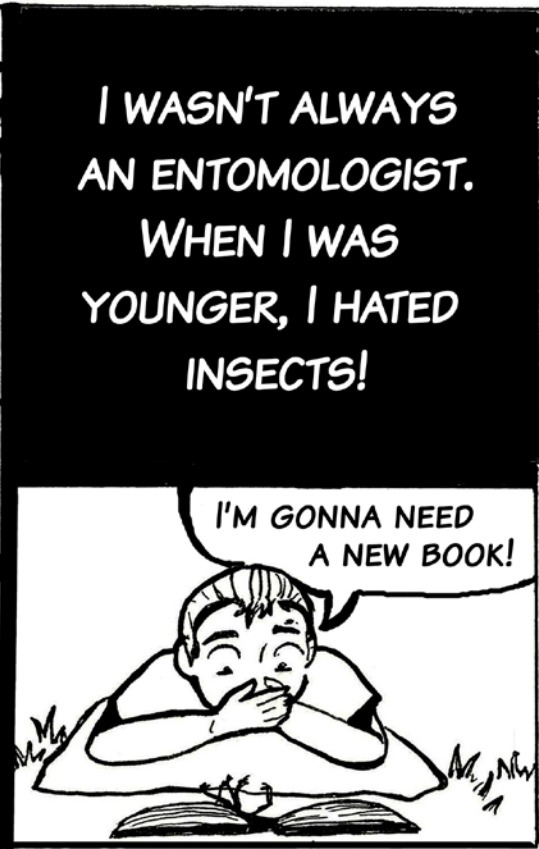
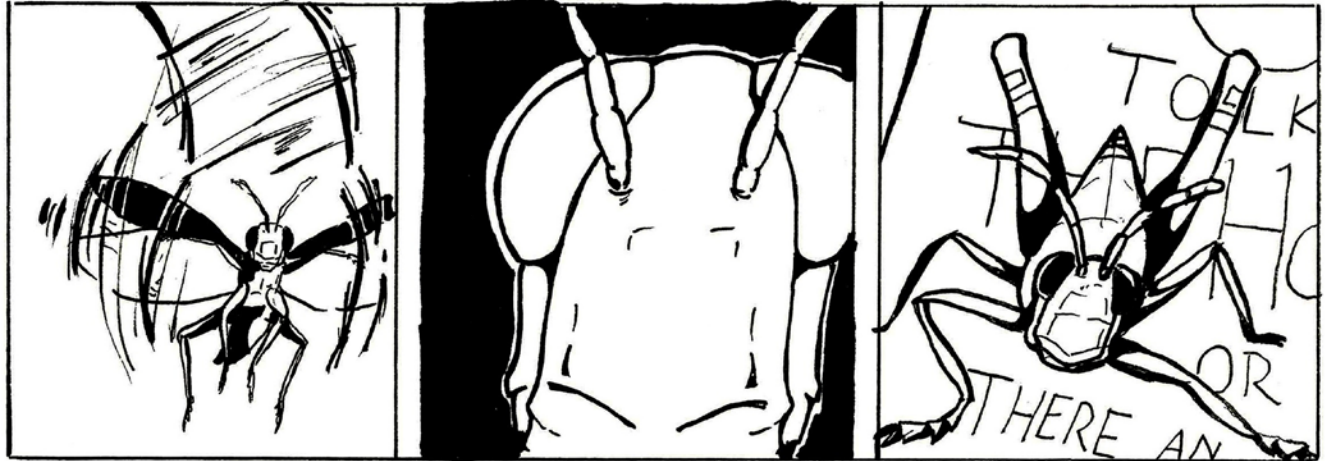
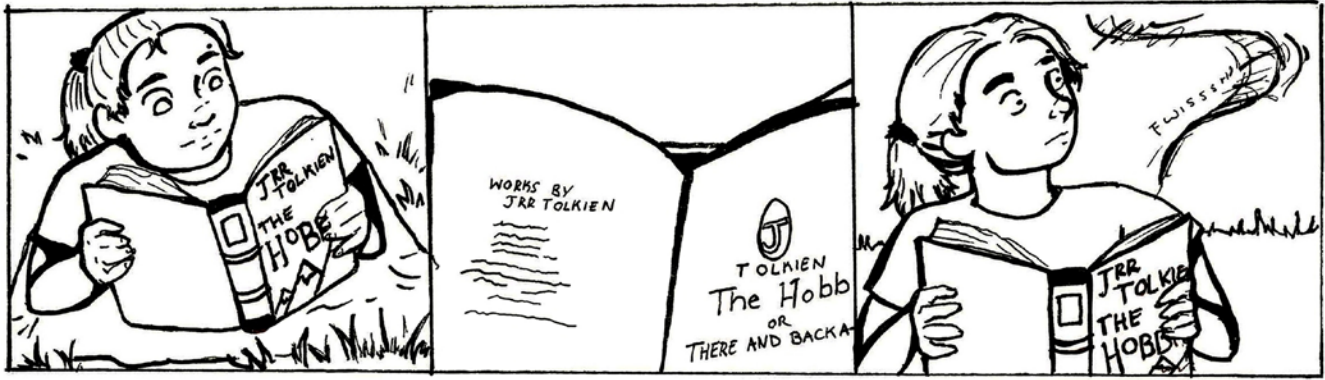


Carly's Adventures in Wasp Land: Issue 1: How I Became an Entomologist



I WASN'T ALWAYS AN ENTOMOLOGIST. WHEN I WAS YOUNGER, I HATED INSECTS!

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I LOVED DINOSAURS THOUGH!



RAWR

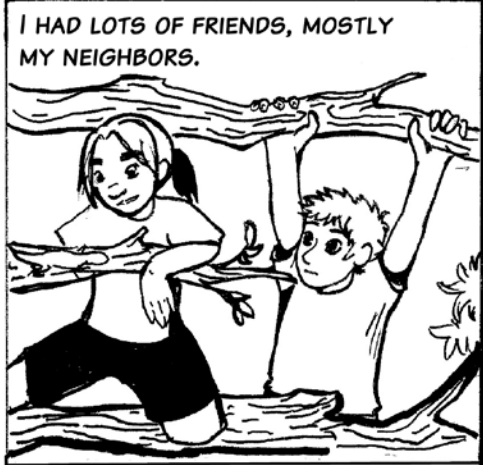
AND I HAD AS MANY DINOSAUR TOYS AND BOOKS AS I COULD CONVINCE MY PARENTS TO BUY FOR ME.



RAWR!!

UTAHRAPTOR, MY FAVORITE

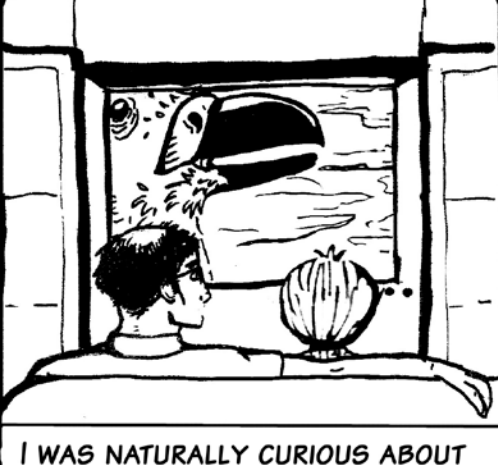
I HAD LOTS OF FRIENDS, MOSTLY MY NEIGHBORS.



I GREW UP IN FLORIDA AND EVERY KID I KNEW PLAYED OUTSIDE EVERY SINGLE DAY.



PLAYING ON THE EDGE OF THE EVERGLADES, I SAW A LOT OF ANIMALS.



I WAS NATURALLY CURIOUS ABOUT THEM AND EVERY NIGHT MY DAD AND I WOULD WATCH WILD ANIMAL SHOWS ON TV.



YEARS OF SEEING AND LEARNING ABOUT ANIMALS MEANT THAT BY THE TIME I REACHED HIGH SCHOOL, I KNEW THAT I WANTED TO STUDY THEM.

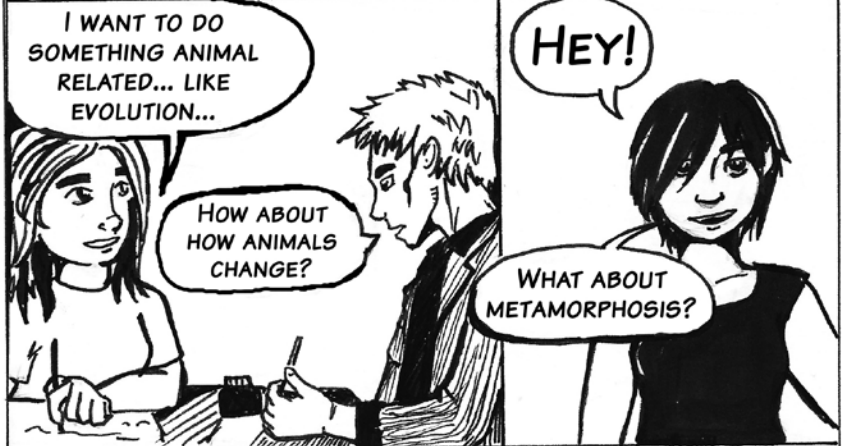
MAYBE AS A VETERINARIAN OR WILDLIFE REHABILITATOR. OR EVEN AS A PALEONTOLOGIST!



IRONICALLY, IT WAS MY 11TH GRADE ART CLASS THAT FORCED ME TO RECONSIDER INSECTS.



WE HAD TO COME UP WITH A THEME THAT WOULD TIE TOGETHER OUR ART FOR A WHOLE YEAR.



MOST PEOPLE THINK OF METAMORPHOSIS AS CATERpillARS CHANGING INTO A COCOON THEN INTO A BUTTERFLY.



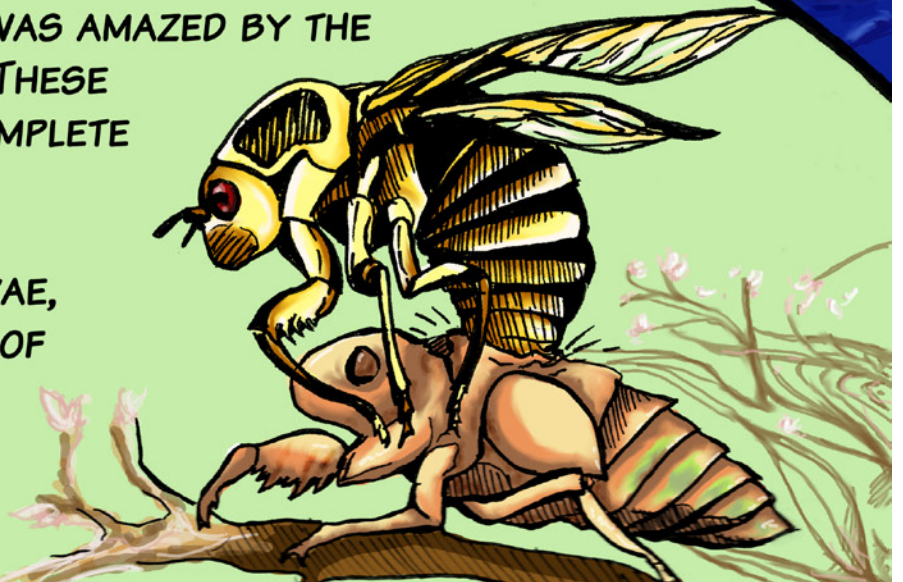
AND BUTTERFLIES, LIKE THE MONARCH, ARE ONE OF THE MOST POPULAR EXAMPLES OF METAMORPHOSIS.

ALTHOUGH I HAVE ALWAYS THOUGHT THAT THE NOCTURNAL LUNA MOTH WAS FAR MORE BEAUTIFUL.

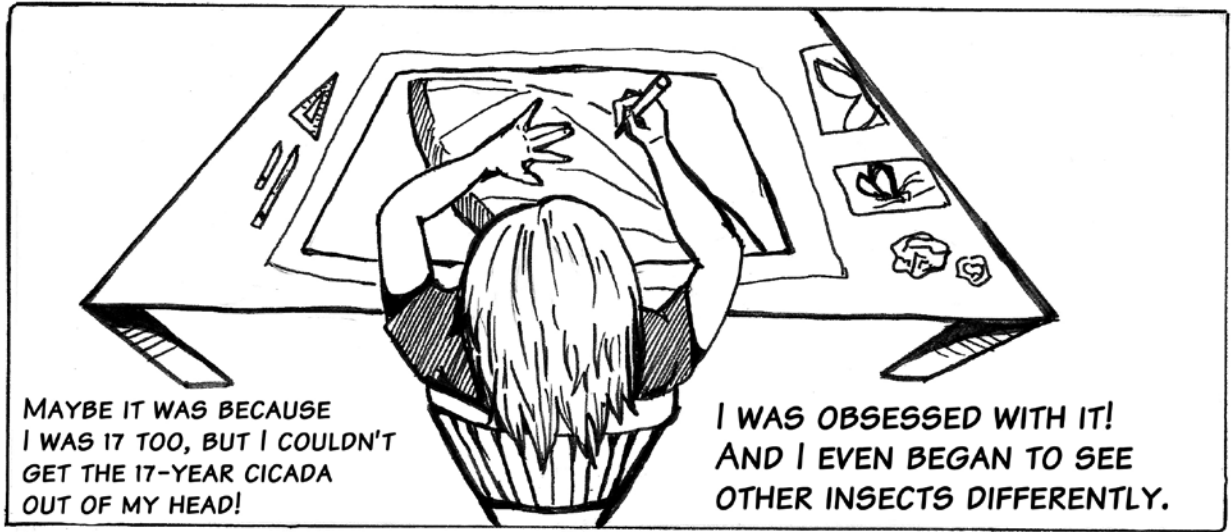
LUNA MOTH

AND IT'S NOT JUST MOTHS AND BUTTERFLIES THAT UNDERGO METAMORPHOSIS. BEETLES, FLIES, ANTS, AND WASPS DO TOO.

BUT AS I STUDIED INSECTS FOR MY ART CLASS, I WAS AMAZED BY THE 17-YEAR CICADA. THESE BUGS UNDERGO INCOMPLETE METAMORPHOSIS AND SPEND 17 YEARS UNDERGROUND AS LARVAE, FINALLY BREAKING OUT OF THEIR OLD SKINS AS WINGED ADULTS THAT ONLY LIVE A FEW DAYS.



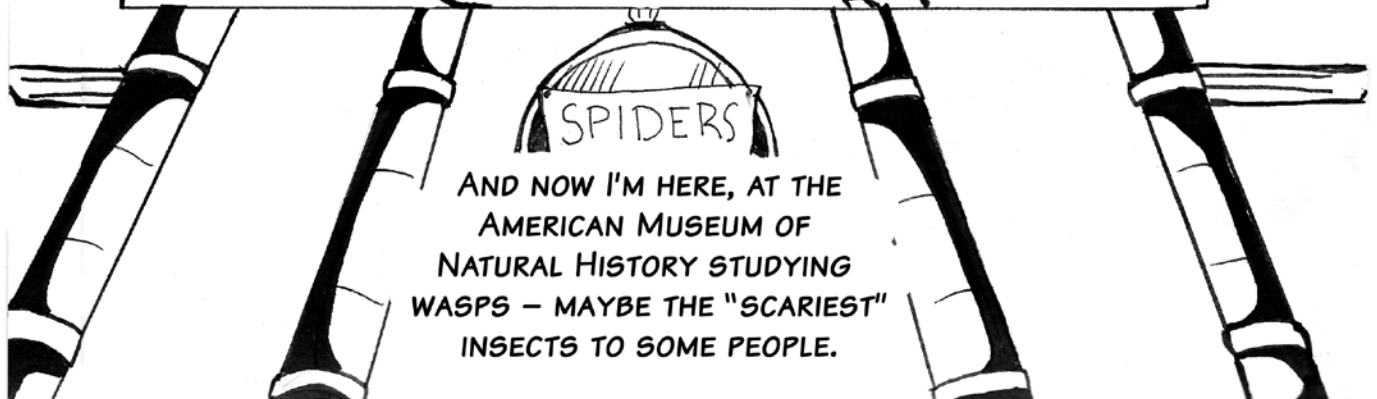
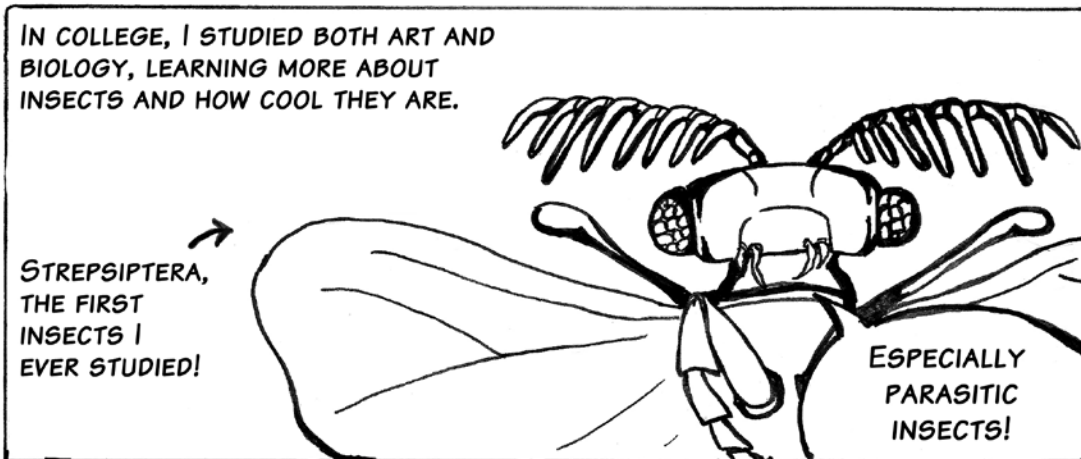
Early's Adventures in Wasp Land: Issue 1: How I Became an Entomologist



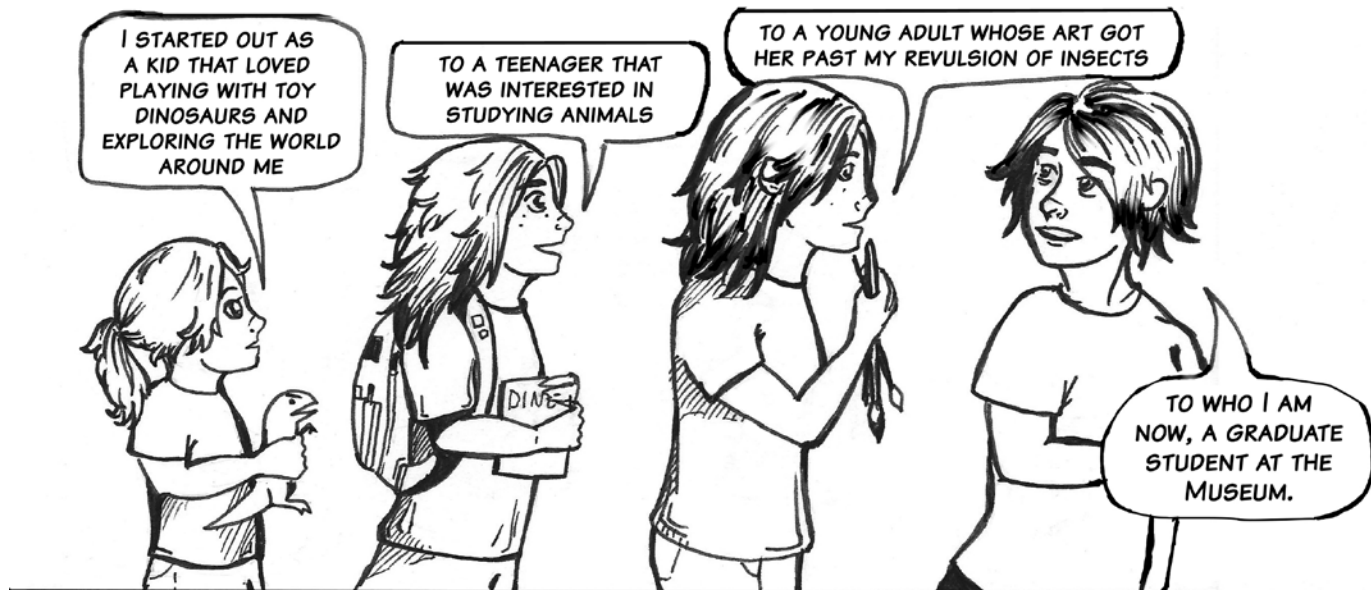
NOT AS CREEPY OR SCARY



BUT AS BEAUTIFUL!



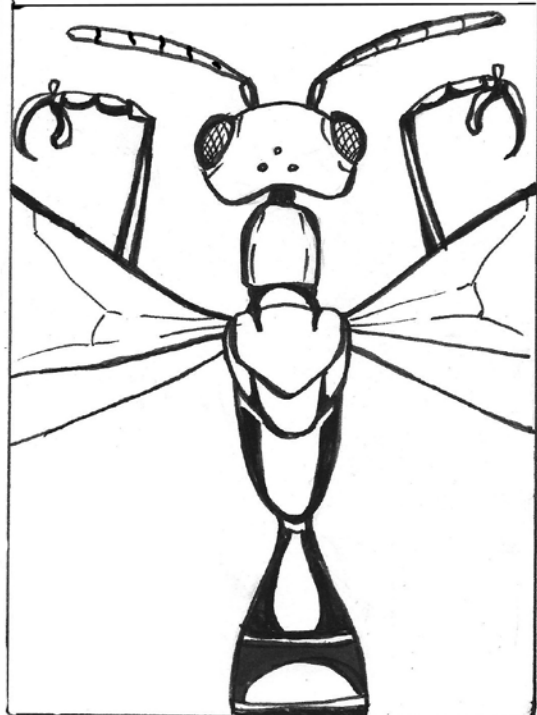
Early's Adventures in Wasp Land: Issue 1: How I Became an Entomologist



AND STUDYING INSECTS, DESPITE SOME "TRAUMATIC" ENCOUNTERS EARLIER IN LIFE.



I NOW STUDY WASPS! THESE PREDATORS OF THE INSECT WORLD ARE SOME OF THE MOST UNIQUE INSECTS IN TERMS OF THEIR BEHAVIORAL DIVERSITY.



AND I INVITE YOU TO JOIN ME AS I GO OUT IN THE FIELD TO STUDY THESE WASPS! WE'LL START OUR TRIP BY VISITING A SOLITARY WASP, *BEMBIX AMERICANA*.

