

# WATER WORLDS





# WATER WORLDS

**Welcome to Water Worlds!** In its murky depths you will find all manner of treasures that take the sea and waterways as their inspiration. These include a story by the winner of the **2019 Dundee Comics Prize**, Tori Hage, as well as the runners-up, Olivia Hicks, David Robertson, C. McClue, Mark Cruncher, Hannah McGann, Jenna Roberts, and Harper McBride. Hannah, Jenna and Harper are pupils at St Paul's R.C. Academy in Dundee, and have been supported in their work by their Art and Design teacher, Miss Amy Barber. Other stories include *Dark Morbidities* by myself and artist Garry Mac. This sees Cthulhu leaving Mars in the wake of a Martian-made climate crisis only to find Earth isn't much better! Here you will also find the somewhat fishy *Tales of the Tay Atlanteans* by artist Mark Brown. It seems that life beneath the cold grasp of the Tay River is not that much different from the surface.

We are honoured to have brilliant stories by Metaphrog (John Chalmers and Sandra Marrs), who provide a parable for the climate crisis, and Vicky Stonebridge, who considers the possibilities of renewable energy. *Beneath the Law*, by the hugely talented Julie Campbell, shows the unlikely friendship between a Jackdaw and a Ghost whale, set against the backdrop of the River Forth and Berwick Law. We also have a short strip by DCCS Co-ordinator Damon Herd that ponders capitalism and social issues in a seaside town.

This comic has been produced by Dundee Comics Creative Space (DCCS) in partnership with the Being Human Festival. Particular thanks are due to Daniel 'Captain' Cook, the leader of Being Human's Scottish Hub, and Damon Herd, who steers the great ship DCCS. None of this would not be possible without the support of The Being Human Festival, the Rank Foundation, and the University of Dundee.

A hearty thanks to everyone. We hope you enjoy *Water Worlds*!

Professor Christopher Murray  
Director, Scottish Centre for Comics Studies  
University of Dundee

***Tales of the Tay Atlanteans*** Pages 3, 8 & 13  
Script: Chris Murray  
Art: Mark Brown

***Dark Morbidities*** Page 4  
Script: Chris Murray  
Art: Garry Mac

***Untitled*** Page 9  
Story and art: Metaphrog

***Renewable*** Page 14  
Story and art: Vicky Stonebridge

***Beneath The Law*** Page 16  
Story and art: Julie Campbell

***From The Sea*** Page 38  
Story and art: Tori Hage

***Underwater Rodeo*** Page 41  
Story and art: Olivia Hicks

***Water Load of Rubbish*** Page 44  
Story and art: David Robertson

***Going Under*** Page 47  
Story and art: Mark Cruncher

***Knee High*** Page 51  
Story and art: C. McClue

***Terry the Turtle*** Page 54  
Story and art:  
Hannah McGann and Jenna Roberts

***Marine*** Page 57  
Story and art: Harper McBride

***Let's Have Some Fun*** Page 60  
Story and art: Damon Herd

***Contributor bios*** Page 62

Cover by Julie Campbell

Book Production by Damon Herd. Edited by Damon Herd, Chris Murray, Golnar Nabizadeh and Phillip Vaughan.

UNI\*VERSE



University  
of Dundee



WATER WORLDS, November 2019, published by UniVerse, The University of Dundee, Nethergate, Dundee, Scotland, UK, DD1 4HT, with production by INK POT Studio. Published in collaboration with the Being Human Festival. All Rights Reserved. No similarity between any of the names, characters, person, and/or institutions is intended and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental or intended as parody.

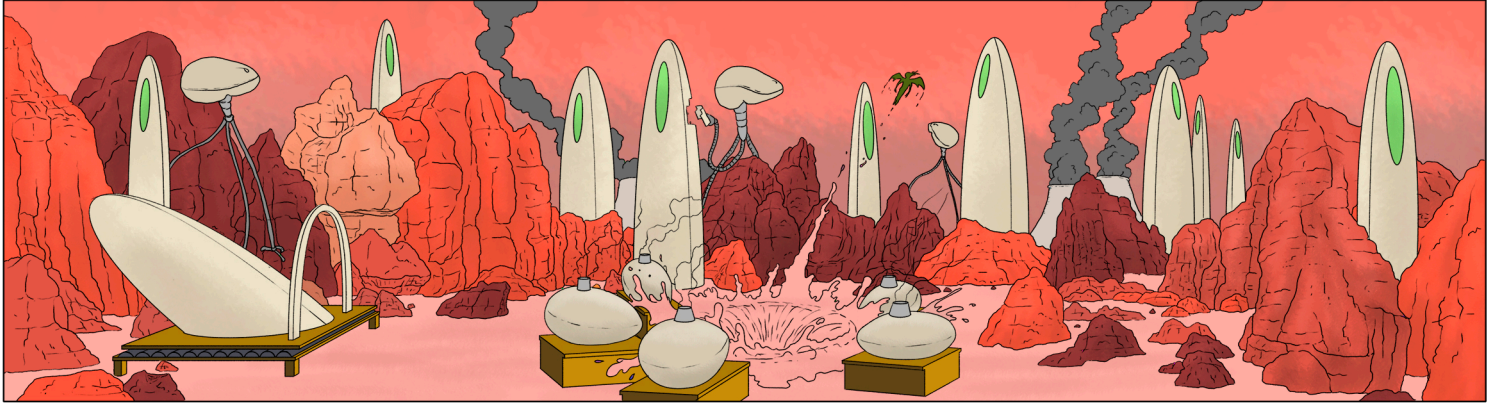
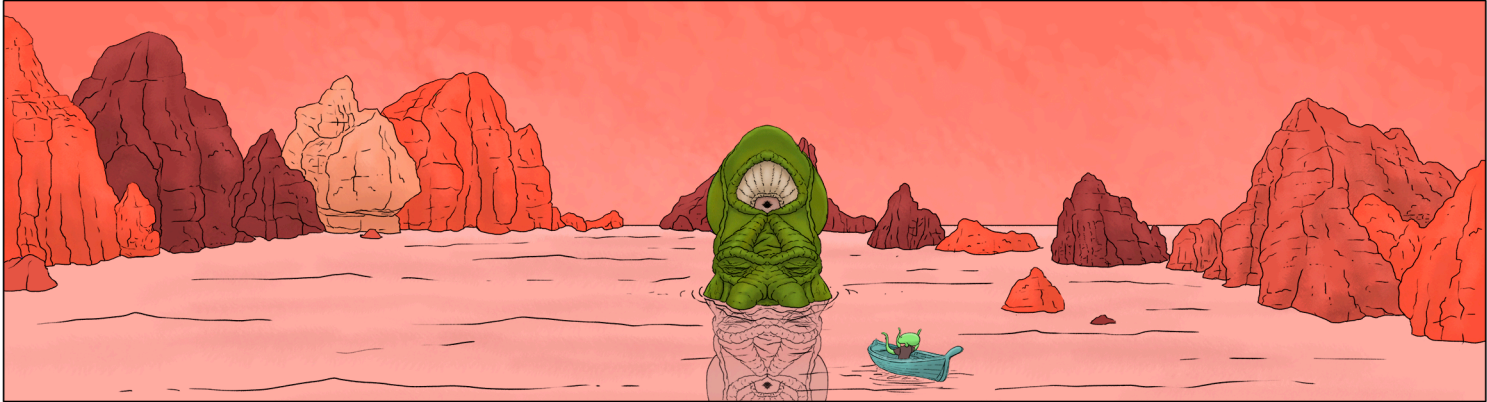
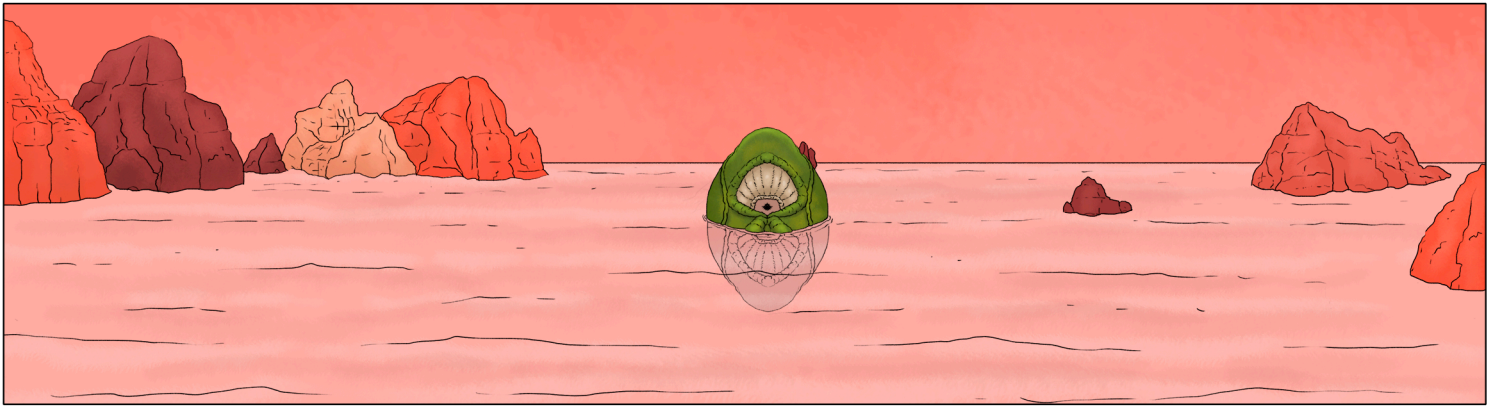
INK POT and Dundee Comics Creative Space are co-funded by The University of Dundee and The Rank Foundation.



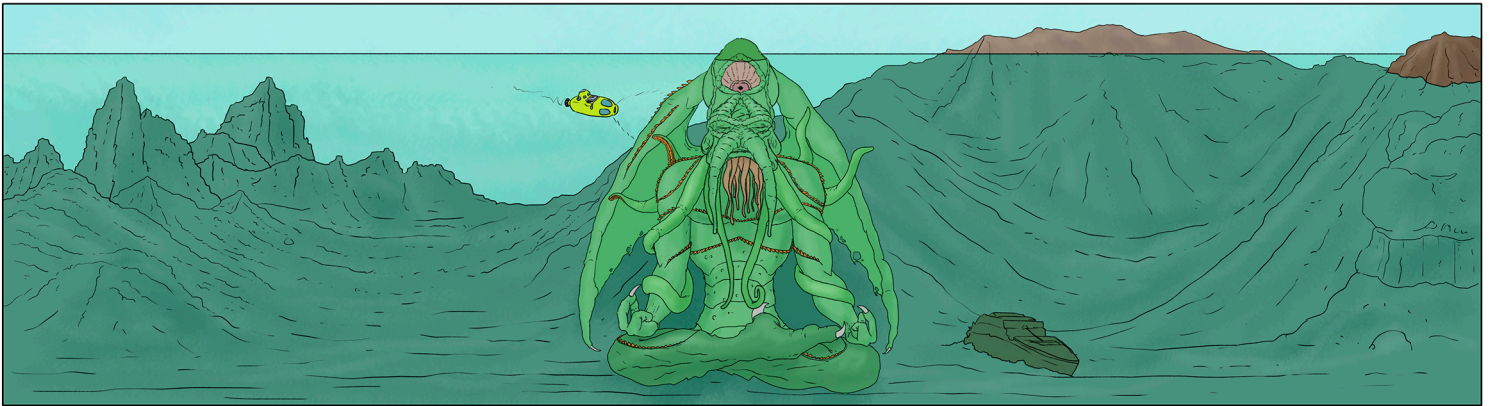
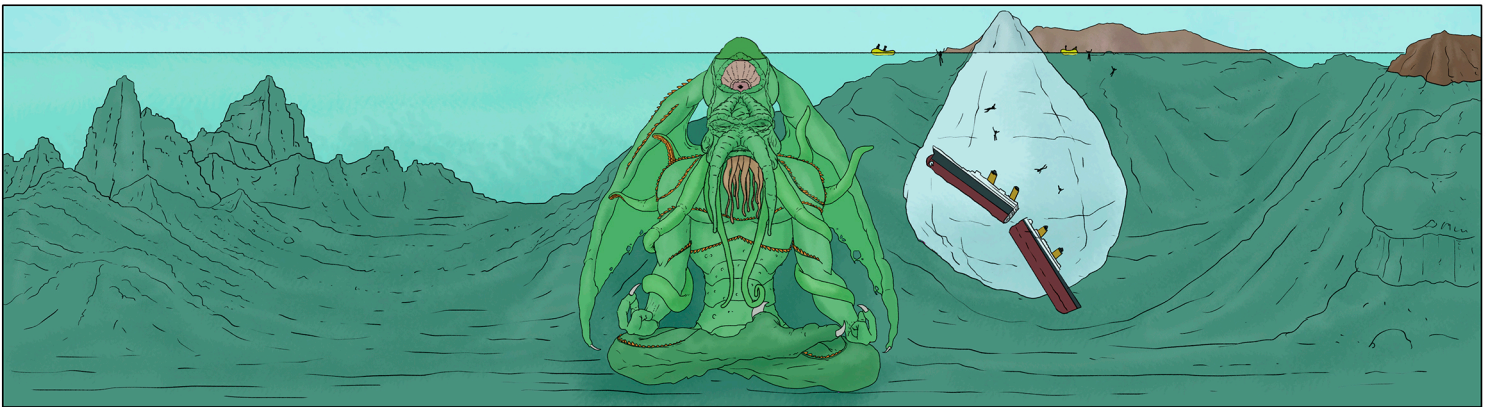
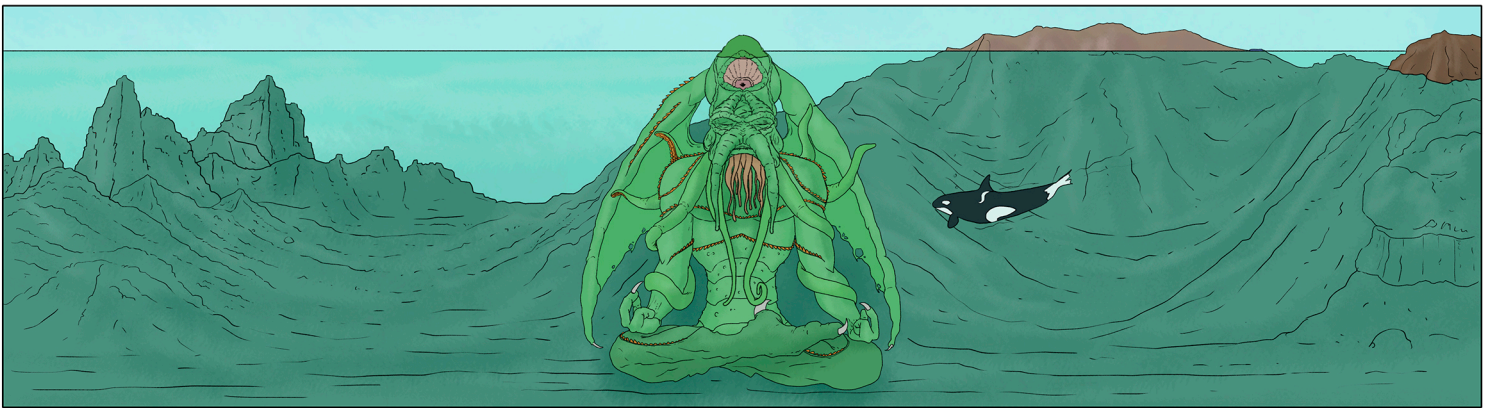
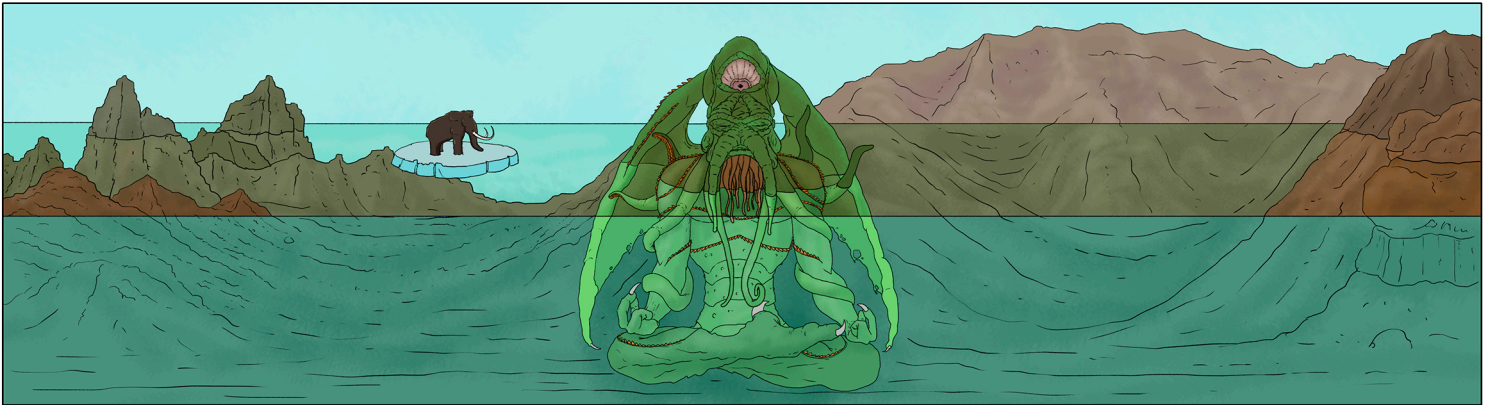
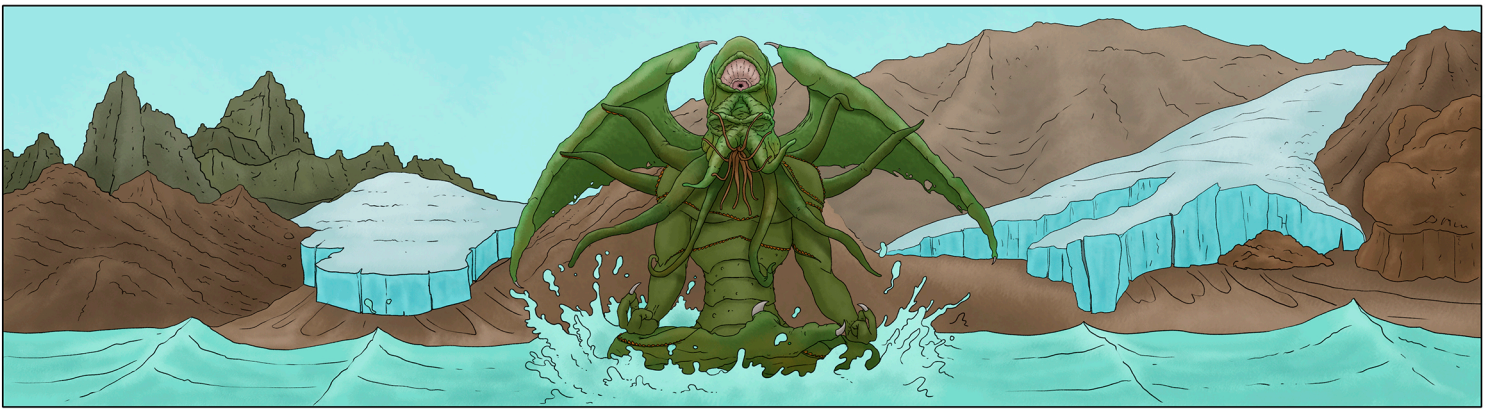
# TALES OF THE TAY ATLANTEANS







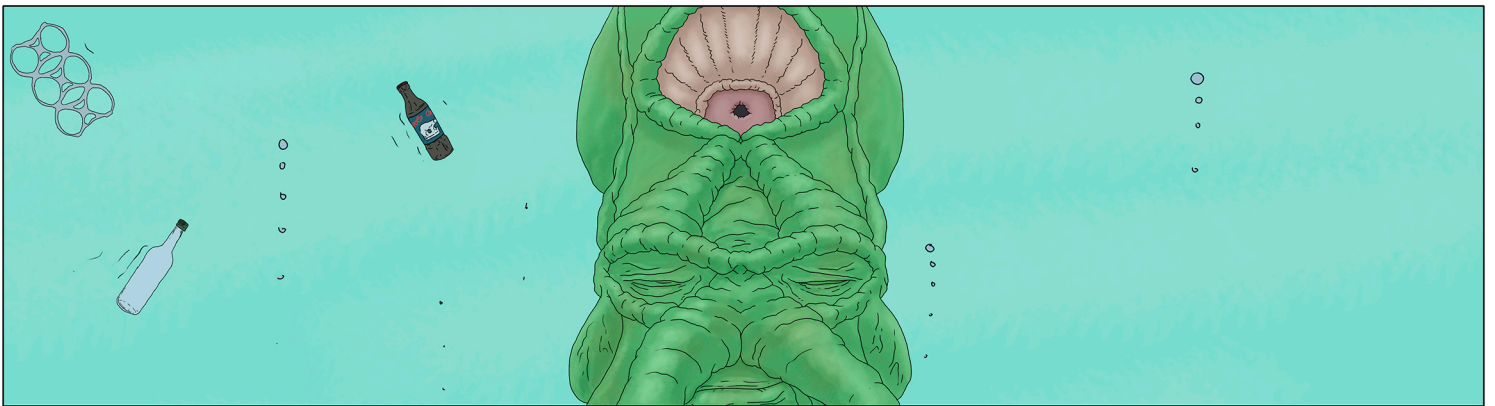
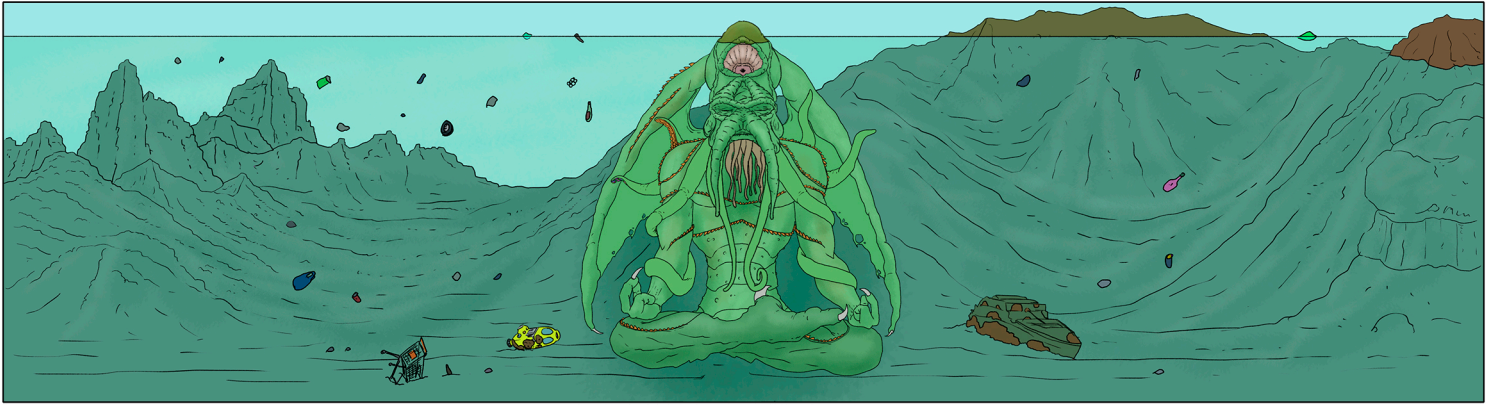
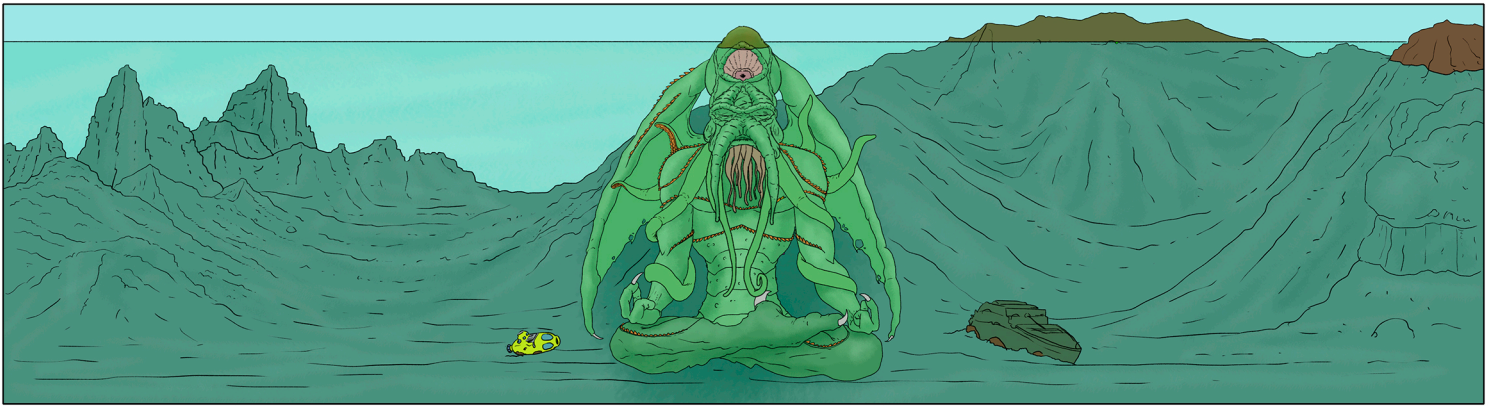










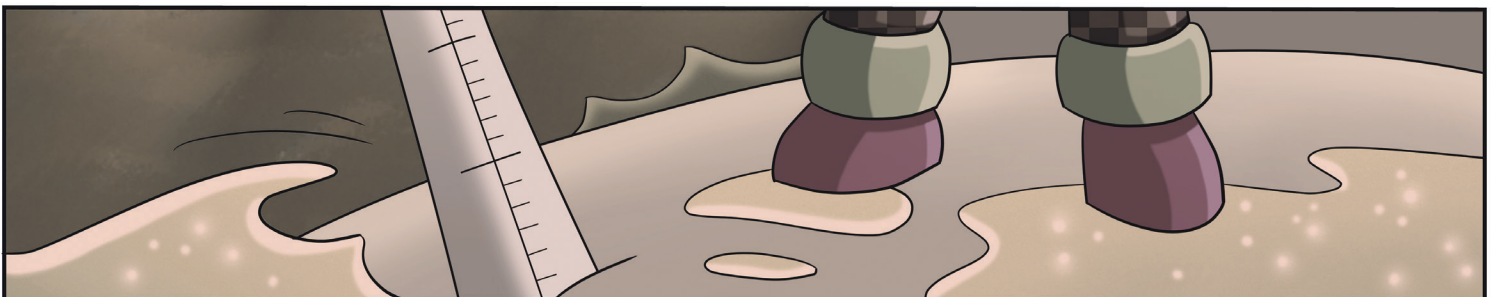
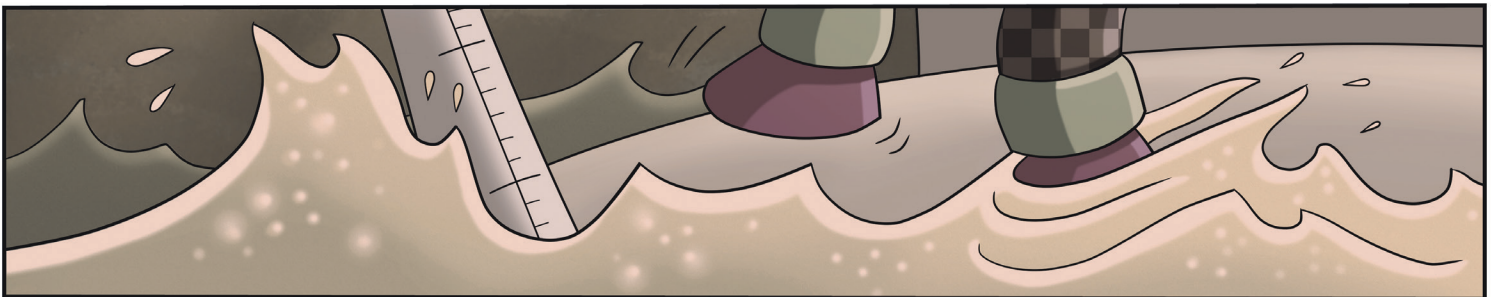
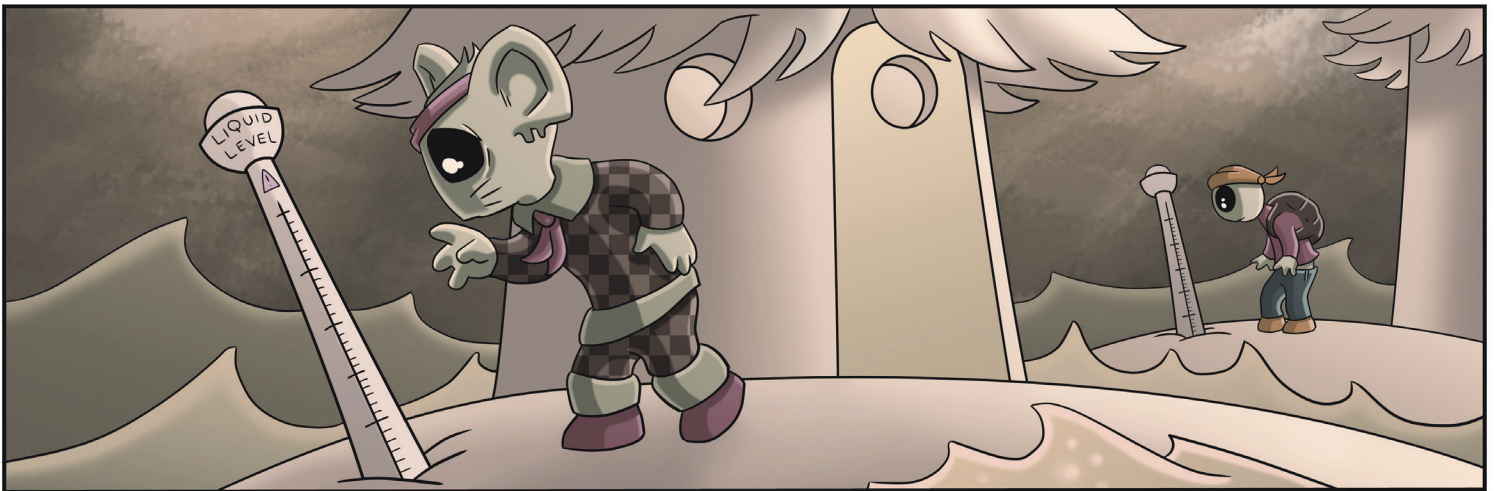
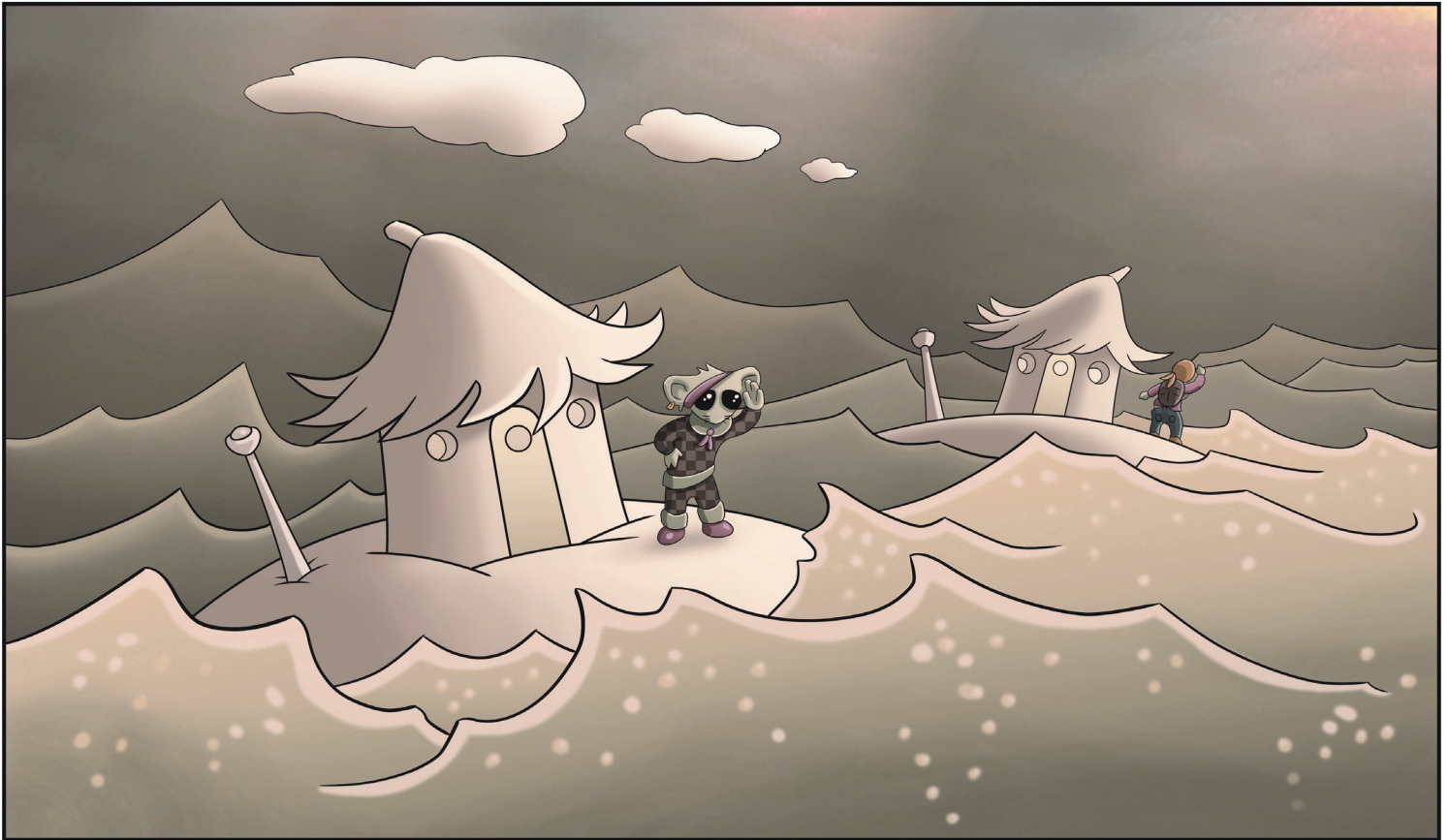




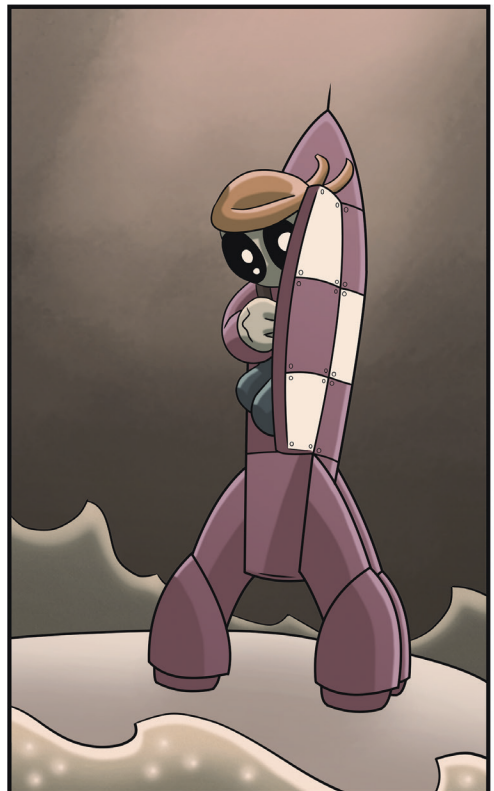
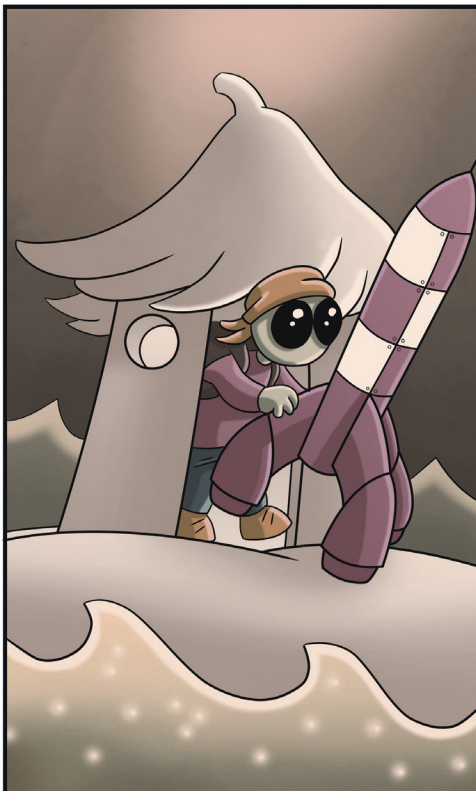
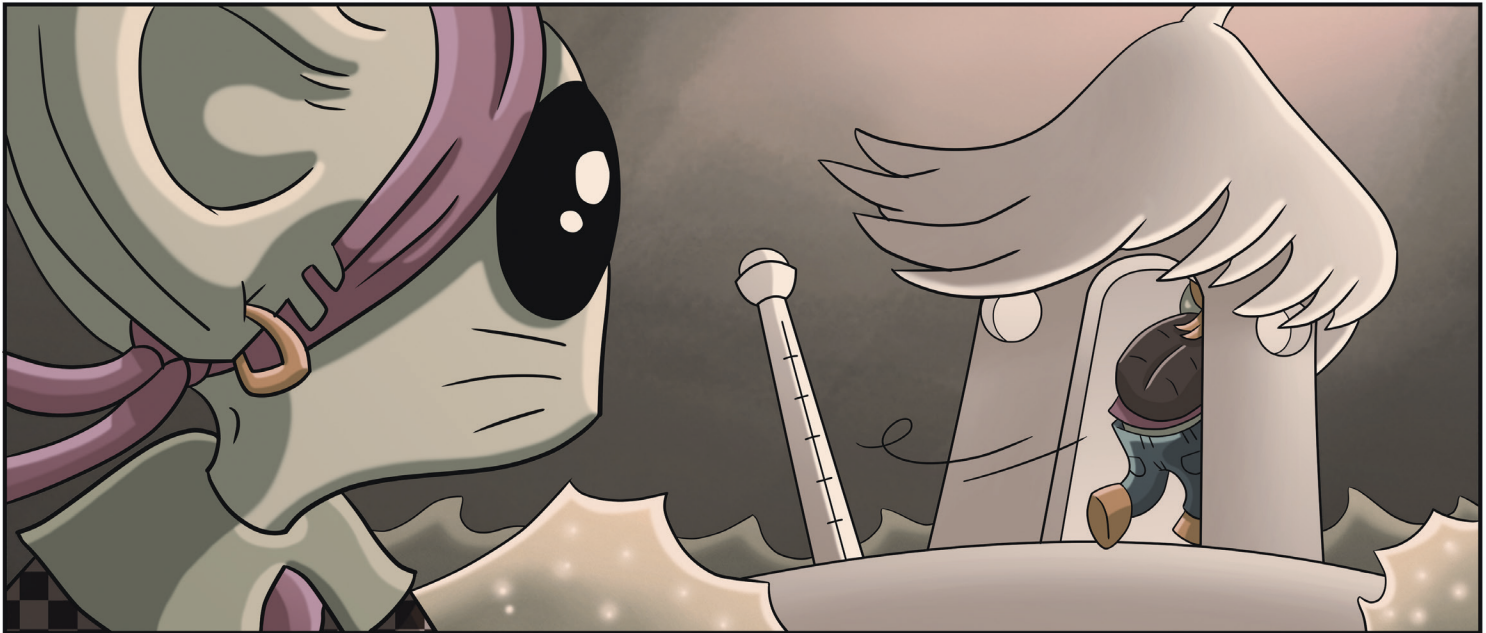
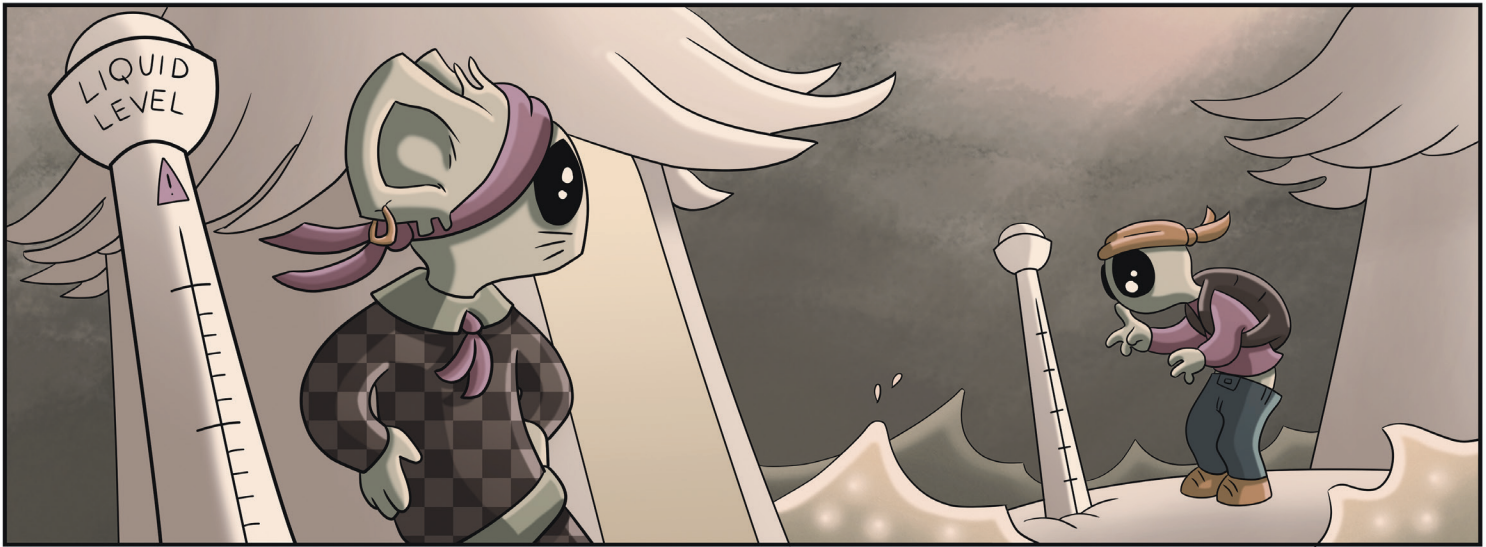
# TALES OF THE TAY ATLANTEANS







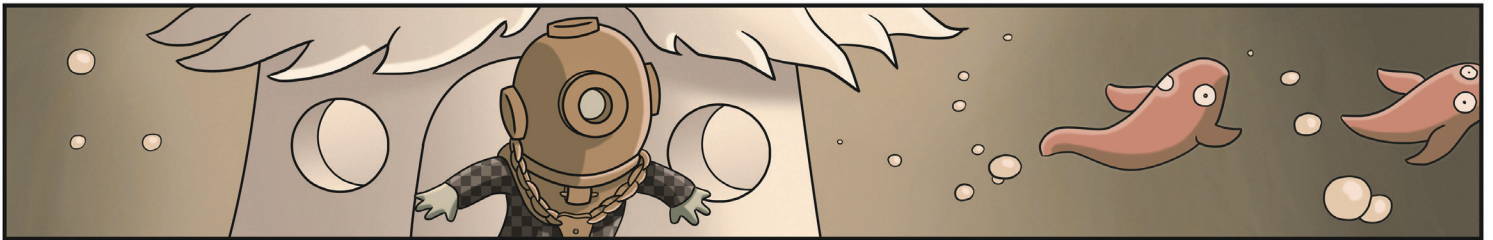
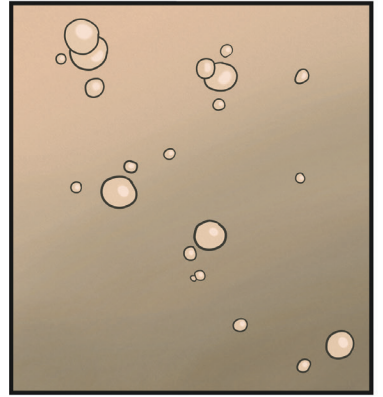
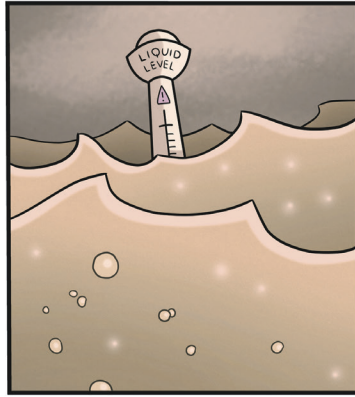
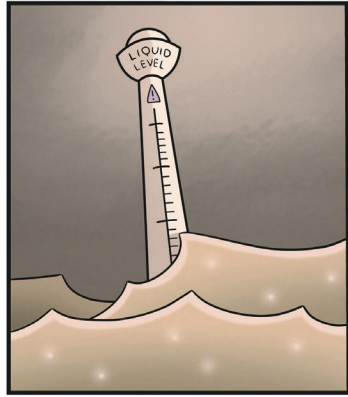
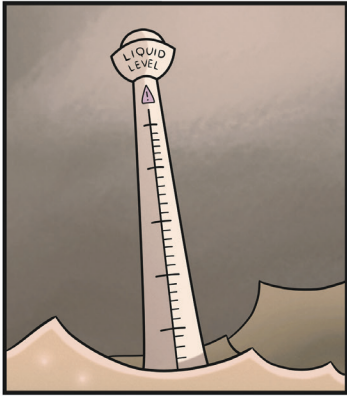














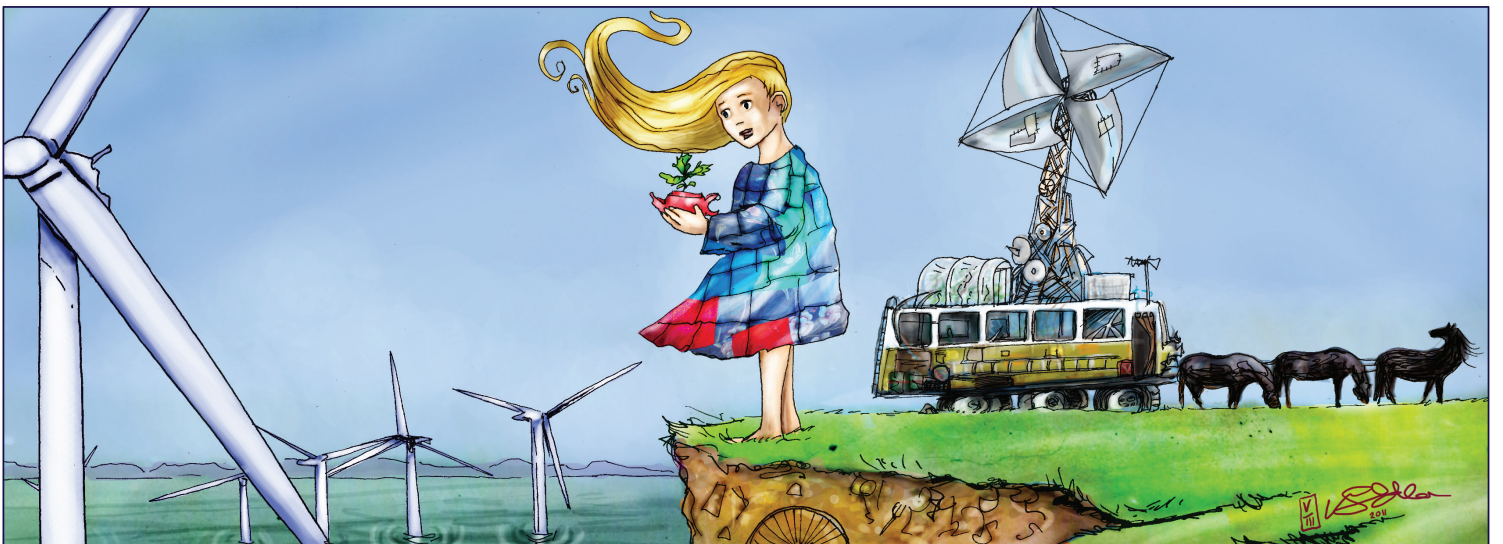
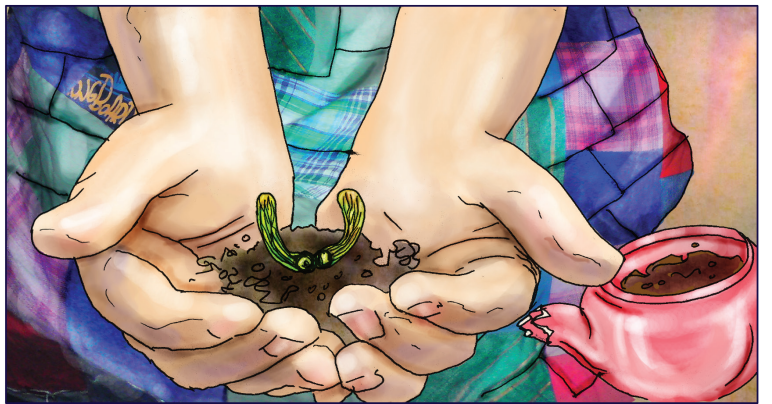
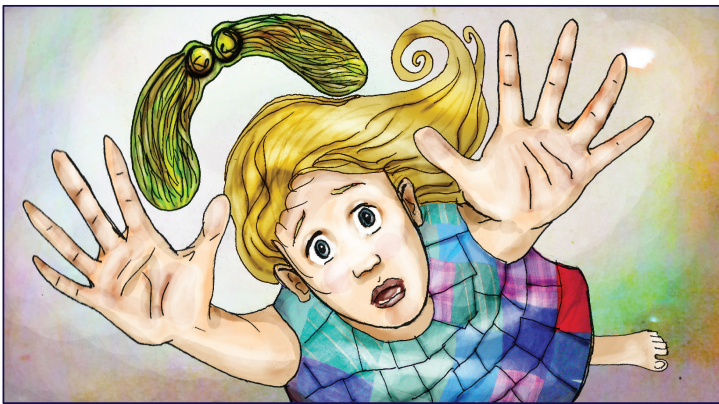
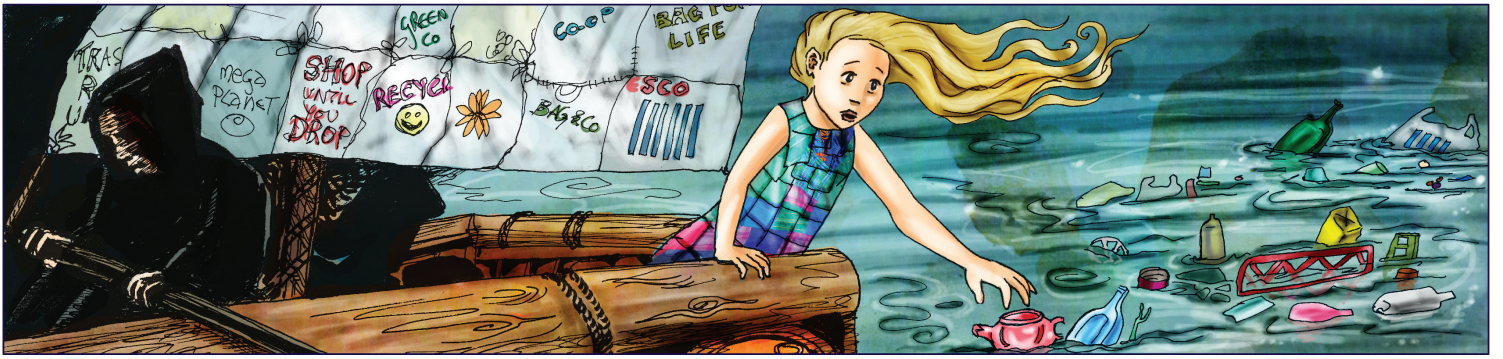
# TALES OF THE TAY ATLANTEANS



How do ye no speak  
to thon guy?

Harumph!  
He's fae the Fife side!









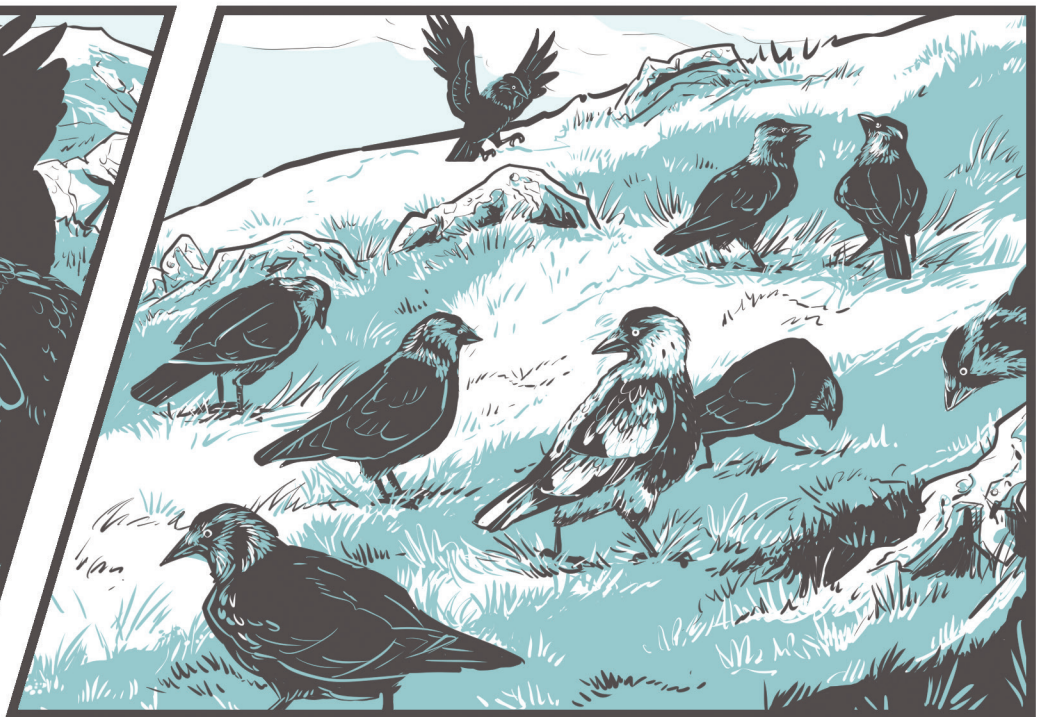
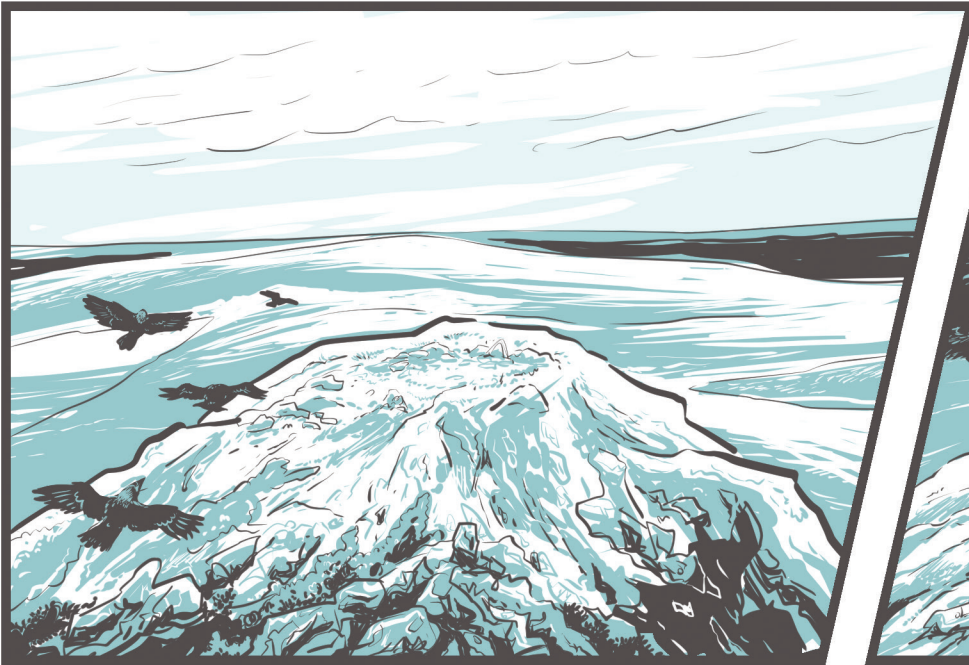
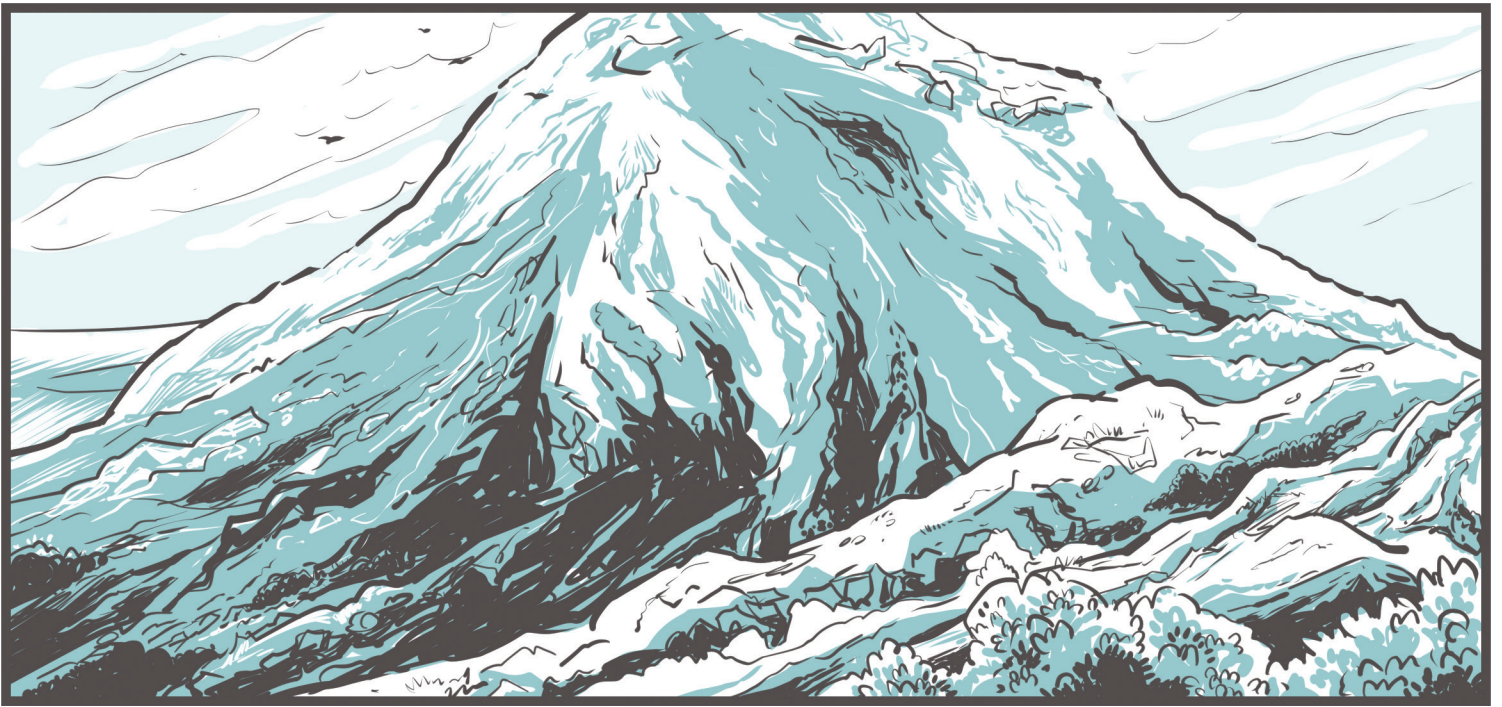


# BENEATH THE LAW

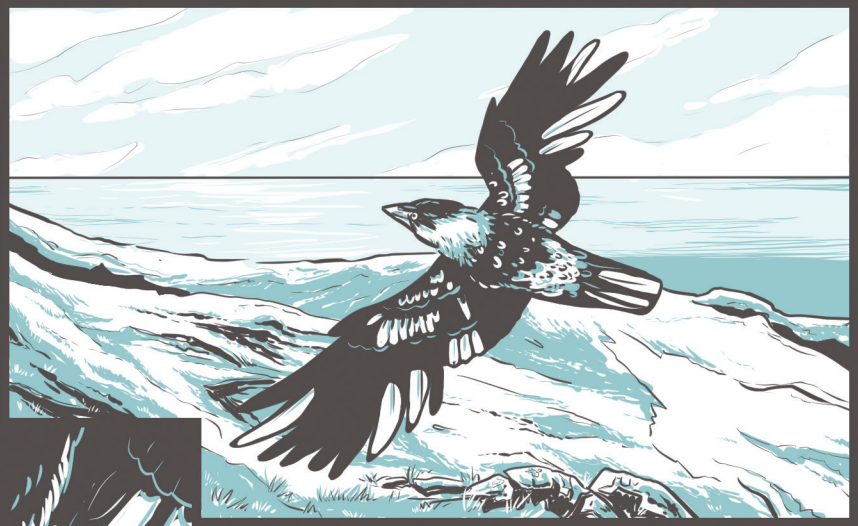
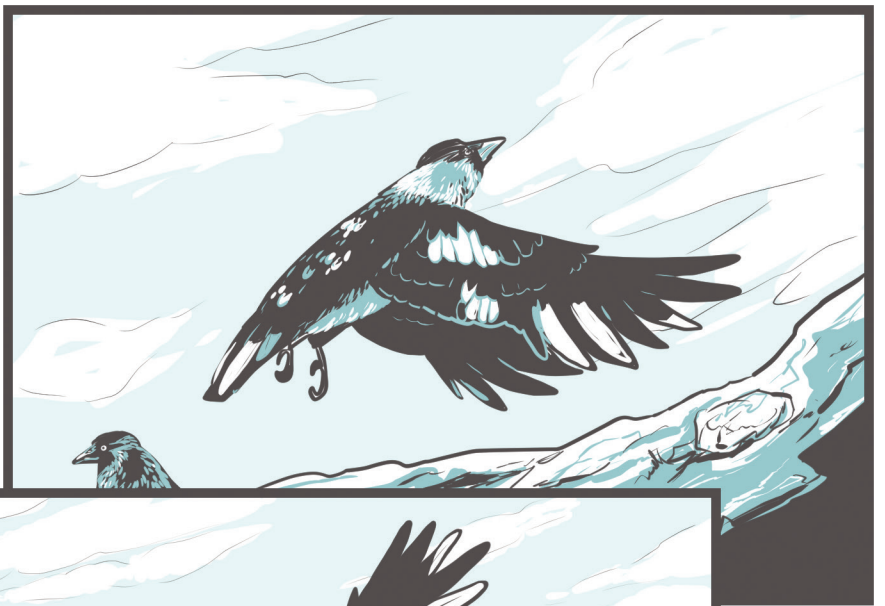
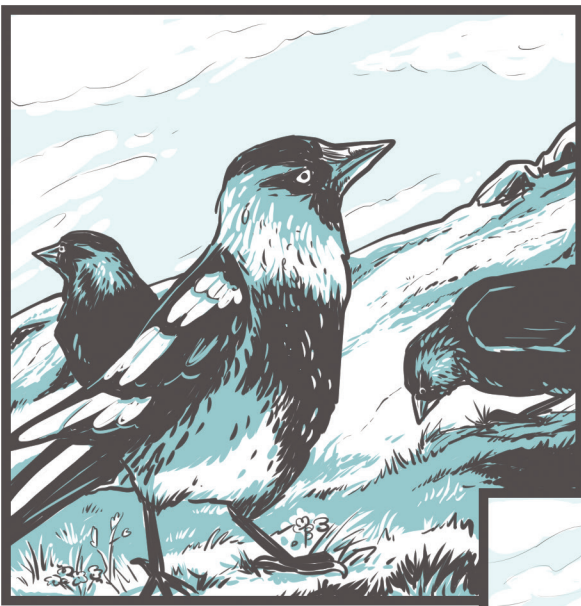
BY JULIE CAMPBELL



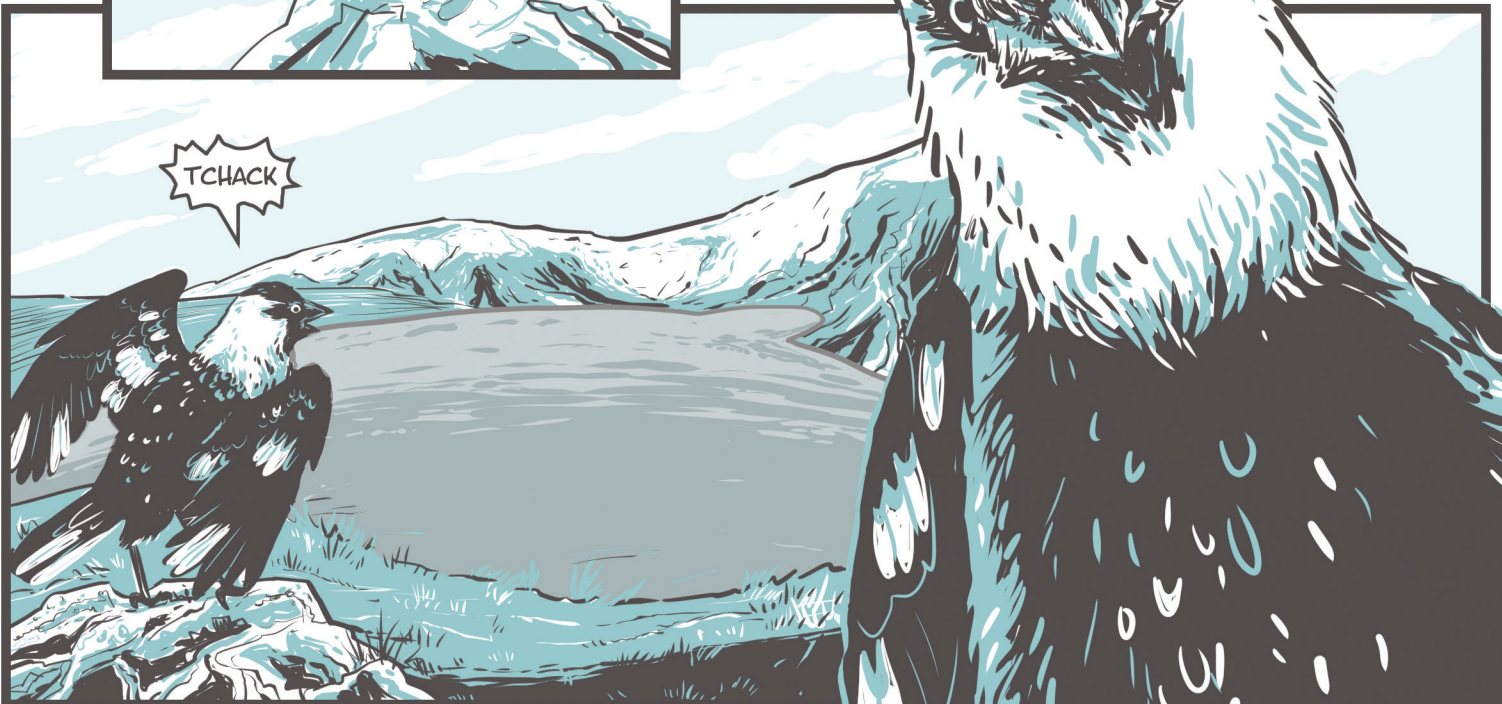






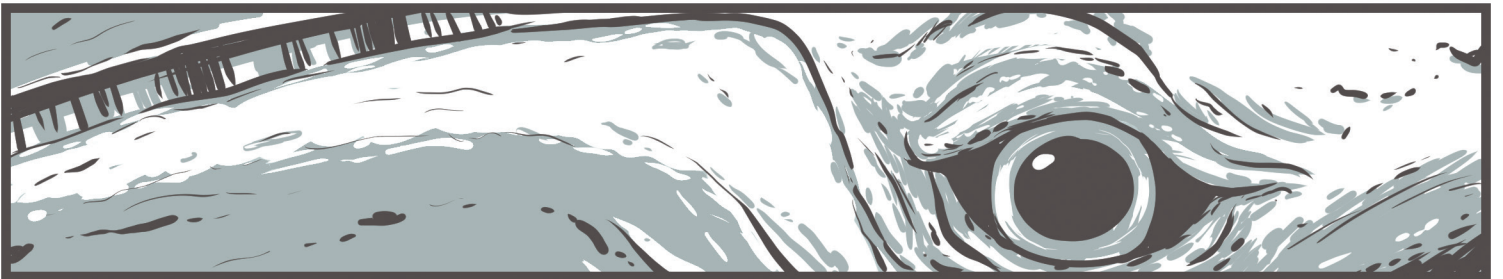
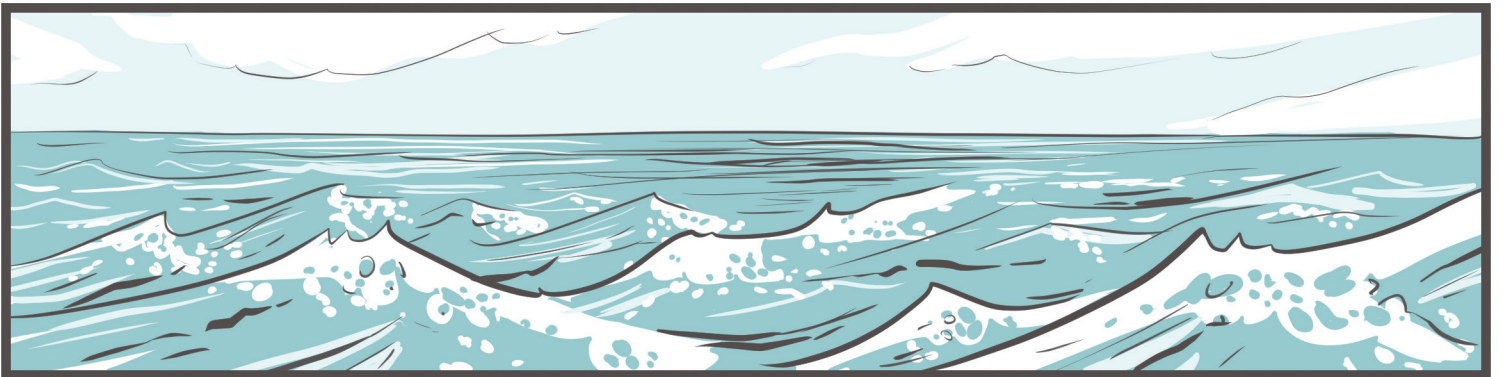
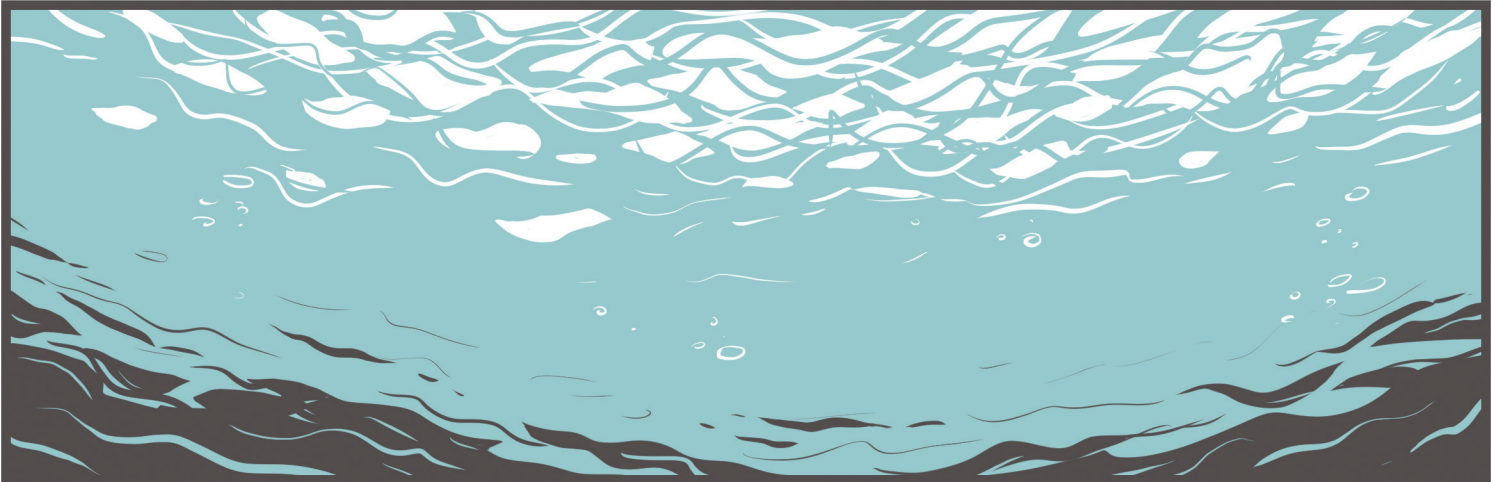
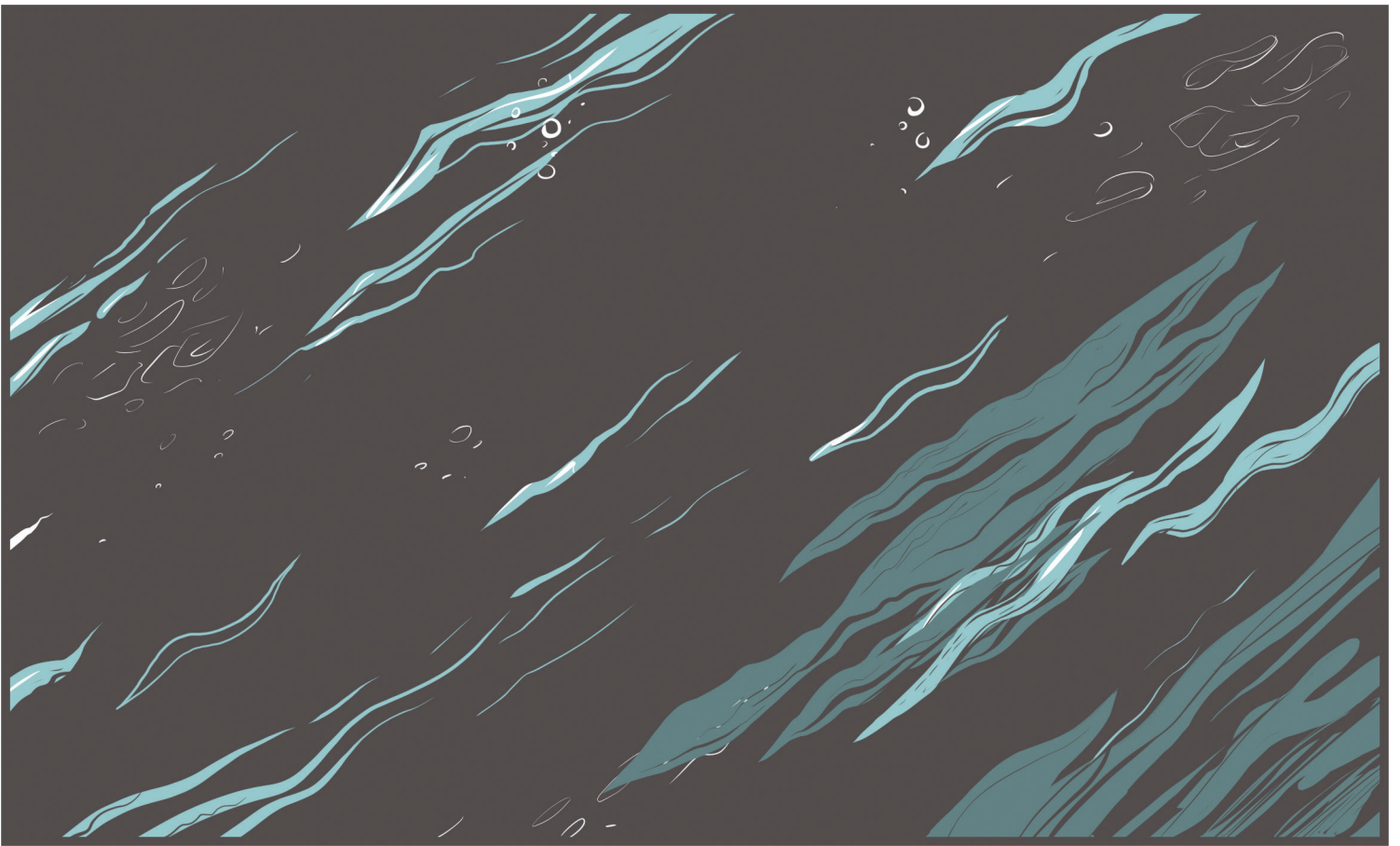


TCHACK?



TCHACK

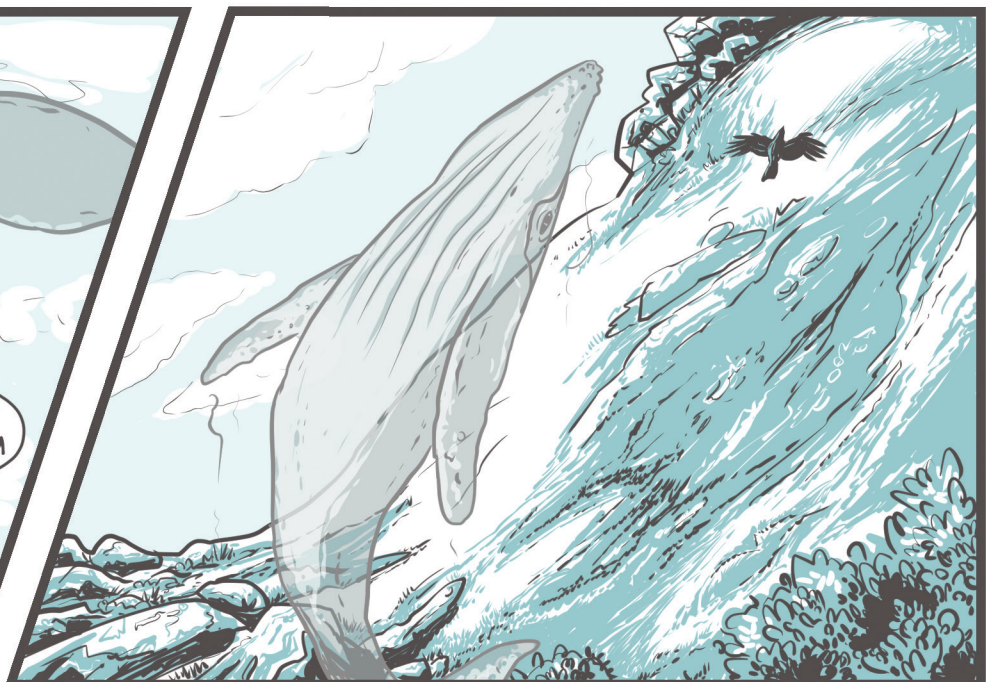
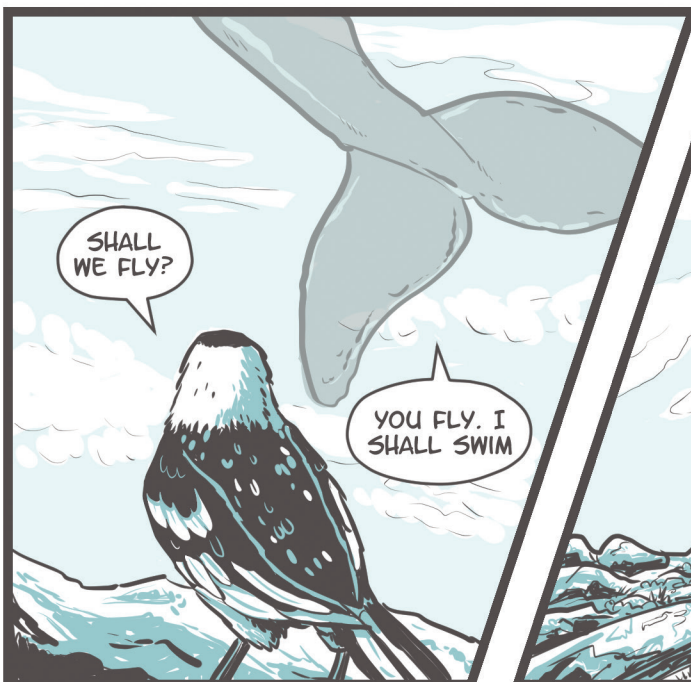
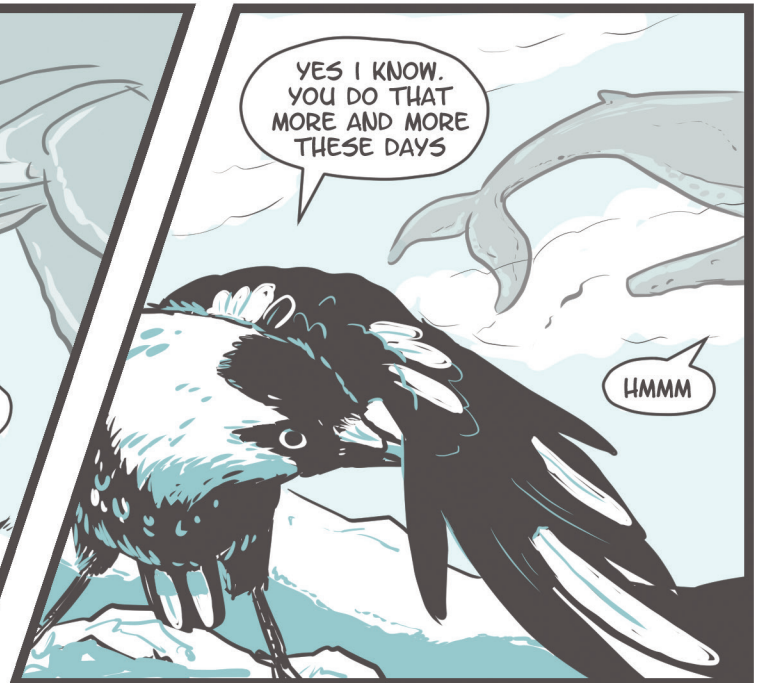
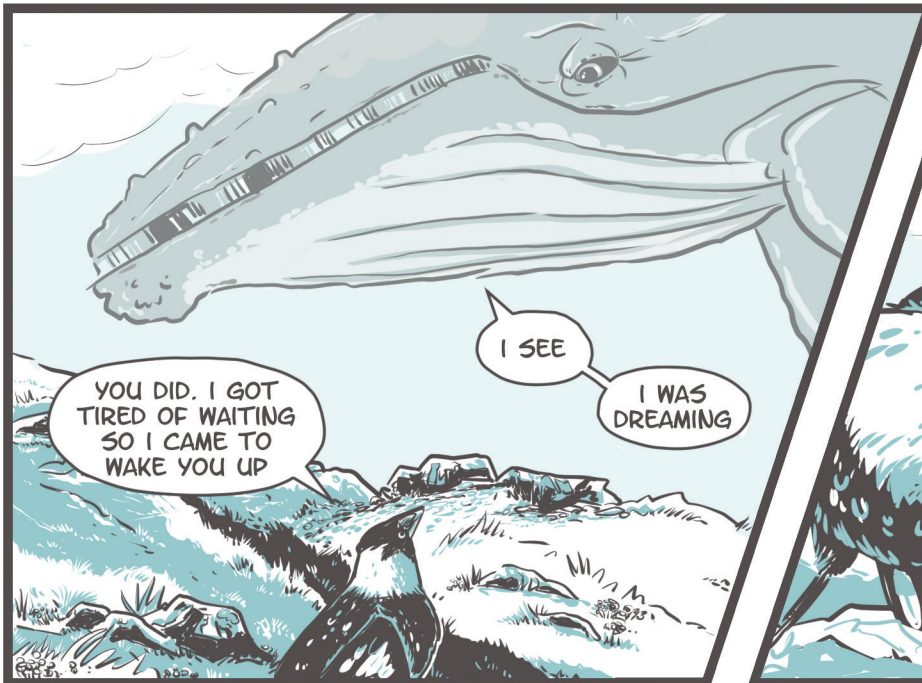
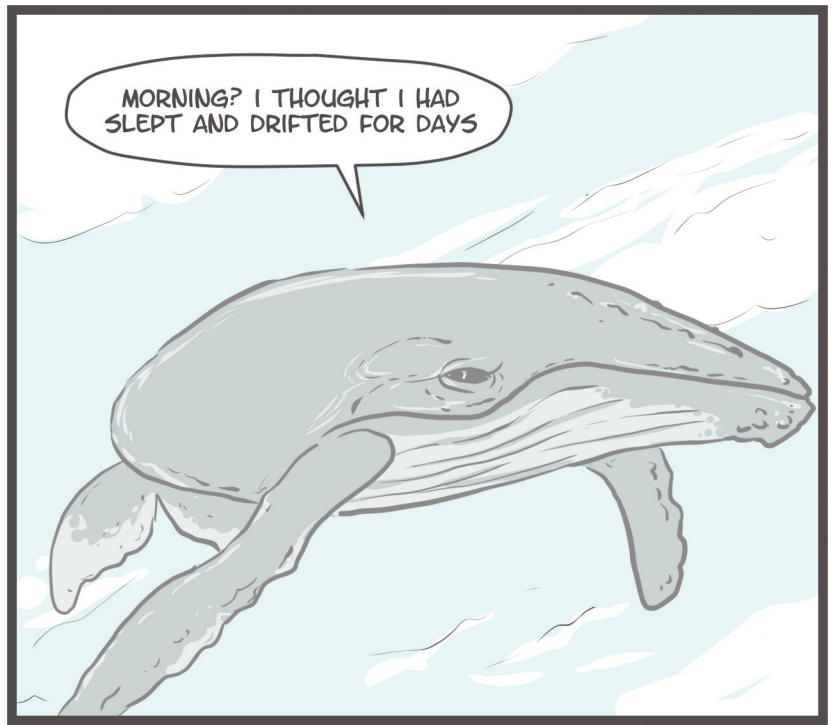
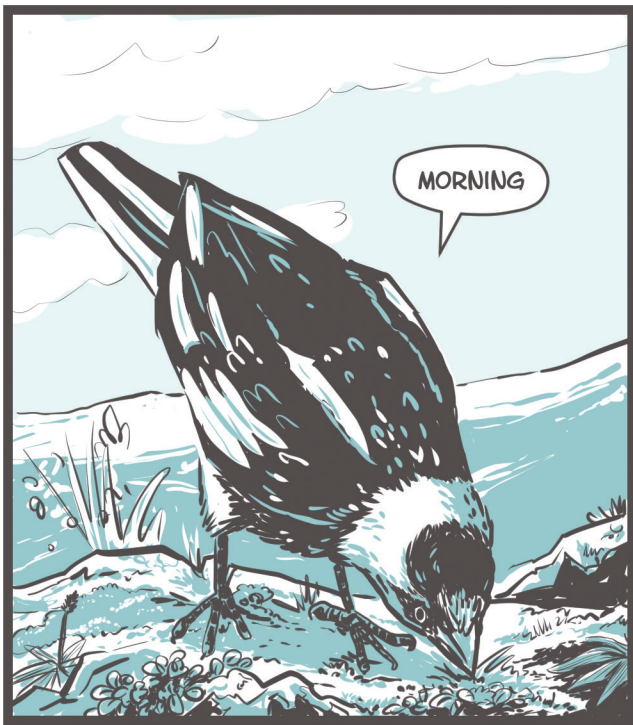




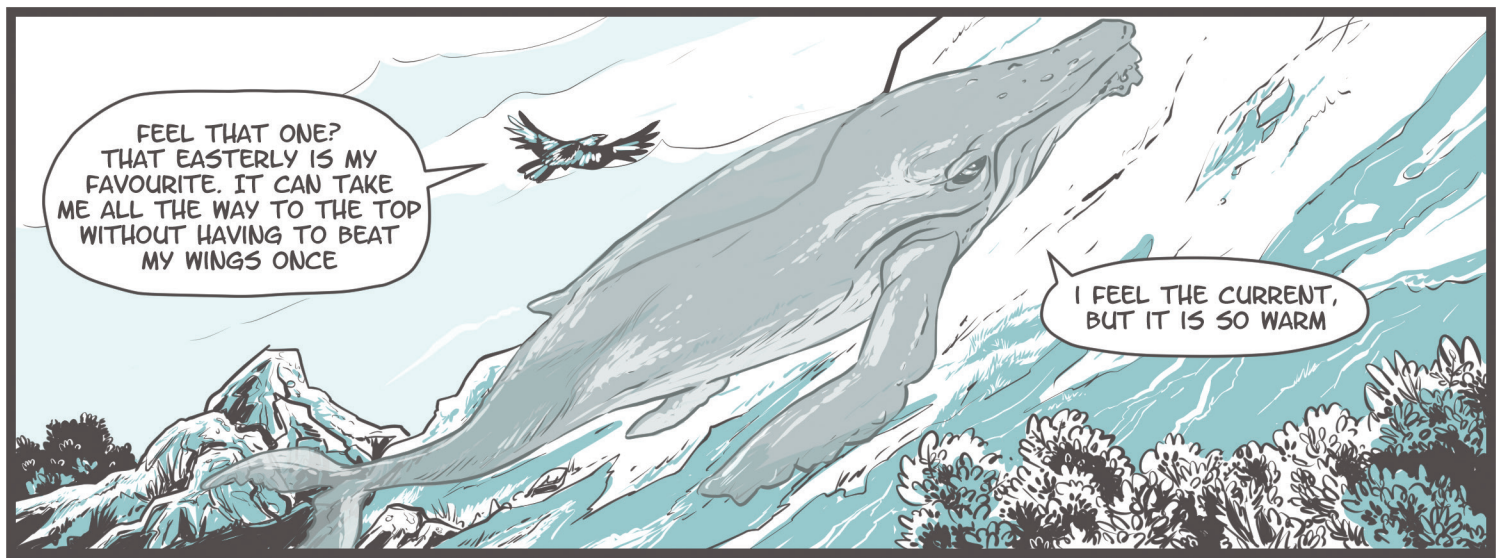










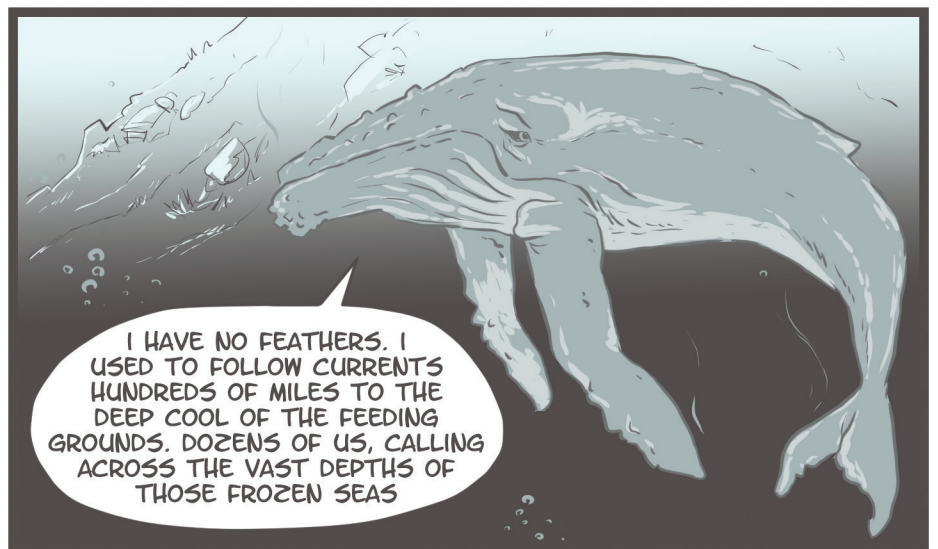


FEEL THAT ONE?  
THAT EASTERLY IS MY  
FAVOURITE. IT CAN TAKE  
ME ALL THE WAY TO THE TOP  
WITHOUT HAVING TO BEAT  
MY WINGS ONCE

I FEEL THE CURRENT,  
BUT IT IS SO WARM



YEAH. FEEL IT RUSH  
RIGHT TO THE TIPS OF  
YOUR FEATHERS



I HAVE NO FEATHERS. I  
USED TO FOLLOW CURRENTS  
HUNDREDS OF MILES TO THE  
DEEP COOL OF THE FEEDING  
GROUNDS. DOZENS OF US, CALLING  
ACROSS THE VAST DEPTHS OF  
THOSE FROZEN SEAS



OKAY...UH, LOOK AT THE OTHER JACKDAWS,  
SEE HOW THEY TILT INTO THAT UPDRAFT, AND  
IT JUST LIFTS THEM UP AND INTO THE WINDS  
OVER THE TOP. THAT FEELS FANTASTIC

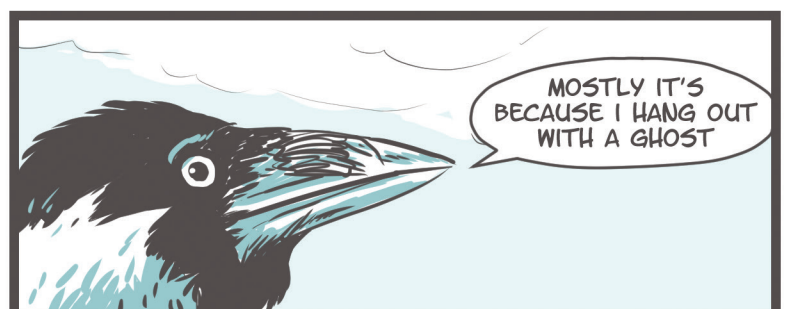
I SEE. WHY ARE  
YOU NOT WITH  
YOUR BROTHERS  
AND SISTERS?



AH THEY'RE A  
BORING LOT PRETTY  
MUCH. AND THEY THINK  
I'M A LITTLE ODD



BECAUSE OF  
YOUR COLOURS?



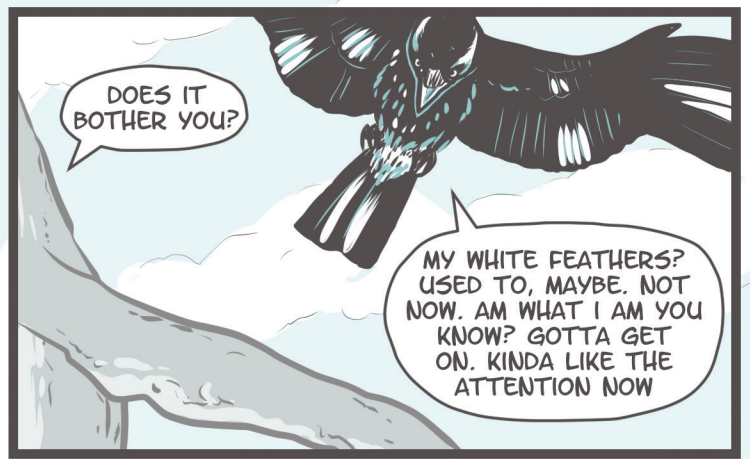
MOSTLY IT'S  
BECAUSE I HANG OUT  
WITH A GHOST





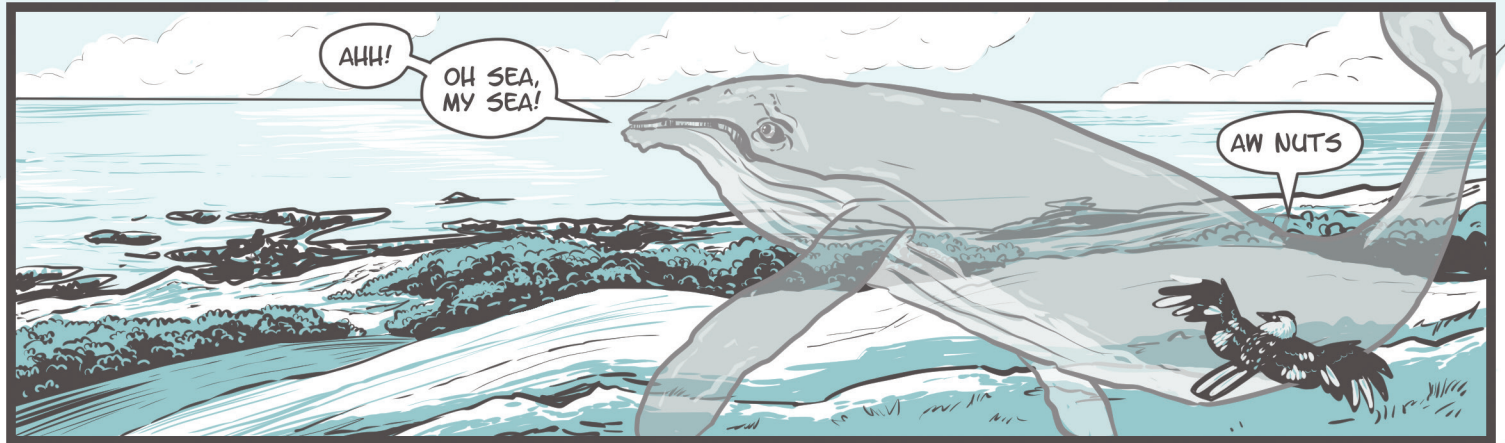
ARE THEY  
GOOD TO YOU?  
THE OTHERS?

SURE I GUESS. WHEN  
WE WERE YOUNGER THEY  
COULD BE MEAN, ABOUT  
MY COLOUR I MEAN



DOES IT  
BOTHER YOU?

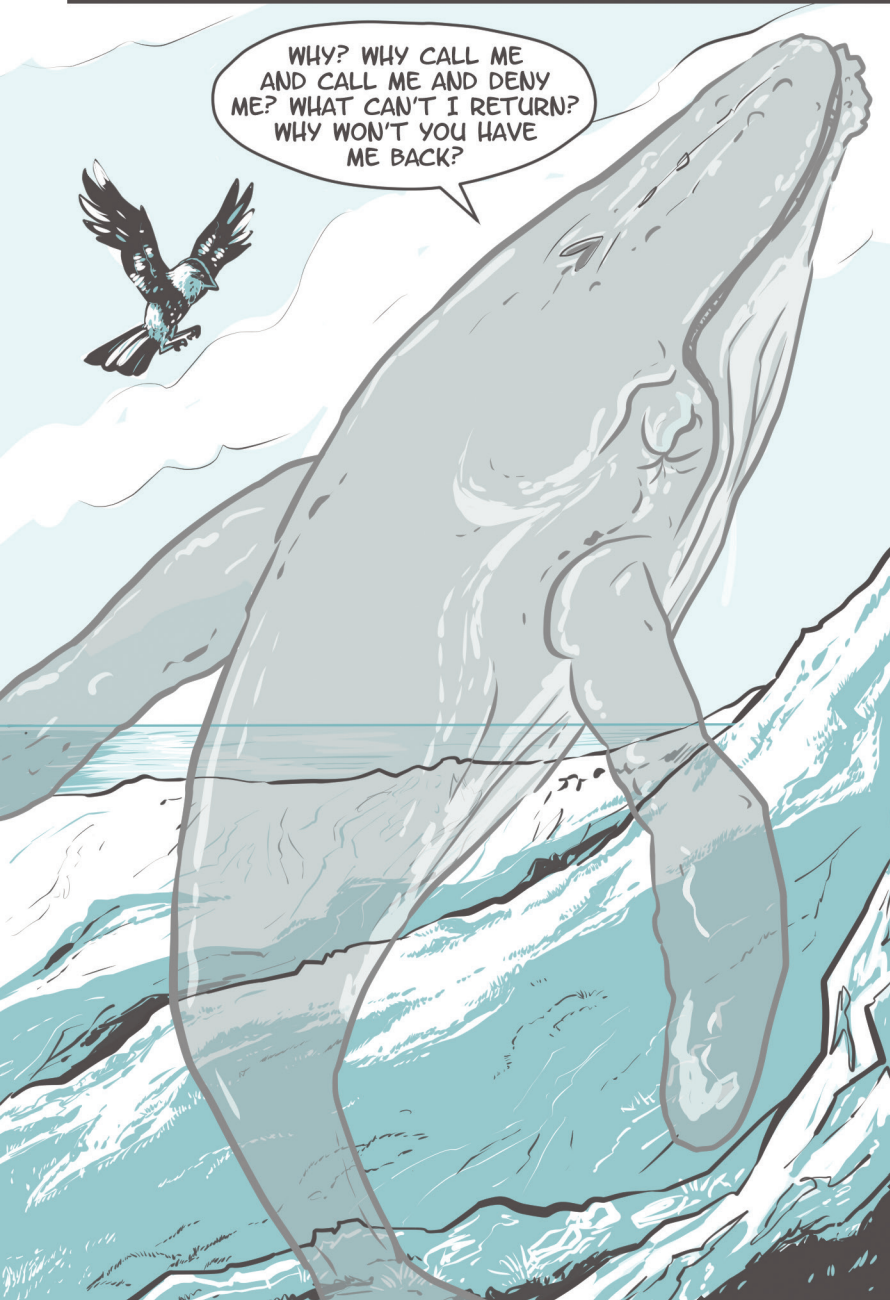
MY WHITE FEATHERS?  
USED TO, MAYBE. NOT  
NOW. AM WHAT I AM YOU  
KNOW? GOTTA GET  
ON. KINDA LIKE THE  
ATTENTION NOW



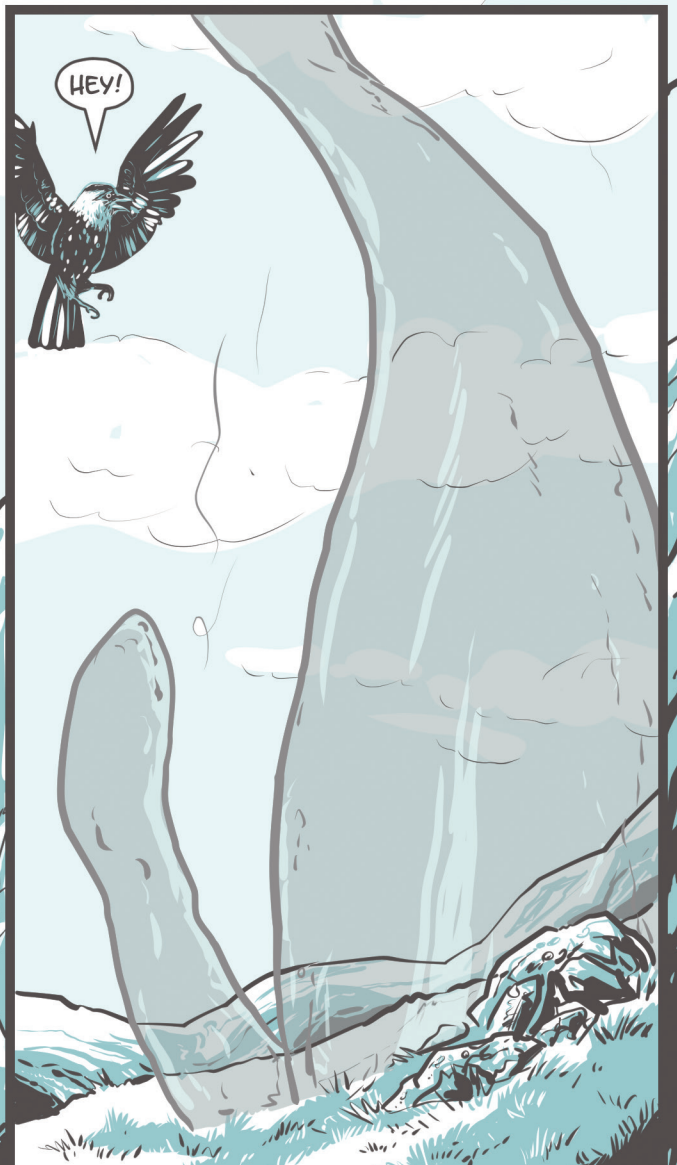
AHH!

OH SEA,  
MY SEA!

AW NUTS

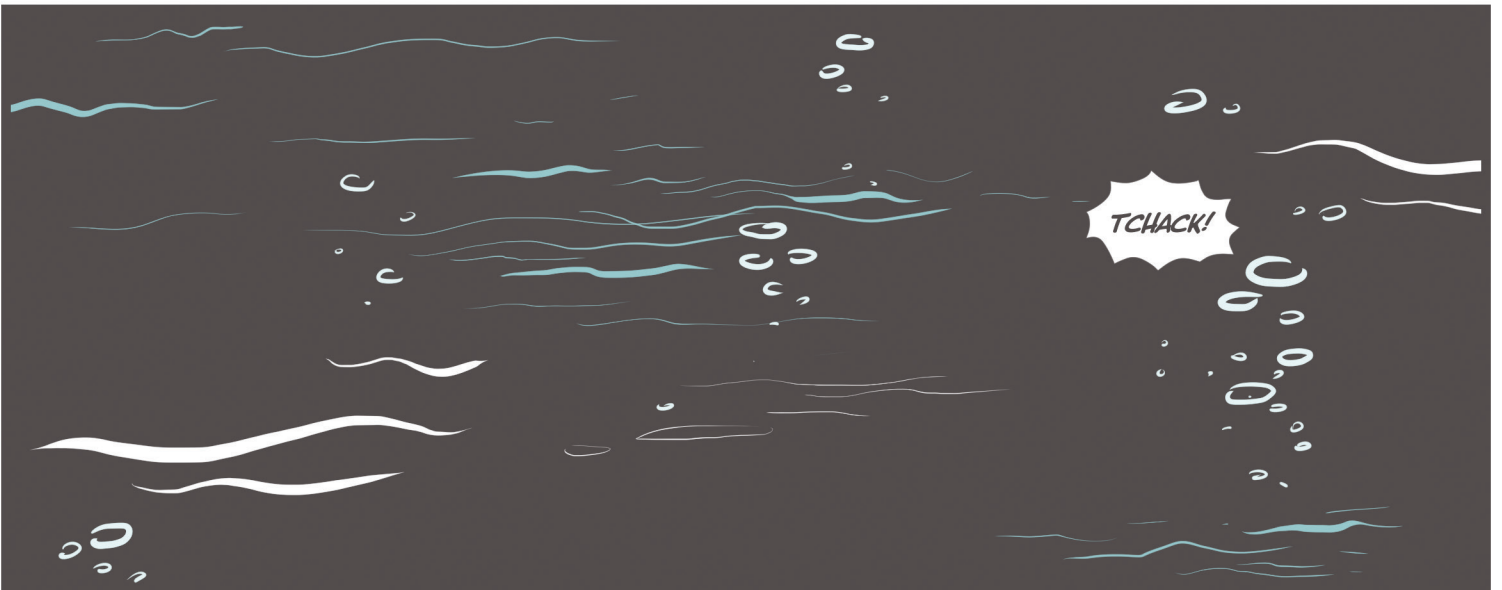
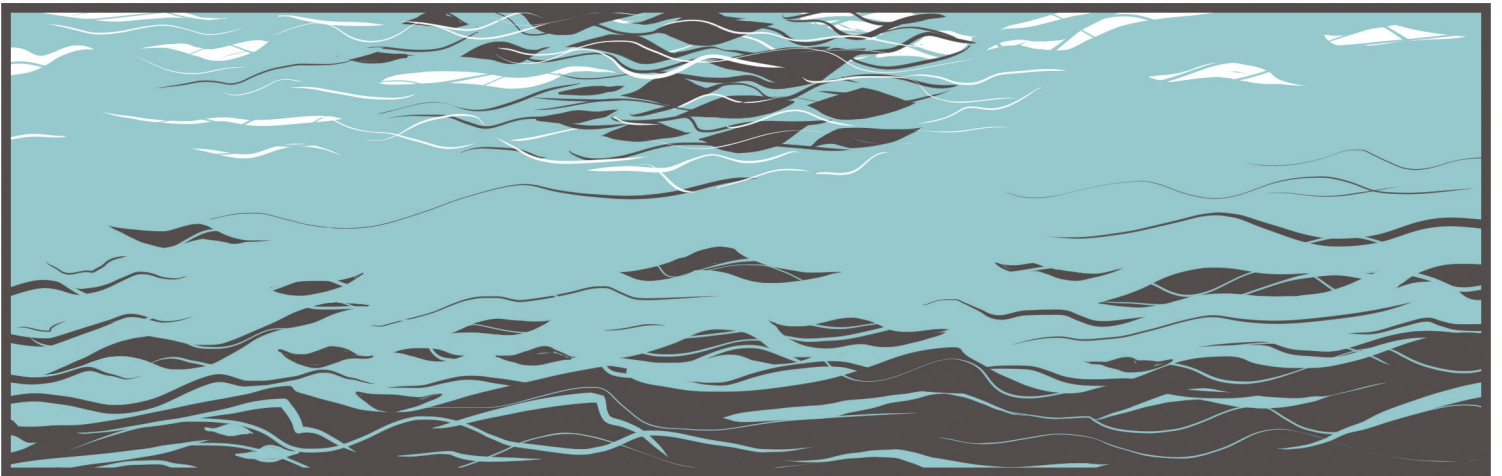
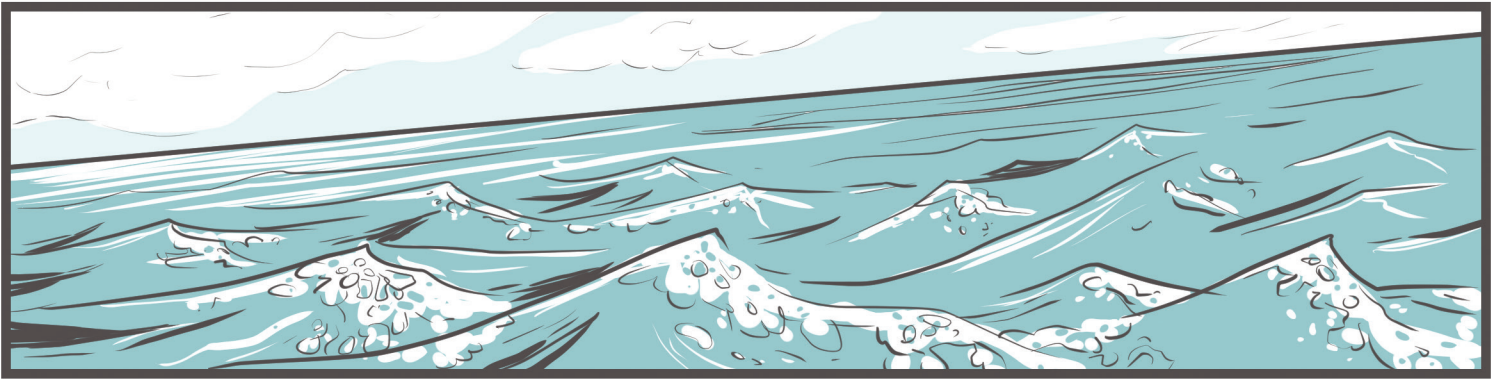
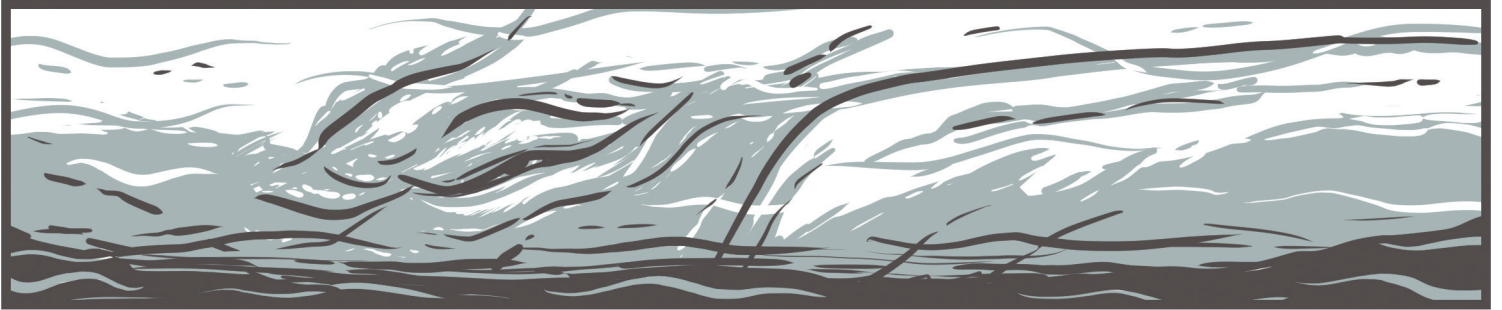
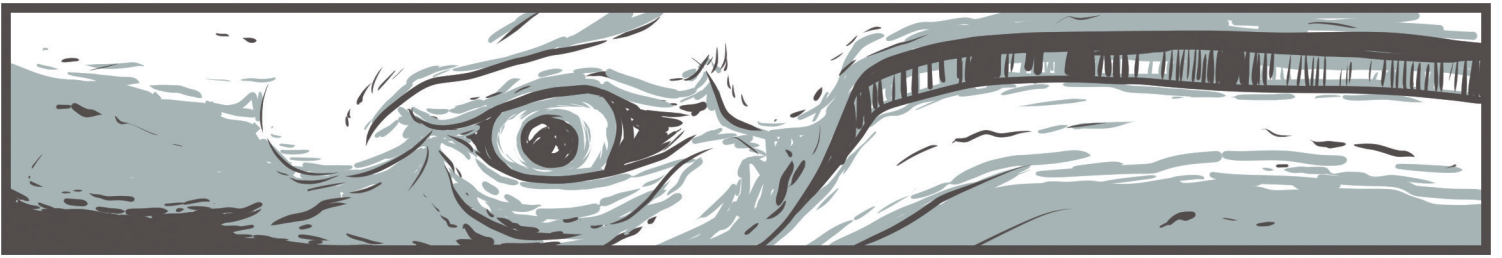


WHY? WHY CALL ME  
AND CALL ME AND DENY  
ME? WHAT CAN'T I RETURN?  
WHY WON'T YOU HAVE  
ME BACK?

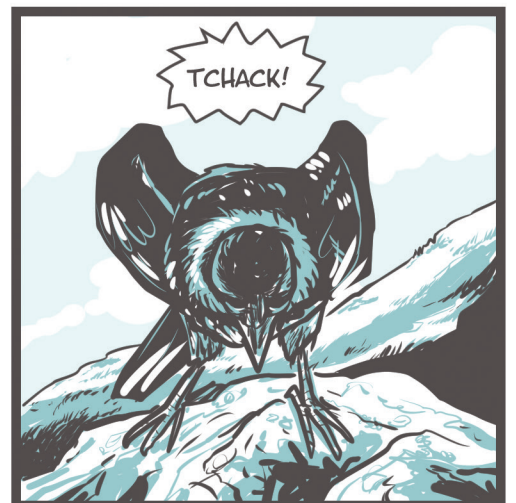
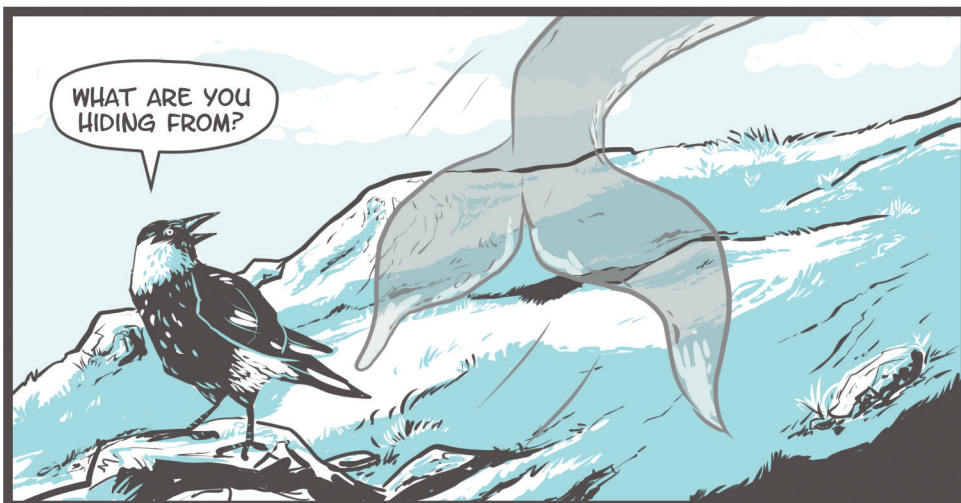
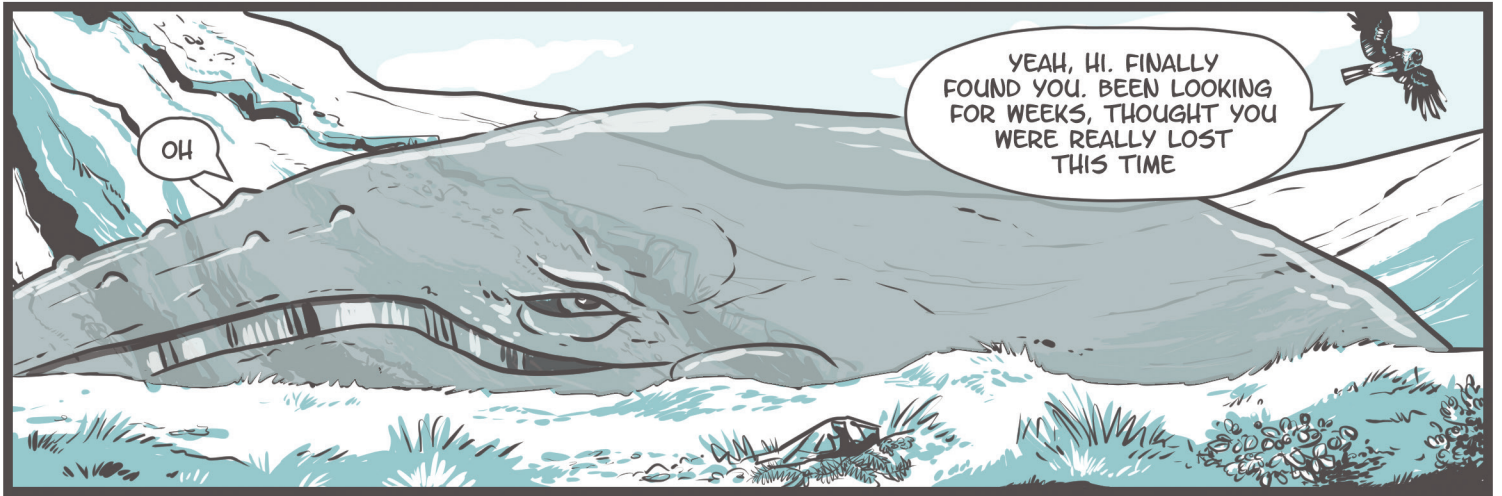
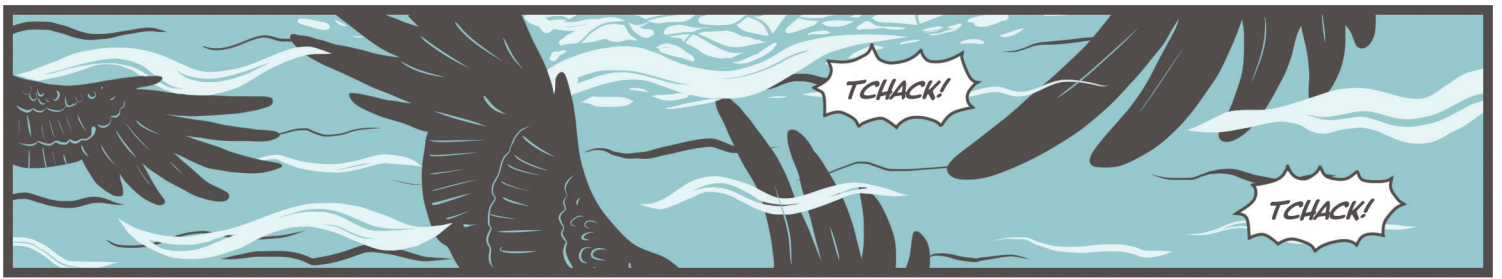


HEY!

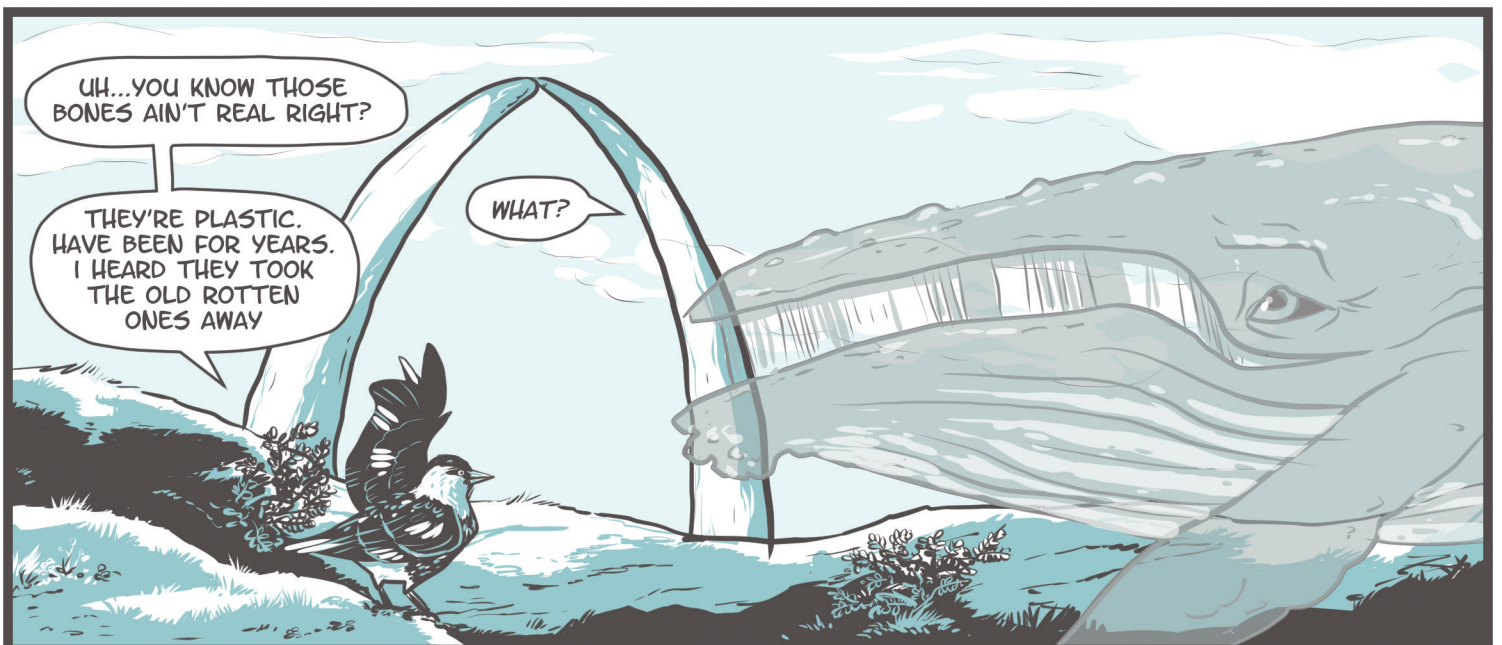
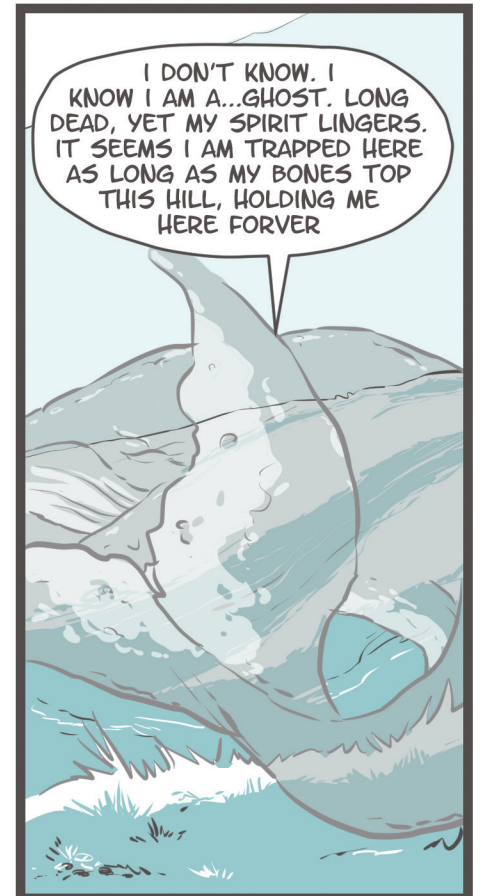
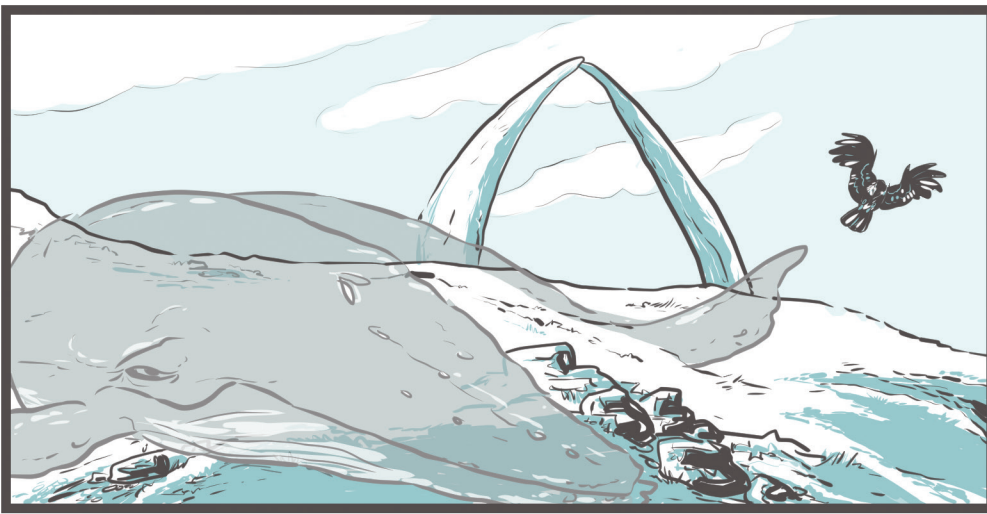




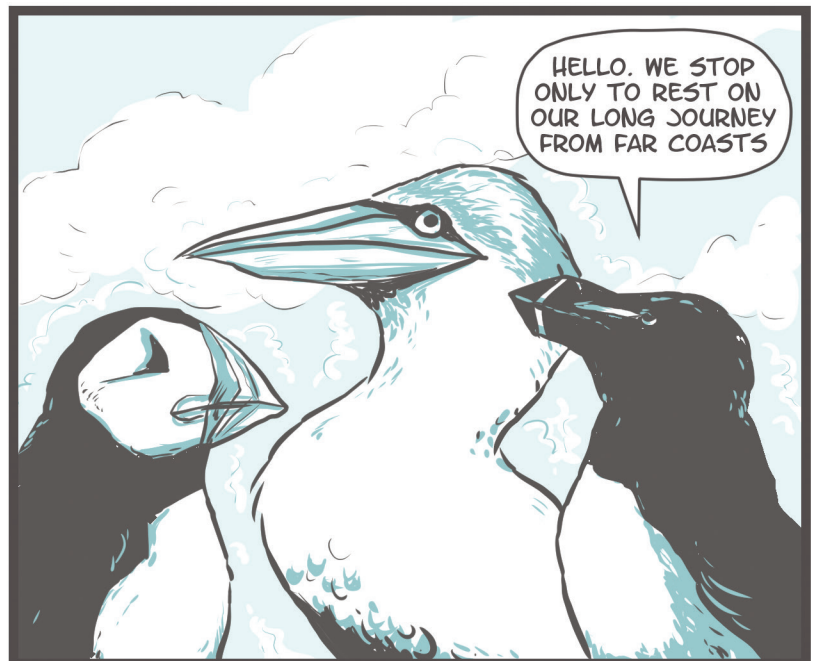
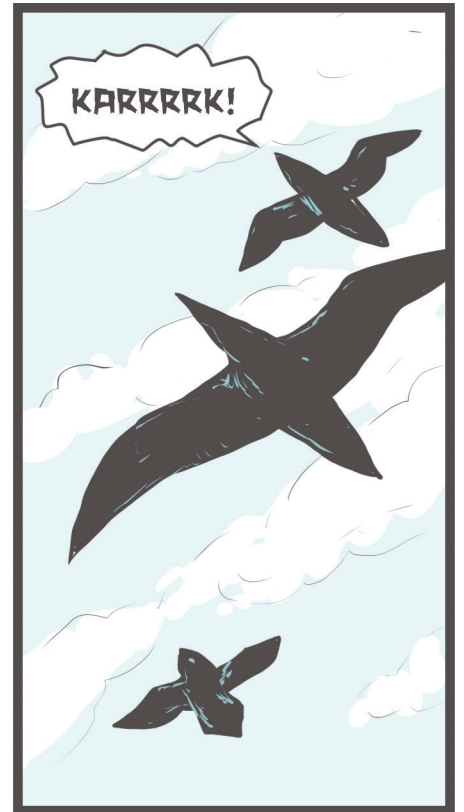




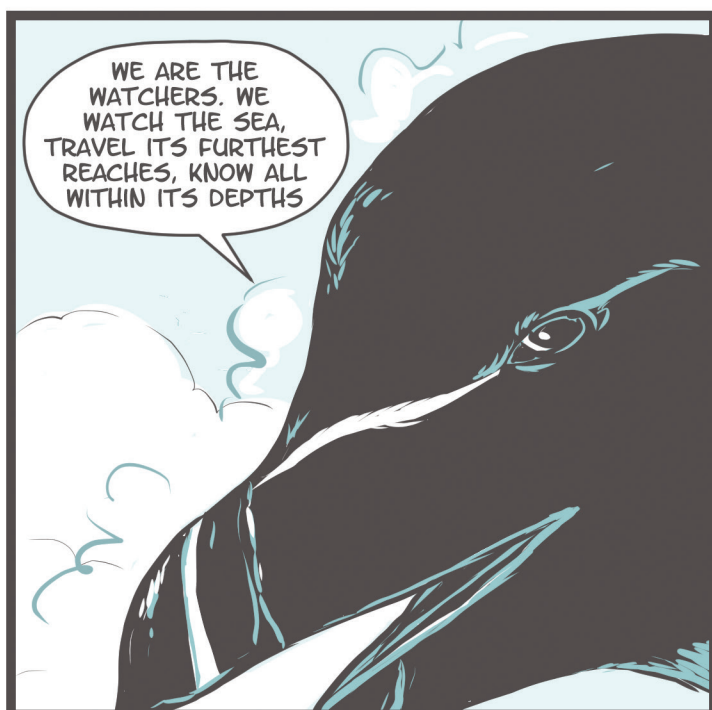
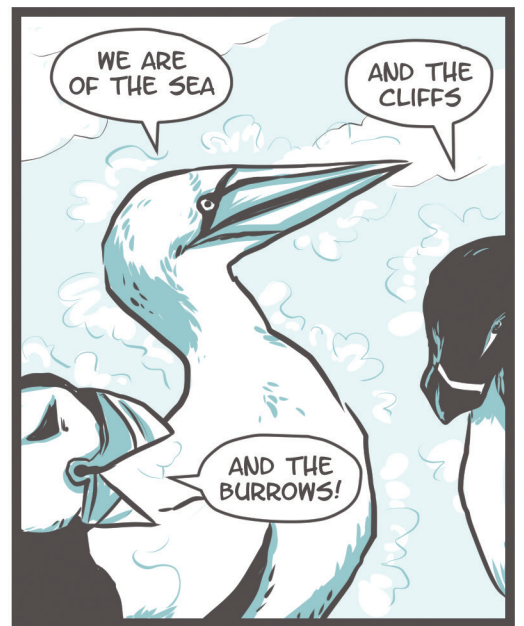
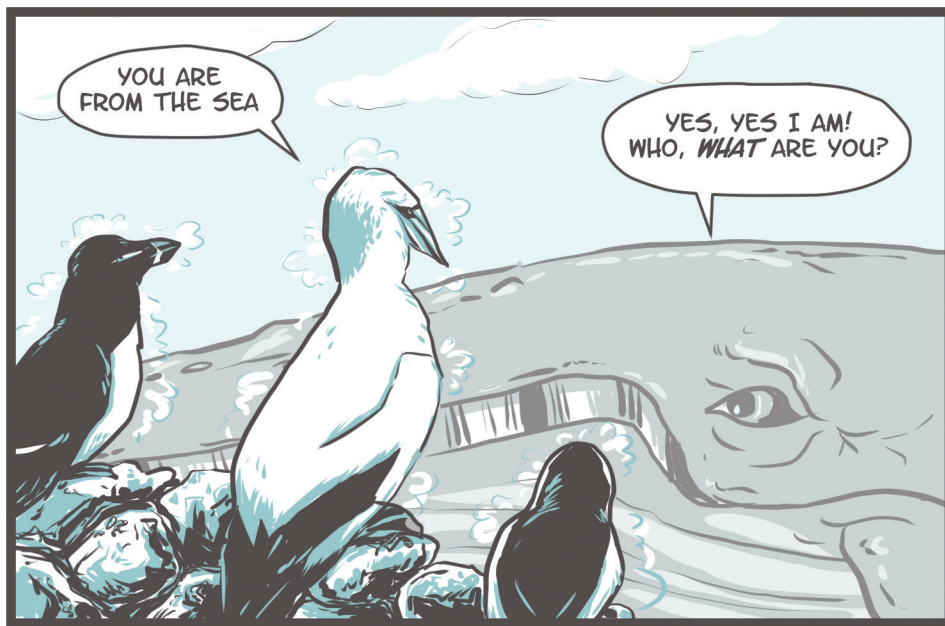




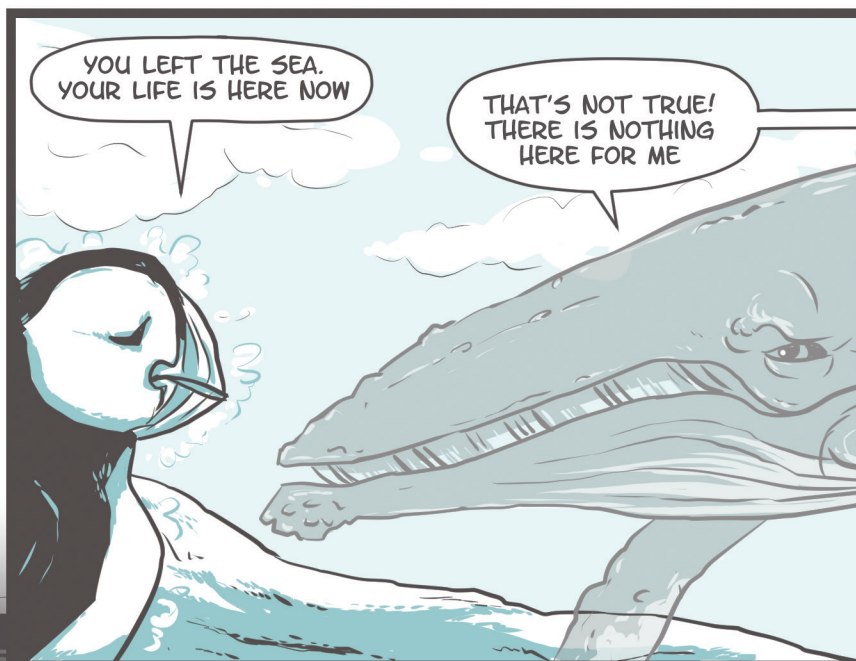
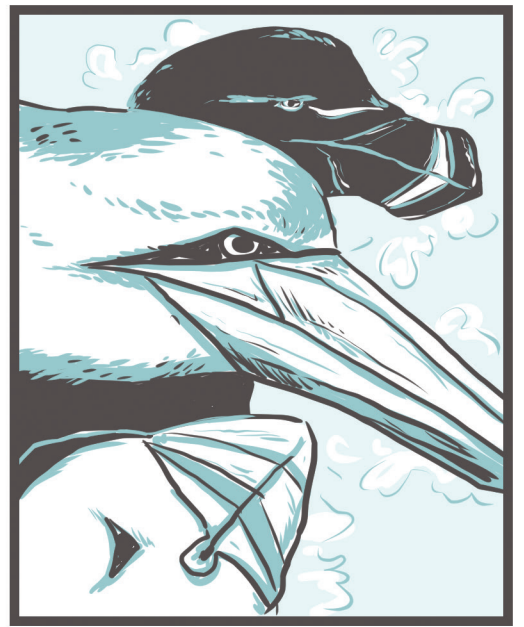
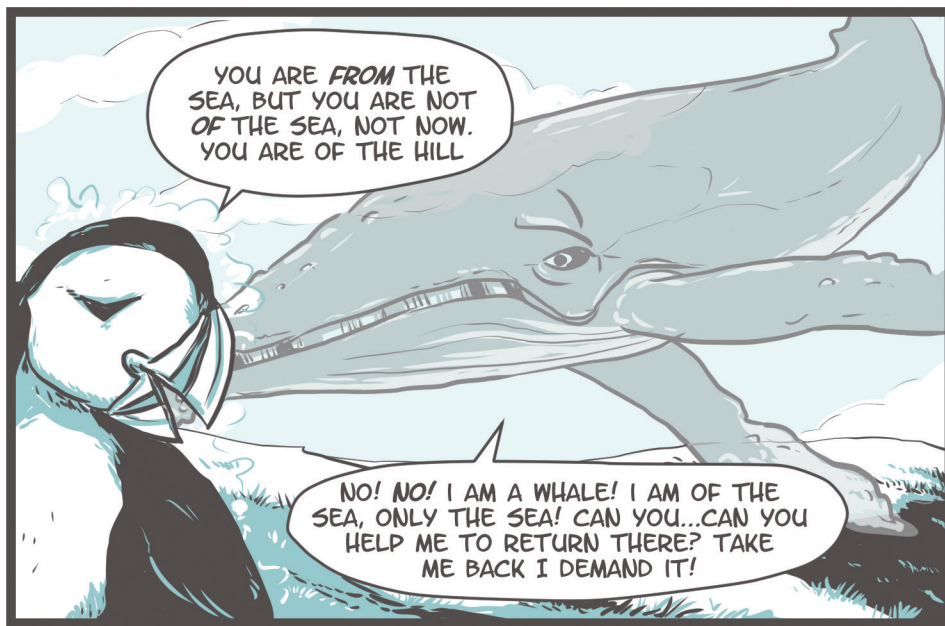




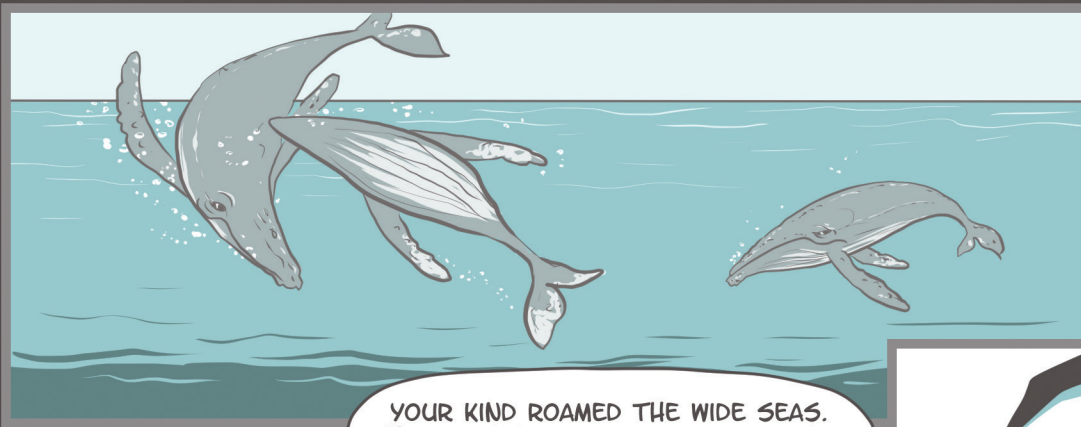




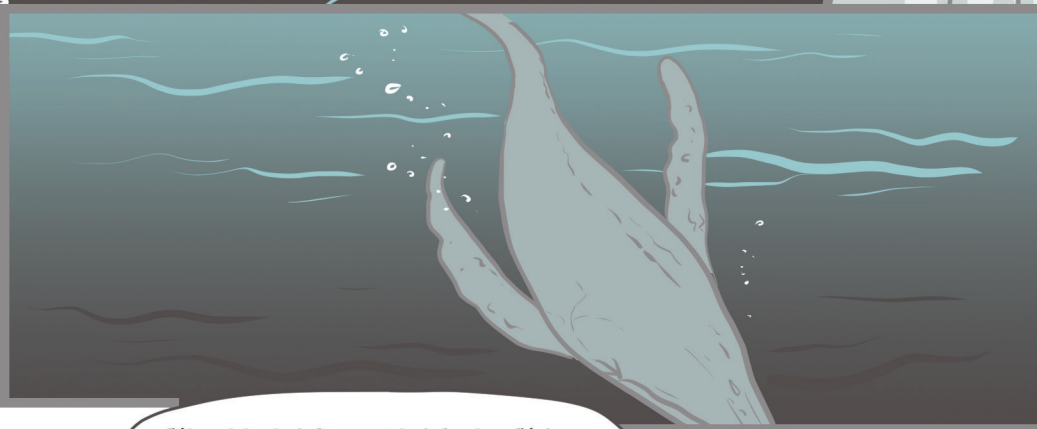
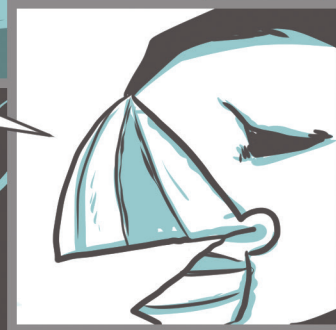








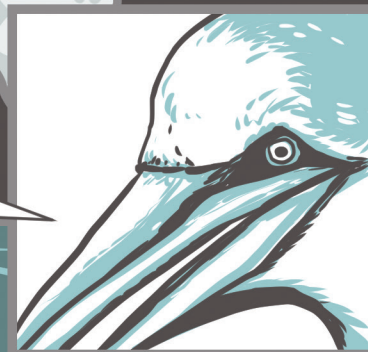
YOUR KIND ROAMED THE WIDE SEAS.  
THE OCEANS WERE YOUR PLAYGROUND,  
BUT YOU WERE NEVER HAPPY



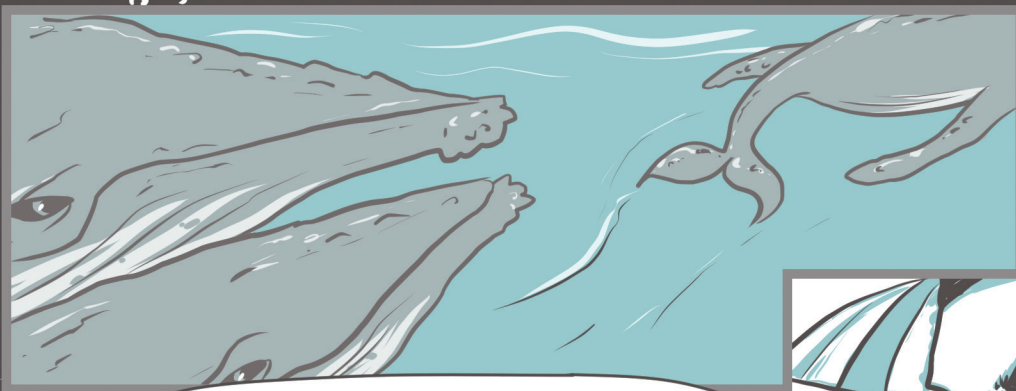
THE DEEPEST, DARKEST DEPTHS OF  
THE SEAS WERE NEITHER DEEP NOR  
DARK ENOUGH FOR YOU



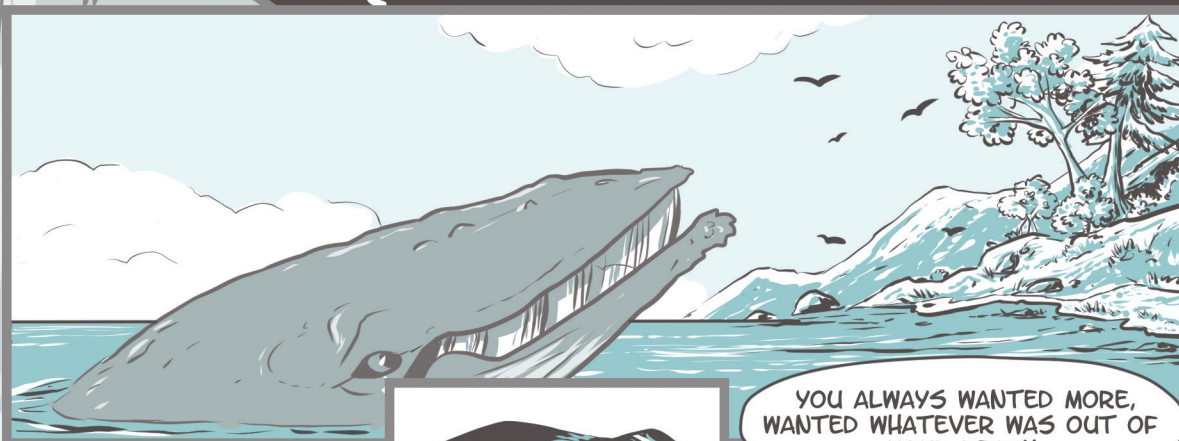
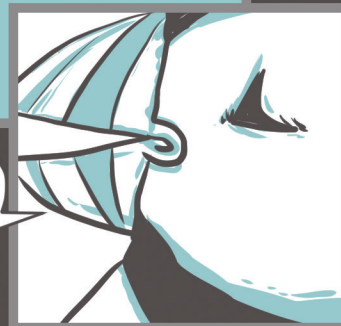
YOU WERE **BORED**  
WITH THE SEA



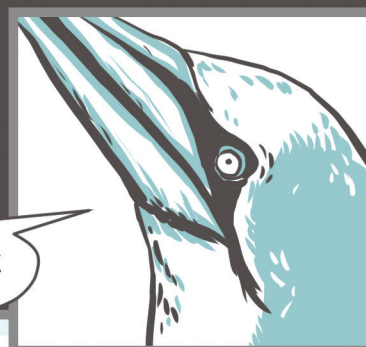




YOU TURNED YOUR BACK ON THE WAYS  
OF YOUR KIND, OF THEIR OFFERS OF FRIENDSHIP.  
ALL BECAUSE THEY DID NOT SHARE YOUR  
PASSION TO EXPLORE, AND SWIM  
FOR THE SAKE OF SWIMMING



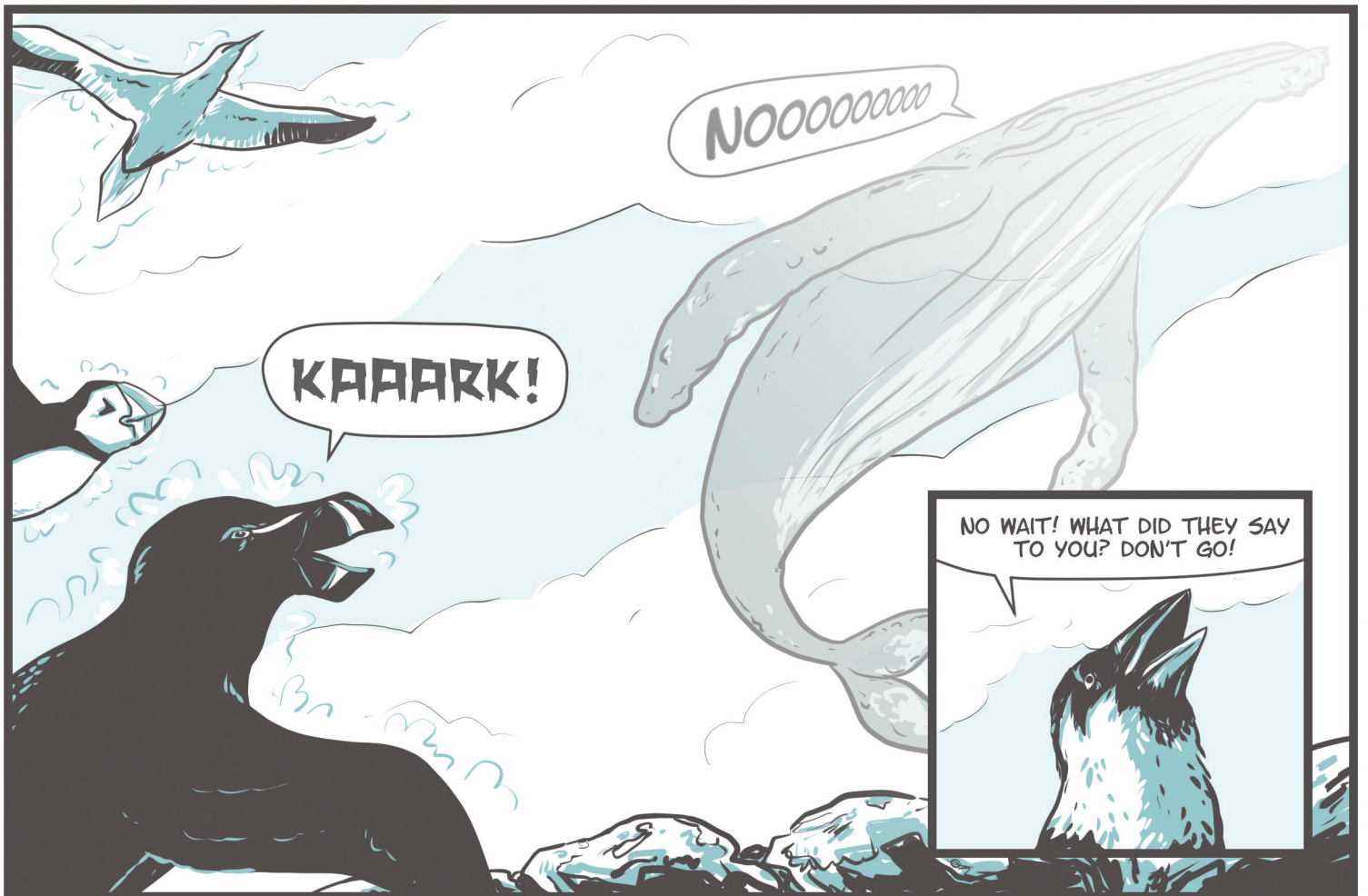
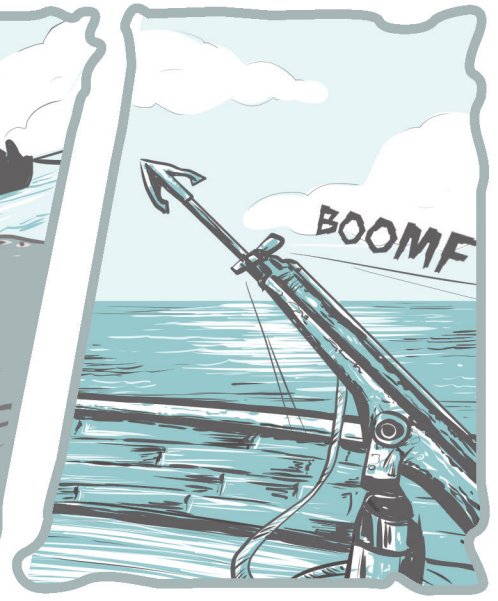
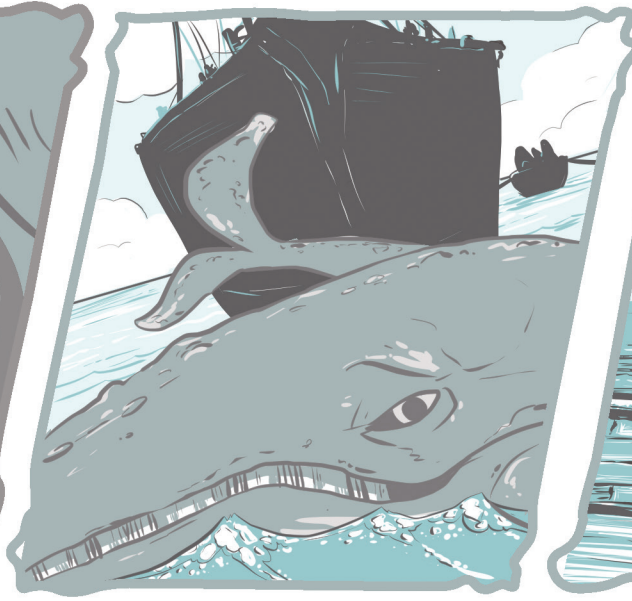
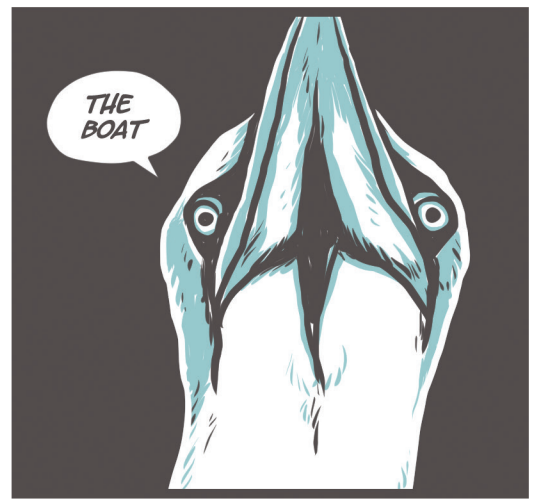
YOU ALWAYS WANTED MORE,  
WANTED WHATEVER WAS OUT OF  
YOUR REACH.



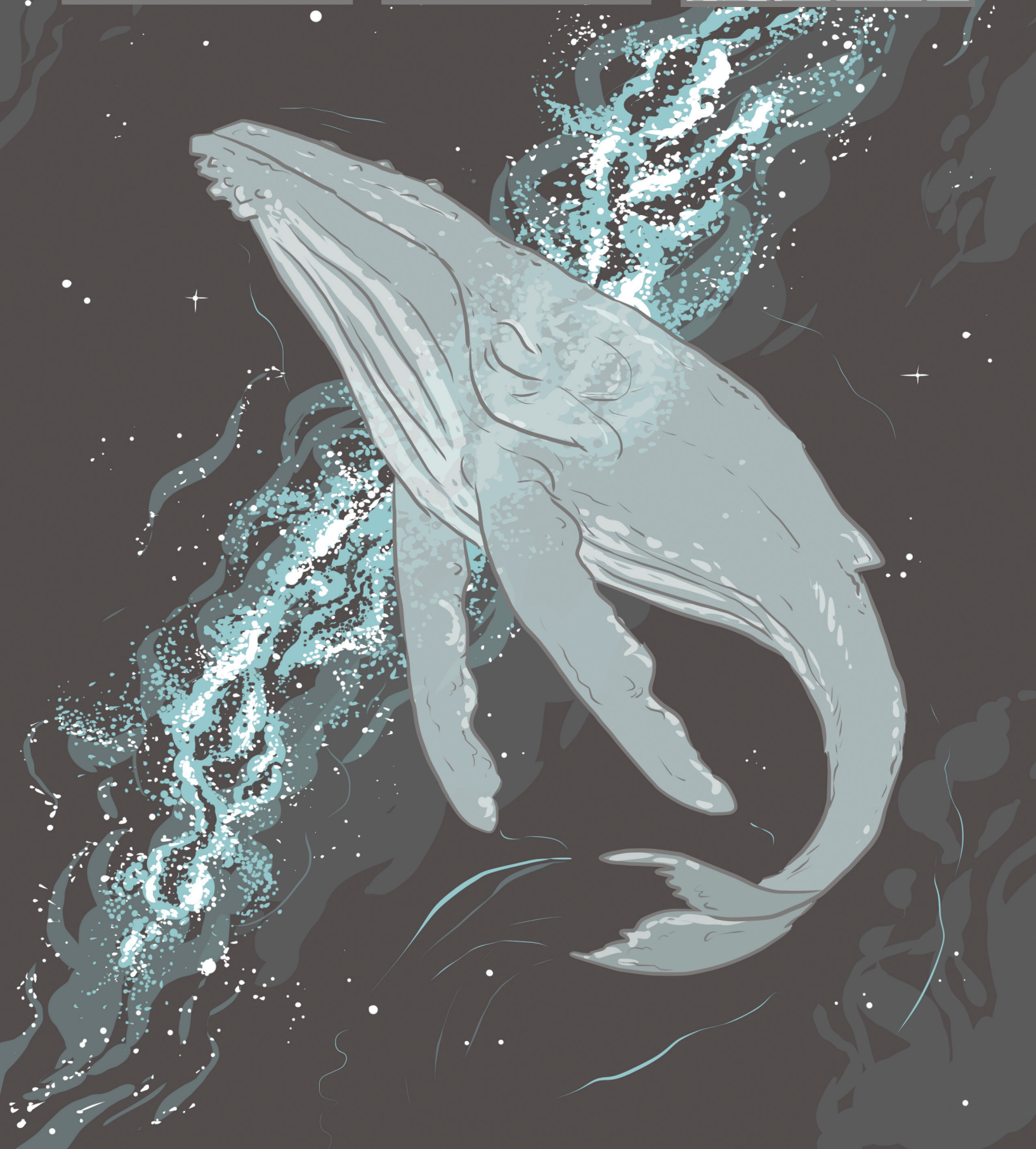
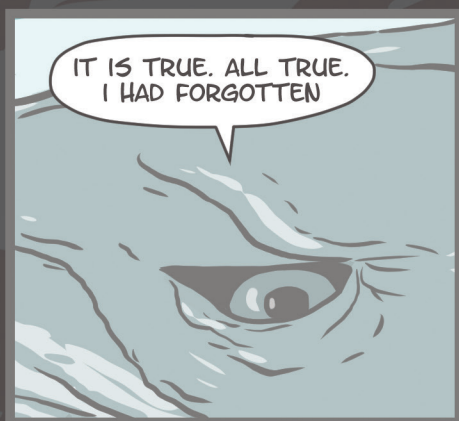
YOU GREW ARROGANT AND DID NOT  
ACCEPT YOUR LIMITS. YOUR ARROGANCE TOOK  
YOU TO NEW, DANGEROUS WATERS



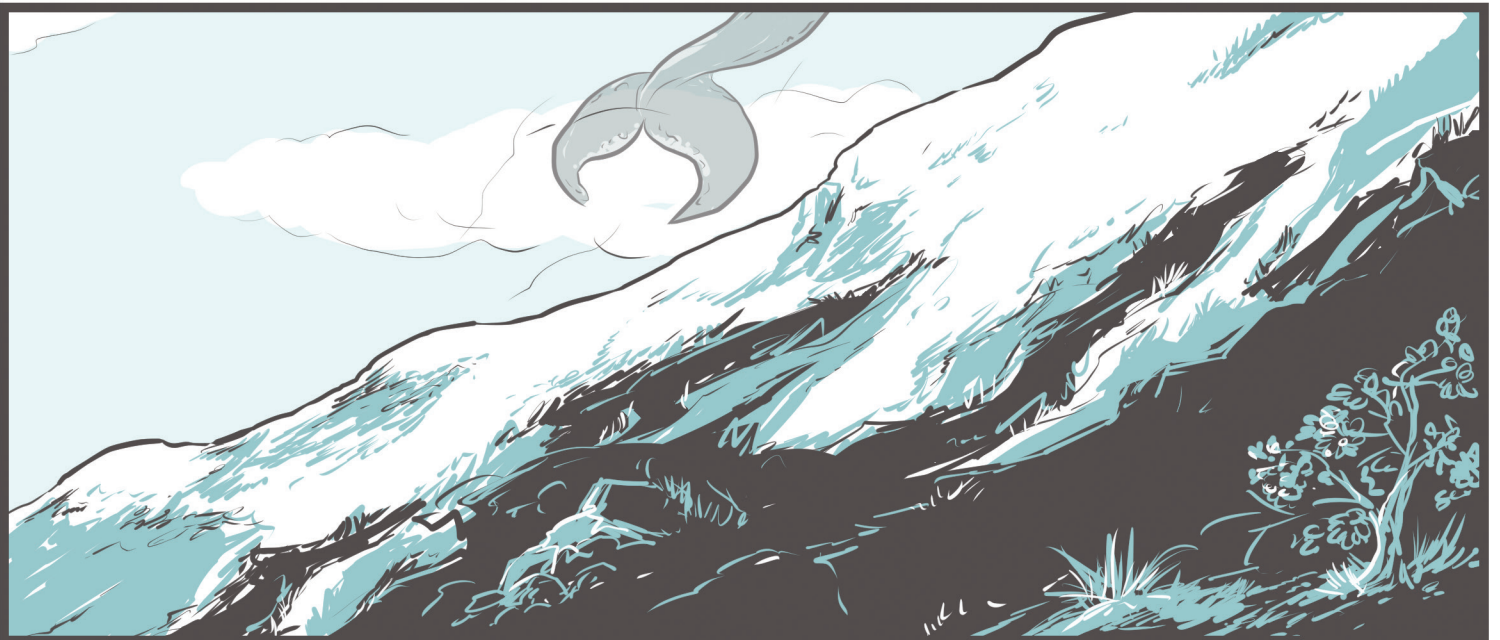
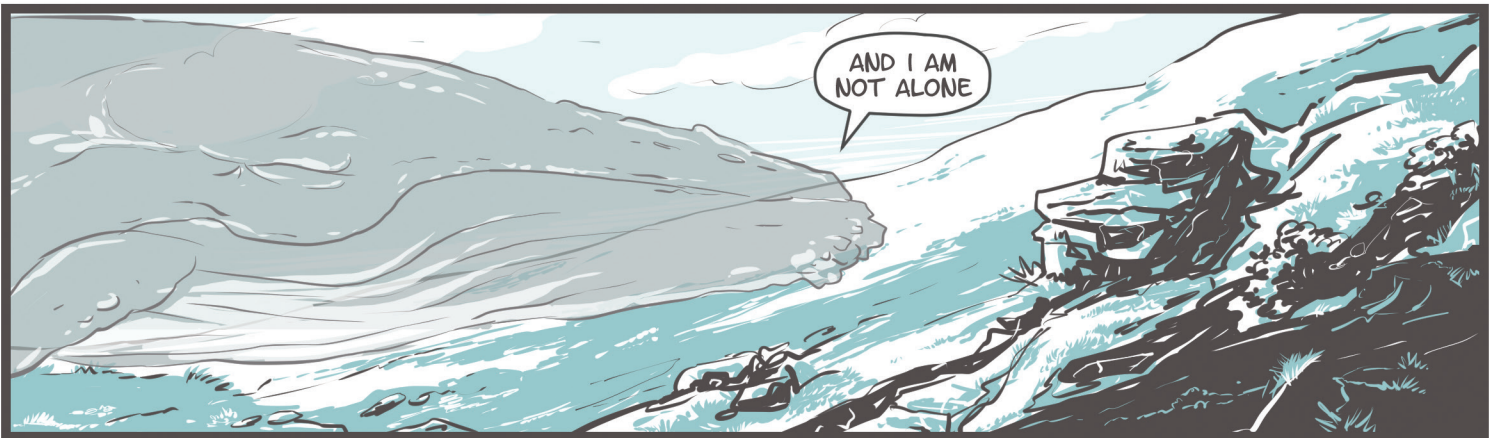
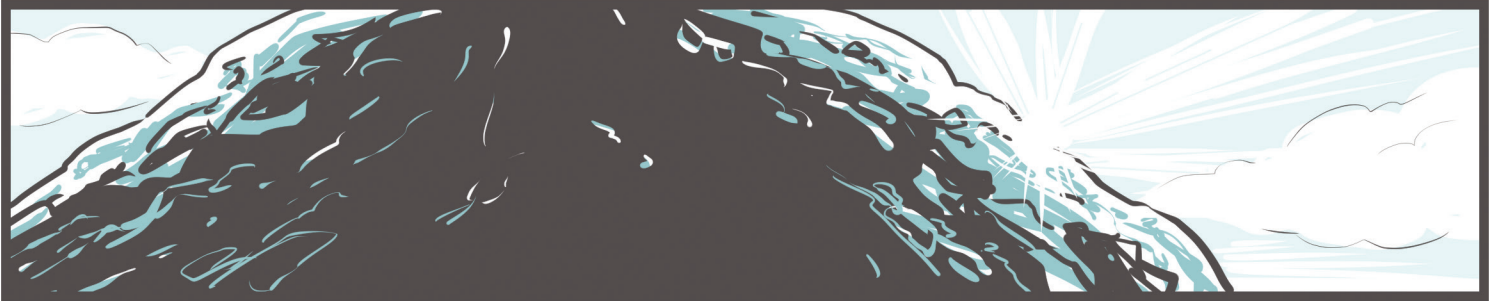
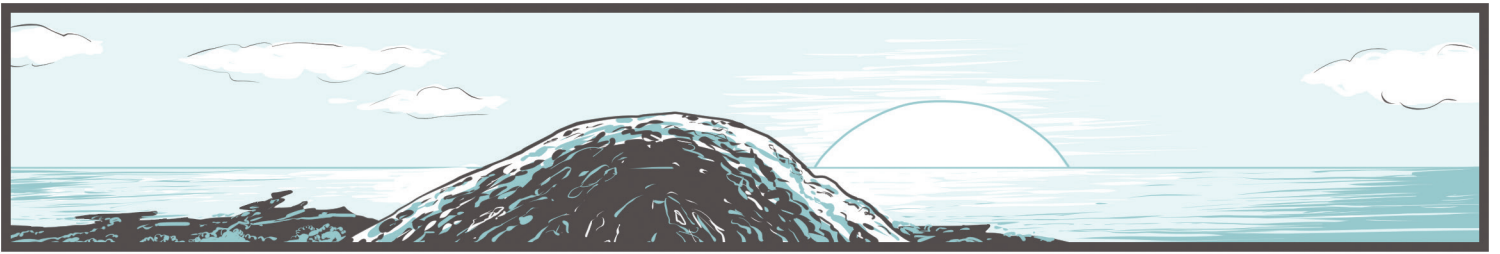




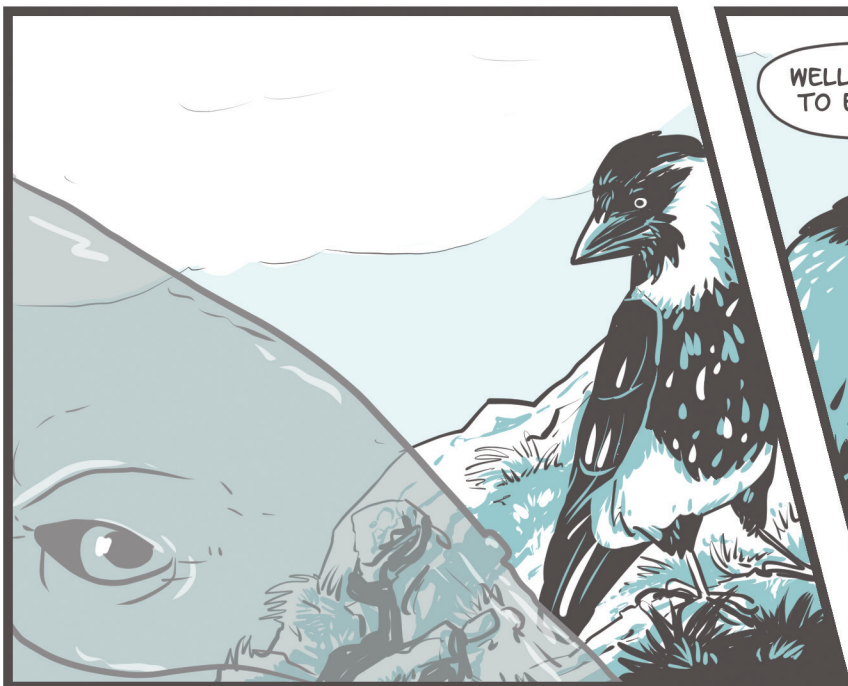
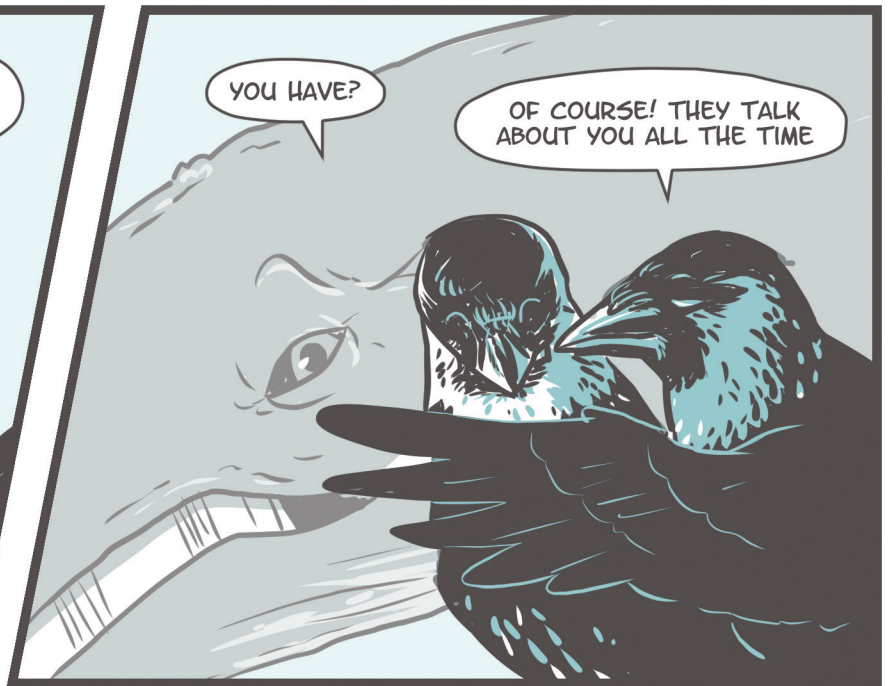
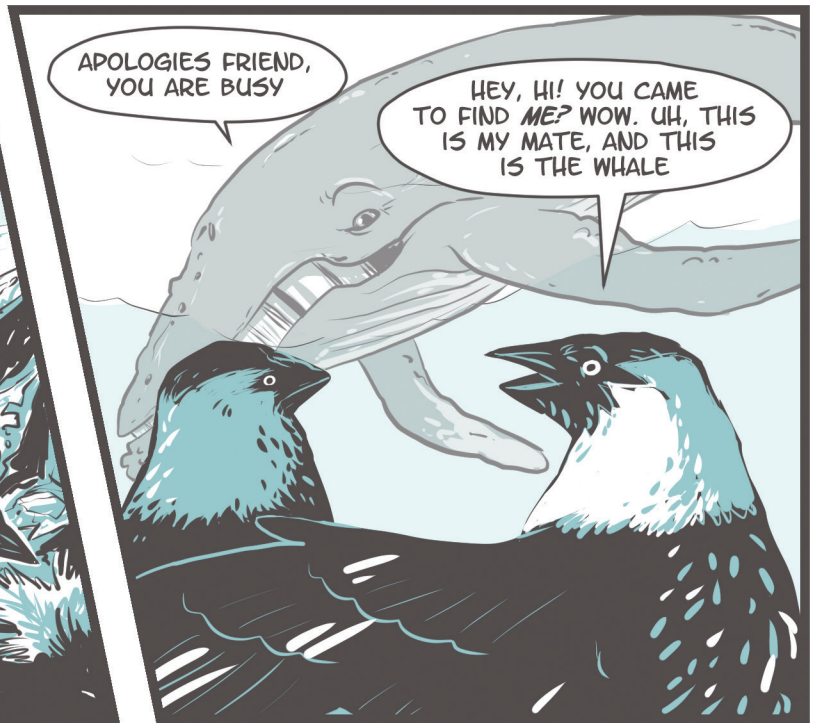




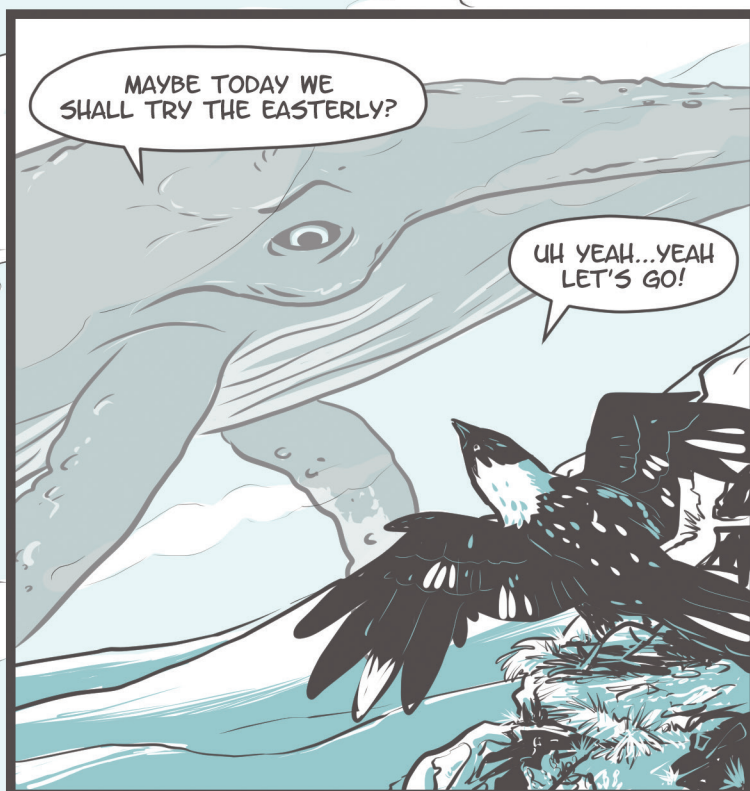
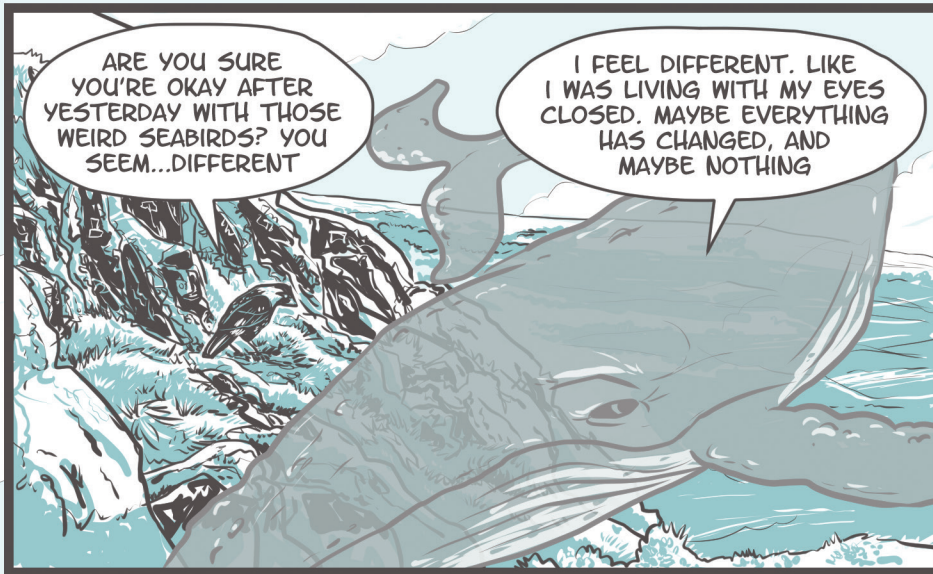
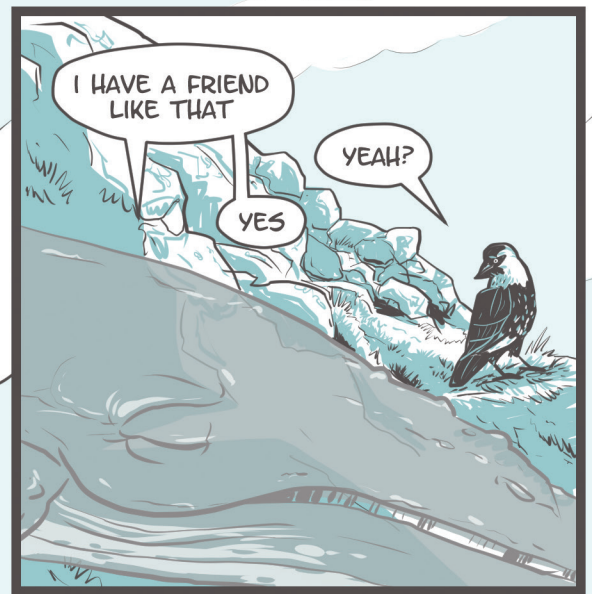




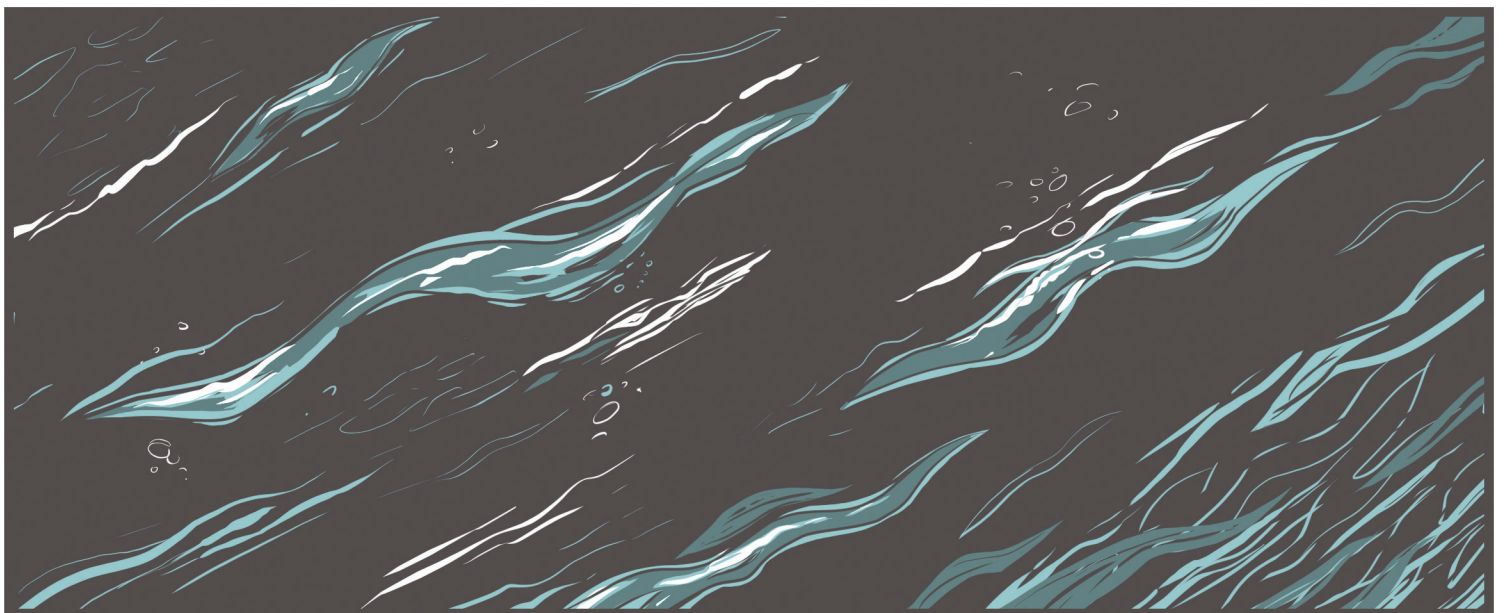
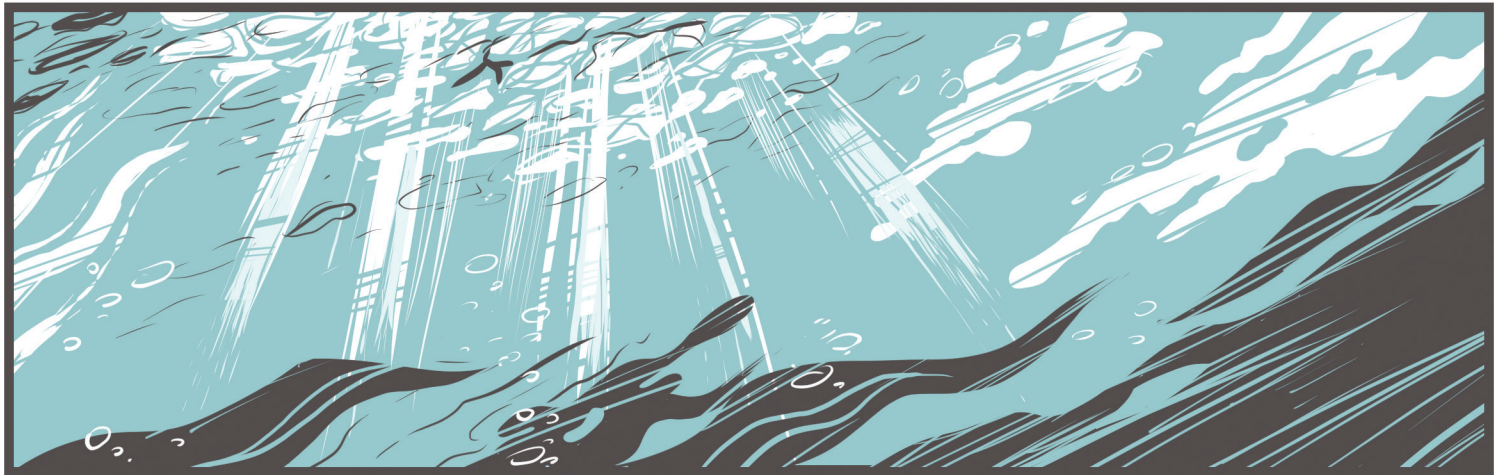
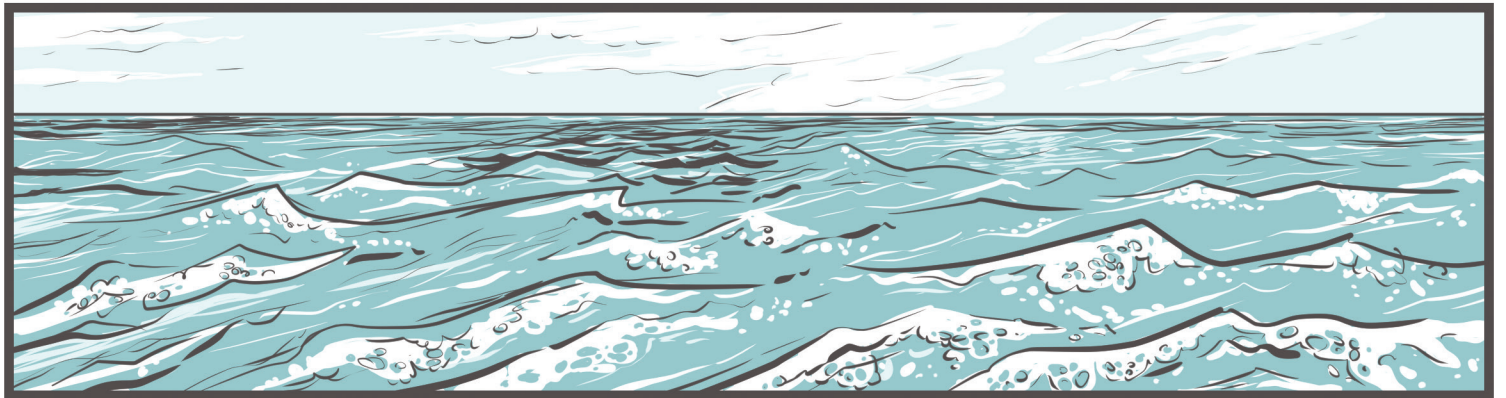
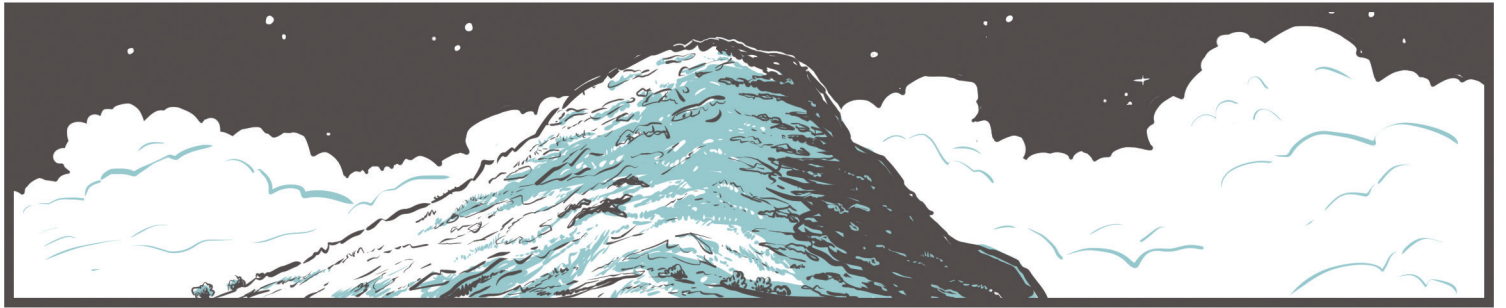
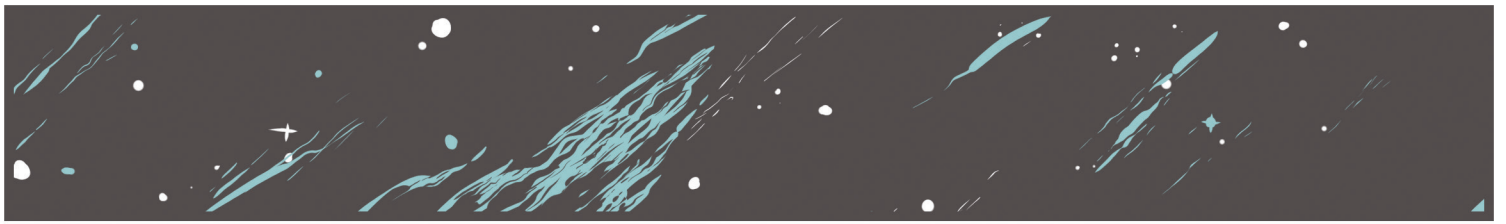








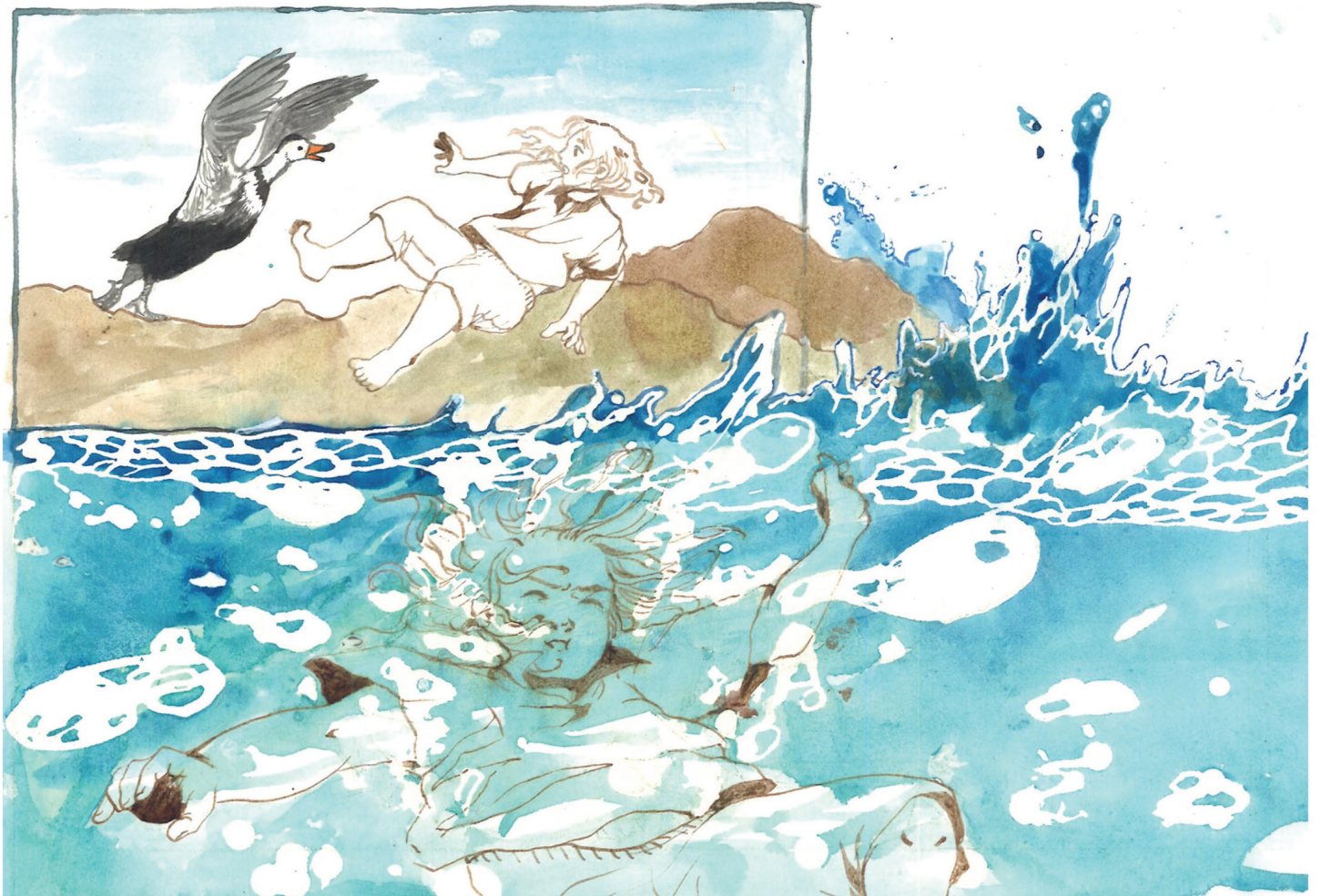




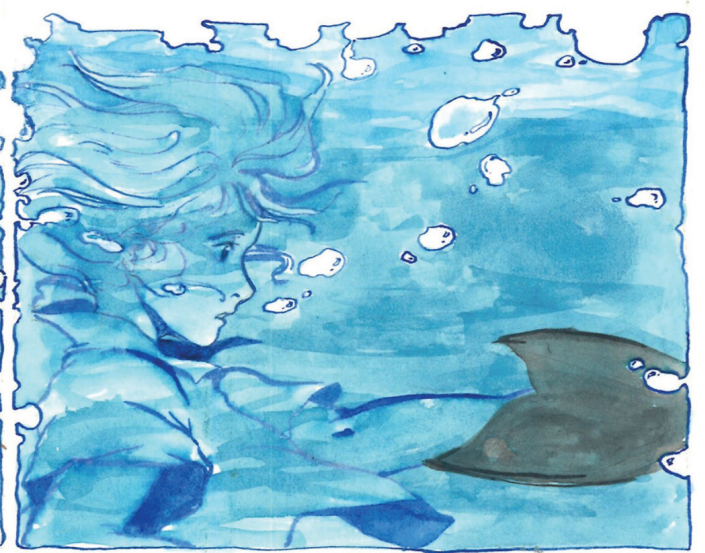




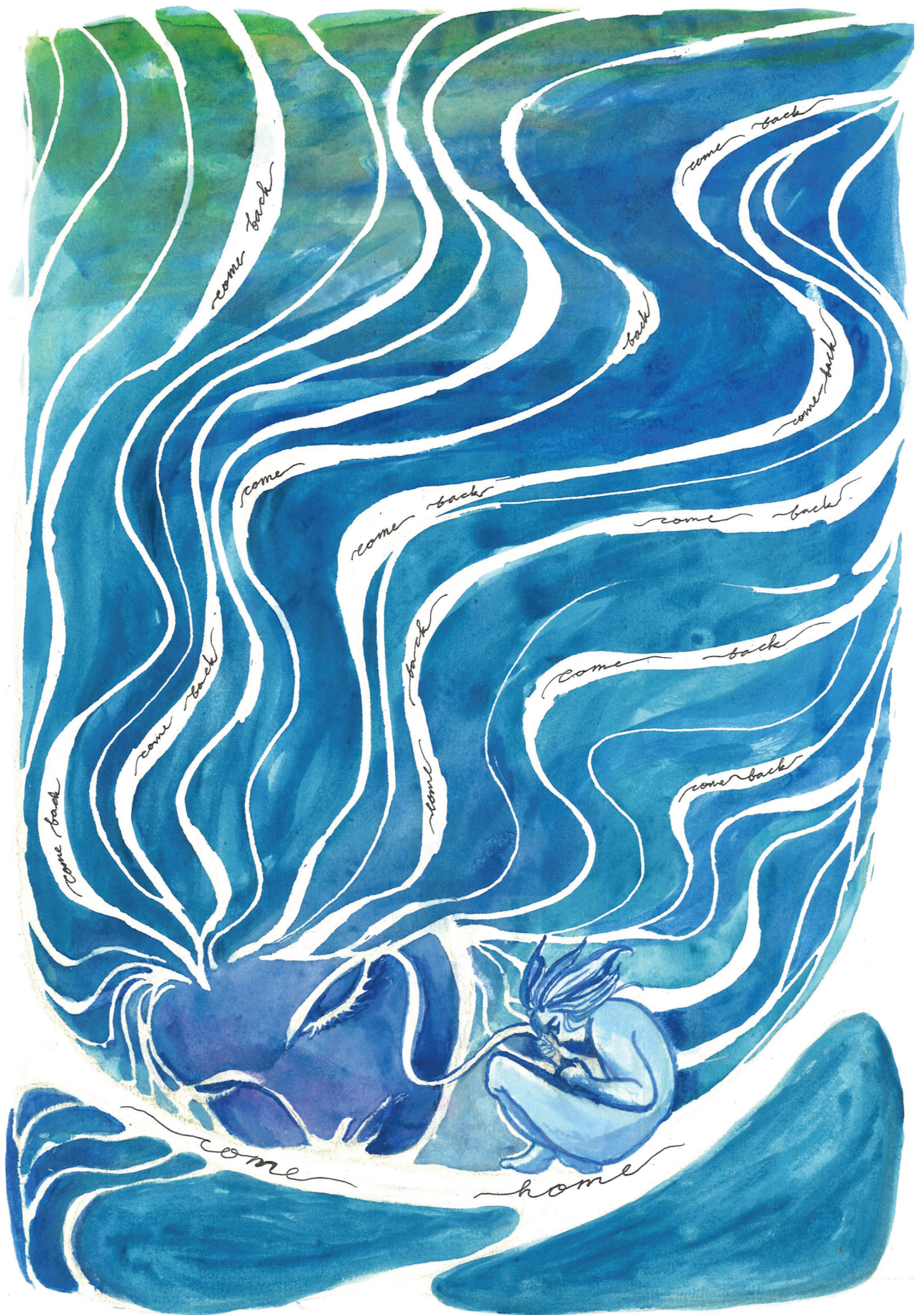
they say we come from the sea



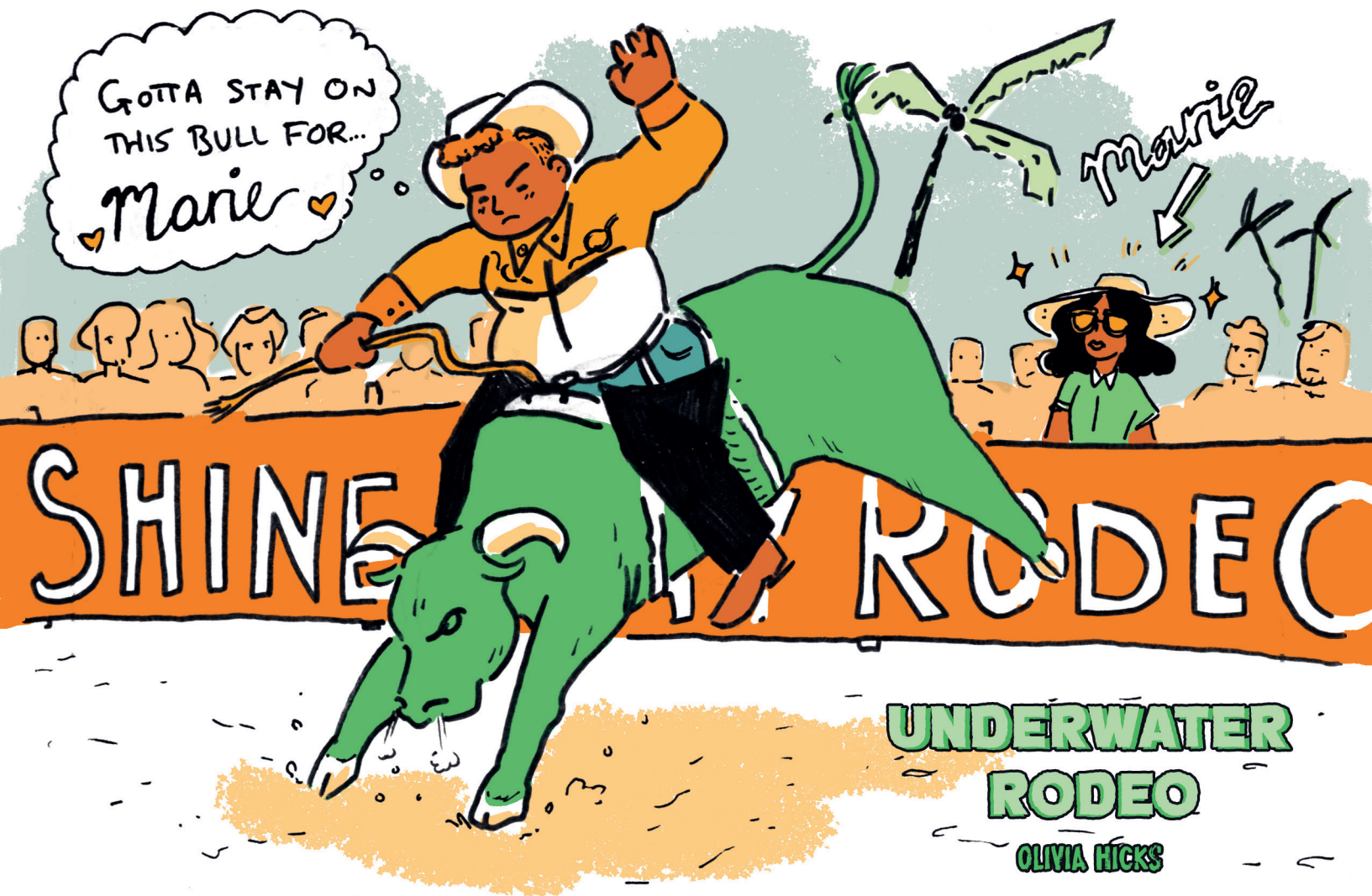




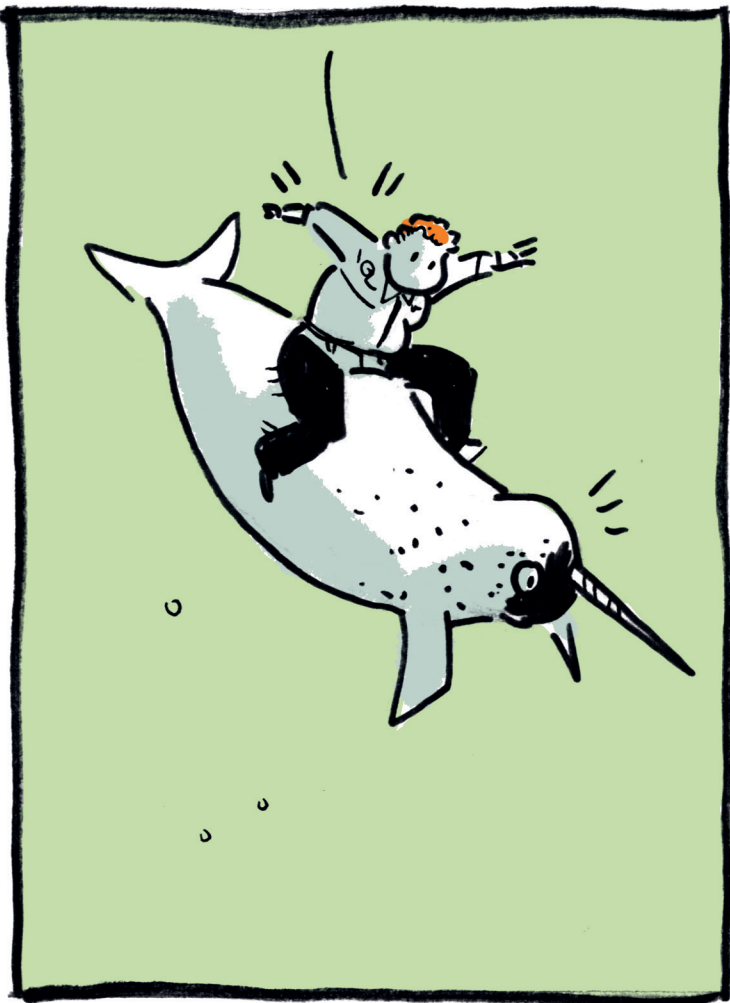




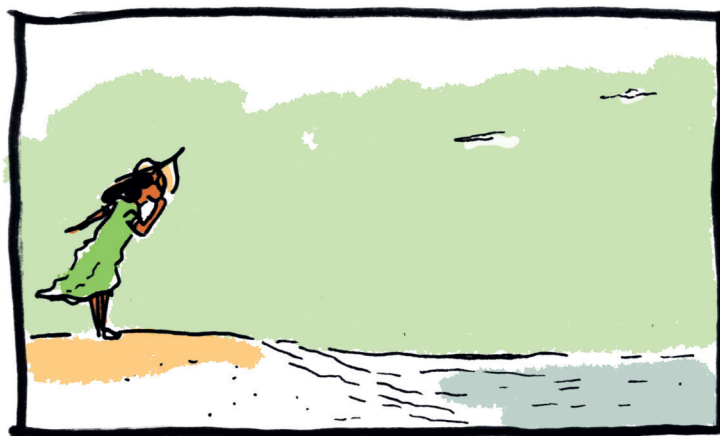
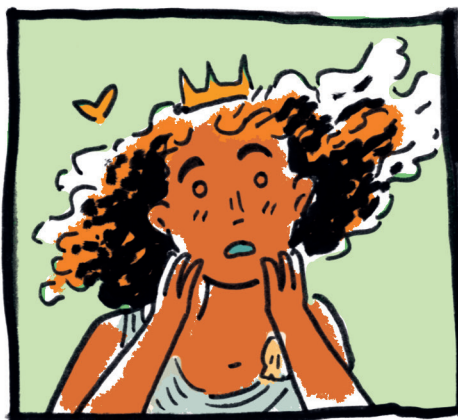












END

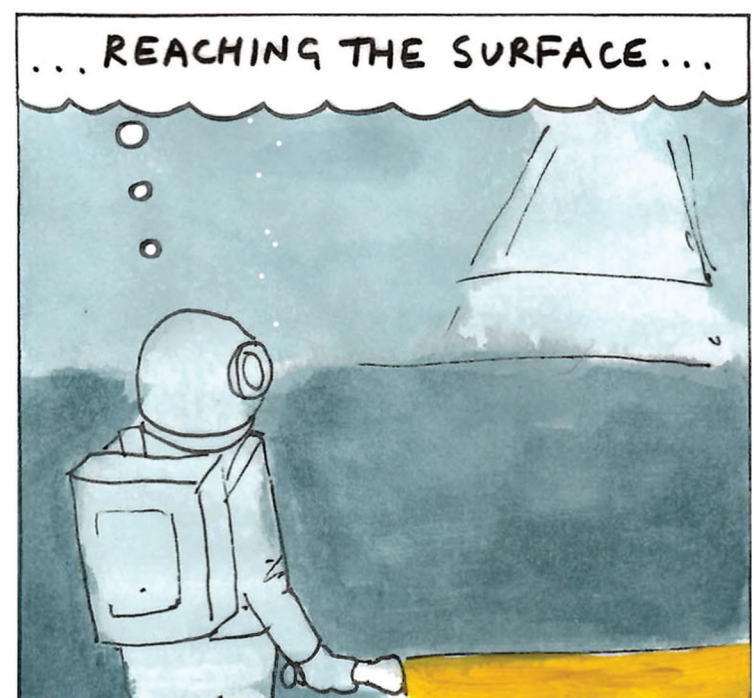
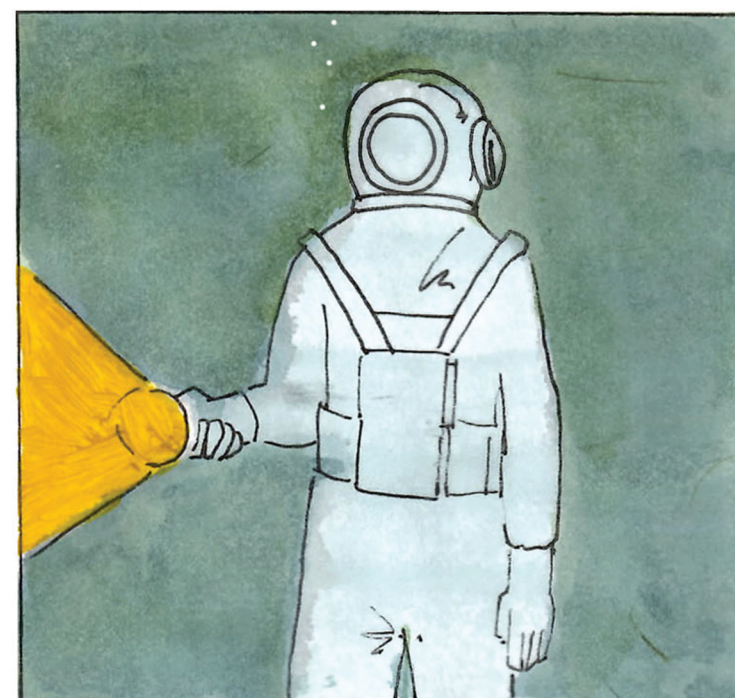
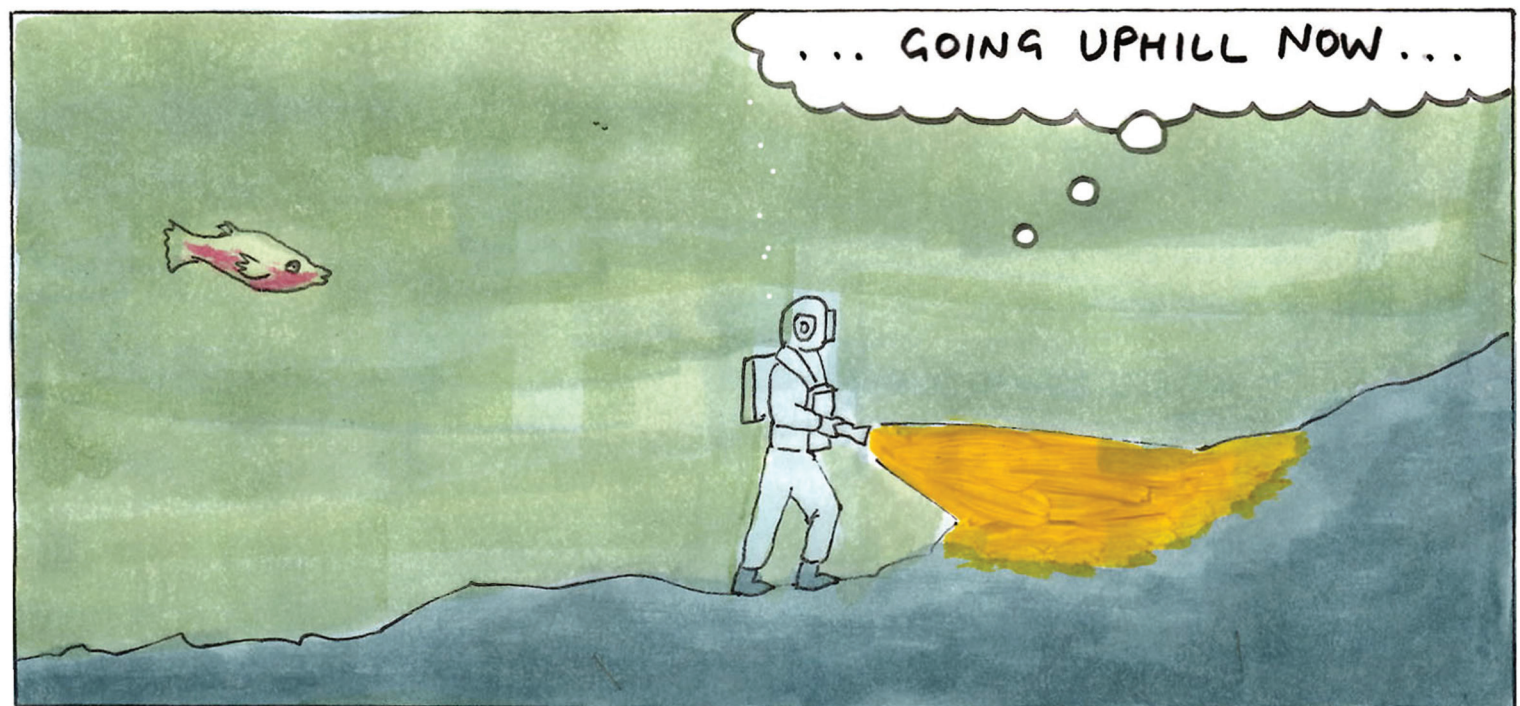
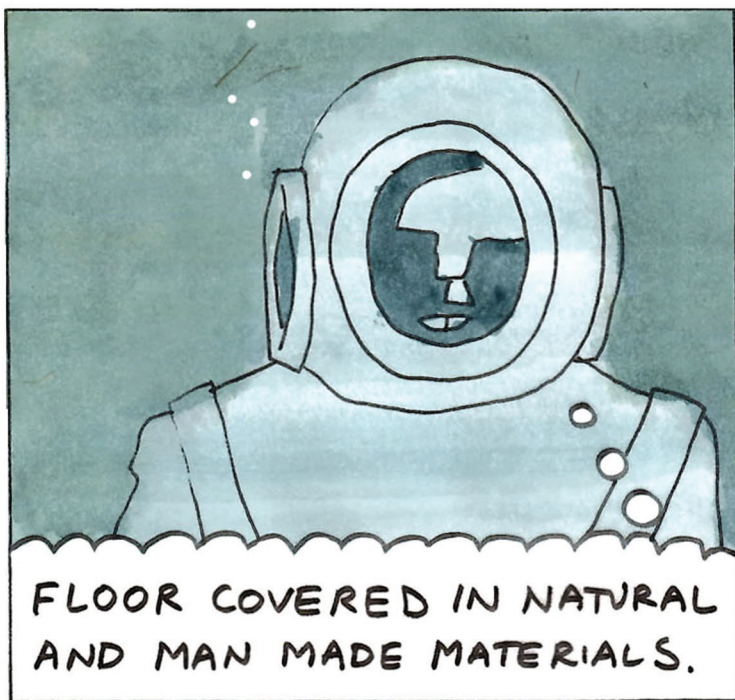


# WATER

(Load of Rubbish)











POSTSCRIPT: When I was very young, I watched "Planet of the Apes" from 1968 on TV. I really enjoyed the movie, but reaching the big reveal at the end, I was confronted by a statue I was completely unfamiliar with. My reaction was, "What does that mean?"



# GOING UNDER

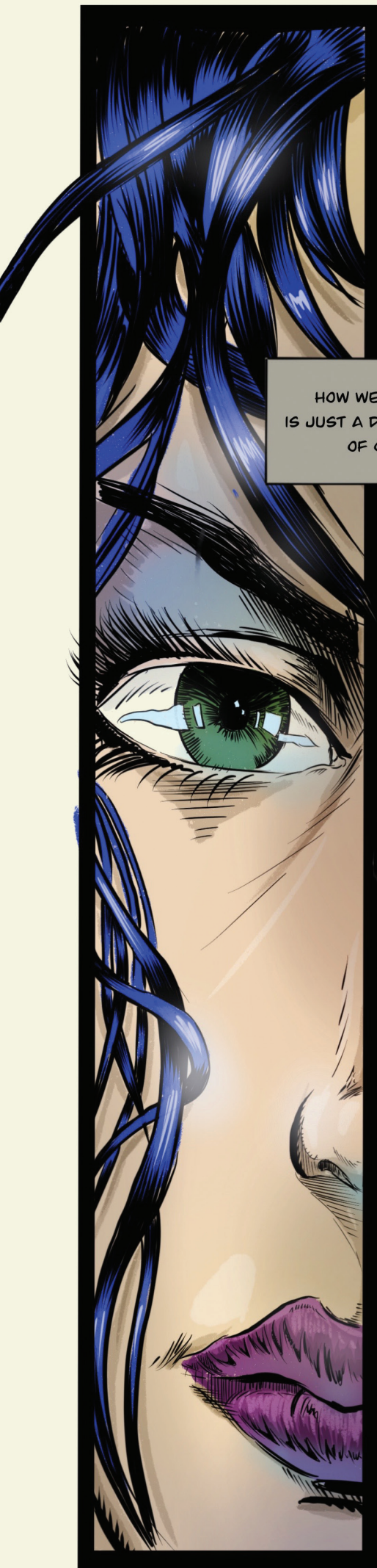
THE FUTURE. IT'S BEEN AN ETERNITY SINCE WE'VE FELT LIKE OURSELVES. THE OCEANS HAVE RISEN, AND WE HAVE EVOLVED TO LIVE IN THIS NEW WORLD, BUT WE CONTINUE TO POLLUTE THIS ENVIRONMENT... WITH OUR FEAR. THE SHARKS ARE GETTING BIGGER, MORE RESTLESS AND TERRIFYING. WE CAN NO LONGER KEEP THEM AT BAY... THEIR STRENGTH AND NUMBERS ARE OVERWHELMING.... THEY PREY ON US. THEY WANT TO TAKE OVER...

BY MARK CRUNCHER



DOWN, DOWN INTO THE **ABYSS**  
WHERE NO ONE CAN HEAR  
YOUR **SCREAMS**





HOW WE SEE OURSELVES...  
IS JUST A DISTORTED REFLECTION  
OF OUR TRAUMAS...



TO TRULY SEE  
OURSELVES...



WE NEED TO FACE  
OUR FEAR





SOMETIMES IT  
CAN BE TOUGH

SOMETIMES IT  
MAY FEEL  
HOPELESS




BUT IF WE FOCUS ON  
WHO WE ARE AND  
WHO WE MAY BECOME



WE CAN BECOME FREE.  
WE CAN BECOME  
OURSELVES!

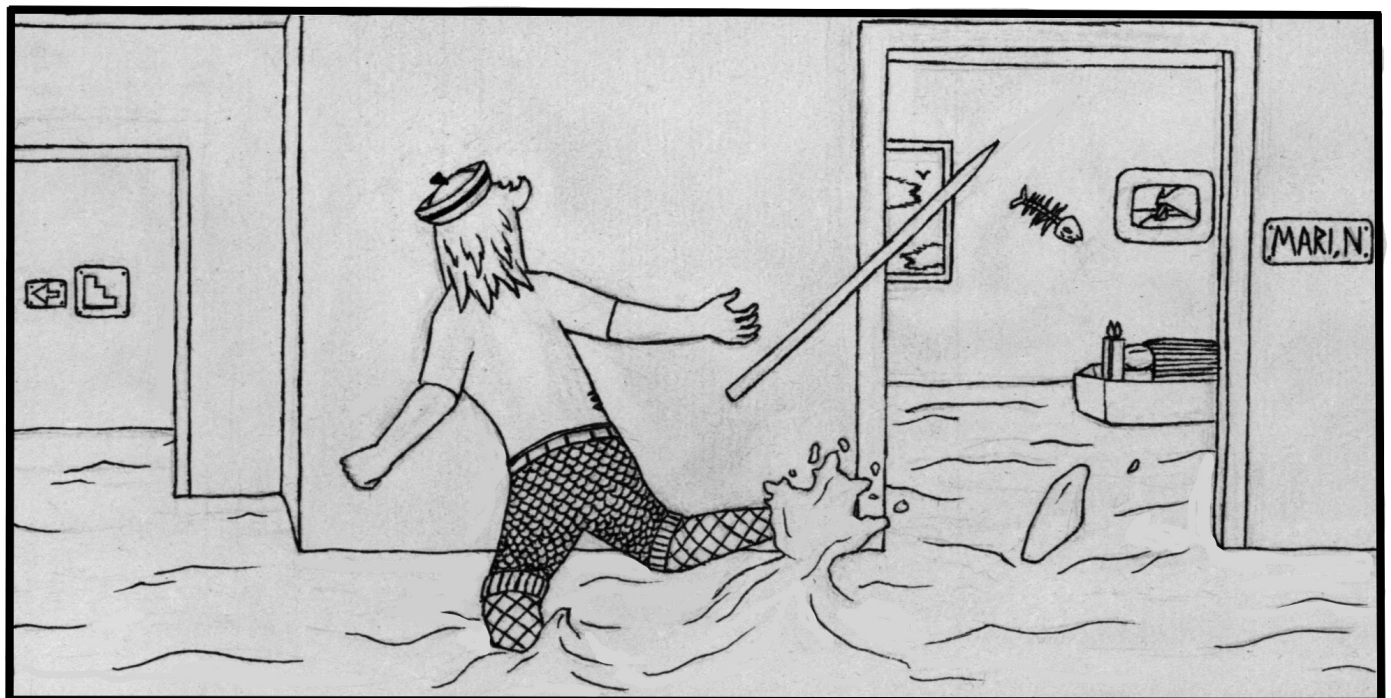
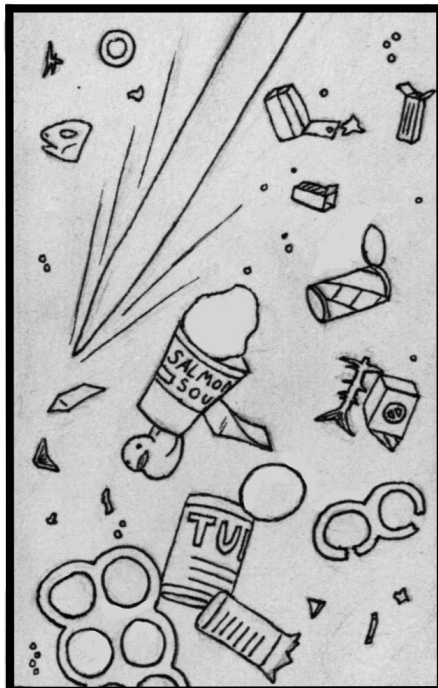
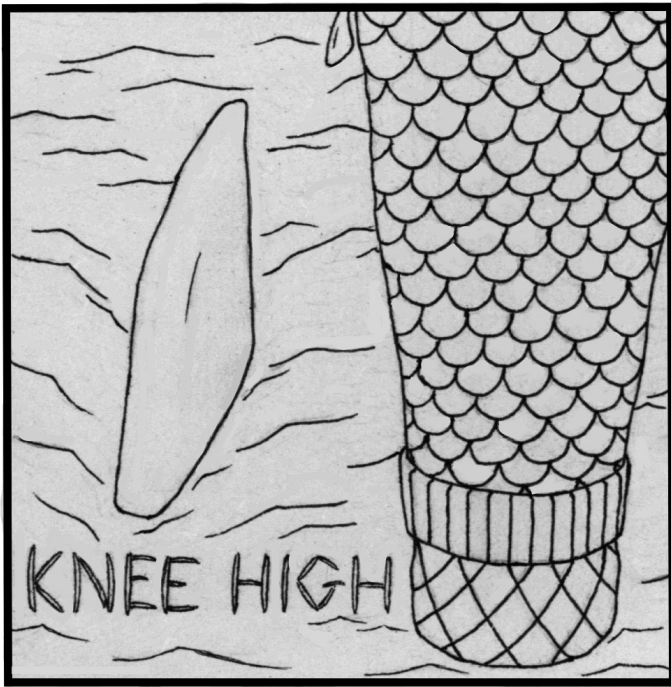




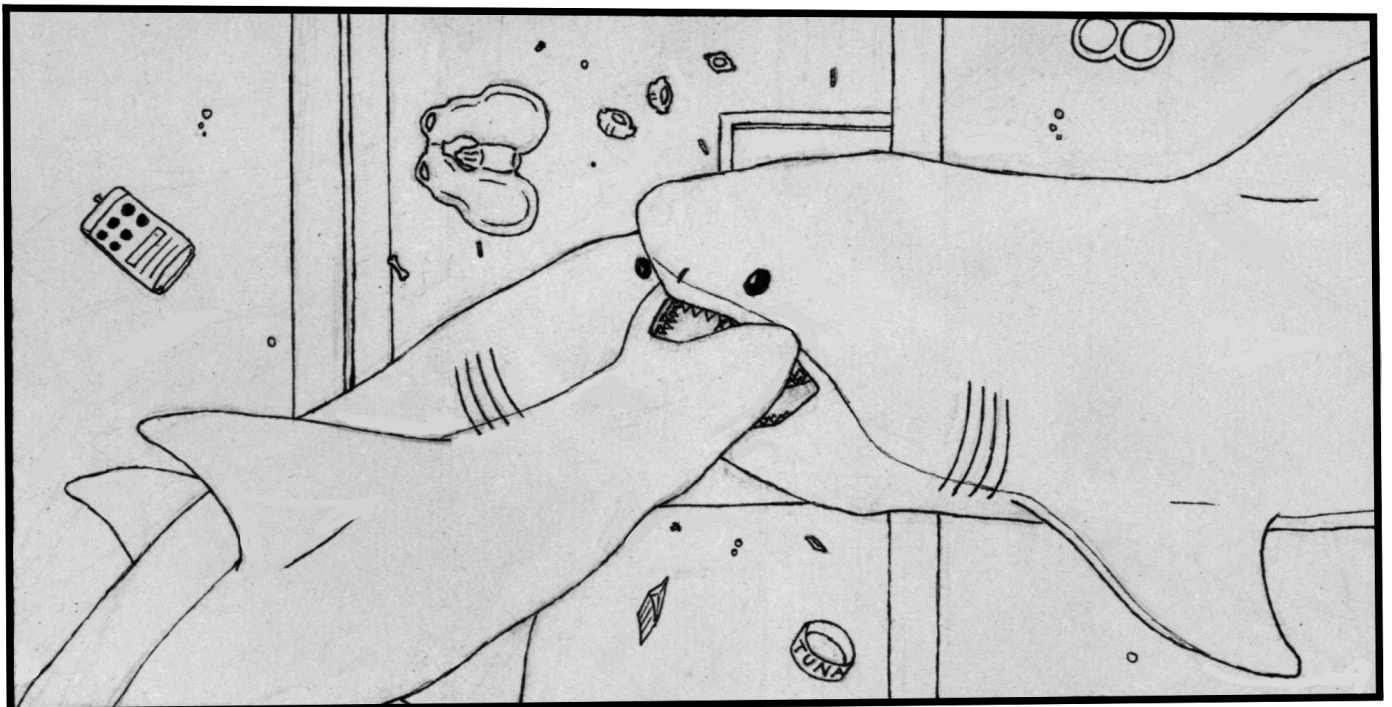
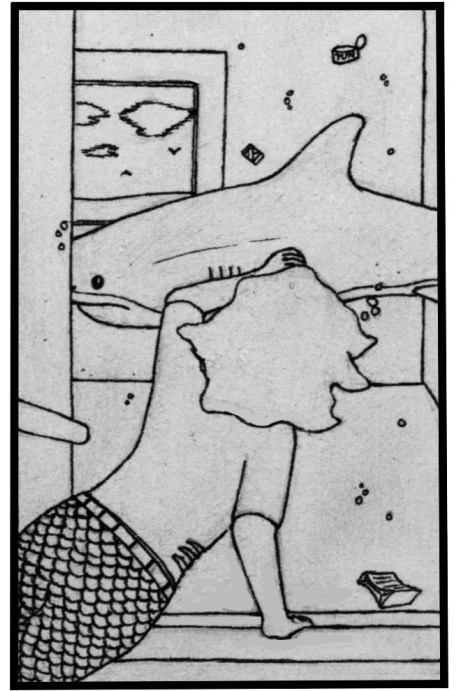
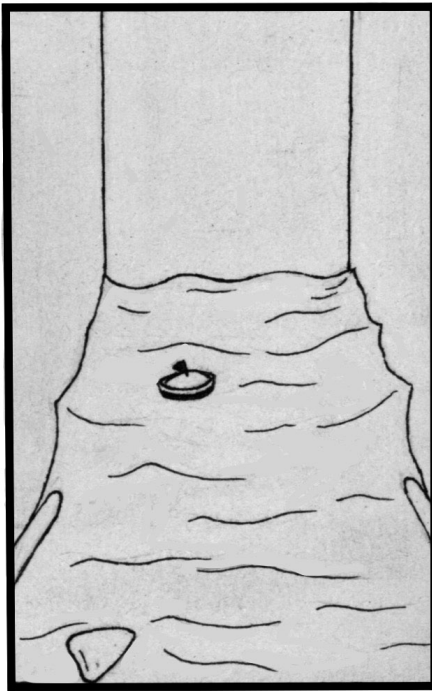
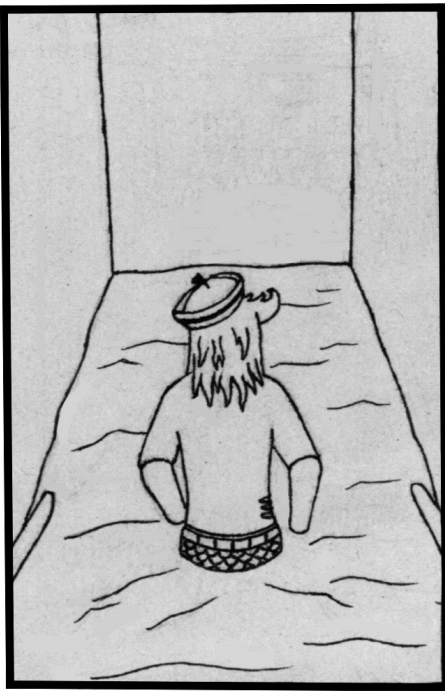
AND SOMETIMES...

...OUR GREATEST WEAKNESS  
CAN BECOME OUR GREATEST  
**STRENGTH**

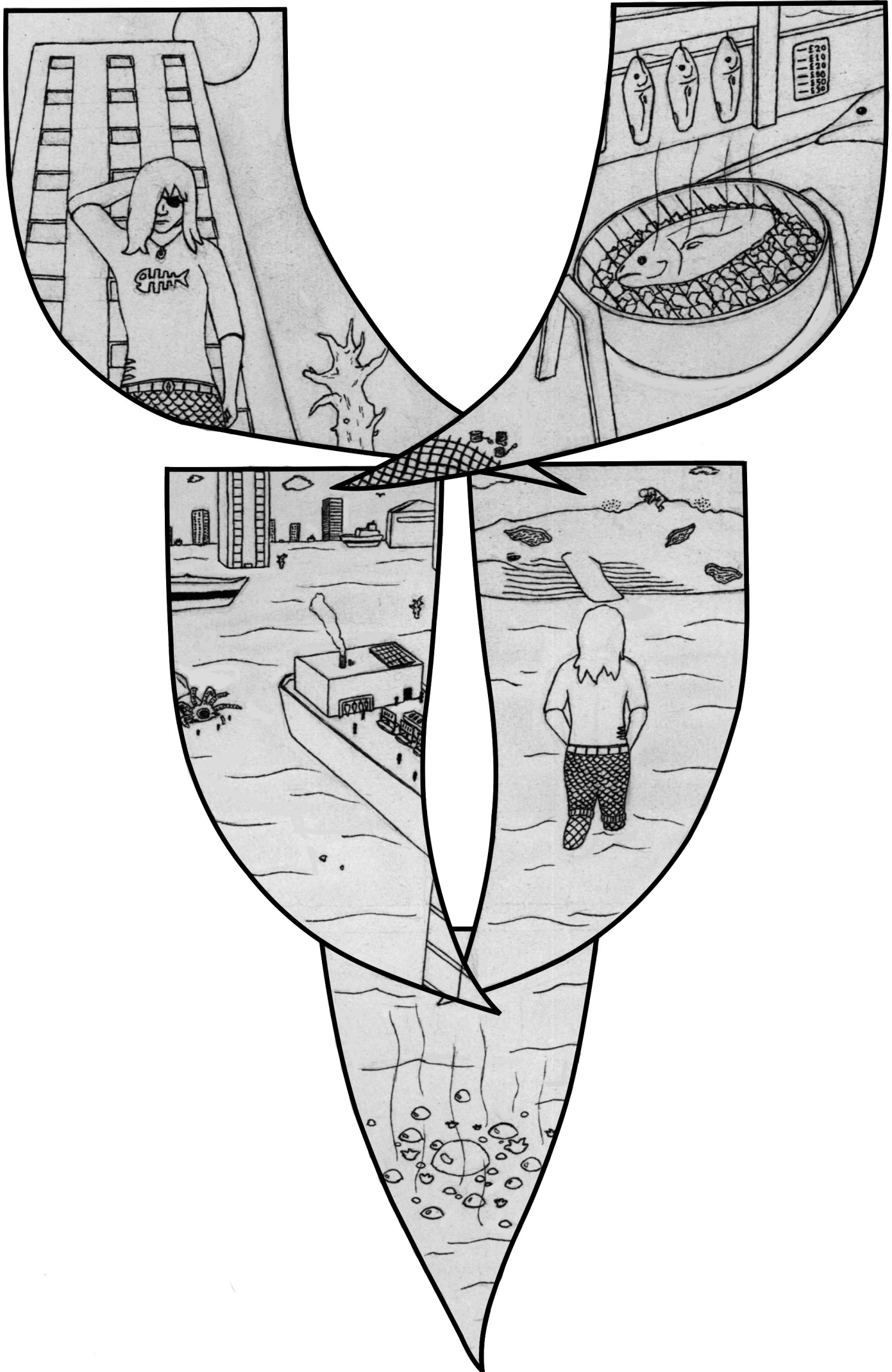














# Terry the Turtle

Hi! I'm Terry the turtle and I'm going to tell you my story.

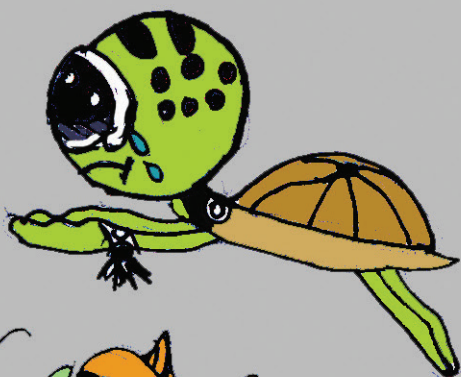
It all started long ago...



I was thrown into the ocean and I was all alone...



I swam for miles... but still no sign of any turtles.



Eventually I came across a lonely female turtle. Her name was Ellie.

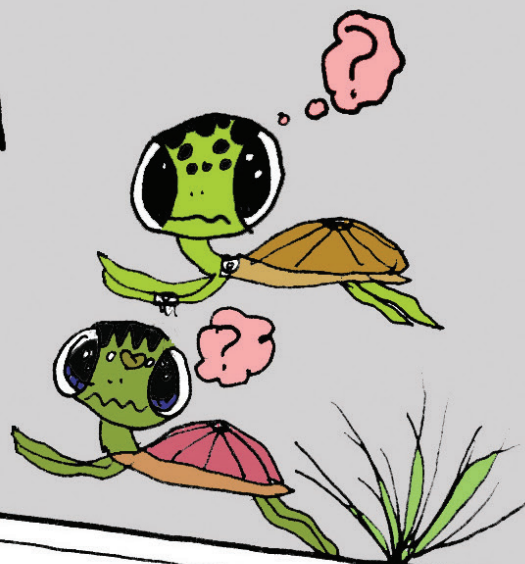
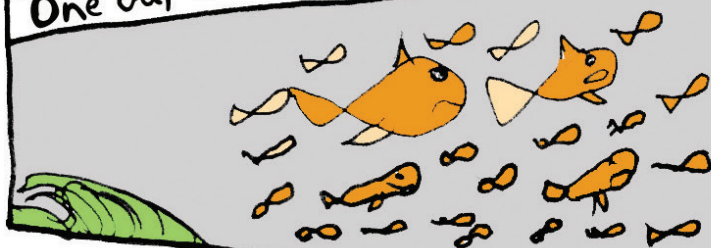




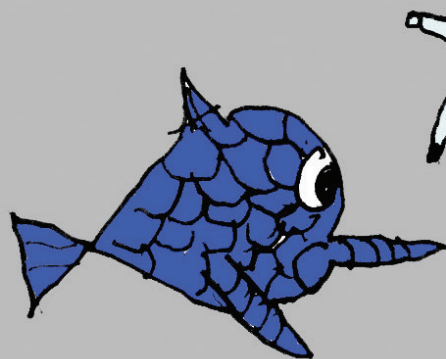
We did everything together  
like swimming and sunbathing.



One day all the fish were swimming away.



One of the fishes explained about  
all the plastic getting dumped in  
the ocean.



It was coming from the shore. The  
humans were dumping plastic in the ocean,





Plastic was sinking down and we didn't know what to do.



Ellie ate the plastic straw!  
She died!



All the fish  
were dying!



SAVE THE TURTLES !!

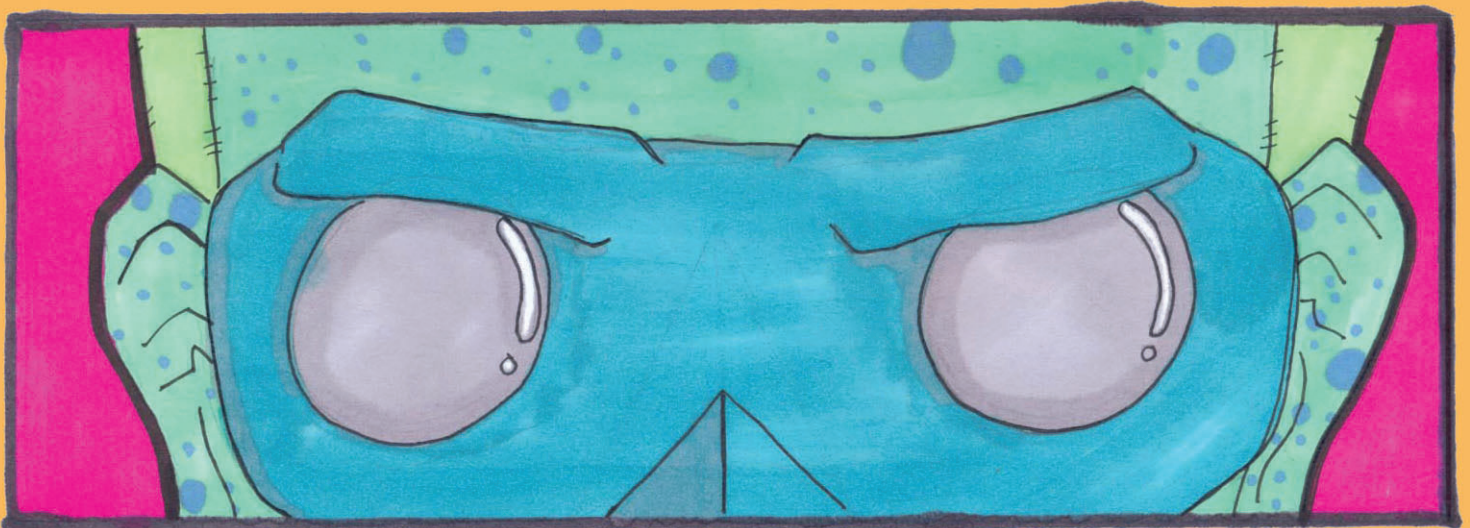
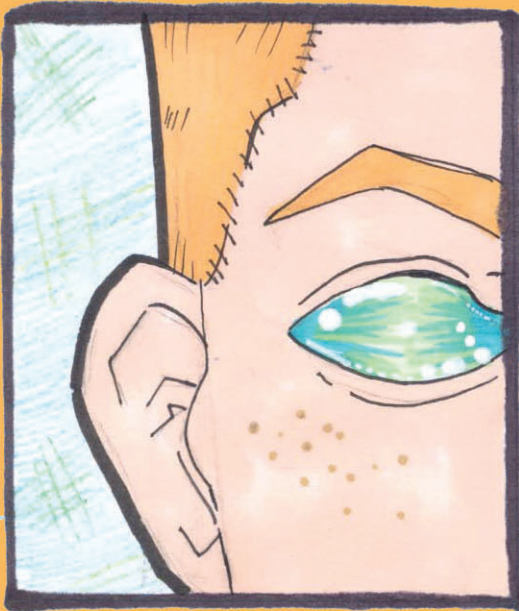


Marine



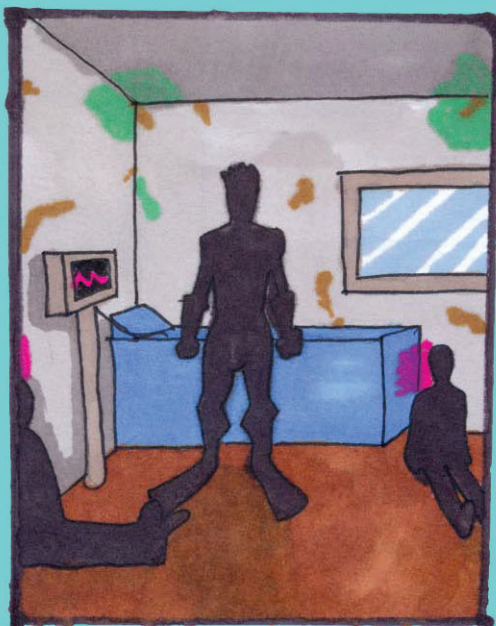
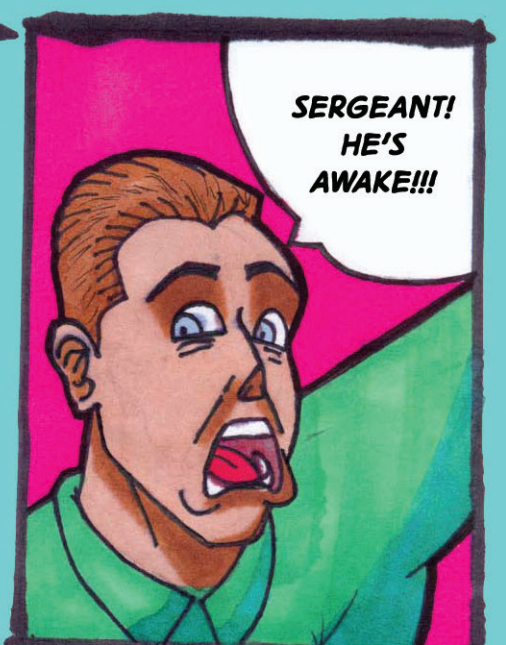
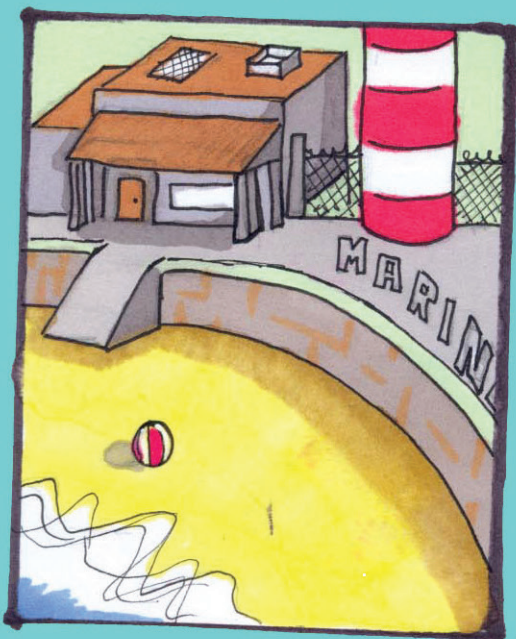
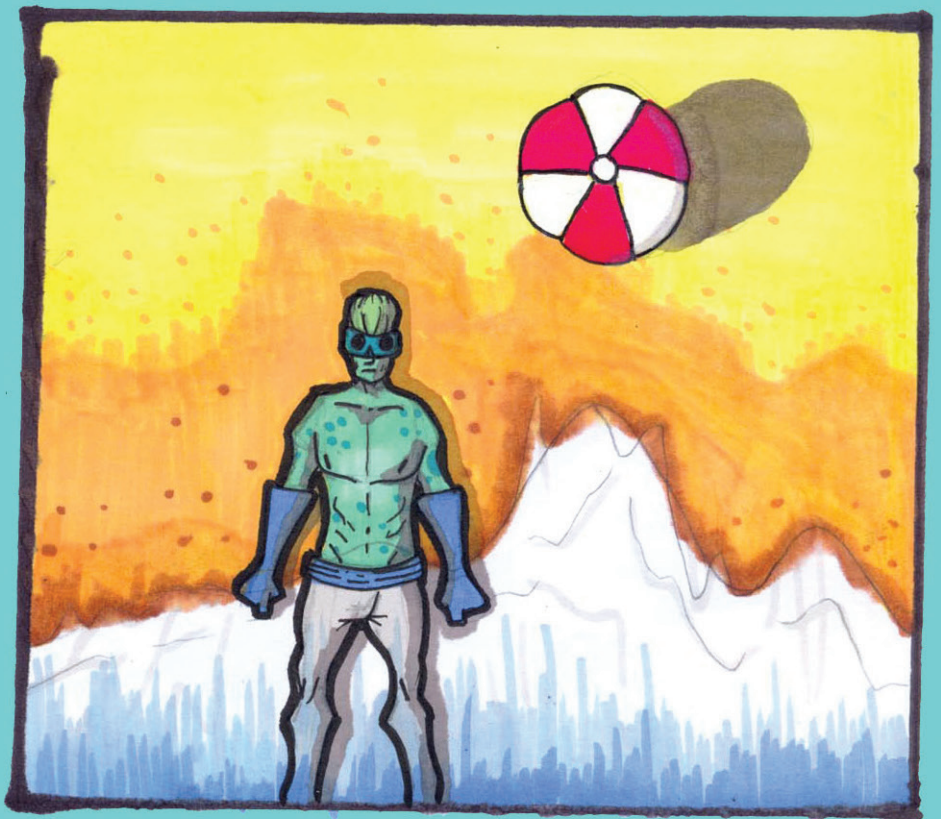
Greg Groundman was an accountant at an office building in New York. One day when he was walking home from work (via the riverside pathway) he fell over a rock and into the sea. In 2055 (the time in which this story is set) the ocean became so polluted that no living thing could, well, live there. Nobody had ever gone into the sea and the effects were unknown

**UNTIL NOW...**





Later that day he washed up on a Miami beach. It just so happened to be a marines boot camp. They took him in not knowing what to expect. Little did they know he would be their only hope...



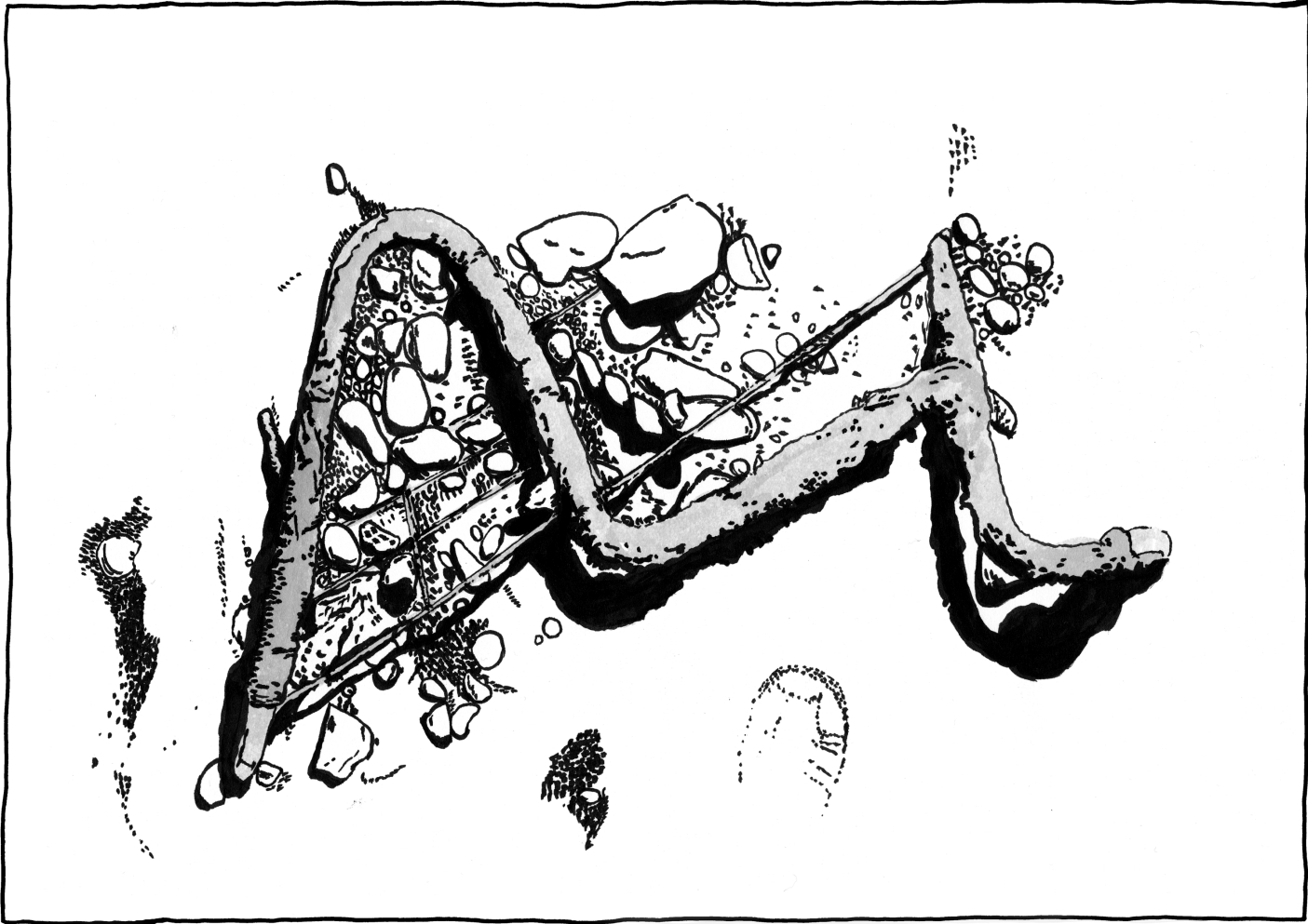


**WHOA!** THIS GUY'S BIG,  
I'M GOING TO HAVE TO  
USE SOMETHING  
BIGGER!

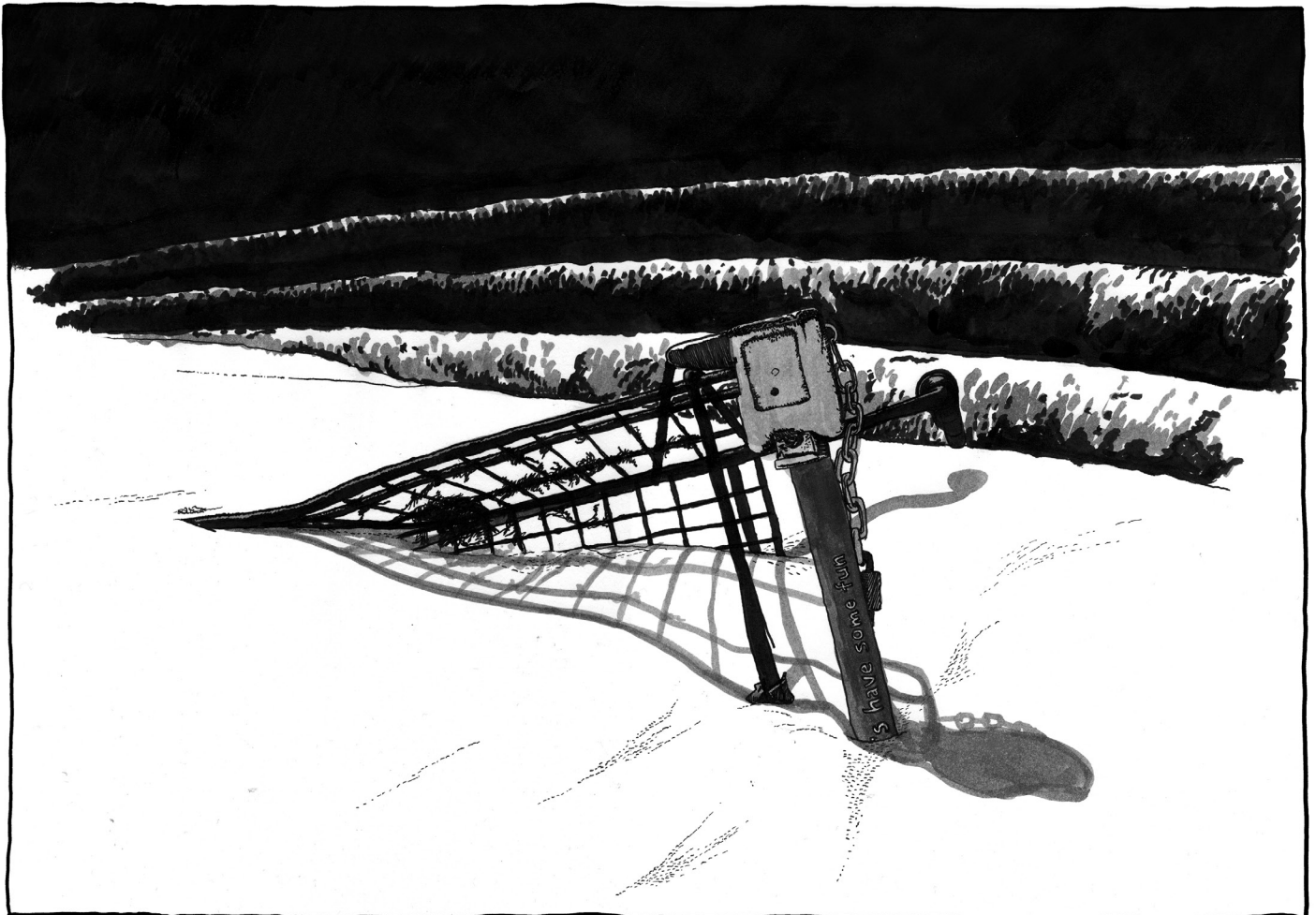
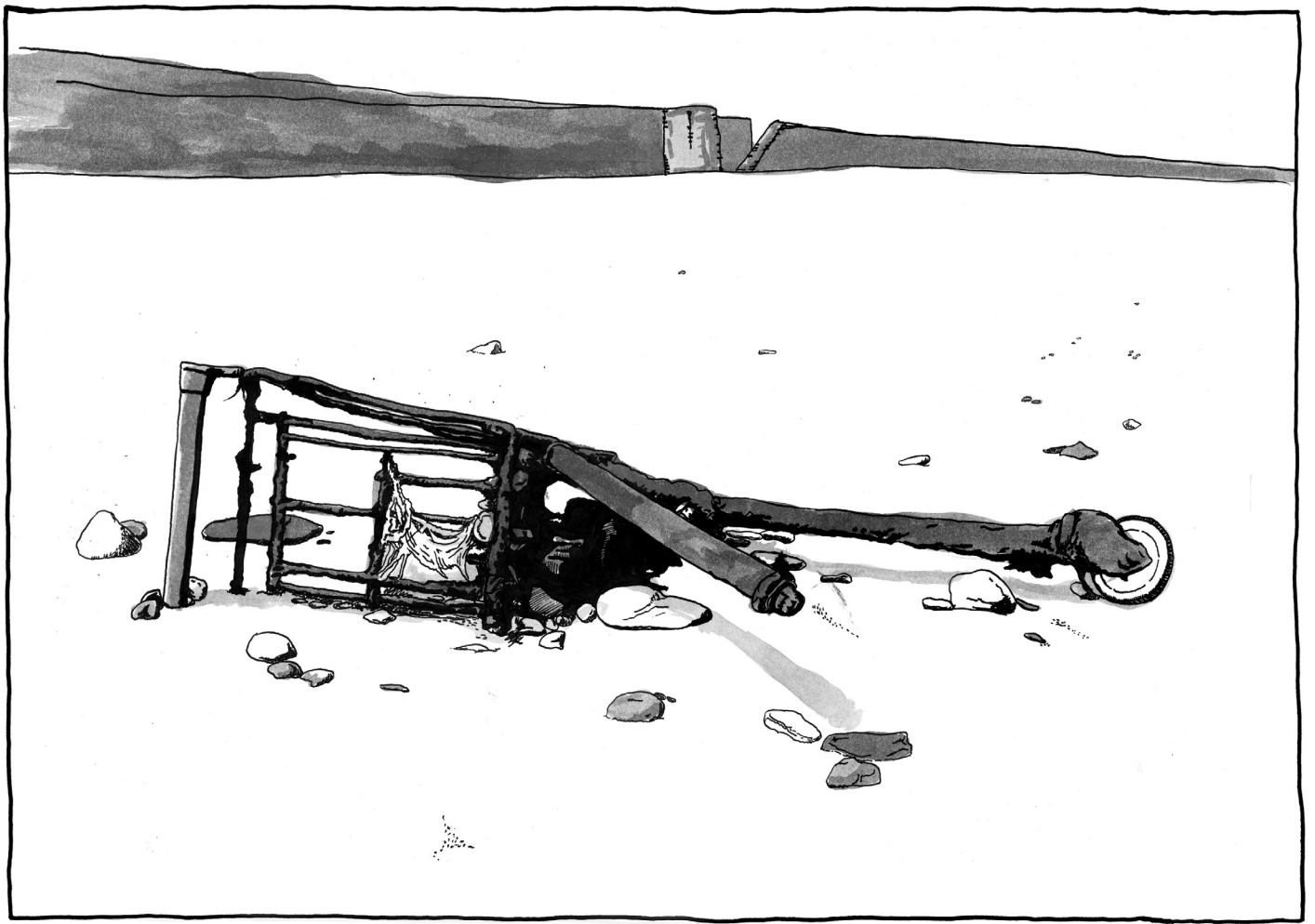




LET'S HAVE SOME FUN - DAMON HERD









# CONTRIBUTOR BIOS



**Mark Brown** graduated from Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art and Design, then moved to London where he cut his teeth creating content across various platforms such as digital TV, games consoles, mobile phones, newspapers and magazines. He is now focussing on illustration which has always been his true passion. He has worked with The BBC, Channel 4, The Daily Telegraph, Digit4, University of York, Dundee University, HighScore TV, Original Gravity, The McManus Gallery, Firewords Quarterly.  
[markbrown.online](http://markbrown.online)



**Julie Campbell** is a freelance illustrator and comic artist based in Fife, who enjoys creating creatures, characters and stories. She creates work based on a mix of different themes, from nature to fantasy and stories for children.  
[juliecampbelldraws.com](http://juliecampbelldraws.com)



**Mark Cruncher** is a graphic designer and illustrator, used to work in the games industry, but his true passion is graphic novels. He studied at the Eugeniusz Goeppert Academy of Art and Design in Wroclaw, Poland, graduating with a Master of Arts degree in 2008. He is based in Dundee.



**Tori Hage** is a comics creator who believes in comics as a universal language. The subject matters they touch upon are usually on the polar-opposites: either lighthearted slice-of-life or heavily political/emotional. They tend to draw unconventional angles and break the panels to draw attention to a whole page. While still trying to convert to digital, they are most comfortable with traditional mediums. They are currently pursuing MLitt in Comics and Graphic Novels at University of Dundee.



**Damon Herd** is the Coordinator of DCCS. He is an artist and comics maker with a PhD in autobiographical comics. He is the founder and organiser of DeeCAP, a comics performance event based in Dundee.  
[damonherd.com](http://damonherd.com)



**Olivia Hicks** was born, disappointingly, in High Wycombe, which is both landlocked, and devoid of rodeos. Despite this significant drawback, she has still managed to thrive, and now resides in Dundee, where she draws queer comics and illustrations by the light of the moon. By day she is a PhD student at the University of Dundee. She has still not attended a single rodeo.  
[oliviahicks.myportfolio.com](http://oliviahicks.myportfolio.com)



**Garry Mac** is a writer and artist from Glasgow. Recent work includes *The Sea of Paperwork* with Maryhill Integration Network and O ConFAB, a commission for queer times school with GoMA Glasgow, and a short film, *We Were Always Here*, for BBC Scotland and LUX Scotland, co-directed with Michael Richardson. He is currently a PhD Researcher at University of Dundee.



# CONTRIBUTOR BIOS



**C. McClue** is originally from Oxford but moved up to Dundee for university, where he is currently studying English and Psychology. He is a writer more than an artist, but is particularly interested in the comics medium, and is hoping to publish a book or two one day.



**Metaphrog** are Sandra Marrs and John Chalmers, winners of the Sunday Herald Scottish Culture Awards Best Visual Artist. They have received multiple Eisner Award nominations and critical acclaim for their *Louis* series, and *Louis - Night Salad* was Highly Commended for the Scottish Children's Book Awards 2011. They are also the authors of *The Red Shoes and Other Tales* and *The Little Mermaid* (an Excelsior Awards Junior winner 2018) fairy tale adaptations. Their next graphic novel is *Bluebeard: A Feminist Fairy Tale*. They live and work in Glasgow, Scotland.

**Follow them on Twitter @metaphrog**



**Professor Chris Murray** is Chair of Comics Studies at the school of humanities, University of Dundee and he leads the MLitt in Comics Studies and Graphic Novels course. He is director of the Scottish Centre for Comics Studies and Dundee Comics Creative Space, co-editor of *Studies in Comics* (Intellect) and UniVerse Comics, and has produced several public information comics for research and engagement purposes.

**[www.dundee.ac.uk/people/chris-murray](http://www.dundee.ac.uk/people/chris-murray)**



**David Robertson** makes comics, reads comics and writes about comics. His comics and articles have appeared in various anthologies, journals, magazines and websites. He contributes to podcasts and workshops. Through Fred Egg Comics, he publishes his titles *Bell Time*; *Berserkotron*; *Break the Cake*; *But a Dream!*; *Dump*; *Wow! Retracted*; and *Zero Sum Bubblegum*.

**[fredeggcomics.com](http://fredeggcomics.com)**



**Vicky Stonebridge** is an Artist and Potter based in Lochcarron in the Scottish Highlands. She runs a pottery studio where she produces a wide range of functional and decorative ceramics as well as teaching and running pottery activities. Vicky also paints, and draws comics, mostly autobiographical work covering health issues, rural life and mid-life adventures. Vicky has always been preoccupied with environment and green issues, and has planted over 10 000 trees, helps manage a community woodland, grows her own veggies and has always been a recycling obsessive. Come the climate apocalypse she makes a great nettle beer.

**[www.balnacra.com](http://www.balnacra.com)**



**Hannah McGann, Jenna Roberts and Harper McBride** are pupils at St Paul's R.C. Academy in Dundee, and have been supported in their work by their Art and Design teacher, Miss Amy Barber.



