

Note to artist and editor:

This is a massively esoteric story about my own journey with British comics, which is all tied up with gothic, horror, and memory. I've imagined it with lots of stuff from my own childhood so I've pasted in some photos and stuff like that for reference, but you can definitely ignore all of this if you'd rather. I also attach thumbnail sketches of the page layouts; these were done with much haste and no talent and should also be ignored if unhelpful – they were primarily to help me plan. In particular I think my placement of the narration boxes may not be the best.

I think it makes a good two-pager but in order to do this I might have crammed things in too much. I've tried to make the words and detail fit the space available, but again if I've made errors here or am asking for the impossible please come back to me or amend!

Finally, I guess I see it in quite a British comics style, and to me this means that it can have a lot of variety in panel shape and tiering. I've used tiering to describe the proposed layout in the script, but if possible please try and get away from using very rigid horizontal rows and right-angles, especially for the bigger panels. Lots of the panels can be left unbordered if possible (in general I haven't indicated this in the text as it's your call).

Thank you for reading!

Julia

The Haunting of Julia Round



PAGE 1

1ST TIER

Panel 1 (whole width)

[Jumble sale in a church hall. Young Julia (JR) aged 8 or 9. She has dark pageboy hair, and maybe is wearing an old style brownie uniform. She is buying a stack of tatty old girls' comics from an older lady.]

Narration:

Once upon a time* there was a girl (me) who bought an old comic book at a church jumble sale.

*around 1985

JR dialogue: Can I have these please?

Old lady: Of course dear, that's 20p.

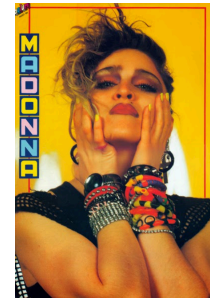


Panel 2 (inset, smaller)

[1980s girls' bedroom, JR reading cross legged. Posters on the walls – Madonna? Bangles? Other 1980s toys/memorabilia?]

Narration:

I read it that afternoon and one story terrified me.



2ND TIER

Panel 3 (small, maybe ¼ of page width)

[Ugly girl – glasses, spots, buck teeth, etc. This is the image from the comic itself, but she doesn't have to look exactly like this.]

[if we have colour then could do these next three panels that are from the comic itself in blue tones/sepia to distinguish this from the main tale, and maybe even carry this forward into the recurring narrative phrase]

Narration:

It was about another girl who was not very pretty.



Panel 4 (wider, takes up remaining space)

[De Luca transformation panel – repeated images left to right of girl in the story becoming more beautiful but also more poser-ish]



Narration at top:

She was given a magic mirror and told it would make her beautiful if she followed the instructions carefully.

And it worked!

Narration at bottom:

But as she got more lovely she also became vain and mean...and then one day she did something wrong with the instructions...



3RD TIER

Panel 5

[hideous reveal of her face. She's not gone back to how she was, instead it's like a caricatured version of what blonde beauty gone wrong looks like. Think bad facelift, with all the components right, but everything out of proportion and misaligned. In my memory it got all tangled up with Susan from the Guess Who? game, who frankly used to freak me out. This panel should be drawn like it is part of the comic book that JR is reading, and while the first narration is done in the same style as all previous, the second piece of narration is part of that page. Perhaps the girl in the comic has her back to us and we only see her horrible face in the mirror itself. Maybe the mirror is cracked and so is her face?]



Main narration at top:

And when she woke up the next day and looked in her mirror her beautiful face was shattered and warped.

Narration (part of comics page image):

How would you like to wake up every day... like this?



Panel 6

[JR reaction moment, perhaps drops comic or throws it away. Looks terrified/shocked. Maybe the composition mirrors/reverses that of the previous panel?]



4TH TIER

[row of repeated panels, uniform size and shape and composition].

Panels 7-10

[repeated image of young JR waking up screaming. Maybe changing through window? Poster on wall could change – Labyrinth (1986)? Michael Jackson (1987)? Kylie (1988)? Bros (1988)?]

Narration (running across whole tier):

I was still scared when I went to bed that night. And it carried on bothering me for months after.

PAGE 2

1ST TIER:

[4 x square panels arranged in 2 x 2 square in top left quarter of page.
Uniform size and shape and composition]

[Repeated composition of JR waking up screaming, at different ages, each
with same caption. JR is different age in each picture – maybe hair longer
each time? Maybe also poster/s on wall to indicate different era?]

Narration:

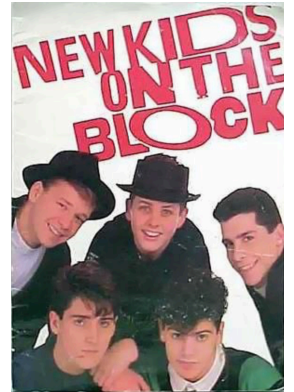
...and months turned into years...

Panel 1

Labelled 1990 in top left

Posters e.g. New Kids on the Block – Hangin Tough

Narration (bottom) ‘How would you like to wake up every day... like this?’



Panel 2

Labelled 1995 in top left

Posters e.g. Nine Inch Nails – Pretty Hate Machine or Downward Spiral

Narration (bottom) ‘How would you like to wake up every day... like this?’



Panel 3

Labelled 2000 in top left

Posters e.g. Marilyn Manson – Mechanical Animals

Narration (bottom) ‘How would you like to wake up every day... like this?’



Panel 4

Labelled 2005 in top left

Posters e.g. White Stripes - Elephant

Narration (bottom) ‘How would you like to wake up every day... like this?’



Panel 5 (top right hand quarter of page)

[de luca transformation panel that echoes the one on the previous page– repeated images of JR going from 90s child aged 10 or so (shorts and tshirt and hi-top trainers?), to teenage hippie aged 12-14 (flowery dress over blue jeans and trainers), to scruffy grunge rock at 15-16 (black vest, black jeans, army boots, red-and-black checked lumberjack shirt tied round waist – all a lot scruffier than the picture! haha), to goth around 18 (half-n-half black/blonde hair, corset, pvc trousers, army boots, and long pvc gloves)], to 25-30 year old (jeans, tshirt, dyed hair, slightly smarter boots) ☺]

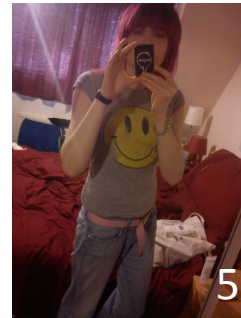


Narration: And although I grew up, gothed up, and fell back in love with horror, I never forgot that story.

2ND TIER

Panel 6 (whole width of page)

[panoramic post-comics-conference pub scene. There are many beers on the table and lots of people around. Mel Gibson, Joan Ormrod, Chris Murray, Roger Sabin and Paul Gravett should all appear. Maybe labels/arrows to identify each, including 'me', or not needed? Position of characters and order of dialogue is your call]



Narration

Some time in 2013 (maybe IGCC in Glasgow, maybe Comics Forum in Leeds, maybe Transitions in London...)

Dialogue

JR: (sigh) Now my Gothic book is finished I need a new project...

Mel: British comics are amazing! Readers have loads of memories of them!

Joan: The Romance comics were an important access point to pop music in the 1950s!

Chris: The British superhero has been almost completely forgotten!

Paul: British comics definitely deserve more attention!

Roger Some of the first comics characters are British – have you heard of Ally Sloper...?!

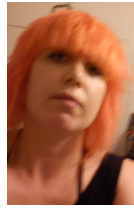


Panel 7 (inset, small)

[close up on JR, lightbulb moment]

JR thought bubble: Hmmm, that gives me an idea!

JR dialogue: You're right! I remember this one story...



3rd TIER

Panel 8 (maybe ¼ or 1/3 width of page)

[JR scribbling at desk (maybe viewed from behind) surrounded by towering, toppling-over stacks of old British comics that go off into the distance]

Narration

So my quest began to track down the story that haunted me. I started finding out more about British girls' comics like *Tammy*, *Jinty*, *Spellbound* and *Misty*.

Panel 9 (narrower, borderless)

[image of Misty herself in ghostly line/dot style, silently beckoning]

Narration

And I loved Misty!

Panels 10-13

[4 x square panels arranged in 2 x 2 square in bottom right quarter of page. Uniform size and shape and composition]

[Repeated image of JR reading a giant binder of comics at the British Library and exclaiming as she makes an exciting discovery. Images are the same though JR is a year older in each picture, maybe hair could be used to indicate this if we have colour.]

Narration at top:

I made lots of trips to the British Library to read the whole collection...

Panel 10

[JR hair is green]

Labelled 2014 in top left

JR dialogue: 'Lots of these stories have Gothic themes!'

Off panel dialogue: 'Shhhh!'

Panel 11

[JR hair is bright red]

JR dialogue: 'The host characters in girls' comics are really interesting!'

Off panel dialogue: 'Shhhh!'

Labelled 2015 in top left



Panel 12

[JR hair is blue]

Labelled 2016 in top left

JR dialogue: 'Found it! OMG OMG OMG!'

Off panel dialogue: 'Shhhh!'

Panel 13

[JR hair is black with blue fringe]

Labelled 2017 in top left

JR dialogue: 'There's so much more to discover!'

Off panel dialogue: 'Shhhh!'

Final narration at bottom right of page:

'How would you like to wake up every day... like this?'

THE END

Misty logo? Maybe add a question mark?



THE HAUNTING OF JULIA ROUND

One year at
The Tower...



She was given a regular...



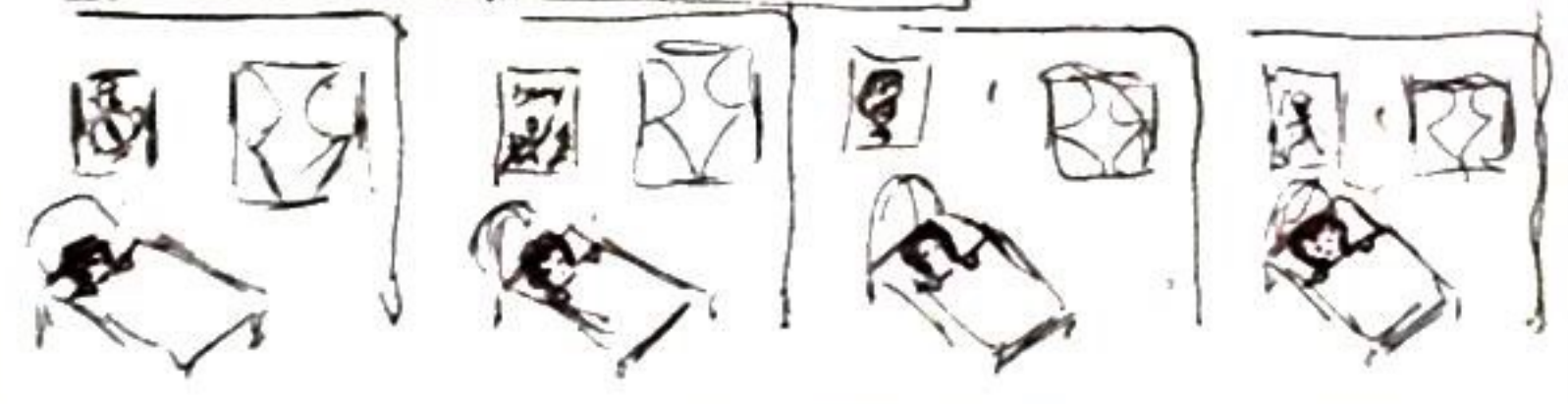
And when she
woke up



How hard you live
to wake up -



Highly marked stones for days...

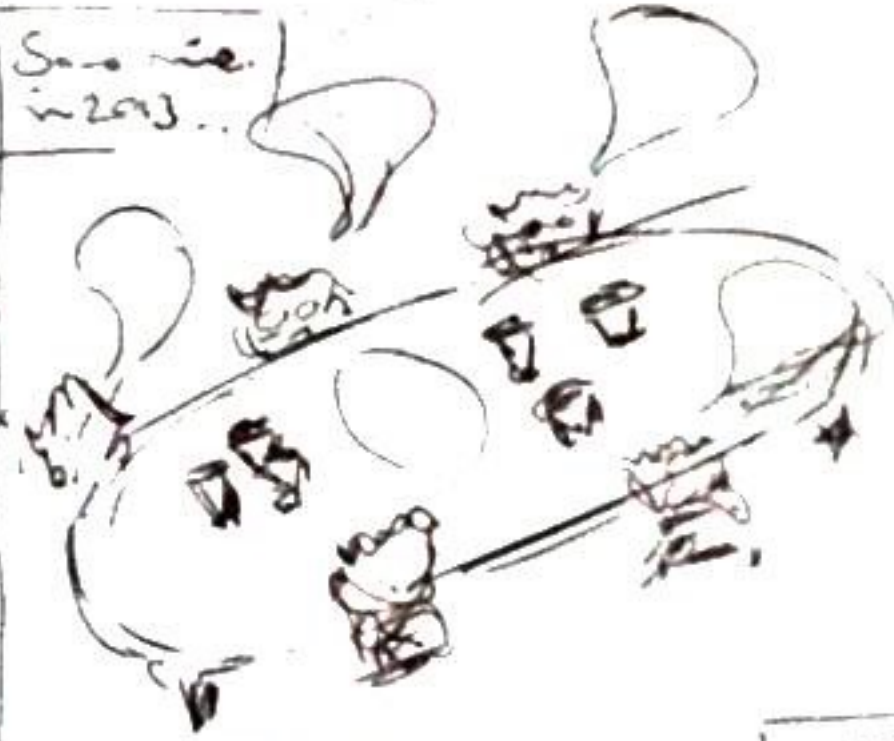


20 - who to do the year

And then...



Some nice in 2013...



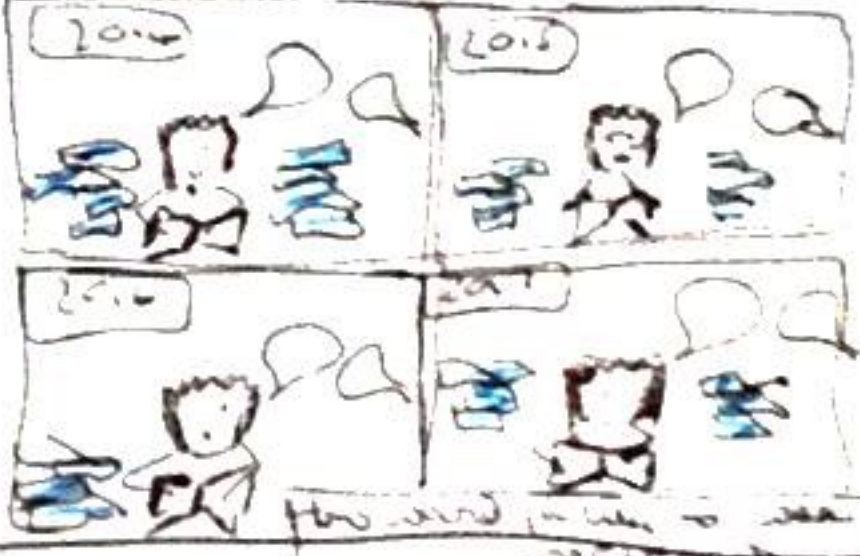
4E
010
2013



And my Area



USE L-3 ON THIS NUMBER TO 2011



• 1 Lines

How much in life to see