**[****EMPOWERED AND SISTAH SPOOKY'S HIGH SCHOOL HELL]**

[Issue #1]

"[STORYTITLE]" Part [1 of 6]

By

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**PAGE 1**

PANEL 1

Kicking off with a flashback to YOUNG SPOOKY's first meeting with her INFERNAL SERVICE PROVIDER in a janitor's closet, as seen in EMPOWERED vol.1 pp.166-69, EMP6 pp.82-88, and EMP8 pp.85-89, though *without* the MINDF\*\*K appearances seen in EMP6&8.

Here, a nice, big downshot of the kneeling YOUNG SPOOKY in her school uniform, complete with glasses and unibrow. (Note that I changed the tartan pattern on her skirt considerably from EMP1's dog's breakfast of a pattern, in favor of one ported from Ken Akamatsu's manga NEGIMA!; feel free to work one up that can be comfortably drawn over and over and over again.) She's frowning a bit as she stares up at the off-panel INFERNAL SERVICE PROVIDER (or ISP), and is strongly lit by his flames. In fact, we see glowing sparks and gouts of fire flashing by in the foreground (FG, hereafter) of the shot.

**TRICKY LETTERING STUFF**: For Spooky's narrative captions, here, I'm thinking about playing around with some manga techniques, as they tend to have a much more flexible approach to such captions. Sometimes mangaka use conventional captions, or they use those speedline-radiating "bursts," or slap the text in directly over the art without caption or balloon, or use entire, all-black *panels* with white text over 'em. Here, I'd like to try something akin to the lattermost approach, with big black caption boxes extending into the panels and featuring white type. (So you'd need to letter them in white spaces, then invert 'em in Photoshop, if you wanna try this stuff.)

Also, for several scenes in this issue, I'd also like to try a trick where Spooky's captions are a "voiceover" that's partially blocking out the spoken dialogue. (I'm oddly fond of this technique, as it gives a slightly different narrative feel than just leaving the dialogue out.) Here, her captions would be overlapping the ISP's dialogue, indicating that her "voiceover" is partially drowning out the drone of his sales pitch.

CAPTION (OVERLAPS WORD BALLOON)

What, **this** shit again?

INFERNAL SERVICE PROVIDER (OFF-PANEL; PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CAPTION; BOLD, JAGGED OUTLINE ON BALLOON)

Most of your blonde enemies at this school are **already** my clients.

PANEL 2

Based on EMP1's p.167 and EMP8's pp.85-89, a big shot of the fiery, cow-skull-headed INFERNAL SERVICE PROVIDER looming dramatically inside his column of flame, with SPOOKY's head seen from the back in the FG. Note that I used a much crisper, cleaner, ink-based approach to rendering him in EMP8 than the smudgier, hand-killing pencil technique of EMP1; I recommend the newer approach, of course.

INFERNAL SERVICE PROVIDER (BOLD, JAGGED OUTLINE ON BALLOON)

**Heh**.

(cont)

Did you think it was a **coincidence** that almost **all** of your classmates are supermodel-level **icons** **of** **Aryan** **hotness**?

PANEL 3

Closer-up downshot on the frowning YOUNG SPOOKY, lit by the off-panel ISP's flames. Her glasses might be partially reflecting the flames, come to think of it. A few more sparks or gouts of flame might gush by in the FG.

CAPTION (OVERLAPS PREVIOUS PANEL)

Once again, reliving my last few moments on earth as a bullied little **ugly** **brown** **duckling** with extraordinarily poor judgment.

INFERNAL SERVICE PROVIDER (OFF-PANEL; BOLD, JAGGED OUTLINE ON BALLOON)

**Nope**.

PANEL 4

Shot based on EMP1's p.167, panel 3, only with a better view of the ISP's blazing-cow-skull head as he holds up a PAMPHLET in one fiery, clawed hand to show the off-panel YOUNG SPOOKY. ON the PAMPHLET, we see a beautiful, buxom BLONDE SCHOOLGIRL reclining on a bed of roses, her school uniform (the same as YOUNG SPOOKY's) in notable disarray to better display her voluptuous body. A close-up headshot of the same BLONDE SCHOOLGIRL appears at upper right, though not necessarily sporting the extremely Big, Pouty Lips of the original EMP1 p.167 drawing.

Fun bit: The edges of the PAMPHLET are glowing and trailing fire, to further indicate the document's magically infernal status. (Didn't think of that back in 2006.)

INFERNAL SERVICE PROVIDER (BOLD, JAGGED OUTLINE ON BALLOON)

With our new "**trade** **your** **soul** **for** **hotness**" program, you're guaranteed a **movie**-**star** **face** and a **porn**-**star** **body**, see?

(cont)

At **your** school, simply **everyone** has signed up for our service.

PAMPHLET

Check out our **many** exciting face and body packages, including:

#5: **Icy** **Blonde** **Hotness**!

PANEL 5

Tight close-up on YOUNG SPOOKY's face, with an image of the BLONDE's head reflected in the lens(es?) of her eyeglasses. Sparks fly by in the FG.

CAPTION (OVERLAPS INTO PREVIOUS PANEL)

Again, as always, I **sell** **my** **soul** like the **idiot** I am, and escape my personal **high** **school** **hell**...

**PAGE 2**

PANEL 1

New setting! Back to the present day, with a tight close-up of GROWN-UP SPOOKY (with the partially shaved EMP10 hairdo) waking up and opening her eyes as golden morning sunlight streams over her face.

CAPTION

...and then I **wake** **up**.

PANEL 2

Big panel. SPOOKY awakens in a luxury (Apartment? Condo?) bedroom, a setting that screams "upscale lifestyle porn," made even more obnoxious by the golden tones of morning sunlight streaming in through (drapery-obscured?) windows to one side. A sleepy-looking SPOOKY arises from her nest of pillows, sheets falling away to show her wearing some silky, fairly revealing sleepwear that visually confirms that this is NOT skinny ol' YOUNG SPOOKY we're seeing.

Try a larger, manga-style INSERT SHOT of the yawning or stretching SPOOKY at right, showing us a closer-up view that further confirms we are definitely NOT looking at the skinny, plain-looking YOUNG SPOOKY of page 1.

CAPTION

Mornings are the **highlight** **of** **my** **day**, now.

(cont)

(*Black "censored" block over indicated letters*) No, they're the highlight of what remains of my entire fucking **life**, now.

PANEL 3

Close-up, either a 3/4 or profile shot, of SPOOKY's upturned face as the morning sunlight's golden rays wash over her. She's closing her eyes to the sunlight and beginning to smile.

CAPTION

That's because, after I wake up, I'm obliviously conscious for **8** or even **10** long, glorious, **wonderful** seconds...

PANEL 4

Abrupt flashback shot of a naked MINDF\*\*K, as seen in a "morning-after" scene in the interior setting of EMP8's pp.143, 148-9. (Different color scheme, for contrast.) Mussed blonde hair hanging around her visor, she's blushing and smiling as she addresses an off-panel SPOOKY.

MINDF\*\*K (SPIKY THOUGHT BALLOON)

Morning, **Spookums**.

PANEL 5

Same layout as panel 3, only now the background (BG, hereafter) goes black. SPOOKY's eyes widen and her lips part as she reacts with visibly startled shock and dismay.

CAPTION

...before I remember that **Hannah** **is** **dead**.

PANEL 6

Tight close-up on SPOOKY's face contorting in pain.

**PAGE 3**

PANEL 1

Close-up on a CARAMEL MACCHIATO on an outdoor CAFE table, with the caramel striping visible on the foamy head of the drink. (This is EMP's drink; we might see her supersuited hand reaching for it.)

EMPOWERED (OFF-PANEL)

**Jeez**.

(cont)

**Sincerely** glad I didn't go to **your** high school, Spooky.

PANEL 2

Big panel, serving as both an establishing shot and an introductory full-figure "two-shot" of SISTAH SPOOKY (at left) and EMPOWERED (at right) seated at a downtown sidewalk-patio CAFE table. They might be perched on tall stools at a high table, for easier full-figure depiction. You might locate them at the corner of the patio, fenced off by railings from the sidewalk, so passersby could be shown on two sides of them. **Options**: SPOOKY and EMP could be under either a small sidewalk-rooted tree or two for shade (and nice leafy shade patterns) or under an artificial shade/ umbrella/ parasol dealie, *or* out unshaded in the late-morning/ noontime sun. Also, the patio could be **raised above street level,** in that's easier.

SISTAH SPOOKY is dressed in fashionable "civilian" clothes, dark (as she's still in mourning) but *not* the outfit seen in the EMP10 story I sent; as on page 2, though, she *does* sport that story's hairstyle, with short "locs" and half-shaved (but not *clean*-shaved, if you follow me) head. Seated on the high stool, she's gesturing in emphasis as she addresses EMP with a sidelong, amused expression. A COFFEE DRINK of some sort floats nearby, with sparkling GLITTER FX around it indicating that she's levitating it with her magical powers. Importantly, she never touches the COFFEE with her hands, but occasionally sips from it "hands-free" as her psychokinesis draws the glass or cup to her mouth.

EMPOWERED is wearing her SUPERSUIT, which can be fully intact; I'll likely draw it half-torn in the roughs as is my wont, but the fully intact suit would work just fine for this scene. One slightly unusual element, which recurs throughout the entire miniseries: The mask of EMP's SUPERSUIT is rolled up into the "headband" form I occasionally depict throughout the series, so her unmasked and highly expressive face is always visible. She's replying to SPOOKY with a smiling expression of mild disbelief, while lifting the CARAMEL MACCHIATO glass (or cup?) from the small CAFE table they're seated at. I'd recommend having them seated at an 3/4 angle to each other, so they're not facing each other directly; otherwise, you'll be locked into repetitive profile and over-the-shoulder shots.

More on the BG: Throughout pages 3-10, we see passersby strolling by on the sidewalk, and other CAFE patrons seated at patio tables around SPOOKY and EMP. Two things: **1)** Every now and then, we spot a sidewalk passerby or a CAFE patron glancing over at EMPOWERED with a slightly amused or mildly "WTF?" expression; as we'll see on page 8, this *isn't* because they're seeing her SUPERSUIT, but because she's magically camouflaged with a goofy and unfashionable outfit. **2)** Throughout pp.3-10, in the BG we will occasionally spot gorgeous BLONDES (ages 22-24) passing by on the street, but unlike the BG folk I just mentioned, they never, EVER glance at SPOOKY or EMP. The BLONDES are, in fact, SPOOKY's magically transformed former classmates lurking nearby before the "HIGH SCHOOL HELL" spell kicks off, but SPOOKY never notices them. They're all dressed fashionably, but each of them wears some form of sunglasses or concealing eyewear so their alarmingly blue eyes are never visible in this sequence.

Important, but *not* necessarily visible in this panel: One beautiful BLONDE fellow alumni is seated elsewhere in the CAFE patio nearby, sitting by herself and idly checking her phone as she sips a coffee. This is ASHLEY, who will be an important, high-ranking "Queen of Hell" character later on in the series. Long blonde hair, sunglasses, fashionable outfit. She never looks over at SPOOKY or EMP-- until page 10, that is.

Finally: The BG is a downtown, late-morning city-street environment. Could be on a main thoroughfare with car and bus traffic constantly flowing by in the BG (if you wanna draw cars for some reason), or could be a side street with less (or almost no) traffic. City buildings in the BG, of course.

SISTAH SPOOKY

Oh, I don't know about **that**, Emp.

(cont)

You might've **fit** **right** **in**, to be honest.

EMPOWERED

So, what, **every** girl in your class **sold** **her** **soul** **for** **magical** **hotness** like you did?

(cont)

**Seriously**?

CAPTION

"**SISTAH** **SPOOKY**"

Former SuperHomey (resigned)

CAPTION

"**EMPOWERED**"

Current SuperHomey (full-time)

PANEL 3

Big close-up of SISTAH SPOOKY gesturing as she speaks, maybe tilting her head a bit. Throughout pp.3-10's close-ups, beyond SPOOKY and EMP we'll occasionally see BG elements of passersby on the sidewalk and other CAFE patrons at patio tables, along with traffic and city buildings and the like.

SISTAH SPOOKY

Well, all the girls that anyone **noticed**.

(cont)

Bit of a high-school **Village** **of** **the** **Damned** feel, really...

(cont)

...if the damned were **model**-**hot** and **bare**-**midriffed**, that is.

PANEL 4

Big close-up on EMPOWERED replying with a grin (with MACCHIATO in hand?) to the off-panel SPOOKY, the rolled-up, "headband"-form mask revealing her lively face. We might see a sidewalk passerby or CAFE patron glancing over at her in the BG with a raised-eyebrow or mildly bemused expression.

EMPOWERED

But only **you** got the accidentally-on-purpose **magic** **upgrade** dealie for **superpowered** **sorceress** status, right?

(cont)

Everybody **else** had to settle for plain ol' **ungodly**, **breathtaking** **hotness**, then?

(cont)

The poor **dears**.

**PAGE 4**

PANEL 1

This page rattles off Spooky's origin story, as derived from the text and images of EMP8 p.97 and EMP1 p.170. This panel, while derived from EMP8 p.97's panel 1, might be better based on EMP1 p.165, panel 1. That is, we see short, plain, unibrowed, school-uniformed YOUNG SPOOKY looking uncomfortable and out of place in a sea of taller, gorgeous BLONDE SCHOOLGIRLS, all of them rocking the school uniform's tartan-plaid, pleated miniskirt and bared-midriff, tied-off white top. A downshot might make YOUNG SPOOKY seem even more isolated, even more "drowning in a sea of Aryan blondness." The beautiful SCHOOLGIRLS are glancing at her with amusement or open contempt as they pass, while YOUNG SPOOKY huddles and hunches her shoulders, cringing under their icy regard.

CAPTION

A Brief Oral History of Superheroine **Sistah** **Spooky's** **Secret** **Origin**

CAPTION

(*Black "censored" block over indicated letters*) Had a s*hi*tty time in high school...

(cont)

...as an **ugly** **brown** **duckling** in a pond full of **bitchy** **blonde** **swans**.

BLONDES (SMALL; NO TAILS ON THESE BALLOONS)

Oh, gawd, just **look** at her

(cont)

There goes the **neighborhood**

(cont)

Check out this school's **commitment** **to** **diversity**

(cont)

Poor **Bethany's** been assigned her as a **lab** **partner**

PANEL 2

This panel's based on EMP8 p.97's panel 2, showing suddenly grown-up SPOOKY *immediately* after her magical transformation from short, scrawny YOUNG SPOOKY. Kneeling, a startled and delighted SPOOKY has taken off her eyeglasses and is looking down over her suddenly voluptuous if not Amazonian new body, which is visibly straining the limits of a too-small school uniform. Her INFERNAL SERVICE PROVIDER looms in the BG within his column of pentagram-constrained fire, raising one clawed, burning finger in a gesture of correction as his blazing cow-skull head addresses SPOOKY.

CAPTION

So, like all the **other** gullible little morons in my class...

(cont)

...I **sold** **my** **soul** to the devil, or at least **a** devil, for some **magical** **hotness**.

SPOOKY (BURST BALLOON)

(*Black "censored" block over indicated letters*) **Holy** **shit**--!

INFERNAL SERVICE PROVIDER (BOLD, JAGGED-OUTLINE BALLOON)

(*Black "censored" block over indicated letters*) Technically, **unholy** shit.

PANEL 3

Action shot of a fully costumed, exultant SISTAH SPOOKY in flight, cape flapping about dramatically as she makes ***Doctor Strange***-style mystical gestures (or mudras?) and glowing arcs and loops of arcane magical energy burst from around her gloved hands. A tilted CAPTION at the bottom of the panel, based on the similar image from EMP1 p.170, indicates a newspaper headline or online-news caption. BG could be a nighttime city shot, akin to the "SPOOKY in flight" image used twice in EMP8 (pp.104, 171).

CAPTION

But, supposedly by **accident**, my Infernal Service Provider granted me vastly more **magic** than hotness.

(cont)

Flash-forward to my **brilliant** **career** as a spell-flinging superheroine.

HEADLINE CAPTION

"**Sistah** **Spooky**"

(*subheadline*)

Mystical powerhouse of the **SuperHomeys** saves the world **again**!

**PAGE 5**

PANEL 1

Long shot of the CAFE's sidewalk patio, with SISTAH SPOOKY and EMPOWERED seated at their table and conversing as passersby stream by on the sidewalk. As SPOOKY's COFFEE floats nearby, she's gesturing simultaneously at both herself with one hand and EMP with the other. In response, EMP is smiling and shaking her head with MACCHIOATO upraised. As mentioned on page 3, one or two passersby or CAFE patrons might be glancing over at EMP with raised-eyebrow or mildly "WTF?" expressions. (Again, though, if we see a passing, sunglasses-wearing BLONDE, she's never, ever looking directly at EMP or SPOOKY.) Ah, but this time we definitely *do* see gorgeous blonde ASHLEY seated at a patio table, facing away from EMP and SPOOKY as she sips a drink and checks her phone. (Street traffic and city buildings as a BG.)

SISTAH SPOOKY

No, **I** was the only client to get **that** little bonus.

(cont)

I've always assumed I was **chosen** because I was the only one to opt for a **non**-**blonde** magic makeover.

(cont)

All my other **unnaturally** **beautiful** classmates, well... They look like **you**, Emp.

EMPOWERED

**Ah**.

(cont)

Just my **luck**, huh?

PANEL 2

SPOOKY looks away from EMP with a shrugging gesture, as her drink floats in midair nearby her face, with magical "GLITTER FX" sparkling to indicate her powers in effect. Meanwhile, EMP addresses her with a one-raised-eyebrow expression of amused disbelief and skepticism.

SISTAH SPOOKY

In fact, when I first **met** you...

(cont)

...I kind of assumed you actually **were** one of my Infernal Service Provider's **uncanny** **creations**.

EMPOWERED

Um, **excuse** **me**?

(cont)

You thought that **I**-- that is, y'know, **me**-- had sold my soul for hotness?

(cont)

Exactly what hotness would **that** be, by the way?

PANEL 3

SPOOKY fixes EMP with an arched-eyebrow "*excuse* me?" expression, while EMP blushes and smiles with "who, me?" expression and body language. The shot features a decent view of EMP's attractive figure in the revealing SUPERSUIT, to emphasize the point that SPOOKY's dialogue is making.

SISTAH SPOOKY

Spare me the feigned **modesty**, dear.

(cont)

You have the **face** and the **body**-- and the big blue **eyes**, of course-- of one of my classmates.

EMPOWERED

Um, **gosh**...!

PANEL 4

MONTAGE shot. At left, an-angled shot of a gorgeous BLONDE SCHOOLGIRL from SPOOKY's class, hands on hips, tartan microskirt flapping and blonde mane streaming in the wind, staring with imperious hauteur and eerily GLOWING BLUE EYES down into the camera. At center, SISTAH SPOOKY close-up headshot (from the CAFE setting), smiling crookedly as she admits the truth in her dialogue. At right, a shot of a supersuited EMPOWERED cringing and looking distinctly vulnerable, glancing at the camera over one shoulder with a visibly insecure expression. Make her suit TATTERED (or tattered differently, or more extensively?) and have mask rolled down to differentiate her from present-day, CAFE-setting, mask-rolled-up EMP.

SISTAH SPOOKY

But, well, within a few **minutes** of meeting you...

(cont)

...I saw that **Baby** **Emp** obviously lacked the will-to-hotness **arrogant** **hauteur** cultivated by all those like me.

(cont)

**False** **alarm**, see?

 CAPTION (BY SCHOOLGIRL)

The Nietzschean **Will** **to** **Hotness,\*** embodied

(subcaption)

\*German: *Der Wille zur Sexualität*

 CAPTION (BY EMP)

"**Baby Emp**"

Larval form, 1.5 years ago

**PAGE 6**

PANEL 1

MONTAGE page ahoy? Alternatively, this page could be set up with separate, border-defined panels, if you like. In any event, here we see present-day, CAFE-scene EMPOWERED, addressing the off-panel SPOOKY with a slightly smiling but rather pointed expression.

EMPOWERED

So, when you saw that I **looked** kinda like your high school's **bullying** **blondes**...

(cont)

...but **really** was just the trembly, insecure, weepy **vulnerability** **magnet** that I actually am...

(cont)

...you couldn't resist treating **me** exactly how **you** had been treated all those years ago.

PANEL 2

A MONTAGE of "SPOOKY ABUSES EMP" scenes begins. Here, in an image based on EMP1's p.8, panel 2, a vulnerable-looking EMPOWERED is accosted by a costumed SISTAH SPOOKY, who's contemptuously gesturing at a visibly insecure EMP's backside. There, under a fully intact SUPERSUIT, we see the Visible Panty Lines indicated in that EMP1 story. We might see the other SUPERHOMEYS from that scene around them; or, you could get away with just slapping in their laughter as balloon-free, sound FX-like lettering.

One change from the original EMP1 image that I added in the roughs: SISTAH SPOOKY has magically conjured (as a few sparkling GLITTER FX indicate) a big, GLOWING RED ARROW to draw attention to EMP's Visible-Panty-Lined behind. Its light may be so bright as to not only strongly illuminate Emp's behind, but to tint it red in the process, or at least edge-light it.

SISTAH SPOOKY

Nice **visible** **panty** **lines**, airhead.

SUPERHOMEYS (NO BALLOON; LIKE SOUND FX)

BWA HA HA HA HA

PANEL 3

The MONTAGE of "SPOOKY-ON-EMP ABUSE" continues. Here, in an image derived from EMP1 pp.151-57, we see a helpless EMPOWERED (or maybe just her head and shoulders) tied to that pillar with that story's oddly distinctive gag in her mouth. She's looking over at hooded, fully costumed SPOOKY beyond her, who's facing off-panel to address an unseen enemy; she might be gesturing back towards EMP with one thumb.

SISTAH SPOOKY

--Victimized the weakest, saddest, and most **tragically** **lame** member of the team--

EMPOWERED

(*Half-burst, or "h-b" hereafter*) >**MMFF**<

PANEL 4

Here, the biggest image of the "SPOOKY ABUSE" MONTAGE. We see EMPOWERED in a LADIES ROOM stall, seated on a (closed-lid) toilet and hunched over in obvious misery, dabbing at her tear-streaming face with a wad of toilet paper. EMP's mask is rolled up so we can see her contorted face as she trembles and sobs; her SUPERSUIT is severely tattered and shredded, indicating a VERY bad day on the job. Meanwhile, popping up all around her we she a series of burst-like SPIKY, JAGGED BALLOONS, each containing a (partial?) close-up of a hooded, costumed SUSTAH SPOOKY jeering, sneering, snarling or laughing as EMP recalls a painful incident of verbal abuse.

SISTAH SPOOKY

You got yourself **bound** **and** **gagged** again--?

(cont)

**Jesus**, you're incompetent.

SISTAH SPOOKY

Waddle your inept behind **outta** **my** **damn** **way**, tubby.

SISTAH SPOOKY

(*Black "censored" block over indicated word*) Stupid little **xxxx**.

EMPOWERED (WAVY BALLOON)

(*Half-burst, or "h-b" hereafter*) >**Hkk**<

(cont)

Wh-**Why**...?

SISTAH SPOOKY

You can't **really** be this pathetic, can you?

SISTAH SPOOKY

Oh, she's **brave**, all right.

(cont)

Takes **hella** nerve to squeeze a booty **that** big into a hypermembrane **that** small.

SISTAH SPOOKY (FX-LIKE LETTERING)

Ha ha ha ha ha

PANEL 5

Close-up on sobbing, tearstricken LADIES ROOM EMP with rolled-up mask, dabbing at her face with a wad of toilet paper as she wails in protest. A final, large SPIKY, JAGGED SPOOKY BALLOON appears beside her, with a hooded SPOOKY snarling in contempt.

EMPOWERED (WAVY BALLOON)

Why does she h-**hate** me so much...?

(cont)

(*half-burst*) >**Sniff**<

SISTAH SPOOKY

You're a **disgrace** to female superheroes everywhere, you chubby, bumbling, bondage-prone little **crybaby**.

PANEL 6

End of MONTAGE. Present-day, civilian-garbed SPOOKY sips at her floating drink, looking abashed and embarrassed as she reluctantly admits the truth.

SISTAH SPOOKY

Uh.

(cont)

Ah.

(cont)

**Yeah**, pretty much.

**PAGE 7**

PANEL 1

Downshot (long shot?) on SPOOKY and EMP at the CAFE-patio table. SPOOKY gestures with hands upturned (while her drink magically floats nearby), while EMP gestures to indicate herself as she replies. Same passersby and CAFE patrons as before, with one or two of 'em glancing over at EMP. If a BLONDE is among the sidewalk group, though, she's pointedly NOT looking at the two women. Meanwhile, somewhere on this page we might see ASHLEY seated at a patio table, still looking away from our heroines as she checks her phone.

SISTAH SPOOKY

It's certainly no **defense**, but...

(cont)

...you **did** rather seem to have a irresistible "**kick** **me**" sign taped to your behind back then.

EMPOWERED

Um, not like **present**-**day** **me** is much of an **improvement**, y'know...!

PANEL 2

SPOOKY addresses EMP sharply with an eyelids-lowered, eyebrows-raised expression, while EMP looks mildly surprised.

SISTAH SPOOKY

Superchica, **please**.

(cont)

You are **very** different now, Emp.

EMPOWERED

Um, **really**...?

PANEL 3

EMP blushes and smiles, glancing sidelong at the off-panel SPOOKY as she lifts her CARAMEL MACCHIATO to take a sip. Work in some city BG, possibly with a gorgeous BLONDE in sunglasses passing by on the sidewalk?

SISTAH SPOOKY (OFF-PANEL)

I know **for** **sure** that year-and-a-half-ago Emp would've **agonized** over ordering a **250**-**calorie** **caramel** **macchiato**.

(cont)

Agonized, and **decided** **against** **it**.

EMPOWERED

Um, **well**...

PANEL 4

SPOOKY smiles crookedly as she praises the off-panel EMP.

SISTAH SPOOKY

You **kick** **ass** on the regular, nowadays.

(cont)

(*Black "censored" block over indicated letters*) Your **blood** "**don't**-**give**-**a**-**f*uc*k"** **content** is unquestionably over the legal limit.

PANEL 5

EMP blushes and smiles again as she reacts to SPOOKY's praise.

SISTAH SPOOKY (OFF-PANEL)

You're a **grown**-**ass** **superwoman** now, Emp.

PANEL 6

MONTAGE shot, of sorts. Left: Close-up on one side of SPOOKY's face as she speaks, a sad and rueful look on her face. Center: SPOOKY's word balloon. Right: A headshot of MINDF\*\*K, possibly naked as on page 1's flashback shot.

SISTAH SPOOKY

And **I'm** the disgraced, self-sabotaged, wrong-priority-having **closet** **case** who lost everything.

**PAGE 8**

PANEL 1

SPOOKY gestures airily as her COFFEE floats nearby. Across the table, EMPOWERED is leaning forward to address her, while looking over her shoulder with a nervous expression. In the BG, we see several CAFE patrons glancing over EMP with amused or eyebrows-raised expressions. In the rough, I indicated a person sitting at the table behind EMP, and another person (or a waitress) standing behind them.

SISTAH SPOOKY

Honestly, I'm a bit **disappointed** that you didn't seem to take enough **pleasure** in my richly deserved **crashing** and **burning**.

(cont)

(*Small*) **Literal** burning, that is.

EMPOWERED

Um, **Spooky**...?

PANEL 2

Closer-up shot. EMP leans forward to whisper conspiratorially to SPOOKY across the table, while several BG CAFE PATRONS continue to glance over at EMP with mildly "WTF?" expressions.

SISTAH SPOOKY

**Hmm**?

EMPOWERED (WHISPER BALLOON)

Is it just my **imagination**, or are people kind of **looking** at me...?

PANEL 3

Big panel, allowing a full-figure shot of EMP. Ah, but instead of the SUPERSUIT, we're seeing a "magical camouflage" spell that SPOOKY has cast to disguise EMP (and her own use of COFFEE-floating psychokinesis). The impish SPOOKY, alas, has elected to dress CAMOUFLAGED EMP in a goofily unfashionable outfit of some sort. Definitely slap a red hat on EMP, patterned after the Trump MAKE AMERICA GREAT AGAIN hats-- for what could possibly be less fashionable than a Trump reference? The rest is up to you, though; I'm looking for "somewhat embarrassing," but not outright cruel or clownish. A "Three Wolves" or low-class "Who Farted"-style joke T-shirt? Old-style gym shorts? Gory-Looking socks? Crocs or some other unfashionable footwear? You get the gist of what I'm looking for, I hope.

Meanwhile, in a break from what we've seen before, the CAMOUFLAGE spell shows SPOOKY actually holding her COFFEE with one or both hands, as opposed to the magical levitation seen previously. She's looking over at EMP with a sidelong expression of (partially hidden) amusement.

EMPOWERED

You said you cast a **camouflage** **spell** to disguise your **psychokinesis** and my **supersuit**, right?

(cont)

So what are they kinda-sorta **gawking** at...?

CAPTION

External P.O.V of Sistah Spooky's **camouflaging magic** in effect

EMP'S HAT

Make Cape City Great Again

PANEL 4

CAMOUFLAGED EMP in the Trump MAGA-based red hat, pursing her lips as she realizes what Spooky might be up to.

EMPOWERED

....

EMP'S HAT

Make Cape City Great Again

PANEL 5

Close-up on CAMOUFLAGED EMP in the Trump MAGA-based red hat, sharply addressing the off-panel SPOOKY with a "*really*?" expression.

EMPOWERED

Um, it would be **seriously** petty--

(cont)

--and seriously old, **mean** Spooky of you--

(cont)

--If your **disguise** **spell** were, say, dressing me up in an embarrassing and unfashionable manner, **Theresa**.

EMP'S HAT

Make Cape City Great Again

PANEL 6

SPOOKY sports an expression of elaborate innocence as she looks away from EMP and sips her magically floating COFFEE DRINK.

SISTAH SPOOKY

Oh, **yes**.

(cont)

**Absolutely**, Elissa.

**PAGE 9**

PANEL 1

Big panel, with room for the CAPTIONS. Back to EMPOWERED in her SUPERSUIT now, gesturing in emphasis as she says something to SPOOKY. For this "voiceover caption" scene, you might consider something akin to EMP2 p.195, in that we see partial EMP word balloons largely covered up by the big CAPTIONS to indicate that EMP is still talking, but the voiceover of SPOOKYs internal monologue is drowning her out. We see sunglasses-wearing ASHLEY seated at a CAFE patio table in the FG, sipping her drink and checking her phone.

CAPTION

We can **talk** and **chatter** and **joke** like any two girls would.

(cont)

But there's a **gulf** between us that can never, **ever** be bridged.

PANEL 2

As EMP continues to chatter and gesture animatedly, SPOOKY looks over at her with a regretful, wistful expression.

CAPTION

A gulf I carved out myself when I chose to **abuse** **her** **mercilessly**, just like I was abused back in high school.

(cont)

But now that my **career** and my **pride** and my **status** and my **life** are all in ruins...

PANEL 3

Close-up on SPOOKY and EMP, the former still looking at the latter with that regretful, wistful expression, while EMP obliviously continues to chatter.

CAPTION

...this girl I once **victimized** is the closest thing I have left to a **friend** in all the world.

PANEL 4

One last MONTAGE! Here, an image based on the dramatic end of EMP5, specifically EMP5 pp.184-185 and EMP8 pp.57-58. MINDF\*\*K and EMPOWERED are running down a rumbling, shaking space-station hallway (walls lined with "techy-riff" detail), bits of debris and streamers of dust falling around them. While MINDF\*\*K charges onward doggedly, perhaps smirking, a visibly upset EMPOWERED is pleading desperately with her, hands behind her back to indicate that Hannah has "puppeted" EMP with her powers.

At right, an INSET CLOSE-UP of CAFE-scene SPOOKY, her expression now shading from regretfulness into outright sadness as she recalls the EMP5 incident.

CAPTION

Of course, we **do** share one other bond, even **more** painful:

(cont)

We both tried, and **failed**, to save **Hannah**.

**PAGE 10**

PANEL 1

SPOOKY's COFFEE DRINK abruptly clanks down on the CAFE tabletop, the beverage spilling and spraying a bit as it does so.

SISTAH SPOOKY (OFF-PANEL)

**Emp**.

SFX

KLINKK

PANEL 2

An alarmed-looking SPOOKY bolts off the stool and to her feet, expression and body language conveying sudden wariness and tension. EMP, still seated for the moment, looks over at her with echoing concern and unease.

SISTAH SPOOKY

We've got a **problem**.

EMPOWERED

What's **wrong**, Spooky...?

PANEL 3

Upshot. SPOOKY and EMPOWERED test the air with noses raised, EMP's face screwing up with an "EWWW" expression.

SISTAH SPOOKY

Do you **smell** that?

EMPOWERED

(H-b) >**Sniff**<

(cont)

**Eww**...!

(cont)

What **is** that...?

PANEL 4

Big panel. Both SPOOKY and EMPOWERED are on their feet now, striking wary poses of apprehensive readiness. While SPOOKY's gaze darts around her, scanning for trouble, EMP looks over at her with dismay and alarm.

SISTAH SPOOKY

That's **brimstone**, Emp.

(cont)

That's the chemosignature of **large**-**scale** **infernal** **magic**.

EMPOWERED

Oh, **crap**--!

(cont)

**Hell** smelled like this, didn't it?

PANEL 5

While EMP addresses her with a puzzled expression, a startled SPOOKY looks over to see ASHLEY seated nearby, who's turning around and lowering her sunglasses to look back at SPOOKY, with her freakishly bright BLUE EYES already prominent, even from this distance.

EMPOWERED

Um, **Spooky?**

(cont)

D'you hear that weird **laughing**...?

SISTAH SPOOKY

**Hahh**?

PANEL 6

Close-up on a wide-eyed SPOOKY staring in shock and alarm, meeting the gaze of off-panel ASHLEY.

SISTAH SPOOKY (SMALL TEXT, IN A LARGE BALLOON)

**Ashley**...?

PANEL 7

RISKY BUSINESS (or Huey Lewis in "I Want A New Drug"?) shot here, with ASHLEY lowering her sunglasses and staring directly into the camera with wide-open, glaringly bright, electric BLUE EYES, a sinister smile on her lips. Speed lines or the like as emphasis, here?

LAUGHTER (NO BALLOON, LIKE SFX)

HAHAHAHA

**PAGE 11**

PANEL 1

SWIRLY PSYCHEDELIC (or DOCTOR-STRANGE-ish?) PAGE, as a powerful magic spell warps and twists and distorts the world around a reeling SPOOKY and EMP. Here, a (near?) full-figure shot of the alarmed, dismayed women stumbling and staggering as the CAFE and city environment blurs and swirls and eddies around them.

CAPTION

That **laughter**

(cont)

So painfully **familiar**

(cont)

**Mocking**

(cont)

**Taunting**

(cont)

**Scornful**

LAUGHTER (NO BALLOON, LIKE SFX)

HAHAHAHAHA

PANEL 2

A maniacally laughing ASHLEY stares into the camera with wide, glowing-irised, electric BLUE EYES (over her lowered sunglasses) as the environment wildly ripples and swirls and distorts around her.

CAPTION

**Jeering**

(cont)

**Vicious**

(cont)

**Caustic**

LAUGHTER (NO BALLOON, LIKE SFX)

HAHAHAHA

PANEL 3

Closer-up shot of the reeling SPOOKY and EMP as their figures, too, are swept up and distorted in the swirling, rippling, psychedelic eddies of the magic spell engulfing them. A pained SPOOKY has put her hands to her ears, desperately trying to block out the painfully loud laughter.

CAPTION

Dripping with **contempt** and **derision** and **superiority**

(cont)

A venomous, high-pitched chorus of **white-girl** **laughter**

LAUGHTER (NO BALLOON, LIKE SFX)

HAHAHAHA

PANEL 4

Tight close-up on SPOOKY's pained, contorted face as spirals of distortion engulf her.

CAPTION

Swore I'd **never** hear this again

(cont)

Not **again**

(cont)

Not **again**

LAUGHTER (NO BALLOON, LIKE SFX)

HAHAHAHAHA

**PAGE 12**

PANEL 1

Same layout as page 2's panel 1, with a tight close-up of GROWN-UP SPOOKY waking up and opening her eyes. Very different lighting than page 2's golden morning light, though.

CAPTION

...and then I **wake** **up**.

PANEL 2

SPOOKY and EMP are groggily awakening in a HIGH SCHOOL hallway lined with student lockers, though we don't necessarily see the BG all that clearly as yet. As the next panel description will detail, both women are wearing SPOOKY's old SCHOOL UNIFORM.

SISTAH SPOOKY

(H-b) >**Gasp**<

EMPOWERED

(H-b) >**Nngh**<

(cont)

What... What **happened**...?

PANEL 3

Big panel. Full-figure shot of SPOOKY and EMPOWERED as they bolt awake, sprawled on the shiny, tiled floor of a locker-lined HIGH SCHOOL hallway. Both are now wearing the "sexy schoolgirl" outfit worn by SPOOKY's BLONDE CLASSMATES, with midriff-exposing, tied-off shirts (with black ties) and tartan-plaid, pleated miniskirts. One slight difference between their clothing: SPOOKY wears the uniform's white socks and black shoes, but EMP does not. That's so we can see the severely tattered remnants of her SUPERSUIT, with the membrane's torn-off, thigh-high leg portions appearing as tattered leggings or stockings in place of the uniform's socks and shoes; so, EMP spends the miniseries running around in "SUPERSUIT-stocking feet." Beyond that, we only see partial, tattered "gloves" (could be opera-length?) as remains of the SUIT, along with the same rolled-up, "headband"-pattern mask seen earlier in the issue. (Note: EMP also has a "tattered bikini"-worth of SUPERSUIT remnants under the school uniform, though we won't see that for a while, if at all.)

SPOOKY looks alarmed and dismayed as she looks around her with a darting, anxious gaze, while a chagrined EMPOWERED's attention is focused on her SCHOOL UNIFORM; she's plucking at the very short tartan mini(micro?)skirt's hemline with visible consternation.

Additional SCHOOL-UNI ref: EMP5 back-cover illo and pp.73,79, 191; EMP8 pp.86-89. Feel free to handle it however you like, though, with the tartan-plaid pattern of the pleated miniskirts being a tricky part. This skirt's appearance has changed over the years, so you can change it again if you like; whatever the tartan pattern you work up, though, make sure you're comfortable drawing it hundreds of times.

The HIGH-SCHOOL BG: Dim, shadowy and ominous, if possible. (Or flickering fluorescents overhead, for that SILENT HILL vibe? Dunno how well that can be conveyed in a comics context, though.) Later on, we'll see HIGH SCHOOL scenes with hellish, fiery light streaming in through windows; but in this interior hallway setting, no such lighting is yet possible. Above the rows of student lockers beyond the women, a PA SPEAKER unit is mounted up near the ceiling; give the SPEAKER's dotted grille an UPSIDE-DOWN PENTAGRAM pattern.

SISTAH SPOOKY

(*Black "censored" block over indicated letters*) Oh, **s*hi*t**.

(cont)

This... This is **my** **high** **school**, Emp.

(cont)

And we are definitely in **serious** **trouble**.

EMPOWERED

**Jeez**...!

(cont)

What heavy-breathing **perv** designed these **school** **uniforms**?

(cont)

This is **ridiculous**...!

**PAGE 13**

PANEL 1

Still kneeling or seated on the floor, SPOOKY glances over at EMP with an frown, while EMP replies in slightly blushing protest. Up-angled shot, so the PA SPEAKER with the dot-patterned PENTAGRAM is visible in the BG beyond them, above the rows of lockers and up near the ceiling.

SISTAH SPOOKY

Ah, **priorities**, Emp.

EMPOWERED

I'm **sorry**, but this **microskirt** is, well, **hellishly** **short**, okay?

PA (ELECTRICAL BALLOON)

(H-b) >**Krkk**<

PANEL 2

Closer-up shot of the PA SPEAKER with the dot-patterned PENTAGRAM grille.

INFERNAL SERVICE PROVIDER (FROM PA; BOLD, JAGGED OUTLINE ON BALLOON)

Attention, **students**.

PANEL 3

Startled SPOOKY and EMP react to off-panel PA speaker's blare.

SPOOKY

**!**

EMPOWERED

**Gahh**--!

PANEL 4

Close-up on a classic, retro-style MICROPHONE, one of those big, pill-shaped, grill-slotted, chrome dealies. Then again, this mic might not look quite as large as it otherwise might, as its lower portion is being gripped in the flaming, clawed paw of SPOOKY'S 8' to 10' tall INFERNAL SERVICE PROVIDER.

INFERNAL SERVICE PROVIDER (BOLD, JAGGED OUTLINE ON BALLOON)

Attention students, both **returning** and **new**.

(cont)

This is your **school** **principal** speaking.

PANEL 5

Dramatic, up-angled, full-figure shot of the INFERNAL SERVICE PROVIDER garbed as a SCHOOL PRINCIPAL. This outfit consists of a coal-black suit with bow tie over a white shirt; the ISP's blazing cow skull (with long, curling horns) and clawed paws are the only parts of his flaming body that remain exposed. As he holds up the RETRO MICROPHONE, his other paw grips his lapel in a familiar gesture of authoritative confidence. We'll see his OFFICE setting more clearly on the next page, but here you might get by with just swirling, hellish flames as a slightly expressionistic BG.

INFERNAL SERVICE PROVIDER (BOLD, JAGGED OUTLINE ON BALLOON)

You girls may, of course, recognize my voice as that of Theresa's **Infernal** **Service** **Provider**.

PANEL 6

Tight close-up on the INFERNAL SERVICE PROVIDER's blazing cow skull.

INFERNAL SERVICE PROVIDER (BOLD, JAGGED OUTLINE ON BALLOON)

Welcome to your **high** **school** **hell**, Theresa and Elissa.

**PAGE 14**

PANEL 1

School-uniformed SPOOKY and EMP now getting to their feet in the locker-lined hallway, looking wary (SPOOKY) and annoyed (EMP).

SISTAH SPOOKY

(*Black "censored" block over indicated letters*) **Shit**.

EMPOWERED

Oh, **great**.

(cont)

We have to tangle with **this** asshole, again...?

PANEL 2

EMP frowns as she's berated by the ISP over the PA SPEAKER.

INFERNAL SERVICE PROVIDER (BOLD, JAGGED OUTLINE ON BALLOON)

**Language**, please, Elissa.

(cont)

As a **new** **student**, you need to understand that this school has **uncompromisingly** **strict** **standards**.

(cont)

Discipline will be **stringent** and **harsh**.

PANEL 3

A fuller establishing shot of the HELLISH HIGH SCHOOL OFFICE where the INFERNAL SERVICE PROVIDER's scenes will take place. The hulking, 8'-10' tall ISP is strolling through the OFFICE in bowtied suit, his MICROPHONE trailing a cord behind it as he speaks into its chromed grille. This particular setting is the school's main ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE, featuring 3-5 FIERY OFFICE LADIES at desks, each doggedly typing away at an a decidedly retro manual or electric typewriter (up to you). The OFFICE LADIES look very much like MINDF\*\*K from EMPOWERED vol.8's "Sea of the Damned" sequence (pp.152-157), with blank, white eyes, blackened skin, and blazing fire for hair, with additional flames pouring up off their bodies and helpfully obscuring any nudity, as they aren't wearing any clothes. Each has a fixed, rictus-like grin plastered on her blackened, burning face as she pounds merrily away on her typewriter; note that a burning piece of paper is rolling up out of each typewriter's carriage.

Behind them, we see a bank of windows; as will be the case throughout most if not all of these HIGH SCHOOL scenes, we see nothing but blazing, hellish fire glowing through these windows.

(Note: Later on, we'll see the ISP in his own, smaller PRINCIPAL's OFFICE. This setting is the school's main office, akin to what one might pass by upon entering a high school.)

INFERNAL SERVICE PROVIDER (BOLD, JAGGED OUTLINE ON BALLOON)

**So**.

(cont)

When last we spoke, you two **conniving** **superbitches** had broken through the **gates** **of** **hell**...

(cont)

...in an ultimately **futile** attempt to rescue poor, doomed **Hannah** from the **Sea** **of the Damned**.

SFX (BY EACH TYPEWITER)

TAK TAK TAK

PANEL 4

FG: A blazing FIERY OFFICE LADY who resembles EMP8's pp.152-157 MINDF\*\*K, broad smile plastered on her blazing face, hammers away at her old-style electric typewriter, with a burning piece of paper rolling up out of the typewriter's carriage. BG: The bowtied INFERNAL SERVICE PROVIDER speaks into his similarly old-style MICROHONE.

INFERNAL SERVICE PROVIDER

That **ill**-**fated** **little** **scheme** of yours really didn't work out for **any** of us, did it?

SFX (BY TYPEWITER)

TAK TAK TAK

PANEL 5

Close-up on the INFERNAL SERVICE PROVIDER's blazing cow skull.

INFERNAL SERVICE PROVIDER (BOLD, JAGGED OUTLINE ON BALLOON)

You **tore** **me** **limb** **from** **limb** and left me to burn in the **fires** **of** **hell**.

(cont)

I genuinely **did** **not** **appreciate** **that**, Theresa.

PANEL 6

SPOOKY reacts with a dismayed expression.

INFERNAL SERVICE PROVIDER (BOLD, JAGGED OUTLINE ON BALLOON)

Which is why, today, I've brought the fires of hell to **you**, sunshine.

**PAGE 15**

PANEL 1

Dramatic close-up on the INFERNAL SERVICE PROVIDER's blazing cow skill.

INFERNAL SERVICE PROVIDER (BOLD, JAGGED OUTLINE ON BALLOON)

Ah, but what **fresh** **hell** is this, you ask?

PANEL 2

Wary-looking SPOOKY and EMP standing in the locker-lined hallway, reacting to the ISP's PA voiceover. EMP appears more confused and bewildered, while SPOOKY's expression is dismay shading into outright horror.

INFERNAL SERVICE PROVIDER (OFF-PANEL FROM PA; BOLD, JAGGED OUTLINE ON BALLOON)

Oh, this is a very **carefully** **constructed** and very **specific** hell, girls.

(cont)

You may consider this an impromptu **high** **school** **reunion**, Theresa.

PANEL 3

Panoramic panel, showing a classroom scene (ouch!) of SPOOKY'S BLONDE FEMALE CLASSMATES. As seen in earlier EMPOWERED volumes, each of them is blonde and unnaturally gorgeous, wearing the same tartan-miniskirted school uniform that SPOOKY wears on p.12, with--of course!--knotted-off tops for de rigueur exposure of their perfectly sculpted midriffs. This scene is set before class is underway, so some of the CLASSMATES are seated at desks while others are standing or moving around, most of them chattering animatedly to each other. Importantly, none of them are looking directly at the camera; if possible, for most of them, we don't yet get a clear look at their eerie, GLOWING BLUE EYES, as most are facing away from the camera or have their eyes closed. At least one CLASSMATE is seated prominently in the FOREGROUND, turned away from the camera.

This classroom scene is framed against a bank of windows, through which we see the same blazing, churning, hellish fire seen in the windows of the OFFICE on page 15.

INFERNAL SERVICE PROVIDER (BOLD, JAGGED OUTLINE ON BALLOON; NO TAIL)

Because all your former **classmates**-- and all my **schoolgirl** **clients**-- are here.

PANEL 4

Same panoramic layout and image as the previous panel, but with one (hopefully) unnerving change: All of SPOOKY'S BLONDE CLASSMATES have turned to stare directly into the camera, showing us their GLOWING, ELECTRIC-BLUE EYES as they gaze fixedly at the reader with intense but rather blank expressions. If possible, their wide, staring eyes have no highlights, their irises just rings of electric blue, for a distinctly Aryan VILLAGE OF THE DAMNED feel. The FOREGROUND CLASSMATE is, of course, especially prominent in the shot as her golden hair swirls from the sudden head turn.

INFERNAL SERVICE PROVIDER (BOLD, JAGGED OUTLINE ON BALLOON; NO TAIL)

And believe me, sunshine, they **remember** you.

PANEL 5

Tight close-up on the FOREGROUND CLASSMATE's GLOWING BLUE EYES as she stares directly into the camera.

INFERNAL SERVICE PROVIDER (BOLD, JAGGED OUTLINE ON BALLOON; NO TAIL)

Oh, **how** they remember you.

**PAGE 16**

PANEL 1

These three panels could make up a vignette-style MONTAGE, or be separated by panel borders, or some combo of the two techniques. Here, an image of the black-suited, bowtied INFERNAL SERVICE PROVIDER runs up the side of the page, speaking into the retro MICROPHONE clutched in one big, fiery paw as his cow-skull head blazes. Meanwhile, his four word balloons run across the entire top of the page.

INFERNAL SERVICE PROVIDER (BOLD, JAGGED OUTLINE ON BALLOON)

Understand, when I granted your classmates **hotness** and granted you a surfeit of **sorcerous** **superpowers**...

(cont)

...both your forms of enchantment were drawn from the same **collective** **reservoir** **of** **magic**.

(cont)

I merely gifted you with a permanently higher degree of **magical** **resource** **allocation**, Theresa.

(cont)

Your classmates were **understandably** **upset** when I informed them of this **unfair** and **disproportionate** allotment of life-changing magic.

PANEL 2

Most of the page is taken up by a very large, down-angled shot showing an entire CROWD of gorgeous, physically idealized BLONDE SCHOOLGIRLS all looking up into the camera. Up front are the dozen or so "key BLONDES" we'll be seeing throughout the series, in a shot akin to Kevin Maguire's famous late-80s JUSTICE LEAGUE INTERNATIONAL cover(s); but further back, dozens and dozens more BLONDES rapidly recede into the distance, faces and figures dwindling as they near the ISP's word balloons across the top of the page. Page 10's ASHLEY is front and center, as is pp.20-22's BETHANY.

While the BLONDE SCHOOLGIRLS share a serious case of unvarying "same-face" (however beautiful that face might be), their hairstyles can vary considerably, accompanied by some slight variations in how they wear their uniforms. Some might have their collars and ties loose and/or tops unbuttoned to show ample cleavage, say. (Side note: *Somebody* needs to sport the "Elsa from FROZEN" hairdo, as an Ice Queen will manifest at some point.) Some accessorizing can occur with earrings, necklaces, bracelets or the like; one girl will incongruously sport a golden cross on a delicate chain, while another rocks an *upside*-*down* cross. Facial piercings are a possibility, but tattoos are not, as the flesh of the ISP's clients always resets to a default state.

Another variable? Their facial expressions as they stare fixedly up into the camera, which could include icy contempt, imperious disdain, glaring menace, sardonic smirking, narrow-eyed rage, punk-y Billy Idol-ish sneers, Miley Cyrus tongue-lolling, staring and blank-eyed intensity, one-raised-eyebrow FROZEN (or Dreamworks-ad) expressions, exultant laughter and so on. Poses can vary from model-worthy hand-on-hips/ arms akimbo (a common one) to arms crossed, or with gestures like "c'mere, you" or upraised middle fingers or "thumbs-down" or throat-slashes as accompaniment.

PANEL 3

Headshots (up-angled) of SISTAH SPOOKY and EMP as they react to the ISP's dialogue with expressions of groaning dismay (SPOOKY) and "Ah-ha!" (EMP).

SISTAH SPOOKY (SMALL)

(H-b) >**Groann**<

(cont)

Trust me, these white girls would be **outraged** to learn that **I** wound up with the power that **they** obviously deserved by **birthright**...

EMPOWERED (SMALL)

So I was **right**, huh?

(cont)

**Ungodly**, **breathtaking** **hotness** wasn't enough for these **b-words**...?

**PAGE 17**

PANEL 1

INFERNAL SERVICE PROVIDER in the PRINCIPAL outfit, speaking into his retro MICROPHONE. Beyond him, we see a fiery, wall-mounted MAP of the school, which is actually an upside-down PENTAGRAM shape with an architectural overview of a school layout twisted and warped to fill out the PENTAGRAM shape.

INFERNAL SERVICE PROVIDER (BOLD, JAGGED OUTLINE ON BALLOON)

So, to **redress** this undeniably biased and discriminatory **imbalance** **of** **resources**...

(cont)

...I offered **all** of your justifiably resentful classmates a **generous** **bargain**, Theresa.

PANEL 2

SPOOKY and EMP in the locker-lined hallway, listening to the ISP over the PA. SPOOKY looks dismayed and uneasy at what she hears, while EMP reacts with almost petulant protest.

INFERNAL SERVICE PROVIDER (OFF-PANEL; BOLD, JAGGED OUTLINE ON BALLOON)

If they **kill** **you**, preferably in a **slow** and **painful** and **torture-porn-y** manner...

(cont)

...the **entirety** of your inequitably hoarded **apportionment** **of** **magic** automatically reverts to **them**.

(cont)

(*Small*) Murdering **Elissa**, by the way, is merely an **extra**-**credit** **assignment**.

EMPOWERED

H-**hey**--!

PANEL 3

A closer-up view of panel 1's fiery PENTAGRAM-SHAPED MAP of the school fills up this panel.

INFERNAL SERVICE PROVIDER (OFF-PANEL; BOLD, JAGGED OUTLINE ON BALLOON)

So this magic-woven **infernal** **tesseract** I've trapped you inside isn't merely a **high** **school**, sunshine.

(cont)

**This** hell is actually an **arena**.

(cont)

A school-patterned **killing** **ground**.

PANEL 4

Closer-up shot of SPOOKY and EMP reacting with expressions of dread and dismay.

INFERNAL SERVICE PROVIDER (OFF-PANEL; BOLD, JAGGED OUTLINE ON BALLOON)

To be **sporting**, I've arranged this hellscape so as to give your less-gifted classmates **a** **fair** **shot** at you.

(cont)

Your powers are **constrained** and **limited** within this **scholastic** **battlefield**.

PANEL 5

MONTAGE shot. ISP at the MIC is one element, while the other element is an up-angled close-up of a BLONDE SCHOOLGIRL, her eerie, glowing BLUE EYES staring widely and ominously-- and, I hope, unnervingly-- into the camera.

INFERNAL SERVICE PROVIDER

I believe you'll find that your fellow alumni have cooked up some **wonderfully** **creative** ways to snuff you, Theresa.

(cont)

**Enjoy**, sunshine.

**PAGE 18**

PANEL 1

Tight close-up on the INFERNAL SERVICE PROVIDE's blazing skull, as we finish out his appearance in the issue.

INFERNAL SERVICE PROVIDER (BOLD, JAGGED OUTLINE ON BALLOON)

**Any**hoo.

(cont)

Better get a **move** on, girls...

(cont)

...because you're **late** **for** **class**.

PANEL 2

Downshift on the feet of SPOOKY and EMP as they race along the polished floor of the hallway. Again, while SPOOKY wears the school-uniform socks and shoes, EMP is in her SUPERSUIT "stocking feet."

SISTAH SPOOKY (BURST BALLOON)

D-**damn** **it**--!

EMPOWERED (BURST BALLOON)

**Aaa**--!

(cont)

Why am I **running**--?!

PANEL 3

Big panel. Full-figure shot of both SISTAH SPOOKY and EMPOWERED frantically running down a high-school hallway, this time a Japanese-school-style hallway with a bank of windows on one side and classroom doors on the other. As in the ISP's office, we see churning fire outside those windows, casting a distinctly hellish light over this scene.

SPOOKY and EMP are wearing the school uniforms as before, but with one odd new change: Each is suddenly cradling an armful of SCHOOLBOOKS to her chest as she runs along. (We won't see these books up close until later in the series, but they're actually ornate-looking D&D-style "spellbooks," possibly embossed with prominent pentagram patterns.) Both girls wear alarmed expressions, with EMP staring down at her armload of books with a bemused look.

SISTAH SPOOKY

(H-b) >**Hnnh**<

(cont)

Must be a high-level **geas**--

(cont)

--A **magical** **compulsion** encoded into this hellscape's structure--!

EMPOWERED

And where did these **schoolbooks** come from, all of a sudden--?

PANEL 4

Still running, SPOOKY explains what's going on with a pained, clenched-teeth expression, while EMP looks over at her (over the armload of SCHOOLBOOKS) with a.

SISTAH SPOOKY

We're **helplessly** **bound** by the rules of this construct, feels like--!

EMPOWERED

Hey, "**helplessly** **bound**" is my middle name, okay?

(cont)

I **swear** we'll wriggle our way **outta this**, Spooky!

PANEL 5

Long shot, looking in through the windows from outside to see SPOOKY and EMP running down the hallway, each still cradling those schoolbooks. We see sparks and flames flashing by in the FG, as the camera is out in the fiery hellscape outside the school's windows.

SISTAH SPOOKY

That's **not** **really** **comforting**, Emp.

EMPOWERED (SMALL)

Um, actually, my middle name is **Megan**, but I believe my **larger** **point** still stands.

**PAGE 19**

PANEL 1

Close-up on a CLASSROOM DOOR swinging open. COLOR NOTE that, while the hallway color outside is still warm and hellish, the color inside the room is cooler and bluer.

SFX

KCHAK

PANEL 2

Biggish establishing shot, as SISTAH SPOOKY and EMPOWERED gingerly and apprehensively step inside the new setting of a BIOLOGY LAB. The lighting, here, is much dimmer, cooler and bluer than we've seen so far. Also: Ominous shadows aplenty!

The BIOLOGY lab is dominated by a series of those familiar black-topped tables or stations, with high stools stationed by each one. (These tables could be in orderly rows, but my high-school BIO LAB had 'em arranged any which way or "kitty-cornered" to each other, which might be easier to draw.) On each black tabletop are one or more DISSECTED FROGS on trays, with at least one such FROG featured in the foreground of the shot. As per usual, this a splayed-out FROG face-up on a tray, limbs spread out and secured with pins while its organs are visible through a gaping opening sliced up its underside.

Found the ref jpeg at right while reading 20TH CENTURY BOYS, and based my rough off the three tables in the FG of the shot. Had to remove the others to do the rough, though, and the windows are gone; this room needs to be dark and shadowy, so windowless is the way to go. (Amusingly enough, when I paste in other 20TH CENTURY images, you'll see that Urasawa slipped up and switched those stools from round to square. Shocking!)

 SISTAH SPOOKY

**Whew**.

EMPOWERED

Um, **hello**...?

(cont)

Anybody **in** **here**...?

PANEL 3

As an apprehensive-looking SISTAH SPOOKY and EMP advance into the dim blue light and gloomy shadows of the BIOLOGY LAB, armfuls of SCHOOL/ SPELLBOOKS still clutched to their chests, we see the CLASSROOM DOOR slowly swinging shut behind them in the BG, a beam of hellish hallway light streaming through the narrowing gap. Note that the ref jpeg at right isn't specifically appropriate in terms of camera angle (ZAXXON perspective! AIIEE!), but could be useful for general-purpose reference.)

SISTAH SPOOKY (SMALL)

(*Black "censored" block over indicated letters*) At least we didn't start out facing a whole **class** of those bitches...

EMPOWERED

Jeez, your school is kinda **scary**, Spooky...!

SFX (SMALL, BY DOOR)

KREEEEK

PANEL 4

Similar shot to panel 3, only now the CLASSROOM DOOR behind SPOOKY and EMP is slamming dramatically shut, causing both women to flinch in a comical fashion (shoulders jerking up, alarmed facial expressions), though EMP's reaction is notably more exaggerated.

SFX (LARGE, BY DOOR)

SLAMM

SISTAH SPOOKY (BURST BALLOON)

**!**

EMPOWERED (LARGE; BURST BALLOON)

(*Black "censored" block over indicated letters*) **FUCK**

PANEL 5

An exasperated-looking EMP shakes her head and dumps her SCHOOLBOOKS on one of the black tabletops, while SPOOKY lowers her own armful of books while gazing around her with a dazed, dreamy expression.

EMPOWERED

So, does this place look **familiar** to you...?

SISTAH SPOOKY

Well, **yeah**.

(cont)

This is the **biology** **lab**, as you can **see**, Emp.

PANEL 6

Big, very icky close-up of a splayed-out DISSECTED FROG face-up on a tray, limbs spread out and secured with pins while its organs are clearly visible through the gaping opening sliced up its underside.

**PAGE 20**

PANEL 1

EMP and SPOOKY look startled in the BIOLOGY LAB's dim, blue-skewing light as they react to an unseen voice from off-panel.

BETHANY (OFF-PANEL)

That's **right**, doggie.

EMPOWERED

**Akk**--!

PANEL 2

Close-up on an infernal BLONDE classmate of SPOOKY's, BETHANY, who is crouching (unseen) in the shadows of a BIO LAB table/station. We don't yet see her eyes, just a smiling (and speaking) lower face framed by flowing blonde hair that's spilling out over a school-uniform top.

BETHANY

It was **so** totally humiliating to be **lab**-**partnered** with the ugly little **mutt** of the class.

PANEL 3

SPOOKY in the FG, face twisting in an "oh, crap" expression as she recognizes an all-too-familiar voice, while EMP glances over at her in the BG with a concerned expression.

SISTAH SPOOKY (SMALL)

**Ughh**.

(cont)

(*Black "censored" block over indicated letters*) Fucking **Bethany**.

PANEL 4

BG: The school-uniformed BETHANY crouches behind one of the black-topped table (out of direct sight of our heroines, BTW), long blonde hair hiding her face from view as she speaks. FG: A black tabletop, with a pinned and sliced-open DISSECTED FROG prominent on a tray.

BETHANY

Even **worse** was how you **butchered** our poor little frog and **saddled** **me** with a mortifying **C+** for a grade.

(cont)

Honestly, a **C+**?

PANEL 5

SPOOKY and EMP look alarmed and worried, striking wary poses as they glance around them and move through the rows of tables, still unable to locate BETHANY addressing them. In the FG, magical GLITTER FX begin to sparkle around the DISSECTED FROGS on the tabletops.

SISTAH SPOOKY

Y-**yeah**?

(cont)

Well, I only screwed up that stupid f-**frog** **dissection** 'cause you didn't wanna **help** **out** and possibly muss up your m-magically **salon**-**perfect** **nails**, remember...?

EMPOWERED (SMALL; WHISPER BALLOON)

**Spooky**...?

(cont)

You sound **scared**...!

PANEL 6

Big, full-face close-up on BETHANY in the shadows of the table, blue eyes glowing eerily as she speaks with a sinister grin.

BETHANY

**Point** **taken**, doggie.

(cont)

But I can assure you that I am **much** **less** **squeamish** now, okay?

PANEL 7

Closer-up version of the panel 5 image of wary, worried-looking SPOOKY and EMP still looking around them for the unseen BETHANY. Ominously, we see the shadowy, hulking mass of a GIANT DISSECTED FROG's head rising up behind the unaware women, amid a spray of magical, sparkly GLITTER FX. EMP's head is starting to turn as she hears something behind her.

BETHANY (OFF-PANEL)

I'll be **more** than happy to **get** **my** **hands** **dirty**, this time around.

SFX

SHLUPP

EMPOWERED

**Hahh**...?

**PAGE 21**

PANEL 1

Big, dramatic, disgusting "splash page" action! A shocked and startled SPOOKY and EMPOWERED react in horror as they're suddenly surrounded by the hulking, zombified forms of three (or more!) GIANT DISSECTED FROGS that have sprung into existence on the black tabletops of the BIOLOGY LAB stations. The ghastly, dripping FROGS are sliced open from throat to groin (if that term is appropriate), with their wet, slimy, gooey internal organs spilling out (and spewing fluids) as the FROGS lunge after the recoiling, flinching SPOOKY and EMP. Several of them might still have the oversized pins (with round, colored ends?) impaling their limbs as they reach out for our heroines; one might have a giant set of scissor-like retractors bouncing merrily from the pinned-back skin of its sliced-open abdomen. As mentioned, we see at least three GIANT DISSECTED FROGS, but more of them might be looming in the BG. Note that glowing "GLITTER FX" sparkle brightly around the FROGS, to indicate that infernal magic has spontaneously spawned most of these critters.

DISSECTED FROG 1

(*Sound FX-like font in a word balloon*) **RIBBIT**

DISSECTED FROG 2

(*Sound FX-like font in a word balloon*) **RIBBIT**

DISSECTED FROG 3

(*Sound FX-like font in a word balloon*) **RIBBIT**

SFX (ONE BY EACH FROG)

SHLUPP BLORPP PLURPP

SISTAH SPOOKY (BURST BALLOON)

**?!**

EMPOWERED (BURST BALLOON)

**Gahh**--!

(cont)

(*Black "censored" block over indicated letters*) What the **fuck**--?!

PANEL 2

INSERT PANEL at lower right, with a close-up of the gorgeous BETHANY grinning and speaking exultantly, BLUE EYES glowing brightly.

BETHANY

(*Black "censored" block over indicated letters*) I **told** **you** how that fucking **C+** ruined the **pleasing** **aesthetic** of my report card, doggie.

(cont)

But **this** will serve as a **make**-**up** **assignment**, understand?

**PAGE 22**

PANEL 1

Disgusting action panorama! FG: A GIANT DISSECTED FROG clutches at a grossed-out SPOOKY with its big, wet "hands" (possibly with those pins still thrust through them). BG: More disgustingly still, poor EMP struggles and yells as the GIANT DISSECTED FROG behind her deploys its oozing mass of internal organs to engulf her, with dripping loops of intestinal tract dropping down over her like big, disgusting lassos.

SISTAH SPOOKY (BURST BALLOON)

(H-b) >**NNGK**<

EMPOWERED (BURST BALLOON)

**Ick**!

(cont)

**Ick**!

(cont)

G-**get** **off** **me**--!

DISSECTED FROG

(*Sound FX-like font in a word balloon*) RIBBIT

SFX

SHLORPP BLUPP

PANEL 2

Reverse angle from the previous shot, more or less, with a broadly similar camera angle as the ref jeg at right. In the FG, a struggling SPOOKY is flung down onto one of the black tabletops as she writhes and thrashes in the grasp of multiple GIANT DISSECTED FROGS. Beyond her, a squirming EMP continues to be engulfed by DISSECTED FROG internal organs in the middleground, with the new grotesquerie on display: A wet loop of FROG intestine has been cinched over her mouth. "Ick," indeed!

In the shadowy BG beyond them, BLONDE BETHANY is now standing up from her hiding place behind one of the black-topped tables/ stations, and is turning to face our FG heroines with her glowing BLUE EYES prominent even as this distance. Though we can't yet see it clearly (as it's hidden behind her), she's holding a GIANT SCALPEL with both hands.

SISTAH SPOOKY (BURST BALLOON)

L-let me **go**--!

EMPOWERED (BURST BALLOON)

(H-b) >**GMFF**<

BETHANY

These boys are **angry** **manifestations** of the tortured spirits of the **thousandfold** **frogs** who died here, see?

DISSECTED FROG

(*Sound FX-like font in a word balloon*) **RIBBIT**

PANEL 3

Closer-up shot of the delighted BETHANY gazing into the camera with wide, delighted, glowing BLUE EYES. She's holding up a GIANT SCALPEL the size of a halberd or other polearm, and the edge of the blade is catching the light with a bright glint and/or sparkle. (Or the blade may, in fact, be glowing outright, like a lightsaber.)

BETHANY

And they're totally **thrilled** to help me **dissect** **you** **two**, doggie!

(cont)

Let's get these fine little specimens **pinned** **down** and **opened** **right** **up**, boys!

PANEL 4

FG: SPOOKY, struggling in the grasp of wet, clammy "FROG paws," stares back at the off-panel BETHANY with dawning horror. BG: EMPOWERED, now throughly engulfed in the DISSECTED FROG's evulsed internal organs, likewise stares off-panel in wide-eyed horror as she "MMPHs" into the grotesque loop of intestine covering her mouth.

SISTAH SPOOKY (SMALL TEXT IN BIGGER BALLOON)

(*Black "censored" block over indicated letters*) Oh, **fuck** **me**.

EMPOWERED (BURST BALLOON)

(H-b) >**NHHMFF**<

DISSECTED FROG

(*Sound FX-like font in a word balloon*) **RIBBIT**

CAPTION

**To** **be** **continued**!