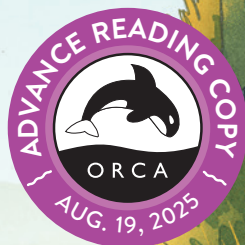



Howler Reef



SUEÑO BAY
ADVENTURES



MIKE DEAS AND NANCY DEAS



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Howler Reef

SUEÑO BAY ADVENTURES 6

Authors: Mike Deas and Nancy Deas

August 19, 2025

In this graphic novel for early middle readers, Kay fights through her fear of kayaking to join her friends on a kids-only paddle up the coast. But unbeknownst to the group, Kay has a secret goal: to find the missing person whose ship disappeared weeks before.

FORMAT	Paperback	PDF
6.625 x 10.25"	9781459837829	9781459837836
192 pages	\$16.95	

KEY SELLING POINTS

- The sixth book in the popular Sueño Bay Adventures series, this story is about a girl who is determined to track down a missing radio host, who she believes was shipwrecked up the coast. She joins her friends on a kayaking expedition and lures them off course in an attempt to find the missing man.
- Sueño Bay #6 is about honesty, overcoming fears, realizing there are consequences for your actions and listening to your friends.
- Set on a mysterious island, the realistic art and moody setting are sure to appeal to young readers and adults alike. Think *The Goonies* meets the Amulet series.
- Sparse text and easy-to-follow narrative make this the perfect graphic novel introduction for readers interested in something more than picture books.
- Mike Deas is well known for illustrating the Graphic Guide Adventures series and the popular Tank & Fizz series, and Nancy Deas has worked with him on the Sueño Bay Adventures, as well as the board book *Runaway Blanket*. They live on a small island in the Pacific Northwest (Salt Spring Island).
- The perfect blend of mystery, friendship and Moon Creatures, the Sueño Bay Adventures series includes *Shadow Island*, *Otter Lagoon*, *Hermit Hill*, *Candle Point*, and *Crystal Cave* and will continue with two more books coming soon.

ABOUT THE CREATORS



MIKE DEAS is an author/illustrator of graphic novels, including the Sueño Bay Adventures, the Tank & Fizz series and the Graphic Guide Adventure series. While he grew up with a love of illustrative storytelling, Capilano College's commercial animation program helped Mike fine-tune his drawing skills and imagination. Mike and his family live on Salt Spring Island, British Columbia.



NANCY DEAS is the coauthor of the Sueño Bay Adventures series and *Runaway Blanket*. She holds a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Victoria and grew up on a farm on Mayne Island, BC, wandering forests and beaches. She has a great love of travel and adventure. Nancy now explores Salt Spring Island, British Columbia, where she lives with her family.

Photos by Billie Woods

PROMOTIONAL PLANS INCLUDE

- Print and online advertising campaigns
- Promotion at national and regional school, library and trade conferences
- Extensive ARC distribution, including Edelweiss
- Blog and social media promotion
- Outreach in Orca's enewsletter program, including targeted emails to educators, librarians and booksellers in Canada and the United States

REVIEWS/ENDORSEMENTS

★ "Thrilling, joyous...Deas's expressive artwork includes the colorful landscapes and flora of Sueño Bay's forests, from bright greens and yellows in the daytime to subdued blues and grays at night and in the rain. Atmospheric, wordless pages pack a huge punch in this book's emotional communication. The side effects of loneliness result in magic and danger in this satisfying, relatively self-contained third entry in the 'Sueño Bay Adventures' series."

—SCHOOL LIBRARY JOURNAL, starred review for *Hermit Hill*

"I love the Sueño Bay series so much. Each book is a spell of wonder, magic and friendship."

—RICHARD VAN CAMP, author of *Welcome Song for Baby* and *Little You*

BISACS

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 JUV037000 JUVENILE FICTION / Fantasy & Magic
 JUV039060 JUVENILE FICTION / Social Themes / Friendship

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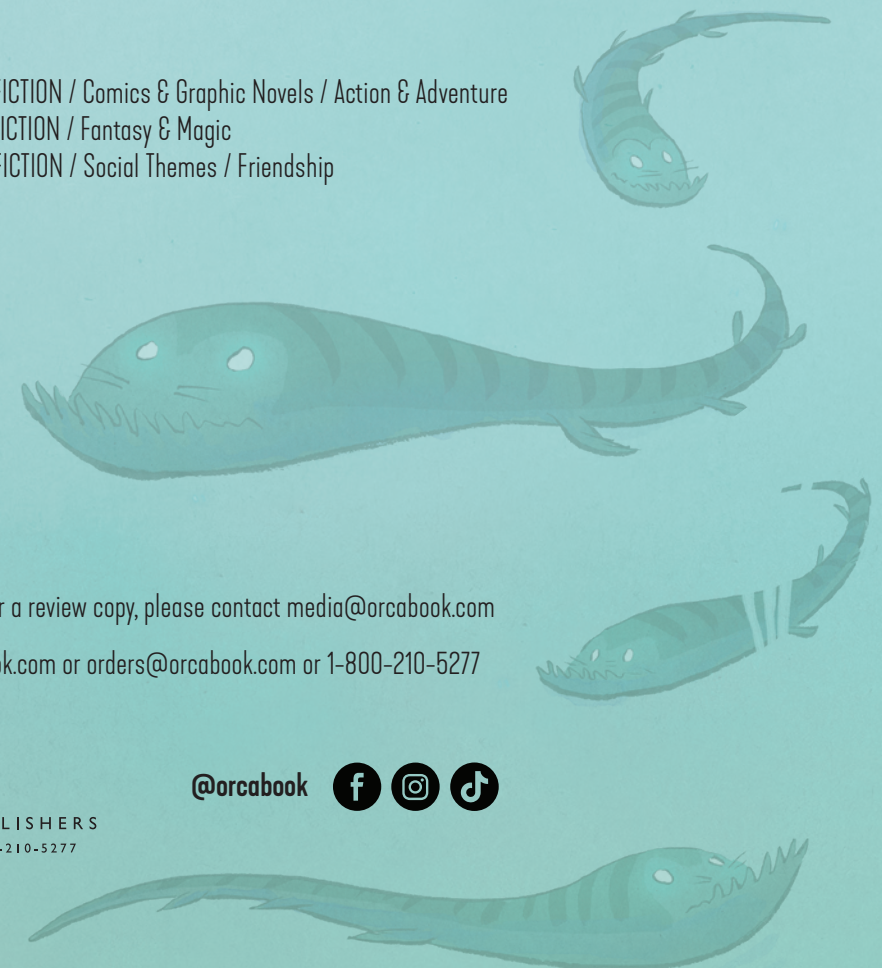
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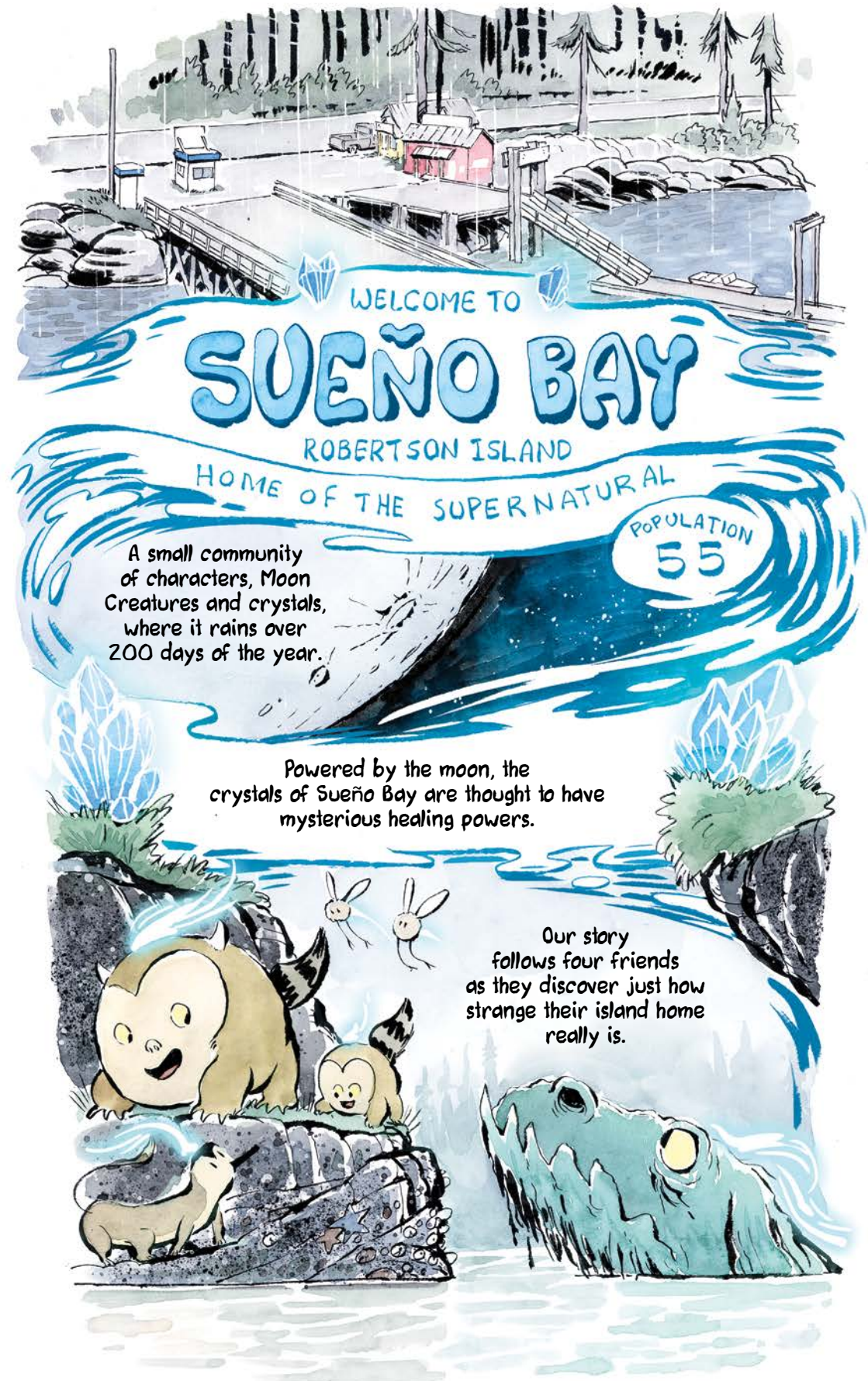


Howler Reef

SUEÑO BAY 
ADVENTURES 

MIKE DEAS AND NANCY DEAS

ORCA BOOK PUBLISHERS



WELCOME TO
SUEÑO BAY

ROBERTSON ISLAND

HOME OF THE SUPERNATURAL

POPULATION
55

A small community of characters, Moon Creatures and crystals, where it rains over 200 days of the year.

Powered by the moon, the crystals of Sueño Bay are thought to have mysterious healing powers.

Our story follows four friends as they discover just how strange their island home really is.

For Annie and Faye.
—M.D. and N.D.

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Summary: In this graphic novel for early middle readers, Kay fights her fear of kayaking to join her friends on a kids-only paddle up the coast. Unbeknownst to the group, Kay has a secret goal: to find the missing person whose ship disappeared weeks before.

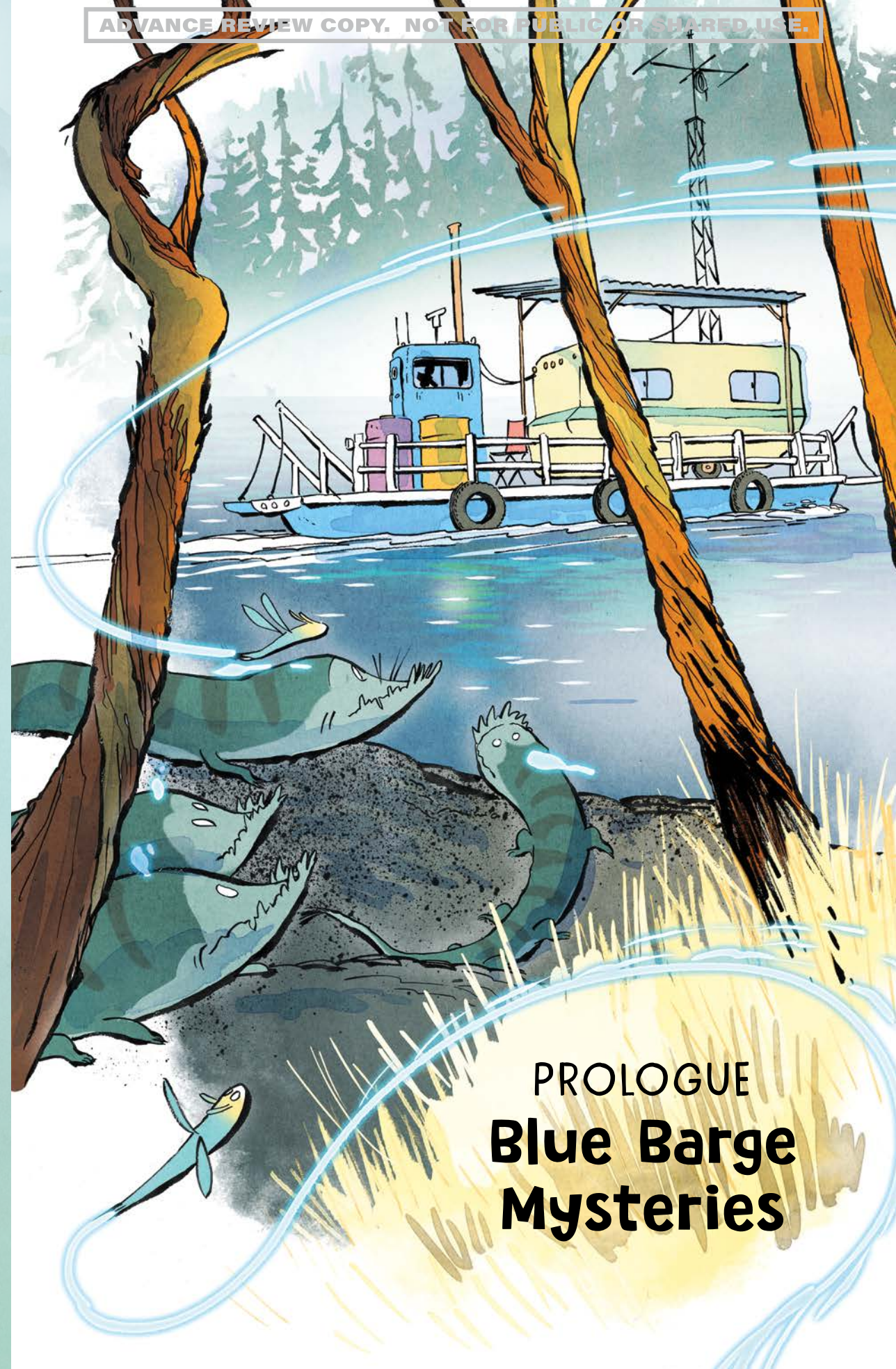
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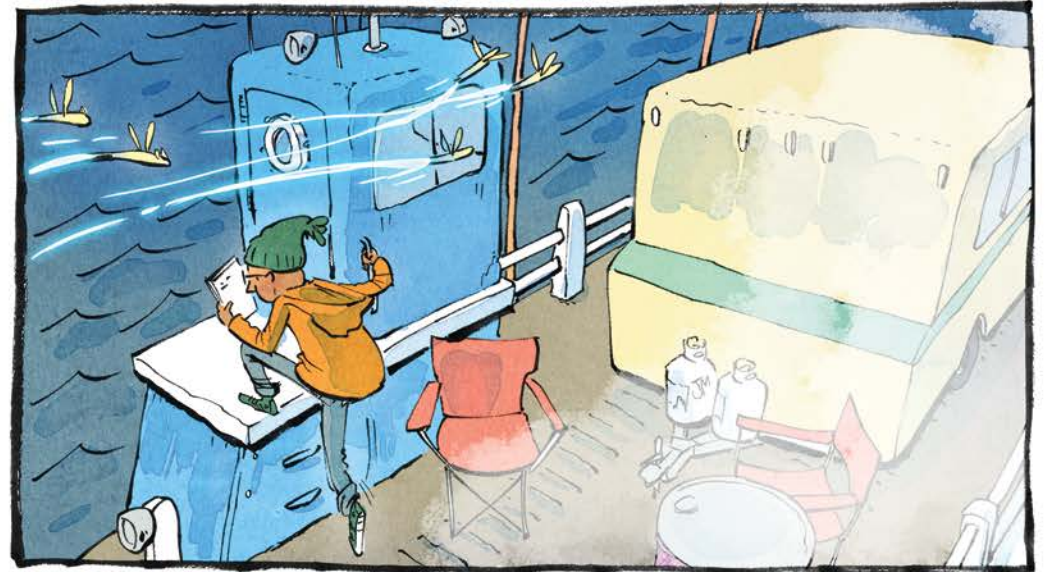
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PROLOGUE Blue Barge Mysteries





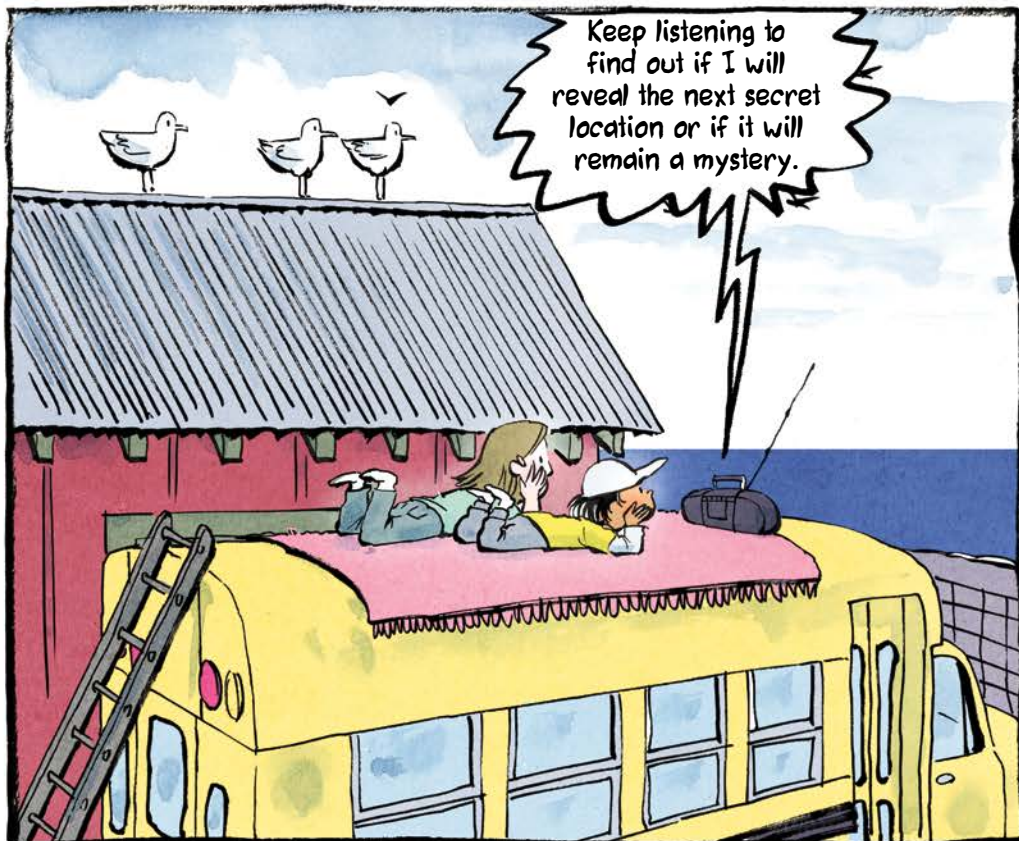
Thank you for joining me, DJ Azul, in my live broadcast of *Blue Barge Mysteries*.



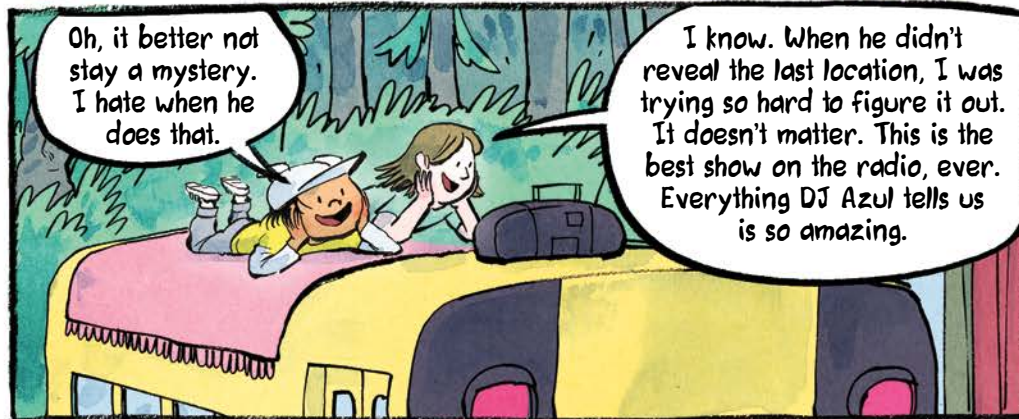
I am in the wild and out to discover!



Yet again I head to the open ocean with my radio, my curiosity, my emergency survival crate and very little else.

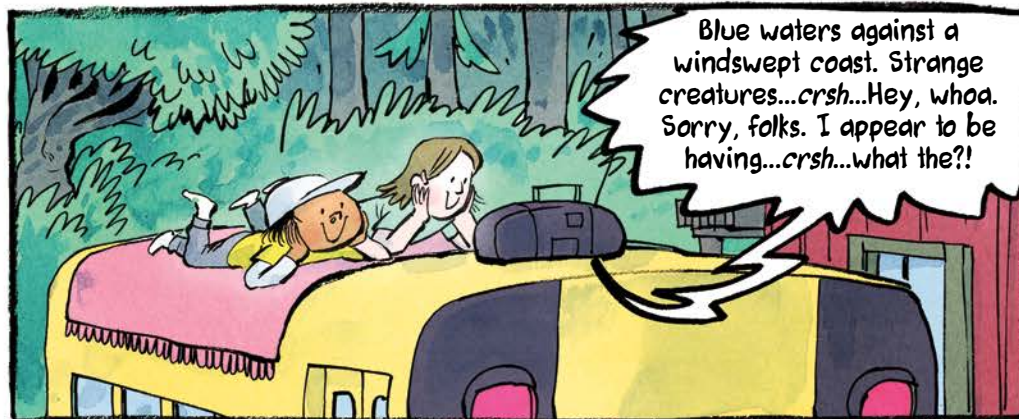


Keep listening to find out if I will reveal the next secret location or if it will remain a mystery.



Oh, it better not stay a mystery. I hate when he does that.

I know. When he didn't reveal the last location, I was trying so hard to figure it out. It doesn't matter. This is the best show on the radio, ever. Everything DJ Azul tells us is so amazing.



Blue waters against a windswept coast. Strange creatures...crsh...Hey, whoa. Sorry, folks. I appear to be having...crsh...what the?!



Ahem. Okay, this next island is home to wild stories and strange locals.



Healing crystals... crsh.

NOWAY!



You gotta be kidding me!

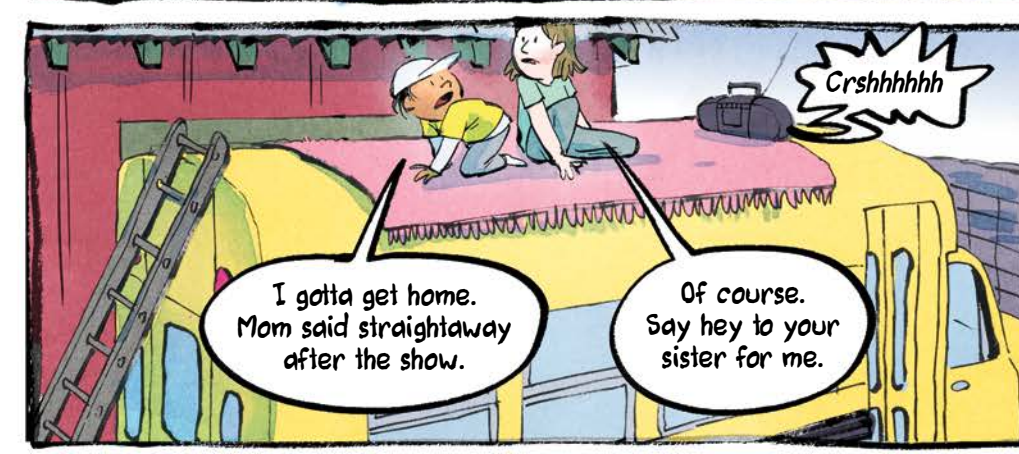
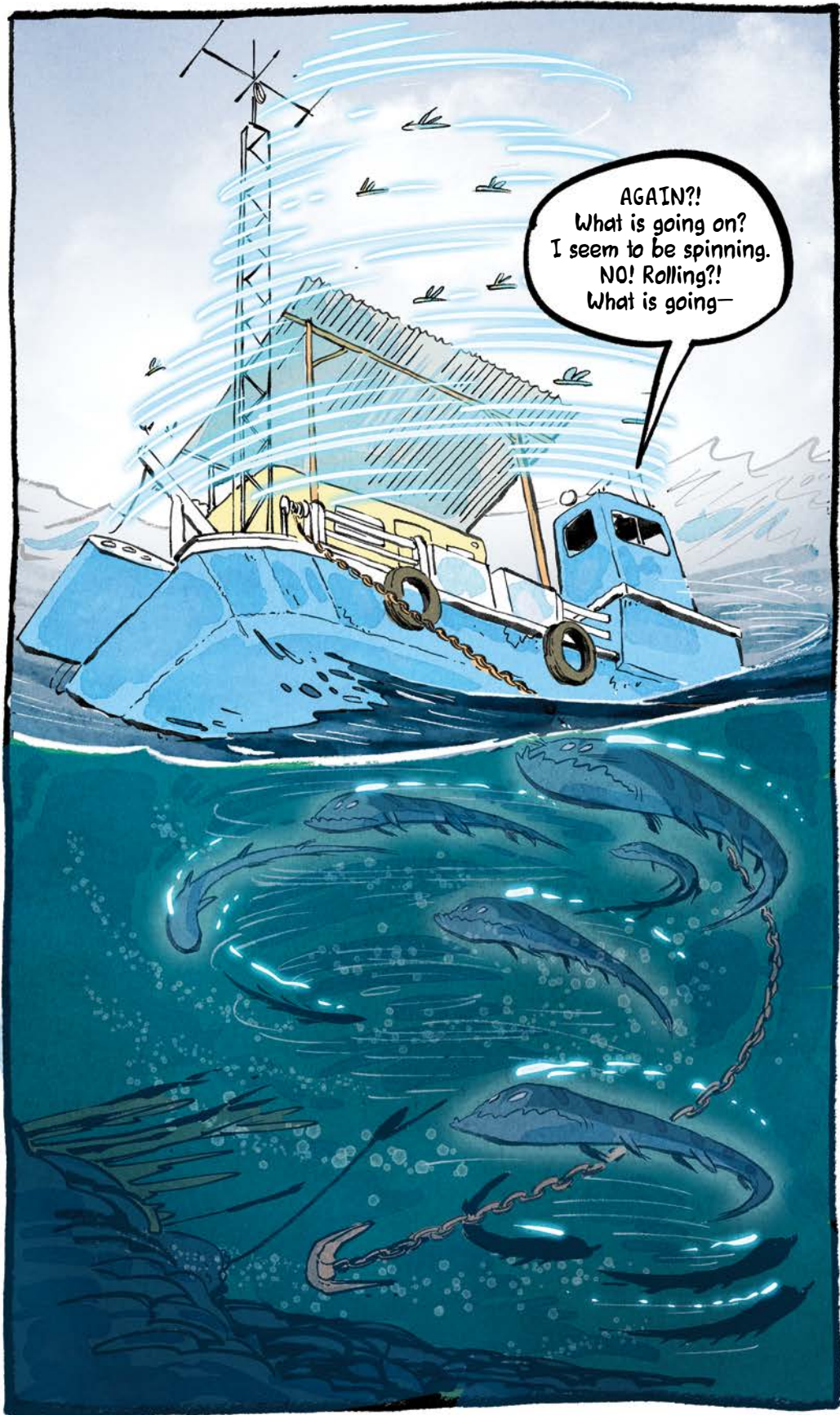
He's here! He came to our island?!

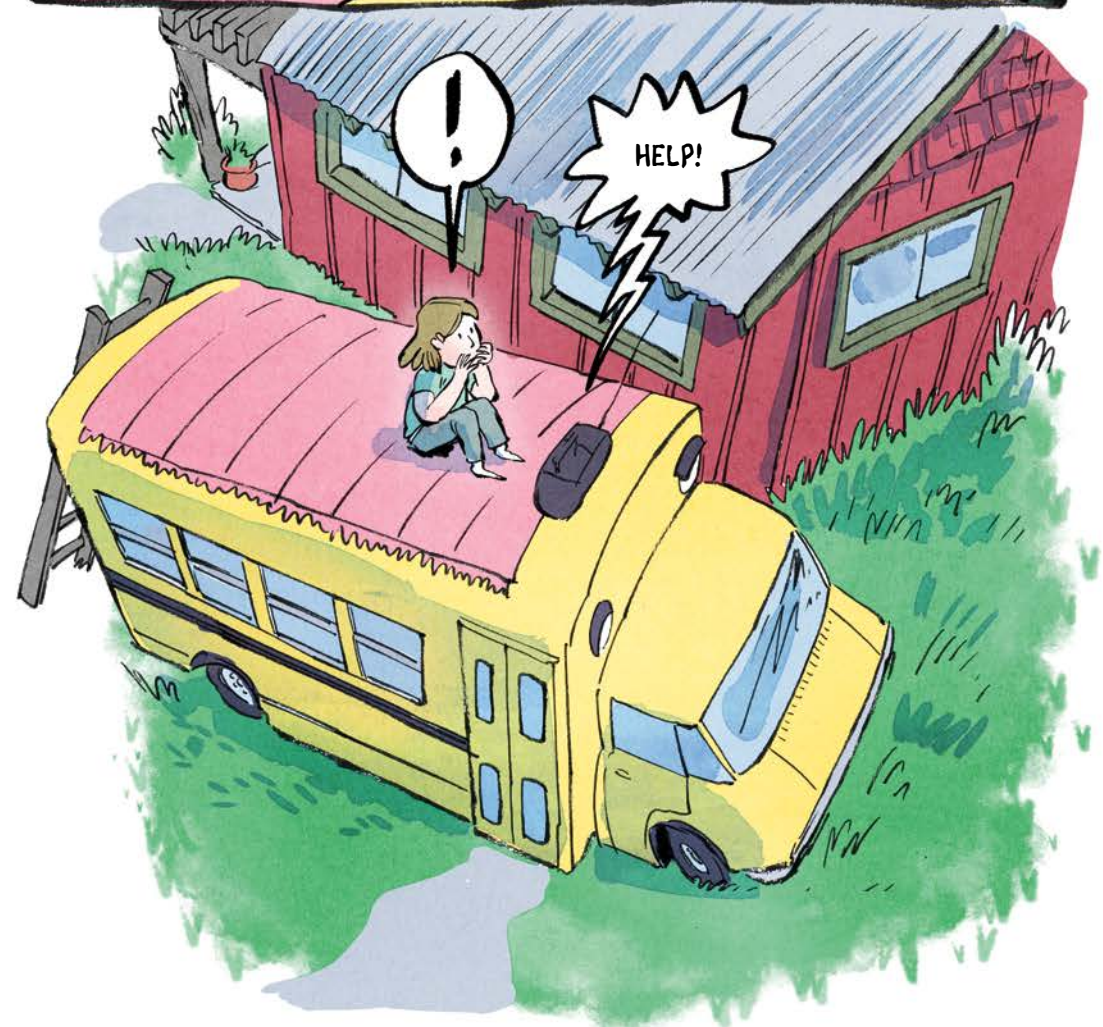
Crsh



He didn't say that for sure, but holy hammerheads, this could be the best day of our lives!

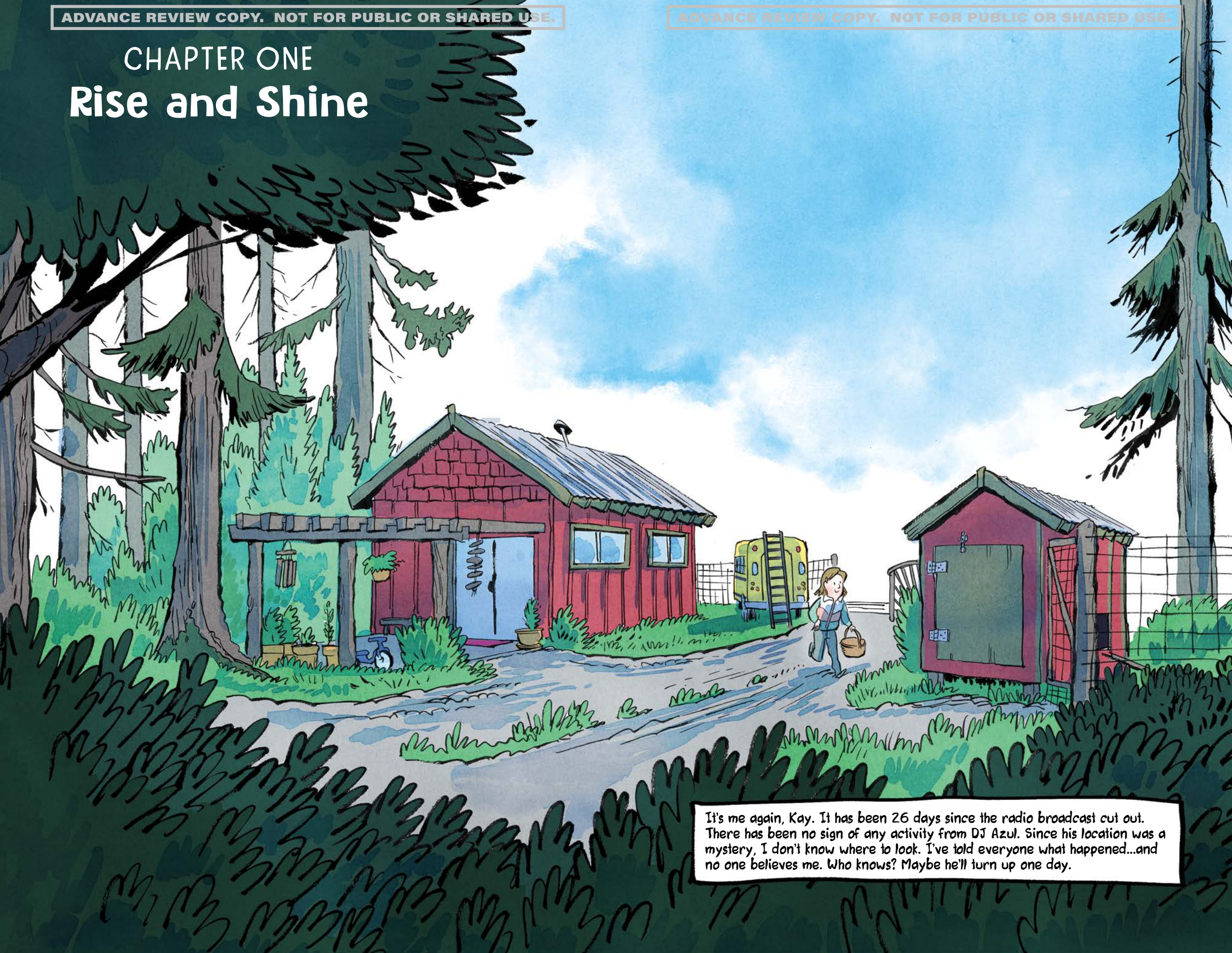
Crsh





CHAPTER ONE

Rise and Shine



It's me again, Kay. It has been 26 days since the radio broadcast cut out. There has been no sign of any activity from DJ Azul. Since his location was a mystery, I don't know where to look. I've told everyone what happened...and no one believes me. Who knows? Maybe he'll turn up one day.





Anybody home?
Ziggy? Where
are you?



Ah, so you
are awake.



It will be okay. Come on now.
The first step is the hardest.



That's it.
You did it!



Let's have some
breakfast now. Don't
worry about the girls.
They won't bite.



Now, ladies,
Ziggy needs
breakfast too.
Please make some
space for him.



Uh! Not
again!



Okay, take your
time. The ladies
are happy to share.



Good luck, Zigs. Maybe you will make a friend today!



Wow, 12 eggs! That's awesome. Everyone's doing their thing. Thanks, girls.



These are beauties.



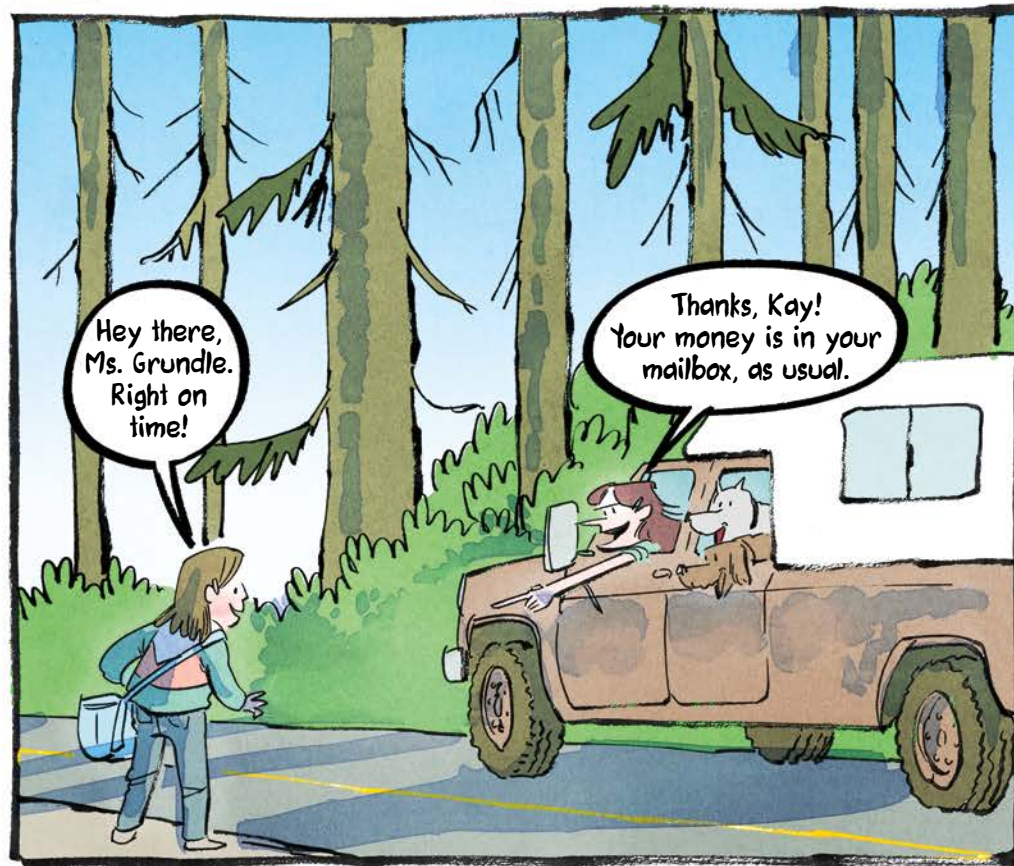
Kay, you off to deliver eggs?

Yup! I've got three stops today. I guess I should be about an hour.



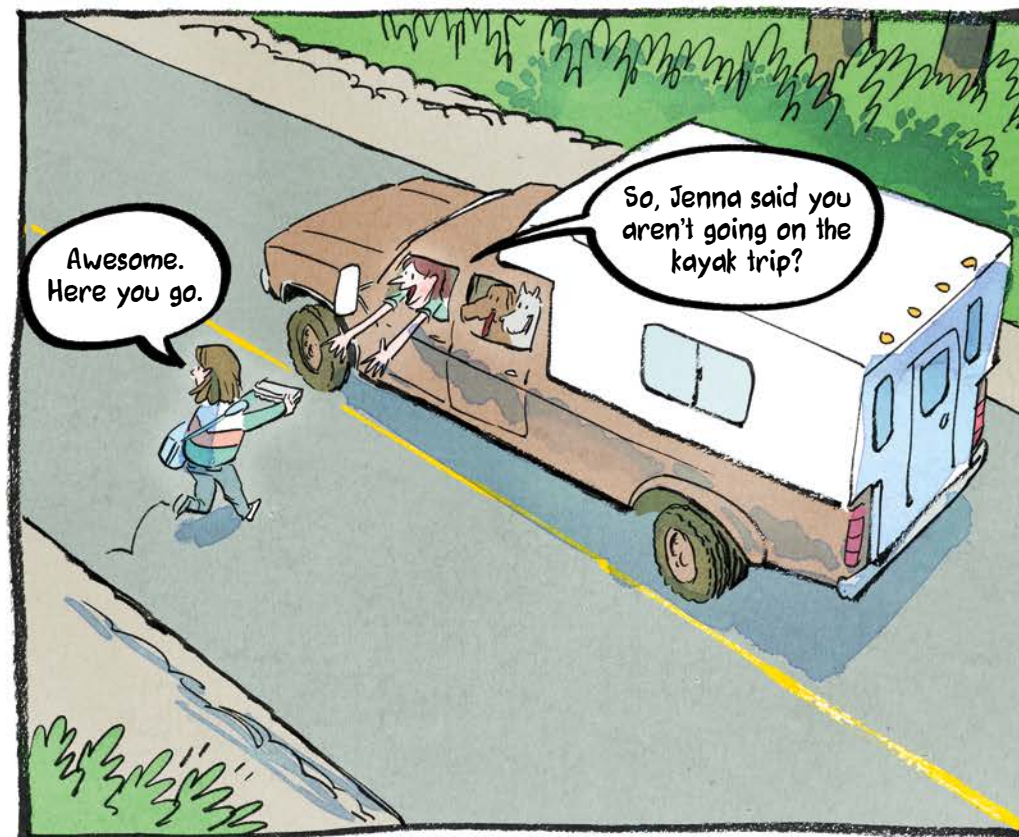
I'd better hurry up. Don't want to keep my customers waiting.





Hey there, Ms. Grundle. Right on time!

Thanks, Kay! Your money is in your mailbox, as usual.

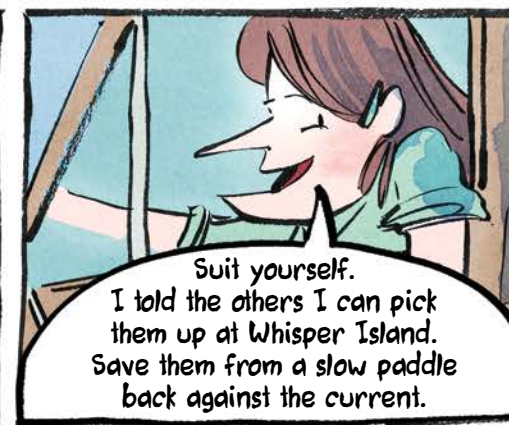


Awesome. Here you go.

So, Jenna said you aren't going on the kayak trip?



Yeah. No, I have a lot to do at home.

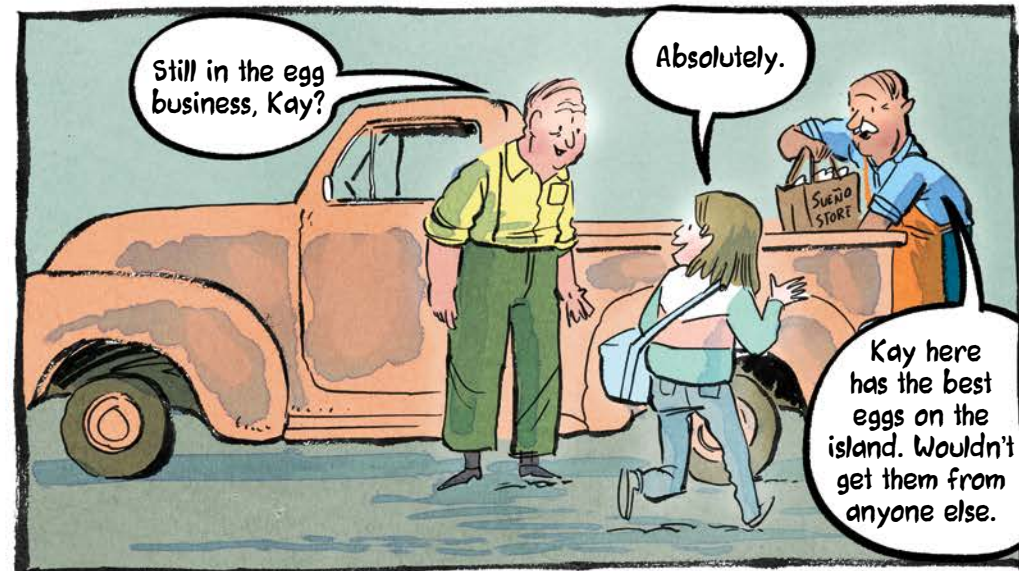


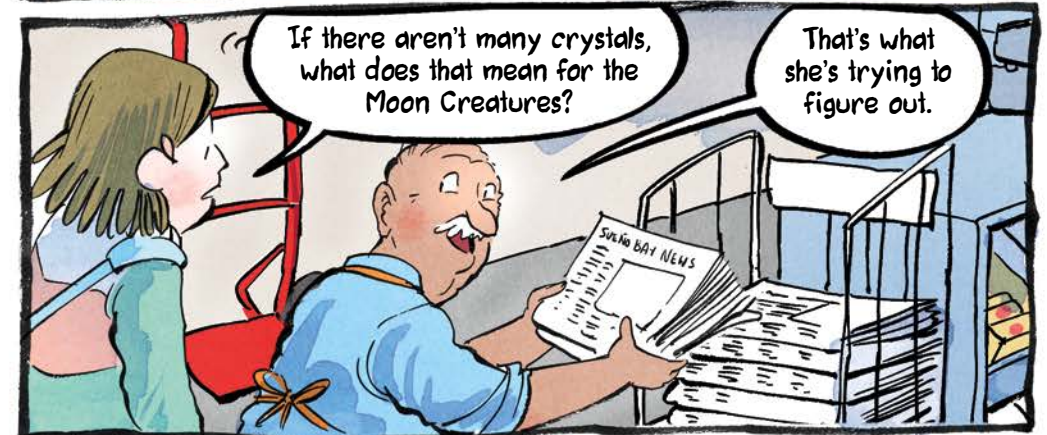
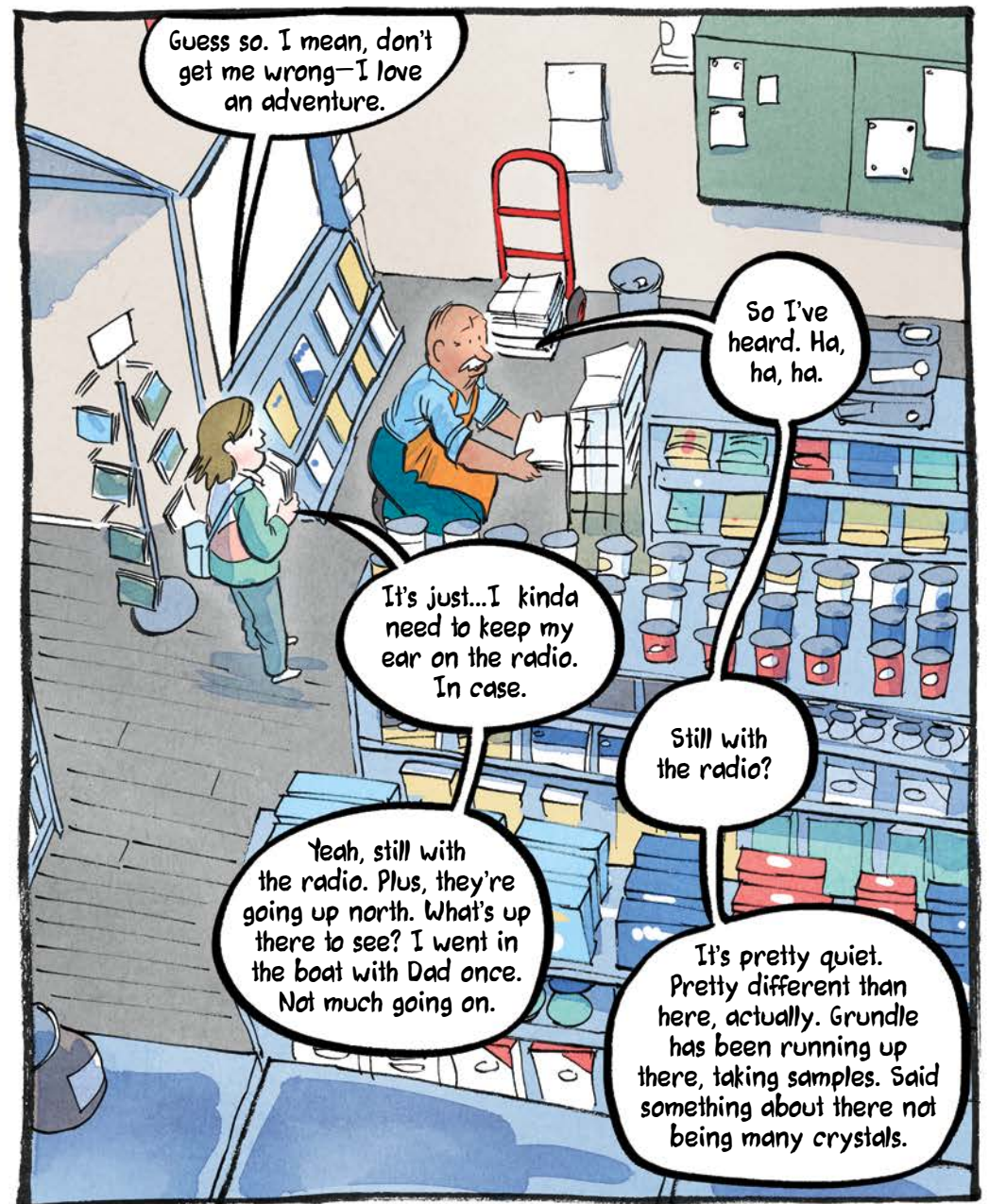
Suit yourself. I told the others I can pick them up at Whisper Island. Save them from a slow paddle back against the current.

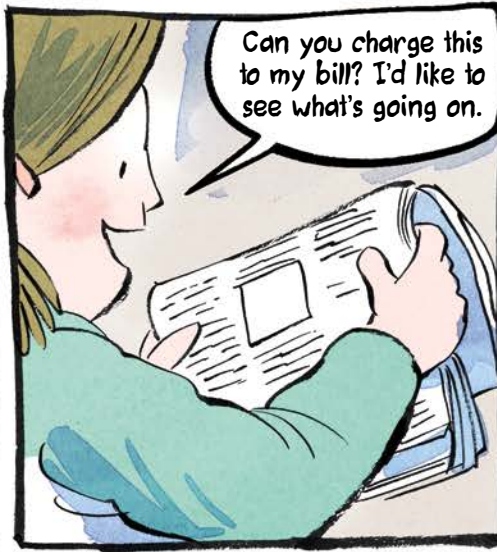


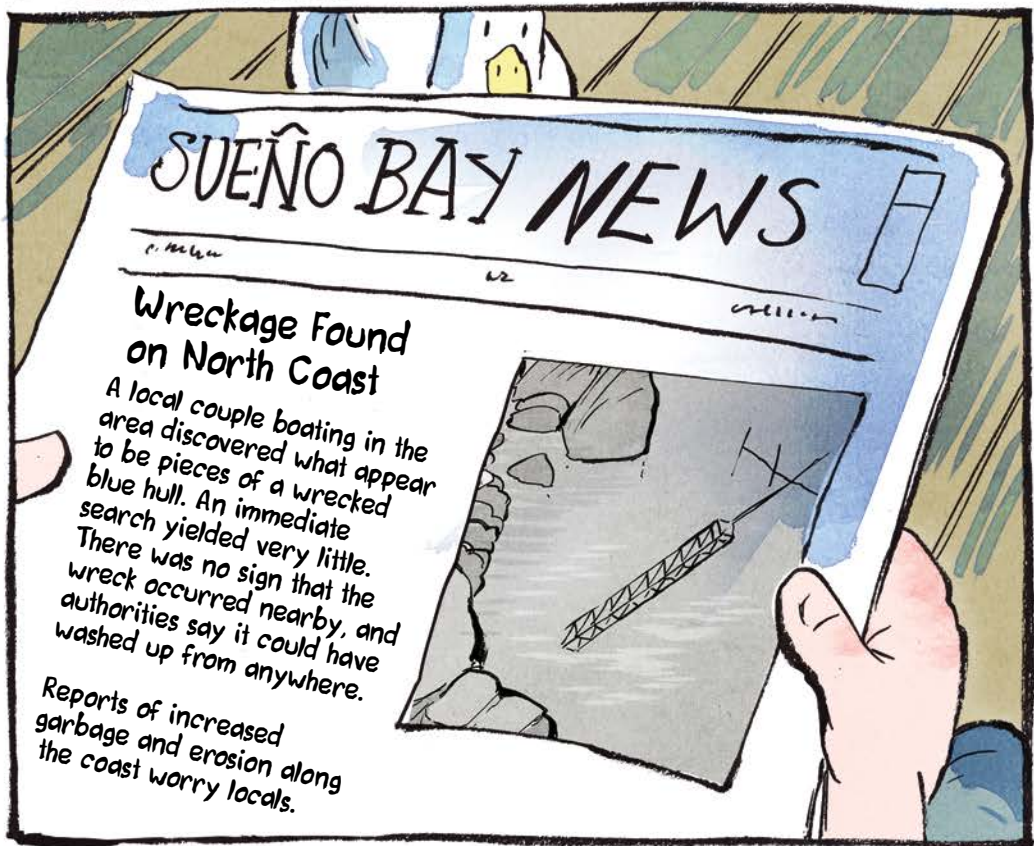
Gotta run. Time to walk the dogs!

Thanks for the business!









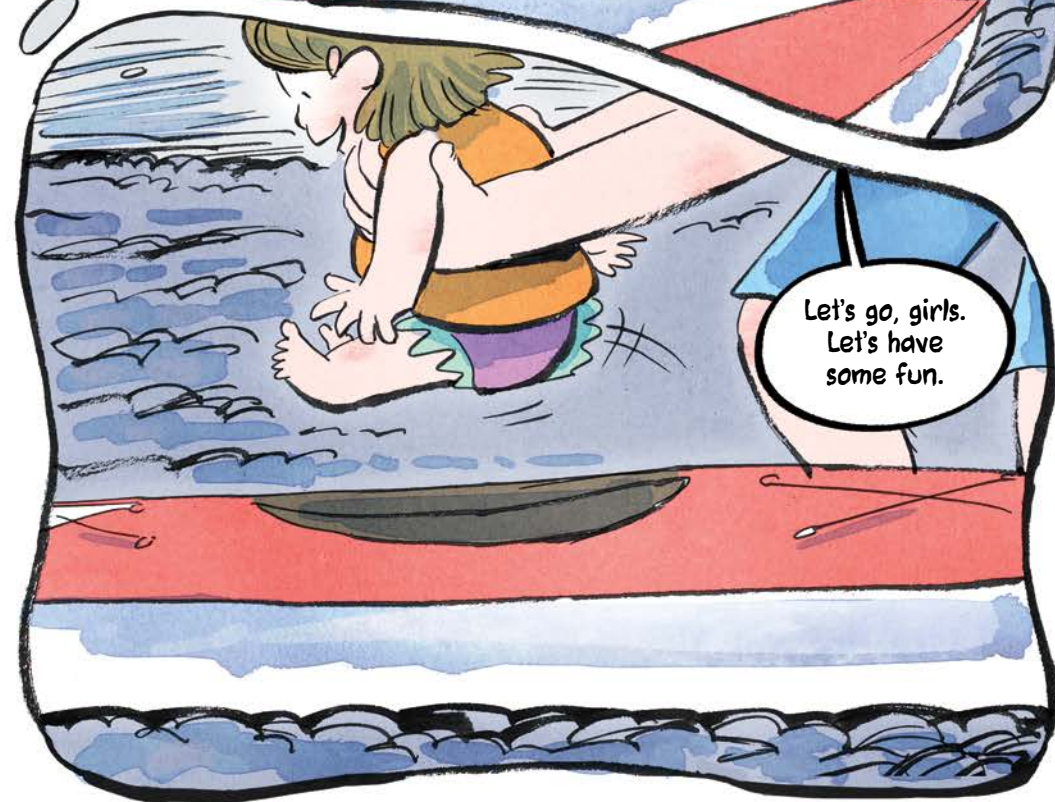


Come on, sweetie, let's get you in your life jacket. Are you excited? Your first time in a boat this size.

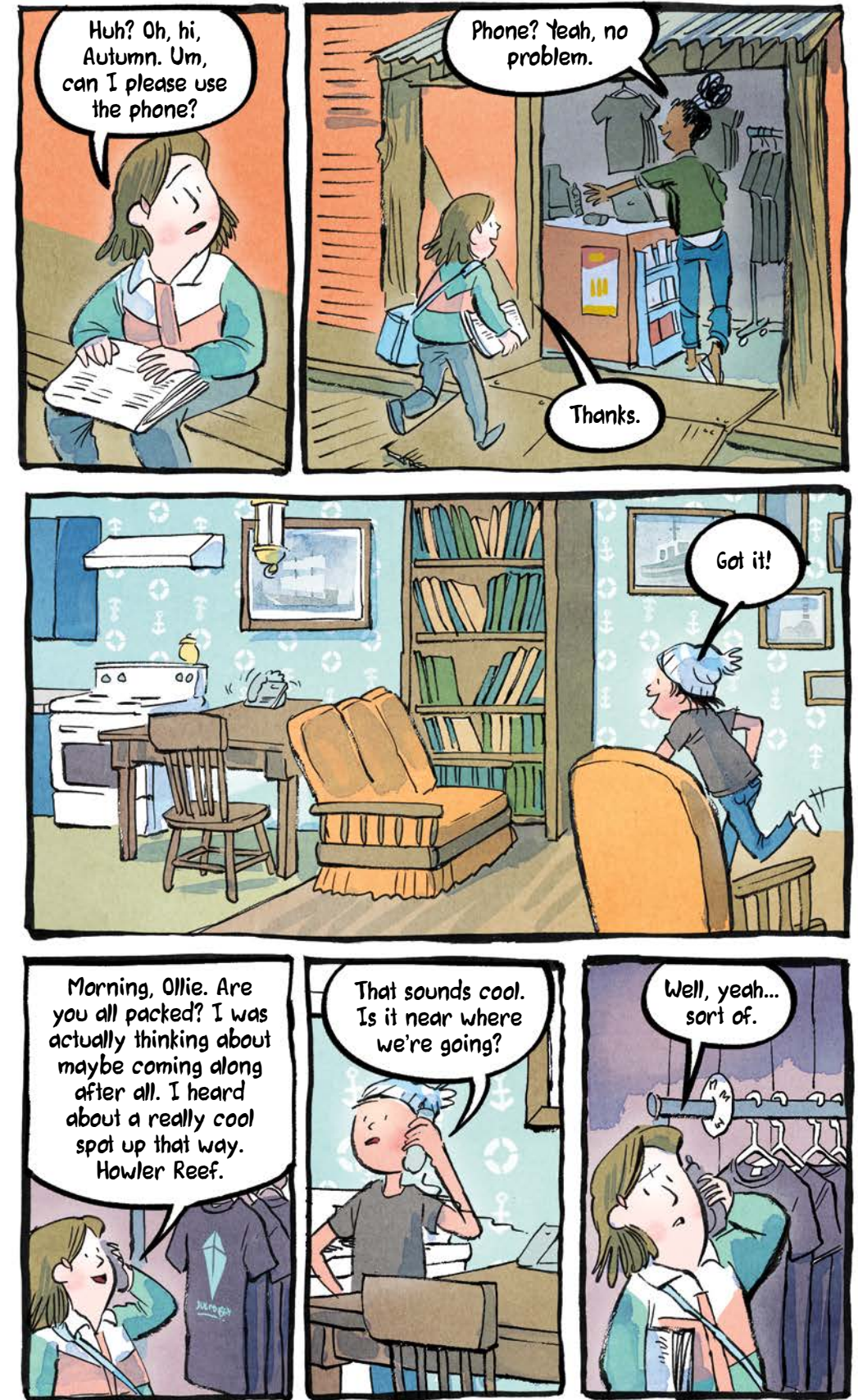


Dada, will we see sea stars?

Kay, we'll see all kinds of things. It's so beautiful.



Let's go, girls. Let's have some fun.





But that's kinda why I called.
Do you guys think you would
change the destination?



Are you kidding?! Jenna's been
planning this trip to the Whisper Chain
for weeks. You would have better
luck changing the tide!



Good
point.

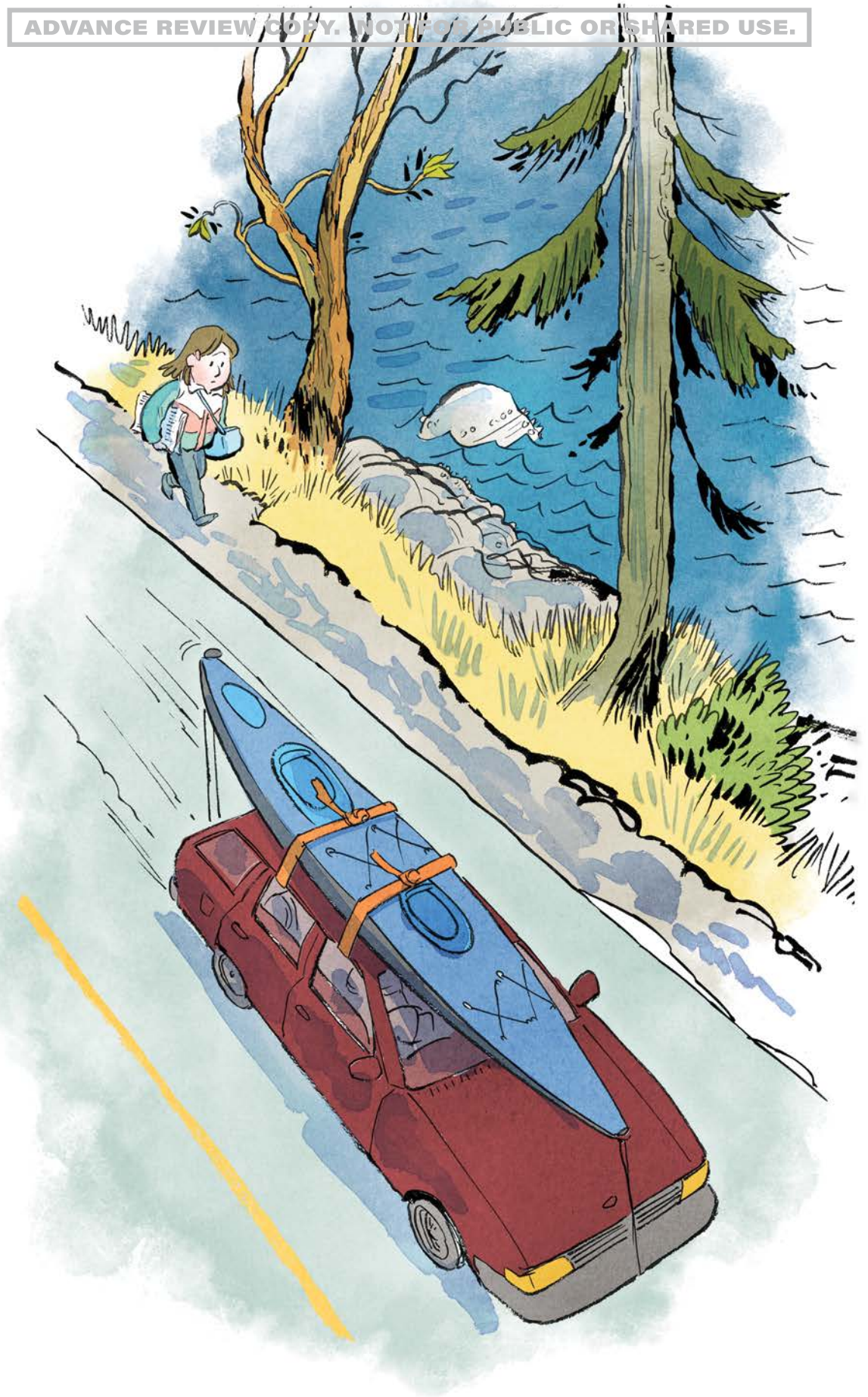


You should still try and come.
I don't have much experience,
so you won't be the only one.



Oof. I don't know.
I'll think about it.
Okay, better run.
Take care, Ollie.

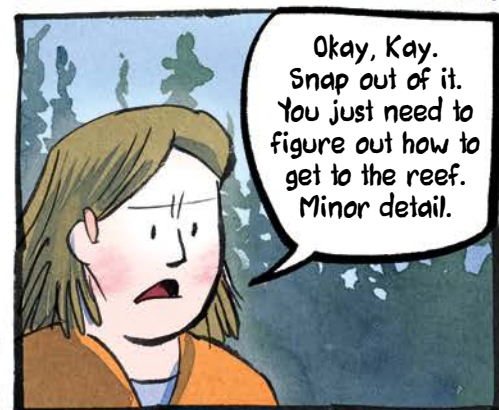
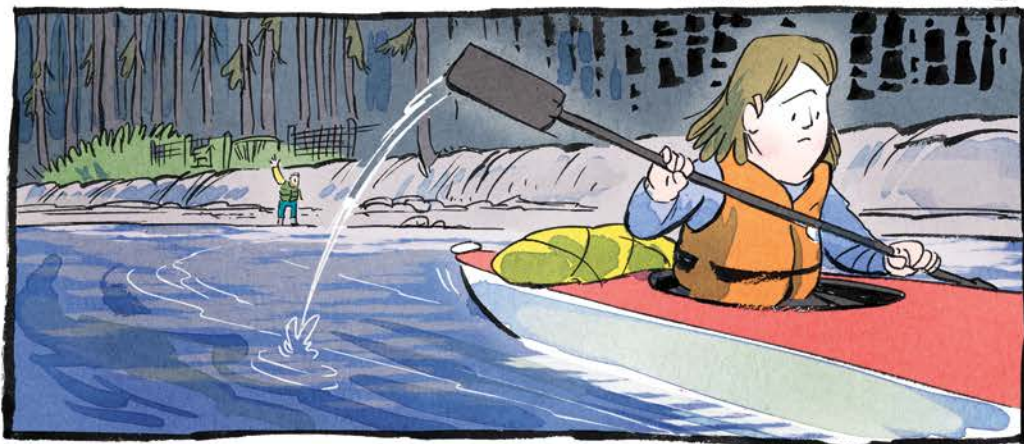
Thanks,
Kay.
Take care.

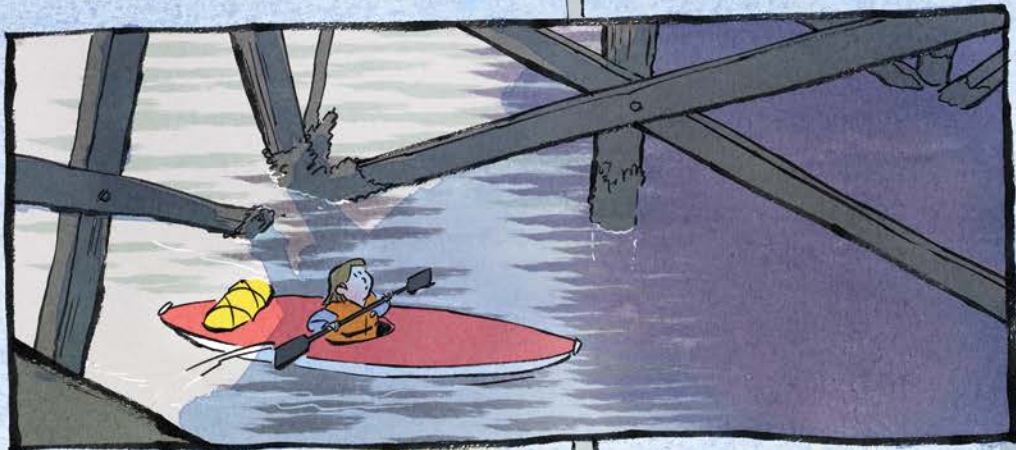


Later on...

CHAPTER TWO Heading Up the North Coast







Morning, Kay. Never thought I'd see you in a kayak.

Why? I do this all the time!



Sure you do. Are you going with the rest of them up north?

Obviously.



Well, beware of the fog. It's a bad omen.



Mind your own business, Mathers!



C'mon, guys! What's the holdup?!

Sleeves, do you have your life jacket done up?



Uh, yeah!



Why would you even ask?



Just a hunch.

How long is this trip going to be, anyway?



The current is going to be running at three knots. That's not super fast, but if we get on the water in the next half hour it will save us a good bit of work.

I hope you two won't be bickering the whole time. Ha ha.



Well, well, well. Look what the tide washed up.

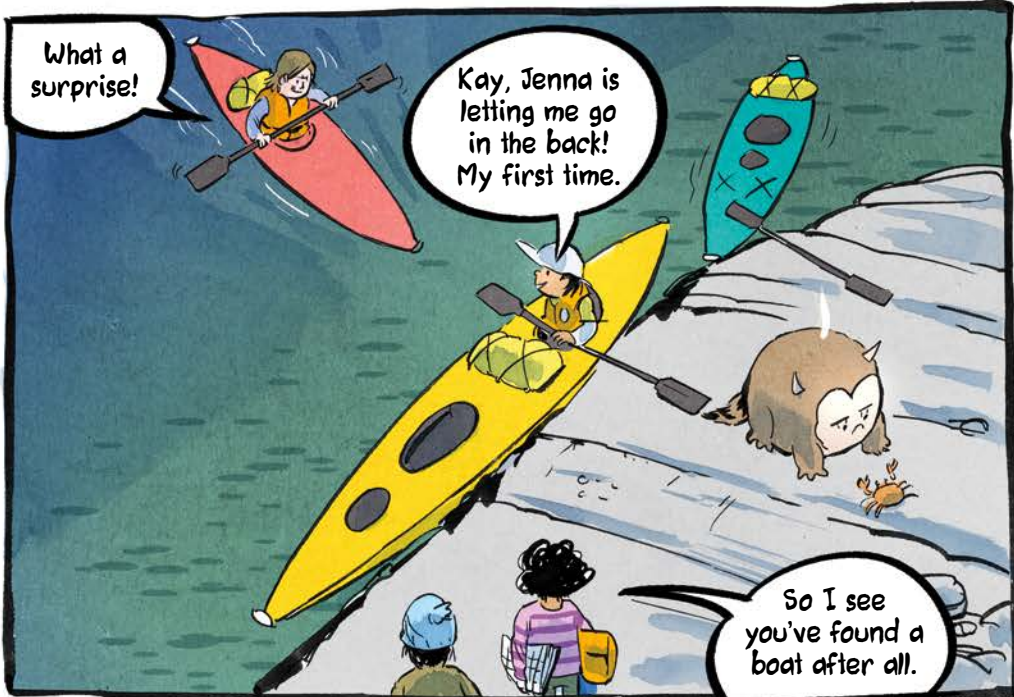


Didn't seem fair to let you guys have all the fun without me.

KAY!
You're coming?!



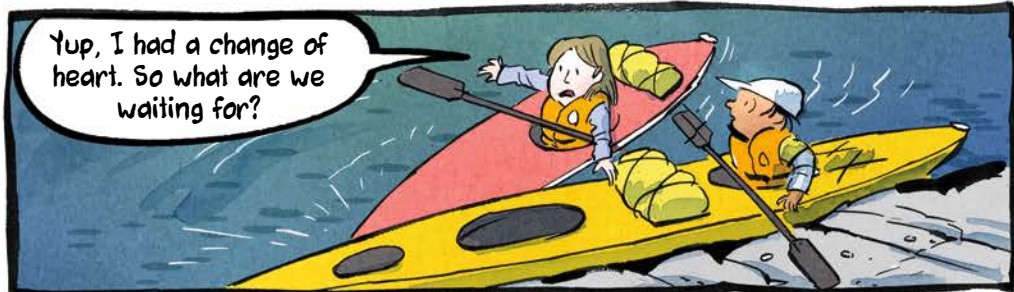
Oh man. I am happy to see you. These guys have already started snarking at each other and we haven't even left yet.



What a surprise!

Kay, Jenna is letting me go in the back! My first time.

So I see you've found a boat after all.



Yup, I had a change of heart. So what are we waiting for?



Kay, that boat looks really old. Is it going to sink?

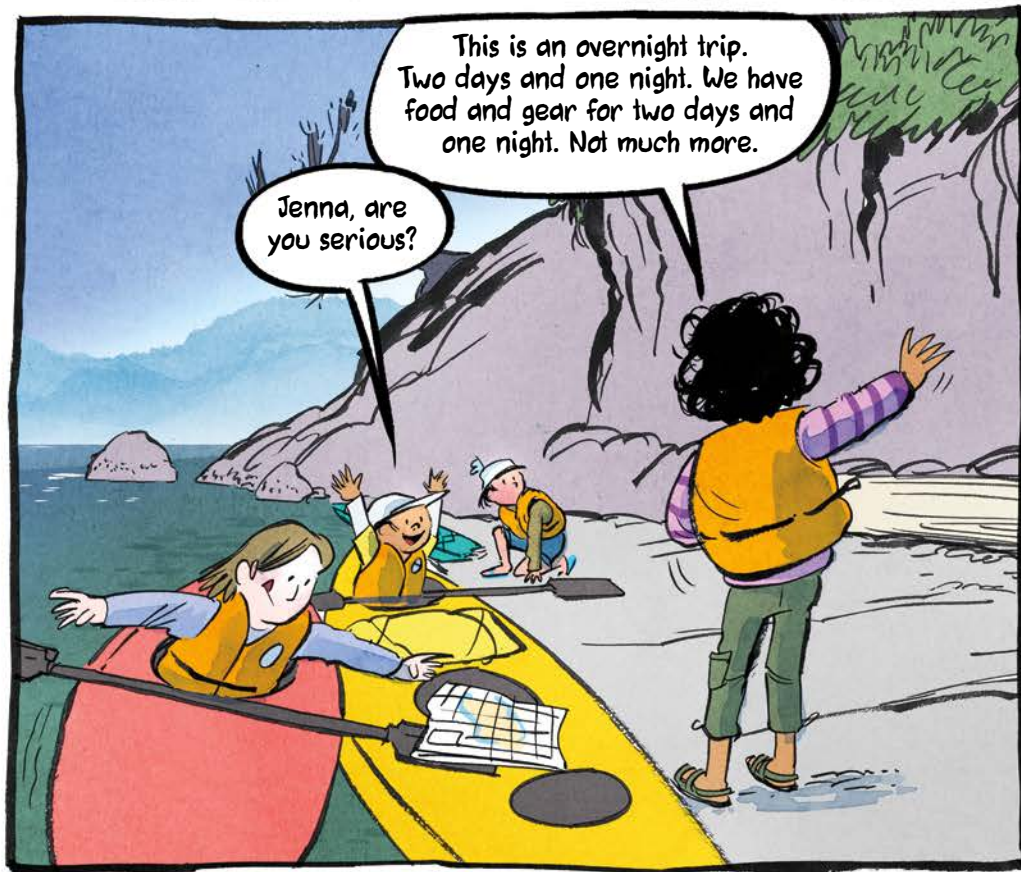
Uh... I hope not.



Sleeves, come on. If she's nervous, saying her boat is gonna sink won't help.

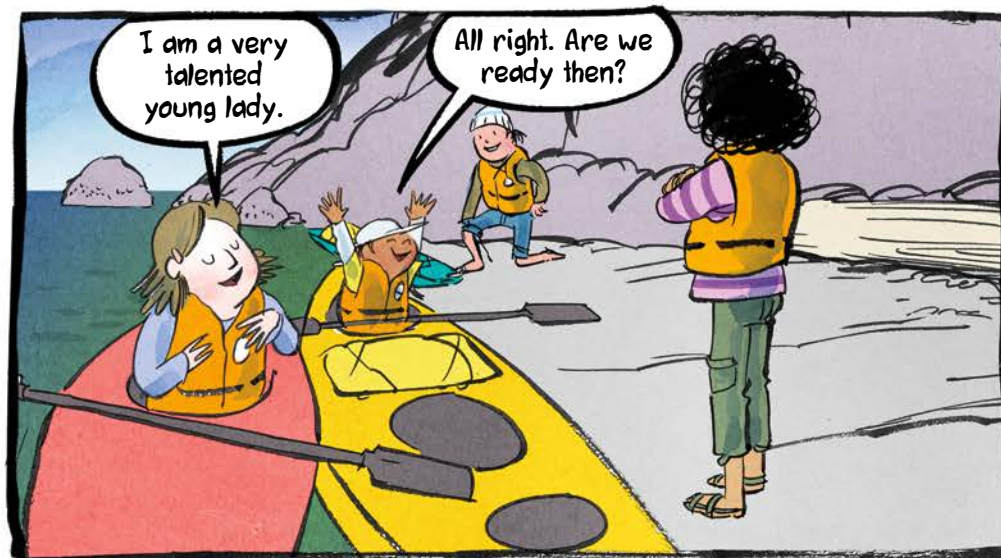
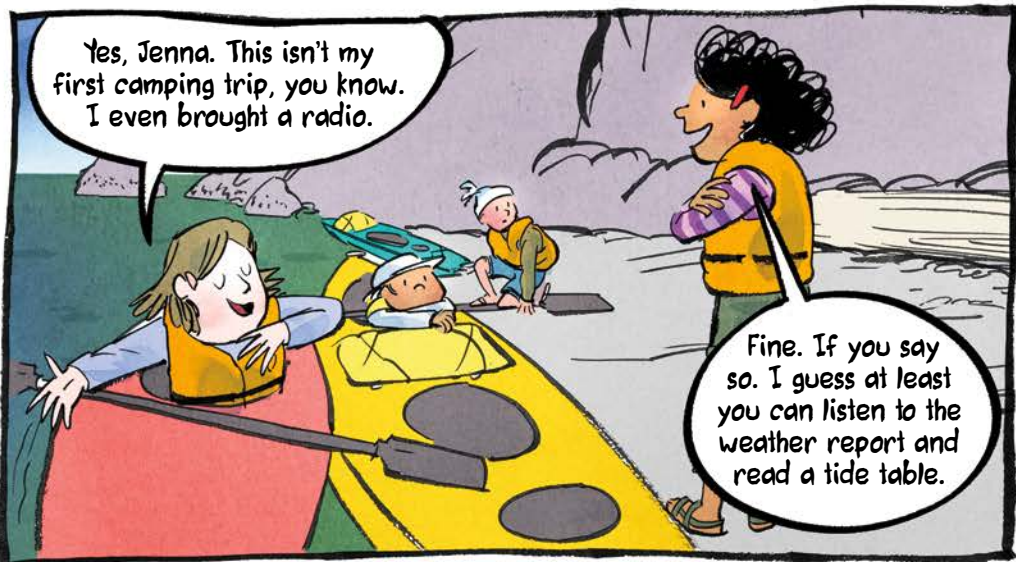
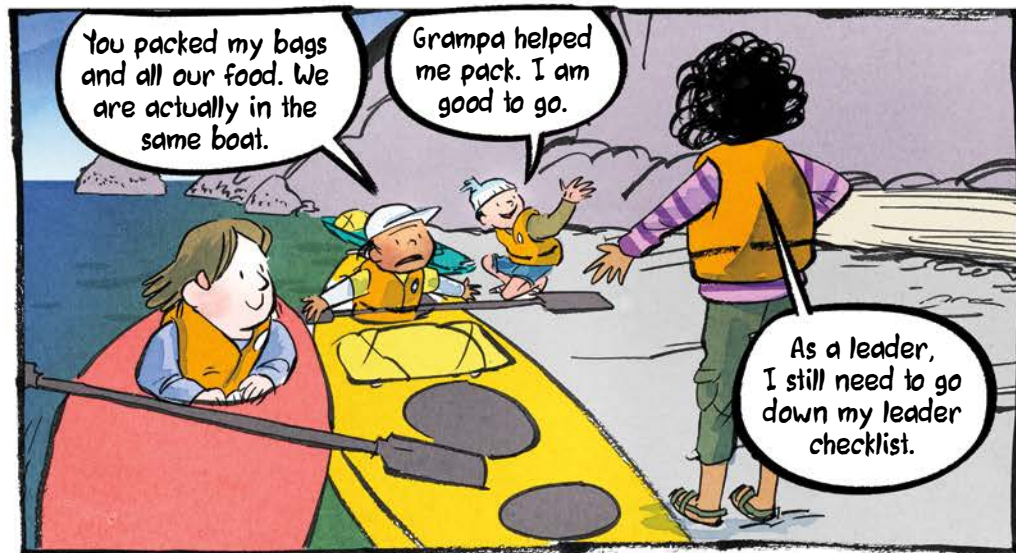


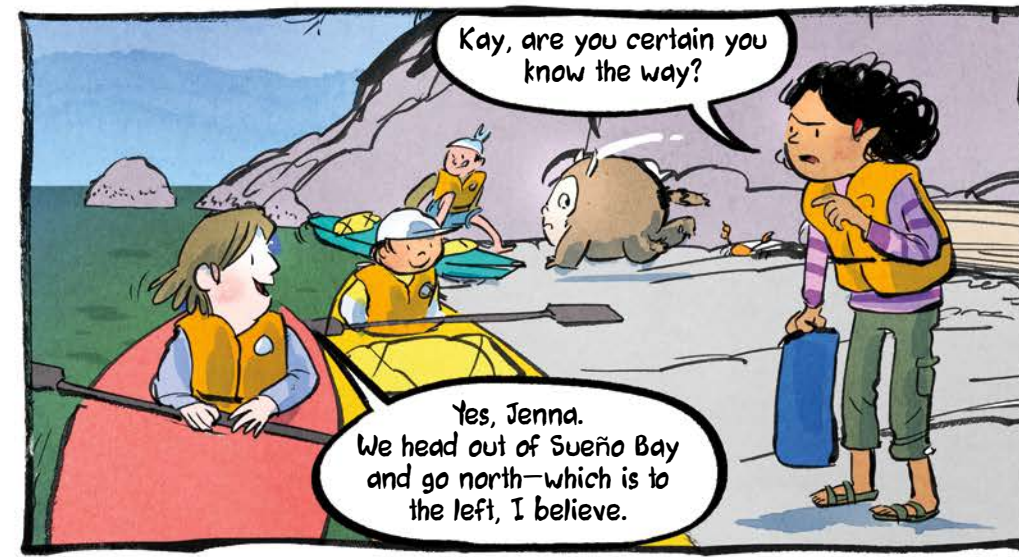
As the leader of our expedition, I want to make sure everyone has the proper equipment and supplies.

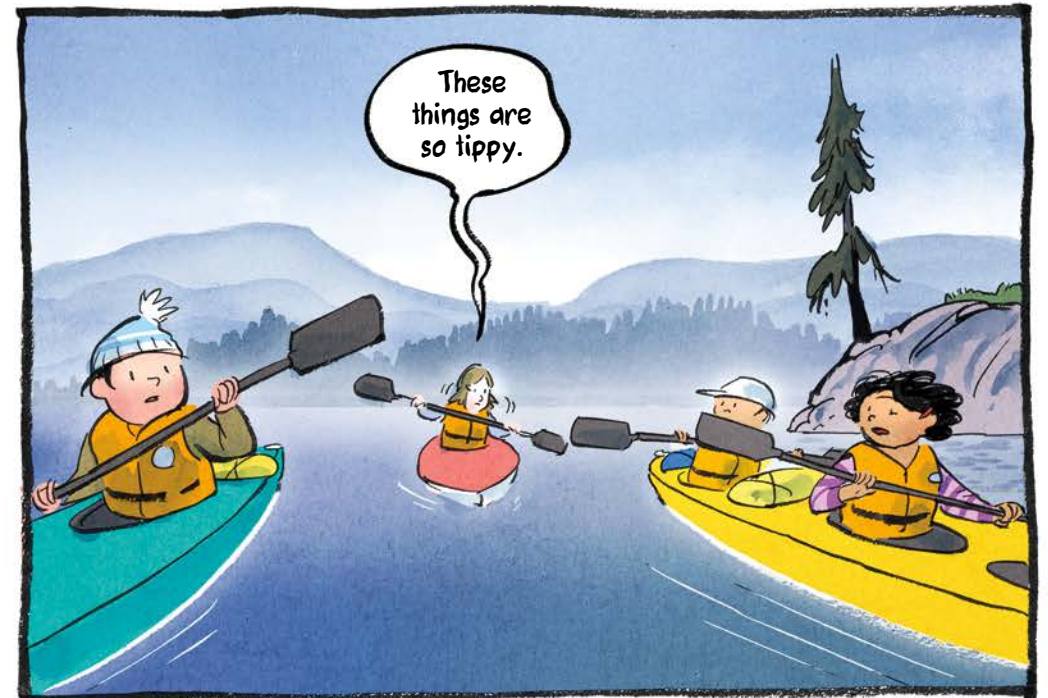
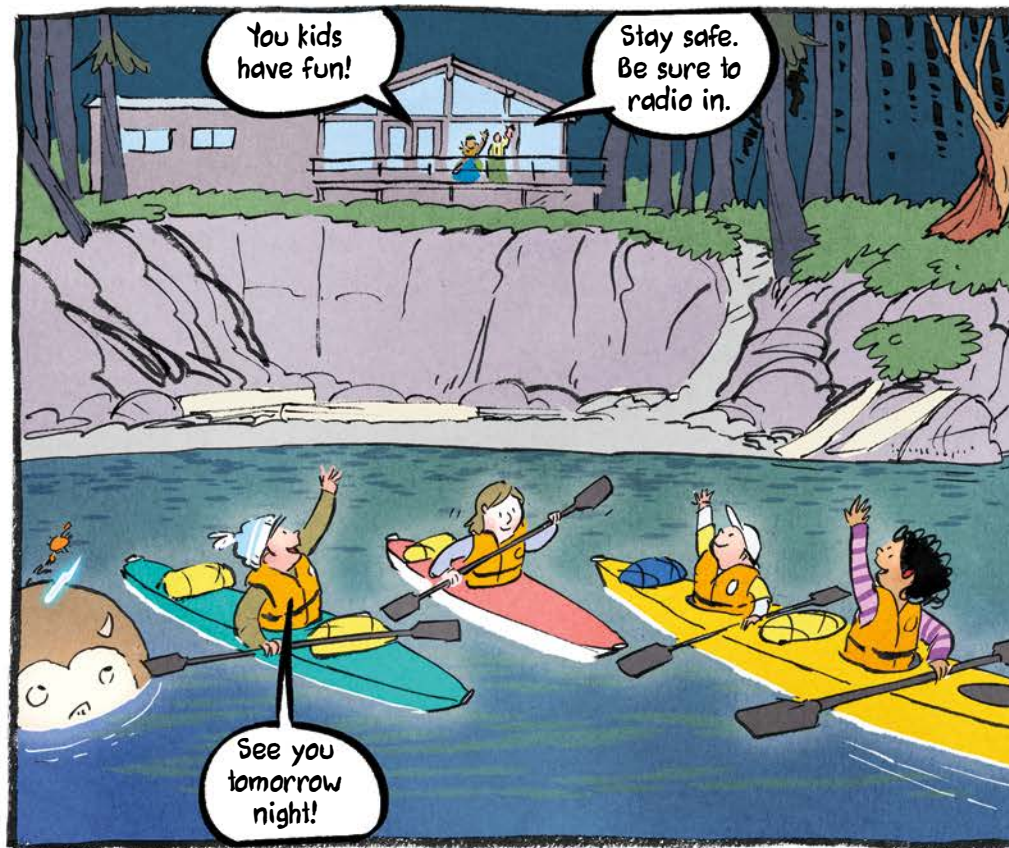


This is an overnight trip. Two days and one night. We have food and gear for two days and one night. Not much more.

Jenna, are you serious?



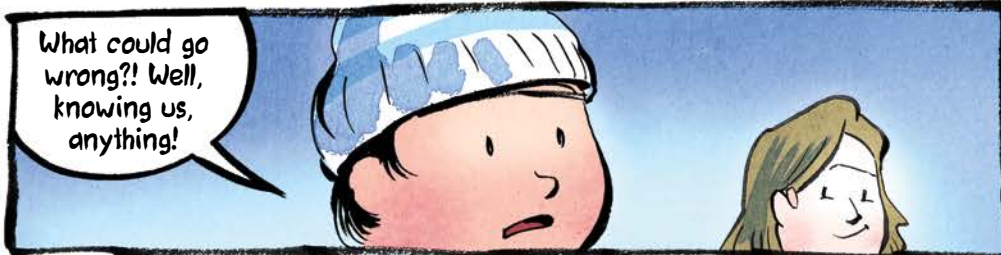






Hey, do you actually know the north coast very well? Like, are you sure we don't need a map?

Well, I may have exaggerated a bit. But we are just hugging the coast of the island and going in one direction. What could possibly go wrong?



What could go wrong?! Well, knowing us, anything!



What are you two talking about? Does anyone need a paddle pointer?

My back is kinda sore. Maybe it wasn't a good idea for me to do this for a first trip.



Ollie, I can't shuttle you back to the beach, and you are not going on your own. We have to make camp by 4 p.m. and radio home to confirm we are safe. Use slow movements for now. Once we get beyond Candle Point, we will have the current to help push us north. You'll be able to rest more.

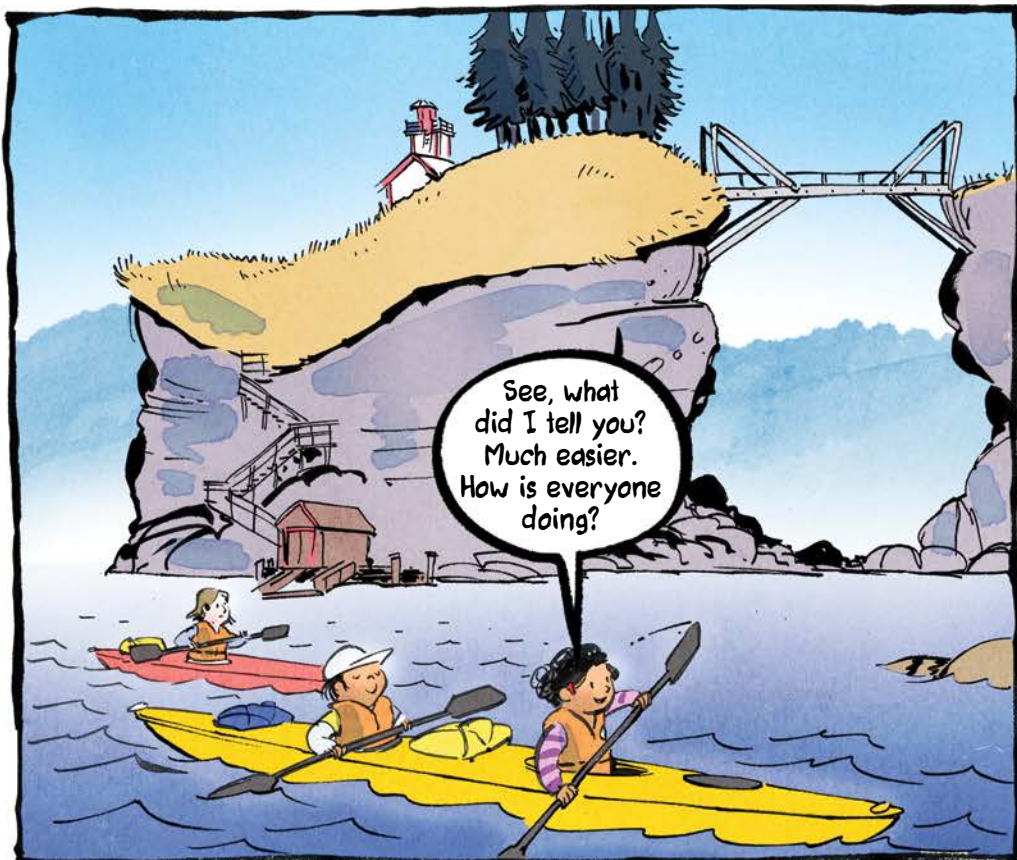


Is that another paddle pointer? To sit back and let the water work for me?

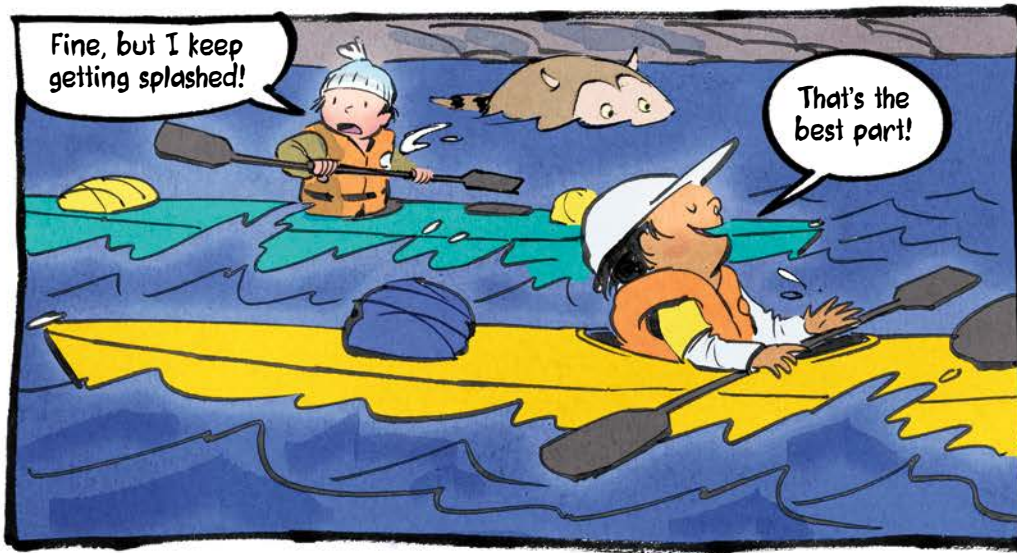
Yes. Yes, it is. Paddle pointer number two! When you can, use the currents to help.



Paddle pointers... ugh. These are gonna get old!



See, what did I tell you? Much easier. How is everyone doing?



Fine, but I keep getting splashed!

That's the best part!



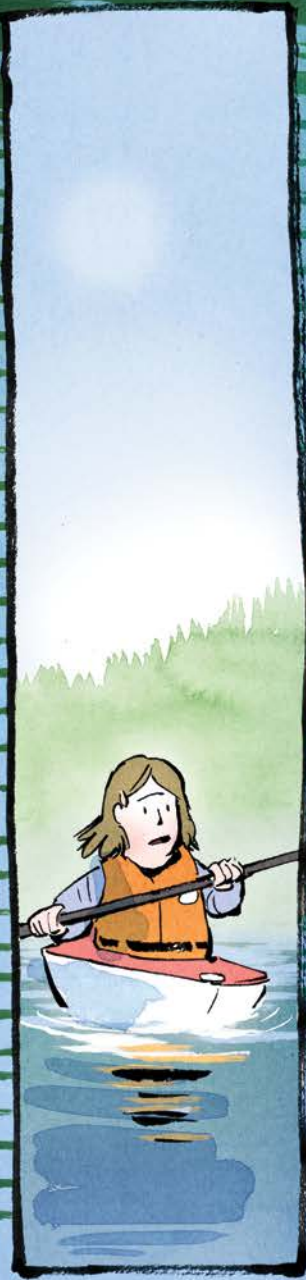
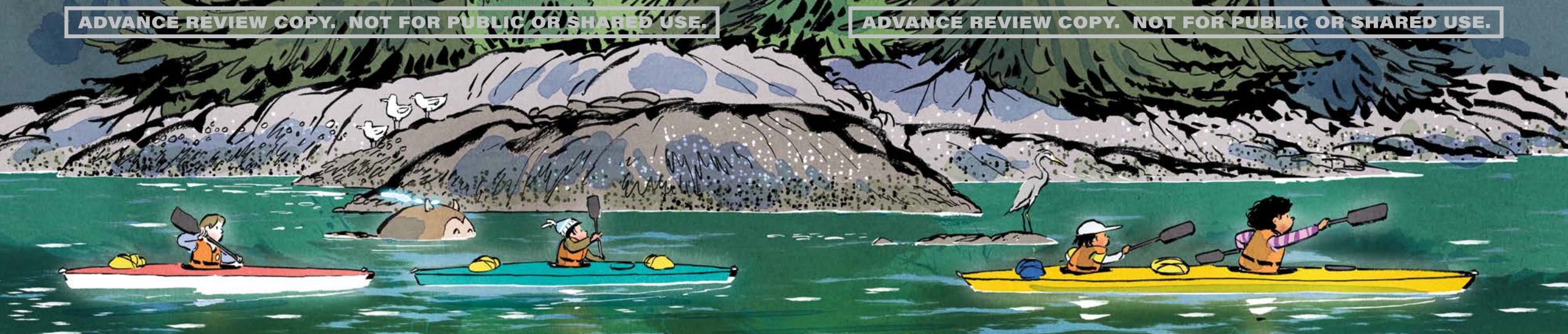
You would say that, Sleeves. You have barely paddled once! I'm doing all the work!



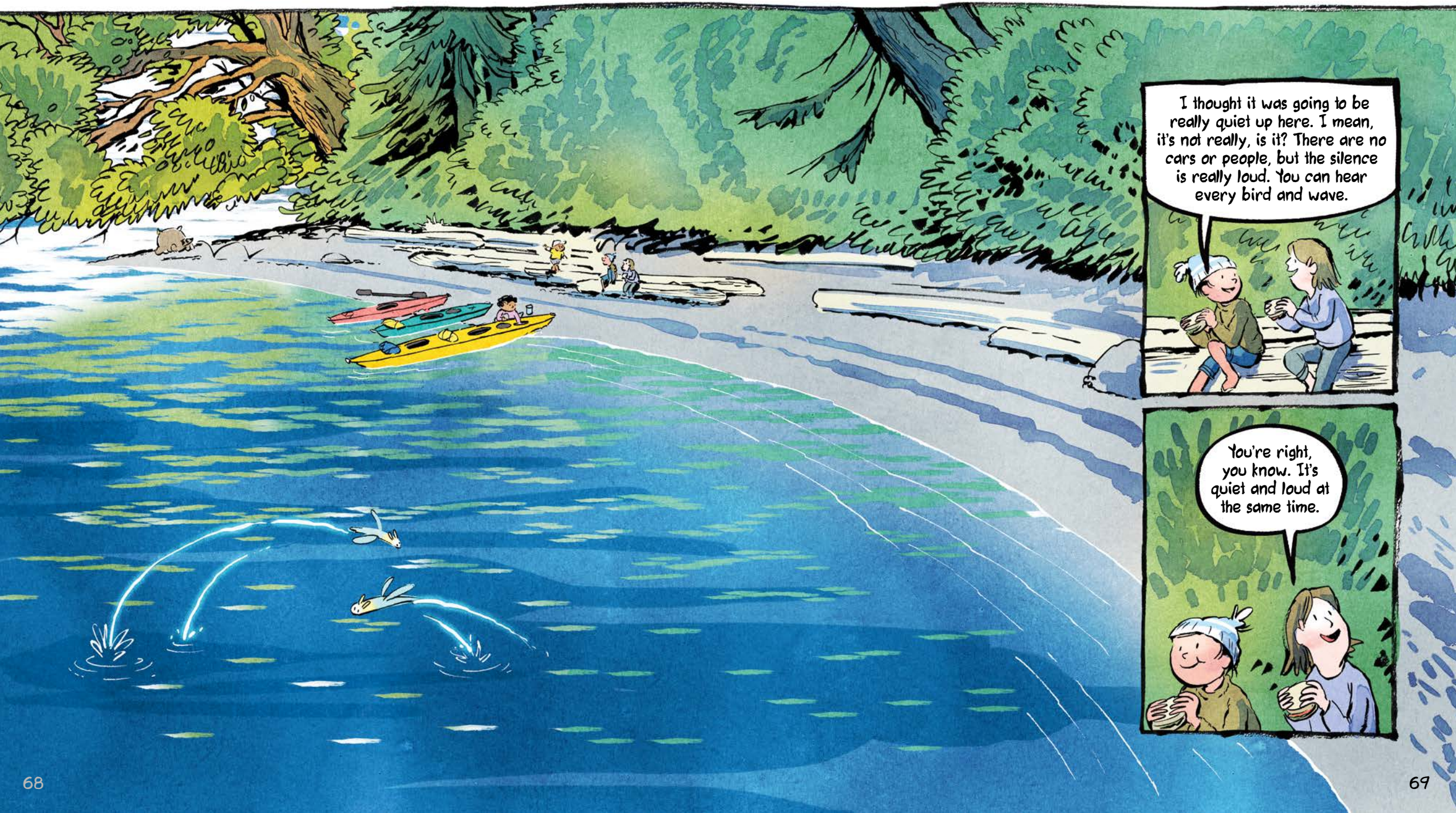
Dada, it's getting wavy.

Yeah, it is a little bit. We won't be out for long.







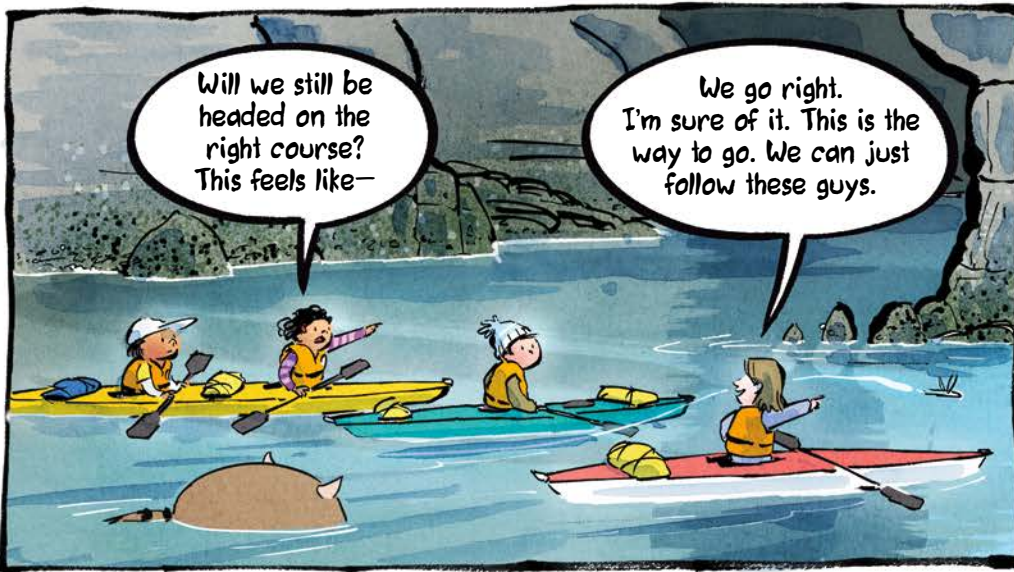


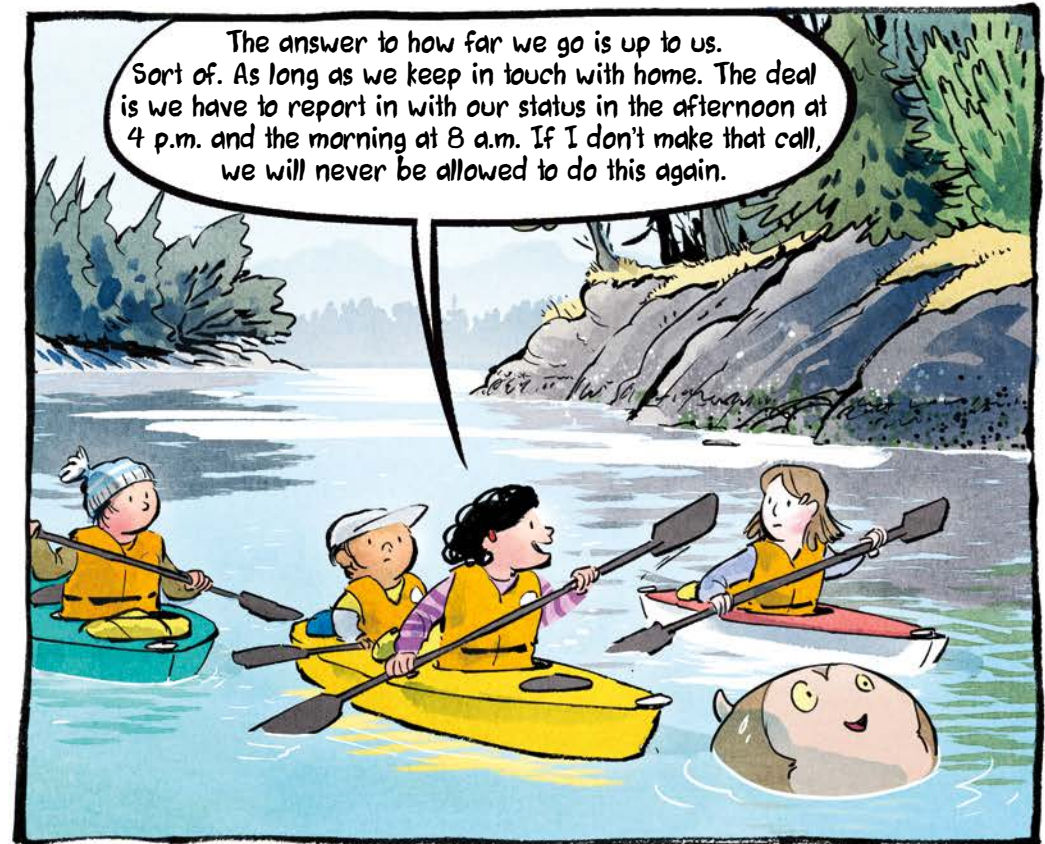


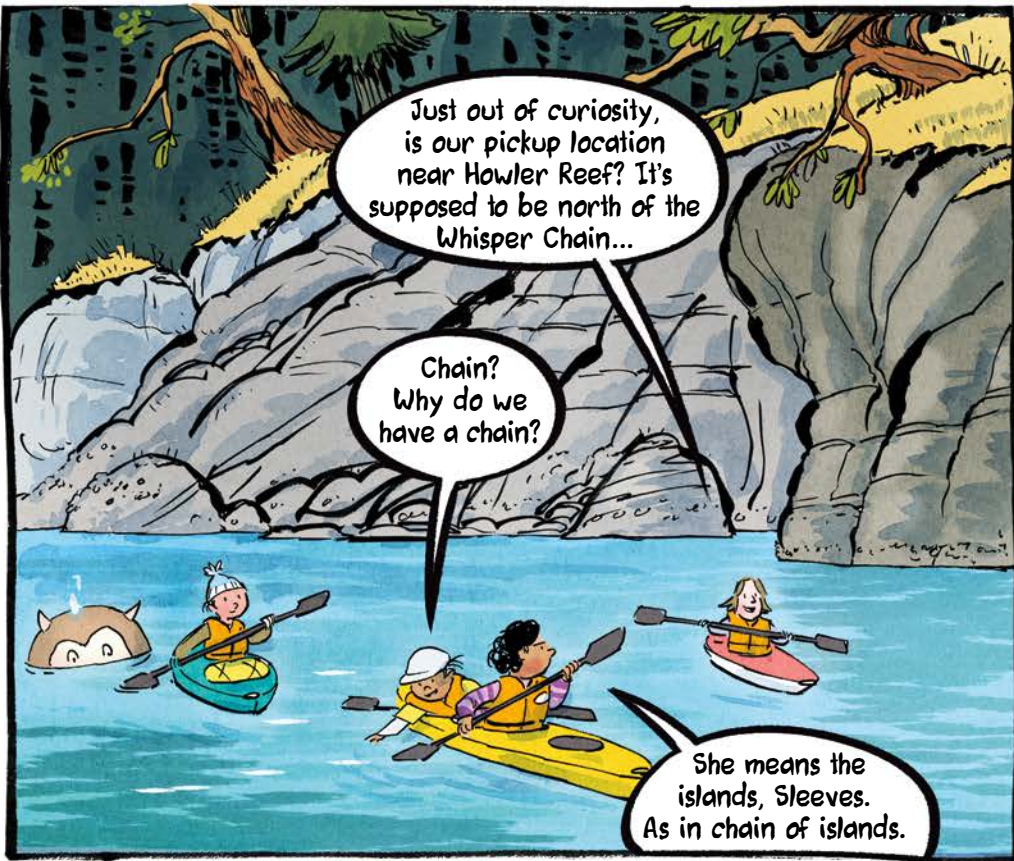


CHAPTER THREE A Good Omen

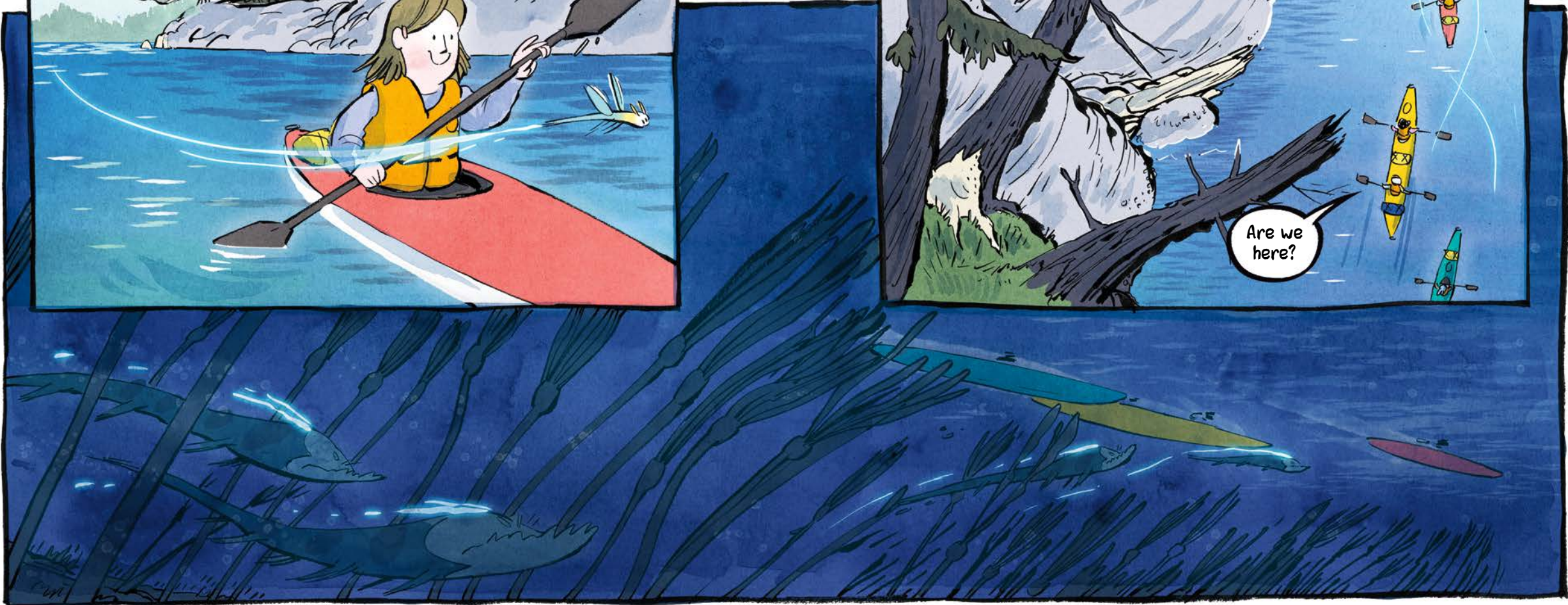
I haven't found my chart. So, Kay, I hope you know what you're talking about. I guess it should be safe enough if we are sticking close to the coast. There's a light marker at Churner's Inlet for the campsite. Once we find that, we'll be fine.













We made it!



This is it. The overnight campsite. We proceed to the end of the inlet and there will be a small beach.



Great! That was lucky!



Lucky?!



Never mind. Let's go. I need to stretch my legs.





Okay. We need to pitch our tents above the high-tide line and secure our boats. We don't want to wake up in the morning to find they floated off in the night.

We'll make sure to hang up our food as well. It will keep the raccoons out.



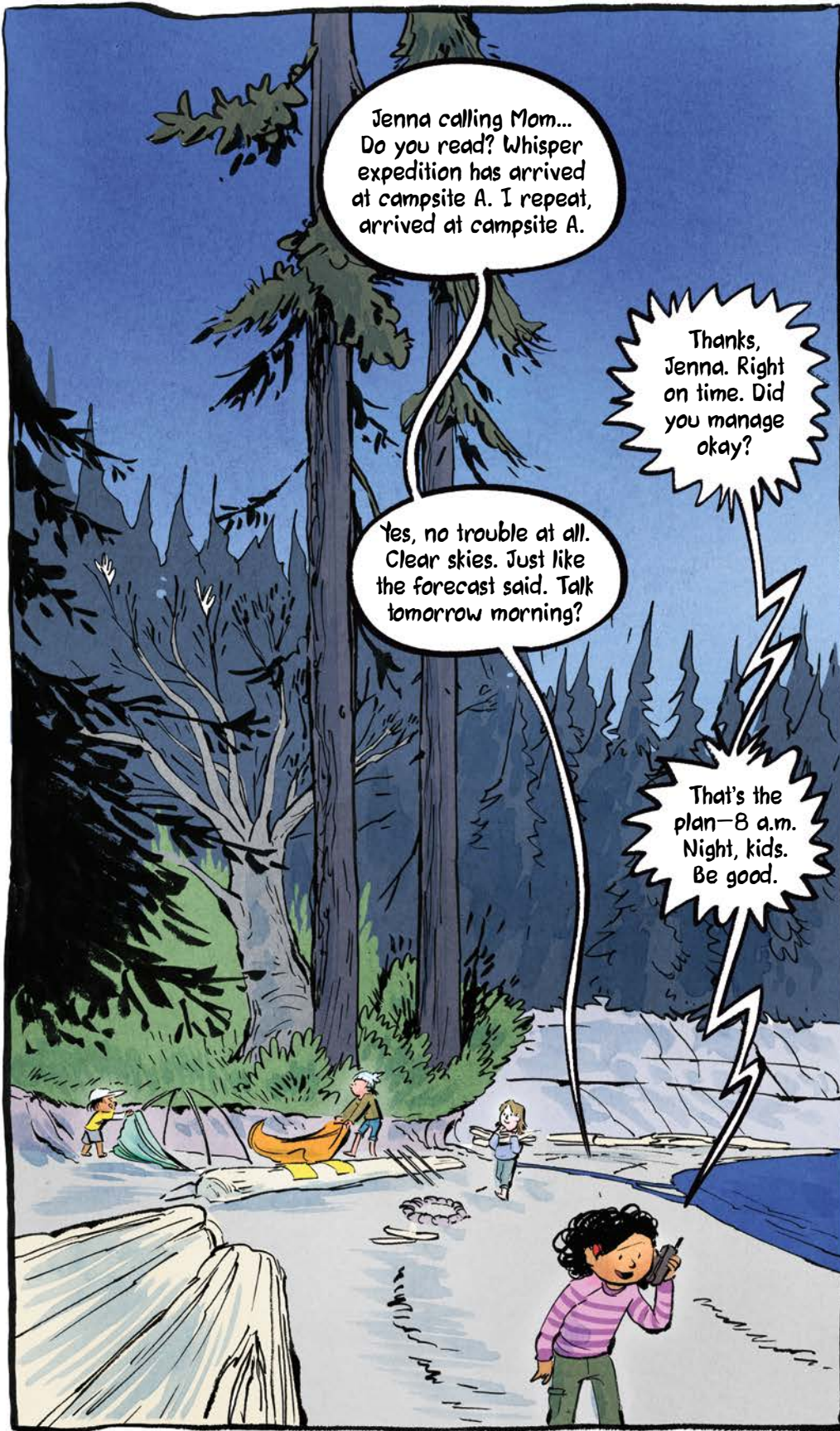
Jenna! This can be our spot!

Okay, Sleeves. This will be great. Good find.



Hey, Kay. Do you want to just share a tent? I don't think we each need to set one up.

Makes sense to me. How 'bout over there?





CHAPTER FOUR
There Are No Tracks!



Jenna?

Hmm?



Yeah. I will ask him.



Are we going to go swimming tomorrow?

Isn't it a bit cold?



HEY! OLLIE!

Oy! No need to yell! Ask him in the morning.



I might give it a try.

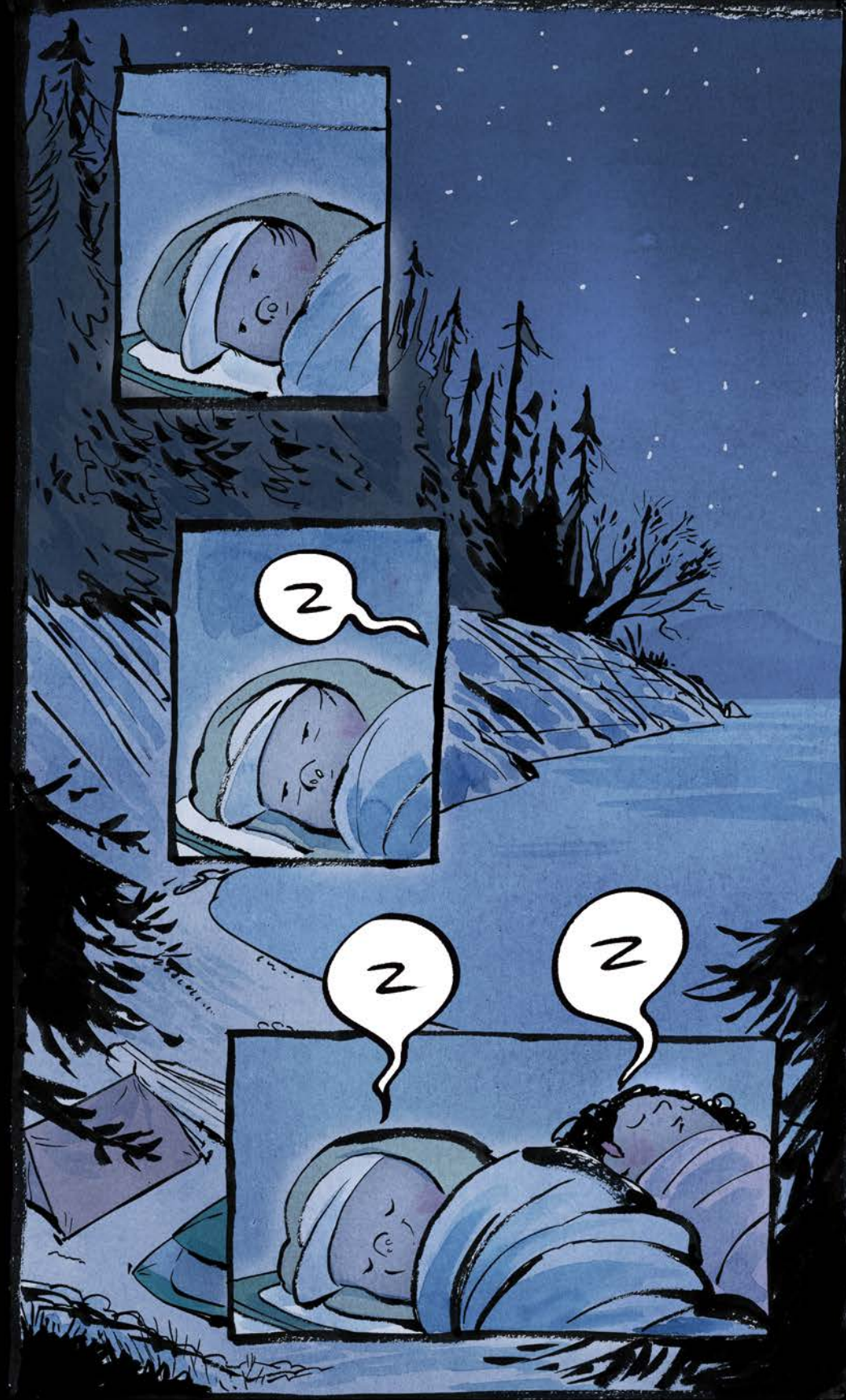
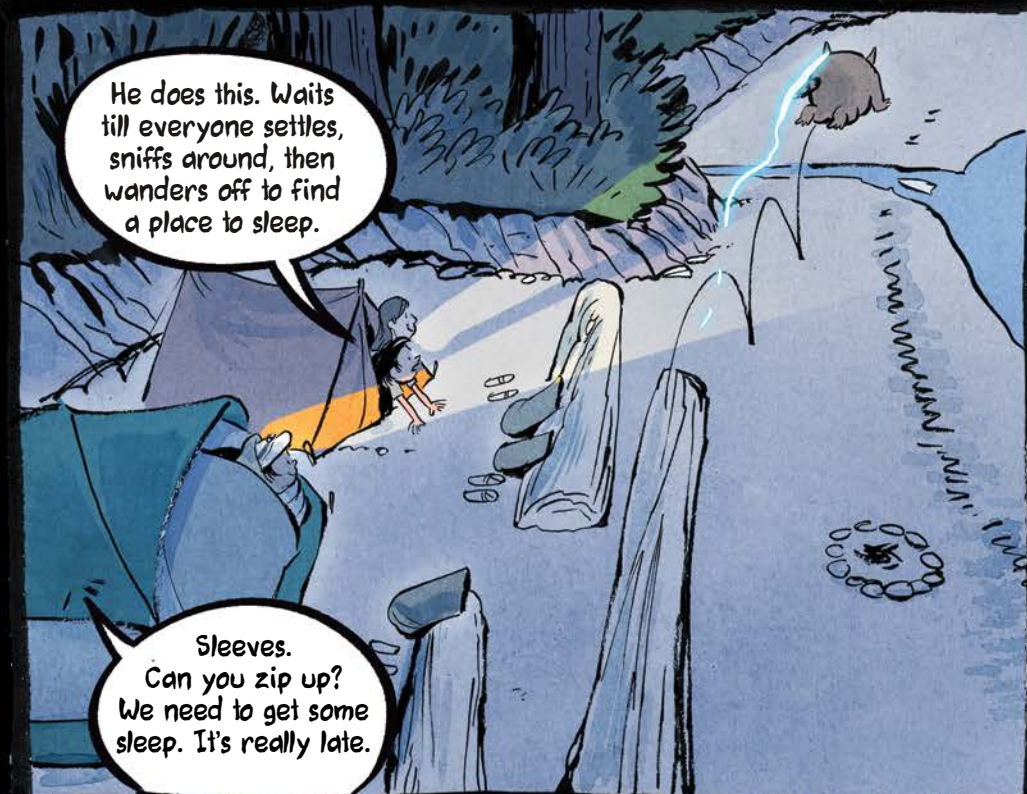
Maybe Ollie will go in too.

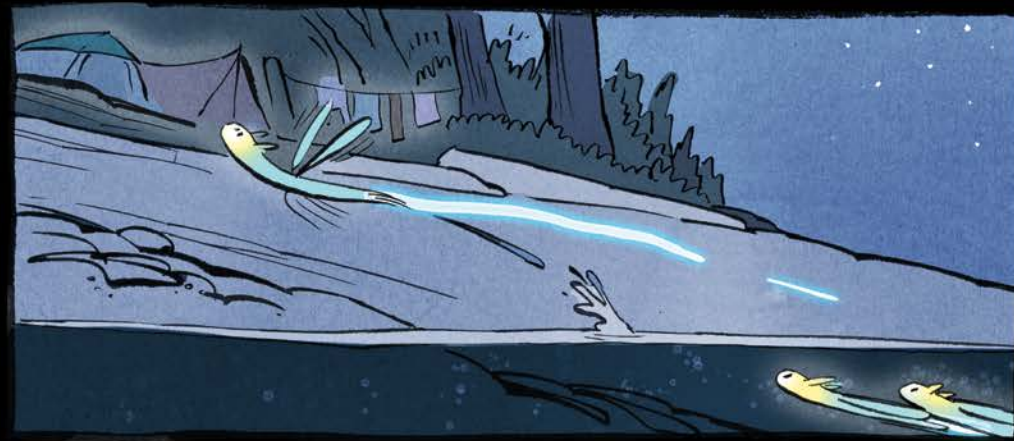


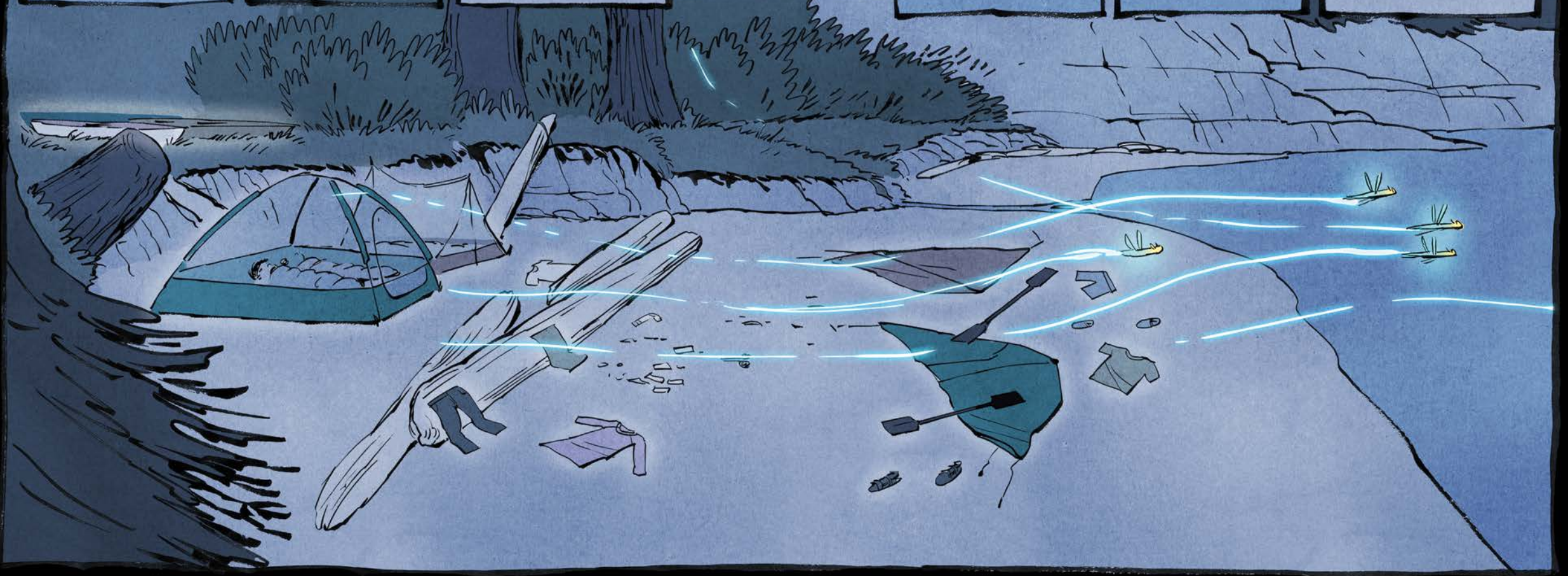
Yes, Sleeves. I will go for a swim with you. We can hear everything you guys are saying. They're tents, not brick walls.

Ha ha!

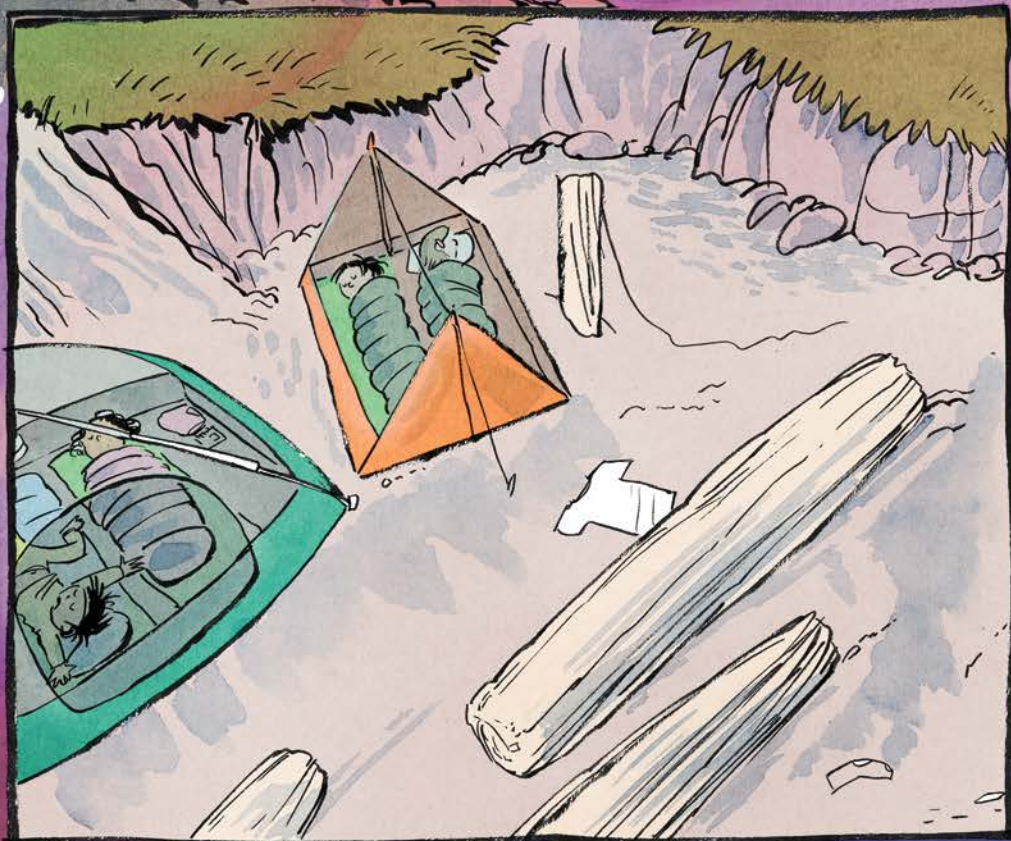




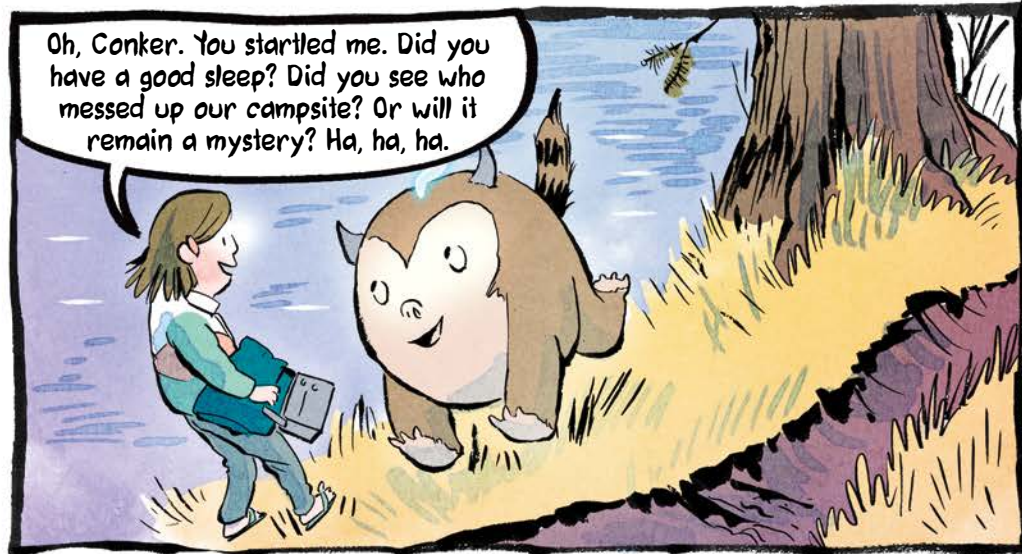




Early next morning...







Oh, Conker. You startled me. Did you have a good sleep? Did you see who messed up our campsite? Or will it remain a mystery? Ha, ha, ha.



Think we'll get reception out here?



I know he's out there, Conks. We just need to look in the right spot.

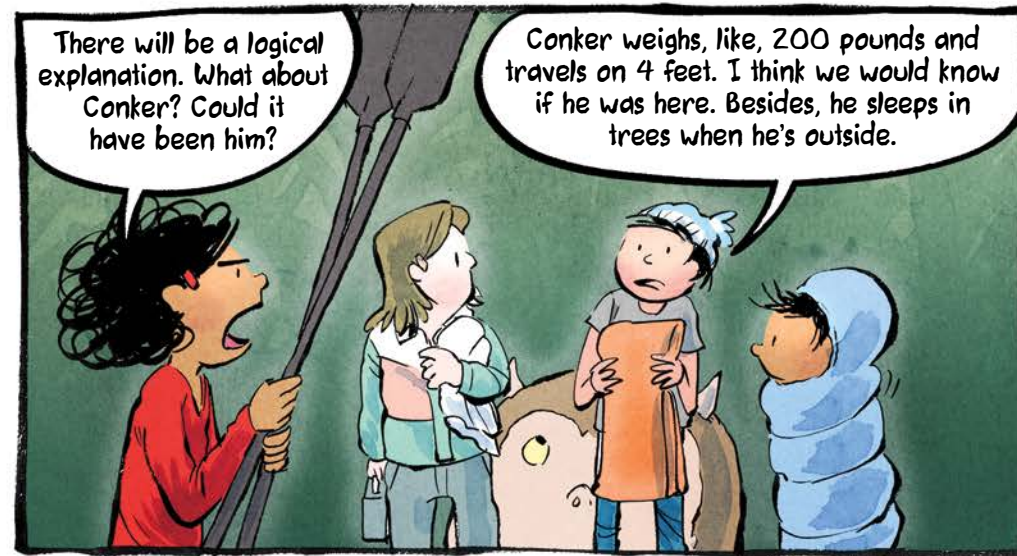
Crshhhhh.



Crshhh.

A little later on...



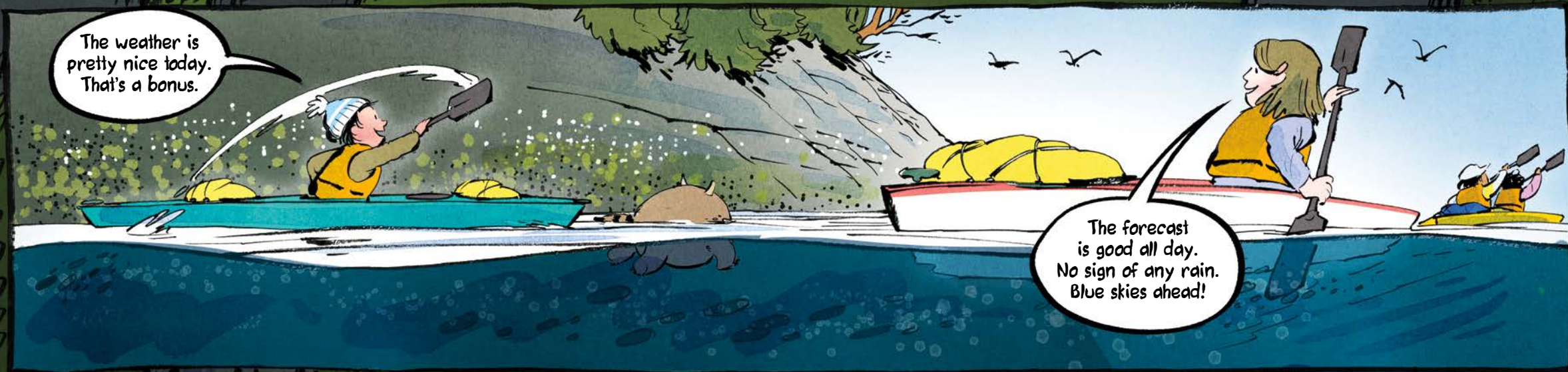






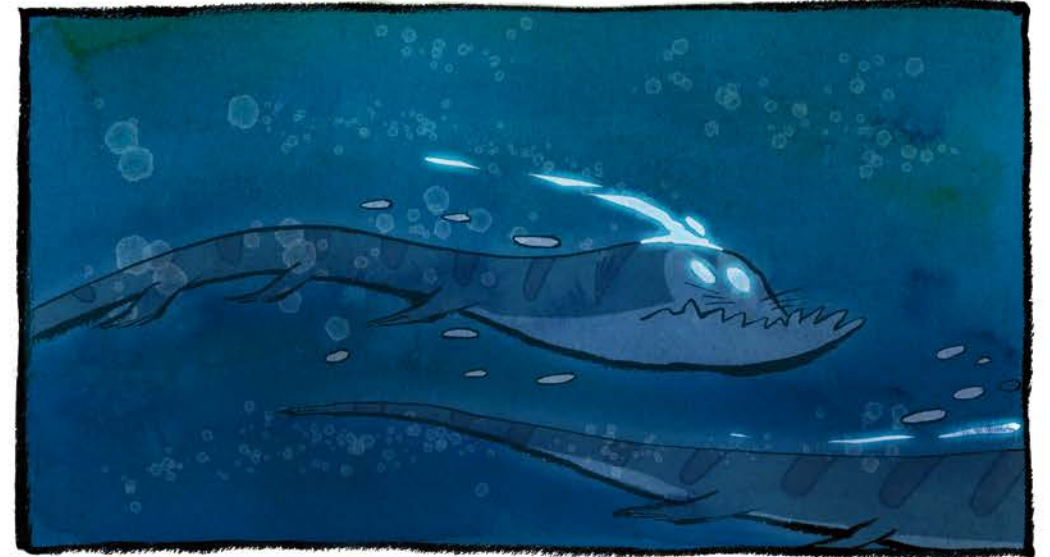
Next stop is the Whisper Chain. Do we have to whisper there?

YES!



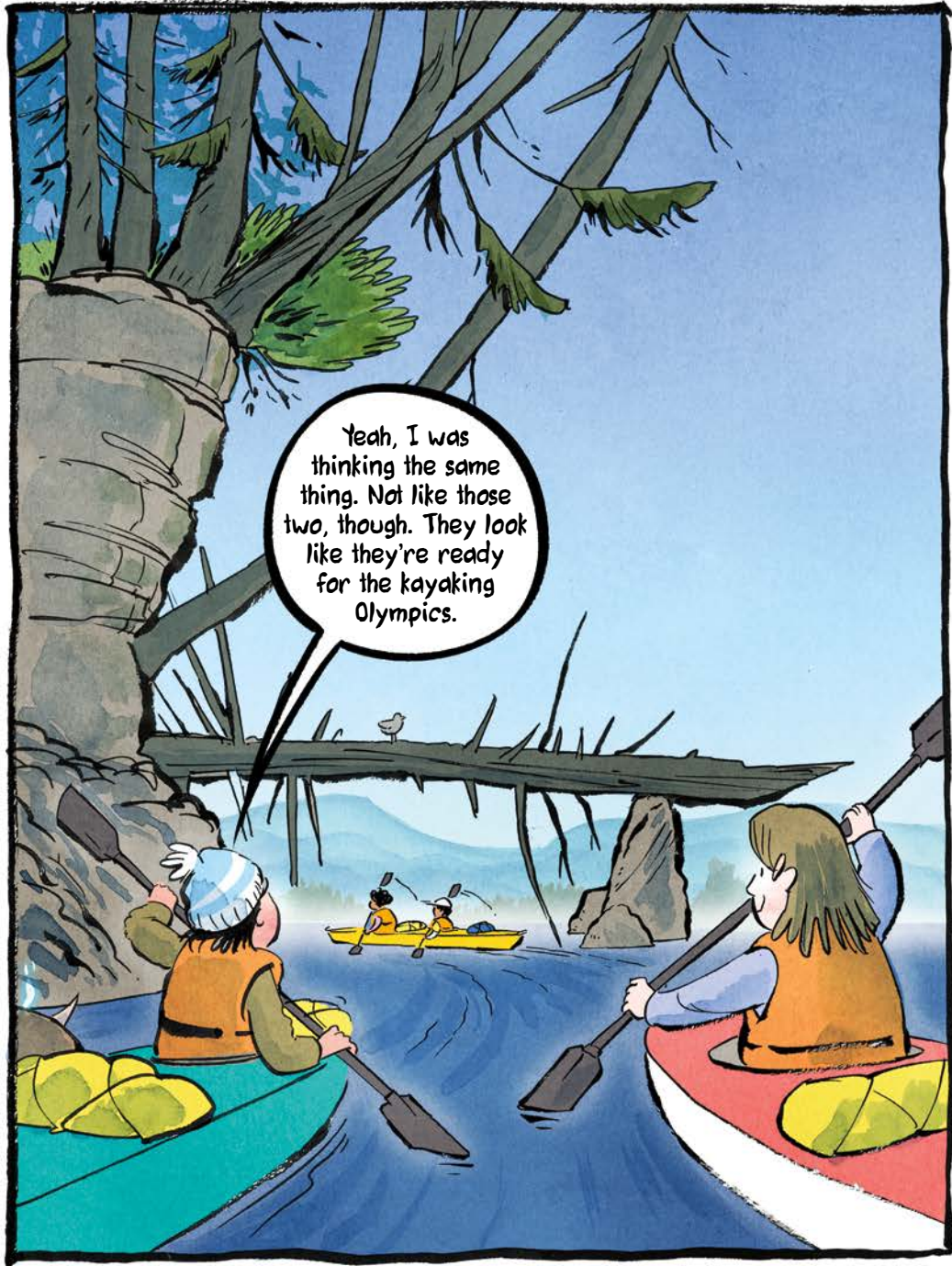
The weather is pretty nice today. That's a bonus.

The forecast is good all day. No sign of any rain. Blue skies ahead!

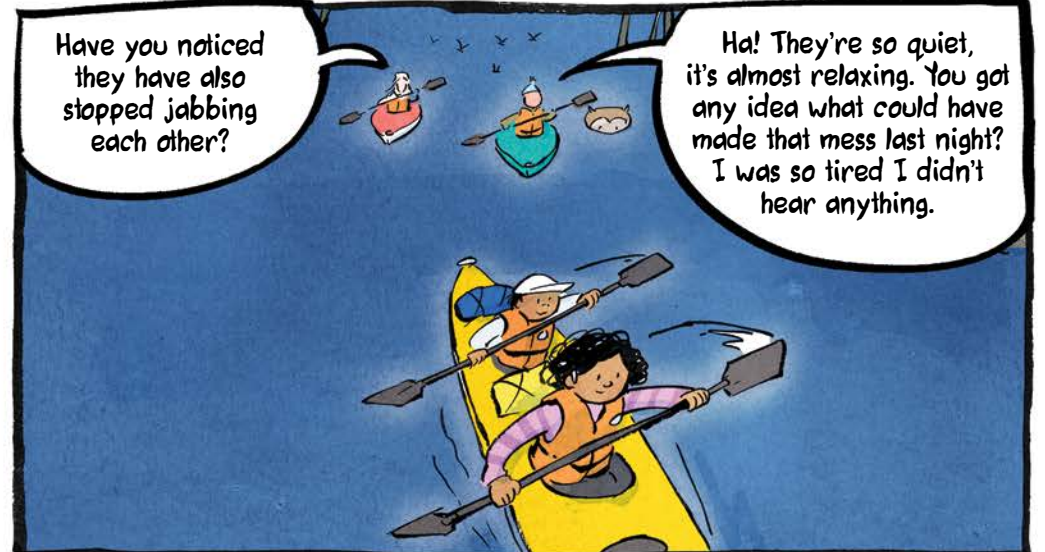




I think I'm getting the hang of this. I'm actually doing pretty good.



Yeah, I was thinking the same thing. Not like those two, though. They look like they're ready for the kayaking Olympics.



Have you noticed they have also stopped jabbing each other?

Ha! They're so quiet, it's almost relaxing. You got any idea what could have made that mess last night? I was so tired I didn't hear anything.



I have no clue. Super weird. What leaves no tracks? And why didn't we hear anything?







They must like me. They are coming up so close.



They're so beautiful. I could watch them all day.

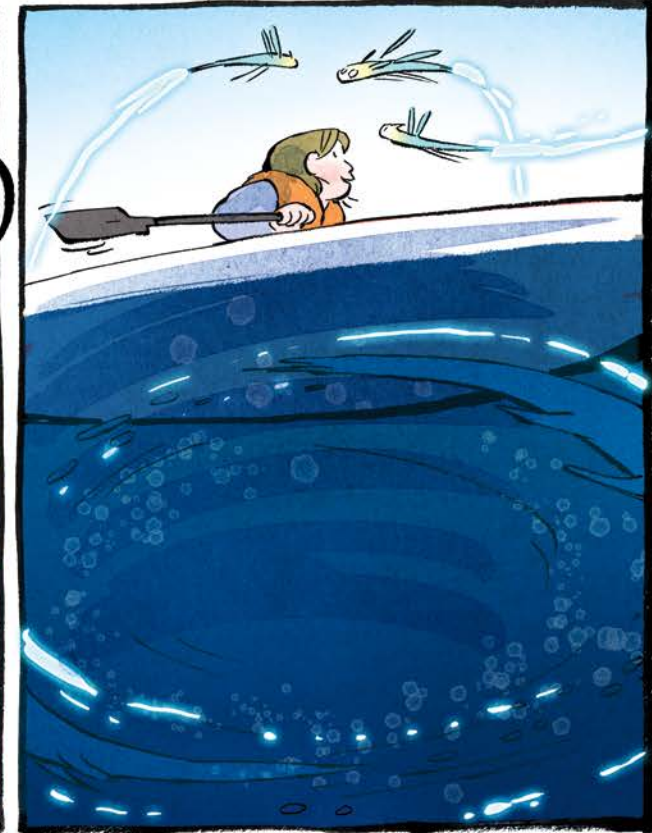
KAY!



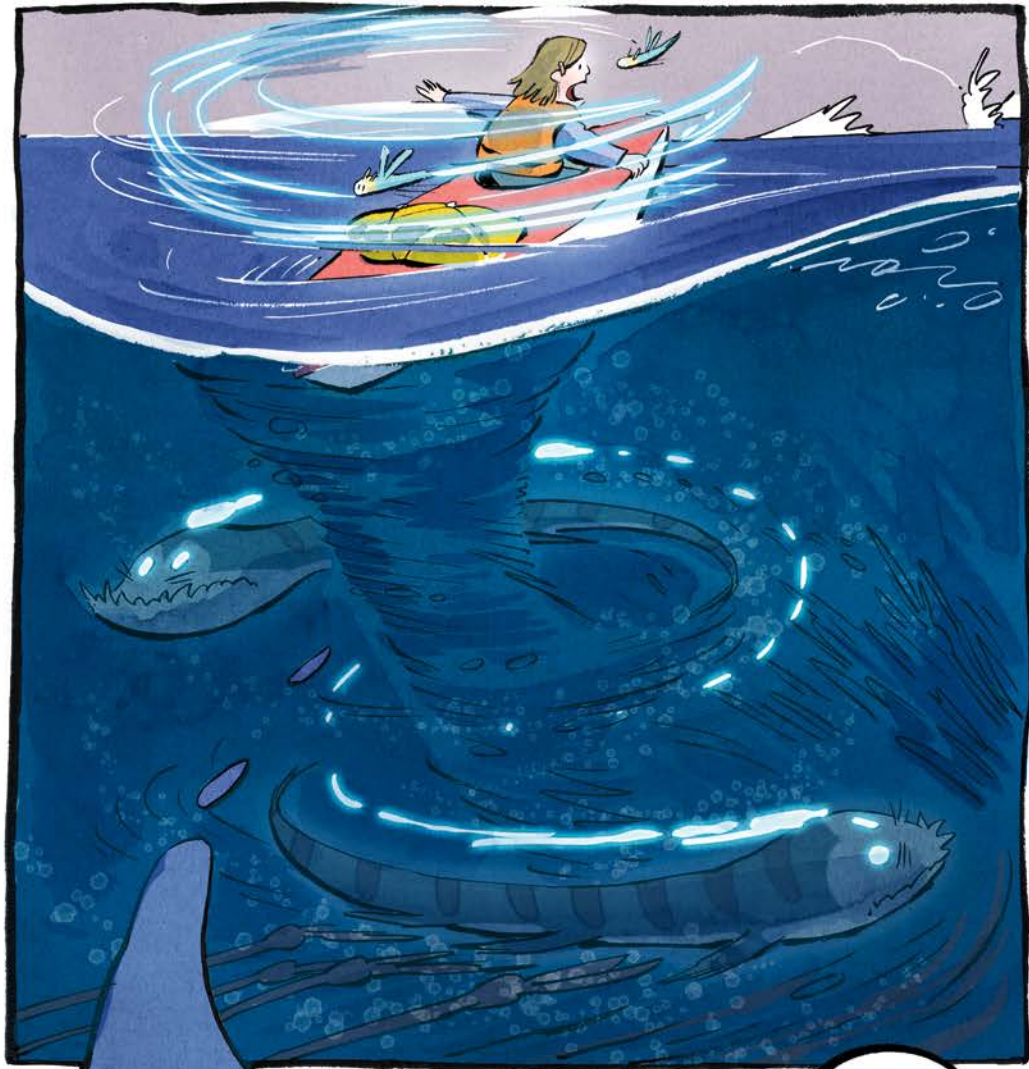
I really do have a way with critters. Just like my chickens. Some people say they are grouchy. But they're actually so lovely.



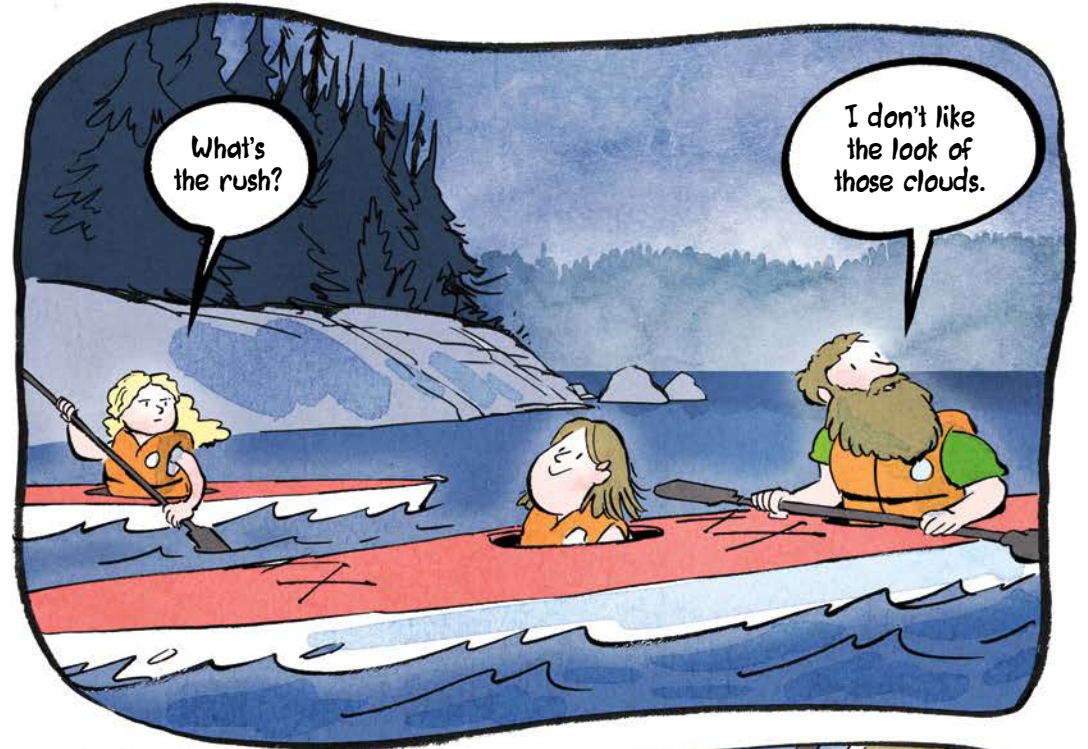
Wow.







Girls,
I think we
had better get
a move on.



What's
the rush?

I don't like
the look of
those clouds.



The weather can
shift so quickly.
Let's head home.

Do we
have to?







DAD!

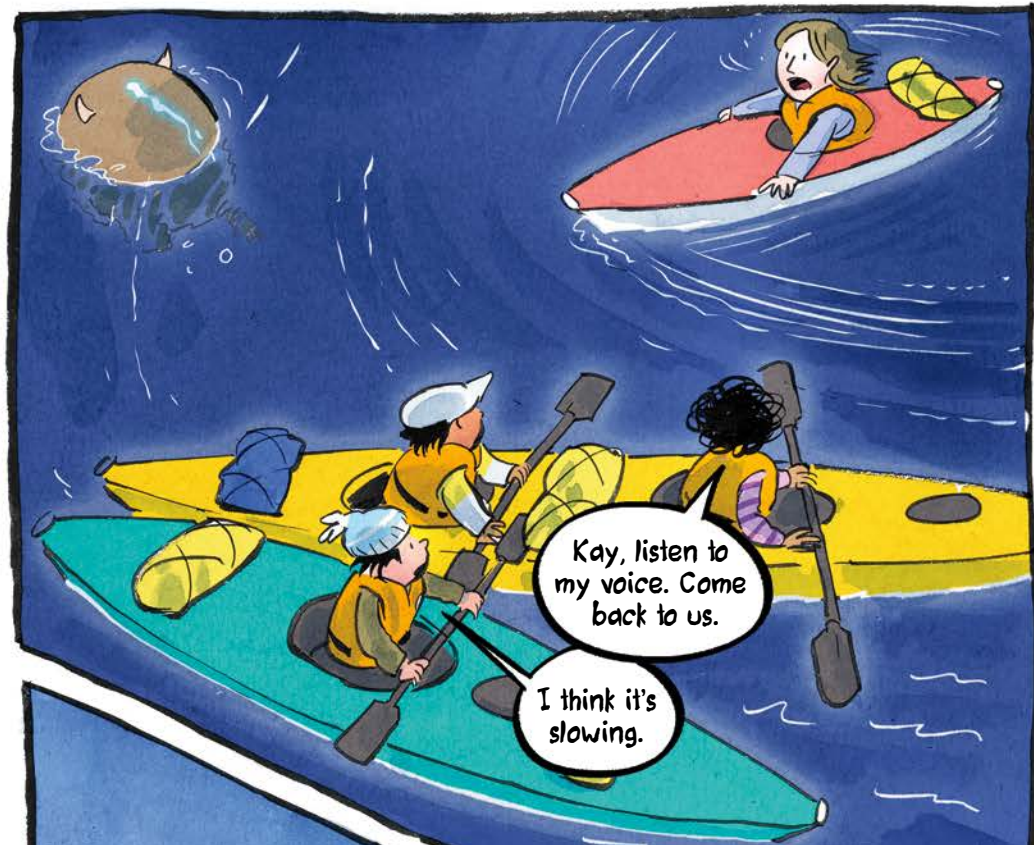
Dad?
Her dad
isn't here.



How is she spinning like that? She isn't paddling at all. She's gonna flip!

Is there something in the water?

SPLASH!



Kay, listen to my voice. Come back to us.

I think it's slowing.



Kay, you are safe. You're soaking wet, but you are safe.



Huh?
What happened?
Get me outta
this boat!

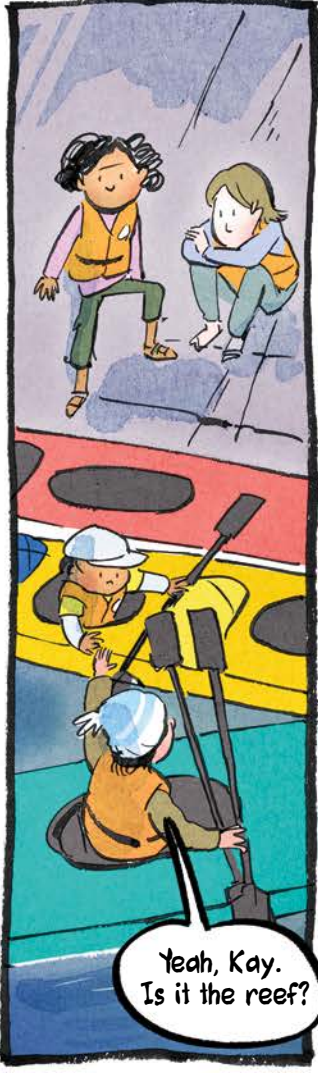


You managed just fine. But you were really out of it for a bit. Like, under a spell.

Spell? C'mon! Gwah, I hate these stupid boats!



Kay, if you hate them so much, then why are you here? Why did you come on this trip at all? None of this sounds like you!



Yeah, Kay. Is it the reef?



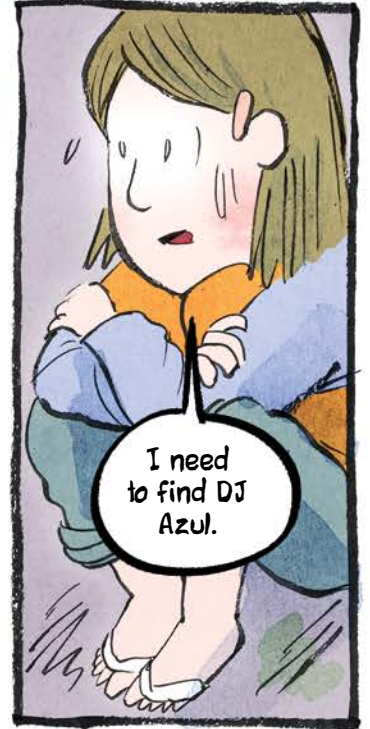
Reef?! No way! It's too dangerous. Do you have any idea how many ships have sunk there? What's he talking about?



These boats just freak me out, okay? When I was little, I just about drowned! Well, not drowned, but I fell in and got really scared. Do you understand?



Then why come with us?



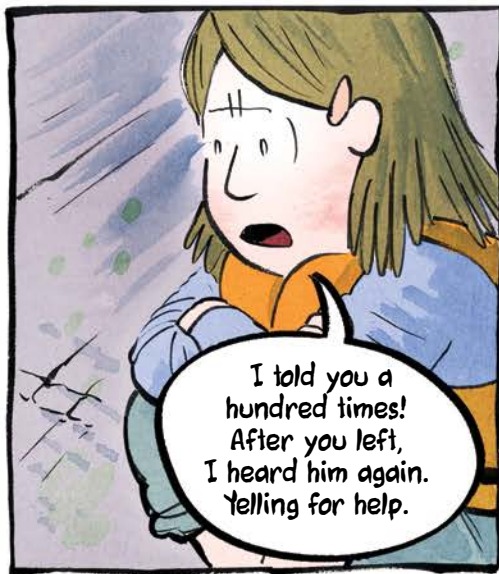
I need to find DJ Azul.



ARE YOU KIDDING?!



DJ Azul?
Kay, what are you
talking about?



I told you a
hundred times!
After you left,
I heard him again.
Telling for help.



And why would
he be here?

He said it.
Sleeves and
I figured it out.



No we didn't.
It's just a show,
Kay.



The newspaper
said someone found
blue wreckage up
the north coast.
It could be from the
blue barge. He said
"healing crystals."
He has to be here!



This
all stops
now.



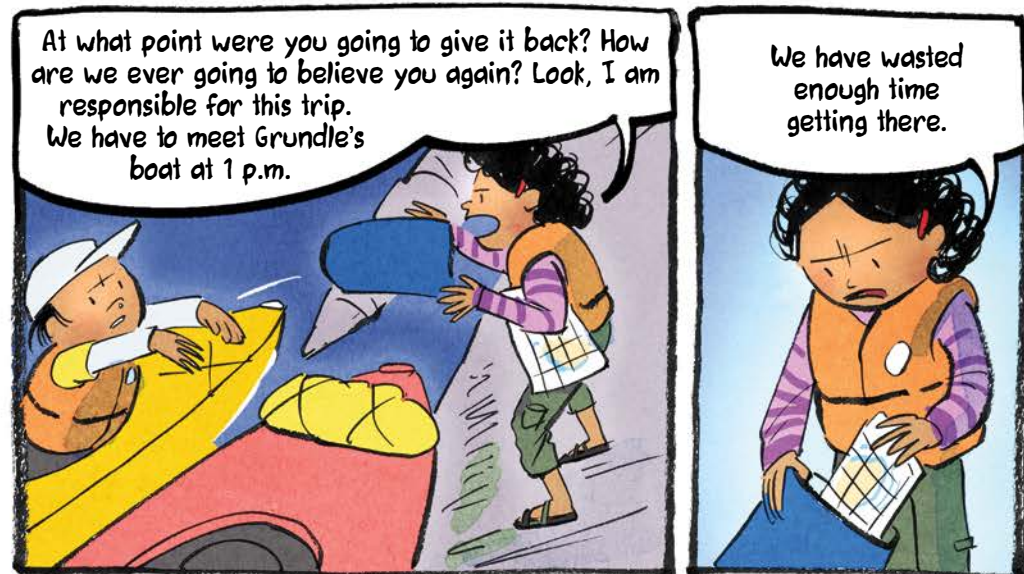
We have a
plan and we're
sticking to it.

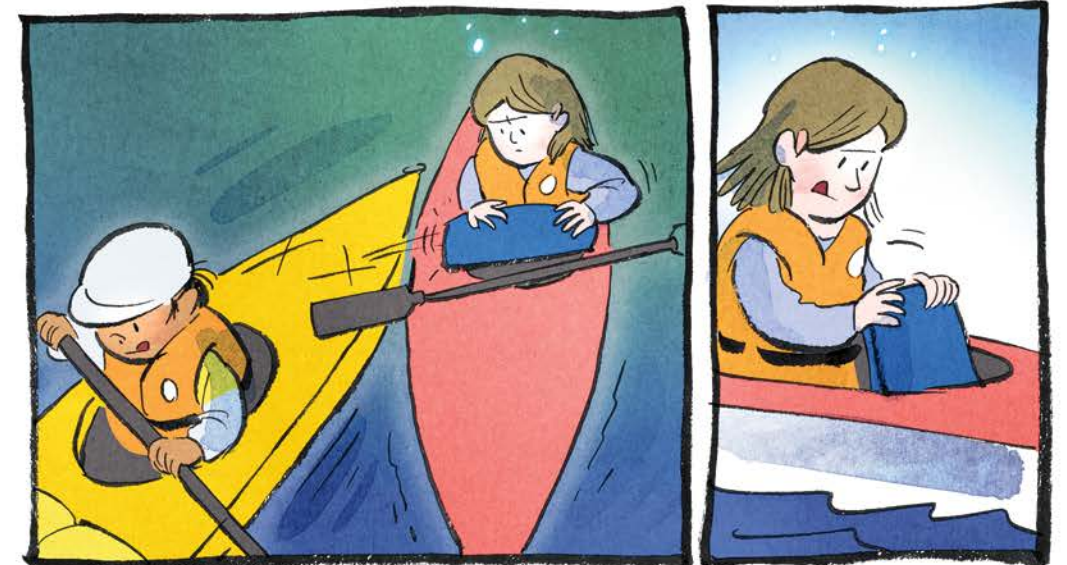
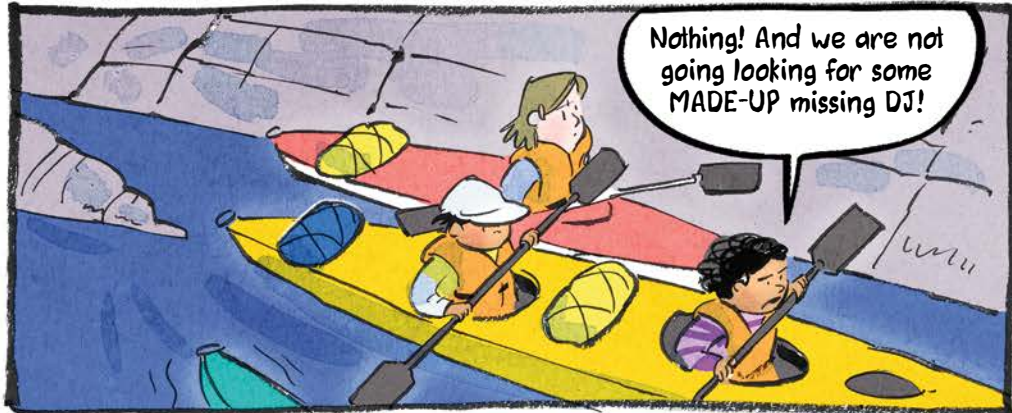
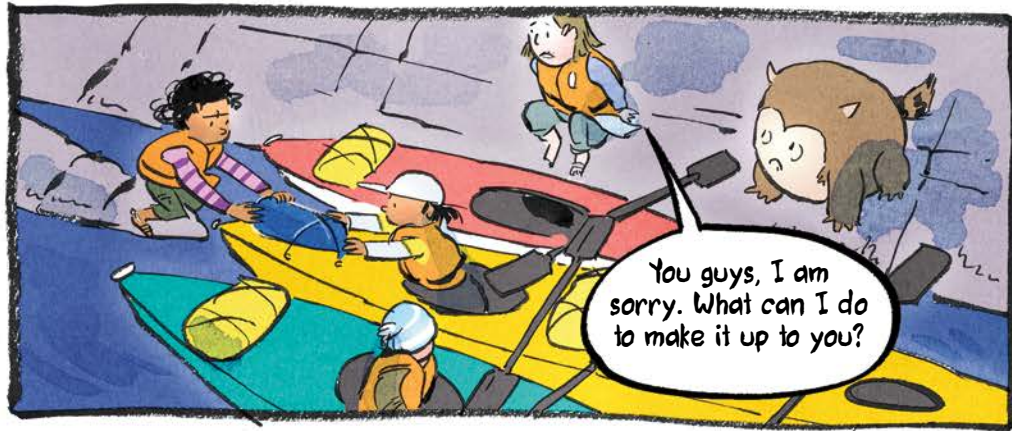


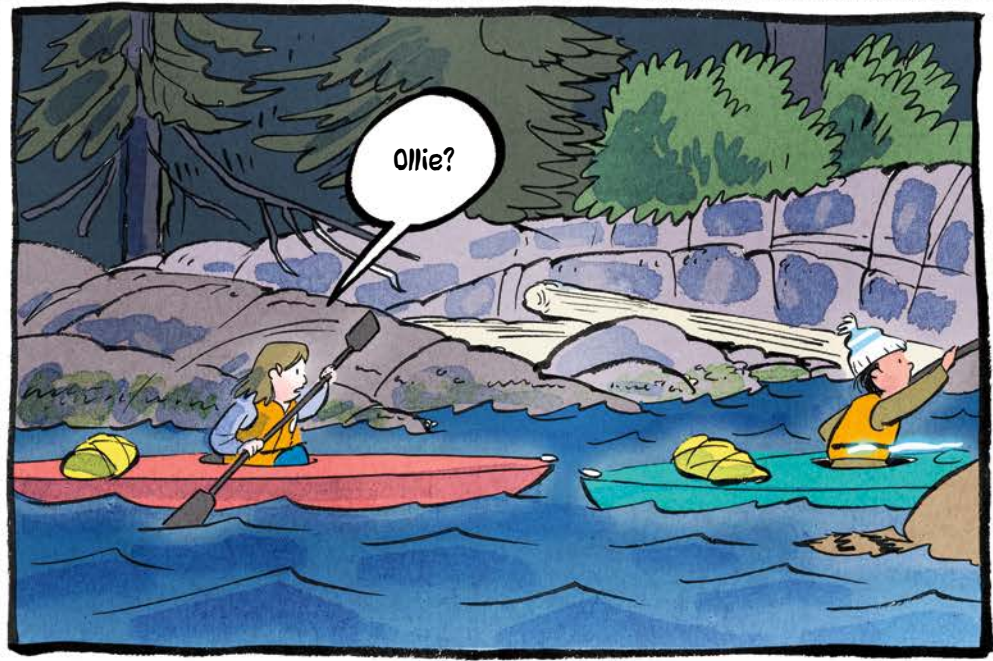
I'm getting
really cold. Can
you pass me my
towel, please?



Kay! What is
going on?! Why
do you have
my chart?!









CHAPTER FIVE
**I Can't See
Anything**



Now the water is going to be a little quick here. It's very easy. Just remember what I said yesterday. Sit back and let the current take you.



We go to the right here to head to the Whisper Chain. The islands are spread out from here.



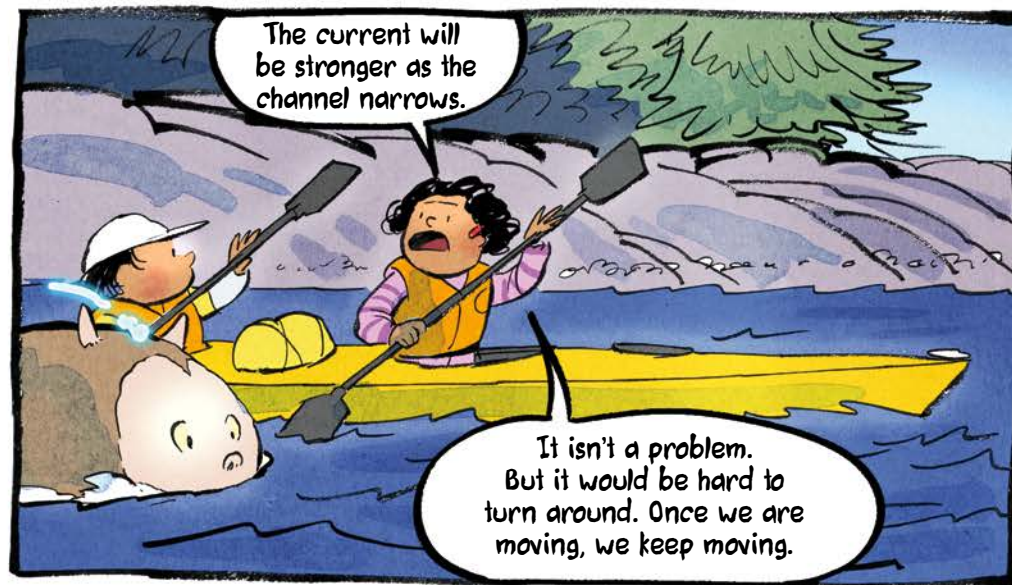
What is to the left?



We aren't going left.



The reef is to the left.



The current will be stronger as the channel narrows.

It isn't a problem. But it would be hard to turn around. Once we are moving, we keep moving.

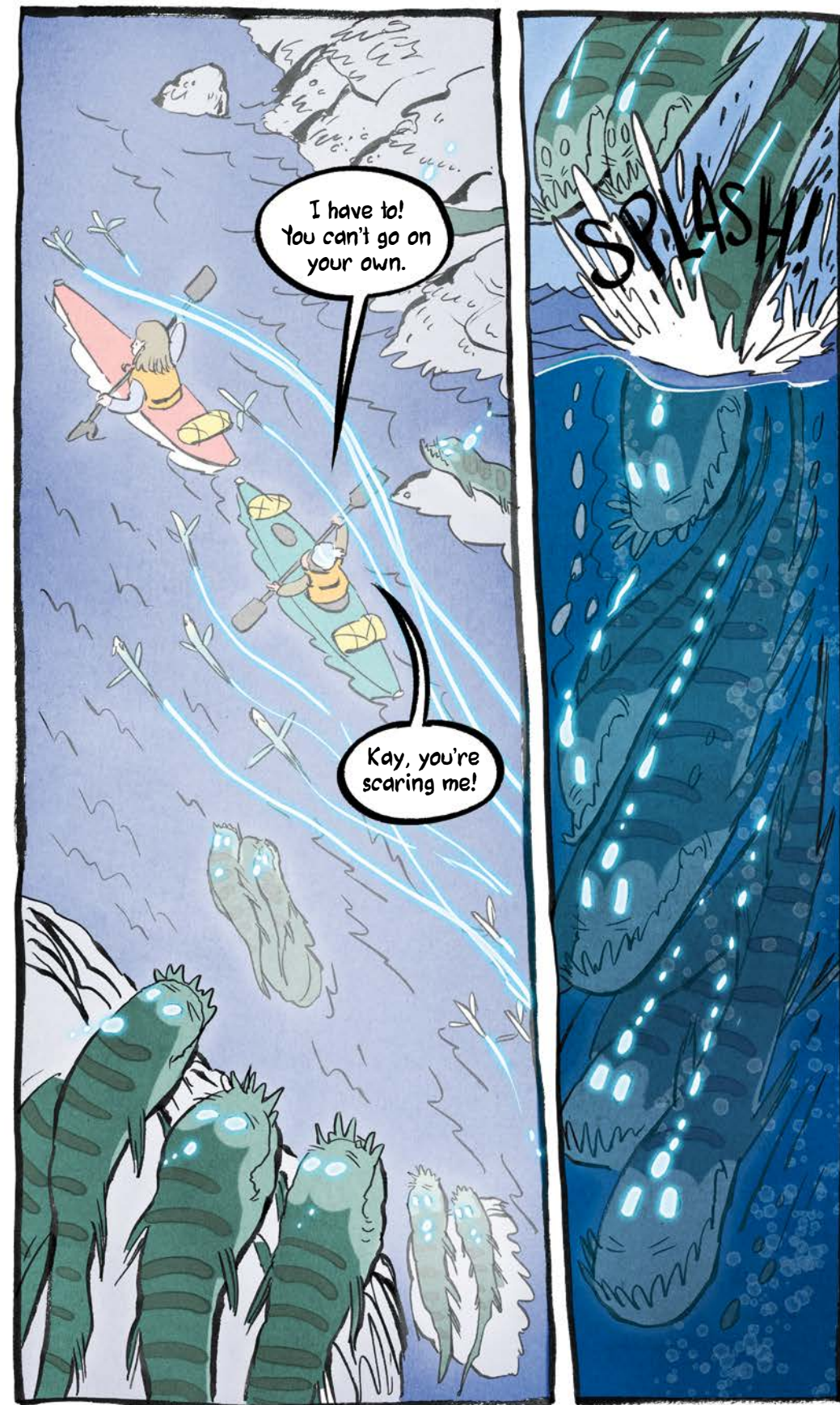


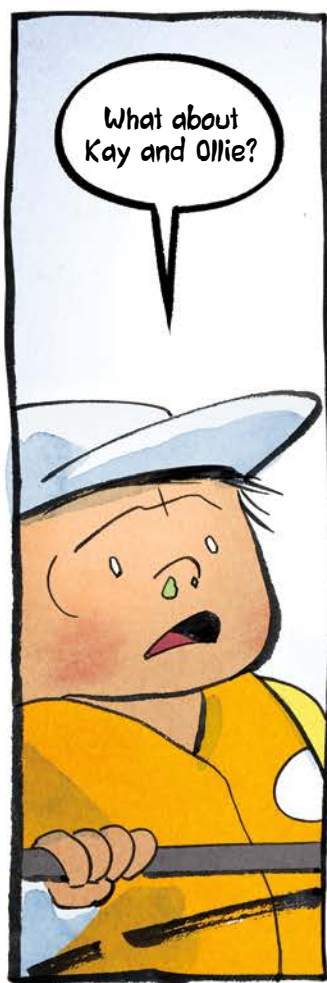
Kay? Where are you going?!

I have to try! You go with the others.

And is that the bag?!









Fog?
This is the last
thing we need!



Kay, come on!
We need to find the
others. We don't know the
first thing about being out
here on our own.

I've come
all this way, Ollie.
I have to see if
he's there.



Oh, this is just great.
I can't see anything.

My friends are back. We will just follow
them. They'll lead us to the wreck.



Kay, these creatures
aren't helping us. They
are getting in your head
and stopping you from
thinking straight.



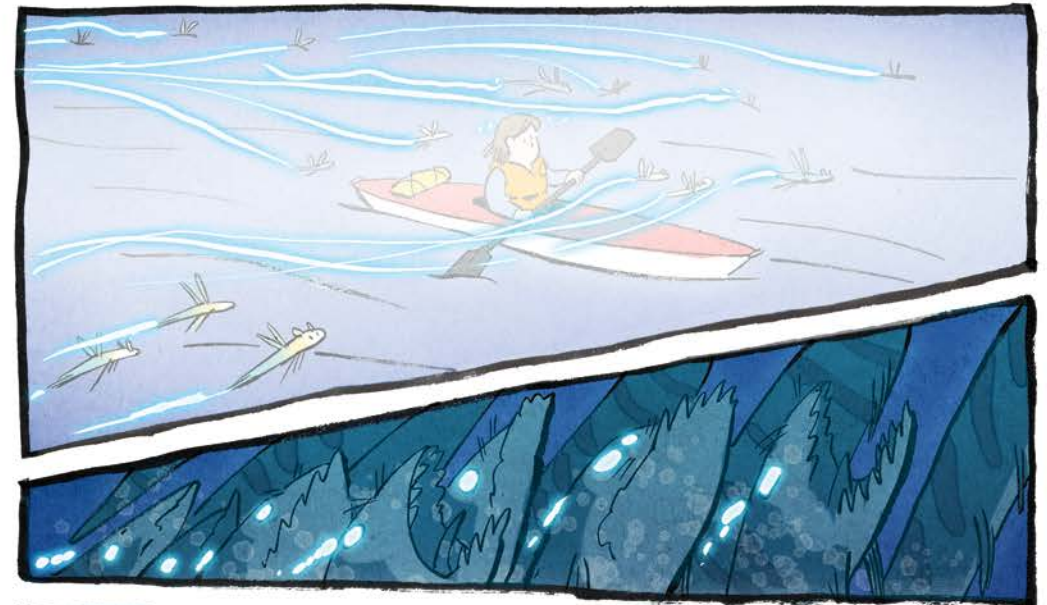
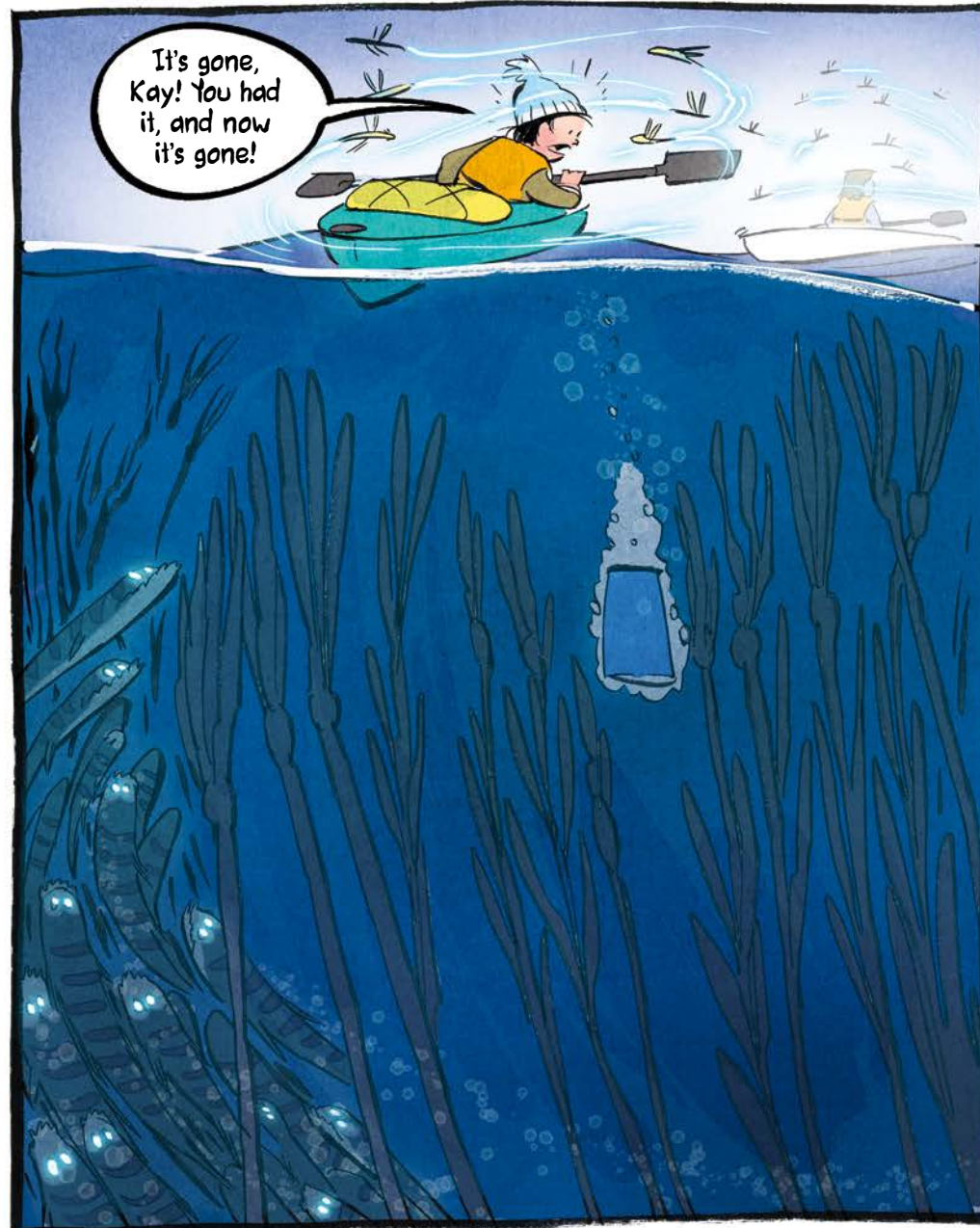
**KAY! BE
CAREFUL!**

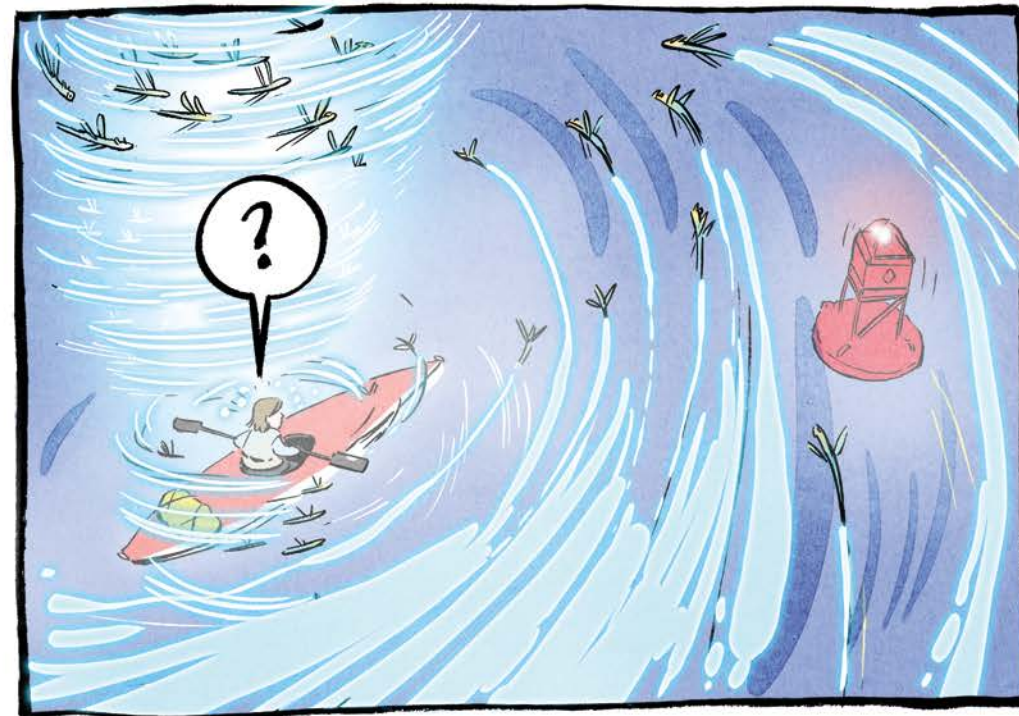


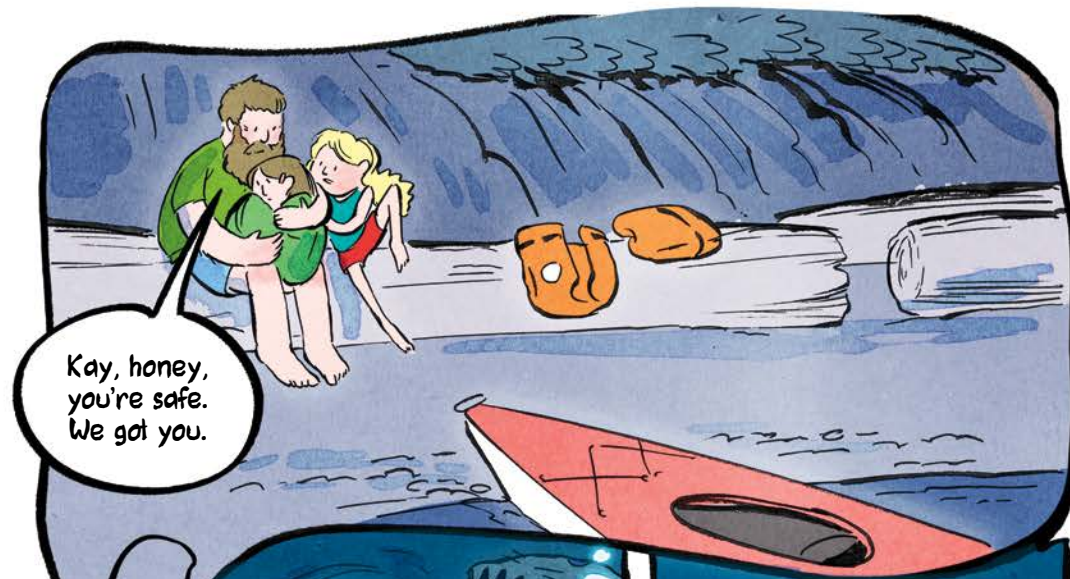
THE BAG!

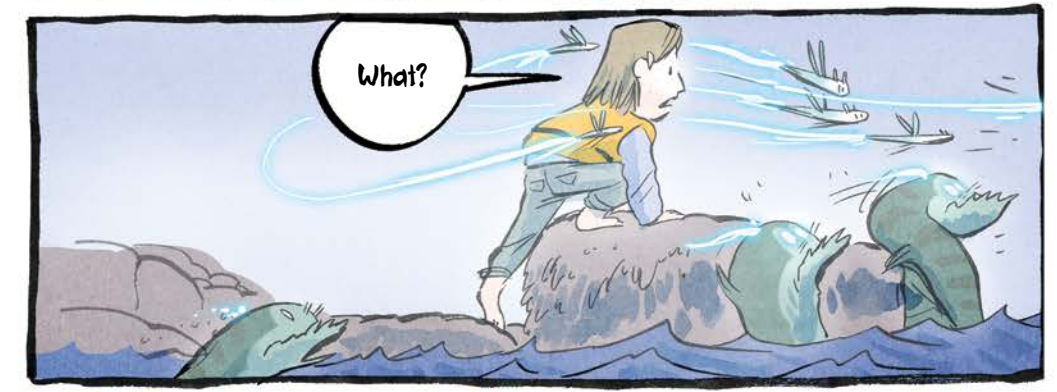
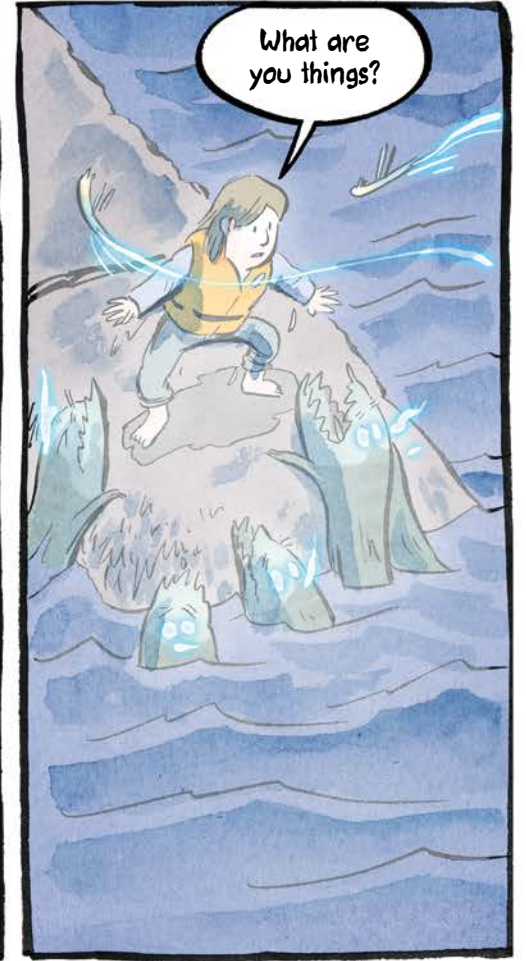
WHA-?!

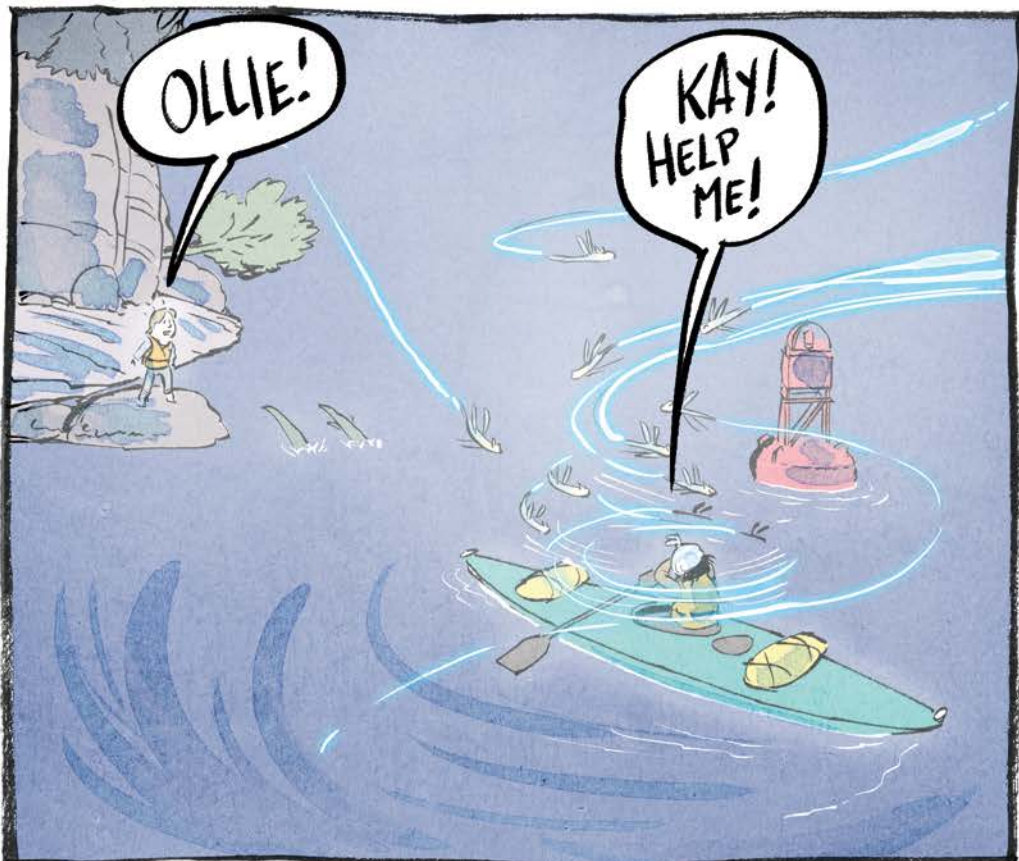
PLOP!



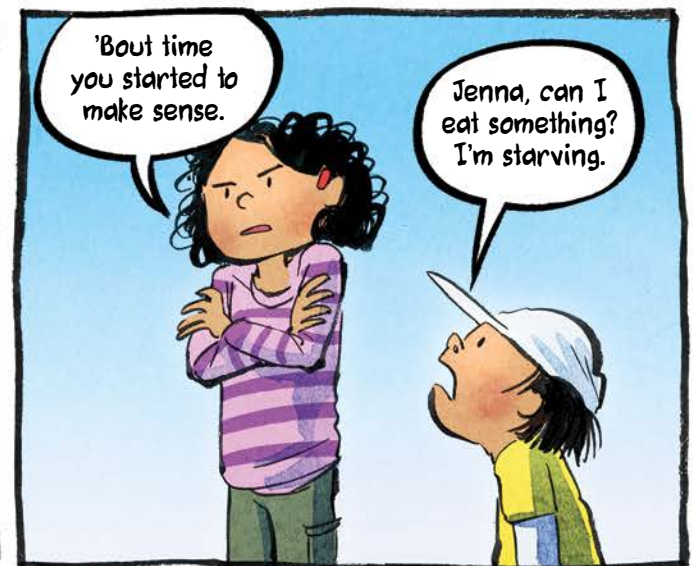
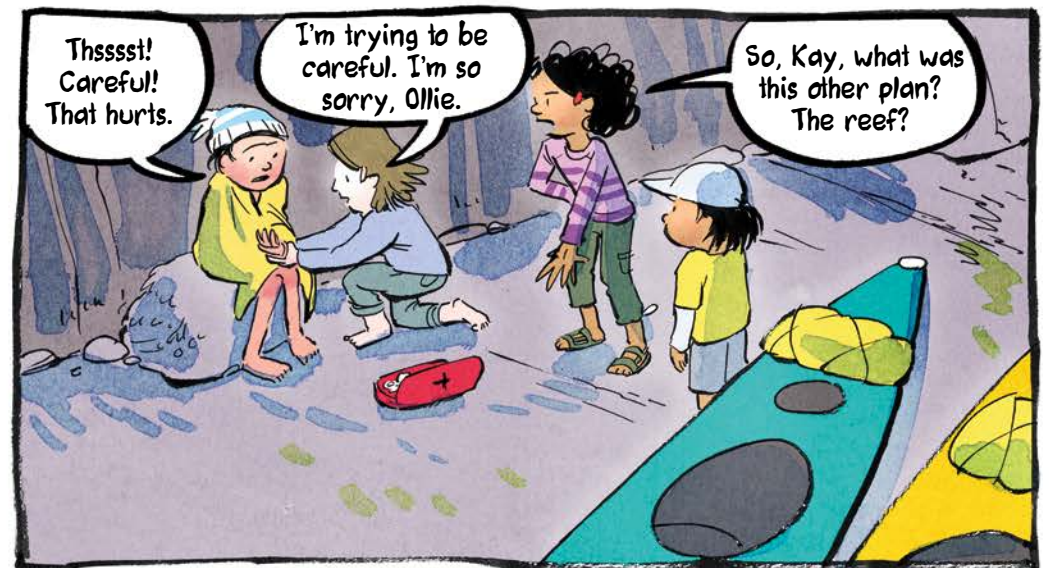
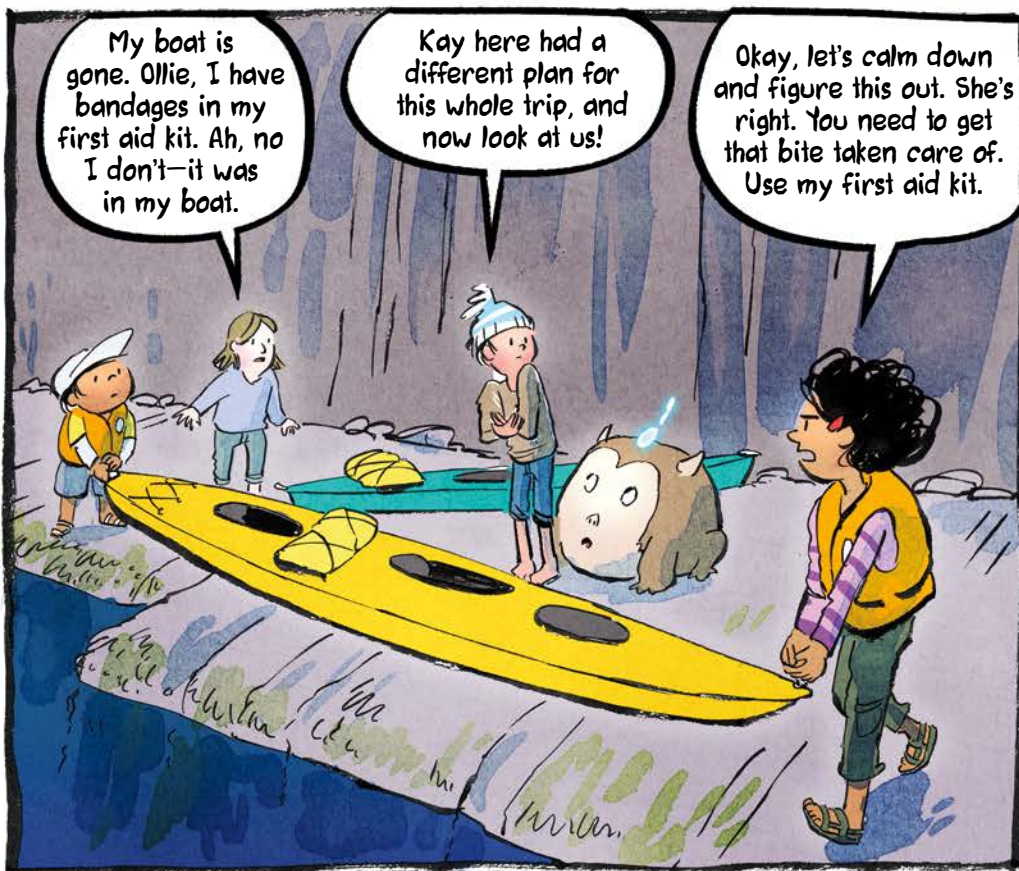
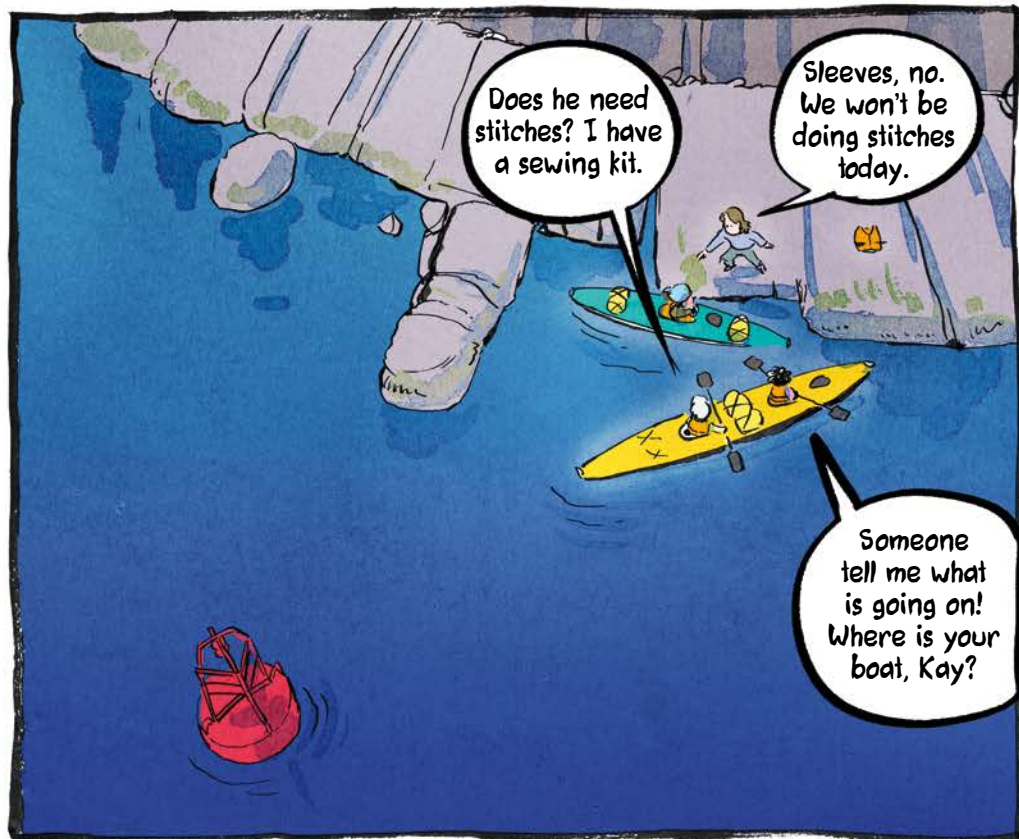














The bag slipped. It fell overboard. It's gone.



No! You lost it?!



Oh you've got to be kidding me! This is absolutely disastrous!



What in the name of...Kay, what are we going to do now? How are we going to get out of here? Ollie has a serious cut, you've lost your boat, we haven't got much food left and no one knows where we are!



So, Jenna, what can I eat?



Sleeves! Make a sandwich!

YES!



So what do we do?



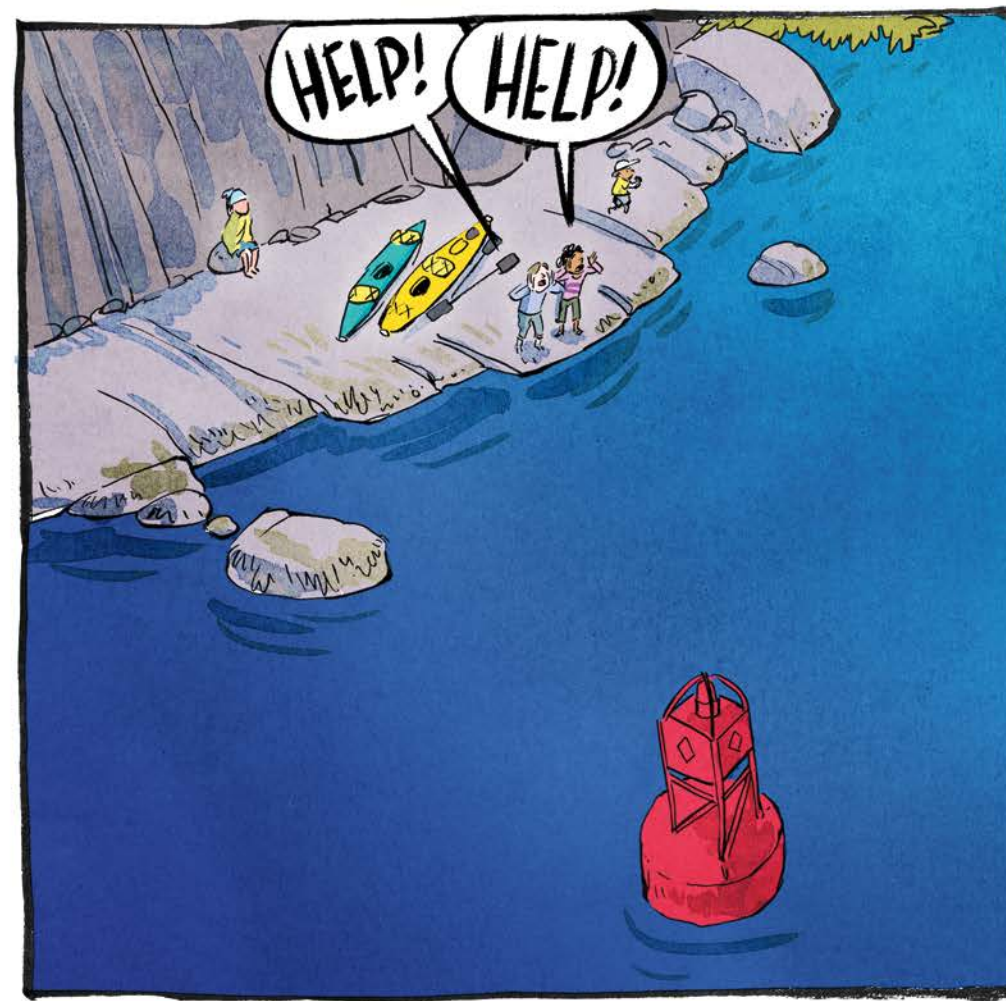
I don't know. The only thing I can think of is Grundle will see that we aren't on Whisper Island. What if we all yell and see if she hears us?



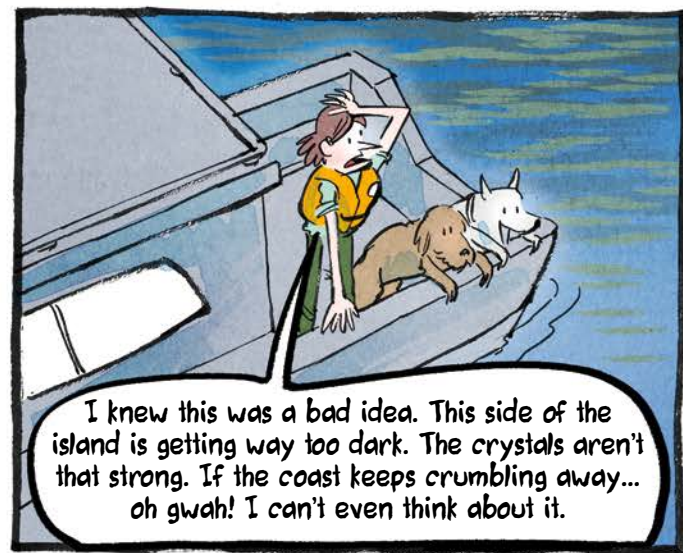
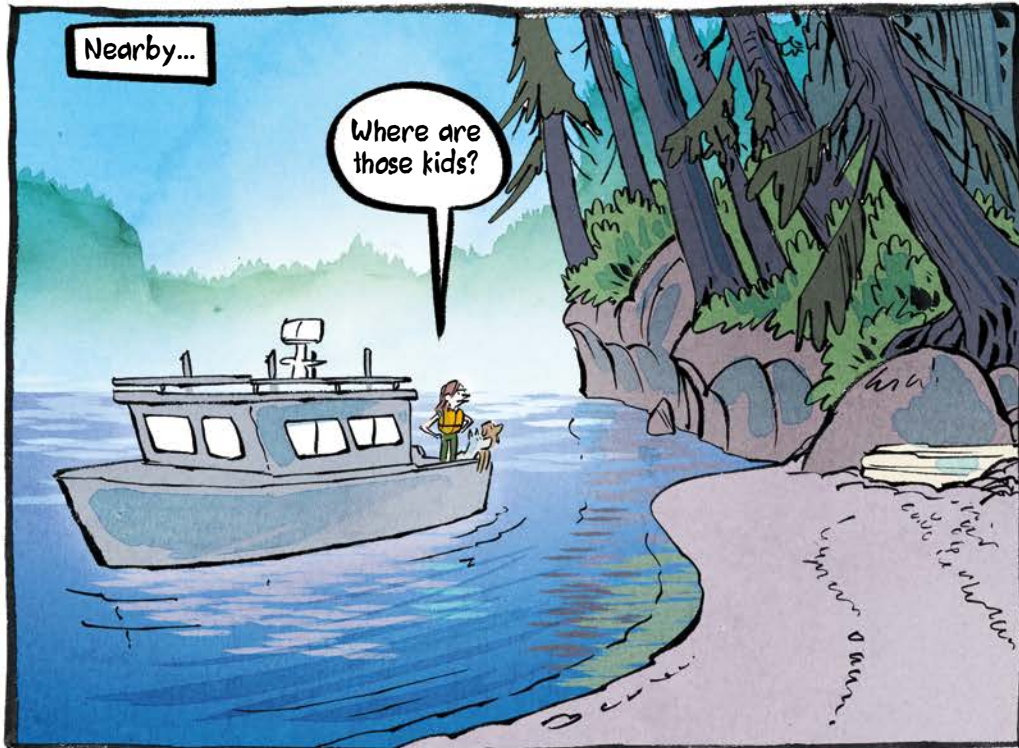
Yelling? That really isn't a plan. I know what you said, but I think I might actually need stitches.

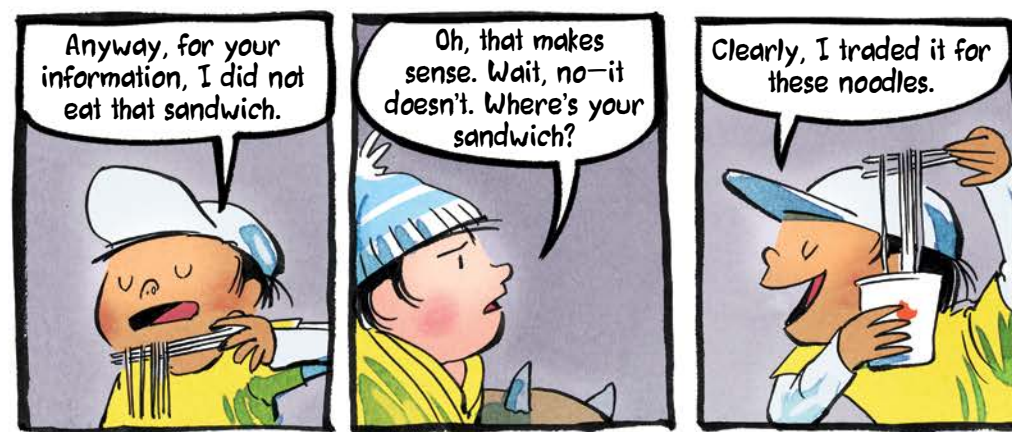
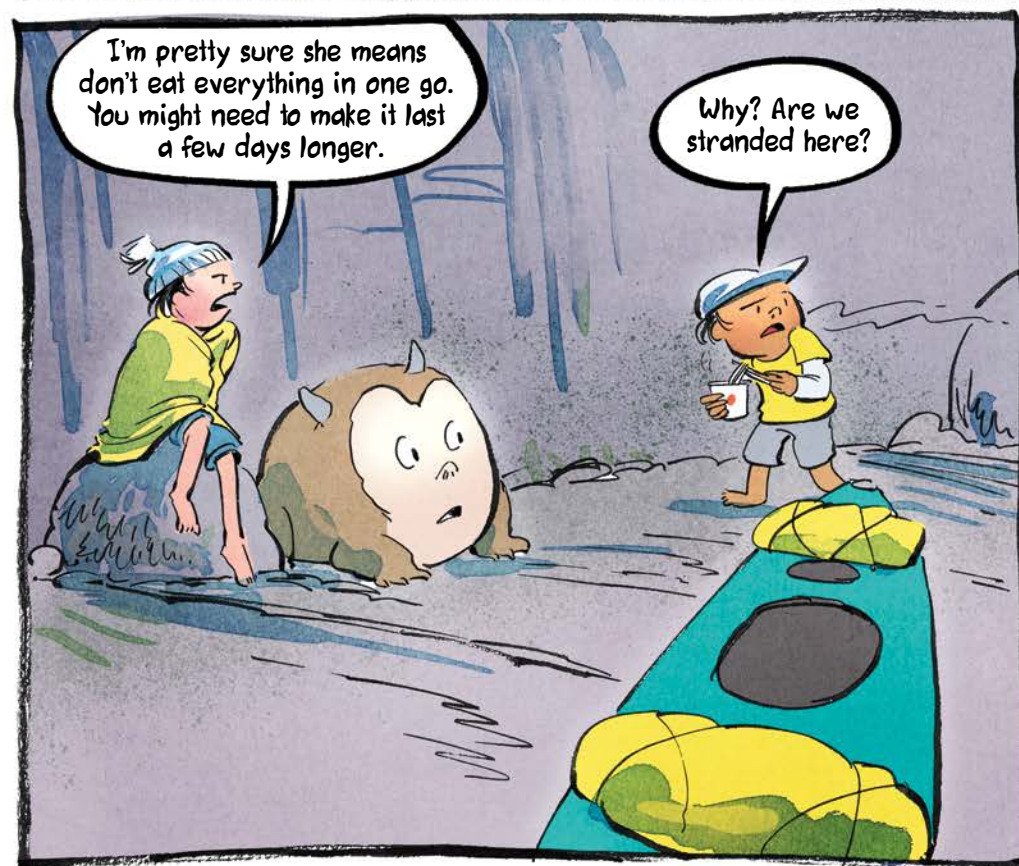


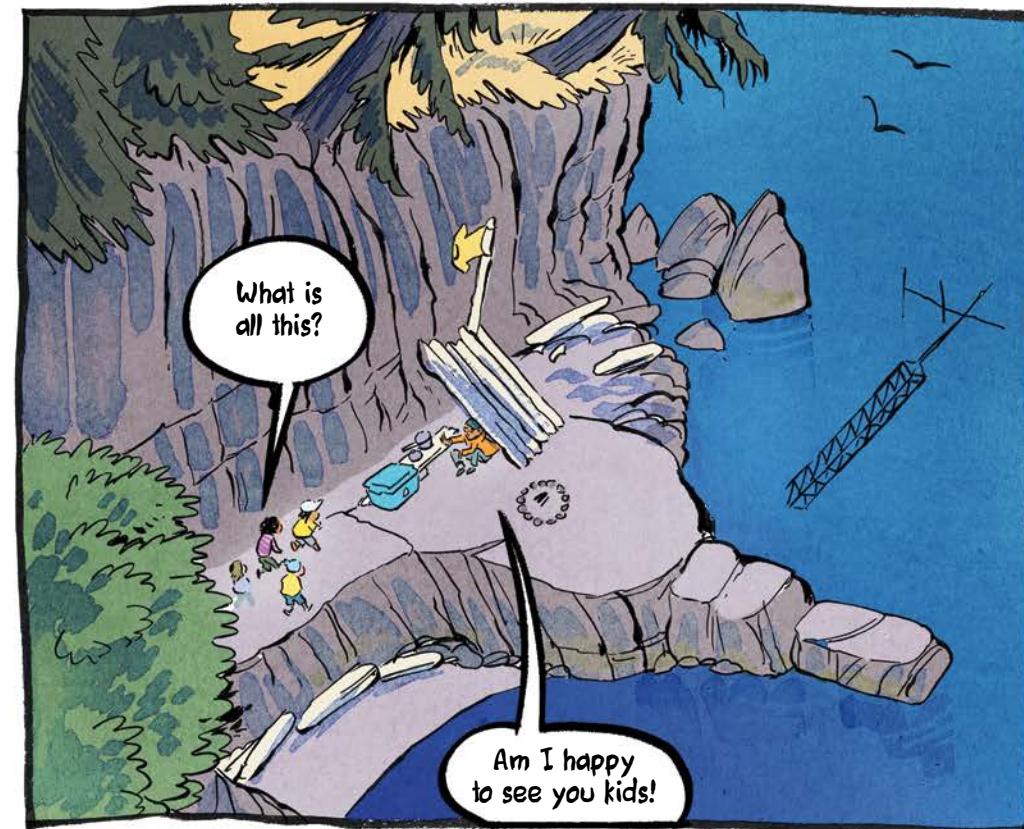
Of course you need stitches! And no, Sleeves, you won't be doing them. Ollie, for your information, sound travels very well over water.



HELP! HELP!











Was it those little Moon Creatures? They've been making trouble our whole trip. They even tried to drown Kay and bite Ollie's arm off.



Well, that would be a wild story, wouldn't it. But it's not like they actually exist.



Huh? What do you mean? They sure do exist. There's loads of them—or there were. I guess they're gone now.



You travel the world looking for the unexplainable, but you don't believe any of it?



Nope, sorry, kiddo. Not really. It's the drama my listeners want. Wild stories and excitement. Not reality.



Just how long have you been here?



Today is 28 days. Twenty-eight days of noodles and rainwater.



You ate these noodles for 28 days?! Yuck!



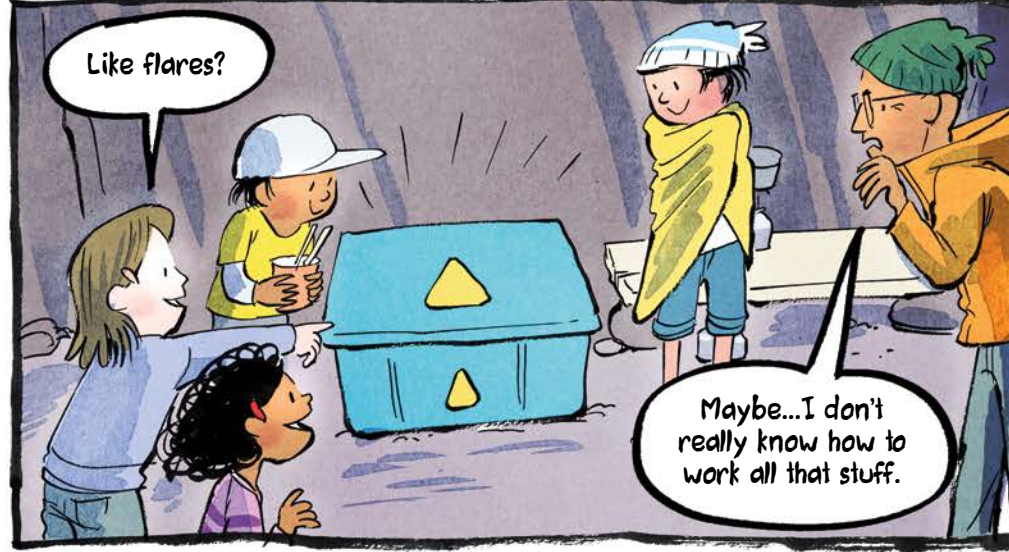
I kept thinking that someone would see me. A boat went by a few days ago, but I was down the beach and missed them.



What about your emergency supply crate? You always have your ESC!

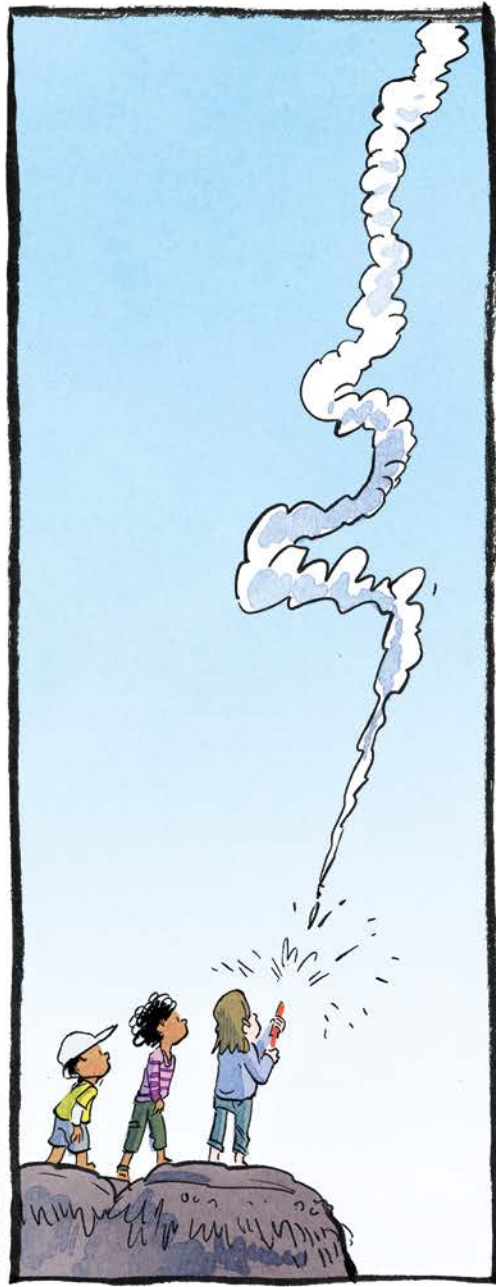


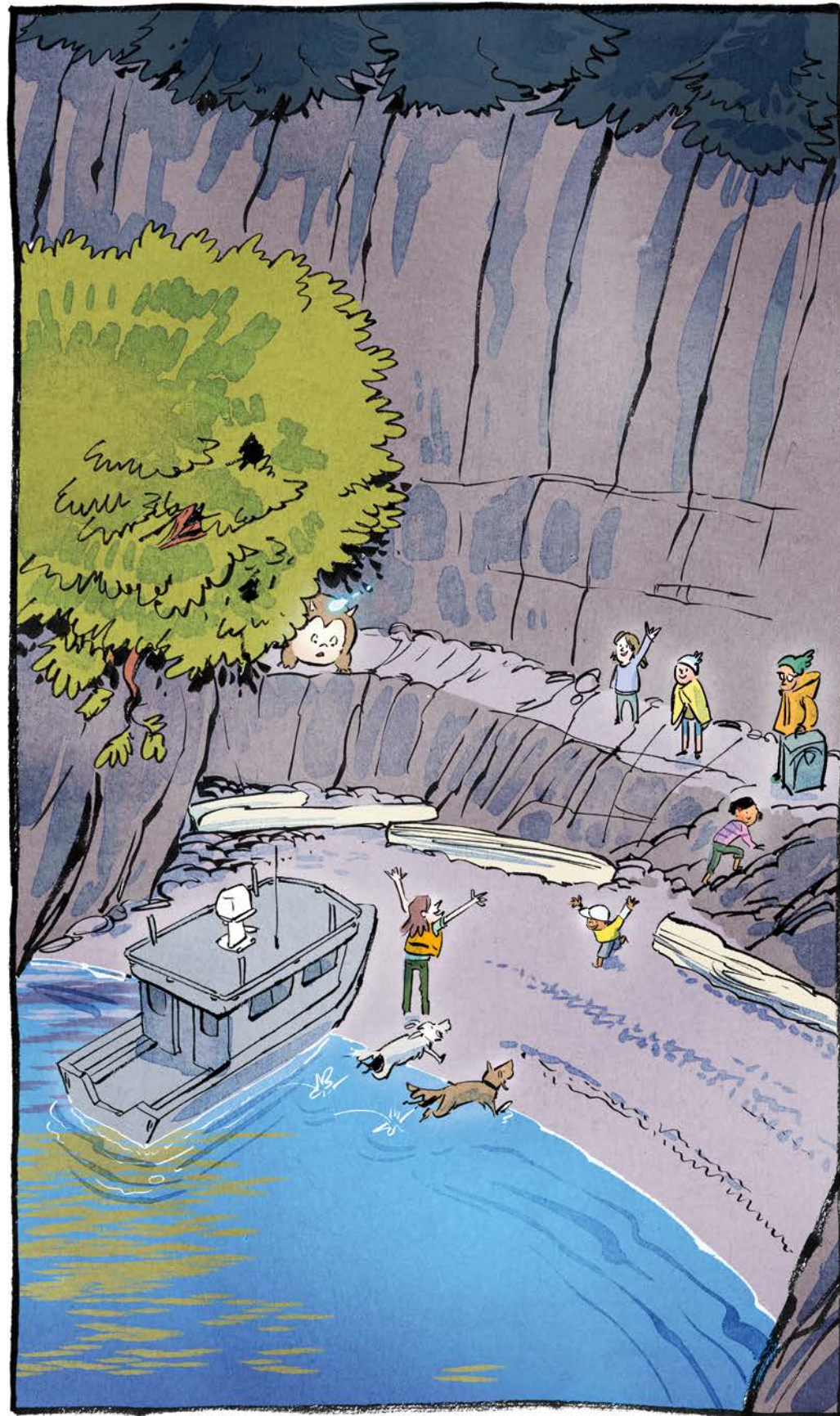
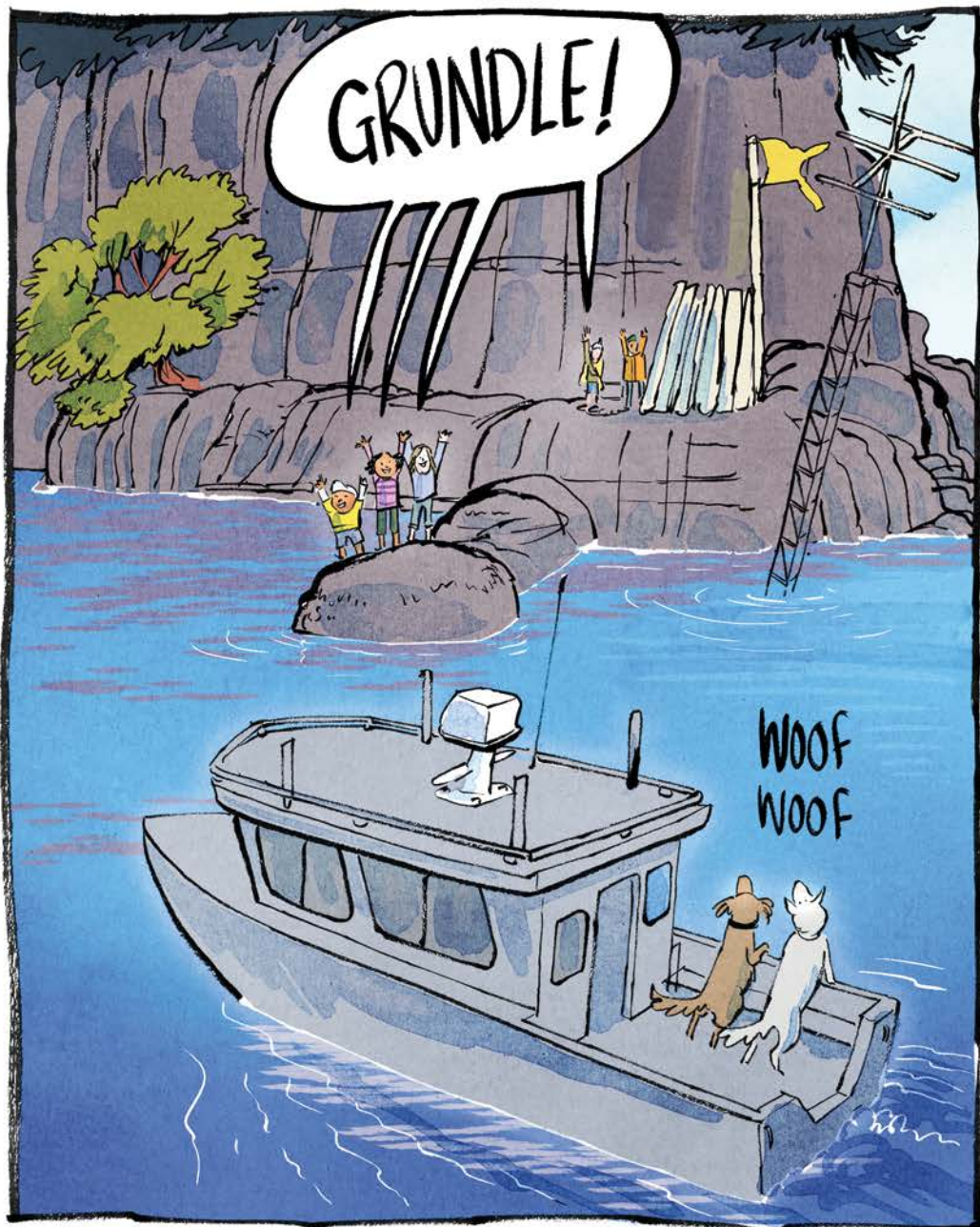
Crate? Yeah, it's all noodles. And a few odds and ends.

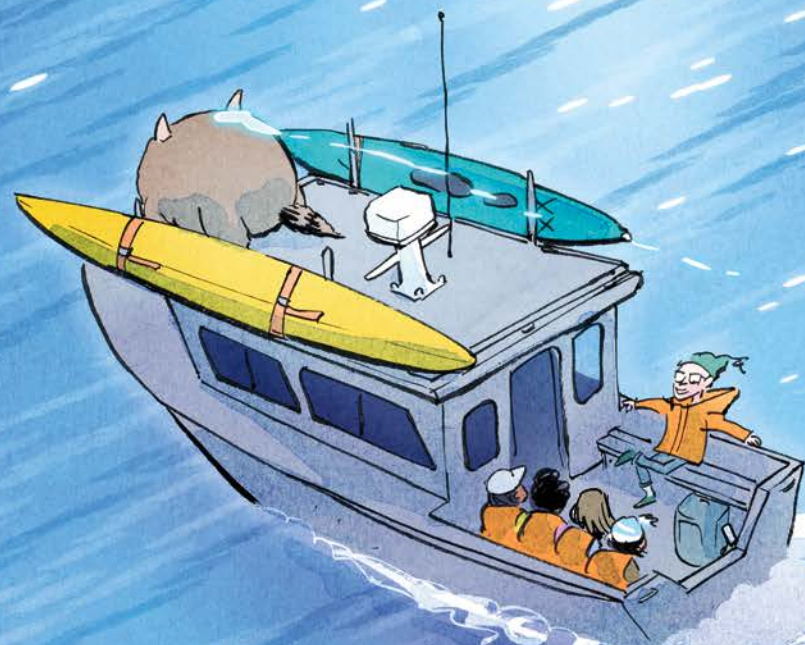


Like flares?

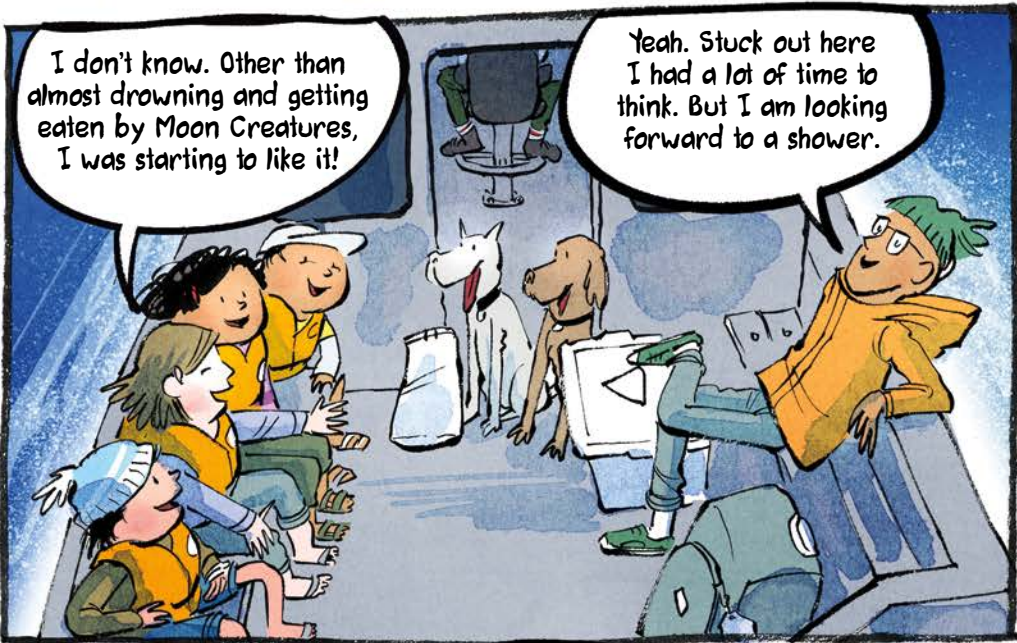
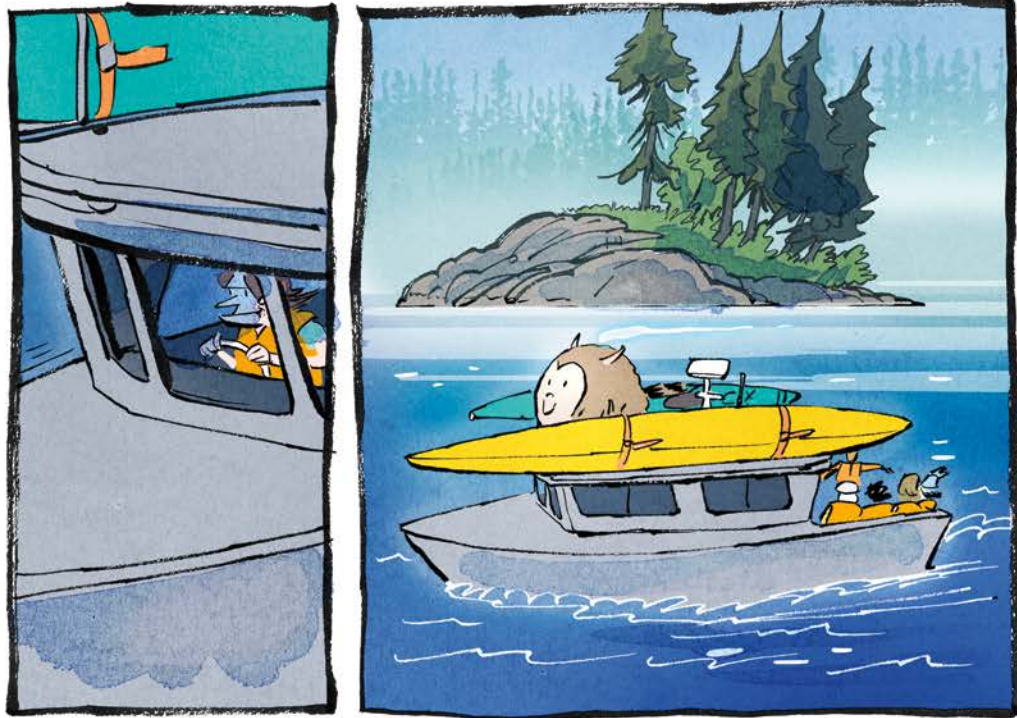
Maybe...I don't really know how to work all that stuff.

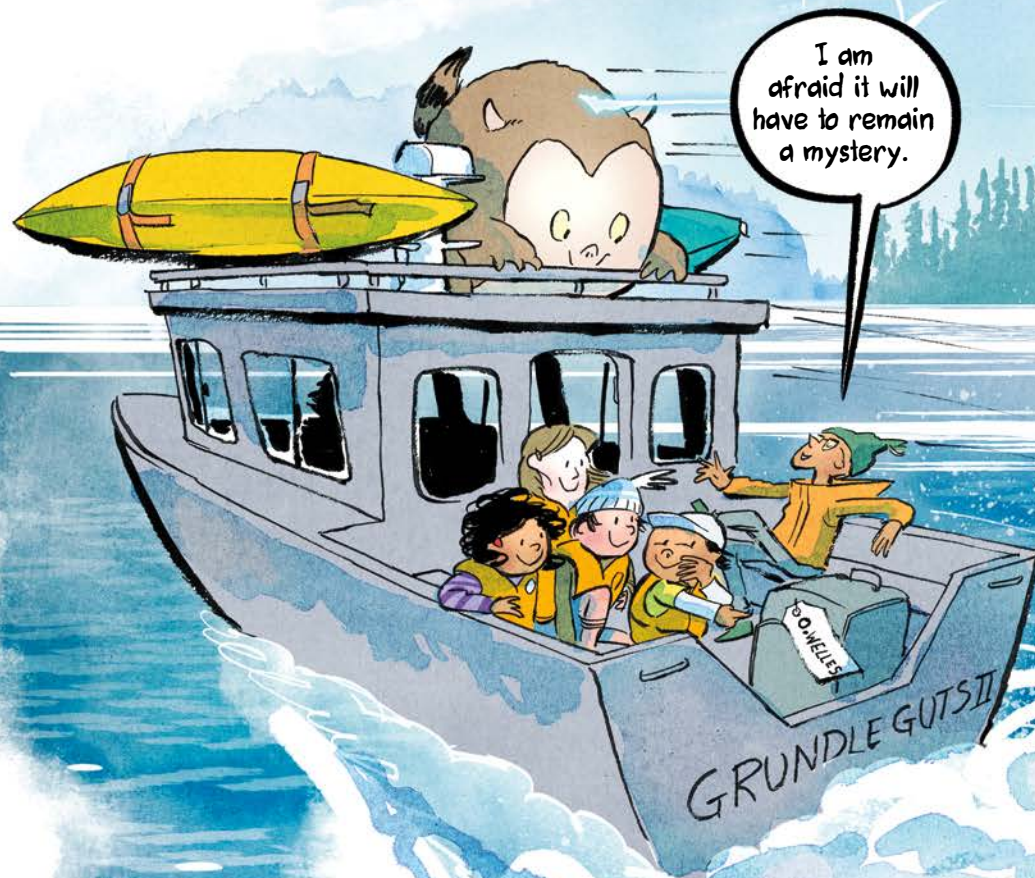






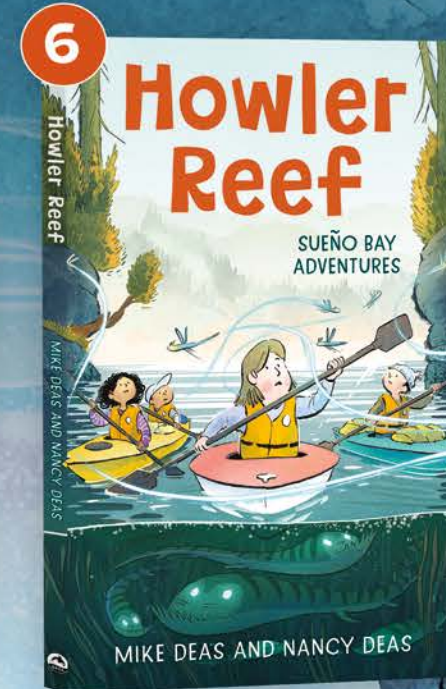
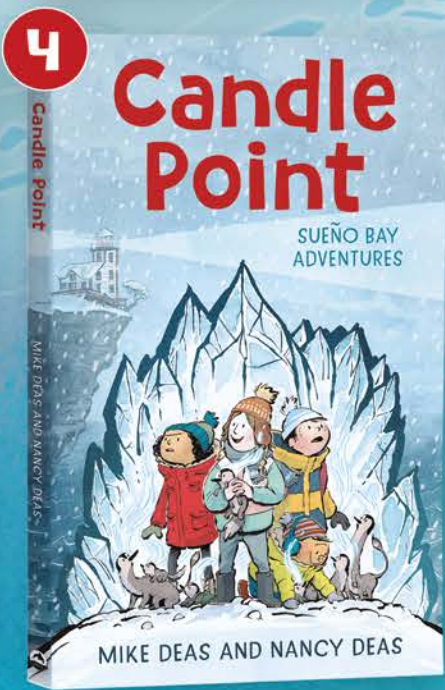
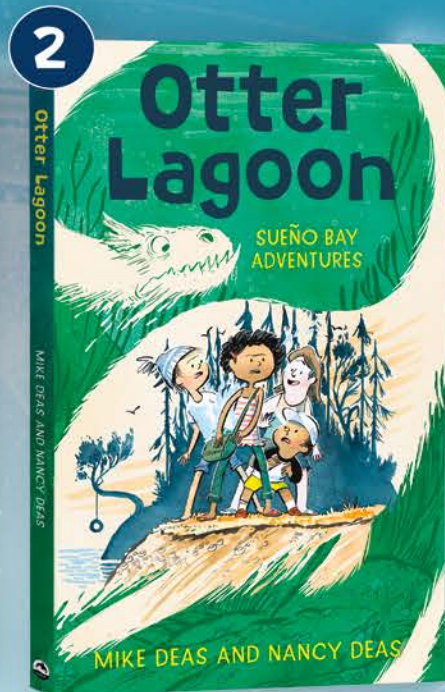
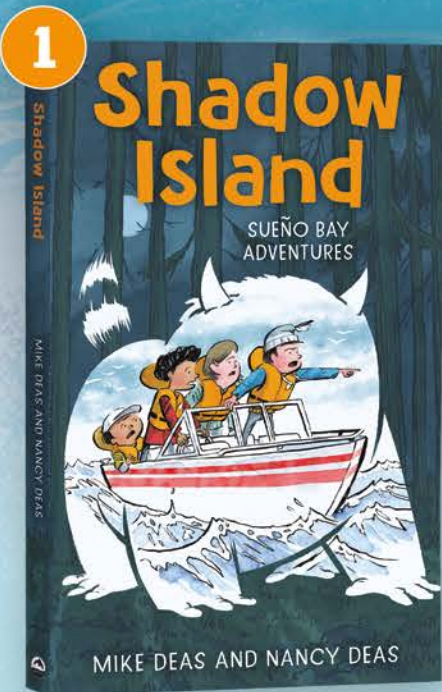
CHAPTER SIX
No More Noodles





Welcome to Sueño Bay

HOME OF THE SUPERNATURAL



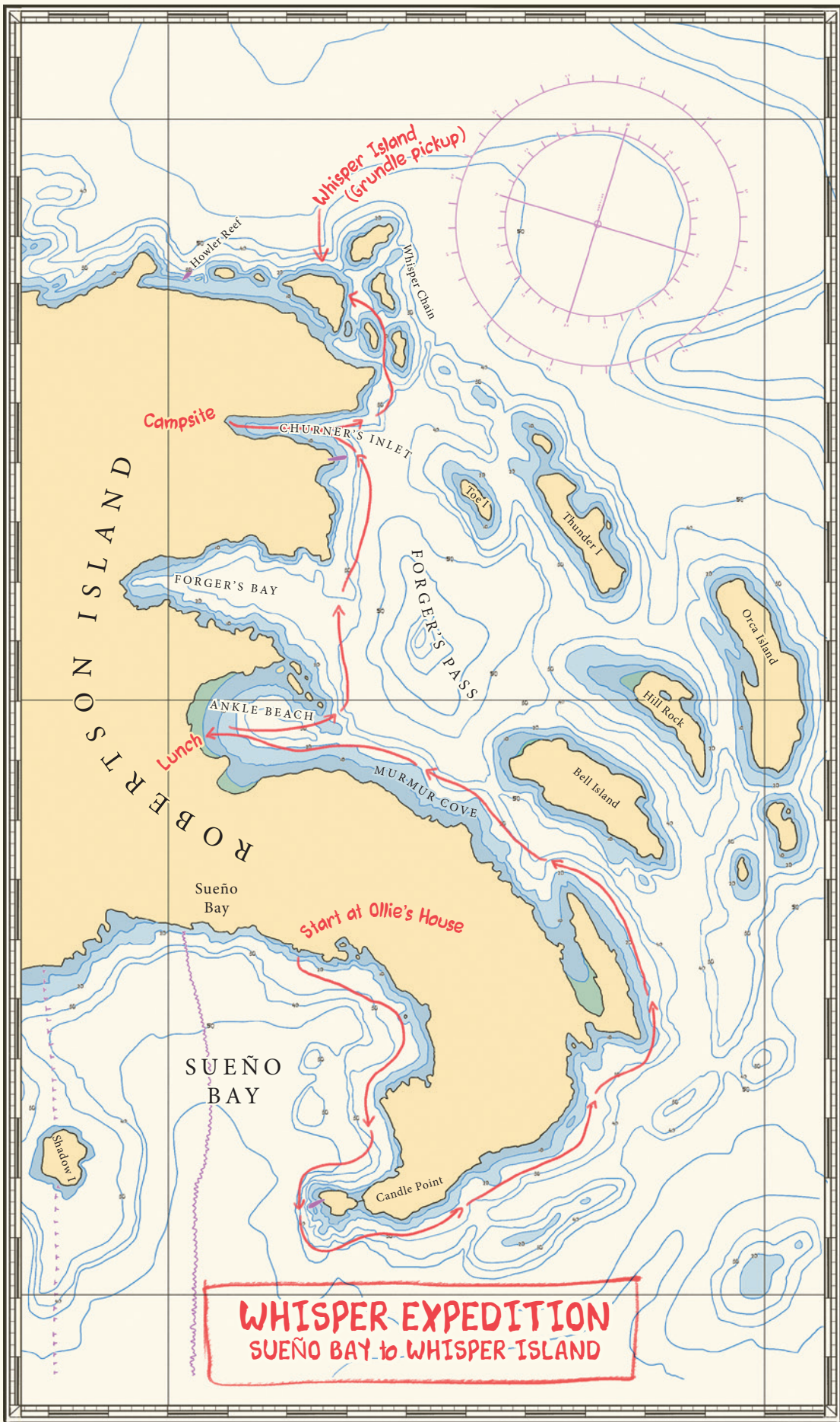
Magic, mystery
and Moon
Creatures!

Ready for more? **New books** in the
SUEÑO BAY ADVENTURES
series are **coming soon!**



Husband-and-wife team **NANCY** and **MIKE DEAS** enjoyed collaborating on this project. Nancy grew up on a farm on Mayne Island, British Columbia, where she wandered the forests and beaches. She has a great love of travel and adventure. Nancy holds a bachelor of arts from the University of Victoria. Mike is an author/illustrator of graphic novels, including *Dalen and Gole* and the Graphic Guide Adventure series. While he grew up with a love of illustrative storytelling, Capilano College's Commercial Animation program helped Mike fine-tune his drawing skills and imagination. Mike, Nancy and their family live on Salt Spring Island, British Columbia, a magical and mysterious island that inspired Sueño Bay.







Can Kay trust her hunch?

Kay just *knows* something is wrong when her favorite radio host, DJ Azul, ends an episode of his mystery show calling for help as his boat spins out of control. But no one believes her. Realizing he must be near Sueño Bay, Kay joins her friends on a kayak trip up the coast, hoping to find him.




Battling fear, misbehaving Moon Creatures and growing danger, Kay must decide if following her hunch is worth putting her friends at risk...

"I love the Sueño Bay series so much. Each book is a spell of wonder, magic and friendship."

—RICHARD VAN CAMP, bestselling author



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