

YAHOO COMICS (PILOT)

"Alex Manning vs The World"

Written by

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"This is the ultimate showdown of ultimate destiny
Good guys, bad guys, and explosions as far as the eye can see.
And only one will survive, I wonder who it will be
This is the ultimate showdown of ultimate destiny."

-- *The Ultimate Showdown* (Lemon Demon 2006)

INT. PAST - EMPTY SHOP SPACE - DAY

YOUNG ALEX (13) presses his face against the window of an empty shop space. A "FOR RENT" sign hangs in it window. The boy's face is etched in hope.

YOUNG ALEX

Someday...

He begins to imagine the layout of the store. Plastic comic racks on slatted walls, a bookshelf for graphic novels, two glass cases for collectibles and fixtures in the middle of the room for back issues.

ALEX'S FATHER (40s) runs past him.

ALEX'S FATHER (O.S.)

C'mon, Alex! Gonna miss the bus!
Stop dreaming, Kiddo!

YOUNG ALEX

'Kay, Dad!

Young Alex runs in the direction of his Dad and almost slams into a man walking to the shop's front door. He smiles at him and runs off.

INT. PRESENT - YAHOO COMICS & GAMES - SHOP - DAY

ALEX MANNING (26) unlocks the door to *Yahoo Comics & Games*. He walks in wearing a backpack and is grinning ear to ear.

ALEX

(In a Willy Wonka Voice)

"Just remember what happened to the boy that got everything he ever wanted."

The shop looks exactly as he dreamed it would be.

ALEX (CONT'D)

(In Charlie's Voice)

"What, Mr. Wonka?"

Alex crosses behind a display case and into the back room.

ALEX (CONT'D)

He got everything he ever wanted....

BACK OFFICE - DAY

He flips a light switch revealing a whiteboard on the wall with words START UP DEBT and \$33,418.12 under it.

ALEX (CONT'D)
Including that.

Alex drops his backpack onto his office chair.

ALEX (CONT'D)
Respectfully, Mr. Wonka, you can
kiss my ass.

Alex quickly scribbles the words EMERGENCY THREE MONTH SAVINGS / \$4,600.00 next to the START UP DEBT.

ALEX (CONT'D)
I've got a safety net!

He turns on the office computer, takes a deposit bag out of the desk and heads back out front.

SHOP - DAY

Alex turns on the point of sale computer at the counter.

ALEX (CONT'D)
Knock it off, you sound like
Carmen's dad.

The register pops open and he stuffs the "starting cash" into it.

ALEX (CONT'D)
First day. Everything's been
leading to this.

He takes a sign out from behind the counter, walks to the front of the shop and places it in the window.

EXT. YAHOO COMICS - DAY

The sign says GRAND OPENING. Alex smiles at the outside world.

ALEX
You got this, Alex.

He pulls down on a string hanging next to him. The OPEN SIGN lights up.

INT. SHOP - DAY

Alex lets out a deep breath.

ALEX
Today is gonna be great!

He walks back behind the counter and sits on a chair high enough to look out over the shop.

ALEX (CONT'D)
Two hundred, twenty-six dollars and
sixty-five cents of profit a day --
Debt free in six months.

He looks at the Mickey Mouse clock on the wall. It reads "10:01."

ALEX (CONT'D)
No sweat.

CLOSE UP - CLOCK:

The hands of the clock change to "11:19."

ALEX (O.S.) (CONT'D)
Hello? Yes, my name is Alex Manning
and I was hoping to buy some
balloons?

SHOP - DAY

Montage Starts:

- Alex eagerly accepting a delivery of "OPENING DAY" balloons from the driver
- He decorates the store with the balloons
- Alex hops back up on the high chair
- He adjusts the placement of some of the balloons

Montage Ends.

OFFICE

The number \$4,600.00 on the white board has a line through it. Alex is writing the number \$4,314.83 under it.

ALEX (CONT'D)
Bite me, Wonka.

The SOUND of the DOOR CHIME can be HEARD from the front of the shop.

ALEX (CONT'D)
Welcome to Yahoo Comics!! How can I
help -- !

SHOP

Alex charges out of the back room only to see that his fiancée, CARMEN HOLMES (23), is standing in the middle of the shop. She is looking at the balloons.

ALEX (CONT'D)
Oh, hello, Honey.

CARMEN
Hey, Hon...

She meets him halfway and gives him a hug.

CARMEN (CONT'D)
How's it goin'?

ALEX
No customers, yet, but -- !

Alex opens his arms triumphantly!

ALEX (CONT'D)
Lookie!

Carmen marvels at his handwork.

CARMEN
They look wonderful, Sweetheart!

ALEX
Ah, thankyew! That'll get their
attention!

CARMEN
But wouldn't they be better on the
outside of the store?

ALEX
Maaaaaaaaybe?

Alex leaps to his feet and runs into the back room.

CARMEN
What are you -- ?

ALEX (O.S.)
Ladder!

CARMEN
Great! Dad says, "Hi!"

He runs by her with the ladder.

ALEX
Oh? What does your Mom say?

He grabs a bunch of balloons off the back issue bins and tries to make his way out the door with all of them and the ladder.

CARMEN
Don't be that way.

Carmen opens the door for him.

EXT. YAHOO COMICS - SIDEWALK - DAY

Alex is still holding the balloons as he quickly puts up the ladder. Carmen takes them from him.

ALEX
What way?

CARMEN
Dad wants this to work for you,
Alex. Work for me, too.

He hustles up the ladder.

ALEX
It'll work.

Alex reaches his hand out for the balloons and Carmen starts feeding them to him one at a time.

CARMEN
In six months, though?

ALEX
If I make two hundred, twenty-six
dollars and sixty-five cents of
profit a day -- And I will -- We
will be home free.

CARMEN
Sounds like a plan.

Carmen gives him the best smile she can and watches him tie the balloons to the awning of the store.

ALEX

Yeah, but do you honestly think its a good plan? Remember the "no bull policy..."

CARMEN

I remember. So, "No bull policy," Alex?

ALEX

Yup.

CARMEN

I'm worried.

ALEX

You get to be worried --

He jumps off the ladder and heads inside. She is right behind him.

INT. SHOP - DAY

Alex walks in with ladder.

ALEX

It's okay to be worried.

He takes it into the back room.

CARMEN

Okay, I am.

ALEX (O.S.)

Good. That's healthy.

CARMEN

Really worried.

He walks back into the shop.

ALEX

You think I've made a mistake don't you?

CARMEN

No. You're following your dream. I'm never going to get in the way of that --

ALEX

I know.

CARMEN

I just have some dreams, too.

ALEX

I know. You are going to be an incredible doctor for kids.

CARMEN

(smiling)

Pediatrician, Alex.

ALEX

I know. The kiddos are gonna love you.

Alex smiles broadly and takes Carmen into his arms.

ALEX (CONT'D)

I will bring sooooo many flowers to your graduation.

CARMEN

If the shop is a hit.

ALEX

Please, please don't sound like your Dad.

CARMEN

If your shop folds --

ALEX

He thinks I'm gonna take you down with me and --

ALEX (CONT'D)

No graduate school --

CARMEN

No graduate school.

ALEX (CONT'D)

I know. Believe me, I know. He'll pull your funding because you went down with the U.S.S. Alex's Dumb Idea...

CARMEN

I'm sorry for the extra pressure, Alex. I know that people are gonna love this place.

ALEX

You really do?

CARMEN
I do. "No bull."

Carmen hugs Alex again.

CARMEN (CONT'D)
Gotta go.

She is almost out the door.

ALEX
You really think they're gonna love
it?

CARMEN
Sure do!

Carmen opens the door.

CARMEN (CONT'D)
As soon as they find it.

She leaves. Alex walks toward the back room. Carmen pops her
head back inside.

CARMEN (CONT'D)
Maybe if you had a few more
balloons.

And, with that, she is gone.

JUMP CUT TO:

EXT. YAHOO COMICS - DAY

The awning is filled with balloons; covering the name of the
store. Thankfully, the six-foot tall logos that fill the
store-front windows can still be seen.

ALEX (O.S.)
Three thousand --

INT. YAHOO COMICS - BACK ROOM - DAY

Alex has crossed out the \$4,314.83 on the white board and
written \$3,851.71 underneath it.

ALEX
Eight hundred and fifty-one dollars
and seventy-one cents.

He drops the pen on his desk.

ALEX (CONT'D)
 Just gotta make two hundred, twenty-
 six --

The DOOR CHIME can be HEARD. Alex sprints to the front of the store.

SHOP - DAY

CHIP FIELDS (26) is stuffing comics under his jacket as Alex runs into the shop.

ALEX (CONT'D)
 Hey!

Chip stops and some of the comics fall out of his jacket.

ALEX (CONT'D)
 You gonna pay for those?

CHIP
 I thought I was eligible for the
 "best friend" discount.

ALEX
 What makes you think your my "best
 friend?"

CHIP
 'Cuz outside of Carmen, I'm
 probably your only friend.

ALEX
 Fair enough... But you still gotta
 pay for stuff.

CHIP
 Fifty percent discount?

ALEX
 More like five... And I'm being
 generous. You wanna pick those up?

He does.

CHIP
 Generous? More like cheap ass.

ALEX
 Hey! I've had to put everything --

CHIP (CONT'D)

You sell a hundred of those a day,
not including the toys and games
and stuff... You're gonna do great!

ALEX

I currently profit a dollar ten
cents on each one of these, Chip.
Which means, I'm paying almost
three dollars for each of them.

Chip goes behind the counter and starts looking at the
statues on the shelves.

CHIP

You said it was a fifty / fifty
split. That's what you told me.

ALEX

And that's what I told, Carmen.
But I quickly found out that the
distributors work on sales order
volume not immediate discount.

CHIP

Which means what? And speak to me
like I'm a ten year old, 'Kay,
because... Numbers.

ALEX

I'll shoot for eight years old. It
means that it is currently an
almost thirty / seventy split in
the distributor's favor until I
start ordering more. The more I
order the --

CHIP

Less each of the things costs and --

ALEX

The more the shop makes.

CHIP

And you knew this before you opened
this place?

ALEX

Yup.

Alex finishes putting the comics away.

ALEX (CONT'D)

I got the best advice from Ron over at O'Brian's Comics when I told him I was thinking of opening a shop. You wanna hear it?

CHIP

Why do people always say that?

ALEX

Say what?

CHIP

"You wanna hear" something? What if I told you, "Nah, I'm not in the mood."

ALEX

I'd think you were a jerk-face jerk.

CHIP

Indeed you would and henceforth I would be known as "Jerk-Face the Jerk" and no one wants to live with that. So, of course I'm going to tell you, "Yes, I wanna hear something." Otherwise risk the chance of wearing that crappy name for the rest of my life.

ALEX

So, you wanna hear it or not?

CHIP

Not really.

ALEX

Tough, "Jerk-Face," because I'm gonna tell you anyway.

CHIP

Thanks for the fleeting chance of having my own free-will.

ALEX

Ron told me that if I wanted to open a comic book shop, I should just give him thirty grand and he'd hit me over the head with a baseball bat.

CHIP

Really?

ALEX

Yeah. And then he said, "That's just what your first year feels like."

CHIP

Why would you do that to yourself?

ALEX

Because then he immediately said, "It's worth it. The people you meet? The lives you get to be a part of? Worth every penny and every ounce of pain."

CHIP

Wow...

ALEX

Yeah, it's been a dream since I was a kid to own a comic book shop. I wanted to have a place I'd wanna go to go. A place where people could get lost for awhile. Hang out. Talk about things other than what's happening out there. You know? A place to escape to.

CHIP

I get it. But that's a heck of a risk.

ALEX

Worth it.

CHIP

It's gonna have to be. How many people you seen today, so far?

ALEX

Including you can Carmen?

CHIP

Yeah.

ALEX

One, because you don't really count.

CHIP

Love you, too, man.

ALEX

I figure I've gotta make two hundred, twenty-six dollars and sixty-five cents a day to make a profit in the next six months.

CHIP

Six months? Don't most businesses shoot for a year?

ALEX

Yeah, they do, but Carmen's Dad is threatening to pull her grad school funding if the shop fails and she decides to stick with me.

CHIP

That's a bit harsh.

ALEX

So is he. It comes with his starting with nothing and getting to everything.

CHIP

How'd you get that "gotta make a profit" number? Divide your debt between a hundred and eighty days?

ALEX

Hundred and fifty. We're not open on Sundays.

CHIP

Why?

ALEX

I gotta have one day off, man. For me. For Carmen --

CHIP

For me?

ALEX

If you pay me. Yes, for you.

CHIP

What you need is people.

ALEX

Exactly.

INT. YAHOO COMICS - SHOP - EARLY EVENING

The shop is empty. A phone rings near the point of sale.

ALEX (O.S.)
Wait, wait, wait, wait -- !

The SOUND of FLUSHING can be HEARD from the back room.

The phone continues to ring.

ALEX (O.S.) (CONT'D)
Wait, wait, wait, wait -- !

Alex tears into the shop and lunges for the phone.

It stops ringing right when he picks it up.

ALEX (CONT'D)
Hello! Thank you for calling Yahoo
Comics and Games how can I help...
The person who is obviously not on
the other end of this call because
they hung up. Darnit!

He presses the hang-up button and places the phone back in
its cradle.

ALEX (CONT'D)
Curse you bladder...

The message light on the phone begins to blink.

Alex snatches up the phone again and quickly presses buttons
for messages. He grins wildly, puts the phone to his ear and
listens to it eagerly.

ALEX (CONT'D)
Yay!

His joyful expression starts to curdle.

ALEX (CONT'D)
Oh... Oh, wow.

Confusion has moved in.

ALEX (CONT'D)
Really?

Alex looks down at the phone.

ALEX (CONT'D)
Ouch.

He considers the phone for a moment before hanging it up and placing it back in it's cradle.

Alex stares at it dumbfounded.

ALEX (CONT'D)
I couldn't have heard that right.

He picks it back up, presses the buttons again for "messages." He turns on the speaker and sets it on the counter.

PHONE (V.O.)
(via speaker)
-- Have one message. BEEP!

ERIC (V.O.)
(via speaker)
Hey, Alex, it's me Eric from *Action Comics*. Just wanted to call and wish you a happy opening day! Now, when I said "I wanted to wish you a happy opening," I really do mean "I wanted to..."

Alex braces for impact.

ERIC (V.O.)
(via speaker)
But I just can't do it. What I really want to say is you never should have opened a shop in my town.

ERIC (V.O.)	ALEX
(via speaker)	Your town?
I was here first.	

ERIC (V.O.)
(via speaker)
So, it's mine. Mine do you hear me? And don't give me that bull that Ron was here first with O'Brian's because he's in Lakewood, not here.

ERIC (V.O.)	ALEX
(via speaker)	I'm clear across town from you.
That's thirty minutes away.	

ERIC (V.O.)
(via speaker)
So, to cut this short.

ALEX

Too late.

ERIC (V.O.)

(speaker)

I hope that "Boo-Hoo" comics
crashes and burns the way it
deserves to.

(the voice starts to fade)

Yahoo... What kind of stupid name
is that anyway.

Alex hears Eric hang up and he turns off the speaker.

He stares at the phone for longer than he should.

ALEX

Why would you say things like that,
Eric? Why? I just want to have a
place people can... Come to...

Alex puts the phone back in its cradle.

ALEX (CONT'D)

And be happy at.

He looks around his empty shop with a shattered expression.

ALEX (CONT'D)

Why would you say that? To anybody?

DISSOLVE TO:

BACK ROOM - EVENING

Alex looks at the white board. The savings number has been
crossed out again. It has gone from \$3,851.71 to \$2,619.13
and the words EMERGENCY **THREE** MONTH SAVINGS are now EMERGENCY
TWO MONTH SAVINGS.

ALEX

Maybe Eric's right. I am gonna
crash and burn... And take Carmen
down with me.

He looks at the office clock. It reads 6:03pm.

SHOP - EVENING

Alex walks through the shop dejectedly .

EXT. YAHOO COMICS - SIDEWALK - EVENING

He puts a key into the searchlight's lock and turns it off.

INT. YAHOO COMICS - SHOP - EVENING

Alex puts the key in his pocket as he enters the shop. He pulls down the string to the OPEN sign and locks the door.

ALEX

I don't wanna feel like a loser.

Tears start to form in his eyes as he walks to the counter.

ALEX (CONT'D)

But, man, I really do.

The SOUND of someone KNOCKING ON THE GLASS DOOR can be HEARD.

STOWE (O.S.)

(muffled)

Aw, man! Please don't be closed!

Alex spins around and sees JAMES STOWE (37) standing outside the door with his face pressed against the glass.

STOWE (CONT'D)

(muffled)

Pleeeeeeease!

Alex grins from ear to ear as he sprints to the door and unlocks it.

ALEX

Welcome to Yahoo Comics and Games!

STOWE

Thank you, so much, for opening back up! I would have been so colossally bummed if I missed opening day.

ALEX

Well, you sure didn't!

STOWE

Cool!

ALEX

Have a look around and please take your time! You've got the whole shop to yourself.

STOWE

Thank you! That is so cool!

He marvels at the contents of the shop.

STOWE (CONT'D)

All for my lonesome.

He stops from time to time to pick a comic out of the racks or to browse the back-issues. He looks like a lost traveler who has finally found his Shangri-La.

STOWE (CONT'D)

Geez, this shop is so clean.

ALEX

We just opened.

STOWE

Aw, I'm sorry... That's not what I meant. I mean it's so -- It looks like a comic book boutique instead of feeling like you walked into some guy's garage.

ALEX

Yay! That's what I was going for. I place for us nerds, but also for the folks in our life who wonder if we're "all there" sometimes.

STOWE

Seriously. I had a girlfriend a few years ago... Dated for over a month before she came to my house the first time. I swear, she took one look at my collection and - POOF! - Gone faster than Kaiser Soze.

ALEX

From the *Usual Suspects*?

STOWE

Yeah, Man! Kinda looked like him, too, come to think of it.

ALEX

Oh... Sorry.

STOWE

Don't be. She was really hot.

Stowe pulls a graphic novel off the bookshelf and then another one. He adds them to the stack of comics in his arms.

STOWE (CONT'D)

Am I your last customer of the day?
You must have been swamped earlier!

ALEX

Actually, you're my one and only.

STOWE

Really?!?!

ALEX

Yup.

STOWE

Weird! I would'a thought you
would'a had to beat 'em off with a
stick.

ALEX

Nope.

STOWE

I mean, look at the Batsignal out
there!

ALEX

The expensive one. Yeah, I know.

STOWE

Nobody?

ALEX

Just you.

STOWE

Geez... I bet that must've freaked
you out something fierce.

He puts the his "loot" on top of the glass counter.

STOWE (CONT'D)

Mind if I put these here?

ALEX

Please, do!

STOWE

Thanks!

Stowe starts rifling through the back issue bins.

ALEX
Well, thank you.

STOWE
I never really felt welcomed there.
With Eric? More like I was
intruding. Like he didn't like me
pawing his stuff.

ALEX
Maybe he was having a bad day.

STOWE
For the last two years? Doubtful,
Sir. Doubtful.

ALEX
My name is Alex, by the way.

STOWE
James. But I prefer to be called
Stowe.

ALEX
Stowe.

STOWE
It's what everyone's been calling
me since I was a kid. Kind'a
stuck.

ALEX
Stowe it is.

Stowe adds more to his stack.

STOWE
Almost done.

ALEX
No worries.

STOWE
Any art supplies?

ALEX
Not, yet, but I can get you some if
you want?

STOWE
I can do special orders here?

ALEX
Sure can. Subscriptions, too.

Alex puts a "Subscriber Form" on top of Stowe's stack.

STOWE
Great. I'll let eric know I'm
movin' to here.

ALEX
Oh, man...

STOWE
What?

ALEX
Nothing... It's all good.

STOWE
Seriously what?

ALEX
I told you I don't wanna tear down -

STOWE
Hey, we just met. That means you
can trust me, obviously!

Stowe chuckles.

STOWE (CONT'D)
No worries. I can see you don't
wanna say anything bad. That's a
cool trait. I like that. Don't see
much of that anymore.

ALEX
Dad raised me right, I guess.

STOWE
Sure did. Okay, Alex, what's the
damage.

Alex rings up Stowe's stack of comics, graphic novels and
back issues.

ALEX
Oh, "Powers!" I love this comic!
First one I showed my girlfriend.

STOWE
Really? That one pretty graphic.

ALEX

It was a litmus test. I figured if she was gonna stick with me through anything, I'd see what she liked in comics, too.

STOWE

She likes it?

ALEX

Loves it!!!

STOWE

Cool!

ALEX

Alright, we're at One hundred eighty-seven dollars and sixty two cents. Wow, thank you! That's a heck of a first day and it's all because of you!

STOWE

What's your "nut?"

ALEX

Excuse me?

STOWE

Your "nut." What do you need to make today to break even? I'm pretty sure you've got that memorized.

ALEX

(mutters)

Two hundred, twenty-six dollars and sixty-five cents a day...

STOWE

Sorry, I couldn't hear what you just said, Mr. Humble...

ALEX

Two hundred, twenty-six dollars and sixty-five cents.

STOWE

Huh...

Stowe scans the statues behind the counter.

STOWE (CONT'D)
Gimmie that statue of Wolverine.
The Adam Kubert one.

ALEX
Really? You don't have to.

STOWE
Let's have an agreement, if that's
okay, Alex? Anything I decided to
buy it's because I have to, all
right?

He smiles and opens his arms wide.

STOWE (CONT'D)
Now gimme my own personal Jackman!

Alex rings it up.

STOWE (CONT'D)
Where am I at now?

ALEX
Four hundred and sixty-seven
dollars and eighty-three cents.

STOWE
There. Now a day ahead in profit.

He puts his credit card into the reader.

ALEX
Thank you, so much.

STOWE
No worries. I like this place. I
knew I would. And I like you, too.

ALEX
I am so glad I met you.

Stowe hefts his statue under his arm and takes his bag of
comics.

STOWE
I bet you are.

ALEX
No! Not because you bought stuff.
Because you're a great person to be
around.

STOWE

Aw, thanks. I hope my wife feels the same way when I bring this statue home. Have a great night!

He walks to the door and Alex zips out from behind the counter, gets ahead of him and unlock the door.

ALEX

Here you go!

STOWE

I've been waiting two months for this shop to open. Ever since I saw your "Coming Soon" sign in the window.

ALEX

Really?

STOWE

Yeah. Drove by every day. Hoping you were open. And, I gotta tell you, I'm glad you are. You know why?

ALEX

Why?

STOWE

Because you make it feel like home. Night, Alex.

Stowe leaves and Alex locks the door behind him.

There are tears of joy in his eyes.

DISSOLVE TO:

BACK ROOM - EVENING

Alex looks at the whiteboard. The total debt of \$33,418.12 feels like it stares back at him. The EMERGENCY **TWO** MONTHS SAVINGS of \$2,619,13 silently judging. He reaches up and erases some of the numbers off of the debt total and replaces it with a final figure of \$32,950.29.

ALEX

"He got everything he ever wanted..."

He smiles and pulls on his backpack.

SHOP - EVENING

He walks into the shop and smiles as brightly as he did when he first came in. Alex looks around with pride at what he has built.

ALEX (CONT'D)
 "Made it feel like home...
 Everything I ever hoped for."
 Thanks, Stowe.

He turns off the overhead lights. The running lights lit that circle the store stay on and illuminate the comics in the plastic racks.

Alex opens the door and steps outside.

EXT. YAHOO COMICS - SIDEWALK

He locks the door behind him and peers through the glass like he did thirteen years ago.

YOUNG COMIC FAN (O.S.)
 Cooooooooool.

Alex looks down and sees a YOUNG COMIC BOOK FAN (13) peering through the glass alongside him.

ALEX
 Think so?

YOUNG COMIC FAN
 What are you? Nuts? Hell, yeah
 it's cool!

YOUNG COMIC FAN'S DAD (O.S.)
 Language, Son.

YOUNG COMIC FAN
 Sorry, Dad.

The YOUNG COMIC FAN'S DAD comes into view, but Alex's focus is on the boy.

YOUNG COMIC FAN'S DAD
 Please excuse him, Sir. This is the
 first time he's had one of these in
 his neighborhood.

ALEX
 You guys live round here?

YOUNG COMIC FAN'S DAD
 Sure do. 'Bout five blocks outside
 the Proctor District.

YOUNG COMIC FAN
 You live round here?

ALEX
 I live down that way.

The Young Comic Fan has gone back to looking through the window.

ALEX (CONT'D)
 My apologies... It's getting late.
 Gotta get home for dinner.

YOUNG COMIC FAN'S DAD
 Understood. Have a great night!

Alex shakes his hand and walks past in the direction of his apartment. He sneaks a look back before they are out of sight.

The Young Comic Fan's Dad has his hand on his son's shoulder as the boy presses his face against the window of Alex's shop. The boy's face is etched in hope.

YOUNG COMIC FAN
 They've gotta have every comic in
 the world.

YOUNG COMIC FAN'S DAD
 C'mon, Son. Gonna be late for
 dinner. Stop dreaming, Kiddo

YOUNG ALEX
 'Kay, Dad!

He peels himself away from the window and they walk away in the opposite direction of Alex.

ALEX
 Dreams are cool, Kid. At least I
 think so.

Alex smiles and leaves his shop for the night.

The soft light inside Yahoo Comics & Games projects a welcoming beacon for its guests tomorrow ... And maybe the day after that, too.