NEW ASSETS & CHARACTERS

Locations

The Field of Battle (Hero Era)

An open, rolling field that - at first glance - looks like any grassy expanse. However, all the flora is weapon-themed. Flower stalks are swords, leaves coming from the pommels. Sunflowers are drooping mace-and-chains. Tall grasses have arrow points, etc.

Ships of the Alfauna Fleet (Pirate Era)

Imperial battleships in service to the nation of Alfauna. Since they are a regulated navy, they are uniform in design. Perhaps a singular visual element - logo, crest, something simple? **Aside:** "Alfauna" is our catchall nation across the lives, just so everyone lives *somewhere*.

We're not going to be investigating it too deeply (I don't think) but a standard for the kingdom would be good. Not guite sure how to symbolize "all the animals ever" though.

McGee Treehouse (Old Klaws Era)

We'll be seeing a lot more of the tree house this time around, so it might behoove us to actually make a rough floor plan so we know where everything goes.

- Ground Level front and back door to the lawn.
 - A brief entry hall leads to the spiral staircase running up the interior of the trunk.
 - o Immediately behind it is the laundry room and back door.
- **2nd Floor** mid-trunk of the tree. It's gotta be a *wide* tree.
 - o **Living room**, as seen in Klaws #1. Windows in the trunk look to the outside
 - Kitchen is adjacent with a stove (stove pipe to the outside is a hollowed tree branch). Pantry, sink. Table for dinner.
 - Office a small space with a writing desk. A bookshelf loaded with rolled parchments and books threatens to overflow. A window lets in natural light.
- 3rd Floor top of the tree, just before it splays out into branches.
 - Yarni's room Small single bed with a cat-head-shape carved into the headboard. Blocks, books and toys litter the floor. Models of ships and dragons hang from the ceiling.
 - Klaw's room Small single bed. Lots of nicknacks lining the chest of drawers and closet. Framed pictures and accolades on the wall.
 - Mitten's room largest room with a double bed. Two cat-head-shapes carved into the headboard with a heart between them. Clean, neat and orderly. A lot of space for a single person. Foreshadowing that we won't actually touch on in this issue, but hey.
 - A hallway connects the three rooms with ample distance between each. Yarni
 and Klaw's rooms are at either end, Mitten's at center. The wall opposite Mitten's
 room hosts numerous photos of the family.

Characters

Clover

Clover exists across all lives, but is more radically different than Klaws. We already have our "base" Clover design in the little girl. She should be the foundation for all other designs. The other Clovers are basically grown versions of the little girl. Lore-wise,

Hero Era Clover

This Clover is a warrior - Brieanne of Tarth sort of lady. She wields a long, three-headed battle axe, the blades resembling a clover. She is fearsome, but in a noble way. She is not villainous, just clearly a match for Klaws.

Pirate Era Clover

Admiral Clover is a decorated naval officer who hunts Pirate Klaws to the ends of the earth. Think Cpt. Amelia (*Treasure Planet*).

Scholar Era Clover

She is an uptight librarian. She is Klaw's peer - not an angry old spinster. Where Scholar Klaws is casually dressed and ready for adventure, she is done up fastidiously in a business-like blouse and skirt? Slacks?

Grandma Clover (Old Klaws Era)

We see her briefly in a photograph with Young "Old Klaws." We'll recycle this design at the end of it all for the "True Klaws/Clover" reveal. Essentially she looks like our "base" Clover all grown up - a fellow adventurer, full of vim and vigor.

COVER

I want to keep a running motif of the solid color cover and a singular highlight bar on the right. Action from that bar extends out onto the base cover.

YARNI marches along with a toy sword and a paper hat, playing pretend and having a blast.

OLD KLAWS follows, using his cane as sword and a trash can lid as a shield. He's looking up *just* in time to realize he's in danger, but not to interrupt him from mid-adventuring cheering.

CLOVER stands atop a ladder within the highlight bar. CLOVER hefts a bowling ball with the intent of dropping it on KLAW'S head. CLOVER smiles with smug satisfaction that she got the drop of KLAWS.

Within the highlight bar we see the McGee Treehouse on a clear, sunny day.

PAGE ONE

PANEL 1 - The Field of Battle - Exterior - Sunset

Low angle shot at HERO KLAWS squints into the distance, smiling confidently. The wind dramatically ruffles his hair and clothes. RUSSEL fetches a sword and shield from his oversized pack, which is resting on the ground. RUSSEL looks in the same direction as KLAWS, nervous and distracted.

(A) TEXT BOX

On the Field of Battle

(1) KLAWS

There she is. Right on time.

(2) RUSSEL

The legendary Three-Leaf Cleaver...!

PANEL 2 - Narrow panel. We look past KLAW'S shoulder and to the distance. HERO ERA CLOVER approaches, battle-axe held at a dramatic low angle.

PANEL 3 - CLOVER marches towards us, grimly resolute. The sunset glints off the edges of her battle-axe in a fiery gleam.

PAGE TWO

PANEL 1 - KLAWS kneels to accept the sword and shield from RUSSEL. RUSSEL cowers in place, afraid. KLAWS gives him a reassuring smile. The JANGLE BELL is tied to a tassel on the pommel of the sword.

(1) RUSSEL

A-Are you sure about this sir?
We can retreat! Get the others and...!

(2) **KLAWS**

Russel m'boy, some things have to be faced head-on. Besides, it's rude to make a lady wait.

PANEL 2 - KLAWS and CLOVER begin to circle each other. KLAWS smirk, confident and ready. CLOVER glares, insulted.

(3) CLOVER

The Scourge of Owhot was my bounty, McGee.

(4) **KLAWS**

Apologies, esteemed Cottontail, but I didn't know you'd called "dibs."

PANEL 3 - CLOVER hefts her battle-axe, resolute.

(5) CLOVER

No more excuses!

You won't steal another conquest from me again!

My honor demands satisfaction!

PANEL 4 - KLAWS eagerly and ferociously raises his sword.

(6) KLAWS

Have at you!

PANEL 5 - KLAWS and CLOVER lock weapons in what promises to be an exciting fight! The JANGLE BELL sways violently on the hilt of the sword.

PANEL 6 - Pop-out panel highlighting the BELL.

SFX

Jingle-Jangle!J

PAGE THREE

(1 of 2)

PANEL 1 - McGree Treehouse - Living Room - Interior

OLD KLAWS startles awake in his chair. He raises his cane like the sword, mimicking the pose on the previous page. YARNI clings to his arm like the shield. YARNI laughs as he's taken for a ride.

(1) KLAWS (shaky balloon)

Homina...!

(2) YARNI

Yay! You're awake!

PANEL 2 - YARNI tugs on KLAW'S hand, pulling him along. KLAWS grins, bemused as he follows, a hand to his lower back.

(3) <u>YARNI</u>

Hurry! Hurry! I want you to meet my new best friend!

(4) **KLAWS**

"New," huh? How many is this now? Nine?

PANEL 3 - YARNI ushers in CLOVER like a proper little gentleman. CLOVER is all eyes and bashful - impossibly cute and saccharine.

(5) <u>YARNI</u>

C'mon! Don't be shy! Clover, this is my grandpaw!

PANEL 4 - KLAWS stoops to shake CLOVER'S hand with a polite smile. CLOVER smiles bashfully.

(6) KLAWS

It's a pleasure to make your acquaintance, miss - -

PANEL 5 - Focus on KLAWS'S face as he's struck by a sudden, terrifying realization. He tries desperately to remain calm for Yarni's sake.

(7) KLAWS (small font)

...I'm sorry, what was it again?

(Page Three continued - 2 of 2)

PANEL 6 - YARNI balls up his fists excitedly. CLOVER holds KLAWS'S hand and gives us a sinister, malicious, plotting smile.

(8) <u>YARNI</u>

It's "Clover Cottontail!"

Just like in all your stories!

Isn't that neat!?

PANEL 7 - KLAWS continues to smile, polite and calm.

(9) KLAWS

It sure is.
Would you excuse me just a moment?

PAGE FOUR

(1 of 2)

PANEL 1 - McGee House - Office - Interior

MITTENS takes the extreme foreground. She is startled up from her work. She wears half-rim glasses on a chain. KLAWS takes the focus as he slams the door of the office closed behind him, barring it with his body. Big comedic beat.

SFX

SLAM

PANEL 2 - MITTENS lowers her glasses and half-turns to KLAWS, looking tired already. KLAWS frantically gestures to the door.

(1) MITTENS

Is this important, dad?

I have **a lot** of administrative correspondence to get in the mail and...

(2) **KLAWS**

Yarni let a Cottontail into the house!!!

PANEL 3 - MITTENS turns fully in her seat to face KLAWS and crosses her arms, raising an eyebrow. KLAWS gestures to himself, frantic.

(3) MITTENS

And? It's been years since mom's passing.

(4) **KLAWS**

And they swore they'd never forgive me! "Till the stars fall from the sky and the earth crumbles to the sea" were their **exact words!**

PANEL 4 - MITTEN speaks calmly.

INSET 1 - A flashback image. CLOVER stands, proud and triumphant, atop a pile of larger kids. A lion, tiger and bear - oh my! YARNI clings to her leg like a damsel from a romance novel, starry-eyed in worship of her.

(5) MITTENS

Yes, and I had a long talk with Prof. Merlin about how she beat up a bunch of kids that were bullying Yarni. Apparently she was **quite** protective of him.

(Page Four continued - 2 of 2)

PANEL 5 - KLAWS wrings his hands and glances back at the door, considering. MITTENS stands and smiles, hopeful.

(6) KLAWS

Really now?

(7) MITTENS

Maybe this is their way of showing things have changed? I never got to know that side of the family.

I would very much like Yarni to have a chance.

(8) <u>KLAWS</u>

Yeah...maybe...

PAGE FIVE

(1 of 2)

PANEL 1 - MITTENS grips KLAWS by the shoulders and pushes him towards the door with a laugh. KLAWS realizes he's being insulted as he slides along his heels.

(1) MITTENS

Now play nice with the other kids while I finish my work.

(2) **KLAWS** (budding balloon)

All right, fine, I guess I can...

Wait. "OTHER kids!?"

SFX (trailing Mittens)

HA HA HA

PANEL 2 - Hallway

KLAWS taps his chin thoughtfully, a small smile of hope dawning on his face.

(3) KLAWS (thought balloon)

It has been a long time...maybe they did come around and - -

PANEL 3 - Focus on KLAWS stepping into a lone rollerskate. This is the old fashioned kind where the open plate and wheels would fit under your shoes and strap on.

PANEL 4 - KLAWS slides on the rollerskate towards the stairs, flailing and wide-eyed.

<u>SFX</u>

SKRIIIIIIIIIK

PANEL 5 - KLAWS clings to the banister as his legs keep going. The skate free falls down the stairs.

PANEL 6 - YARNI and and CLOVER look up the stairs towards KLAWS. YARNI picks up the skate and looks worried. CLOVE smiles serenely.

(4) <u>YARNI</u>

Careful Grandpaw!

(5) **CLOVER**

Yeah...

(Page Five continued - 2 of 2)

PANEL 7 - Focus on CLOVER as she smiles in a subdued and sinister manner.

(6) <u>CLOVER</u>

You could falled and died...

PANEL 8 - Focus on KLAWS, still gripping the banister, jaw set in defiance. Of course you know, this means wars!

PAGE SIX

(1 of 2)

PANEL 1 - Base of the Stairs

KLAWS smiles warmly at YARNI as he opens the front door for him. YARNI runs outside, excited. CLOVER smiles fondly after YARNI.

(1) <u>YARNI</u>

Can we play "Hero?"

(2) **KLAWS**

Sure. Let's head outside.

(3) **YARNI**

I get to be Russel!

SFX (Yarni, heading out of frame) YAAAAAAAAAAAAA

PANEL 2 - KLAWS'S hand wags back and forth, pointing to his eyes and down to CLOVER. He glares - "I'm watching you." CLOVER smiles with wicked confidence as she exits, never turning her back to KLAWS.

PANEL 3 - Front Yard - Exterior - Day

Recreation of PAGE ONE, PANEL 1. KLAWS stands, hands linked behind his back, stoic. YARNI has a toy wagon with a bag on it. He looks dramatically awed.

(A) TEXT BOX

Shortly...

(1) **YARNI**

I dunno, Sir Grandpaw. She looks awful strong and mean...

PANEL 4 - Recreation of PAGE ONE, PANEL 3. CLOVER wears a flower pot for a helmet - so large it half-covers her eyes. She wields a garden rake too tall for her in lieu of the battle-axe.

(Page Six continued - 2 of 2)

PANEL 5 - KLAWS kneels and accepts his cane (sword) and trash can lid (shield) from YARNI. KLAWS is sagely resolute. YARNI pouts, worried.

(2) **KLAWS**

Yarni...

(3) **YARNI** (interrupting)

Russel.

(4) **KLAWS**

"Russel," m'boy, some things have to be faced head-on.

YARNI (5)

Okay...

YARNI (dotted balloon, budding from last) (6)

Don't play too rough.

She's my best friend, okay?

PAGE SEVEN

PANEL 1 - Recreations of PAGE TWO, PANEL 2. KLAW and CLOVER circle each other, sizing each other up.

PANEL 2 - KLAWS raises his cane like a sword and gives a war cry.

(1) <u>KLAWS</u> HAVE AT YOU!

PANEL 3 - CLOVER stabs KLAWS in the gut with the rake, doubling him over. KLAWS is comically winded.

SFX (Klaws) WHOOF

PANEL 4 - CLOVER cracks KLAWS across the shin with the rake handle. KLAWS reacts, comically pained.

SFX POW

PANEL 5 - KLAWS drops his "gear" and grabs his shin, hopping on one foot. CLOVER runs behind him, angling the rake around his hopping foot...

PANEL 6 - CLOVER pulls the rake, scooping KLAWS'S one leg out from under him and sending him face-first into the grass.

SFX THUD

PAGE EIGHT

PANEL 1 - Treehouse - Living Room - Interior

KLAWS sits in his chair, ice pack on his head. He glares ahead, weary and miserable. YARNI pats his hand, comforting.

(A) TEXT BOX

With the battle decided...

(1) **YARNI**

Thanks for going easy on her, grandpaw.

(2) KLAWS (shaky tail)

Yeah. Sure. How about we play a quieter game?

PANEL 2 - YARNI balls up his fists, excited. CLOVER smiles sweetly.

(3) <u>YARNI</u>

I know! Let's play "hide n' seek!"

(4) **CLOVER**

Yeah!

PANEL 3 - Close-up of CLOVER and she smiles, wicked and conniving.

(5) CLOVER

You'll never guess where I'll be lying in wait.

PANEL 4 - KLAWS sits up quickly, reaching after the kids in a panic. YARNI and CLOVER flee for the stairs.

(6) KLAWS

NO! WAIT!

SFX (trailing kids)

EEE HEE HEE HEE

PANEL 5 - KLAWS taps at the BELL around his neck, absent-mindedly and nervously.

(7) KLAWS

How in the world am I gonna survive this...?

SFX (bell)

Jingle-Jangle

PAGE NINE

(1 of 2)

PANEL 1 - Cat Scratch Fever - Deck - Exterior - Day

PIRATE KLAWS clutches his shirt and looks befuddled as he jumps between lives. A CREWMATE clings to his sleeve, terrified.

(1) <u>CREWMATE</u>

Orders cap'n!?

(2) KLAWS (shaky tail)

Homina...?

PANEL 2 - Open Sea - Exterior - Day

High angle shot. The CAT SCRATCH FEVER floats in the middle of a ring of IMPERIAL SHIPS.

PANEL 3 - Imperial Ship - Navigation Deck - Exterior - Day

ADMIRAL CLOVER stands smartly at attention with a smug smile of satisfaction. The helmsman at the wheel wears a similar uniform and is grimly serious.

(3) CLOVER

My trap is sprung, Cpt. Klaws! You have nowhere left to run!

(4) **CLOVER**

In the name of the Alfauna Royal Navy, I place you and your crew under arrest!

PANEL 4 - KLAWS grins at the CREWMATE, waggling his eyebrows. The CREWMATE smiles and cheers.

(5) KLAWS

Ah. Well then, I guess we have no choice.

(6) **KLAWS**

Stow the mast, lads.

We're going for a swim.

(7) **CREWMATE**

Aye-aye cap'n!

(Page Nine continued - 2 of 2)

PANEL 5 - We look over CLOVER'S shoulder as she scowls, confused. In the distance we see the mast and sails of the CAT SCRATCH FEVER fold up like an umbrella and sink into the deck.

(8) <u>CLOVER</u>

What in the world...?

PAGE TEN

PANEL 1 - CLOVER grips the railing, enraged and baffled, as the CAT SCRATCH FEVER dives beneath the surface like a dolphin.

<u>SFX</u>

KER-SPLOOSH

(1) <u>CLOVER</u> (burst balloon) WHAT JUST HAPPENED!?

PANEL 2 - Underwater

The FEVER dives like a submarine, a series of oars sticking out of the sides and rowing it along. We see the undersides of the IMPERIAL SHIPS still in a ring above them.

PANEL 3 - Cat Scratch Fever - Bottom Deck - Interior

KLAWS walks between two rows of benches. The CREW strains and rows as one. KLAWS cheers them on.

(2) KLAWS

Row, me hearties, **row!**We have to get clear before our air runs out!

PANEL 4 - KLAWS winces as one of the oarsmen leans back too far and too high, clonking him in the head. KLAWS'S hat goes flying, the BELL hanging from it likewise jostling.

<u>SFX</u>

CLONK

PANEL 5 - Focus on the BELL.

SFX

Jingle-Jangle

PAGE ELEVEN

PANEL 1 - McGee Treehouse - Living Room - Interior

OLD KLAWS slaps the side of his head with the heel of his hand - "Oh duh!" KLAWS smiles, excited. His action mimics the oar-to-head collision last page.

(1) KLAWS

Of course! I'll just sneak out the back!

PANEL 2 - KLAWS tip-toes down the stairs with a smug, plotting smile.

(2) KLAWS (thought balloon)

And since the kids are busy hiding, they're keeping themselves out of trouble! It's a win-win scenario!

(3) **KLAWS** (thought balloon)

Haha! McGee, you've done it again!

PANEL 3 - Laundry Room - Interior

KLAWS tries the handle to the back door, confused. The door isn't budging.

SFX

rattle-rattle-rattle

(4) **KLAWS**

Come on now...

PANEL 4 - Backdoor - Exterior

KLAW presses his face to the door's window to look outside. We see it's been hastily barred shut with planks of wood haphazardly nailed in key locations.

PANEL 5 - KLAWS rolls the BELL between his fingers as a nervous habit. He looks shell-shocked.

(5) KLAWS

She's thought of everything. **I'm trapped.**

SFX

Jingle-JangleJ

PAGE TWELVE

PANEL 1 - Library of Nowital - Interior

SCHOLAR KLAWS rubs his throat nervously as he presses to a bookshelf, hiding. SCHOLAR ERA CLOVER passes in the background with a lantern, marching along angrily.

(1) <u>CLOVER</u>

GET BACK HERE, MCGEE!

(2) <u>KLAWS</u> (small font, shaky balloon)

Homina...

PANEL 2 - CLOVER sets her fist on her hip and looks around, furious. KLAWS tip-toes behind her, books clutched to his chest, eyeing her warily.

(3) CLOVER

You're overdue on twenty books as it is! You can't take more until they're returned!

PANEL 3 - KLAWS stuffs the books into his travel bag under the cover of another bookcase. The light from the lantern is dim and distant.

(4) KLAWS (thought balloon)

Keep calm! Panicking only makes for rash decisions and mistakes.

PANEL 4- KLAWS stands, bag on his back. The light of the lantern grows closer.

(5) KLAWS (thought balloon)

Take your time. Check your corners.

You know this place as well as she does.

(6) **KLAWS** (thought balloon)

Worry about the pursuit of knowledge, not her pursuit of you!

PANEL 5 - Focus on the BELL as its tether gets snagged on a stack of books.

PANEL 6 - The BELL tether pulls the book open, jangling in the process. KLAWS'S tail puffs out in fear. The light of the lantern shines through the books.

SFX

♪Jingle-Jangle♪

(7) <u>CLOVER</u> (off panel) AH-HA!

PAGE THIRTEEN

PANEL 1 - McGree Treehouse - Kitchen - Interior

OLD KLAWS clenches his fist - on the same level SCHOLAR KLAWS would be holding the bag's shoulder straps. OLD KLAWS sets his jaw, determined.

(1) KLAWS

Yeah...yeah!
This is **my** house!
I'm not trapped in here with her! **She's** trapped in here with **me!**

PANEL 2 - Pull back as KLAWS starts to lose his resolve and looks confused.

(2) KLAWS

...when did I get to the kitchen?

PANEL 3 - KLAWS looks over and notices the standing knife rack block. All the knives are gone.

PANEL 4 - KLAWS looks distressed.

(3) KLAWS

How did she have time for all this!?

PANEL 5 - KLAWS grips the doorframe and peers around, paranoid.

(4) KLAWS (thought balloon)

No! Focus! You've survived far worse.

Take your time. Check your corners.

You know this place better than she does!

PAGE FOURTEEN

MONTAGE SEQUENCE

- PANEL 1 KLAWS regards a couch with suspicion. It looks completely normal.
- PANEL 2 Same staging as the previous panel. KLAWS snatches away a seat cushion to reveal *all the knives* embedded in the base. The knives all stick up higher than the cushion should've concealed. KLAWS scowls, vindicated.
- PANEL 3 KLAWS suspiciously rolls a roller skate down the hall.
- PANEL 4 KLAWS goes wide-eyed as a full bear trap erupts through the floor, chomping down on the skate.
- PANEL 5 KLAWS gingerly pushes his bedroom door open with his cane.
- PANEL 6 A bucket full of rocks topples from above. KLAWS scowls, unimpressed.

PAGE FIFTEEN

PANEL 1 - KLAWS clutches his chest, startled to see CLOVER standing in the middle of the hall. CLOVER looks at the pictures on the wall.

PANEL 2 - KLAWS cautiously approaches, curiosity getting the better of him. CLOVER stares up at the picture, sad.

PANEL 3 - We focus on a family portrait:

- KLAWS as a young man, smiling proud and confident
- CLOVER MCGEE as a young woman, beaming in the same way
- BABY MITTENS is swaddled in CLOVER MCGEE'S arms and reaches of us happily

PANEL 4 - CLOVER looks up at the picture, sad. KLAWS rests on his cane and looks as well, solemn.

(1) CLOVER

I was named for her.

My grand-aunt eighty-one times removed.

(2) **CLOVER**

No one ever told me what happened to her, though.

PANEL 5 - CLOVER looks at KLAWS, earnest and stern. KLAWS bows his head, remorseful.

(3) KLAWS

We wanted one last adventure...

PAGE SIXTEEN

(1 of 2)

FLASHBACK SEQUENCE

PANEL 1 - YOUNG KLAWS and CLOVER MCGEE hike along a mountain trail, smiling at each other. MITTENS is a baby in a body-harness, hanging off of KLAW'S chest. MITTENS reaches for a butterfly as it passes by.

(A) TEXT BOX

"We were going to settle down. Start a small trading business.

(B) **TEXT BOX**

"We'd seen enough of the world, amassed enough treasures, we could afford to take it easy and raise our daughter.

(C) **TEXT BOX**

"We just wanted one last thrill. One last memory on the road.

PANEL 2 - Mountain Cave - Exterior - Stormy Night

KLAWS flees, MITTENS clutches to his chest. KLAWS wields a broken sword and is badly scratched all over. MITTENS screams, afraid. The harness is gone.

CLOVER MCGEE stands her ground against a dragon, wielding a three-bladed hand-axe and shield. She is badly scratched up all over and snarls defiantly at the dragon.

The dragon is the same as from KLAWS #1, just on a smaller scale - less epic beast, more natural animal. It is still fearsome and large, looming over CLOVER MCGEE.

(D) <u>TEXT BOX</u>

"But adventuring is dangerous.
Things can go wrong.

(E) **TEXT BOX**

"Mittens's safety was the most important thing. I happened to be the one to get to her first.

(Page Sixteen continued - 2 of 2)

PANEL 3 - YOUNG KLAWS walks towards us, emotionally devastated. He cradles BABY MITTENS in his arms. Numerous rabbit-shaped silhouettes rise ominously around him, their eyes glowing angrily down at him.

(F) <u>TEXT BOX</u>

"She never would've forgiven me if I stayed to fight.

(G) **TEXT BOX**

"The Cottontails never forgave me from running away.

(H) **TEXT BOX**

"Some days...I'm still not sure if I can forgive myself."

PAGE SEVENTEEN

PANEL 1 - Second Floor Hallway - Interior

KLAWS bows his head, solemn. CLOVER scowls, judgemental.

(1) CLOVER

You should've never have gone on that trip.

(2) **KLAWS**

I know.

PANEL 2 - Focus on CLOVER as she smirks, cold and merciless.

(3) CLOVER

And you never should've stood still that long.

PANEL 3 - CLOVER is startled as KLAWS evades the trap. KLAWS perches on the top of his cane as a bear trap snaps shut half-way up the cane.

<u>SFX</u>

SHUNK

PANEL 4 - KLAWS - still in his ridiculous perching position - smiles nastily, mockingly at CLOVER. CLOVER snarls defiantly back.

(4) KLAWS

HA! I saw that comin' a mile away, ya whipper-snapper!

(5) **CLOVER**

The Cottontails' honor will be satisfied!

PANEL 5 - YARNI storms out of his room, insulted. Within the room, we can see his window is open.

(6) YARNI

Are you guys playing or not!? I'm tired of hiding!

PANEL 6 - CLOVER reaches towards us, horrified. KLAWS is alarmed, realizing something is about to happen.

(7) CLOVER:

YARNI! DON'T - -!

PAGE EIGHTEEN

PANEL 1 - Focus on YARNI'S FOOT as it steps down on a floorboard. It sinks under his weight.

SFX

creeeeeeeak

PANEL 2 - The floorboard launches up as a springboard, a coiled spring exposed in the process. YARNI is *launched* back towards his bedroom. YARNI stares ahead, innocent and dumbstruck.

PANEL 3 - YARNI sails through his bedroom, over his bed, heading for the window. He wears the same expression.

PANEL 4 - Treehouse - 2nd Floor - Exterior - Day

YARNI is sailing *out* the window, his trajectory starting to curve back to earth. YARNI wears the same expression as before.

PAGE NINETEEN

PANEL 1 - YARNI is caught by the waist in the crook of KLAW'S cane. YARNI is upside down.

PANEL 2 - We pull back to see KLAWS is reaching out his entire body length, arms fully extended, to grab YARNI. KLAWS'S feet are braced on the outside of the window. If we can see from his angle, CLOVER has KLAWS by the tail and is braced in the window frame. YARNI cheers, upside down.

(1) <u>YARNI</u>

Yay! You caught me!

PANEL 3 - Focus on the bear-trap-damaged cane as it begins to give.

<u>SFX</u>

crack!

PANEL 4 - KLAWS looks back over his shoulder, frantic.

(2) KLAWS

Haul us in you tiny devil!

PANEL 5 - CLOVER heaves, pulling KLAWS'S tail with all her strength. Her feet are braced on the window frame.

<u>SFX</u>

HRRRNGH

PANEL 6 - Yarni's Bedroom - Interior

EVERYONE falls back inside. KLAWS falls on top of CLOVER. The cane splits in half and goes flying through the room. YARNI cheers as he falls on top of KLAWS

SFX (Yarni)

WEE-HEE-HEE-YAY!

PAGE TWENTY

(1 of 2)

PANEL 1 - YARNI scrambles off the pile, laughing. KLAWS and CLOVER are *done* - tired and worn.

(1) YARNI

Wee! I guess I'm it! I'll go hide my eyes! You guys hide!

PANEL 2 - KLAWS sits up, rubbing his back and glaring at CLOVER. CLOVER crawls out from under KLAWS and glares back at him.

(2) KLAWS

Ugh...you clearly care for Yarni. What about his mother?

(3) CLOVER

Ergh...she is of Cottontail blood. **You** are not.

(4) **KLAWS**

Fair enough.

PANEL 3 - KLAWS offers a handshake, dour.

(5) KLAWS

This is their home as much as it is mine. It will be **neutral** ground for their sakes. Outside, I'm fair game.

(6) **KLAWS**

Deal?

PANEL 4 - CLOVER considers the offered hand, sour but thoughtful.

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PANEL 5 - CLOVER takes the offered hand. Lean into the ridiculousness of this old man and tiny girl acting like bitter foes across the ages.

(7) <u>CLOVER</u>

Very well. But you will have your reckoning.

(8) <u>KLAWS</u>

Only if you can catch me.

(A) **TEXT BOX**

END

CREDITS PAGE

The idea here is a recurring feature where we'll list our current (or past) pets with a bit of silly flavor text. When we collect in trade, we'll combine all the info per creator (three creator pages in total). I don't know what we'll do for Volume 2, but we'll cross that bridge when we come to it.

ART A black cat in pure silhouette. The only discernible features are a pair of green eyes, ever-so-slightly wide-set and wall-eyed.	TEXT IAN FLYNN Creator & Writer • www.BumbleKing.com lan's BumbleKat, Tenebrae, loves anything remotely cheese-flavored. He's afraid of the air fryer, smoke alarm, vacuum and lan's sneezing.
ART Morganna, photo ref for Reggie	TEXT JONNATHAN GRIFFITHS Designer, Line Artist & Letterer • www.BeyondTheCanopy.com Jon do your thing
ART Pipin, photo ref for Jonathan	TEXT REGGIE GRAHAM Colorist • linktr.ee/ziggyfin Reggie has a grumpy little orange cat named Pippin. They also like to call him "Mister P", "Pippee" "Scooby", "Pippu", "Baba", and "Doodle". One of his favourite things to do is meow as loud as he possibly can, especially when someone is trying to have a conversation on the phone.