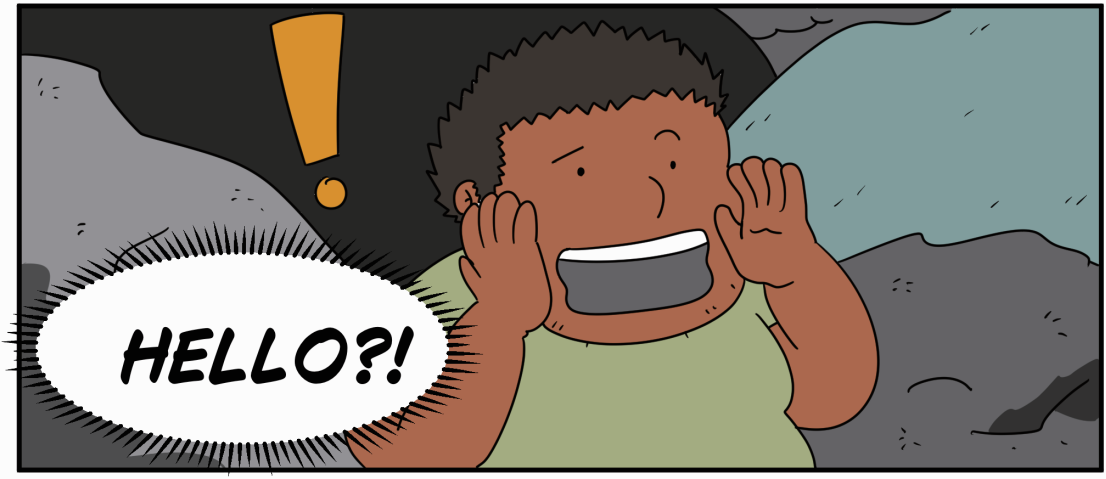
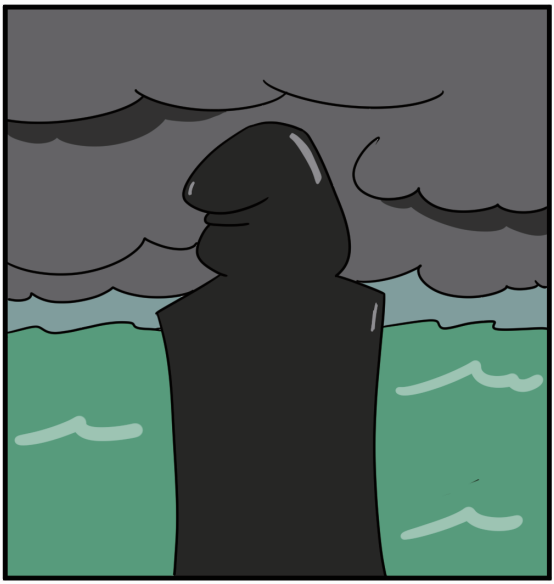

WOOOOOOOOSHAH
SWOOO
SHHWEEEE



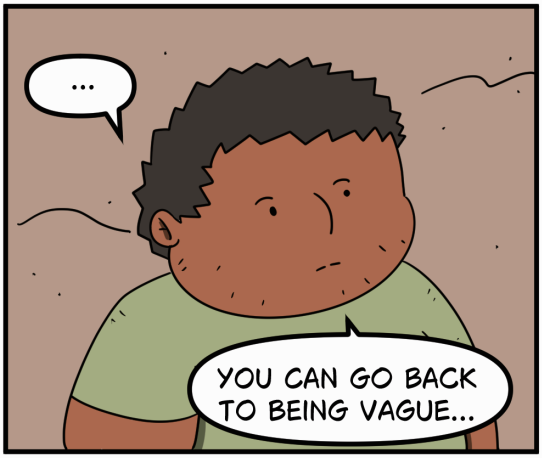

HELLO?!

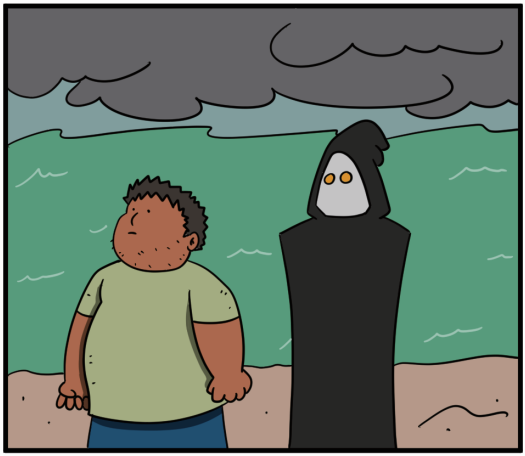


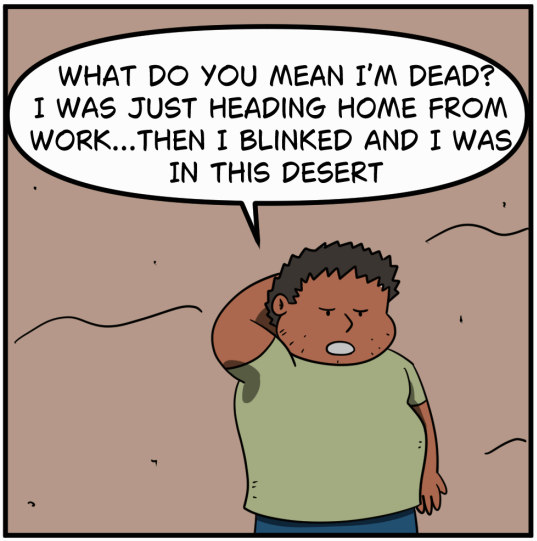


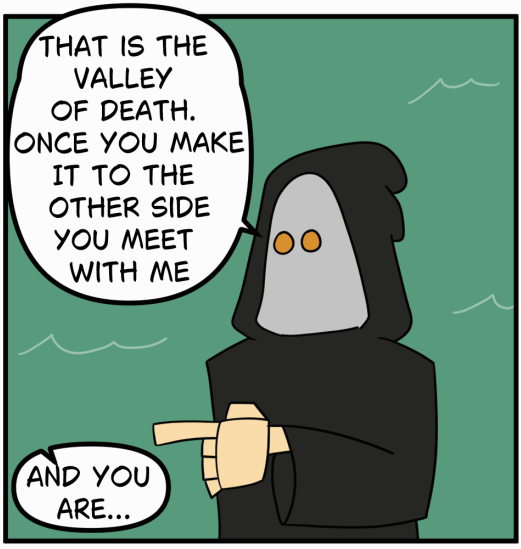

HELLO JOSH.
HOW DO YOU KNOW MY NAME?
?
IT'S MY JOB TO KNOW YOUR NAME.

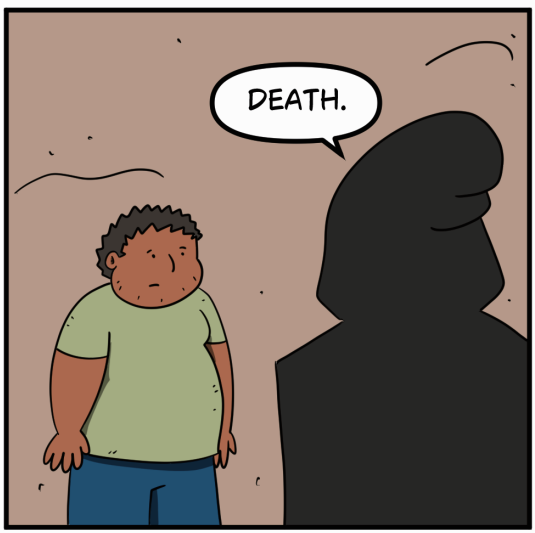

THAT'S VAGUE...
WHERE AM I?
THIS PLACE?
IT'S THE PLACE YOU ALL GO!
CAN YOU JUST GIVE ME A STRAIGHT ANSWER PLEASE?
YOU'RE DEAD.


...
YOU CAN GO BACK TO BEING VAGUE...




WHAT DO YOU MEAN I'M DEAD? I WAS JUST HEADING HOME FROM WORK...THEN I BLINKED AND I WAS IN THIS DESERT


THAT IS THE VALLEY OF DEATH. ONCE YOU MAKE IT TO THE OTHER SIDE YOU MEET WITH ME
AND YOU ARE...

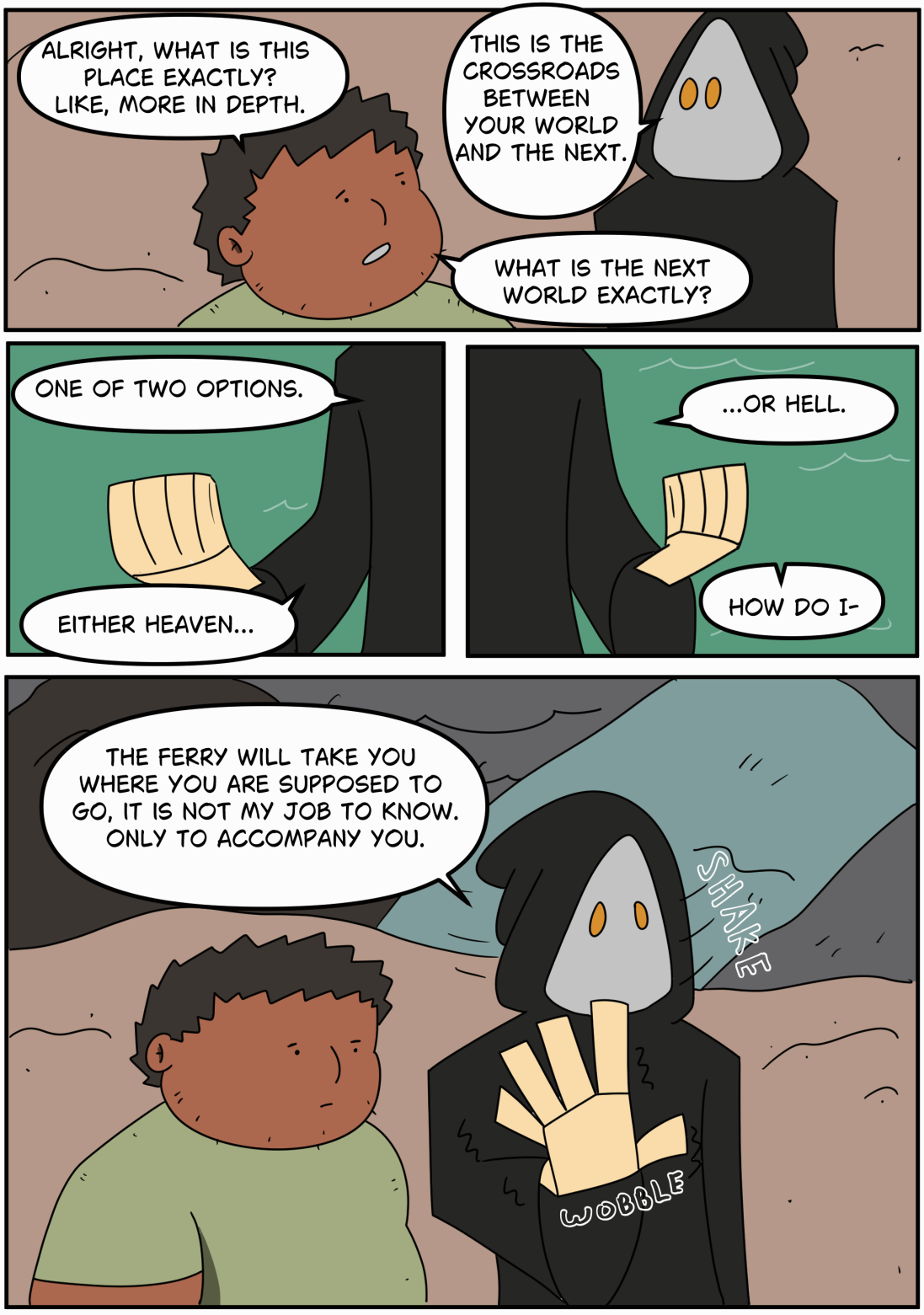

DEATH.


...
PROVE IT.


WHAT?
HOW DO YOU KNOW I'M NOT?
HMM...YOU GOT ME THERE
HOW DO I KNOW YOU'RE DEATH?
ALRIGHT, WHAT AM I DOING HERE?
THIS IS WHERE WE WAIT FOR THE FERRY
OK THEN... HOW DID I DIE?
CAR WRECK.
THAT'S SO BLUNT! HOW CAN YOU BE SO NONCHALANT?
I MEAN... I DON'T REMEMBER GETTING IN A WRECK.
MOST DON'T.


SO IF YOU'RE DEATH, AND WE'RE WAITING ON THE FERRY
WHEN AM I SUPPOSED TO REWATCH MY LIFE?
AHH, THAT'S A COMMON MISCONCEPTION
HUMANS DON'T KNOW THAT THEY HAVE A CHOICE. YOU CAN EITHER REWATCH YOUR LIFE, OR I CAN ANSWER ALL YOUR QUESTIONS.
LIKE...
...ANYTHING?
ANYTHING.
OH I'M DEFINITELY PICKING THAT ONE!


AREA YOU SURE? YOU ONLY GET THIS CHOICE ONCE.
IM SURE, THERE'S A LOT I DON'T WANT TO SEE AGAIN.
SKWET
ALRIGHT, YOUR CHOICE HAS BEEN MADE.
WHAT IS YOUR FIRST QUESTION?
HOW MANY QUESTIONS DO I GET?
AS MANY AS YOU'D LIKE UNTIL THE FERRY ARRIVES
LIKE...
SERIOUSLY, ANYTHING?
YES, ANYTHING.


ALRIGHT, WHAT IS THIS PLACE EXACTLY? LIKE, MORE IN DEPTH.
THIS IS THE CROSSROADS BETWEEN YOUR WORLD AND THE NEXT.
WHAT IS THE NEXT WORLD EXACTLY?
ONE OF TWO OPTIONS.
EITHER HEAVEN...
...OR HELL.
HOW DO I-
THE FERRY WILL TAKE YOU WHERE YOU ARE SUPPOSED TO GO, IT IS NOT MY JOB TO KNOW. ONLY TO ACCOMPANY YOU.
SHAKE
WOBBLE

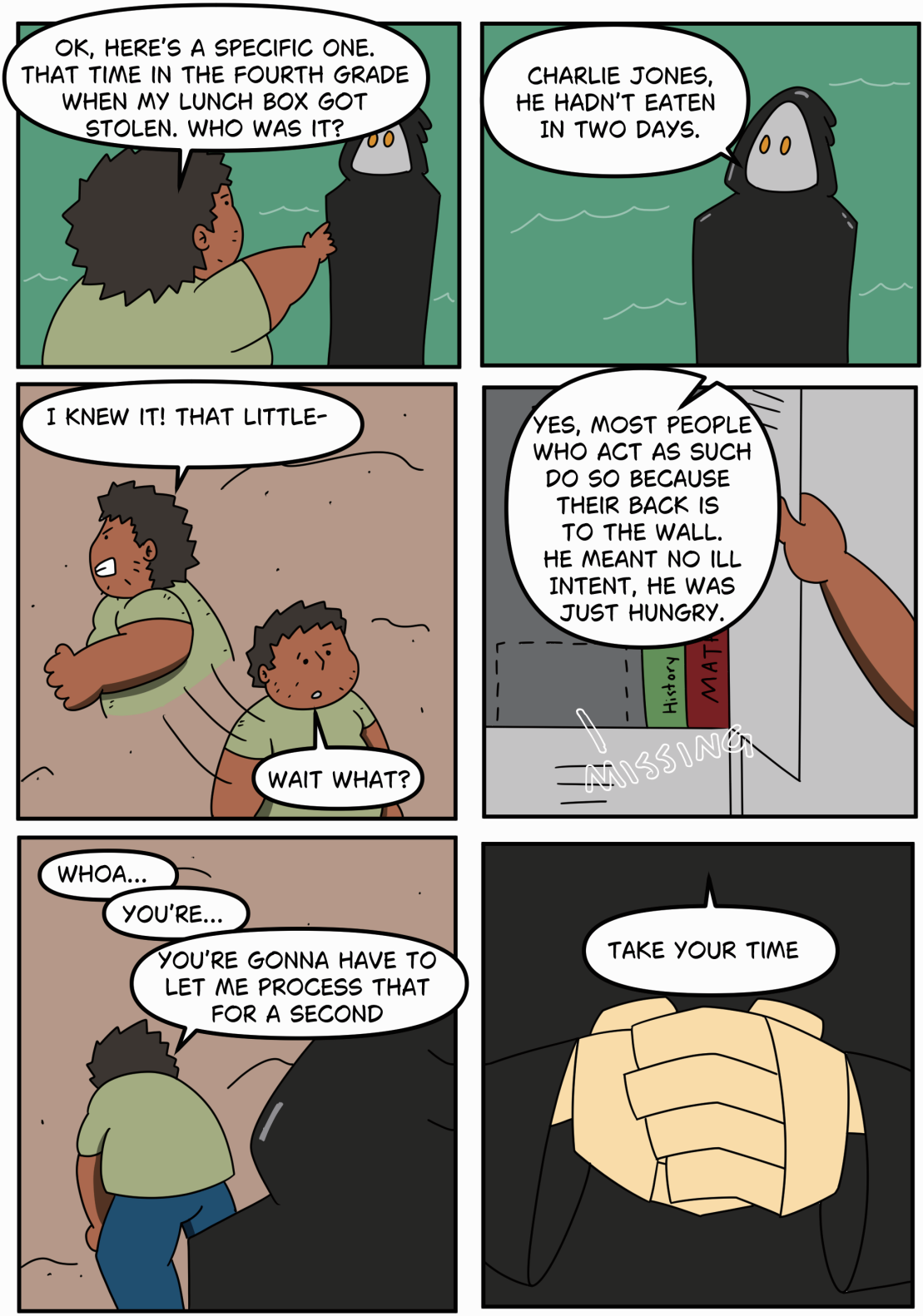

AHH, SO THERE THINGS YOU DON'T KNOW.
ONLY WHAT IS MY JOB TO KNOW
OK...
SO ANY QUESTION, ANY QUESTION...
OH! HERE'S A GOOD ONE!
WHAT IS THE MEANING OF LIFE?
WHAT GAVE YOUR LIFE MEANING WHILE YOU WERE ALIVE?
NO NO NO, THAT'S NOT AN ANSWER!
MAYBE NOT IMMEDIATELY.
BUT HUMANS WONDER WHAT THE MEANING OF LIFE IS SO MUCH THAT THEY OVERLOOK IT AS THEY EXPERIENCE IT. WHY WONDER SO MUCH WHEN THE ANSWER IS SO CLEARLY THERE THE WHOLE TIME?


SO YOU'RE SAYING THE MEANING OF LIFE IS WHAT WE MAKE OF IT?
YES.
I WAS EXPECTING SOMETHING MORE...
I DON'T LIKE THAT ANSWER...
TANGIBLE?
I DON'T KNOW, MAYBE! KIND A MAKES ME FEEL LIKE I WASTED MY LIFE.
MOST DO.


OK, ARE CRYPTIDS REAL?
ONLY ONE
YOU GONNA SAY WHICH ONE?
I WILL IF YOU ASK IT.
UGH. WHICH ONE?
BIGFOOT

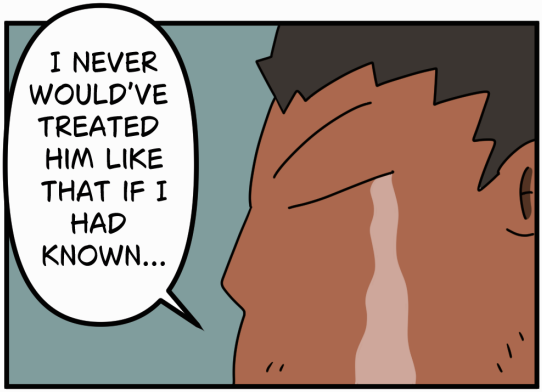

ARE YOU SERIOUS?
DEAD SERIOUS.
....
AYYYYYEEE

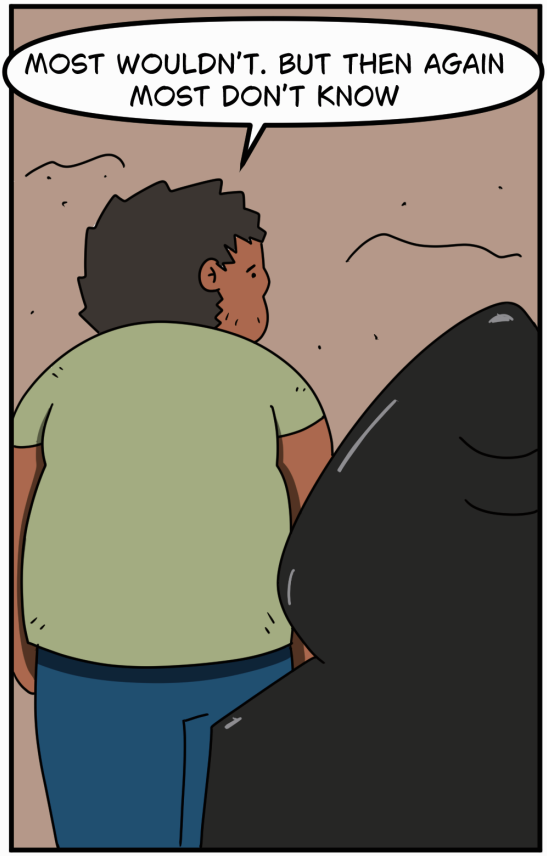

WHAT ABOUT THE EARTH, IS IT FLAT OR ROUND?
IT'S ROUND
I KNEW IT!
YOU WOULD BE SURPRISED HOW OFTEN I GET THAT QUESTION.
A LOT OF STUPID PEOPLE?
A LOT OF PEOPLE WHO BELIEVE THEY'VE BEEN LIED TO.
HMM, I GUESS THAT'S FAIR


OK, HERE'S A SPECIFIC ONE. THAT TIME IN THE FOURTH GRADE WHEN MY LUNCH BOX GOT STOLEN. WHO WAS IT?
CHARLIE JONES, HE HADN'T EATEN IN TWO DAYS.
I KNEW IT! THAT LITTLE-
WAIT WHAT?
YES, MOST PEOPLE WHO ACT AS SUCH DO SO BECAUSE THEIR BACK IS TO THE WALL. HE MEANT NO ILL INTENT, HE WAS JUST HUNGRY.
History
MISSING
WHOA...
YOU'RE...
YOU'RE GONNA HAVE TO LET ME PROCESS THAT FOR A SECOND
TAKE YOUR TIME





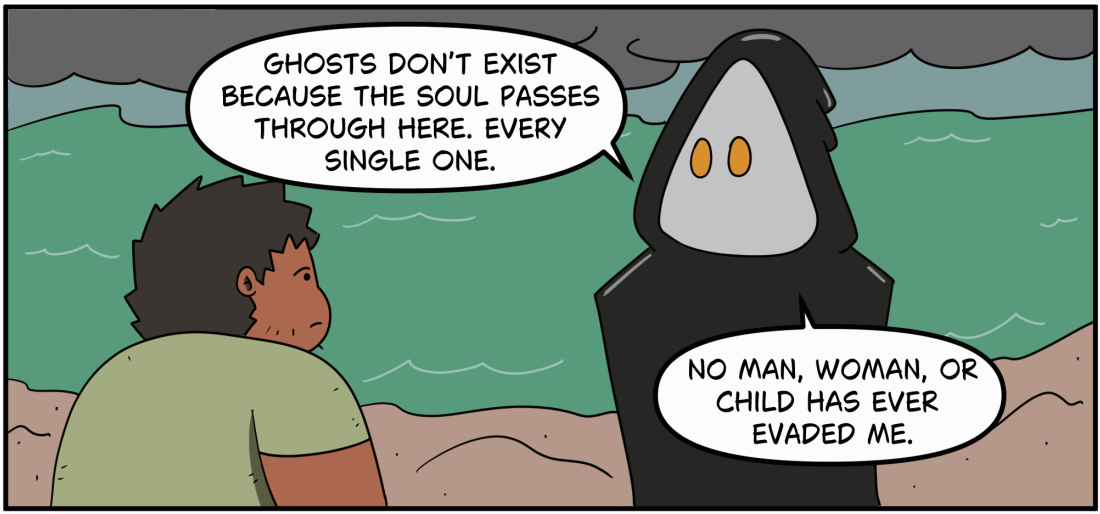

I NEVER WOULD'VE TREATED HIM LIKE THAT IF I HAD KNOWN...

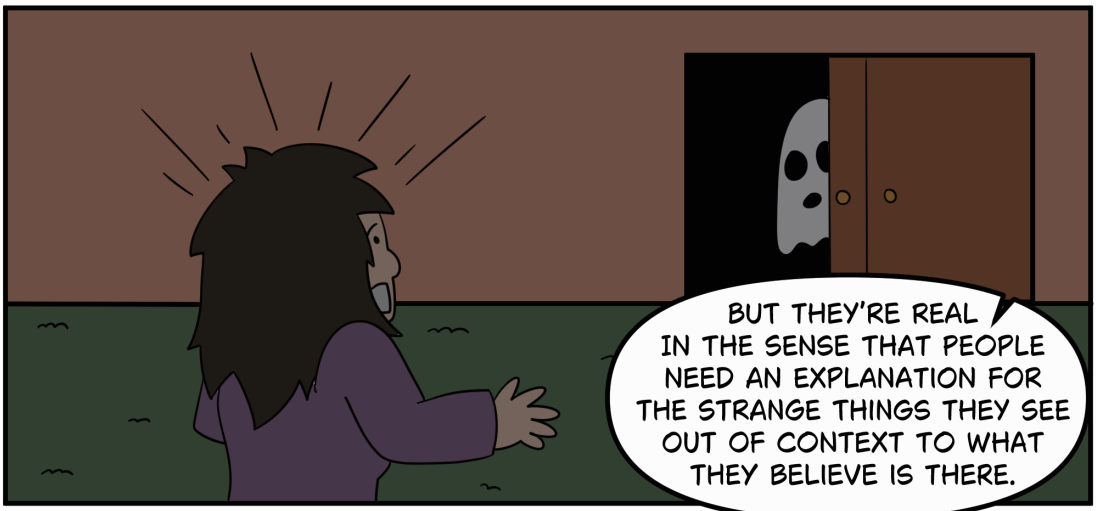

MOST WOULDN'T. BUT THEN AGAIN MOST DON'T KNOW

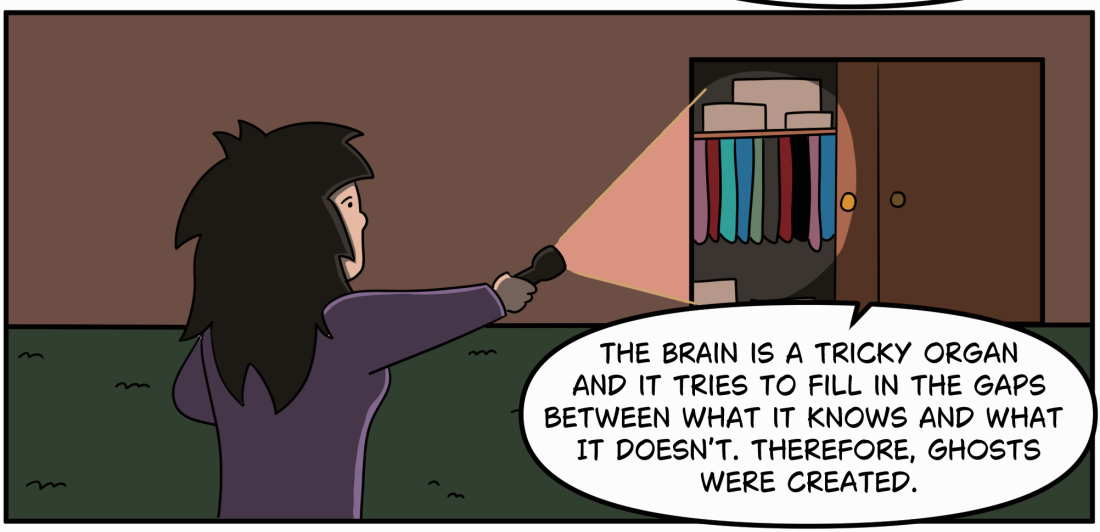

DID HE EVER MAKE IT? HE ENDED UP MOVING AWAY THE NEXT YEAR.


HE DID.
HE OWNS A HARDWARE STORE NOW AND HAS A LOVING WIFE AND THREE KIDS.
OH WOW, HE MADE IT BETTER THAN I DID.
I'M GLAD FOR HIM THOUGH
HE WAS GLAD FOR YOUR LUNCH THAT DAY.
GOOD...
SHUFFLE
MAN, I FEEL SO BAD.
WHAT CAN YOU DO ABOUT IT NOW?
WELL...NOTHING I GUESS. NEXT QUESTION.

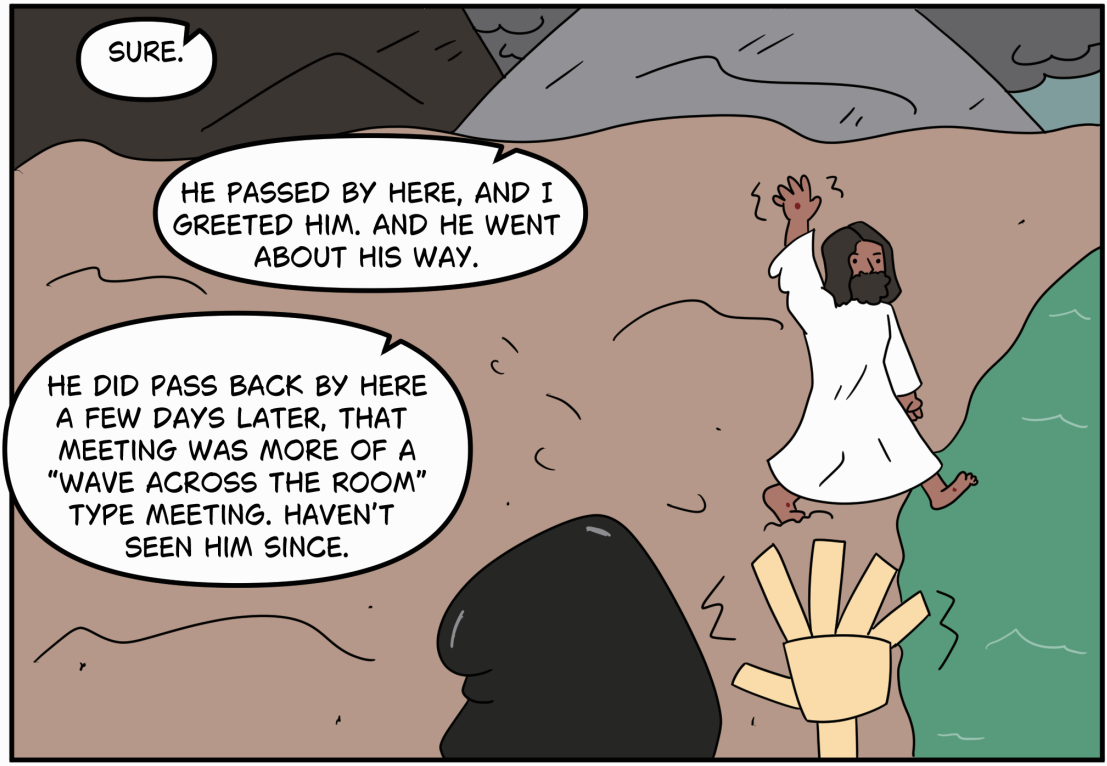

ARE GHOSTS REAL?
YES AND NO.
WAIT...WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
I MEAN THEY'RE REAL, JUST NOT IN THE WAY THAT YOU THINK.
CARE TO EXPLAIN?
I CAN.
....
OH YEA, SORRY.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THAT?


GHOSTS DON'T EXIST BECAUSE THE SOUL PASSES THROUGH HERE. EVERY SINGLE ONE.
NO MAN, WOMAN, OR CHILD HAS EVER EVADED ME.


BUT THEY'RE REAL IN THE SENSE THAT PEOPLE NEED AN EXPLANATION FOR THE STRANGE THINGS THEY SEE OUT OF CONTEXT TO WHAT THEY BELIEVE IS THERE.


THE BRAIN IS A TRICKY ORGAN AND IT TRIES TO FILL IN THE GAPS BETWEEN WHAT IT KNOWS AND WHAT IT DOESN'T. THEREFORE, GHOSTS WERE CREATED.

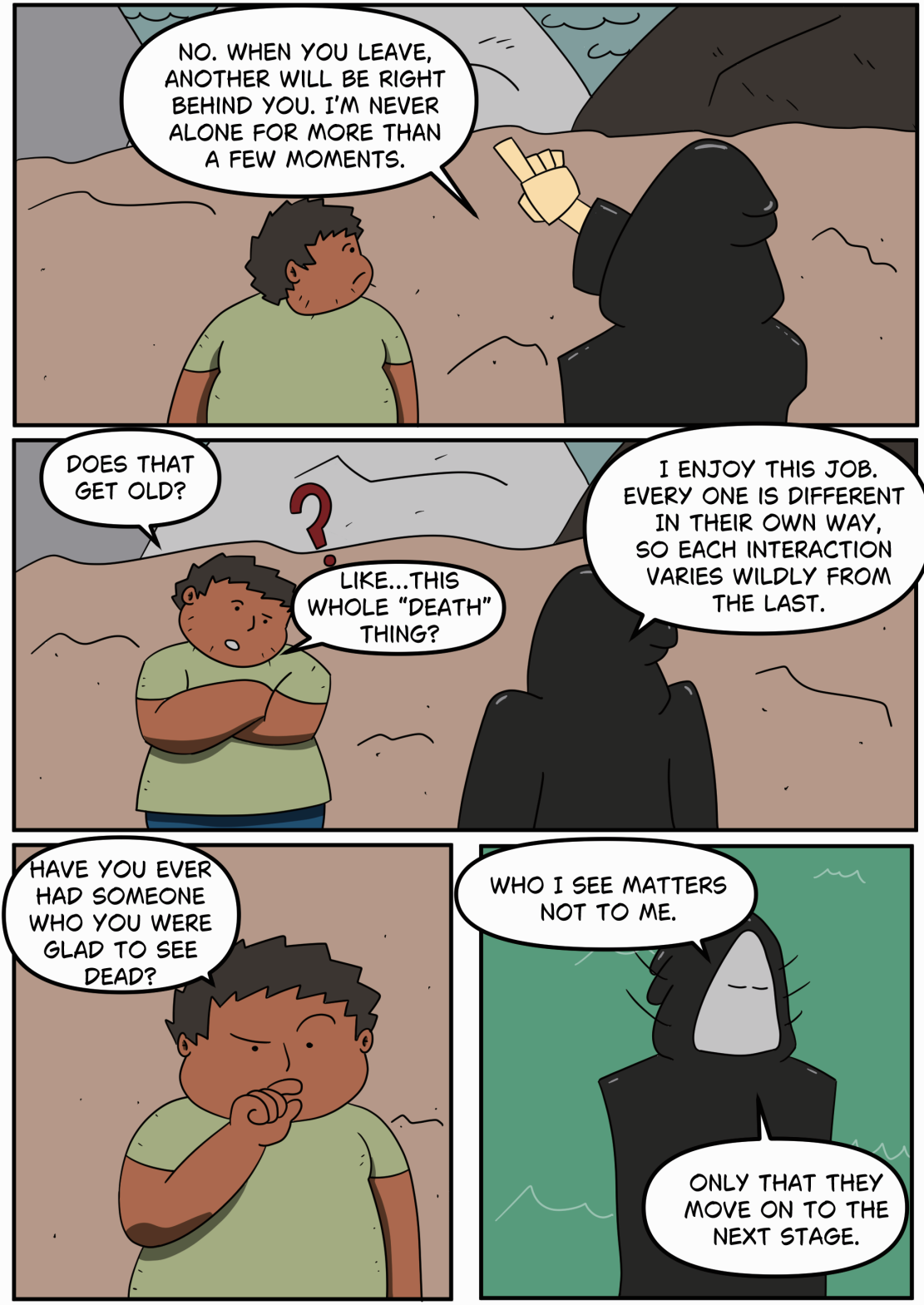

I BELIEVE THAT'S THE LONGEST ANSWER YOU'VE GIVEN ME.
THAT'S THE MOST COMPLEX QUESTION YOU'VE GIVEN ME.
WAIT, EVERY SINGLE PERSON?
YES.
EVEN JESUS?
YES.
WHOA, CAN YOU EXPLAIN THAT ENCOUNTER TO ME?
AND I'M ASKING YOU TO DO IT, NOT IF YOU "COULD".


SURE.
HE PASSED BY HERE, AND I GREETED HIM. AND HE WENT ABOUT HIS WAY.
HE DID PASS BACK BY HERE A FEW DAYS LATER, THAT MEETING WAS MORE OF A "WAVE ACROSS THE ROOM" TYPE MEETING. HAVEN'T SEEN HIM SINCE.


YOU DIDN'T ATTEMPT TO STOP HIM OR SLOW HIM DOWN?


WHY WOULD I? HE'S MY BOSS AND MY CREATOR. HE CAN COME AND GO AS HE PLEASES WHETHER I WANT HIM TO OR NOT
BESIDES, HE WAS BUSY AND ON A TIGHT SCHEDULE.
OH...

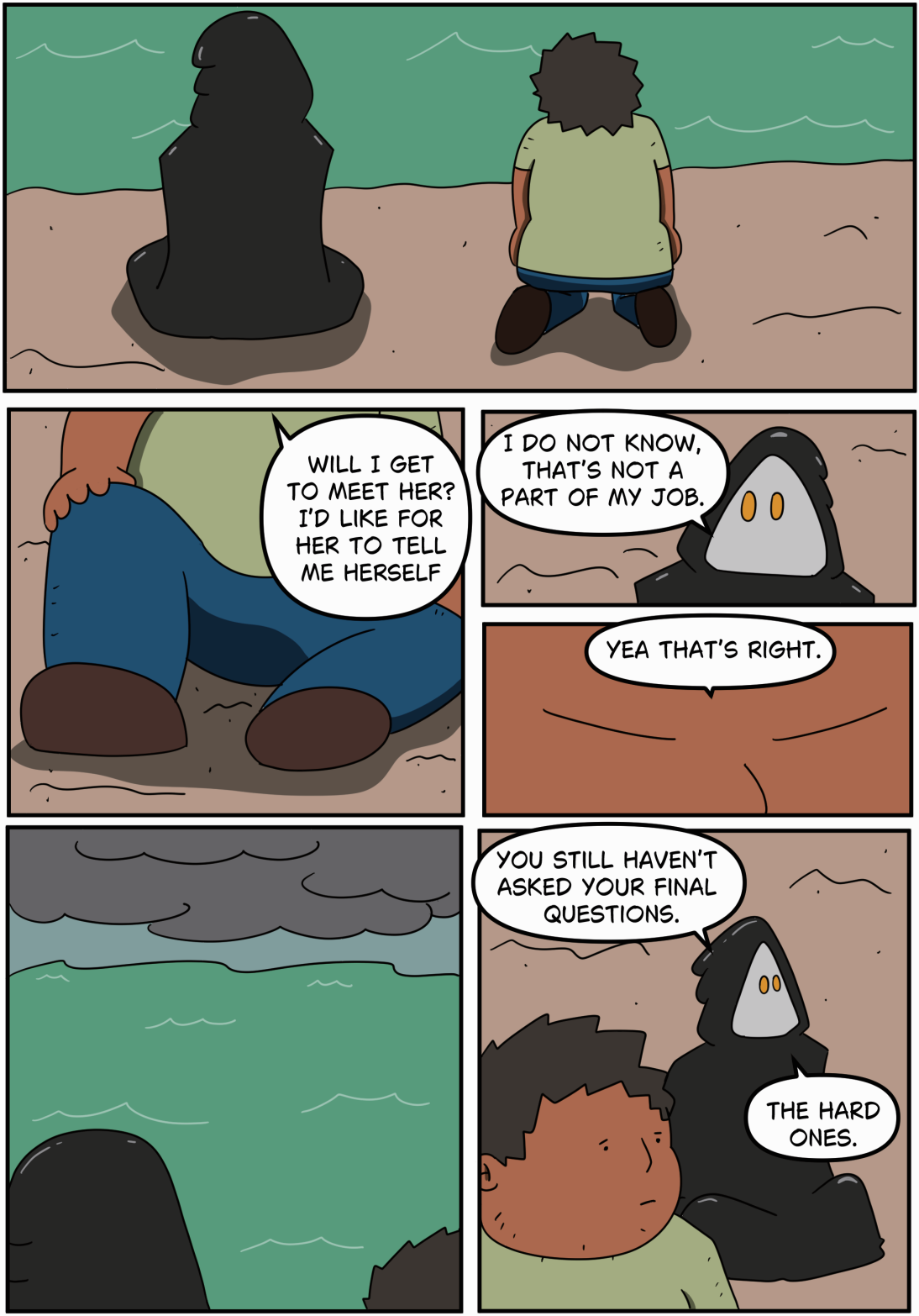

EXPECTED MORE?
YEA...I GUESS I DID. JUST NEVER REALLY THOUGHT ABOUT IT FROM THAT PERSPECTIVE
WHEN DOES THE FERRY ARRIVE?
WHEN YOU ARE FINISHED ASKING QUESTIONS.
OH WOW, OK THEN. SO I CAN KEEP ASKING AS LONG AS I LIKE?
AS LONG AS YOU HAVE QUESTIONS.
DO YOU EVER GET LONELY?

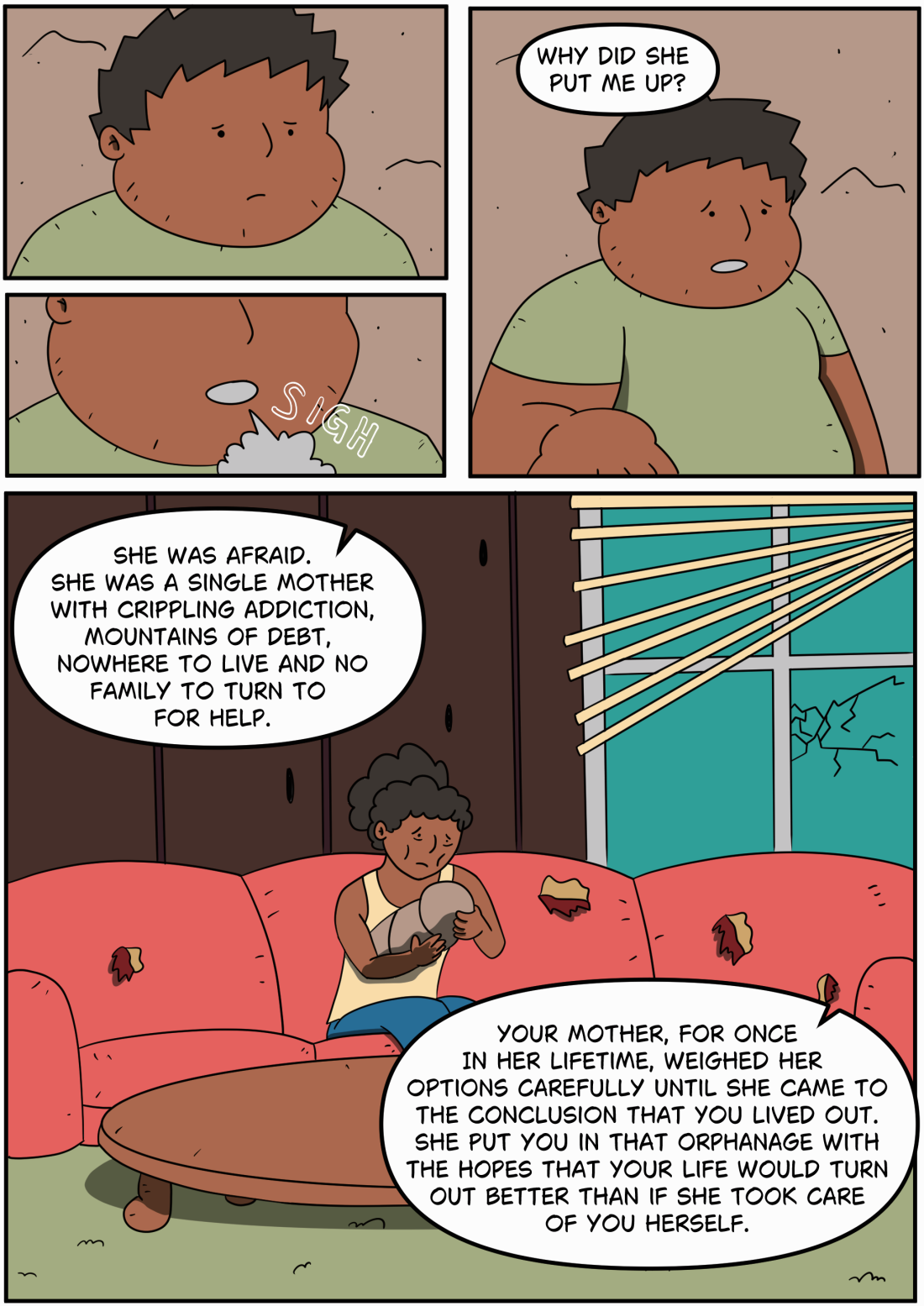

NO. WHEN YOU LEAVE, ANOTHER WILL BE RIGHT BEHIND YOU. I'M NEVER ALONE FOR MORE THAN A FEW MOMENTS.
DOES THAT GET OLD?
?
LIKE...THIS WHOLE "DEATH" THING?
I ENJOY THIS JOB. EVERY ONE IS DIFFERENT IN THEIR OWN WAY, SO EACH INTERACTION VARIES WILDLY FROM THE LAST.
HAVE YOU EVER HAD SOMEONE WHO YOU WERE GLAD TO SEE DEAD?
WHO I SEE MATTERS NOT TO ME.
ONLY THAT THEY MOVE ON TO THE NEXT STAGE.


....
ASK YOUR QUESTION. IT'S ALRIGHT.
I'M WORRIED ABOUT THE ANSWER...
I KNOW.
HAVE YOU SEEN MY MOTHER COME THROUGH HERE?

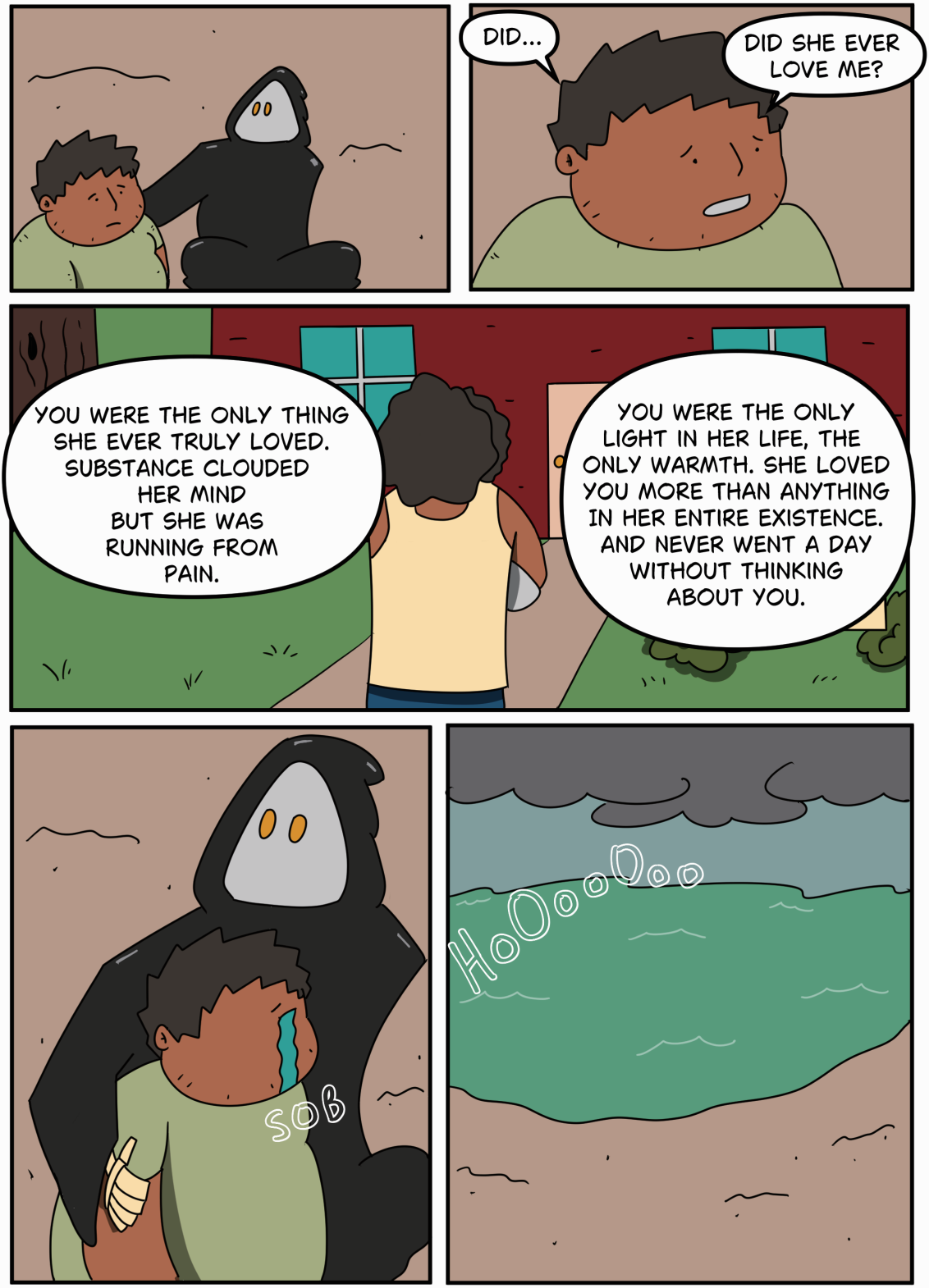

I HAVE.
SNIFFLE
SO SHE...
SHE'S DE...
SHE'S DEAD?


YES.
SOB
SOB
I...
I NEVER GOT TO MEET HER.
I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT HER FAVORITE COLOR WAS... OR HER NAME.
IS THAT IMPORTANT TO YOU?
WHAT?
HER NAME.


WILL I GET TO MEET HER? I'D LIKE FOR HER TO TELL ME HERSELF
I DO NOT KNOW, THAT'S NOT A PART OF MY JOB.
YEA THAT'S RIGHT.
YOU STILL HAVEN'T ASKED YOUR FINAL QUESTIONS.
THE HARD ONES.


WHY DID SHE PUT ME UP?
SIGH
SHE WAS AFRAID. SHE WAS A SINGLE MOTHER WITH CRIPPLING ADDICTION, MOUNTAINS OF DEBT, NOWHERE TO LIVE AND NO FAMILY TO TURN TO FOR HELP.
YOUR MOTHER, FOR ONCE IN HER LIFETIME, WEIGHED HER OPTIONS CAREFULLY UNTIL SHE CAME TO THE CONCLUSION THAT YOU LIVED OUT. SHE PUT YOU IN THAT ORPHANAGE WITH THE HOPES THAT YOUR LIFE WOULD TURN OUT BETTER THAN IF SHE TOOK CARE OF YOU HERSELF.


HOW LONG AFTER DID SHE DIE?
5 MONTHS 3 WEEKS AND 1 DAY.
SO THERE NEVER WAS A CHANCE?
NO. NOT IN LIFE AT LEAST.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
THERES ALWAYS HEREAFTER.
BUT I WON'T KNOW UNTIL I GET THERE.
NO, YOU WON'T.
BUT WHAT IF I DON'T GET TO SEE HER? TO FINALLY GET TO MEET HER?
THEN MAYBE YOU SHOULD ASK YOUR FINAL QUESTION.


DID...
DID SHE EVER LOVE ME?
YOU WERE THE ONLY THING SHE EVER TRULY LOVED. SUBSTANCE CLOUDED HER MIND BUT SHE WAS RUNNING FROM PAIN.
YOU WERE THE ONLY LIGHT IN HER LIFE, THE ONLY WARMTH. SHE LOVED YOU MORE THAN ANYTHING IN HER ENTIRE EXISTENCE. AND NEVER WENT A DAY WITHOUT THINKING ABOUT YOU.
SOB
HOOOOOO


THANK YOU.
FOR EVERYTHING.
YOU'RE WELCOME.
HOOOOOO
COME ON.
YOUR RIDE IS HERE.
THE END

The Place We All Go



By

Cory Holman

JOSH IS DEAD.
BUT WHEN HE MEETS
DEATH, HE'S OFFERED
A CHOICE.

WATCH HIS LIFE OVER
AGAIN...OR ASK ANY
QUESTIONS HE WANTS.

WHAT WOULD YOU ASK
WHEN YOU GOT TO
THE PLACE WE ALL GO?

CORY HOLMAN
GRIDLOCK STUDIOS