

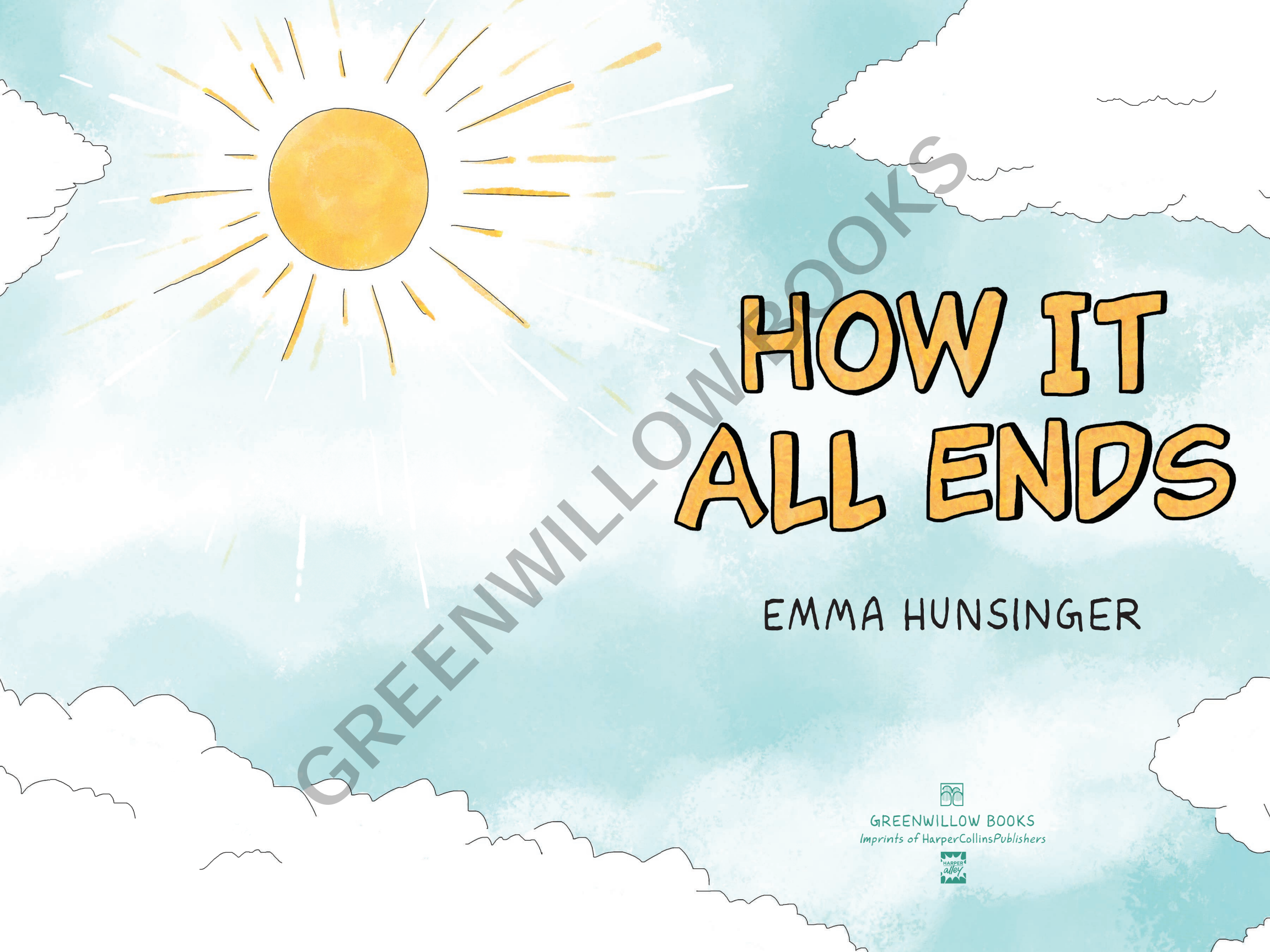
Emma Hunsinger is the creator of the autobiographical comic "How to Draw a Horse," which was nominated for an Eisner Award and included in the prestigious annual "Cartoon Takeover" print edition of the *New Yorker*. Emma Hunsinger graduated with an MFA from the Center for Cartoon Studies and lives with her family in Vermont.

www.emmahunsinger.com

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GREENWILLOW BOOKS

HOW IT ALL ENDS



HOW IT ALL ENDS

EMMA HUNSINGER



GREENWILLOW BOOKS
Imprints of HarperCollinsPublishers



This book is a work of fiction. References to real people, events, establishments, organizations, or locales are intended only to provide a sense of authenticity, and are used to advance the fictional narrative. All other characters, and all incidents and dialogue, are drawn from the author's imagination and are not to be construed as real.

How It All Ends
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First Edition



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If you look up
at the sun...

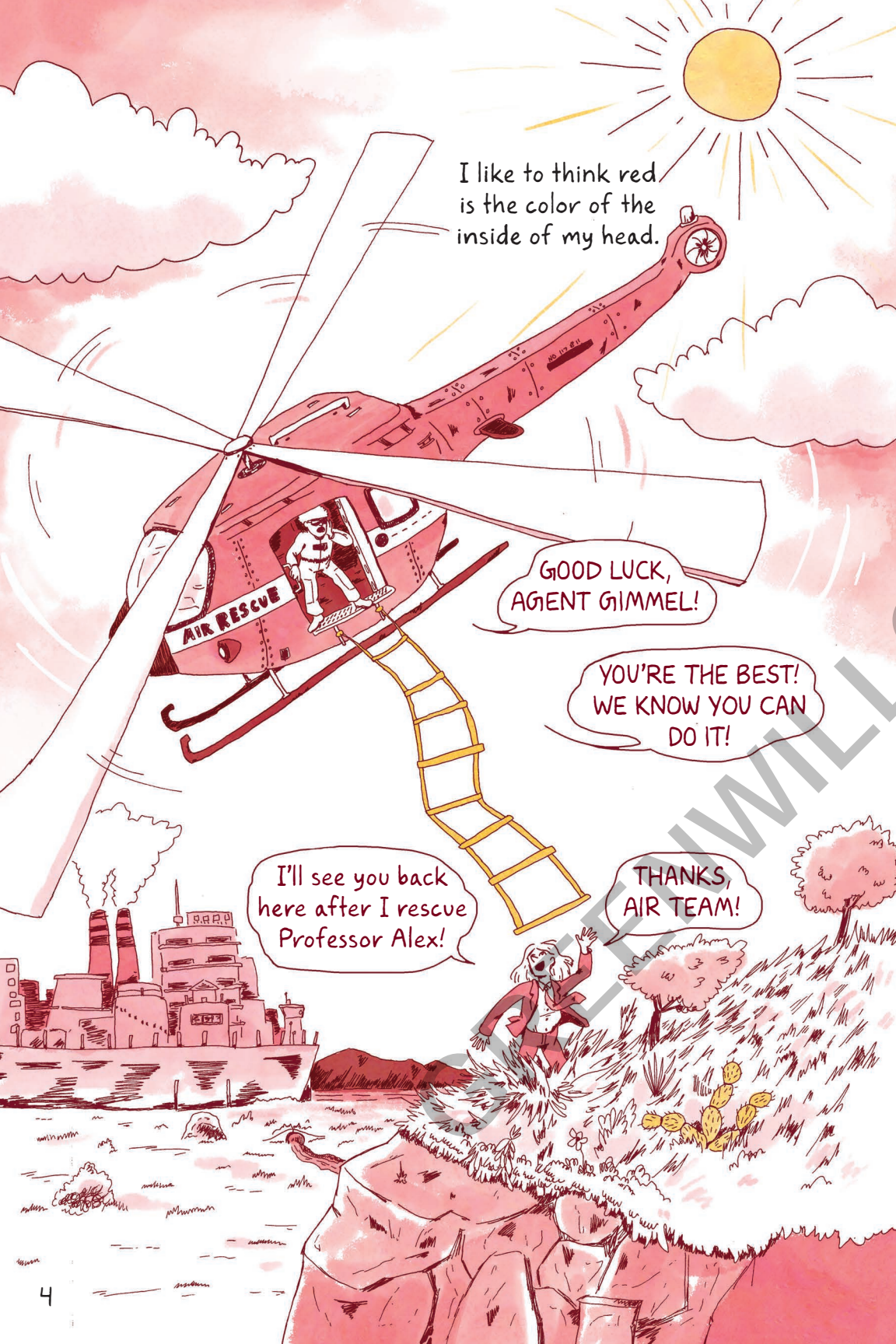
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and close your eyes...



you see the color red.



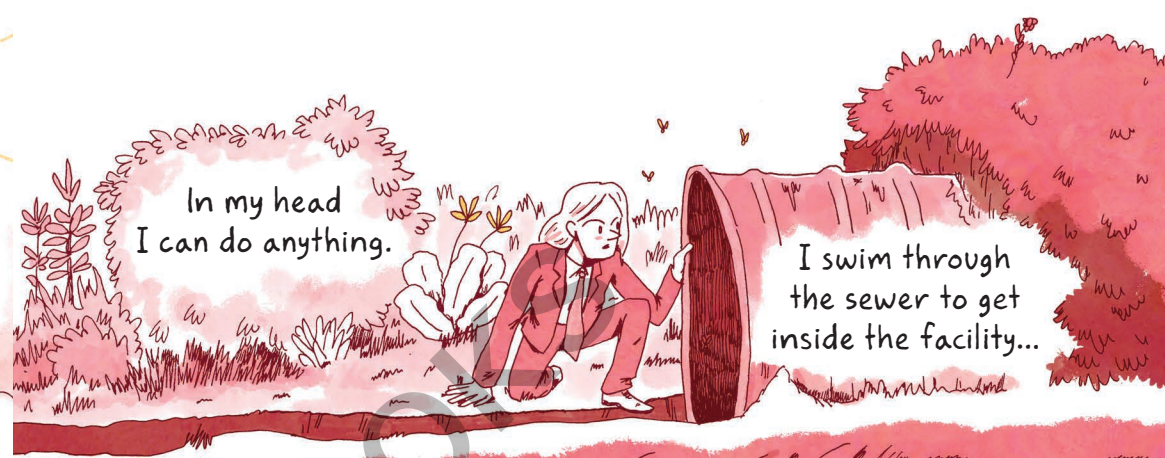
I like to think red is the color of the inside of my head.

GOOD LUCK, AGENT GIMMEL!

YOU'RE THE BEST! WE KNOW YOU CAN DO IT!

I'll see you back here after I rescue Professor Alex!

THANKS, AIR TEAM!



In my head I can do anything.

I swim through the sewer to get inside the facility...



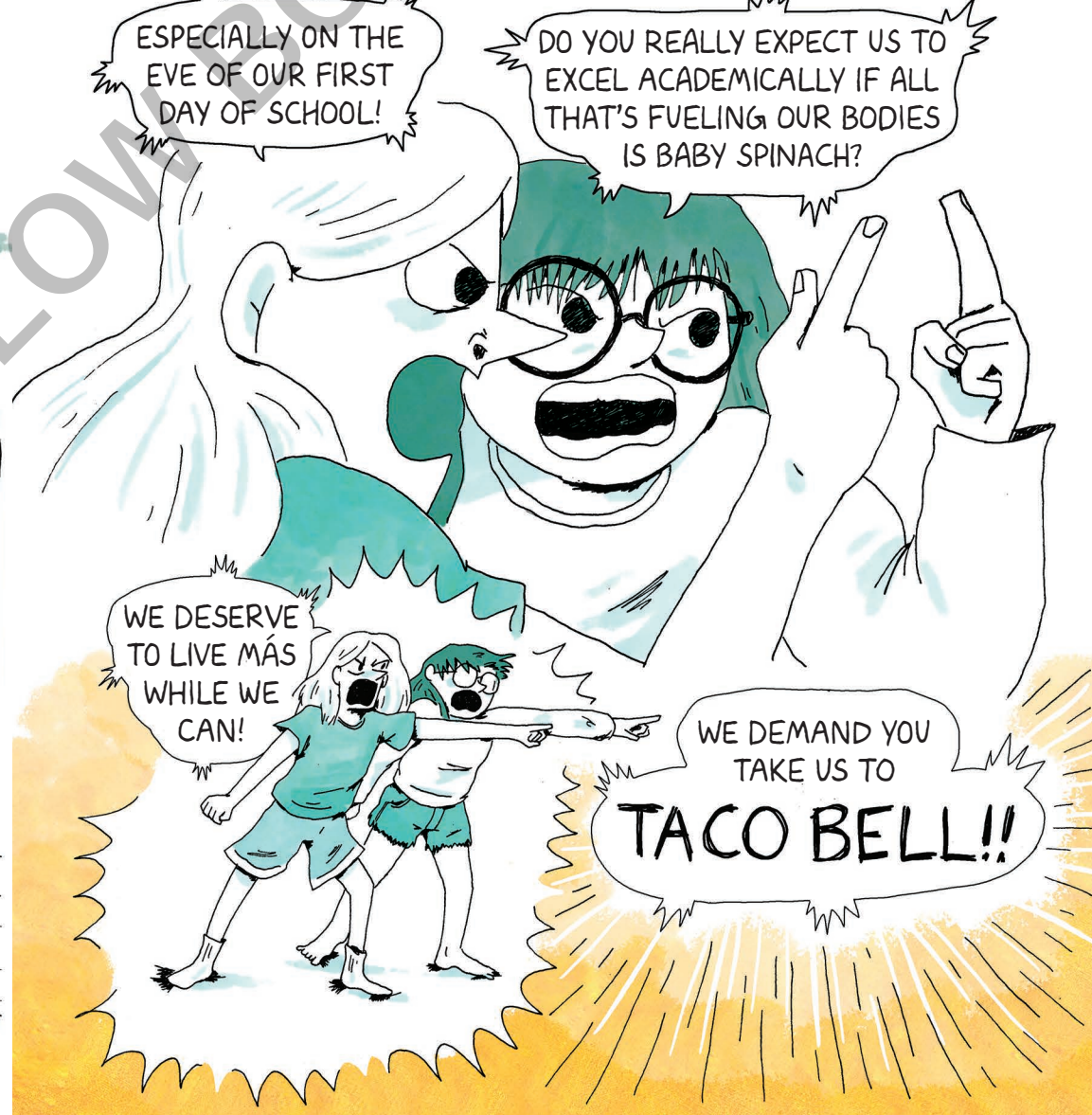
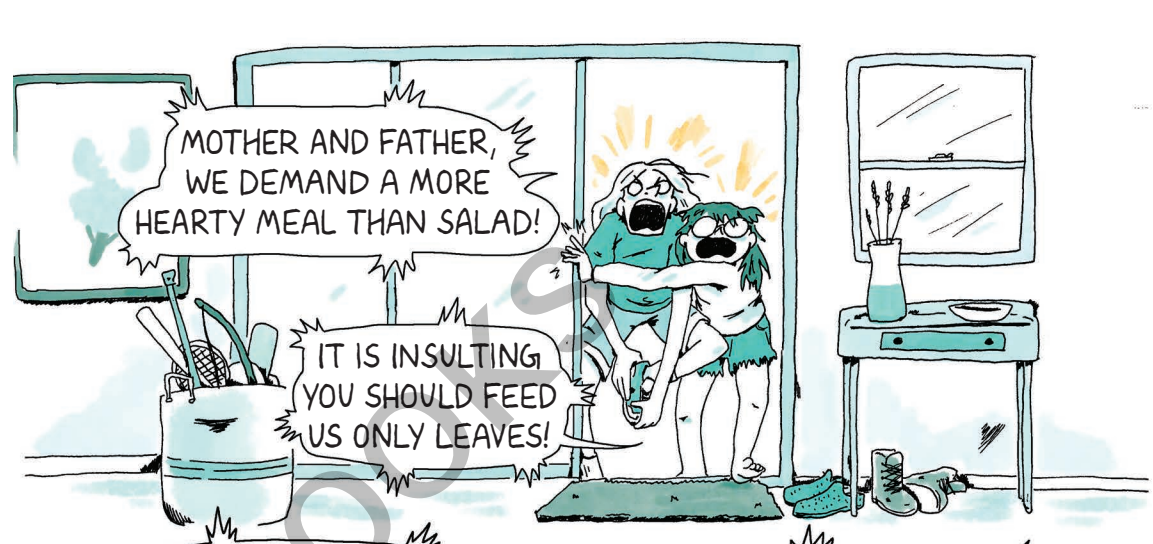
follow the conduit to a landing on the ground floor...

dry off...



and sneak up to the third floor where Professor Alex is being held.







Wow, girls, very cool. Is that from a movie?

What?

No!

It's from our lives! We don't want salad!

I made rigatoni.

Oh yay! I love rigatoni.

Sorry, next time we make a scene, I'll fact-check first.

That would be great.



I suppose eating rigatoni counts as living más.

This is my family:

My dad.



You two excited for school to start?

Oh yeah, I really missed saying the Pledge of Allegiance.

My older sister (by 22 months) and best friend, Isla.

Aw, you should have said something. We could have gotten you a flag for your room.

I'm kidding, Dad. I don't miss pledging my allegiance to the flag.

Or to the republic for which it stands.

Pwedge.

Yes, very patriotic.

My mom,

and baby Pete.

And me, Tara.
I'm 13 years old.



What about you, T?
Excited to start
high school?



Thirteen-year-olds aren't
supposed to be in high school.



I was in seventh
grade last year.

On a rainy April
day, I was in my last class...



worrying about how
wet my sneakers were
about to get...

and then...



CHRISTINA GARCIA,
TARA GIMMEL, AND JESSUP HOUSE,
PLEASE REPORT TO MRS. ARCHER'S
OFFICE IMMEDIATELY.

YOU'RE GOING TO HIGH SCHOOL!

WHAT?

NO!

Okay.

Let me explain.

And please enjoy the congratulatory chocolate kiss in front of each of your beanbags.

EMOTIONAL INTELLIGENCE

You have been selected for a special academic program to challenge high-performing students.

These will be your final months of middle school.

At the time, I didn't get the big deal.

I bet they only chose me because of my beard.

This is NOT fair!

What about the eighth-grade dance?

Or the trip to Six Flags?

Are you guys sure you don't want your kisses?

Burp in a house. Fart in a shed.

Fart, fart, burp, fart.

Fart from the heart. Burp from the head.

Maybe I did need a challenge.

And anyway it's just school.

Seventh grade was like sixth grade, and sixth like fifth.

SON PUBLIC

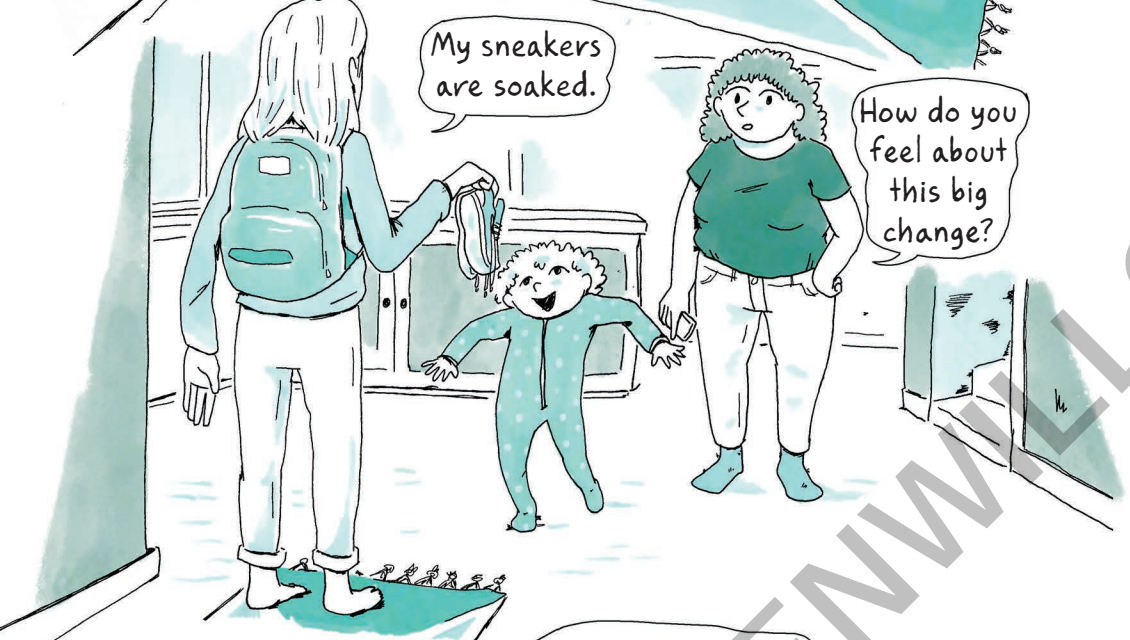
My shoes.

Why would ninth be different?



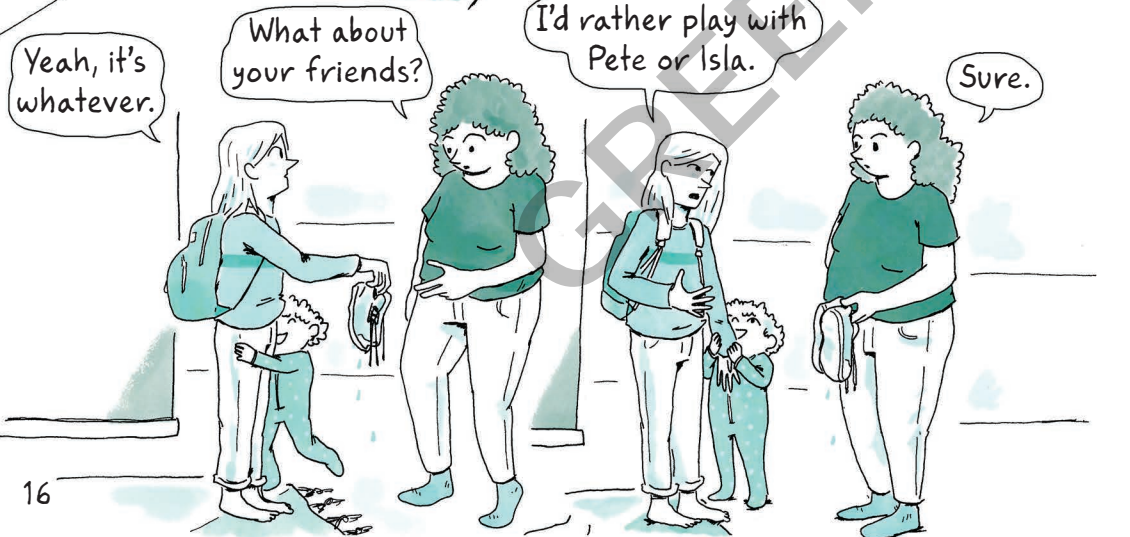
I'M HOME!

Hi, sweetie!
I just got off
the phone with
Mrs. Archer.



My sneakers
are soaked.

How do you
feel about
this big
change?

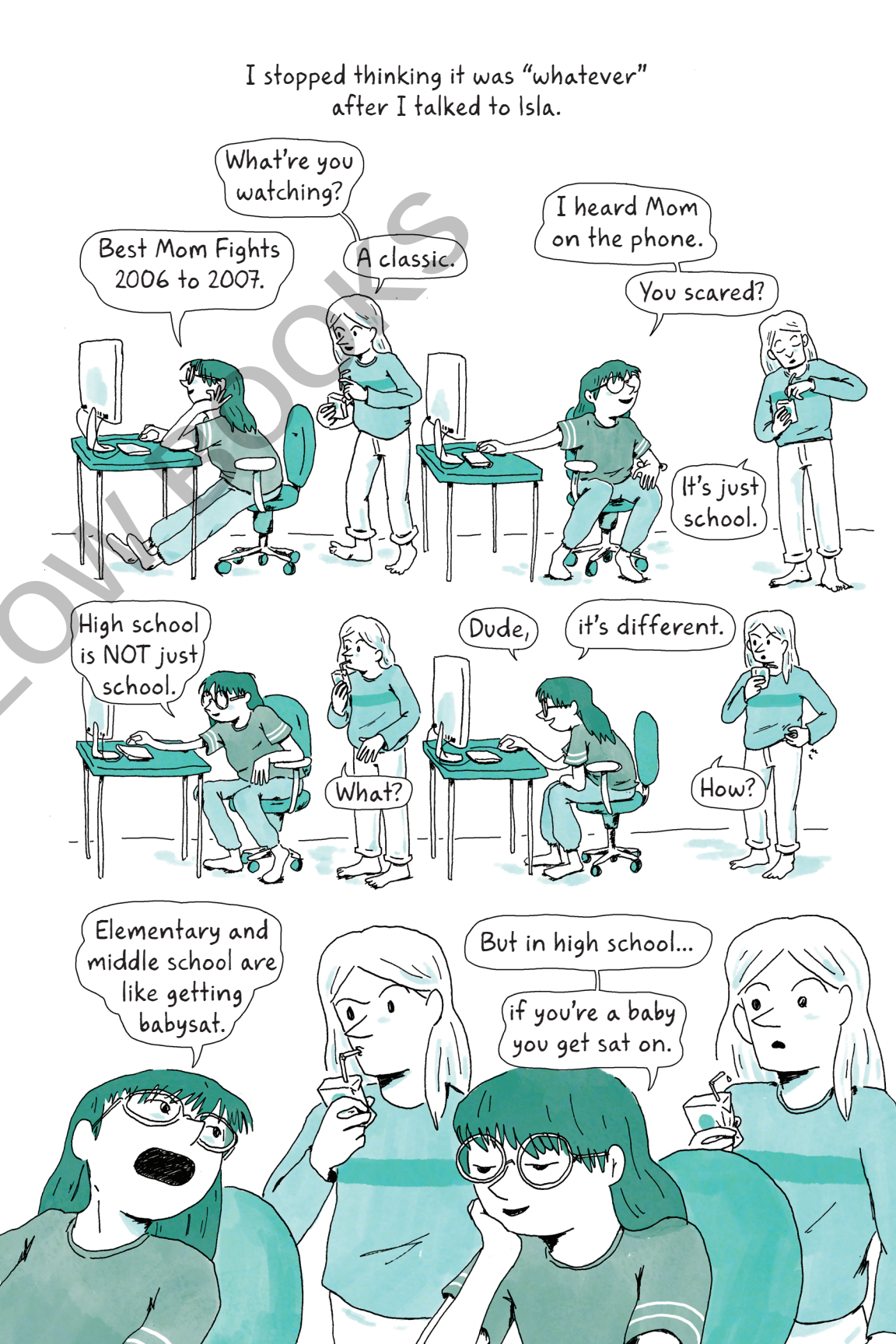


Yeah, it's
whatever.

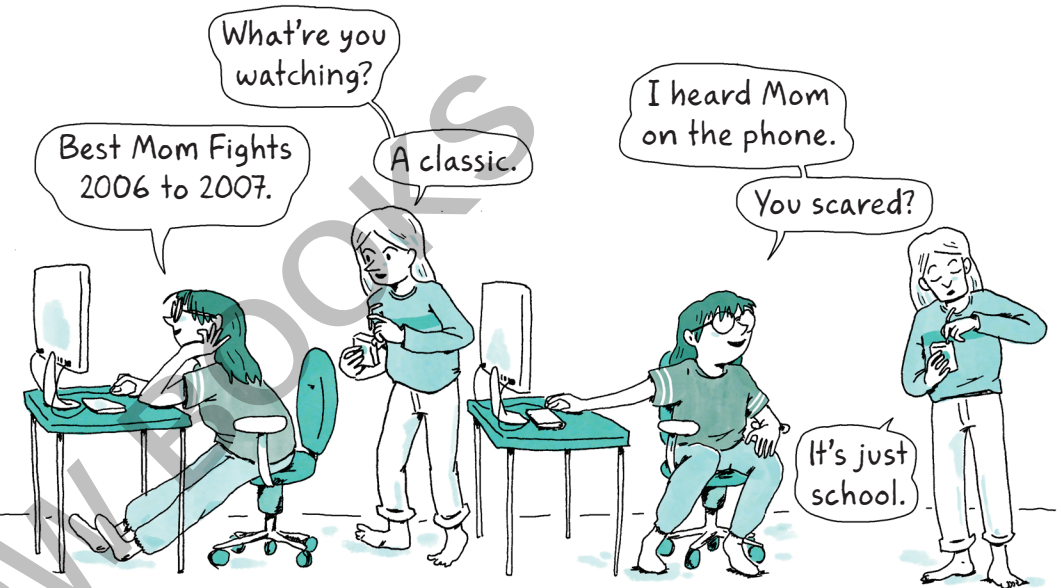
What about
your friends?

I'd rather play with
Pete or Isla.

Sure.



I stopped thinking it was "whatever"
after I talked to Isla.



What're you
watching?

Best Mom Fights
2006 to 2007.

A classic.

I heard Mom
on the phone.

You scared?

It's just
school.



High school
is NOT just
school.

Dude,

it's different.

What?

How?



Elementary and
middle school are
like getting
babysat.

But in high school...

if you're a baby
you get sat on.

I spent the rest of the summer trying to figure out what she meant.

What kind of stuff do you do in art?

Is homeroom in the morning or afternoon?

There is no homeroom.

There's actually a bunch of art classes. Some are pretty wild.

Which hallway are the freshmen in?

Oh, classes are all over the school, not just in one place.

What day is pizza day?

The cafeteria has pizza every day.

Is it going to be like the teen dramas on TV?

Nobody sings, Tara.

You're overthinking it.

What if the first day is the musical episode?

WHAT ART CLASS DO YOU WANT?

HERE'S YOUR SCHEDULE.

Uh TOO LATE!

Your next class is five miles down that hallway.

You better start running.

I told you. This isn't a homeroom.

WE WILL NEVER FORGET THIS MISTAKE!

WHAT!

Welcome to

FIRE ART.

No babies allowed.

R.I.P.
TARA GIMMEL
DIED from eating PIZZA EVERY DAY

You're thirty minutes late and it's clearly because you do not respect me or my class.

Tara?

I am going to get sat on.



Ah!

Dops.

That's okay.

Isla, why don't you put Pete down, and T, you can help me clean up.



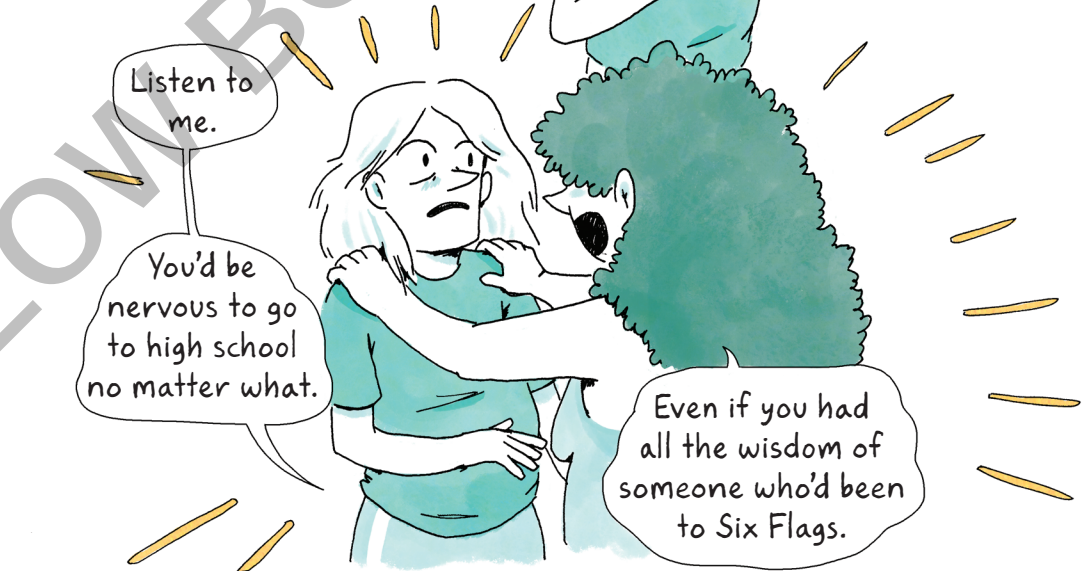
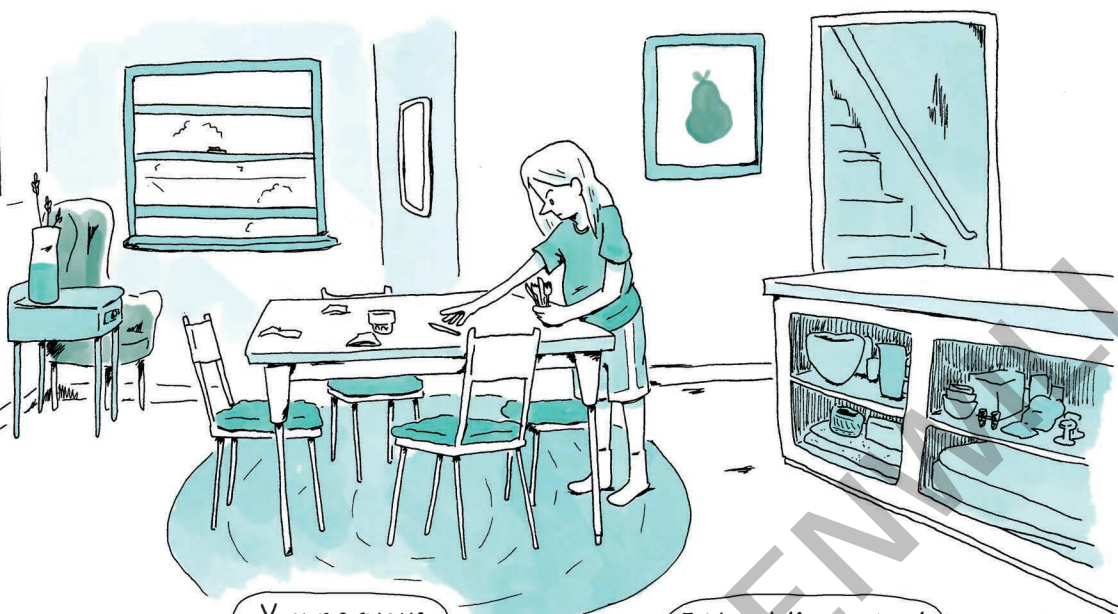
High school sounds really confusing and, um, maybe I'd get it more if I was older.

How's being older gonna help?

Um. I'll be, like, wiser?

Wiser how?

I'll have been to Six Flags?



Listen to me.

You'd be nervous to go to high school no matter what.

Even if you had all the wisdom of someone who'd been to Six Flags.



You nervous about tomorrow?

I think...

I should've asked to stay in middle school.

Oh yeah?



Trust me.

I know there are things you're not ready for.

But you'll figure out high school.