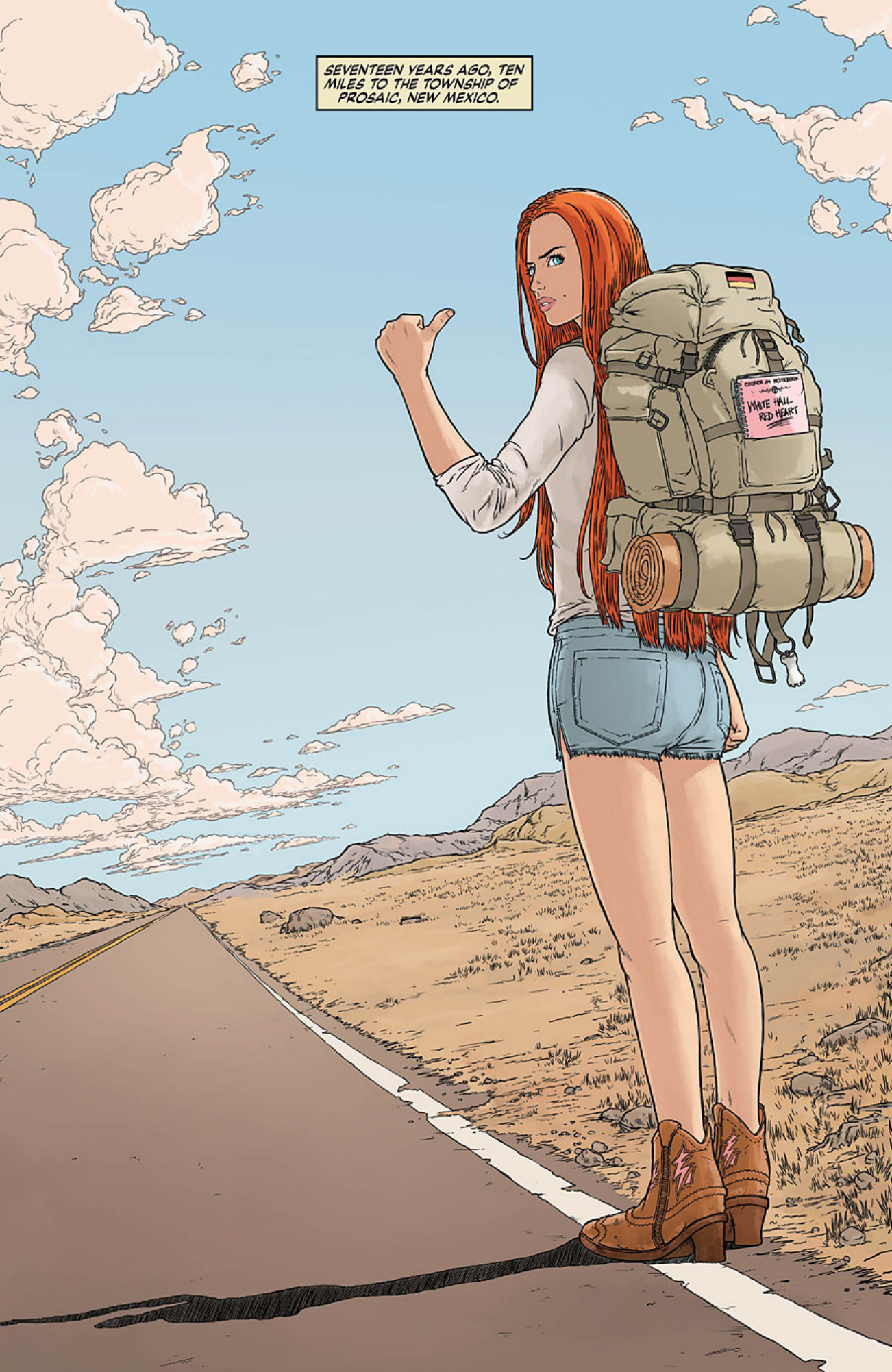
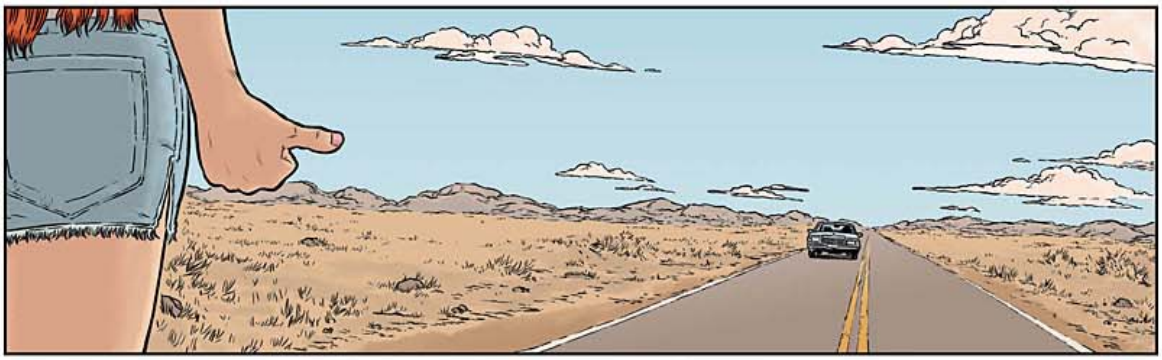

SEVENTEEN YEARS AGO, TEN MILES TO THE TOWNSHIP OF PROSAIC, NEW MEXICO.
WHITE HALL
RED HEART



HEY, LITTLE LADY...NOT THE BEST PLACE TO--
I'M AWARE OF THAT.

I HAVE SOMEONE I NEED TO MEET IN PROSAIC.

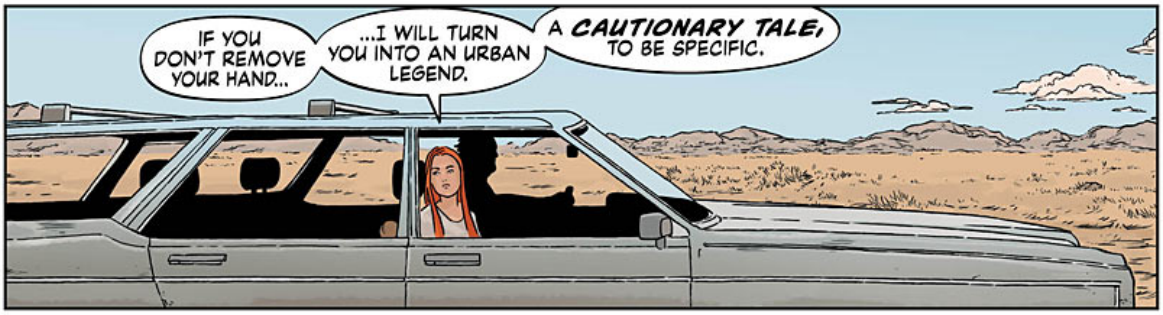
HOP IN, THEN.
AIR CONDITIONER DON'T WORK FOR

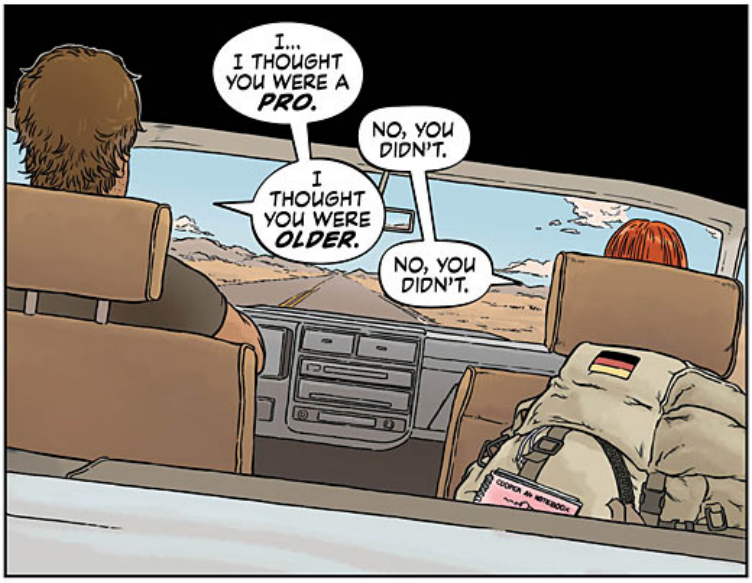
SEAT BELT, PLEASE.
SAFETY FIRST.
DO YOU MIND ME ASK--?
SEVENTEEN.

SORRY, I...

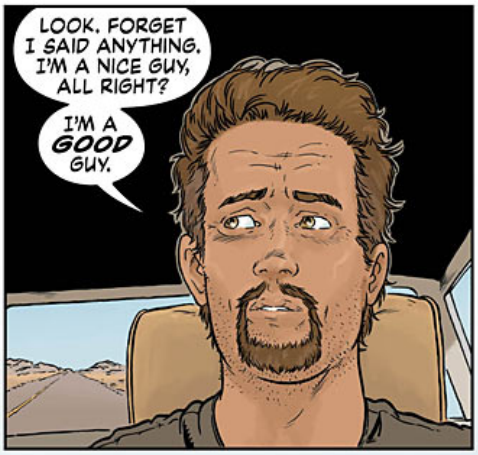
...I DIDN'T MEAN...

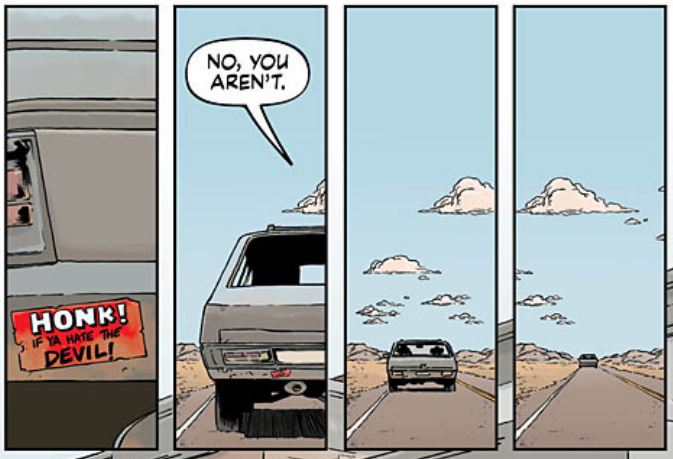
IT'S JUST YOU SEEM REAL MATURE FOR YOUR AGE.
MORE LIKE A WOMAN THAN A KID.

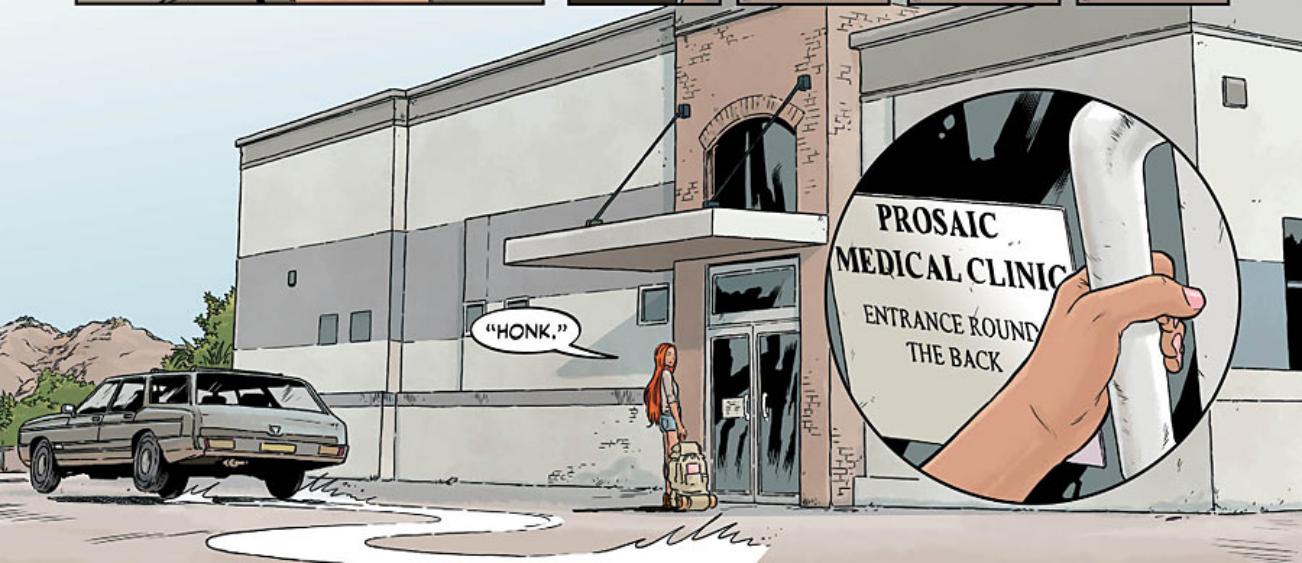

IF YOU DON'T REMOVE YOUR HAND...
...I WILL TURN YOU INTO AN URBAN LEGEND.
A CAUTIONARY TALE, TO BE SPECIFIC.

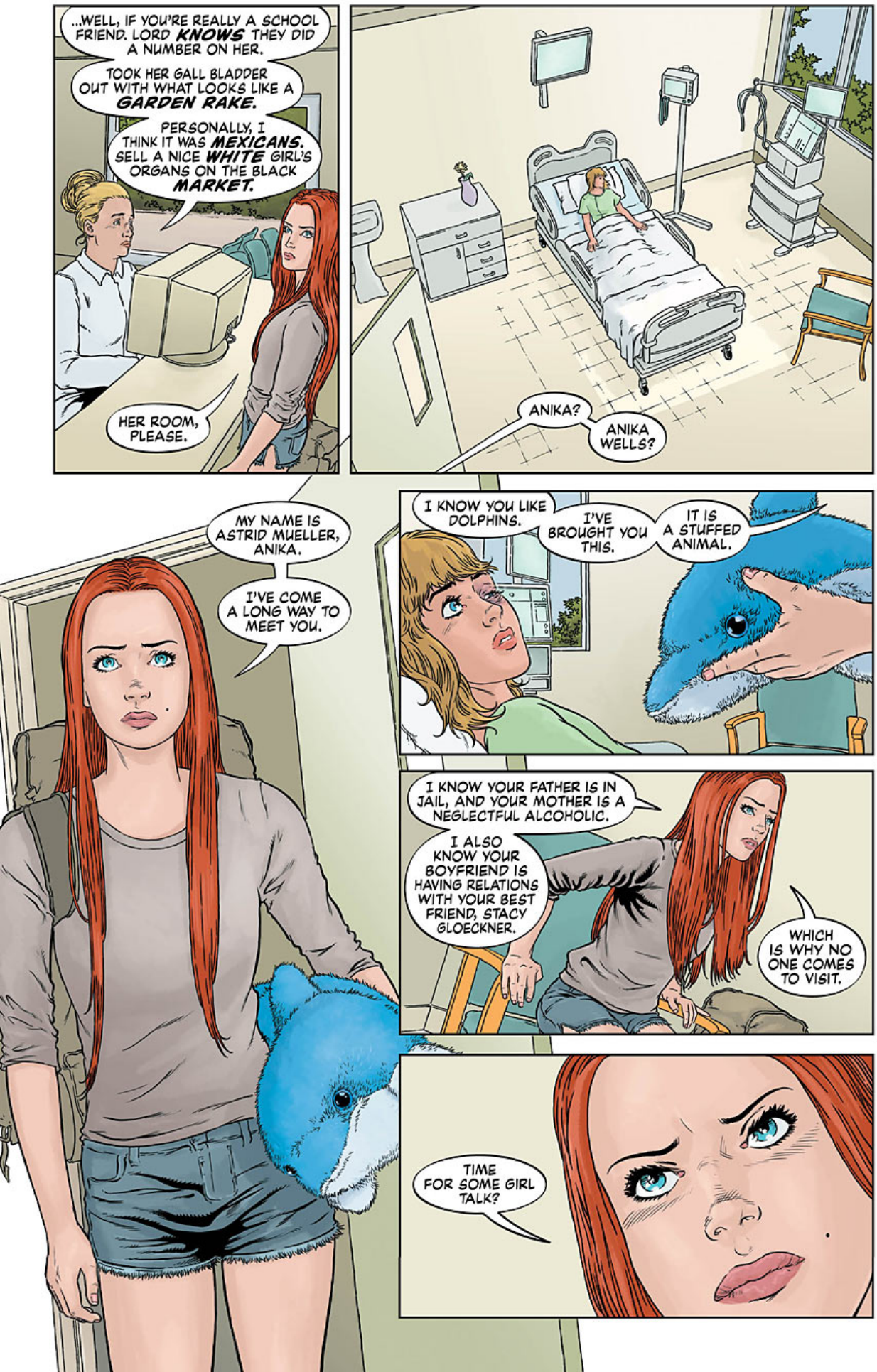

I... I THOUGHT YOU WERE A PRO.
NO, YOU DIDN'T.
I THOUGHT YOU WERE OLDER.
NO, YOU DIDN'T.

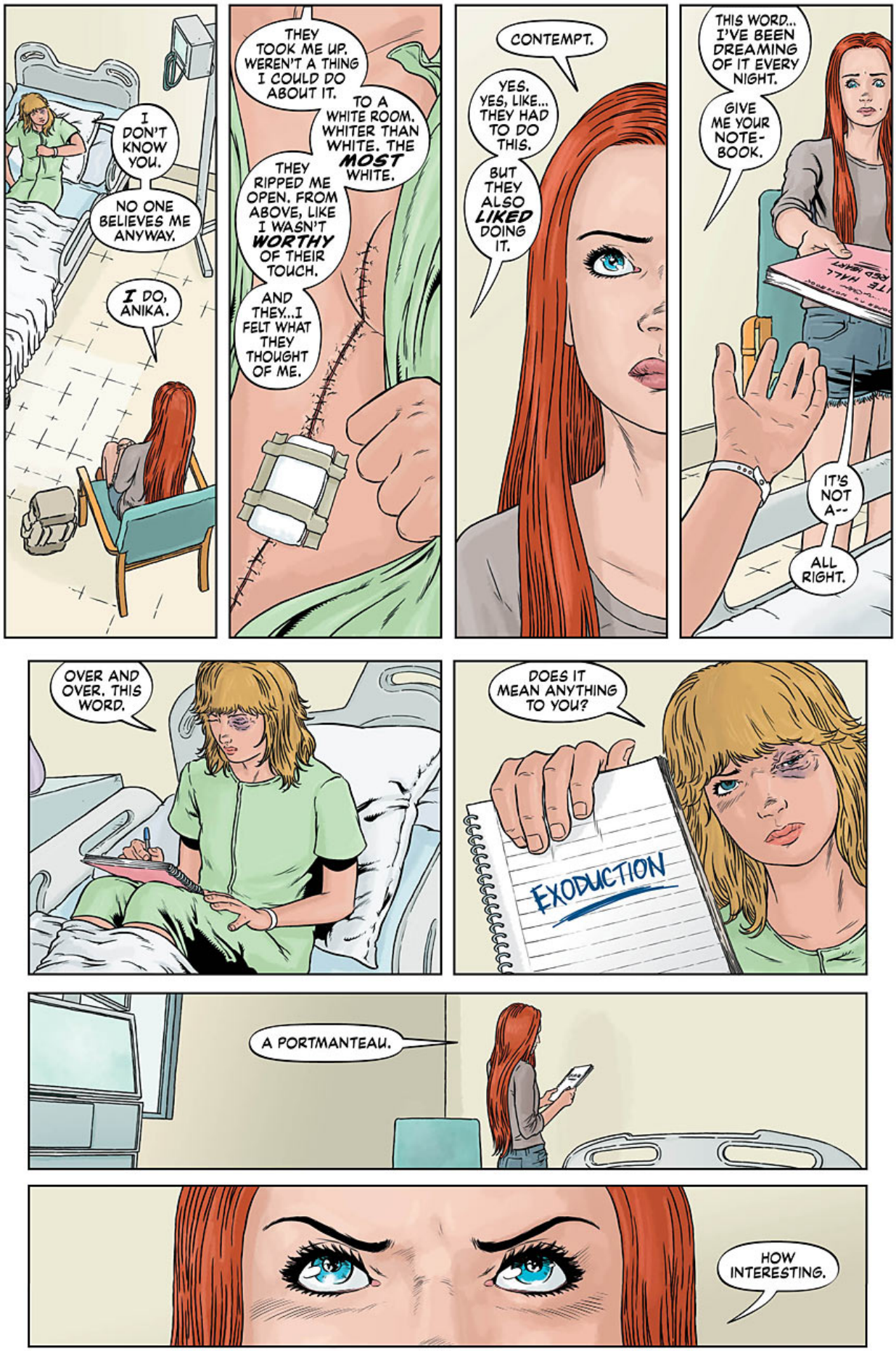
"THE MAN WHO PICKED UP THE WRONG TEENAGER," IT WILL BE CALLED.
TOLD AT TRUCK STOPS TO SHIVERING LONG-HAULERS FOR DECADES TO COME.


LOOK, FORGET I SAID ANYTHING. I'M A NICE GUY, ALL RIGHT?
I'M A GOOD GUY.


HONK! IF YA HATE THE DEVIL!
NO, YOU AREN'T.


"HONK."
PROSAIC MEDICAL CLINIC
ENTRANCE ROUND THE BACK


...WELL, IF YOU'RE REALLY A SCHOOL FRIEND. LORD KNOWS THEY DID A NUMBER ON HER.
TOOK HER GALL BLADDER OUT WITH WHAT LOOKS LIKE A GARDEN RAKE.
PERSONALLY, I THINK IT WAS MEXICANS. SELL A NICE WHITE GIRL'S ORGANS ON THE BLACK MARKET.
HER ROOM, PLEASE.
ANIKA?
ANIKA WELLS?
MY NAME IS ASTRID MUELLER, ANIKA.
I'VE COME A LONG WAY TO MEET YOU.
I KNOW YOU LIKE DOLPHINS.
I'VE BROUGHT YOU THIS.
IT IS A STUFFED ANIMAL.
I KNOW YOUR FATHER IS IN JAIL, AND YOUR MOTHER IS A NEGLECTFUL ALCOHOLIC.
I ALSO KNOW YOUR BOYFRIEND IS HAVING RELATIONS WITH YOUR BEST FRIEND, STACY GLOECKNER.
WHICH IS WHY NO ONE COMES TO VISIT.
TIME FOR SOME GIRL TALK?


I DON'T KNOW YOU.
NO ONE BELIEVES ME ANYWAY.
I DO, ANIKA.
THEY TOOK ME UP. WEREN'T A THING I COULD DO ABOUT IT.
TO A WHITE ROOM. WHITER THAN WHITE. THE MOST WHITE.
THEY RIPPED ME OPEN. FROM ABOVE, LIKE I WASN'T WORTHY OF THEIR TOUCH.
AND THEY...I FELT WHAT THEY THOUGHT OF ME.
CONTEMPT.
YES. YES, LIKE... THEY HAD TO DO THIS.
BUT THEY ALSO LIKED DOING IT.
THIS WORD... I'VE BEEN DREAMING OF IT EVERY NIGHT.
GIVE ME YOUR NOTE-BOOK.
IT'S NOT A--
ALL RIGHT.
OVER AND OVER. THIS WORD.
DOES IT MEAN ANYTHING TO YOU?
EXODUCTION
A PORTMANTEAU.
HOW INTERESTING.