

Love Hurts

ISSUE #1

By DAVID BAILLIE

PAGE 1

1 – Start with a nice big splash page!

I want to make this comic look a little bit different.

For example, this splash page I want to bleed off the side, but still have a white border at the top and bottom of the page. If we have a few panels throughout the book doing this we give the book a sort of uniformity. A recurring design.

Also later in the book, things like circular panels for single character close-ups, and generous white space between panels –I think will be nice touches which will help give a slightly different visual feel to the book. Hopefully this will be immediately obvious to a casual browser.

I think a colour scheme with lots of primaries will work well for the mood I'm trying to achieve.

(I'll leave it to the artist's discretion when and how to use these devices).

You'll notice that I'm using thought bubbles in a couple of places in the script – again I'm trying to make it feel a little bit different, as I think the story *is* a bit different.

OK...

In this first panel we see SOPHIE and her DAD having an argument. In the background we have a MUM and YOUNGER BROTHER, not really contributing much (at least in terms of dialogue) to this scene, but there nonetheless.

SOPHIE is about nineteen, and quite pretty. She's wearing a pink top and tight fitting denim trousers. DAD is a stereotypical middle class, thinning-on-top dad wearing very dad-typical clothes.

DAD is sat in a comfortable old chair reading a broadsheet newspaper while having a heated discussion with his daughter in the sitting room of their nice middle class home. He looks over the top of the paper angrily at her.

SOPHIE stands central in the room, and she is *fuming*. Her hands are clenched into fists, held rigid by her sides as she spectacularly loses her temper with her father.

SOPHIE (*large type – she's really screaming*) :

But Dad!

DAD :

No 'But Dad' about it young lady, that ... **boy** is not crossing this doorstep!

PAGE 2

1 – Tighter shot of SOPHIE and her DAD, both looking quite cross.

SOPHIE :

You've never approved of any of my boyfriends!

DAD :

I think I deserve a medal for being so **tolerant** of your very odd tastes!

2 – Another shot of DAD and SOPHIE still angry at each other. YOUNGER BROTHER looks on with amusement, while MOTHER looks concerned by unwilling to participate in the argument.

SOPHIE :

Oh come on, what about Johnny?

DAD :

Who?

SOPHIE :

The catholic boy...

3 – DAD sticks his finger in the air to punctuate his next statement, and in doing so lets his newspaper fall.

DAD :

It was **nothing** to do with him being Catholic, and you know it. I simply didn't like him.

DAD :

Or think he was suitable-

4 – SOPHIE and DAD again. The newspaper is on the floor now. DAD is exasperated.

SOPHIE :

And Gordon?

DAD :

He was too short for you, my love.

DAD :

It looked like you were his babysitter!

5 – Close-up of SOPHIE. Her brow is creased, and she throws her hands in the air in frustration.

SOPHIE :

You **see** what I mean - how can you say you're supportive when there's always something you're not **happy** about?

6 – Close-up of her DAD, *spitting* his last speech bubble in this page:

DAD :

This one's a little different don't you think?

PAGE 3

1 - We see a tall, well-proportioned, smartly dressed guy (WILL), walking down a high street. He passes a record shop and a trendy clothes shop. He's checking out the latest fashions, wondering if they'll suit him... And they will – this guy's a clotheshorse!

He's a very attractive guy, and obviously has style.

But...

His head is normal in every way except that he has a number of horny lumps all over it. His head is bald and the 'knobbles' (I'm not sure what else to call them!) continue all over his scalp, getting larger as they get further from his facial features.

As he walks down the street, his lumps attract attention from most of the passers by.

CAPTION (DAD contd.) :

If you were still living under this roof I'd forbid you from even **seeing** him!

2 – WILL's phone rings in his jacket (appropriate SFX and tail pointing to his jacket pocket)

In the background he is still getting odd looks from the people passing by, especially a little black boy, whose hand is being held very firmly by his mother - she is doing her polite best not to stare, or allow her son to.

3 – Medium shot. He takes out the phone, which is tiny and very fashionable. And answers it...

WILL :

Hello?

4 - Close in on WILL. He has a neutral expression on his face – neither happy nor unhappy.

WILL :

Oh, hi sweetheart. How did it-

WILL :

Oh

WILL :

Never mind - we expected that anyway, didn't we?

5 – Now he’s looking slightly concerned.

WILL :

I know. I know it does, but it must be hard for him anyway.

WILL :

Well I mean-

6 - Frustrated...

WILL :

I'm **not** apologising for myself, it's just that most people have trouble dealing with mutants period, never mind having their daughter dating one.

7 – And relieved that the conversation is over...

WILL :

Okay - but just don't be too hard on him. He's old and set in his ways.

WILL :

I love you too.

PAGE 4

1 - WILL puts away the phone, and climbs a set of steps within a doorway, nestled between a ladies clothes shop and a comics shop.

2 - As he nears the top of the stairs we see a doorway with a poster over the glass panel within the top half of the door.

'MuWoSuP - monthly support meeting'.

In smaller letters beneath we get the credits (*although we have to wait until the next panel to get a closer look at them*)

3 - ZOOM IN on the section of the poster with the comic credits:

SPECIAL MEETING TODAY : Love Hurts

David Baillie – Writer

Hot McArtist – Pencils

Etc.

Joe Quesada – Chief

Bill Jemas – Pres.

4 - He opens the door. We can't quite see who's inside, although we can see that there is a group in there.

SPEECH (*from unspecified character within*) :

I have feet like an animal. Big and clumsy. There doesn't seem to be anything I can do about that.

PAGE 5

1 - There is a normal looking person (NORM) in the middle chair of the group, surrounded by five or six mutants, with mutations which are obviously not very useful in everyday life. We can see guy with the big feet who was just talking - MALCOLM/PAWS, STANLEY/STICKS (see below for a description), TEAPOT - whose left hand is joined to his head making him look a bit like a teapot, and a few others, seated in a semi circular arrangement. There is one spare seat at the far end of the room.

NORM :

We know how you feel Malcolm. None of us here have spectacular abilities and yet we suffer the same prejudices as the headline-grabbing mutants. We understand the frustration that comes of dealing with all the disadvantages of being a mutant without having any of the benefits.

2 – NORM looks up from the group.

NORM :

Thank you for your story.

NORM :

Ahh - William, glad you could join us today. I thought you mightn't be able to make it.

3 - There is an enormous guy, STICKS, sitting a couple of seats down from NORM. STICKS has tiny stick-like arms and legs, hence the name. WILL stands at the door, STICKS looks up at him nervously. NORM sits with his hands on his lap, encouragingly looking at the anxious STICKS.

STICKS :

Do you want to go next?

WILL:

No - it's OK, I jus got here. It's cool man.

STICKS:

Please?

4 – NORM's talking head.

NORM:

It's OK William, this is Stanley. He feels much more comfortable being last.

5 - WILL takes the spare seat in the semi-circle.

PAGE 6

1 – Close up on WILL. He uses his hands expressively while he talks.

WILL:

Well I'm in the same tugboat as you guys. I don't look human, but in every other respect I am.

WILL :

I tried to pretend I wasn't a mutant when I was a kid. I used to tell all the other kids at school that I had a really bad skin complaint.

2 – Here might be a good place to use one (or even a couple) of the circular character panels I mentioned at the start of the script. Still tight on WILL.

WILL :

That went down a lot better than being a mutant.

3 – And again. With appropriate expression, and still using his hands.

WILL :

When I hit senior school, the truth got out.

WILL :

I had to come out.

WILL :

Everyone knew.

WILL :

My parents already knew. They were very cool about it.

4 – WILL grins out of the side of his mouth.

WILL :

I think my dad was kinda looking forward to laser beams shootin out my eyes or maybe me floatin around the room or somethin. He wasn't disappointed when none o that happened though.

WILL :

Which was cool.

5 – NORM is looking a bit like a therapist. Maybe fit other members of the group into this panel – they look on, interested by WILL's tale.

NORM :

And how do you find it now. Now you're an adult?

6 – Close up on WILL, he's looking at NORM.

WILL :

Tough as ever man. No one ever gives me any respect.

7 – Closer again. WILL's eyes glaze over, as if his thoughts have carried him elsewhere.

WILL :

No one except my girl.

PAGE 7

1 – We see SOPHIE walking down a busy street. The sun is out and the whole page is bright and colourful. Everyone is wearing their summer clothes, and all the characters in the background look happy.

SOPHIE, however, does not.

SOPHIE (*thinks*) :

Why do they get to be so damn **happy**? What have **they** done to deserve it?

2 – A pretty girl in a strappy dress, smiling to herself, walks past SOPHIE. She is looking down at the ground. SOPHIE is looking directly at her. Scornfully.

SOPHIE (*thinks*) :

Look at that one. She's only happy cos she's pretty. I bet all the boys want to jump her bones, and she never has to wait to be asked to dance.

SOPHIE (*thinks*) :

It'd be different if she was ugly. Or fat. Or spotty.

3 - Sophie comes to a subway entrance. At the entrance is a BUM begging for spare change. He's a bit scruffy and dirty and she pays him no heed.

(We revisit this BUM later in the script)

The following two panels are at the foot of the page, both are square and the same size. They should be mirror images of each other, but with different characters in them.

4 – In profile: SOPHIE descends some steps in left panel, going into the subway.

5 - WILL walks down some subway steps in the right hand panel.

(Both characters descending towards the centre of the page)

PAGE 8

1 - Will walking down steps. He looks round as he hears a voice...

OFF PANEL :

Uhhh...Will?

2 - Will turns, to see STICKS, and smiles. STICKS is running toward him, and the exertion has got the better of him.

WILL :

Oh - hi Sticks, man. Everything cool?

3 - STICKS, sweating from catching up to the ice cool WILL, wheezes his words...

STICKS :

Sure man, I uh... I just wanted to say that it's really en- en- encouraging to see someone with like, what we got and not letting it – you know...

4 - WILL cocks his head and looks a bit confused by STICKS, but also slightly amused.

WILL :

Letting it what Sticks?

5 -STICKS is still sweating profusely, and he's propping up his huge mass with his very thin arms on his thighs. His face is red.
WILL in contrast still looks like a male model.

STICKS :

You know – letting it get you down. I mean you're cool. Bein' a mutant isn't stopping you from being... From being cool.

PAGE 9

1 -

WILL :

Well thanks man. That's very kind of you.

2 - WILL : But you shouldn't let being a mutant stop you from being anything else. It'll only hold you back if you let it.
These people are starting to warm to us.

3 - You think?

Sure. I mean you only got to read the papers to see that public opinion's starting to shift.

4 - We're the new sexy. The new chic.

I think if we're going to grab the bull by the horns at any point it's gotta be now.

5 - Both characters smile.

WILL :

An' you know what? You're cool too. In your own way.

STICKS :

You think so?

WILL :

Sure man.

WILL :

You got your own style right there.

6 - WILL shakes hands with STICKS in street fashion.

STICKS :

Thanks Will.

STICKS :

Like I said – it's really encouraging. Makes me feel good about myself.

WILL :

Anytime my man. I'll see you next Tuesday – yeah?

STICKS :

Yeah.

PAGE 10

1 - WILL steps onto on a subway train with some other passengers. It's not too busy, there are a couple of spare seats. .

2 - He sits down next to a guy who's about the same age, slightly different skin tone and not quite as cool looking. The guy has pretty bad acne; his thick, deep spots are in roughly the same place as WILL's knobbls. This similarity should be obvious in the first silent panel as they sit next to each other.

3 - The spotty guy is looking up at the advertisement posters they put above the seats for passengers who don't have a book to read. WILL is looking down at his feet.

4 -The spotty guy looks at WILL, noticing his knobbls.

5 - Will looks back at the spotty guy, sensing his gaze and at the same time the spotty guy looks away.

6 - Will looks down again. The spotty guy faces away from Will, but his eyes are sneekily peeking back at the mutant.

7 - Will looks back, and the guy's eyes flick away again, but this time, Will looks pensive, as if he's on the verge of realising something.

PAGE 11

1 – (I was thinking about having this panel appear between the two pages, going from top to bottom, so pages 9 and 10 would be a double spread)
Overhead panel of two trains passing in a subway tunnel.

2 -This panel looks quite like the panels in the last page with WILL and the spotty guy, but with Sophie sitting next to quite a chubby GIRL instead. The chubby GIRL's not unattractive, in fact she's quite pretty, but slightly over weight. She's reading a comic.

SOPHIE's eyeing her discreetly, and doesn't look very happy.
Thought bubbles again:

SOPHIE (*thinks*) :

I bet she's not happy. I bet no one wants to get it on with her. I bet she **cries** herself to sleep!

3 - The GIRL reads something in the comic that makes her giggle. Sophie looks at her.

4 - Sophie is even more cross now.

SOPHIE (*thinks*) :

Look - she's even desperately looking for solace in teenage fiction.

SOPHIE (*thinks*) :

This world stinks.

5 - The girl is still smiling and Sophie is grumpy.

GIRL (*thinks*) :

I can't wait to show this to Glen. He'll love it.

GIRL (*thinks*) :

Maybe I'll wrap it up and give it to him as a present. I think he'd like that.

PAGE 12

The panels on this page 'scan' down the seats of the train carriage SOPHIE is sitting on, if that makes any sense. So each panel is like a snap shot, we get a thought bubble and we move on to the next passenger. Each panel is wide enough so that we can see the last character and the next at the edge. Alternatively the scene can be drawn with two long panels (one top and one bottom) and gutters put in over the panels to break it up, so the panels are continuous in terms of space but the gutters break it up into discreet time chunks.

We just need something so that the reader has some frame of reference to help see what's going on and doesn't get confused reading the page.

I prefer the first device but I can see how the second could look quite cool too.

1 – Start on SOPHIE, she's paying the chubby girl no attention now and is just being in a foul mood on her own.

SOPHIE (*thinks*) :

The world is so cruel - it consistently favours external beauty over every other attribute.

2 – The panel 'camera' pans down to the next seat, and we see the chubby GIRL, still with comic in hand and still quite chirpy.

GIRL (*thinks*) :

I can't wait to see Glen again.

3 – The next guy down is Latino looking, tight white top, cropped black hair with thinly groomed sideburns and an eyebrow piercing. He's looking in the direction of SOPHIE (the readers' left, so his right hand side).

NEXTGUYDOWN (*thinks*) :

That chick in the pink top is quite hot, wonder what she'd say if I just went right up to her and -

(*Note :- SOPHIE should still be wearing a pink top*)

4 – The next guy down(2) is a big lean chap with chiselled features, and is checking out the guy we just met in panel 3.

NEXTGUYDOWN2(*thinks*) :

wonder what he looks like naked?

5 – In the next panel we see a teenage girl, paying no attention to anyone else on the train.

NEXTGIRLDOWN (*thinks*) :

My socks are digging into my ankles again. I'm going to stop wearing these damn things -

6 – The next character is a guy in a suit. In his mid thirties he's a career man. He's reading his newspaper intently.

NEXTGUYDOWN3 (*thinks*) :

These god-damned mutants are everywhere now... On the TV, in the cinemas... I could be sitting next to one and I wouldn't even god-damned know it...

7 – And in the final panel we have a young guy sitting looking at his left hand. He flexes his fingers.

NEXTGUYDOWN4 (*thinks*) :

I wonder if I'm a mutant. No one else seems to be able to do that with their thumbs...

PAGE 13

1 - Switch back to WILL, who's leaving the underground now.

There's an unshaven BUM sitting at top of the steps. He has a dirty face, and is wearing a woollen hat and a flea bitten jacket, which is falling, off his shoulders. He should look familiar – he's the same BUM that SOPHIE walked past on page 7. The BUM has a can of Extra Strength Lager, which he's holding up towards WILL. WILL smiles, and holds out his hand to politely decline the very kind offer.

BUM :

You wanna drink therrr pal?

WILL :

No thanks buddy.

2 – The BUM has lowered the can.

BUM :

You shpare any change then? Furra a cuppa tea anna cake...

BUM :

I like a wee bitta cake at this time atha day.

3 – WILL puts his hand in his pocket to fish out a few coins.

The BUM looks at WILL suspiciously while he does so, just now noticing his lumps.

WILL:

Yeah, sure. Jus let me...

4 - WILL finds a dollar and holds it out. The BUM looks suspiciously at the hand on offer.

BUM :

Whatsh wrong wi your face then?

WILL :

Skin condition... Nothing serious.

5 – The BUM looks at the money, unsure whether he should take it.

BUM :

Issit contagiushh?

PAGE 14

1 – Close up of WILL, who isn't at all upset by the BUM's caution. He still holds out the cash offering as he reassures him...

WILL :

Nah – don't worry man. Nothing you can catch.

2 - The BUM gratefully grabs the cash, without a smile.

BUM :

Thanksh then wee man. Take her easy!

3 - The BUM exits, cash in hand, leaving WILL standing in panel on his own, looking at a loss, but vaguely amused.

WILL :

Yeah

WILL :

I'll be sure to.

4 - Will walks off down the street. He passes a guy in a wheelchair. The guy in the wheel chair glances at him, almost sympathetically.

PAGE 15

1 - Silent panel; WILL walking down street. He looks pensive. No one else here to distract our attention.

2 - He arrives at a nice big house. It has plenty of greenery around it and the enormous garden is well tended.
It's obvious that this is a particularly nice area... By that of course I mean affluent! The sort of place we can be sure that WILL doesn't live. He takes his cell phone out of his pocket.

3 - WILL sits on a wall at the edge of the garden, which is quite some distance from the house. He holds the phone to his ear.

4 - Switch to SOPHIE who is just leaving the subway via a particularly busy exit, her phone rings.

5 - She picks up, and keeps walking.

SOPHIE:

Hello?

6 - Switch back to a grinning WILL.
In the background we can see someone twitching at the curtains at the front of SOPHIE's house.

WILL :

Hi sweetheart – thought I'd surprise you. Maybe try cheer you up. I'm near your folks' house.

WILL :

Can you come out to play?

PAGE 16

1 - Back to a surprised SOPHIE. In the background we can see STICKS. He's just standing around as SOPHIE walks past. He notices her walk past.

SOPHIE :

You're joking!

SOPHIE :

Aaargh!

I've come downtown to meet you! When did the support group thang finish?

2 - Back to WILL.

In the background the door to the house opens, but we can't yet see who's opened it.

WILL :

Ten minutes ago.

WILL :

Damn, must've just missed each other. What'll we do?

3 - STICKS has noticed SOPHIE, and obviously taken a shine to her. He's following her along the street and smiling as she walks and talks.

SOPHIE :

Oh I really **dunno** honey. Well whatever you do don't hang about outside my house in case my dad –

4 - WILL falls off the wall, stars and springs and little digital icons emanating from his head.

WILL :

Ooowww!

PAGE 17

1 - STICKS is trying to catch SOPHIE's eye. He's smiling.
Unfortunately he's also sweating from his previous exertion.
SOPHIE looks distressed.

Will? SOPHIE :

Will? SOPHIE :

You there? SOPHIE :

What's going on? SOPHIE :

2 - WILL is sitting on the ground, with one hand on his head, which is still smarting.
He looks dazed and confused.
SOPHIE's DAD is standing over him with a baseball bat, poised to strike again.
The phone is lying on the ground beside him, wiggly 'sonic transmission' lines come from the phone's earpiece.

Get off a my land. DAD :

Freak! DAD :

Uuurgh? WILL:

3 -SOPHIE has halted. She is distraught.
STICKS applies some breath freshener, and prepares. He's full of confidence after
WILL telling him that he was '*cool in his own way*' earlier.

Will? Will – talk to me!!! SOPHIE :

Bzzzzz – x PHONE (*sfx*) :

4 – SOPHIE is left staring at her dead phone.
STICKS has gathered up the courage to approach the object of his affections.

STICKS :

Ahem – excuse me miss, I couldn't help but notice that you seem to be in some distress –

5 – SOPHIE looks utterly baffled by this odd shaped man's unsolicited advances. STICKS sees that he's not getting quite the reaction he expected, and starts to panic.

6 – SOPHIE goes off like a rocket, her face scarlet and her cheeks puffed. STICKS wants the ground to swallow him up.

SOPHIE :

What do you want, you weird looking man? Can't you see I'm having a private conversation here? Do I have a sign on my back saying 'approachable girl – likes odd looking men?'

SOPHIE :

I didn't freakin' think so!

PAGE 18

1 - Will is trying to scramble away from SOPHIE's DAD now. In the background MOTHER and YOUNGERBROTHER have come to the open door to see what's going on. DAD looks like he's about to hit a home run.

DAD :

I'm warning you – don't try any of your mutant crap on me! I'll knock the brains out of that ugly head of yours

2 - WILL stands up and suddenly the DAD looks like he's about to mess his pants. He's still holding the bat but he looks a lot less likely to use it now. MOTHER is now outside the door, wondering if she should intervene, and if so – what should she do?

WILL :

What the **hell** are you doing man?

WILL :

That really hurt!

DAD :

You stay away –

3 – DAD has retreated now, and holds the bat more defensively than offensively. WILL's has one hand in the air, and the other pointing directly at DAD. MOTHER is running down the garden path, looking concerned. YOUNGERBROTHER follows, but he's looking a lot less concerned.

WILL :

Stay away from **what?** Your **land?** Your **daughter?**

WILL :

Your **wife?**

WILL :

Huh?

WILL :

Tell you what - you stop hitting me with baseball bats an' I'll stay away from **you!**

4 - WILL grabs the baseball bat from DAD, sneering at him. MOTHER has her hand over mouth. YOUNGERBROTHER is fascinated by the whole scene.

DAD terrified. Is this boy going to murder his whole family in cold blood - right here - *on his own lawn?*

DAD :

Du- Don't you -

MOTHER :

Howard - do something!

5 - WILL smashes the baseball bat over his knee. Eyes fixed on the father. The bat shatters.

This seems to have done the trick and silenced all of SOPHIE's family.

WILL :

Stay **outta** my face man!

PAGE 19

1 – New scene.

WILL is in a hospital room, being attended to by two young nurses.

NURSE1 is wrapping a bandage around his leg, which he hurt when he smashed the baseball bat over it!

NURSE2 is attending to his lumpy head, which was hurt when DAD hit him with the *same* bat. NURSE2 has a confused look on her face.

WILL :

And that's how it happened!

WILL :

It **really** hurt, but I just bit my lip. I didn't want to give him the satisfaction of seeing me in pain.

NURSE1 :

You poor thing...

2 – NURSE2 has produced a roll of bandage, and is holding it near WILL's head, trying to figure out what she should do with it. WILL looks up to her as she speaks, but since she's behind him he has trouble making eye contact.

NURSE1 is a bit of a chatterbox and carries on regardless.

NURSE2 :

Sorry, sir - Ummm... I can't tell which one of these bumps is the swelling from your injury.

NURSE1 :

I know how it is - my dad never liked any of my boyfriends.

NURSE1 :

But I **did** have a bit of a thing for biker guys I suppose...

3 – NURSE2 is still looking for the bump she should attend to. WILL tries to bend back to see her better, but NURSE1 and her bandages are holding him too tight.

WILL :

Ummm - is one of them red?

NURSE2 :

No - not that I can see.

NURSE1 :

I went out with this guy called Scar once. He was **really** cool, and my dad absolutely detested him!

4 – WILL looks unconvinced by NURSE2's strategy for locating the swollen lump. NURSE1 carries on...

NURSE2 :

How about if I keep touching the lumps and you tell me when I get the one that hurts?

WILL :

uhhh - yeah sure.

NURSE1 :

He had a tattoo of the angel of death on his forehead, and a word tattooed on his left fist. ...

NURSE1 :

What was it?

5 – WILL howls in pain as NURSE1 has a *Eureka!* moment and remembers what the ex boyfriend from her teenage years had tattooed on his fist. No doubt it was unpleasant whatever it was! (*As you see - we'll never know*) NURSE2 flinches back throwing the bandage in the air, not expecting quite as vocal a reaction from WILL.

NURSE1 :

Oh yeah - he had F -

WILL :

Ooooooww!

PAGE 20

This page has just two large panels, one featuring SOPHIE and one her DAD.
The next page does the same thing, but with WILL and STICKS.

1 – SOPHIE is sitting in her bedroom. Despite her living away from home (of course we don't know where) her bedroom still looks like that of a teenager. Its colour scheme is mainly pink, and quite an unpleasant one at that.
The wallpaper is heavily floral, as is the bed covering. She sits on her bed with a couple of small tears running down her cheeks. Don't overdo it though. She's just had a bad day – not the end of the world.
Despite that the radio in the background is playing ...

RADIO :

It's the end of the world as we know it – and I feel fine

2 – Similar scene, this time with her DAD in the central role. He sits alone in what looks like the interior of a shed. It is lit by a single light bulb hanging from the low wooden ceiling. He fiddles with some tools and a mechanism of some sort – maybe like the motor from a lawn mower or something.
He looks as unhappy as his daughter.
He knows he's done wrong, and feels guilty now, but there is *no way* he's going to admit that.
He probably wouldn't be feeling like this if the mutant boy hadn't made such a fool of him in front of his family. But he had, and it has caused him to think over some things that he needs to be alone to consider.

PAGE 21

1 - WILL sits alone in his apartment. He has bandages wrapped all around his head, and his injured leg is in plaster. He rests it on top of a high coffee table, as he sits in a comfortable looking chair watching TV. He takes a sip from a nice cool bottle of beer. His apartment is quite modern looking, filled with designer stuff. It oozes style in the same way he does. You can imagine him entertaining numerate young ladies here... When he's not wrapped up like a mummy anyway!
Light from the television set casts shadow behind the sitting chair, and around the room.

TV:

But Jerry – you don't unnerstand! That there wuman's my ma!

2 – We see STICKS in *his* home. He too is all alone, and his lights are low, but his home is a far cry from WILL's.
A pile of comics sit beside him on the long, deteriorating sofa. Posters of J-Lo and Christina Aguilera adorn his wall.
He has no television to take his mind off his melancholy. He can't even be bothered reading his comics.
Will he ever manage to get himself a girlfriend??

CAPTION :
Love hurts...

PAGE 22

1 – A bright daylight park.

A tall fresh-faced teenage BOY stands beside a big tree at the side of a path, which runs through the park. He is fair skinned, with long blonde hair pulled back into a ponytail. He has the sort of face you tend to trust.

Carved into the tree behind him is a heart with an arrow run through it, and within the initials ‘CG’ and ‘PT’.

2 – The Chubby GIRL *from SOPHIE’s subway ride earlier in the story*) shows up. The pony tailed BOY is pleased to see her. His grin reaches from one ear to the other.

3 – The chubby GIRL gives the comic from earlier to the BOY (wrapped). His face says ‘I wonder what it is’.

4 – He unwraps it, and looks very pleased.
You know you’re onto a winner when your girlfriend gives you comics as presents!

5 - They have a huge hug. The GIRL’s feet come off the ground as the BOY(friend) lifts her with his embrace.

CAPTION : Sometimes...

6 – A big red heart, with the following words in a lovely soft font...

THE END