

ISSUE

01

TALES OF ECOLOGICAL TERROR

# PLASTIC NIGHTMARE



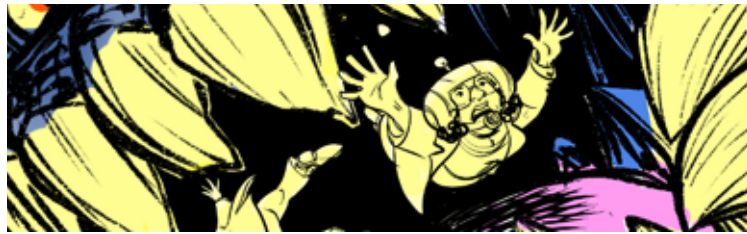
## CHAOS ON CAMPUS



# PLASTIC NIGHTMARE

WELCOME AND PREPARE YOURSELF FOR TERRIFYING TALES OF PLASTIC WOE. FOR EACH OF THE PLAYERS IN OUR STORIES, THE POLLUTANTS WHICH THEY SO EASILY IGNORE, COME TO IMPACT THEIR LIVES IN SOME VERY UNFORTUNATE WAYS. THESE WE OFFER TO YOU, DEAR READER, AS A WARNING THAT YOU MAY AVOID A SIMILAR FATE. READ NOW IF YOU DARE:

## **'TYRANNOSAURUSPLASTIGREX ON CAMPUS'** GAZE UPON MONSTROSTY OF PLASTIC WASTE.



## **'SKINDEEP IN PLASTIC'** WITNESS THE HORRIBLE IMPACT OF INNOCENT VANITY.



## **'SUSTAINABILITY IS A BUZZKILL'** TREMBLE AT THE DESTRUCTIVE NATURE OF THE EGO.



IN QUEENS UNIVERSITY BIOLOGY DEPARTMENT, SCIENTISTS LOOK ON IN HORROR AS A MONSTROUS CREATURE RUNS AMOK ON CAMPUS...



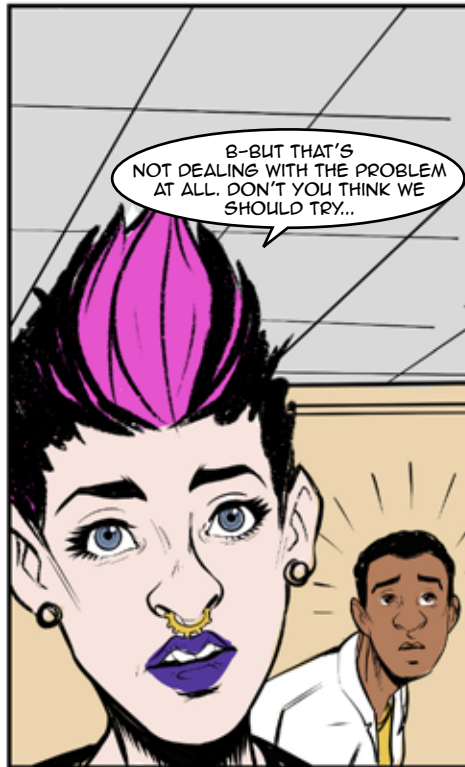
PROFESSORS, THE CREATURE SEEMS TO MADE OF PLASTIC WASTE.

GET A HOLD OF YOURSELF! WE HAVE ANALYSED THE SITUATION AND ARE DEVELOPING A SCIENTIFIC SOLUTION.

COMMUNICATION IS THE KEY, WE WILL FIND OUT WHAT MAKES IT TICK.



ONCE WE CAN SPEAK ITS LANGUAGE WE CAN FIND A WAY TO COEXIST PEACEFULLY.



B-BUT THAT'S NOT DEALING WITH THE PROBLEM AT ALL. DON'T YOU THINK WE SHOULD TRY...



NONSENSE. YOUR PASSION IS CHARMING BUT LEAVE IT TO THOSE OF US WITH EXPERIENCE.



THE MONSTER HAS GROWN SO LARGE THAT NOTHING CAN CONTAIN IT AS IT CRASHES THROUGH MORE AND MORE BUILDINGS.



ALL THE WASTE PLASTICS ARE BEING ADDED TO THE CREATURE'S MASS. IT'S GOING TO BE IMPOSSIBLE TO MANAGE OR CONTAIN IT.

ASSEMBLE EVERY MEMBER OF THE DEPARTMENT YOU CAN FIND.





I THINK WE NEED A RADICAL PLAN, THE KEY SEEMS TO BE MANAGEMENT OF OUR WASTE AT SOURCE.



THE TEAM LOCK THEMSELVES IN A WORKSHOP ON CAMPUS TO TACKLE THE TASK.



BUT OUTSIDE THE CREATURE HAS BEGUN TO ATTACK PEOPLE BEYOND THE UNIVERSITY GROUNDS.

SOMEBODY HELP ME!

OH I CAN SEE MY HOUSE FROM HERE.

GAAA!

AHHH!



THE STUDENT BODY HAVE ALSO MOBILISED THEMSELVES TO FORMULATE A STRATEGY.

LISTEN! WE HAVE TO FIND A WAY TO DEAL WITH THIS IN A WAY THAT'S FAIR TO EVERYONE.



CAN WE ORGANISE A SAFE SPACE FOR THE CREATURE? MAYBE WE CAN HELP IT NOT FEEL THREATENED.

WE SHOULD BEGIN WITH A WRITTEN STATEMENT OF OUR FEELINGS.



I'M TRIGGERED BY THE WORD 'CREATURE', IT IMPLIES IT'S A LIVING ORGANISM.

I SUGGEST USING 'MONSTER'.

HEY!

I FIND THAT OFFENSIVE.

I IDENTIFY AS MONSTER AND THAT IS A MICRO-AGGRESSION.



WITH SO MANY OPINIONS, JUST LIKE THE PUBLIC AT LARGE, CONSENSUS IS IMPOSSIBLE...



GO TO HELL!  
YOU BUNCH OF MONSTER  
HATING FASCISTS!

SMELLY LOAD  
OF WEIRDOS!

AND JUST LIKE THE PLASTICS  
PROBLEM GENERALLY, EVENTUALLY  
THE CONSEQUENCES HIT US ALL.



PROFESSOR!  
THERE YOU ARE.  
WE'VE THOUGHT OF  
A SOLUTION...



THAT'S  
ADORABLE BUT TOO  
LATE. WE HAVE A  
PLAN ALREADY.



WE'VE CREATED  
A COMMUNICATION DEVICE  
TO SPEAK TO IT.

BUT  
WON'T YOU EVEN  
LISTEN?

SORRY.  
NO TIME.

ON TOP OF THE ASHBY BUILDING.



QUICK,  
WE SEEM TO HAVE  
IT'S ATTENTION.



ATTENTION  
CREATURE!

WE MEAN YOU  
NO HARM. YOUR  
BEHAVIOUR IS  
UNACCEPTABLE.

CAN YOU GO  
TO A LAND FILL AND  
BURY YOURSELF?



I...I  
THINK IT'S  
WORKING.







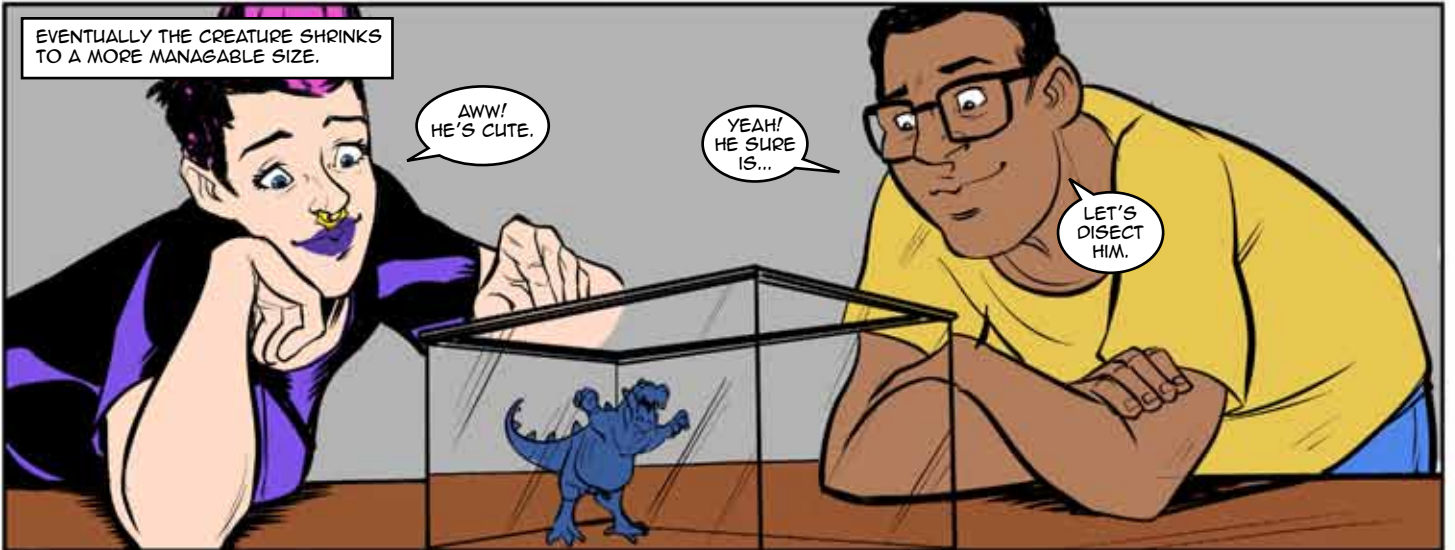
AND SLOWLY, BY CO-OPERATING WITH EACH OTHER, THE STAFF AND STUDENTS SEPARATE AND RECYCLE EVERY PLASTIC ITEM THEY CAN FIND.



LOOK! IT'S WORKING, THE CREATURE IS COMING APART.

IT'S SHRINKING! IT'S SHRINKING!

EVENTUALLY THE CREATURE SHRINKS TO A MORE MANAGABLE SIZE.



AWW! HE'S CUTE.

YEAH! HE SURE IS...

LET'S DISECT HIM.

THE YOUNG SCIENTISTS ARE RECOGNISED FOR THEIR EFFORTS AND RECEIVE AN AWARD.



**Logic Prize**  
for pointing out the  
*Bloody Obvious*  
\_\_\_\_\_

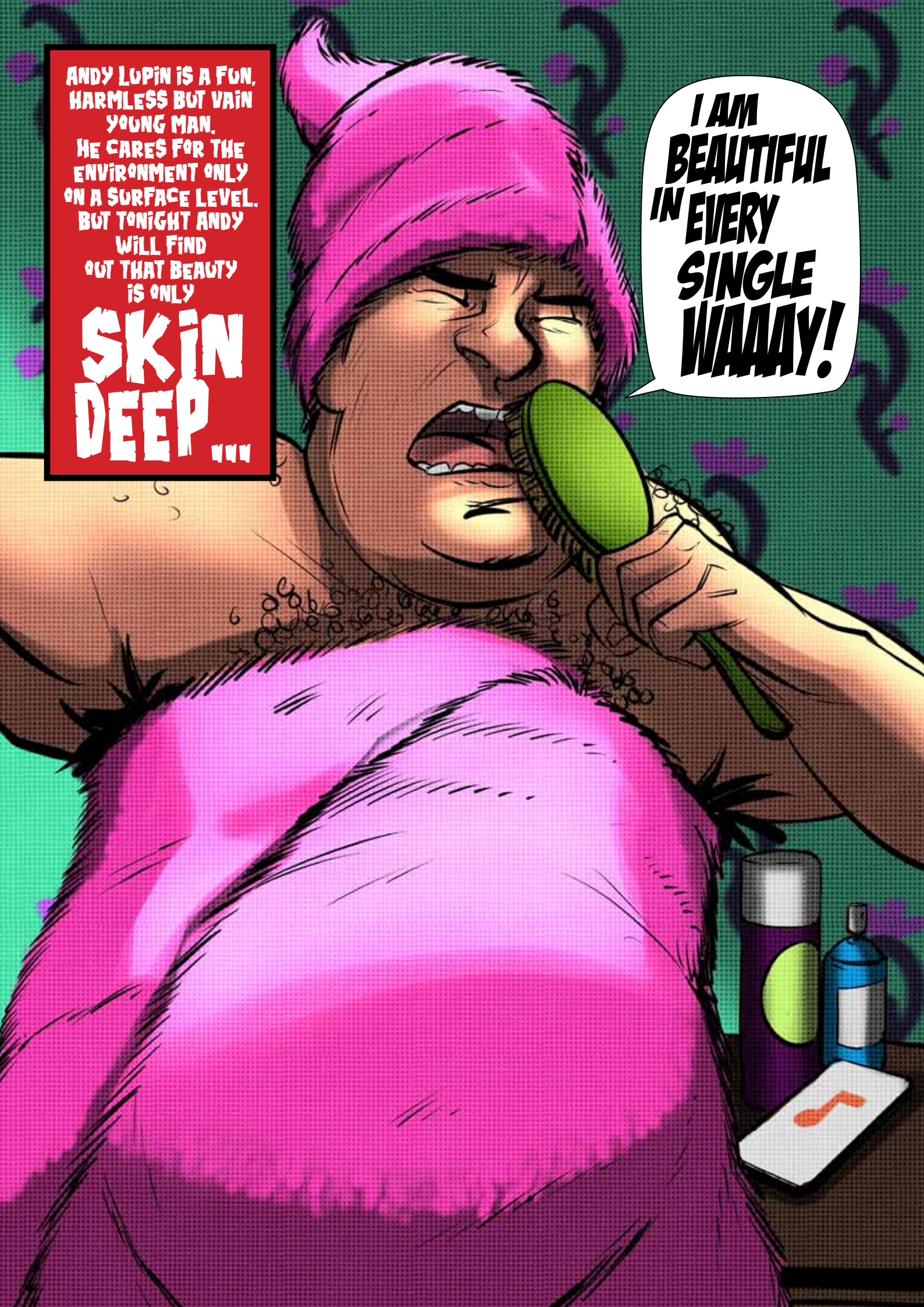
**THE END**



ANDY LUPIN IS A FUN,  
HARMLESS BUT VAIN  
YOUNG MAN.  
HE CARES FOR THE  
ENVIRONMENT ONLY  
ON A SURFACE LEVEL.  
BUT TONIGHT ANDY  
WILL FIND  
OUT THAT BEAUTY  
IS ONLY

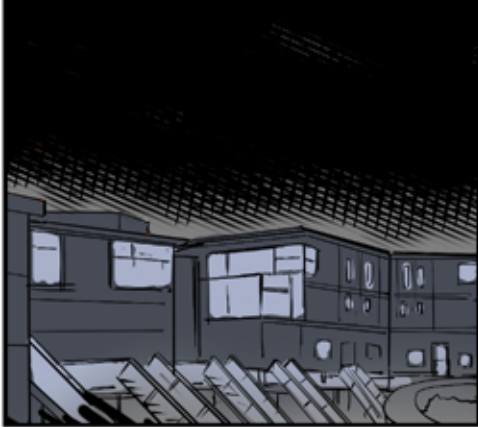
# SKIN DEEP

I AM  
BEAUTIFUL  
IN EVERY  
SINGLE  
WAAAY!





QUEENS HALLS OF RESIDENCE. FOR SOME OF THE STUDENTS, BORING TUESDAY EVENINGS HAVE BECOME PAMPER AND MOVIE SESSIONS...



A CHANCE TO RELAX AND ENJOY EACH OTHERS COMPANY.

IT IS ANDY'S FAVOURITE NIGHT OF THE WEEK.

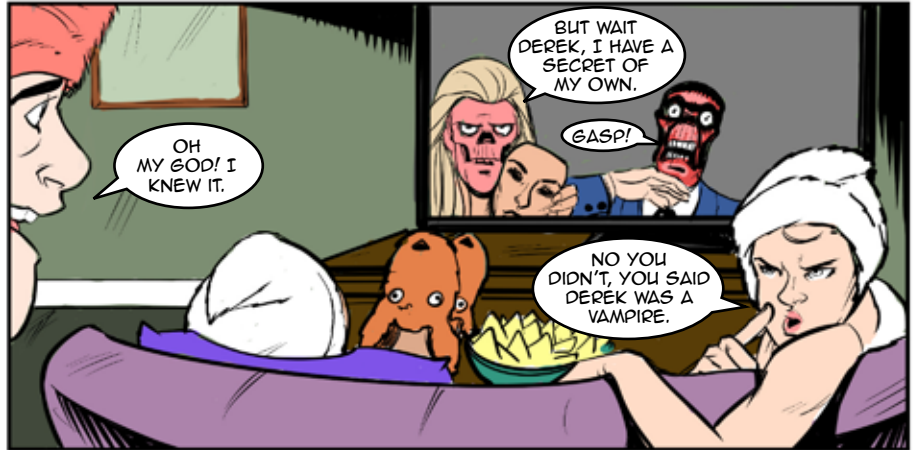


WAIT FOR ME LADIES.



LOOK DEBORAH! LOOK UPON MY REAL FACE... THE FACE OF **DEATH!**

NOOOO!



BUT WAIT DEREK, I HAVE A SECRET OF MY OWN.

GASP!

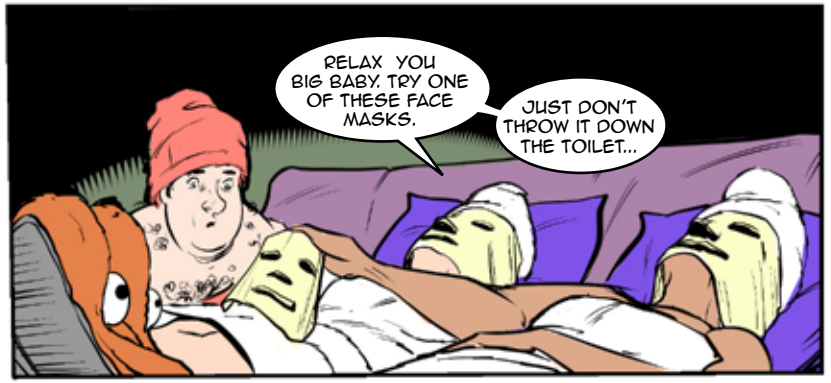
OH MY GOD! I KNEW IT.

NO YOU DIDN'T, YOU SAID DEREK WAS A VAMPIRE.



DID I? WHO CARES. DAMN, I'M OUTTA FACE CREAM...

WHAT'LL I DO? I'VE GOT AN OILY T-ZONE!



RELAX YOU BIG BABY. TRY ONE OF THESE FACE MASKS.

JUST DON'T THROW IT DOWN THE TOILET...



THEY'RE FULL OF PLASTIC AND REALLY BAD FOR THE ENVIRONMENT.



WE'RE SAVING THEM UP UNTIL WE FIND OUT THE BEST WAY TO GET RID OF THEM, THEN WE'LL DUMP THEM ALL AT ONCE.

DID YOU HEAR ME?



SORRY, WERE YOU TALKING TO ME?





**A SHORT TIME LATER:**

WOW! THAT WAS AMAZING, MY SKIN FEELS INCREDIBLE.

NOW, WHAT DID SHE SAY ABOUT GETTING RID OF THEM?

OH YEAH, SHE SAID TO SHOVE THEM DOWN THE TOILET...

CHEEKY COW! SHE'S LEFT A PILE OF THEM BESIDE THE TOILET, MIGHT AS WELL GET RID OF THEM TOO.

FUNNY, I THOUGHT THEY WERE BAD FOR THE ENVIRONMENT OR WHATEVER.



**IN THE MOVIE:**

NOW WE HAVE DISPENSED WITH THE SUPERFICIAL LAYER OF VANITY, WE MUST FREE THE WORLD OF THEIR UNGODLY SELF-OBSESSION...



LET'S START WITH THE CHILDREN.

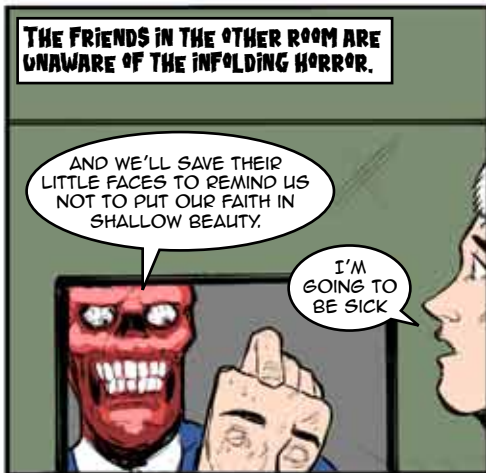
WAIT, WHAT DID HE SAY?

**WOAH!**



I SPUN AROUND TOO QUICK

**AHHH!**



**THE FRIENDS IN THE OTHER ROOM ARE UNAWARE OF THE INFOLDING HORROR.**

AND WE'LL SAVE THEIR LITTLE FACES TO REMIND US NOT TO PUT OUR FAITH IN SHALLOW BEAUTY.

I'M GOING TO BE SICK



**EWWW!**

FACE MASKS STICKING TO ME...

**GROSS.**

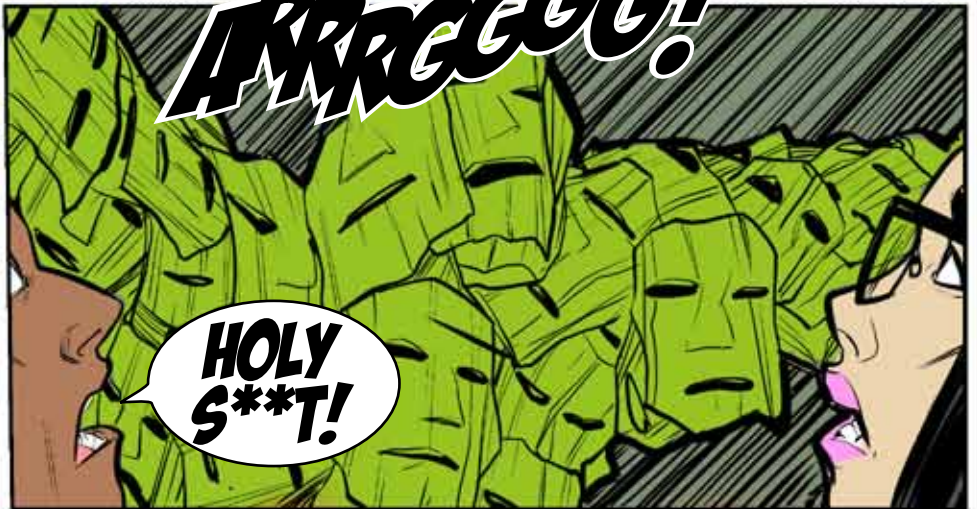


HARD... TO...SPEAK!



**GRRRRR!**







A FEW DAYS LATER AT THE CITY HOSPITAL BURNS UNIT.

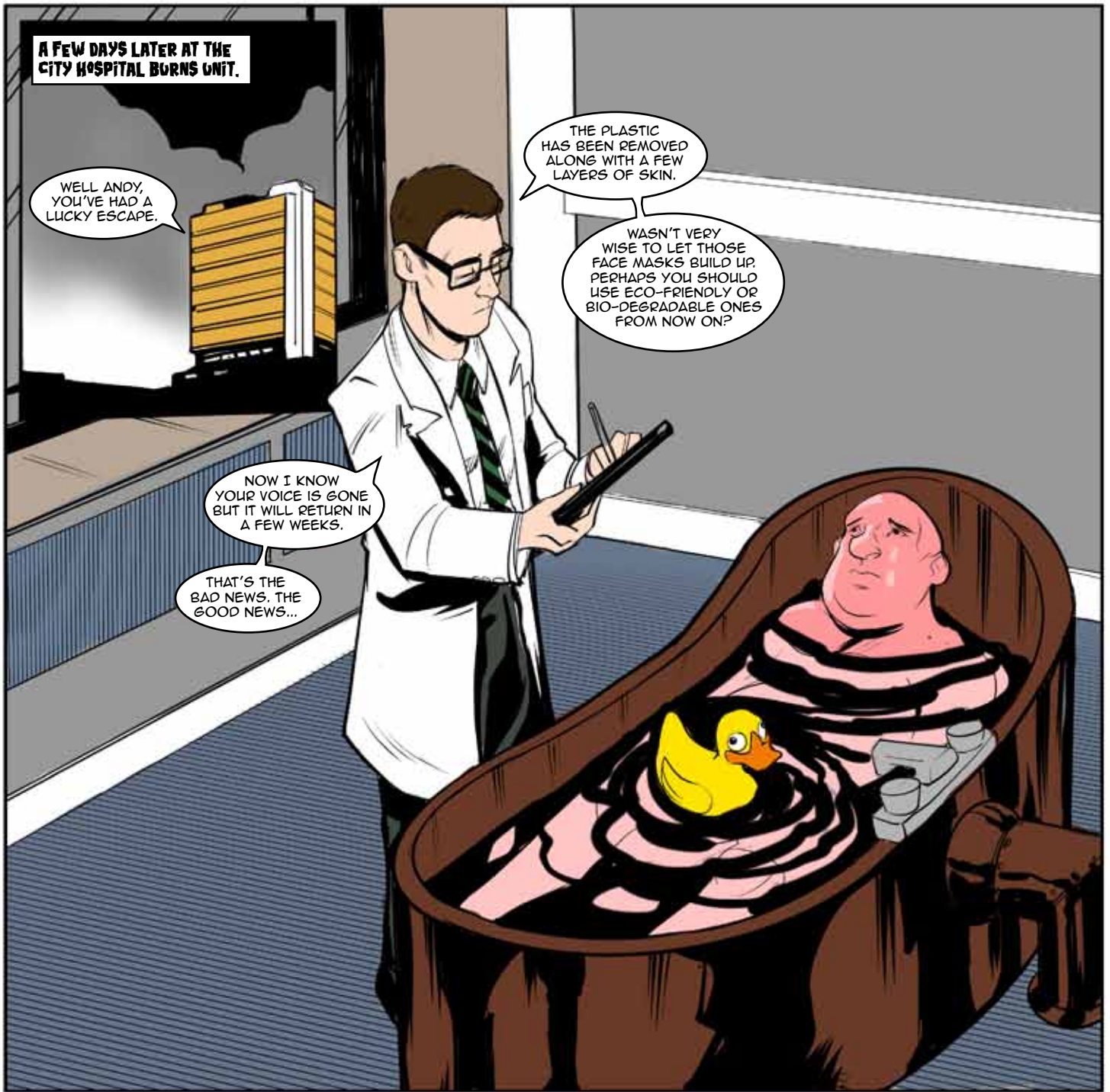
WELL ANDY, YOU'VE HAD A LUCKY ESCAPE.

THE PLASTIC HAS BEEN REMOVED ALONG WITH A FEW LAYERS OF SKIN.

WASN'T VERY WISE TO LET THOSE FACE MASKS BUILD UP. PERHAPS YOU SHOULD USE ECO-FRIENDLY OR BIO-DEGRADABLE ONES FROM NOW ON?

NOW I KNOW YOUR VOICE IS GONE BUT IT WILL RETURN IN A FEW WEEKS.

THAT'S THE BAD NEWS. THE GOOD NEWS...



YOU WON'T HAVE TO WAX YOUR BODY HAIR FOR ABOUT FOUR YEARS.







# Having a Gut full?

## The plastic problem hidden in plain sight...

The human impact on the environment is becoming harder to ignore than ever before; melting ice caps, deforestation, the list goes on. But what about the effects on our bodies?

You may make thoughtful choices; avoiding certain foods to be more healthy, trying not to think about the pesticides and chemicals associated with food production.

Now for the first time, evidence has been found for the presence of micro plastics in the in the human food chain and gut, the long term consequences are unknown.

Published by Sciencedirect.com the research makes it clear that far from being an external threat, plastic waste has entered the food chain in a way we hadn't known about before.

Follow the link to find out more:

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.coesh.2017.10.003>



A SUNNY AFTERNOON AT THE NEW PROJECT ON THE ROOF OF THE MATHEMATICS BUILDING.

THANK YOU ALL FOR COMING TO THIS NEW GARDEN SPACE AT QUEENS UNIVERSITY...

**SUSTAINABILITY IS A BUZZKILL.**

WE HOPE THIS WILL BE A NICE PLACE FOR VISITORS, STAFF AND A HOME FOR THE LOCAL POLLINATORS.

BUT THE TRULY GREAT THING ABOUT THIS PROJECT IS THAT ITS BEEN ENTIRELY FUNDED FROM THE PROCEEDS OF THE HONEY WE'VE BEEN ABLE TO COLLECT AND SELL LOCALLY.

THIS IS TERRIFIC SUSAN, WELL DONE.

THANKS ALAN, HELP YOURSELF TO A FREE SAMPLE BEFORE YOU GO.

CHEMISTRY STUDENT GORDY STRETCH IS THINKING OF OTHER THINGS.

BLOODY WASTE, THIS WAS THE BEST SMOKING SPOT IN THE UNIVERSITY.

I'D KILL EVERY BEE IN THE WORLD FOR A CIGARETTE.

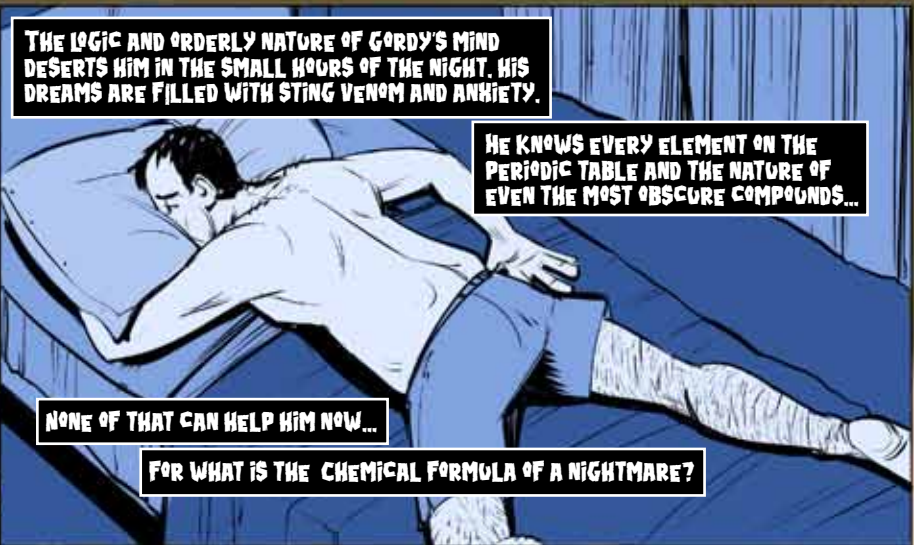
**AAAAH!**  
**ZAP**





WOW! THAT STING IS KILLING ME.. AM I HAVING AN ALLERGIC REACTION?

ARE YOU OK?



THE LOGIC AND ORDERLY NATURE OF GORDY'S MIND DESERTS HIM IN THE SMALL HOURS OF THE NIGHT. HIS DREAMS ARE FILLED WITH STING VENOM AND ANXIETY.

HE KNOWS EVERY ELEMENT ON THE PERIODIC TABLE AND THE NATURE OF EVEN THE MOST OBSCURE COMPOUNDS...

NONE OF THAT CAN HELP HIM NOW...

FOR WHAT IS THE CHEMICAL FORMULA OF A NIGHTMARE?



HEY GORDY BZZZZ!

YOU FEELING ALRIGHT?

YOU DON'T LOOK TOO GOOD.. LETS SEE.

BZZ BZZZ!

AHH, NOW I SEE GORDY BZZZZ LOOKS LIKE ITS SOMETHING YOU ATE.

BZZ BZZZ!

GET AWAY FROM ME!

GACK!



AHHH!



AT WORK THE NEXT DAY GORDY TELLS HIS FRIEND WHAT HAPPENED.

AND THE THING IS I'VE BEEN WORKING ON A FORMULA THAT WOULD KILL EVERY BUZZING INSECT WITHIN A HALF MILE RADIUS.

BIT OF AN OVER REACTION. DON'T YOU KNOW THEY CAN HELP YOU BUILD UP POLLEN IMMUNITY?





WHY WOULD I NEED IMMUNITY IF THERE ISN'T ANYTHING AROUND TO DO ANY POLLINATING.

SERIOUSLY, WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

I'M TALKING ABOUT TEACHING MOTHER NATURE TO KNOW HER PLACE, ALISON.

YOU'RE AN IDIOT GORDY.

**GORDIE SETS TO WORK USING HIS SKILLS TO PERFECT HIS FORMULA.**

IDIOT! I'LL SHOW HER...

I'LL COVER THE FLOWERS IN LIQUID PLASTIC, THE BEES WON'T BE ABLE TO DIGEST THE NECTAR AND TOO BAD FOR THEM.



SORRY FLOWERS BUT I NEED TO GET MY SMOKE ON...

YOU'RE PRETTY AND ALL BUT YOU'RE NOT AS BEAUTIFIL AS A FILTER-TIPPED, CANCER STICK.

GORDY STRETCH- ONE MOTHER NATURE- NIL

**AT THE GARDEN MANAGERS OFFICE.**

I CAN'T UNDERSTAND, THE HONEY YEILDS ARE DOWN DUE TO A LACK OF BEES?

HOW CAN THAT BE, WE PLANTED THE MOST ATTRACTIVE FLOWERS THERE ARE.



**A FEW WEEKS LATER**

AHHH! NOT A BEE IN SIGHT, OR BUTTERFLIES, IN FACT NO FLIES OF ANY KIND. HEH! TOO BAD BUT AT LEAST I CAN HAVE A SMOKE IN PEACE.



AHH! I CAN EVEN ENJOY THE FLOWERS TOO.

**SNNNIIEFF!**



BAKK! WHAT'S GOING ON? HEAD SWELLING...NO... POLLEN...IMMUNITY!

LUNGS... FILLED WITH... PLASTIC.





**SNEEZING AND ALMOST BLIND, GORDY MAKES HIS WAY HOME USING HIS BARE INSTINCT.**

IT'S OK...  
MADE IT TO THE  
PARK...



**HE'S MADE THIS JOURNEY THROUGH THE PARK EVERY DAY FOR YEARS BUT HE IS DISORIENTATED.**

FEEL...AWFUL.  
POLLEN...IMMUNITY...  
PLASTIC...LUNGS.



SO...  
UNFAIR

WHAT'D  
I DO...TO  
DESERVE...  
THIS?



**STUMBLING, TRIPPING OVER HIS OWN FEET HE FALLS INTO THICK BUSHES...**

OH GOD...  
NO.



**CRAWLING THROUGH THE UNDERGROWTH, HE CAN'T KNOW HE'S GOING FURTHER INTO DARKNESS AND SECULSION.**


CAN'T EVEN  
CALL...FOR  
HELP...



**UNTIL FINALLY, AMONG UNSEEN TRASH AND PLASTIC BOTTLES, HIS LUNGS STRUGGLING, WINDPIPE CLOSING, GORDY GASPS HIS LAST BREATH.**

BLOODY...  
BEES!





**AFTER AN EXHAUSTIVE SEARCH,  
GORDIE REMAINS ON THE MISSING  
LIST. UNAWARE, THE PASSING  
PUBLIC DON'T SUSPECT THE  
HORRIBLE BEAUTY HIDDEN  
IN THE SHRUBBERY.**

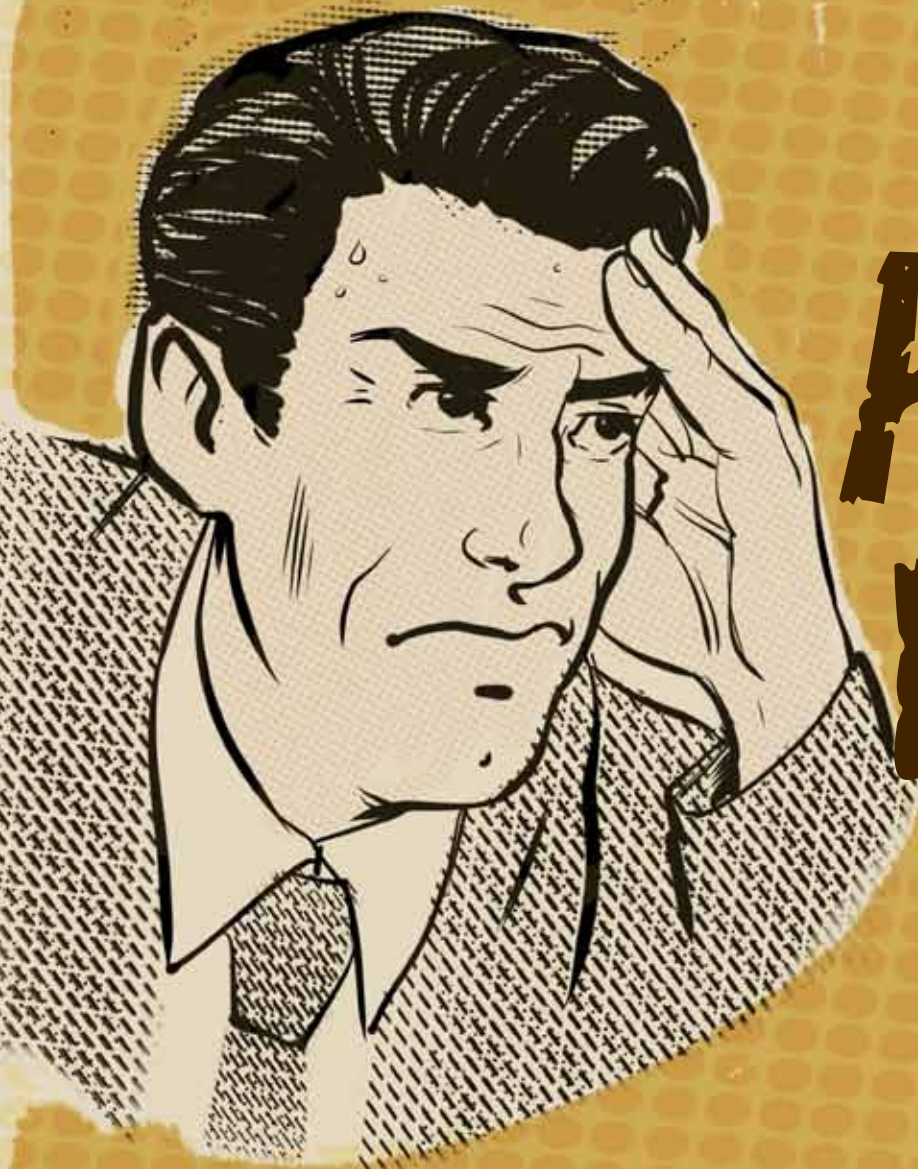
**NATURE AND THE BEES HAVE CLAIMED  
GORDY'S BODY. HIS WISH TO MASTER  
THE NATURAL WORLD HAS  
ENDED IN TRAGEDY.**

**THE BEES HAVE MADE  
HIS BODY THEIR HOME.  
NATURE HAS FEASTED  
ON HIS FLESH.**

**HARMONY WITH  
NATURE IS A STATE  
WE ALL COME TO  
SOONER OR LATER.**

**THE  
END**





Thoughts about  
**PLASTIC  
WASTE**  
Getting you down?

*Relax! Simply pretend the situation is none of your business, after all life's too short and there's plenty of things to worry about like losing weight or buying shoes.*

*And remember— you can always make the guilty feelings go away with good old denial and self-distraction*





# QUB GREEN COMIC PROJECT BACKGROUND:

With recognition of the need to think more imaginatively and collectively about ways to raise awareness and emotional engagement of Green matters in and around the University campus, a team of staff and students at Queen's University Belfast developed the QUB Green Comic project. Funded by the QUB Green Fund initiative in 2019/2020, the project involved hosting in-person and online workshops with QUB students and staff from diverse disciplines. The aim of the workshops was to co-design an 'educational' comic which strives to raise awareness of the harmful impact of plastic waste and the importance of waste reduction and recycling through an emotive, informative, and enticing visual narrative. Workshops were facilitated by the project lead (Dr Emma Berry, School of Psychology) and a local comic artist (Jim Lavery; [revolvecomics.com](http://revolvecomics.com)).

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**BELFAST CITY COUNCIL STAFF**

## CHECK OUT THESE RESOURCES FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TIPS ABOUT WASTE REDUCTION AND RECYCLING:

**QUB:** <https://www.qub.ac.uk/directorates/StudentPlus/CarbonManagement/>

**QUB:** <https://www.qub.ac.uk/directorates/EstatesDirectorate/Services/SustainabilityatQueens/>

**WRAP:** <https://wrap.org.uk/taking-action/plastic-packaging#>

**CLEAR ON PLASTICS (WRAP):** <https://clearonplastics.com/>

**BELFAST CITY COUNCIL:** <https://www.belfastcity.gov.uk/recycling>

**BRYSON RECYCLING:** <https://www.brysonrecycling.org/>

**NI DIRECT:** <https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/articles/recycling-and-reusing>

## EVALUATION SURVEY LINK:

[shorturl.at/eyORS](http://shorturl.at/eyORS)

