

The Skeleton Bay Detective Agency

Issue #2:

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Panel 1: A birds eye view of Skeleton Bay High School, swooping down, establishing the location for the scene

1. JAKE (FROM INSIDE THE SCHOOL):

...So that's why you're going to want to avoid the second floor hallway between third and fourth period.

Panel 2: A shot of JAKE and CARLY walking through a mostly crowded hallway together. JAKE is mid-gesticulation as he gives CARLY the low-down on the school. CARLY is listening with a pretty neutral interest.

1. JAKE (CONTINUED FROM PANEL 1):

Trust me. Otherwise, yeah, I think that just about sums up what to expect from the place. I mean, you weren't home schooled, where you?

Panel 3: CARLY is responding to JAKE as they make their way into the lunch room.

1. CARLY:

Well, actually, I spent a lot of time hopping from tutor to tutor.

Panel 4: JAKE is has moment of embarrassment as they stop to the side of everyone walking.

1. JAKE

Well, I was going to say that "I'm sure you know all this already, it's not like you're home schooled" buuut....

Panel 5: CARLY gives the embarrassed JAKE a small smile of reassurance.

1. CARLY:

It's OK, moving around a lot means I know how to get used to new places quickly.

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Panel 1: JAKE gives CARLY a sheepish smile.

1. JAKE:

Then you'll be fine.

2. SFX (BELL RINGING)

Brrriinnng! Brrriinnnggg!

Panel 2: JAKE looks up towards a speaker that produced the ringing.

1. JAKE:

Oh, and that bell means it's lunch!

Panel 3: JAKE is walking away from CARLY, waving, CARLY is returning the gesture.

1. JAKE:

If you need anything else, or you have a question or need advice or whatever, just ask!

2. CARLY:

Will do.

3. JAKE:

See you in class!

Panel 4: JAKE continues his cross over to BEN and RUDY, who are huddled over the newspaper that's on the table with their backs to the audience and are obscuring the paper from the reader with their bodies. JAKE is greeting them and they have looked up and over the table to greet him as well.

1. JAKE:

Hey guys! What's shakin' bacon?

Panel 5: A shot mostly from over JAKE's shoulder so we can see the two new characters clearly. BEN has extended his fist and is bumping it with JAKE's equally extended fist.

1 BEN:

Hey Jake. Take a look at this, it's something you might like

2. RUDY:

It's an article in this morning's Skeleton Bay Gazette.

Panel 6: JEN is in the front of a group of Senior kids, and she's waving goodbye to them as she walks up to the table.

1. JEN:

Latter guys!

2. JEN:

How's it going my fellow detectives?

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Panel 1: JEN is getting her seat far off panel left as over BEN's shoulder, JAKE notices in the background CARLY preparing to sit by herself at a lunch table.

1. RUDY

Hey Jen, come look at this spooky story in the newspaper!

Panel 2: Again over BEN's shoulder, JAKE continues to watch as CARLY takes her seat, by herself.

1. JAKE:

One sec guys, I'll be right back.

Panel 3: JAKE at CARLY's table smiling, with the guys in the background.

1. JAKE:

I didn't know you had lunch this period!

Panel 4: CARLY awkwardly shrugs in a "I don't know" kind of gesture.

1. CARLY:

Yeah.

Panel 5: JAKE sticks his thumb back towards the gang.

1. JAKE:

You want to eat with us? Better than eating alone, right?

Panel 6: CARLY uncomfortably looks away from JAKE.

1. CARLY:

Um, no thanks. I'm good here.

Panel 7: JAKE is sorta surprised by the refusal while continuing to smile.

1. JAKE:

Totally cool. Well, if you change your mind, come on over.

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Panel 1: JAKE is sitting down back at his spot, as BEN looks up from the paper that he and the others have been reading.

1. BEN:

Who's that?

2. JAKE:

Carly, the new girl in my math class.

3. BEN:

Ah. Cool?

4. JAKE:

Hard to say. I'll get back to you.

Panel 2: Having sat back down, JAKE can give his full attention to the paper. BEN and RUDY look over as JEN finishes reading the paper.

1. JAKE:

OK, what's this about the newspaper?

2. BEN:

I was skimming the Gazette today before school and came across an article that I think might be of interest to the Agency.

3. RUDY:

Yeah Jake! Check this out, definitely Agency material

Panel 3: and aerial shot of the four kids' heads peering over an open newspaper, the only article not obscured by the kids is one with the headline "STRANGE THEFT AT DOCK LEAVES POLICE BAFFLED" (Agent: I personally prefer just squiggly lines to denote unreadable text in comics, because I don't really want to generate the article, and I think fake words or filler words always looks cheesy. Use your best judgement).

1. JAKE:

There was a robbery at the docks?

2. BEN:

Yes, but something about this one clicked in my brain when I read it: this same robbery happened two weeks ago!

3. BEN:

And the week before that!

Panel 4: JAKE is looking down at the paper, puzzled as BEN picks it up and is pointing to a specific line in the article.

1. JAKE:

Hm, certainly odd, but why is this an agency matter?

2. BEN:

Look: “our source confirms they are currently no video record or physical evidence, as well as no suspects”!

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Panel 1: A big panel that's a shot of the whole group, looking around at each other as the scramble of brainstorming all happens on top of itself

1. JEN:

That definitely has the potential of a haunting.

2. BEN:

Exactly! Especially because they said the same exact thing about the other two cases!

3. RUDY:

We talking haunting boat? Haunted dock? Ooo! Maybe a haunted anchor!?

4. BEN:

Mmm, I think they might have been different boats each time?

5. JAKE:

Alright, so we're probably looking at something on land, haunting something on the water.

6. CARLY (OP):

Why do you assume it's haunted?

Panel 2: Same shot, but it's a little wider, to show that CARLY is sitting on the right side of the group. She is staring at them, on the confused side of a blank stare as the rest of the group is jumping in surprise

Panel 3: The gang collectively looks over at CARLY, confused and maybe a bit scared. CARLY continues to stare at them, concentrated.

1. JAKE:

Hey Carly.

2. JAKE:

I thought you had a seat already?

3. CARLY:

Yeah. But I moved. Cool?

4. JAKE:

Yeah, totally.

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Panel 1: Carly is pointing at the paper as everyone uneasily settles back down to eat, RUDY maybe whispering into BEN's ear about this new girl. JAKE is still in the conversation with CARLY

1. CARLY:

So what's the deal with theft report? Why do you care?

2. JAKE:

We investigate this kind of thing.

3. CARLY:

What do you investigate? And who's "we"?

Panel 2: JAKE smiling proudly.

1. JAKE:

Well, we're **The Skeleton Bay Detective Agency!**

Panel 3: A shot of the other three, each waving to CARLY.

1. JAKE (CONTINUED FROM PANEL 2):

That's Jen...

2. JEN:

Hey!

3. JAKE (CONTINUED):

...Rudy...

4. RUDY:

Yo.

5. JAKE (CONTINUED):

...and Ben.

6. BEN:
Hello.

Panel 4: Back to JAKE and CARLY.

1. JAKE (CONTINUED FROM PANEL 3):

And we are the town's only investigators of the strange and mysterious! When there's spookiness afoot, the Agency is on the case!

2. CARLY:

Hm. Can I join?

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Panel 1: JEN, RUDY, and BEN look at each other confused as JAKE looks at CARLY surprised.

1. JAKE:
Well... I, uh.

2. JAKE:
Huh.

3. JAKE:
No one's ever asked to join.

Panel 2: The four Agency members look at each other, confused.

Panel 3: BEN Shrugs, to say "Why not?"

Panel 4: JAKE has turned back to CARLY as the others look on.

1. JAKE:
You really want to join?

2. CARLY:
I don't know. Sounds cool.

3. JAKE:
Alright, come over to my house today after school, we can show you our headquarters. Let's start there.

4. CARLY:
Deal.