

MIRANDA RESIDENCE.

WASHINGTON HEIGHTS, MANHATTAN.

A WEEK AFTER THE A.I.M. ATTACK.

OOOH...SO I KNOW YOU'RE A SUPER HERO, NADIA, BUT THIS IS REALLY NOT AN EVIL LAIR YOU WANT TO WALK INTO RIGHT NOW.

ALEXIS MIRANDA.

ALREADY FORGAVE NADIA FOR KICKING HER.

PLEASE, ALEXIS. I NEED TO APOLOGIZE TO TAINA.

I'LL ASK.

NADIA VAN DYNE, A.K.A. THE UNSTOPPABLE WASP.

GIRL GENIUS. ATTEMPTING TO ATONE.

YO, TAI, NADIA'S AT THE DOOR. SHE WANTS TO APOLOGIZE TO YOU.

YEAH? WELL, TELL HER TO WRITE HER APOLOGY DOWN ON HER CHALKBOARD AND SHOVE IT UP HER--

TAINA!

I SCREWED SOMETHING UP AND I TREATED A FRIEND BADLY AND I CAN'T JUST LEAVE IT LIKE THAT!

OH, WE'RE DOING THIS HUH? HERE SHE COMES.

OUT OF MY WAY, THUNDRA THIGHS!

LISTEN, BRUJA, I MADE MYSELF VERY CLEAR ON THE PHONE. I'M DONE WITH YOU AND YOUR LITTLE LAB. ALEXIS IS STILL HELPING JANET WITH THE EXPO, BUT I'M OUT.

THAT'S WHAT I WANTED TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT. I MESSED UP AND YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE TO SUFFER FOR IT.

I KNOW THE LAB AND THE RESOURCES WERE IMPORTANT TO YOU AND I DON'T WANT YOU TO LOSE THEM JUST BECAUSE OF ME.

TAINA MIRANDA.

WORLD-CLASS ENGINEER. NOT HERE FOR IT.

LISTEN TO YOU! EVEN YOUR APOLOGY IS SOME PRIVILEGED ABLEIST NONSENSE! I WAS BUILDING ROBOTS OUT OF JUNK BEFORE YOU SHOWED UP HERE.

MAKING 'EM OUT OF TITANIUM INSTEAD OF TIN AIN'T WORTH SHARING LAB SPACE WITH SOMEBODY WHO THINKS SHE NEEDS TO "FIX" ME!

SLAM!



FINE. STARE AT ME. MAYBE NEXT TIME STARE OUT THE PEEPHOLE BEFORE YOU OPEN THE DOOR.

SHE APOLOGIZED. AND LIKE IT OR NOT, THAT LAB COULD DO A LOT OF THINGS FOR YOUR FUTURE.

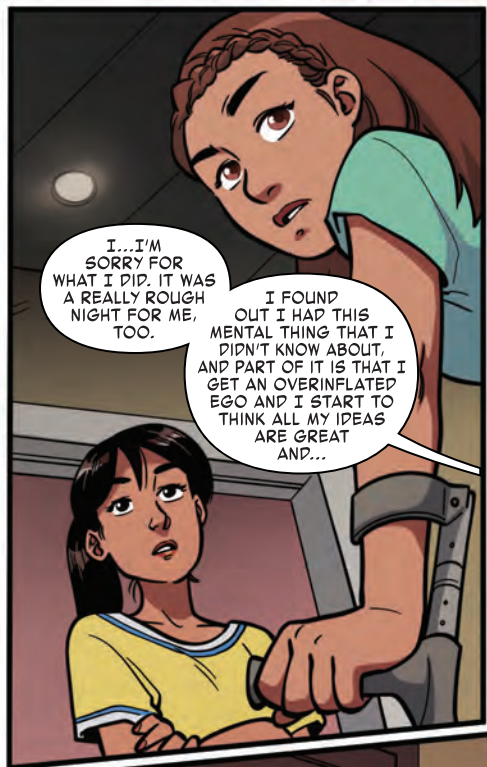


SHE'S PROBABLY CHECKING OFF SOME BOX ON A LIST HER PSYCHOLOGIST GAVE HER TO MAKE HER FEEL BETTER.

AND IT'S WORTH THROWING OPPORTUNITIES AWAY JUST SO SHE WON'T FEEL BETTER?

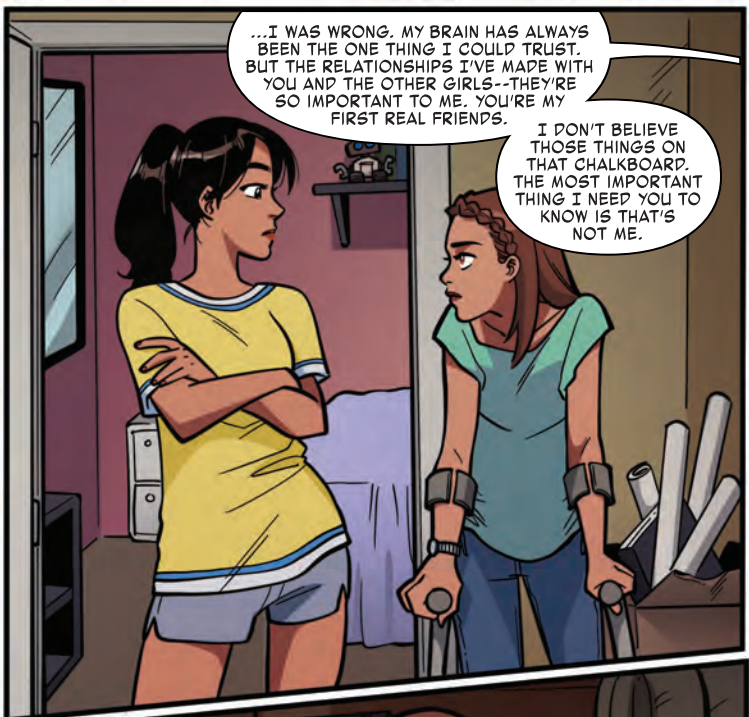
I DON'T CARE HOW SHE FEELS. I SAW HOW SHE THINKS ABOUT ME AND--

TAINA!



I...I'M SORRY FOR WHAT I DID. IT WAS A REALLY ROUGH NIGHT FOR ME, TOO.

I FOUND OUT I HAD THIS MENTAL THING THAT I DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT, AND PART OF IT IS THAT I GET AN OVERINFLATED EGO AND I START TO THINK ALL MY IDEAS ARE GREAT AND...



...I WAS WRONG. MY BRAIN HAS ALWAYS BEEN THE ONE THING I COULD TRUST. BUT THE RELATIONSHIPS I'VE MADE WITH YOU AND THE OTHER GIRLS--THEY'RE SO IMPORTANT TO ME. YOU'RE MY FIRST REAL FRIENDS.

I DON'T BELIEVE THOSE THINGS ON THAT CHALKBOARD. THE MOST IMPORTANT THING I NEED YOU TO KNOW IS THAT'S NOT ME.



I DIDN'T COME HERE TO RECRUIT YOU BECAUSE I THOUGHT YOU NEEDED ME. I CAME BECAUSE YOU HAD ONE OF THE MOST BRILLIANT ENGINEERING BRAINS I'D EVER SEEN AND G.I.R.L. NEEDS YOU!

AND I... WANT TO BE FRIENDS WITH THE GIRL WHO BUILDS ROBOTS.

STOP LOOKING AT ME LIKE THAT. GO LET HER IN.

A FEW DAYS EARLIER.

NADIA, DO YOU UNDERSTAND WHY YOU'RE HERE?

YES, DR. SINCLAIR. I'M SICK AND I NEED YOUR HELP TO GET BETTER.

JANET VAN DYNE, A.K.A. THE WINSOME WASP.

FOUNDING AVENGER.
MENTOR. SURROGATE MOM.

NADIA, IT'S GOOD THAT YOU RECOGNIZE THE NEED FOR HELP, BUT I WANT YOU TO GO INTO THIS WITH REALISTIC EXPECTATIONS.

BIPOLAR DISORDER IS NOT A VIRUS. YOU CAN'T GET RID OF IT AND YOU CAN'T KILL IT.

WITH MEDICATION AND MINDFUL BEHAVIOR, WE CAN MANAGE IT AND WE CAN MINIMIZE THE IMPACT IT HAS ON YOUR DAY-TO-DAY LIFE.

ACTUALLY, I'VE BEEN DOING A LOT OF READING AND I HAVE SOME IDEAS. IT WOULD CERTAINLY REQUIRE SOME TESTING, BUT I THINK IF I TRIED IT OUT ON MYSELF--

NADIA, LET ME STOP YOU THERE.

I NEVER TREATED YOUR FATHER, BUT IT APPEARS HE HAD BIPOLAR DISORDER AS WELL.

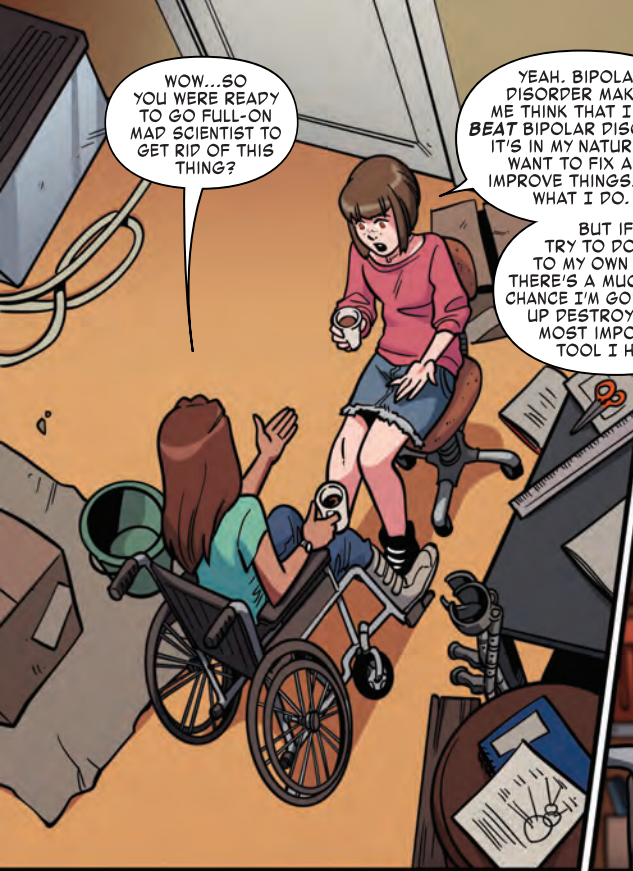
HE THOUGHT SO.

IT ALSO SEEMS, FROM THE REPORTS I FOUND, THAT HE HAD A HISTORY OF EXPERIMENTING ON HIMSELF, OFTEN LEADING TO INJURY AND ILLNESS.

HE DID.

INFLATED EGO, RISKY BEHAVIOR, UNCONTROLLED GOAL-BASED BEHAVIOR-- THESE ARE THE WAYS YOU WOULD TRY TO "CURE" YOURSELF. AND WHAT DO THOSE SOUND LIKE SYMPTOMS OF?

...
BIPOLAR DISORDER.



WOW...SO YOU WERE READY TO GO FULL-ON MAD SCIENTIST TO GET RID OF THIS THING?

YEAH. BIPOLAR DISORDER MAKES ME THINK THAT I CAN BEAT BIPOLAR DISORDER. IT'S IN MY NATURE TO WANT TO FIX AND IMPROVE THINGS. IT'S WHAT I DO.

BUT IF I TRY TO DO THAT TO MY OWN BRAIN, THERE'S A MUCH BETTER CHANCE I'M GOING TO END UP DESTROYING THE MOST IMPORTANT TOOL I HAVE.

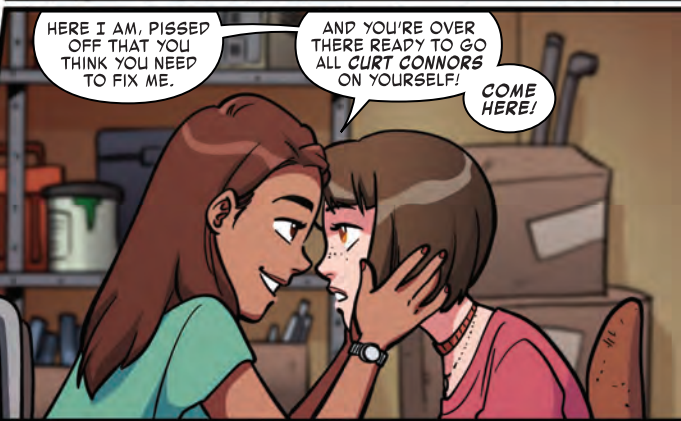


Haha Haha!

OH, GIRL, LOOK AT YOU. YOU'RE A MESS.

HEY!

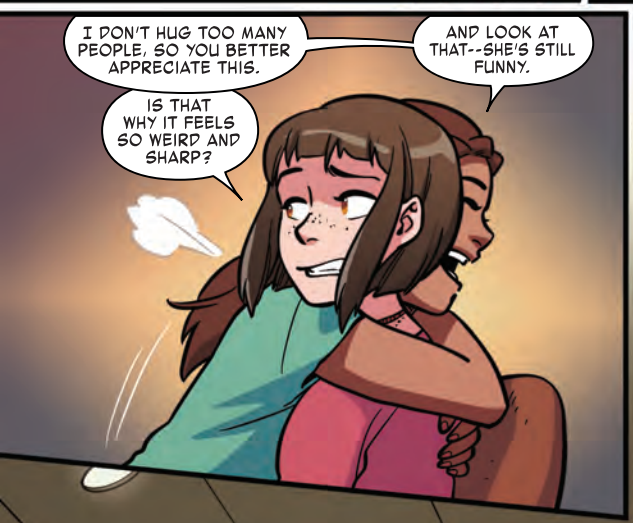
NO, IT'S GOOD. AT LEAST AS FAR AS YOU AND ME GO.



HERE I AM, PISSED OFF THAT YOU THINK YOU NEED TO FIX ME.

AND YOU'RE OVER THERE READY TO GO ALL CURT CONNORS ON YOURSELF!

COME HERE!



I DON'T HUG TOO MANY PEOPLE, SO YOU BETTER APPRECIATE THIS.

AND LOOK AT THAT--SHE'S STILL FUNNY.

IS THAT WHY IT FEELS SO WEIRD AND SHARP?



THIS BIPOLAR THING, IT'S GONNA BE LIKE MY CEREBRAL PALSY.

IT'S GONNA HURT. SOMETIMES IT'LL SCREW UP YOUR WHOLE DAY OR KEEP YOU FROM DOING SOMETHING YOU REALLY WANT TO DO. REALIZING YOUR LIMITS CAN BE HARD, BUT YOU CAN'T LET IT BEAT YOU.

THE BEST AND WORST DAYS OF YOUR LIFE STILL HAPPEN. SOME DAYS YOU'LL JUST CRY ABOUT NOTHING, 'CAUSE IT AIN'T FAIR.



BUT MOST OF THE TIME, IT'LL JUST BE PART OF WHO YOU ARE. IT DOESN'T HAVE TO DEFINE YOU, BUT YOU CAN EMBRACE IT. PEOPLE WILL GO, "OH, POOR TAINA, SHE CAN'T WALK WITHOUT BRACES."

AND YOU'LL SAY, "YEAH, AND I TOOK APART AND REBUILT THE ENGINE FOR MY SISTER'S CAR AT 12. YOU CAN'T EVEN PROGRAM YOUR REMOTE CONTROL AND BOTH YOUR LEGS WORK FINE."

OR...THAT FOR MENTAL STUFF, I GUESS.