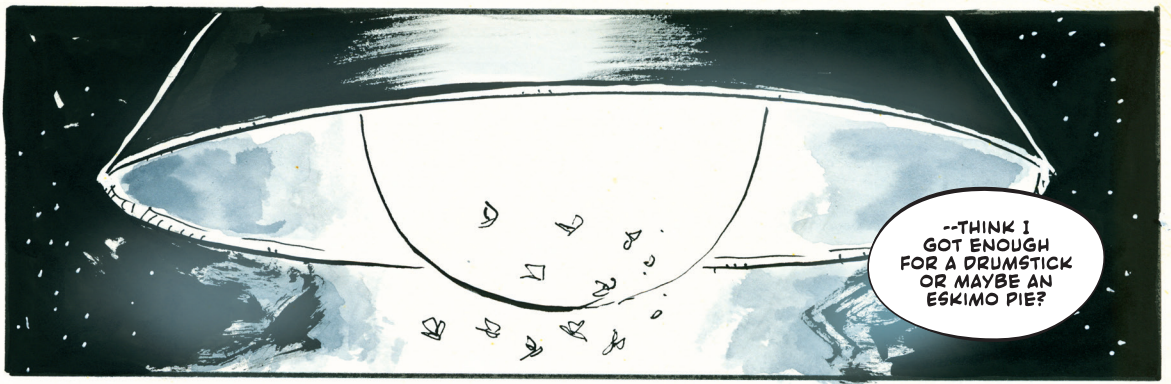


JEFF LEMIRE

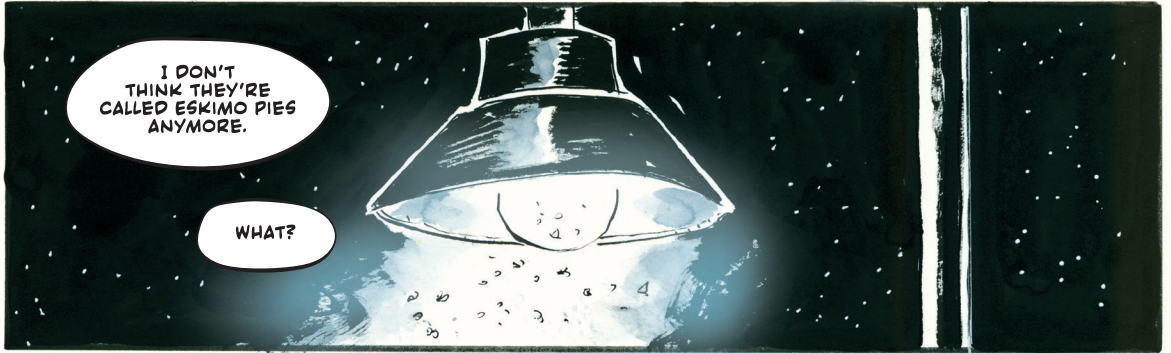
# FISHFLIES

CHAPTER ONE





--THINK I GOT ENOUGH FOR A DRUMSTICK OR MAYBE AN ESKIMO PIE?



I DON'T THINK THEY'RE CALLED ESKIMO PIES ANYMORE.

WHAT?



THEY'RE JUST ICE CREAM SANDWICHES NOW. ESKIMO PIE IS RACIST, I THINK.



SHUT THE FUCK UP!

OW!



DON'T CRY ABOUT IT.

I'M NOT CRYING, BUT YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO PUNCH ME!

WHATEVER.



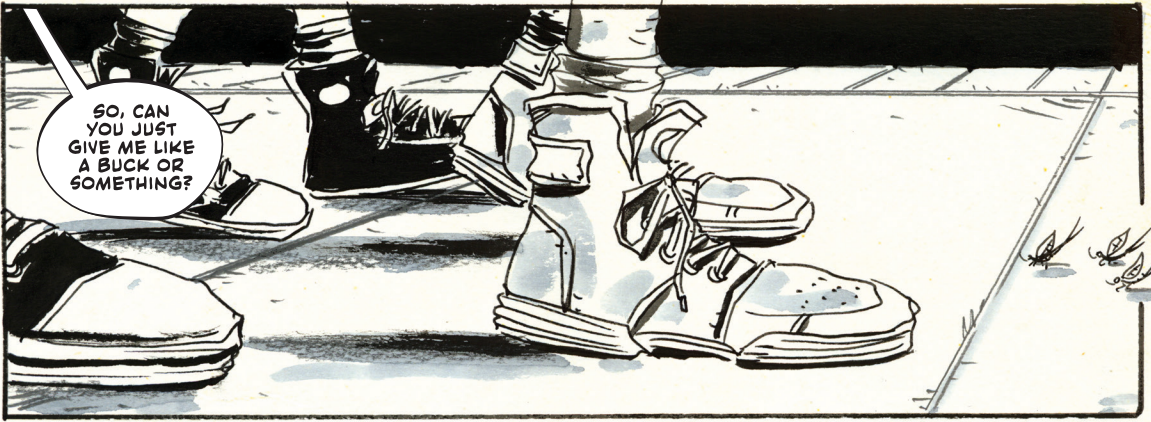
HEY, DO YOU GUYS HAVE ANY EXTRA? MY MOM ONLY GAVE ME, LIKE, A DOLLAR FIFTY. I CAN'T GET ANYTHING FOR THAT.

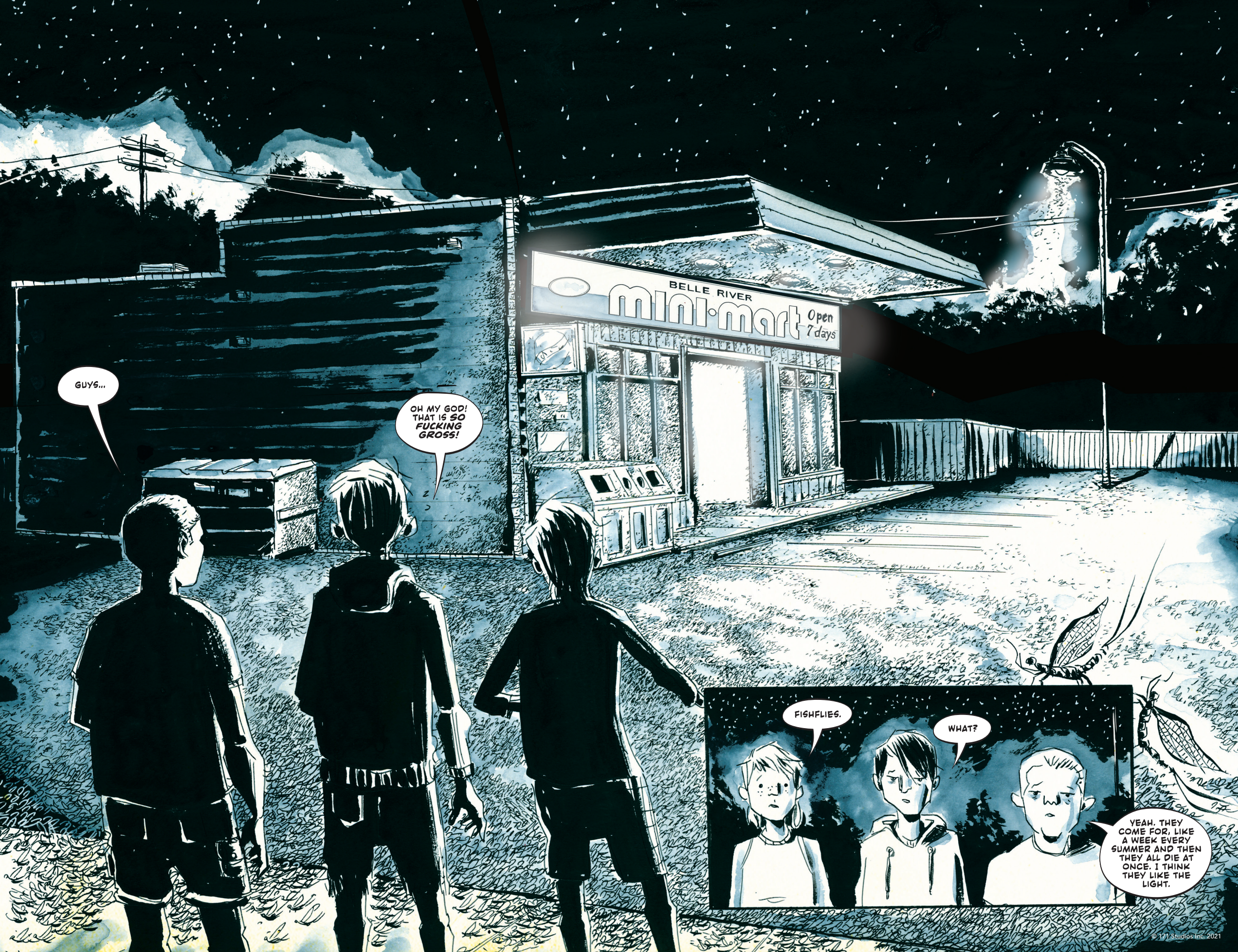
NO WAY!



YOUR MOM GAVE YOU LIKE TWENTY BUCKS!

SO?





BELLE RIVER  
**mini-mart** Open 7 days

GUYS...

OH MY GOD!  
THAT IS SO  
FUCKING  
GROSS!



FISHFLIES.

WHAT?

YEAH. THEY  
COME FOR, LIKE  
A WEEK EVERY  
SUMMER AND THEN  
THEY ALL DIE AT  
ONCE. I THINK  
THEY LIKE THE  
LIGHT.



NO WAY AM I WALKING ACROSS THAT. FORGET IT!



PUSSY. I'LL DO IT.

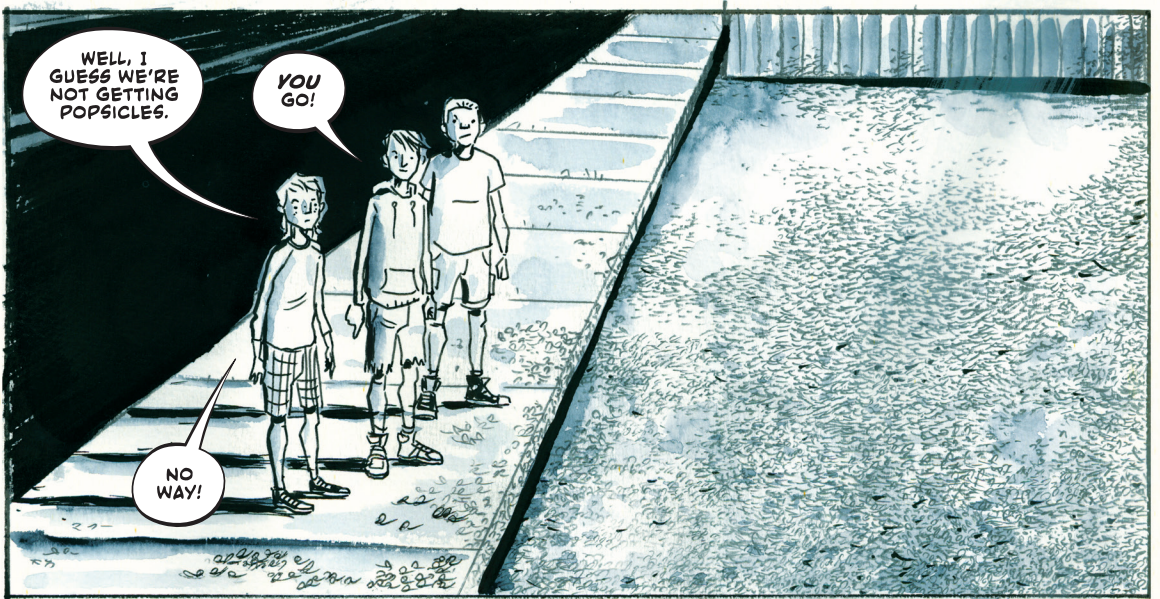
CRUNCH!

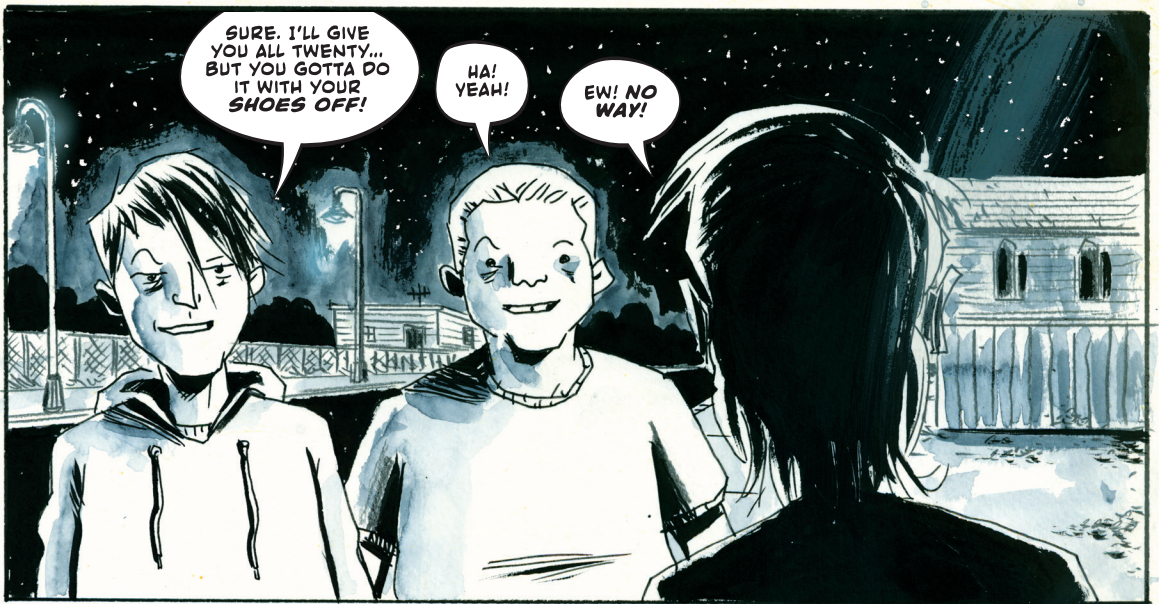


EW! FUCK THAT! DISGUSTING!



HA HA! I TOLD YOU!





SURE. I'LL GIVE YOU ALL TWENTY... BUT YOU GOTTA DO IT WITH YOUR SHOES OFF!

HA! YEAH!

EW! NO WAY!



OKAY, FINE. FORGET IT THEN. I *KNEW* YOU WERE TOO SCARED.



NO. I'LL DO IT. BUT YOU GOTTA GIVE ME THE MONEY FIRST.



YEAH, RIGHT. HE'S NOT GOING TO DO IT!

I AM TOO. JUST GIMME THE MONEY.



SHOES FIRST!

FINE. WHATEVER.

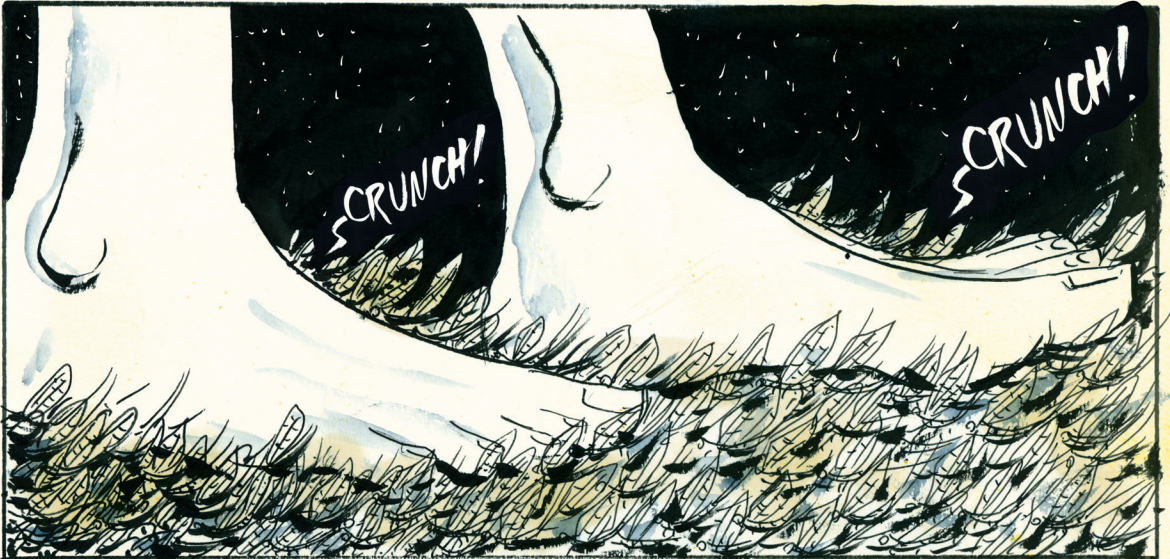
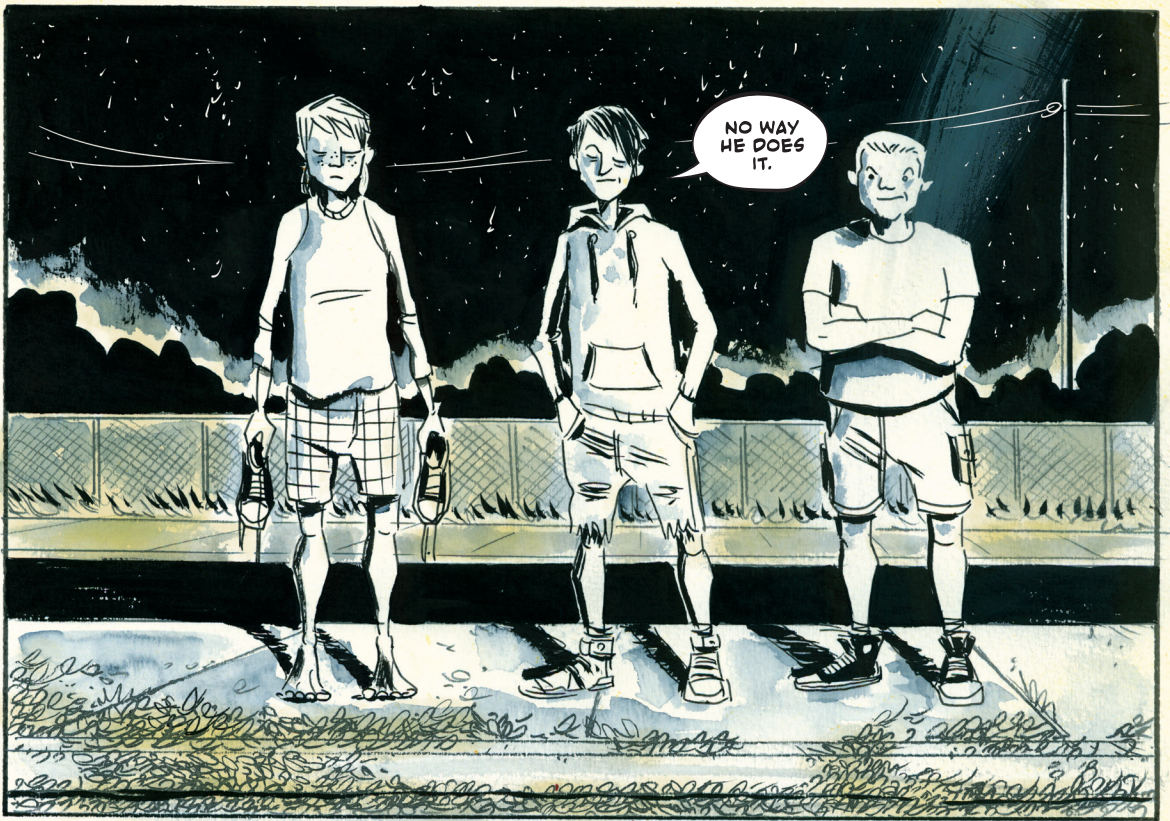
SHIT!



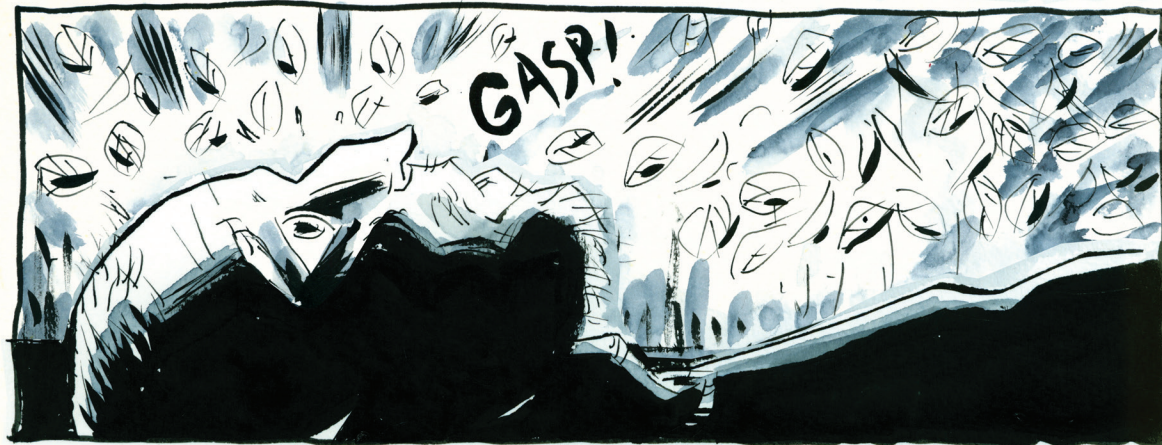
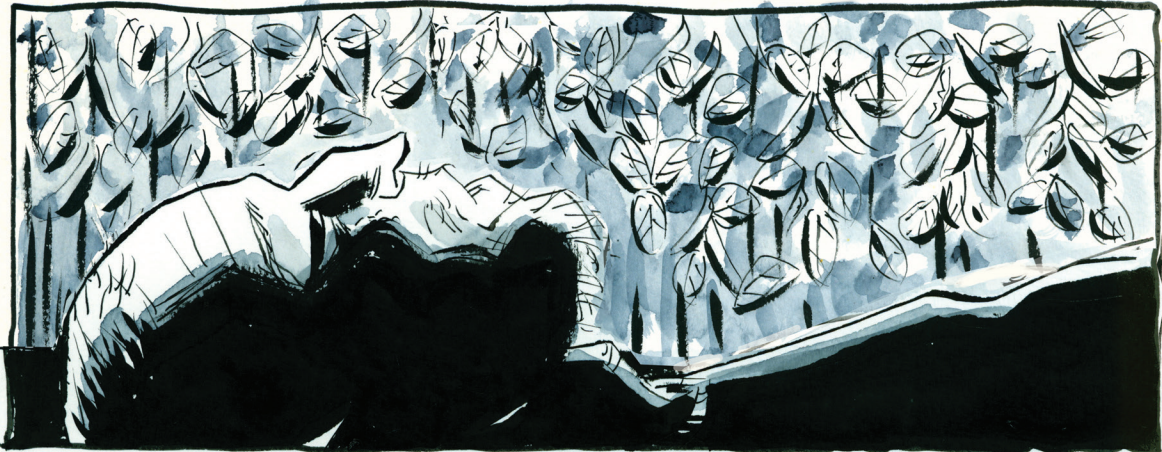
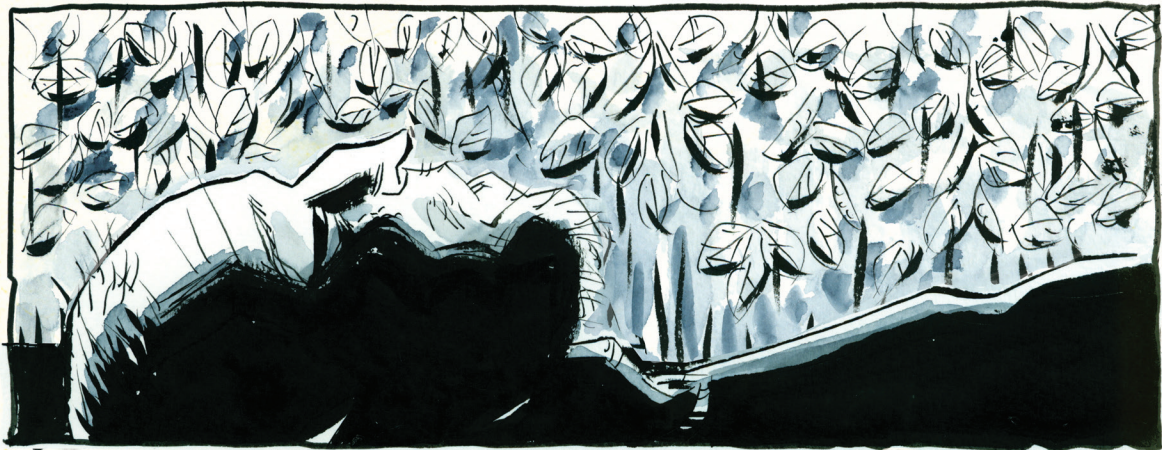
OKAY, BUT YOU BETTER GO ALL THE WAY INTO THE STORE.

I WILL.





CRUNCH!







--UNGH.



ARK!  
ARK!



ARK!  
ARK!

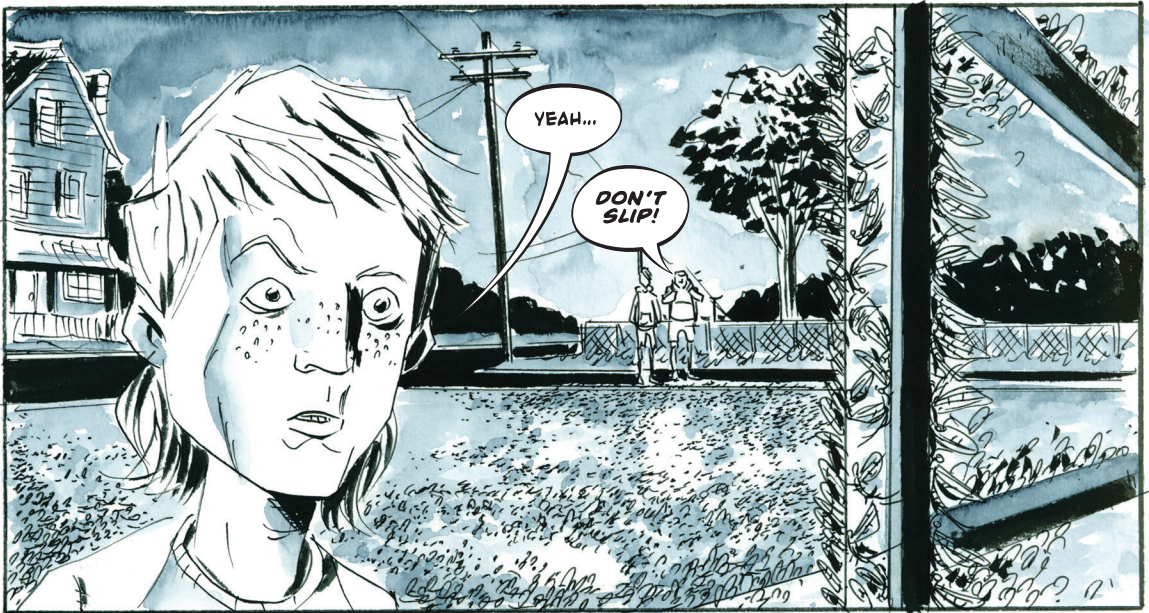
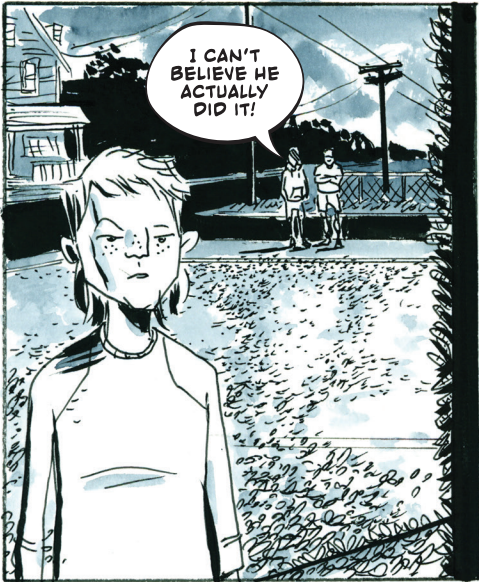








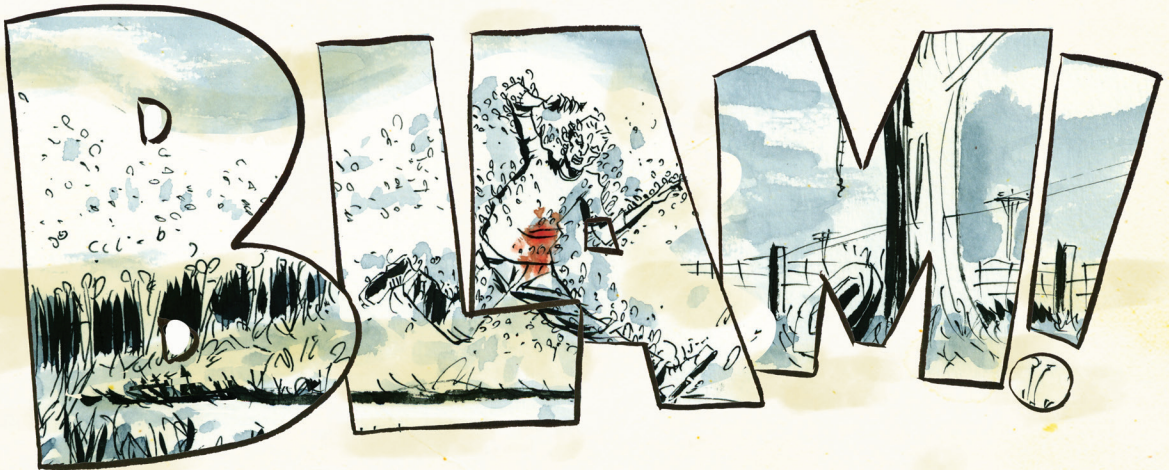
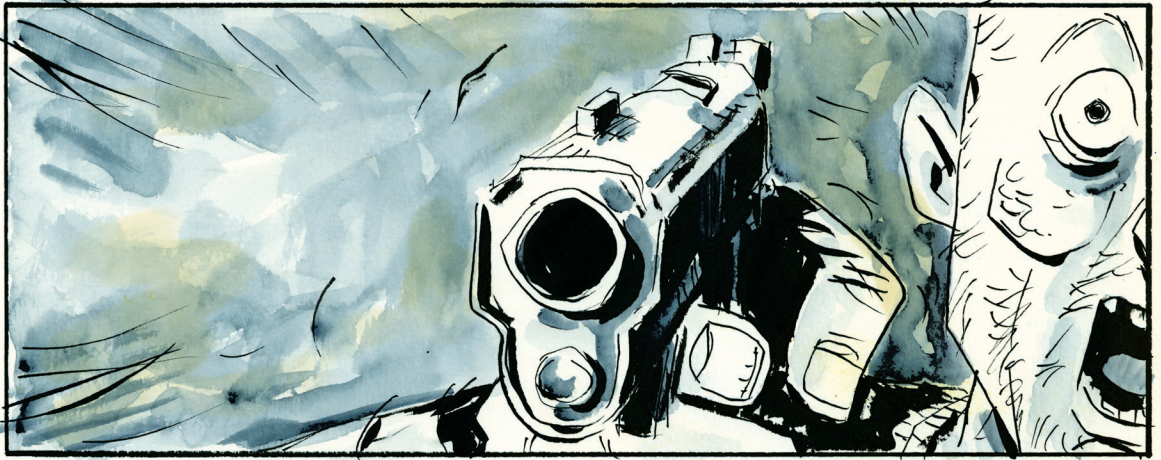
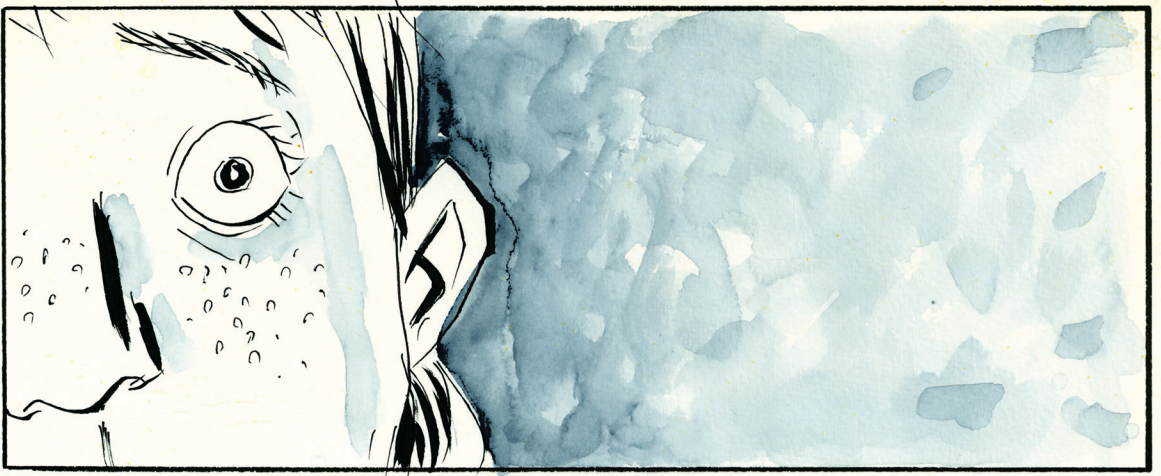












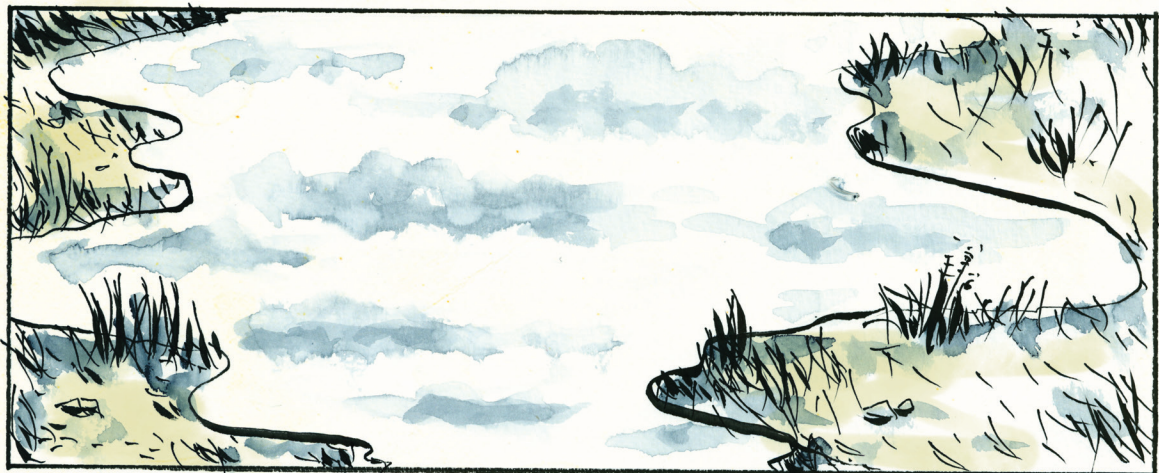


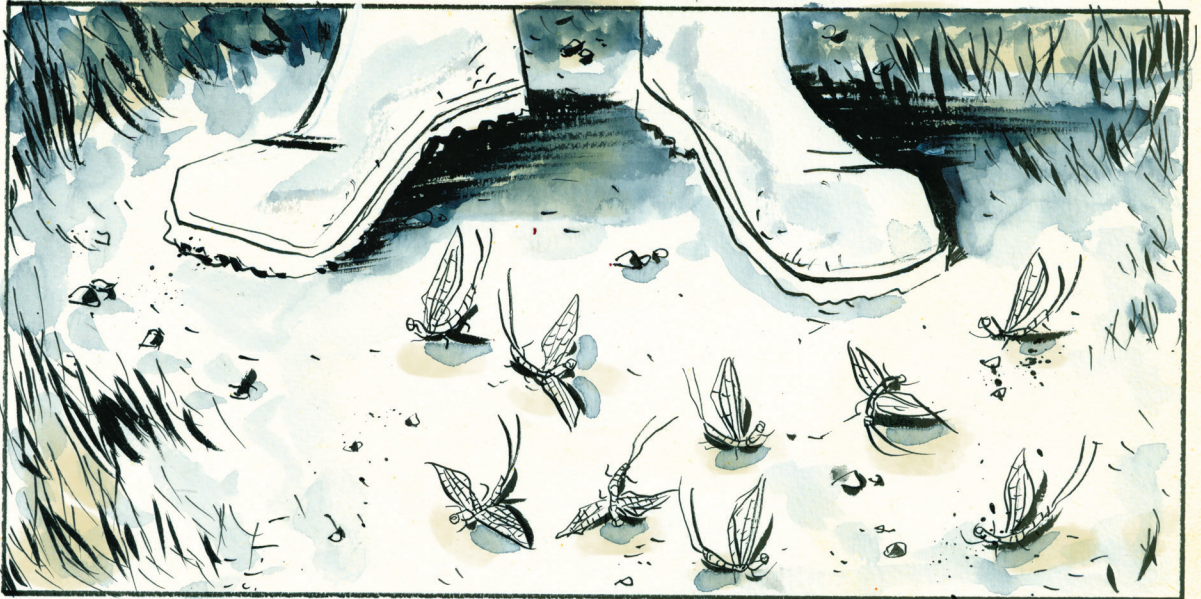
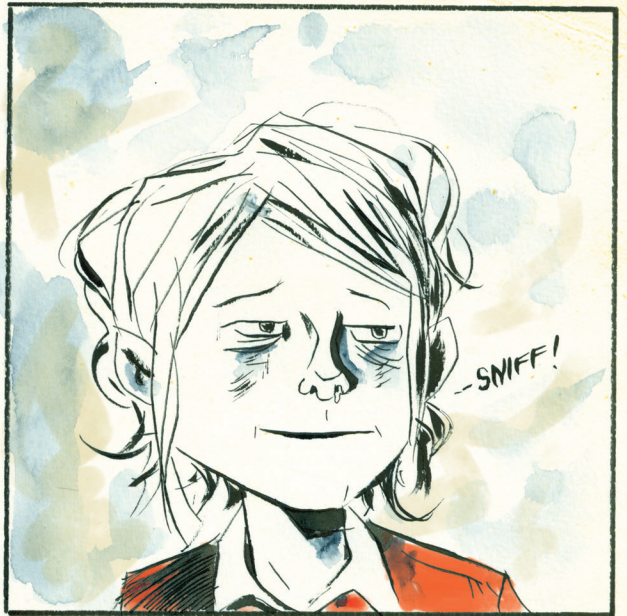


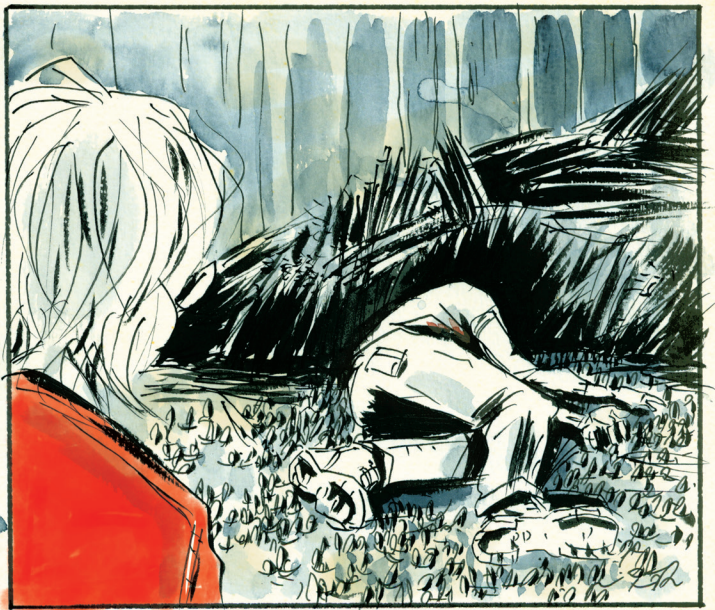
--NGGH!



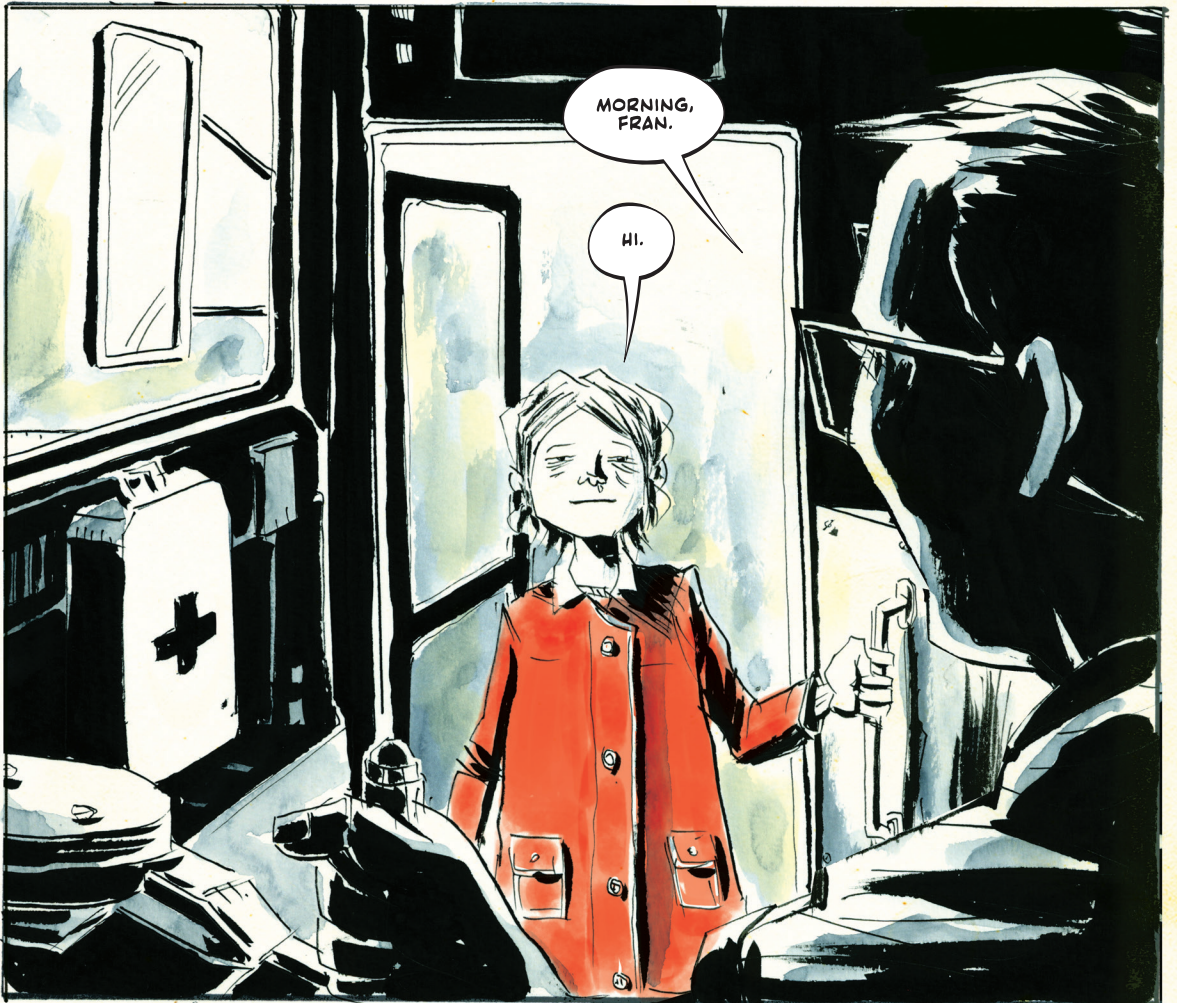
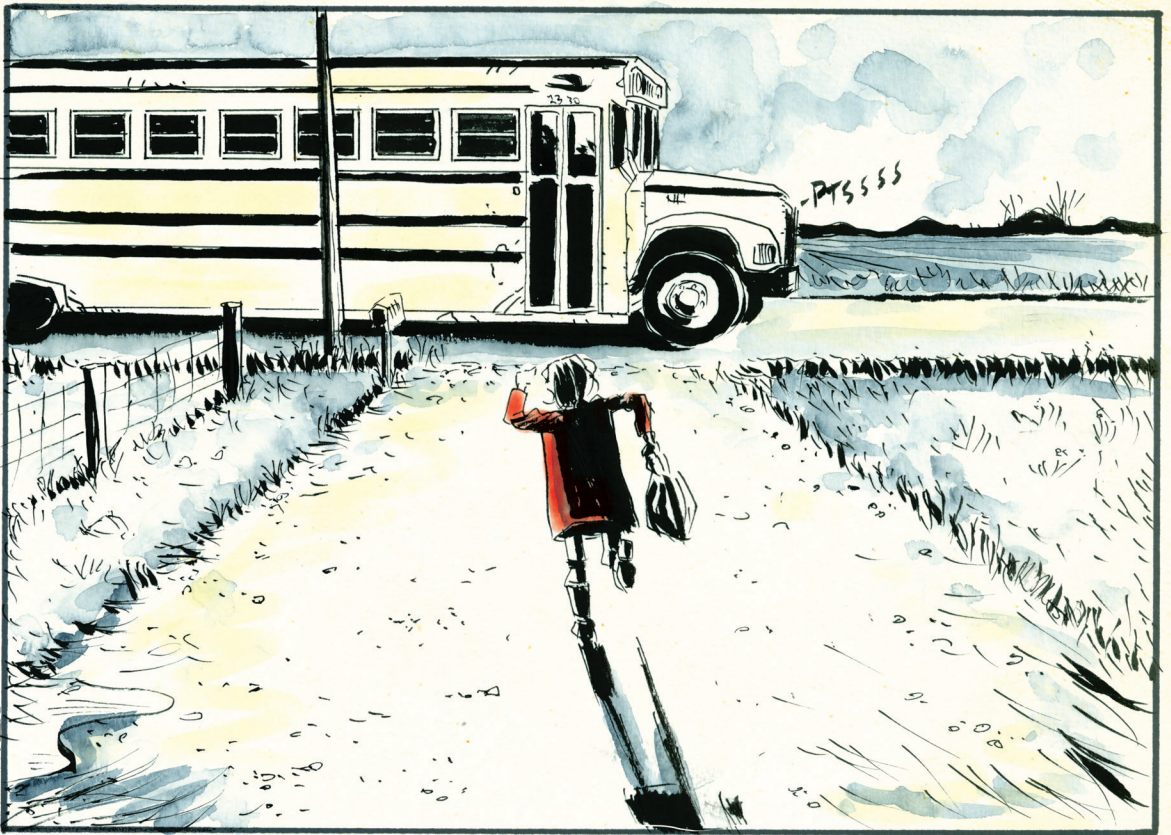








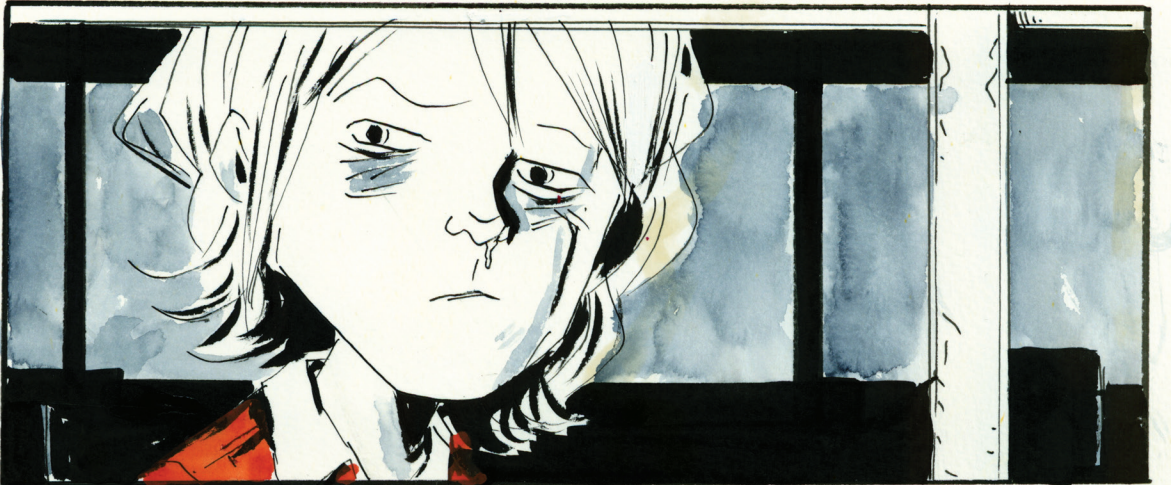




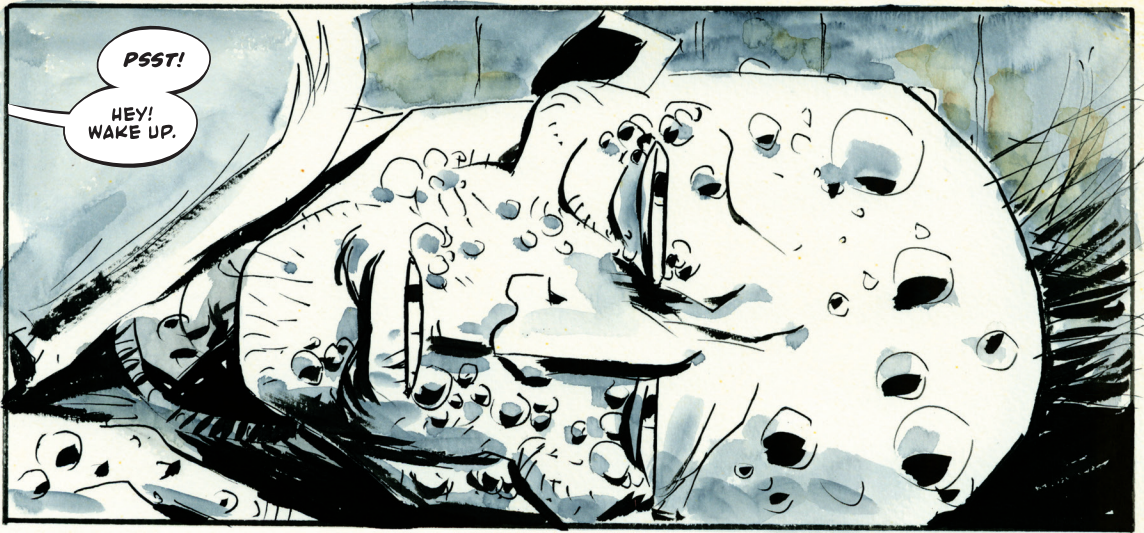








CRUNCH!

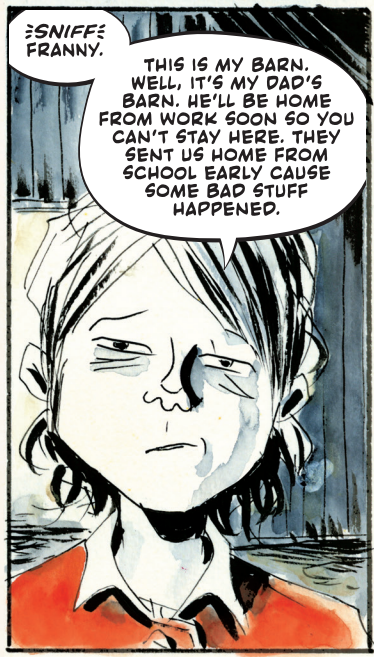


PSST!  
HEY!  
WAKE UP.



YOU GOTTA  
GET UP. MY DAD  
WILL BE HOME  
SOON.

WHO--  
WHO ARE  
YOU?



SNIFF  
FRANNY.

THIS IS MY BARN.  
WELL, IT'S MY DAD'S  
BARN. HE'LL BE HOME  
FROM WORK SOON SO YOU  
CAN'T STAY HERE. THEY  
SENT US HOME FROM  
SCHOOL EARLY CAUSE  
SOME BAD STUFF  
HAPPENED.



IT'S BECAUSE  
OF YOU, RIGHT? YOU  
DID SOMETHING  
BAD, HUH?

I-I DIDN'T  
MEAN IT.



S'OKAY. I DO  
BAD STUFF ALL THE  
TIME. MY DAD IS  
ALWAYS MAD AND  
PUNISHING ME  
FOR IT.



--HURTS  
SO BAD.



WELL,  
THEM BUGS  
BIT YOU  
PRETTY  
GOOD.



THOUGHT--  
THOUGHT THAT  
WAS JUST A  
DREAM.



SNIFFS UH UH.  
THEY'RE ALL  
OVER.

ALL DEAD  
NOW, THOUGH.  
THOSE KIND OF  
BUGS DON'T LIVE  
VERY LONG.



I--I THINK ONE OF THEM CRAWLED INSIDE OF ME.



THAT'S GROSS.  
MAYBE I CAN GET YOU SOME MEDICINE. WE HAVE SOME STUFF IN THE HOUSE, I THINK. BUT FIRST YOU GOTTA GO SOMEWHERE ELSE, OKAY?



IF MY DAD FINDS YOU HERE, HE'S GONNA BE REAL MAD.



AND I THINK THEIR ARE POLICEMEN LOOKING FOR YOU. I SEEN THERE CARS IN TOWN AND ON THE WAY HOME I EVEN SAW SOME WALKING IN THE FIELDS WITH DOGS.



DON'T FEEL GOOD. FEEL... SO WEIRD.



CAN YOU WALK?



DON'T KNOW.



WELL,  
YOU GOTTA  
AT LEAST  
TRY.



COME ON.  
I CAN TAKE YOU  
TO MY SECRET SPOT  
BUT YOU GOTTA  
**PROMISE** NOT TO  
TELL ANYONE ABOUT  
IT, OKAY?



SO, DO  
YOU?

WHAT?



DO YOU  
**PROMISE**  
NOT TO TELL  
ANYONE?

--YEAH.





SEE? IT'S LIKE MY FORT. I GO HERE SOMETIMES WHEN I WANNA BE BY MYSELF OR IF MY DAD IS REAL MAD OR HE'S BEEN DRINKING MORE THAN BEER.



I DON'T--I REALLY DON'T FEEL RIGHT.



MAYBE YOU JUST NEED TO SLEEP SOME MORE. SOMETIMES WHEN I DON'T FEEL GOOD OR I'VE BEEN BAD I JUST COME HERE AND SLEEP IN THE DARK.



I--I DIDN'T MEAN TO DO IT. I WAS ALL FUCKED UP. I DIDN'T SEE THE KID AND THEN--

YOU SHOULDN'T SWEAR. 'SPECIALLY IF YOU WANT GOD TO FORGIVE YOU.



I'M SORRY.

S'OKAY.





THE COPS... DID YOU SEE THEM CLOSE BY?



NAH. THEY WERE ALL UP BY TOWN.



IS HE-- DID HE DIE?



WHO?



YOU GOTTA BELIEVE ME. I WAS MESSED UP. I--I DIDN'T WANT TO HURT ANYONE. BUT THEN--



YOU ALREADY SAID THAT.



WHY--WHY IS THIS HAPPENING TO ME?

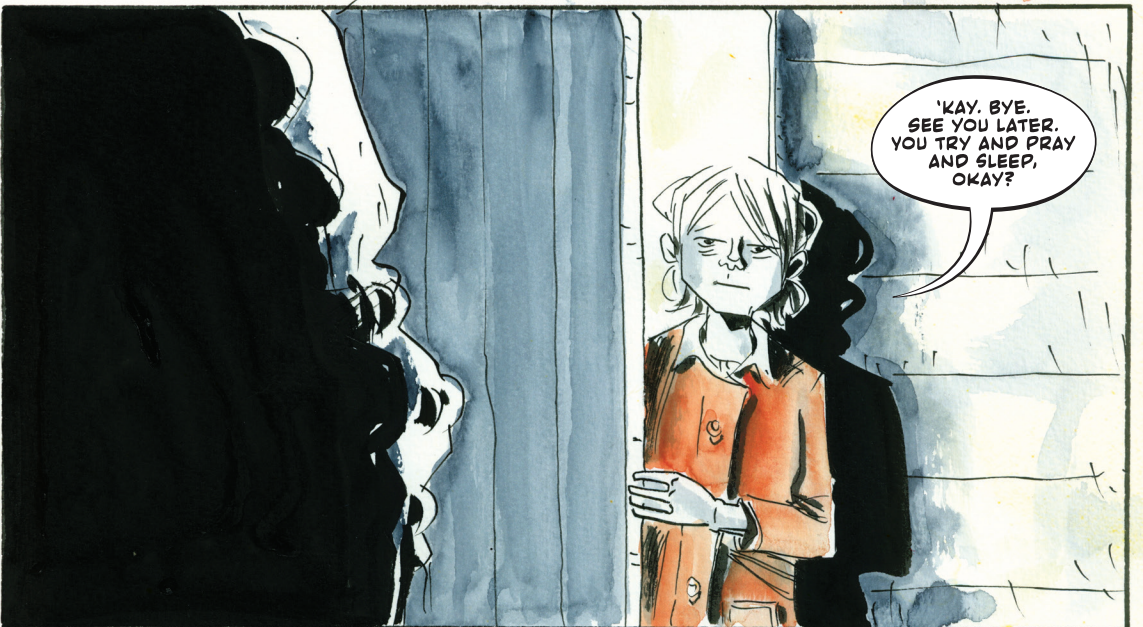
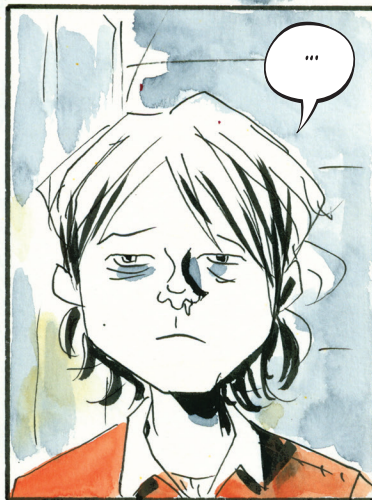
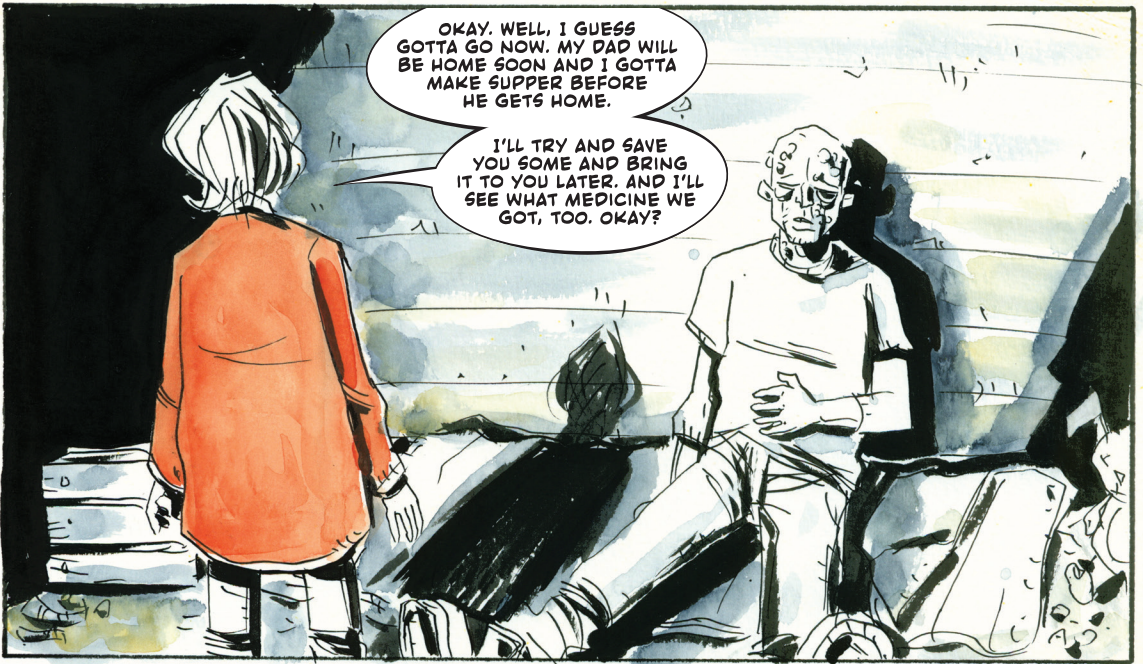


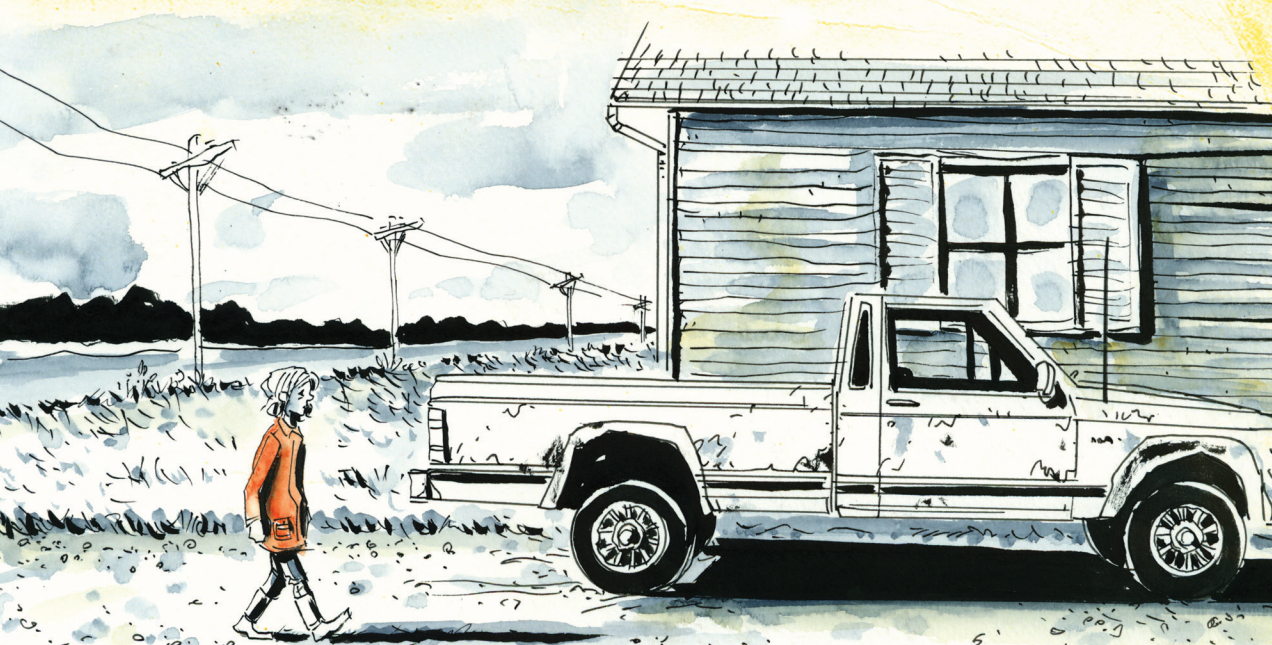
BECAUSE YOU DID A BAD THING. NOW YOUR BEING PUNISHED. THAT'S WHAT HAPPENS.

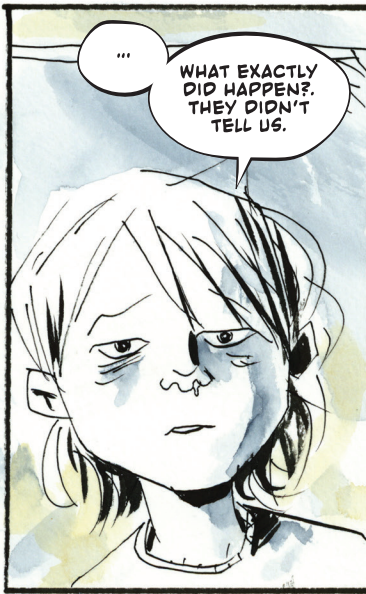
BUT MY MOM ALWAYS USED TO SAY THAT IF YOU PRAY IT WILL BE OKAY. IF YOU WANT I'LL PRAY WITH YOU. WANT TO?

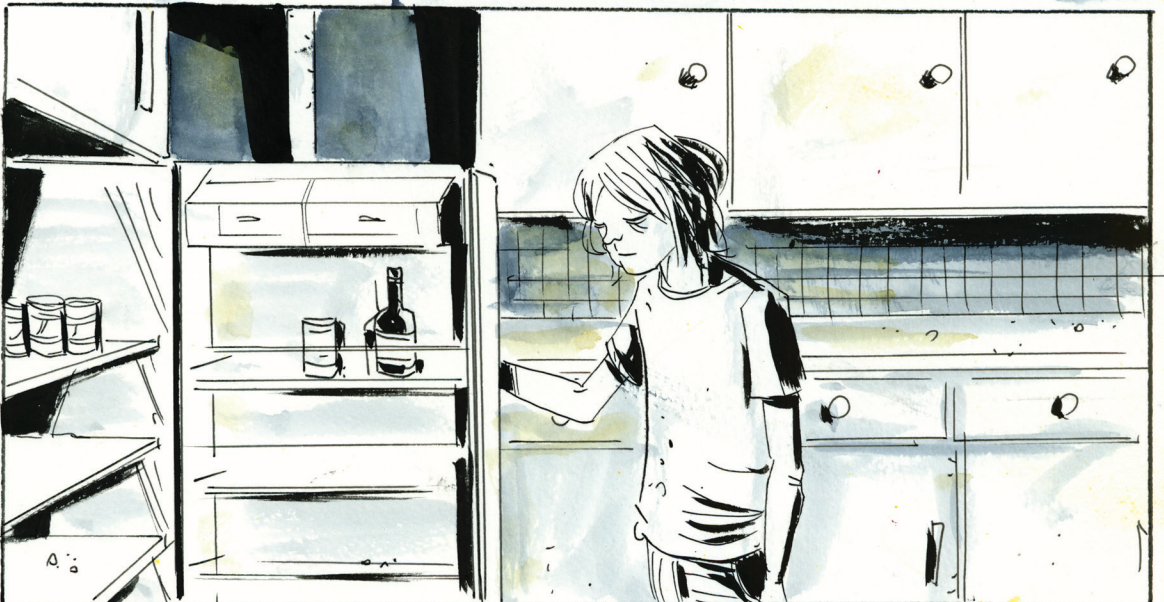
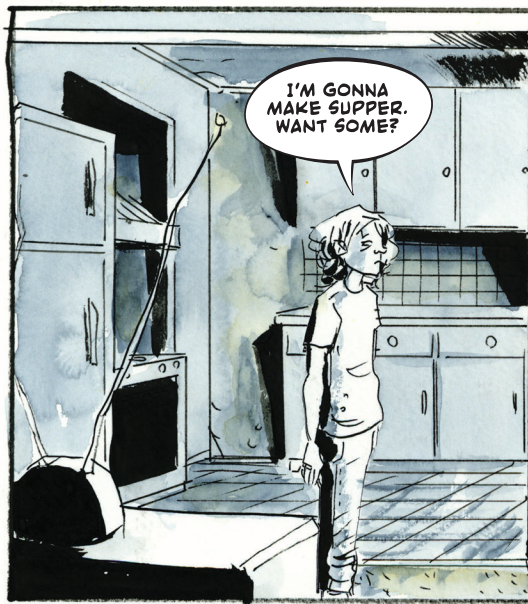


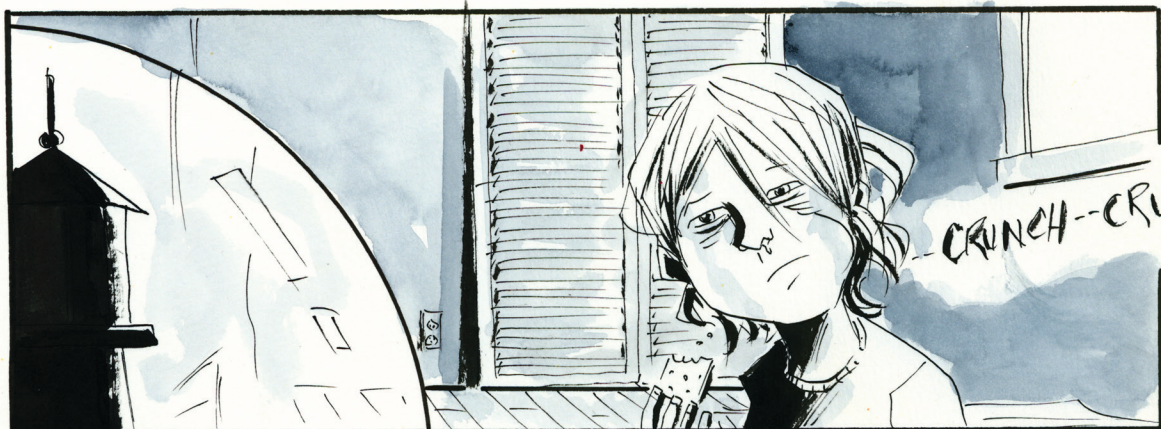
NO.



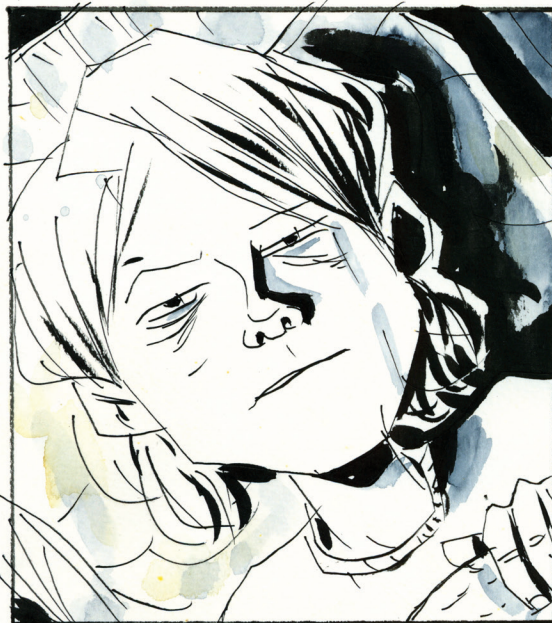
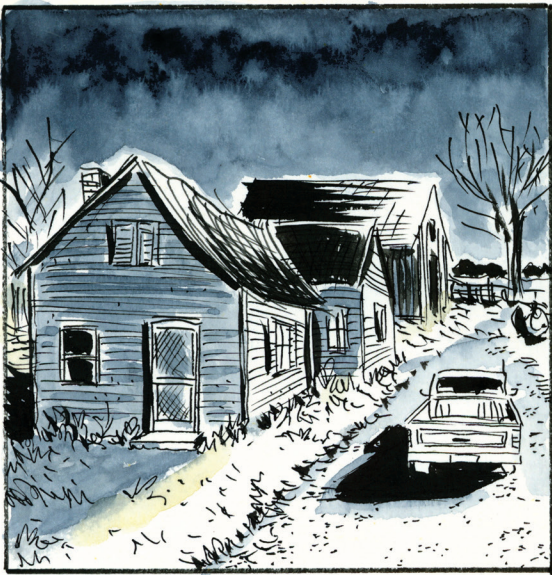




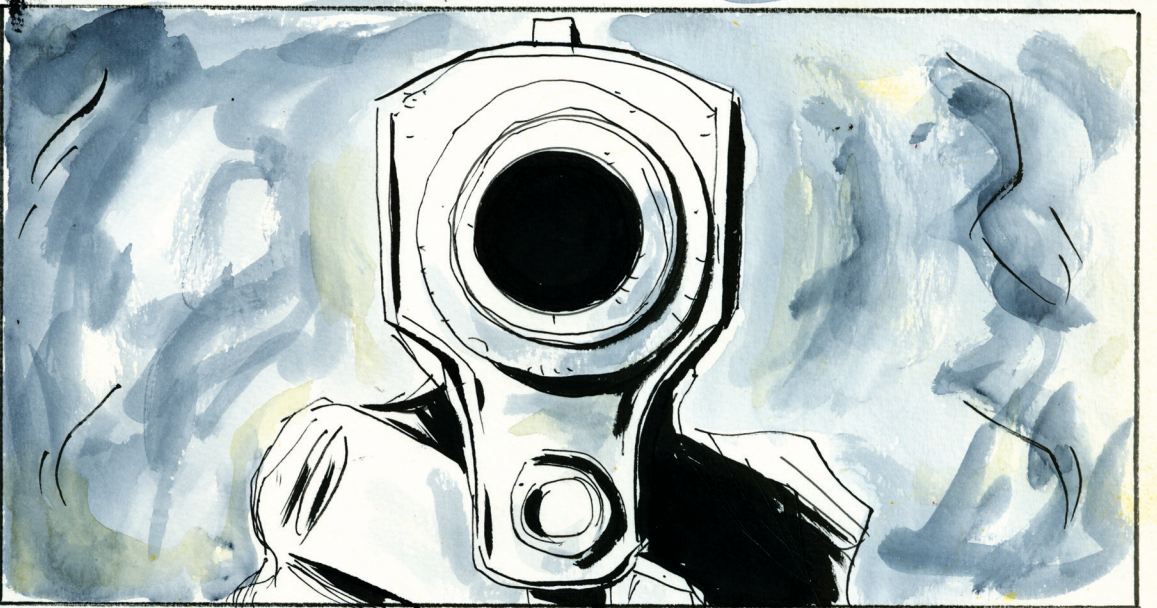
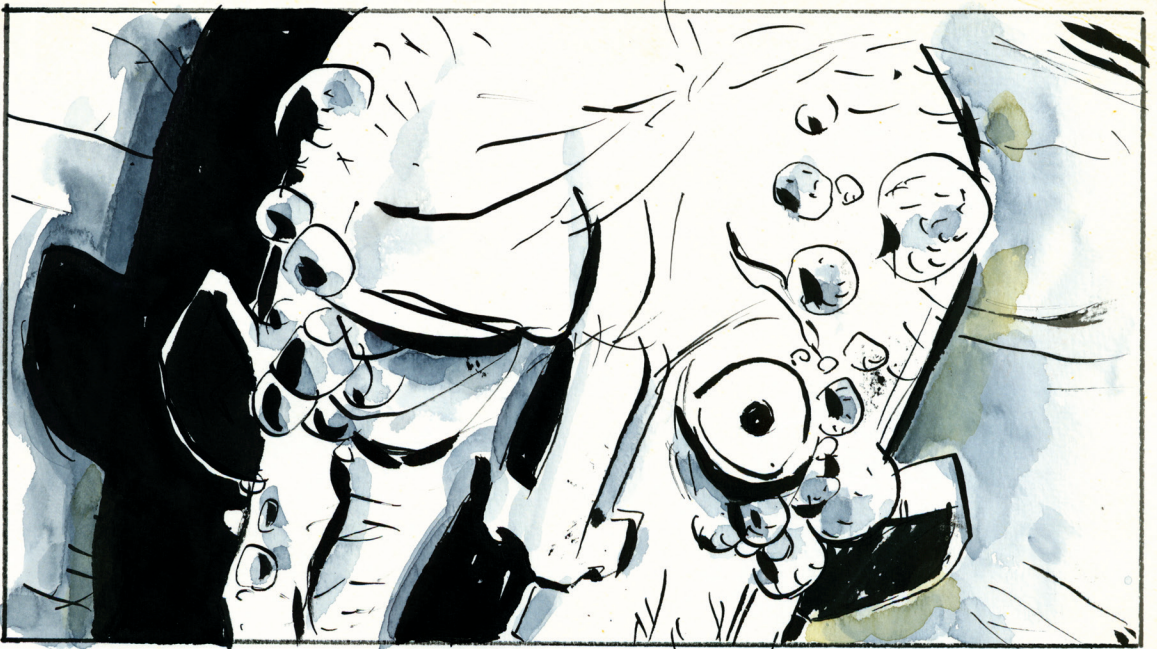




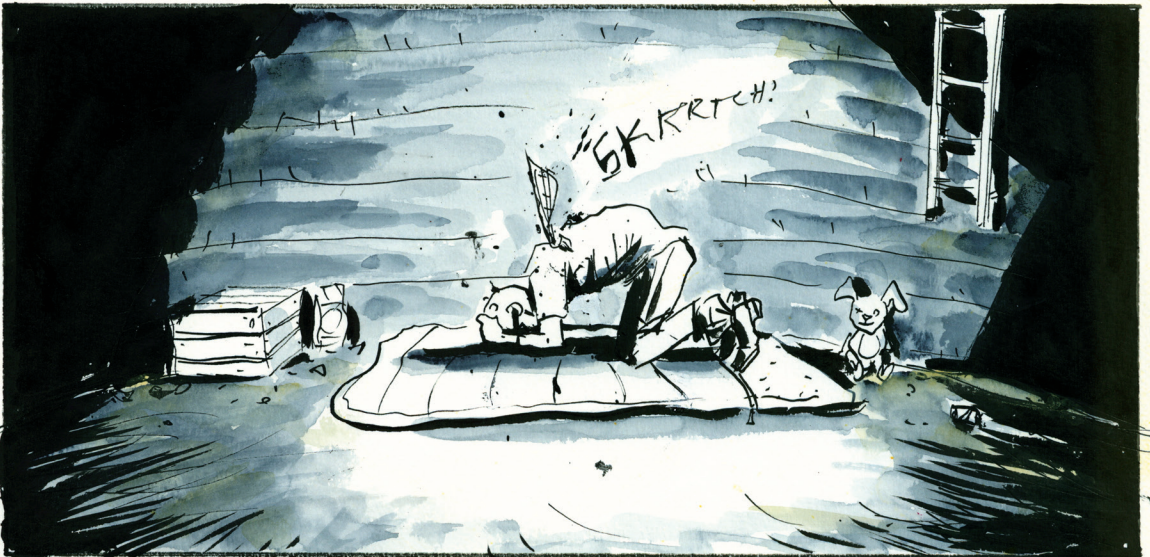
CRUNCH!

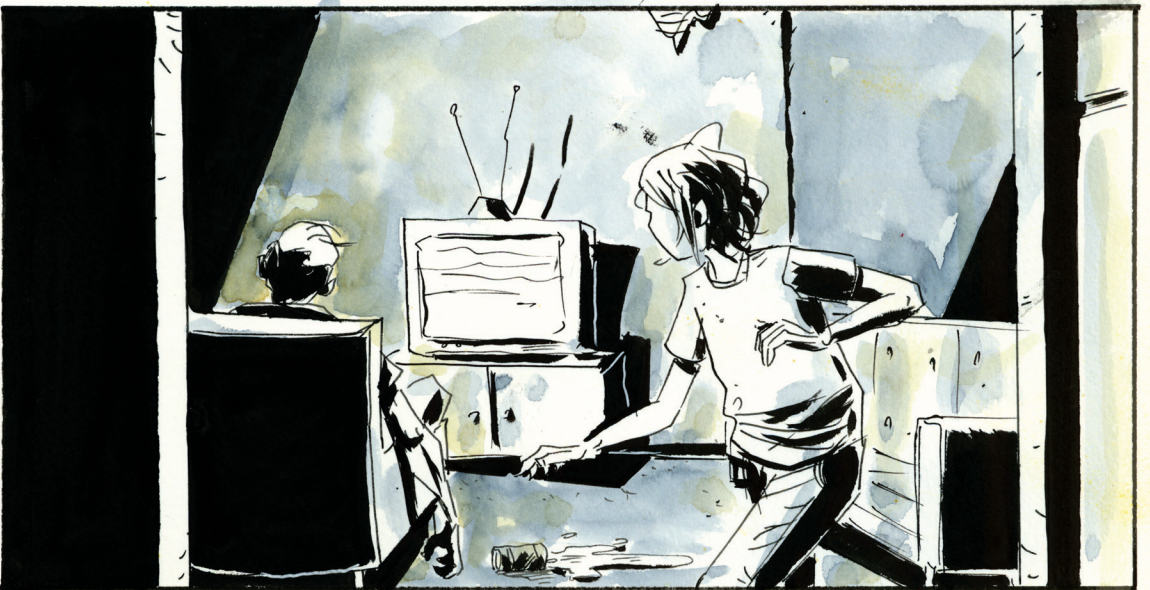
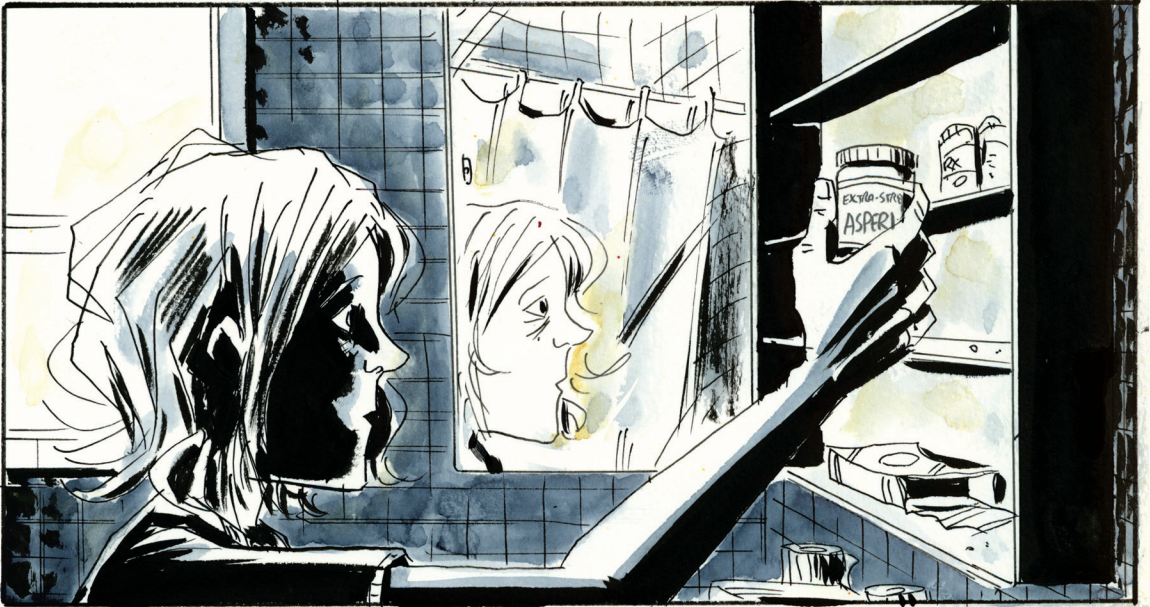
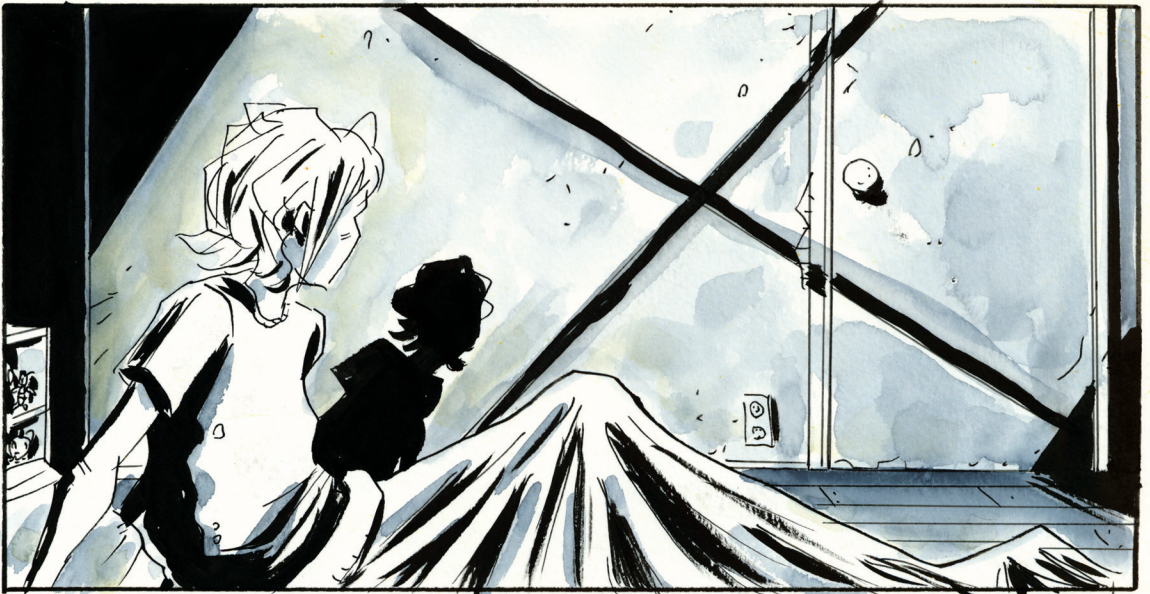




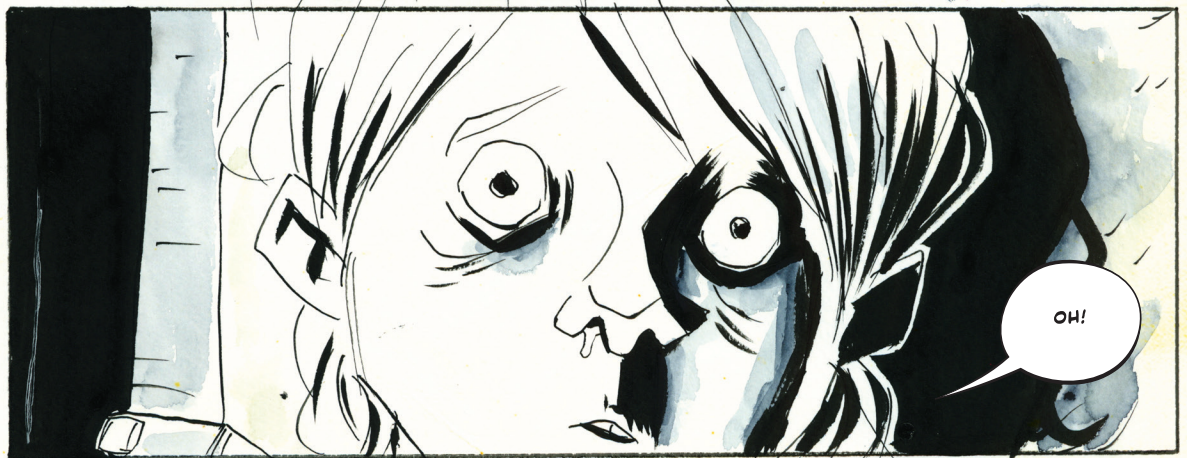
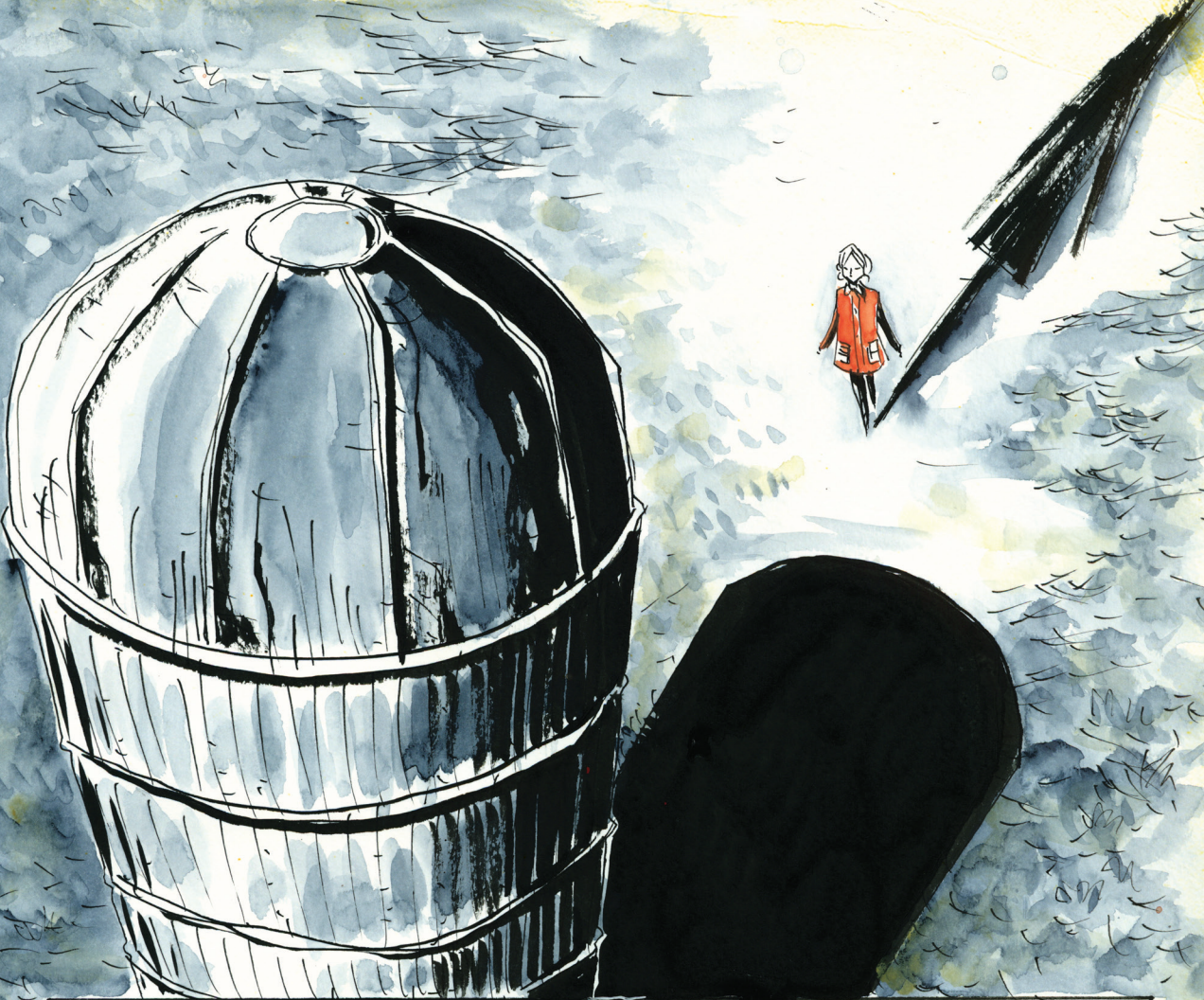


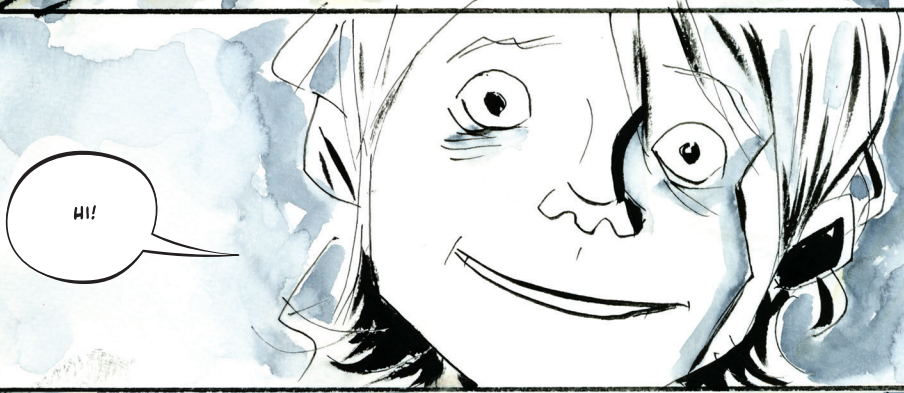












END OF BOOK 1