

ANGEL CATBIRD™

TO CASTLE CATULA



NUMBER ONE *NEW YORK TIMES* BESTSELLER!

MARGARET ATWOOD

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ANGEL CATBIRD VOLUME 2: TO CASTLE CATULA

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G. WILLOW WILSON

FOREWORD



Like all true Chimeras, the work of Margaret Atwood defies easy categorization. From the bleak dystopia of *The Handmaid's Tale*, which seems more relevant than ever in our era of newly restricted reproductive rights; to the sly surrealism of the *Oryx and Crake* trilogy, in which humankind reaps the whirlwind of hypercapitalism and ecological destruction; to the lush psychological drama of *Cat's Eye*, which throws the lessons of adolescence into painful relief, Atwood moves nimbly from subject to subject and from genre to genre. And like a Chimera, she seems to be fueled by some secret fire, one that makes her as dryly, mirthfully witty on Twitter as she is in the pages of the *Michigan Quarterly Review* or *Harper's Magazine*.

Most fiction writers alive today have been influenced by Atwood's work, whether they know it or not: by tackling the most pressing issues of each unfolding decade, she has achieved a kind of cultural ubiquity. I first picked up *The Handmaid's Tale* in the mid-1990s, when I was twelve or thirteen, which in retrospect is probably a bit too young to tackle that book. In the awkward grip of puberty, it read like a kind of body horror, a warning that there was no part of womanhood which could not be commodified. To encounter a novel like that in the banal, apolitical atmosphere of the nineties, when sexism and racism were "over" and strong viewpoints were seen as impolite, was an electric experience; it showed me that you could, in fact, address real-world issues in a meaningful way within the realm of fantasy and science fiction. Speculative fiction wasn't simply an escape; it was also an arrival.

Do Atwood's disparate creations have a unifying message? If they do, I think it might be tidily summed up as a simple directive: resist complacency. Resist it with whatever tools you have on hand—with wit, with humor, with irony, or with anger, but *resist* it, and do not apologize.



In *Angel Catbird*, we see that message at its most jubilantly pulpy. It is an unselfconscious romp through a world instantly recognizable both to fans of Silver Age comics and to the furriest corners of the Internet, a world in which the boundaries between human and animal blur and our most primitive instincts come into play. Like all great superheroes, Strig, the titular protagonist, is only momentarily alarmed by the onset of his strange powers: when you are given the ability to transform into a half-cat, half-owl, half-man (that's three halves), you must *carpe that diem*, and he does. *Angel Catbird* represents a side of Margaret Atwood we don't get to see very often: an unabashedly geeky side, one conversant in the tangled continuities of superhero comics and at home in fandom. The story is pure, distilled nerd catharsis, delivered by a literary legend.

Atwood's story is well served by coconspirator Johnnie Christmas, whose gleeful, kinetic art style pays homage to the era of Jack Kirby and Russ Manning, masters who peaked before the age of irony and to whom pulp was a kind of religion. If there is a joke, Christmas and Atwood are in on it together, and it makes for one heck of a read. There are puns, and then there are cat puns, and then there are Dracula cat puns, and then there are *visual* Dracula cat puns, and if you hung around for the end of that list, this is the kind of graphic novel you need on your bookshelf.

Meow.

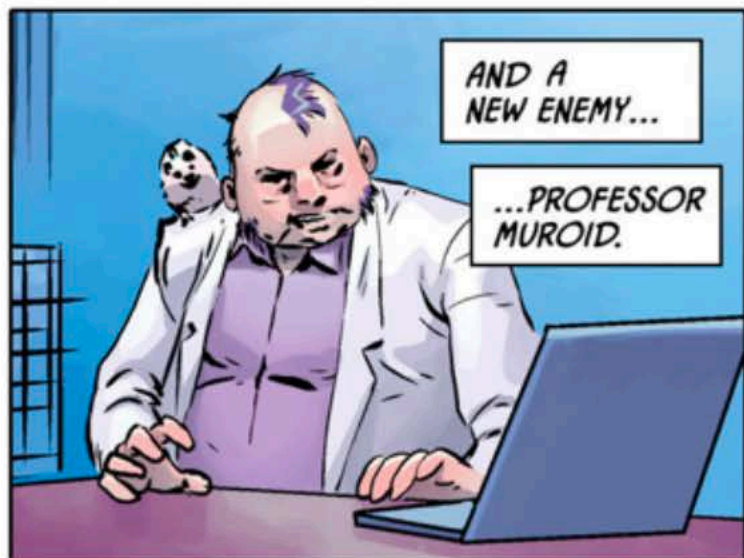
- G. Willow Wilson



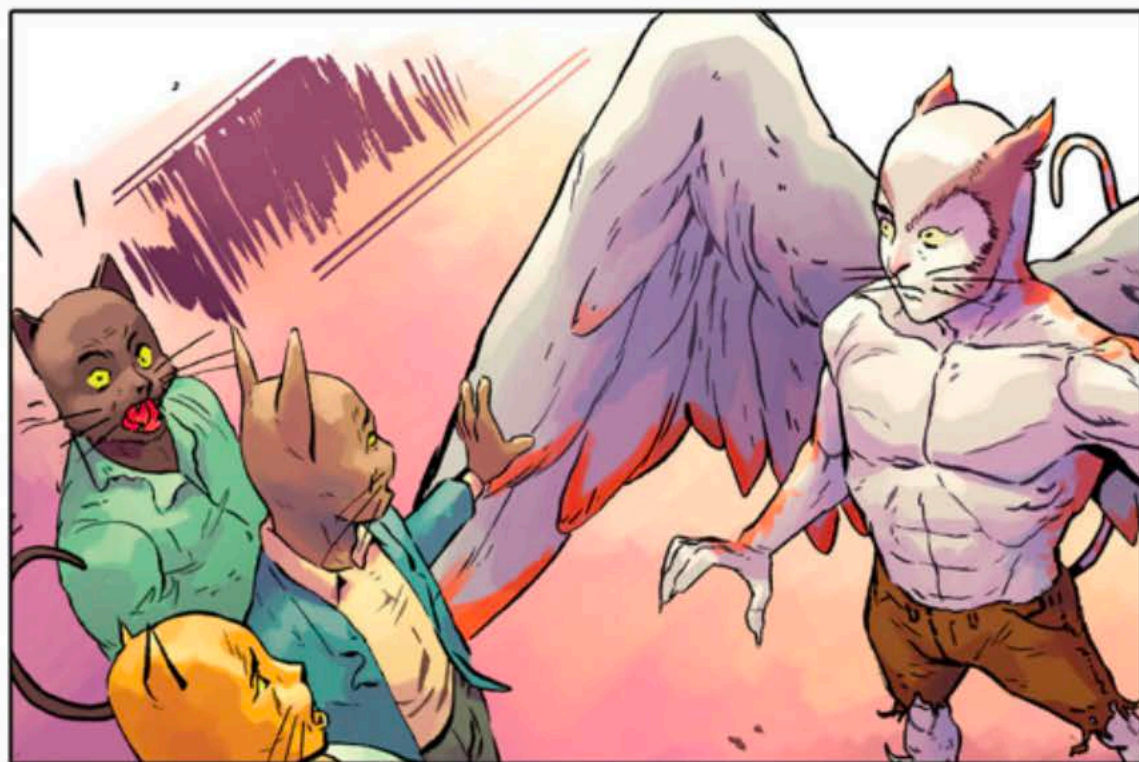
Our Story So Far...

STRIG FELEDUS WAS A BRILLIANT GENETIC ENGINEER, A PROUD CAT OWNER, AND ON THE CUSP OF SOLVING A TOP-SECRET D.N.A. SUPER-SPLICER FORMULA.

THEN FATE TOOK A TURN FOR THE WORSE!



STRIG STUMBLED UPON AN ENTIRE UNDERGROUND HALF-CAT CULTURE! HUMANS WITH THE ABILITY TO TURN INTO CAT FORM, CATS WITH THE ABILITY TO TURN INTO HUMAN FORM, AND EVERYTHING IN BETWEEN.



HE DISCOVERED THAT HIS BOSS, PROFESSOR MUROID, WAS A HALF-RAT INTENT ON WORLD DOMINATION AND THE EXTERMINATION OF ALL CATS AND BIRDS! SO STRIG'S HALF-CAT COMRADES ASSEMBLED TO PUT AN END TO MUROID'S EVIL PLOT!



HE FELL
IN LOVE.

smooch



HE LOST
A FRIEND.

AND THE HALF-CATS DISCOVERED MUROID'S EVIL PLANS VIA U.S.B., COURTESY OF COUNT CATULA, PART BAT, PART CAT, PART VAMPIRE!



AFTER THEIR HALF-CAT CLUB WAS BLOWN UP BY MUROID, TEAM CATBIRD SET OUT FOR CASTLE CATULA, WHERE THEY HOPE TO SET UP A BASE OF OPERATIONS--AND WHERE POWERFUL FORCES WILL BE CALLED INTO PLAY.

And Now...



HOW FAR IS IT?

HE DIDN'T SAY. SURE WE CAN TRUST HIM?

WE DON'T HAVE MUCH OF A CHOICE. IT'S HIM OR **DEATH BY RAT**.

THIS IS A DRAG. TOO BAD WE CAN'T ALL FLY.

YEAH, WELL, WE'RE NOT ALL BIRDBRAINS LIKE YOU.

WHEN THE RATS ATTACK YOU'LL BE GLAD WE GOT CLAWS.

AND **TEETH**. TEETH ARE BETTER THAN BEAKS ANY DAY.

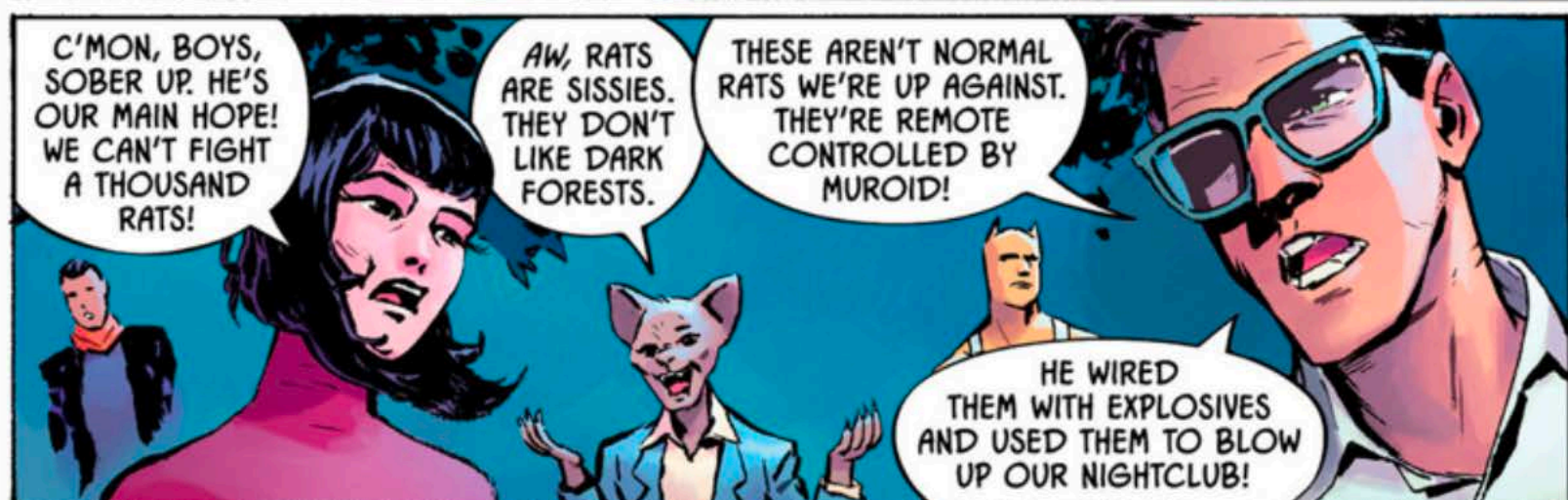
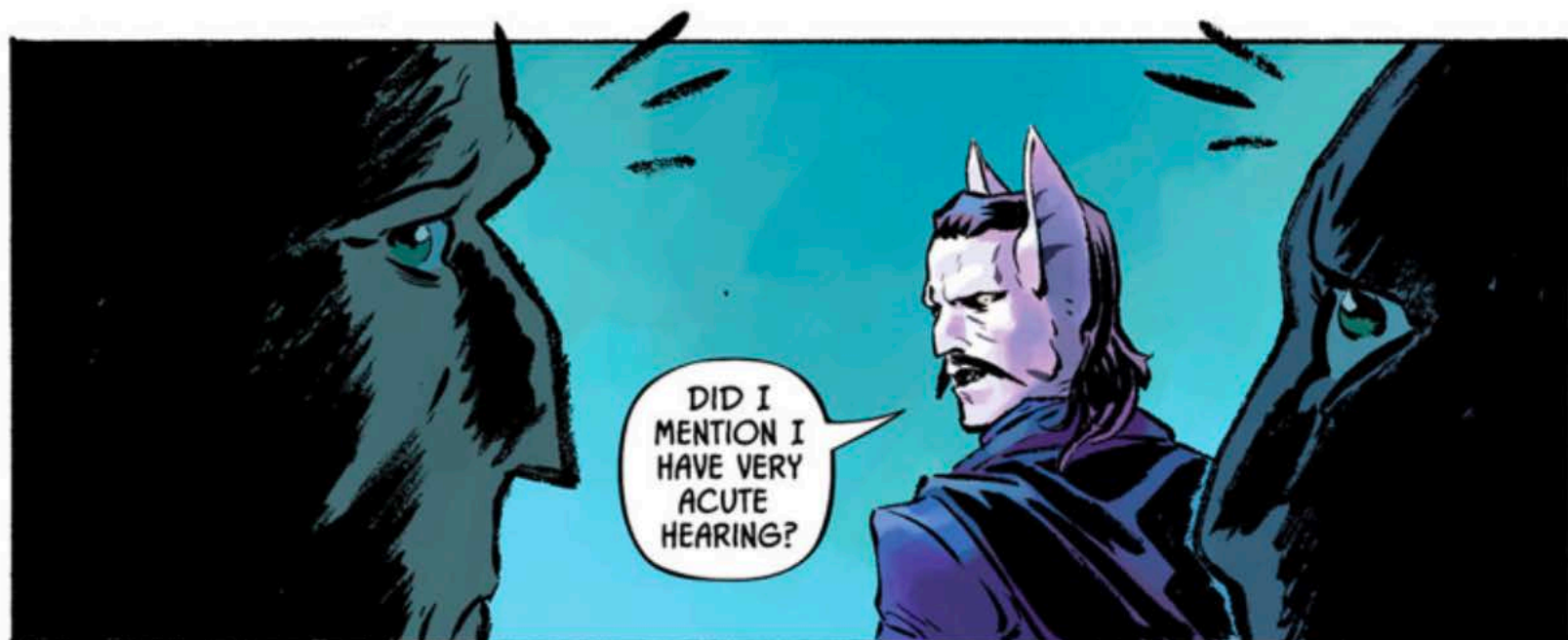
MAKE HASTE, MY YOUNG FRIENDS. QUASH YOUR SQUABBLES! EVEN NOW MUROID'S ARMY MAY BE ON OUR TRAIL! WE MUST REACH CASTLE CATULA BEFORE DAWN!

OH YEAH, THAT TURNING-TO-DUST THING.

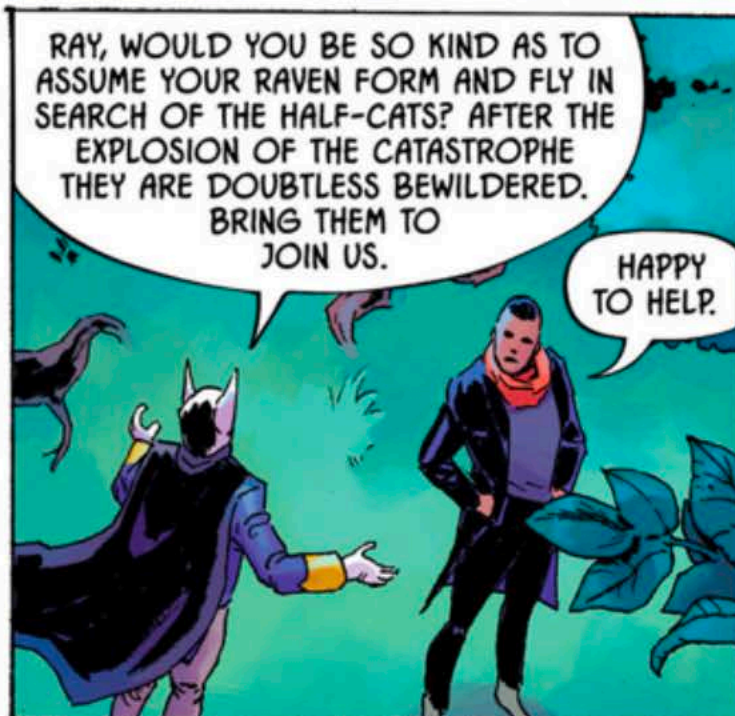
HE ALWAYS TALKS LIKE SOME OLD MOVIE.

YEAH WELL, HE'S LIKE A MILLION YEARS OLD SO HE'S TOTALLY MOLDY.

HE SURE LOOKED FUNNY WHEN HE CAME OUT OF SLEEPING IN CATE'S CLOSET WITH THAT BRA ON HIS HEAD!







Hours later...

I'M WIPED!
HOW MUCH
LONGER?

WANT ME
TO CARRY
YOU?

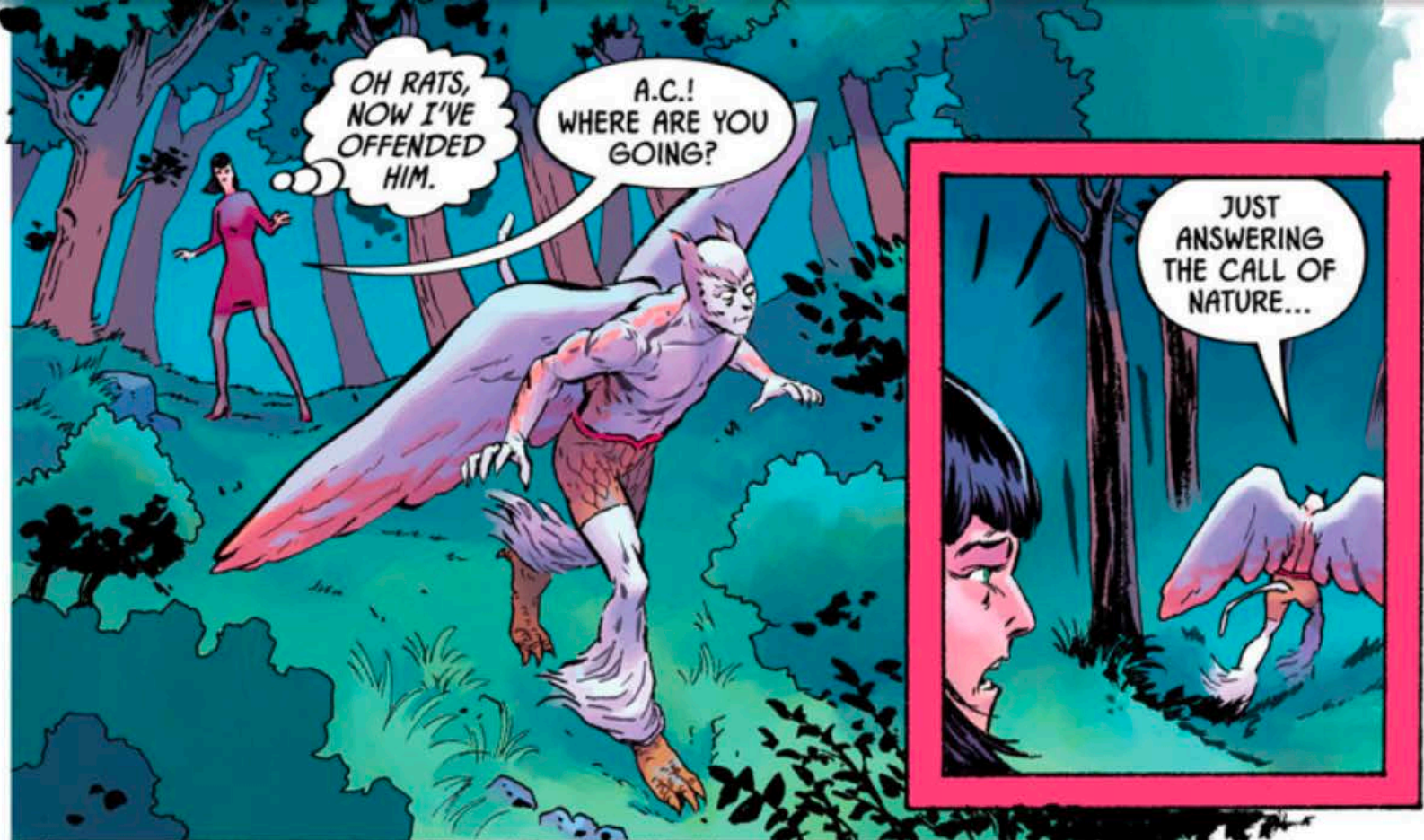
IN MY
DREAMS...BUT
MAYBE...

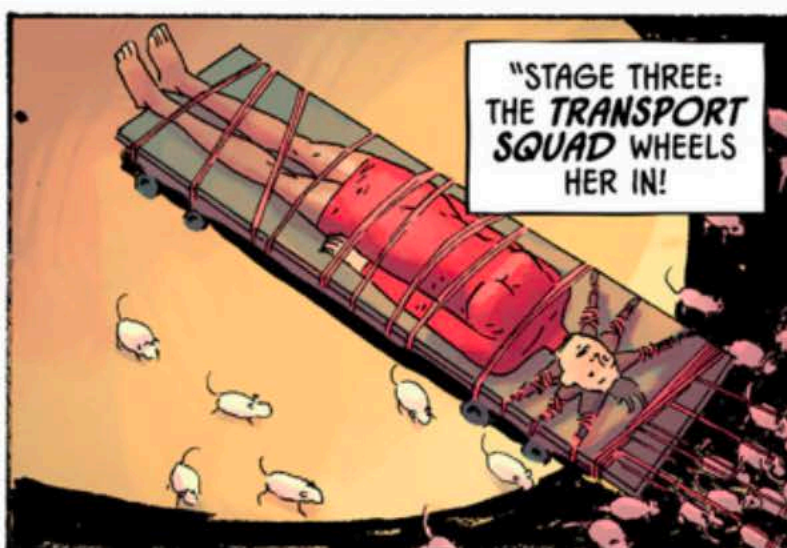
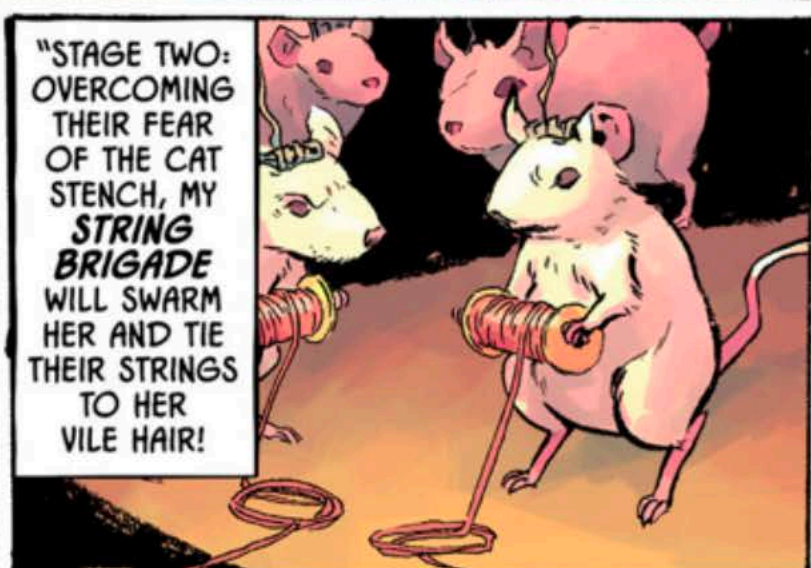


HOOOT!
HOOOT!*

CAN'T
RESIST!

*"DARLING!
OVER HERE!"





CATS NEED CLAWS

Declawing is a surgical procedure in which the last bones of a cat's toes, including the nail beds, are amputated. Scratching is a normal behavior for cats and serves several purposes. There are nonsurgical solutions to save your upholstery!

Read more at www.catsandbirds.ca



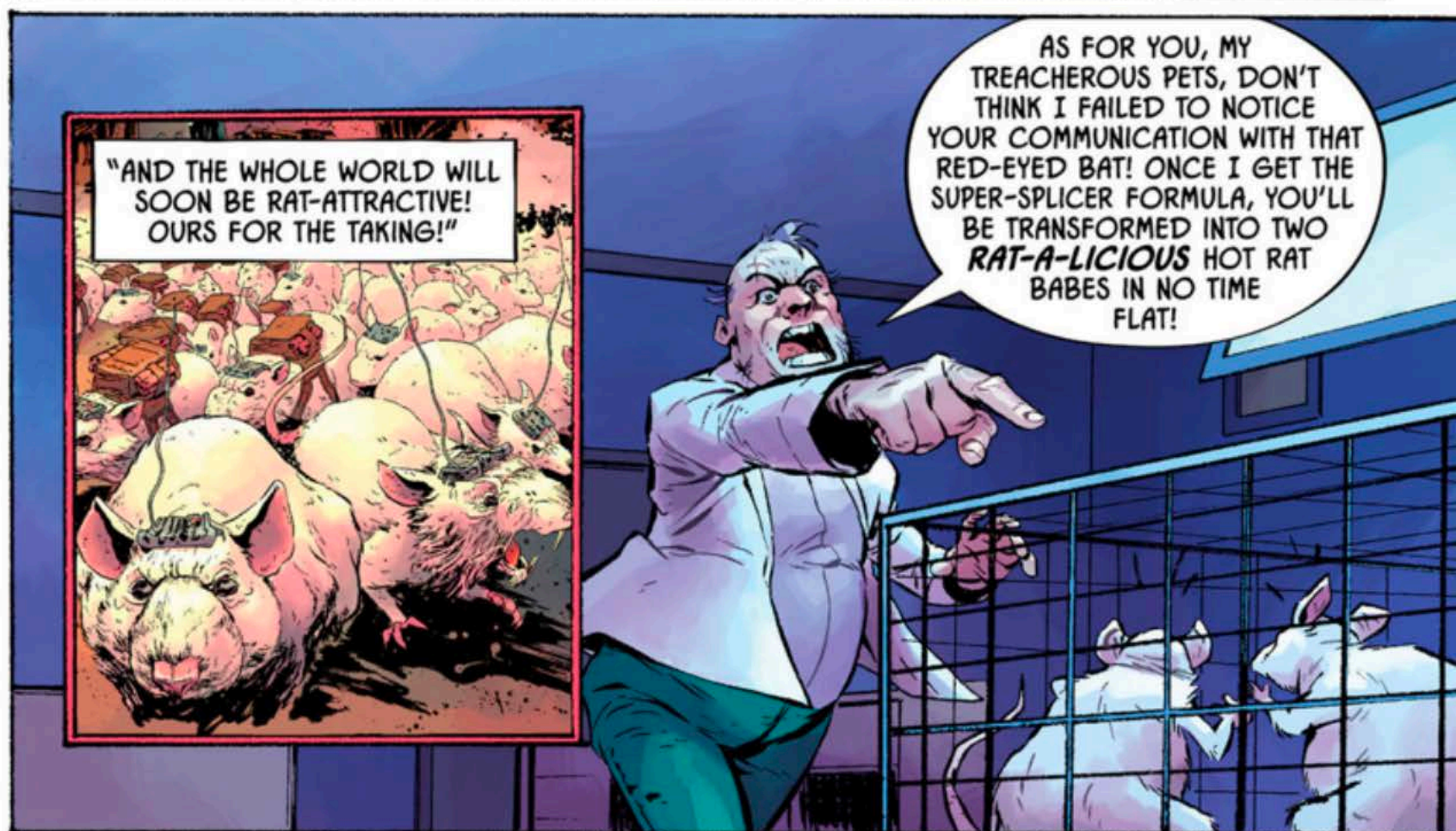
I'LL RECORD HER AGONIZED CATERWAULING AND SCREECHING, AND PLAY IT TO THAT WARPED MUTANT STRIG FELEEDUS OVER HIS CELL PHONE.

THE LOVE-STRICKEN IDIOT WILL ATTEMPT TO RESCUE THE **FOUL-SMELLING** SHE-CAT, THUS COMING WITHIN MY REACH!

BEFORE HE KNOWS IT, HE'LL BE **LOCKED** IN A CAGE!

HE MIGHT BE ABLE TO WITHSTAND MY RATORTURERS HIMSELF, BUT HE'LL SPILL THE SECRET OF THAT GENETIC SUPER-SPLICER FORMULA IN ORDER TO SAVE THE YOWLING CATE!

THEN--**SQUEE-HEE-HEE!**--I'LL FINISH THEM BOTH! I'LL TURN THEM INTO RAT FOOD!



"AND THE WHOLE WORLD WILL SOON BE RAT-ATTRACTIVE! OURS FOR THE TAKING!"

AS FOR YOU, MY TREACHEROUS PETS, DON'T THINK I FAILED TO NOTICE YOUR COMMUNICATION WITH THAT RED-EYED BAT! ONCE I GET THE SUPER-SPLICER FORMULA, YOU'LL BE TRANSFORMED INTO TWO **RAT-A-LICIOUS** HOT RAT BABES IN NO TIME FLAT!



THEN I'LL PAY YOU BACK...I'LL KEEP YOU IN SLAVE COLLARS! YOU'LL CATER TO MY EVERY WHIM! OR ELSE! COVER ME WITH CHEESE SPREAD...NIBBLE IT OFF...THE PLEASURE WILL BE **MINE**, THE FEAR WILL BE YOURS!

THIS GUY IS NOT YOUR AVERAGE DREAMBOAT.

YOU THINK?







WOW! I MEAN--
HOOT! I MEAN--
EXCUSE ME, BUT
DO I KNOW
YOU?



I'M **ATHEEN-OWL**,
DIRECT DESCENDANT
OF THE ANCIENT GREEK
GODDESS OF WISDOM,
LEARNING, WEAVING,
OLIVES, AND PITCHED
BATTLES.

UM...
REALLY?
GOSH!

OLIVES?
OLIVES HAD
A GODDESS?
WHO KNEW?



BUT WHY IS A FINE **OWL-MAN**
LIKE YOU HANGING OUT WITH A
PACK OF DRAGGLE-TAILED
FELINES? YOU SHOULD HAVE
MORE NOBLE ENDS
IN VIEW!

NOBLE
ENDS? SUCH
AS?



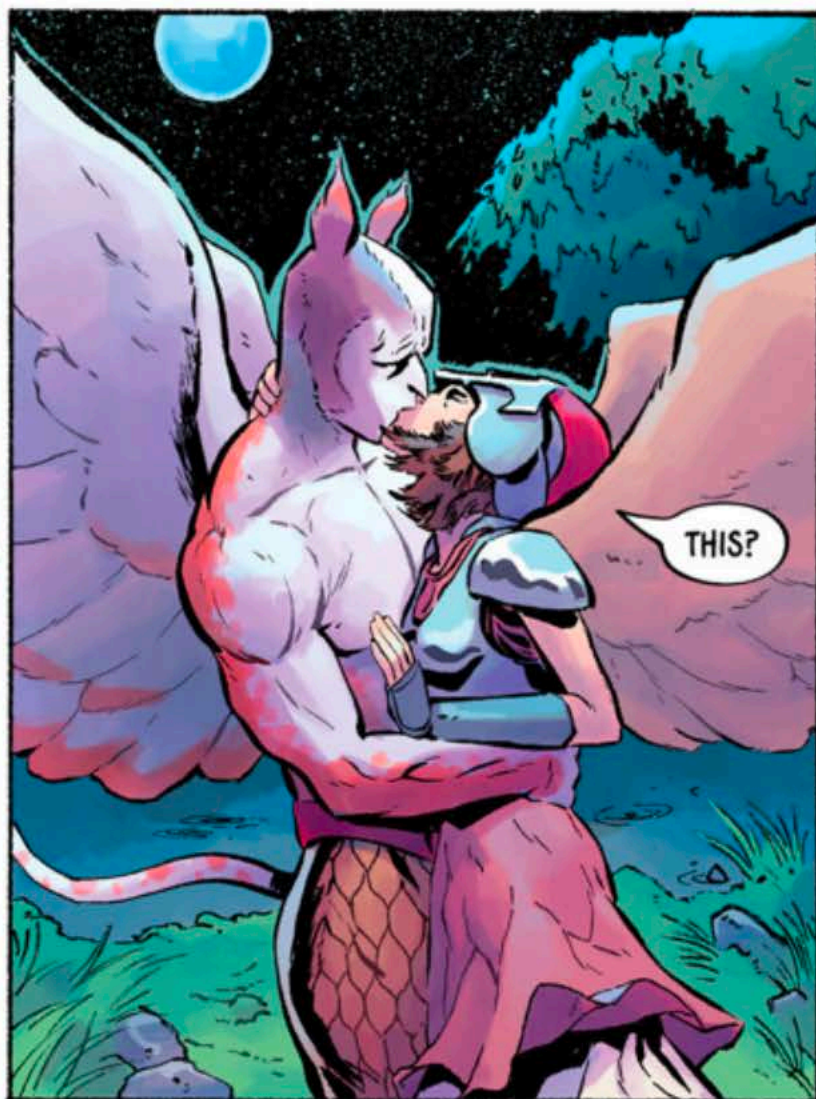
SUCH AS **MATING...**
FOR INSTANCE, WITH **ME!**
WE COULD MAKE SUCH
A BEAUTIFUL EGG
TOGETHER!



SO
TEMPTING!
BUT NO...

THANKS,
BUT I CAN'T
RIGHT NOW.
MAYBE LATER.
I'M ON A
MISSION.

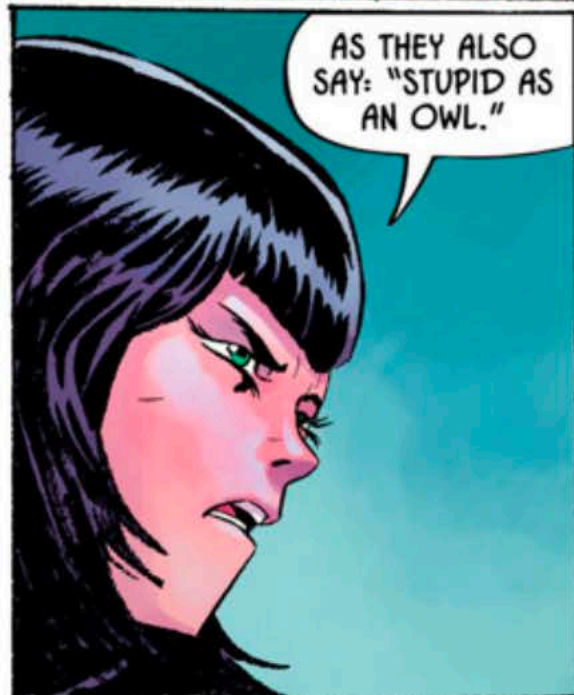
GUYS
LIKE YOU
ARE ALWAYS
ON A
MISSION.
THESEUS.
HERCULES.
ODYSSEUS.
ALWAYS
WITH THE
MISSIONS!



CATS IN THE CRADLE

Breeding season is a vulnerable time for birds. The eggs can get eaten and baby birds are very susceptible to predators. If young birds live long enough to leave the nest, they have no survival skills; they can't feed themselves yet, or fly well (if at all), or defend themselves.

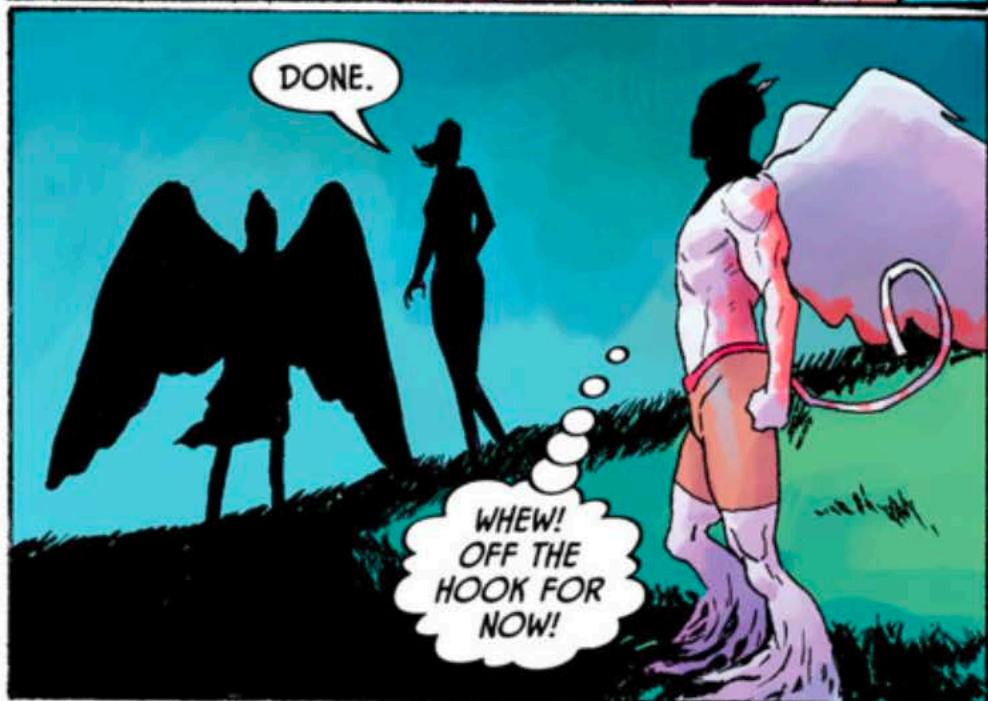
Read more at www.catsandbirds.ca





RATS AND CATS

140 bird species have gone extinct since AD 1500. Rats contributed to 41 extinctions and cats 34, making them the two most deadly factors. Extinctions partially or entirely caused by rats include species of lorikeet (Pacific Islands), white-winged sandpiper (Tahiti), bush wren and piopio (New Zealand), and robust white-eye (Lord Howe Island). Read more at www.birdlife.org and www.sciencedirect.com



Meanwhile...

HAH! MY TRACKER RATS HAVE ENTERED THE DWELLING OF THE RANK AND REEKING HALF-CAT! HOW BRAVE! THE SMELL MUST BE OVERPOWERING!



HALF-CATS HAVE BEEN HERE!

BUT THEY'RE GONE!

WHERE?
WHERE DID THEY GO?



SEARCH FOR MORE CLUES!

WHAT'S IN THAT CLOSET? INVESTIGATE!

SNIFF
SNIFF
URK!
PERFUME!
BLETCH!

QUICK--
THE EAU DE
ROTTEN CHEESE,
TO REVIVE
HIM!

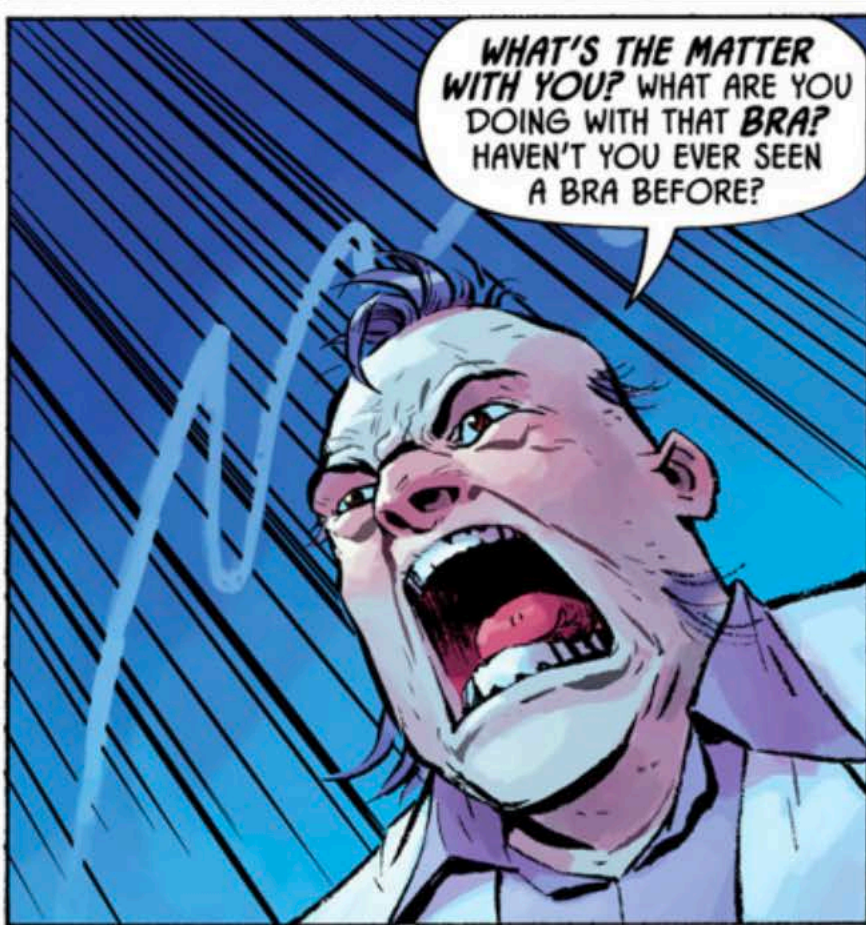
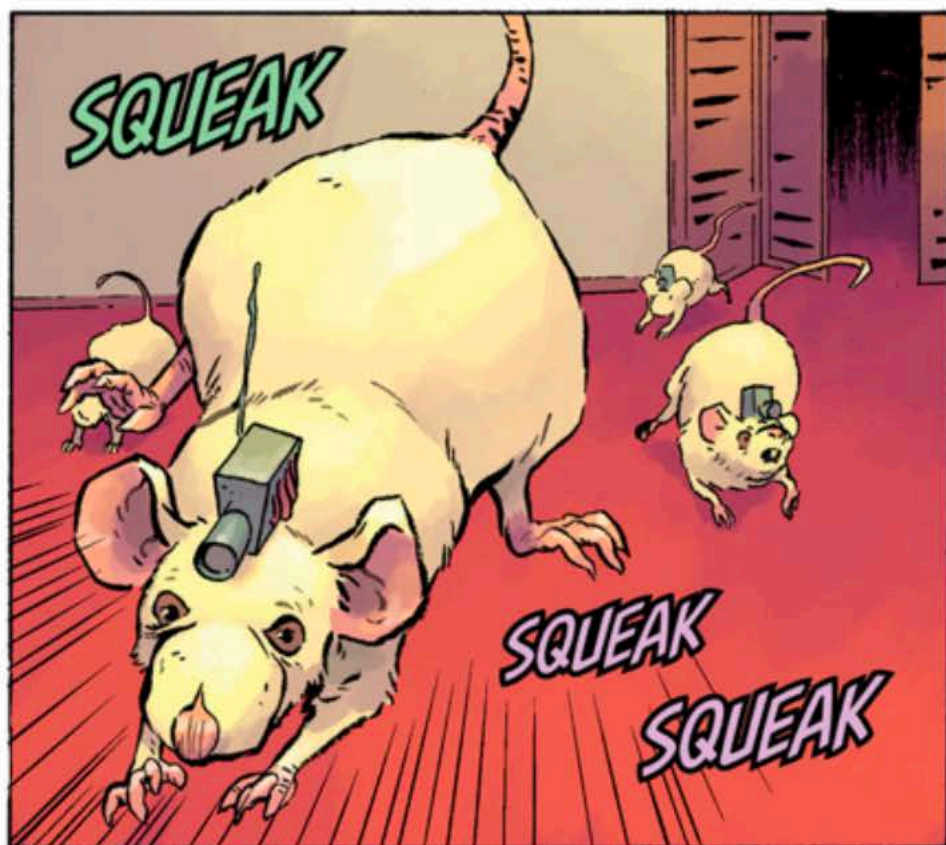


FORWARD
FEARLESSLY!

DO
OR DIE!

HALF A
FOOT ONWARD!
INTO THE CLOSET
OF DEATH...





PULL
YOURSELVES TOGETHER!
I USED TO BE AFRAID OF
BRAS WHEN I WAS YOUNGER,
BUT I GOT OVER IT!
RAT UP!

WHAT'S
THAT?

IT'S NOT
JUST ANY
BRA?

THE BRA
OF RED? NO.
THE BRA OF
FRED?

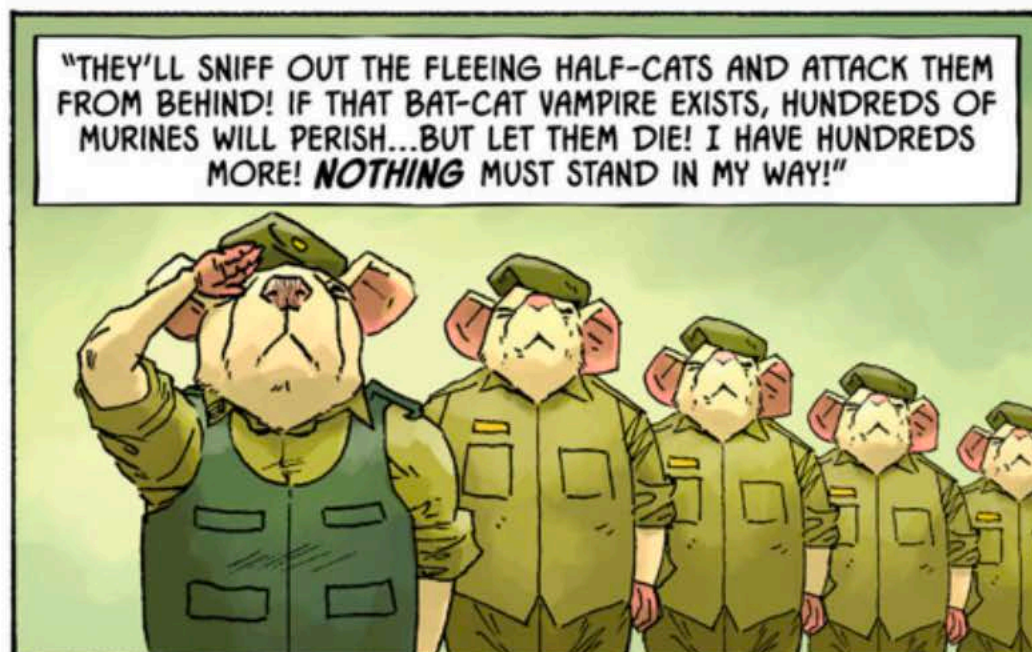
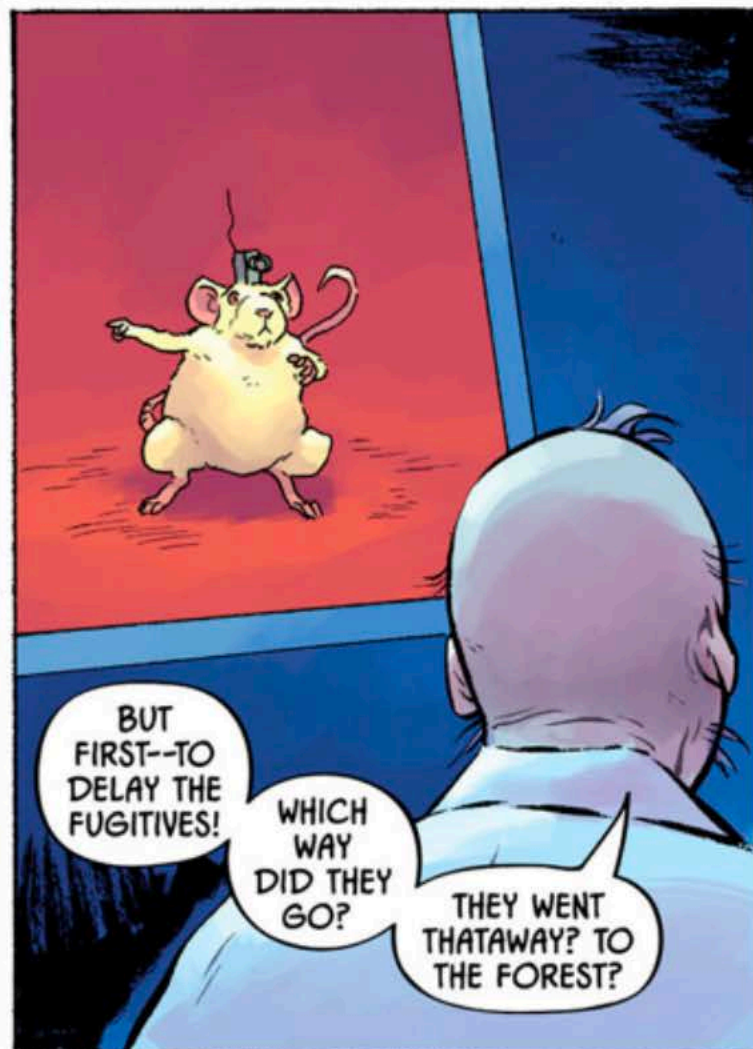
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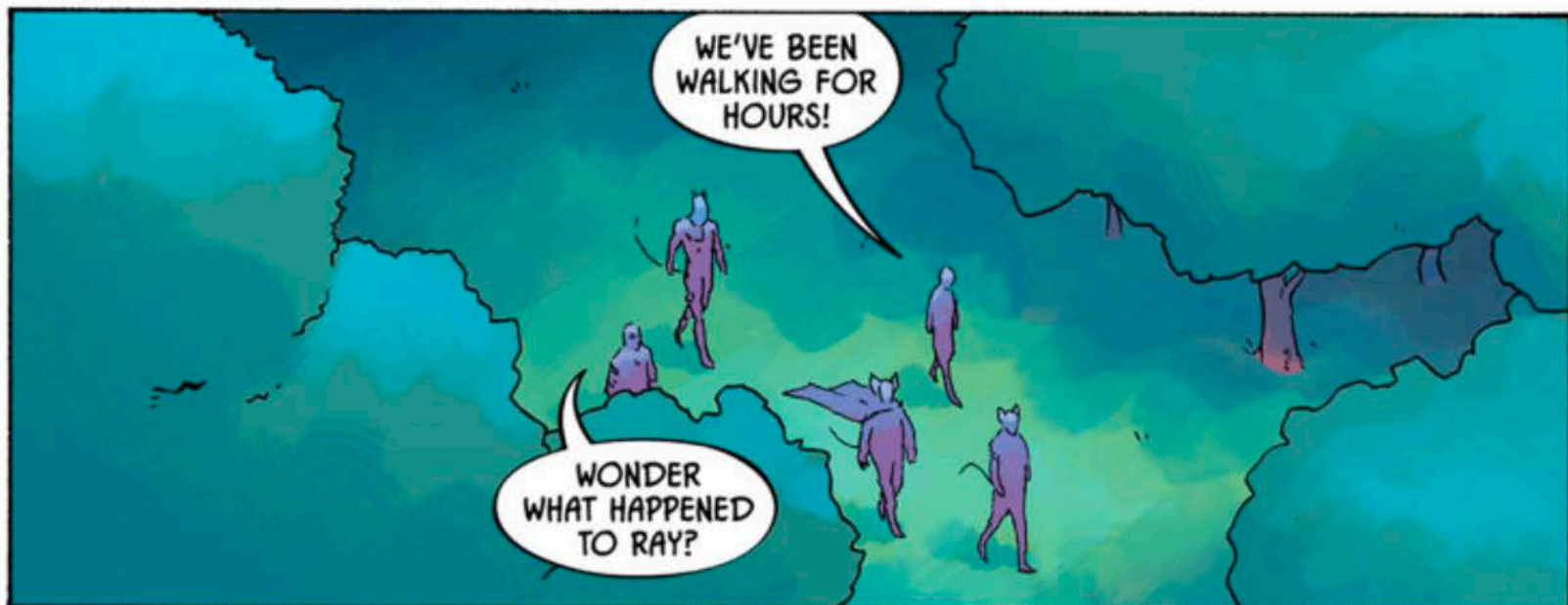
THE
BRA OF
DREAD?

AHA!
WARMER!

THE
BRA OF...THE
UNDEAD?







WE'VE BEEN
WALKING FOR
HOURS!

WONDER
WHAT HAPPENED
TO RAY?



SPEAK
OF THE
DEVIL!

FINALLY--
I FOUND
YOU!

MUMMYCAT!
MUMMYKITTENS!
CATULLUS! BABUSHKAT!
CAT O'NINE TAILS!
YOU ESCAPED!

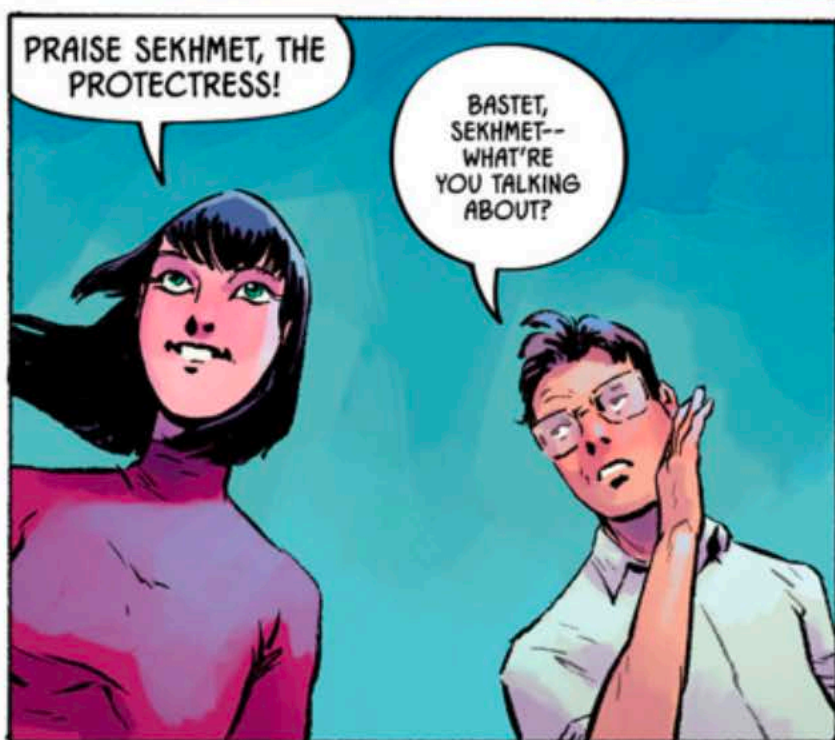


WELL DONE,
MY RAVENOUS
FRIEND!

GOOD
JOB, RAY!



AND ALL
OF YOU--THANK
BASTET YOU'RE
SAFE!



PRAISE SEKHMET, THE
PROTECTRESS!

BASTET,
SEKHMET--
WHAT'RE
YOU TALKING
ABOUT?



"BASTET,
EGYPTIAN
GODDESS
OF CATS,
ESPECIALLY
MUMMIFIED
ONES.



"SEKHMET, THE
LION-HEADED
GODDESS OF WAR
AND HEALING...
MY ANCESTRESS!"



YEAH, I CAN
SEE THAT! THE WAR
PART--YOU CAN BE
PRETTY FEROCIOUS!
BUT WHEN DO
I GET THE
HEALING?

WAIT
FOR IT.



COME, MY YOUNG
FRIENDS. THERE HAS
BEEN ENOUGH
DAWDLING! WE NEED
TO REACH CASTLE
CATULA! THE NIGHT'S
HALF GONE, AND
ROSY-FINGERED
DAWN IS NOT MY
FRIEND!

OKAY,
GANG, LET'S
MOVE IT!

WOULDN'T
WANT THE COUNT
TO GO UP IN
SMOKE!

I SECOND
THAT. IN THE COMING
STRUGGLE WE'LL NEED
ALL THE MEN WE
CAN GET.

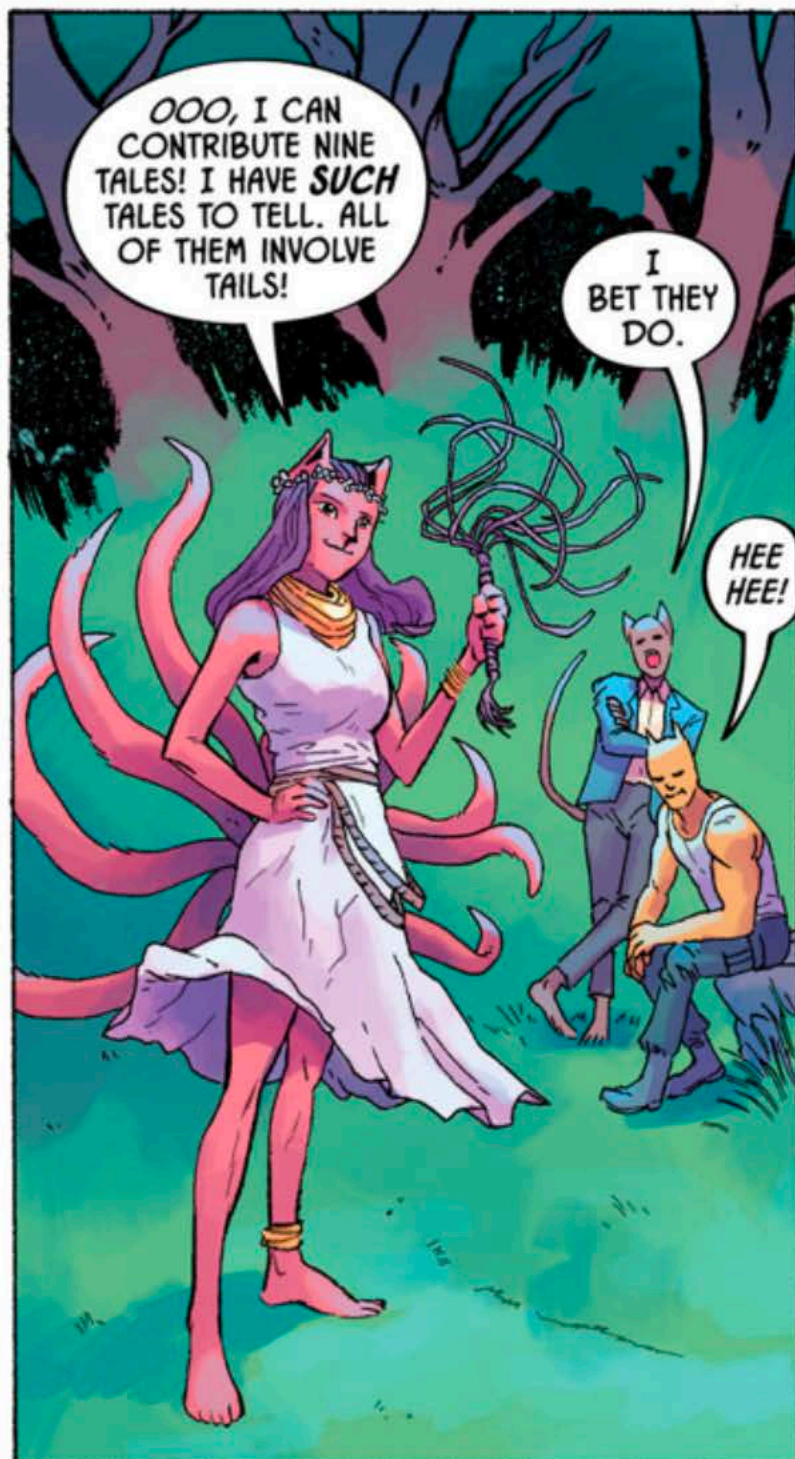
OR,
ALL THE
BATS.



TO SHORTEN
THE WEARY WAY, WE
SHOULD ALL TELL OUR
STORIES. AND I,
CATULLUS, WILL TURN
THEM INTO VERSE,
SINCE I AM A POET
OF SOME
RENOWN.



I
WILL CALL
THIS EPIC
POEM...**THE
CATURBURY
TALES!**



OOO, I CAN
CONTRIBUTE NINE
TALES! I HAVE **SUCH**
TALES TO TELL. ALL
OF THEM INVOLVE
TAILS!

I
BET THEY
DO.

HEE
HEE!



I ALREADY
HAVE THE
FIRST
LINES!

OF MICE
AND THE CAT
I SING...♪

♪ WHO,
FORCED BY
RATS...

AND EVIL
MUROID'S
UNRELENTING
HATE...♪

♪ EXPELLED
AND EXILED,
SOUGHT THE DARK
ABODE...

OF RED-
EYED CATULA,
THE MONSTER
BAT...♪



NOT SURE
I'M GONNA
MAKE IT
THROUGH
THIS.

IT WOULD
MAYBE SOUND
BETTER IN
RUSSIAN.

DRUMS
WOULD
HELP.



PROMISING,
PROMISING. BUT
IT NEEDS WORK.
ESPECIALLY THE
LAST LINE.



YOU MIGHT
WANT TO RETHINK
THAT MONSTER
BIT.

WHERE *I*
COME FROM,
MONSTER IS A
LOADED WORD.
GIVES PEOPLE
IDEAS.



"GARLIC. STAKES.
PITCHFORKS.
AND SO ON."



ARTISTIC
LICENSE.

EVERYWHERE
I GO,
CENSORSHIP!

YOUR STORY
FIRST, COUNT! HOW
EXACTLY DID YOU BECOME
SUCH A MONST...ER--
SUCH A FINE, OLD-FASHIONED
GENTLEMAN WITH EXCELLENT
SUPERSONIC FLYING
CAPABILITIES?

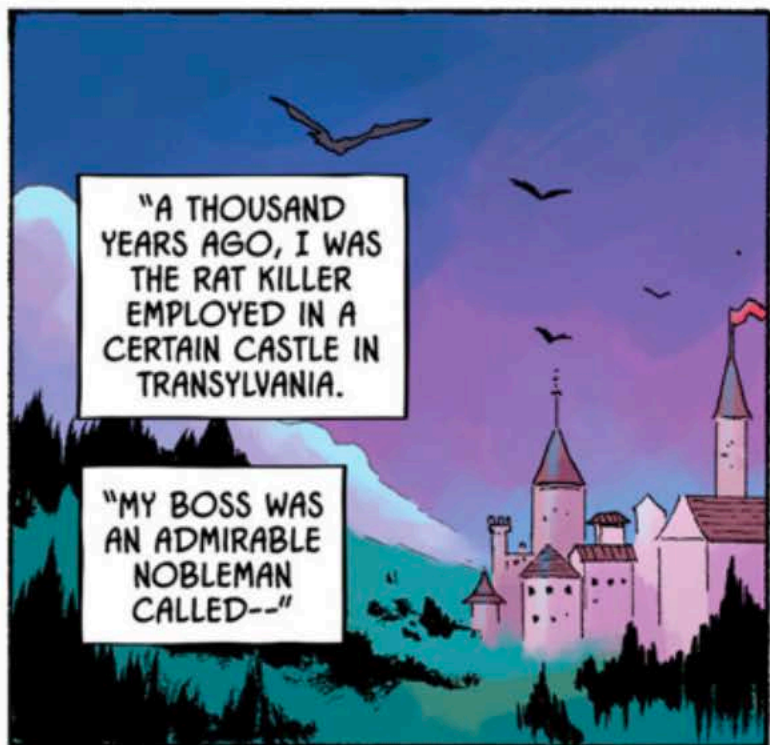
SINCE YOU
ASK, DEAR POET,
I AM HAPPY TO OBLIGE.
TRAVEL WITH ME, BACK,
BACK IN TIME. THIS IS
HOW IT CAME
TO PASS...



MONSTERS?

Cats are hunters, but they're not monsters—they're just doing what comes naturally. Cat owners are responsible for their pets' behavior, indoors and out, just as with dogs.

Read more at www.catsandbirds.ca



"A THOUSAND YEARS AGO, I WAS THE RAT KILLER EMPLOYED IN A CERTAIN CASTLE IN TRANSYLVANIA."

"MY BOSS WAS AN ADMIRABLE NOBLEMAN CALLED--"



LET ME GUESS! *COUNT DRACULA?*

HOW DID YOU KNOW?

I READ THE COMIC OF IT.

YOU'RE SUCH A *NERD*.

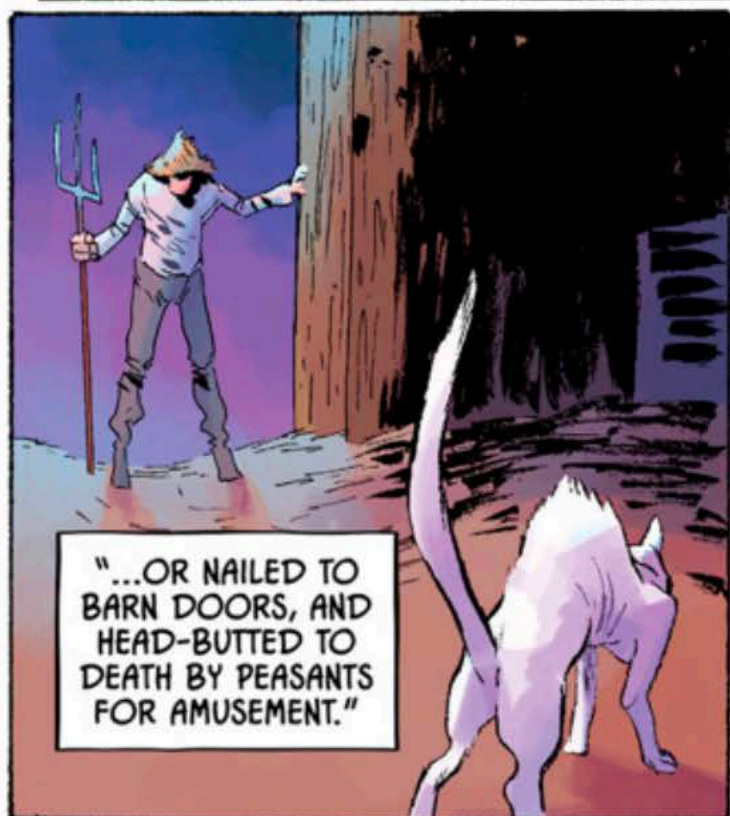


ONLY A THOUSAND YEARS AGO?

YES. MEDIEVAL TIMES. NOT GOOD FOR CATS.



"BLACK CATS WERE KILLED AS DEMONS. SOME CATS WERE BURNT AS WITCHES' FAMILIARS..."



"...OR NAILED TO BARN DOORS, AND HEAD-BUTTED TO DEATH BY PEASANTS FOR AMUSEMENT."



IT WAS BEFORE TELEVISION-- WHAT CAN I SAY? I WAS LUCKY TO HAVE A JOB.

ONLY A THOUSAND YEARS...OH COUNT, YOU'RE A MERE CHILD! I'M MUCH MORE ANCIENT THAN THAT! THREE THOUSAND YEARS AT LEAST!

DEAR LADY, YOU DON'T LOOK A DAY OVER A THOUSAND!



TOO KIND!

SMOCH

TELL US, FASCINATING MUMMY-CAT--HOW ANCIENT, EXACTLY? I FEEL A POEM COMING ON...

IN DAYS OF YORE, TO EGYPT'S SHORE...

CATS, THE DAUNTLESS MOUSERS, CAME... ♪

♪ AND RATS THEY SLEW...

♪ LOTS MORE THAN A FEW...

AND WON IMMORTAL FAME... ♪

THIS MAYBE WOULD SOUND BETTER IN RUSSIAN.



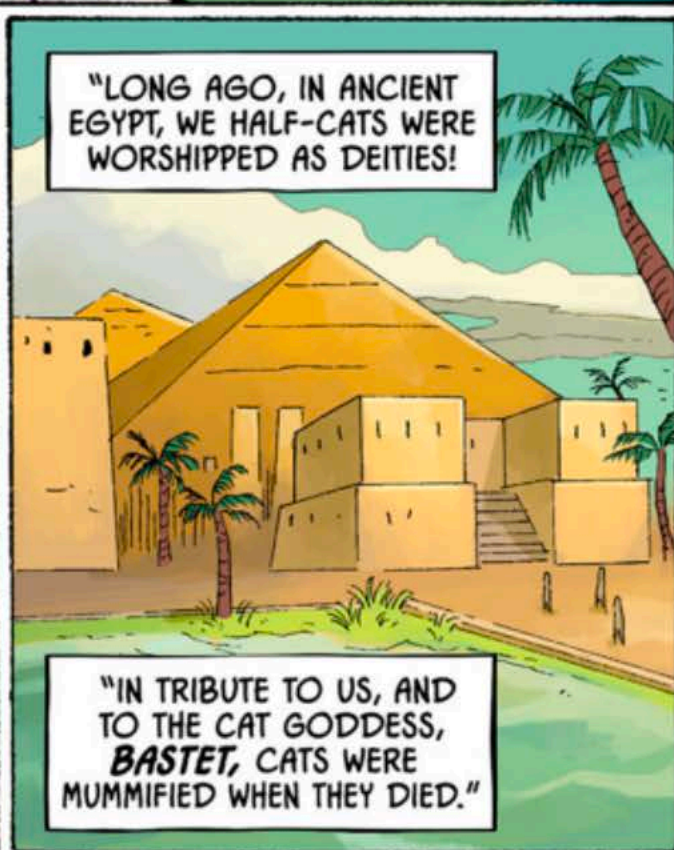
TO SATISFY YOUR CURIOSITY...

WHICH KILLED THE CAT...



"LONG AGO, IN ANCIENT EGYPT, WE HALF-CATS WERE WORSHIPPED AS DEITIES!

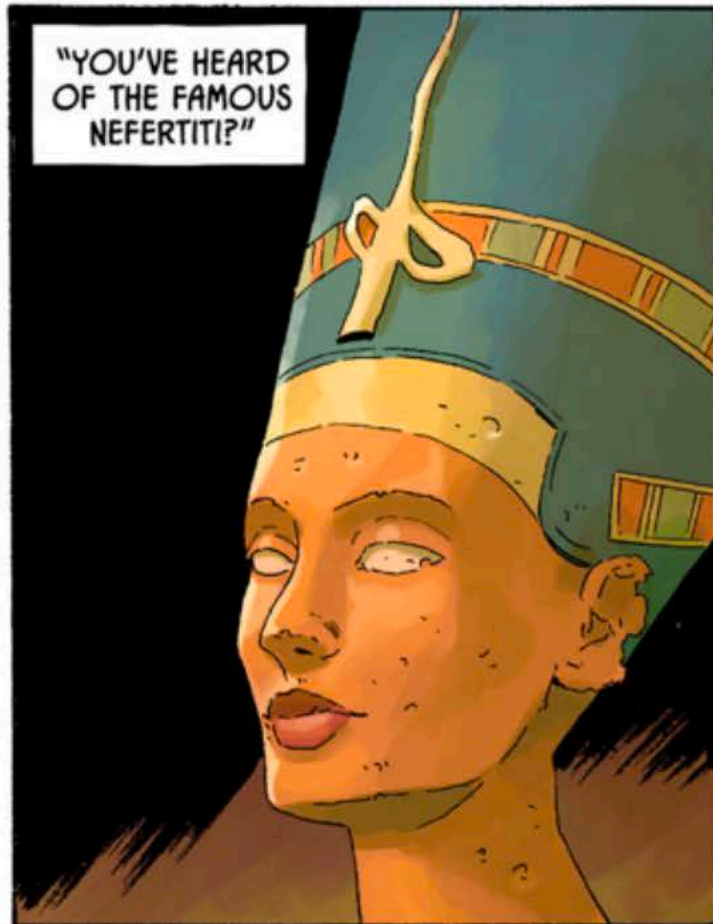
"IN TRIBUTE TO US, AND TO THE CAT GODDESS, **BASTET**, CATS WERE MUMMIFIED WHEN THEY DIED."





I, OF COURSE,
WAS ORIGINALLY A
QUEEN. I'M SURE
YOU CAN TELL.

A QUEEN?
REALLY? WHICH
ONE?



"YOU'VE HEARD
OF THE FAMOUS
NEFERTITI?"



YES--
SO?

HER TOMB
HAS NEVER
BEEN FOUND.
THAT'S BECAUSE
I WAS NEVER
ENTOMBED.



OR ENTOMBED
FOR LONG.
AS SUCH.

DEAR
LADY, I
KNOW THE
FEELING.

TOMBS. SO
CLAUSTROPHOBIC.



EXCUSE ME--
YOU ARE QUEEN
NEFERTITI?



THERE WAS A TRANSLATION ERROR. THE EGYPTOLOGISTS GOT IT WRONG. IT SHOULD BE... NEFERKITTI.

NO WAY!



YES, THE ROYAL HALF-CAT QUEEN, NEFERKITTI! I WAS RENOWNED FOR MY GRACE AND BEAUTY!

YEAH? AND THEN WHAT HAPPENED?



LADIES, DEAR LADIES! WE MUST NOT BE CATTY!



BUT WE **ARE** CATS!

YES. WHAT'S WRONG WITH CATTY?

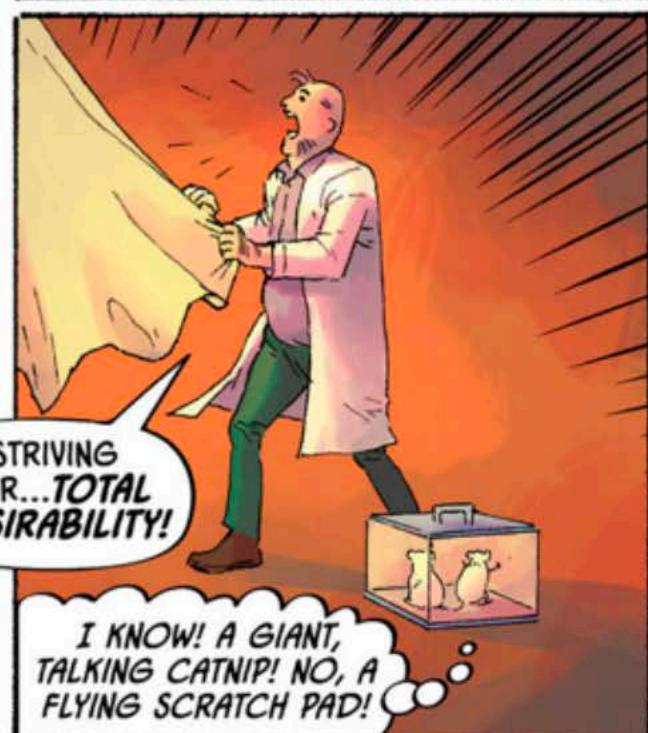
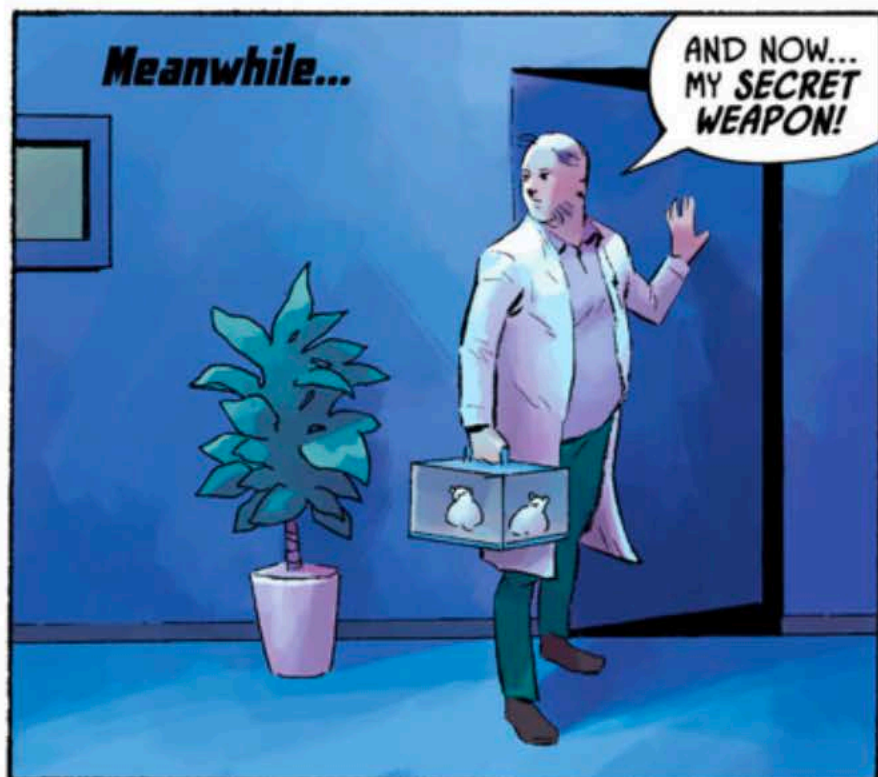
I HATE IT THE WAY THAT WORD GETS USED AS A NEGATIVE!

I KNOW, RIGHT?



"I DO APOLOGIZE. BUT I BELIEVE I WAS TELLING MY STORY! AS I WAS SAYING..."

"A THOUSAND YEARS AGO, THERE I WAS, A HAPPY CAT, GOING ABOUT MY OFFICIAL DUTIES IN TRANSYLVANIA, WHEN..."



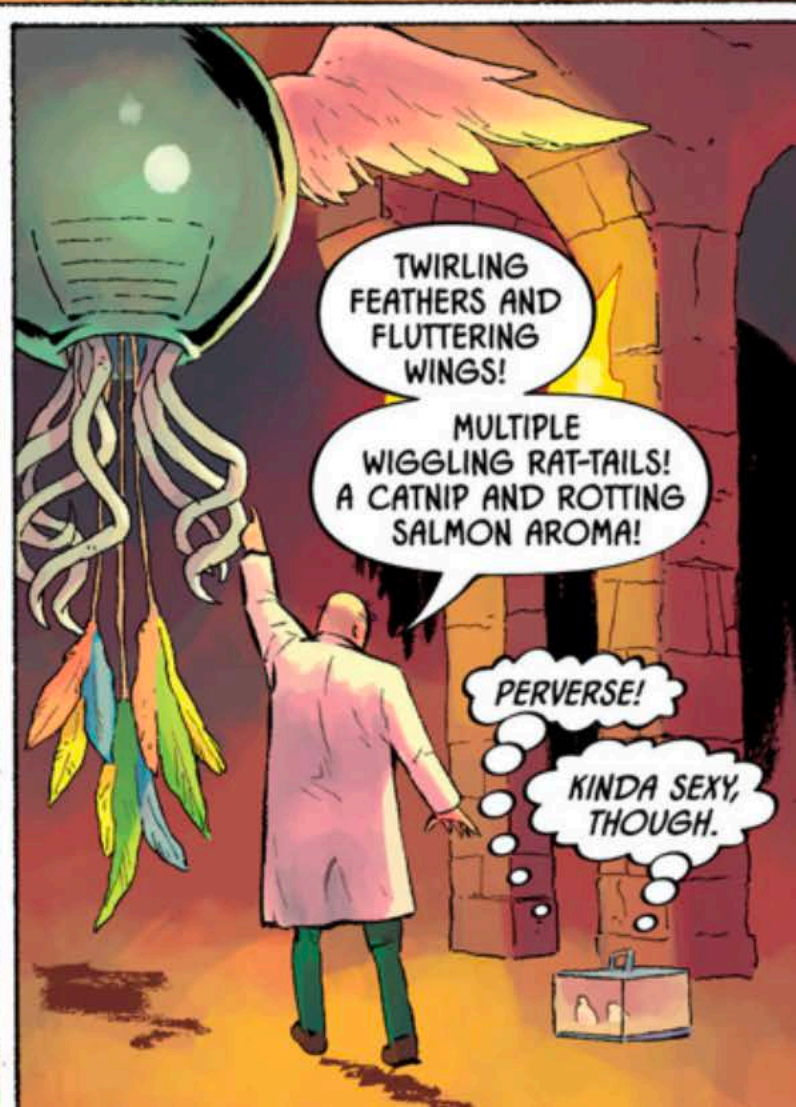


BEHOLD!
THE DRAT!



MY
DRONE
RAT!

EEEK! IT'S
FRANKENRAT!



TWIRLING
FEATHERS AND
FLUTTERING
WINGS!

MULTIPLE
WIGGLING RAT-TAILS!
A CATNIP AND ROTTING
SALMON AROMA!

PERVERSE!

KINDA SEXY,
THOUGH.



...AND
CONCEALED
MISSILE-FIRING
POWERS!



IT'S THE
ULTIMATE CAT
TOY! ONCE THEY
SEE THE DRAT, IT'S
THE LAST THING
THOSE CATS
WILL SEE!

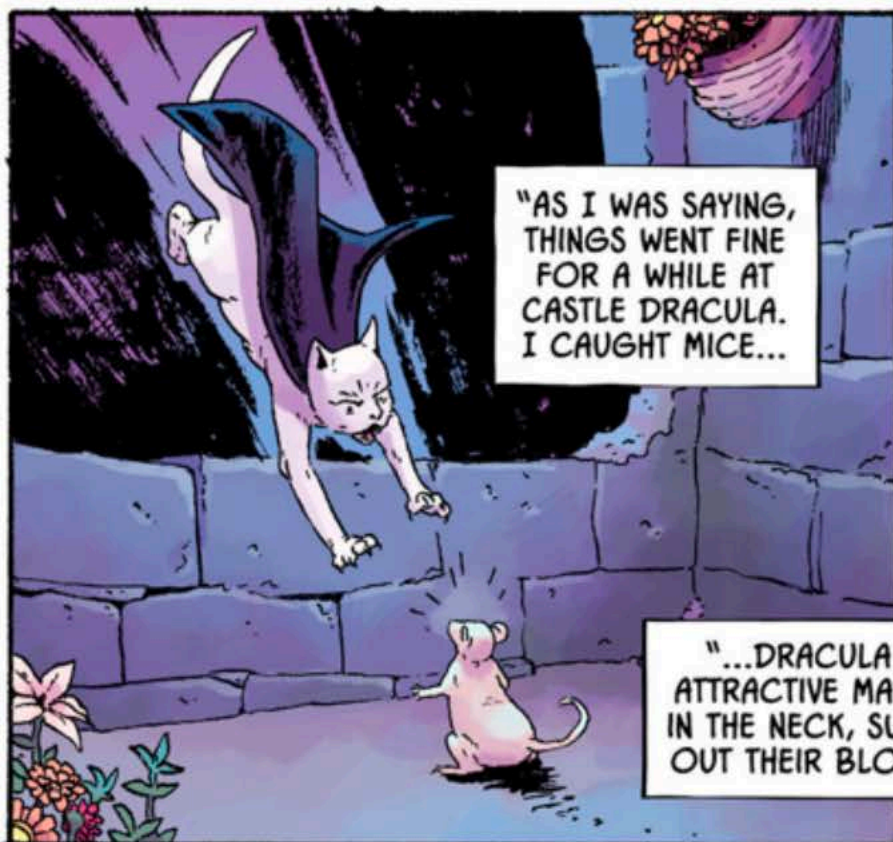


THE *DRAT*
IS IRRESISTIBLE!
ALL CATS *MUST*
CHASE IT!

I CAN'T
LOOK! TELL ME
WHEN THIS PART
IS OVER!

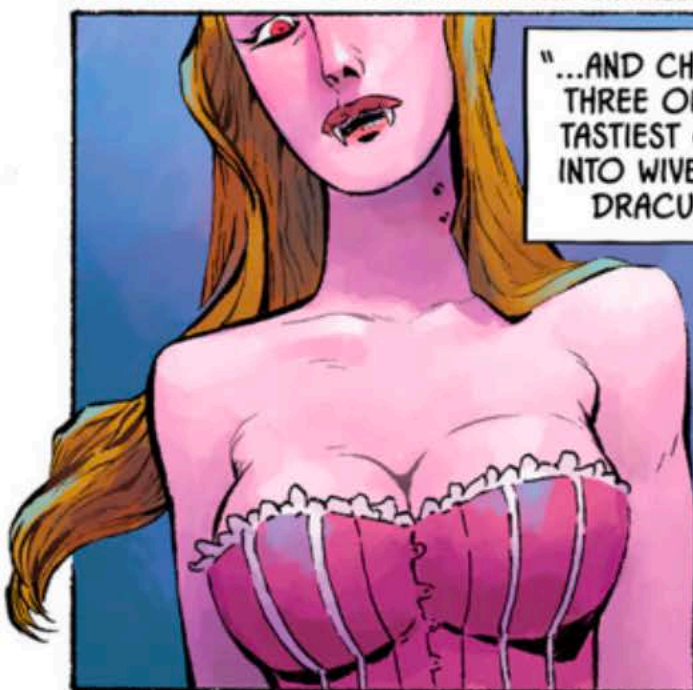
WHEN THE TIME IS RIGHT, I'LL
LURE THE FLYING FURBALL
TO HIS *DOOM*! *SQUEE-
HEE-HEE!*





"AS I WAS SAYING,
THINGS WENT FINE
FOR A WHILE AT
CASTLE DRACULA.
I CAUGHT MICE...

"...DRACULA BIT
ATTRACTIVE MAIDENS
IN THE NECK, SUCKED
OUT THEIR BLOOD...



"...AND CHANGED
THREE OF THE
TASTIEST ONES
INTO WIVES OF
DRACULA.



"BUT THEN TIMES GOT
TOUGH. DRACULA HAD
USED UP ALL THE MAIDENS
IN THE AREA, AND HE WAS
GETTING HUNGRY.

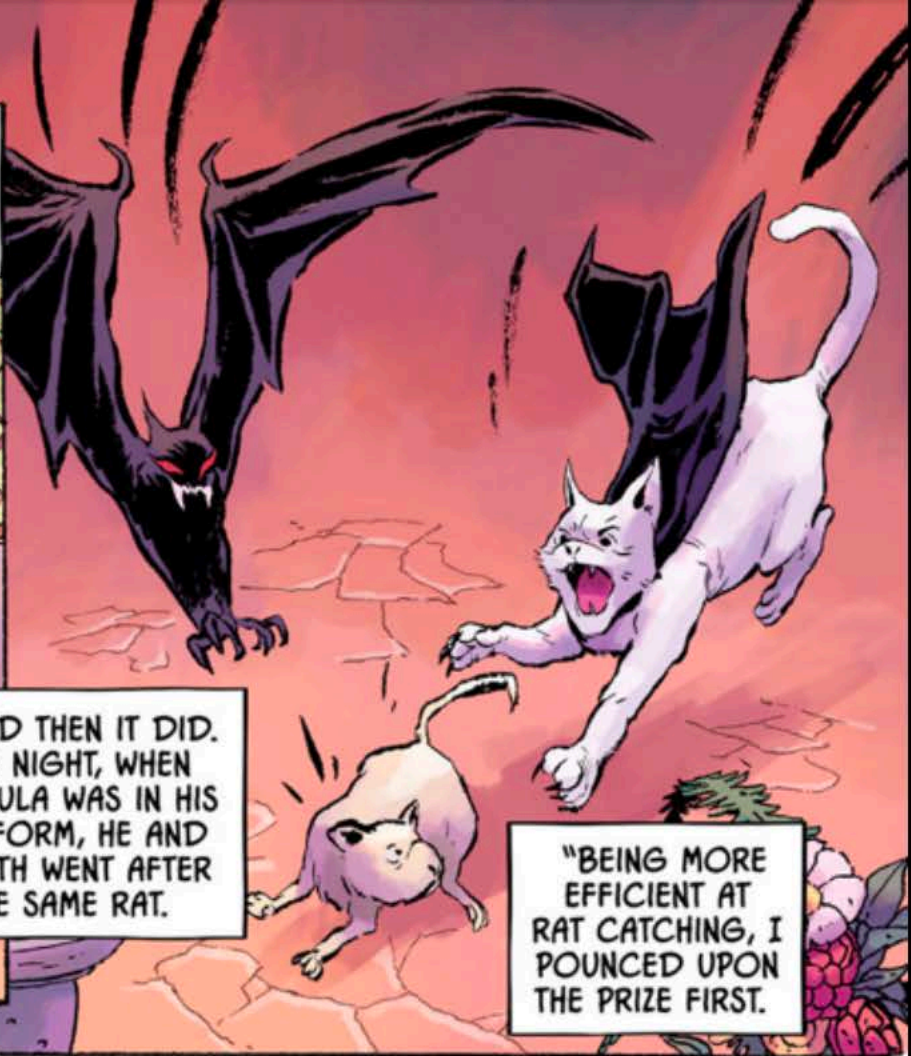


"HE STARTED POACHING
ON MY TERRITORY: MICE
AND RATS. WHEREAS I MYSELF
HAD NEVER SET A PAW ON
HIS TERRITORY: MAIDENS.

"THE WIVES WERE GIVING HIM A HARD TIME AS WELL, BECAUSE HE WAS FAILING TO BRING HOME THE BACON, SO TO SPEAK. YOU COULD SEE IT WAS GOING TO END IN TEARS...



"...AND THEN IT DID. ONE NIGHT, WHEN DRACULA WAS IN HIS BAT FORM, HE AND I BOTH WENT AFTER THE SAME RAT.



"BEING MORE EFFICIENT AT RAT CATCHING, I POUNCED UPON THE PRIZE FIRST.

"THERE WAS A SCUFFLE, AND DRACULA LOST CONTROL OF HIMSELF. YOU CAN'T BLAME HIM--HE WAS HUNGRY.



WELL, ONE CASTLE WAS NOT BIG ENOUGH TO HOLD THE TWO OF US. I NEEDED MY OWN CASTLE. I ALSO WANTED MY OWN WIVES.



NO HARD FEELINGS, BUT NATURALLY I DECAMPED, AND SET UP SHOP ELSEWHERE. AT CASTLE CATULA, WHERE I TRUST I WILL SOON BE ABLE TO--

mew
mew

WHAT'S THAT PITIFUL SOUND?



"NEXT THING I KNEW, I WAS AN UNDEAD CAT WITH BAT AND HUMAN ATTRIBUTES."





CAT ABANDON

Cats may behave with abandon, but cat abandonment is animal cruelty and contributes to the feral cat population. Abandoning an animal is illegal in Canada and most states in the US. Take any unwanted cats to a shelter, and get your new cat there, too!

Read more at www.catsandbirds.ca



"MY FIRST SISTER WAS KILLED BY RACCOONS..."



"MY SECOND SISTER DIED OF A TERRIBLE DISEASE..."



"MY FIRST BROTHER DIED OF PARASITES AND MAGGOTS..."



"MY SECOND BROTHER WAS EATEN BY FOXES..."



NOW I'M THE ONLY ONE LEFT! BOO-HOO! MEW MEW!



THAT'S WHAT HAPPENS! MOST OF THOSE DUMPED KITTENS SUFFER HORRIBLY, AND THEN DIE MISERABLE DEATHS! CATS ARE NOT A NATIVE SPECIES!



KITTEN DUMPING. THERE OUGHTA BE A LAW AGAINST IT!

YEAH! WE THOUGHT WE HAD IT BAD, LIVING ON THE STREETS...THIS IS WORSE!

AT LEAST IN THE CITY, SOME PEOPLE FED US!



SOME OF THEM SURVIVE, AND GO FERAL...AND HAVE KITTENS...

BUT IF ANOTHER FERAL TOM COMES ALONG, HE'LL KILL THOSE KITTENS TO MAKE SURE THE NEXT BATCH ARE HIS.

I WANT MY MOTHER! MEW!

WHAT CAN WE DO TO HELP THIS LITTLE FELLOW? ANYONE GOT THE SKILLS?

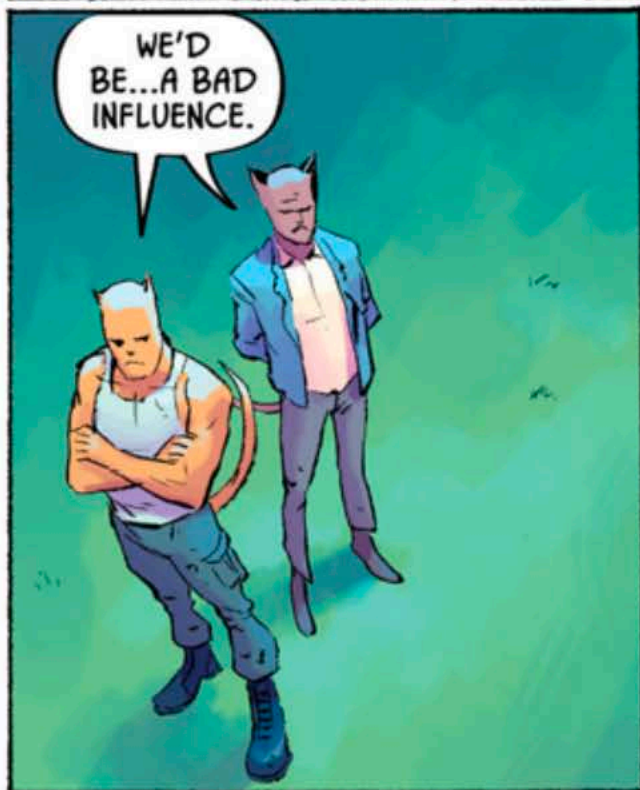


DON'T LOOK AT ME. I'D BE USELESS DURING THE DAY. BESIDES WHICH, I MIGHT GET HUNGRY. NOT THAT I'M A KITTEN EATER. AS A RULE.

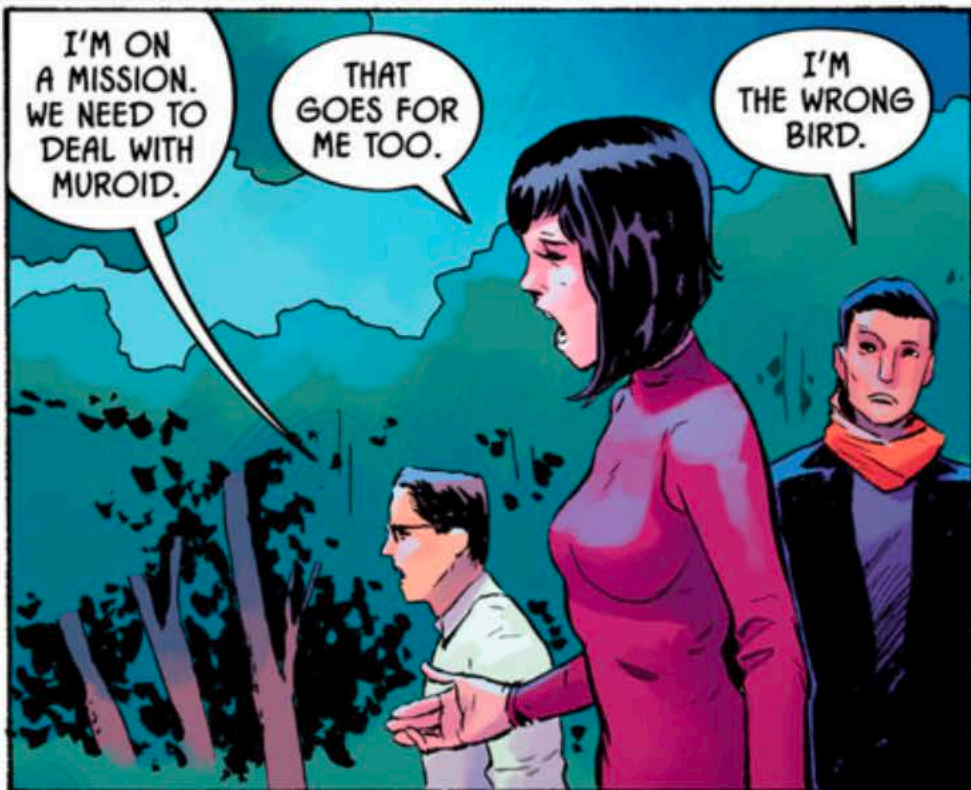


I'M NOT THE MOTHERLY TYPE.

THAT IS FULLY EVIDENT. NEITHER AM I.



WE'D BE...A BAD INFLUENCE.



I'M ON A MISSION. WE NEED TO DEAL WITH MUROID.

THAT GOES FOR ME TOO.

I'M THE WRONG BIRD.

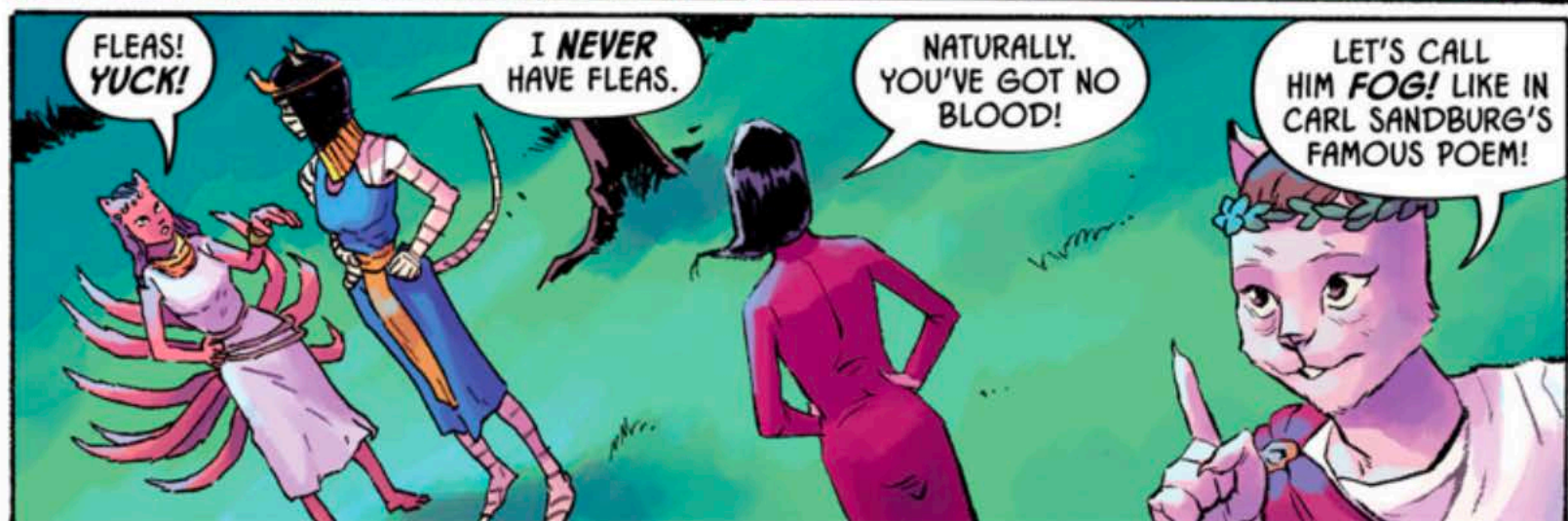


I'D DO IT, BUT I ALREADY HAVE THE MUMMYKITTENS.

ANYWAY, I'M A BIT DRIED OUT.



HERE, LITTLE HALF-CAT--I'LL ADOPT YOU. I'LL CARRY YOU IN MY APRON.



Back at Muroid's lab...

NOW, TO
SEE HOW MY
DAUNTLESS
MURINES ARE
DOING.

AHA!
THEY'VE
SNIFFED OUT
THE TRAIL!



THEY'LL PICK THEM
OFF ONE BY ONE. OR
AT LEAST DELAY THEM.
UNTIL I CAN POWER UP
THE DRAT FOR FULL
FLIGHT!

**FORWARD,
THE MURINES!
ATTAAACK!**





DON'T
LOOK, MY
FURRY
MUFFIN!

POETRY IN
ACTION!

WHAK

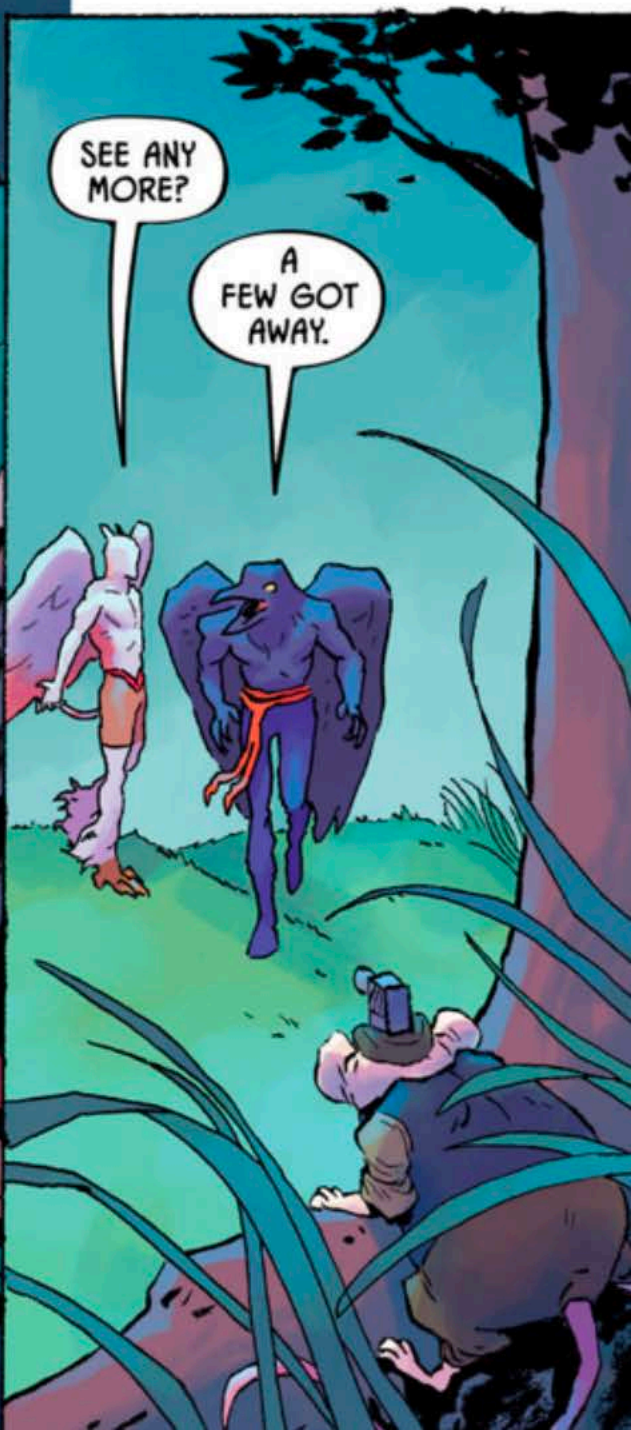
YOWL!

POUNCE

PECK

GURK!

SQUEEEZE





CATACLYSM!
ARE YOU ALL
RIGHT?

...DIDN'T
SEE THEM
COMING...



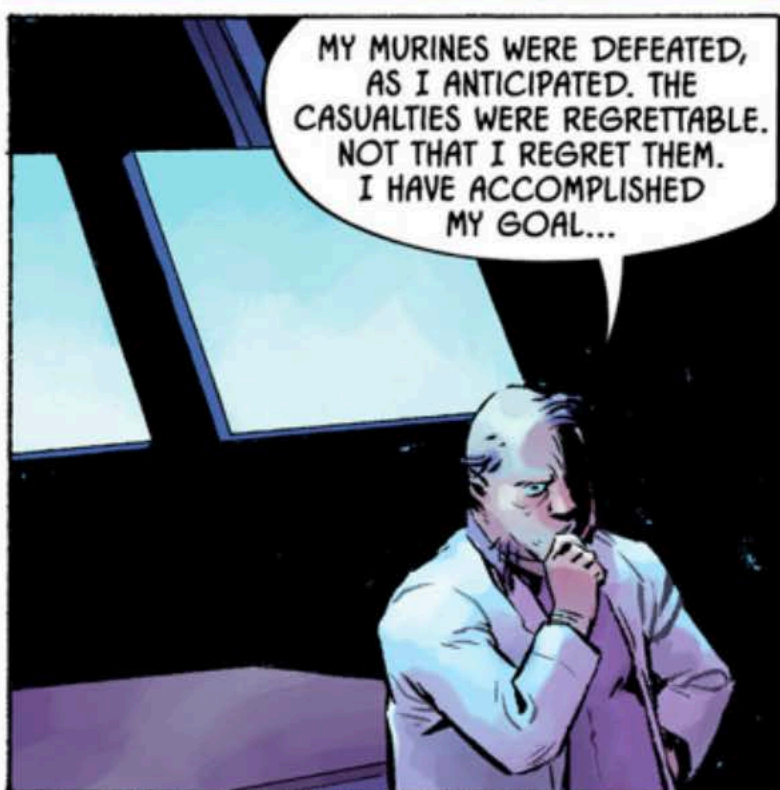
VICTORY IS OURS,
MY YOUNG FRIENDS!
THIS CALLS FOR A
CELEBRATION...



AND WE'LL HAVE
ONE AS SOON
AS WE REACH
CASTLE CATULA!
WHICH WE'D
BETTER DO SOON,
OR I'M A DUST
BUNNY! QUICK
MARCH!

WONDER WHAT'S
HAPPENED TO
ATHEEN-OWL?
SHE SHOULD'VE
BEEN BACK
BY NOW.

OWLS.
SELF-CENTERED.
CAN'T DEPEND
ON THEM.



MY MURINES WERE DEFEATED,
AS I ANTICIPATED. THE
CASUALTIES WERE REGRETTABLE.
NOT THAT I REGRET THEM.
I HAVE ACCOMPLISHED
MY GOAL...



THOSE FOOLS THINK IT'S
OVER! THEY'VE BEEN DUPED
INTO A FALSE SENSE OF
SECURITY!

LITTLE DO
THEY KNOW WHAT
AWAITS THEM WHEN
I UNLEASH...THE
DRAT!

SQUEE-
HEE-HEE!



HOOTY-
HOOT-HOOT! *

*"CALLING ALL
OWLS AND HALF-OWLS!
URGENT! URGENT!"



HOOOT...

HOOOTY-HOOT...

HOOT-
HOOT...



THIS BETTER BE
GOOD.

I MISSED
A REALLY BIG
MOUSE FOR
THIS.



MY FELLOW OWLS
AND HALF-OWLS,
WHAT I AM ABOUT TO
TELL YOU IS STRANGE
INDEED, BUT THE SAD
TRUTH IS: THE
WORLD OF HALF-
CATS NEEDS OUR
HELP.





ATHEEN-OWL...
WHAT MAGIC
MOUSEROOMS
HAVE YOU BEEN
EATING? YOU'RE
HALLUCINATING!

WE
DON'T
BELIEVE
YOU!



DESPERATE FOR
ATTENTION.

WITH HER,
EVERYTHING'S
A CRISIS.

NOT THAT
I'M FOND OF
RATS, EXCEPT AS
APPETIZERS.



NO,
REALLY! IT'S
NO JOKE!

IF THIS
RAT GUY GETS
HIS WAY, YOU'LL
NEVER HATCH AN
EGG *AGAIN!*
YOU'LL ALL BE
RAT FOOD! OWLS
WILL CEASE
TO EXIST!



ENOUGH WITH THE
APOCALYPSE.

YEAH.

FAIRY
TALES.

WHO
EVER HEARD
OF A TALKING
RAT?



DINNERS DON'T
TALK, THEY ONLY
SCREAM!

HA HAA HA!



BLIND AS AN OWL! WHAT CAN I SAY TO CHANGE YOUR MINDS?



AT LEAST COME WITH ME AND SEE FOR YOURSELVES! IF YOU DARE!

WHOOOSH



ALL RIGHT, IF YOU INSIST.

AND IF IT WON'T TAKE TOO LONG. I'M HUNGRY.



IT'LL HELP PASS THE TIME.

IT WOULD HAVE PASSED ANYWAY.



Back in the woods...

ALMOST
THERE!
JUST OVER
THIS HILL!

BEHOLD!
BATHED IN
THE MOONLIGHT!
MY PRIDE AND
JOY!

REALLY?
THAT'S IT?

IT LOOKS
LIKE A HEAP
OF RUINS!

BUMMER.

BRIGHT SIDE:
WHEN I THINK
RUINS, I THINK
MICE.

PILE OF RUINS TO
THE UNINITIATED, BUT
SUMPTUOUS PALACE
TO THOSE WHO HAVE
BEEN GIVEN THE SIGHT
TO SEE. PLEASE! BE
MY GUESTS!

IN
THE NAME
OF TZINACAN,
THE BAT GOD,
I GRANT YOU
BAT VISION!
BEHOLD...

"CASTLE
CATULA!"



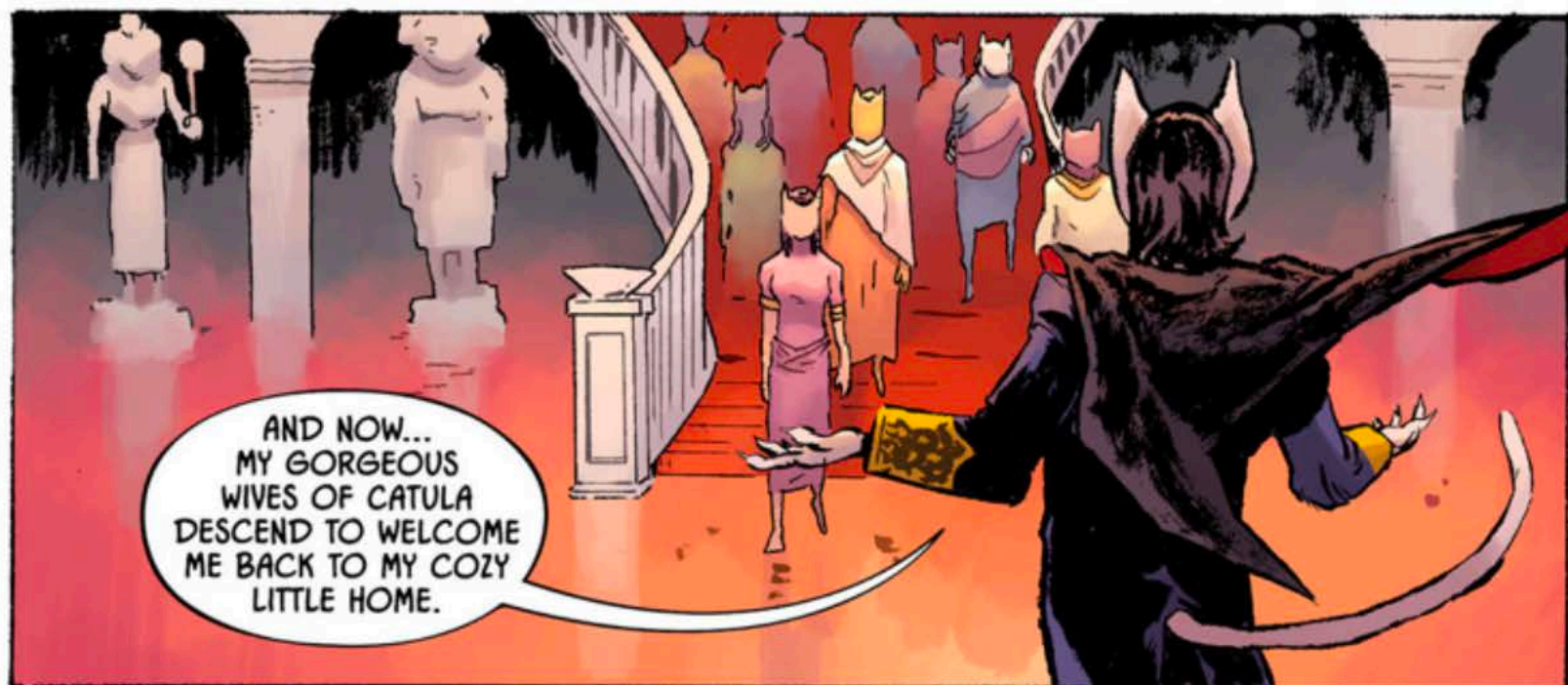


SAFE OUTDOOR CATS!

Cat enclosures, "catios," and cat walkways are all wonderful ways to let your cat enjoy the great outdoors without exposing it to the dangers of free roaming. From luxury models to DIY projects, there's a solution for every budget! Read more at www.catsandbirds.ca









UM, HOW
COME YOU
HAVE SO MANY
WIVES? EVEN
DRACULA ONLY
HAD THREE.

HE
WAS RATHER
STINGY. I, ON
THE OTHER HAND, AM
GENEROUS WITH MY
AFFECTIONS.



I LIKE TO TRAVEL,
AND WHEN I TRAVEL,
I SPLURGE. I GET
CARRIED AWAY.
THEY JUST KIND OF
ACCUMULATE. SOME
MEN COLLECT
STAMPS.

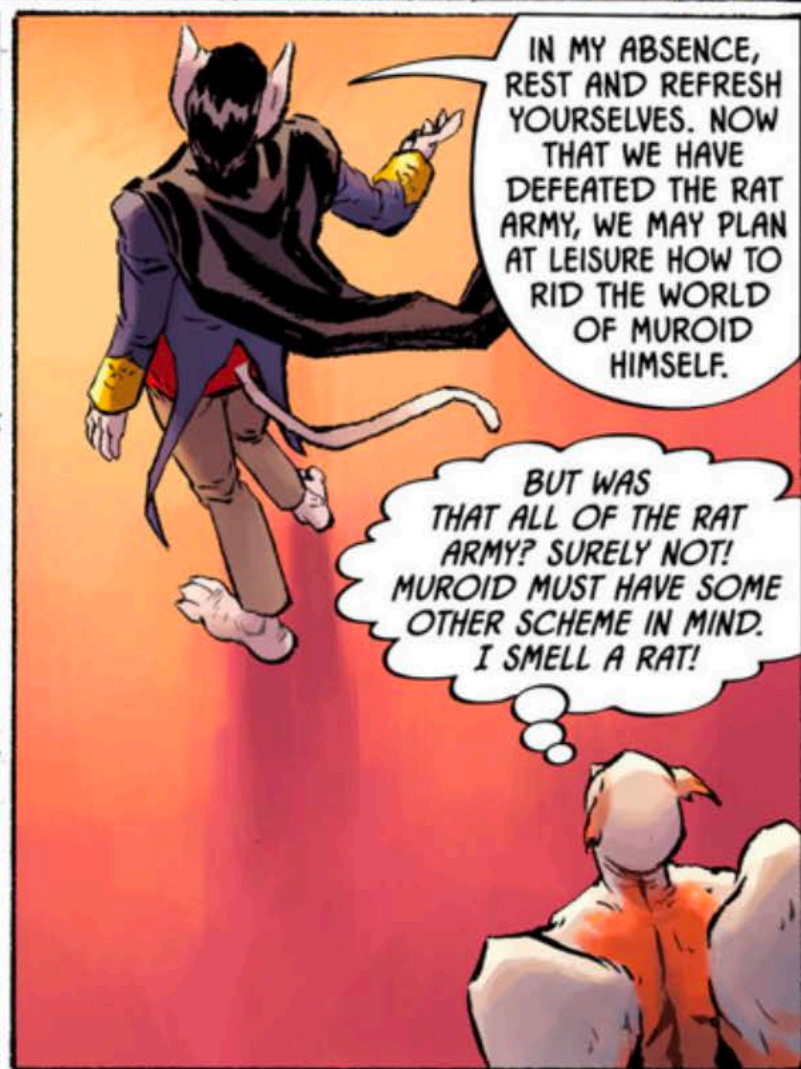


AS WILLIAM BLAKE SAID,
"THE ROAD OF EXCESS
LEADS TO THE PALACE
OF WISDOM." AND AS
OSCAR WILDE SAID...
"I CAN RESIST
ANYTHING EXCEPT
TEMPTATION."



WOW,
YOU MUST HAVE
READ A LOT OF
BOOKS!

DEAR LADY, I'VE
BEEN READING FOR
A LONG, LONG TIME.
IT HELPS PUT ME TO
SLEEP. SPEAKING OF
WHICH, IT'S NIGHT-
NIGHT FOR ME. OR
RATHER, DAY-
DAY.



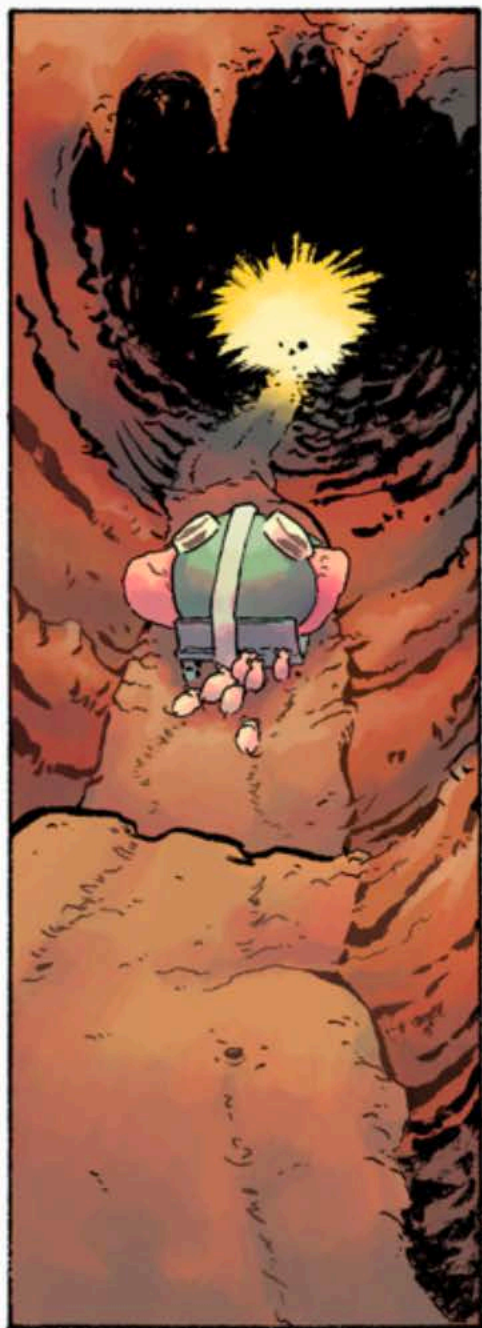
IN MY ABSENCE,
REST AND REFRESH
YOURSELVES. NOW
THAT WE HAVE
DEFEATED THE RAT
ARMY, WE MAY PLAN
AT LEISURE HOW TO
RID THE WORLD
OF MUROID
HIMSELF.

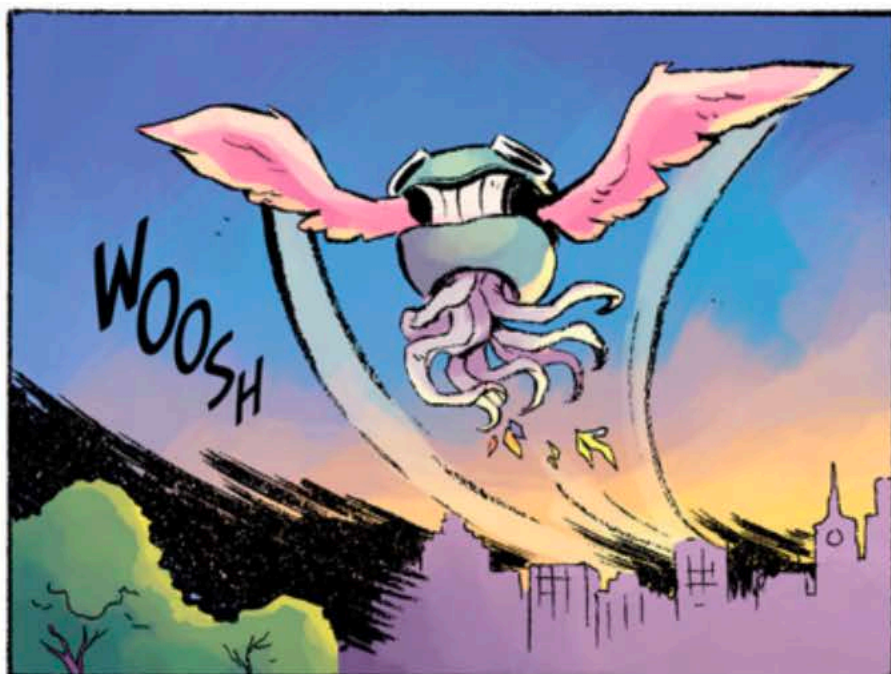
BUT WAS
THAT ALL OF THE RAT
ARMY? SURELY NOT!
MUROID MUST HAVE SOME
OTHER SCHEME IN MIND.
I SMELL A RAT!



...THEN PICK THEM OFF WHEN THEY COME RUNNING...AND ENTICE THE CATBIRD! I FAILED WITH THE VILE SHE-CAT THE FIRST TIME, BUT THERE'S MORE THAN ONE WAY TO SKIN A CAT. USE HER TO LURE HIM, USE HIM TO LURE HER--SAME DIFFERENCE! I'LL GET THAT GENE-SPLICER FORMULA YET!





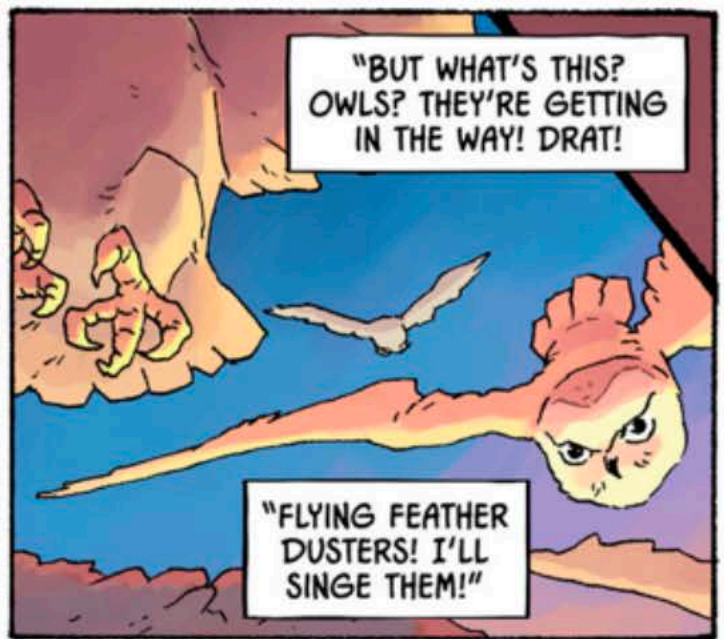






HERE HE
COMES, THE
IDIOT!

SQUEE-
HEE!



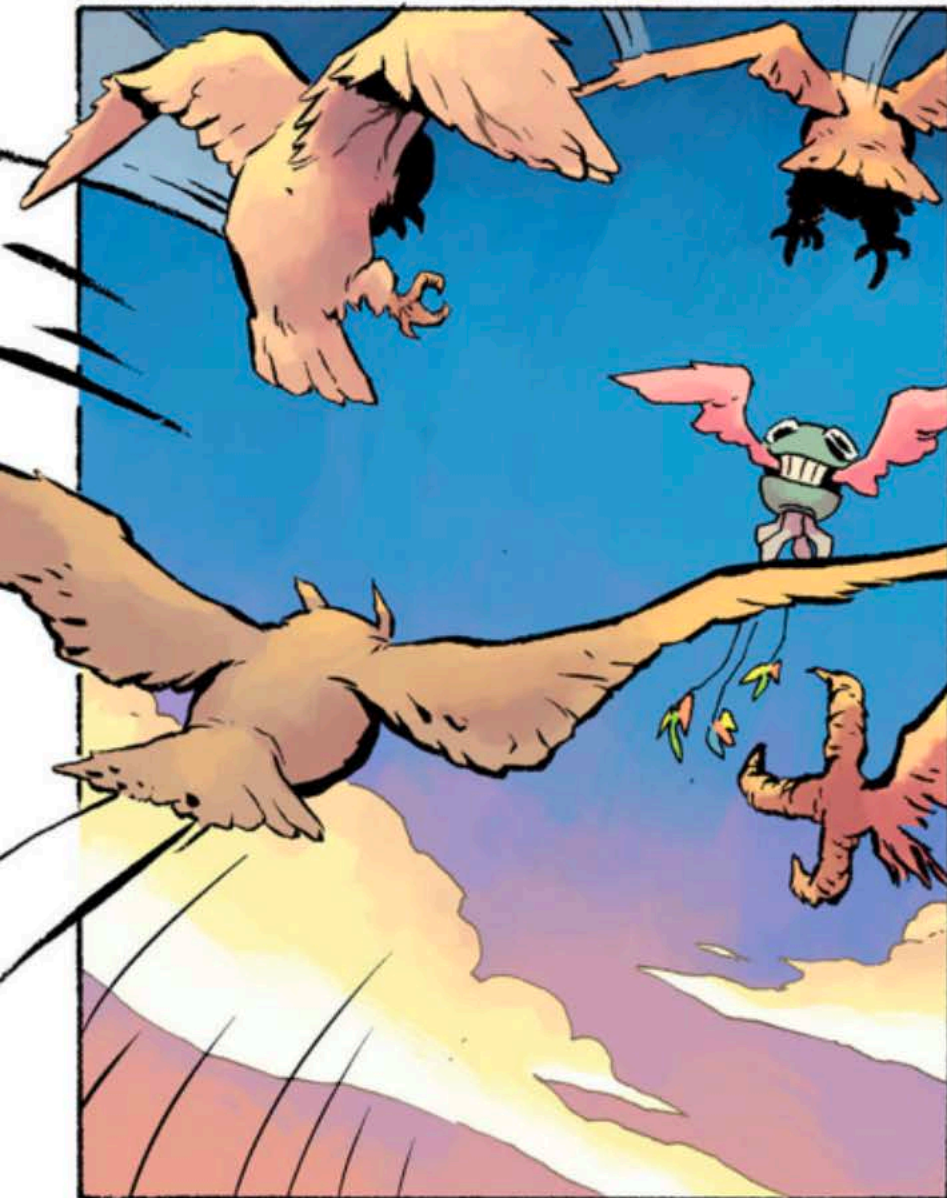
"BUT WHAT'S THIS?
OWLS? THEY'RE GETTING
IN THE WAY! DRAT!

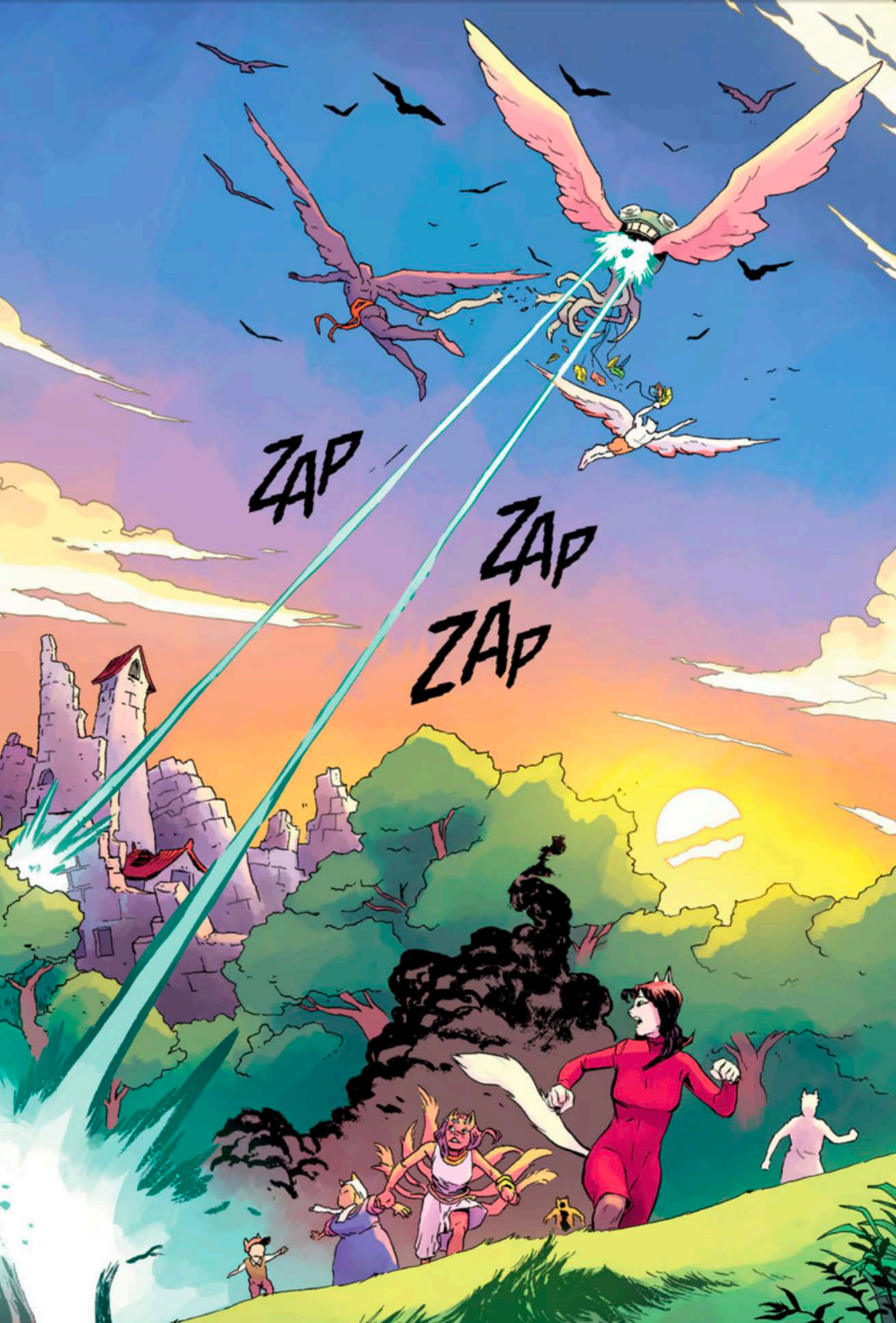
"FLYING FEATHER
DUSTERS! I'LL
SINGE THEM!"

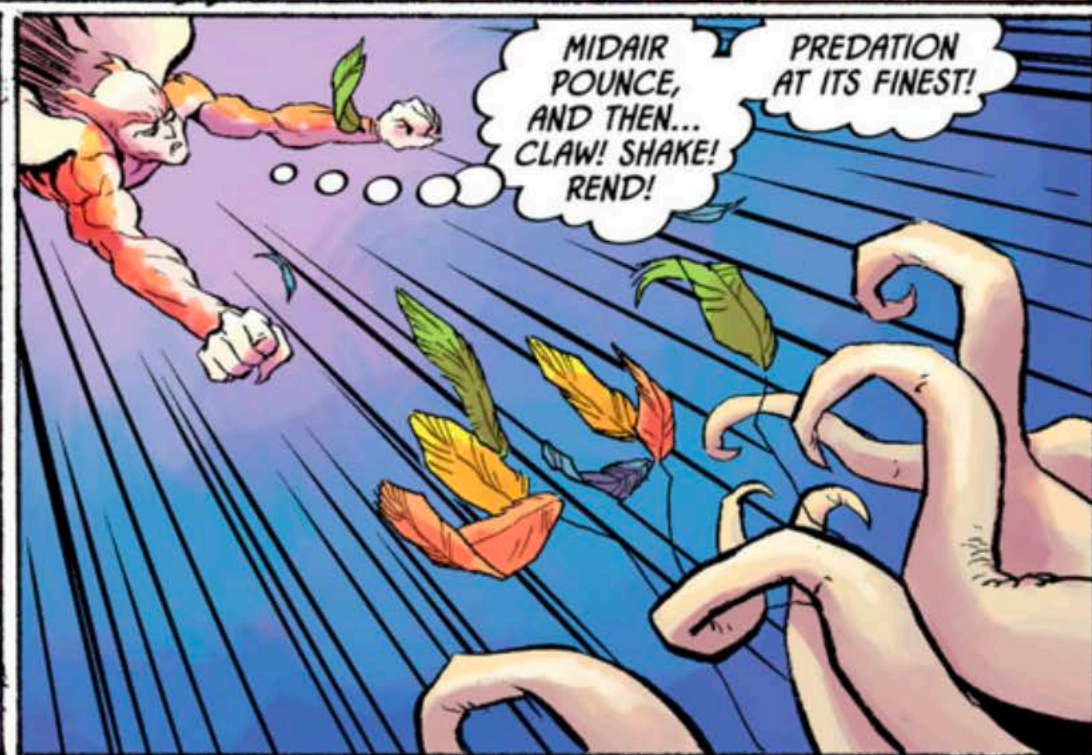
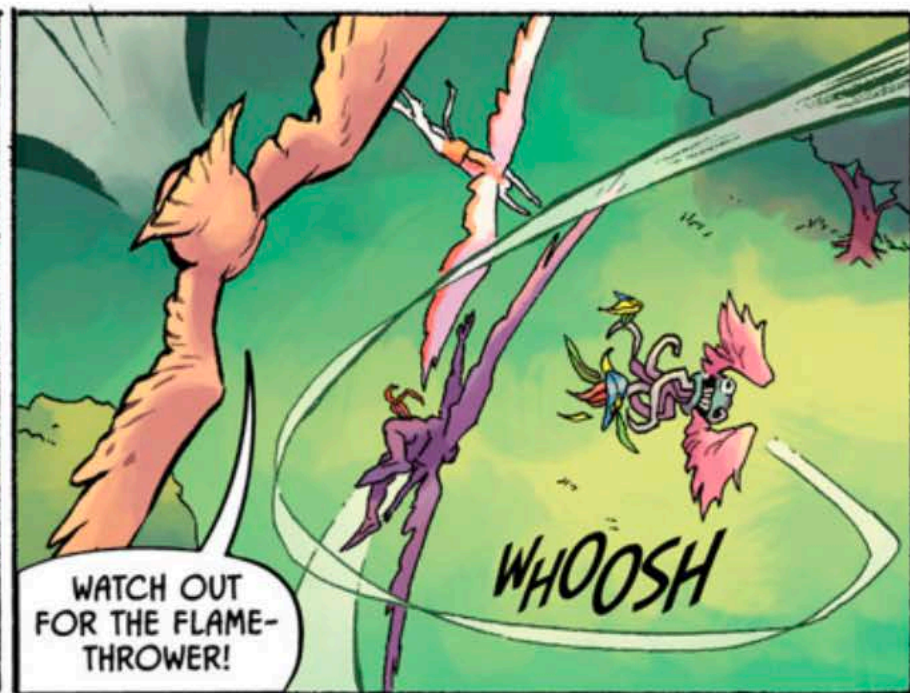


ATHEEN-OWL!
YOU'RE BACK!
JUST IN TIME!

LET'S TAKE
THIS THING OUT
OF THE AIR! OWL
SQUADRON!
ATTACK!

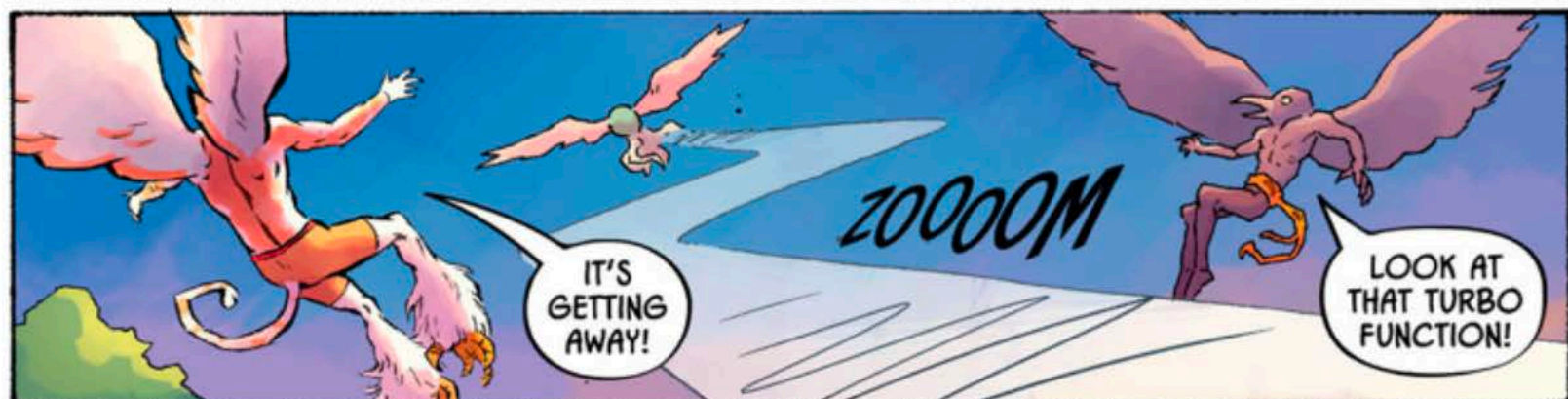
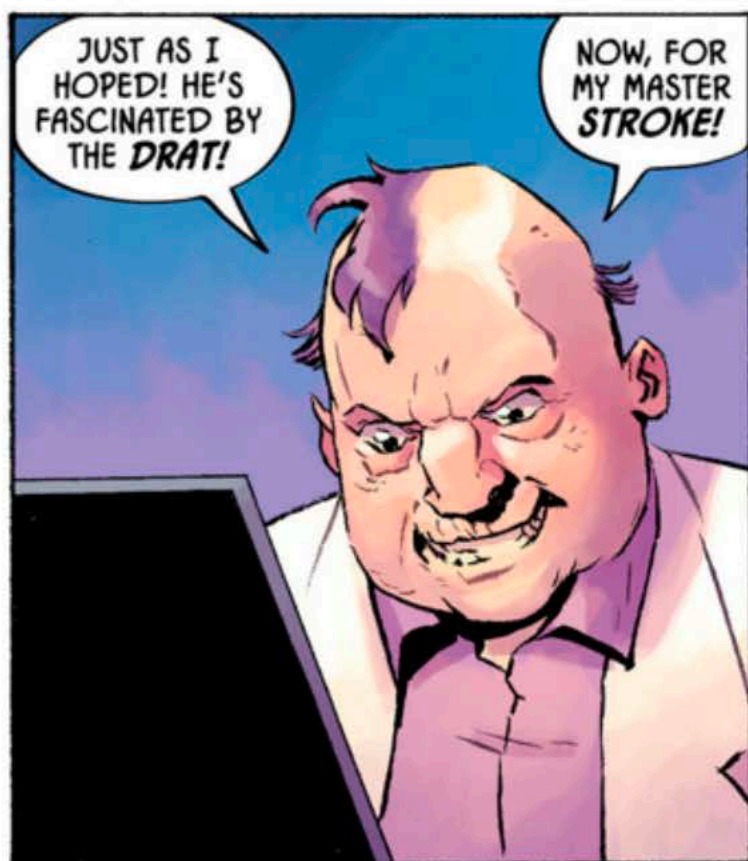






PLAY WITH FOOD . . . OR FOOD FOR PLAY?

Pet cats hunt for stimulation, not food. Get them toys that imitate their favorite prey and you can keep them safely entertained without the risk to local birds and wildlife! Read more at www.catsandbirds.ca



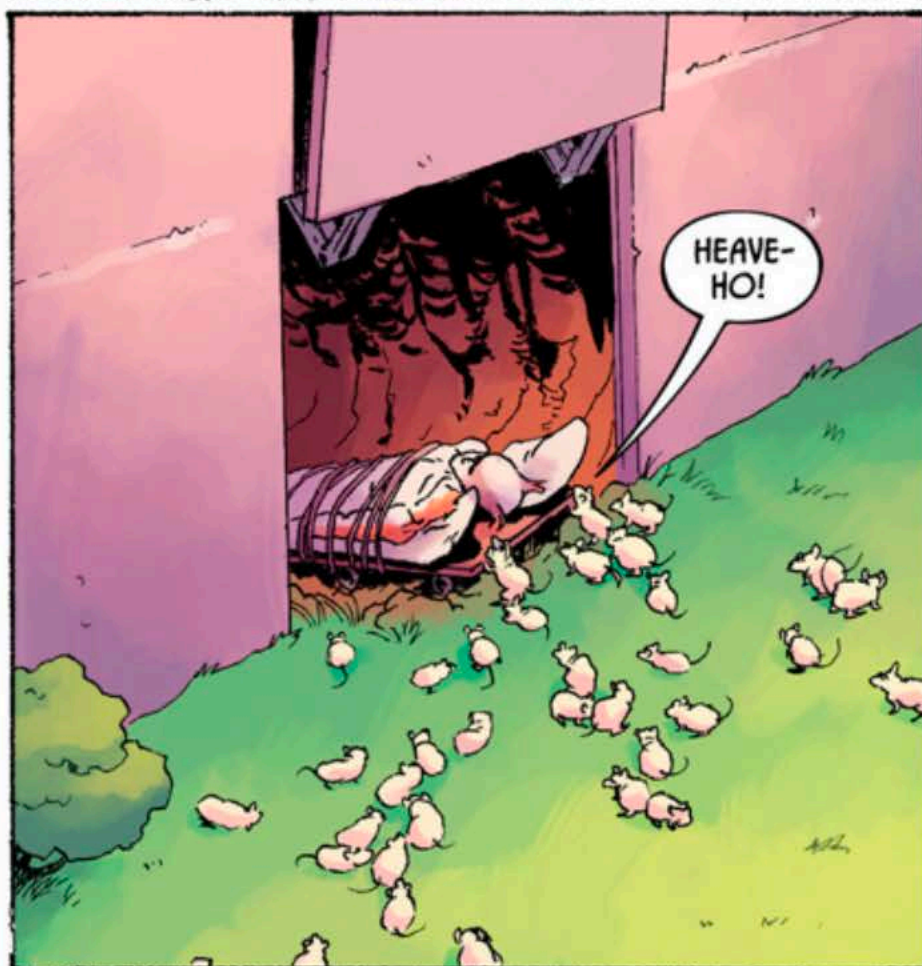




GLASS, INVISIBLE GLASS

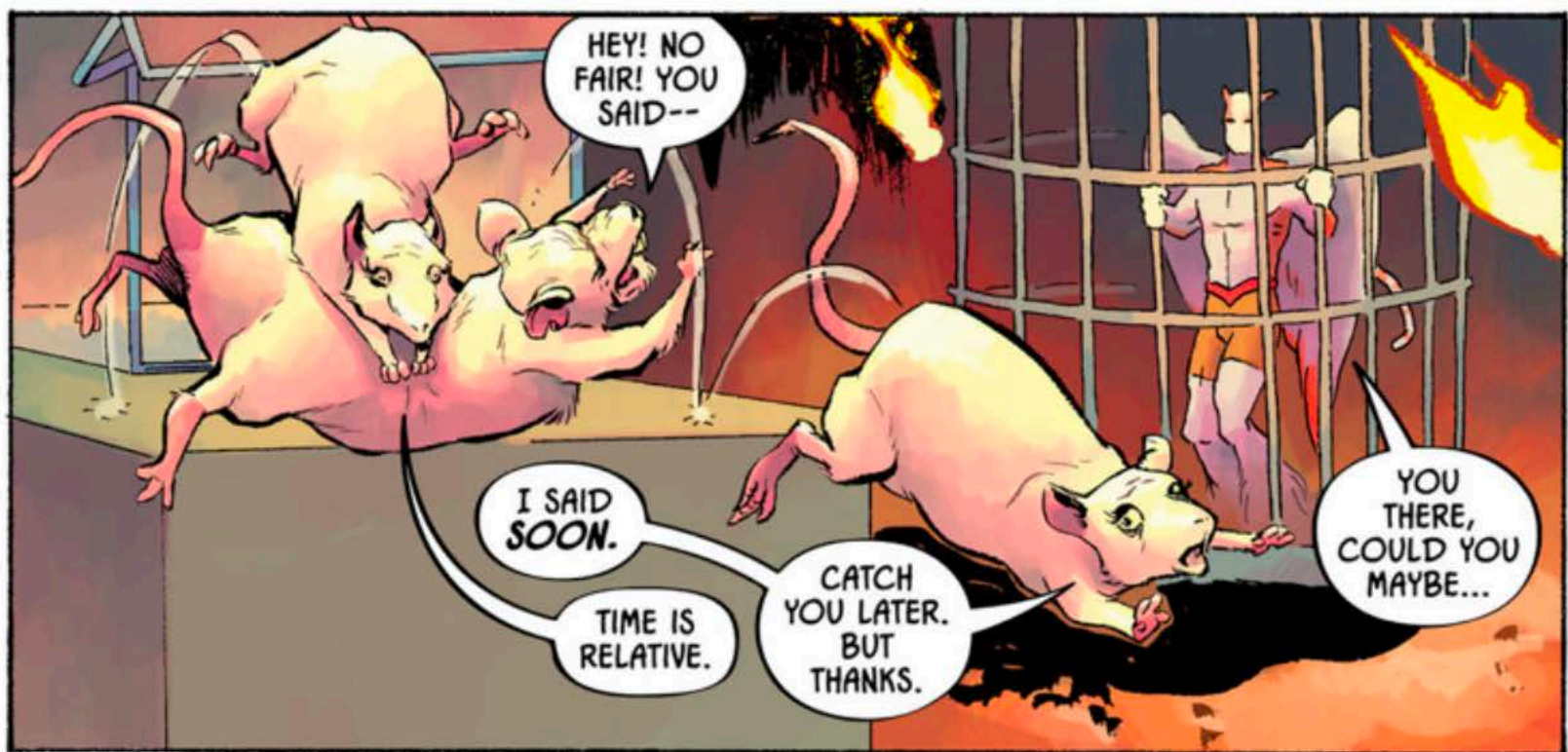
After habitat loss, climate change, and cats, window collisions are the biggest problem people cause for birds. There are simple, low-cost solutions to make your home bird friendly!

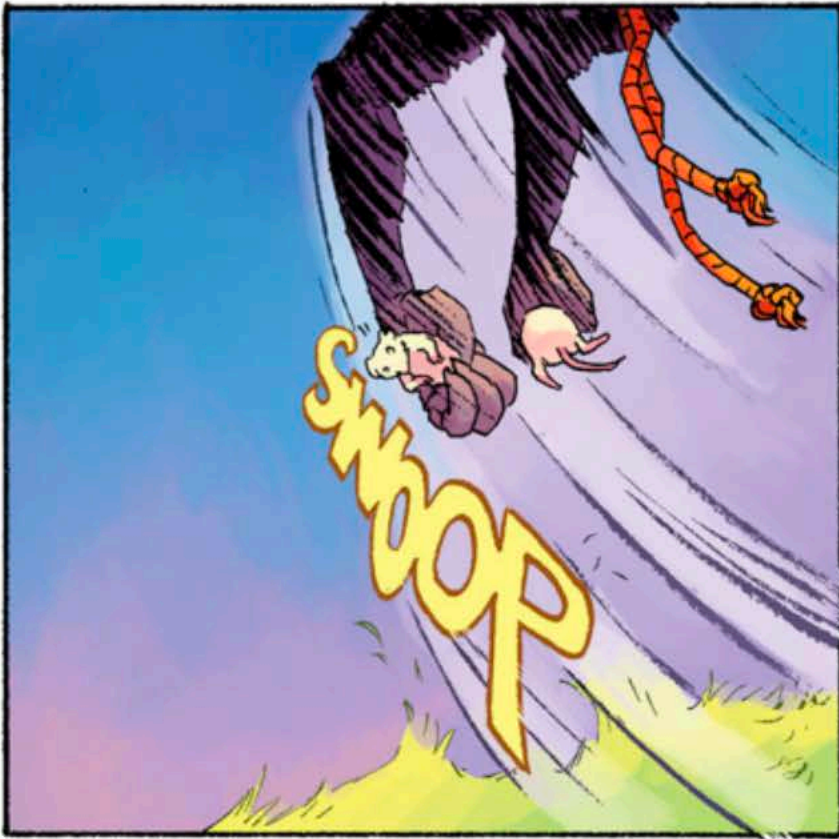
Read more at www.naturecanada.ca















SEE OUR
CLAWS!

AND
SEE OUR
MIGHT!

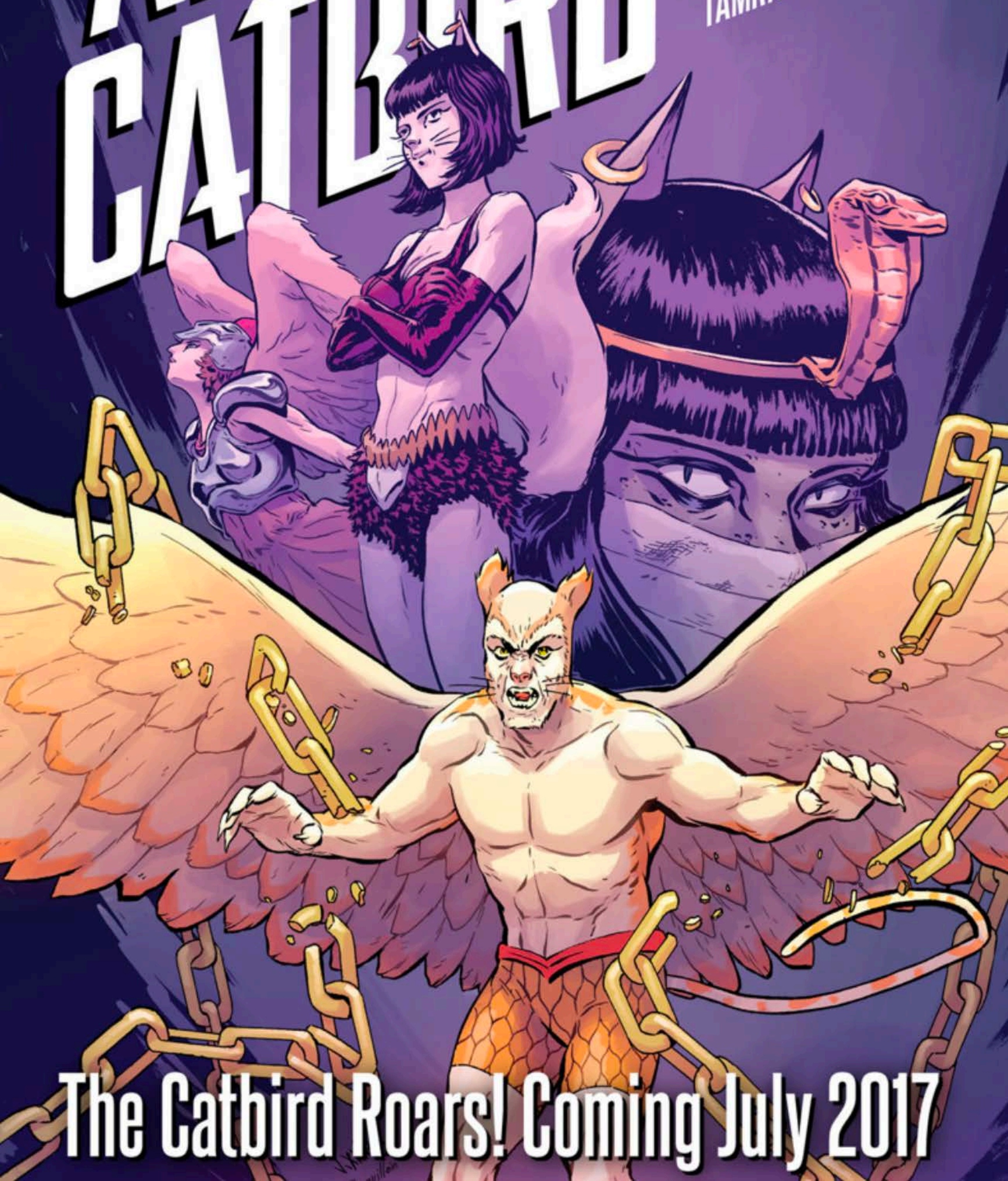
MUROID,
BEWARE!

HERE
COMES A
FIGHT!

*Continued in
Angel Catbird Volume 3:
The Catbird Roars!*

ANGEL CATBIRD™

MARGARET ATWOOD
JOHNNIE CHRISTMAS
TAMRA BONVILLAIN



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Cate Leone

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FINDING HERSELF & THE MUSIC

Illustration by
PAULINA GANUCHEAU





Illustration by
MEGAN KEARNEY



Illustration by
JEFF LEMIRE

Jeff Lemire 2016



VEREGGE

Illustration by
JEFFREY VEREGGE







Margaret Atwood: The deep origins of Angel Catbird: Here is a drawing I did when I was six or seven, and drawing cats with wings.

ANGEL CATBIRD™

SKETCHBOOK

Notes by
Johnnie Christmas



Character design for this volume's fierce
new warrior, Atheon-Owl.



Here is a look into my part of the process of bringing *Angel Catbird* from script to page. I start with thumbnail drawings that show placement and page composition. I send these over to Margaret and our editors, Daniel and Hope, for feedback.

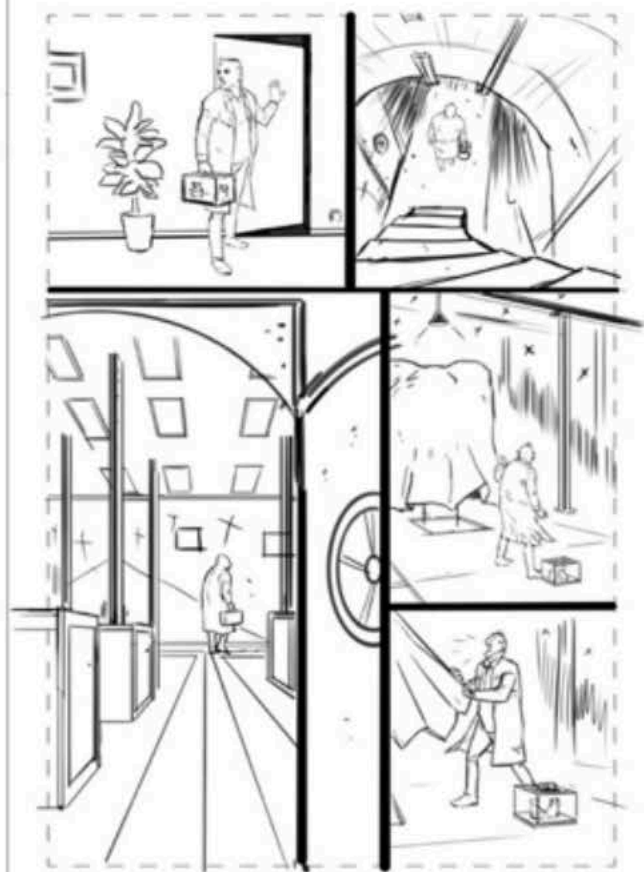
Pencils are then drawn digitally and . . .



. . . final drawings are done in ink, with a watercolor brush. Details are added, and the drawings are clarified.



ANGEL CATSARD V.2



31

ANGEL CATSARD V.2



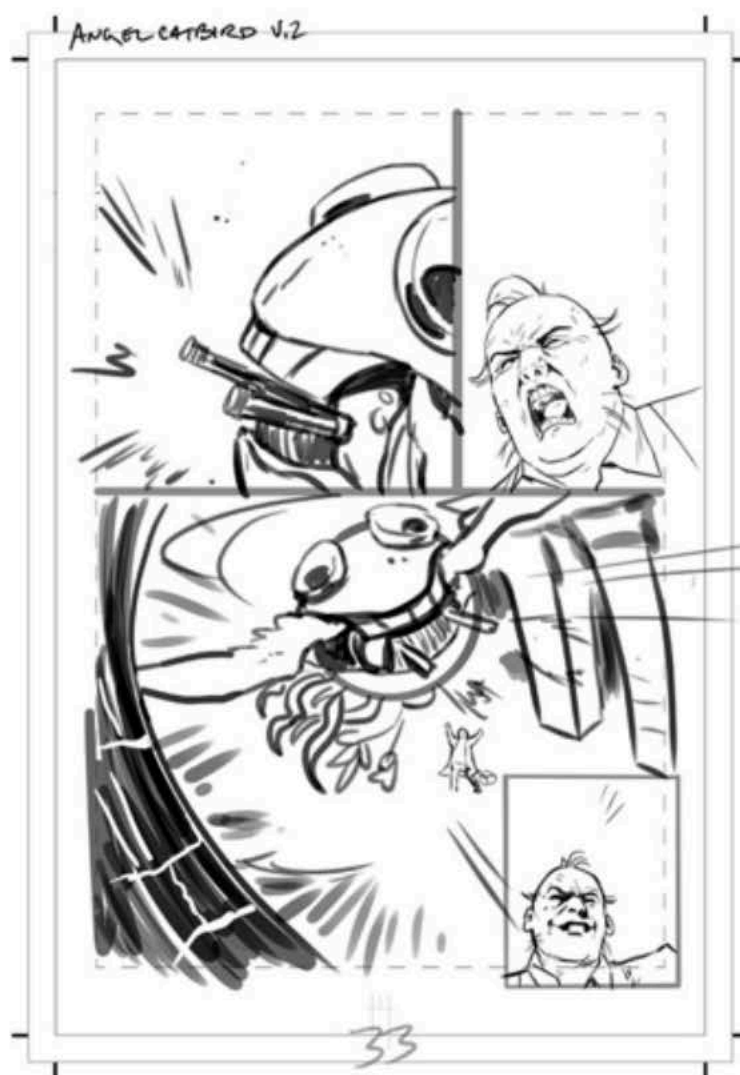
32

ANGEL CATSARD V.2



33

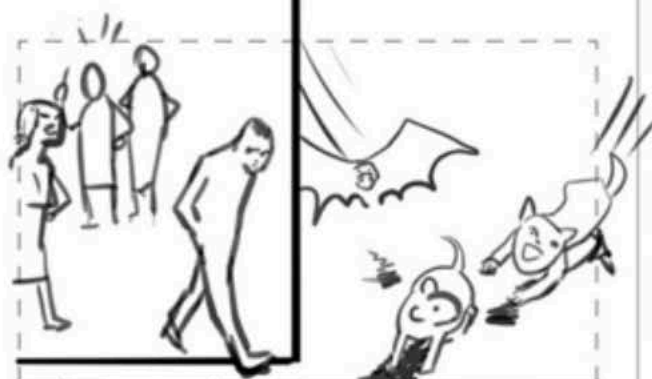
Here we see the pages that were seen in thumbnail form on page 90 brought to the pencils stage. These pages didn't make it into the book in this form. Margaret wanted Muroid's lair to look more like a rat's underground nest than a science lab—a great idea. Also, the DRAT in this version is more sleek and mean. Margaret wanted it to look more like an actual cat toy . . . with laser beams!



Revised pencils for lair and DRAT.



34



35



BANNER

36



37



36



37



The origin of Count Catula, from thumbs to inks. I really enjoyed this sequence.
Dracula seems so hapless.



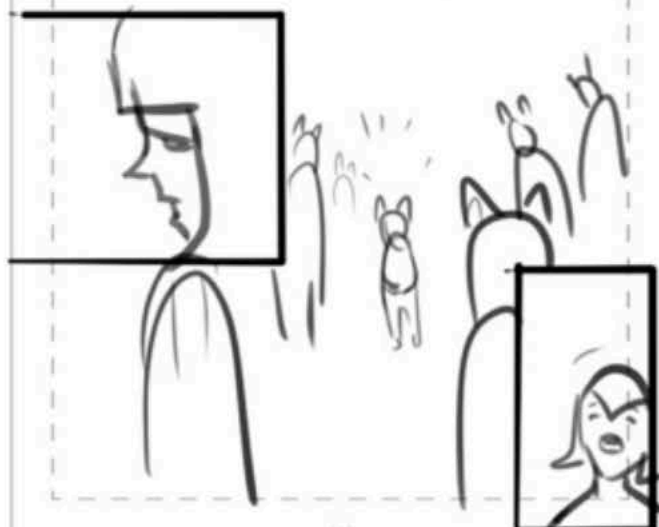
36



37



The woes of young Fog.



38



39



40



41

More thumbs.



One of the unique challenges of drawing *Angel Catbird* is the many speaking roles on a given page. I need to find ways to position the characters in respect to their speaking order—in comics that are read from left to right, the person who speaks first is preferably on the left side of the panel.



40



41



One of my favorite things to draw is Muroid emoting. He's always wound up.
That makes for fun villainy.



Thumbs for the big battle.

ANGEL CATBIRD V.2



42

ANGEL CATBIRD V.2



43



This fight scene was a favorite. Our heroes springing into action and giving the Murines what for.



45



After inks are approved, they're sent off to Tamra. She then adds another dimension to the project with her coloring.



Photograph by LIAM SHARP

MARGARET ATWOOD

Margaret Atwood was born in 1939 in Ottawa and grew up in northern Ontario, Quebec, and Toronto. She received her undergraduate degree from Victoria College at the University of Toronto and her master's degree from Radcliffe College.

Atwood is the author of more than forty volumes of poetry, children's literature, fiction, and nonfiction, but is best known for her novels, which include *The Edible Woman* (1969), *The Handmaid's Tale* (1985), *The Robber Bride* (1993), *Alias Grace* (1996), and *The Blind Assassin*, which won the prestigious Man Booker Prize in 2000. Her latest work is a book of short stories called *Stone Mattress: Nine Tales* (2014). Her newest novel, *MaddAddam* (2013), is the final volume in a three-book series that began with the Man Booker Prize-nominated *Oryx and Crake* (2003) and continued with *The Year of the Flood* (2009). *The Tent* (mini-fictions) and *Moral Disorder* (short fiction) both appeared in 2006. Her most recent volume of poetry, *The Door*, was published in 2007. *In Other Worlds: SF and the Human Imagination*, a collection of nonfiction essays, appeared in 2011. Her nonfiction book *Payback: Debt and the Shadow Side of Wealth* was adapted for the screen in 2012. Ms. Atwood's work has been published in more than forty languages, including Farsi, Japanese, Turkish, Finnish, Korean, Icelandic, and Estonian.



Photograph by AVALON MOTT

JOHNNIE CHRISTMAS

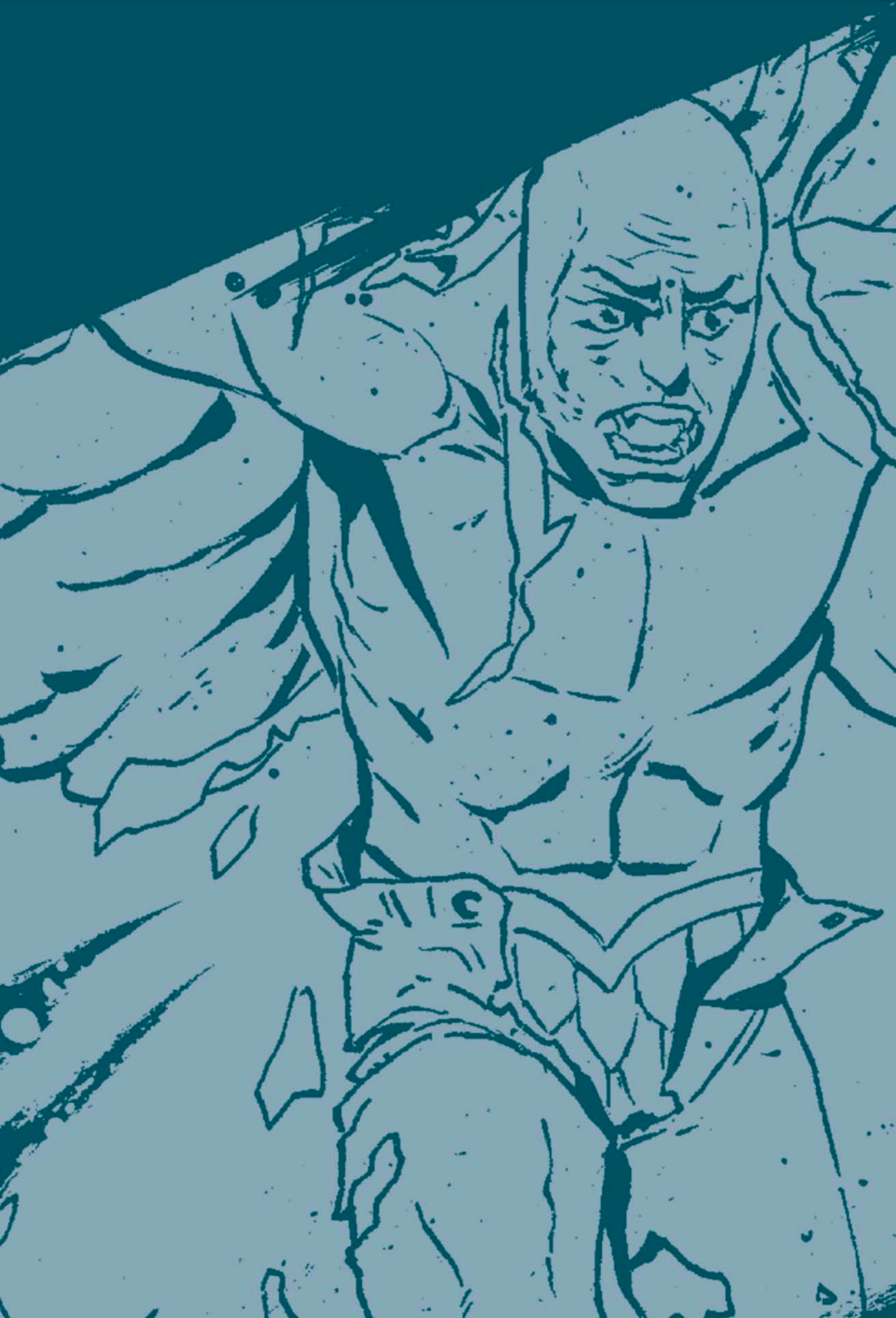
Johnnie Christmas was born in Río Piedras, Puerto Rico, and raised in Miami, Florida. He attended the Center for Media Arts magnet program at South Miami Senior High School and received a BFA from Pratt Institute in Brooklyn, New York, before going on to a career in graphic design and art direction. In 2013 he entered the world of comics as cocreator of the critically acclaimed Image Comics series *Sheltered*. He's also the creator, writer, and artist of *Firebug*, serialized in *Island*, also published by Image Comics. His work has been translated into multiple languages.

Johnnie makes Vancouver, BC, his home.



TAMRA BONVILLAIN

Tamra Bonvillain is originally from Augusta, Georgia, and took an interest in art and comics at a young age. After graduating from the local Davidson Fine Arts Magnet School in 2000, she majored in art at Augusta State University. She later attended the Joe Kubert School, and upon graduating in 2009, she began working full time as an assistant and designer for Greg Hildebrandt and Jean Scrocco's company, Spiderwebart. During this time, she also began to take on work as a comics colorist, eventually leaving the company to pursue a career in the comics industry full time. In the years since, she has worked for many major comic publishers, including Dark Horse, Dynamite, Boom, Image, and Marvel. She is currently the colorist for *Rat Queens*, *Wayward*, and several other titles.





THE CATCENTRIC ADVENTURE CONTINUES IN THE ALL-AGES FOLLOW-UP TO BEST-SELLING NOVELIST MARGARET ATWOOD'S DEBUT GRAPHIC NOVEL. GENETIC ENGINEER STRIG FELEEDUS, ALSO KNOWN AS ANGEL CATBIRD, AND HIS BAND OF HALF-CATS HEAD TO CASTLE CATULA TO SEEK ALLIES AS THE WAR BETWEEN CATS AND RATS ESCALATES.



"Angel Catbird is a triumph of genre play, a superhero comic book that looks like a superhero comic book, reads like a superhero comic book, but gleefully capsizes all the usual notions of what a superhero comic book should be."

—NATIONAL PUBLIC RADIO

"The latest politically-minded story from legendary novelist Margaret Atwood." —WIRED

"An eccentric and entertaining combination of a superhero comic . . . and an appeal to consider the impact of cats on the environment."

—PUBLISHERS WEEKLY

"A real trip . . . Half cat, half bird, half pulp adventure, and half environmental treatise." —POLYGON

"If you were taking some time this week to sit down and try to figure out what award-winning author Margaret Atwood's next project would be, your first guess probably wouldn't have been a series of all-ages graphic novels about a superhero who is part-bird, part-cat, and suffers an identity crisis because of his conflicting predator/prey nature. But really, it probably should've—she has, after all, pretty thoroughly conquered the world of novels, short stories and poetry, so when you get right down to it, comics is the next logical step." —COMICSALLIANCE

"A good old-fashioned superhero romp, full of bright colors and vibrant characters . . . The comic is adorned with cat facts, providing helpful info and real-life statistics about the animals." —ENTERTAINMENT WEEKLY

"Full of action, romance, humor, and even a message about making our world safe for cats and birds. It's also beautifully illustrated by Atwood's collaborators, artist Johnnie Christmas and colorist Tamra Bonvillain." —MENTAL FLOSS

"Channels the storytelling sensibilities of series like Captain Marvel, Dick Tracy, and Pogo. Artist Johnnie Christmas and colorist Tamra Bonvillain bring Atwood's concept to the page with clean detail and bold energy . . . and excellent work." —AV CLUB

