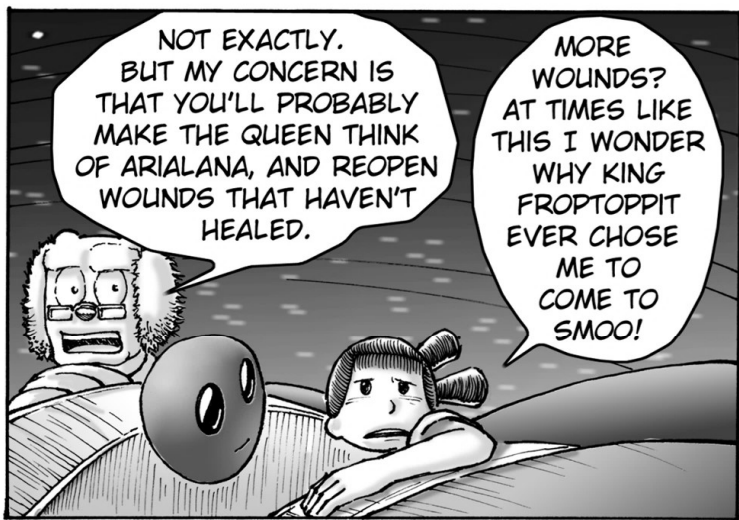
an evening on the Moonguzzit sea





ARIALANA WAS JUST ABOUT YOUR AGE. SHE WAS RIDIN' HER LUMA IN THE FOREST, BUT THEY RAN SMACK DAB INTO A JAGGASAUUR...

SHE WAS EATEN?

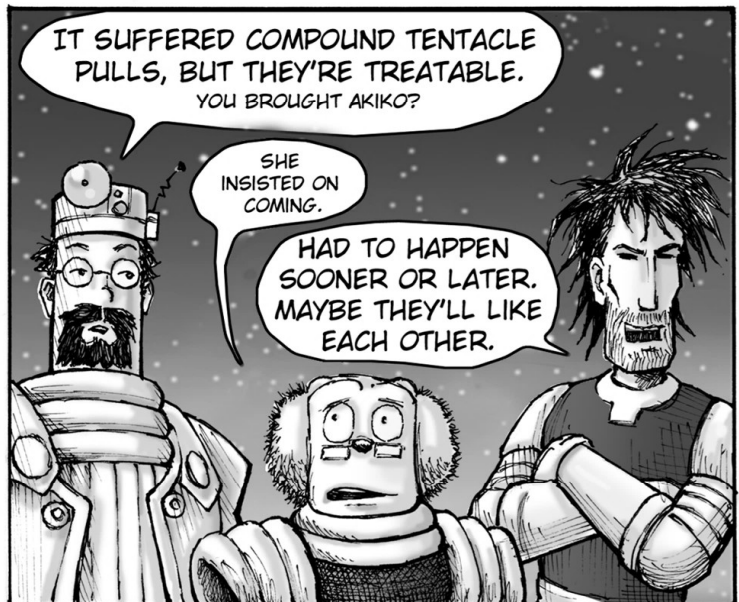


NOT EXACTLY. BUT MY CONCERN IS THAT YOU'LL PROBABLY MAKE THE QUEEN THINK OF ARIALANA, AND REOPEN WOUNDS THAT HAVEN'T HEALED.

MORE WOUNDS? AT TIMES LIKE THIS I WONDER WHY KING FROPTOPPIT EVER CHOSE ME TO COME TO SMOO!



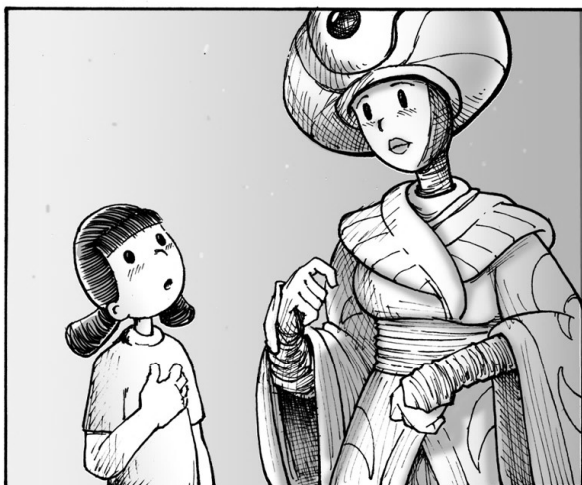
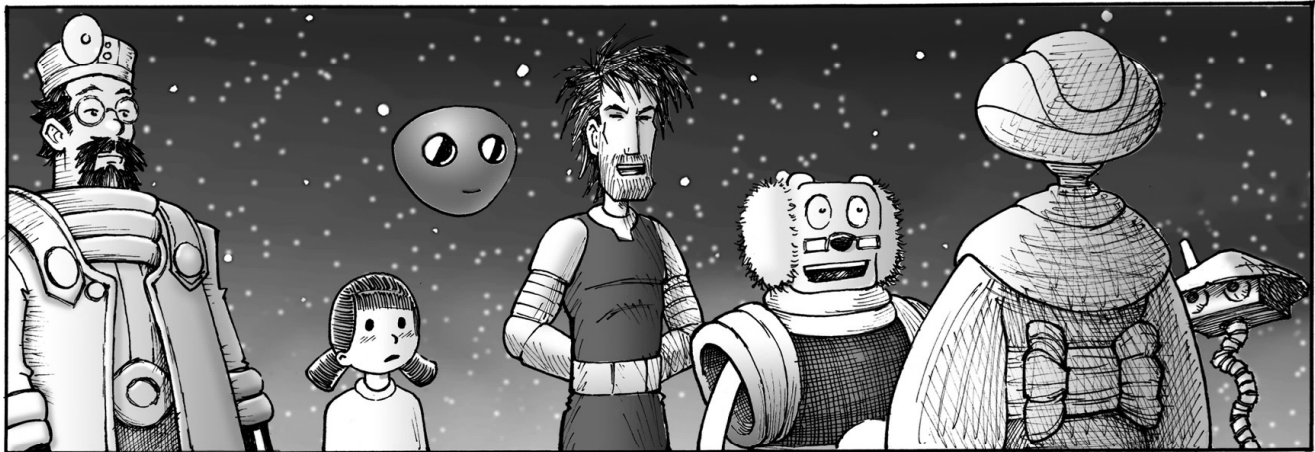
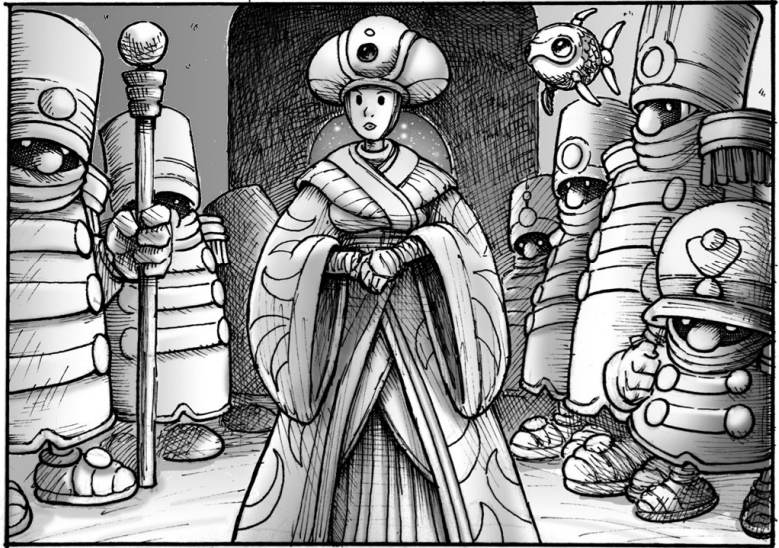
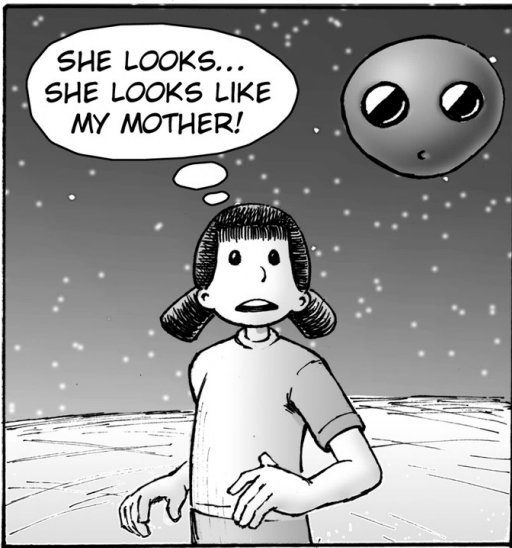
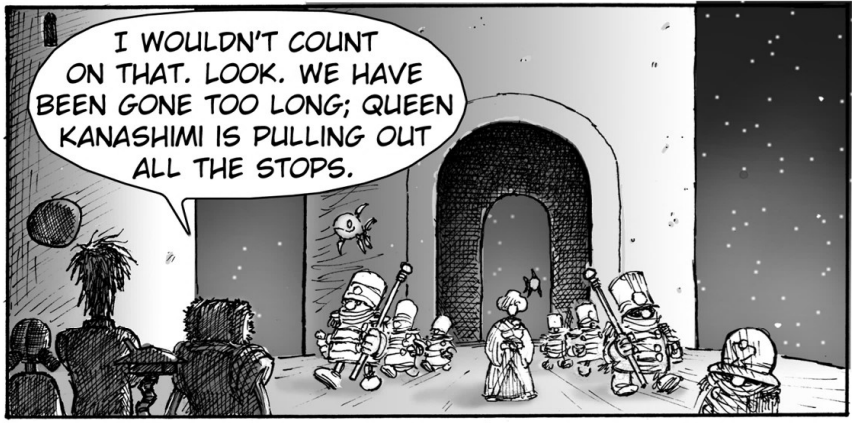
GOOD THING YOU BROUGHT IT HERE, MR. BEEBA.



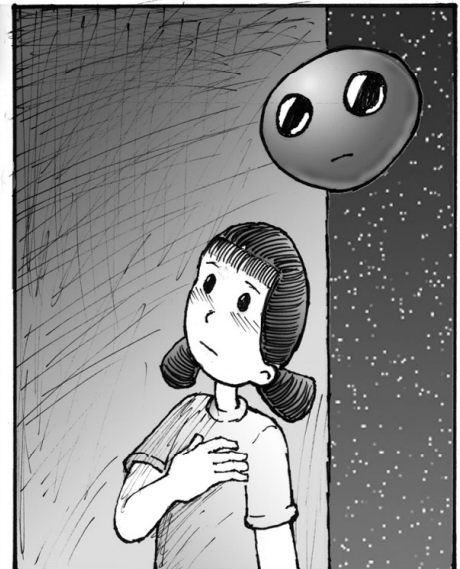
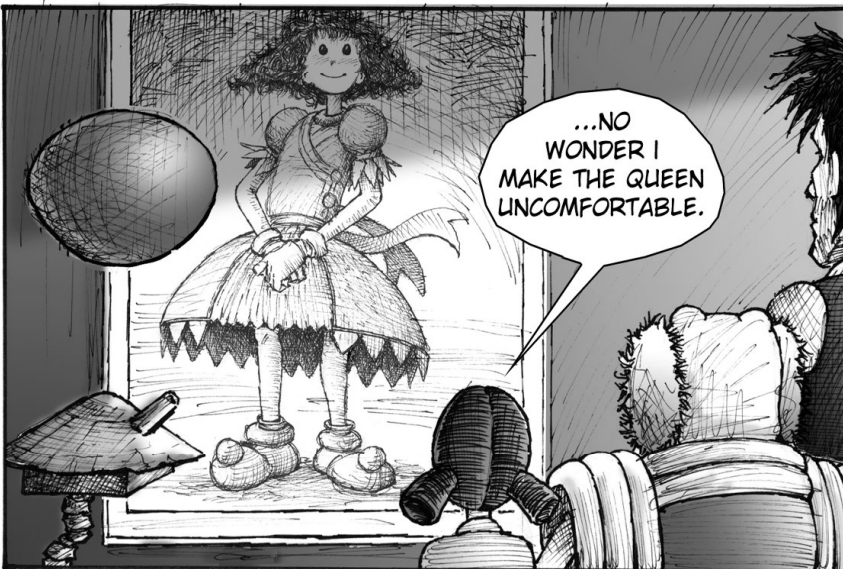
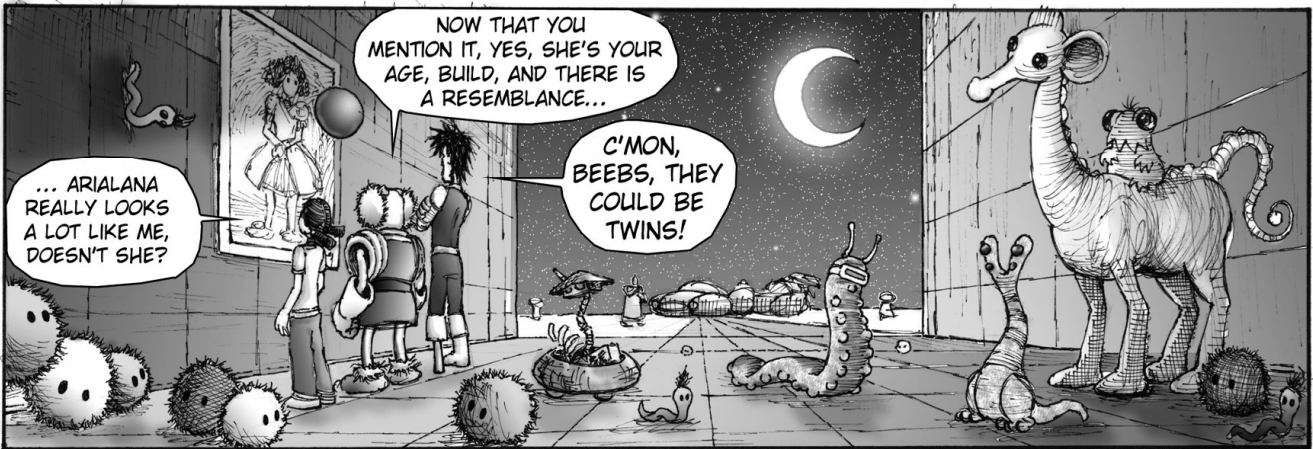
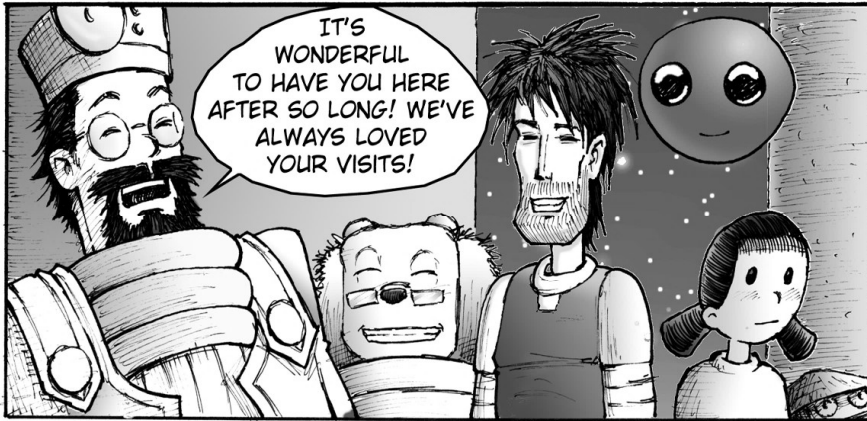
IT SUFFERED COMPOUND TENTACLE PULLS, BUT THEY'RE TREATABLE. YOU BROUGHT AKIKO?

SHE INSISTED ON COMING.

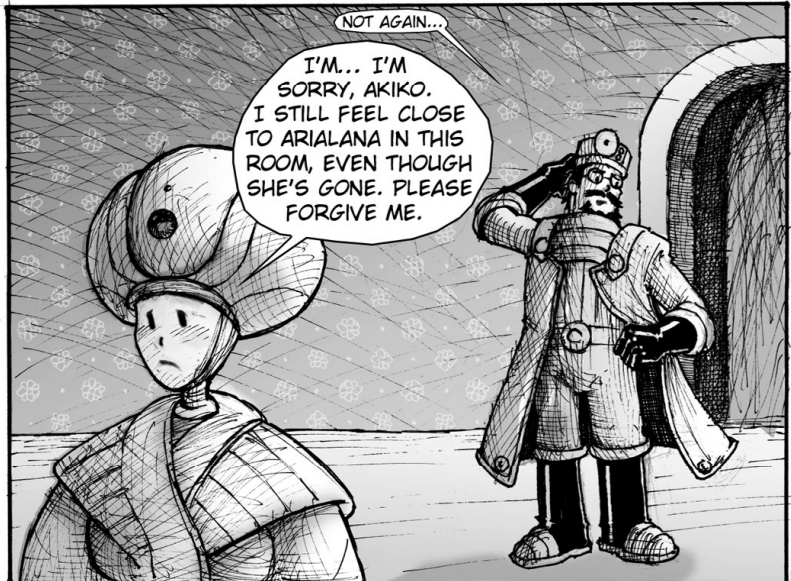
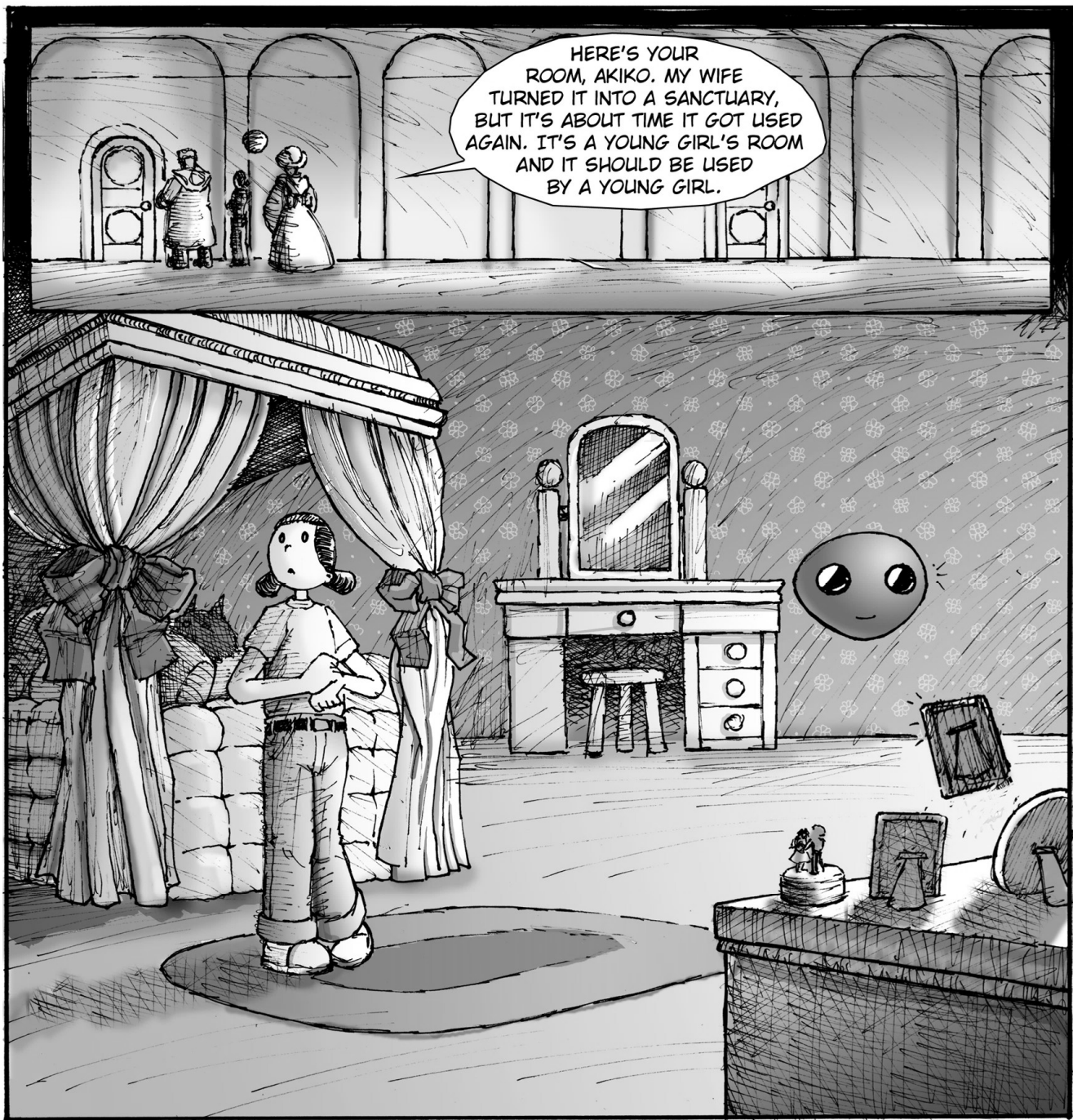
HAD TO HAPPEN SOONER OR LATER. MAYBE THEY'LL LIKE EACH OTHER.



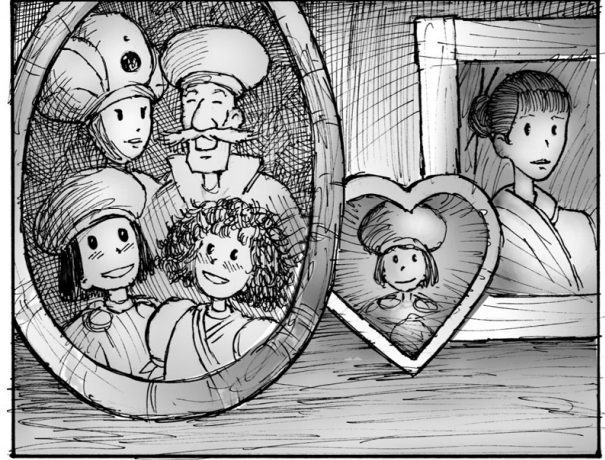
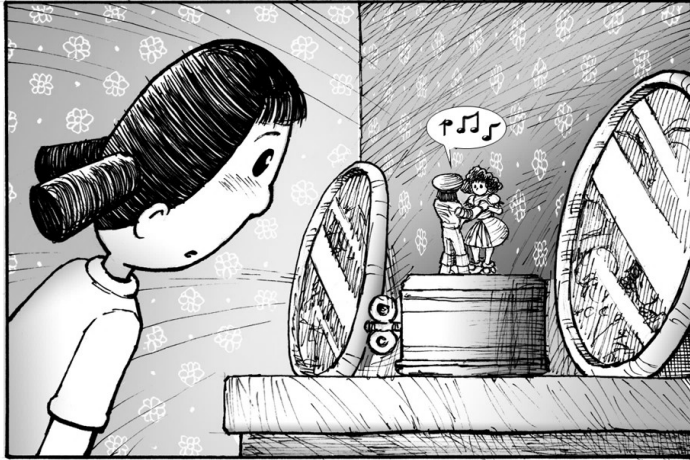
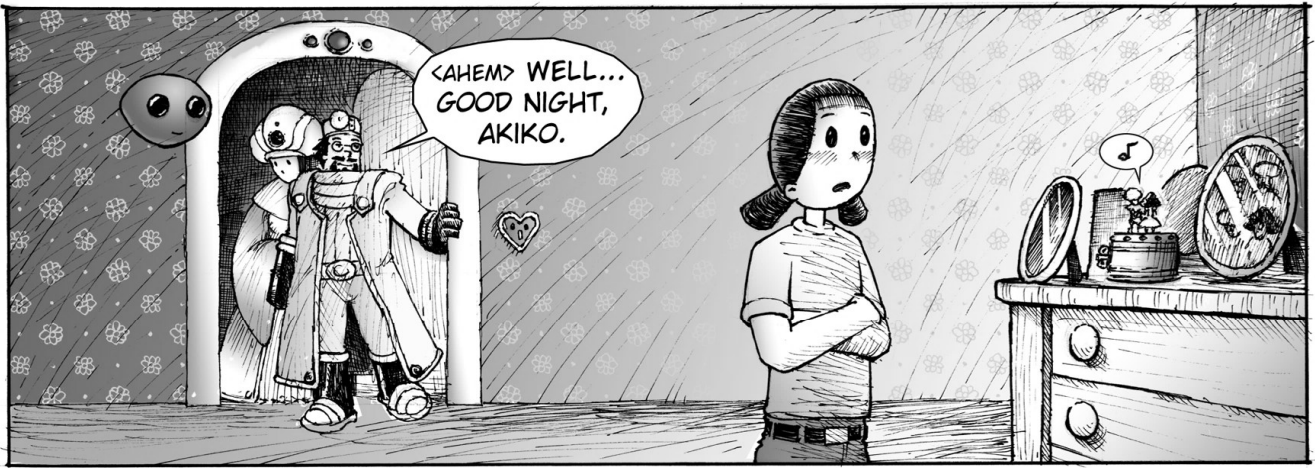




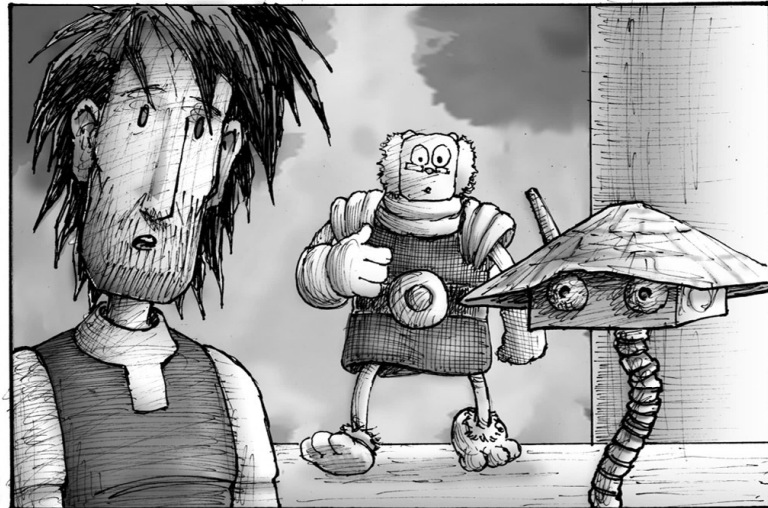
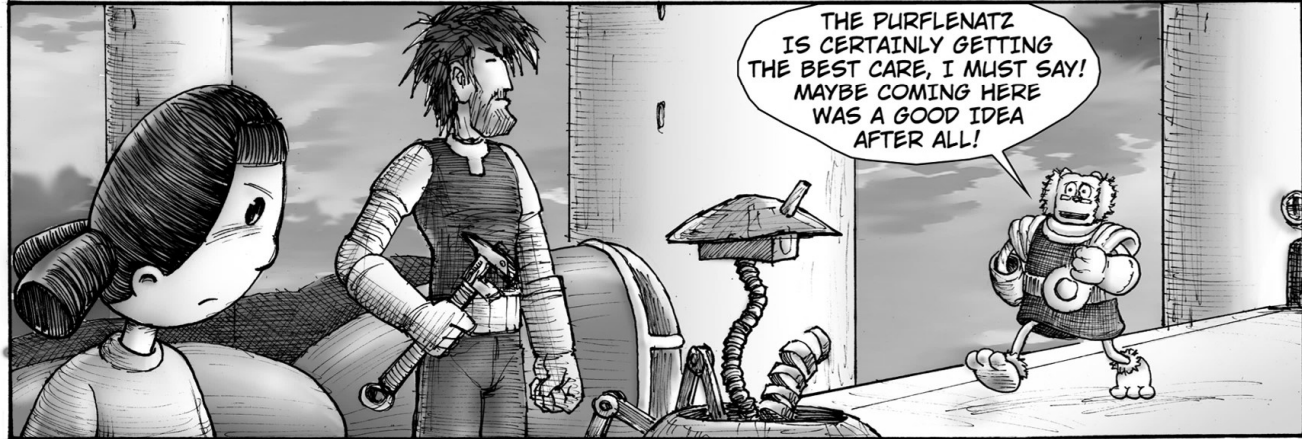
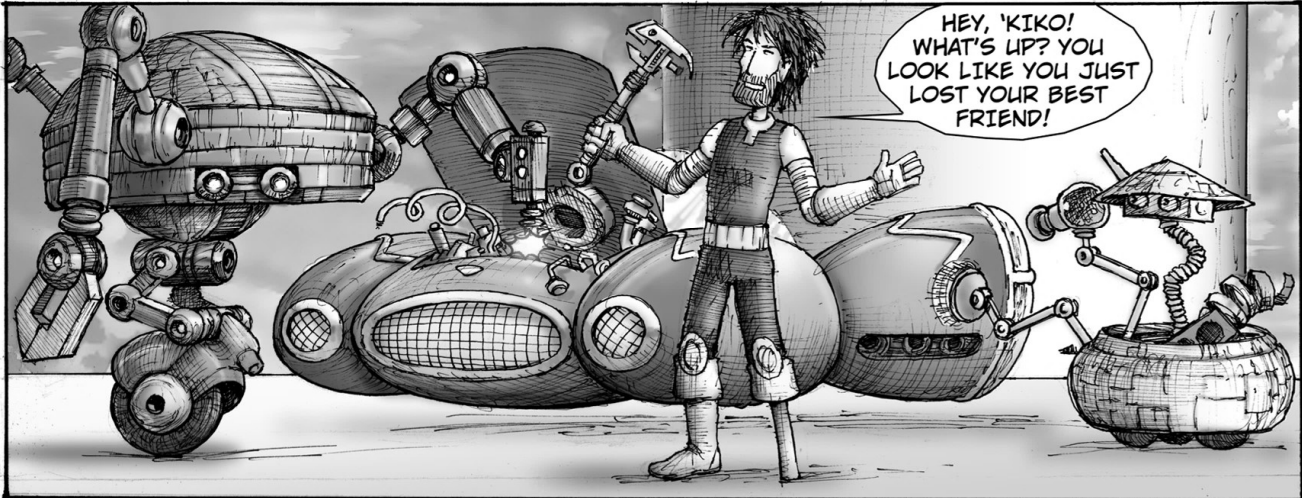
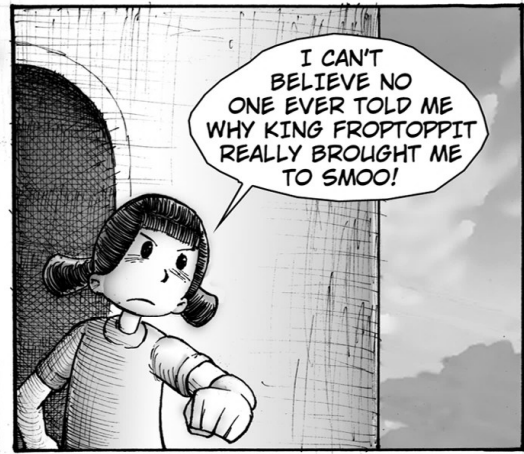
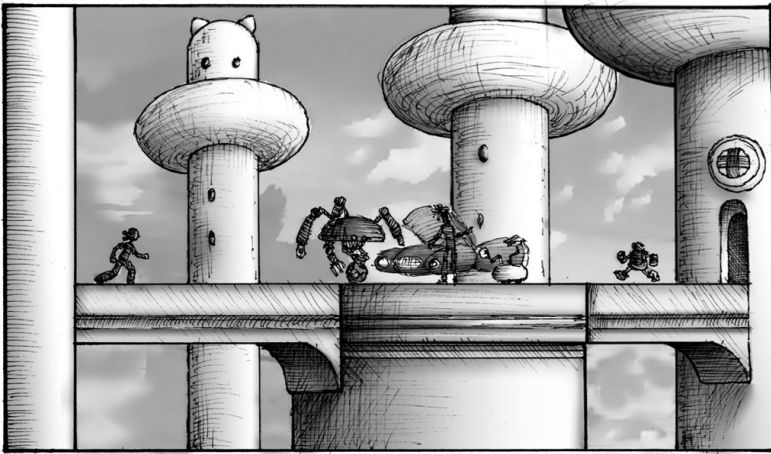












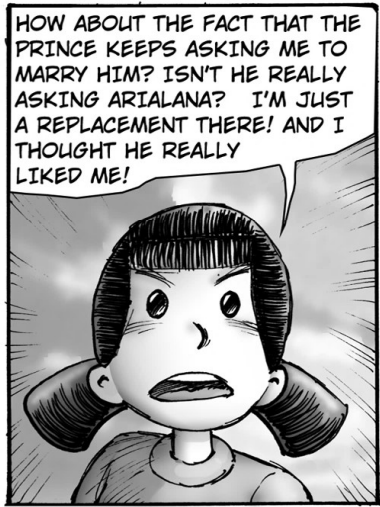




I THINK YOU MAY BE READING TOO MUCH INTO THIS, AKIKO. CERTAINLY, THE FACT THAT YOU LOOKED LIKE ARIALANA MAY HAVE BIASED KING FROPTOPPIT WHEN HE TRIED TO FIND SOMEONE TO RESCUE THE PRINCE, BUT COURAGE AND ABILITY ARE FAR MORE NECESSARY SKILLS THAN LOOKS!

YEAH, 'KIKO. PRINCESS ARIALANA COULD NEVER HAVE DONE WHAT YOU'VE DONE HERE ON SMOO...

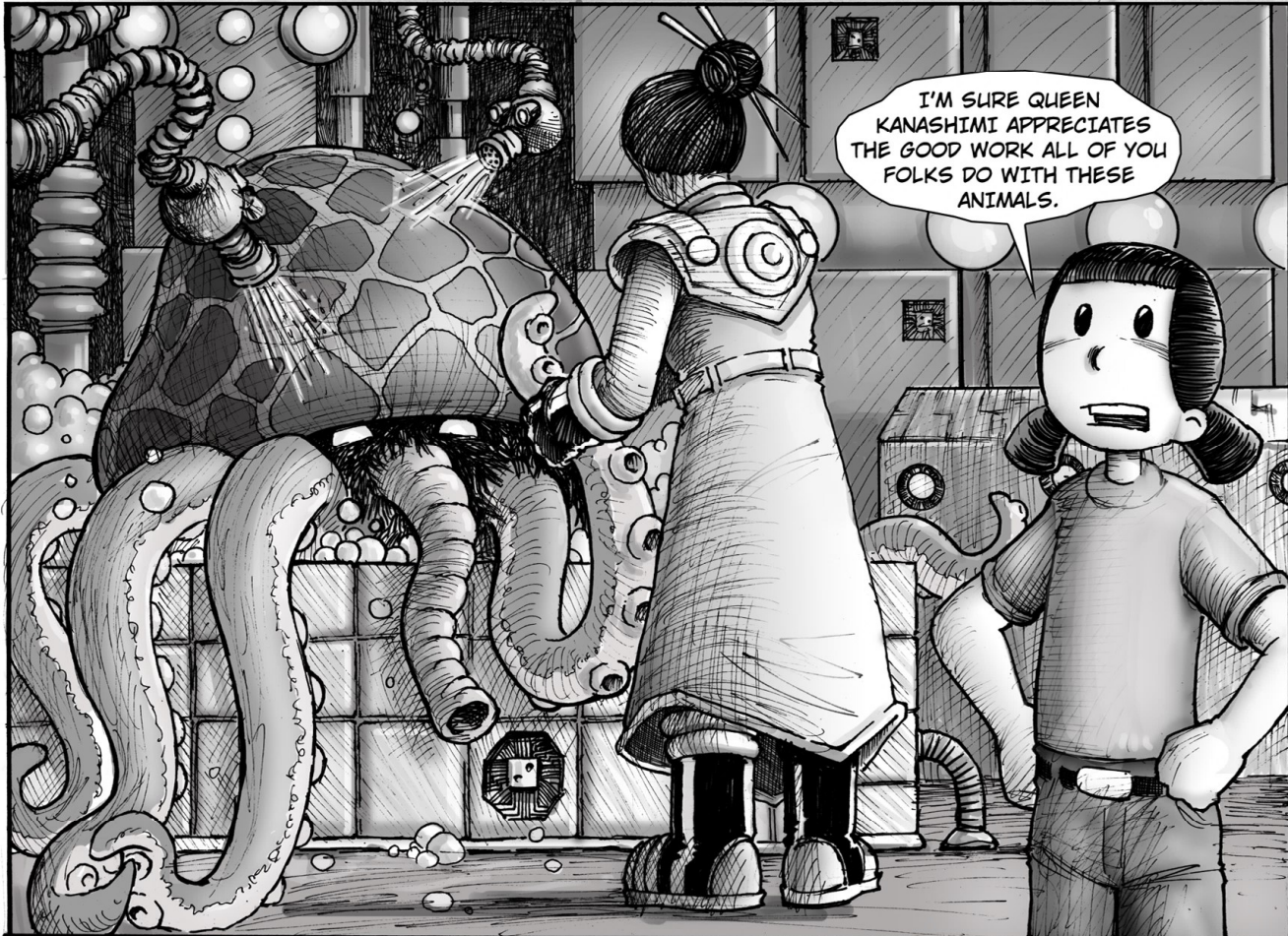
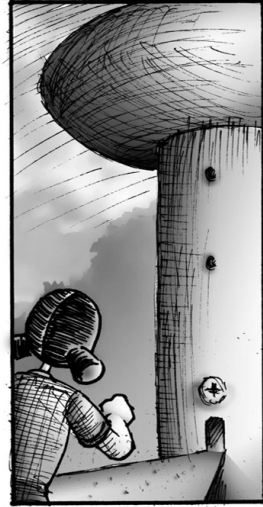
I AGREE, MAAM.



HOW ABOUT THE FACT THAT THE PRINCE KEEPS ASKING ME TO MARRY HIM? ISN'T HE REALLY ASKING ARIALANA? I'M JUST A REPLACEMENT THERE! AND I THOUGHT HE REALLY LIKED ME!



NEVER MIND...I'M GOING TO CHECK ON THE PURFLENATZ...



I'M SURE QUEEN KANASHIMI APPRECIATES THE GOOD WORK ALL OF YOU FOLKS DO WITH THESE ANIMALS.





I'M SURE SHE DOES, GIVEN SHE'S A VETERINARIAN HERSELF.

BEING A QUEEN FULL-TIME WOULD BE QUITE BORING.



I'M GLAD TO SEE I'M NOT THE ONLY PERSON WHO OCCASIONALLY HAS A CASE OF MISTAKEN IDENTITY.

YOU DO SO LOOK LIKE ARIALANA, THOUGH...

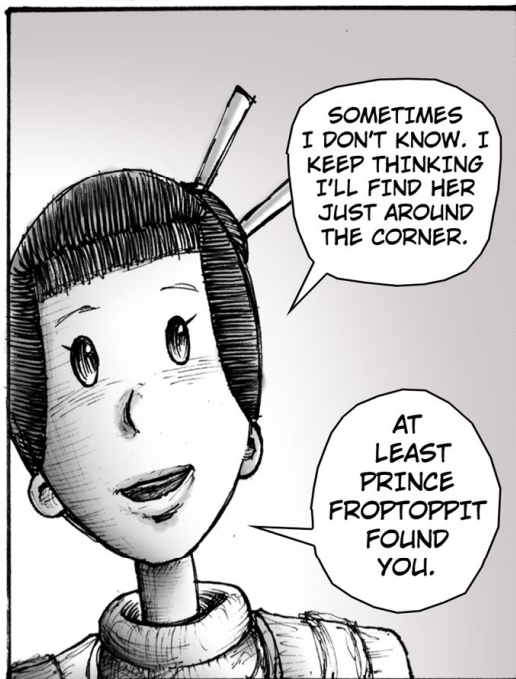


I NEVER GOT TO SAY GOODBYE, YOU KNOW.



IT'S STRANGE. ONE DAY SHE WAS THERE, AND THE NEXT DAY, I'M TOLD I'LL NEVER SEE HER AGAIN. EVEN OVER A YEAR LATER, IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE.

SO, HOW DO YOU GET BY?



SOMETIMES I DON'T KNOW. I KEEP THINKING I'LL FIND HER JUST AROUND THE CORNER.

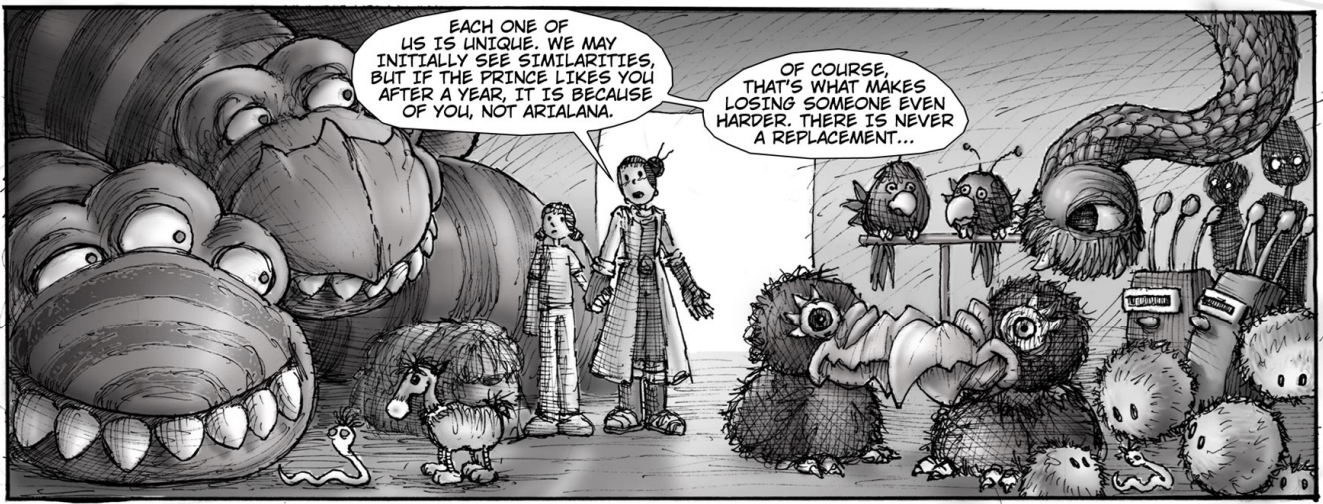
AT LEAST PRINCE FROPTOPPIT FOUND YOU.



YEAH, RIGHT. I CAN'T SAY I LIKE BEING A REPLACEMENT FRIEND GIRL, THOUGH.

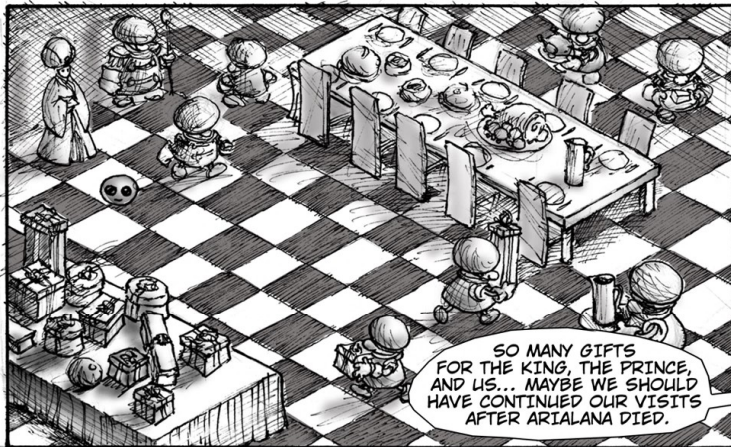
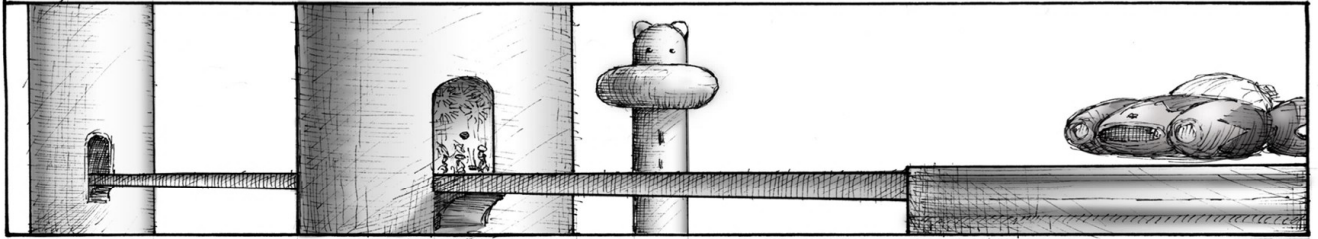
A REPLACEMENT? OH MY, NO. I MAY HAVE CALLED YOU ARIALANA, BUT NO ONE CAN REPLACE HER.





EACH ONE OF US IS UNIQUE. WE MAY INITIALLY SEE SIMILARITIES, BUT IF THE PRINCE LIKES YOU AFTER A YEAR, IT IS BECAUSE OF YOU, NOT ARIALANA.

OF COURSE, THAT'S WHAT MAKES LOSING SOMEONE EVEN HARDER. THERE IS NEVER A REPLACEMENT...

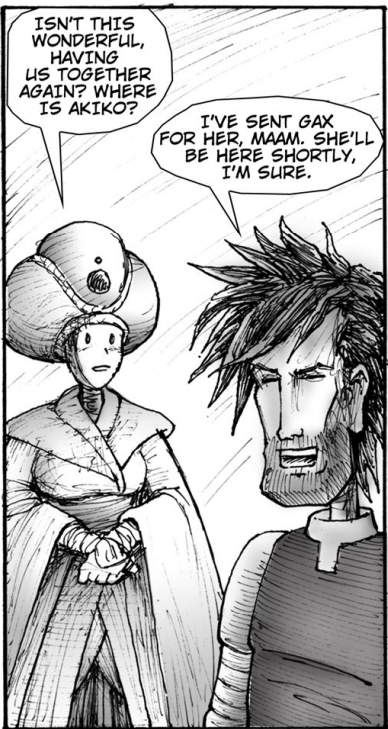


SO MANY GIFTS FOR THE KING, THE PRINCE AND US... MAYBE WE SHOULD HAVE CONTINUED OUR VISITS AFTER ARIALANA DIED.



I DUNNO. YOU KNOW HOW THE QUEEN WAS RIGHT AFTER. ALWAYS LOOKING FOR HER DAUGHTER. ALWAYS SAYING "SHE COULDN'T REALLY BE DEAD". EVEN WHEN WE SHOWED HER...

IT'S HARD, WHEN AN ENDING IS SO ABRUPT. IT'S HARD TO ACCEPT. I KNOW. I'VE READ A LOT ABOUT SUCH THINGS.



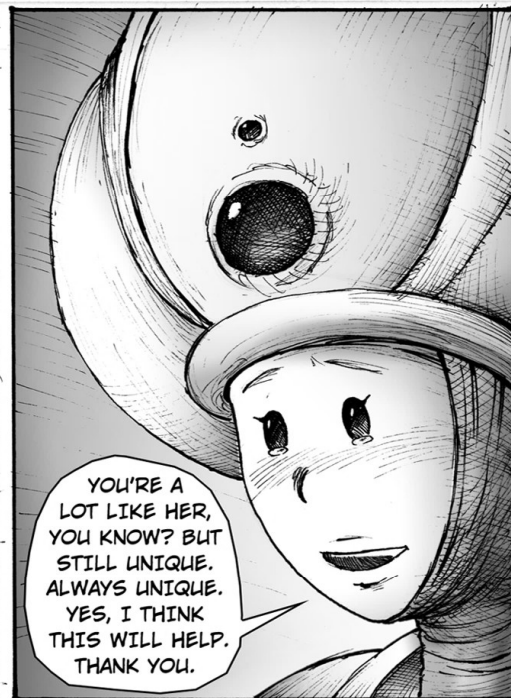
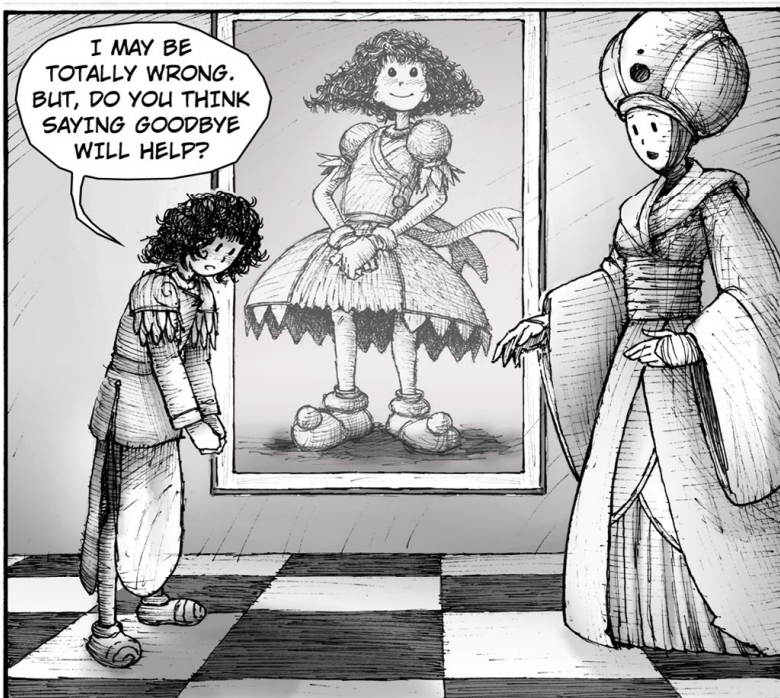
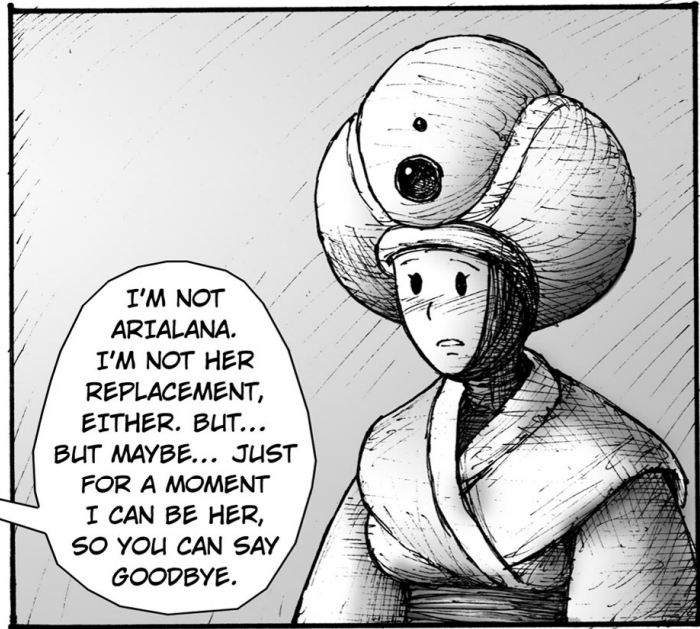
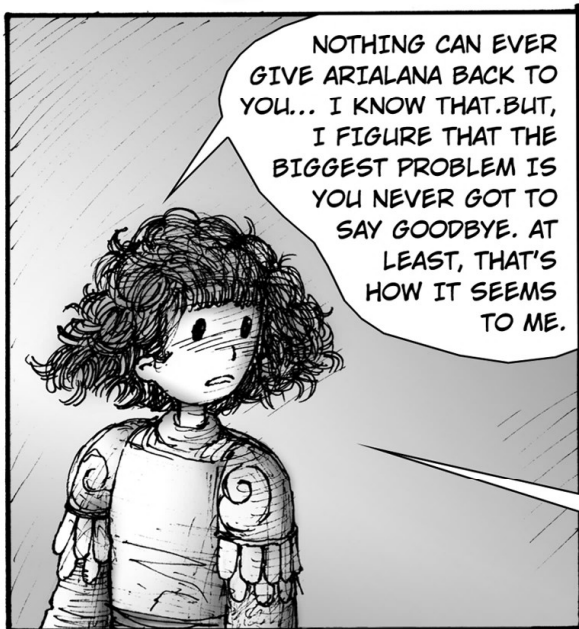
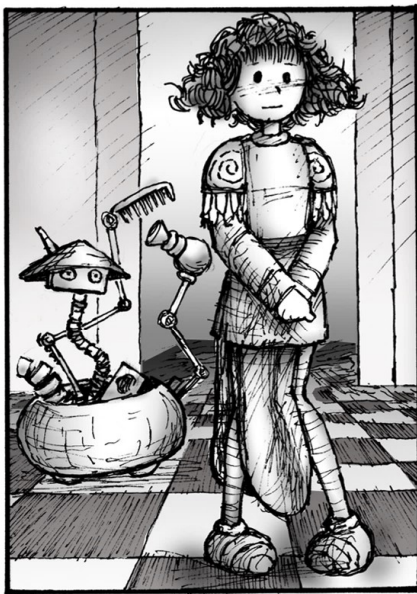
ISN'T THIS WONDERFUL, HAVING US TOGETHER AGAIN? WHERE IS AKIKO?

I'VE SENT GAX FOR HER, MAAM. SHE'LL BE HERE SHORTLY, I'M SURE.



PRINCESS ARIALANA?







GOODBYE, ARIALANA.  
I WILL ALWAYS MISS YOU.  
THANK YOU FOR YOUR LOVE  
WHILE YOU WERE HERE  
WITH ME....



© 2003  
Walt Disney





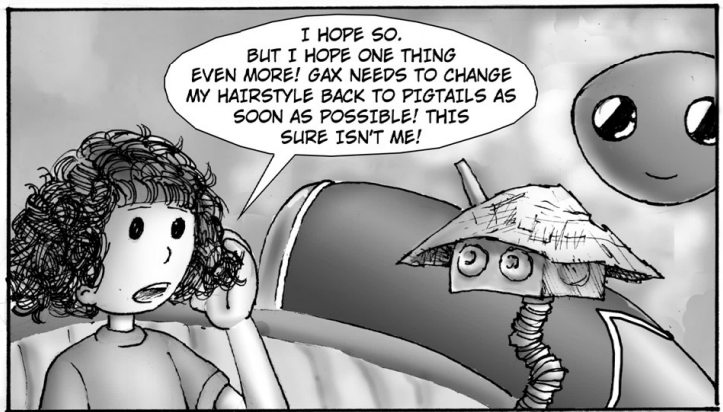
SPLENDID WORK, AKIKO. I COULDN'T HAVE DONE IT BETTER MYSELF.

I JUST HOPED I WASN'T BLOWING IT.

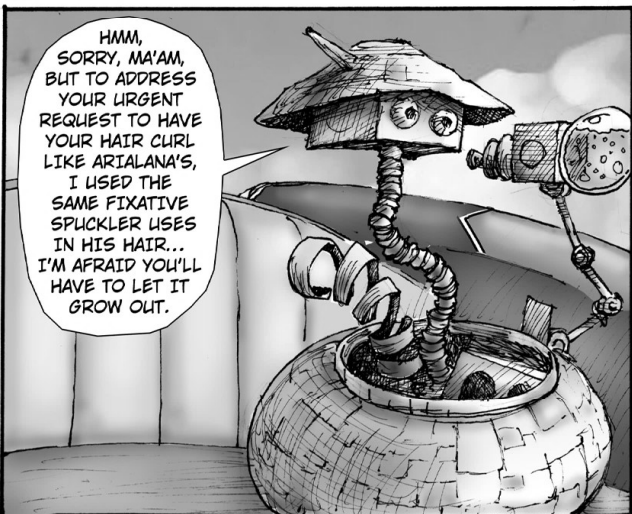
SHE COULD HAVE BEEN MAD THAT I MADE MYSELF LOOK LIKE ARIALANA JUST AS EASILY AS SHE ACCEPTED IT.



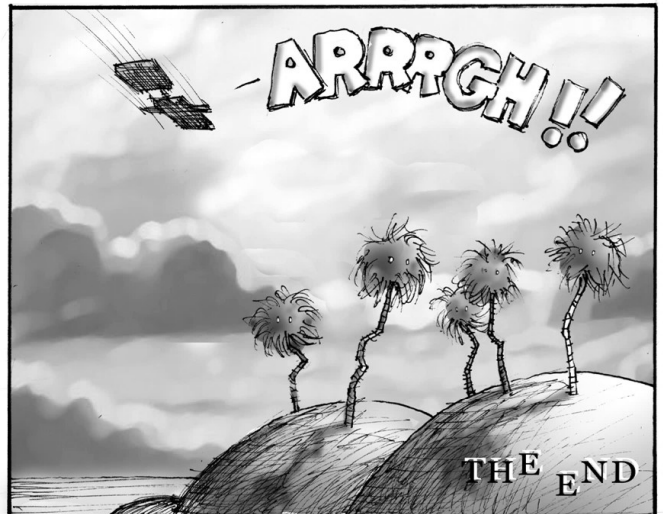
SOMETIMES YOU JUST HAVE 'TA GO FOR IT, AKIKO! YOU DID GOOD!



I HOPE SO. BUT I HOPE ONE THING EVEN MORE! GAX NEEDS TO CHANGE MY HAIRSTYLE BACK TO PIGTAILS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE! THIS SURE ISN'T ME!



HMM, SORRY, MA'AM, BUT TO ADDRESS YOUR URGENT REQUEST TO HAVE YOUR HAIR CURL LIKE ARIALANA'S, I USED THE SAME FIXATIVE SPUCKLER USES IN HIS HAIR... I'M AFRAID YOU'LL HAVE TO LET IT GROW OUT.



ARRRRGH!!

THE END





A. F. H. W. 2017