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UK Atomic
Energy
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GREENKID



Art!
2025

SPARKS FLY! A WHODUNNIT AT THE CUTTING EDGE OF GREEN ENERGY!

GLOSSARY

ASTROPHYSICS - USING PHYSICS WE'VE DISCOVERED ON EARTH (E.G. GRAVITY AND WHY THINGS FALL) TO TRY TO EXPLAIN HOW BLACK HOLES, STARS, PLANETS AND OTHER THINGS IN SPACE WORK.

ATOM - WHAT ALL MATTER IS MADE OF. ALL ATOMS HAVE A SMALL NUCLEUS IN THE CENTRE WITH ELECTRONS ORBITING AROUND IT. THE NUCLEUS IS WHERE AN ATOM'S WEIGHT COMES FROM. IT IS MADE OF PROTONS (POSITIVE CHARGE) AND NEUTRONS (NO CHARGE).

BTEC - BUSINESS AND TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION COUNCIL QUALIFICATION WHERE YOU'RE LEARNING SKILLS FOR A SPECIFIC JOB E.G. ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING, SPORT, HEALTH AND BEAUTY ETC.

CLEAN ENERGY - ENERGY, FOR EXAMPLE ELECTRICAL ENERGY, GENERATED IN AN ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY WAY FROM SOURCES SUCH AS THE SUN, WIND AND FUSION, SO THAT WE CAN HAVE POWER IN OUR HOMES, SCHOOLS, TRANSPORT AND MORE, WITHOUT HARMING THE PLANET.

CODING - WRITING SETS OF INSTRUCTIONS CALLED PROGRAMS THAT COMPUTERS FOLLOW TO DO TASKS. IF YOU PLAY ANY GAMES ON A SCREEN, THEY WILL HAVE BEEN CODED. SO HAVE CALCULATORS AND MOBILE APPS.

DEUTERIUM - AN ISOTOPE OF HYDROGEN, HAS 1 PROTON AND 1 NEUTRON IN ITS NUCLEUS.

ELECTRON - THE NEGATIVELY CHARGED BIT OF AN ATOM THAT IS USUALLY MOVING AROUND OUTSIDE THE NUCLEUS, IT IS THE ELECTRONS THAT DETERMINE HOW BIG AN ATOM IS. IT FLOWS THROUGH WIRES IN ELECTRICITY. THEY DON'T WEIGH VERY MUCH AT ALL.

ELEMENT - THERE ARE 118 KNOWN ELEMENTS, THE NUMBER OF PROTONS DETERMINES THE ELEMENT. YOU ARE MADE MAINLY OF HYDROGEN (1 PROTON), CARBON (6 PROTONS), NITROGEN (7 PROTONS) AND OXYGEN (8 PROTONS).

FUSION - COMBINING LIGHTER ELEMENTS TO MAKE HEAVIER ONES - THE SUN CAN MAKE ELEMENTS ALL THE WAY UP TO IRON (26 PROTONS). JET AND STEP WILL MAKE HELIUM (2 PROTONS) FROM ISOTOPES OF HYDROGEN (1 PROTON).

HELIUM - HAS 2 PROTONS AND 2 NEUTRONS IN ITS NUCLEUS.

HYDROGEN - HAS 1 PROTON IN ITS NUCLEUS.

ISOTOPE - ELEMENTS THAT HAVE THE SAME NUMBER OF PROTONS BUT DIFFERENT NUMBER OF NEUTRONS.

JET - JOINT EUROPEAN TORUS- EXPERIMENTAL DOUGHNUT SHAPED FUSION MACHINE BASED IN OXFORD UK OPERATED FROM 1983 TO 2023.

MASCOT - THE ROBOT CREATED TO GO INSIDE JET TO DO MAINTENANCE, REPLACE TILES AND TIDY UP, OPERATED BY A HUMAN.

PLASMA - WE ARE USED TO THREE STATES OF MATTER - SOLID, LIQUID AND GAS. PLASMA IS ANOTHER STATE! IT HAPPENS WHEN THE ELECTRONS (NEGATIVE CHARGE) HAVE SEPARATED FROM THE NUCLEUS (POSITIVE CHARGE) OF AN ATOM. THIS MEANS THEY CAN BE MOVED BY MAGNETS. THE SUN AND LIGHTNING ARE EXAMPLES OF PLASMA.

PLASMA EXHAUSTS - HOT HELIUM PRODUCED FROM FUSION OF HYDROGEN ISOTOPES.

SIMULATIONS - TESTS RUN ON A COMPUTER THAT LET YOU KNOW WHAT IS LIKELY TO HAPPEN IF YOU DO AN EXPERIMENT BASED ON WHAT SETTINGS YOU ARE USING.

STEP - SPHERICAL TOKAMAK FOR ENERGY PRODUCTION - LARGE APPLE SHAPED FUSION MACHINE. THE UK'S FIRST TIME BUILDING A FUSION MACHINE ATTACHED TO A POWER STATION TO PRODUCE ELECTRICITY FROM FUSION. THE ENERGY WILL GO TO THE NATIONAL GRID WHERE IT CAN THEN BE SENT TO HOUSES, SCHOOLS AND ANYWHERE ELSE THAT NEEDS IT.

TOKAMAK - A MACHINE THAT USES MAGNETS TO CONTAIN PLASMA IN A DOUGHNUT SHAPE TO ALLOW FUSION TO HAPPEN - FIRST INVENTED IN RUSSIA IN 1954

TRITIUM - AN ISOTOPE OF HYDROGEN, HAS 1 PROTON AND 2 NEUTRONS IN ITS NUCLEUS.

Invented in 1951 and first built in 1954, a tokamak is a torus (doughnut) shaped chamber that uses magnetic fields to contain plasma that can be made very hot and allow fusion of hydrogen into helium.

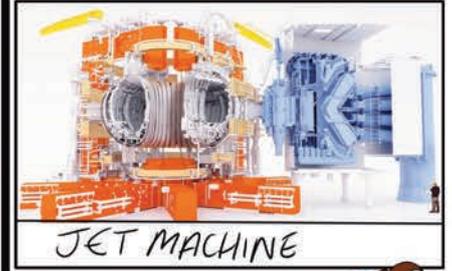


1980s

To really be able to understand fusion better, we knew we needed to build a bigger fusion machine. The Joint European Torus (JET) was designed in 1977 and building started the year after in Oxfordshire, UK. She made her first plasma in 1983.



JET was the biggest fusion machine ever built and scientists and engineers from all over Europe came to work here to help turn fusion into a reality.



JET ran fusion experiments for over 40 years, although lots of new kit was added over time. By 2023 the outside looked very different, but JET was still the biggest tokamak fusion machine in the world.



2020s

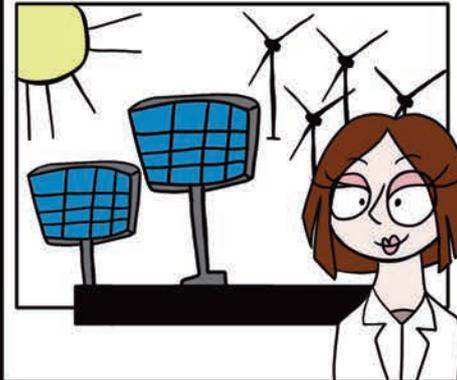
JET broke lots of records including being the first fusion machine to use tritium and deuterium as fuel. Over 4,500 people worked at JET, producing plasma over 100,000 times and in 2023 she set a world record for fusion energy production. The plasma was 10 times hotter than the sun!



Plasma is also hot pink!



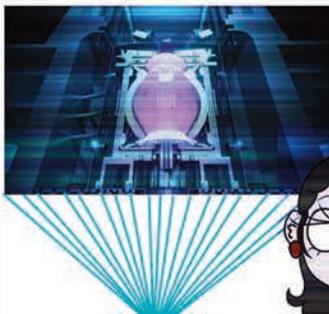
Using what we've learnt from JET, we're planning an even bigger machine that will hopefully be the first time fusion is used to generate electricity. Fusion uses hydrogen as fuel and makes helium, a safe, inert gas. There is no carbon dioxide (CO₂) produced. We need fusion to make low-carbon electricity as it's not always sunny or windy so you need other ways of generation.



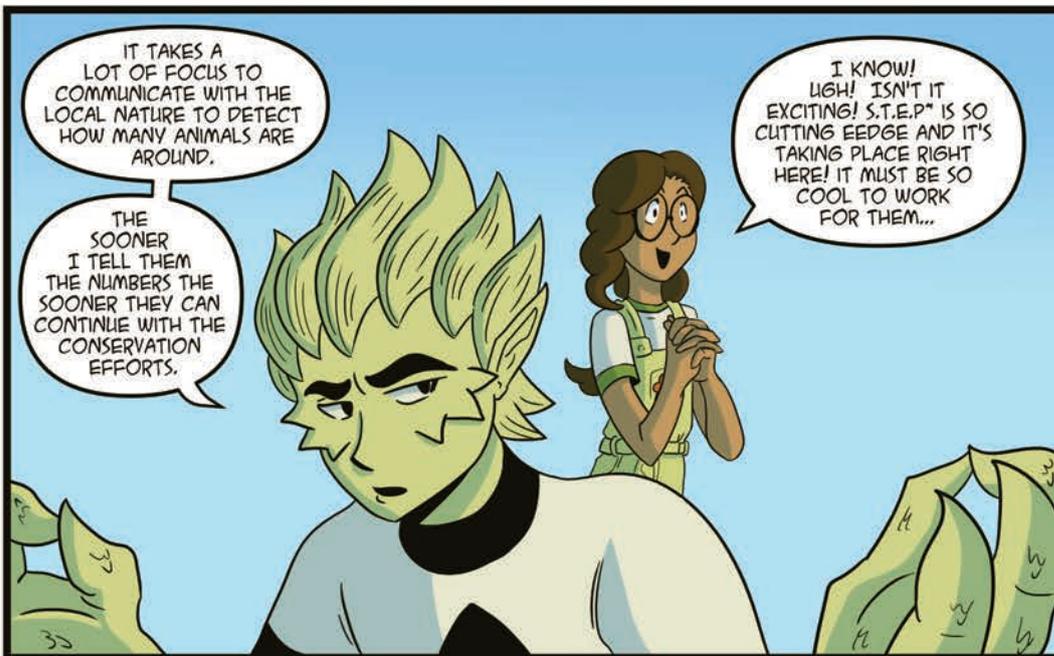
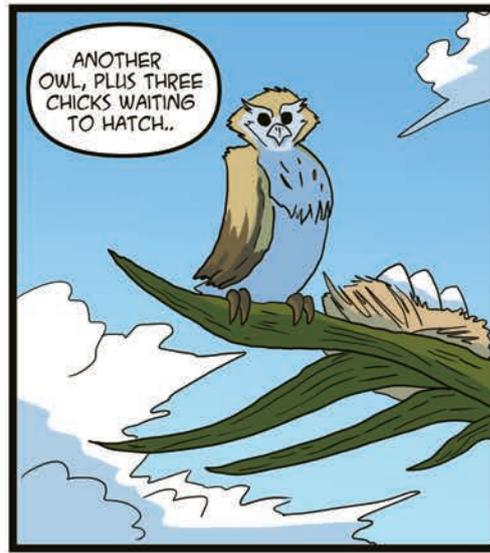
Spherical Tokamak for Energy Production (STEP) has been built on the site of an old coal fired power station in West Burton - on the Nottinghamshire and Lincolnshire border. It has created thousands of jobs in clean energy, and has paved the way for future fusion powerplants around the world - a fossil fuel to fusion story!

STEP is a spherical shaped tokamak so more like a cored apple than a doughnut. This brings the plasma closer to the wall of the machine, and allows for a more compact tokamak, with smaller magnets. It produces more energy than it uses to run so we can generate electricity.

STEP has shown what is possible and will be used to help design a wave of newer, bigger fusion machines that will help power us into our NetZero future.

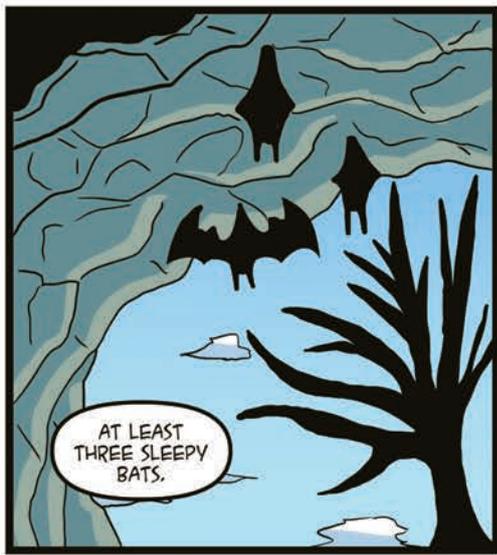


2040s PRO-J3CT Dr Science is a... Hologram!

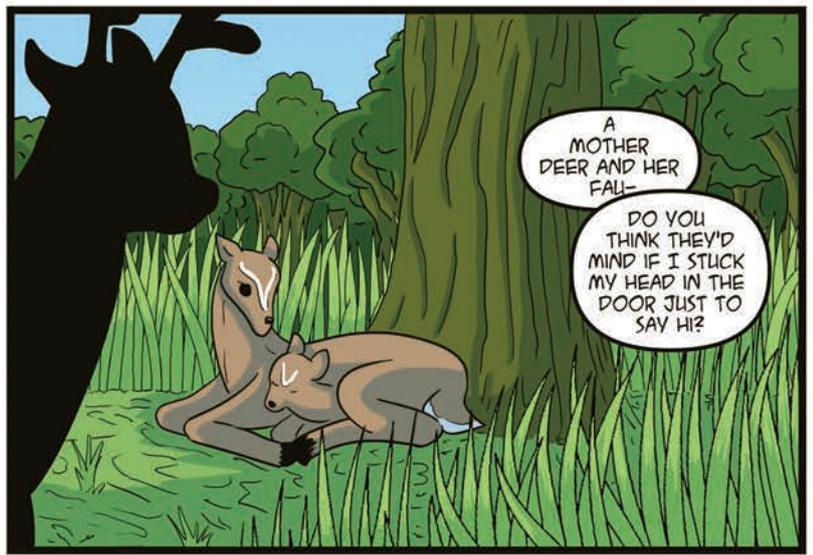




TWO BUNNIES.

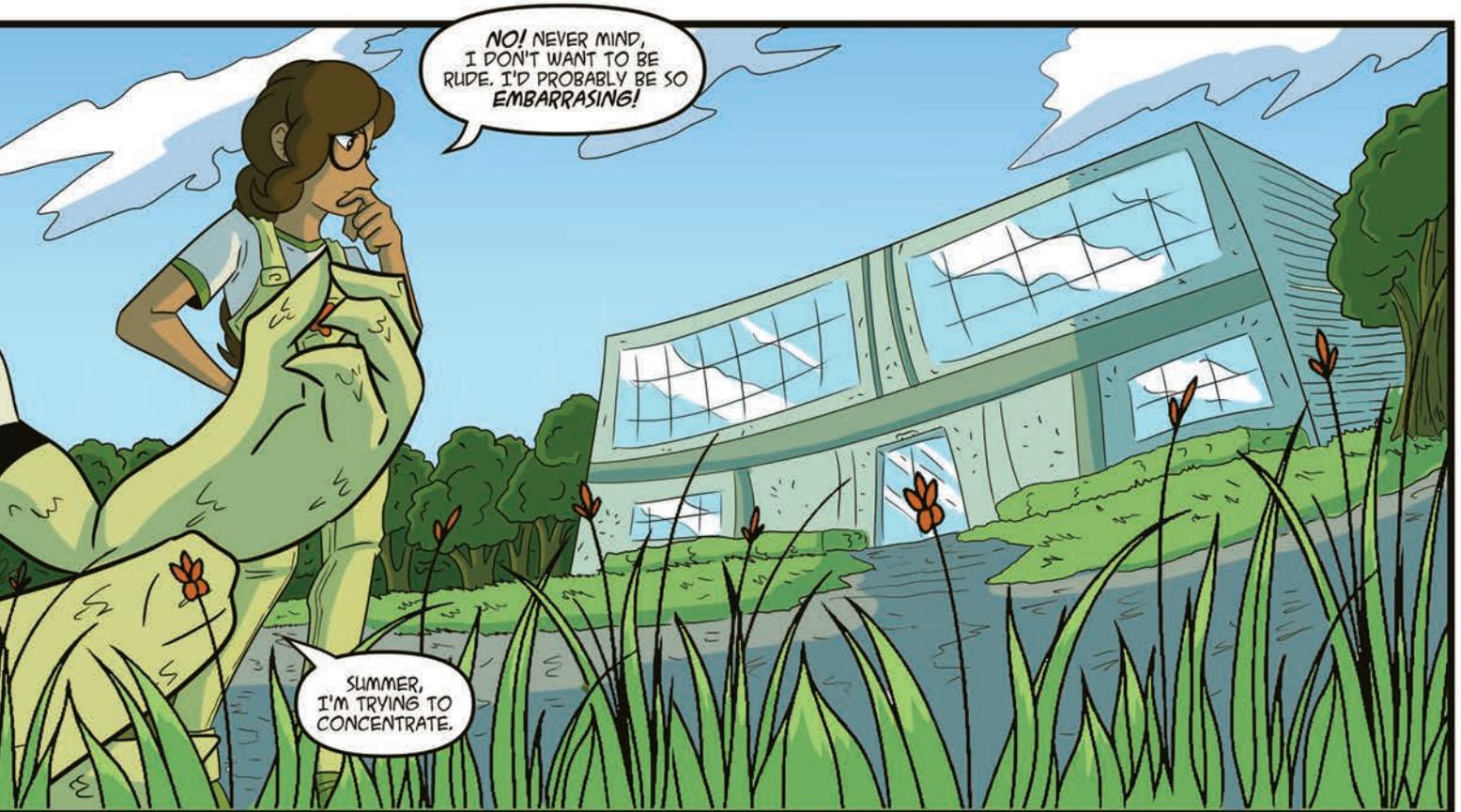


AT LEAST THREE SLEEPY BATS.



A MOTHER DEER AND HER FAWN.

DO YOU THINK THEY'D MIND IF I STUCK MY HEAD IN THE DOOR JUST TO SAY HI?



NO! NEVER MIND, I DON'T WANT TO BE RUDE. I'D PROBABLY BE SO EMBARRASING!

SUMMER, I'M TRYING TO CONCENTRATE.



OKAY! I'M GOING TO DO IT! I'M GOING TO GO AND TALK TO THEM! OKAY! WISH ME LUCK!



GOOD LUCK!



HI! SORRY TO INTERRUPT! MY NAME IS SUMMER PATEL, I'M JUST HELPING GREEN KID WITH THE ANIMAL CONSERVATION EFFORTS. I'M SO EXCITED ABOUT THIS PROJECT! I WAS DOING RESEARCH ON YOU ALL BEFORE I CAME!



DR. ZHOU QI! YOUR WORK ON JET WAS INCREDIBLE!

THE BREAKTHROUGHS YOU MADE WITH PLASMA PRODUCTION, WOW!



AISHA OPIO, I KNOW YOU'RE NEW TO THE FIELD.

YOU MUST REALLY HAVE YOUR WORK CUT OUT FOR YOU DEALING WITH PLASMA EXHAUSTS!



FREYJA WRIGHT! YOU WORK IN FABRICATING THE MATERIALS USED TO DEAL WITH THE COOLING AND HEATING MECHANICS!

SO EXCITING TO HAVE YOU WORKING ON STEP.



BEN HARPER, I SAW YOU ON THE WEBSITE, YOU'RE WORKING ON TRITIUM STORAGE?

MUST BE SO COMPLEX!



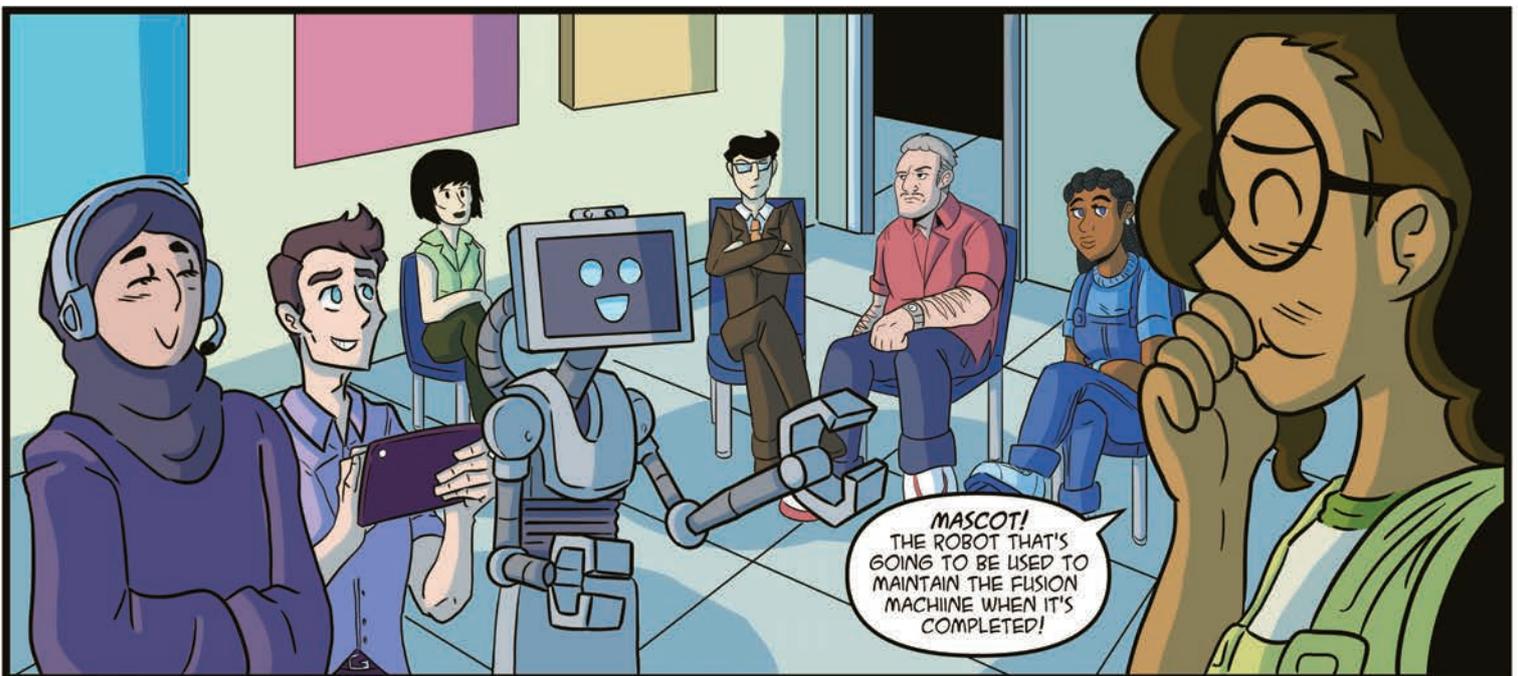
ALEENA SATTI, YOU'RE WORKING WITH THE ROBOTICS.

SO COOL!

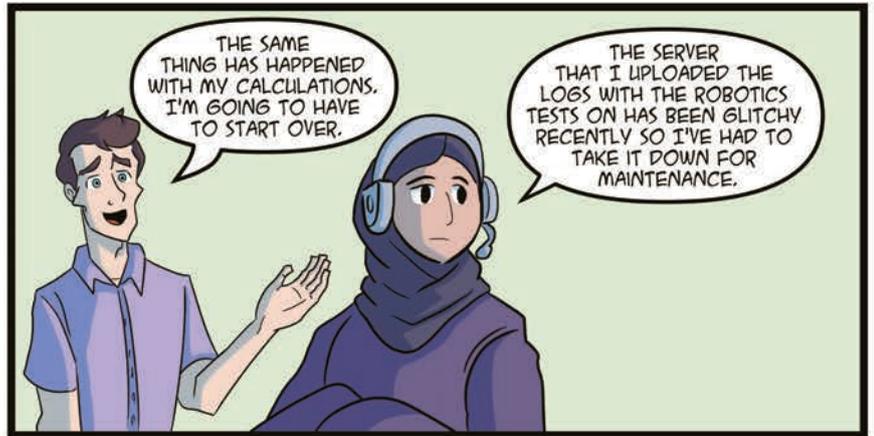
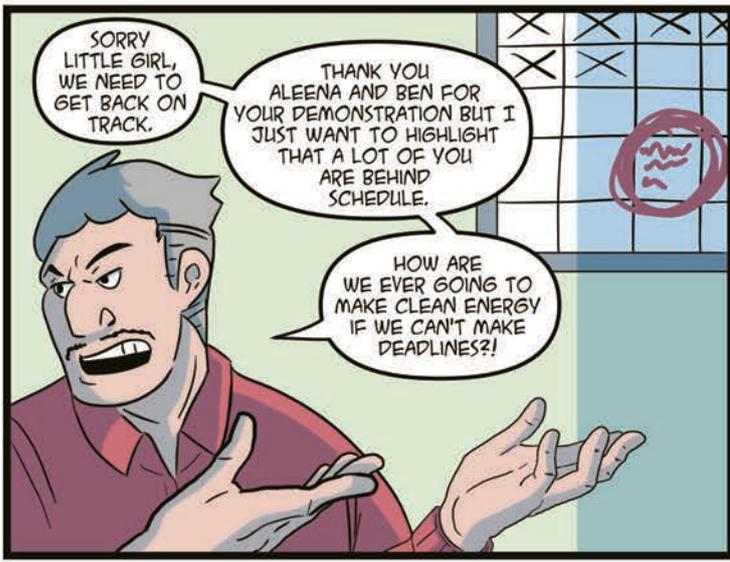


RORY TALBOT, THE PROJECT MANAGER KEEPING EVERYTHING RUNNING!

AND OF COURSE WHO COULD FORGET...



MASCOT! THE ROBOT THAT'S GOING TO BE USED TO MAINTAIN THE FUSION MACHINE WHEN IT'S COMPLETED!





OKAY, I THINK I'M DONE BUT I'LL NEED TO COME BACK TOMORROW JUST TO DOUBLE CHECK EVERYTHING.

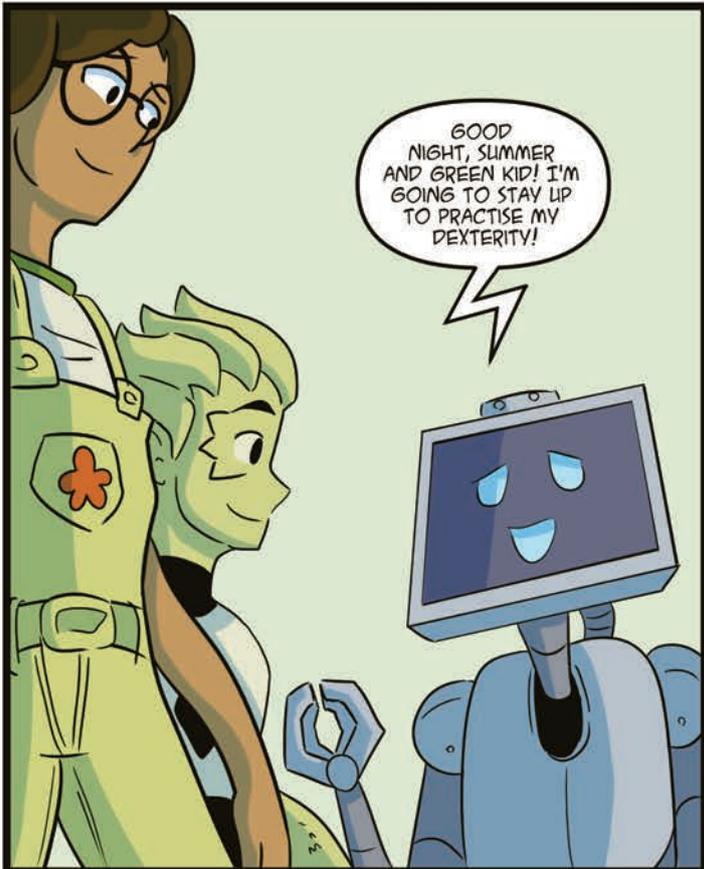


SO, WHAT'S WITH THE FROSTY VIBES IN HERE?



THANK YOU FOR YOUR EFFORTS TODAY, GREEN KID.

TEAM, LETS RECONVENE TOMORROW AND SEE IF WE CAN GET TO THE BOTTOM OF THIS.

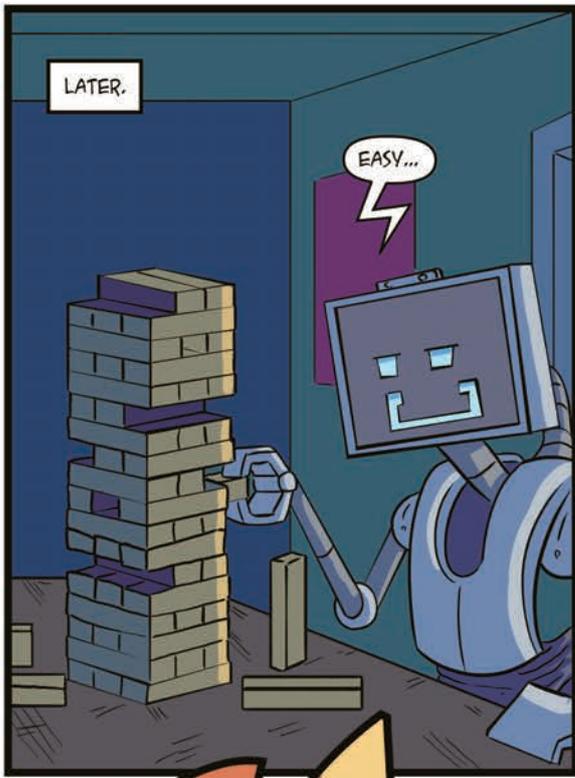


GOOD NIGHT, SUMMER AND GREEN KID! I'M GOING TO STAY UP TO PRACTISE MY DEXTERITY!



NIGHT MASCOT! DON'T STAY UP TOO LATE!

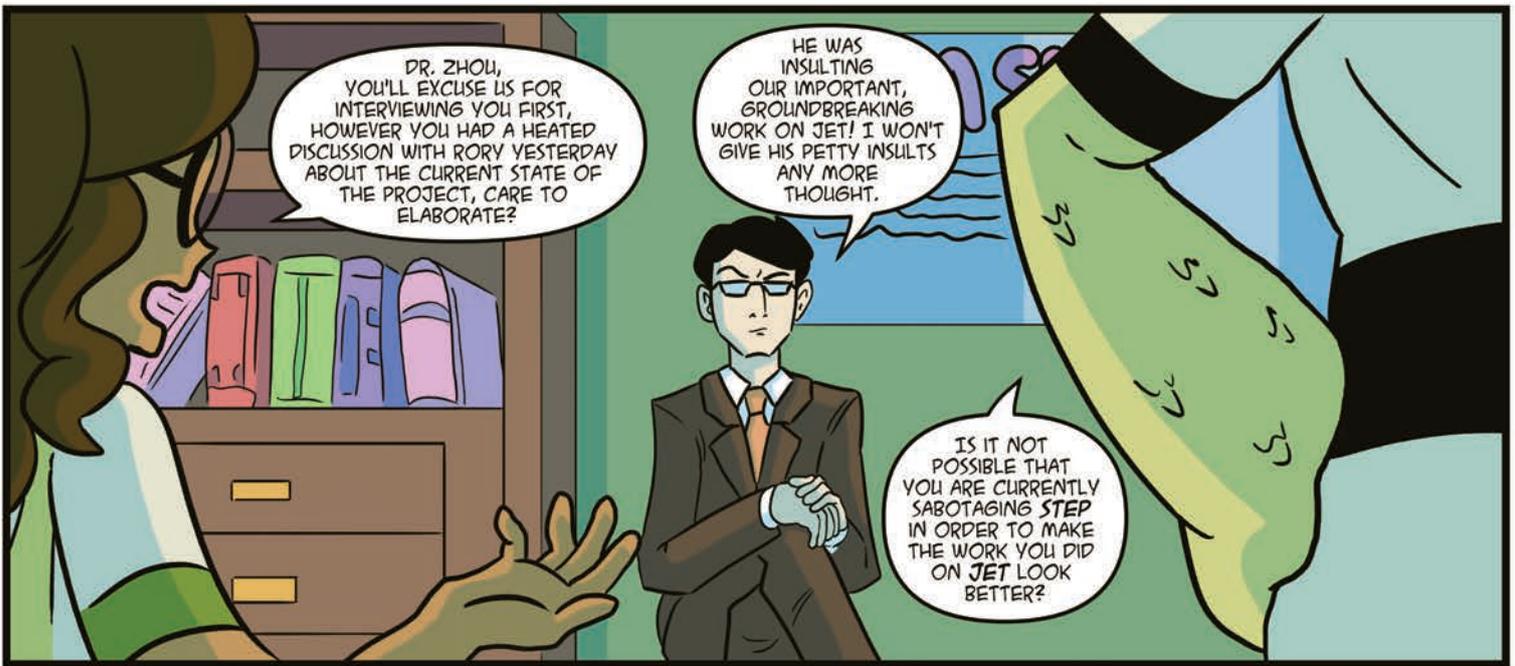
NIGHT!



CLANG!







DR. ZHOU, YOU'LL EXCUSE US FOR INTERVIEWING YOU FIRST, HOWEVER YOU HAD A HEATED DISCUSSION WITH RORY YESTERDAY ABOUT THE CURRENT STATE OF THE PROJECT, CARE TO ELABORATE?

HE WAS INSULTING OUR IMPORTANT, GROUNDBREAKING WORK ON JET! I WON'T GIVE HIS PETTY INSULTS ANY MORE THOUGHT.

IS IT NOT POSSIBLE THAT YOU ARE CURRENTLY SABOTAGING STEP IN ORDER TO MAKE THE WORK YOU DID ON JET LOOK BETTER?



ABSURD! I WAS OFFERED A LOT OF OPPORTUNITIES WHEN I LEFT JET BUT I CHOSE TO GO INTO STEP.

WE LEARNED A LOT ON JET AND WE'RE GOING TO USE THAT KNOWLEDGE TO CREATE THE UK'S FIRST PROTOTYPE FUSION POWER STATION.

THERE'S NO QUESTION. OF COURSE I WANT STEP TO SUCCEED TOO.



FAIR ENOUGH, DO YOU HAVE ANY THOUGHTS ON WHO YOU THINK IT COULD BE?

RORY HAS BEEN SABOTAGING US WITH THESE DEADLINES ALREADY! HE'S THE ONLY ONE WHO'S ACROSS ALL THESE DIFFERENT DEPARTMENTS!



ZHOU SAID THAT ABOUT ME?! I HAVE TO KEEP EVERYONE ON TRACK! THIS KIND OF PROJECT DOESN'T RUN ITSELF!



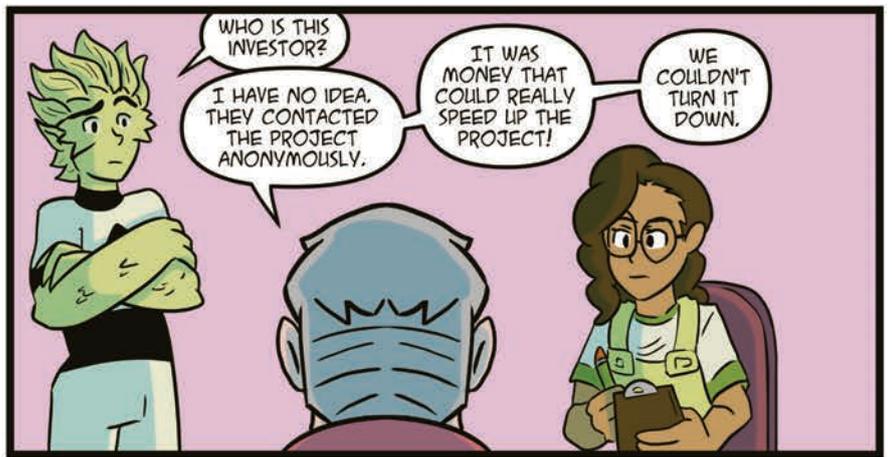
IN ALL FAIRNESS MR TALBOT, WHERE ARE THESE DEADLINES COMING FROM ALL OF A SUDDEN?



'SIGH'

IF YOU REALLY MUST KNOW WE'VE RECENTLY HAD AN INVESTOR COME ON BOARD.

THIS HAS COME WITH CERTAIN STIPULATIONS.

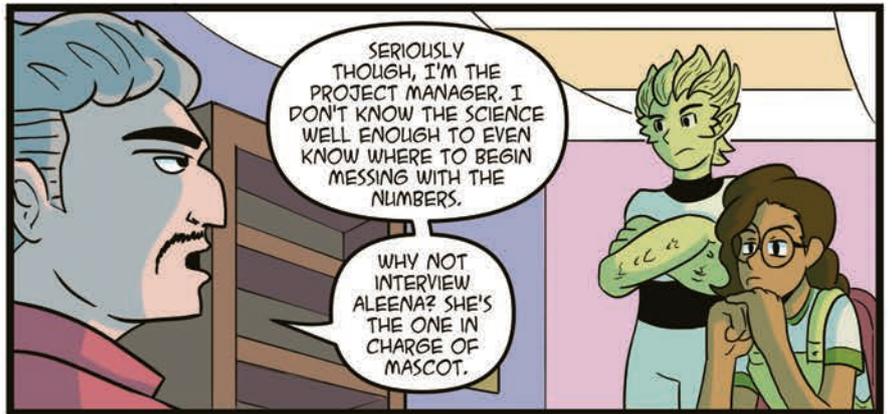


WHO IS THIS INVESTOR?

I HAVE NO IDEA. THEY CONTACTED THE PROJECT ANONYMOUSLY.

IT WAS MONEY THAT COULD REALLY SPEED UP THE PROJECT!

WE COULDN'T TURN IT DOWN.



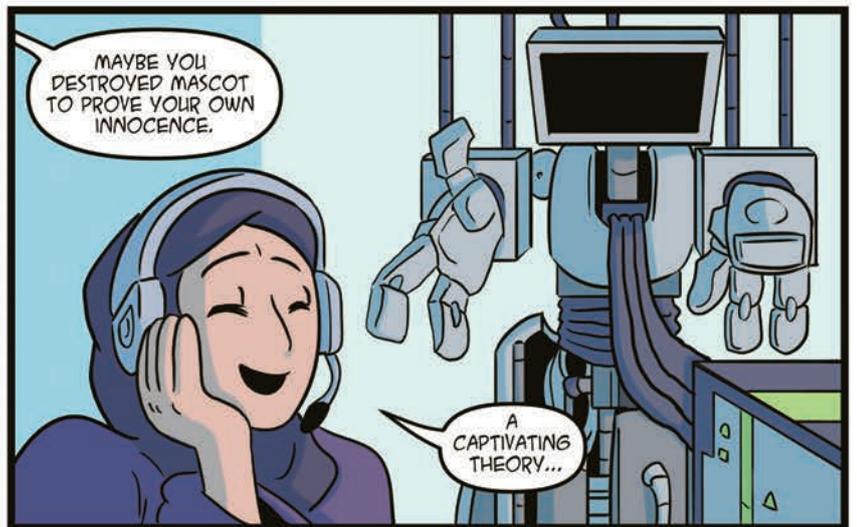
SERIOUSLY THOUGH, I'M THE PROJECT MANAGER. I DON'T KNOW THE SCIENCE WELL ENOUGH TO EVEN KNOW WHERE TO BEGIN MESSING WITH THE NUMBERS.

WHY NOT INTERVIEW ALEENA? SHE'S THE ONE IN CHARGE OF MASCOT.



HAHAHA! SO RORY'S SAYING THAT I DESTROYED MASCOT, ONLY TO COME BACK THE NEXT DAY TO FIX THEM?

NICE ONE SHERLOCK!



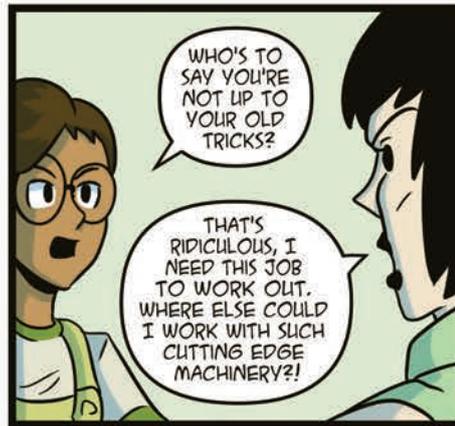
MAYBE YOU DESTROYED MASCOT TO PROVE YOUR OWN INNOCENCE.

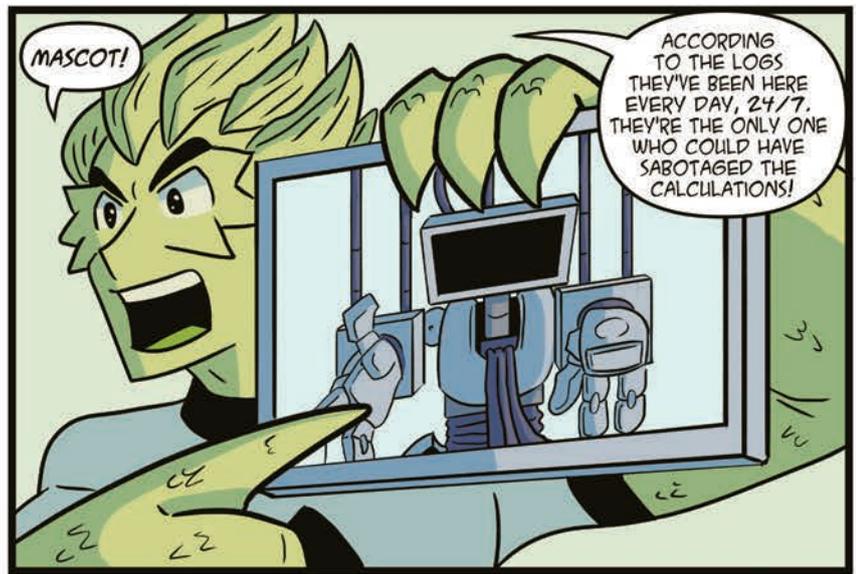
A CAPTIVATING THEORY...

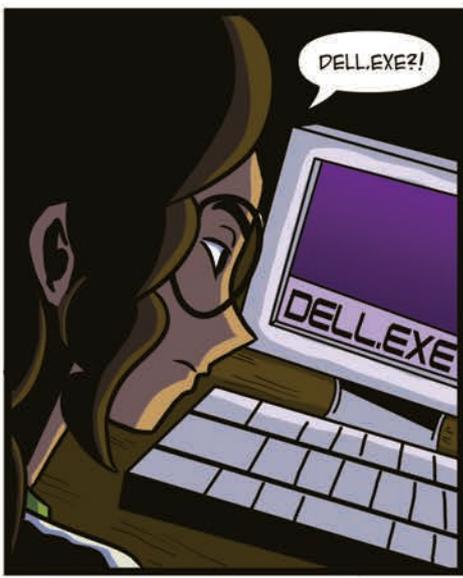


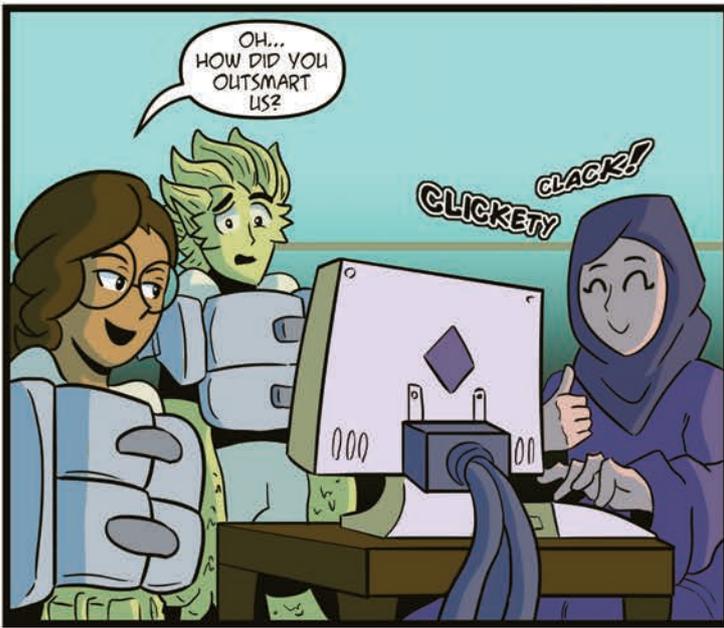
I DO ROBOTICS ... THOSE MESSED UP PLASMA SIMULATIONS AND CALCULATIONS? NOT MY AREA. WHY NOT ASK AISHA AND BEN?

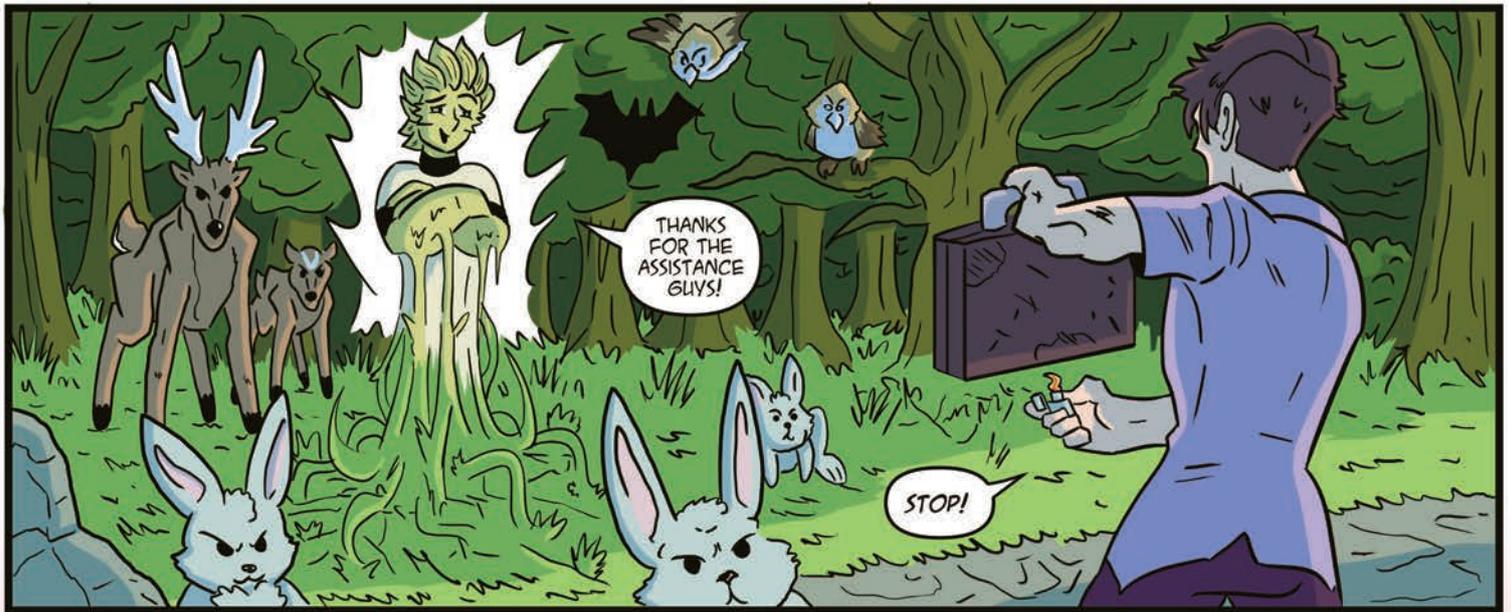












NOW, UNLESS YOU WANT THIS ALL UP IN SMOKE, I SUGGEST YOU STEP AWAY NO-





NO ONE TAKES MY SECOND CHANCE FROM ME.



BEN WASN'T WORKING ALONE, WE DISCOVERED RORY TRYING TO ESCAPE AS WELL!

HE WAS THE ONE WHO CONTROLLED MASCOT AND HELPED BEN STEAL ALL THAT DATA.

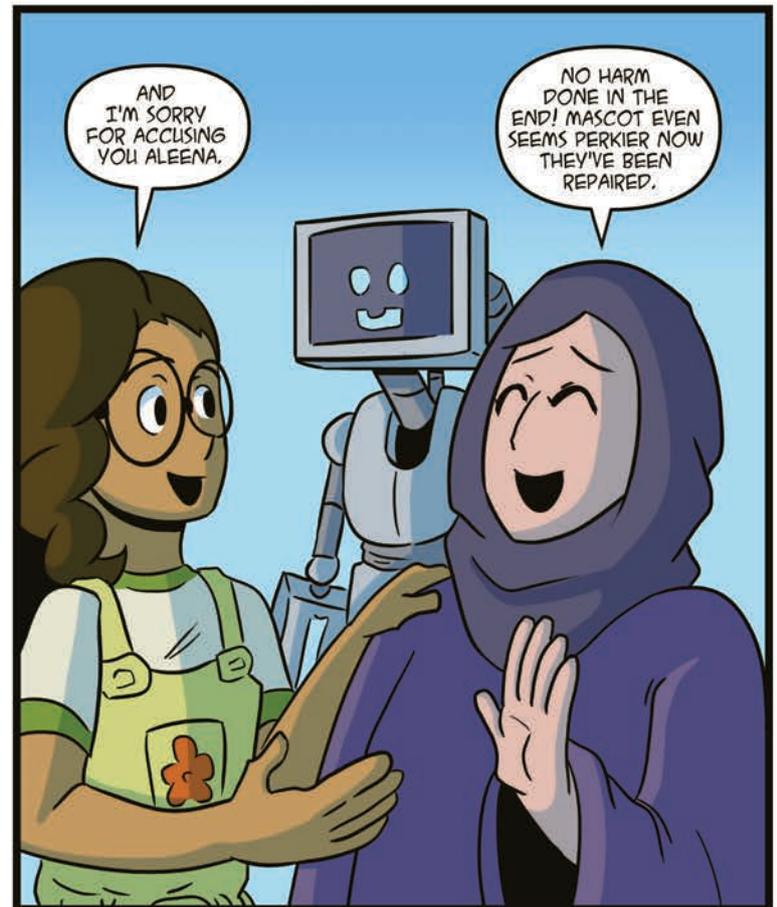
TURNS OUT THE INVESTOR WAS DELL INDUSTRIES!

THE FUNDING CAME WITH THE DEADLINES AND A JOB FOR BEN UNDER THE FAKE LAST NAME, HARPER!



NOW THAT WE WON'T HAVE RORY HERE BREATHING DOWN YOUR NECK, I HOPE WE CAN WORK TOGETHER TO FINALLY FINISH THE MODEL OF OUR FUSION POWER STATION! WHAT DO YOU THINK, ZHOU?

I COULDN'T AGREE MORE, AISHA.



AND I'M SORRY FOR ACCUSING YOU ALEENA.

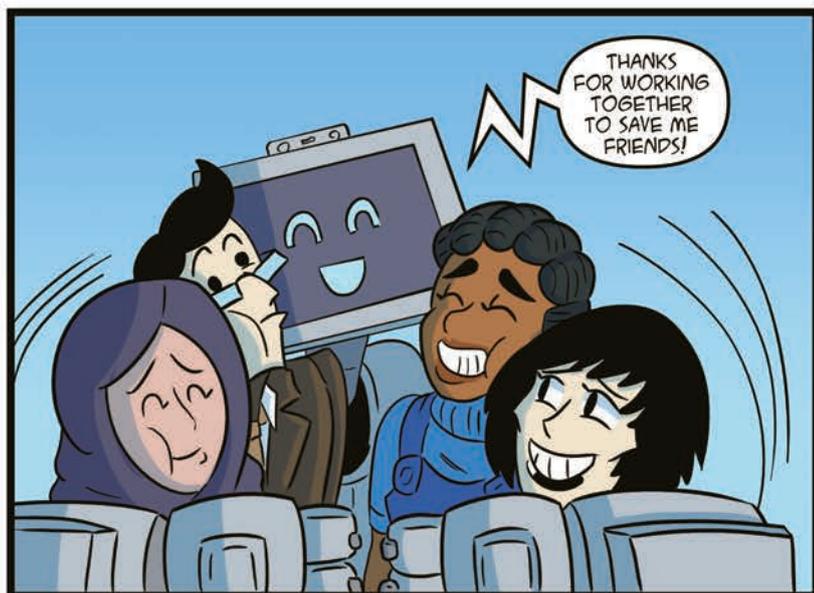
NO HARM DONE IN THE END! MASCOT EVEN SEEMS PERKIER NOW THEY'VE BEEN REPAIRED.



WITH ALL OF WHAT'S HAPPENED OVER THE PAST DAY, HOW CAN WE REALLY TRUST EACH OTHER WITH THIS REVOLUTIONARY TECHNOLOGY?



LIKE I SAID BEFORE, AS LONG AS EVERYONE IS WORKING TOWARDS A COMMON GOAL, YOU CAN TRUST IN THAT!



THANKS FOR WORKING TOGETHER TO SAVE ME FRIENDS!

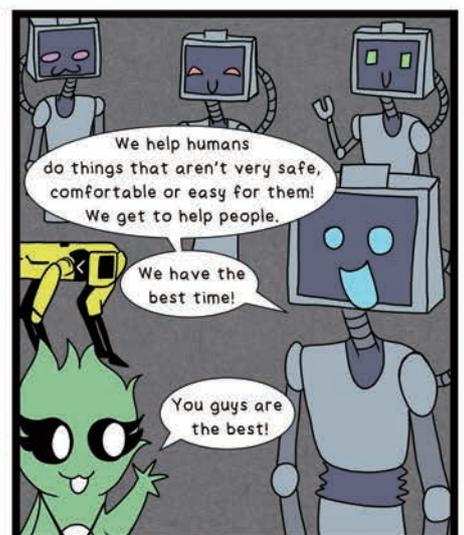
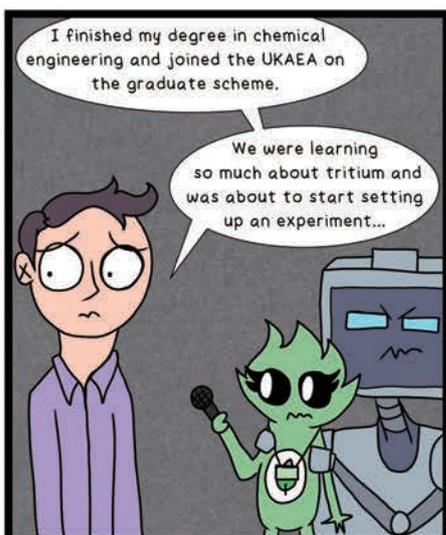
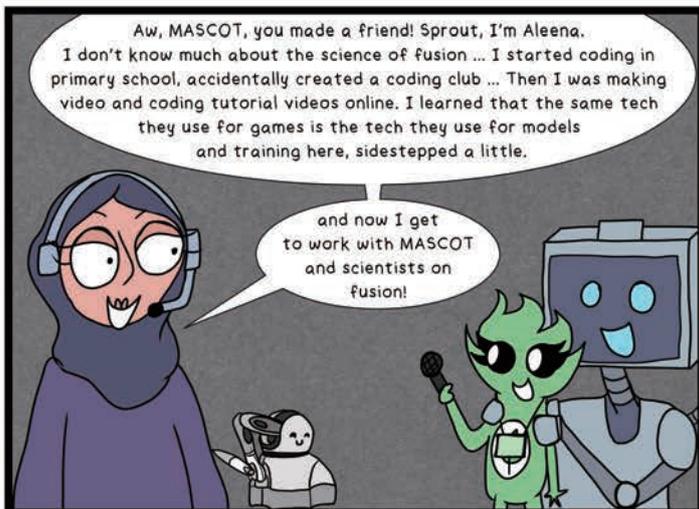
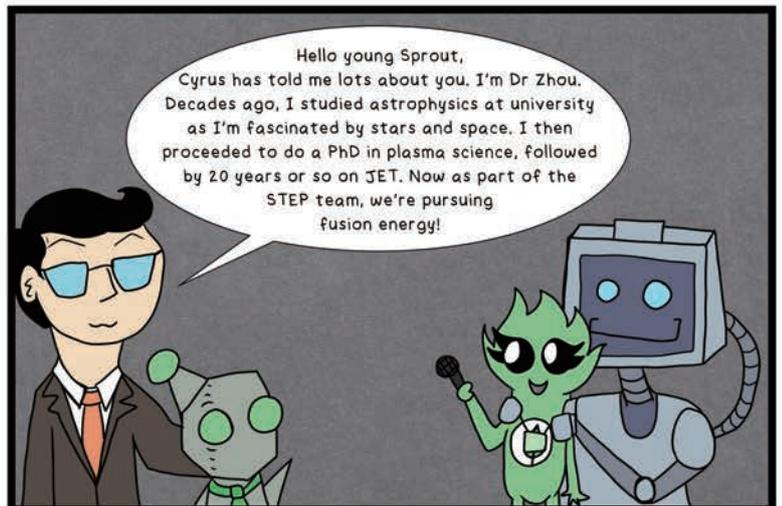
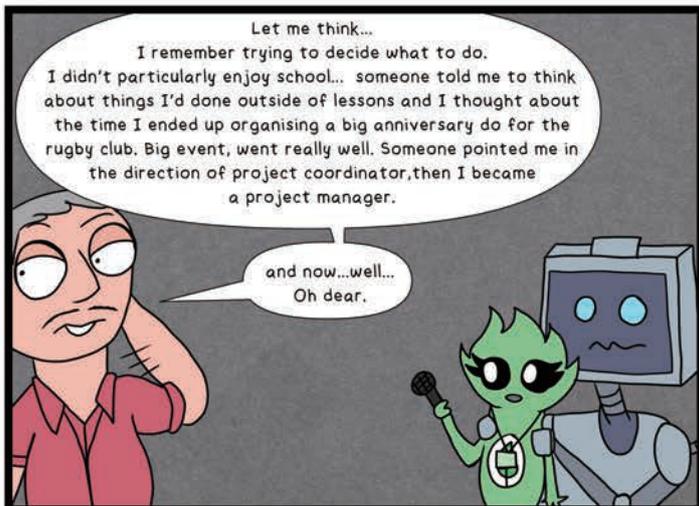
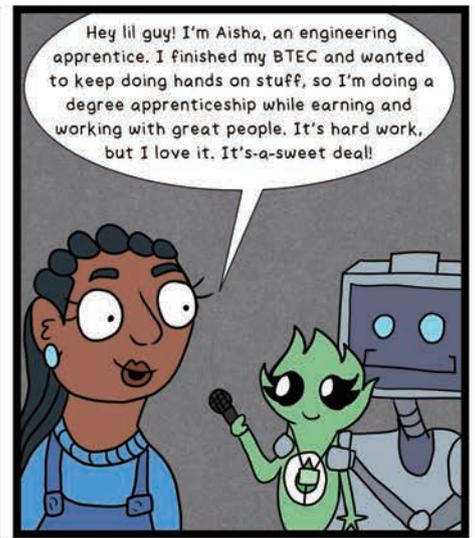
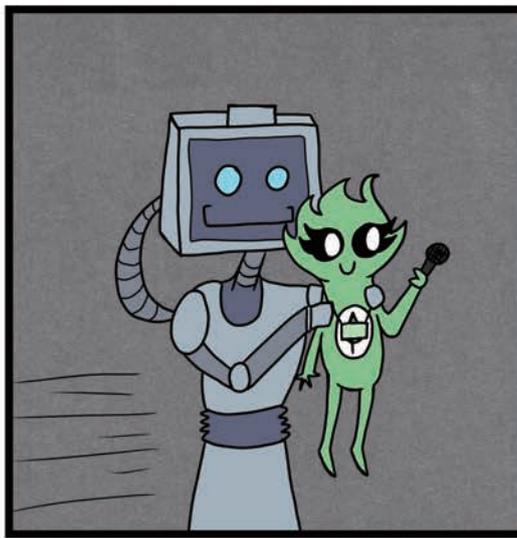
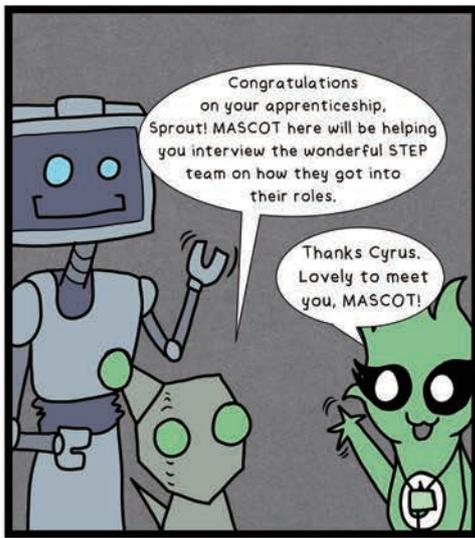


AND IF YOU EVER NEED HELP...

CALL THE GREEN TEAM!

SERIOUSLY, I WOULD LOVE TO WORK HERE.

THE END.



WORDSEARCH



ATOM
 CLEAN ENERGY
 DEUTERIUM
 ELECTRON
 ELEMENT
 FUSION
 ISOTOPE
 JET
 PLASMA
 SIMULATIONS
 STEP
 TOKAMAK
 TRITIUM

WHAT ARE ATOMS? WITH ATOM BOY

What is an atom?

+ proton (+ve charge)
 ● neutron (no charge)
 - electron (-ve charge)

You and everything around you are made of atoms. Atoms have **protons** and **neutrons** in the middle - the nucleus - and **electrons** orbit around far away from the centre. The number of **protons** determines what element an atom is. This has two **protons** so it is helium.

I'm the gas in floating balloons!

What is hydrogen?

Hydrogen is the simplest element. It has one **proton** and one **electron**. A **proton** has a positive charge. An **electron** has a negative charge. In an atom, their numbers and charges balance.

That's me!

What are isotopes?

Isotopes are atoms that have the same number of **protons** but different numbers of **neutrons**. Tritium and deuterium are isotopes of hydrogen.

deuterium

tritium

Fusion

In fusion machines like JET and STEP, tritium and deuterium nuclei fuse together to make a helium nucleus, a **neutron** and lots of energy.

deuterium

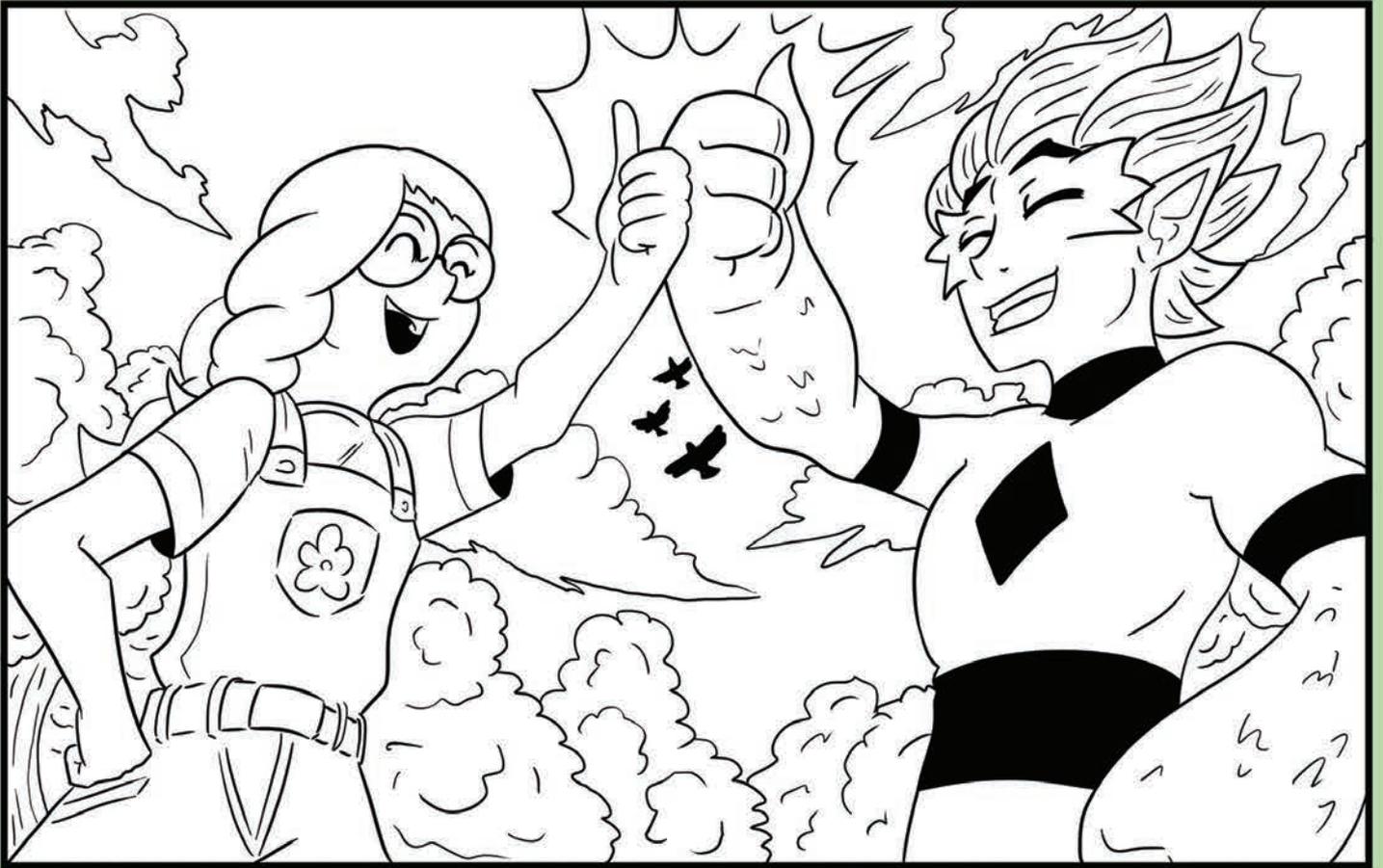
tritium

helium

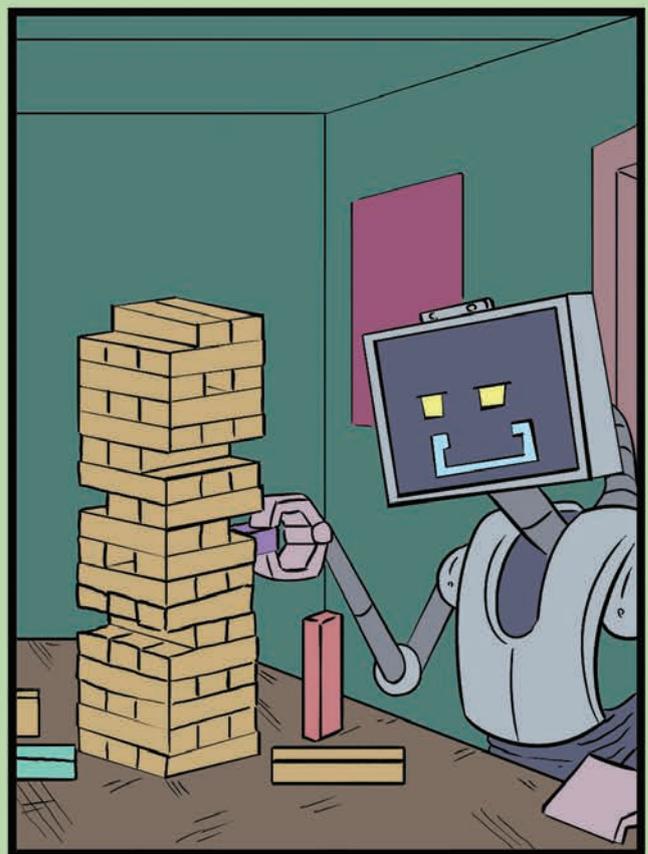
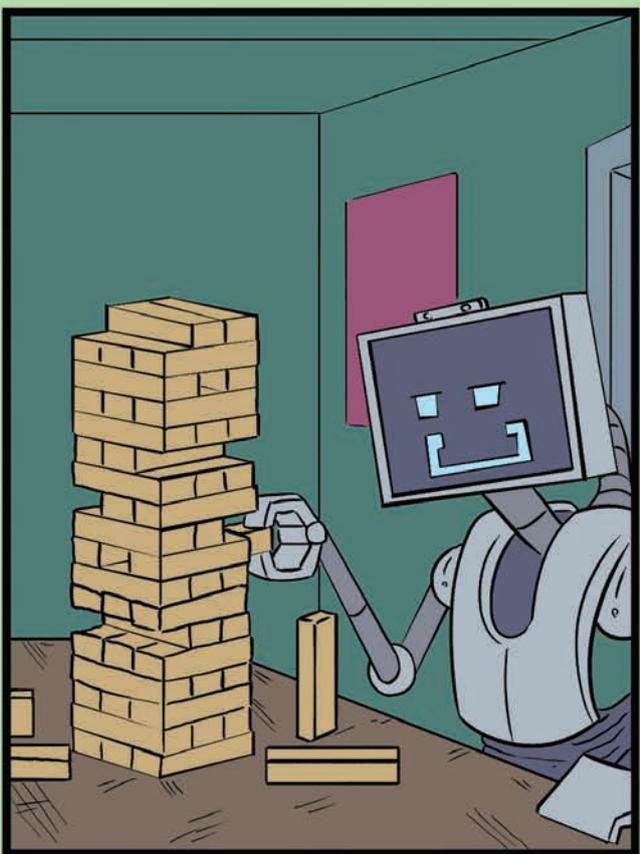
neutron

LOTS of energy

COLOUR ME IN!



SPOT THE DIFFERENCE



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SOPHIE POOLE

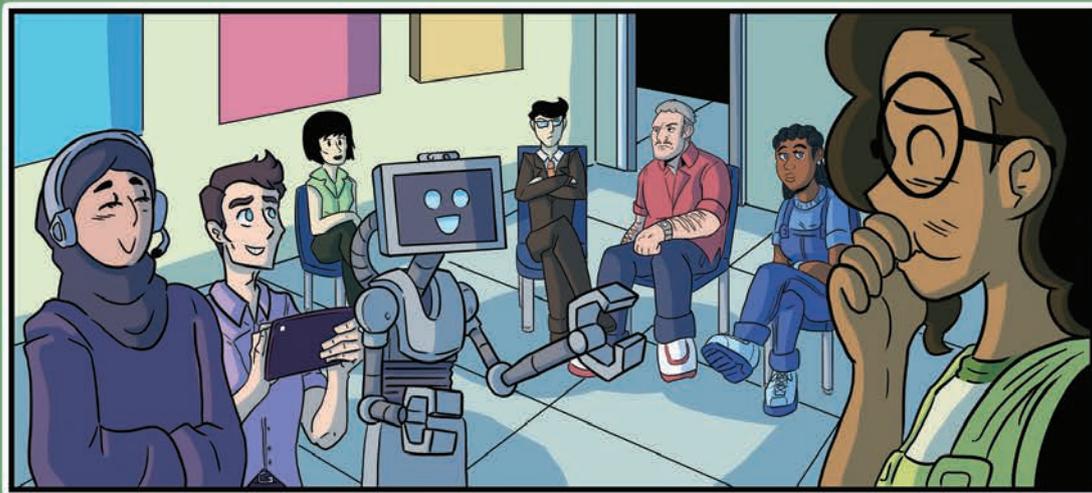
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