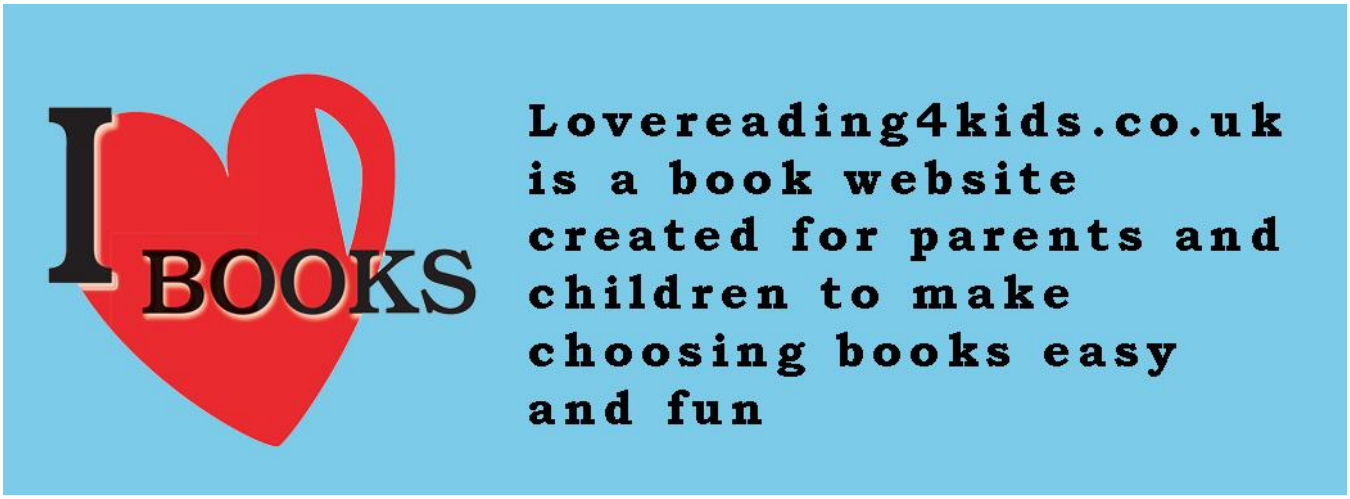


Opening extract from

Roller Girl

Written by

Victoria Jamieson

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Many thanks to skaters around the world who let me borrow their derby names for some of my characters. This book is dedicated to them, and to all the skaters, officials, volunteers, and fans who bring roller derby to life. I'm so proud to be part of this incredible community.



CHAPTER 1

How it all began

IF YOU REALLY WANT TO KNOW, IT ALL BEGAN BACK IN FIFTH GRADE. BACK WHEN NICOLE AND I WERE STILL BEST FRIENDS.

OK, YOU TWO. IN THE CAR.

C'MON, MOM, CAN'T YOU TELL US WHERE WE'RE GOING?

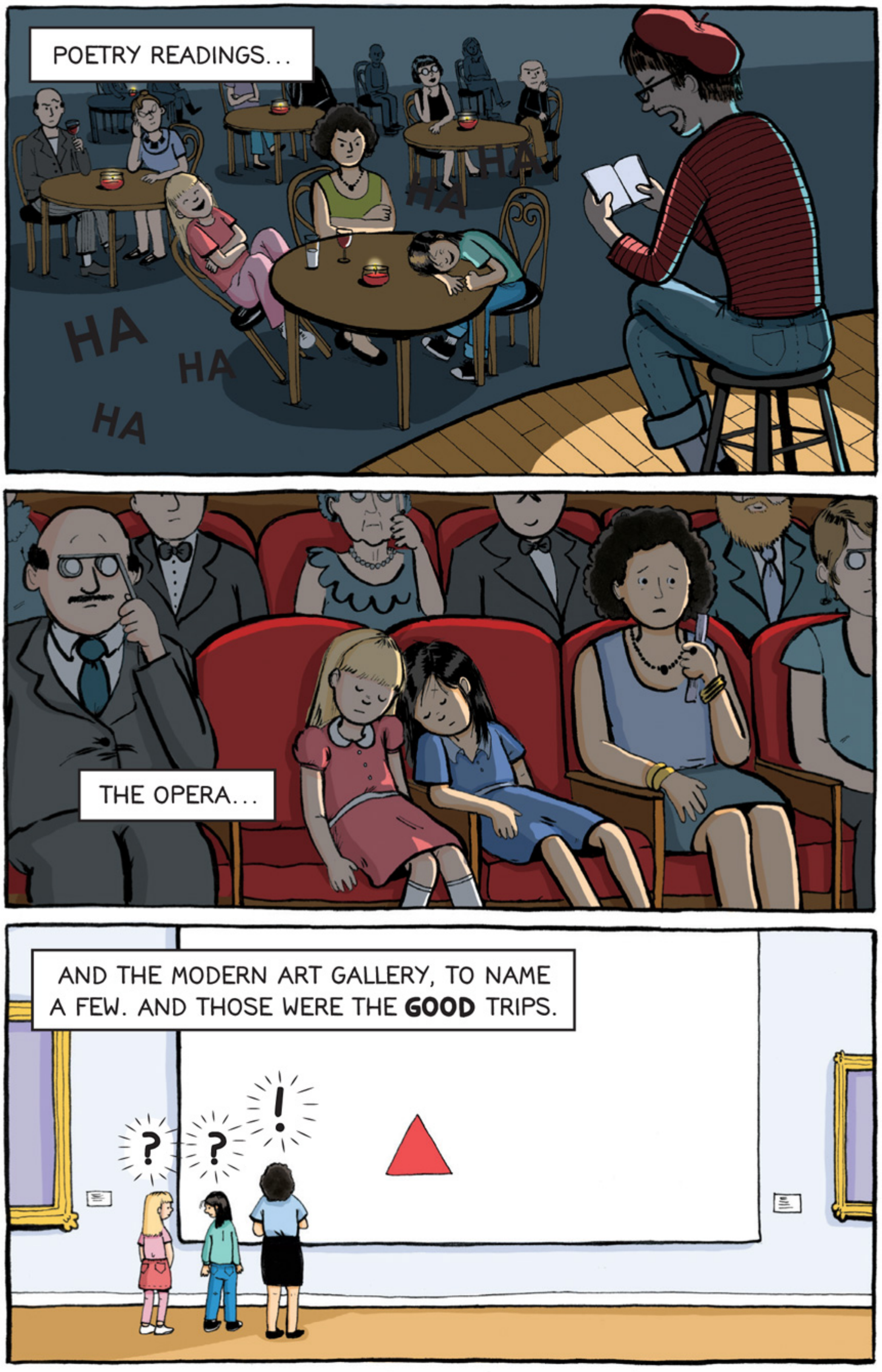
NOPE, IT'S A SURPRISE.

THEN MOM UTTERED THE WORDS THAT NEVER FAILED TO STRIKE FEAR AND DREAD INTO MY HEART...

...TONIGHT, WE ARE HAVING AN EVENING OF CULTURAL ENLIGHTENMENT!

...ou girls are going to love this!
...strong, positive female role models
You are so lucky.
When I was your age...

THIS DID NOT BODE WELL FOR OUR FRIDAY NIGHT. WE'D EXPERIENCED ONE OR TWO OF MOM'S **ECE**S BEFORE.


POETRY READINGS...
HA
HA
HA
HA
THE OPERA...
AND THE MODERN ART GALLERY, TO NAME A FEW. AND THOSE WERE THE **GOOD** TRIPS.
?
?
!

ON THE OTHER HAND, MAYBE TONIGHT WAS STARTING TO SHAPE UP.

OAKS AMUSEMENT PARK

HEY, ARE WE GOING TO THE AMUSEMENT PARK?

NOT EXACTLY...

WE GOT IN A LONG LINE OF STRANGE-LOOKING PEOPLE.

MOM, ARE YOU SELLING US TO THE CIRCUS?

MRS. V., I'M TOO YOUNG TO BE A LION-TAMER!

MOM

KEEP IT UP, YOU TWO.

I WANT TO BE THE TATTOOED LADY.

NO WAY—I WANT TO BE THE TATTOOED LADY! YOU CAN BE THE BEARDED LADY.

TICKETS, PLEASE.

WE WENT IN THIS HUGE BUILDING THAT LOOKED LIKE AN AIRPLANE HANGAR.

MOM, CAN I GET A TATTOO?

I WANT TO DYE MY HAIR PINK!

CAN I GET A NOSE RING?

CAN I GET A LIP RING?

JUST AS WE SAT DOWN IN THE BLEACHERS...

HEY, WHAT **IS** THIS PLACE?

...THE LIGHTS WENT OUT.

Clap Clap Clap Whoo Clap

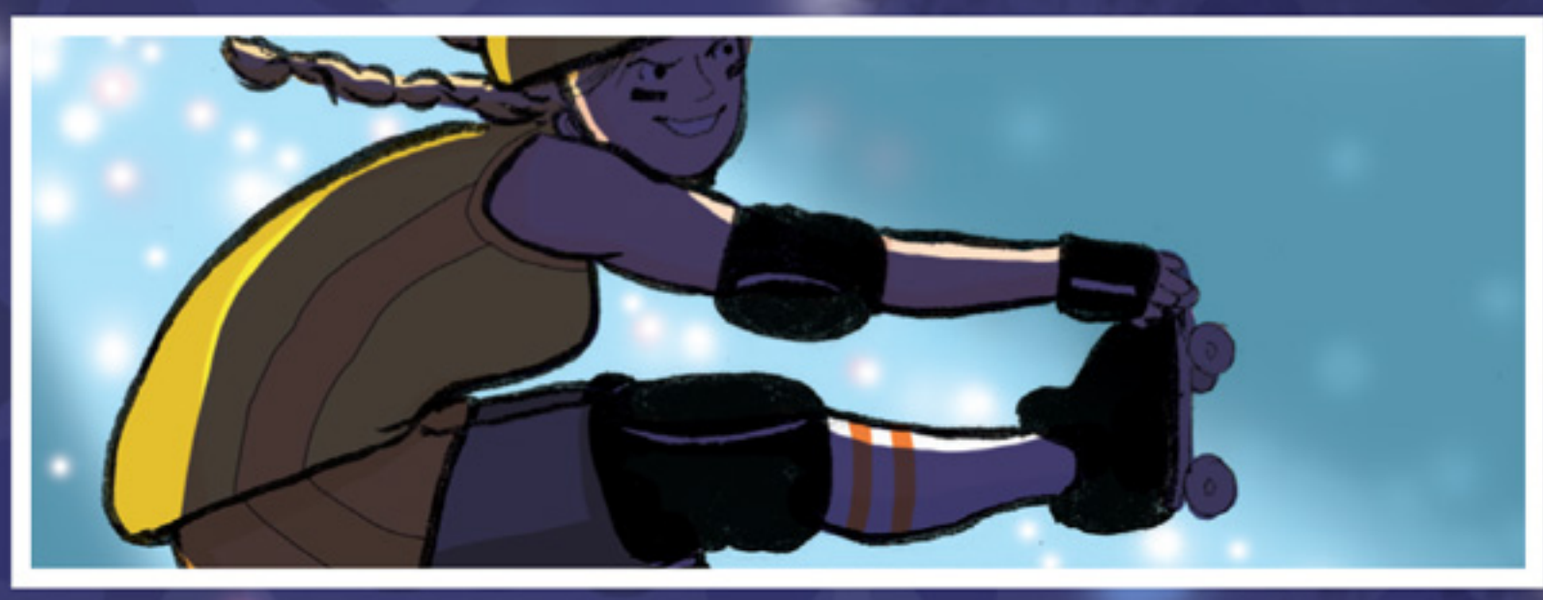
Clap Clap Clap Oooo

YEAH! Oo!! Clap Clap

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN...

ARE YOU READY FOR SOME...







RRRR-OLLER DERBY?!

