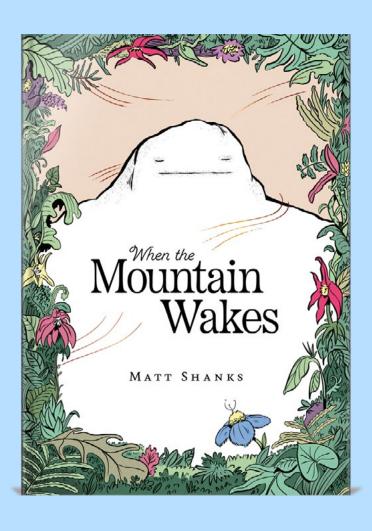


Mountain Wakes

BEHIND THE SCENES

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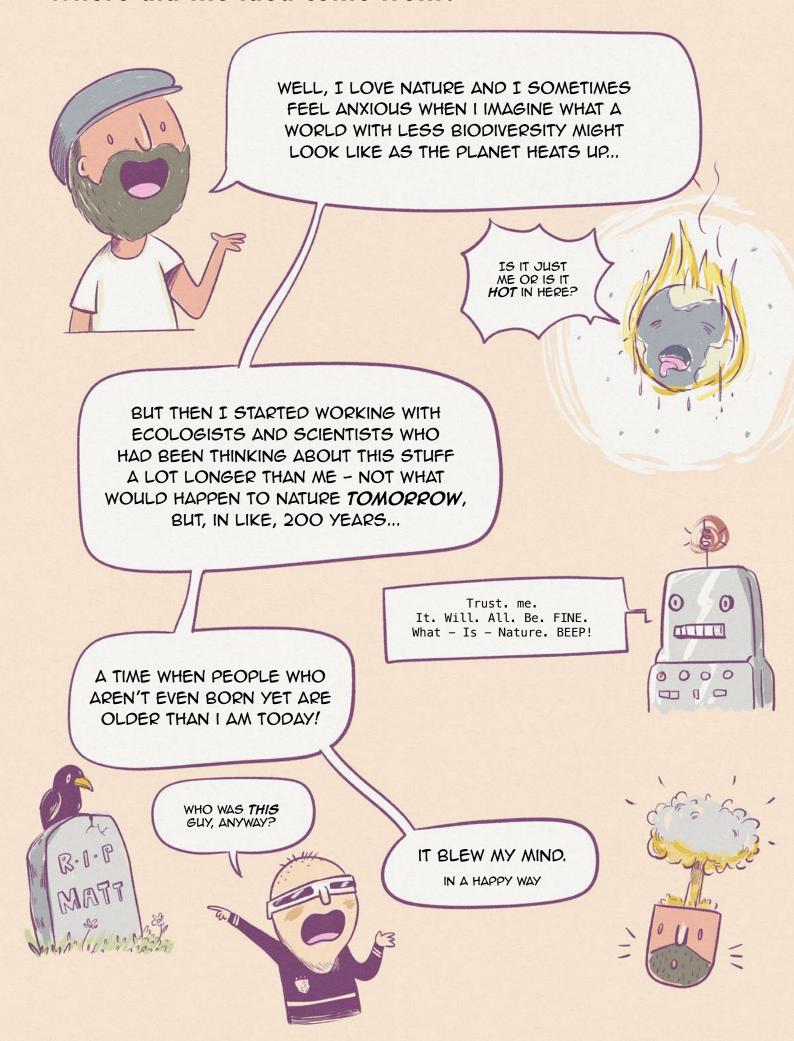
BUY ONLINE

HI, I'M MATT, THE CREATOR OF WHEN THE MOUNTAIN WAKES AND I'M HERE TO SHARE A BIT ABOUT HOW I CREATED THE STORY.

AND I'M MEL, I **DESIGNED**THE BOOK. YOU'LL HEAR FROM
ME A BIT LATER BECAUSE MY BIT
HAPPENED AT THE END.



Where did the idea come from?

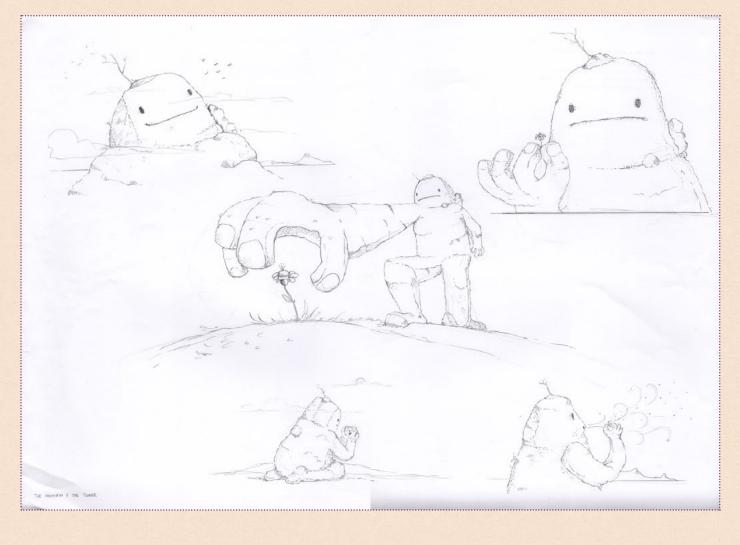






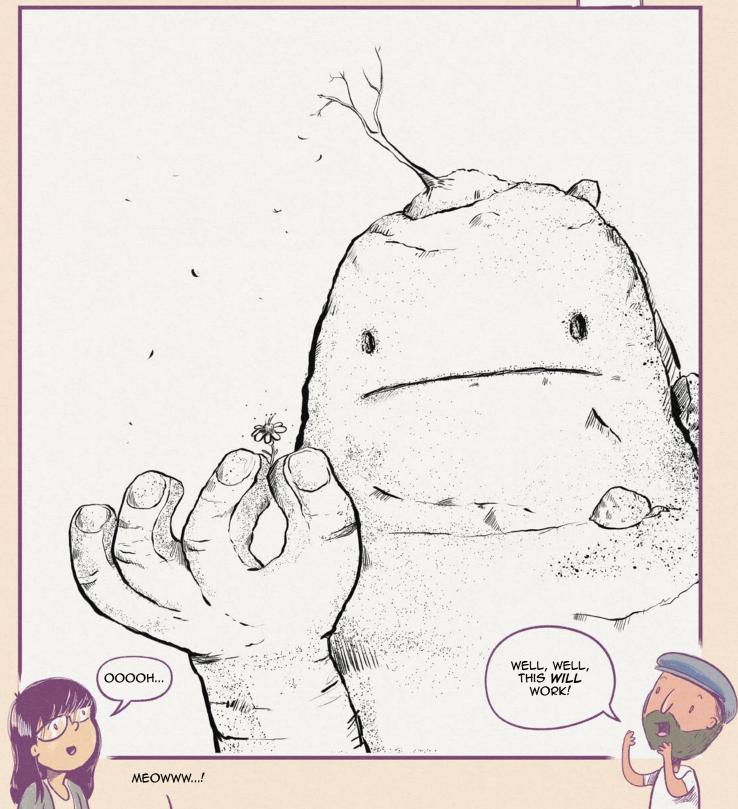
Concept art





I ALSO WASN'T SURE IF I'D BE ABLE TO DRAW SOMETHING AS HUGE AS A MOUNTAIN AND AS SMALL AS A FLOWER IN THE SAME IMAGE. I WAS AFRAID THE FLOWER WOULD BE TOO SMALL AND READERS WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO RECOGNISE IT AS A FLOWER. SO, NEXT I DREW THE IMAGE BELOW TO GIVE ME THE CONFIDENCE I NEEDED TO START WRITING THE STORY IN FULL.





Story planning using 'thumbnails'



WANT US TO PUT THIS IDEA?

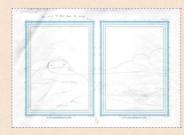
YEAH, C'MON, MATE! MOUNTAINS ARE HEAVY!

THIS IS WHERE THUMBNAILS COME IN.

THUMBNAILS ARE SMALL IMPRECISE VERSIONS OF WHAT YOU CAN SEE IN YOUR HEAD. THEY ARE CALLED THUMBNAILS BECAUSE BY KEEPING THEM AS 'SMALL AS YOUR THUMBNAIL' YOU DON'T HAVE ENOUGH ROOM TO GET LOST IN DETAIL SO YOU FOCUS MORE ON THE STORY, NOT THE ART.



BELOW: SOME ORIGINAL THUMBNAILS FOR WHEN THE MOUNTAIN WAKES

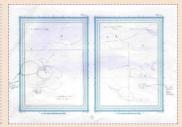


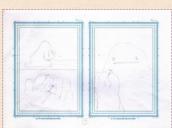


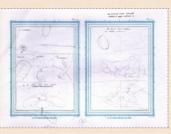










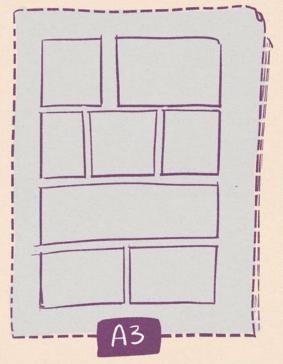




BUT WAIT, HOW DO YOU KNOW HOW BIG TO MAKE THE PANELS?



THE MOST IMPORTANT THING ABOUT SIZE IS THE WIDTH AND HEIGHT OF THE FINAL BOOK OR, THE **RATIO BETWEEN THEM.** OBVIOUSLY, THERE ARE A LOT OF OPTIONS SO DECIDING ON THAT UP FRONT IS IMPORTANT.



FOR WHEN THE MOUNTAIN WAKES,
I CHOSE THE 'A' RATIO. MOSTLY
BECAUSE IT WAS EASY AND CHEAP FOR
ME TO GET AH PAPER.







LATER, IF I DECIDED TO MAKE IT BIGGER OR SMALLER I KNEW THE **PROPORTIONS** OF THE PANELS WOULD WORK AT ALL THE "A" SIZES: BIGGER LIKE AT A3 SIZE OR SMALLER LIKE AT A5 SIZE.

MEASURING STUFF CAN BE HARD, SO I MADE A TEMPLATE* THAT ANYONE CAN USE TO HELP THEM FOCUS ON DRAWING THEIR STORY.



* AT THE END OF THIS GUIDE





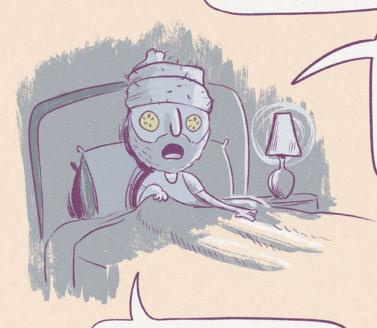


Sleep, eat, rest and review

ONCE I'M DONE WITH THE FIRST PASS OF A STORY, I NEED TO LET IT (AND ME) 'REST'.

A BIT LIKE HOW BREAD NEEDS TO REST SO IT CAN RISE PROPERLY AND BECOME THE BEST BREAD IT CAN BE.





I MAKE SURE I SLEEP WELL SO I CAN LOOK AT THINGS WITH FRESH EYES AND SEE THINGS I COULDN'T SEE IN THE STORY BEFORE.



HEY YOU DON'T BELONG HERE!



THEN, I REVIEW. I ASK ...

DOES ANYTHING FEEL TOO FAST



OR TOO SLOW?

DOES IT MAKE SENSE?

IS IT BELIEVABLE?







DOES IT FEEL FUN?

BLOOD!



OMG, I LOVE THIS! I CAN'T WAIT TO DRAW IT!

ONCE I WORK THROUGH THOSE QUESTIONS AND ESPECIALLY ANSWER **YES** TO THE LAST ONE, IT'S TIME FOR THE NEXT STEP:

GETTING IT INTO THE COMPUTER.

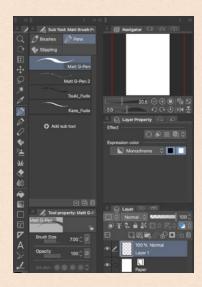


Getting it into the computer (pencils*)

FOR WHEN THE MOUNTAIN WAKES, I WANTED TO USE A TOOL I'D NEVER USED BEFORE CALLED CLIP STUDIO PAINT.

* THIS STEP IS CALLED 'PENCILS' BECAUSE THE DRAWINGS USED TO BE DONE WITH PENCIL AND THE GOAL WAS TO GET THE DRAWING 'CORRECT' BEFORE 'LOCKING IT IN' WITH INK.





I'D HEARD IT WAS GOOD FOR MAKING COMICS BUT WHENEVER I OPENED IT AND SAW THE INTERFACE, I WENT RUNNING FOR THE HILLS -IT SEEMED TOO MUCH FOR ME.

AHH, THIS IS TOO HARD! LIFE DOESN'T MAKE SENSE ANYMORE!



THERE'S NOT ENOUGH TIME FOR ALL THE TECHNICAL DETAILS
BUT I JUST MADE ONE A4 PAGE
IN IT AND STARTED TRYING TO
REDRAW MY PHYSICAL DRAWINGS
IN THE SOFTWARE.

I MADE LOADS OF MISTAKES AND HAD TO RE-DRAW A BUNCH OF THINGS MULTIPLE TIMES.

WHY ARE YOU SO MEAN?!

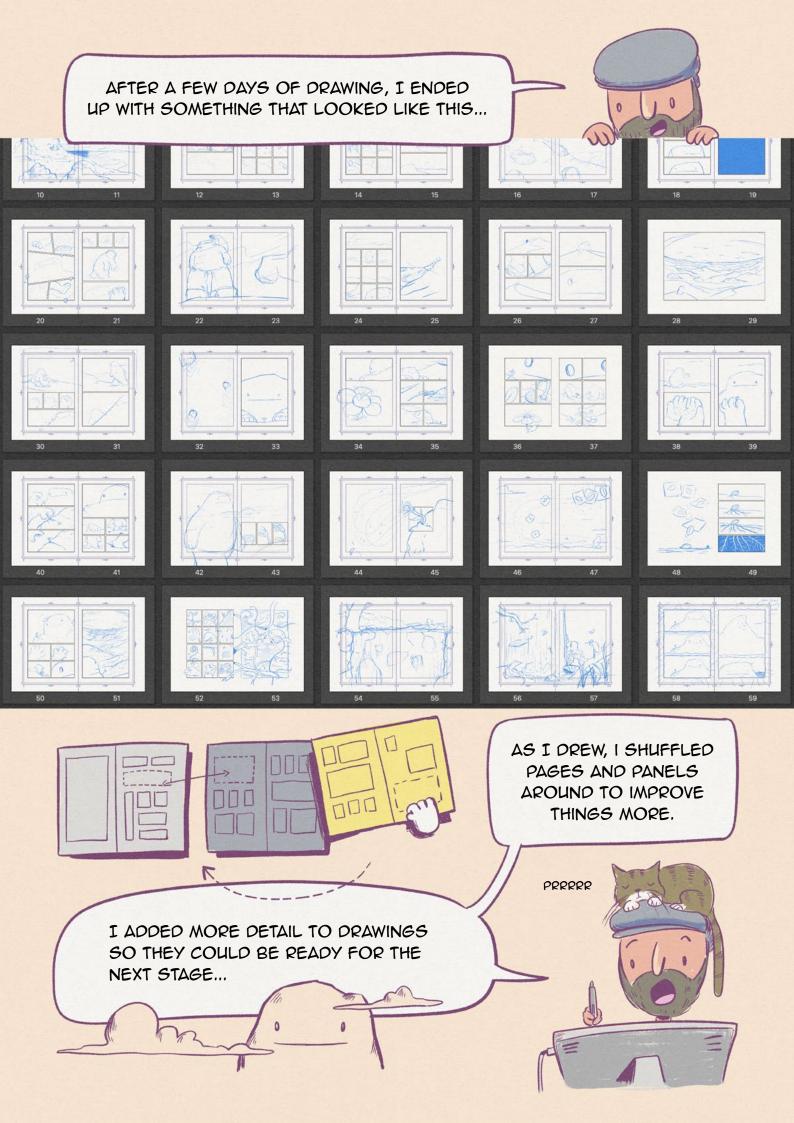
BUT, I LEARNED A LOT FROM MY MISTAKES AND NOW I *LOVE* IT FOR MAKING COMICS.





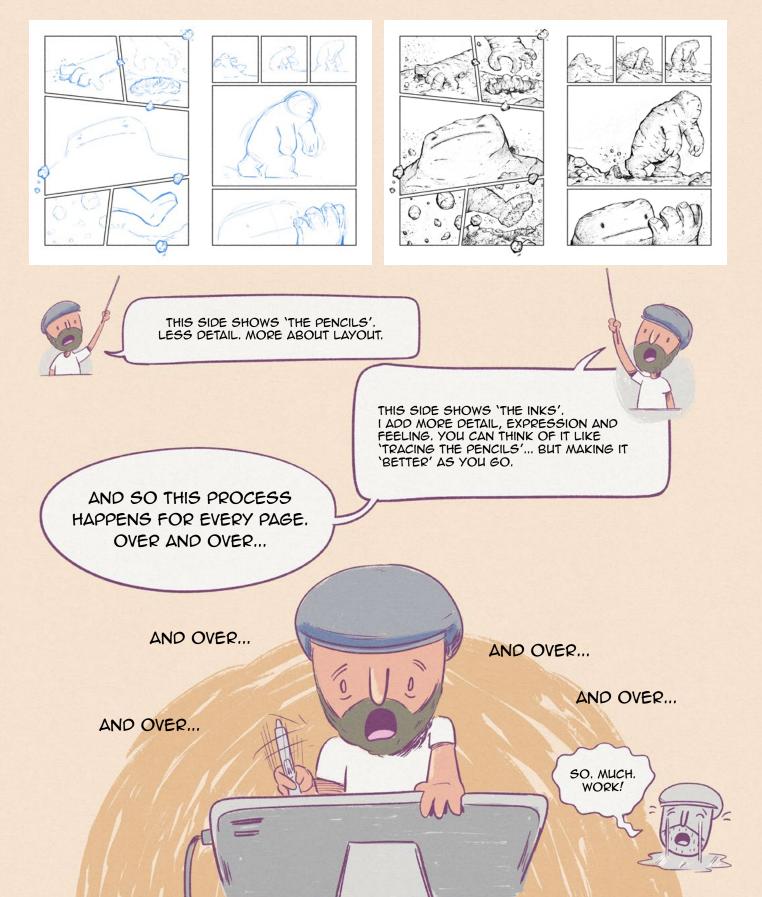


I'M SORRY, I TAKE IT ALL BACK!



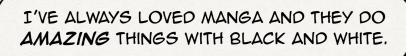
Inking

ONCE THE 'PENCILS' ARE DONE, IT'S TIME TO MOVE ON TO 'REAL DRAWING' - THE 'INKS'. THEY'RE CALLED INKS BECAUSE A PERSON USED TO USE REAL INKS TO 'GO OVER' THE PENCILS AND MAKE THEM INTO THE FINAL DRAWINGS. BECAUSE IT'S ALL DIGITAL NOW, IT'S NOT REALLY INK, BUT IT FEELS A BIT LIKE THE 'OLD' (AND VERY GOOD) PROCESS SO IT'S STILL CALLED THAT.

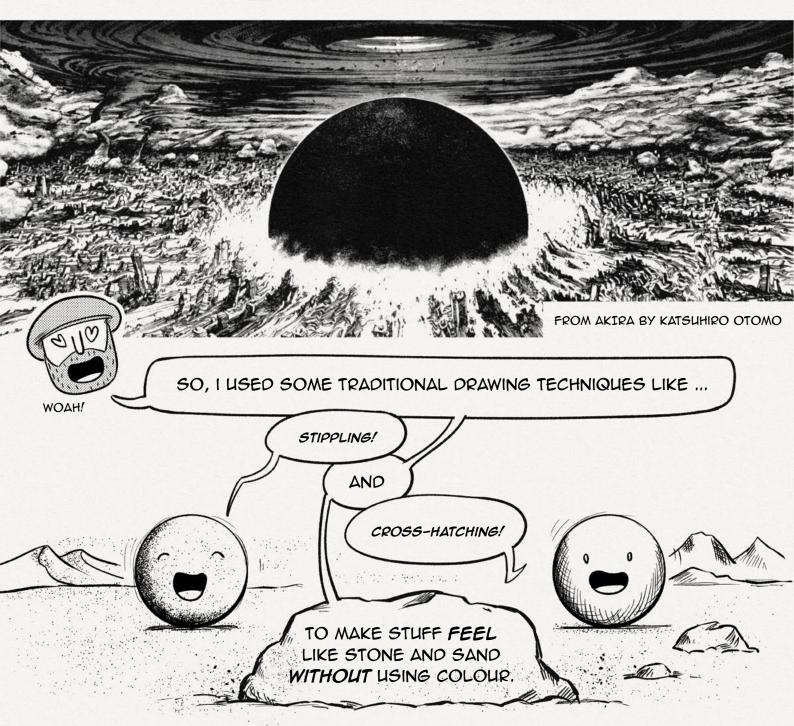




ONE OF THE CHALLENGES I SET MYSELF FOR WHEN THE MOUNTAIN WAKES WAS TO MAKE IT WORK WITHOUT COLOUR.

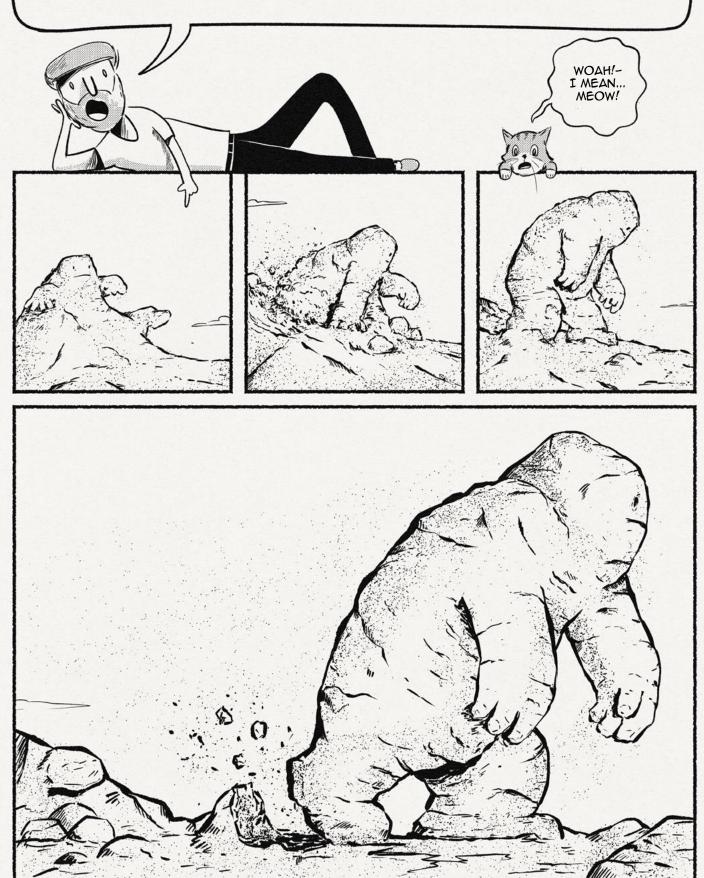






IF I WAS GOING TO ADD COLOUR, IT WAS GOING TO BE ABOUT HOW I COULD **ENHANCE** THE FEELINGS THAT WERE ALREADY IN BLACK AND WHITE AND NOT TO USE IT BECAUSE I COULDN'T **GET** THE FEELING FROM BLACK AND WHITE.

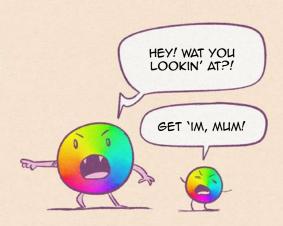
THESE ARE SOME OF MY *FAVOURITE* BLACK AND WHITE PANELS. I WAS ALWAYS A LITTLE WORRIED ABOUT HOW A MOUNTAIN MIGHT 'GET UP' AND START WANDERING THE EARTH. AND, EVEN *WITHOUT COLOUR*, THE MOUNTAIN STILL LOOKS LIKE STONE OR ROCK WHICH IS EXACTLY WHAT I WAS AFTER SO THIS BECAME A GUIDE FOR THE REST OF THE PAGES.



Colouring



I'LL BE HONEST, I'M A LITTLE SCARED OF COLOUR.



IT CAN EITHER REALLY HELP TO MAKE A STORY MORE IMPACTFUL & EMOTIONAL.



OR IT CAN
HURT BY
CONFUSING
THINGS.



GET IT OFF! GET IT OFF!

FOR WHEN THE MOUNTAIN
WAKES, I REALLY WANTED TO
OVERCOME MY FEAR OF COLOUR
AND LEARN HOW I COULD USE IT TO
IMPROVE THE STORY.

AND, BECAUSE I WAS ALREADY HAPPY WITH THE BLACK AND WHITES, EVEN IF I FAILED, I STILL HAD THAT TO FALL BACK ON.

TOO, MANY, OPTIONS,

HOW D'YOU DEM COLOURS?!





A 'COLOUR SCRIPT' BECAUSE IT'S A BIT LIKE WRITING WITH COLOUR. ASKING YOURSELF: HOW MIGHT COLOUR HELP TELL THE STORY?

FOR WHEN THE MOUNTAIN WAKES, I THOUGHT COLOUR WOULD BE BEST USED TO CONTRAST THE DIFFERENT TYPES OF ENVIRONMENTS THAT EXISTED AT DIFFERENT TIMES.

GREENS AND

BLUES FOR LUSH ENVIRONMENTS.

BEIGES AND ORANGES FOR DRY AND BARREN ONES.





ONCE I HAD THESE TWO CONTRASTS I COULD FILL IN THE OTHER PAGES TO GET AN OVERVIEW OF HOW COLOUR COULD HELP TELL THE STORY. IT LOOKED SOMETHING LIKE THIS ...





FOR EXAMPLE, GREEN HAS MORE IMPACT TOWARDS THE END BECAUSE IT WAS SO ABSENT FOR SO MANY PAGES IN THE MIDDLE.



SURPRISE!

THIS GUIDE ONLY SCRATCHES THE SURFACE OF COLOUR.
THERE ARE WHOLE JOBS DEDICATED TO THIS PROCESS BUT I
HOPE THIS GIVES YOU A LITTLE INSIGHT INTO THE POWER OF
COLOUR IN HELPING TO TELL STORIES.



Designing the cover

HI, I'M BACK. I'M MEL, I DESIGNED THE COVER FOR WHEN THE MOUNTAIN WAKES I'M HERE TO TAKE YOU THROUGH HOW WE ARRIVED AT THE COVER YOU SEE TODAY.

ACTUALLY, MATT *DID* DESIGN A COVER AT FIRST, BUT IT WAS A BIT... BORING.



YAAWWWN!



MATT SHANKS

Mountain and Flower



I FELT LIKE IT DIDN'T REALLY CAPTURE THE EPIC AND AMAZING JOURNEY THAT HAPPENED ON THE INSIDE.



I THINK
I COULD
MAKE THIS
AMAZING!

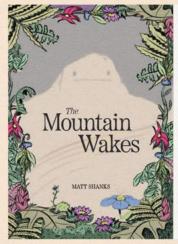
OOH, I LOVE IT WHEN YOU'RE THIS EXCITED!

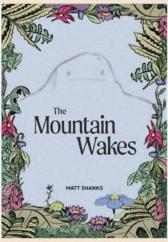


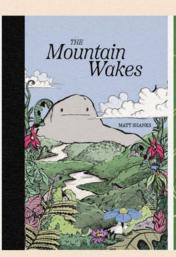


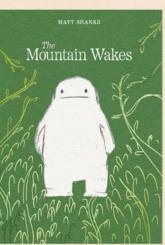


WE TRIED HEAPS OF DIFFERENT OPTIONS ...



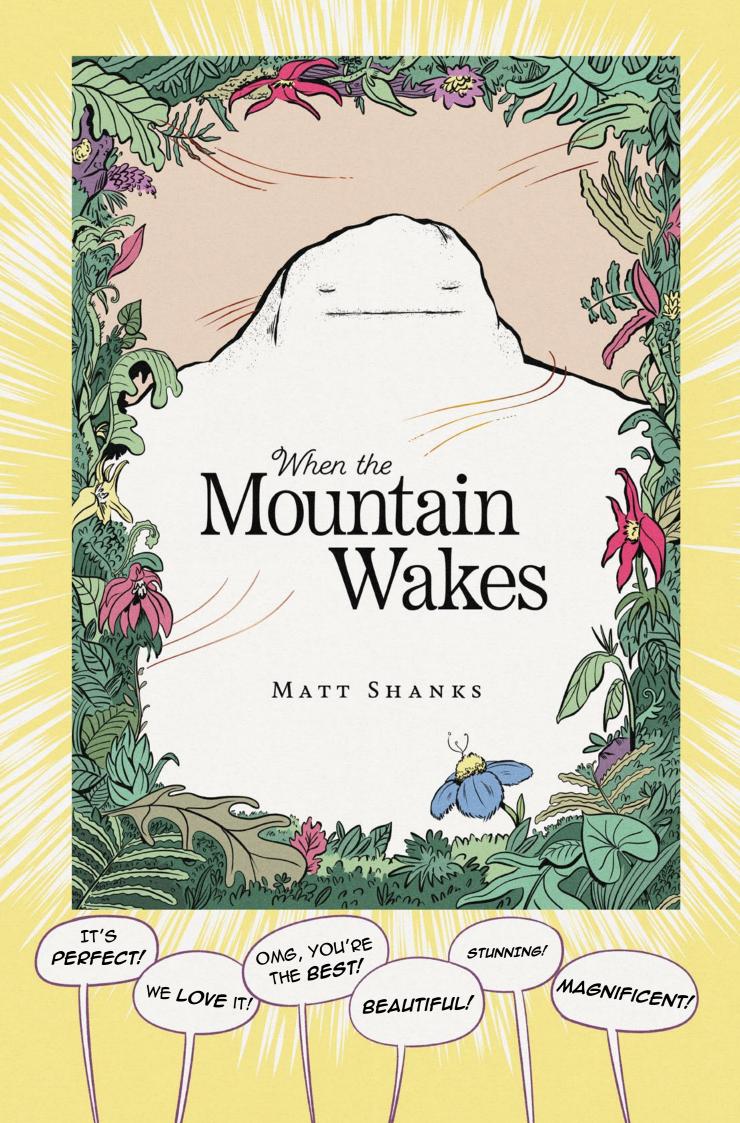






AND EVERYONE CONTRIBUTED THEIR GREAT (AND NOT SO GREAT*) IDEAS.







Releasing the book





Thanks for reading... no, seriously!

THANKYOU, DEAR READER!

MEL AND I REALLY HOPE YOU ENJOYED THIS LITTLE JOURNEY BEHIND THE SCENES OF WHEN THE MOUNTAIN WAKES.

AS YOU CAN SEE, IT TAKES A LOT OF TIME AND PEOPLE TO MAKE THESE BOOKS AND THEY WOULDN'T EXIST WITHOUT PEOPLE LIKE YOU - INTERESTED READERS WHO LOVE A GOOD YARN.

IF, LIKE ME, YOU'RE EXPERIENCING SOME UNCOMFORTABLE FEELINGS ABOUT CLIMATE CHANGE, YOU'RE NOT ALONE. I MADE WHEN THE MOUNTAIN WAKES AND IT HELPED ME WORK THROUGH SOME OF THOSE FEELINGS.

REMEMBER I MENTIONED THE ECOLOGISTS AND SCIENTISTS? WELL, THERE ARE SOME GREAT ORGANISATIONS AROUND THE WORLD WHO ARE DOING THEIR BEST TO HELP RESTORE SOME OF THE BIODIVERSITY THAT WE'VE LOST OR ARE LOSING. I MEAN, WHAT THEY'RE DOING IS **REALLY** GREAT!

GET THIS - THERE'S AN ORGANISATION CALLED THE AUSTRALIAN WILDLIFE CONSERVANCY WHO ARE FENCING OFF HUGE PARTS OF AUSTRALIA, GETTING RID OF FOREIGN PREDATORS LIKE FERAL CATS AND FOXES THAT HAVE BEEN KILLING NATIVE WILDLIFE, AND THEN BRINGING BACK AUSTRALIAN WILDLIFE TO THOSE AREAS AND THEY ARE THRIVING.

AND HOW ABOUT THIS - THERE'S A GROUP AT MT ROTHWELL IN VICTORIA WHO ARE BREEDING ENDANGERED ROCK WALLABIES AND THEN BACKPACKING THESE WALLABIES INTO THEIR NATURAL REMOTE HABITATS BECAUSE THEY CAN'T DRIVE IN AND DROP THEM OFF. IMAGINE A WALLABY IN A BACKPACK! INCREDIBLE.

SO, THERE **ARE** A BUNCH OF GREAT HUMANS WORKING TO TRY AND IMPROVE THINGS. HOPEFULLY, THE MORE WE TELL THESE STORIES, THE MORE THERE WILL BE.

SO, IF YOU CAN, PLANT A NATIVE TREE IN YOUR GARDEN, BUILD A FROG BOG, HOST A BEE HIVE - EVERY LITTLE BIT GOES A LONG WAY TO HELP.

THANKS AGAIN! AND HAPPY READING.

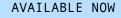


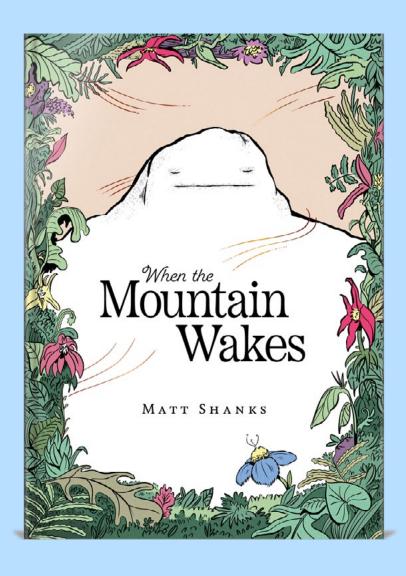
Mountain When the Mountain Wakes

COMIC GRID TEMPLATES

THE FOLLOWING PAGES EXPLAIN AND DEMONSTRATE HOW TO USE MATT SHANKS' COMIC GRID TEMPLATE.

THE LAST TWO PAGES WITH NO WRITING OR TEXT ON THEM ARE THE ONES TO PRINT AND USE TO START MAKING YOUR COMIC.





When the Mountain Wakes

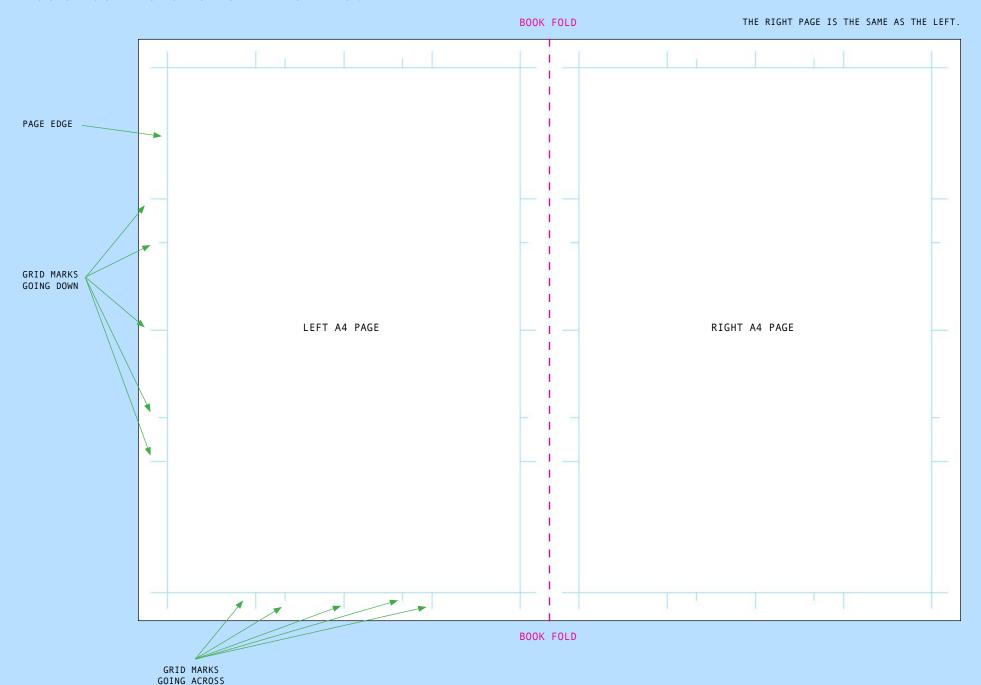
Somewhere, towards the beginning of time, a mountain rose from the ocean and came to rest above the clouds.

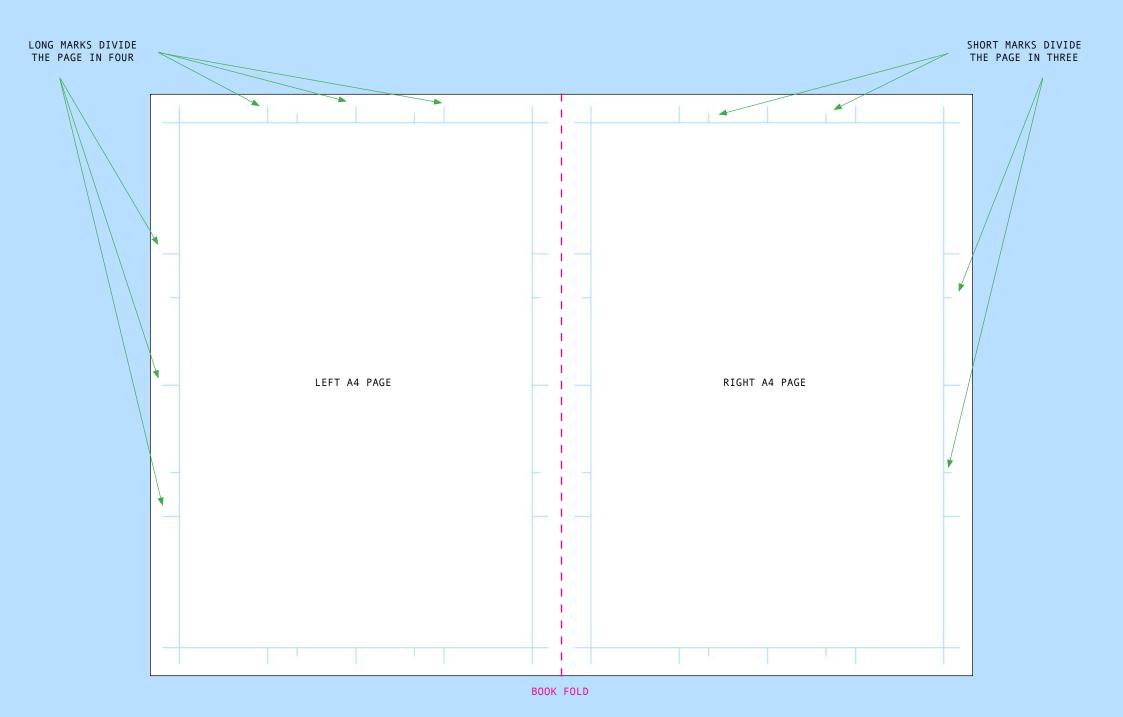
Life sang a lullaby, and the mountain slept for many millions of years.

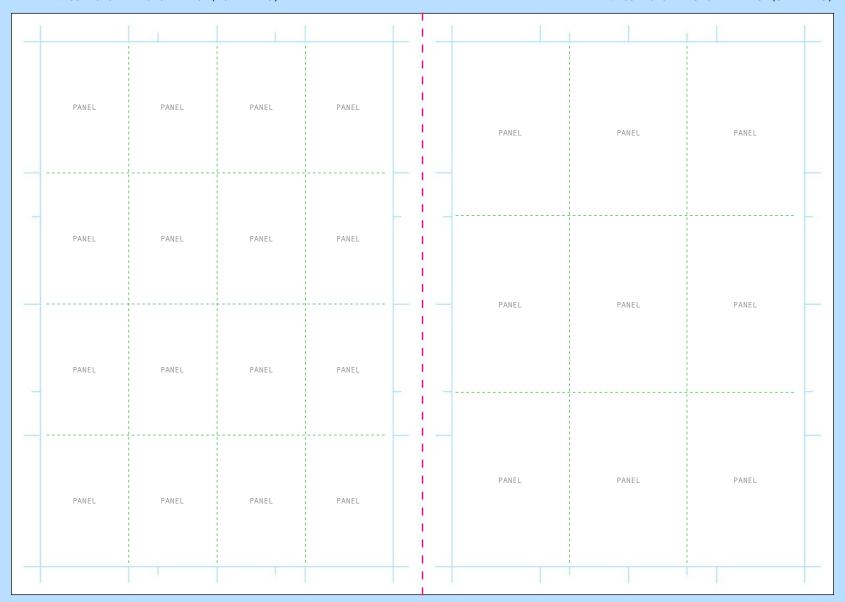
Until one day, when the world became too silent for sleep ...

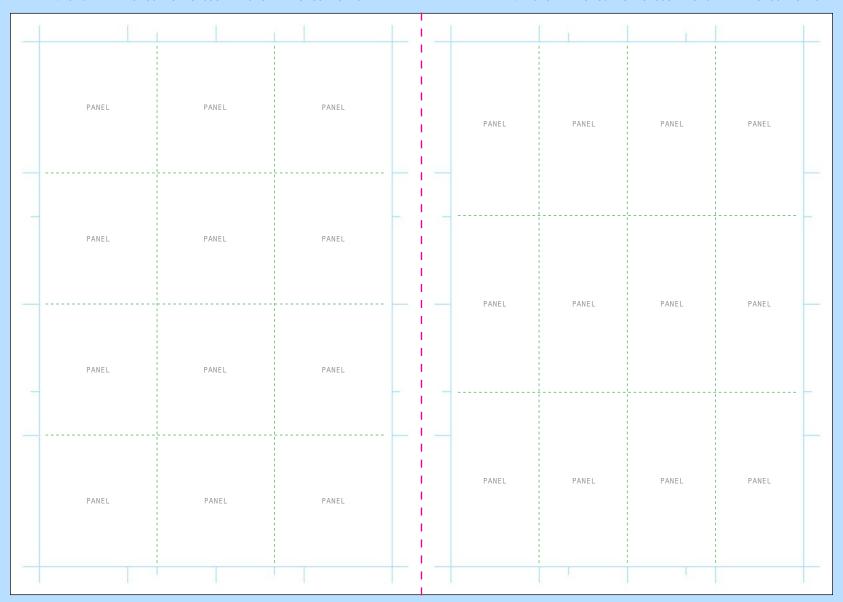
From bestselling creator Matt Shanks comes a sweeping, profound and ambitious picture book. A powerful reflection on hope and healing, When the Mountain Wakes is a classic in the making.

BUY ONLINE



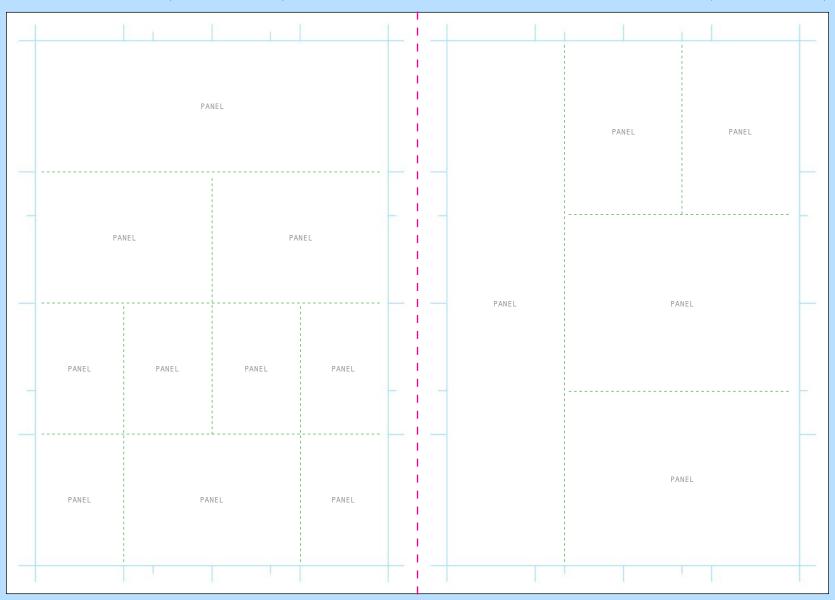






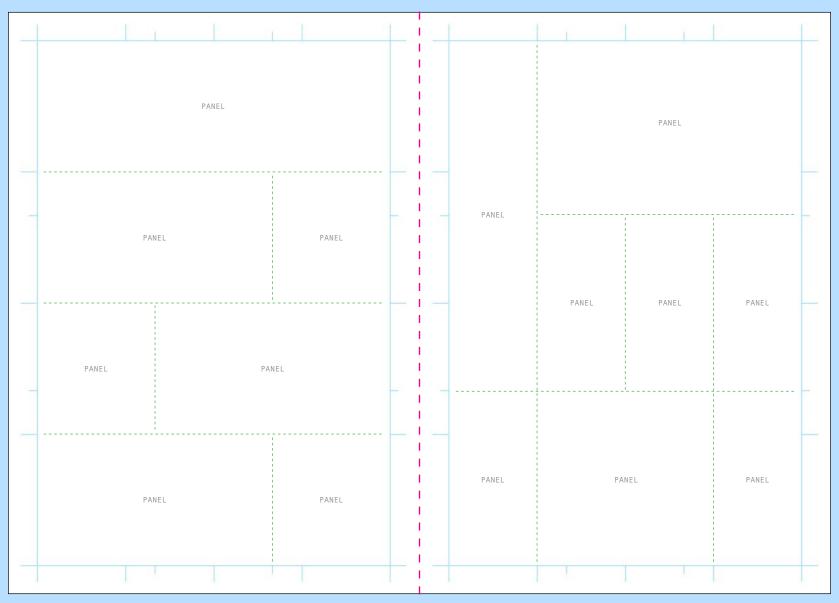
EXAMPLE: ONLY LONG MARKS (+ PANEL VARIATION)

EXAMPLE: ONLY SHORT MARKS (+ PANEL VARIATION)



EXAMPLE: SHORT MARKS GOING ACROSS + LONG MARKS GOING DOWN (VARIATION)

EXAMPLE:
LONG MARKS ON HORIZONTAL + SHORT MARKS GOING DOWN (VARIATION)



EXAMPLES FROM WHEN THE MOUNTAIN WAKES BY MATT SHANKS

LEFT: LONG MARKS GOING ACROSS SHORT MARKS GOING DOWN

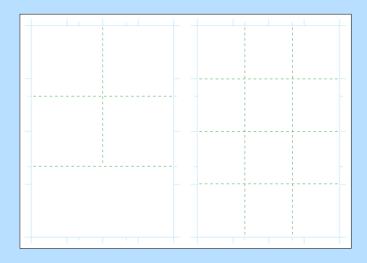
RIGHT: SHORT MARKS GOING ACROSS LONG MARKS GOING DOWN

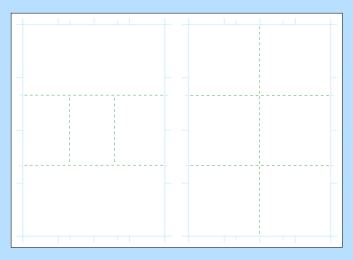
LEFT: SHORT MARKS GOING ACROSS LONG MARKS GOING DOWN

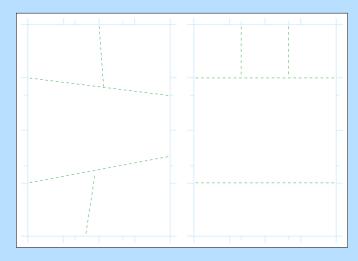
RIGHT: LONG MARKS GOING ACROSS SHORT MARKS GOING DOWN

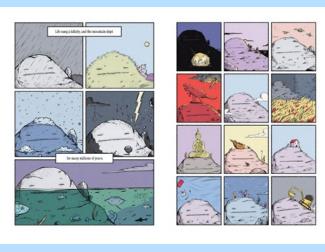
LEFT: BREAKING THE GRID FOR IMPACT

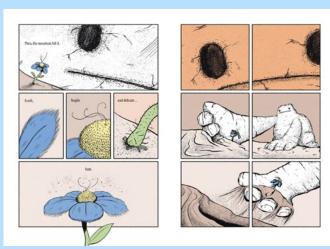
RIGHT: SHORT MARKS GOING ACROSS LONG MARKS GOING DOWN

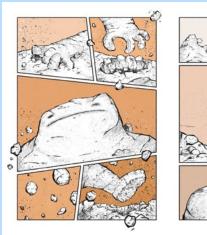


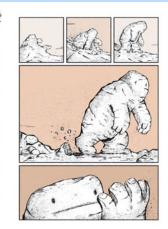






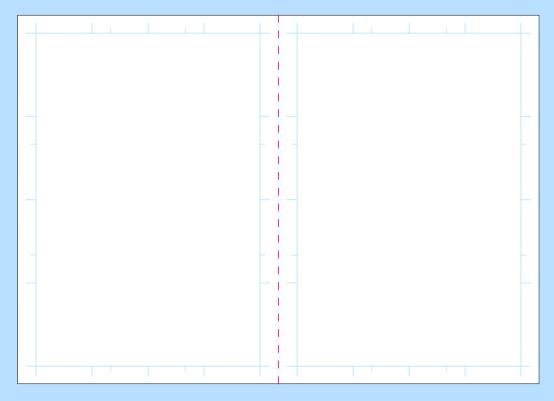






TWO TEMPLATES

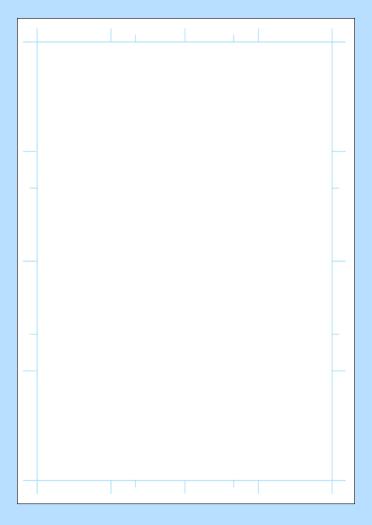
THUMBNAIL TEMPLATE



PRINT THIS ONE ON AN A4 PAGE.

IT WILL GIVE YOU 2 X A5 PAGES AND WILL ALLOW YOU TWO SEE A 'SPREAD' (2 PAGES AT THE SAME TIME) WHICH IS BETTER FOR SKETCHING OUT THE STORY AND TO AVOID GETTING LOST IN THE DETAIL OF MAKING 'GREAT DRAWINGS' AT THIS STAGE.

PENCILS TEMPLAT



PRINT THIS ONE ON AN A3 PAGE WHEN YOU'RE HAPPY WITH YOUR STORY AND YOU WANT TO START PRODUCING DRAWINGS NON-DIGITALLY THAT CAN BE READY TO INK. IT'S ALWAYS BETTER TO DO NON-DIGITAL 'PENCILS' AT A LARGER SIZE THAN THE FINAL SIZE.

