Elements of Graphic Novels

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GRAPHIC NOVEL
CONVENTIONS

PARTS OF THE PAGE

• Panels
• Frames
• Gutter
• Speech bubbles
• Captions
• Sound Effects
HER NAME IS MAHNA DOGON.

AND SHE DOES NOT GIVE UP EASILY.

A TREE WHOSE ROOTS SPREAD SO FAR THAT AN ENTIRE CITY COULD DWELL UNDER ITS CANTOPY.

THE SAGES IN THE MONASTERY WHISPERED THE TALE OF THE LEGENDARY DANFAN TREE.

FAR SEAS, I'VE BEEN SEARCHING FOR AN UNDERSTANDING OF THE HUMAN SPIRIT THAT IS GREATER THAN BODY AND MIND ALONE.

THE SCIENCE OF MEN HAS BEEN INCOMPLETE AND EVEN THE KINDEST HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO ANSWER MY QUESTIONS.

EARTHQUAKE!

ONLY SECOND SAVING GRACE.

GOOD THING I KEEP MY LIPS ZIPPED DOWN FOR CURSES LIKE THIS. IT SAVES MY LIFE.

ARRRRRRRR!!!

NOW.

IT'S NOT JUST A LEGEND, AFTER ALL...
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Speech and Thought Bubbles
We've just spent a pleasant end-day in his apartment, not a bad place, he made a lentil soup lunch afterward. We ate around with Nesciale and advanced our respective speeches. I knew the sort of conversation and that taken from that is clear: smoothly and spoke fully the Nature of God and the State of the American Left. I mention whatever. He opened the Koran, I paraphrased Drued and fondly we recalled Charity we had read.

You came to someone's house, you open through the door and expect a hallway or front room.

But none of that here. No floor, no room, just sand.
Well—a line.

Okay. And the second dimension?

Well, you’d square the line. A flat square would be in the second dimension.

Then the square wouldn’t be flat anymore. It would have a bottom, and sides, and a top.

And the third?

You’d square the second dimension.

I know it’s got something to do with Einstein and time. I guess maybe you could call the fourth dimension Time.

And the fourth?

Well, in mathematical terms you’d square the square.

But you can’t take a pencil and draw that the way you can the first three.
THE KEY TO PARADISE WAS FOR POOR PEOPLE. THOUSANDS OF YOUNG KIDS, PROMISED A BETTER LIFE, EXPLODED ON THE MINEFIELDS WITH THEIR KEYS AROUND THEIR NECKS.

MRS. MARGRINE'S SON MANAGED TO AVOID THAT FATE, BUT LOTS OF OTHER KIDS FROM HIS NEIGHBORHOOD DIDN'T.

MEANWHILE, I GOT TO GO TO MY FIRST PARTY. NOT ONLY DID MY MOM LET ME GO, SHE ALSO KNITTED ME A SWEATER FULL OF HOLES AND MADE ME A NECKLACE WITH CHAINS AND NAILS. PUNK ROCK WAS IN.

I WAS LOOKING SHARP.
ARE YOU EVEN LISTENING TO ME?
The enemy has dropped bombs on us before, burned our cane fields before. For sixty-two years the United States has been mistreating us—but not anymore! The support of the Cuban people for the revolution is high and determined—and if they try to tear our flag into pieces, we’ll die defending it.

I’ve no doubts about defending my country, but as I look around the auditorium I see no one raising their hands, and I’m embarrassed.

...I’ll go.

Get a pass to go home and be back here by eight o’clock. Those with army training must return in their uniforms...

...You’ll leave tonight.