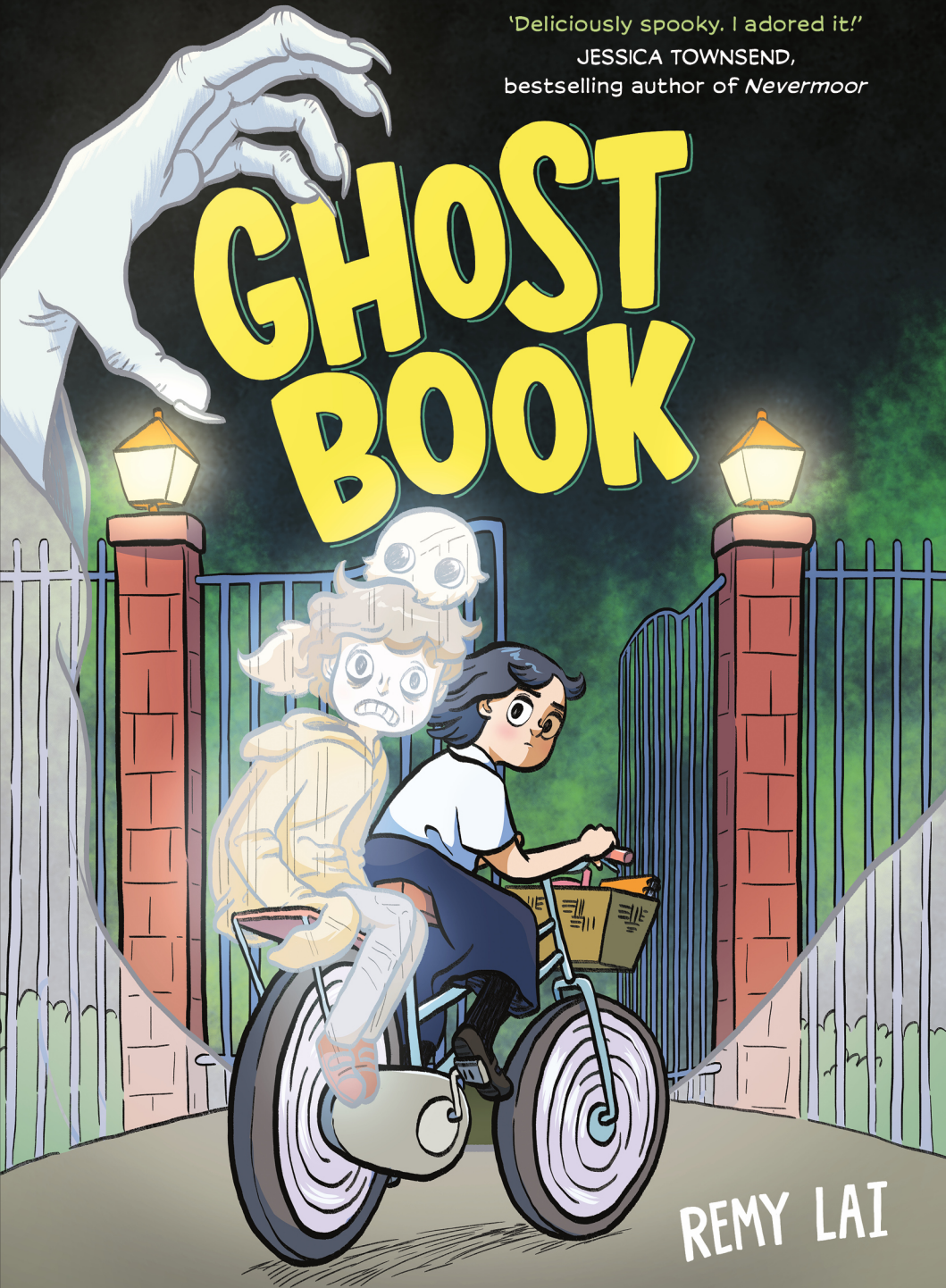


'Deliciously spooky. I adored it!'
JESSICA TOWNSEND,
bestselling author of *Nevermoor*

GHOST BOOK



REMY LAI

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GHOST BOOK




ALLEN & UNWIN
SYDNEY • MELBOURNE • AUCKLAND • LONDON

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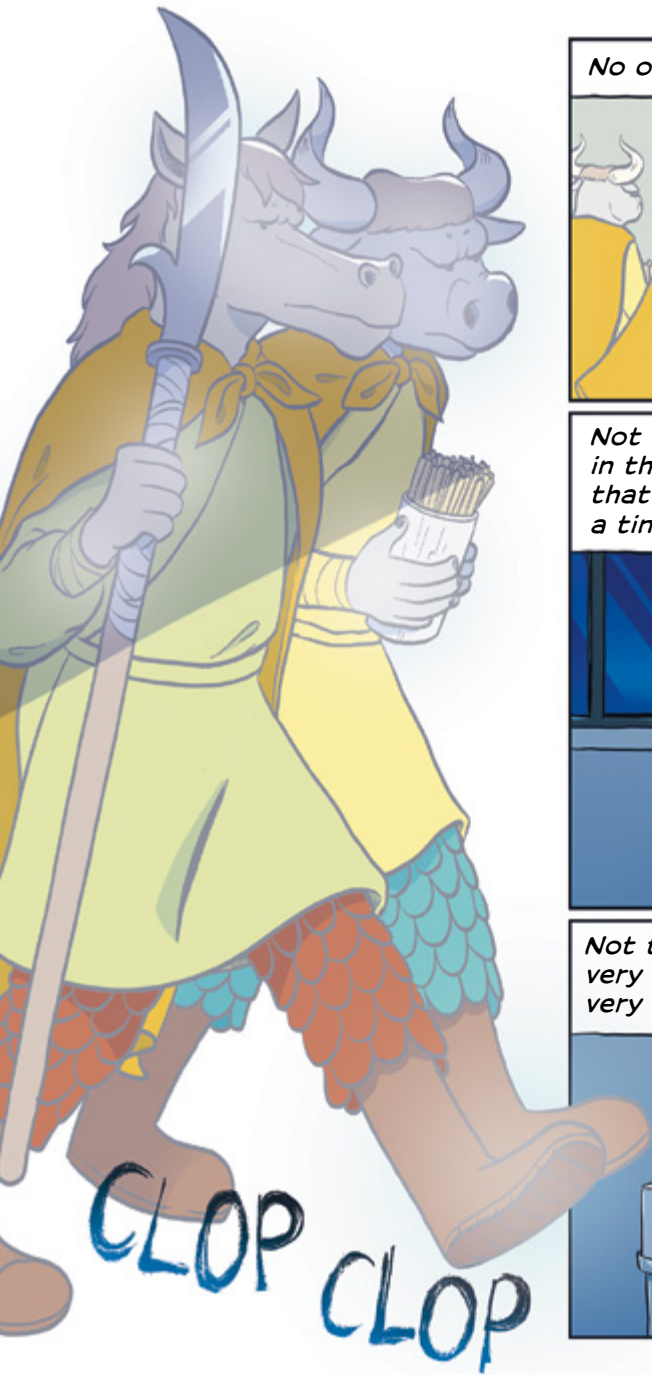
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For J Tan

I acknowledge that this book was written and illustrated
in Brisbane, Australia, on which the Turrbal and Jagera
peoples are the Traditional Custodians of their
respective lands. I pay my respect to their Elders,
past and present.

No one heard them.





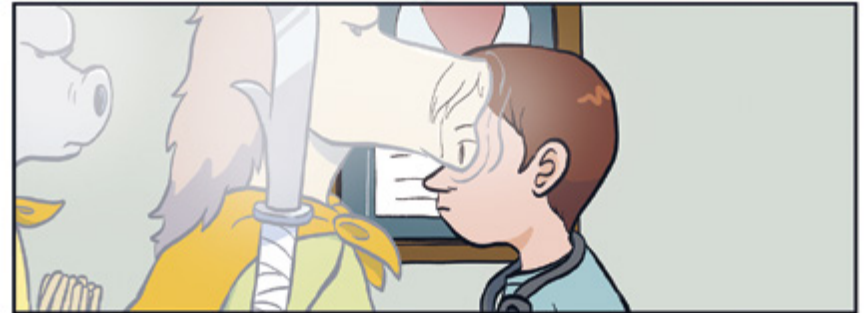
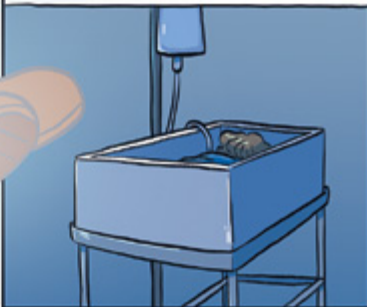
No one saw them.



Not the mum who was in that very hospital at that very moment, with a tiny girl in her belly.



Not the tiny boy in that very hospital at that very moment.



But Oxhead and Horseface weren't ghosts.



Many years ago, at the end of their lives, they didn't cross the Bridge at the End from which no ghost returns.



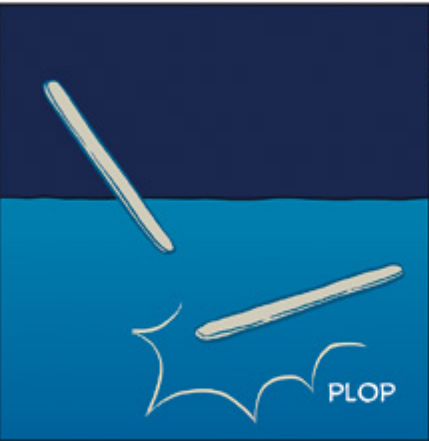
The King of the Underworld had granted them permission to stay behind.



They were transformed into something not quite human.



And today, the King had given them a task.



But that day, Oxhead and Horseface failed their task.



Later, as they marched back out of the hospital and into the night, only one ghost was tethered between them.



The ghost of the tiny girl's mother floated out the door and departed the world of the living with a broken heart.



But she wouldn't want you to be sad for her.



A broken heart is a heart that has loved and been loved.



Oops, the underworld is that way.



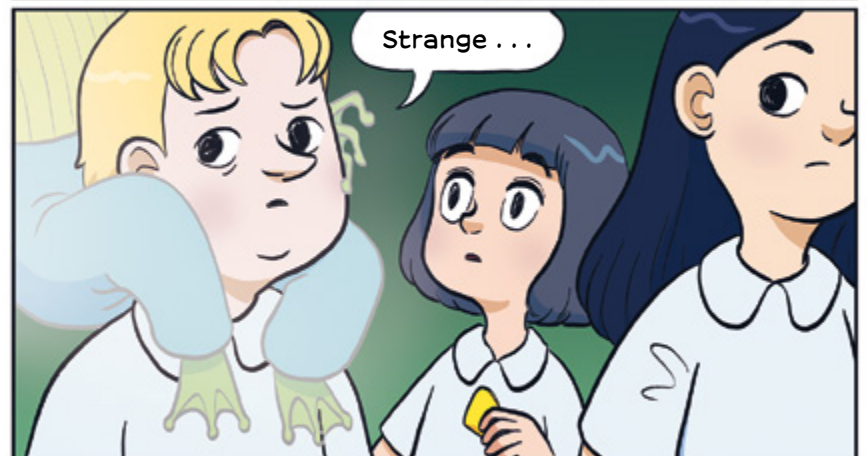
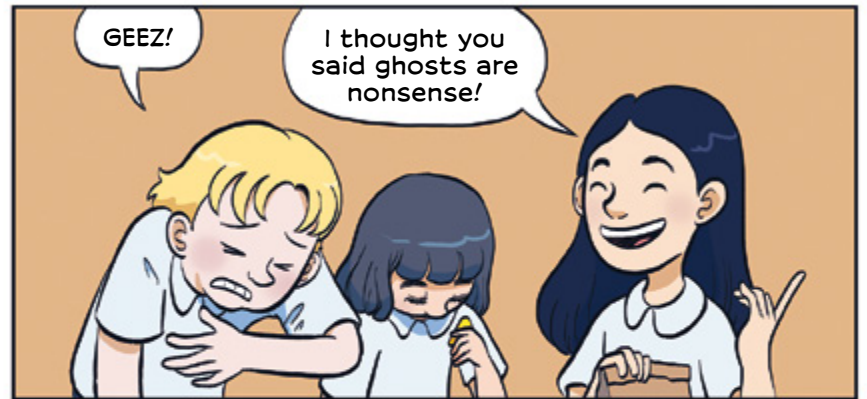
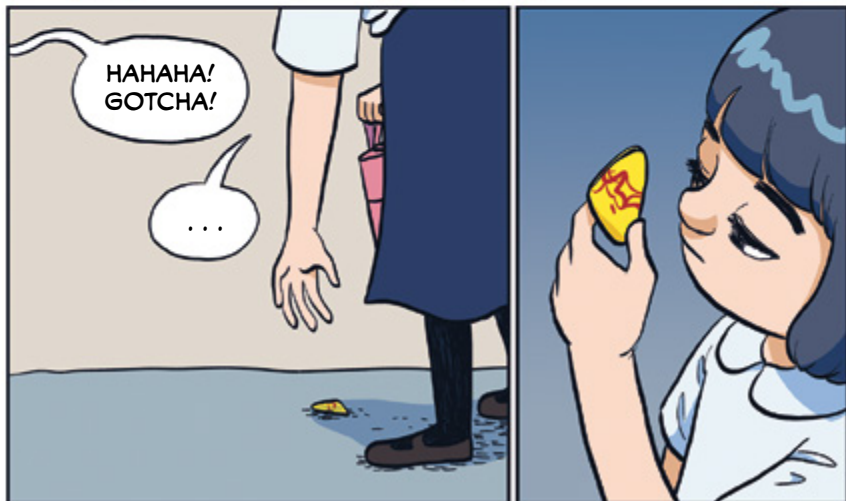
Twelve years ago, the girl lived.

The boy lived.

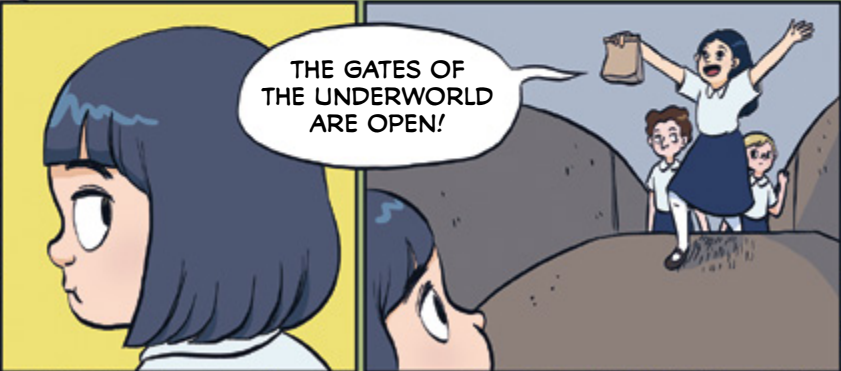


One should have died.

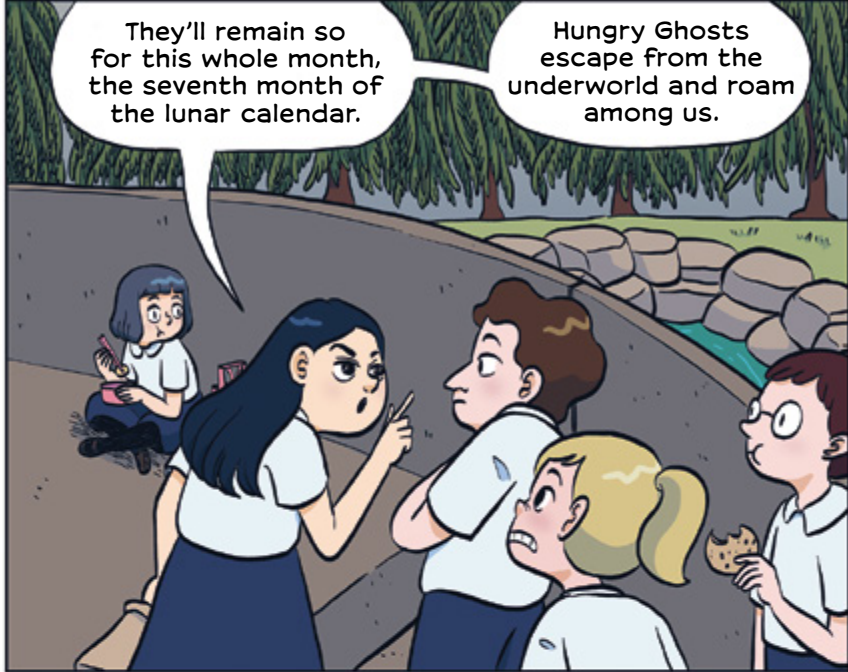








THE GATES OF THE UNDERWORLD ARE OPEN!



They'll remain so for this whole month, the seventh month of the lunar calendar.

Hungry Ghosts escape from the underworld and roam among us.



H-hungry Ghosts?



They are scarier-looking and eviler than regular ghosts.



My grandma says to make sure you don't get haunted by a Hungry Ghost ...

DO NOT wear red.



DO NOT hang around outside after dark.



DO NOT leave doors open.

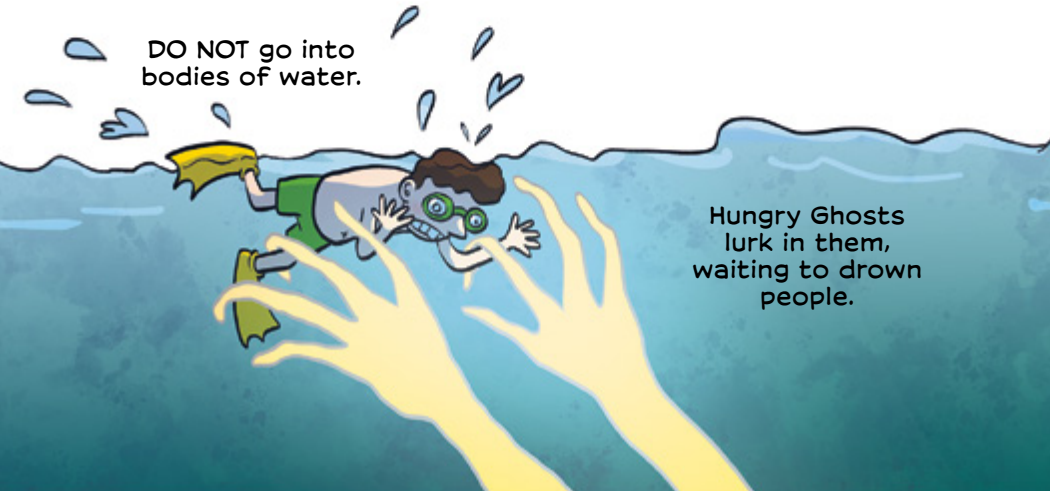


DO NOT make loud noises or ring bells.

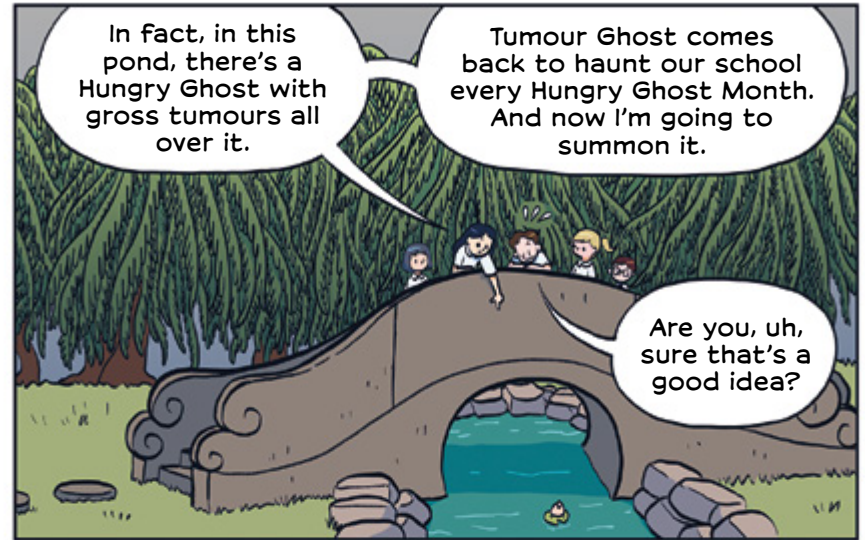


Ding-a-ling!

DO NOT go into bodies of water.



Hungry Ghosts lurk in them, waiting to drown people.



In fact, in this pond, there's a Hungry Ghost with gross tumours all over it.

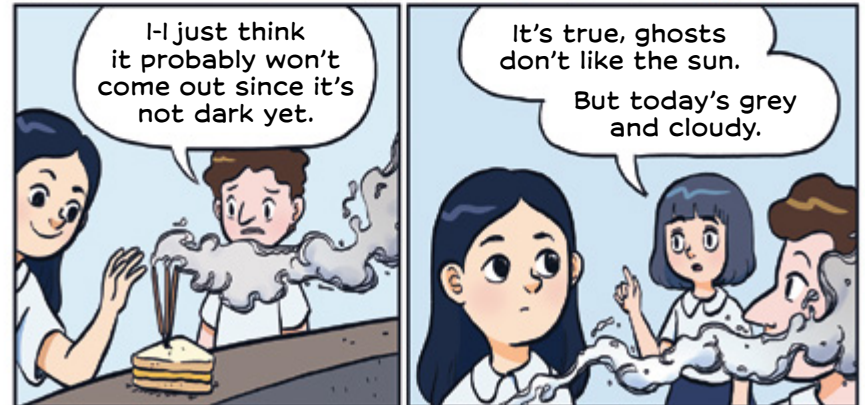
Tumour Ghost comes back to haunt our school every Hungry Ghost Month. And now I'm going to summon it.

Are you, uh, sure that's a good idea?



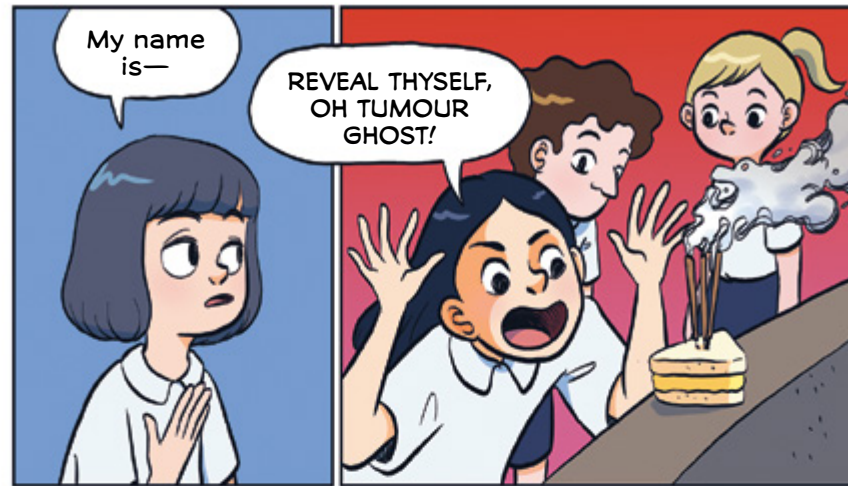
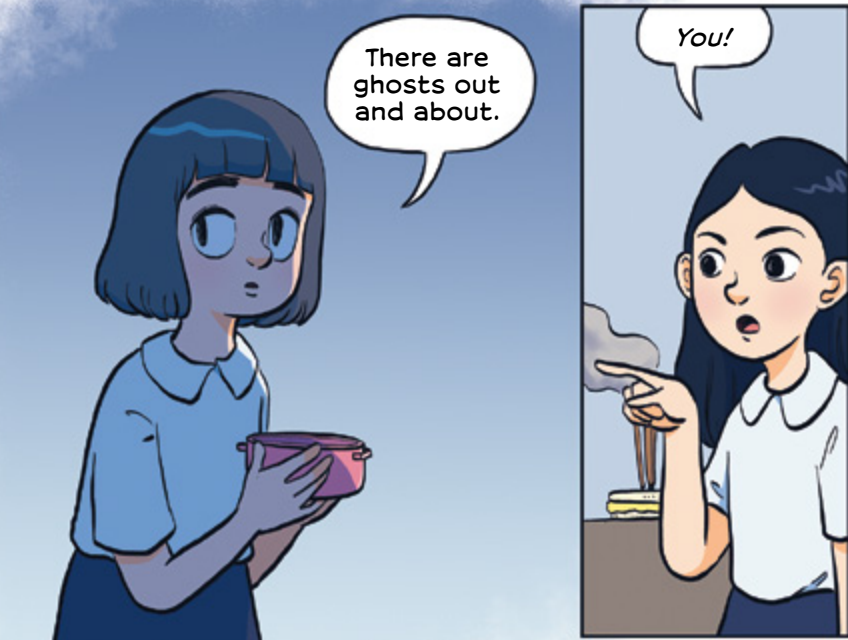
Are you afraid?

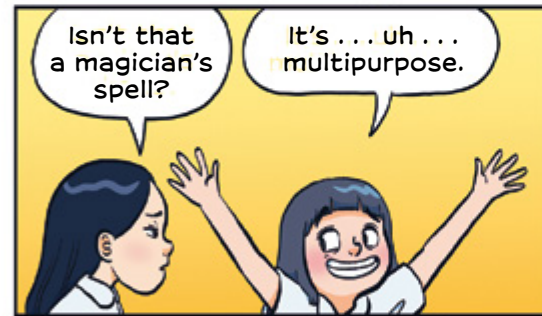
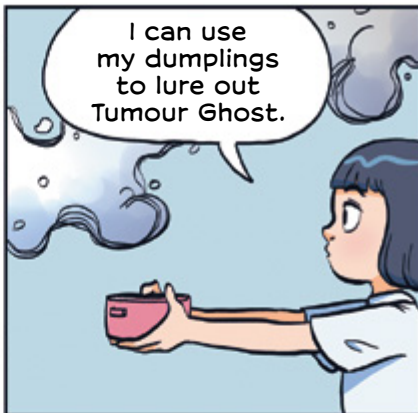
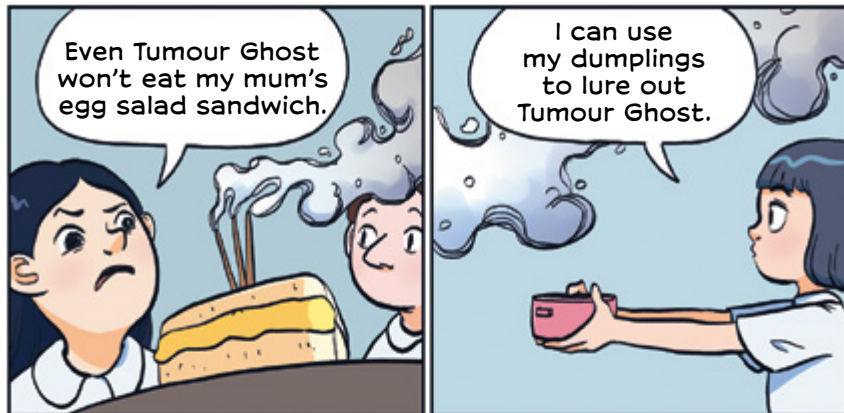
N-no way.



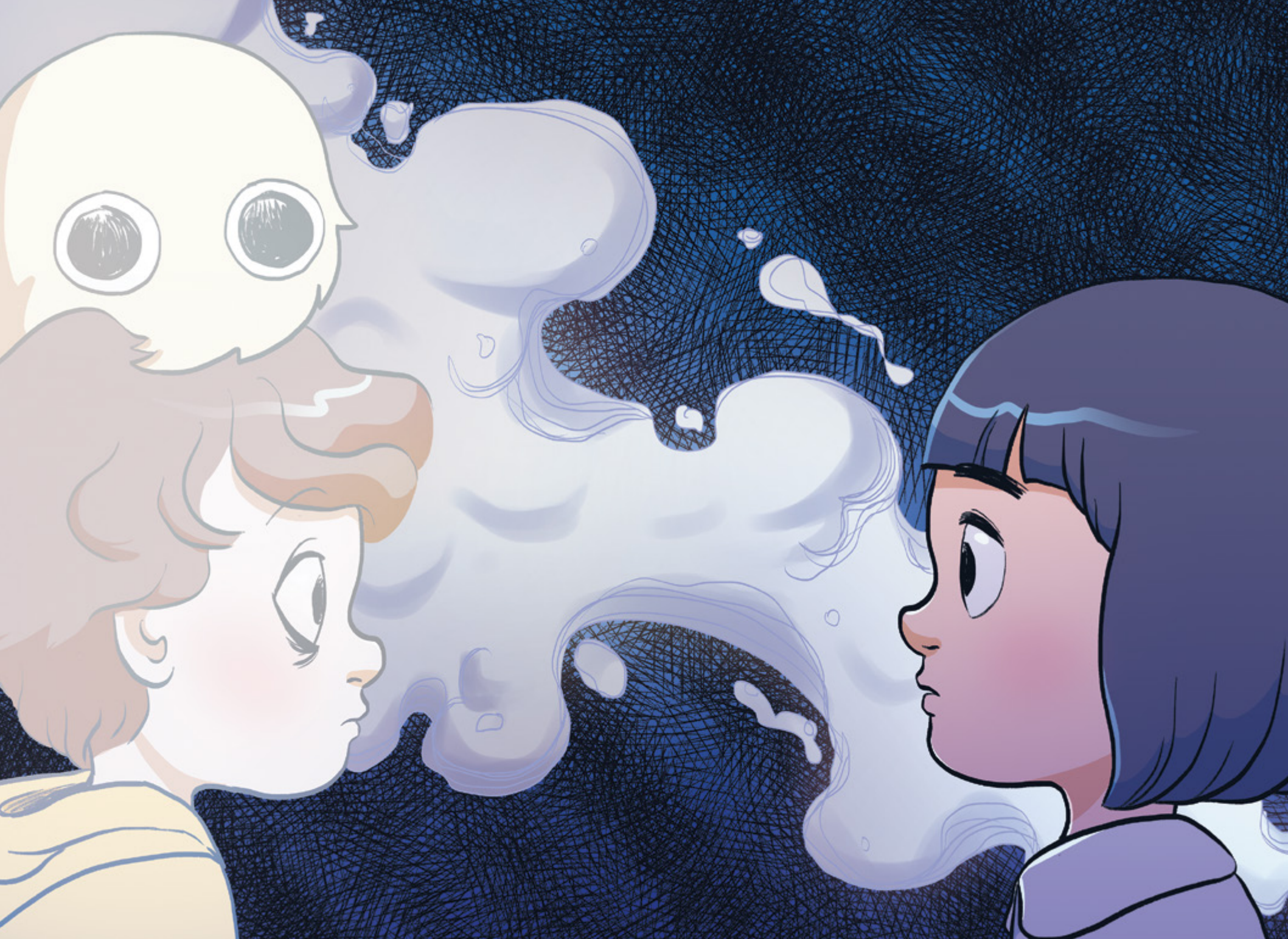
I-I just think it probably won't come out since it's not dark yet.

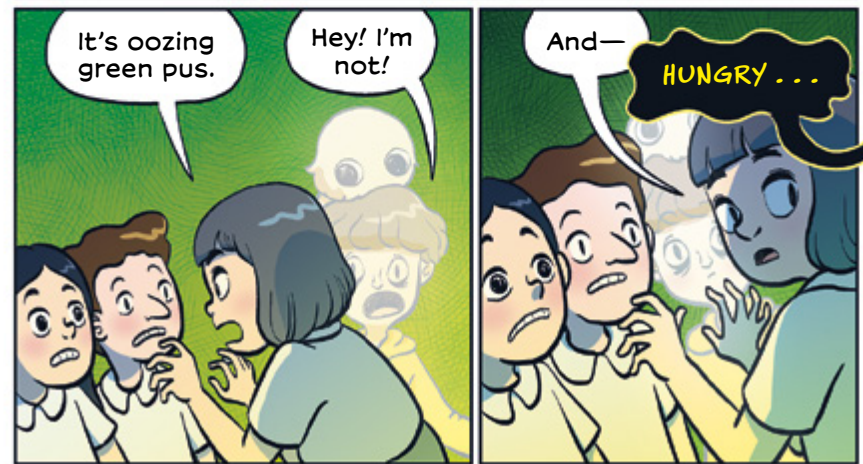
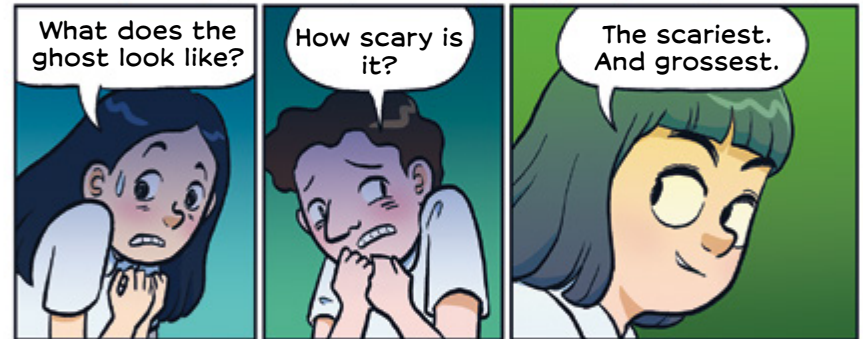
It's true, ghosts don't like the sun. But today's grey and cloudy.



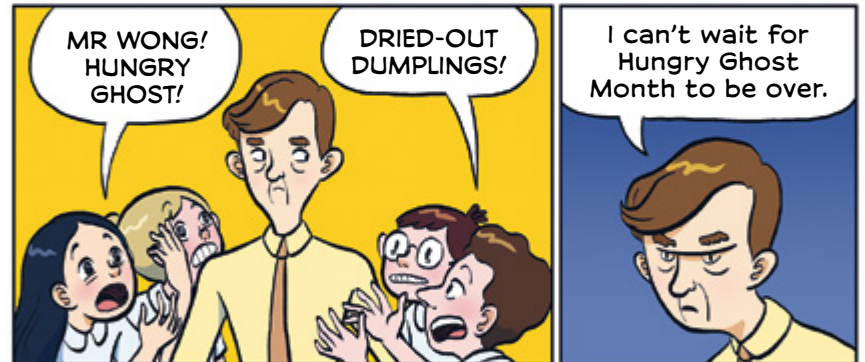
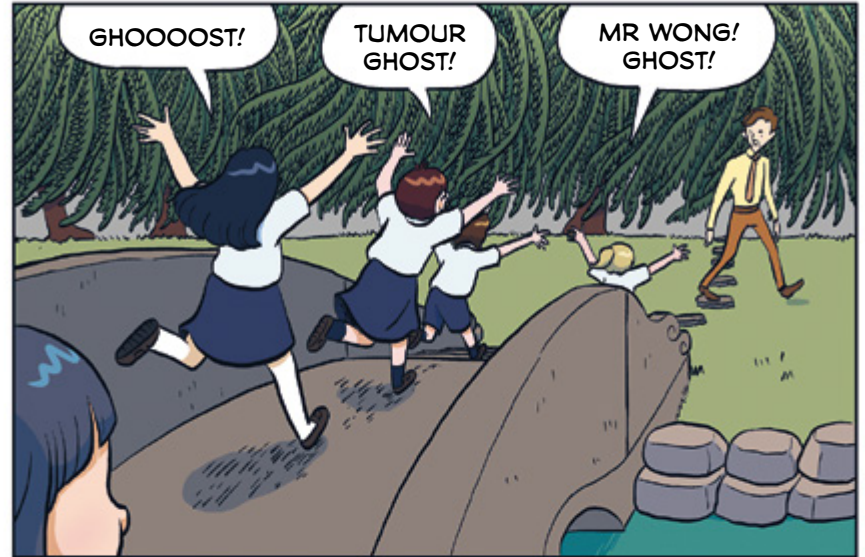
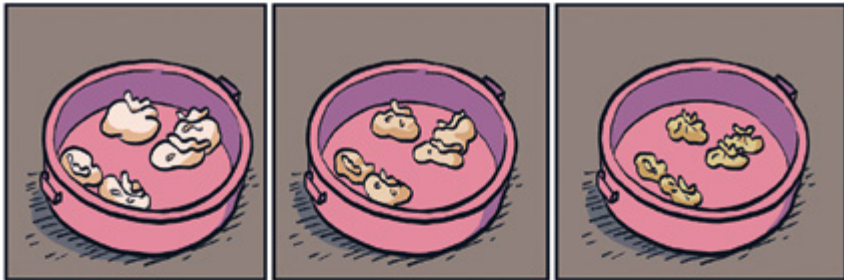
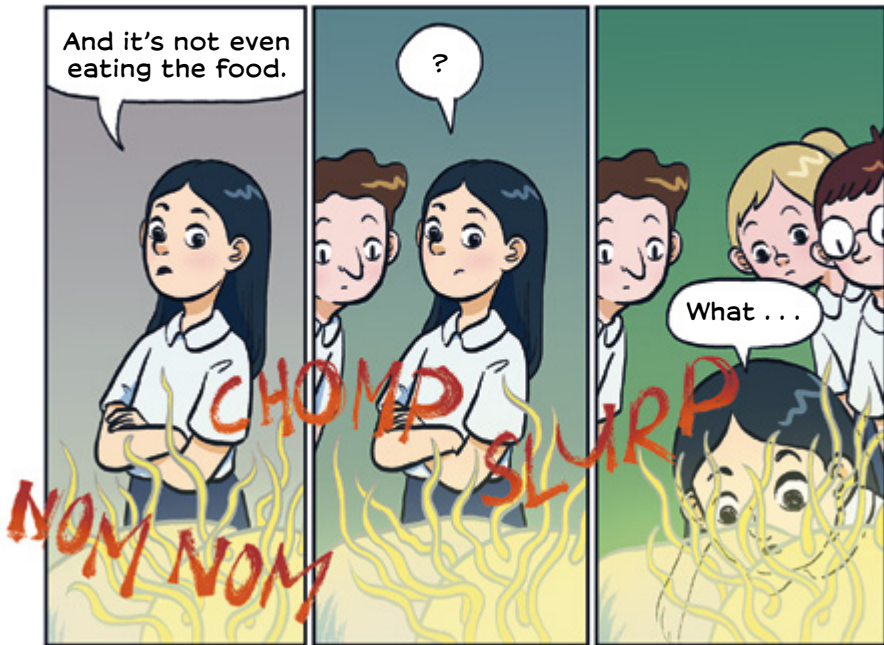














TWELVE YEARS AGO,
THE BOY AND THE GIRL LIVED.
BUT ONE WAS SUPPOSED TO DIE.

'Deliciously spooky. I adored it!'
JESSICA TOWNSEND,
bestselling author of *Nevermoor*

GHOST BOOK

OUT
1 AUGUST

REMY LAI

'Spooky, spellbinding and full of heart!'

KAYLA MILLER

A&U