




YOU HAVE
THREE WEEKS
OFF?

PENDING
WORLD WAR
THREE, YES.

WE
SHOULD DO
SOMETHING.

ACTUALLY,
LUCY'S BEEN BUGGING
US TO VISIT THEM IN
FLORIDA. IT'D BE A
GOOD TIME TO HIT
THE BEACH AND
RELAX.

MAYBE VISIT
MY FOLKS. THEY'RE
ALMOST IN THE
SAME TOWN.



MY PARENTS LIVE
JUST A FEW MILES
SOUTH OF YOURS,
IN MELBOURNE! WE
SHOULD SQUEEZE IN
TIME FOR THEM.



HONEY, WE
TALKED ABOUT
THIS.

TALKING
ABOUT IT WAS
THE EASY
PART.

OH, HONEY, YOU *KNOW* HOW KIDS ARE LIKE NEW LITTLE PEOPLE AS THEY GROW OLDER! MOTHER WANTS TO MEET THEM, *AGAIN!*

SHE WANTS TO TELL THEM STORIES...

...AND TAKE THEM OUT ON THE BOAT...

...AND MAYBE TAKE THEM TO TEMPLE...

WAIT, WHAT? WHAT WAS THAT?

SHE WANTS TO TAKE THEM TO TEMPLE.

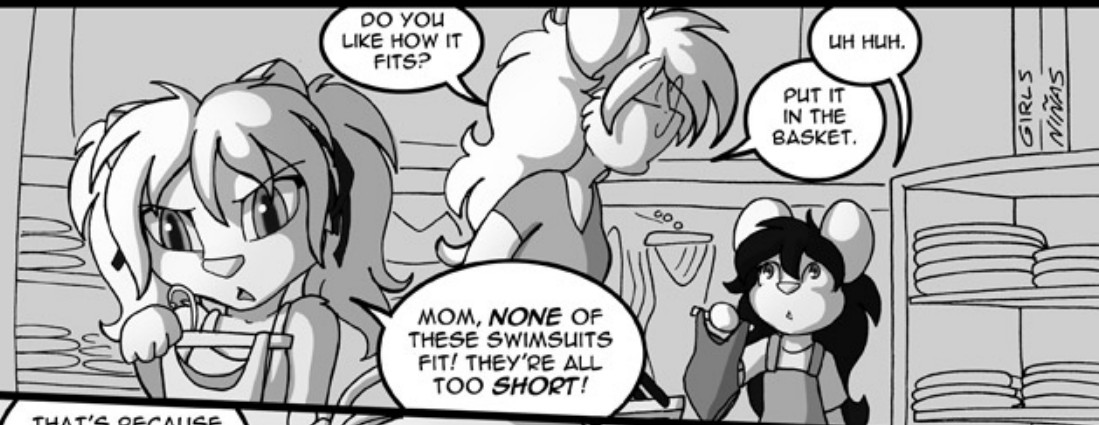
TEMPLE!?

WAIT, DOESN'T SHE KNOW WE'RE ATHEISTS?

TECHNICALLY...

... I MAY NOT HAVE TOLD HER THAT YET.

CLINK*



DO YOU LIKE HOW IT FITS?

UH HUH.

PUT IT IN THE BASKET.

MOM, NONE OF THESE SWIMSUITS FIT! THEY'RE ALL TOO SHORT!

GIRLS
SWIMS



THAT'S BECAUSE YOUR BODY'S GROWING TOO LONG! LOOK AT YOU, JANIE!

YOU'RE SPROUTING LIKE A WEED!

YOU GET THAT FROM YOUR FATHER, YOU KNOW!



KEEP LOOKING. YOU'LL FIND SOMETHING THAT FITS.

WELL, IN THAT CASE...



... HEL-LO TWO-PIECE!

PUT THAT BACK!



I SAW GIRLS
YOUNGER THAN ME
WEARING TWO-
PIECES THE LAST
TIME WE WENT TO
FLORIDA!

NOT **EVERY** GIRL
HAS A BRILLIANTLY
AWESOME MOTHER
LIKE YOU DO!

RRRR!!

IF WE CAN'T
FIND ANYTHING
THAT FITS, WE'LL
SEE IF YOUR
FATHER WILL
ALLOW YOU TO
GET THAT.

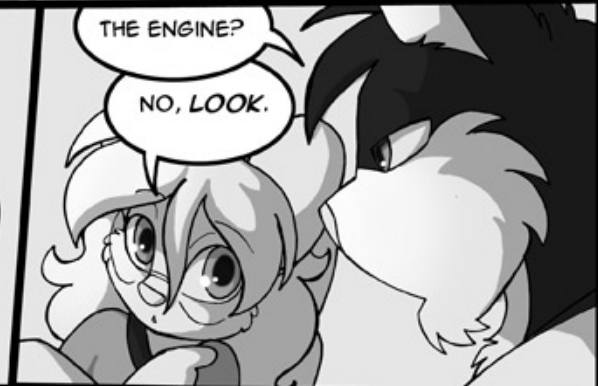
I BET DAD
DOESN'T PITCH A
FUSS ABOUT
THINGS **THOMAS**
WANTS TO BUY.

WELL?

THEY'RE
SUFFICIENTLY
SWIM-TRUNK-
LIKE.

GET AND
GO?

YOU
GOT IT.







ARE YOU READY TO GO TO AUNT LUCY'S?

IF LEO'S GOING TO BE THERE, I'D RATHER GO TO THE RESORT BEACH, HERE.

WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOUR COUSIN LEO?

83



ARE YOU KIDDING? HE'S A NERDY MUTANT GEEK!

HE GOES OUT OF HIS WAY TO BE GROSS!

LOOK, JANIE! A SEA SLUG!



IT'S GUTS ARE COMING OUT! LOOK! LOOK!

EEEEEEEEEEEEEEEE!!

SPLISH SPLISH SPLISH



IT'S BEEN FOUR YEARS SINCE WE'VE SEEN THEM. GET YOUR THINGS.

RRRR! WHERE'S THE JUSTICE?

I KNOW! IT'S NAZI GERMANY ALL OVER AGAIN.



HEY! WELCOME TO FLORIDA!



TOM IS STILL AT WORK. HE SHOULD BE HOME IN A FEW HOURS.



LEO!

COME OUT AND SAY HI TO YOUR COUSINS!

SURE, MOM.



HEY! YOU GUYS WANNA LEARN HOW TO SURF?

YES!



W-WHAT THE HELL!?

HE'S NOT ALLOWED TO HAVE GOTTEN COOL ALL OF A SUDDEN!



HA HA

HA HA



WHOA!

WHAT?



I CAN'T SEE MY FEET THROUGH THIS WATER.

THERE COULD BE ANYTHING DOWN THERE.



'SUP.

TURTLE!




EEEEEEEE

KICK




ABIGAIL...



YEARS OF STRUGGLE. IT'S BEEN YEARS OF SETTING INTO STONE THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN PEOPLE LIKE ME, AND PEOPLE LIKE HIM.

I DON'T KNOW IF OUR WORLD CAN SURVIVE THE CASUAL STRIPPING AWAY OF THESE VITAL BOUNDARIES.



THIS IS A CHANGE BEYOND CONSCIOUS EFFORT. THIS IS SOMETHING *ORGANIC*.

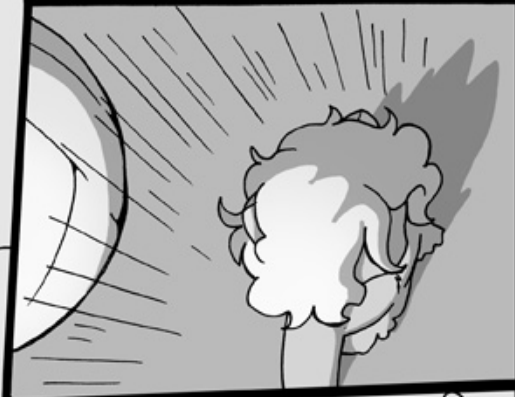
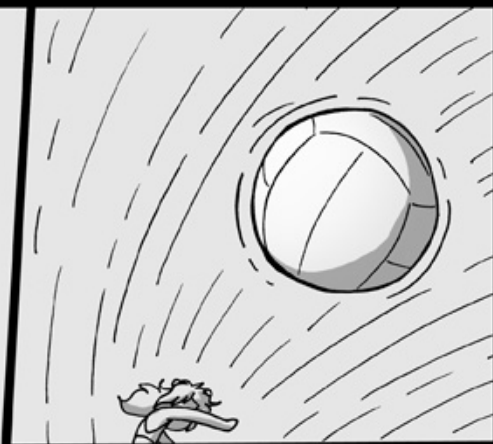
I SENSE AN AIR OF INEVITABILITY WITH MANY REALIZATIONS I AM ABOUT TO MAKE REGARDING THE NATURE OF HOW I PERCEIVE SUCH THINGS.



BETWEEN EMBRACING AND BATTLING, I FIND THERE IS ONLY ONE *PROPER* CHOICE TO ME.



I MUST DESTROY HIM.



FLICK
FLICK

DUDE.
SHE'S CALLING
YOU OUT.

MMM.

HA!

CATCH!

I GUESS SURF LESSONS WILL HAVE TO WAIT.

DON'T DO IT!

YOU DON'T KNOW MY SISTER LIKE I DO!

SHE HAS TROPHIES IN EVERY SPORT BUT FOOTBALL!

SHE'S LIKE A JOCK WITH PIGTAILS! MORE LIKE A MACHINE THAN A GIRL!

SHE WILL NOT STOP UNTIL SHE WINS!

SHE ALWAYS WINS!

AND SHE'LL GRIND IT IN YOUR FACE! I'VE SEEN HER MAKE OLDER BOYS CRY!

THE GREATER THE CHALLENGE, THE GREATER THE VICTORY!

DUDE! SHE'S LIKE THE TERMINATOR!



HOW LONG
HAVE THEY
BEEN
GOING AT
IT?

JANIE'S VERY
COMPETITIVE...

WE
MADE
IT!

WHAT'S
GOING
ON?

HELLO,
SHEILA.

LEO AND JANIE
ARE IN A VOLLEY-
BALL MATCH TO
THE DEATH!

OHHH!

PIFF

PAP

PAP

PIFF

GAME
WINNING
POINT!

PAP

HE MUST
NOT WIN!

EEEK!

POW!

FACE!

HA HA!

YES!

IN
YOUR
FACE!

AW
CRAP.

GOOD GAME, LEO, BUT IT JUST WASN'T IN THE CARDS.

WHY?

WHY?

BECAUSE I'M AWESOME, THAT'S WHY!

HOW'S IT FEEL TO KNOW YOU'LL NEVER RUN ME OFF THIS BEACH AGAIN?

I'M SORRY. DID YOU THINK YOU COULD STEP INTO MY WORLD AND NOT HAVE TO GO TO SCHOOL, FIRST?

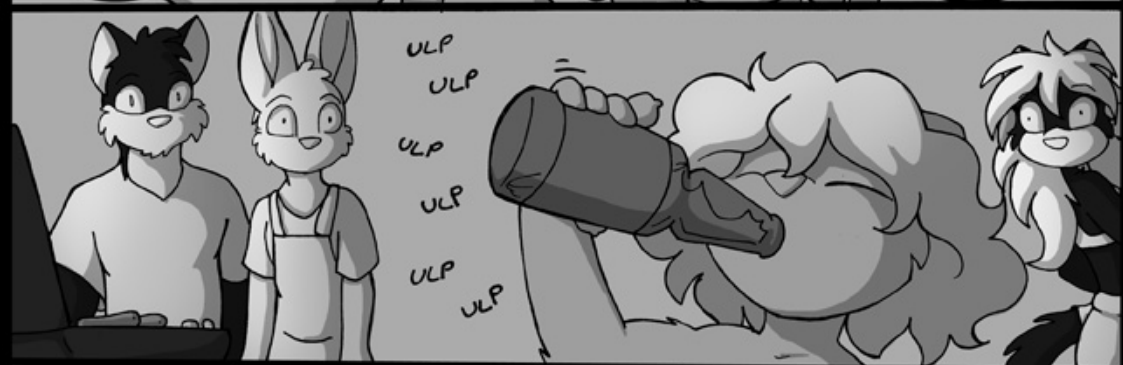
JANIE, WE HAVE TO EAT.

DON'T CRY, OKAY?

IT WOULD BREAK MY HEART.

COME ON, JANIE.

B-BUT, I'M NOT FINISHED GLOATING!





LEO'S TURNING
INTO A FINE YOUNG
MAN.


YES, WE'RE
VERY HAPPY
WITH HIM.

SO, YOU'RE
GOING TO STOP
THERE?

YEAH, I'M
PRETTY SURE
JUST ONE IS
ENOUGH.

I TOLD TOM WE'D MAKE
SUCH *WONDERFUL*
CHILDREN, WITH HIS BRAINS
AND MY LOOKS.


SO, WE'RE GOING TO
STOP, NOW, IN CASE OUR
NEXT CHILD HAS *MY* BRAINS
AND *HIS* LOOKS.



HAVE YOU THOUGHT ABOUT MOM TAKING THE KIDS TO TEMPLE WHEN WE SEE HER TOMORROW?


YEAH. I'M NOT REALLY COMFORTABLE WITH THAT.

SHE'S GOING TO BE UPSET.




I'M NOT THINKING ABOUT YOUR MOTHER. I'M THINKING ABOUT THE KIDS.

IF THEY WANT TO EXPLORE SOMETHING AS HUGE AS RELIGION ON THEIR OWN, THAT'S FINE.




BUT I DON'T WANT THEM TAKEN SOMEWHERE LIKE THAT BY AN ADULT IN AUTHORITY, FOR THE SAME REASON I WOULDN'T TAKE THEM TO A POLITICAL RALLY OR SOMETHING.

THEY'RE JUST KIDS.



I CAN'T THINK OF A KID BELONGING TO A RELIGION ANY MORE THAN I CAN THINK OF THEM AS BELONGING TO A POLITICAL PARTY.

THEY AREN'T GROWN ENOUGH TO KNOW BETTER.



EXCEPT MAYBE ABIGAIL, WHO DISPROVED THE EXISTENCE OF SANTA CLAUS WHEN SHE WAS FIVE.

JUST LET ME DO THE TALKING. I CAN HANDLE MY OWN MOTHER.

NO PROBLEM.

HM. IT'S PROBABLY BEST YOU NOT BE IN THE ROOM, BECAUSE SHE'D JUST DIRECT HER IRE TOWARD YOU AND DISTRACT FROM THE POINT.

NO PROBLEM.

WHY DON'T YOU JUST GO HANG OUT ON THE PORCH AND SMOKE CIGARS WITH DADDY, WHILE I DO THIS.

NO PROBLEM!



WE SHOULDN'T DENY THEM THEIR HERITAGE. THEY ARE JEWISH AFTER ALL.

IT'S NOT ABOUT THEIR HERITAGE.

IT'S ABOUT RELIGION, AND YOU KNOW THAT.

BUT YOU DON'T GO TO TEMPLE OR CHURCH OR ANYTHING!

WHAT RELIGION ARE THEY?

MA...

YOU'RE NOT BAPTISTS, ARE YOU?

WHAT?
NO!

OH, THANK GOD. I DON'T KNOW IF I CAN TAKE ALL THAT CASSEROLE!

WHAT!?

WHAT ARE MOM AND GRANDMA FIGHTING ABOUT?

GRANDMA WACHSMAN WANTS US TO GO TO TEMPLE OR SOMETHING.

I THINK SHE'S UPSET THAT MOM AND DAD AREN'T RELIGIOUS.

SHOULD WE BE?

I DON'T KNOW.

SOMETIMES I WONDER ABOUT THAT.

I LOOK AT THE BIG WORLD AND WONDER IF THERE ISN'T SOME BIG PLAN BEHIND IT.

crack!

SPLASH!

THEN I REALIZE HOW MUCH HAS TO BE THE RESULT OF PURE, STUPID CHANCE.



ATHEIST!?

YEAH.

YOU'RE
ATHEIST S!?!

APPARENTLY.



YOU'VE ALWAYS
BEEN MORE
REBELLIOUS THAN
YOUR SISTERS.

BUT THIS IS
PRETTY
EXTREME.

WHY!?



BECAUSE IF YOU
WORSHIPPED *SATAN*, AT
LEAST YOU'D BELIEVE IN
SOMETHING!

MA!



COME HERE,
MOTHER.

LOOK AT MY
CHILDREN
PLAYING
OUTSIDE.



THEY'RE REASONABLY
WELL BEHAVED AS
CHILDREN GO.

THEY'RE
HAPPY.

THEY DON'T SHOW
ANY SIGNS OF DANGEROUS
HATE, AND THEY HAVE A GRASP
OF RIGHT AND WRONG.



THOMAS
DOESN'T COUNT.
HE'S A BOY.



