Swinging Island



18+ ADULTS ONLY



Idea, Story & Art by **Andrew Tarusov**

Editing by **Brendan Jones**

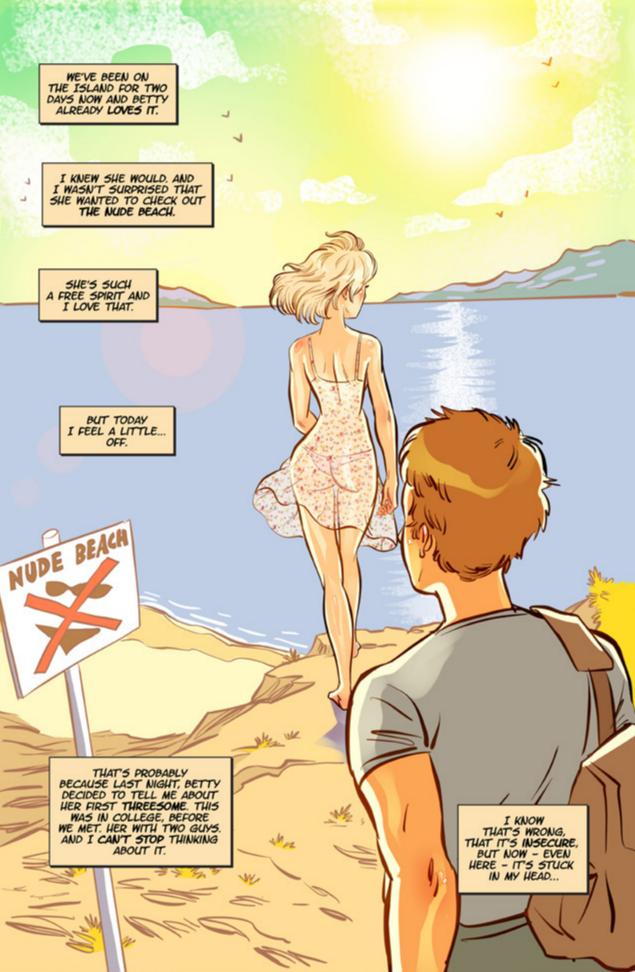
Lettering by Vladislav Troshin

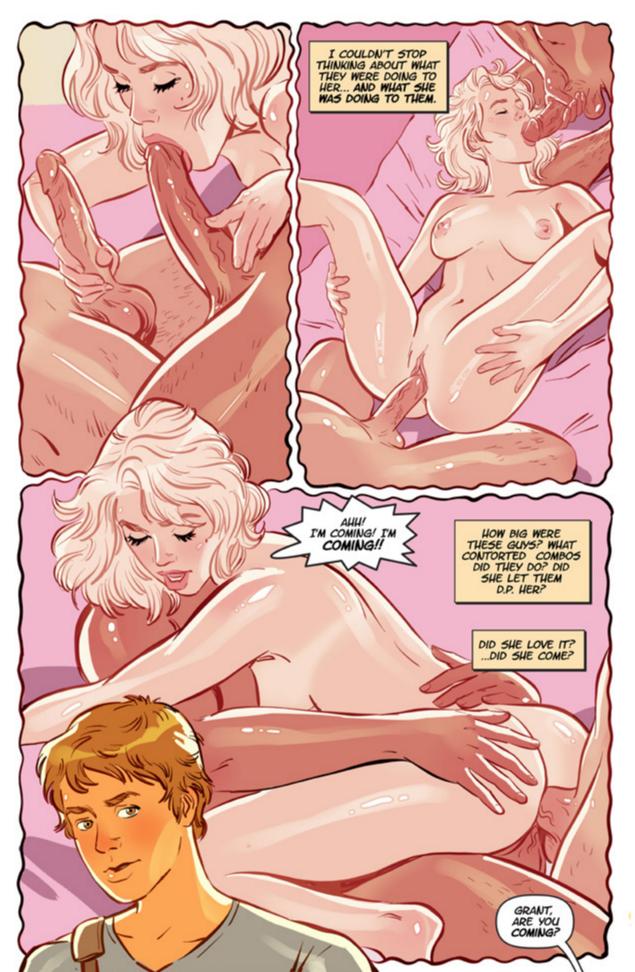
Partialy Colored by Adelya Adienova Maria Denisova

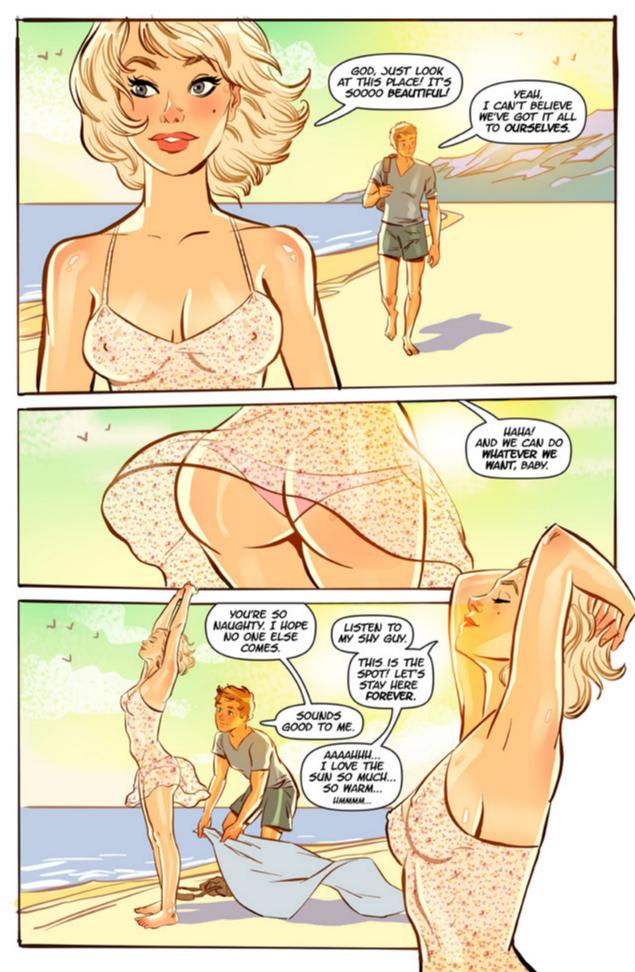
Partialy Edited by **Tracy Scops Nathan Aardvark**











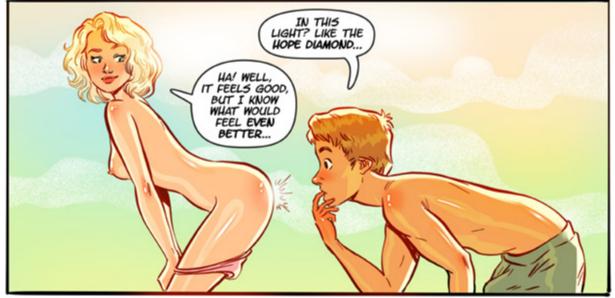






















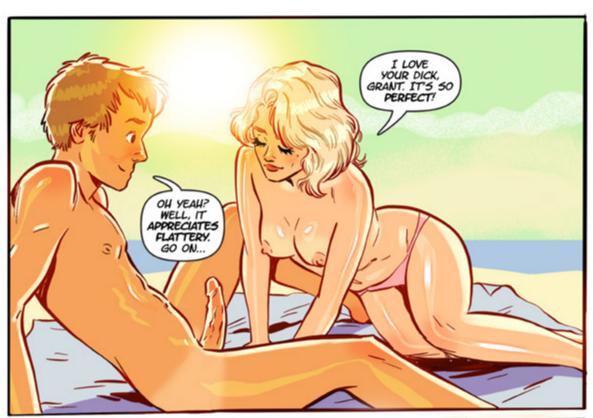




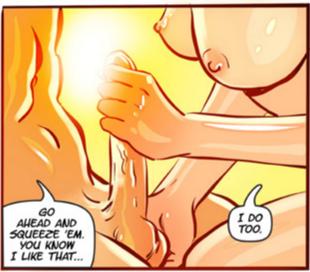












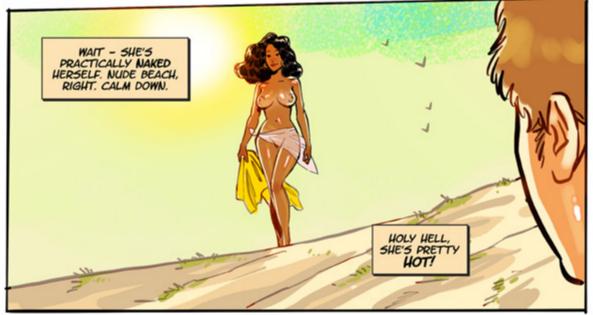








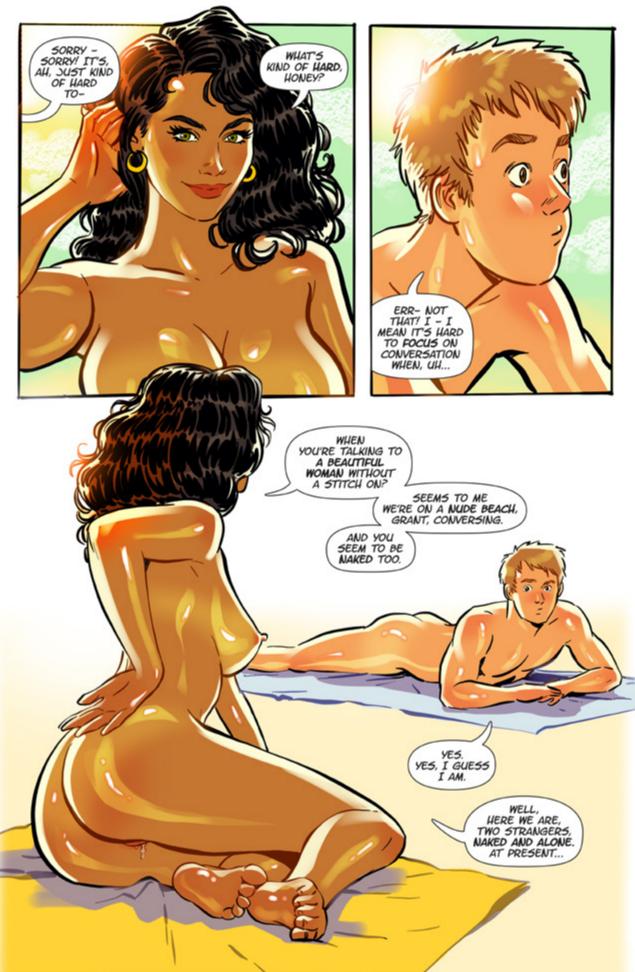




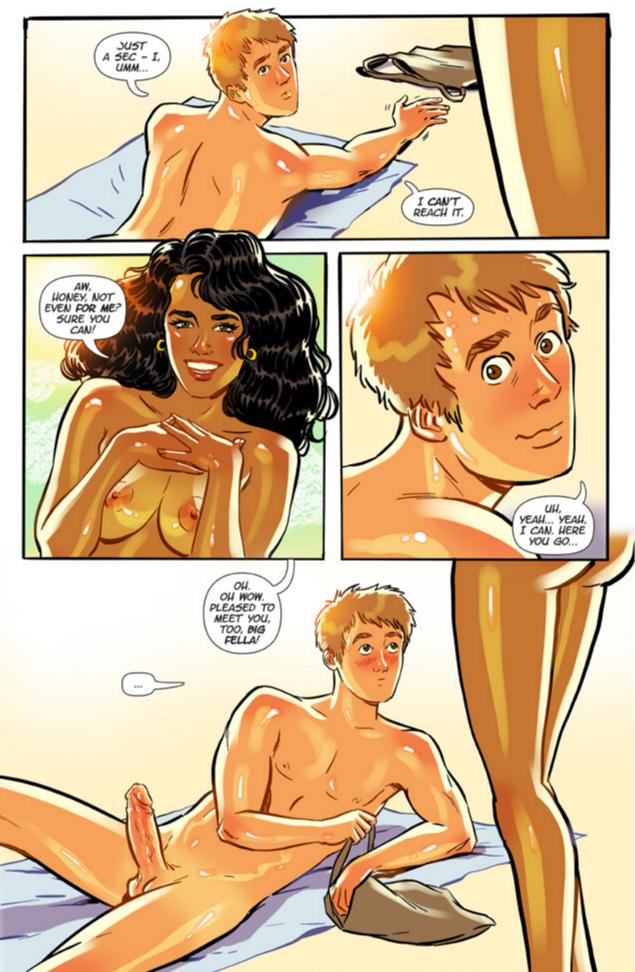




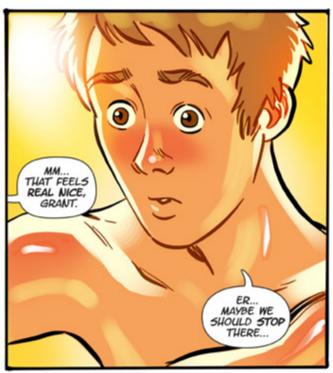




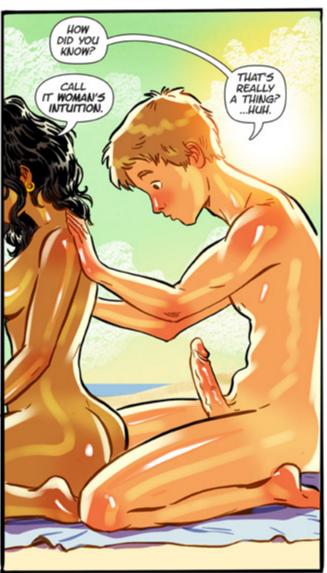








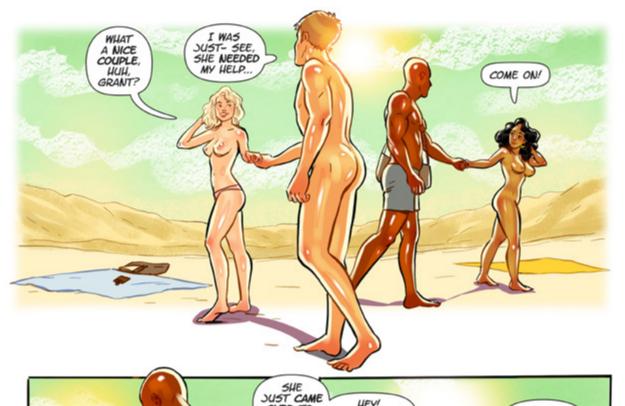














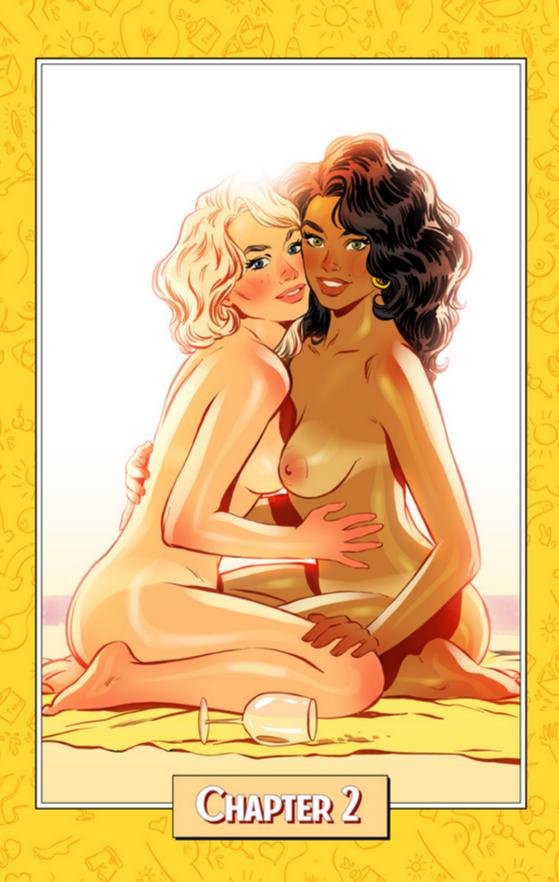








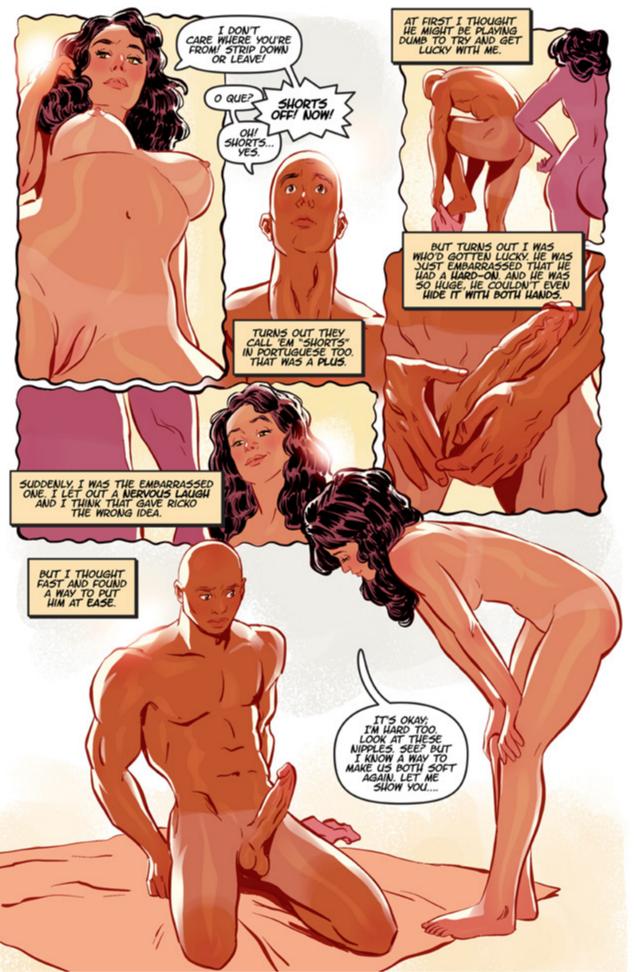




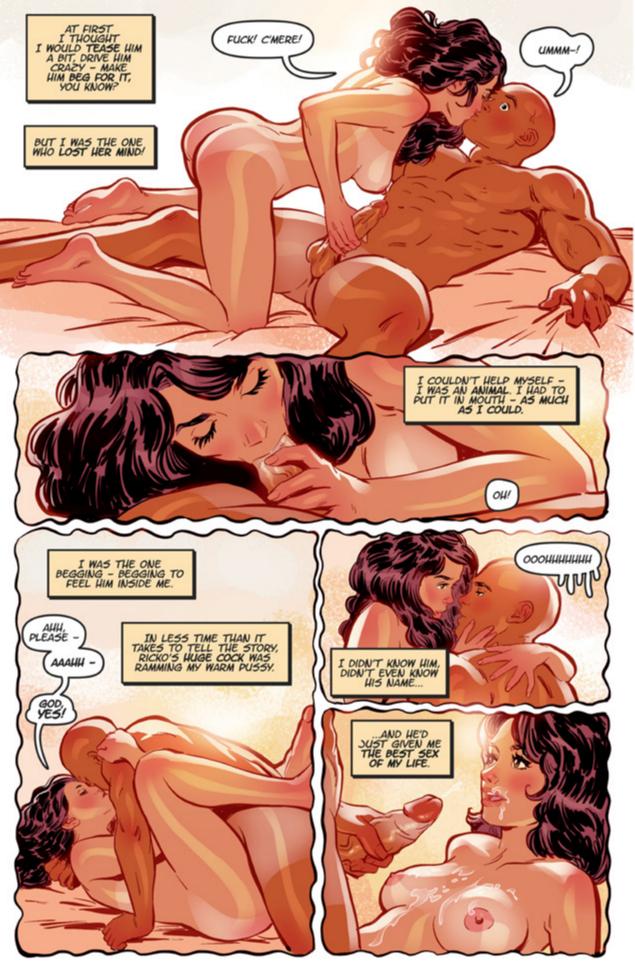












































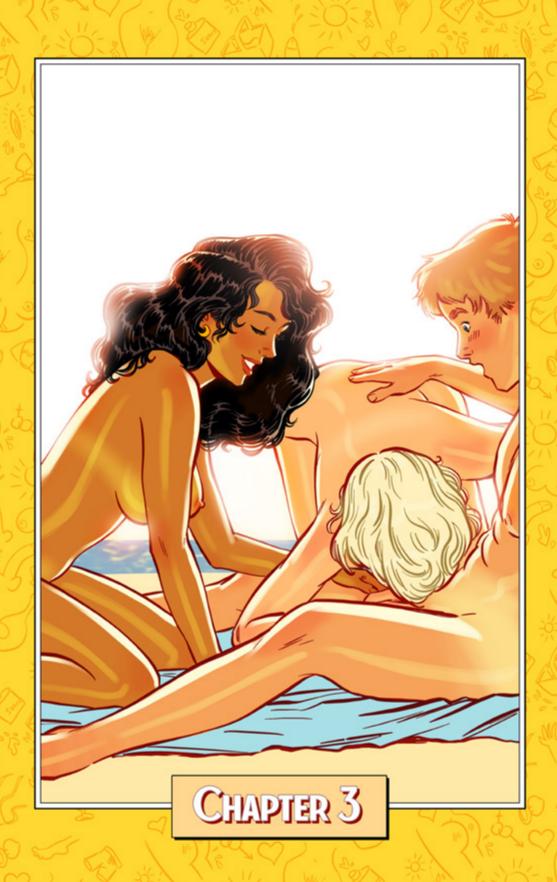


















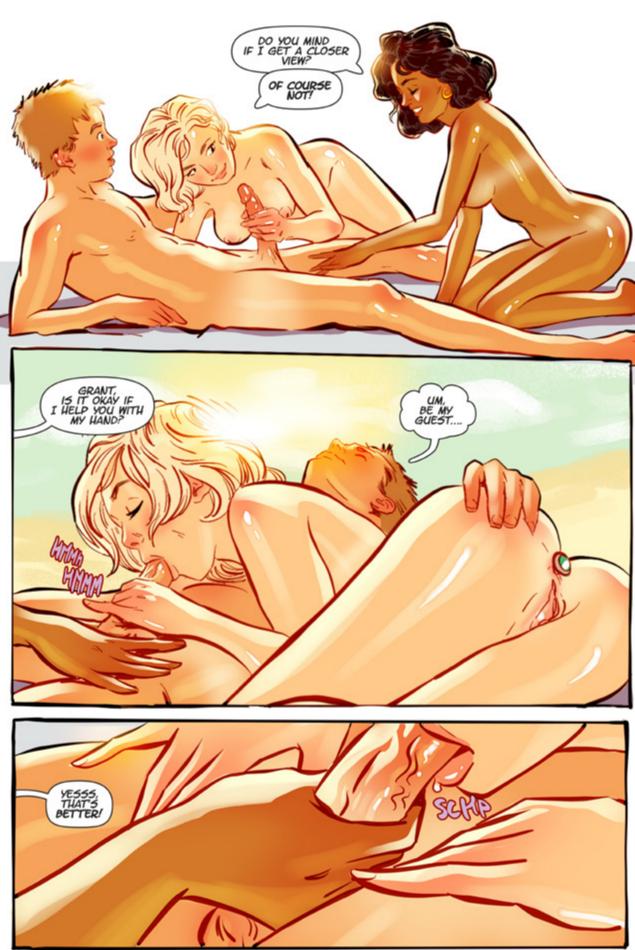




































































































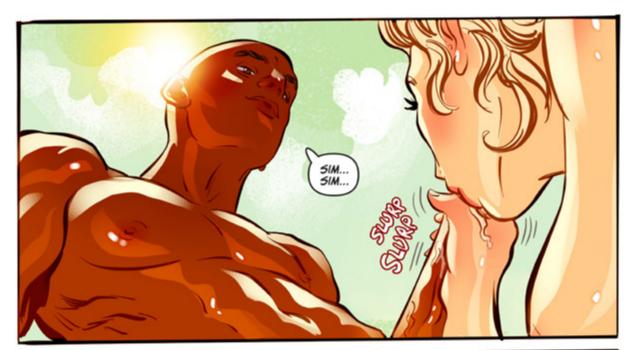


























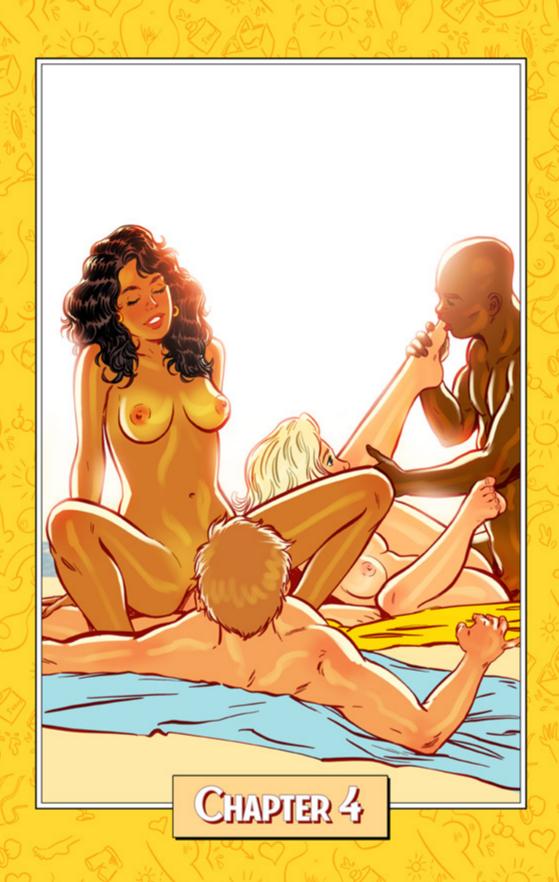
























































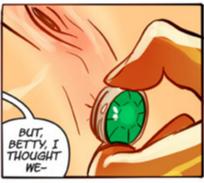














































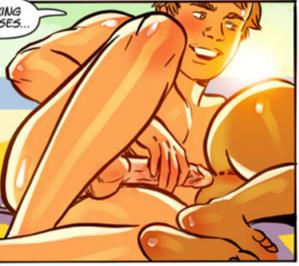


































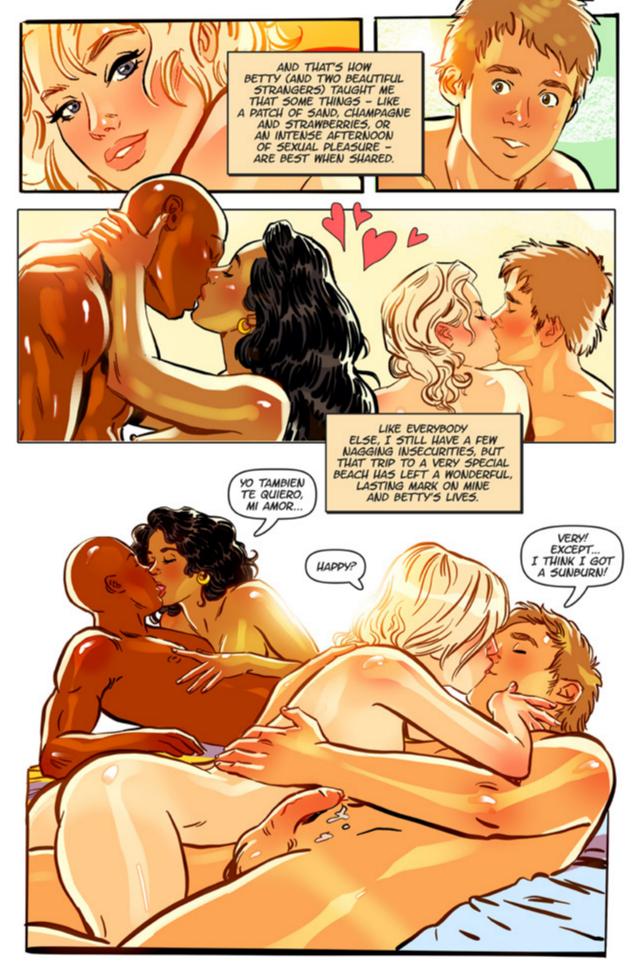










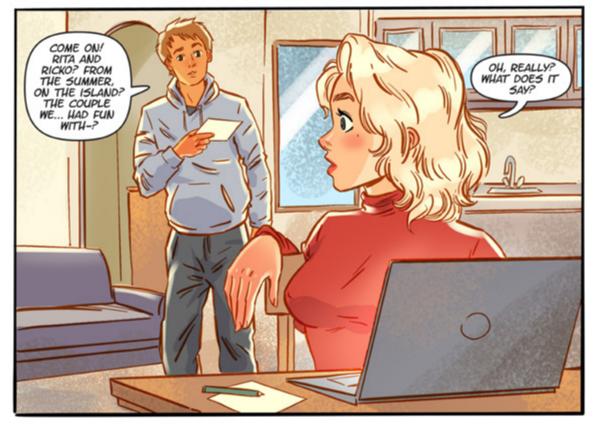






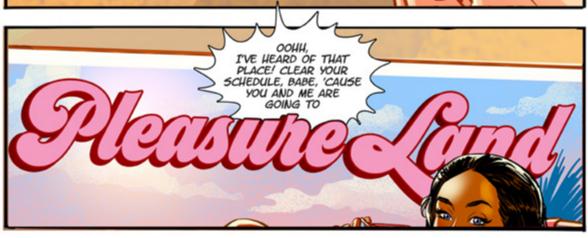














Author's Note

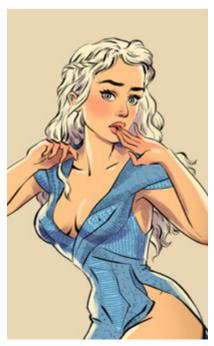
I'm **Andrew Tarusov**, the creator of the book you're reading now. First and foremost, I'm a pin-up artist.

In 2011, I made the pin-up calendar that kicked-off my career. But that's been covered elsewhere and, let's face it, that's not why you're here. Let's talk a bit about Swinging Island and how I found myself there.

The story of this comic begins with the launch of my **Patreon** page in 2015. (For the uninitiated, Patreon is a site on which people can subscribe to an artist's page and receive various bonuses and exclusives in return.) At the beginning, I was offering my \$1-5 subscribers high resolution Photoshop files of my pin-ups, but the response was sluggish. Then,

inspired by some of my artistic peers, I said that if I got \$500 a month, I would spice things up a bit by uploading nude versions of the same pin-ups. That was the turning point: boobs!

My subscriber base grew immediately and I soon passed the \$500 mark - by a lot. Technically, the new art itself wasn't so difficult for me; all I had to do was add a layer with bare breasts over the original pieces in Photoshop. But the real challenge (and it's awkward to admit), was that I'd never painted nipples! Of course, I drew them from live models during art courses, but I was always a little clumsy. Nevertheless, I somehow managed to overcome that hurdle and began to draw girls with bare breasts, and bare everything else.



Usual Version



Not Safe For Work Version

After some time, my wife and I moved to America from my native Russia. That was a big shift and I knew I had to earn a lot more just to support us. The Patreon income helped, but I noticed that subscribers often sign up just long enough to download all the content and then leave. I had to think of a way to keep my subscribers sticking around. That's when I had the idea to start making comics.

I love comics and have always wanted to create them. Coincidentally, just as I was about to give it a go, I was contacted by DC comics. They were interested in me as the new artist on their series **DC Bombshells** because its vintage pin-up aesthetic was very suited to my style, but I didn't have any current examples of sequential comics work. Turns out I also didn't have legal permission to work in America so it didn't happen, but I wasn't too bothered. I was still deter-

mined to create an original comic for my Patreon which would attract (and keep) subscribers while also building my sequential art skills.

I had several ideas and wanted to do them all to some extent, but I suspected that the most relevant genre for me would be pin-up themed or erotic comics. A poll of my subscribers overwhelmingly favored an erotic graphic novel. No real surprise there, but the pin-up option was strongly supported as well, so, without hesitation, I decided to do both. In retrospect, this was not a very wise decision.

The amount of work has been staggering, but I'm very proud of both projects. I'll tell you all about **Pinupo-calypse**, my 1950s drive-in movie inspired action/comedy/romance with a side of cheesecake comic, when it's finally published, but this is about its naughtier cousin **Swinging Island**.



Comics Poll (back in 2015)



Debut of the Swinging Island, Jan 7, 2016

The name and the concept (two couples meeting randomly on a nude beach) came quickly and I immediately launched into the first pages. While I knew that the comic would be erotic, that there would be full nudity, when I began drawing the book, I wasn't sure if it would involve genitals and graphic sex. I hadn't decided what its "rating" would be - an R-rated erotic movie or an X-rated porno. Honestly, I wanted to draw everything, without censorship or restrictions, but I didn't know how my fans or my relatives would react to that.

For an example of a sticking point, I had the idea that when Rita appears, Grant, our "main" character, would have an erection that he would try to hide and which she would trick him into showing. And I really wanted to draw this page with a sudden reveal of his member (as you can see in addition-

al materials), but right up to the very moment of its creation, I didn't know whether it was worth going all out or playing it safe.

In the end, I asked my wife. While she was equally unsure what the smartest course of action was, she told me to draw what I want. Good advice!

At the start, I had no plot, no script, or even the names of the characters. I decided to just start drawing and come up with the rest along the way. This was another bad idea.

I finished five pages and realized that I didn't know what to do next. I realized that I needed to figure out my story and promptly began putting it together while walking my dogs at Elysian Park in Los Angeles. Writing a story in your head only works so well and it was inevitable that I would need to buckle down and make a proper script.

(Fun fact: Despite the presumptions of several of my readers that the names of the characters Betty and Rita are a tribute to the David Lynch film Mulholland Drive or that the name of Grant comes from classic actor Cary Grant (both fair guesses given my love of Hollywood films), the truth is that my main couple were originally designated in the script as "B" and "G" - for "Blonde" and "Guy!" Eventually I knew they had to have actual names, so I hit upon "Betty" and "Grant." And the names for the other couple, "Rico" and "Rita" were just the first names that popped into my head.)

Swinging Island as I envisioned it was to be a non-standard porn comic. Usually in comics of this genre (just like their cinematic equivalents) everything happens quickly. Characters, if they're even named, exist just to deliver sex scenes by page two. I wanted to tell a story about relatable people. In real life, most people don't start fucking within two minutes of meeting. They need to experience something together - or at least talk a little bit. That's why, in the original version, I held off on sex in the book for as long as I did (it was also a great motivation for my patrons not to unsubscribe...I teased them mercilessly).

As part of my desire to add a bit of realism, I purposefully included many touches that you wouldn't see in your average porn comic. Such as Grant's sexual insecurity, premature ejaculation, the girls washing themselves off after being ejaculated on, Betty's post-anal "cum fart," etc. But, beyond the mechanics, I also wanted to present a fresh character dynamic as well, specifically in regards

to Betty, a woman who clearly is much more sexually driven than her male partner. They may be unlikely inspirations, but I'm a big fan of **Russ Meyer's** sexploitation movies. Meyer's male characters are often played for comedy as opposed to macho stereotypes. Russ Meyer was certainly no progressive, but he always presented very strong women. I wanted to make my story feminist at heart and saturated with respect for women. In my comics universe, women want sex, choose when they get it, and know what they want out of it.

Patreon or no, for a stretch of 2016, work on the comic book pretty much stopped. We made a trip back to Russia, my wife became very ill and I didn't draw for quite a while. I still thought about it and, around this time, I became interested in erotic comics by the brilliant **Jordi Bernet**. I liked his style so much that I even began aping his style for Swinging Island, but quickly decided that it wasn't a good fit.



Jordi Bernet Style Inspired

Returning to America, I decided to change my approach and finally (!) began to create a script. I also began to draw sketches, pulling inspiration for poses and scenes from porn photos and screenshots that I would collage into page roughs. Based on these scenarios, I began to write the final script. There was just one small problem: my English. It's not perfect. And my readers were helpful in pointing that out. It was time to find some help.

Through Patreon I met **Tracy Scops**, a writer who creates erotic comics in collaboration with several artists. At some point in our correspondence, I suggested that she should finish my story and I would draw a comic from one of her scripts. She agreed and wrote several pages, but I realized that, though her work was amazing, neither

of our projects were being served by this partnership. We amicably dissolved our arrangement, satisfied with simply promoting each other's work on Patreon.

Nearly halfway into the comic, I finally solidified the style I would adopt for the whole book. In order to make this consistent across the entire project, I redrew the first fifteen pages which had been drawn in a completely different style. This was a ton of work and I was aware while I was in the thick of it that I would have to find another willing soul to help me put words on the paper. That's when my good friend **Nathan Aardvark** came to the rescue, offering to dialogue the first pages free of charge, simply because he liked what I was doing. Of course I agreed!



Different coloring options



After a few meetups at a cafe in L.A., it was decided that he would finish the rest of the comic book as well. However, it soon became clear that Nathan is a person with a quick-burning enthusiasm that just as quickly fades when he gets bored. And since he was working for free, I certainly didn't insist that he stick around so I buckled down and finished the remainder of the book myself.

It may seem like I've focused on the bad decisions and stumbles along the way, but there was plenty of positivity that kept me going. Support and feedback from my subscribers and fans was amazing all the way through. They even influenced the plot of the comic book. As stated before, I didn't want to have very explicit scenes early on in the book but, when I asked my readers, they expressed a great desire for more scenes like this. That's why I added Betty's flashback to her college threesome and Rita's group sex encounter. As long as I felt it was in character and added to the psychologies of my characters, I was fine with this.

Process Steps





2. Flat Colors

1. Inks



3. Skin Redness & Tan lines



5. Higlights



4. Hair & Details

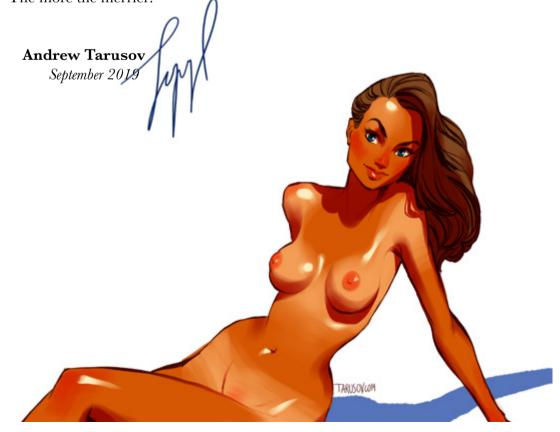


6. Sun, Light & Shadows

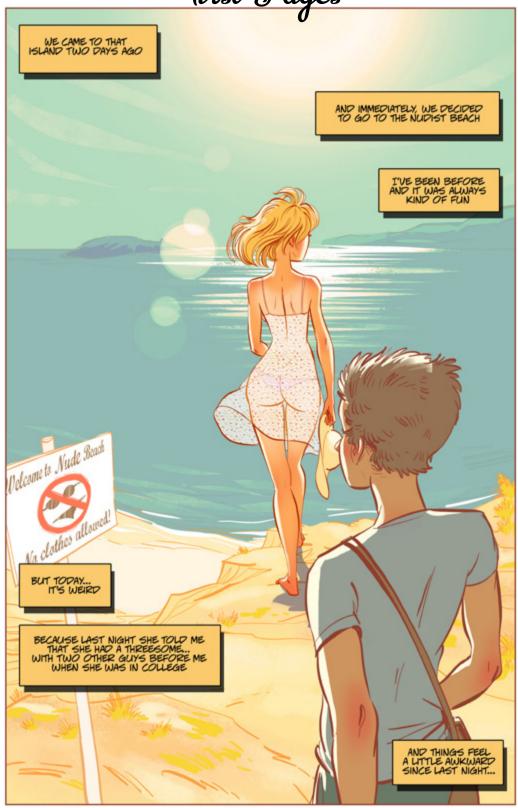
And it was through Patreon that I found another English-language editor, **Brendan Jones**, who did a very good job polishing my script, fixing errors and smoothing over the work of the other writers/editors.

In the end, what started as a whim has become a complete work that represents my worldview as it evolved during the creation of this comic. I'm pleased that this book represents a sex-positive world where women have agency and partners ask for and give permission; that it is fun and hot and, though pornographic, is far more erotic than most porn.

I hope you've enjoyed Swinging Island and that you'll consider joining the awesome folks who support my work on **Patreon**. Together, we just might be able to make a sequel! As Betty, Grant, Rita and Rico would say, "The more the merrier!"



First Pages







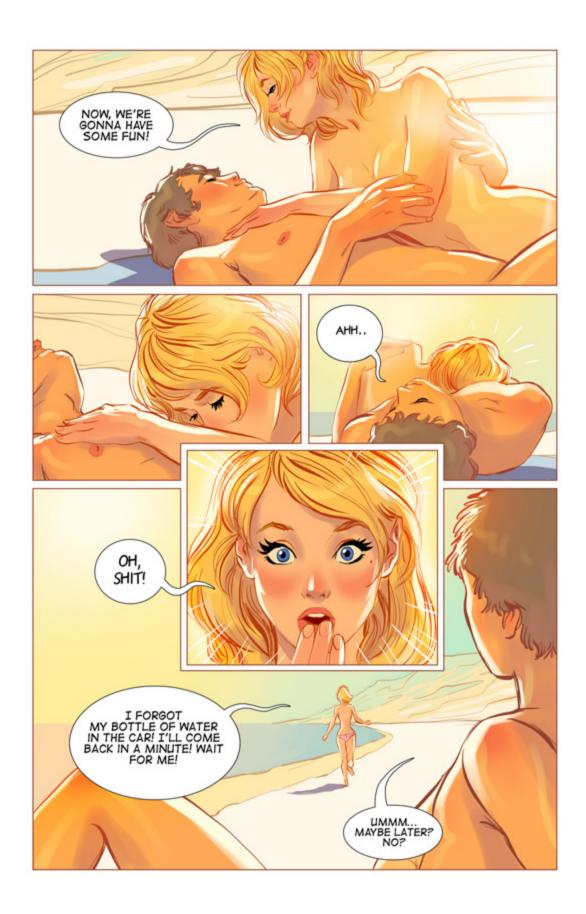


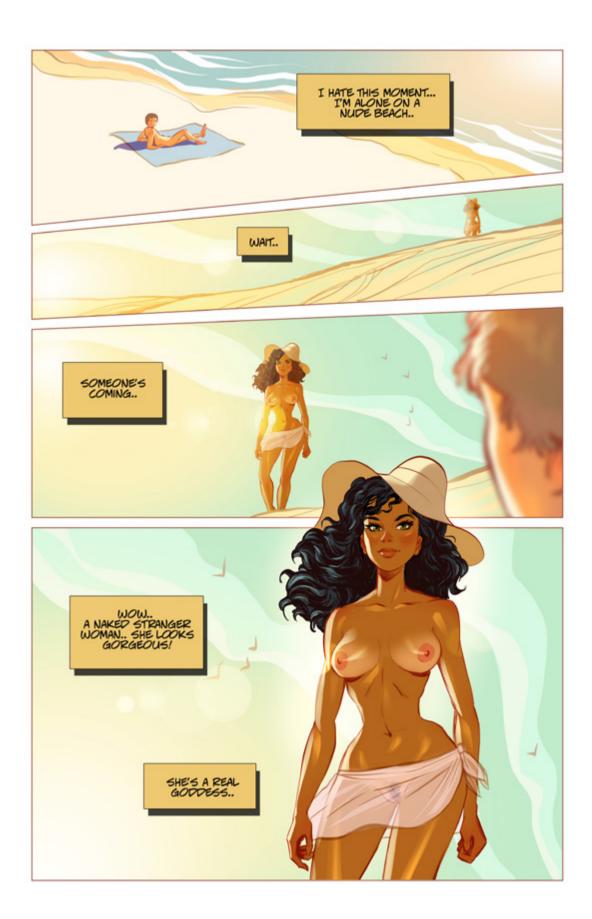


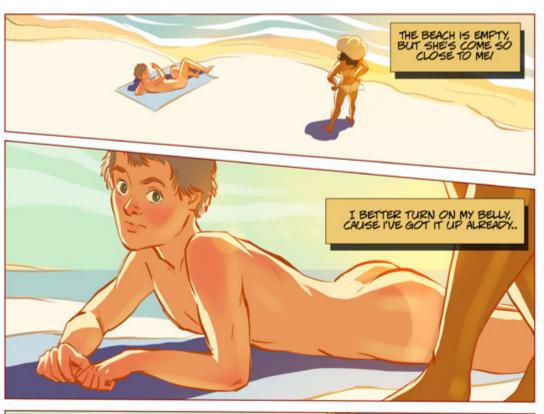






















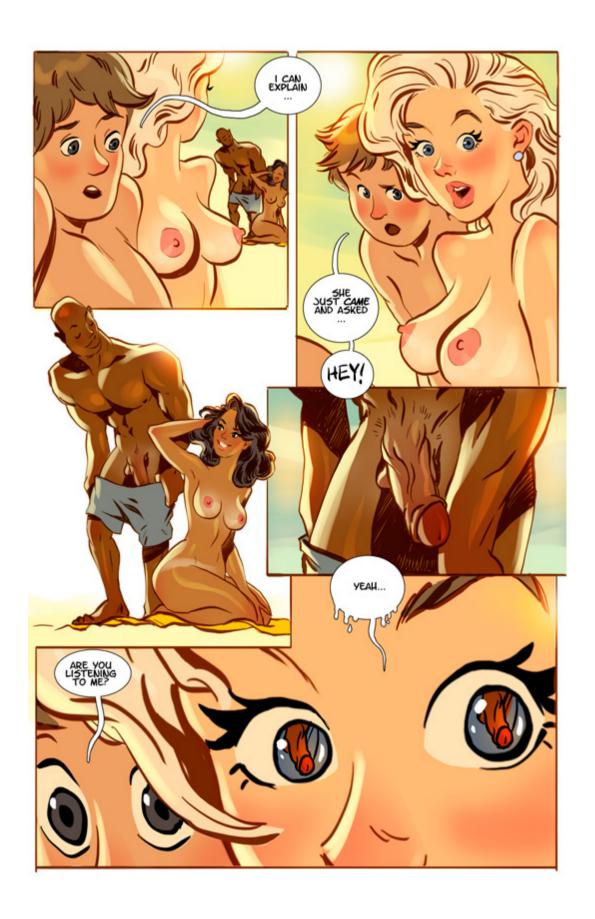


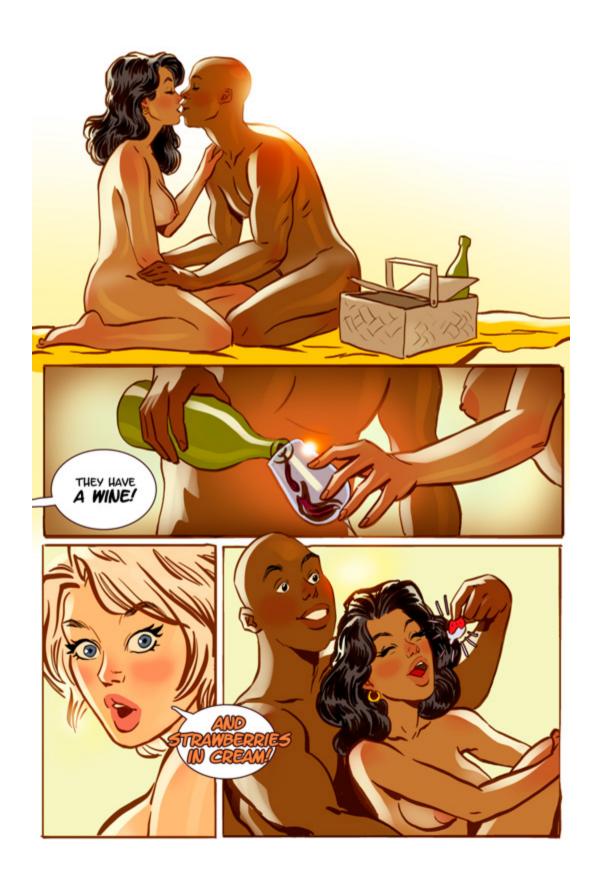












Get ready for

Swinging Island 2



Only on PATREON.COM/TARUSOV





About the book

In January of 2015 I decided to start drawing comics as part of my Patreon page. At launch, I offered my patrons four different artistic themes to choose from. To absolutely no one's surprise, they voted for the erotic graphic novel. Thus was born Swinging Island. I tried to complete a full-color page a week (more or less) and, finally, on summer 2019 I finished it. My readers were very happy with it - so much that they asked me to publish a print version. Certainly not wishing to deny my fans, I've returned to Kickstarter to make that dream come true.

What's it about?

Swinging Island is the story (yes, there's a story!) of Betty and Grant, a couple who overcome their fears and insecurities together by exploring their sexuality with Rita and Ricko, another pair of very attractive strangers