

Spring 2006 Volume 3, Issue 2



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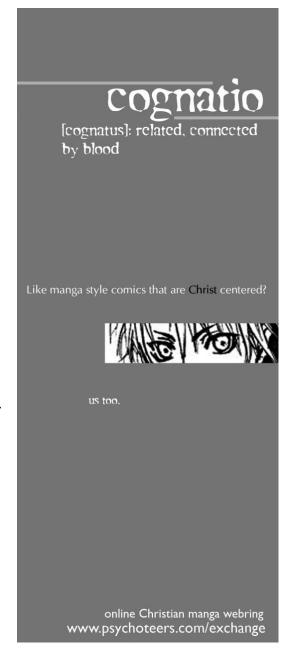
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# This mangazine is dedicated to our Lord Jesus Christ



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Thanks to Mave and Shandra Koger for their mangas KingdomCome and Not Forgotten, Syreth his article and illustration of Job 38, and to all who entered the drawing contest. All content copyright their respective owners. Anime Angels is  $^{\text{TM}}$  Kimberly Graesser.





In January, Nicole and I decided to hold a drawing contest. We would like to say thank you to all of you who took the time to participate and we hope you enjoyed the contest. Now, as promised, on the following pages are the winners. Oh, wait... you are all winners.

<u>1st Place:</u> gets their drawing featured on one full page in the next Anime Angels mangazine. They also get their pick\* of one anime and one manga from Robert's Anime Corner Store.

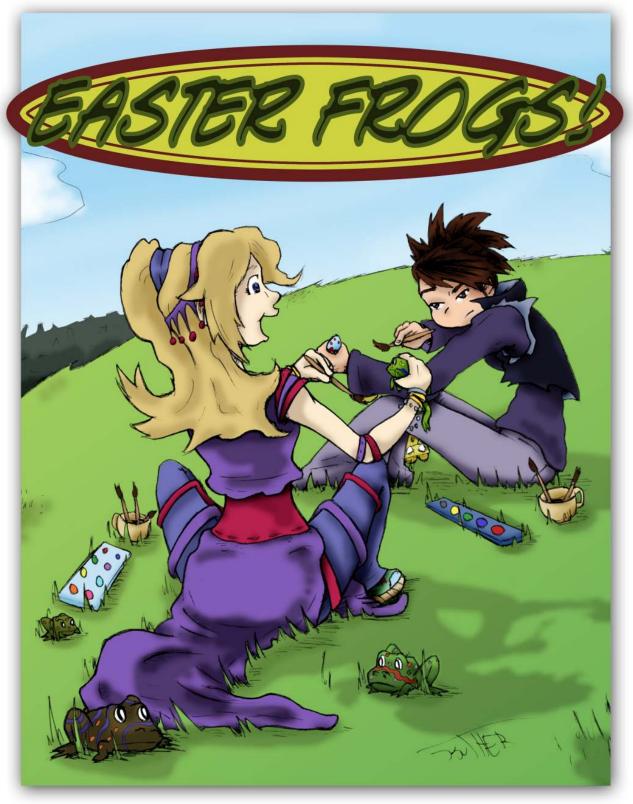
<u>2nd Place:</u> gets their drawing featured in half a page in Anime Angels Mangazine. They get their pick\* of any anime!

<u>3rd Place:</u> gets their drawing featured in half a page in Anime Angels Mangazine. They get their pick\* of any manga!

\*Some restrictions do apply. You may not pick anything from the adult section of the store! The anime must be under 25\$, the manga under 16\$.



### And the winner is...



**Easter Frogs!** by Jaems Suther

4



2nd Place: **Easter Girl** by Jessie Gould (aka eggroll)

3rd Place: Happy Angels by Aleksey (aka anime4christ)





www.christiancomicbooks.net

presents

## GRAND CENTRAL

Christian-created Comics

Volume 1, Issue 1

SUMMER 2005

#### ><u>Summer 2005</u>

**The Cardinal** #16 color and b/w, tabloid sized - *J.K. Kolka /* Cardinal: The longest running Christian superhero returns! www.thecardinal.org

Jesus Christ: Son of Man Graphic Novel, color — Jerry A. Novick, Mario Ruiz, Bill Sienkiewicz, Ben Prenevost / Valor:: The Gospel story of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection is retold in a new and exciting way. What if the Roman Empire had thrived and survived until the 21st Century, and Jesus had first come in our time?

Not of This World quarterly #3 [formerly titled Tri-Light Zone], b/w, color covers – Anthology / JCM Creations:: These are definitely not your father's comics!

www.geocities.com/jcm\_creations

The Revelation of John Devine Graphic Novel, color - Mano Ruz, Dan Jolley, Kyle Hotz, Ray Snyder and Thompson Knox / Valor.: Set in the world of The Son of Man, this story follows a big city detective as he tracks a strange killer bent on destroying the followers of the risen Christ—and perhaps the young church itself.

Peregrination of the Deliverer #2 (of 3) digestsized, b/w - James Sutherland / Make Bellef: A group of people trying to save what's left of their home, and their individual struggles which confront them along the way. This is a story about making choices, the importance of companionship, and finding one's way in a life that doesn't stop moving. <a href="https://www.angelfire.com/comics/redefine">www.angelfire.com/comics/redefine</a>

PowerMark #22 comic-sized, color - Steve Benindetti and Steven Butler / PowerMark Productions: www.powermarkcomics.com

#### ><u>June 2005</u>

David #1 (of 3), comic-sized, color - Royden Lepp / Alias: From the accounts of the first book of Samuel, David begins the retelling of the most powerful General of Israel. Anointed as a young boy and mocked by his brothers, young David is eventually hunted by the king himself. While hiding in a wilderness cave, David looks back on the fateful day he was anointed by a prophet, realizing he's been fightling a battle even from his youth in his father's sheepfold.

Deal With the Devil #3 (of 5), color, comic-sized - Mike S. Miller & Sherwin Schwartzrock / Alias::The tale of a man who once had it all; family, faith, health, the respect and adoration of his peers, and the reputation as the best homicide detective in FBI history.

www.aliasenterprises.com \*\*CC-PG(L, V)\*\*\* see sidebar for more on comics ratings

#### --><u>July 2005</u>

AnimeAngels Mangazine vol 2.3: Summer Explosion editorAAzine@gmail.com www.animeangels.net

Archangels: Legacy #1 (of 3) comic-sized, color - / Cahaba: A millennia has passed since the crucifixion of Jesus Christ. A prophet has just left his work in the safe keeping of a noble King. However, in an effort to thwart the legacy of the gospel a legion of fallen angels governed by Azrul, plot to destroy the sacred scriptures and destroy the faithful kingdom. A prince of Heaven is called to defend the hearts and minds of the King and his peoples. Commander Kai and a host of angels prepare for the onslaught of the enemy.

ArmorQuest #1 (of 6), comic-sized, color - Ben Avery, Sherwin Schwartzrock / Alias::ArmorQuest is the story of a young boy, Timothy, who finds his life and the life of his village threatened by dragons. His village is rescued by Sol, a Knight of the Way, but at what cost? Moved by Sol's sacrifice, Timothy begins a quest to find all of the pieces of armor necessary for him to serve as a knight for his King. This allegorical tale reflects the struggles of new Christians as they acquire the armor of God mentioned in the book of Ephesians.

Deal With the Devil #4 (of 5), color, comic-sized-Mike S. Miller & Sherwin Schwartzrock / Alias;; www.aliasenterprises.com\_ \*\*CC-PG (L, V)\*\* see sidebar for more on comics ratings

Opposite Forces (color version) #1 (of 4), comicsized, color - Tom Bancroft / Alias:: Fresh from his work with Big Ideas' VeggieTales and Larry-Boy episodes, animator and director Tom Bancroft turns his attention to comics and the antics of a pair of mismatched rookie superheroes in Opposite Forces, www.communitycomics.com \*\*CC-PG (D)\* see sidebar for more on comics ratings

#### -><u>August 2005</u>

**David** #2 (of 3), comic-sized, color - *Royden* Lepp / Alias: www.communitycomics.com

Deal With the Devil #5 (of 5), color, comicsized – Mike S. Miller & Sherwin Schwartzrock / Alias:: www.aliasenterprises.com \*\*CC-PG (L, V)\*\* see sidebar for more on comics ratings

Opposite Forces (color version) #2 (of 4), comic-sized, color - Tom Bancroft / Alias:: www.communitycomics.com \*\*CC-PG (D)\*\* see sidebar for more on comics ratings

PowerMark #23 comic-sized, color – Steve Benindetti and Steven Butler / PowerMark Productions:: www.powermarkcomics.com

#### --> September 2005

ArmorQuest #2 (of 6), comic-sized, color - Ben Avery, Sherwin Schwartzrock / Alias::www.communitycomics.com

Opposite Forces (color version) #3 (of 4), comic-sized, color - Tom Bancroft / Alias:: www.communitycomics.com \*\*CC-PG (D)\*\* see sidebar for more on comics ratings

#### CHECK THIS OUT!

A year ago I would not have believed this! 19 comics (of many types) by Christian creators being issued by nine different publishers over the course of four months! And all listed on one page, with websites if you want more information! I hope this gives you some idea of the amount of comics that are out there waiting to be discovered if you keep looking) I've been keeping my eyes out for new Christian comics releases and eeping track of old ones so you don't have to. But hey, I'm just one man, not a machine (I don't care what the rumors say), so if I've missed something or have incorrect information anywhere, or if you just want to let me know what you like and what you don't just send an e.mail to: stevemmacdonald@msn.com (two "m"sl) and tell me all about it! Please keep in mind that the list can change at any time, but the listed items are correct AS OF MARCH 7th, 2005, as far as I know. Check some of these titles out, I know you'll find something good here! God bless you, and enjoy!

-Steve MacDonald

### Christian Comics Ratings

CC-PG (parental guidance suggested)

Many parents may want to read it with their younger children or read it before the children do, to prepare for any questions arising from the art or story. The theme itself may call for parental guidance and/or the comic contains one or more of the following:

moderate violence (V), some sexual situations (S), infrequent coarse language (L), or

some suggestive dialogue (D).



## The Trial

by anime4christ and Syreth

And they that had laid hold on Jesus led him away to Caiaphas the high priest, where the scribes and the elders were assembled. -Mathew 26:57

Many lessons can be learned from the trial our Savior went through. I decided to address one that most Christians are familiar with: about how we as Christians should walk in the truth. I'll also talk about how we can achieve that, and about the dangers of not doing so.

Now the chief priests, and elders, and all the council, **sought false witness** against Jesus, to put him to death; - Mathew 26:59

Note that they sought false witnesses; they knew He wasn't guilty of anything. This was prophesied in a number of places in the Bible, such as Psalm 35:11: "False witnesses did rise up; they laid to my charge things that I knew not."

And they led Jesus away to the high priest: and with him were assembled all the chief priests and the elders and the scribes. - Mark 14:53

One thing wrong with their trial is that the judges were missing, which

the Jewish laws required in a trial:

Then both the men, between whom the controversy is, shall stand before the LORD, before the priests **and the judges**, which shall be in those days; - Deuteronomy 19:17

And the judges shall make diligent inquisition: and, behold, if the witness be a false witness, and hath testified falsely against his brother; - Deuteronomy 19:18

But found none: yea, though many false witnesses came, yet found they none. At the last came two false witnesses, -Mathew 26:60

For many bare false witness against him, but their witness agreed not together. - Mark 14:56

The witnesses' stories were not enough and did not fit together. Notice the difference between the witness quoted in Mathew and the one in Mark:

And said, This fellow said, I am able to destroy the temple of God, and to build it in three days. - Mathew 26:61



We heard him say, I will destroy this temple that is made with hands, and within three days I will build another made without hands. - Mark 14:58

But neither so did their witness agree together. - Mark 14:59

Although they seemed to have the strongest argument, their witness didn't fit together as well, nor was it enough to condemn Jesus:

Here's what Jesus actually said in John 2:19: "Jesus answered and **said unto them, Destroy this temple**, and in three days I will raise it up."

And the high priest arose, and said unto him, Answerest thou nothing? what is it which these witness against thee? - Mathew 26:62

But Jesus held his peace - Mathew 26:63a

Here the high priest is getting desperate and starts asking questions, but Jesus doesn't answer as prophesied by Isaiah:

He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet **he opened not his mouth**: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, **so he openeth not his mouth**. - Isaiah 53:7

The priest then attempts to provoke Him to answer a question that will

give him grounds to accuse Jesus of blasphemy:

And the high priest answered and said unto him, I adjure thee by the living God, that thou tell us whether thou be the Christ, the Son of God. - Mathew 26:63b

Jesus saith unto him, Thou hast said: nevertheless I say unto you, Hereafter shall ye see the Son of man sitting on the right hand of power, and coming in the clouds of heaven. - Mathew 26:64

"Thou hast said," could be rendered,
"You have said it," indicating that the
Priest was at least somewhat aware
of Jesus' authority. His answer only
repeats what He had said previously,
before and after he was manifest in
the flesh. It's amazing how many
verses are related to the concept of
Jesus' ascension:

The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit thou at my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool. - Psalm 110:1

I saw in the night visions, and, behold, one like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought him near before him.

And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him: his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom that which



shall not be destroyed. - Daniel 7:13-14

Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen. -Revelation 1:7

and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for his firstborn. - Zechariah 12:10b

Here are a few more: Matthew 16:27, John 6:62, Matthew 24:30, Jude 1:14

Then the high priest rent his clothes, saying, He hath spoken blasphemy; what further need have we of witnesses? behold, now ye have heard his blasphemy.

- Mathew 26:65

According to the law, the high priest was also forbidden to rend (tear) his clothes:

And he that is the high priest among his brethren, upon whose head the anointing oil was poured, and that is consecrated to put on the garments, shall not uncover his head, nor rend his clothes; - Leviticus 21:10

What think ye? They answered and said, He is guilty of death. - Mathew 26:66

Their goal from the beginning was to condemn Jesus to death, not to give Him a fair trial. Because of this, the whole trial was completely meaningless. They would have condemned Him one way or another. If He would have answered "yes", they would have said He's guilty of blasphemy, if not, they would have brought up the fact that he said He was the Son of God Himself before in Matthew 16:27 and John 6:62 and claim Him a liar.

However, what's interesting is that they committed the same "crime" in John 8:41b: "Then said they to him, We be not born of fornication; we have one Father, even God."

Then did they spit in his face, and buffeted him; and others smote him with the palms of their hands, - Mathew 26:67

Often, when spending time in the Word, we might be amused by the people recorded in the Bible and what they do. You have to wonder if these people were even aware of the fact that they were fulfilling prophecy:

I gave my back to the smiters, and my cheeks to them that plucked off the hair: I hid not my face from shame and spitting. - Isaiah 50:6

He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed



him not. - Isaiah 53:3

Saying, Prophesy unto us, thou Christ, Who is he that smote thee?
Mathew 26:68

One question remains, however: Why did they do everything completely wrong? Why aren't they following their own laws? Jesus Himself gave the answer in John 8:40:

But now ye seek to kill me, a man that hath told you the truth, which I have heard of God: this did not Abraham.

The Pharisees didn't want Jesus to reveal them for who they were. They were expecting Him to praise them as religious leaders. Even though they knew He was telling the truth, they didn't want to listen -- they thought they were too good to change for anybody -- they didn't want to hear the truth.

Don't we often do the same thing though? Usually we don't like it when someone rebukes us even if we are guilty. Often we only want to hear about God's great love to us, but don't want to hear that we are sinners in need of repentance. Sometimes we want to bend the scripture to fit our situation and wants. This is exactly what the pharisees were doing, and that is one thing that Jesus rebuked them for.

Now, we may not have this problem at the magnitude that the pharisees

did, but that doesn't mean we don't have it. And yes, Christians can have the same problem, like the Galatians did:

O foolish Galatians, who hath bewitched you, that ye should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ hath been evidently set forth, crucified among you? -Galatians 3:1

Am I therefore become your enemy, because I tell you the truth? - Galatians 4:16

Ye did run well; who did hinder you that ye should not obey the truth? - Galatians 5:7

----

Lord, who shall abide in thy tabernacle? who shall dwell in thy holy hill?
He that walketh uprightly, and

worketh righteousness, and speaketh the truth in his heart. - Psalms 15:1-2

As Christians, we are expected to live as Christ and walk in the truth. If we are comfortable living in a lie, then how genuine is our faith? So, what is the solution? For us to be in a position to accept the truth we must submit ourselves to God.

But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble.

**Submit yourselves therefore to God.** Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw nigh to God, and he will



draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded. - James 4:6-8

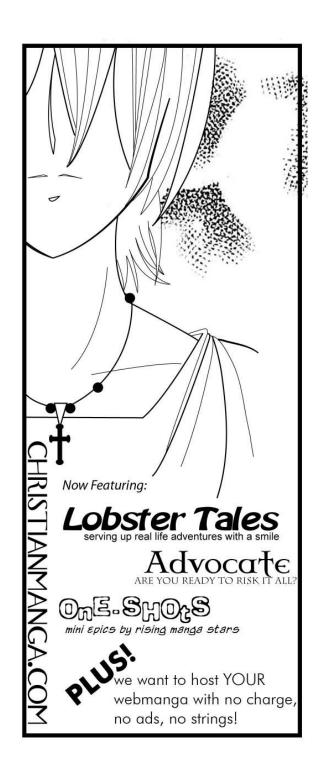
It is important to be in the truth, because without it, it is impossible to truly worship God:

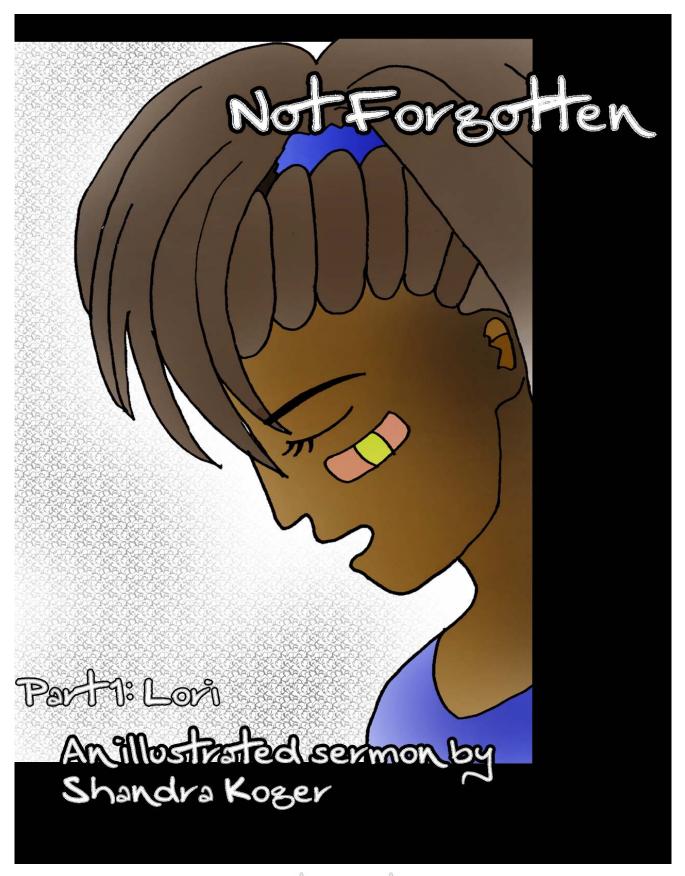
But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him.
God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth. - John 4:23-24

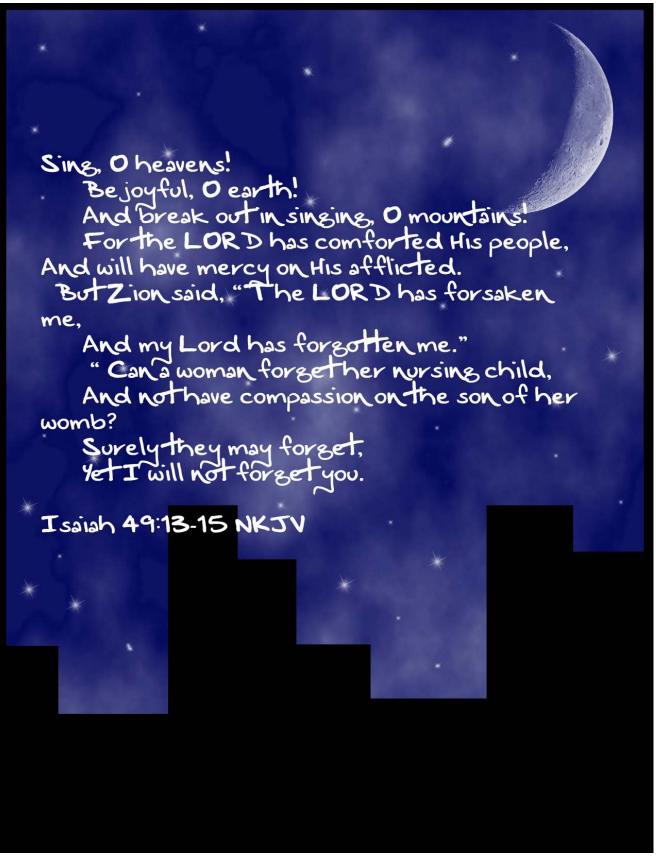
David understood the importance of submitting to God and walking in the truth:

Teach me thy way, O LORD; I will walk in thy truth: unite my heart to fear thy name. - Psalm 86:11

This verse demonstrates humility and submission which enabled David to walk in the truth. Let us also humble ourselves, submitting to the LORD and each other by receiving truth from Him through His word, by hearing truth from our brothers and sisters in Christ or by any other way that He might show truth to us.









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## Concerning $\mathcal{M}_{agtc}$

by Syreth

In our culture, which is continually becoming more and more driven by entertainment there exists a popular genre (category of entertainment) that you can hardly avoid if you've ever stepped into a movie theatre or book store. It has long been a part of books, movies and video games. From classics such as Tolkien's The Lord of the Rings to the recent craze over Rowling's Harry Potter series, fantasy has held the attention of readers, gamers and anime fans for a long time. If you've looked into the fantasy genre of entertainment at all, it is hard to avoid the common theme of "magic," that exists in many different forms in various types of media. What do we, as Christians, do with fantasy magic in its many different forms? Must we dismiss the inclusion of magic in fantasy as sinful or are there stories that we can enjoy without bruising our conscience?

First and foremost, we must look to the Bible for an answer. Galatians 5:19-21a gives us a comprehensive list (though not exhaustive) of the works of the flesh:

"Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these." (ESV)

It's significant to notice that witchcraft, a less-common sin, is grouped together with many works of the flesh that are probably present within your heart and mine on a fairly consistent basis. But even so, we are commanded not to practice it in many other places in the Bible. A more direct commission that we have against the act of witchcraft and sorcery is in the book of Deuteronomy, chapter 18, verses 9-12:

"When you come into the land that the LORD your God is giving you, you shall not learn to follow the abominable practices of those nations. There shall not be found among you anyone who burns his son or his daughter as an offering, anyone who practices divination or tells fortunes or interprets omens, or a sorcerer or a charmer or a medium or a wizard or a necromancer, for whoever does these things is an abomination to the LORD. And because of these abominations the LORD your God is driving them out before you." (ESV)

Although this is specifically a command given to Israel, the strong phrase, "whoever does these things

is an abomination to the LORD," indicates that God is not pleased with such acts.

But notice the word "works," in the Galatians reference and the word "practices," in the Deuteronomy reference. Cleary, witchcraft is an act. You are either actively doing witchcraft or you are not. Where am I going with this? Just wait and see.

While the Bible is clearly against the practice of witchcraft, it says nothing of storytelling, moving watching or gaming. Of course, this doesn't mean that we want to download live videos of Satanic practices and enjoy them as entertainment, but it is a significant point. There is a fine line between practicing witchcraft and doing things such as watching movies or playing video games with fantasy magic in the content of the story.

Another thing I would like to point out is the issue of how magic is portrayed in media. As an example, I would like to contrast the magic in

the recent movie,
The Lion, the Witch
and the Wardrobe,
with the Harry Potter
film series. In The
Lion, the Witch and
the Wardrobe, the
children don't seem
to have anything
inherently magic
about them. They
more or less stumble
into the magical
world of Narnia by

chance and call upon "good magic," (drastically different from the practice of real witchcraft) to aid them in defeating the White Witch's "bad magic." (which has some subtle, implied similarities to Satanism) This is all to reclaim Narnia in the name of Aslan, the True King of Narnia (who is equated to lesus suppositionally). Magic, then, in this movie could be defined as "a force used by higher powers." It is also significant that Aslan and the White Witch seem to have their own separate magics. They do not draw upon a neutral, impersonal force. Also, it is important to note that C.S. Lewis wrote the Narnia series in order to point people to Jesus Christ. 1

However, in the *Harry Potter* series, the portrayal of magic is much different. The characters in the story are either born with magic or without magic. The magic in this series seems to be a force that's hidden within that can be tapped into at any given time either for good or for evil. So, in that sense, the magic itself is neutral. This





concept of magic seems to be derived from the popular belief in the New Age movement which proposes that each human has a divine nature that simply needs to be realized by either meditation or other rituals. The magic in *Harry* Potter bears a striking similarity to real sorcery, giving specific ingredients and incantations for spells. In stark contrast to C.S. Lewis' series. Rowling's books promote relativistic and situational ethics. (Basically the thinking that says, "I can do whatever I want, however terrible it might be, just as long as it produces a good end." but we'll save that for another article). In case some of you are already writing up hate mail to me (because I know there has to be some of you readers that really love Harry Potter), I'll go ahead and tell you that, in my opinion, reading Harry Potter is not sinful.

Even though *Harry Potter* bears similarity to real sorcery, watching the movies and enjoying the books are not the same as practicing sorcery. Also, it is important to realize that the fantasy magic displayed in *Harry Potter* is impossible to practice in real life to its fullest extent. Likewise, most fantasy magic portrayed in today's video games, movies, books and the whole realm of fantasy fiction is not possible to practice in real life. I'm sure people would do it if they could, but they can't!

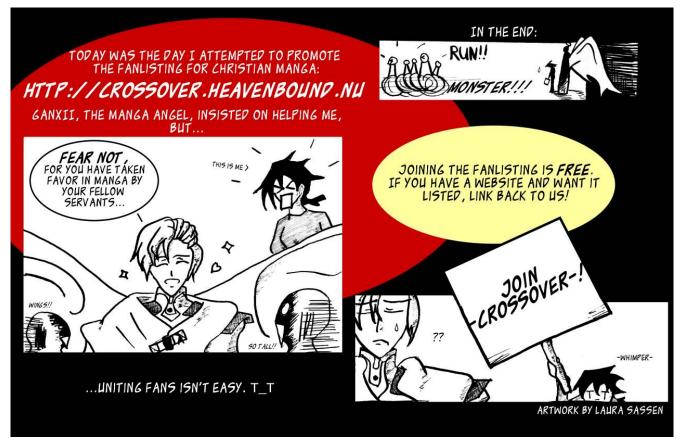
In spite of this article's favorable position on fantasy magic, I do not want to minimize the fact that all of us should be careful of what we expose ourselves to. Every single one of us are able to be influenced to some degree by what we read, watch and play regardless of the confidence that we might have in our own fortitude. If you are younger, you should be especially aware that these things influence you – they influence your thinking, your attitude and your actions. If you have younger siblings, you should realize that these things influence them (especially since they look up to you so much – and trust me, they do). I'll even go a step further and say that we should all be aware of who we might be influencing. Our choices don't only affect us!

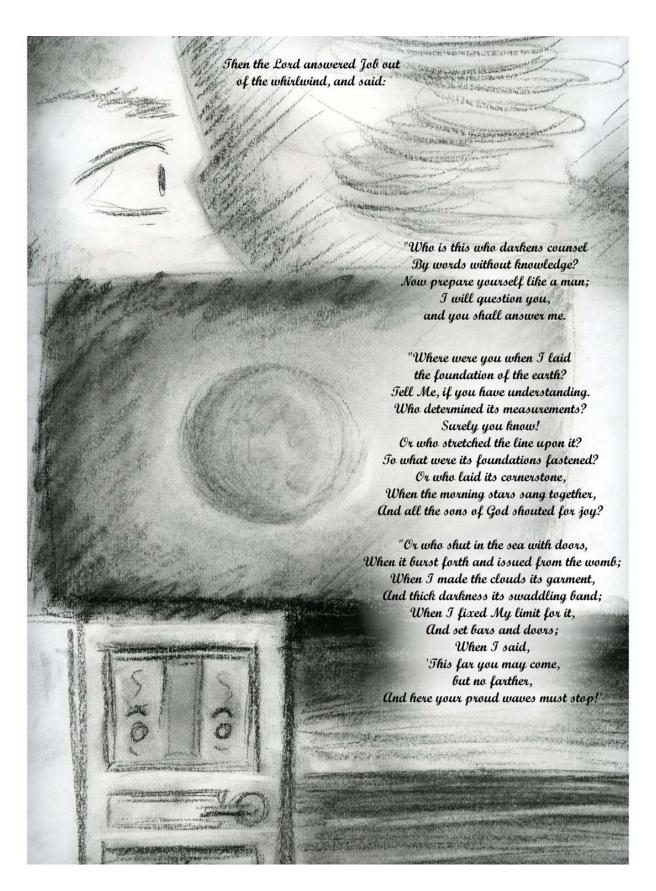
Though many Christians have dismissed fantasy magic altogether as sinful, we ourselves shouldn't be so quick to oversimplify the more complex issue that deals more with ethics and personal accountability than it does with real witchcraft. There is a distinction from the practice of witchcraft and the use of fantasy magic in a fictional setting that we can see by simply looking at the differences between fantasy and reality. Let's not restrict ourselves without reason. We ought to enjoy what is meant to be enjoyed while exercising discernment to do so in a proper way.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>http://en.wikiquote.orgwiki/C.S.\_Lewis#The\_Chronicles\_of\_Narnia\_.281950\_-\_1956.29 Under subheading "The Chronicles of Narnia."

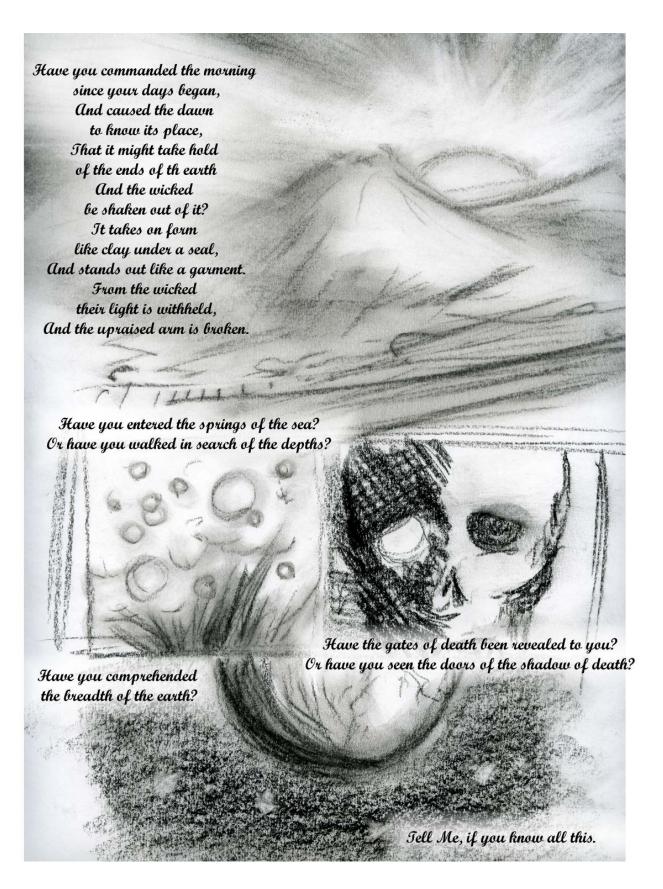




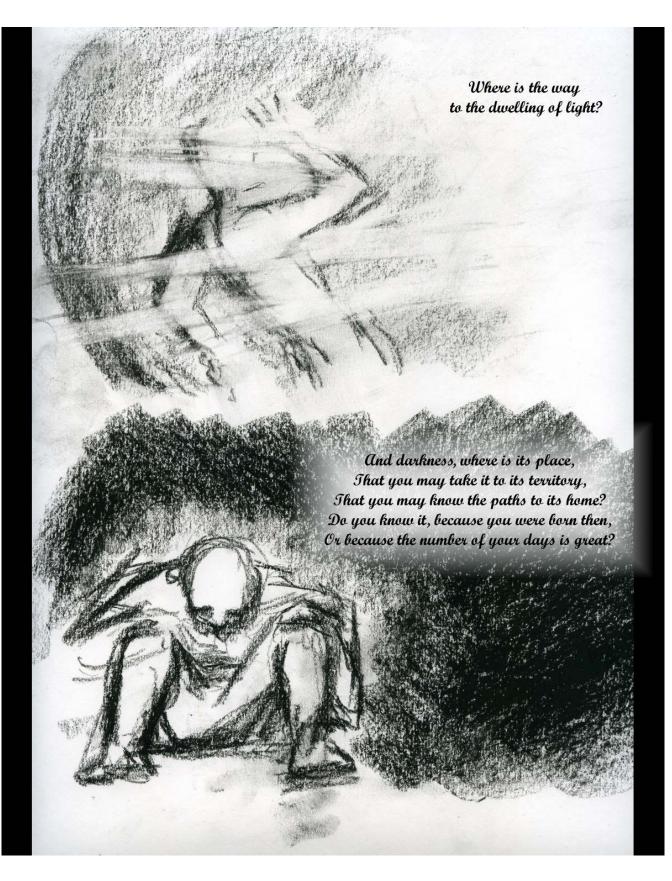




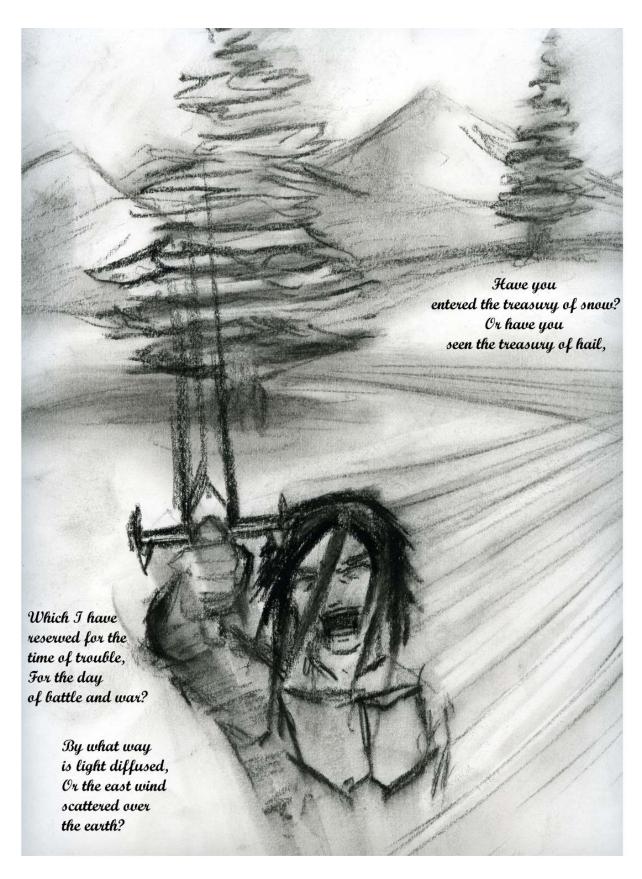




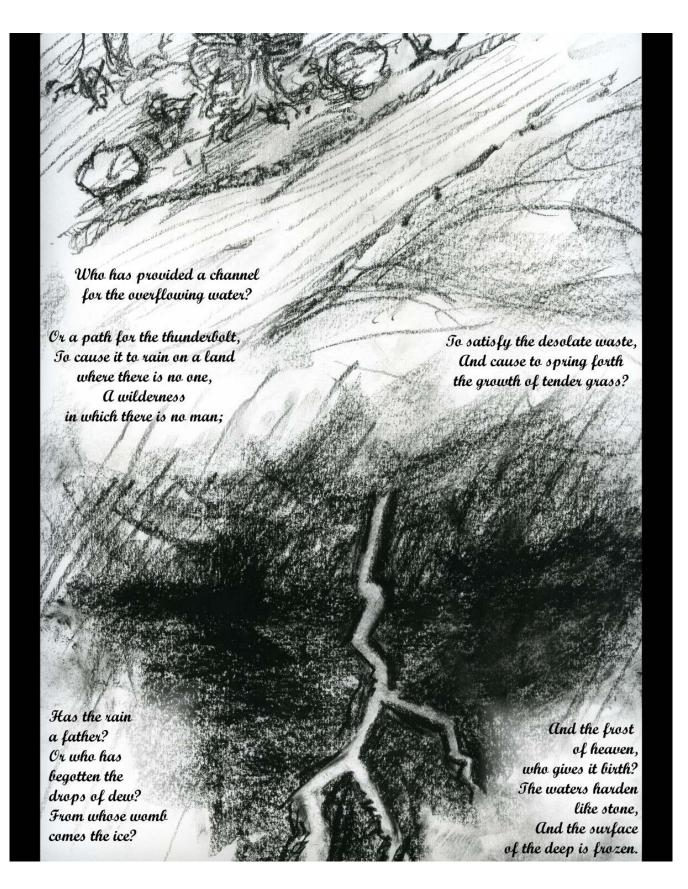


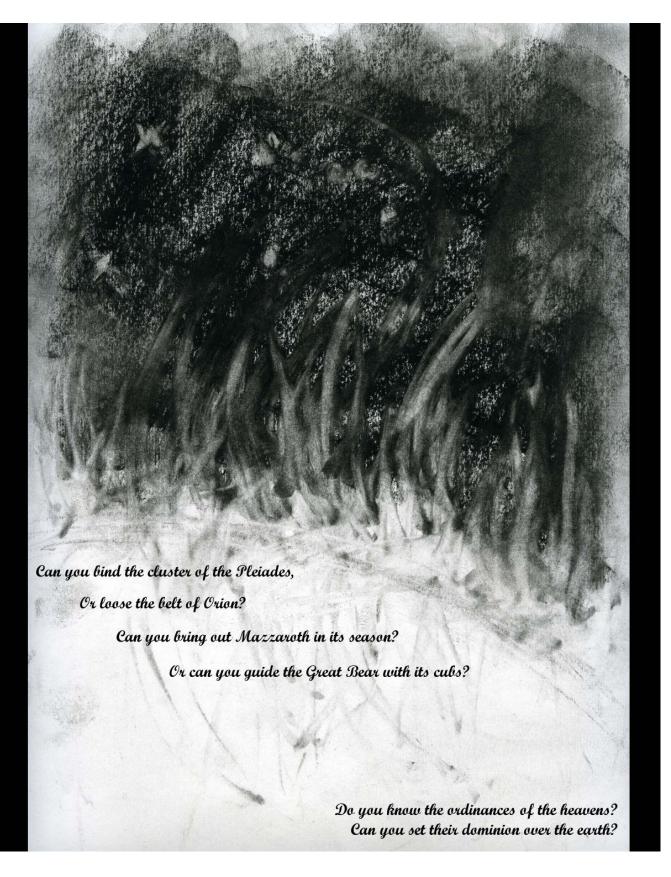


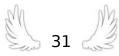




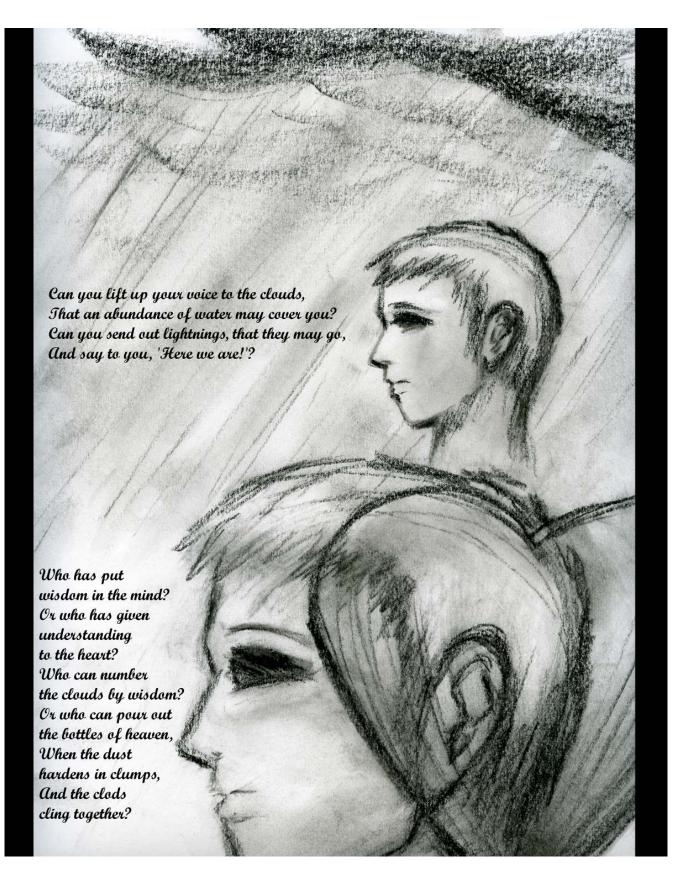




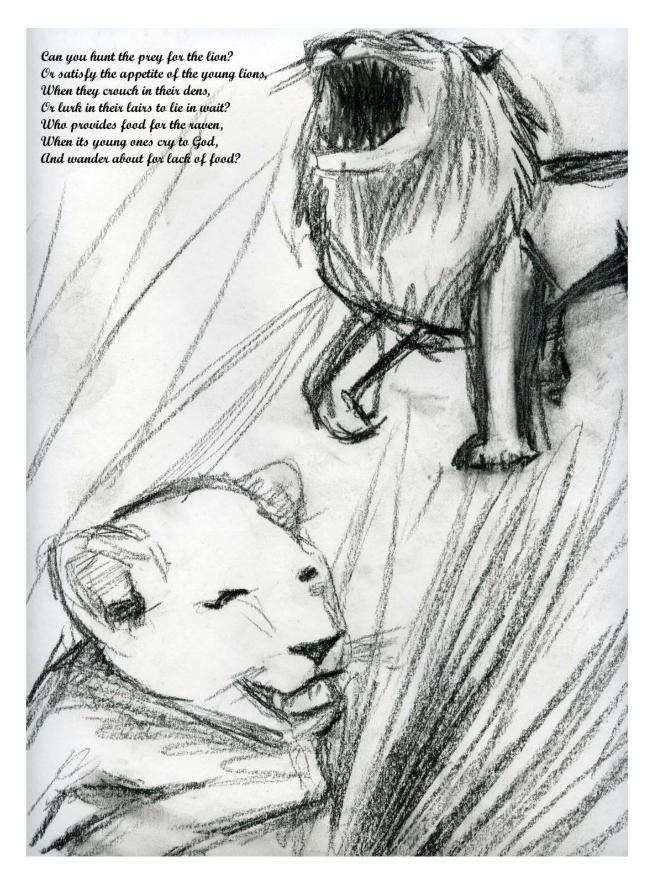




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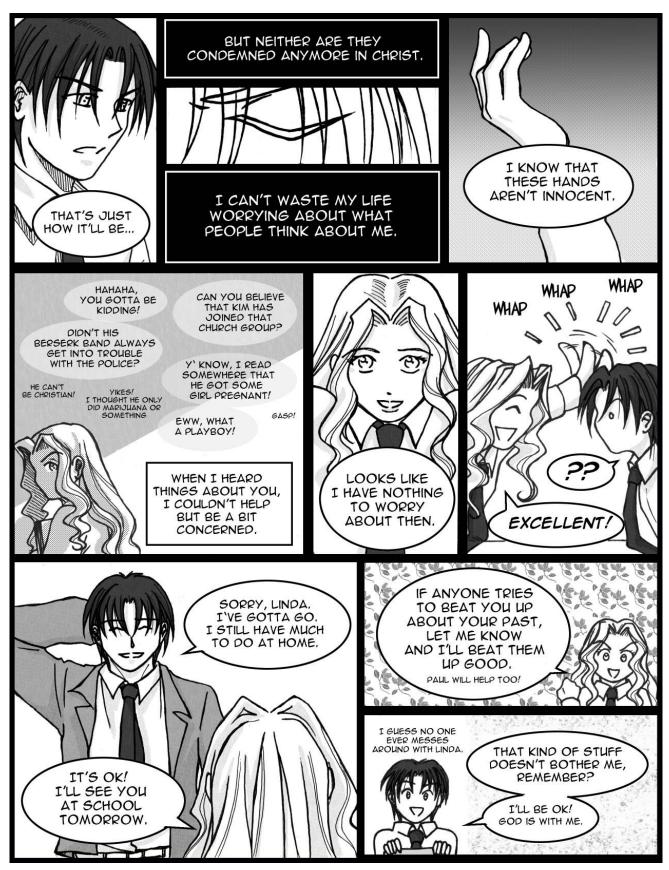


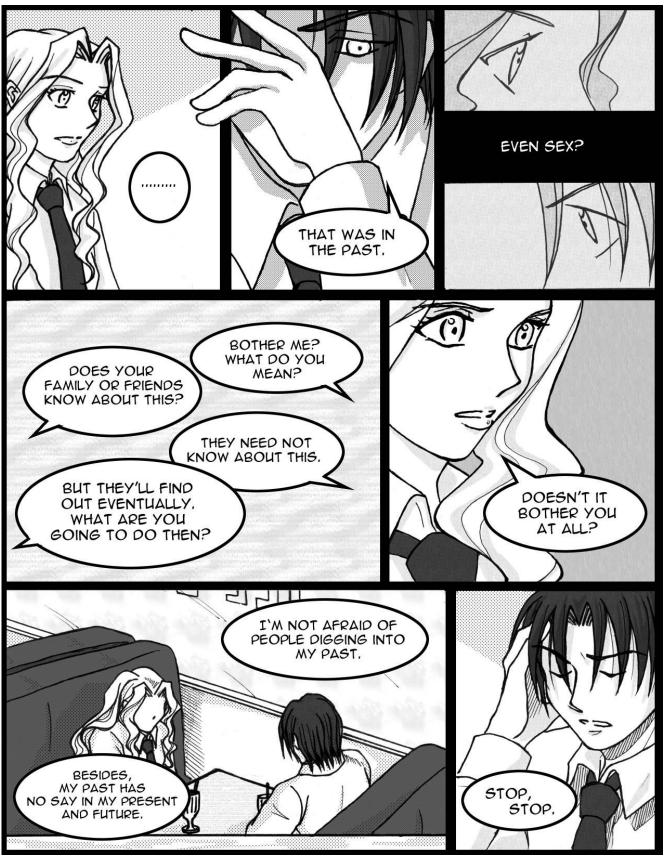




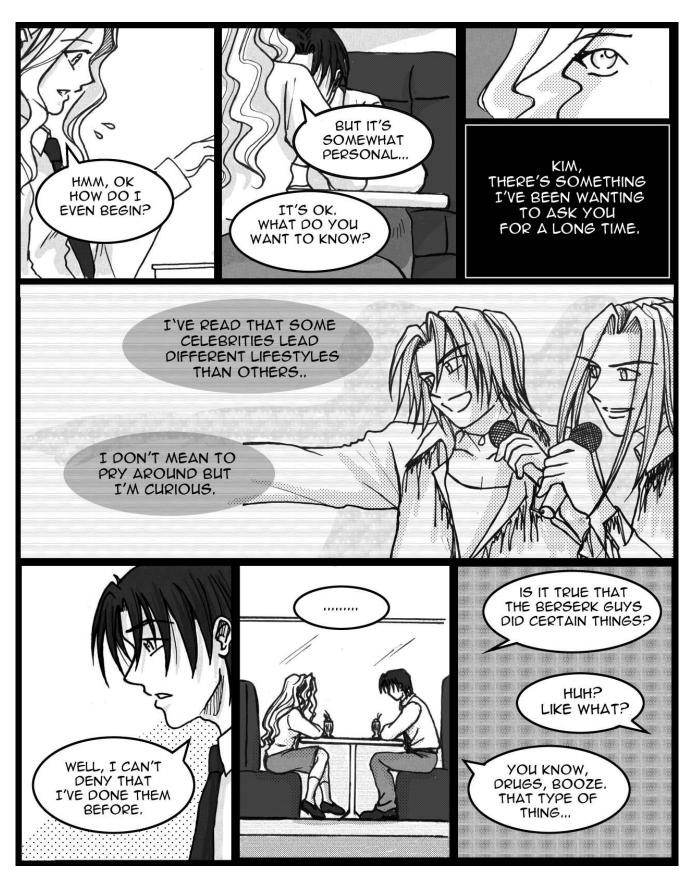






















Art and Story: Mave



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Spring 2006 Volume 3, Issue 2



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