

Runaways

When they were younger, Nico Minoru, Chase Stein, Gertrude Yorkes, Karolina Dean, Molly Hayes and Alex Wilder became friends through circumstance: hanging out once a year while their parents had what they claimed was a dinner party. After discovering their parents were actually the super villain team known as the Pride, the kids ran. The Runaways learned to use powers and resources inherited from their parents, and returned to defeat them. The experience made them a family, but that wasn't enough to keep them safe.

Karolina's longtime girlfriend, Julie Power, finally came to visit. But somehow she's had a harder time fitting in than Victor's old friend, an autonomous Doombot. Julie seems to keep just missing Karolina--as she picks up Molly from her bestie Abigail's, as she gets breakfast with Nico, as she heads to the movies with her friends--which is where she was when Julie stopped by, hoping to talk. She found an empty Hostel and a cupcake on the coffee table. Not knowing this was the enchanted cupcake Abigail gave Molly with the promise it could make them best friends forever, Julie drowned her sorrows in sugar, which always seems like a good idea...



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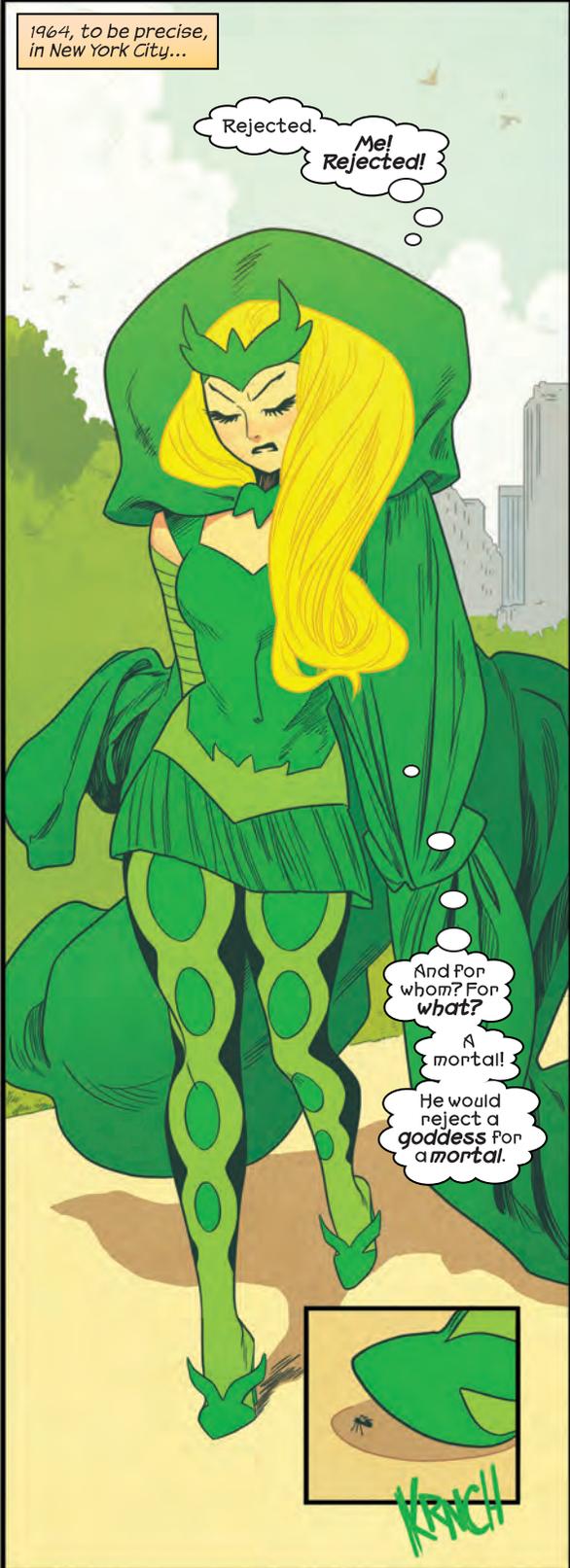
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Once upon a time...



click clack click clack

1964, to be precise, in New York City...



Rejected.
Me!
Rejected!

And For whom? For what?
A mortal!
He would reject a goddess for a mortal.



KRACH



A god cannot share his **life** with a mortal. He can share but a **moment**.

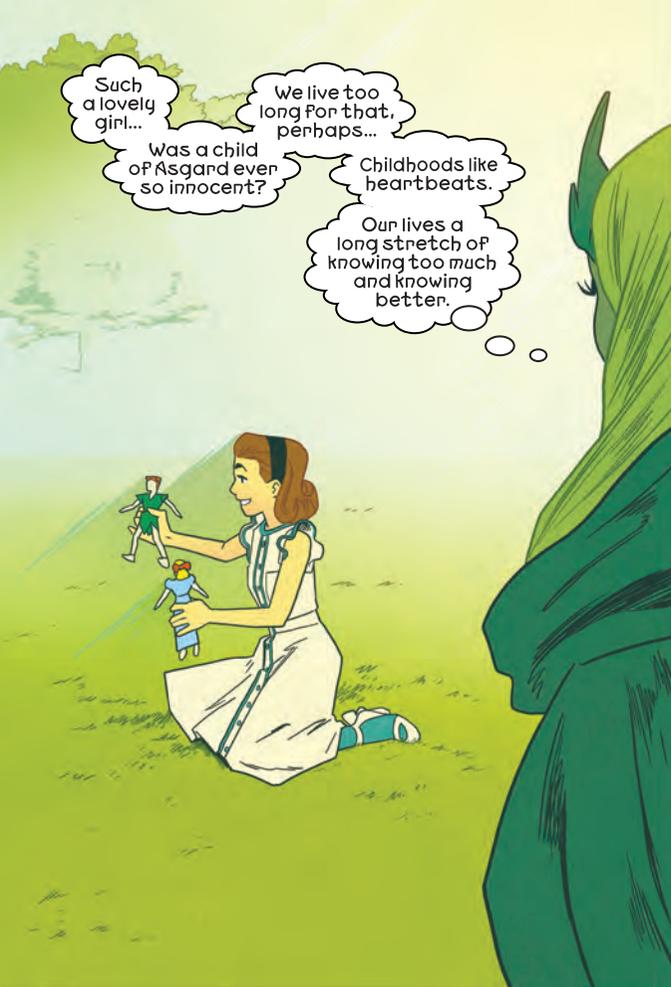


This whole **world** is a waste... Nothing living, everything dying.

How can Thor stand it?



What's this...



Such a lovely girl...

We live too long for that, perhaps...

Was a child of Asgard ever so innocent?

Childhoods like heartbeats.

Our lives a long stretch of knowing too much and knowing better.



Was I ever a girl?

Who was Amora before she became entangled in the whims of men and the plotting of princes?



Oh! You're so beautiful...

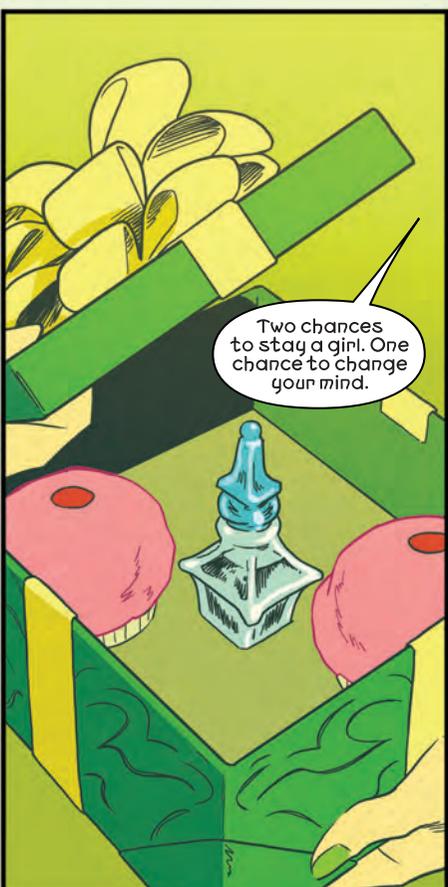


I don't understand--



It's very simple, Abigail. I'm offering you life without measure. Eternity without corruption.

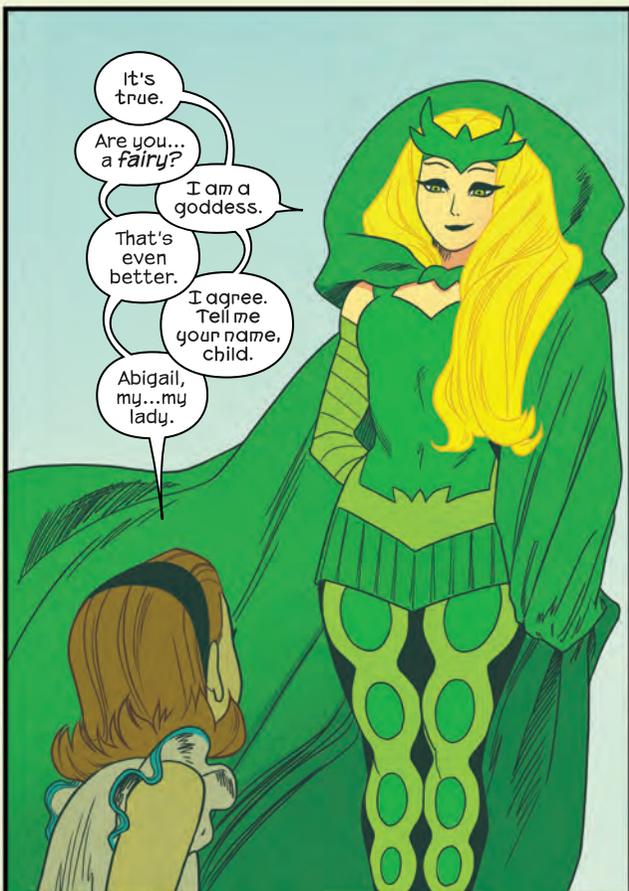
Girlhood unspoiled, uncorroded, uncomplicated!



Two chances to stay a girl. One chance to change your mind.



But what will--



It's true.

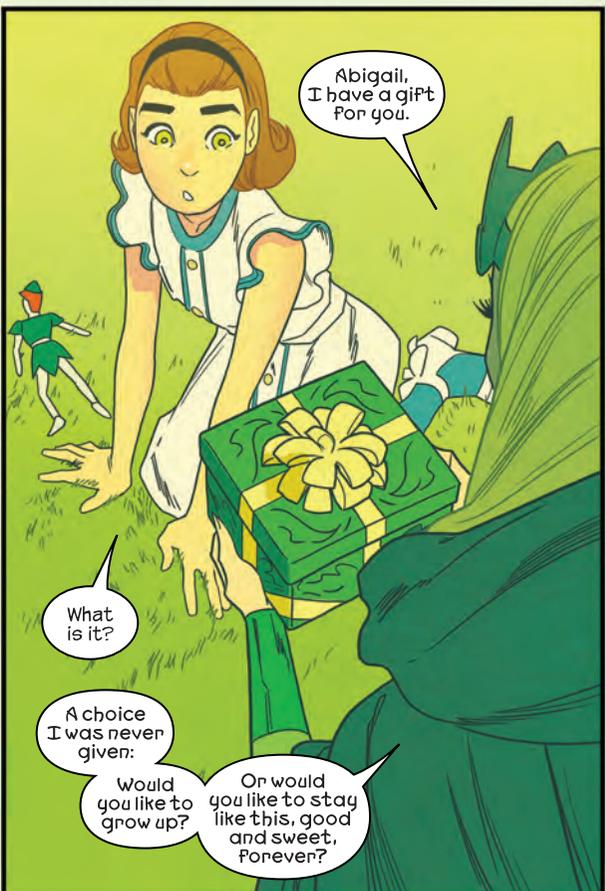
Are you... a fairy?

I am a goddess.

That's even better.

I agree. Tell me your name, child.

Abigail, my...my lady.



Abigail, I have a gift for you.

What is it?

A choice I was never given:

Would you like to grow up?

Or would you like to stay like this, good and sweet, forever?



Hela's horns, child. I'm not your nursemaid. Grow old and die-- or don't.



I have things to do. A god to punish.

Enjoy your cake-- make sure you eat every crumb...





It was just as the goddess had promised: Seasons changed. But Abigail stayed the same.



Her parents didn't understand.

"You're a young woman now, Abigail," they'd say.

"No," she'd insist. "I'm a girl. I'll always be a girl."



Eventually, they stopped arguing. It wasn't so hard to give their daughter what she wanted.

Eventually, it was what they wanted, too--a daughter who would never leave them.



A bright, happy, loving child.

The only thing her parents ever worried about--aside from someone finding out--was leaving Abigail...

...alone.

Oh no...

Julie! What happened?

This!
This is what happened!

I ate some cupcake, I think it was cursed, and then I tried to call you. And you didn't answer. Because *of course* you didn't answer. This is why I was gonna break up with you, Karolina--because you never listen to me! Nobody *listens* to me.

Runaways

BEST FRIENDS FOREVER

pt IV

You were going to what?