

THE SERPENT'S DAUGHTER CH. 1

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PANEL 1 - EXT. CITY - DAY

We open on a sunny, late morning with aerial shots of Reverie City, an urban tech landscape of both mythical beings and humans. We see flying creatures such as witches, harpies and pegasus' soaring through the sky.

(CAPTION)

Reverie City was created to be everyone's little utopia.

PANEL 2 - SIDE PANEL

As if peering out the window of a building looking down on the adjacent street below, we get a closer view of the city. The street is buzzing with activity.

(CAPTION)

Our own version of Eden, where man and myth can coexist.

PANEL 3 - SIDE PANEL - CLOSE UP

A pair of trendy purple and pink sneakers come into view, shuffling past other pedestrians. There's music reverberating from this person's direction.

(CAPTION)

Over the years, Reverie as a whole has become a beacon of hope to society. A glass bubble of an ecosystem to show what's possible.

SFX (MUSIC)

I feeeeeel no sympathy, you liiiiiive inside a cave. You barely get by, the rest of us are trying...

(CAPTION)

Audio - Paramore's "Feeling Sorry"

PANEL 4 - INT. TRAIN - DAY

A wide full body shot shows that these sneakers belong to a young girl with locs pulled behind her in a low pony, wearing biker shorts and a white band tee. She's bopping to music through her headphones while holding onto the train's pole. The environment in the background is blurred while she is the focus.

SFX (MUSIC)

There's no need to apologize, I've got no time for feeling sorry!

PANEL 5 - CLOSE UP

Over the young woman's shoulder, we get a close up shot of the people behind her coming into focus while she goes out of focus. They have grimaced faces while looking at her, clutching away at their purses and children.

PANEL 6 - SIDE PANEL - EXT. CITY - DAY

Back on the street, the young woman races past more folks leading up to a small building somewhere in the city.

(CAPTION)

And still, it's taken me 18 years
to find my footing.

PANEL 7 - SIDE PANEL

As she approaches the building, we realize she is racing towards a small enchanting shop. It appears a bit more rundown compared to the surrounding businesses beside it. She is huffing and puffing for breath while fiddling with her ponytail as she runs.

(CAPTION)

All in hopes, that I can finally
secure a place for myself.

PANEL 8 - INT. SHOP - DAY

The young woman enters the shop boisterously, with a slam to the front door that makes the hanging doorbell chime. The music is still playing in her headphones while she yells with a huge smile.

EJO

G'morning Samira! How's it going?

PANEL 9

The woman behind the front counter appears startled at first, dropping some books and jars she had in hand.

PANEL 10

The woman responds with a nervous smile.

SAMIRA

Ah, good morning to you too Ejo.

PANEL 11

Ejo's ponytail holder suddenly breaks loose, revealing a full crown of snakes she sports as locs.

EJO

Ah!

PANEL 12

Samira chuckles.

SAMIRA

And good morning to you too my lovelies. You're all as full of energy as ever I see.

PANEL 13

Ejo runs to her side to pick up the dropped items.

EJO

Of course! Because of the boundless excitement I feel getting to work with you Mira.

PANEL 14

EJO

Each day, another opportunity to provide a service to our blended world.

Ejo waves her hands while she talks for dramatic effect.

SAMIRA

Mmhmm.

Samira puts some of the books back on their shelves behind the counter, half listening.

PANEL 15

EJO

Another joy of being able to develop as a healer!

She says with twinkly eyes and clenched fists.

SAMIRA

Mmhmm.

Samira ties a scarf gently around Ejo's hair while she speaks to keep the serpents' at bay, shushing them to relax.

PANEL 16

Samira folds her arms and raises an eyebrow.

SAMIRA

So are you gonna tell me what you want or are you gonna make me guess?

Ejo, now back with her hair in a ponytail, faces her with a meek smile.

PANEL 17 - SIDE PANEL

Ejo twiddles her thumbs, looking down at her fidgeting fingers and refusing to meet Samira's gaze.

EJO

I was just thinking if business is slow, that I could shadow you today...

PANEL 18 - SIDE PANEL

EJO

I WON'T TOUCH ANYTHING, I PROMISE!

Ejo's eyes go wide with the exclamation and she holds her hands up in defense.

PANEL 19

Samira waves for her to follow while sliding away from the counter to face the backroom.

SAMIRA

Alright, alright fine. But if you break anything again, I'm sticking you back with restock.

PANEL 20

Ejo lifts her fist in silent rejoice while turning to go through the curtain dividing the shop.

PANEL 21 - CLOSE UP

Ejo displays a face of awe looking on in admiration of what lies in the backroom.

PANEL 22

The backroom is a workspace full of jars, herbs, books and other materials that Samira owns. They shimmer, in Ejo's eyes, for effect.

PANEL 23

A customer suddenly appears coming through the backdoor. They are an older werewolf woman.

CUSTOMER

Hello Mira? I came by to get that refill you were going on about.

PANEL 24

SAMIRA

Well, are you gonna stand there or do you want to help me?

She smiles towards Ejo while Ejo looks a bit surprised.

PANEL 25

Samira walks out of frame. Ejo grins widely and turns to follow her.

EJO

Coming!

PANEL 26 - MONTAGE

In front of a fire, Samira instructs Ejo about the herbs she is bringing to a boil. Ejo looks on with a serious expression.

PANEL 27 - MONTAGE

Samira motions for Ejo to grab some books from the shelf with her serpents behind her peering at another shelf.

PANEL 28 - MONTAGE

Samira and Ejo are sitting at the table with Ejo having broken a test tube. Samira and Ejo hold astonished looks on their faces.

PANEL 29 - MONTAGE

Samira watches Ejo giddily help a customer with their bags and smiles.

PANEL 30

The two are sprawled out onto the backroom worktable in exhaustion. Beads of sweat roll from their faces.

EJO
Whew! That's *huff huff* the last
of them right?

SAMIRA
For now anyway.

PANEL 31

SAMIRA
And don't think I forgot about the
equipment you broke either.

Samira's eyes narrow on Ejo who's sweating nervously.

EJO
Uh... uh...

PANEL 32

EJO
How about some late lunch? My
treat!

Ejo smiles cheekily to which Samira sighs.

SAMIRA
Fine. If it includes boba.

PANEL 33

Ejo grins widely and heads towards the front door.

EJO
Great! Be back in a bit!

PANEL 34

Ejo passes a few reflective buildings with blurry missing
myth posters in the windows.

PANEL 35

Ejo makes it to a neighborhood cafe that, similar to their
shop, sticks out among the pristine buildings downtown.

PANEL 36 - ANGLE ON EJO

In this shot, the point of view shows Ejo with a small tv hanging in the corner of the shop above her head. A news report is playing silently.

SHOPKEEP (OFF-PANEL)

Ah, you came back to see me then.

EJO

I'm always coming back auntie. This is the best boba spot in Reverie.

PANEL 37

The shopkeep, a human woman, appears at the front counter with a bag full of extra food in to-go containers. Another cafe worker slides Ejo two orders of bubble tea as she approaches them. An assortment of customers can also be seen enjoying their meals, ignoring the conversation between Ejo and the owner.

PANEL 38

The woman continues to pack the bag with more food.

EJO

Ah! We can't possibly eat this much auntie!

She holds her hands out, frazzled by the overpacked bag.

SHOPKEEP

Nonsense. As tiny as you are already?

PANEL 39

The shopkeep continues to pack even more to-go containers into her bag. Ejo takes a sip of her boba while something catches her attention in her periphery out the window.

PANEL 40

From far away, there is a crowd forming in the square across from the cafe.

PANEL 41 - CLOSE UP

A closer view shows a young centaur girl being encircled by the crowd, appearing to be in distress.

PANEL 42

Ejo sprints out of the cafe.

EJO
Hold on auntie, I'll be right back!

PANEL 43

Ejo sprints past the side alley adjacent to the cafe, hurrying to get to the commotion. She also passes a group of high schoolers, human and myth alike, chatting excitedly as they make their way out of the square.

(CAPTION)
But what happens to the bubble when it's made of glass...

PANEL 44

The outline of a figure can barely be made out from the shadows, facing in Ejo's direction.

(CAPTION)
And fit to crack?