



YOU GUYS!
WAIT UP!



I DON'T THINK WE'RE SUPPOSED TO BE OUT HERE...

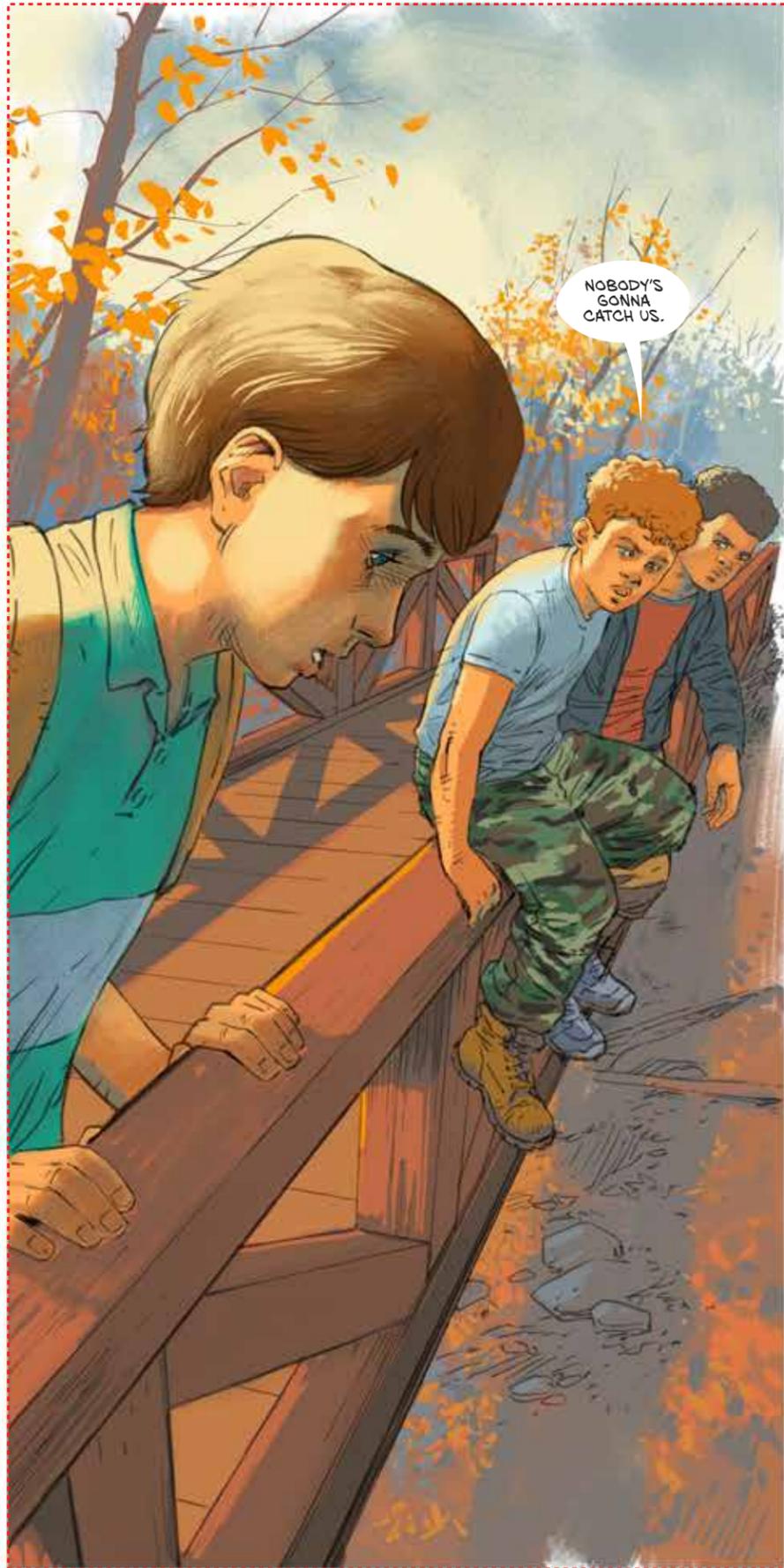
IT'S JUST...ARE WE...?

RECESS IS ALMOST--

I MEAN, WHAT HAPPENS IF WE GET CAUGHT?



YOU WORRY TOO MUCH, NEW KID...



NOBODY'S GONNA CATCH US.



OH, JEEZ! THAT'S LIKE...

OVER FIFTEEN FEET DOWN!

IT'S FINE, NEW KID! ARE YOU WITH US OR NOT?



WE'RE GOING ON THREE, READY??

I DON'T KNOW, I'M...

ONE, TWO...





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YOU KNOW IT'S NOT EASY FOR ME TO GET OUT OF WORK.

MOM, I DIDN'T DO ANYTHING! I WAS JUST--

OLIVER? MRS. PEET? YOU CAN GO IN NOW.



MRS. PEET, OLIVER. HAVE A SEAT.

IT'S MISS.



DID OLIVER TELL YOU WHAT HAPPENED MS. PEET?

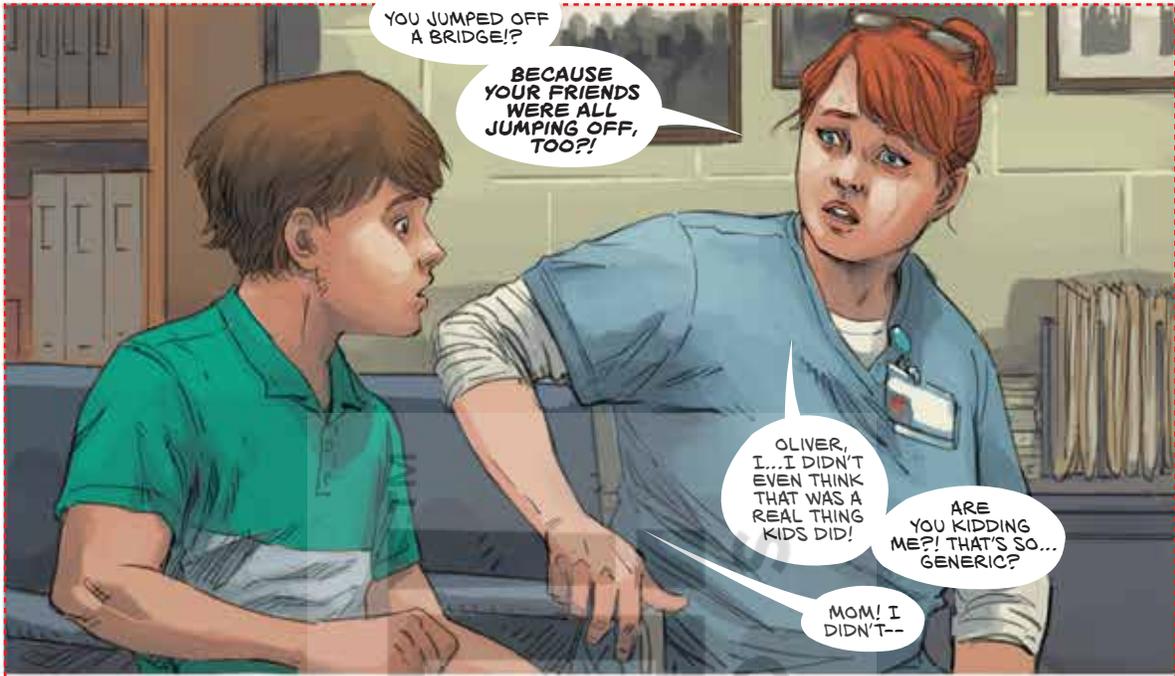
NO SIR. I ONLY JUST GOT HERE. I HAD TO GET SOMEONE TO COVER MY SHIFT.

I'M TELLING YOU, I DIDN'T DO ANYTHING! I WAS TRYING TO--



TWO OF YOUR SON'S CLASSMATES HAVE BROKEN LEGS. THEY WERE CLIMBING AROUND ON THE OLD BRIDGE AND--

WE WEREN'T CLIMBING AROUND! RYAN AND JACKSON SAID THAT I COULD HANG OUT WITH THEM IF WE ALL--



YOU JUMPED OFF A BRIDGE!?

BECAUSE YOUR FRIENDS WERE ALL JUMPING OFF, TOO?!

OLIVER, I...I DIDN'T EVEN THINK THAT WAS A REAL THING KIDS DID!

ARE YOU KIDDING ME?! THAT'S SO... GENERIC?

MOM! I DIDN'T--



MS. PEET, WE CALLED YOU IN BECAUSE WE HAVE A THREE STRIKE POLICY HERE AND--

THREE?! JESUS, WHAT ELSE DID YOU DO? KILL TWO BIRDS WITH ONE STONE?

MOM, I JUST...I'M TRYING TO FIT IN! I THOUGHT--

HE CAUSED A DISTURBANCE IN HIS WOODSHOP CLASS. MR. VIGIL SAID HE WAS JUMPING OVER THE WORK-BENCHES.



...AND HE STARTED A FIRE IN THE CAFETERIA.

HE WHAT?!

THAT'S USUALLY GROUNDS FOR IMMEDIATE EXPULSION, BUT WITH THE UNDERSTANDING THAT IT CAN BE HARD TO BE THE NEW STUDENT IN CLASS...

"WE'RE SUSPENDING OLIVER FOR ONE WEEK."



SUSPENDED. GOD, I JUST WISH YOU...

I CAN'T AFFORD TO TAKE A WEEK OFF!

MOM, I SWEAR I'M TRYING MY BEST.



YOUR... YOUR BEST? YOU JUMPED OFF A...

YOU COULD'VE BEEN KILLED! THOSE OTHER BOYS...



LISTEN...



IT IS NEVER...

EVER OK FOR YOU TO GO JUMPING OFF A BRIDGE.

THERE'S NO SITUATION WHERE THAT'S NECESSARY. I NEED YOU TO BE SAFE.

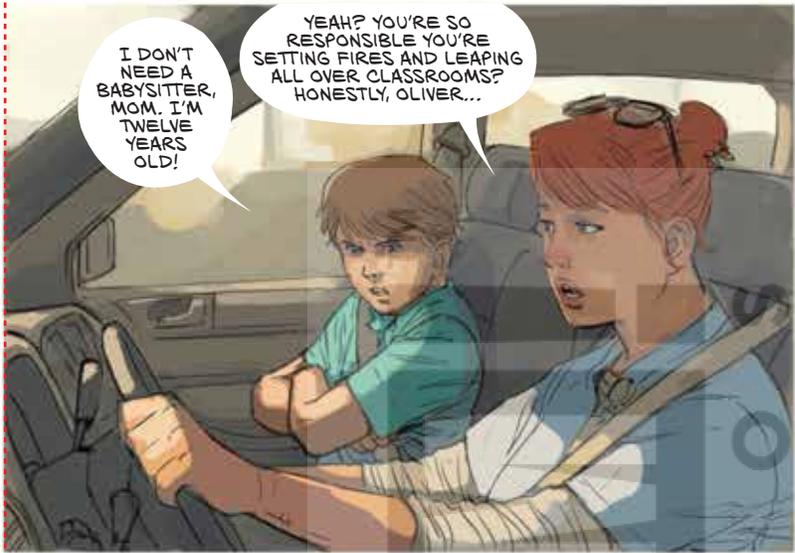


I CAN'T LOSE YOU.





HOPEFULLY MRS. REITER FROM NEXT DOOR CAN COME SIT WITH YOU.



I DON'T NEED A BABYSITTER, MOM. I'M TWELVE YEARS OLD!

YEAH? YOU'RE SO RESPONSIBLE YOU'RE SETTING FIRES AND LEAVING ALL OVER CLASSROOMS? HONESTLY, OLIVER...



I HIT MY THUMB.

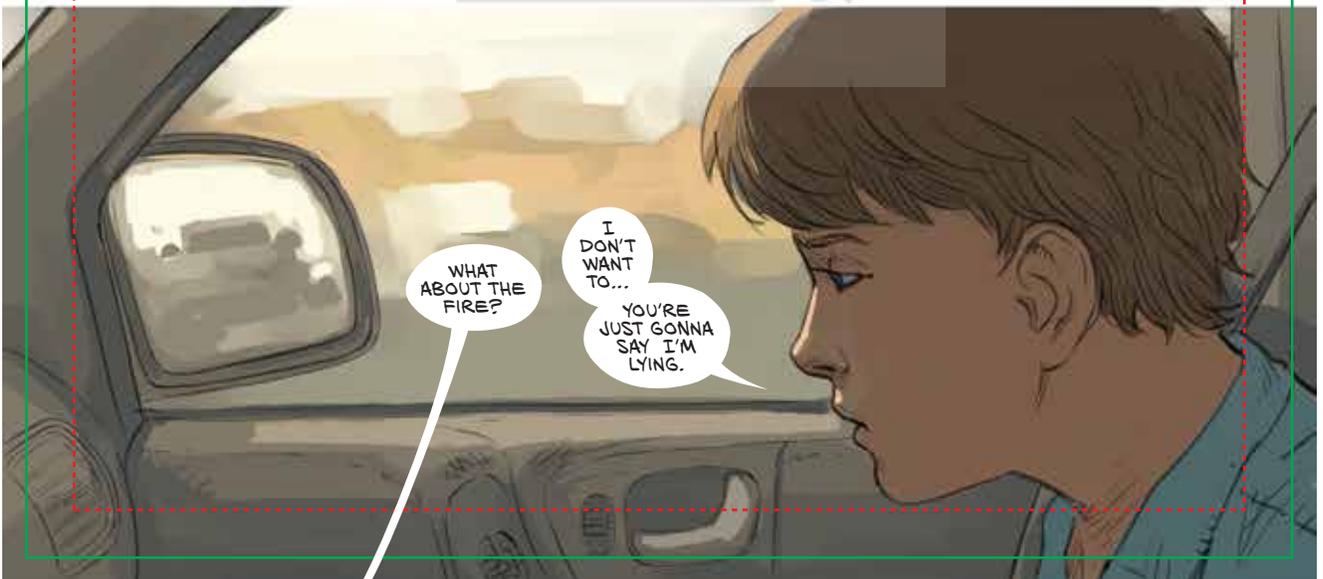
WHAT?



I HIT MY THUMB. WITH A HAMMER. AND...

AND IT HURT, AND I...

I WAS BOUNCING OFF THE WALLS.



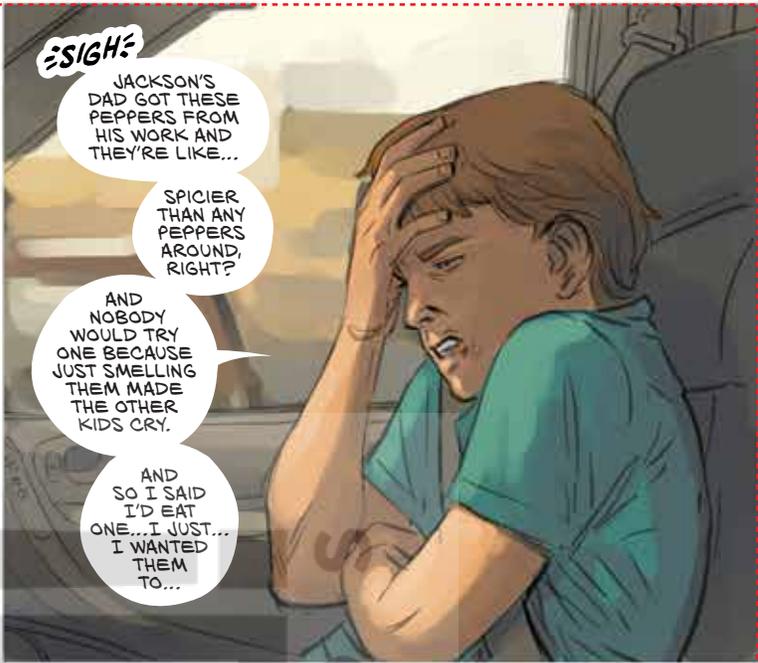
WHAT ABOUT THE FIRE?

I DON'T WANT TO...

YOU'RE JUST GONNA SAY I'M LYING.



OLIVER...



SIGH
JACKSON'S DAD GOT THESE PEPPERS FROM HIS WORK AND THEY'RE LIKE...

SPICIER THAN ANY PEPPERS AROUND, RIGHT?

AND NOBODY WOULD TRY ONE BECAUSE JUST SMELLING THEM MADE THE OTHER KIDS CRY.

AND SO I SAID I'D EAT ONE... I JUST... I WANTED THEM TO...



I SAID I'D EAT IT AND WHEN I BIT INTO IT...



I STARTED TO SEE RED. AND I WAS COUGHING AND CHOKING AND...

I HEARD A HIGH... LIKE, A WHISTLE? AND I BLACKED OUT.

PROBABLY FOR, LIKE, FIVE SECONDS, I GUESS. WHEN I CAME TO...

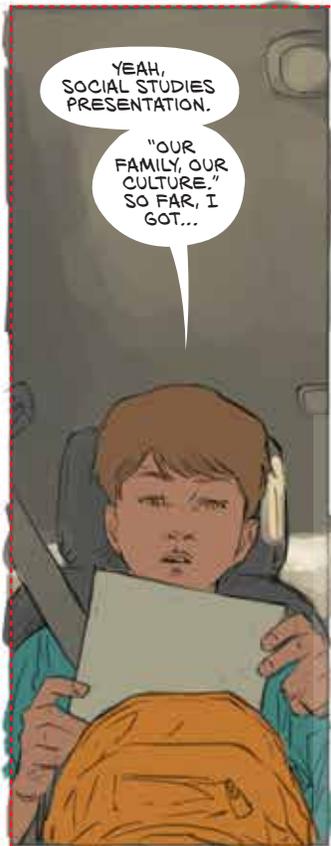
MY LUNCH TRAY WAS ON FIRE.



SEE? YOU THINK I'M LYING.



AHEM
YOU GOT ALL YOUR ASSIGNMENTS, RIGHT?



YEAH, SOCIAL STUDIES PRESENTATION.

"OUR FAMILY, OUR CULTURE," SO FAR, I GOT...



THIS.



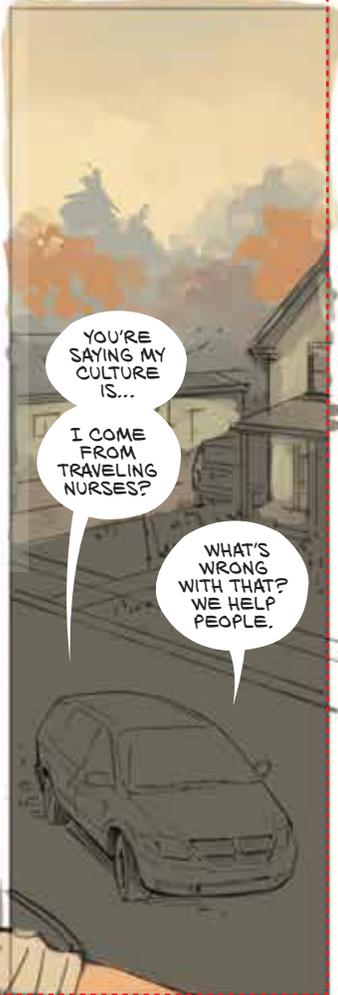
LOOKS GOOD.

FOR REAL? WE REALLY DON'T HAVE ANY FAMILY?

WHAT'S EVEN OUR CULTURE?



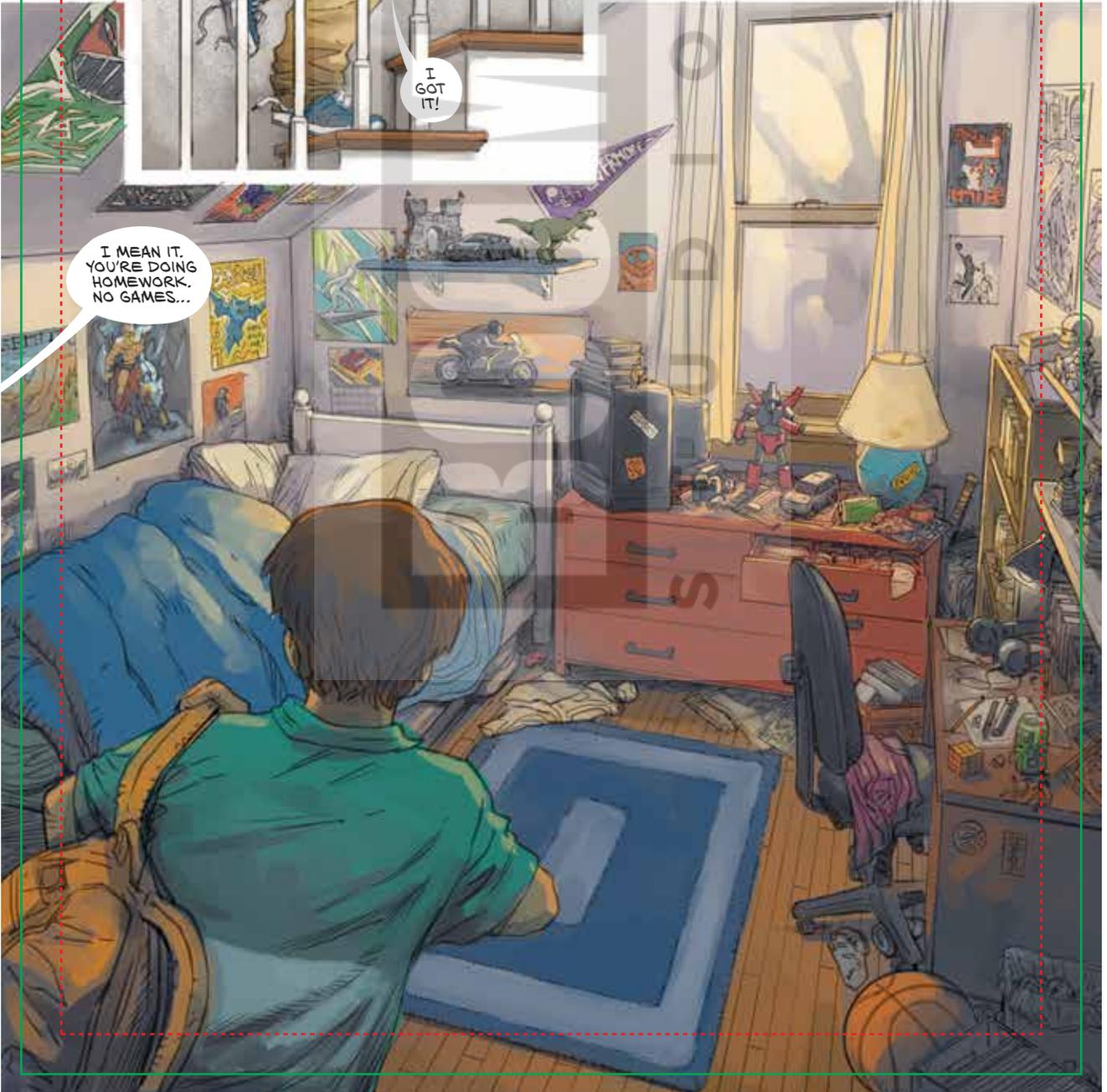
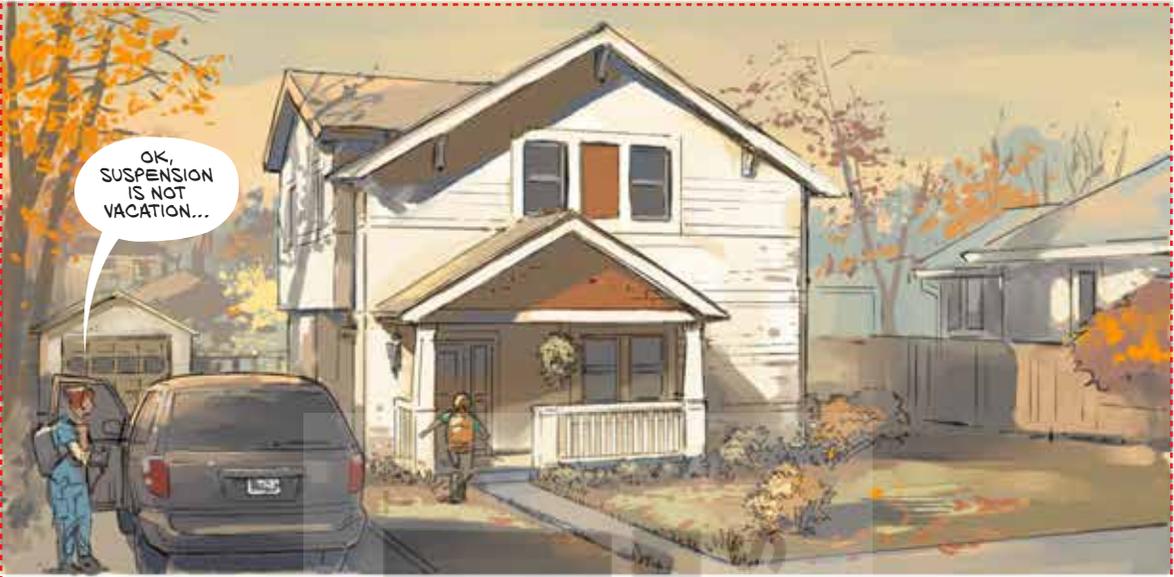
LOOK KID, YOU AND ME? WE'RE ALL WE NEED. I'M YOUR CULTURE.

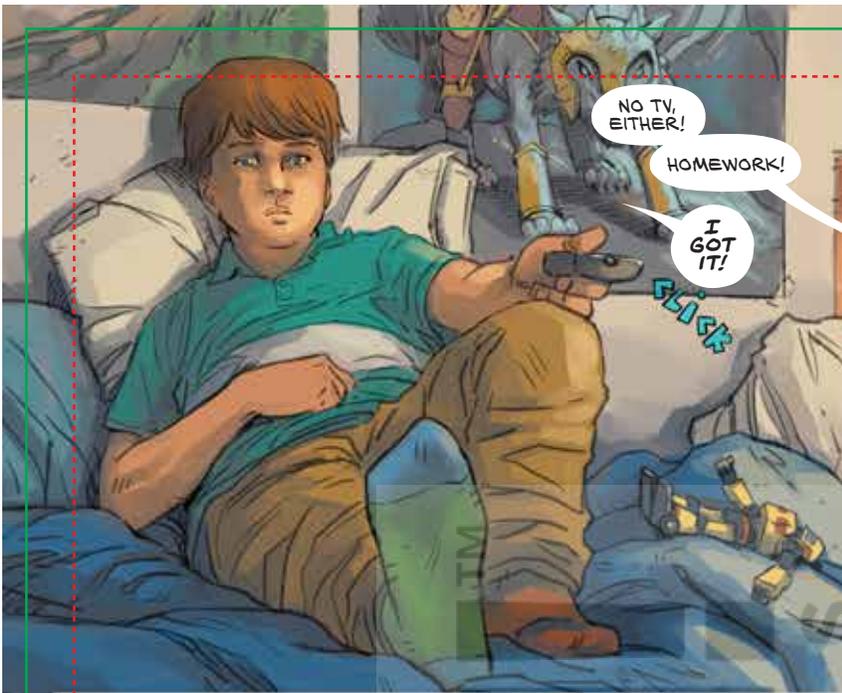


YOU'RE SAYING MY CULTURE IS...

I COME FROM TRAVELING NURSES?

WHAT'S WRONG WITH THAT? WE HELP PEOPLE.





NO TV, EITHER!

HOMEWORK!

I GOT IT!

FLICK



WE'LL FACE ANYTHING THAT COMES OUR WAY WITH THE POWER OF--

FLICK



STEADY, FANG, OLD PAL. THESE SKELE-T.R.O.N.S CAN'T HURT US IF WE STICK TOGETHER!

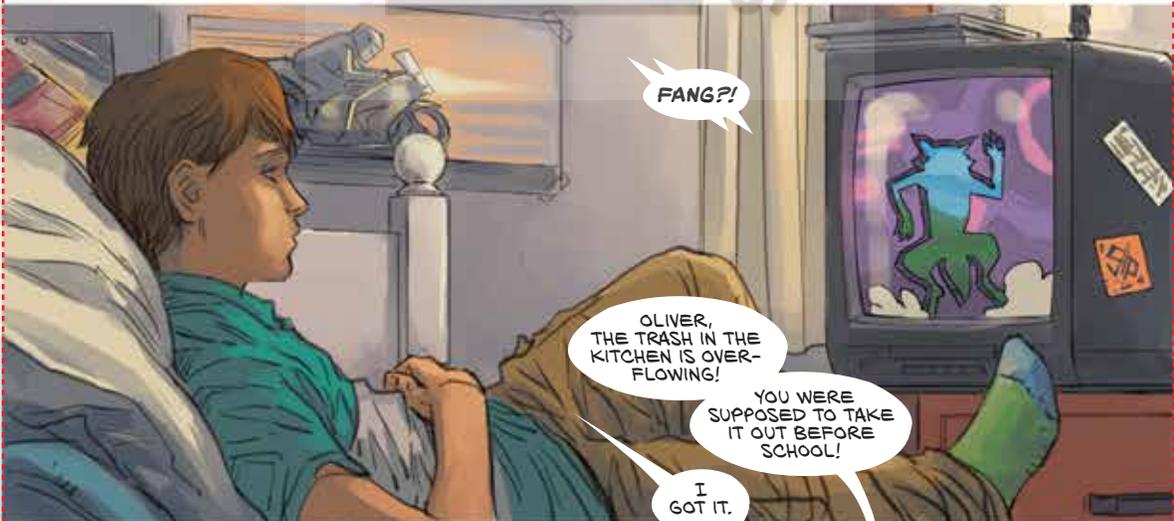


YIPES!

LOOK AT THEM, FANG. NO MUSCLES AT ALL. THEY DON'T STAND A CHANCE AGAINST...



...FANG?



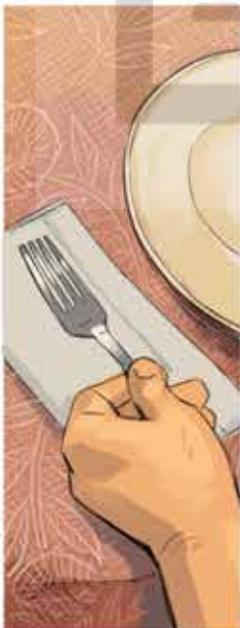
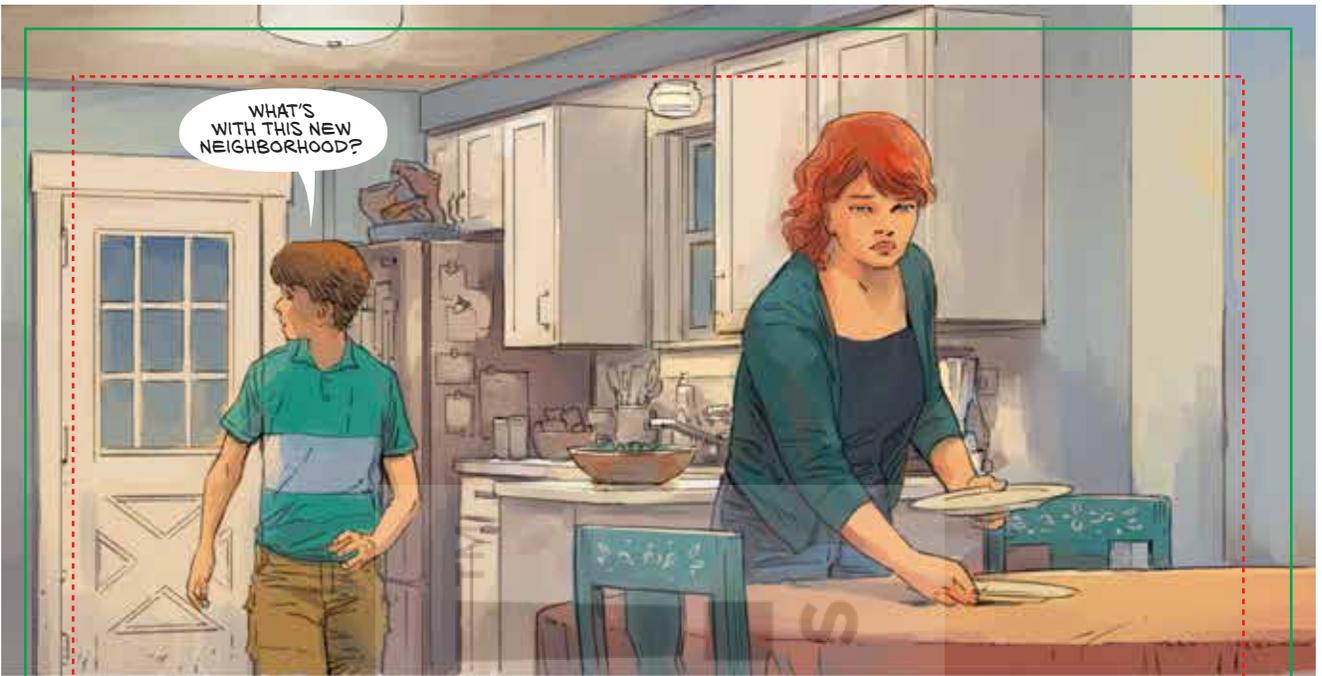
FANG?!

OLIVER, THE TRASH IN THE KITCHEN IS OVERFLOWING!

YOU WERE SUPPOSED TO TAKE IT OUT BEFORE SCHOOL!

I GOT IT.



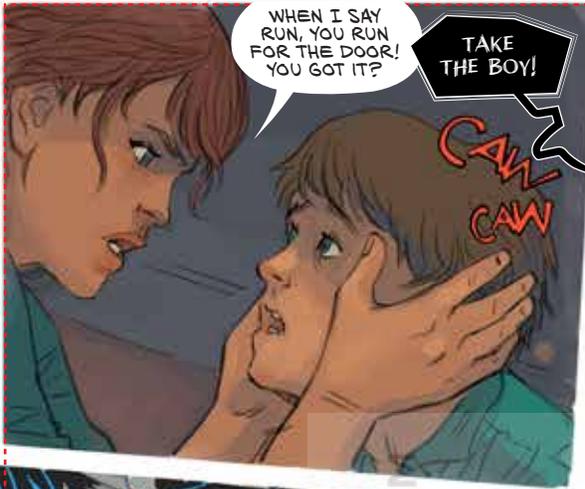




LETTERING BY PAT BRODSSEAU

UNCANNY VALLEY #1 PG 16



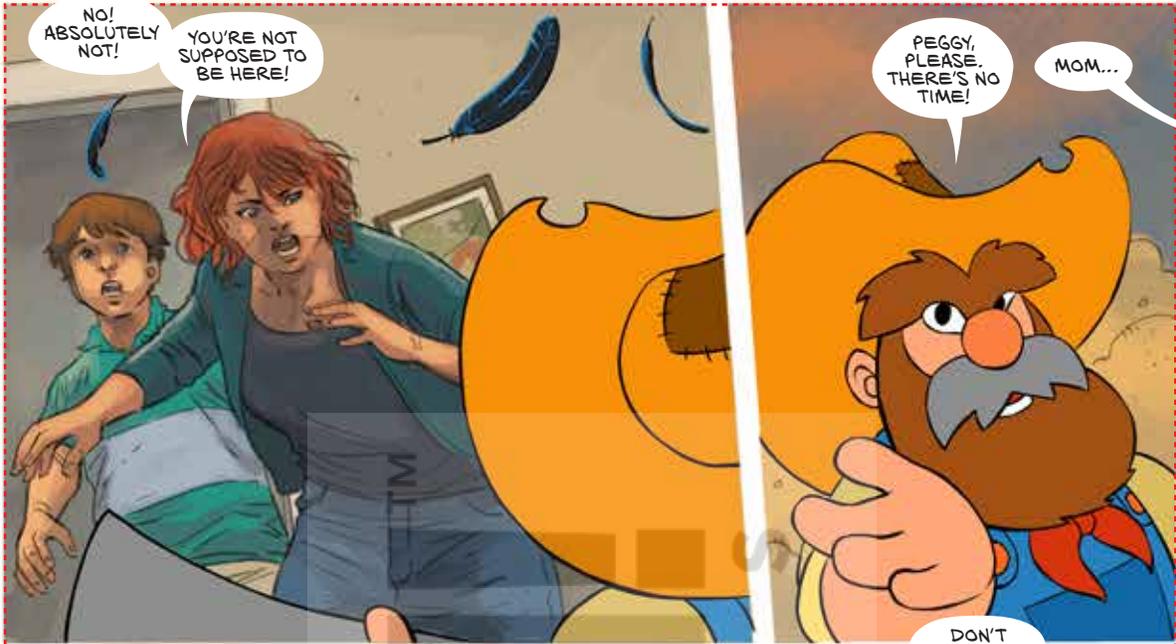






LETTERING BY PAT BRODSSEAU

UNCANNY VALLEY #1 PG 20



NO!
ABSOLUTELY
NOT!

YOU'RE NOT
SUPPOSED TO
BE HERE!

PEGGY,
PLEASE.
THERE'S NO
TIME!

MOM...



DON'T
CALL ME...

MY
NAME ISN'T
PEGGY.

MOM,
WHAT IS THAT
THING!?

IS...IT A
CARTOON?!



OLIVER...

THIS
IS YOUR
GRANDPA.

MY
WHAT?!

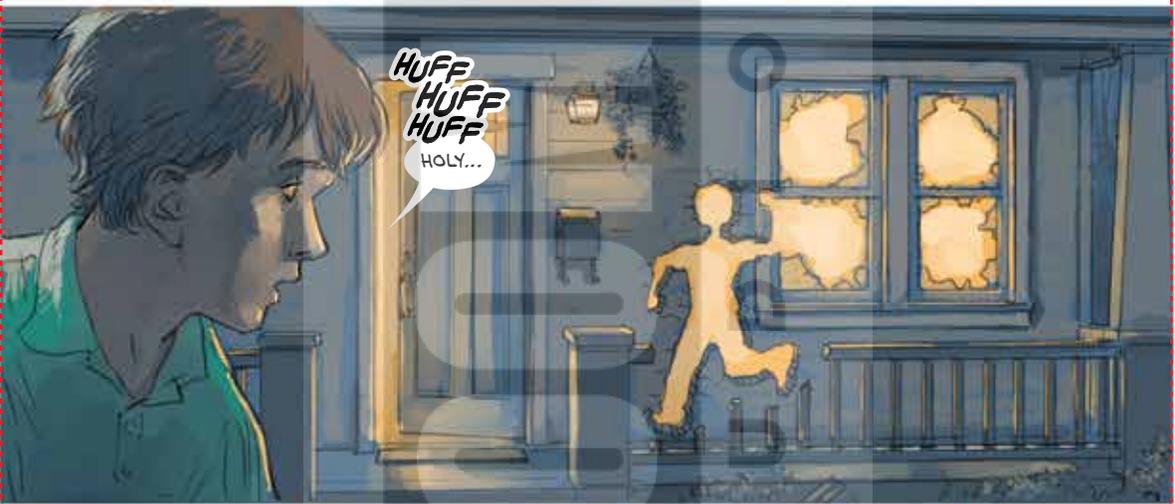
HEY,
PARTNER.



LETTERING BY PAT BRODSSEAU

UNCANNY VALLEY #1 PG 22









LETTERING BY PAT BRODSSEAU



UNCANNY VALLEY #1 PG 28

TO BE CONTINUED