

FROM GEEK TO FREAK TO EMERGENCY ROOM
(8 page short story)

WRITTEN BY MELISSA HOPKINS AND DAVID HOPKINS

Note: Since it's a true story, I'll try to include as many references as possible. Use whatever is helpful, but don't feel too burdened. This story is about the Dallas Derby Devils (<http://www.derbydevils.com/>).

PAGE ONE

Panel 1. Nighttime. A nice establishing shot of Mid-Cities Skateland in Irving, Texas (<http://www.midcitieskate.com/>). There's an ambulance out front, lights on -- with someone on a stretcher being wheeled into the back. The roller girls are off to the side taking a smoke break.

CAPTION

My first serious injury came one night during practice.

Panel 2. Shot on our lovely roller girl on the stretcher, MELISSA HOPKINS. (<http://www.myspace.com/melissahopkins>) She goes by the derby name "Blue Monday." Oh yes. The EMTs are loading her in the back of the ambulance. Her head and neck are firmly braced. She looks very casual.

MELISSA

(to the girls off panel)
Bye!

CAPTION

It turned out to be nothing more than a bad neck strain, but you always want to be extra cautious about such things.

Panel 3. Shot on the other roller girls in the parking lot. Some stand and some sit near one of the turtarriers. They wave and look very casual as well.

References: June Carter Crash (<http://www.myspace.com/junecartercrash>), Heike DeSkirt (<http://www.myspace.com/heikedeskirt>), and Desi Deck 'Em (<http://www.myspace.com/desideckem>)

JUNE CARTER CRASH

Take care, Blue.

HEIKE DESKIRT

See you on Sunday.

DESI DECK 'EM

Hope you're not paralyzed.

Panel 4. Close up shot on the young male EMT, officially cute, a young Colin Firth. Glorious.

CAPTION

The EMT was cute.

Panel 5. Melissa in the stretcher gives a big smile and a "thumbs up".

CAPTION (CONT'D)

Did I mention Dennis Rodman was there when it all happened?

CAPTION (CONT'D)

I should start from the beginning.

PAGE TWO

Panel 1. DENNIS RODMAN stands in the middle of the roller rink. He's wearing a velour warm-up outfit. He has a coach's whistle around his neck. However, he is so tall that he doesn't fit in the panel. The top 1/3 of Rodman is cut off. In fact, at no time during the story, will we see Rodman's face. He's always too tall for whatever panel he's in. Next to him is an extremely short Napoleon-esque DIRECTOR with a backwards baseball cap and a continually frustrated look. Next to him is a scruffy camera operator.

CAPTION (CONT'D)

Dennis Rodman, former NBA star, the guy with the dyed hair, tattoos, and piercings. That guy.

He was at our practice filming an episode for this short-lived reality show he created.

DIRECTOR

Let's get started!

Panel 2. There's a girl, THE GEEK, getting her crappy rental skates laced up. She's a normal looking girl, curvy. Crazy curly hair.

CAPTION

Basic premise: To take a geeky girl and transform her into a freak.

(MORE)

CAPTION (CONT'D)
Apparently, that involves roller derby.

Panel 3. Dennis Rodman stands holding a football blocking pad. One roller girl FIRE KRACKER (http://www.myspace.com/fire_kracker_carley) skates full speed to the pad.

CAPTION (CONT'D)
The practice was made up to be interesting for TV. We did drills with football blocking pads. Rodman held it, and we skated up and hit it.

Panel 4. Same shot. Fire Kracker bounces off the pad and falls towards the ground.

CAPTION (CONT'D)
The girls made it their mission to at least knock him off balance. Most went bouncing off of him.

FIRE KRACKER
Ack!

Panel 5. Another roller girl SUTURE SALLY (<http://www.myspace.com/staceyresetar>) flies after hitting Rodman.

SUTURE SALLY
Oof!

Panel 6. And another, RINK PANTHER (<http://www.myspace.com/427935718>)

RINK PANTHER
Eeeeeeeeeeh!!!

Panel 7. Close on the Geek, growling and trying to be tough.

CAPTION
It was only a matter of time before she got hurt.

PAGE THREE

Panel 1. The roller derby are in a "train" (where they all line up behind each other and push like a train, reference: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/tucsonmark/1700839063/>) with the Geek in the middle. She's no longer growling or trying to be tough. She's wobbling like Bambi on ice.

CAPTION

She had trouble staying up on her skates. Any drills were almost impossible.

Panel 2. The Geek falls forward clumsily, flailing.

Panel 3. It's a domino effect. Each girl topples on top of the other.

Reference: Scary Cherry
(<http://www.myspace.com/scarycherrybangbang>)

SCARY CHERRY

What the hell?!

Panel 4. The Geek sits on her bum holding her un-bruised knee. She's hurt, kinda. The camera man is right in her face with the camera. The director stands next to the camera, very happy.

CAPTION

And the production crew was all over it.

THE GEEK

Ow.

PAGE FOUR

Panel 1. The Director runs over to the pile of fallen roller girls. The girls do not look too happy.

DIRECTOR

Okay! Great moment! I need everyone to do this again.

Panel 2. Close on the Director as he holds his hands up, imagining the shot.

DIRECTOR (CONT'D)

We need close-ups! And some reaction shots!

Panel 3. The Director points at HOLY TARA (<http://www.myspace.com/59953069>) who looks like she just got called out in class. ("Who me?")

DIRECTOR (CONT'D)

You! I need you to be the mean girl.

Panel 4. The Director addresses a group of roller girls.

References: Debbie Downer
 (<http://www.myspace.com/debbiedowner97>), Crazy Sk88
 (<http://www.myspace.com/pythonshack>), Shocker (), Bits and
 Pieces (<http://www.derbydevils.com/user.php?id.21>)

DIRECTOR (CONT'D)
 Somebody say "That's derby!"

PAGE FIVE

Panel 1. Same shot as from previous panel. The girls just stare at the Director.

Panel 2. Same shot. They skate away from him.

SHOCKER
 Oooh... "that's derby!"

CRAZY SK88
 Hahaha. Nose bleed? That's derby!

Panel 3. The girls are all joking with each other, mocking the Director.

MELISSA
 My skates are too tight! Derby!

DEBBIE DOWNER
 Sinus headache? That's derby!

SHOCKER
 Overactive bladder?

DEBBIE DOWNER
 That's derby!

Panel 4. The girls are still being silly.

CRAZY SK88
 I'm pregnant.

BITS AND PIECES
 I've got a yeast infection.

MELISSA
 Derby and derby.

Panel 5. Shot on the Director. He looks defeated.

DEBBIE DOWNER (OFF PANEL)
 I have a drinking problem.

SHOCKER (OFF PANEL)
That's derby!

CRAZY SK88 (OFF PANEL)
My drinking has a derby problem...

PAGE SIX

Panel 1. Melissa and COLD ETHEL
(<http://www.myspace.com/annagaddadavida>) line up to start
their jam. The camera man is filming.

CAPTION
My accident came later in the
practice, while we were
scrimmaging.

Panel 2. Melissa works her way through the pack. MAD DOG is
behind her.

Panel 3. Mad Dog slams into Melissa's back shoulder. Hard.

Panel 4. Melissa goes head first into the wooden floor. This
shot should look very painful, exponentially more dire than
the Geek's tumble.

Panel 5. Close on Melissa wincing.

CAPTION (CONT'D)
Once I hit the floor, I felt a
sharp pain in my neck.

Panel 6. Pull way back. Melissa is laying down on the track.
SUTURE SALLY is next to her, tending to the injury. All the
other girls take a knee, including the Geek. Rodman is in the
background, but standing too tall to be completely in the
panel.

SUTURE
Don't move. Does it hurt when you
breathe?

MELISSA
A little.

SUTURE
How's your neck?

MELISSA
It hurts real bad.

PAGE SEVEN

Panel 1. Interior of ambulance as they race to the hospital. Melissa holds the EMT's hand. She smiles. Little hearts float into the air. The EMT is not paying attention.

Panel 2. EMT talking into the CB radio.

EMT

We have a Code 2, possible R24,
Irving to Arlington Memorial.
Authorize. Over.

RADIO TRANSMISSION

You're good for the 120. Over.

Panel 3. Extreme melodramatic close up as his mouth talking into the CB receiver.

EMT

We have a derby girl coming in.

Panel 4. Establishing shot. The ambulance is now in front of the hospital's emergency entrance. This shot should look reminiscent of the establishing shot on page one, panel 1, except now they are pulling her out from the back.

CAPTION

Dennis Rodman. Reality Shows. Such
a strange night.

PAGE EIGHT

Panel 1. A small panel inset within the upper left hand corner of panel 2. Two nurses whisper to each other, watching as Melissa (off panel) gets wheeled in on the stretcher.

MALE NURSE

Is that the derby girl?

Panel 2. Full page panel. As Melissa is wheeled down the hospital hallway, she gives them the metal sign.

END.