

Nightress Issue 2 “The New Normal”

Page 1

Panel 1

INT AMELIAS KITCHEN, MORNING: Sonia is seen sitting with a bowl of cereal in front of her. Amelia is sitting at the table as well with a cup of coffee.

AMELIA: Are you sure about this? It's only been three days.

Panel 2

Sonia is still staring at her cereal.

SONIA: I'm ready.

Panel 3

Amelia puts her hand on Sonia's arm.

AMELIA: You don't have to do this. You can wait.

Panel 4:

Close up of Sonia, staring directly ahead

SONIA: It's time...

Page 2

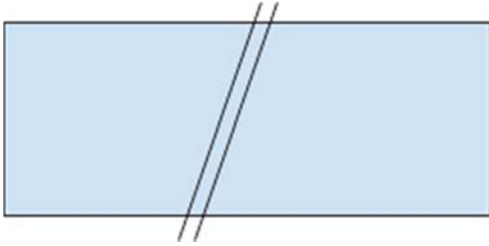
Panel 1 - Single Panel with Title "The New Normal"

EXT. DAY, FRONT OF SONIAS HIGH SCHOOL: Our view is behind Sonia as she stands in front of her school, a historic looking school building with trees and ivy on the walls. The end of her sentence from Page 1 is a caption.

CAPTION: ...to go back to school.

Page 3

(for pages 3-4 the panels will be split between Sonia half-listening to her teachers in school, and the other half of the panel will be flashbacks to a conversation with Amelia about her powers, this will show that she is distracted from her classes; maybe do them as horizontal panels with a slash indicating the split? Maybe like the following?)



Panel 1/2

INT. BIOLOGY CLASSROOM AND AMELIAS HOUSE: Split between Sonia sitting at her desk with a biology book; and Amelia talking to her on their couch.

TEACHER: This kind of mutation is common ...

AMELIA: You are a normal girl, you just have a gift.

Panel 3/4

INT. ALGEBRA CLASSROOM; Sonia is now in another class with an algebra book on front of her; split with Amelia talking to her on the couch

TEACHER: When you move X to the left of the equation...

AMELIA: Your mom had the same ability. She hid it well for years.

Page 4

Panel 1/2

INT. SCIENCE LAB: Sonia is sitting in a science lab with safety goggles on; split with Amelia talking while she cooks

TEACHER: If you mix the wrong chemicals at the wrong time, they'll explode...

AMELIA: Eventually they knew the wrong person would find out and they decided to run if it ever happened.

Panel 3/4

INT. HISTORY CLASSROOM; Sonia in another classroom as a teacher points to a large map of America; split with Amelia talking as she serves dinner to Sonia

TEACHER: Families were divided as the North fought the South.

AMELIA: They ran to protect you. And I pray they made it.

Page 5

Panel 1

INT. AMELIA'S HOUSE (FLASHBACK) Now we just see Sonia and Amelia talking

SONIA: So what do I do now?

AMELIA: Nothing.

Panel 2

Sonia is heated, and points to the other room.

SONIA: But those guys...!

AMELIA: ...are low life petty thieves and were probably too high to realize what was happening.

Panel 3

SONIA: Are you sure?

AMELIA: Yes. Plus, you were wearing the mask so you didn't disappear. Amante did!

Panel 4

Amelia starts to laugh as Sonia cracks a small smile

Panel 5

INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY: Sonia is smiling as she bumps into someone

OOMP!

Panel 6

We see that she has bumped into a boy wearing earbuds, who we can tell is the boy from the robbery at Amelia's house, who is named CARTER but Sonia doesn't know this yet.

SONIA: Sorry.

CARTER: Watch where you're goin'!

Page 6

Panel 1

INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY: Sonia is angry at Carter, and she starts to argue with him.

SONIA: Watch where *I'm* going?! You bumped into *me*!

Panel 2

Carter looks over his shoulder at Sonia with a sneer

Panel 3

Side view of Carter and Sonia face to face, both are angry.

CARTER: You need to change your tone, little girl.

SONIA: Make me!

Panel 4

We see a full view of the boy's face.

Panel 5

Back to side view, but Sonia now has a look of shock.

SONIA: No way...

Panel 6:

Sonia sticks her finger in Carter's chest and Carter backs off.

SONIA: YOU! I'm gonna kick your...

Page 7

Panel 1

INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY: Carter is backing up as Sonia continues toward him.

CARTER: What's wrong with you? This chick is crazy!

Panel 2

Sonia takes off her jacket.

SONIA: The only crazy one is *you* for trying to jack my house.

Panel 3

Carter looks around nervously as people are staring at him.

CARTER: She's lying! I don't even know this girl!

Panel 4

Sonia dives and tackles Carter

EFX: OOOOF!

Panel 5

They both fall in a heap and the boy is screaming in pain

CARTER: My ears!!

Panel 6

Sonia walks away as Carter is tended to by a teacher.

SONIA (thought): What? I never touched his ears...

TEACHER: Everybody, get to class!

Page 8

Panel 1

EXT. SCHOOL YARD, AFTERNOON; Sonia walks out of school dazed and alone as other students walk past her.

CAPTION: An eventful day, to say the least.

Panel 2

EXT. INNER CITY NEIGHBORHOODS; Sonia sees Carter walking home ahead of her.

Panel 3/4

EXT. INNER CITY NEIGHBORHOODS/AMELIA'S KITCHEN (FLASHBACK); Sonia flashes back to her Aunt again, this time telling her about people with powers.

AMELIA: Your mom always said she could tell who has powers.

Panel 5/6

EXT. FRONT OF PROJECTS/AMELIA'S KITCHEN (FLASHBACK); Sonia watches Carter walk up the stairs to a rundown apartment building in the projects and remembers Amelia's words.

AMELIA: They always stand out somehow.

Panel 7

EXT. FRONT OF PROJECTS; Long horizontal panel across the bottom of the page. Carter is standing at the door to the building and calls out to Sonia, who is standing some distance away.

CARTER: I know you don't live around here. What do you want?



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Panel 1

EXT. FRONT OF CARTER'S APARTMENT BUILDING; Sonia approaches and Carter still stares straight ahead.

SONIA: What are you listening to?

Panel 2

The boy looks at her.

SONIA: On your earphones. What are you always listening to?

CARTER: It wasn't my idea.

Panel 3

Sonia's confused.

SONIA: What?

CARTER: Your house. I just go with my uncle sometimes to make some extra money.

Panel 4

Sonia looks away. Carter holds his earbuds out toward Sonia.

SONIA: Well, it's not cool.

CARTER: Call me Carter. (pause) Here. Listen.

Panel 5

Sonia puts an earbud close to her ear and we see that it's just a constant static sound.

SOUND FROM EARBUD: sssshhhhh sssshhhhh sssshhhhh

CARTER (talking softly): I found out when I was 5.

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Panel 1

EXT. FRONT OF CARTER'S APARTMENT BUILDING; Sonia sits on the steps as Carter puts the earbuds back in his ears.

CARTER: I'd always been a cranky kid. Cried a lot. My mom took off. My dad stuck around, but drank all the time.

Panel 2

Carter sits down and continues talking, not looking at Sonia, but she's staring at him intently.

CARTER: On the first day of kindergarten, the school bell rang and I passed out from the pain.

Panel 3

Carter looks over at Sonia.

CARTER: When I woke up, I could hear every sound for miles. Every voice, every machine, everything.

SONIA: Wow, that's amazing.

Panel 4

Carter still talking.

CARTER: Amazing?! It's a curse. It's a life sentence of pain.

SONIA: But what if you could control it?

Panel 5

Carter looks away again. Sonia is rummaging in her bag.

CARTER: Heh, I wish I could.

Panel 6

Sonia holds up the Amante mask. Carter is in shock, realizing who he's been talking to.

SONIA: Me too.

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Panel 1

INT. DARK MEETING ROOM; Five very different people (four men, including the murderer from the first issue, and one woman) dressed in the same dark red dress shirt are sitting in rows in an underground meeting room looking around nervously. A podium is in front of the room next to a screen which is showing the very corporate Morgan Inc. business logo (you can design as you want)

CAPTION: Deep underground in Vitana Morgan's office building.

Panel 2

Vitana enters the room, smiling at the seated individuals.

VITANA: Good evening, everyone.

Panel 3

Vitana is standing behind the podium and her logo shines on the screen over her shoulder as everyone is watching intently.

VITANA: Please relax everyone. There's no reason to be nervous here. You're about to get a new lease on life.

Panel 4

The screen changes to a different, more sinister logo for Vitana (I'll let you decide how you want to design this one too).

VITANA: You all have special abilities that the rest of the world despises. Instead of being revered, you've been persecuted. That won't happen anymore now that you have joined me.

Page 12

Panel 1

We see Riley from Issue 1 standing in a dark corner of the room.

VITANA: I'm sure some of you remember this man. His name is Mr. Riley and he helped me bring you together.

Panel 2

Riley steps forward and smiles to the group.

RILEY: Hello, everyone. I'm thrilled to see you all in one room.

Panel 3

The group looks at Riley with suspicion

RILEY: I know this must seem strange. Allow me to help you understand.

Panel 4

Large panel shows all five of the recruits now transported to a bright white room looking frantically at each other. They are wearing white clothes and Riley is on a screen in front of them.

RILEY (on screen): Don't be alarmed. You are still in the room with Ms. Morgan. I am merely manipulating your brain activity.

Panel 5

They look to the screen with intense focus as Riley continues.

RILEY: This is why Ms. Morgan found me. Before working for her, I was just like you.

Panel 6

Riley continues to talk as we see a shot of two of the male recruits.

RILEY: Lost...

Panel 7

Riley continues and we see two more male recruits.

RILEY: Abandoned...

Panel 8

Riley concludes as we see a shot of the last recruit, a young woman.

RILEY: Hopeless.

Page 13

Panel 1

The shot shows all of them still looking toward the screen. Riley continues to talk.

RILEY: She recognized my skills, as she recognizes the skills in you.

Panel 2

Close shot of Riley talking on screen.

RILEY: This is your chance to put your past behind you...

Panel 3

Close shot of Riley talking in the meeting room again

RILEY: ...to embrace your power...

Panel 4

Wider shot of Riley standing in front of the group of recruits as they are back in the meeting room.

RILEY: ...and help Vitana Morgan take back this city for the rest of us.

Page 14

Panel 1

The recruits are watching as Vitana shakes Riley's hand.

VITANA: Thank you Mr. Riley. Your words were inspirational as always.

Panel 2

Vitana directs her attention to Murphy, one of the male recruits (not the murderer, a different male).

VITANA: And I believe you understand what Mr. Riley just did, Mr.. ah, Murphy?

MURPHY: Y- yes, ma'am.

Panel 3

Vitana walks over toward Murphy.

VITANA: In fact, you can do the same thing with people's perceptions. Can't you?

MURPHY: Yes, ma'am.

Panel 4

Vitana puts her hand on Murphy's shoulder. She is standing with her back to the front of the room.

VITANA: Good. Welcome to the team.

Panel 5

As she stands next to Murphy, she has turned her head slightly to look toward the front of the room out of the corner of her eye.

VITANA: Mr. Riley, I must apologize to you.

Panel 6

Riley is still smiling, but looks slightly confused as he responds.

RILEY: Apologize? Why?

Panel 7

Vitana continues to talk to him with her back turned and her hand on Murphy's shoulder.

VITANA: Since you brought me Mr. Murphy, I no longer have a need for your services. You are dismissed.

Panel 8

Riley's smile has disappeared and he stammers as Vitana turns to him.

RILEY: What- what do you mean?

VITANA: I have called the police, reported your whereabouts, and they will be waiting for you in the lobby.

RILEY: No. You can't!

VITANA: Good luck, Mr. Riley.

Page 15

Panel 1

As Riley is escorted out of the room, Vitana addresses the group.

VITANA: Remember that you are all here as criminals. Enemies of the state. Mr. Riley had the same opportunity you've all been given. However, I recently learned his allegiance was wavering. Let his unfortunate circumstance be a lesson to all of you.

Panel 2

Vitana continues talking to them as she walks through the room, looking them in the eye.

VITANA: You all have impressive powers, but my power rules here.

Panel 3

Vitana walks back to the front of the room.

VITANA: As long as you remember that, we'll work together just fine.

Panel 4

Vitana looks at the female recruit.

VITANA: Ms. Jewel. Do you think you'll be able to work with me?

Panel 5

Jennifer Jewel is joined on either side by two clones standing and smiling at Vitana.

Panel 6

We see a shot from behind Jennifer Jewel with Vitana framed perfectly between the two clones and smiling broadly.