

The Best Mini-Comic You'll Ever Read!

by
Searnold

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Searnold
(310) 806-3373
SuperSearnold@yahoo.com
<http://www.SuperSearnold.com>

PAGE 01 (1 PANEL):

PANEL 1.1 - INT. - COMIC BOOK CONVENTION - MAIN HALL - DAY

Leave the top blank for a nice big title that reads:

TITLE

This Is The Best Mini-Comic You'll
Ever Read! Trust me - you'll want
it at the top of your slush pile.
And by the time you're done with
it, you'll be BEGGING to give me a
writing job!

Which is being declared by a handsome fellow in a suit and a
baseball cap (yes - it's me!) He's standing at the front of
a long line of eager comic book creators which reaches off
the page and beyond. In front of him is a plain table with a
simple sign that reads:

SIGN

Portfolio Reviews by Good Times
Comics Editor Sarah Mosby

Sarah - a middle-aged comic book editor (and the focus of
this page) - sits in an uncomfortable chair on the other side
of the table. She's been sitting here for quite awhile and
is beginning to feel discouraged. She's skeptical of
Searnold's claim. But she feigns a polite smile as he hands
her a mini-comic with a cover that looks identical to this
page - just, much smaller. (We'll use Photoshop for that
effect, so you can just leave the mini-mini-comic blank.)

SARAH (THOUGHT BALLOON)

Hyperbole anyone?

SARAH (CONT'D)

I'll be certain to take a look at
it.

PAGE 02 (3 PANELS):

PANEL 2.1 - INT. - COMIC BOOK CONVENTION - MAIN HALL - DAY

Mr. Searnold walks away as the next person in line steps up
to Sarah. The never-ending line trails off the edge of the
page. It's full of all sorts of diverse characters. The
main focus of this panel is how long the line is.

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WANNABE CREATOR

Sarah! I read on your Myspace page that you're looking for some fresh new talent for the latest Good Times Anthology - so I researched you and the sorts of things you like and put together this art sample just for you!

SARAH (THOUGHT BALLOON)
Stalkery much?

SARAH (CONT'D)
Thank you.

PANEL 2.2 - SAME

Who knows how far back, we can finally see the end of the line. A few feet behind the last person, Giselle approaches.

Giselle - an attractive young artist - is holding her art portfolio nonchalantly. She's innocent, and doesn't know what to expect. Her eyes are filled with wonder as she walks up to the line.

GISELLE

Wow.

Various people in line are thinking various funny things such as:

RANDOM THOUGHTS

Why am I here?
The hills are alive with the sound of music...
Hi - my name is Josh. Hello - I'm Josh. Hey - my name's Josh.
She's gonna hate me. I just know it.

PANEL 2.3 - SAME

Giselle gets into the back of the line. Her wonder turns to worry.

GISELLE (THOUGHT BALLOON)
I had no idea there'd be such a long line.

PAGE 03 (3 PANELS):

PANEL 3.1 - INT. - COMIC BOOK CONVENTION - MAIN HALL - DAY

Panels 3.1 and 3.2 juxtapose each other, so I want them to be the same size and side-by-side.

Tight on Giselle as she smiles. She's so excited to get to talk to Sarah.

GISELLE (THOUGHT BALLOON)

I guess it make sense though. I bet Sarah has all sorts of great advice.

PANEL 3.2 - SAME

In direct contrast to Giselle's thoughts and happy smile, we see Sarah with a completely stunned look on her face. She has been shocked into silence.

SARAH (THOUGHT BALLOON)

I have to pee.

SARAH (CONT'D)

I... have nothing to say.

PANEL 3.3 - SAME

From Sarah's P.O.V. An excited fan who thinks his artwork is the best thing that there ever was stands a little too close, leaning in on the table. He's proud as beans of his artwork.

FAN

Cause it's so great!?

We can also see the artwork that Sarah is looking at, and it is FAR from great. Comically far. It needs to be in stark contrast to your artwork so that the readers are clear this is INTENTIONALLY drawn badly. I'm thinking stick figures, or something that looks like a child's drawing.

PAGE 04 (6 PANELS):

PANEL 4.1 - INT. - COMIC BOOK CONVENTION - MAIN HALL - DAY

Sarah feigns another smile, but it's much more difficult for her this time.

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SARAH

It certainly has a... unique style.

SARAH (THOUGHT BALLOON) (CONT'D)

I don't want to crush this guy's
dreams but... it's just so bad....

PANEL 4.2 - SAME

Sarah has a concerned look on her face. She's not sure how
the fan is going to handle this news.

SARAH

It's just not quite at the
professional level.

PANEL 4.3 - SAME

This man's life is ruined. For the first time he sees that
the work he thought was so spectacular might not be so great
after all.

FAN

Oh. Well. I appreciate your
honesty.

PANEL 4.4 - SAME

He solemnly grabs his portfolio.

PANEL 4.5 - SAME

And mopes away as the next person in line confidently steps
up. Sarah isn't looking at him, though - she's watching the
moping fan, taking a moment to feel bad about what just
happened.

SARAH (THOUGHT BALLOON)

Poor guy.

PANEL 4.6 - SAME

The disheartened fan mopes past Giselle's spot in line. She
turns her head and watches him as she thinks:

GISELLE (THOUGHT BALLOON)

Poor guy.

By now, more people have gathered in line behind her - but she's the only one who seems to notice him. Save one person in the back of the line who happily thinks:

RANDOM THOUGHTS
Schmuck!

PAGE 05 (5 PANELS):

PANEL 5.1 - INT. - COMIC BOOK CONVENTION - MAIN HALL - DAY

An angry fan yanks his portfolio away from Sarah. Sarah is shocked by this sudden, almost violent act.

ANGRY FAN
You suck and you don't know what
you're talking about! How can you
not love this?!

PANEL 5.2 - SAME

As he storms past Giselle's spot in line, the angry fan turns back to face Sarah. Everyone in line notices him as he yells:

ANGRY FAN
You wouldn't know great art if I
shoved it right in front of your
face!

Giselle is mildly frightened. She doesn't like conflict.

PANEL 5.3 - SAME

Tight on Giselle. She holds her portfolio up to her chest, wrapping her arms around herself defensively. She's having second thoughts.

GISELLE (THOUGHT BALLOON)
Maybe now's not such a great time.
Maybe I'll show her next year, once
I've gotten better.

PANEL 5.4 - SAME

Giselle closes her eyes and takes a deep breath.

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GISELLE (THOUGHT BALLOON)
No - wait. You can do this.
Just... Breathe....

PANEL 5.5 - SAME

She's vindicated. She's made up her mind. She's gonna do this. It may be hard to hear, but she's gonna persevere and make the best of it!

GISELLE (THOUGHT BALLOON)
Nothing ventured, nothing gained -
right?

PAGE 06 (4 PANELS):

PANEL 6.1 - INT. - COMIC BOOK CONVENTION - MAIN HALL - DAY

A volunteer comes over to the person standing in front of Giselle and hands them a sign.

VOLUNTEER
You're last.

SIGN
Last In Line

PANEL 6.2 - SAME

Giselle's P.O.V. The volunteer has no sympathy for Giselle.

VOLUNTEER
Sorry.

PANEL 6.3 - SAME

Giselle is stuck. She can't seem to move. The people behind her start to scatter. The line in front of her continues to move forward.

PANEL 6.4 - SAME

Large panel. Zoom out. Giselle is all alone. There's hustle and bustle all around as the con continues to move along without her. But her world has stopped. She clutches her portfolio tightly against her chest, unsure what to do next.

PAGE 07 (4 PANELS):

PANEL 7.1 - INT. - COMIC BOOK CONVENTION - MAIN HALL - DAY

Pull back. Far back. We're behind Sarah now, looking out across the line. We can still see a tiny Giselle, small, far away, insignificant, and alone.

PANEL 7.2 - SAME

Same shot. The line continues to progress. Giselle turns around and slowly begins walking away.

PANEL 7.3 - SAME

Same. Giselle is gone. The final person in line approaches with the sign that reads:

SIGN
Last in Line

SARAH (THOUGHT BALLOON)
Please don't suck.

PANEL 7.4 - SAME

And as the last in line walks away, Sarah is left all alone at the table.

SARAH
Well... that wasn't nearly as
productive as I'd hoped.

SARAH (THOUGHT BALLOON) (CONT'D)
At least I finally get to pee.

PAGE 08/09 (DOUBLE PAGE SPREAD - 7 PANELS):

PANEL 8/9.1 - EXT. - LADY'S BATHROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Sarah walks into a lady's bathroom. A mysterious stalker woman is subtly watching her, while pretending to read a comic book.

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PANEL 8/9.2 - SAME

The bathroom door closes. The mysterious stalker woman puts her comic away and looks around with her shifty eyes.

PANEL 8/9.3 - SAME

And follows into the bathroom.

PANEL 8/9.4 - INT. - LADY'S BATHROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Inside a bathroom stall. Sarah is sitting down on the toilet. She looks relaxed for the first time. Make sure you frame this well so that we can't see any naughty bits. ;-)

PANEL 8/9.5 - SAME

Same. But Sarah is suddenly shocked to hear someone talking from an adjacent bathroom stall. I want her to be caught with her underwear around her feet - so I'm thinking mayhaps she is wearing a dress that is hiked up, but covering the naughty bits? What do you think? I've never been a woman trying to pee, so you probably have better insight into what would work well here.

MYSTERIOUS STALKER WOMAN

I know this might not be the best
time...

PANEL 8/9.6 - SAME

Zoom out to an aerial view to see another woman standing in the stall next to Sarah's.

MYSTERIOUS STALKER WOMAN

But I saw you come in here and knew
I'd regret it for the rest of my
life if I didn't tell you how much
I love your work.

Sarah can't accept the compliment because she's worried and angry about what she knows is coming next.

PANEL 8/9.7 - SAME

Same. The woman slides a mini-comic under the bathroom stall. Sarah, disgusted, can't even look at it.

She reaches out to grab it with one hand, while resting her head in the other and looking down and away in disgust.

MYSTERIOUS STALKER WOMAN

And I know you've seen a lot of comics today - but I think you'll agree this one's on a completely different level than the others. I think it'd be a perfect project for Good Times Comics.

SARAH

(muttering through her teeth)

Well thank you. I'll certainly take a look at it.

PAGE 10 (6 PANELS):

PANEL 10.1 - INT. - LADY'S BATHROOM - AT THAT MOMENT

Zoom out even further so that we can now see the stall on the other side of Sarah as well. Giselle sits on the toilet (also fully clothed) clutching her art portfolio and wiping her tears away with toilet paper.

GISELLE (THOUGHT BALLOON)

Sarah?

Sarah grabs the comic as the other woman leaves her stall.

PANEL 10.2 - SAME

Tight on Giselle as she looks over at the stall next to her and finishes wiping her tears away.

GISELLE (THOUGHT BALLOON)

What should I do? What should I do? I could follow her after she leaves. NO! That's a terrible plan. I... I should say something! But I can't be rude. I suppose... I'll just... go stand out there and hope she notices me?

PANEL 10.3 - SAME

Giselle exits the bathroom stall. A flush comes from the stall next to her.

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SARAH
I'm Sarah.

GISELLE
I know.

GISELLE (THOUGHT BALLOON) (CONT'D)
Ooops! Too stalkery.

PANEL 11.2 - SAME

Giselle is flustered. We can tell that she's socially awkward, but in an adorable way. She shifts her art portfolio to free up her hand and reciprocates the shake.

GISELLE
OH! Giselle.

PANEL 11.3 - SAME

An awkward moment of silence. Sarah notices the portfolio. Giselle doesn't know what to do.

SARAH (THOUGHT BALLOON)
Please don't ask me to look at your portfolio.

GISELLE (THOUGHT BALLOON)
Please ask to look at my artwork.

PANEL 11.4 - SAME

Sarah turns to leave.

SARAH
Well... thanks for not trying to pitch me.

PANEL 11.5 - SAME

Giselle smiles awkwardly. She's crushed.

GISELLE
Heh. No problem.

PANEL 11.6 - SAME

Once again, Giselle is left standing alone, clutching her portfolio.

GISELLE
(whispering)
Bye.

PAGE 12 (3 PANELS):

PANEL 12.1 - EXT. - LADY'S BATHROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Sarah, standing just outside the bathroom, hesitates.

SARAH (THOUGHT BALLOON)
Oh - what the heck. Nothing
ventured, nothing gained - right?

PANEL 12.2 - INT. - LADY'S BATHROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Inside the bathroom, Sarah returns with a genuine smile on her face.

SARAH
Is that your artwork?

PANEL 12.3 - SAME

Giselle's eyes light up. She smiles and hands her portfolio to Sarah.

GISELLE
Yeah - would you like to see it?

THE END.