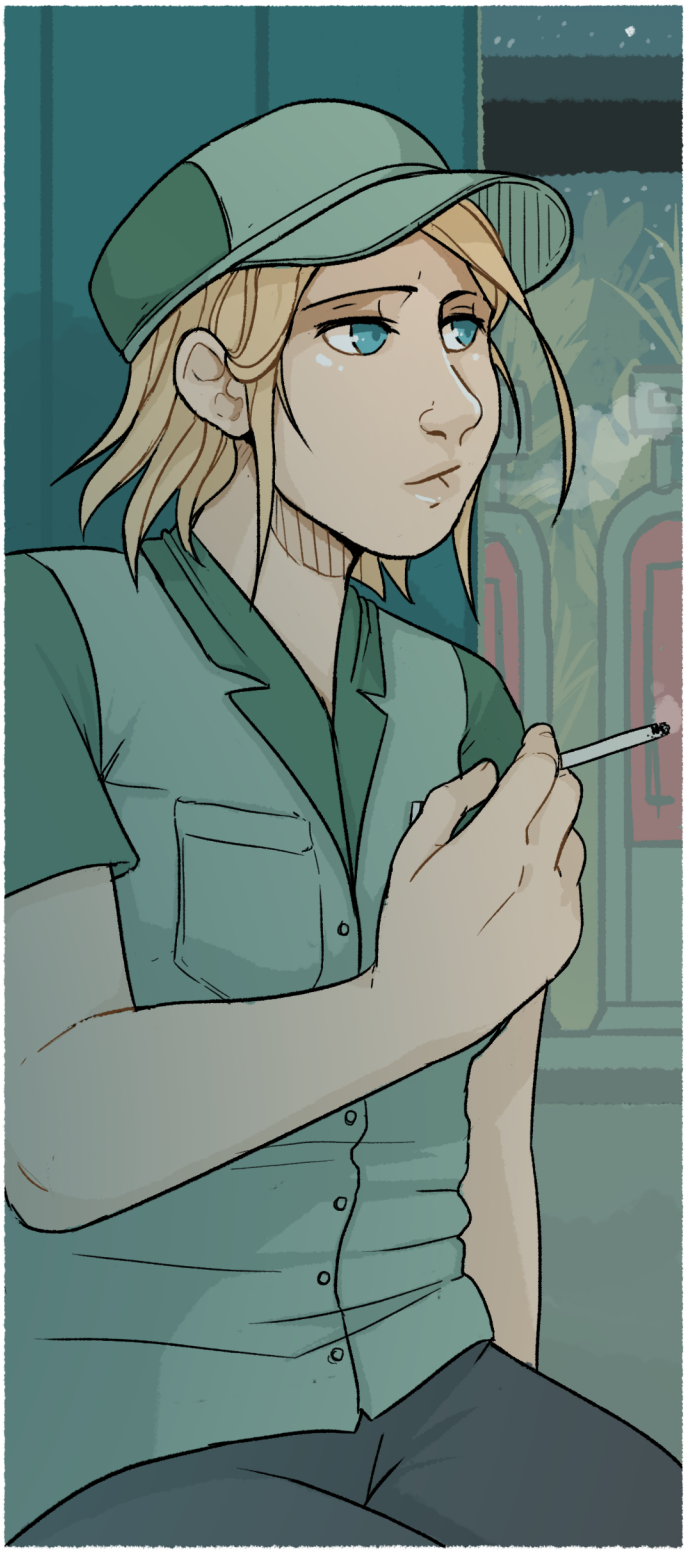
CORNELIA'S TALE





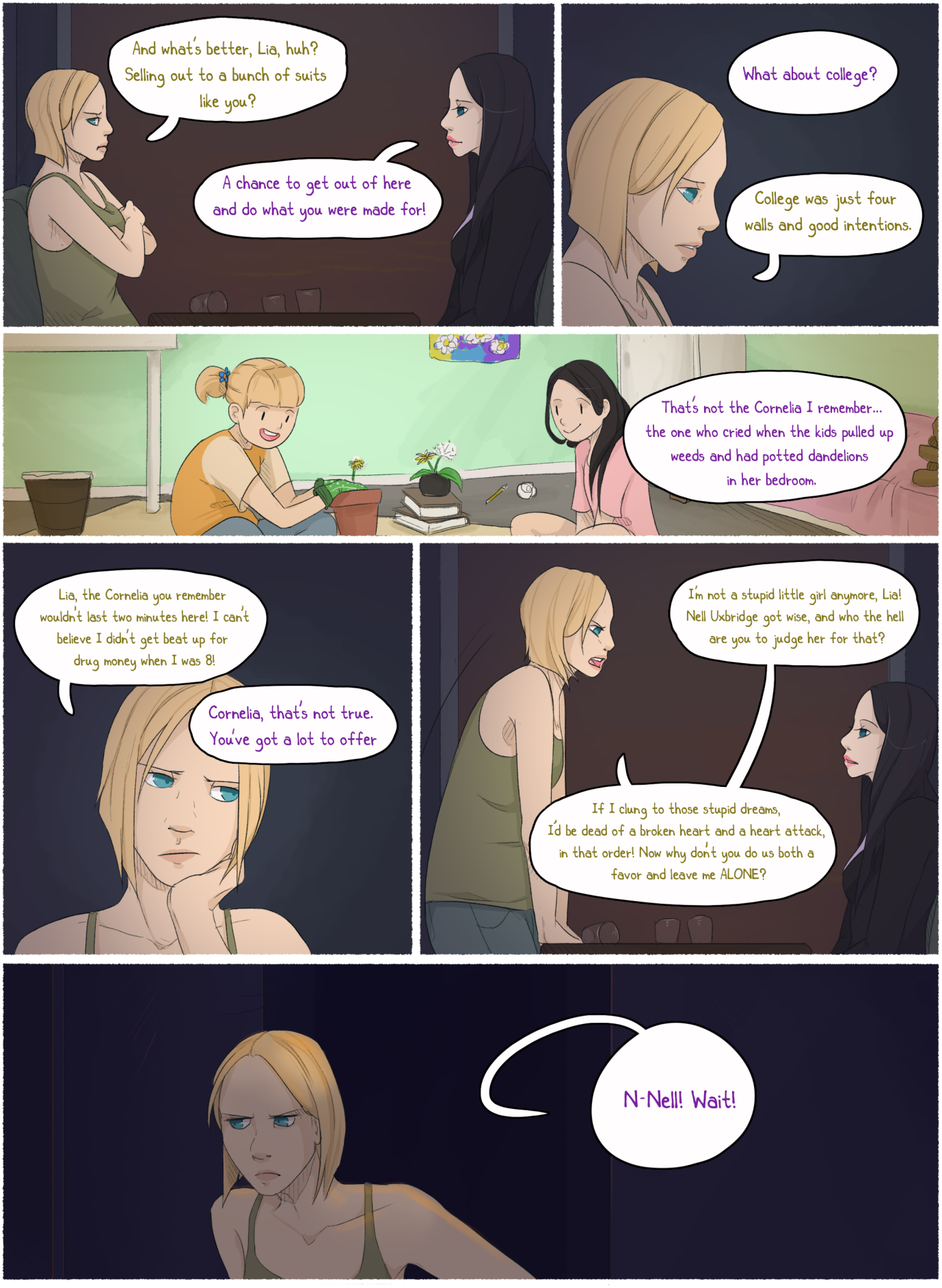
STORY BY NOTHERE
ILLUSTRATIONS BY QUIHNN


CORNELIA'S TALE
STORY BY NOTHERE
ILLUSTRATIONS BY QUIHNN
QUI
HNN
-16


BRRNNG!
Cornelia? It's Natalia. We still on for drinks tonight?
Nell, Lia. I go by Nell now. Cornelia sounds like the name of an 86 year old spinster who's never known the touch of a man.
And I go by Natalia now, which sounds like the name of a grown up. I'll get it right when you do.
Lia, I'm really busy. Boss's giving the department an audit, and-
...Cornelia, you work at the Gas 'n' Gulp.
Earlier
No, just because it's called Gas 'n' Gulp doesn't mean you have to DRINK the gasoline!
I saw you there when I got back to town, remember?
Right, right. Still not a good time, Lia. Got tons going on.
Like what?
You know. Stuff. Opportunities.


Can you name one thing that isn't sitting around moping in your undies?
Well, someone's been paying attention to my Facebook.
I'll have you know I've been reading sad-dog eared books and watering my plants. It's a madhouse here.
Cornelia, I'm only in town 'til tomorrow. I want to see my oldest friend.
Fine, fine. I'll throw something on and meet you. Nowhere fancy, okay? I'm on a budget and probably can't meet any dress code that needs shirts with sleeves.
How about Einhorn's? Remember when we used to get trashed there with fake IDs?
Nope. Blacked it all out. Pity, too. Sounds like it was a blast.
Later
EINHORN
Cornelia, over here!
Come on, Lia. Call me Nell, I know people here.
Hey, Cornelia! Would the duchess like her usual?
Sigh...go ahead and double it, Frank.


You look...pretty good, Lia.
Well, they make us wear this for the conference, you know.
Thats 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...its a weakness. Brains too. Thats 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!


And what's better, Lia, huh? Selling out to a bunch of suits like you?
A chance to get out of here and do what you were made for!
What about college?
College was just four walls and good intentions.
That's not the Cornelia I remember... the one who cried when the kids pulled up weeds and had potted dandelions in her bedroom.
Lia, the Cornelia you remember wouldn't last two minutes here! I can't believe I didn't get beat up for drug money when I was 8!
Cornelia, that's not true. You've got a lot to offer
I'm not a stupid little girl anymore, Lia! Nell Uxbridge got wise, and who the hell are you to judge her for that?
If I clung to those stupid dreams, I'd be dead of a broken heart and a heart attack, in that order! Now why don't you do us both a favor and leave me ALONE?
N-Nell! Wait!

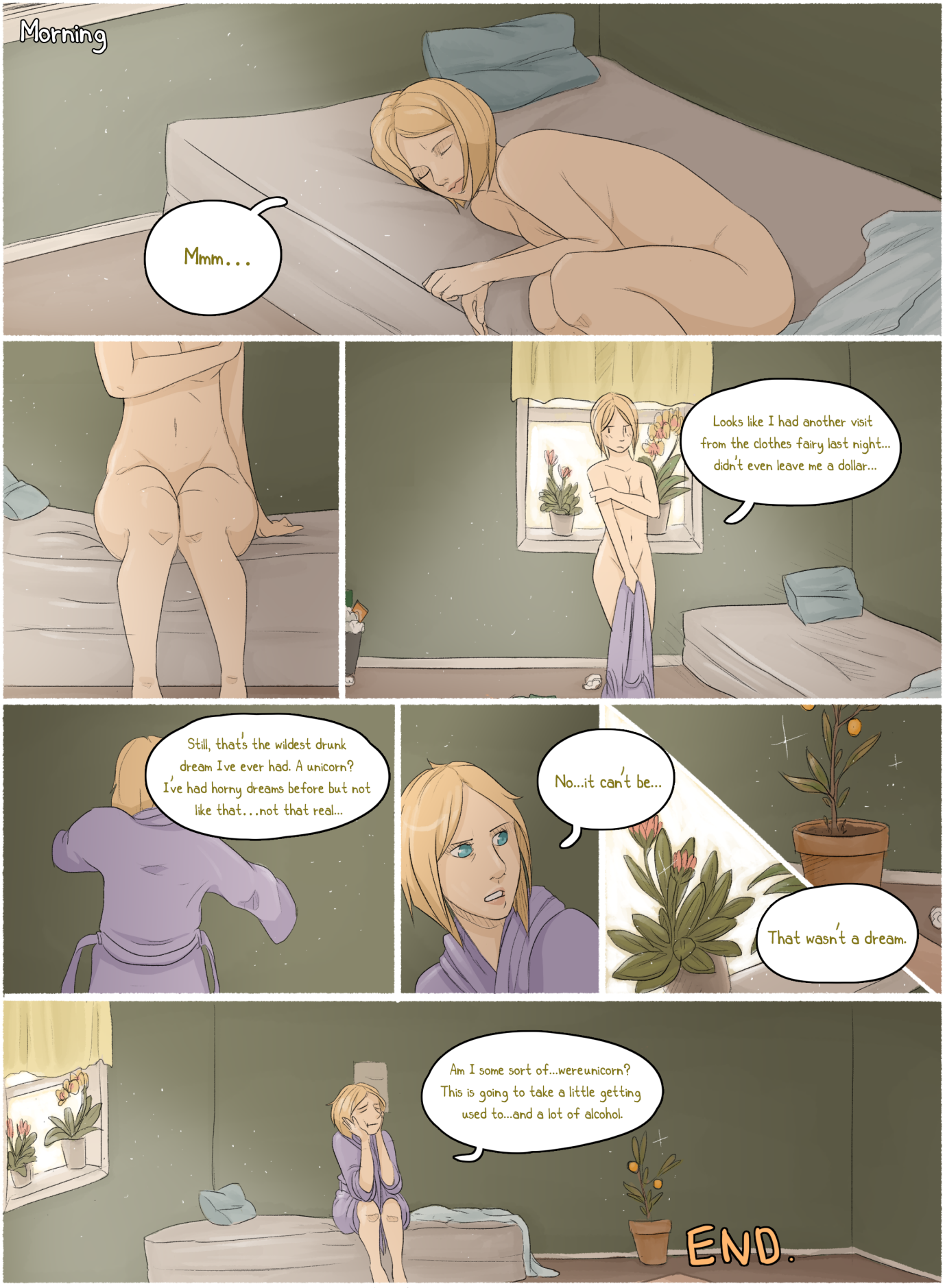

Dammit, Lia...getting on me for not giggling about sunshine, lollipops and rainbows anymore? This place eats that stuff alive.
MUNICIPAL PARK
I just don't have it in me to believe in her fairy tales anymore.
Geez, it's hot tonight...
Urk!
Nggh...I don't feel...so good


M-my hands...!
Aah!
What's...happening to me?


VSSH
Oh...oh God...
It...hurts...


I...I...what just happened?
A...a unicorn? This is all Lias 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!
Hmph. I thought unicorns were supposed to be graceful.
Still...aren't unicorns supposed to be able to do other things, too?


That poor thing...
POKE
Oh, wow!
I brought it back to life!
POKE
POKE
Now to make sure this place is never rotten and brown again!


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 wildest 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.

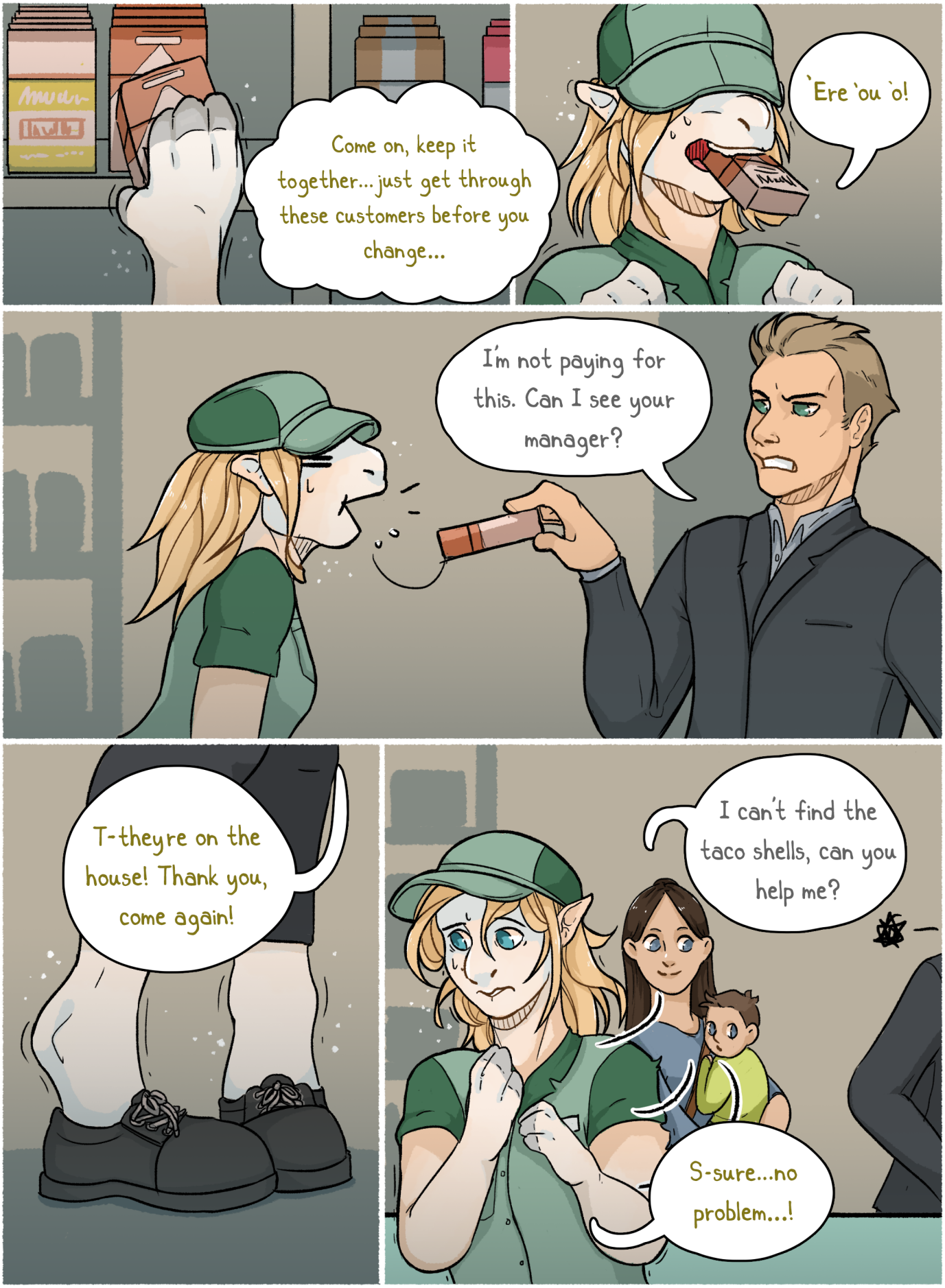

CORNELIA'S TALE
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...really, Lia, it's not that big of a deal.
I read the police report, Cornelia.
It's not that bad!
sigh...
Not bad? A public nudity citation, breaking into a greenhouse?
Yeah. I did worse in college.
The worst you did in college was drop out. You could've been a hell of a botanist.
Im doing just fine in my current career, Lia.
The petroleum industry's where its at. Break's almost over. I'll call you back, Lia.

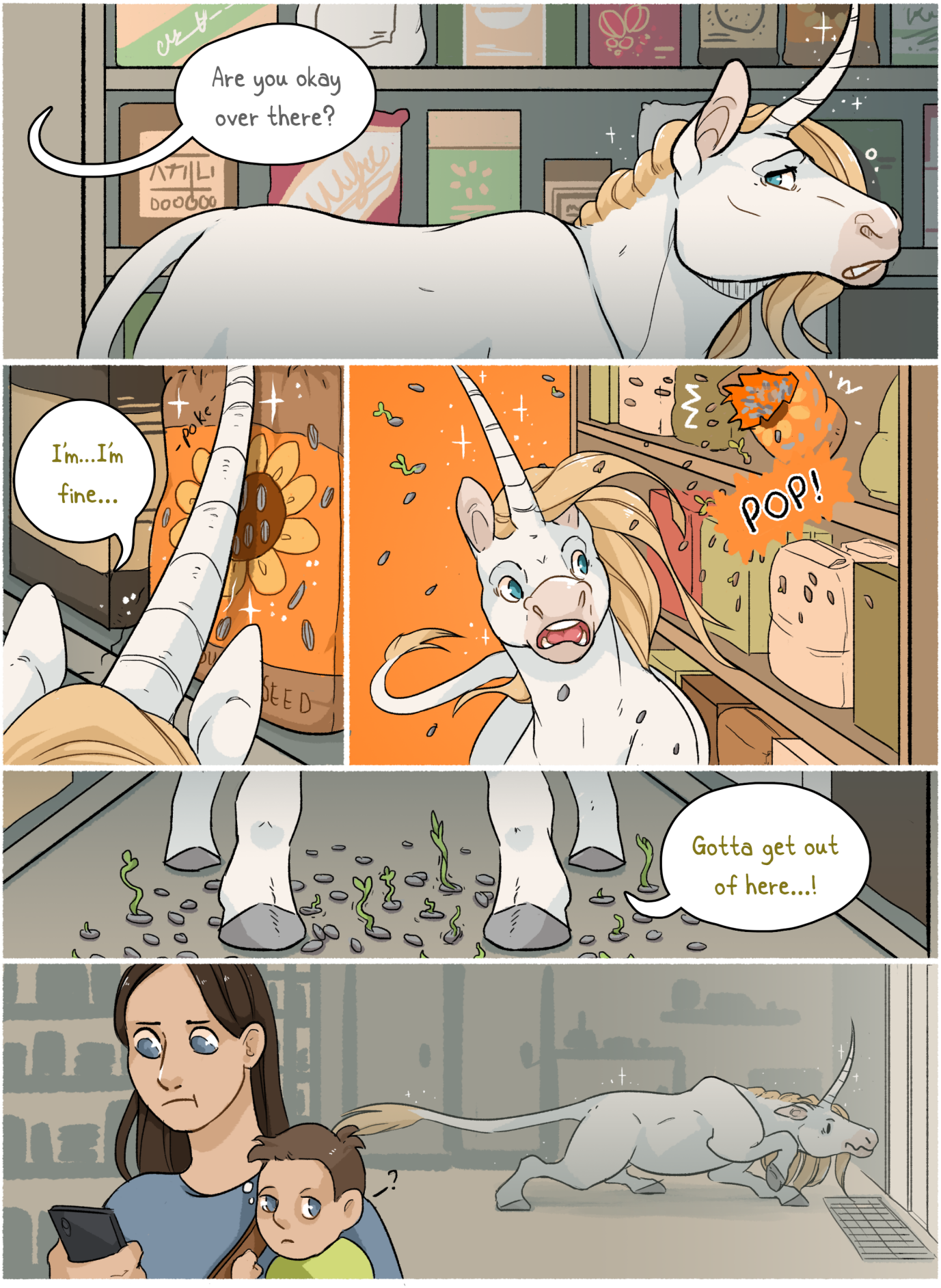

Wait, I thought you said you were the only one there?
A little wait never hurt anybody.
That's the fourth full moon in a row it's happened...what was I thinking, getting caught like that?
Go on, little sprouts! Perk up and be happy!
I've gotta get this under control.
You should smile more! You're too pretty to frown.


This IS my smiling face.
I've seen better smiles on Happy Meals.
You're the Happy Meal here, full of fat and soda pop!
You wanna make something of it?
!
Yeah, that's what I thought!
Crap, not now! It's not even a full moon!
craaap
I need to pay for gas! Get your head out of la-la land, missy!


T-that'll be 18.98.
Let me count out my pennies.
...twentyseven... twentyeight...
That's okay! I'll get the rest from the penny jar! Thank you, come again!
Pack of smokes.
...are you okay?
I'm fine! Really!


Come on, keep it together... just get through these customers before you change...
`Ere `ou `o!
I'm not paying for this. Can I see your manager?
T-theyre on the house! Thank you, come again!
I can't find the taco shells, can you help me?
S-sure...no problem...!

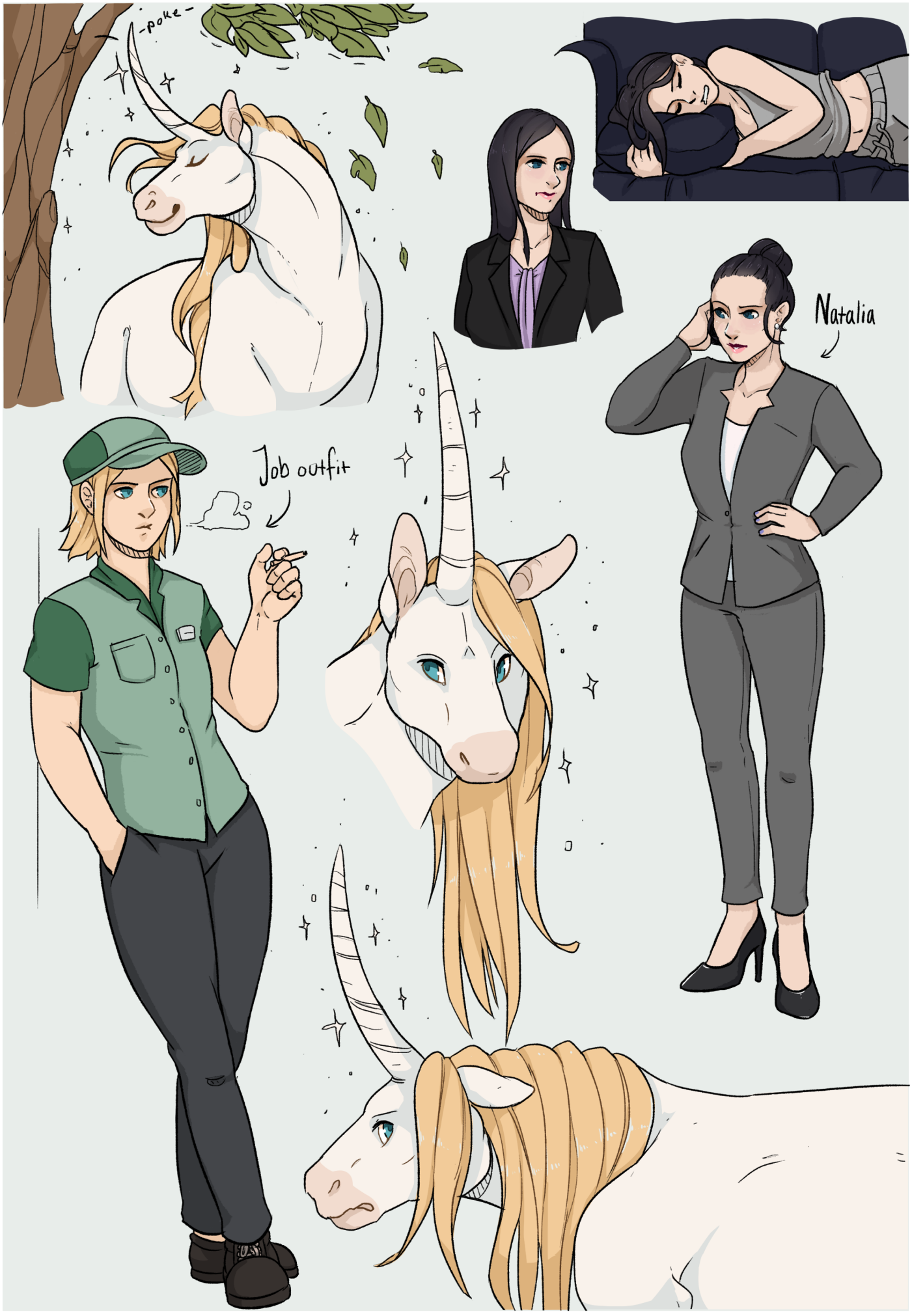

T...taco shells...taco...
N-no!
Ugh!


Are you okay over there?
I'm...I'm fine...
-poke
POP!
Gotta get out of here...!

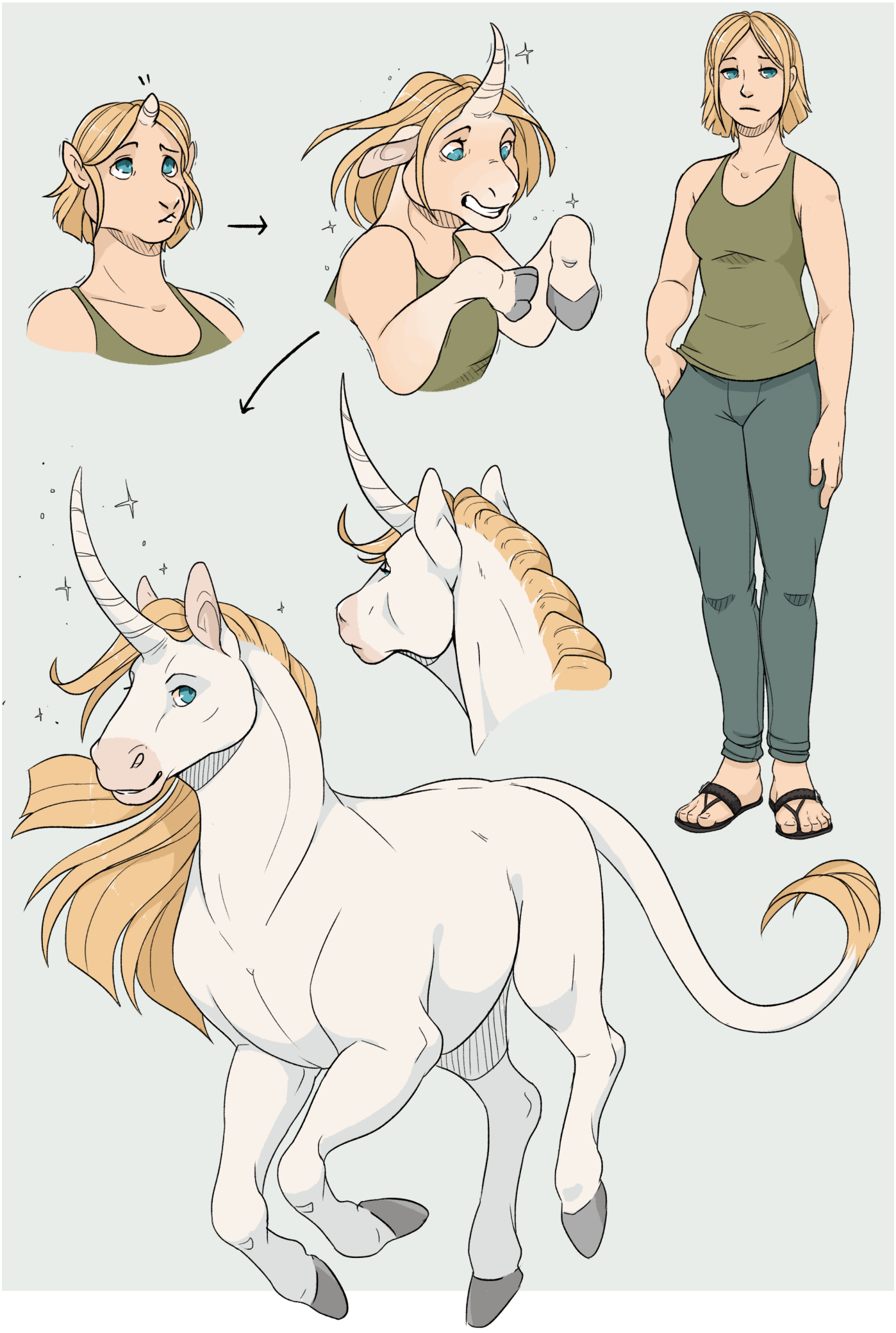

Mommy, look! Unicorn!
?
Just a little further, c'mon...
opps
Crap, crap, crap!
!
boink


Oops...but its so pretty!
Hi there! Help yourself to some yummy sunflowers!
?!
Not my best escape, but...time to find some more sad plants to rescue!

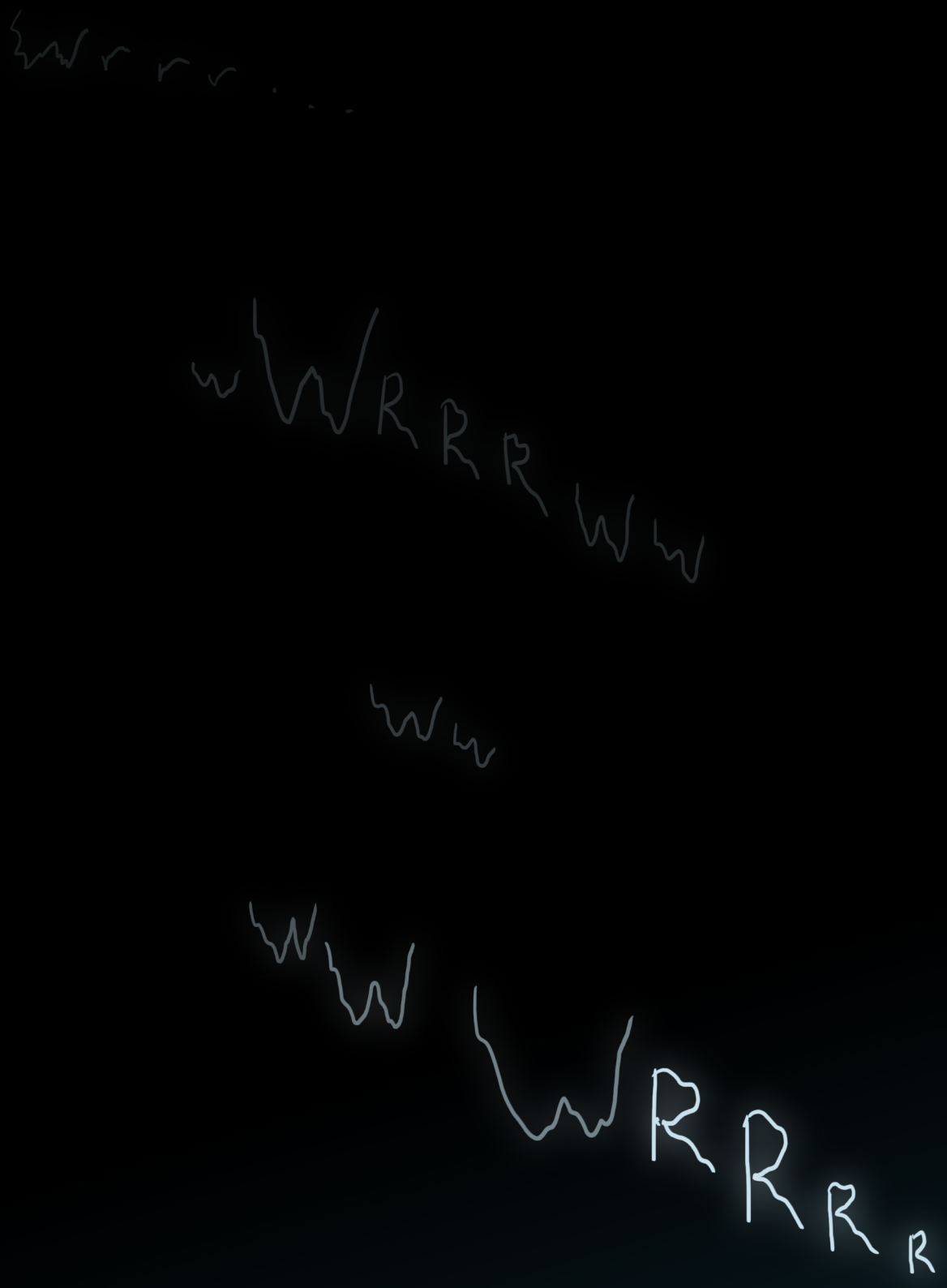

THE NEXT MORNING
URK!
...crap. I hope I didn't just lose my job.
LATER
DAILY NEWS
Plant bandit strikes again - local gas station attacked!
Heroic station attendant feared kidnapped!
END.


-poke-
Natalia
Job outfit

Cornelia, human → unicorn.




CORNELIA'S TALE
STORY BY NOTHERE
ILLUSTRATIONS BY QUIHNN
2018
QUIHNN




NATALIE
out of buisness, SALE!
CLOSED
CLOSED

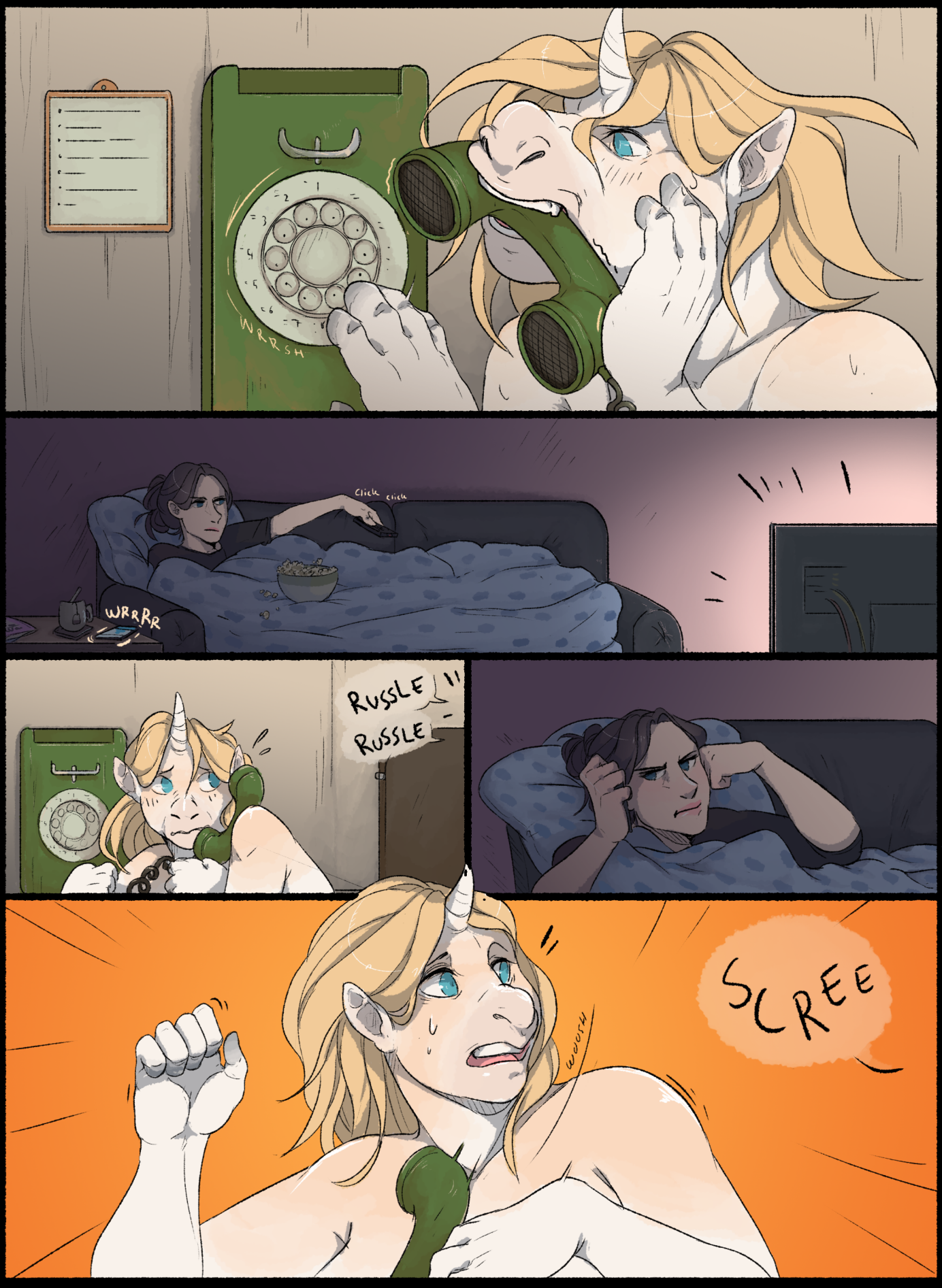

WOOSH
WRR
WRRRR
CLICK


CLICK
POP!
WOOSH
JUMP
JUMP
SCRRR
GROW
..?



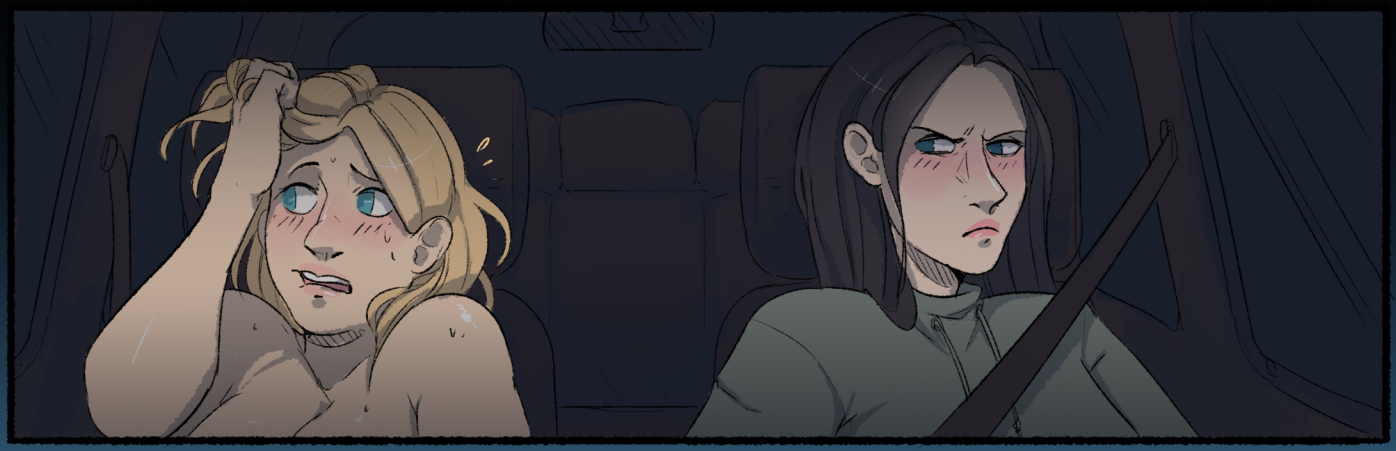

RUSTLE
RUSSSLE
RUSSLE
RUSSLE
RUSSLE
SNAP!
WOOSH
THUD!


SHAKE
THUMMBB!
HNNG
Huff
Huff
Huff
wOoble
HA!
WOOSH
WOOSH
...?
OFFICE


WRRSH
click click
WRRRR
RUSSLE
RUSSLE
SCREE
WOOSH


WAAM!
?
PHEW
SSS
SRRR
WOOOSH
...
...

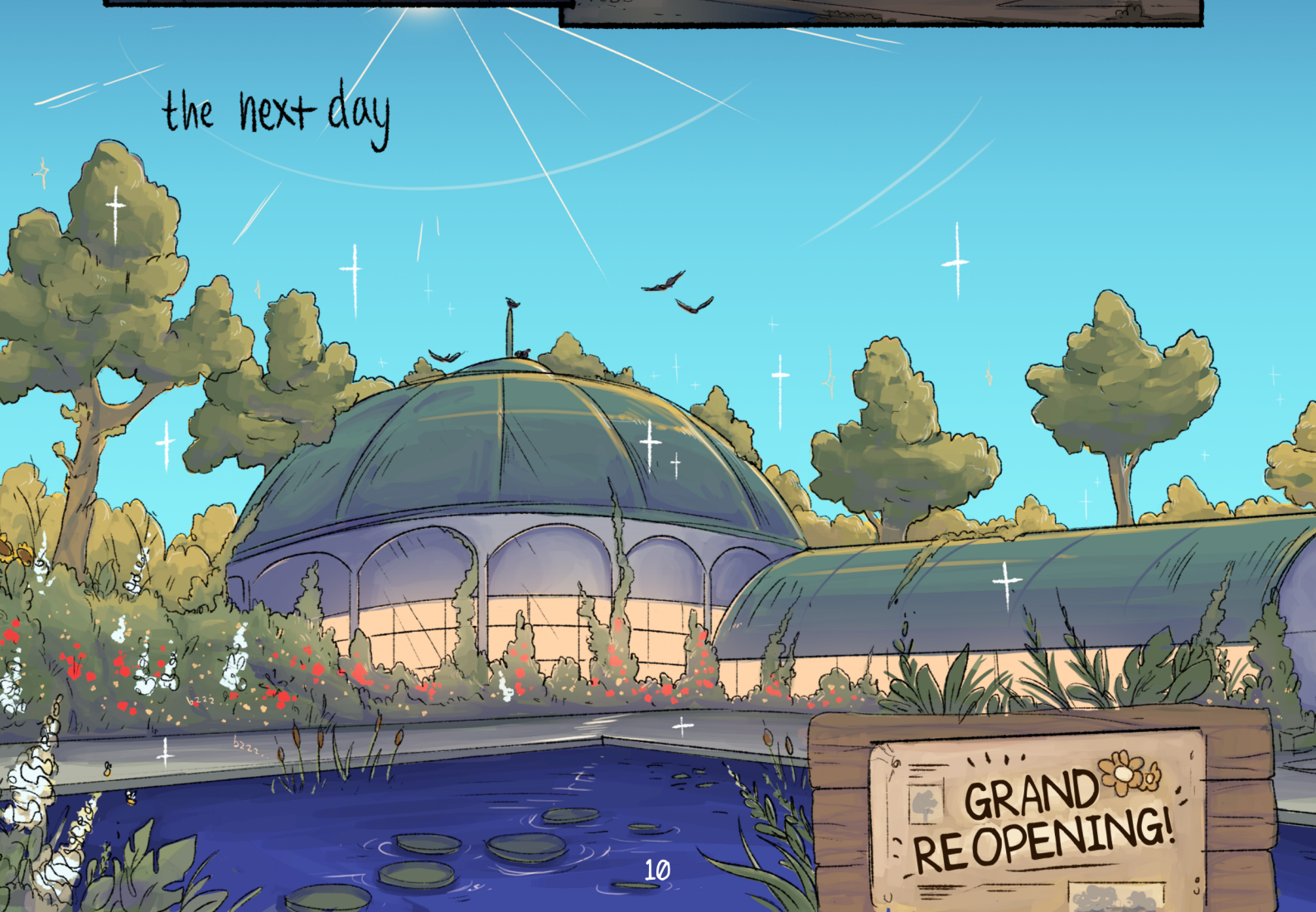

SRR
SRRR
SERR
WOSH
WOSH
RUSSLE
!
WOSSM
WRRR
Huff
Huff
WOOH
SCREE
SCREEE



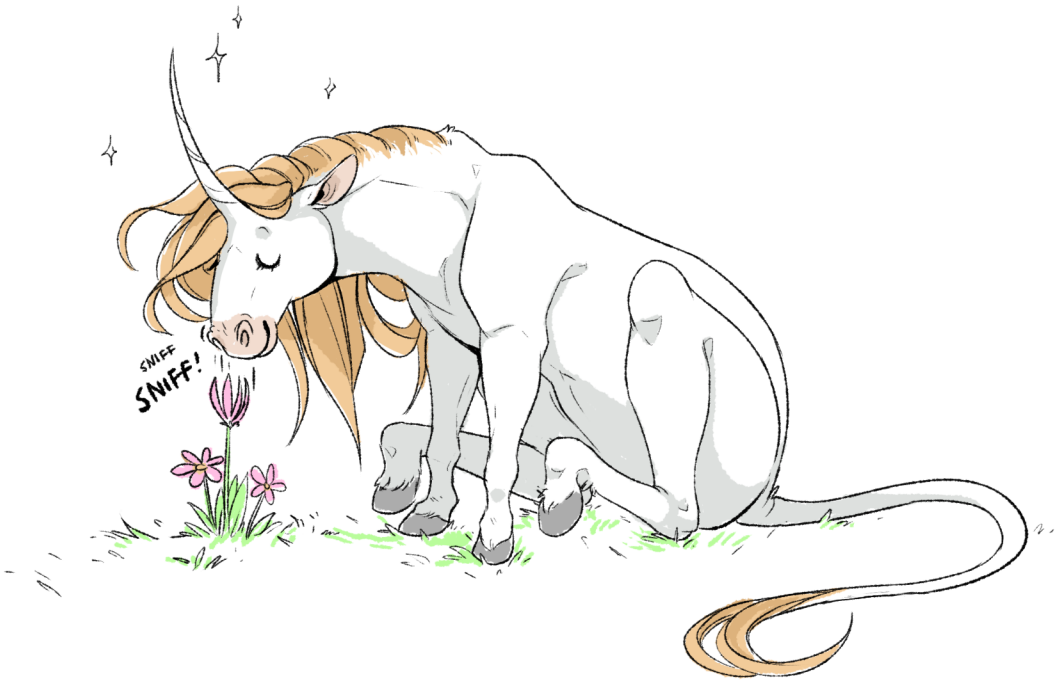




the next day



The end



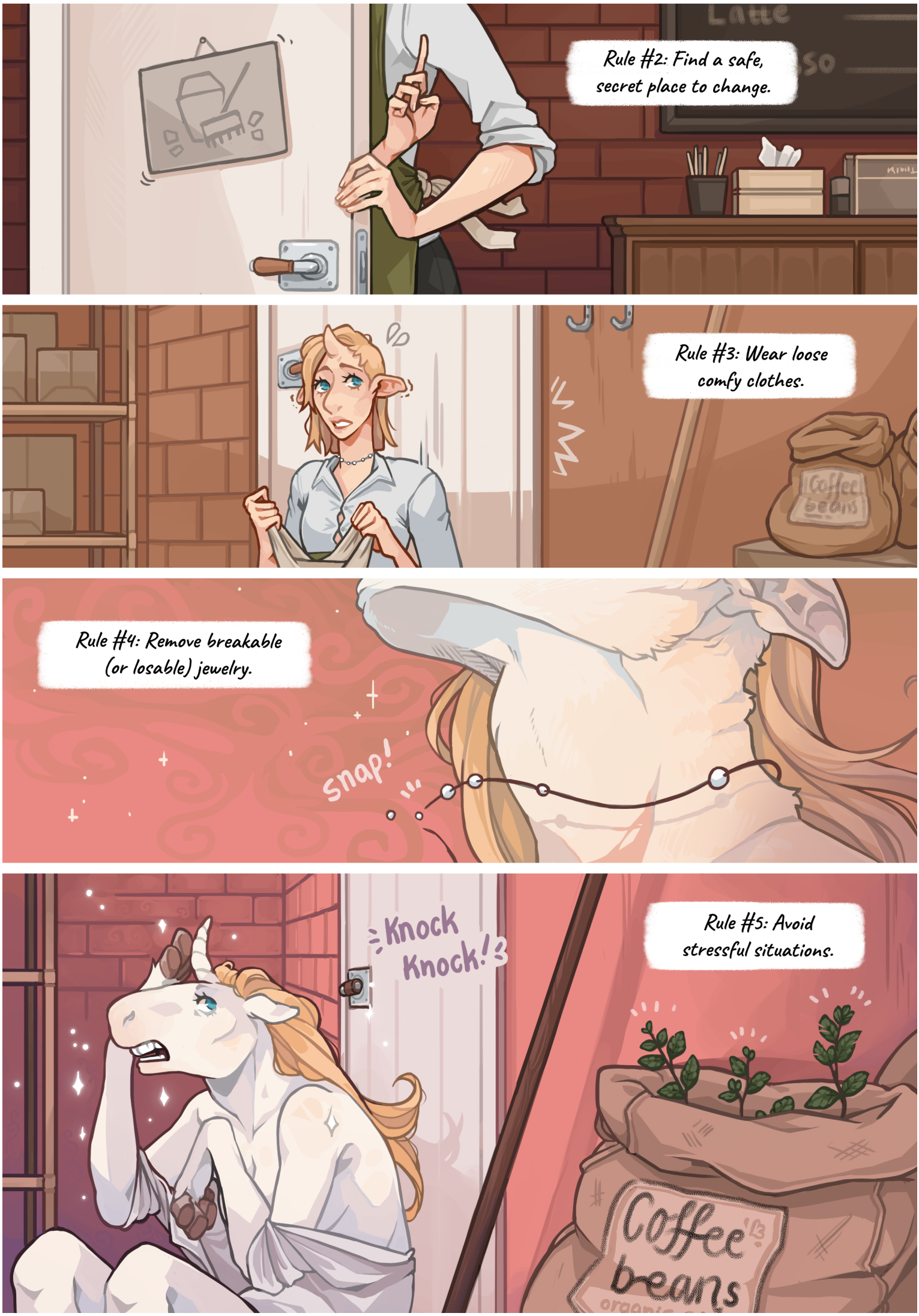
Cornelia's Tale

writer Nothere
artist Quihnn

2024

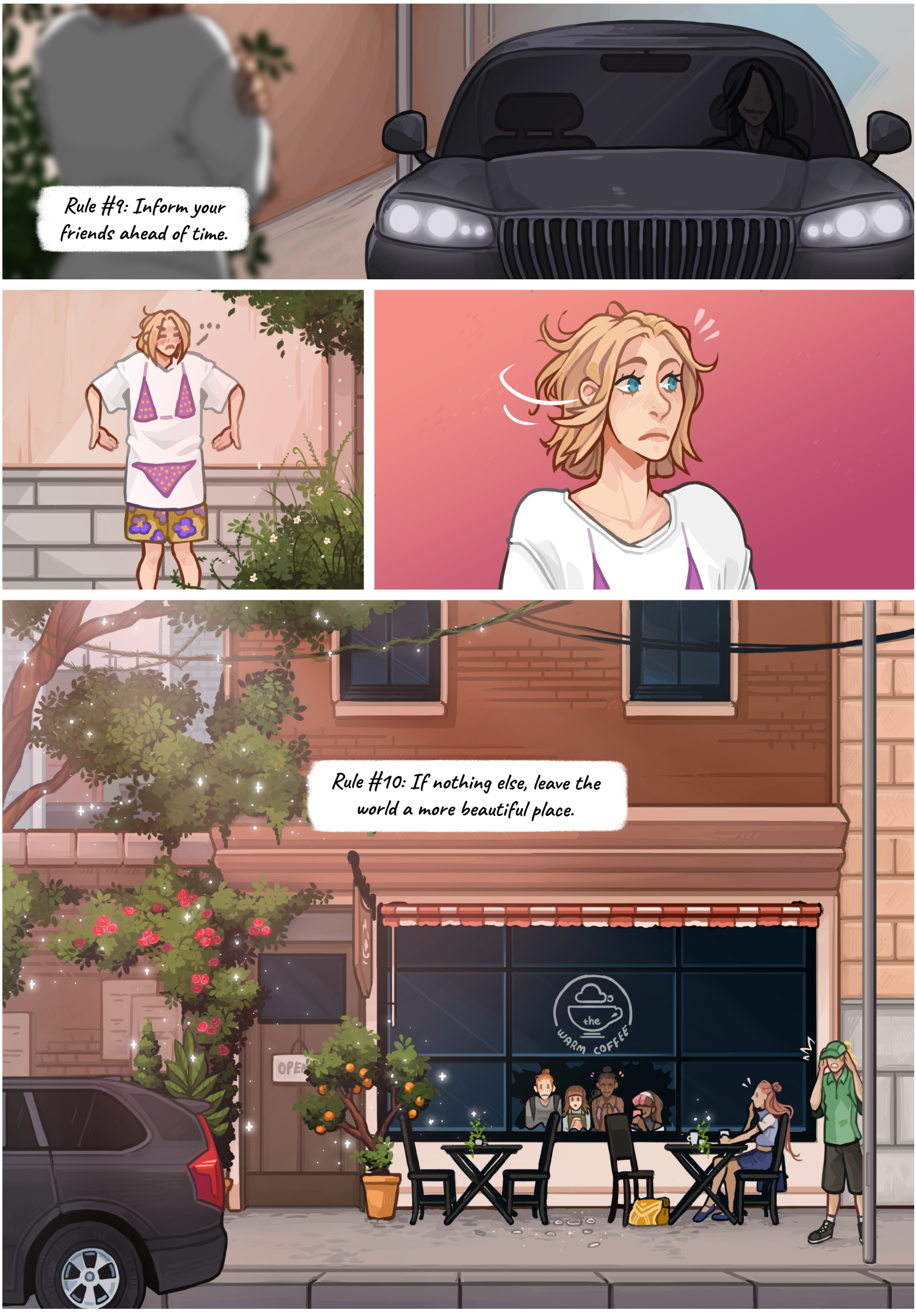



My name's Cornelia Uxbridge. Nell to my friends, so you can call me Cornelia.
I've been a wereunicorn for about five years now, and it's not easy. Luckily, I've come up with some foolproof rules to help out.
OPEN
the WARM COFFEE
POP
Paid
Rule #1: Keep a LOW profile.


Rule #2: Find a safe, secret place to change.
Rule #3: Wear loose comfy clothes.
Coffee beans
Rule #4: Remove breakable (or losable) jewelry.
snap!
Knock Knock!
Rule #5: Avoid stressful situations.
Coffee beans


!?!
Rule #6: Maintain secrecy.
the
CRASH!!
Rule #7: Embrace the change.


Rule #8: Keep a spare change of clothes.
IOU one cool outfit
- Nell


Rule #9: Inform your friends ahead of time.
Rule #10: If nothing else, leave the world a more beautiful place.
the WARM COFFEE