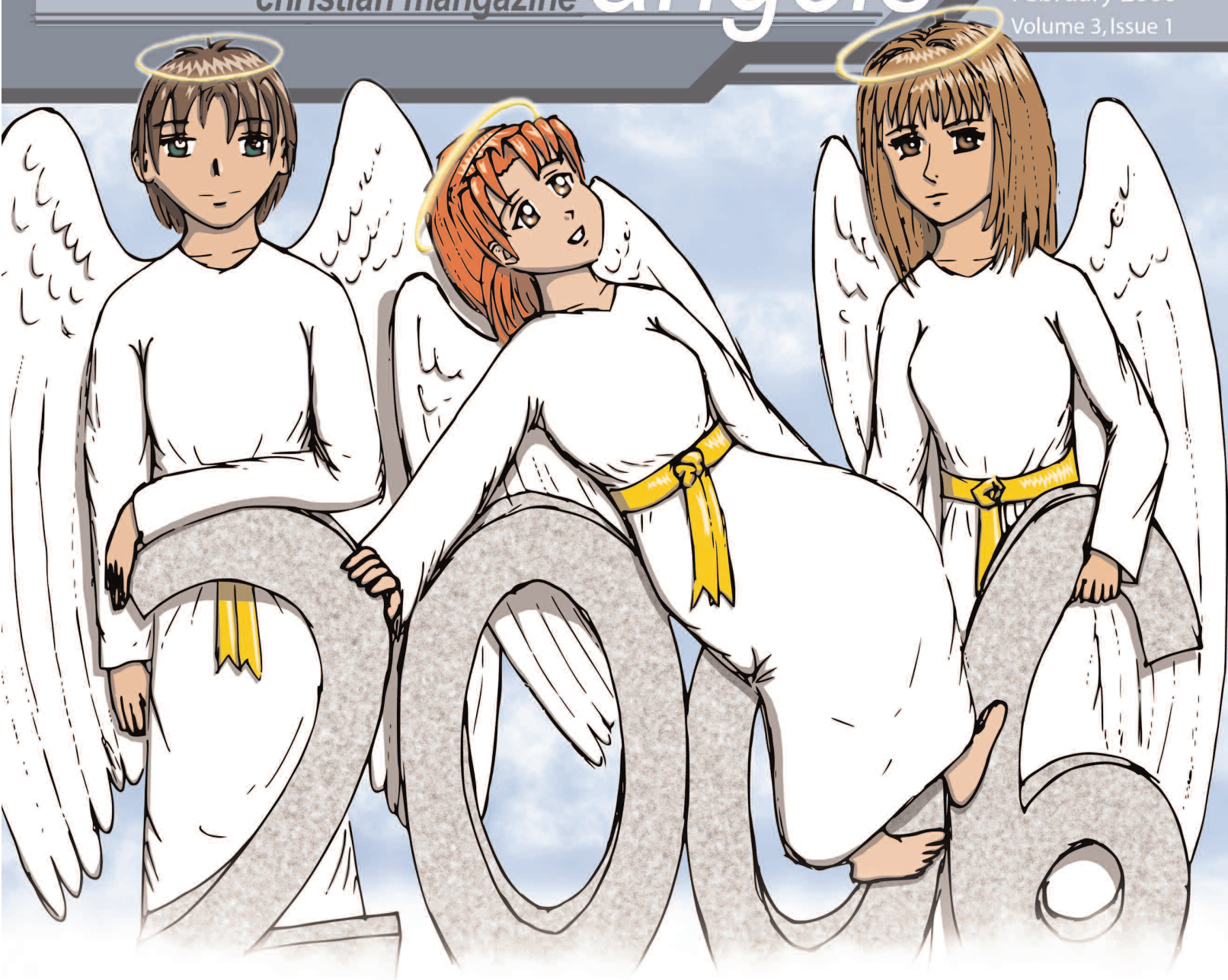


Anime *angels*

christian magazine

February 2006
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This mangazine is dedicated to our
Lord Jesus Christ



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A Pokémon Fan **Speaks Out:**

WHY Pokémon **is** **OK** for *Christians*

By Misty Waterflower

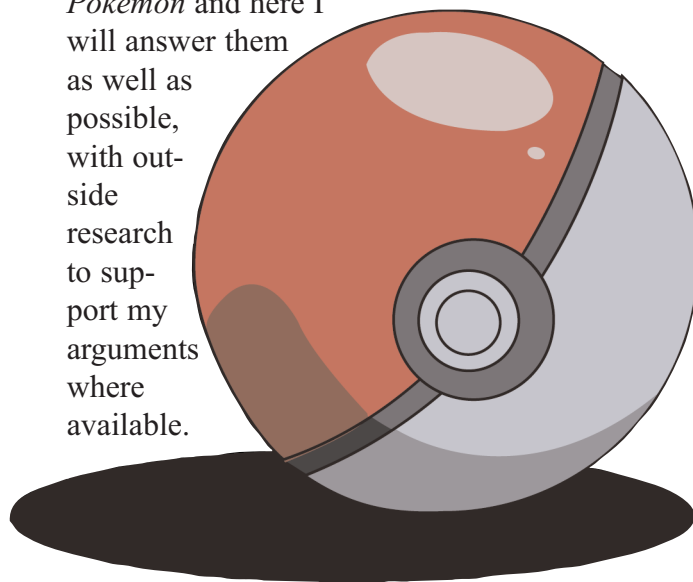
Images by Jordyn aka "Eko"

Pokémon has been around for some time now, but, despite being eclipsed on the trading card shelves by *Yu-gi-oh* and *The Lord of the Rings*, and also eclipsed by the increase of anime shows and anime-esque European imports like *Winx Club* (from Italy) and *Code Lyoko* (from France) on other channels, it's still alive and kicking, albeit not as much as it was back in 1999, which is around the time I first heard about it. Then again, a lot of things that were popular then aren't even mentioned now, like Blink 182. But anyway...

Part of the reason for the decrease in popularity for *Pokémon* is probably all the anti-*Pokémon* sentiment. And I'm not just talking about the websites devoted to various ways of mutilating and/or destroying Pikachu. There are serious articles, written by Christians, on the internet that basically warn parents to keep their kids away from *Pokémon* if they want their kids' moral health to be unsullied. In other words, *Pokémon*, like any other fad of the secular world that attracts the minds of our impressionable little youngsters, is evil (in their opinion)!

As a long-time *Pokémon* fan (and one who was 14 when she became a fan, which is several years above the usual "cartoon" demographic), I look at these articles and wonder what person allowed such baloney on the internet. I mean, the internet *is* a place where people can express their opinions, for ill or no, quite freely (except maybe in China, where the internet is controlled by the government). But what the heck?

That's why I'm writing this article, to present a Christian argument for Pikachu and friends. I have done research on the internet to find the main arguments against *Pokémon* and here I will answer them as well as possible, with outside research to support my arguments where available.



INFLUENCES FROM THE EAST

One argument against Pokémon is that it is influenced by and promotes Eastern religion and mysticism. One website, The Cephas Ministry Library (www.cephasministry.com) claims that “Buddhist Mysticism, Hinduism, meditation rituals, Egyptian Book of the Dead, Book of Tao, the Analects of Confucius, the Gita, the I Ching, the Tibetan Book of the Dead: All These Philosophies influenced Pokemon!”ⁱ

First of all, this accusation implies that Japan has gotten all its cultural and religious ideas from other Eastern religions. While it is true that Buddhism has shared a place in the Japanese religious psyche with the country’s native religion, Shinto, since 522 A.D., Japan had little other outside cultural or religious influence until the arrival of Commodore Perry in 1854, which opened some Japanese ports to the U.S. Christianity actually existed early on in Japan, being brought to the country in 1549 by the Jesuit St. Francis Xavier. Some influence also came from China, but any dealings with them were forbidden in 1552, although Sung Confucianism came over after that.ⁱⁱ

Confucius’s works (the Analects), the I Ching, and the Book of Tao (probably referring to the *Tao te Ching*) are also Chinese in origin, whereas Buddhism, Hinduism, and the Gita (*Bhagavad-Gita*) all come from India (and even the Tibetan Book of the Dead, while not from India, is based off of Buddhist ideas). Meditation rituals come from various Eastern religions (with the only possible tie to Japan being through

martial arts, which are considered spiritual in Japanese tradition). The Egyptian Book of the Dead is, obviously, from Ancient Egypt.ⁱⁱⁱ

In other words, none of these supposed “influences” are directly Japanese. I would be interested in asking the author of this article to elaborate on this claim, which he does not in the article.

Let us examine these supposed “influences” a little more. For instance, the two “Books of the Dead” which are mentioned. One is the Egyptian Book of the Dead. This is the name given to a text called *The Book of Coming [or Going] Forth By Day* which was often found in ancient Egyptian tombs, either carved on the sarcophagus, or, as was the case later, written on papyrus. These books contained spells that would assist the dead person in obtaining happiness after death.

The Tibetan Book of the Dead, or the *Bardo Thodol*, also speaks of the afterlife, but in a different way. It describes the state of *bardo*, a stage between death and rebirth, and the stages of consciousness experienced within it, mostly involving visions of Buddhas.

I see no connection between these books and *Pokémon*. First of all, even any mild fan of *Pokémon* knows that there is no death involved in *Pokémon* battles. Not even Team Rocket, the main villains of the show, ever seek to actually kill anybody. Mewtwo in *Pokémon: The First Movie* is probably the only character who ever comes close to killing anybody. (Remember when Ash tries to stop Mewtwo, only to get

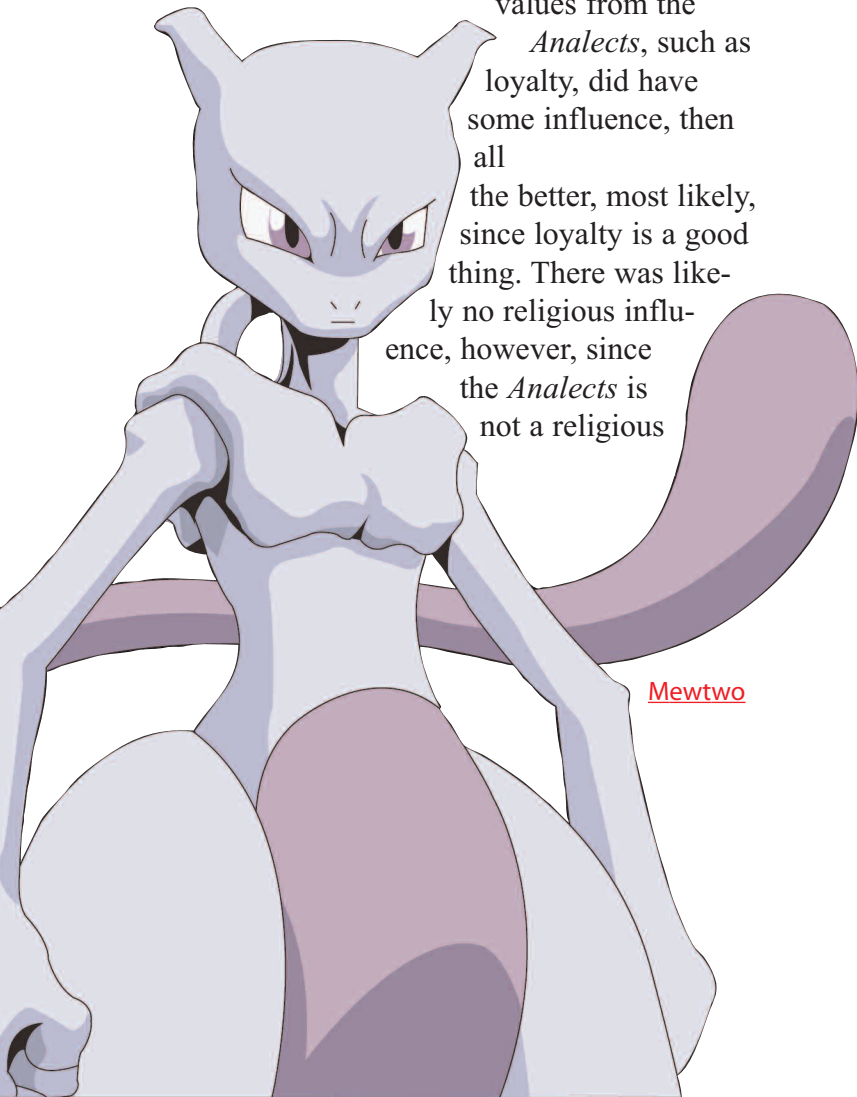


turned to stone?)

The *Analects of Confucius* is not so much a religious text as it is a collection of wisdom and sayings, such as the book of Proverbs is. It is done in a dialogue fashion, similar to the famous dialogues of Plato and Aristotle.^{iv} This work, believed to be the work not of Confucius himself but of his disciples, addresses various issues of the time, such as propriety and loyalty.

Peterson views the *Analects* as part of a list of negative influences. But if some of the

values from the *Analects*, such as loyalty, did have some influence, then all the better, most likely, since loyalty is a good thing. There was likely no religious influence, however, since the *Analects* is not a religious



Mewtwo

work; the original Chinese title literally means “discussion over [Confucius’] words.”

The *Book of Tao*, the *Gita* and the *I Ching* are likewise books accused of influencing *Pokémon*. The *Gita* is another name for the Hindu holy text *Bhagavad Gita*, which is itself part of the great Indian epic *Mahabharata*. The *Gita* specifically focuses on Krishna (believed to be the eighth “avatar,” or incarnation, of the Hindu god Vishnu) and his teachings to a prince named Arjuna. The teachings concern the path to enlightenment and, more specifically, yoga.

While yoga is a popular part of our culture today and is certainly popular among Hindus, I cannot see how this or any other part of the *Gita* influenced *Pokémon*. Hinduism is practiced in Japan, but only by a very small minority. While meditation is common in Buddhism, and Buddhism in Japan, Buddhist meditation does not involve yoga.

The *I Ching* is a Chinese text believed to preserve the philosophy of ancient China. It contains Chinese characters in arrangements called hexagrams, surrounded by trigrams pertaining to different elements. These hexagrams have often been used for divination throughout the centuries, shaping a view of it that this was its main use. There is disagreement among scholars as to its true purposes. While some of the elements mentioned in the trigrams (earth, water, flame, and thunder, for instance) do seem to match up with elemental types of *Pokémon* species, this is likely more because of the beliefs surrounding the ancient Asian elements (wood, water, fire, and metal) that



are commonly held in Japan.

The *Book of Tao* to which Peterson refers is most likely the *Tao te Ching* (roughly translated as *The Book of the Way and its Virtue*), a text believed to be written by Lao Tzu, believed to be the “Master” in Taoism. It is, like the *Analects*, a collection of wisdom for the most part, though it does address *yin* and *yang*, which are considered forces fighting against one another in Chinese philosophy.

The concept of *yin* and *yang* involves opposing things that exist alongside one another, due to the interdependency of *yin* and *yang*. (The words mean “sunny” and “shady” respectively). The force of *yin* is associated with: moon, night, dark, cool, rest, femininity, north, winter, right, introversion, earth, even numbers, and the numbers 6 and 8. The force of *yang* is associated with: sun, day, light, warm, active, masculinity, south, summer, left, extroversion, heaven, odd numbers, and the numbers 9 and 7. They mostly remain in balance, except in some cases.

I see no influence from this in *Pokémon*. In fact, the animes cited as containing Taoist ideas on Anime-Myth.com do not include *Pokémon*, but instead *Inuyasha*, *Fushigi Yuugi* (which is permeated to the gills with Chinese philosophy anyway), and *Dragonball* are cited.^v If the author would elaborate on this claim, I might be able to answer it better, but for now, let’s move on.

Let us mention meditation rituals next. It is true that meditation is a common practice in Eastern religions, particularly in Buddhism, which is a widely practiced religion in

Japan. But in all the episodes I have seen, I have seen no mention of meditation, and I should mention here I have seen almost all of the first season and several episodes from other seasons.

What about Hinduism? Well, I already mentioned there not being any relation between *Pokémon* and the *Bhagavad Gita*, which is a Hindu holy text. Also, Hinduism, while acknowledged as a religion in Japan as aforesaid, is not a major religion. There are currently only 4,000 registered Hindus in Japan. There *has* been some Hindu influence, but only through spread of traditions and beliefs from China and Korea. For example, the Seven Gods of Fortune, who appear in *Ranma ? The Movie: Big Trouble in Nekonron, China*,^{vi} are a Hindu influence. But things such as this seem to be primarily the stuff of legend and so forth, which are more likely to appear in animes such as *Ranma ?* and *Inuyasha*, which are set in feudal Japanese settings, not in more modern animes like *Pokémon*, which is set not even in our own world, but in the world created by the video games on which the show is based. The only remotely Hindu idea I can think of in the series is in “For Ho-Oh the Bells Toll” when Eusine mentions that the three legendary dogs are the “reincarnation” of the north wind, the volcano, and of thunder. However, reincarnation is not solely a Hindu idea anyway, being also a component of Buddhism. The idea of the dogs representing different elements may have something more to do with Shinto, which is more connected to nature and elements.

Buddhist mysticism is the last thing we come to. Buddhism is widely practiced in



Japan, though Shinto remained the state religion till World War II.

I'm not sure what exactly the writer of the article means by Buddhist mysticism. Mysticism simply means "immediate consciousness of the transcendent or ultimate reality or God; the experience of such communion as described by mystics" or "a belief in the existence of realities beyond perceptual or intellectual apprehension that are central to being and directly accessible by subjective experience."^{vii} Essentially, this implies direct access to God or some other higher spiritual being. It could mean direct access to the Christian God, or even the Jedi's access to the Force. I mean, there are even people considered to be Christian mystics, like St. Teresa of Avila and even the apostle Paul.

So possibly the writer is referring to transcendental meditation, or TM, which is a movement in and of itself. It was introduced to the West by Maharishi Mahesh Yogi in 1957, and is its own organization. This organization is responsible for, among other things, the Natural Law Party (the U.S. and U.K. branches of which disbanded in April 2004). It basically involves chanting mantras in order to obtain "pure consciousness," a state of harmony with the world (more or less). TM is also believed to rid the body of stress, which is viewed as "structural or material impurities resulting from overload on the physiology."

Frankly, I don't see any evidence of mantras in *Pokémon*, although other articles I have read by Christian anti-*Pokémon* writers claim that "Gotta catch 'em all," the classic *Pokémon* catchphrase, is a mantra. But I don't see any kids in the lotus posi-

tion chanting that, do you? Sure kids are bound to repeat it. Heck, I repeat theme songs to shows and stuff at random times, simply cause they are stuck in my head at the time. Ever had a song you really hated stuck in your head? This is likely cause music producers include a hook, often a repeated phrase, which people are likely to get stuck in their heads, because they know this will attract more fans to the song. I still have the chorus to "Blue" by Eiffel 65 in my head, as well as parts of a couple old Britney Spears songs. I'd love to get them out of there, but they won't go away. This is similar to what is done in TV commercials, for the same reason—they repeat words or images or music, so it gets stuck in your head. I still remember the jingle to a Double Mint Gum commercial from when I was like 5 or 6 years old! You get the idea.

Okay, that said...moving on!

THE PROBLEM WITH ANIMALS

In this section, I'll deal with two different arguments, since they are related.

There are two main animal-related arguments against *Pokémon*: that it promotes animals fighting together, and that it does not promote the Biblical command to be a steward of animals.

The question of stewardship of animals seems to be, based on the usage of this argument in articles I have read, based on the command regarding man's relationship to the animals in Genesis. In Genesis 1:28, it says, "God blessed them; and God said to them, 'Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and



over every living thing that moves on the earth” (NASB).^{viii}

I checked this verse in several other versions also, and they all basically said the same thing: subdue and rule over the world. The word “steward” never once came up. I then went to my trusty NASB concordance to look up the original Hebrew words used for “subdue” and “rule” in this verse.

The word used for “subdue” is *kabash*, which means “to subdue, bring into bondage.” It is also translated as “assault,” “brought into subjection,” “forced into bondage,” “forcing,” “subdued,” “subjugate,” “trample,” and “tread under foot” in the NASB. These translations indicate that the word implies not mere stewardship of the animals, which is simply being in charge of what is given to one by another, but rather implies a more direct control of the animals, taking them for their own in a sort of invasion. In other words, Adam and Eve aren’t just pet-sitting for God’s animals; God’s letting them have them for keeps to do whatsoever they desire with them.

The word used for “rule” is *radah*, which means “to have dominion, rule, dominate.” It is translated “rule” 12 times in the NASB. The meaning of this word implies that man has a superior role, one that puts him above the animals. While he is not equal to or above God, he is above the animals. God rules over the earth as creator, and Adam and Eve are his co-rulers in a sense. Somehow, I don’t think that our fall from grace necessarily took away our authority over animals; animals have been domesticated for centuries after the Fall. We just are probably not on the same level as

we were before the Fall.

Next we come to the idea of animals fighting together. Frankly I don’t understand where Christian anti-*Pokémon* writers find Biblical justification for this view, except maybe in Isaiah 11, which is talking about the future and, as far as I know, has not yet been fulfilled.

Of course people who are all for animal rights and so forth wouldn’t like seeing animals pitted against each other in any sort of competition. But, if this is so, then why are dog and cat shows allowed to occur? Anyway, what they are likely worried about are animals pitted together in fights.

The thing about animals is that most animals in the wild are rather territorial. So fights among animals, even of the same species, are rather commonplace. Wolves in particular are pretty territorial, as are lions.

As for human-directed



Jessie

James

Both members of Team Rocket

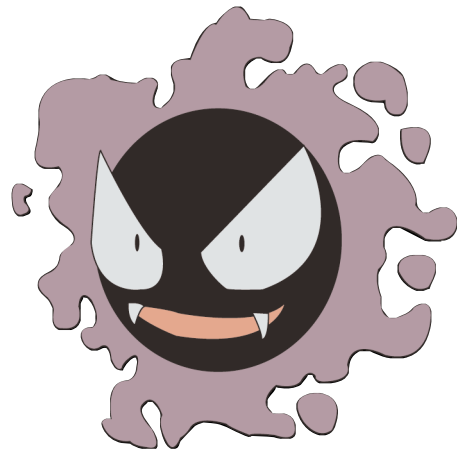


animal fights, well, they are not commonplace, I agree. But such fighting has traditionally been held to be cruel to animals and therefore outlawed. Bullfighting, for instance, is illegal in many countries, including the U.S., Morocco, and Brazil, but is popular in France, Spain, and Portugal. The famous animal fights of the Coliseum in Rome have not occurred since 524 A.D. Cockfighting (pitting two special types of roosters called gamecocks against one another) has been illegal for some time, though it is legal in some places, including Puerto Rico. Rat baiting, which involves having dogs go after rats and try to kill them, was very popular in the 1800's but the last public rat baiting competition took place in 1912. In other words, changing attitudes toward the humane treatment of animals has brought such activities to a minimum.

I still don't understand the argument. Yeah, there's fighting (in the form of battling) among "animals" (if we can even call them that, since Pokémon aren't all necessarily like animals I've ever seen, and keep in mind some are not animal-type but look like plants or some other non-animal thing), but if this is so, shouldn't one say the same thing about other shows that feature monsters fighting each other, such as *Yu-gi-oh* and *Digimon*? Yet do we hear this? No. Not to my knowledge anyway.

Moving on...

ABRA KADABRA ALAKAZAM...AND OTHER ISSUES WITH MAGIC & PSYCHIC STUFF



[Gastly: a ghost pokemon](#)

One of the really common accusations against *Pokémon* is that it is said to be connected with magic and psychic practices. This is primarily because of the presence of psychic-type Pokémon, ghost-type Pokémon, and the appearance of a psychic-type gym leader, Sabrina. As for the magic (or probably I should say "magick," since that term refers to occult magical practices, whereas "magic" refers to the kind stage magicians/illusionists practice^{ix}) connection, the names of the main psychic Pokémon—Abra, Kadabra, and Alakazam—together create the classic magician's phrase. Also, the *Pokémon* theme song mentions trying to "understand/The power that's inside," and the "Pokérap GS" specifically says "Your kind of magic's on the tips of my fingers!/Whenever I call!"—all of which some people would consider references to magic.

First, let's talk about magic (or "magick" or whatever you choose to call it). Frankly, there are shows that are *way* more about magic than *Pokémon*. In fact, I don't ever remember the word "magic" ever being



mentioned in the show, at least in reference to the powers of Pokémon.

For instance, let's start with anime shows that mention or include magic. Any *mahou shoujo* (magical girl) anime automatically has some sort of magic in it, of varying degrees. Such shows include *Sailor Moon*, *Card Captor Sakura*, *Wedding Peach* and *Magic Knight Rayearth*. Also anything in which a witch is a protagonist obviously has to do with magic, such as some of the early *mahou shoujo* shows, like *Mahoutsukai Sally (Little Witch Sally or Sally, the Witch)* and *Majokko Meg-chan (Little Witch Meg)*^x, and the Hayao Miyazaki movie *Kiki's Delivery Service*, which is about a young witch.

There are also shows which involve the use of summoning, usually of magical creatures, which don't fit in the above categories. *Yu-gi-oh* and *Shaman King* are two such shows. *Tenchi Muyo* features some summoning (the use of Light Hawk Wings) and so does *Descendants of Darkness* (a.k.a. *Yami no Matsuei*). The CLAMP-created anime *Angelic Layer* involves the use of magical doll-things in combat.

Pokémon really doesn't fit in any of these categories. The use of the Pokémon's powers are used primarily for friendly competition and occasionally for practical purposes (like how Ash used Cyndaquil's Flamethrower to cut through the webs in "For Ho-Oh The Bells Toll" and the water Pokémon used their Water Guns to soften the dirt in the pond hole so it would be easier to dig through in "Bulbasaur the Ambassador"). In fact, it is stated early on in the show (in "Charmander: The Stray

Pokémon") that Pokémon should never be used to settle grudges. Any use of Pokémon for any purpose other than friendly competition and practical purposes, such as getting through obstructions, etc., is frowned upon in the show, which is why Team Rocket and later Team Aqua and Team Magma are considered bad guys, as well as all the bad guys in the movies whose purpose is to misuse Pokémon, such as Mewtwo in the first movie, and Annie and Oakley in *Pokémon Heroes*.

Magic is defined as "[t]he art that purports to control or forecast natural events, effects, or forces by invoking the supernatural" and "[t]he practice of using charms, spells, or rituals to attempt to produce supernatural effects or control events in nature."^{xi} Notice it particularly mentions invoking the *supernatural*. The powers of Pokémon aren't supernatural, or at least are never mentioned as such, although the episode "The Ancient Puzzle of Pokémopolis" and the fourth part of the *Electric Tale of Pikachu* manga indicate that there was a time when some Pokémon were viewed as gods.

As for psychic stuff, it is true that there are psychic-type Pokémon. There are also ghost-type Pokémon, and ghosts are sometimes involved in the acts of mediums. For instance, when Saul visits the medium in Endor, she calls up Samuel's ghost (1 Samuel 28).

The definition of the word *psychic* is "Of, relating to, affecting, or influenced by the human mind or psyche; mental" (probably because the word from which the word originates, *ps?khikos*, itself comes from the word *ps?ch?*, where we get our word "psy-



che”) or “capable of extraordinary mental processes, such as extrasensory perception and mental telepathy.”⁷⁷ It would seem that the latter definition is assumed for this argument.

However, there are few Pokémon shown to have any sort of unusual mental power. Psyduck is one, releasing psychic power every so often. Kadabra has a telepathic link with Sabrina (and the same goes for Abra in the manga). Both Xatu and Ho-Oh are said to be able to see into the future, though neither claim has been proven as yet.

In conclusion, there may be the appearance of psychic-related things in *Pokémon*, but I seriously doubt that, by association, this will influence kids to practice psychic activities, like trying to summoning psychic powers. Kids of the show’s demographic age range are not likely to understand the intricate rituals, etc., involved, as they are not yet capable of abstract thought, according to lifespan psychologists.^{xiii}

DARWIN AND...PIKACHU?!

And now, our last argument. You’re probably pretty tired of this really long article, but bear with me a little longer, cause this is a big one.

The last big argument by Christians against *Pokémon* is that it promotes Darwinian evolution, since Pokémon evolve. The evolution issue is, of course, a hot topic in the Christian community. Just the fact that evolution is taught in schools—the whole dilemma that the Scopes trial tried to deal

with—is bad enough. But in our kids’ cartoons? Unthinkable!

First of all, the evolution in the show is not gradual, as Darwinian evolution would suggest. A Pokémon remains in its state for a certain period of time with no significant changes, and then suddenly changes into a new creature. So, if the show promotes any sort of evolution at all, it would be the kind known as *punctuated equilibrium*, commonly held by those of the Marxist/Leninist and Cosmic Humanist (New Age) viewpoints. In this view, things remain mostly the same for a while, and then at random there are rapid changes.^{xiv}

Also, if Darwinian evolution was being taught through this show, it would most likely have been censored even more than it already was to please the anti-evolution crowd, since very little mention of evolution seems to appear on TV, except in science-related programs. *The Origin of Species* has been banned for promoting Darwinian evolution, so why wouldn’t TV be censored?

SO IS IT SAFE?

So, is Pokémon safe for our little Christian kiddies? Yeah, I think so. If my research doesn’t convince you, I don’t know what will. I am no scholar with a Ph.D; I’m just a Pokémon fan and a Christian, and I care enough about this to do the research and wr

ite this article. And if you have been fascinated by this article but don’t agree with my responses, you might as well say along with James, “Drat. We just wasted this whole episode cheering for the good guys.”ⁱ



ENDNOTES

ii This and other references to this article refer to the article “Pokemon – Just another ‘fad’? Read on! A Christian perspective...” by Brett Peterson.

iii *Our Oriental Heritage*, Will Durant, New York: Simon and Schuster, 1935. 18th printing, 1954, pages 832, 915, 840, 866

iv Wikipedia (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/>) was used for the researched info throughout the article unless otherwise noted.

v This is based on observations of a translation of the *Analects* by the University of Adelaide (<http://etext.library.adelaide.edu.au/c/confucius/c748a/index.html>)

vi Thanks to <http://www.anime-myth.com/taoism.html> for this info. Info on the Chinese philosophy in Fushigi Yuugi confirmed by the Fushigi Yugi page of the site Influences mythologiques dans les mangas et dessins animés (<http://www.eleves.ens.fr/home/aze/anime/mythes/fushigi.html>) and **Tomo no Miko’s Fushigi Yuugi Page** (<http://www.sempai.org/~felicia/fushigi.html>).

vii I confirmed the presence of these gods in the *Ranma ?* movie on www.anime-myth.com and confirmed the movie’s title on www.imdb.com. I first heard of this movie from a preview for it that was included on one of my *Pokémon* episode videos, but never actually saw it.

viii Thanks to www.dictionary.com for these definitions.

ix Thanks to www.biblegateway.com for the verse; I used the NASB version since the concordance I used to check words in this verse is a NASB concordance.

x I found out the info on the magic/magick distinction on the back cover of the book *Harry Potter and the Bible* by Richard Abanes. I have never heard of it being spelled “magick” either in Harry Potter or any other book dealing with magic of that kind, however.

xi Thanks to

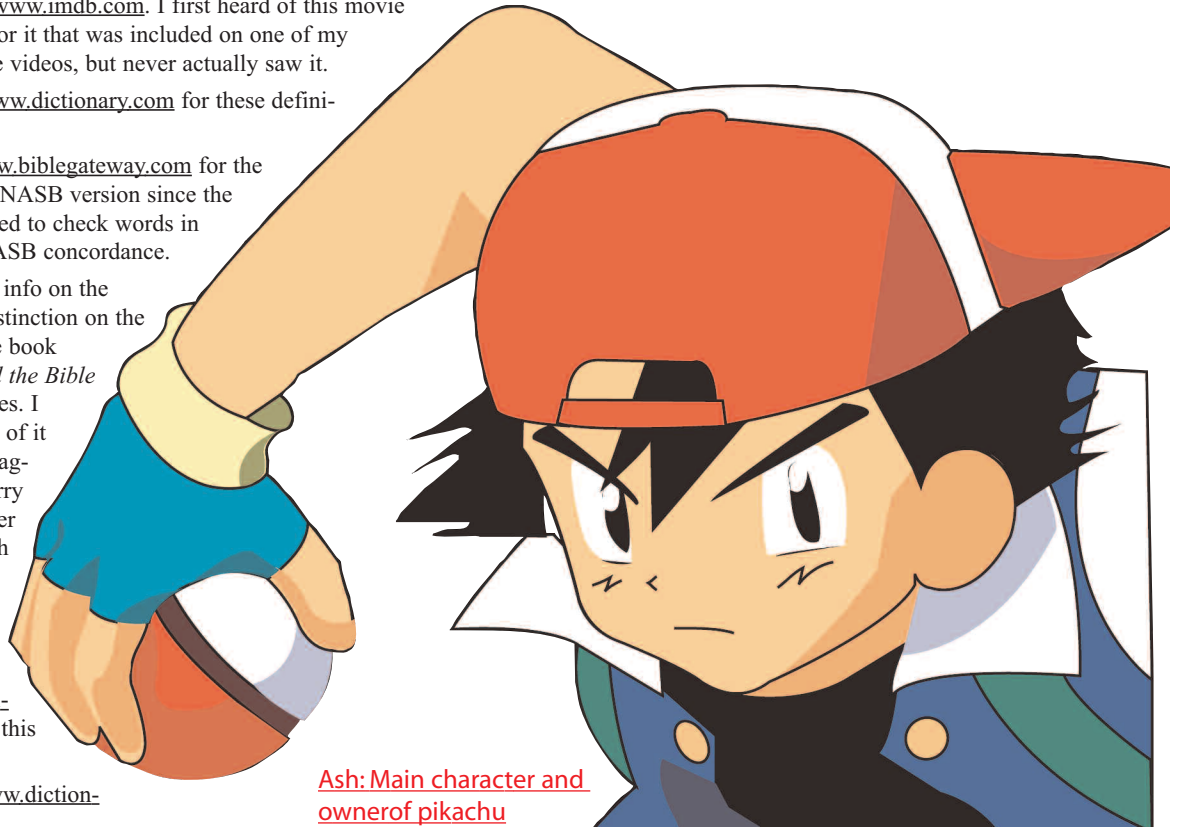
www.henshin.anime-myth.com for this info.

xii Thanks to [www.diction-](http://www.diction-ary.com)

[ary.com](http://www.diction-ary.com) for these definitions.

xiii Thanks to www.dictionary.com for these definitions.

xiv This is based on the cognitive development structure set up by renowned childhood psychologist Jean Piaget, which places the development of concrete thought, called the “concrete operational stage” by Piaget, as taking place between ages 7 and 12, with abstract thought (the “formal operational stage”) developing afterwards. Piaget’s structure is accepted by most lifespan psychologists.



Ash: Main character and owner of pikachu



cognatio

[cognatus]: related, connected
by blood

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us too.

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GRAND CENTRAL

Christian-created Comics

Volume 1, Issue 1

SUMMER 2005

Summer 2005

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

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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

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

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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

July 2005

AnimeAngels Magazine 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. www.cahabaproductions.com

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. www.communitycomics.com

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), comic-sized, 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

August 2005

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

Deal With the Devil #5 (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) #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 Beninetti 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 keeping 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 like, just send an email to: stevenmacdonald@msn.com (two 'm's!) 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, 2006**, 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 Mac Donald

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).



Life in *Christ*

A Bible Study
Written by Rose

Have you not heard Proverbs 14:12? This is why we follow what God says...

**WHAT'S UNACCEPTABLE AND HOW YOU CAN TELL

I want to start with Isaiah 5:20 which says: Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; Who put darkness for light, and light for darkness; Who put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter.

Basically, what is wrong is wrong and what is evil is evil and what is bad is bad.

Anyone saying that it is NOT is looking at a harsh future. Equally do not say what is good is not or what is right is not or what is righteous is not, because it is still putting doom upon yourself. So if God is warning us not to call evil good and good evil, why do you think it is acceptable to Him that we entertain ourselves with such things? Television shows, radio, whatever that displays things that God calls evil as if it's OK - do you really believe God approves of that?

If someone is doing something, while displaying what is wrongful in the situation - then we can agree with it because it is NOT calling what is good evil nor is it calling what is evil good; essentially displaying something as it truly is. As for example, an anime in which a young girl goes out stealing, but only so she can help someone else. As long as it is shown that this girl is wrong in stealing, and it is not

encouraging you to steal, then we can agree with it. Because it is displaying a point that stealing is wrong, we can clearly see the Truth in the story of what is good and what is evil.

Perhaps you could relate to Jesus' story of the prodigal son. It is a story Jesus tells of a young man who went away from home to party and drink and have his way, but then he realized his fault and came back home and the father accepted him. Yes, in the story the young man was rebellious and wild, selfish and a glutton, but the story did not support his rebellion and it taught us that what he did was wrong. Yet the point of the story was to accept someone who has come acknowledging their sins and asking for forgiveness.

This is clearly what is meant when we talk about types of entertainment. Especially in anime, we can clearly see that there are some animes that focus on portraying evil as good, as a side-story or as the main plot. But there are other storylines, in which there may be a mention (side-story or other) of evil, identifying it as not good, but the real focal point is on some other nature - perhaps of justice or of some virtue like friendship. My point is do not entertain yourselves with things that are not holy.

**SO WHAT IS ACCEPTABLE?

God shows us how we should think, and carry ourselves daily. Ps 1 is a great chapter to depend on. It says that we should not stand in the path of sinners, we should not hang out with the scornful - listening to them. That



should not be where we get our entertainment or resources from at all, but we should delight ourselves in God's law (the Bible). Therefore anything that encourages His law or imitates His law or leads us to know His law better should be what we delight ourselves in.

Look to Philippians 4:8 where we are instructed also of what we should meditate on (have our minds filled with): truth, nobility, justice, purity, love, good reports, virtue, praiseworthy things... All of these things should be within our hearts constantly, and I would add that if something displays evil as good, it is NOT something you should be involved in.

[1 Cor. 10:31- 11:1](#)

We learn here that if we truly love God and want God's power to flow through us, we should imitate Christ. Everything that Jesus Christ did while on the earth He did for God's glory! Jesus looked out for others, overlooking Himself. Yet, how can we glorify God when we are busy doing something for ourselves? And at that, something for ourselves that is against God. Or would you rather do your own thing, grieving the Holy Spirit that lives within you and make excuses for yourself? We all make excuses, I am not excluding myself, but what is the better way that we should follow? We need to make that upward climb towards our Father God, towards that goal of being Christ-like and not worldly. Our home is not here so why hold so tightly to the things of this world? These things made by people are not eternal and eventually, always losing their appeal. But rather we should hold tightly to and defend the things of spiritual

nature of God. Not defending something that is mixed with sin but Someone that is pure and Holy and will always be by your side.

You have to turn off to your own wants and turn on to Christ in order to understand the things that are spiritual. No matter what anyone else says if it doesn't line up with the walk that Christ gave while He was on the earth, then we should not heed it. If it's our favorite book or article of clothing, if it brings offense to someone else and you continue with it - are you still walking in Love? No! If you truly love Christ, would you not rather give up yourself and walk as He did? God helps us, if we have an open and willing heart, spiritually we are lifted higher up. God is Holy and He has called each of us to be holy. But remember, sin and holiness are direct opposites. Would God ever say sin is ok? No. God allows us free will to make the decision and allows us to carry our decision out, if we do not heed the Holy Spirit.

[**GOD DOES NOT HONOR SIN](#)

Really, why would God say something (this is right, this is wrong, this will be helpful to you) and then expect us to do the opposite? Is He irrational? Is He fickle? No, that is us, imperfect humans who would say one thing and expect something different. But God stands stable, this is why He is called the Rock of Ages because His Word stays the same throughout ages and it has been the most read and inquired about Book over the centuries.

[Ps 94:4-10](#)

They utter speech and speak insolent



things; All the workers of iniquity boast in themselves. They break in pieces Your people, O Lord, and afflict Your heritage. They slay the widow and the stranger, And murder the fatherless. Yet they say, "The Lord does not see, Nor does the God of Jacob understand." Understand, you senseless among the people; And you fools, when will you be wise? He who has planted the ear, shall He not hear? He who formed the eye, shall He not see? He who instructs the nations, shall He not correct, He who teaches man knowledge?

[Ps 37:1-2,7-10](#) tells us that we should not worry when evildoers prosper (meaning those who do sinful things will prosper at times) that they will be cut off in God's timing (meaning He does not approve of the sin, even if they do receive certain blessings, eventually they'll be cut off!). Perhaps someone has prayed for them or perhaps this person's mother or grandmother was a follower of God and that is why this person has received blessings. Perhaps this person has at some point followed the way of righteousness and sowed their own blessing, but ultimately the sin in their lives will leave them cut off.

[Ps 37:37-38](#) Mark the blameless man, and observe the upright; for the future of that man is peace. But the transgressors shall be destroyed together; the future of the wicked shall be cut off. This is saying that perhaps not at present but in these types of people's futures, you will see a pattern develop of peace for the upright, and ultimately no peace but destruction for the wicked.

What you do now does determine your future. It can be changed, but it is up to

you, this is another reason for free will.

[1 Cor. 6:9-11](#)

The unrighteous will NOT inherit the Kingdom of God (and Jesus has lead us to know that the Kingdom of God is in our hearts

that we can see the blessings of it here on earth AND that it is our eternal home of Heaven. So does this not say that the unrighteous will not receive God's blessings? I believe it does say so). Paul continues by saying "Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the Kingdom of God." I believe this was just an example list that Paul gives, but basically all sinners.

Yes we are all sinners, but by accepting



Jesus we are washed, sanctified, justified in Him and by the Spirit of our God.

I'm not saying to drop everything, b/c then you would have to leave the world b/c there is sin in every aspect of our lives, you talk to fornicators everyday, you order your food from drunkards and thieves when you go to restaurants. This is not what I have said. But I do say that you should not support, or associate with such, esp. such that say they are believers or say that they are holy or right. Paul pretty much sums this up in 1 Cor. 5:9-11

There are sooo many topics of sins. Some are sexual and some are not. But any type of sin that the Bible names should be taken as that, a sin. Yet there is a person, an eternal spirit, that is operating there. Should we condemn the person? No way! However, the sad thing is, no matter how much someone says 'we condemn the sin and not the sinner', after a moment your perception of that person in the sin changes. Is it hard to recognize the spirit and separate it from the outer appearance? Yes, this is incredibly hard to do, esp. when you enjoy a certain type of entertainment and outwardly it doesn't seem to be effecting you. But what do we do? Pray that God opens your eyes to the spiritual realm to see what is attacking you truly and what is in operation in a situation. To live in sin once you have been saved is to revert back to something that you know is a lie.

**LIVE OUT LOUD

"Likewise you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God

through Jesus Christ our Lord."-Romans 6:11.

What is it to be alive unto God?
To be full of life for Him — to be altogether active and on the alert to do His will.



Editor's note:

If you are a budding artist and would like to contribute your talent to the zine. We have restrictions on submissions to make this zine as friendly as possible. They are:

- 1) has to be a Christian related topic.
- 2) No gore, no immodest clothing, and nothing you think would provoke other brothers and sisters in Christ to anger.
- 3) HAVE FUN!!!!

Also, you are not held to any contracts regarding your work. All work is copyrighted to you, not the zine.

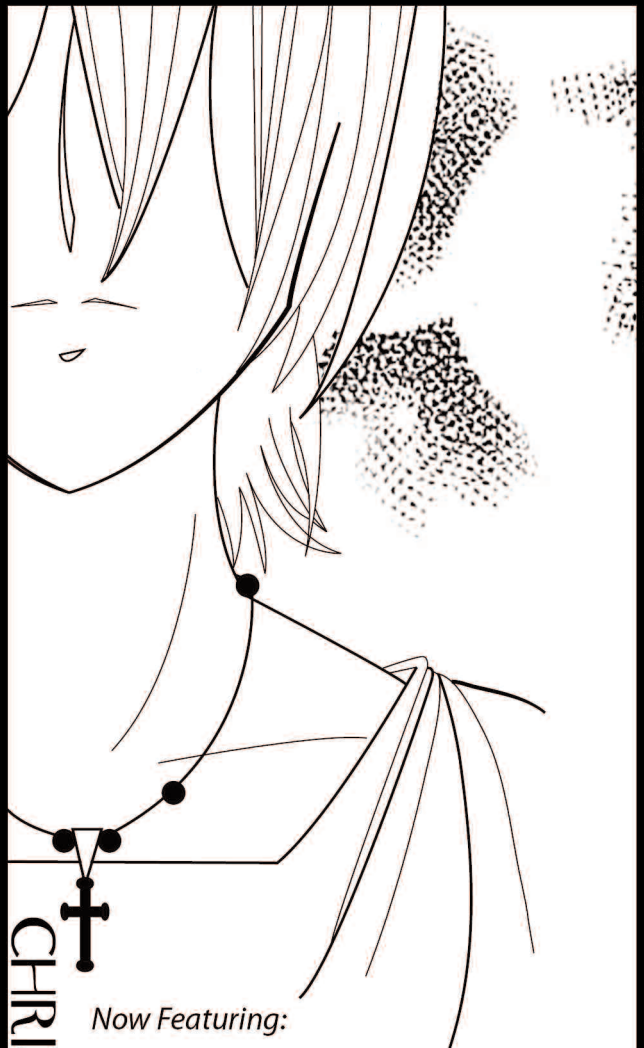
You are also not held to any obligations to submit work for every edition of the zine and you may stop submitting your work at anytime as long as you notify me in advance.

If you are interested; please e-mail me at:

ekormekolindo@yahoo.com.

I will get back to you as soon as I can.

~Eko



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ATTENTION!

ALL ARTISTS

Nicole (AA site's admin) and I have decided to host an art contest for the upcoming Easter edition of the zine. Anyone may enter as long as you can provide a working mailing address. This is for the prizes. **If you are not allowed to give Nicole your address, please do not enter.**

First prize winner gets their artwork displayed here in the zine on one full page. Artist may supply information about themselves if desired and a description of their piece. Also, the winner will be able to pick one anime and one manga from Robert's Anime Corner (Online) Store.

Second prize winner will have their artwork displayed here in the zine on half of a page. They will also be able to pick one anime from Robert's Store.

Third place winner will also have their artwork displayed on half of a page in the zine and pick one manga from Robert's Store.

Your drawing needs to have a "Easter theme", it should be an original character (though fan art is fine if you get permission from the author), and needs to follow the rules. (No nudity, shounen/shou-jo-ai, etc) No angels are required!

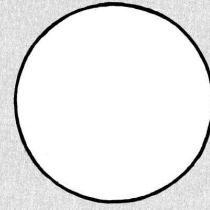
***Some restrictions do apply. You may not pick anything from the adult section of the store! The anime must be under 25\$, the manga under 16\$. If you're under age, please ask your parents permission before giving me your address! Remember: No address = no prize!**

Please e-mail submissions to both ekormekolindo@yahoo.com and nikipicklechan-animeangels@yahoo.com

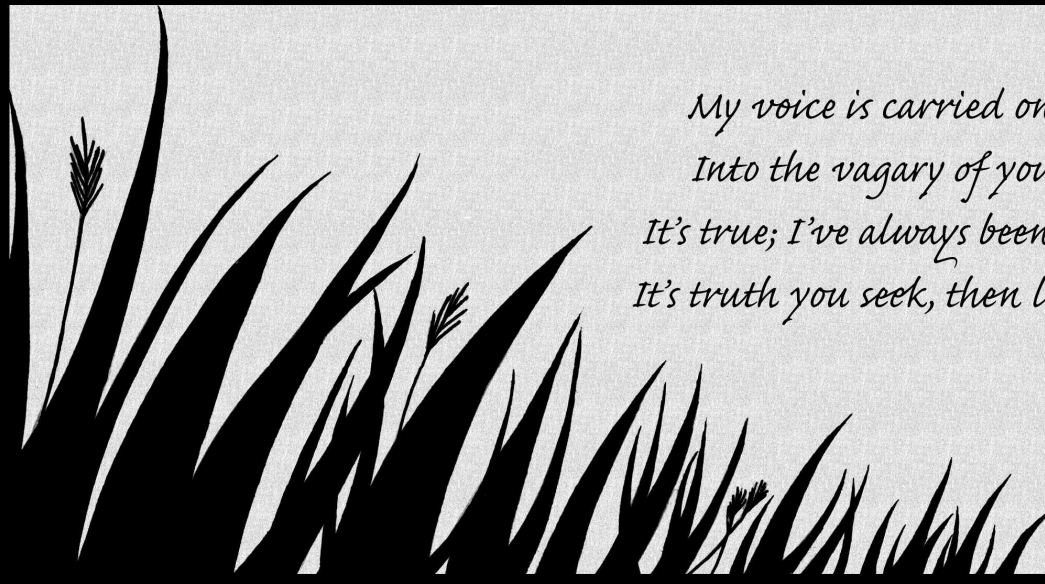
Contest ends April 16th, 2006



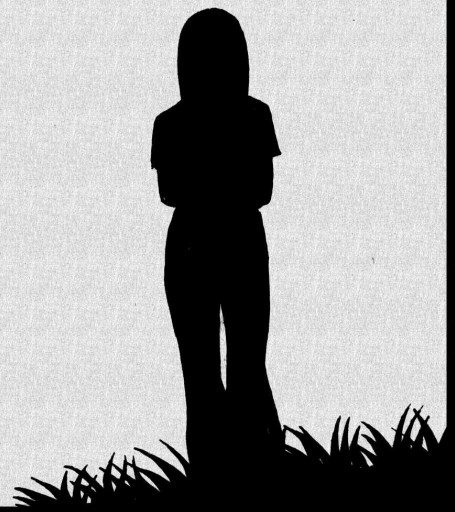
*Emily, why can't you see Me?
I've been standing here watching near
Listening silently to your plea
Emily why don't you hear Me?*



*My voice is carried on the wind
Into the vagary of your dreams
It's true; I've always been here for you
It's truth you seek, then look right here*



*At the doorway of your despair
I've always waited for your words
When will they come?
When will you tell me that you've heard?*



*You speak and punish yourself
By denying your tears
You cry in secret
So nobody hears*

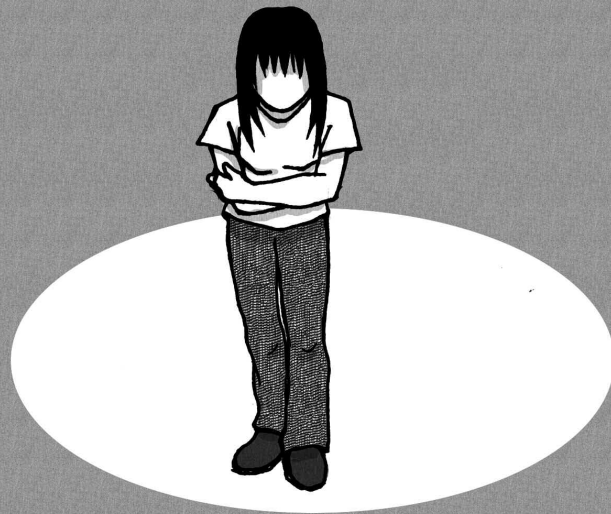


*You are worthless
... you think
To all your peers
Because your hate speaks out
To all their own fears*



*Sad you wake
'Cause it happened again
You blew it big time
Angered a friend*

*Words were spent
When you had little to spend
"F*** off," you say
Because, maybe you believe this
in the end*



*Lies they cradle
The bed that you've made
Now you've heard that old tired phrase
"You must be saved, be born again,"*



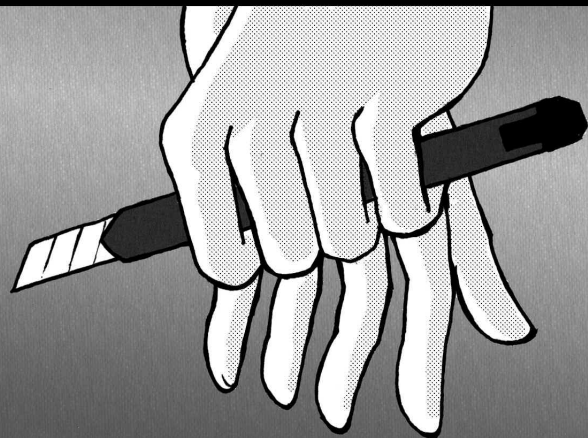
*But it's cold comfort in the end
When you see what remains
The human who speaks this tired old phrase
Heh... is just as insane*



*Now the word of men
Sound trite and the same
Do over, done that, man get out of my brain!
You know you're the cause*



*And you know you're the blame
So you cut at the skin,
The bone and the flesh
Nothing softens the blow
Since you'll never accomplish*

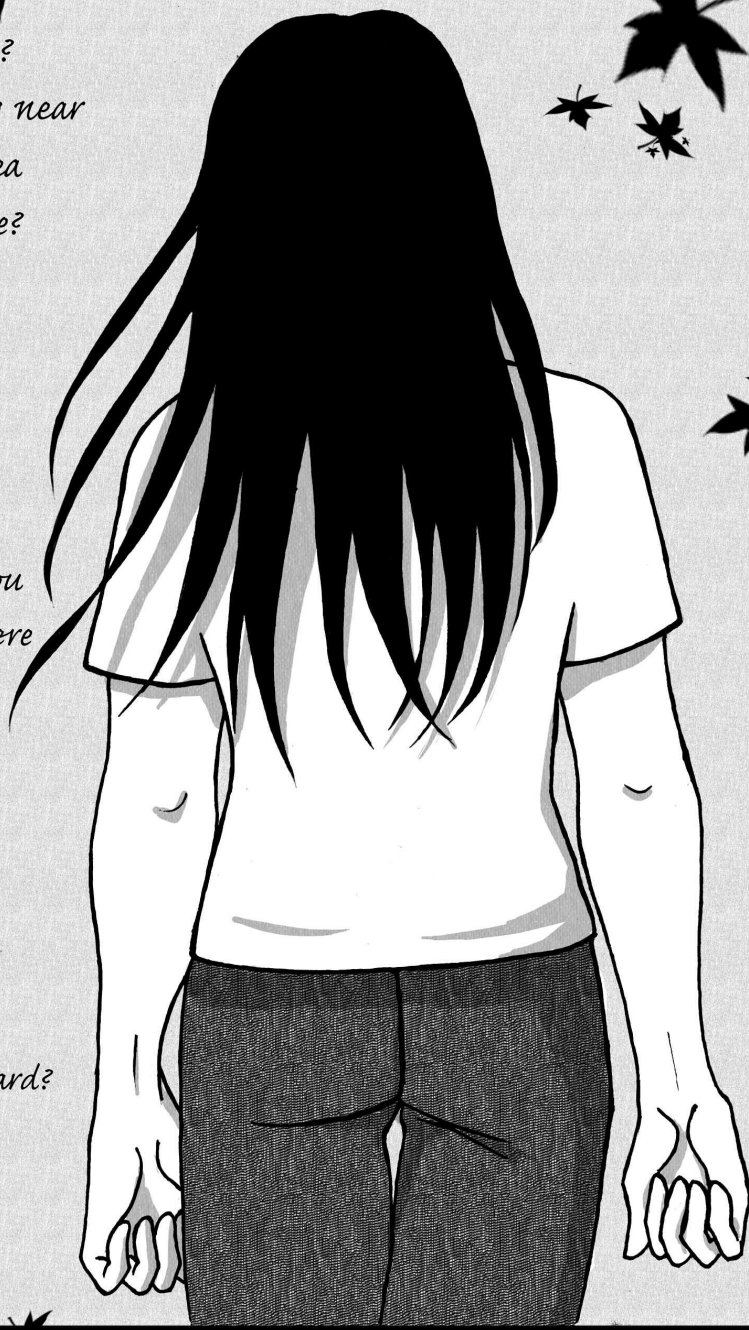


What down deep you know... (What down deep you know)

*Emily, why can't you see Me?
I've been standing here watching near
Listening silently, to your plea
Emily why can't you hear Me?*

*My voice is carried on the wind
Into the vagary of your dreams
It's true; I've always been here for you
It's truth you seek, then look right here*

*At the doorway of your despair
I've always waited for your words
When will they come?
When will you tell me that you've heard?*



*Is hope all that's lost?
When you considered the cost?
To believe in a fictional story of a cross
A savior born in manger, gosh how passé*

*To think only in Him
lays the way
To saving grace, and a life,
and an answer*



*Why would God
come as a man as a sacrifice
Why would he bother
to give of His life?*



*We're too messed up
For this simple of a plan
Every other religion asks us to do something
It's what we can*

*But You, have to preach
Just believe... just believe
It's just too easy*

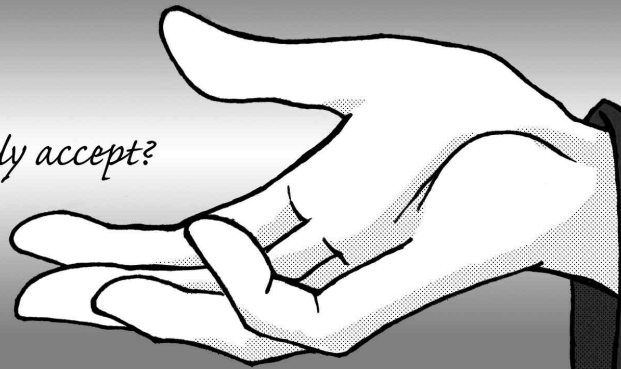


When you say, "Believe in Me."



*I believe, in me... me, me, me
Get out of my head!
I prefer the pain
I prefer the dread*


*Is love simply that?
You reach out your hand and I blindly accept?*



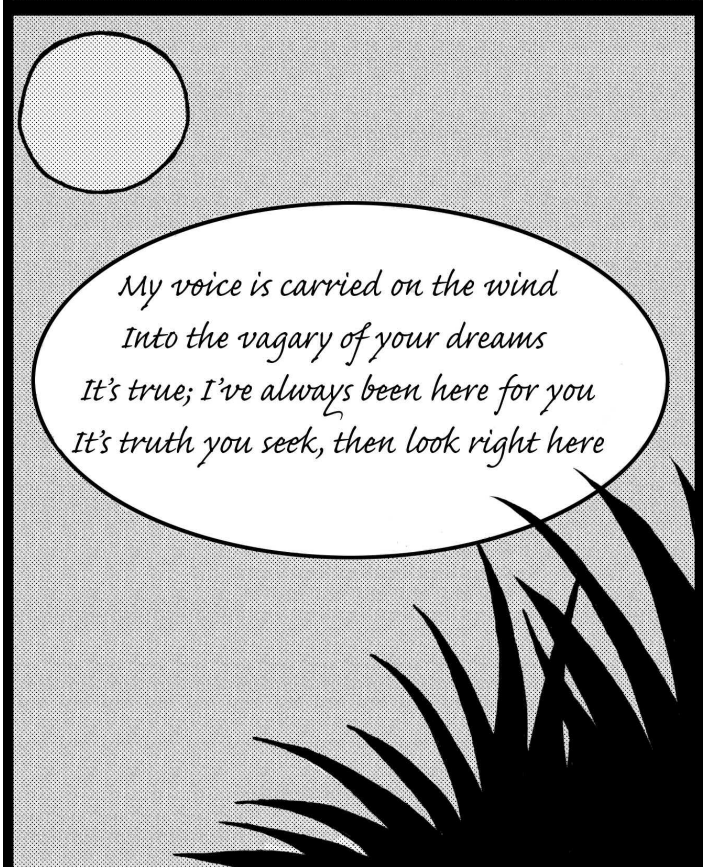
*I want proof; I want this to be a scientific fact
show me the proof
I can't hold onto love, I can't hold hope in my hand,
I can't hold to a salvation by One Simple Man*



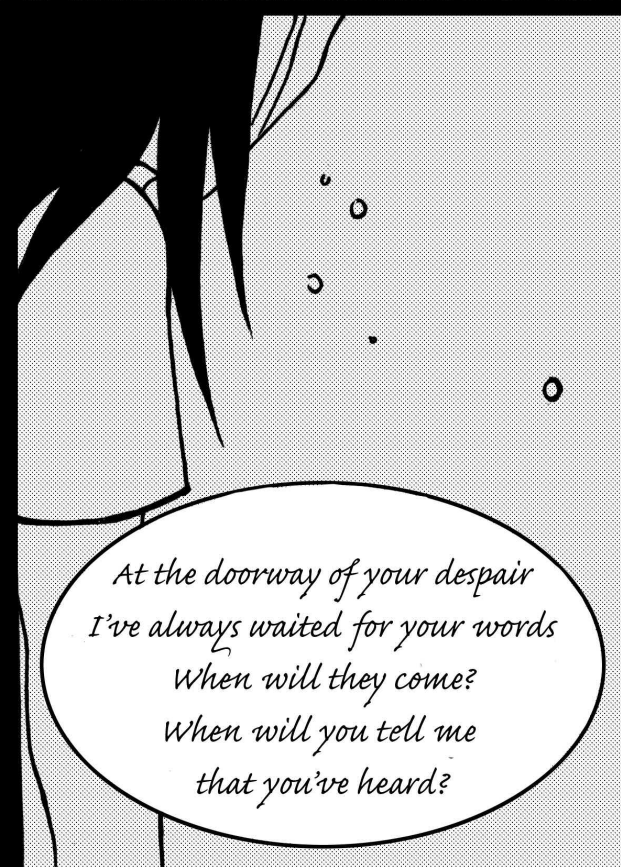
But, down deep you know... (Down deep you know)



*Emily, why can't you see Me?
I've been standing here watching near
Listening silently, to your plea
Emily why can't you hear Me?*



*My voice is carried on the wind
Into the vagary of your dreams
It's true; I've always been here for you
It's truth you seek, then look right here*



*At the doorway of your despair
I've always waited for your words
When will they come?
When will you tell me
that you've heard?*



*I love you with a love that is deeper than words
I love you with a love because I am the Word
The One Who was born in the body of a man
simply to live and die in this simple plan
To hang in shame for all to mock
To hang on a cross built from hate?*

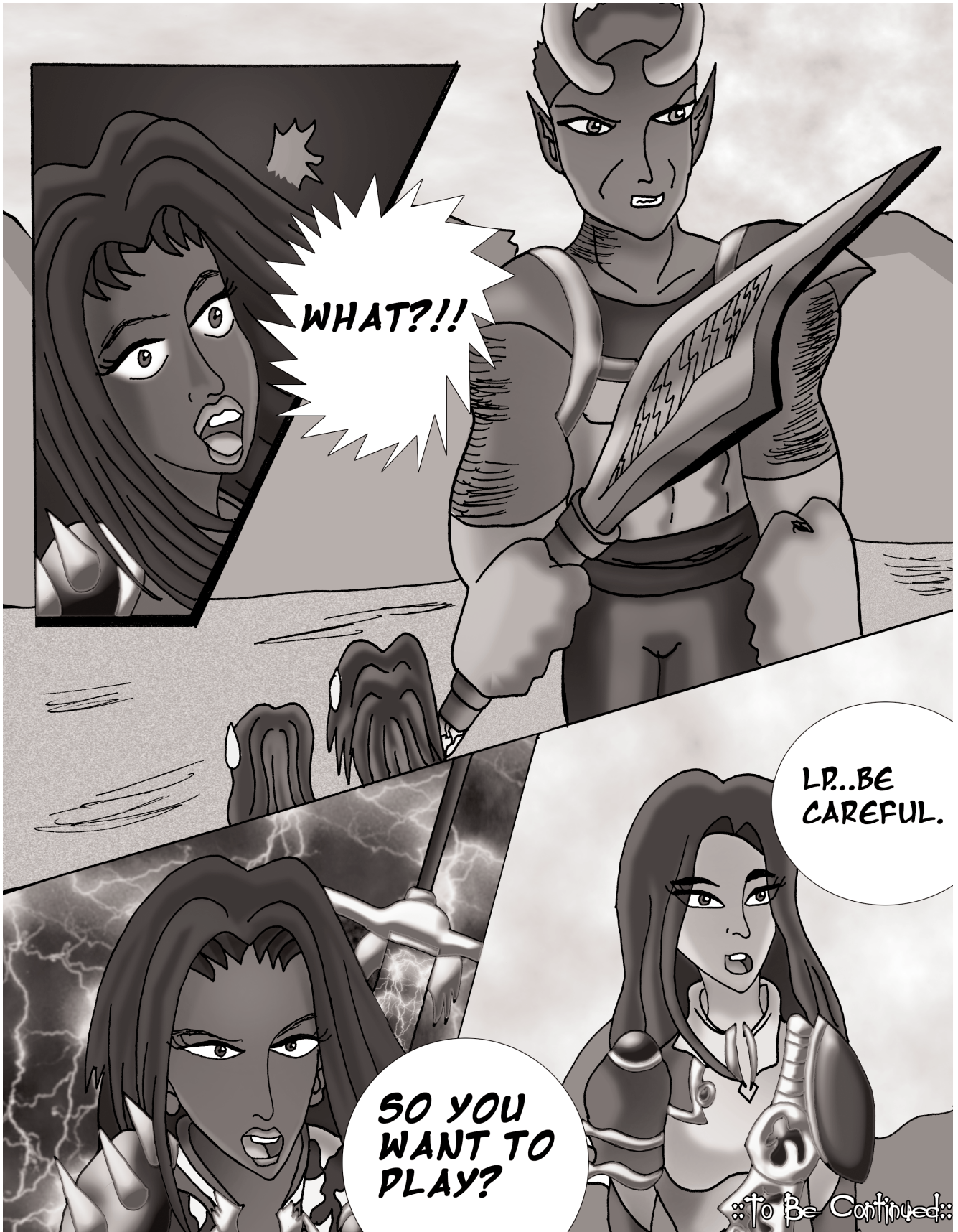
*No, My love
Came through in that death
That death on the Cross
I would die for you... and did
Do you hear my voice?
Calling on the wind
Of the vagary of your dreams*



*I've always been here
Waiting...
For your words*

Believe Me, I am here





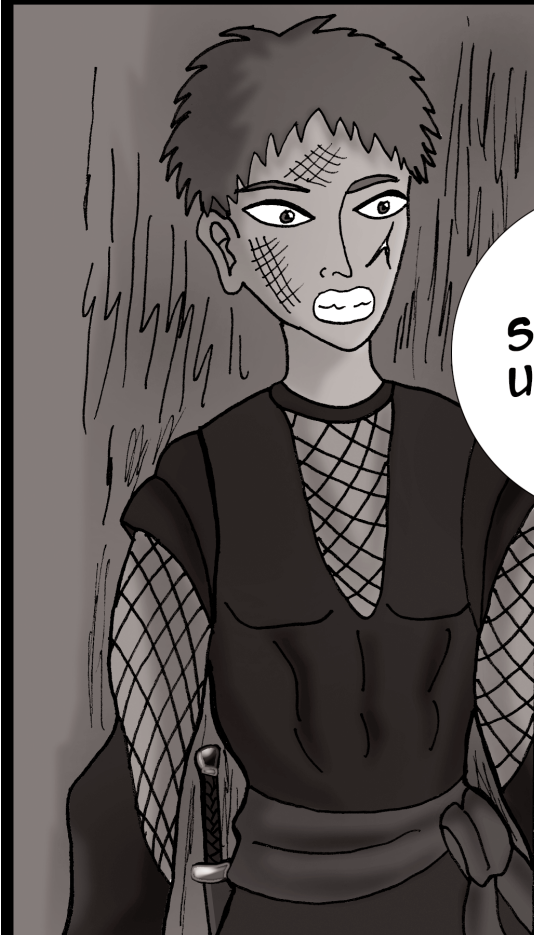
WHAT?!!

SO YOU WANT TO PLAY?

LP...BE CAREFUL.

::to be Continued::



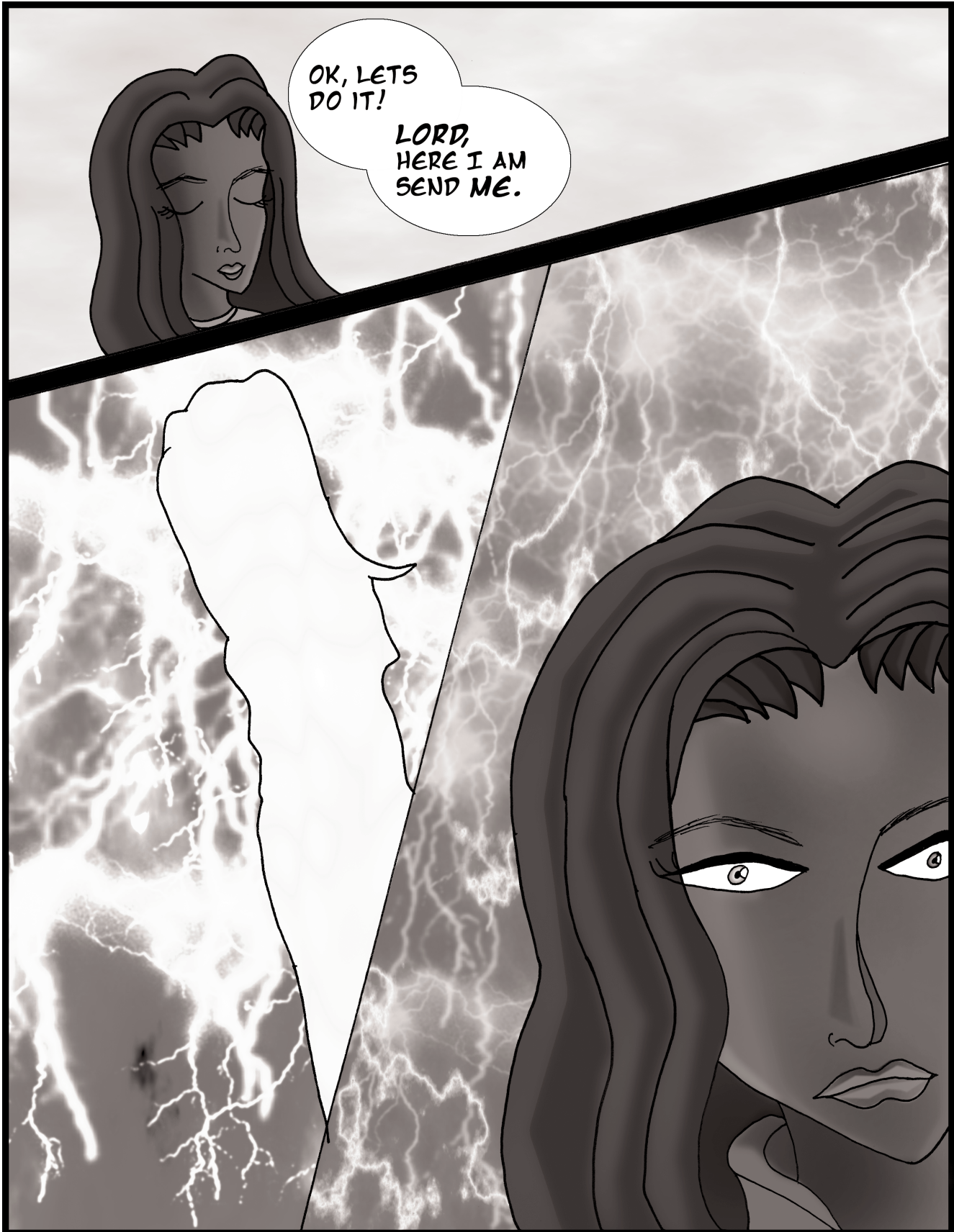


SO WHAT'S UP?



I TRIED TO DISTRACT THEM.

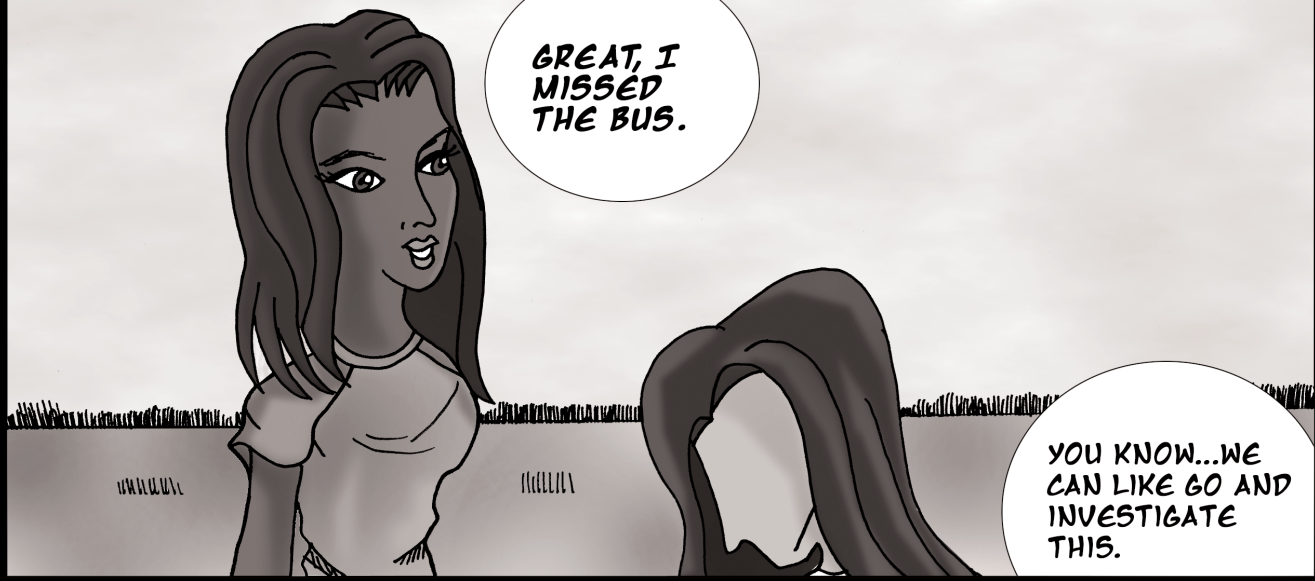
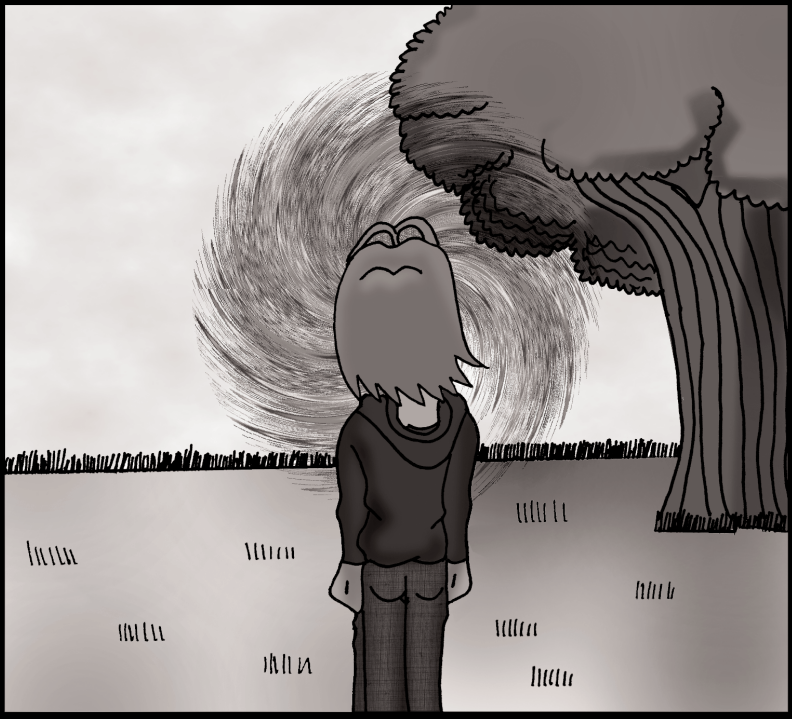






NEW GIRL...
SHE'S....

GONE.



GREAT, I
MISSED
THE BUS.

YOU KNOW...WE
CAN LIKE GO AND
INVESTIGATE
THIS.





DANGER?!!



KAT, YOU ARE TRIPPING HERE. EVERYTHING IS NORMAL!



YOU DON'T GET IT DO YOU?

THERE ARE DARK SPIRITUAL FORCES AT WORK HERE.



GET WHAT?



**FINE...WE'LL INVESTIGATE.
BUT I'M NOT PROMISING YOU ANYTHING...**



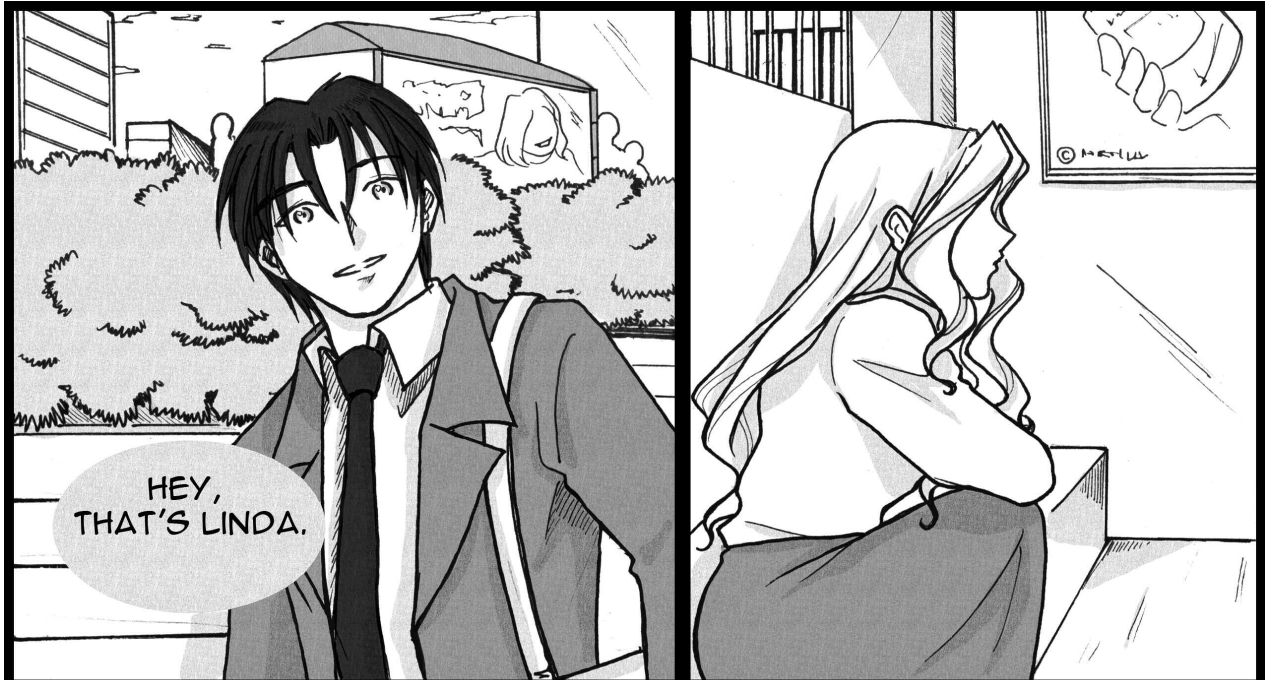
Invincible

Hype Of Betrayal



Part 4: Invincible

Story and Art
by Shandra
"Shan" Koger

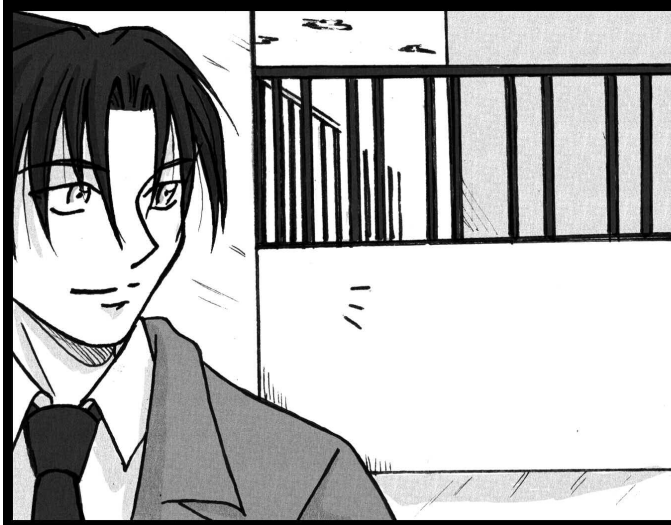
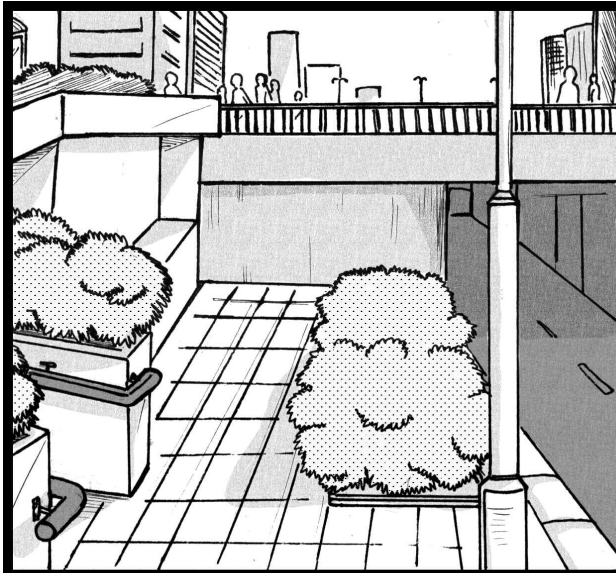


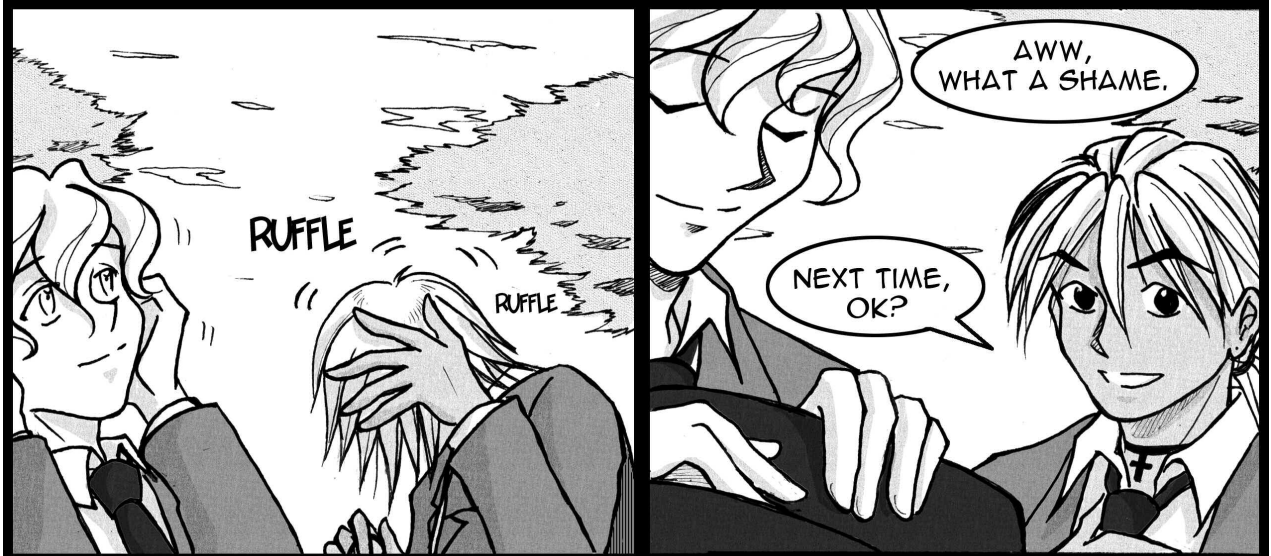
HEY,
THAT'S LINDA.

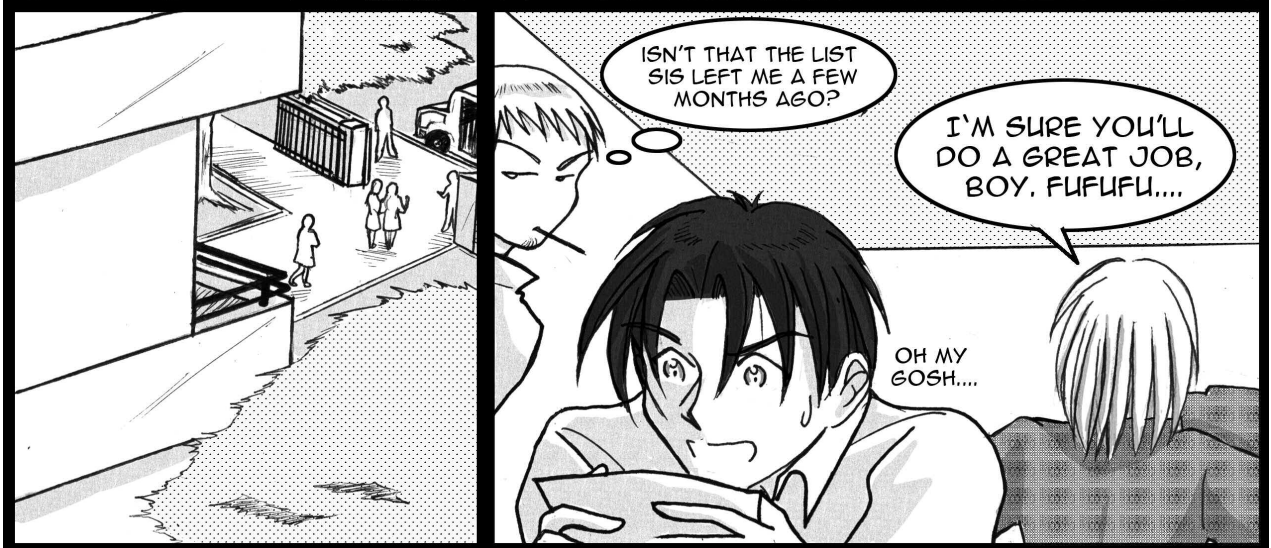
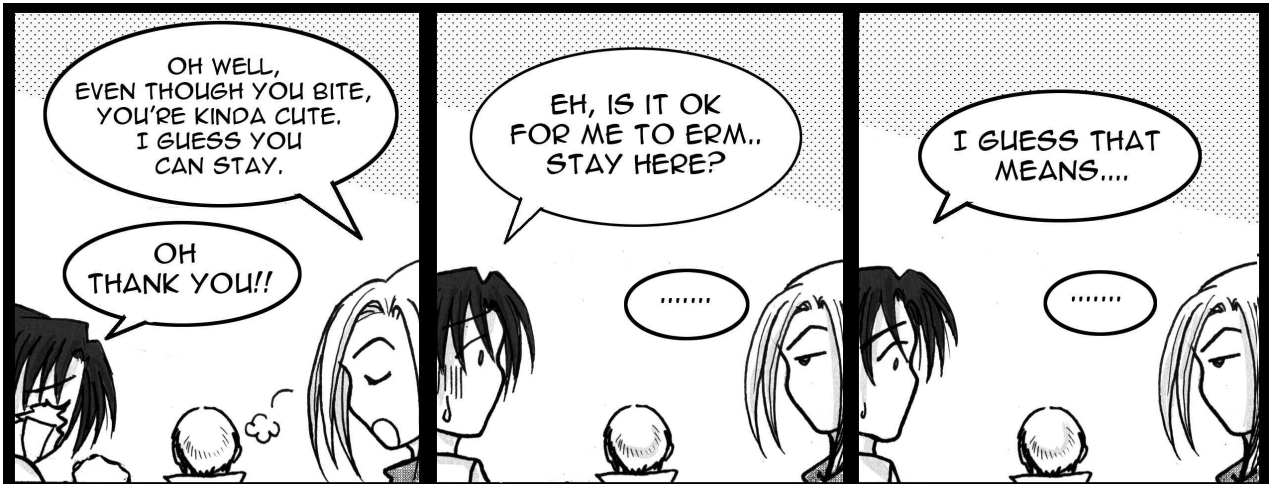


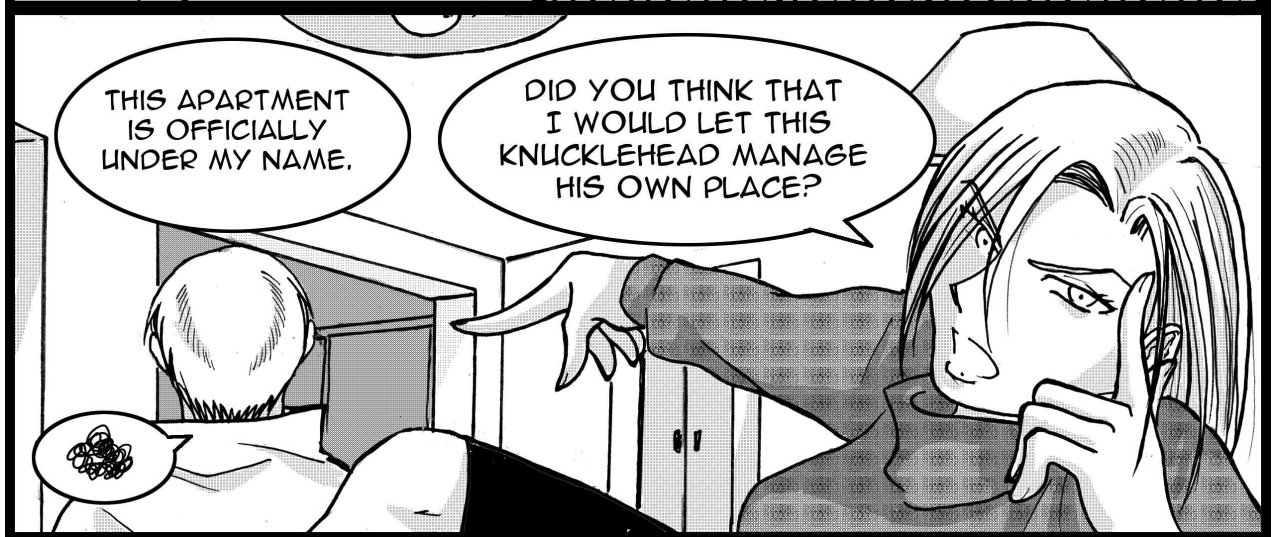
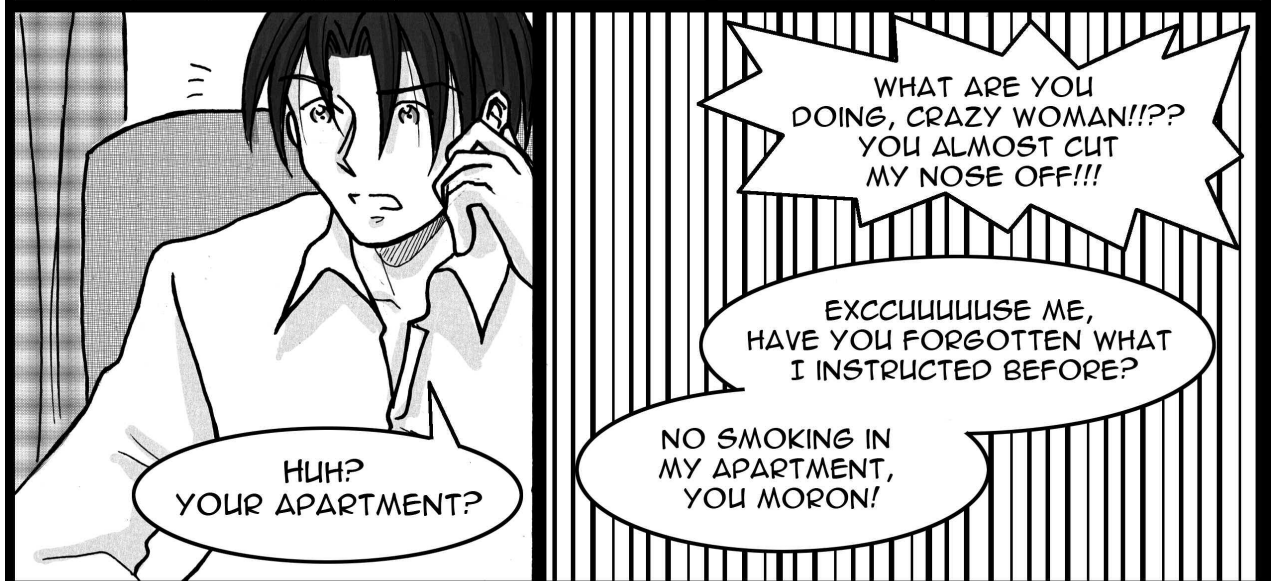
KINGDOMCOME
CHAPTER 3
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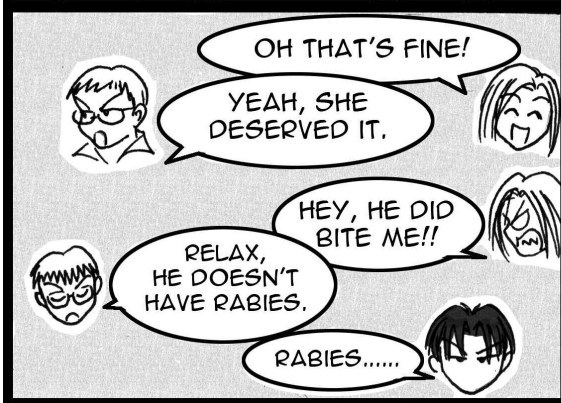
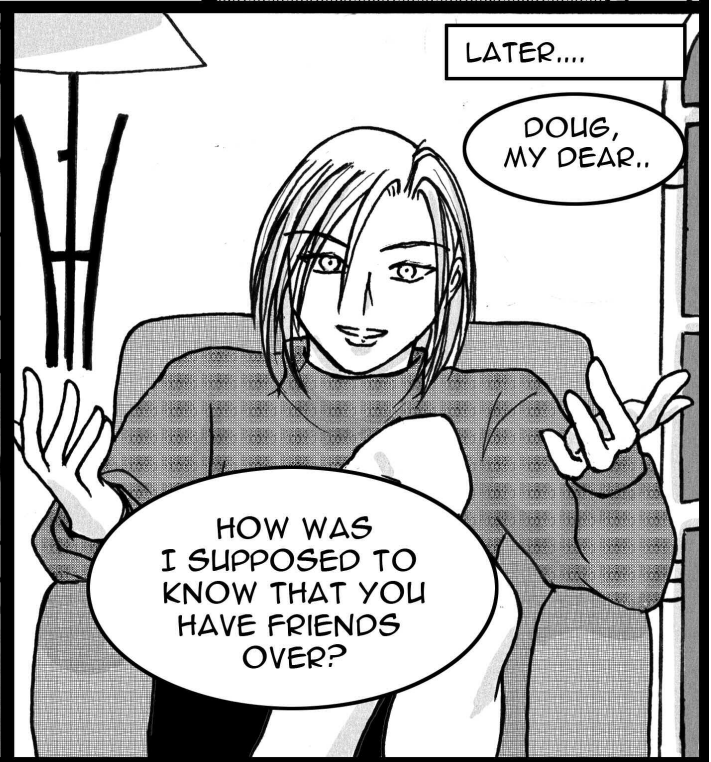
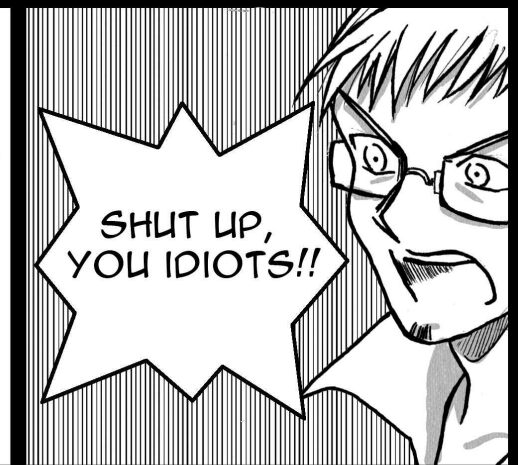
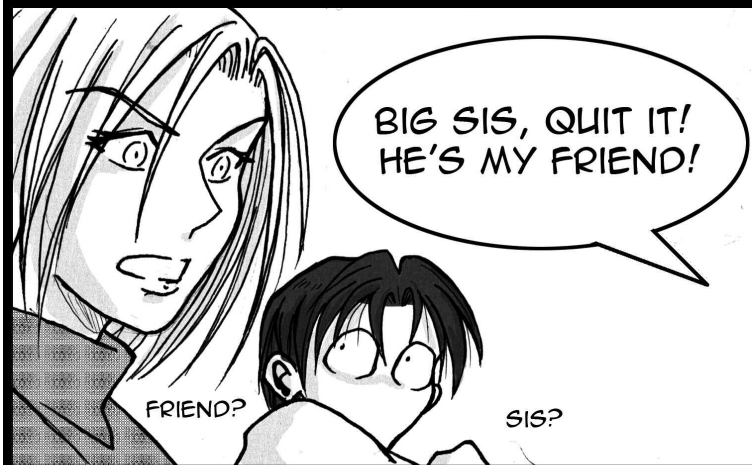


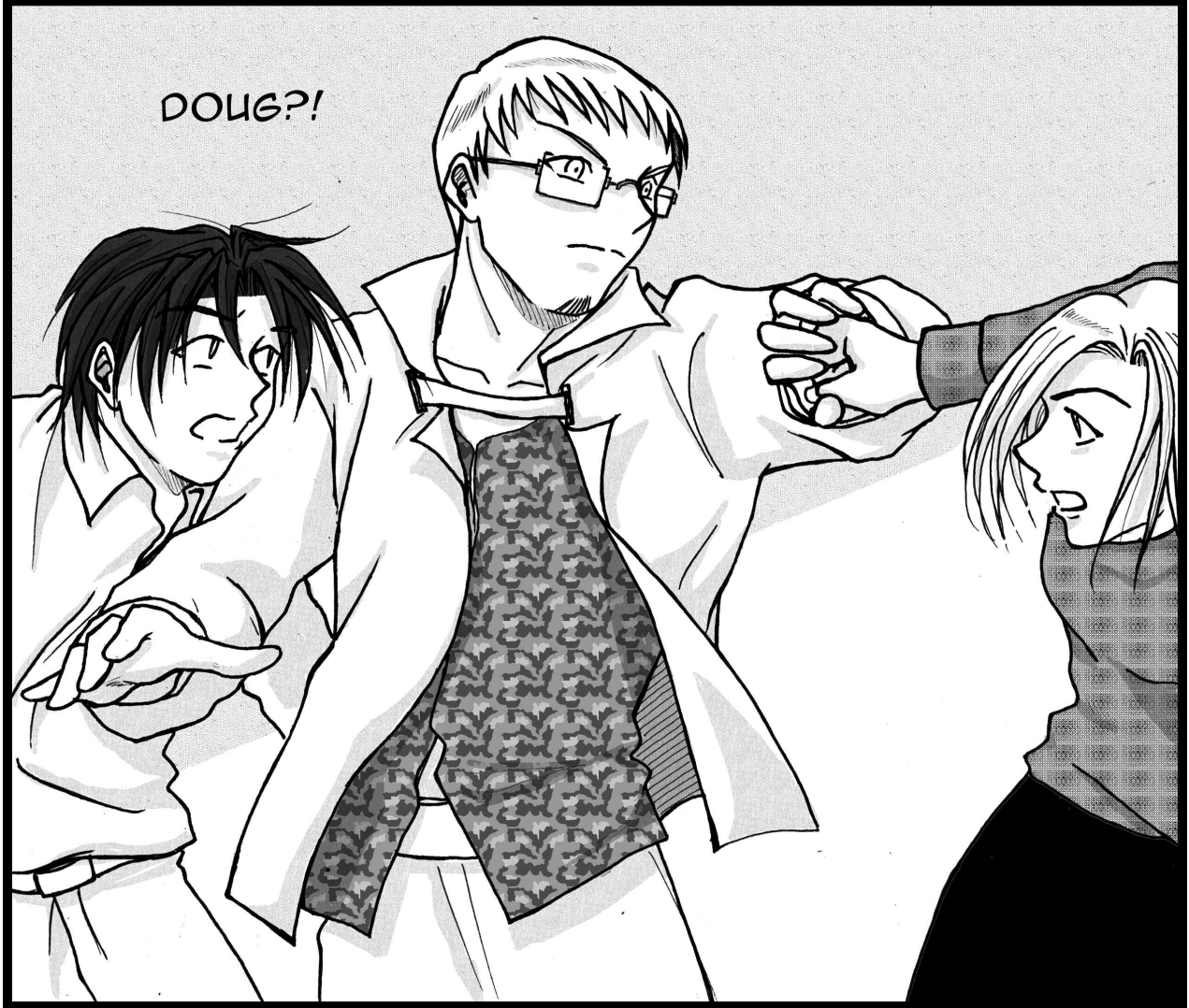
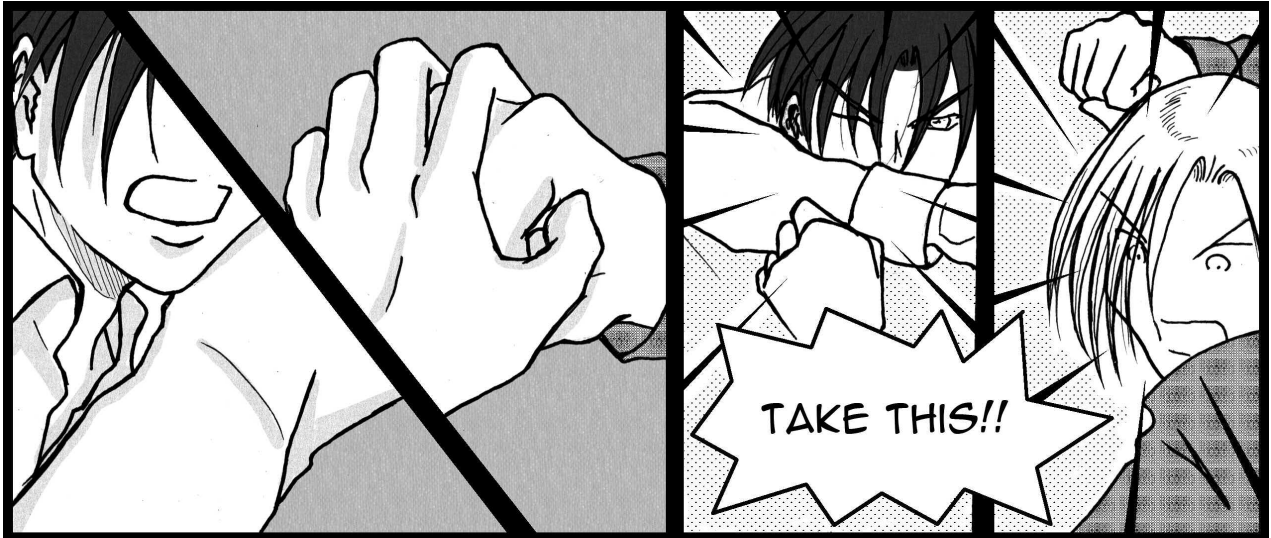


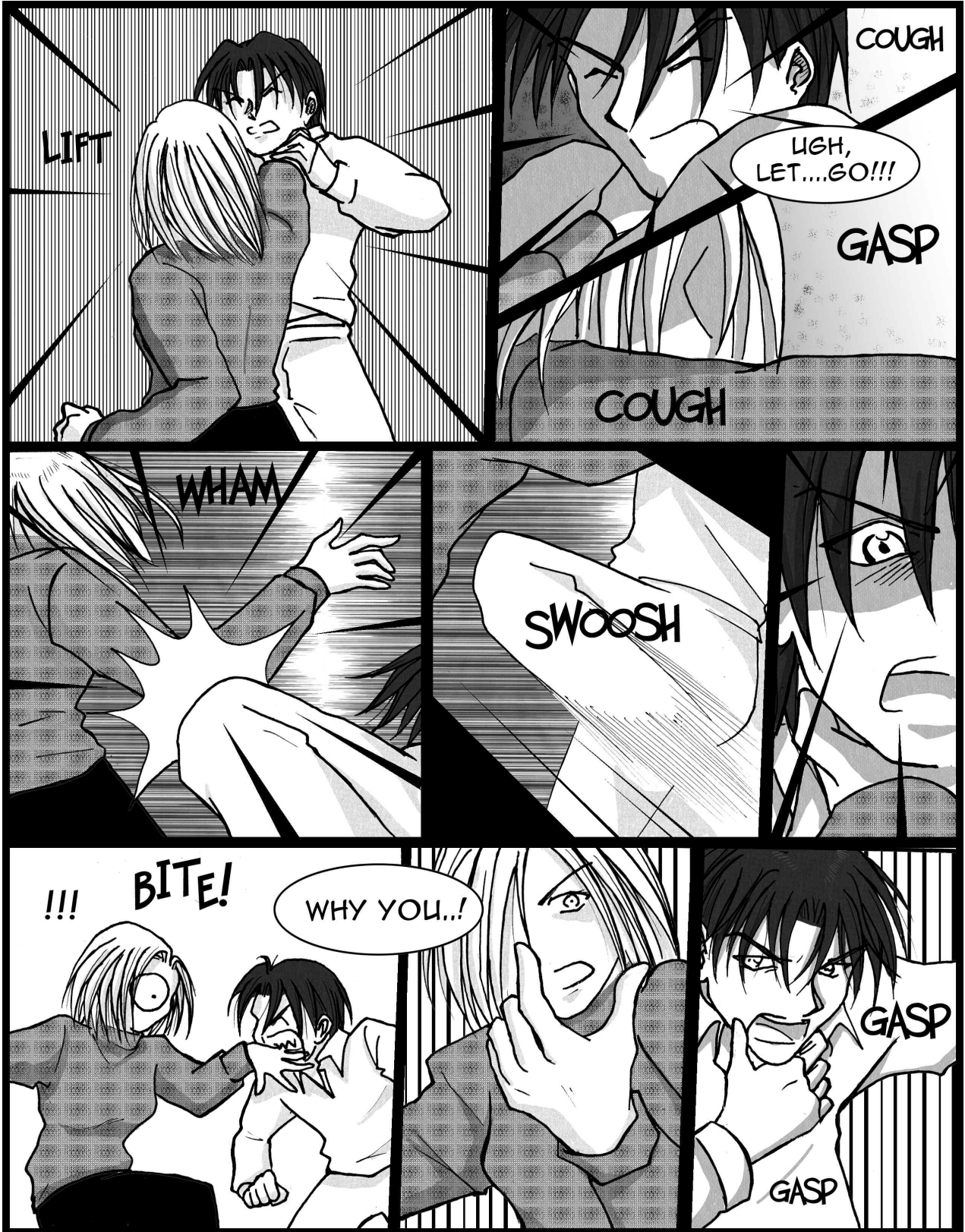














AFTER BIBLE STUDY

WHAT HAVE YOU HEARD ABOUT ME?

AH THE USUAL BORING GOSSIP STUFF. "EGOISTIC, COLD, PLAYBOY.."

ACK!!

IT'S OK. IT'S NOT TRUE.

IT'S NICE TO KNOW THAT NOT EVERYONE BELIEVES EVERYTHING THEY HEAR.

Don't forget to do the laundry this evening. I need my clothes tomorrow.
Doug.

THIS IS SO WRONG. MAKING ME DO HIS DIRTY LAUNDRY.

GROAN

PHEW... I'M TIRED.

ARRGH!

HUH?!





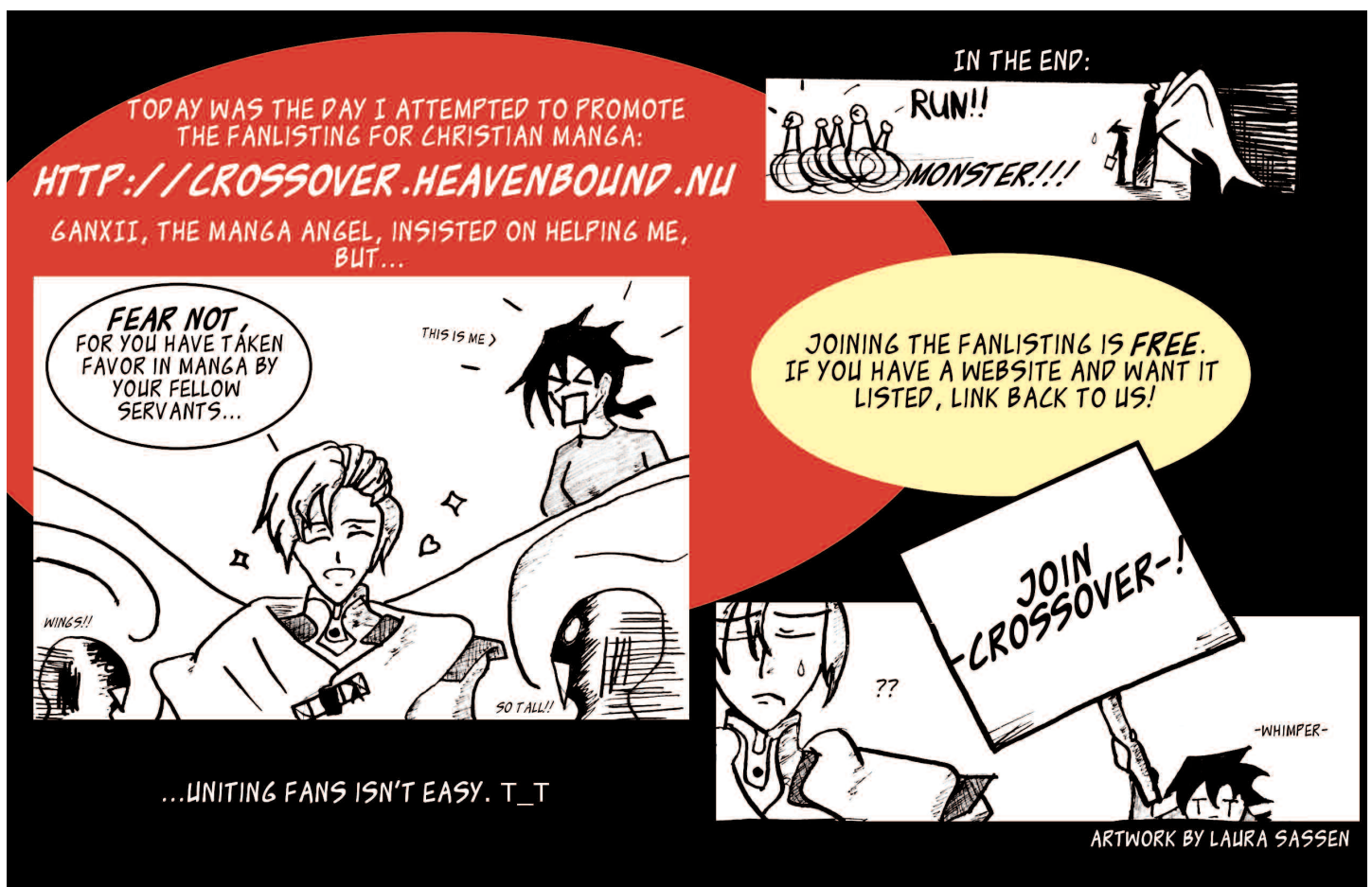
Art and Story: Mave



If anyone has questions or comments, please feel free to e-mail either me, Jordyn, or Nicole. We would be glad to answer any questions you might have or any suggestions. If you have a comment, those are also greatly appreciated!

Jordyn's e-mail: ekormekolindo@pcisys.net

Nicole's e-mail: nikkipicklechan-animeangels@yahoo.com





A note from the editor...

I am the new editor for the AA Mangazine. My name is Jordyn, but many know me by "Eko". I am a graphic designer that is interested in anime and is a Christian. I never really thought that I would be an editor of a magazine, but here I am. I feel the Lord had His hand in this. I am thankful to be a part of the zine and a part of AA.

As you may notice, I have tried to unify the zine's pages. If you have any comments on it, please, I would love to hear from you. Thanks for supporting our Mangazine!

~Eko



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by Misty Waterlily pg. 4

Life in Christ: A Bible Study

by Rose pg. 16

Dear Emily

by Valerie, artwork by Mave pg. 22

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Kingdom Come

a manga by Mave pg.5

Lightning Prophetess: Hype of Betrayal

a manga by Shandra Koger pg. 15



This mangazine is dedicated to our
Lord Jesus Christ



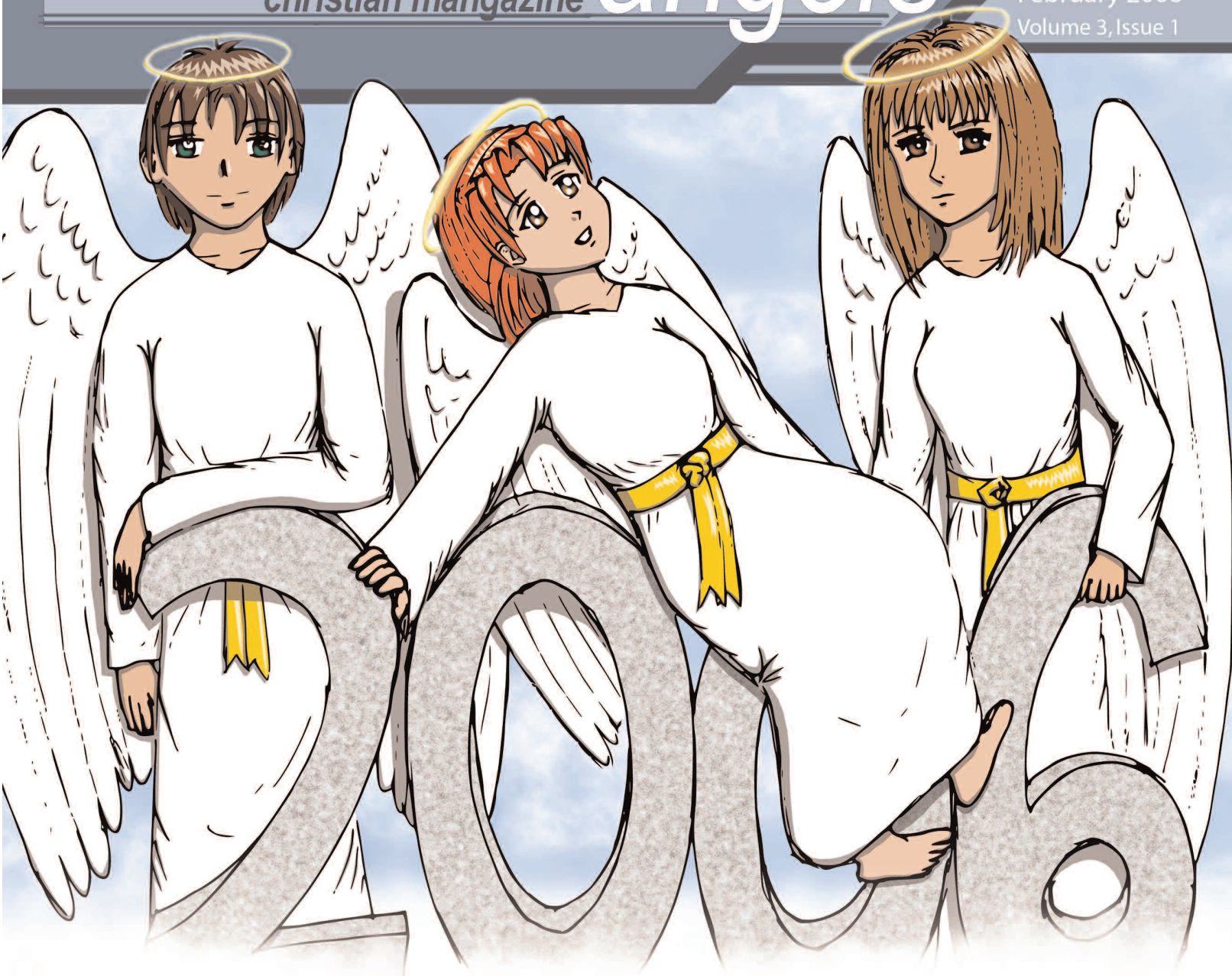
Anime Angels Christian Mangazine

Anime *angels*

christian mangazine

February 2006

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