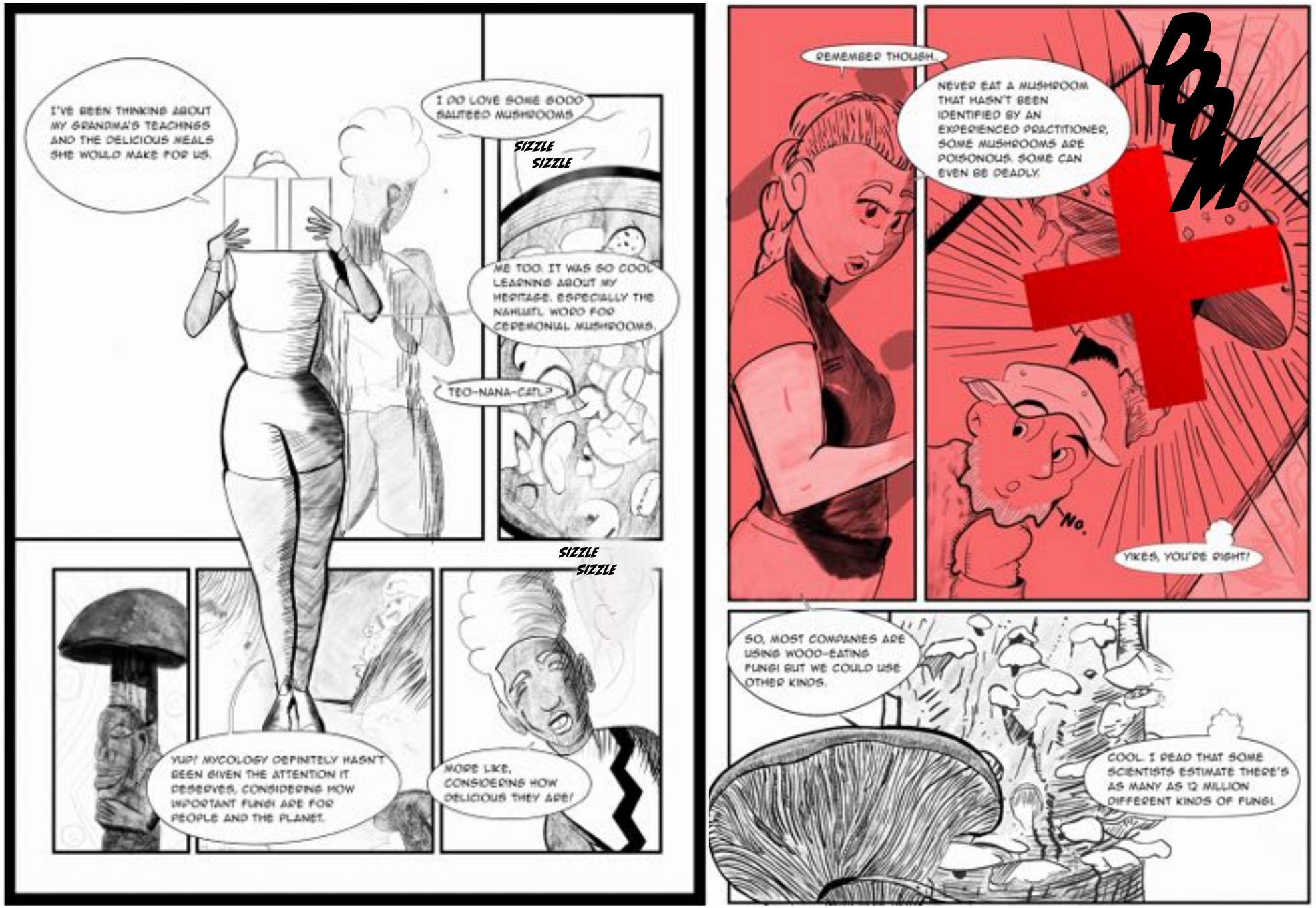
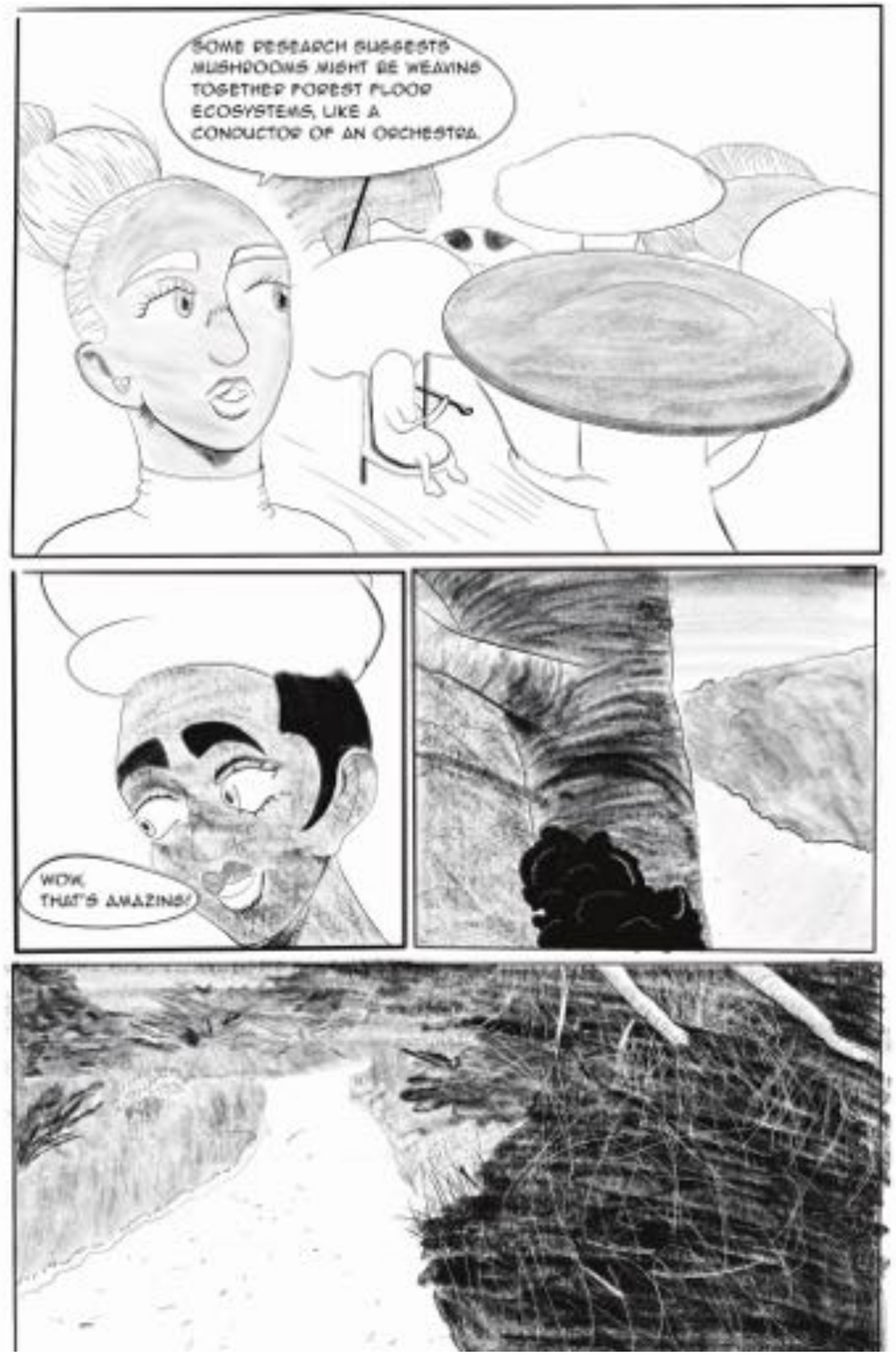
Chapter 2:

The Foray and Forest Orchestra


I'VE BEEN THINKING ABOUT MY GRANDMA'S TEACHINGS AND THE DELICIOUS MEALS SHE WOULD MAKE FOR US.
I DO LOVE SOME GOOD SAUTEED MUSHROOMS
SIZZLE SIZZLE
ME TOO. IT WAS SO COOL LEARNING ABOUT MY HERITAGE, ESPECIALLY THE NAHUATL WORD FOR CEREMONIAL MUSHROOMS.
TEO-NANA-CATL?
SIZZLE SIZZLE
YUP! MYCOLOGY DEFINITELY HASN'T BEEN GIVEN THE ATTENTION IT DESERVES, CONSIDERING HOW IMPORTANT FUNGI ARE FOR PEOPLE AND THE PLANET.
MORE LIKE, CONSIDERING HOW DELICIOUS THEY ARE!
REMEMBER THOUGH...
NEVER EAT A MUSHROOM THAT HASN'T BEEN IDENTIFIED BY AN EXPERIENCED PRACTITIONER. SOME MUSHROOMS ARE POISONOUS. SOME CAN EVEN BE DEADLY.
BOOM
NO.
YIKES, YOU'RE RIGHT!
SO, MOST COMPANIES ARE USING WOOD-EATING FUNGI BUT WE COULD USE OTHER KINDS.
COOL. I READ THAT SOME SCIENTISTS ESTIMATE THERE'S AS MANY AS 12 MILLION DIFFERENT KINDS OF FUNGI.

THERE ARE ALL KINDS OF DIFFERENT FUNGI AND THEY LIVE in basically every ecosystem, PLAYING ALL KINDS OF DIFFERENT ECOLOGICAL ROLES.
THEY EVEN FORM RELATIONSHIPS WITH OTHER CRITTERS--- LIKE MUTUALISMS.
SOME EVEN LIVE BY DECOMPOSING DEAD OR DYING TREES.
PALABRA. THE INTERSPECIES RELATIONSHIPS THAT MUSHROOMS FORM ARE COOL.


SOME RESEARCH SUGGESTS MUSHROOMS MIGHT BE WEAVING TOGETHER FOREST FLOOR ECOSYSTEMS, LIKE A CONDUCTOR OF AN ORCHESTRA.
WOW, THAT'S AMAZING!

THERE'S SOME MUSHROOMS GROWING OUT OF THAT TREE!
NICE, LET'S CHECK OUR FIELD GUIDE TO SEE IF we can identify them.
HMM, LOOKS GOOD SO FAR.
LET'S TAKE SOME. I SEE A FEW DIFFERENT KINDS TOO.
WAIT, HOW DO WE TAKE SAMPLES AGAIN?
FIRST OFF, LET'S LEAVE AT LEAST ONE OR TWO MUSHROOMS FROM EACH PATCH. THAT WAY WE DON'T TAKE THEM ALL.
RIGHT. OK, WE WANT TO TAKE A PICTURE OF THE TOP AND BOTTOM OF THE MUSHROOM IN ITS habitat.
ALRIGHT, LET'S GET THIS ONE OUT WITH SOME OF THE SOIL TOO
POP!
WHAT ABOUT THESE MUSHROOMS GROWING OUT OF TREES? WE JUST CARVE 'EM OUT?
KINDA. WE VERY CAREFULLY PRY THE MUSHROOM OFF...
FWIP FWIP
WOOSH
Chapter 2: End