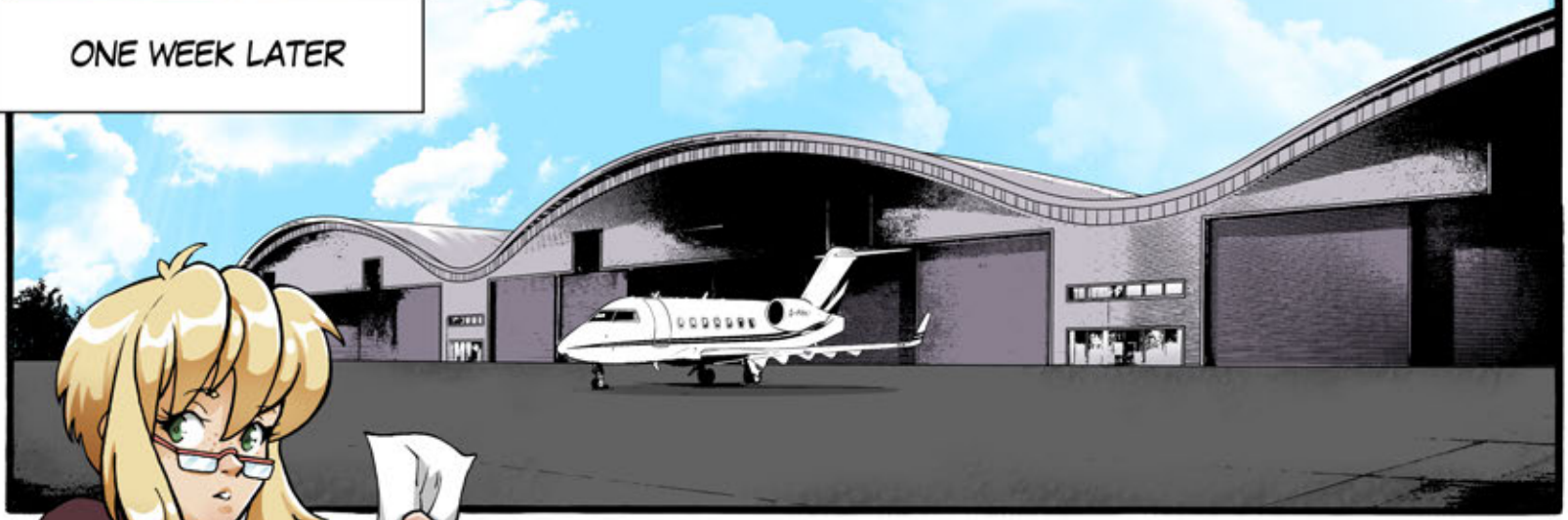
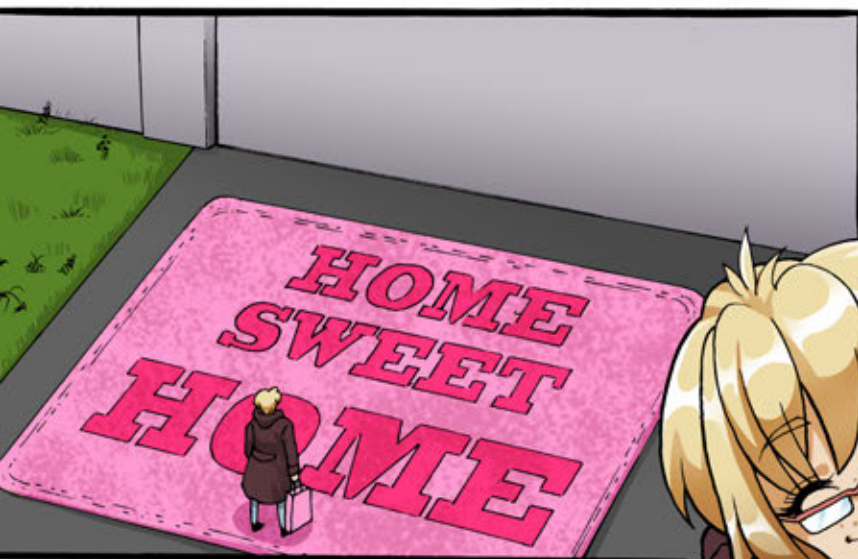
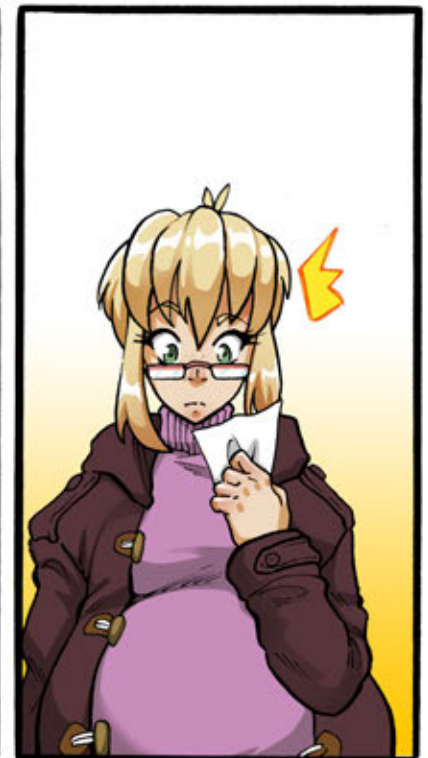
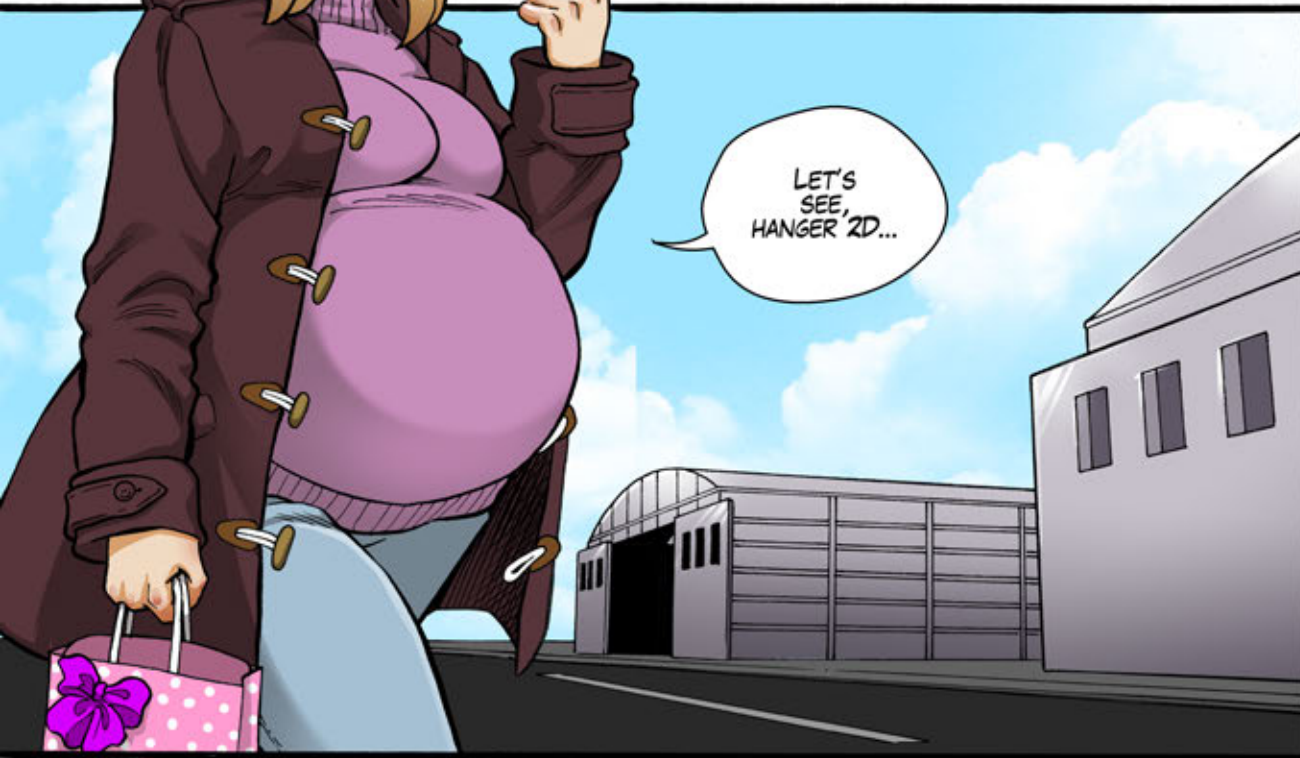


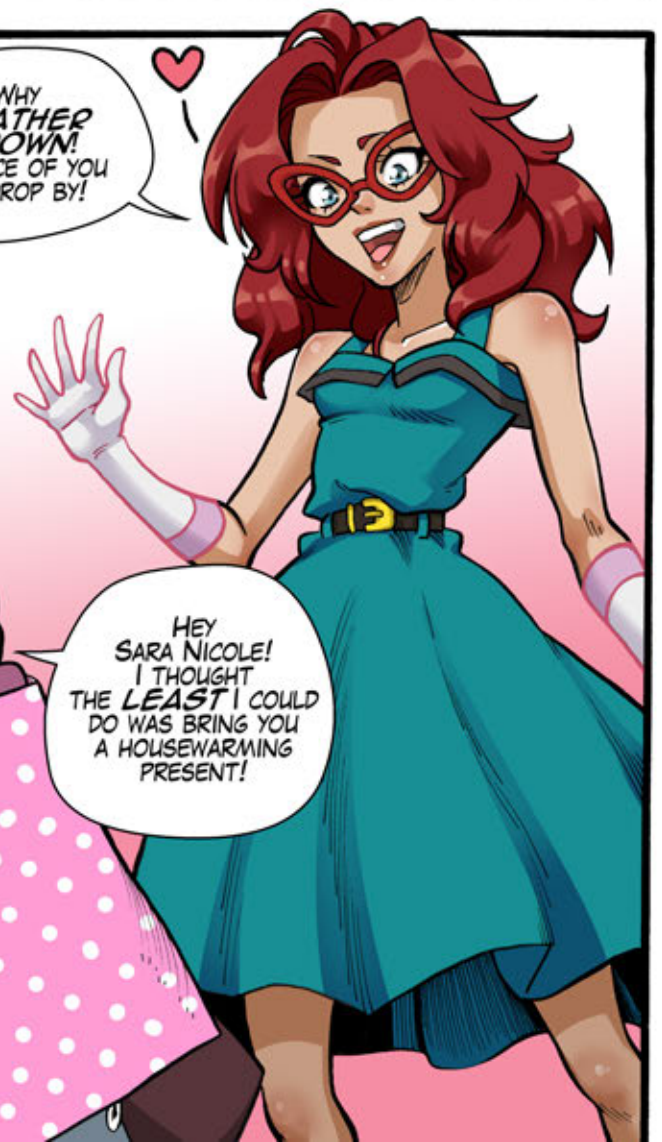
ONE WEEK LATER



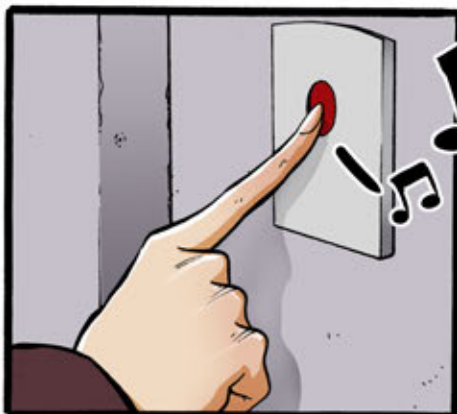
LET'S SEE,
HANGER 2D...

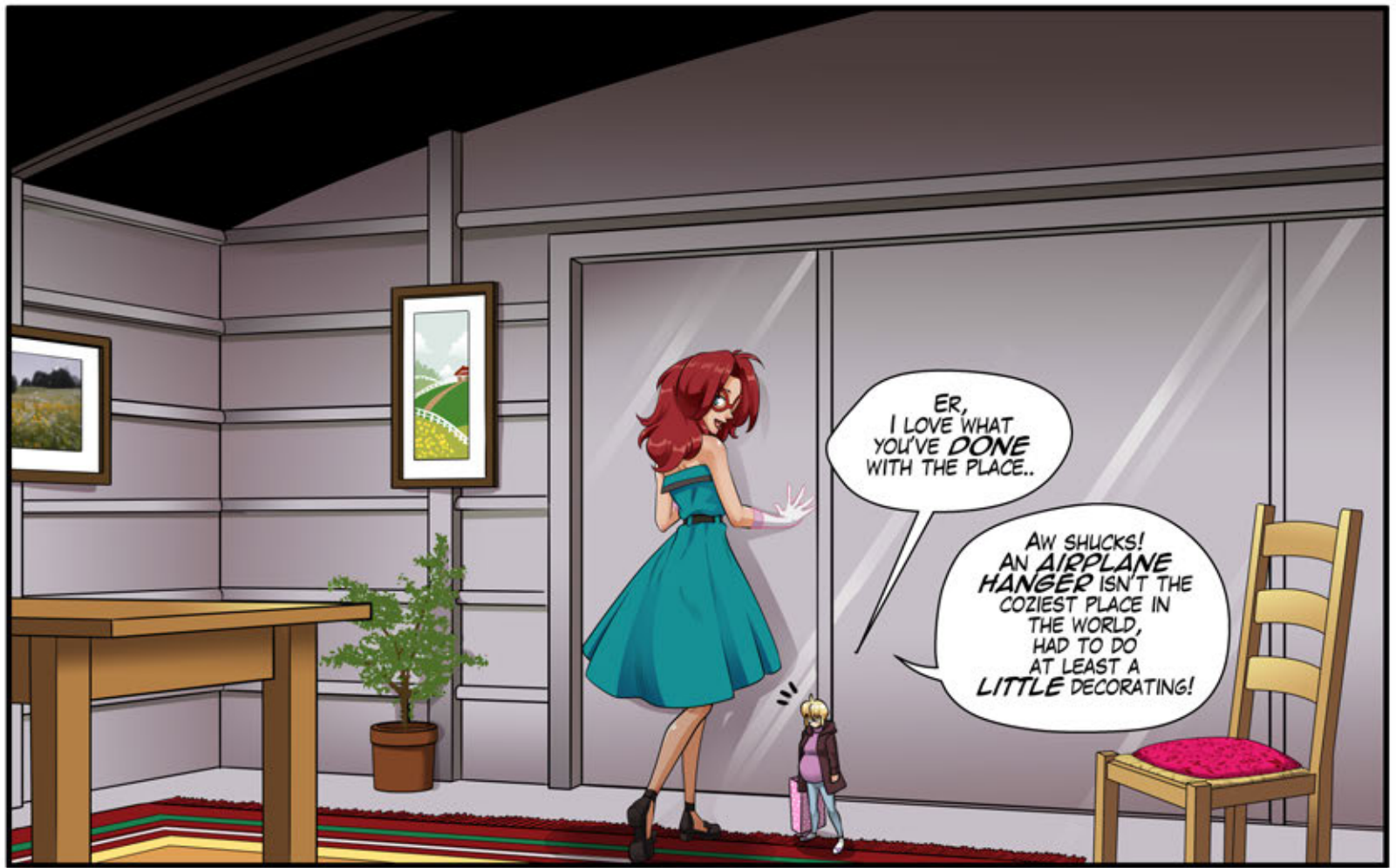


WHY
HEATHER
BROWN!
SO NICE OF YOU
TO DROP BY!



HEY
SARA NICOLE!
I THOUGHT
THE **LEAST** I COULD
DO WAS BRING YOU
A HOUSEWARMING
PRESENT!





ER, I LOVE WHAT YOU'VE *DONE* WITH THE PLACE..

AW SHUCKS! AN *AIRPLANE HANGER* ISN'T THE COZIEST PLACE IN THE WORLD, HAD TO DO AT LEAST A *LITTLE* DECORATING!



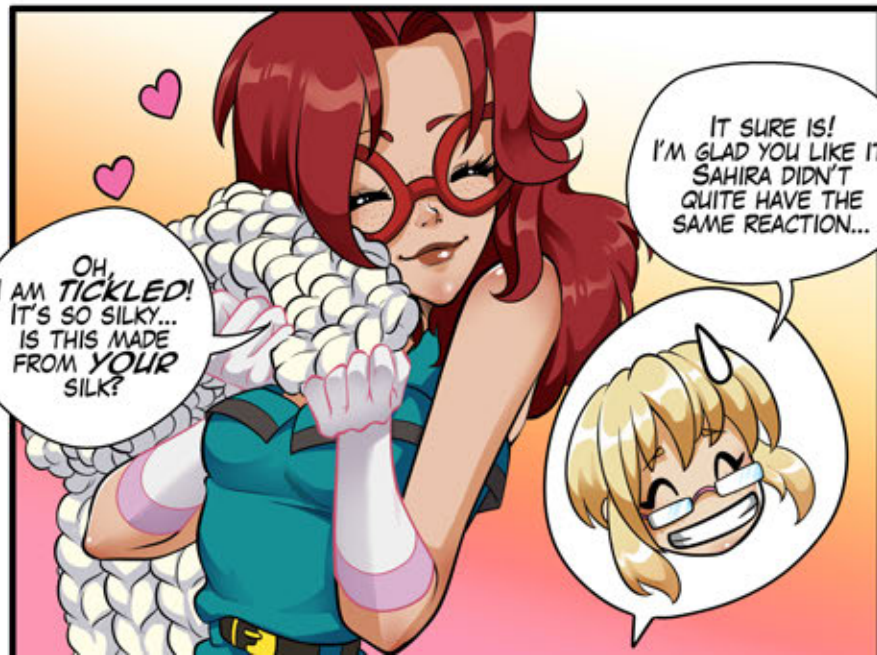
I KNOW IT'S A LITTLE *LATE* IN THE SEASON, BUT I KNIT YOU A *SCARF!*



THERE ARE STILL SOME CHILLY DAYS IN THE SPRING!



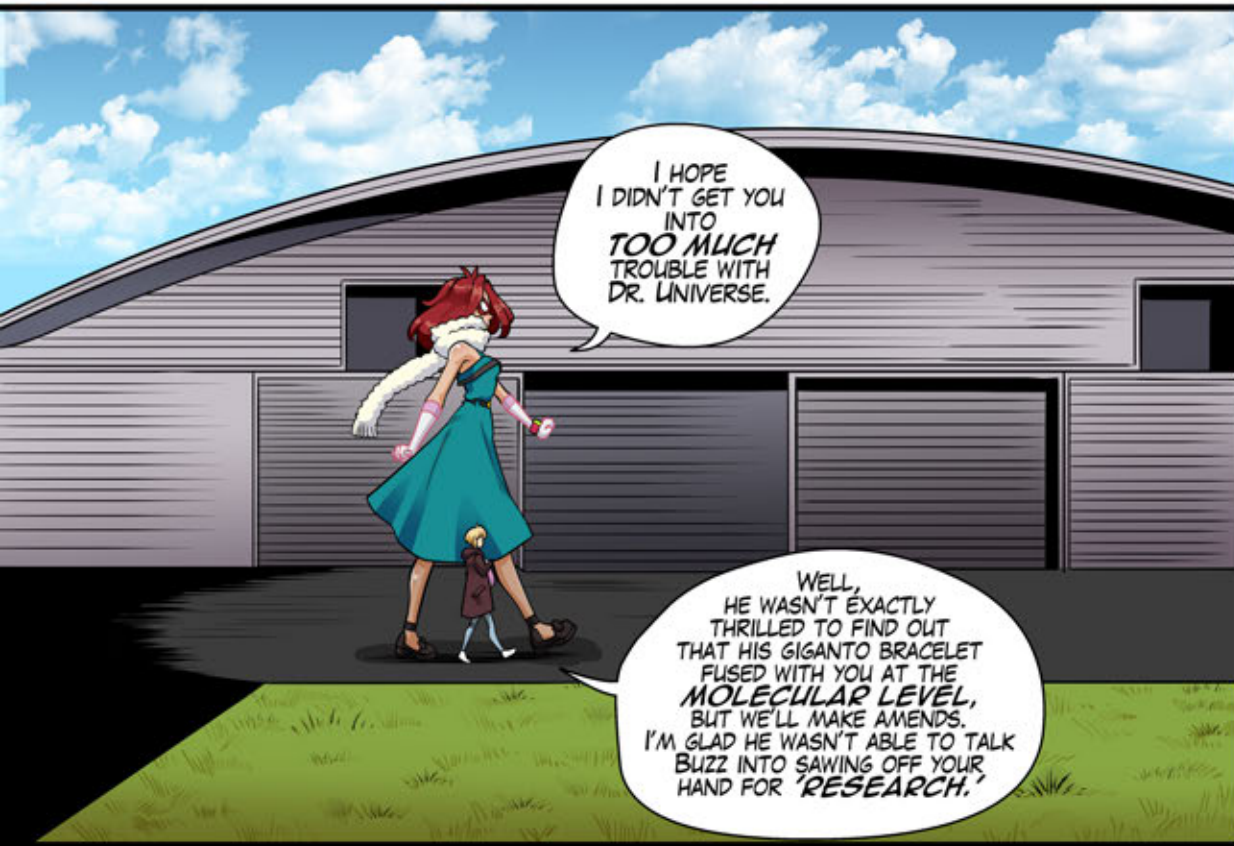
WHY DON'T WE GO FOR A WALK?



OH I AM *TICKLED!* IT'S SO SILKY... IS THIS MADE FROM *YOUR* SILK?

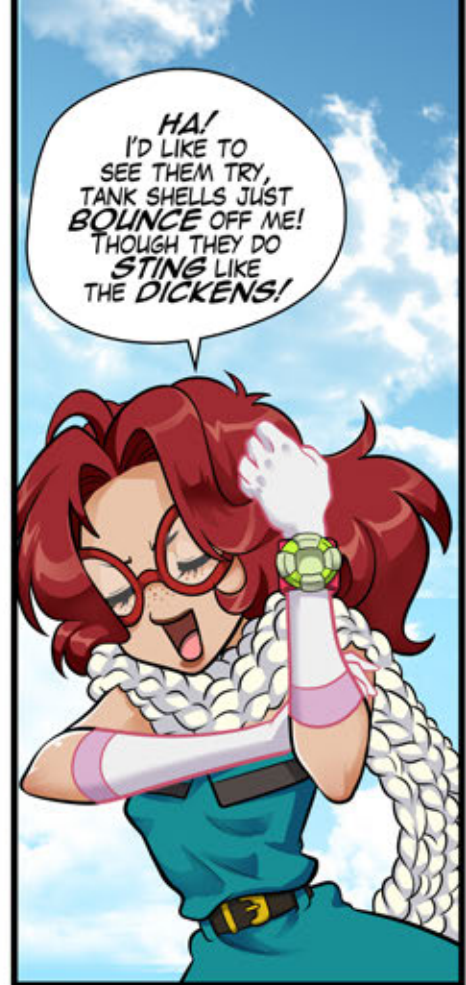
IT SURE IS! I'M GLAD YOU LIKE IT. SAHIRA DIDN'T QUITE HAVE THE SAME REACTION...



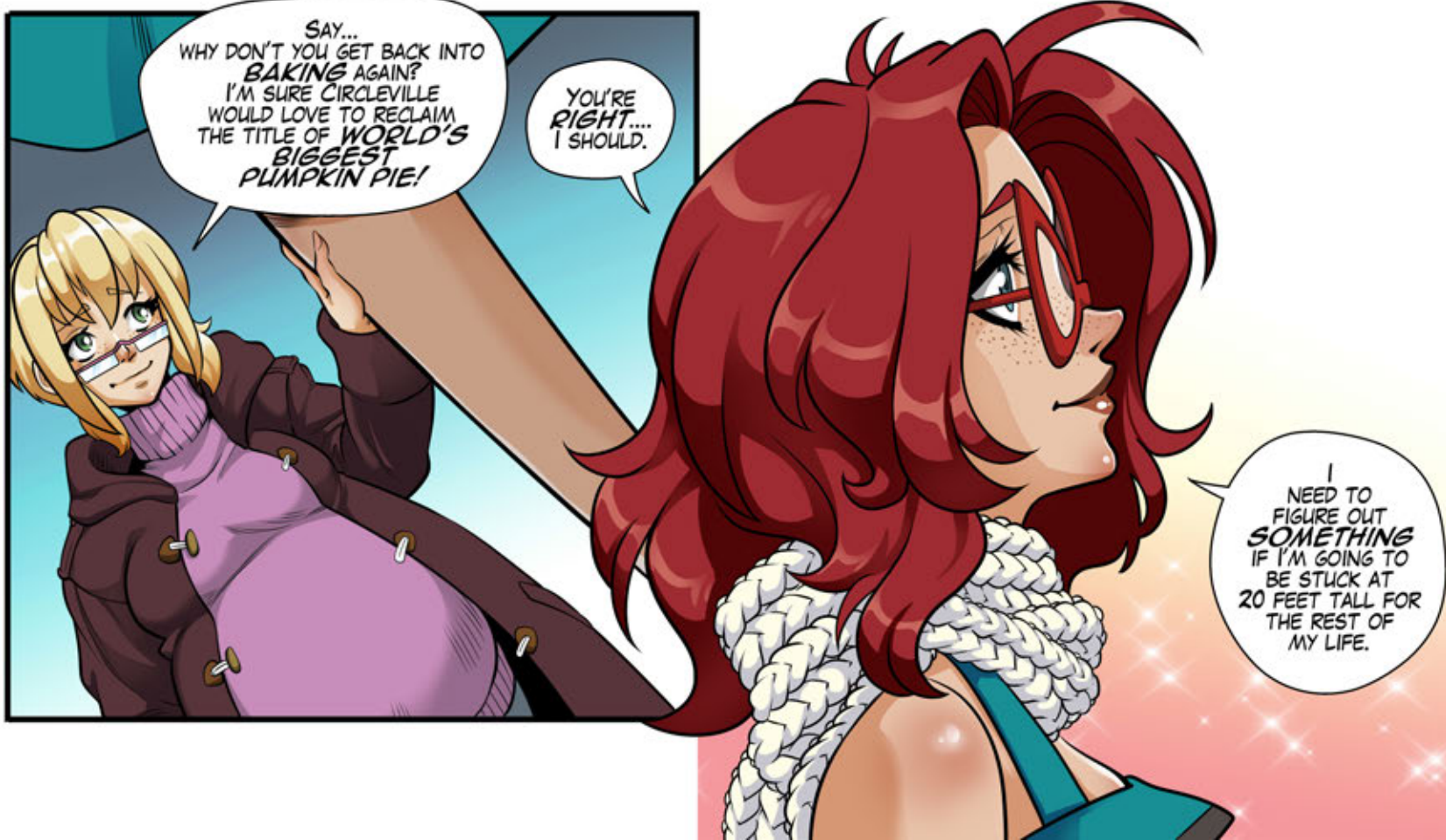
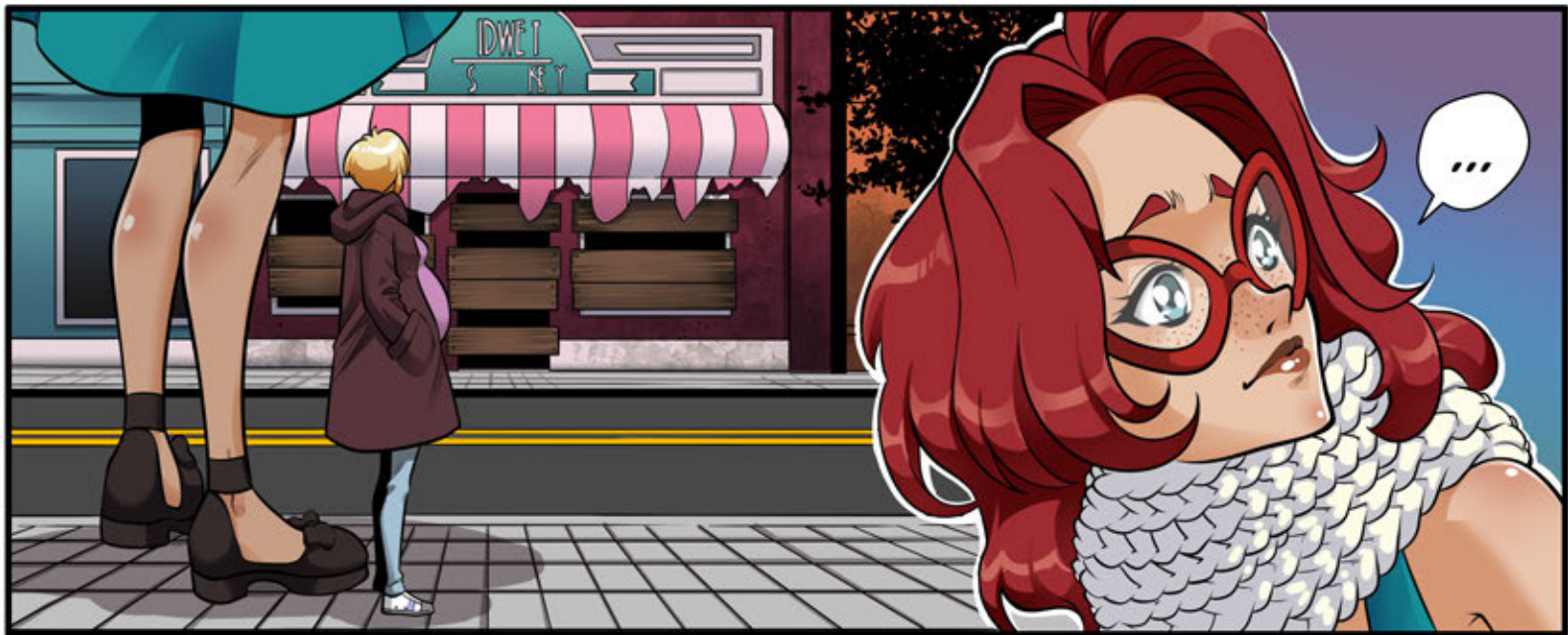


I HOPE I DIDN'T GET YOU INTO **TOO MUCH TROUBLE** WITH DR. UNIVERSE.

WELL, HE WASN'T EXACTLY THRILLED TO FIND OUT THAT HIS GIGANTO BRACELET FUSED WITH YOU AT THE **MOLECULAR LEVEL**, BUT WE'LL MAKE AMENDS. I'M GLAD HE WASN'T ABLE TO TALK BUZZ INTO SAWING OFF YOUR HAND FOR **'RESEARCH.'**



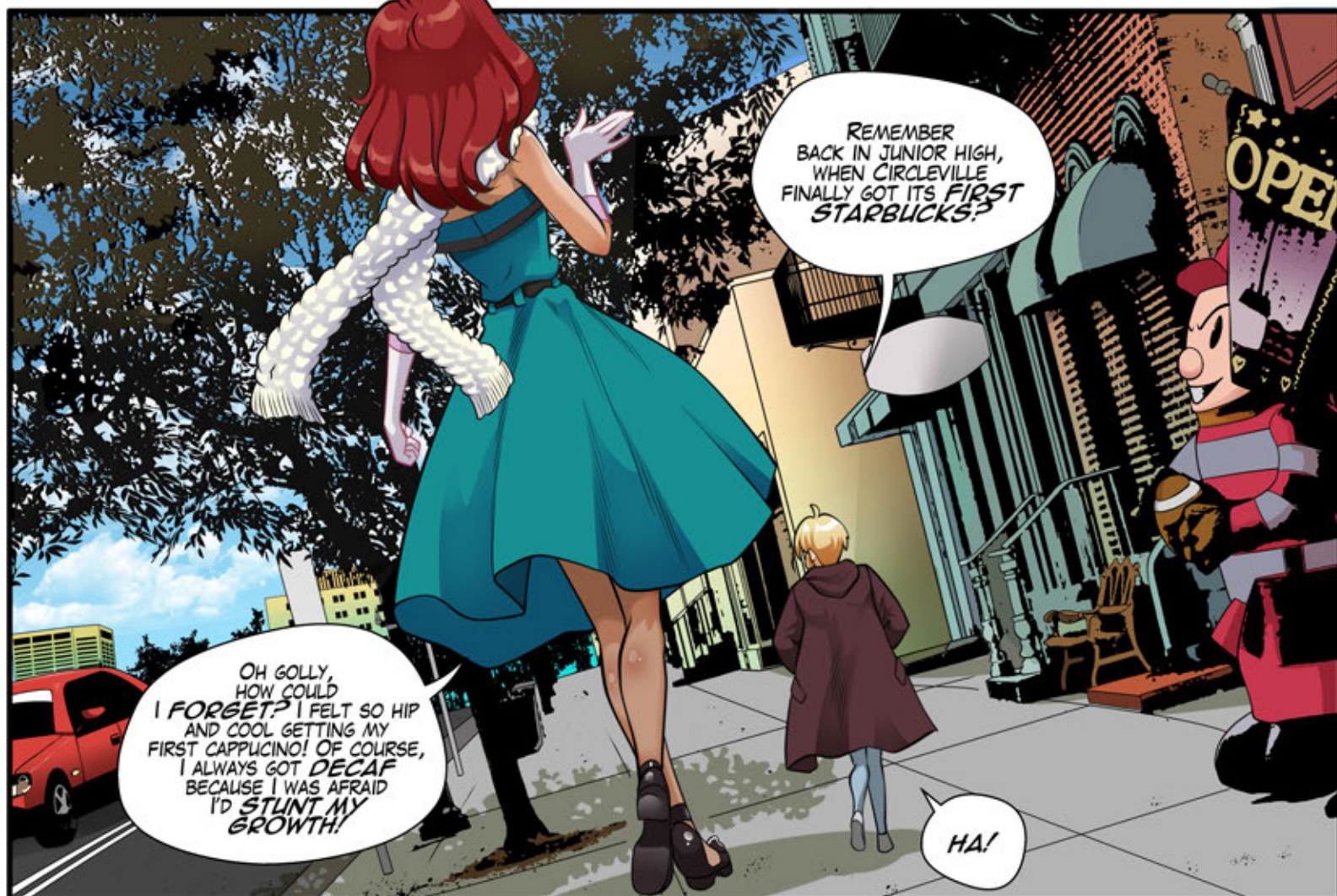
HA! I'D LIKE TO SEE THEM TRY, TANK SHELLS JUST **BOUNCE** OFF ME! THOUGH THEY DO **STING** LIKE THE **DICKENS!**



SAY... WHY DON'T YOU GET BACK INTO **BAKING** AGAIN? I'M SURE CIRCLEVILLE WOULD LOVE TO RECLAIM THE TITLE OF **WORLD'S BIGGEST PUMPKIN PIE!**

YOU'RE **RIGHT....** I SHOULD.

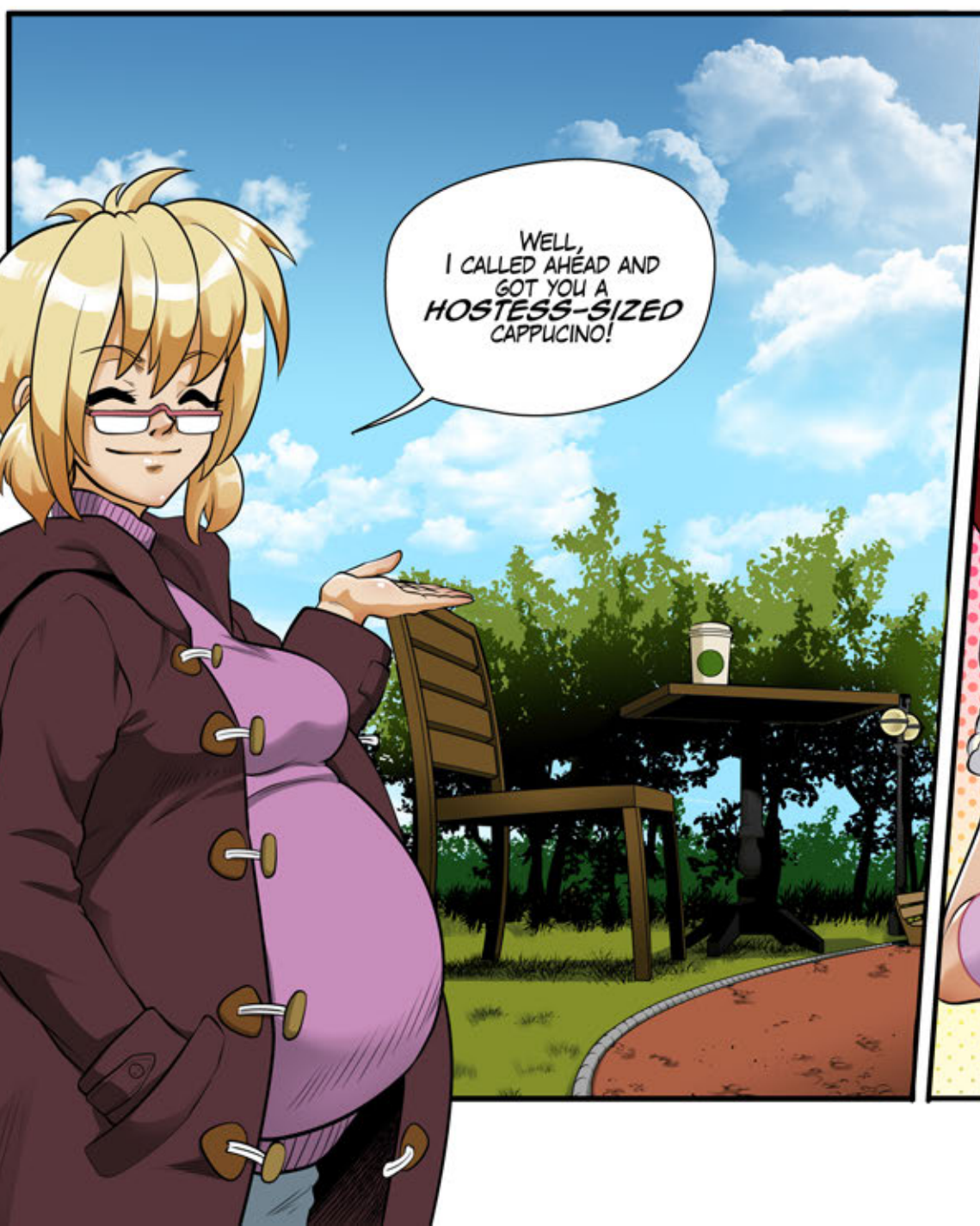
I NEED TO FIGURE OUT **SOMETHING** IF I'M GOING TO BE STUCK AT 20 FEET TALL FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE.



OH GOLLY, HOW COULD I FORGET? I FELT SO HIP AND COOL GETTING MY FIRST CAPPUCINO! OF COURSE, I ALWAYS GOT *DECAF* BECAUSE I WAS AFRAID I'D STUNT MY GROWTH!

REMEMBER BACK IN JUNIOR HIGH, WHEN CIRCLEVILLE FINALLY GOT ITS *FIRST STARBUCKS*?

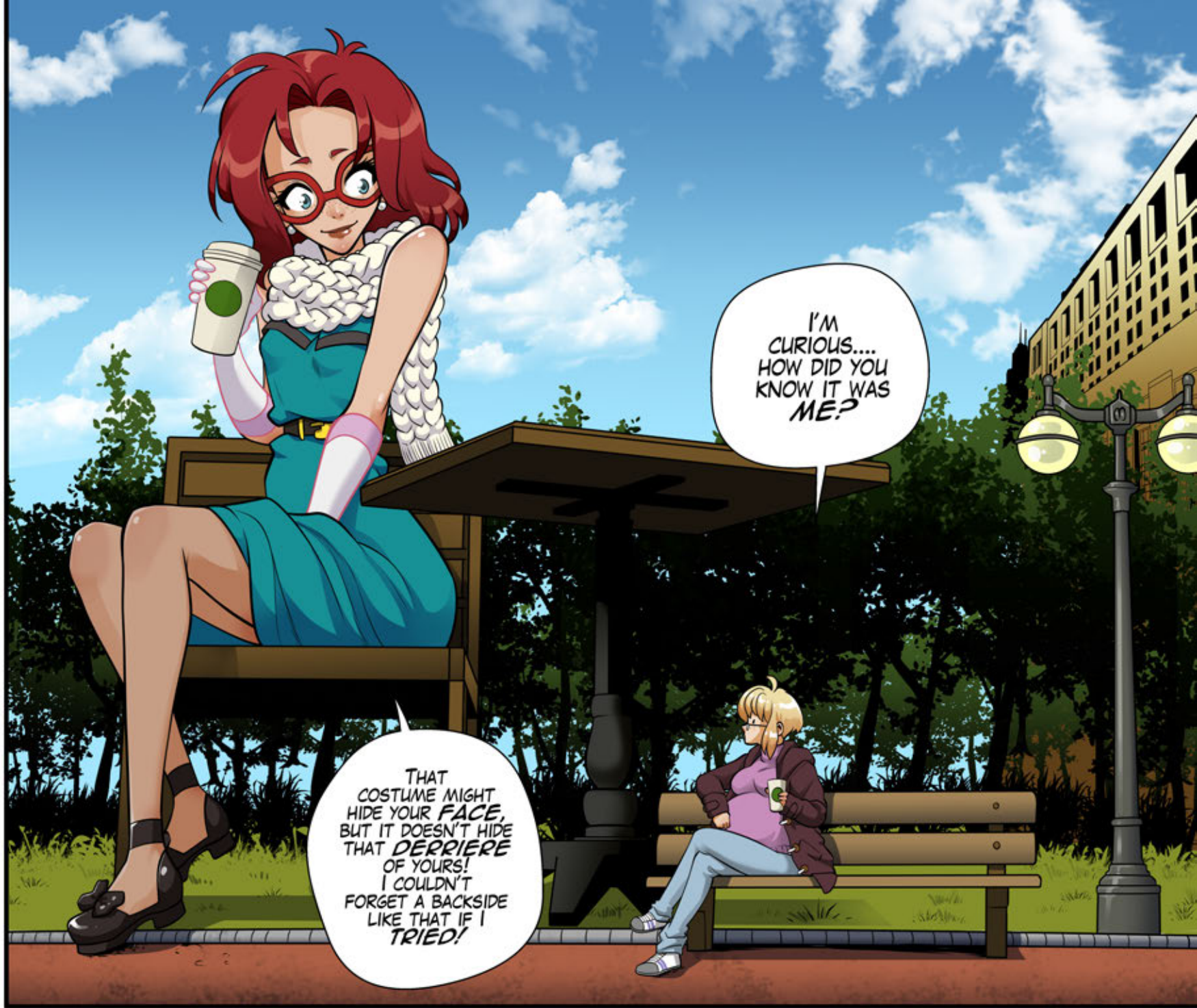
HA!



WELL, I CALLED AHEAD AND GOT YOU A *HOSTESS-SIZED CAPPUCINO*!



YOU DID ALL THIS FOR LITTLE OL' ME? I'VE BEEN LIVING OFF OF *MRE'S* AND *CHICKEN SOUP* THESE PAST FEW DAYS!



I'M CURIOUS.... HOW DID YOU KNOW IT WAS ME?

THAT COSTUME MIGHT HIDE YOUR FACE, BUT IT DOESN'T HIDE THAT *DERRIERE* OF YOURS! I COULDN'T FORGET A BACKSIDE LIKE THAT IF I TRIED!

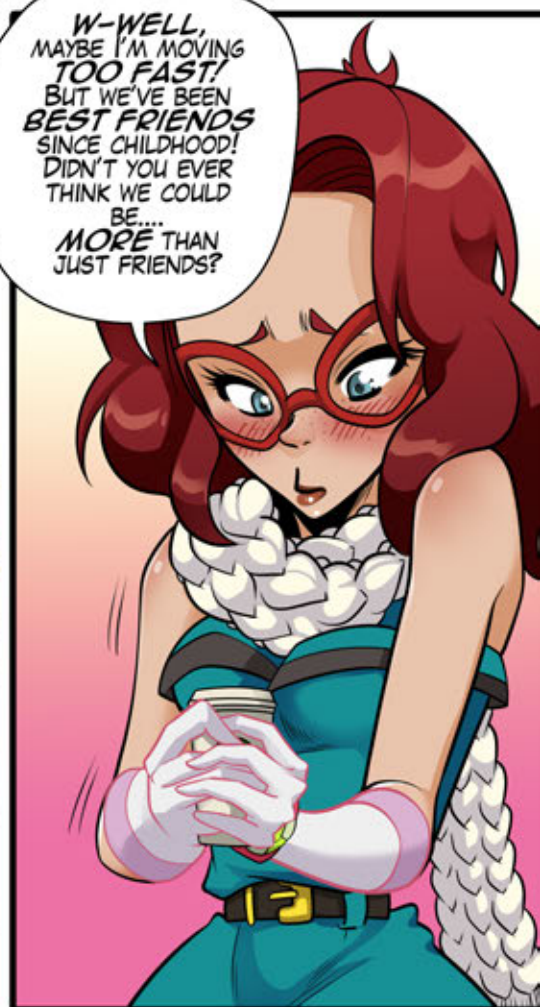


YEAH.... ABOUT THAT, IF YOU COULD KEEP THAT QUIET-



OH, I COULD NEVER BETRAY YOU LIKE THAT! ESPECIALLY AFTER ASKED ME ON THIS DATE!

DATE? I... I DIDN'T THINK THIS WAS A DATE.



W-WELL, MAYBE I'M MOVING TOO FAST! BUT WE'VE BEEN BEST FRIENDS SINCE CHILDHOOD! DIDN'T YOU EVER THINK WE COULD BE... MORE THAN JUST FRIENDS?



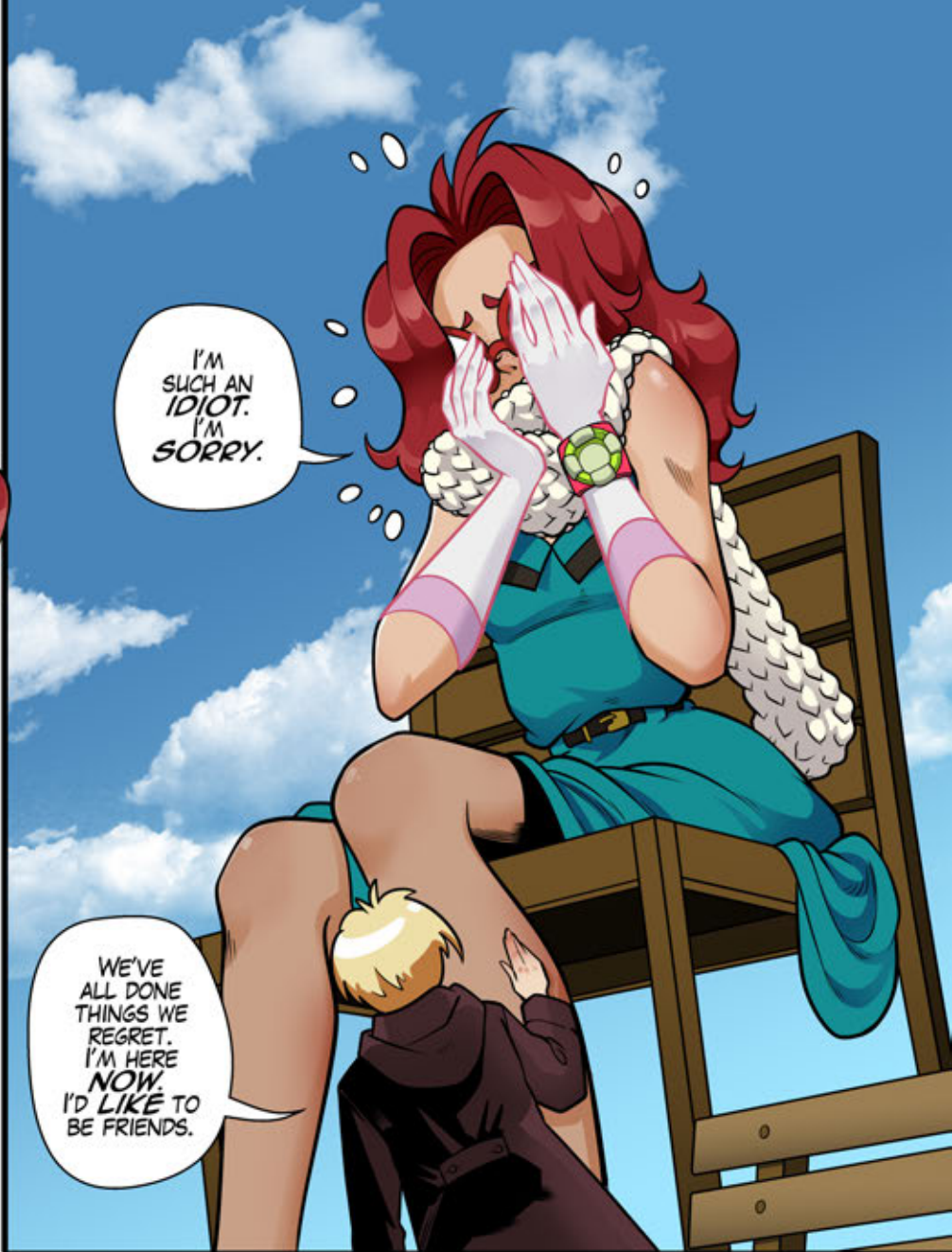
WE WEREN'T FRIENDS AS KIDS, SARA NICOLE. YOU WERE A BULLY.



B-BUT THAT WAS JUST ME BEING AFRAID TO BE GAY! I TEASED YOU, BECAUSE I LIKED YOU!

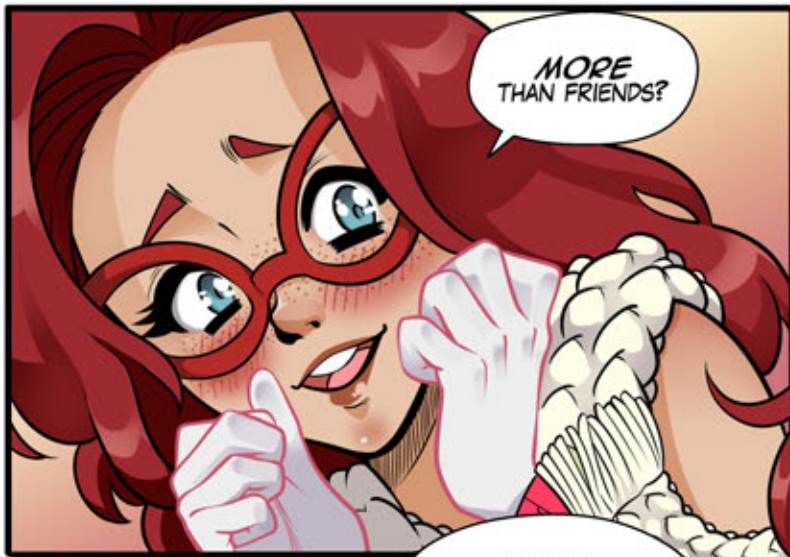


I DIDN'T FEEL LIKED, SARA NICOLE. IT HURT.

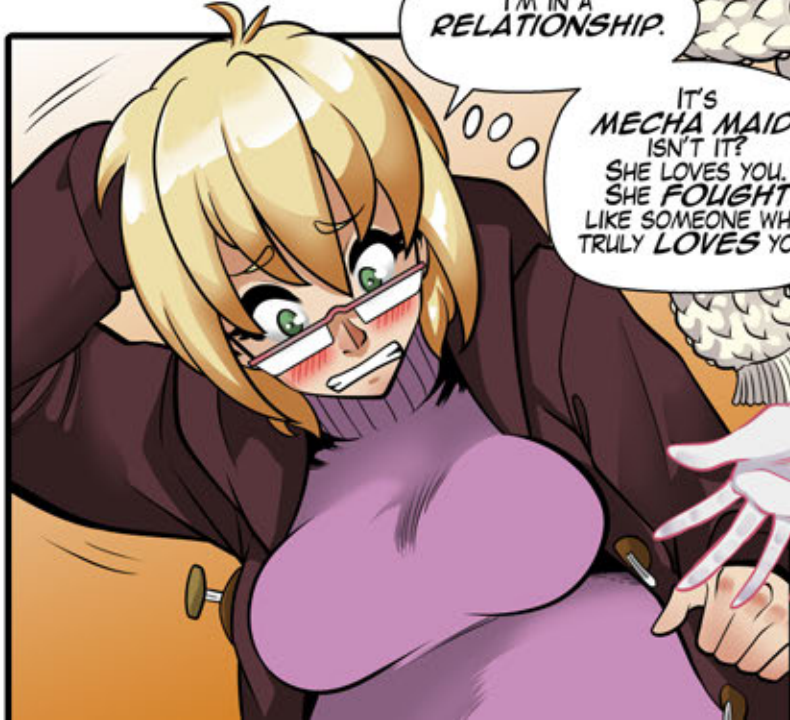


I'M SUCH AN IDIOT. I'M SORRY.

WE'VE ALL DONE THINGS WE REGRET. I'M HERE NOW. I'D LIKE TO BE FRIENDS.



MORE THAN FRIENDS?



I'M IN A RELATIONSHIP.

IT'S MECHA MAID, ISN'T IT? SHE LOVES YOU, SHE FOUGHT LIKE SOMEONE WHO TRULY LOVES YOU.



IT'S OK... I'M READY. YOU CAN TELL THE NATIONAL GUARD I'M READY TO GO BACK TO PRISON.

W-WAIT!

