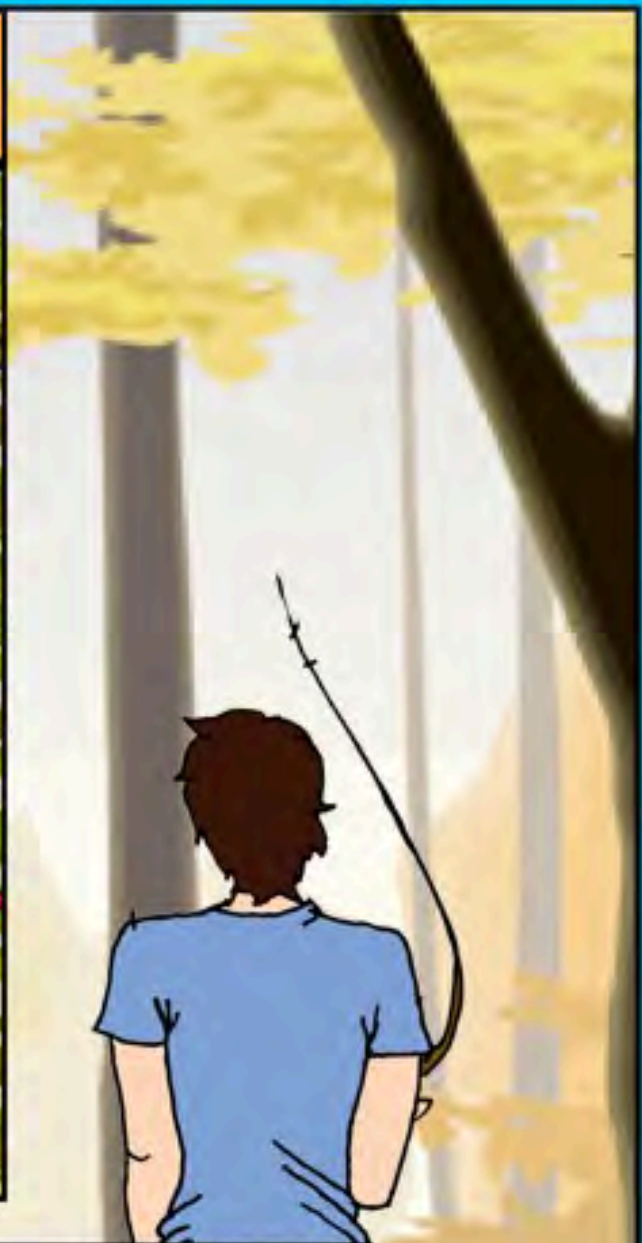




By Talia Lev

I WAKE IN THE WOODS WITH A STRING TIED AROUND MY INDEX FINGER.



HOW DID I GET HERE?



IT SPINS OUT INTO THE TREES. I DON'T RECOGNIZE THIS PLACE.

I CAN'T TAKE IT OFF.

SO I FOLLOW IT.





IT HAPPENED EARLIER TODAY...



C'MON
KIERAN! IT'S
WARM.



ANNA?



HEY KIERAN,
HEY KIERAN,
LOOK-



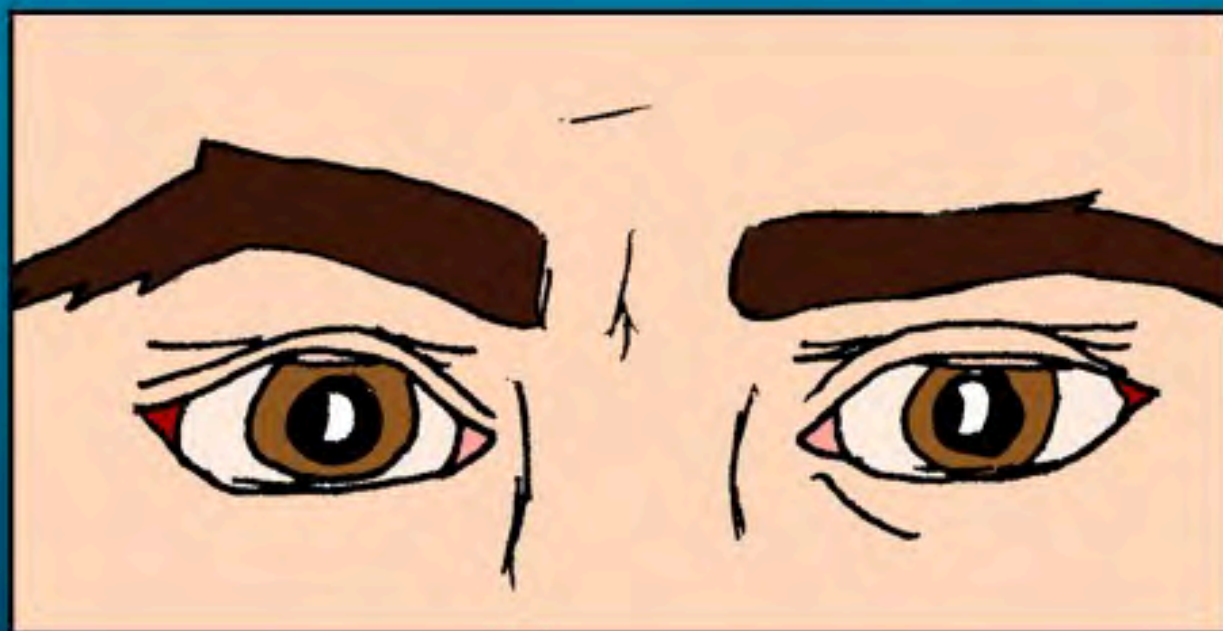
ANNA?
ANNA!



ANNA, SHIT SHIT SHIT SHIT SHIT OW!



BRING HER BACK! I SAW YOU.
BRING HER BACK; I'LL
DO ANYTHING!





FIND THEM?

FOLLOW...FOLLOW
THE STRING!





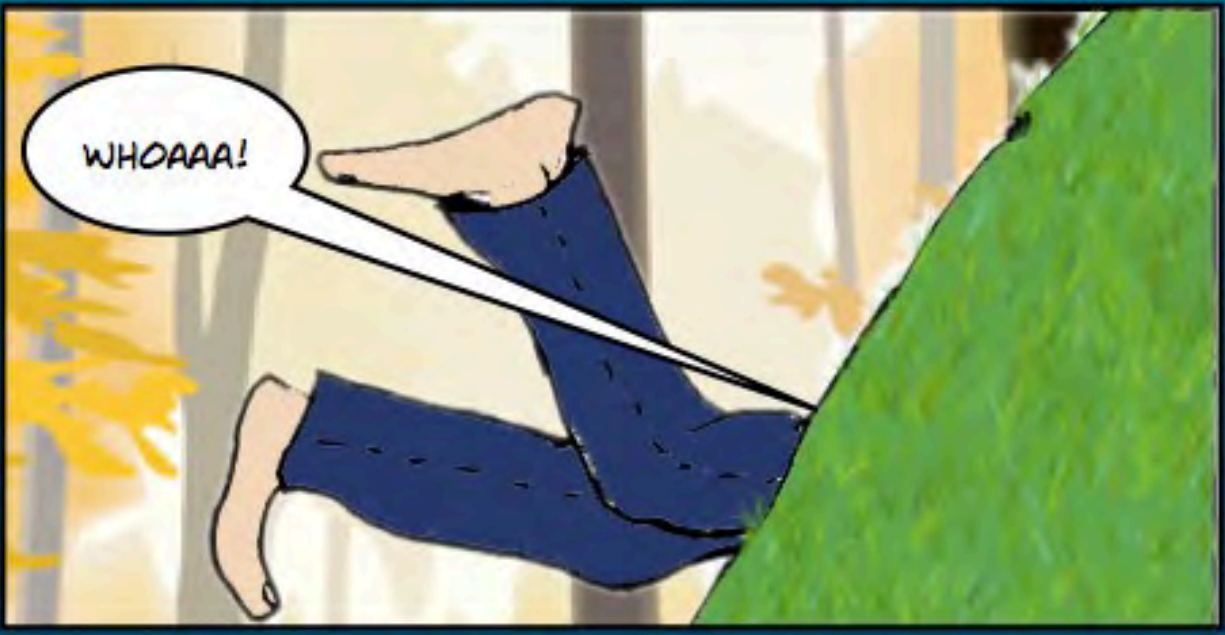
THE STRING SEEMS TO GO INTO...



IS THAT MUSIC?



WHOOAAA!





YOU MAKE A REQUEST, OR SHOULD I SAY DEMAND, WITH BLOOD IN THE WATER AND YOU ASK WHO WE ARE? YOU CAME LOOKING FOR US, BOY.

HOW- WHAT IS THIS? WHO ARE YOU?

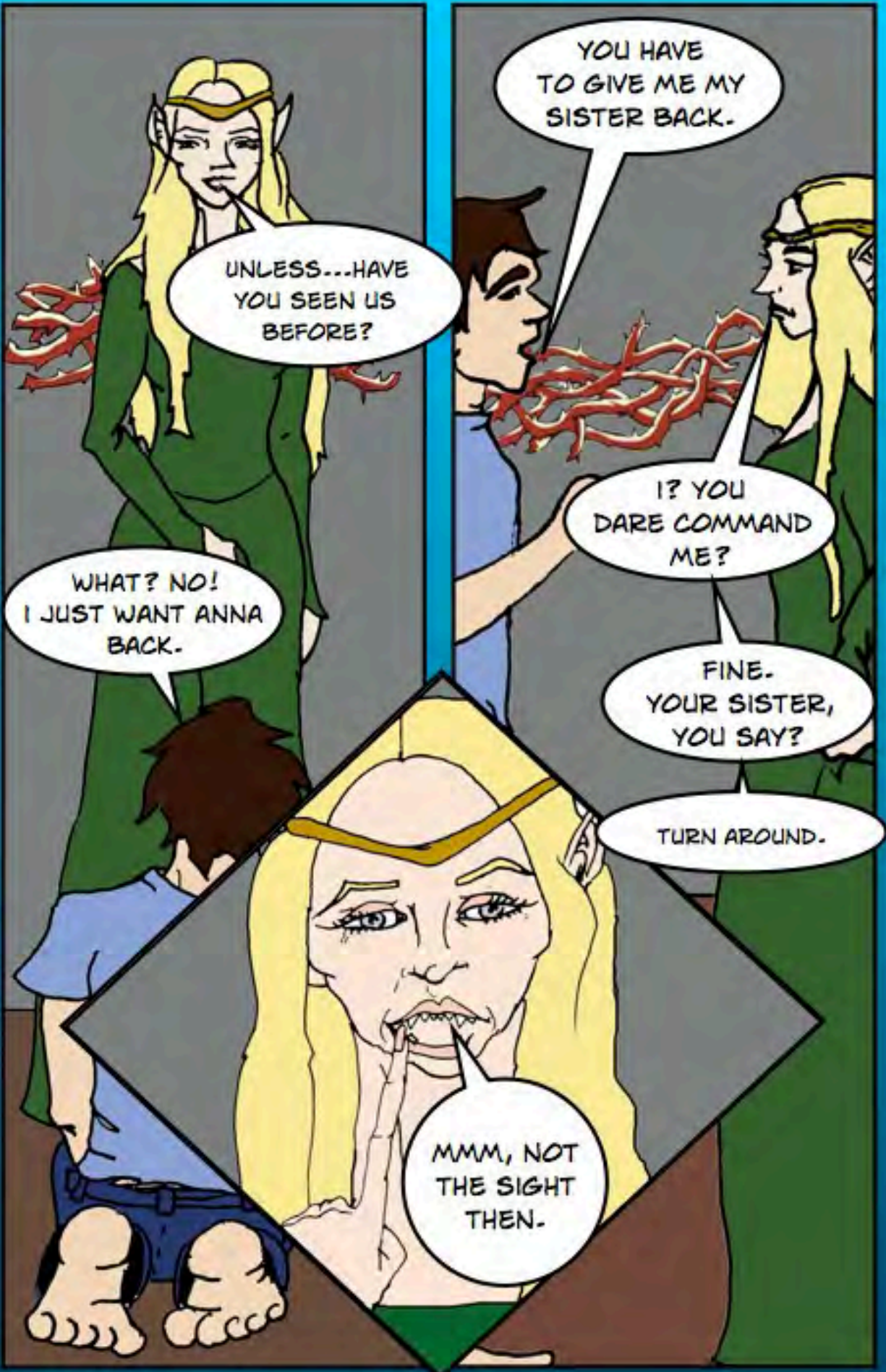


I DON'T- I SAW SOMETHING. THEY SAY MY SISTER DROWNED. THEY SAY THEY FOUND HER BODY. BUT SHE DIDN'T. I SAW SOMETHING TAKE HER.



YOU TOOK HER!

NO NEED TO BE SO DRAMATIC. WHAT I AM MORE INTERESTED IN IS WHAT YOU SAW. OR, HOW YOU SAW IT. MORTALS...YOU NEED MARIGOLDS OVER YOUR EYES TO SEE THE FOLK.



YOU HAVE TO GIVE ME MY SISTER BACK.

UNLESS...HAVE YOU SEEN US BEFORE?

WHAT? NO! I JUST WANT ANNA BACK.

!? YOU DARE COMMAND ME?

FINE. YOUR SISTER, YOU SAY?

TURN AROUND.

MMM, NOT THE SIGHT THEN.

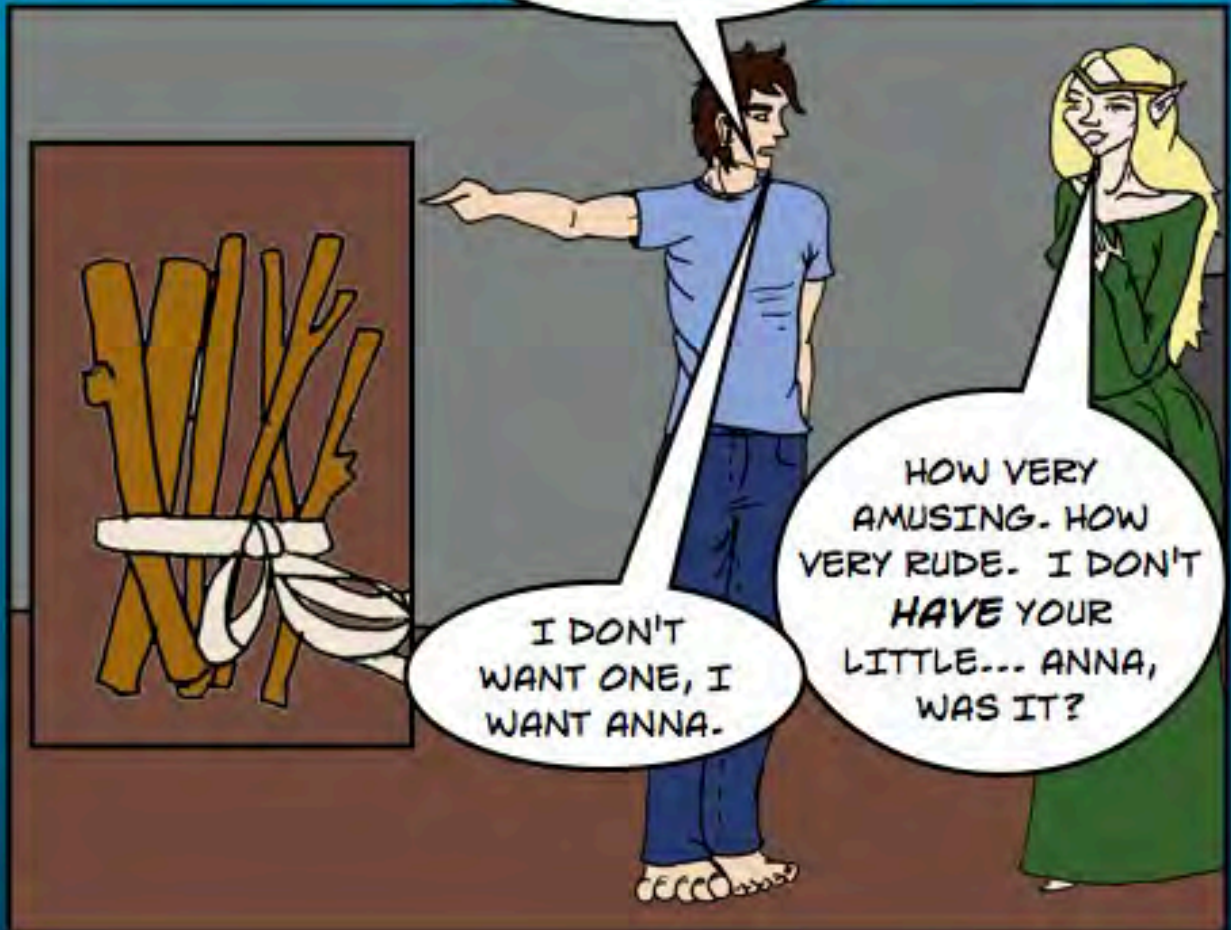


SHOW HIM.

THESE
AREN'T... THAT'S NOT
ANNA.



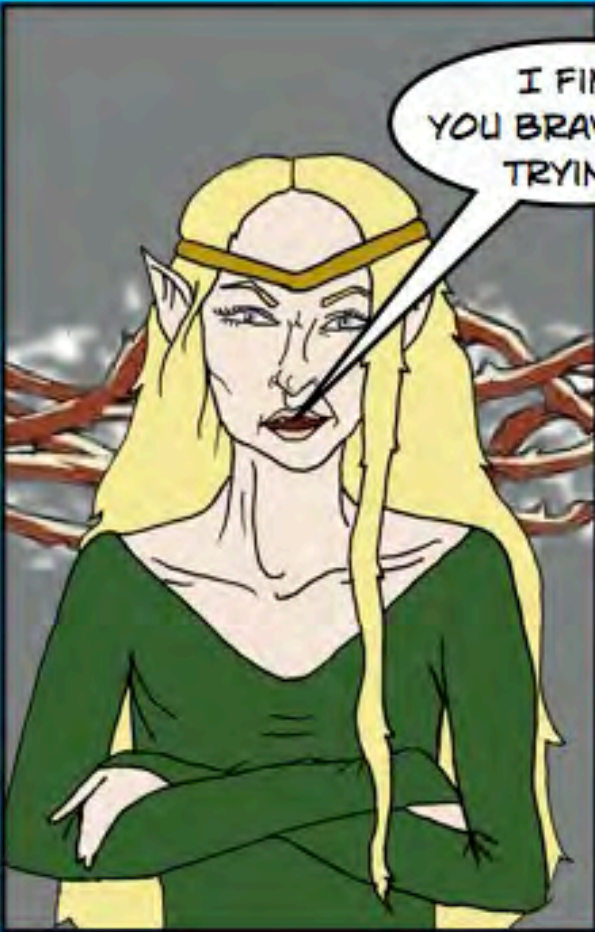
I KNOW
WHAT THIS IS.
THEY'RE
CHANGELINGS.



I DON'T
WANT ONE, I
WANT ANNA.

HOW VERY
AMUSING. HOW
VERY RUDE. I DON'T
HAVE YOUR
LITTLE... ANNA,
WAS IT?





I FIND YOU BRAVE, BUT TRYING.

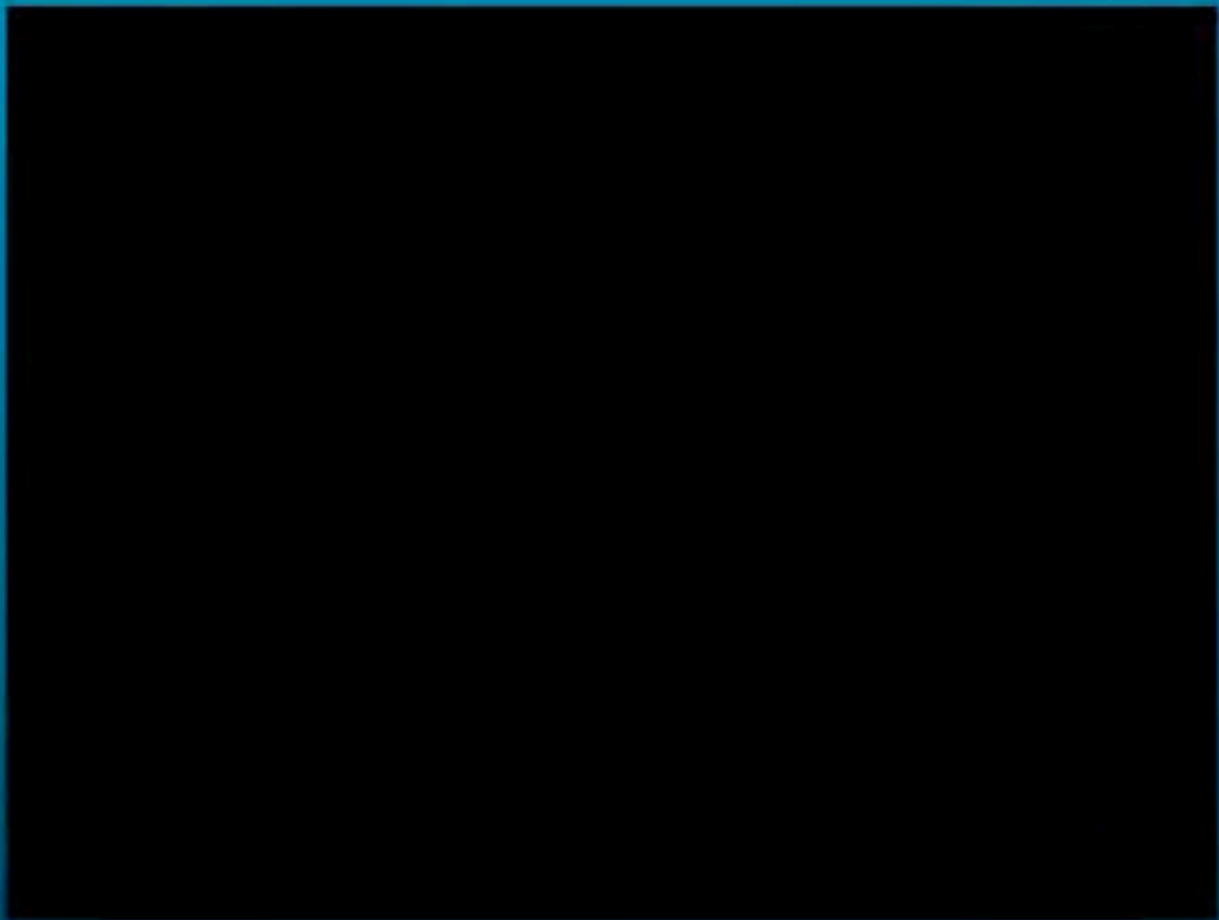
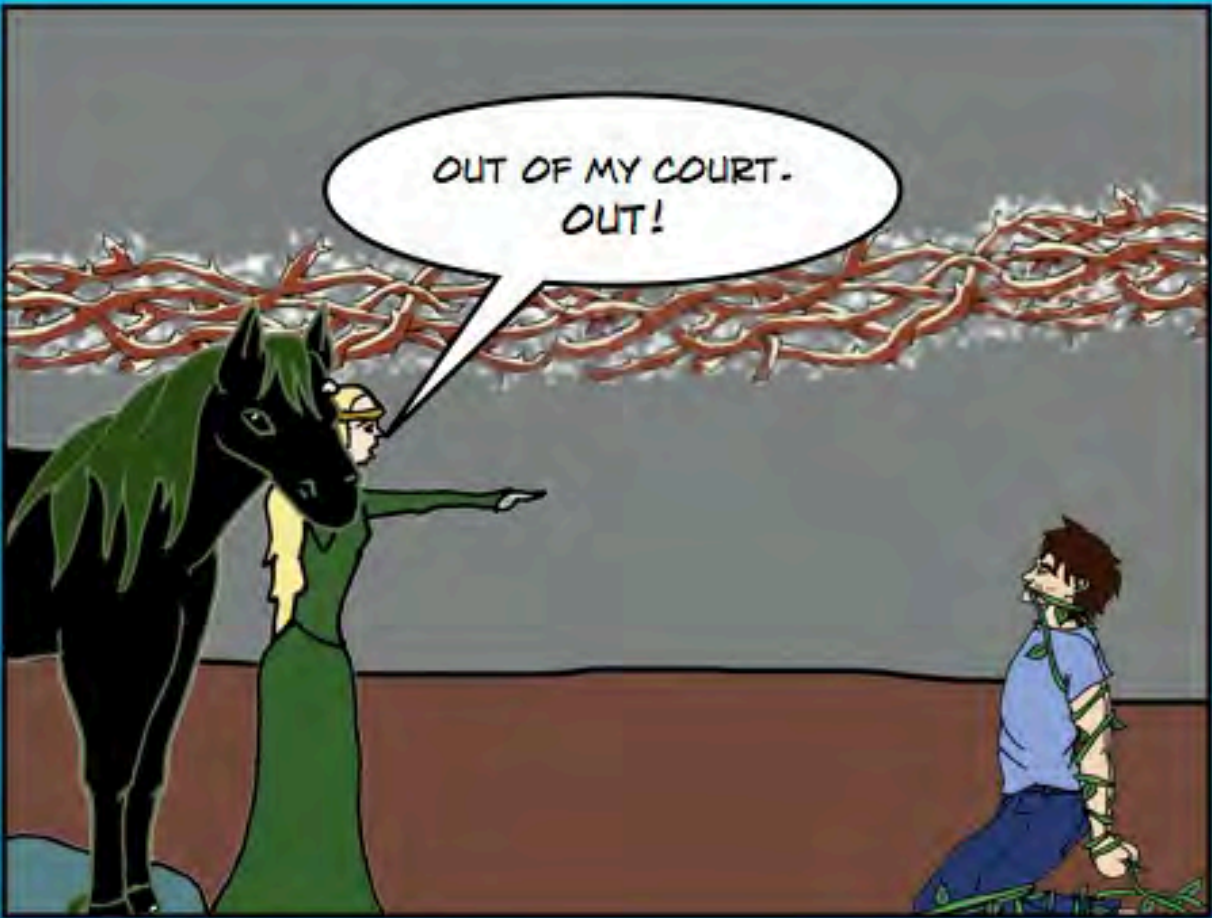


YOU.
YOU TOOK MY
SISTER.



SHE'S
GONE. I AM A
KELPIE; IT IS MY
NATURE.







I WAKE UP IN
THE WOODS
WITH A
HEADACHE.

AGAIN.

THERE'S A
STRING...



...CUT-



THESE WOODS ARE DIFFERENT, FAMILIAR.

I'M BEHIND MY HOUSE.





I'm sorry for your loss

I'm sorry for your loss

I'm sorry for your loss

I'm sorry for your loss

TODAY IS ANNA'S FUNERAL.

MY MOM SAID I'VE BEEN INCOHERENT, ON A TWO DAY BENDER.

I'm sorry for your loss

I'm sorry for your loss



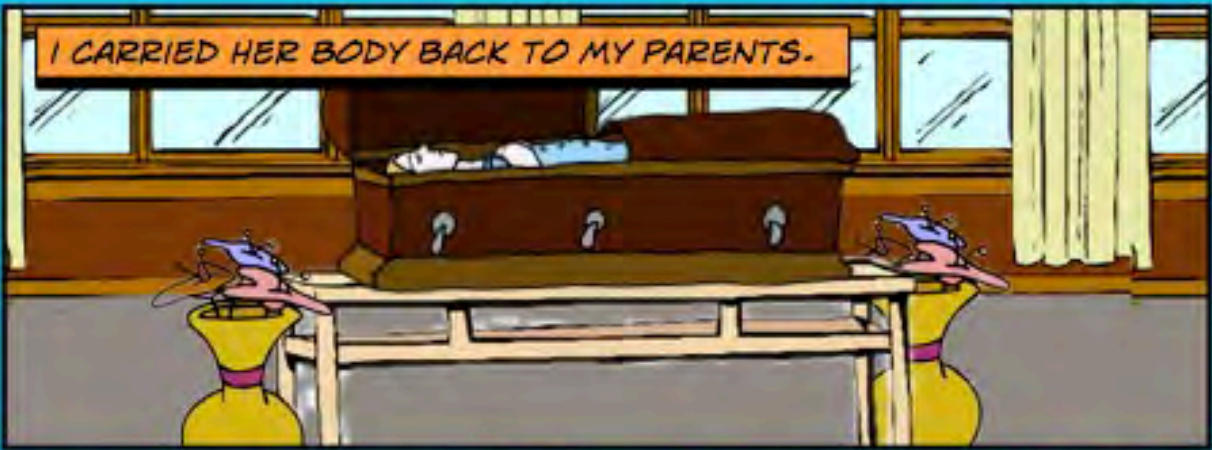
smack

MY SISTER IS DEAD.



I SAW HER DROWN.



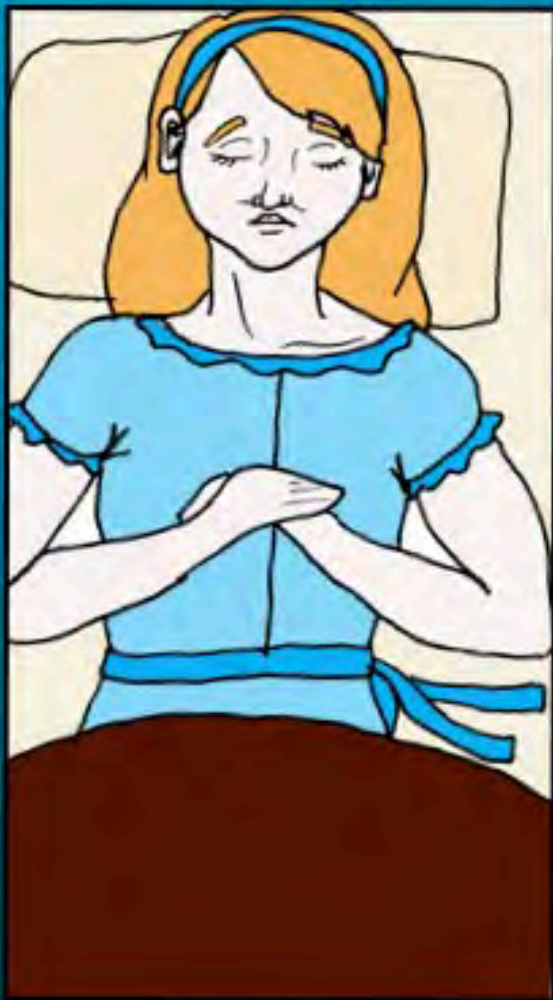


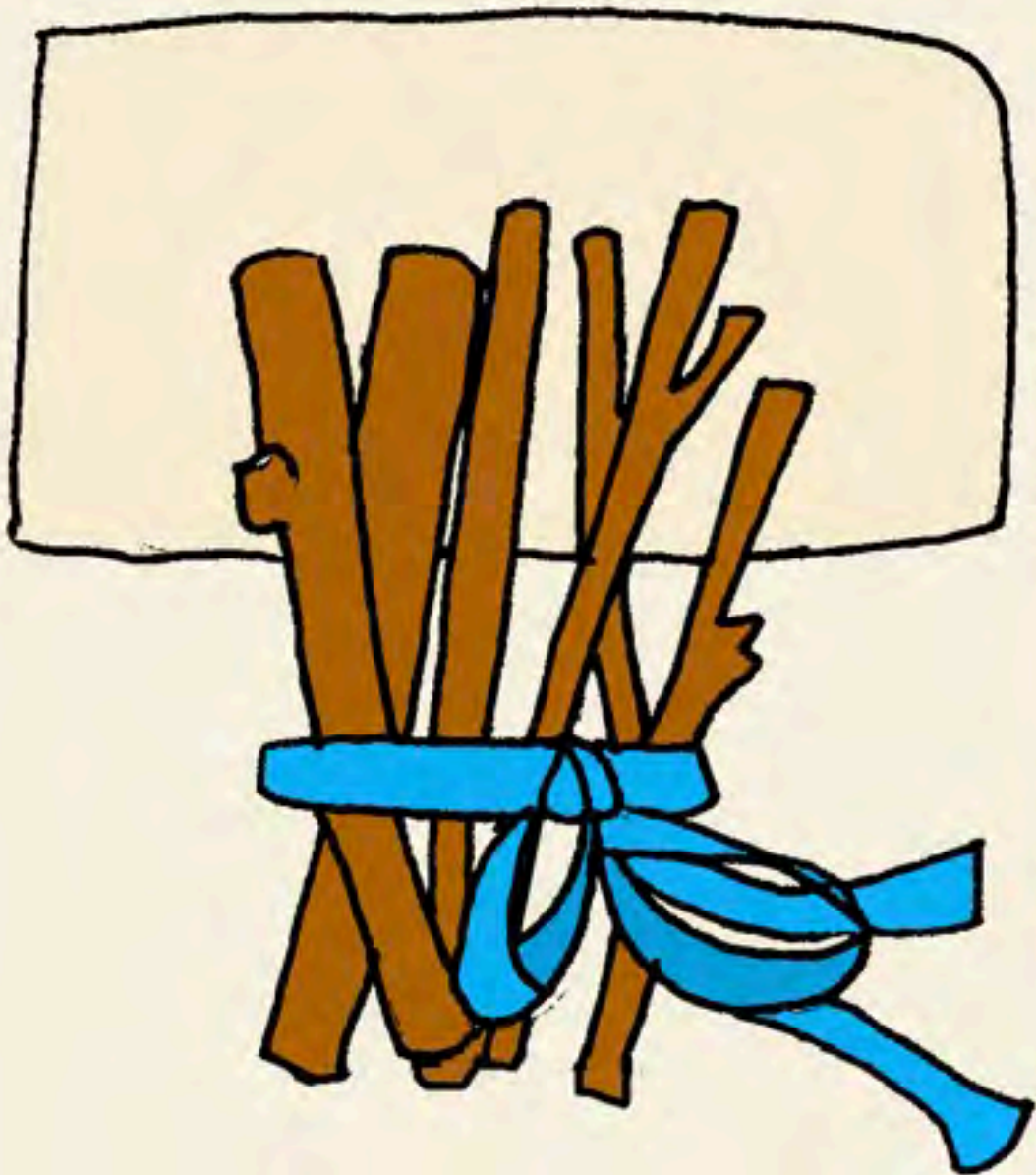
I CARRIED HER BODY BACK TO MY PARENTS.



THEY WANT ME TO START THERAPY NEXT WEEK.

BUT...





CHANGELING!