

CHAPTER 1



AND BEFORE THAT,
THE MANSION BELONGED
TO OLD BEN BREWER.

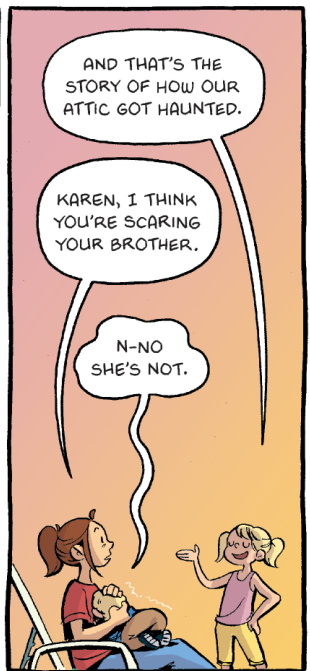


HE ATE FRIED DANDELIONS,
AND AFTER HE TURNED FIFTY,
HE NEVER LEFT HOME...

EXCEPT TO GO OUT
IN THE YARD TO GET
MORE DANDELIONS.



THEN HE DIED, AND
HIS GHOST STAYED
IN OUR ATTIC.



AND THAT'S THE
STORY OF HOW OUR
ATTIC GOT HAUNTED.

KAREN, I THINK
YOU'RE SCARING
YOUR BROTHER..

N-NO
SHE'S NOT.

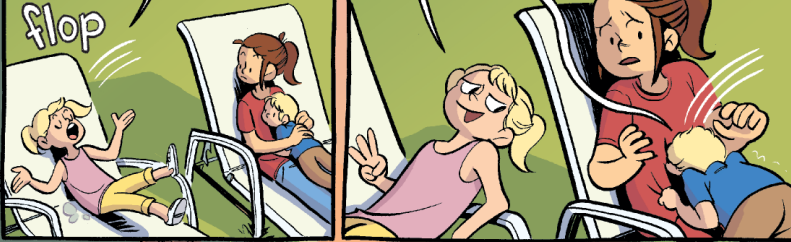
WELL, THIS IS IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR YOU, KRISTY. WHEN YOU MOVE INTO OUR HOUSE, YOU'RE GOING TO WANT TO KNOW **EVERYTHING** ABOUT OUR GREAT-GRANDFATHER.

ESPECIALLY IF YOU GET A BEDROOM ON THE **THIRD FLOOR**.

I... I THINK THAT'S ENOUGH GHOST TALK FOR ONE DAY.

meep

flop



HI THERE.

I'm KRISTY THOMAS, AND THE CUTE KIDS YOU SEE HERE ARE KAREN AND ANDREW.

THEIR FATHER IS ENGAGED TO MY MOTHER. WHEN OUR PARENTS GET MARRIED, KAREN AND ANDREW WILL BECOME MY LITTLE STEPSISTER AND STEPBROTHER...

AND MY BROTHERS AND I WILL MOVE OUT OF THE HOUSE WHERE WE GREW UP, AND INTO WATSON'S MANSION.



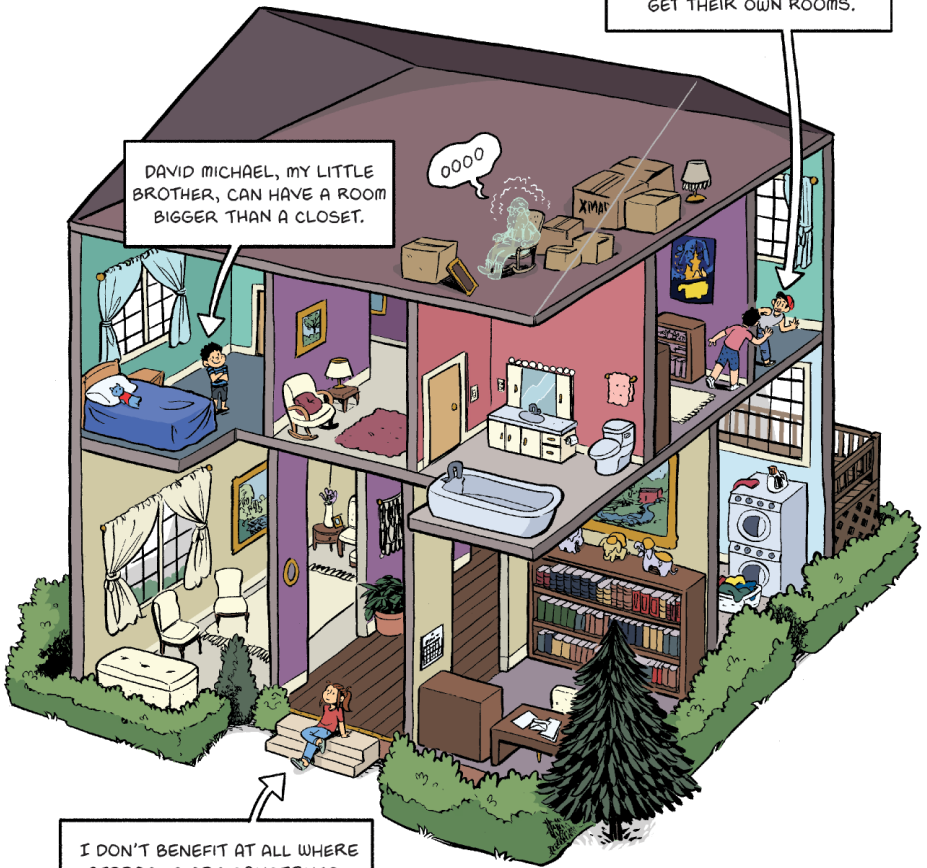
THERE ARE PROS AND CONS. THE PROS:
I WASN'T KIDDING ABOUT THE MANSION --
WATSON'S RICH. LIKE, MILLIONAIRE-RICH.

Watson's Mansion

CHARLIE AND SAM, MY OLDER
BROTHERS, WILL FINALLY
GET THEIR OWN ROOMS.

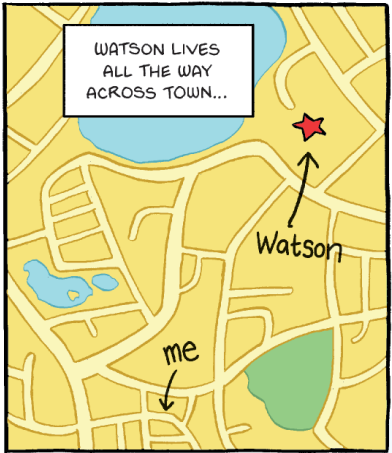
DAVID MICHAEL, MY LITTLE
BROTHER, CAN HAVE A ROOM
BIGGER THAN A CLOSET.

OOOO



I DON'T BENEFIT AT ALL WHERE
BEDROOMS ARE CONCERNED,
SINCE I ALREADY HAVE MY OWN
AND I THINK IT'S JUST FINE.

WHAT'S THE CON,
YOU ASK?



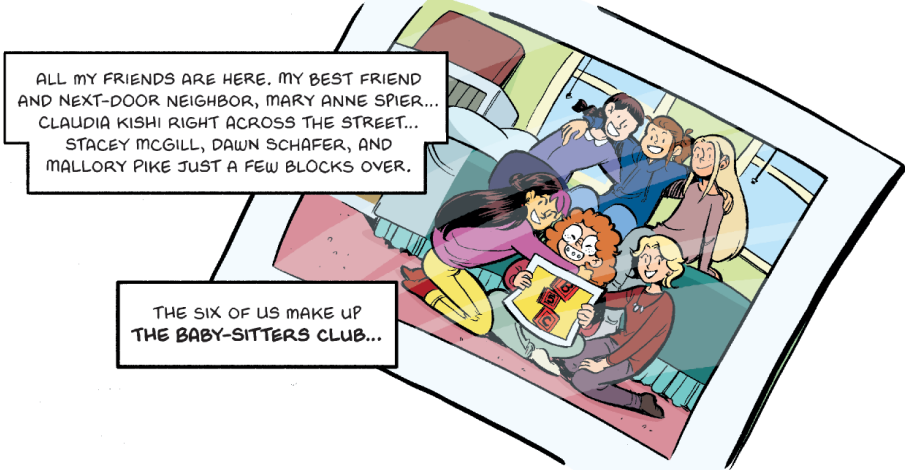
WATSON LIVES ALL THE WAY ACROSS TOWN...

Watson

me

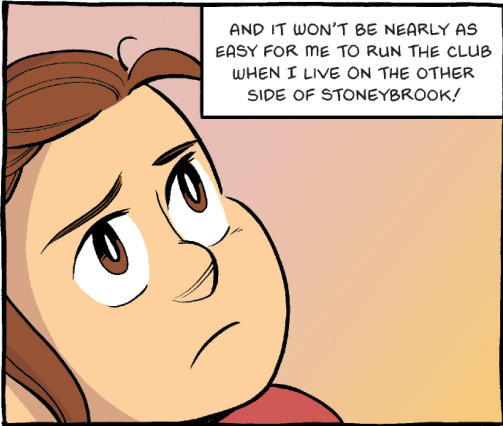


BUT I'VE NEVER LIVED ANYWHERE BUT RIGHT HERE ON BRADFORD COURT.

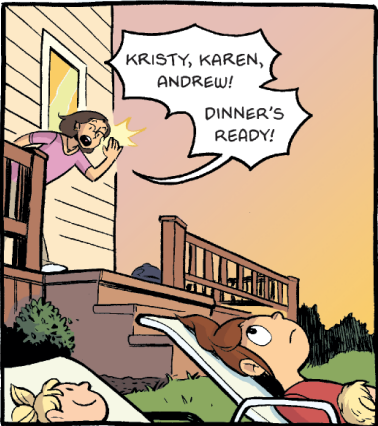


ALL MY FRIENDS ARE HERE. MY BEST FRIEND AND NEXT-DOOR NEIGHBOR, MARY ANNE SPIER... CLAUDIA KISHI RIGHT ACROSS THE STREET... STACEY MCGILL, DAWN SCHAFER, AND MALLORY PIKE JUST A FEW BLOCKS OVER.

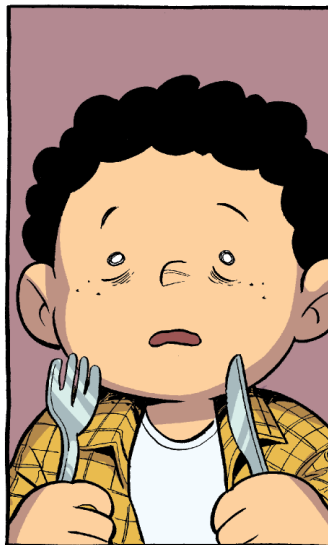
THE SIX OF US MAKE UP THE BABY-SITTERS CLUB...



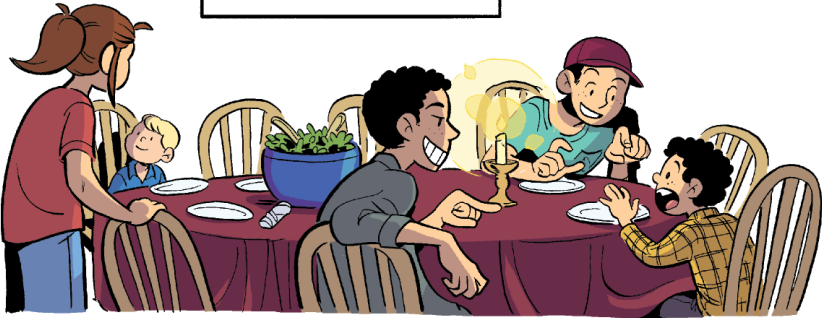
AND IT WON'T BE NEARLY AS EASY FOR ME TO RUN THE CLUB WHEN I LIVE ON THE OTHER SIDE OF STONEYBROOK!



KRISTY, KAREN, ANDREW!
DINNER'S READY!



IT'S WEIRD THINKING ABOUT HOW THINGS ARE GOING TO CHANGE AFTER THE WEDDING.

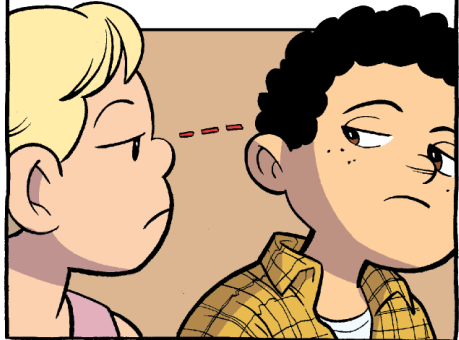
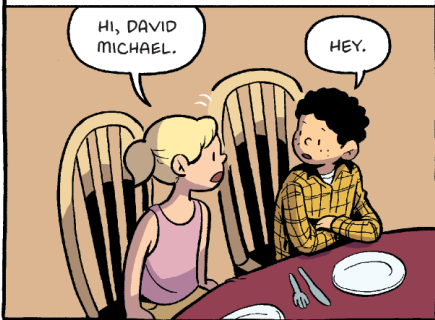


FOR EXAMPLE, MOM'S AFRAID THERE'S GOING TO BE TROUBLE BETWEEN KAREN AND DAVID MICHAEL. THEY'RE CLOSE ENOUGH IN AGE THAT THEY'RE PROBABLY GOING TO BE COMPETING FOR THINGS, LIKE TOYS AND PRIVILEGES.

NOT TO MENTION, KAREN GOES TO PRIVATE SCHOOL AND DAVID MICHAEL GOES TO PUBLIC SCHOOL, SO THEY MIGHT COMPARE THEMSELVES THAT WAY.

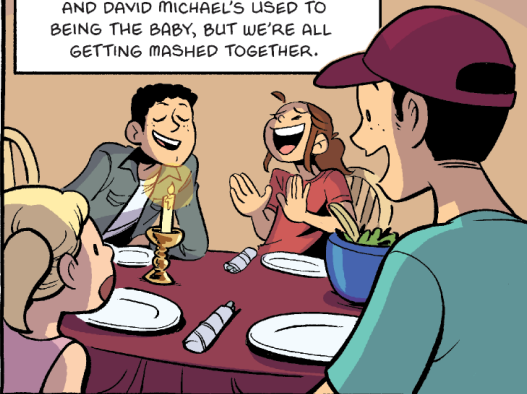
HI, DAVID MICHAEL.

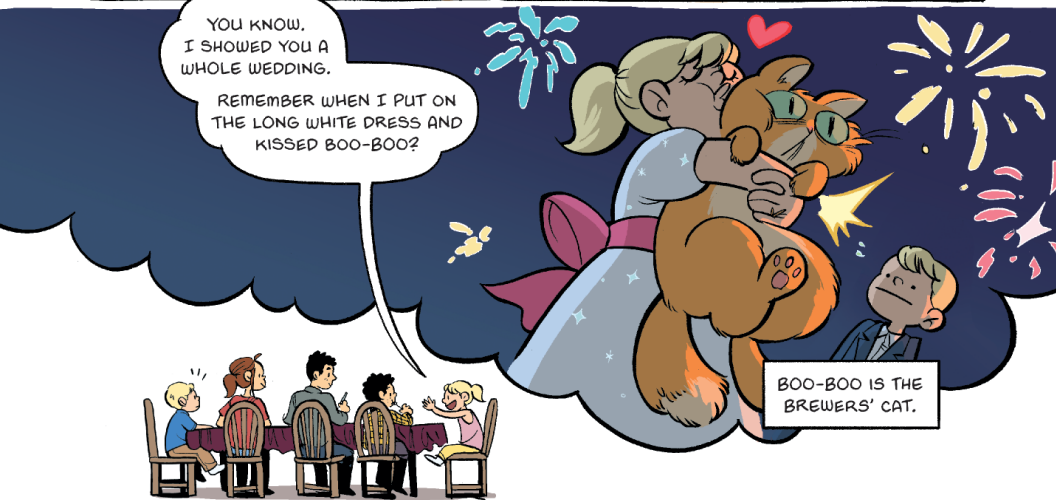
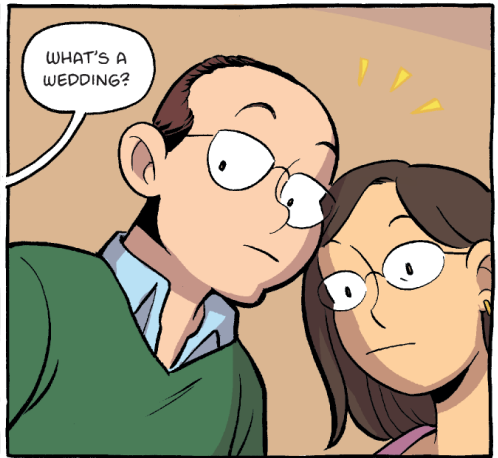
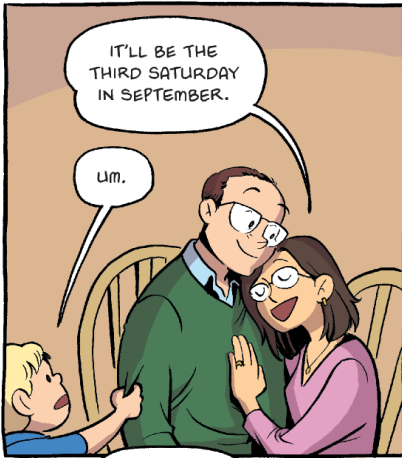
HEY.



THEN THERE'S THE AGE STUFF. KAREN'S USED TO BEING THE OLDEST, AND DAVID MICHAEL'S USED TO BEING THE BABY, BUT WE'RE ALL GETTING MASHED TOGETHER.

AND GOODNESS KNOWS WHAT ANDREW THINKS.





WE'VE TALKED ABOUT THE WEDDING, ANDREW. AND EVERYONE HERE IS GOING TO BE A PART OF IT.

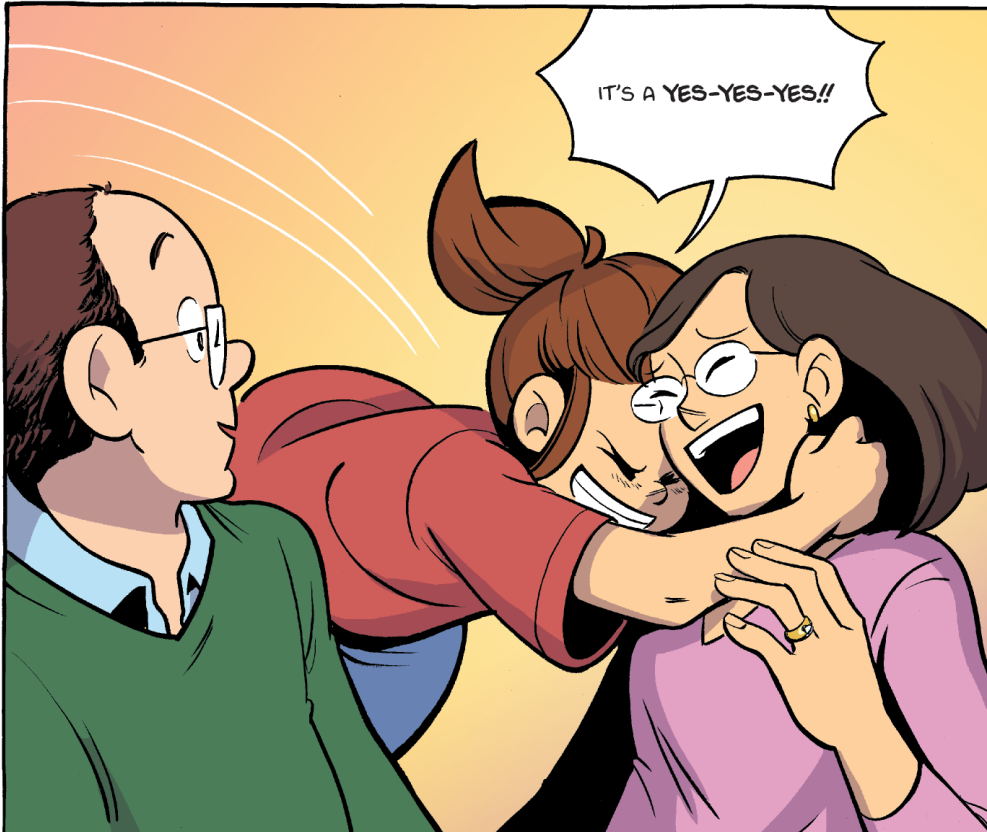
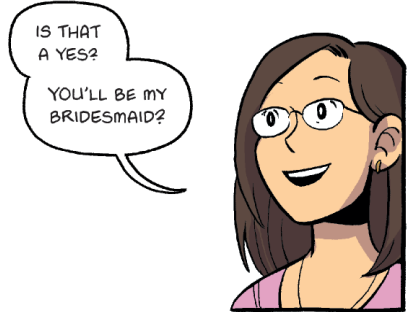
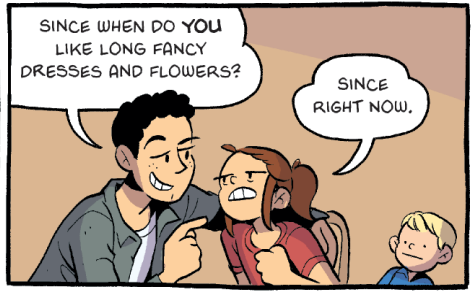
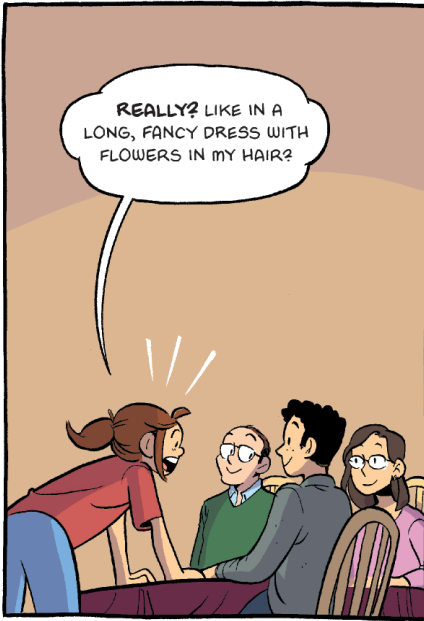
WE ARE?

IF YOU WANT TO BE.

KRISTY...

I'D LIKE YOU TO BE MY BRIDESMAID.





AND, CHARLIE, I'D BE HONORED IF YOU GAVE ME AWAY.

SURE.

SAM, I'D LIKE YOU TO BE MY BEST MAN.

AND DAVID MICHAEL WILL BE THE RING BEARER.

WHAT ABOUT ME?

HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE OUR FLOWER GIRL? YOU'D WALK UP THE AISLE IN FRONT OF ELIZABETH AND ME, CARRYING A BASKET OF ROSE PETALS.

OOOOH.

AND ANDREW CAN ESCORT YOU. THAT MEANS HE'LL WALK BESIDE YOU.

I DON'T WANT TO BE IN THE WEDDING.

AND I MEAN IT.

WELL, THINK IT OVER. WE'D LIKE YOU TO BE IN THE WEDDING, BUT IT'S UP TO YOU, OKAY?

OKAY.