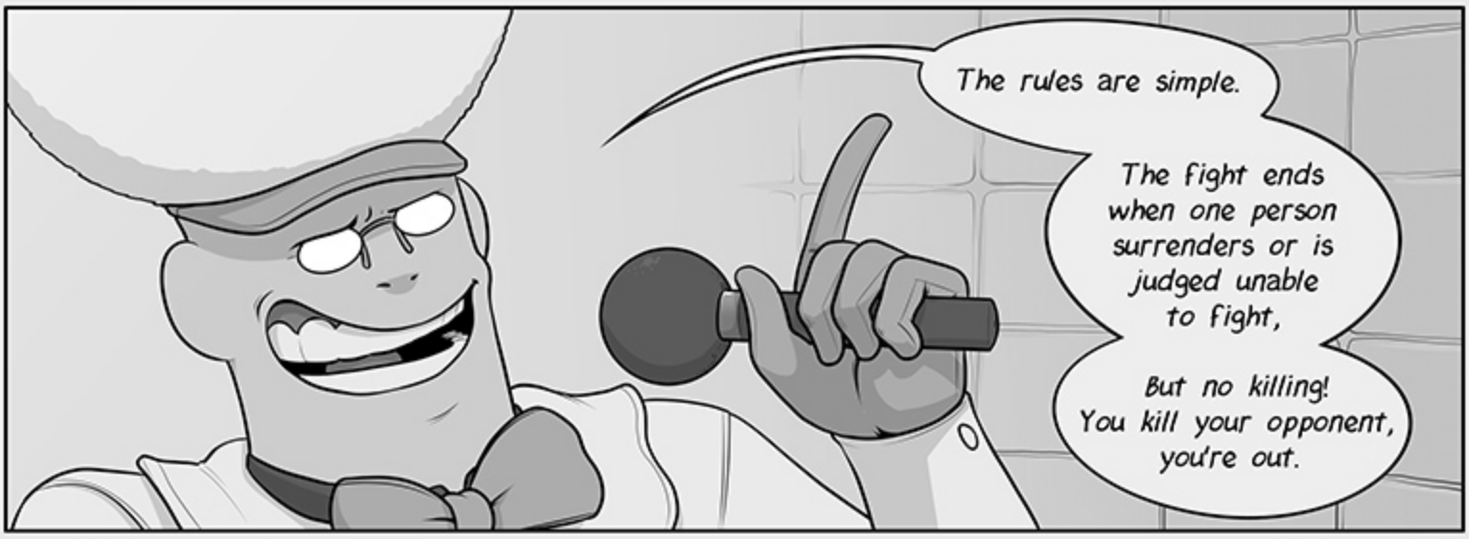
Chapter 14
VIMDUELITY

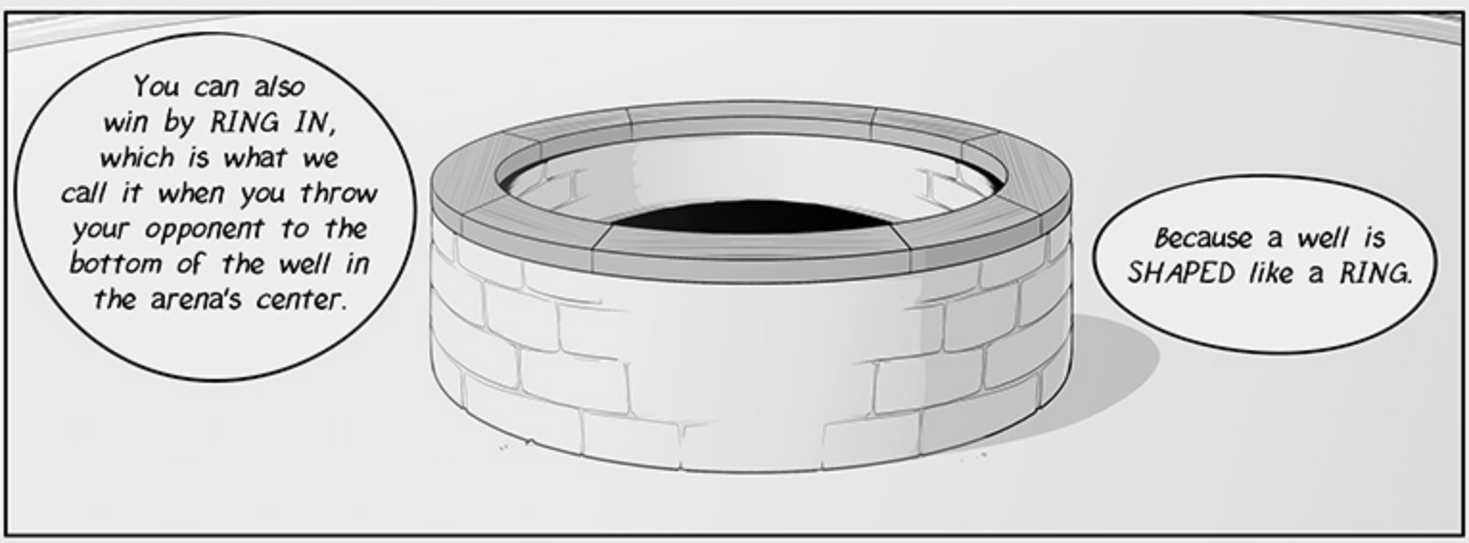
In the
FIRST GREAT
CENTRALIAN SCUFFLE
TOURNAMENT!
YEAAAAYAAAAAHHH
YAAAY
WHEE
WOOO
WOOHOO
YEAH
WOO
YAAAH

Champions of the martial and mystic have gathered here at the newly-christened Middleburg Colosseum,
An architectural marvel largely spearheaded in the last year by the Card Man Collective.
Folks, I for one cannot imagine from what dark plane they mustered such ingenuity,
And I frankly fear the ends to which they desire to see us struggle in this parade of violence.
THANK YOU GEORRY.
Without further ado, it's what you're all here for:
Leg 1 of the Tournament...
SINGLES COMBAT!

Look at these 64 proud challengers,
All of whom passed the preliminary.
Remember them well...
And then get ready to forget half of them,
Because that's how many are making it to Leg 2!
And before you all rush to your above-board bookies,
Note that the nearby inhibitor tower has been SHUT DOWN for the tournament's duration
To allow our more Monstrous participants to compete at their full strength.

I don't know about you folks,
But that seems like an intensely reckless idea to me.
RISK REWARD, GEORRY.
BOMF
Watch it, tiny dragon.
Rude.

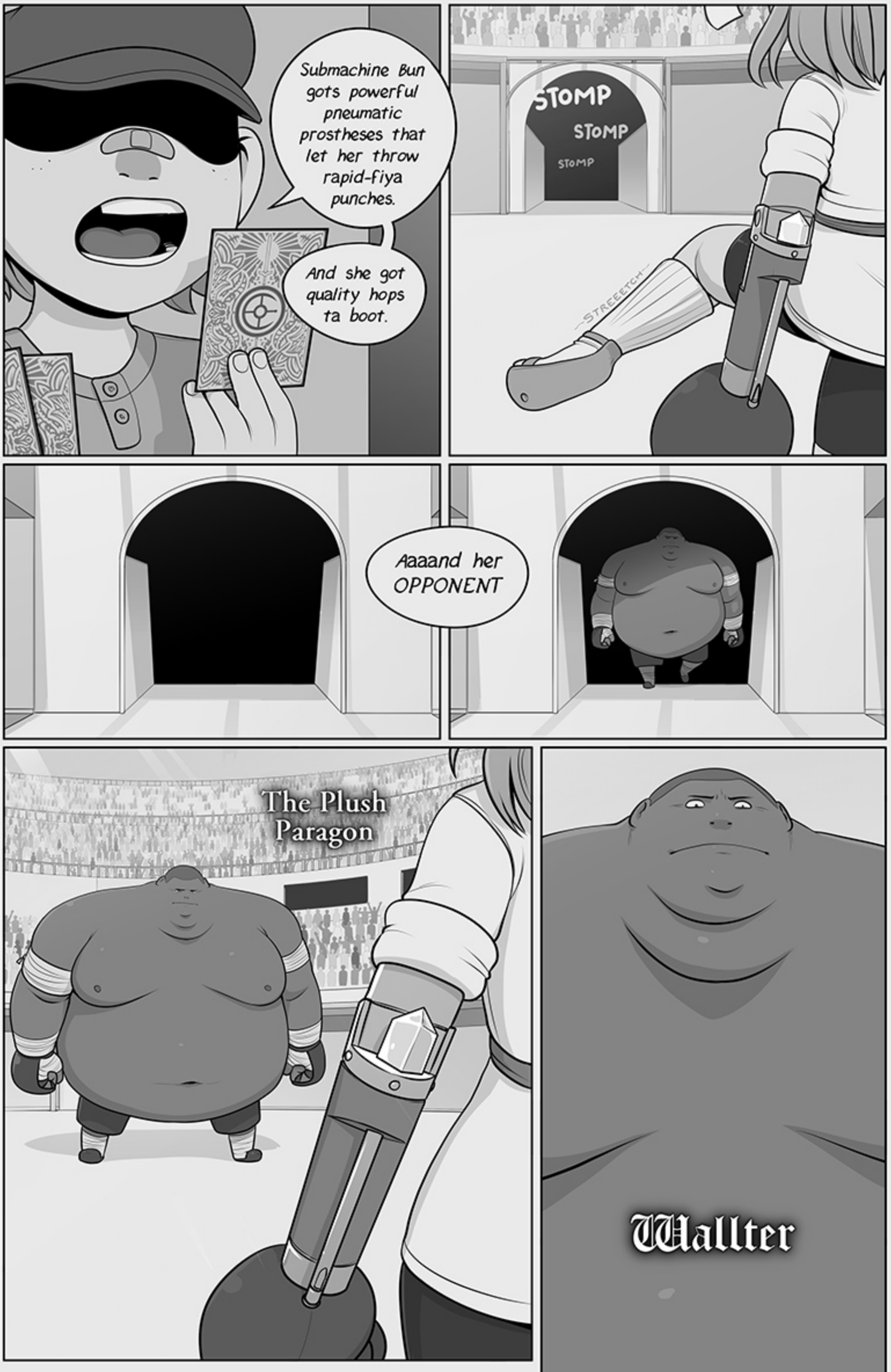

The rules are simple.
The fight ends when one person surrenders or is judged unable to fight,
But no killing! You kill your opponent, you're out.


You can also win by RING IN, which is what we call it when you throw your opponent to the bottom of the well in the arena's center.
Because a well is SHAPED like a RING.

Ey, dragon girl!

Pretty good view, huh?
It's a lil' higher up, but I gots powerful young eyes.
You gots any questions bout any of dese combatants, you let me know!
I gots dang near alla their cards.
Hmnmbfm sff'n frmr...
I don't know what season zero is supposedta mean.

Hey Saya!
It's me, Wendy!
wink
I'm supposed to be working, keep cool
And our FIRST CHALLENGER
The Calibered Cottontail
Submachine Bun


Submachine Bun gots powerful pneumatic prostheses that let her throw rapid-fiya punches.
And she got quality hops ta boot.
STOMP
STOMP
STOMP
~STREEETCH~
Aaaand her OPPONENT
The Plush Paragon
Wallter

Wallter don't look too threatenin',
But his unique build and thick skin let him shrug off blows what like a walking matress man.
It's a rough matchup for da Bun...
Hey, do you uh... have a Windy Knight card?
Do I!
One'a Central's Eight Great Knights, dey say she's a hooorrible old witch who's walked da soil for hundreds'a years,
Windy Knight
But now she only leaves her dank lair to unless devastating storms at da King's command.
HMPH.
GULP

SO what have you been doing since the whole prison thing where y-
SNACK oh boy what was I talking about
READYYY
FIGHT
YA
YAH
YA
YA
YA
YA
YA
YA
YA
YAH
YA
YAH

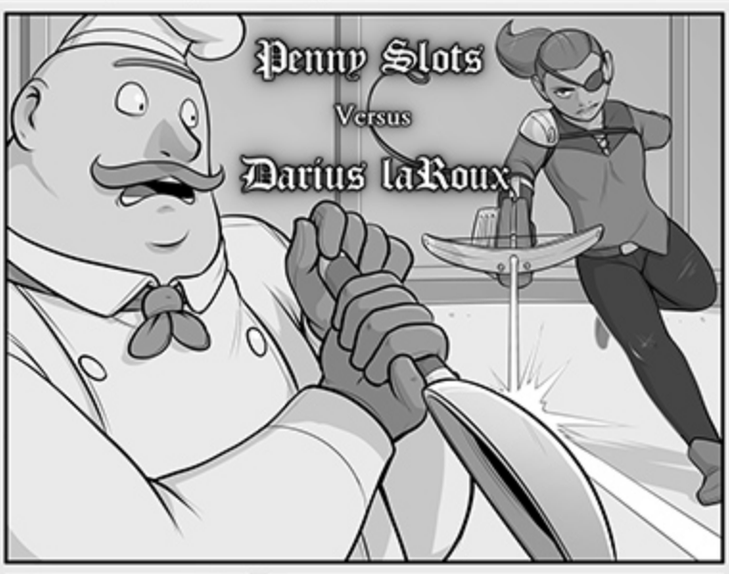
HWOOOOOOOO

Cheery Cordial
Versus
Tabby Tamer
Fool
Tame your insolent grin,
For now, you shall know the FURY of THE-
HOLD IT
It has come to our attention
That Cheery Cordial ALREADY HAS an Ultra-Rare card variant
And is NOT VIABLE for participation a la the tournament's guidelines!
Oh boy, I do?
What
Oh my, what a day of delightful surprises!
Huh

Wedgely Buffert
Versus
Flioche
Ye mean to outmatch the adhesion of a proud Kelpie?!
You think yer sticky skin is a match for Grampy Buffert's Wrasslin' Oil?!

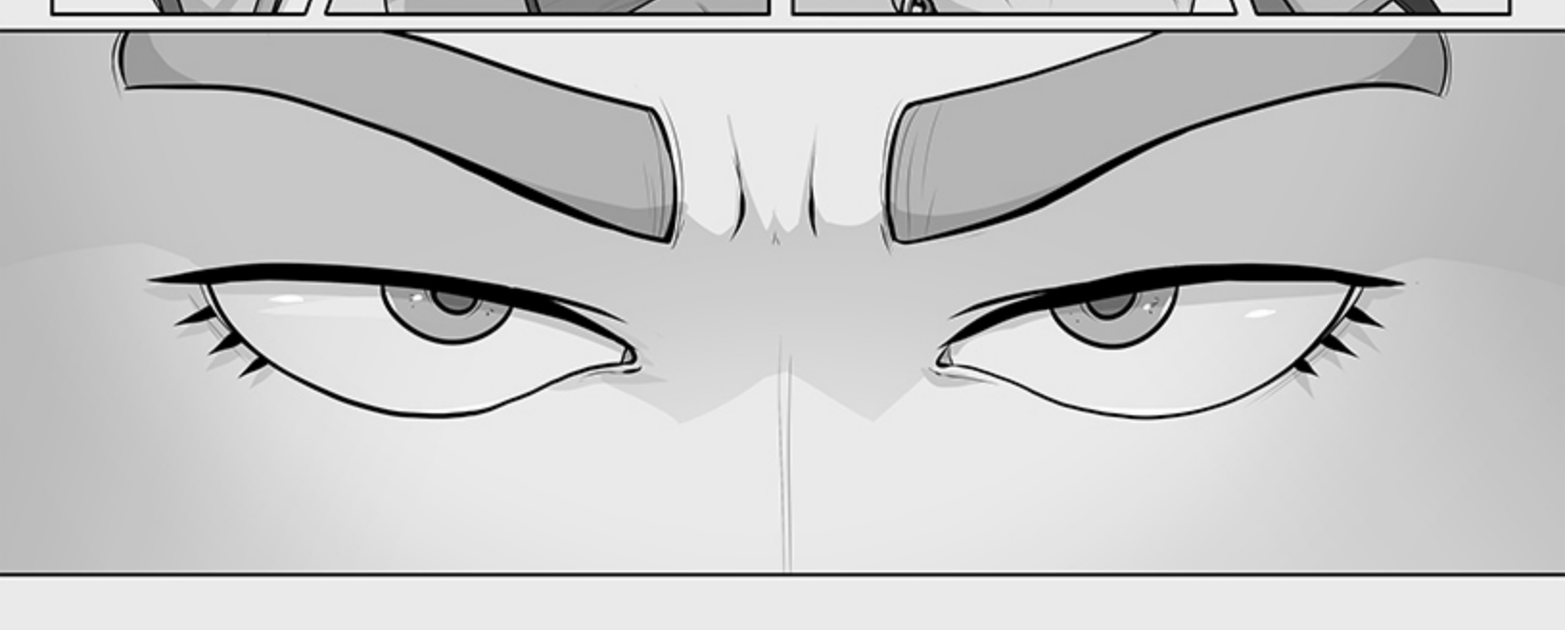
Mimehime
Versus
Hacheryl
Vine Gary
Versus
Fencin' Benson

A. Fortuno
Versus
Flash Dancer


Penny Slots
Versus
Darius laRoux

Jav Lynn
Versus
Rolan West

Swivel Chopper
Versus
Gustav Darne

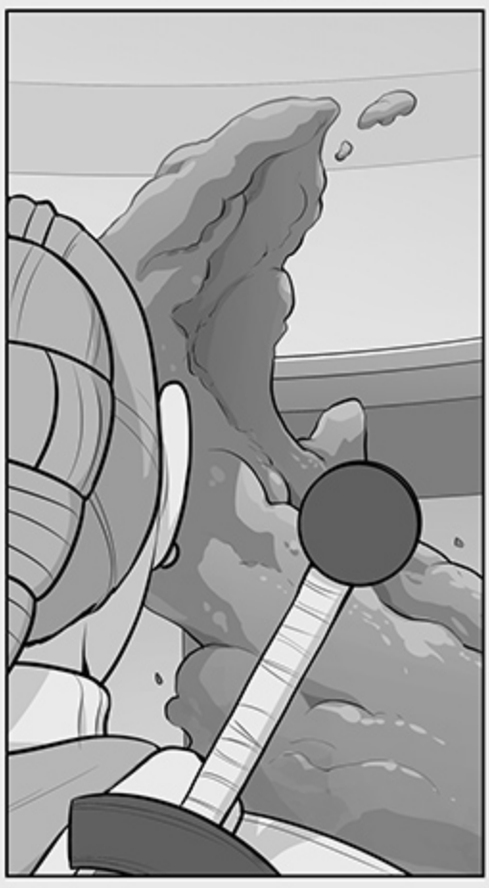


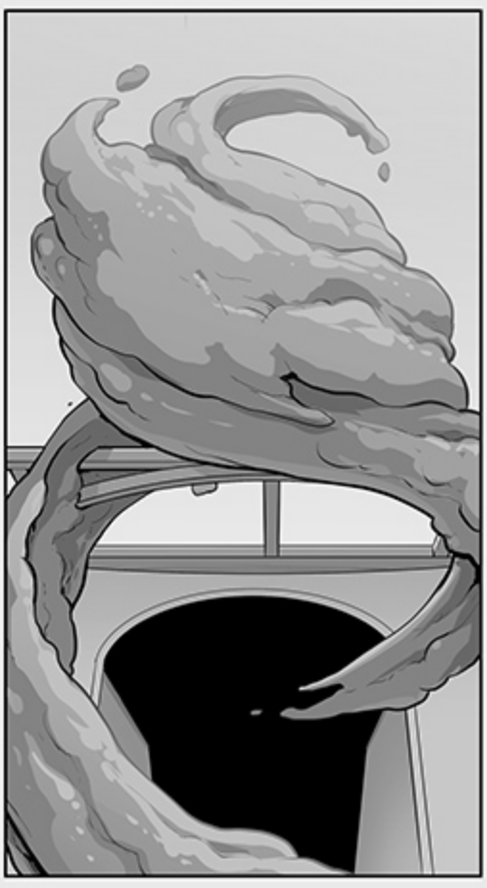
Tengu
Versus
Selinuna
Isaac
Versus
Aries
Pulse
Versus
Madison
Wink
Versus
Blanche
Marx
Versus
Daisy
Daub
Versus
Pandora
Bison
Versus?
Maxi
Agrid
Versus
Luc
Levi
Versus
Kitty
Sonia
Versus
PJ

The
Wooden
Ghost
Brianne
Ironheart

Woo!
YAY
YEAH
WHOOO
WOO
GO BRIAN!
YEAH
WOOHOO!
YEAH!
CHEERING SOUNDS!
PUNCH
WE LOVE YOU BRIANNE!
ah
Versus
ROLL

BILLOW
BILLOW

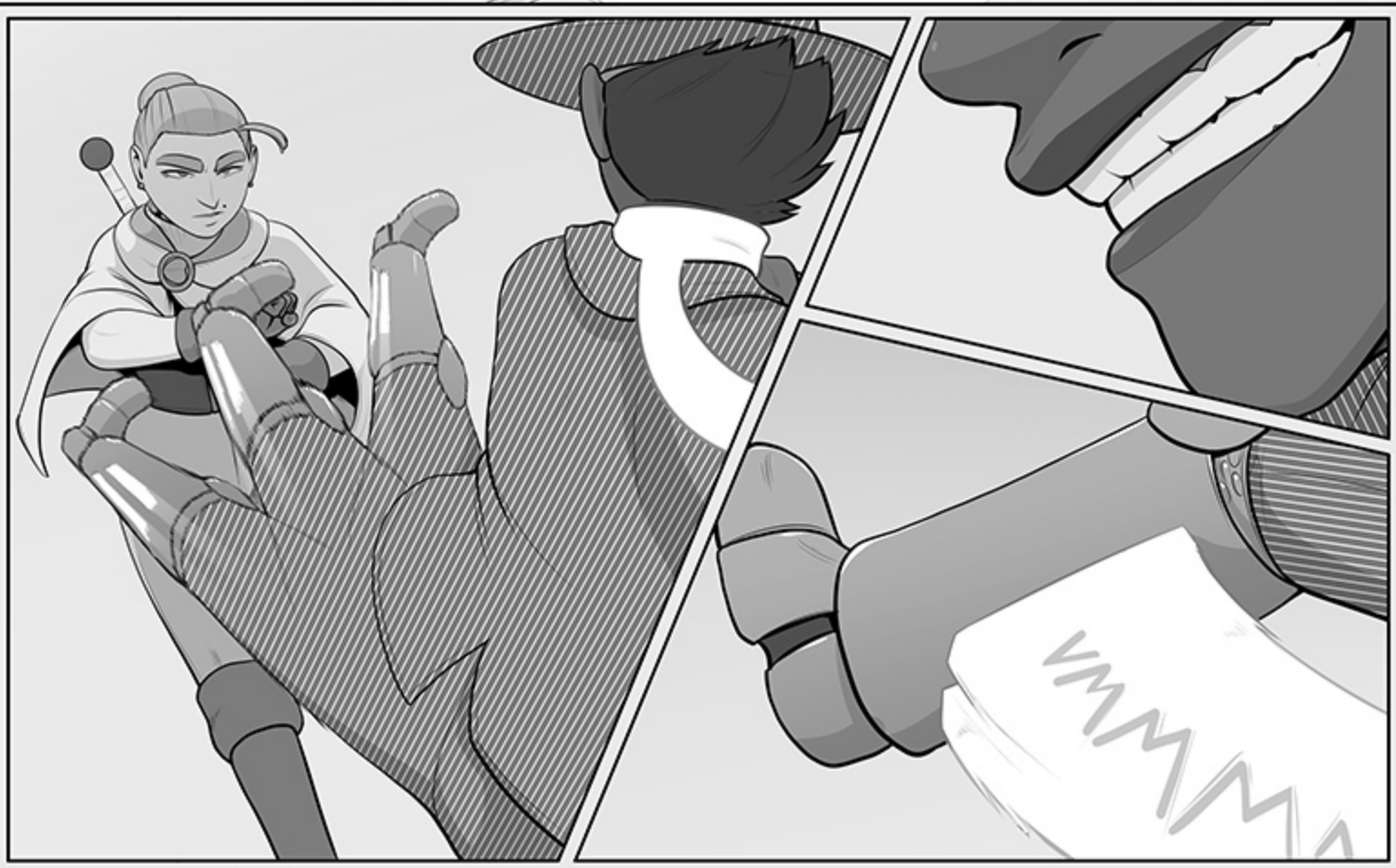




Moxie
Knight

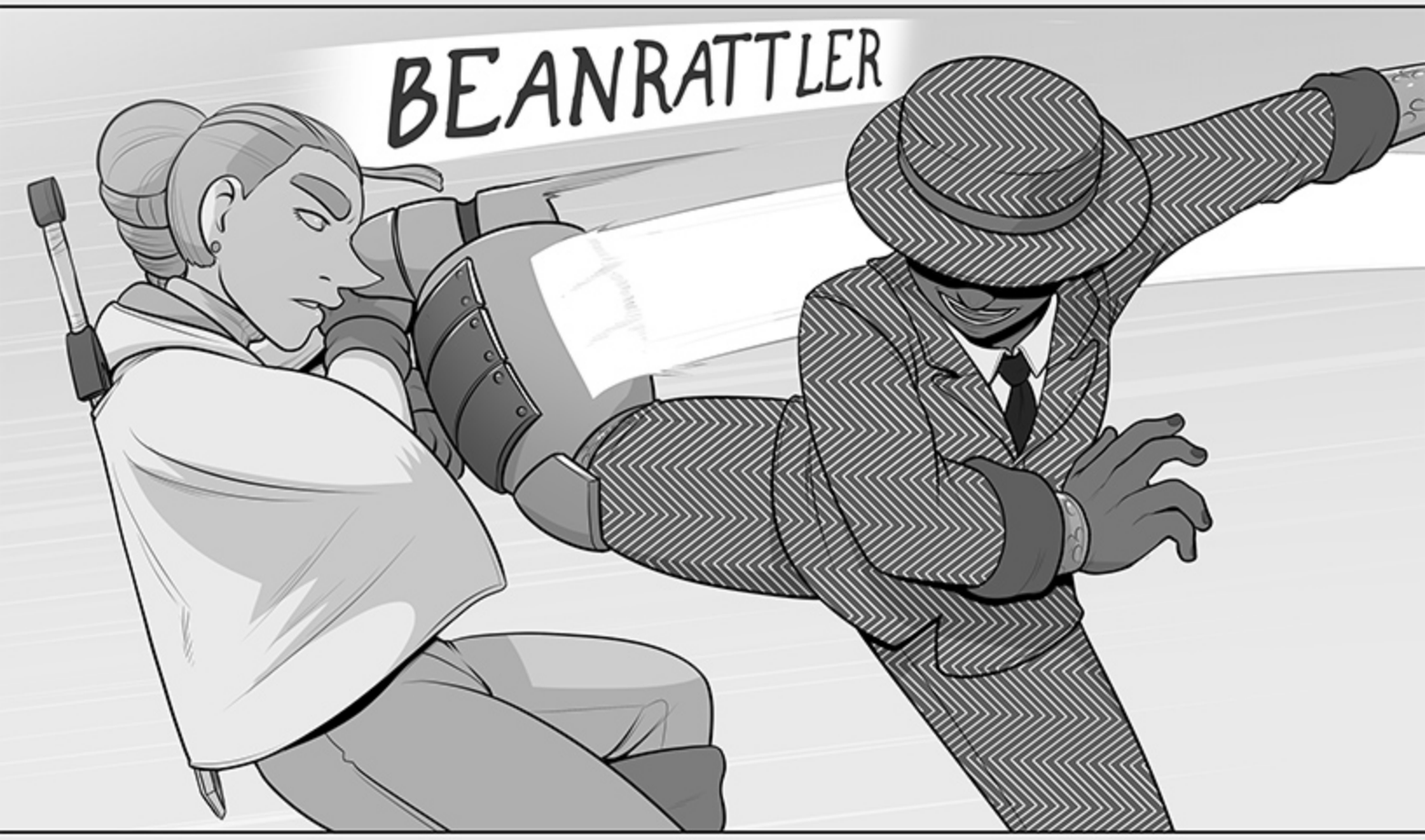
So you're the girl who wants to play knight, huh?
I was all set to become captain when Lucky Knight got promoted to the 8...
But they shrugged me off.
I'm gonna show you, and everyone else
The sort of Vicious Vim you can expect from a Real Knight!
Great.

Moxie...
RUMRUNNER!


VMMMM

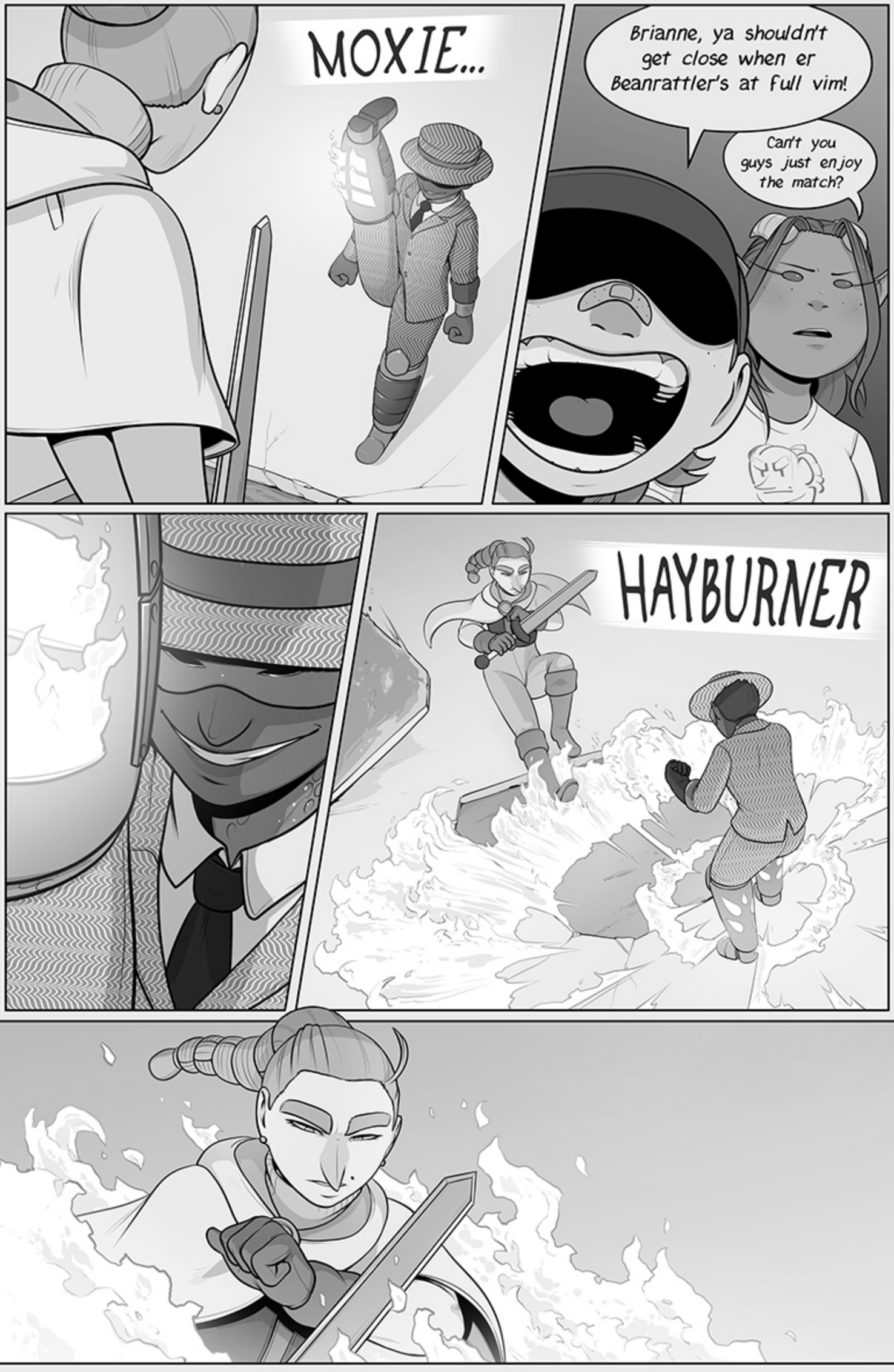
She's getting faster.
Moxie Knight's got four moxies that give er slowly, increasin powers.

And right when er Rumrunner Ankle reaches max Getupandgo...
MOXIE...


BEANRATTLER

She transferred her peak speed into one huge first strike from her Strength mode!
I know, I was watching the same thing.
A poifectly executed Moxie Swap.
Wha

She's closing distance!

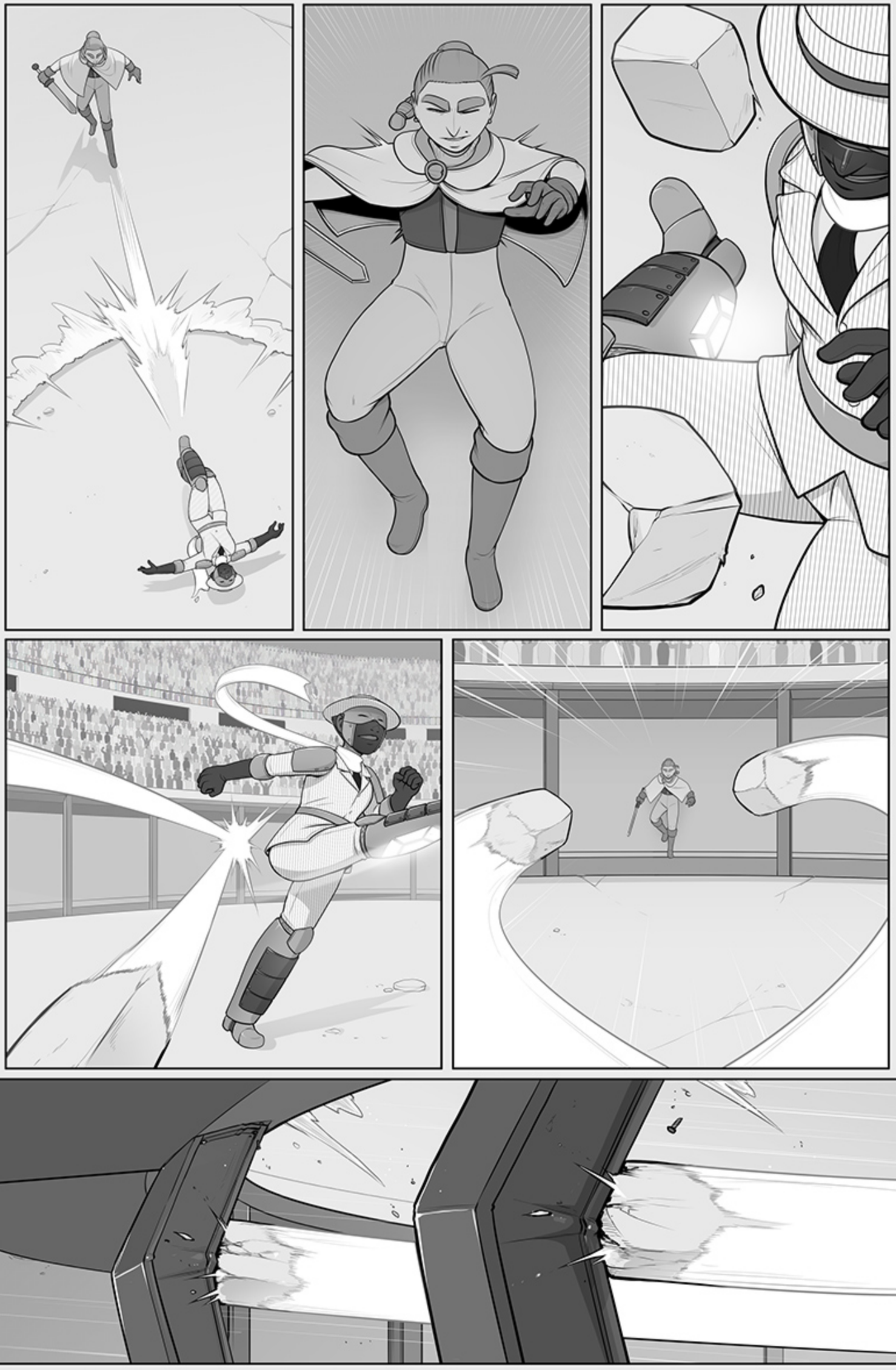

MOXIE...
Brianne, ya shouldn't get close when er Beanrattler's at full vim!
Can't you guys just enjoy the match?
HAYBURNER

MOXIE...

SMOKEEATER
She's holding back...
Is she reluctant because her opponent's dream mirrors her own so closely?
Are you asking me?
'Cause I don't know either.
Brianne...
I feel like you guys are doing a thing?

I'm impressed...
You still got pep left in ya, huh?
You have anything else?
Well since ya asked so stinkin' nice.
Watch out Brianne,
Dat's her Ultimate Attack!

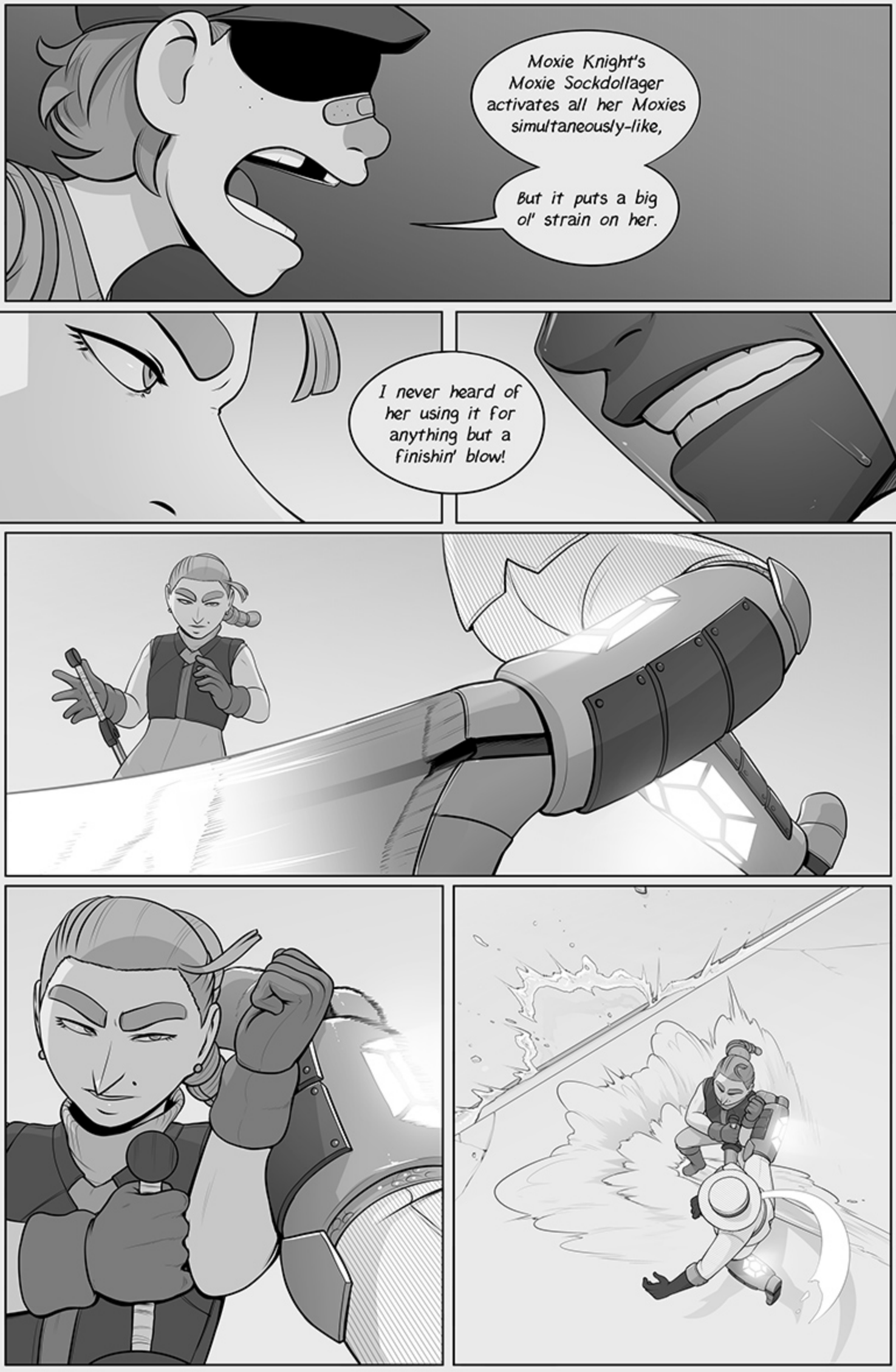
Brianne look ooout!
Brianne!
Brianne her ultimate Brianne!
Why are you doing this
MOXIE...
SOCKDOLLAGER



Ah snacks,
That mighta been a whole orange in an old-fashioned.
OOOH, That can't be comfortable!
Well, assuming the medical crew can dig her out intact, this match GOES TO MOX-
WAIT

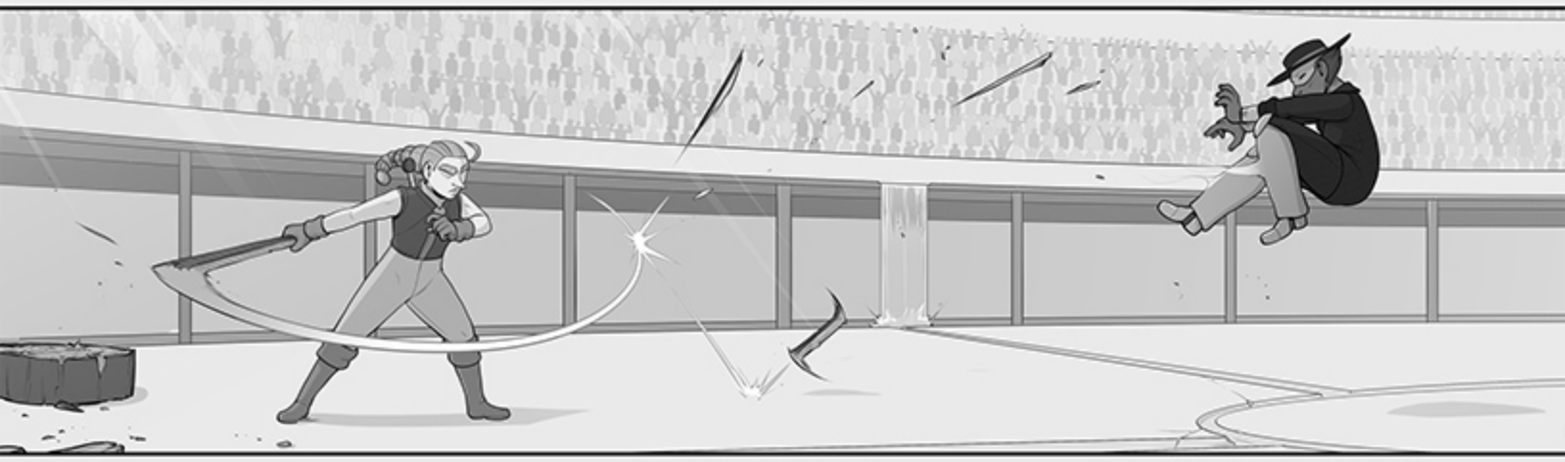
THE FIGHT IS STARTING
Ey ya pickleplums,
Whattaya paid by the hour?
C'mon, fight's over,
Wake up make ya bed.
Gah, no good...
What's that, four modes, mostly kicks.
No matter how you slice it that's less to keep track of than ten hands.
And I'm still letting you get hits in...
What'd that kick knock some ice outta yer highball?
Sorry, Moxie right?
I wasn't taking this seriously, and that's not fair to you.
My name is Brianne Ironheart.
And I too will be a knight.

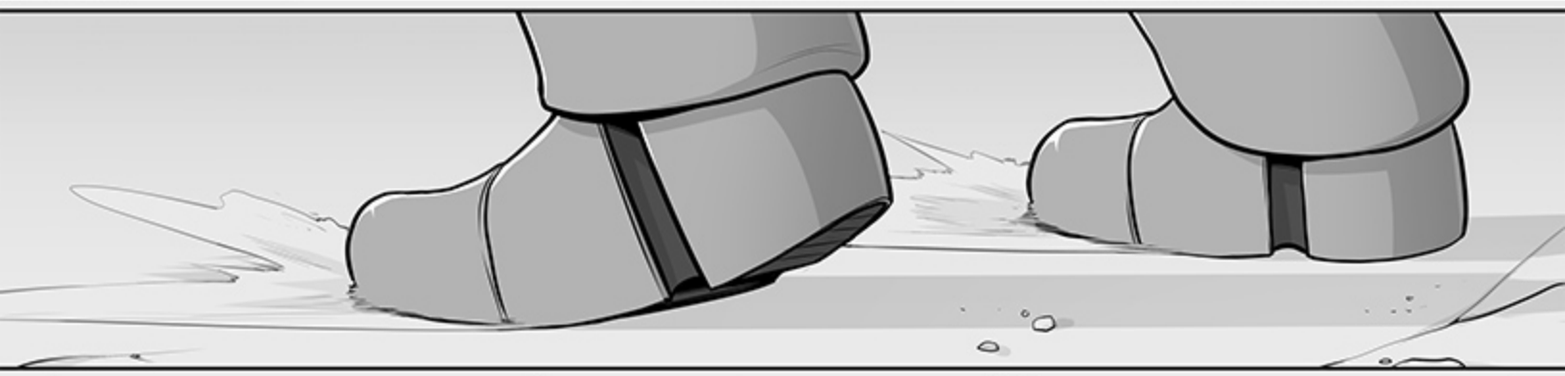
MOXIE
SOCKDOLLAGER
FULL GLASS


Moxie Knight's Moxie Sockdollager activates all her Moxies simultaneously-like,
But it puts a big ol' strain on her.
I never heard of her using it for anything but a finishin' blow!

TAP
TAP
Hey
You know you're just hitting me with padding, right?

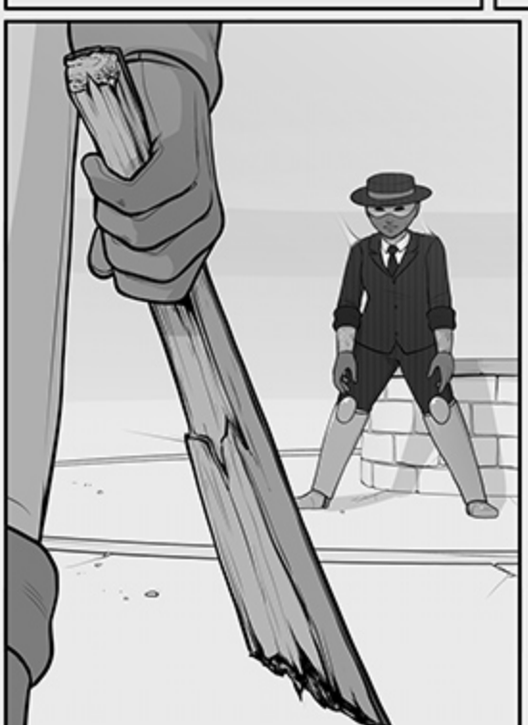
THAT AIN'T ON HER CARD!





HUFF
HUFF

Guh



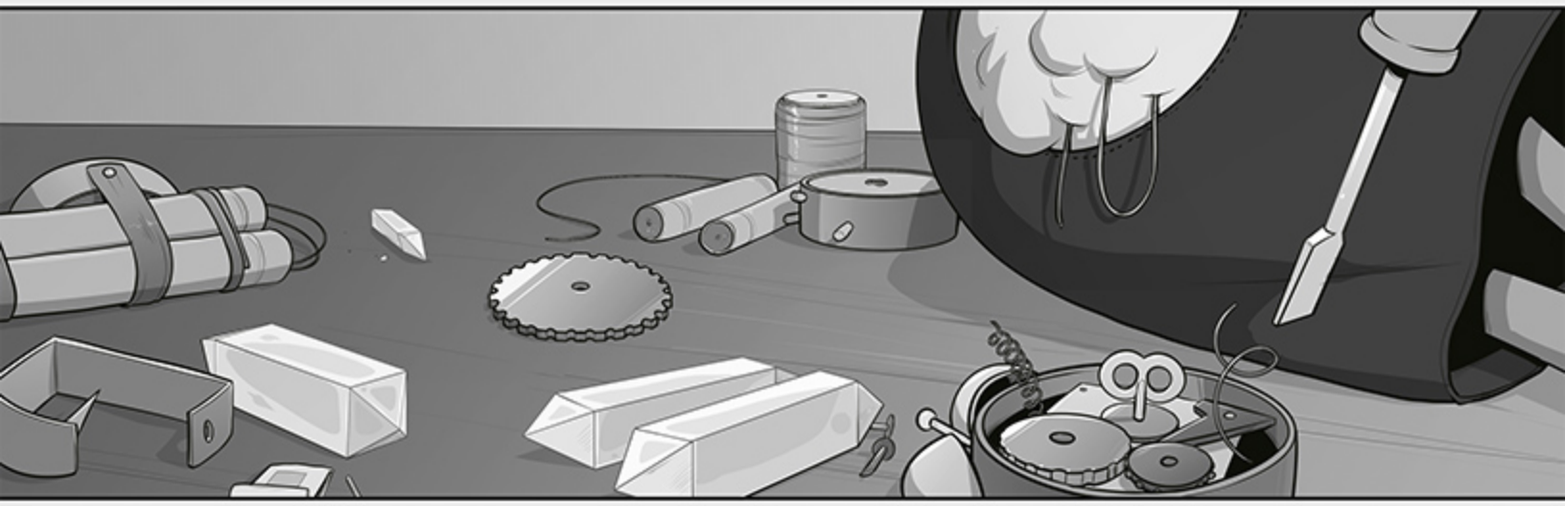
Where's this strength comin from?

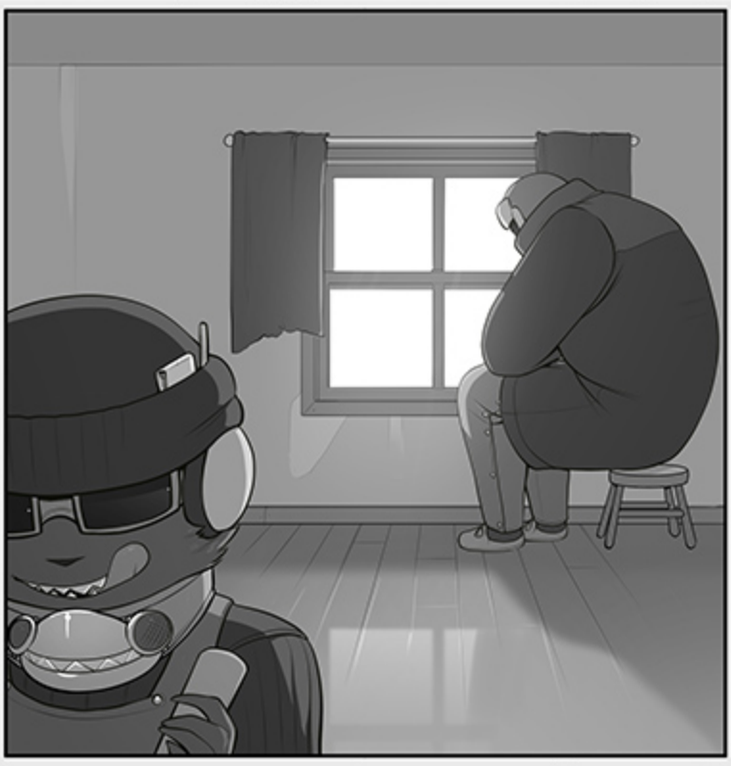
This cool stalwart demeanor?
This... this detail?

Is this...
Is this Moxie?!
No.
This is just Gusto.
WINNER BY RING-IN
BRIANNE IRONHEART

WOO!
YEA!
YEAH
BRIANNE!
BRIANNE!
WOOOO
BRIANNE
BRIANNE
BRIANNE
WOO!
YEEHAH!
YEAH!
CHEER!
BRIAN!
WOOOO
YEAH
WOOHOO

Fuuuu
WHAT WAS THAT, was I cool?
Did King Onin think I looked cool?!
Was that a nod, what expression was that?!
I don't know, ma'am!
WATER LAD





YE MAY MEET
OTHERS WITH DREAMS.
TRYEST NOT TO LET
THIS WEAR YON PEP.

Chapter 14 End

Thanks for reading!

Ironheart-Rune by Will Muzzi

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