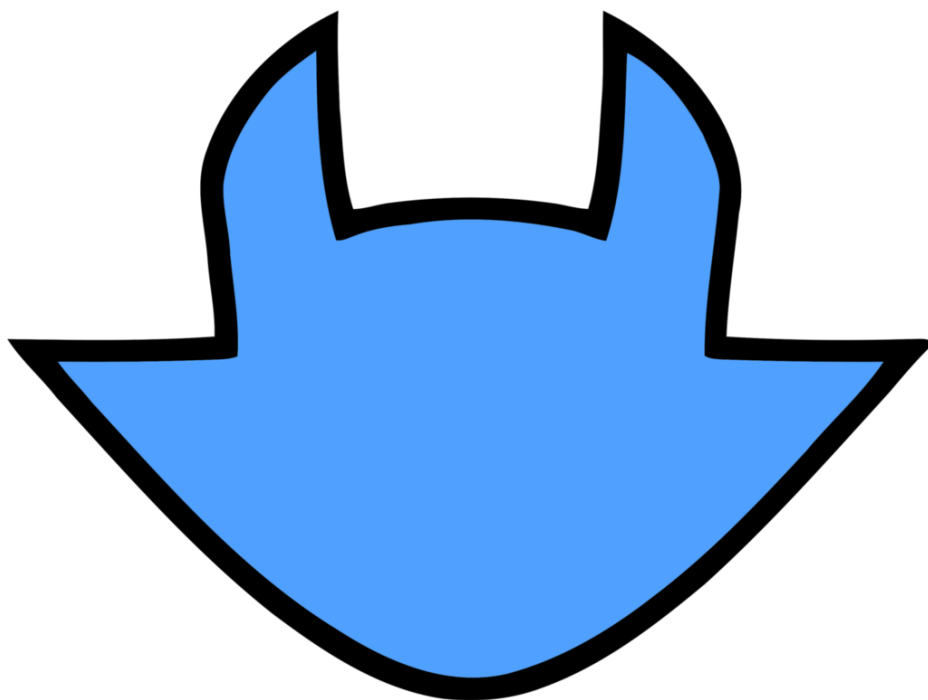




BY ANDREW HUSSIE

BOOK 2: ACT 3 & INTERMISSION

All author's notes/footnotes



Scribe's Note

Hello and welcome to Book 2 of Hussiequotes, my personal project where I transcribe Andrew Hussie's footnotes from the physical *Homestuck* books into a digital format for those who don't have access to them. These footnotes include trivia and commentary, as well as some simple jokes that Andrew used to take up space in the book.

Just in case, allow me to reiterate my explanation and warning from the first book:

When it comes to how everything is separated, it is all based on the organization of the physical book pages. The numbers in parenthesis are the page numbers that Hussie is referring to in his annotations (and also link to the starting page!), and the image is the first picture that appears on the book page. Sometimes, one *Homestuck* page may be split between two or more book pages. In this case, the corresponding image can be used to indicate what part of the *Homestuck* page Hussie may be commentating on.

If this is confusing, I'm sorry! But rest assured that this was the most efficient way to transcribe this information without rewriting all of *Homestuck* itself.

Also, here's a disclaimer: sometimes, Andrew Hussie uses questionable language in his annotations. Because I'm transcribing everything verbatim, any slurs and other offensive language won't be censored or altered. I would like to remind you that these are Andrew Hussie's words, and not my own!!!

The only time I will ever add my own commentary will be to provide context, and will be indicated with two asterisks and bolded text (ex. **[**blah]** for interjections or **(**)** for annotations).

In the middle of this book, 2021 dawned and Flash Player died, leaving many *Homestuck* **[S]** pages to be hosted on YouTube with less than ideal quality. For these abandoned **[S]** pages, I'm using the *Unofficial Homestuck Collection* for my screenshots. You can find the link to this collection in the *Resources* tab of [my Carrd](#). Go give it some love!

Thank you for reading, and please enjoy!

- **Ash** (Unofficial *Homestuck* Scholar)

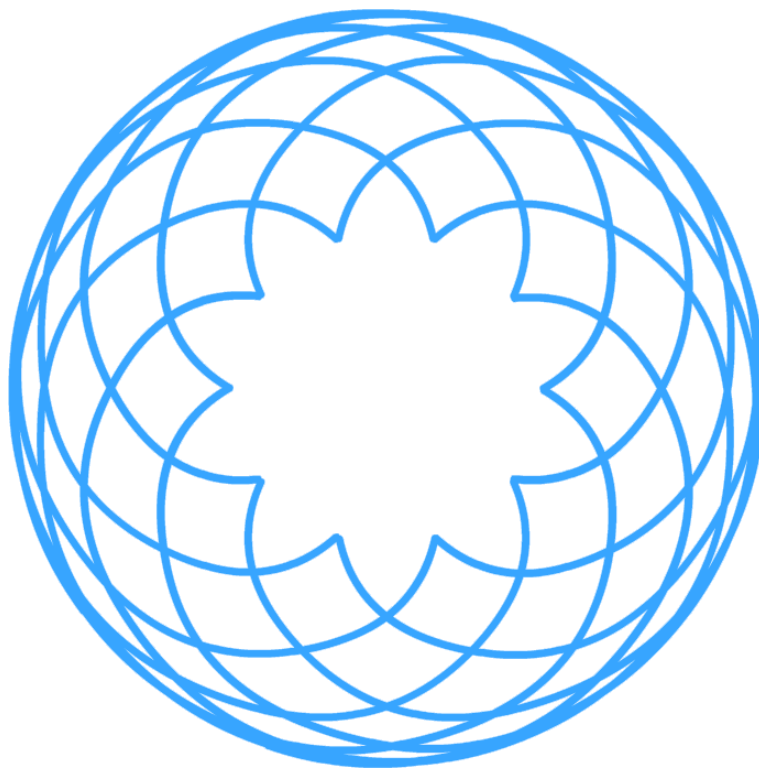
Table of Contents

[ACT 3: INSANE CORKSCREW HAYMAKERS ==>](#)

[Pg. 1000](#)

[INTERMISSION: DON'T BLEED ON THE SUITS ==>](#)

Please support the official release!



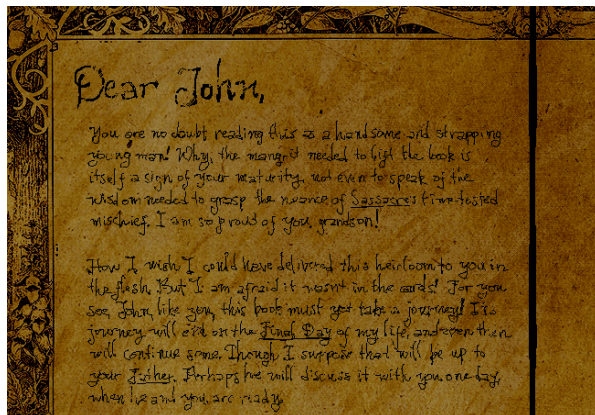
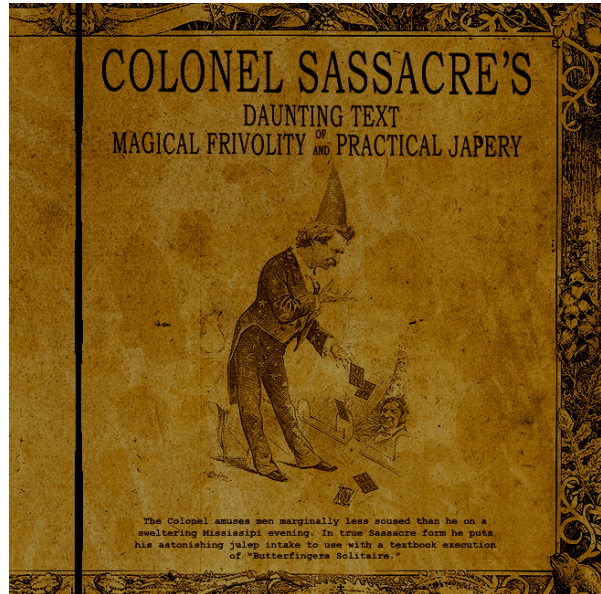
ACT 3

INSANE CORKSCREW HAYMAKERS



(759)

The fancy border around every page of Sassacre's *Daunting Text* was affectionately borrowed from a copy of *Wizardology*, which I augmented with scribbles of naked people and dragons having sex with cars, and then gave it to a friend. I put a picture of my face on the back cover, labeled "YOU'RE WELCOME," which she immediately tore off, because she thought it was weird. I guess it was a little weird, in a handsome kind of way.



(759)

And now the border decorates the author notes footer of this book. Because that's just what I thought these books needed. More bullshit.

(759)

When you find out when she actually wrote this inscription, you will realize what a sly old prankster Jane is. Also, check out all those Capitalized Underlined Terms. Man, did I ever stop doing THAT as the story went along. See: Conceit_Abandonment on Wikipedia. (That article doesn't exist.)

You are no doubt reading this as a handsome and strapping young man! Why, the mangrit needed to lift the book is itself a sign of your maturity, not even to speak of the wisdom needed to grasp the nuance of Sassacre's time-tested mischief. I am so proud of you, grandson!

How I wish I could have delivered this heirloom to you in the flesh. But I am afraid it wasn't in the cards! For you see, John, like you, this book must yet take a journey! Its journey will end on the Final Day of my life, and even then will continue some. Though I suppose that will be up to your Father. Perhaps he will discuss it with you one day, when he and you are ready.

But it is your journey I am writing about to wish you luck! There will come a day when you will be thrust into another world. And once you arrive, that is only the beginning! You will soon delve even deeper into a realm of Warring Royalty in a Timeless Expanse. A realm of Agents and Exiles and Consorts and Kernelsprites. Of toiling Underlings and slumbering Denizens. A realm where four will gather, the Heir of Breath and Seer of Light, the Knight of Time and Witch of Space, and together they will Ascend.



(760)

Through a variety of cunning characterization devices, we begin to develop a sense that this girl may be rather silly. In my creative writing workshops, I often suggest that in order to convey a character has a certain quality, use a word to describe the character repeatedly in their introduction.

(761)

I wonder which troll named her Farmstink? Do trolls even have farms? Maybe they call them musclebeast pastures.



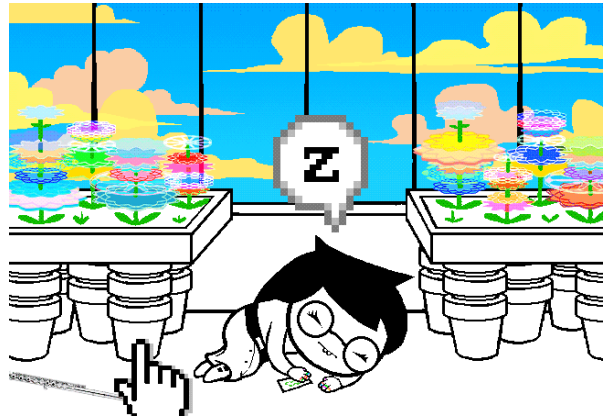


(762-764)

OKAY, THEY ARE NOT ACTUALLY FLASHING RED. THEY ARE JUST SORT OF BEING RED, BUT WHATEVER.

(765-766)

Look at Jade's lovely handwriting. I wish my handwriting was like that, or that I was even hypothetically capable of writing like that.



(767-768)

Jade: Find something to support your garden planters with other than a thousand flower pots.

[\(768\)](#)

We don't get her formal introduction until she journeys up to her room. This silly character is already **BREAKING THE RULES**. How is that possible? Can she even **DO** that? Jade, *Homestuck* has rules. Please try to respect them.

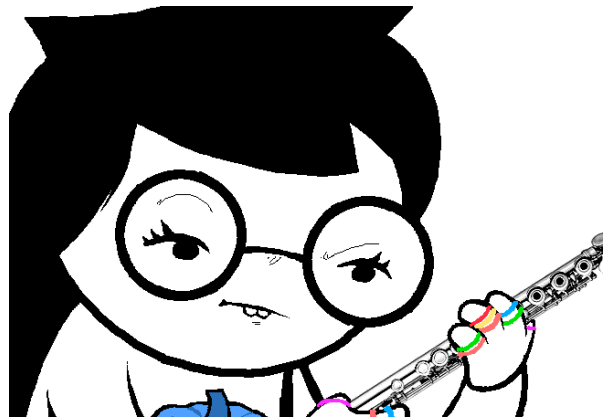


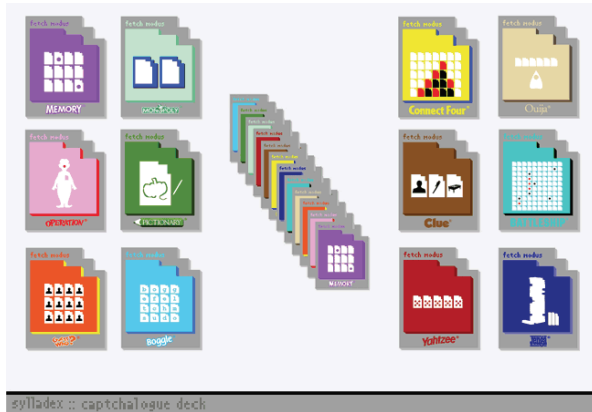
[\(769\)](#)

On this interactive page you get to play Jade's flute by hitting keys on the keyboard. All of the keys play a different terrible note. I used samples from my friend Jan, who recorded himself playing terribly. We originally used those clips in an edit of *Star Trek: TNG*, wherein Captain Picard played his flute very poorly while the Enterprise was under attack by the Borg. This might be the only thing that Jade and Picard have in common at all.

[\(770-771\)](#)

I guess the implication here is that the flute appearified there from an exile station? But that doesn't make much sense. We never saw any flutes on those stations. Obscure theory: alt-universe Jade as an old woman sent this flute to her, because she always regretted not taking up the instrument as a young girl. Whew. Plot hole count: back down to zero.





(772)

By now, we've observed patterns for each character. Jade is the one who breaks many of them. We were to expect she would have another irritating data structure modus. Instead she has all these fun and silly ones based on games. Because she is FUN AND SILLY. This helps broadcast that fact to readers. It's amazing how much I'm teaching you about characterization so far.

(773)

Lol she's bonkers at *Memory*. What a fuckin' Mary Sue.



(774-775)

Another pattern broken. She is supposed to reject the standard suggestion in the form of ____ like a ____ and ____ on your ____, just like John and Rose and Dave did. She is not supposed to actually do it, let alone enjoy it. All this pattern breaking is starting to become a pattern. (Don't worry, she'll break that one too.)

[\(776\)](#)

You know what? I think I'm going to ditch the fancy border on the footer graphic for the rest of the book. Good grief, is this thing frivolous. It doesn't feel like I'm commenting on the book so much as it feels like I'm casting a spell.



[\(777-778\)](#)

There, that's better.

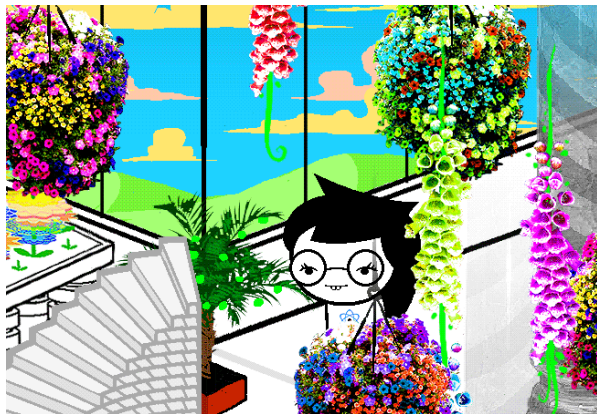
FYI, the green one on her pinky is reminding her to watch *Shrek 2* later.



[\(779-781\)](#)

Are you noticing how her shirt icon keeps changing? Weird! Can't imagine that'll ever get an explanation. An even bigger mystery is why I never produced and sold all of her shirt designs?? Think of all the money I lost! Please go buy several more copies of this book to make up for it.



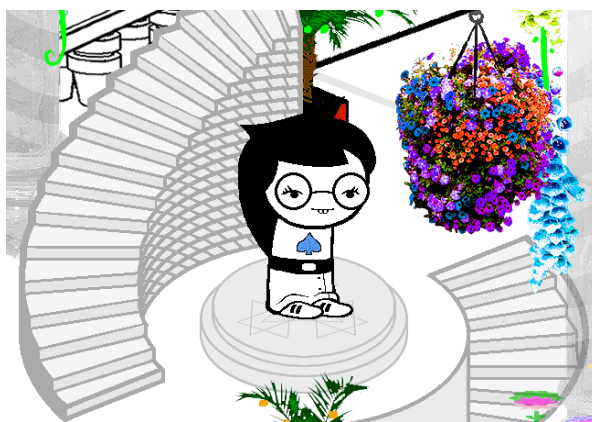


(782-785)

These happy fruits appear throughout the rest of the story at some very odd times. I don't remember until now that they all had special names. These names are never used again. What a shame.

(786-788)

"Ascend" is a loaded work in *Homestuck*, and it often portends some hella major shit going down. (Or up!!!) But ascending can also be no biggie. Like, hey, she just walked up the stairs and now she's in her room.



(789)

TLDR: she likes Squiddles, furies, splitting atoms, building stuff, falling asleep, and predicting the future. Mary Sue anybody?? Ha ha, nah. She's just a cute cartoon character who is fun and entertaining. Now let's all delete our bookmarks to TV Tropes Dot Org and pretend it never existed.

(790)

Jake loves adventure.



(791-792)

Are you familiar with Humanimals? If you aren't, then shame on you. I will not explain Humanimals to you. Not here. Maybe in private, like in a dark alley, or on a foggy night down by the docks. If you are familiar with Humanimals, then here's what I have to say: Manthro Chaps are to Humanimals as Squiddles are to horrorterrors. Now you know the secret. /shhhhhh

[\(793-796\)](#)

Re: her posters, the “Green Slime Ghost” one I made not long into *Homestuck*’s run and sold it as one of the first prints. Which was a pretty esoteric product, now that I think about it. It portrays a fairly authentic-looking Japanese knockoff product based on Slimer from *Ghostbusters*, featuring Engrish and also “reverse Engrish” (i.e. phrases in Japanese which make very little sense to Japanese people). Also notice her *SBaHJ* furry poster, which was clearly a very thoughtful gift from Dave.



[\(797\)](#)

The weird anime furry to the left: for some reason I drew over this (one NSFW) furry art so that it had a human nose instead of some sort of cute catgirl snout. Why did I do that?? That’s just awful. Also... PREEMPTIVE CALLBACK ZONE: not only does this panel get reused thousands of pages later with a different character, but the furry prose also gets recycled later, as morse code, in a completely unrelated situation. *Homestuck* is actually kind of weird, guys.

[\(798-800\)](#)

Due to the real hypodermic needles supplied with Coxcomb’s VACCINATION KIT, Manthro Chaps have been banned from all first-world AND third-world nations. Luckily, Jade lives in neither type of nation, so she and Coxcomb may attend the barnyard gala unfettered.



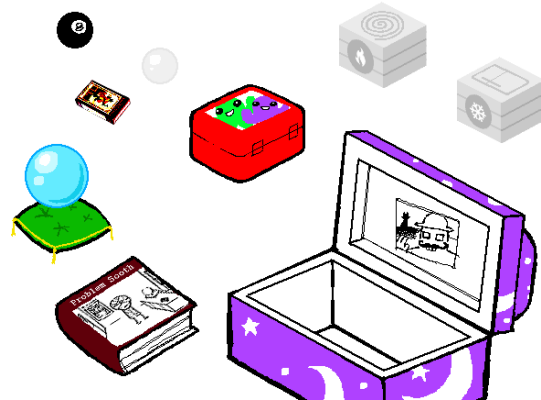


(801-802)

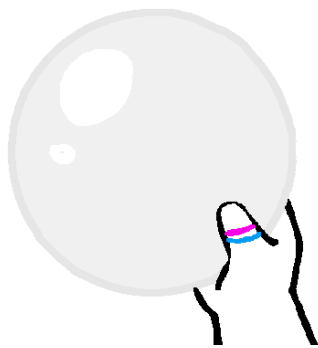
This page helps us understand exactly what kind of furry Jade is. Which is the casual kind, as opposed to the TOTAL WEIRDOS who like to dress up as animals and yiff each other and stuff, thus completely ruining the story. No, the story will have to wait until Act 5 to be ruined by those kinds of weirdos.

(803-804)

Maybe Vriska started picking on Jade because she's all h8ing on magic 8-balls? Everyone knows 8-balls are GR8!!!!!! Come to think of it, this page is what retroactively led to Vriska's interest in 8-balls, her weird obsession with smashing them, and ultimately her entanglement with themes of luck, both good and bad. For all of this story's absurd and self-indulgent detours, it's pretty hard to find a totally useless page with no later relevance.



(805-806)

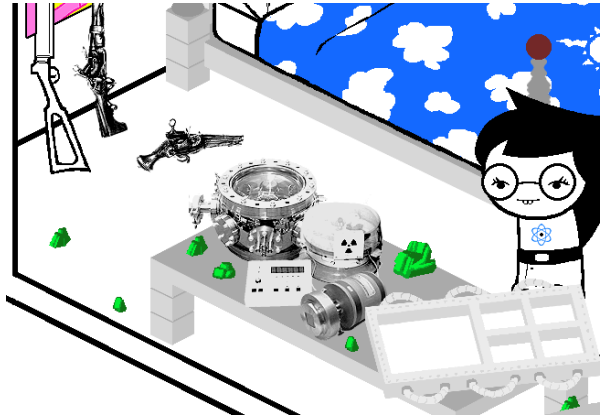


That innocuous cue ball also has relevance later, in ways that are pretty seriously totally UNinnocuous. The only things in that chest that don't get brought up again are the tarot deck, that pillow which could probably have been used to make a nice dress, and *Problem Sooth* (which you are dying to peek inside, I just know it). Also, the fact that a picture of her grandpa is taped to the chest in the same place where John kept a photo of Harry Anderson maybe suggests that John views Anderson as a

grandfather figure. Or maybe Anderson WAS his grandpa?? Oh god, it's all adding up now...

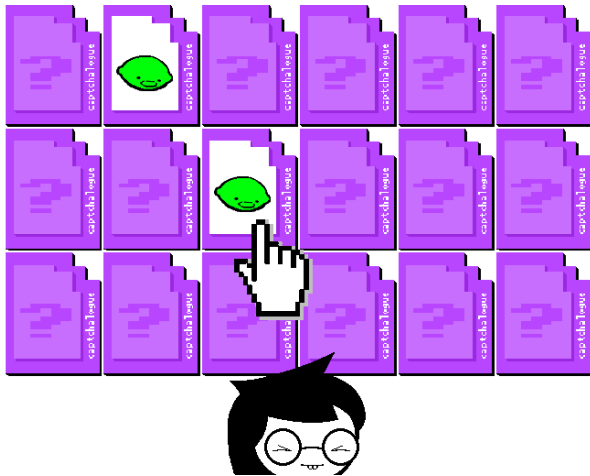
(807-808)

Sometimes I think about how many thousands of pages I still have to put into books in order to finish this series, and I look at pages like this dedicated to playing a fake game of *Memory*, and I wonder to myself, “What am I doing with my life?”



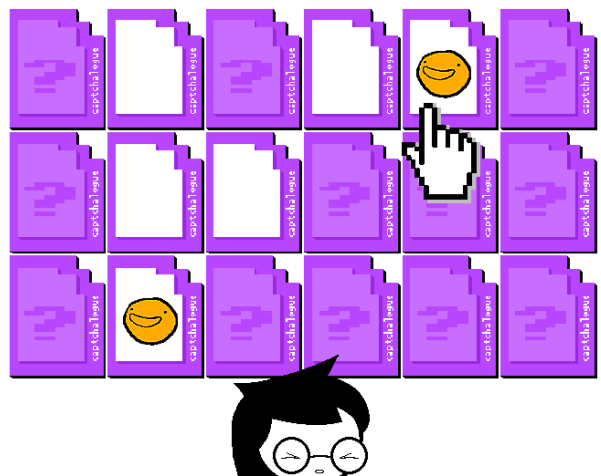
(809-810)

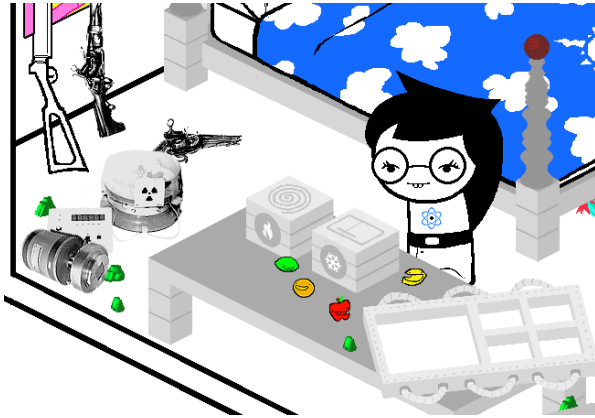
Now that I think about it, it probably wouldn't have been too much work to make this an actually playable game of *Memory*. Might have been a waste of time, though. What would be the bigger waste: the time it would take to do that, or the paper it took to print it in a book? What is the more valuable resource? Time or paper? I'm not sure they're comparable. Like comparing apples and oranges. And limes and lemons. Fruit jokes.



(811-812)

And now on this page I'm lampooning the fact that this *wasn't* a Flash game. It was just a series of automated gifs that made it appear as if the “player” was a bumbling idiot. Anyway, some other things to say about this page: Jade regrets breaking the fourth wall here, but later she breaks a much bigger one. Also: fruits on the loose. “Fruits on the loose” is a funny phrase. That's all.



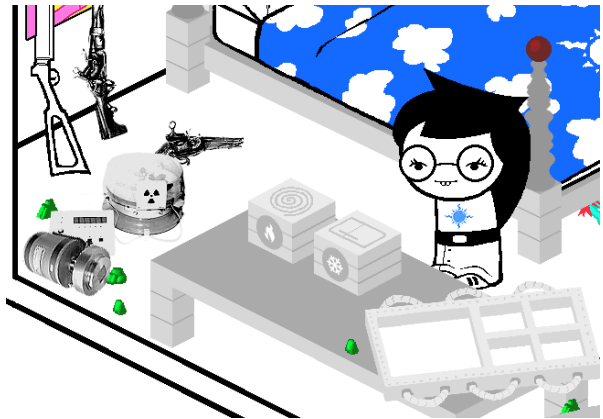


(813-815)

Wait, it's a rotary interface, but it still has buttons? Oh, that's just a dumb reader command from someone who thinks they're buttons. I probably called that guy out on his mistake on the next page.

(816-818)

Yes, see? I pointed out that it was a rotary dial, not a radial arrangement of push-buttons. I go to the trouble of inventing a quirky interface for this food gizmo, and it's like pearls before swine. I then go on to say it doesn't really matter. I guess it doesn't. I don't know, the whole thing is ruined now. THE ROTARY FOOD DIAL THINGY IS RUINED FOREVER.



(819-821)

Did you know that when you irradiate meat, it turns bright green? Dr. Seuss knew that, and he made one of his stories revolve entirely around the principle. The character Sam was a zealous advocate of these poisonous food products, and though his victim resisted valiantly, he eventually caved. The result was a tragedy.

(822)

Here we confirm that Jade lives on that island we saw at the end of Act 2. Sometimes I feel these notes would benefit from an OBVIOUS TRIVIA ZONE, about stuff that should be obvious, but you never know. Her house is modeled after her moon tower on Prospit. The ruins are a model of the Incipisphere, with the frog in the center representing Skaia (which is where a giant frog is supposed to go). Prospit is in close orbit, and so is attached to the main temple (broken off). The four planets surround it in the Medium, which is represented by water. The circular edge of the crater is the Veil (consisting appropriately of meteors). And just outside is Derse (also broken). The volcano is called the Forge, which also plays a key role in the overall system here. Oh, and the ruins are seven levels tall, representing the seven gates one needs to ascend through to reach Skaia.



(823-835)

There is really a long and aggressively revisited tradition of people being in piles of things in *Homestuck*. I guess it started with Dave being in the puppet pile in the last act. Plushies, pillows, horns, robot parts, you name it. Okay, it might actually only be those four things? Anyway, you get the idea.

(826-828)

I remember being pretty assiduous about making this holographic computer UI. Probably unnecessarily so. I got a little 3-D modeling program and extruded a few of those green shapes there and made them spin. I made Pesterchum Enamel look like it was made out of super shiny plastic, because of course that's what all cool future technology looks like. Glossy plastic bullshit everywhere. Also, here is where we first get a glimpse of the extensive roll roster. Oh, if only we could shrug those names off as "not a big deal." But we can't. They all turn out to be a really, really big deal.



turntechGodhead [TG] began pestering gardenGnostic [GG] at 2009-04-12 -- 23:14

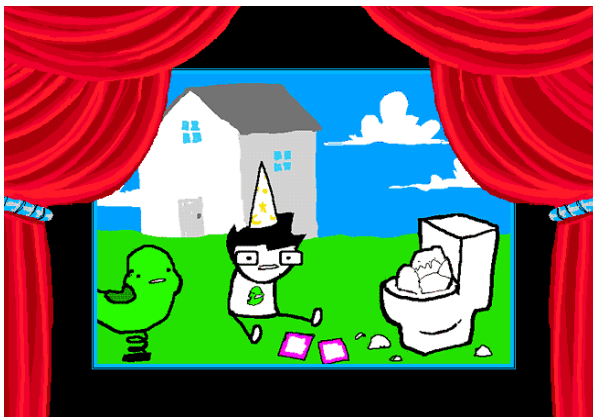
TG: hey
TG: oh
TG: youre asleep again arent you
TG: or do you even know if you are
TG: i still dont know how that works
TG: its like nothing means anything
TG: its so cool getting hella chumped by your coquettish damn riddles all the time
TG: i dont know why i believe anything you say im like the grand marshal of gross chumpage
TG: waving around my faggoty chumpductor baton
TG: assitant director of chumpography
TG: celebrated author ernest chumpingway
TG: wait weak
TG: chumpelstiltskin
TG: uh
TG: chumpeldipshit
TG: yeah

(829)

Just another one of Dave's many, many conversations where he spends most of the time talking to nobody.

(829-831)

With the (playable!) FRESHJAMZ playlist, we are provided with the implication that these are all songs produced by the kids collaboratively. Their icons indicate who was involved with the songs. Just another sign earlier in the story that these kids have some musical talent and this is the sort of this they do with their spare time. This is one of those things that starts getting buried as we move along. For instance, we never quite get to see God Tier Jade picking up the old bass and rocking out. Which is a shame.



> |

> [S] MIDNIGHT CREW: ACT 1031

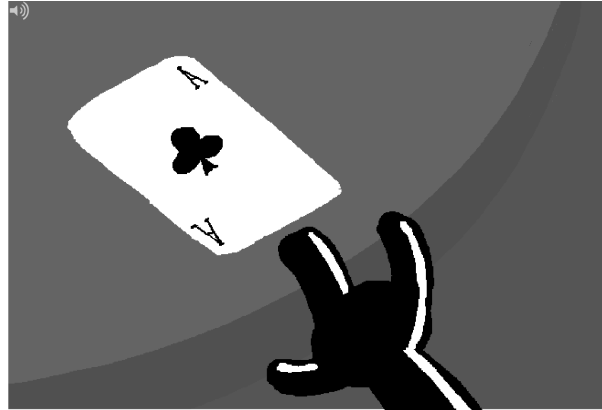
>

(832-833)

As we already know, the in-story MSPA.com is host to a long *Midnight Crew* adventure instead of *Homestuck*, the reverse of the case in our universe. But it DOES have a *Homestuck* intermission, whereas in our universe, *Homestuck* has a *Midnight Crew* intermission—which takes place immediately after this act! /OBVIOUS TRIVIA ZONE

(833)

The Midnight Crew have item/weapon duality, just like in *Problem Sleuth*, which is the fictional realm they originated from. But it's almost a hybrid inventory system with an added dash of *Homestuck*, since the items that become weapons are always playing cards (you know, kinda like captcha cards). The four aces in the deck represent their primary weapons: the horse hitcher, the car antenna, the table leg, and the pool cue.



(833-835)

The Felt are the MC's adversaries in the actual *Homestuck* intermission. Fifteen members (plus their boss), each representing a billiard ball. They are all time travelers, and mostly a bunch of incompetent goons. The surface of a pool table is made of felt, hence the name of the gang. Also I guess they are a little reminiscent of a bunch of green puppets, so there's that.

(835)

Hey, another copy/pasted conversation. We read this back in Act 2, before we knew a dang thing about Jade. Goofy moduses? What could those be? Ah yes, a bunch of board games. Really, it was so obvious in hindsight. She can tell the future? What's up with that? I guess we still don't know yet. She has a devilbeast? Well, whatever it is, we know it likes green steak. A grandad too? These are things we still need to learn. That's what a story is. A series of things you need to find out. First you learn about all the things you need to find out. And then you eventually find them out.

```
GG: mr cool guy?
TG: oh man you know it
GG: sooooo cooooooooool!!!
TG: you know shit is ice cold up in here
TG: shit is wicked bananas i am telling you
GG: :D
GG: so have you talked to john today???
TG: yeah we were just talking a while ago about how he sucks at his sylladex
TG: can you believe he uses stack that kid is ridiculous
GG: lol
GG: well that doesnt sound like much fun!
TG: what was it you use again...
TG: wait nm
TG: i forgot whenever we talk about your goofy modusses i get a migraine. what do you want with john
```



```

TG: man
TG: if i were you i would just take that fucking devilbeast out
    behind the woodshed and blow its head off
GG: heheheh!
GG: i dont think i could if i tried!!!
TG: yeah
TG: say hi to your grand dad for me too ok
GG: ..
GG: yes i guess an encounter with him is almost certain
GG: it is usually.....
GG: intense!!!
TG: well yeah isnt it always with family
TG: but he sounds like a total badass
GG: yeah he totally is!!!
GG: anyway gotta go!
TG: see ya
GG: <3

```

(835-836)

Dave commiserating with Jade about intense family encounters is a nice way to transition to the beginning of an intense encounter with his own family member. That is some really on-point transitioning there. Nice going, me.

(836)

In Round 1 of Dave's strife with Bro, he warms up against his old puppet sparring buddy, il Cal. Bro operates Cal while moving so fast you can't see him. It's suggested that this is a pretty common battle routine for the Strider brothers, and extreme training regimen to prepare Dave for battle. It's almost as if Bro is training him to face last boss. Or it would be, if last boss had the slightest thing to do with this creepy puppet, which of course is preposterous.



(836)

Cal easily outmaneuvers Dave, and the result is his comedic humiliation. But what would probably be even funnier is if it turned out that after a while, Bro stopped operating Cal, and Dave just continued to struggle with him, believing that he was still being operated through flashstep puppetry. Bro just watches from the distance as Dave grapples with a limp puppet.

(836)

At the end of the animation, cal dances on Dave's head for infinite minutes. Most of those infinite minutes have been omitted here for brevity.



(837-838)

“TT: Enter?” Yes, Rose. Enter. It’s the title of the animation at the end of this act.

(838-839)

When Jade says there are questions Rose hasn’t thought to ask yet, she mainly means questions like, “Will I get totally hammered and make out with an alien?”

```
TT: But Strider is being obtuse, I can't catch John at his
computer, you don't even have the game yourself, and on top of
all that, my internet is unstable.
TT: So are you sure today is the day?
GG: there sure are a lot of challenges but yes i am sure!!
GG: dave is cool, you know he will come around when the time is
right
GG: he just has a lot of work to do first
GG: and so do you!
GG: youll need to keep searching for a stable signal and power
source, it will be hard but dont give up!!!
GG: and dont worry about me either, focus on playing with john
first
GG: it all starts with you two!
TT: Is there nothing else you can say to prepare me for this?
TT: I'm sure you think little of blithely upsetting dark forces
with Grandpa Moreau over there on Hellmurder Island, but
honestly I've only read a few books on it.
```



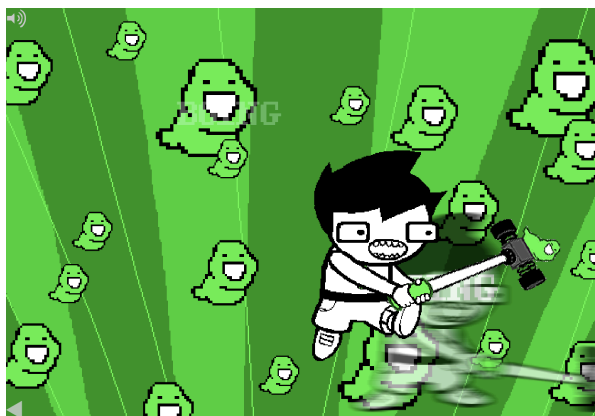
[\(840-843\)](#)

That last panel is the intro frame to the battle animation on the next page. The particular configuration of reminders she's referring to is on her pinky, where two black strings sandwich a blue string. The blue one represents John, and the black ones represent the two ogres surrounding him. I guess she put those there so she could remind herself that at this point in the story, John is getting owned by a couple of ogres? That's definitely something she would want to remember, especially since she can't do

anything about it, and doesn't do anything about it. But the point is, SHE REMEMBERED!

[\(843\)](#)

Behold, the mighty Pogo Hammer. Once John's dangerous childhood nemesis in the form of a backyard pogo ride. Now a similarly self-jeopardizing implement of only marginal combat value. Just think how easily one misfiring BOING could send him launching off the roof—or maybe just send the happier careening back in his face?

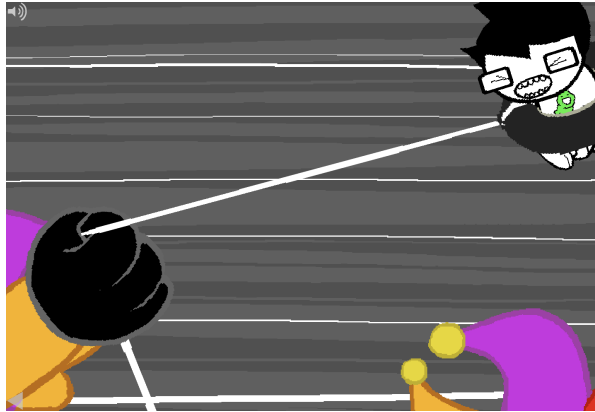


[\(843\)](#)

Consider how poignant it is that John spends this infinitely looping battle getting demolished by familiar items from his childhood. First getting clobbered by the huge heirloom joke book left to him by his grandma, and then getting lassoed by the old tire swing from his front yard, which surely brought him years of joy. How poignant is that? Way, way poignant.

[\(843\)](#)

This maneuver is actually very similar to a move that someone does in an old *Street Fighter* game. I honestly don't remember if that's where I got the idea for it, though. I probably just asked myself, "How's a huge dude gonna take out some trash with a tire swing?" And correctly determined there was literally only one way it could be done.



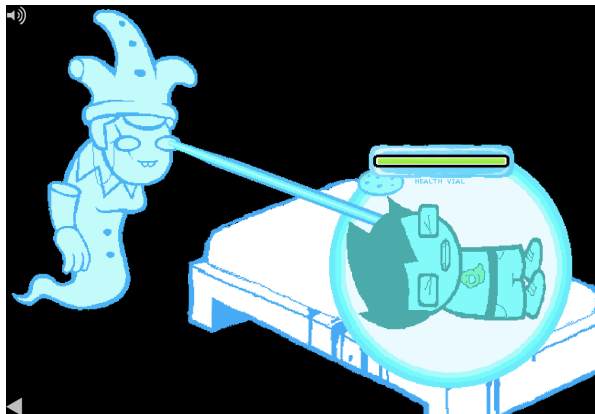
[\(843\)](#)

The Crude Ogres may be giant, bullying assholes, but you really have to admire their teamwork.

[\(843\)](#)

Nannasprite has healing powers, of course. It's unclear whether other sprites have these powers, as she's the only one who exhibits them. But then, it makes sense that she would have these abilities, since in a different world she is the Maid of Life. There you go, some more dots were just connected for you. You now understand nearly 1% of *Homestuck*.



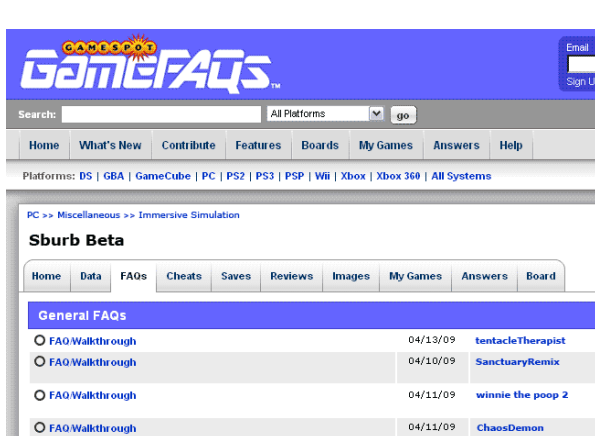
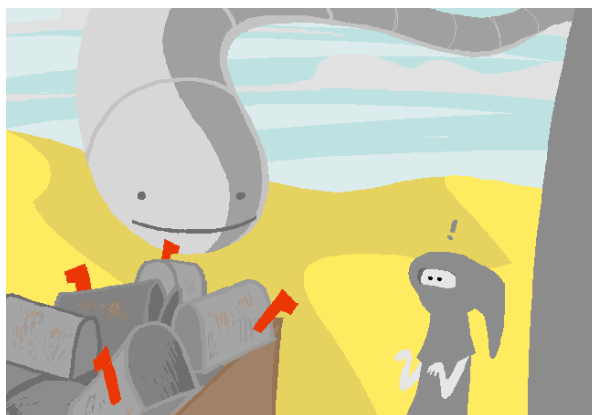


(843-844)

The battle then loops like that eternally, with John being dealt the same savage beating only to be revived by Nannasprite and sent back in for more abuse. His suffering is limited only by your willingness to watch it for hours, or failing that, leaving the page open in your browser and forgetting about it for days. :(

(844)

The robotic sentry worm was maybe going to be a friend to PM in the same way that Serenity is to WV. And it kind of was, for a while. But then she moved on. The main problem with the arrangement is that it's hard to become BFFs with a metal worm that's confined to its station. (Not to mention a station that blows up later.)



(845)

John contributes to Rose's walkthrough. This is strictly for COMPSCI nerds. If you are not a COMPSCI nerd, skip this page immediately, or write me a short angry note here: _____

(845)

I like the implication that not only did John take the time out of his quest to type this, but he also apparently downloaded some sort of ASCII art generator to make the hideous captchalogue card and ghost. That's some dedication. It's a shame, because I'm pretty sure even Rose got sick of maintaining this guide not long after this entry.

the bits are arranged top to bottom, left to right, in four columns, like this:

```
1 0 1 0
1 0 1 0
0 0 0 1
0 1 0 0
0 1 0 1
1 1 1 1
1 0 0 0
0 1 0 1
0 1 0 0
0 1 1 0
1 1 1 1
1 0 0 0
```

or punched on a card, like this:

but all this sorta makes me guess this system can be cracked in some way. like if you have a complicated item and you want to "extract" simpler item components from it, there might be some algorithm for deriving the pattern you want, or at least narrowing down the possibilities. there might also be ways of charting through the simpler patterns on both ends of the bit spectrum, and pinning down the ones that will make cooler stuff. who knows.

i want to ask jade about this because she's really good at this sort of thing somehow even though she doesn't have my leet haxxor cred. too bad she makes herself so scarce all the time. jade if you ever read this let me know what you think!

```
:AHHHHHHHHHHB#r
@0000000000000000
h005s.....r#03
@00.....:000
:0A.....:000
100#r,BBA:::AMM::, 90
:H002.;@0M:::B00::r#A:
@002:.....:000#
@0:.....:000#
@G:::00      10r:::00
@#:::00      0r:::00
0Ah::,001    ,0r:::500
X001.,s#05    X00:::0000:
.10M...:009   h#02:::X0XS00A
0B...:0000000h:::rX .500
000:::s2X25r:::00
s00#:::..s5X01:::200:::
B00hrggggAA0000H:::r000000r
50#000000#Hi.....000.
A0.....:000
,05.....:0A::0000
000r:::r0000000
200005000000020000
X000000000000000
```

(845-846)

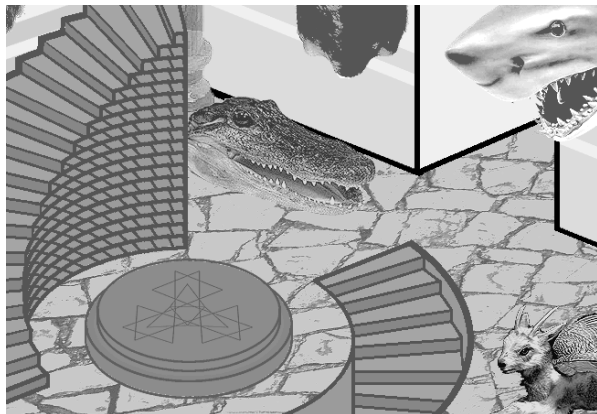
John's talking about hacking codes to theoretically extract simpler items. Which is exactly what he does later to make the rocket pack. So there you go. This entry was not merely a nerdish indulgence but also provided critical foreshadowing, which you skimmed over.

(847-850)

Oh my god. The hubgrid looks like a chess board. I JUST noticed that!!!

Ha ha, just messin' with you. I made it that way on purpose. Can't believe you actually fell for that.



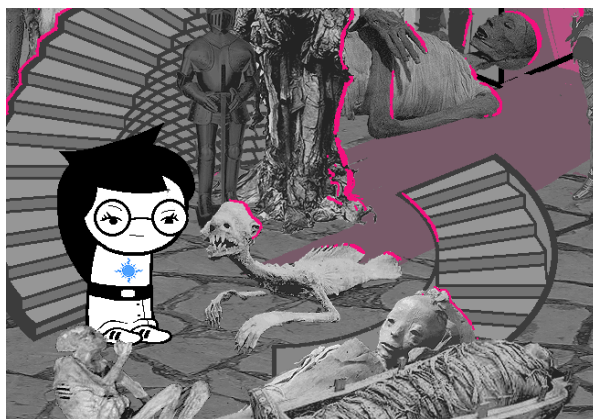


(851-852)

Jade's parental unit, as the Pattern Breaking parental unit, has a much larger variety of strange, off-putting interests. Dad has FANCIFUL HARLEQUINS, Mom has EXQUISITE WIZARDS, and Bro has RADICAL PUPPETS. Grandpa has not one, but Four such interests of the same descriptive two-word format. They're all just as dumb, though. One reason among several for this variety was to create an element of uncertainty over what kind of item Jade would prototype with. And by uncertainty, I mean misdirection, which is what I always mean by uncertainty.

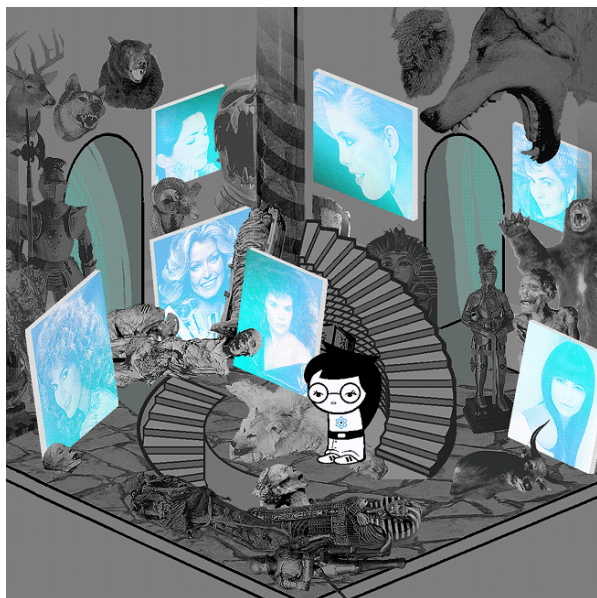
(853-854)

Notice the colors of the lights in each room. Orange, pink, and cyan, corresponding to Dirk, Roxy, and Jane. The items have a loose correlation with the other three guardians too. Knights in that Dirk is a skilled swordsman. Roxy's land is full of pyramids. Jane was Grandpa's long-estranged blue lady. You see how the gears are always turning. Not only does everything mean something, it turns out everything means EVERYTHING. Now you know.



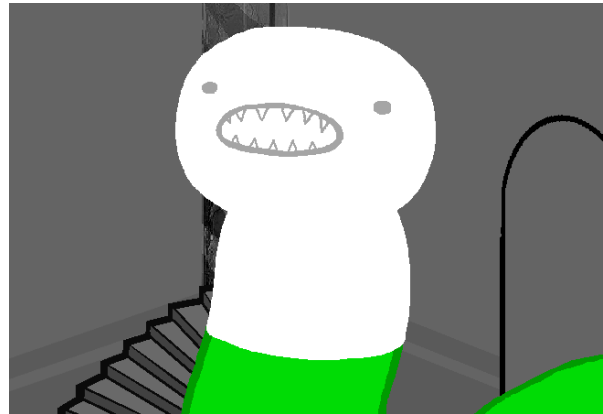
(855)

The beauties were the oddest of the four oddball interests, to say the least. I'm just going to observe this struck me as a novel and hilarious getish. Also, I defy you to enter a beauty parlor or hair salon or such without seeing one or more posters hanging up that have been bleached due to years of exposure to the sun. Something about the chemistry of CMYK inks I guess makes the yellow and magenta inks degrade in sunlight faster than blue in,. Or maybe technology has advanced and this doesn't happen anymore? Maybe I'm just as much of a dinosaur as Grandpa.



(856-858)

Referring to this creature as “unspeakably hideous” is probably the funniest joke in the book so far. From now on, I’m going to tell you which jokes are funny. Is that understood? Okay, great.



(859)

Here’s Karkat. He’s an asshole. He will be this obnoxious loudmouth popping into the story to shout some nonsense every now and then for the next several hundred pages, until we finally learn his name (which is Karkat) in Act 5. But then later you will grow to love him, as he exhibits qualities which are somehow more human than most other characters, which is ironic, because he is not a human. Oh, I should have mentioned: in addition to telling you which jokes are funny, I’m also going to tell you which

characters are good. I am a really helpful narrator.

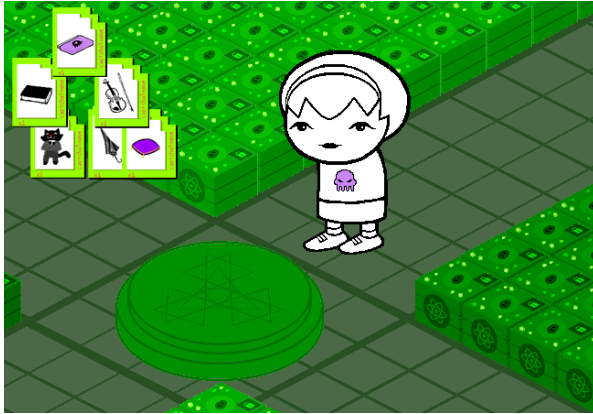
(860-861)

All of those blocks in the 8x8 grids are numbered correctly, which I recall was a fairly painstaking process. There are exactly 10,000 tiny squares there (each representing a green power cube), but each block is 12x12, and the vertical/horizontal paths of four squares wide are subtracted from the 10,000 total, so the numbers weren’t very even. Oh, also take note of the GPS coordinates, which point to a real place in upstate New YoAUGH WHY IS EVERYTHING SO NUMERICALLY METICULOUS, OH MY GOD, ROSE PLEASE JUST DO SOMETHING FUNNY AND DISTRACT ME FROM THIS PEDANTIC NIGHTMARE I HAVE CREATED.

SN_HUBGRID 44.519872,-74.820017

0000	0144	0288	0432	2496	2640	2784	2928
0143	0287	0431	0575	2639	2783	2927	3071
0576	0720	0864	1008	3072	3216	3360	3504
0719	0863	1007	1151	3215	3359	3503	3647
1152	1296	1440	1584	3648	3792	3936	4080
1295	1439	1583	1727	3791	3935	4079	4223
1728	1872	2016	2160	4224	4368	4512	4656
1871	2015	2159	2303	4367	4511	4655	4799
5200	5344	5488	5632	7696	7840	7984	8128
5343	5487	5631	5775	7839	7983	8127	8271
5776	5920	6064	6208	8272	8416	8560	8704
5919	6063	6207	6351	8415	8559	8703	8847
6352	6496	6640	6784	8848	8992	9136	9280
6495	6639	6783	6927	8991	9135	9279	9423
6928	7072	7216	7360	9424	9568	9712	9856
7071	7215	7359	7503	9567	9711	9855	9999

> unlock SN_LAB0413
>|

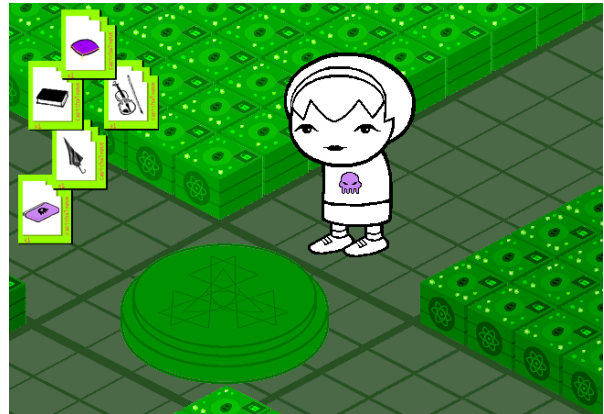


(862-864)

Look, Rose is cooperating by doing some funny stuff. Thank you for saving me from my meltdown, Rose. Random musing: if I were to go about editing this story, how critical do you think it would be to leave in the part about auto-balancing the tree modus? I don't know, it might be too important. Better keep it. In fact, it might be prudent to insert another five or six pages pseudocoding the auto-balancing algorithm, just so we really know what we're dealing with here.

(865-867)

The carapacians who ran this facility when it was in the Veil had a real problem with people sneaking into the place and stealing the hubs, so they made this whole system where the hubs were all locked to the floor and could only be unlocked by the kiosk. That way, if you wanted to steal some hubs, you had to get in line behind everyone waiting to use the kiosk, unlock your hubs, and steal them one at a time in an orderly manner.



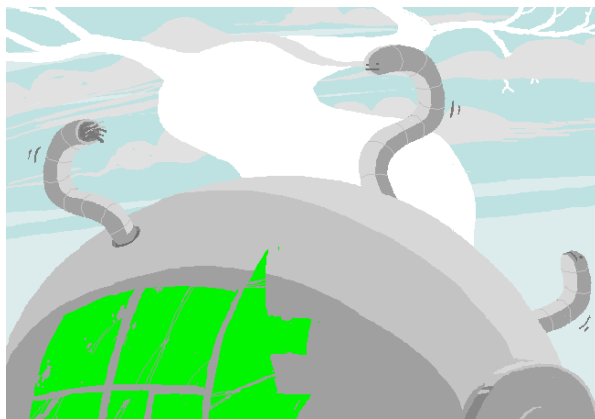
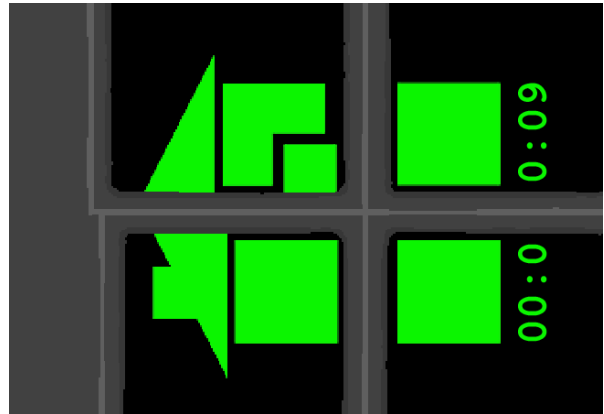
(868-869)

"UNESTABLISHED IN" is a common type of phrase you see in cultures whose mythology and traditions revolve around the apocalypse. They are much more fixated on endings than beginnings. Their fairytales never start with "Once upon a time...: They usually start with something like Once, long before everyone died..."



(870)

When PM's impressive TALLNESS ATTRIBUTE is still a heap of mailboxes short of getting the job done, then you know the situation is seriously fucked.



(870)

The PM x Sentry Worm Best Friendship Forever got off to kind of a rocky start when she decapitated him. But it's cool, there are three more, so she gets a do-over.

(871)

In Round 2 of Dave's strife, he tries to escape from the relentless puppet pummeling, but Bro slashes the ABSCOND command, just like he sliced all the other battle commands in Round 1. The message is clear: Dave can't escape until he has been dealt the requisite daily helping of domestic abuse—wait, I mean ninja training. What did I say there? Nothing. It was nothing. *Homestuck* is a lighthearted and funny cartoon dealing in highly abstract and stylized household situations, and nothing about it shall evoke the gritty realities experienced every day by real-life victims of abuse. Now let's watch this thirty-something-year-old man pound the daylights out of his adopted thirteen-year-old brother and biological son.





(871)

Dave is like. You see this. This foam puppet I guess I decapitated earlier when I flipped out in the kitchen. See it. Yeah. This could be you. Just watch your step Bro.

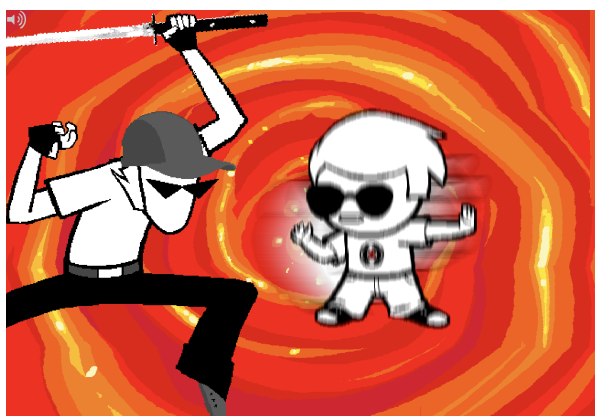
(871)

Professional tip: use the blue filter to make it look like someone is going fast. Am I the first person to ever think of that neat trick? The answer is, almost certainly.



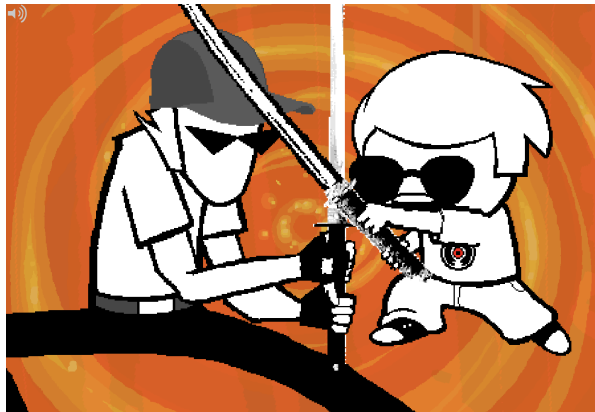
(871)

Bro is really just pissed at Dave for ripping up the weird *Muppet Babies* comic that was taped to the door.



(871)

If a dude is in a sword fight, he cannot be authoritatively identified as an ice-cold motherfucker unless he blocks the other guy's sword without even looking.



(871)

It is also an unwritten rule that in nonlethal sword fights, while all the coolest moves are done through swordplay, any attack that makes any actual bodily contact must be done through punching and kicking. That's because in reality, if a sword slices you, you pretty much just die. And when someone dies, that's when the coolness ends. Although I guess theoretically one of the swordsmen could still sort of leap and cavort around the dead body, flipping out awesomely with his sword and such. That would

be one way to prolong an awesome sword fight.

(871)

Dave was doing all right there for a while, but here's where it all starts to unravel. Don't worry, the training is for your own good, Dave. It comes in handy later when you...uh...I guess when you swindle some idiot crocodiles out of trillions of dollars in the stock market?





(871)

Let's face facts. This training was pretty much useless.

(871)

Bro is just standing there with Cal, who's primed for the knockout blow with his tiny hightop sneaker. Insult, meet injury. Again, hang in there, Dave. You will get your revenge later in the story, by grieving over your older brother's slain, bloody corpse.



(871)

There are many, many references to *Sweet Bro and Hella Jeff* throughout *Homestuck*, both visual and textual. Each one serves a very important purpose. That purpose is usually to remind you that *Sweet Bro and Hella Jeff* exists. Especially if you don't like it.

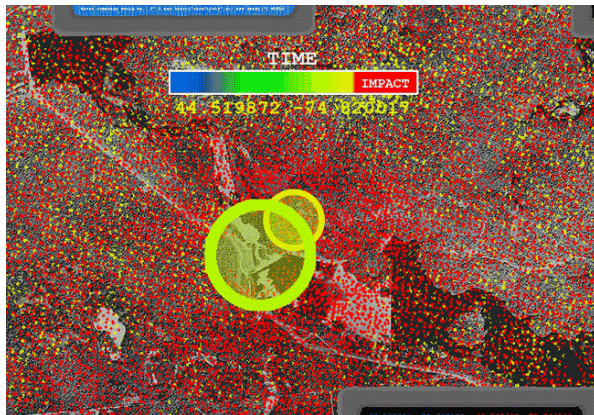
(872-874)

There is a lot of trivia to talk about here. But most of the trivia is already covered by the narration. That's the great thing about *Homestuck*. Whenever something weird or confusing is going on in a panel, a lot of times it's just straight up fucking EXPLAINED underneath, using a whole bunch of words. That's the key to good storytelling. Just explain everything. No, stop laughing at me. Shut up. But for real, here's some trivia. In the lower panel [****pg 874**], on one of the right-hand screens, see that small diagram of an eight-planet session? That's probably the most obscure and long-term bit of foreshadowing in the entire story.



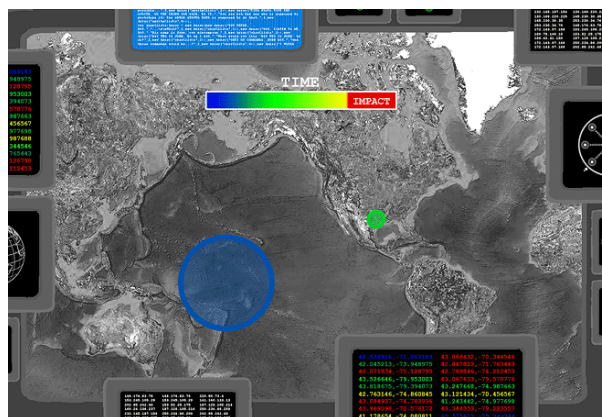
(875)

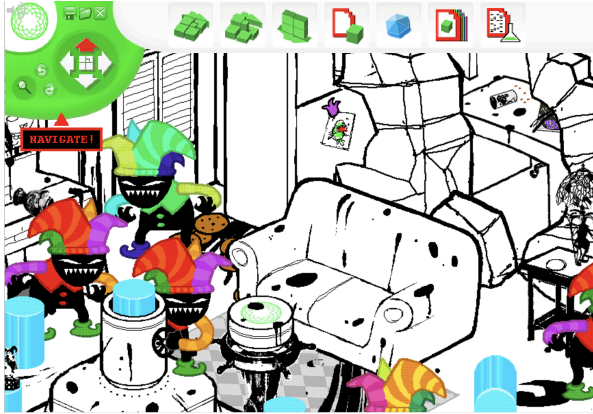
I wonder if one of those little meteors landed squarely on the Burger King about a half hour north of Rose's house, which Rose and Dave talk about like 3,000 pages later. For some reason this strikes me as a sad thought.



(876-878)

OBVIOUS TRIVIA ZONE! The green circle hovers over Dave's city, which appears to be somewhere in Texas. Does Dave being a Texan make him a better or funnier character? I'll leave that conclusion to you. The huge blue circle signifying the Extinction Level Event impact is targeting Jade's island. But don't worry. With Earth's First Guardian protecting the planet, what could go wrong?





(879)

The reader has to use the *Sburb* interface to navigate through the house to find John. Which really just serves as an intro to the second round of RUMBLE ON DA ROOF! Starring John, Nanna, some ogres, and now Rose at the *Sburb* helm.

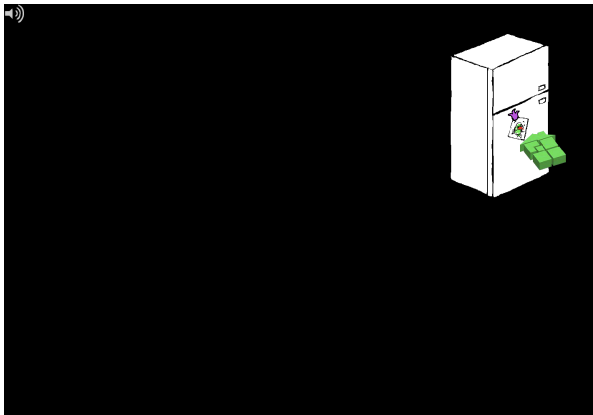
(879)

With a little help, John does better this time. That's because the most important themes of *Homestuck* are teamwork and friendship. In fact, the most important themes of every work of fiction are teamwork and friendship. Don't ever be fooled into thinking otherwise.



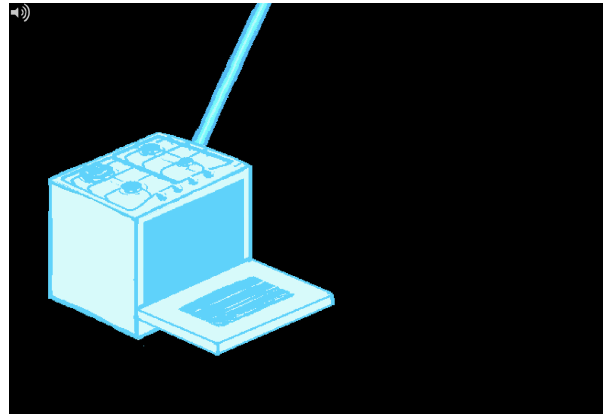
(879)

John takes a hunger trunk to the kisser. This is what John's dad would regard as a quality character-building experience. If he were watching, he would be stroking his chin in fatherly approval.



(879)

Nanna's phantom oven doubles as a GRANDSON LAUNCHER. Actually, there are more ovens that physically contain characters in the story than there are ovens that don't.

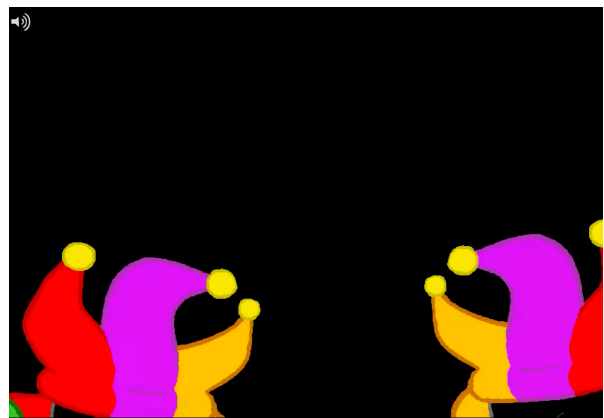


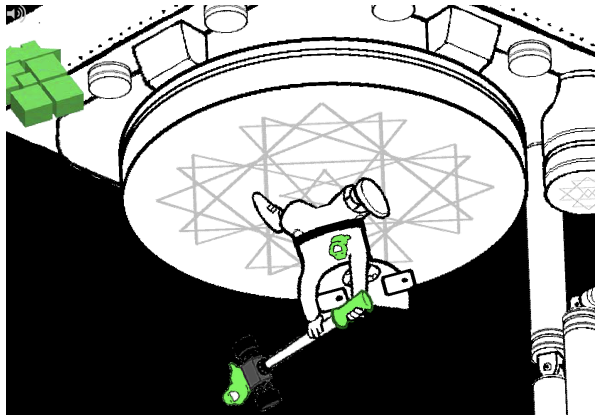
(879)

This attack is so KINETIC in the animation. Specifically, that BOING is just so BOINGY. Seeing it here like this, it's so static and lifeless, it's like watching a caged bird yearning to spread its wings and wow I am being melodramatic.

(879)

Sometimes these animations were so fast-paced, they could be a little hard to follow. It's a relief to see that when slowed down and printed frame by frame in a book, they're barely any easier to follow at all.





(879)

Cue the shot of John connecting with a Pogo Hammer blow while a random bathtub is in frame behind him.

(879)

LOOK AT ALL THAT GODDAMN GRIST. One of the keys to showing advancement through a long mock-game in the form of an illustrated story is to not show every grueling milestone of achievement, every level gained or every treasure collected, but to at least show major incremental advancements are POSSIBLE. Like so. And then the imagination can fill in the blanks with many more of the types of windfalls we just saw. So later, when we see John sitting on a huge pile of grist, we can just say, oh yeah, looks like John killed about a thousand ogres for all that loot.



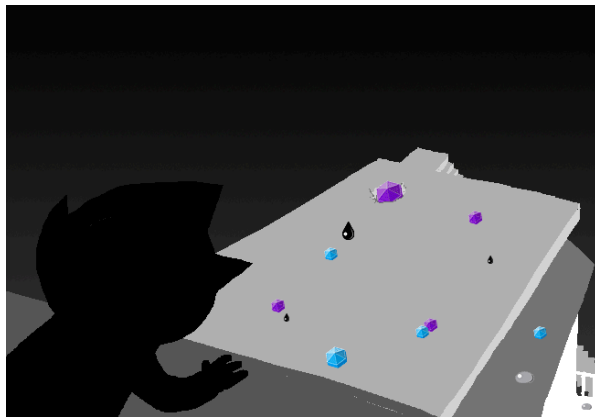
(880)

John: Immediately waste all that grist on a shiny new fleet of pogo rides and ten tons of Gushers.



(881-883)

It's too bad John skipped over the GADABOUT PIPSQUEAK rung entirely. That was the level that contained puberty.



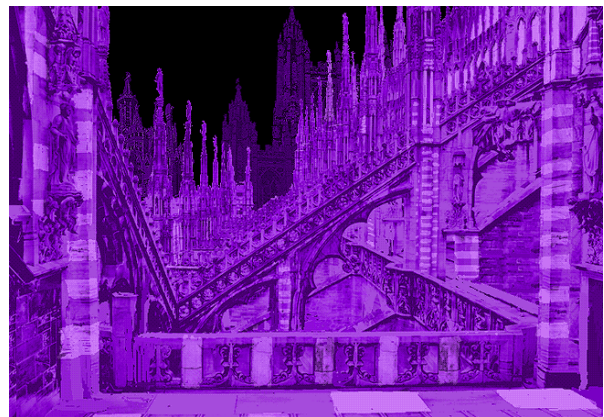
(884-885)

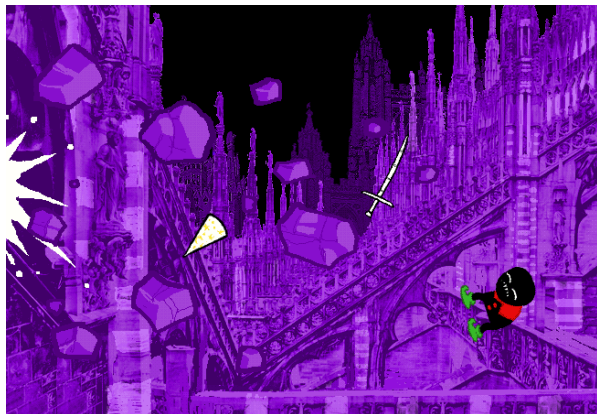
Little Known Fact, soon to be a Widely Known Fact: any time I spell a foreign word that has a special character in it, like piñata, I never bother with the 'ñ'. I always just go with the standard 'n'. The way I see it is this. Who cares? Here's an example to help you understand why. Let's say in English, any time you wrote "cool" you had to put a smile under the 'oo' to make it look like a cool guy with sunglasses. If you were a Mexican who had to spell "cool," wouldn't you just say, wow, fuck this, and just spell it without

the smile? You're goddamned right you would.

(886-888)

The first ever drawings of Derse were admittedly pretty funky. I used my standard collaging methods of heavily desaturating and tinting bits and pieces of cathedral architecture, which usually tends to look all right. But then for some reason in these early drawings I kind of scribbled over it with lighter shades of purple. I'm retroactively grading that decision a MEH+.



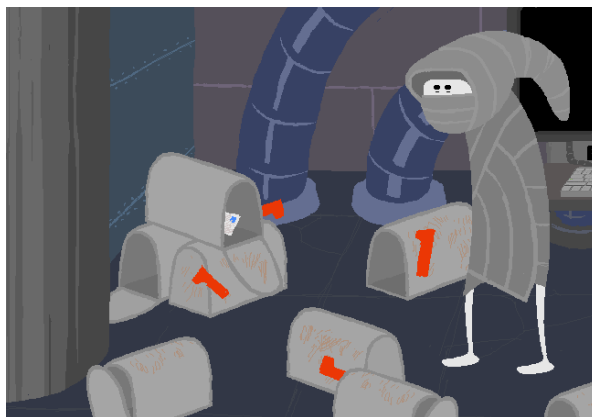


(889-891)

Without going into much detail, we MAY be catching a glimpse of the sort of behavior that got Dad banned from the Cirque du Soleil. (He possibly saw a man he deemed too hairy and couldn't control the trigger finger on his lather blaster... I'VE SAID TOO MUCH ALREADY.)

(892-894)

Some readers used to pretend I did another story starring a guy named Dr. David Brinner, and they made up a bunch of bullshit about the story and made a TV Tropes page for it and everything. So I decided to address this envelope to him. This gesture seems a little silly to me in retrospect, because by now there is so much bogus fanon lore about my creations and the things I've done, it's barely worth keeping track of, let alone acknowledging in the story. Also, pay attention to that postage stamp. It'll show up again later. Oh who am I kidding, you're going to forget I ever mentioned it.

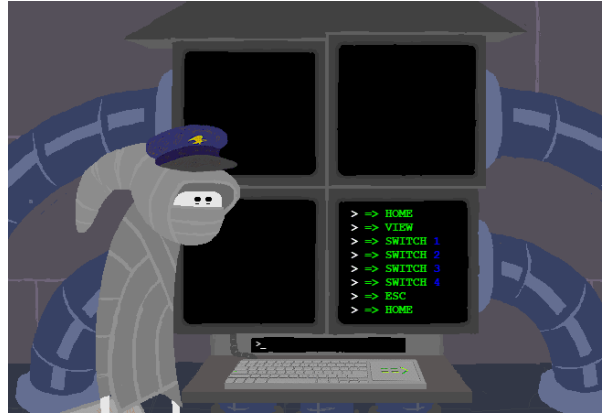


(895-896)

Gosh, the Peregrine Mendicant sure does love her some mail. Alternatively, this entire page can be read as me ripping on Costner's film *The Postman*, whose nearly fetishistic portrayal of mail delivery as the backbone of civilization was, to be honest, just a bit silly. *The Postman* was based on a novel of the same title that was written, fascinatingly, by a man named David Brin. He has a Ph.D. Yes, that is Dr. David Brin. I guarantee that you are floored by this utterly magical coincidence.

[\(897-899\)](#)

Another maddening glimpse of the future. When the station terminals are first used, they're cued up to the moments shortly after the kid onscreen has entered the Medium. PM is Jade's exile. Though sadly, she doesn't get to play that role for very long.

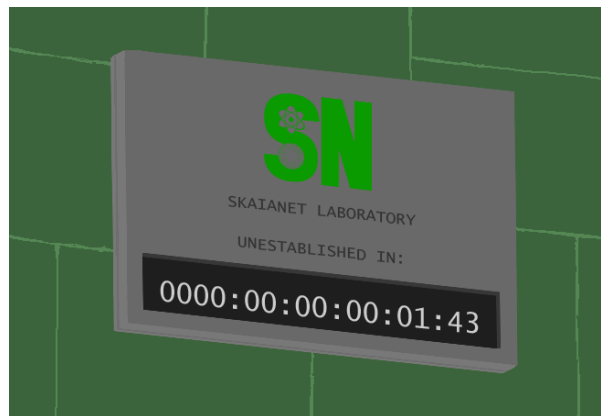


[\(900-902\)](#)

We are invited to wonder many things. What's that on the ground? Is it ash from an erupting volcano? Is it snow? Why is Jade shaking her head at the camera? Does she know PM is there? Are her "psychic abilities" in play? Is that also why the thing blew up?? Like I said. Maddening. Stay tuned to find out what really happened in 2,000 pages.

[\(903-906\)](#)

It never even comes close to being explicated in the story, but it is strongly implied that this is where Rose's mom grew up. Though after the introduction of Roxy, and another reread, this probably becomes more obvious. Who raised her? Was it the owner of Skaianet, a younger Grandpa Harley? Did he outsource parenting duties to someone else in the lab? Maybe some exiles? If so, she had an upbringing fairly similar to that of Roxy in the future. These mysteries have LEGS.





[\(906-908\)](#)

John: Never mind that big purple Gusher. Look up and say hi to Vodka Mutini.

[\(909-910\)](#)

The series of letters up there was going to spell out “Descartes’ *Meditationes de prima philosophia, in qua Dei existentia et animæ immortalitas demonstratur*” and was to preface a lengthy treatise on the meditations of the renowned French philosopher. But I decided to cut it short because ultimately it didn’t have much to do with John’s trepidation about entering his father’s room, or his fear of clowns.



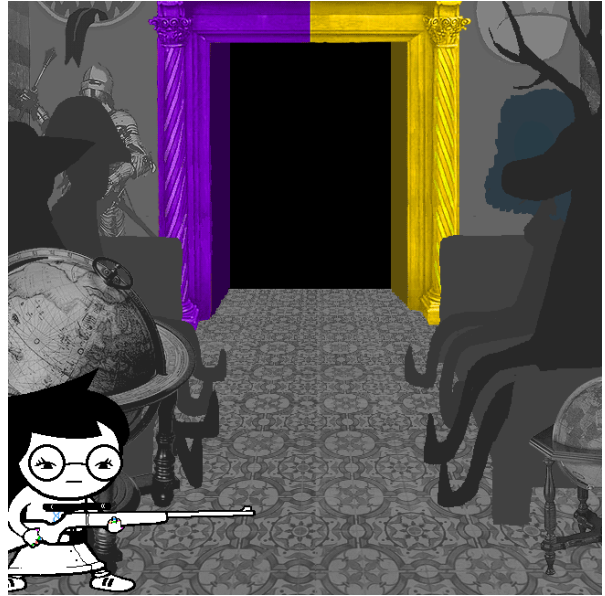
[\(911-913\)](#)



This transition was confusing to some people. At first they thought John had jumped down into this weird room containing a mysterious altar to Jade. But no, this is a scene switch, and that is the foyer of Jade’s <SPOILER!> dead </SPOILER!> grandpa. In hindsight, this altar is actually a very poignant memorial to Jade’s dream self, who we later discover <SPOILER!> died saving John </SPOILER!> and was <SPOILER!> stuffed by Grandpa </SPOILER!> and then <SPOILER!> stored in the lab at the top of Jade’s house for practically her entire life </SPOILER!>.

(914-915)

Consider that these four dolls were basically Old Man Jake's idea of good company to have around the house. The thing you have to understand about Jake is that he's kind of a loner. And also kind of an idiot. Oh well, at least Mr. Moose there looks pretty friendly. Maybe Jake isn't as dumb as he seems. All this probably makes good sense to him. He just has a special kind of brain.



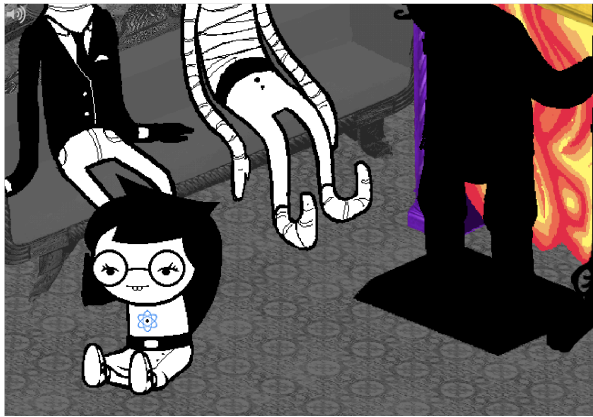
(916-917)

VRIIIIIIIIISKAAAAAAA!!!!!!!

</spoiler>

[\(918\)](#)

These psycheouts have EVERY OUNCE of punch on paper as they did online, and I won't entertain a single objection to this PERFECT FACT. You thought we were going to watch Dave get puppet whipped some more, but no. It's time to make Jade frolic around the stuffed corpse of her adoptive grandfather and biological father. (Who frankly should just be called her "father" because come on, old dudes are perfectly capable of siring children. This guy is really just "Jade's Dad," end of story.)



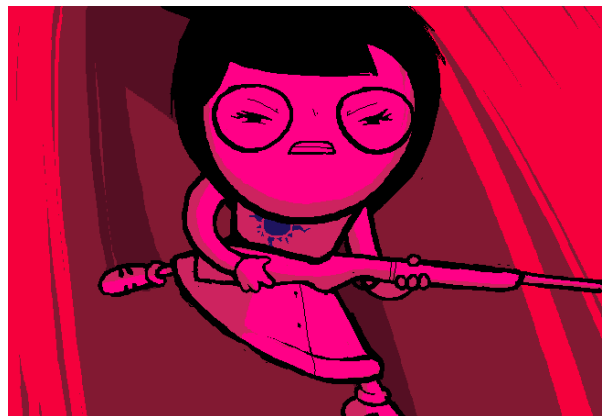
[\(918\)](#)

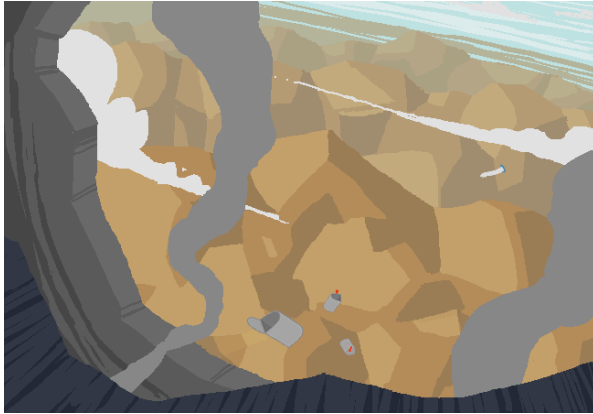
Here, just as on the flute page, you can press keyboard keys and make Jade do some totally silly stuff. She likes to pretend to get into strifes with her dead grandpa, which is kinda sad. Also, this is the first page that makes it clear her grandpa was dead all along, thus completing a HUGE TWIST, which is to say, an absolutely miniscule twist in the greater scheme of *Homestuck*. And by "makes it clear he was dead all along," I mean "some people still didn't actually understand he was supposed to be

dead here." In fact, I had to go back and draw stitches on his head to make it EXTRA CLEAR, 'cause you know, living people are almost always mounted to plaques bearing their name like a trophy.

[\(919-921\)](#)

And then to make it EXTRA EXTRA EXTRA EXTRA EXTRA EXTRA CLEAR she was just frolicking with a dead man: "He was so much easier to deal with when he was alive." (4,000 pages later I overhear you say, "You know...I'm starting to think Grandpa Harley might have been dead all along!")



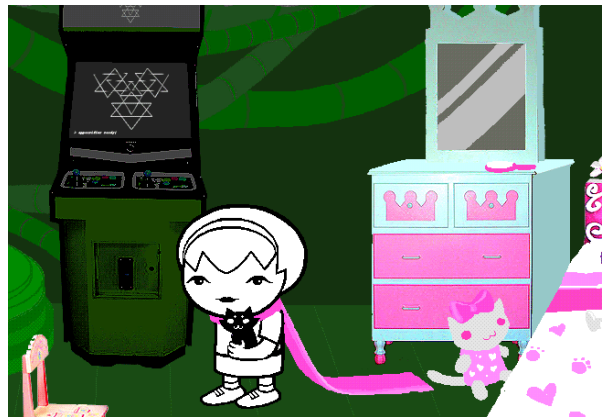


[\(922-925\)](#)

PM x Sentry Worm Best Friendship = BACK ON TRACK!!! But just imagine if PM had decided to use this flying pod to air-drop mail around the wasteland. That overzealous worm would make drooping deliveries SO FRUSTRATING.

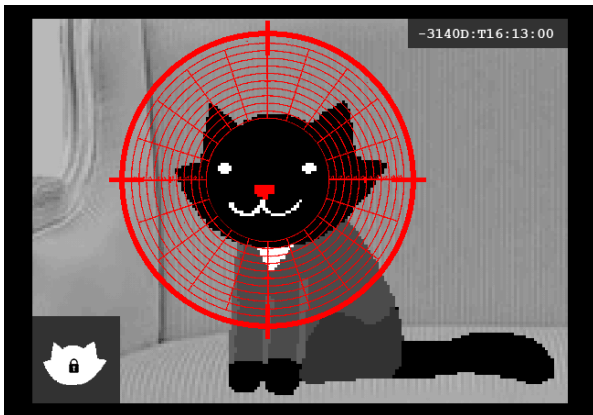
[\(926-928\)](#)

To be fair, if the arcade machine did still take coins, it would probably need more than twelve cents to operate.



[\(929-931\)](#)

Ha ha, Jaspers was being characteristically recalcitrant. That was SO Jaspers.



(932-933)

Don't look now, but you are being given a short tutorial in ECTOBIOLOGY. This is important. This is why our heroes exist. Because of slime, temporal mechanics, and fucking around.



(934-935)

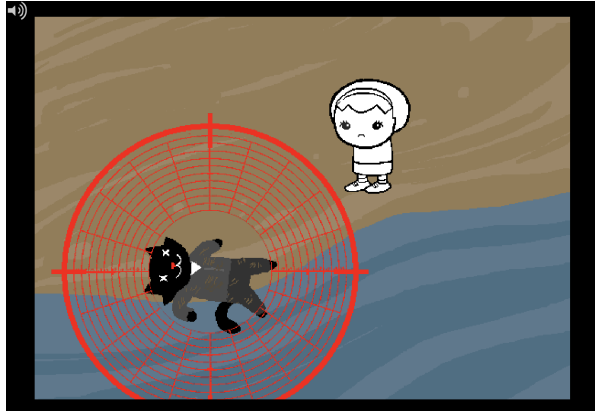
"Whoever was operating this machine in the past" COUGH MOM. I wonder if in her childhood she made as many cats as she does in the alt-future? Jaspers was surely a result of this process, lakely making him a true paradox clone. Bonus facts: Jasper's secret is, "Yo I'm about to disappear and spend the rest of my life with your mom as a little girl in a water world AU four centuries in the future, then later I'll jet back here as a corpse, and you can attend my funeral which you think your mom is hosting ironically

but really isn't.

(936-937)

If you ever see time stamps or such in *Homestuck*, just assume I was meticulous about the numbers and try to get on with your life.



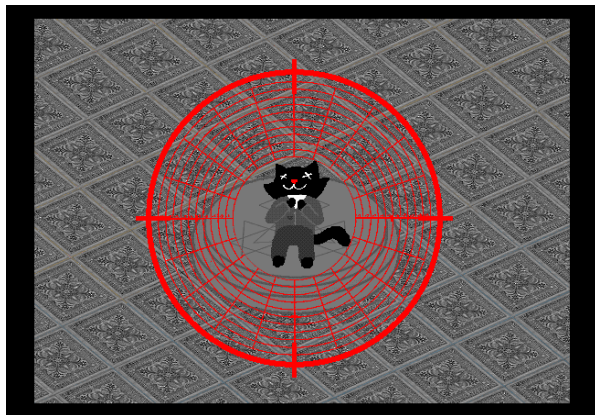
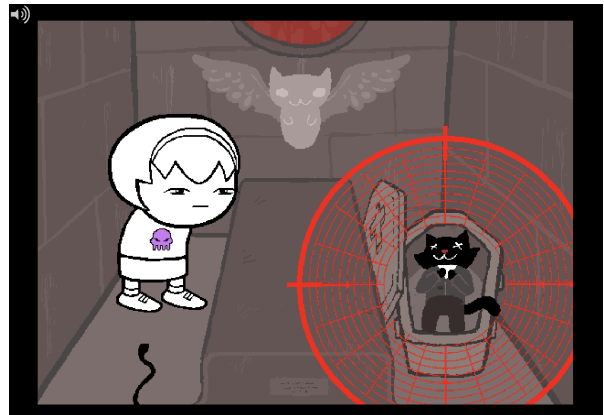


(938)

Imagine haunting pipe organ music with an absurd chorus of meows, and you have successfully re-created this animation in your heart. It will live there forever.

(938)

This page has twelve panels. The number of panels featuring new content: two.

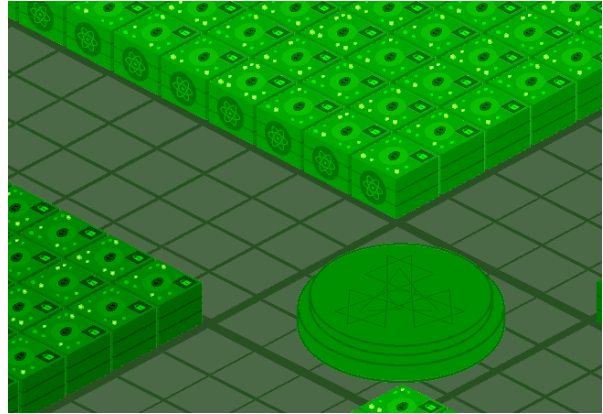


(939-940)

Rose needs to retrieve Jaspers for important plot reasons. If she hadn't prototyped him later, she would've had no one around to have cute conversations with.

[\(941-942\)](#)

We don't know here yet that Jade's "intuition" is mostly tied to her dreams on Prospit, so when the text here says that Bec is "invisible" to her intuition I guess that's mostly code for "she never dreams about him." This is because, at the risk of becoming excessively technical, First Guardians are really, really mysterious.



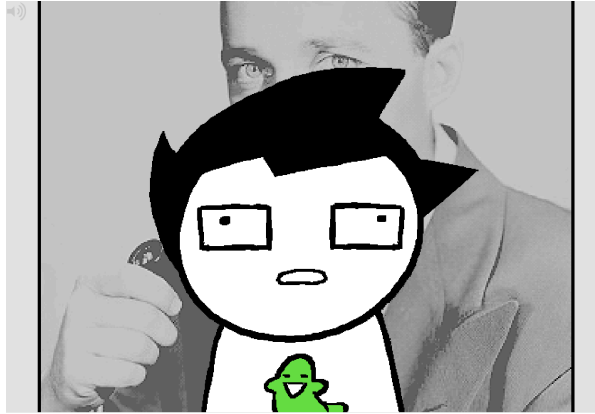
[\(943-945\)](#)

Becquerel had to bolt suddenly because someone on the other side of the world just threw a tennis ball.

[\(946-947\)](#)

John's dismay is compounded when he scans the spreadsheets and realizes his dad's boring firm got hammered in the fourth quarter.





(948)

Imagine for a moment that this page WASN'T an animation set to some extremely dramatic over-the-top music for the sake of laughs. Just imagine that instead I deliberately composed this sequence of panels specifically for a book, exactly like this. What a surreal and marvelously peculiar display of sequential art. Actually, thinking about it like this somehow makes the joke funnier.

(948)

I don't know what kind of father doesn't have a series of pipes mounted on his bedroom wall, just above a lone box of cake mix in the corner.

Maybe Hitler's father. I dunno.

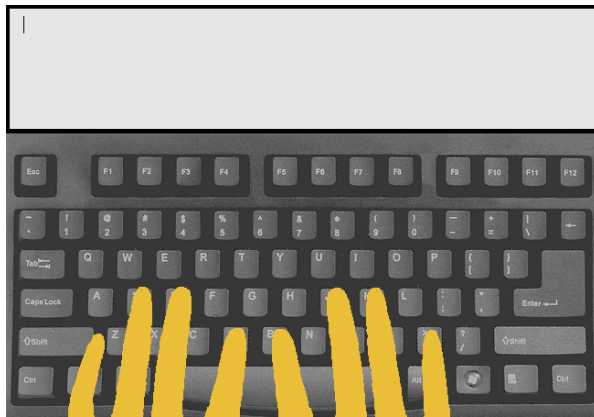
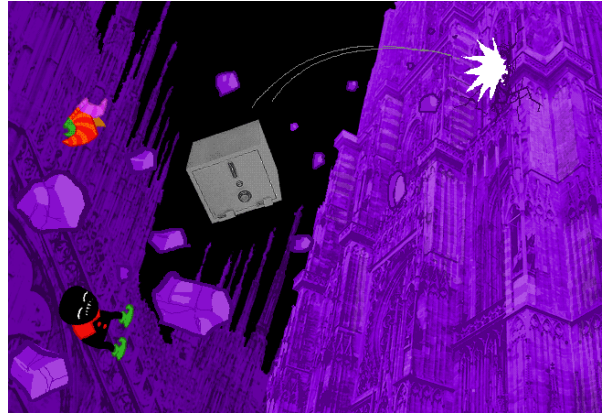


(949-950)

Unrevealed fact: when John imagined his dad's life as a street busker, he figured most people who gave him money were paying him to stop.

(951-952)

Jack. That man is why you are forced to wear that ridiculous outfit. If he hasn't pretended to love clowns to bond with his son, he wouldn't have bought the clown doll, and Rose wouldn't have prototyped it, thus imbuing your queen with clowniness, thus making her insist that everyone in the kingdom wear clownish attire. Jack, are you listening? He stopped listening halfway through that explanation because it was boring.



(953-955)

The orange fingers are my fingers. Why are they orange? Let's not answer that question. Next question. Why are my fingers typing a guess at Jack's name, and then commanding him to state his name and rank? Jack at this stage is the villain. Villains in *Homestuck* tend to be metavillains. That is, they exist much closer to the surface of the story's metabubble and often interact with the way it's told. For instance, Jack Noir is the original owner of the Fourth Wall. (See next page.) As a universal

bureaucratic game construct, he can keep tabs on everything going on in the session, including just outside the story.

(955)

Though Jack Noir is a metavillain, there are limits to this role, possibly tied to his personality. It could be that the scope of his ambition never includes messing with the story itself. His desire for power lies entirely within fictional parameters. Later, there are much more flagrant metavillains in Doc Scratch and Lord English. They live on the surface of the metabubble and at times badly puncture it. All iterations of Lord English in sum essentially represent the ultimate metavillain. Though it takes a very long time for this to become apparent and for its exact meaning to be revealed.





(956-957)

Hearts Boxcars, a.k.a. The Hegemonic Brute, despite being the muscle of Jack's crew, is repeatedly proven to be the whipping boy of the agents. He just keeps getting his ass handed to him. And the deeper we get into the story, the shorter-lived his instances are.

(958-959)

"Glorious Monarch," huh. Gotta be a dude, right? Nope, that's the queen. Come to think of it, this turns out to be a minor trend. Later there's a character named Snowman, we're all like, come on now that has GOT to be a dude. But NOPE, it's the Black Queen yet again. PM turning out to be a girl I guess maybe is part of this trend too, but that was literally only a surprise because she had neither boobs nor "girl eyelashes."

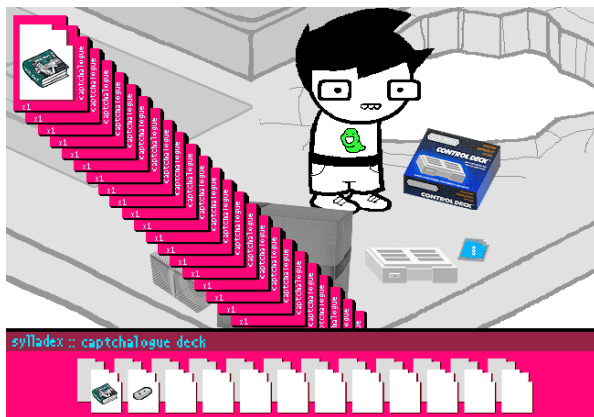
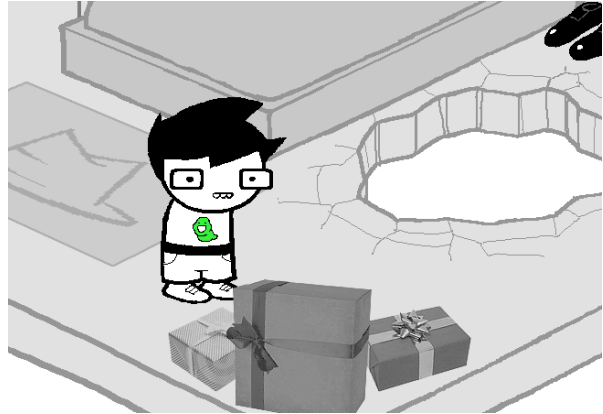


(960-962)

The ongoing humiliation of HB begins. Also let us note...wait hold on /temporarily unblocks tvtropes.org from browser, goes there/ okay yes, let us note the "Worf Effect" taking place here. Earlier, we saw HB lifting a huge safe, and now Dad easily bests the brute with a headlock maneuver. So THAT'S how strong Dad is. Then, much later, Dad gets Worfed by Jack and then Jack gets Worfed by /blocks tvtropes.org again/.

(963-965)

It must be great to be a kid on Homestuckworld. Instead of getting Nintendos and stuff for your birthday, you just accumulate more weird and stupid ways to pick stuff up.

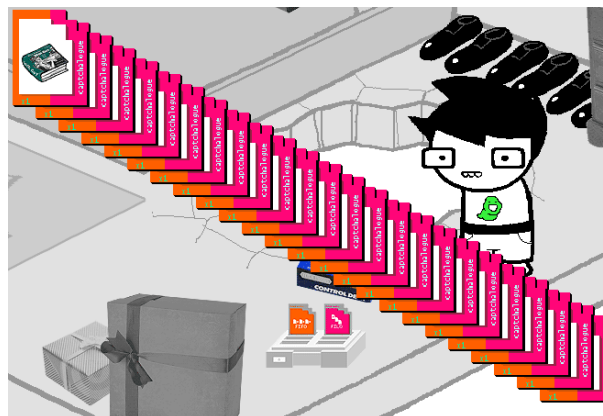


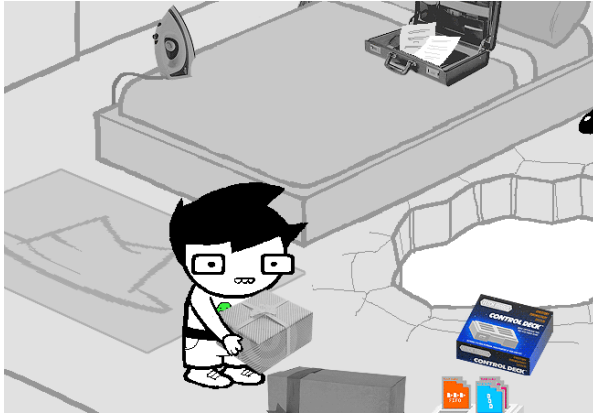
(966-968)

John: Even better, skip ahead a few thousand pages to the part of the story where sylladexes don't matter anymore.

(969-970)

I bet most current readers of *Homestuck* aren't even old enough to remember having to blow dust out of game cartridges. Let me tell you, youngsters, life was gritty back then. You had to WORK to play your shitty games. You could be plowing through some dungeon in *Zelda*, and stop a little too hard on the floor and RESET the whole fuckin' NES. Many of my generation were tormented by that little blinking red light next to the power button which seemed to say, "Ha ha, you were born into an era JUST SLIGHTLY before technology stopped totally sucking.



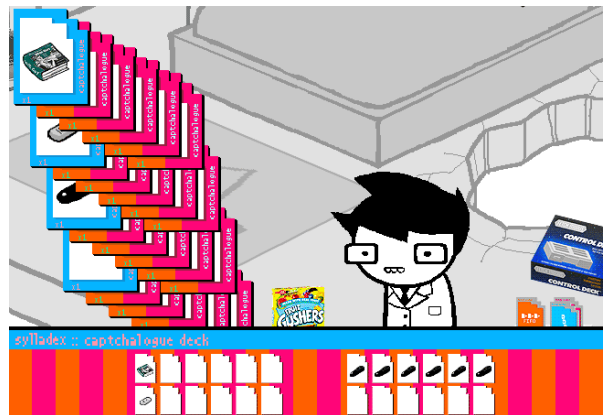


(971-974)

John: Build Shoegorg.

(975-977)

The best thing about this revelation is that when I first included Gushers in HS as a gag, I actually had no idea Betty Crocker made them. It was as mindblowing to me as it was to John.



(978-979)

MIXED BERRY SOCIAL ANXIETY DISORDER was discontinued as a flavor. But only because the Condesce ran out of that kind of troll blood.

(979)

Another most unfortunate juxtaposition between bukkake and slime from *Ghostbusters*, a correlation which once again sails right over John's head. Literally, in this case. Also let's take note of "RANCH DRESSING RAMPAGE," wish is partially covered. Let's take note of it because it's the funniest one.



(980)

Jade: Seriously, just walk over there and pick up the present. Bec won't mind. He's a good dog.

(980)

What you don't see in this series of freeze frames is that when Bec appears, for a split second you can see the green sun. This is some very far in advance, blink-of-an-eye foreshadowing. Back when I made this strife page, I did envision a vast, supernatural green sun as the energy source for Bec, and for all First Guardians. But that was well before it picked up steam as a major plot element.



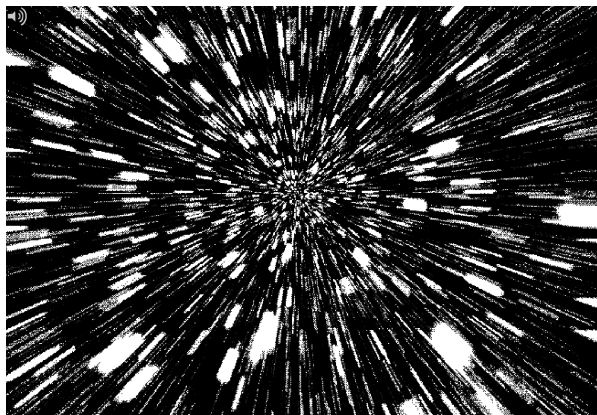


(980)

Bec's magic powers were a great excuse to show off Flash's COOL MASKING EFFECTS. Let's be honest here. Showing Bec's expanding and contracting shape clipped out against the area of the new location he's warping to makes the idea of teleportation WAY MORE FUN. Though if we're totally keeping it real it should be noted that this effect is SOMEWHAT LESS COOL ON PAPER.

(980)

Wait, there it is! Another split-second shot of the sun I mentioned earlier. See? I wasn't lying. But, full disclosure, literally all of my other notes have been lies.

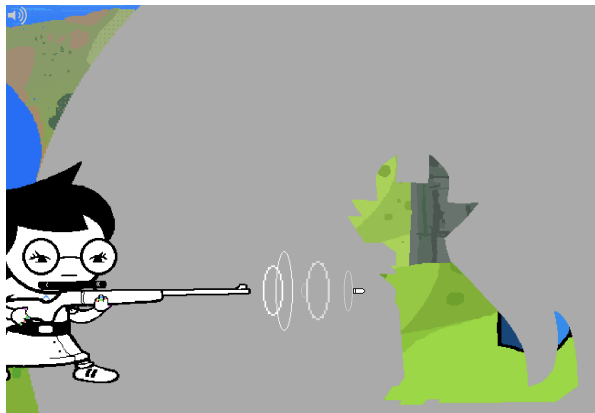


(980)

Do you see what Bec just did? He let the bullet pass through his portalized body somewhere into outer space. He let it travel through space at warp speed, all the way to our galaxy, and then back down to Earth, as a particularly cosmic means of "fetching" it. He presumably let Jade come along for the ride with the bullet. When you think about it, Bec is really kind of sassy.

(980)

Oh, here's yet another shot of the green sun. Now I just seem silly for saying you couldn't see it a few pages ago. And there's a big red sun appearing one frame before. With a big swirl in it. I wonder if red and green and swirls ever become significant later. Naw.



(980)

Bec also comes off as a little dickish by implication when you consider he could teleport Jade off the island at any time to go hang out with her friends, or even, you know, lead a normal life somewhere. Then again, he is rather protective and territorial. He doesn't want anyone else horning in on his Jade time.

(980)

There's a variation on this game that's played with a flashlight instead of a rifle, and Bec fetches the photons.





(980)

Jade: Take dog out behind woodshed and give him a big hug. The woodshed is actually an ancient stone monument, though. Yes, just like that. That's fine.

(981-983)

Jade was acting too happy so Vriska put a stop to that. You don't know what I'm talking about if you don't know who Vriska is. Maybe it's better that way.



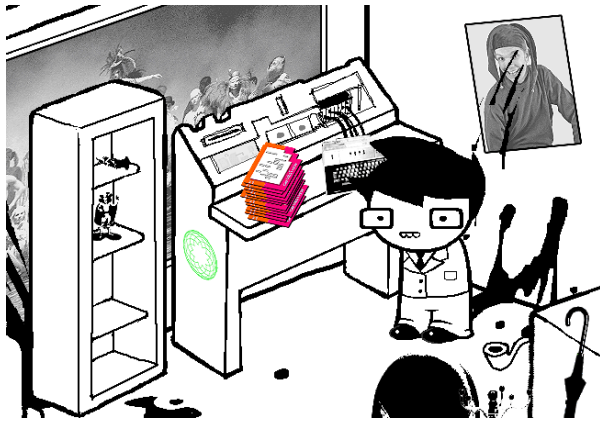
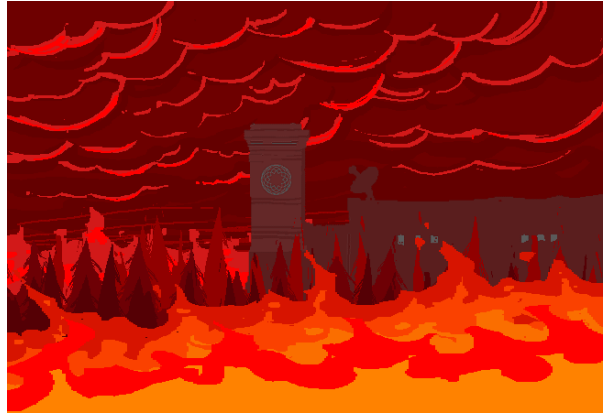
(984-986)

Rose: Peel printed liquor bottle pattern off of shelf surface.



[\(987-988\)](#)

Rose: This is all very stressful. Develop drinking problem later in canon.

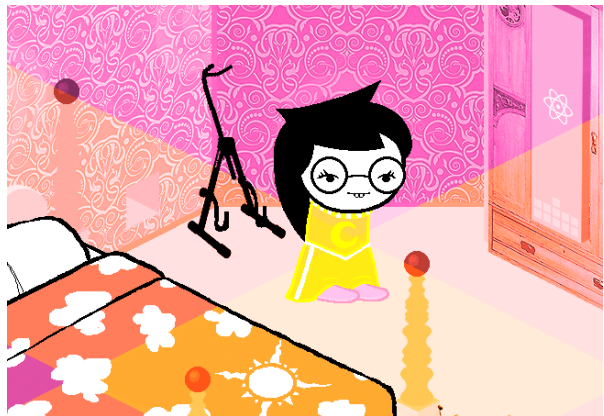


[\(989-992\)](#)

The irony is that Rose is not just messing around with her computer but is now actually in peril. Now that I've explained that for you to understand, let's reflect on how great the word "businessmanlike" is.

[\(993-994\)](#)

Jade's interpretive dance is literally the only thing in *Homestuck* that foreshadows nothing whatsoever. (Unlike the mysterious arm in the lower left corner, which... Yeah, I'm not even gonna touch that topic in this book.)





(995-996)

There is much to speculate about with Jade's dreambot. Did Grandpa Harley build it to record and study Jade's dream life? Or to prevent her from sleepwalking? Dream selves and the rules surrounding them are very significant to the rest of the story. Not only that, but robot bodies become a recurring thing too. What I'm saying is these are some of the most important ages in HS, if not THE most important.

(997-998)

"You sincerely pity anyone who might be forced to endure such a fate" is a rare moment of self-awareness in the story, directed at readers who are, in fact, forced to endure such a fate. I promise it will never happen again.



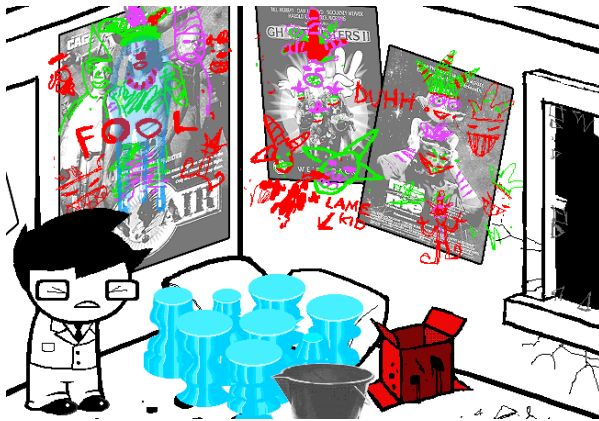
(999-1000)

See the calendar? There it is. Direct evidence of the other three kids' birth dates. Look how hard John is working to send all his friends gifts wrapped in identical blue packages. He is just flying through the blue wrapping paper.

(1000)

This is a very simple conversation, but there's so much going on here. First of all, Jade is being a filthy liar again. She knows what's in that box. Second, the casual allusion to "too many trolls" makes you wonder which ones are hassling her. Bet you she's been getting HAMMERED by Gamzee. Third, John calls them "retards," which is pretty ableist of him. Who knew a thirteen-year-old kid could be such a jerk? And finally, we learn why he switched from GT to EB. Whew, that's a lot. With this kind of economical dialogue, there's no WAY this story will turn out to be more than half a million words.

```
GT: i can't wait for you to see what i got you. i don't want to
    spoil it or anything but hopefully it will help you solve those
    problems you've been having lately.
GT: MYSTERIOUS WINK ;)
GG: im sure it is great, i cant wait either!!!!
GG: it might take a while to get here from there but it will be
    worth the wait!
GT: oh man.
GT: i am such an idiot, i forgot about how long it takes you to
    get stuff.
GT: ARGH.
GG: john thats ok really! im sure will get to me exactly when
    it needs to and it will be a nice surprise when it does!
GT: ok well i hope so.
GG: <3.....
GG: uhhhh hold on
GG: ok im back sorry
GG: i had to tell someone to go away!
```



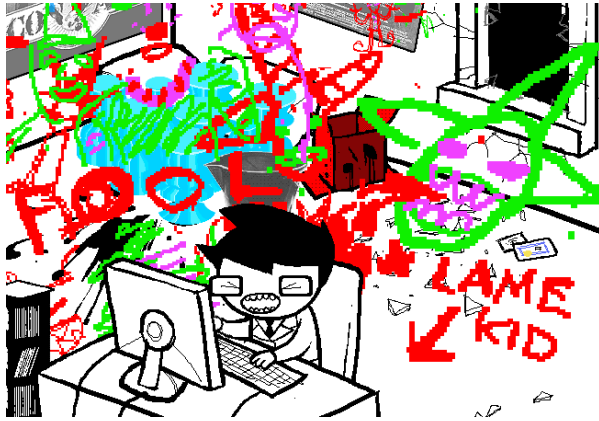
(1001-1002)

And so begins the tradition of naming pets stupid things, and then renaming them to other stupid things later on at least once, before they are eventually slain.

(1003)

Rose should be really excited to learn of John's mental illness, because of her interest in psychology. Too bad she doesn't actually know what she's talking about, since she's thirteen, and you have to go to college for that.



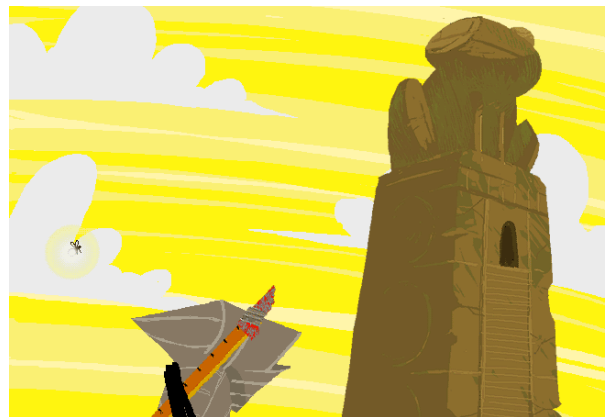


(1004)

Gamzee sure did a number on that poor kid's head. Fuckin' chucklevoodoos.

(1005-1006)

WV: Go limp, fall to ground headfirst. Use pumpkin bindle as protective headgear.

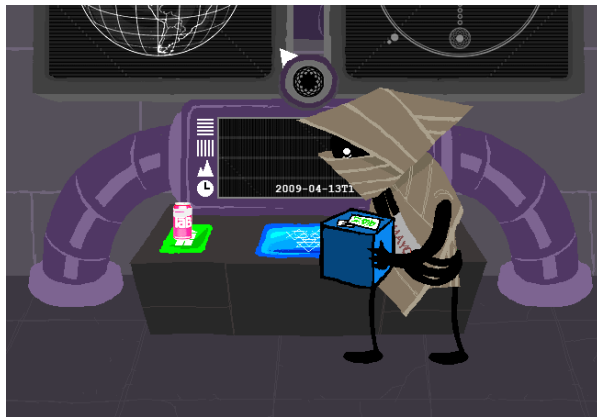


(1007-1009)

WV: Measure mayoral sash with yardstick.
WV: Put top hat and monocle in bindle. WV: Wonder why top hat and monocle aren't real.
AH: Draw all these bonus panels and make book longer. No wait don't.

(1010-1012)

Jade saw WV in a dream and said well OBVIOUSLY he's not going to part with that sweet sash. Better bunch up some spare cable to use as bait.

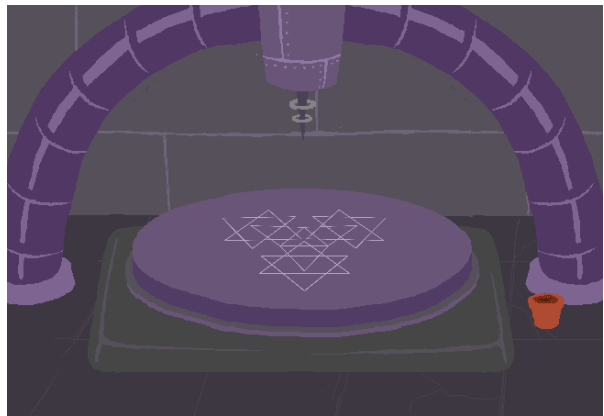


(1013-1014)

WV: Look at letter. But we don't get to see the letter yet, not for a while, okay good, stuff like that always happens. What, do you think storytellers just come right out and SHOW you things? lol

(1015-1017)

WV: You forgot the little flower pot.



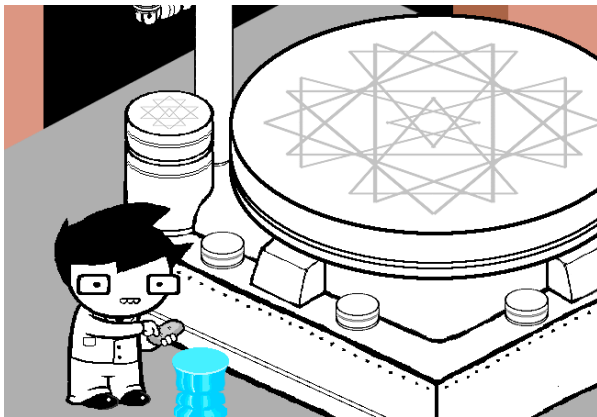
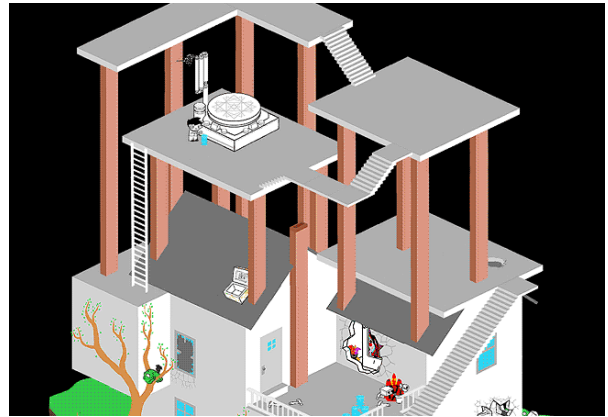


[\(1018-1021\)](#)

LADY GAGA??? Oh, no. It's a black carapace man with a machine gun. Trivia: it's the same machine gun last boss has. AR isn't last boss though. He's not really last boss material.

[\(1022\)](#)

In the grand scheme of things, I wonder which will stop working first: these tinyurl links or mspaintadventures.com itself?

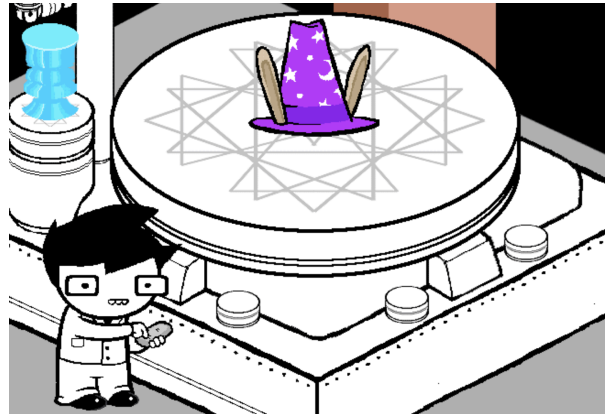


[\(1023-1024\)](#)

ARE YOUR SHIPPING FIRES STOKED YET? Let's face it, this is a bland ship. The first boy and girl introduced in the story? Please. Buying into this ship is kind of jumping the gun. Like when a shareholder sells off stock at the first sign of trouble. John x Rose is a ship for the nervous investor.

[\(1024\)](#)

It's not that awesome.

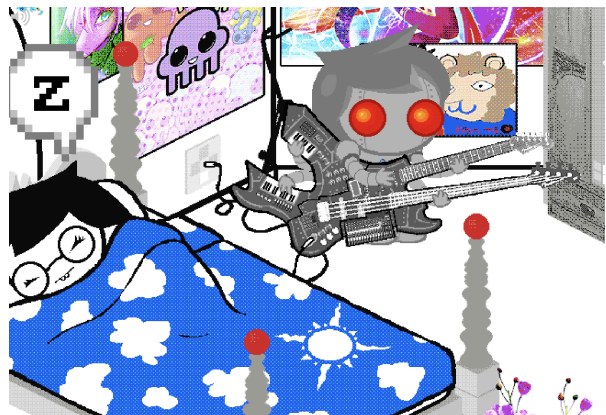


[\(1025-1026\)](#)

Chimneystuck, starring Rose Lalonde. SHE wins. Everyone else go home.

[\(1026\)](#)

Existence of Prospit revealed. This is another one of those incremental pages that broaden the scope and scale of the story. It doesn't stop from keeping to happen. Who really knows what the gravitational pull of the planet is or if it's strong enough to keep the moon in orbit. Hence the chain. Alternatively, it's just a cool thing for a golden fantasy planet to have.



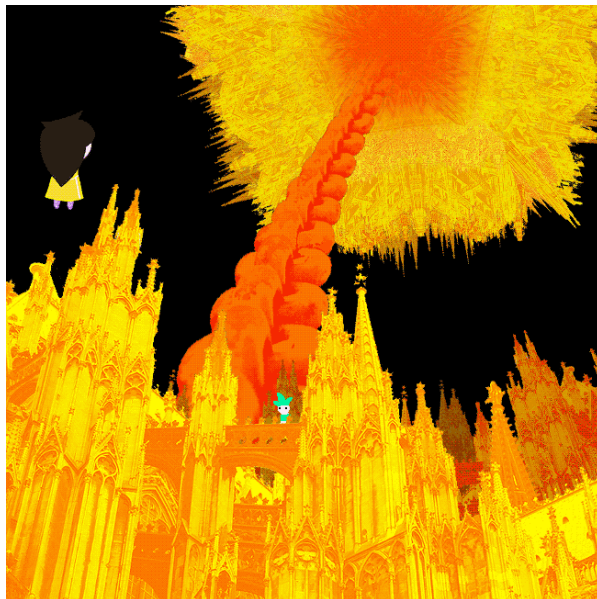
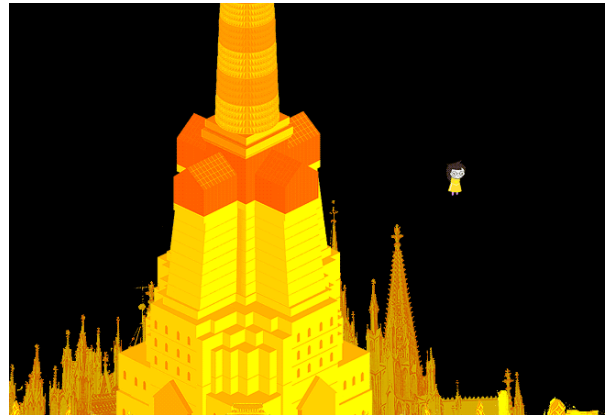


[\(1026-1028\)](#)

Prospit and Derse are made from collaging dozens of cathedral bits and heavily processing them in Photoshop. There's a lot of collaging in HS, but the most intensive examples probably appear in these settings. They are revisited quite a lot throughout the story. What I am saying is, I have googled more than my share of cathedrals. Way more than you have.

[\(1029-1031\)](#)

The bot goes where she goes. If you're Bec, it's probably funny to be hanging out on the island and to frequently see this little robo girl floating around as if she's got important stuff to do, talking to thin air and such. Then again, it's probably not that funny to him, since he's a dog.



[\(1032\)](#)

Jade: Compliment tiny crude drawing of Prospitian on lovely hat.

[\(1033-1034\)](#)

PM: Be recognized as PM by reader.
Reader: Ohhhhhh.



[\(1034-1036\)](#)

He's confused, because they're deliciously green, but only partially green. So this is the best idea he has. Maybe he doesn't understand the concept of licking?

[\(1037-1038\)](#)

WV: HUBBA HUBBA



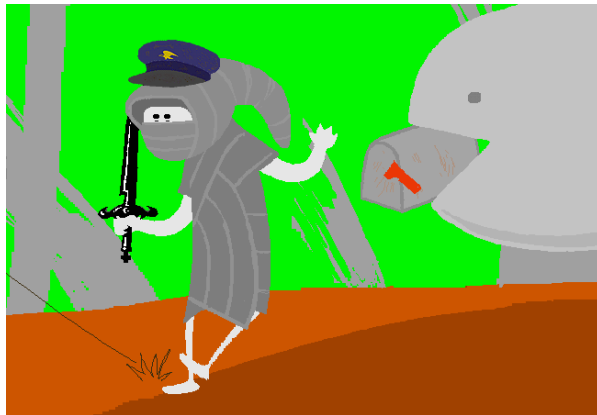
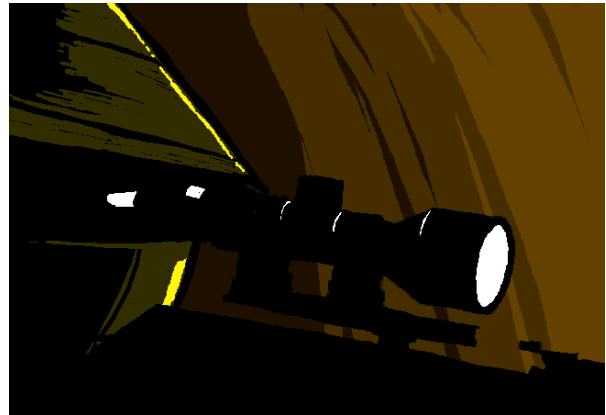


[\(1039\)](#)

Jade is obviously just setting them up on a date. She is shipping them, through the literal shipping of a parcel. How ironic. Who am I kidding, I burned through all my irony credits an act and a half ago.

[\(1039-1041\)](#)

The Aimless Renegade sure has bad aim. Almost like he's an...
Unreliable...
Marksman.

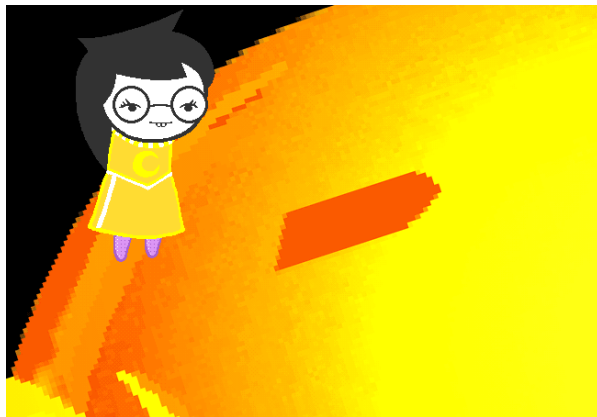
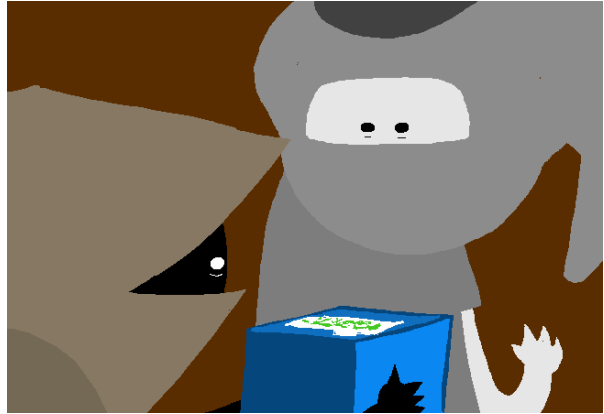


[\(1042-1045\)](#)

What is the worm doing with the mailbox? It probably thinks it's helping. Why is everyone being so cute STOP IT YOU ARE UNDER ATTACK.

[\(1046-1047\)](#)

You fail to fly gracefully. You fly like a silly doofus instead.

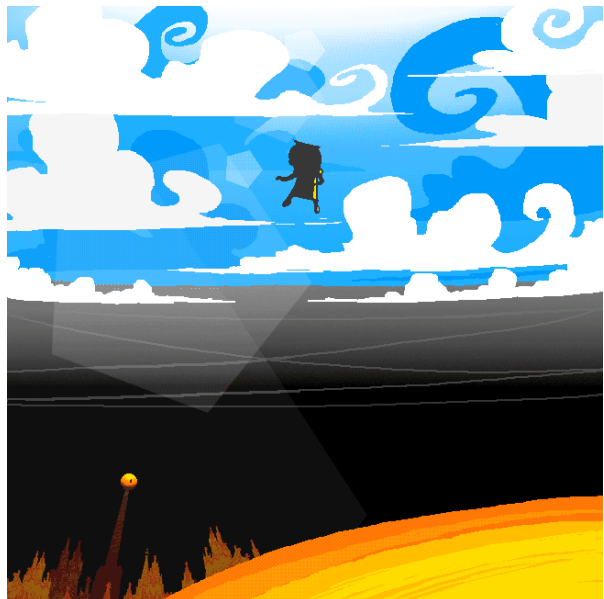


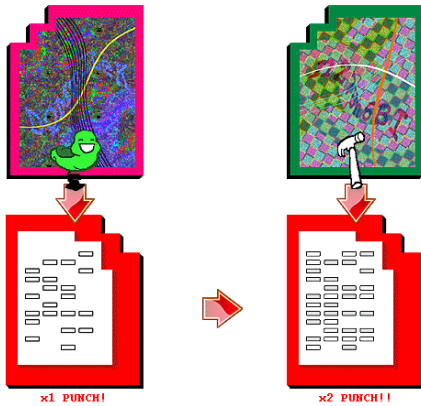
[\(1048-1050\)](#)

Jade's dreaming confusion and forgetfulness is kind of an odd symptom that's never quite duplicated by another waking dream self. There are two possibilities. One is, I was still ironing out the dream self rules early in the story and that symptom never developed in others. Or two, because her sleeping habits are imposed on her unnaturally by external forces. GUESS WHICH EXPLANATION I PREFER.

[\(1051-1052\)](#)

Sburb tip: you only earn the ability to do 1980s time-lapse montages after you go god tier.





(1053-1054)

You people don't even know what the && and || operators mean, do you? Why don't you learn computers, you dorks! Although to be fair, technically the single & and | bitwise operators are what perform the described functions. So now who's the dork? Me. I went with the logical operators (&&, ||) instead because they are more recognizable and frequently used from a pure coding perspective. So it's this weird case where I dumbed it down for the sake of people who ACTUALLY KNOW HOW TO PROGRAM.

Good grief.

(1055-1056)

The first official *Homestuck* "alchemy binge." It is the funnest thing that can possibly happen in HS. It is literally all downhill from here.

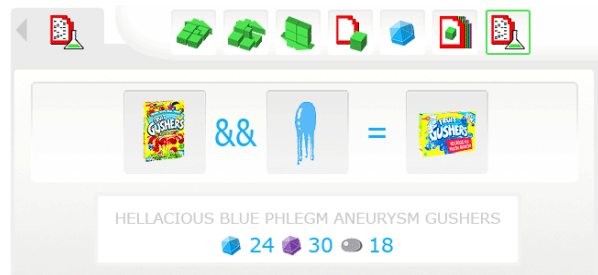


(1056-1057)

If you ask me, there aren't enough hammers with handles that are fully functional, presumably delicate telescopes. Not enough hammers made out of huge, ancient joke books either.

(1058-1059)

A blue phlegm aneurysm is one of the least pleasant aneurysms you can have. If you ask a neuroscientist about it, they won't say anything but will just give you a knowing look of dismay.



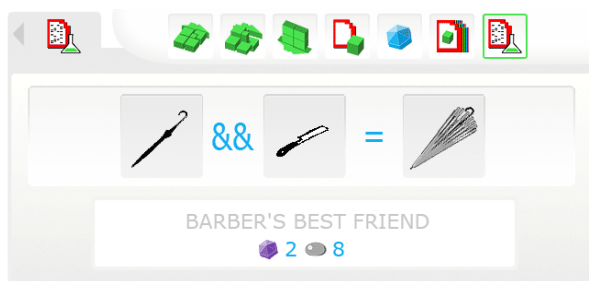


[\(1059-1060\)](#)

Honestly I forgot until just now that a mirror could be combined with items to flip them. I don't think that clever tactic was ever used again. But then, in a universe where sprites can just "flip turn-ways," maybe it's not actually that useful?

[\(1061-1062\)](#)

The Batterwitch produces these things en masse for third-world armies. A more heartless profiteer from war and suffering you will never find.



[\(1063-1064\)](#)

You didn't follow any of that. BTW I own that horse painting IRL. 'Nuff said.

(1065-1066)

Bill Cosby is the perfect father. We all know this. Whereas Bing Crosby, though quite fatherly onscreen, was actually a total douche to his real kids. I didn't know this until way after I put him in HS. I wonder if Dad would have a dramatic breakdown if he learned that?



*YEARS LATER EDIT – HA HA, LET'S POLITELY SIDESTEP THE FACT THAT HE'S NOW BETTER KNOWN AS A SERIAL RAPIST THAN A GOOD FATHER. HA HA, WHAT SEX CRIMES SPANNING FIVE DECADES??? HA HA, WOW, MOVING ON!

(1067-1068)

I don't think we ever got any more clues to what the *Problem Sleuth* hammer was. Probably just a Sepulchritude-themes hammer or something. Whatever it was, even though it seems powerful by its cost right now, other weapons later surely left it in the dust.



*But for real, re: the Cosby debacle. Given that I was just saying what a douche Bing Crosby was, it makes sense that Bill Cosby turned out to be one as well. These two figures are cosmically linked in the *Homestuck* mythos, which has eternally bound their souls together whether they like it or not. Both iconic father figures. Both wretched human beings. The circle of depravity is complete.

(1069)

This page was posted on the site on Christmas. The moment took place on John's birthday in the story. With that one joke, it became official. The comic somehow consists more than 100% of fourth-wall-bending dramatic irony.





(1070)

The crows do enjoy a good Strider beatdown. They gather on the roof every day waiting for the lopsided brawl to start. Maybe that's why the crow came through Dave's window squawking at him. It was saying, "Hey, get your ass on the roof so we can watch your bro beat the shit out of you! CAW!!!"

(1070)

Cal's like, DIS GONNA BE GOOD.

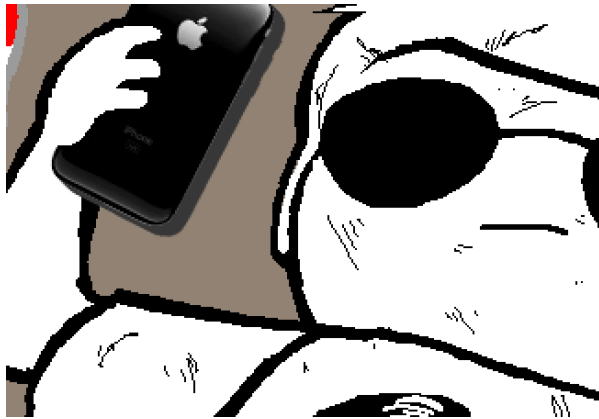


(1070)

Now the record on Dave's shirt is broken and stays that way forever. Bro has a way of foreshadowing important events in an oblique and violent manner. Like when he stabs the big record plateau later. He couldn't make it any clearer unless he just shouted, "DAVE. YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO SCRATCH A BIG RECORD IN HALF LATER. GET WITH THE PROGRAM."

[\(1070-1071\)](#)

Well at least that creepy puppet was destroyed, and we'll never have to see him again. Let's put this ugly chapter in *Homestuck* behind us.



[\(1072-1073\)](#)

You can tell Dave and John are tight bros because he sends him brief updates like this now and then. Nothing fancy. No bigger point to make. Just got his ass kicked, that's all.

[\(1073\)](#)

Here we see an earlier conversation repeated from Jade's POV, while a fantastical animation is blowing your mind. Except not, because you're reading a book. If your face hurts, that's cause you're frowning too hard right now.





(1073)

It's possibly more clear in the animation (???), but everything happening here is a mirage created by Prospit's moon passing through Skaia. The clouds blow through the golden cityscape and project visions, in this case showing Jade's moon tower in place of her house on the island, and then showing what her island looked like millions of years ago when the volcano was active and the ocean wasn't there. At the time, a meteor came through a portal and crashed, making the crater, which is now a

lagoon.

(1073)

The frog temple spawned from the seed left by the meteor. Inside the temple is a time capsule. The first thing to come out of the capsule was Bec and he just sorta hung out there for eons. HS BONUS TRIVIA QUESTION: Do you know what the last thing out of the capsule is?



(1073)

Dream Jade is too spacey to remember that all she has to do is play bullet fetch to get Bec out of the way.

(1073)

What Jade should have said was, "if anyone can save the world i think it is probably you, and 12 trolls, and maybe 4 other kids and like 12 other dead trolls and some chess people and stuff, and maybe not so much the world as all of reality or something!"

```
EB: that game i was telling you about, sburb which i was  
playing with rose, sort of transported me somewhere at the last  
minute.  
EB: but now i'm trapped here and it's weird and dark and i  
can't find my dad and i just lost the car and my copy of the  
game in the pit and i think i have to save the world from the  
apocalypse!!!  
GG: O_O  
GG: well.....  
GG: it sounds really crazy and kind of scary but.....  
GG: it also sounds kind of exciting!  
GG: i dont know john maybe this is your destiny  
GG: if anyone can save the world i think it is probably you!  
EB: wow, you think so?  
GG: yes!
```



(1073)

Whew, false alarm. Jade and John almost met there and had a fun and heartwarming reunion. Let's buckle in for another few thousand pages of isolation and estrangement, or, as I like to call it, *Homestuck's* wheelhouse.

(1074)

John: Solicit grandmother's advice, cookies.




```

GG: oh well john
GG: i want to explain lots of things to you....
GG: some things that i know
GG: im just.....
GG: waiting!
EB: waiting for what!
GG: oh! john!!!
GG: i forgot i was messaging you about that meteor that fell
near my house!
EB: oh yeah.
EB: what ever happened with that?
GG: oh boy.... well.....
GG: it turns out i was confused about it...
GG: really confused! o_o;
GG: see i guess i fell asleep for a while and.....
GG: lost track of time
GG: that happens!!

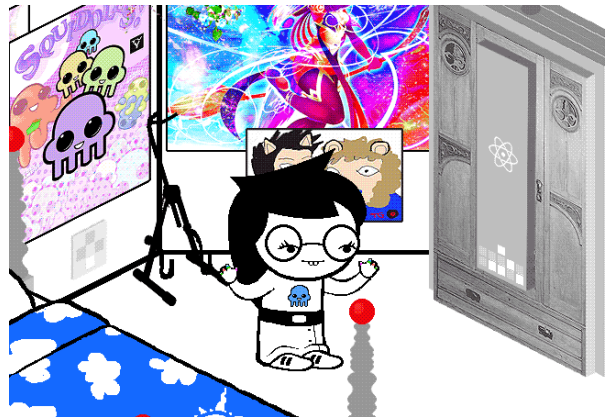
```

(1074)

I think Jade literally does mean literally. But whatever, she's just a silly kid.

(1075)

Some of the reminders are to help her keep track of which DeviantArt accounts her furry posters are from.

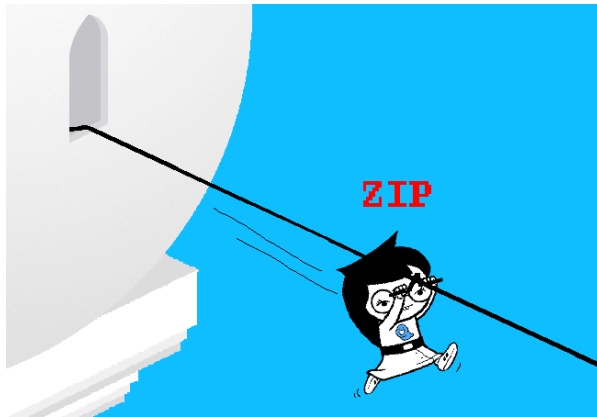
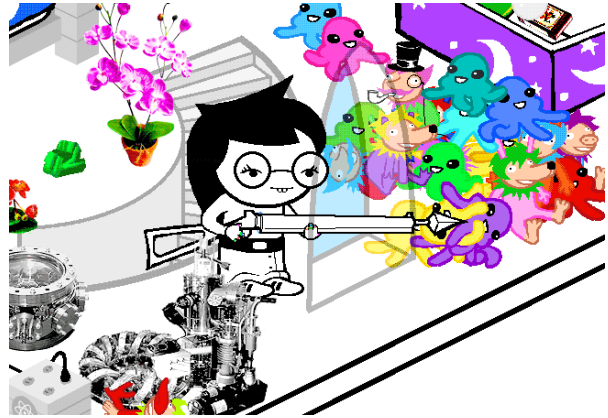


(1076-1077)

Killing two birds with one harpoon gun would be one-upping Dave, who earlier killed one bird with one shitty sword.

[\(1078-1080\)](#)

PCHOOO is a sound a gun makes, and that lots of other things make, in *Homestuck*. Learn more about *Homestuck* facts like this, and other *Homestuck* facts, in my Author Notes™.



[\(1080-1081\)](#)

John's house is finally starting to resemble a level in an actual video game, with enemies and everything. It's about time.

[\(1082-1083\)](#)

There's no more juice in your closet, Dave. Keep dreaming.





(1084-1085)

The hashrap battles really would have taken too much time and stretched out the story a bit, so I'm glad I didn't do them. Other things I could have cut out to save time without losing much include: most pages.

(1085-1087)

Generally I have my finger on the pulse of reader desires. Even when I'm not reading their feedback, I can just feel it. It's like a sixth sense. That's how I knew that exactly right about now you were all craving more sylladex shenanigans.



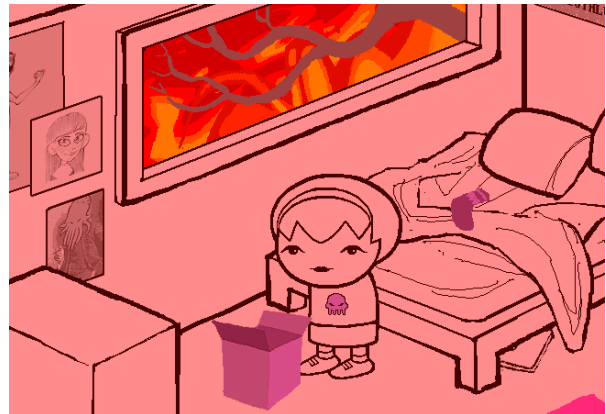
```
-- turntechGodhead [TG] began pestering tentacleTherapist [TT]
--
TG: ok i got it
TG: i hope you appreciate how much gross spongy proboscis i had
to fellate to get this game
TG: hello
TG: what are you doing
TG: anyway im going down stairs now and installing this thing
TG: later
```

(1087-1088)

Gross, spongy proboscis fellatio is a concept that I introduced to you before anyone else did. I guarantee this.

(1089-1091)

(crappy, sorry)



```
dear rose,

happy birthday!!!

thanks for being such a great friend all these years. i know you like
to make it out like you're playing it cool and don't care much about
the people in your life, but i know deep down you really do. hell, not
even that deep down. it's like, um, like your subconscious is having a
wet t-shirt contest, and you being all aloof is this totally soggy
shirt doing no good at all at hiding nothin'. oh wait, it looks like
two can play at this game of cracking all these high falutin
psychology books! AW SNAP!!!
```

(1091-1093)

John, are you sure that was a high falutin psychology book you cracked, and not a copy of *The Horny Teen's Guide to Confusing Analogies?*

(1093)

This would be the first extensive conversation with a troll, which, considering how many are to come later, should be looked upon as a significant benchmark. Kanaya—oops, I mean GA—likes to throw around the term “human sarcasm” as if sarcasm is something trolls don’t have, when they clearly do. Actually that’s pretty much the thrust of all jokes about their cultural differences. Hell, they don’t even have different movie stars.

```
-- grimAuxiliatrix [GA] began trolling tentacleTherapist [TT] -
-

GA: Why Is It That When The Subject Of Temporal Mechanics Is
Broached Your Sparing Human Intellects Instantly Assume The
Most Ingratiating Posture Of Surrender Imaginable
GA: Time Is Not That Difficult To Understand
GA: It Is A Utility That A Universe May Resort To In Order To
Advance A Desired Degree Of Complexity
GA: Or May Not Resort To If That Is The Case
GA: Its All Pretty Pedestrian
GA: But No
GA: When Time Travel Comes Up You Present The Face That A Man
Shows When The Breeze Gradually Alerts Him To His Absence Of
Netherdressings
GA: I Dont See How We Are To Properly Agitate You All If You
Continue To Insist On Failing To Understand Basic Concepts
Which Common Infants Effortlessly Manage To Describe Via
Scrawlings In Their Own Puddles Of Sloppy Discharge
```

```
TT: You exist in some temporal stratum through which you have
communication access to various points of my timeline.
TT: It's not that complicated.
GA: Yes Thats Right
GA: Will You Try To Talk Some Sense Into Your Idiot Friends
GA: So That We May Proceed To Bother Them All On More Rational
Terms
TT: I try to every day, with mixed results.
TT: But you see, it's not that I don't understand you.
TT: It's just that I don't believe you.
TT: Because it's nonsense.
TT: Albeit persistent and coordinated nonsense.
TT: Why would a bunch of temporally dislocated trolls want to
harass a group of friends throughout completely random points
in time?
GA: I Will Admit This Campaign Of Provocation Wasnt All That
Well Thought Out
GA: Dont Tell Anyone I Said That
```

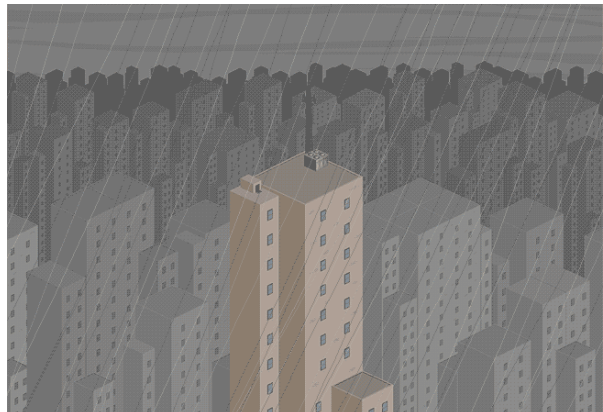
(1093-1094)

When she says the campaign of provocation wasn’t thought out all that well, she’s really just busting on Karkat. That’s literally all that’s going on here.

(1095-1097)

yo, sup

(shit)



```
so i got you these. they're totally authentic! they actually touched
ben stiller's weird, sort of gaunt face at some point. i'm sure you'll
dig them because i know you lolled so hard at that movie. ok so for
real, this is sort of a shitty present, but it is an ironic present
because i know you wouldn't have it any other way. maybe you can wear
them ironically some time. they MIGHT even be more ironic than you and
your bro's dumb pointy anime shades.
```

anyway, have a good one buddy! and stay busy being totally sweet!

-ghostyTrickster
(john)

(1097-1099)

Please note that John here is explicitly urging Dave to become a bird. Stick that fact in your cap for later. Less explicitly he's giving Dave a new look so he can be more distinct from his brother. Personal arcs in the Strider clan tend to have a lot to do with identity. But Snoop Dogg/Lion there would agree, you've got to be you. Uh-oh, here's Tavros.

(1099)

And here is the first time we see indisputable evidence that troll conversations can be funny. This is a real watershed moment, because it happens a lot later. Well okay, it happens sometimes. Well okay, it happens this time. Also I feel I should point out that when Dave mentions the phone booth, people think I'm referencing *Dr. Who*. But really I (Dave) was thinking more along the lines of *Bill and Ted*. People need to quit all the nerd shit and start boning up on excellent movies.

```
-- adiosToreador [AT] began trolling turntechGodhead [TG] --

AT: hEYyy,
AT: first, ok, i THINK YOU'RE AWFUL,
AT: LET'S PUT THAT FACT ON THE TABLE WHERE WE CAN BOTH SEE IT,
AT: now YOU HAVE BEEN PRIMED FOR THE DIGESTIVE RUINATION THAT'S
ABOUT TO TAKE PLACE, and THE COMPREHENSIVE SOILING OF THE
LAUNDRY ENVELOPING YOUR PERSON,
TG: oh my god you type like a tool
AT: yEAHHH,
AT: now YOU'RE GETTING IT, what YOU ARE IN FOR,
AT: are YOU READY TO BE TROLLLLLED,
AT: WITHIN AN INCH OF YOUR MISERABLE HUMAN CORTEX,
```

```
AT: SHOULD i BE PERTURBED BY THESE ALLUSIONS,
TG: no man
TG: look
TG: i just need to know when to be there
TG: when the stars come into alignment and your flux capacitor
lets you finally sate your meteoric greed for crotch-dachshund
TG: i wouldnt want to miss it and cause a paradox or something
TG: itd suck if the universe blew up on account of you missing
your window of opportunity to help yourself to a pubescent
boy's naked spam porpoise
AT: uHHH,
AT: ok, THIS IS SORT OF STARTING TO UPSET ME,
TG: jesus you are such a shitty troll
AT: i GUESS i'LL LEAVE YOU ALONE,
AT: and FIND ANOTHER POINT IN TIME TO BOTHER YOU,
AT: WHEN, i GUESS,
AT: you ARE MORE EMOTIONALLY SUSCEPTIBLE, and DON'T HAVE ALL
THESE BEES IN YOUR BONNET,
AT: about YOUR HUMAN SEXUALITY,
```

(1099)

As is so often the case with jerky teen males on the internet, Dave's cudgel of choice here appears to be relentless homosexual innuendo. Please note that the phrase "cudgel of voice" may be considered homosexual innuendo as well.

(1099-1100)

Dave's joke about mayo STRONGLY foreshadows the friendship he has later with the Mayor.

```
TG: bro look in my eyes
TG: that twinkle
TG: that be DEVOTION you herniated pro wrestlers sweaty purple
taint
TG: sparklin like a visit from your fairy fuckin godmother
TG: shit be PURE AND TRUE
TG: thats what you see
TG: a kaleidoscopic supernova of all your hopes and dreams all
swishin together
TG: radially effevescing arms of more little boy peckers than
you can imagine
TG: turning out insane corkscrew haymakers of a billion dancing
vienna sausages strong
TG: this is how we do this
TG: this shits more real than kraft mayo

-- adiosToreador [AT] blocked turntechGodhead [TG] --
```

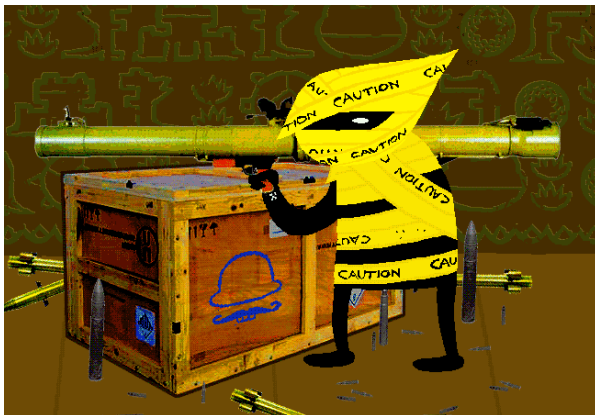


(1101-1102)

Somebody tried to bust me on the clip vs. magazine issue, but I just busted them right back, because wow, who giiiiiiiiiiives a shit.

(1103-1106)

AR: Retrieve deudly firearms. Wait, that joke hasn't been made yet. AR: Wait for that joke to be made.



(1107-1108)

I ship AR x Terezi because of their mutual interest in justice, and AR x PM because of his explicitly stated attraction to her. I am a simple shipper who is easy to please, folks.

[\(1109-1111\)](#)

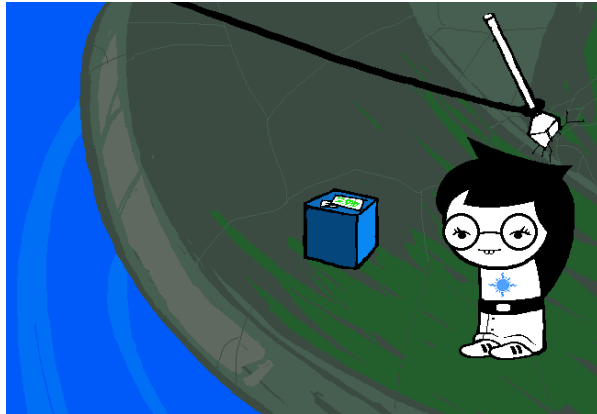
Jade's ancient, rusted bass getting lodged in the elevator gives the musical euphemism "jamming" a new meaning. Wait, was that joke not funny? Oops. Sorry.



[\(1112-1114\)](#)

Jade isn't even looking through the scope there. She's no-scoping that skinny cale from like a hundred yards. Damn, she's good.

(Mary. Fucking. SUE.)



[\(1115-1117\)](#)

PM: There's no hole in the left side of that helicopter thing, and that stone column is still standing. Realize this diagram is useless and discard it.





[\(1118-1120\)](#)

Law: Get been by AR.

[\(1121-1123\)](#)

Subtle Trivia: did you know the “LoB” sound effect is written with lettering kinda similar to the Tab logo?



[\(1123-1124\)](#)

Did you know that if you press hard enough on the *SBaHJ* text up there with your finger, the book will open up the comic it's referencing in a new browser window?

[\(1125-1126\)](#)

I think AR may be getting an unfair share of the blame for his poor marksmanship. The rocket launcher might be showing its age here. The paths some of these rockets are taking are BULLSHIT.



[\(1126-1128\)](#)

Jade's cartooning style is pretty fun and charming. Maybe she'll get into webcomics when she grows up. Nah, she has too much sense for that.

[\(1129-1132\)](#)

SAD FACT ZONE: this butterfly survives for more panels after it's introduced than some of the characters in *Homestuck* do. In other news, Old Man Jake is a dick.





(1133-1134)

Bec could not give a fuck.

(1135)

aw dang where'd i go??
(blarg, so terrible!)

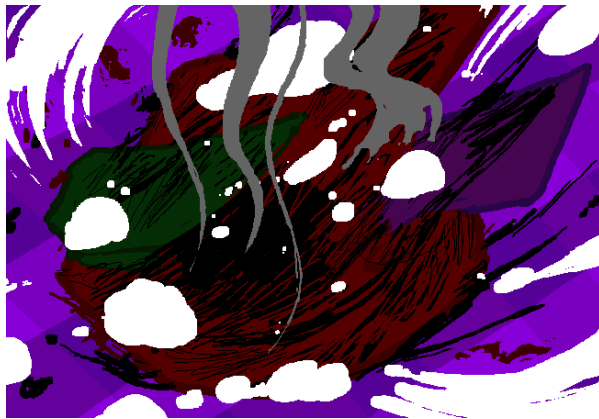


(1136-1138)

Jade is pretty good at reading for a two-year-old. Let's just assume she's two and move on.

[\(1139-1142\)](#)

This is the biggest fuck-you imaginable coming from Dad. There is no greater sign of disrespect than setting a man's hat on fire, slathering it in Barbasol, and stomping on it.



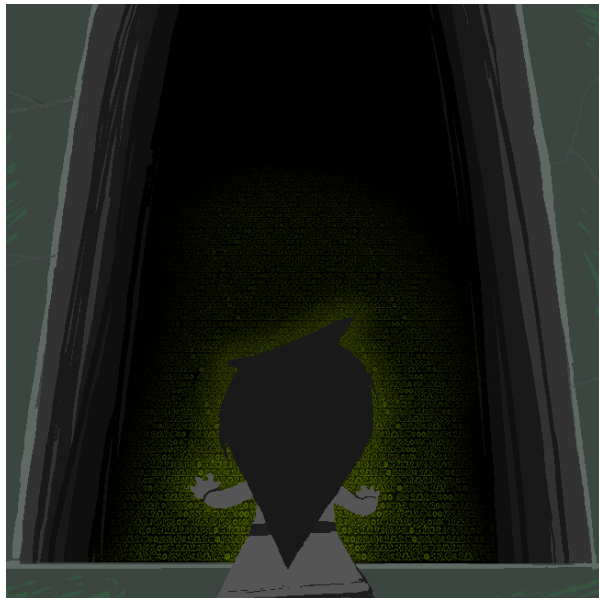
[\(1143-1144\)](#)

Little did he realize it would only earn Jack's admiration and gratitude. (For now.)

[\(1145-1146\)](#)

Jade's earlier use of the bass + amplifier to grow the vegetables foreshadowed this extremely significant moment, where she uses the same technique to grow a lily pad bridge. The goofy cartoon frog Jade I guess foreshadows frogs, which come up again later in the story, but I forget why. It's not that important.





(1147)

Does the long pattern of runes on the temple wall represent the coded for *Sburb*? Or maybe the entire genome for Bilious Slick?? Neither. It is a magic eye diagram, and when you unfocus your eyes, you can read the word “ribbit.”

(1148)

They are lampshading *Sweet Bro* and *Hella Jeff*, which itself is already lampshading good taste and quality aesthetic judgement. In *Homestuck* there are so many lampshades, there is no room left for actual lamps.



(1149)

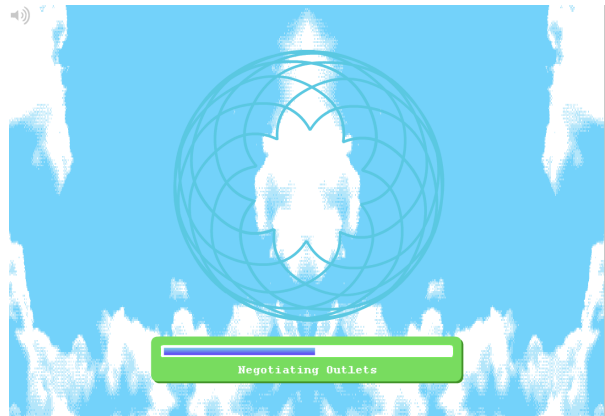
Here is the beginning of the End of Act animation **[S] Enter**. Panels are sliding around the screen. They’re showing stuff. Things are happening. It’s exciting.

🔊



(1149)

Look at how I was still switching her shirt logo around even in the middle of an animation sequence. This is called attention to detail.

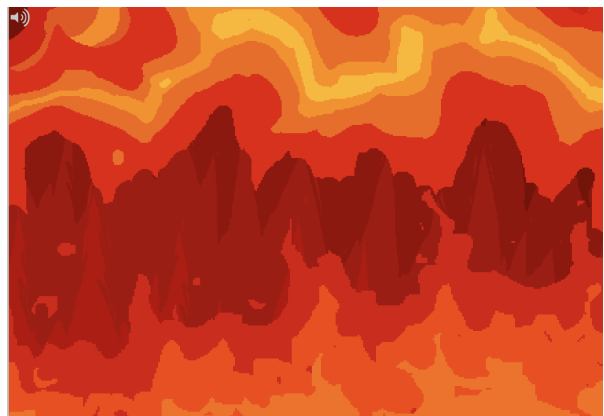


(1149)

And there goes the bed. If only the bed could have burned to death on its Quest Bedbed.

(1149)

All this stuff goes by pretty quickly in the animation, so maybe we can appreciate it being slowed down here and really let it soak in. Look at Dave putting all this stuff in these terrible inconvenient locations. What a jackass!



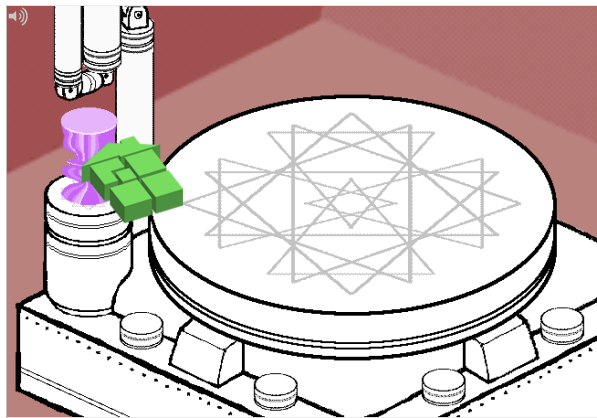
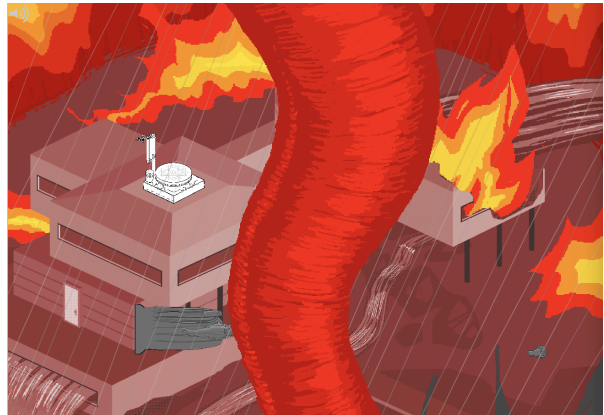


[\(1149\)](#)

The real hero of Act 3: a twenty-foot tall, ten-ton stone statue of Zazzepan the Learned. Those Zazzerstats are canon, BTW.

[\(1149\)](#)

Rose was eager to play this game in the first place so she could resurrect her dead cat, AND GODDAMN IT THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT SHE'S GOING TO DO. All these flaming tornadoes and flying wizards can go to hell.

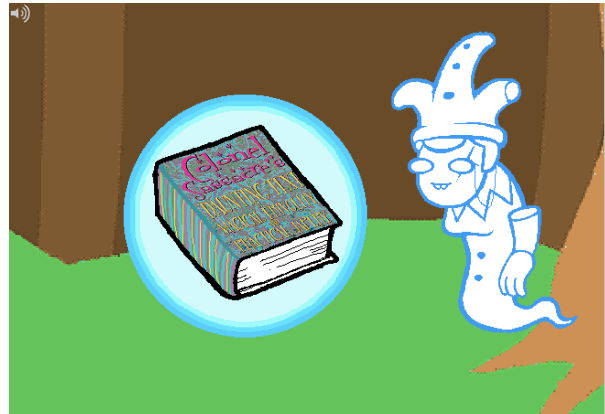


[\(1149\)](#)

There's this whole spiel on *Sburb*'s "entry items" and what they mean, which I won't get into now. But here's another brief spin on it. John's item is an apple from a tree, obviously like the one from the Bible. In that tale, the apple symbolizes temptation to Adam and Eve, and trouble is a-lurkin' if they take a bite. The liquor bottle similarly represents a kind of temptation in the content of Rose's character arc.

[\(1149\)](#)

At the end of almost every act in *Homestuck*, something happens that brings the act back full circle. Act 3 started with Nanna's inscription to John, and here we see when and how that was written, while also getting a very brief glimpse of what's under the clouds, and thus a peek at the much bigger story waiting to be discovered.

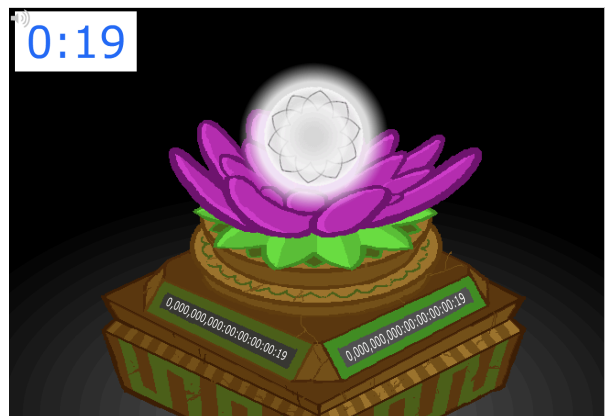


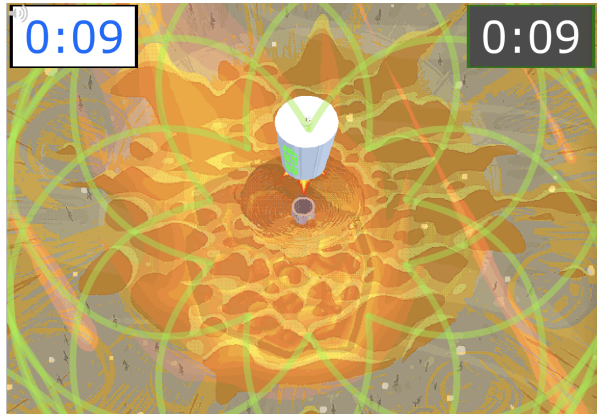
[\(1149\)](#)

One wonders if Rose was aware Dave had given Jaspers some useful tentacles to bail her out with before she jumped. It was quite a leap of faith. Or just outright suicidal. The Lalondes and Striders are basically all cuckoo bananas. But anyway, let's reflect on the teamwork involved to make everything work. Rose bringing Jaspers back, Dave making him a princess, Jaspers saving Rose... God, teamwork is great. So is friendship. If your story isn't in some way basically about friendship and teamwork, you are failing hilariously at your job.

[\(1149\)](#)

At the bottom of this montage we see a very quick rewind of WV blasting off in his big can. Which turns out to be the cork of a huge bottle, the unsurprising shape of the exile station that formed in Rose's crater. Exile station designs are based on the entry item of the player at that location. As if you didn't know that already.



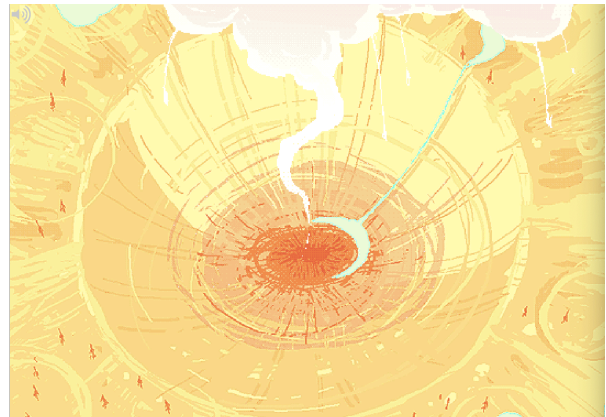


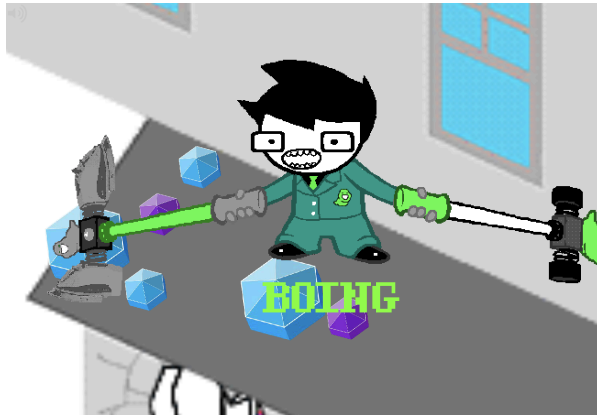
(1149)

Sure cuttin' it close there, Rose...
My characters never listen to me.

(1149)

During this frenetic animation, crazy story revelations are strobe-lighting into your brain every few seconds, and you can barely keep up. Here they are delivered at the speed of BOOKS, which is to say, the speed of a sloth swimming through a tar pit. The thing being revealed here: Dave's copy of the game has been stored in this lotus time capsule for millions of years. WHAT?? Yes, the same juice-stained copies currently on the roof below his window. How do they get here? This is how most mysteries work in *Homestuck*. You know a thing is going to happen in the future, but you don't know why or how. So you just keep reading, while screaming.





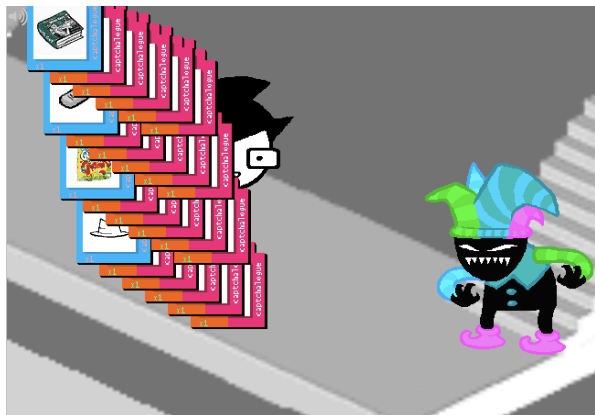
(1149)

The animation just keeps on going, and the song "Sburban Jungle" sorta bumps it up a notch. John proceeds to climb his house while kicking imp and ogre ass. There are a few moments in the earlier acts that seem to trick you into thinking *Homestuck* is all about getting cool gear, gaining levels, and kicking ass like you expect to do in such games. This is kind of misleading, though. In totality, HS isn't really about ass-kicking at all. It's about presenting awesome fantasy environments and situations

in which ass-kicking could THEORETICALLY take place but very rarely does except in dramatic hot points like this. Instead, those environments serve as backdrops for a huge amount of dicking around on the internet, babbling to friends about feelings, and being a bunch of stupid, useless kids struggling to grow up. If you are ever under the impression HS is about anything else, you are invariably in for a world of hurt.

(1149)

The best part of the animation is when John just runs up and clocks a hapless imp in the face. Don't even try to tell me it isn't.



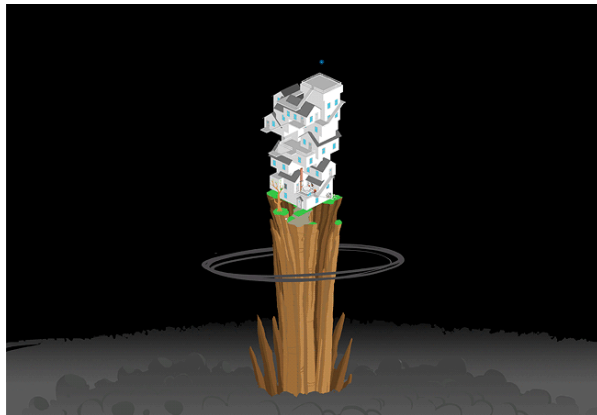
(1149)

Whereas this imp gets inadvertently Cosby's into the pt. You'd think John would later find the Cosbytop lying around somewhere down there, but I don't think that's what happens. I think he just makes another one?? Why the hell not. The great thing about alchemy is that it puts very little premium on almost any single object. Except ones which are plot critical enough to be unique, like the game disc, or the matriorb. It's almost like...the game knows when

an item is plot critical?? It's almost like...my brain as the author of the story IS the game???

[\(1149\)](#)

Then John boings into the thing. The end.



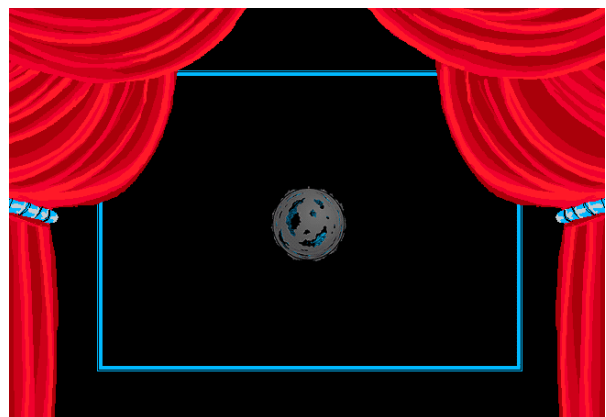
[\(1150-1152\)](#)

We zoom way out from John's house, and for the first time we understand that this mysterious realm is actually a whole planet. After this point we get kinda used to the ever-expanding cosmological scale of the story, but let's slap our jaded faces for a second here, take a step back, and realize this is all pretty cool. Wow, all the kids who play the game get their own special planet? Wow, neat! Actually, we can't conclude that formally until we see Rose's planet appear later. Until then, people

are likely to (and did) speculate that her house will appear somewhere on this cloudy planet. But no. Let's slap our faces again for jumping to that conclusion.

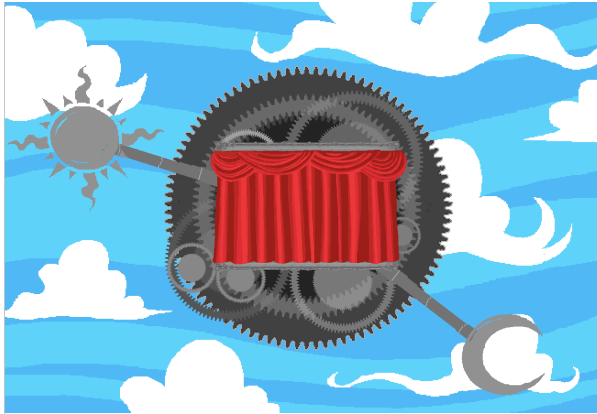
[\(1153\)](#)

Bye, Act 3. The Midnight Crew Intermission is next! If anecdotal evidence can be trusted, you will either read that section ten times, or you will skip it altogether. Skipping it would be a huge mistake, though, trust me. Almost as big a mistake as it was to get involved with *Homestuck* in the first place.



INTERMISSION

DON'T BLEED ON THE SUITS



[\(1154\)](#)

All right, who's ready for the Midnight Crew Intermission??? I know I was when I made it. By this point, it was very clear to me how different it felt to make *Homestuck* than it did making the prior story, *Problem Sleuth*. *Homestuck* was much more labor-intensive, and more maniacally constructed and planned in terms of system design, world building, and density of detail. Not to mention the rapidly escalating animation demands. After finishing Act 3 I

wanted to mix in some action that felt more like *Problem Sleuth*—lighter on animation, heavier on silly bullshit, and more driven by reader commands. The result is a thing that's indisputably super-duper good and funny. But at the time, it did read as a radical departure from *Homestuck*'s story arc. This is misleading, though. Virtually every idea and character introduced here turns out to be important later on. The Felt's mysterious and elusive mob boss in particular.

[\(1155\)](#)

Maybe I mentioned earlier that Spades Slick was once a noncanon *Problem Sleuth* villain in some bonus content requested by a reader? I don't remember if I mentioned that. I don't remember what I had for fucking breakfast today. Please bear with me. I decided to appropriate the character as a *Homestuck* villain by stripping his gangster duds, naming him Jack Noir, and immersing him in some lore about carapacians and fancy kingdoms. But now, confusingly, here's Jack again, in his old Midnight Crew attire, under his former alias, about to go on a silly mansion caper. What is GOING ON? This is confusing. Or isn't it? (Yes.) Confusing, but more importantly, COMPREHENSIBLE given enough of your time and attention to this horseshit, god willing.





[\(1156-1158\)](#)

Slick, like Jac, is a very surly customer. He's just as ticked (heh heh clock pun) at Lord English for knocking over his casino as Jack is when he's forced to wear a stupid hat. Slick develops grudges easily and clings to them eternally. In fact, though this intermission subplot is fleeting, his quest to avenge his casino literally lasts up until the final moments of *Homestuck*.

[\(1159-1161\)](#)

The mysterious FLOOR FOXWORTHY is there because, of course, its presence is unarguably hilarious. But it serves another important purpose. It lets us know that Slick, unlike Jack, is unfamiliar with humans. He's never seen one before. In case we were wondering what the deal is with this guy, and what his relationship is to Jack Noir, this scene helps us begin to understand that though he's based on the same character template, he is a totally different character.



[\(1162-1164\)](#)

The Crosbytop is another peculiar presence here. But in time we see it has a perfectly traceable origin. (Dad's wallet --> Cal --> Aradia...) I guess we never quite find out how it specifically came into Slick's possession. It is left to the reader to compose an extremely moving fan fiction to bridge this yawning gorge in canon.



(1164-1165)

The two pieces of candy stored in his hat are a nod to Problem Sleuth, who kept two pieces of candy corn in his hat for the entire story and finished off the final form of last boss with them. Each member of the Midnight Crew has their own kind of candy stashed in their hat.

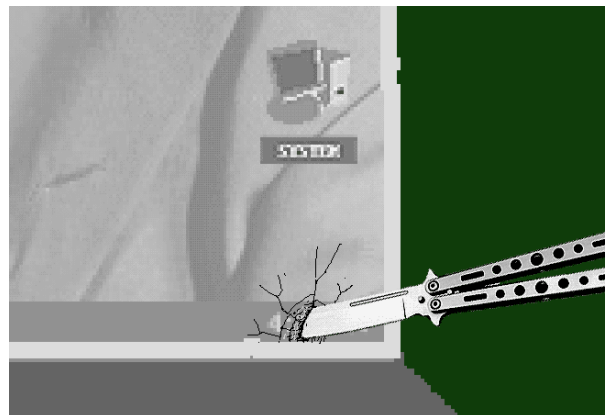


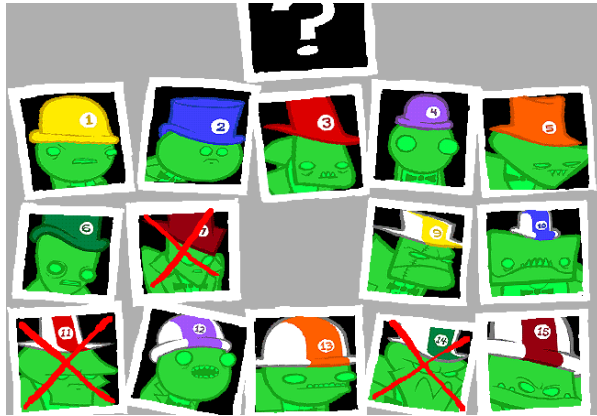
(1166-1167)

Notice that while in our universe MSPA.com is running *Homestuck*, with a Midnight Crew intermission and all, in this universe MSPA runs a Midnight Crew adventure, with a weird mock-*Homestuck* story as an intermission. (Later to be adapted as Homosuck... Let's uh, not get into Homosuck just yet though.)

(1168-1169)

Again like in *Problem Sleuth*, most of these items enjoy object duality. They are either an item/weapon—like a knife, key, or such—or they are one of fifty-two playing cards, which can be stored easily in a deck. Whether they appear as an item or a card depends a lot on the context, which revolves entirely around which form would be most inconvenient, confusing, or aggravating for it to occupy at any given moment.





[\(1170\)](#)

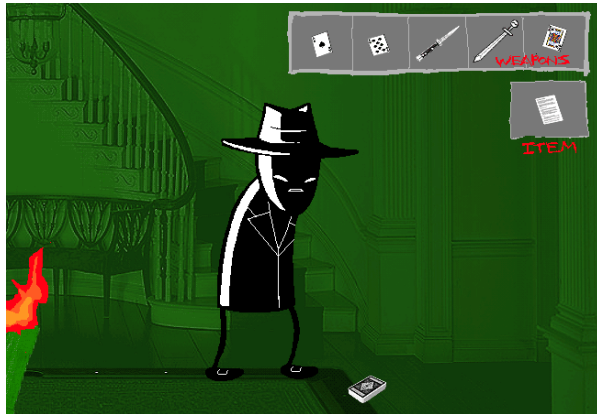
Here we are introduced to mug shots of the cult fan-favorite gang of time-traveling mobsters known as the Felt. The arc of this intermission as a whole has an uncharacteristically clear objective by *Homestuck* standard.s Slick is supposed to kill all of these guys one by one, then finally encounter Lord English and kill him. (LMAO at this notion. It's a nice thought though, Slick.) The fun of this caper involves getting to know these morons, seeing their stupid powers in play, and generally getting swept up in the

delirious idiocy of the resulting time shenanigans until everything goes to shit. So, somewhat a microcosm of *Homestuck* itself. In fact, this intermission turns out to be a great primer that helps brace the reader for keeping up with a lot of insane time-travel nonsense that quickly picks up steam soon after.

[\(1171-1173\)](#)

Snowman is hella ominous and mysterious and, unlike her name would suggest, is not a guy. I won't say who she really is, even though you probably already know. For once I'll try to show some discipline and talk about the big reveals in this book when they actually happen. Instead, and much more interestingly, I'll talk about her name, and the names of all the Felt members. Snowman is a card-playing term for an 8 (since it looks like a snowman). All Felt names refer to their numbers. Itchy (Japanese for 1), Doze and Trace (Spanish for 2 and 3), Clover (4-leaf clover), Fin (slang for a 5-dollar bill), Die (standard dice have 6 sides), Crowbar (shaped like a 7), Stitch (in time saves 9), Sawbuck (slang for a 10-dollar bill), Matchsticks (11 looks like couple of matches)...





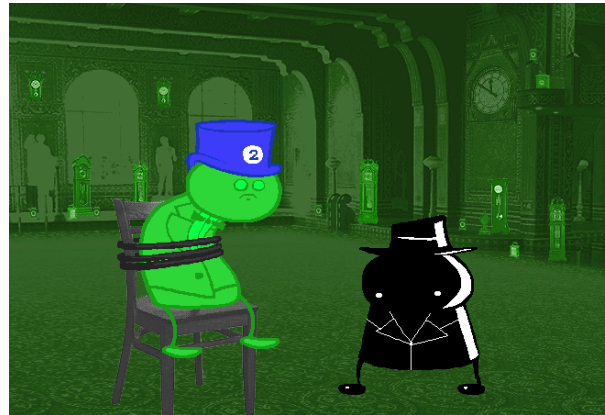
(1174-1176)

...Eggs (typically sold in a carton of 12), Biscuits (13 is a baker's dozen), Quarters and Cans (French for 14 and 15). Also, all their names generally have something to do with their powers. Itchy is fast, Doze is slow, Trace follows, Clover is lucky, Crowbar...has a crowbar. You decide this is all unspeakably clever. Now these dumb green guys are all your favorite characters forever. Oh look, while I was explaining all their names, some funny stuff happened over the last two pages that I don't

have room to comment on anymore. Why does this story have to be packed with so much incredible shit worthy of author commentary? It's infuriating, TBH.

(1177-1179)

The first guy we meet isn't #1, but #2, possibly because he is the most objectively useless member of the Felt. He's more useless than the ones who don't even have powers, since his powers are a liability to himself and others. Actually, that's true of all their powers, but only because they're all pretty stupid and don't know what they're doing at all.



(1180-1182)

The MC members all have a large receptacle for their gear, which is an object double for a deck of cards. The cards (items) fit into the deck (receptacle) the way a bunch of items (cards) would fit into a large receptacle (deck). Understand now? That's fine, neither does Clubs Deuce. Anyway, their storage receptacles are all these funny plays on words involving bellicose terms like war chest, battledrobe, etc.



(1183-1185)

Battledrobe is such a perfectly dumbass term since wardrobe already includes the word “war” in it. But I guess Slick already had the war chest and it wouldn’t look good to bite the boss’ style. Clubs Deuce probably racked his brain coming up with a cool alternative... Fracasdrobe? Scrumdrobe? Altercationdrobe? Also, note how these are just cloned and darkened items from earlier in the story. Slickk’s chest is John’s magic chest. Club’s battledrobe is Jade’s warfrobiefier. The other two are repurposed objects as well.



(1186-1188)



Itchy just fucked with the wrong man’s hat. He’s about to pay the ultimate price (horse hitcher drubbings). And again we see that Jack is a simple man, no matter what name he goes by. He is, if not much else (and he’s not), impatient and violent. We only got the briefest glimpse into these qualities when we were first introduced to him on Derse. But now we get to spend more time with him, albeit in the form of a completely different character. This is another bit of sneaky utility provided by this intermission

tangent. It serves as an arc to help indirectly characterize the villain of the early acts. Having multiple copies of a character operating in totally different circumstances turns out to be a great stealth characterization tactic, and it gets used much more aggressively later in the story. In fact, it proves to be inseparable from one of the story’s most essential themes.
