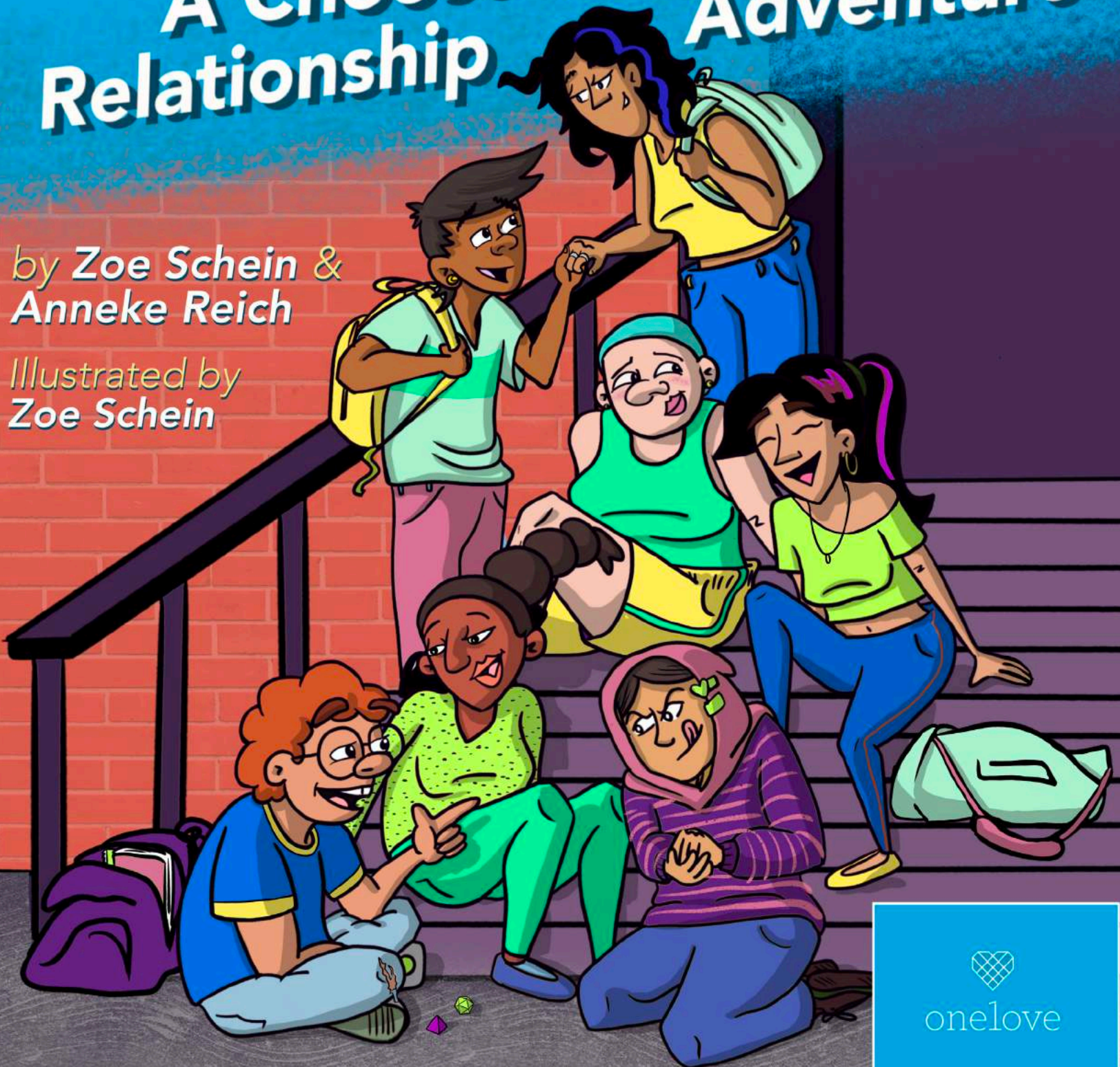


LOVE IS LEARNED

A Choose-Your-Own Relationship Adventure

by Zoe Schein &
Anneke Reich

Illustrated by
Zoe Schein



onelove

ABOUT THE ONE LOVE FOUNDATION

The One Love Foundation is dedicated to improving the relationship health of future generations by empowering young people to identify and avoid abuse. The nonprofit organization has educated millions of young people through educational workshops, both in-person and online, by teaching them the signs of unhealthy and healthy relationships.

For more information, visit www.joinonelove.org.

Copyright © 2023 The One Love Foundation In Honor Of Yeardeley Love, Inc. All rights reserved.

The trademarks ONE LOVE, the Heart Logo, and LOVE IS LEARNED, and all other names, logos, and icons identifying The One Love Foundation In Honor Of Yeardeley Love, Inc. ("One Love") and/or One Love's products and services are proprietary marks of One Love. Other product and company names mentioned herein may be the trademarks of their respective owners.

Characters inspired by original artwork by Kristian Mercado.

LOVE IS LEARNED

A Choose-Your-Own Relationship Adventure

Zoe Schein & Anneke Reich
Illustrated by Zoe Schein



onelove

Table of Contents:

10 Signs of a Healthy / Unhealthy Relationship.....	ix
Ros and Ari.....	1
Natalia and Jo.....	19
Zach, Zara, and Bailey.....	39



Before you go further, take a look at our 10 Signs of a Healthy and Unhealthy Relationship! Look out for these signs throughout the stories you're about to read.

One Love teaches the difference between healthy and unhealthy relationship behaviors, because everyone can benefit from learning how to love better.

The 10 signs of a healthy relationship— a healthy relationship does not mean a perfect relationship. But we can all strive to love better by practicing these healthy behaviors.

www.joinonelove.org



10 Signs of a Healthy Relationship

Healthy relationships bring out the best in you and make you feel good about yourself. A healthy relationship does not mean a "perfect" relationship, and no one is healthy 100% of the time, but the signs below are behaviors you should strive for in all of your relationships.

Healthy relationships manifest themselves as healthy communication, but in order to have a healthy relationship, you need to love yourself first. Here are some characteristics and behaviors of a healthy relationship.



Comfortable Pace
The relationship moves at a speed that feels enjoyable for each person.



Trust
Confidence that your partner won't do anything to hurt you or ruin the relationship.



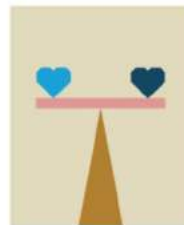
Honesty
You can be truthful and candid without fearing how the other person will respond.



Independence
You have space to be yourself outside of the relationship.



Respect
You value one another's beliefs and opinions, and love one another for who you are as a person.



Equality
The relationship feels balanced and everyone puts the same effort into the success of the relationship.



Kindness
You are caring and empathetic to one another, and provide comfort and support.



Taking Responsibility
Owning your own actions and words.



Healthy Conflict
Openly and respectfully discussing issues and confronting disagreements non-judgmentally.



Fun
You enjoy spending time together and bring out the best in each other.

Learn more at joinonelove.org





10 Signs of an Unhealthy Relationship

While everyone does unhealthy things sometimes, we can all learn to love better by recognizing unhealthy signs and shifting to healthy behaviors. If you are seeing unhealthy signs in your relationship, it's important to not ignore them and understand they can escalate to abuse. If you think you are in a dangerous situation, trust your gut and get help.



Intensity
When someone expresses very extreme feelings and over-the-top behavior that feels overwhelming.



Possessiveness
When someone is jealous to a point where they try to control who you spend time with and what you do.



Manipulation
When someone tries to control your decisions, actions or emotions.



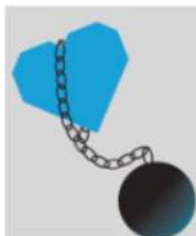
Isolation
When someone keeps you away from friends, family, or other people.



Sabotage
When someone purposely ruins your reputation, achievements, or success.



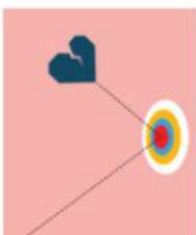
Belittling
When someone does and says things to make you feel bad about yourself.



Guilt
When someone makes you feel responsible for their actions or makes you feel like it's your job to keep them happy.



Volatility
When someone has a really strong, unpredictable reaction that makes you feel scared, confused or intimidated.



Deflecting Responsibility
When someone repeatedly makes excuses for their unhealthy behavior.



Betrayal
When someone is disloyal or acts in an intentionally dishonest way.

Learn more at joinonelove.org



onelove

ROS

&

AMI







OH, HERE'S ANOTHER GREAT ONE.



ooo!



POW!



ROLLER DERBY IS SO COOL!

DID YOU KNOW IT WAS THIS COOL?

WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME?!



I DIDN'T THINK YOU'D FEEL THAT WAY!



THE FIRST MONTH WE WERE DATING ALL WE TALKED ABOUT WAS HOW YOU'RE SO **CLUMSY**

YOU SHOULD HAVE YOUR PEDESTRIAN LICENSE REVOKED.



I THINK I'D BE EXCELLENT ON WHEELS!

DON'T YOU THINK IT LOOKS LIKE FUN?



I MEAN, I LIKE SPORTS AND STUFF, BUT I THINK I'D FEEL STUPID TRYING TO LEARN TO SKATE NOW.

... AREN'T WE KIND OF OLD FOR THAT?



THAT'S WHY WE'D DO IT TOGETHER - SO MY WIPEOUTS CAN MAKE YOU LOOK GOOD!



I BET THERE'S A BEST WIPEOUTS COMPILATION!







A COUPLE WEEKS LATER...



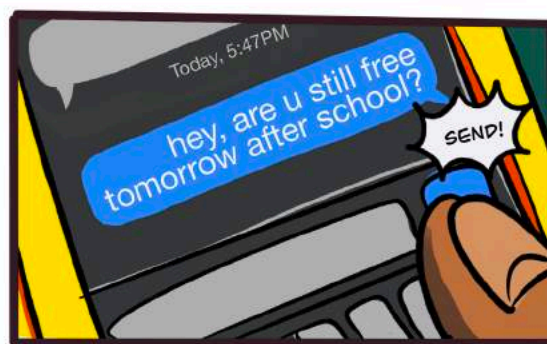
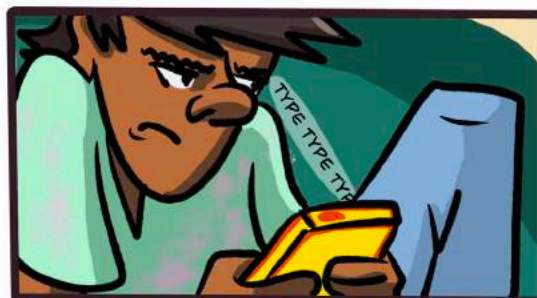
THE NEXT DAY...



DID YOU SEE ON DAMON'S STORY THAT WE WENT TO THE THRIFT STORE YESTERDAY?

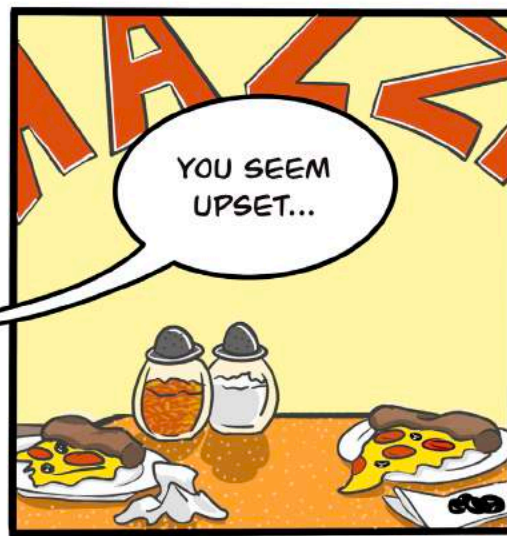


UH-HUH.



GO TO PAGE 9 IF YOU THINK ARI SHOULD CONFRONT ROS ABOUT WHAT SHE DID IMMEDIATELY.

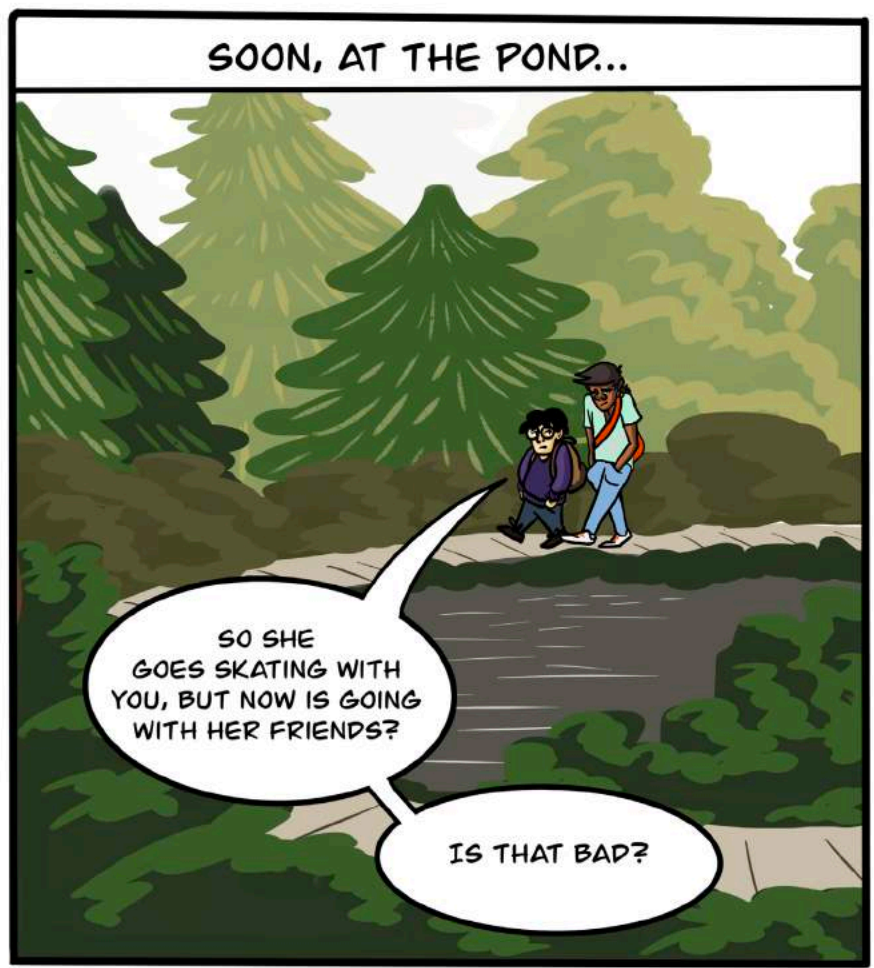
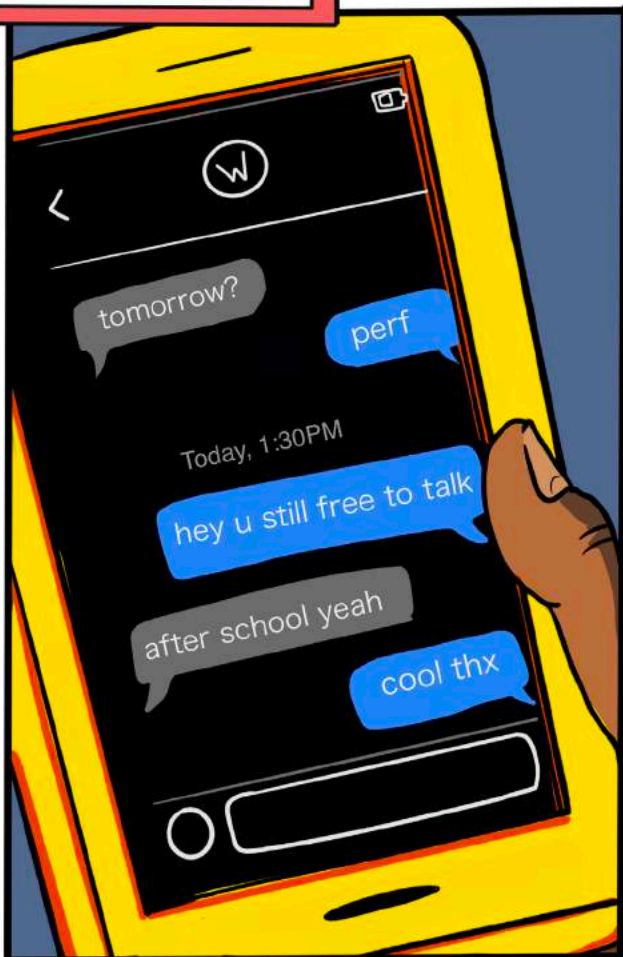
GO TO PAGE 11 IF ARI SHOULD TALK TO A FRIEND AND SORT OUT THEIR FEELINGS BEFORE TALKING TO ROS.

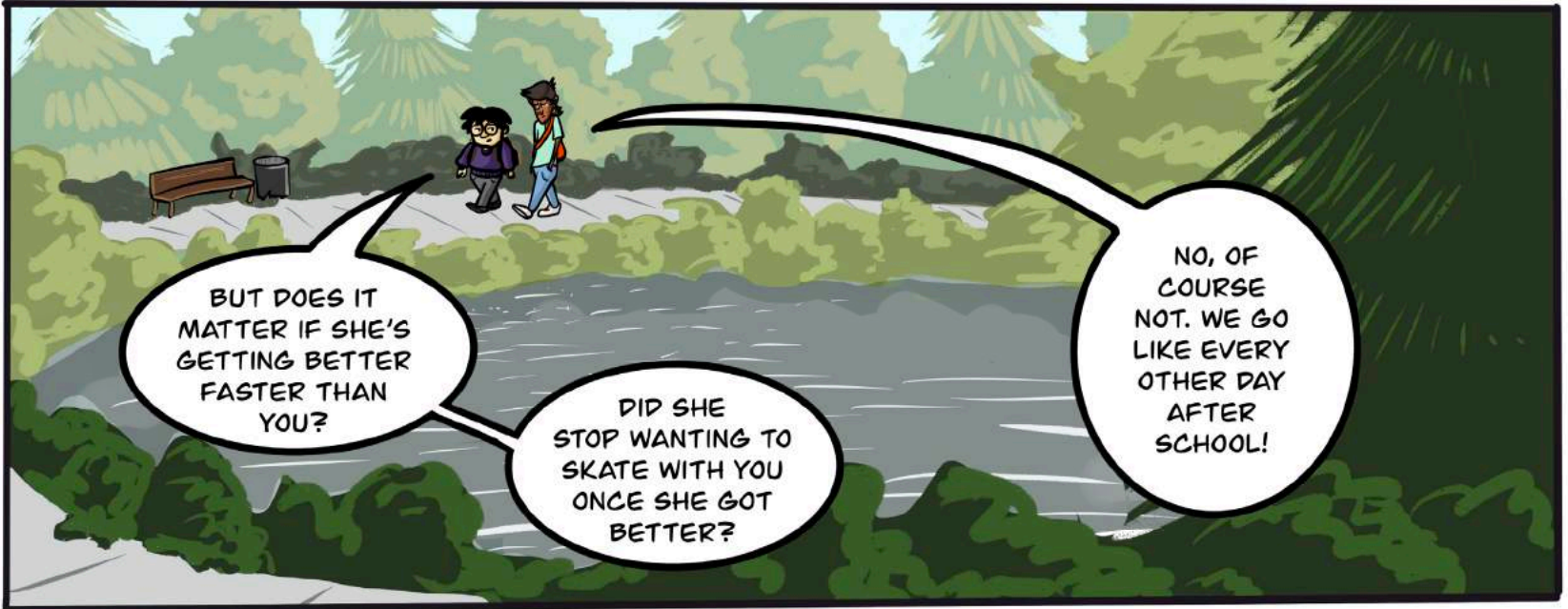






START HERE IF ARI WAS TEXTING THEIR FRIEND, WEI





BUT DOES IT MATTER IF SHE'S GETTING BETTER FASTER THAN YOU?

DID SHE STOP WANTING TO SKATE WITH YOU ONCE SHE GOT BETTER?

NO, OF COURSE NOT. WE GO LIKE EVERY OTHER DAY AFTER SCHOOL!



SO SHE GOES WITH YOU AND ALSO WITH HER FRIENDS?

YEAH... I GUESS I JUST WANTED TO GET GOOD TOO.

AND LIKE, I WANTED HER TO THINK I WAS GOOD AT IT, I GUESS... AND TO, YOU KNOW, HELP HER...



I KNOW THAT'S STUPID.



I DON'T THINK IT'S STUPID... BUT DOES HER SKATING WITH OTHER PEOPLE MAKE IT WORSE WHEN YOU'RE TOGETHER?

NOT REALLY... I JUST FEEL... JEALOUS, I GUESS.



YEAH, THAT'S REAL.

BUT SHE'S NOT REALLY DOING ANYTHING WRONG, RIGHT? SHE'S JUST HANGING OUT WITH HER FRIENDS...

I THOUGHT THAT WAS SOMETHING YOU LIKED ABOUT ROS - THAT YOU BOTH DO YOUR OWN THING.



YEAH - I GUESS IT'S PRETTY COOL THAT ROS IS SO CHILL AND LIKE...

... DOESN'T CHECK IN WITH ME ABOUT EVERY LITTLE THING.



YEAH, FOR SURE. JUST MAYBE DON'T PUT THAT JEALOUSY ON ROS, YOU KNOW?

YEAH, I GUESS I NEED TO WORK ON THAT A LITTLE.







WOAH - CAN YOU SHOW ME THAT AGAIN?

LOOKING BACK...

After buying skates for their girlfriend so they could learn to rollerblade together, Ari starts to feel insecure and sad while watching Ros post about skating with her friends (and improving her skills). Ari acted distant and weird to Ros when they next saw each other, which confused Ros – she didn't know why Ari was suddenly acting differently. Then, Ari made a decision:

IF YOU CHOSE TO SEE WHAT HAPPENED IF ARI WENT STRAIGHT TO TEXTING ROS...

Ari and Ros met up, and Ari ended up taking their feelings out on Ros. Ari made Ros feel guilty for skating with her friends, making her feel like it was her fault for making Ari feel sad.



If Ari had taken time to process their feelings before talking to Ros, things might have turned out differently. They may have realized that although their feelings were real, they weren't Ros's fault. Ros didn't do anything wrong, and it wasn't on her to make Ari feel less insecure in the relationship.

Ari may have realized that guilt-tripping Ros into skating only with them would only take away something valuable from Ros' life, which isn't something we should want for our partners. We should want our partners to do what makes them happy, even if it's not with us. Respect and independence are essential for healthy relationships!

Sometimes, taking a moment to process and understand our feelings and emotions helps us recognize where they're really coming from, and helps us figure out what we're looking for.



IF YOU CHOSE TO READ WHAT HAPPENED IF ARI TALKED TO THEIR FRIEND FIRST...

Ari felt overwhelmed, so they texted their good friend Wei to meet up and figure out what to do next. Wei helped Ari remember that independence is something that's important to them in their relationship with Ros, and that what Ari really needed was to take a minute to understand why they felt jealous, not to blame what Ros was doing for their feelings or change anything about their relationship.

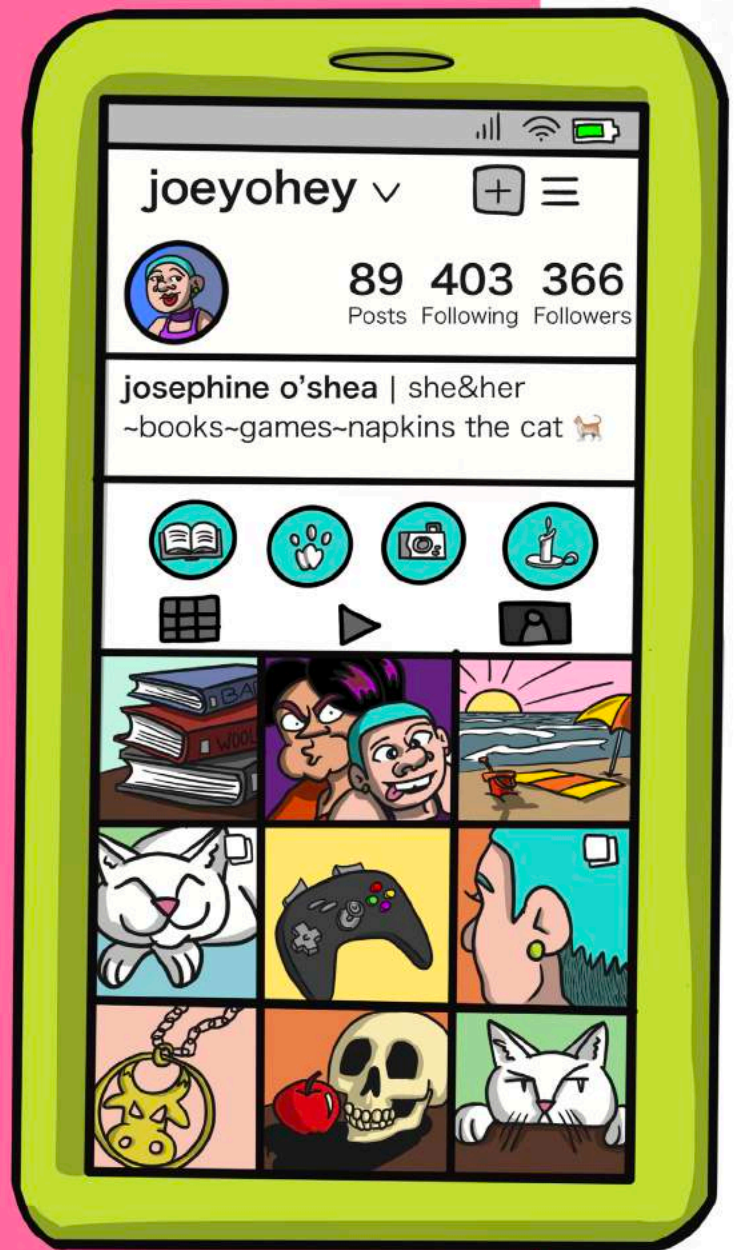
By talking about their feelings honestly, Wei helped Ari figure out that even though their feelings were valid, it wouldn't be fair for Ari to be possessive of Ros by trying to change her choices about how she spent time with friends. After talking with Wei, Ari was able to respond in a healthier way the next time they felt jealous around Ros— instead of being possessive, they took a deep breath and were able to move on and have fun!




onelove

Natalia & JO







YES! AND THE PART WHERE SHE CONFRONTED HIM WITH THE SWORD?? SO MUCH MORE INTENSE THAN THE ORIGINAL!

SERIOUSLY, THIS MUST BE THE FIRST TIME IN HISTORY THAT CGI HAS ACTUALLY IMPROVED A REMAKE.



LIKE REMEMBER THE ONE WITH THE CATS?



NOT IF I CAN HELP IT!



HA!
HA!
HA!
HA!



HEY JO, CAN I ASK YOU A QUESTION?

YEAH, WHAT'S UP?



WELL I KNOW WE'RE FRIENDS, AND I LOVE THAT!

I HAVE SUCH A GOOD TIME WITH YOU, AND... HONESTLY?

I THINK YOU'RE REALLY HOT!



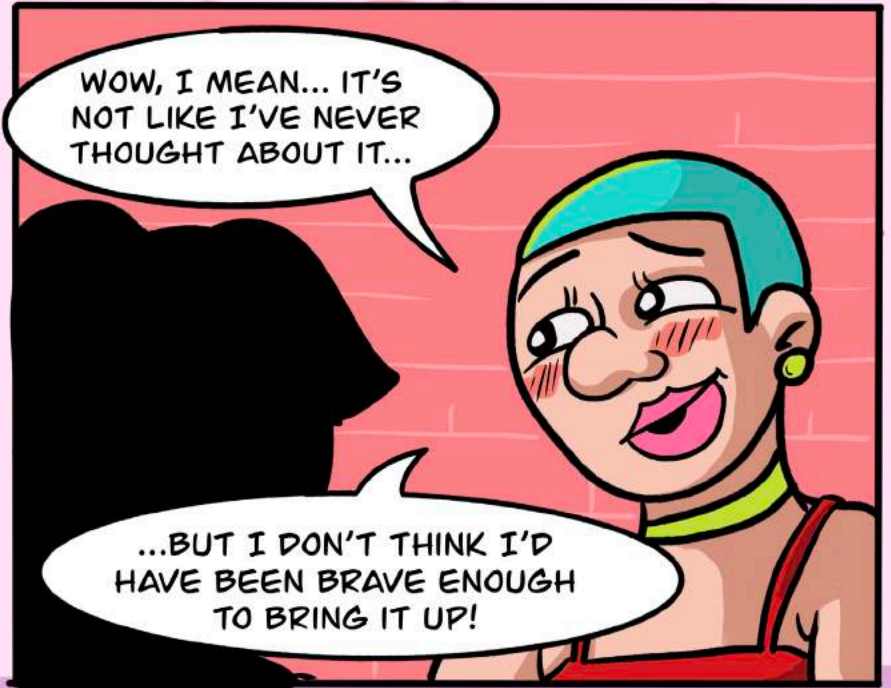
I GUESS I WAS WONDERING IF YOU WANTED TO BE, LIKE... FRIENDS WHO HOOK UP SOMETIMES?



NO WORRIES
IF NOT!

I JUST
FEEL REALLY
COMFORTABLE
WITH YOU, AND
IF YOU'RE INTO
IT...

I THINK IT
COULD BE
REALLY FUN!



WOW, I MEAN... IT'S
NOT LIKE I'VE NEVER
THOUGHT ABOUT IT...

...BUT I DON'T THINK I'D
HAVE BEEN BRAVE ENOUGH
TO BRING IT UP!



YEAH,
I'D BE
INTO
THAT.



COOOOL.
COOL.
COOL.

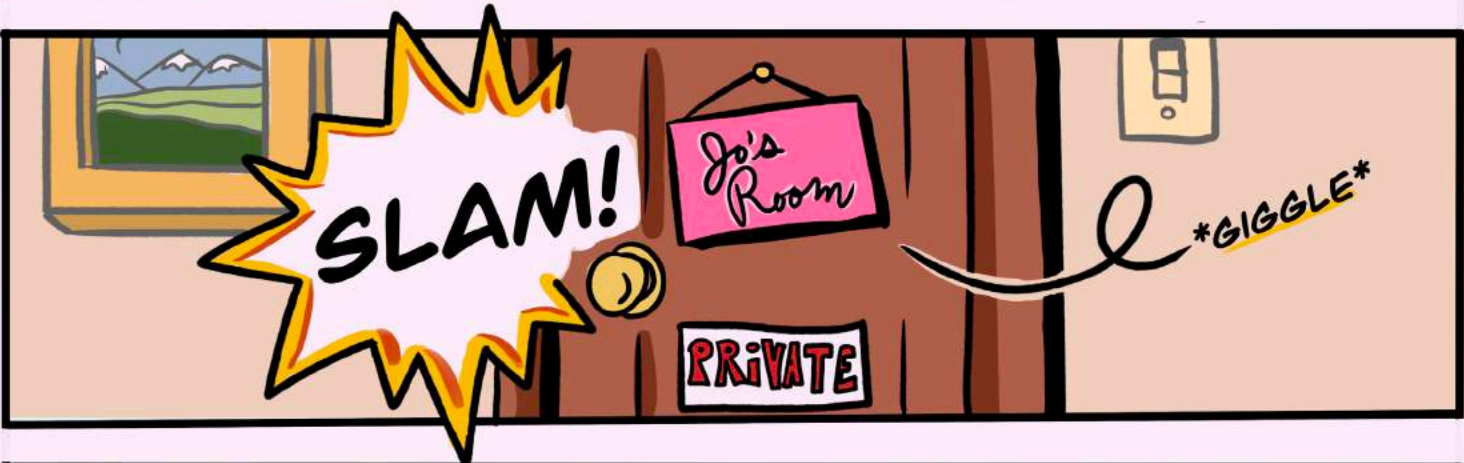


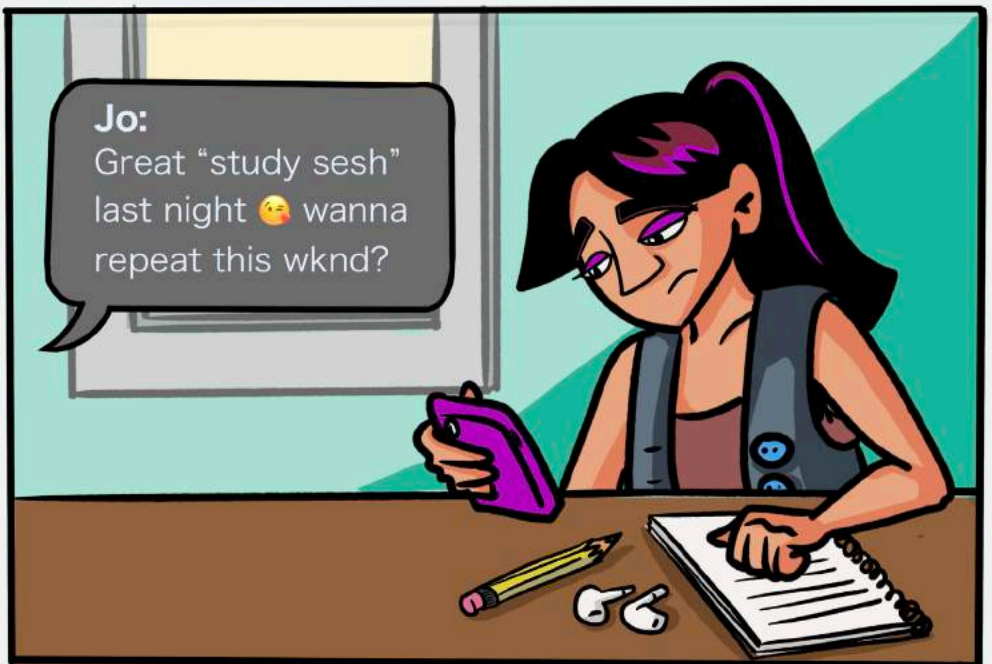
SO...
CAN I
KISS
YOU?



YEAH, YOU CAN
TOTALLY KISS ME.

OVER THE NEXT FEW WEEKS...





START HERE FOR NATALIA TO TALK THINGS OVER WITH A FRIEND.



OKAY! GOT THE FOOD. WHAT WERE YOU SAYING ABOUT JO?

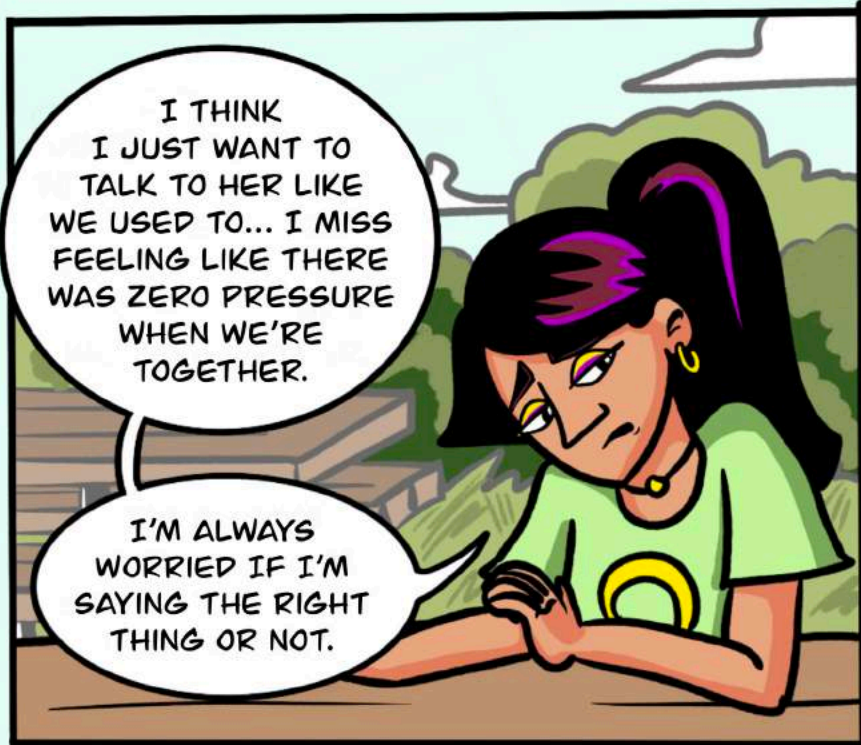
THANKS, ROS. I WAS JUST SAYING THAT, I DON'T KNOW, IT FEELS REALLY DIFFERENT THAN IT DID IN THE BEGINNING.



I GUESS... AT FIRST, HOOKING UP FELT A LOT LIKE OUR FRIENDSHIP. IT WAS REALLY EASY AND COMFORTABLE AND FUN. BUT NOW...

IT'S JUST STARTED TO FEEL LIKE MORE PRESSURE.

I USED TO FEEL REALLY EXCITED TO HANG OUT WITH HER, BUT NOW WHEN SHE MESSAGES ME, I JUST GET KIND OF STRESSED.





I GUESS I'D WANT HER TO BE HONEST WITH ME...

I WOULD FEEL WORSE IF SHE WAS JUST PRETENDING TO BE INTO ME TO SPARE MY FEELINGS OR SOMETHING...



I'M SORRY, NAT. THIS IS REALLY TOUGH, BUT I THINK YOU'RE RIGHT THAT BEING STRAIGHT WITH HER IS THE RIGHT CALL.

YOU CAN TEXT ME AFTER YOU GUYS TALK IF YOU WANT... I KNOW IT MIGHT BE A HARD CONVERSATION.



THANKS, ROS. I'LL PROBABLY TAKE YOU UP ON THAT... I JUST FEEL SO AWKWARD ABOUT THIS.

YOU WANT SOME FRIES?

SOON, AT JO'S HOUSE...



SO YOUR TEXT SAID YOU WANTED TO CHECK IN ABOUT SOMETHING?



YEAH... AND I GUESS I'VE BEEN A LITTLE NERVOUS TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT IT...



THAT'S OKAY, NAT. WHAT'S UP?

I GUESS I'VE BEEN FEELING LIKE... IT MIGHT FEEL BETTER TO ME IF WE WENT BACK TO BEING REGULAR FRIENDS.

I'VE REALLY LIKED HOOKING UP WITH YOU, BUT LATELY IT JUST HASN'T BEEN FEELING RIGHT.

I CARE ABOUT YOU AND OUR RELATIONSHIP AND I DON'T WANT TO HURT YOU... BUT MY HEART JUST ISN'T IN IT ANYMORE. I'M SORRY.



OH.

I GUESS I HAD NOTICED THAT THE VIBE WAS OFF BETWEEN US LATELY... I THOUGHT MAYBE YOU WERE STRESSED ABOUT SCHOOL, OR EVEN THAT I WAS IMAGINING IT.



... IT ACTUALLY MAKES A LOT OF SENSE NOW THAT I KNOW THIS IS HOW YOU'VE BEEN FEELING.



I KNOW I SHOULD HAVE BROUGHT IT UP SOONER... AND I SHOULDN'T HAVE KEPT HOOKING UP WITH YOU ONCE I STARTED TO FEEL WEIRD ABOUT IT.

I'M SORRY - I KNOW THAT CAN'T HAVE FELT GOOD FOR YOU.





I ALSO KNOW IT'S KIND OF CONFUSING SINCE I STARTED THIS WHOLE MORE THAN FRIENDS THING...

I GET THAT ME ASKING TO STOP IS A LITTLE AWKWARD SINCE I ASKED YOU TO START.

I REALLY NEVER WANTED TO HURT YOU, BUT I KNOW I DID... AND I'M REALLY SORRY, JO.

YEAH, MAYBE YOU SHOULD HAVE BROUGHT IT UP SOONER...



... BUT I APPRECIATE THE APOLOGY.



...

SO... DO YOU THINK WE COULD GO BACK TO BEING JUST FRIENDS?

I DO REALLY WANT THAT...

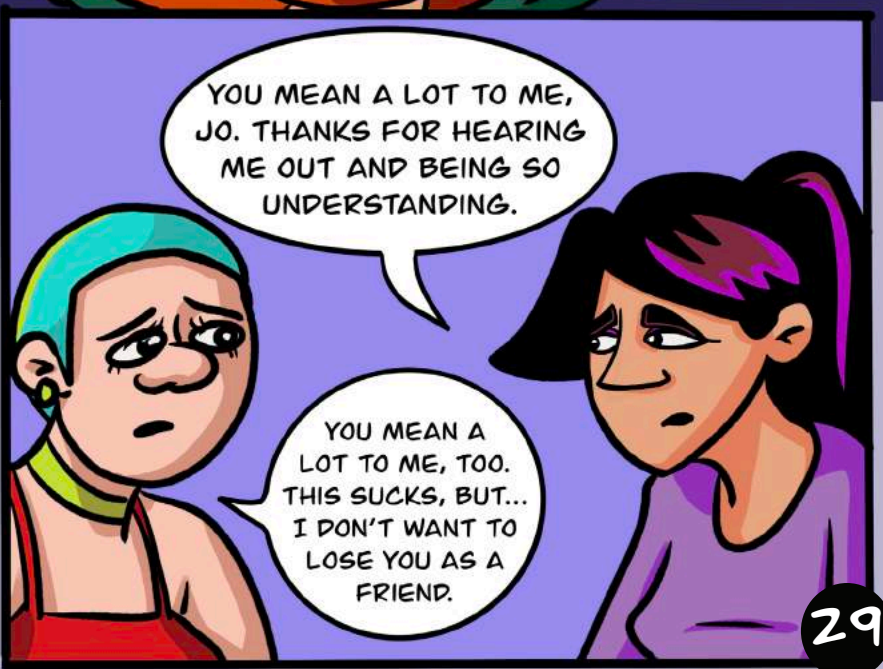
... BUT I MIGHT NEED SOME TIME TO RESET BEFORE I'M READY TO HANG OUT LIKE WE USED TO.



I GET THAT.

MAYBE I COULD TEXT YOU IN A FEW WEEKS AND WE CAN SEE WHERE WE'RE BOTH AT?

THAT SOUNDS LIKE A GOOD PLAN.



YOU MEAN A LOT TO ME, JO. THANKS FOR HEARING ME OUT AND BEING SO UNDERSTANDING.

YOU MEAN A LOT TO ME, TOO. THIS SUCKS, BUT... I DON'T WANT TO LOSE YOU AS A FRIEND.

START HERE FOR NAT TO
SEE HOW HER FEELINGS
FOR JO SHAKE OUT!

Jo:

i think im gonna blow
off studying for the
math quiz, tho - angie
and wei want to play
video games lol

Nat:

oh yeah angie texted
me - i might go too!

Jo:

the funniest thing
happened in free period
- remind me to tell you
after lunch! Did you get
your lit paper back?

Jo:

Open.Spotify.com

Jo:

I found this song i
thought you'd like 💕

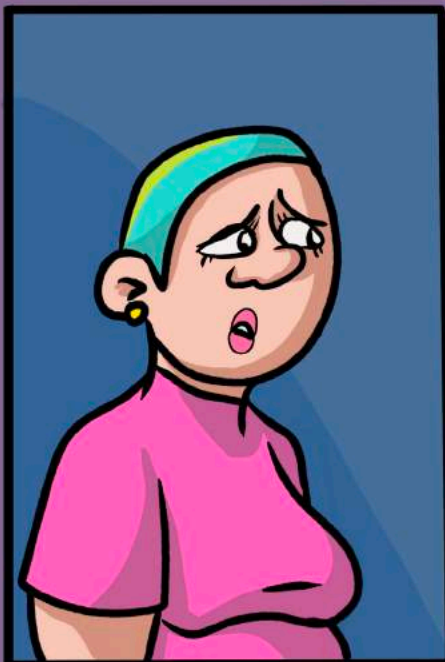
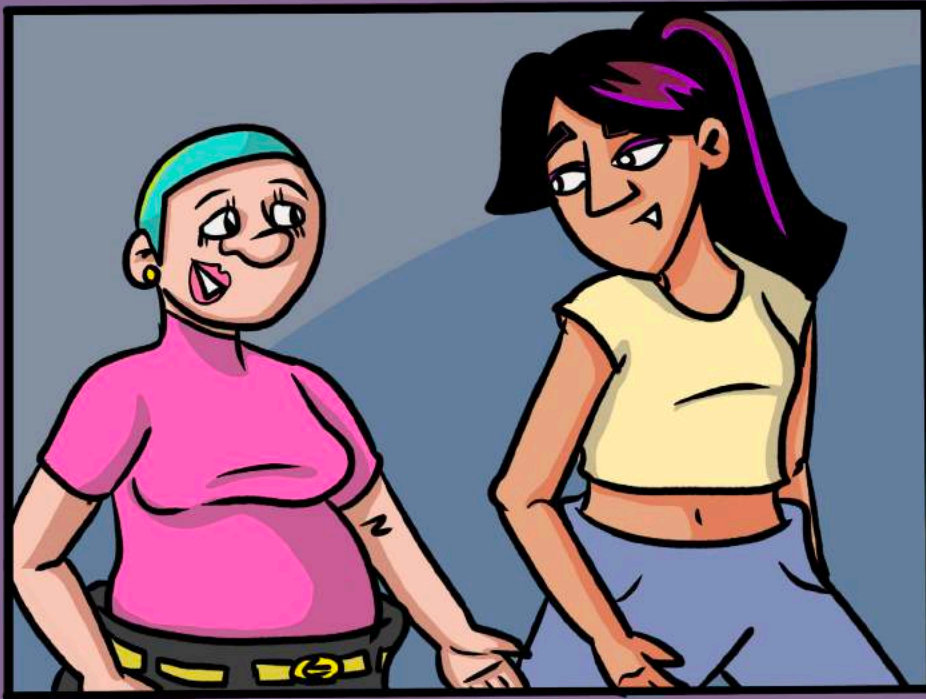
Nat:

cool thanks

Jo:

excited to chill after
school!





Jo:

found an airpod in my bag, did u lose one?

did you want to come to the show on saturday? Angie's getting tickets now

Nat:

no thx

Tuesday, 12:35PM

Jo:

pizza in anime club!

are you gonna come by?

Nat:

sry, having lunch w bailey

oh, ok. hey, remind me to tell you about what happened in chem today - mr. b almost burned down the school lolol

Nat:

haha.



MY BROTHER IS DRIVING UP TO THE SHORE ON SATURDAY - HE SAID HE HAS ROOM IN THE TRUCK. YOU WANNA GO?

UHH, MAYBE. I'LL HAVE TO CHECK.



NAT, WHAT'S WRONG? DON'T TELL ME "NOTHING," YOU'VE BEEN ACTING WEIRD FOR WEEKS!



I CAN'T DO THIS ANYMORE, JO!



YOU WANT TO HANG OUT ALL THE TIME, YOU WANT TO HOOK UP ALL THE TIME!

YOU'RE PUTTING TOO MUCH PRESSURE ON ME AND I CAN'T DO IT!



I... NATALIA, I'M SORRY. I DIDN'T REALIZE YOU FELT THAT WAY.



WELL, I DO.

... SO YOU'VE JUST BEEN HOOKING UP WITH ME THIS WHOLE TIME...



EVEN THOUGH YOU DIDN'T...

... WANT TO?



WELL, WHAT WAS I SUPPOSED TO DO? IT'S NOT LIKE I COULD JUST TELL YOU NO!

REALLY? WHY NOT?



YOU WERE JUST SO INTO IT! I COULDN'T HURT YOU LIKE THAT!



I NEVER WANTED YOU TO FEEL LIKE YOU COULDN'T SAY NO TO ME...


OBVIOUSLY YOU DON'T HAVE TO LIKE ME LIKE THAT...



THEN I DON'T GET WHY YOU'RE UPSET WITH ME.



WHAT AM I EVEN SAYING? I KNEW SHE WAS GOING TO BE UPSET... I'D BE UPSET TOO! WHY AM I BEING SUCH A JERK?



I MEAN, IT'S NOT THAT IT HAD TO GO ON FOREVER, BUT HOOKING UP WAS YOUR IDEA, YOU KNOW.



AND YOU LITERALLY JUST SAID THAT IT DIDN'T HAVE TO BE FOREVER.


DID YOU THINK IT SHOULD HAVE LED TO SOMETHING MORE?



OH MY GOD, I'M HONESTLY CONFUSING MYSELF NOW. WHO EVEN AM I RIGHT NOW? WHAT AM I DOING? THIS ISN'T ME...




IT'S NOT LIKE YOU EVER ACTUALLY SAID YOU WANTED THAT...



I JUST... I WISH YOU'D TOLD ME SOONER, LIKE WHEN YOU REALIZED YOU WEREN'T INTO HOOKING UP ANYMORE..

I'D RATHER KNOW THAT THAN HOOK UP WHEN YOU DON'T WANT TO...



WELL, NOW YOU KNOW.

I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU WANT ME TO DO ABOUT IT.

LOOKING BACK...

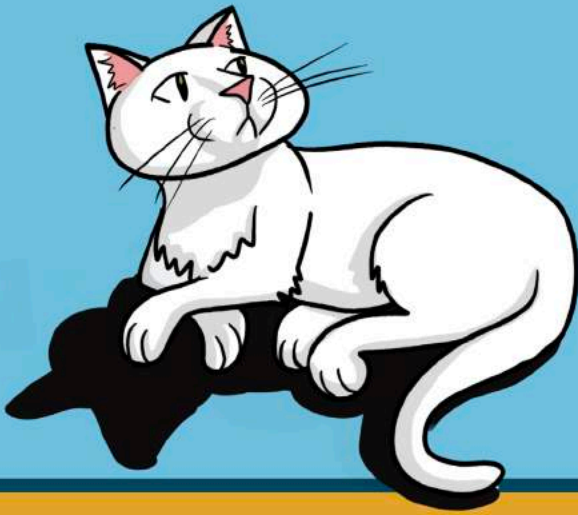
Natalia and Jo are in a bit of a complicated situation. They clearly care about one another and had enough trust and respect in their friendship to enter into something kind of tricky by starting to hook up and introduce a new layer of intimacy into their relationship. However, they didn't set out boundaries with each other ahead of time about what their expectations would be, and their feelings about what they wanted (and needed) from one another clearly began to change over time.

IF YOU CHOSE TO SEE WHAT HAPPENED IF NATALIA TALKED TO HER FRIEND ROS...

Natalia courageously opened up to her friend Ros about her "situationship" with Jo, which probably felt like an awkward conversation to start but really paid off. With zero judgment, Ros helped Natalia work through her feelings. They realized that the most respectful thing to do was for Natalia to be honest with Jo about how she was feeling.



They talked through Natalia's concern that she couldn't end the hooking up part of their relationship since she was the one who started it in the first place. Ros pointed out that it wouldn't be fair to either of them for Natalia to keep doing something that she no longer felt comfortable with just to avoid Jo feeling rejected.



Even though Natalia's conversation with Jo was tough and disappointing, they were both able to keep things feeling honest and respectful, showing how healthy the foundation of their relationship was to begin with.

IF YOU CHOSE TO SEE WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF NATALIA WAITED TO SEE HOW HER FEELINGS ABOUT JO MIGHT SHAKE OUT...

By waiting to see if her feelings might change, or hope that things might just work out, Natalia ended up feeling more frustrated and confused, and hurting Jo even more in the process.

While it's totally understandable to want to avoid an awkward conversation where you're likely letting someone down, by not being clear about her feelings, Natalia ended up more frustrated and resentful of Jo, while dismissing her own boundaries in the process. This led to Natalia snapping at Jo, acting volatile. Natalia felt guilty into accepting Jo's romantic gestures, but Jo didn't know that Natalia's feelings had changed and felt confused about Natalia's reactions.

By not being direct, Natalia made Jo feel more hurt and betrayed than she likely would have, and their previously healthy friendship became an unhealthy one.

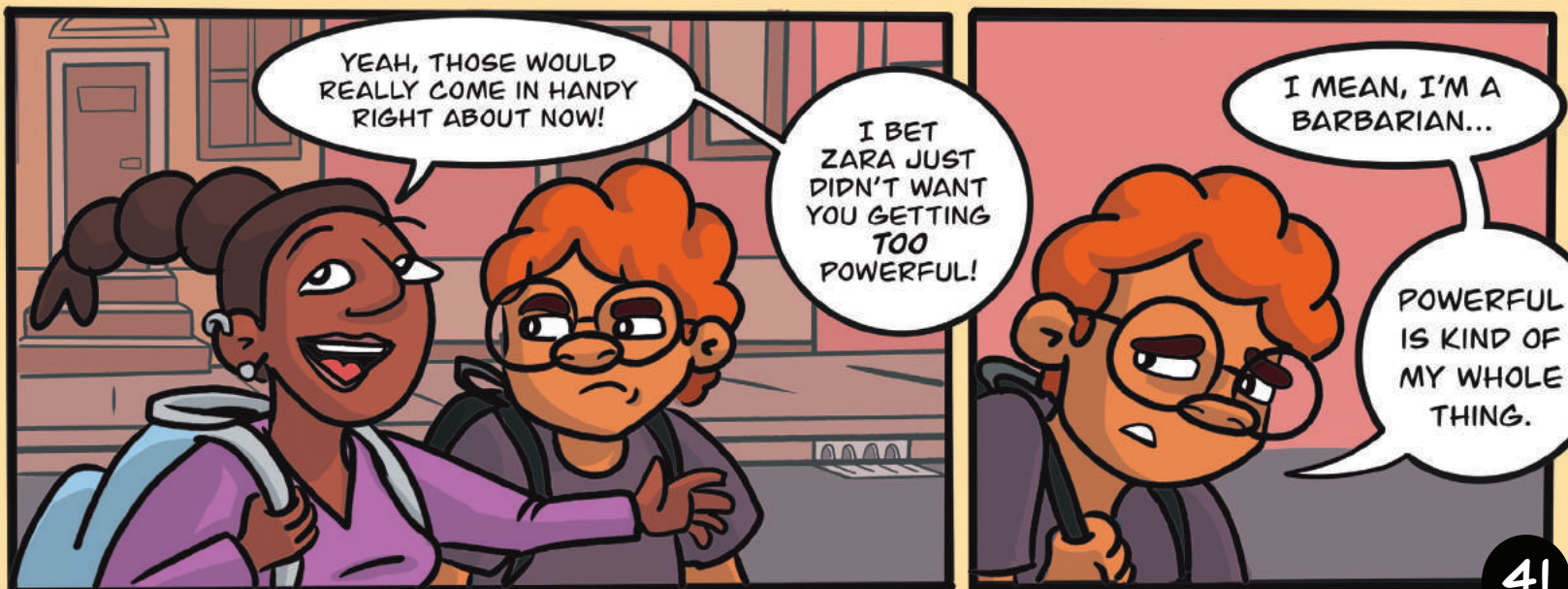


oneLove

Bailey, Zama & Zach









NOT THAT STRENGTH WILL HELP ME THROUGH THIS CAVERN OF RIDDLES ZARA'S GOT US IN...

REMEMBER THAT CAMPAIGN WE DID LAST YEAR, WITH ALL THE HELLHOUNDS?



I GOT TO TEAR THEM LIMB FROM LIMB IN BATTLE FURY!

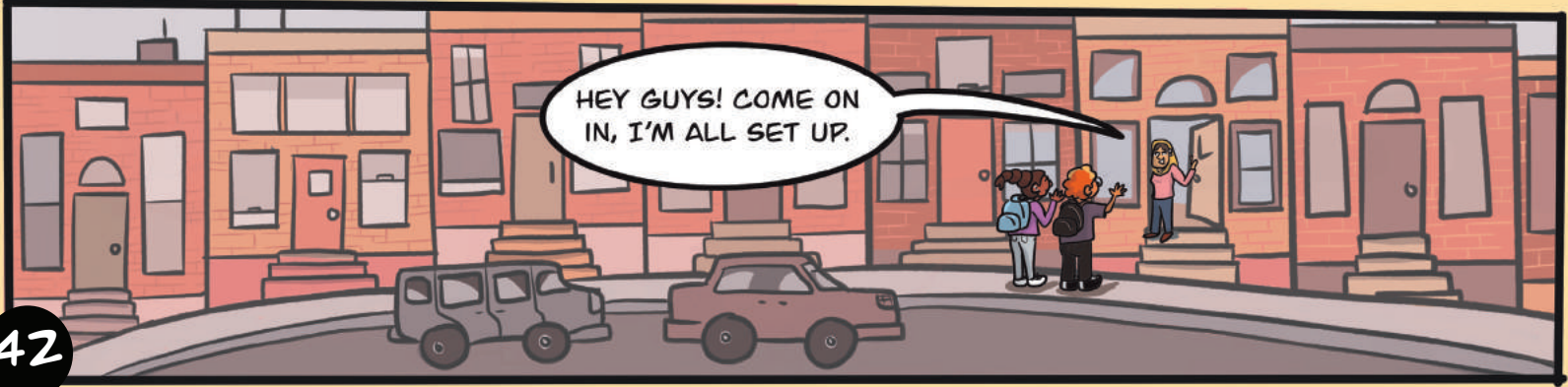


GOOD THING I'M A VERY SMART WIZARD!

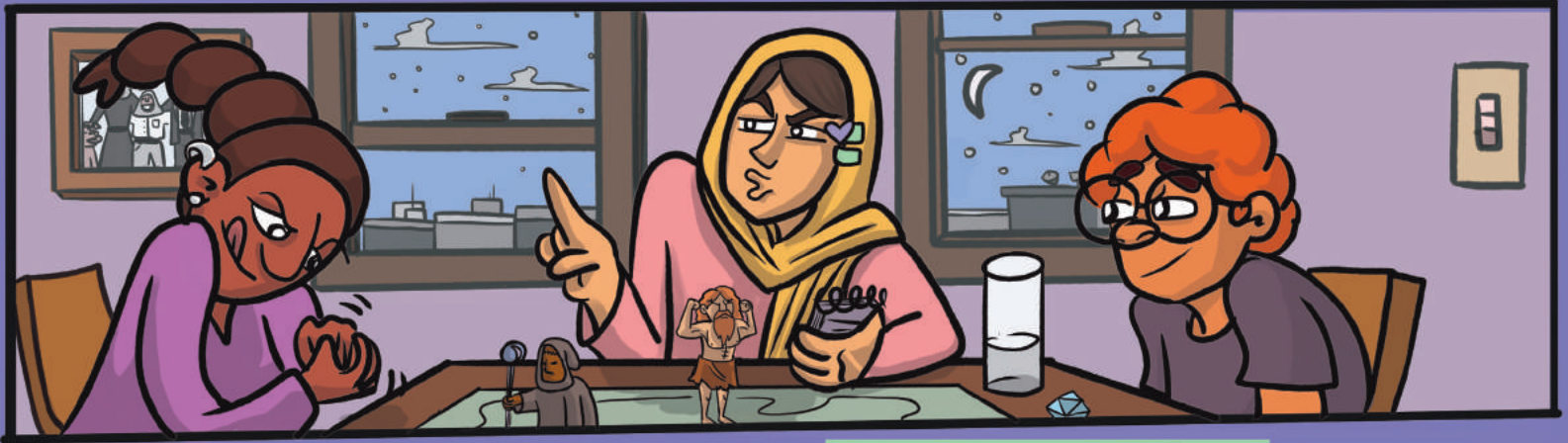
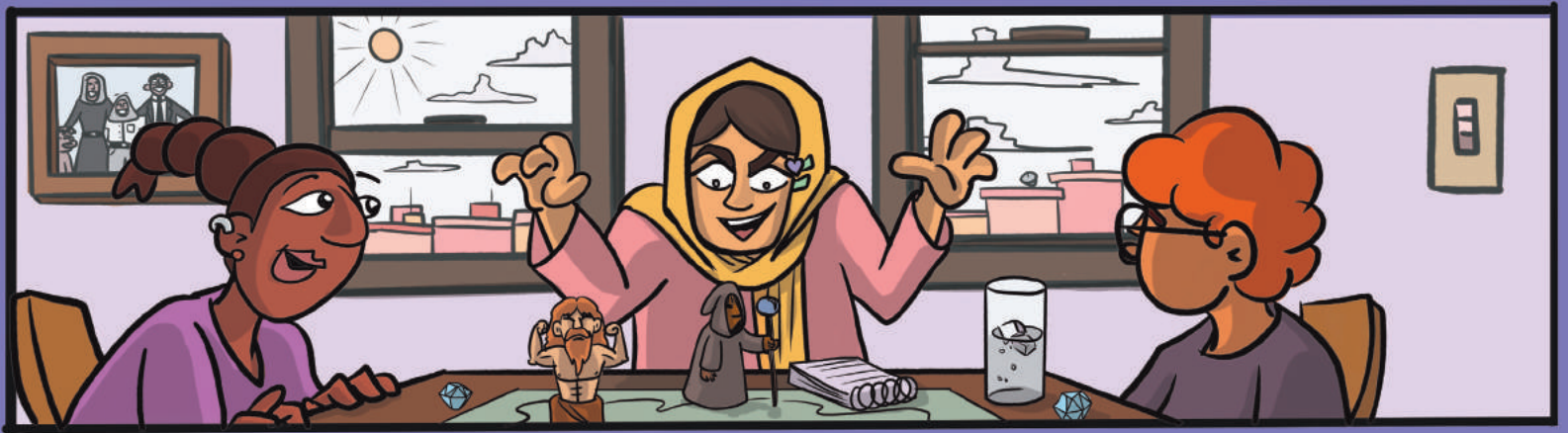
YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY YOUR PRETTY BARBARIAN HEAD ABOUT IT.



I'LL HANDLE THE RIDDLES, YOU HANDLE THE PUNCHING.



HEY GUYS! COME ON IN, I'M ALL SET UP.



SOON...

CLEMENTINE THE WISE AND TARGON THE HUGE, YOU HAVE TO ANSWER THIS LAST RIDDLE CORRECTLY IF YOU WANT TO MAKE IT INTO THE FINAL CHAMBER.

TARGON?



PLUS YOUR TWO INTELLIGENCE POINTS GETS YOU TO EIGHT...

THE SPHYNX DOES NOT ACCEPT YOUR ANSWER.

CLEMENTINE? YOU'RE NOW YOUR PARTY'S ONLY HOPE!



OKAY, ADDING TEN TO YOUR EIGHT INTELLIGENCE POINTS FOR A TOTAL OF 18! CLEMENTINE THE WISE HAS CORRECTLY ANSWERED THE RIDDLE.

THE SPHYNX DISAPPEARS WITH A SMALL "POP!" AND THE BOLT ON THE STONE DOORS SCRAPES LOUDLY OPEN.



BUT WAIT! FROM THE MOUTH OF THE CHAMBER, TEN HUGE, SPECTRAL BATS ARE FLYING TOWARD YOU! TARGON, WHAT DO YOU DO?



I HEFT MY UNBREAKABLE CLAYMORE AND SWING IT IN A WIDE ARC AS THE BATS COME TOWARD ME!



PLUS NINE FOR STRENGTH! TAKE THAT, DUNGEON BATS!



YOUR UNBREAKABLE CLAYMORE SLICES THROUGH THE AIR, CATCHING SIX BATS THROUGH THE MIDDLE OF ITS FLASHING PATH!



... THE CLAYMORE PASSES HARMLESSLY THROUGH THE SPECTRAL CREATURES!

THEIR FLESH BREAKS AND RE-FORMS AS IF MADE OF SMOKE! CLEMENTINE, WHAT WILL YOU DO!

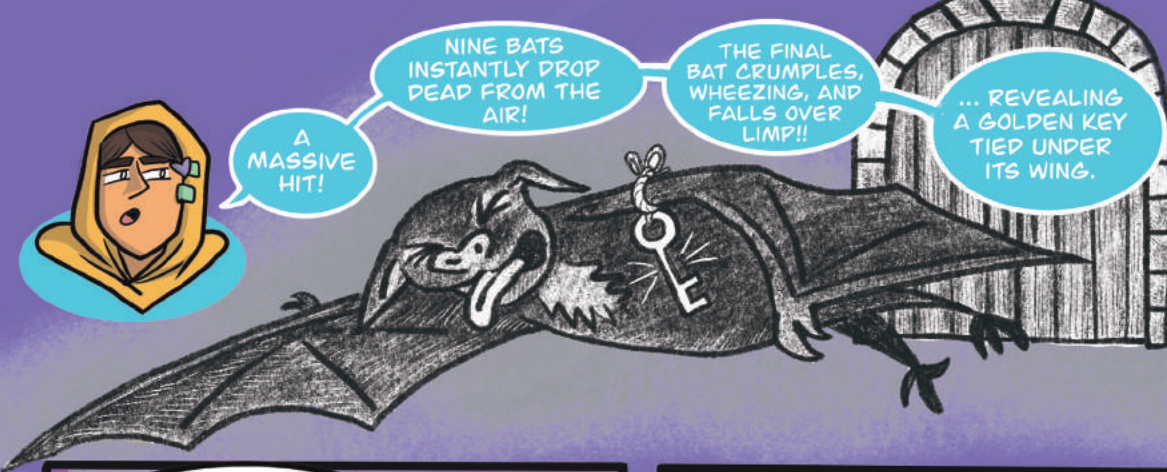


I RAISE MY MAGIC STAFF AND CAST BACK TO HELL AT THE GHOST BATS!



SEVENTEEN! PLUS A FULL TWELVE FOR MY MAGIC ABILITIES!





A MASSIVE HIT!

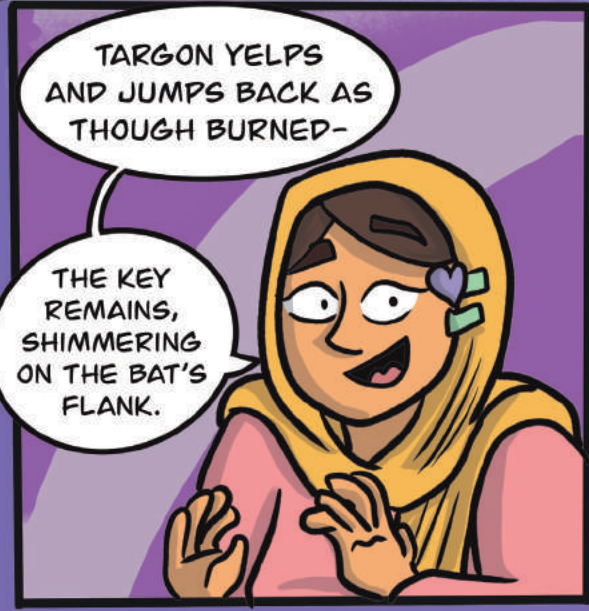
NINE BATS INSTANTLY DROP DEAD FROM THE AIR!

THE FINAL BAT CRUMPLES, WHEEZING, AND FALLS OVER LIMP!!

... REVEALING A GOLDEN KEY TIED UNDER ITS WING.

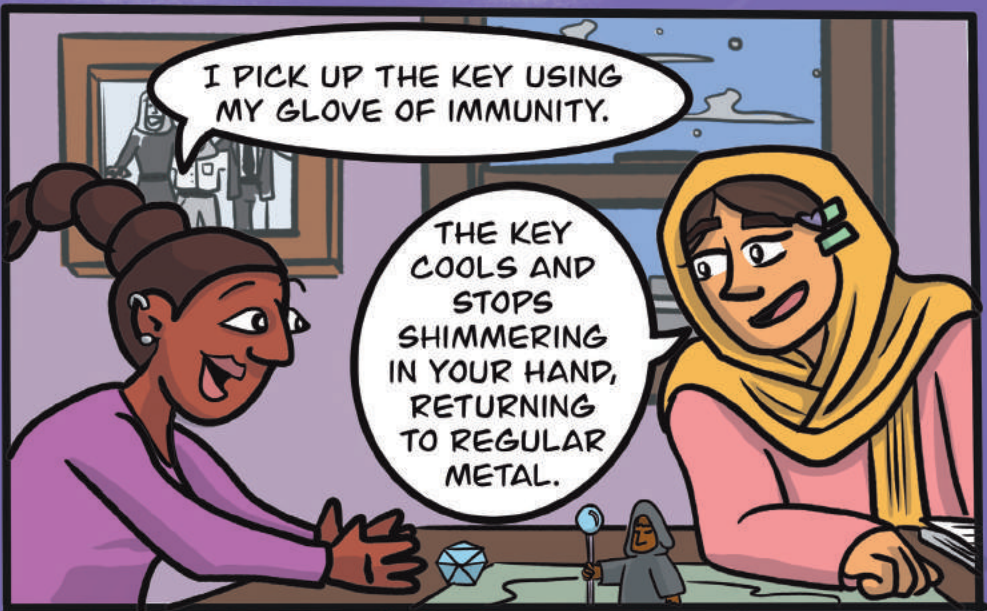


... I GRAB THE KEY.



TARGON YELPS AND JUMPS BACK AS THOUGH BURNED-

THE KEY REMAINS, SHIMMERING ON THE BAT'S FLANK.



I PICK UP THE KEY USING MY GLOVE OF IMMUNITY.

THE KEY COOLS AND STOPS SHIMMERING IN YOUR HAND, RETURNING TO REGULAR METAL.



I THINK THAT'S A GOOD PLACE TO STOP FOR THE NIGHT!

NEXT WEEK YOU CAN ENTER THE FINAL CHAMBER!



ZARA, WHAT THE HELL! YOU ALWAYS MAKE IT SO UNFAIR FOR ME!

BAILEY'S CHARACTER DOES LITERALLY EVERYTHING!



WHATEVER, I'M OUT OF HERE.

SHOULD BAILEY GET INVOLVED?

GO TO PAGE 46 TO LET ZACH COOL OFF AND HOPE HE'S FEELING BETTER NEXT WEEK.

GO TO PAGE 47 TO REACH OUT TO ZACH AND ASK HIM DIRECTLY ABOUT HIS PROBLEMS WITH THE GAME.

START HERE IF BAILEY SHOULD WAIT A WEEK TO SEE IF ZACH COOLS OFF.

... I COVER MY EARS, I GUESS.

... THE CREATURE BEGINS SINGING ITS MAGICAL SONG OF SLUMBER, WHICH WAFTS TOWARD YOUR PARTY ON THE WIND.

FOUR, PLUS THREE IMMUNITY.

I GUESS I'M ASLEEP NOW.

OKAYYY...

HEH... UHH...

TARGON FALLS INTO A DEEP, MAGICAL SLUMBER. CLEMENTINE?

I USE MY POTION OF IMMUNITY ON TARGON TO WAKE HIM UP?

THIS CREATURE'S REALLY TOUGH, ZACH, I'M GONNA NEED TARGON'S BRAWN ON THIS ONE.

I MEAN TECHNICALLY THE POTION OF IMMUNITY HAS TO BE USED BEFORE THE SPELL IS CAST...

BUT I GUESS WE CAN JUST IGNORE THE RULES TODAY...

OH, NO, DON'T CHANGE THE RULES ON MY ACCOUNT, PLEASE!

START HERE IF BAILEY SHOULD REACH OUT TO TALK TO ZACH ABOUT THE GAME.

HEY, YOU SEEMED PRETTY UPSET WITH ZARA AT GAME NIGHT THE OTHER DAY...

IS EVERYTHING OKAY?

YEAH, IT'S NO BIG DEAL. I WAS PROBABLY JUST TIRED.

IT WAS PRETTY INTENSE WHEN YOU YELLED AT HER LIKE THAT...

I THOUGHT WE WERE JUST HAVING FUN...

IT JUST KIND OF SEEMED LIKE SOMETHING ELSE WAS UP.

I WAS HAVING FUN TOO, AT FIRST! BUT THE LAST COUPLE MONTHS, ZARA'S CAMPAIGNS HAVE BEEN TOTALLY BIASED TOWARD YOUR CHARACTER!

IT'S ALL MAGIC AND CLEVERNESS...

I MADE MY CHARACTER A BARBARIAN BECAUSE I WANTED TO KICK SOME ASS! BUT ZARA'S ONLY INTERESTED IN CLEVER DIALOGUE AND CASTING SPELLS.

IT'S NOT FAIR!

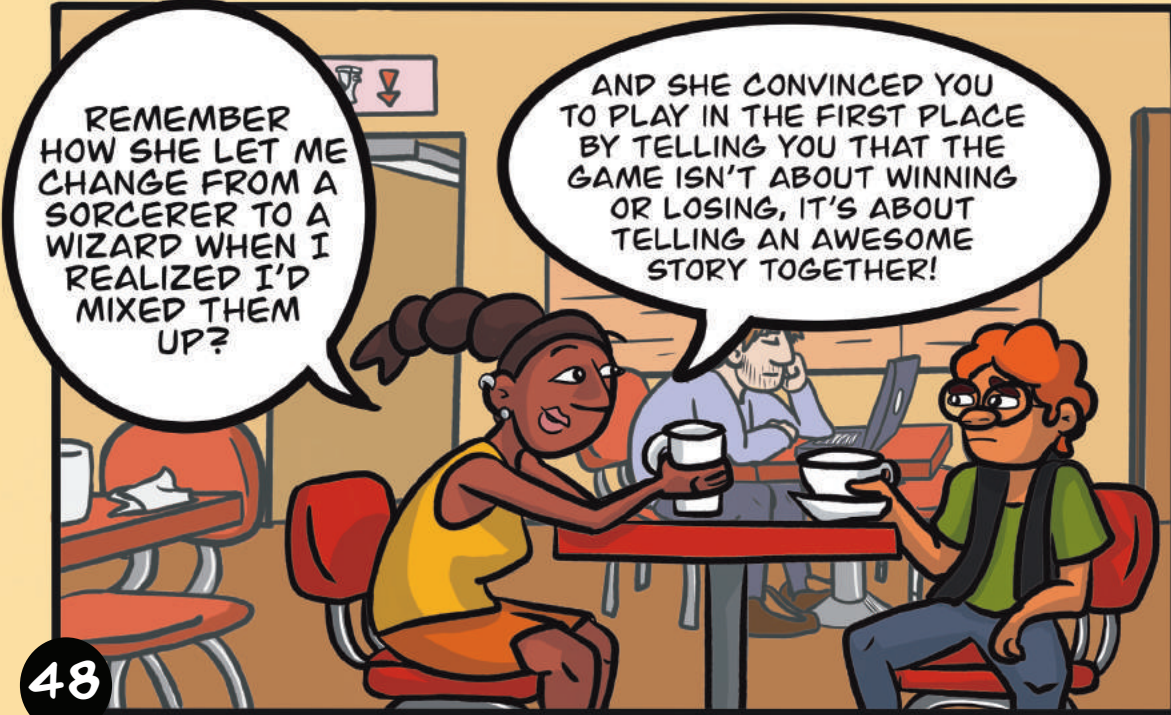
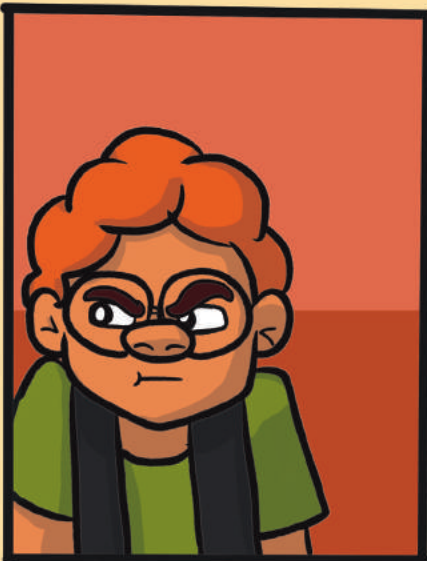
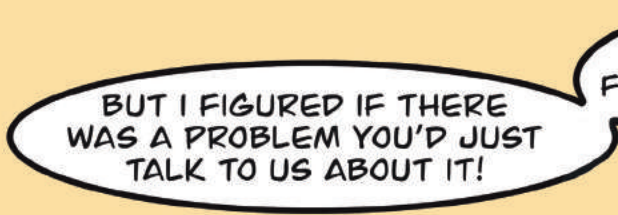
I'M SORRY, ZACH.

NOW THAT YOU POINT IT OUT, I CAN SEE WHAT YOU MEAN.

I DON'T THINK SHE MEANS TO PUSH YOUR CHARACTER TO THE SIDE - I KNOW SHE'S BEEN REALLY EXCITED ABOUT THE WORLDBUILDING...

I BET SHE DIDN'T EVEN REALIZE YOU WERE FEELING THIS WAY!

I KNOW I DIDN'T...



YEAH!
LET'S TAKE
SOME TIME AT
THE BEGINNING
OF THIS WEEK'S
SESSION TO
CHECK IN, SO
THAT WE CAN
BUILD A STORY
THAT'S EXCITING
FOR ALL OF
US.

THERE'S
PLENTY OF
ROOM FOR
MAGIC AND
ASS-KICKING
IN THE
DUNGEON,
RIGHT?

AND DRAGONS!
DON'T FORGET
THE DRAGONS.

SOON...



LOOKING BACK...

Zara, Zach and Bailey have a fun tradition of playing Dungeons and Dragons together! They each have different roles in the game, but Zach has become frustrated at how Zara, the game master, is handling plays in the game.

Zach seemed off during their recent games, and behaved in a way that was very unusual for him. As you saw, one day, he started yelling and accused Zara of making the game unfair for him, which caught Zara by surprise. Bailey had a sense that Zach was feeling frustrated going into the game, though, so they had a choice to make.



IF YOU CHOSE TO SEE WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF BAILEY LET ZACH COOL OFF AND HOPE HE'D FEEL BETTER THE NEXT WEEK...

Turns out, Zach did not exactly cool off. He continued to feel frustrated, act volatile, and belittle Zara in ways that clearly confused her. Since Bailey talked to Zach before their previous game, they had some context for why Zach was feeling this way and understood more about what was going on than Zara could have. Even though Zach should have been more respectful of his friends when he was feeling frustrated, Bailey could have supported both him and Zara by just checking in with him and giving him an opportunity to express his feelings and figure out what he needed.

Important note: If Zach were someone who often acted in an overwhelming and intense way with his friends, Bailey may not feel safe checking in with him by herself. If that were the case, Bailey and Zara would need to rethink whether they felt comfortable hanging out with him in this way going forward.

IF YOU CHOSE TO SEE WHAT HAPPENED IF BAILEY REACHED OUT TO ZACH AND DIRECTLY ASKED ABOUT HIS FRUSTRATIONS...

By reaching out to Zach, Bailey did something brave and very helpful – she decided to help two of her friends—she helped Zach to see that he had confused and hurt Zara, while acknowledging Zach’s feelings in the process as well.

By talking to him one on one, Bailey was able to calmly ask him questions without him getting defensive. This allowed Zach to take responsibility for the ways he had hurt Zara. Bailey was able to offer a solution, too, by suggesting they talk it out at the next game. By practicing healthy conflict as a friend group, Zach was able to take responsibility for his behavior and be honest about his own feelings. Then, the fun could continue!



What would you do?

Ros and Ari have been dating for over a year. Recently, Ari bought them both some roller skating gear - but when Ros starts skating with her other friends, Ari gets upset. After all, skating was *their* thing together! How should Ari talk to Ros about their feelings?

Natalia and Jo were good friends - and lately they've been hanging out more romantically. But soon, Natalia starts to realize that her feelings for Jo are platonic after all. How can she tell Jo she wants to cool down their relationship without ruining their friendship?

Bailey has a weekly Dungeons and Dragons game with her two best friends, Zara and Zach. Bailey loves how Zara runs their game, but over the past few weeks, it seems like something is bothering Zach more and more. One day he blows up at Zara, yelling that she's running the game unfairly. Can Bailey mediate this conflict and save their weekly game - and their friendships?

Choose your own adventure as you navigate each of these stories!



onelove