

ENRICO MARIGONDA

GABRIELE SCARAFIA

2 DETECTIVES AND A DACHSHUND

Two detective and a dachshund
Original title: *Due detective e un bassotto*
by Enrico Marigonda
illustrations by Gabriele Scarafia
English working translation by Sara Benjamin

© 2021 Editrice Il Castoro Srl
viale Andrea Doria 7 - 20124 - Milano
www.editriceilcastoro.it
info@editriceilcastoro.it

PROOF COPY – ART NOT FINAL





Who stole the cookies?

chi ha rubato
i biscotti?

Who chewed
on Daddy's slipper?

chi ha mangiato
la ciabatta
di papone?

Who made this awful mess?

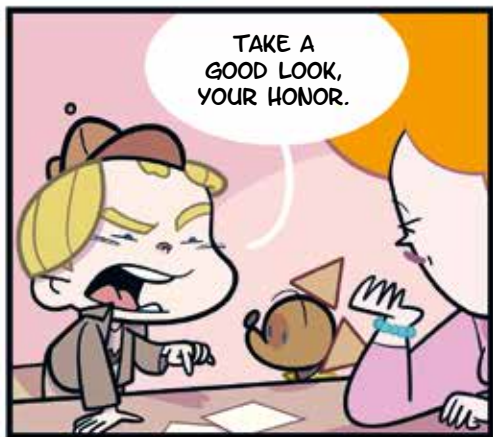
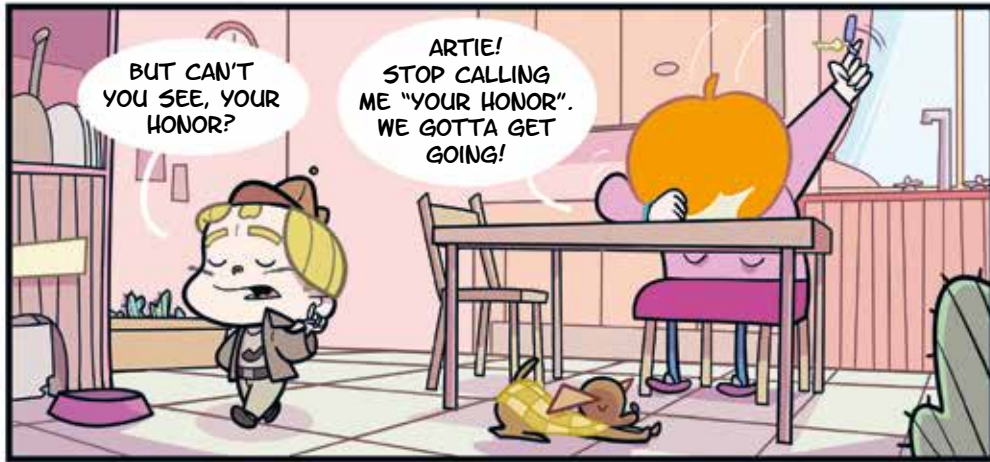
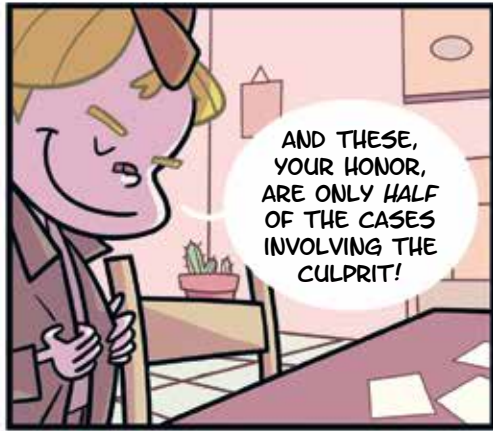
chi ha sporcato
il pavimento?

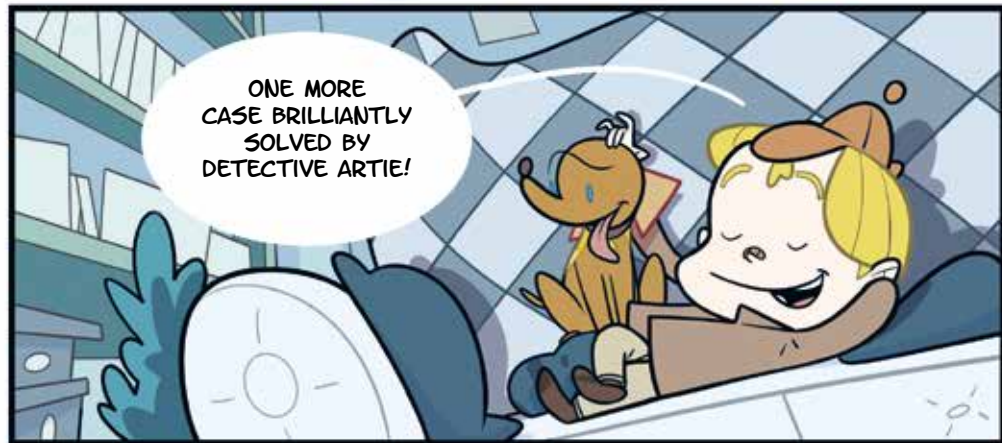
Who did that huge poop?

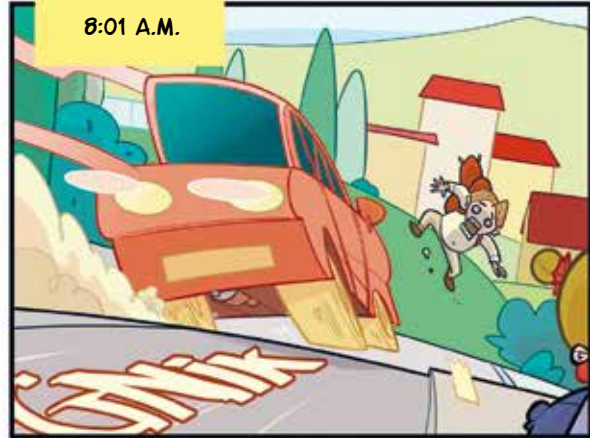
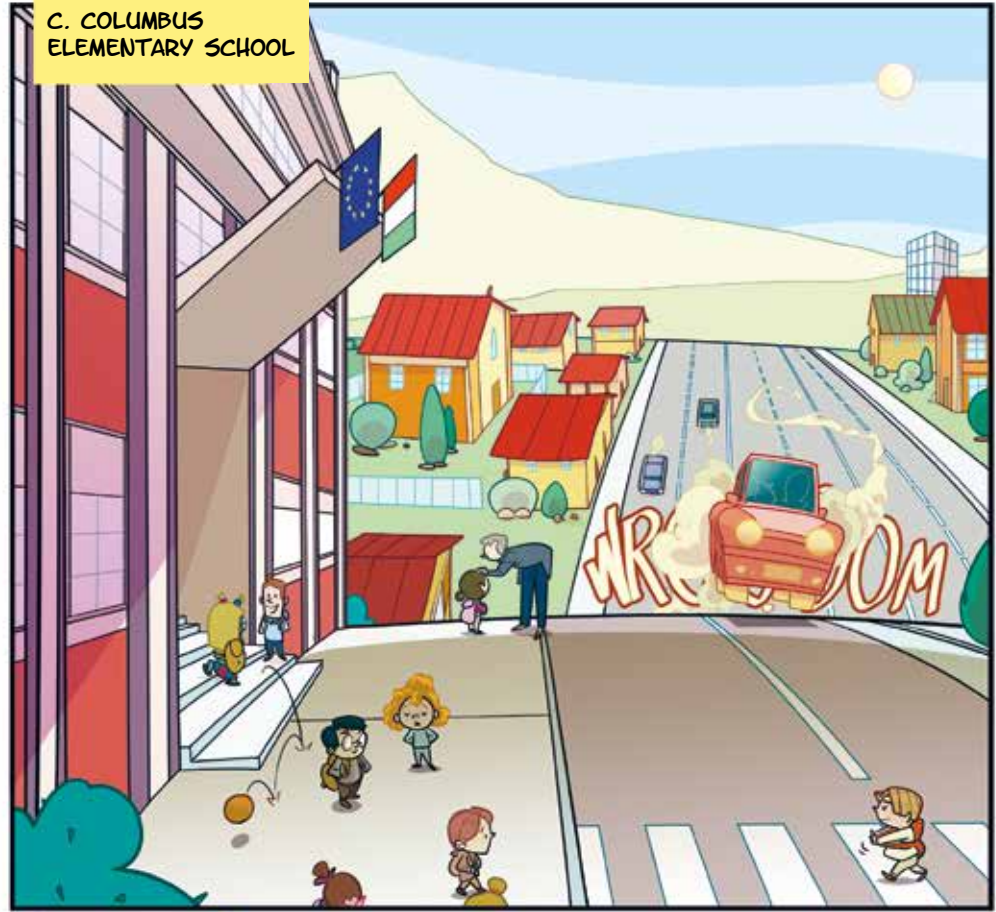
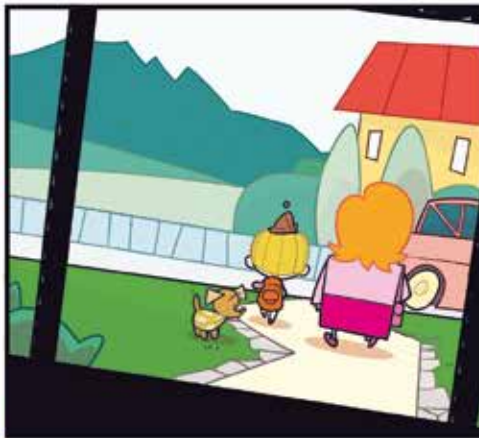
Chi ha fatto
la caccona?

Who ran away without
permission?

Chi è scappato senza
permesso?

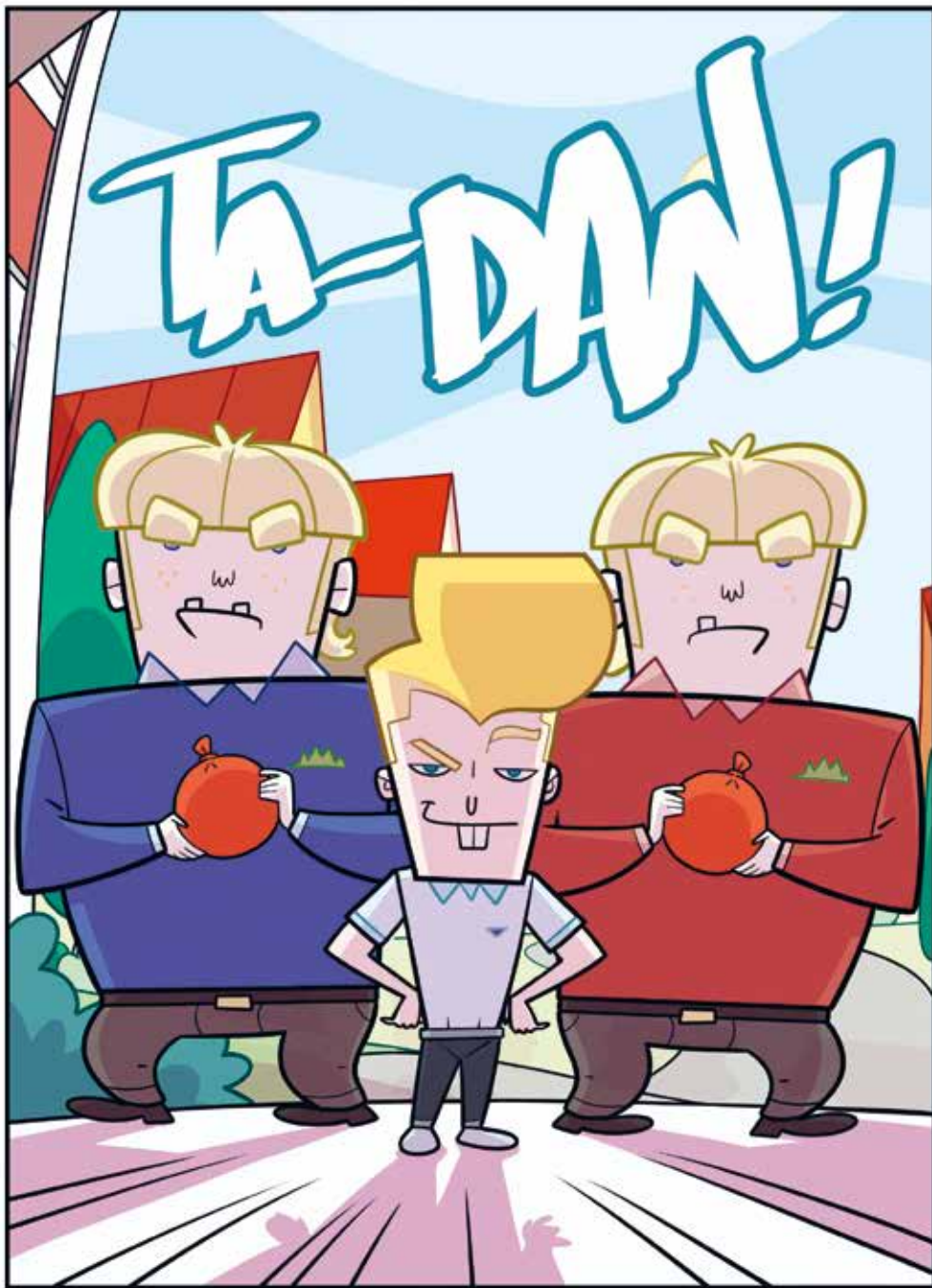


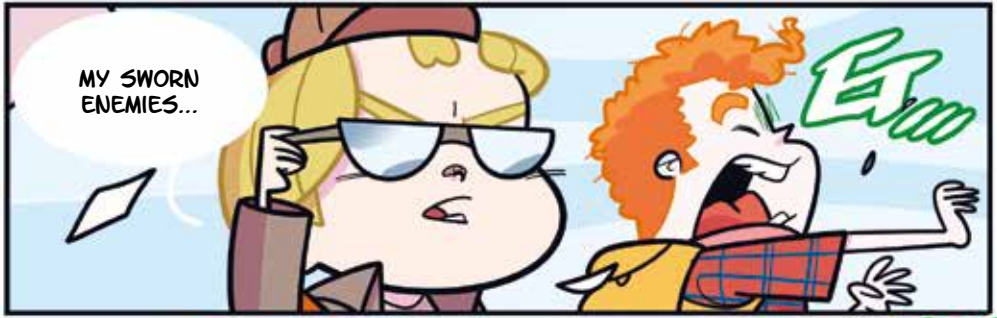


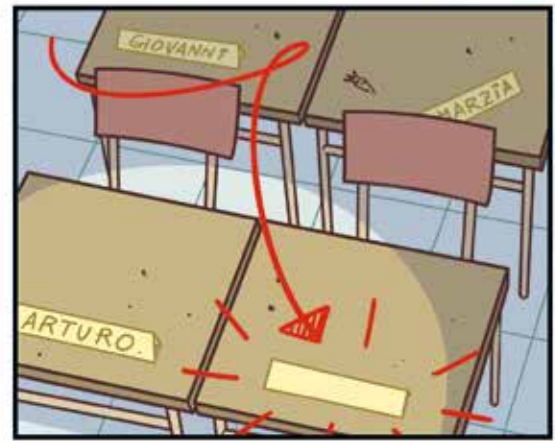
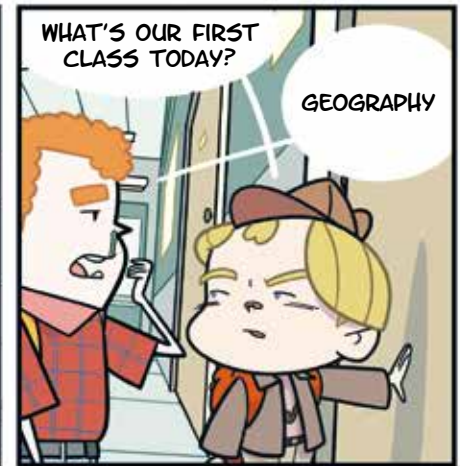
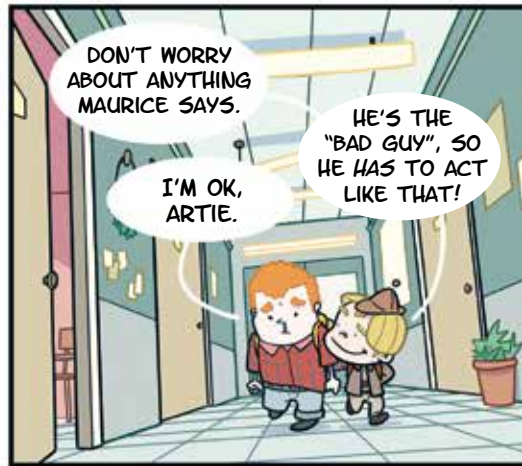
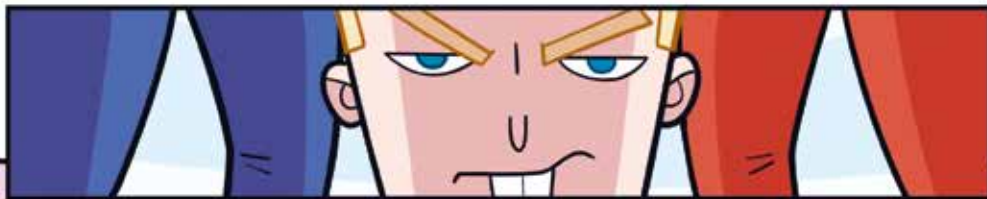


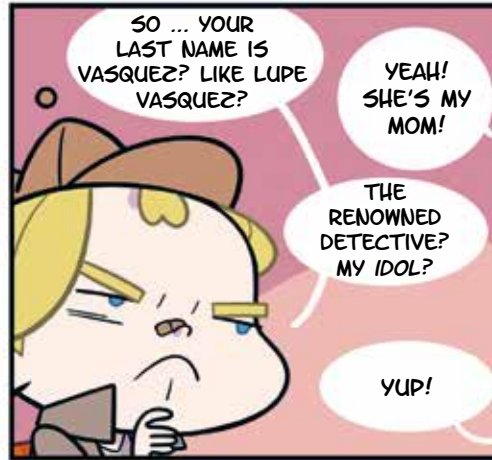
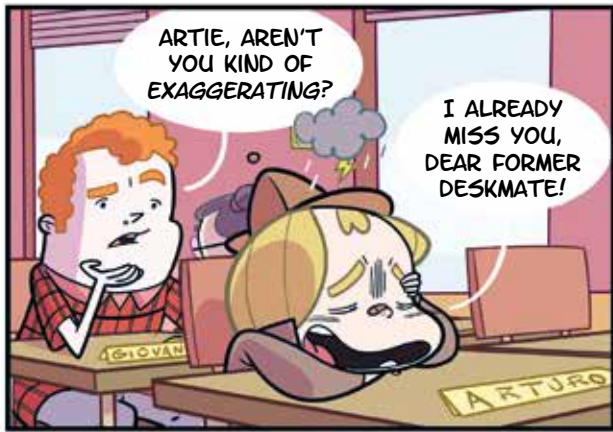


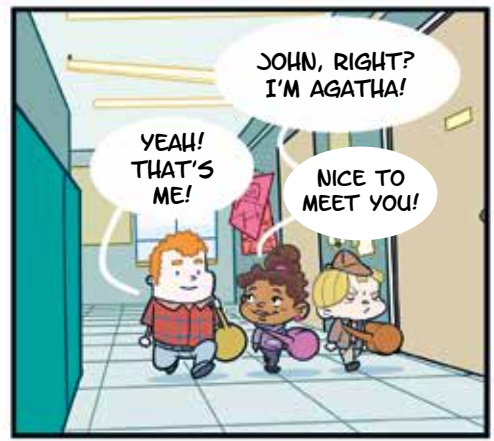
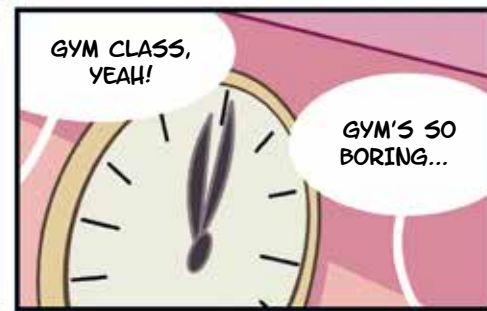
















YOU'RE GONNA PAY FOR THIS!!



WANNA LEAVE?

SURE, AGATHA!



COMING?



YOU WERE...

... INCREDIBLE! RIGHT, ARTIE?

OH, COME ON, JOHNNY!

WELL... KIND OF INCREDIBLE. JUST KIND OF!



AND NOW... DODGEBALL!



YOU'RE OUT!



AGATHA'S PRETTY TOUGH!

YEAH... NOT BAD.



OK GUYS, TIME TO GO HOME!

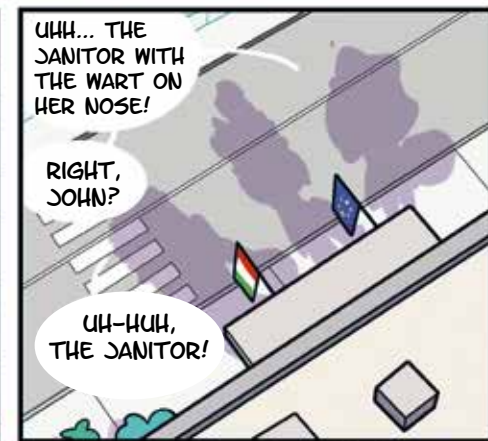


UH, SURE, SHE MANAGED PRETTY WELL...

DID YOU SEE WHAT SHE DID TO MAURICE?!



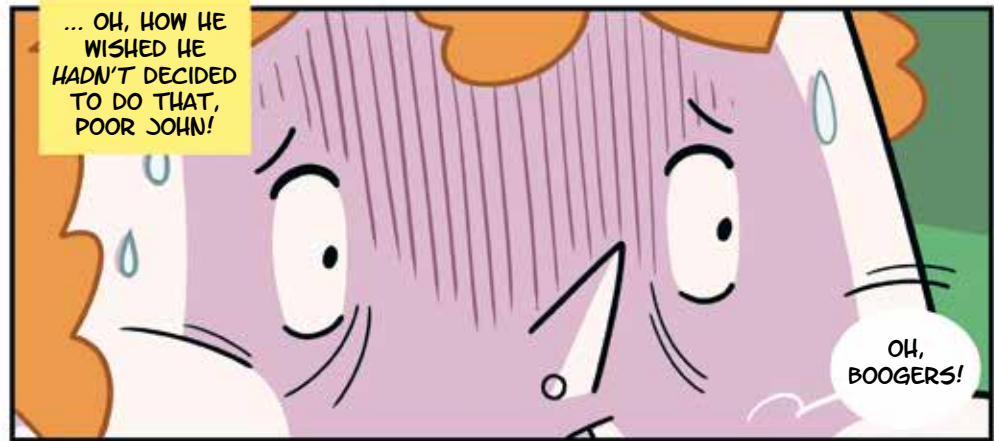
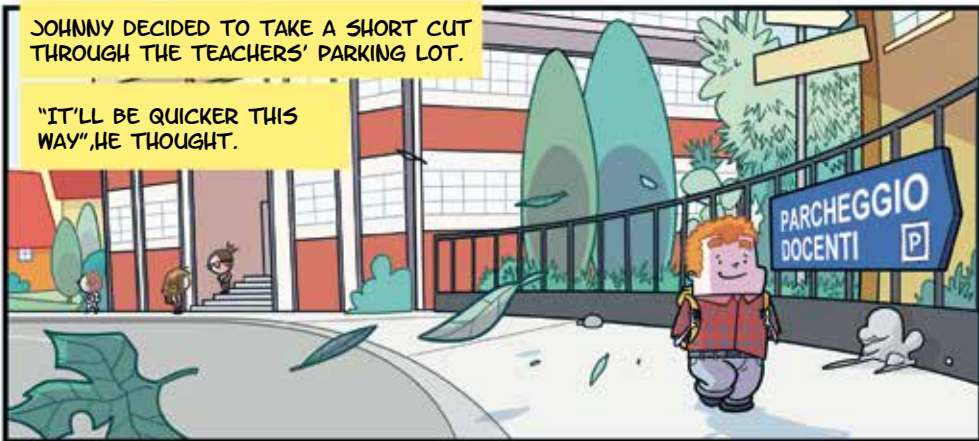
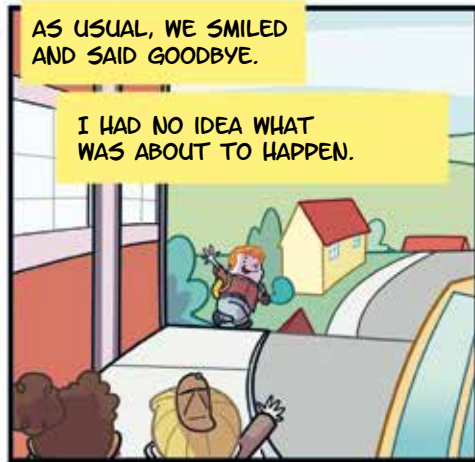
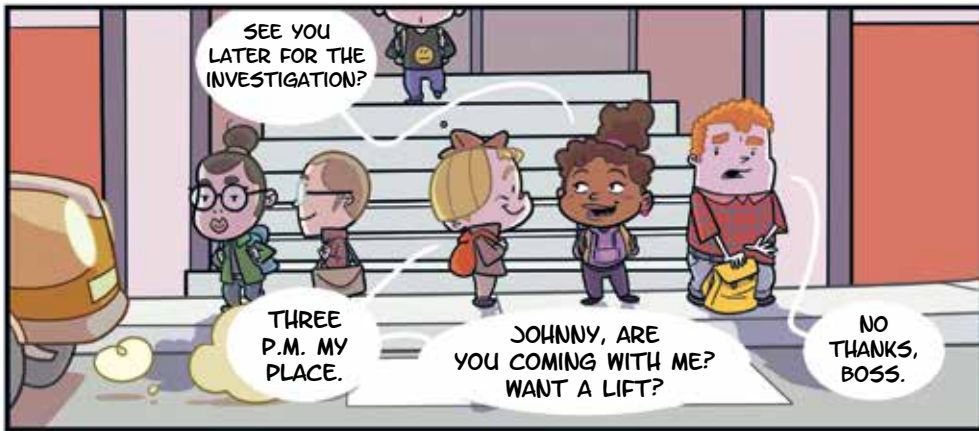
WHO MANAGED PRETTY WELL?



UHH... THE JANITOR WITH THE WART ON HER NOSE!

RIGHT, JOHN?

UH-HUH, THE JANITOR!



IT ALL HAPPENED
IN A FLASH.



JUST ENOUGH
TIME TO SAY
HI TO MOM
AND HEAD
HOME WITH HER.



DETECTIVES
SHOULD
NEVER LET
THEIR GUARD
DOWN.



NEVER
EVER EVER.

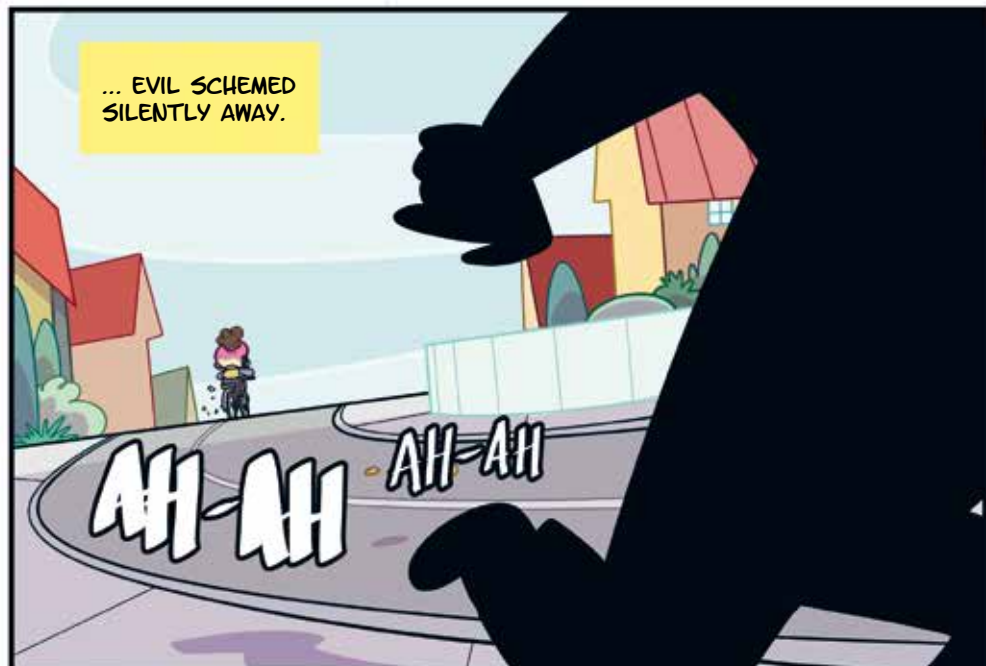
BUT THIS TIME THINGS
DIDN'T GO THE WAY
THEY SHOULD'VE.



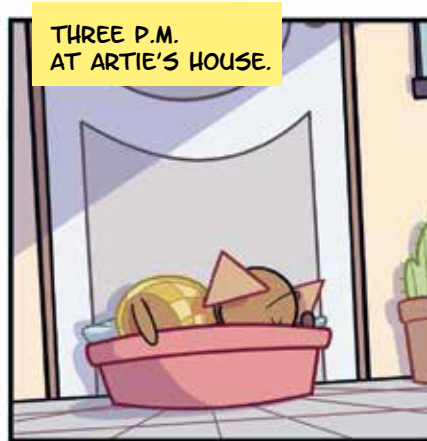
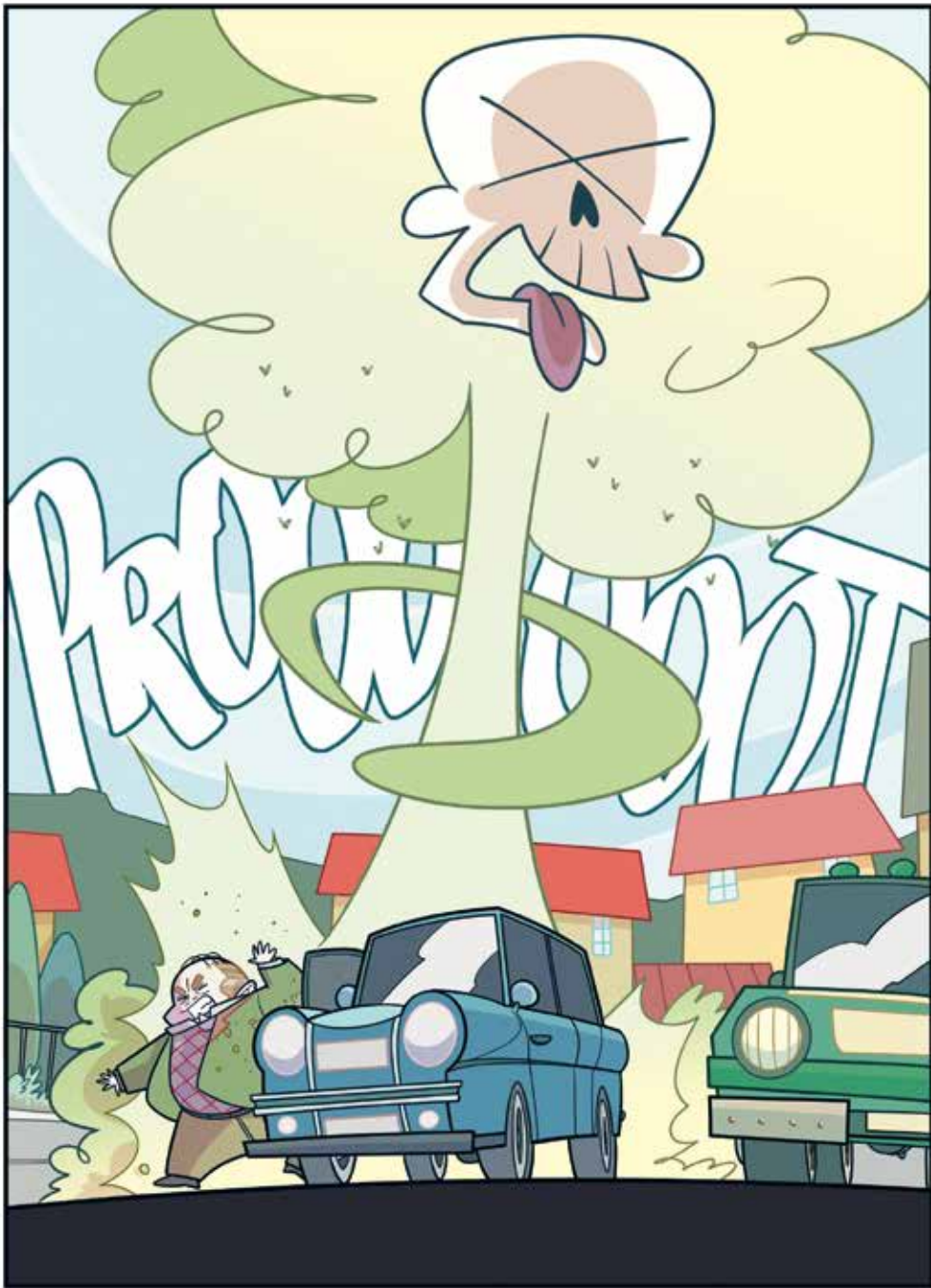
AND JUST AS A NEW
FRIENDSHIP BEGAN TO BUD...

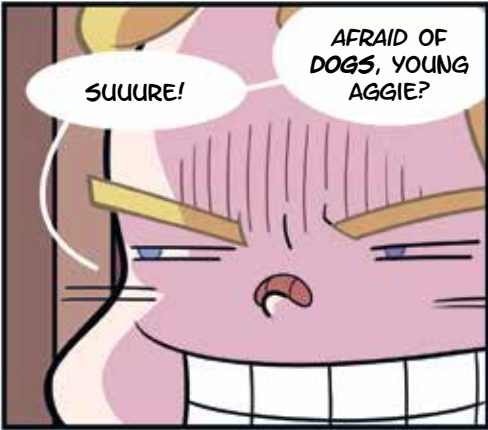


... EVIL SCHEMED
SILENTLY AWAY.









SUUURE!
AFRAID OF DOGS, YOUNG AGGIE?



AFRAID? I LOVE DOGS!
WHAT'S HIS NAME?



HEY, THOSE AREN'T BOOKS FOR KIDS ...



POIROT.
GROAN
MAKE YOURSELF AT HOME.



WOW, WHAT A HOUSE!
NOT SUCH A BIG DEAL...



IT JUST SO HAPPENS THAT THAT'S MY FAVORITE BOOK, AND...



...AND?



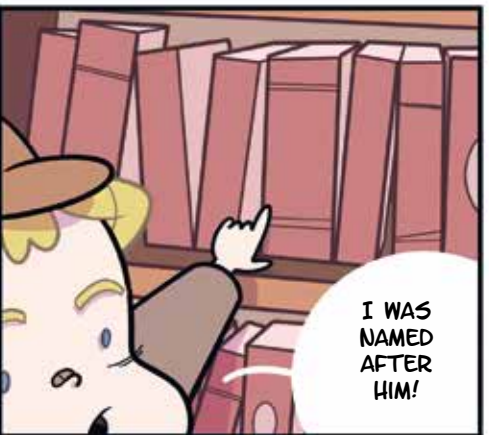
LET'S GO TO THE KITCHEN, OK?
OK!



WOW!!



... AND I WAS NAMED AGATHA IN HONOR OF AGATHA CHRISTIE!



I WAS NAMED AFTER HIM!



SO YOU LIKE DETECTIVE NOVELS TOO?!

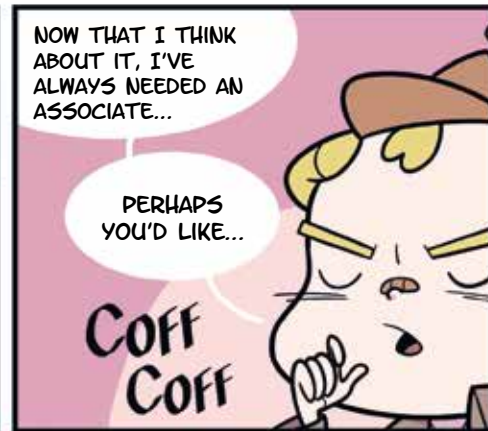
HELPPPP... I'M GONNA FAINT...



I'M CRAZY ABOUT DETECTIVE NOVELS!



WOW, I WISH I COULD HAVE ADVENTURES LIKE YOURS!



NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT, I'VE ALWAYS NEEDED AN ASSOCIATE...

PERHAPS YOU'D LIKE...

COFF COFF



AGATHA AND I TALKED FOR HOURS ABOUT OUR FAVORITE BOOKS.

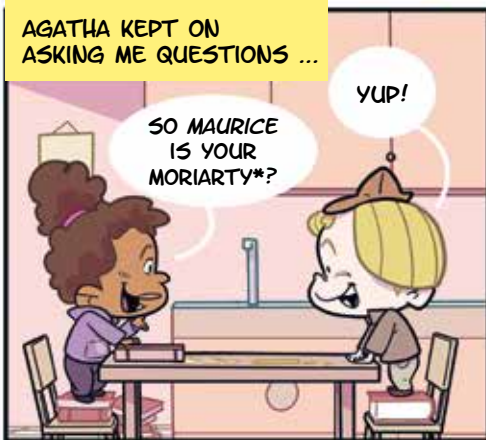
WE EVEN FORGOT ABOUT OUR INVESTIGATION, BUT THAT'S ANOTHER STORY



YEEEEEEEESSSSSS!



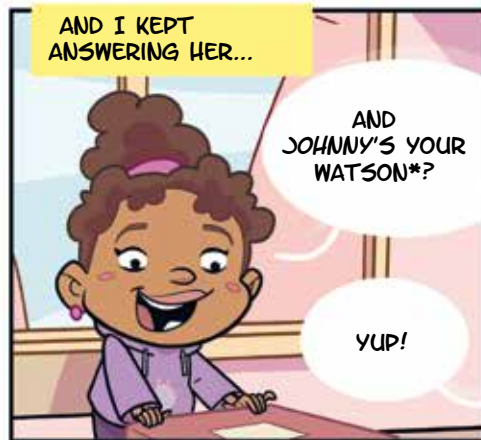
SO WE CAN SOLVE ALL THE MYSTERIES WE WANT!



AGATHA KEPT ON ASKING ME QUESTIONS ...

SO MAURICE IS YOUR MORIARTY*?

YUP!



AND I KEPT ANSWERING HER...

AND JOHNNY'S YOUR WATSON*?

YUP!



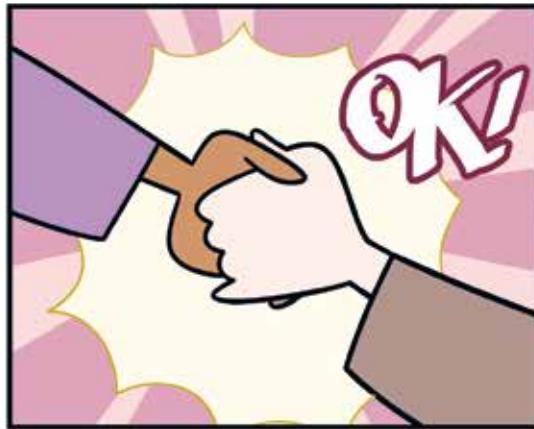
AND MAKE MAURICE AND THE SMASHER TWINS PAY!



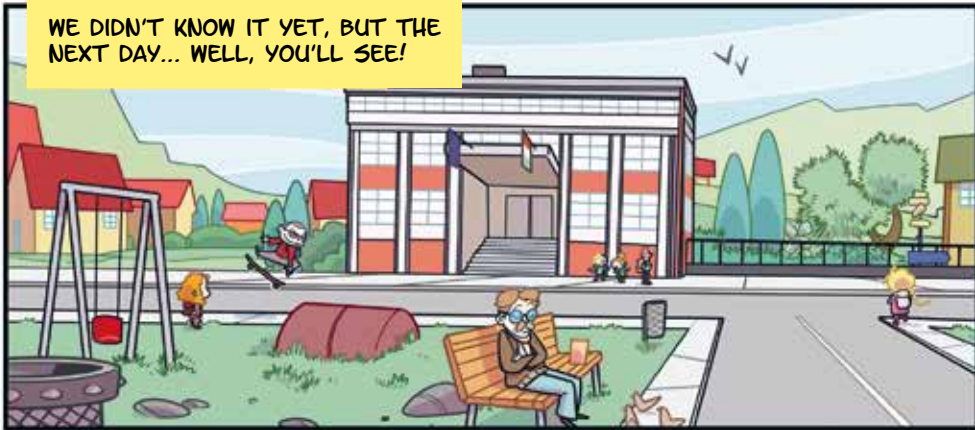
SO IT'S A DEAL?

*MORIARTY IS THE REALLY BAD GUY IN SHERLOCK HOLMES!

*WATSON IS SHERLOCK HOLMES' ASSISTANT! ELEMENTARY!



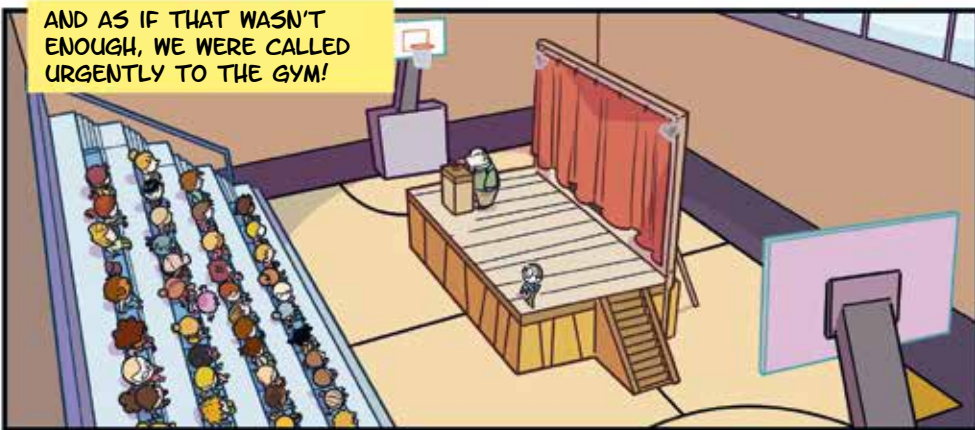
WE DIDN'T KNOW IT YET, BUT THE NEXT DAY... WELL, YOU'LL SEE!



JOHN WAS NOWHERE TO BE FOUND! GONE - JUST LIKE THAT!



AND AS IF THAT WASN'T ENOUGH, WE WERE CALLED URGENTLY TO THE GYM!



ARTIE!



COME HERE! I SAVED YOU A PLACE.



WHAT'S GOING ON?



NO IDEA! DO YOU KNOW WHERE JOHNNY IS?

EHM... EHM...



LOATHSOME WRETCHES! YOU NEED TO KNOW THAT I AM NOT SOMEONE TO BE PLAYED AROUND WITH!

AS YOU MAY KNOW, YESTERDAY SOMEONE WENT REALLY TOO FAR.

WAY TOO FAR. AND THAT SOMEONE IS...



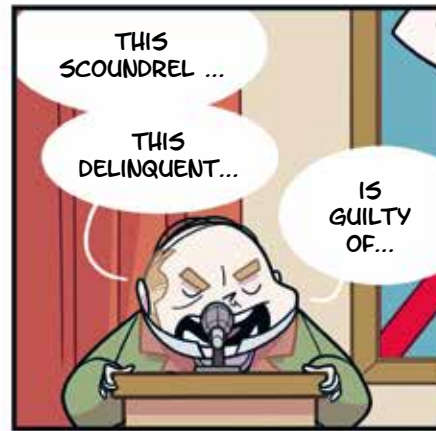


JOHN!



THERE'S THE ROGUE! ABUSER OF PRINCIPALS - AND ANIMALS!

WHAAAAT?



THIS SCOUNDREL ...

THIS DELINQUENT...

IS GUILTY OF...



... HAVING LEFT A STENCH SKUNK IN MY CAR!

BETTER KNOWN AS THE STINK-SHOOTER SKUNK!

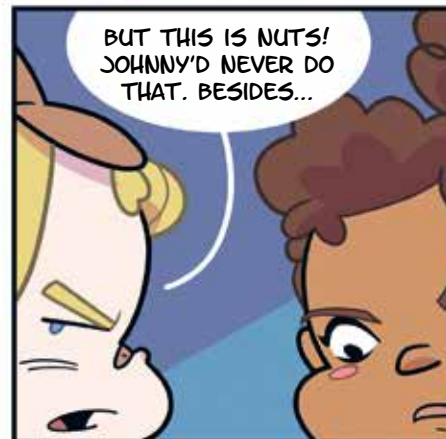
A FEARSOME RACE, FEARSOME!



AND HE'S GOING TO PAY FOR IT WITH...



TWO MONTHS OF SUSPENSION!



BUT THIS IS NUTS! JOHNNY'D NEVER DO THAT. BESIDES...



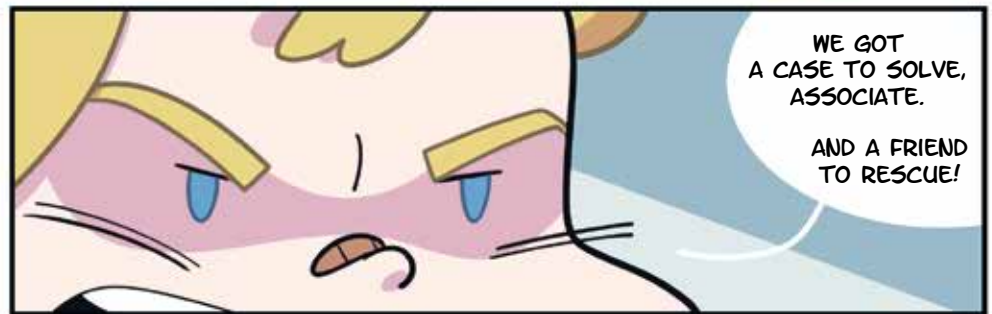
...HE'S ALLERGIC TO STINK-SHOOTER SKUNKS!



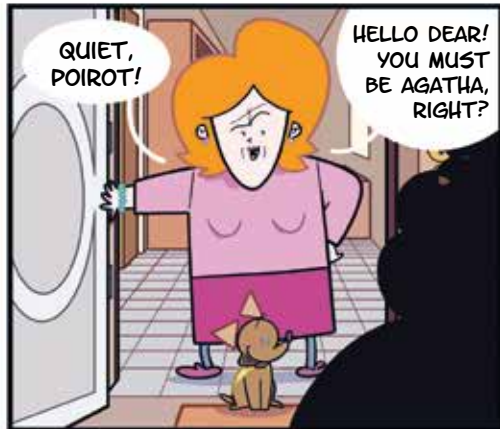
FATSO JOHNNY
FAVE HOBBY SUSPENSION!

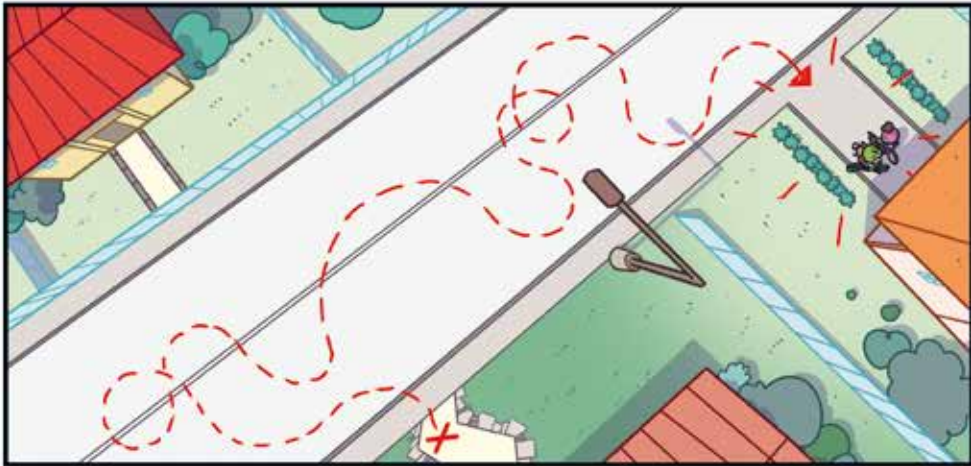
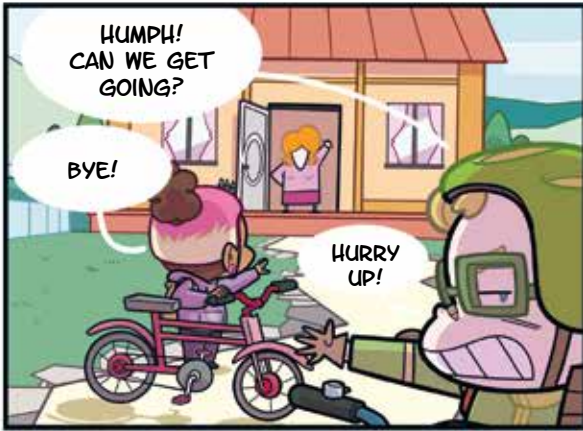


BUT I KNEW HE'D
BEEN SET UP.



3 P.M. ARTIE'S PLACE..







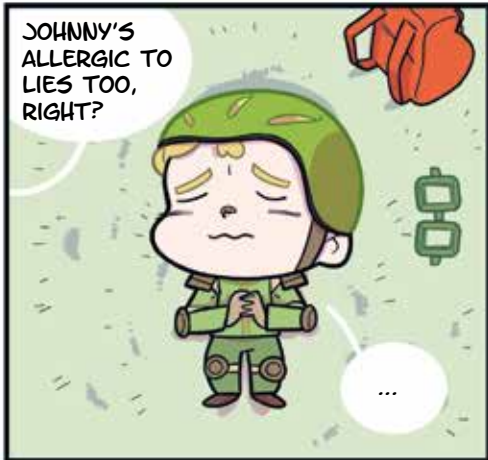


I GOT A QUESTION FOR YOU, ARTIE.



WHAT?

AND DON'T CALL ME ARTIE!



JOHNNY'S ALLERGIC TO LIES TOO, RIGHT?

...



SUPER ALLERGIC!



WE'VE GOTTA HELP HIM!



LET'S GO TO SCHOOL, ARTIE!

OK, ASSOCIATE!
AND DON'T CALL ME ARTIE.



Preside

BUT DON'T YOU THINK IT'S A BIT MUCH TO FILE A REPORT?

EHM, YES, YOU MIGHT BE RIGHT...

(THAT USELESS LITTLE WRETCH, CREEP...)



SO - GOODBYE, NICE TO MEET YOU!

THE PLEASURE WAS ALL MINE!



UGH.



WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

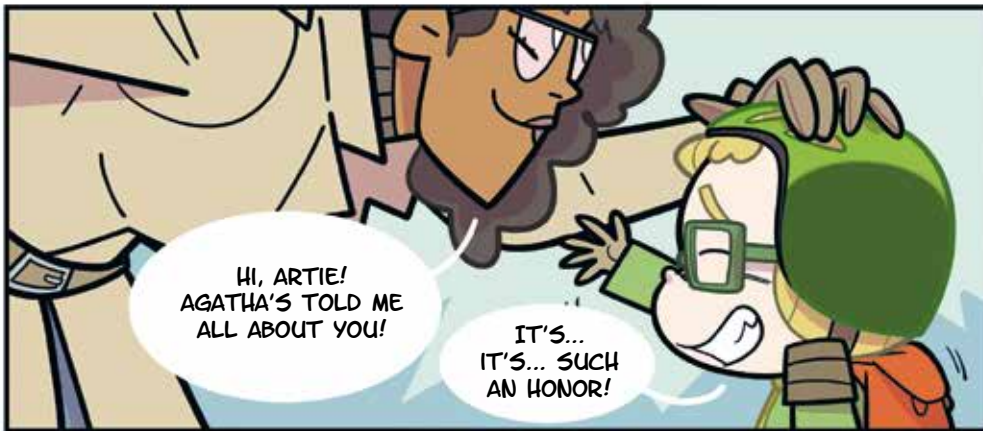


HI, MOMMY!



THIS IS ARTIE. HE WANTS TO BE A DETECTIVE LIKE YOU. YOU'RE HIS IDOL!

HEY THERE...



HI, ARTIE!
AGATHA'S TOLD ME
ALL ABOUT YOU!

IT'S...
IT'S... SUCH
AN HONOR!



ENOUGH CHIT-CHAT,
MOMMY! WE'RE HERE
TO TALK TO THE
PRINCIPAL!

HEL-



JOHN'S
INNOCENT!



LET'S
STAY
CALM!

JOHN
CONFESSED!



HE HAS
TO HAVE BEEN
SET UP!



JOHN'S ALLERGIC TO
STINK-SHOOTER SKUNKS.

YEAH, MOMMY!
AND TO CARS
TOO, RIGHT?

ALRIGHT,
BUT...

ONLY RED ONES!

REALLY?

ANYWAY,
WHERE WOULD HE HAVE
FOUND THAT SKUNK?

MOMMY,
THIS WHOLE THING
MAKES NO SENSE!



WE'VE GOT TO DO
SOMETHING, ARTIE!

WHAT DO YOU
THINK, MY
HEROINE?

DO YOU THINK
HE WAS SET UP?

AND WHO
DID IT?

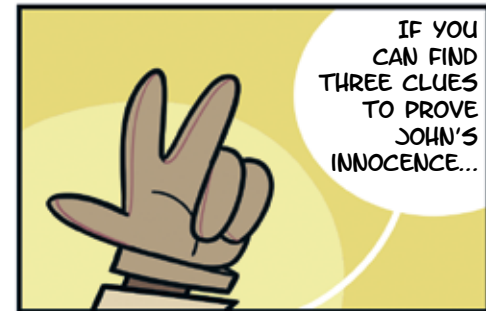


I SAID
ALRIGHT!



EXCUSE
ME, MY
DEAR IDOL!

EXCUSE
ME,
MOMMY!



IF YOU
CAN FIND
THREE CLUES
TO PROVE
JOHN'S
INNOCENCE...



...IF YOU
CAN DO THAT, I MIGHT
CONSIDER RE-OPENING
THE CASE AND TALKING
ABOUT IT AGAIN WITH
THE PRINCIPAL! OK?

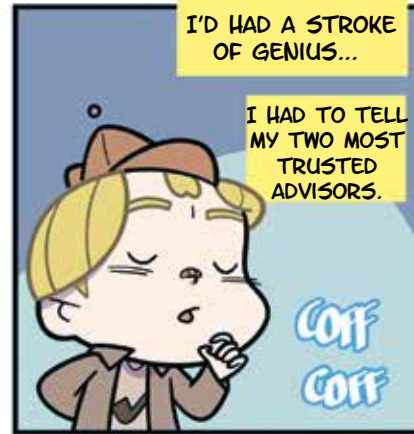


SO WE HAVE TO FIND THREE CLUES.

HMM... THAT SEEMS DOABLE.

I KNOW WHAT WE NEED NOW!

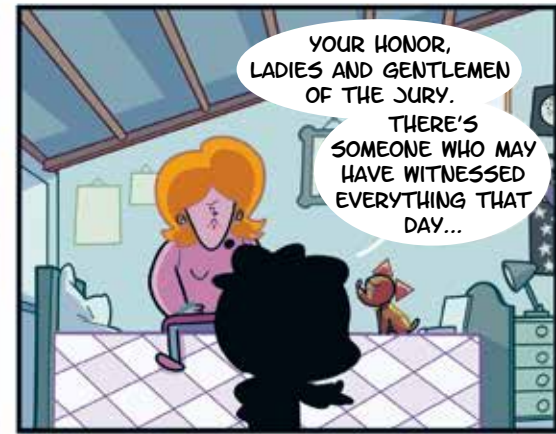
BUT I GOTTA GET BACK HOME!



I'D HAD A STROKE OF GENIUS...

I HAD TO TELL MY TWO MOST TRUSTED ADVISORS.

COFF COFF



YOUR HONOR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN OF THE JURY.

THERE'S SOMEONE WHO MAY HAVE WITNESSED EVERYTHING THAT DAY...



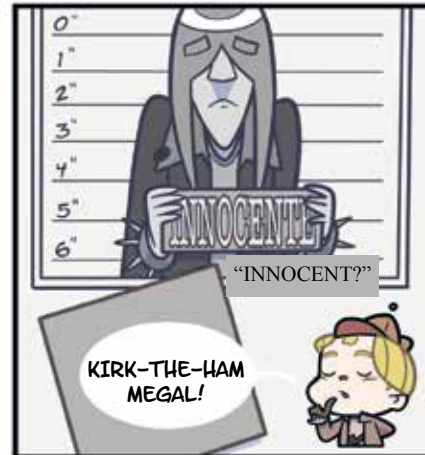
SEE YOU TOMORROOOOW!

HEY! WHERE ARE YOU GOING?!



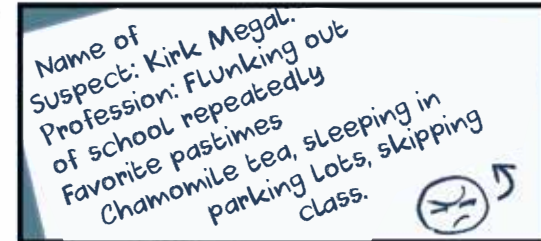
IS HE ALWAYS LIKE THAT?

YEAH, UNFORTUNATELY!



KIRK-THE-HAM MEGAL!

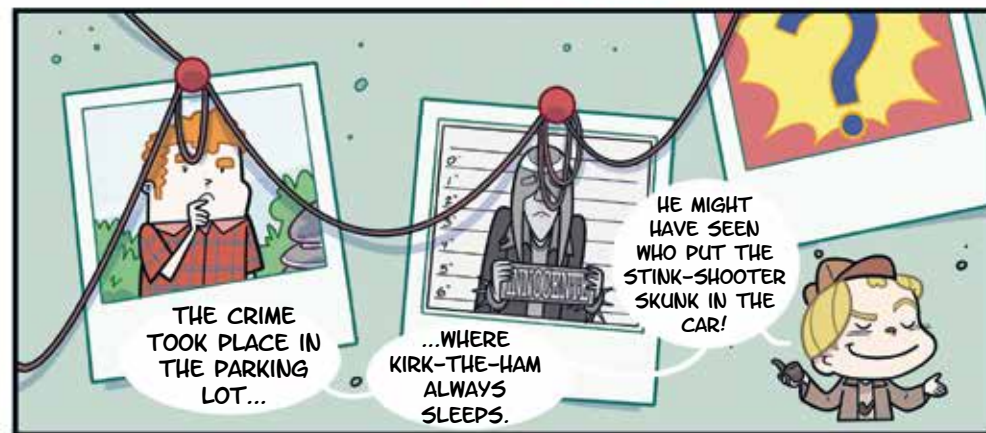
"INNOCENT?"



Name of Suspect: Kirk Megal.
Profession: Flunking out of school repeatedly
Favorite pastimes: Chamomile tea, sleeping in parking lots, skipping class.



DO YOU UNDERSTAND, YOUR HONOR?

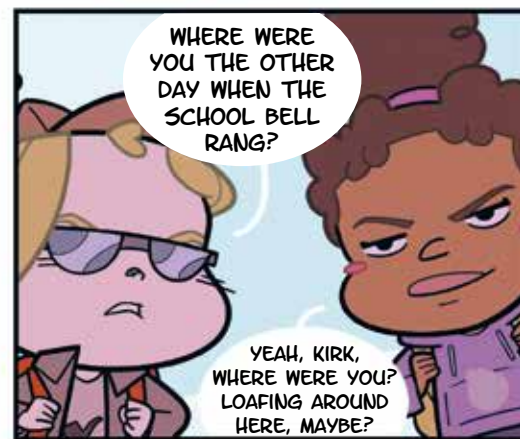
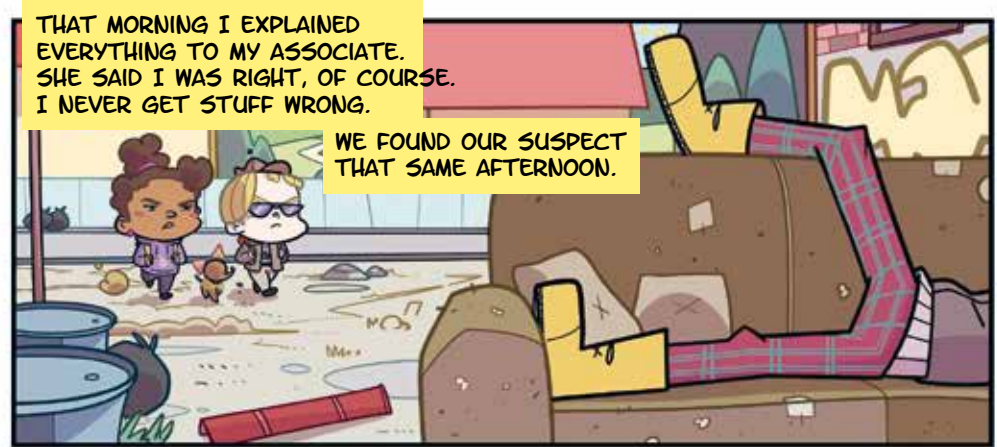
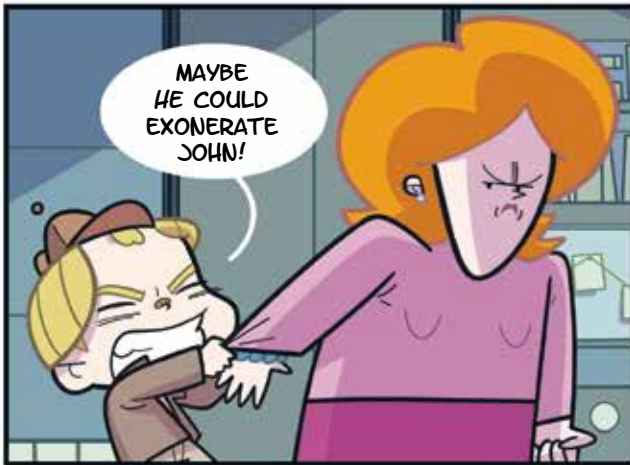
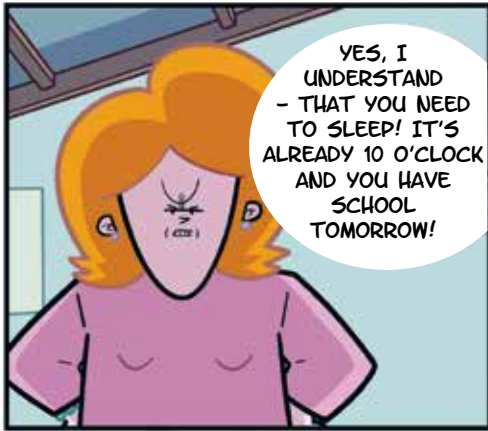


THE CRIME TOOK PLACE IN THE PARKING LOT...

...WHERE KIRK-THE-HAM ALWAYS SLEEPS.

HE MIGHT HAVE SEEN WHO PUT THE STINK-SHOOTER SKUNK IN THE CAR!









NO, IT'S MY FAULT... I HAVEN'T BEEN SLEEPING MUCH LATELY...



19 HOURS JUST AREN'T ENOUGH FOR ME ANYMORE ...



LEAVE ME ALONE NOW PLEASE, I'M GRIEVING!



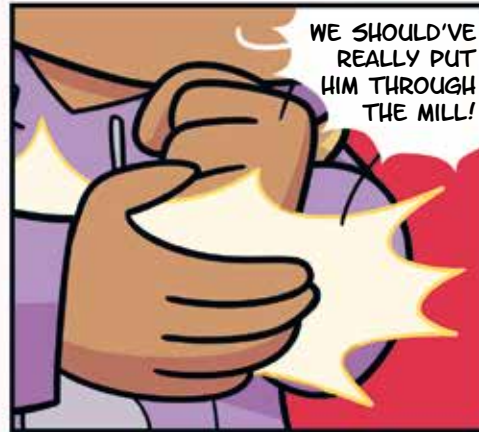
SEE YOU SOON, KIRK!

... AND SORRY AGAIN!



HE'S HIDING SOMETHING FROM US.

I AGREE - TOTALLY!



WE SHOULD'VE REALLY PUT HIM THROUGH THE MILL!



...ENOUGH TO MAKE HIM CRY!



UHH... ACTUALLY, YOU DID MAKE HIM CRY, AGATHA.

I KIND OF GOT CARRIED AWAY...

SO, WHAT SHOULD WE DO NOW?

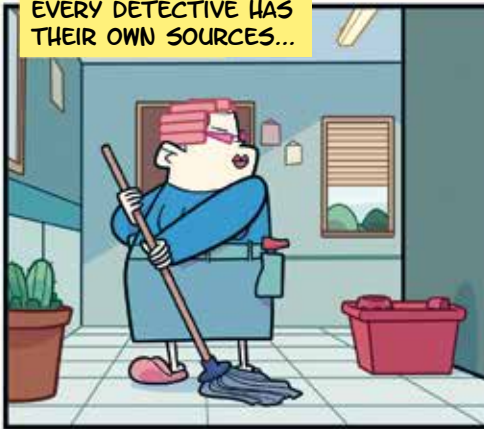


AGATHA MY DEAR, WANNA KNOW?

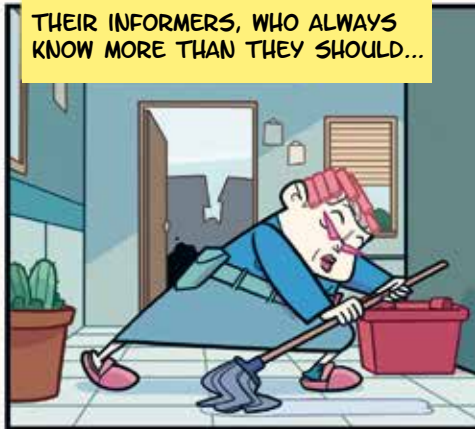


IL PIANO B

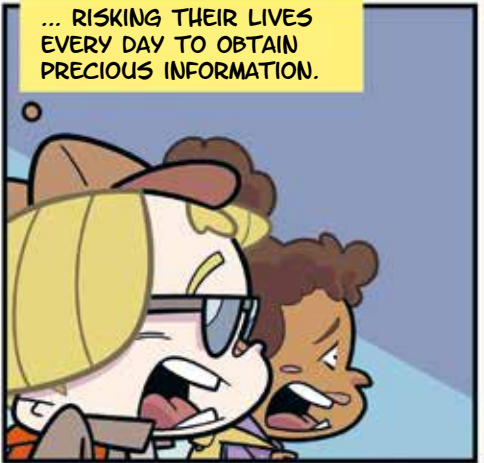
EVERY DETECTIVE HAS THEIR OWN SOURCES...



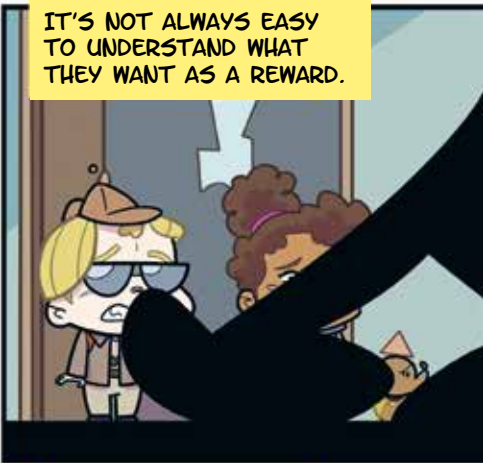
THEIR INFORMERS, WHO ALWAYS KNOW MORE THAN THEY SHOULD...



... RISKING THEIR LIVES EVERY DAY TO OBTAIN PRECIOUS INFORMATION.



IT'S NOT ALWAYS EASY TO UNDERSTAND WHAT THEY WANT AS A REWARD.

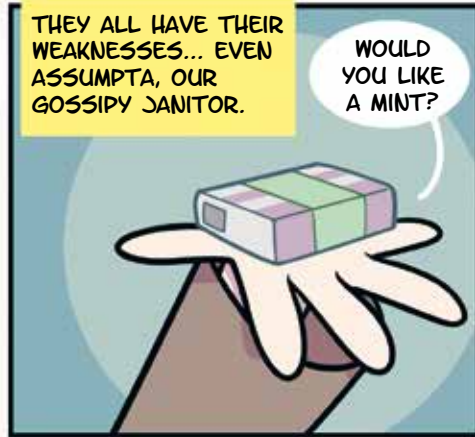


BUT I'M CERTAIN ABOUT ONE THING...



HOW LONG ARE YOU GONNA STAND THERE LIKE THAT?!

THEY ALL HAVE THEIR WEAKNESSES... EVEN ASSUMPTA, OUR GOSSIPY JANITOR.



WOULD YOU LIKE A MINT?!



click



COME IN, FAST.

WE CAN TALK IN HERE!



SIT DOWN, HURRY UP!

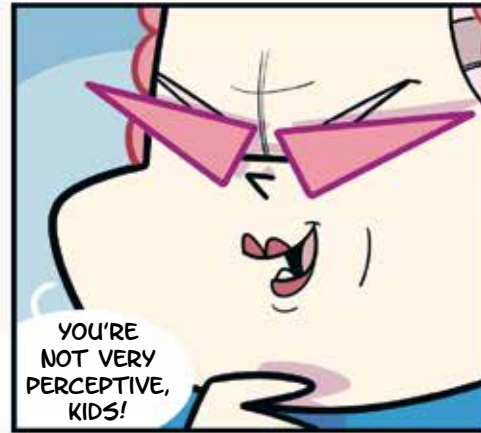


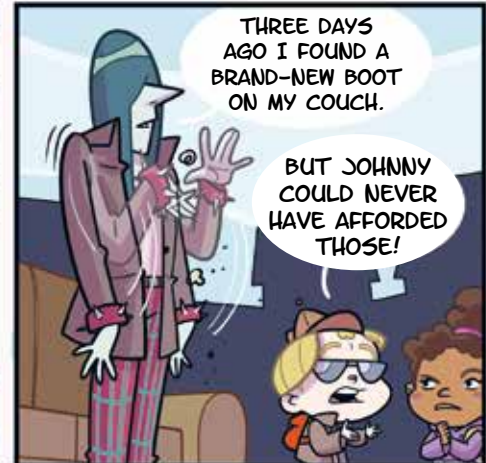
CHOMP CHOMP

OK, SO WHAT DO YOU WANT?



KIRK-THE-HAM IS ACTING WEIRD. KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT IT?





“Hi Kirk,
 If you do what I tell you to do, these will be yours.
 Don't let anyone see you tomorrow: stay at home!
 If everything goes smoothly, you'll get the other boot too.
 Don't even *think* about playing sneaky games...
 Playing sneaky games with us is NOT a good idea!
 Signed, your friend”

ciao Gi
 questi
 quello che tu
 domani non farti vedere,
 stattenne a casa!
 se tutto dovesse
 filare liscio, ti arrivera'
 anche l'altro stivale se ti
 venisse l'idea di
 fare il furbo...
 non ti conviene
 fare il furbo
 con noi! Pivello!

un amico

JOHNNY COULD NEVER HAVE WRITTEN SUCH A LETTER.

BESIDES, HE WAS ALSO ALLERGIC TO THREATENING LETTERS, OF COURSE.

SOMEONE HAD SET HIM UP.

IT WAS OUR JOB TO FIND OUT WHO AND WHY.





IL PRIMO INDIZIO!

Whoosh! Super! Bravo!

OUR FIRST CLUE





YOU HAVE TO TELL US WHAT YOU KNOW!

SUPER



I WISH I COULD...



...BUT I CAN'T!

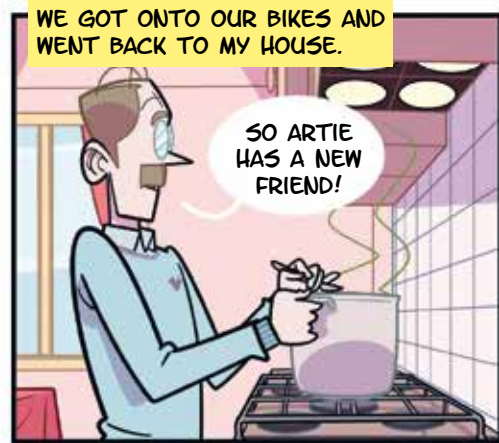


COFF COFF
COFF COFF



OOOH!

WHERE'D HE GO?



WE GOT ONTO OUR BIKES AND WENT BACK TO MY HOUSE.

SO ARTIE HAS A NEW FRIEND!



HER NAME'S AGATHA! SHE'S A NICE KID!

SO WHEN'S OUR HONEYPIE GONNA GET BACK?

ANY MINUTE NOW, I THINK.



BOILING HOT!



MOM, DAD! GATHER ROUND, ONE AND ALL!



OOOUCH

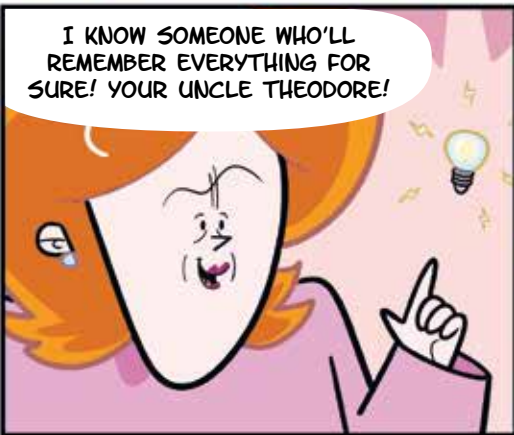
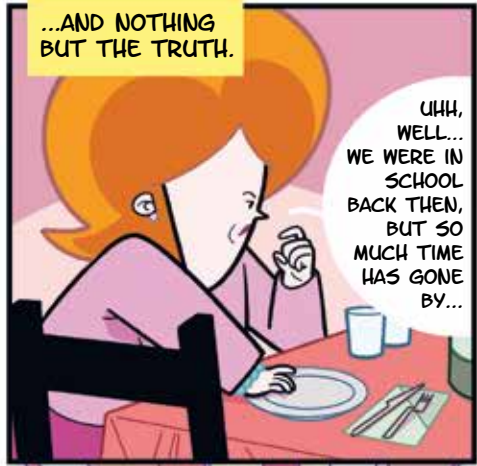
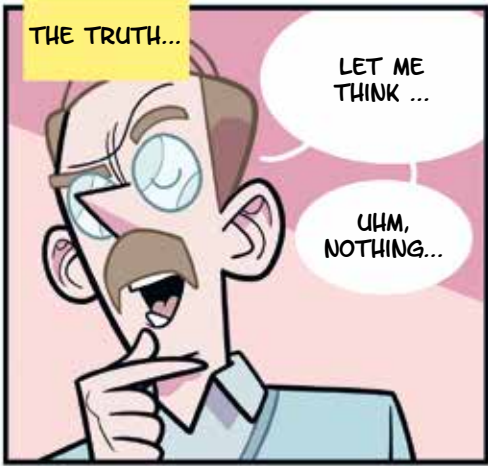
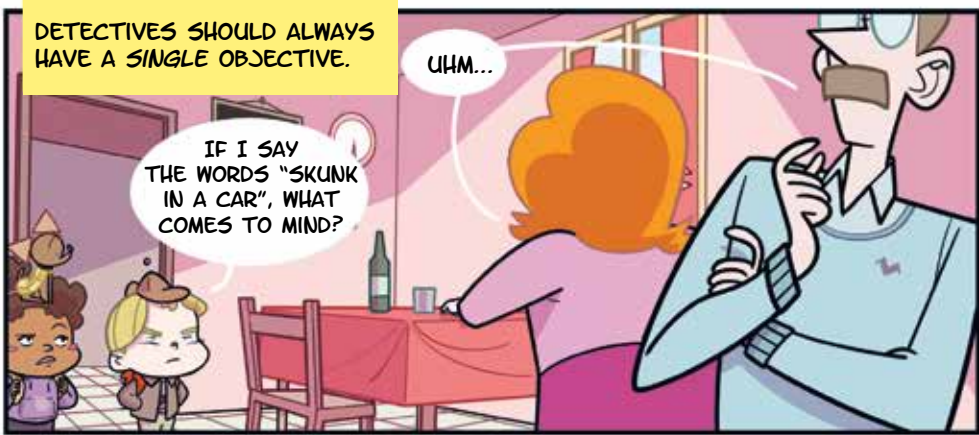


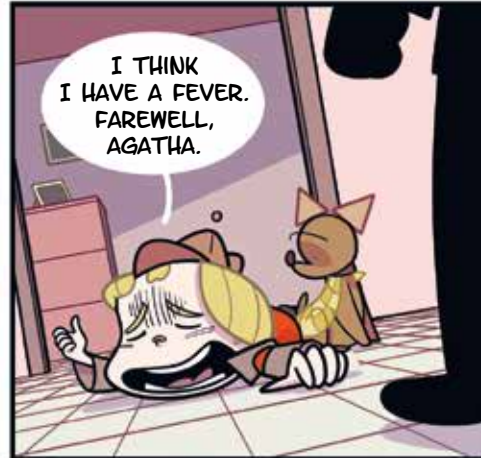
?
!



WE HAVE SOME QUESTIONS FOR YOU!

HI!







NO, AGATHA, YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND! MY UNCLE'S NUTS, COMPLETELY CRAZY, A...

ARTIE DEAR!



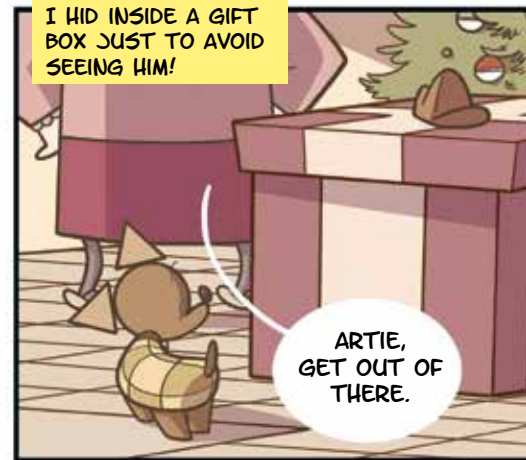
I DON'T WANNA! NO, NOOO!



LAST CHRISTMAS...



SINCE YOU WERE SO EXCITED ABOUT THE IDEA, I RANG UP UNCLE THEO!



I HID INSIDE A GIFT BOX JUST TO AVOID SEEING HIM!

ARTIE, GET OUT OF THERE.



TWO YEARS AGO, I PRETENDED TO BE A LONG-LOST UNCLE FROM RUSSIA! I HOPED NO ONE WOULD FIGURE THINGS OUT!

GOOT MORNINK!



HE EXPECTS YOU AT HIS PLACE TOMORROW AT 9.

BUT WE HAVE SCHOOL TOMORROW!

TOMORROW'S SATURDAY, YOU CRAFTY DEVIL!



NOOOO!!



W-WHAT?





ARE YOU GONNA GIVE UP NOW, YOU WIMP?

GROOAAAN.

WE'RE GOING THERE TOMORROW, GOT IT?



NOW I'M GOING HOME!



SEE YOU TOMORROW, MA'AM! THANKS FOR CALLING ARTIE'S UNCLE!

SEE YOU TOMORROW, AGATHA!

WOOF!



TOMORROW. AT 9 A.M. SCARED-CAT.



SEEMS HE'S OUT LIKE A LIGHT.



THE NEXT DAY...

DUTY CALLED AND I ANSWERED..

AAARTHURRR!



NO MORE FUSSING AND COMPLAINING!



AND MY HELMET?!



TOC!

OOUCH.



THAT BUMP LOOKS GOOD ON YOU.

DON'T TALK TO ME, YOU TRAITOR!



SCAREDY-CAT.

YOU DON'T GET IT! YOU DON'T KNOW MY UNCLE!

SCAAAAREDY-CAAAAT!



GRRRR!

HEY, WAIT UP!



WOOF?

GO AWAY!

OH COME ON! YOU'RE SO TOUCHY!

WOOF!

... SERIOUSLY?

MY UNCLE'S GONNA EAT US UP ALIVE!

SCARE-DY-CAT!

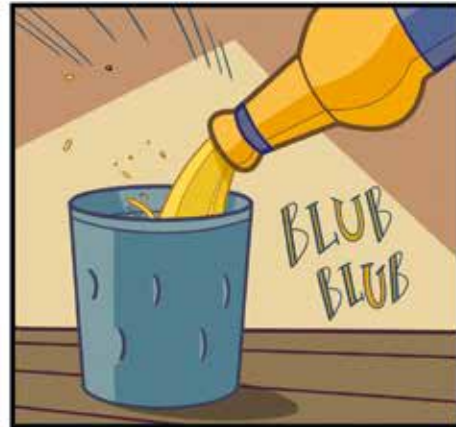
YOU'LL SEE!

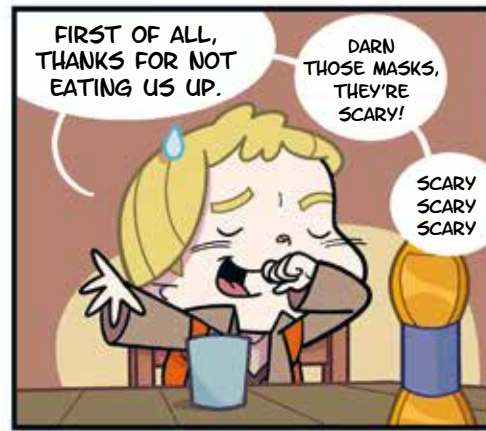
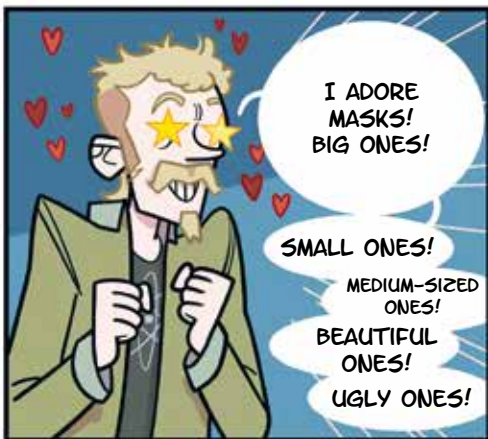
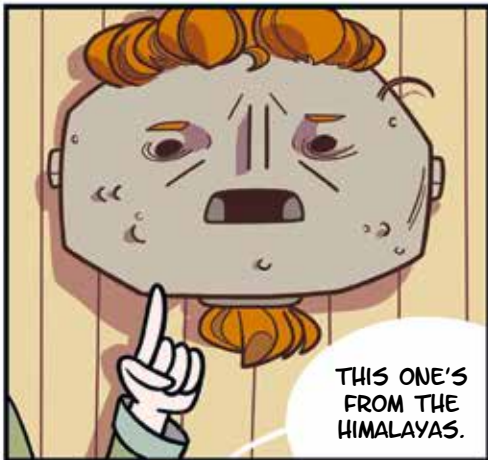
WOOF!

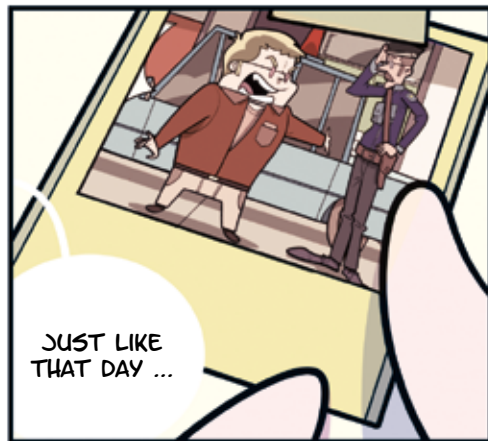
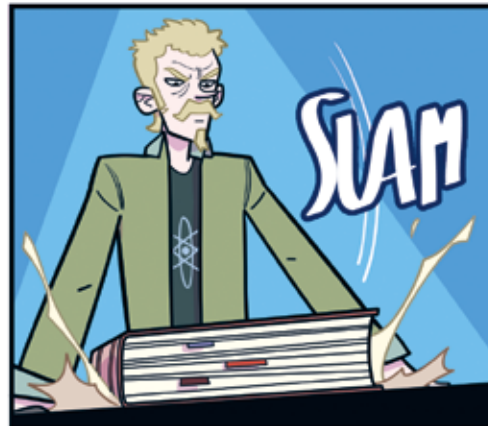


Coming!









MANY - TOO MANY! - YEARS AGO.



WHAT AN INCREDIBLE DAY!



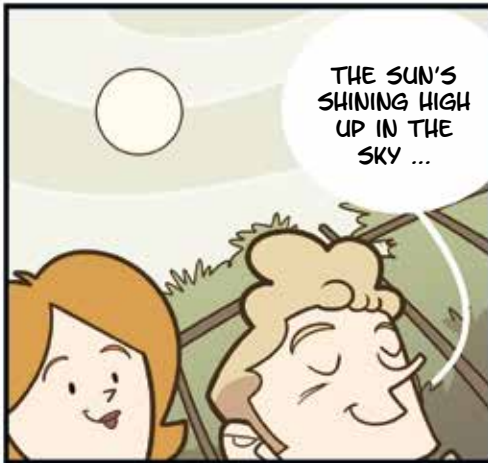
MAYBE THERE'S A CASE THAT NEEDS SOLVING! ARTIE'S

...



I'M GOING. YOU'RE HOPELESS.

I LOOVVVE INTERROGATIONS!



THE SUN'S SHINING HIGH UP IN THE SKY ...



THERE'S A FRAGRANCE OF FRESH-BAKED MUFFINS IN THE AIR...



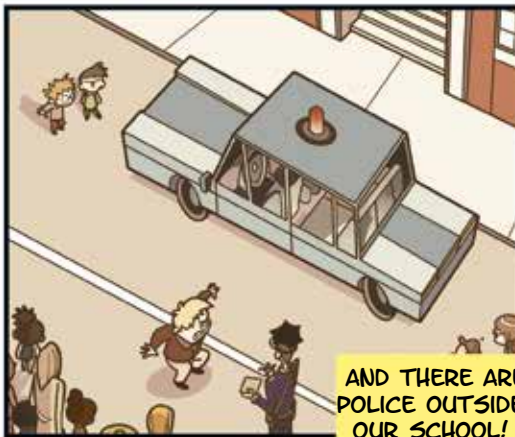
HEY PAL, KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON?



HEY THEO! THERE'S TALK ABOUT SOME KIND OF A TERRORIST ATTACK ON THE PRINCIPAL!



THE NEIGHBOR'S DOGS ARE LOOKING AT ME IN A WEIRD WAY ...



AND THERE ARE POLICE OUTSIDE OUR SCHOOL!



THAT'S ALL I KNOW!



EXCUSE ME!



EXCUSE ME!



MOVE ASIDE!



FINALLY I HAD A REAL CASE TO SOLVE.



OOH!



SOMETHING BIG.



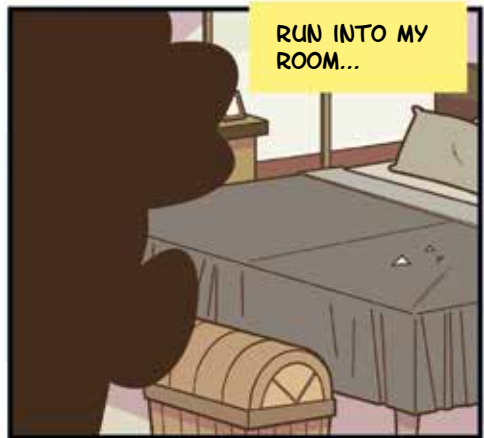
I COULDN'T WAIT TO GET HOME...

OH STOP IT.



A SKUNK IN MY CAR! DO YOU REALIZE?

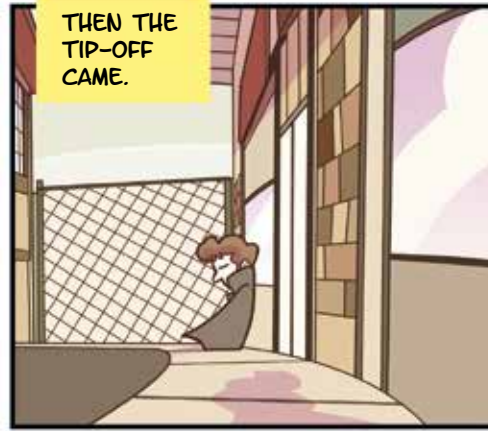
YES, BUT PLEASE CALM DOWN SIR!



RUN INTO MY ROOM...



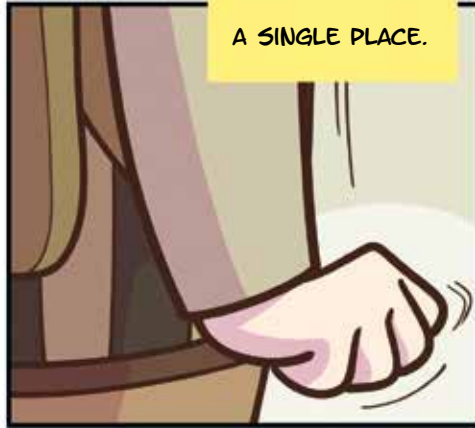
...AND BEGIN MY INVESTIGATION.



...LED BACK TO
THE SAME SPOT.



A SINGLE PLACE.



THE THORPE-BELCHER
MANSSION.



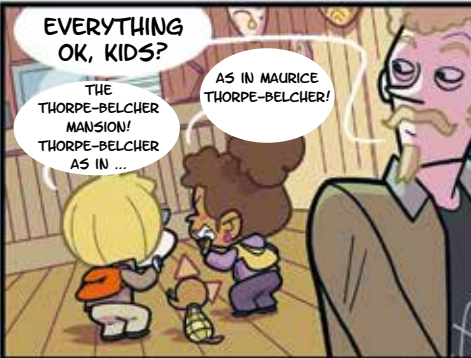
BUT IN
THE END ...



... I DIDN'T GET
ANYWHERE!



EVERYTHING
OK, KIDS?



THE
THORPE-BELCHER
MANSSION!
THORPE-BELCHER
AS IN ...

AS IN MAURICE
THORPE-BELCHER!

COULD
THIS BE ...





NO, KIDS, SORRY!

THIS IS NOT A CLUE!



NO, NO, IT JUST ISN'T!

WHAT I JUST TOLD YOU DOESN'T PROVE A THING!



DON'T DO IT, KIDS!

ARTIE, IF YOUR MOM FINDS OUT ...

BYE, UNCLE!

IT WAS A PLEASURE!



YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO WORK MUCH HARDER, DEAR CHILDREN!



OK, SO WE'LL GO TO THE THORPE-BELCHER MANSION.

TODAY - AFTER LUNCH.

OK, AGREED.



YOU'RE AMAZING! BYYYE!



NOW THAT SOUNDS LIKE A GOOD IDEA.



BUT THAT'S NOT HOW AN ADULT IS SUPPOSED TO RESPOND...!

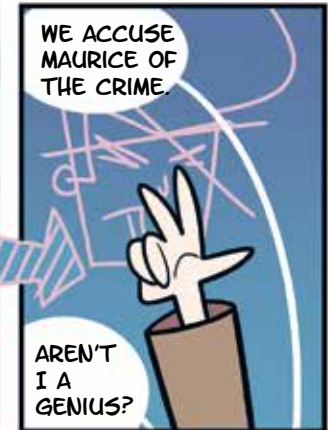
NO, THAT'S CRAZY! COM-PLETE-LY IRRE-SPONS-IB-LE!



...



I'M IN BIG TROUBLE.





MOM!
DADDY!
I'M HOME!



HUH?



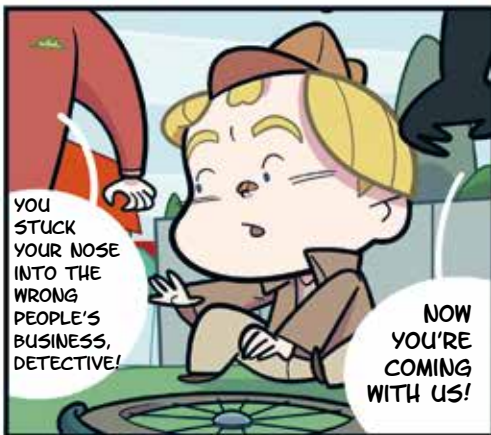
xARTU
Ciao, figlio. Io e
MAMMA siamo
andati a trovare
NONNA ANGIOLILLA
In cucina trovi il
tuo panino preferito.
Prosciutto e capperi.
P.S. Ricordati di
dare da mangiare a POIROT!



I'M GONNA
PUT MY BIKE
AWAY, BE RIGHT
BACK!

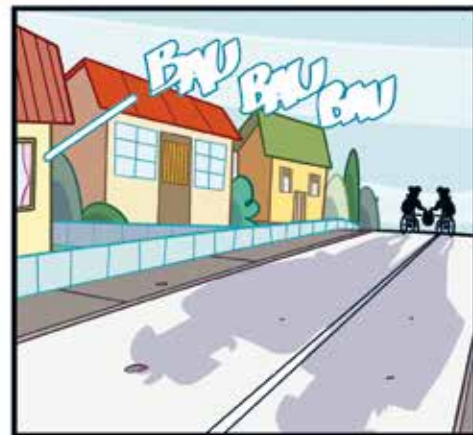


I'M GOING
TO HIS PLACE
NOW AND I'M
GONNA TEAR
HIM APART.



YOU
STUCK
YOUR NOSE
INTO THE
WRONG
PEOPLE'S
BUSINESS,
DETECTIVE!

NOW
YOU'RE
COMING
WITH US!



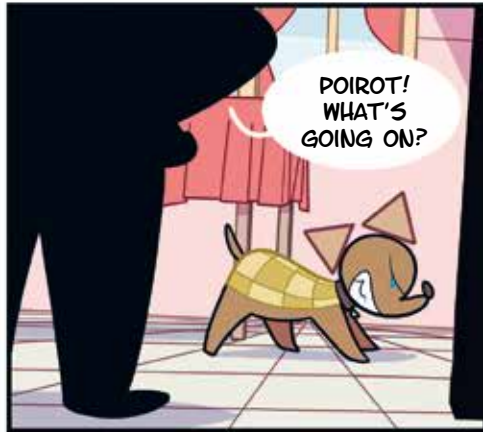
ARTIE,
WHERE
ARE YOU?
I NEED TO
MURDER
YOU!

* FOR ARTIE. HI SON. MOM AND I WENT TO VISIT GRANDMA ANGELA. WE LEFT YOUR FAVORITE SANDWICH IN THE KITCHEN: HAM AND PICKLES. P.S. DON'T FORGET TO FEED POIROT!



HEY, ANYONE HERE?

ARTIE? POIROT?



POIROT! WHAT'S GOING ON?



YOU FILTHY STINKERS! LET ME GO!

HA HA, THE BUSYBODY'S GIVING US ORDERS!



PLEASE?

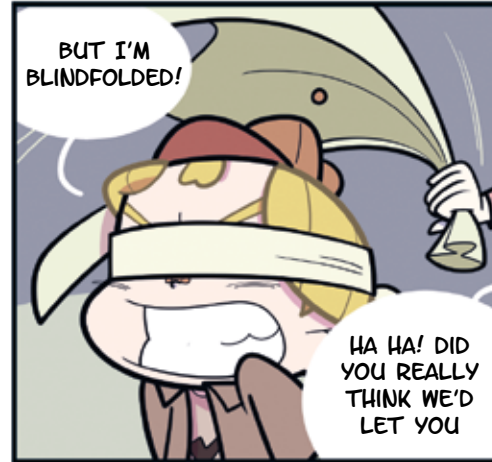
OK! OK! STAY STILL FOR A SEC!



THIS IS ARTIE'S FAVORITE KIND OF SANDWICH!

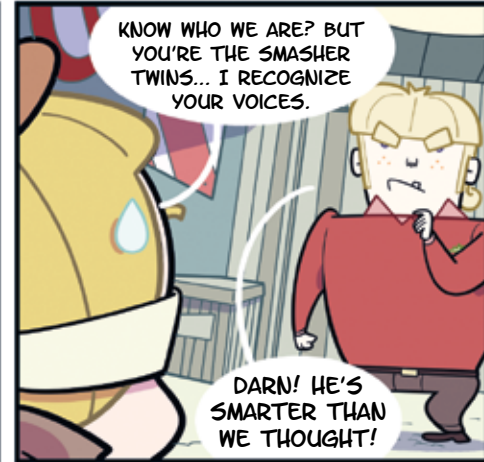


BAU BAU



BUT I'M BLINDFOLDED!

HA HA! DID YOU REALLY THINK WE'D LET YOU



KNOW WHO WE ARE? BUT YOU'RE THE SMASHER TWINS... I RECOGNIZE YOUR VOICES.

DARN! HE'S SMARTER THAN WE THOUGHT!

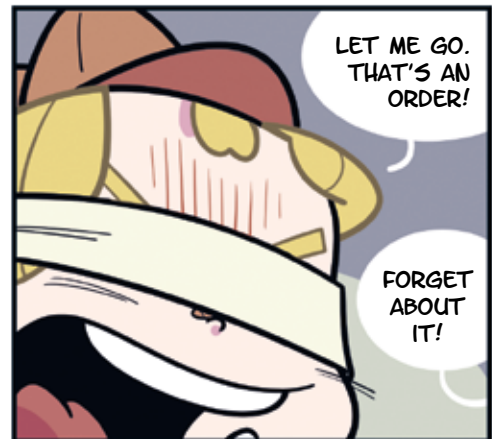


HEY, WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

CAI CAI CAI



COME BACK, POIROT!

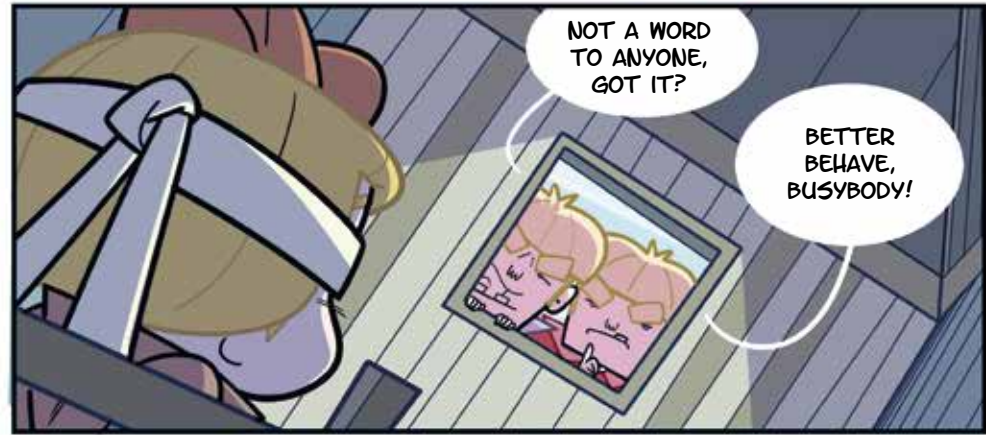


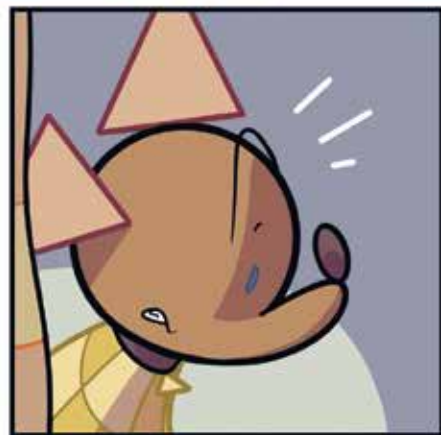
LET ME GO. THAT'S AN ORDER!

FORGET ABOUT IT!



TOC TOC







WE WERE AS READY AS COULD BE.



WE'D PUT ON REALLY MEAN EXPRESSIONS...

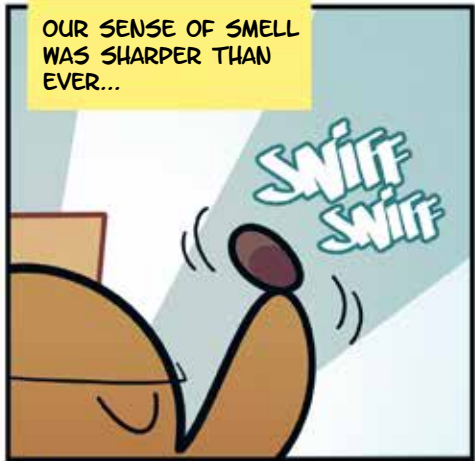
GRRR



SPINNING



GLOM



OUR SENSE OF SMELL WAS SHARPER THAN EVER...

SNIFF
SNIFF



WE KNEW WHAT WE HAD TO DO.

WHY DO I ALWAYS GET INVOLVED IN THESE THINGS?



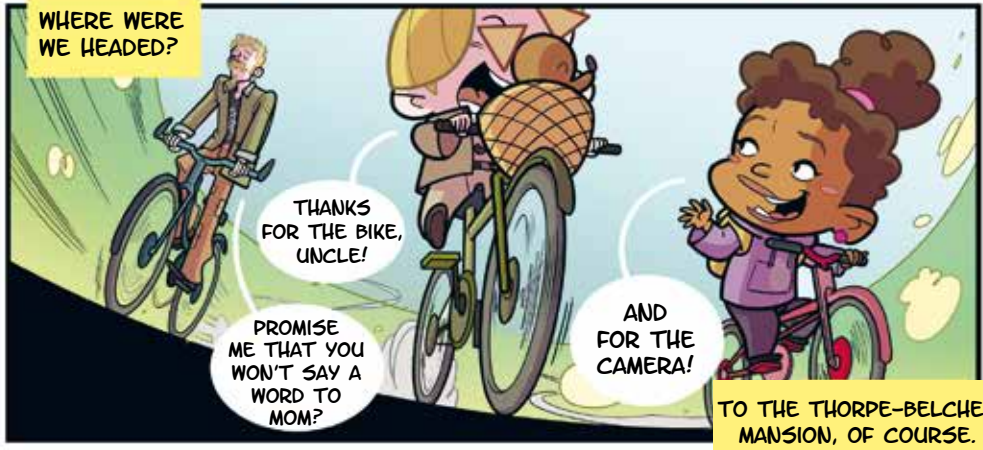
HERE'S THE PLAN.

UNCLE IS WAITING.

ME, AGATHA AND POIROT GO IN. OK?



KIDS, AHM, MAYBE WE SHOULD ALL GO BACK HOME...



WHERE WERE WE HEADED?

THANKS FOR THE BIKE, UNCLE!

PROMISE ME THAT YOU WON'T SAY A WORD TO MOM?

AND FOR THE CAMERA!

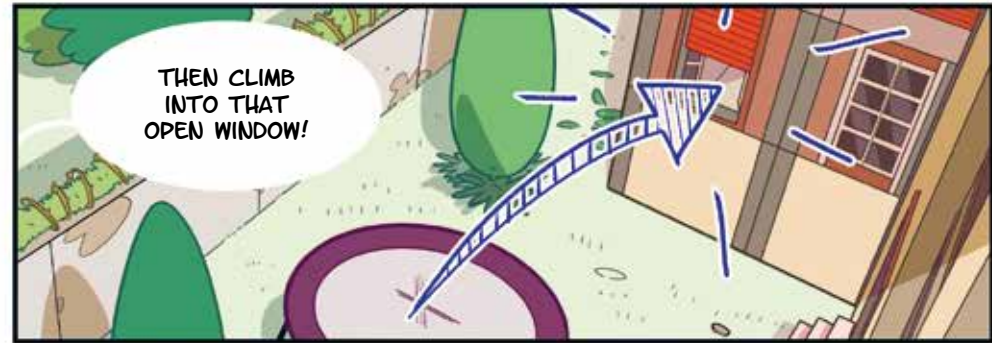
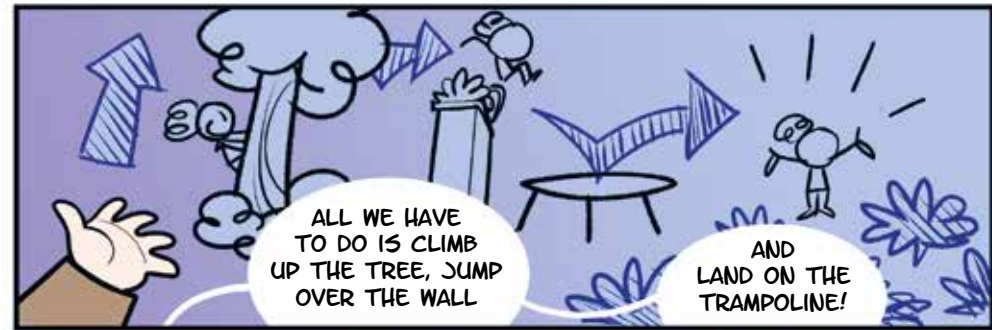
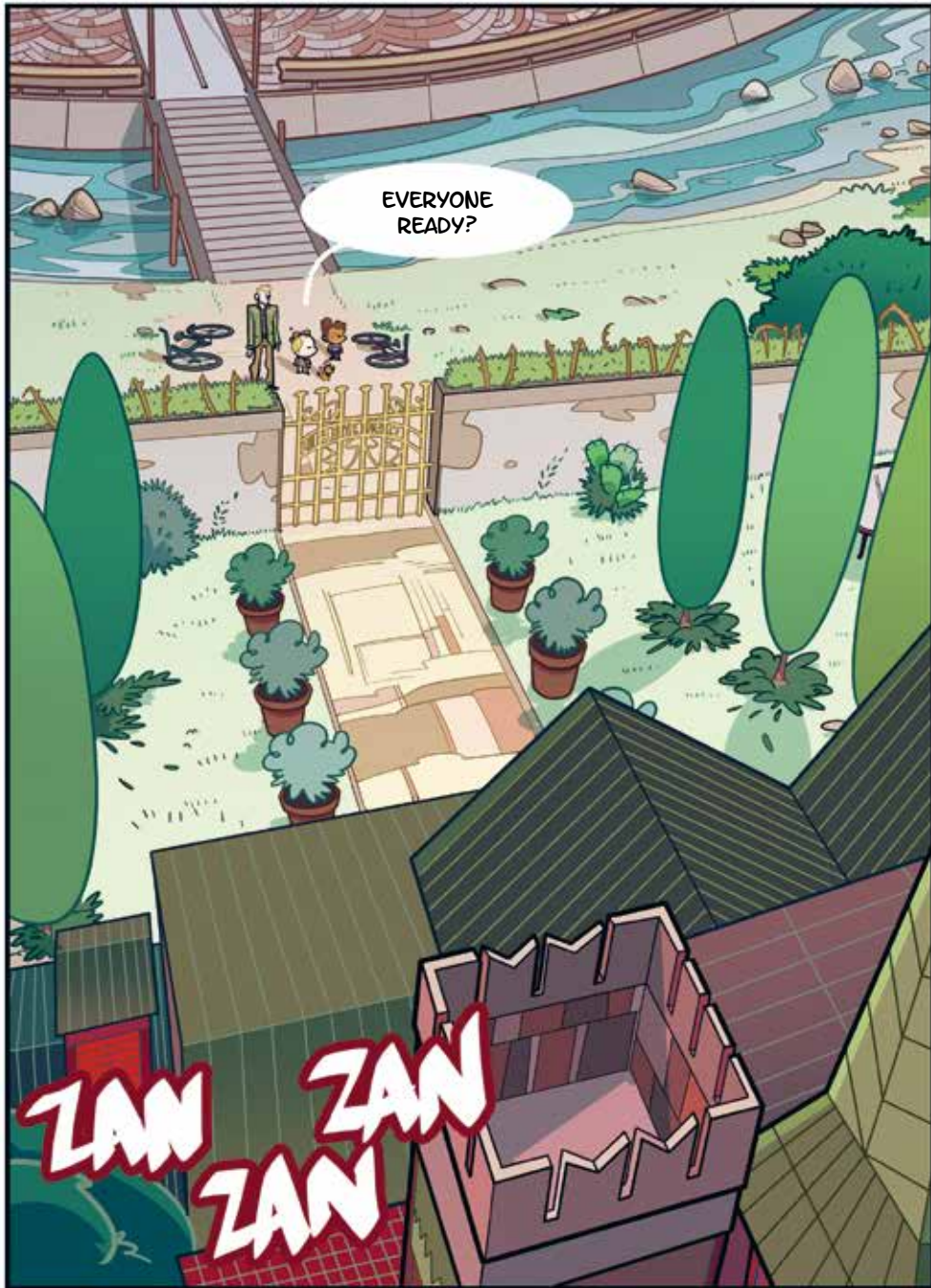
TO THE THORPE-BELCHER MANSION, OF COURSE.

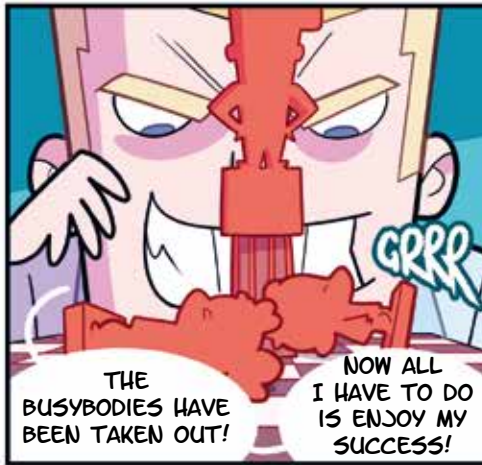
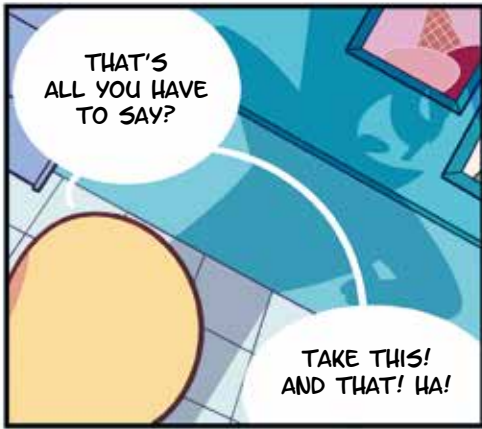


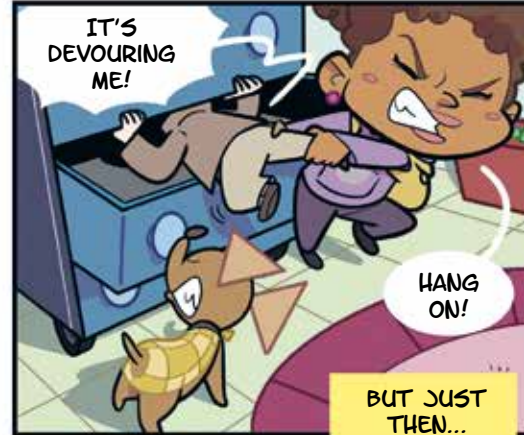
NO! WE'RE GONNA DO THIS!

WOOF!

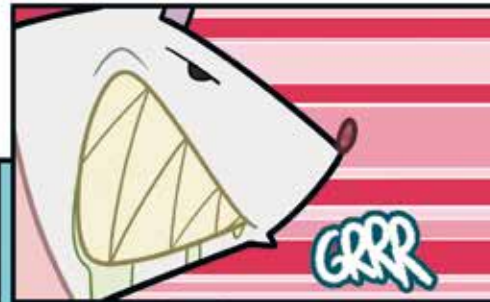
I'M IN HOT WATER...

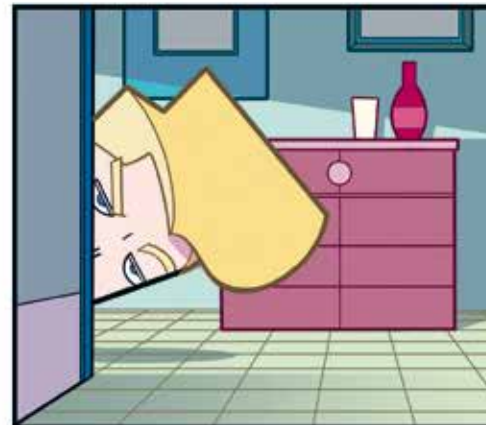


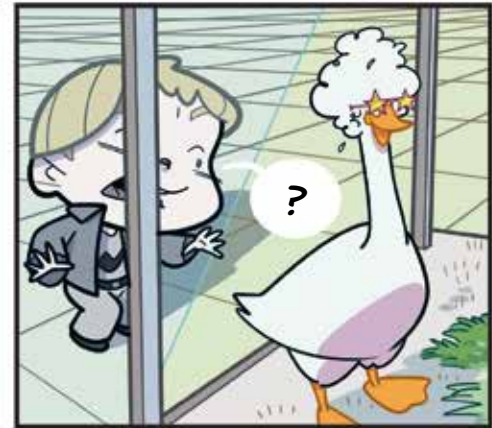
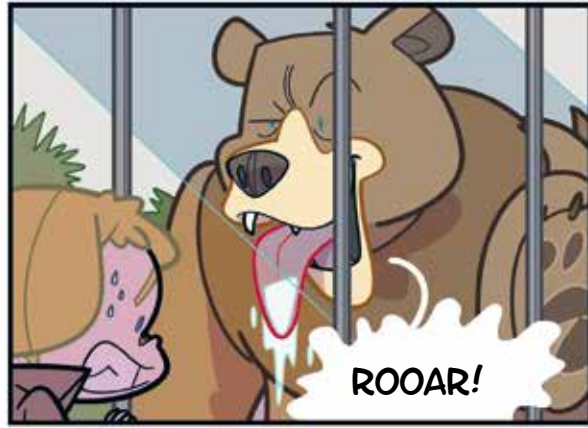










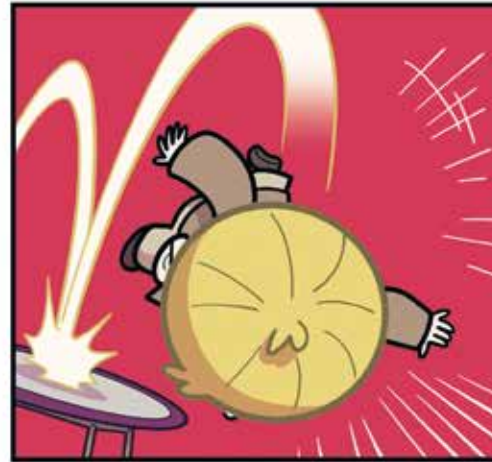


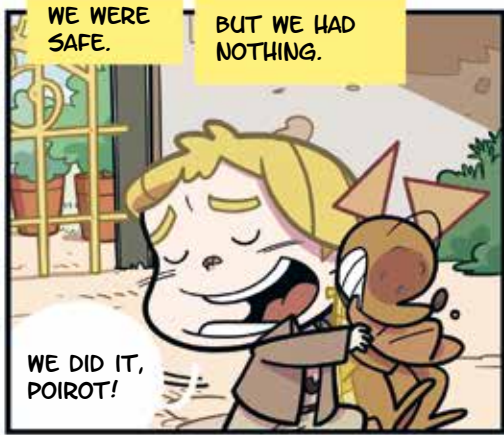






STENCH SKUNK





WE WERE SAFE.

BUT WE HAD NOTHING.

WE DID IT, POIROT!



THEN MY ASSOCIATE GOT THERE...

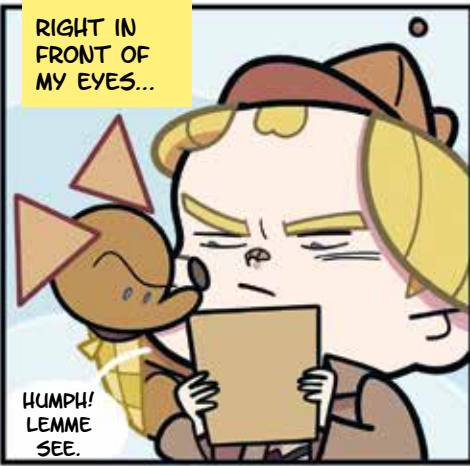
HERE YOU ARE FINALLY!

HEY, ARTIE!



...WITH A SURPRISE.

I THINK YOU SHOULD SEE THIS.



RIGHT IN FRONT OF MY EYES...

HUMPH! LEMME SEE.



DAMNING

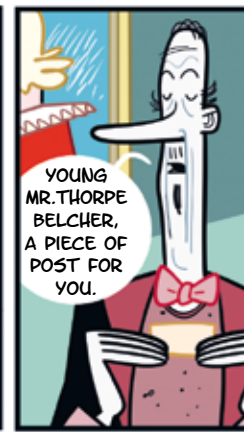
EVIDENCE.



MA'AM, THEY LEFT THIS FOR YOU.



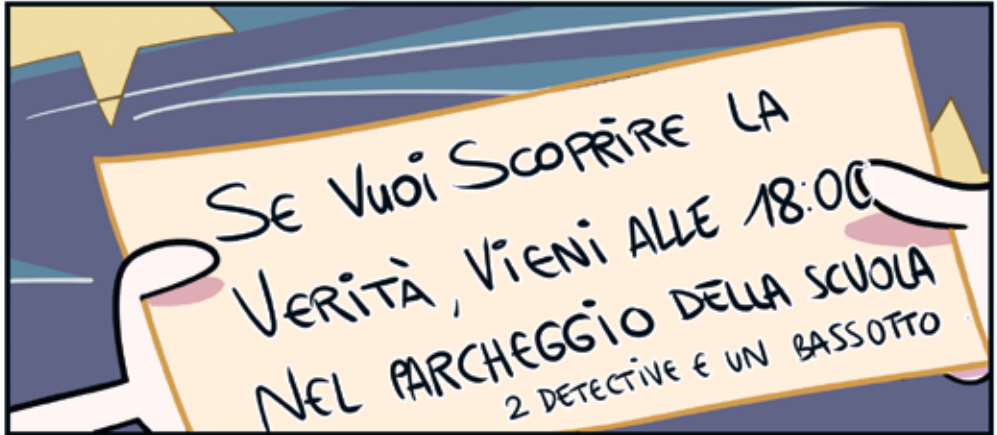
DARLING, THEY TOLD ME TO GIVE THIS TO YOU



YOUNG MR. THORPE BELCHER, A PIECE OF POST FOR YOU.

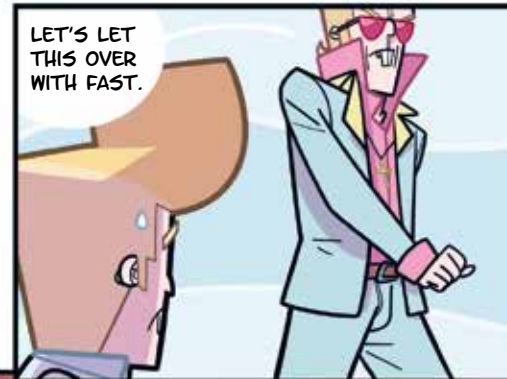


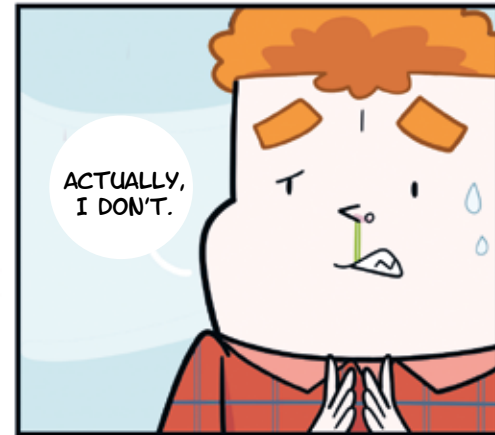
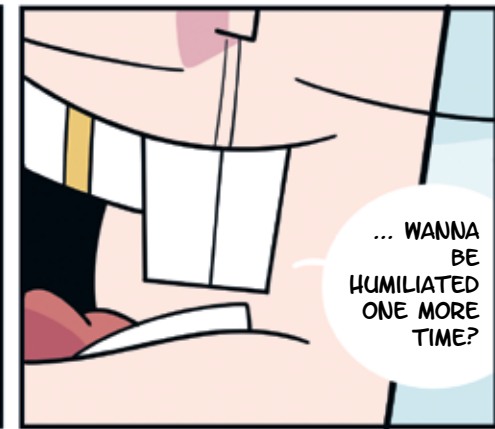
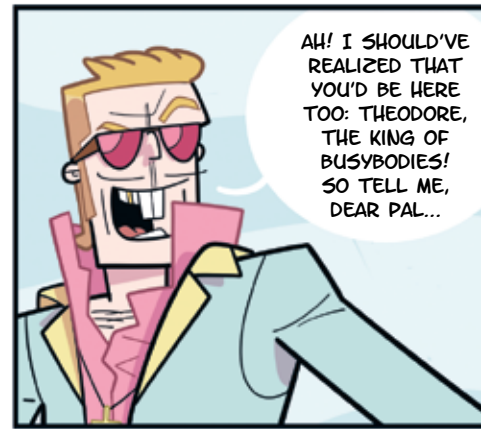
SONNY, THERE'S MAIL FOR YOU!

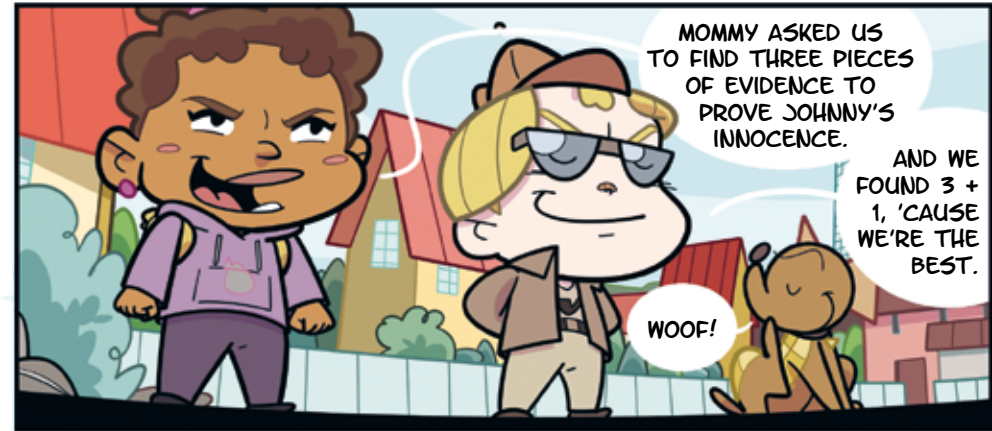
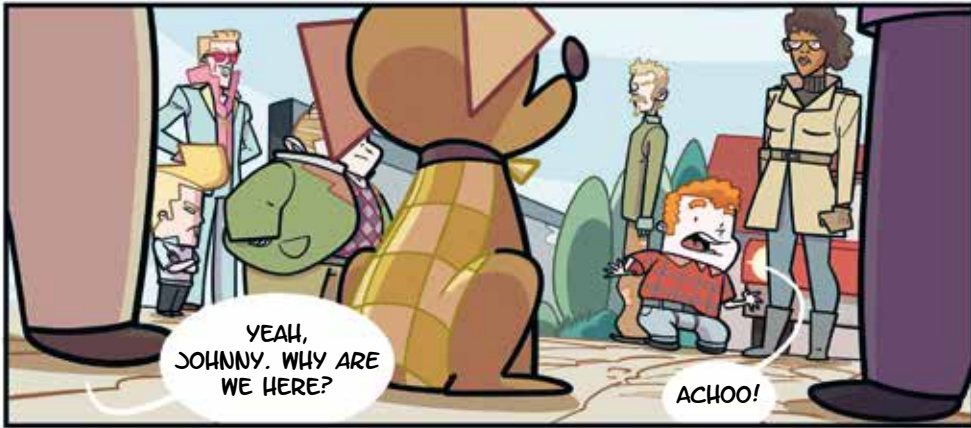


SE VUOI SCOPRIRE LA VERITÀ, VIENI ALLE 18:00 NEL PARCHEGGIO DELLA SCUOLA
2 DETECTIVE E UN BASSOTTO

IF YOU WANT TO KNOW THE TRUTH, COME TO THE SCHOOL PARKING LOT AT 6 P.M.. SIGNED, TWO DETECTIVES AND A DACHSHUND









SO THAT'S HOW IT ALL WENT.

MAURICE HAD PLANNED THE WHOLE THING: PUTTING THE SKUNK INTO THE PRINCIPAL'S CAR WAS ALL TOO EASY.

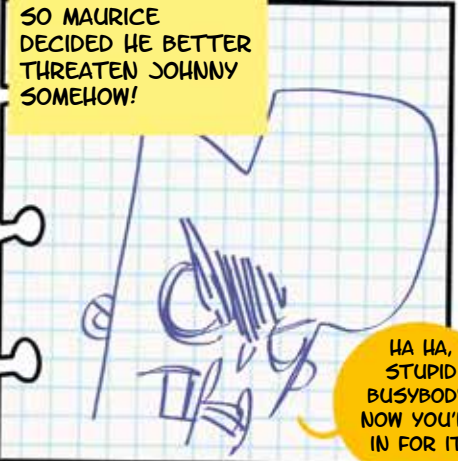
HA HA! I'M SO CLEVER!

BUT THE PLAN WAS WRECKED THANKS TO JOHNNY, WHO WITNESSED IT ALL!

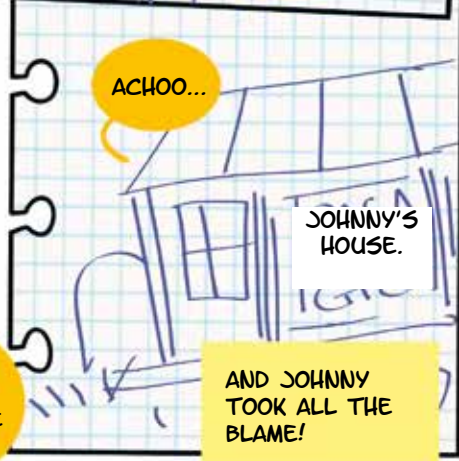
AH!



SO MAURICE DECIDED HE BETTER THREATEN JOHNNY SOMEHOW!



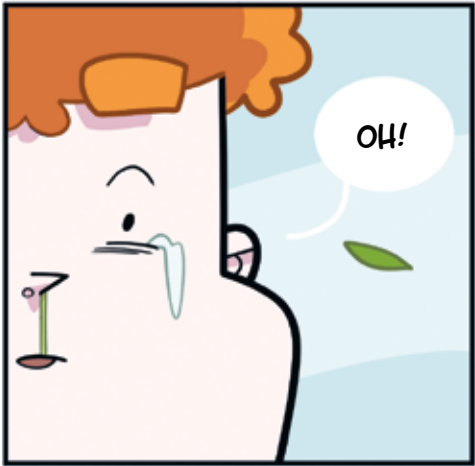
HA HA, STUPID BUSYBODY, NOW YOU'RE IN FOR IT!



AND JOHNNY TOOK ALL THE BLAME!

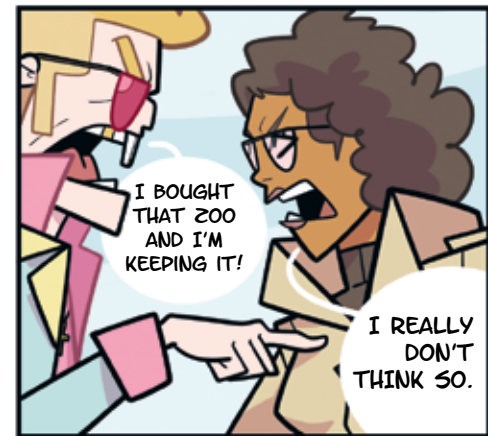
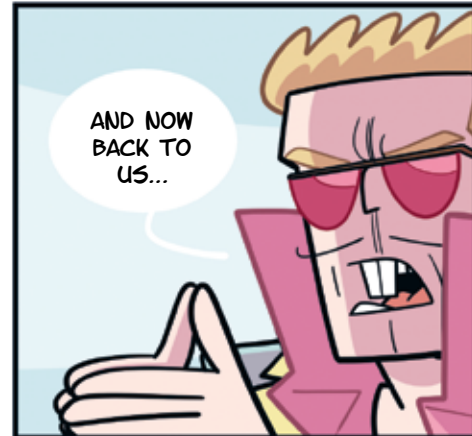
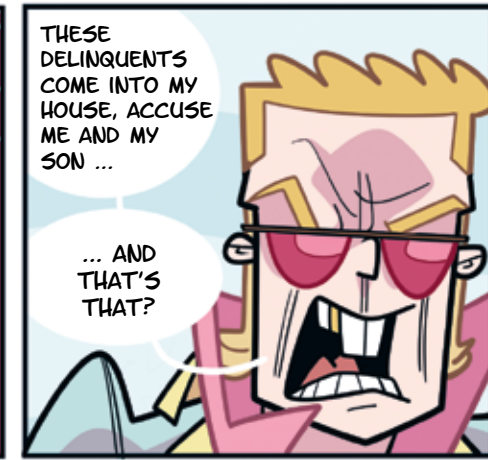
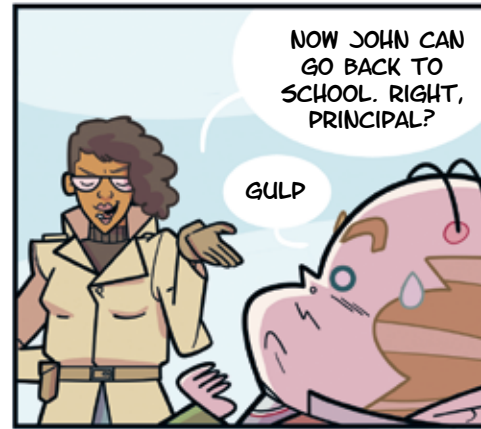
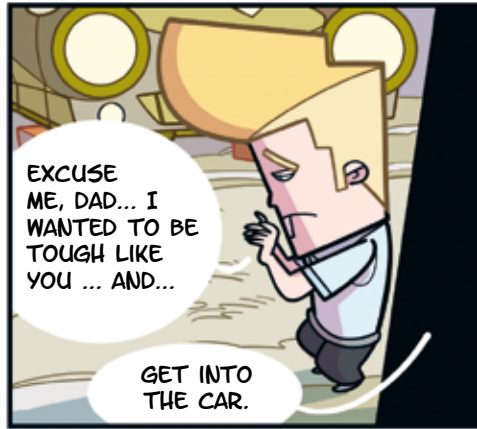
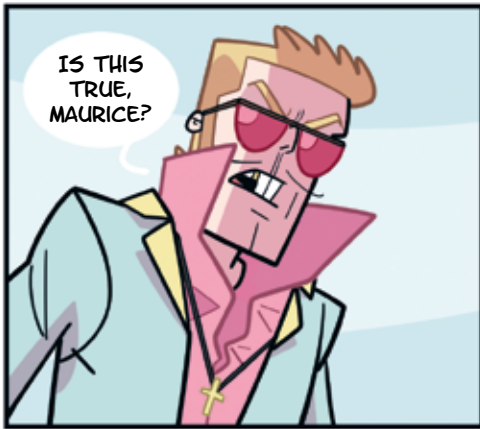


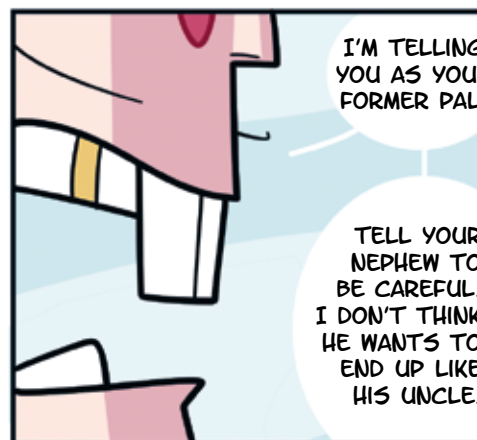
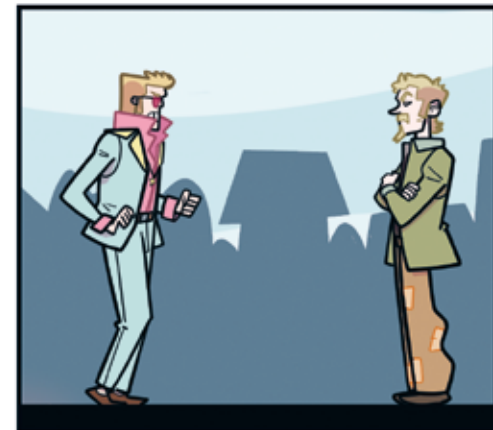
HE TOLD ME THAT IF I DIDN'T SAY I WAS THE ONE TO BLAME, MY DAD, WHO WORKS FOR THE THORPE-BELCHER FAMILY, WOULD GET FIRED.

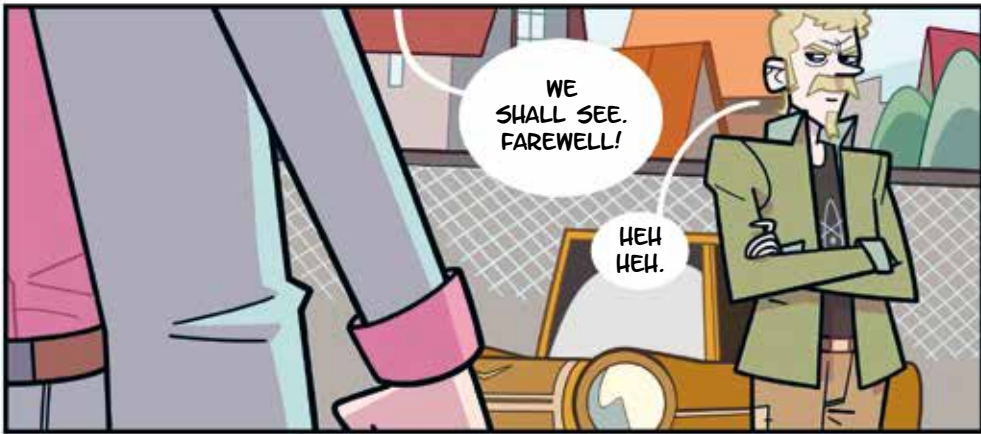


JOHNNY!

I'VE MISSED YOU SO MUCH, OLD PAL!

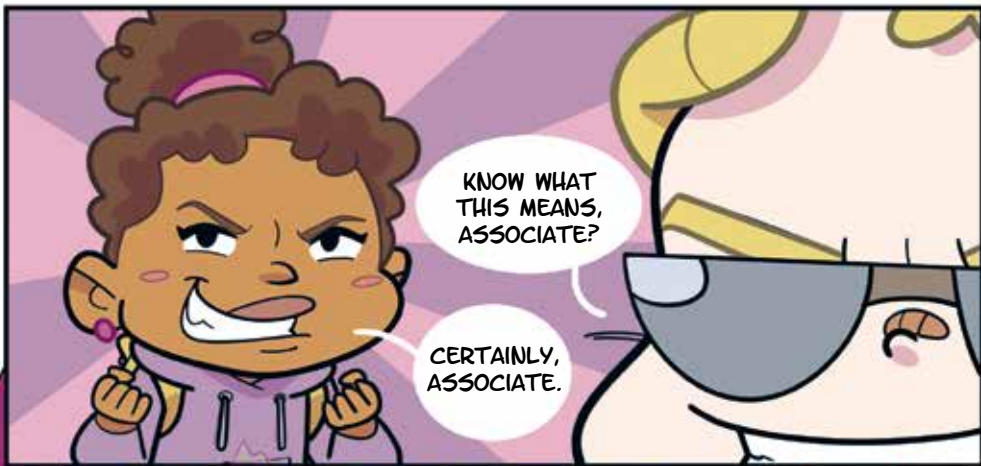






WE SHALL SEE. FAREWELL!

HEH HEH.



KNOW WHAT THIS MEANS, ASSOCIATE?

CERTAINLY, ASSOCIATE.



BUT...

DON'T ASK ANY QUESTIONS!

YEAH!



INNOCENT!

AND JOHNNY'S

INNOCENT!

ACHOO!

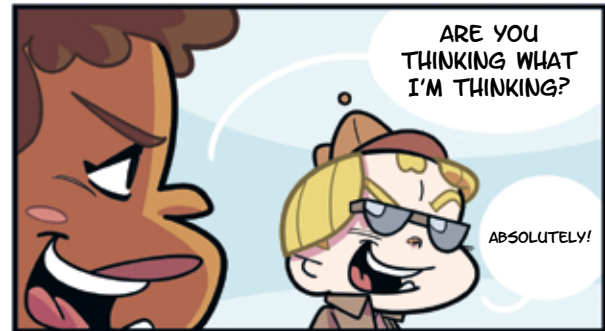
AND JOHNNY'S

ACHOO!

GUYS, I'M ALLERGIC TO PEOPLE JUMPING FOR JOY!

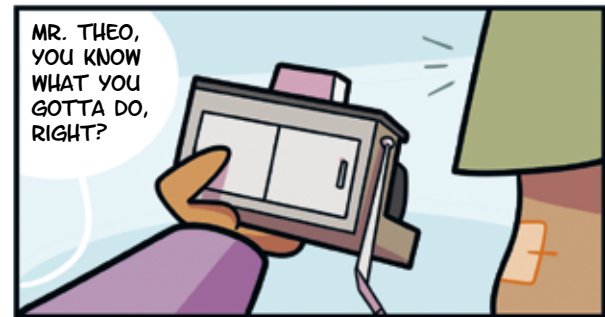


EXCUSE ME!



ARE YOU THINKING WHAT I'M THINKING?

ABSOLUTELY!



MR. THEO, YOU KNOW WHAT YOU GOTTA DO, RIGHT?

AN INNOCENT
PARTY HAS BEEN
EXONERATED.

A CRIMINAL HAS
BEEN HANDED
OVER TO JUSTICE.



ME AND MY FRIENDS!
FIRST-EVER CASE SOLVED!

IO E I MIEI AMICI!
PRIMO CASO RISOLTO!

AND NOW? WELL,
NOW IT'S TIME
TO CELEBRATE!

AT LEAST
UNTIL OUR
NEXT CASE