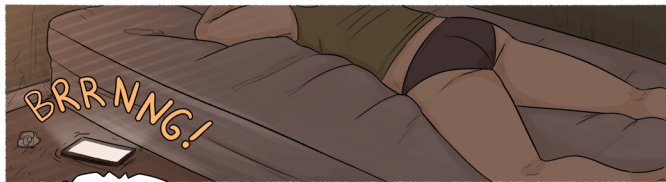


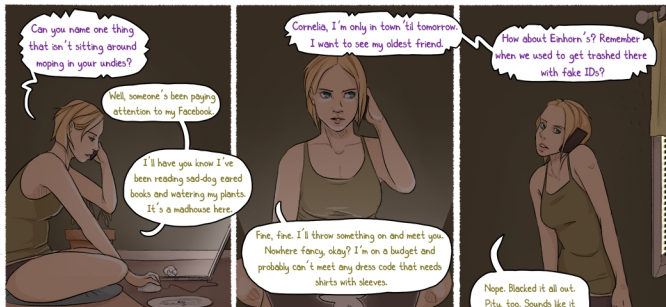
# CORNELIA'S TALE

STORY BY NOTHERE  
ILLUSTRATIONS BY QUIHNN



QUIHNN







You look...pretty good, Lia.

Well, they make us wear this for the conference, you know.

That's the beauty of Gas 'n' Gulp... set your own dress code.



Cornelia...what are you doing working there?

It pays the bills and the hours are flexible. Plus a 2% discount on cigarettes and free expired pizza.



You know what I mean. You were going to go to school and become a botanist or a forest ranger or something.

I think sorceress and astronaut might have been in there too. They were all about as likely.



That's not true, Cornelia. You were really excited about college!

Yeah, that didn't last after Mom died. Just kinda... coasted after that.



What? I saw your grades, that little garden you used to have on your mom's balcony...

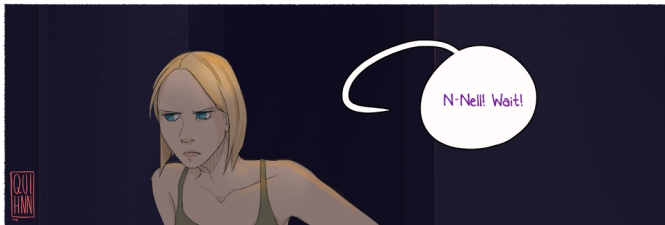
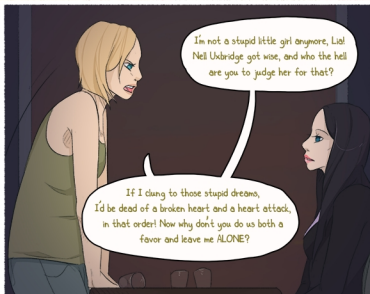


Loving things growing and green...it's a weakness. Brains too. That's just how it is.



Cute hair and cute curves... that's what matters here in the rustiest part of the Rust Belt.

But you can do better than that, Cornelia!





Dammit, Lia...getting on me for not giggling about sunshine, lollipops and rainbows anymore? This place eats that stuff alive.

MUNICIPAL PARK



I just don't have it in me to believe in her fairy tales anymore.



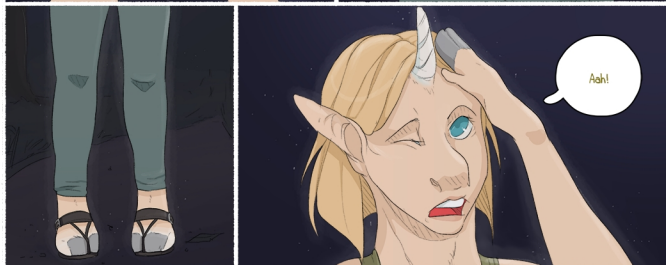
Geez, it's hot tonight...



Nghh...I don't feel...so good



Urki!







I...I...what just happened?



A...a unicorn? This is all Lia's fault...her and her fairy tales...



Aaah! How am I supposed to walk on these...things?



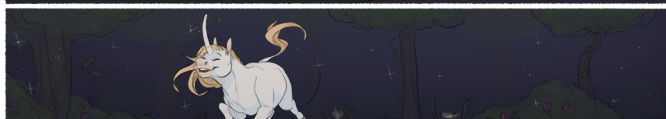
Come on! I need to get help...go to the hospital...something!



Heh. I thought unicorns were supposed to be graceful.



Still...aren't unicorns supposed to be able to do other things, too?



Morning

Mmm...

Looks like I had another visit from the clothes fairy last night... didn't even leave me a dollar...

Still, that's the widest drunk dream I've ever had. A unicorn? I've had horny dreams before but not like that...not that real...

No...it can't be...

That wasn't a dream.

Am I some sort of...wereunicorn? This is going to take a little getting used to...and a lot of alcohol.

END.

