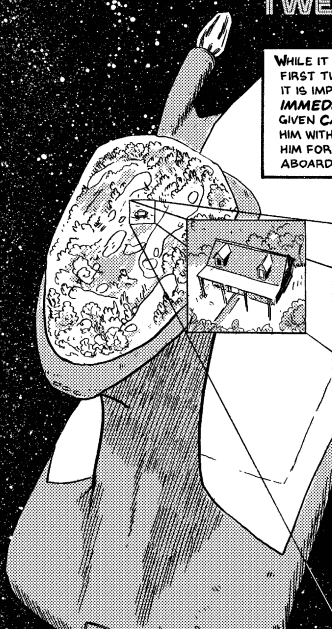
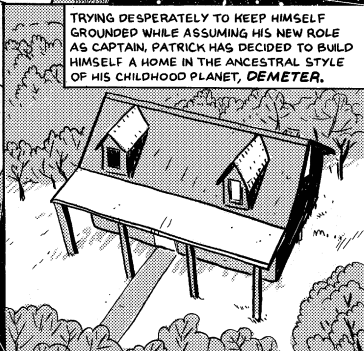


ARC

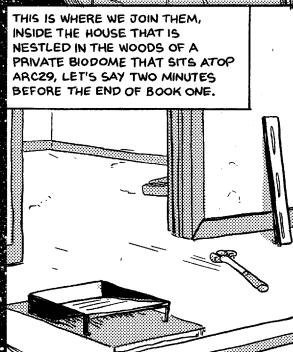
TWENTY-NINE



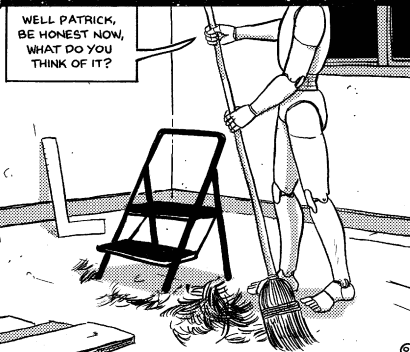
WHILE IT IS UNNECESSARY TO HAVE READ EITHER OF THE FIRST TWO BOOKS OF **ARC29** TO ENJOY THE FOLLOWING, IT IS IMPORTANT TO NOTE THAT THESE EVENTS TAKE PLACE IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE END OF BOOK ONE. **CYRIL** HAS GIVEN **CAPTAIN PATRICK** A NEW UNIFORM AND TRANSFORMED HIM WITH A HAIRCUT AND SHAVE, ALL IN AN EFFORT TO PREPARE HIM FOR HIS NEXT CHALLENGE: TAKING ON NEW PASSENGERS ABOARD **ARC29**!



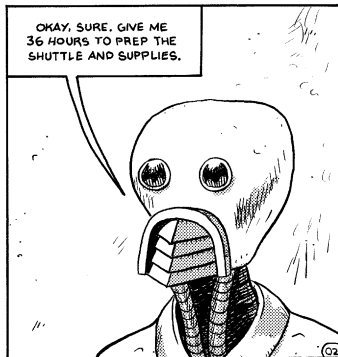
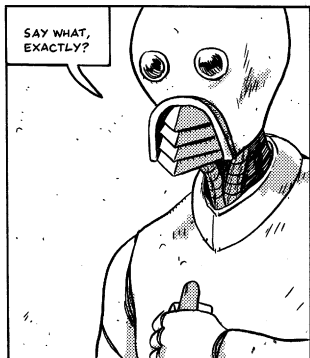
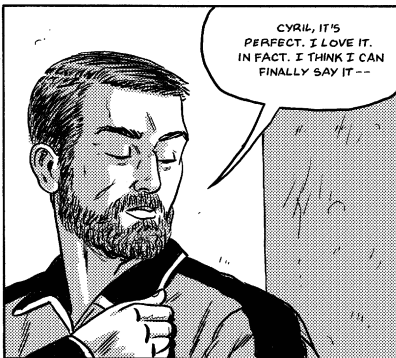
TRYING DESPERATELY TO KEEP HIMSELF GROUNDED WHILE ASSUMING HIS NEW ROLE AS CAPTAIN, PATRICK HAS DECIDED TO BUILD HIMSELF A HOME IN THE ANCESTRAL STYLE OF HIS CHILDHOOD PLANET, **DEMETER**.

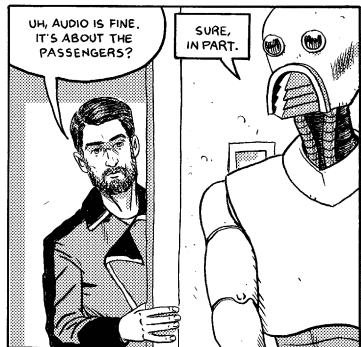
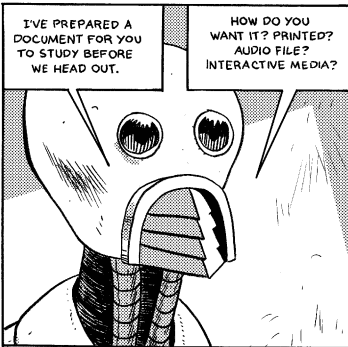
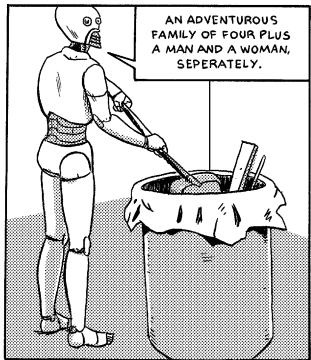


THIS IS WHERE WE JOIN THEM, INSIDE THE HOUSE THAT IS NESTLED IN THE WOODS OF A PRIVATE BIODOME THAT SITS ATOP **ARC29**, LET'S SAY TWO MINUTES BEFORE THE END OF BOOK ONE.



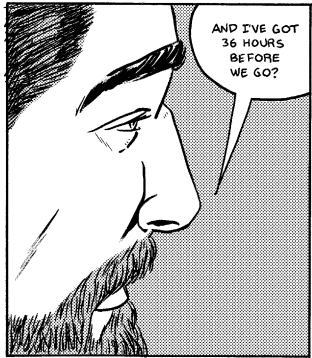
WELL PATRICK, BE HONEST NOW, WHAT DO YOU THINK OF IT?



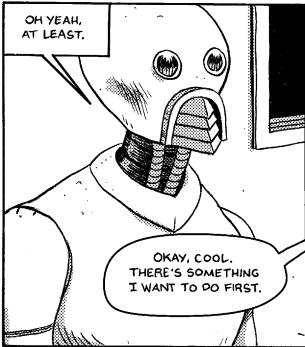




FEELS LIKE YOU DID MOST OF THE WORK WITH THIS NEW LOOK.



AND I'VE GOT 36 HOURS BEFORE WE GO?



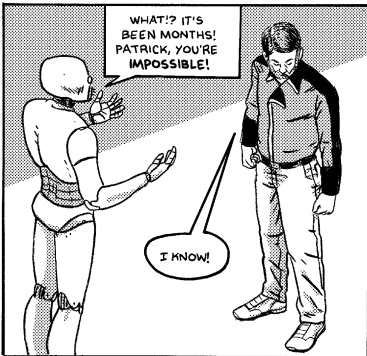
OH YEAH, AT LEAST.

OKAY, COOL. THERE'S SOMETHING I WANT TO DO FIRST.



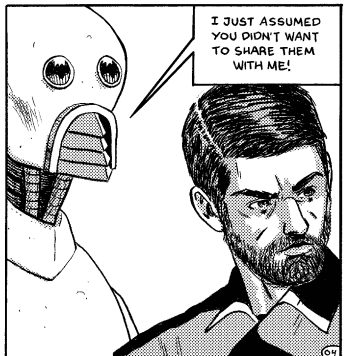
WHAT'S THAT?

I'M GOING BACK TO ORLANDO'S HOUSE, I HAVEN'T READ HIS JOURNALS YET.

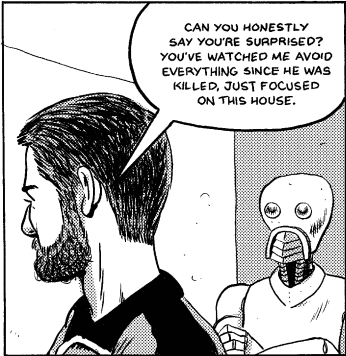


WHAT!? IT'S BEEN MONTHS! PATRICK, YOU'RE IMPOSSIBLE!

I KNOW!



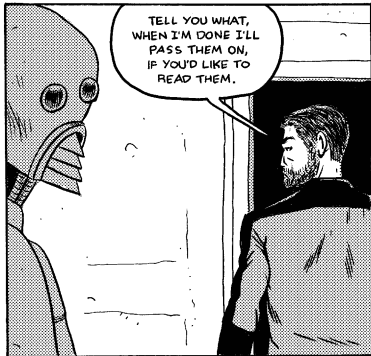
I JUST ASSUMED YOU DIDN'T WANT TO SHARE THEM WITH ME!



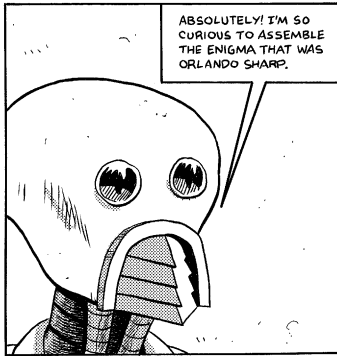
CAN YOU HONESTLY SAY YOU'RE SURPRISED? YOU'VE WATCHED ME AVOID EVERYTHING SINCE HE WAS KILLED, JUST FOCUSED ON THIS HOUSE.



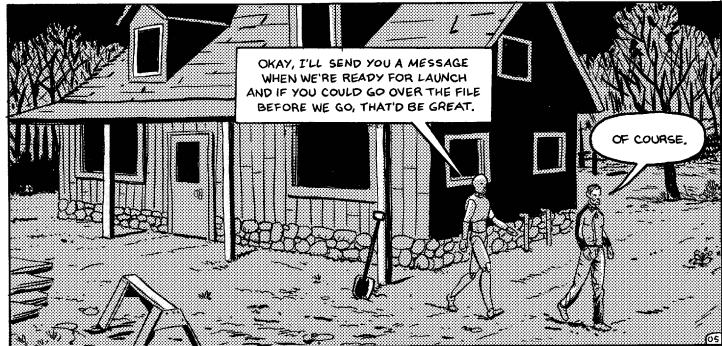
WELL, IT'S TIME TO RECTIFY THAT.



TELL YOU WHAT, WHEN I'M DONE I'LL PASS THEM ON, IF YOU'D LIKE TO READ THEM.

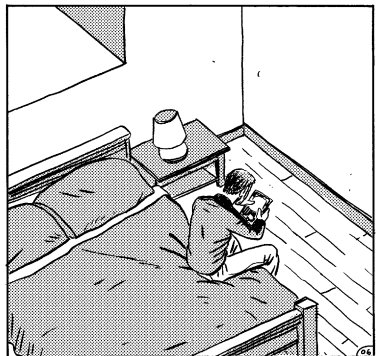
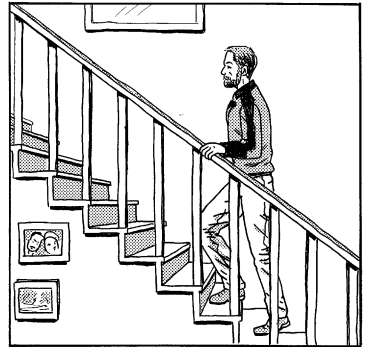
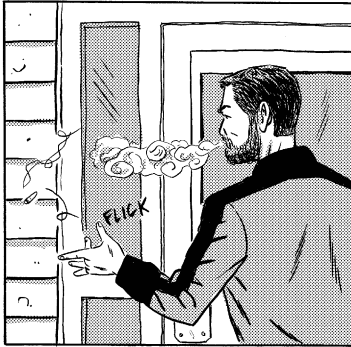
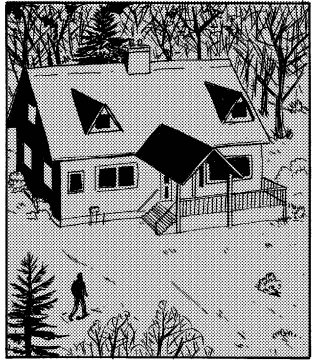


ABSOLUTELY! I'M SO CURIOUS TO ASSEMBLE THE ENIGMA THAT WAS ORLANDO SHARP.



OKAY, I'LL SEND YOU A MESSAGE WHEN WE'RE READY FOR LAUNCH AND IF YOU COULD GO OVER THE FILE BEFORE WE GO, THAT'D BE GREAT.

OF COURSE.



The life and times of
O. Sharp.
Volume 23.

I HOPE
THIS HELPS.
ORLANDO.

I HOPE IT
HELPS TOO.



HELLO PATRICK, IF WE'RE HERE, I MUST BE DEAD, HEH.



KNOWING YOU, IT PROBABLY TOOK YOU A WHILE TO MUSTER THE STRENGTH TO READ THIS.

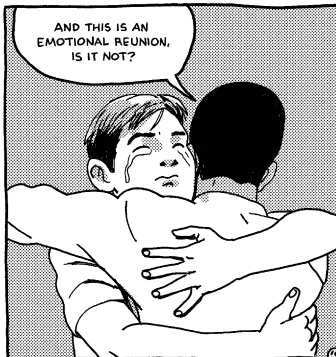
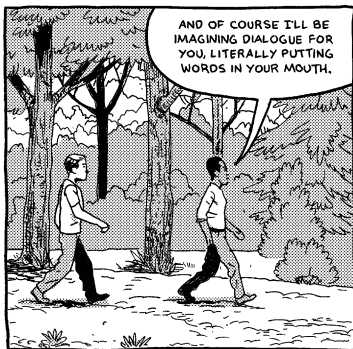
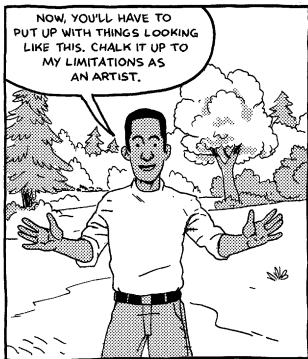
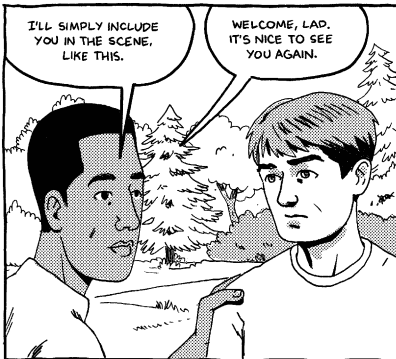
THAT'S FINE, EVERYTHING IN IT'S TIME, RIGHT?



NOW, I'M GOING TO STOP DRAWING MYSELF AS THE OLD MAN YOU KNEW AND CHANGE INSTEAD TO A YOUNGER, BETTER VERSION OF MYSELF.

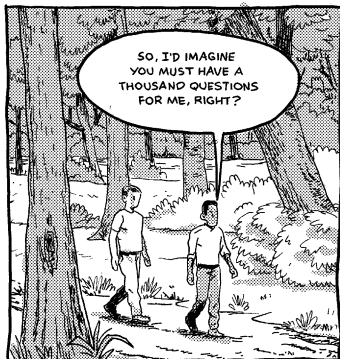
AND RATHER THAN ADDRESS YOU DIRECTLY LIKE THIS...

HOLY SHIT, ORLANDO! HOW MUCH TIME DID YOU SPEND ON THIS?





YOU'RE RIGHT,
I GUESS.



SO, I'D IMAGINE
YOU MUST HAVE A
THOUSAND QUESTIONS
FOR ME, RIGHT?



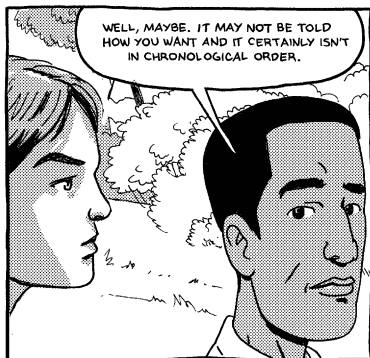
LIKE, HOW DID I
KNOW I'D BE KILLED,
OR WHY DID I KEEP THE
CAPTAIN'S QUARTERS
SECRET FROM YOU?

YES!
EXACTLY!

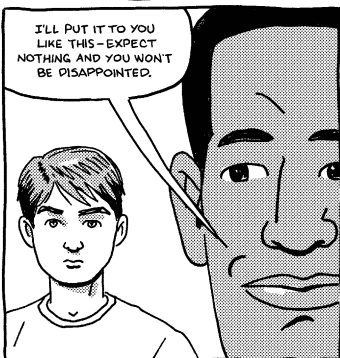


PERFECT. I'LL ANSWER
ALL THESE AND MORE,
OR RATHER, I ALREADY
HAVE IN THESE JOURNALS
I LEFT FOR YOU.

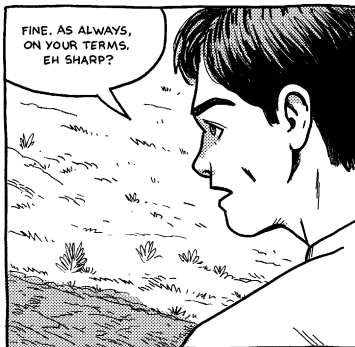
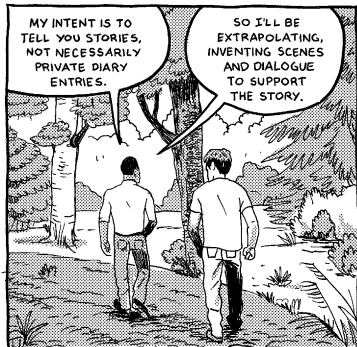
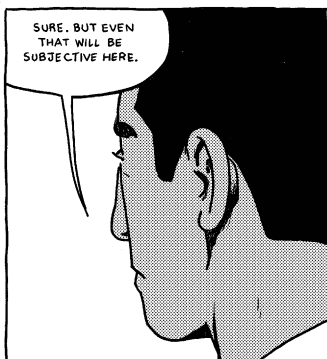
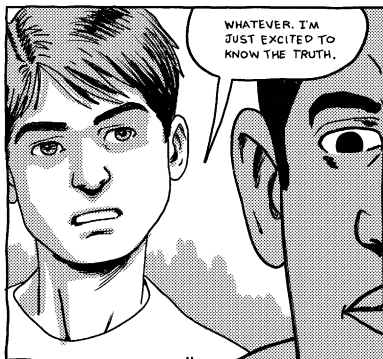
AWESOME.

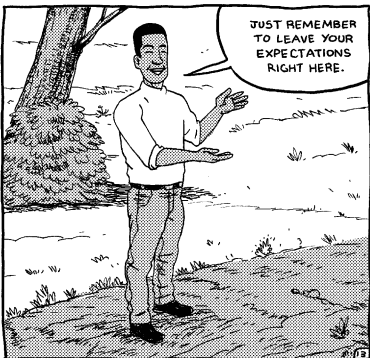
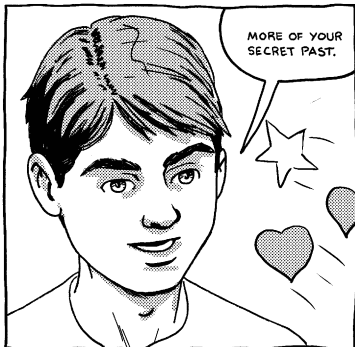
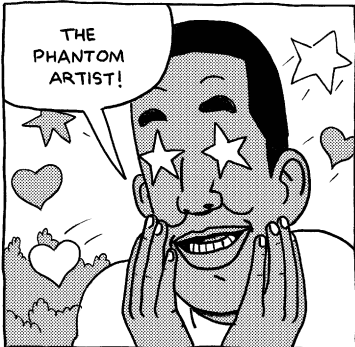
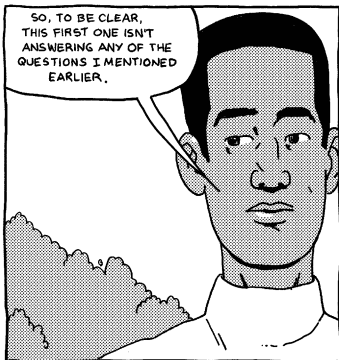


WELL, MAYBE. IT MAY NOT BE TOLD
HOW YOU WANT AND IT CERTAINLY ISN'T
IN CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER.

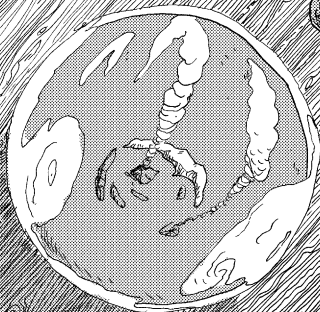


I'LL PUT IT TO YOU
LIKE THIS - EXPECT
NOTHING AND YOU WON'T
BE DISAPPOINTED.





A LITTLE INTRODUCTION TO MY HOME FOR YOU: I WAS BORN ON A COLONY NAMED **KAYLION**. IT WAS PART OF THE FIRST WAVE OF SPACE EXPANSION AND IS A MOON OF A GASSY GIANT. IT'S CLOSE TO A NETWORK OF POPULATED PLANETS WHICH ITSELF IS NOT TOO FAR FROM EARTH. MOSTLY COVERED IN WATER, THERE ARE A CLUSTER OF HABITABLE TROPICAL ISLANDS WHERE A HANDFUL OF PROSPEROUS CITIES HAVE ESTABLISHED THEMSELVES. THE COLONY'S WEALTH IS MOSTLY IN OFF-SHORE MINING FOR RARE MINERALS, VALUABLE FOR TRADE WITH NEIGHBORS.



MY DAD, A FORMER INTER-PLANETARY OFFICER, WAS NOW OPERATING A SUCCESSFUL SHIPPING COMPANY WITH MY MOM WHILE I WAS GROWING UP. UNTIL I WAS ABOUT TEN, MY TIME WAS SPLIT BETWEEN THE SURFACE AND MY PARENTS FIRST SPACESHIP. BY THE TIME I WAS A TEENAGER, THE BUSINESS HAD EXPANDED TO A SMALL FLEET.

