

## **Owly Frequency – written by Liz Argall**

The visual style of this comic is envisaged as similar to Andy Runton's Owly, although I'm visualising the pages as more standard comic book size. Many of the speech bubbles contain descriptions of iconography rather than actual dialogue. Due to his simple yet effective style the panel descriptions are fairly simple and minimal (great excuse isn't it?) – crits and comments very welcome.

### **Page 1**

Panel 1:

A cute baby Echidna toddling through a forest and snuffling the ground.

Caption:

A remote forest, yesterday

Panel 2: Echidna's nose crinkled up, investigating a small dark space amongst some hedges.

Echidna:

? (a very large question mark)

Panel 3: Echidna trundling into the dark space

Panel 4: Heavy prison/cage bars have dropped down, trapping the Echidna in the dark space - which is actually an animal trap in the form of a wooden box with bars at the front. The Echidna has turned around and is rattling on the cages.

Panel 5: The Echidna cowering at the back of the cage looking at something scary coming towards it.

### **Page 2**

Panel 1: Interior. Owly's tree house. Owly and Wormy are having a siesta in Owly's house, blankies pulled up, smiles on their faces, warm sunlight through the open window. Owly is a short fat cute owl. Wormy is a small cute worm.

Caption:

Owly's Tree house, today.

Panel 2: A black silhouette against the sunlit window of a bird of prey.

Panel 3: A big scary eagle charging in through the window, mouth open, looking like it's ready to attack. It holds a fairly large, but swish looking mobile phone in one claw. Owly and wormy cowering in terror. Wormy has leapt onto Owly for protection.

Panel 3: The eagle is gone. Owly and Wormy are still partially cowering. The mobile phone is on the ground and is ringing.

Phone SFX:

BzzZT BzzZT

Panel 4: Owly holding the phone about a foot away from his ear. Wormy sitting on Owly's shoulder away from the phone wincing and hoping it doesn't blow up horribly.

Owly  
? (a very large question mark)

Panel 5: Owly looking at the phone, holding it close to his beak. Owly and Wormy looking surprised.

Cell phone:  
This is Miranda X and you're on the global frequency.

Cell phone:  
The frequency has been watching you for some time, we're impressed with you work. If anyone can find a lost fluffy baby animal it's you.

Cell phone:  
There's a chopper waiting for you in the clearing. Aleph will guide you from here on.

Panel 6: Owly striding through the forest with Wormy on his shoulder. They are both wearing dark glasses.

### **Page 3**

Panel 1: Owly and Wormy are in a clearing. There is a helicopter on the ground and a pilot (complete with aviation jacket) standing outside the copter. The chopper pilot is giving a thumbs up in response to Owly's question.

Owly  
This text balloon has a simple icon of a helicopter, followed by a plus sign, a pair of binoculars, an arrow, a small scared Echidna and a question mark

Panel 2: External shot of Owly and Wormy peering out of the helicopter, which has open sides. They're wearing goggles and backpacks.

Panel 3: A circular panel of an areal view of the ground below, there are fields and two thirds of the ground is covered by forest..

Panel 4: Return to Owly and Wormy looking out of the helicopter, looking a little tired.

Panel 5: Similar shot to previous, however Owly and Wormy look very tired and sad, their eyes are narrow slits and it is getting dark.

Owly:  
Icon: a fuel gage close to empty.

Wormy  
Icons: the echidna and a picture of an hour glass with not much time left in the top half.

Panel 6: Owly and Wormy hugging each other with tears welling in their eyes.

Shared speech bubble:  
Icon: a heart with a big crack down the middle

#### **Page 4**

Panel 1: Owly looking sad, Wormy looking excited, literally bouncing up and down (little movement lines under him).

Wormy:  
Icon: a big exclamation mark

Panel 2 – a circular panel: birds eye view of a ute driving along (what in America land I believe is called a pickup truck), it has a lot of boxes and crates in the back.

Panel 3: Owly and Wormy looking excitedly at each other.

Panel 4: Owly and Wormy holding their noses like they're about to jump into a pool. They are no longer in the helicopter as they have just jumped out.

Panel 5: Owly and Wormy's Parachutes deploy, floating down side by side, Wormy with a little worm sized parachute.

#### **Page 5**

Panel 1: The ute going through a gate into a big scary compound. The fences are made of wire mesh, topped with barb wire on the top, there are guard posts and a central tower with a spotlight

Panel 2: Owly and Wormy hiding in the bushes peering out – they are back to their normal appearance with neither sunglasses nor goggles.

Panel 3: Close on one of the crates on the back of the ute. Our little Echidna holding the bars in both hands looking out looking very sad.

Panel 4: Owly and Wormy still in the bushes. Wormy is scoping the scene using a pair of binoculars, Owly is on phone.

Owly:  
pictograph of the compound, in particular the high fences.

Aleph (speaker on phone)  
Our agents are on it. Hold tight and one of our people will be with you soon.

Panel 5:  
Owly and Worm looking at each other.

Panel 6: The bushes behind them develop a pair of glittering eyes.

## **Page 6:**

Panel 1: A ring tailed possum appears roughly between Owly and Wormy and dumps a bag on the ground. The possum looks cranky.

Possum:

Icon: a pair of wire cutters.

Panel 2: The space between Owly and Wormy is empty again. Owly and Wormy look startled. It is now night.

Panel 3: Owly and Wormy crawling along the ground, commando style. They both have black lines drawn under their eyes.

Panel 4: Owly and Wormy at the fence. Owly has just started cutting the fence and is straining on the wire cutters.

Panel 5: Owly looking quite pink in the face, Wormy bouncing on top of the wire cutters.

Panel 6: Owly going through the Owly sized hole, wormy, being worm sized is going through one of the existent holes.

## **Page 7**

Panel 1: Owly and Wormy crawling along the ground commando style again.

Panel 2: Owly and Wormy pressed up against a wall, a white spotlight on the ground near them.

Panel 3: The spotlight is gone. Owly and Wormy both look relieved.

Panel 4: A shot of the central compound there is a big stack of cages, each cage contains a cute scared baby animal.

Panel 5: Zoom in on a cage in the stack which contains, you guessed it, a crying baby Echidna.

## **Page 8**

Panel 1:

Owly sneaking with wormy on his shoulder, in true holywood dodgy burglar style past a guard. They come up to about the knees of the guard.

Panel 2:

Owly and Wormy looking up at this vast pile of trapped animals.

Owly and Wormy:

Icon: A big exclamation mark

Panel 3: Wormy has crawled up on top of Owly's head.

Panel 4: Wormy crawled between the bars of the Echidna's cage. Echidna looking surprised and is still crying.

Echidna:

Icon: Big exclamation mark

Panel 5: Wormy giving Echidna a teeny worm sized hanky. Echidna smiling nervously, but still sad and scared.

Wormy

Icons: Smiley face, cage door closed, cage door open, smiley face.

Panel 6: Echidna looking dejected again and Wormy looking sad too.

Echidna:

Icons: Cage door open, gun, knife, fist, boot

## Page 9

Panel 1: Wormy back on Owly's shoulder, both of them frowning deep in thought, owly has one wing to his chin in a very thoughtful pose.

Panel 2: Owly excited, wormy a little startled.

Owly

Icon: light bulb turning on

Panel 3: Owly on the phone beaming with excitement., Wormy sitting on his shoulder:

Owly

Icons: Wing, Wing, Wing.

Aleph on the phone:

With that spotlight it'll be pretty dangerous. We'll go in on your call, but the spotlight needs to go.

Panel 4: Owly and Wormy thinking again, similar to before.

Panel 5: Wormy excitedly whispering in Owly's ear.

Wormy:

Icon: light bulb turned on.

Panel 6: Owly holding Wormy in the palm of his wing, gazing anxiously at Wormy, nibbling on the wingtips of his other wing in nervousness. Wormy puffing out his chest with bravery and pride.

## Page 10

Panel 1: Owly with Wormy on his shoulder sneaking past a guard in a highly stylised manner.

Panel 2: Owly and Wormy standing next to the spotlight tower looking up, I imagine it somewhat like a water tower in structure, made of wood with cross beams and a ladder up the front. There is a person manually moving the spotlight, another guard looking out onto the compound and a console with switches, including a big off switch – this isn't all in shot right now but helps to establish a picture.

Panel 3: Wormy inching his way up the wood, tongue stuck out slightly in concentration and merry determination.

Panel 4: Wormy inching his way up, his cheeks puffed out in exertion and sweat spurts coming off his head.

Panel 5: Wormy bending and looking down, mouth open in scaredness.

Panel 6: Wormy clinging to the wood with his eyes squeezed tight.

## **Page 11**

Panel 1: Wormy inching along again, brow furrowed with grim determination.

Panel 2: Wormy on the platform, panting with exhaustion and relief. The back of a leg and boot near him on one side the console on the other side with a power cord plugged into a power point.

Panel 3: Wormy bouncing upright looking excited, seeing the power point.

Panel 4: Wormy pushing on the cord with all his might. His head pushing on a curve in the cord and his body braced against the wall.

Panel 5: Close on the bright spotlight.

Panel 6: The spotlight has gone dark.

Panel 7: Wormy splat on the ground, looking happy and bruised. He's near the leg of the guard.

## **Page 12**

Panel 1: Owly on the phone, his other wing waving in the air.

Owly:  
Icons: Wings Wings Wings !

Panel 2: Night sky with a large moon and bright stars.

Panel 3: The moon and stars occluded by many wings. Amongst the mob are everything from sparrows and pigeons through to eagles, hawks, swans and cranes.

Panel 4: Birds landing on the cages and gripping onto them with their claws.

Panel 5: A large swan lifting one cage up and away. Small cute animal inside.

### **Page 13**

Panel 1: Many sparrows on a cage lifting it up. It contains the cute baby echidna.

Panel 2: Owly clapping his hands and bounding in delight.

Panel 3: A large panel with many cages being picked up by many different birds

Panel 4: Wormy bouncing up and down in delight.

Panel 5: A boot looming above wormy's head.

### **Page 14**

Panel 1: Wormy looking up to see the boot coming down towards him.

Panel 2: Wormy desperately dashing out of the way.

Panel 3: Wormy overbalancing on the edge of the ledge

Panel 4: Wormy falling backwards off the ledge, eyes wide mouth open

Panel 5: Wormy plummeting, eyes closed.

### **Page 15**

Panel 1: Wormy caught in Owly's 'hands', eyes still closed tight.

Panel 2: Wormy opening one eye.

Panel 3: Wormy and Owly embracing

Panel 4: Owly (holding wormy) picked up by the scruff of the neck by the big scary eagle.

Panel 5: And soaring through the sky, they are the last to leave, all the other crates have been picked up

### **Page 16**

Panel 1: The swan sitting on top of the cage it carried, the door swung open and the baby animal embracing its parents.

The rest of this page is full of happy parent animals holding their children, the final panel echoes the first panel on this page and has many sparrows sitting on their cage and the baby Echidna embracing its parents.

### **Page 17**

Panel 1: Internal: Owly and Wormy landing with a thump in Owly's tree house. The eagle is so fast it's already gone.

Panel 2: Owly and Wormy waving out their window.

Panel 3: The silhouette of the eagle lit by the rising sun.

Panel 4: Owly and Wormy yawning.

Panel 5: Owly and Wormy putting on pajamas.

Panel 6: Owly and Wormy in bed, weary bed caps and completely dead to the world.

**Page 18**

The entire page is black, except for one small circular panel: The mobile phone, lying on the floor.

SFX  
BzzZT BzzZT

The End