

NEW YORK CITY.
TWO WEEKS AND
TWO DAYS AGO.

IMAGINE YOU'RE
A TWELVE-YEAR-
OLD GIRL. ONE
DAY YOUR BODY
CHANGES.

CNCB

...IT'S CALLED
EARLY-ONSET
POWERS.

GIRLS ARE
DEVELOPING YOUNGER
AND YOUNGER, SOME AS
EARLY AS AGE NINE. ARE
CHEMICALS IN THE ENVIRONMENT
TO BLAME? BETTER
NUTRITION? COSMIC
RADIATION?

THIS IS
DICK PROFIT,
REPORTING
LIVE FOR CNCB
NEWS.

AND
CUT!

MY
HAIR!

...SCIENTISTS ARE DESPERATELY TRYING TO UNRAVEL THE CAUSE OF A MASS DIE-OFF THAT HAS CUT THE GLOBAL POPULATION OF SAIGA ANTELOPE NEARLY IN HALF. THE CRITICALLY ENDANGERED SAIGA ARE NATIVE TO CENTRAL ASIA...



"I
HAVE THE
SHOT."



ARE THE
HOSTAGES
STILL ALIVE?



AFFIRMATIVE.

HOLD
YOUR
FIRE.



I DON'T
WANT TO HURT
ANYONE.



WHAT'S SO SCARY ABOUT TWELVE-YEAR-OLD GIRLS?

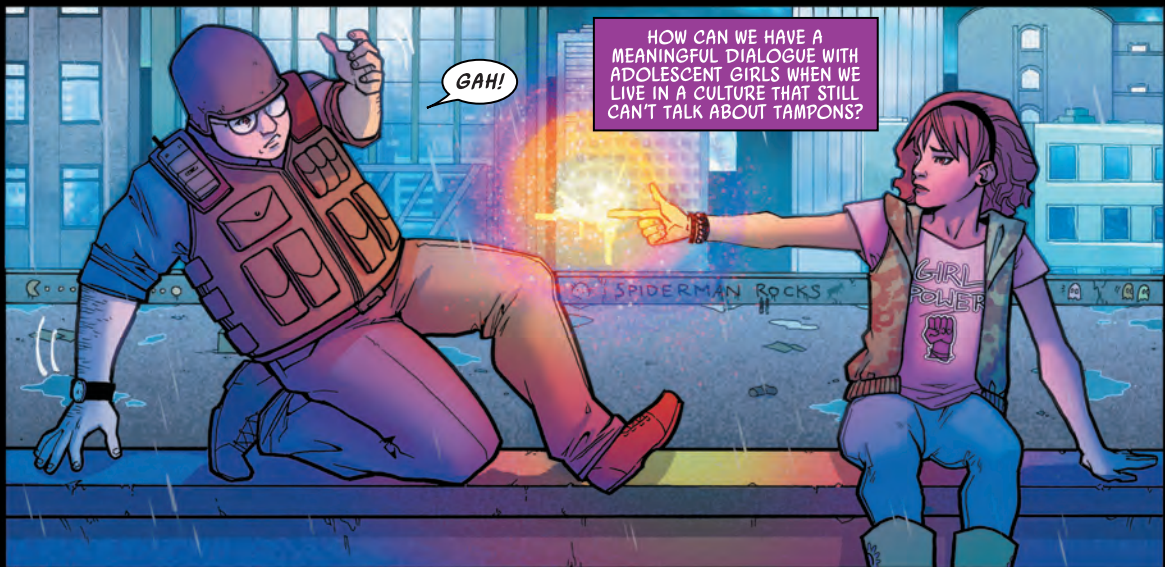
ARE YOU THIRSTY, SWEETIE? I BROUGHT YOU A JUICE BOX.



THEY'RE SHAPE-SHIFTERS.



NOT QUITE ONE THING OR ANOTHER.



GAH!

HOW CAN WE HAVE A MEANINGFUL DIALOGUE WITH ADOLESCENT GIRLS WHEN WE LIVE IN A CULTURE THAT STILL CAN'T TALK ABOUT TAMPONS?



AAAAH!



IT'S WEIRD, RIGHT?

AAAAAH!



GOTCHA.



I'M NOT TRAINED FOR THIS.

I CAN START A CONVERSATION WITH ANYONE.

I'VE NEGOTIATED WITH BANK ROBBERS, PSYCHOPATHS, HENCHMEN, SERIAL KILLERS, TERRORISTS. BUT, FOR THE LIFE OF ME...

...I CAN'T START A CONVERSATION WITH A SIXTH-GRADE GIRL.



DETECTIVE TOM GOODRICH. NYPD. PISCES. MIDDLE CHILD. POTLUCK SPECIALTY: DEVILED EGGS.



TOLD YOU IT WOULDN'T WORK.

YOU'RE EMBEDDED WITH US FOR THE DAY. IN THE SPIRIT OF, AH, SUPER HERO/LAW ENFORCEMENT. YES?

RIGHT.

THOUGH IT'S NOT LIKE ONE OF OUR GUYS IS SPENDING THE DAY WITH THE AVENGERS.

ALL KINDS OF INSURANCE ISSUES WITH THAT.

YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE COOPERATING.

I AM COOPERATING.

WEAR THE HAT.

I'M NOT WEARING THE HAT.