



Little Red Cap

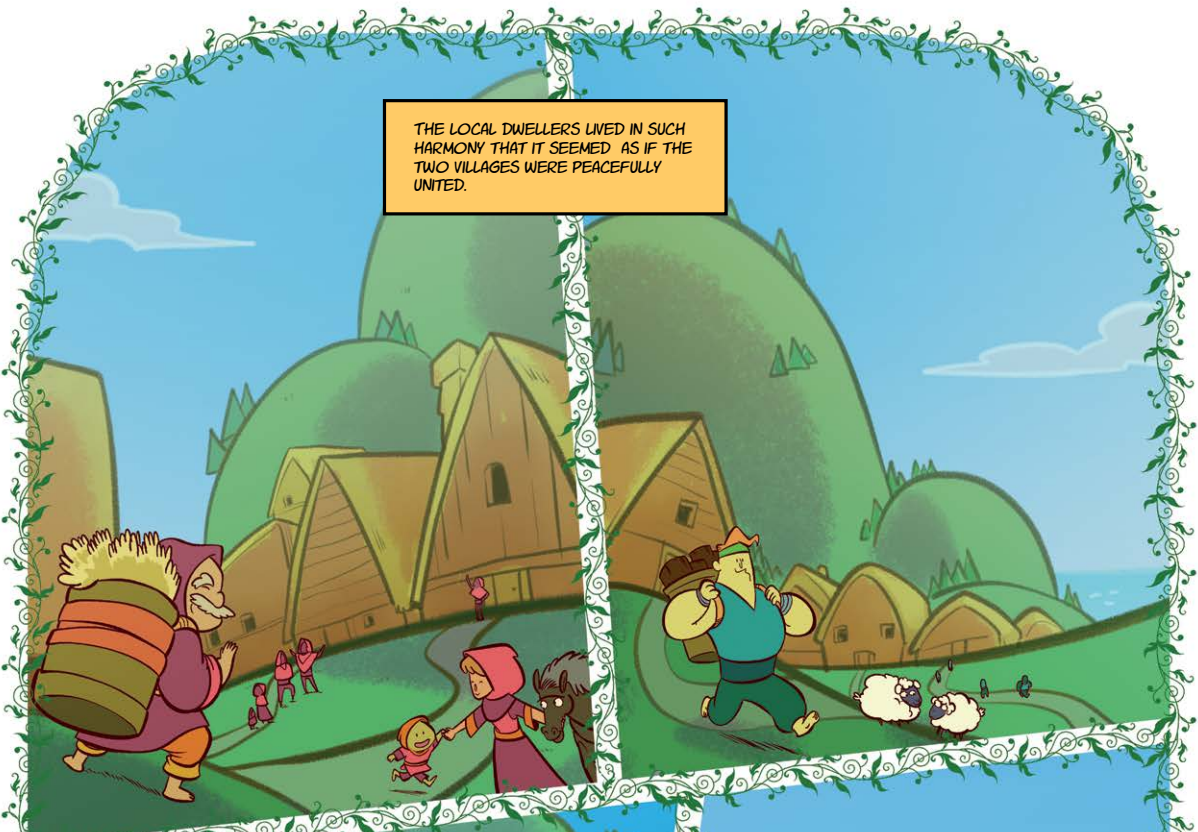
AND THE PROPHECY OF

Fata Morgana

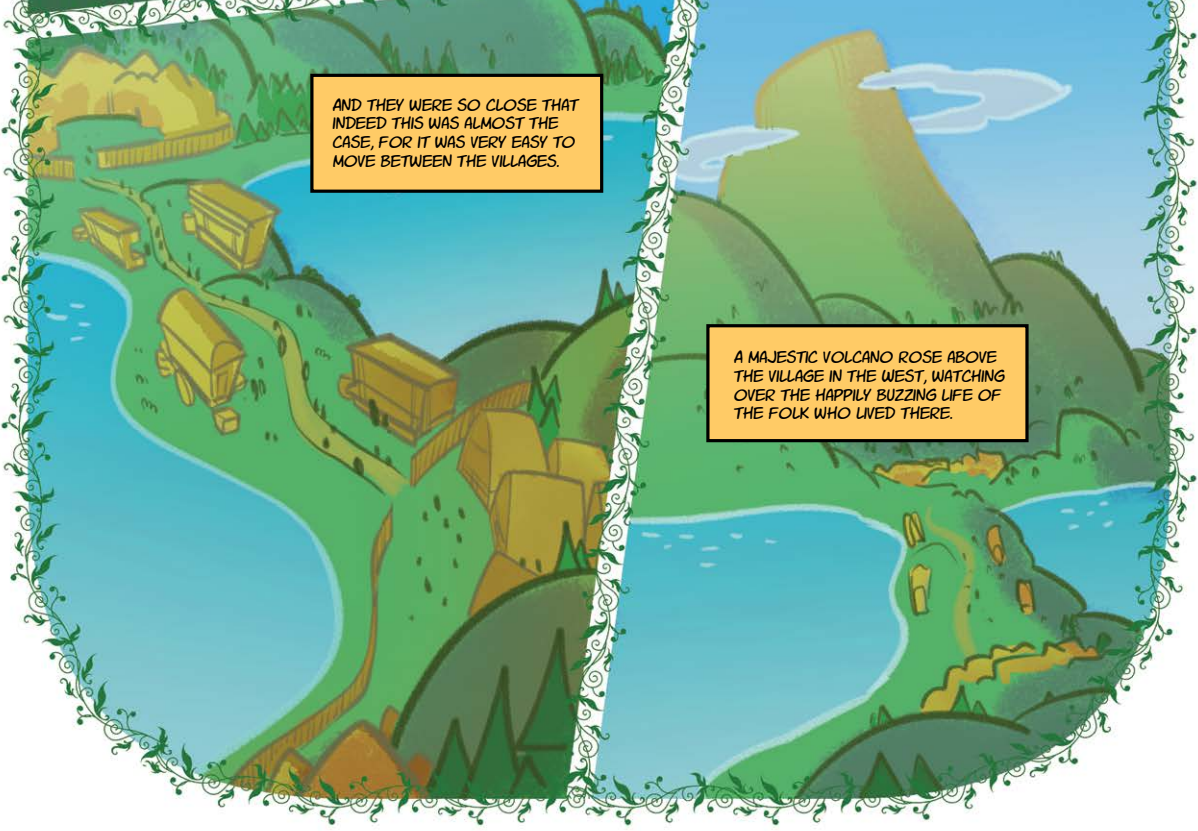
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SCREENPLAY: ROBERTO MEGNA
ART: CARLO CID LAURO

ONCE UPON A TIME, IN A BOOT-SHAPED LAND, THERE WERE TWO LEGENDARY SEA VILLAGES THAT WERE LOCATED RIGHT NEXT TO EACH OTHER IN THE SOUTHERNMOST POINT OF A LONG PENINSULA, ONE ON THE RIGHT AND ONE ON THE LEFT.



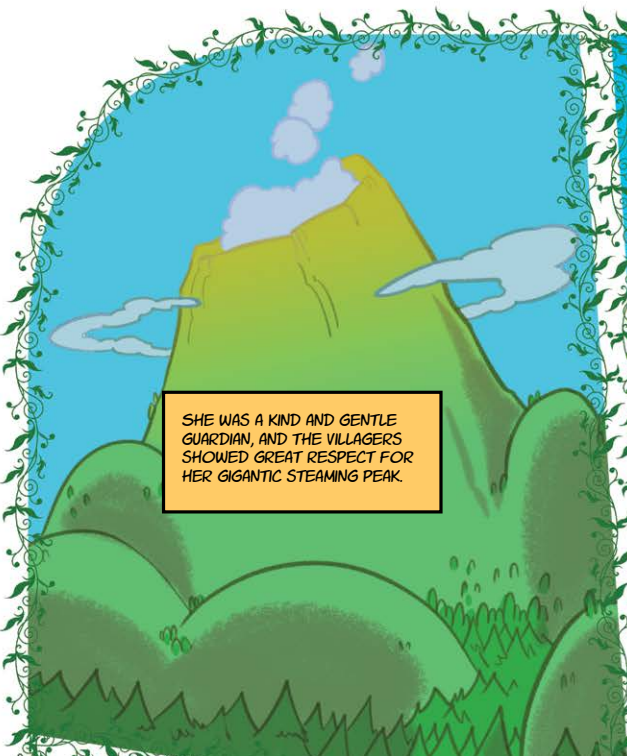


THE LOCAL DWELLERS LIVED IN SUCH HARMONY THAT IT SEEMED AS IF THE TWO VILLAGES WERE PEACEFULLY UNITED.




AND THEY WERE SO CLOSE THAT INDEED THIS WAS ALMOST THE CASE, FOR IT WAS VERY EASY TO MOVE BETWEEN THE VILLAGES.

A MAJESTIC VOLCANO ROSE ABOVE THE VILLAGE IN THE WEST, WATCHING OVER THE HAPPILY BUZZING LIFE OF THE FOLK WHO LIVED THERE.



SHE WAS A KIND AND GENTLE
GUARDIAN, AND THE VILLAGERS
SHOWED GREAT RESPECT FOR
HER GIGANTIC STEAMING PEAK.



HOWEVER, BECAUSE OF HER MISCHIEVOUS
NATURE, THEY ALSO FELT A REVERENT FEAR
FOR HER, ALTHOUGH IT MUST BE SAID THAT
SHE HAD ALWAYS BEEN QUITE POLITE AND
HAD RARELY BOTHERED THEM WITH HER
TINY ERUPTIONS.



BUT ONE SAD DAY, SHE
WOKE UP IN A VERY BAD
MOOD...



...AND IT WAS A
RUDE AWAKENING
FOR EVERYONE.





THE VOLCANO'S SOMBER
RUMBLE TURNED INTO A
TREMENDOUS TREMOR.

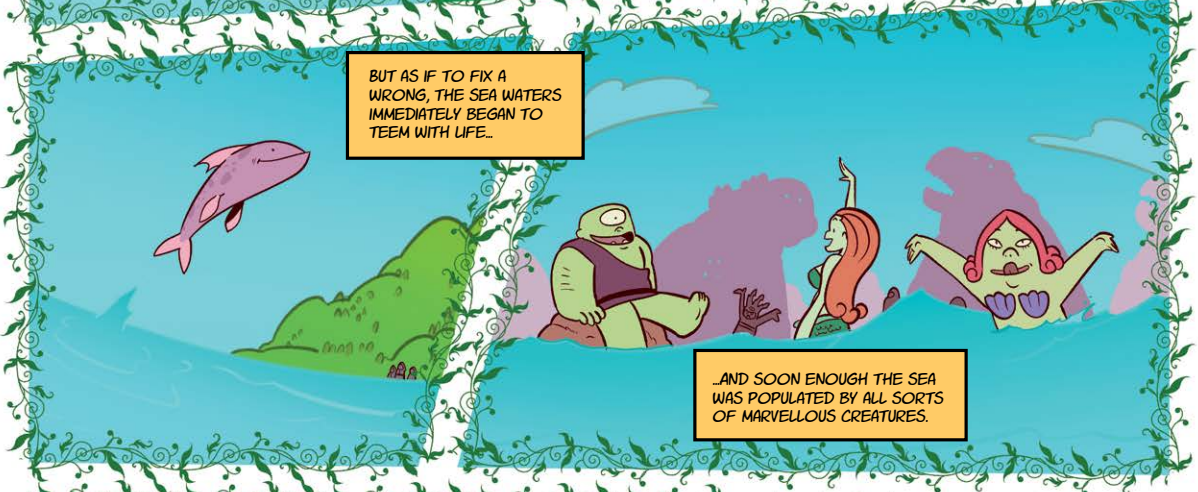
THE EARTH SHOOK SO
POWERFULLY THAT IT
EVENTUALLY BROKE APART.

AND THE IMPETUOUS
SEA WATERS
RUSHED FORTH...

...UNTIL THEY SUBMERGED
THE ROAD THAT ONCE
CONNECTED THE TWO
VILLAGES.




WHEN THE EARTH STOPPED SHAKING, A STRIP OF SEA DIVIDED THE TWO TERRITORIES, FOREVER.



BUT AS IF TO FIX A WRONG, THE SEA WATERS IMMEDIATELY BEGAN TO TEEM WITH LIFE...



...AND SOON ENOUGH THE SEA WAS POPULATED BY ALL SORTS OF MARVELLOUS CREATURES.



THOUSANDS OF YEARS HAVE PASSED SINCE, AND YET THIS STRIP OF SEA STILL HOLDS A MAGICAL POWER.

PERHAPS ITS BLURRED FASCINATION COMES FROM AN INHERITED MAGIC SPELL, CAST CENTURIES AGO FROM THE MYTHICAL FIGURES THAT NAVIGATED THESE SEAS AND WALKED DOWN THE STEEP PATHS OF THESE VILLAGES.



BUT EVERYTHING,
SOONER OR LATER, IS
BOUND TO VANISH.

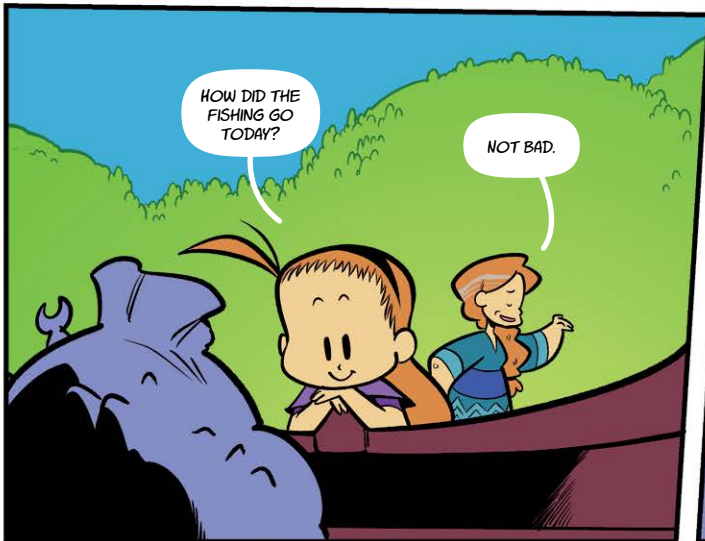
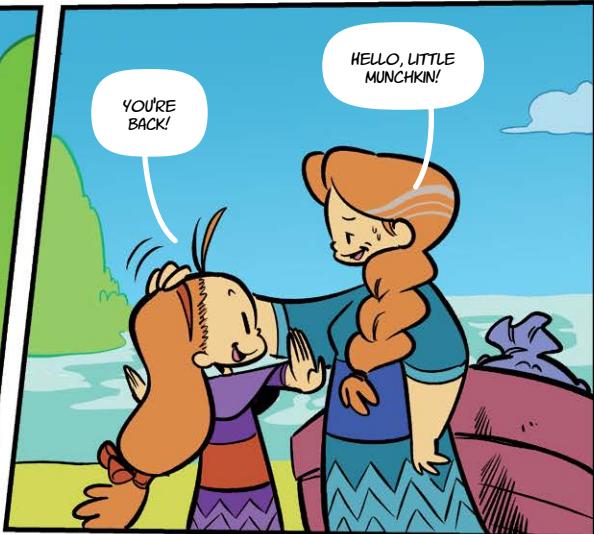
THAT STRIP OF SEA
WAS ABANDONED BY
THE GODS...

...AND EVEN THE FANTASTIC
CREATURES RAN AWAY.

ALL DEITIES AND MONSTERS FORGOT THE
EXISTENCE OF THE TWO LEGENDARY VILLAGES
AND THEIR INHABITANTS, WHO REMAINED TORN
AWAY FROM EACH OTHER, AT THE SOUTHERNMOST
POINT OF THE LONG PENINSULA.

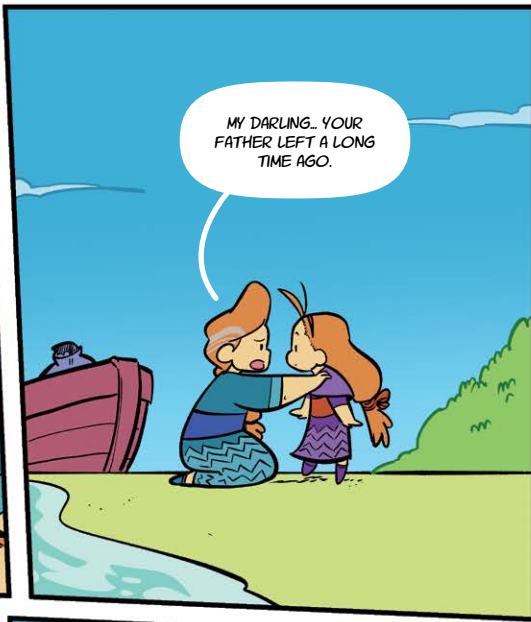
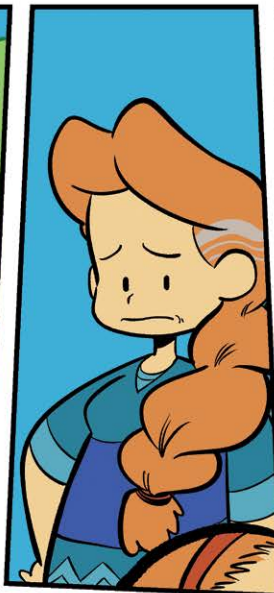
AND THIS IS STILL THE
CASE TODAY, WITH A
FEW EXTRAORDINARY
EXCEPTIONS.



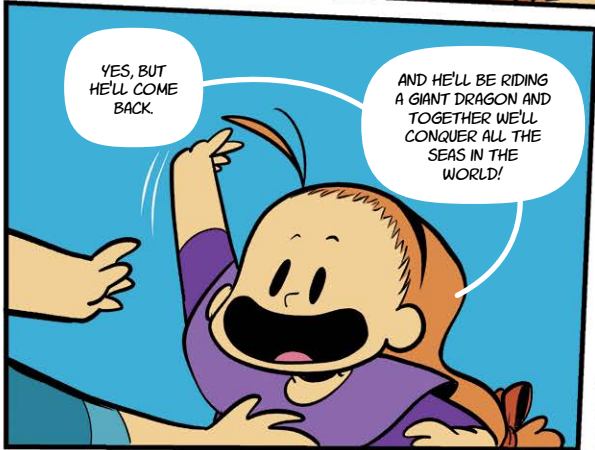




WHEN DAD RETURNS, WE'LL EAT SOME WHOPPERS!



MY DARLING... YOUR FATHER LEFT A LONG TIME AGO.



YES, BUT HE'LL COME BACK.

AND HE'LL BE RIDING A GIANT DRAGON AND TOGETHER WE'LL CONQUER ALL THE SEAS IN THE WORLD!

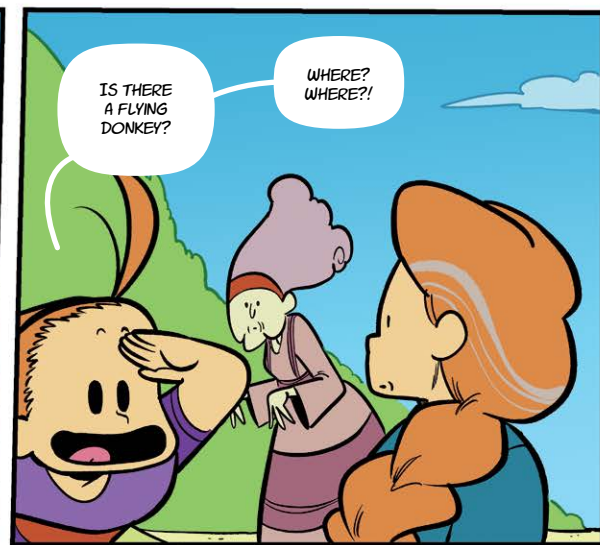


I'LL BE THE QUEEN OF SEAS AND LAKES! AND RIVERS AND PUDDLES, TOO!



STILL THE SAME DAYDREAMER.

ENOUGH IS ENOUGH! SHE WOULD BELIEVE IN FLYING DONKEYS...

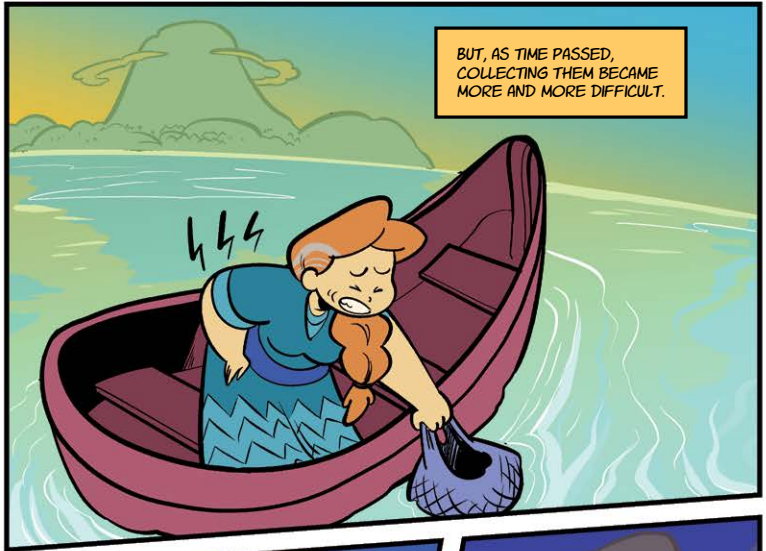


IS THERE A FLYING DONKEY?

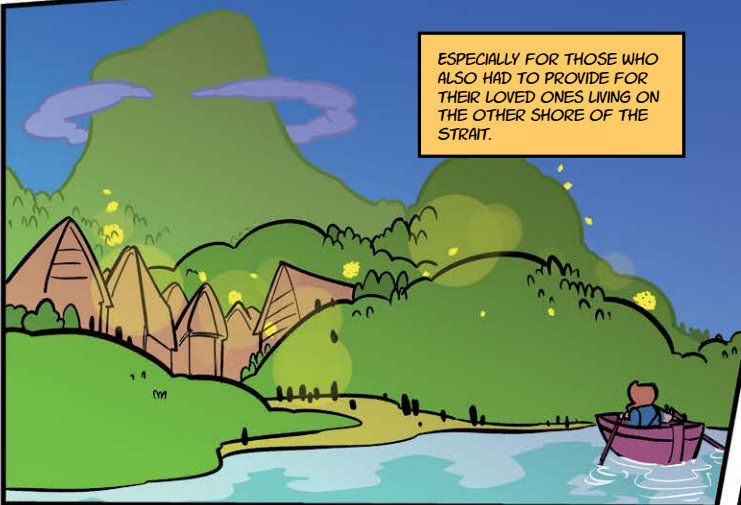
WHERE? WHERE?!



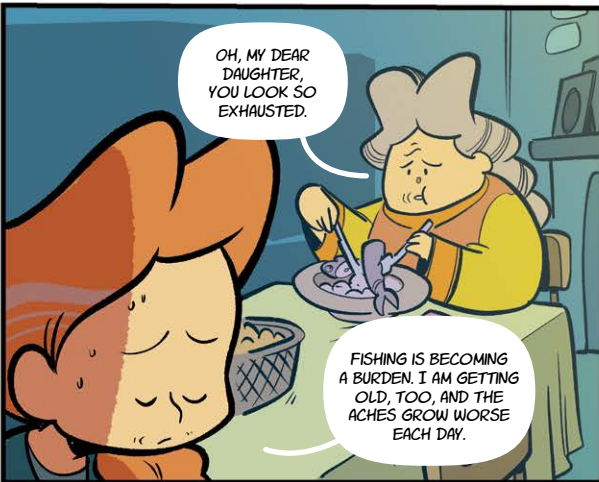
AS EACH NEW DAY DAWNED, THE SEA BROUGHT ITS GIFTS.



BUT, AS TIME PASSED, COLLECTING THEM BECAME MORE AND MORE DIFFICULT.



ESPECIALLY FOR THOSE WHO ALSO HAD TO PROVIDE FOR THEIR LOVED ONES LIVING ON THE OTHER SHORE OF THE STRAIT.



OH, MY DEAR DAUGHTER, YOU LOOK SO EXHAUSTED.

FISHING IS BECOMING A BURDEN. I AM GETTING OLD, TOO, AND THE ACHEs GROW WORSE EACH DAY.

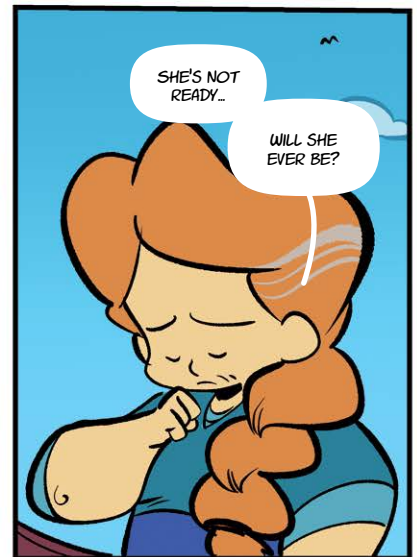
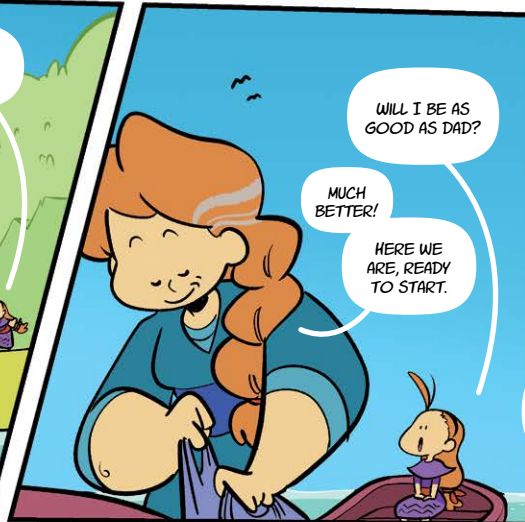
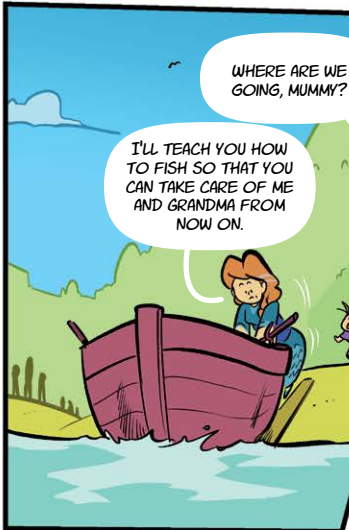
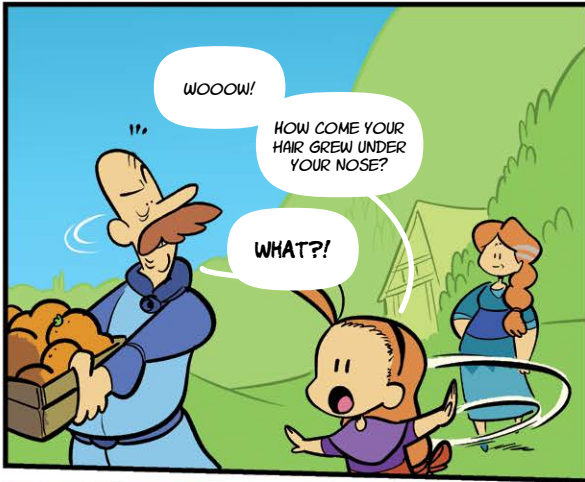


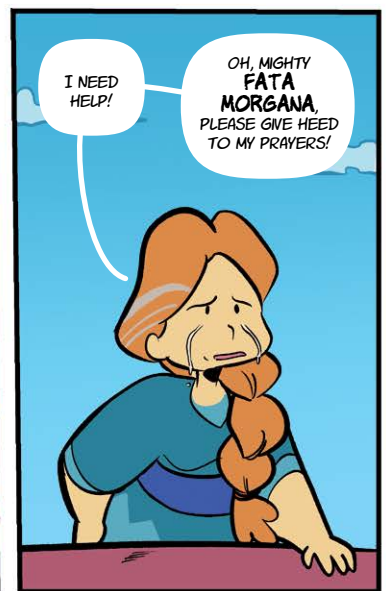
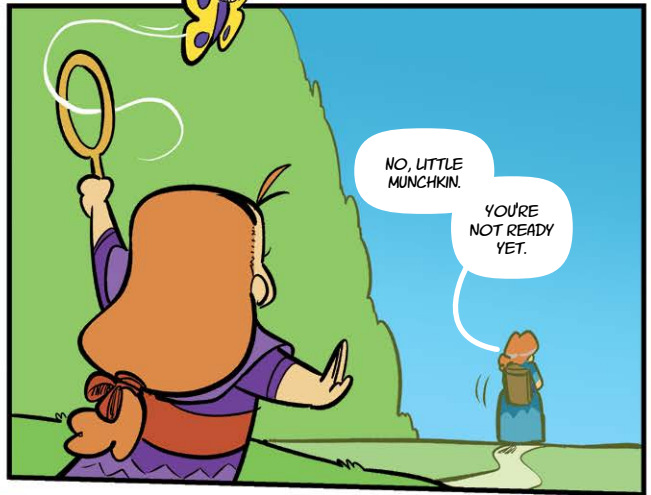
YOU SHOULD TAKE THE LITTLE GIRL WITH YOU. TEACH HER TO EARN A LIVING.

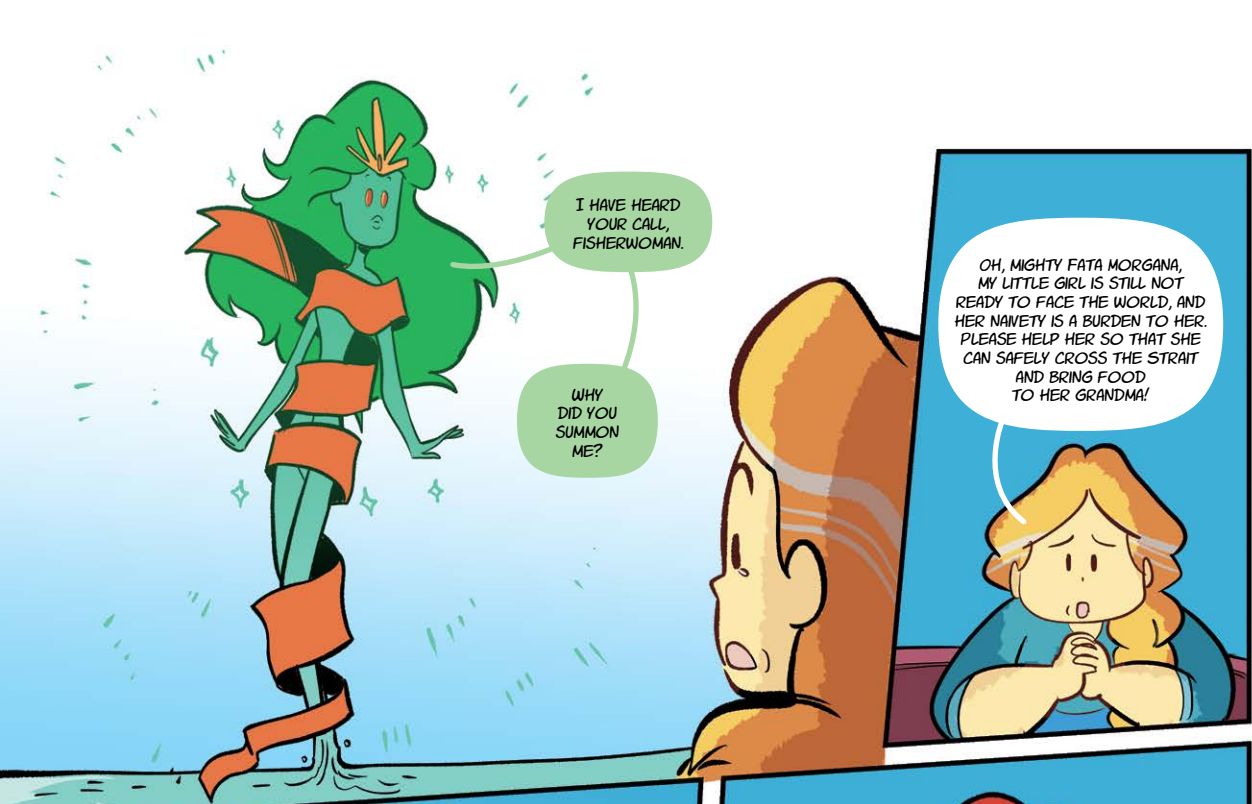
THE TIME HAS COME.

MAYBE YOU'RE RIGHT. BUT SHE STILL HAS HER HEAD IN THE CLOUDS.

I'LL GIVE IT A TRY.



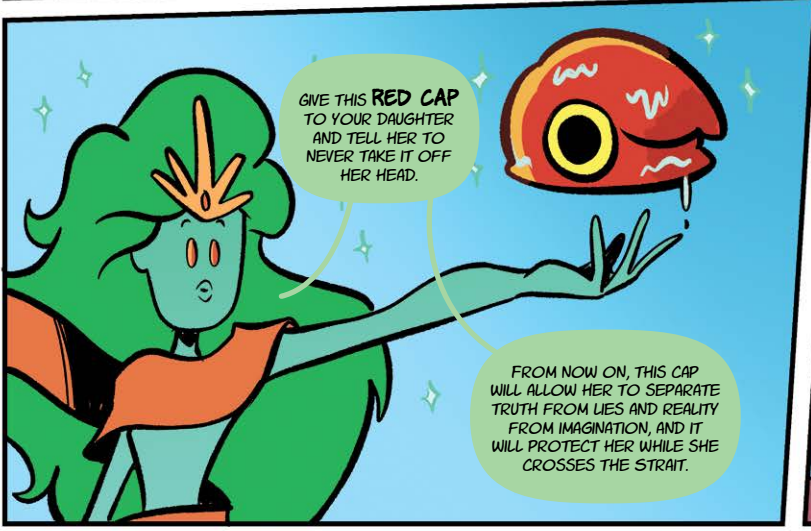
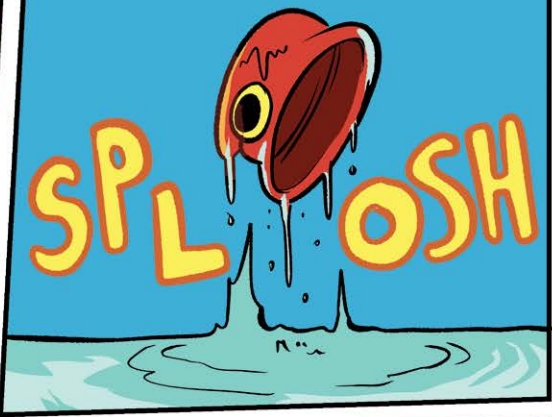




I HAVE HEARD YOUR CALL, FISHERWOMAN.

WHY DID YOU SUMMON ME?

OH, MIGHTY FATA MORGANA, MY LITTLE GIRL IS STILL NOT READY TO FACE THE WORLD, AND HER NAIVETY IS A BURDEN TO HER. PLEASE HELP HER SO THAT SHE CAN SAFELY CROSS THE STRAIT AND BRING FOOD TO HER GRANDMA!

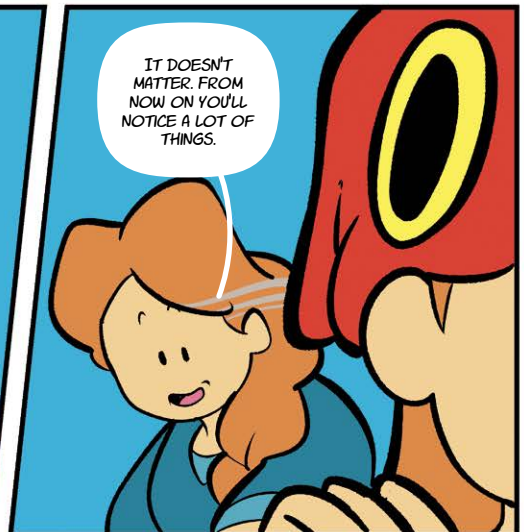
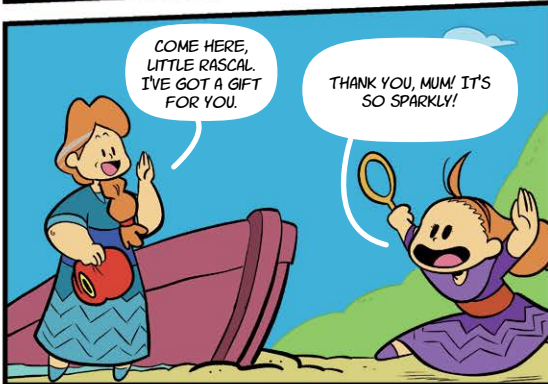


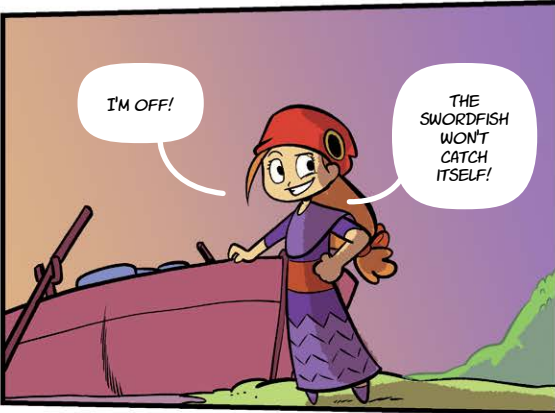
GIVE THIS RED CAP TO YOUR DAUGHTER AND TELL HER TO NEVER TAKE IT OFF HER HEAD.

FROM NOW ON, THIS CAP WILL ALLOW HER TO SEPARATE TRUTH FROM LIES AND REALITY FROM IMAGINATION, AND IT WILL PROTECT HER WHILE SHE CROSSES THE STRAIT.



THANK YOU, FATA MORGANA!







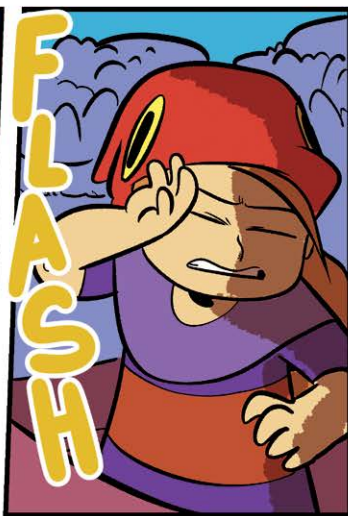
WOW!



SPLASH



LITTLE RED CAP, YOU'LL BE STRICKEN BY A GREAT MISFORTUNE, BUT FEAR NOT, BECAUSE I'LL NEVER ABANDON YOU, AND I'LL GIVE YOU BACK WHAT YOU'LL LOSE.



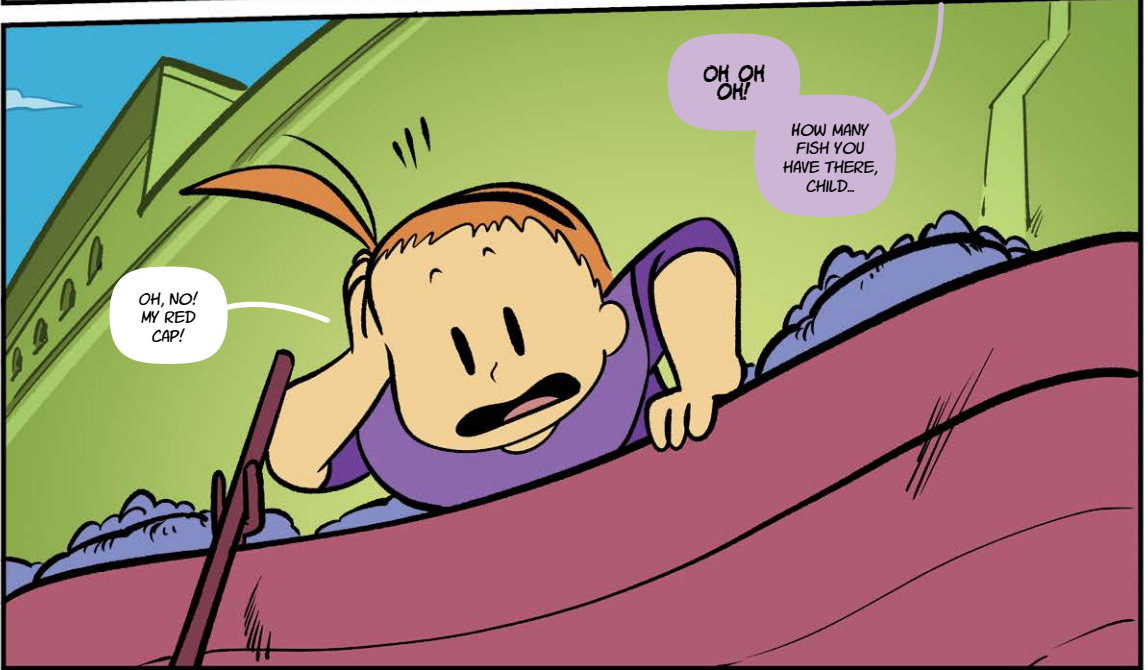
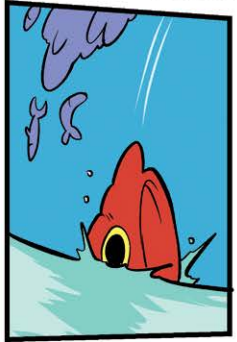
FLASH



COULD IT BE THAT I JUST IMAGINED IT..?



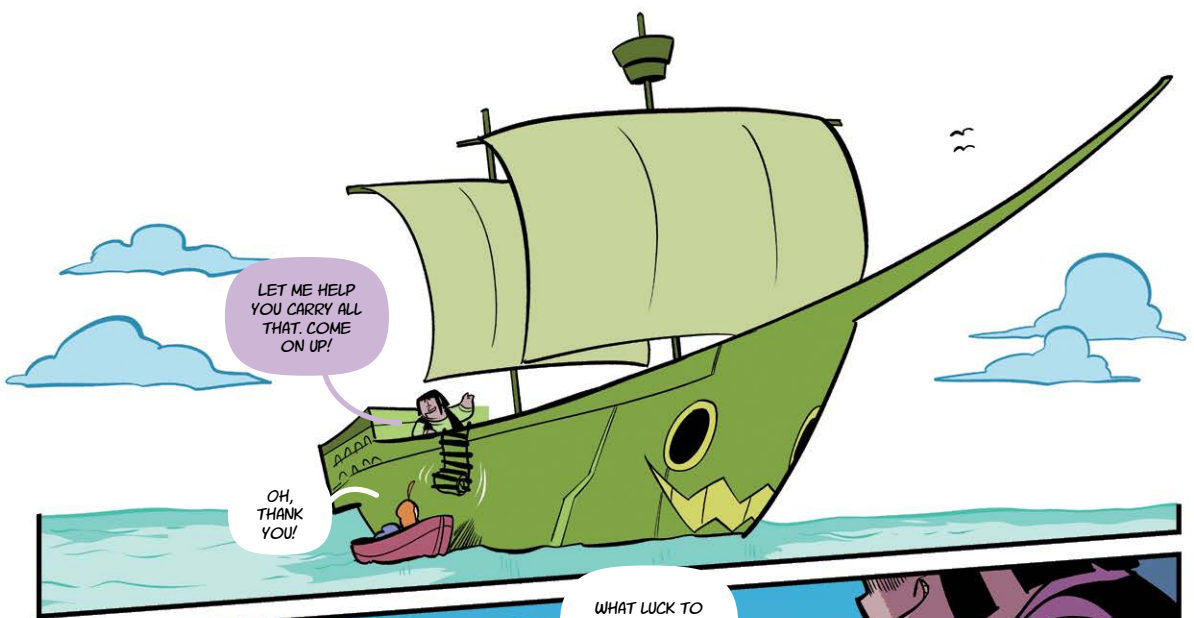
BETTER GET BACK TO WORK.



OH, NO! MY RED CAP!

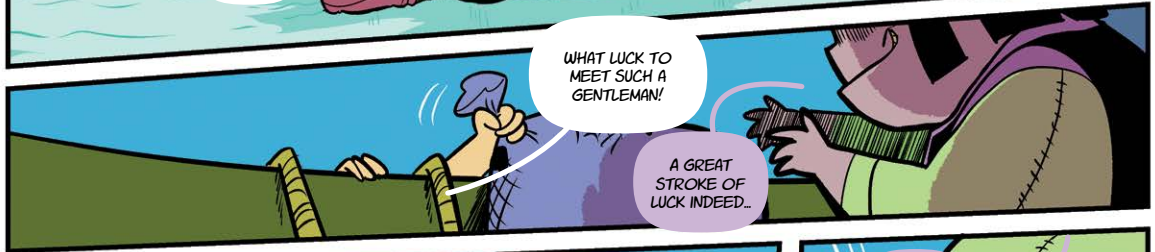
OH OH OH!

HOW MANY FISH YOU HAVE THERE, CHILD...



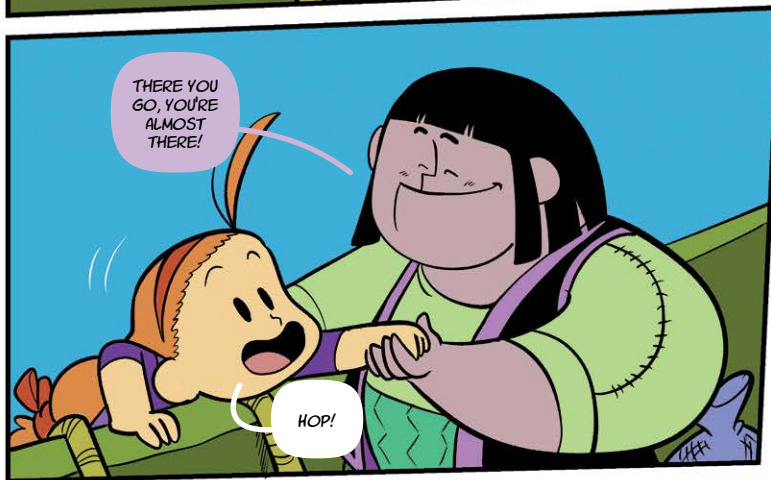
LET ME HELP YOU CARRY ALL THAT. COME ON UP!

OH, THANK YOU!



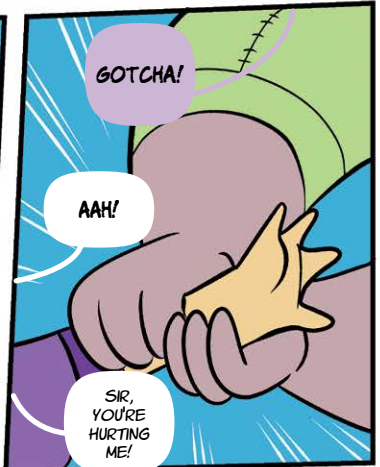
WHAT LUCK TO MEET SUCH A GENTLEMAN!

A GREAT STROKE OF LUCK INDEED...



THERE YOU GO, YOU'RE ALMOST THERE!

HOP!



GOTCHA!

AAH!

SIR, YOU'RE HURTING ME!



LET ME GO, LET ME GO!

NO, CHILD.

NOT YET.



HELP!

SOMEONE HELP ME, PLEASE!

NO ONE WILL HEAR YOU HERE.

ARRH ARRH!



NOW YOU'RE MINE...

AND SOON YOU'LL BE LOCKED UP WITH THE OTHERS BELOW DECK!

WAAAAAAH!



FR..FREE ME!

OH, NO, NO, NO.

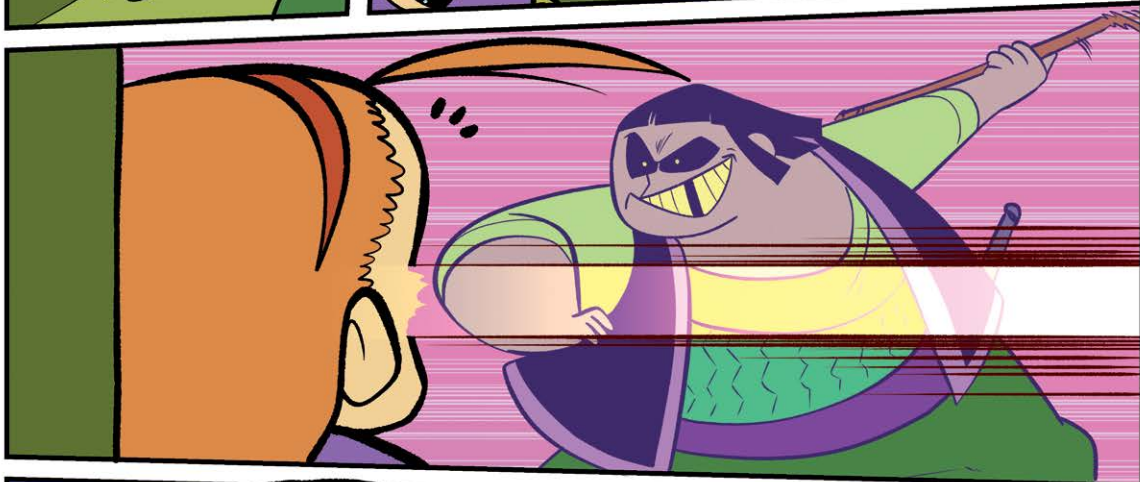
THAT'S NOT GOING TO HAPPEN.



WAAAAAAH!

OH, POOR LITTLE THING.

LET ME DRY THOSE TEARS!



THIS WAY YOU'LL LEARN NOT TO MAKE SUCH A FUSS.

AA.. AAH..



AAAAGH!

MY EYES!



I CAN'T SEE!..

AND THIS IS JUST THE BEGINNING.



NOW, KEEP QUIET. I'LL BE RIGHT BACK.

GH.. AH..



OH, MIGHTY FATA MORGANA, NOW I SEE THE TRUTH IN YOUR WORDS, BUT I'VE LOST YOUR MAGIC RED CAP, AND I'M DOOMED. THE BANDIT GOUGED MY EYES OUT, AND IT'S JUST A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE HE KILLS ME..



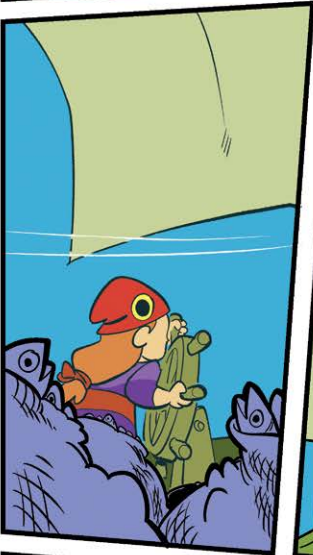
HERE I AM, DID YOU MISS ME?!



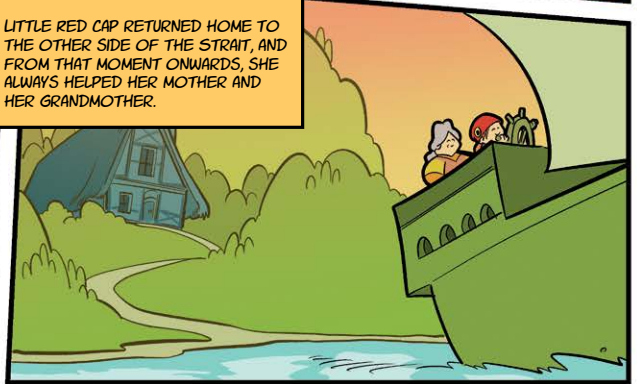
YOU'LL SEE, WE'LL HAVE FU..

UH?





LITTLE RED CAP RETURNED HOME TO THE OTHER SIDE OF THE STRAIT, AND FROM THAT MOMENT ONWARDS, SHE ALWAYS HELPED HER MOTHER AND HER GRANDMOTHER.

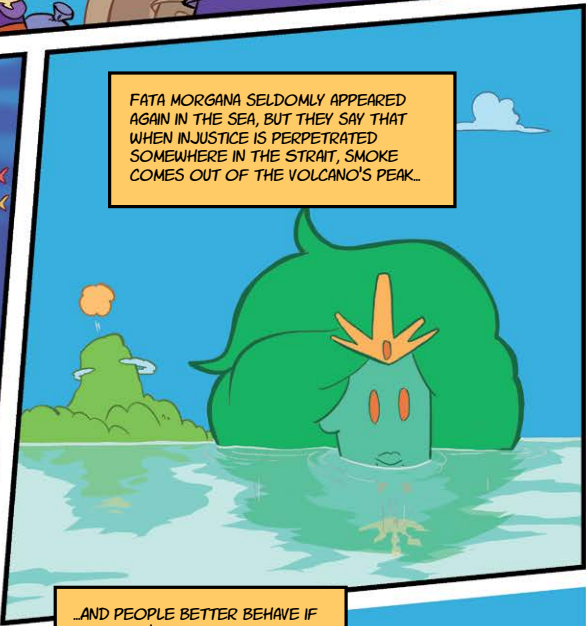




SHE ALWAYS BROUGHT ENOUGH FISH HOME FOR BOTH OF THEM AND BECAME THE WISEST WOMAN IN THE TWO VILLAGES.



THE SEA BANDIT WAS TRAPPED FOREVER IN A STONY SHELL OF LAVA AND NEVER DID ANY HARM AGAIN TO YOUNG GIRLS.



FATA MORGANA SELDOMLY APPEARED AGAIN IN THE SEA, BUT THEY SAY THAT WHEN INJUSTICE IS PERPETRATED SOMEWHERE IN THE STRAIT, SMOKE COMES OUT OF THE VOLCANO'S PEAK.

...AND PEOPLE BETTER BEHAVE IF THEY DON'T WANT THEIR FATE TO BE BLEAK!



THAT'S HOW THE STORY IS USUALLY TOLD, TO ENCOURAGE THE POOR AND THE BOLD.



The End