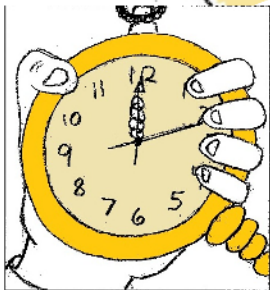


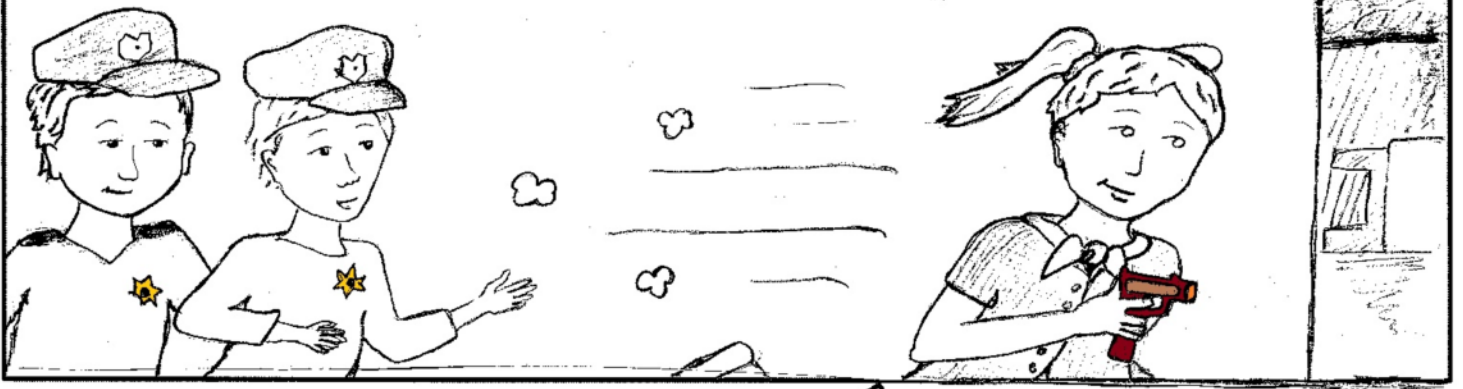


# THE RUNNER

WRITTEN AND ILLUSTRATED BY:  
KRISTIN SKELTON

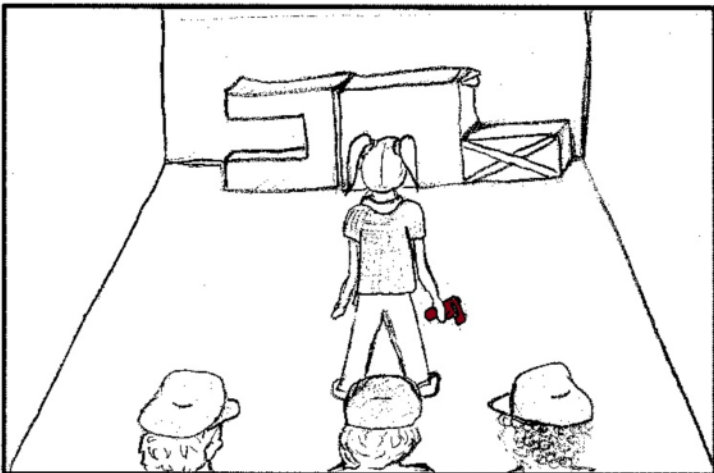


ABIGAIL JONES IS NOT YOUR AVERAGE 8-YEAR-OLD.  
SHE CAN RUN LIKE THE WIND...



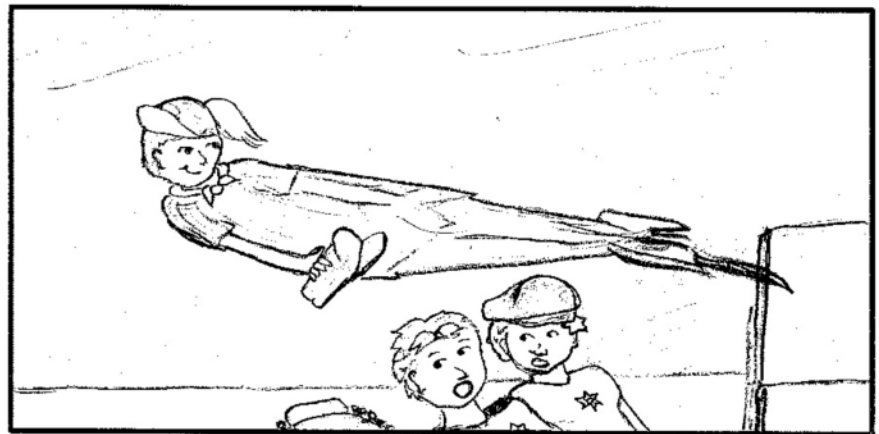
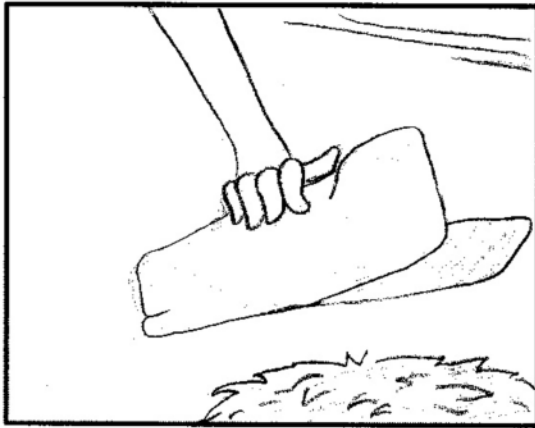
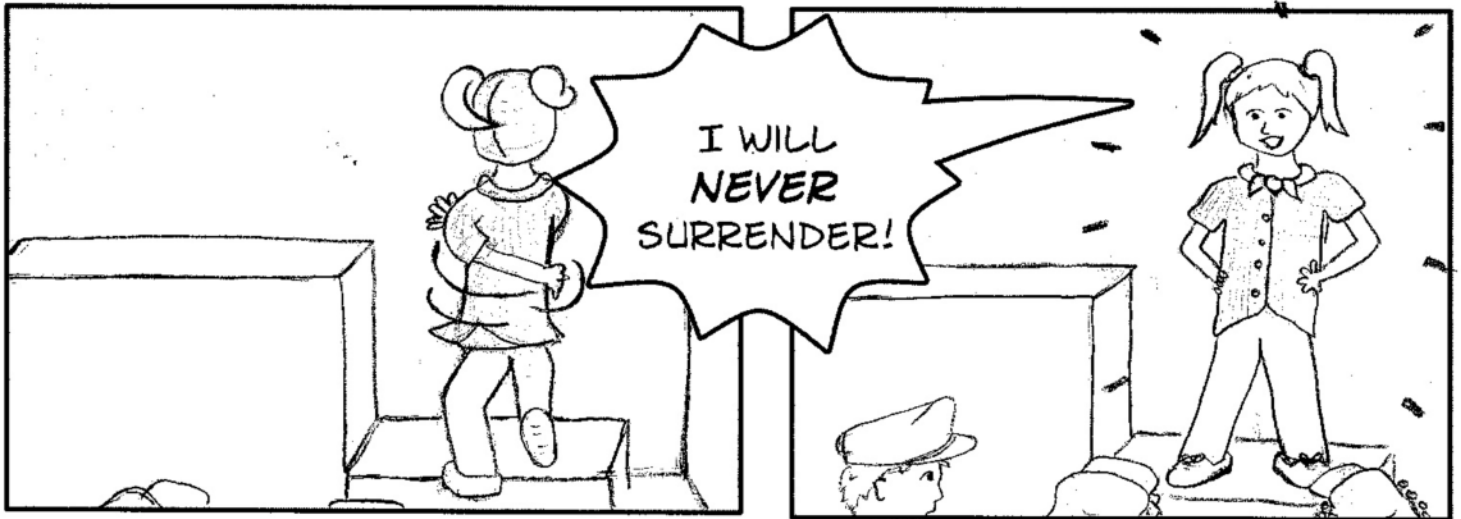
BAM!  
BAM!  
BAM!

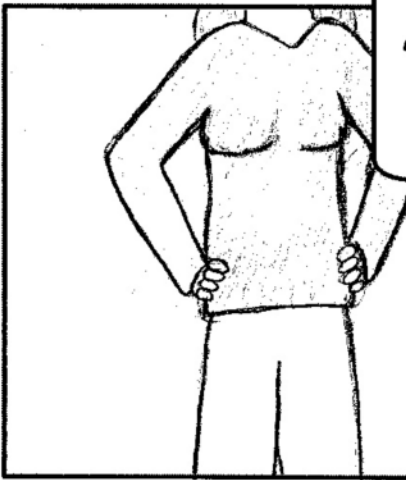
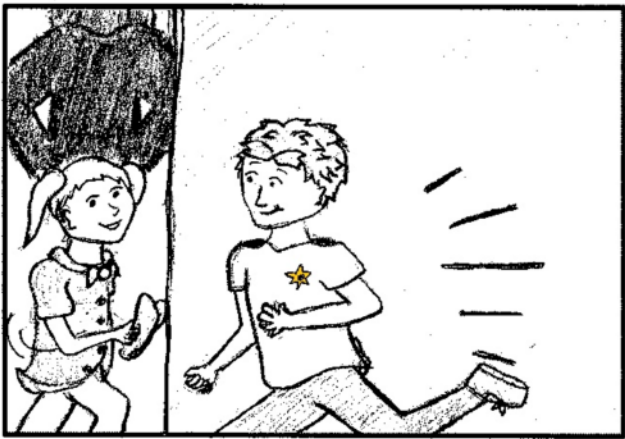
GET HER!



SORRY ABBY THE SHABBY, LOOKS  
LIKE YOU'VE FINALLY MET YOUR  
MATCH.



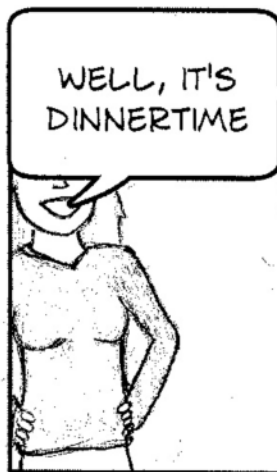




ABIGAIL! I'VE BEEN CALLING YOU FOR TEN MINUTES!



SORRY MOM, WE WERE PLAYING COPS 'N' ROBBERS



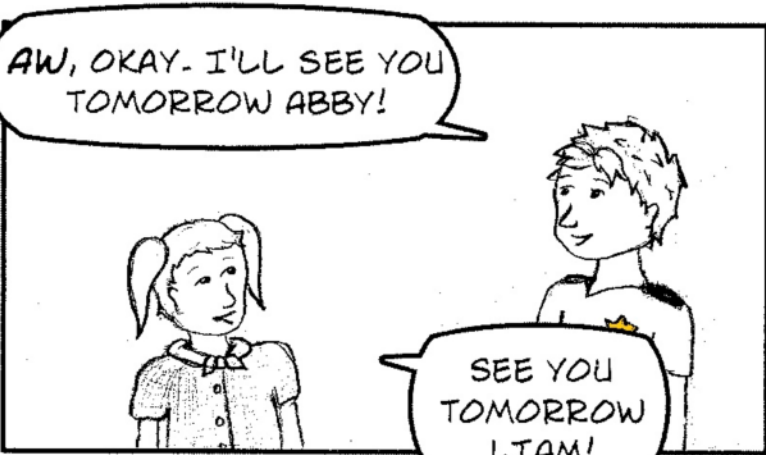
WELL, IT'S DINNERTIME



AW, BUT MOM....!

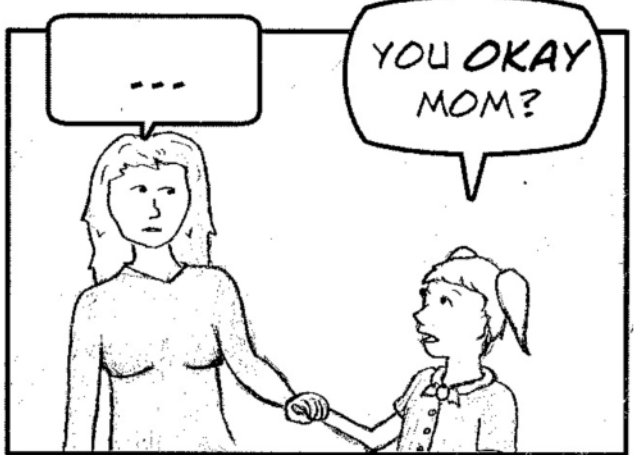


NO BUT'S, LET'S GO



AW, OKAY. I'LL SEE YOU TOMORROW ABBY!

SEE YOU TOMORROW LIAM!



---

YOU OKAY MOM?

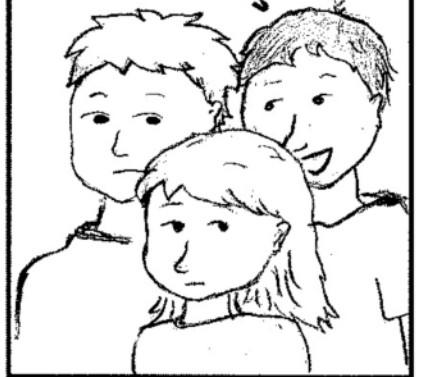
I'M MOVING TO THE PROJECTS...



YOUR FATHER LOST HIS JOB...



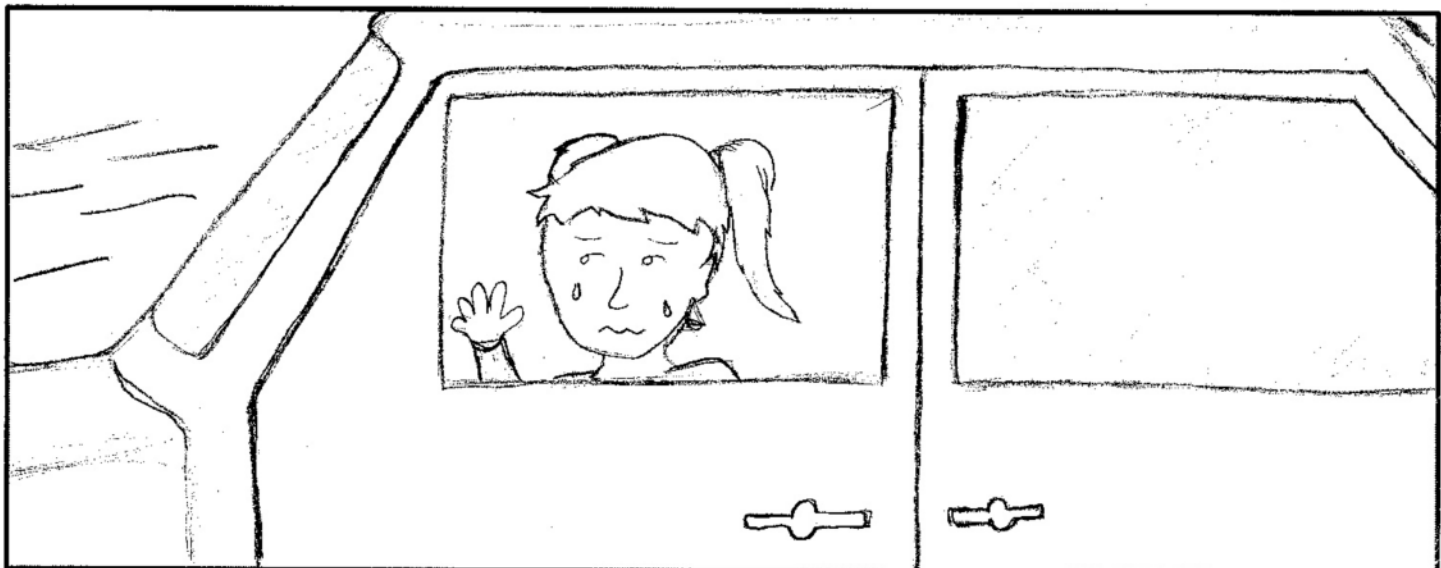
ISN'T THAT THE POOR PART OF TOWN?



BYE LIAM...

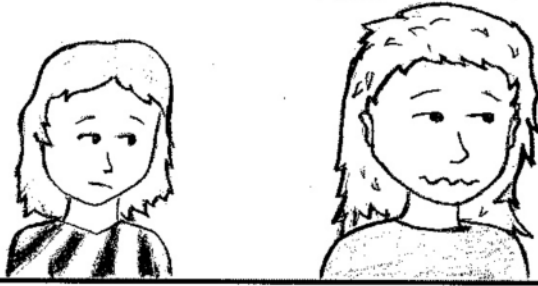


TIME TO GO!



A FEW WEEKS AFTER MOVING INTO THEIR SPARSE APARTMENT...

NO, WE CAN'T...  
I TOLD YOU...



I WON'T DO  
IT!

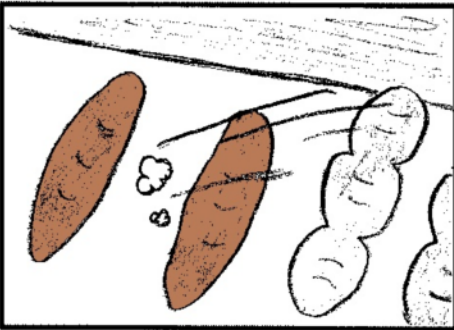
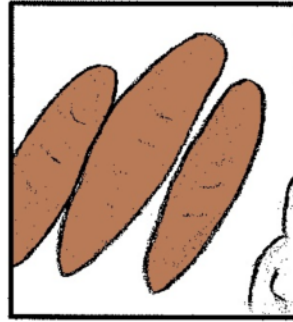
WE DON'T HAVE  
ENOUGH FOR THE  
KIDS ALREADY!

I WON'T GIVE  
UP MY BABY!

ABIGAIL?  
WHERE ARE  
YOU GOING?

ABIGAIL!

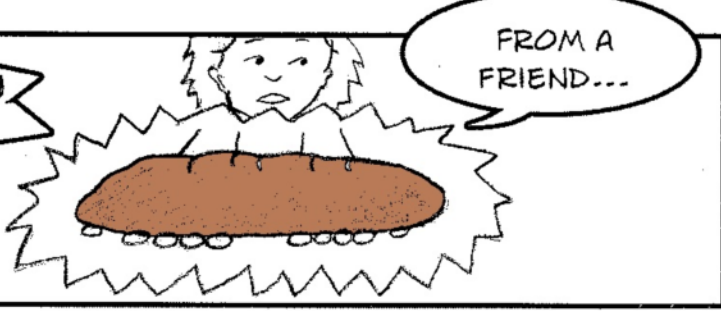




ABBY! WE'VE BEEN SO WORRIED!

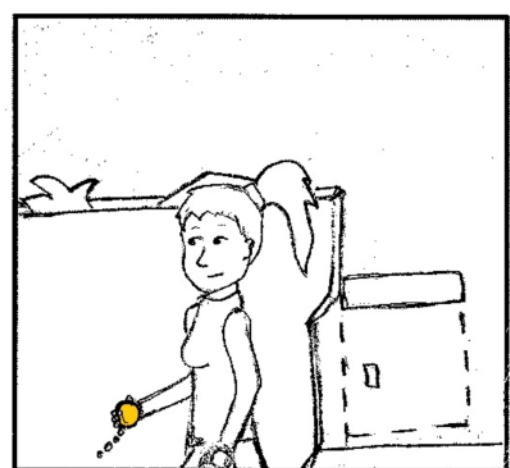
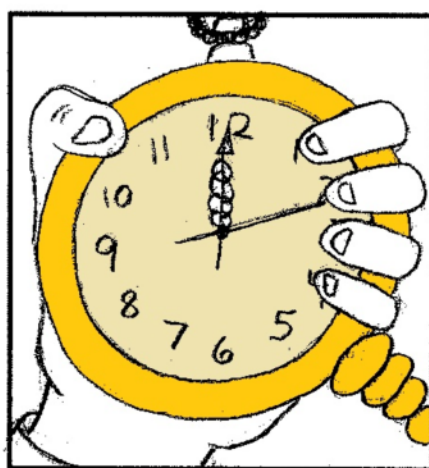
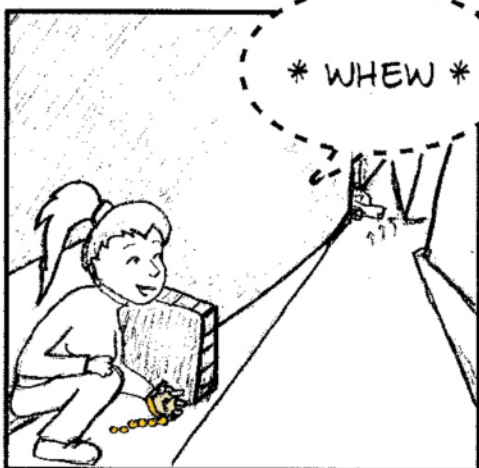
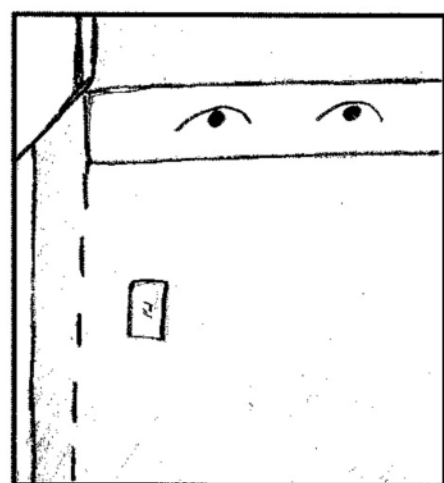
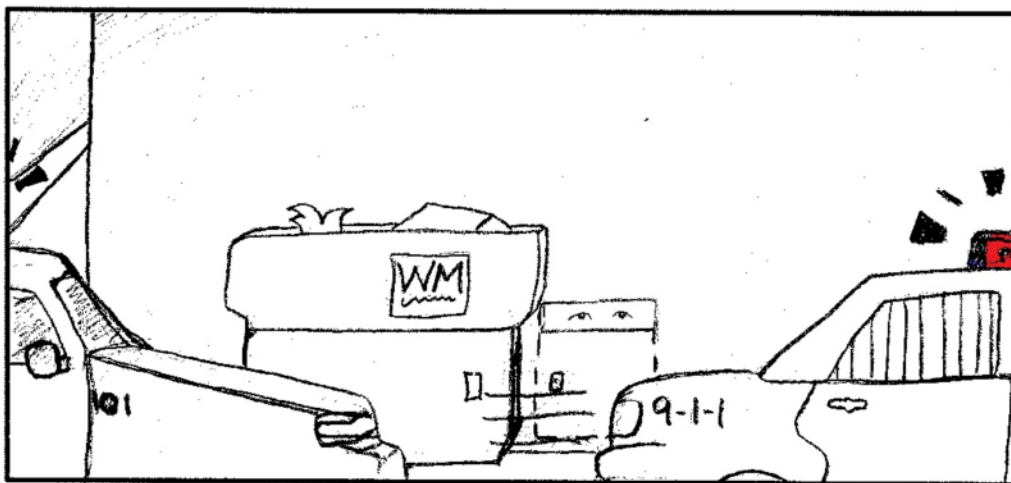
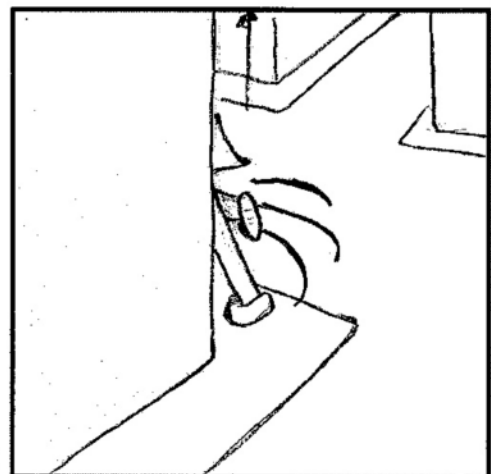
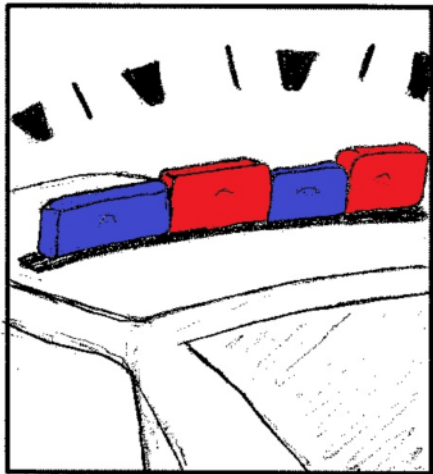
WHERE'D YOU GET IT?

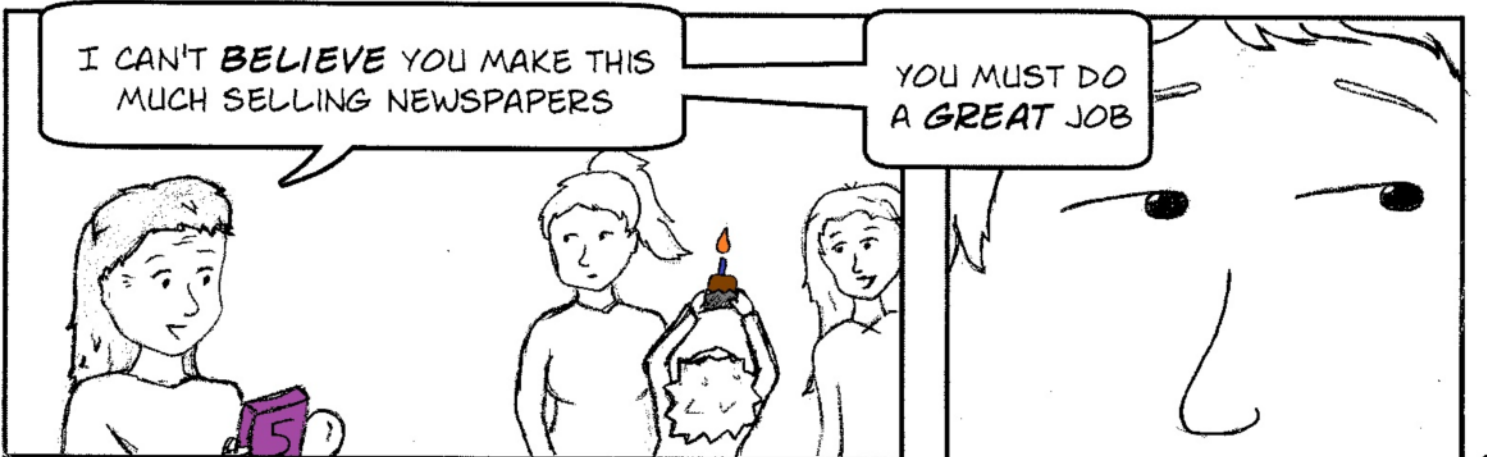
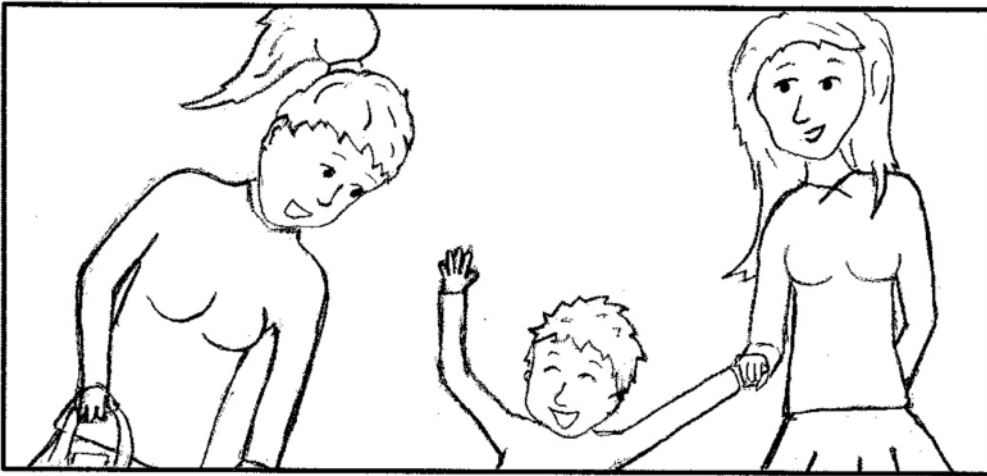
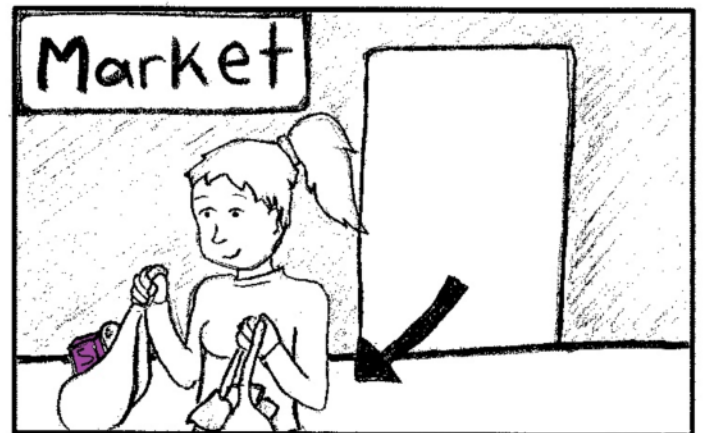
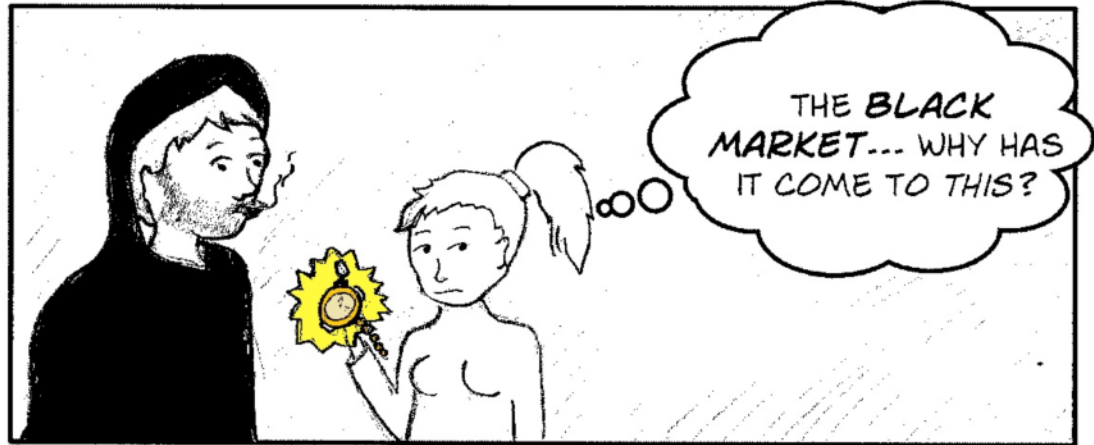
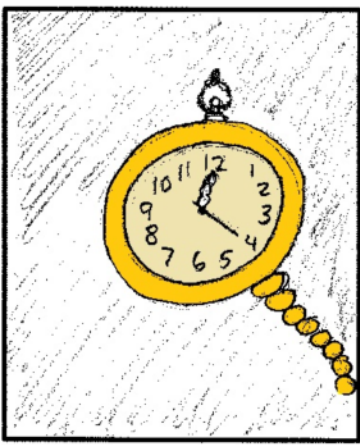
IS THAT BREAD?!

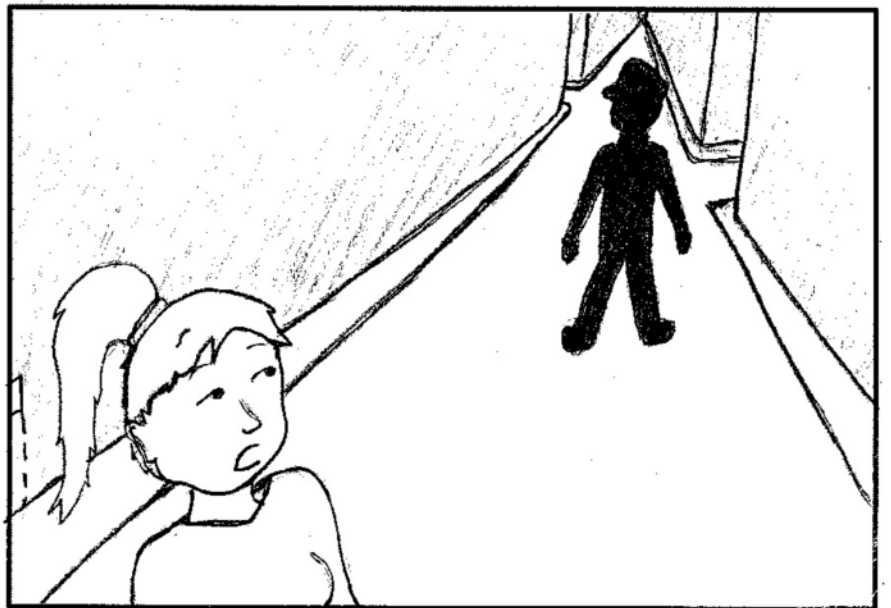
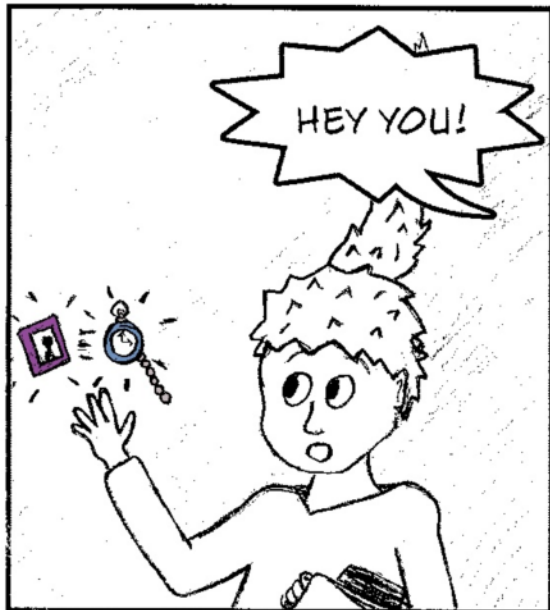
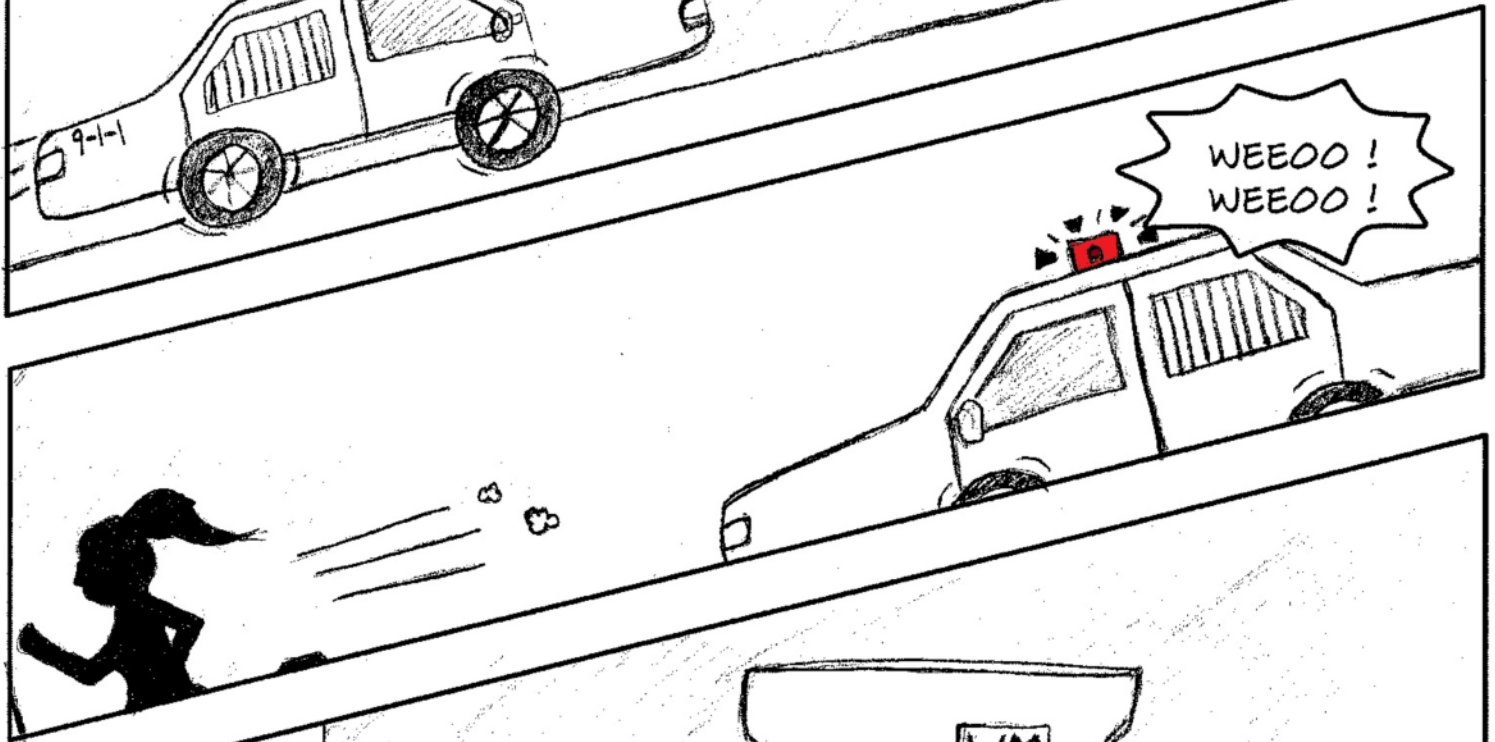
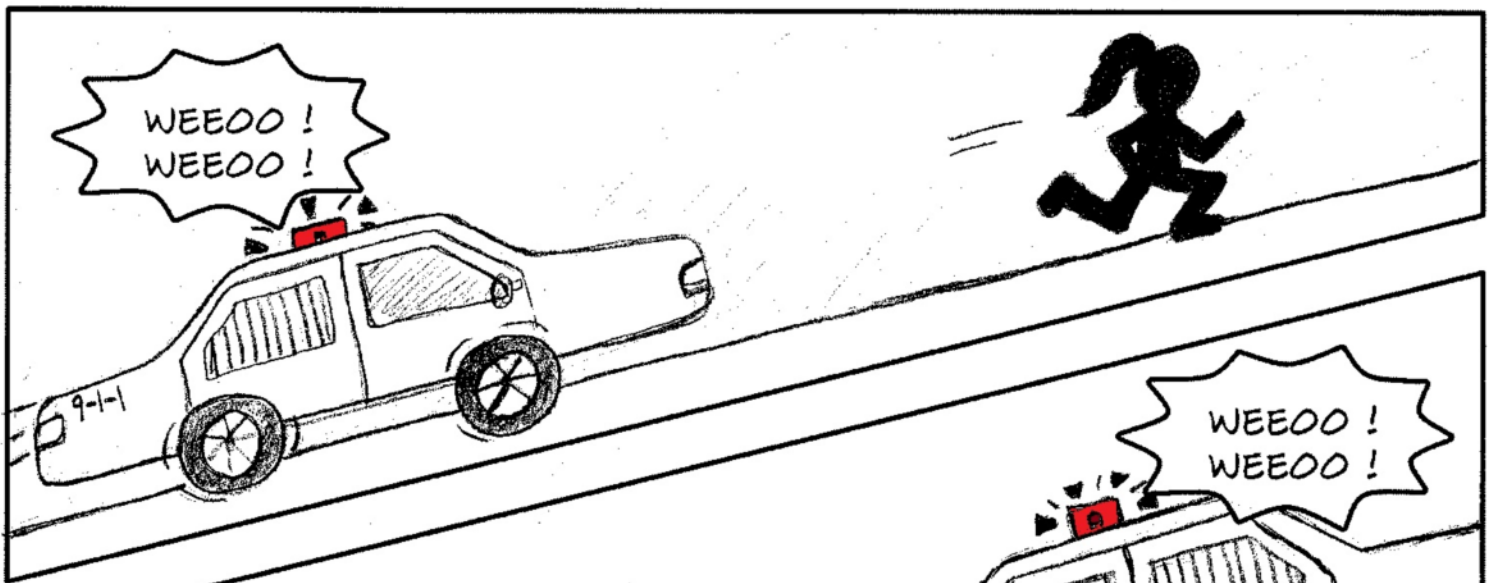


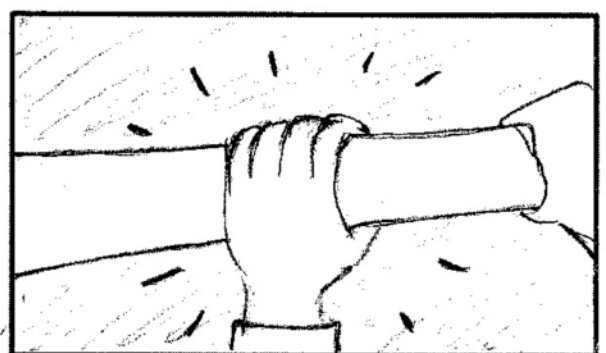
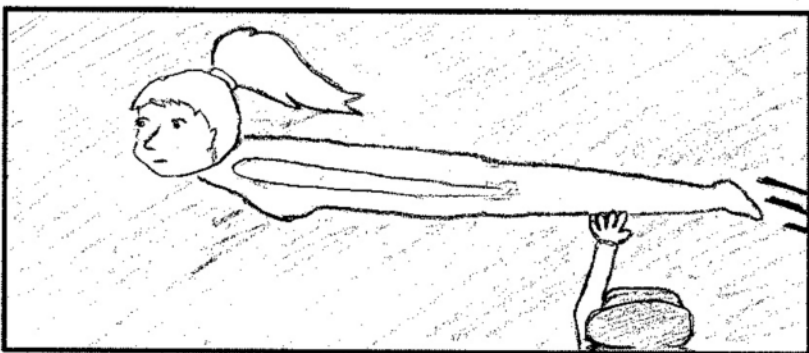
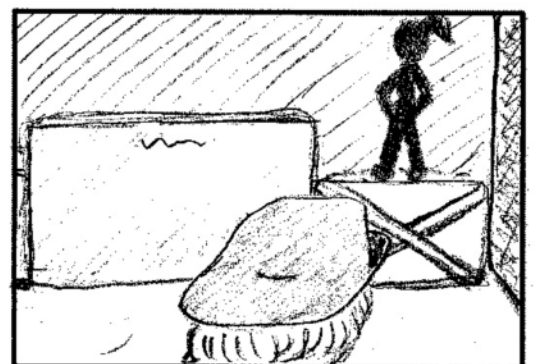
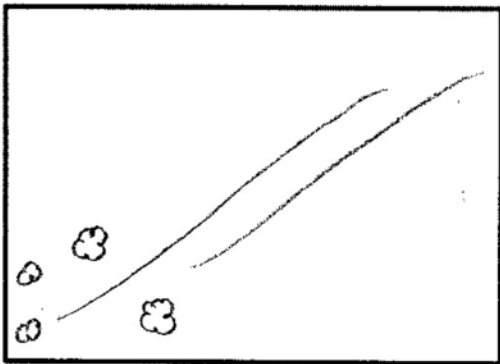
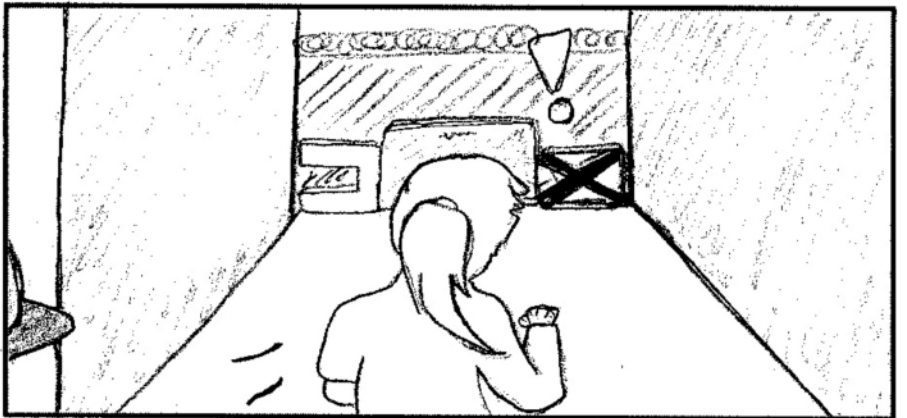
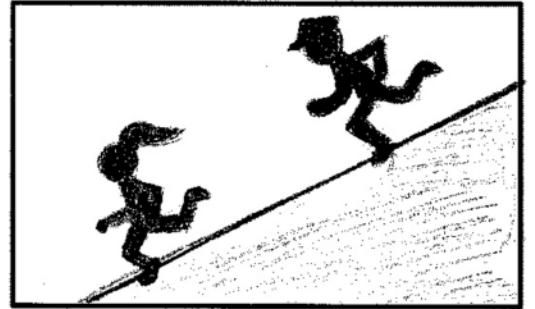
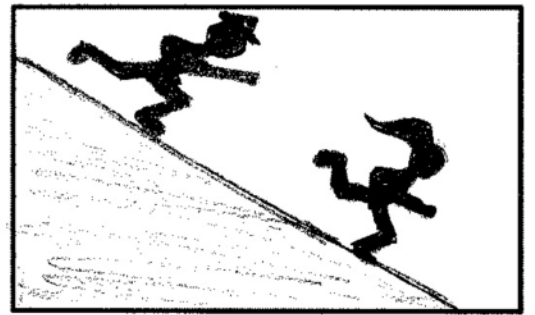
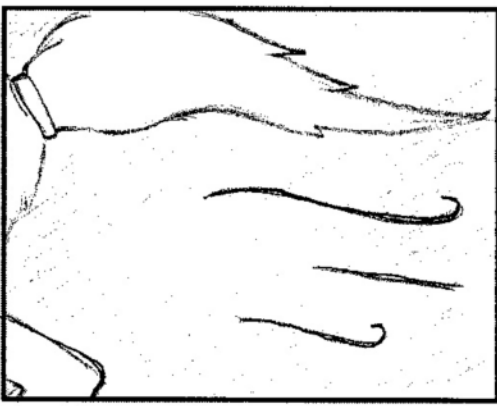
TEN YEARS LATER...

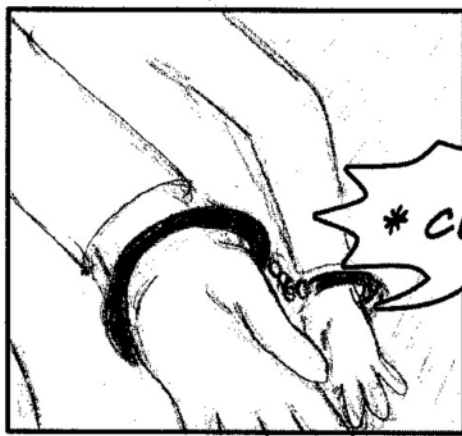
WEEEOO!  
WEEEOO!



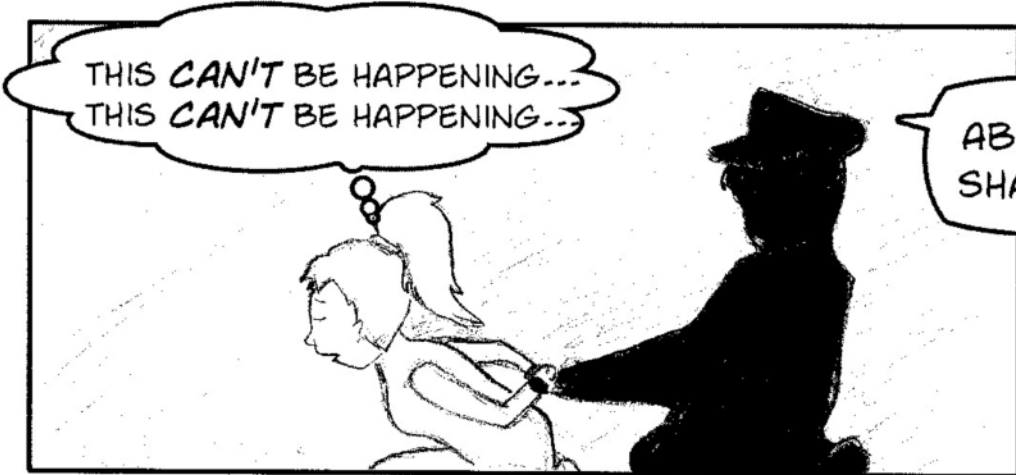






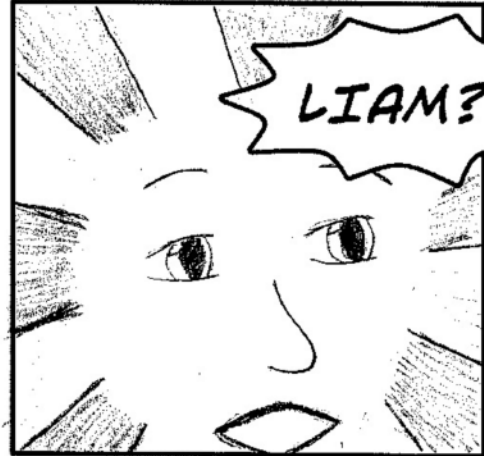


**\* CLICK \***

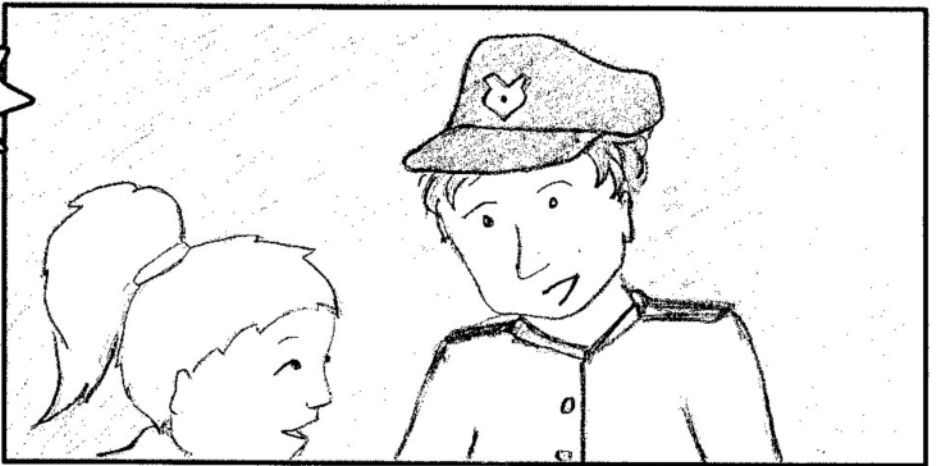


THIS CAN'T BE HAPPENING...  
THIS CAN'T BE HAPPENING...

ABBY THE SHABBY?!



**LIAM?!**



WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?!



I MIGHT ASK YOU THE SAME QUESTION



BU-BUT... YOU'RE A COP??



WELL, COP-IN-  
**TRAINING**  
TECHNICALLY

I CAN'T BELIEVE IT  
THOUGH, **YOU'RE** THE  
MYSTERIOUS ROBBER?

I GOT AN  
INTERNSHIP OVER  
THE SUMMER...



THE POLICE HAVE BEEN LOOKING  
FOR YOU FOR **QUITE** SOME TIME



**WHY** ABBY?  
YOU WERE  
**NEVER** ONE  
TO GET IN  
TROUBLE



CAN YOU  
JUST... LET  
ME GO?



ORDERS FROM  
THE **CHIEF** SAY  
I CAN'T DO  
THAT...



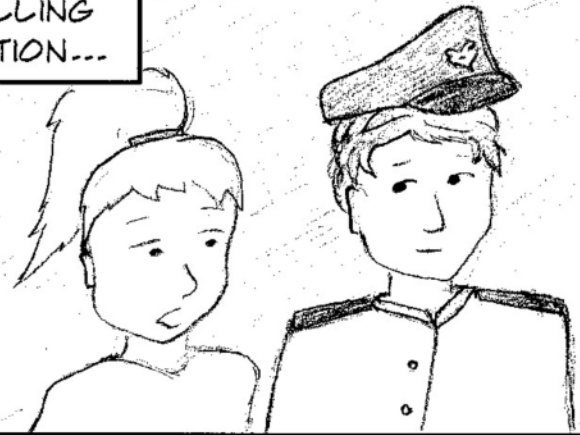
AND WHOEVER  
CATCHES YOU  
WILL GET A  
**RAISE**...

**WHY** THOUGH,  
ABBY?



ABBY FINALLY RELEASES HER STRESS, TELLING LIAM ABOUT HER FAMILY'S DIFFICULT SITUATION...

MY FAMILY IS STILL POOR...  
AND THERE ARE MY TWO  
SIBLINGS TO THINK ABOUT...



WHAT ABOUT  
A JOB?

I TRIED, BUT NO  
ONE WOULD HIRE  
ME...



HMM...



MY FAMILY OWNS AN ITALIAN RESTAURANT ON  
THE OTHER SIDE OF TOWN. I COULD PUT IN A  
WORD FOR YOUR FATHER



REALLY??  
YOU WOULD  
DO THAT?

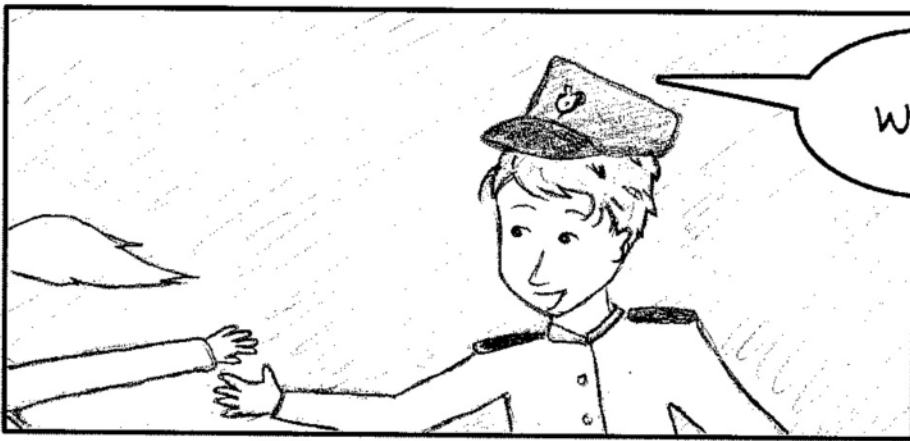


LISTEN, I'LL LET YOU GO  
IF YOU PROMISE TO STOP  
STEALING

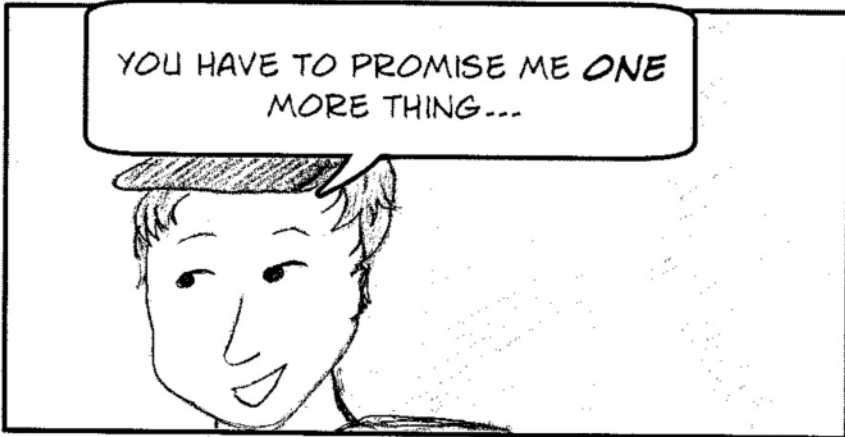
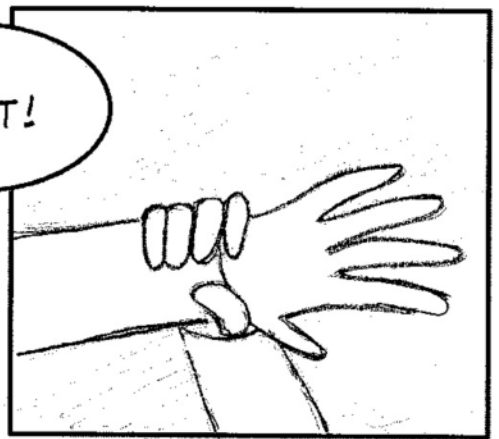


THANKS LIAM!  
YOU'RE THE  
BEST!





WAIT!

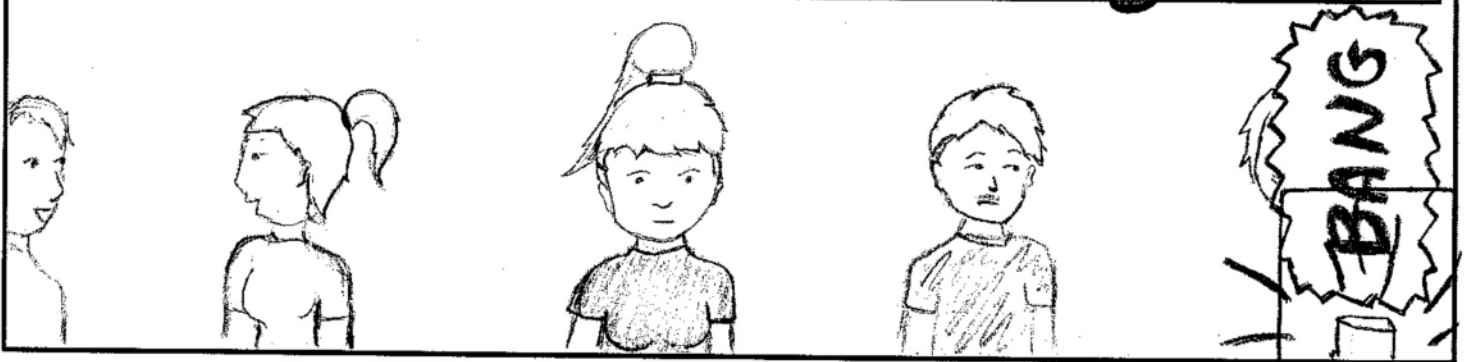


YOU HAVE TO PROMISE ME ONE MORE THING...



ANYTHING

# National Track Team Try-outs



AND THE WINNER  
OF THE RHODES  
SCHOLARSHIP FOR  
TRACK IS...



ABIGAIL JONES!



FIN

THE END