

Hi Lane!

Really excited to get working on this project and to see what you come up with.

A Note about People: The characters in this story are 15 years old. They are finally teenagers and often take on older traits because they're a little bit outcasted. They have each other, they have always had each other, but now things are starting to fracture a little bit - so it goes at that age. As they will be in the same halloween costume for the entire comic, their style will have to come out in slightly other ways. I would like this comic to be inclusive and for body types to be realistic to how people are: sometimes chubby, sometimes lanky and awkward, sometimes uncomfortable in their bodies.

Megan "MAG" and Tiptada "TIPS" are AFAB, and ARI is AMAB, but I see their styles being very similar - in the way high school friends take on the uniform of each other. I see them as movie-loving weirdos. Kinda indie, kinda goth, kinda queer and bookish - but in the costumes this might be hard to identify.

A Note about Costumes:

- **MEG** is wearing a witch costume with a pointy witch hat and striped stockings, she is also wearing a zip-up hoodie on top of her costume, it is unzipped.

- **ARI** is supposed to be wearing a mummy costume. But instead they are dressed as Tina Shepard from Friday the 13th. They have on a white Camp Chipowa camp counselor shirt on, with an oversized button-up shirt, high-waisted jeans with a belt (which are dirty and ripped at the knees), and a purse. Their face is a little dirty.

- **TIPS** is wearing a skeleton costume, with a little bit of face paint ( kinda like this, but if she did it herself and tried not to over exaggerate it)

A Note about Setting: It's Halloween! In a suburban neighborhood, where the houses are decorated and there are kids trick or treating, flashlights and jack-o-lanterns, spooky hedges, cobwebs, etc. This can go pretty abstract and wild if you want, even if only in outline/shadows/minimalist background. There will be points where things will be exaggerated - like a (seemingly) magical doorway to a party, or the shadow of a slasher killer behind someone while they're talking - but otherwise will be pretty standard neighborhood and houses and cars in driveways.

Let me know if that makes sense! Thanks,  
Michael Kurt

**PAGE ONE - 4 PANELS**

Panel 1

MEG is standing on the sidewalk outside of some houses in a neighborhood that are decorated for Halloween. She is standing in their spot. The same place her friend group has met every year for halloween in the same costumes. It does not need to be apparent on this page, but as a note: MEG does have an orange in one of her pockets that will be plot relevant at the end.

CAPTION

We wore the same costume every year for Halloween - I was a witch, Tips a skeleton, and Ari a mummy. It started as a way to make Halloween more fun.

CAPTION

It was **our** thing.

**Title: HALLOWEEN**

**Credits:**

**Written by Michael Kurt**

**Art by Lane Llyod**

**Letters by Nikki Powers**

Panel 2

ARI arrives to meet MEG at their spot, but not in the right costume. MEG looks at ARI, not shocked, but just like *what the hell is this?*

CAPTION

Until this year.

MEG

Why aren't you wearing your costume?

ARI

I am.

MEG

You know what I mean.

Panel 3

Solo shot of ARI, who thinks they look nice actually.

ARI

I'm **wearing** my costume.

Panel 4

Further out from the last shot, kids walk by with their parents as silhouettes. MEG looks at her own costume.

MEG

Well, I wish you would have told me because now I look stupid.

ARI

You look fine. I bet Tips didn't wear her costume either.

**PAGE TWO - 7 PANELS**

Panel 1

TIPS has a shocked face. She did not expect ARI's costume change.

TIPS

Oh, what!?

TIPS

Why aren't you wearing your costume?

Panel 2

ARI, starting to feel a little deflated by their friend's reactions, opens their arms like *this is it folks, we're here now*. From very far off, as a small shadow, we start to see the shadow figure of a Slasher Killer.

ARI

I am wearing my costume.

MEG

What are you?

Panel 3

Long panel, from across the street - They start to walk through the neighborhood. Kids are at doors trick-or-treating. Dogs are being walked, etc. TIPS is ahead slightly and is looking at her own costume similar to the way MEG reacted earlier like *well shit, now I look silly*. No shadow figure slasher is seen in this panel.

TIPS

(smaller)

But I took so long to put all this on.

ARI

A Last Girl.

MEG

A what?

Panel 4

Same long panel, but they have progressed towards the right of the page. On the far left, the shadow figure slasher is walking towards them, catching up.

ARI

Didn't you see that movie?

MEG

I guess not.

TIPS

I don't think that's a thing.

Panel 5

Just ARI in view, but behind them is the SLASHER SHADOW FIGURE GUY WITH A KNIFE UP - this is a projection of the costume and abstract, this is not real in the real of the teen's world. It's for fun.

ARI has their hands up to their face, as if in horror, as if about to be stabbed by the shadow figure.

ARI

A Last Girl is the one who's left at the end of a slasher movie, like Friday the 13th. The last one to survive the killer, or whatever

TIPS (OS)

A **final** girl?

Panel 6

They continue to walk, ARI lags behind, deflated. Bent over at the waist. The shadow slasher figure guy is also deflated, but he isn't walking on with them.

MEG

I don't think that's clear.

ARI

It's totally clear! Look there's like DIRT and my PANTS ARE RIPPED. And I'm wearing this CAMP CHIPOWA shirt!

ARI

We've watched like a million slasher films together, you **know** what I'm talking about.

MEG

Boo, I don't like it.

Panel 7

Insert shot: ARI touching TIPS shoulder from behind, friendly.

TIPS

Me neither

ARI

Whatever, I thought you were grounded.

**PAGE THREE - 5 PANELS**

Panel 1

Outside of a mysterious house, the windows are orange, but we can't see inside. This is THE PARTY HOUSE, which will haunt the rest of the story. Around the door, orange light glows mysteriously and there is an old-fashioned keyhole, which we will later zoom into. In the hedges are a few stray beer cups/cans, and maybe a shoe.

MEG (O.S.)  
Earth to Tiptada.

Panel 2

Snap back to TIPS as MEG claps in her face to get her attention. They are in the dark neighborhood.

MEG  
Helloooooooooo. Do you read me?

TIPS  
Don't call me that.

Panel 3

ARI is concerned. MEG has kind of had enough already. TIPS just wants to have a good night, so she is practically skipping at this point - having shifted on a dime from the Call of the Party House.

ARI  
Where did you go?

TIPS  
I was grounded, but you know me -

ARI  
So you raked all of the leaves?

Panel 4

They continue on, walking through the neighborhood. The silhouette of an SUV passes by, obscuring most of them - maybe MEG's witch hat pokes out. Speech balloons above the car (so leave some room, please).

TIPS  
Yeah.

MEG  
Your parents are so gullible.

TIPS  
Whatever, I thought you were supposed to babysit your brother?

MEG

There's some fair in Bakersville,  
so he's sleeping over at one of  
his soccer friend's house.

Panel 5

(This is a flashback, projection, thing. No characters need to be there) - the silhouette of cars in a school roundabout - hatchbacks and the middle door of a van open, decorated like haunted houses (cardboard ghosts, cobwebs, jack o'lanterns, etc, etc.)

ARI (VO)

I kind of miss Halloween fairs in  
elementary school.

CAPTION

One particular fair at our  
elementary school involved parents  
decorating their cars like mini-  
haunted houses, and we had to go  
around to each one to get a prize.

TIPS (VO)

God, don't you wish we could go  
back to those Goosebumps days?

CAPTION

Some of them were legit scary.

**PAGE FOUR - 5 PANELS**

Panel 1

Split top row panel (left, long) From across the street, we are facing the group. MEG has stopped and the rest continue to walk, not noticing because they've pulled out their PHONES and are tapping away. MEG has the ORANGE out of her pocket, in her hand, she is looking at MR. HYLER'S HOUSE. We can't see the house, but will later. It might be cool to have this image be through the window of the house, looking down?

CAPTION

When we were twelve, Mr. Hyler  
gave us oranges instead of candy.  
So every year I return the favor,  
all over his front door.

SFX

click click click

CAPTION

We usually cheer and laugh, and  
run away.

Panel 2

Split top row panel (right, shorter). MEG, disappointed no one stopped, follows the group.

CAPTION

But not this year, I guess.

SFX

click click click click etc.

MEG

When does the movie start?

Panel 3,4,5

In the next three panels, the group will continue to walk through the neighborhood together, but the KEYHOLE FROM PARTY HOUSE (orange, magical, etc) will get progressively bigger, filling each panel just a little more, until the last panel where it is basically taking up more than half the area and the group are just silhouettes against it. As it gets closer, the line-shapes of a raging halloween party will start to come into view, very faintly. This is still a daydream/ projection/ magical thinking in TIPS' mind. This will not end up being reality. So it can be kind of abstracted and strange (meaning it doesn't have to be hyper detailed).

TIPS

No movie this year.

TIPS

Something better.



ARI  
Oh no, I don't like when this happens.

TIPS  
It won't be like last time!

ARI  
It took so **long** last time.

CAPTION  
Last year we stood outside the convenience store and asked adults to buy us beer. It took hours, and all we got were cigarettes, which we ended up leaving at the bus stop.

CAPTION  
Tips got a can of febreze from the Walgreens by her house, but it didn't help. We smelled horrible. My mom was so pissed.

MEG  
My mom's going to ask about the movie, though.

TIPS  
So make something up.

TIPS  
Haven't you seen like a thousand movies?

MEG  
956

TIPS  
And have you told your mom about all of them?

MEG  
No.

TIPS  
Then recycle one.

**PAGE FIVE - 5 PANELS**

Panel 1

The group is now at the little-shops with decorated windows part of town, finally out of the neighborhood. They are standing in a line, mostly populated with smaller children, to get candied apples from a store front.

CAPTION

But before cigarettes and drinking, we had movies.

CAPTION

There was a film night in the gym of our elementary school every month.

MEG

You can't just recycle an old movie plot. They're different now.

ARI

I don't think your mom is **current** on popular movies, dude.

Panel 2

At the front of the line, ARI is paying and gathering candied apples - the store name DOTTIE'S is painted on the window. A SHOPKEEPER, who is a middle-aged woman, will be selling candied apples to the kids in line for a dollar. MEG is starting to get frustrated with TIPS and has her hand on her forehead like *come on dude this is getting old*.

CAPTION

And when Elementary School was done, we kept it going at my house.

MEG

Where are we going, Tips?

SHOPKEEPER

The usual, ladies?

ARI

Yes, please.

Panel 3

NOTE: This will need to be a bigger middle panel that is kind of zoomed out from before to give two scenes happening at once and room for their speech balloons.

Scene 1: Now with candied apples, MEG and TIPS are off to the side. MEG is fed up. TIPS is still pretty cheerful.

CAPTION

But attendance hasn't been great  
this year.

MEG

TIPS!

TIPS

What?

MEG

I'm getting tired of this, just  
tell me where we're going.

TIPS

Well, if you want to ruin the  
surprise, that's fine. **We're going  
to a party!**

CAPTION

For a lot of reasons.

MEG

But we don't know anyone who has  
parties.

TIPS

Yes, we do.

MEG

Oh no.

Scene 2: On the left, still at the door to DOTTIE'S, ARI is  
paying the SHOPKEEPER. The SHOPKEEPER is smiley, we can only  
see ARI from behind.

CAPTION

Ari moved in with their aunt right  
before school started.

SHOPKEEPER

Wait, aren't you supposed to be a  
mummy, Arnold?

CAPTION

They don't like to talk about it.

ARI

(smaller)

It's Ari.

SHOPKEEPER

Isn't that your guys' thing? You  
always wear the same costumes?

ARI  
Not this year.

ARI  
(smaller)  
Keep the change.

Panel 4

ARI returns to the group with their own candied apple and is extremely bummed to have been called Arnold, but also does not want to ruin the night.

CAPTION  
Then, suddenly, Tips had a  
boyfriend.

ARI  
What?

CAPTION  
They met over the summer and had  
quickly become inseparable. So it  
goes.

Panel 5

TIPS excited to reveal the surprise.

CAPTION  
And everything went downhill from  
there.

TIPS  
Taylor's friend Mike is throwing a  
party!

**PAGE SIX - 6 PANELS**

Panel 1

Outside THE PARTY HOUSE, but it is not magical like TIPS imagined. The door still has a small orange keyhole, and the windows are lit up, but only a few silhouettes can be seen. Have you ever gone to a party like that? Where you're like so excited and then you get there and it's five people on a couch watching someone else play video games? It's like that (but we're outside).

CAPTION

We were happy to see her happy.  
But, for the first time, I  
realized we were becoming  
different people.

CAPTION

Ari lived further away, Tips had a  
boyfriend, and all I wanted to do  
was stay home and watch movies  
like we always had.

Panel 2

TIPS walking backwards up the driveway like *come on iiiinn*.  
In the corner of the frame is MEG's witch hat.

MEG

Come on, Tips. I thought it was  
just going to be us this  
Halloween.

TIPS

It **is us**. And Taylor and Mike and  
a bunch of other people.

TIPS

You'll love it.

CAPTION

We lost time for movies.

Panel 3

ARI starts to walk away from the group.

CAPTION

We lost time for each other.

ARI

I'm not going.

TIPS (OS)

But Taylor got us beer.

Panel 4

MEG points to ARI (not in shot) who has walked away. TIPS has come back down to argue with MEG a bit.

CAPTION

And everything fell apart.

TIPS

It's not like we still have a **tradition** anyway.

CAPTION

Very slowly.

TIPS

Ari's not even in the right costume.

MEG

At least Ari **showed up!**

Panel 5

TIPS a little hurt, a little mad. She thought this was going to be an awesome night.

TIPS

**I showed up!**

Panel 6

From a side profile, MEG yelling at TIPS, ARI behind grabbing MEGs hand like *lets just go, don't fight.*

MEG

Just to leave again with your stupid **boyfriend!**

ARI

Hey! It's okay!

MEG

No! It's not okay. **This is not okay.**

**PAGE SEVEN - 6 PANELS**

Panel 1  
TIPS has had enough. She yells:

TIPS  
It's just **halloween!**

Panel 2  
Silent panel. TIPS knows she's messed it up. She's disappointed and sad with herself. But also wants to see her boyfriend and the party she was so looking forward to.

(No dialogue)

Panel 3  
MEG, head hung with defeat. ARI still behind her like *what just happened?*

MEG  
I'm going home.

CAPTION  
I thought this year could be the last big Halloween of our childhood.

Panel 4  
MEG walks off, ARI turns to walk off with her. TIPS is still in the driveway, determined to stay.

CAPTION  
We would get candied apples, and see a movie, and get home so late that we could barely keep our eyes open.

TIPS  
Wait, you guys!

TIPS  
We don't even have to stay that long. I just want to go in and see Taylor, and then we can go.

Panel 5  
ARI turns around (not as pissed, more in support/ I-don't-know-what-to-do mode), MEG continues to walk away.

CAPTION  
But it was too late.

ARI  
It's alright. Go inside.

ARI  
I'll call you later.

Panel 6  
TIPS walks up to THE PARTY HOUSE, alone.

(No dialogue)



**PAGE EIGHT - 7 PANELS**

Panel 1

ARI catches up to MEG, who is standing outside MR. HYLER'S HOUSE.

CAPTION

I saw Ari again a few years later.

Panel 2

MEG takes the orange out of her pocket.

CAPTION

In their mummy costume, just like when we were twelve.

MEG

Why are you wearing a different costume, anyway?

ARI

I wanted to be pretty, I guess.

Panel 3

ARI has their head hung, MEG is a little pissed.

CAPTION

I waved to them from across the street.

ARI

The Dottie's lady called me Arnold earlier.

CAPTION

And when they smiled, it reminded me of all the sleep overs we'd had...

MEG

What, when?

ARI

When I went to pay.

Panel 4

MEG has made a gesture that's like *I'll kill 'em* with a punch into her own hand (with the orange). ARI smiles, reluctantly.

CAPTION

...and all the text messages, and all the notes in class...

MEG  
I can go back and punch her in the  
face for you, if you want?

ARI  
That's alright.

Panel 5  
ARI stops smiling.

CAPTION  
And how much harder it was for  
Ari.

ARI  
It's going to happen for a long  
time, I think.

Panel 6  
MEG hands ARI the orange.

CAPTION  
For a little while, though, we had  
Halloween.

ARI  
Are you sure?

Panel 7  
Insert shot of the Orange splattering on MR. HYLER's door.

(No Dialogue)

**The End**