

A MAN'S GENIUS TAKES
SHAPE, MOTIVATED BY
HIS DESIRE TO PRODUCE
AND CREATE.

THE ELEMENTS ARE
THERE FOR HIM TO
UNDERSTAND, AND
THEREFORE
COMMAND.



THE NATURAL WORLD
IS NOT ENOUGH FOR
THE CREATIVE MAN. HE
FORGES IT TO HIS
NEEDS.

IT'S NOT THE
PLEASURE OF *REST*
THAT MOTIVATES
HIM.



THE FIRES OF INDUSTRY
BURN UNDER THE DIRECTION
OF HIS PLANS.

IT IS THE
PLEASURE OF
DOING.

CRUNCH!



AND THE *THRILL*
OF ACCOMPLISHMENT.

IT SITS IN HIS HAND
AS A MANIFESTATION
OF HIS VISION. THE
CULMINATION OF
HOURS OF MENTAL
AND PHYSICAL
INVESTMENT.

IT IS THE POURING
OF ONE'S *LIFE* INTO
A SINGLE CREATION
OF VALUE.



IT IS THE MOST
DELICIOUS
MUFFIN EVER
PRODUCED BY
MANKIND.



JEFFERY, ARE YOU STILL SELLING MUFFINS?

UH...

DIDN'T YOU WRITE IN THE SCHOOL NEWSPAPER THAT SCHOOL SHOULD BE FREE FROM THE EVIL FORCES OF COMMERCIALISM?

UHM...


DID YOU ALSO WRITE A STORY THAT SAID OVERWEIGHT KIDS LIKE *ME* WERE INDICATORS OF A SOCIETY MIRED IN THE EVILS OF EXCESS?

ER...

I SELL OUT OF MUFFINS EVERY DAY...

I'D LOVE TO MAKE MORE. BUT I DON'T KNOW IF I SHOULD DO THAT FOR YOU.

IT'S JUST A MUFFIN.



I'D LOVE TO DO A STORY ABOUT THOSE MUFFINS IN THE SCHOOL PAPER, BUT I'D HAVE TO **HAVE** ONE FIRST!

NO THANK YOU.



DIDN'T YOU EVER LEARN TO **SHARE**?

SHARING IS A CHOICE. I WON'T BE BULLIED INTO IT.



YOU KNOW, IT'D BE TERRIBLE IF YOU GOT A LOT OF **BAD** PRESS OVER THIS.




HEY! I'M NO STRANGER TO BEING PUSHED AROUND!

I'M NOT **ATHLETIC** OR **HANDSOME!** I'M THE **FAT** KID!

I'M AN **EASY** TARGET, OKAY?



BUT ONE THING I DO WELL IS **COOK.**



THIS IS WHAT I'M GOOD AT. AND **NO ONE'S** GOING TO PUSH ME AROUND OVER THIS.

NOT YOU. NOT ANYBODY.

IT'S UNFATHOMABLE.

A BUSINESSMAN SHOULDN'T *CHOOSE* WHO HE DOES AND DOESN'T DO BUSINESS WITH. HE'S IN THE PUBLIC.

THE *SERVICE* OF THE PUBLIC.

A MARKETPLACE SHOULDN'T BE THE SCENE OF A VINDICTIVE GRUDGE. ALSO-

WELL WELL. LOOK WHO'S HEADING THIS WAY.

EEEK!
BULLIES!

RELAX.
WE'RE ON THE SAME SIDE, YOU AND I.

WE SAW YOU WITH *JEFFERY* OVER THERE A MINUTE AGO.

WE BOTH HAVE THE SAME PROBLEM.

A PROBLEM CONCERNING *MUFFINS*.

WE ARE?

HOW CAN YOU
HAVE THE SAME
PROBLEM AS
ME?

YOU'RE
BULLIES!

IF YOU WANT
THE FOOD, YOU
JUST TAKE
THE FOOD.

THAT WAS
PLAN A.

BUT SOME CRAZY
SUPERHERO KID
WAS PROTECTING HIM!

AND TOOK ME OUT
WITH ONE WELL
TIMED PUNCH!

HE HIT BILLY WITH A
FLYING TITTY
TWISTER!

HIS MOVES WERE
AMAZING!

HE CLAIMED
TO BE A
GUARDIAN
AGAINST
BULLIES.

HE CALLED
HIMSELF THE
JUSTICE
DEFENDER!

THE INDIAN
BURN HE GAVE
ME STILL
HURTS.

MY
HEART
BLEEDS.

CAN I
GO
NOW?

NOT
JUST
YET.

THE JUSTICE DEFENDER
WAS APPARENTLY
INSPIRED BY AN ARTICLE
YOU WROTE ABOUT HOW
BULLYING WAS EVIL.

OH
GOD...

WHY DOES IT
ALWAYS
COME BACK TO
SOMETHING I
WROTE!?

THAT'S
NOT A
BAD
THING!

WE **BULLY**. BUT
YOU **PERSUADE**.
HOW DIFFERENT
ARE WE REALLY?

YOU CAN
ACTUALLY BE **MORE**
COMPELLING THAN THE
BIGGEST SET OF
MUSCLES.

YOU CAN
CHANGE
MINDS!

YOU CAN
CREATE
HEROES!

AND IF I CAN
CREATE A
HERO...

I CAN
CONTROL A
HERO?


JUST KEEP
THINKING
ABOUT THOSE
MUFFINS.



THE DEFINITION
OF A HERO.


THE RISE OF HEROIC CHARACTERS IN OUR SCHOOL HAS LEAD TO GREAT WORKS OF JUSTICE. BUT JUST WHAT DEFINES A HERO? REMOVING HIMSELF FROM THE CONFINES OF HIS CURRENT IDENTITY, HE DONS A NEW ONE, SEPARATE FROM HIS FAILINGS AS JUST AN INDIVIDUAL PERSON. HE BECOMES A SYMBOL OF WHAT HE STANDS FOR.

HE BECOMES A MORAL CODE. HE BECOMES A PRINCIPLE. HE BECOMES THE NEEDS OF THE BEST AND LEAST AMONG US IN HIS QUEST FOR HEROISM. HE EXPERIENCES THE CLARITY OF PURPOSE THAT COMES FROM A DEDICATION TO SOMETHING MORE THAN JUST HIMSELF.



HEROISM HAS NO PLACE FOR SELFISH PLAYERS. DOES *SUPERMAN* TAKE A PAYCHECK FOR STOPPING A RUNAWAY TRAIN? NO. IT'S HEROISM THAT MAKES *SPIDERMAN* DELIVER PIZZAS TO PAY HIS RENT, WHILE HIS GREATEST SKILLS ARE USED TO SELFLESSLY HELP PEOPLE WITHOUT CHARGE.

HEROISM ISN'T ABOUT THE HERO. THE HERO IS A SMALL THING COMPARED TO THE IDEA HE STANDS FOR - AN IDEA LIKE *COMPASSION*, *CHARITY*, OR *JUSTICE*.



BOYS LIKE THE *JUSTICE DEFENDER* CAN PROUDLY TAKE THE STAGE AS A NEW HERO, DEDICATING HIS SKILLS TO THE AID OF THE BULLIED. TONIGHT, WHEN YOU LOOK BACK ON YOUR DAY, WHAT WILL YOU BE THE MOST HAPPY ABOUT? YOUR GRADES? A NEW TOY? A YUMMY TREAT? OR WILL YOU HAVE SATISFIED A NEED THAT'S MUCH GREATER THAN YOUR OWN?

WILL *YOU* BE A
HERO TODAY?

SHE WROTE ABOUT ME.

SHE MENTIONED ME SPECIFICALLY.

HUH? OH, YEAH.

WHATEVER.

THAT'S PRETTY GOOD!

IT'S PRESS!

I SUPPOSE.

HERE'S YOUR TAKE FOR YOUR WORK IN KEEPING THE MUFFINS SAFE, JUST LIKE WE AGREED.



WHAT'S WRONG?

I DON'T KNOW IF IT'S *RIGHT* TO TAKE MONEY FOR HERO WORK.

WELL, I GUESS IT'S GOOD TO HAVE IDEALS.

BUT I HAVE MY OWN. I DON'T LIKE TO HAVE A GUY DO WORK FOR ME WITHOUT PAYING FOR HIS TIME.

SO IF YOU DON'T TAKE THE MONEY FOR YOUR OWN SAKE, TAKE IT FOR *MINE*.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING!?

I THOUGHT WE HAD AN UNDERSTANDING!

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

SWISH SWISH

YOUR ARTICLE DIDN'T MAKE HIM STOP DEFENDING JEFFERY'S MUFFINS!

NOW HE'S INSISTING ON DOING IT FOR FREE!

SIGH

YOU'RE SUCH A SIMPLE MINDED BRUTE, DAREN.

APPLE JUICE →

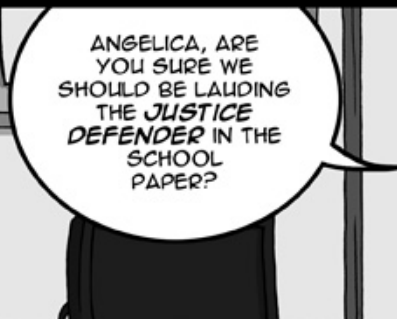
I'M NOT MUSCLING SOME LITTLE KID OUT OF HIS LUNCH MONEY.

I'M JUST *STARTING* A PROCESS THAT WILL CONTROL THE HEARTS AND MINDS OF OUR HEROES. IT'S PROBABLY FAR BEYOND YOUR UNDERSTANDING.

YOU DEAL WITH A KID'S FEAR OF PHYSICAL PAIN. I DEAL WITH A FEAR THAT GOES DOWN TO A PERSON'S VERY *SOUL*.

DON'T EVER BARGE IN HERE AND BARK AT ME AGAIN.


WHEN I NEED YOU AND YOUR GANG'S BRUTE STRENGTH, I'LL CALL FOR YOU.



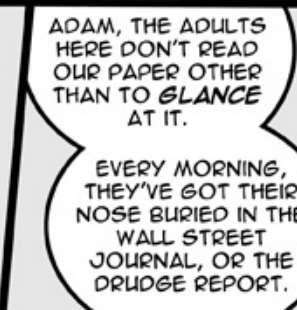
ANGELICA, ARE YOU SURE WE SHOULD BE LAUDING THE *JUSTICE DEFENDER* IN THE SCHOOL PAPER?



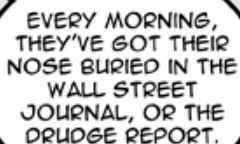
WHY YES.



THE SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION WANTS TO FIND OUT WHO HE IS AND *SUSPEND* HIM FOR *FIGHTING!*




ADAM, THE ADULTS HERE DON'T READ OUR PAPER OTHER THAN TO *GLANCE* AT IT.



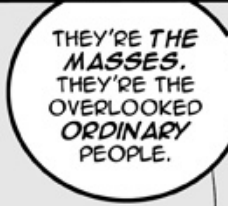
EVERY MORNING, THEY'VE GOT THEIR NOSE BURIED IN THE WALL STREET JOURNAL, OR THE DRUGS REPORT.



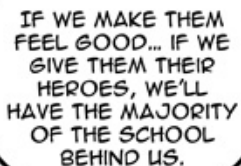
OUR READERS ARE THE KIDS. THE *COMMON* KIDS.



THEY AREN'T THE STAR ATHLETES. THEY AREN'T THE MOST HANDSOME OR THE PRETTIEST.



THEY'RE THE *MASSSES*. THEY'RE THE OVERLOOKED *ORDINARY* PEOPLE.



IF WE MAKE THEM FEEL GOOD... IF WE GIVE THEM THEIR HEROES, WE'LL HAVE THE MAJORITY OF THE SCHOOL BEHIND US.



THE ADMINISTRATION COULDN'T STOP US IF THEY WANTED.

WHEN I WAS AN EVEN YOUNGER BUN, **ALMOST** AS CUTE AS I AM TODAY, MY GRANDMOTHER GAVE ME A BATCH OF COOKIES AND TOLD ME TO SHARE THEM WITH MY FRIENDS.

THIS WOULD SHOW ME TO BE A GOOD LITTLE GIRL.

SO, I TOOK MY COOKIES TO SCHOOL.



BUT I ONLY HAD ENOUGH FOR MY **FRIENDS**.

THE TEACHER WOULD NOT LET ME PASS THEM OUT TO MY FRIENDS UNLESS I COULD BRING ENOUGH FOR THE ENTIRE CLASS. IT WAS ONLY FAIR.



OTHERS KIDS DIDN'T HAVE COOKIES, OR A FRIEND WITH COOKIES...

... OR MAYBE EVEN **GRANDMOTHERS!**

I WAS SUCH AN INCONSIDERATE PERSON TO SUBJECT THEM TO WITNESSING MY GOOD FORTUNE.



THE WISE LESSONS WE LEARNED AS CHILDREN CARRY US THROUGH OUR PRESENT DAY.

HOW FAIR IS SOMEONE WHO ONLY SELLS HIS FORTUNATE TALENTS FOR PROFIT, AND ONLY TO THOSE HE WISHES?

HOW HEROIC IS THE BOY WHO MAKES HIS INCREDIBLE ABILITIES AVAILABLE TO ALL WHO NEED THEM, WITHOUT DISCRIMINATION, JUDGMENT OR PREJUDICE?



THE ENDLESS FIGHT.

THE TIRELESS STRUGGLE.

ONE BOY AGAINST A
PLAGUE OF *BULLIES*.

ONE BOY AGAINST
EXPLOITATION.

ONE BOY AGAINST
INEQUALITY.

WITH ONLY THE ENDLESS GRATITUDE OF THE
PEOPLE TO COMPENSATE HIS TIRELESS HEROISM!

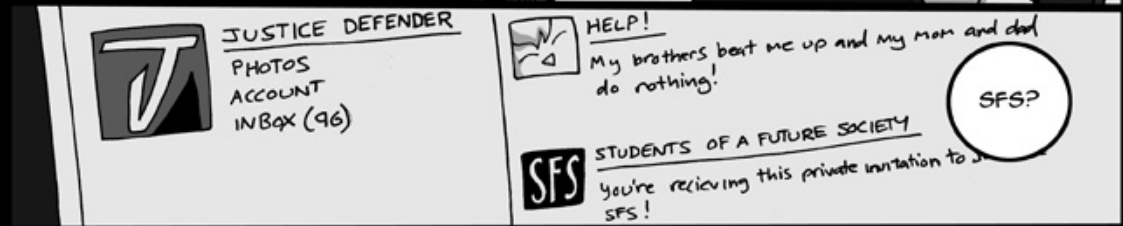
WHAT DOES IT SAY ABOUT OUR
SOCIETY THAT SUCH A PILLAR OF
MORAL IDEALS HAS TO ACT UNDER
THE GUISE OF *ANONYMITY*?

"WHEW"




FACEBOOK
LOGIN:
JUSTICE
DEFENDER

96 NEW
MESSAGES?
HOLY CRAP!



JUSTICE DEFENDER
PHOTOS
ACCOUNT
INBOX (96)

 **HELP!**
My brothers beat me up and my mom and dad do nothing!

SFS **STUDENTS OF A FUTURE SOCIETY**
You're receiving this private invitation to a SFS!

SFS?

STUDENTS FOR A FUTURE SOCIETY IS A JACK BURTON ACADEMY STUDENT ORGANIZATION COMPRISED OF THE STUDENTS MAKING TOMORROW'S WORLD BY THEIR INSPIRED VISION, TODAY! AS A VALUABLE MEMBER OF OUR STUDENT BODY, SFS ORGANIZER ANGELICA KEYNES INVITES YOU TO OUR FIRST MEETING AT HER HOUSE, SATURDAY EVENING.

WE HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE AND COUNT YOU AMONG THE RANKS OF SFS MEMBERS!

SINCERELY,

ANGELICA KEYNES

HMM.



IT'S **BULLSHIT** THAT JAMIE GETS TO DO THE BACKDROPS FOR THE SCHOOL PLAY!

WHO ARE THE TEACHERS TO JUDGE **HER** STUFF BETTER THAN **MINE?** OR ANYONE ELSE'S?

ART IS MORE THAN A SET OF DEFINED TERMS!

IT'S MORE THAN ANATOMY AND COMPOSITION. IT'S **EXPRESSION.**

WHEN YOU REALIZE THAT, YOU KNOW THAT NO ONE PERSON'S **BETTER** AT IT THAN **ANOTHER.**

WE ALL CAN BE ARTISTS.

A VALID POINT.

YOU THINK SO?

I KNOW IT.

GOOD. MAYBE IT'S WORTH WRITING ABOUT.

I THINK SO.

JAMIE HANSON DOESN'T EVEN SUFFER. SHE'S **SMILING** ALL THE TIME.

YOU CAN'T REALLY BE CREATIVE AND BE THAT HAPPY.

YOU'RE SUCH A **DRAMA QUEEN,** ALLEN!

IS IT YOUR LOVE OF SUFFERING THAT MADE YOU ASK OUT JANIE BLACK THAT ONE TIME?

I THOUGHT SHE WAS PRETTY. I THOUGHT I COULD PULL OUT THE PRETTINESS SHE HAD *INSIDE* AS WELL.

AND SHE WAS JUST MEAN.

SHE'S SHAMELESS AND CRUEL! SHE THINKS SHE'S SO GOOD AT EVERYTHING!

SHE SMOKES EVERYONE AT TRACK AND DOESN'T GIVE ANYONE ELSE A CHANCE TO WIN!

SHE'S SO UNFAIR.

HOW CAN YOU BE FRIENDS WITH A GIRL LIKE THAT, ANGEL?

I'M FRIENDS WITH A LOT OF PEOPLE, CASSY.

ANGELICA IS EXACTLY THE KIND OF FRIEND JANIE NEEDS.

THE SICK PEOPLE NEED THE DOCTORS.

THE BLIND PEOPLE NEED THOSE WHO SEE.

JANIE COULD CHANGE OVER TIME WITH ANGELICA AROUND.

SHE HAS ATHEIST PARENTS. SHE HASN'T BEEN EXPOSED TO THE IMPORTANCE OF HER *SPIRITUAL* SIDE.

WHAT ELSE CAN YOU EXPECT FROM SOMEONE WHO GROWS UP WITHOUT SPIRITUAL GUIDANCE?

EVERY RELIGION TEACHES THE VALUE OF HUMILITY AND DEFERENCE TO OTHERS, IN SOME WAY.

SHE COULD BE A *SELFISH* PERSON HER ENTIRE LIFE WITHOUT PEOPLE LIKE *US* AROUND HER.

AM I LATE?

TAP
TAP

JUSTICE
DEFENDER!

I'M SO GLAD
YOU COULD
SHOW UP TO
OUR FIRST
MEETING!


COME ON IN
AND MEET
EVERYONE.

WOW, IT'S
SO COOL
TO SEE YOU
UP CLOSE.

A REAL
HERO FOR
A MORAL
CAUSE!

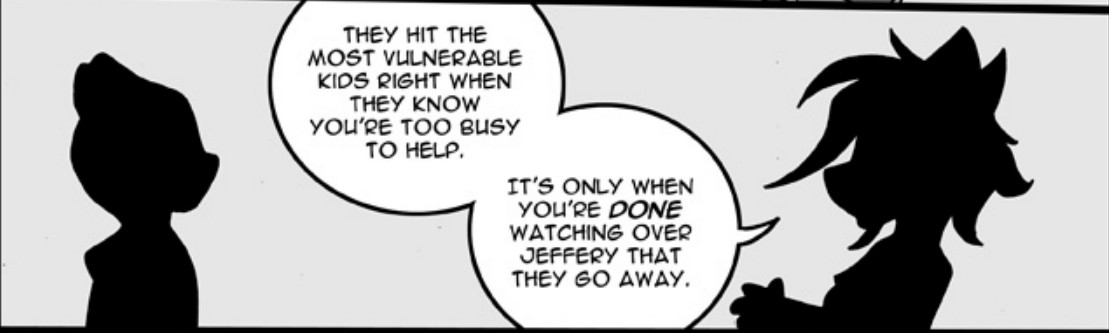
I DON'T
KNOW IF
YOU'RE
THAT
HEROIC.

WHAT
DO YOU
MEAN?



WELL, I HAVE FRIENDS WHO GET ROLLED FOR THEIR LUNCH MONEY EVERY MORNING, BECAUSE BULLIES *KNOW* YOU'RE NOT AROUND.

YOU'RE DEFENDING JEFFERY'S MUFFINS.



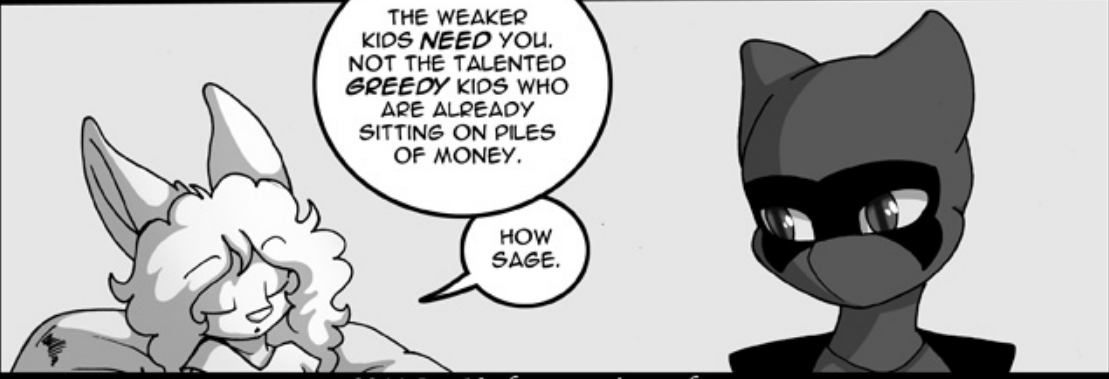
THEY HIT THE MOST VULNERABLE KIDS RIGHT WHEN THEY KNOW YOU'RE TOO BUSY TO HELP.

IT'S ONLY WHEN YOU'RE *DONE* WATCHING OVER JEFFERY THAT THEY GO AWAY.



HE'S RIGHT.

YOUR EFFORTS SHOULD GO TO THOSE WHO NEED YOU THE *MOST*.



THE WEAKER KIDS *NEED* YOU. NOT THE TALENTED *GREEDY* KIDS WHO ARE ALREADY SITTING ON PILES OF MONEY.

HOW SAGE.



SO, YOU'RE NOT GOING TO WORK FOR ME. NOT EVEN FOR FREE.

SORRY. IT'S JUST NOT *FAIR* TO EVERYONE ELSE.

I SEE.



YOU'VE BEEN READING THE SCHOOL PAPER.

I KNOW YOU DIDN'T COME TO THIS CONCLUSION BY YOURSELF.

IT'S NOT AS IF ANGELICA IS *WRONG*.



YOU KNOW...

... JUST BECAUSE SOMEONE'S CAPABLE OF SOMETHING GREAT, DOESN'T MEAN HE HAS AN OBLIGATION TO *GIVE* IT AWAY.



NO ONE'S *ASKING* YOU TO GIVE AWAY YOUR MUFFINS.



I WASN'T TALKING ABOUT *ME*.

WELL, THIS IS YOUR PAYDAY, DARREN.

JEFFERY IS WITHOUT THE **JUSTICE DEFENDER'S** PROTECTION IN THE MORNINGS.

YOU CAN DO WHATEVER YOU WANT.

PREFERABLY EARLY.

AND **NOT** IN FRONT OF OTHERS.

MMMM.

WANT US TO BRING YOU A FEW MUFFINS?

HUH?

OH!

NO THANK YOU.

IT'S NOT ABOUT MUFFINS, TO ME, ANYMORE.



THERE
HE IS.

EARLY AS
USUAL.



GO GET
THOSE MUFFINS.
LET HIM KNOW
WHAT THE
SCORE IS,
NOW.



OFFER HIM A
CHANCE TO
HAND THEM
OVER, *FIRST*.

REMEMBER
WHAT
ANGELICA
SAID ABOUT
BEING *CIVIL*.



AND TELL HIM
WE'LL EXPECT
MUFFINS *EVERY
MORNING*.

GOT IT,
BOSS.

DON'T THINK OF IT AS BEING PUSHED AROUND.

THINK OF IT AS... *PUBLIC SERVICE.*

WE'RE FULFILLING THE WISHES OF THE PEOPLE WHO WANT WHAT YOU CAN PROVIDE.

AND THE PUBLIC DOESN'T TAKE "NO" FOR AN ANSWER.

THEY CAN GET PRETTY ROWDY.

YOU OVERLOOKED ONE FACTOR.

OH YEAH?

WHAT'S THAT?

ME.





WHAT THE-



HOLY SHIT!



WHO-
WHO THE HELL ARE YOU?



JUST A GHOST.

WAIT A MINUTE!

HEY, WE CAN TALK ABOUT THIS.



I DIDN'T GET ALL *DRESSED UP* JUST TO HAVE A *CHAT*!



GOOD MORNING, ANGELICA!

GOOD MORNING!



NICE ARTICLE YESTERDAY, ANGELICA!

THANK YOU, MRS. SMARMINGTON!







I'M BACK.

HEY!



YOUR TAKE FOR THIS WEEK.

OH! THE MUFFIN BUSINESS IS BOOMING!



JAMIE ALSO HIRED ME TO PROTECT HER MURALS FROM VANDALISM.



SOMEONE ATTACKED THEM WITH A *SPRAY CAN*.



WHAT ARE YOU WORKING ON, NOW?

SPITBALL CANNON.

I WANT ONE!



WHEN IT'S DONE.

BUT FOR NOW, YOU HAVE A VISITOR.

HMP?



OH! HI, THOMAS!

HEY, MIKO.



ARE YOU DROPPING BY TO TALK ME OUT OF THIS?

WHY SHOULDN'T I?

I MEAN, I DO HAVE TO WONDER WHY YOU'D WASTE YOUR TIME ON HELPING OTHER KIDS.

I'M NOT. I'M HELPING ME.

I LIVE HERE, TOO, YOU KNOW.




NO.
THAT'S
NOT
RIGHT.

I GO TO
SCHOOL
BECAUSE I
HAVE TO.

BUT I DO MY
LIVING **HERE**,
AWAY FROM
OTHERS, WHERE I
CAN BE **FREE**.


IF THEY
WANT TO PISS
IN THEIR OWN
CEREAL, **LET**
THEM.



IF THEY WANT
TO LET
ANGELICA
DETERMINE THEIR
OPINIONS, **LET**
THEM.

IF THEY WANT TO
MAKE A WORLD WHERE
PEOPLE LIKE **JEFFERY**
CAN'T CREATE
AWESOME THINGS TO
SELL TO THEM, MAKE
THEM **LIVE** IN THAT
WORLD.

IF THE
JUSTICE
DEFENDER IS
TOO STUPID TO
KNOW BETTER,
LET HIM BE
STUPID.



WHY
SHOULD IT
AFFECT ME?
OR **US**?

LET THEM
HAVE **THEIR**
SHITTY
WORLD AT
SCHOOL.

OUT HERE,
IDIOTS LIKE
ANGELICA
DON'T MATTER!
THEY DON'T
HAVE TO!

VALUES DON'T CHANGE JUST BECAUSE YOU'RE IN A DIFFERENT PLACE.

I HAVE TO FIGHT FOR MINE NO MATTER WHERE I AM.

I CAN'T DO ANYTHING ELSE.

YOU DON'T GET IT.

THEY'LL TEAR DOWN THE JUSTICE DEFENDER.

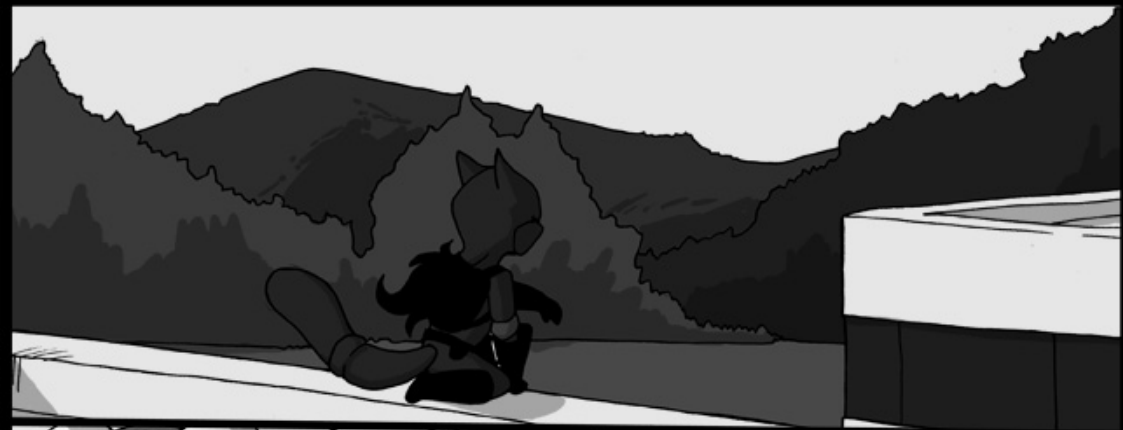
THEY'LL RIP JEFFERY AND HIS MUFFINS TO SHREDS.

BUT YOU...

... YOU'RE TOO GOOD. THEY DON'T DESERVE EVEN A CHANCE TO DESTROY YOU.

IF I DON'T FIGHT, THEY'VE DESTROYED ME BY DEFAULT.

I'M GOING TO SHOW THEM HOW MUCH POWER THEY DON'T HAVE.



I DON'T HAVE ABILITIES LIKE YOU! OR ANYTHING TO OFFER!

HEROES ARE SUPPOSED TO BE SELFLESS!

NOT ME.

AND YOUR NEEDS AREN'T A CLAIM TO MY ABILITIES.

THAT'S VERY COLD.

HOW COLD IS IT OF YOU?

YOU WANT TO BENEFIT FROM MY EFFORT, MY RISK, MY TIME, MY LIFE... FOR NO COST OF YOUR OWN?

WHAT AM I TO YOU?

HEARTLESS.

HAVE YOUR OPINION. JUST LEAVE ME ALONE.

SIGH...

ROOF ACCESS

IT DIDN'T WORK.

MMM. WHAT A SHAME.

AS I WRITE, DEAR READERS, THE MUFFIN DILEMMA HAS DIVIDED OUR STUDENT

WE ARE TORN BETWEEN THOSE WHO ENJOY MUFFINS AND THOSE WHO CANNOT. IT IS A GROTESQUE INEQUITY THAT FLIES IN THE FACE OF OUR VALUES AS A SCHOOL, AND AS A *SOCIETY*.

DENIAL BREEDS WANT.
WANT BREEDS SUFFERING.
SUFFERING BREEDS
ANGER.

MUST BE NICE TO BE ALLOWED TO GET A MUFFIN!

TRY TO NOT BE SUCH A WHINY BITCH!

IT COULD CHANGE YOUR LIFE!

YOU CANT TALK TO HIM THAT WAY!

SHOULD WE REMOVE THE PRODUCT OF CONTENTION FOR THE SAKE OF STUDENT UNITY?

THOSE MUFFINS ARE THE PROBLEM!

I SAY WE TAKE 'EM!

ANYONE ELSE WANT TO STEAL A MUFFIN, TODAY?

GAH!
HANN!
EWWW!

ONE GREEDY SOUL STANDS IN THE WAY OF THE WILL OF THE PEOPLE.

ONE STUDENT PITS HERSELF AGAINST EQUALITY.

OWEH!

SHE'S NO HERO. SHE'S A VILE MERCENARY.

ENOUGH!

?

THE JUSTICE DEFENDER!

YEAH!

GO GET 'EM!

JEFFERY, THIS HAS TO END.

I AGREE.

BUT YOUR OLD JOB'S BEEN FILLED.



I'M NOT
HERE FOR
MY OLD
JOB.



I'M HERE TO
STOP YOU
FROM SELLING
MUFFINS AND
DISRUPTING
SCHOOL.

ME!?

WHO'S
SIDE ARE
YOU ON?



THE SIDE
OF THE
PEOPLE!



YOU MEAN
JUST *SOME*
PEOPLE.



I'M ASKING
YOU TO
PLEASE
STOP
STOP
NICELY.



YOU'RE
CREATING A
MAJOR SOCIAL
PROBLEM IN
SCHOOL.

DON'T MAKE
US TAKE
THIS TO THE
NEXT LEVEL.



I DON'T
KNOW IF I
CAN HOLD
OFF SUCH A
BIG CROWD.



YOU
SHOULD
RUN.

NOW.

PAP PAP
PAP



WHAT THE
HELL
HAPPENED
TO YOU!?

I FOUND OUT
WHAT BEING
A HERO
MEANS!

TEARING DOWN
SOMETHING
GREAT?

FOR THE
SAKE OF AN
ENVIIOUS
MOB!?

CLICK

QUICK!
GET THE
MUFFINS!

YOU GOT
YOUR WISH
TODAY!

GOODBYE,
JUSTICE
DEFENDER!



HEY!
GHOST!

DON'T YOU
DARE JUDGE
ME!



YOU COULD
BE LIKE
ME, YOU
KNOW!

YOU COULD BE A
REAL HERO! A
HERO FOR THE
PEOPLE, NOT JUST
FOR PROFIT!

THE MASSES
EXIST! THERE'S
NO GETTING
AROUND THEM!

WHY ELSE
WOULD WE
DO WHAT WE
DO!?



YOU CAN'T IGNORE
THE MASSES! YOU
EITHER RIDE ON
THEIR SHOULDERS
OR GET TRAMPLED
UNDER THEIR FEET!

THERE'S
NO WAY!

CAN YOU
HEAR
ME!?

NO
OTHER
WAY!







AHH, THE AIR
SMELLS
SWEETER
THIS
MORNING!



THE
SHOWER
FEELS
WARMER.



THE BLOW
DRIER IS BLOW
DRIERER.

WRRRRRRR



NO MORE OF
JEFFERY'S
MUFFINS.

NO MORE OF
GHOST'S MORAL
CONFIDENCE.




TWO SOULS
IN THE
POCKET.



UH
OH.





DO YOU KNOW
WHAT IT'S LIKE TO
BE A SPIRITUAL
PERSON?

TO MEDITATE, TO
STUDY, TO READ
ABOUT EVERY
AUTHOR AND GURU
HAVING PROFOUND
SPIRITUAL
EXPERIENCES...

IT
NEVER
COMES.


NO SPIRITUAL
VISIONS. NO
ALIEN CONTACT.
NO PERSONAL
MESSAGE
FROM GOD.

NOTHING BUT
AN OCCASIONAL
DREAM THAT JUST
TELLS YOU WHAT
YOU ALREADY
KNOW OR WANT.

YOU DON'T
KNOW WHAT
THIS IS LIKE.
YOUR WHOLE
LIFE IS
MATERIAL.

... AND
WAITING
PATIENTLY
FOR YOUR
OWN.


YOU FULFILL YOUR
MATERIAL AMBITIONS
BY JUST GOING OUT
AND **DOING** THEM,
BECAUSE THE
MATERIAL WORLD IS
RIGHT IN FRONT OF
YOUR FACE.



BUT, I FINALLY LEARNED
WHAT SECULAR PEOPLE
MEAN BY "SPIRIT". IT'S NOT
A GHOST. IT'S EVERYTHING
THAT MAKES A PERSON
WHAT THEY ARE. IT'S WHAT
MOTIVATES THEM DOWN TO
THEIR **CORE.**

THERE'S
SATISFACTION IN
CONTROLLING
THAT.

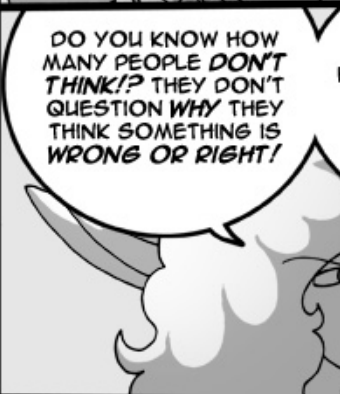
BUT YOU CAN'T
CONTROL THE TRULY
GREAT SPIRITS. YOU
CAN ONLY TEAR
THEM DOWN BY THE
LITTLE THOUGHTLESS
SPIRITS YOU CAN
CONTROL.



DIRECT PHYSICAL
WORLD RESULTS ARE
VERY FULFILLING.
IT'S INTOXICATING,
ALMOST
ADDICTING!

THE **JUSTICE
DEFENDER** COULD
COME UP WITH HIS
OWN MOTIVES. HE
COULD SNAP ME LIKE
A TWIG WITHOUT
BREAKING A
SWEAT.

BUT AS LONG AS
HE ACCEPTS,
BLINDLY, MY
MORALS AND
MOTIVES, I CAN
CONTROL HIM
COMPLETELY!



DO YOU KNOW HOW
MANY PEOPLE **DON'T
THINK!?** THEY DON'T
QUESTION **WHY** THEY
THINK SOMETHING IS
WRONG OR RIGHT!

DO YOU KNOW
HOW MUCH POWER
THAT GIVES
SOMEONE WHO
DOES THINK!?

I CAN FILL THEIR
MINDS WITH
ANYTHING, SO
LONG AS I DON'T
CHALLENGE THEIR
MEDIOCRITY!




UH...

THEY DON'T
THINK ABOUT
WHAT I'M
SAYING! THEY
JUST **FEEL** IT'S
RIGHT!

THE MIND GIVES WAY
COMPLETELY TO
EMOTIONS AND
FEELINGS!

EVERYONE'S
FEEDING OFF
EVERYONE ELSE'S
OPINIONS INSTEAD
OF FORMING THEM
ON THEIR OWN! IT'S
LIKE THEY'RE
BECOMING **ONE**
SPIRIT.



I WAS STUPID TO
THINK THAT A
SPIRITUAL
EPIPHANY WAS
SUPPOSED TO BE
AN **INDIVIDUAL**
EXPERIENCE!




I DON'T KNOW
WHAT SHE'S
TALKING
ABOUT MOST
OF THE TIME.



I THINK
I DO.

I AIM TO *DO*
SOMETHING
ABOUT IT.



SHE'S RIGHT
ABOUT ONE
THING.


I WANT TO MAKE
SOMETHING
HAPPEN, I JUST
GO OUT AND
MAKE IT
HAPPEN.

JEFFERY CAN
FAIL BECAUSE
SOMEONE
OFFERED A
BETTER
MUFFIN...

BUT I *WON'T*
LET HIM FAIL TO
A *NOTHING!* A
ZERO!

HER WORDS
ONLY MEAN
SOMETHING IF
WE LET THEM
DEFEAT US!

A WHOLE
WORLD OF PETTY
NOTHING'S
SHOULDN'T HAVE
THAT KIND OF
POWER!




WILL YOU
HELP ME!?

YES!



JEFFERY CAME
BACK WITH MORE
MUFFINS THIS
MORNING.



REALLY?
HOW BOLD.

IT'S NOT LIKE
ANYONE WILL
HAVE THE *NERVE*
TO BUY THEM,
NOW.



MAYBE YOU
SHOULD
COME TAKE
A LOOK.



WHAT?



WHAT
THE...

WHAT THE
HECK IS
WRONG WITH
THOSE
KIDS!?

WHA-

WHAT THE
HECK IS
WRONG WITH
THESE
KIDS!?

HEY, IT'S THE
**JUSTICE
DEFENDER.**

I DIDN'T
RECOGNIZE
HIM WITHOUT
THE **ANGRY
MOB**
BACKING HIM
UP.

DON'T YOU
KNOW **WHY**
THOSE
MUFFINS ARE
BAD?

WE'RE
NOT
HURTING
ANYONE!

WE'RE NOT
**PICKING
FIGHTS!**
WE'RE NOT
WORKING UP
MOBS!

WE JUST
LIKE
THESE!

WE LIKE WHAT
JEFFERY DOES AND
YOU'RE NOT GOING
TO BE ABLE TO
STOP US FROM
SUPPORTING HIM!

EVER!

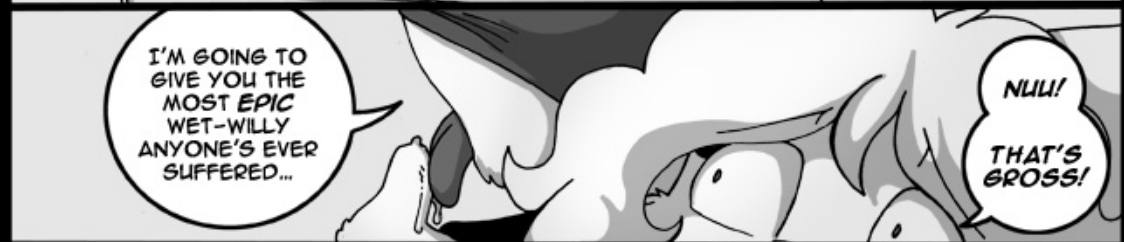
IF YOU DON'T LIKE
IT, YOU NEED TO
REALLY THINK
ABOUT **WHY**, AND
GET OVER IT!

THE ONLY PEOPLE
WHO CONSIDER
YOU A HERO ARE
THE PEOPLE WHO
CAN **USE** YOU.

USE YOU TO
FIGHT THEIR
PERSONAL
BATTLES, AND
SETTLE THEIR
PETTY GRUDGES.

EVEN A
GOON GETS
PAID. YOU'RE
MORE LIKE A
SLAVE.

NIBBLE



YOU WERE RIGHT!

I NEVER ACTUALLY THOUGHT ABOUT HOW SHE DEFINED A HERO!

I JUST ACCEPTED IT! AND SHE TURNED ME INTO A SLAVE!

I DID HORRIBLE THINGS! FOR HER APPROVAL!

SHE JUST WROTE THE WORDS.

YOU DECIDED TO ACT ON THEM.

YOU OF ALL PEOPLE SHOULD UNDERSTAND!

SHE TRIED TO DESTROY YOU!

SHE FAILED.

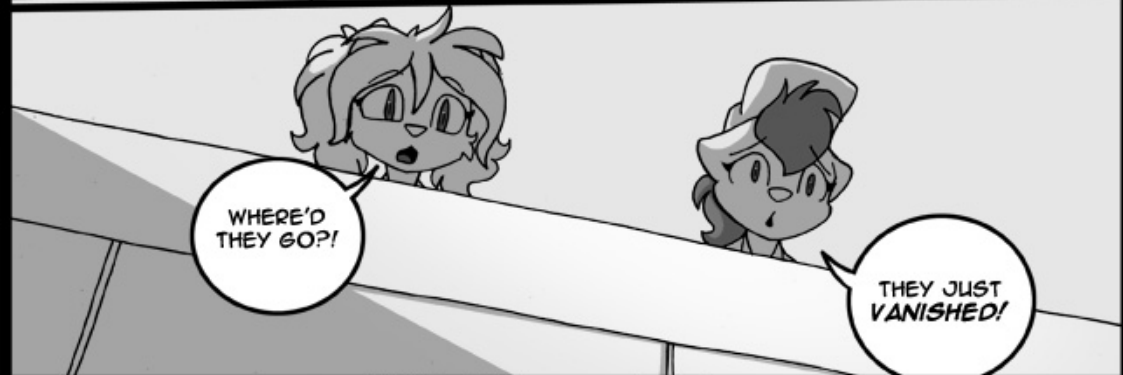
DO YOU WANT TO BE A HERO AGAIN? OR DO YOU JUST WANT REVENGE?

IT IS...

... TOO LATE FOR ME, NOW.

SMEEER

EEEEEEEEEE!!





ARE YOU SURE NO ONE SAW US?

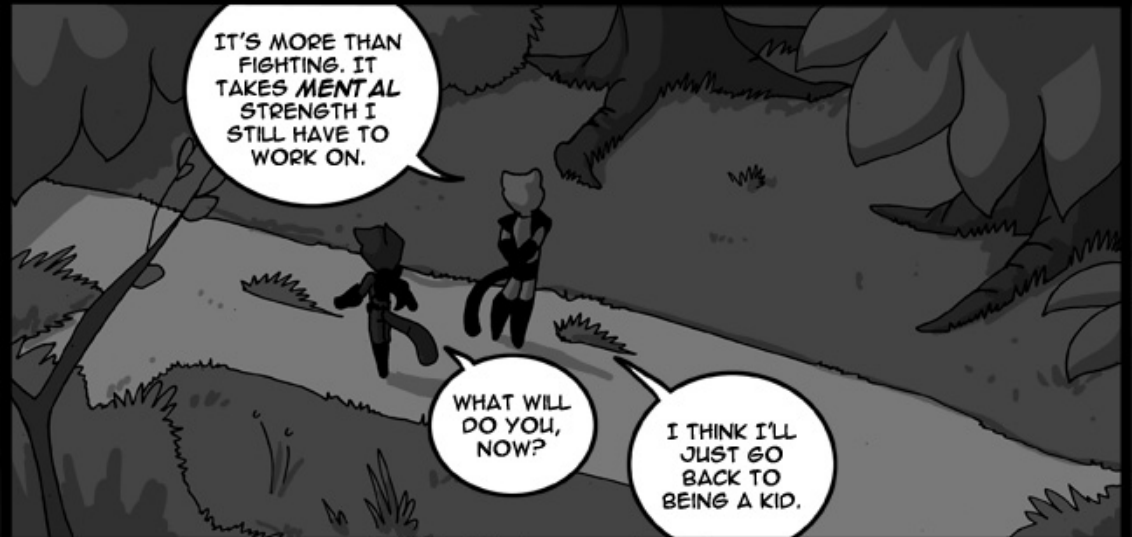
YES. I USE THIS WAY TO DISAPPEAR, A LOT.

DAMN.

SO MUCH FOR *THAT* LITTLE EXERCISE.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

BEING A HERO.



IT'S MORE THAN FIGHTING. IT TAKES *MENTAL* STRENGTH I STILL HAVE TO WORK ON.

WHAT WILL DO YOU, NOW?

I THINK I'LL JUST GO BACK TO BEING A KID.