



RUBY

BY THE SEA

by Isabel Lee

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Neap Tide



June 5th

Today we moved into the beach house.

Everything here is cold and wet.

I can't believe I have to be here the entire summer.

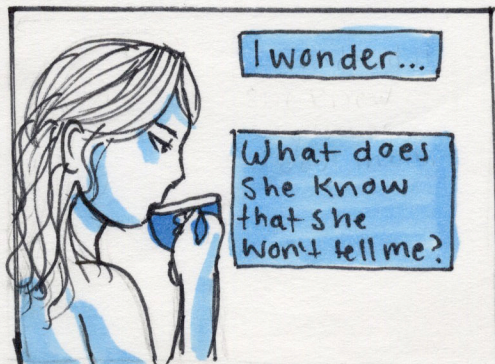
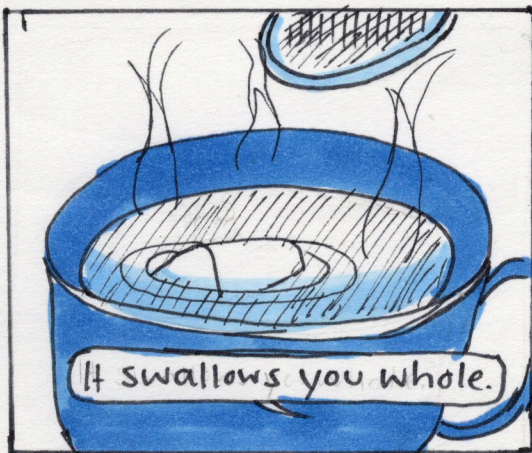
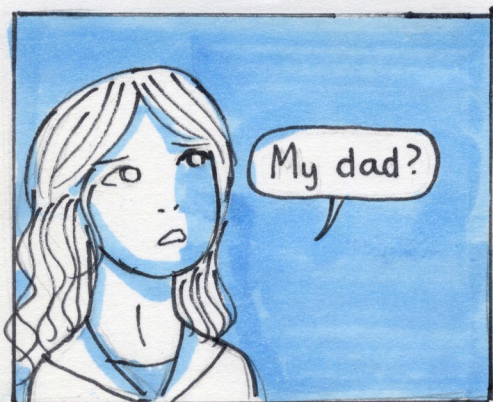
It was dad who suggested keeping a journal.

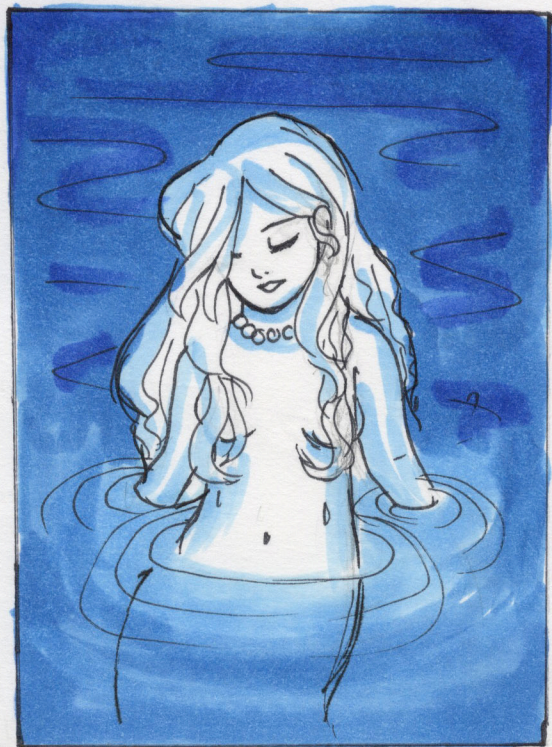
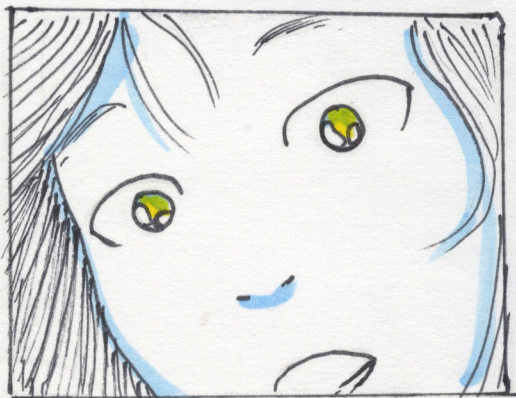
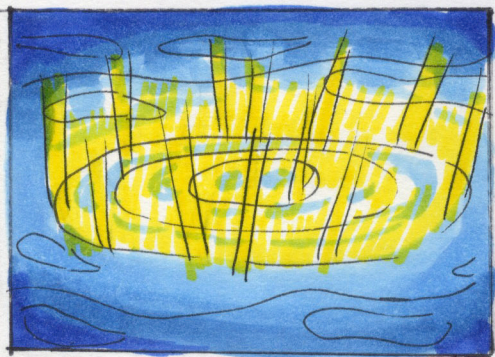
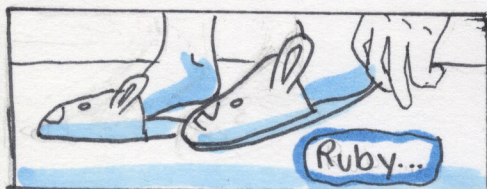
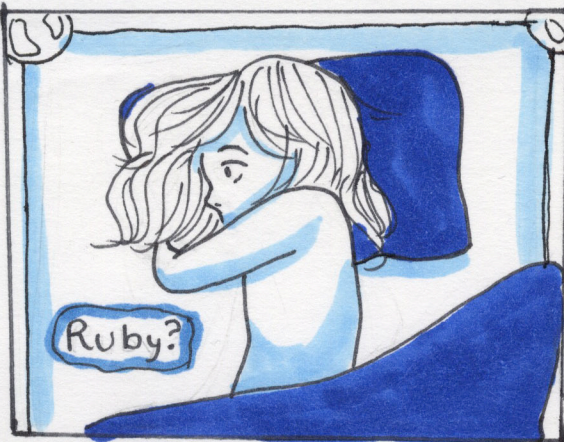
To keep me busy while he birdwatches all summer.

I just want to go home.

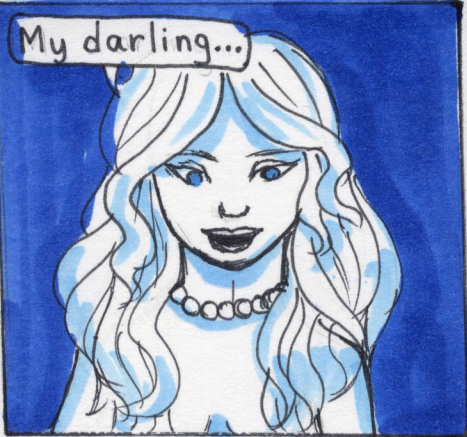
June 8th
Today, I met our landlady, Lorelei. She seems nice. She gave me tea and told me something interesting about Dad.

Y'know, Ruby, hon, your papa used to stay in this very house as a kid. I remember he loved to visit the ocean.





My darling...



Who are you?



My name is Eidothea.



I am a mermaid of these seas.

I've waited for so long...



Ruby, darling...



Join me here.



I-I can't.

I'm sorry.
I have to go.

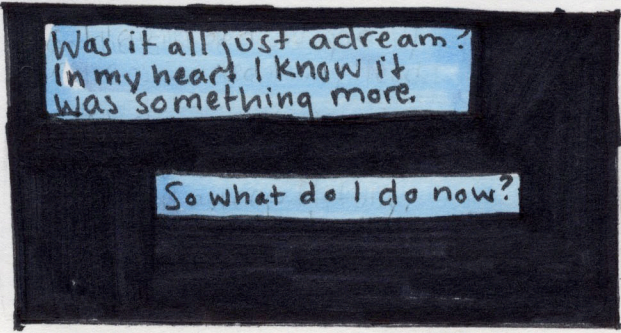


I didn't stop running till I got to my room.



Was it all just a dream?
In my heart I know it
was something more.

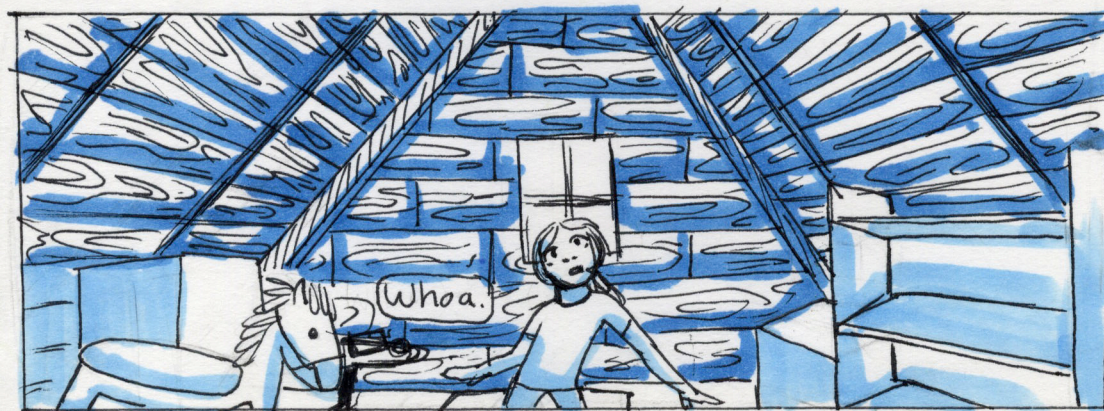
So what do I do now?

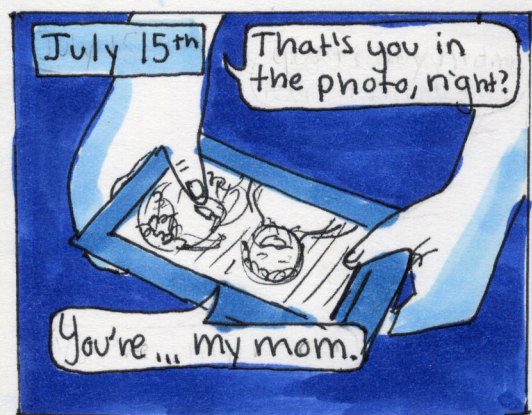
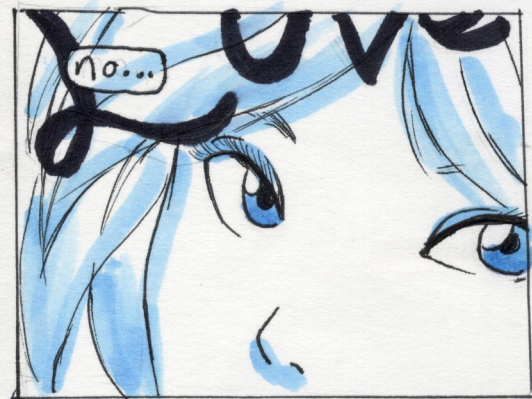
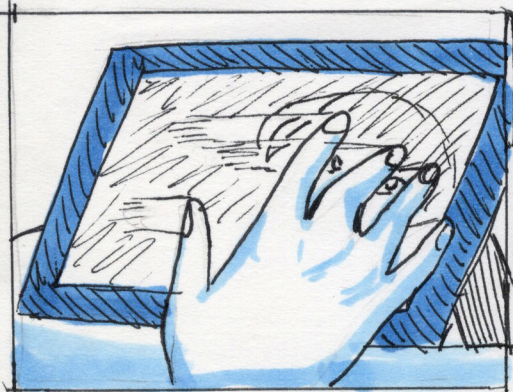
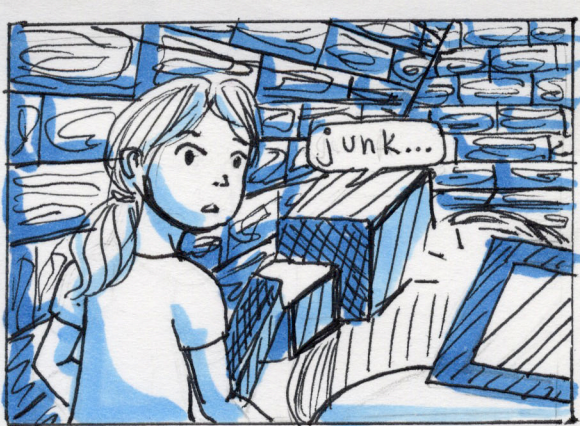


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King Tide







All my life, I've
been wondering...

Dad refused to
tell me. I've been
going off rumors
from relatives,
neighbors...



What did
they tell you?



That you were a bad
woman, who abandoned
me and fled far away.



And Dad wouldn't
confirm or deny it.
After a while, I
just stopped asking.
But I never stopped
wondering.

Yes, well... your
father's family
was never a
big fan of me.

But I never
wanted to
abandon you,
Ruby.



I begged your
father to bring
you back to
the ocean.

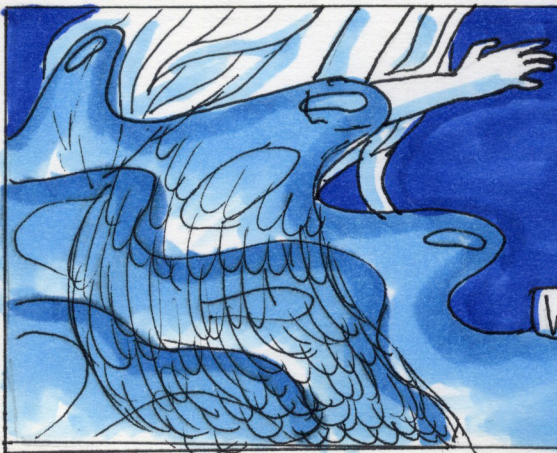
And now you're
finally here...
Ruby, why won't
you stay with me?

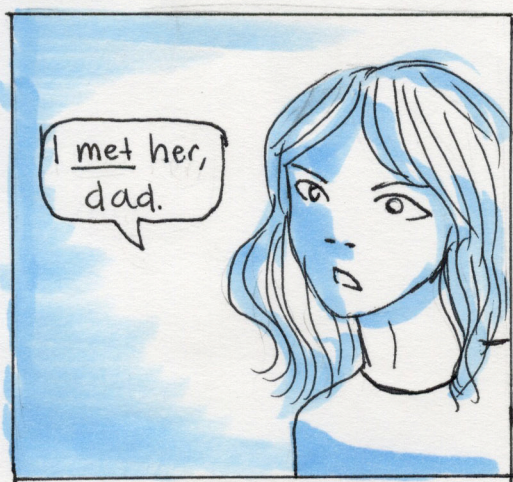
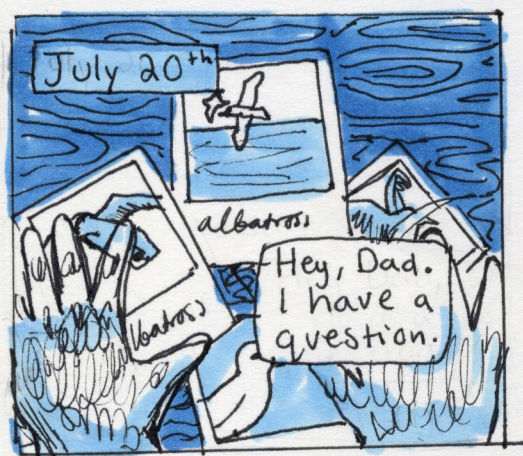
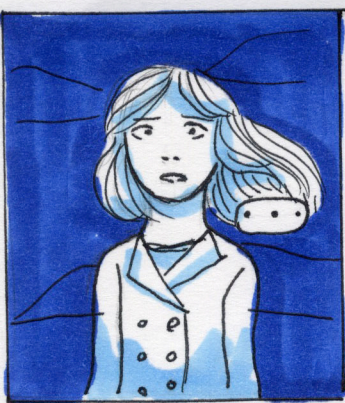


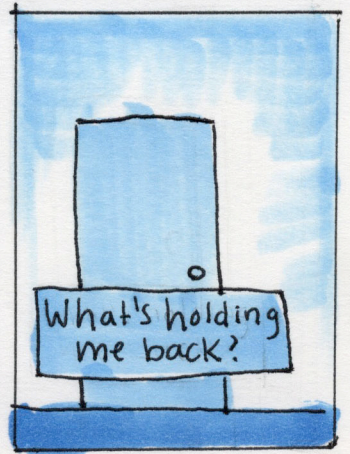
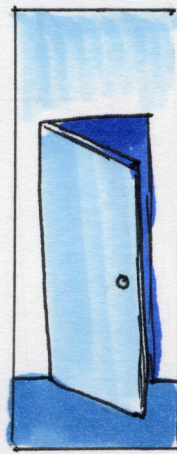
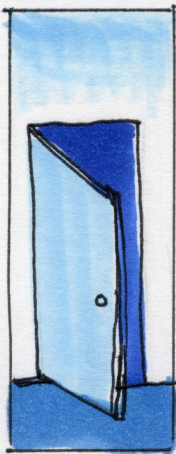
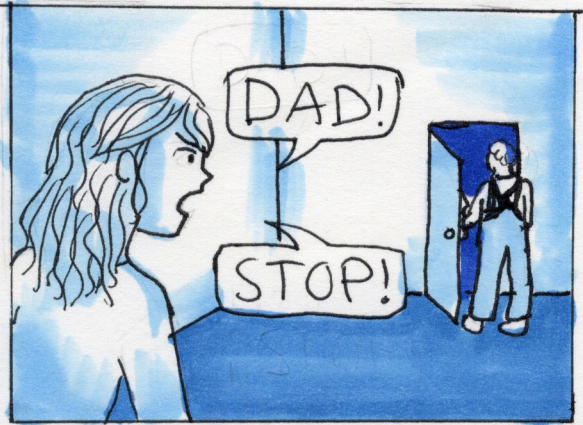
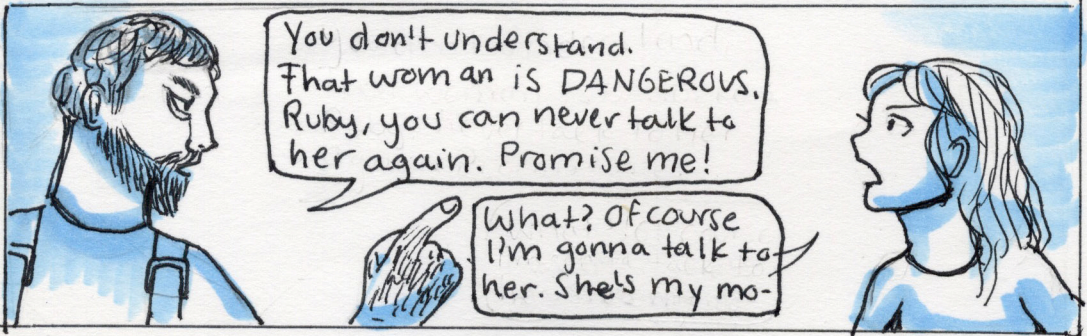
After all, you are
part mermaid...

Come with me. I
have a whole new
world to show you.

What's holding you back?

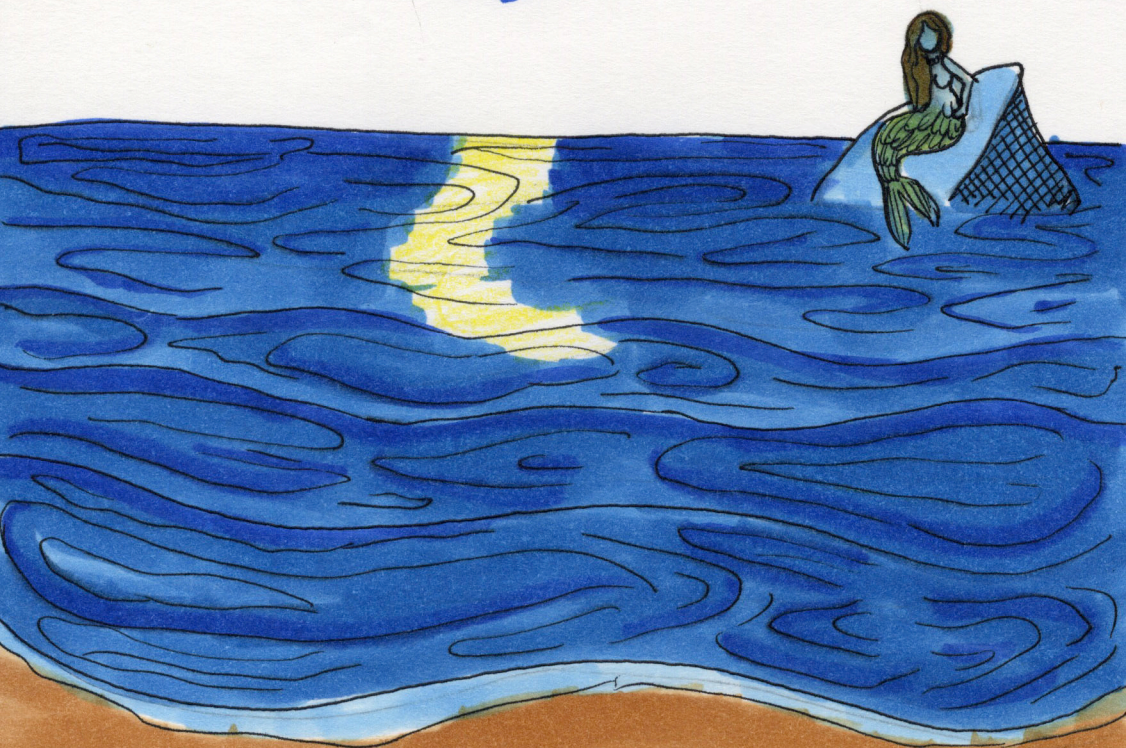
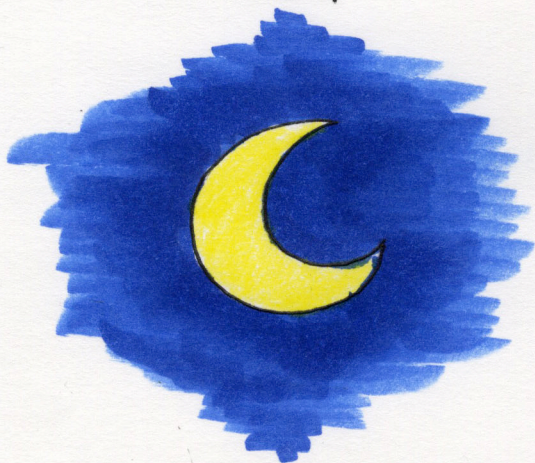


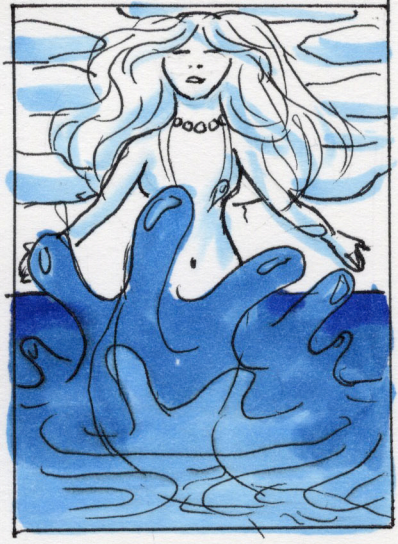
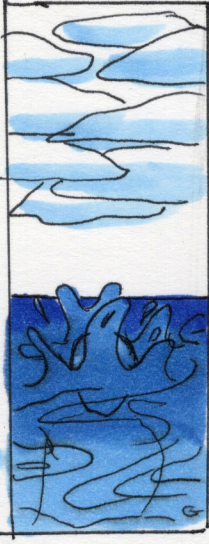
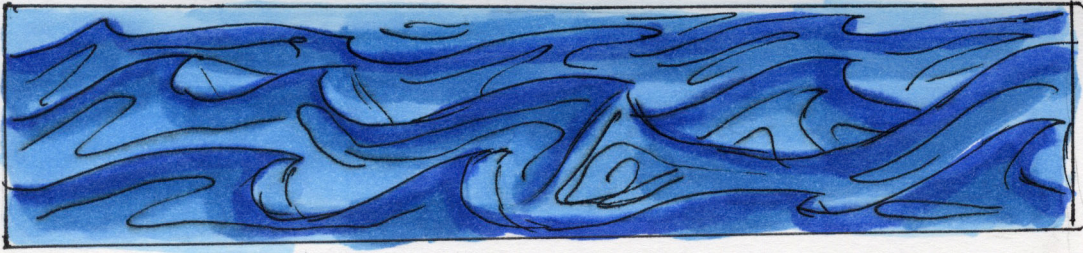


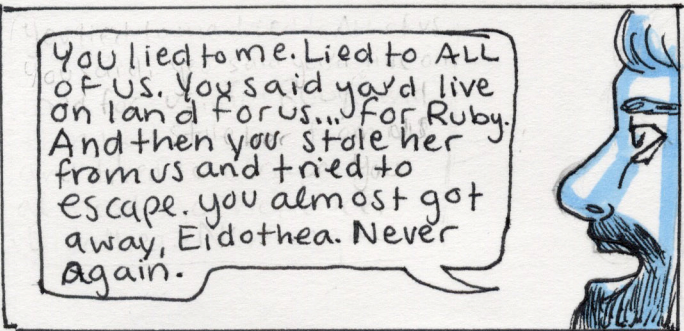


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Flood







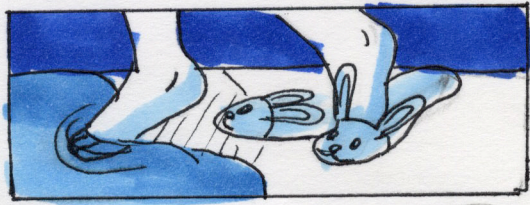
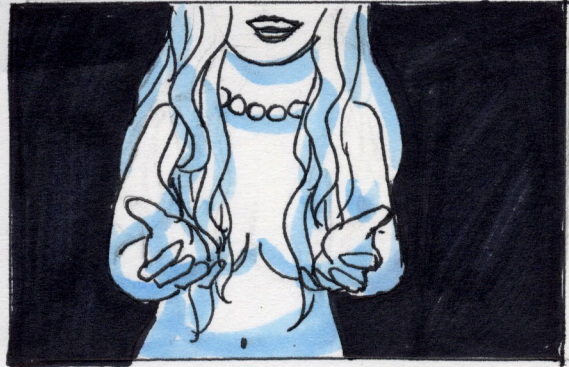
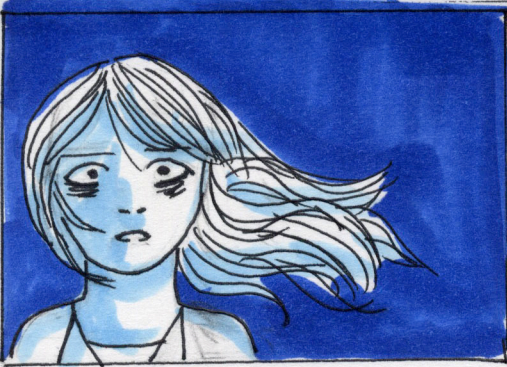
July 21st

After all this time, I realize Lorelei was right.

You do have to be careful with the ocean around here.

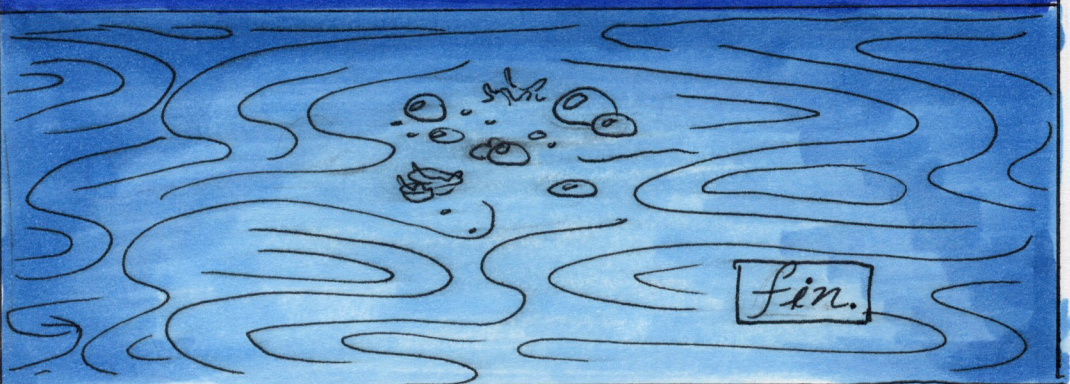
It beckons.

It calls.



And when you
least expect it...

...it swallows you whole.



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