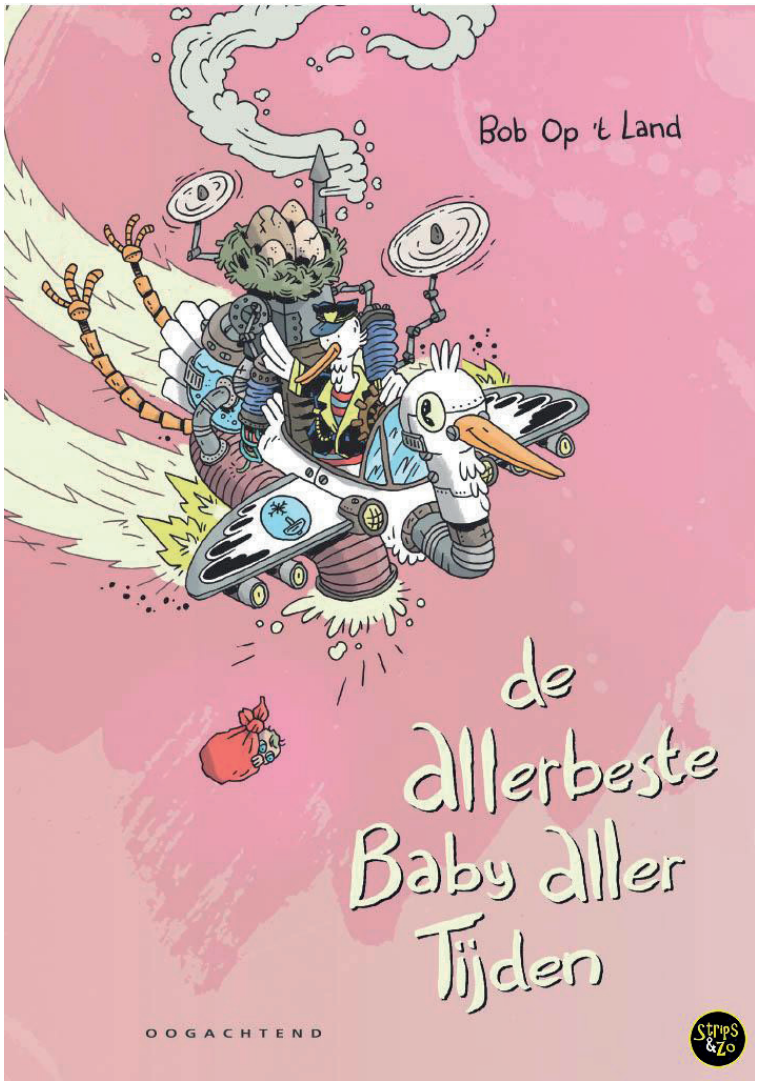


The Best Baby Ever Born

Bob Op 't Land

The Best Baby Ever Born is a tender and funny comic about the first months of parenthood, when your whole world has gone topsy-turvy. Tightly scheduled feeding-times, exploding diapers, sleepless nights... And a hundred things, big and small, to worry about.

Bob Op 't Land *(1992) is a comic-artist and illustrator. He graduated from Comic Design at ArtEZ University of the Arts in 2017. In 2020, he started making autobiographical comics that he posted online and eventually self-published as the 'Plumbum' series, of which he has released four parts thus far. Bob works in Deventer (The Netherlands) where he lives with his girlfriend, their child, and cat.*

Visit www.letterenfonds.nl for information about translation grants

"With a lot of humour, Op 't Land offers us a glimpse [into his life] that'll undoubtedly be very recognisable for many parents."

De 9e Kunst



www.oogachtend.be
elaine@elami-agency.com

Original title : De Allerbeste Baby Aller Tijden (Oogachtend, 2025. Hardcover, 13x18. 56pp.)


I'M SO HAPPY.
ME TOO.
I'M SO TIRED.
ME TOO.
I'M SO SCARED.
ME TOO.
I LOVE YOU SO MUCH...
...AND I LOVE YOU SO MUCH.



SO INCREDIBLY
MUCH.

THE FIRST TIME I SAW YOU, YOU WERE A LITTLE DOT ON A SCREEN.



WE WATCHED YOU GROW ON-SCREEN.



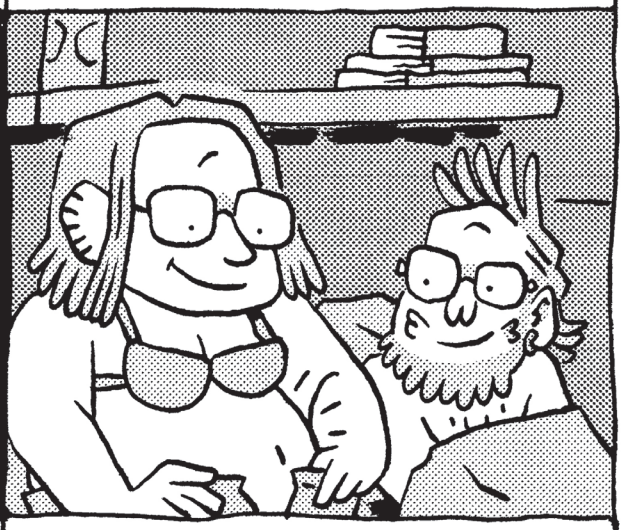
AND THE SCREEN DISPLAYED A PERFECT LITTLE HUMAN.



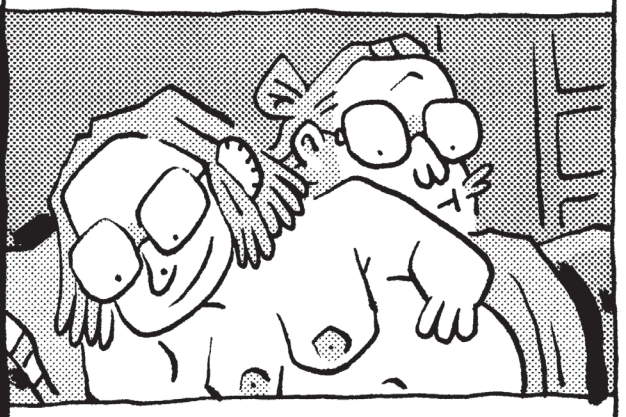
AND ONLY WE KNEW YOU WERE THERE.



UNTIL YOU BECAME VISIBLE IN REAL LIFE.



MY GIRLFRIEND FELT HOW YOU SLEPT, TURNED OVER, HICCUPPED...

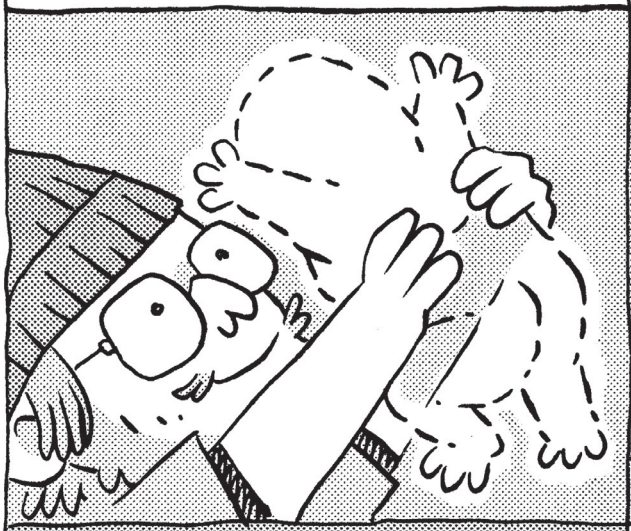


...BUT TO ME YOU STILL SEEMED SO FAR AWAY.

I TRIED TO IMAGINE YOU.

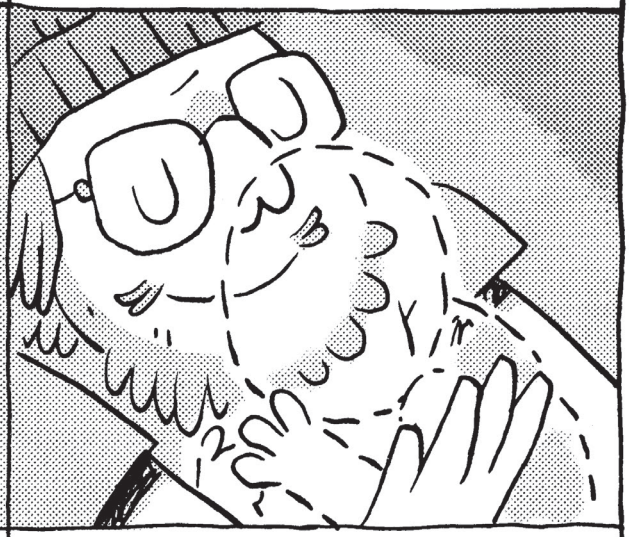


HOW HEAVY YOU'D BE.

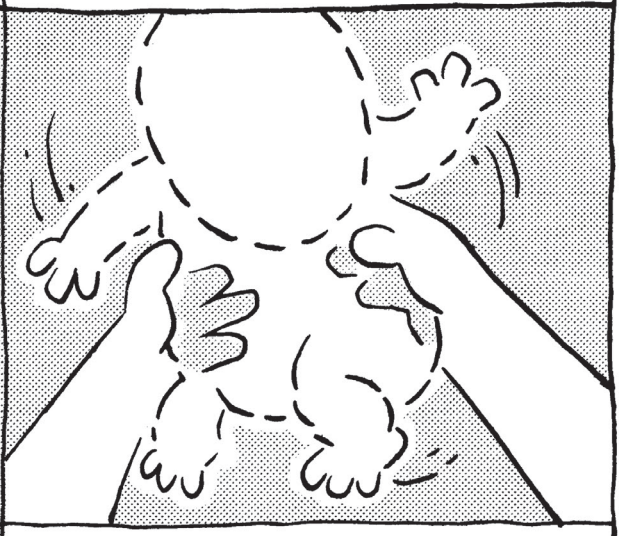




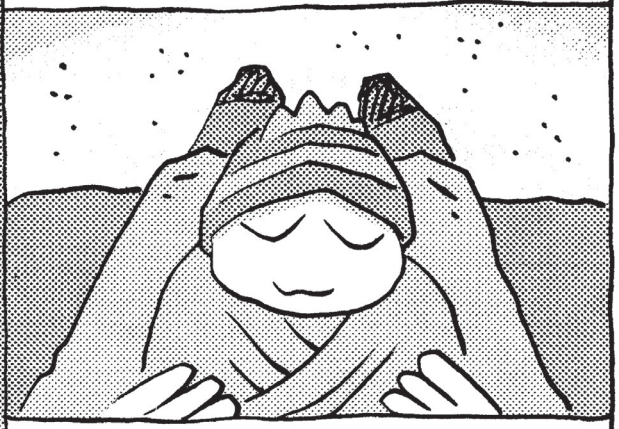
HOW YOU WOULD SMELL.



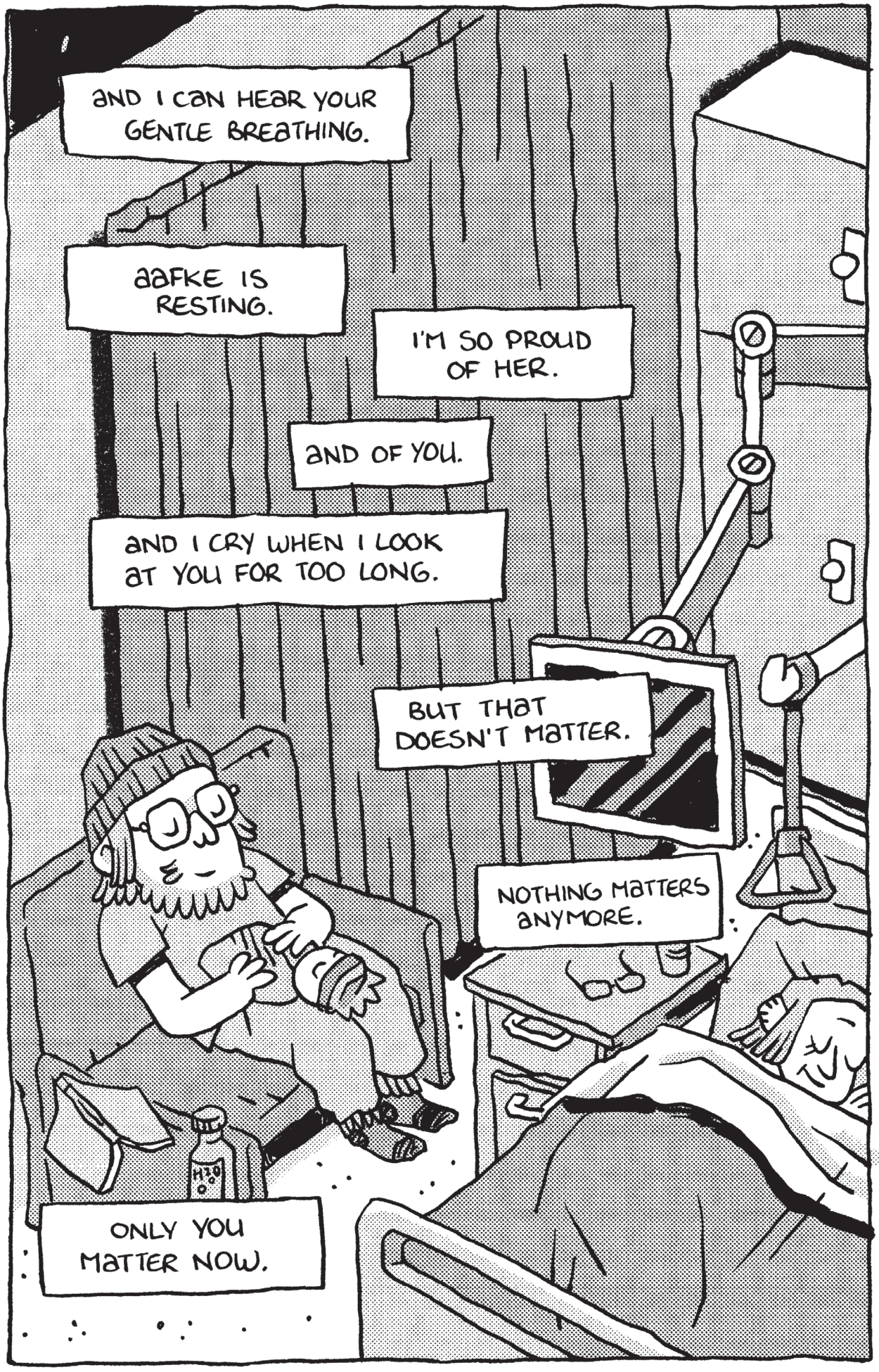
HOW YOUR ARMS AND LEGS WOULD MOVE.



AND NOW YOU'RE HERE.



AND YOU LIE SLEEPING IN MY LAP.


AND I CAN HEAR YOUR GENTLE BREATHING.
AAFKE IS RESTING.
I'M SO PROUD OF HER.
AND OF YOU.
AND I CRY WHEN I LOOK AT YOU FOR TOO LONG.
BUT THAT DOESN'T MATTER.
NOTHING MATTERS ANYMORE.
H2O
ONLY YOU MATTER NOW.


IT'S SO STRANGE.
YOU WEREN'T HERE A COUPLE OF HOURS AGO.
BEEP
BEEP
CLICK
6KAF66
H Ziek
HOOFDIN
HOI


THAT SEEMS SO FAR AWAY NOW.
AS IF IT WAS SOME ABSURD DREAM.
ZZZ...
WE GOT UP EARLY IN THE MORNING.
WE DROVE TO THE HOSPITAL.
BEP BEP BEP BEP
REUHHH...
WE WAITED.
THEN WE WERE CALLED IN.
WAITING ROOM
WAIT
AAFKE AND BOB? ARE YOU READY?

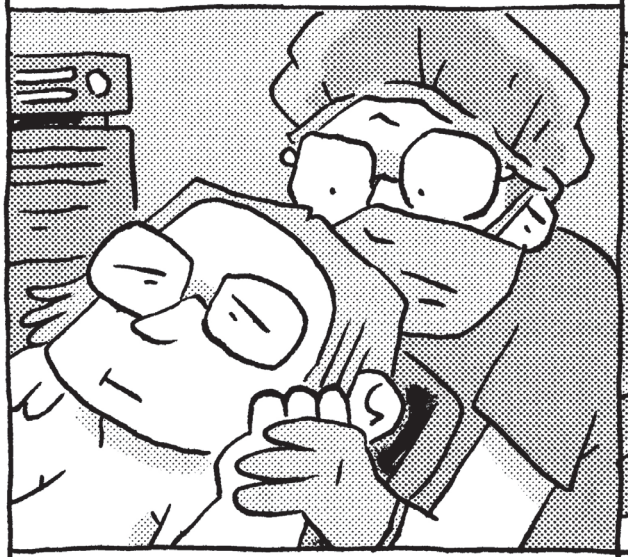
I HAD TO WEAR SCRUBS.



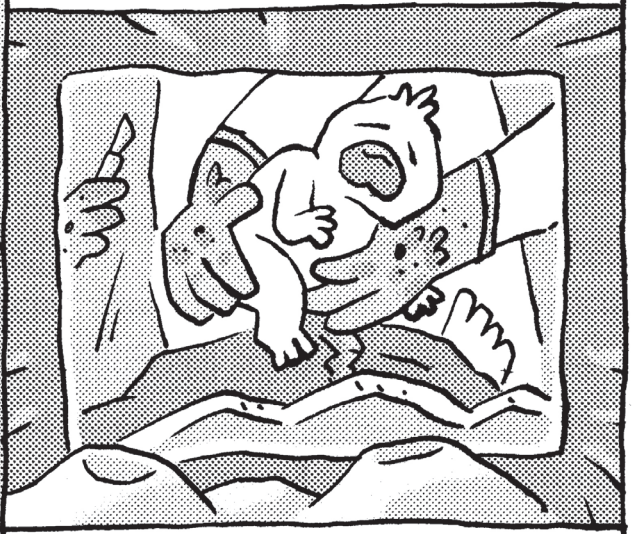
THEY PUT A SCREEN OVER AAFKE'S BELLY.



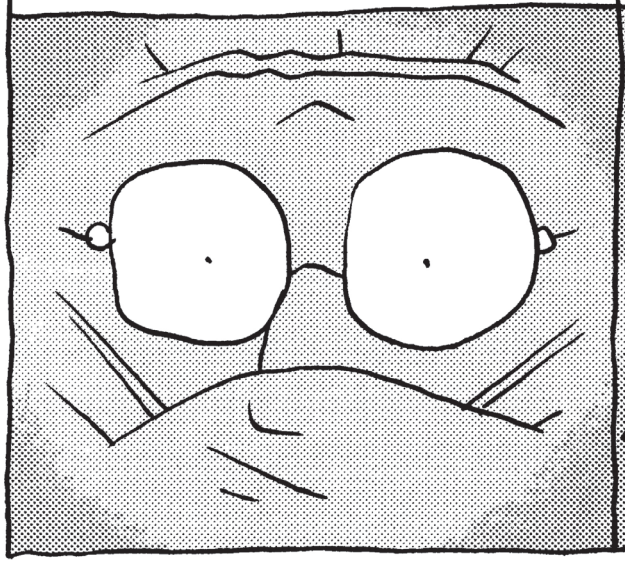
WE HELD EACH OTHER.



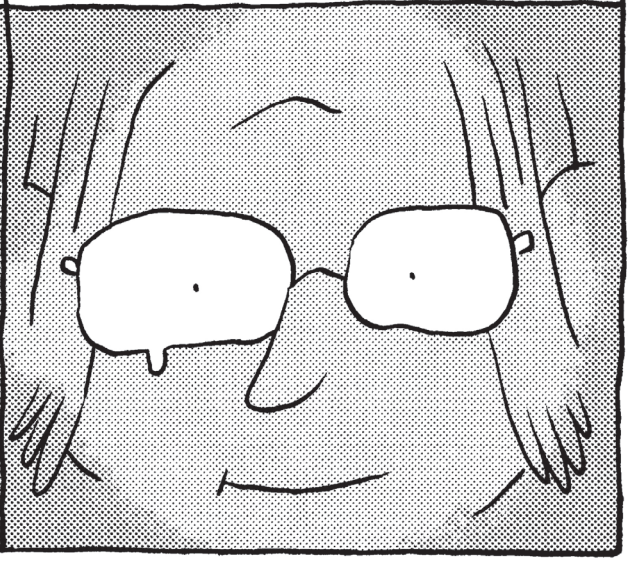
THEY ROLLED UP A BIT OF SCREEN TO REVEAL A LITTLE WINDOW.



AND SUDDENLY I WASN'T BOB ANYMORE.



AND AAFKE WASN'T AAFKE ANYMORE.




I AM YOUR DADDY NOW.
AND AAFKE IS YOUR MOMMY.
AND YOU ARE OUR CHILD.
MOMMY'S NURSING YOU.
I NOTICE THAT, JUST LIKE HERS, YOUR EAR FOLDS OVER FUNNILY.
SHE'S WHISPERING SOFTLY TO YOU.
THAT MAKES ME SO HAPPY.



* NOT THE REAL NAME (OBVIOUSLY), BECAUSE, REASONS.