



Media Kit

How to React During a Disaster

New graphic novel highlights the 2014 Kaohsiung gas explosions.

Edmonton, Alberta, Canada
July 15th, 2020

Running away costs money, which is why it's easier to do when you grow up rich. For Angela Severson, what happens when something bigger than you occurs and all your escape routes are gone?



Angela Severson - Image A

A disaster like the 2014 Kaohsiung gas explosions could happen anywhere. Every city has an intersecting maze of pipelines and other subterranean infrastructure. In Kaohsiung's case, an unnoticed leak began detonating just before midnight on July 31st, ripping open entire streets in the process. Taking place on a warm night in a city where night markets are popular, many people got caught out.



A character pauses before gathering supplies - Image B

What happened in Kaohsiung, like many under-reported events from history, has universal lessons worthy of a story. More recently though, intense, action oriented re-enactments of true-life events have been criticized for exploitation. "You set out to show that this could happen in your town," says writer Jason Ask, "hopefully without hijacking the tragedy."

Graphic novels are great at communicating history by providing enriching illustrations able to depict any scale, while allowing the reader to progress at their own pace. Digital comics are easily accessible and have been around for the last decade but the overwhelming amount of content available on Netflix-style apps like Comixology can deter lapsed readers. “Most comic books still design for print,” mentions the author, “where elaborate layouts look great but can be awkward on smartphones.”



Full Version Icon



Preview Version Icon

The artwork, illustrated by Megan Huang with colors by BeyondColorlab, was designed specifically to fit as much of the mobile screen as possible without distorting the images. One of the ways to ensure that was to release the graphic novel for iOS and Android, joining a small community of creators trying to sell independently on the app stores.

To see if *Bystander Chronicles* is right for your publication, podcast or blog, please download the free preview version from the Apple App Store or Google Play (it's small, only 15MB!). If you'd like to read the entire story, promo codes are available on request.

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Story Synopsis

A leak. A spark. An explosion. It could happen anywhere.

On July 31st, 2014, a portion of Kaohsiung City's underground pipeline system filled with gas and detonated. The city sprang into action, helping those affected by the overnight disaster. Angela Severson, an adrift rich kid in Kaohsiung as a covert translator, is there when it happens. Faced with a situation that she can't buy a plane ticket away from, how will she react?

Bystander Chronicles is the first in a historical fiction anthology series created specifically for smartphone and tablet. Concerning the under-reported 2014 Kaohsiung gas explosions this interactive graphic novel follows Angela Severson and her unlikely companions as they try survive, try to help, try do anything other than run away from the terrible disaster that rocked an unsuspecting city.

Featuring the expressive and detailed illustrations of Megan Huang and lush, gorgeous colors by BeyondColorlab, this is an original story featuring historical fiction with an action streak.

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Local industry executives are confronted - Image C

Creator Bios

Jason Ask (main contact)

Two Line:

Jason Ask is the writer and creator of the historical fiction digital comic *Bystander Chronicles*. He lives with his family in Edmonton, Alberta where he produces graphic novels for mobile devices.

Short:

Supported by talented artists, Jason Ask is the writer and creator of the historical fiction digital comic *Bystander Chronicles* as well as the indie graphic novel *Battle of Alberta*. He lives with his family in Edmonton, Alberta where he produces interactive comics and visual novels for mobile devices.

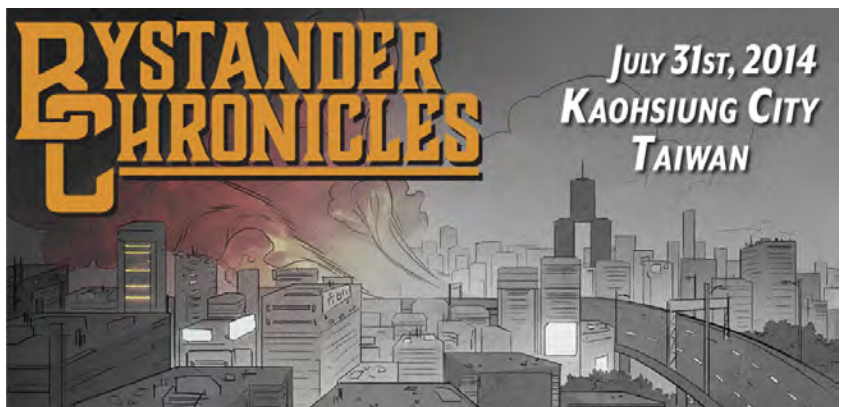
Long:

Supported by talented artists, Jason Ask is the writer and creator of the historical fiction digital comic *Bystander Chronicles*. After printing and handling distribution for his initial graphic novel *Battle of Alberta* (a conspiracy science fiction story concerning an Albertan civil war), he decided something had to give.

Releasing a comic for iOS and Android and making use of the subtle advantages mobile devices can offer seemed like as good a plan as any to free up time and still be able to make what you want. He lives with his family in Edmonton, Alberta.

COMING
SOON -
NEED A
HAIR CUT

The author



The main screen

Download Links

App Stores:



High Resolution Images:

[Image A.jpg](#)

[Image B.jpg](#)

[Image C.jpg](#)

[Image D.jpg](#)

[BC-LogoRed.jpg](#)

Reference News Links w/ updated info:

[Massive Taiwan gas explosion kills 24 - BBC News - YouTube](#)

[Repairs completed, damaged Kaohsiung streets are reopened - Taipei Times](#)

[Prison sentences of 4 years and more for dead... | Taiwan News](#)

[Court reverses gas blast sentences - Taipei Times](#)

[Drone camera footage- aftermath of Kaohsiung gas explosion that killed 25 - YouTube](#)

[Taiwan- Deadly gas blasts rock Kaohsiung - YouTube](#)

Features and Sample Interview Questions

- A historical fiction graphic novel based on the true events of the 2014 Kaohsiung City gas explosions with full color, interactive panels.
- Written by Jason Ask. Illustrated by Megan Huang. Colors by BeyondColorlab.
- Full version is approximately a 55 page comic book (actual 194 panels).
- Hidden buttons allow the user to interact with the story, advancing the word balloons at the reader's pace. A swipe motion skips the comic book pages forward or back.

Question: How can reading comics on a smartphone be awkward?

Question: Do you have any concerns about using a real life disaster as the basis of a fiction story?

Question: What about having foreigners as the protagonists within the disaster?



Angela Severson.



The mysterious competitor - Image D

Question: Are there many other creators releasing comics as apps?

Question: Is the comic industry in crisis? Does this affect indie comics?