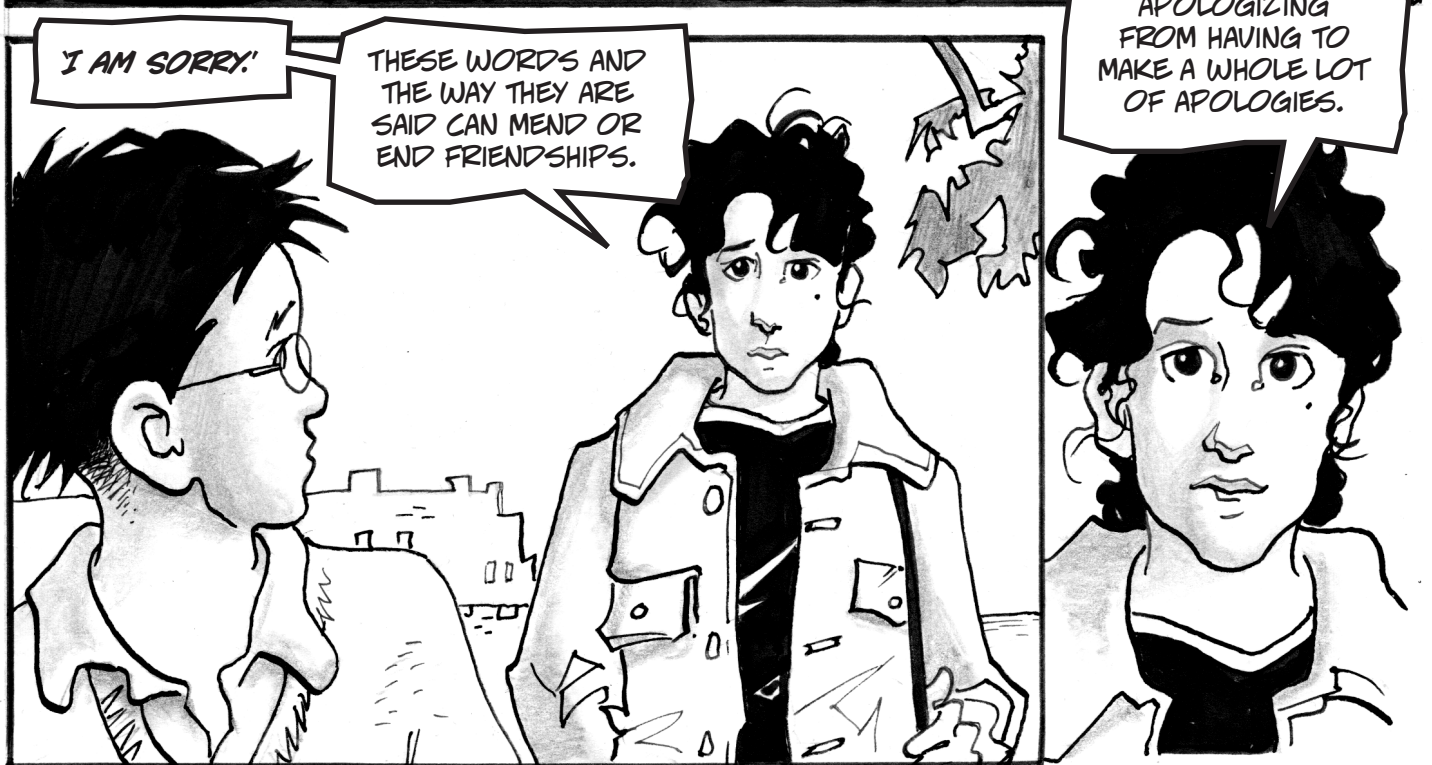
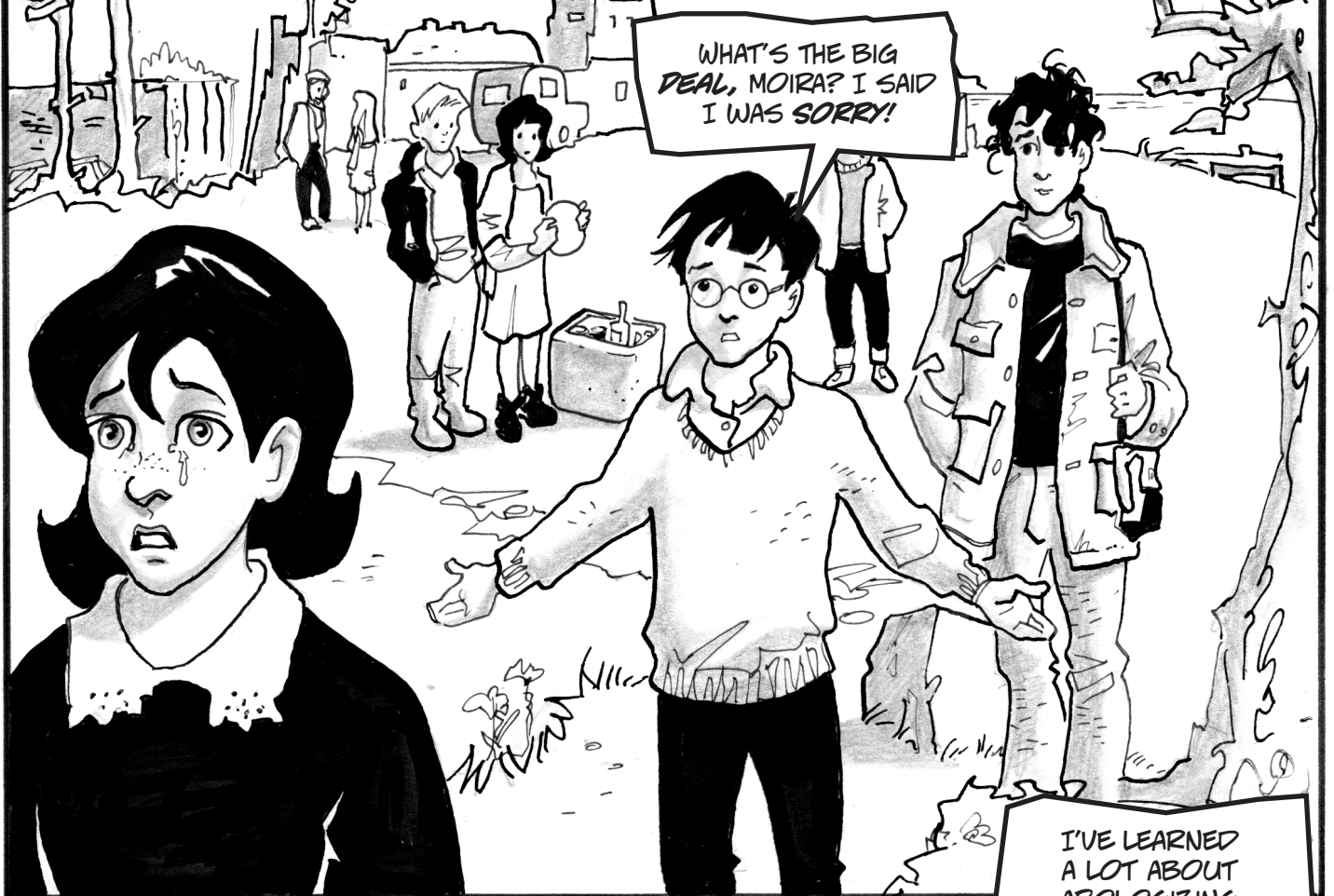
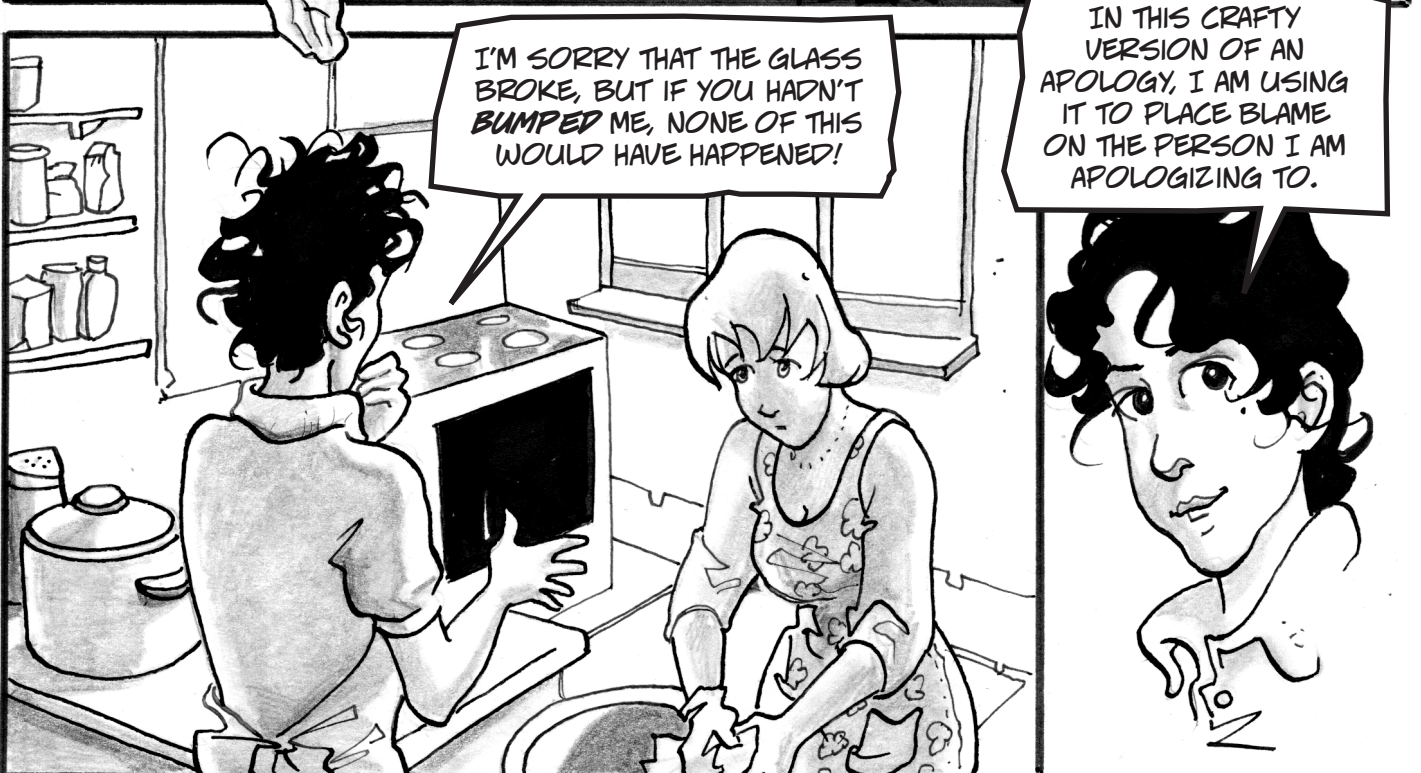


The Thing about Apologies



Here are a few apologies I have tried that haven't gone so well:



A good apology has to come from a place of remorse.

You have to recognize your part in the situation and be willing to take responsibility for it.

Say you're hanging out with your friends, and without thinking much of it, you blurt out something that embarrasses one of your friends.

SOUNDS LIKE ONE OF MOIRA'S SOPPY DREAMS!

Immediately after you say it, you wish you hadn't, because your friend is clearly upset by it. So you apologize with:

I'M SORRY! YOU KNOW I WAS ONLY KIDDING!

Maybe you use something they told you in confidence in a joke.

That is a very *lame* apology.

AN APOLOGY LIKE THAT WILL CONFIRM TO YOUR FRIEND THAT YOU ARE NOT TO BE TRUSTED.

The Bible says that "an offended friend is harder to win back than a fortified city."

CEDRIC KEEP OUT

That means that once you have offended someone, their defenses come up, and you have to put effort into getting past that defense.

A half-baked apology will not cut it.

So what does a good apology look like?

Above all, it is *humble* and *remorseful*. It will contain three key ingredients: regret, responsibility, and remedy.

Regret means that you express remorse over the situation.

Responsibility means that you take ownership for your part in the event.

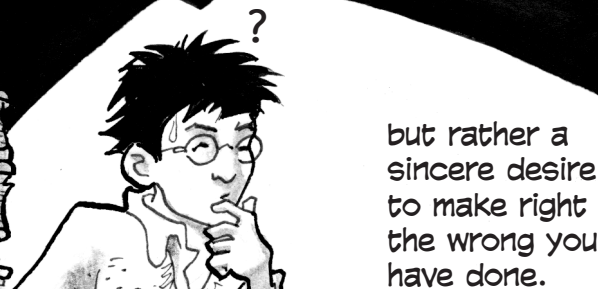
Remedy shows that you are willing to take some kind of action to correct the situation or to ensure that it does not happen again.

Here's an example of a better apology to the friend you embarrassed, using the three 'Rs':

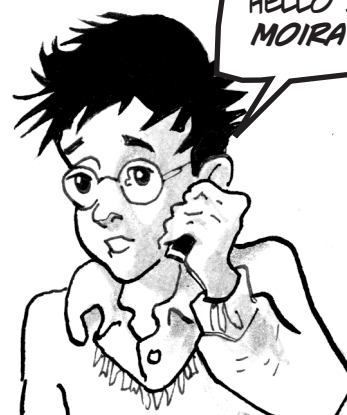


It's not a matter of 'crafting the perfect apology,'

With a little practice, it will become easier to express yourself, and it won't seem like such a big deal to have to apologize to someone.



but rather a sincere desire to make right the wrong you have done.



AN APOLOGY IS NOT CONTINGENT UPON RECEIVING THE OTHER PERSON'S FORGIVENESS.

You can always add a "will you please forgive me?" to the apology.

THAT'S VERY SWEET OF YE, CEDRIC, BUT...

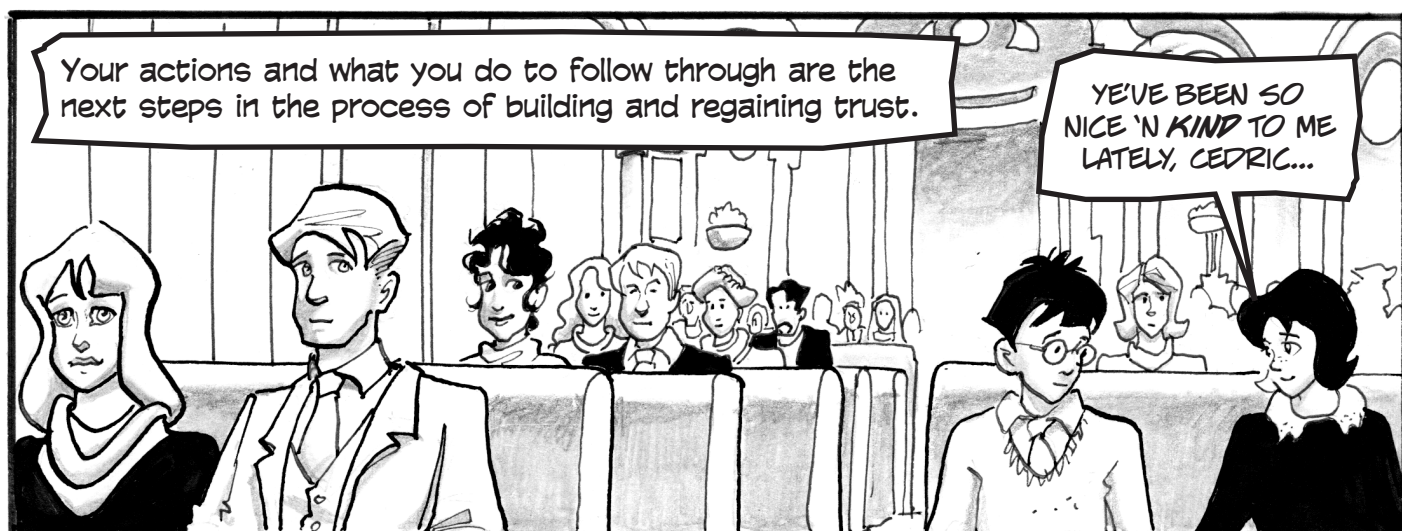
I'M SORRY, BUT MOIRA WOULD PREFER NOT WALKING TO SCHOOL WITH YE TODAY.

It's important to ask for forgiveness when you have hurt someone. However, the other person is entitled to their own feelings.

They might be upset with you or want to distance themselves from you.

Give them their space, but stand by your apology with your actions.

In most cases a sincere apology will mend the wound, *but an apology is not a magic reset button* that will immediately erase the sting of your actions.



Even if the person you have wronged doesn't forgive you right away, God will forgive you your mistakes.

