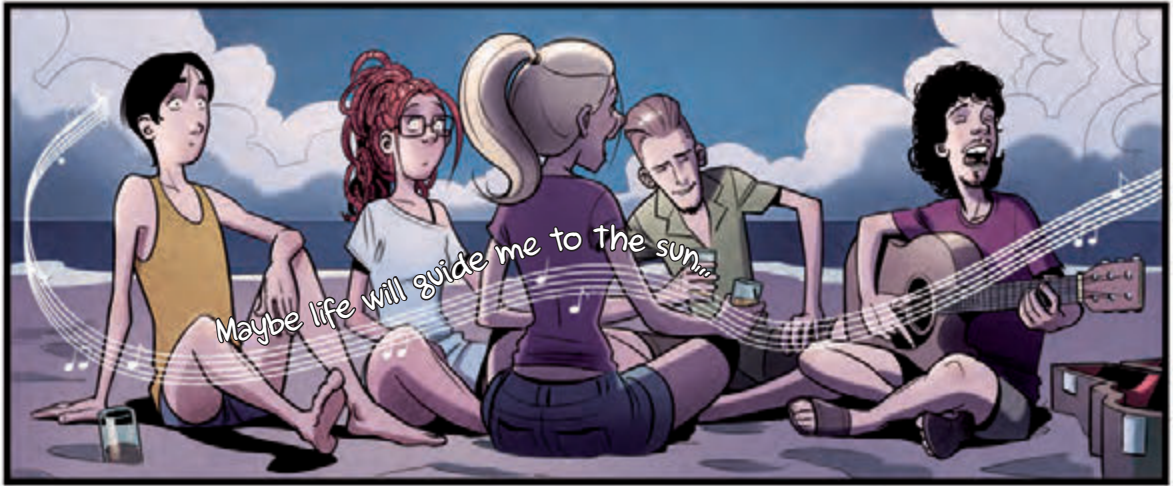


I could perfectly tell you the moment when it all started.



Maybe life will guide me to the sun...



It may be that



evil dominates
your hours...



Just as I could tell you
the exact moment
when everything
went to shit.



PRETTY
COOL, HUH?

YEAH,
IT'S PRETTY
COOL.

* Puede Ser ("Maybe," song by El Canto del Loco)



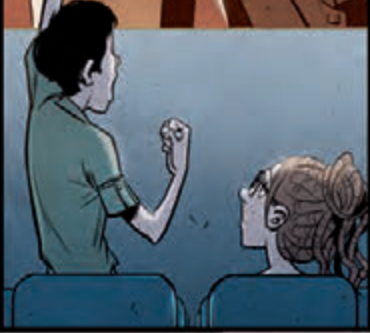
Fuck, I feel like I could tell you things that are impossible to tell.

Like the smell of the air at that moment.

Or the tension of my muscles trying to hide that I was dying of nerves.



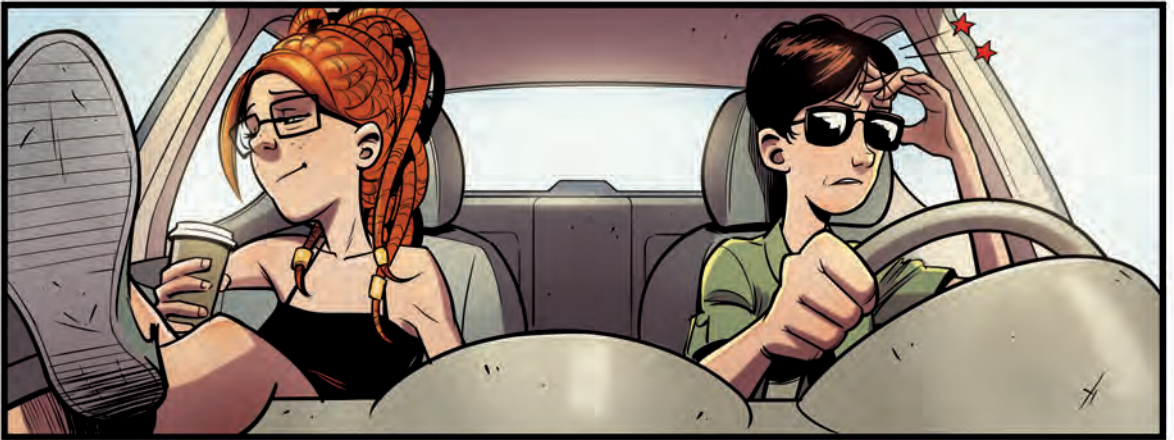
Letting go was easy with Tonya.



I remember she looked at me as if thinking, "I thought I was in control, but I wasn't."



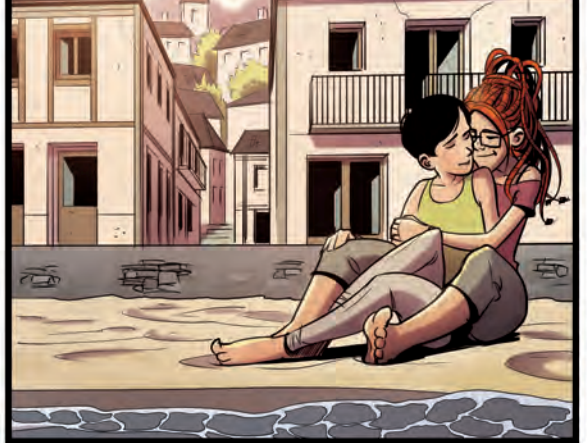
As if kissing me was akin to a drug addict's relapse.



I could tell you how quickly time passed before we realized what was happening.



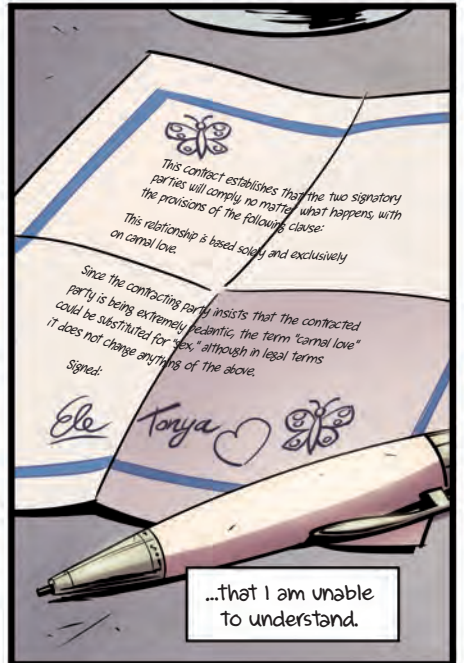
I could tell you millions of trillions of Things, really.



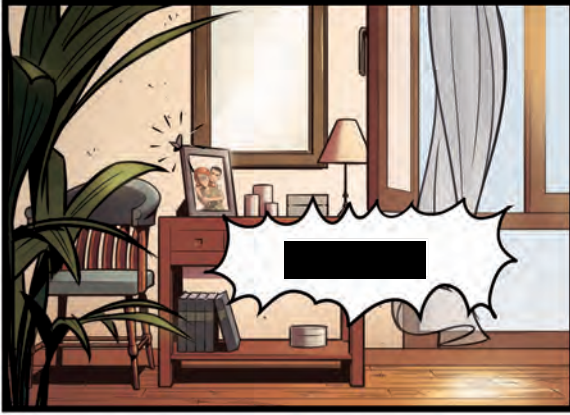
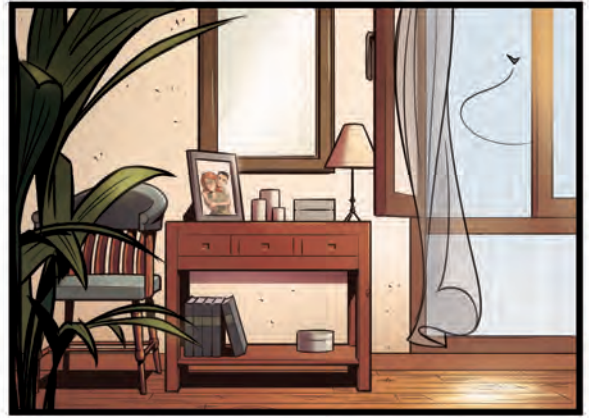
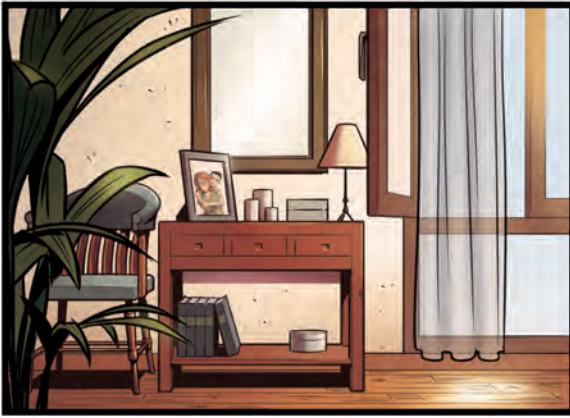
And of all those things...

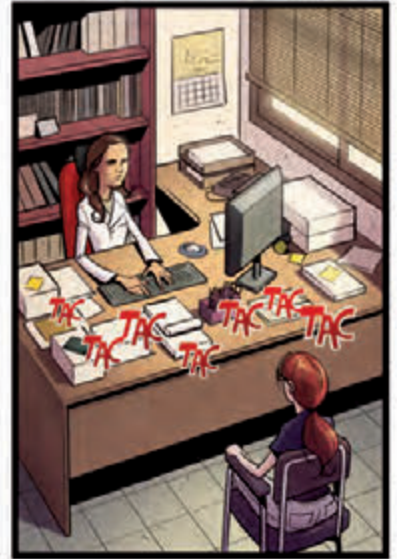


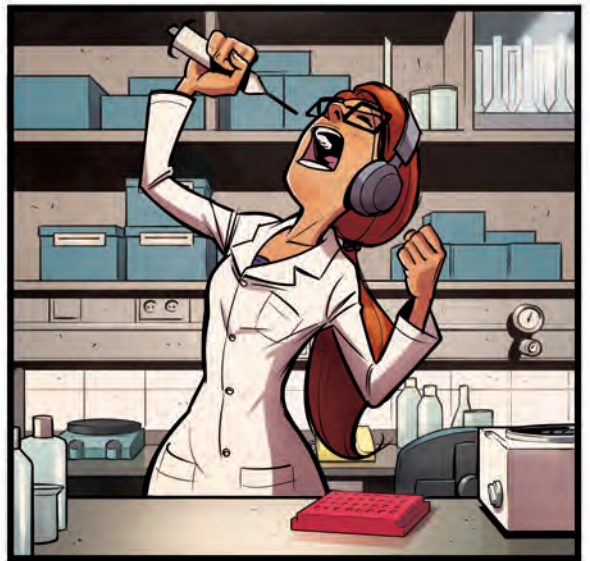
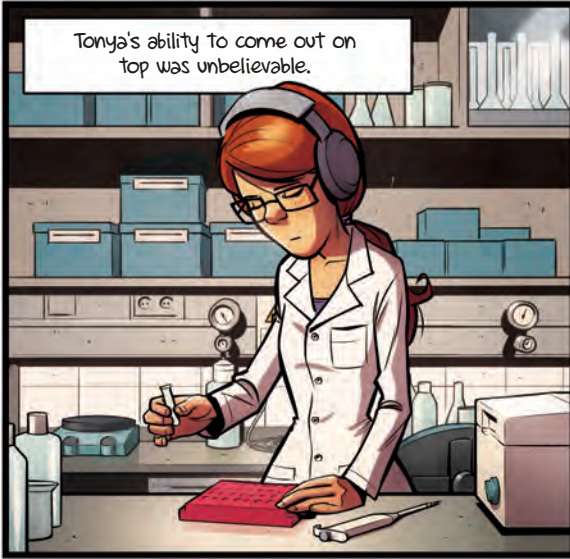
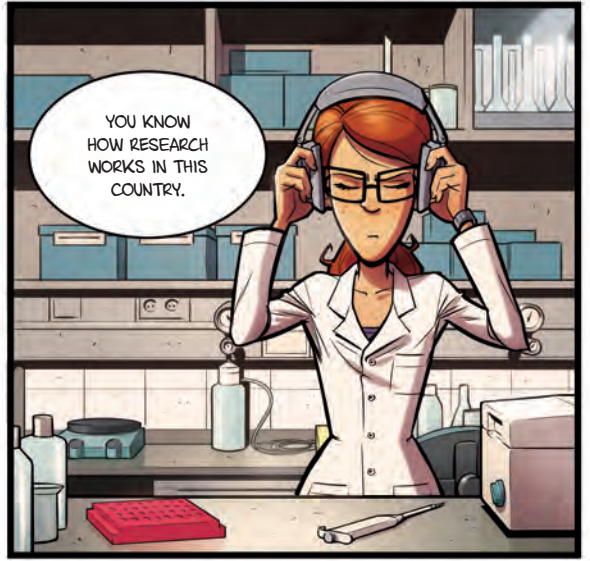
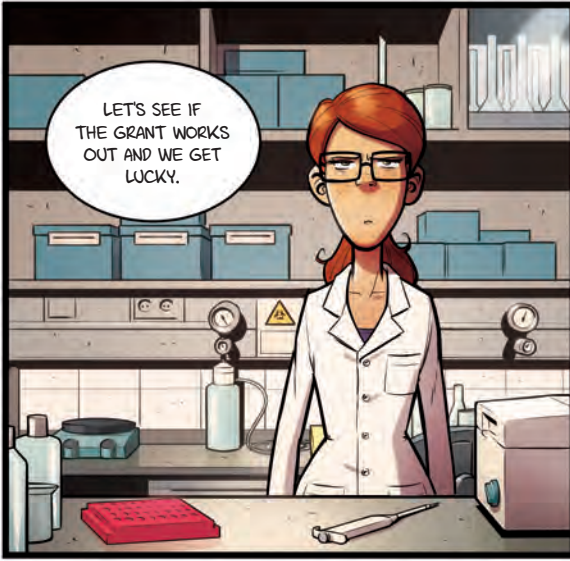
...there is only one...



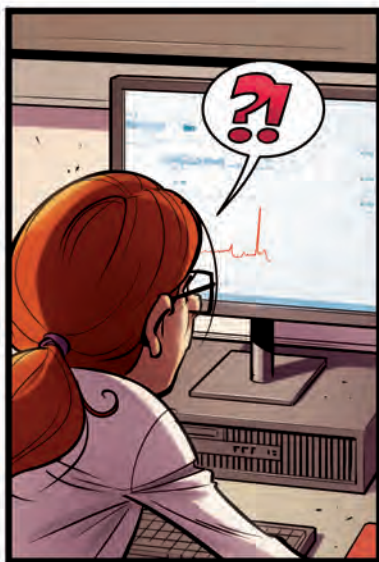
...that I am unable to understand.

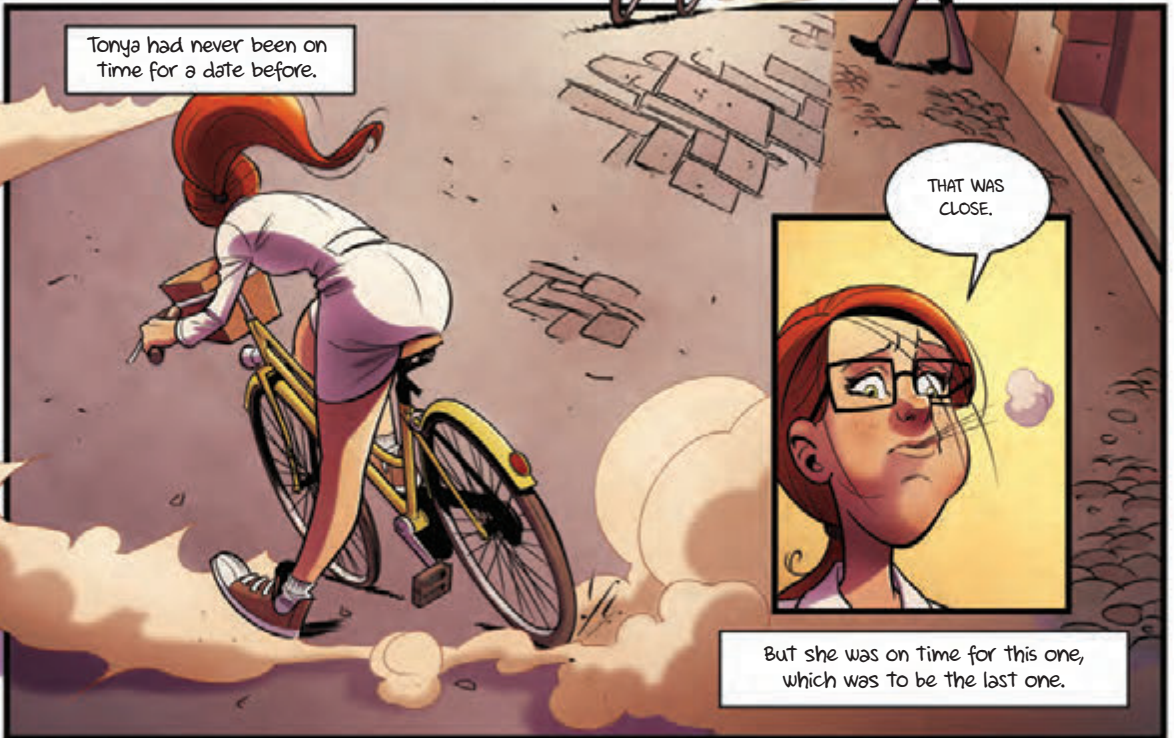


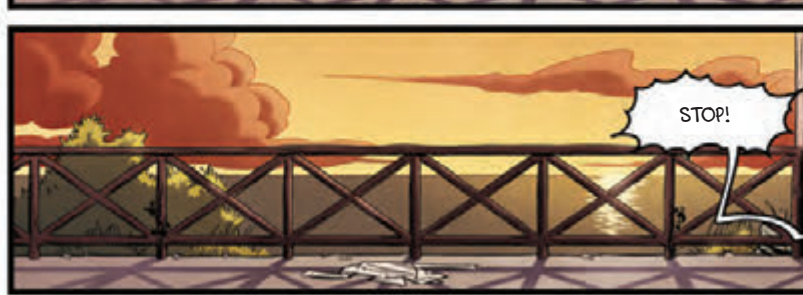
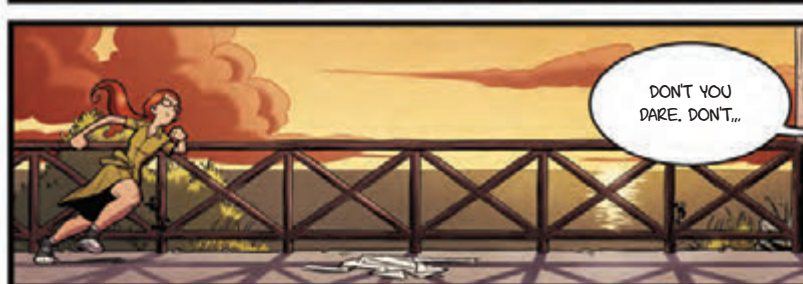
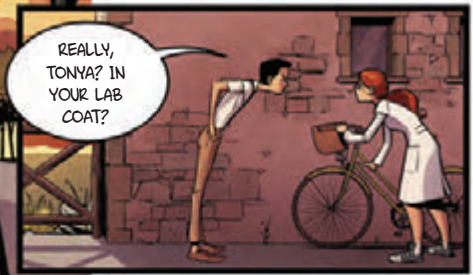




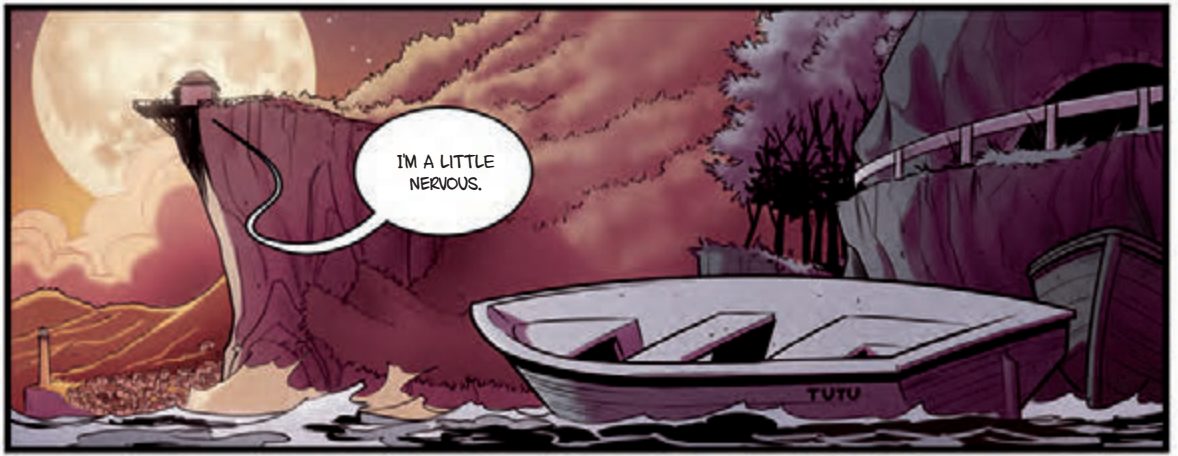












IM A LITTLE NERVOUS.



ME, TOO... IT'S WEIRD.



WHEN I THINK THAT IT'S BEEN FOUR YEARS SINCE WE HAD DINNER HERE FOR THE FIRST TIME,, I SWEAR, IT MAKES ME FEEL DIZZY.



WHAT ALSO MAKES ME DIZZY ARE YOUR JOKES.





I'M NOT VERY GOOD AT HIDING THINGS, HUH?



DID SOMETHING HAPPEN?



JUST FOR TODAY, I DIDN'T WANT TO...

PLEASE, TELL ME ABOUT IT.



THEY'VE REJECTED THE PICTURE BOOK AGAIN, AND I'M RUNNING OUT OF PUBLISHERS.

AND WORKING IN THE READERS' TRIANGLE SINKS ME MORE AND MORE.



HEY, ELE, I UNDERSTAND. I SWEAR I DO. BUT IT'S OUR ANNIVERSARY, AND WE'RE HERE... YOU COULD TRY TO SMILE A LITTLE.





WHAT?!



AGAIN WITH THAT? DO YOU THINK I CAN BE HAPPY WHENEVER I WANT?

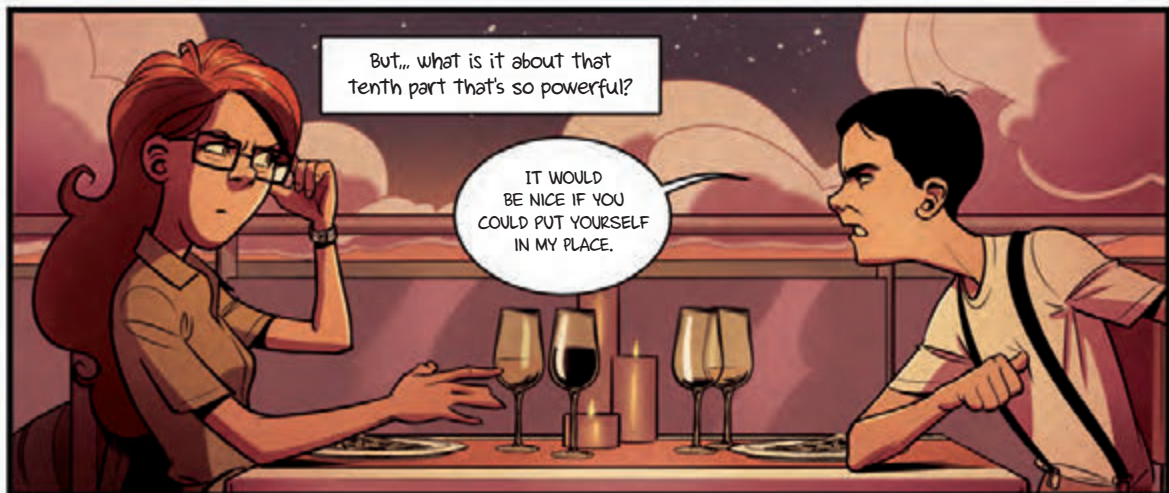


OKAY, OKAY. YOU'RE RIGHT. FORGIVE ME.



I would have liked to tell Tonya that there was nothing to forgive.

And I swear, nine out of ten parts of me wished I had.



But... what is it about that tenth part that's so powerful?

IT WOULD BE NICE IF YOU COULD PUT YOURSELF IN MY PLACE.



