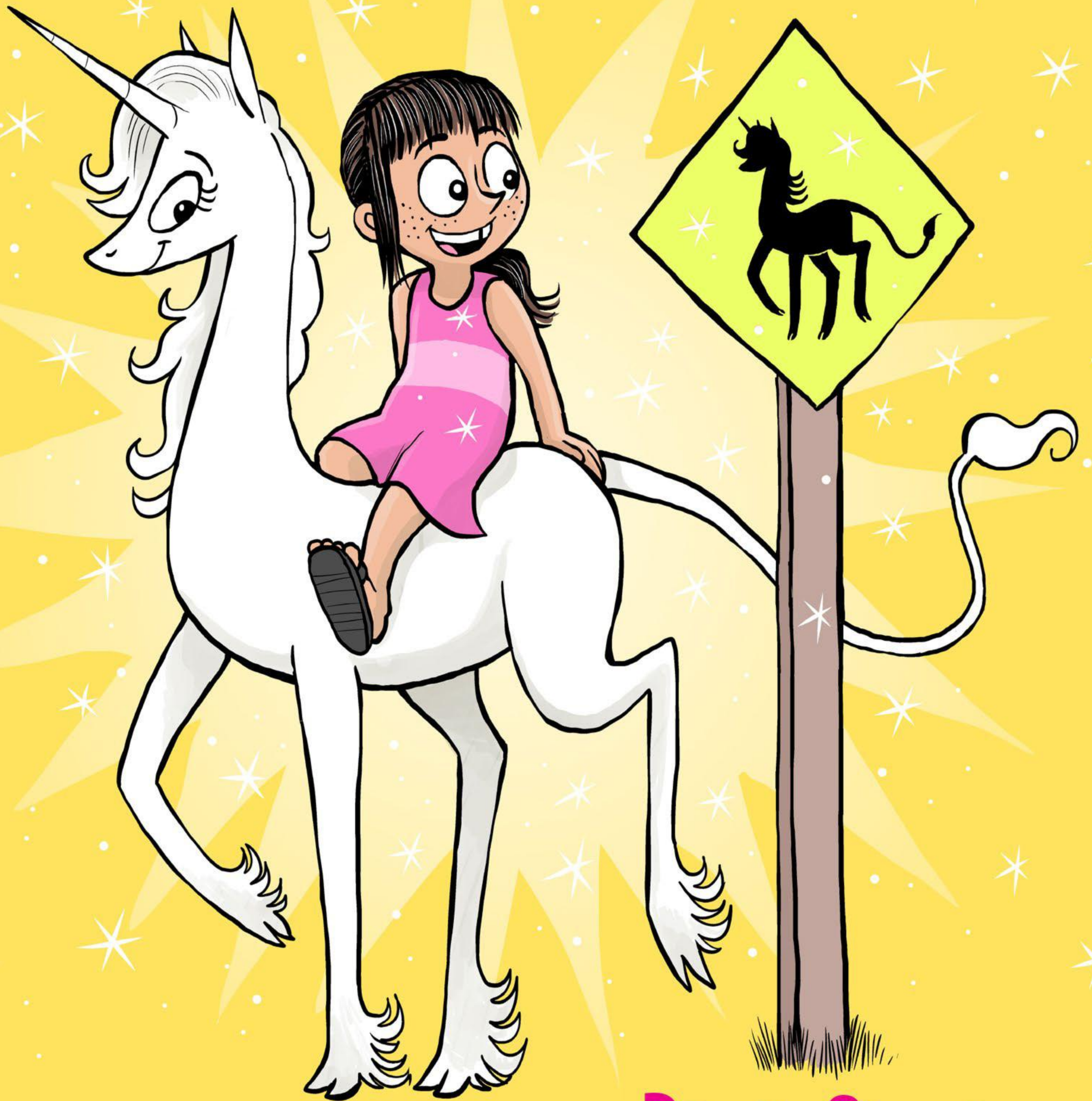


Unicorn Crossing

Another
Phoebe and Her Unicorn Adventure



Dana Simpson

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**Andrews McMeel
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Hey, kids!

Check out the glossary starting on page 171
if you come across words you don't know.





You gotta start brainstorming early, if you want to come up with something creative.





If so, we must communicate more clearly than the last time.





The best costume is one that subverts one's everyday identity.



I am best known for being beautiful.



What costume will best undermine...

I will go as **YOU!**

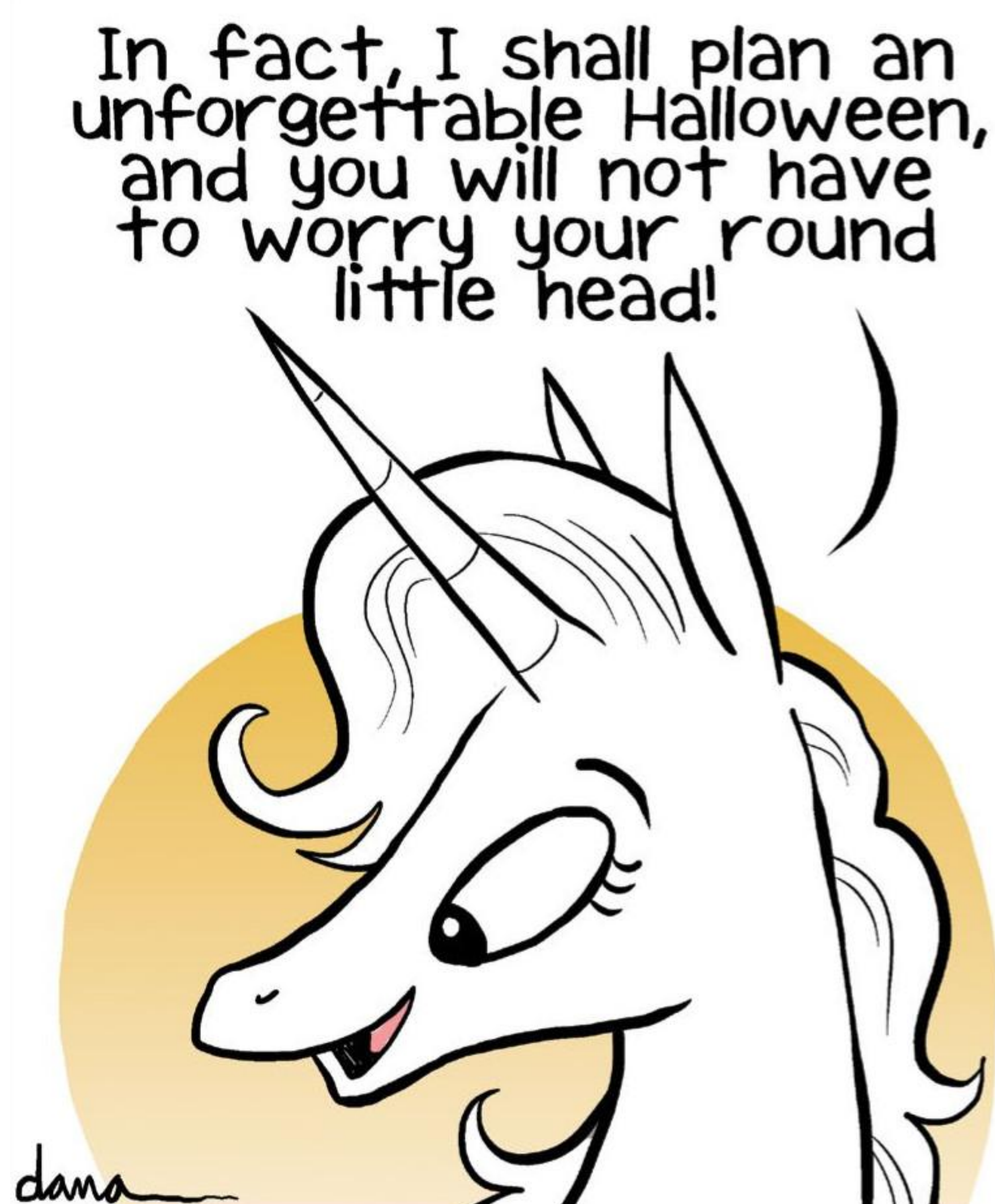
...waaaaaaaaaaait.



















I got a Halloween party invitation from your unicorn.



It says plus one. What's that mean?

I think she means bring a magical creature.



Is that robot you've been working on magic?



Only if you consider a potato battery magic.

I kind of do!





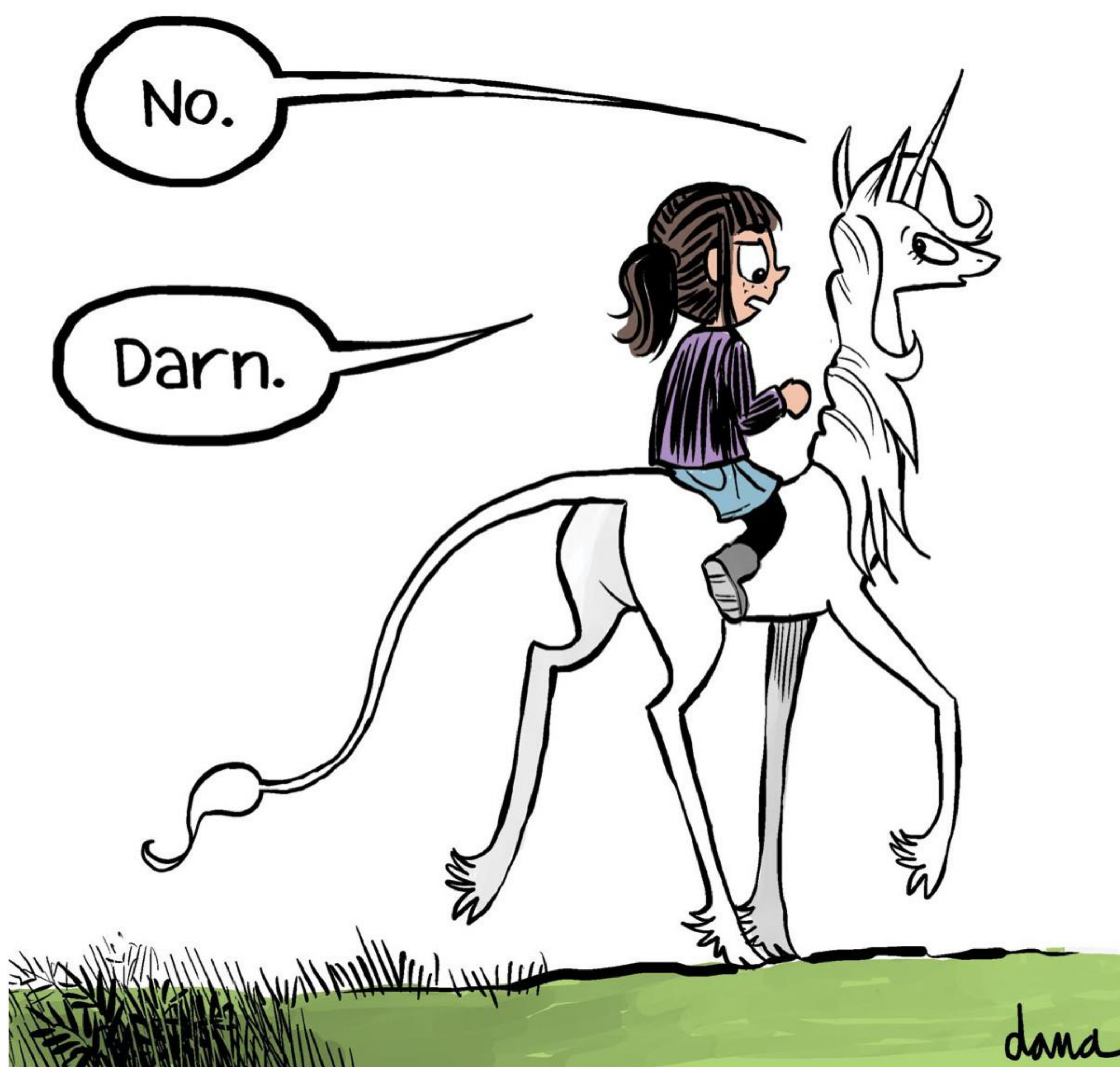
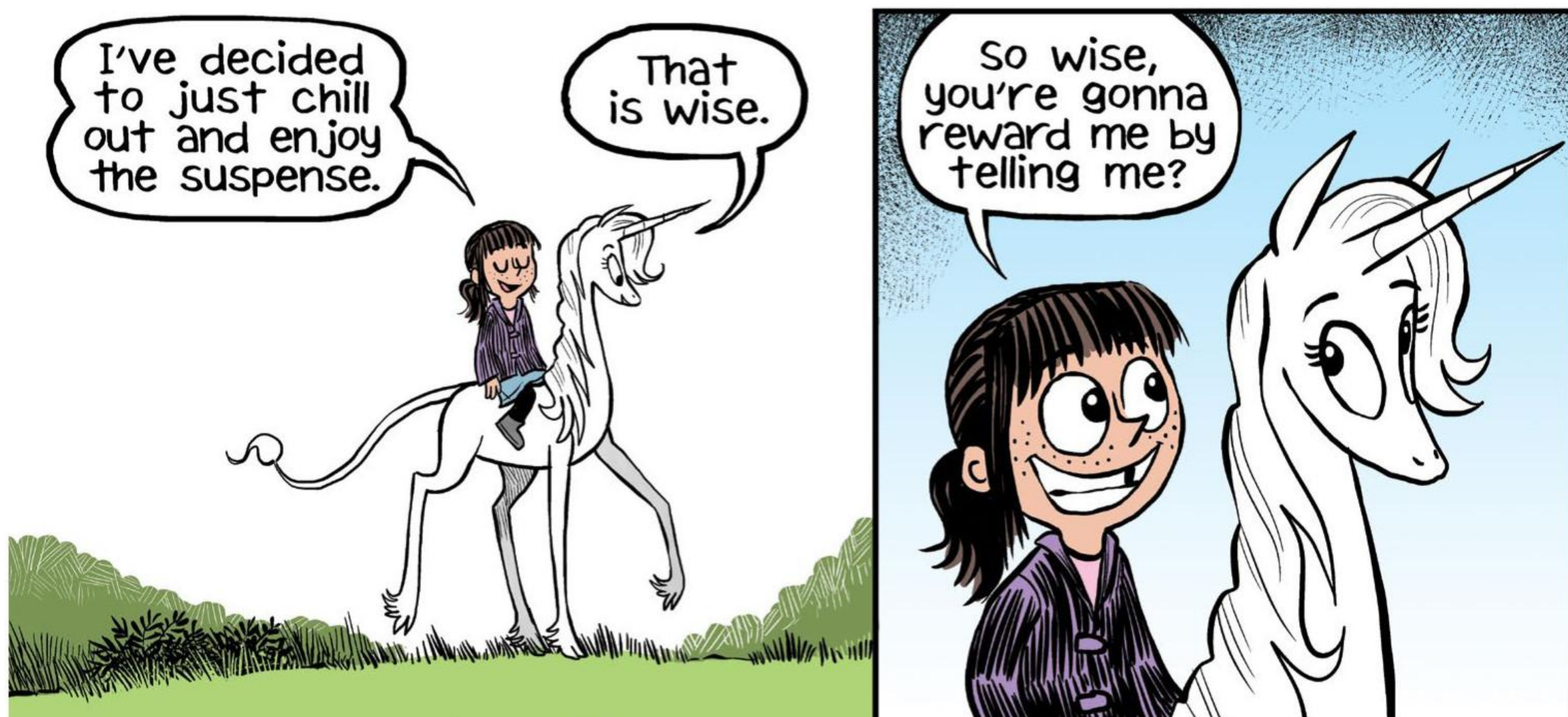


dama



I think you do this to me a **lot**, and that's why I can't find that one pencil I like.





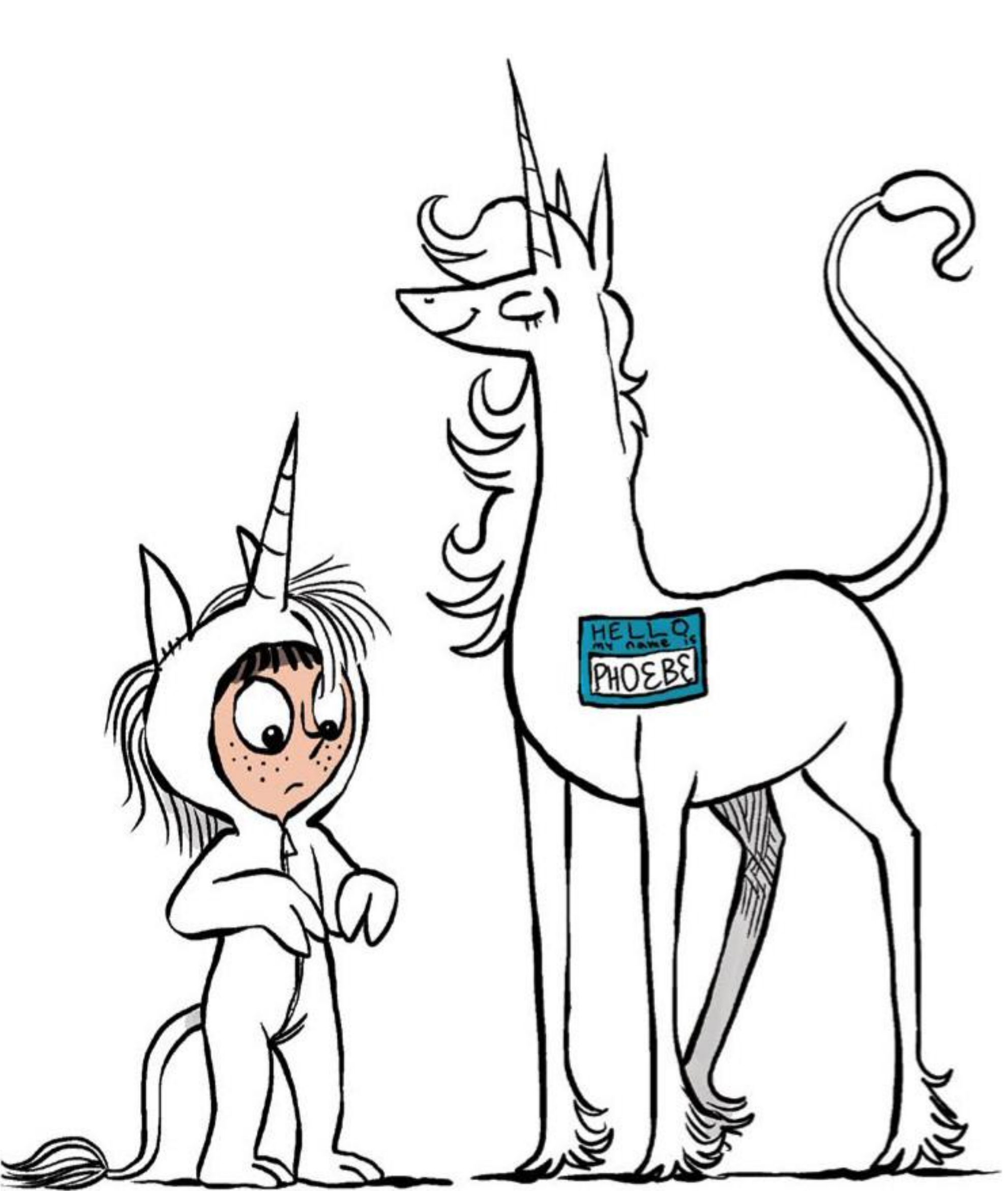




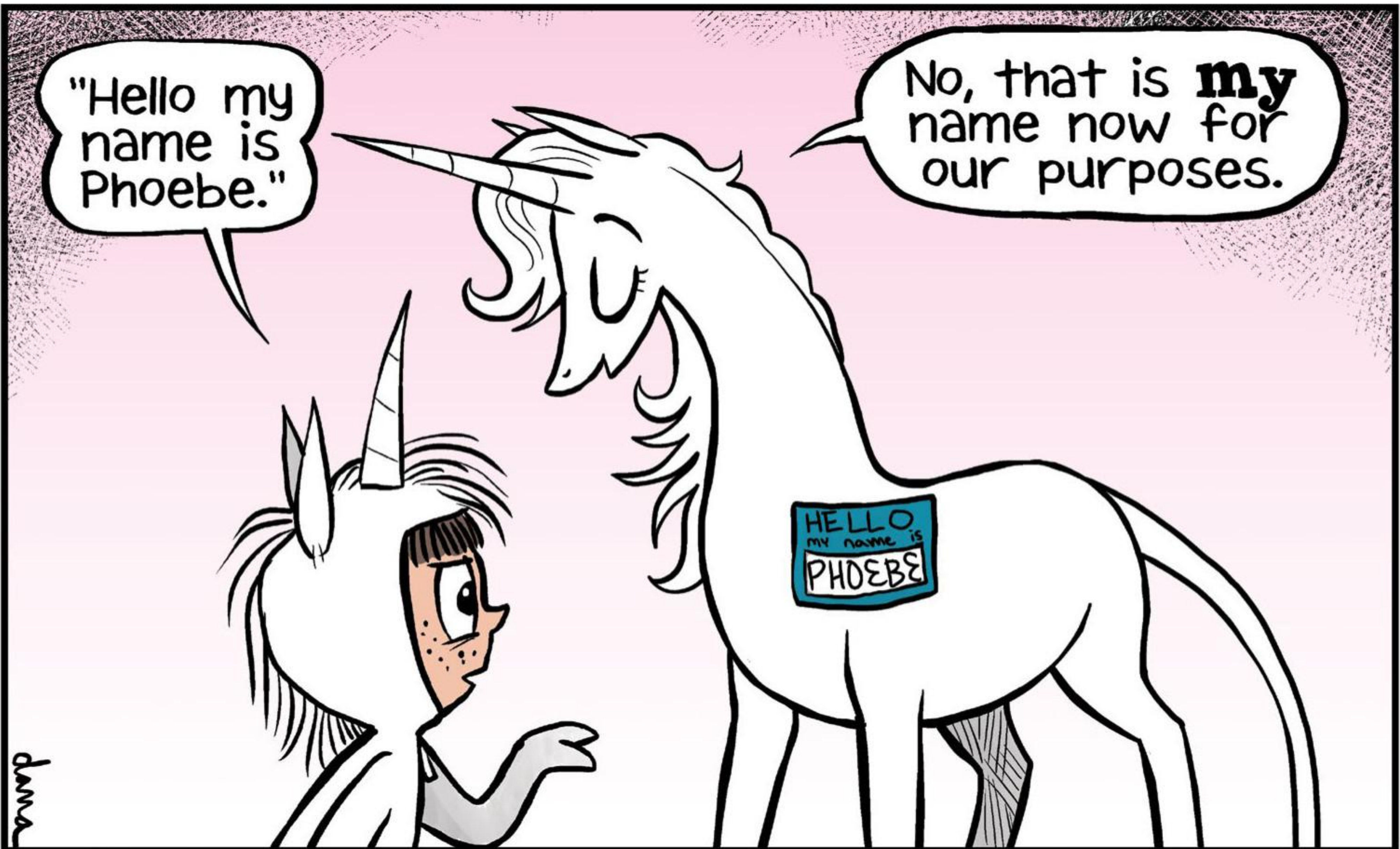
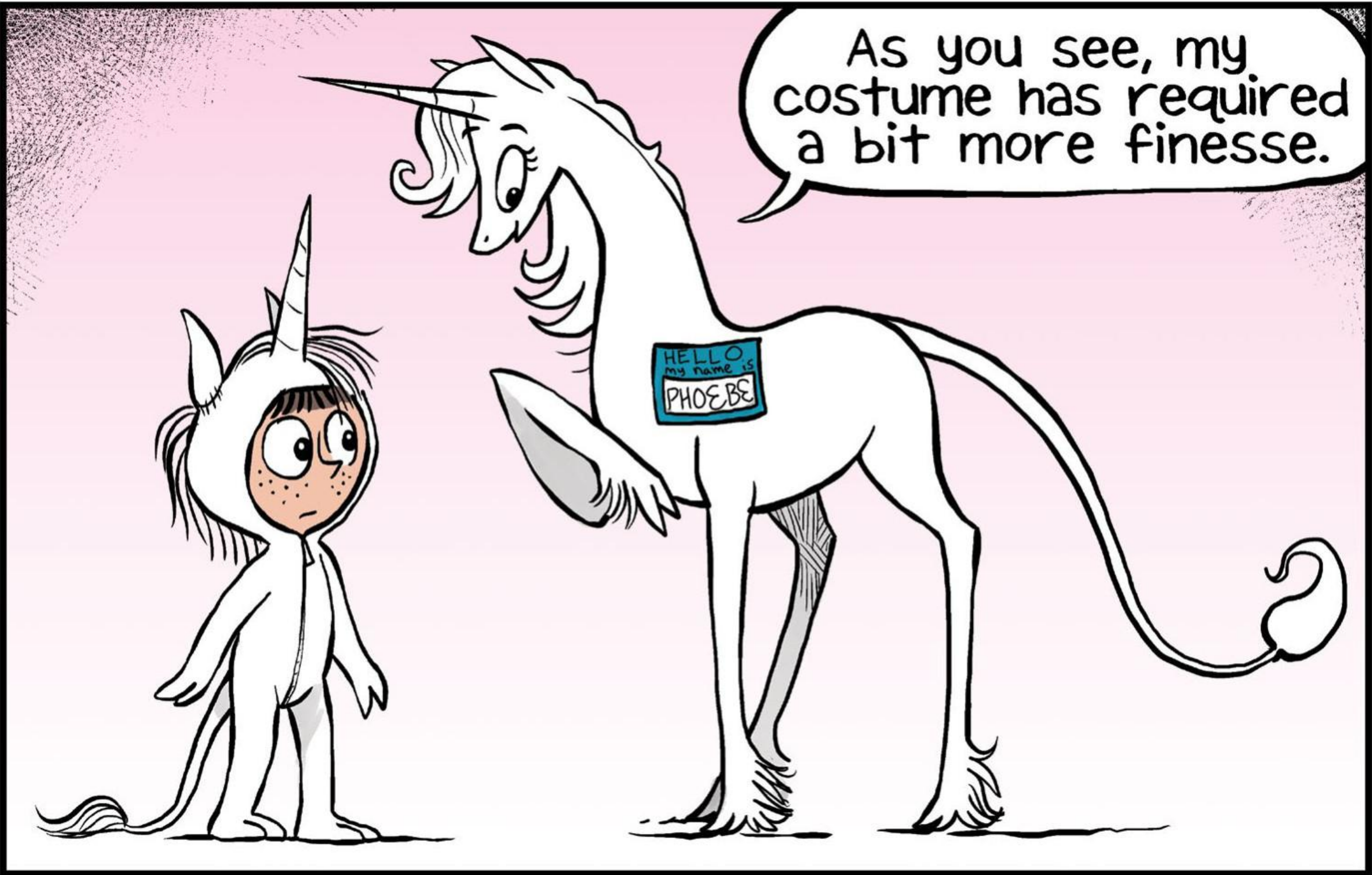
I did not know him well. He was quiet, and only seemed to be around in late October.



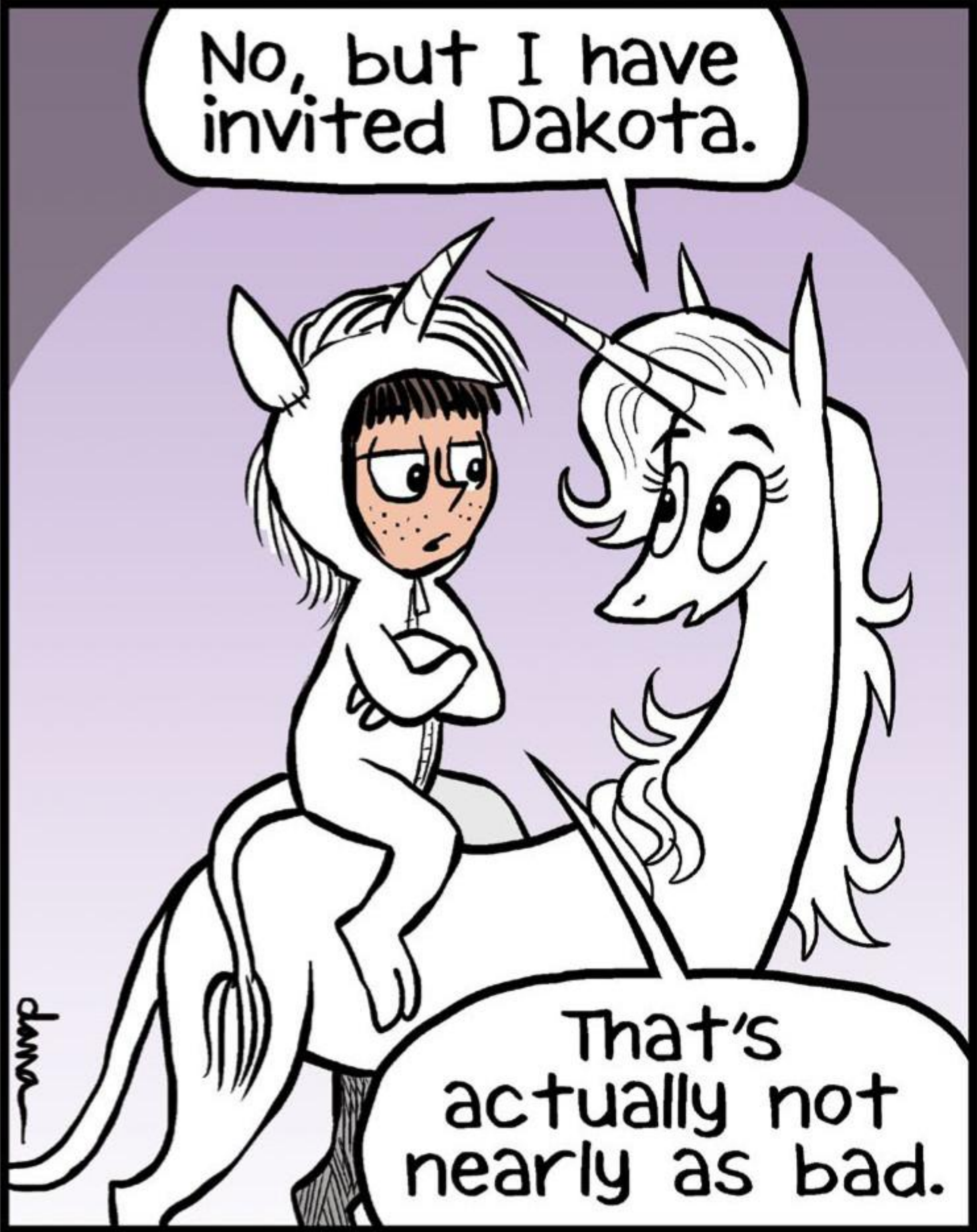




dma



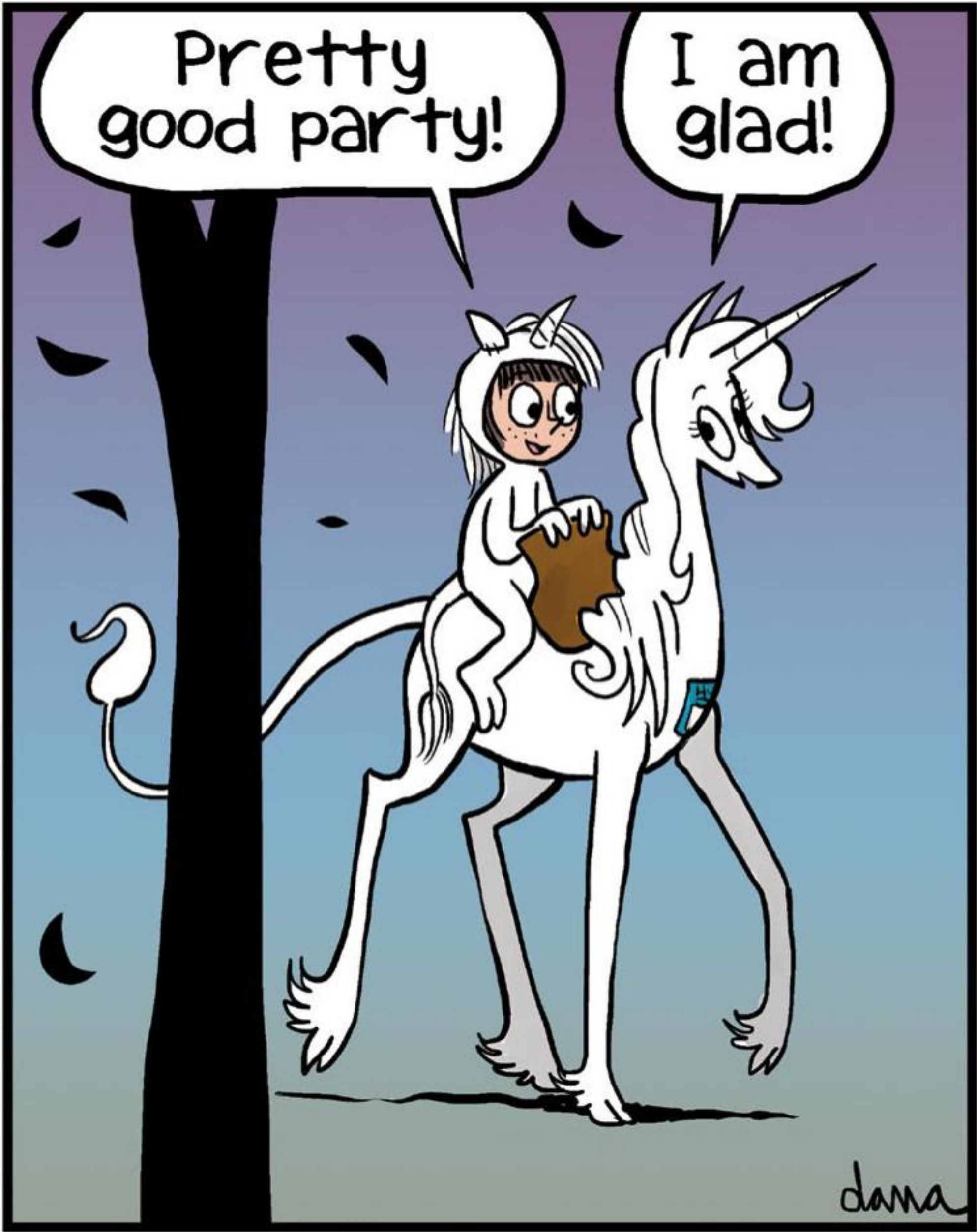






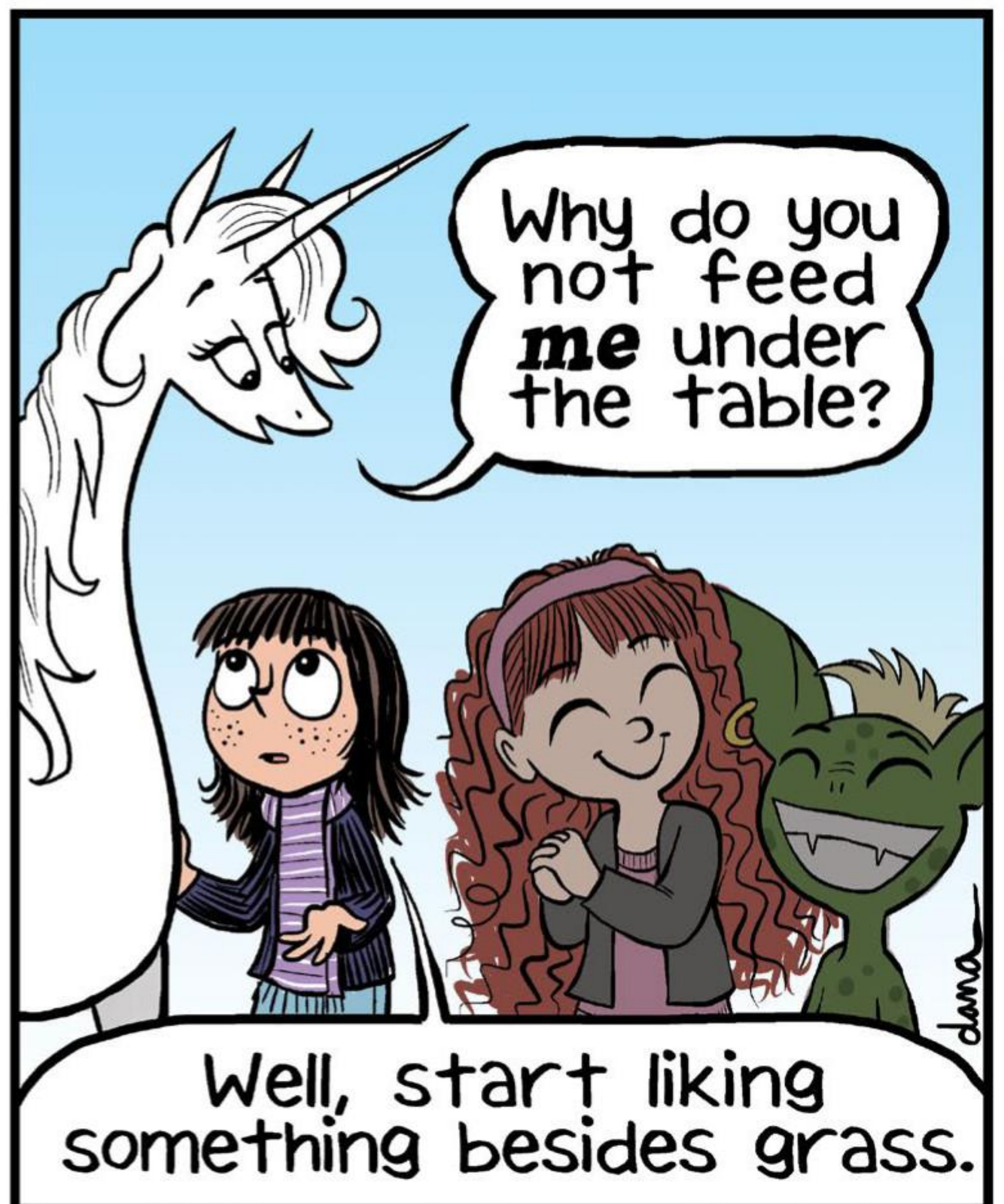
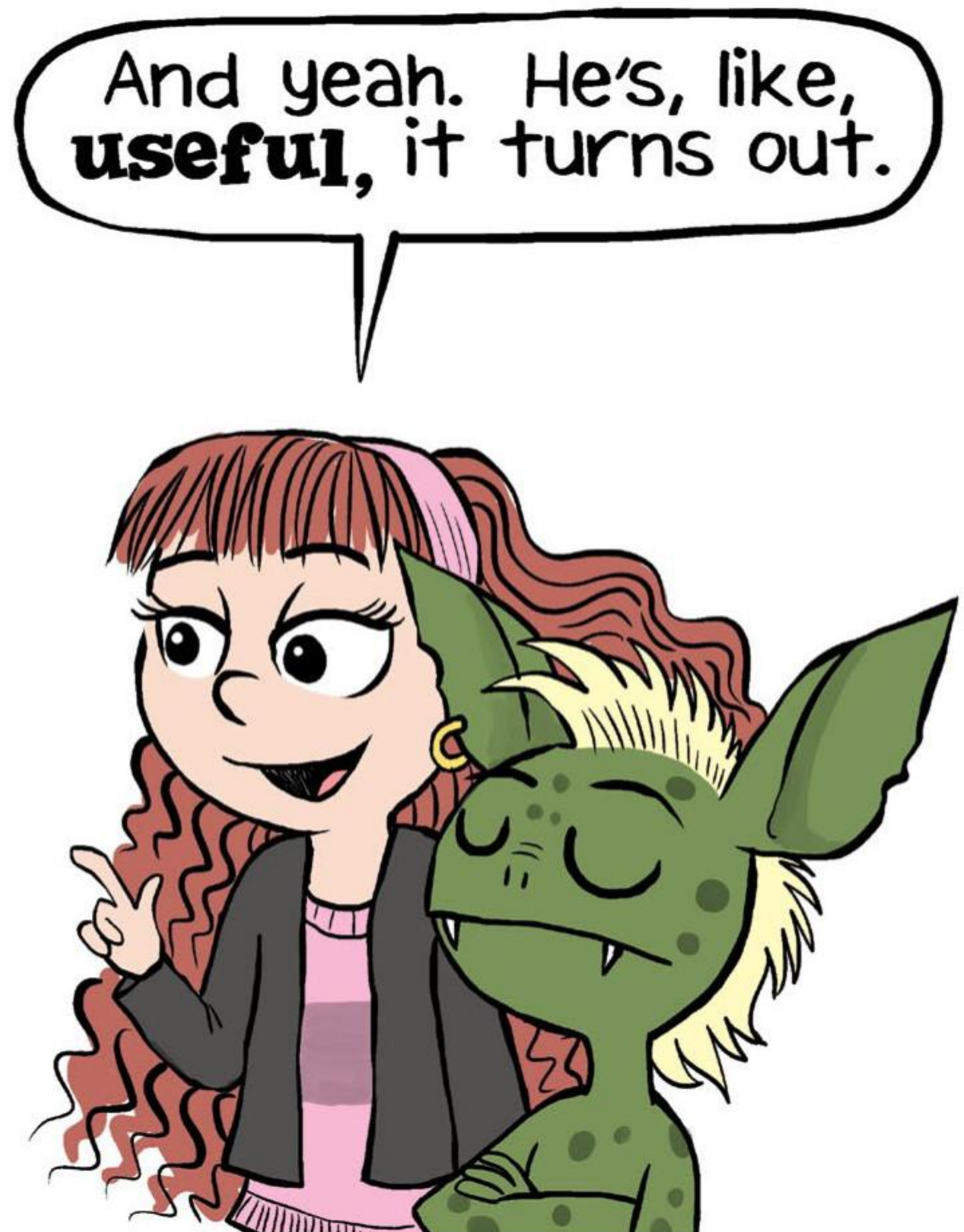




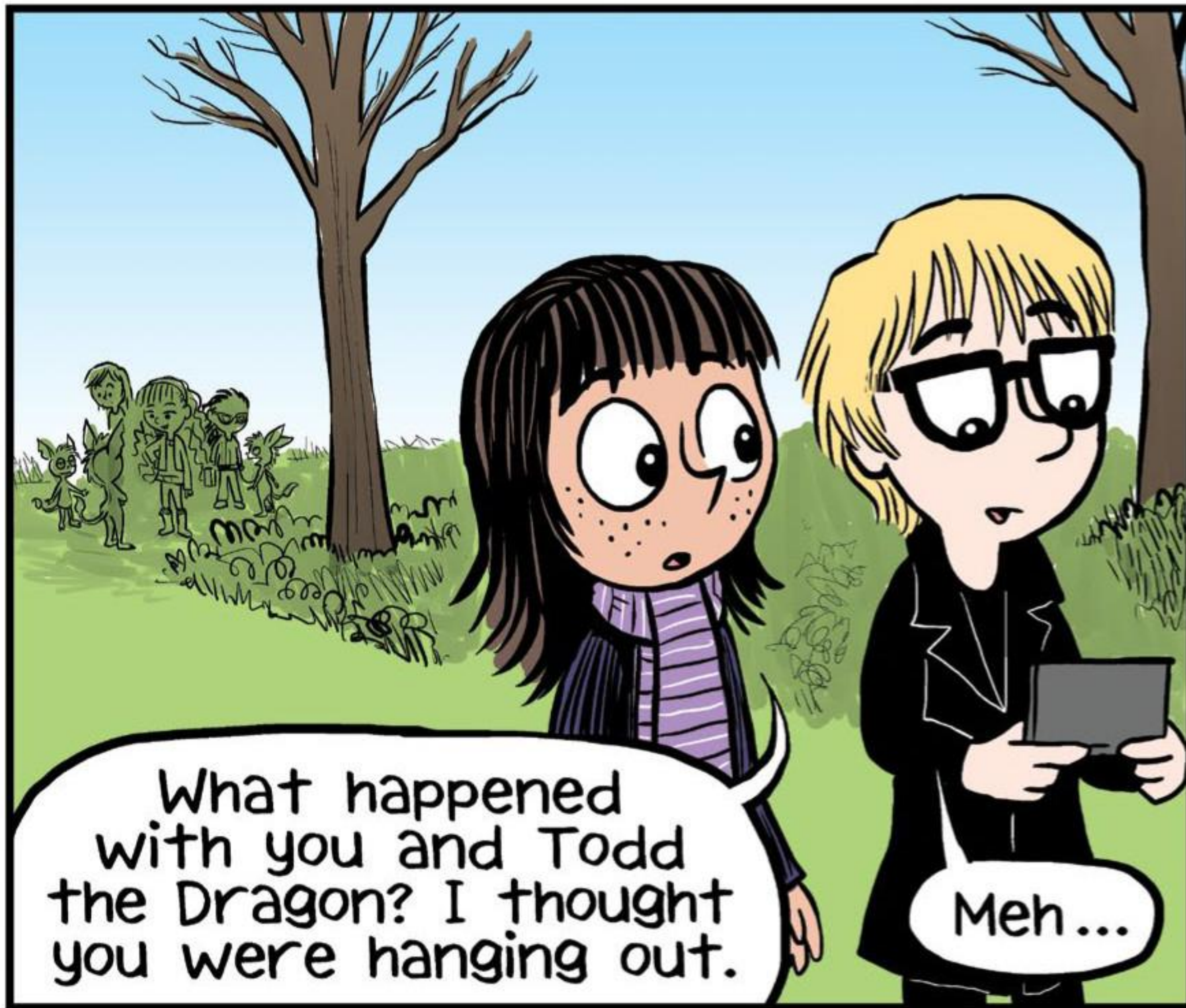


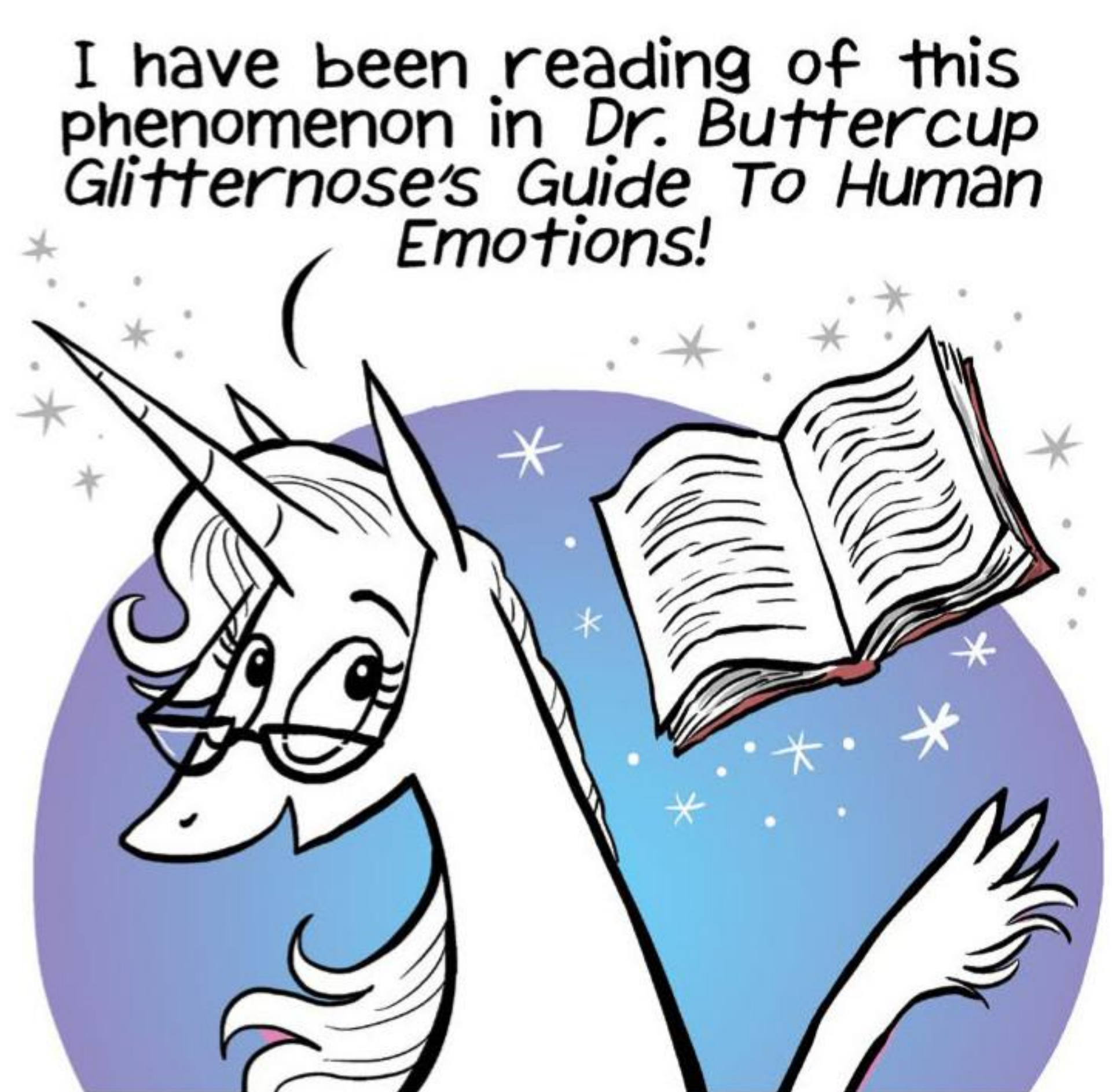
You and your friends now have magical bottomless bags of candy. And you have the willpower of, well, nine-year-olds.





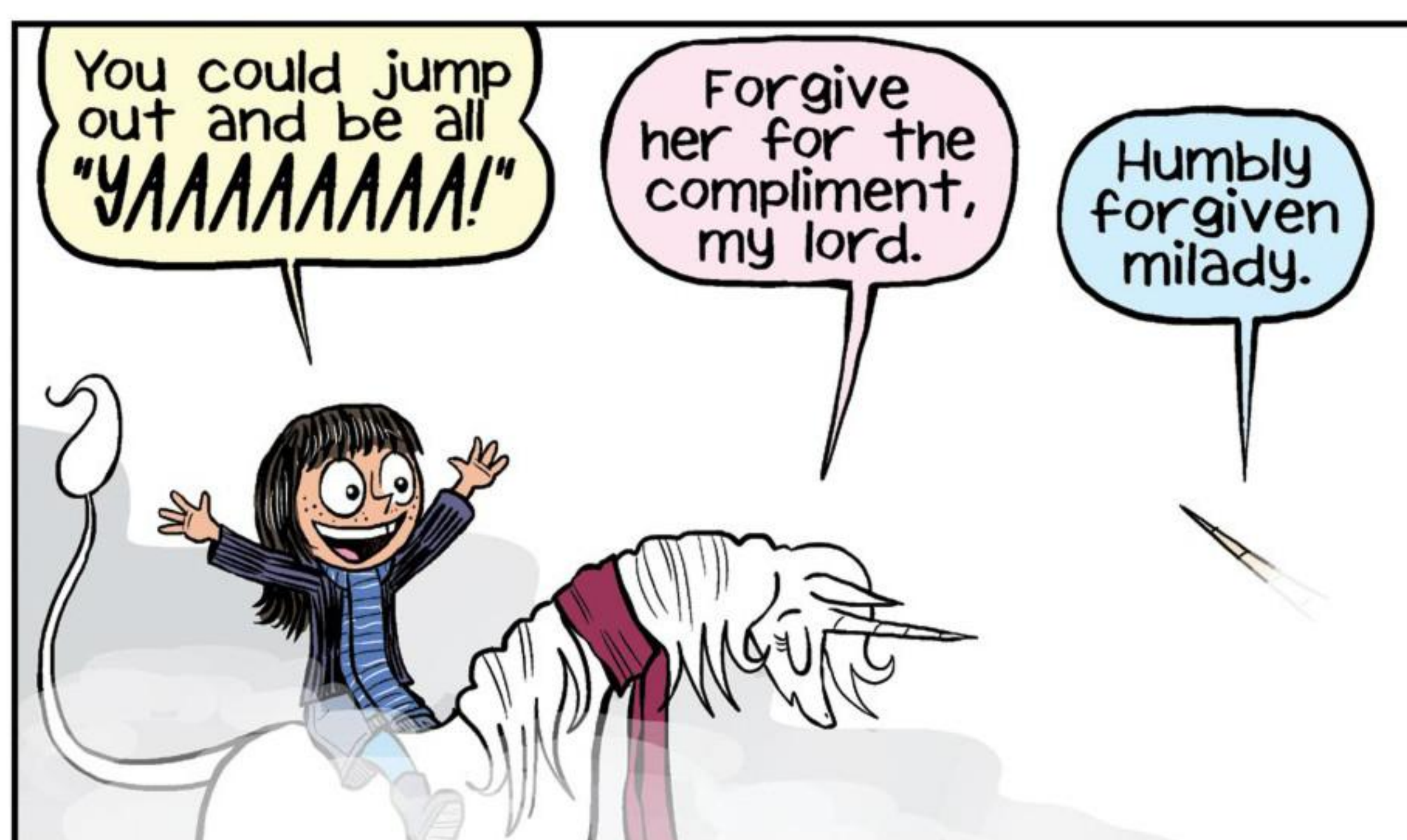
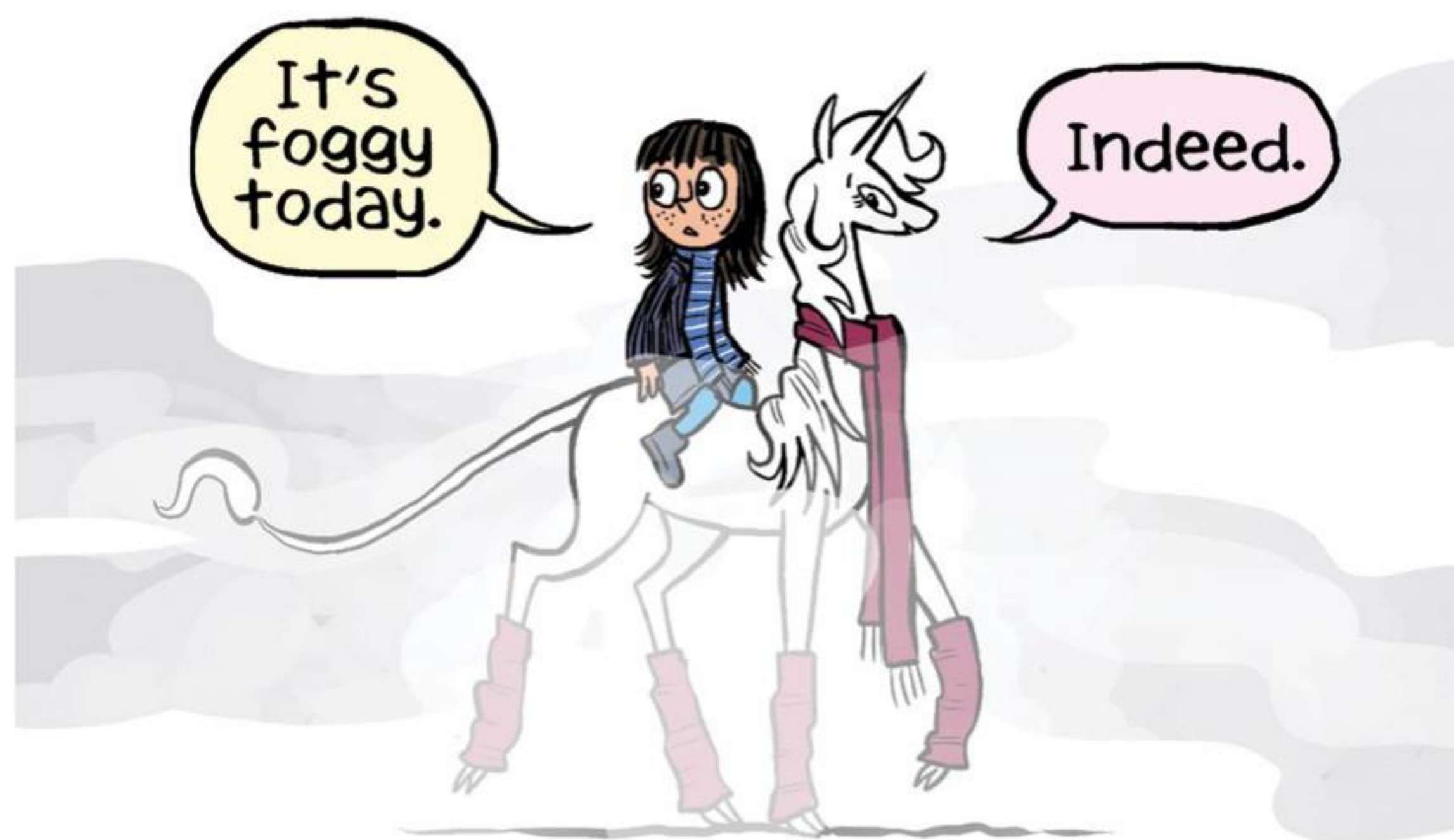






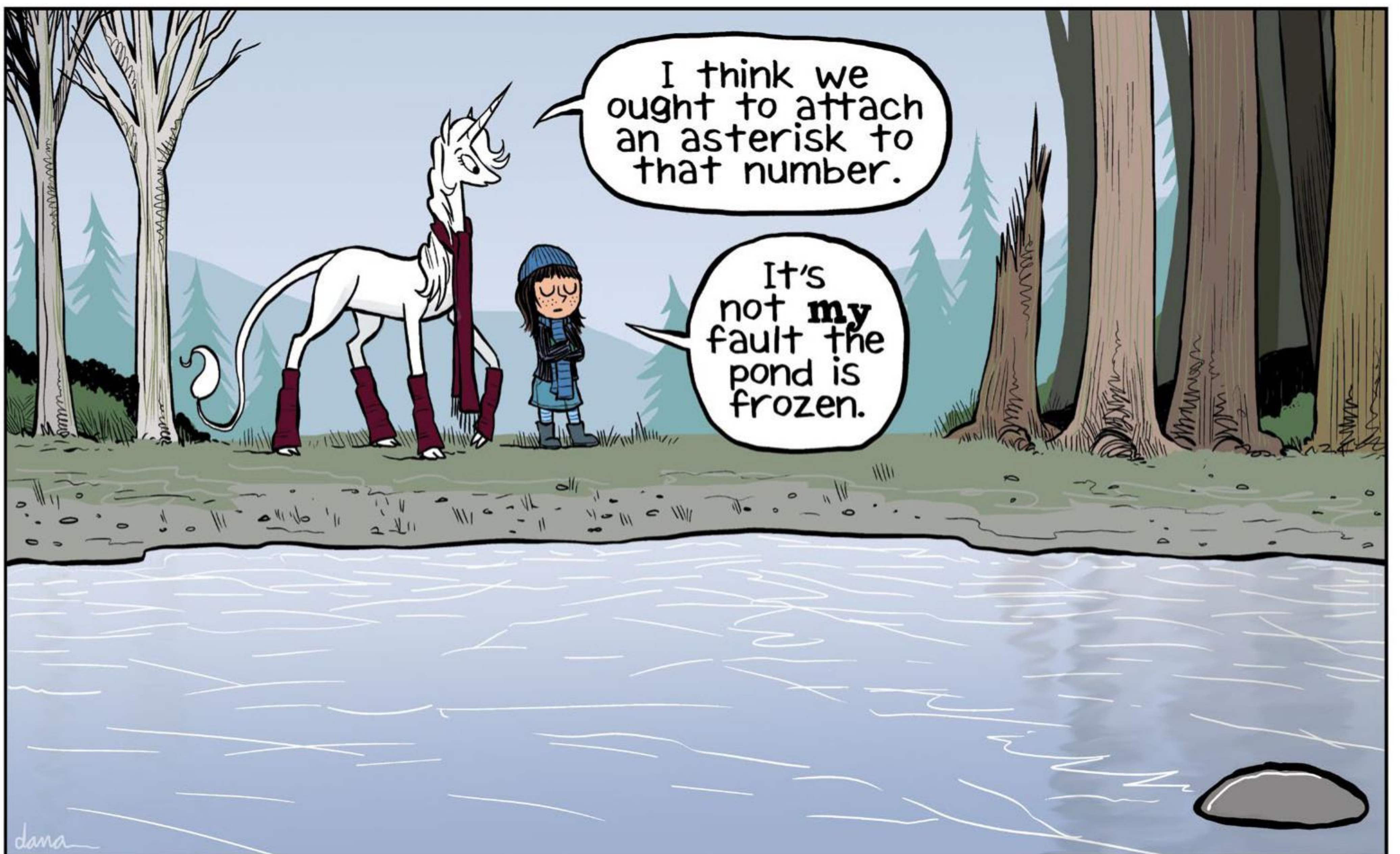


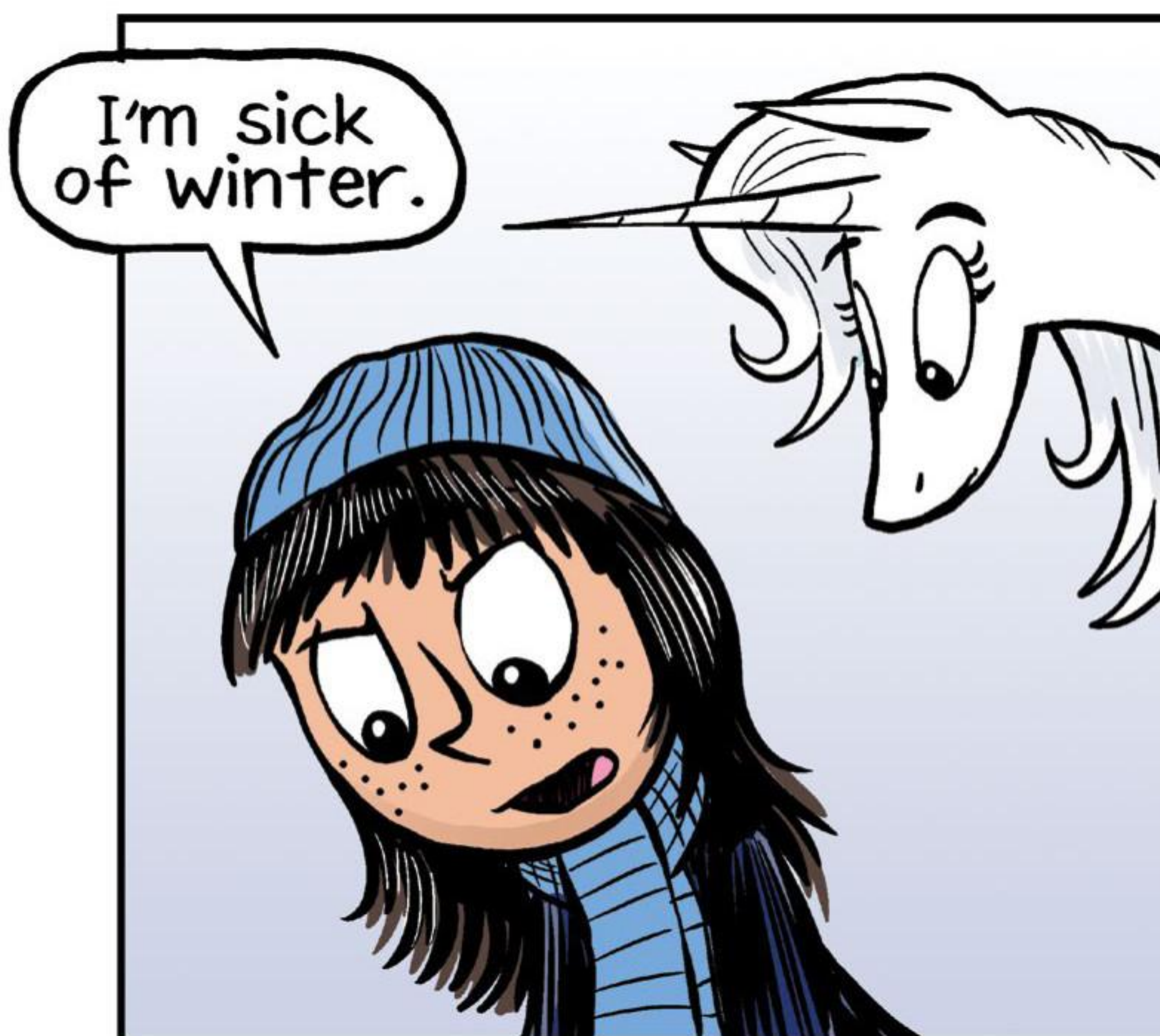
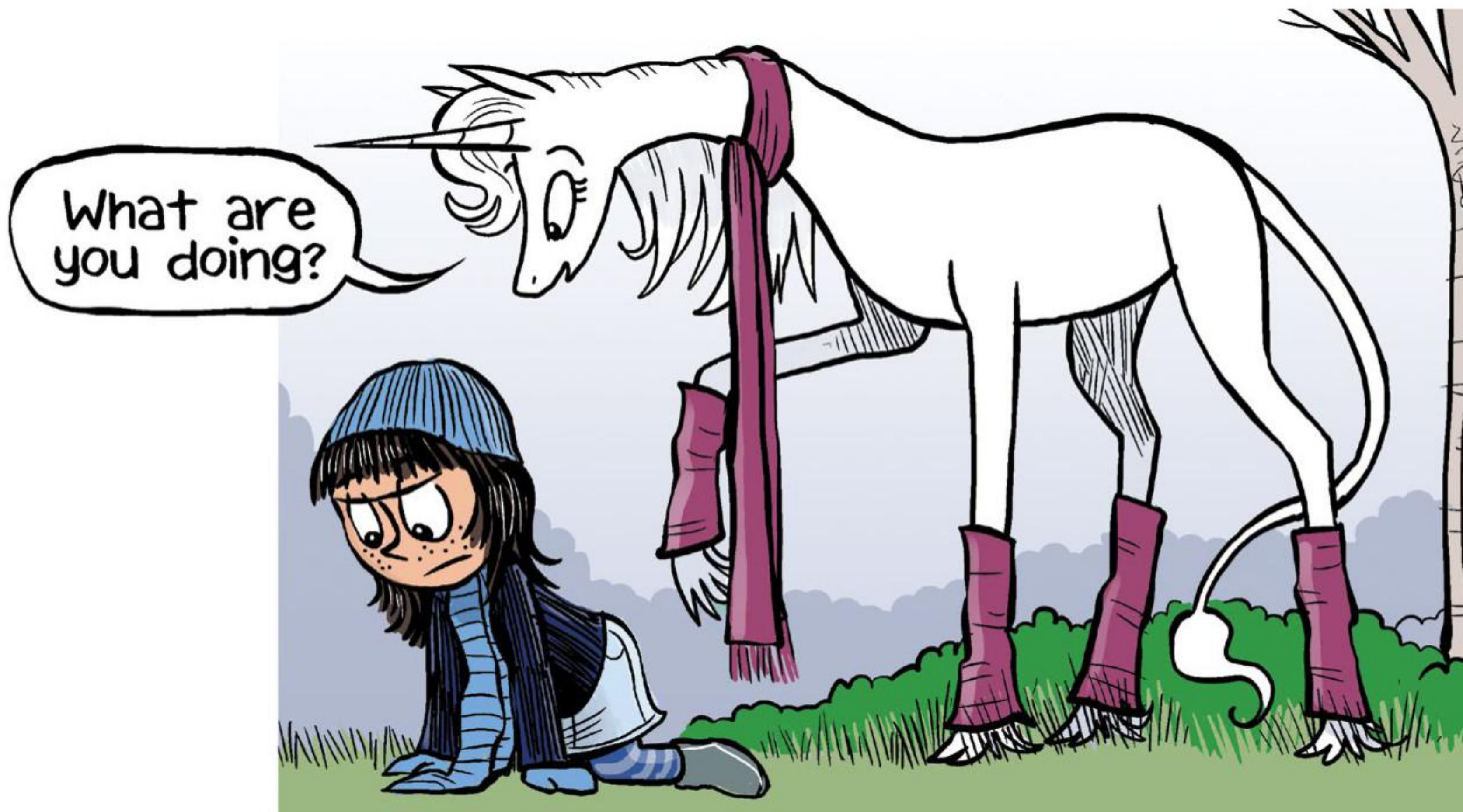
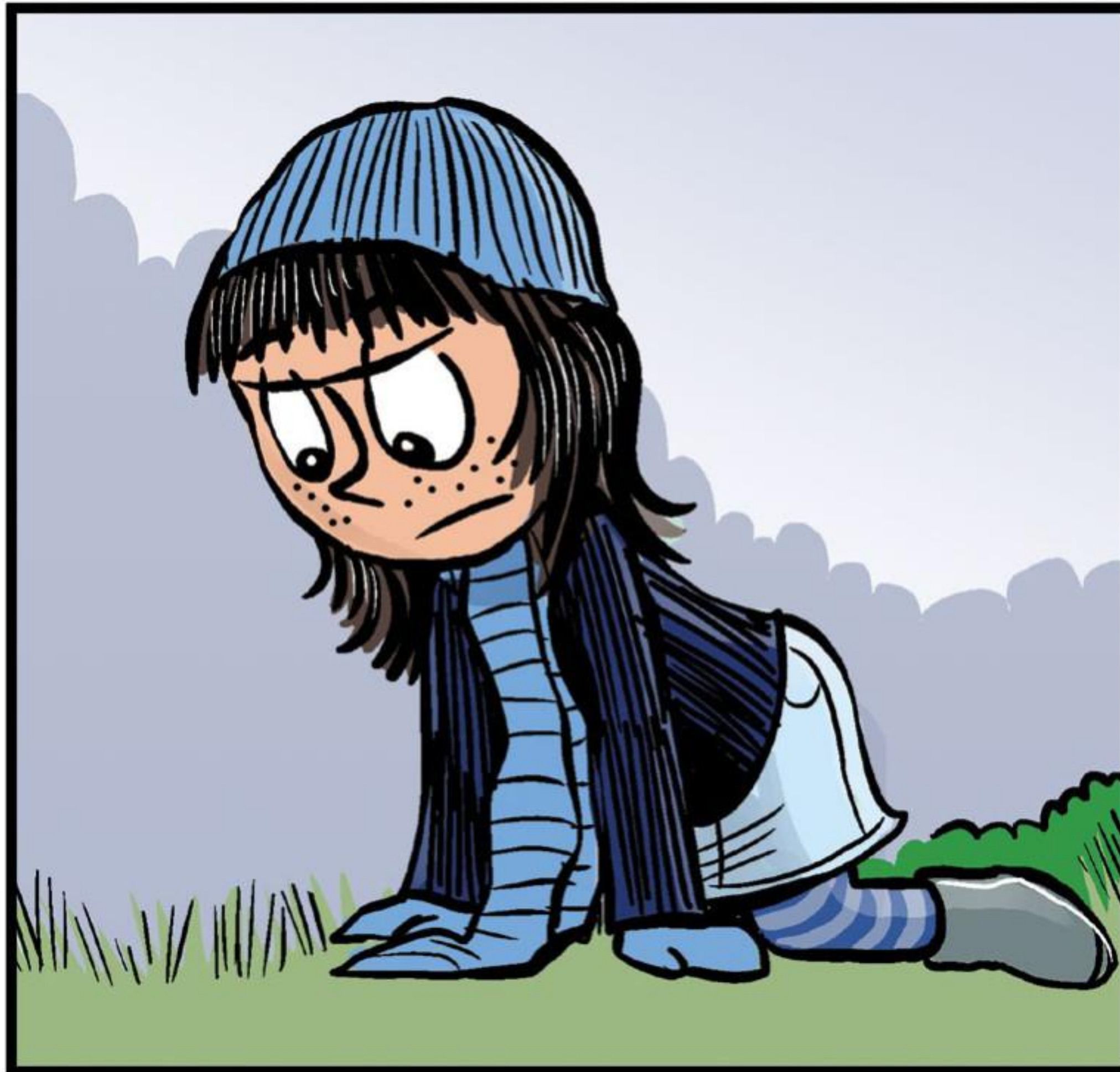




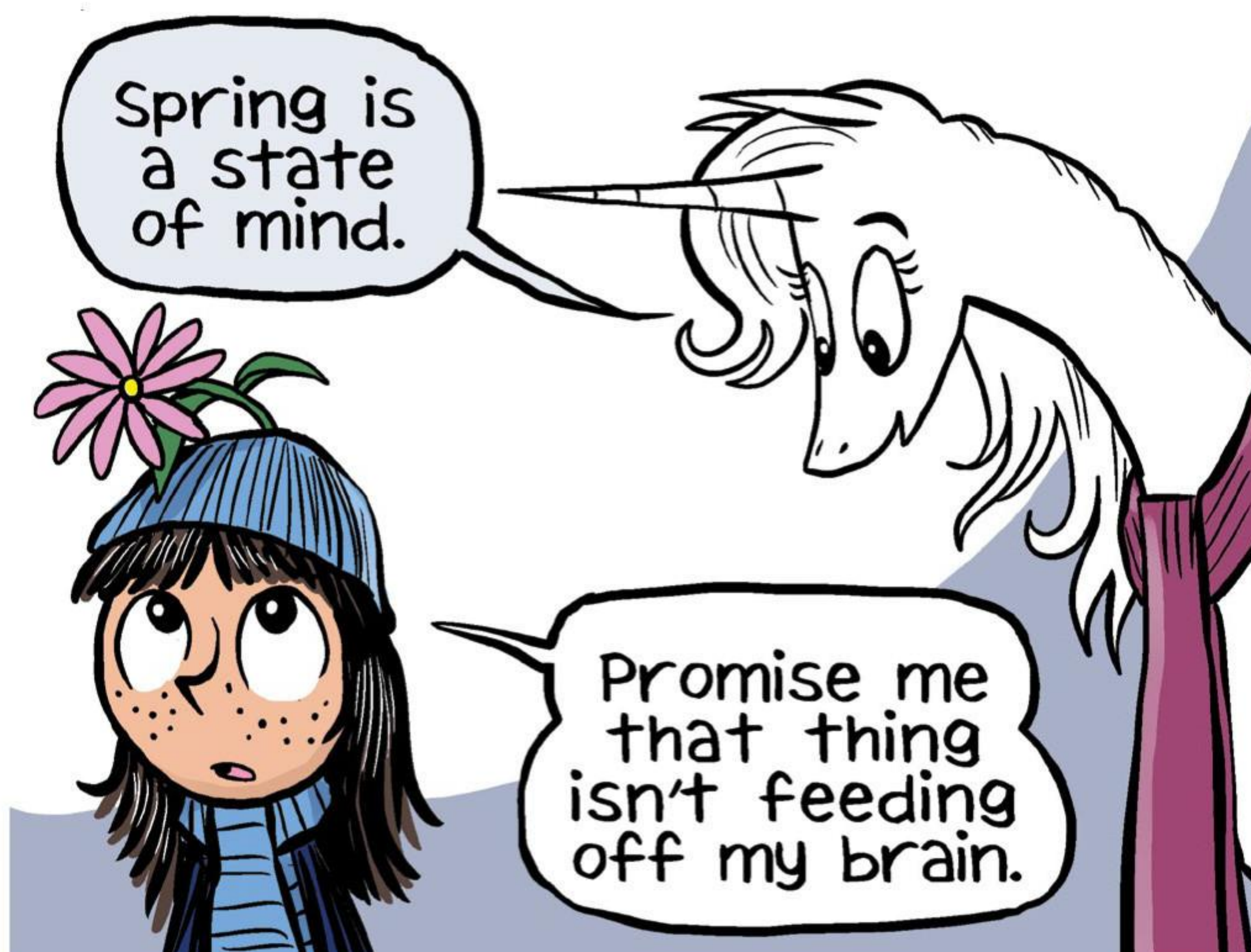


Did you **SEE** that? I
skipped that rock
TWELVE TIMES!

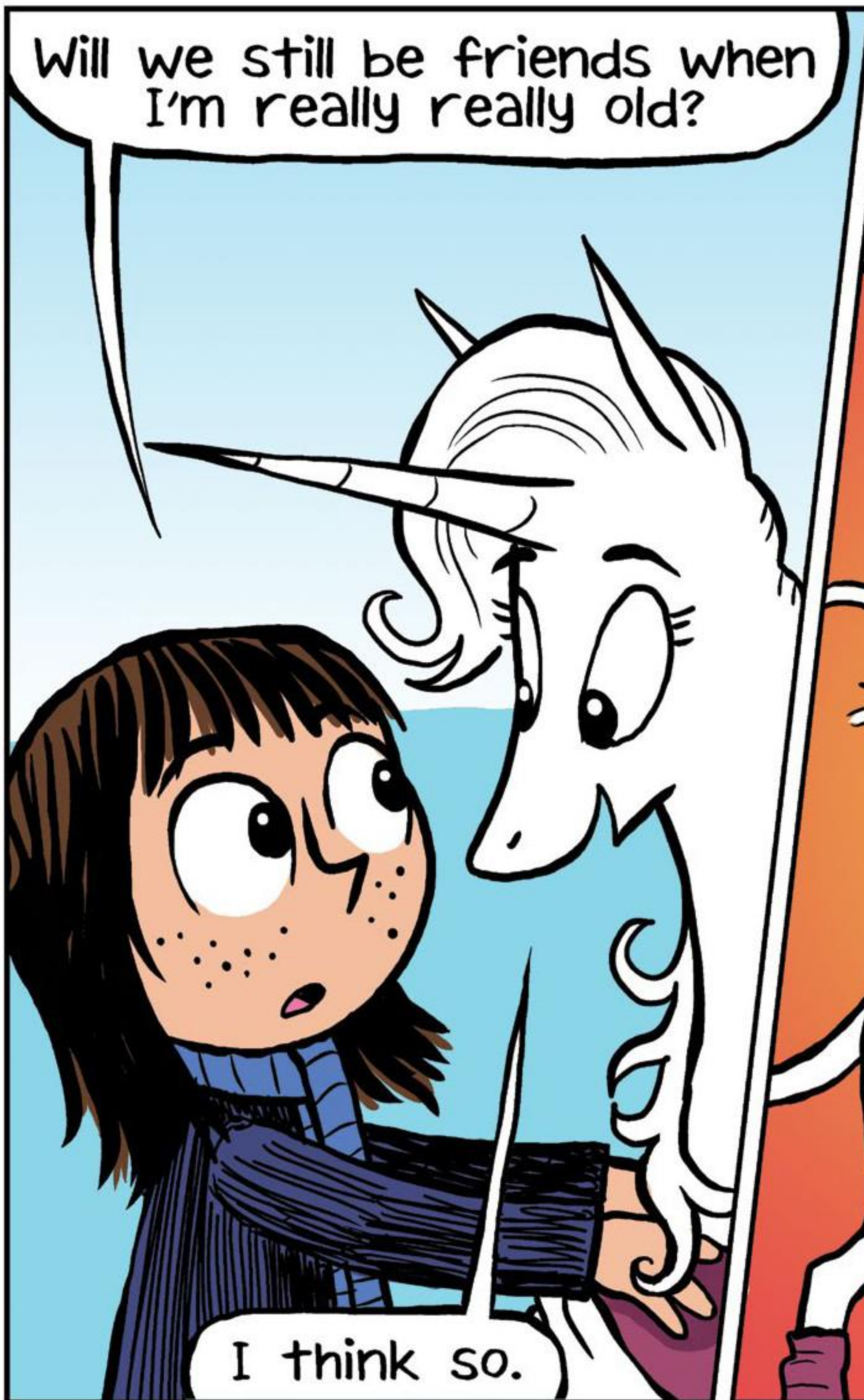


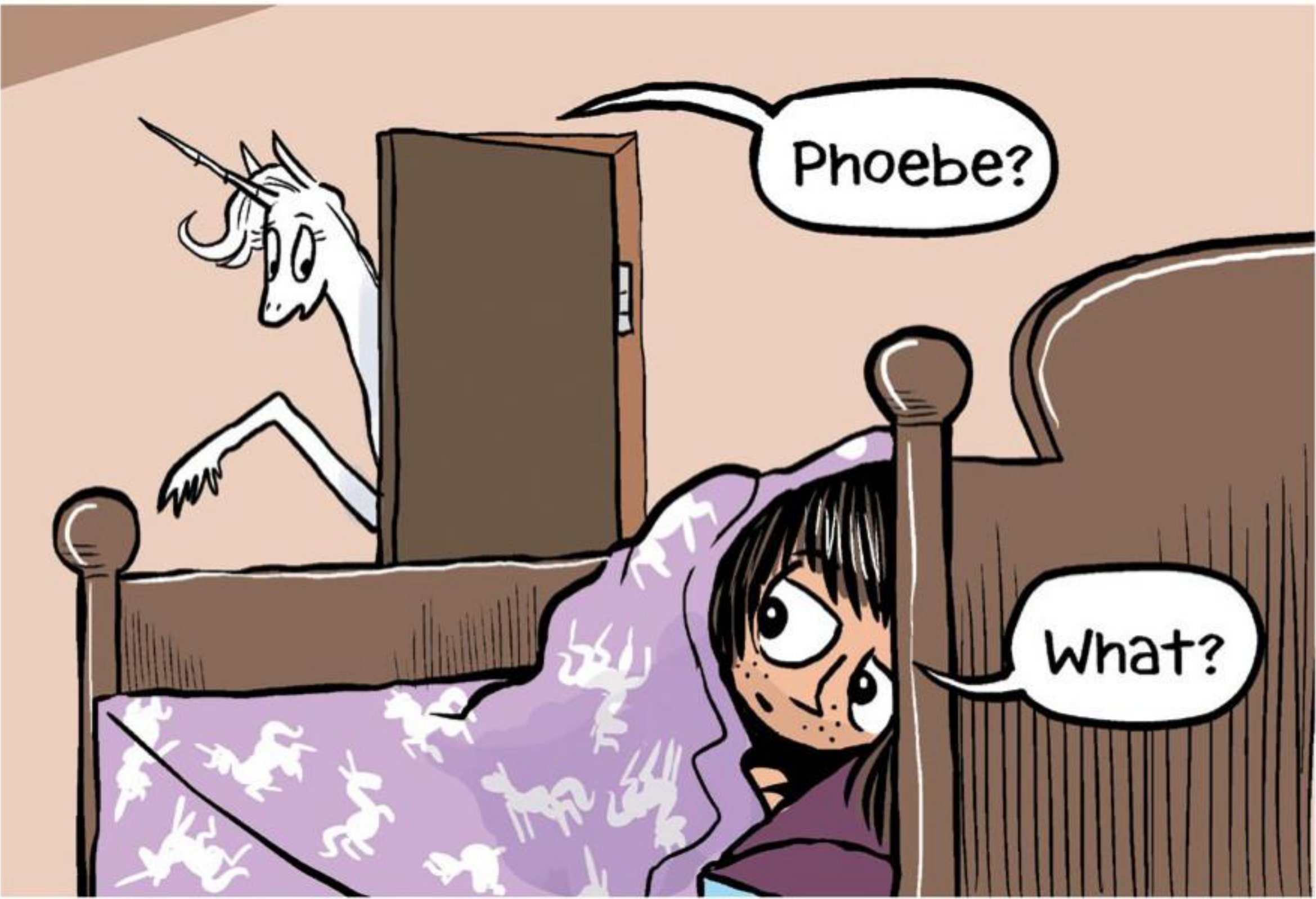


I'm seeing if the power of a child's wish is enough to make the first flower grow!

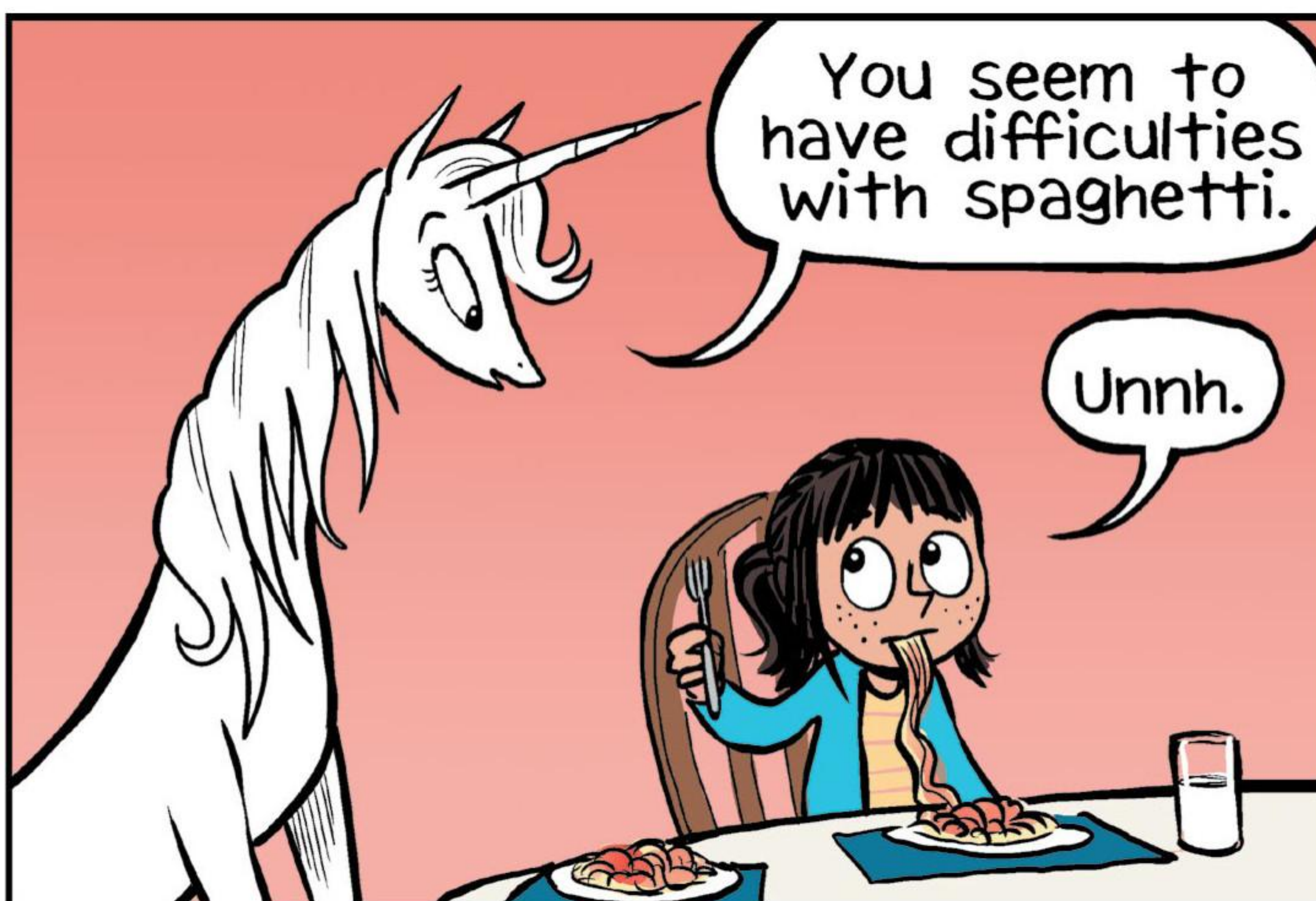
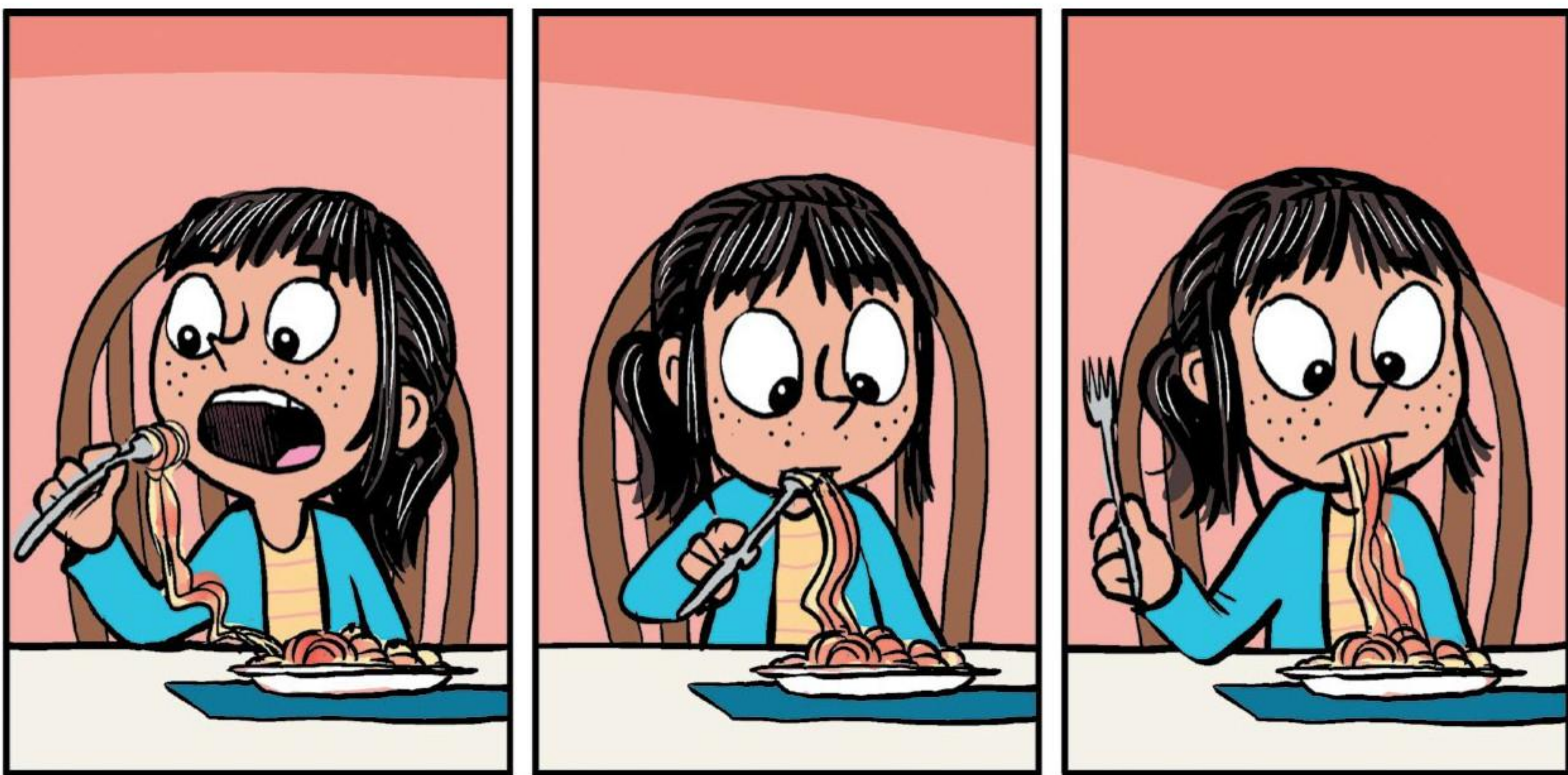




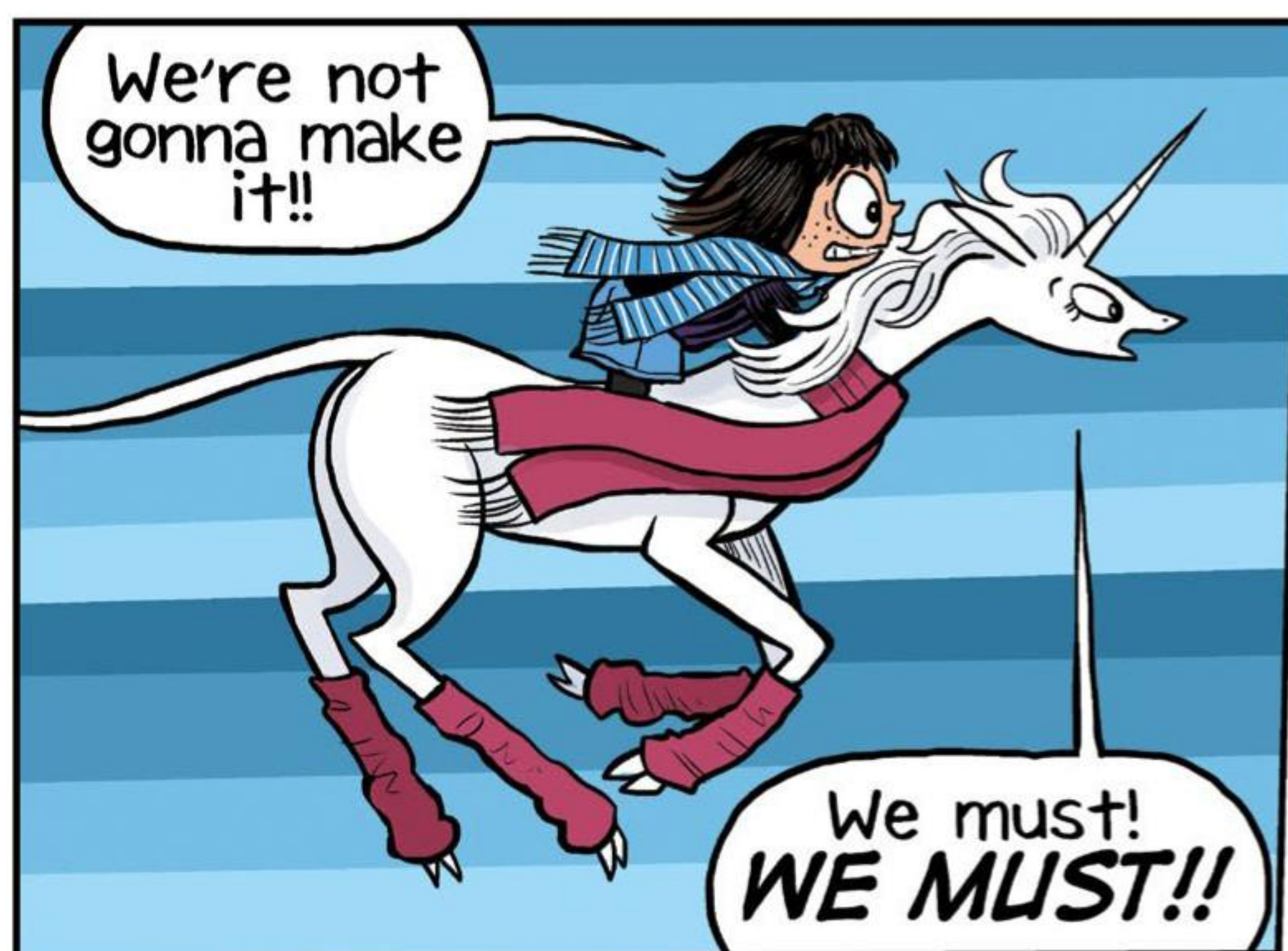


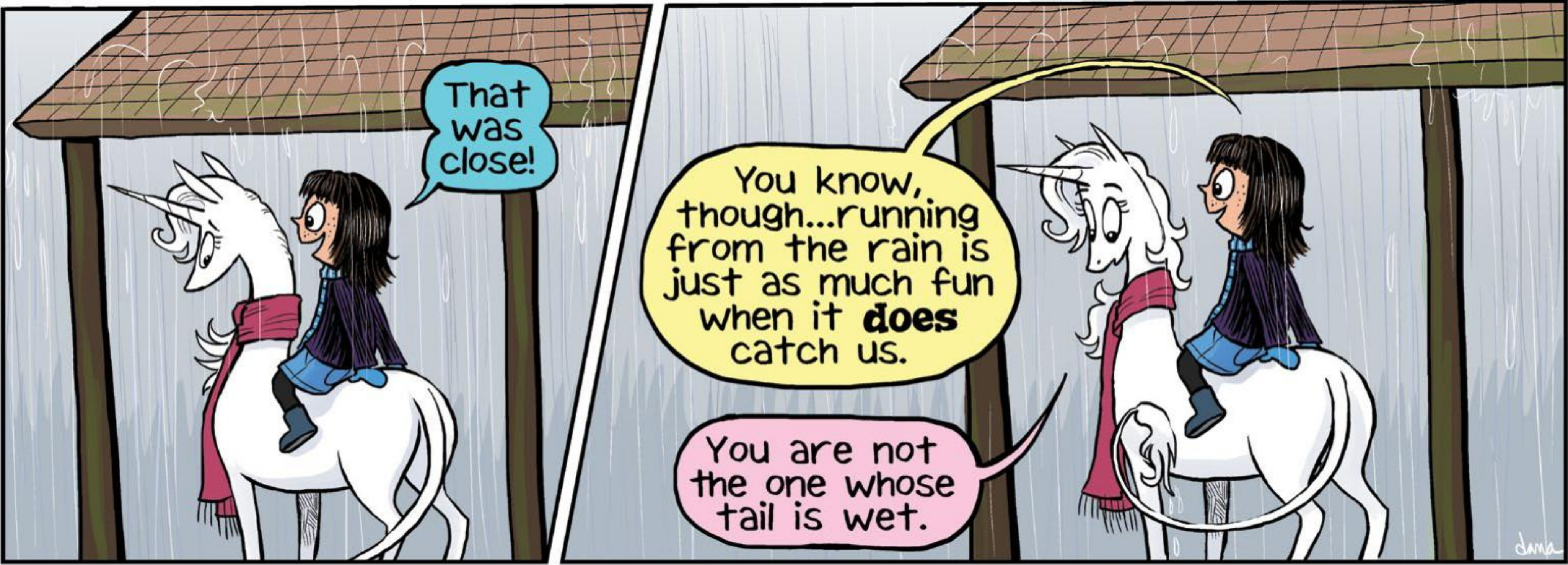
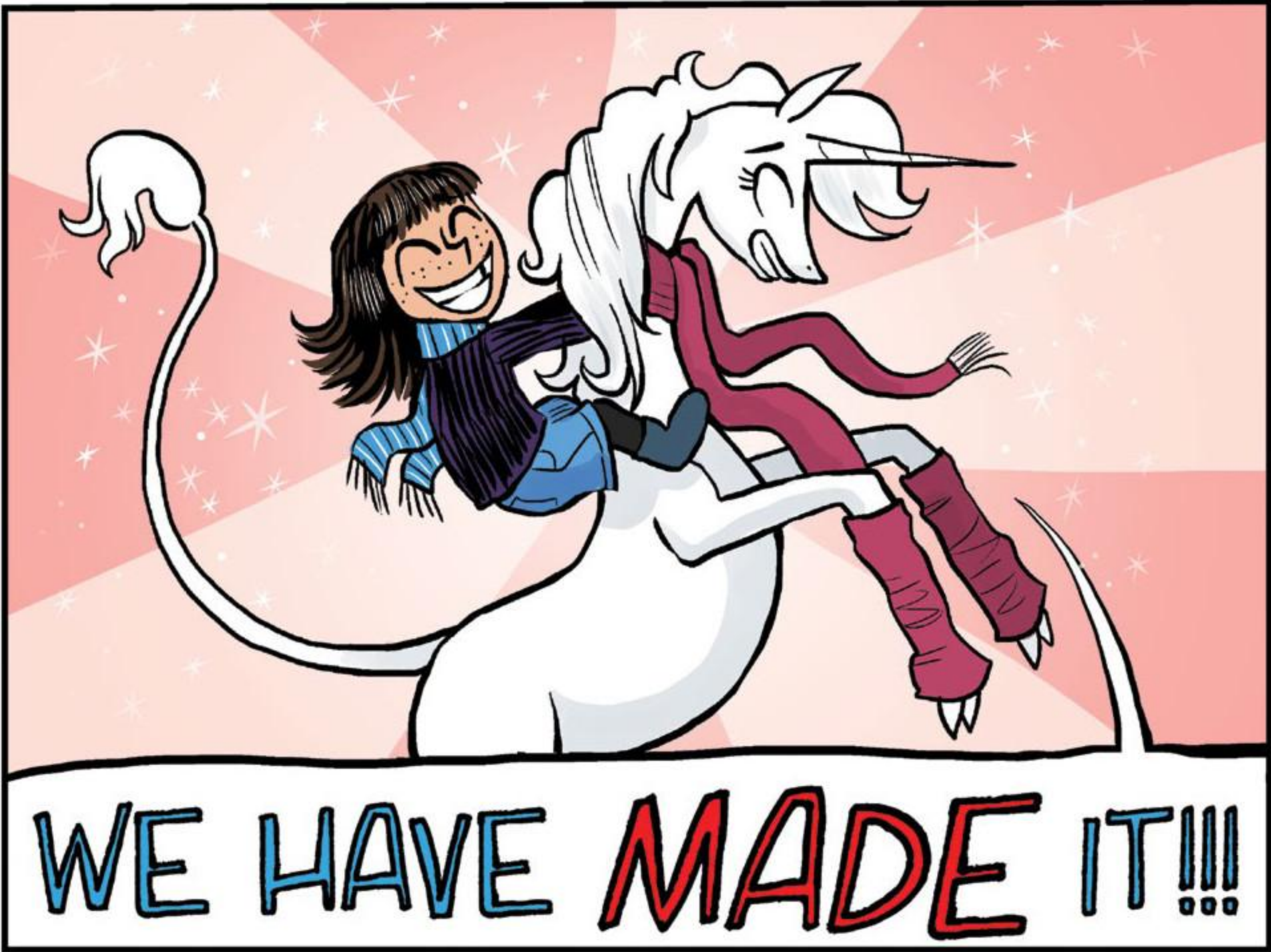


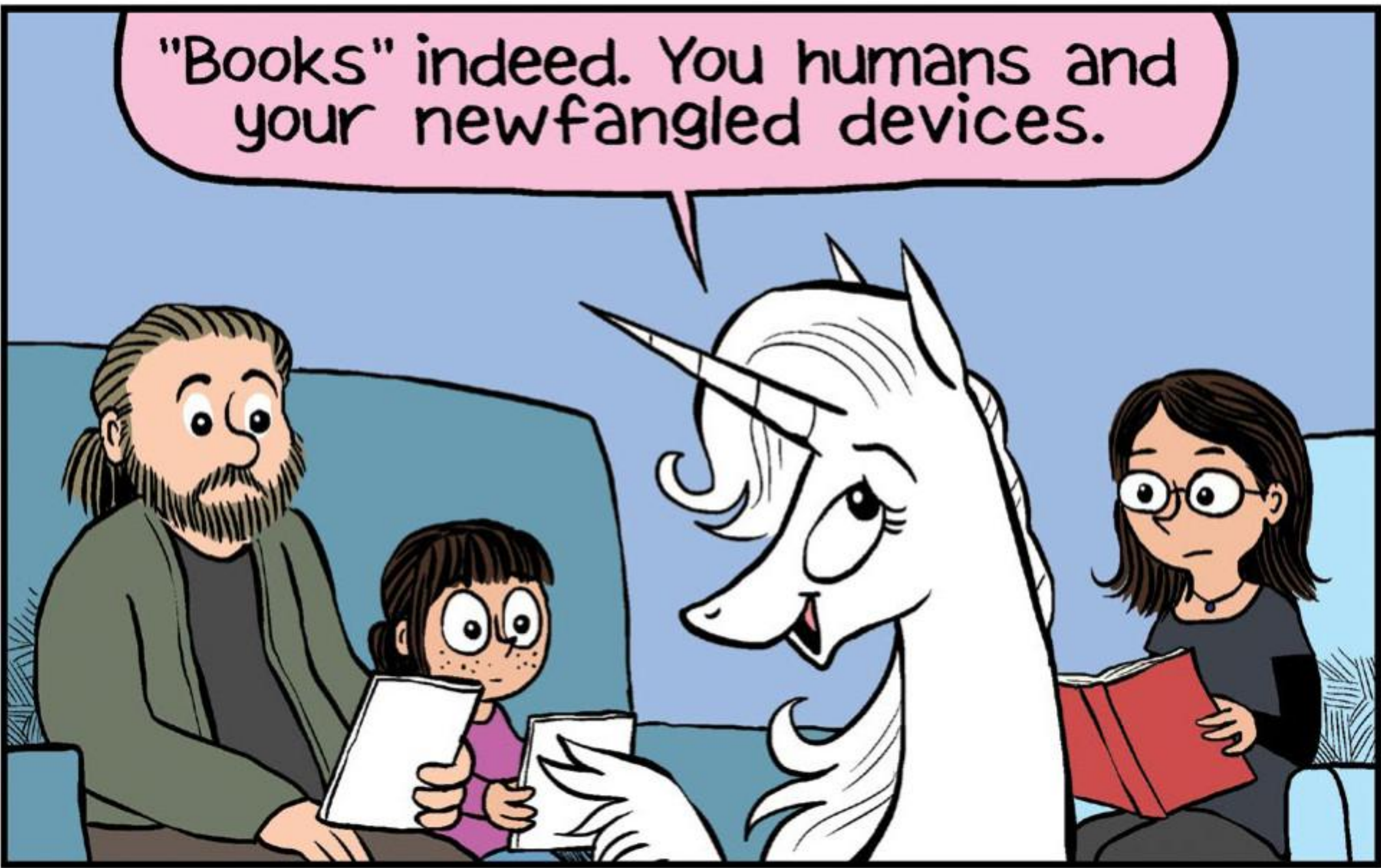
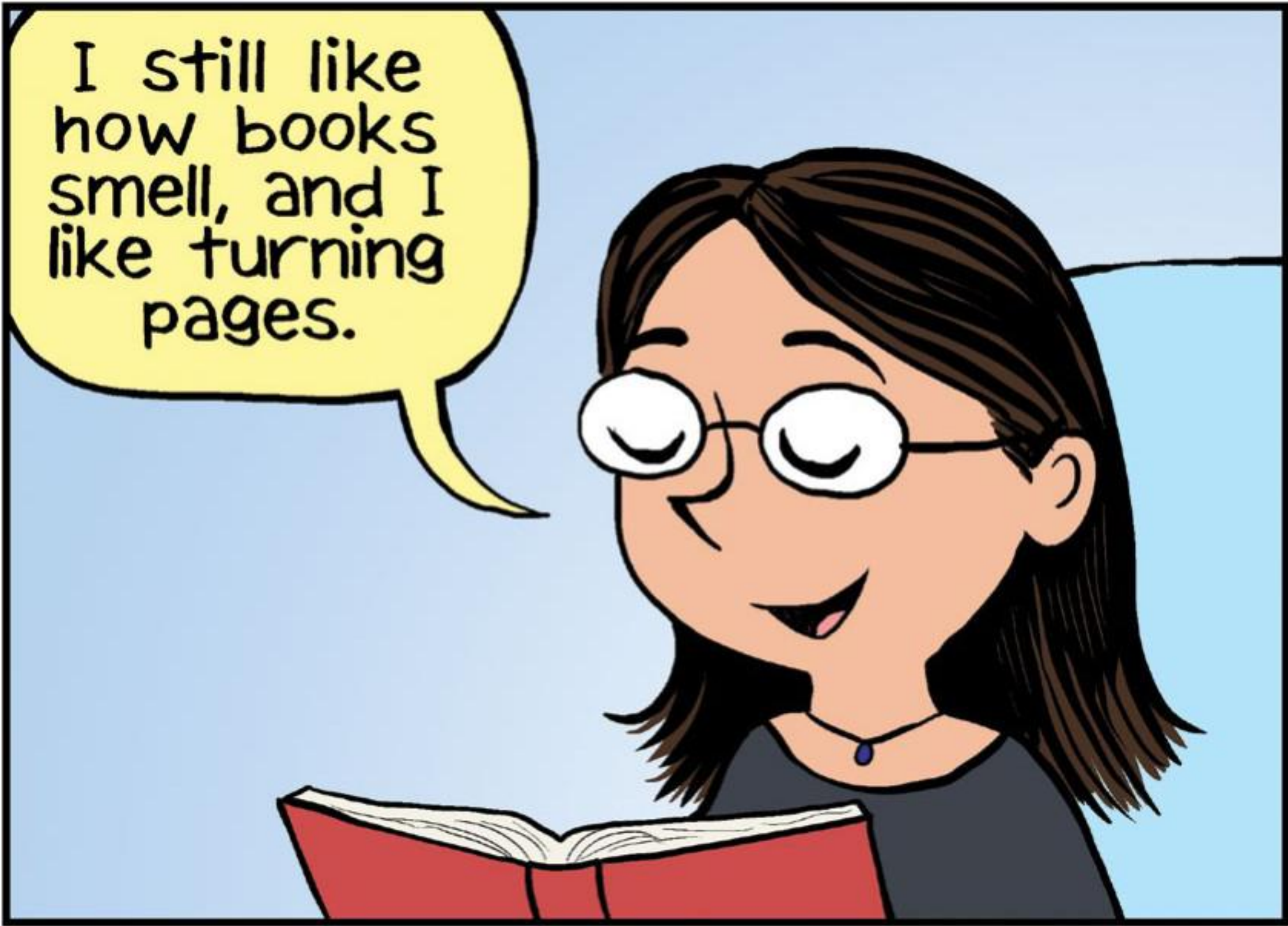


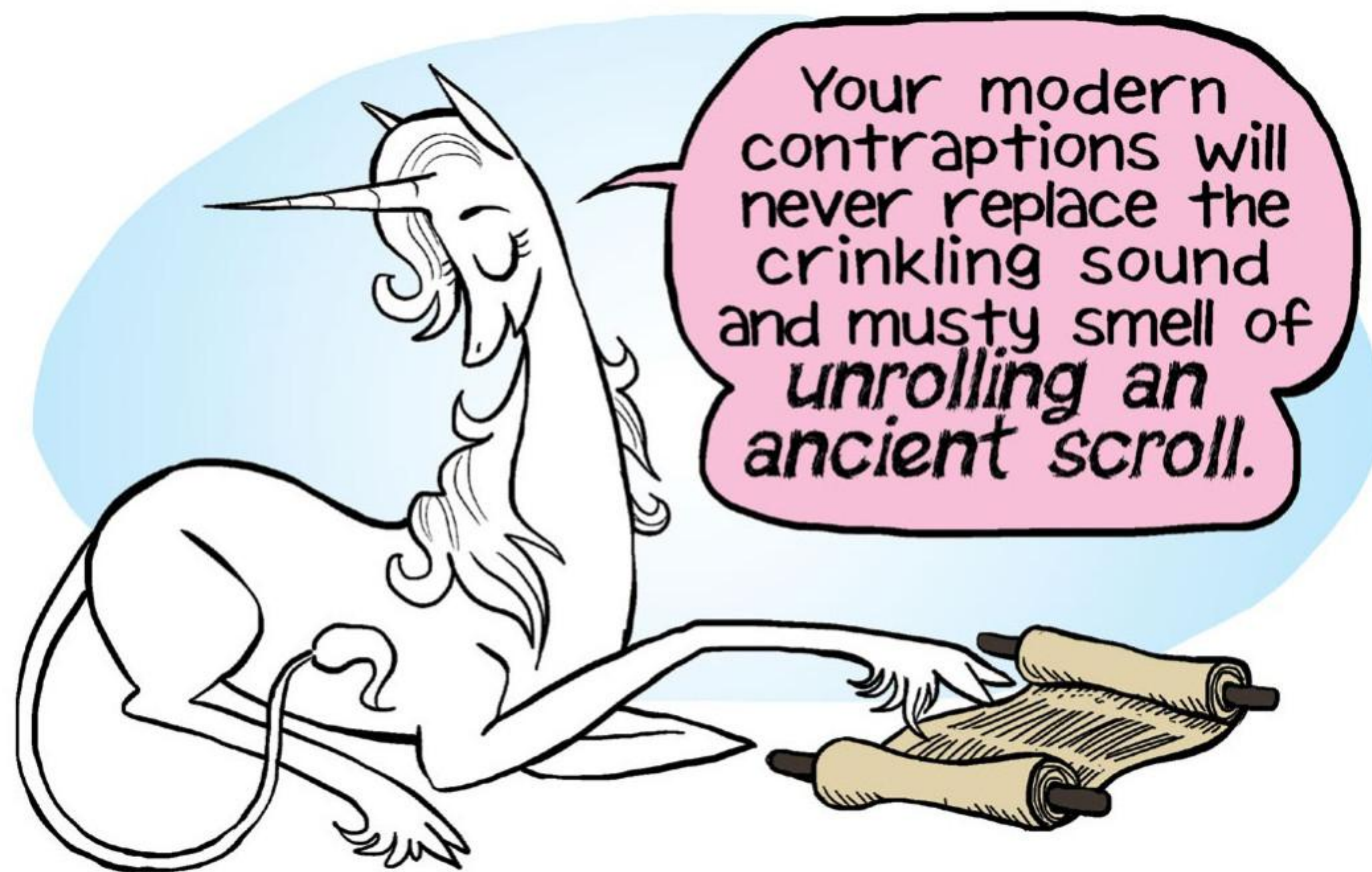














It is a letter from my dear sister, Florence Unfortunate Nostrils!



She has invited me to a unicorn spa, in a mystical far-off land!



It is a land of misty forests and magical light...



We unicorns call it **CANADA.**

I **know** about Canada.

Alas! I suppose we could not keep it a secret forever.



dama



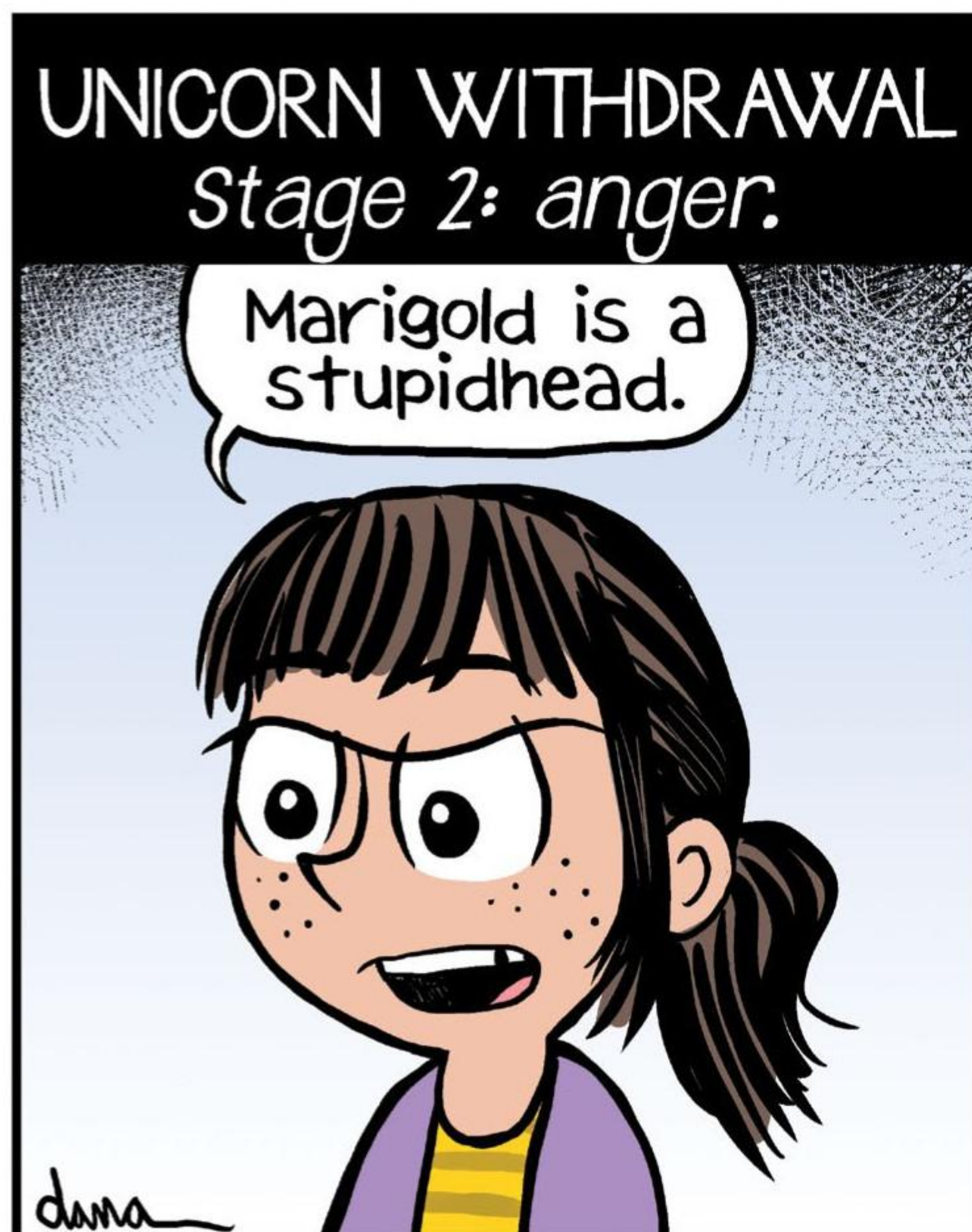


I survived for **nine whole years** before I knew you. I can make it a few more days.



UNICORN WITHDRAWAL
Stage I: denial.





UNICORN WITHDRAWAL

Stage 3: bargaining.

Hey, Dad...



If I clean my room, can you summon my unicorn back?

Oh, honey...



There comes a moment in every child's life when she has to learn her parents can't summon unicorns.



Actually, I knew it was a long shot.

Worth checking. Go clean your room.

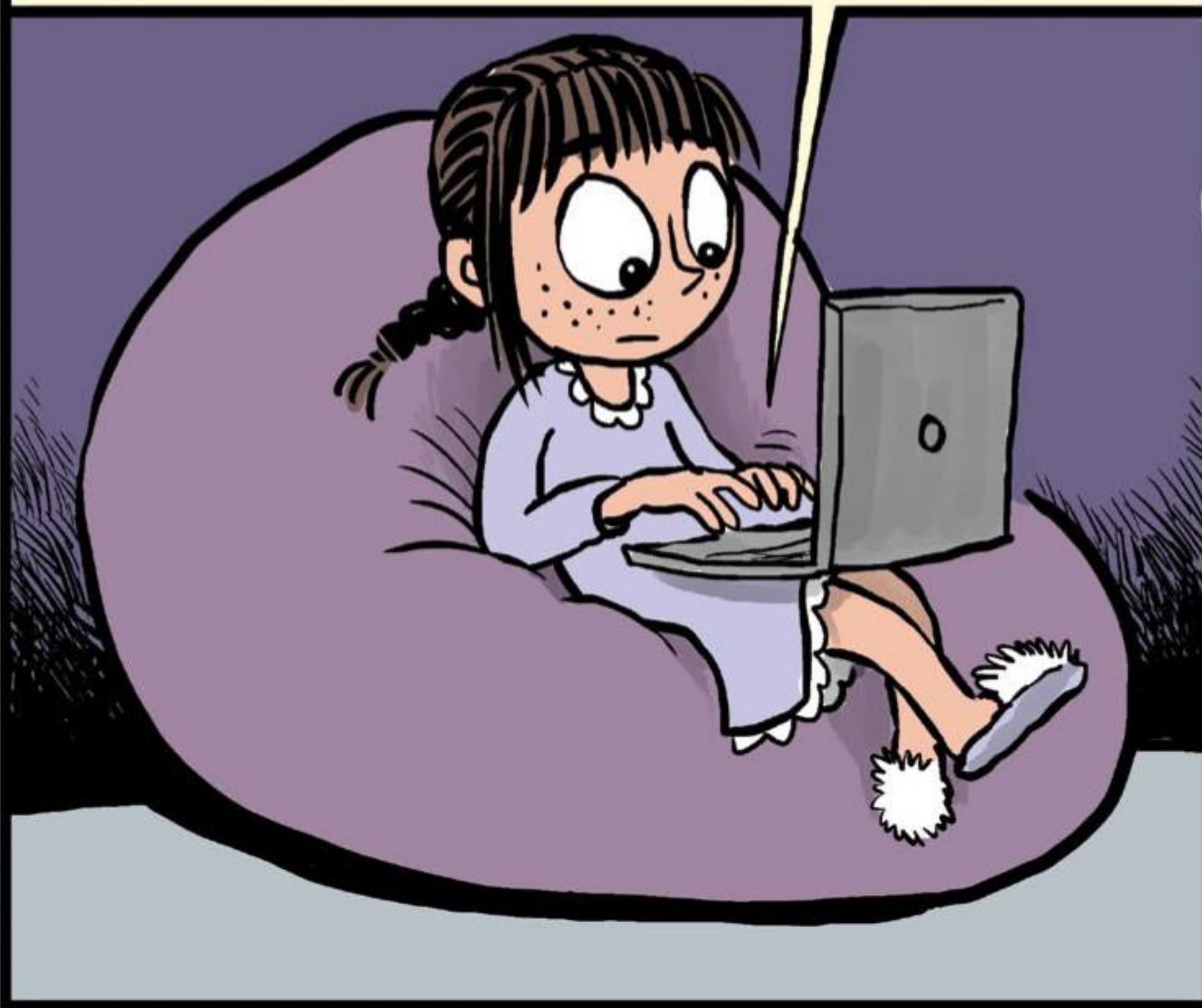


UNICORN WITHDRAWAL
Stage 4: depression.



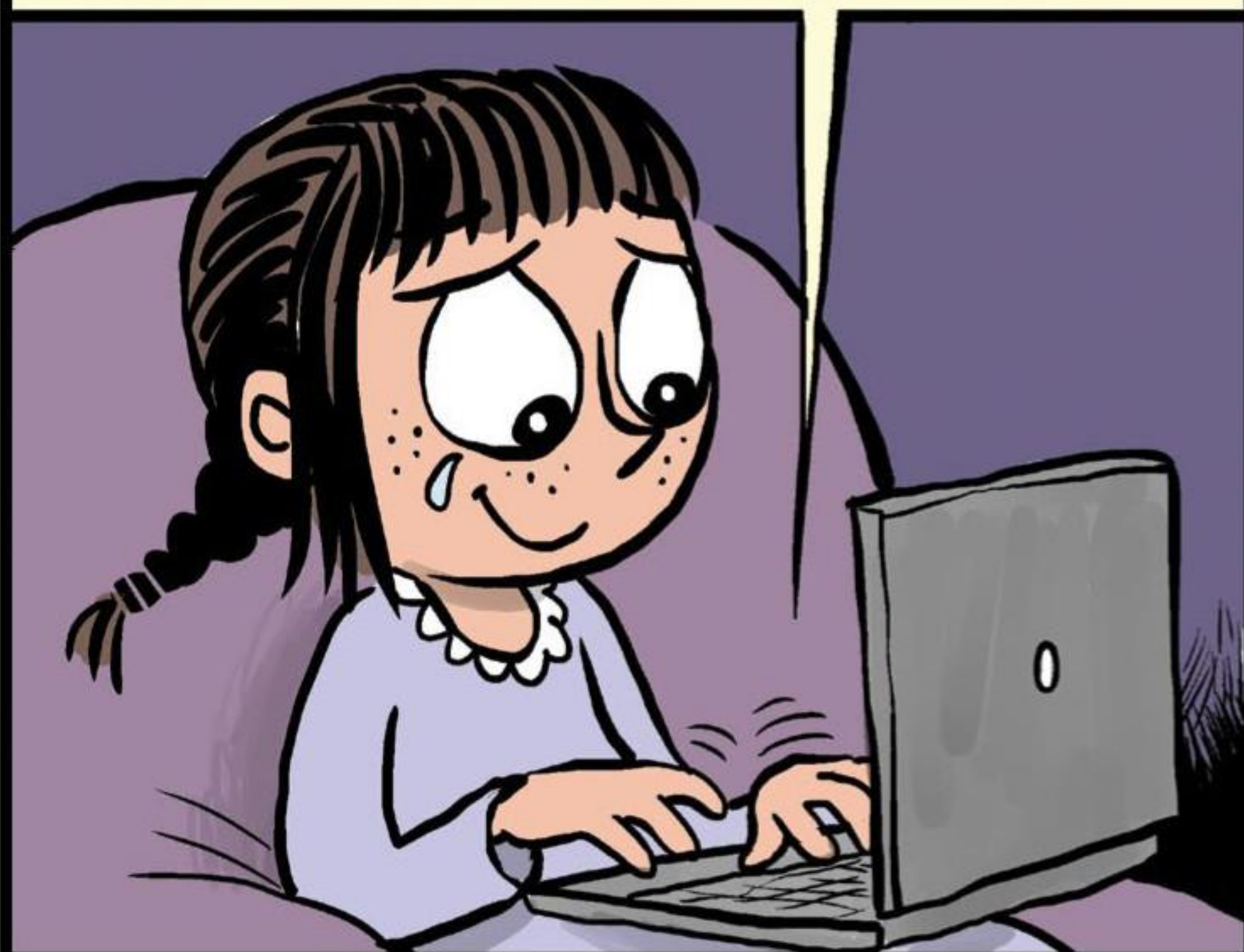
Dear Diary,

Marigold's been gone a few days. It's the longest we've ever been apart since we met.

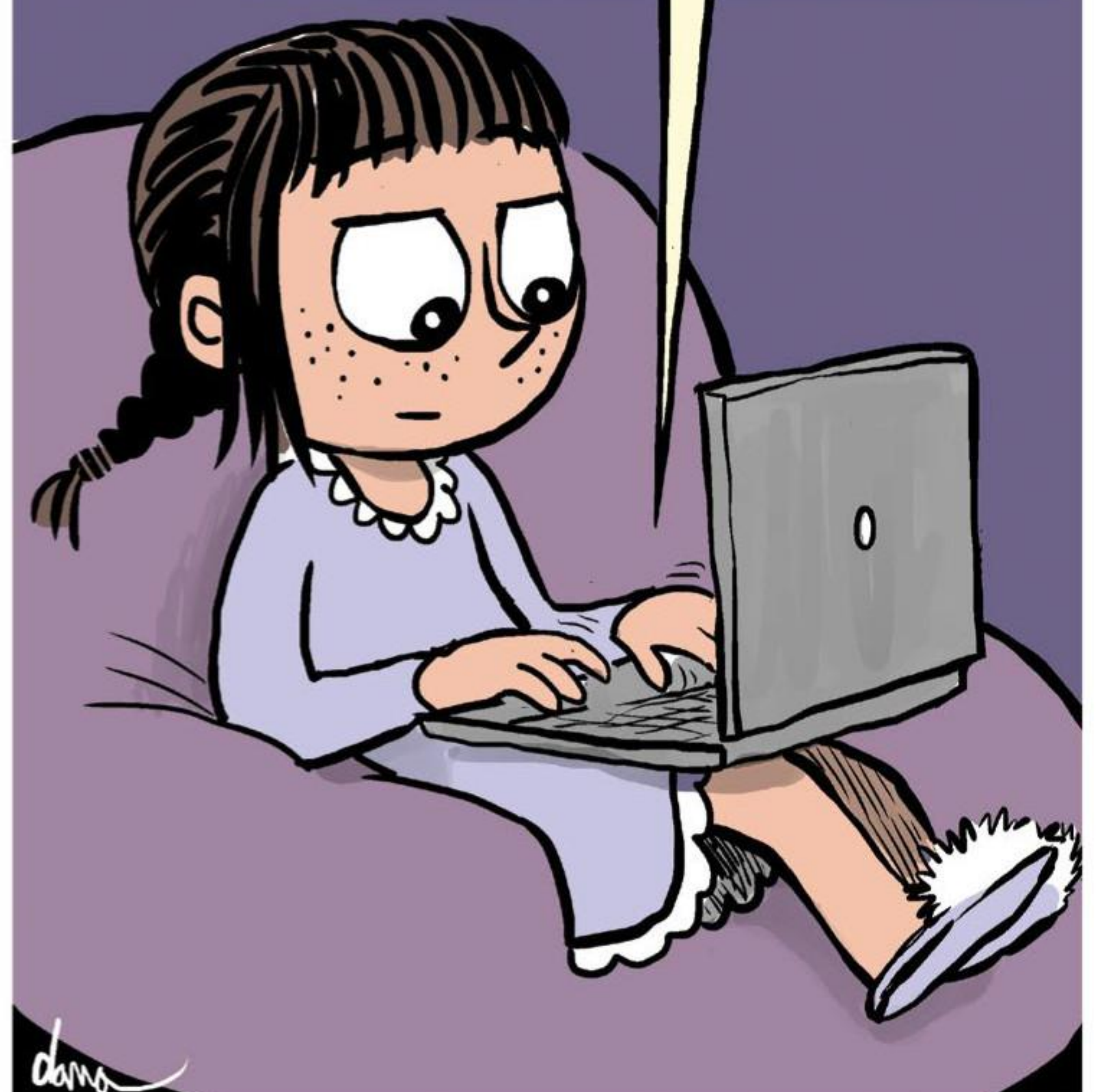


It's weird how you can get used to someone, even the annoying stuff.

Like how she's vain, and kind of smells like alfalfa, and has that nose-whistle, and she's always humming "Shiny Happy People." I love all that stuff.



She must **NEVER KNOW.**





UNICORN WITHDRAWAL
Stage 5: acceptance.



But now that I'm used to Marigold being away, I'm doing *JUST PEACHY*.



MARIGOLD!!!!

Or possibly we weren't quite past denial.

You will have to let go of my neck eventually.



It was lovely at the spa!
I had a *hoof manicure*
and a *magic sparkle*
tail massage.



We had Atlantean
seaweed wraps, and
bathed in springs of
rejuvenation, and did
that thing where there
are cucumber slices on
one's eyes.



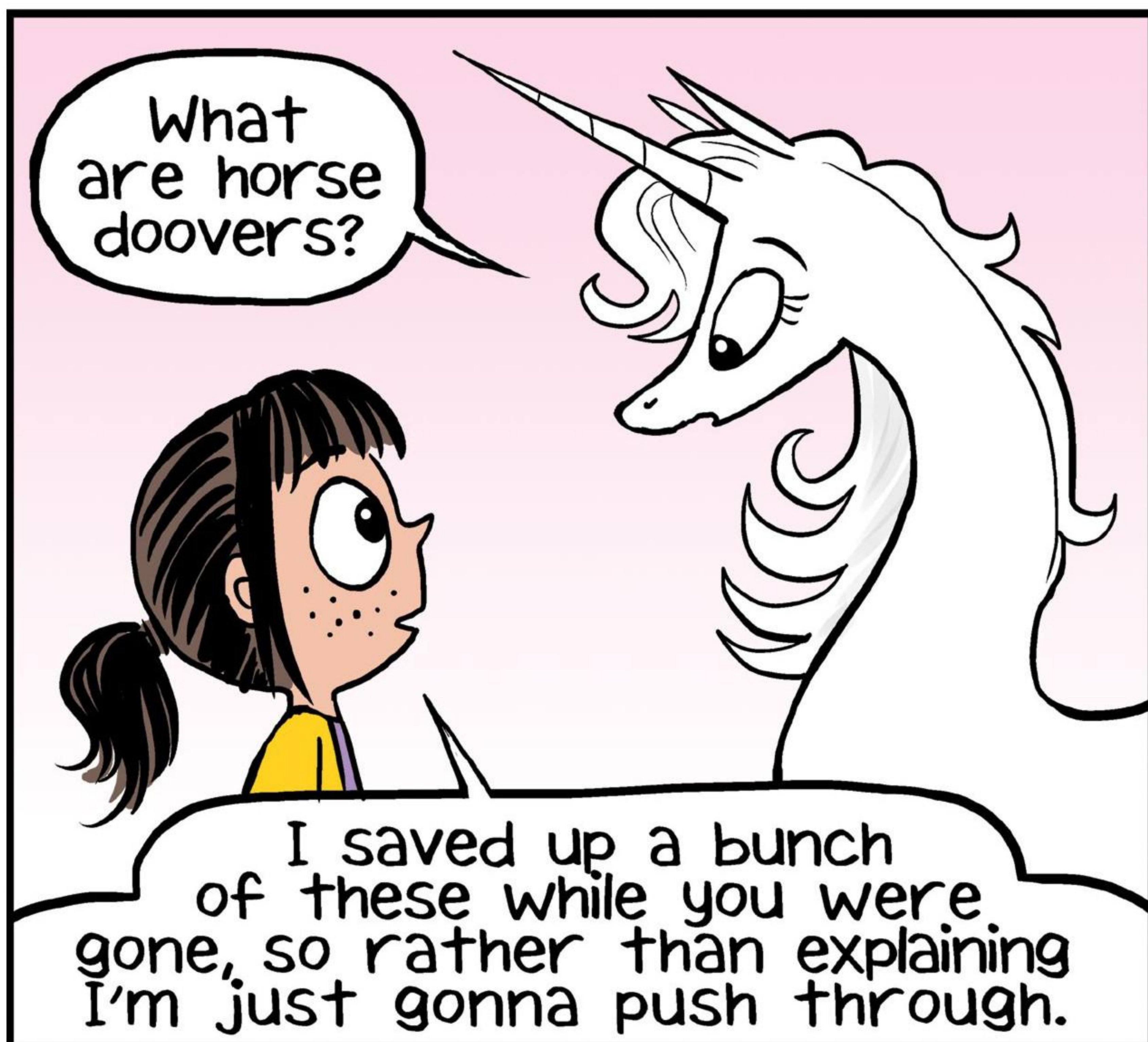
A unicorn deserves to
be surrounded by *magic*
and *sparkles* and *light*.

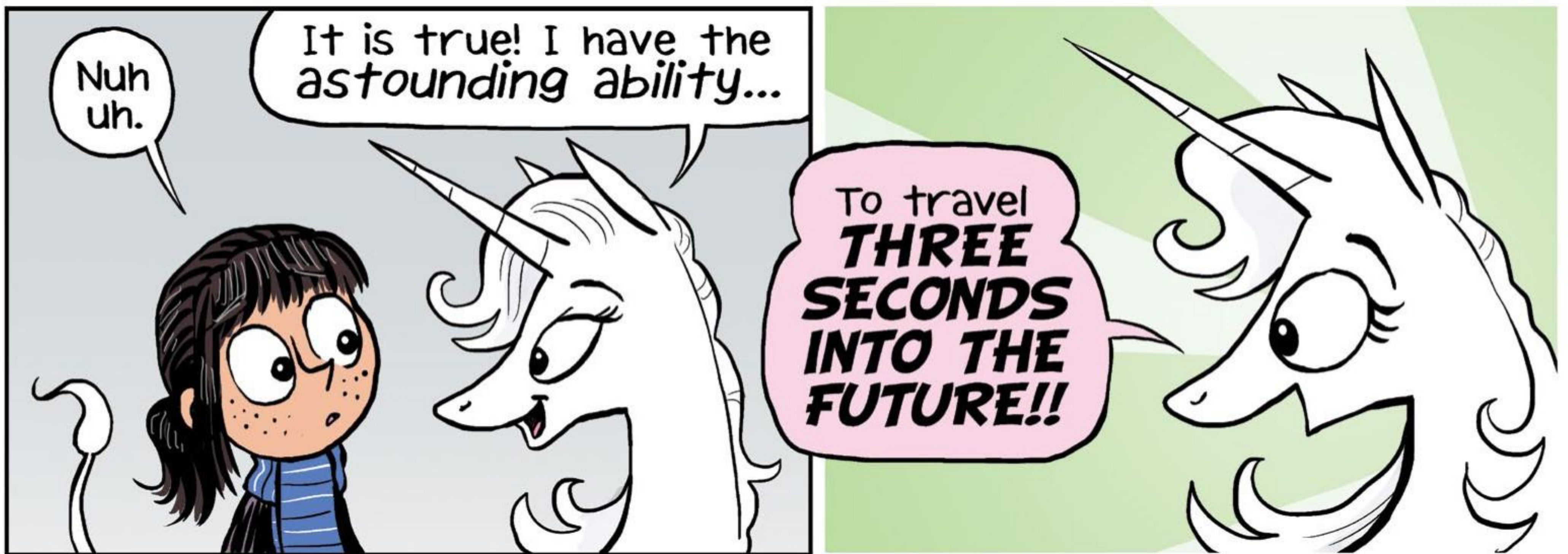
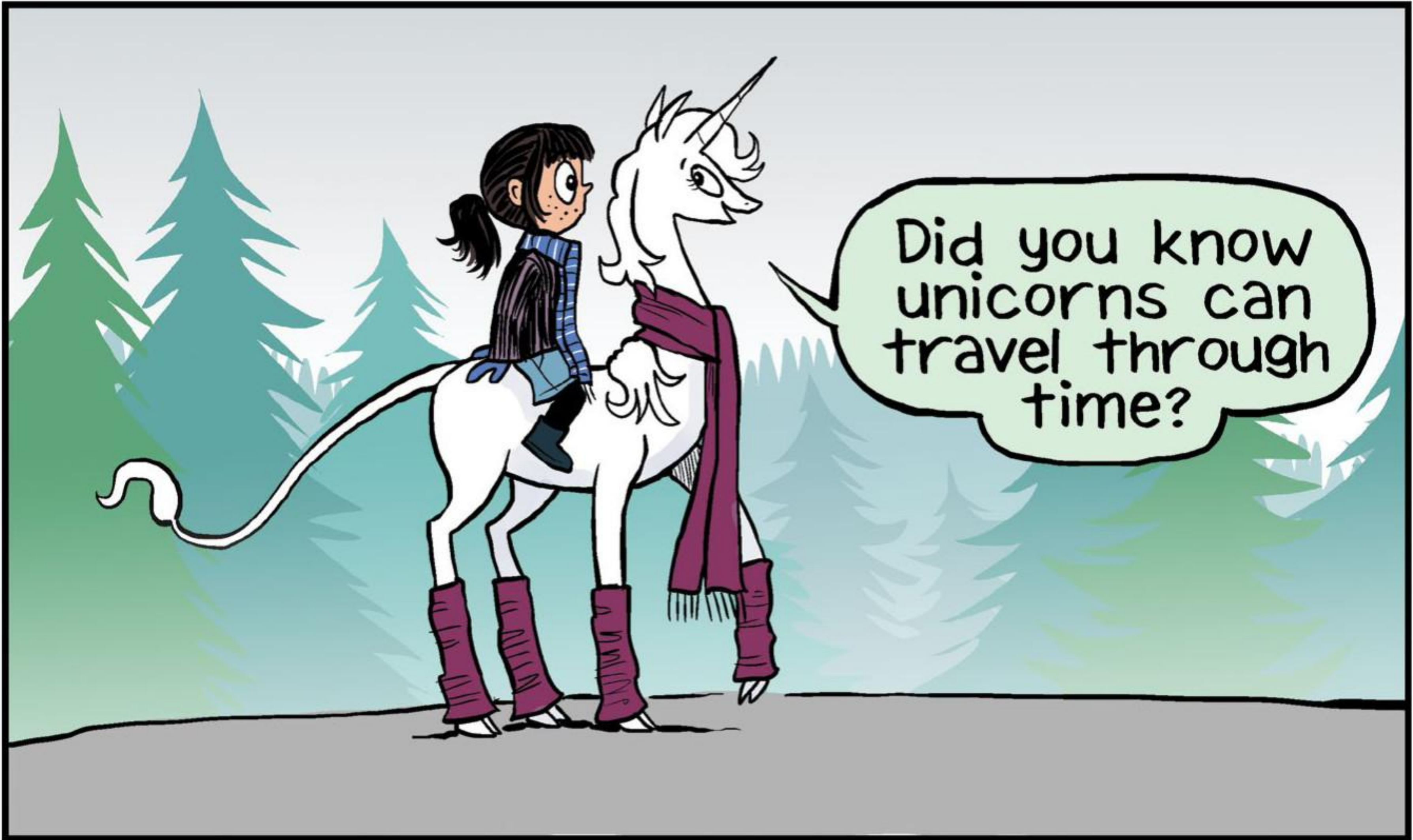


But this
is nice
too.

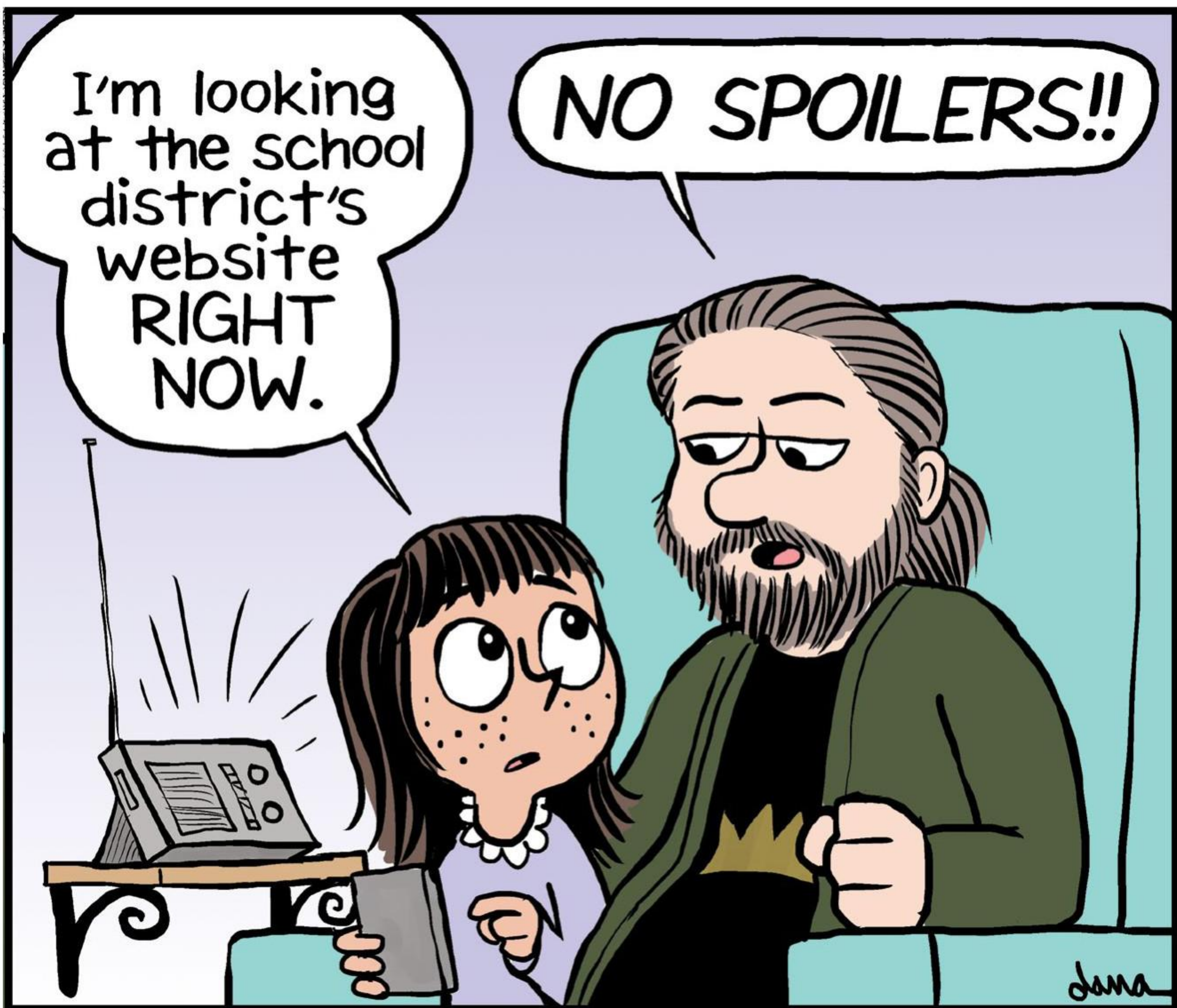
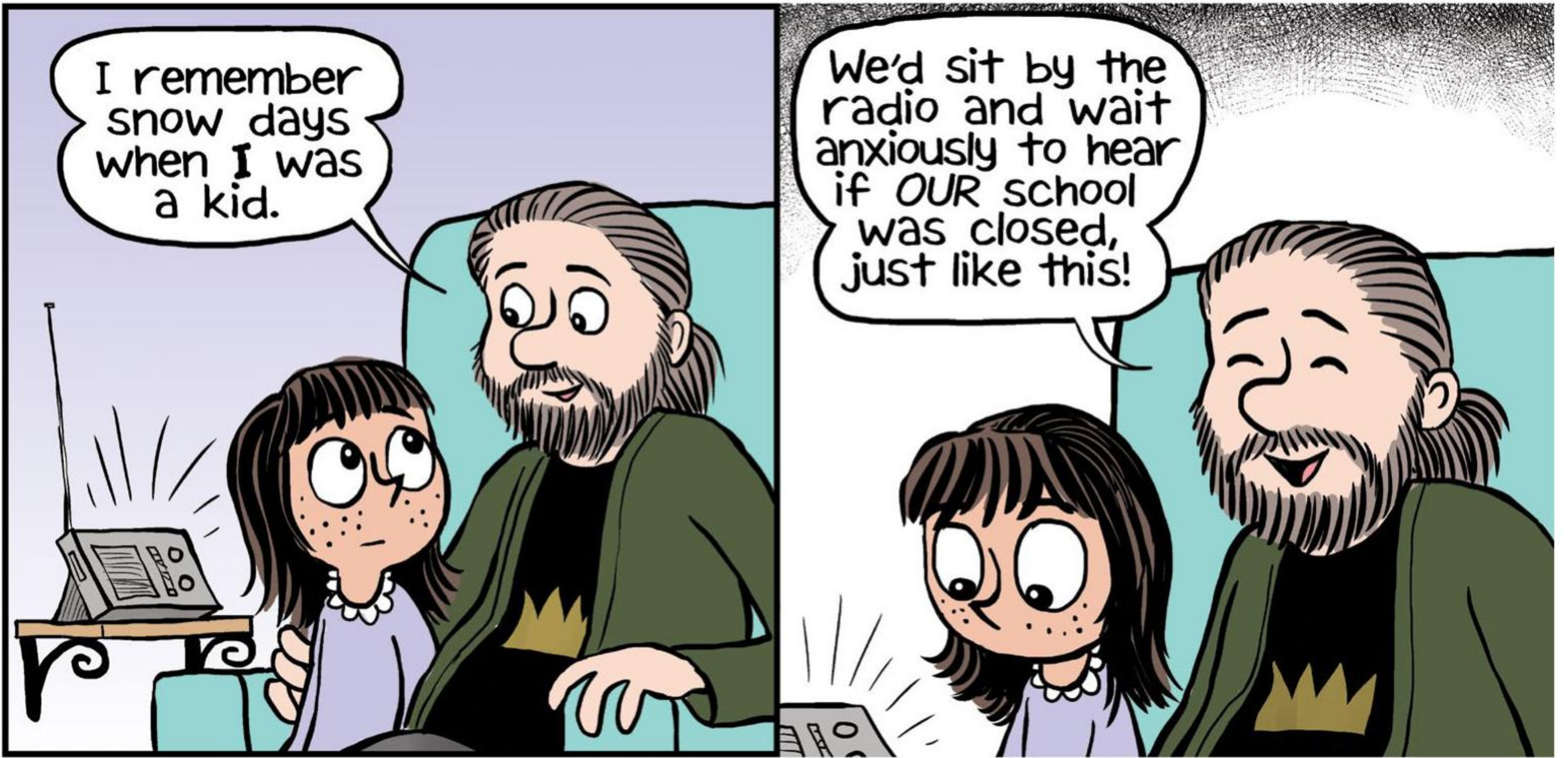
I can go wash
my hands if it
would help you
adjust.











LOOK at the snow. It sparkles so shamelessly.



So brazen, so ostentatious. "Look at me. I am so pure and new and lovely."



It's gonna melt, and you're not.

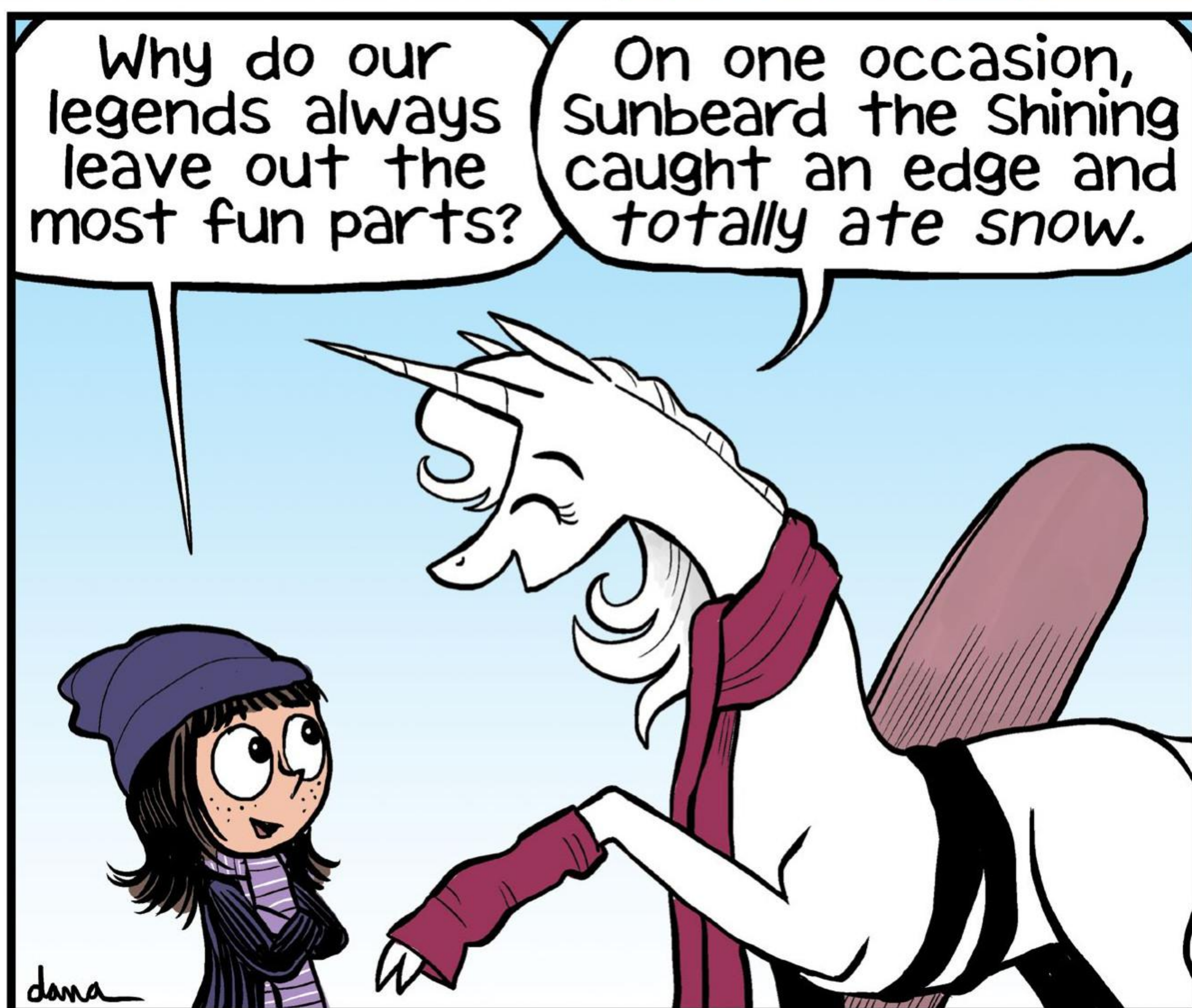
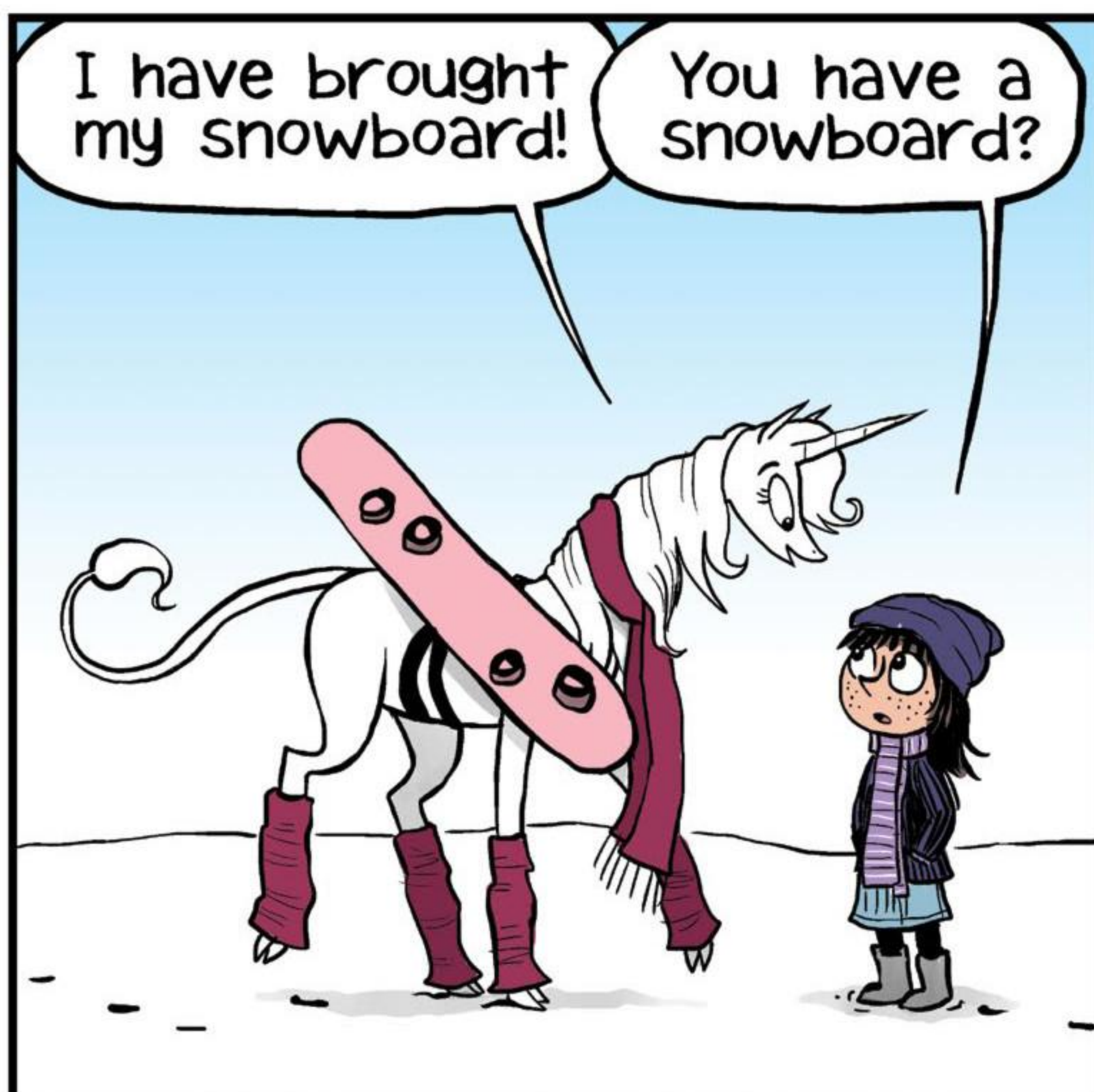
That is so! **HOORAY!**

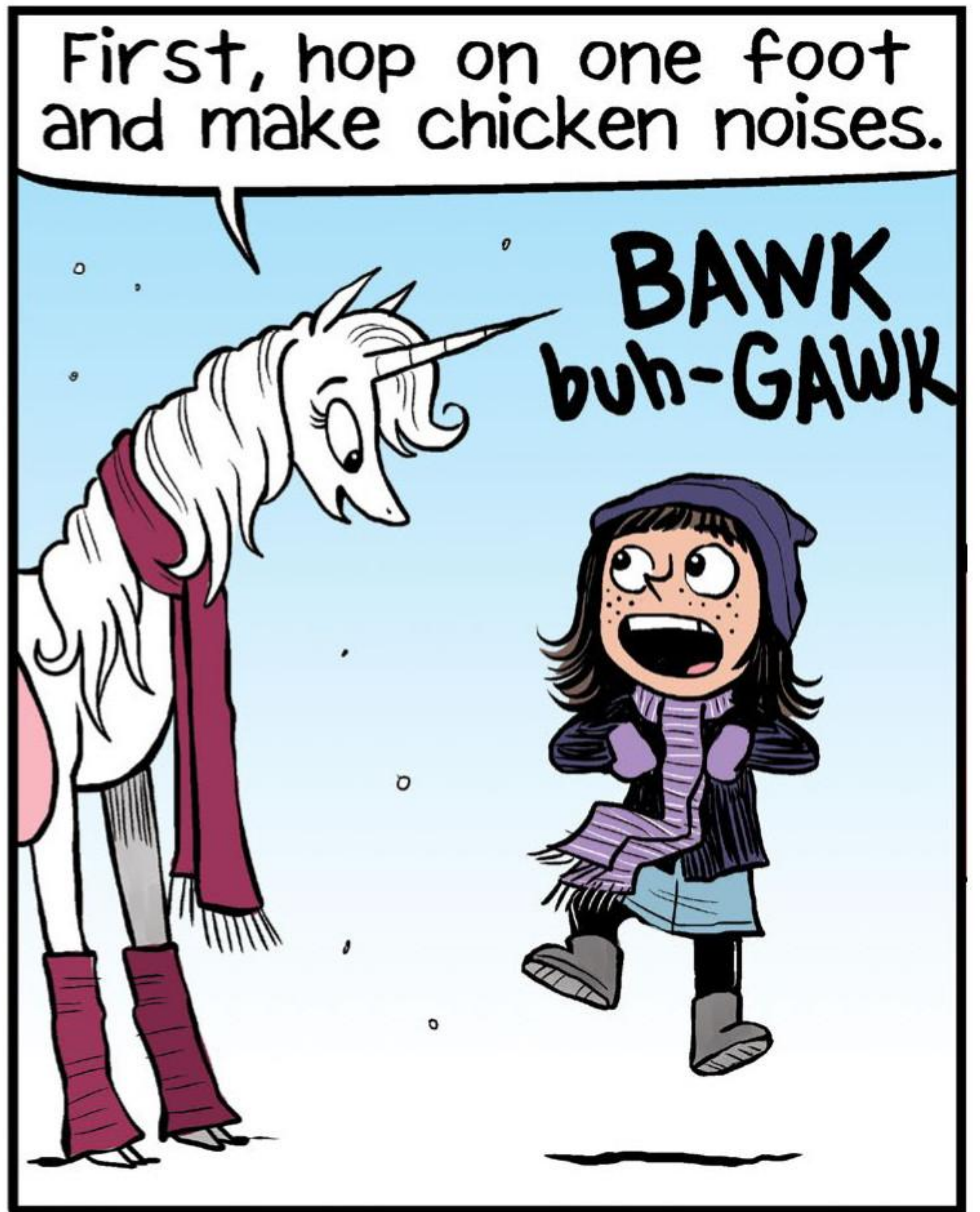
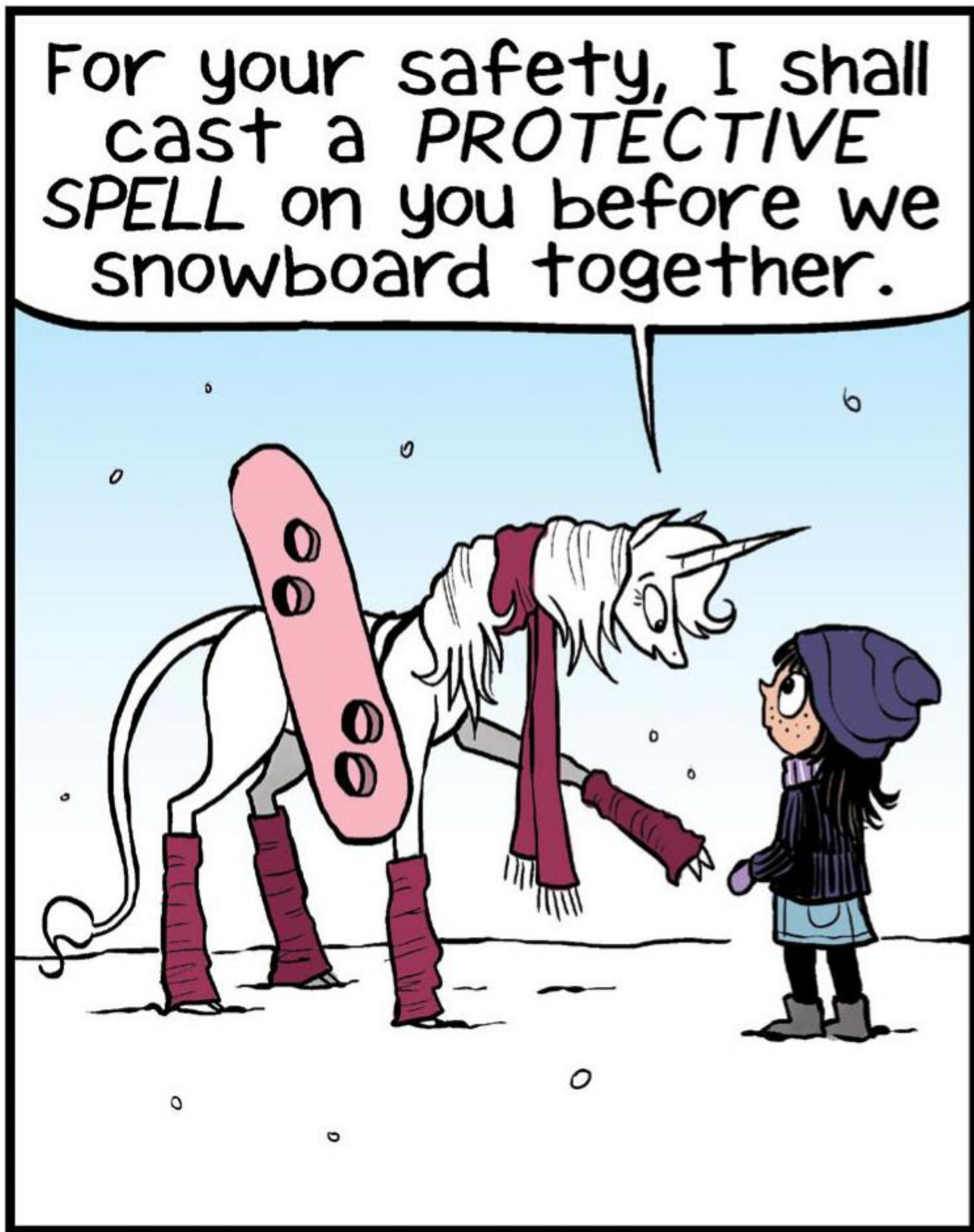


Do you hear that, snow? I delight in your impending destruction!

Be nice to the snow, Marigold.







In the land of my birth,
it snows but once a year.



And on that day, the air
is alive with powder and
sparkles, and every
mountainside is alive with
unicorns on snowboards!



We know it as **the DAY
the UNICORNS SOAR.**

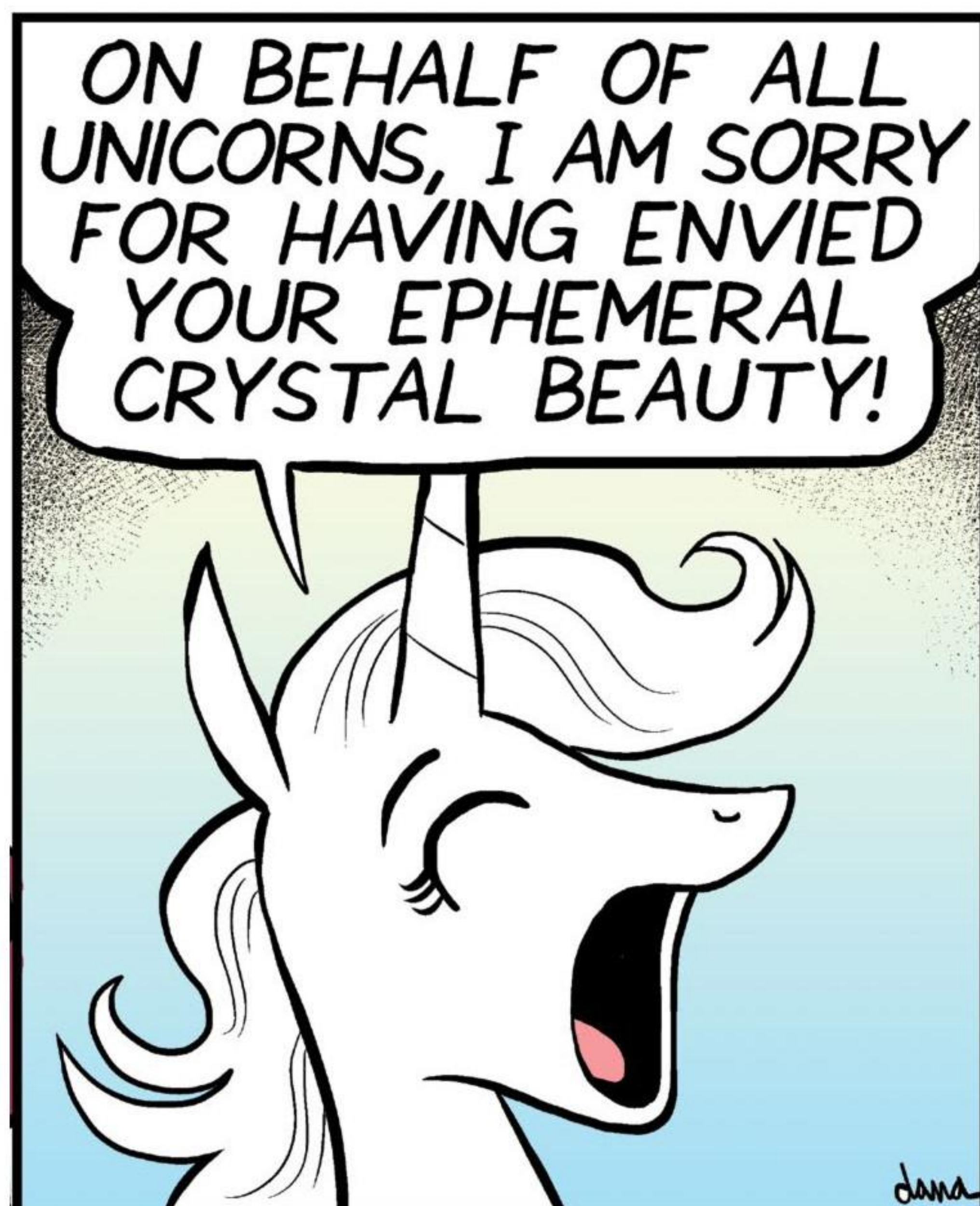


Not **the Day the
Unicorns End Up in
a Snowy Heap?**





O FADING SNOW...







I, too, have been thinking about gifts.



I could take a subtractive, rather than additive, approach.

To wit...



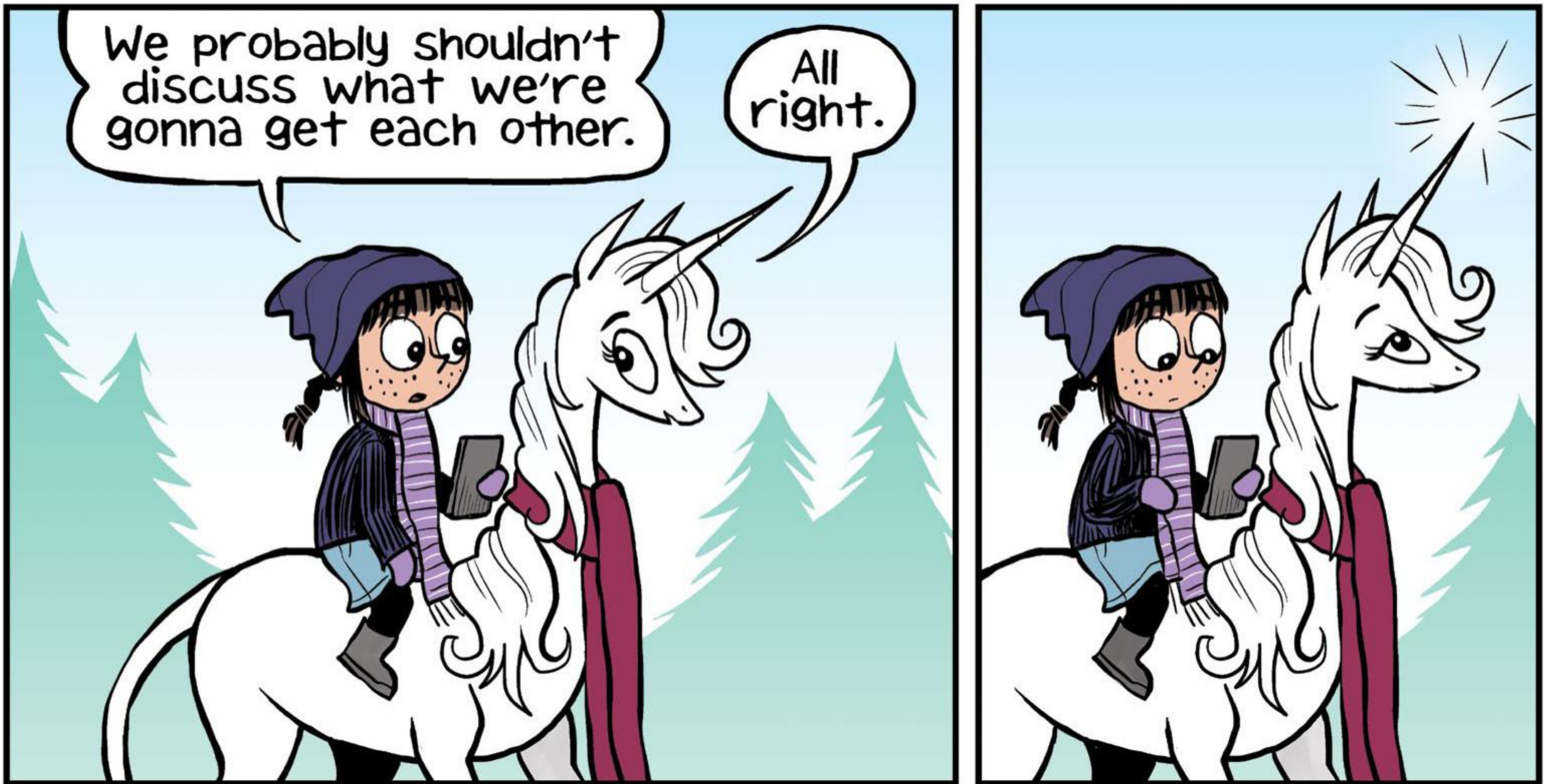
I offer to do your homework for a week!



You have to promise not to *EAT* my homework again.



Then *YOU* must promise to not spill sriracha sauce on your homework again.



Unicorns exchange gifts only rarely.



Why?

So few things are as **lovely** as us.

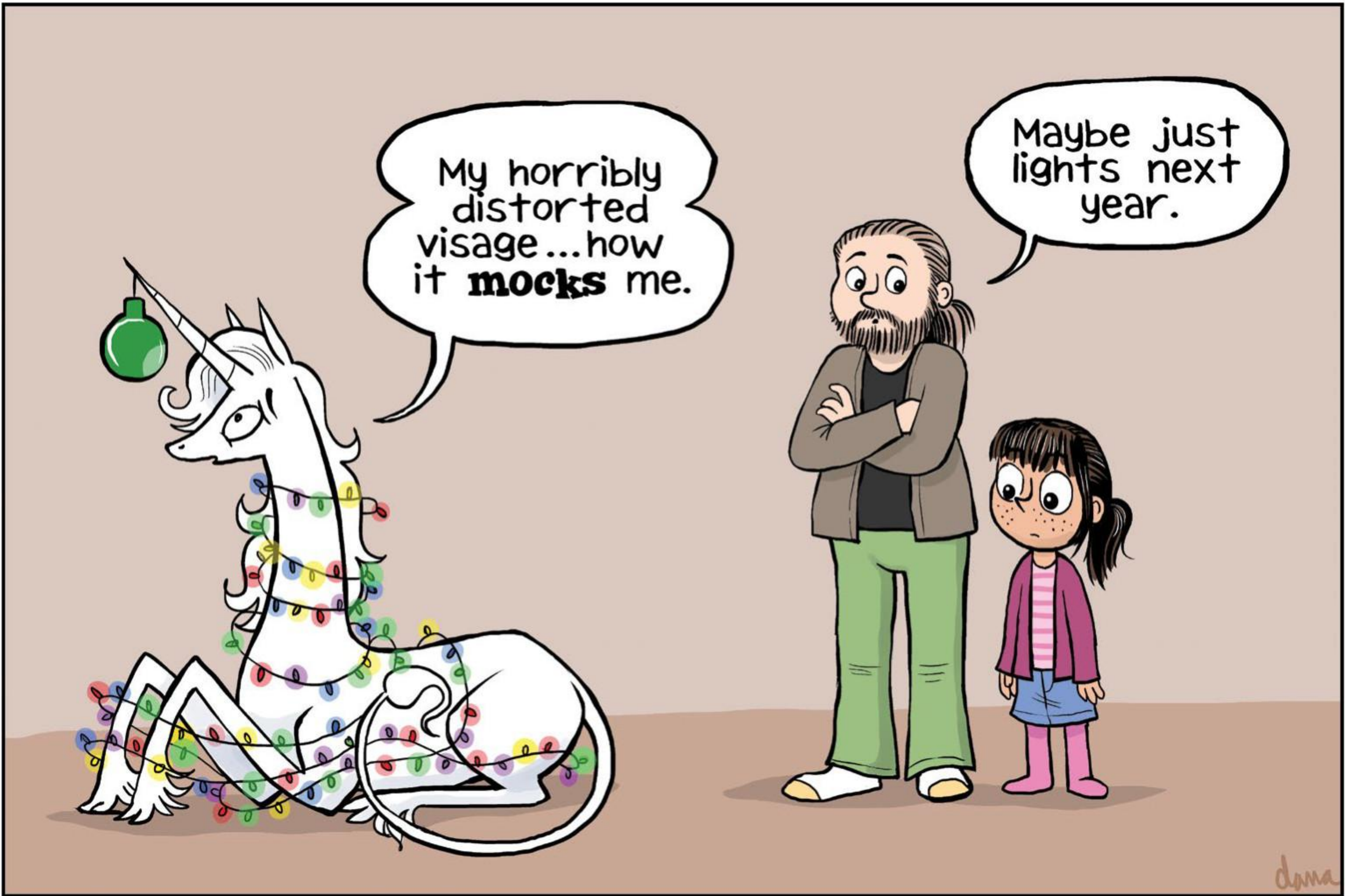


Anything you could get us will be inferior *TO* us, and thus a disappointment.

You also don't have any pockets to **PUT** stuff in.



There is that little pragmatic consideration.



I...told a LIE today.



To ME?

No, no...



How do I know you are telling me the truth about **THAT**?



You don't.
I'm a big stinky liar.

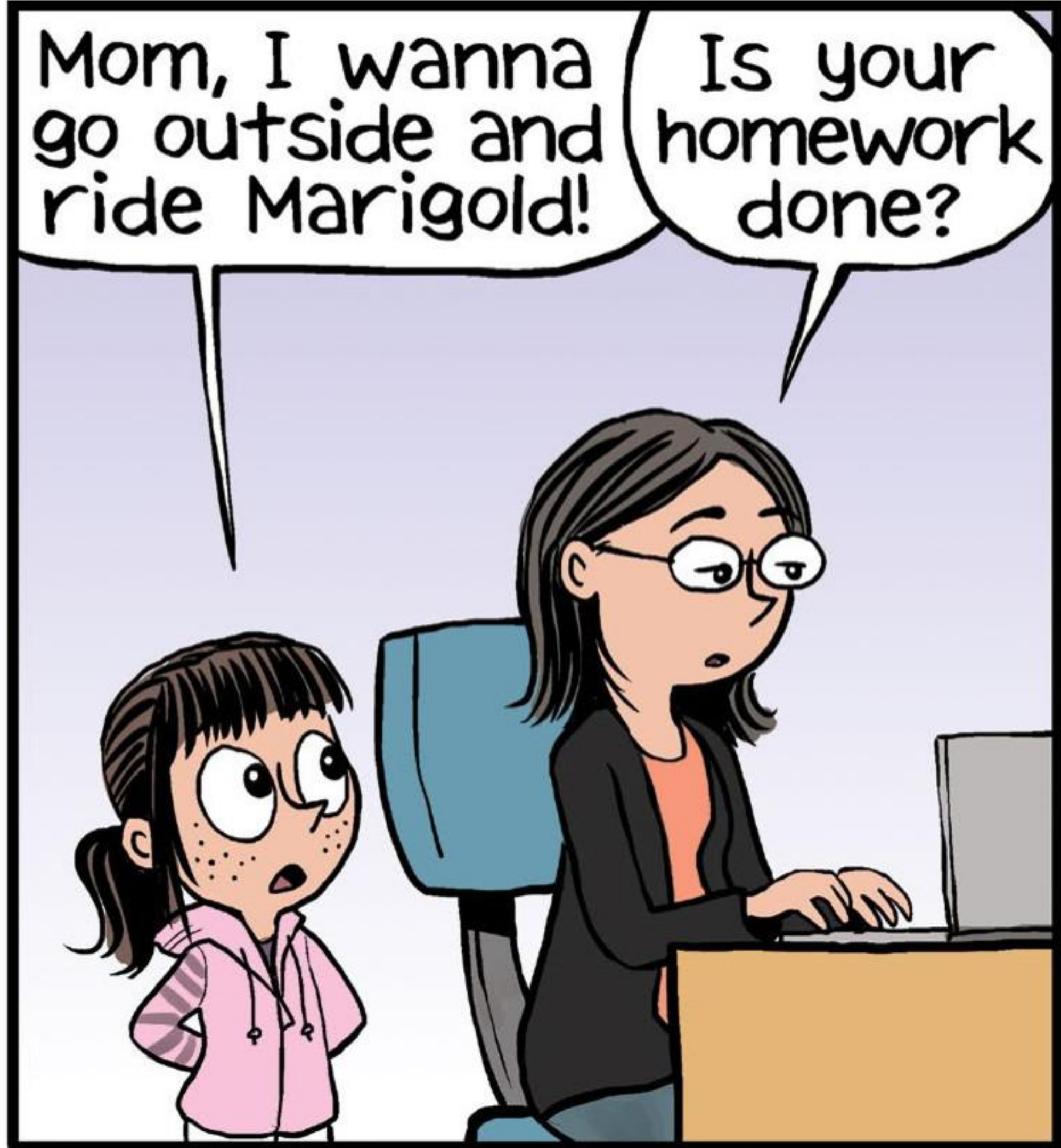
Noted!
Continue.



I have a book report due tomorrow, and I haven't even started. But...



EARLIER



You *SHOULD* probably do your book report.

I know...



But I told mom I *DID* already, so now if they see me doing it, they'll know I *LIED*.



So I guess I'm gonna have to go *ON* lying forever.



Here. I brought your favorite artisanal oats to bribe you to keep quiet.

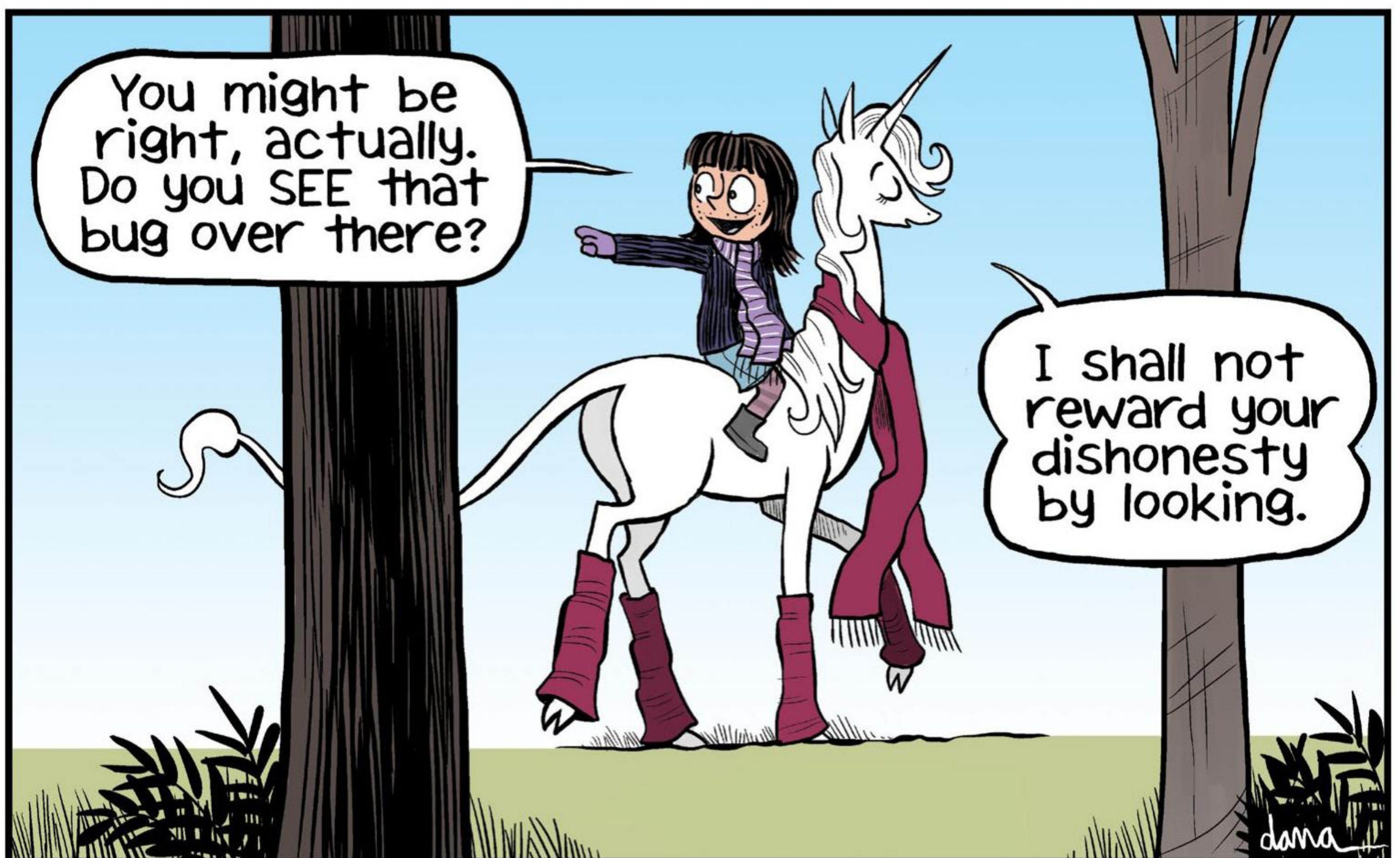


This is a new side of you.

dama

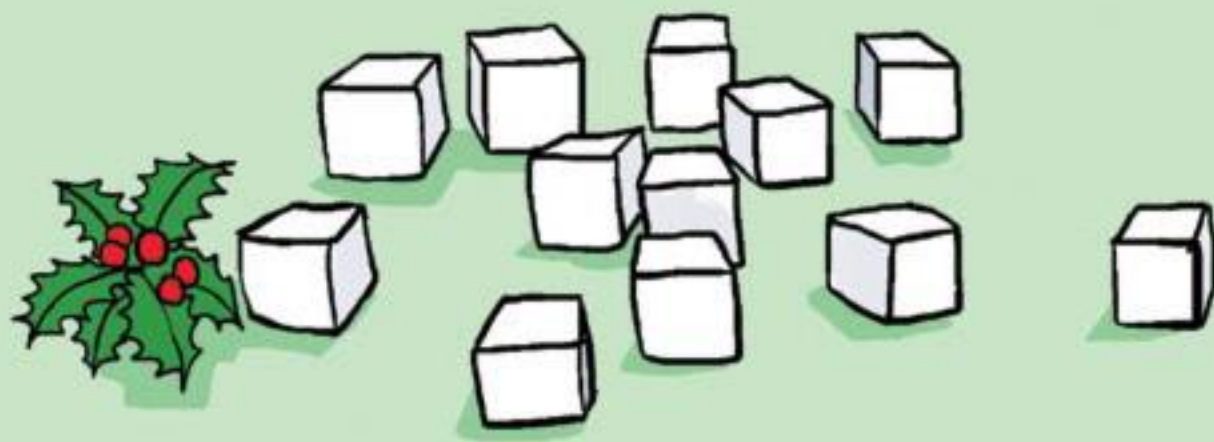






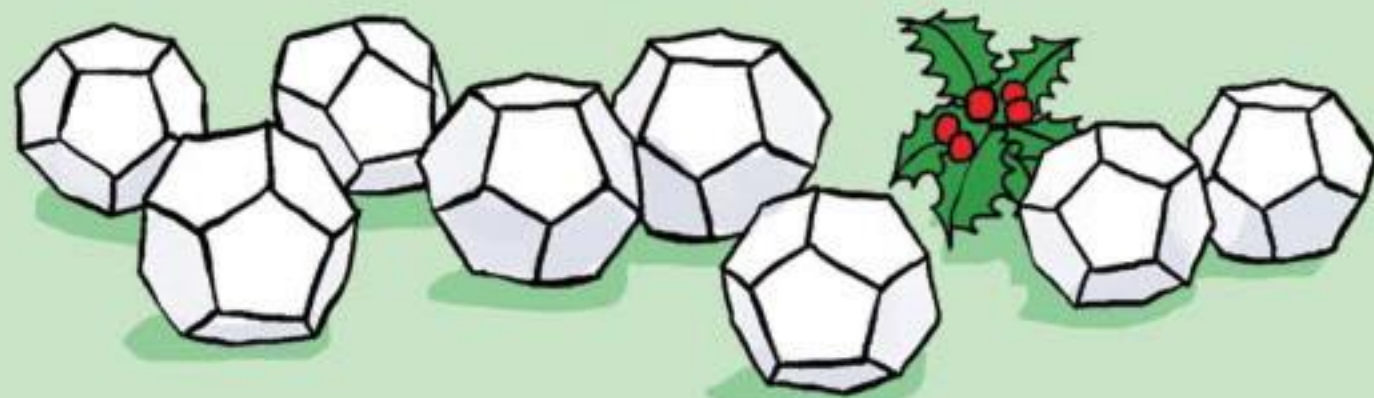


MARIGOLD'S GUIDE TO UNICORN HOLIDAY DESSERTS



SUGAR CUBES

The classics never
go out of style.



SUGAR DODECAHEDRONS

A contemporary twist!



UNICOOKIES

Horns improve
everything, and
so do carrots,
so...voilà!



ALFALFA

Delicious alfalfa!
It's nature's candy!



SPARKLE NOG

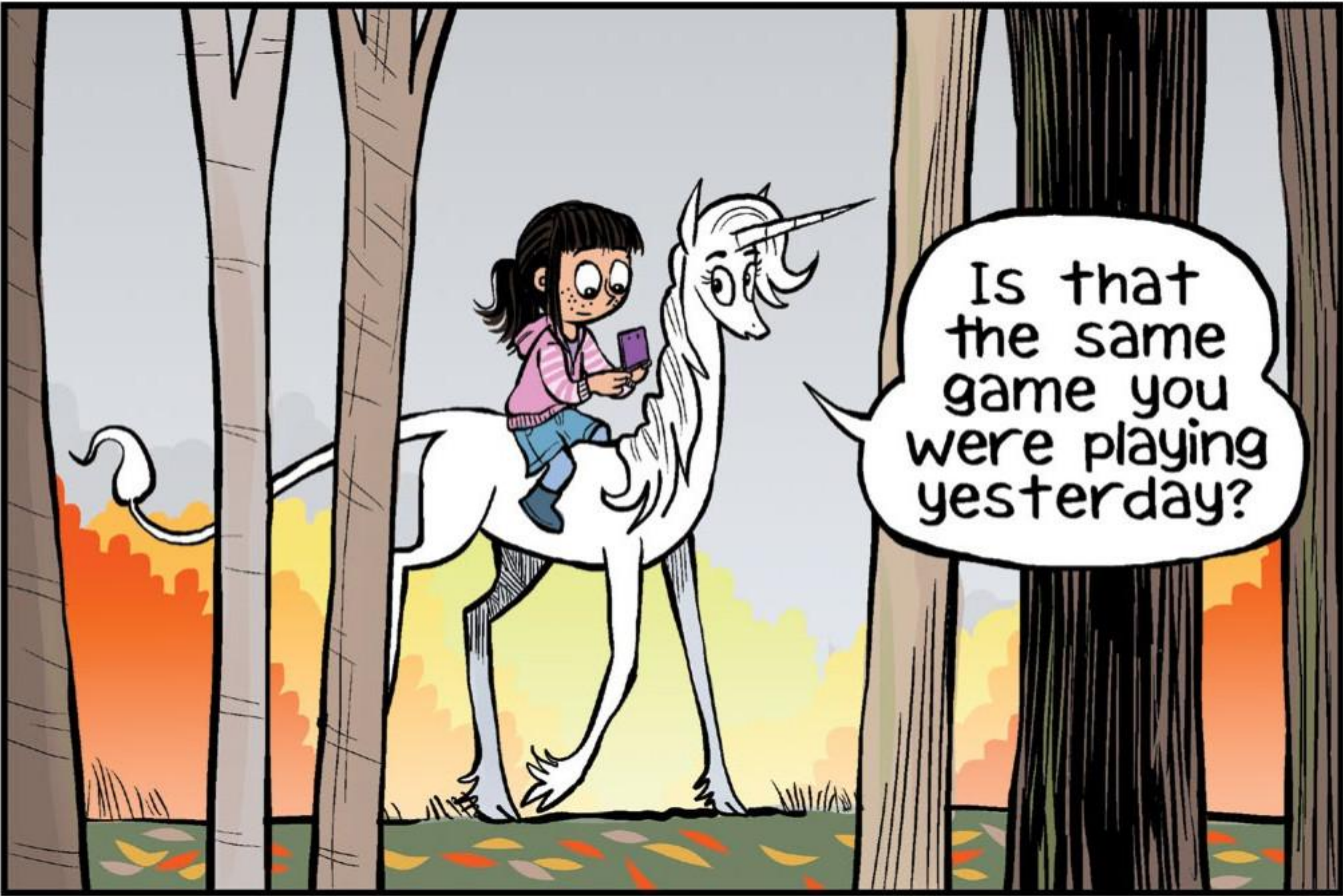
Like eggnog, but,
you know, sparklier.

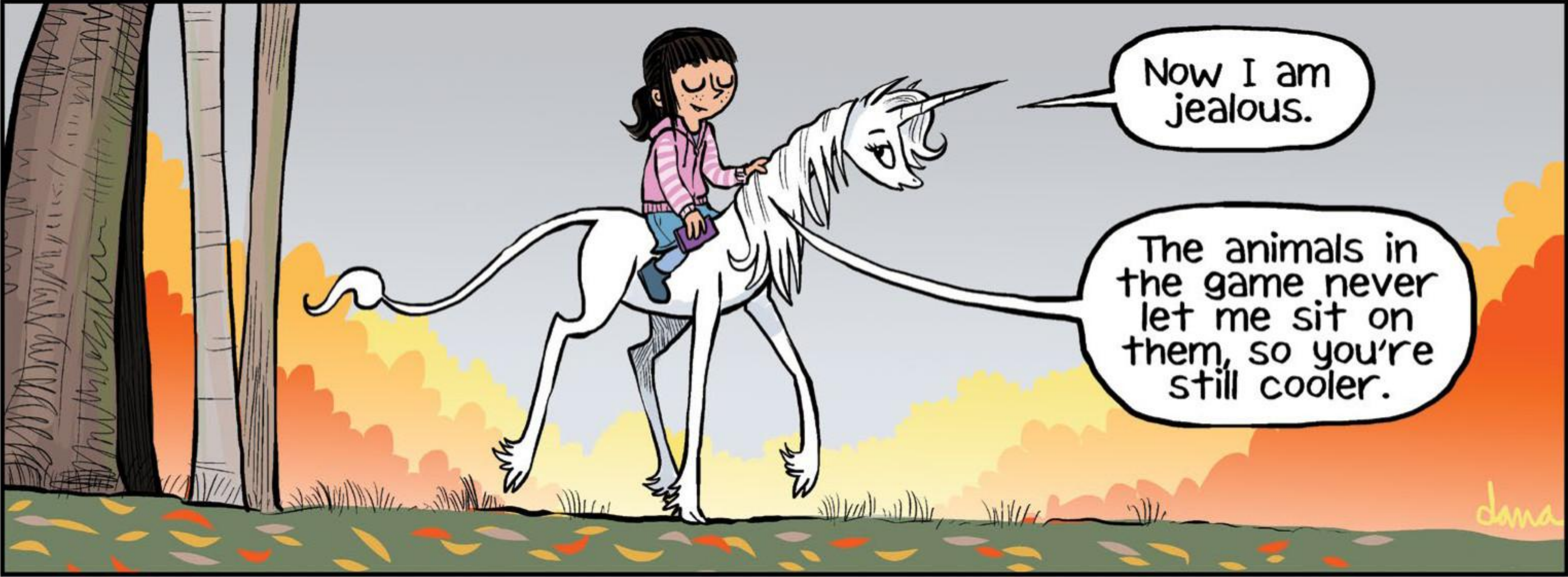


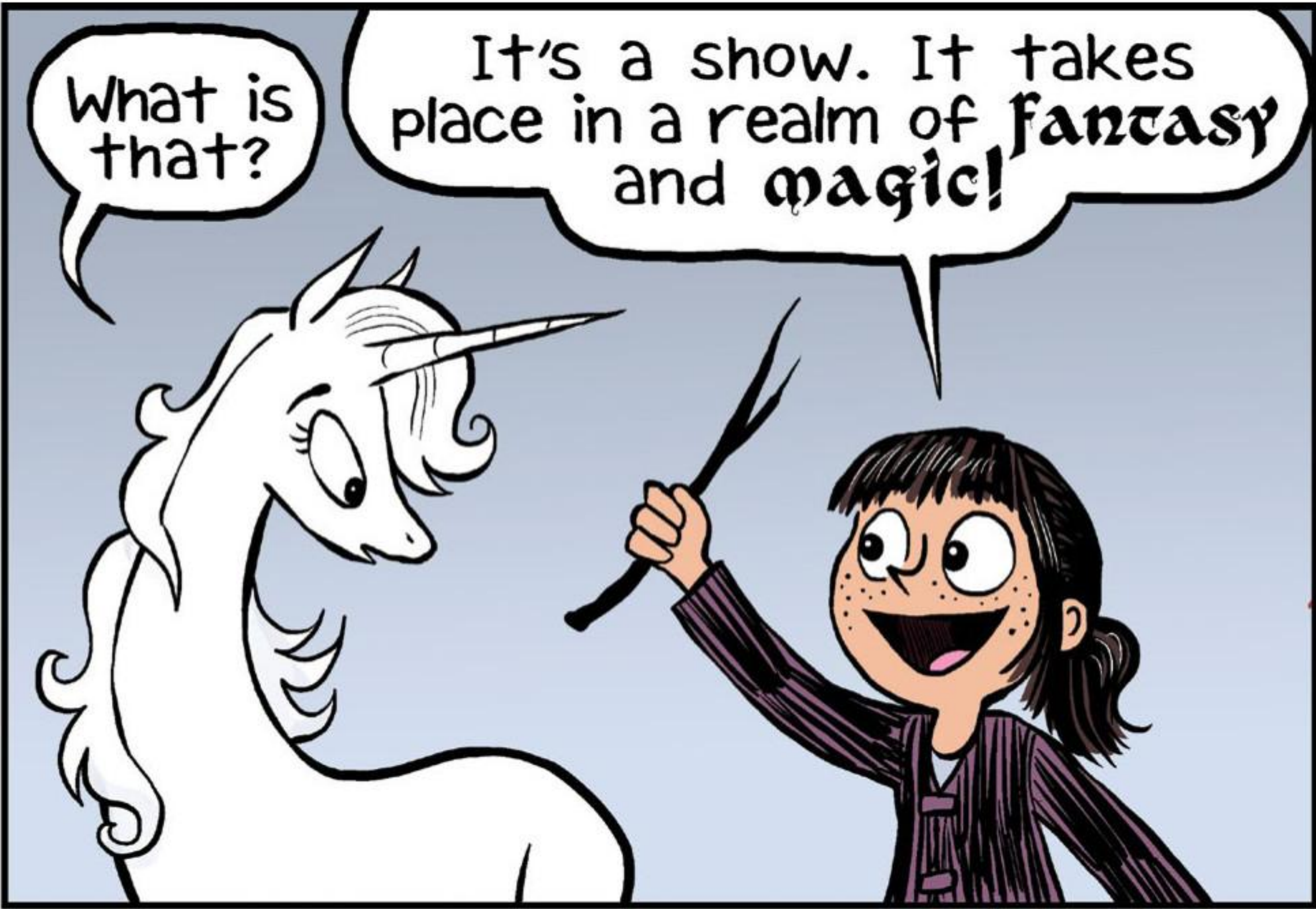
DOUGHNUT-IZED SUGAR COOKIES

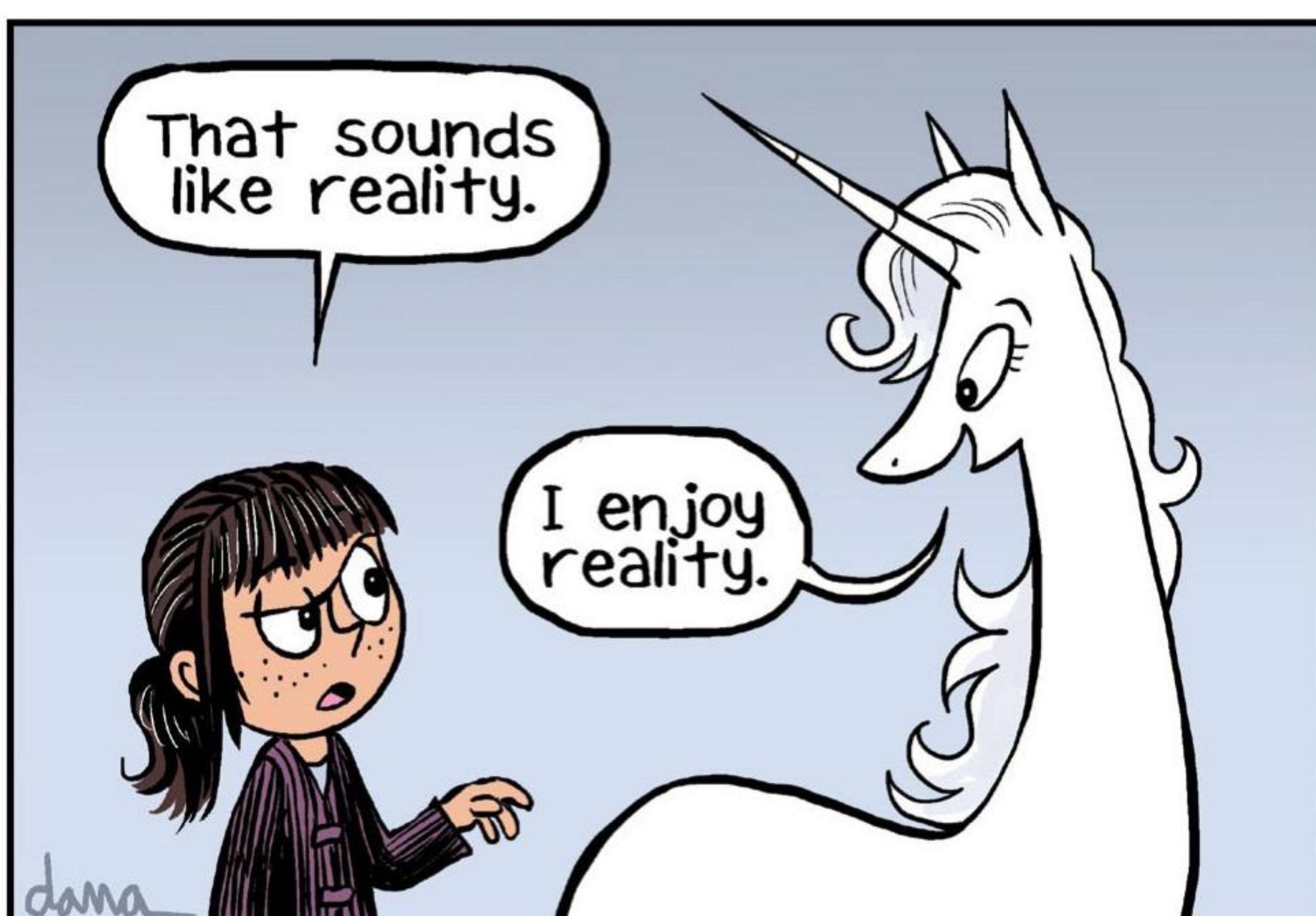
The tastiness of sugar
cookies and the
portability of doughnuts!

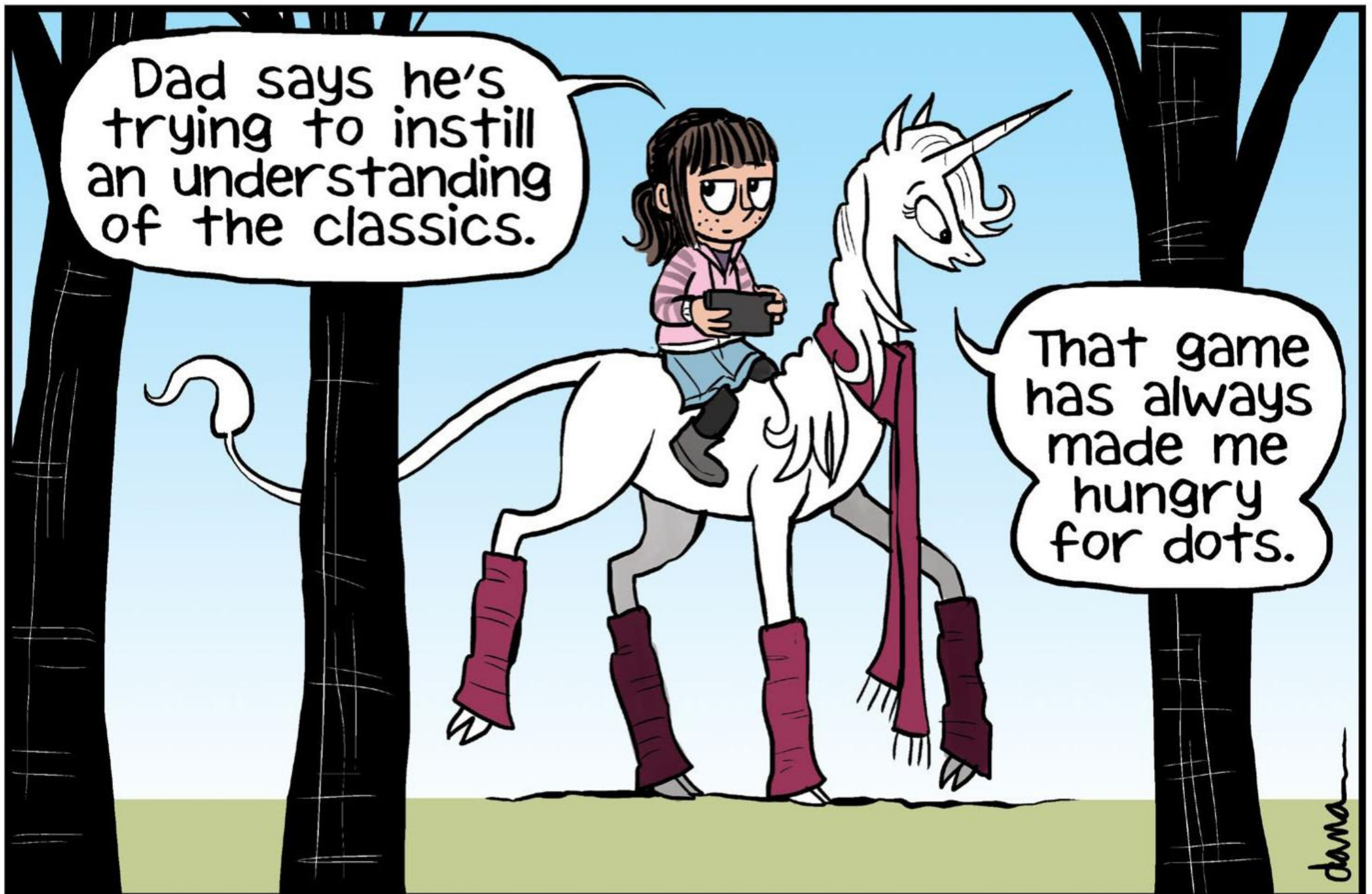
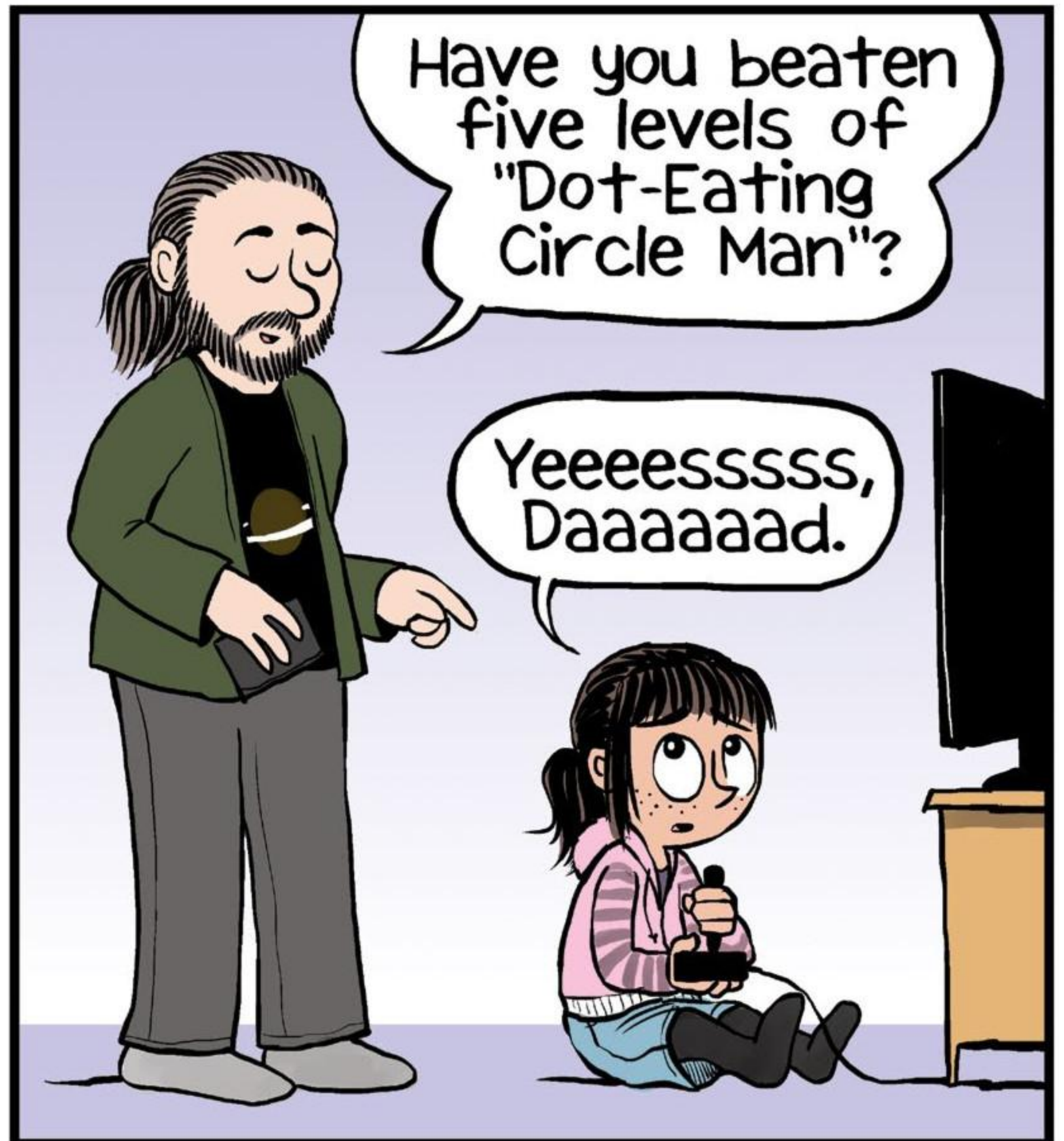
dana

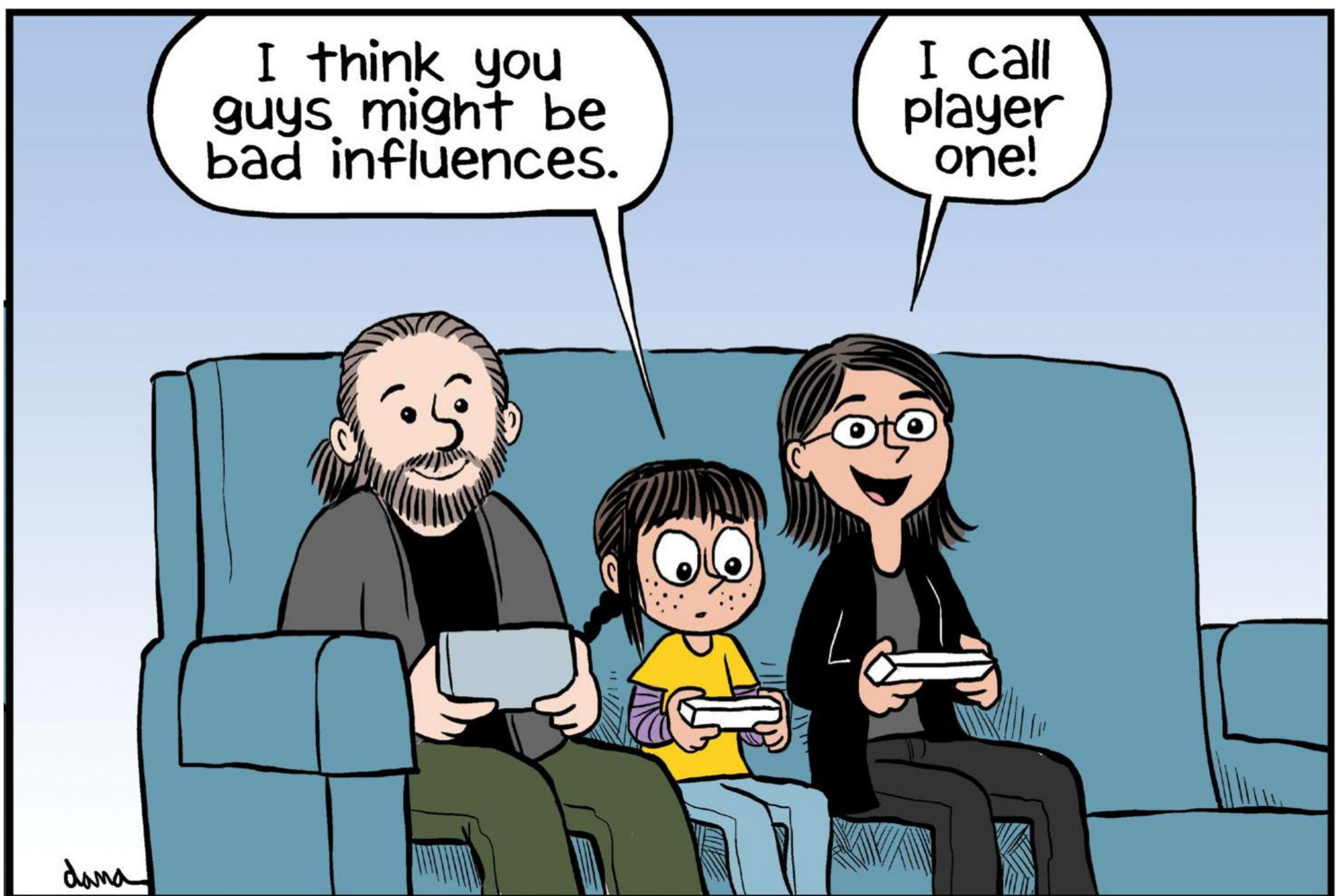
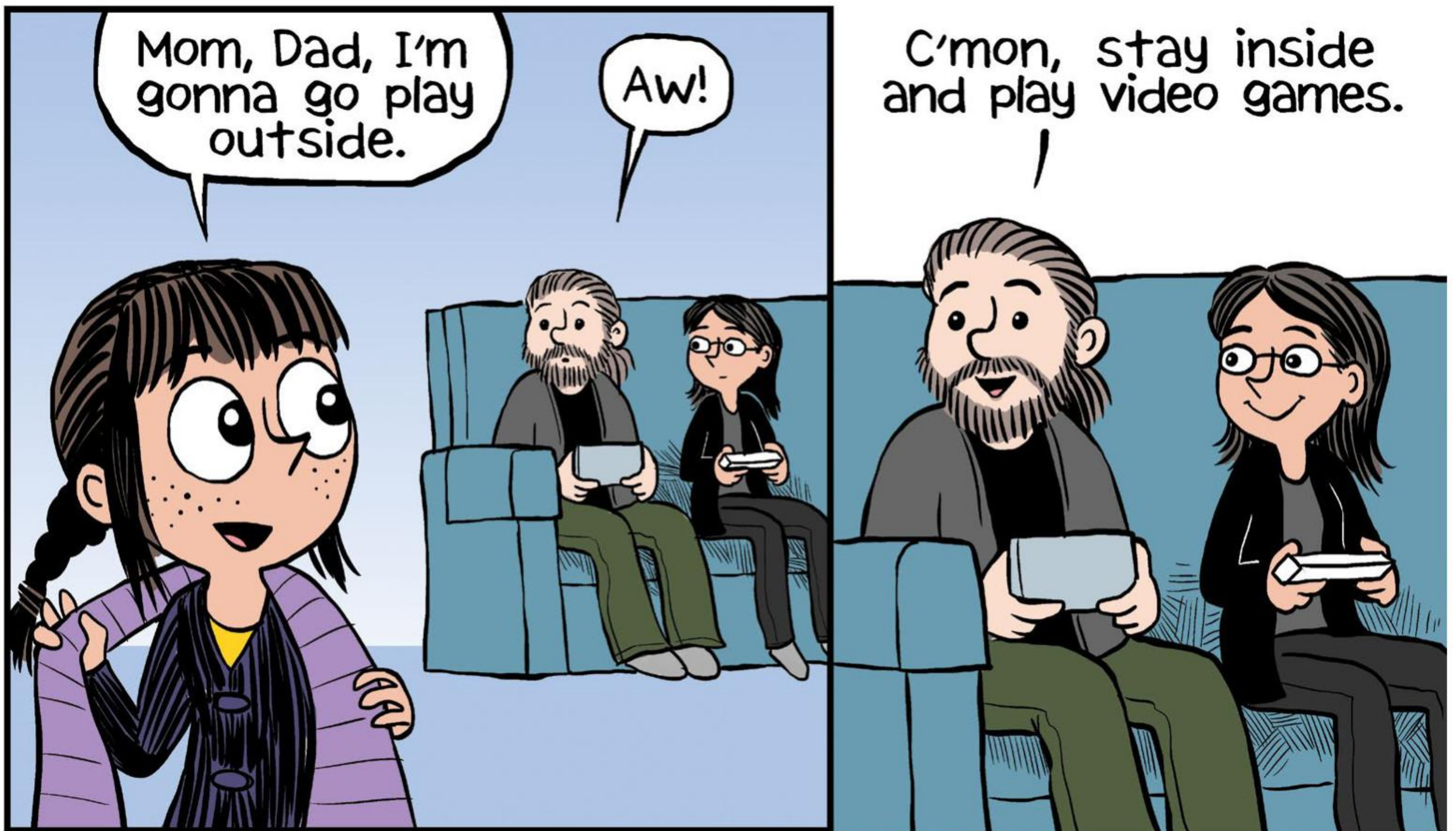






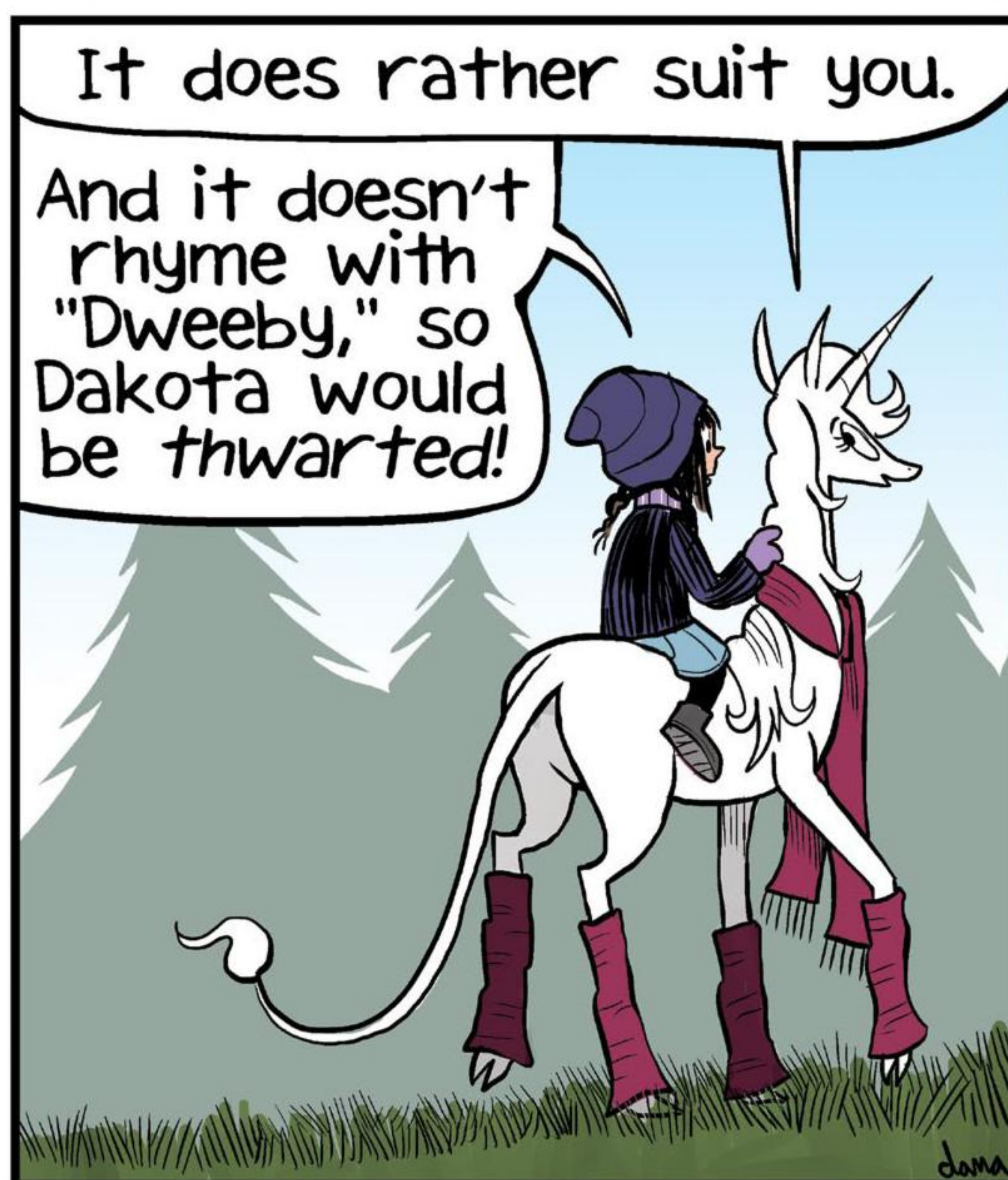








Sometimes I think I should just give up and start pronouncing my name "Fobe."









While some may find sweaters undignified, others of us have faith in the *inherent dignity* of unicornosity.

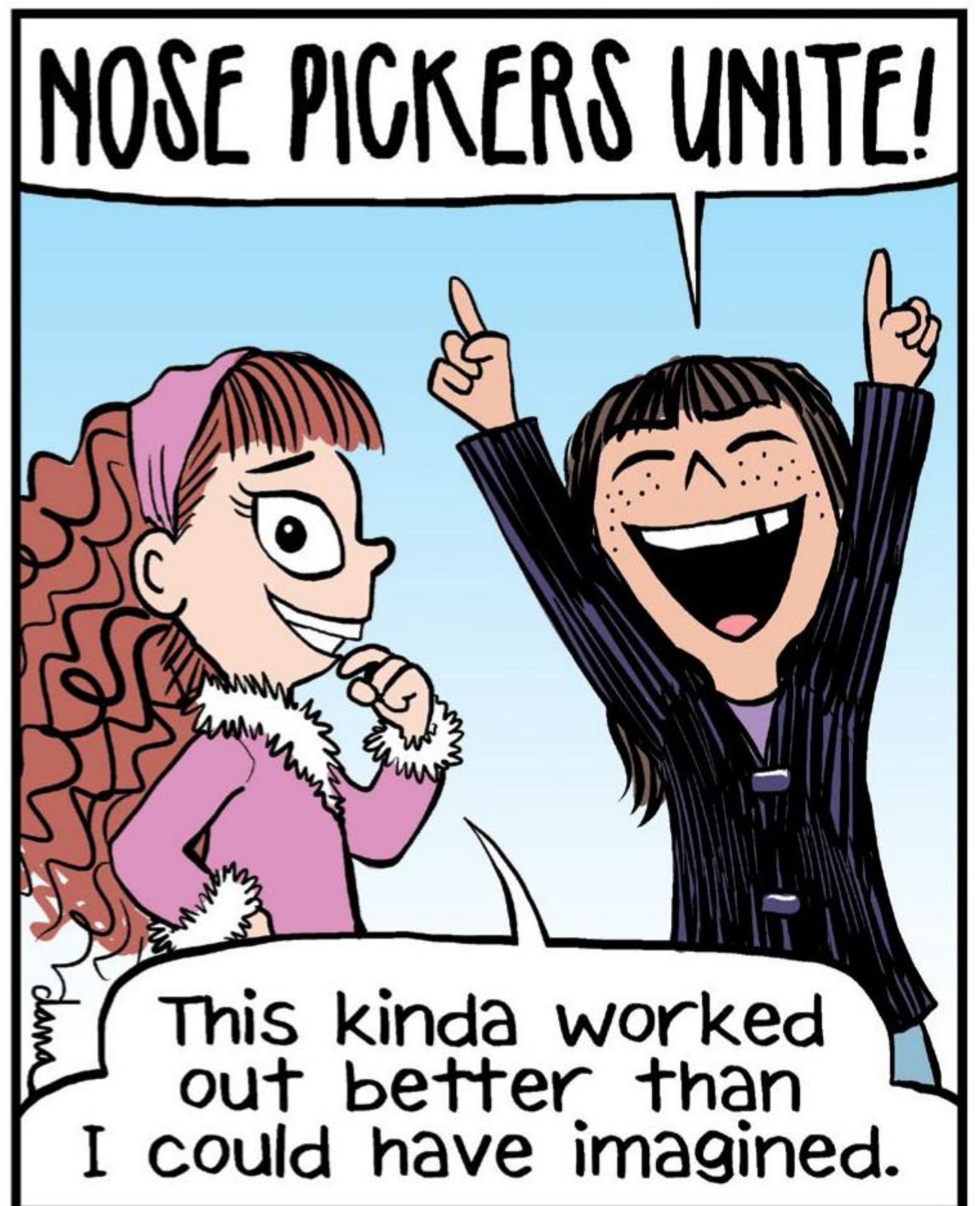
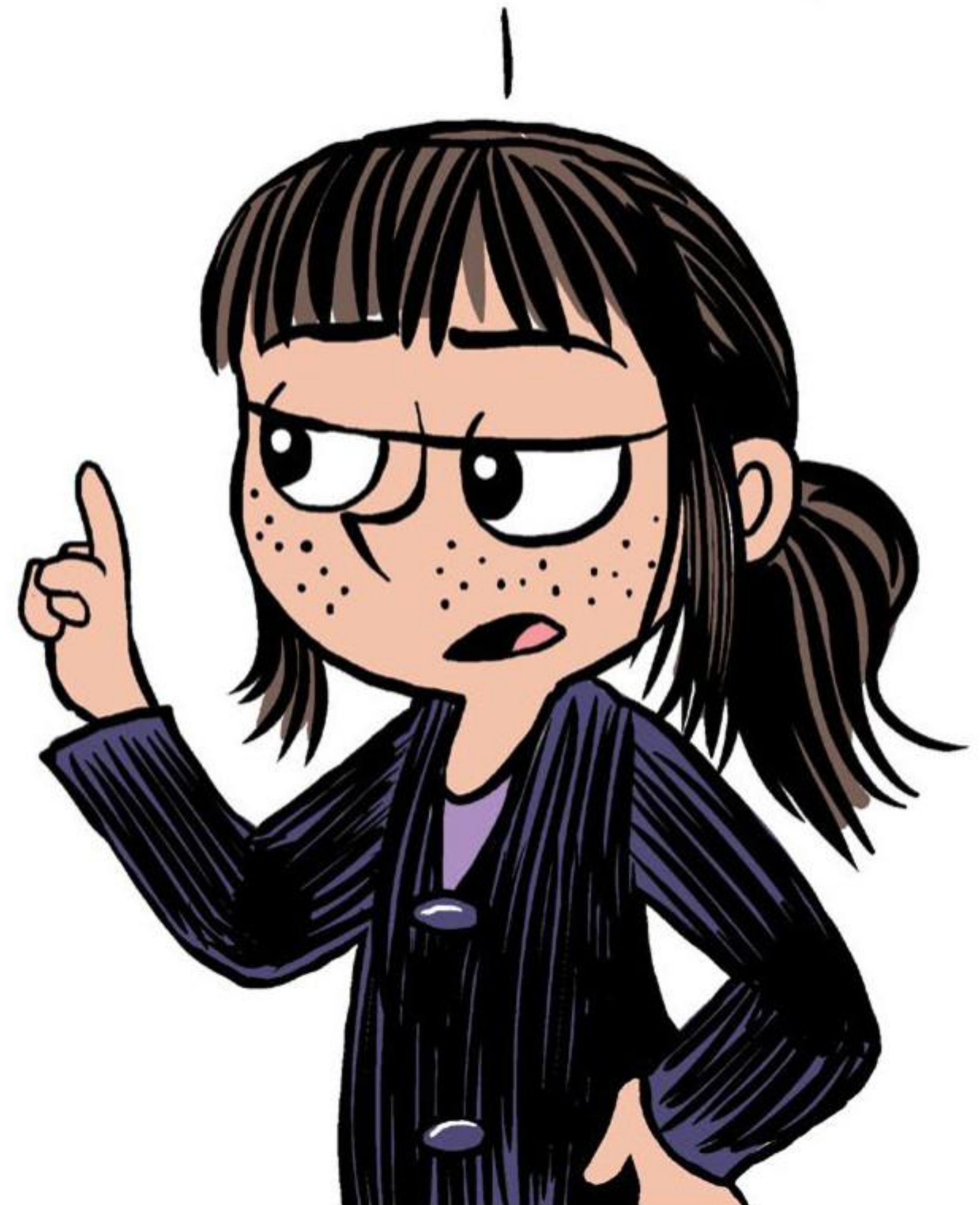








I'm tired of you acting like that's such a terrible thing.

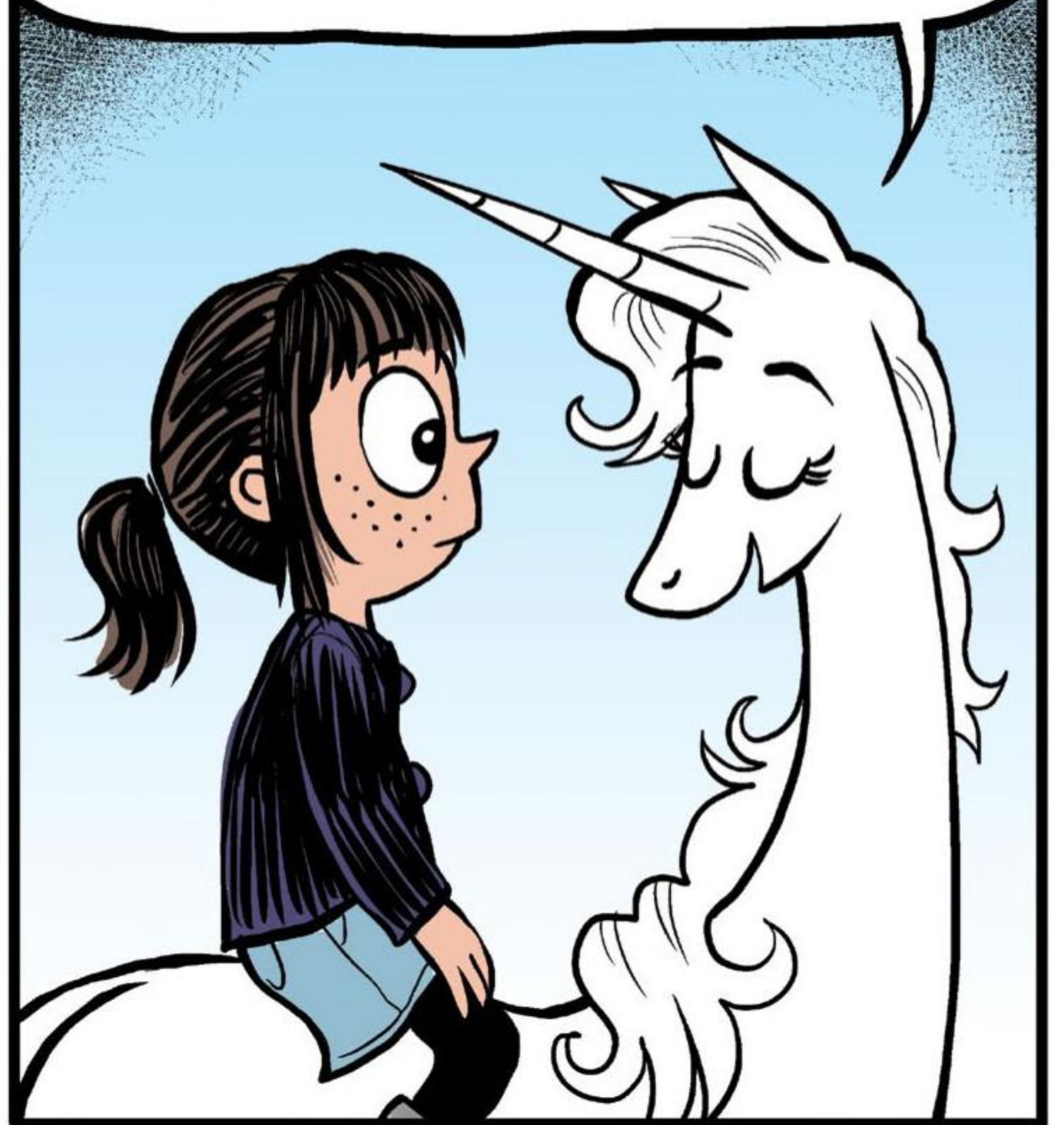




I bet you'd pick your nose too, if you had fingers.



I have never needed fingers. I have **MAGIC!**



Even now, my nostrils are being magically cleansed, boogers whisked away to a dimension far beyond my concern.



UNICORN!



I get to say that.

dana



Unique orns do not like "standardized" tests. "Standardized" is the very ANTITHESIS of "unique."



It is therefore a badge of honor in the *unique orn* community to do as poorly on standardized tests as possible.

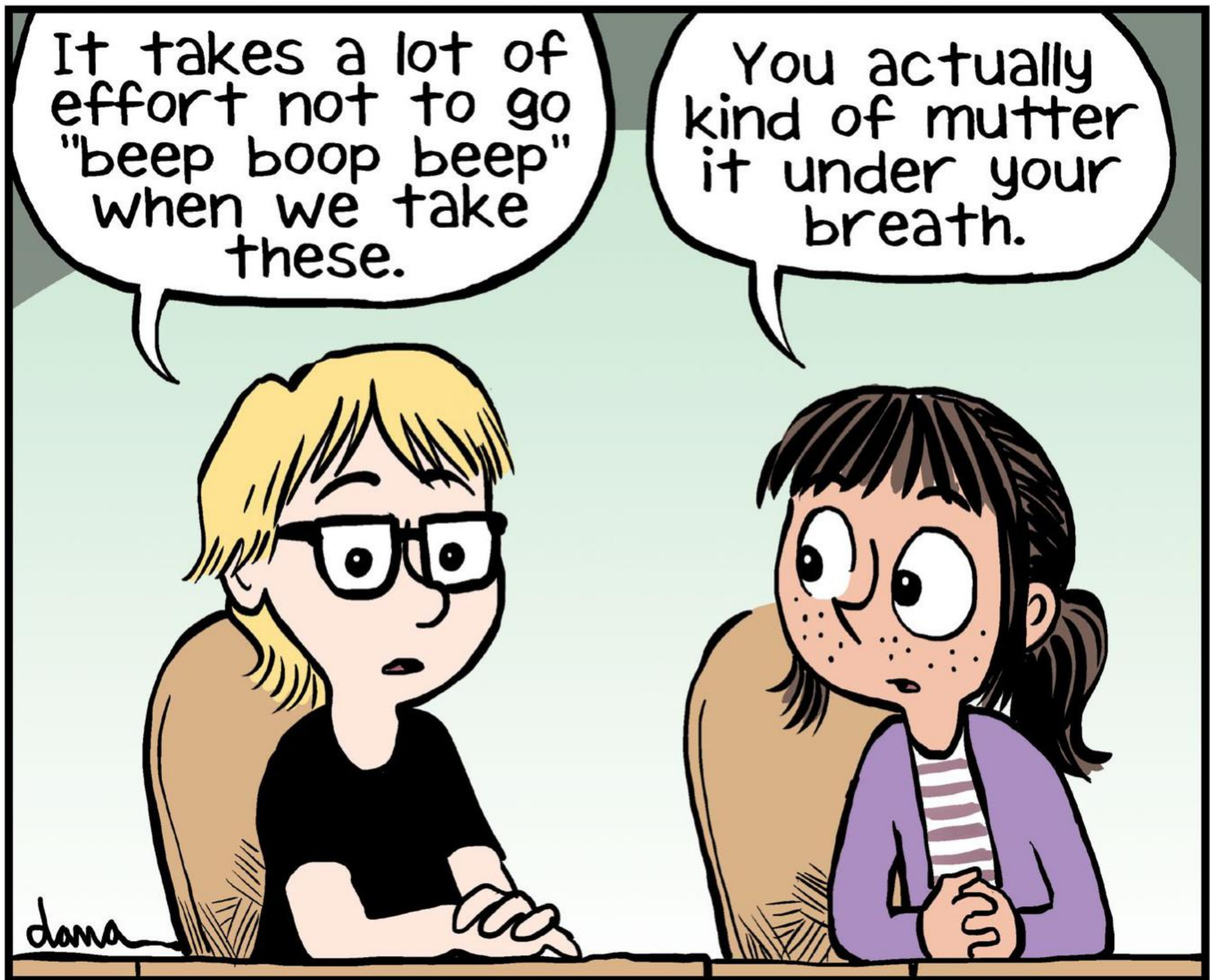
That's not really how it works with humans.

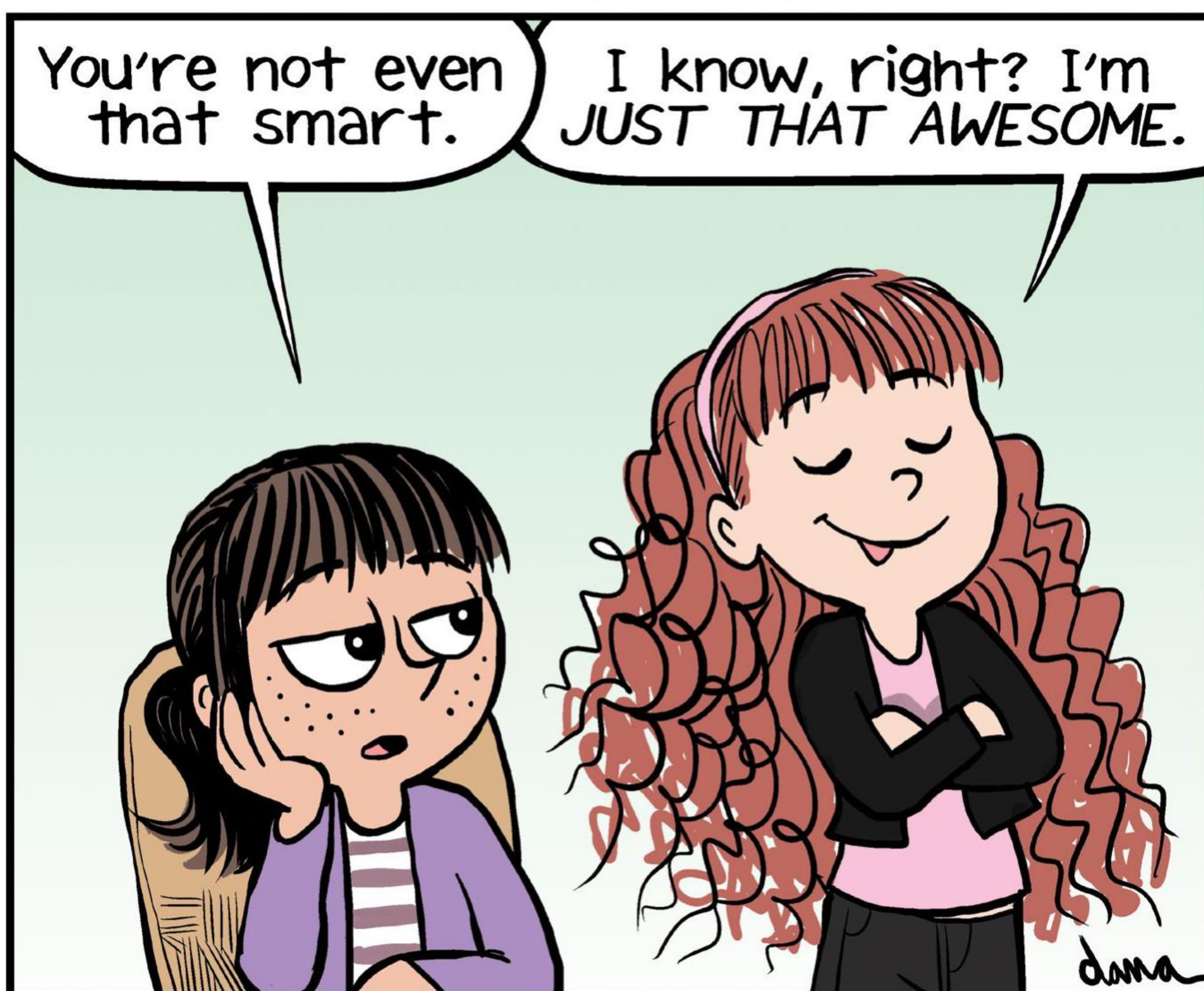
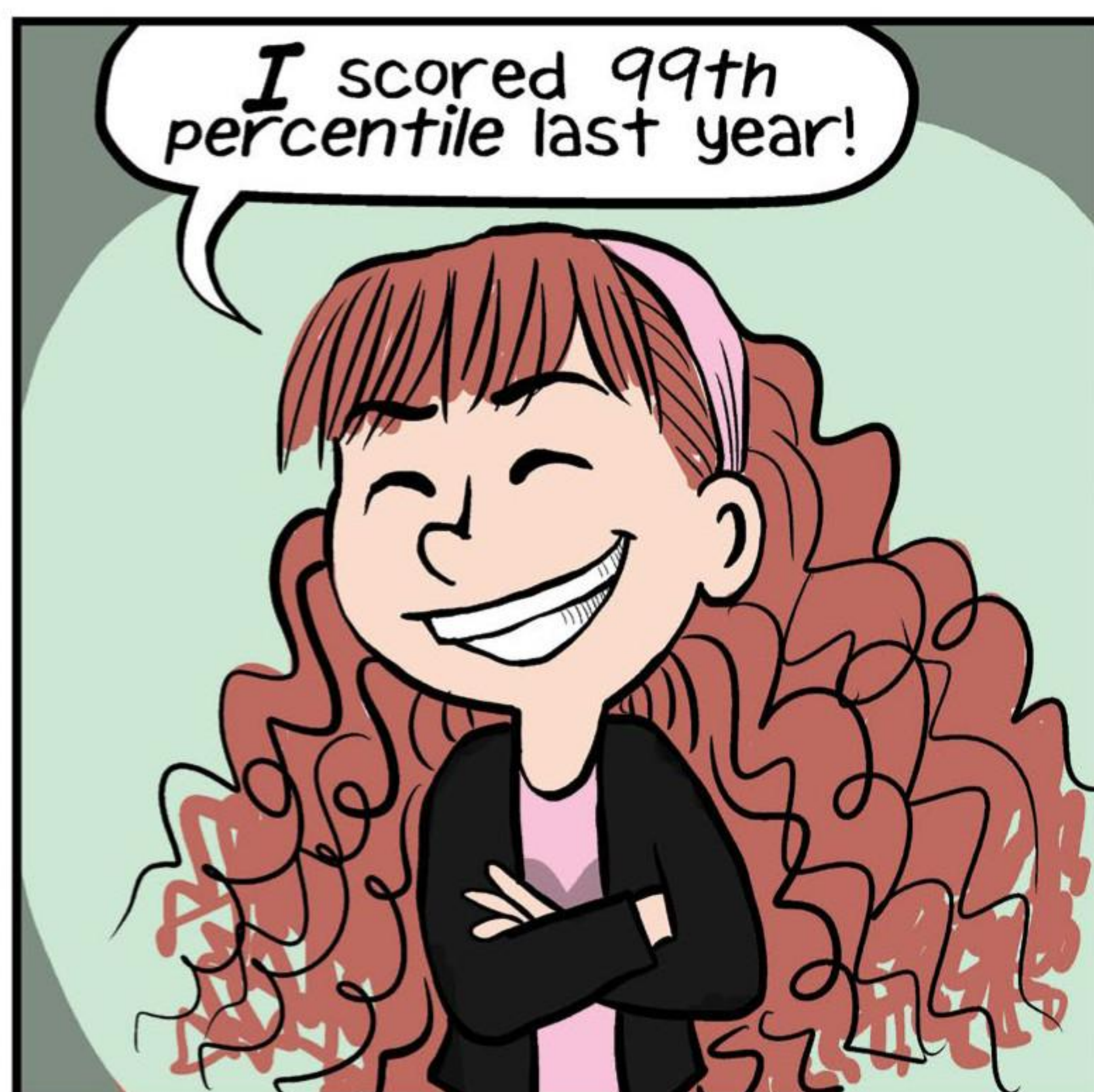


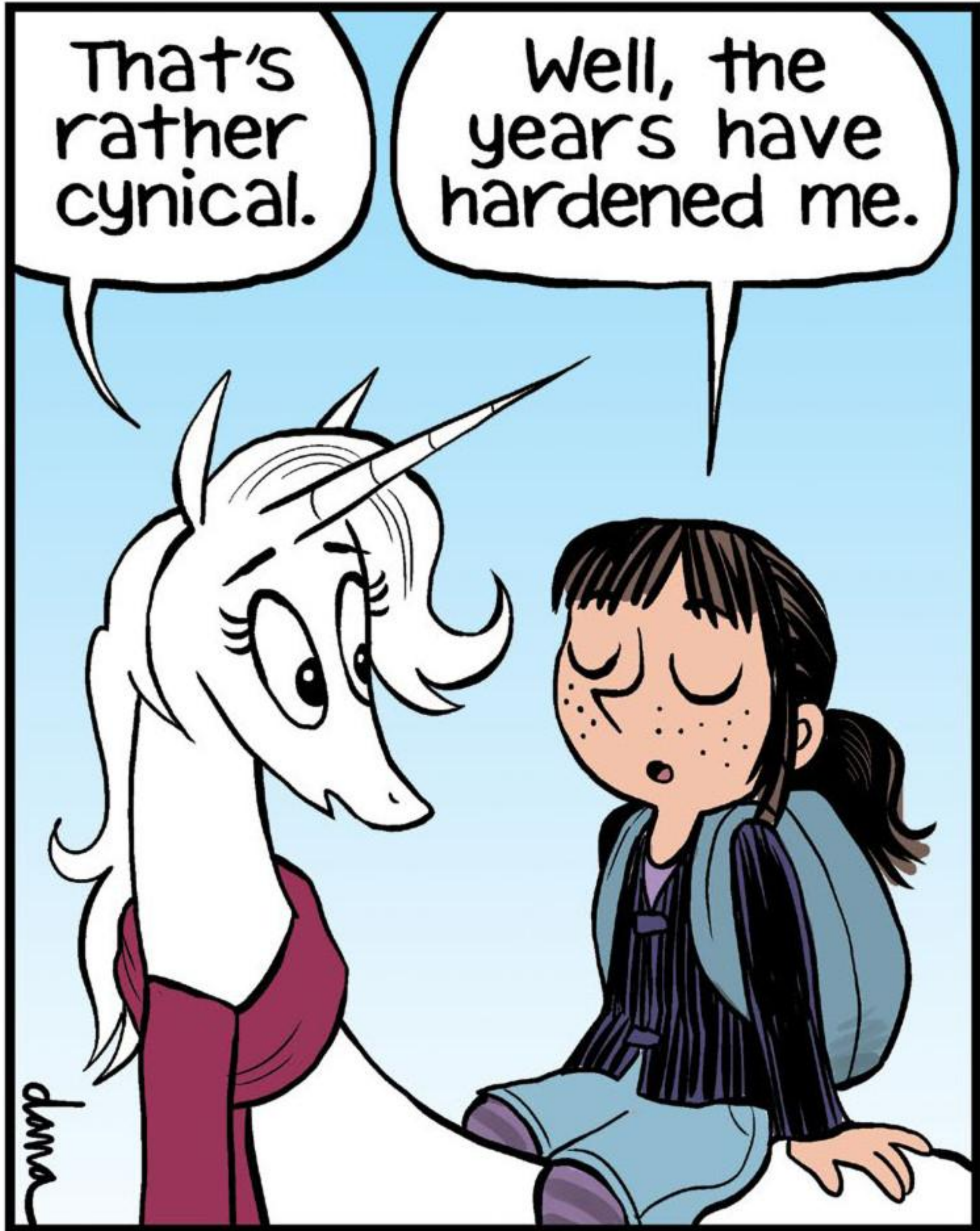
Yes, and I suppose you will not punch the answer bubbles with your horn.

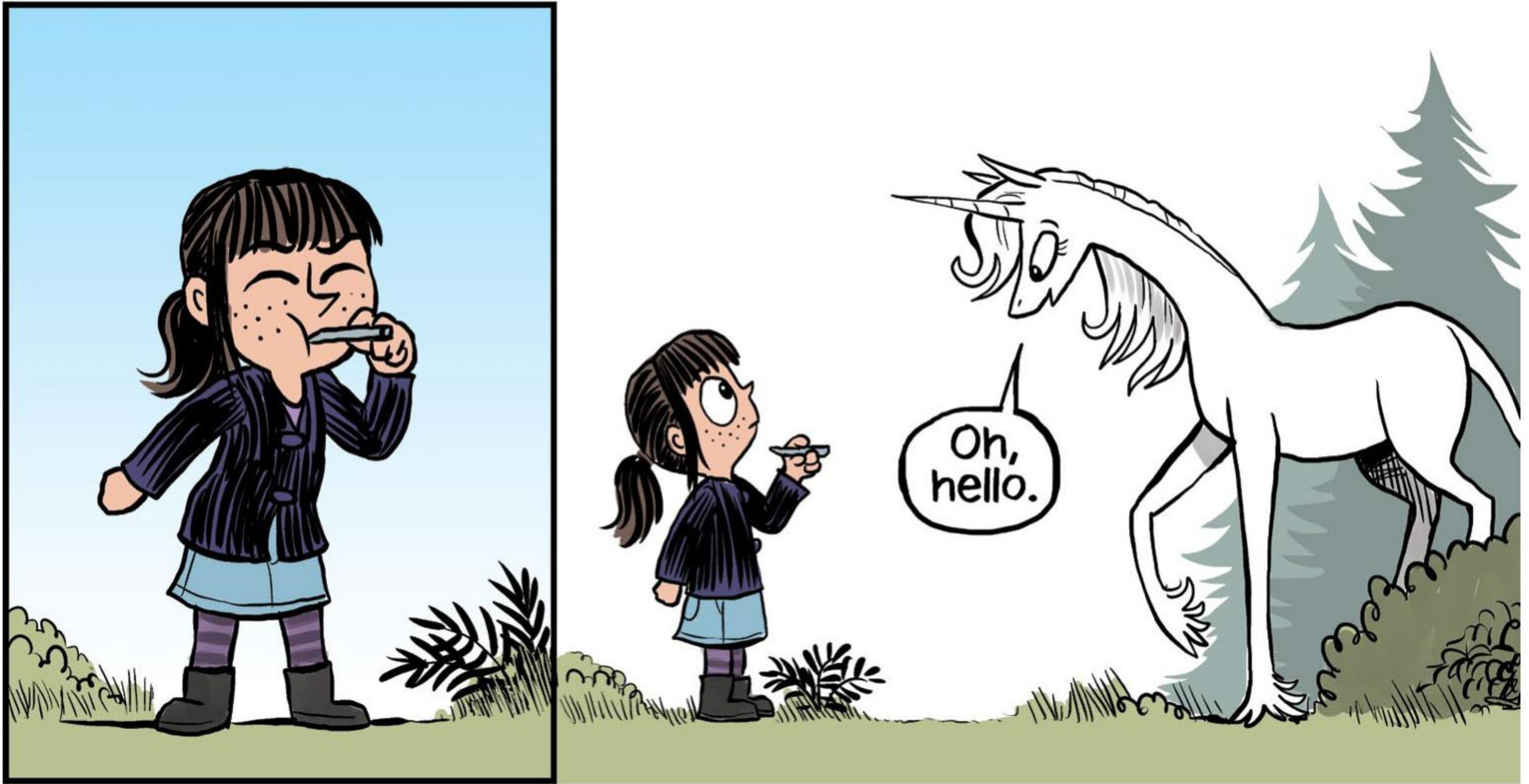


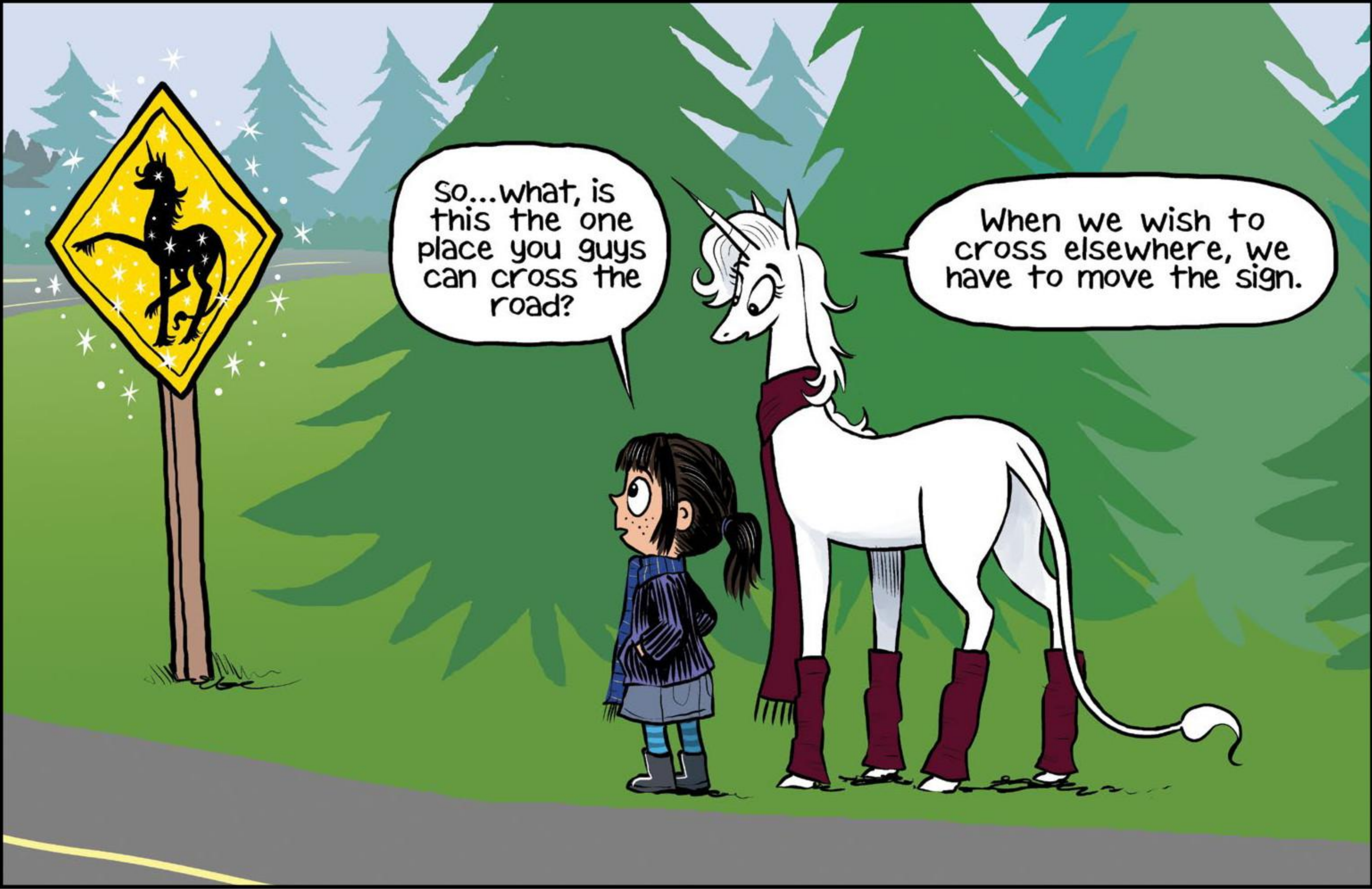
Filling in bubbles makes me feel like a ROBOT!



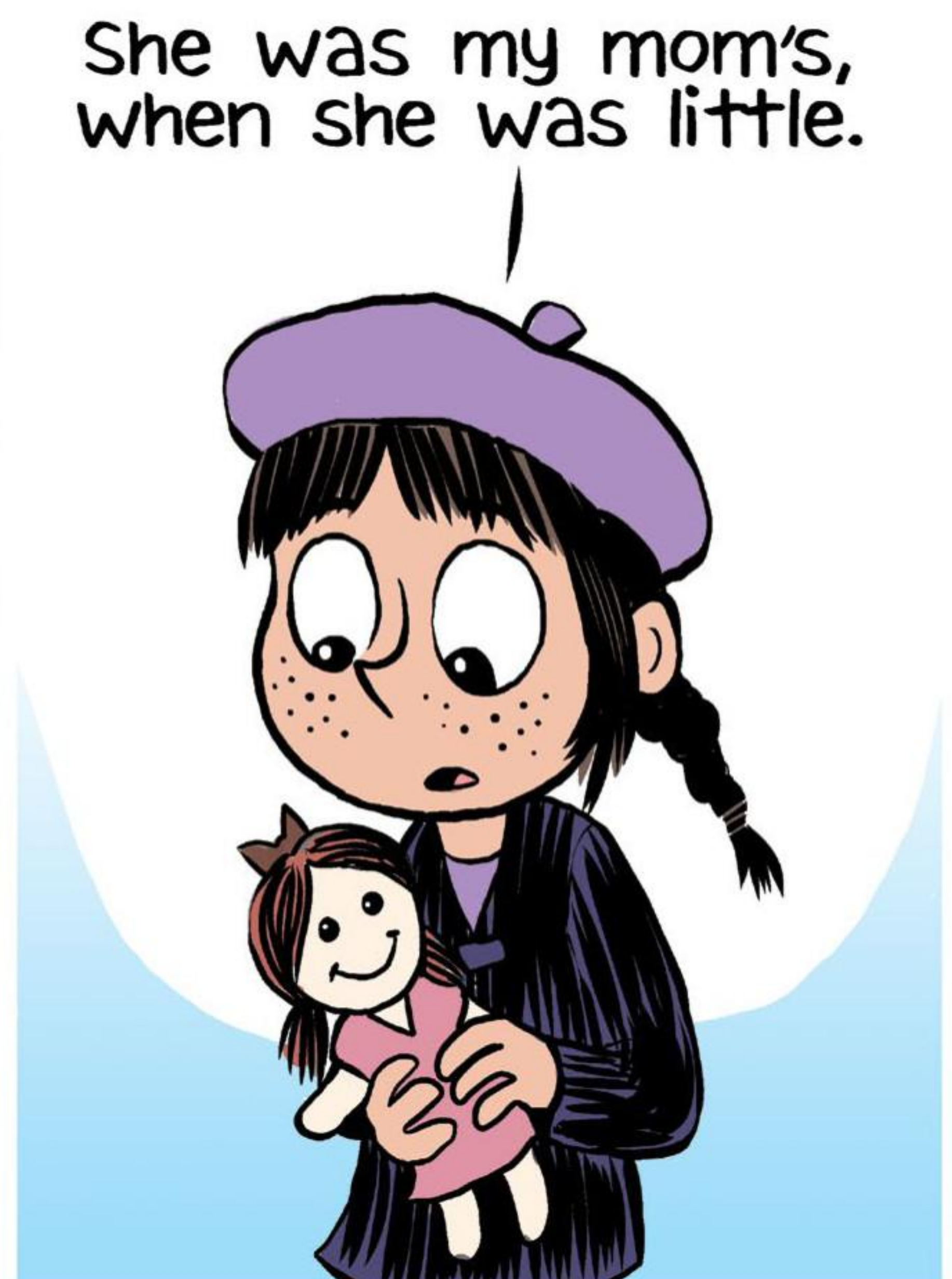






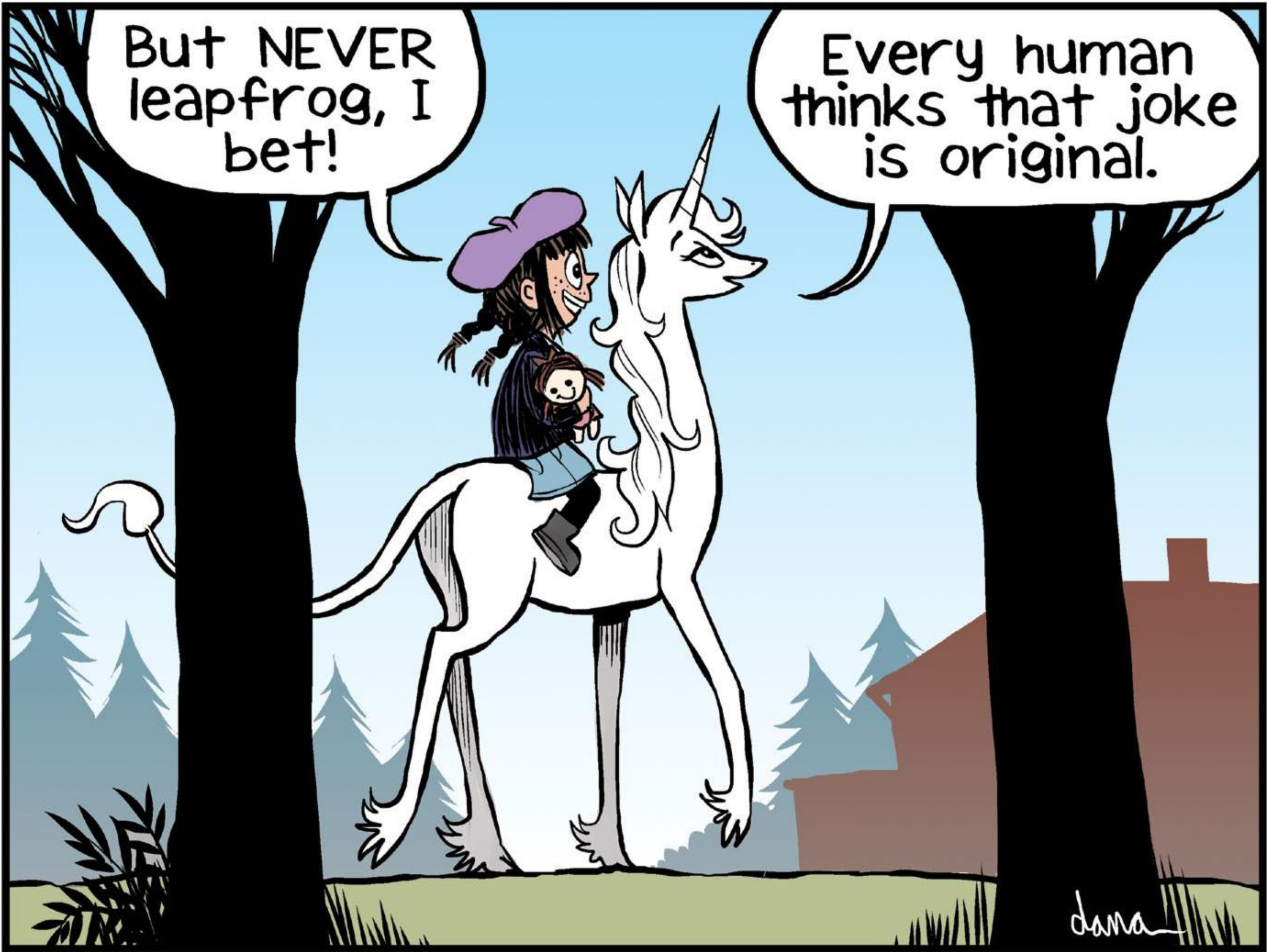








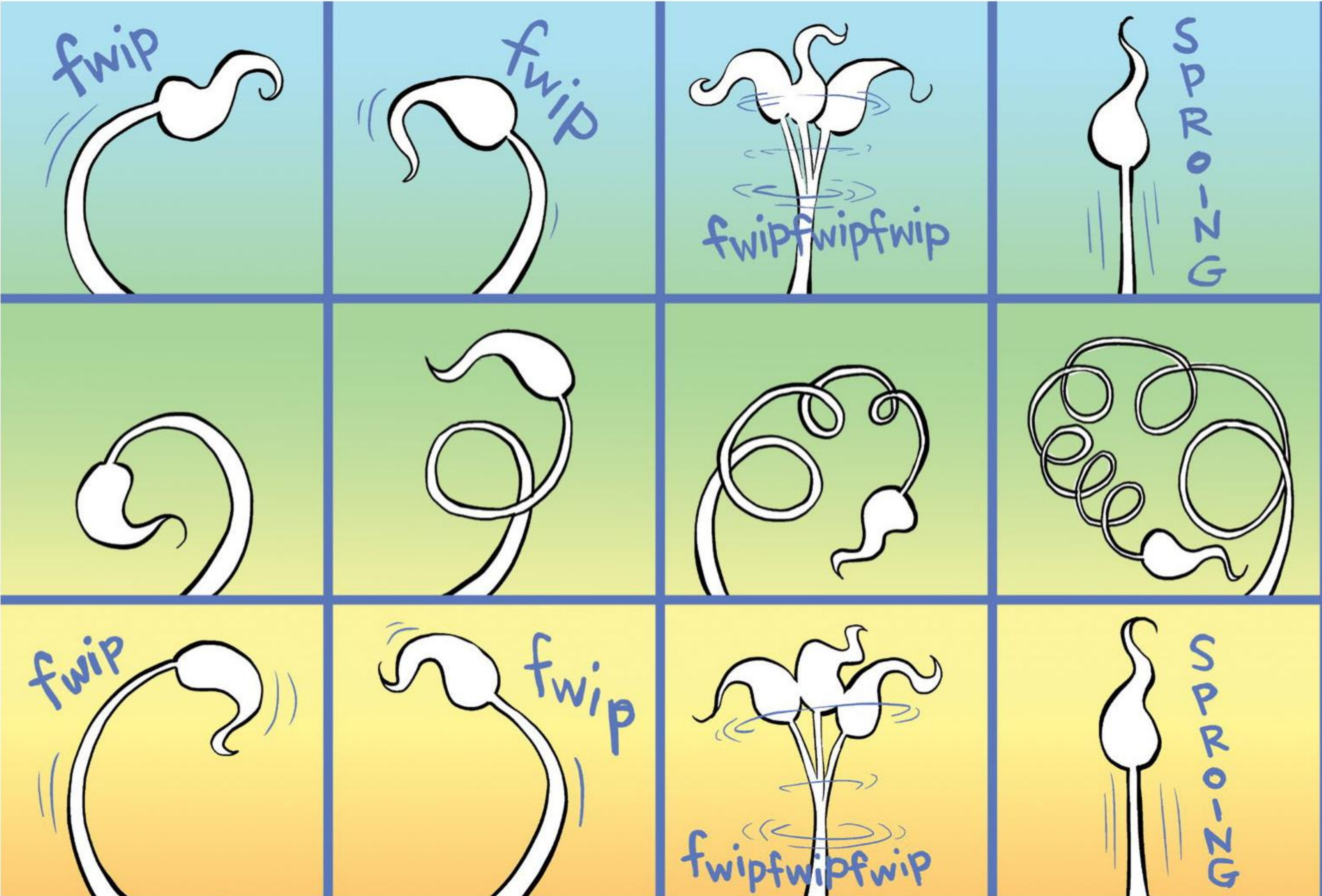
We play games such as
horn ring-toss and flag
hoofball.

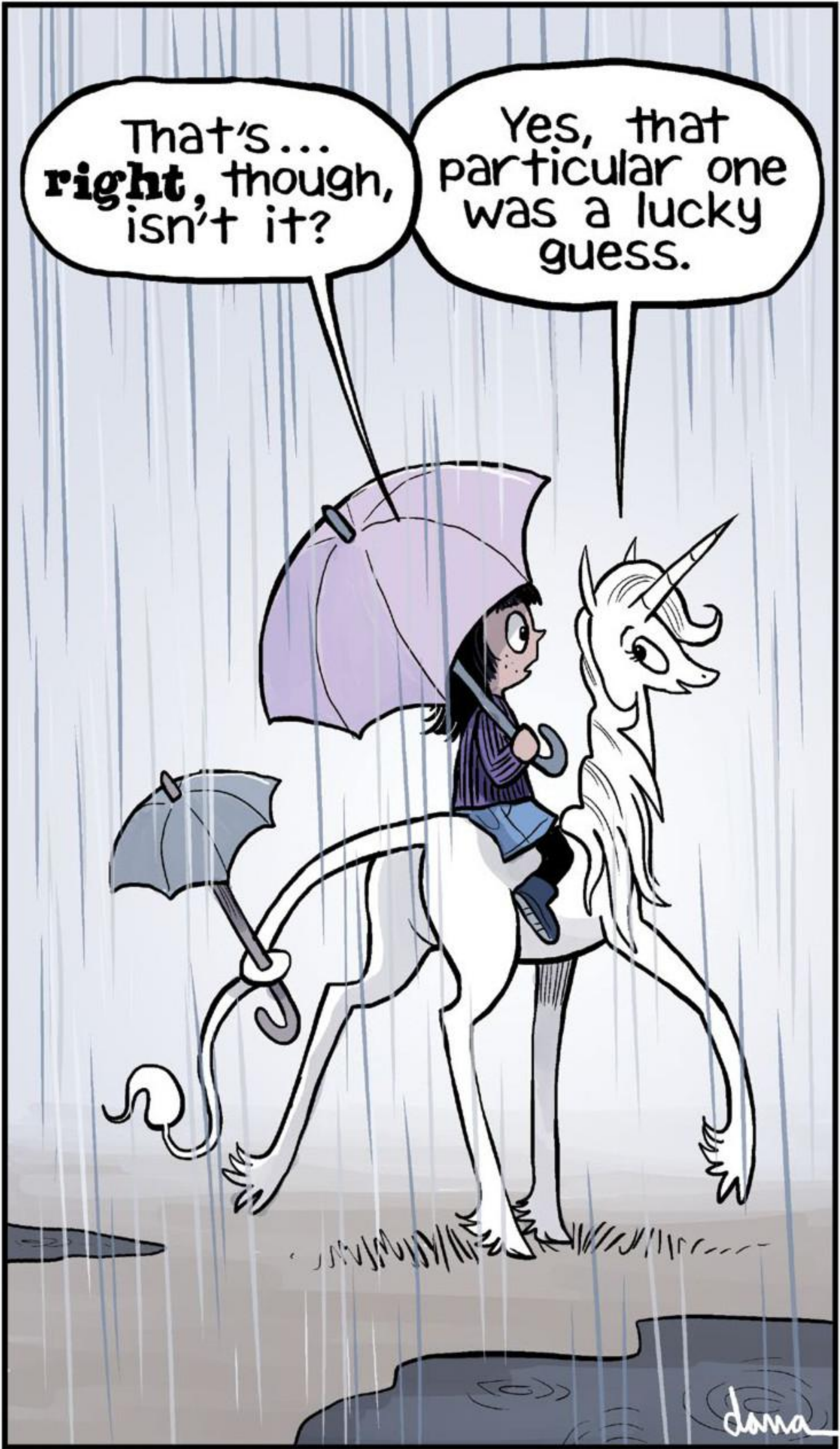
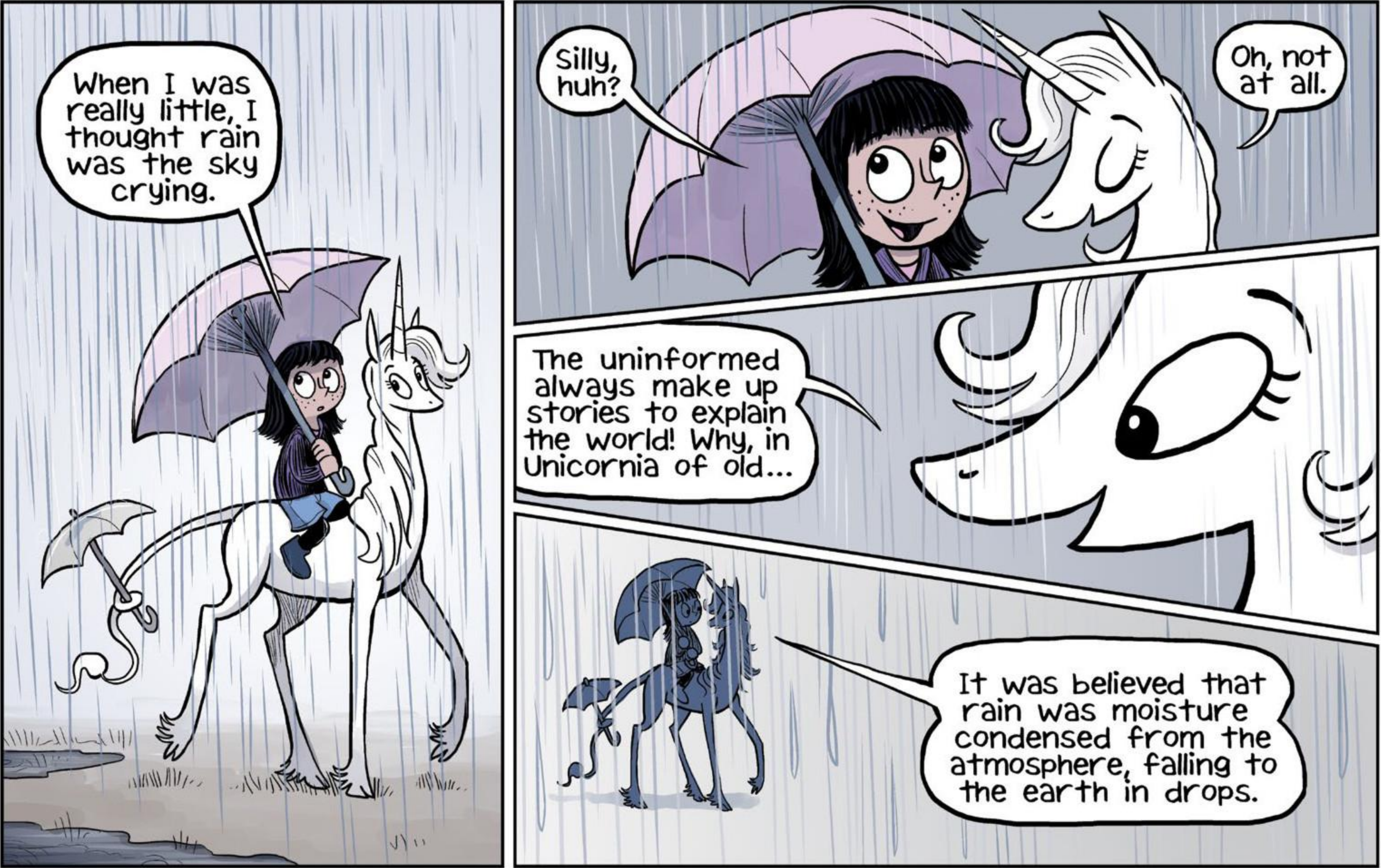


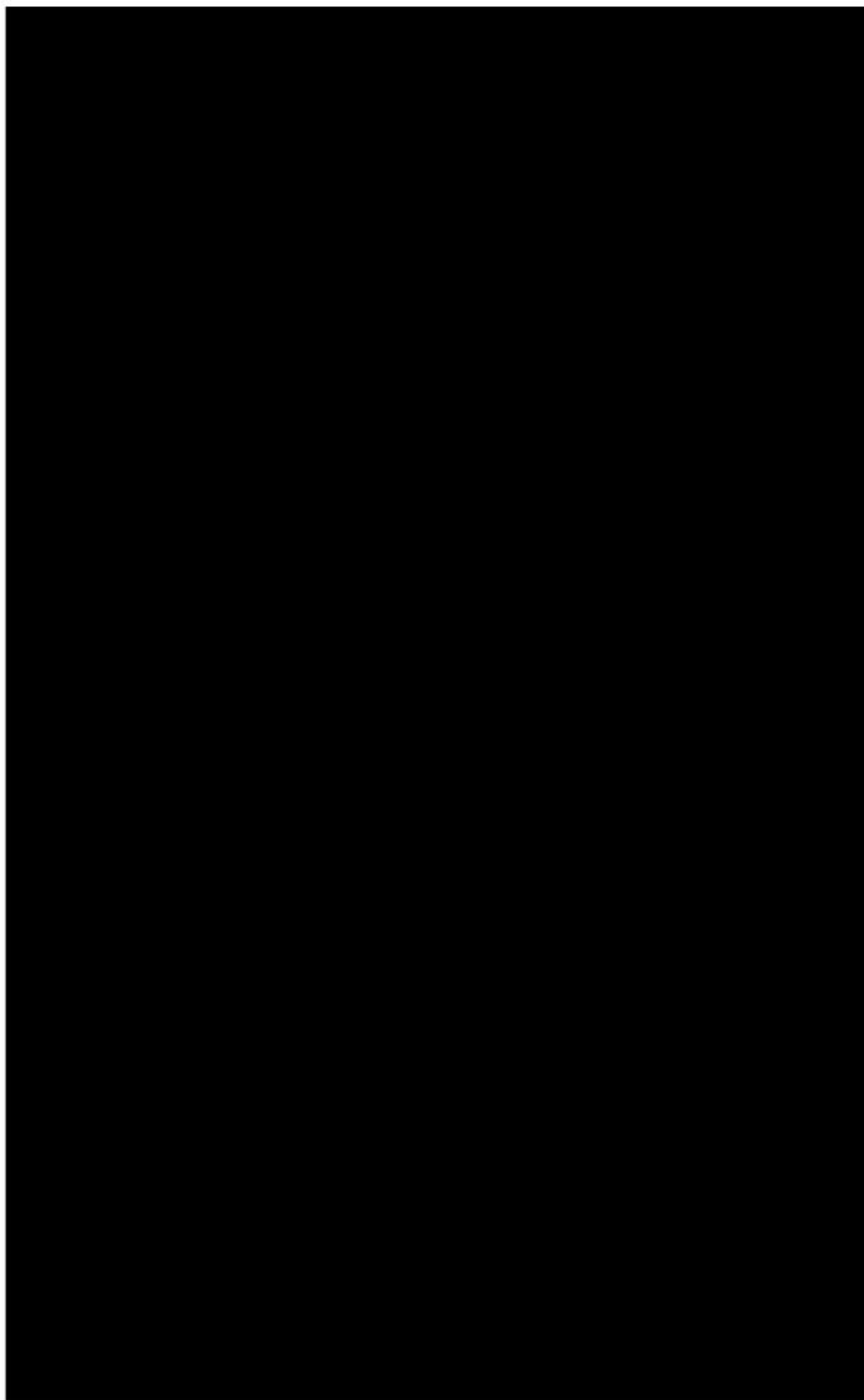
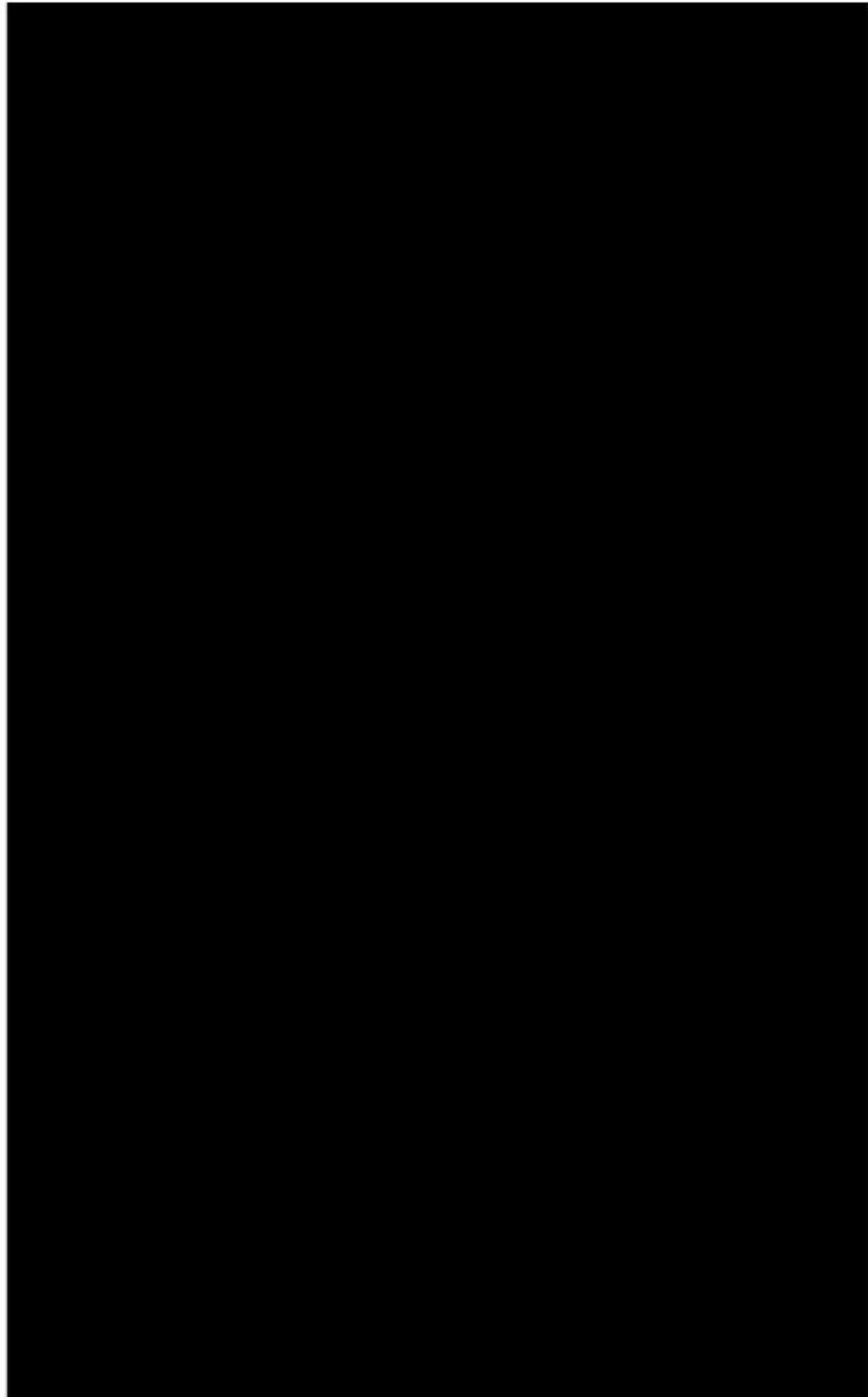
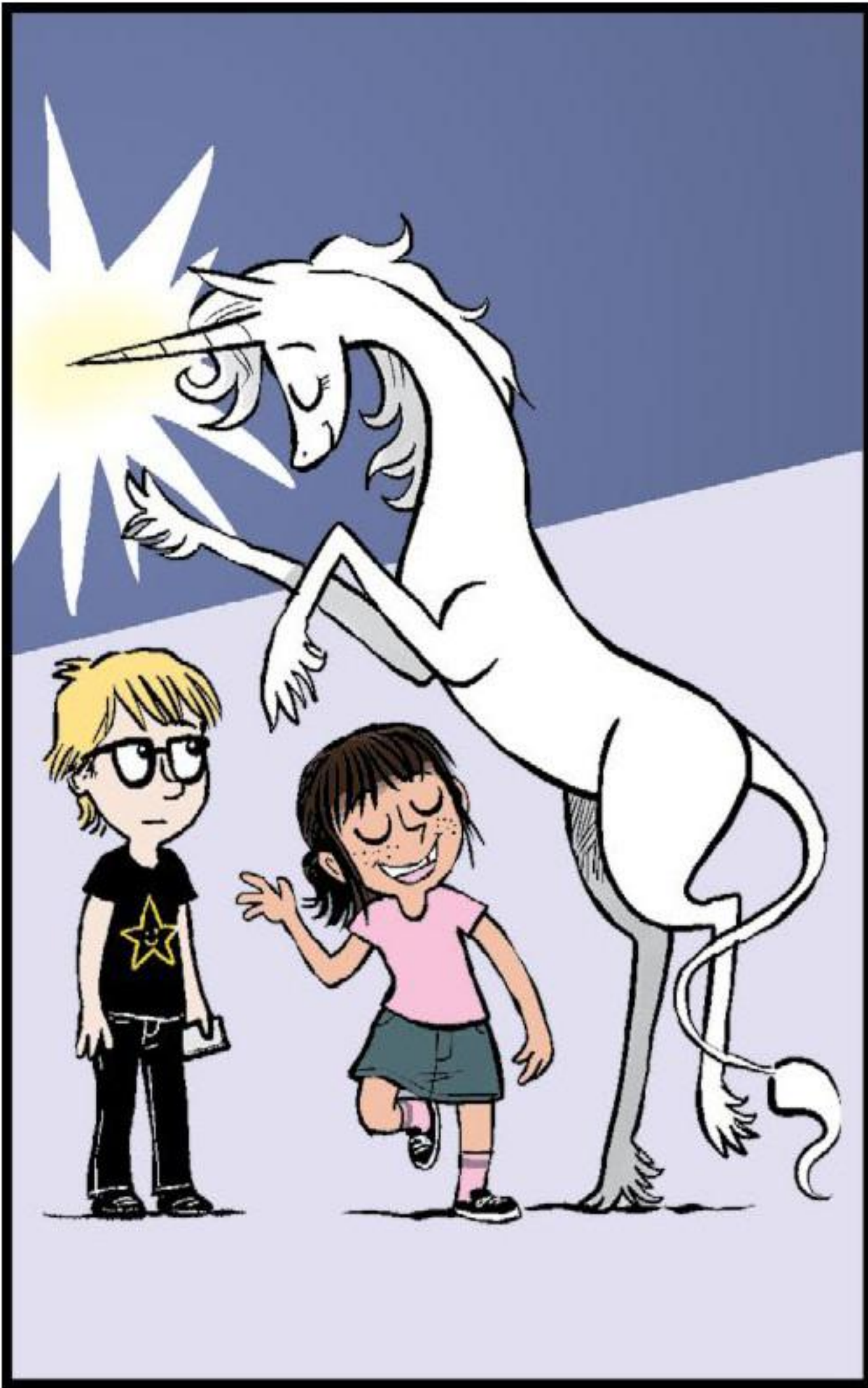




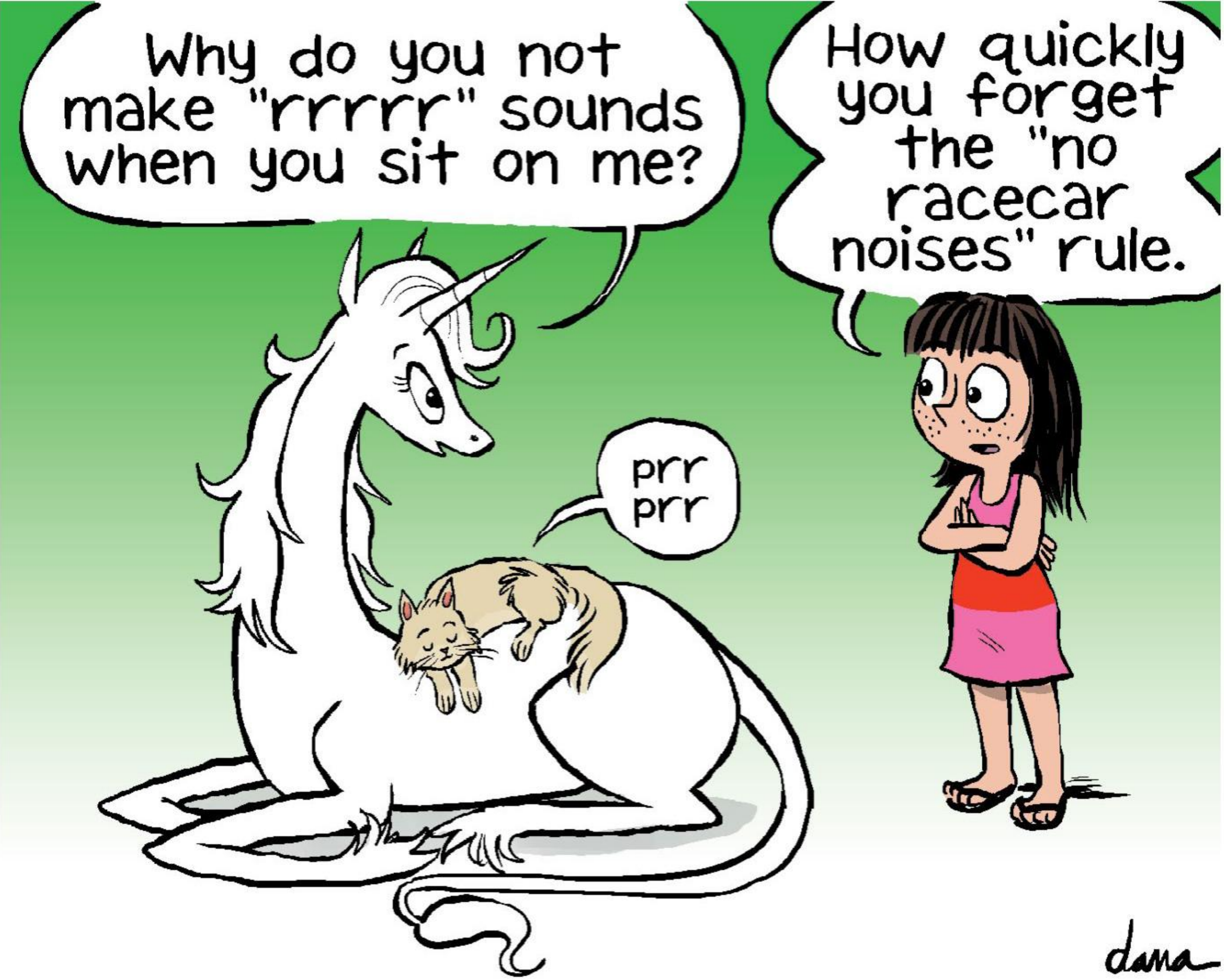
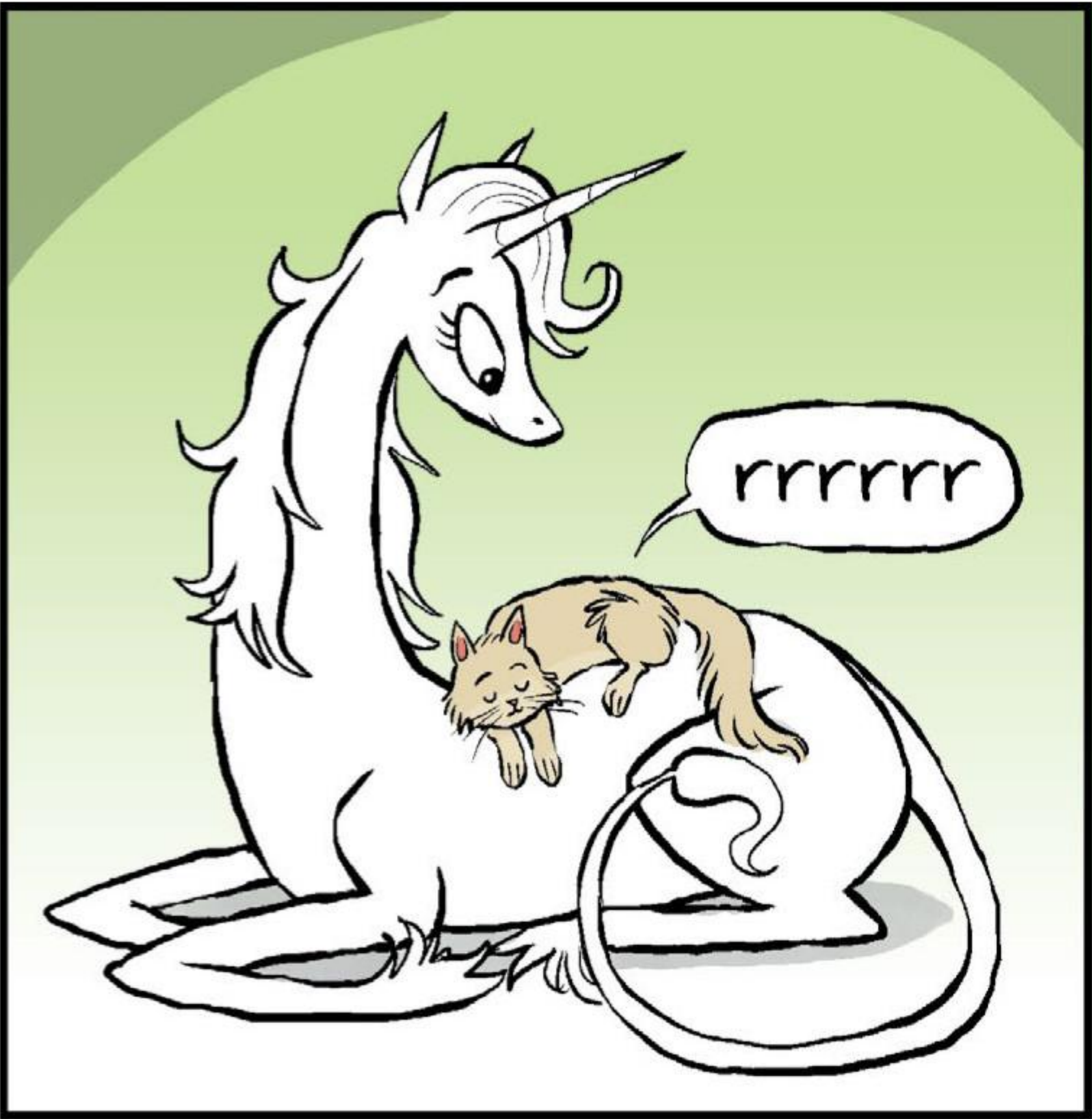
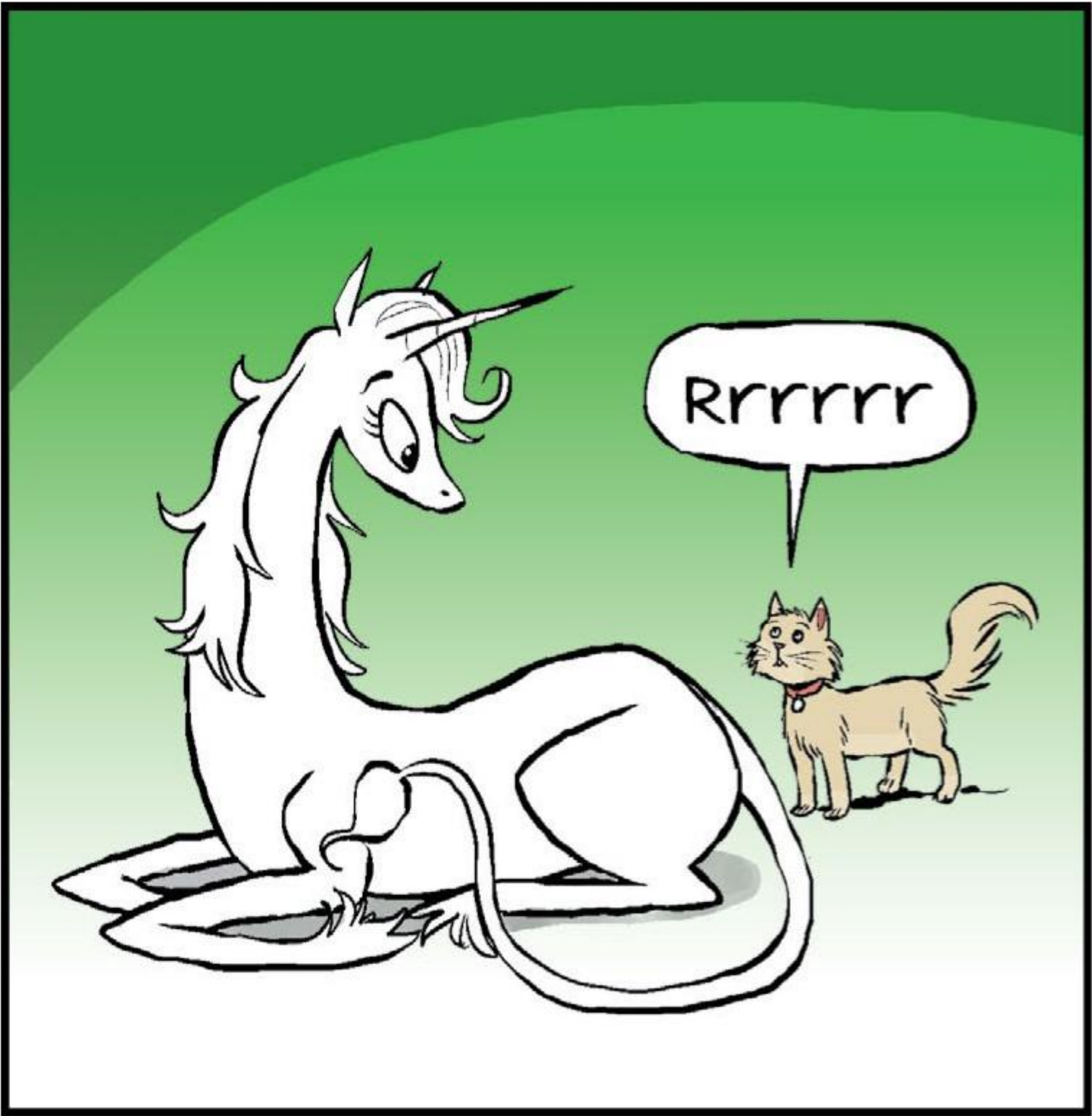


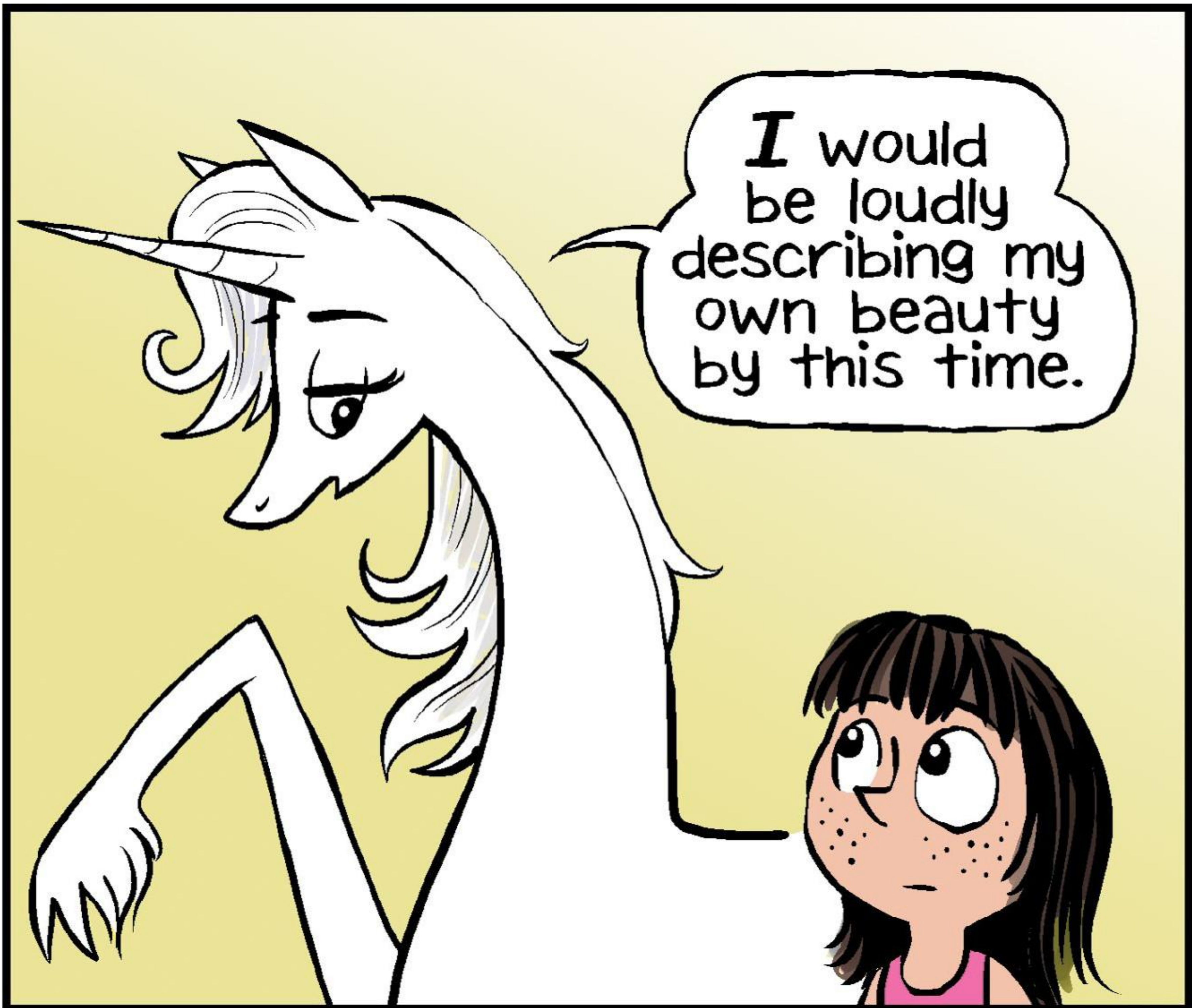
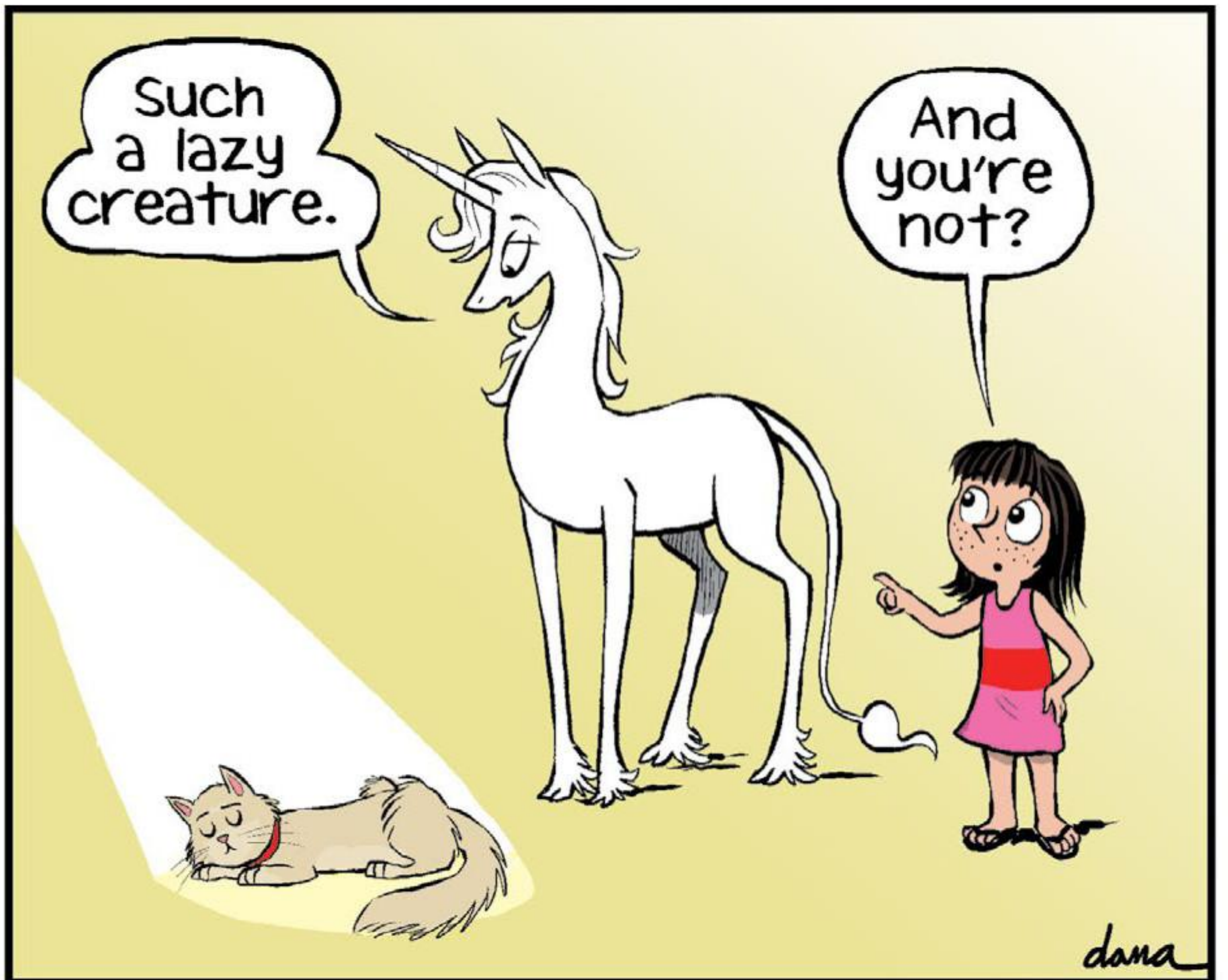






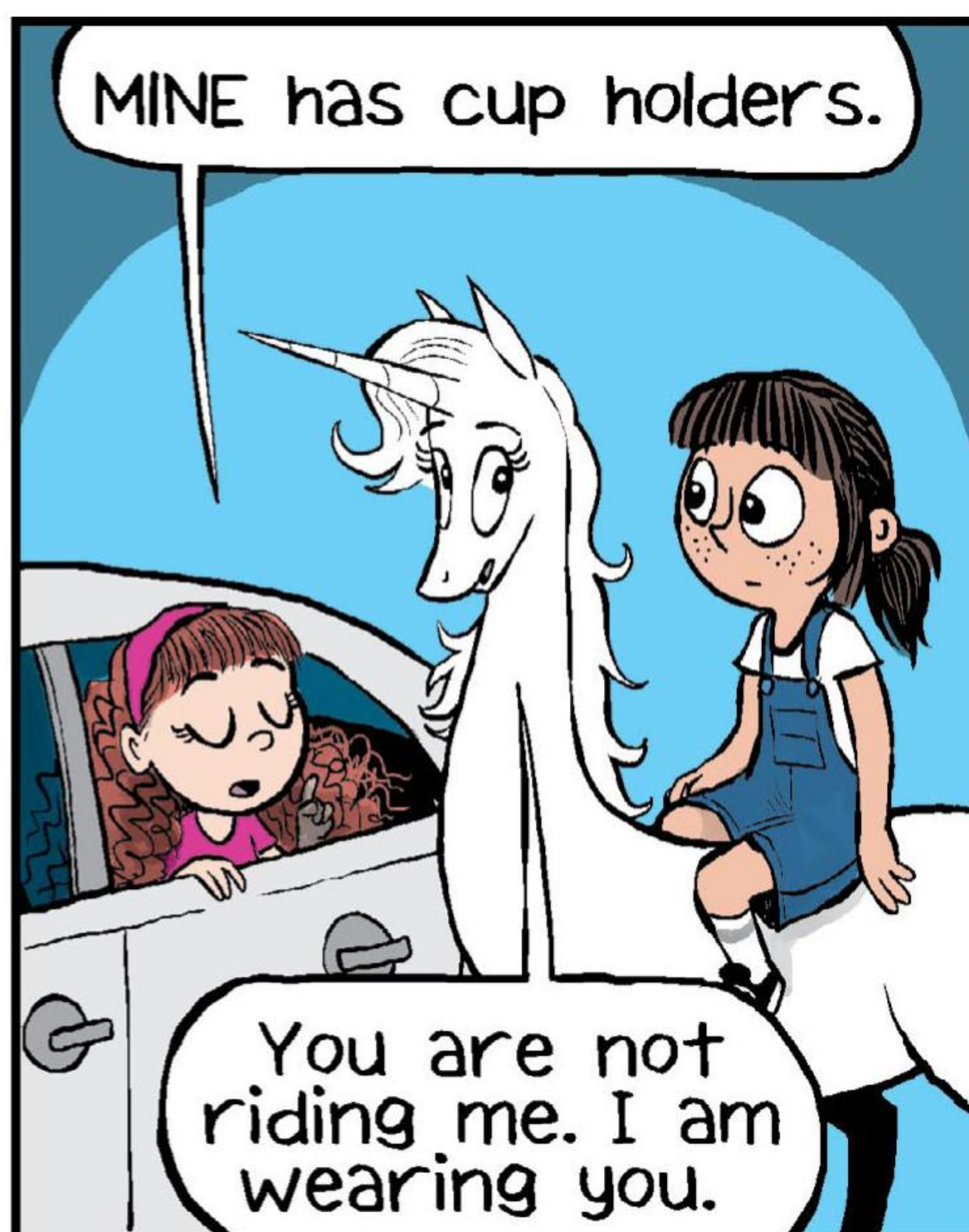


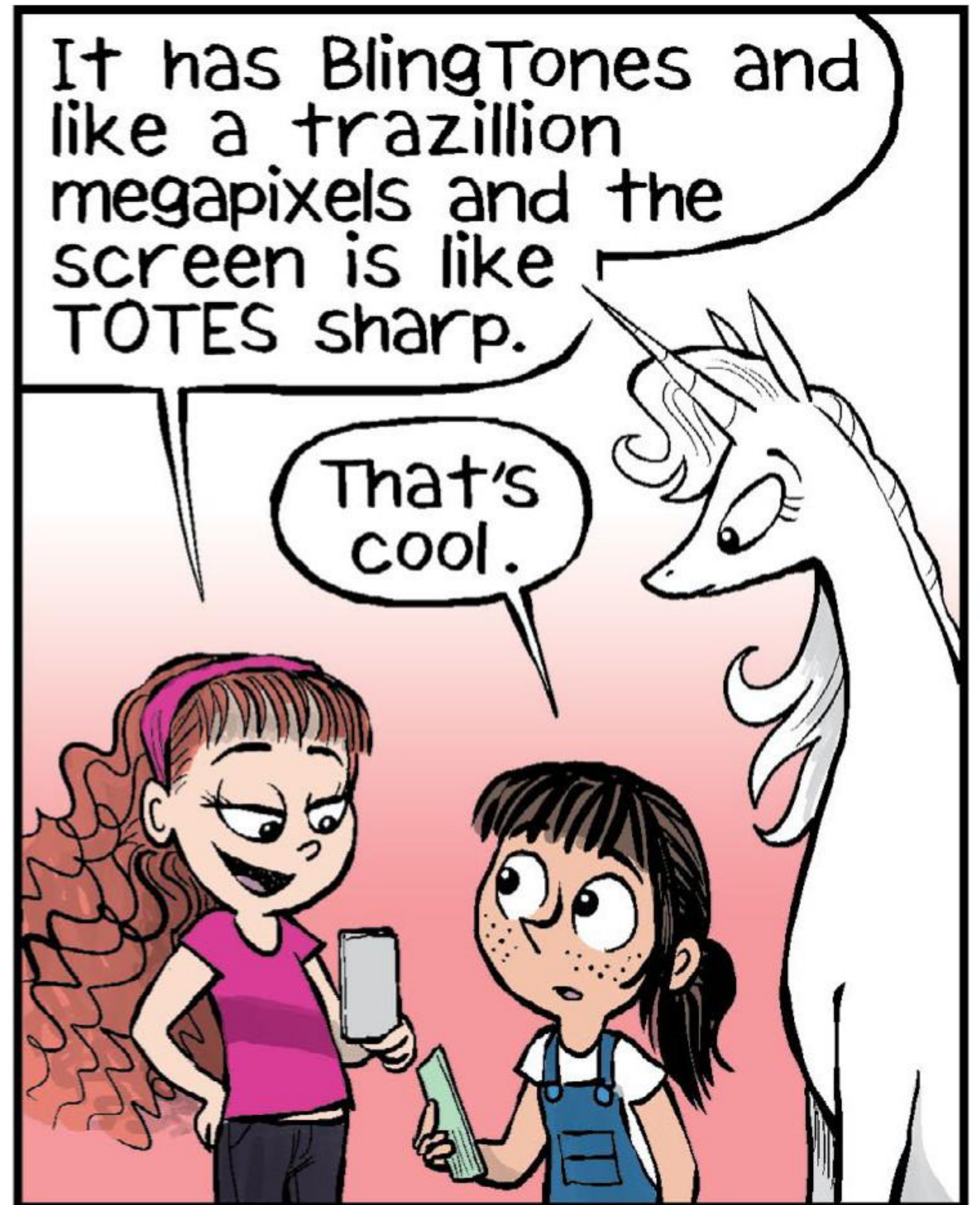










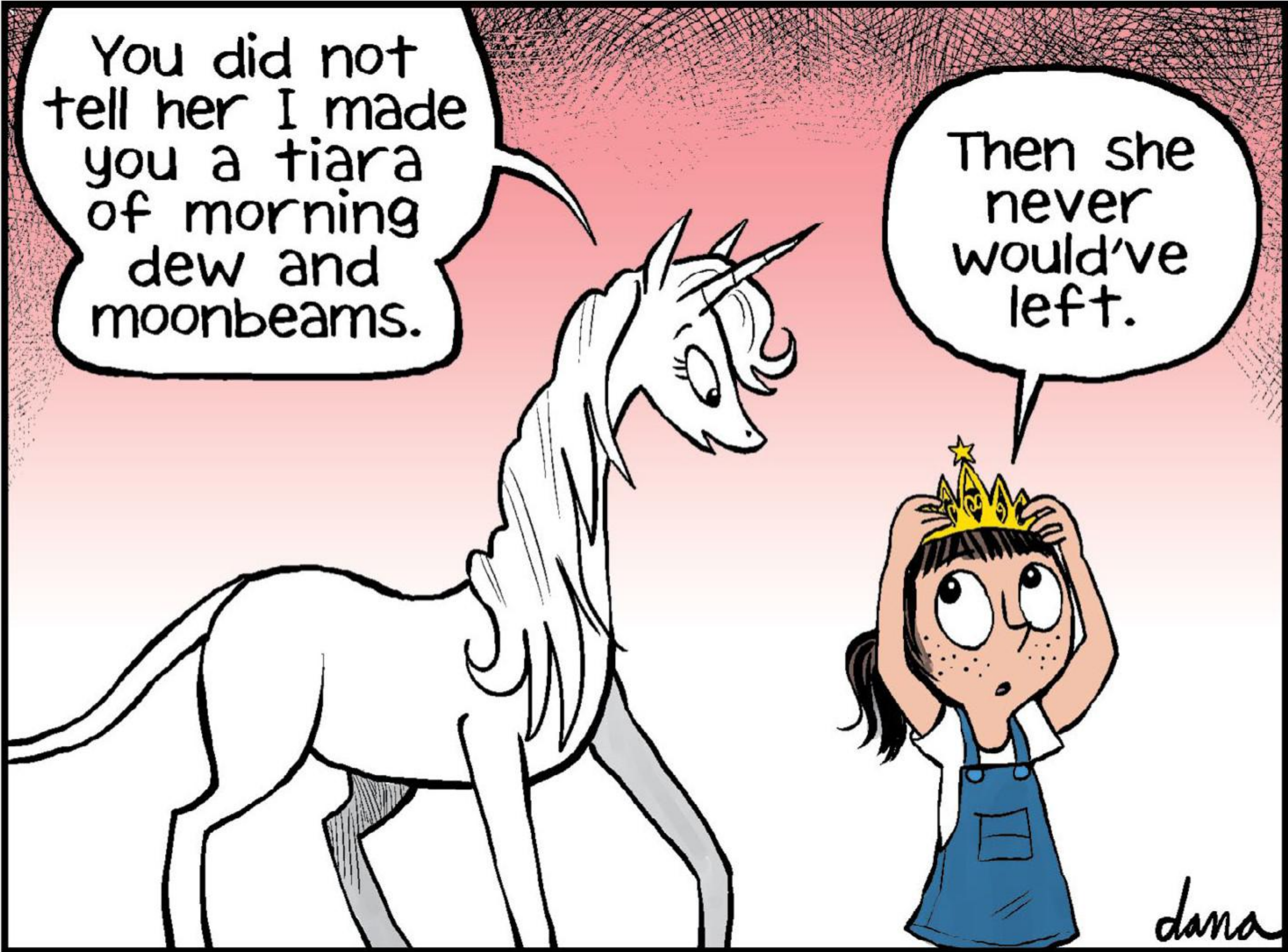


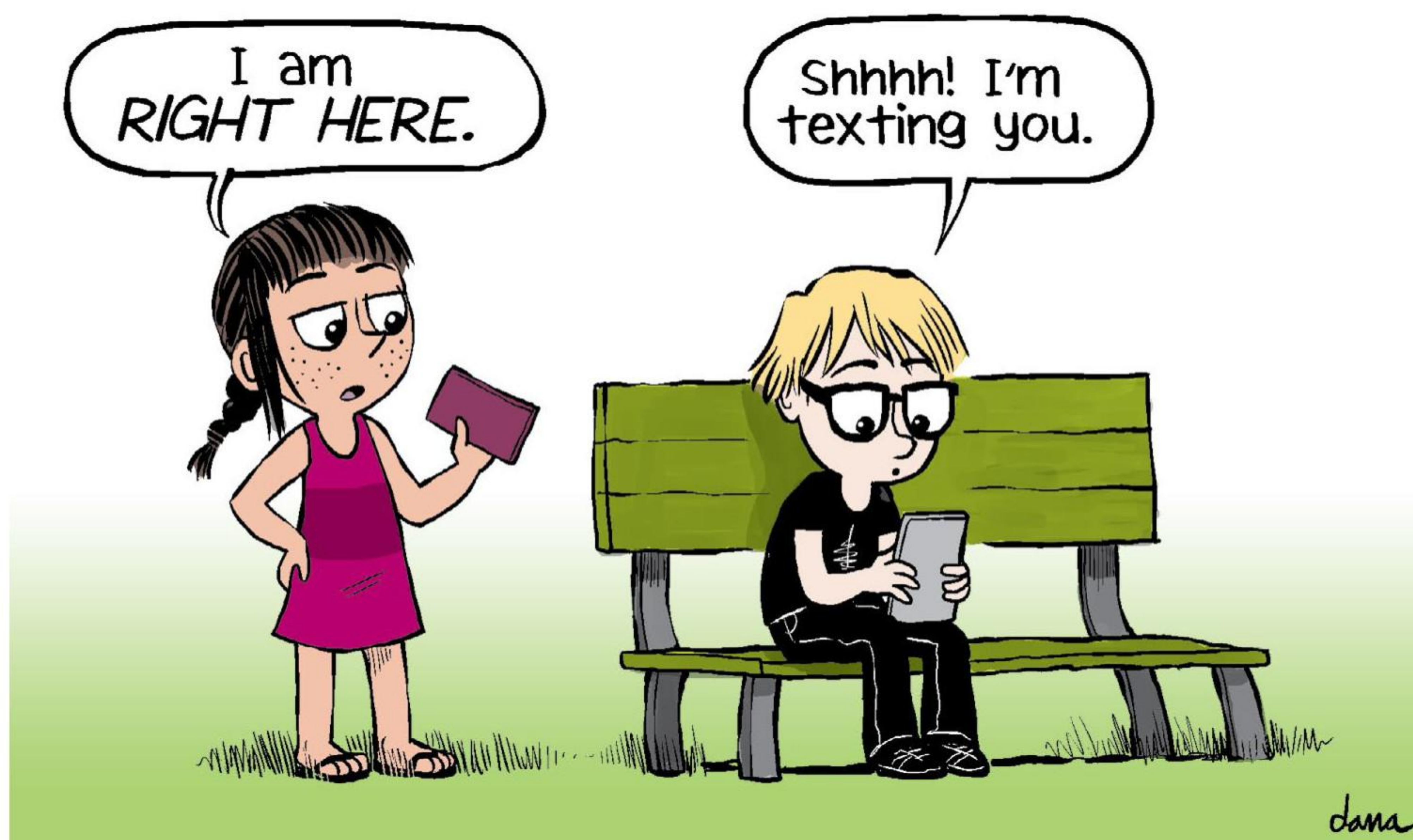


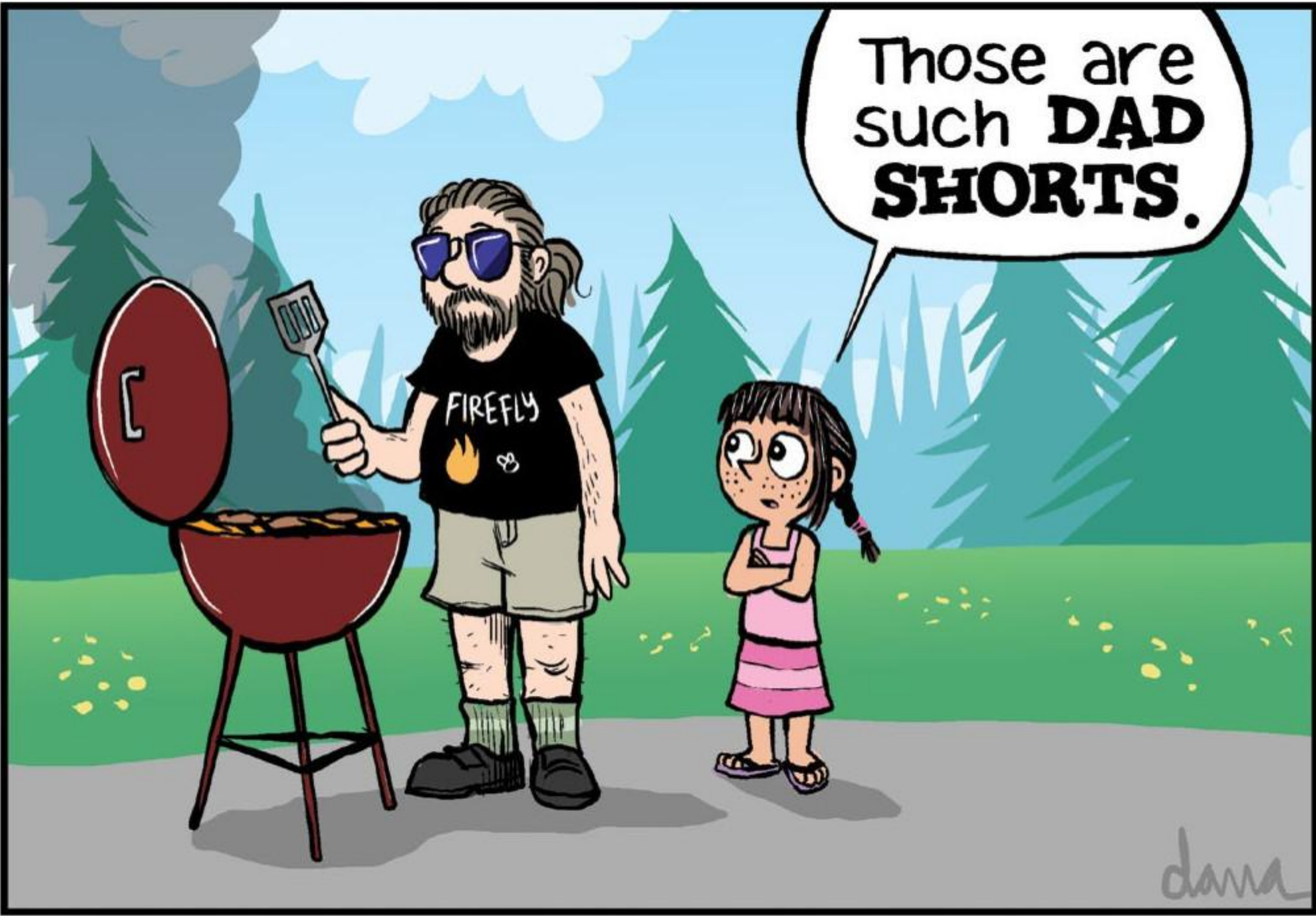


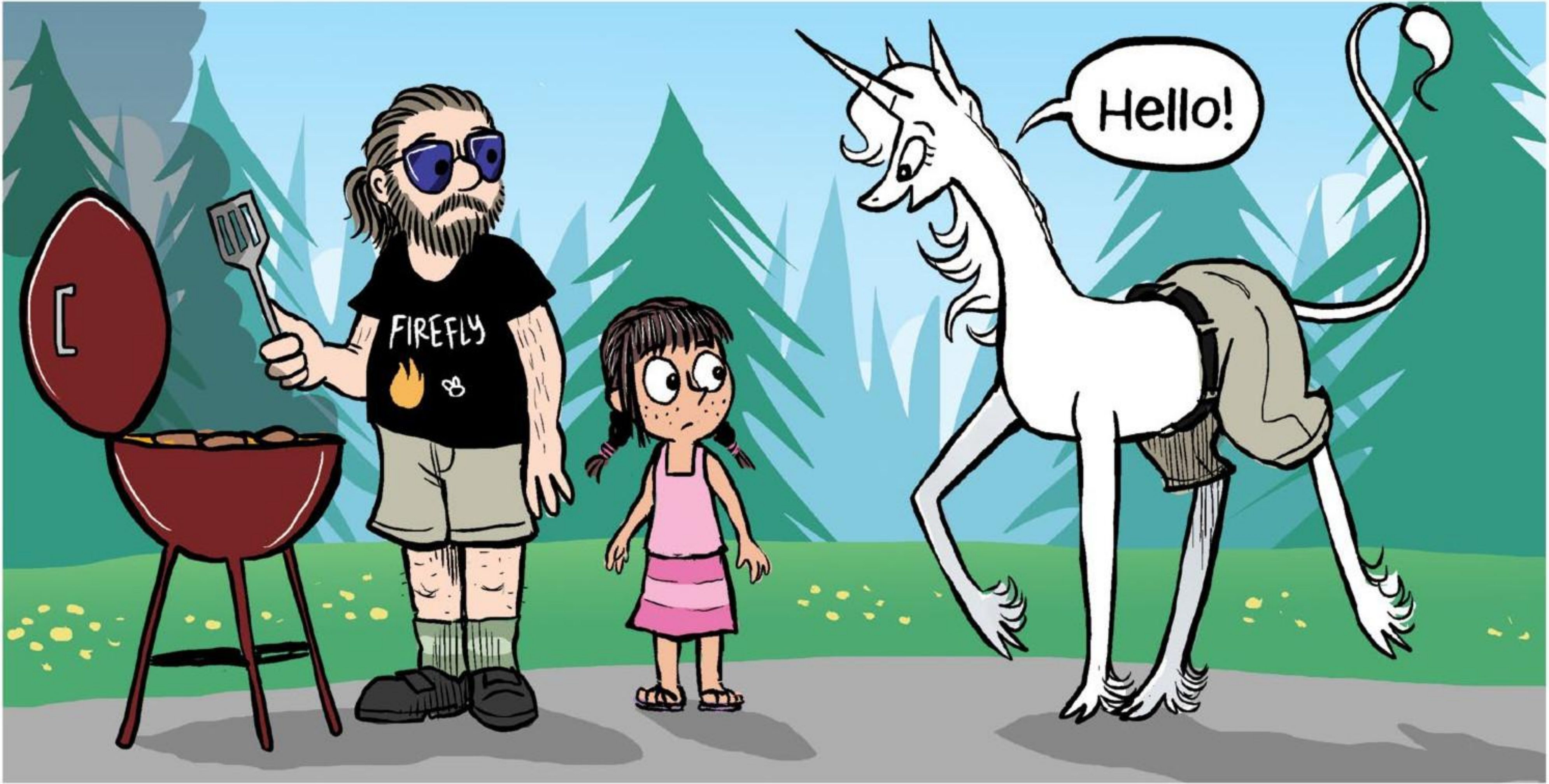
Then a unicorn would
pay someone like her
no mind.











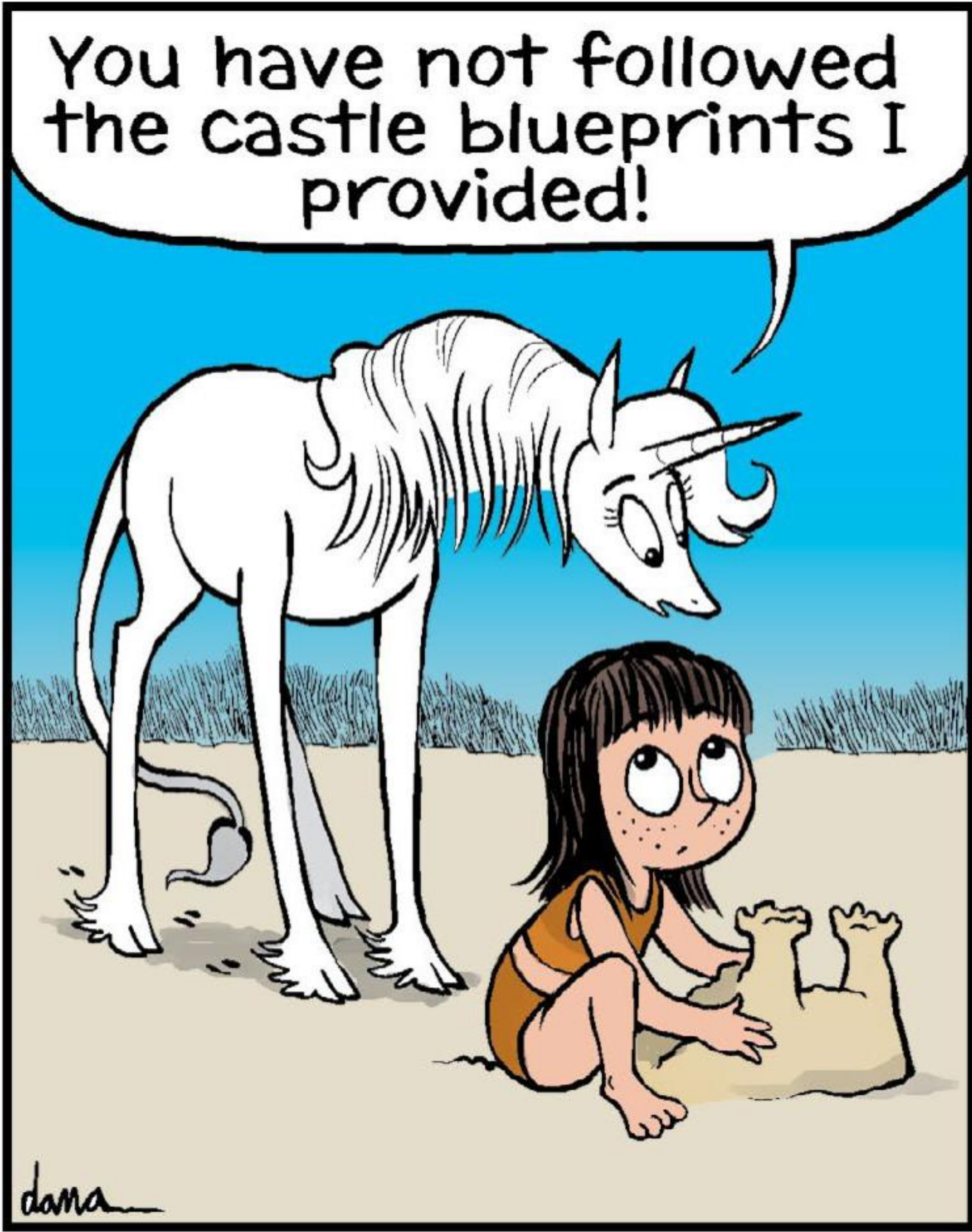




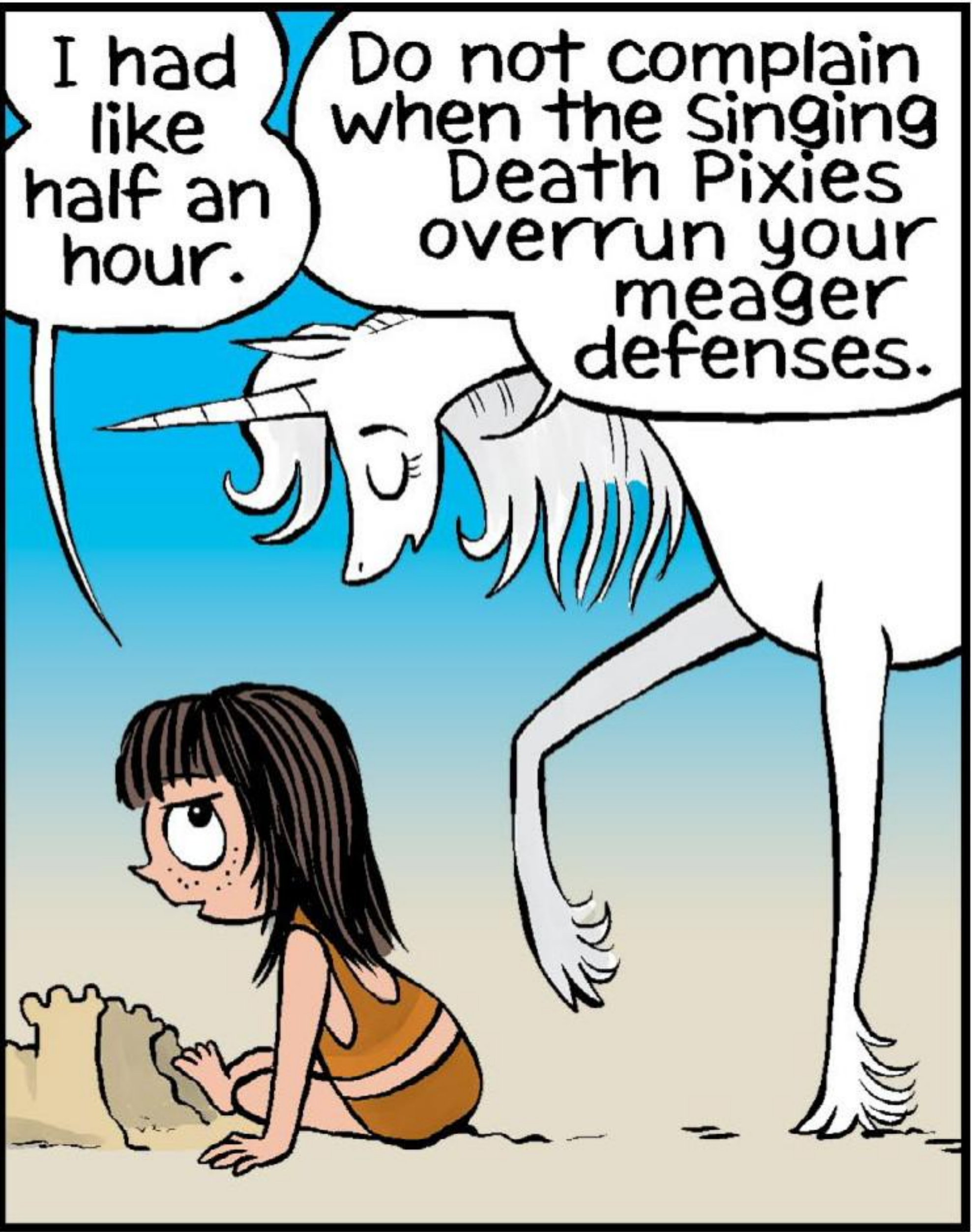


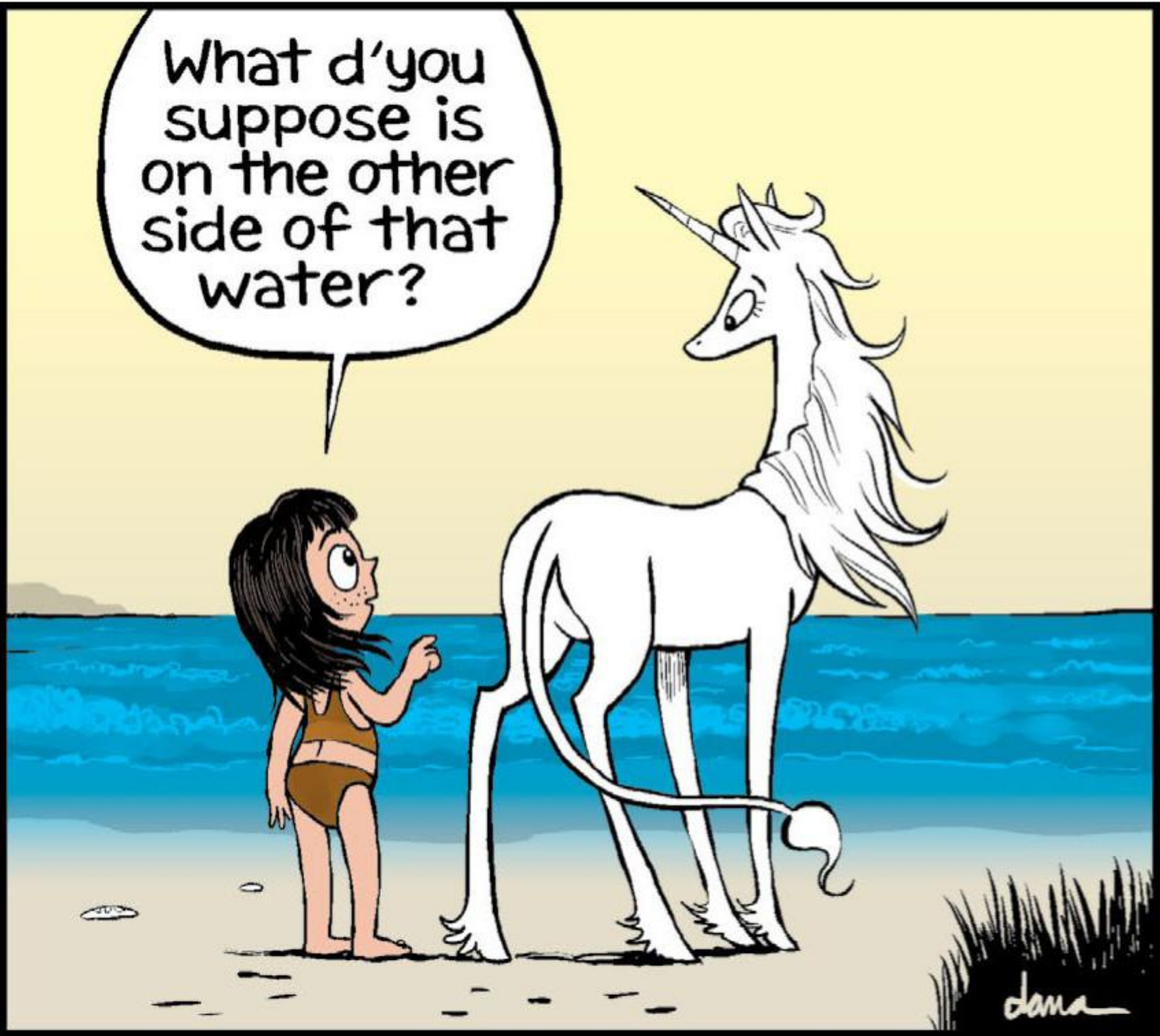






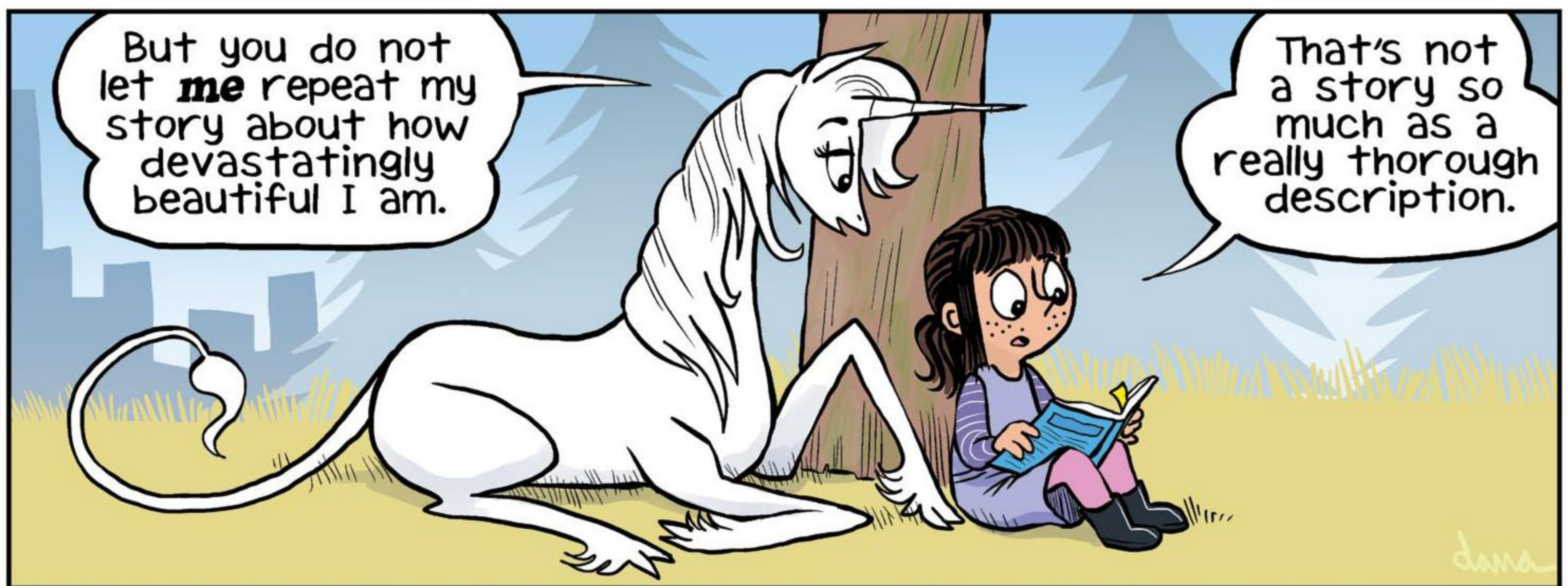
Where is the castle gate fashioned from rainbows? Where is the enchanted moat? And how will you fit enough archers on those minuscule parapets?

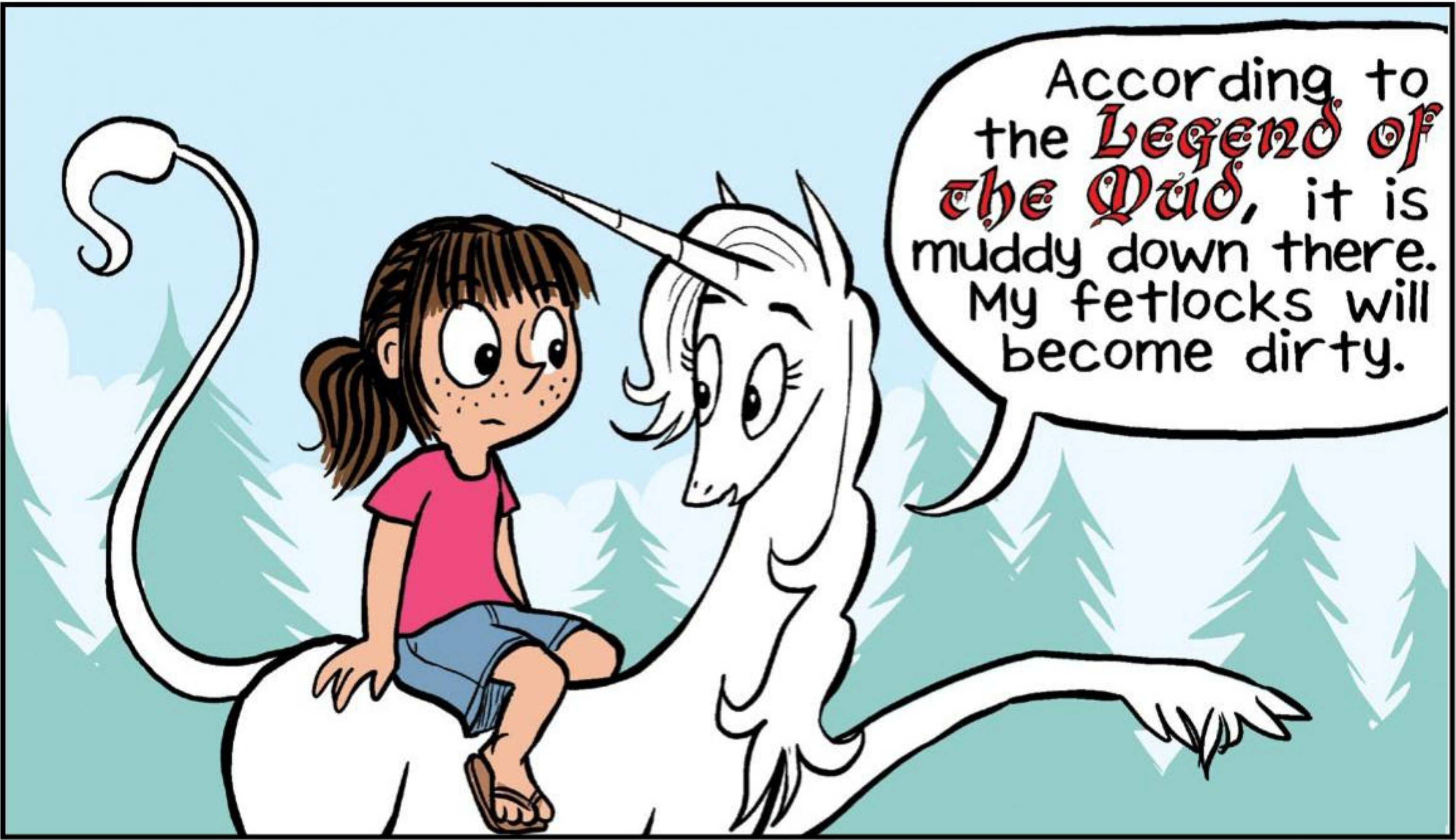


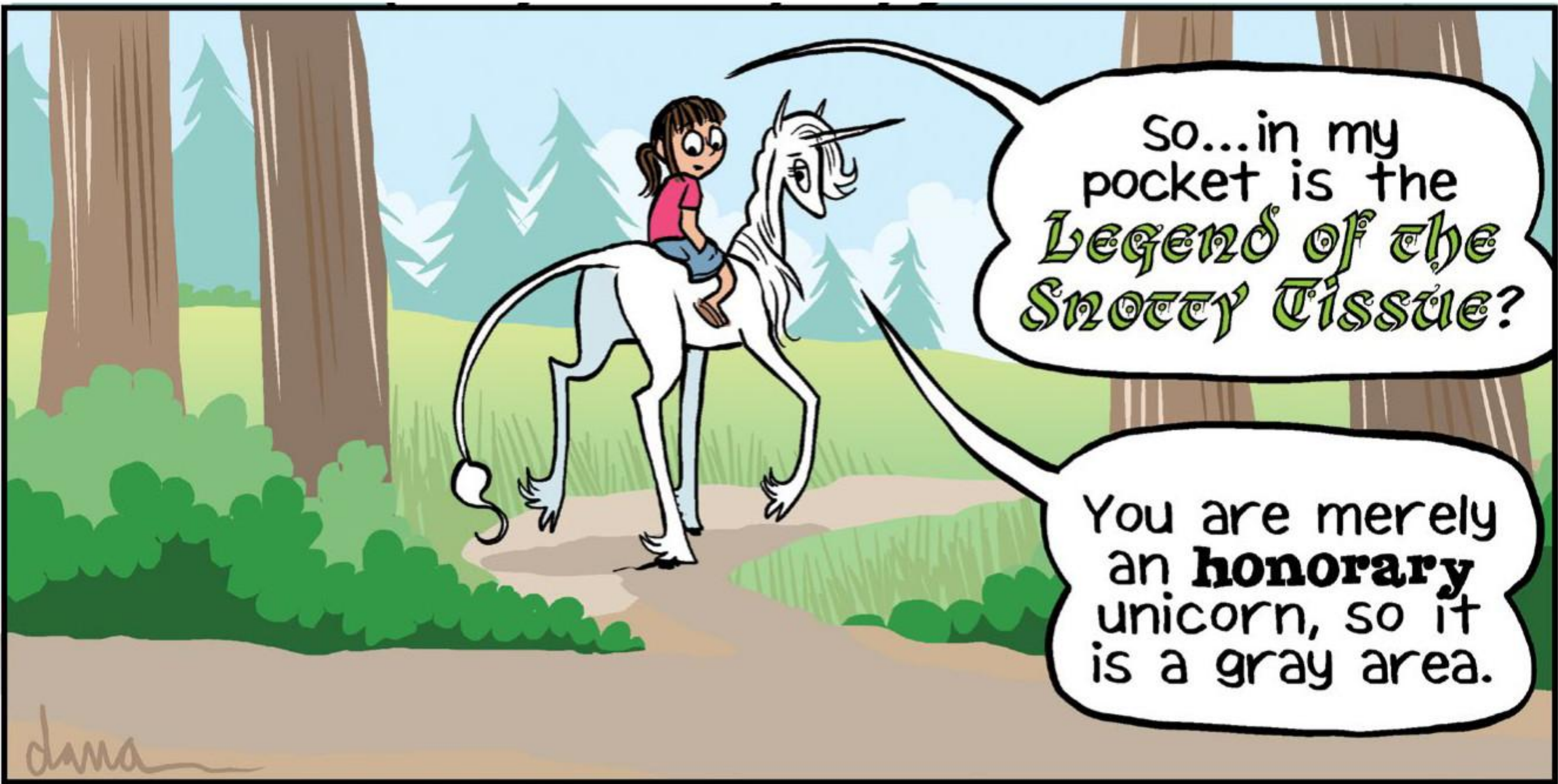
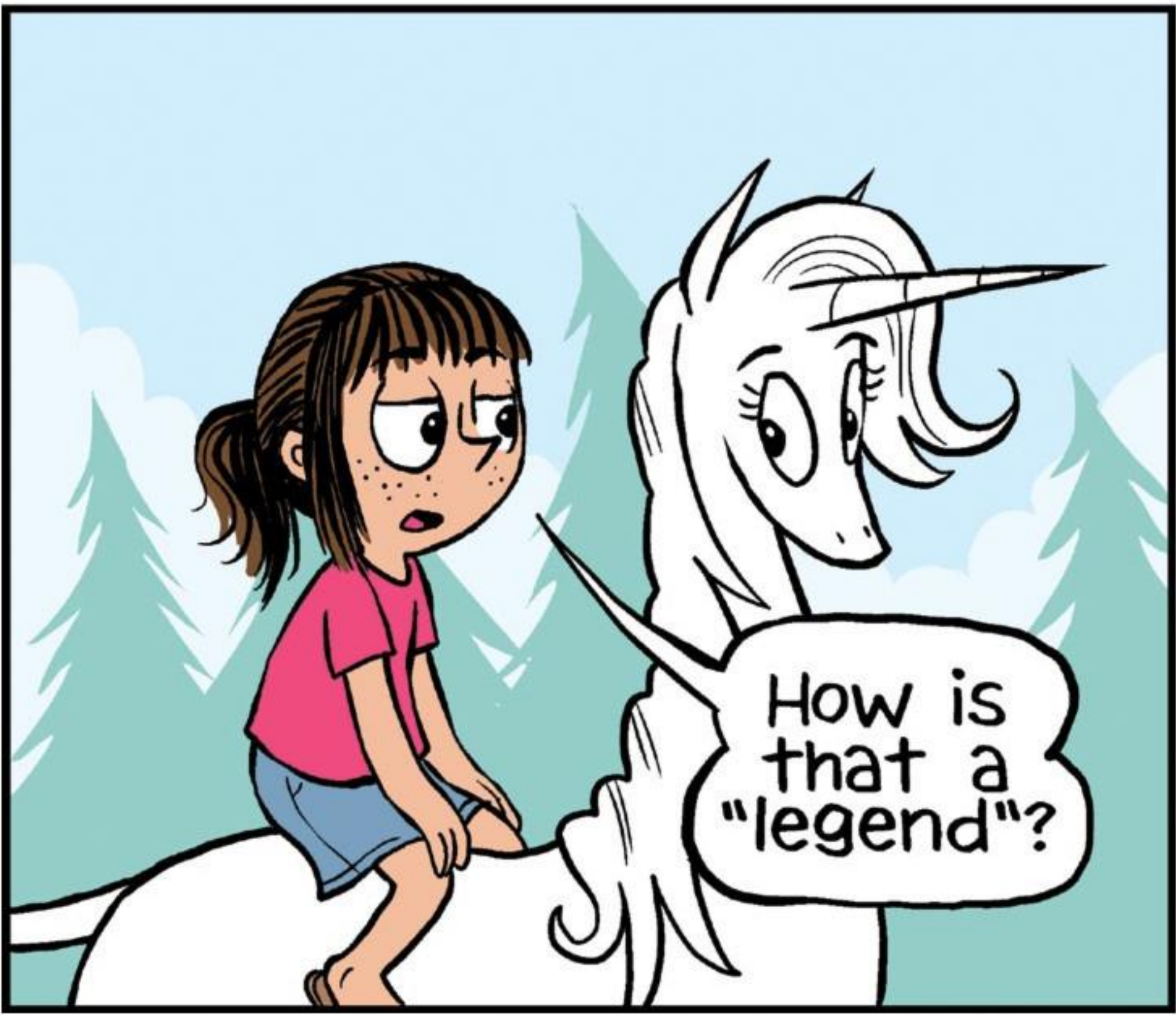




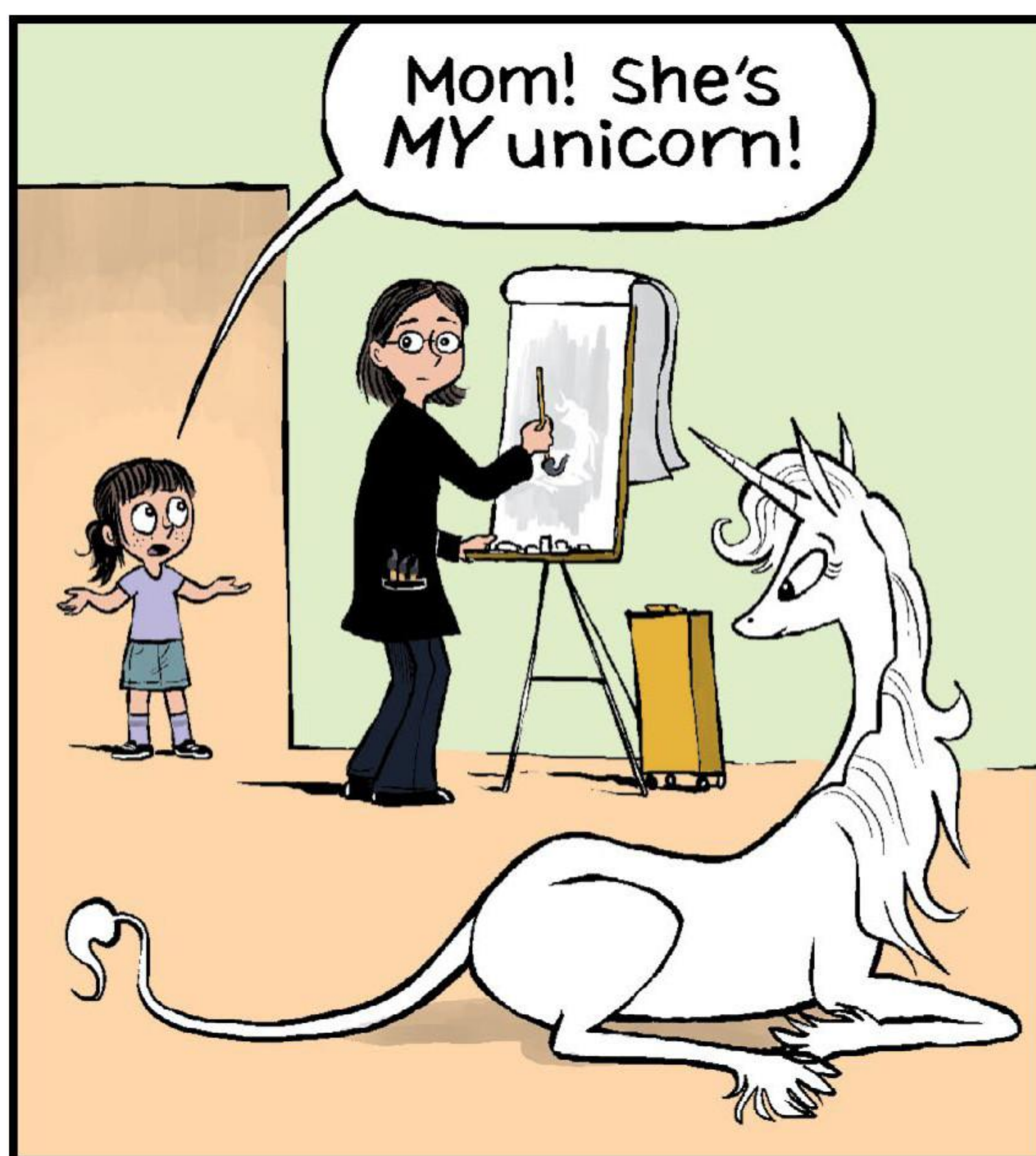












Mom! She's MY unicorn!



Unicorns do not belong to anyone.



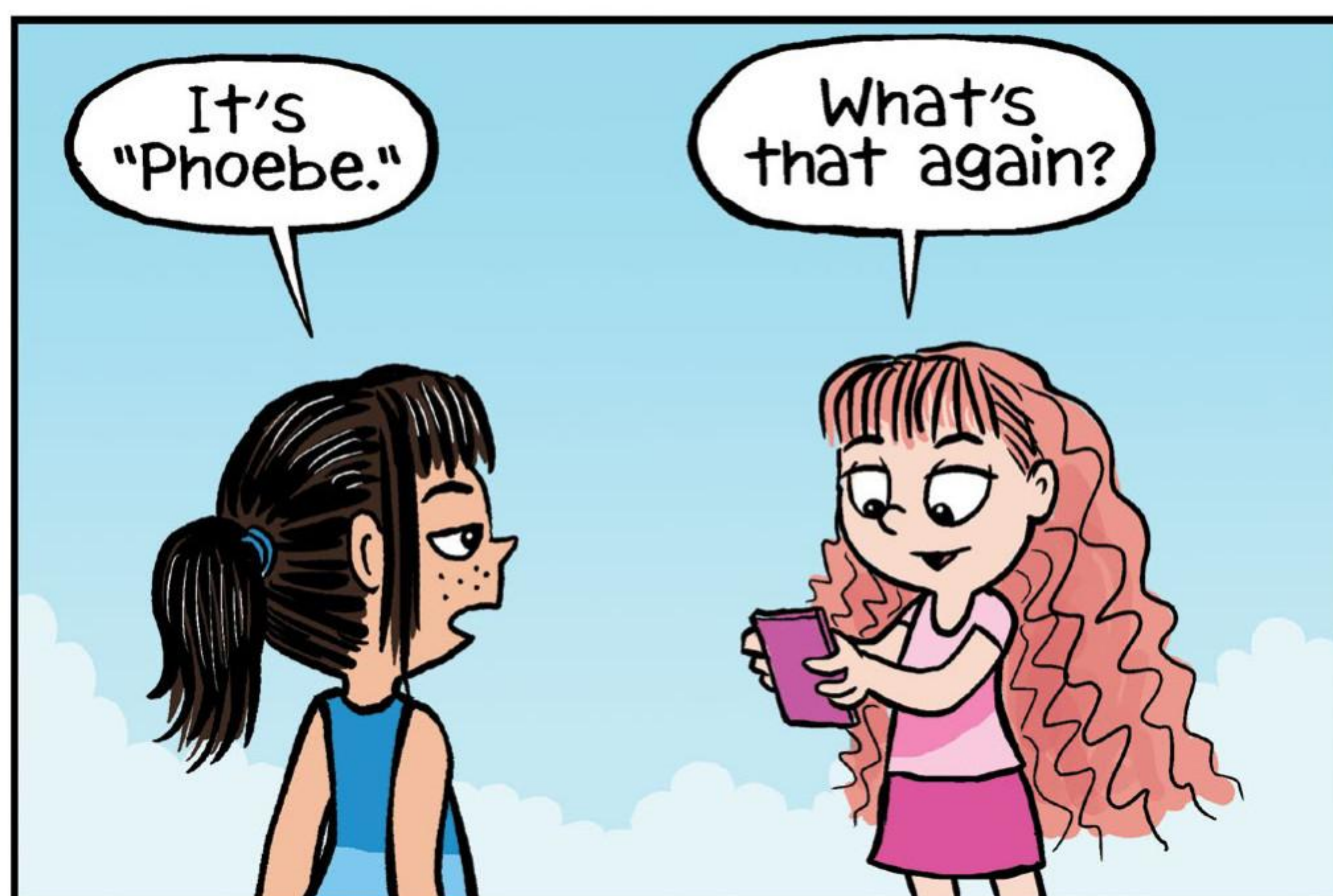
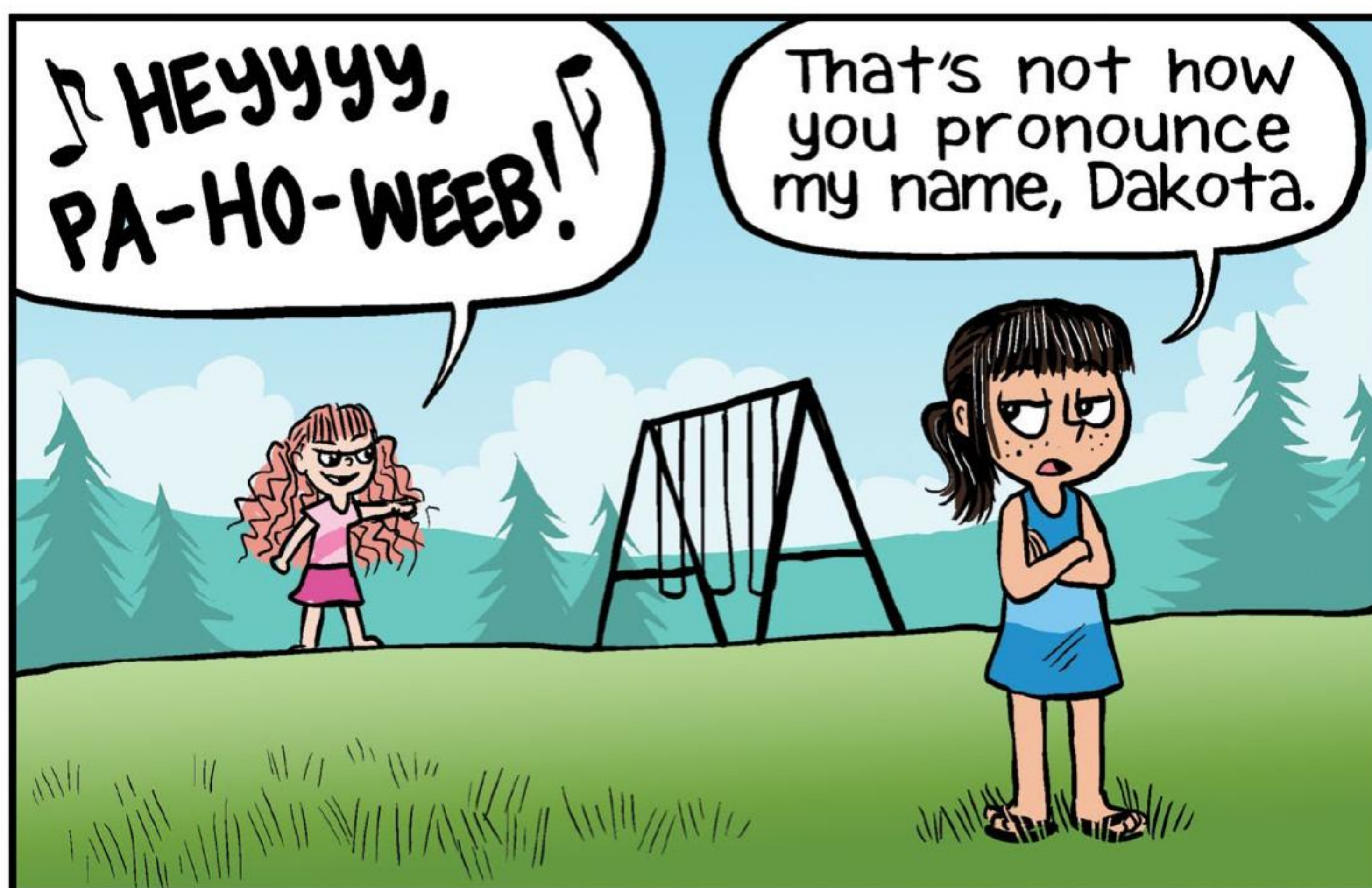
But you're cool, and stuff moms like is NEVER cool.



I like YOU, too, sweetie.

Mo-ooooom! My CRED!!

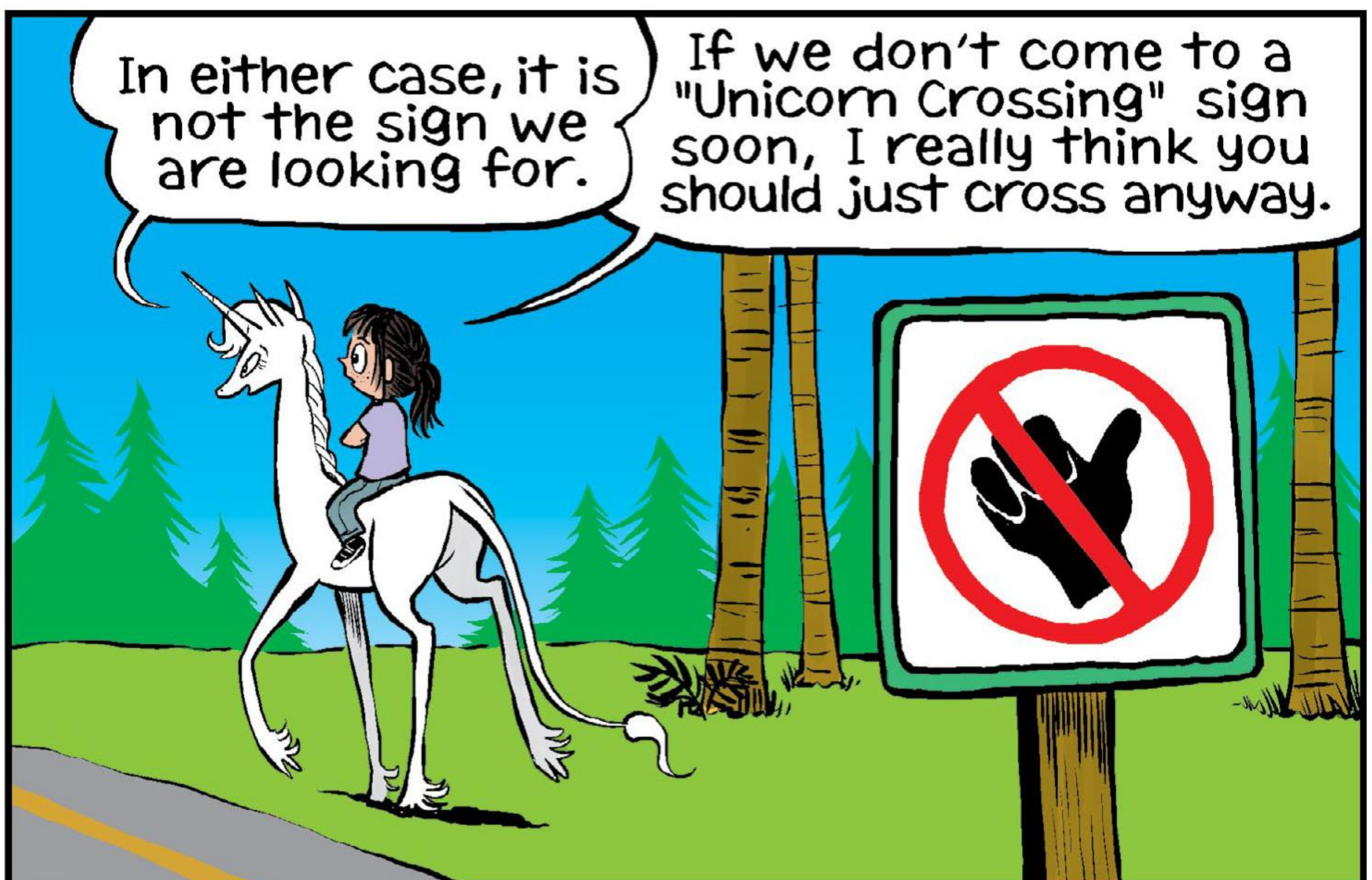
dama



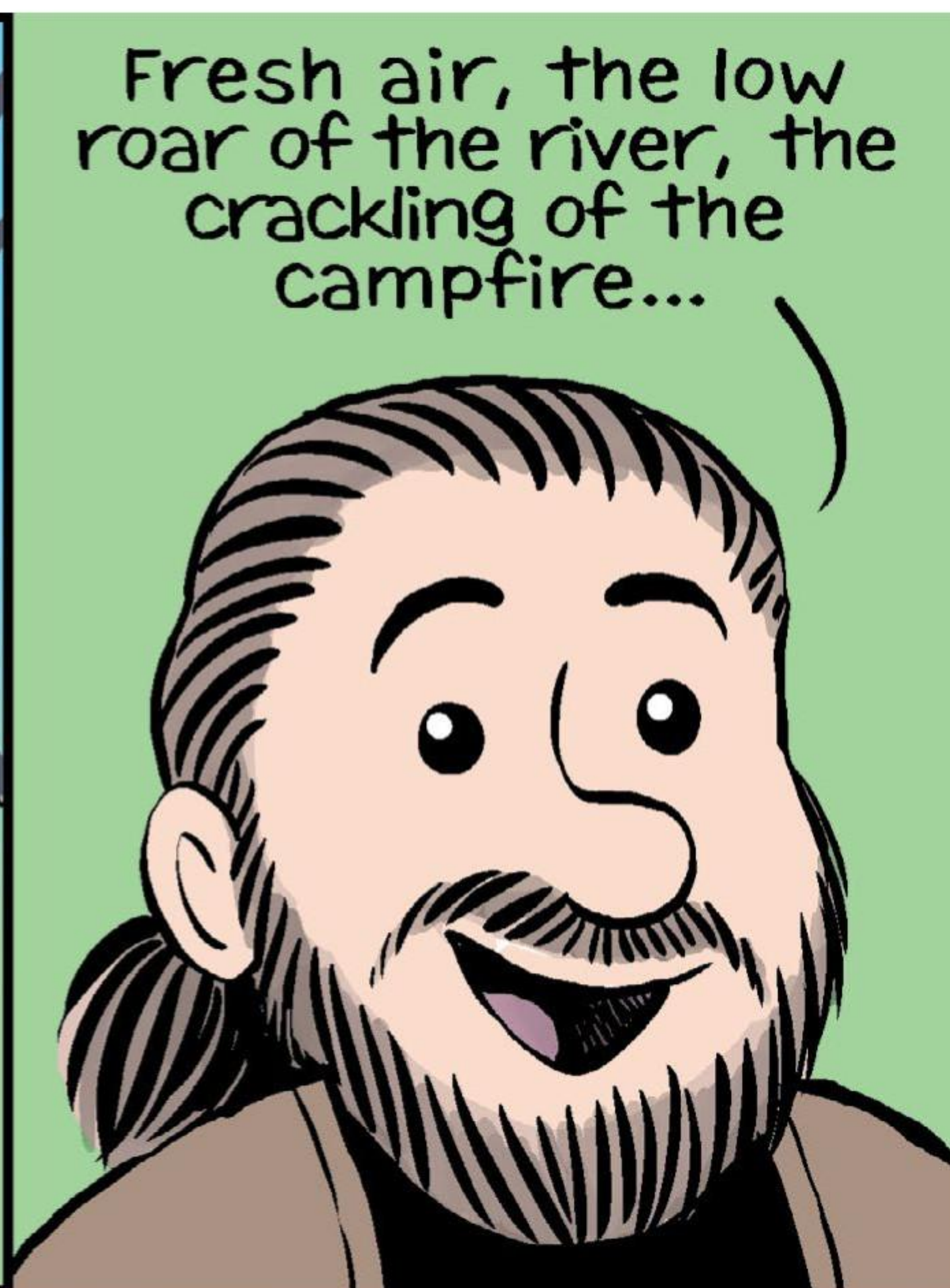


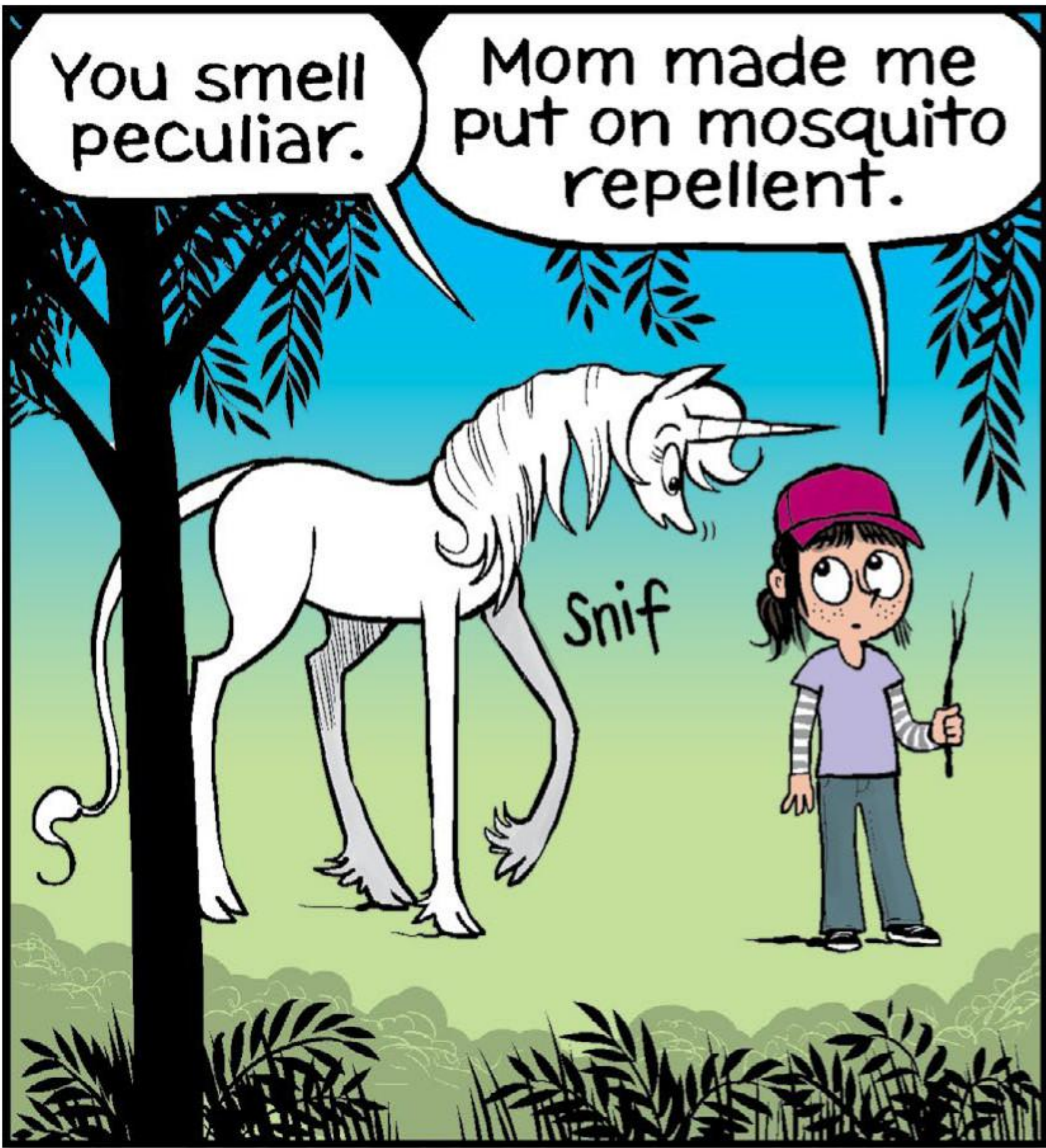








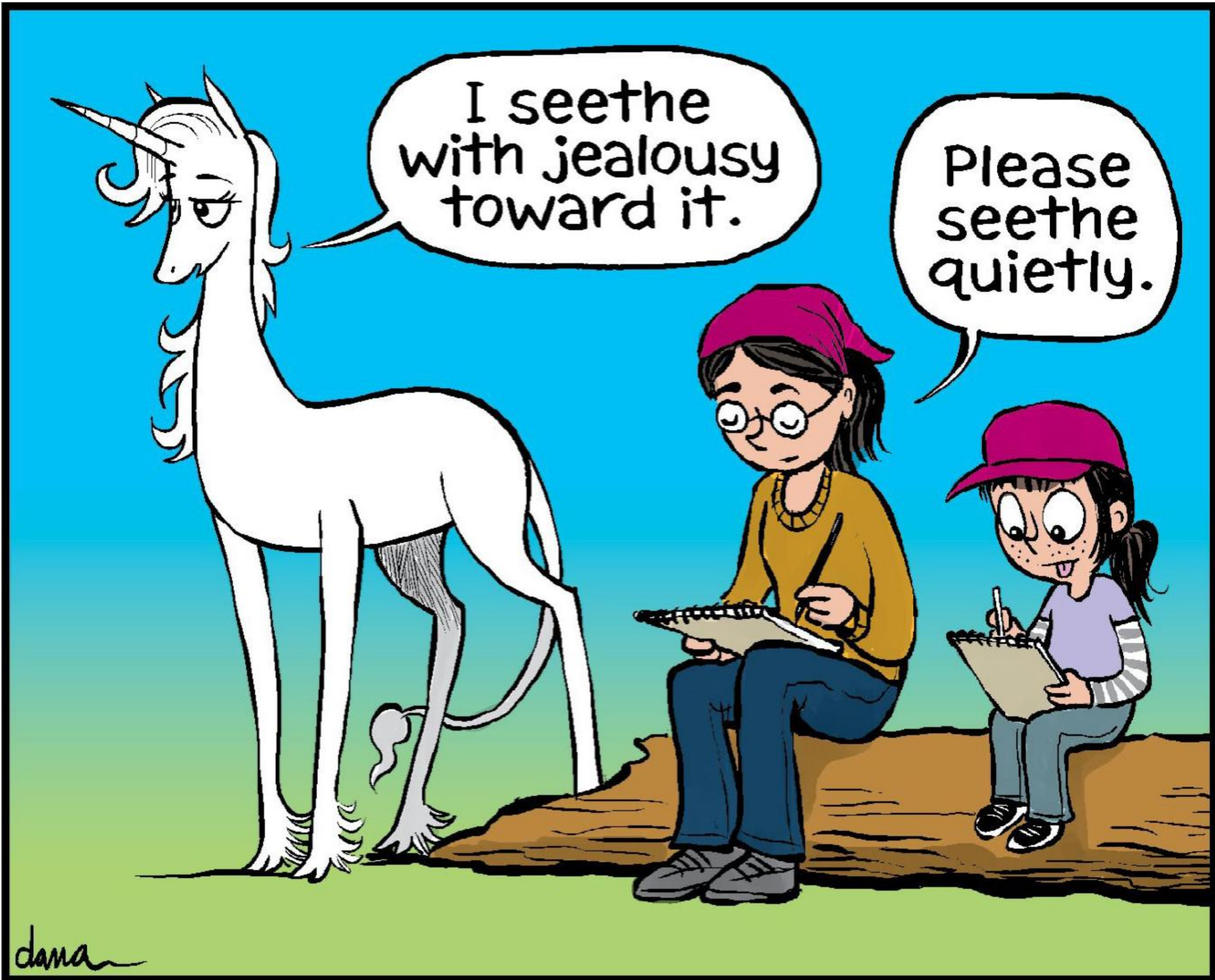


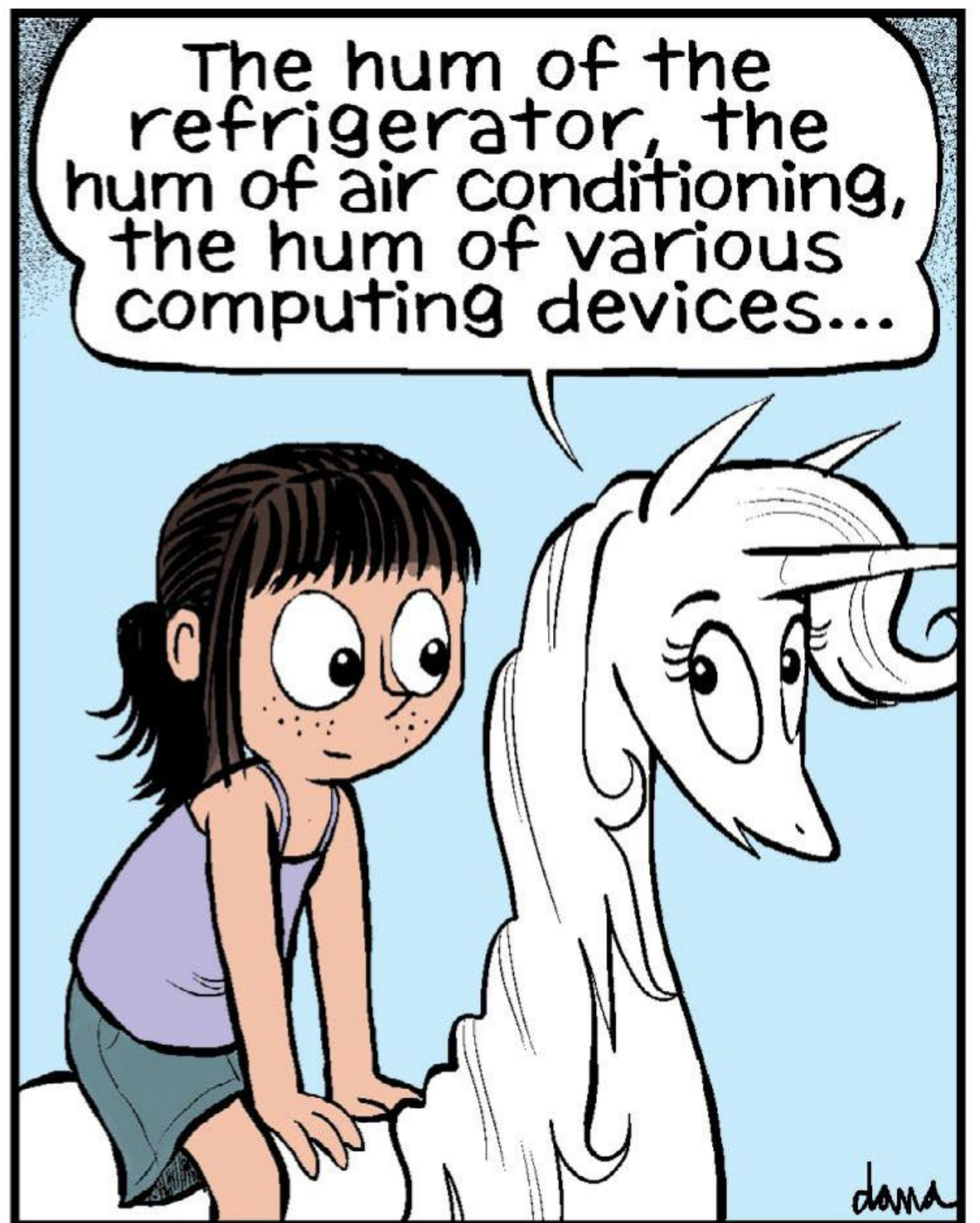






The forest is a magical place, overflowing with beauty and wonder.









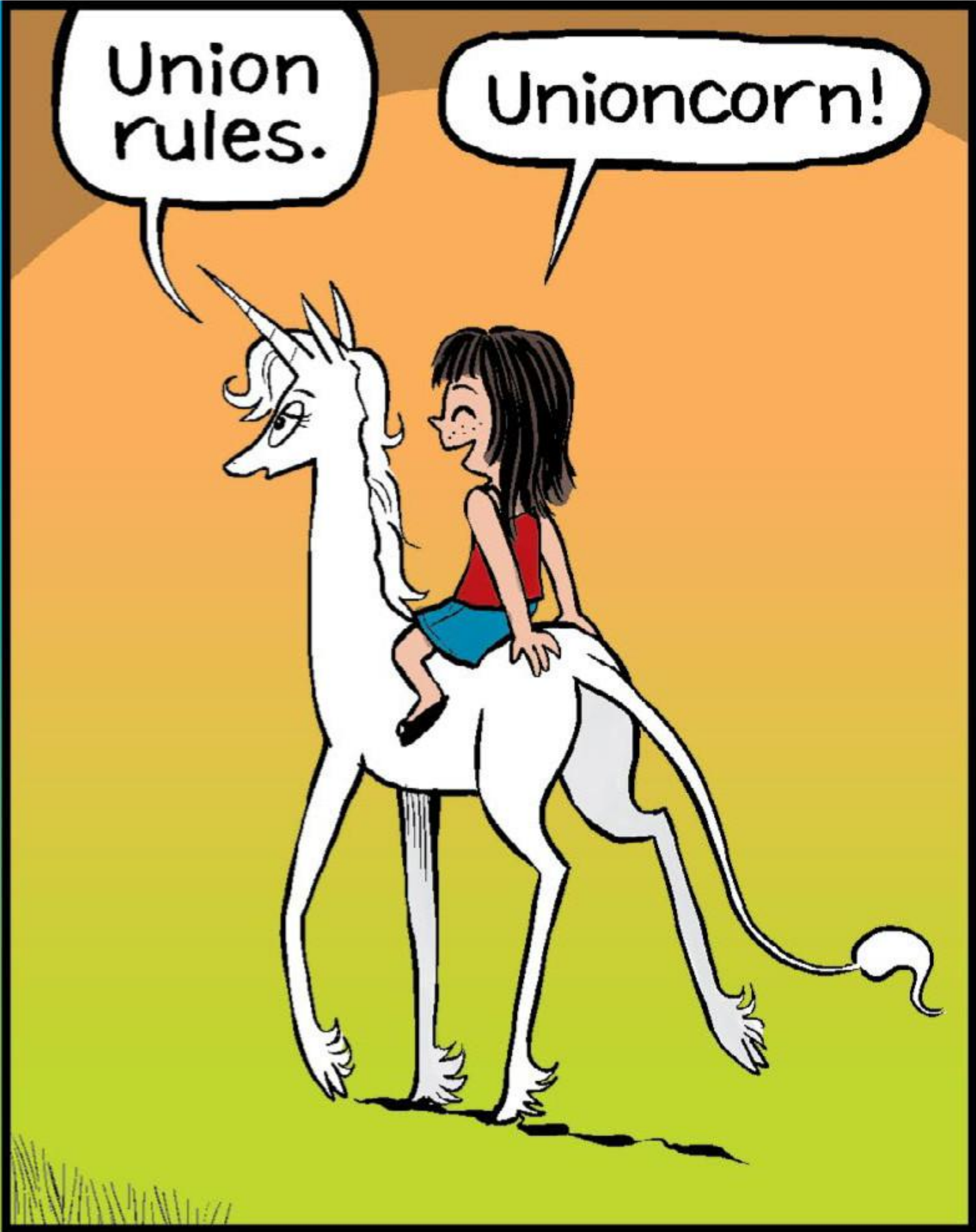
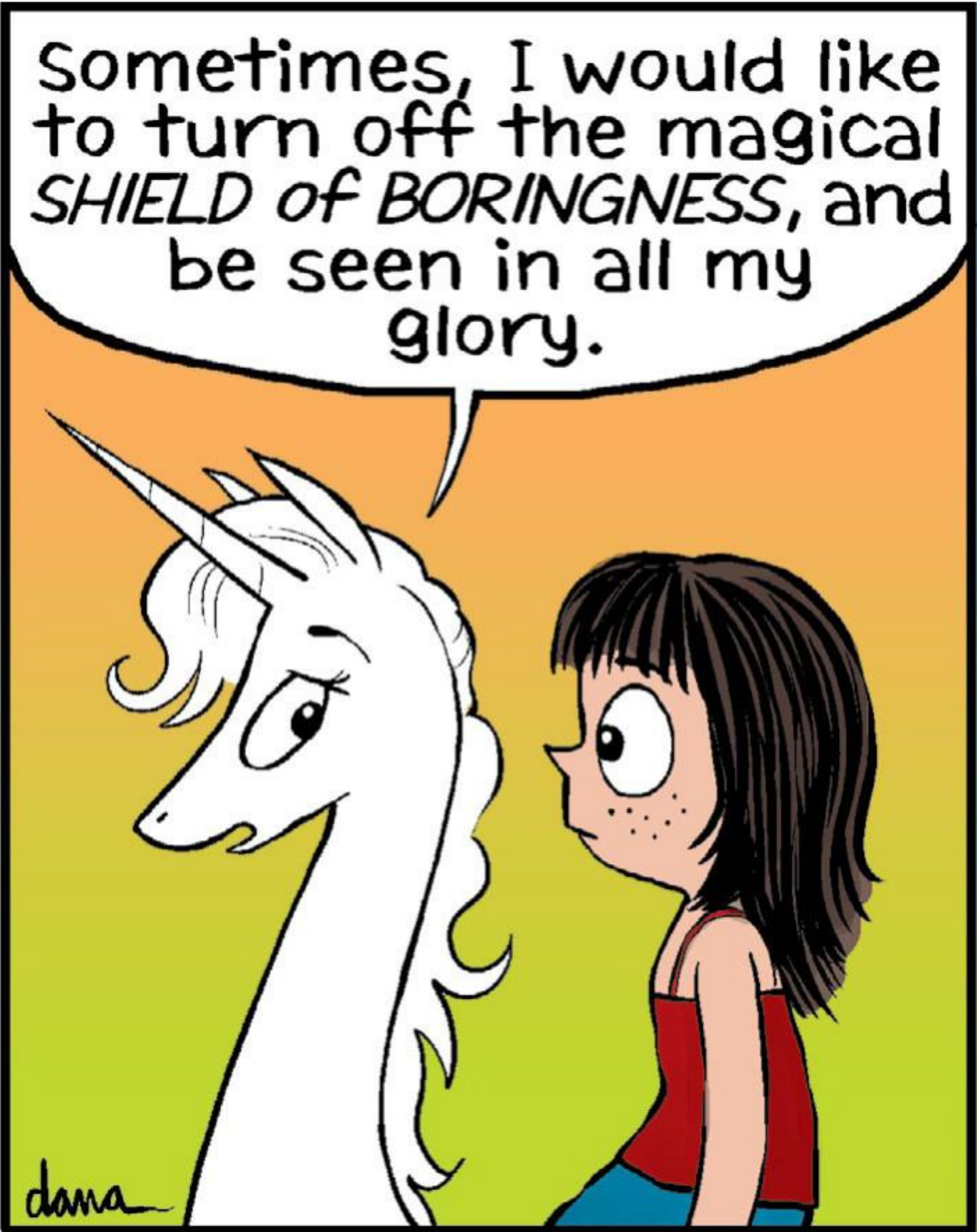
How does one "pretend" to practice?



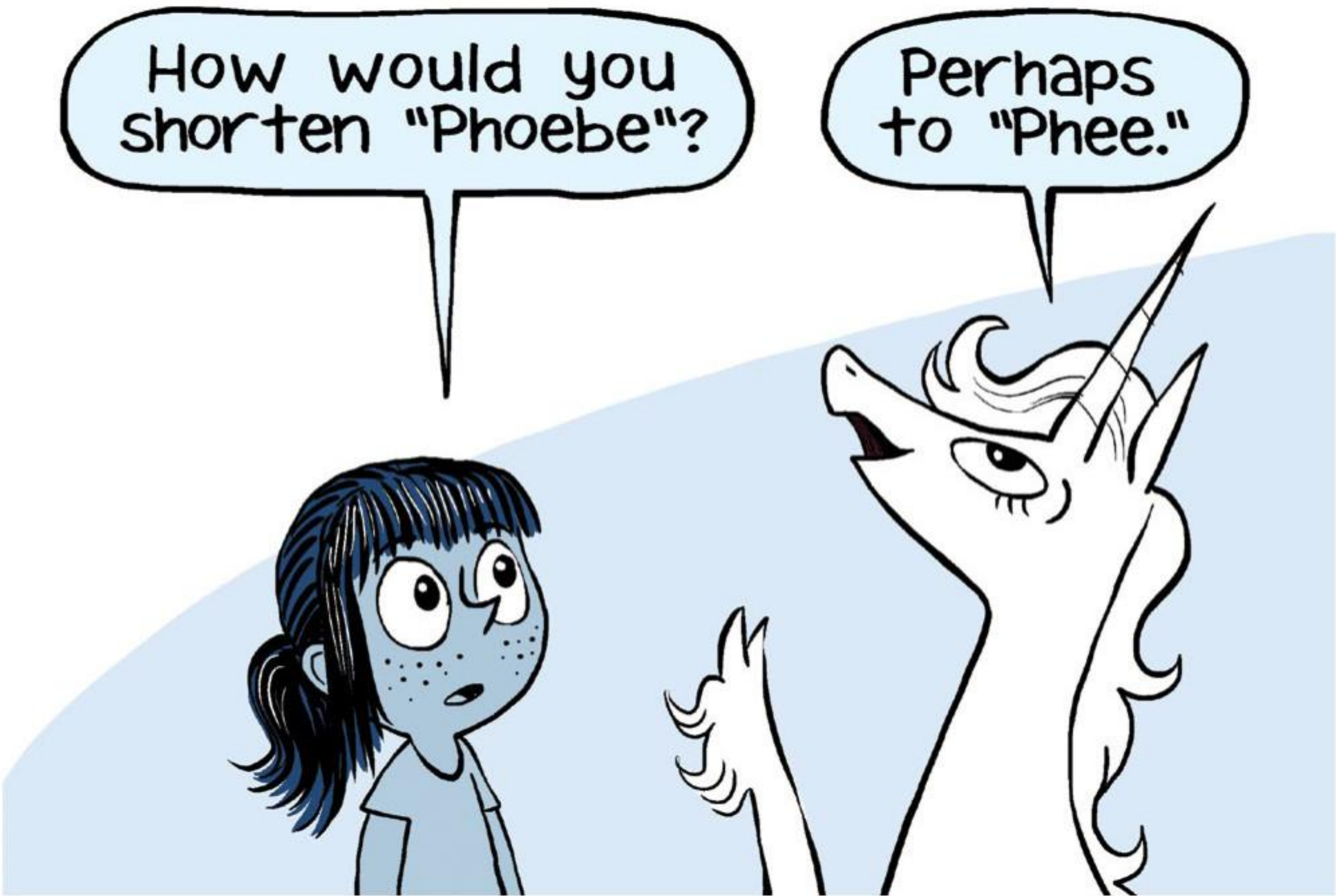
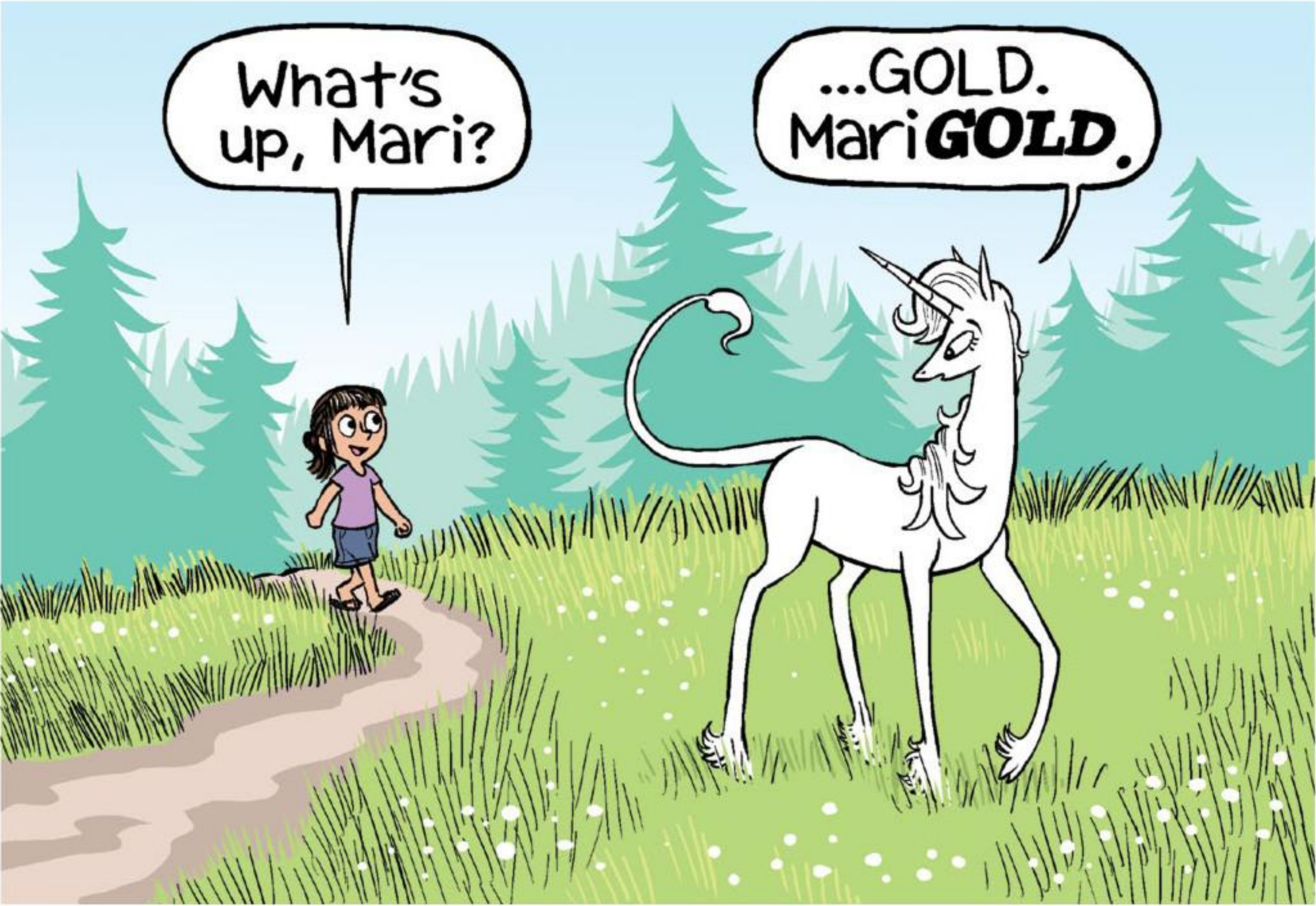


It's not my fault!
It's inertia.

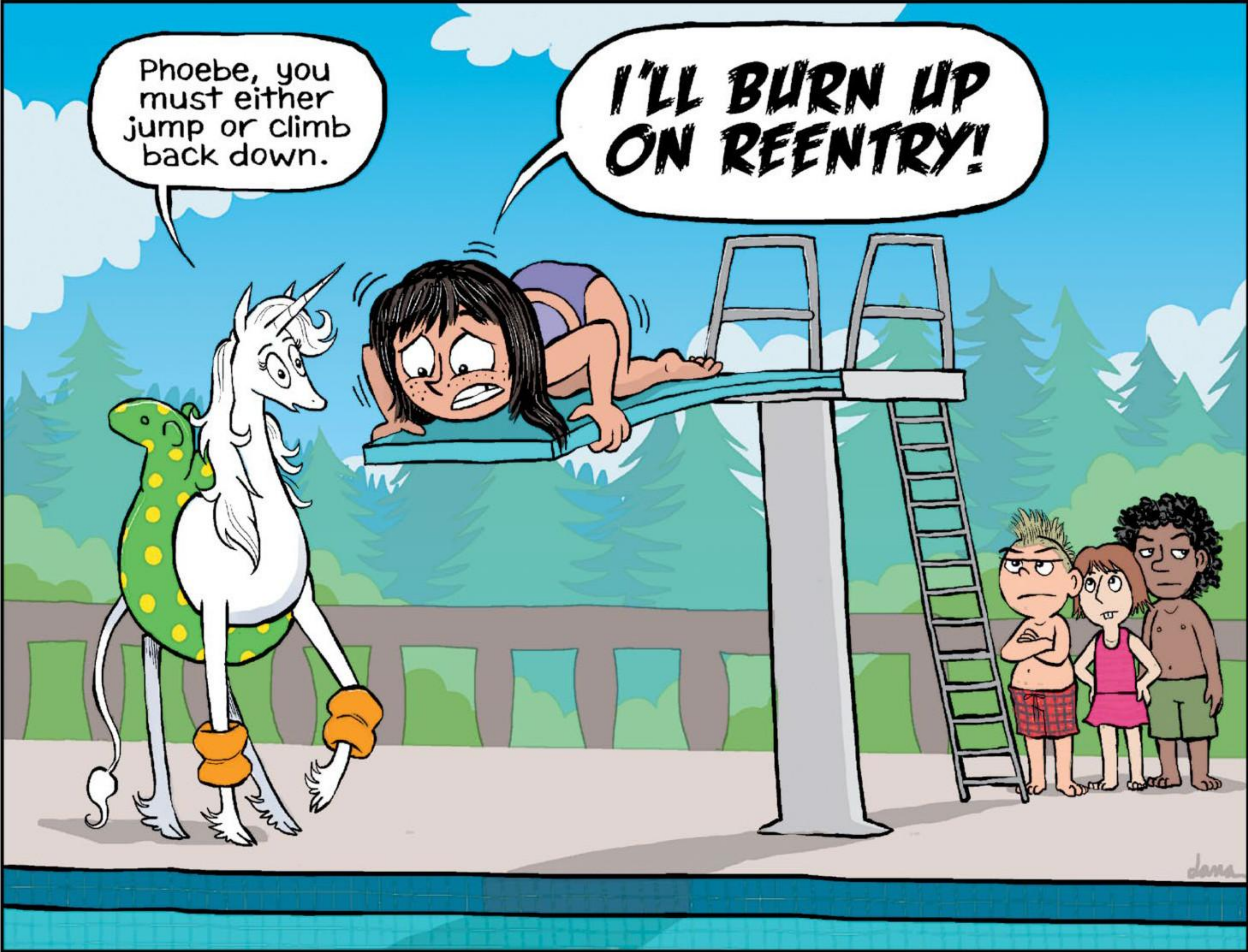




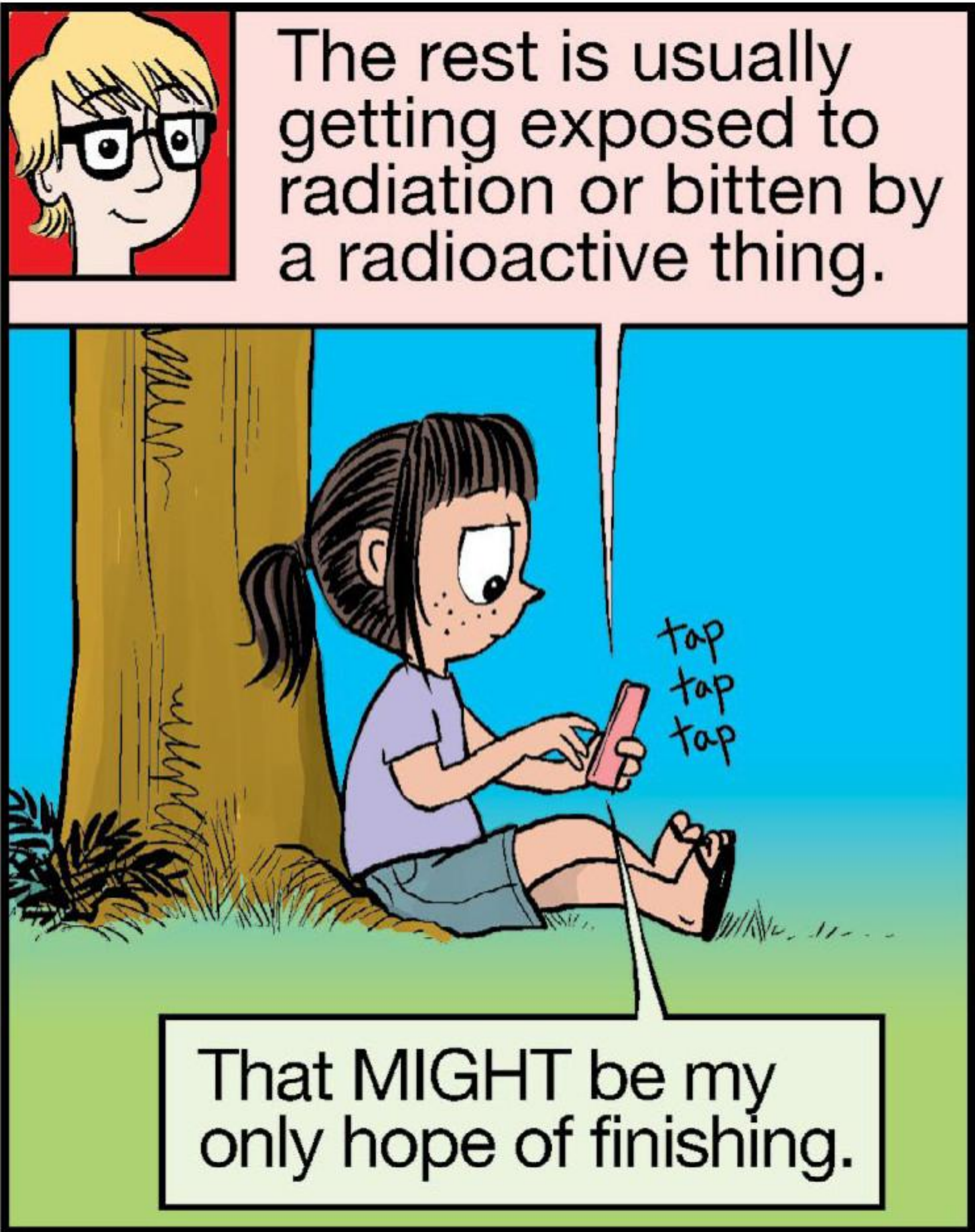


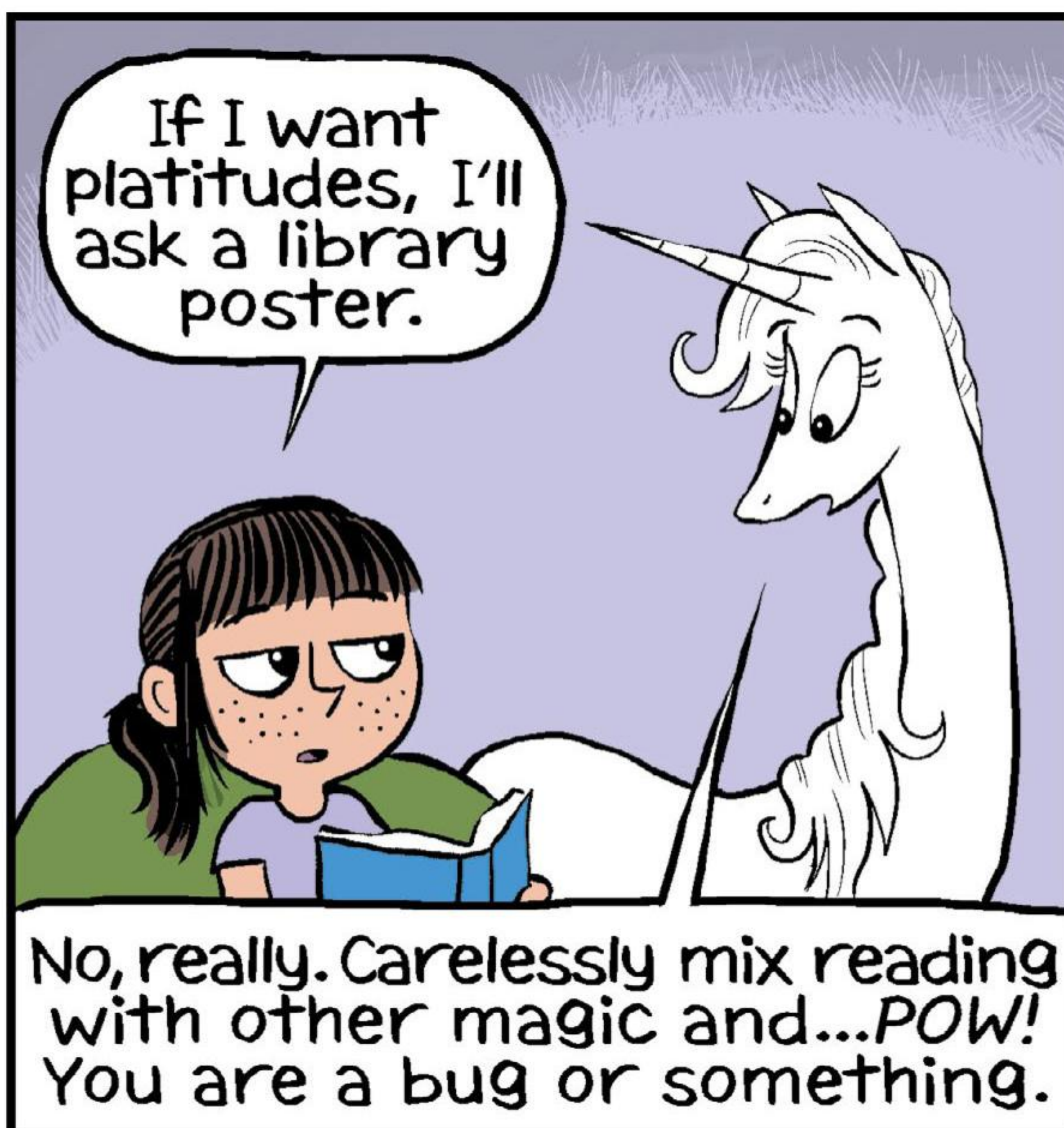


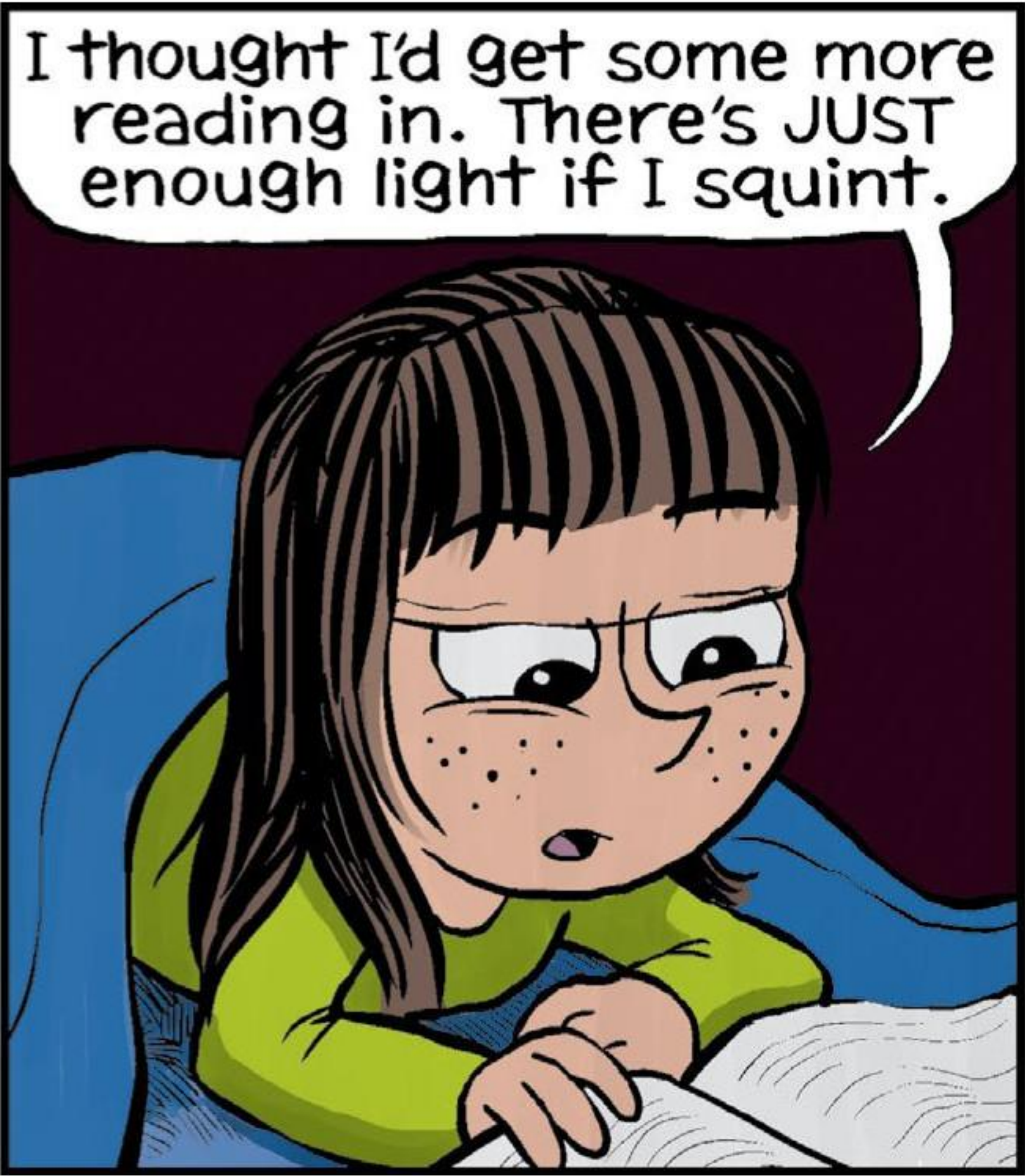












Glossary

alfalfa (al-fal-fa): pg. 63 – noun / a type of grass grown for farm animals

amenities (a-men-it-ees): pg. 31 – noun / things that make life easier or more pleasant; comforts

antithesis (an-tith-e-sis): pg. 106 – noun / the exact opposite of something

artisanal (ar-tis-in-al): pg. 85 – adjective / traditionally made or grown with skill

asterisk (as-ter-isk): pg. 43 – noun / the symbol “ * ” that means something is not being said, or that there’s more to an idea that’s being left out

astounding (as-tound-ing): pg. 68 – adjective / surprising; amazing

benevolently (be-nev-o-lent-ly): pg. 40 – adverb / kindly; generously

brazen (bray-zen): pg. 72 – adjective / doing something shocking without any embarrassment; bold

contraption (con-trap-shun): pg. 55 – noun / machinery that is unusual or strange; gadget

cynical (sin-ick-al): pg. 109 – adjective / believing that people are typically selfish or dishonest; distrustful

deficient (de-fish-ent): pg. 77 – adjective / not having enough of something needed; lacking

denial (de-ni-al): pg. 59 – noun / a state of refusing to admit that something is sad, painful, true, or real

depression (de-pre-shun): pg. 62 – noun / a state of feeling sad, hopeless, or unimportant

discrimination (dis-crim-in-ay-shun): pg. 58 – noun / the practice of unfairly treating someone different from other people; prejudice

dodecahedron (do-dec-a-he-dron): pg. 89 – noun / a 3-D shape with twelve sides

ephemeral (ee-fem-er-al): pg. 76 – adjective / lasting a very short time; fleeting

finesse (fin-ess): pg. 28 – noun / someone's skill when dealing with a tricky situation or problem; flair (see *panache*)

hallucination (ha-loo-sin-ay-shun): pg. 151 – noun / something that seems real but doesn't really exist (like a mirage)

heretic (hair-a-tick): pg. 154 – noun / someone who believes in an idea that goes against popular or accepted beliefs; a deviant rebel

horse d'oeuvres/horse doovers are really:

hors d'oeuvres (or dervs): pg. 67 – noun / a little food served before a meal; appetizers

impending (im-pen-ding): pg. 34 – adjective / about to occur; looming

inertia (in-er-sha): pg. 161 – noun / the idea that something that's not moving will stay still, and something in motion will keep going unless stopped; inaction

inopportune (in-op-por-tune): pg. 8 – adjective / happening at the wrong time; inconvenient

newfangled (new-fan-gled): pg. 54 – adjective / newly invented

organic co-op (or-gan-ick coh-op): pg. 23 – noun / a grocery store that is owned and operated by the people who work there or the people who buy from the store; sometimes called a "food cooperative"

ostentatious (os-ten-tay-shus): pg. 72 – adjective / showing off wealth or treasure to make people envious; flashy or showy

panache (pan-ash): pg. 75 – noun / lots of energy and style; flair (see *finesse*)

parapet (pair-a-pet): pg. 139 – noun / a low wall on a castle

passé (pass-ay): pg. 39 – adjective / no longer fashionable or cool; out-of-date

platitude (pla-ta-tude): pg. 169 – noun / something said that is dull, unoriginal, or cliché

pragmatic (pra-gma-tick): pg. 81 – adjective / dealing with problems in a reasonable way; wise or practical

rejuvenation (re-joo-ven-ay-shun): pg. 66 – noun / a state of feeling young or energetic again

repository (re-pos-it-or-ee): pg. 23 – noun / a place where a large amount of something is stored (like a warehouse, library, or store)

sadistic (sa-dis-tick): pg. 19 – adjective / cruel; enjoying someone else's pain

seethe (seethe): pg. 157 – verb / to show an uncontrollable emotion, like anger; to fume

siege (see je): pg. 150 – noun / a long and intense attack on something (like a castle)

strobe (strobe): pg. 120 – noun / a device that flashes light at high speeds, over and over

subvert (sub-vert): pg. 9 – verb / to weaken something, or to make it less effective; sabotage (see *undermine*)

thwarted (thwart-ed): pg. 96 – noun / stopped someone from doing something; foiled

undermine (un-der-mine): pg. 9 – verb / to weaken something, or to make unstable (see *subvert*)

visage (vis-ij): pg. 82 – noun / a person's face; appearance

withdrawal (with-draw-al): pg. 59 – noun / the act of ending your involvement with something

