

## Gretel the Cryptid Hunter

### “Vagrant Storms”

by Louis Palmer

#### **Page One**

##### **Panel One**

Establishing shot of sunrise over a boat house sitting crooked in a sandy desert. A long rope attached to its side extends upwards out of panel. Various small boats and fishing paraphernalia surround it. There's also a small wire chicken coop. It all looks decrepit. A young boy (Milo) is exiting the house boat dragging a bag of chicken feed behind him.

##### **Panel Two**

Closer in on Milo. He's walking backwards and dragging the bag towards the camera. He calls to the chickens behind him.

1. MILO: Hey hey, chicky chi—

##### **Panel Three**

Same shot. Milo cuts himself off and his eyes go wide with surprise.

##### **Panel Four**

Low shot from behind Milo's legs. He's dropped the bag of feed (which is now spilling out onto the ground from an opening in its corner), and is turned around. In front of him, the door to the chicken coop has been torn apart. Chicken feathers litter the ground.

##### **Panel Five**

Wind swirls around Milo. It picks up sand and feathers and shakes nearby chains/ropes hanging loosely off of the surrounding boats. Milo is distressed.

#### **Page Two**

##### **Panel One**

(A small inset panel in the upper left corner.) Milo moves his arm to shield his eyes from the wind and sand.

**Panel Two**

A full page shot. Milo, still with his arm raised to block his eyes, runs away in a panic. Behind him, the baby thunderbird (hereon shortened to "BT") is silhouetted behind the small sand storm. It's mid flap, hanging in the air and watching Milo. The BT is ~5 feet tall with a wingspan double its height.

**Page Three****Panel One**

A close shot of the back of Gretel's bike as she rides into town. Dust kicks up violently behind her.

**Panel Two**

She peels to a stop in front of a "Welcome to Florencedale" sign. The dust cloud settles behind her.

**Panel Three**

Gretel uses her foot to kick out the bike's leg stand. She's fishing through her bag with her free hand.

**Panel Four**

From over her shoulder. She's got a US map spread out over her handlebars. There are red X's leading from the coast inland. The string is punctuated with a red circle. She's looking up at a poorly kept information center to her left.

**Page Four****Panel One**

Facing the counter of the information center. The information center is full of small shelves loaded with tourist trappy pamphlets. A bored teen (Blair) is reading a magazine, and does not acknowledge the door chime from off panel.

1. SFX (off panel): Di-Ding!

**Panel Two**

Same shot. Off panel there is a lot of rustling. Blair still ignores this and flips a page in their magazine.

### **Panel Three**

Same shot. Gretel is in front of the counter, seen from behind. She's holding a ridiculous pile of pamphlets from the surrounding shelves in both arms. Blaire finally glances up.

1. GRETTEL: I need these.

### **Panel Four**

From over Blaire's shoulder. Gretel looks serious and dusty as she places the pile of pamphlets on top of the counter. Blaire is confused.

1. Blaire: They're...

### **Panel Five**

Same shot. Gretel has one hand holding her bag open, and the other is thrusting a small stack of homemade orange pamphlets towards Blaire. Tiny tornadoes are on the covers.

1. Blaire: Free...
2. GRETTEL: I know.

### **Panel Six**

Blaire's perspective as they hold and inspect the pamphlet closely. It's clearly been made with pencil and construction paper. It reads "Sudden Storm Safety and You!" accompanied by Gretel's amateurish self portrait giving a serious thumbs up in front of a tornado.

1. GRETTEL (off panel): You should give these to everyone in town.

## **Page Five**

### **Panel One**

Facing the counter. Gretel is shoving her pile of pamphlets into her bag. Blaire is incredulous, but Gretel pays it no mind. The door chime rings off panel.

1. Blaire: That's, like, six people.
2. GRETTEL: Then don't make copies.
3. SFX (off panel): Di-Ding!

### **Panel Two**

From behind the counter. Milo enters in a panic. He's covered in dust which trails off of him. Blaire has started to move from behind the counter and is reaching for a broom.

1. MILO: Blaire! The chickens are-
2. BLAIRE: Woah! Milo, who do you think has to clean this up?

### **Panel Three**

A shot from the side. Blaire has moved out from behind the counter, past Milo, to sweep up the dust. Milo is frantically trying to explain. Gretel is finishing cramming the pamphlets into her bag.

1. BLAIRE: When was your last shower?
2. MILO: A day ago, but-
3. BLAIRE: Is your dad back yet?
4. MILO: No, but-

### **Panel Four**

Same shot. Gretel is fishing through her bag. Milo is almost shouting trying to get all his words out. His bubble overlaps hers.

1. BLAIRE: Milo, you have shower-
2. MILO: My chickens are gone and their coop is broken and I got sand in my eyes and-

### **Panel Five**

Gretel has pulled out a cassette tape from her bag. She gently taps the top of Milo's head with it. He suddenly stops talking in silent surprise.

### **Page Six**

### **Panel One**

He looks up at her in surprise. She's holding the cassette out for him to take.

1. GRETTEL: Play this on your porch at night.

### **Panel Two**

Medium shot. Milo takes the cassette and inspects it. He's confused. Gretel begins to leave.

1. MILO: "Bluegrass Tunes to Tipple to?"
2. GRETTEL: Banjos. Chupacabras can't stand them.
3. GRETTEL: It's half the reason they don't come up north.

### **Panel Three**

Milo is watching Gretel as she walks towards the door. Blaire leans against the broom and mocks her. Gretel takes the question at face value and responds with confusion.

1. BLAIRE: (snorts sfx) And does Beethoven ward off the Easter Bunny?
2. GRETTEL: Why would you ward off the Easter Bunny?

### **Panel Four**

Gretel looks back at Milo and taps her temple with her finger. Her expression is sincere, like she's excited to share this advice with him.

1. GRETTEL: Even oddities have patterns. Notice them when no one else will.
2. GRETTEL: I'm sorry about your chickens.

### **Panel Five**

Facing Gretel. She's at the door about to leave, but she stops at Milo's words. Milo and Blaire are in panel behind her. Milo is nervously holding the tape up as if to offer it back.

1. MILO: It- it's ok, I think they just got lost in a storm.
2. GRETTEL: Storm?

## **Page Seven**

### **Panel One**

Gretel is walking her bike with Milo back to his home. In one hand she's inspecting a pamphlet taken from the information center.

1. GRETTEL: Your dad's a fisherman?
2. MILO: Best in the county!

### **Panel Two**

From Gretel's perspective. She's holding the pamphlet in front of her face, and it advertises a gorgeous lake with a well equipped tackle shop next to it. A giant fish is leaping from the water in a rainbow arc. Text on the pamphlet reads "Come see GORGEOUS Lake Florence!" "Where fishing tales are REEL!"

### **Panel Three**

Same shot. She lowers the pamphlet to reveal the same spot, but the landscape has dried into a barren crater where the lake once was. The same tackle shop lies in disrepair to their left.

### **Panel Four**

Gretel sets her bike against the porch of the tackle shop. Milo is at the end of the dock, and is beginning his descent down the rope ladder at the end. A long rope tied to the end of the dock still "moors" the boat house under the drop. Gretel asks the question with clear confusion, but Milo answers without irony.

1. GRETTEL: Catch any big ones lately?
2. MILO: All the time!

### **Panel Five**

Gretel and Milo descend the ladder.

1. MILO: He gives deep sea fishing tours out on the coast.
2. MILO: Since the town dried up.

### **Panel Six**

They're further down the ladder. Neither the dock nor the ground is in the panel.

1. GRETTEL: And it dried up...
2. MILO: Before I was born.

### **Panel Seven**

They've reached the bottom. Milo is already off and walking towards his home. He holds a finger in the air, affecting a fatherly lecture as he quotes. Gretel is hopping off the ladder.

1. MILO: But he says "even honey holes have their dry spells"
2. GRETTEL: I bet he does.

## **Page Eight**

### **Panel One**

Gretel and Milo are next to the chicken coop. She's concentrating as she writes in her notebook as Milo finishes explaining his story. He's picking up the dropped bag of feed. Sand is everywhere, and the ground is littered with debris.

1. MILO: And then sand got in my eyes and I ran away and I met you.
2. GRETTEL: The coop was destroyed before you woke up?
3. MILO: Uh-huh.

### **Panel Two**

Same shot. Gretel casually gestures with her pen behind Milo towards the house boat. Milo follows her point with confusion.

1. GRETTEL: And when did that happen?
2. MILO: Uh-

### **Panel Three**

From over Gretel's shoulder. Milo is looking back at her in wide eyed surprise. There's a large hole shredded into the hull of the house boat. Sand has spilled in.

### **Panel Four**

Same shot. Milo drops the bag again and takes off running towards the hole. Gretel calmly closes her notebook.

1. GRETTEL: I see.

### **Panel Five**

To the left of panel, Gretel creeps cautiously through the hole into the house boat. The living room is dark and filled with kitschy nautical theming. It's been wrecked by the baby thunderbird. Sand and decorations litter the ground. Milo is hiding behind an overturned recliner, and peeking towards the sound of messy eating coming from off panel.

1. BT (off panel sfx): SMRACK SMRAK SMAK

### **Panel Six**

From behind Gretel and Milo. They peer over the recliner into the kitchen. Gretel has pulled out a small wooden hand crossbow with a loaded bolt at the ready. The light is on in the kitchen, and its white surfaces are stained with splotches of food and broken kitchen materials/ingredients. The BT is wrapped around an open meat freezer with its head shoved inside.

1. MILO: Should I get the tape player?
2. GRETEL: That's not a chupacabra...

### **Page Nine**

#### **Panel One**

Close on the BT's head. It's thrown a couple of fish up from the freezer into its mouth.

1. GRETEL (OFF PANEL): It's a thunderbird.

#### **Panel Two \***

A shot as if looking from the far wall next to the wall mounted fish. Reference in visual notes. The BT wanders into the living room and looks towards the singing fish plaque on the far wall. Gretel and Milo remain crouched behind the couch and whisper to themselves.

1. GRETEL (whispering): But it's too small...
2. MILO (whispering): Small?!

#### **Panel Three**

A close profile shot of the BT. It has its beak open trying to eat the singing fish plaque. It presses the button on the plaque with its lower beak.

1. GRETEL (off panel/whispering): It couldn't possibly cause the storms I've been tracking...

#### **Panel Four**

Same shot. The fish activates, turns its head forward, and starts loudly singing. Jangly music notes hang around its singing. The BT cries out and lurches back in surprise.

1. FISH PLAQUE: I been caught, bought, n' sold!
2. BT: SKRRRAW!



### **Panel Five**

A wide shot of the living room. The fish continues singing, and the BT shrieks and thrashes around the room. Milo cowers, but Gretel looks back towards the hole in the wall. Small thunder SFX approach from off panel.

1. FISH PLAQUE: Ain't ever been so cold!
2. BT: SKREEE KREEEE!

### **Panel Six**

From over Gretel's shoulder. She's looking outside through the hole. Sand and wind spill in from outside as a sudden storm rises around the house.

1. GRETTEL: Ah...

## **Page Ten**

### **Full Page**

The adult thunderbird (hereon referred to as "AT") hangs over and dwarfs the boat house. As it flaps its wings, thunder rolls through the sky and a massive sandstorm starts twisting around it. The house boat is being picked straight up by the storm. Surrounding debris, ropes, chains, etc, are also caught up in the flurry.

1. GRETTEL (off panel): There she is.

## **Page Eleven**

### **Panel One**

Milo is stumbling into the kitchen. The floor of the boat is tilting as it rises in the air, and he's struggling to walk. Behind him, the BT is still squawking in the living room.

1. MILO: Why are they wrecking my house?!

### **Panel Two**

Gretel is beside the freezer holding the door up for Milo. She's got her crossbow held ready in her other hand. Milo is getting into the freezer.

1. GRETTEL: Vagrant behavior is unpredictable. It could be anything.

### **Panel Three**

From Milo's perspective. Gretel is closing the lid of the freezer on top of him. She's trying to be comforting.

1. GRETEL: But it's probably just a nervous mother.
2. GRETEL: Don't come out until I get you.

### **Panel Four**

Same perspective. The door has shut and he's in the dark.

### **Panel Five**

Same perspective. Milo opens the lid of the freezer. He sees daylight and sand streaming from the now open hatch to the upper right of the hallway. In the threshold of the kitchen, the BT is silently staring at him.

### **Panel Six**

A high shot of Gretel, goggles on, emerging from the trapdoor on the top deck. Stairs descend behind her into the hallway. She's pushing through the wind as it tears against her. She's dipping her bolt into a small glass bottle with a blue liquid (sedative).

1. GRETEL: Alright, lady...

## **Page Twelve**

### **Panel One**

Gretel takes aim against the AT. The tip of the bolt is blue with the sedative.

1. GRETEL: Let's see if we can sleep this off.

### **Panel Two**

Gretel shoots the bolt from the crossbow into the storm above.

### **Panel Three**

Same shot. The arrow comes straight back and thunks into the deck. It barely misses Gretel, who jumps to the side.

#### **Panel Four**

Gretel rummages through her bag. Behind her, we see the BT emerging from the deck door. It's panicking again.

1. GRETEL: That tracks...

#### **Panel Five**

Milo is following close behind the BT. He's shouting, and holding the singing fish in front of him like a weapon.

1. FISH PLAQUE: I'm a big ol' bass, but I been out classed!
2. MILO: You ate all our food, now go!!

#### **Page Thirteen**

#### **Panel One**

Gretel grabs Milo by his arm. He drops the fish plaque. The BT has moved a little down the deck and is screeching into the storm above.

1. GRETEL: Milo! What are you doing?!
2. MILO: Won't she calm down if she sees the baby?

#### **Panel Two**

A shot from high above the deck, next to the AT looking down. Gretel, Milo, and the BT are small but visible. The BT is still shrieking.

#### **Panel Three**

Close on the AT's eye and surrounding features. It's weathered, scarred, and clearly much older than the BT. Its eye is sharp with fury.

#### **Panel Four**

Close on the AT's talons. They open wide and get ready to strike.

#### **Panel Five**

A low shot from under Gretel. She and Milo look up and see the AT dropping, talons first, into the boat.

### **Panel Six**

Gretel, with Milo firmly held in her arm, lunges for an umbrella bolted into the deck. The top of the umbrella has turned upside down in the storm. Behind them, the AT crashes into the ship and pierces its hull.

## **Page Fourteen**

### **Panel One**

A wide shot, looking down on the AT as it flies upwards. The AT starts to fly away with the boat in tow. It's above the dock on the lip of the cliff. The long rope tying the dock and house boat together is still barely slack.

### **Panel Two**

Gretel and Milo are holding tight to the metal umbrella pole. Their feet are being pulled upwards towards the AT against gravity.

### **Panel Three**

To her side, just off the side of the boat, Gretel sees an anchor and chain on a reel. The short length of slack hanging off the reel is being pulled up towards the AT, swept up by its violent air currents. There's a lever attached to it through the side of the boat.

### **Panel Four**

The rope mooring the ship to the dock is in front of them. Between them and the rope, the BT is holding on to the side of the boat with its claws. It's also being pulled straight upwards by the AT's air currents. It's stopped screeching, but it looks confused.

1. GRETTEL (shouting): I'll be right back!

### **Panel Five**

Gretel lets go of the umbrella stand and flies upwards. Milo gasps with wide eyed shock.

## **Page Fifteen**

### **Panel One**

Gretel, swept up into the air, grabs hold of the anchor's lever. It clunks back as she catches it, and the reel to the side spins madly as the anchor sails toward the AT.

### **Panel Two**

The anchor and chain wrap around the AT. It thrashes and becomes tangled.

**Panel Three**

From in front of Gretel. Gretel slides against the side of the tilted boat towards the dock rope. Milo has dropped from the umbrella to the deck, and Gretel is scooping him up with an open arm.

**Panel Four**

From behind Gretel. She scoops up the BT with her other arm as she slides towards the dock rope.

**Page Sixteen****Panel One**

Wide shot of the dock. The rope is sticking straight up off panel. Gretel is sliding down it towards the dock with Milo and the BT in tow.

**Panel Two**

Same shot. Gretel (still holding the BT) and Milo run across the dock towards solid ground. The boat is falling over them about to crash into the dock.

**Panel Three**

Same shot. The boat crashes through the dock. The AT is falling right behind it. Thunder roars as it struggles against the chains. Gretel and Milo leap off the dock as it collapses.

**Panel Four**

From behind Gretel and Milo at the edge of the cliff as they catch their breath. The dock has fully collapsed and the AT has fallen below the panel. Thunder rumbles from off panel.

**Page Seventeen****Panel One**

The BT peers over the cliff. A large cloud of dust obscures the wreckage below. Thunder still rumbles from the cloud, and the BT squawks in response.

### **Panel Two**

Milo looks at the BT with empathy. Gretel has her goggles moved up, and is rubbing her eyes with her sleeve.

1. MILO: Is it dead?
2. GRETEL: Hardly. But we can consider it moored for now.

### **Panel Three**

Gretel pats the dust off her clothes and nods towards the BT. Milo perks up with an idea.

1. GRETEL: We need somewhere where the both of you can keep out of trouble.
2. MILO: Oh!

### **Panel Four**

Gretel and Milo enter the dark bait shop. Milo, excited by his idea, is running ahead towards the back of the shop. Gretel looks around her. Among the tacky products and decor hanging from the ceiling is a colorful parasail.

1. MILO: The walk-in!

### **Panel Five**

From inside the walk-in fridge facing the door. Milo throws the door open confidently. He's looking at her and doesn't see inside. Gretel looks into the walk-in with a knowing grimace.

1. MILO: We can even feed it worms.

### **Panel Six**

From behind and a little above Gretel and Milo's shoulders, looking into the fridge. A large hole in the back, exactly like the one in the hull of the ship, is spilling in sunlight. Metal frame shelves of bait on either side have been raided, and plastic worm containers, dirt, and stray worms litter the floor. In the center there's a small kiddie pool half filled with water. The BT is peaking in from outside the hole at Gretel and Milo.

1. GRETEL: Looks like someone else had the same idea.

## **Page Eighteen**

### **Panel One**

Facing Gretel and Milo. They're both startled by a voice behind them.

1. HOWARD (Off Panel): Milo?

### **Panel Two**

Milo's dad (Howard) stands in the doorway of the baitshop. He drops a cooler to the floor. His truck is barely visible behind the dirty windows.

1. MILO (Off Panel): Dad!

### **Panel Three**

Milo's dad squats down for a hug, and Milo runs in to do so. Gretel stands back with her arms crossed, and the BT wanders in behind her.

1. HOWARD: What happened to the dock?
2. HOWARD: I told you not to come in here, the building's in...

### **Panel Four**

From over his shoulder. He looks up at Gretel standing by the BT. The BT is casually knocking around items in the shop, but Gretel's eyes are boring into the dad.

1. HOWARD: Shambles.
2. GRETEL: So's your secret.

## **Page Nineteen**

### **Panel One**

From behind Gretel. She lays into Milo's dad and he starts to get defensive.

1. GRETEL: So's the rest of this town, unless you start explaining this exotic pet of yours.
2. HOWARD: Milo, who is this?

### **Panel Two**

The BT starts to plod over towards the dad. Gretel holds it back gently by the “nape” of its neck.

1. MILO: I think she’s a bird expert.
2. GRETEL: Just an enthusiast.
3. GRETEL: And I happen to know this chick is leagues away from its nest.

### **Panel Three**

Milo’s dad is bent down to open and reach into his cooler. He has a cocky air; he’s decided Gretel isn’t a threat to him. The BT strains against Gretel’s grip towards the dad.

1. HOWARD: Well, I can’t say I care for your tone.

### **Panel Four**

Close on Milo’s dad’s hand extending a big fish towards the salivating BT.

1. HOWARD: But I can’t resist a good fishing story.

## **Page Twenty**

### **Panel One**

In a shot similar to the previous panel, Milo’s dad is shaking hands with a customer.

### **Panel Two**

He waves goodbye to the family as they leave his boat on a sunny coast.

1. HOWARD (narration): Work is good, but hardly fulfilling.

### **Panel Three**

His boat travels back into the water as the sun sets. Gray clouds loom in the distance.

1. HOWARD (narration): It’s just not the same as living off your own backyard.



### **Panel Four**

Milo's dad is leaning back in his chair with his fishing hat over his face. The sun has set and he's fallen asleep. Wind is picking up around him.

1. HOWARD (narration): I felt I just needed a little more patience. That any day now I'd come home to rain.
2. HOWARD (narration): Until...

### **Panel Five**

The shot turns to reveal a massive typhoon roaring near to the boat. Several things, including Howard's hat, are pulled into the storm.

### **Panel Six**

A rope catches around Howard's foot, and yanks him from his chair.

### **Page Twenty-One**

A full page with panels in the upper left and the bottom right.

### **Panel One**

Howard is yanked upwards into the storm. His eyes go wide with surprise and fear.

1. HOWARD (narration): I experienced...

### **Full Page**

Howard is inside the typhoon, swirling along its edges. At the center is the AT. Thunder claps roar around it, and it picks up entire schools of fish in its typhoon. Its beak and claws are full of fish it's caught in midair.

### **Panel Two**

A close shot of Howard's upside down face. It looks as though he's experiencing a revelation.

1. HOWARD (narration): Clarity.

## **Page Twenty-Two**

### **Panel One**

Back in the bait shop. The BT is walking away from them and smacking on a fish in its beak. Howard is wiping his hands on his pants. Gretel is accusatory.

1. HOWARD: Took weeks to find it again, but I finally caught one of the rascals.
2. GRETTEL: So you're rebranding from "County's Driest Lake" to "World's Biggest Bird?"

### **Panel Two**

Close on Howard. He's offended and stutters.

1. HOWARD: Re-wha-rebrand?!

### **Panel Three**

He gestures behind him. Outside the dirty windows we can see the dry lake and the destroyed dock over it.

1. HOWARD: The ding-dang bird controls the weather!
2. HOWARD: Patience is a virtue, but you won't catch anything just by sitting on the boat. You need a hook.

### **Panel Four**

Same shot. From behind him, thunder erupts from the canyon and shakes the windows. He stops, surprised.

1. HOWARD: When that fella gets big and strong, I'll have him bringing rain every other-
2. SFX: KRRAKA KOOM

### **Panel Five**

Facing from the window. He turns his head towards the sound. Gretel is once again dabbing a bolt in the sleeper solution.

1. HOWARD: Is that...
2. GRETTEL: What you have isn't the hook. It's the bait.

## **Page Twenty-Three**

### **Panel One**

Gretel loads the bolt, and Milo watches her with worry.

1. GRETEL: You're just lucky I bit first.
2. GRETEL: If we just put the chick outside and keep out of sight, the mother will leave without any—

### **Panel Two**

Same shot. Howard rushes forward, past Gretel and Milo, wielding a large fishing net in front of him. He's yelling wildly. Gretel and Milo are taken aback.

1. HOWARD (shouting): HAAAAAHHH!
2. GRETEL: Hey!

### **Panel Three**

From over Gretel's shoulder. She yells as he scoops up the BT in the net. Howard has a mad grin.

1. GRETEL: You've done enough!

### **Panel Four**

He runs past Gretel with the squawking BT thrown over his shoulder. With his free hand, he's grabbing a curved rope hanging from off the top of the panel. Gretel has her crossbow aimed and is threatening him.

1. GRETEL: Let me handle this before—

### **Panel Five**

Same shot. As he yanks on the rope, the parasail falls from the ceiling on top of Gretel. She falls and the bolt misfires up in the air as Howard is rushing past. Milo is running to chase him.

1. GRETEL: MMPH?!
2. CROSSBOW SFX: Twang!
3. MILO: Dad!

## **Page Twenty-Four**

### **Panel One**

Outside the bait shop. Thunder sfx booms from off panel. Milo has followed his dad outside, where he's loaded the BT in the back of his truck. He's closing the truck door with one hand, and twirling his finger in a circle with the other to mimic the water cycle. Milo is panicked, but his dad tries to optimistically explain his plan.

1. MILO: I think we should listen to her! She knows a lot-
2. HOWARD: She can have her birds back when we're done, Milo!
3. HOWARD: We'll just get a heap of water in the air and kick start the rain cycle!

### **Panel Two**

Howard gets into the driver seat of the truck. The BT is thrashing against the net in the back. Milo has his hands up on the open window sill. His face is twisted with worry.

1. HOWARD: It won't take 20 minutes, buddy, just wait here.
2. HOWARD: I'll bring our lake back.

### **Panel Three**

Back inside the bait shop, from behind Gretel. She tears the parasail off of her, but still clenches it in her hands with rage. She watches the truck peel away outside the window.

### **Panel Four**

Same shot. The truck is gone, and Milo is left in the dust outside. Gretel is looking at the parasail in her hands. She's thinking hard.

### **Panel Five**

A wide shot outside the bait shop. Thunder still rumbles from below the cliff. Milo is struggling to ride Gretel's bike. It's too big for him and he's visibly wobbling.

## **Page Twenty-Five**

### **Panel One**

Closer on Milo. He falls with the bike and lets out a yell.

1. MILO: Woahh!

### **Panel Two**

Milo lays on the ground and looks helpless. He's on the verge of tears. Gretel's shadow appears over him.

1. GRETEL: Hey.

### **Panel Three**

From over Milo's shoulder. He looks up and sees Gretel holding 4 large fishing poles, pole mounts, and a tightly packed bag with a ripcord. She holds them in a messy pile in both arms. She's wearing a classic fisherman bucket hat complete with hooks and lures, and goggles over her eyes.

1. GRETEL: I need these.

### **Panel Four**

Gretel's bike is set up just at the edge of the cliff. She is attaching the bag to the rear of the bike, and Milo is attaching the fishing pole mounts to the handlebars.

1. GRETEL: What'd your dad tell you?
2. MILO: He's gonna jump start the water cycle.
3. MILO: and to stay here.

### **Panel Five**

Facing the front of Gretel on her bike. We see the cliff drop off and the blue sky behind it. Gretel mounts the bike with two fishing poles in each hand. Milo nods emphatically. The thunder SFX grows louder and more intense.

1. GRETEL: Well one of those makes sense.
2. GRETEL: You ready?
3. MILO: Mhmm!

## **Page Twenty-Six**

### **Panel One**

Same shot. The AT is pointing straight up as it sails above the cliff. The blue sky and sunlight are engulfed by its wingspan. Gretel pulls back her arms and gets ready to cast the lines.

1. GRETEL: Good.

**Panel Two**

The AT starts to curve horizontally as it clears the cliff and flies past Gretel and Milo. Gretel has cast the four lines towards it, and they all hang in the air.

**Panel Three**

A small insert panel of one of the hooks digging into the AT.

**Panel Four**

A slightly bigger panel showing the other three hooks catching on the AT's back.

**Panel Five**

Gretel's bike lurches forward. She is just finishing attaching the last fishing pole to the mounts on her handlebars. She yells, and Milo yanks the rip cord off the pack fastened to the back of the bike. The parasail starts to erupt out of the pack.

1. GRETTEL: NOW!

**Panel Six**

The AT starts to ascend in height. The parasail is all the way out now, and as Gretel is pulled along she immediately starts to lift off the ground. Milo is running behind her.

1. GRETTEL: Good work, Milo. I won't take long.
2. MILO: Wait!

**Page Twenty-Seven****Panel One**

Closer in on Milo. He cries out and leaps to reach the back wheel of the bike before it's just out of reach.

1. MILO: I can help!

**Panel Two**

Shot looking down on the bike. They are almost vertical as they ascend with the bird. They are much higher off the ground, and Gretel looks back in shock at Milo hanging on to the back wheel of the bike.

1. GRETTEL: Milo?!

### **Panel Three**

Gretel hefts Milo up to sit (on the teetering back wheel and holding on to her) behind her.

1. GRETEL: This isn't safe—

### **Panel Four**

Same shot. Gretel is cut off when Milo hugs tighter and yells. She is surprised.

1. MILO (yelling): It's gonna eat my dad!

### **Panel Five**

From under Milo, looking up at him sputtering into Gretel, and her looking back over her shoulder sympathetically.

1. MILO: I don't want to be left behind anymore.
2. MILO: I can help him.

### **Panel Six**

Same shot. There is a beat of silence as Milo finishes and Gretel thinks.

### **Panel Seven**

Gretel turns back to face forward and regrips the bike handles. Milo straightens up and wipes away his tears.

1. GRETEL: Well you should tell him yourself.
2. MILO: (sniffs) Where's he going?

## **Page Twenty-Eight**

### **Panel One**

Facing Gretel. They're soaring among the clouds at this point. She opens her bag, and the pamphlets from the information center are all sitting at the top. Many fly out into the wind, and one strikes Milo in the face.

1. GRETEL: Your dad's looking for a water source in a drought.

### **Panel Two**

From Milo's perspective. He's pulled the pamphlet from his face and is looking at it. It's an advertisement for a water tower in town fashioned to look like a giant red and white fishing bobber. The photo is taken from above the town.

1. GRETEL (off panel): And something tells me he has a preference.

### **Panel Three**

Cutting from the pamphlet to the same shot of the current town. It and the water tower are worn out and dirty. Howard's truck is racing up the road toward the water tower, and is kicking up dust.

### **Panel Four**

From under the porch outside of a business across the street from the water tower. An old man is sitting in a rocking chair with a big radio playing on the stool next to him. Howard's truck squeals to a stop in the middle of the street. He speaks through the open window.

1. OLD MAN: Good haul this month, Howard?
2. HOWARD: Bigger than ever, Dale!
3. HOWARD: You really ought be inside though –

### **Panel Five**

Same shot. The wind is picking up in intensity. Howard is outside the truck and throwing the BT over his shoulder. The old man is out of the chair and walking towards the camera as he goes inside. He doesn't see/pay any mind to what Howard is doing. The old man has one of Gretel's pamphlets in his hand.

1. OLD MAN: Ahh, Blaire's got you spooked too, eh?

## **Page Twenty-Nine**

### **Panel One**

As if looking through binoculars. Howard is climbing up the water tower's ladder with the BT in tow. From off panel, one of the fishing lines snaps.

1. GRETEL (off panel): Well, at least he's predictable–
2. SFX (off panel): SNAP



### **Panel Two**

Gretel puts the binoculars calmly back into her bag. Milo panics and grips her tighter. Two more lines snap as they talk.

1. MILO: What was that?
2. SFX: SNAP
3. GRETEL: Well, each pole advertised pulling the weight of 3 largemouth bass.
4. SFX: SNAP
5. GRETEL: And I figured me and my bike to be about 12.

### **Panel Three**

Same shot. The final line snaps and the bike starts to fall down. Gretel grips the handle bars and braces.

1. MILO: And I'm—
2. SFX: SNAP
3. GRETEL: Four bass. At least.

### **Panel Four**

A wider shot. They hold tight as the bike falls straight down, with the parasail slowing the fall from the rear. They're just under the AT, whose wings are raised high mid-flap.

### **Panel Five**

Same shot. The AT brings down its wings and swirling gusts catch the parasail and send it flying forward. The bike turns to face the opposite direction as it's whipped and dragged along by the parasail.

### **Panel Six**

Closer in on Gretel and Milo. Gretel turns to see that they're about to crash into the side of a tall brick building. Directly beside it, a smaller building's roof is just below them. It has a ~two foot high wall around the rest of the roof. (It's the roof of the building the old man was in front of.)

## **Page Thirty**

### **Panel One**

Gretel manages to catch the front wheel over the lip of the shorter building before crashing into the taller one. She winces as the crash breaks their momentum. The parasail hits the wall behind them and starts to fall.

### **Panel Two**

Gretel pedals madly trying to pull them onto the roof with the front wheel, but the parasail has fallen straight down and is over encumbering them. Milo is moving to try and unstrap it from the bike.

1. GRETEL (interspersed with “huff” SFXs): Milo—the—strap!
2. MILO: I got it I got it I got it!

### **Panel Three**

Milo removes the parasail, and as the pack falls the bike lurches forward onto the roof.

### **Panel Four**

The bike is laying on its side on the top of the roof. Its front is slightly bent and damaged, and the fishing rods attached to front have stray lines streaming in the intense wind. Gretel is catching her breath, with one hand resting on her knee and the other good-naturedly smushing the fishing cap onto Milo’s head.

1. GRETEL (still huffing): Good – huff – good work, Milo

### **Panel Five**

From Gretel’s side. She looks at the water tower across the street. Howard and the BT are at the top, and Howard is working to open the hatch.

1. GRETEL: Let’s hope your dad is half as smart.

## **Page Thirty-One**

### **Panel One**

Closer on Howard and the BT. The dad is just managing to open the hatch.

1. HOWARD: This’ll be worth a couple rainy days. To start at least.

### **Panel Two**

A crossbow bolt pings against the water tower just next to his foot. He lurches back in surprise.

1. GRETEL (off panel): I missed on purpose that time.

### **Panel Three**

From over Howard's shoulder. He's surprised to see Gretel is at the top of the ladder, with her crossbow held steady on him. She's pulling back to cock a new bolt.

1. GRETTEL: But I don't feel like wasting any more bolts today.
2. HOWARD: Bird girl?!

### **Panel Four**

The wind is picking up heavier. Gretel slowly walks towards Howard with the crossbow pointed at him. He grips the BT's net tight in his hands.

1. HOWARD: Can't you mind your own business?!
2. GRETTEL: Your business is endangering the whole town.

### **Panel Five**

Worm's eye view from below them as they argue. The AT is flying down with its claws outstretched towards the tower.

1. HOWARD: Who?! What town? It's dead in the water.

## **Page Thirty-Two**

### **Panel One**

Close on the AT's claws as they crash into the water tower. Streams of water gush out around where it's been pierced.

1. HOWARD (off panel): But I can bring them all back!

### **Panel Two**

The supports of the water tower, though firmly anchored to the ground, start to bend backwards from the weight.

1. HOWARD (off panel): This town needs the lake, and he needs this town! It's all that I can give him.

### **Panel Three**

From behind Howard. Gretel is pointing behind him towards the roof Milo is on and he looks behind him to follow her point.

1. GRETTEL: Your son doesn't need them!

**Panel Four**

Facing Howard. He's turned to look over his shoulder at Milo waving frantically to him on the roof.

1. GRETTEL (off panel): He needs you.

**Panel Five**

Howard looks back and stares at the ground. He's thinking hard and still clutching the net tight.

**Panel Six**

Same shot. He closes his eyes and drops his head in defeat. He lowers his arms and loosens his grip on the net.

1. HOWARD: What do you need me to—

**Panel Seven**

Same shot. Howard is cut off and winces in shock. Gretel (coming from left of panel) has thrown her shoulder into him, and they are both starting to fall.

**Page Thirty-Three****Panel One**

Howard and the BT fall completely into the open hatch and splash into the water. Gretel, turned around and facing upwards towards the AT as she falls, is taking aim with the crossbow.

**Panel Two**

From Gretel's perspective, aiming at the AT.

**Panel Three**

Close of the bolt flying from the crossbow.

**Panel Four**

Close of the AT's eye being punctured by the bolt.

### **Panel Five**

Wider shot. The AT screeches in pain and lets go of the tower. Gretel splashes into the water in the hatch. The supports of the water tower bend over on themselves, and it starts to fall.

### **Panel Six**

Milo cries out as he watches the tower crash to the ground. It crushes Howard's truck and bursts at the sides. Water floods the street. Gretel, Howard, and the BT spill out of the hatch. The radio with a tape deck is lying on its side in the street. It's been knocked over by the water.

## **Page Thirty-Four**

### **Panel One**

Small panel of the boombox being swept away in the water.

### **Panel Two**

Small panel. Milo gasps and touches a hook on his hat.

### **Panel Three**

Gretel and Howard struggle to get up. They're sopping wet and hacking up water. The BT has gotten out of the net, and is stumbling to the AT, which is landing in front of them.

### **Panel Four**

The BT scurries under the wing of the AT. The AT tenderly pushes the BT back towards it with its beak.

### **Panel Five**

Same shot. With the BT now safe, the AT whips its head back to menace Gretel and Howard. Blood is trickling from its wound.

## **Page Thirty-Five**

### **Panel One**

From under the AT, facing Gretel and Howard. It starts to walk towards them, and Howard freaks out while Gretel is subtly pulling a combat knife from her ankle.

1. HOWARD: You said it'd leave!
2. GRETTEL: I'm sure it will. When we're dead.

### **Panel Two**

The AT cranes its neck to reckon Gretel up close. Gretel wields the knife expertly, and stares the AT down just the same.

### **Panel Three**

Same shot. From off the top of the panel, the boombox drops and bounces from a fishing line blasting bluegrass with jangly music notes. Both Gretel and the AT reel back in shock.

1. BOOMBOX (w/ music notes): I been caught, bought, n' sold!

### **Panel Four**

Gretel looks up to see Milo waving the fishing pole around as threateningly as he can. The hook he used to pull up the radio is missing from his fishing hat. The bluegrass continues.

1. MILO (shouting): GO! GET!
2. BOOMBOX (smaller): I ain't ever been so cold!

### **Panel Five**

From behind Milo, looking down over his back. He continues to shout at the AT. It has pulled its head back, looking confused and disturbed.

1. MILO: Take my chickens, take the lake, just go!

## **Page Thirty-Six**

### **Panel One**

From behind Gretel and Howard. They're confused, but let their guard down. The AT turns to gently pick up the BT (who is freaking out like it did on the house boat) by the "nape" of its neck.

### **Panel Two**

The AT starts to flap its wings. Surges of wind tear through the street and Gretel and Howard shield their faces.

### **Panel Three**

They watch it fly away, pulling clouds and dust around it like camouflage.

#### **Panel Four**

Same shot. Milo calls from off panel and they turn to look at him.

1. MILO: I knew it!

#### **Panel Five**

From over Gretel's shoulder. Milo is running towards them. Behind him, there is a ladder on the side of the building he was on top of. She's proud but confused.

1. GRETEL: My tape, how did you know - -
2. MILO: The fish!
3. MILO: The fish song the bird hated— it had banjos!

#### **Page Thirty-Seven**

#### **Panel One**

Milo grapples his dad into a hug, and Gretel smiles and taps her head with pride.

1. GRETEL: Ahh, you learn quick.

#### **Panel Two**

She scowls at Howard and her gesture turns accusatory. Howard puts his hands up in surrender.

1. GRETEL: Hopefully, your dad catches up.
2. GRETEL: If this town wasn't dead already, you just about finished it.
3. HOWARD: It's a lot of damage... but I can pay for it.

#### **Panel Three**

He slaps Milo on the back with pride. Milo is excited.

1. HOWARD: That is, if you're ready to sell that crater and help this old man tour the sea.
2. MILO: I'll finally catch a real fish!

### **Panel Four**

From over Milo and Howard's shoulders. Gretel is walking back towards the ladder.

1. HOWARD: Well, your first radio is its own accomplishment.
2. HOWARD: Hey, bird girl! Can't stay for supper?
3. GRETEL: I'd best see those two home. There are plenty of trailer parks between here and the Pacific.

### **Panel Five**

Looking down at Milo and Howard from over Gretel's shoulder. She's high up on the ladder now.

1. GRETEL: Besides- You've got a lot of housework to do.
2. HOWARD: Ha!

### **Panel Six**

Same shot. Gretel is now out of panel. Milo's face turns red and he glances to the side nervously. A small "End" is in the bottom right corner.

1. HOWARD: Why, what happened to the house?

### **Page Thirty-Eight and Thirty-Nine**

A double page spread made to look like a composition notebook's pages. The first page has an illustration by Gretel of the Thunderbird with notes about its anatomy and how it lives/hunts. In the margins is a small "Invest in banjo lessons???" along with other notes.

The second page includes four polaroid pictures from Milo and Howard. Under them is a postcard for WindyWay Bay.

### **Picture One**

Milo and his dad are posing for a happy picture aboard their boat.

### **Picture Two**

Milo and his dad are pointing off into the distance at a water typhoon with excited expressions.



**Picture Three**

A torn polaroid of them in a brutal storm. It's mostly obscured by the picture before and after it, but they look terrified.

**Picture Four**

Milo and his dad are on the boat again in the aftermath of the storm. The deck is wet, messy, and littered with fish. Howard is on the ground wheezing with fear, but Milo is happily holding a large fish in both hands to the camera. In the distance, the silhouettes of the thunderbirds can barely be seen flying away.