

WICKED THINGS™

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HAVE YOU THOUGHT ABOUT MAYBE HAVING A CLEAR-OUT BEFORE YOU GO TO UNIVERSITY?

MUM, DO YOU THINK I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE UP TO?

CLEAR THIS ROOM OF ITS PROTECTIVE JUNK...

...AND YOU CAN SELL THE ONLY HOME I'VE EVER KNOWN THE SECOND I LEAVE.



LOTTIE LOVE, COME ON. THESE ANCIENT FOLDERS FULL OF GOD-KNOWS-WHAT. GIVE ME SOMETHING.

SNATCH



IF YOU TOUCH MY PRECIOUS MYSTERY FILES...

...I WILL BECOME A **NUN** TO SPITE YOU.



THE CASE OF THE JADE CARTEL MUST NEVER GO IN THE BIN. IT INVOLVED A LOT OF MILD PERIL.

I'M SURE IT DID.



YOU DON'T BELIEVE ANY OF THIS EVER HAPPENED, DO YOU?

LOOK! IT WAS IN THE LOCAL NEWSPAPER!

TEENS TOPPLE LOCAL GEM SYNDICATE



THEY USED TO PRINT ANYTHING, THOUGH, DIDN'T THEY?

TALKING OF JOURNALISM BEING DEAD, WHY DON'T WE GET RID OF THESE MAGS?

NO!



YOU'VE NOT EVEN OPENED THE LAST FEW.

FINE. THOSE CHUMPS AT NATIONAL SOLVER NEVER WROTE ABOUT ME ANYWAY.



18 Under 18! MEADOW MARSH

Plus HARRY BUSCH SANTIAGO DUPRE ZAZIE MONK LATONYA EAGLETON "BOSS" BIGGS

I COULDN'T COMPETE WITH THE GLITTERING STARS OF THE EUROPEAN TEEN SLEUTH CIRCUIT.



A month later.



CAN YOU TRY NOT TO LOOK SO PLEASED WITH YOURSELF? IT'S *INSUFFERABLE*, CLAIRE.



YOU SHOULD HAVE READ THE BEAUTIFUL TESTIMONIAL I WROTE TO NOMINATE YOU. IT MADE ME WEEP.

YOU WOULDN'T HAVE LIKED IT AT ALL.

IT'S ABOUT THE WORK, NOT AWARDS, FRIEND.



I USED TO NOT CARE THAT I WASN'T NOMINATED, *NOW* IF I DON'T WIN, I'LL BE DISAPPOINTED.



≡SIGH≡

WE GET TO GO ON A NICE FREE TRIP BEFORE YOU GO UP TO UNI IN SCOTLAND AND I GO TO LONDON.



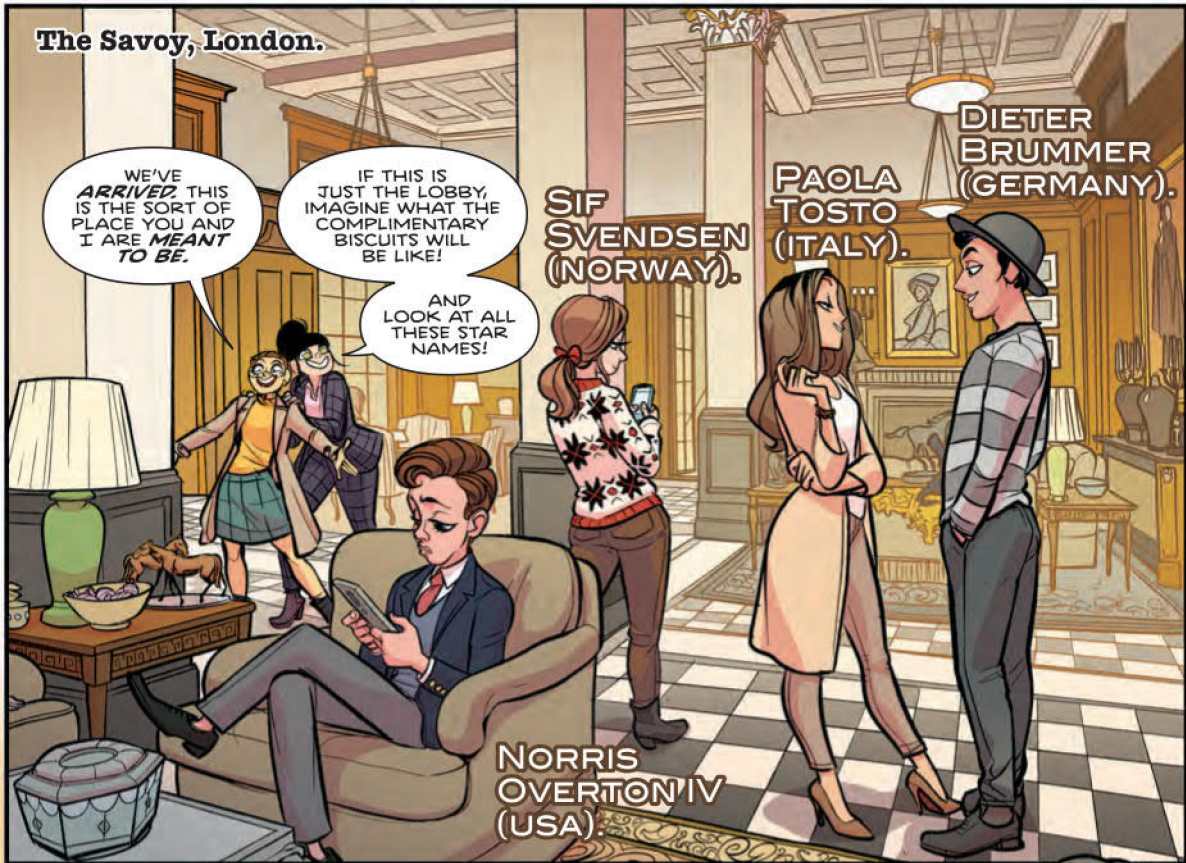
YES. *YES*. IT DOESN'T MATTER IF I DON'T WIN. I SHOULD JUST ENJOY IT.

I LOVE BEING YOUR FRIEND, CLAIRE LITTLE.



I SOLEMNLY PREDICT THAT THIS WILL BE AN EXPERIENCE YOU NEVER FORGET.

The Savoy, London.



WE'VE ARRIVED. THIS IS THE SORT OF PLACE YOU AND I ARE MEANT TO BE.

IF THIS IS JUST THE LOBBY, IMAGINE WHAT THE COMPLIMENTARY BISCUITS WILL BE LIKE!

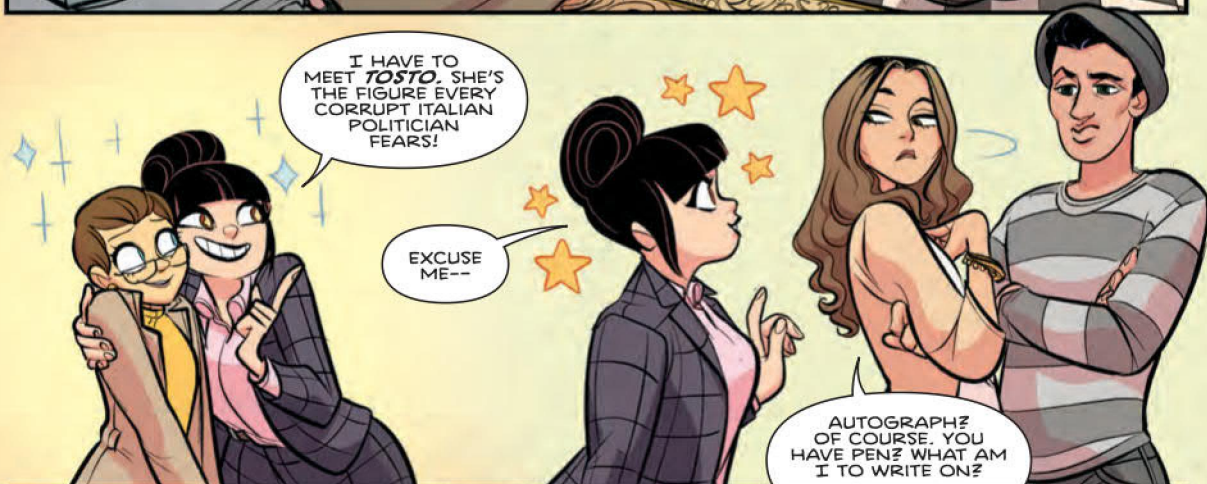
AND LOOK AT ALL THESE STAR NAMES!

SIF SVENDSEN (NORWAY).

PAOLA TOSTO (ITALY).

DIETER BRUMMER (GERMANY).

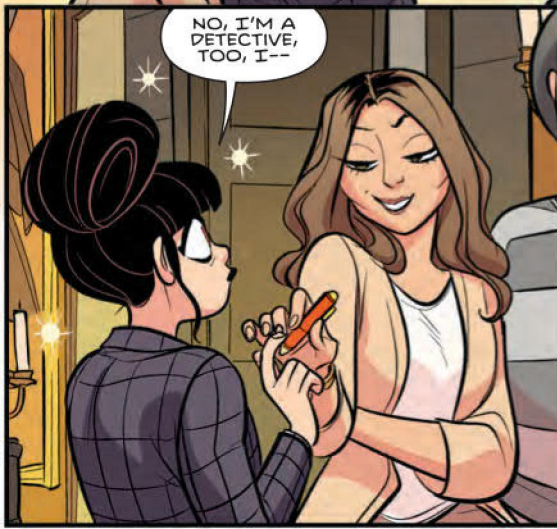
NORRIS OVERTON IV (USA)



I HAVE TO MEET TOSTO. SHE'S THE FIGURE EVERY CORRUPT ITALIAN POLITICIAN FEARS!

EXCUSE ME--

AUTOGRAPH? OF COURSE. YOU HAVE PEN? WHAT AM I TO WRITE ON?



NO, I'M A DETECTIVE, TOO, I--



COME BACK WHEN YOU HAVE PAPER.

