

Hello.

The following comic was made for a contest on Newgrounds.com back in December of 2023.

I did not win anything, otherwise I would be swimming around in a sum of money, the amount of which I can not be bothered to remember. The winner of that contest used a comic that I know for a fact was not even made FOR that contest, so that's pretty awesome.

This was the first drawn comic I ever really created, so please excuse the super low quality of the artwork. Nonetheless, I still feel it is a decent enough story, and I would rather not erase it or remake it.

Although I can't stand looking at it anymore to the point where going out of my way to compile every individual page in to this PDF is a challenge because at the time I did not have the version of Clip Studio that let you just have multiple images as a comic, it still holds a special place in my heart as initial proof to myself that I can follow through on a project and accomplish something. Also, November of 2023 me worked their ass off on it and would definitely come barreling forward in time through sheer force of their rage specifically just to kill me if I took down the comic.

Enjoy!

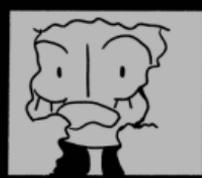
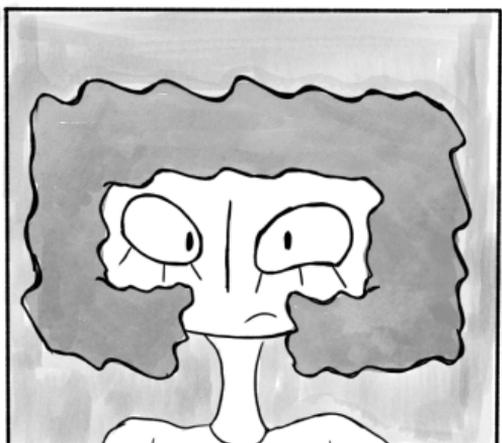
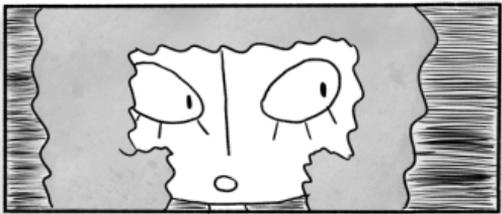
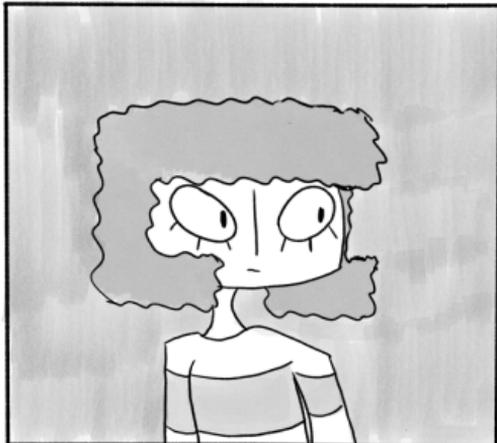
Additionally, to make this PDF more worth your while, it also includes a bunch of concept artwork and work in progress thumbnails for the piece too. So while you have my apologies, as I am aware your computer only has so much space, my hope is that you will at least find the work in progress stuff interesting. So enjoy that too!



# LADY BEETLES

Story and art  
by Lavolamp











I'm basically an intruder right now. I haven't been here since we hung out. But it's been forever since we have.



We were best friends... not anymore though

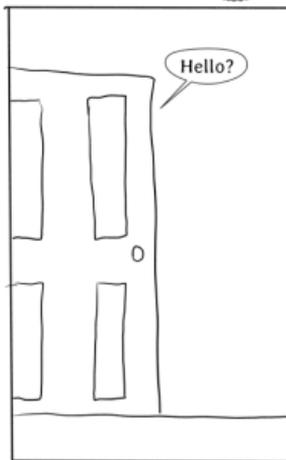
Why would someone I haven't been friends with in years swap bodies with me?



#thump#



Hello?

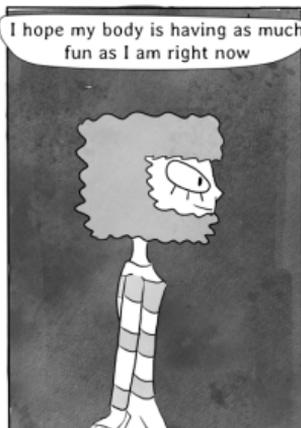


Good evening, Alsie!



GEEZ, don't you knock?





Hello foster home!



Oh...looks like...no one's around



Geez, this place is kind of more miserable than I thought

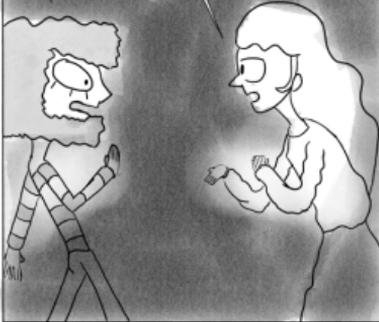


JILL!



AH!

Where were you? It's so late!



I can't be responsible for you all the time! You need to take care of yourself!

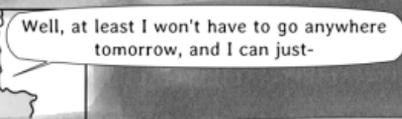
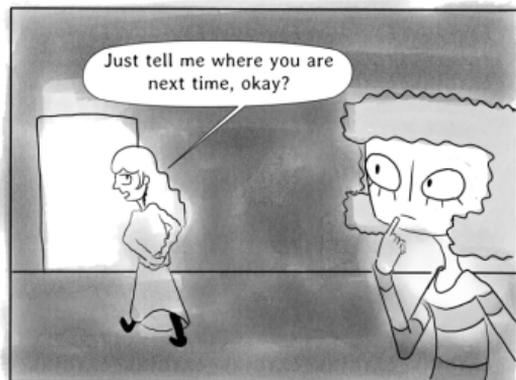


I...I-I was just over at someone's house for a uh, group project! Super sorry I'm late!

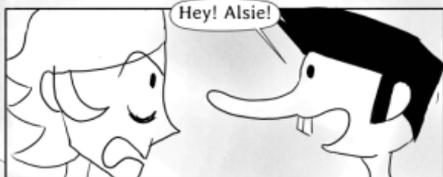


Alright.





# SCHOOL!



Hi, Alsie? How are you doing today? You didn't answer my text last night so I got a little worried.

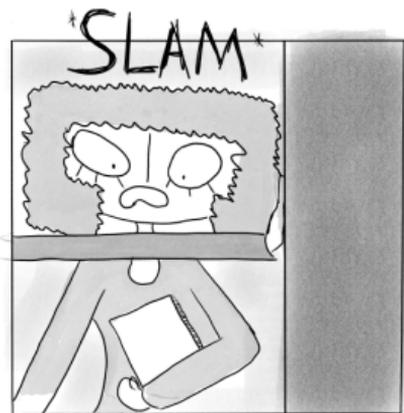
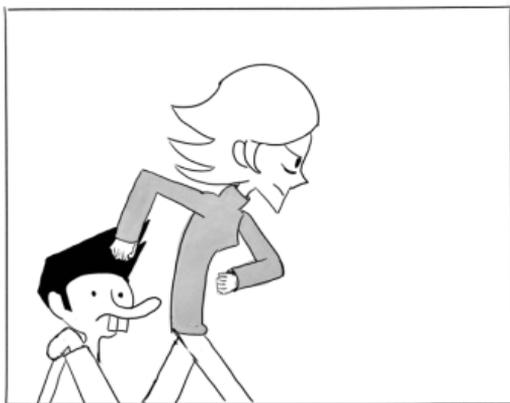
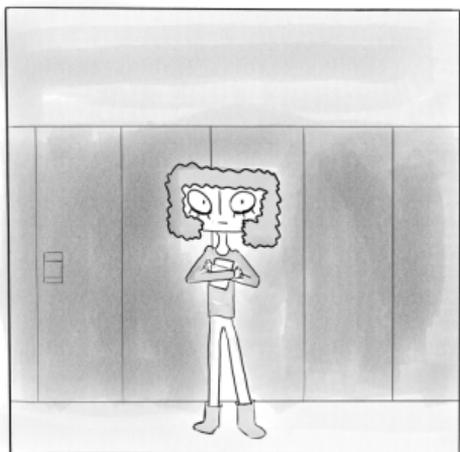
Well, uh, actually I need to see Jill, from the other class. Have either of you seen her?

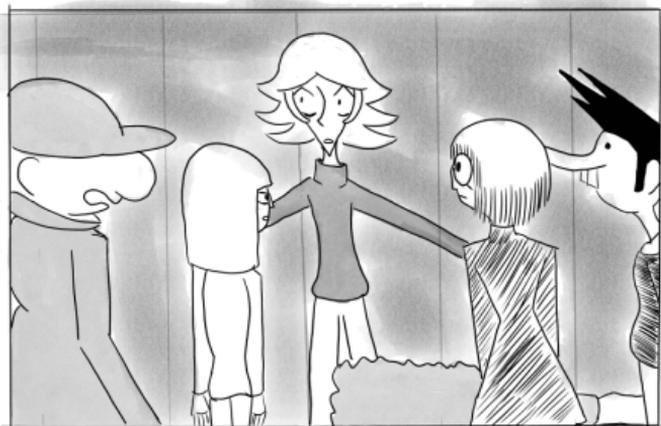
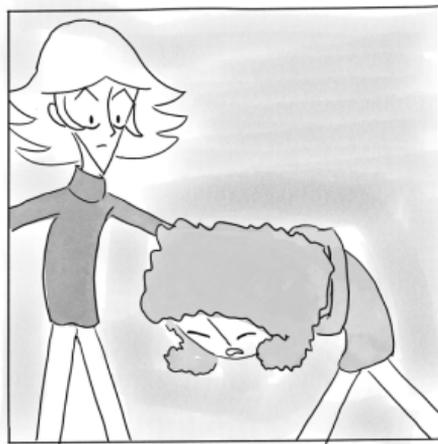
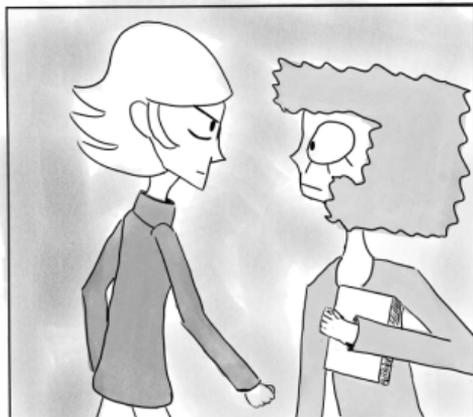


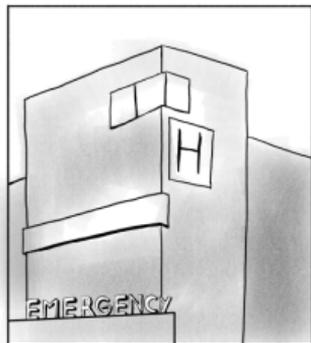
What do you need with that lass, ey? She doesn't seem like the super sociable type, a little scary if you ask me.

Yeah, why don't you say how you really feel, dude









Jill left this note for you. She's in stable condition, so you can come visit.

Thanks.



Hello Jill!



If you're reading this, it's probably time.



Something bad has happened to me. Or, well, your body.

Ever since we drifted apart from each other, fell into different friend groups and classes and such, I've thought about you a lot. How you don't seem to have any friends, at least not since me...



and that foster home you live in, it must get very lonely.



Oh, and by the way for the rest of this letter to make sense I have to tell you I've been practicing something. I'm not sure what it is, but I call it black magic!



While I was meditating one day, I had a magical premonition.



You would get sick and wither away...



And you would die.



So, using my resources, I found a way to save your life...at the cost of mine...



I have really great friends, and a very loving mom, instead of that scary woman in that crowded foster home!

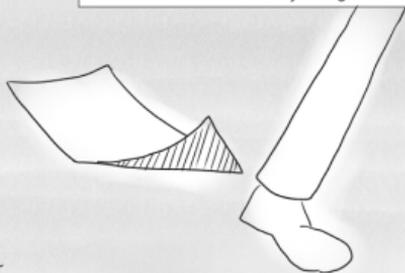


I've given you everything I have.

The truth is, the reason I didn't say anything to you is because I didn't want it to come to confronting you directly.



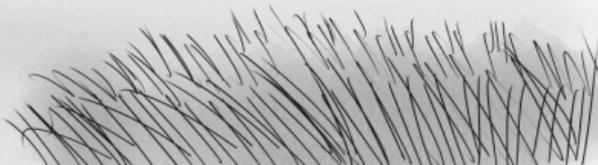
I feel so bad. I can't even count the days where I've thought about your friendship but I got distracted or couldn't build up the courage to talk to you again.



I don't know why, I don't know what's wrong with me, but I just couldn't.



So, I'm sorry. Don't make the same horrible mistakes I did, and go live an excellent life.



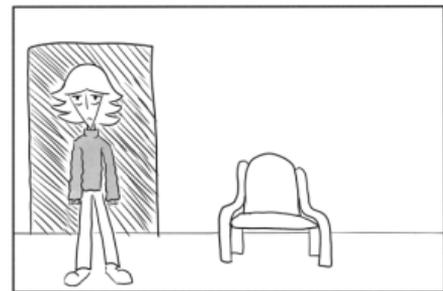
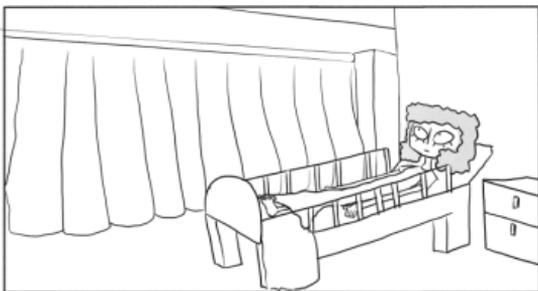
I love you, Jill.



Uh, yeah. Can I ask what exactly is wrong with her?

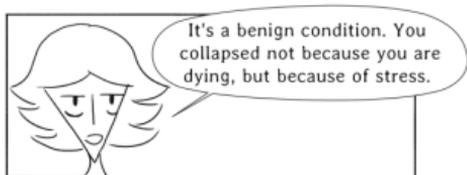


I'm glad you asked, actually! Because I thought a friend might be the perfect person to deliver the good news!



Jill! Oh geez! I didn't mean for you to see this but that terrifying woman you live with sent me to-







# Together again!



Thank you for reading!

# Extras!



The designs for the main characters were actually reused from doodles I made in 2022, I think? If you are some kind of freak who finds charm in how I tend to design characters, this is basically where it started!

This is a picture of the bug that inspired the title. I thought it was a ladybug until my mom pointed out it was a lady beetle. This bug is definitely dead by now, so thank you bug.



Some concepts for friends.  
They look like good friends!

Fun fact, the reason the middle guy (his name is Seamus) looks different in the final comic is because I forgot what he looked like aside from the general details. There is a pencil sketch of hat guy somewhere, but I can't find it. So I guess it's just lost! Oh well!



Unused title page ideas



ISBWTGPAS.docx

This is the original script for the comic. Originally, it was written almost entirely with narration and had a much sadder ending. The letters stand for "I Swapped Bodies with the Popular Girl at School". You can actually make out some of it in the back cover for the comic!



Originally, the comic's text was entirely done by hand. It has its charm for sure, but the legibility of the comic, and my hand thanked me for making it digital lettering. It wasn't happy about going back and changing all the text for the pages I had already done though!

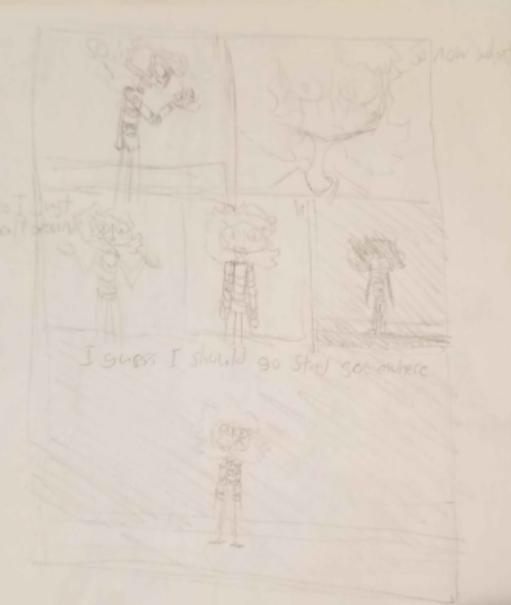


An alternate version of this panel, where the foster lady is sarcastic. I can't remember why I didn't use this line of dialogue. Maybe I just thought it was less subtle.



Here is some art I made a whole year after the fact to celebrate the comic being released. Not a bad glow up for the characters, right?





Now on to the thumbnails!  
 This was a page I had to cut  
 for time, since the maximum  
 amount of pages for the comic  
 was 16.



and sorry, our scanner isn't working  
 at the time of me making this!

Pro tip for making comics, there is  
 no need to make your thumbnail  
 pages as detailed as I did! I basically  
 sketched the whole comic onto  
 this paper and it wasted a lot  
 of time!



I would also tend to sketch out the page, and then  
 make changes by sketching out alternative  
 panels beside them. It was super inefficient.



It's in my sketchbook I also designed  
 a lot of the characters. Since they  
 only make brief appearances, I just  
 designed them as they came along. Here are  
 ideas for the foster home woman, and some  
 kind of hat and nose guy?





Here's the title page concept, with remnants of the original script's narration.



Here's another page that turned out differently from the final. I just kinda winged it for these pages, which is not good because they're arguably the most important! I had a script for this part set in stone, so it was a challenge trying to make it all fit the comic's length.

And those are the extras. Hope you found them interesting! Thinking back on it, this comic coming together was a really big mess. But it was also a good learning experience! Here is a sketch from the thumbnail pages that I thought was funny. Goodbye!



Secret alternate ending! Some people might like it better, so whether or not it's canon is up to you, because I don't really care all that much.

