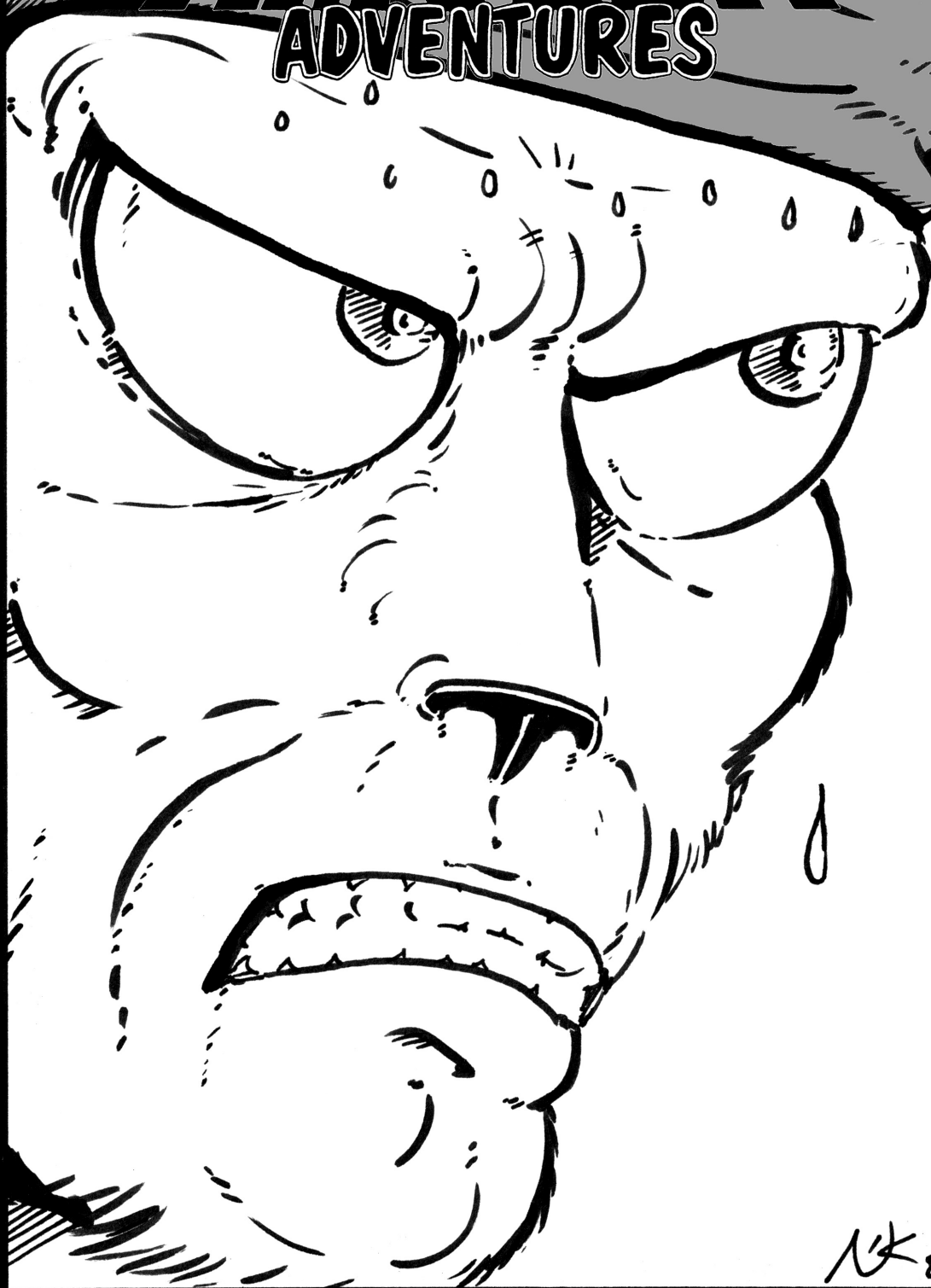


The 50th comic book from Protoplasm Press

30
NOV 21

AMOEBA

ADVENTURES



NK 8-21



The Slimeball Speaks

email: dirganik@gmail.com • amoebaadventures.com

This is a story about a tough guy and a smart woman, and how they deal with the unexpected life throws at them.

It's kind of the story of the last two years, in other words.

Unlike last issue's timey-wimey, continuity-heavy comical story, I wanted to do a really streamlined, action-driven tale this issue, but one that also advanced the characters a little.

In this "relaunch" of Amoeba Adventures, I'm quite enjoying slowing things down and just focusing on a few of the cast in the post-All Spongy Squadron era of their stories. I'm not the same person I was in 1998 and neither are you.

I came up with Rambunny during the Reagan administration, which dates me a little. He's on the surface a ridiculous character - a 6' 6" very angry rabbit - but he's also a great joy to write. Yet I also used him sparingly - he appeared in less than half the issues of Amoeba Adventures' original 27 issues. I didn't want him to become an overexposed Wolverine type.

Dawn Star, on the other hand, was introduced back in Amoeba Adventures #8 because I really wanted to have a good, multi-dimensional woman in the mix. Unfortunately, she's by far the hardest character for a mediocre artist like me to draw, so thank goodness I had Max Ink as my partner for many issues that helped make Dawn a real, vital character.

These two characters were ones I really wanted to come back to and explore when I returned to Amoeba Adventures, and I hit on the notion of throwing them together and seeing what happened as they hadn't actually interacted an awful lot in the original series. I'm still a mediocre artist but I can draw Dawn a little better than I once could, and Rambunny is always a rage-filled delight to sketch.

It turns out this is the 50th comic book I've published since I started scribbling stories back in 1986 or so (see back page for more). It ain't the Mona Lisa, but I'm feeling pretty satisfied with this little pile of comics I've built up over the years. Maybe in the end, the comics are more for me than anything. This is a story a little bit about family, a little bit about age, and a little bit about just getting through what life throws at you. I'm pretty happy with it, and hope you dig it too.



Our cast



Rambunny is a rather large rabbit with violent tendencies.

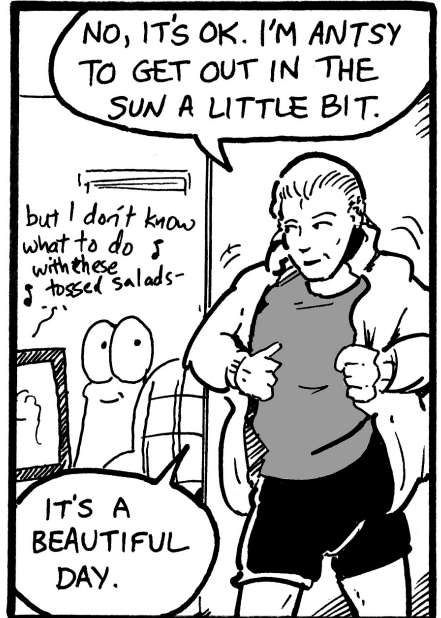


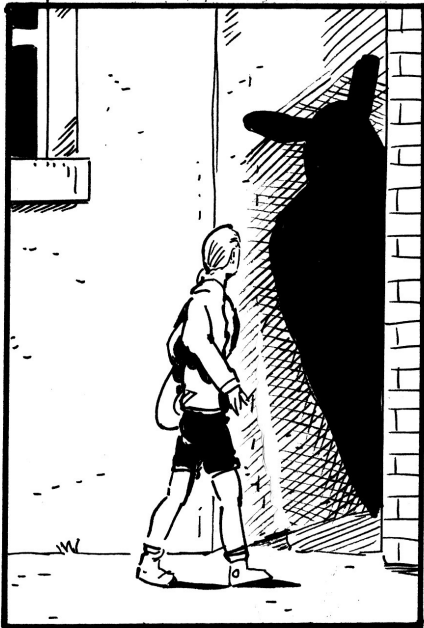
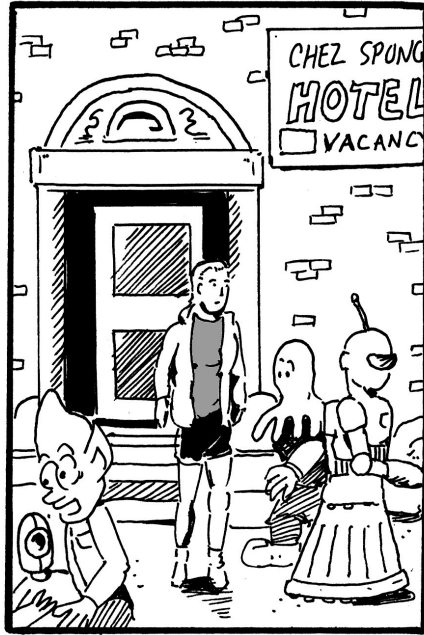
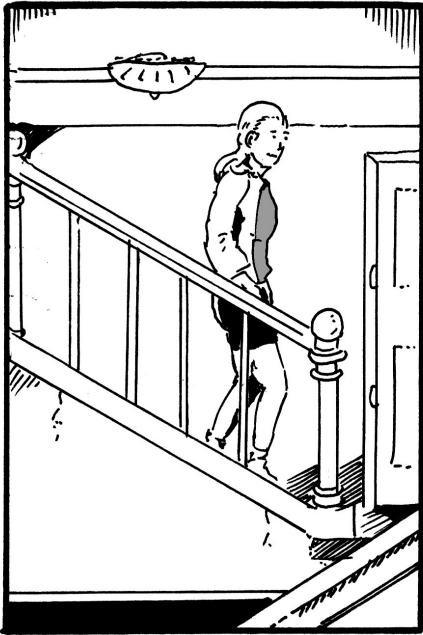
Prometheus is a possibly immortal amoeba with flexible tendencies.



Dawn Star (aka Dawn Strauss) is a human female with highly flammable tendencies.

Amoeba Adventures #30, November 2021. Published maybe twice a year, if you're really good, by Protoplasm Press, 262 Konini Road, Titirangi, Auckland New Zealand 0604. Additional print copies of this issue available for \$7.50 postpaid. Visit amoebaadventures.com and look for the link to download all 29 previous issues and much more for FREE, and give us a "like" on [Facebook.com/amoebaadventures](https://www.facebook.com/amoebaadventures) where occasionally I'll remember to post rare art and coming attractions. Amoeba Adventures, Rambunny, Prometheus the Protoplasm and all other characters are (C) 2021 Nik Dirga. All rights reserved.



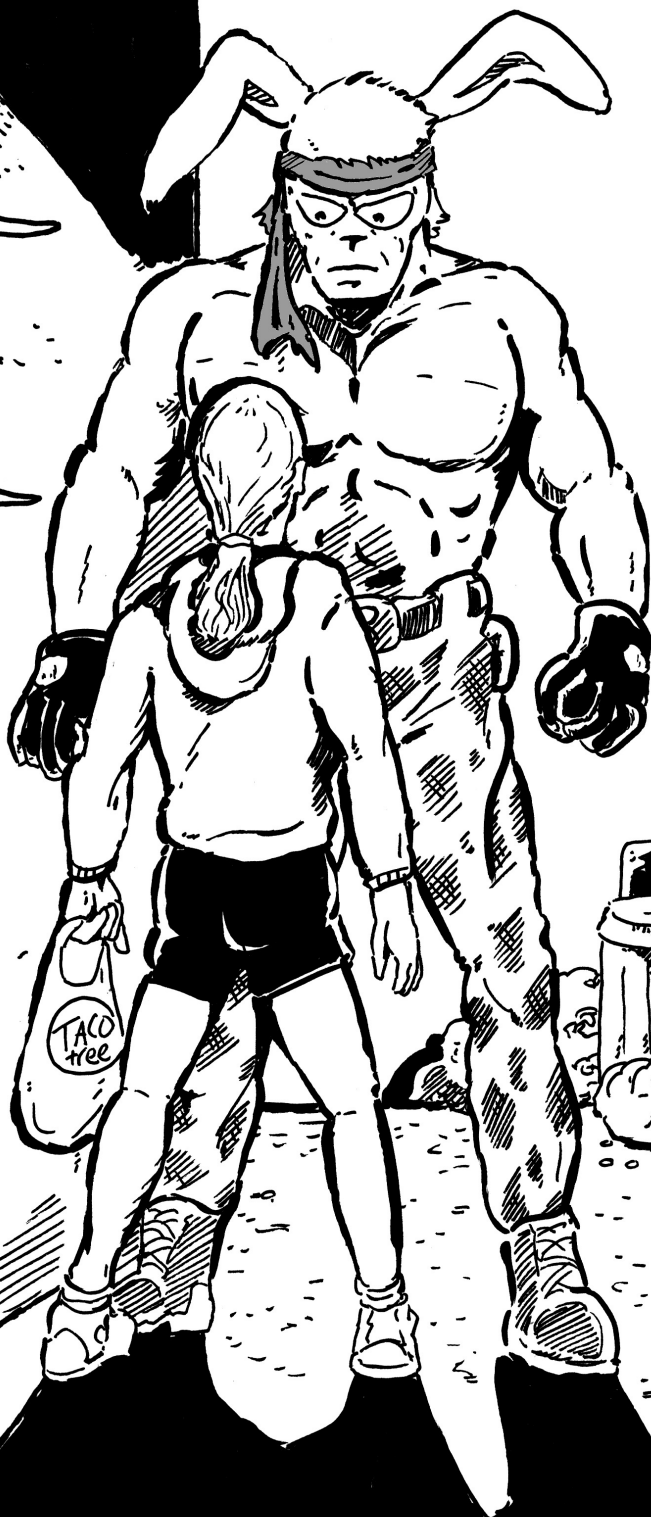


TAKE WHAT YOU GOT

AN AMOEBA ADVENTURES STORY * WRITTEN AND DRAWN BY NIK DIRGA

DAWN,
I NEED YOUR
HELP.

RAMBUNNY?



N+D 5/21/03



RAMBUNNY, WHAT-- YOU'RE HURT!

AH, IT'S NOTHIN' MUCH.

BUT I COULD USE A HAND, AND FAST.



I GOT THE WEASEL GANG CORNERED, BUT THEY GOT ME SOME TOO.

I GOT ONE SHOT TO TAKE 'EM, BUT I CAN'T DO IT ALONE.



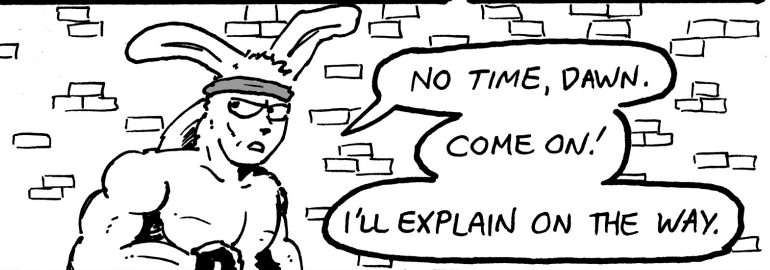
W-WAIT A SECOND!

MY... MY TACOS...



LOOK - WE HAVEN'T SEEN YOU IN MONTHS. CAN YOU SLOW DOWN?

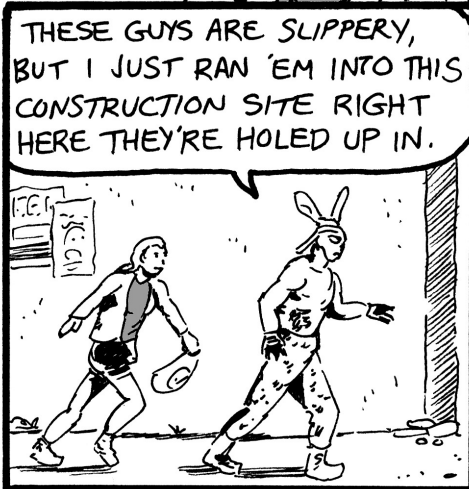
I CAN GO GET PROMETHEUS...



NO TIME, DAWN.

COME ON!

I'LL EXPLAIN ON THE WAY.



THESE GUYS ARE SLIPPERY, BUT I JUST RAN 'EM INTO THIS CONSTRUCTION SITE RIGHT HERE THEY'RE HOLED UP IN.



THEY GET AWAY NOW, THAT'S IT. I MIGHT NOT CATCH UP TO 'EM FOR WEEKS.

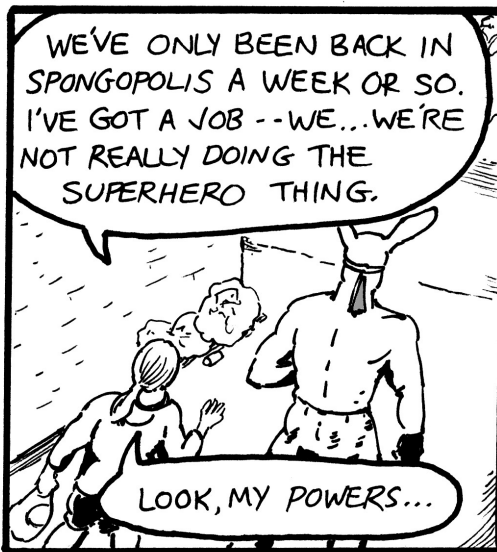


I DON'T - WHY ARE YOU AFTER THEM?



THEY'RE SELLIN' METH TO KIDS, DAWN. ALL OVER TOWN.

I AIM TO END IT.



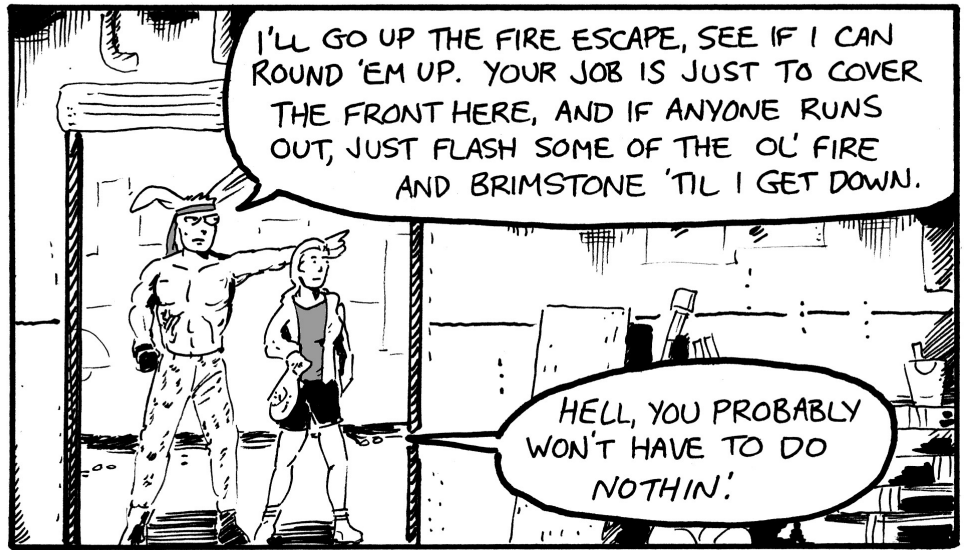
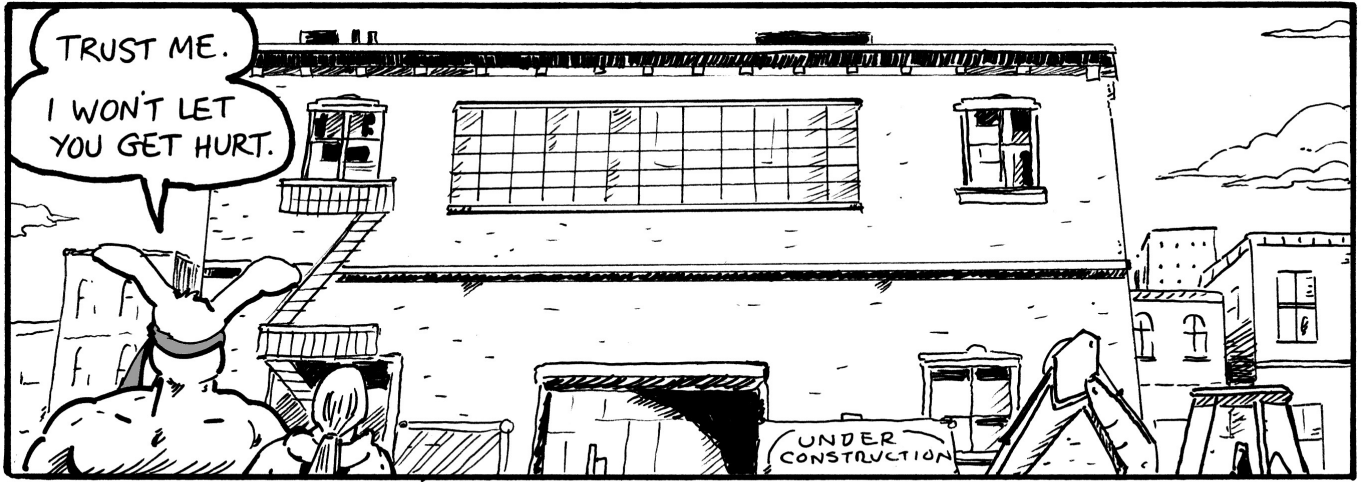
WE'VE ONLY BEEN BACK IN SPONGOPOLIS A WEEK OR SO. I'VE GOT A JOB -- WE... WE'RE NOT REALLY DOING THE SUPERHERO THING.

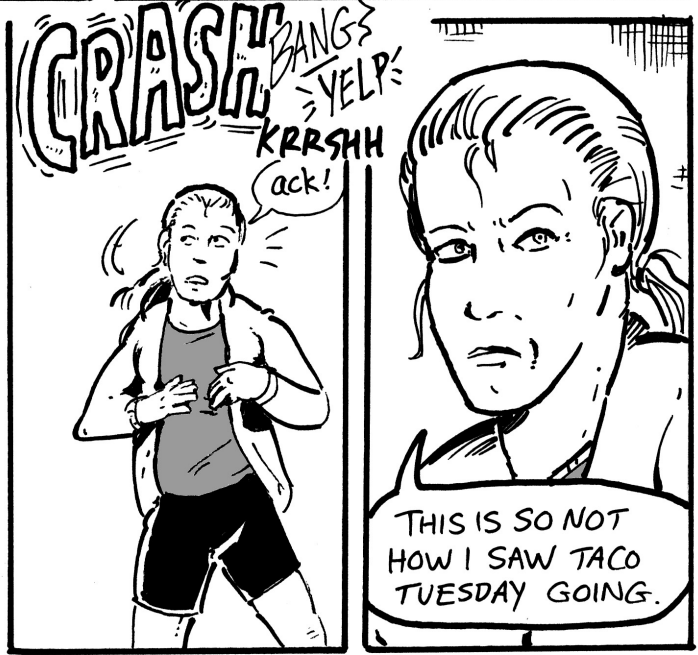
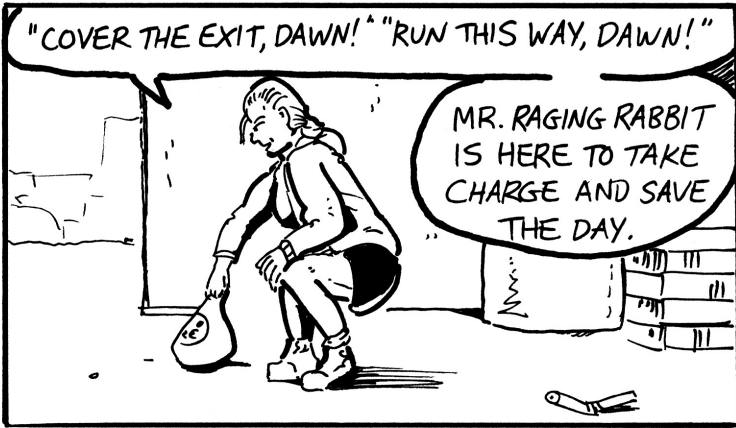
LOOK, MY POWERS...

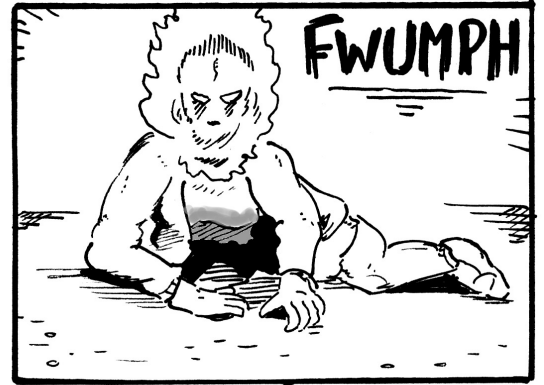
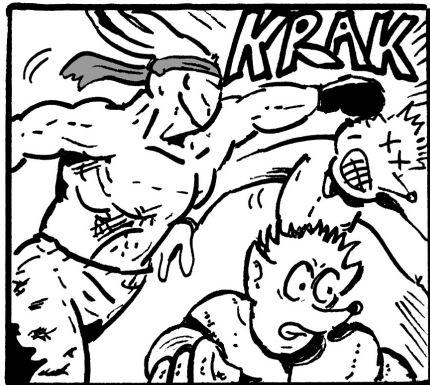
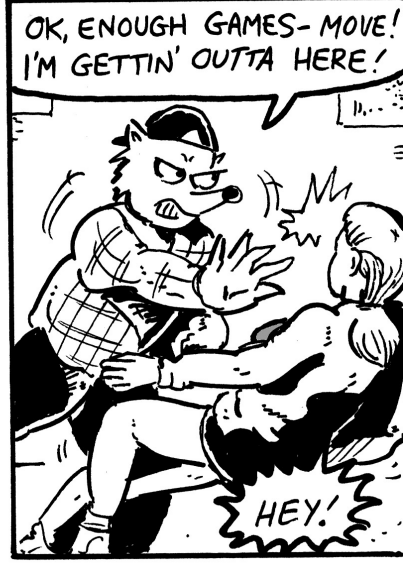


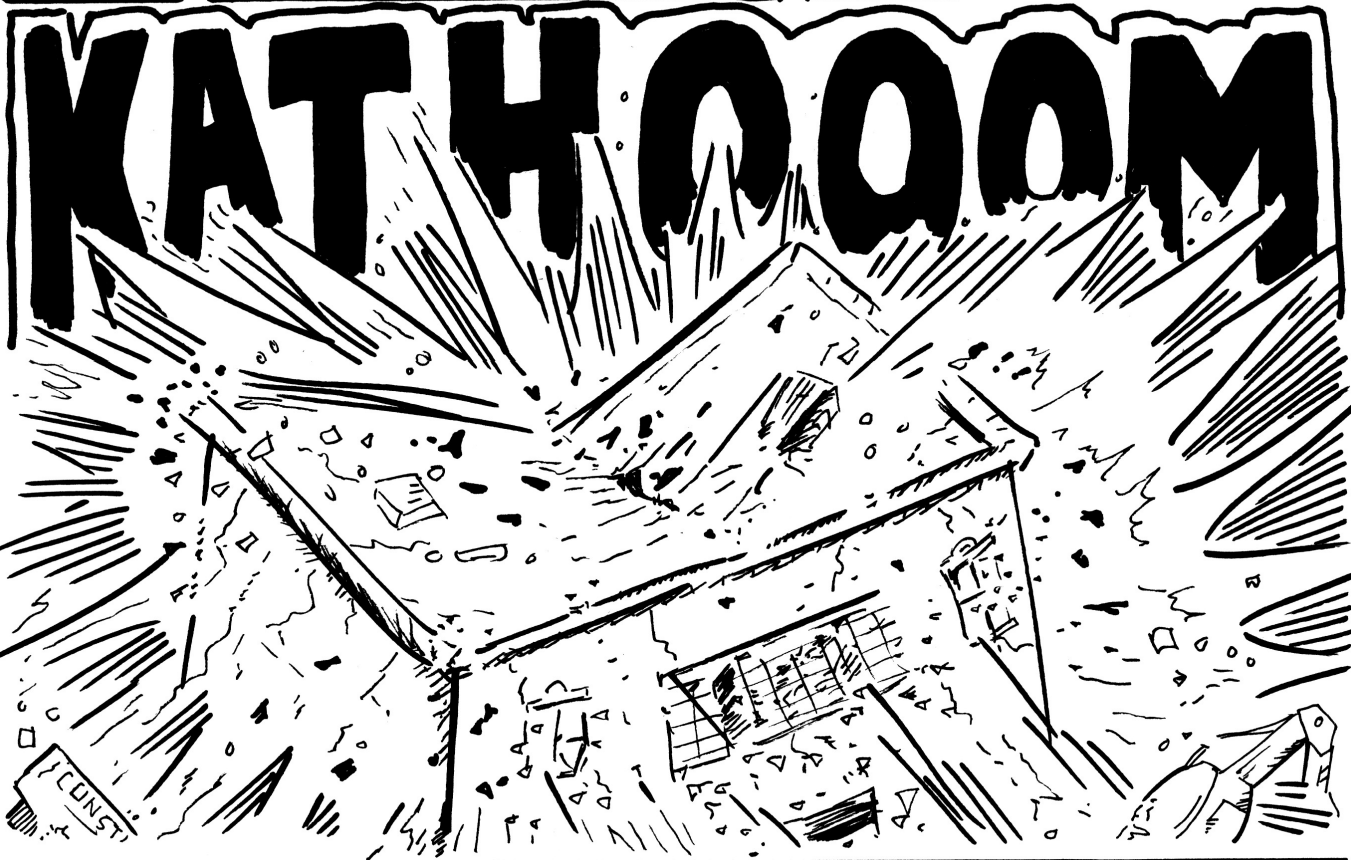
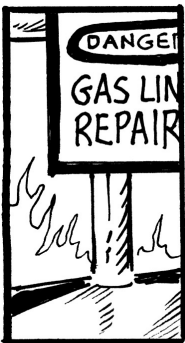
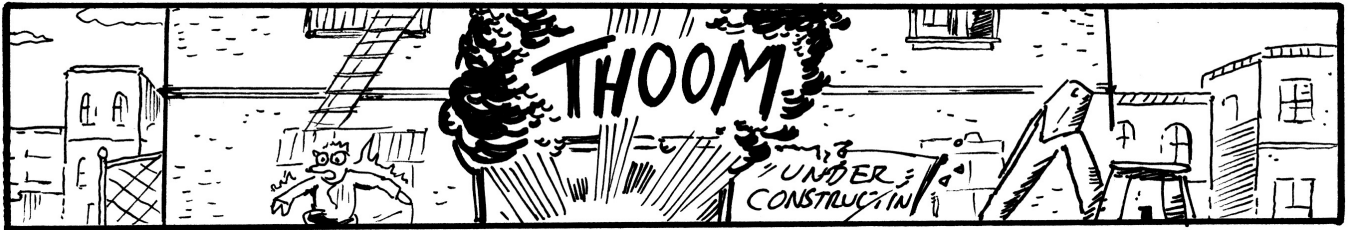
YOU DONE IT BEFORE AND YOU CAN DO IT AGAIN.

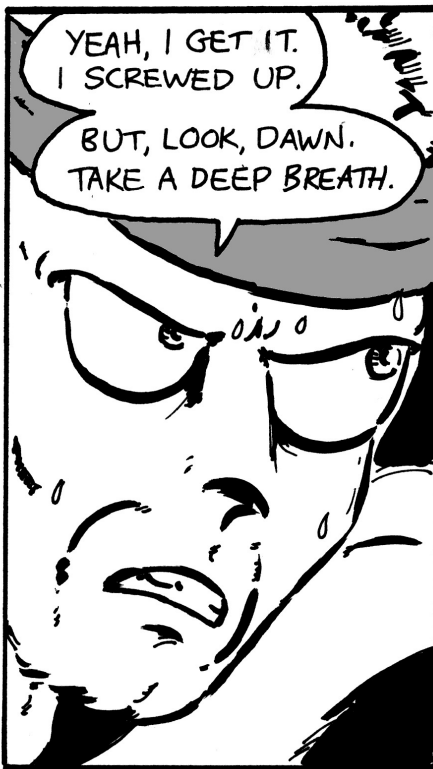
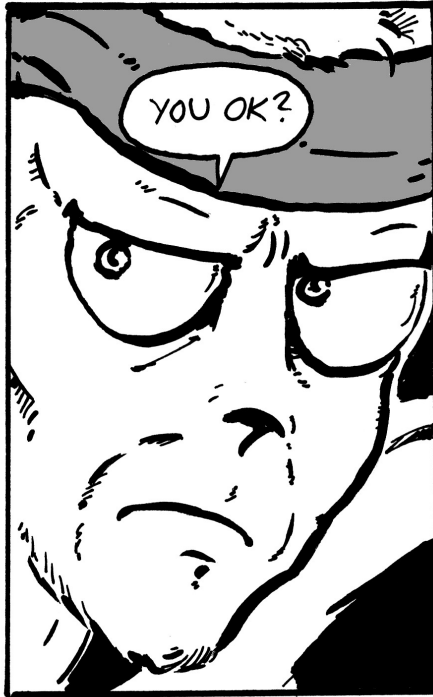
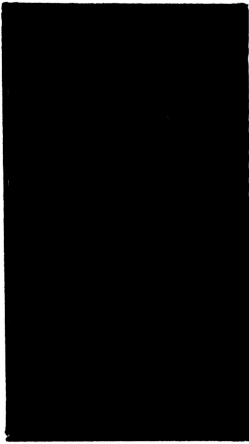
ALL I NEED IS A SET OF EYES AND A LITTLE BIT OF BACK-UP.

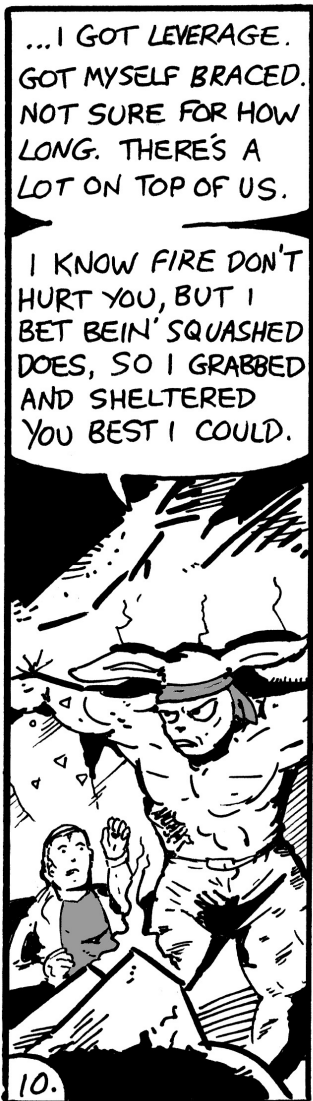












RAMBUNNY... I'M SORRY. THIS IS MY FAULT.

I TRIED TO TELL YOU. MY POWERS AREN'T WORKING SO WELL ANYMORE. AND SOMETIMES, THEY WORK TOO WELL. SP1F THINKS THAT WHATEVER HAPPENED WHEN I GOT THE FIRE FROM PROMETHEUS* IT'S WEARING OFF.

* WAY BACK IN AA#8!

NAH. IT AIN'T ON YOU. I SHOULDA SCOPED IT OUT MORE.

I'M USED TO BARGIN' IN AND BUSTIN' HEADS AND THINKIN' LATER. THIS IS ON ME.

CAN.. CAN YOU MOVE?

MY LEG.. IT'S WEDGED IN. IT DOESN'T HURT, BUT I CAN'T... CAN'T GET OUT.

AND IF I MOVE...

...THIS WHOLE THING COMES DOWN ON US.

IF YOU COULD FIRE UP...

I DON'T EVEN THINK I CAN... AND IF I GET TOO HOT AGAIN...

...THIS WHOLE THING COMES DOWN ON US, GREAT.

SOMEONE'S... GOT TO COME, RIGHT?

YEAH. SURE.

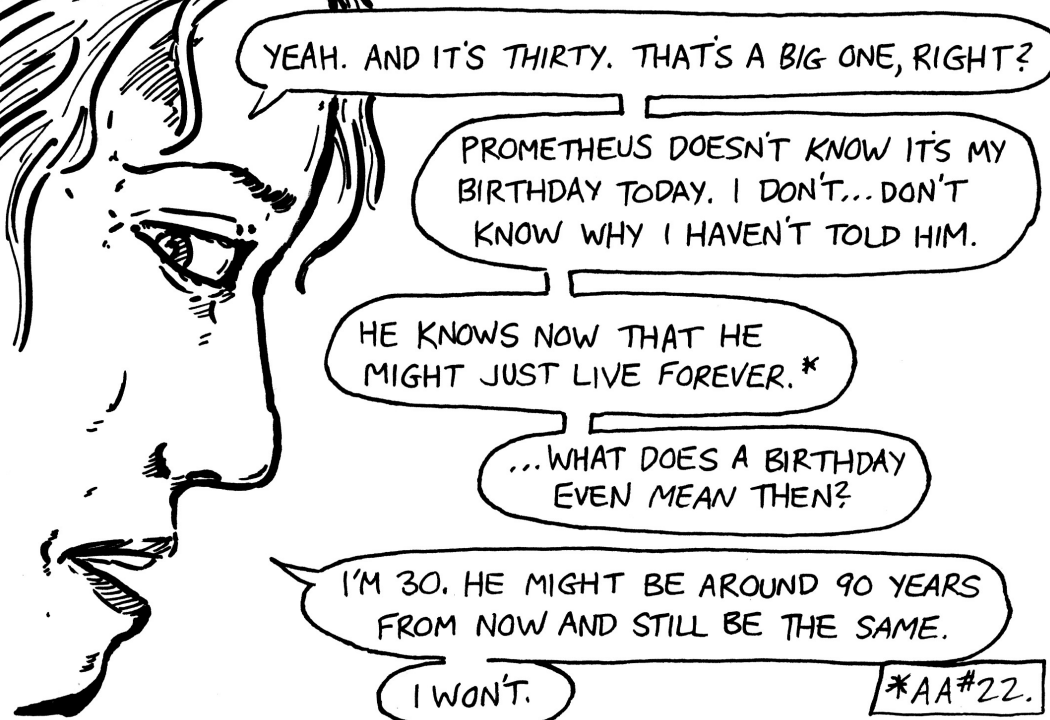
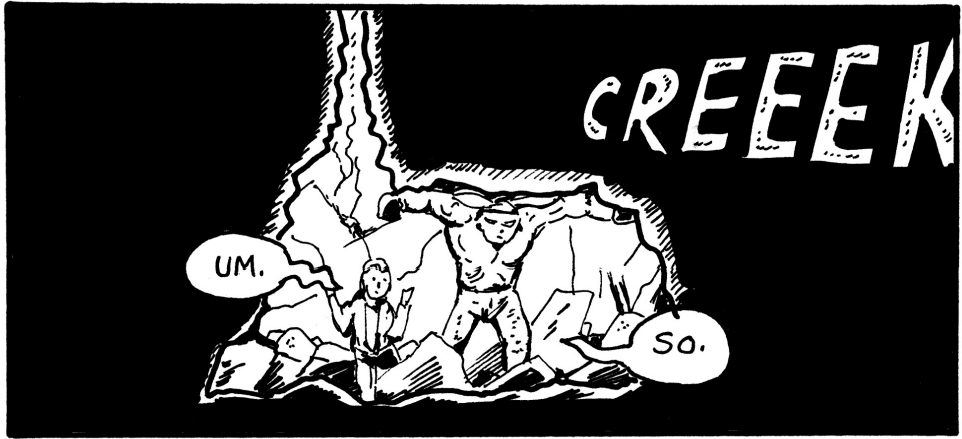
THEY'LL COME.

RIGHT NOW...

RIGHT NOW, YOU AN' I JUST GOT TO BEAT THE CLOCK.

CREEK

16:07



*AA#22.

IT'S LIKE... IT'S LIKE, I DON'T WANT HIM TO FEEL SORRY FOR ME.



OR FEEL GUILTY FOR BEING... WHATEVER HE IS.



SO I HAVEN'T TOLD HIM WHEN MY BIRTHDAY IS. HE HASN'T ASKED.



MAYBE HE DOESN'T THINK ABOUT BIRTHDAYS.

IT'S JUST... IT OPENS UP A WHOLE CAN OF WORMS, YOU KNOW?



YEAH.



I BEEN AROUND A WHILE TOO. I GET IT.



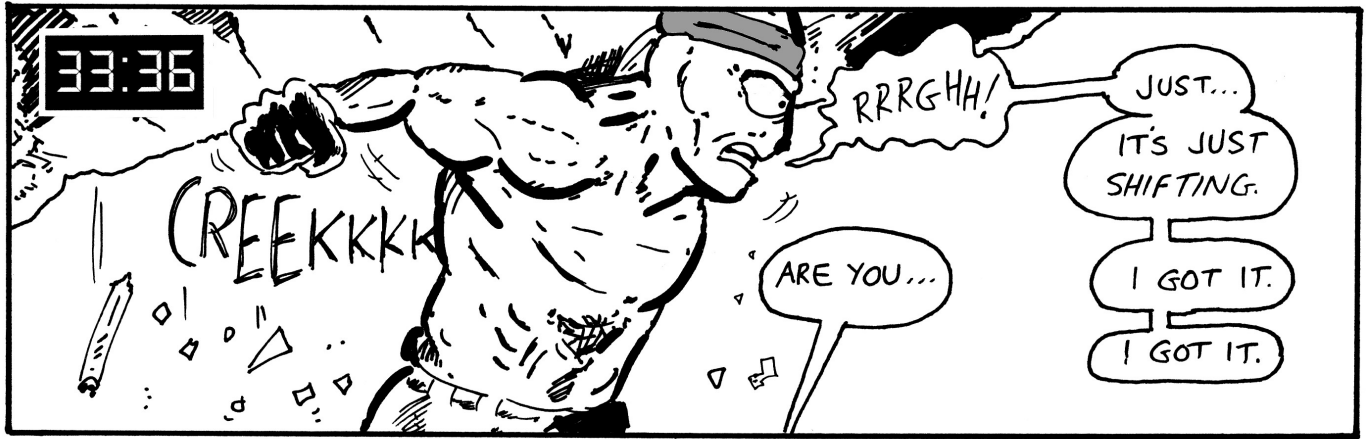
RAMBUNNY...
I'VE NEVER ASKED... I MEAN, WE'VE KNOWN EACH OTHER A WHILE, BUT...

...HOW OLD ARE YOU?

hmff.

OLD ENOUGH TO KNOW BETTER, I RECKON.

27:45



33:36

CREEKKKK

RRRGHH!

ARE YOU...

JUST...
IT'S JUST
SHIFTING.
I GOT IT.
I GOT IT.



ANYWAY...

I GOT A BROTHER.



I GET THE BIRTHDAY THING. MY BROTHER, HE'S YOUNGER THAN ME, BUT HE'S OLDER THAN ME, TOO, IF YOU GET IT.

RGH-- THE THING, THE THING THAT MAKES ME HOW I AM, I DON'T AGE SO FAST.



I HAVEN'T SEEN NATE IN A WHILE. SINCE HE STARTED LOOKIN' OLDER THAN ME, SLOWIN' DOWN ...IT GOT WEIRD.

AND WE AREN'T REALLY... HE'S A REGULAR GUY, DID REGULAR THINGS. I RAN AROUND THE WORLD FIGHTIN' PEOPLE AND LOOKIN' FOR MORE FIGHTS.



NATE'S KINDA SICK NOW, AND, I DUNNO...

HE'S FORGETTIN' THINGS.

14.



NFFFF!

CRKKKKKK



THE THING IS, HIS BIRTHDAY IS NEXT WEEK, TOO.

NFF - FUNNY, I GUESS.



YEAH.

KINDA FUNNY.



I...I'M NEAR MY LIMIT.

WE GOTTA COME UP WITH A PLAN.



I'VE BEEN THINKING.

I MIGHT HAVE AN IDEA.



IDEAS...IDEAS ARE GOOD.

DAWN. SORRY.

I SAID, I WOULDN'T LET YOU GET HURT.

I MADE A CHOICE, RAMBUNNY. A TERRIBLE CHOICE, BUT...



I CAN TRY TO FOCUS MY FLAME TIGHTLY TO GET A SIGNAL UP.

MAYBE SOMEONE CAN HELP US OUT.

NO GUARANTEES.



IT'S LIKE...LIKE TRYING TO HOLD AN EXPLOSION WITH YOUR TEETH.

IT'S SO EASY TO LET IT ALL GO.



URGH!

WE DON'T...

DON'T HAVE TIME. IT'S COLLAPSING AND THERE'S NO WAY I CAN HOLD IT.

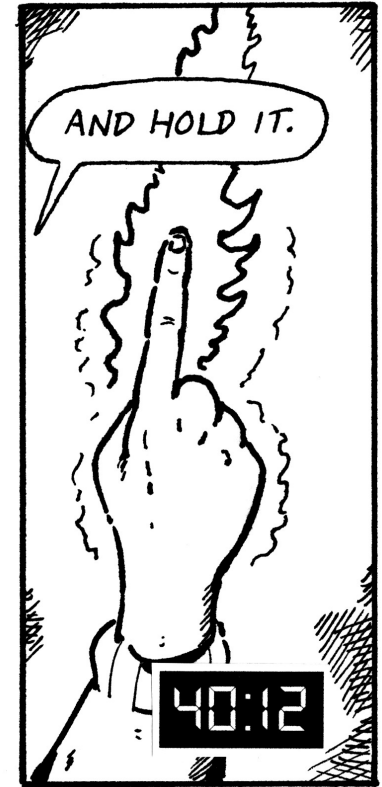
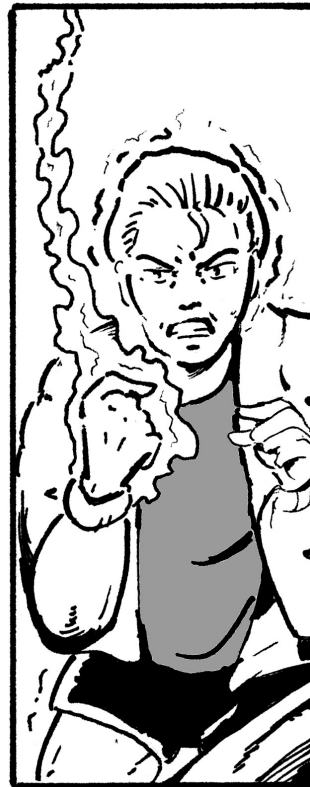
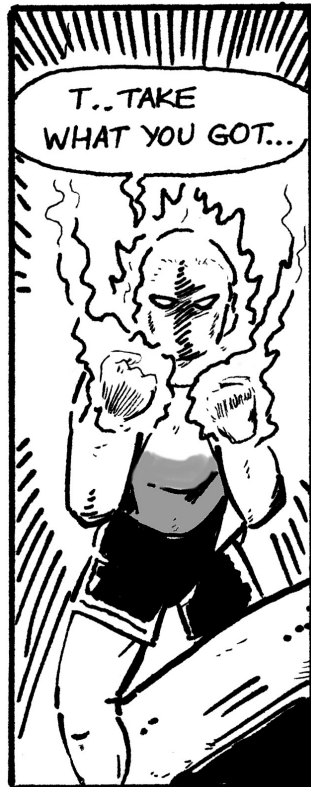
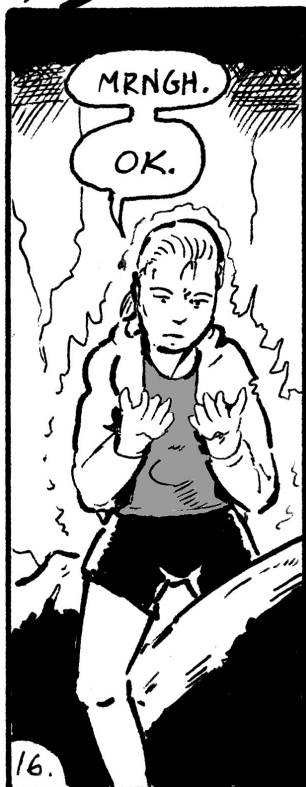
YOU GOT THIS, DAWN.

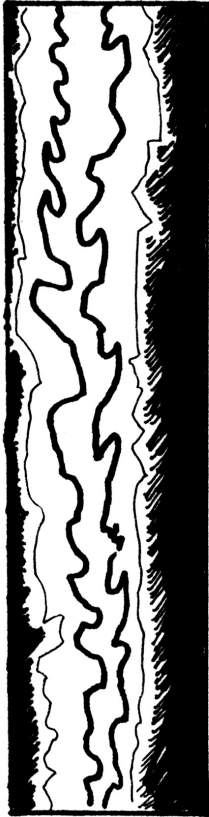
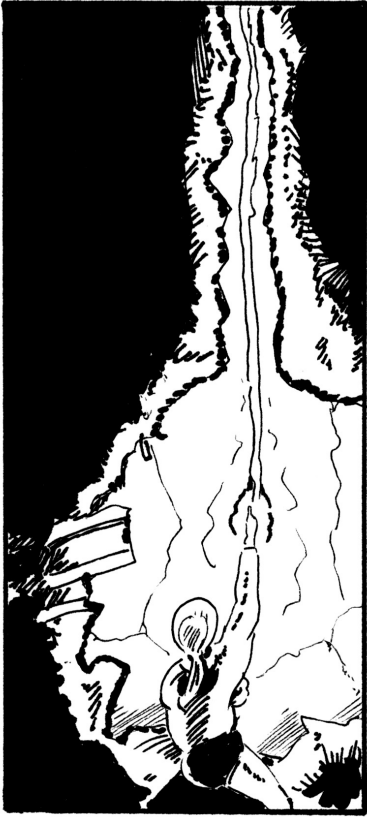


ALL RIGHT.

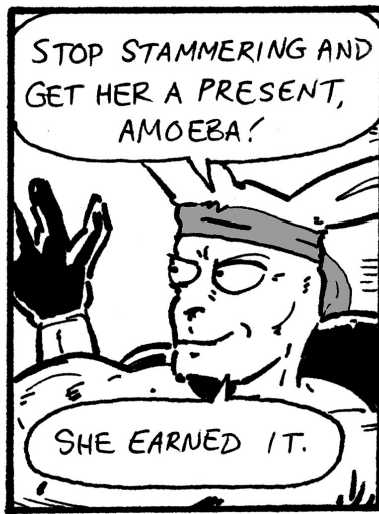
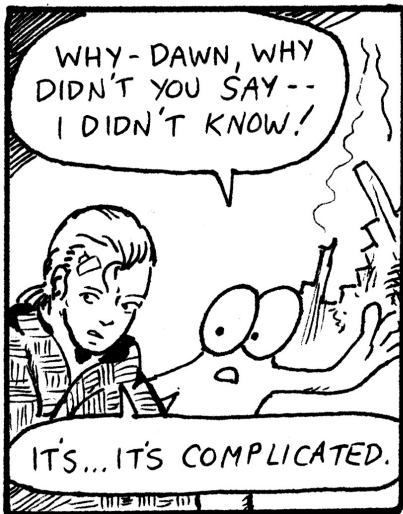
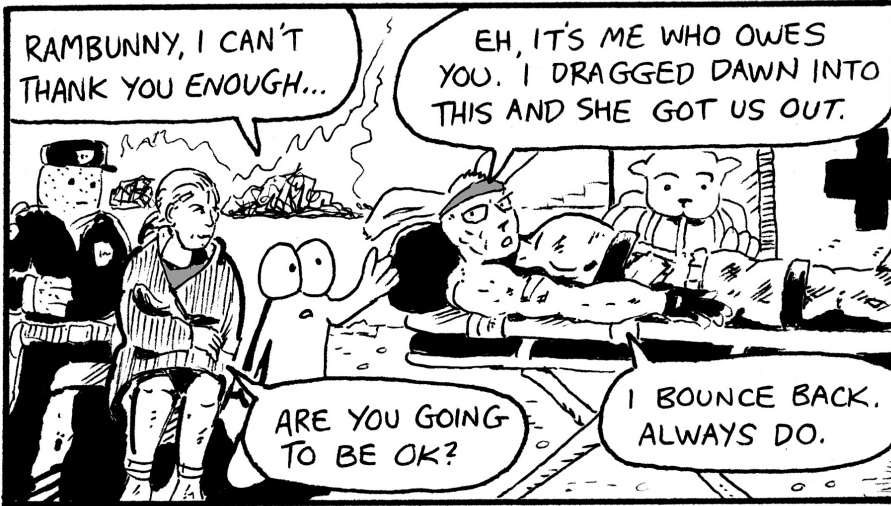
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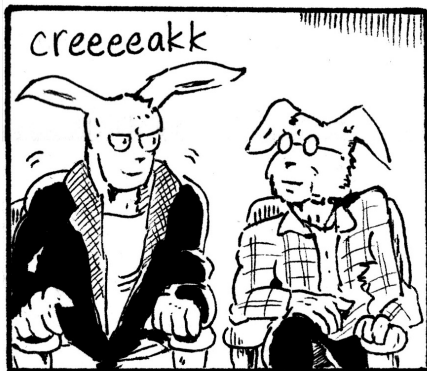
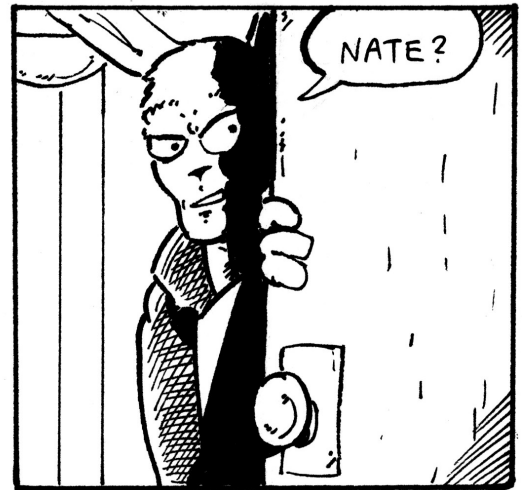
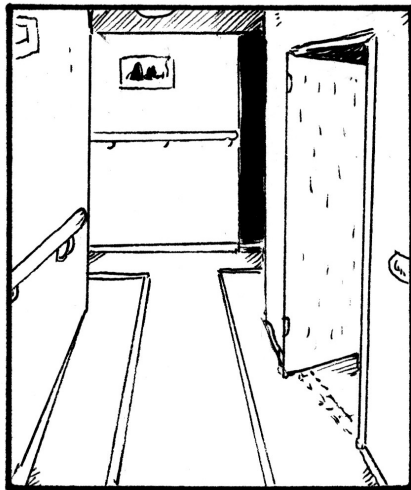
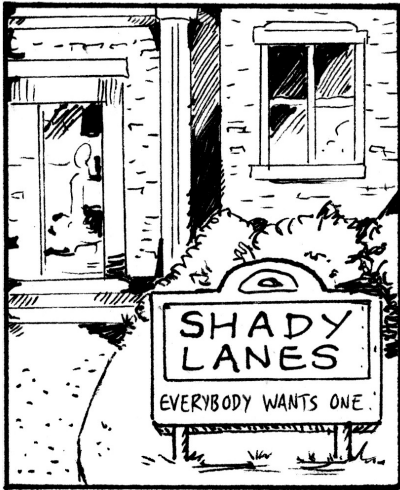
I'M GOING TO TRY A SIGNAL.











For my mother, who's taught me that art makes life bigger.

Amoebamail

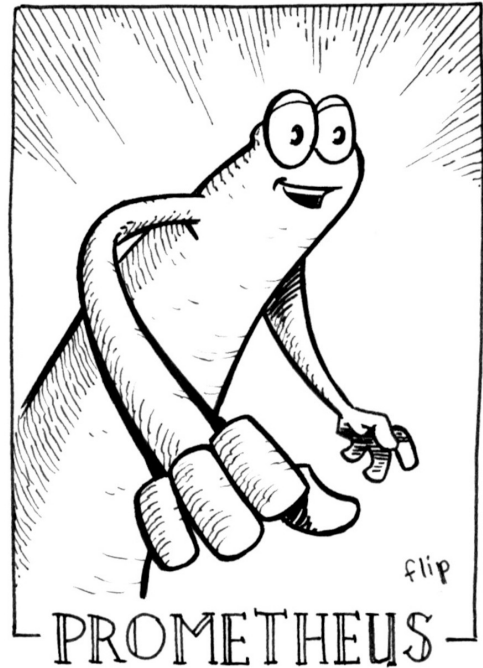
email: dirganik@gmail.com • amoebaadventures.com • facebook.com/amoebaadventures

Here's a few of your kind comments on #29 and #28. Thanks for writing, and please send me your feedback!

What an awesome issue, your art and storytelling has really gotten a lot better. A fun story, I've always wondered what happened to Raoul. I've been a fan a long time, I think I started around issue #5 or 6. I can't wait until the next issue. A++
Tony Lorenz, Florida

Rereading the original run of Amoeba Adventures over the past year or so has been a delightful bit of escapism; they're somehow simultaneously an indulgently nostalgic trip to the era when I originally read them and timeless. (Thank you so much for republishing them online!) Having those fresh in my mind made AA #29 even more enjoyable – a wonderful visit with old friends.
David Hitt, Alabama

Thanks for the copy of Amoeba Adventures #28. It really took me back to our golden age of the UFO [United Fanzine Organization]. It felt like coming home revisiting Prometheus and the gang. I loved the three stories in this issue. "Tempus Fugit" did a great job of setting up the status quo for the book going forward, while giving glimpses into the missing years. "Prometheus Drinks Coffee" was a thoughtful meditation on what it's like to have superpowers that you can only use once. I'd love to see you examine Mr. 100's use of all his powers, one at a time. Seems like there's gotta be a story (or 100) there. And finally, "Ninjas Don't Wear Capes." What a fun look at commercialization vs reality when it comes to being a costumed crimefighter! You haven't lost a step during your "hiatus" and I'm eager to see what comes next.
Terry Flippo, Maryland



Check out this groovy sketch of Prometheus sent in by Terry Flippo! Terry is another small presser who's made a return to the scene with his great robot-and-kid adventure book *Axel & Alex*. It's highly recommended stuff, contact him at jmflip4@verizon.net or write 205 Breezewood Ct Mount Airy MD 21771 to find out more!

PROTOPLASM PRESS HITS THE BIG 5-0

I was running the maths a while back and realised that to my surprise this issue would be the **50th comic book** I've put out going all the way back to my high school days. It's pretty crazy to think I've managed to publish 50 comic books, even accounting for a decades-long hiatus in between. Here's the full checklist, and you can download pretty much all of these as FREE PDFs over at amoebaadventures.com!

- 1-6. Prometheus #1-6 (1986-1989)
- 7-36. Amoeba Adventures #1-30 (1990-1998, 2020-present)
37. One-Celled Tales #1 (1991)
38. Prometheus Saves The Earth? #1 (1991)
39. Prometheus: The Silent Storm #1 (1992)
40. Dr. Phlegm #1 (1992)
41. Spif #1 (1994)
42. Amoeba Adventures Fifth Anniversary Special (1995)
43. Rambunny #1 (1997)
44. Amoeba Adventures Archive (2020)
- 45-46. Imitation Crab Meat #1-2 (1991-1992)
- 47-48. Jip #1-2 (1993-1994)
49. Chiaroscuro #1 (1995)
50. Amoeba Adventures: Only A Man TPB (1995)



All of the 1990s issues of Amoeba Adventures have been uploaded to the cybersphere as FREE PDF downloads. Check out the complete stories of Prometheus, Rambunny and the gang. All 30 issues of Amoeba Adventures, special issues and solo tales and much more! Most issues also feature bonus rare art, notes and more from back in the day.

FREE PDFS GALORE! AMOEBAADVENTURES.COM

Next issue:



Coming in 2022!