

FEAR COMES  
TO ALL SPECIES  
DIFFERENTLY.

SOME EMIT ODORS.  
SOME CHANGE COLORS.  
SOME SHOOT INK.  
SOME PASS OUT.

AS AN AVIAN,  
I KNOW WHAT  
IT'S LIKE WHEN  
I'M AFRAID.

MY FEATHERS LIE  
FLAT. MY SKIN  
EMITS OIL. MY HEART  
SLOWS TO A CRAWL.

# SHADE

the changing girl

chapter 3



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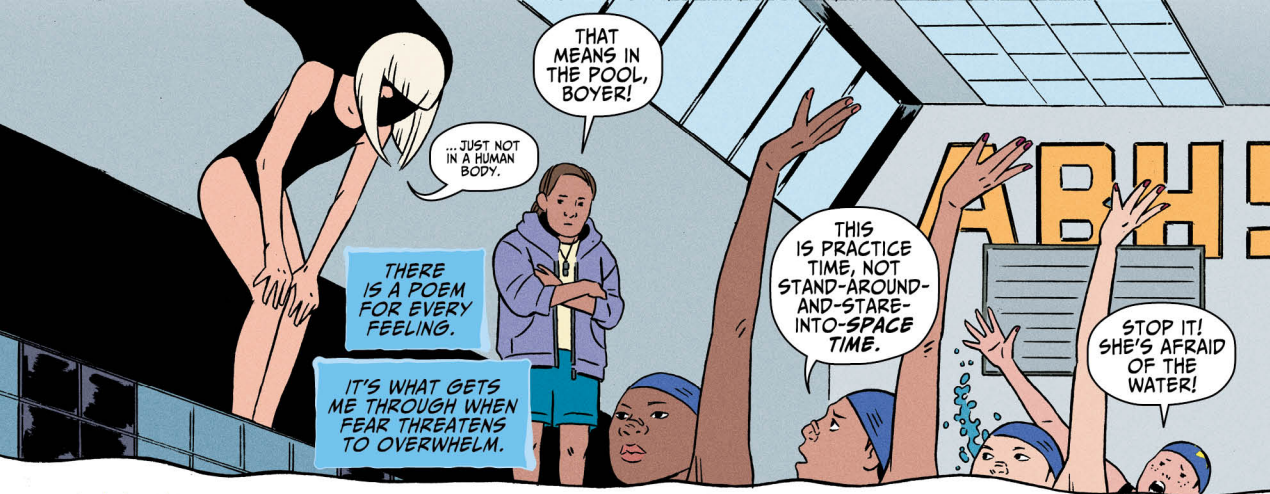
BUT AS A HUMAN,  
EVERYTHING RACES  
WILD. I'M HOT  
AND I'M COLD.



I'M TERRIFIED  
OF BEING  
TERRIFIED.



I KNOW HOW TO SWIM...



THAT MEANS IN THE POOL, BOYER!

...JUST NOT IN A HUMAN BODY.

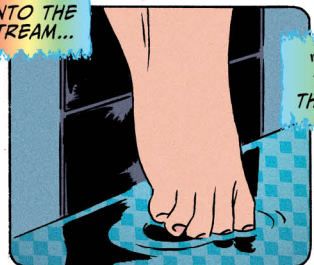
THERE IS A POEM FOR EVERY FEELING.

IT'S WHAT GETS ME THROUGH WHEN FEAR THREATENS TO OVERWHELM.

THIS IS PRACTICE TIME, NOT STAND-AROUND-AND-STARE-INTO-SPACE TIME.

STOP IT! SHE'S AFRAID OF THE WATER!

"INTO THE STREAM..."



"WE WADE THROUGH THOUGHTS."



"WE WRESTLE HEARTS..."



"WE GROAN TALL. WE FALL SMALL."



HAHAH

"WE RUN DOWN. WE CRASH OUT."

"WE CARRY ON."



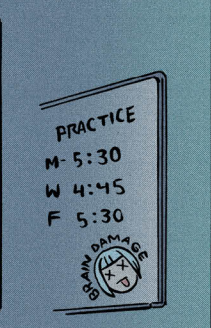
KAF  
KAF  
KAF

THANK YOU, TEACUP.

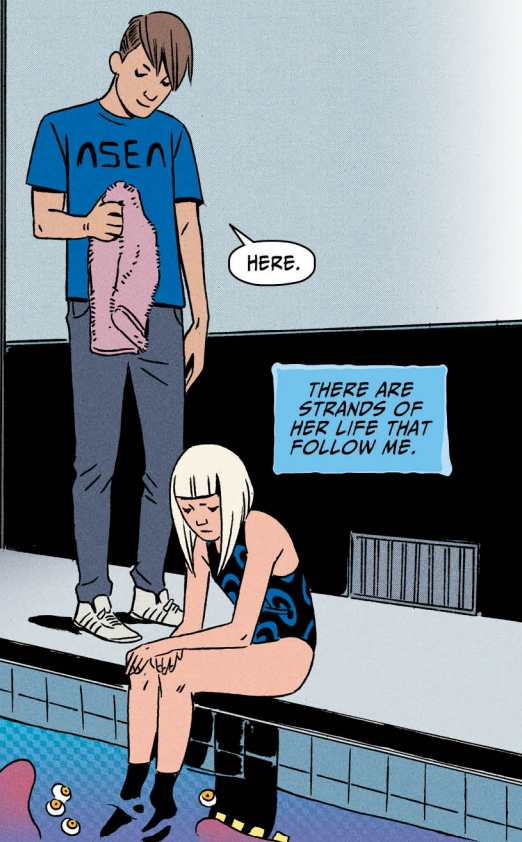
"WE DROWN."  
-RAC SHADE



OUT OF THE POOL, BOYER. YOU'RE DONE FOR THE DAY.



PRACTICE  
M- 5:30  
W 4:45  
F 5:30



HERE.

THERE ARE STRANDS OF HER LIFE THAT FOLLOW ME.



I CAN DO IT, COACH MERCADO. I JUST NEED A MINUTE.

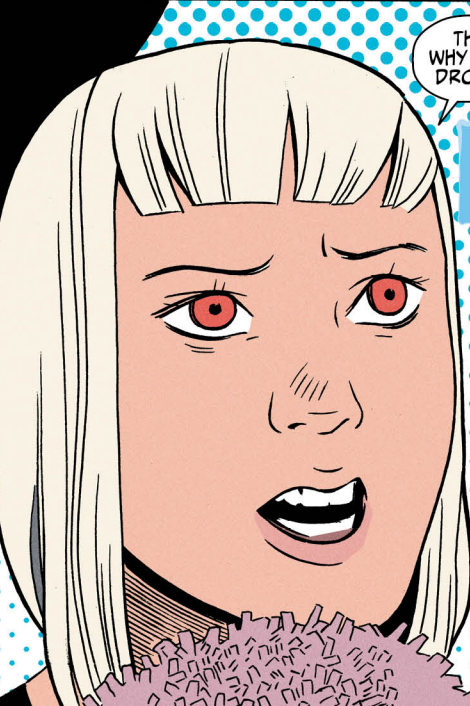
THERE ARE THOUGHTS THAT AREN'T MINE THAT ARE ANGRY.



I CAN'T SEEM TO MAKE THIS BODY WORK.

IT'LL COME BACK. YOU'RE THE BEST SWIMMER I KNOW.

THEY WHISPER AND SHOUT. THEY PUSH AND PULL.

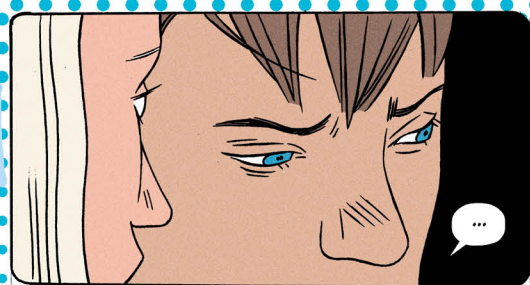


THEN WHY DID I DROWN?

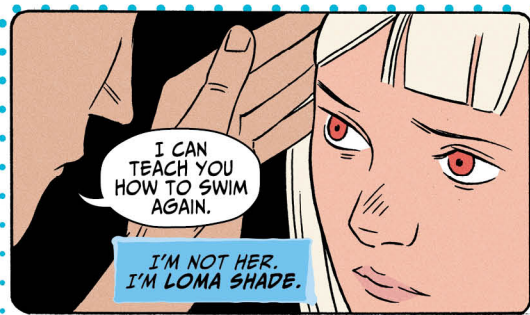
THINGS THAT I REMEMBER THAT I DON'T REMEMBER.

LIKE HER. IN THE WATER.

BUT I LIVE HERE NOW.



...



I CAN TEACH YOU HOW TO SWIM AGAIN.

I'M NOT HER. I'M LOMA SHADE.

HOT. BURN.  
POWER. HEAT.  
LIGHT. PULL.

ROCKS.  
PLANETS.  
BIG. SMALL.

DESTRUCTION.

LIFE. PRIMORDIAL.  
UNTHINKING.  
I FEEL YOU.

COLD. ICE.  
WEAK HEAT.  
MORE.

END. BEGIN.  
OUT THERE.

I'M COMING  
FOR YOU.  
I'M COMING  
AT YOU.

MORE.