


I THINK I'M LOSING MY MIND, KELLY.

OH?

I'M SO TENSE. I YELLED AT FISK YESTERDAY, FOR HARDLY ANY REASON.



YOU SPEND ALL DAY IN THAT HOUSE, LATELY. I KNOW I'D GET A BAD CASE OF CABIN FEVER.

MAYBE YOU NEED A VACATION?


OR A MAN.

OH! SINCE YOU PUT IT *THAT* WAY! HOW LONG HAS IT BEEN, DEAR?




SINCE HARVE...

OH MY GOD!




ARE YOU NERVOUS ABOUT DATING AGAIN?

SORT OF. I GUESS I'M AFRAID THE INVESTMENT WON'T YEILD A GOOD RETURN, YOU KNOW?




I'M NOT YOUNG ANYMORE. EVERY YEAR IT GETS A LITTLE HARDER TO STAY IN SHAPE. I CAN'T WASTE TIME FROM MAN TO MAN.



AND WHAT IF ONE OF THEM TURNS OUT TO BE ...

YOU KNOW...

A CREEP.



I KNOW A FEW TRUSTWORTHY BACHELORS. LETS GET YOU HOOKED UP!

OH...





GOOD MORNING, SAM.



RAKE
RAKE

OH, GOOD MORNING,
SHEILA.

UM... HI.



KELLY TELLS ME YOU
GIVE PERSONAL SELF
DEFENSE AND FIREARM
INSTRUCTION AS A SIDE
BUSINESS.

THAT'S
RIGHT.

I'M LOOKING FOR
SOMETHING LIKE
THAT.



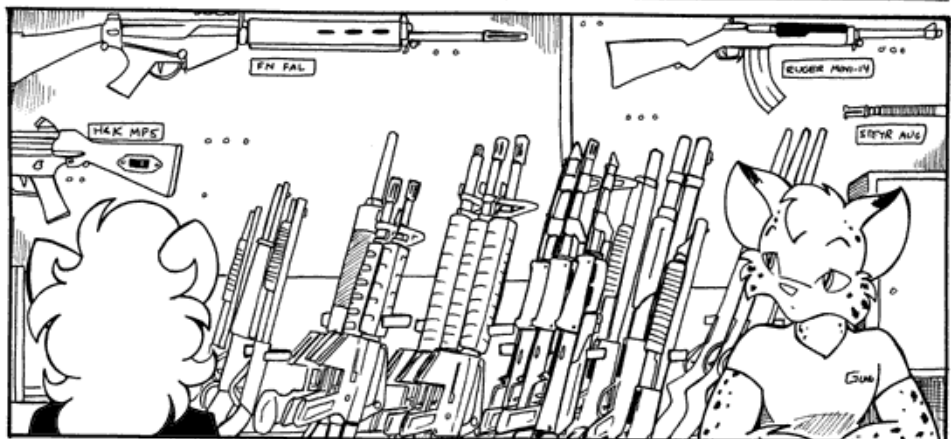
WELL, THAT'S A BIG RESPONSIBILITY.
IT'S NOT SOMETHING TO TAKE
LIGHTLY...



... BUT... WELL, I DON'T KNOW
IF THIS IS THE BEST PLACE TO
TALK IT OVER. I'LL BE AT

DAVE'S
GUNROOM
AFTER 3
TOMMOROW
IF YOU'RE
STILL
SERIOUS.





I SUPPOSE THE FIRST THING I SHOULD ASK IS WHY YOU'RE INTERESTED IN THIS?

WELL...

FIVE YEARS AGO... I WAS RAPED. IT WAS IN MY OWN HOUSE. MY SON WOKED UP AND STOPPED IT WITH A BAT...

I DON'T EVER WANT TO FEEL THAT HELPLESS AGAIN.

I'M SORRY.

IT'S ALL RIGHT. IT WAS A LONG TIME AGO. BUT I HAVEN'T DATED SINCE. AND...

... I REALIZE I HAVE A SECURITY AND A TRUST CONCERN.

IF YOU WERE IN A SIMILAR SITUATION AGAIN, COULD YOU BRING YOURSELF TO USE DEADLY FORCE?

I DON'T THINK I'D HAVE A PROBLEM.

JUST LIKE WE
PRACTICED.
JUST KEEP
YOUR SIGHTS
LINED UP ON
THE TARGET
AND FOLLOW
THROUGH
WITH THE
TRIGGER.



DON'T ANTICIPATE
THE SHOT AND JUST
STAY FOCUSED ON
THOSE SIGHTS...



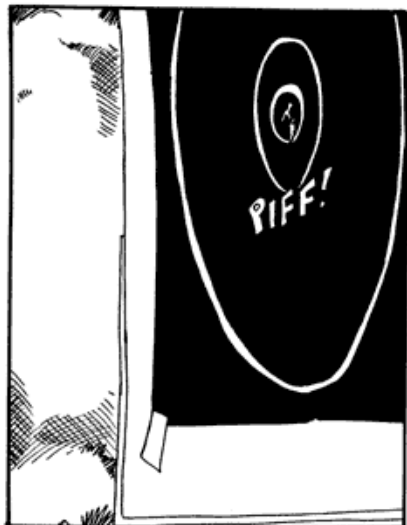
BLAM!



GOOD. GO AHEAD AND SHOOT
OUT THE REST OF THE CHAMBERS.



PIFF!



YELL AT HIM!

ATTRACT ATTENTION!

STOP! STOP RIGHT THERE!

FIRE!

BLAM BLAM

RELOAD!

BLAM

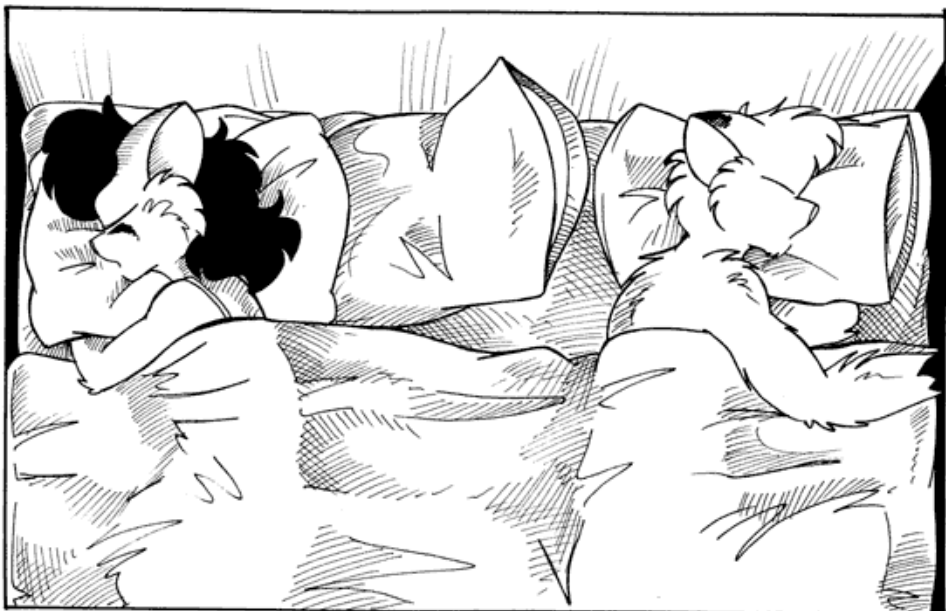
OUTSTANDING.

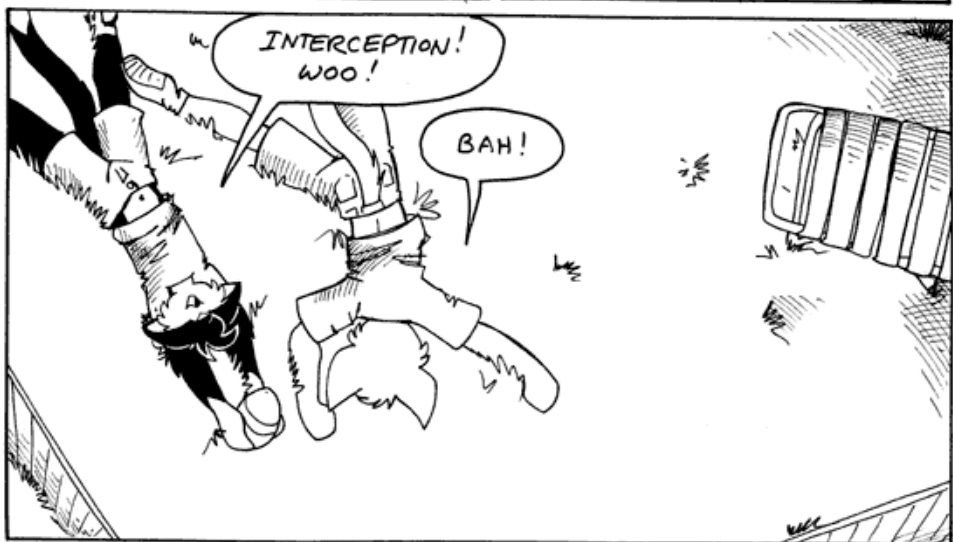
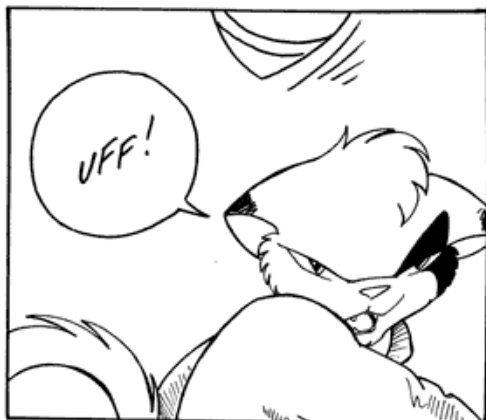
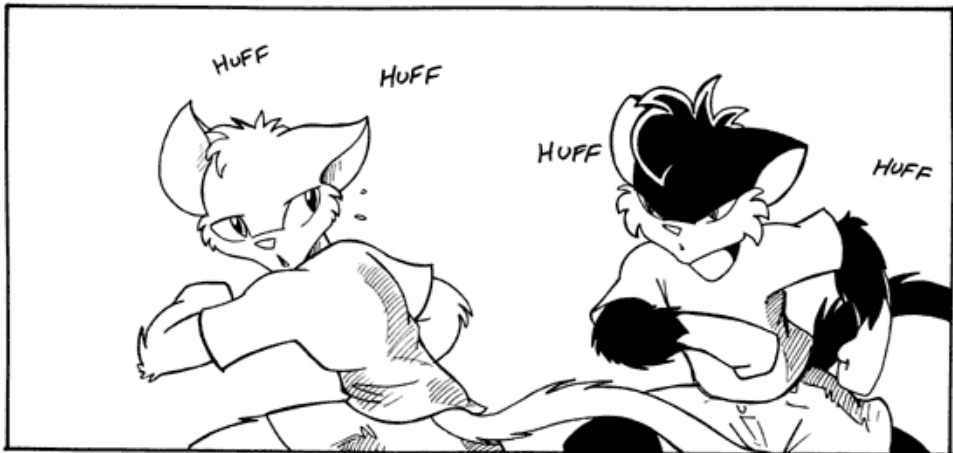


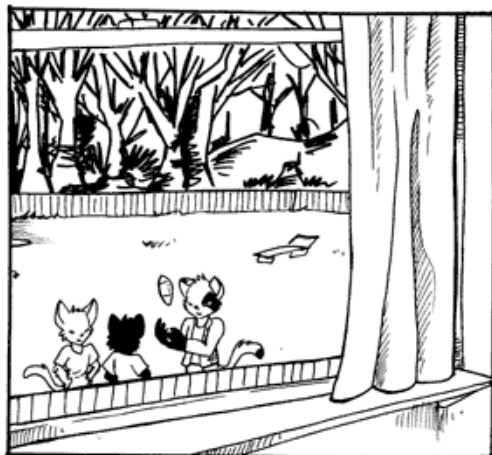


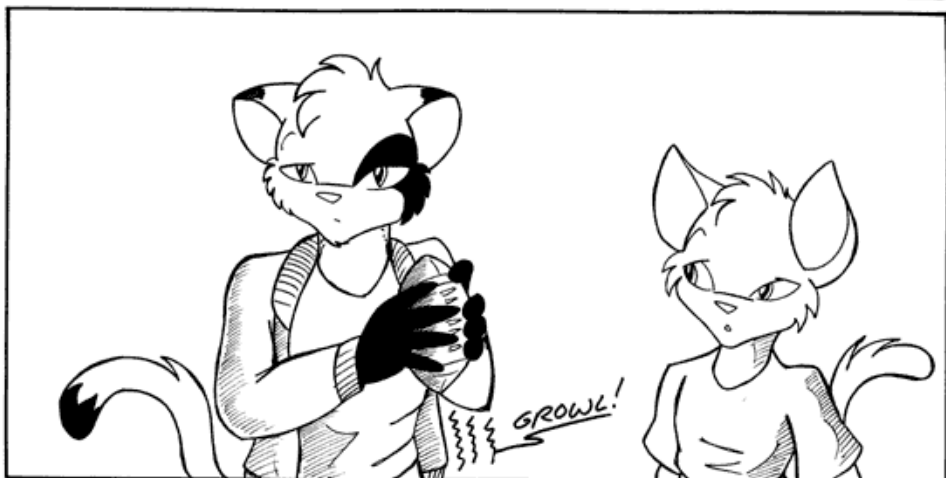
YOUR DINNER'S IN THE FRIDGE. RYAN AND I ALREADY ATE.

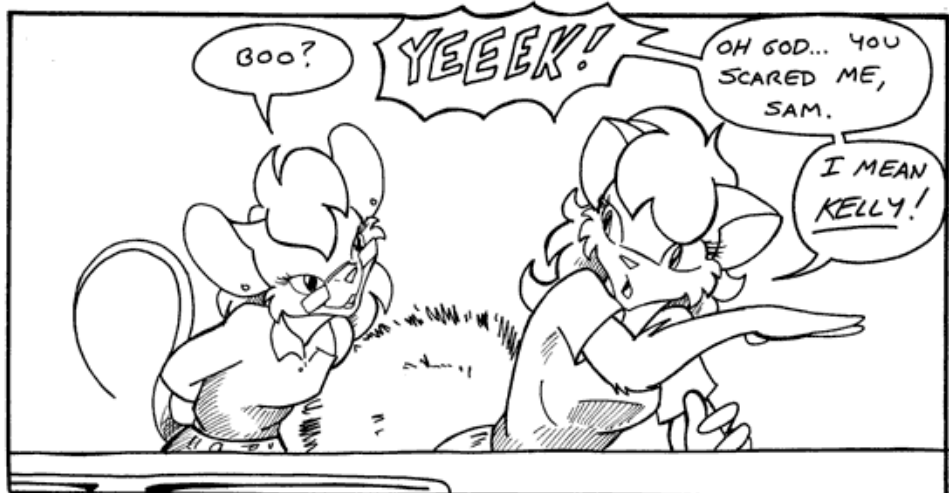
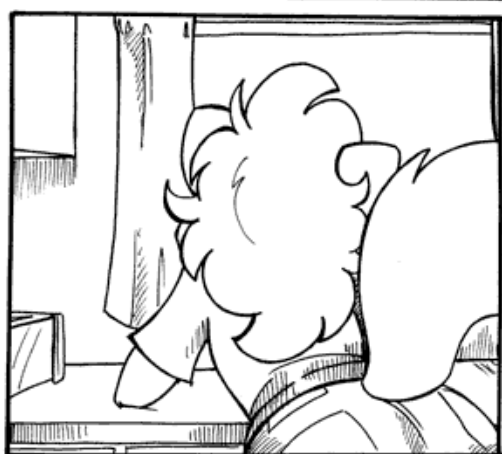
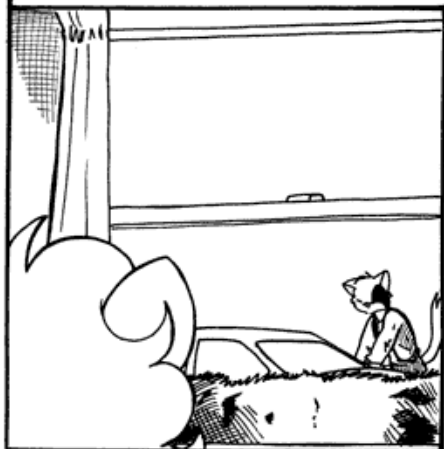
OKAY.
THANKS.

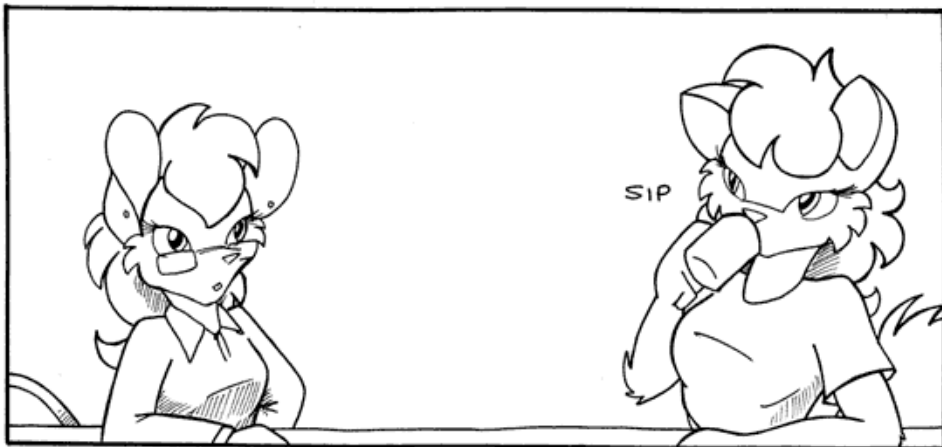












SOME THINK THAT FERRETS SMELL BAD, BUT THEY REALLY DON'T ONCE YOU'RE AROUND THEM LONG ENOUGH.



KELLY TELLS ME YOU LIKE SOLDIERS. I HAVE A COLLECTION OF VIETNAMESE HANDS UNDER GLASS AT HOME...



YOU GONNA FINISH THAT?

NOT ANYMORE.




CAN I CALL YOU WHITE CHOCOLATE?




WHAT? YOU DIDN'T LIKE HIM, EITHER?






A black and white comic panel showing Sheila on the left, looking towards Sam on the right. She has her arms crossed and a serious expression. Sam is looking back at her.


SAM? IT'S TWO
IN THE MORNING.
WHAT ARE YOU
DOING?

A black and white comic panel showing Sam on the left and Sheila on the right. Sam is looking towards Sheila.


HEY SHEILA. JUST HAVING
A HARD TIME SLEEPING.

A black and white comic panel showing Sam and Sheila in profile, facing each other. Sam is on the left, looking towards Sheila on the right.


I HEARD YOU
FIGHTING, TONIGHT.

A black and white comic panel showing Sheila on the left and Sam on the right. Sheila is looking towards Sam.


YEAH, SORRY. IT'S BEEN
A PRETTY BAD MONTH.
IT'LL PROBABLY GET
BETTER.

A black and white comic panel showing Sam from the chest up, looking slightly to the right.


IT ALWAYS DOES. I
JUST USUALLY NEED SOME
TIME ALONE. TO THINK.
TO CALM DOWN.

A black and white comic panel showing Sheila from the chest up, looking towards the right.

AS LONG AS I DON'T SAY OR
DO ANYTHING RASH, IT'LL BE
FINE.

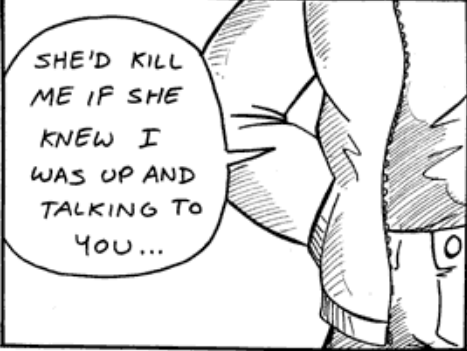


THERE'S JUST SO MUCH THAT SETS HER OFF. I WALK ON EGG-SHELLS. SHE HATES MY JOB. SHE HATES MY HOURS.




WE DISAGREE ON HOW TO RAISE RYAN. SHE'S ACCUSED ME OF HAVING AFFAIRS.


BUT, WE HANG IN THERE FOR RYAN.



SHE'D KILL ME IF SHE KNEW I WAS UP AND TALKING TO YOU...

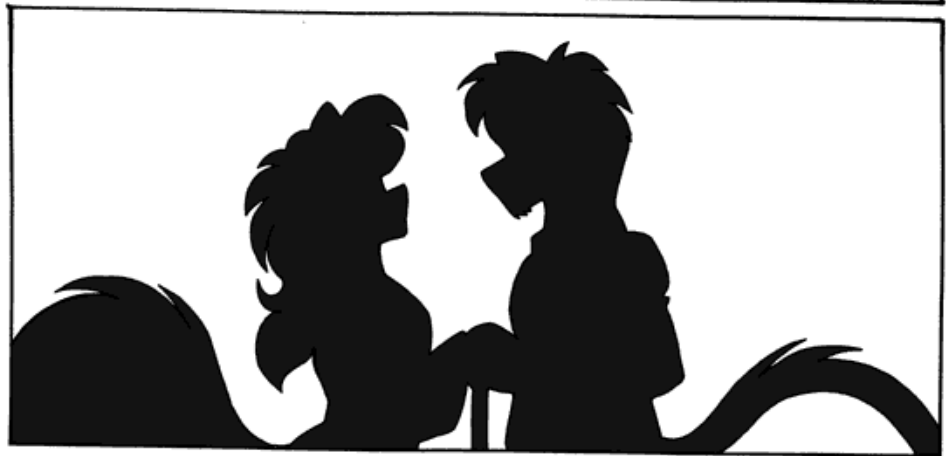
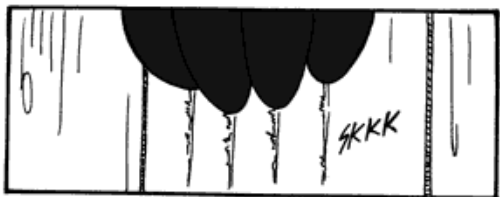
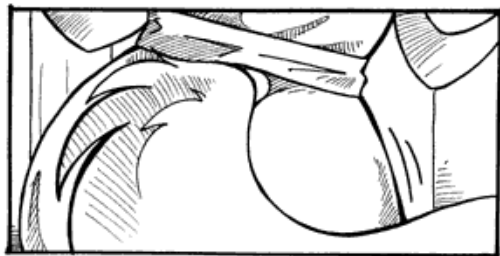


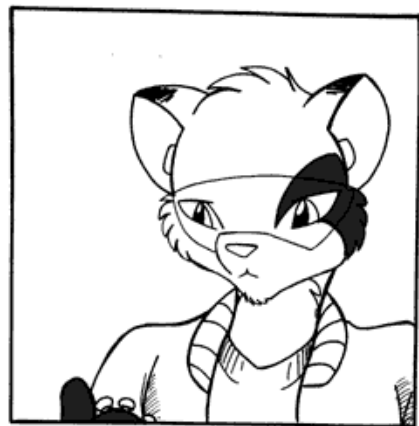
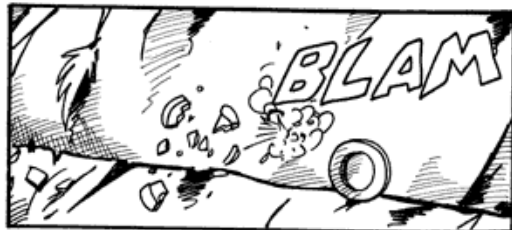
IN FACT, I SHOULD HEAD IN SOON, IN CASE SHE WAKES UP.



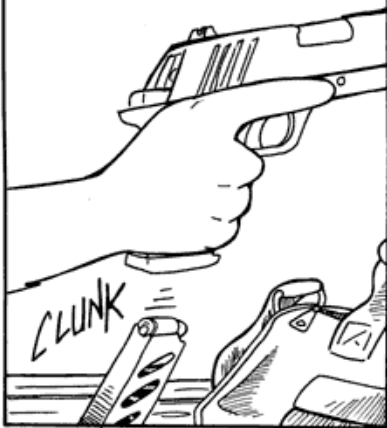
WELL, IF IT MATTERS TO YOU... I THINK YOU'RE A GOOD MAN AND A GOOD FATHER.







HOME TROUBLES?



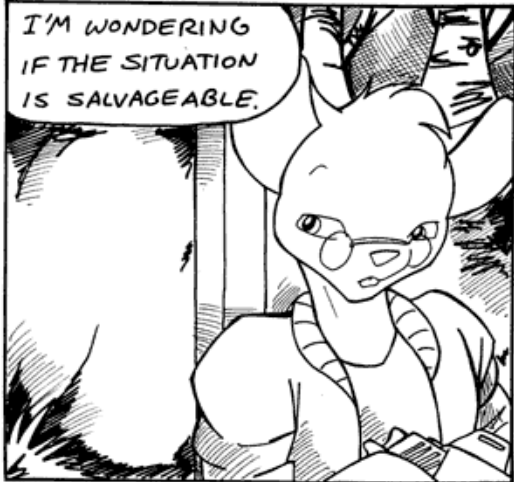
I GUESS IT'S
OBVIOUS. IT'S
BEEN PRETTY
BAD LATELY.



I'M GETTING TIRED OF IT, JERRY.
IT'S GOTTEN TO THE POINT WHERE
THE IRRATIONAL AND PARANOID
DELUSIONS ARE THE NORM. I
MISS THE AFFECTIONATE WOMAN
I MARRIED.

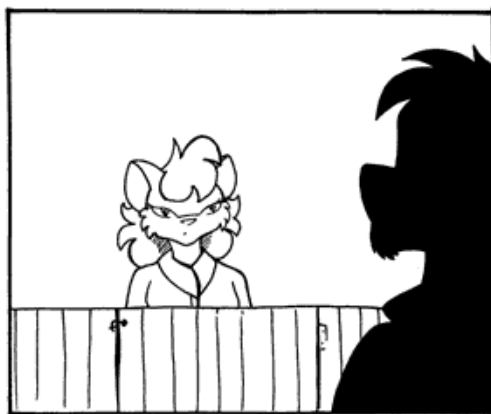


I'M WONDERING
IF THE SITUATION
IS SALVAGEABLE.



WELL, WHATEVER YOU DO,
KEEP RYAN IN MIND. YOUR
KIDS ARE YOUR GREATEST
RESPONSIBILITY. DON'T
BLOW IT.





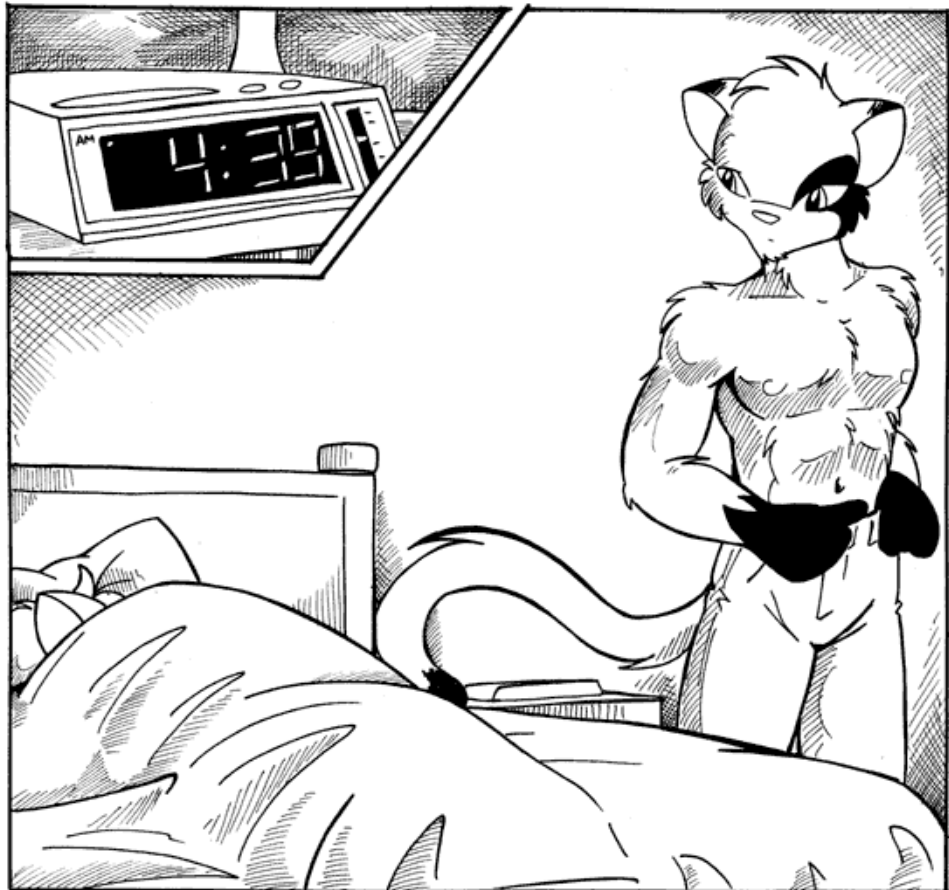
IT'S COLD OUT HERE.

SHEILA...

IF YOU
NEED
TO BE
AWAY...

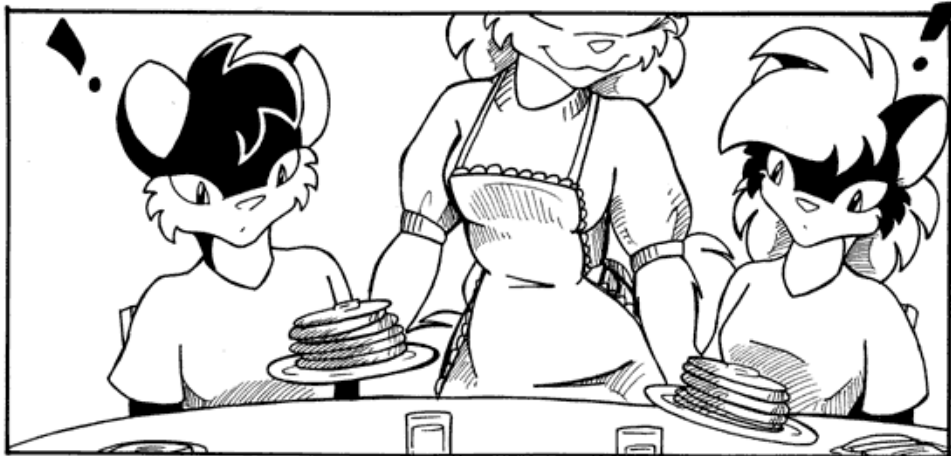
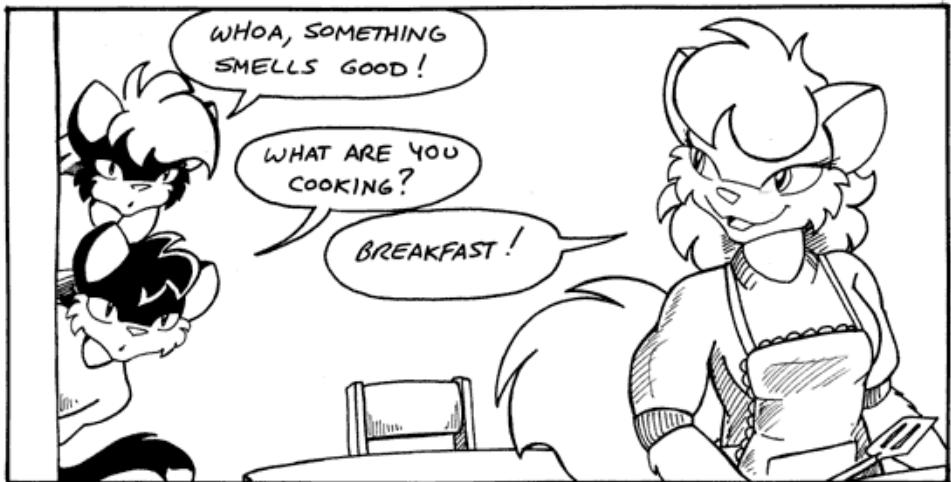
AT LEAST
COME IN
OUT OF THE
COLD.



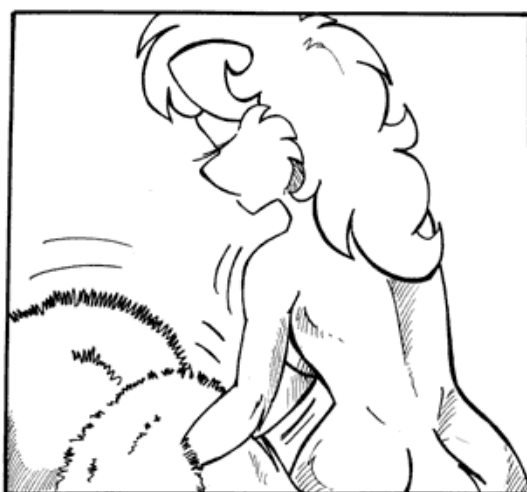
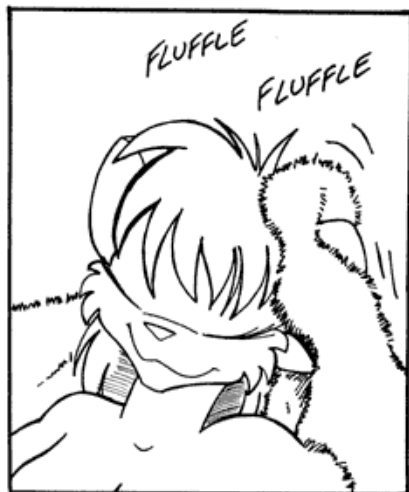


I KNOW YOU
UNDERSTAND WHY
I CAN'T STAY.


ZzMMRWWW...








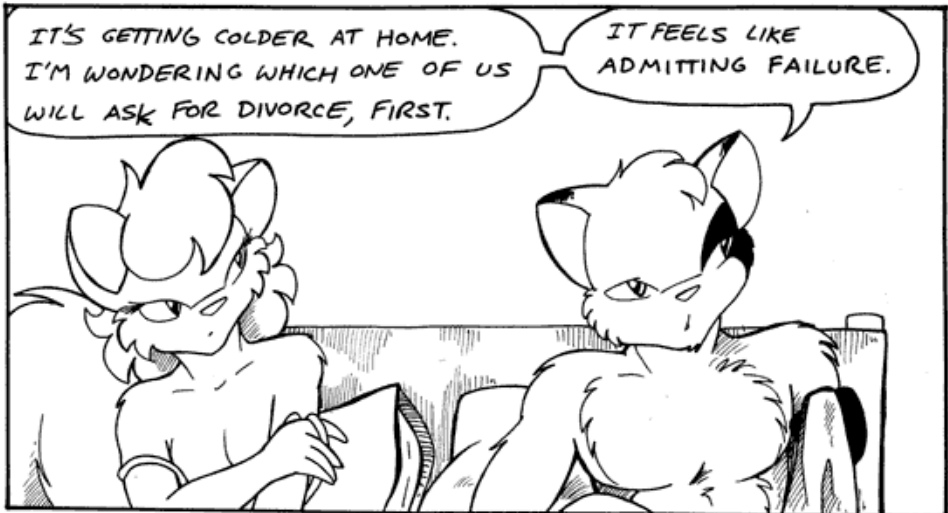




MMM. YOU'RE
PENSIVE.




OH, JUST THINKING ABOUT
THE FAMILY. THE FUTURE...




IT'S GETTING COLDER AT HOME.
I'M WONDERING WHICH ONE OF US
WILL ASK FOR DIVORCE, FIRST.

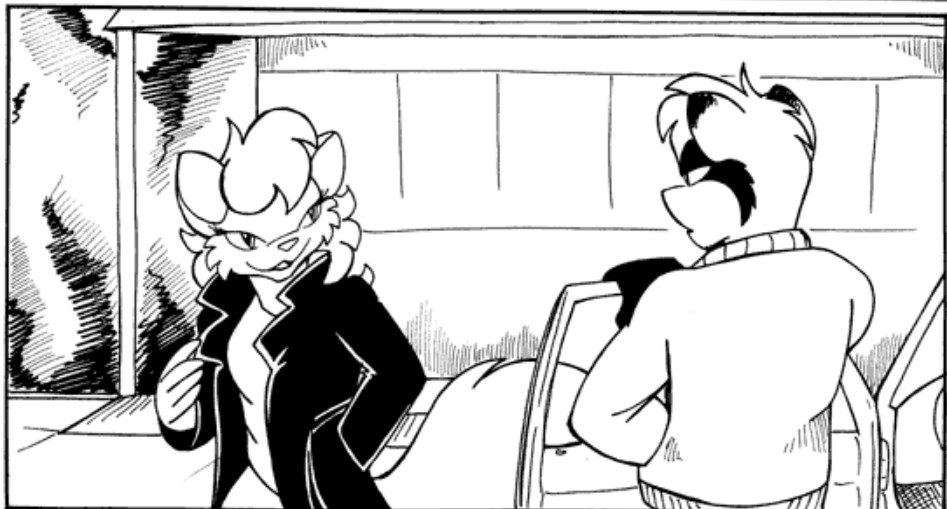
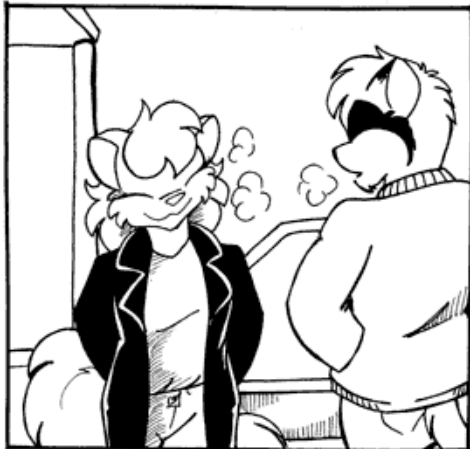
IT FEELS LIKE
ADMITTING FAILURE.

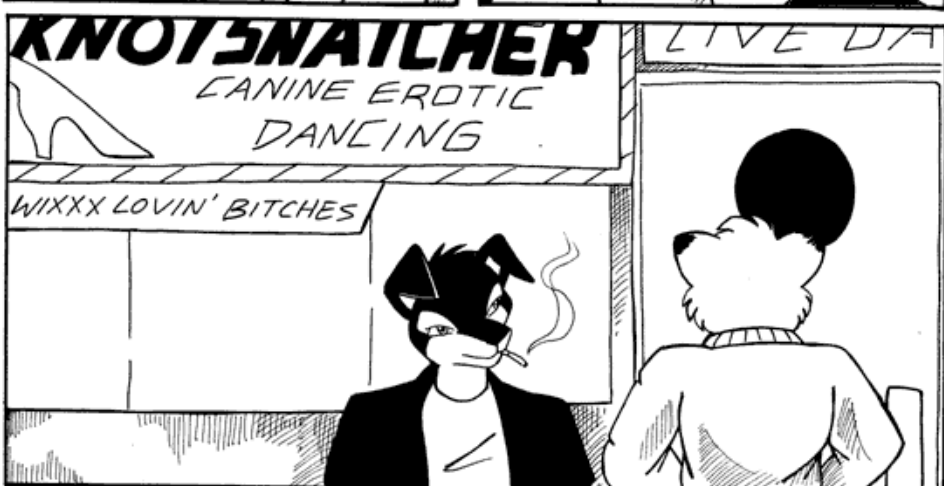


HOW DOES THAT MAKE
YOU FEEL ABOUT US?



YOU'RE THE ONLY THING
THAT KEEPS ME GOING.







HEY! OFFICER TOBS!
HOW LONG'S IT BEEN?

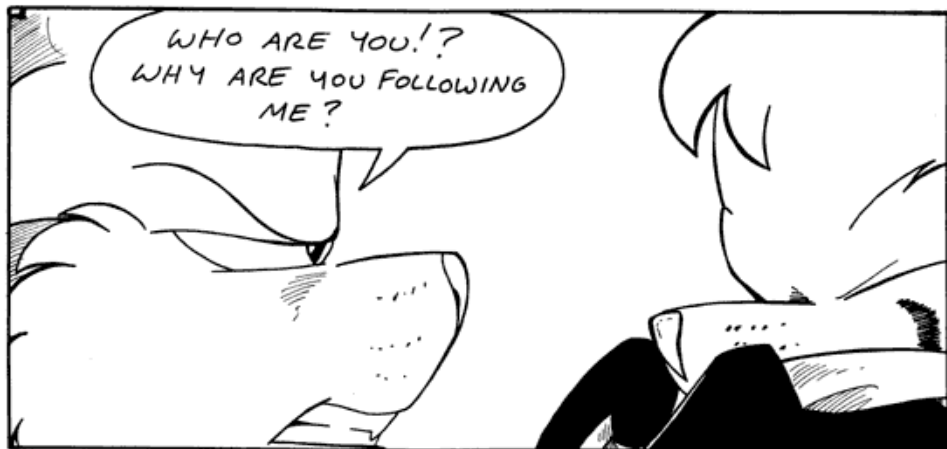
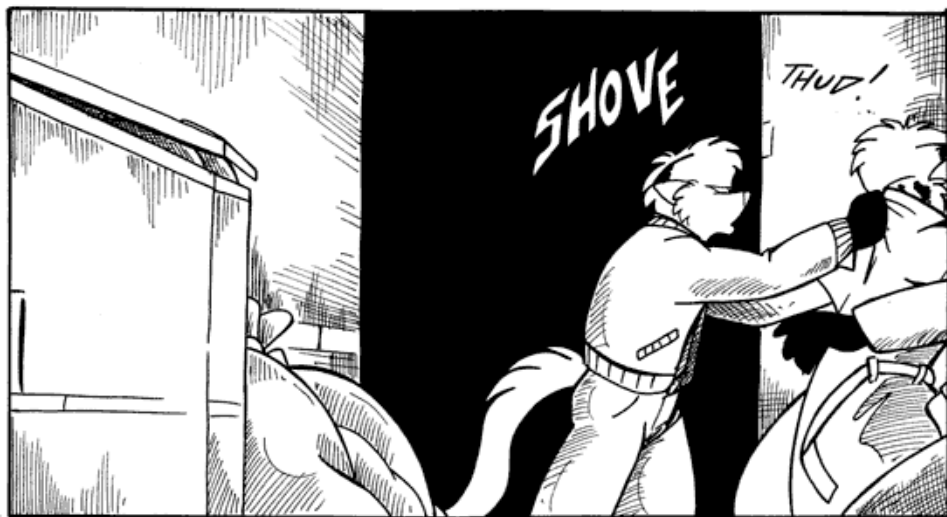
I'M NOT A
DETECTIVE
ANYMORE,
SEDRICK.

FINALLY
LEAVE THE
OL' LADY?

'CAUSE I
KNOW SOME
FINE CAT-
LEANIN' BITCHES—

NAW! I'M BEING
FOLLOWED. I
JUST NEED TO
SLIP OUT THE
BACK.







YOU CAN TALK OR YOU
CAN LEAVE HERE IN
AN AMBULANCE!

WHOA! HEY,
I'M JUST YOUR
ORDINARY P.I.!



PRIVATE INVESTIGATOR?



YOU THINK SHEILA BLACK IS
THE ONLY WOMAN INTERESTED
IN HOW YOU SPEND YOUR
SPARE TIME?




I'VE GOT NOTHIN' AGAINST YOU, MAN.
IT'S JUST MY JOB TO MAKE IT EASY
FOR YOUR WIFE'S LAWYER.



NOT SO FAST.
GIVE ME YOUR
CAMERA.

GIVE IT A REST.
IT'S TOO LATE.



I'VE ALREADY MET WITH YOUR WIFE
THIS MORNING. SHE KNOWS EVERYTHING.
ALL I'M DOING NOW IS BUILDING HER
LAWYER'S CASE.

I'D WORRY MORE ABOUT
GETTING YOUR LIFE TOGETHER
INSTEAD OF ROUGHING ME UP.

WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT GETTING FISK AND I LEARNER'S PERMITS, THIS YEAR?

I'VE BEEN TRYING NOT TO.



AWW, C'MON.

CLIK CLIK CLIK

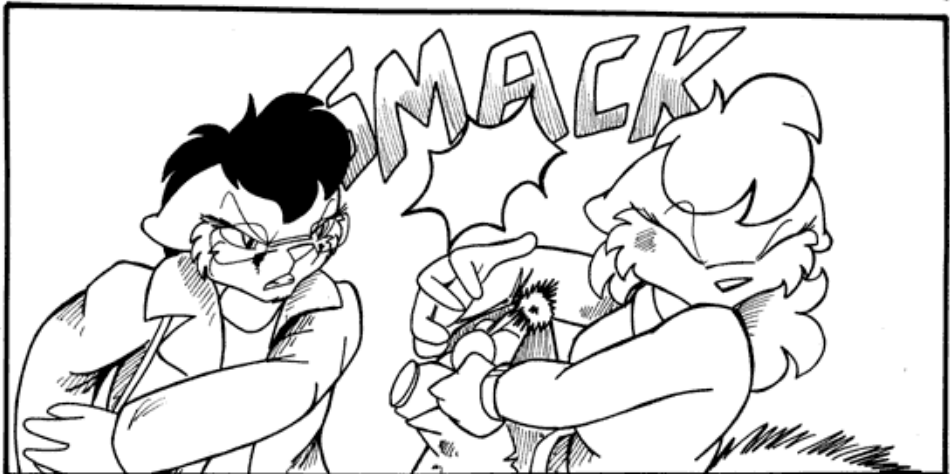
CLIK C

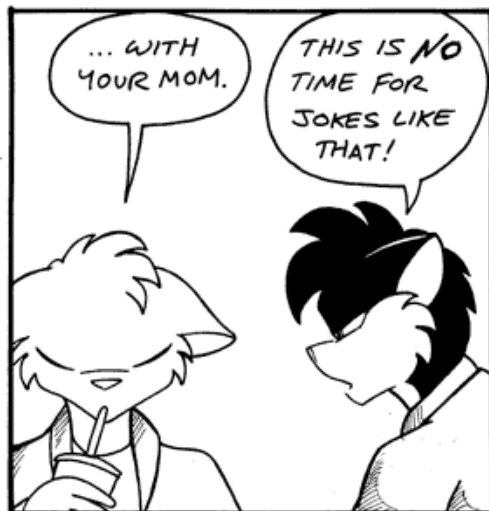
WE'LL SEE, HONEY.



IF IT HELPS, I'M A LITTLE MORE WORRIED ABOUT YOUR BROTHER DRIVING...

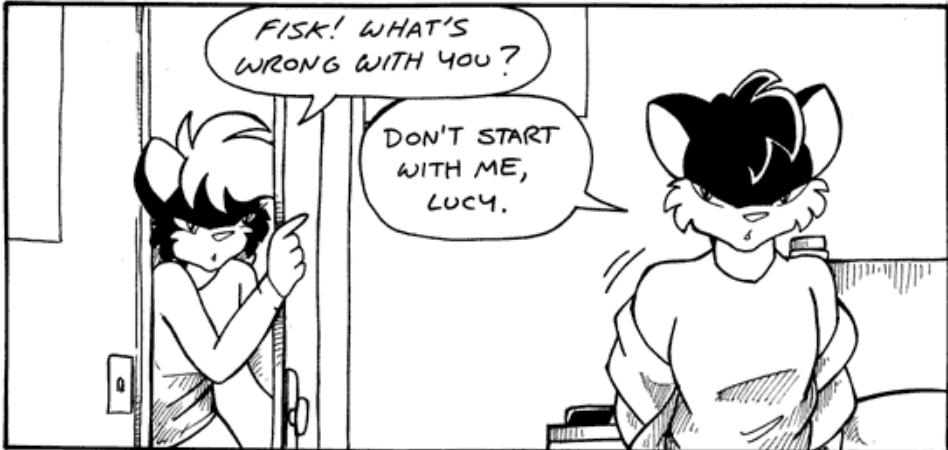














... BUT SHE'S YOUR MOTHER. OUR FRIENDS WILL COME AND GO OUR WHOLE LIVES BUT WE'LL ONLY EVER HAVE HER AS A MOTHER.

AND NO MATTER HOW MUCH OF A GRUDGE YOU TRY TO HOLD, YOU HAVE TO DEAL WITH HER AS LONG AS YOU LIVE HERE!

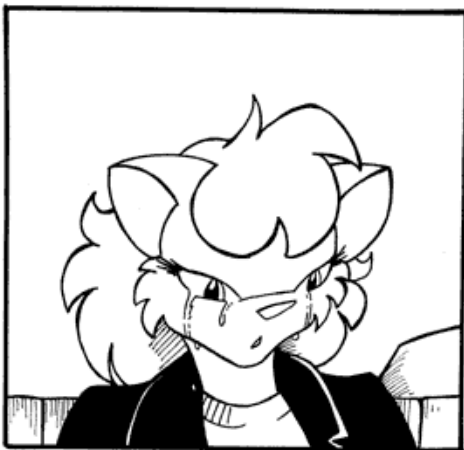



BUT IF YOU JUST CAN'T, MAYBE YOU'LL ENJOY THE FACT THAT SHE'S DOWN THERE HURTING OVER WHAT SHE DID FAR MORE THAN YOU EVER WILL!



SLAM!









I WON'T BE ABLE TO AFFORD
THE HOUSE WHEN OUR ASSETS
ARE SPLIT.

I'LL HAVE
TO MOVE.




YOU COULD STAY
WITH ME.




I WISH IT
WAS THAT
EASY.

IT'S NOT?



YOU HAVE TO THINK OF YOUR
CHILDREN FIRST. FISK HATES
ME RIGHT NOW. WORK WITH HIM
BEFORE THRUSTING AN AWKWARD
SITUATION ON HIM.



I'LL GET A PLACE NEAR BY.
I WON'T GO FAR, I PROMISE.

IT'LL WORK IF WE WORK
FOR IT. LETS NOT BE ANY
MORE RASH THAN WE HAVE
BEEN.



LUCY, WHERE'S
YOUR BROTHER?

I THINK HE WENT TO
THE ATTIC. HE GOES UP
THERE TO THINK.



IS HE STILL
UPSET?

I DON'T KNOW.
HE MOSTLY LOOKED
PENSIVE.



END