

30-Day Guarantee



Wealthy software developer Gray Reiss uses a simple marketing strategy for promoting his products—a 30-day, money-back guarantee. He offers the same deal to pretty college professor, Astra Maris, but this time the product is ... himself! He wants Maris to try dating him for a month, and if she's not happy... just walk away. Maris is shocked by the offer. For one, it's outrageous. For another, she's not ready to date again after her painful divorce. And dare she risk her heart around a man whose slightest touch makes her blood turn to liquid fire?

* * *

"No pressure." Gray smiles. "Just dates. If you don't enjoy yourself... just walk away. What can you lose?"

What indeed? But the touch of his hand on hers sends waves of delight through Astra's body, which only confuses her more.

The first date is a film. As they sit, Astra is aware of Gray's thigh, the heady maleness he exudes. He's generous, he's thoughtful, and he's hot, she thinks. OK, so what's wrong with him?

After the movie, Gray fixes his dark eyes on hers and she wonders how his lips would feel if he kissed her now...

30-Day Guarantee

978-1-886114-72-2



Author: Eilis Flynn

Artist: Kike Olmedo

Copyright © 2007 by Arrow Publications, LLC. All Rights Reserved.
Except for use in any review, no portion of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted,
in any form or by any means, without the express written permission of
Arrow Publications, LLC, 7716 Bells Mill Road, Bethesda, MD 20817, USA.

arrow_info@arrowpub.com | www.arrowpub.com | www.myromancestory.com

All names, characters, stories and incidents featured in this publication are imaginary.
Any resemblance to actual persons (living or dead) is coincidental. They are not inspired even distantly by an
individual known or unknown to the author. Arrow Publications is the publisher of the online publication
www.MyRomanceStory.com.

UNIVERSITY DISTRICT STREET FAIR

30-DAY GUARANTEE

TRYING TO RECOVER FROM A PAINFUL DIVORCE, COLLEGE PROFESSOR ASTRA MARIS IS DETERMINED TO PICK UP THE PIECES. NO WAY THAT PHILANDERING JERK OF AN EX-HUSBAND, LARRY, IS GOING TO RUIN HER LIFE. STILL, AT TIMES LIKE THIS, THE LONELINESS GETS TO HER...AND WRAPS HER HEART IN A SQUEEZING ACHE. UNTIL...





WHOA!

WHAT THE--?



I'M SO SORRY, MISS! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

NO, I'M NOT ALL RIGHT. THIS IS NOT A BICYCLE TRAIL, YOU KNOW. IT'S PEDESTRIANS ONLY.

TYPICAL MAN! INCONSIDERATE, OBLIVIOUS TO ANYONE ELSE.



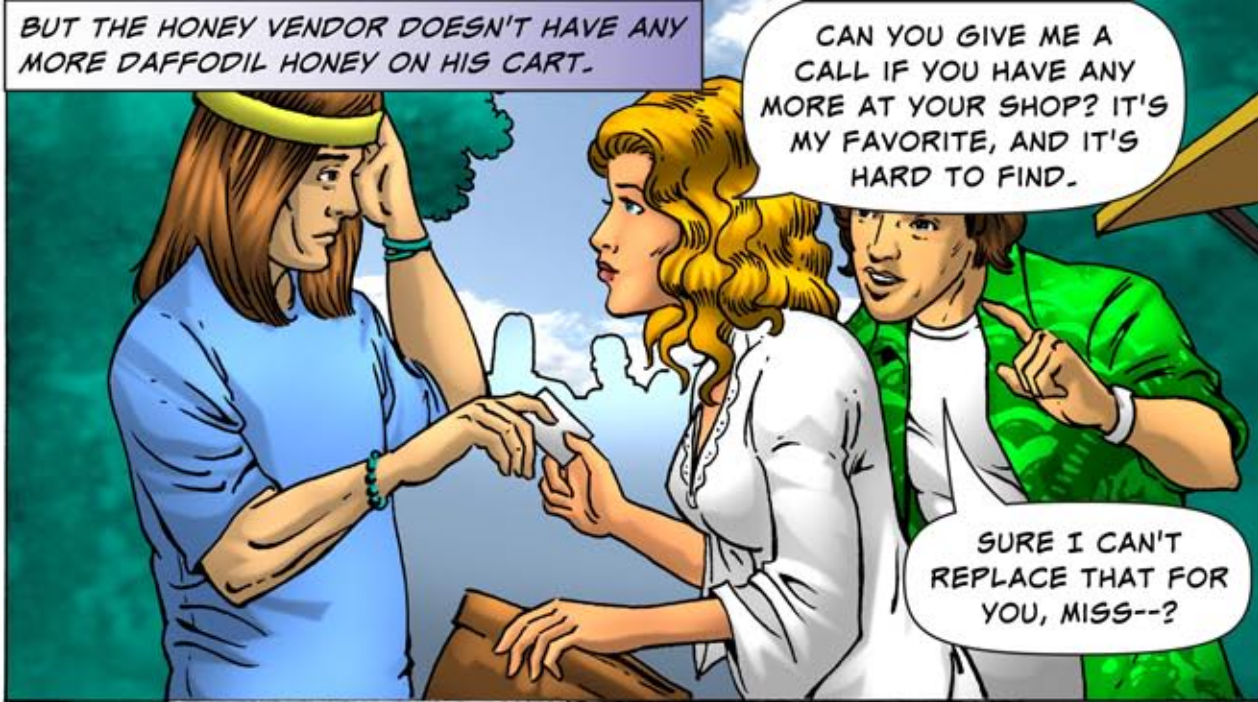
OH, NO, MY DAFFODIL HONEY!



SINCE I'M OBVIOUSLY AT FAULT HERE, CAN I BUY YOU ANOTHER JAR?



NO...
THANK
YOU..



BUT THE DAFFODIL VENDOR DOESN'T HAVE ANY MORE DAFFODIL HONEY ON HIS CART.

CAN YOU GIVE ME A CALL IF YOU HAVE ANY MORE AT YOUR SHOP? IT'S MY FAVORITE, AND IT'S HARD TO FIND..

SURE I CAN'T REPLACE THAT FOR YOU, MISS--?



THAT'S NOT NECESSARY. AND WHY DIDN'T YOU LOOK WHERE YOU WERE GOING, ANYWAY?

I LOOKED.
I JUST COULDN'T
STOP..



DESPITE HERSELF, ASTRA CAN'T HELP NOTICING HIS WELL-TONED BODY, TWINKLING GRAY EYES AND SEXY SMILE.

WHAT CAN I GET YOU?
YOU CAN HAVE
ANYTHING HERE OR
EVERYTHING, IT'S
YOUR PICK,
MISS...HONEY?

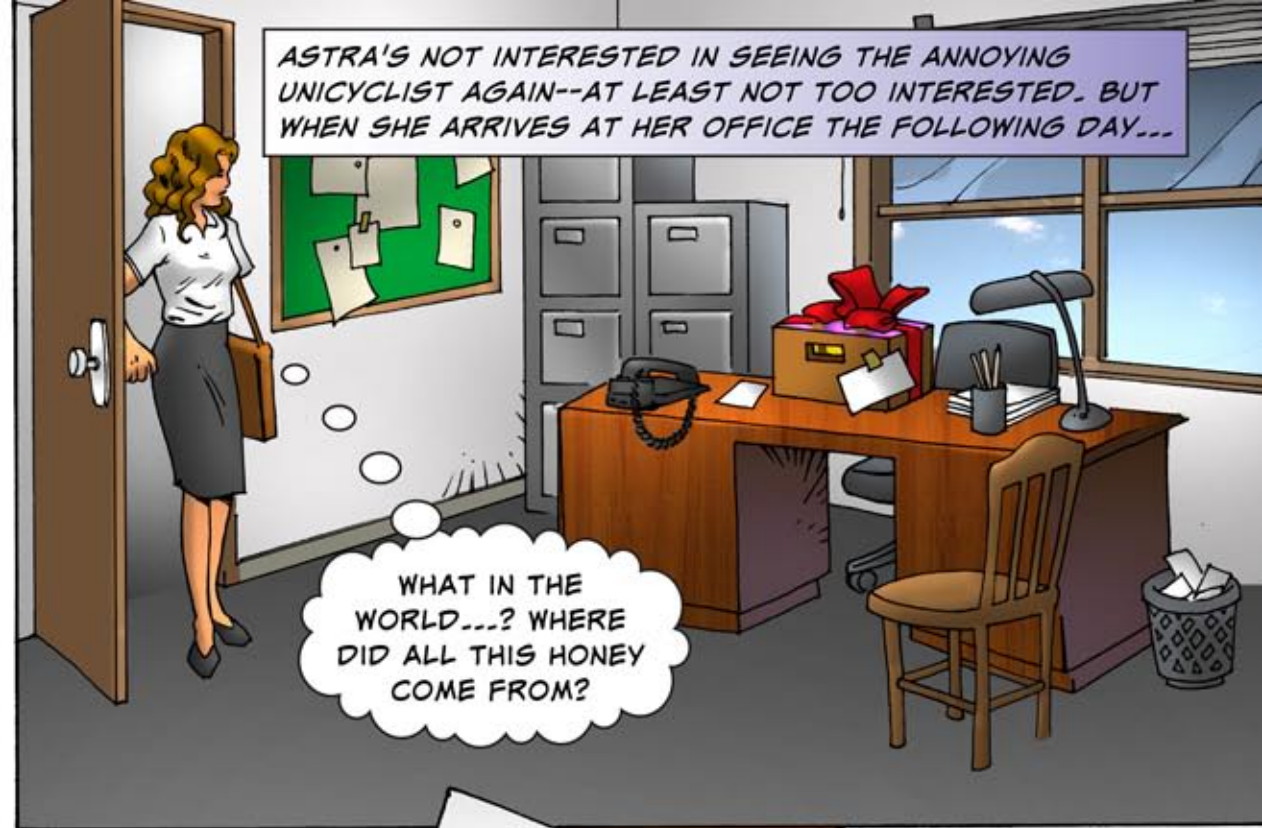
WHAT A KOOK!
BUT WHAT A
SMILE...



THAT'S NOT NECESSARY. AND... THAT'S "PROFESSOR" HONEY TO YOU!

PROFESSOR HONEY IT IS. MY NAME'S GRAY. I'D REALLY LIKE TO MAKE IT UP TO YOU SOME WAY. A KNICKKNACK FOR YOUR COLLECTION?

PASS.



ASTRA'S NOT INTERESTED IN SEEING THE ANNOYING UNICYCLIST AGAIN--AT LEAST NOT TOO INTERESTED. BUT WHEN SHE ARRIVES AT HER OFFICE THE FOLLOWING DAY...

WHAT IN THE WORLD...? WHERE DID ALL THIS HONEY COME FROM?



ASTRA FINDS HERSELF INTRIGUED BY THIS MAN.

Professor Honey:
Honey for a real honey. From the klutz on the unicycle.

HE MUST HAVE GOTTEN MY ADDRESS FROM THE HONEY VENDOR. I SHOULD BE ANGRY...BUT HE'S KIND OF CHARMING AND SO GORGEOUS.

LATER THAT AFTERNOON, ASTRA IS LEAVING THE BUILDING WHEN SHE ENCOUNTERS THE SHAGGY-HAIRED GRAY WITH NED FERRER, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BUSINESS DEPARTMENT.

IT'S HIM!
WHAT IS HE
DOING TALKING
TO NED?

ASTRA! MEET GRAY REISS OF GRAY/MADDER, ONE OF THE BIGGEST COMPUTER SOFTWARE COMPANIES AROUND!

HE'S GOING TO BE LECTURING TO A COUPLE OF MY BUSINESS CLASSES. GRAY, THIS IS ASTRA MARIS, A PROFESSOR IN THE ANTHROPOLOGY DEPARTMENT.

WE'VE MET. SO I GUESS YOU AREN'T A REFUGEE FROM A CIRCUS.

SHE'S TAKEN ABACK AS GRAY'S WARM, CALLUSED FINGERS SEND A TINGLE UP HER ARM. SHE TRIES TO IGNORE IT.

DID YOU GET THE HONEY I LEFT FOR YOU? NOW THAT WE'VE BEEN PROPERLY INTRODUCED, MAY I BUY YOU A CUP OF COFFEE?

YES, I DID, AND NO THANKS. I'M ON MY WAY TO CLASS, MR. REISS.

CALL ME GRAY.
OK IF I WALK WITH YOU?
WE COULD GRAB THAT
COFFEE AFTER YOUR
CLASS.

I CAN'T
PERSUADE YOU TO
JUST GO AWAY, I
TAKE IT?

FOR A SECOND, GRAY'S EYES
DARKEN WITH AN INTENSITY THAT
BRINGS A FLUSH TO ASTRA'S FACE.
THERE IS A HINT OF STEEL BEHIND
HIS AFFABLE DEMEANOR.

WHEN YOU GET TO
KNOW ME BETTER, YOU'LL
FIND I'M NOT THAT EASILY
DISSUADED.

I DON'T INTEND
TO GET TO KNOW YOU
BETTER. GOODBYE,
MR. REISS.

THE NEXT DAY, ASTRA FINDS GRAY
WAITING FOR HER AS SHE LEAVES HER
BUILDING. EVEN THOUGH SHE'S
DETERMINED NOT TO GET INVOLVED, HER
HEART TRIPS AT THE SIGHT OF HIM.

HE
DOESN'T
GIVE UP! I'M
IMPRESSED
WITH THAT,
IF NOTHING
ELSE!

HOW ABOUT
THAT COFFEE
NOW, ASTRA?
I'VE GOT A
PROPOSITION
FOR YOU.

ASTRA IS WARY-- SHE IS STILL NOT INTERESTED IN STARTING ANYTHING NEW. NOT EVEN WITH A MAN WHOSE SMILE SENDS RIPPLES OF HEAT THROUGH HER.

WELL...OKAY. BUT I ONLY HAVE A FEW MINUTES.



BEFORE SHE KNOWS IT SHE'S RELAXING AND ACTUALLY ENJOYING GRAY'S COMPANY.



I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU LIKE NEW AGE FUSION JAZZ! THAT MAKES ABOUT A DOZEN OF US IN ALL!

BUT I GUARANTEE THAT ONCE SOMEONE HEARS IT, THEY'LL LIKE IT. IT'S JUST A MATTER OF OPENING YOURSELF UP TO NEW THINGS.

FOR A SECOND, A LOOK OF SADNESS CREEPS INTO ASTRA'S EYES.

IS SOMETHING WRONG?

I JUST REMEMBERED MY EX-HUSBAND. HE HATED FUSION JAZZ. HE'D ACTUALLY WALK OUT OF THE ROOM IF HE CAME IN AND I HAD IT ON.



NOW WHY DID I BLURT THAT OUT?

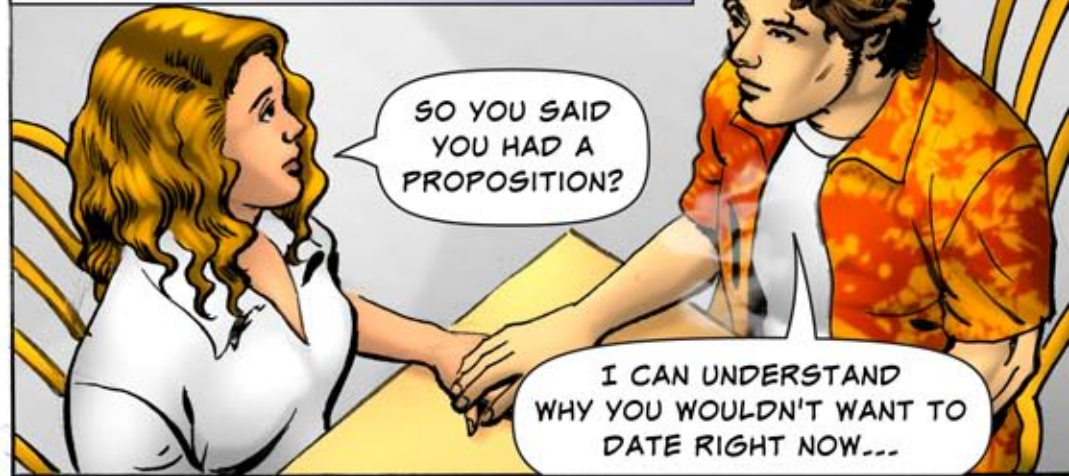
THE WARMTH IN GRAY'S VOICE ENCOURAGES HER TO OPEN UP. TO TELL HIM MORE OF WHAT SHE'S KEPT BOTTLED UP INSIDE.



HOW LONG'S IT BEEN SINCE YOUR DIVORCE?

SIX MONTHS. WE DIDN'T BREAK UP OVER OUR TASTE IN MUSIC ALONE. TRUTH IS, WE DISAGREED ABOUT WHAT CONSTITUTES INFIDELITY. IT'S BEST WE PARTED.

GRAY PUTS HIS HAND TENDERLY ON HERS AS HE PITCHES HIS NEWEST IDEA TO HER. DESPITE THE SHOCKWAVES THE TOUCH SENDS THROUGH HER, ASTRA STOICALLY REMINDS HERSELF THAT SHE'S NOT READY FOR ANY INVOLVEMENT.



SO YOU SAID YOU HAD A PROPOSITION?

I CAN UNDERSTAND WHY YOU WOULDN'T WANT TO DATE RIGHT NOW...

ALMOST AGAINST HER WILL, ASTRA FINDS HERSELF LISTENING TO HIS PROPOSAL.



MY COMPANY OFFERS OUR PRODUCTS FOR THIRTY DAYS WITH A MONEY-BACK GUARANTEE. I'M OFFERING YOU THE SAME DEAL...WITH ME.



GRAY, IS THIS A JOKE?

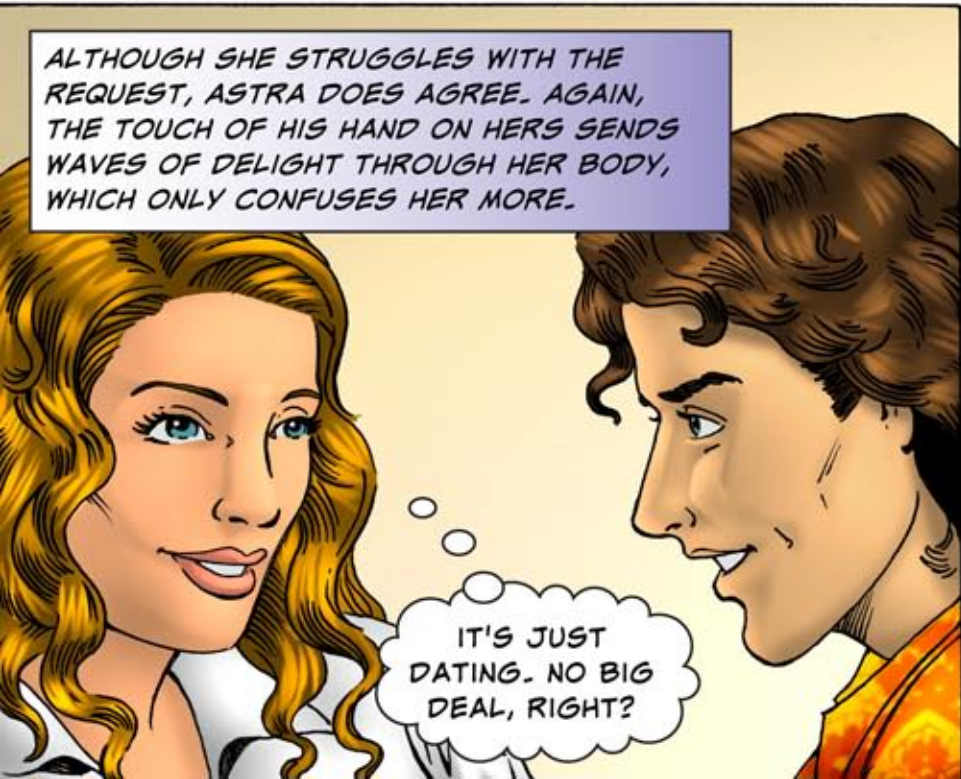


NO PRESSURE. JUST DATES. IF YOU DON'T ENJOY YOURSELF, IF WE'RE NOT COMPATIBLE...JUST WALK AWAY. WHAT CAN YOU LOSE?



I DON'T KNOW...

YOU'LL HAVE FUN. C'MON, PROFESSOR HONEY!



ALTHOUGH SHE STRUGGLES WITH THE REQUEST, ASTRA DOES AGREE. AGAIN, THE TOUCH OF HIS HAND ON HERS SENDS WAVES OF DELIGHT THROUGH HER BODY, WHICH ONLY CONFUSES HER MORE.

IT'S JUST DATING. NO BIG DEAL, RIGHT?



SO FOR THE FIRST DATE ON SATURDAY EVENING, ASTRA ARRIVES AT THE DESIGNATED PLACE. SHE BLUSHES AT GRAY'S APPRECIATIVE STARE.

YOU LOOK GREAT!

THANK YOU. AND YOU KNOW WHAT? I'VE NEVER BEEN TO ONE OF THESE THINGS BEFORE.

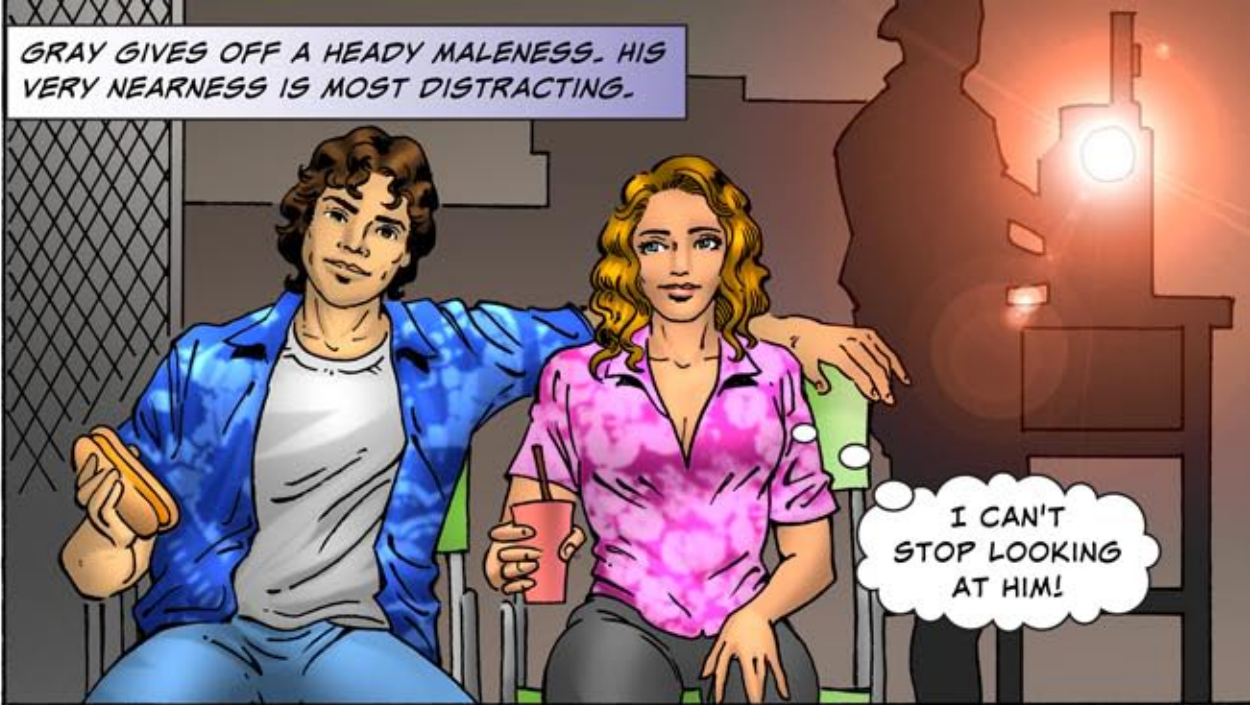
HE'S CERTAINLY FULL OF SURPRISES--AND HE'S SO SWEET.



THE PROFITS FROM THESE EVENTS GO TO CHARITY. YOU BRING YOUR OWN CHAIRS AND YOUR OWN SNACKS, AND YOU WATCH A CLASSIC FILM PROJECTED ON THE SIDE OF A BUILDING!

I'M GUESSING YOU'RE NOT A STRANGER HERE.

HE'S GENEROUS, HE'S THOUGHTFUL, AND HE'S HOT! OK. SO WHAT'S WRONG WITH HIM?



GRAY GIVES OFF A HEADY MALENESS. HIS VERY NEARNESS IS MOST DISTRACTING.

I CAN'T STOP LOOKING AT HIM!



AFTER THE MOVIE, GRAY FIXES HIS DARK EYES ON HERS AND SHE WONDERS HOW HIS LIPS WOULD FEEL IF HE KISSED HER NOW...

HOW ABOUT DINNER TOMORROW? NOTHING FANCY.

I...

A SIDEWALK MOVIE IS ONE THING, BUT ASTRA IS FROZEN AT THE IDEA--ANOTHER DATE SO SOON? EVEN WITH THIS SWEET GUY, SO UNLIKE HER EX-HUSBAND. SHE WANTS TO, BUT...

THIRTY DAYS, REMEMBER--MONEY-BACK GUARANTEE. NO RISK. NO PRESSURE. OK?



I... I GUESS SO.

ALL DAY ASTRA HAS BEEN WIRED, ANXIOUS TO SEE GRAY AGAIN. SHE DOESN'T KNOW WHAT TO EXPECT, SO WHEN THEY ARRIVE AT THE RESTAURANT...



YOU'RE A MAN OF MANY SURPRISES, AREN'T YOU!

ONE OF MY FAVORITE PLACES. WHY GO STUFFY IF YOU DON'T HAVE TO?

I'VE LIVED HERE ALL MY LIFE AND I DIDN'T EVEN KNOW THIS SPOT EXISTED!



SOMETIMES YOU NEED TO OPEN YOURSELF UP TO NEW EXPERIENCES WITH NEW PEOPLE. STICK WITH ME AND YOU'LL BE SEEING THINGS YOU NEVER IMAGINED.

AND GRAY PROVES TRUE TO HIS WORD, FOR OVER THE NEXT FEW WEEKS, AS THE SPRING SEMESTER ENDS...

THIS IS WONDERFUL!

SEE?
NEW
EXPERIENCES
WITH NEW
PEOPLE.

THE SURPRISES KEEP COMING...

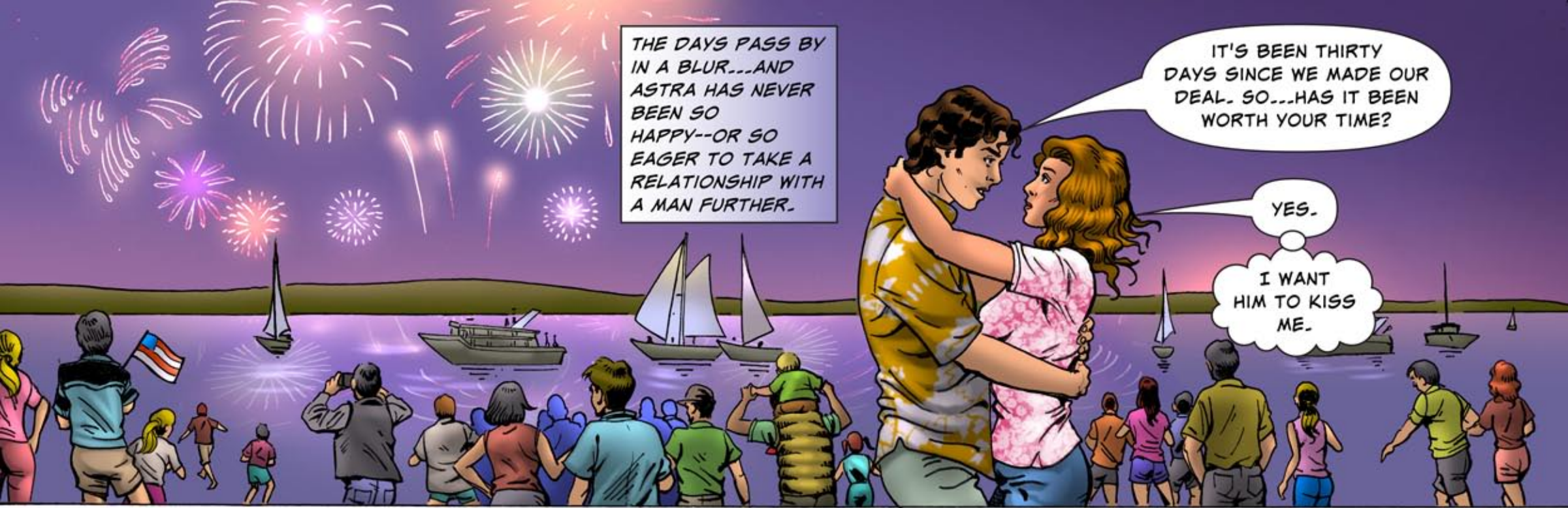
I KNOW I SAID I ALWAYS WANTED TO TRY THIS RESTAURANT, BUT I HEARD IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE TO GET A TABLE.

NOTHING'S IMPOSSIBLE WHEN IT'S FOR SOMEONE SPECIAL...

YOU SAID YOU LOVED TO GO DANCING.

SO I DID!

I JUST WANT HIM TO WRAP ME IN HIS ARMS AND NEVER LET GO!



THE DAYS PASS BY IN A BLUR...AND ASTRA HAS NEVER BEEN SO HAPPY--OR SO EAGER TO TAKE A RELATIONSHIP WITH A MAN FURTHER.

IT'S BEEN THIRTY DAYS SINCE WE MADE OUR DEAL. SO...HAS IT BEEN WORTH YOUR TIME?

YES.

I WANT HIM TO KISS ME.



AT LONG LAST, THEIR LIPS TOUCH...AND ASTRA IS AMAZED.

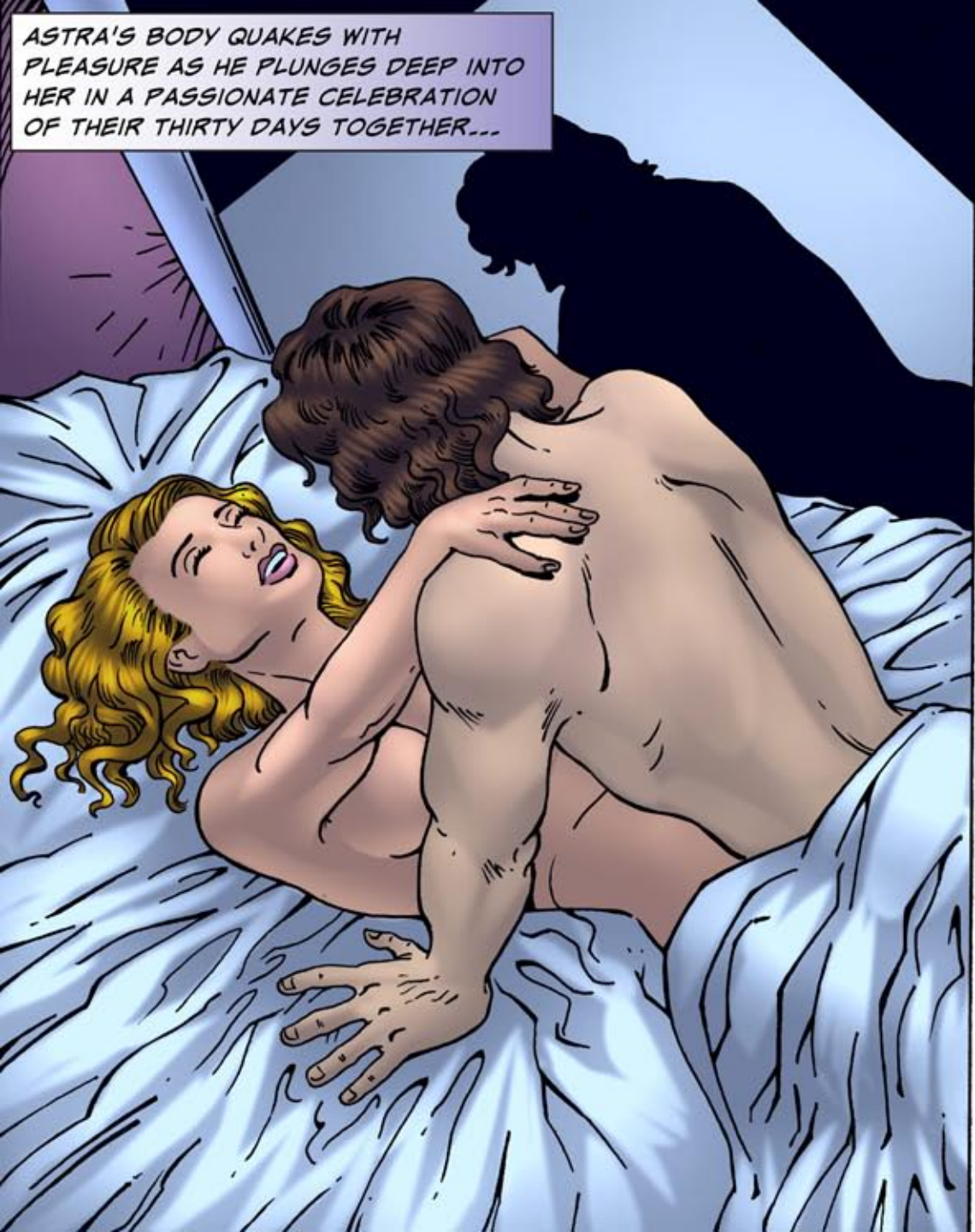
I NEVER FELT LIKE THIS BEFORE. I'M ALMOST GIDDY!



CAN WE...?

AS YOU ALWAYS SAY, NEW EXPERIENCES...





ASTRA'S BODY QUAKES WITH PLEASURE AS HE PLUNGES DEEP INTO HER IN A PASSIONATE CELEBRATION OF THEIR THIRTY DAYS TOGETHER...



AND FOR A BRIEF MOMENT, EVERYTHING IS PERFECT...

OVER THE NEXT FEW WEEKS, THEY ENJOY EACH OTHER, BUT HE BEGINS TO SEEM...DISTRACTED.

I'VE ALWAYS BEEN FASCINATED BY HOW THEY DO THIS.

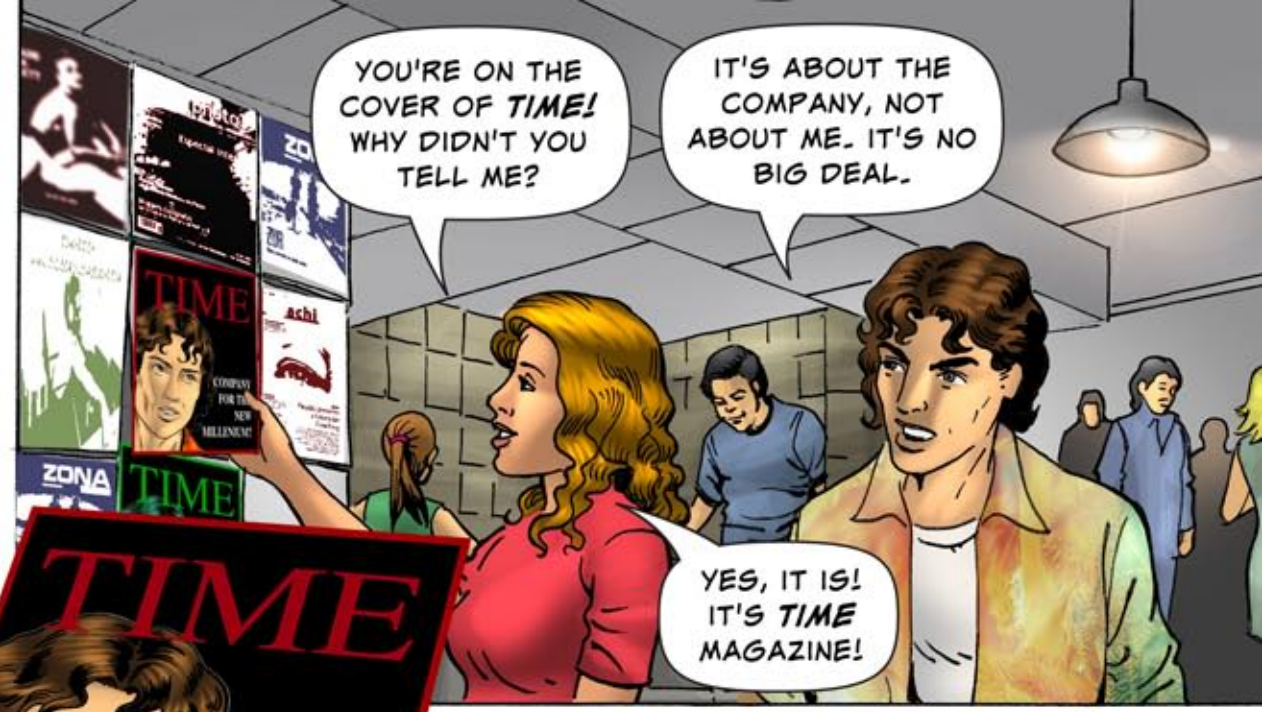
HUH?



YOU'RE ON THE COVER OF *TIME*! WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME?

IT'S ABOUT THE COMPANY, NOT ABOUT ME. IT'S NO BIG DEAL.

YES, IT IS! IT'S *TIME* MAGAZINE!



ASTRA REALIZES THERE ARE THINGS ABOUT GRAY SHE KNOWS NOTHING ABOUT.

WOW, YOU NEVER MENTIONED YOUR PARTNER STEPPING DOWN BECAUSE HIS WIFE'S SICK.

CAN YOU READ THAT LATER?



SURE... SORRY. BUT...



BUT ASTRA DOESN'T DROP THE SUBJECT.

YOU MUST BE WORRIED ABOUT YOUR PARTNER AND HIS FAMILY, AND WHAT THAT COULD MEAN FOR YOUR COMPANY.

I AM. I JUST DON'T WANT TO TALK ABOUT IT.

WHY NOT?



ALL ASTRA WANTS IS FOR GRAY TO SHARE MORE OF HIMSELF WITH HER. INSTEAD HE SEEMS TO BE PULLING AWAY.

WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME ABOUT YOUR COMPANY'S REORGANIZATION?

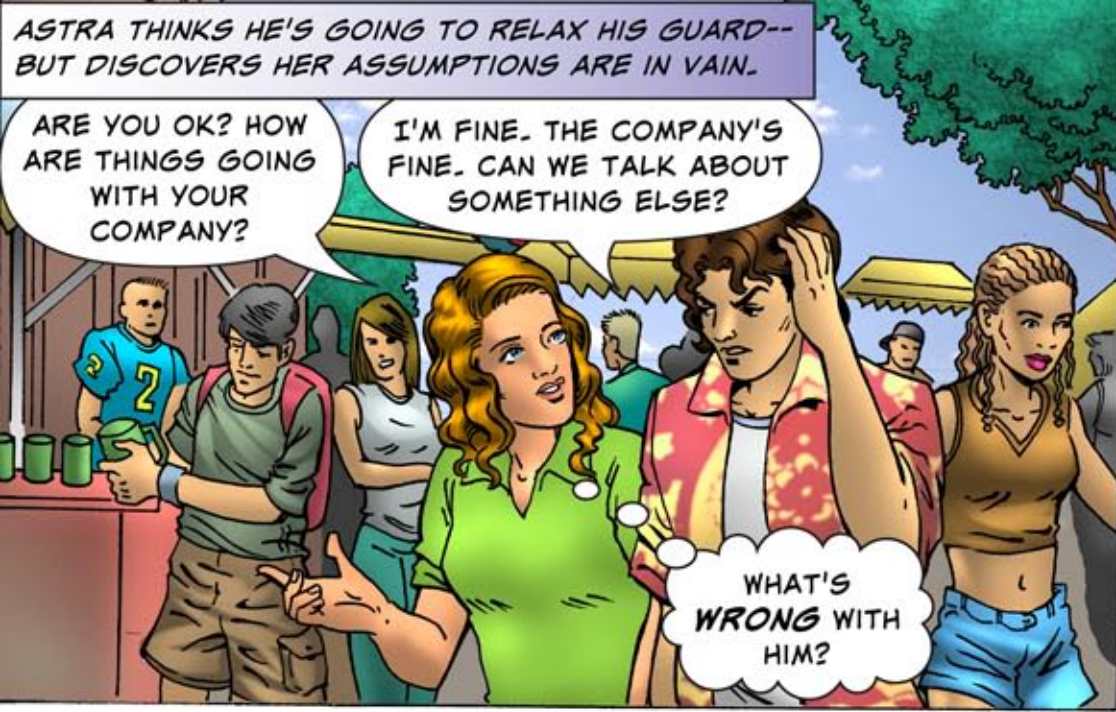
THERE'S NOTHING MUCH TO TELL.

ASTRA IS CONFUSED AND HURT. AFTER THEY'D STARTED TO GROW CLOSER, FOR GRAY TO SUDDENLY...



I'M SORRY I SNAPPED. I JUST HAVE A LOT TO THINK ABOUT WITH THE COMPANY.

I IMAGINE YOU DO. YOU CAN TRUST ME. I WANT YOU TO KNOW YOU CAN TALK TO ME ABOUT ANYTHING.



ASTRA THINKS HE'S GOING TO RELAX HIS GUARD-- BUT DISCOVERS HER ASSUMPTIONS ARE IN VAIN.

ARE YOU OK? HOW ARE THINGS GOING WITH YOUR COMPANY?

I'M FINE. THE COMPANY'S FINE. CAN WE TALK ABOUT SOMETHING ELSE?

WHAT'S **WRONG** WITH HIM?



THAT THERE'S SOMETHING WRONG IS CLEAR TO ASTRA, BUT NOT THE WHY.

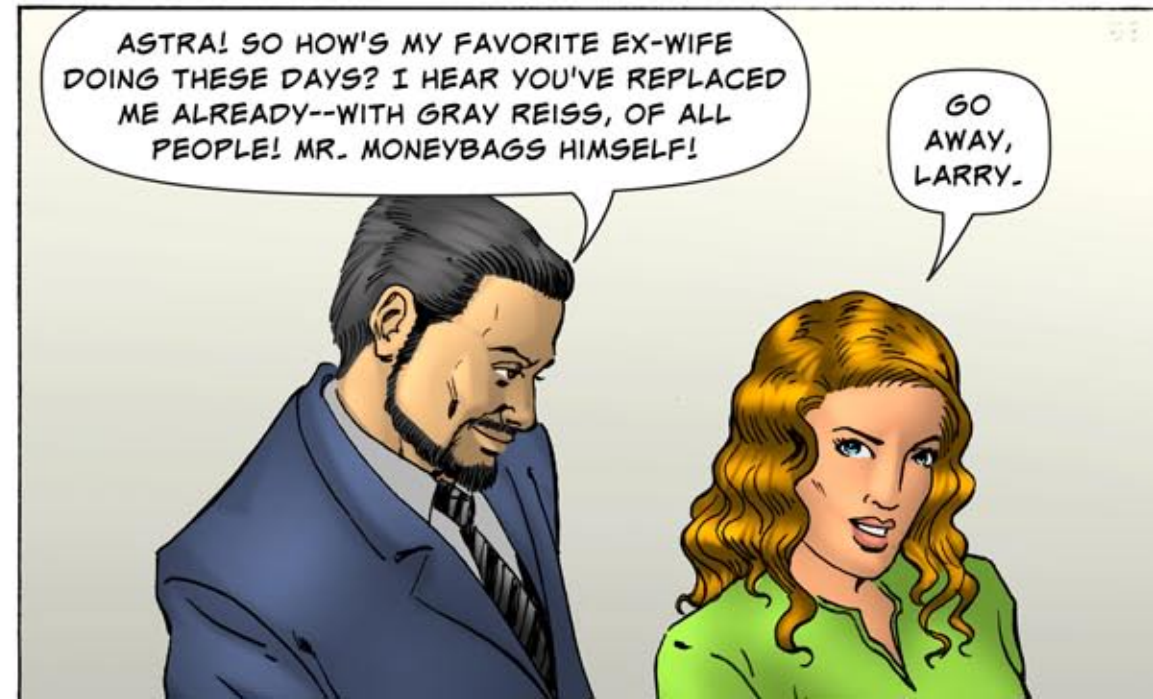
SORRY TO CANCEL TONIGHT. SOMETHING CAME UP. I'LL TALK TO YOU LATER.

AGAIN?



HER OWN DOUBTS ASIDE, THE REST OF THE WORLD IS MAKING HER JUST AS PARANOID. FOR INSTANCE, LARRY, HER EX-HUSBAND...

OH, NO, THE LAST PERSON I WANT TO SEE RIGHT NOW!



ASTRA! SO HOW'S MY FAVORITE EX-WIFE DOING THESE DAYS? I HEAR YOU'VE REPLACED ME ALREADY--WITH GRAY REISS, OF ALL PEOPLE! MR. MONEYBAGS HIMSELF!

GO AWAY, LARRY.



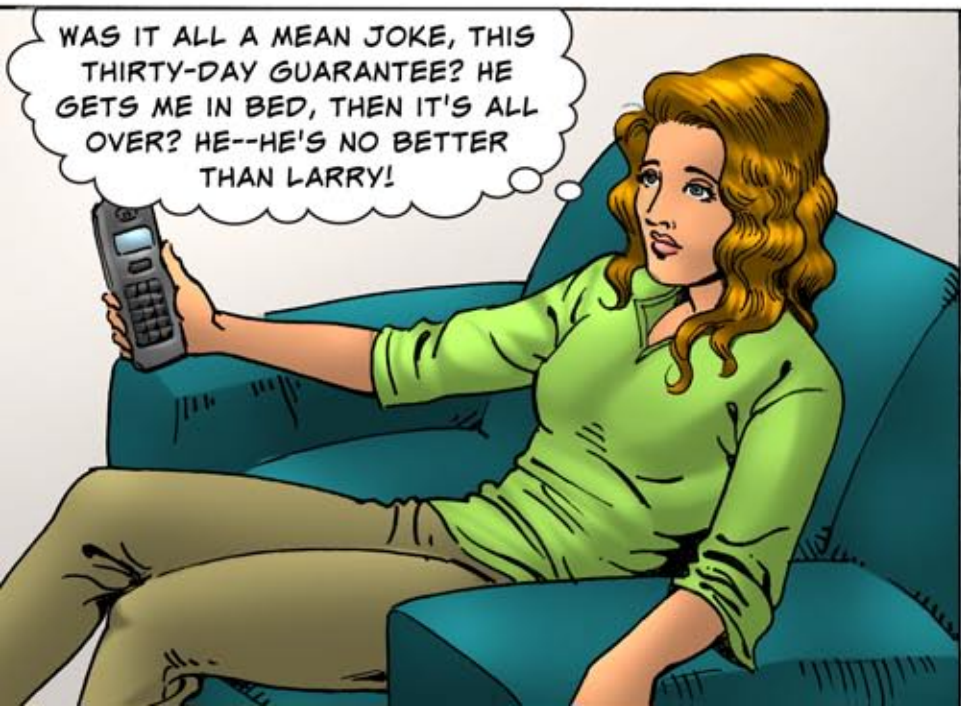
TOO BAD ABOUT HIS COMPANY--MY NEW GIRLFRIEND HEARD IT'S IN TROUBLE-- A LOT OF DRAMA BEHIND THE SCENES!

ANOTHER NEW GIRLFRIEND? YOU'D BETTER CHECK THIS ONE'S ID BEFORE YOU OFFER HER THAT WINE.



ASTRA'S CONCERNED NOW. WHAT'S GOING ON WITH GRAY AND WHY ISN'T HE TELLING HER ANYTHING? DAY AFTER DAY...

GRAY, IT'S ME-- YOU HAVEN'T RETURNED ANY OF MY OTHER CALLS. I KNOW YOU MUST BE BUSY, BUT--CALL ME WHEN YOU CAN.



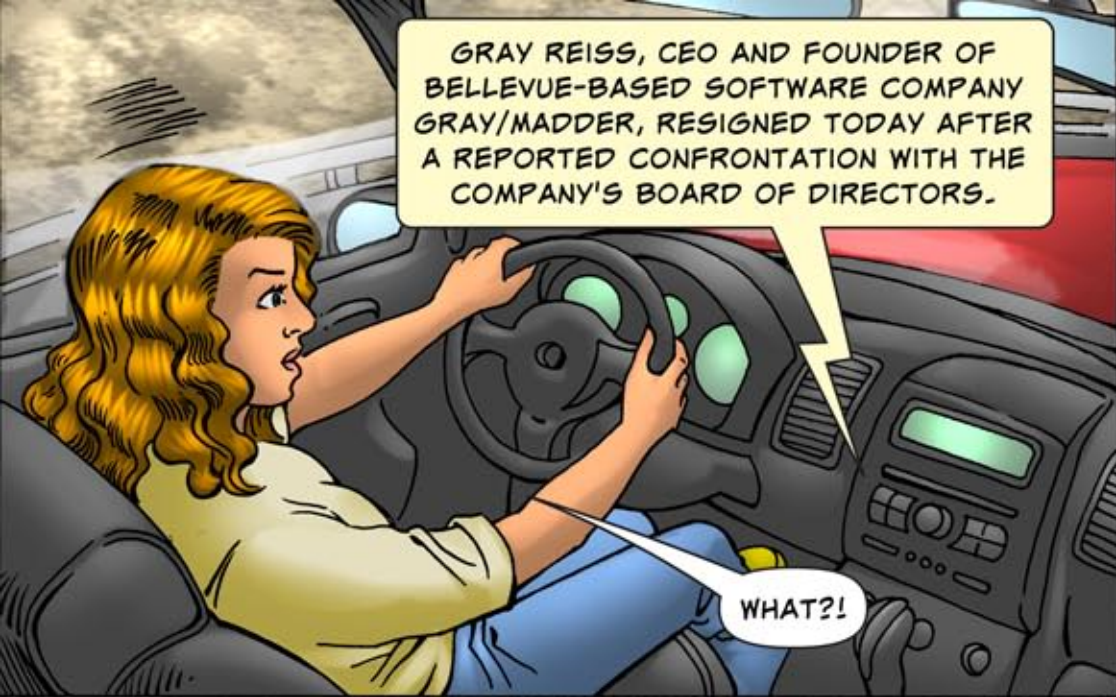
WAS IT ALL A MEAN JOKE, THIS THIRTY-DAY GUARANTEE? HE GETS ME IN BED, THEN IT'S ALL OVER? HE--HE'S NO BETTER THAN LARRY!



ASTRA DECIDES TO TAKE MATTERS INTO HER OWN HANDS...

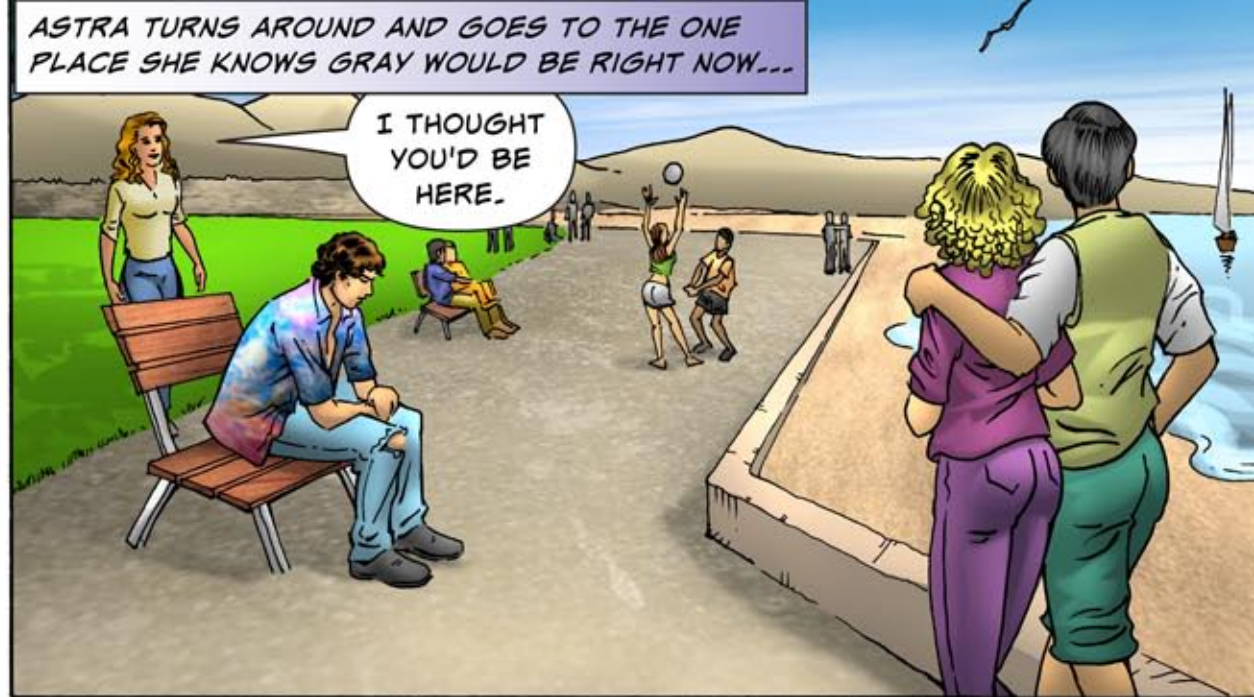
IF HE'S GOING TO DUMP ME, HE'LL HAVE TO DO IT TO MY FACE.

COMING UP NEXT IN THE BUSINESS REPORT...



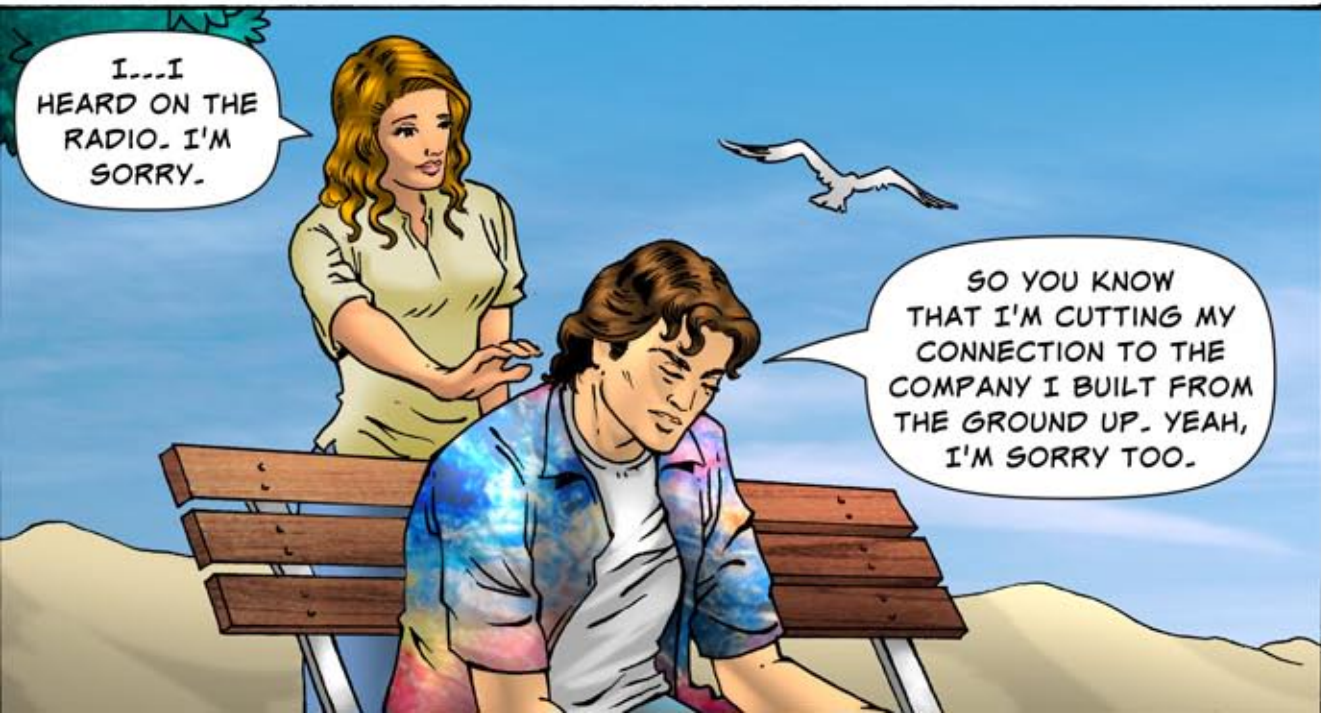
GRAY REISS, CEO AND FOUNDER OF BELLEVUE-BASED SOFTWARE COMPANY GRAY/MADDER, RESIGNED TODAY AFTER A REPORTED CONFRONTATION WITH THE COMPANY'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

WHAT?!



ASTRA TURNS AROUND AND GOES TO THE ONE PLACE SHE KNOWS GRAY WOULD BE RIGHT NOW...

I THOUGHT YOU'D BE HERE.



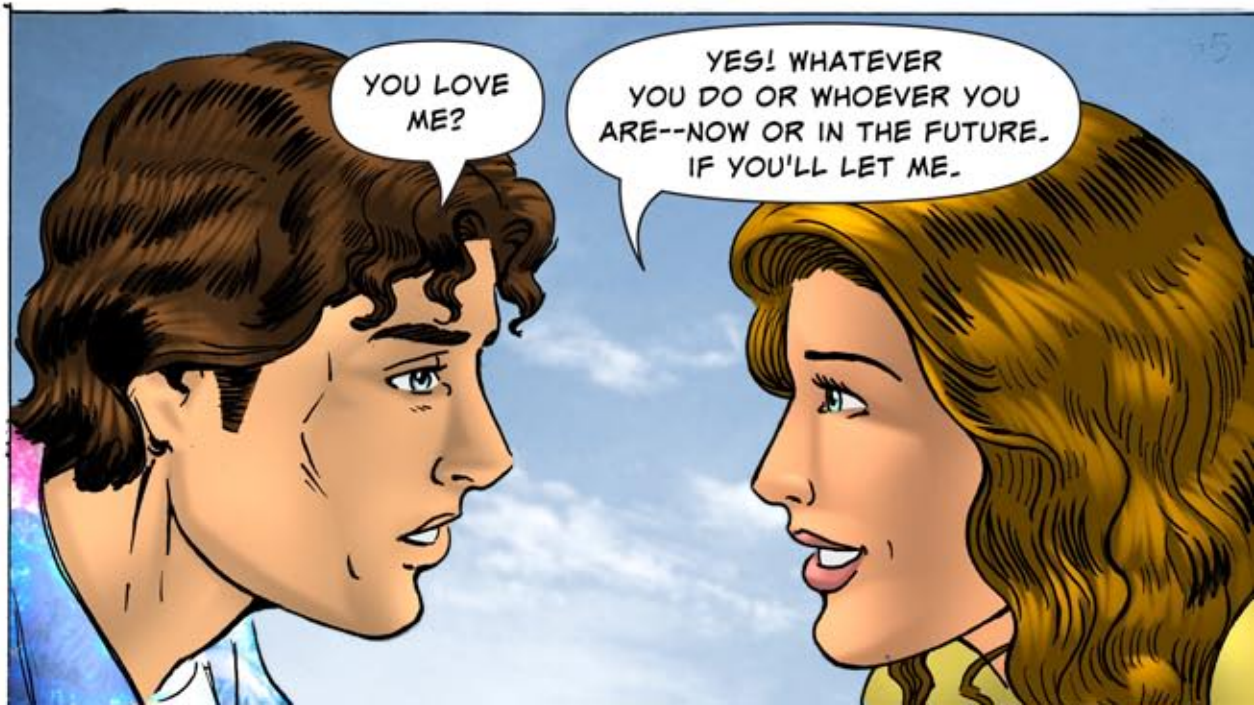
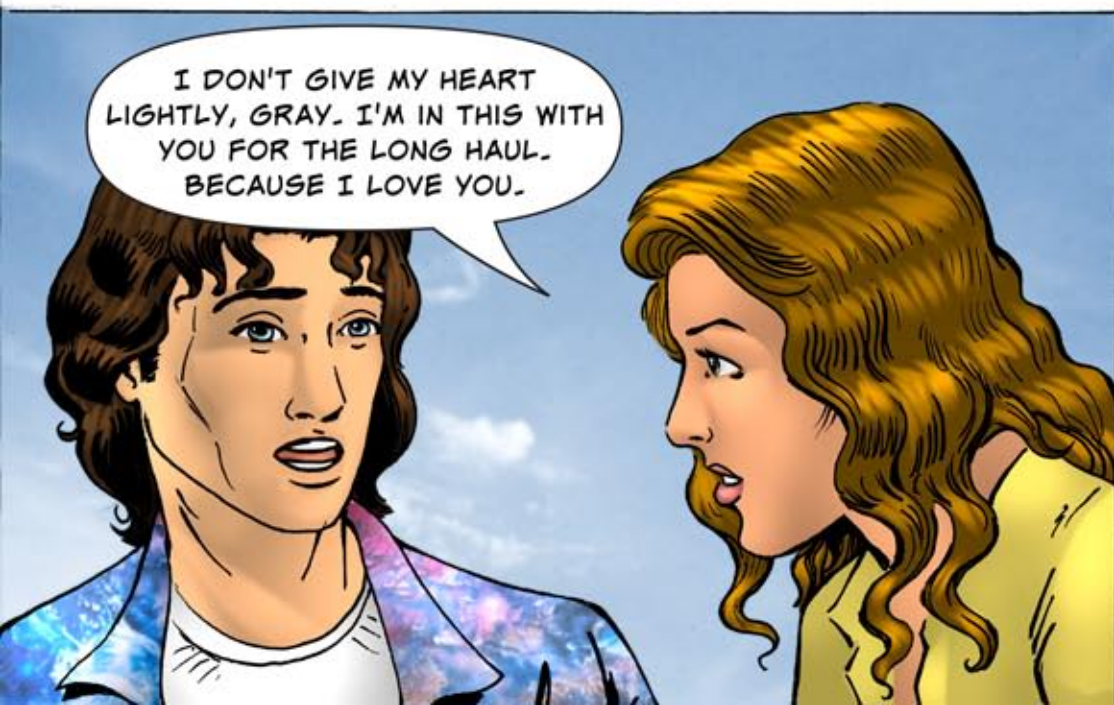
I...I HEARD ON THE RADIO. I'M SORRY.

SO YOU KNOW THAT I'M CUTTING MY CONNECTION TO THE COMPANY I BUILT FROM THE GROUND UP. YEAH, I'M SORRY TOO.



IF YOU WANT TO END IT WITH ME, JUST SAY SO. GET IT OVER WITH.

WHAT?!



GRAY'S ANSWER IS WORDLESS...

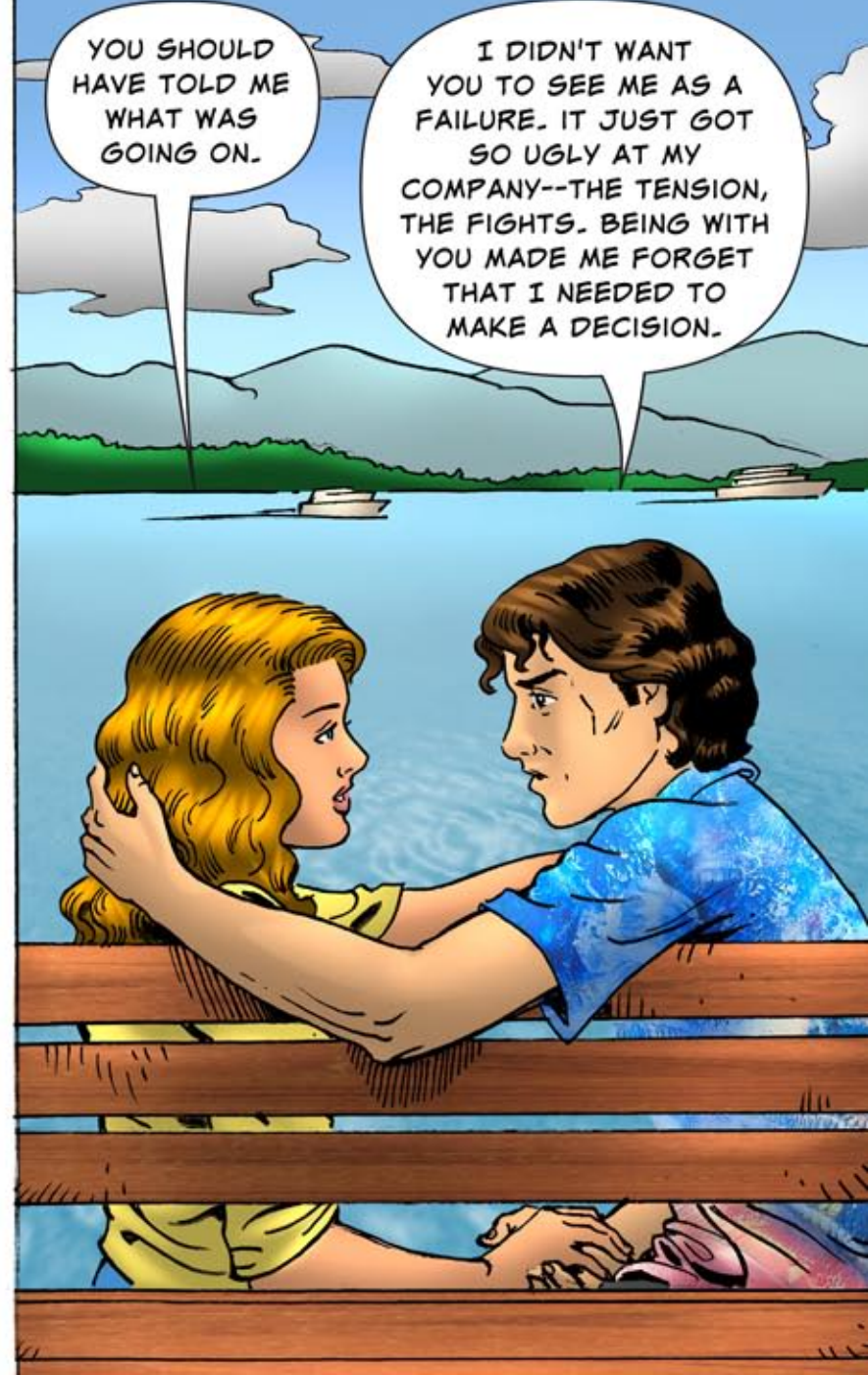


I DON'T WANT YOU TO FEEL SORRY FOR ME. I--



YOU SHOULD HAVE TOLD ME WHAT WAS GOING ON.

I DIDN'T WANT YOU TO SEE ME AS A FAILURE. IT JUST GOT SO UGLY AT MY COMPANY--THE TENSION, THE FIGHTS. BEING WITH YOU MADE ME FORGET THAT I NEEDED TO MAKE A DECISION.



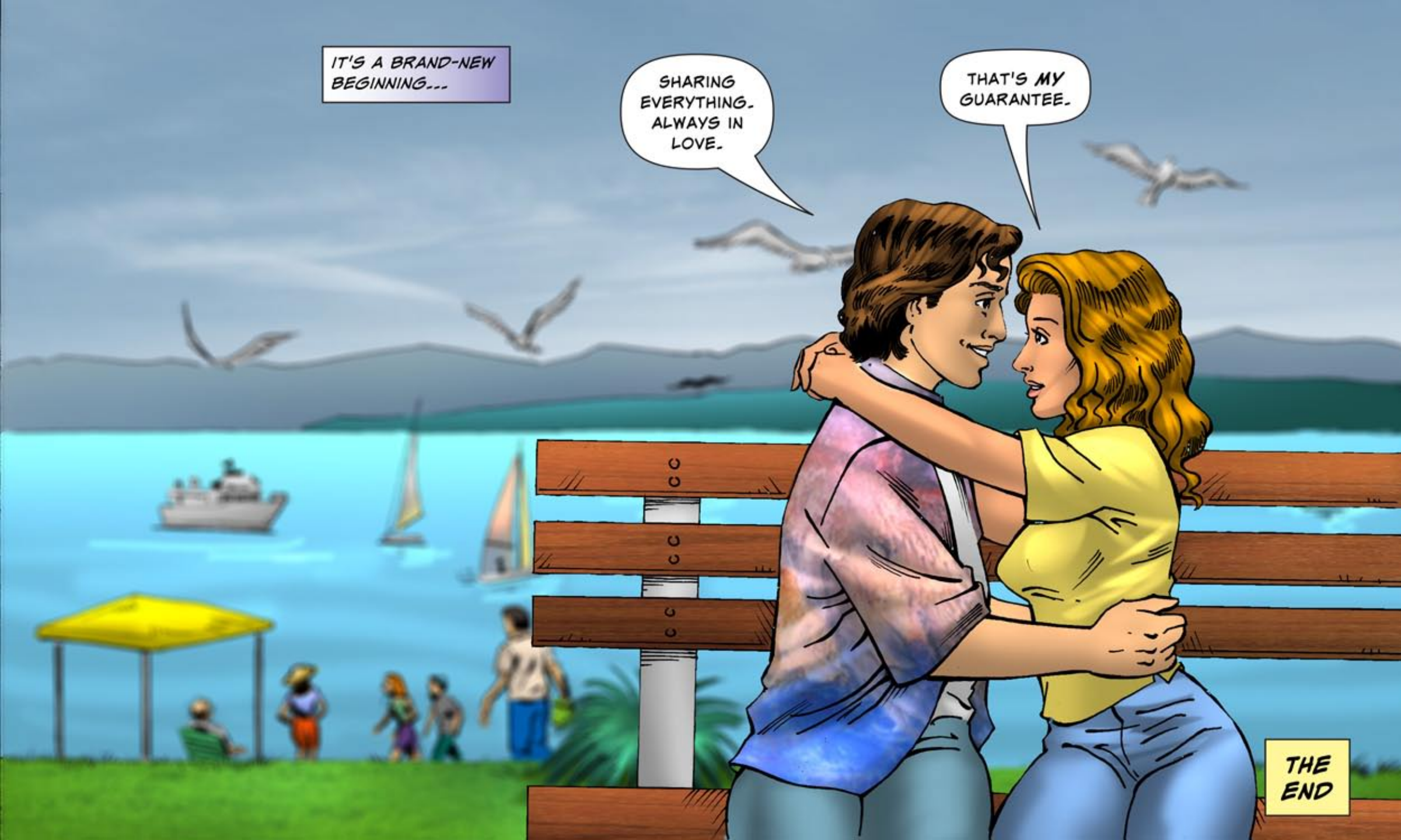


IT'S A BRAND-NEW
BEGINNING...

SHARING
EVERYTHING.
ALWAYS IN
LOVE.

THAT'S MY
GUARANTEE.

THE
END



If you enjoyed this book, check out these other deliciously sexy romance graphic novels from MyRomanceStory.com



Broken Enchantment

Written by Elspeth Cedar and illustrated by Enzo Pertile

Fern had stars in her eyes when she accompanied the dashing Carlos to his magnificent Spanish ranch. She never counted on having to deal with a cold, ruthless businessman.



Not the Marrying Kind

Written by Cynthia Starr and illustrated by Italo Ahumada

In 1880s Colorado the wild, wild west was really wild. And mail-order brides had their hands filled taming their eager bachelors.



Her Captive Heart

Written by Cynthia White and illustrated by Studio Hades

Billionaire Harland Marks was ruthless according to his nephew, Richard. And Michelle was determined to help Richard unmask Harland's underhanded dealings—despite his kisses that made her burn...



Namesakes

Written by Cynthia White and Illustrated by Gonzalo Martinez

Ellie knew a gigolo when she saw one. And there was no way this rugged hunk with the icy green eyes was going to get his hands on her aunt's fortune!

About Arrow Publications

Arrow Publications is the publisher of MyRomanceStory.com, the premier source for romance graphic eBooks, which are available at MyRomanceStory.com, All Romance eBooks, Amazon.com's Kindle Store, Barnes & Noble's Nook Store, Kobo Books, All Romance eBooks and the iBookstore (search by key words "arrow publications" or "myromancestory"). Selected publications are also available in Spanish.

arrow_info@arrowpub.com • www.arrowpub.com • www.myromancestory.com