



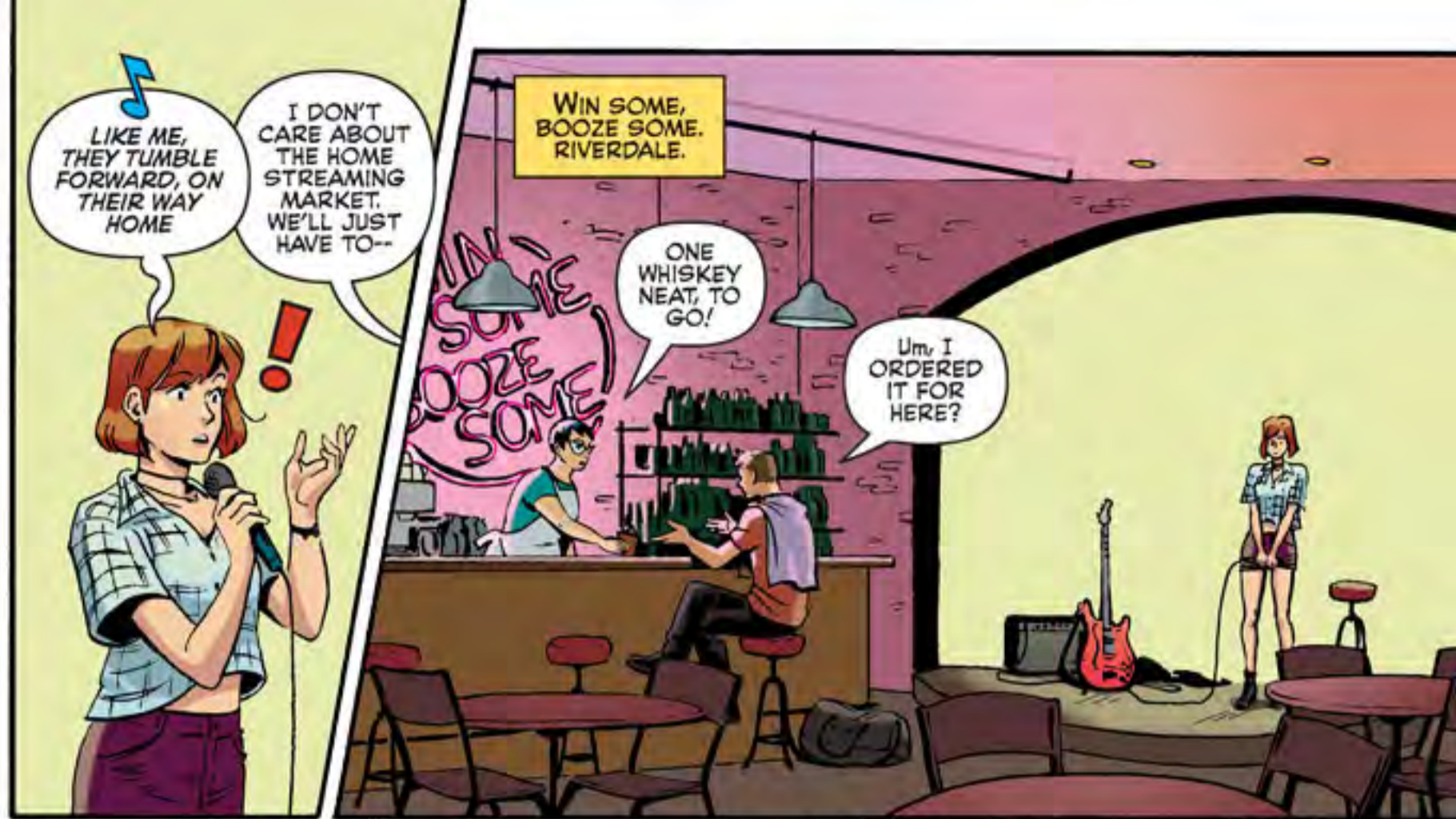
I WAS
STROLLING
BY THE
STREAM,
ROLLING
THROUGH
THE
HILLS

WITH FIELDS
OF GREEN
BENEATH THE
FARMERS'
TILLS

TALL TREES
WERE RISING,
TANGLED IN
THE LIGHT

AS THE
DAY ARRIVED
TO MEET THE
NIGHT

AS THE
STREAM'S
WASHING
DOWN,
GLOSSING
SMOOTH
STONES—





I CAME AS QUICK AS I COULD.

IT SOUNDED LIKE A CAT WAS DYING IN HERE, BUT I GUESS IT WAS JUST JOSIE'S DREAMS.



HIIII, ALEXANDRA.

I'VE SEEN MORE ENTHUSIASTIC PEOPLE AND FEWER HEALTH CODE VIOLATIONS ON THE STREETS OF CHERNOBYL. WHY DOES THE OWNER LET JOSIE MELT DOWN HERE EVERY WEDNESDAY NIGHT?

THIS MUST SET A RECORD FOR MOST PEOPLE TO EVER ATTEND YOUR CONCERTS, JOS.



LOOK, JOSIE'S *REALLY* TALENTED. IT'S NOT HER FAULT SHE WAS BORN A FEW DECADES AFTER EVERYONE STOPPED BUYING "SCARBOROUGH FAIR."

IT'S SO SWEET OF YOU TO SUPPORT JOSIE LIKE THIS. IS IT PART OF YOUR PAROLE?

PLEASE LEAVE.



AAAAANYWAY, I'M GONNA GO HOME AND LISTEN TO SOMETHING MORE PLEASANT.

LIKE MY GARBAGE DISPOSAL.



Oh, YEAH? WELL! YOU LEAVING IS... GARBAGE... DISPOSAL!





UGGGGH. I'M THE WORST.

WHAT HAPPENED? YOU GUYS USED TO BE BEST FRIENDS!

YOU PIERCED HER EAR AND SHE CHICKENED OUT BEFORE YOU DID THE SECOND ONE. YOU WERE HER ALIBI THE NIGHT SHE NEARLY GOT CAUGHT TAKING HER DAD'S LEXUS!

YOU GOT SICK ON THE SAME KERMIT THE FROG CUPCAKES AT YOUR FIFTH BIRTHDAY!!



YEAH, WELL FRIENDSHIP'S A LOT MORE THAN PUKING TOGETHER, PEPPER.

I DID GREEK WEEK ALL WRONG, THEN.



LOOK, JOSIE. THE RIVERDALE ANIMAL SHELTER IS HAVING A CHARITY CONCERT FOR A FUNDRAISER. THEY NEED VOLUNTEER BANDS.

WANT TO HELP SOME JACKED UP THREE-LEGGED DOGS FIND LOVE? GET THE AFFECTION WE ALL MISSED IN OUR CHILDHOODS?

I DID MISS A LOT OF AFFECTION GROWING UP...



HEY. IF A ONE-EYED CAT CAN SING YOU SOME BACK-UP VOCALS, I WOULDN'T TURN UP THAT BUTTON NOSE JUST YET, TOOTS.

AT LEAST THEN I'D GET THE PITY VOTE.

CONCERT TO BENEFIT THE RIVERDALE ANIMAL SHELTER

BANDS WANTED TO PARTY PLEASE JOIN AT THE SHELTER

A GOOD CAUSE MIGHT MOTIVATE SOME FRIENDS TO HELP?



YEAH, WELL. THANKS, PEPPER.

BUT I WOULDN'T WANT TO PUT ANYONE ELSE THROUGH THAT.



MAAAAN, EIGHT YEARS OF ELECTRIC CELLO FOR NUTHIN'.





HIGH STREET.

--AND SO IF THE PRICE CHANGES, THEN WE CAN SELL IT BACK FOR A PROFIT.



YOU'RE SO SMART... I DON'T HAVE TIME FOR THINGS LIKE THAT AT ALL--

MONDAY I VISIT THE OLD FOLKS' HOME, TUESDAY IS ALL DAY CLASSES, WEDNESDAYS I HAVE TO SHOWER AND CHANGE BETWEEN TENNIS, SOCCER, AND SWIM MEET--

WELL, IF YOU'RE ALREADY WET ON WEDNESDAYS...



--AND THURSDAYS I TEACH ORPHANS TO...
...READ?



PUSSSSY--



MELODY, THEY WON'T ALLOW ANIMALS AT--

--CAT.



MELODY, OUR NIGHT IS GONNA BE TOO FULL TO GET A CAB, GO HOME, FIND A CARRIER, DROP THAT DROWNED RAT OFF, AND GET BACK OUT HERE BEFORE--

Ohhhhh. NARRATIVE PARALLELS, GOTCHA.



CAT.

???

PRRRR

THE RIVERDALE ANIMAL SHELTER. THE NEXT MORNING.

YOU'RE IN, MELODY? YOU'RE REALLY IN??

WELL, MY NEXT FEW EVENINGS JUST CLEARED UP. EVEN IF THAT GUY WAS A HEDGEHOG.

HEDGE FUND MANAGER?

THAT.

IF THIS IS THE SHELTER THAT THE CHARITY CONCERT BENEFITS, I'M IN IT TO WIN IT!

THERE ARE NO WINNERS, MELODY, IT'S CHARITY.

SO THE CATS ARE THE WINNERS!

I WANT NOTHING BUT THE BEST FOR LORD CUTE-INGTON, DUKE OF KITTENSHIRE.

I WANT HIM TO HAVE A SQUEAK TOY SHAPED LIKE A MOUSE, AND A PRETTY SCRATCHING POST, AND A DIAMOND-STUDED COLLAR, AND A CHAIR WHERE HE CAN SIT LIKE A LITTLE MAN WHEN WE WATCH TV--

WE... DON'T SELL THOSE HERE.

ALSO, HI, I'M VALERIE, BY THE WAY.

HI, VAL! CAN I CALL YOU VAL?

Um. OKAY. WE NEED TO CHECK AND SEE IF THE CAT--

LORD CUTE-INGTON.

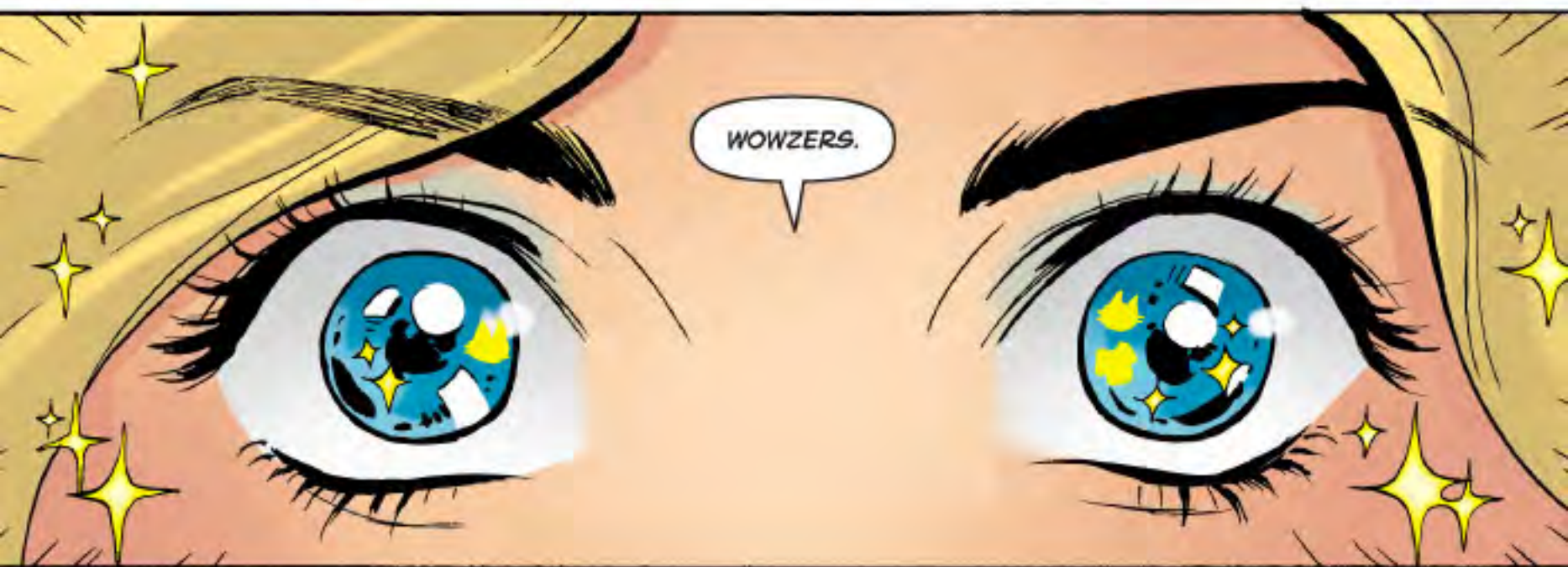
--IS LISTED AS MISSING--

DUKE OF KITTENSHIRE.

--AND IF HE'S BEEN CHIPPED. BUT, IF NO ONE CLAIMS HIM, YOU'RE FIRST IN LINE TO ADOPT HIM.

IT'S OKAY, YOU GUYS, WE'VE GOT IT FROM HERE... JUST NEED TO TAKE HIM BACK HERE FOR A FEW SHOTS--

NOOOO, I NEED TO COME! THE DUKE NEEDS MY TENDER LOVING PRESENCE--



RUFF **ARF**
MEOW **WOOF**
YOWWWL
HSSSS





CAAALM, CALM



RUFF

CALM YOUR PRETTY KITTY HEADS

MEOW

WOOF

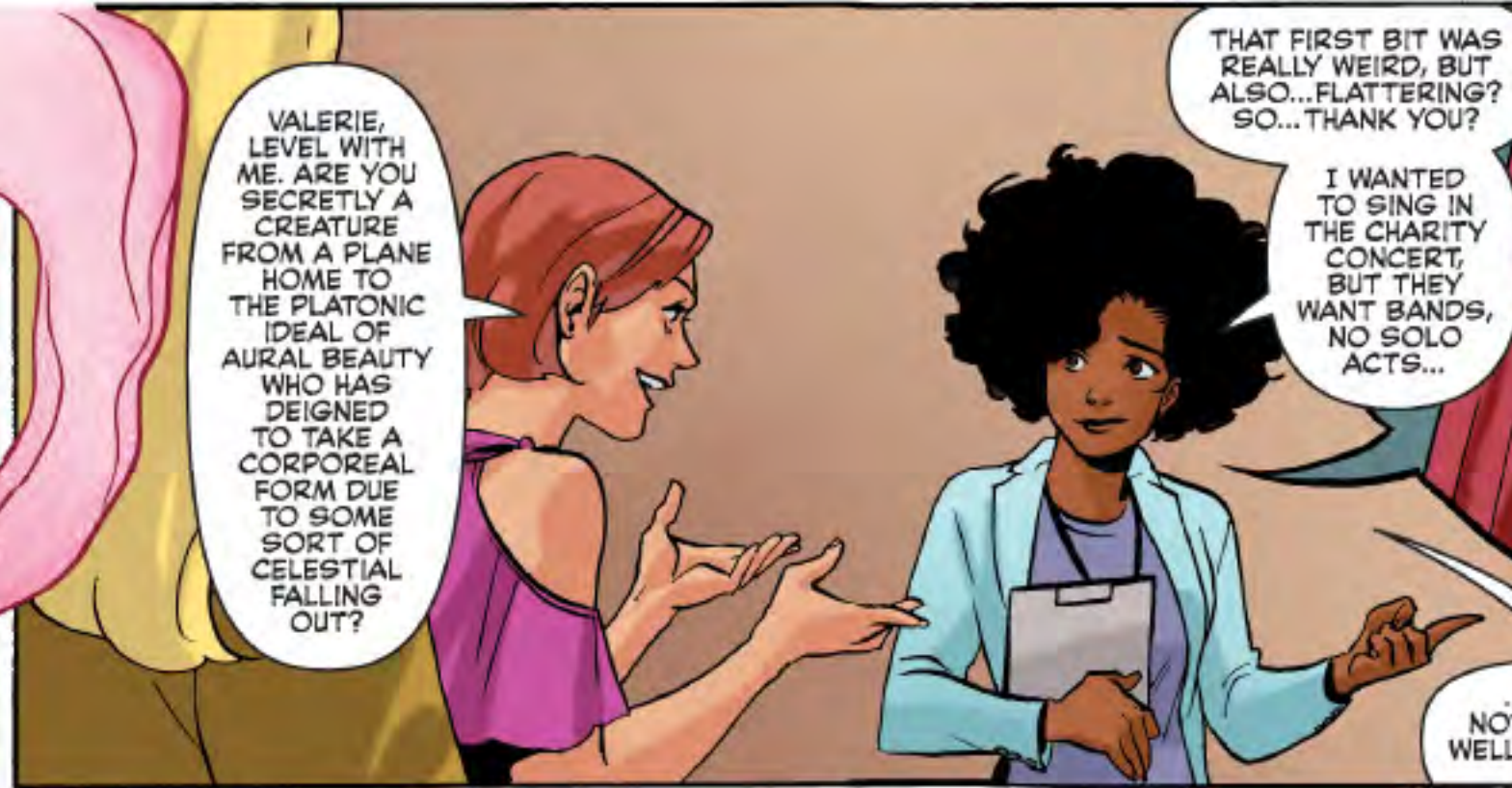
HSSSS

PERK UP YOUR FLUFFY PUPPY EARS

AND LISTEN TO WHAT I SAID

PRRRR

ZZZZZ



VALERIE, LEVEL WITH ME. ARE YOU SECRETLY A CREATURE FROM A PLANE HOME TO THE PLATONIC IDEAL OF AURAL BEAUTY WHO HAS DEIGNED TO TAKE A CORPOREAL FORM DUE TO SOME SORT OF CELESTIAL FALLING OUT?

THAT FIRST BIT WAS REALLY WEIRD, BUT ALSO...FLATTERING? SO...THANK YOU?

I WANTED TO SING IN THE CHARITY CONCERT, BUT THEY WANT BANDS, NO SOLO ACTS...

...I MIIIIIGHT NOT GET ALONG WELL WITH OTHERS.



HEY! NEVER LET SOMEBODY MAKE YOU FEEL ASHAMED OF YOUR DREAMS.

VALERIE, I MEAN IT. YOU'RE A BETTER SINGER THAN ME--

I'M PRETTY SURE IT'S ACTUALLY ILLEGAL FOR YOU NOT TO SING IF YOU HAVE A VOICE LIKE THAT.

I USED TO DATE A LAWYER, SO, I'M GOING TO HAVE TO ASK YOU TO PLAY WITH US, FOR LEGAL REASONS.



OKAY, I'LL--I'LL DO IT!

LET'S GO CHANGE THE FACE OF MUSIC, AND CHARITY, AND MUSIC CHARITY.



SO! HOW LONG DO WE HAVE TO WRITE SONGS AND REHEARSE?

...ABOUT SIX HOURS.



Uh, HOW SOON CAN YOU GET OFF?

DEPENDS WHO'S HELPING.

WAT.

GIVE ME HALF AN HOUR.

GREAT!





YOU'RE
MISTER
MISSED
HER

MISTER
MISSED
HER

MISTER
MISSED
HER

NOTHING
EVER
MOVES
FORWARD
CAUSE
YOU'RE
LOOKING
BACK!

ENCORE!

ENCORE!



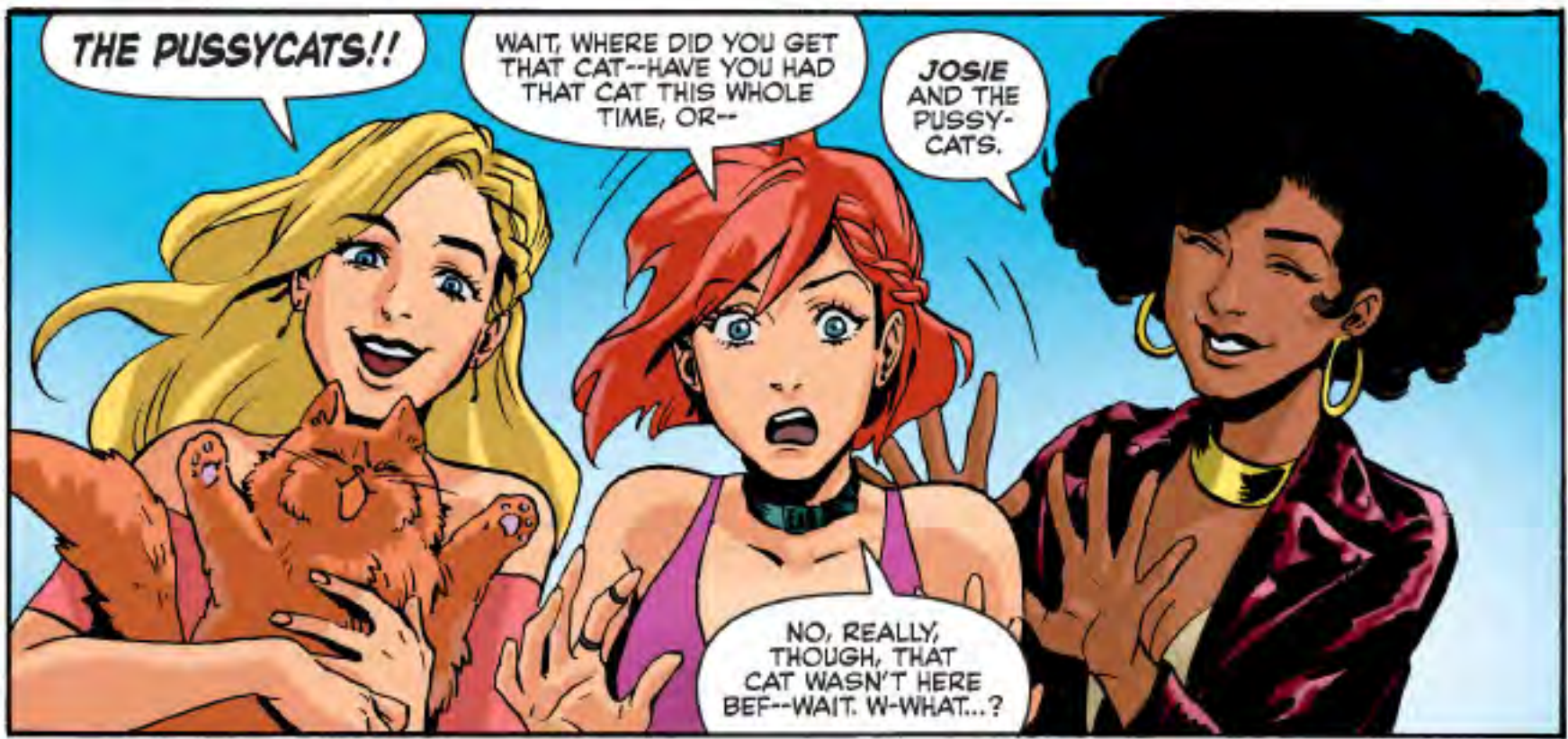
WHEW! I HAVEN'T FELT A RUSH LIKE THAT SINCE FISHING KEITH RICHARDS OUT OF A NEW YORK GUTTER IN '72.

THANK YOU! VALERIE AND MELODY REALLY PUT ON A GREAT SHOW! AND DRUG-FREE!

TO BE HONEST, JOSIE. THIS ISN'T AN AFTER SCHOOL SPECIAL, SWEETIE.



DO TELL ME, THOUGH, WHAT IS THE NAME OF YOUR REMARKABLE TRIO?



THE PUSSYCATS!!

WAIT, WHERE DID YOU GET THAT CAT--HAVE YOU HAD THAT CAT THIS WHOLE TIME, OR--

JOSIE AND THE PUSSYCATS.

NO, REALLY, THOUGH, THAT CAT WASN'T HERE BEF--WAIT. W-WHAT...?



YOU GUUUUYS!

JOSIE... AND THE...

CATS ARE SO GOOD.

CATS! CATS! CATS!

GREAT NAME, GO ME!



WOULD YOU LIKE TO MEET ONE OF OUR MOST GENEROUS DONORS?



HE'S A MOST RENOWNED AND TALENTED MUSIC PRODUCER...