

WREN JAMES

The VICTORS

ILLUSTRATED BY BETH FULLER



**By the same author
(previously published as Lauren James)**

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The Last Beginning

The Loneliest Girl in the Universe

The Quiet at the End of the World

The Reckless Afterlife of Harriet Stoker

Green Rising

**Future Hopes: Hopeful Stories in a
Time of Climate Change**

Last Seen Online



WREN JAMES

The VICTORS

ILLUSTRATED BY
BETH FULLER

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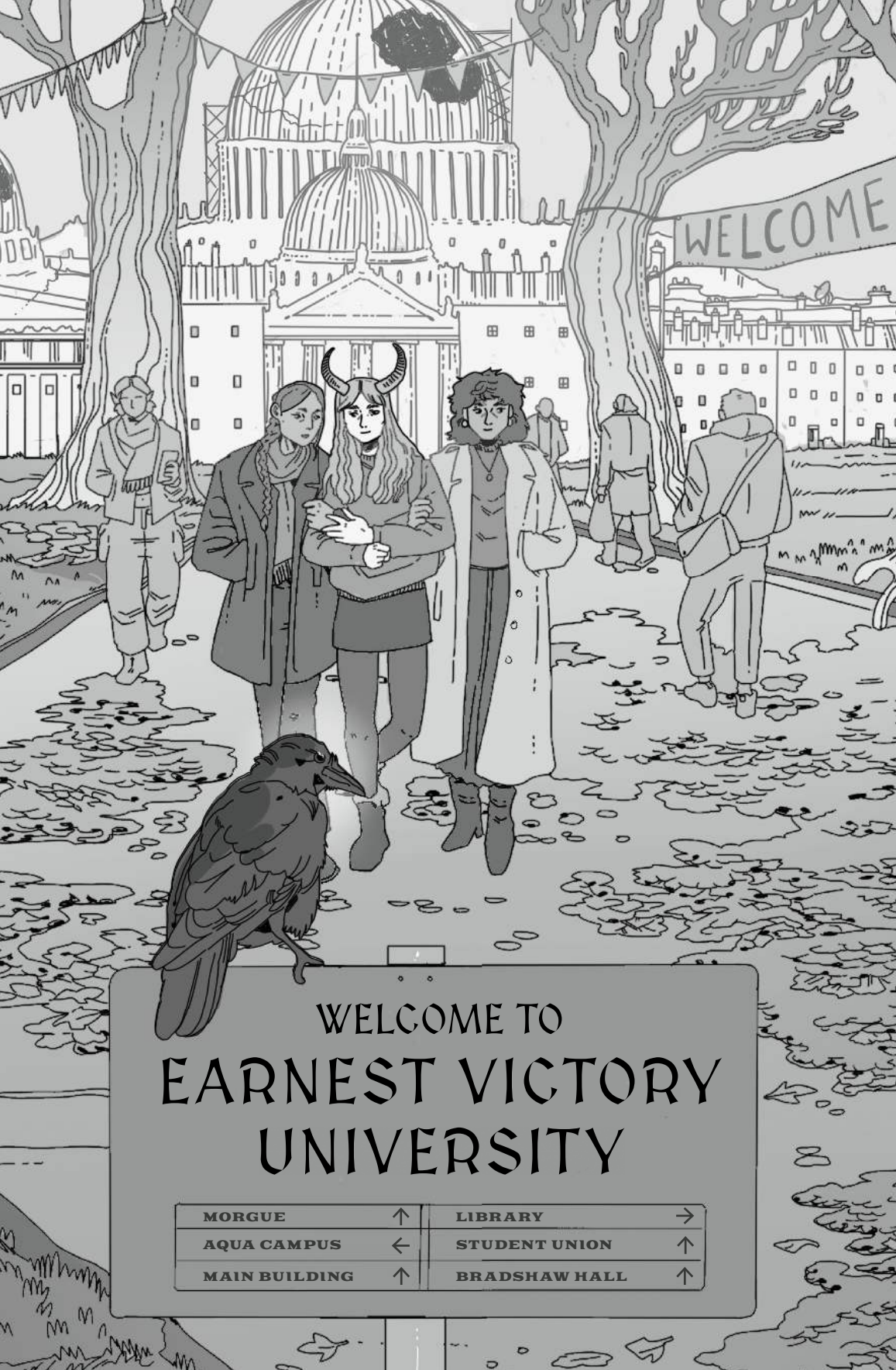
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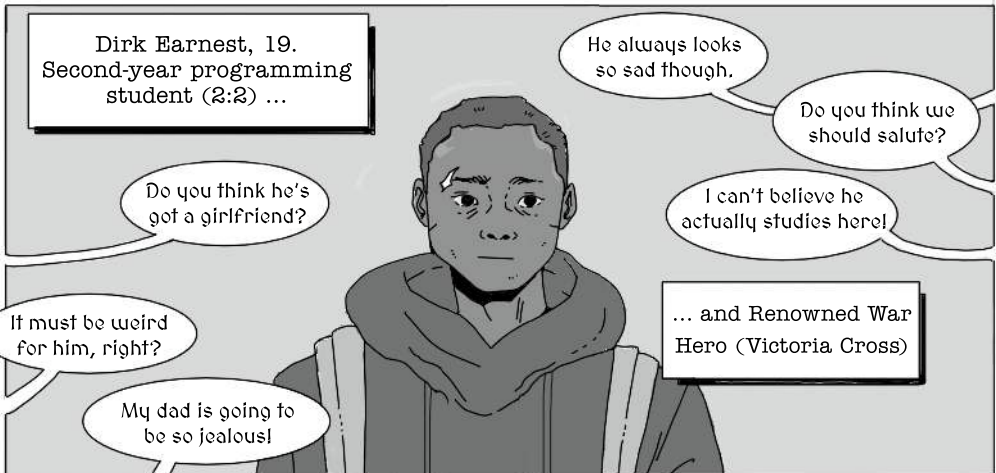


WELCOME TO EARNEST VICTORY UNIVERSITY

MORGUE	↑	LIBRARY	→
AQUA CAMPUS	←	STUDENT UNION	↑
MAIN BUILDING	↑	BRADSHAW HALL	↑

A black and white illustration of a boy with a backpack looking at a fence made of insects. The boy is in the foreground, seen from the back, wearing a jacket and a backpack. He is looking towards a fence made of a chain of insects, possibly bees or ants, which is strung between two trees. In the background, there is a large domed building, possibly a school or a government building, and a large tree on the right. The ground is covered in leaves and small plants.

1.
**BUZZ cut
season**





I'm Dirk.

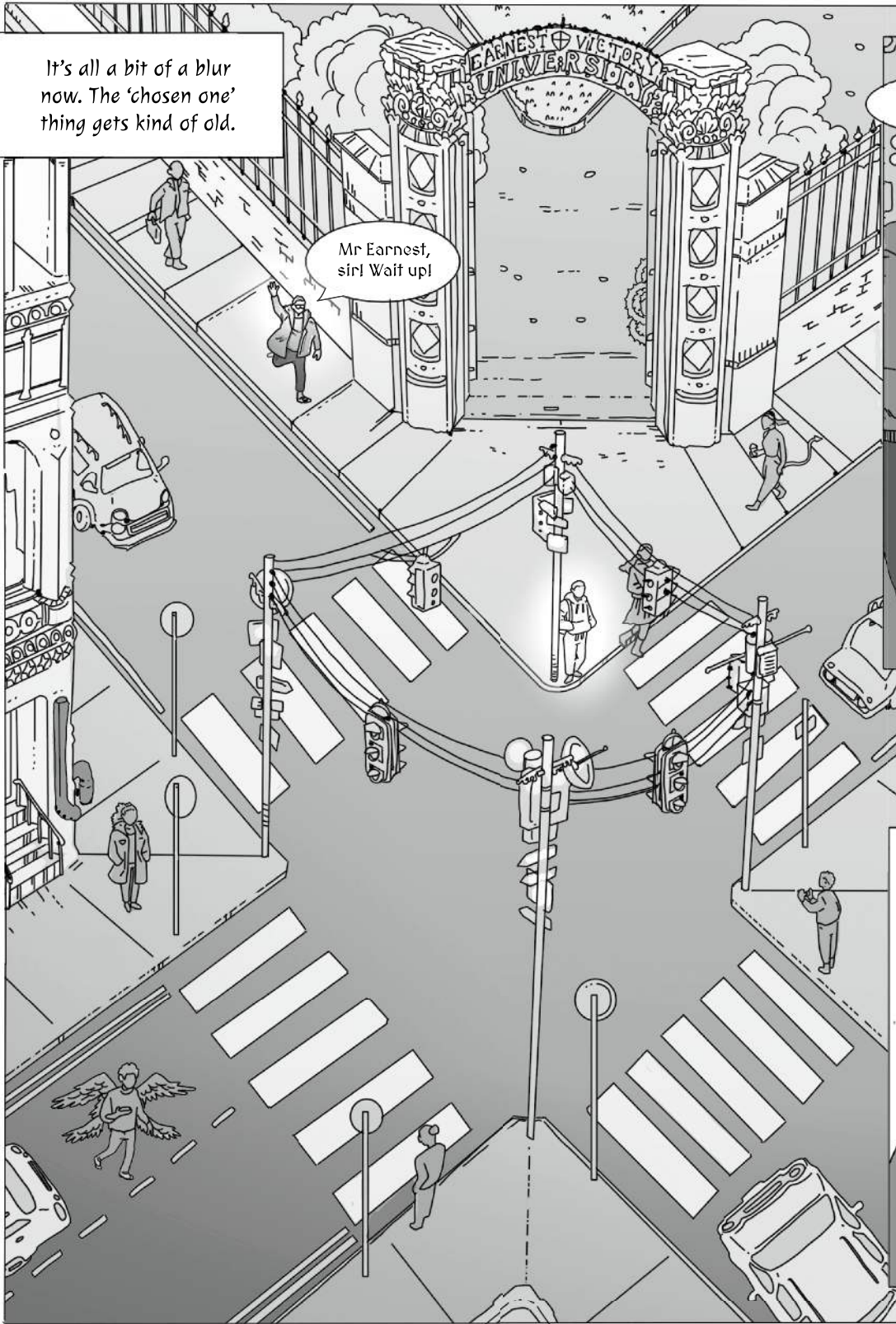
I, er, saved the world
when I was fifteen.

A couple of times.

It was fine.

It's all a bit of a blur now. The 'chosen one' thing gets kind of old.

Mr Earnest, sir! Wait up!





@dirksclose

I'm Jeff, the founder of the Dirk Earnest Fan Club
(studying dentistry!) 📷 ✍️



@dirksclose

Today Dirk was wearing the
'Go Outdoors Tan Rucksack'
- £74.97
#fashion #style #influencer

Comments:

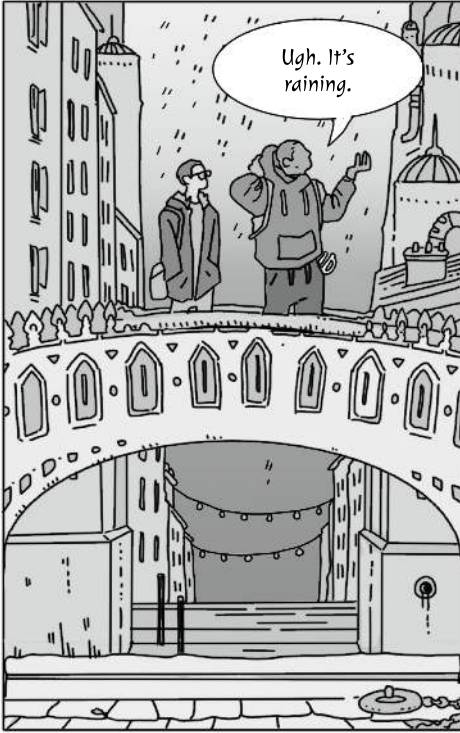
@DemonSlayerSimp STOP
and in that hoodie too

@dirksgirl he's such a player.
look at all the A-listers sliding
into his comments section!




I get fans hanging around sometimes. I try to be nice, give them some time.



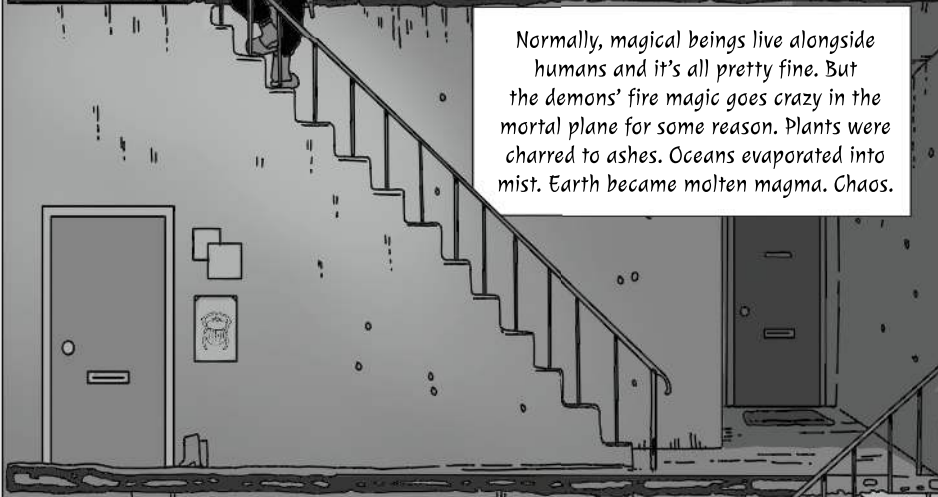


Everyone with magic, human or beast, was conscripted for the war against the demons. Including kids like me. Once the enemy was banished back to the demon realm, the magical soldiers were left to reintegrate with society. Finish their education. Find somewhere to live amongst the ruins.






The war had been brewing since I was a kid, basically. The void demons wanted somewhere with light and life.



Normally, magical beings live alongside humans and it's all pretty fine. But the demons' fire magic goes crazy in the mortal plane for some reason. Plants were charred to ashes. Oceans evaporated into mist. Earth became molten magma. Chaos.



I lost my magic after the final battle. Life's been mostly quiet since then. Which is nice.

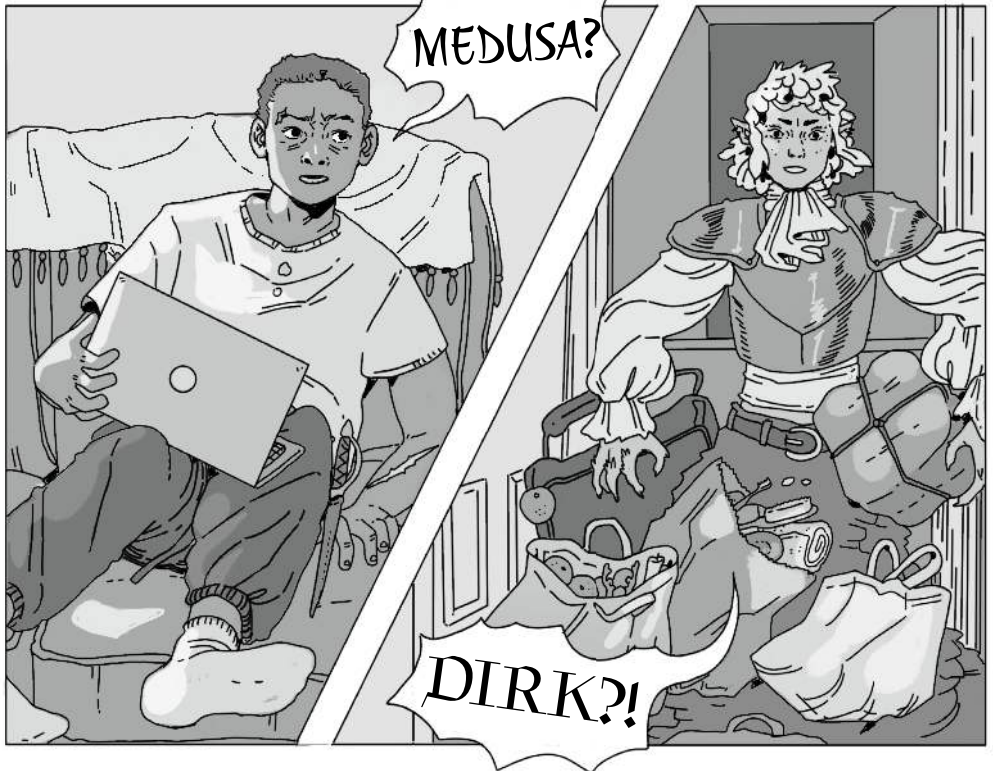
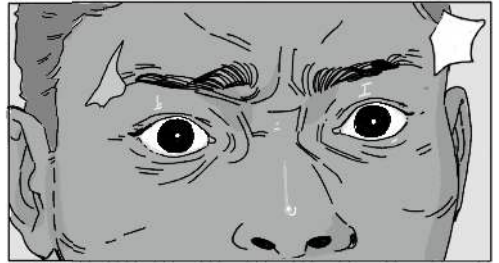
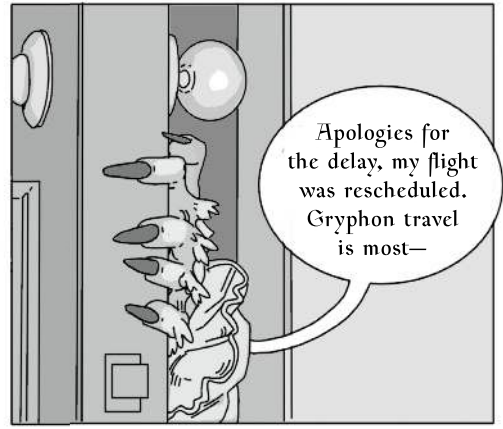
I was on a waiting list for months to get this place. They had to rebuild half the top floor.



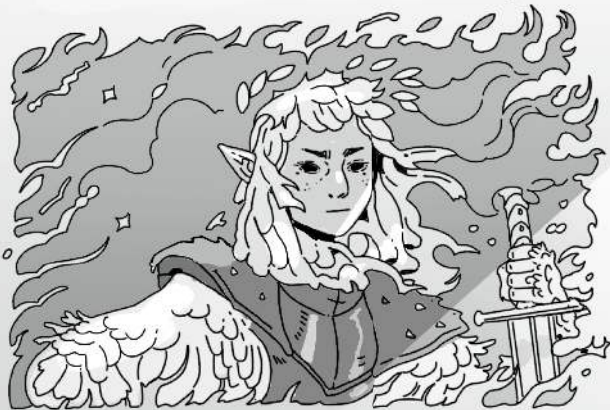
I moved in about a week ago. I haven't got the hang of cleaning by hand yet.



But I don't have to worry about going hungry any more.



MEDUSA DE LA TEMPÊTE



AGE: 18

RANK: Human minion to demon overlord Raróg

MAGIC: Shapeshifting

SPECIAL WEAPONS: Magma scythe

SIDEKICK: Horde of loyal demon cavalry

FOES DEFEATED: 1,345

VULNERABILITIES: [REDACTED]

INTERESTS: ~~dark arts~~ visual arts

FUN FACT! Medusa's name means 'Ruler of the storm'!

AGE

RA

MA

SP

SI

FOES DEFEATED:

VULNERABILITIES:

INTERESTS: