

LEAVING EARTH. Alexis Kozak

Comic

Hayley, 20s

Hayley and her friend Lu have decided to storm the mysterious “Area 51” to find out the truth about the supposed aliens who crash-landed there. Lu is having second thoughts and Hayley urges her to drop them.

HAYLEY Lu, what do you think one *does* at three a.m. outside the gates of Area 51 besides dressing up like a couple of aliens, smoking cigarettes, and drinking Diet Pepsi? It’ll be a great way to meet people and make friends. People *love* people who have cigarettes. Why? Nobody knows. *We* just know it’s true. Oh, and aliens *love* Diet Pepsi, by the way. Or so they *say*. *We* are going to find out for *sure*. In fact, that is the first thing you get to ask them when we see them. For crying out loud! If people don’t show up to *this*, what do you think is gonna happen *next* time people have questions that need to be answered? And the time after that, and the time after *that*? *Next* time people have questions that need to be answered—whatever the question is—people are going to say, “Eh, nobody showed up last time. Why bother?” And if that happens enough times, nobody is *ever* going to get *any* answers to *anything*. In fact, people are just going to stop *asking questions*. We are talking about Area 51! If *they* have to tell the truth about *that*—if the *government* has to tell the truth—then *everybody* has to tell the truth. About *everything*. Or do you think we should be able to keep a fence around all the things in our lives that are true, but that we don’t want other people to know about? Because that’s a lot of fences. Is that the world you want to live in? Lu, I want you to get your bag and get in the car with me right now. People used to do that, you know? All the time. Just get in the car and drive? Nobody does that anymore. They just go where they’re going, and that’s it. No sense of adventure. No chance to get off the beaten path. I mean, how do you think aliens got here in the first place? You think they came here on purpose? Like this place is so great? If you had the entire universe to choose from, why the hell come here? Of all the places. This is the kind of place you only find by mistake. I bet you a couple of aliens got in their space ship, gassed it up, and just started flying. No map, no anything. So, to answer your question, “Do I think they are real?” Would I go all the way out there if I *didn’t*? You think we’re the only ones out here? We can’t even *see* the other side of the moon. The other side of the *moon*. The *closest* place to us, and we can’t even *see* it? We don’t even know what is *there*? Not to mention the rest of the entire, infinite, ever-fricking-expanding multiverse. So, “Do I think they are real?” Yeah, I think they are real.