

A desk covered with comic books. They're drawn in the style of superhero comics, except for the color scheme: heavy on the purple, pink and blue.

All of them have the figure of a BRIGHT SMILING GIRL - always with a different hair color and accompanied by various befuddled guys.

Issues spread across the desk include "Awesome Girl and the Sad Sack", "Awesome Girl: The Gloom Wars", "Awesome Girl: Girl of Dreams", "Awesome Girl and the Shy Guy"...

Finally there's "Awesome Girl and the Brooder". While the other titles are of printed comics in color and ink, this one is still in pencil.

Beneath the title, there's a drawing of a guy with his hands in his pockets, looking sour. It's labeled: "The Brooder".

Armed with a water-gun and a manic smile, Awesome Girl lurks behind him.

Further along the table, there's a pencil sketch of an airport terminal. The Brooder and Awesome Girl in foreground.

A word bubble floats above The Brooder's head: "You know it's time for me to go".

THE BROODER (O.S.)
You know it's time for me to go.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. AIRPORT - DAY

The real-life BROODER holds the hands of the real-life Awesome Girl. She's small, with blue-blond hair. A pink tulle tutu peeks out beneath her oversized coat. This is LIA. She could pass for any age between 18 and 30. But she's closer to 30.

They are in the midst of an ultra serious heart to heart.

THE BROODER
I wish I didn't have to.

Lia smiles at him.

LIA
You're going to be fine! Whenever things get too serious or too intense or whatever, just remember what I taught you.

She begins to do a funny little dance: arms straight down, hands turned out, waddling around. He laughs.

THE BROODER

Ah, yes, the Penguin Dance.

She's not stopping.

LIA

Come on, you have to do it too!

He surrenders and joins in. They "dance" down to the security line. TRAVELLERS give them quizzical looks.

INT. AIRPORT - SECURITY LINE - MOMENTS LATER

They've reached the security line. Lia stops dancing. The Brooder follows her lead.

LIA

This is it.

He leans forward and gives her a sweet kiss. A good-bye kiss.

THE BROODER

Thank you.

LIA

For what?

THE BROODER

For everything. For the penguin dance, for the food fight in that stuffy restaurant, for the three times you pushed me in the fountain. For showing me how to really live, how to be free. It's been amazing. You've been amazing.

She smiles proudly.

LIA

Some might say "awesome"?

THE BROODER

Yes, definitely awesome.

LIA

You better go. You'll miss your flight.

THE BROODER

I know, I know. But I just wanted to tell you: you changed me. I can finally face life on my own terms.

LIA

With Penguin power!

THE BROODER

Exactly.

He does a little waddle and heads over to security. He waves. Lia gives one final wave with a big smile.

He's gone. Her smile fades.

A PAGE TURNS:

A SKETCH BOOK.

In purple, pink, and blue, a female hand writes out the words: THE ADVENTURES OF AWESOME GIRL.

Outlines of stars and rainbows dance around the words.

A PAGE TURNS:

A pencil drawing of "Awesome Girl" punches at the air in victory.

Lia smiles at her drawing, satisfied. She closes the sketchbook and looks up,

EXT. JFK AIRPORT - CONTINUOUS

Ugh. She's still at fucking JFK. Lia leans back on the bench, taking out her phone.

LIA

(to phone, in high pitched voice)

Hello, I'd like to order a pizza.

INT. ASTORIA APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

LAURENCE (late 20s), short and shaggy, sits at an Ikea desk, staring at a laptop. He's on his cell phone.

LAURENCE

What?