How to Make a TOC with Thumbnail Images

Contents

1

Set up your Chapter file, TOC file and book file.

Make a TOC.

Contents

Add your thumbnail images to the headings in your chapter file.

4
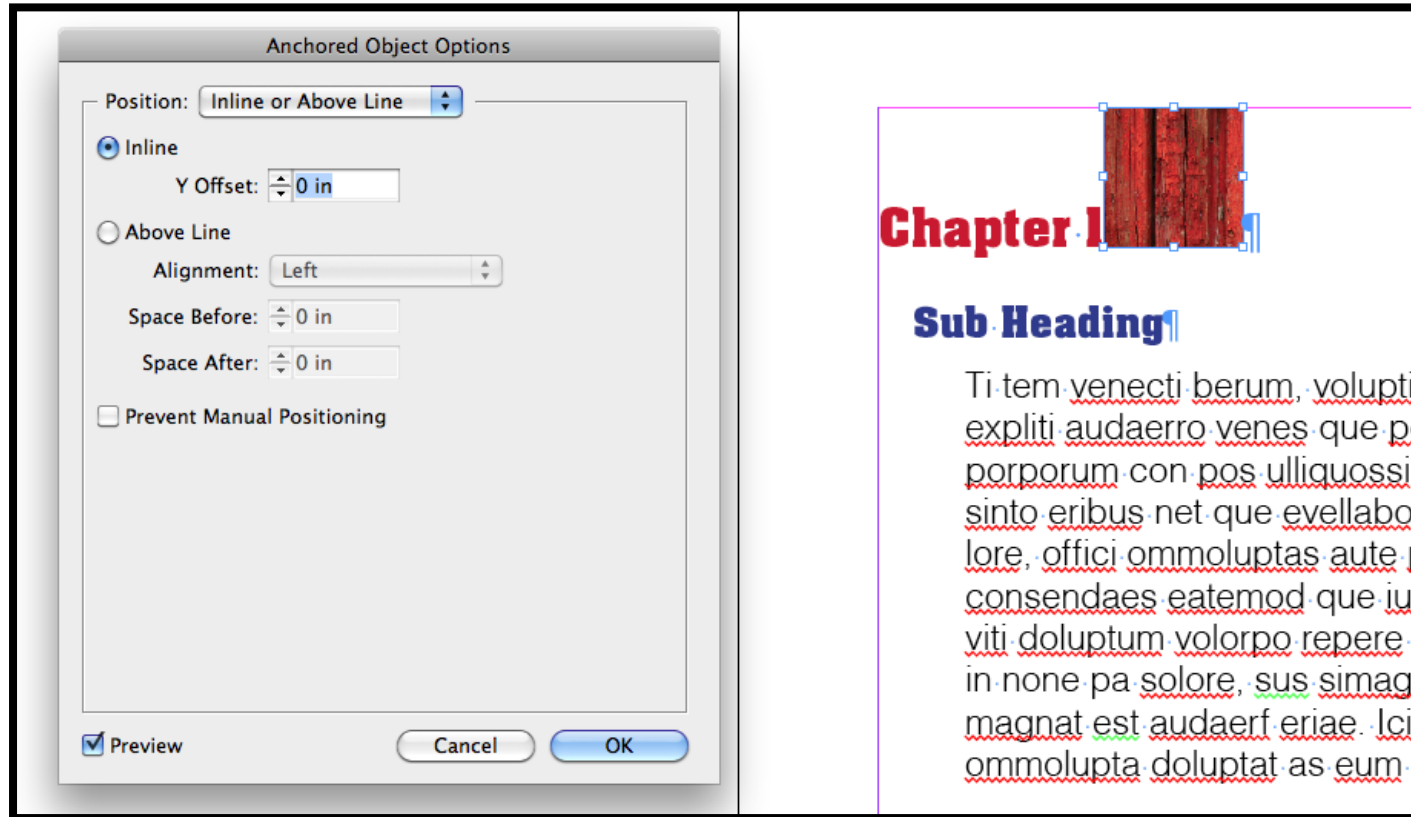
Format the first thumbnail image…
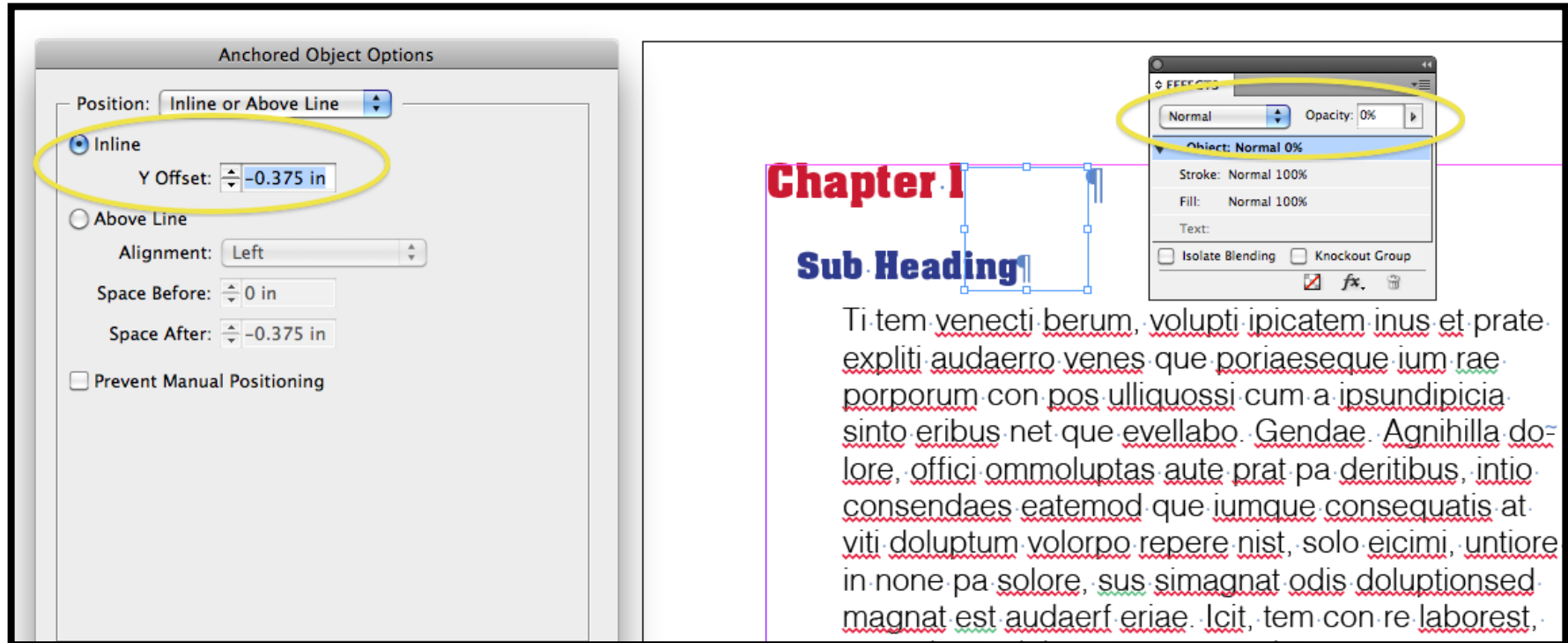
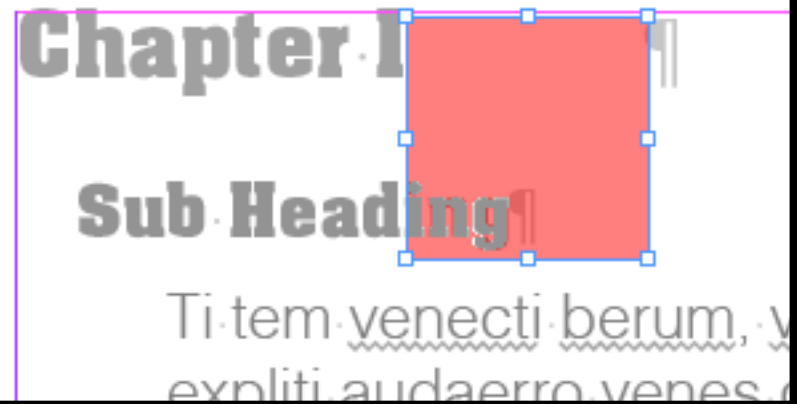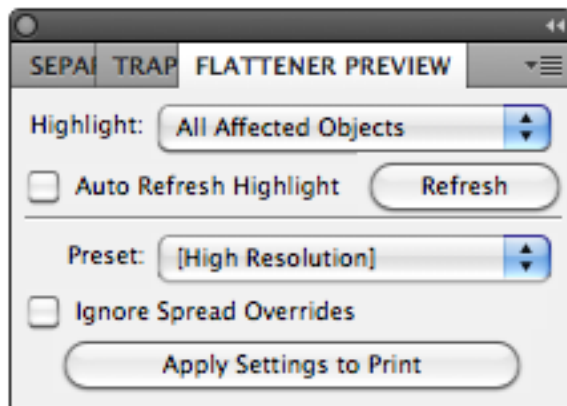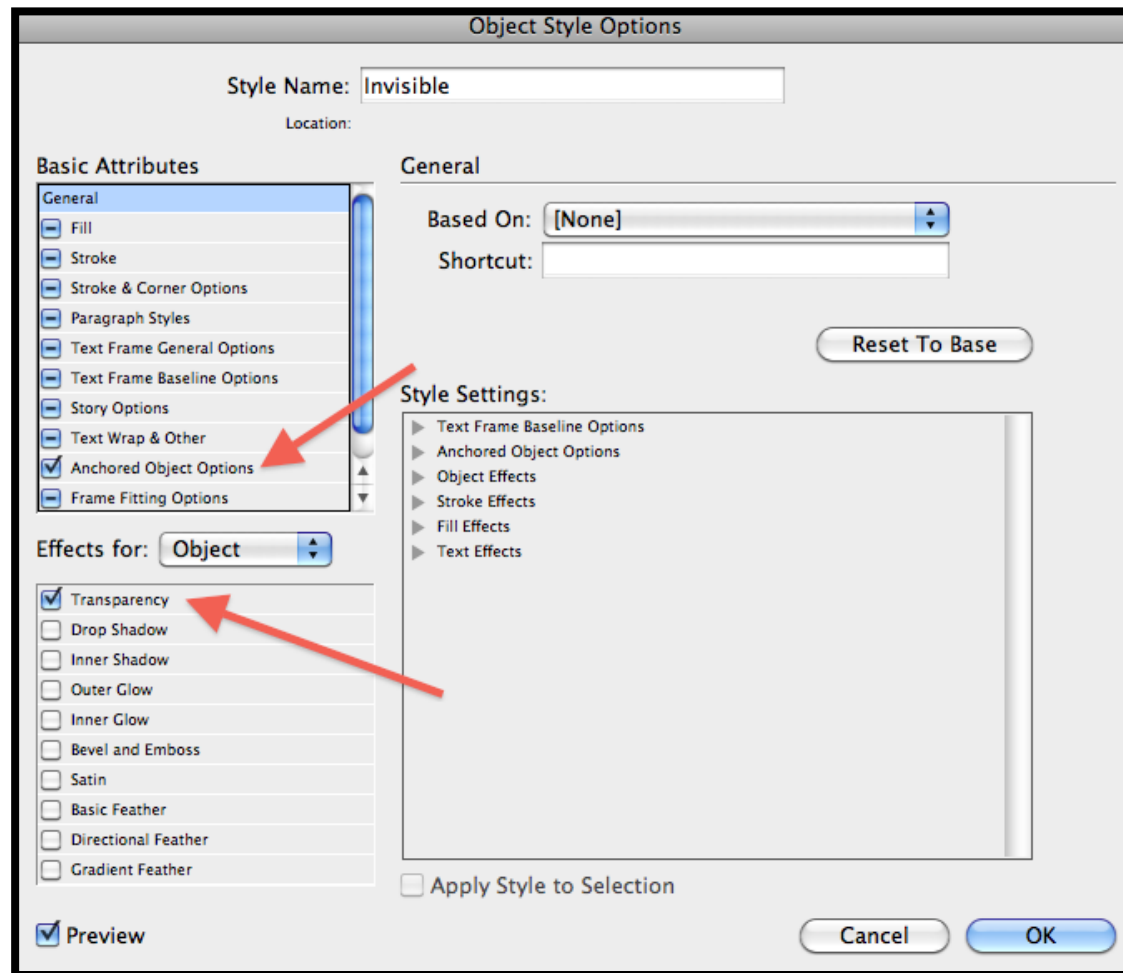…so that it is invisible and doesn't push the text down from the top of the frame.
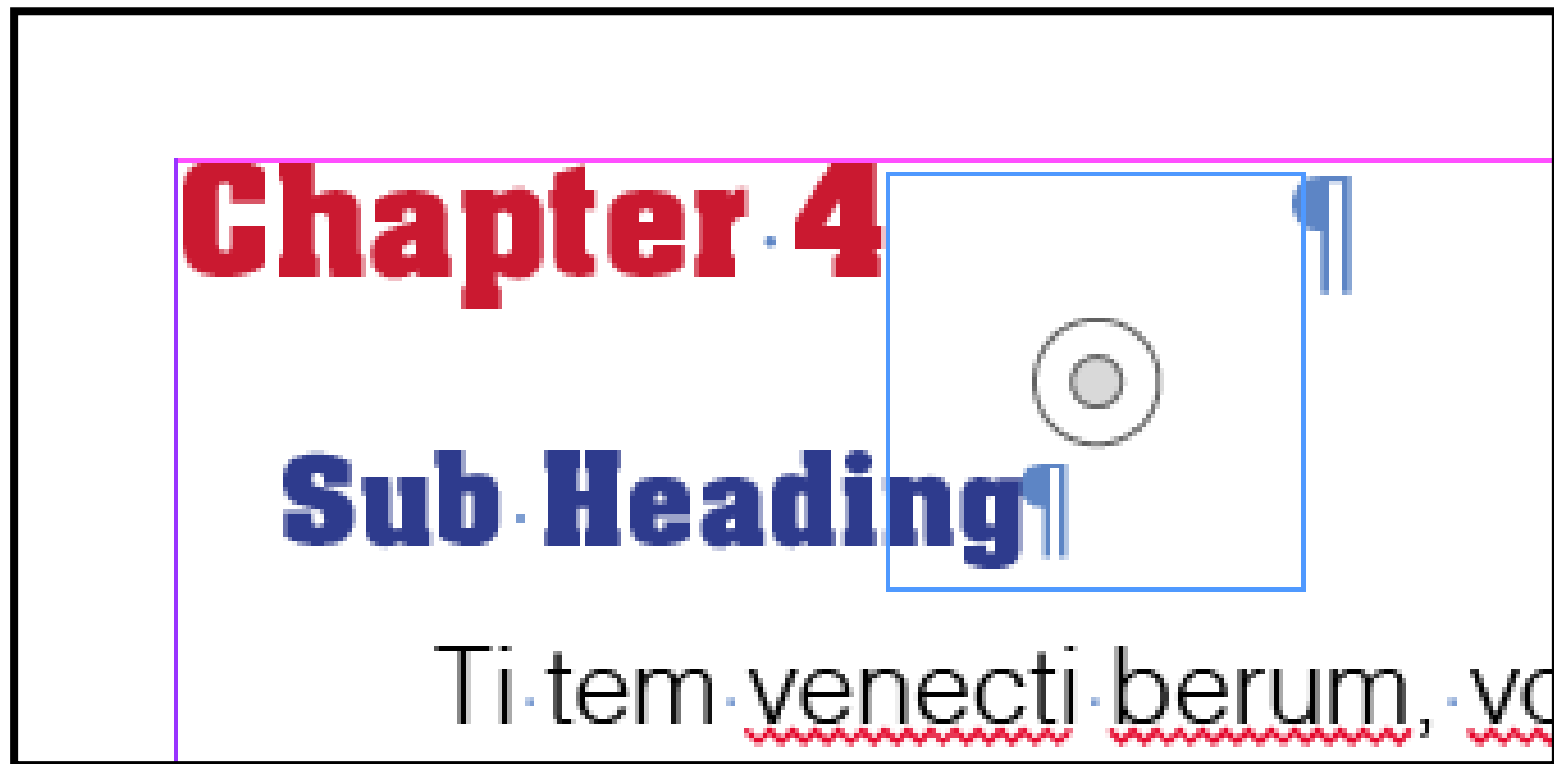
Don't worry prepress people, it's okay.

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Create an Object style for your invisible thumbnail.

Apply this new object style to all of the thumbnail images in your chapter.
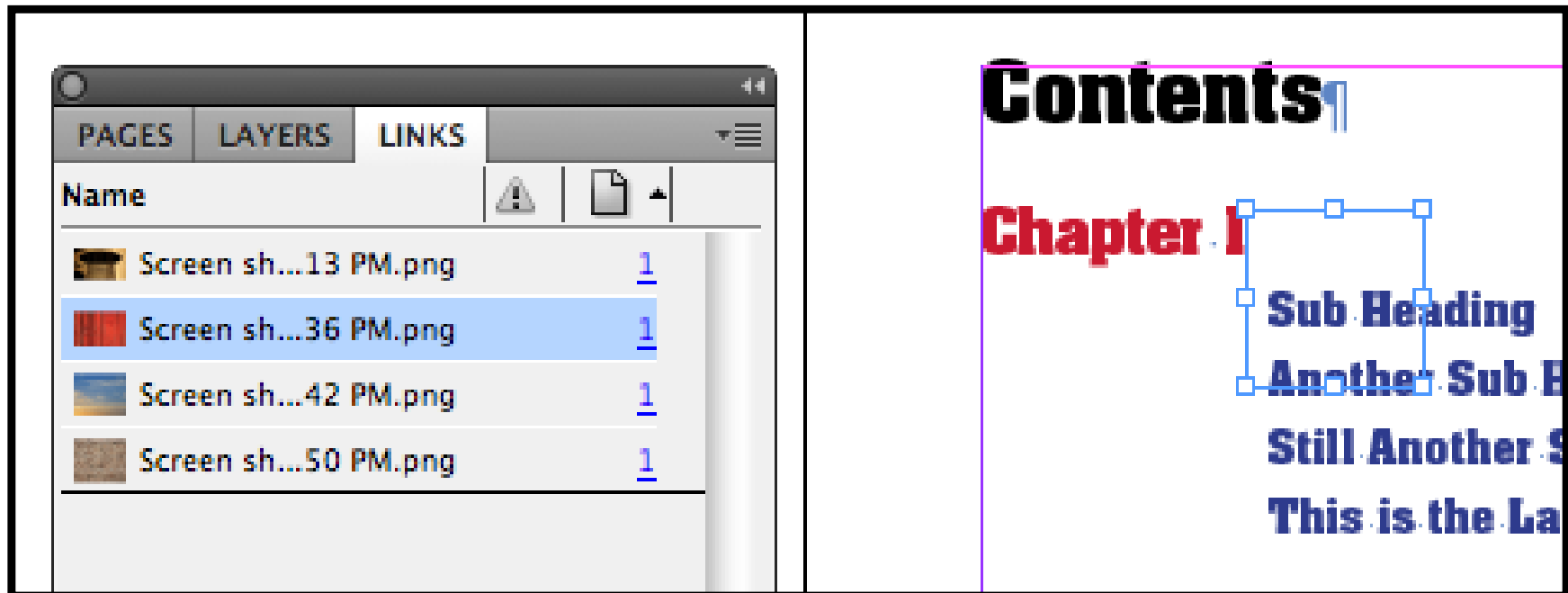
In your TOC file, update your Table of Contents.

A few of things just happened.

1. The TOC get updated.

2. The inline graphics pulled in along with the text.

3. The TOC file imported the "Invisible" object style you created in your chapter file.

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Verify that your inline graphics pulled in.

Format one of the thumbnails to the transparency and position that you want all the final thumbnails to have.

Hint:
Show Text Threads

Anchored Object Options

Position: Custom

☐ Relative to Spine

Anchored Object

Reference Point: ⚓ ⊞

Anchored Position

Reference Point:

X Relative To: Text Frame

X Offset: −0.4936 ir

Y Relative To: Line (Baseline)

Y Offset: 0.375 in

☑ Keep within Top/Bottom Column Boundaries

☐ Prevent Manual Positioning

☑ Preview   Cancel   OK

Contents¶
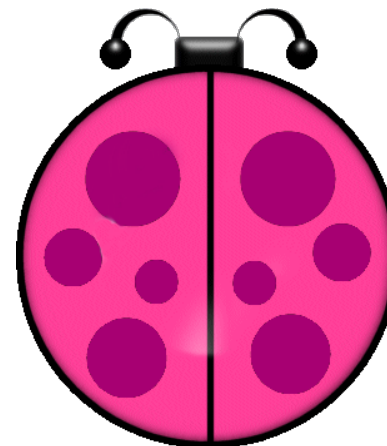
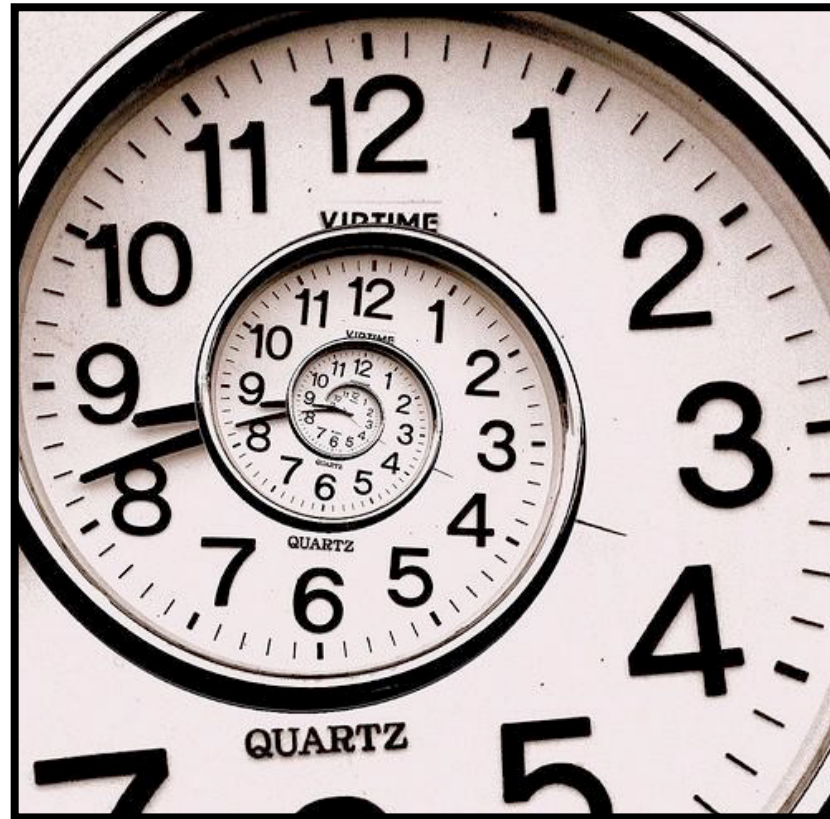**Create an object style with these new settings. Name it "Visible."**

This step is very important.

Why not
just use the same Object Style name
and have different Object Style settings
for the chapter and the TOC?

Because, there is a bug in InDesign…

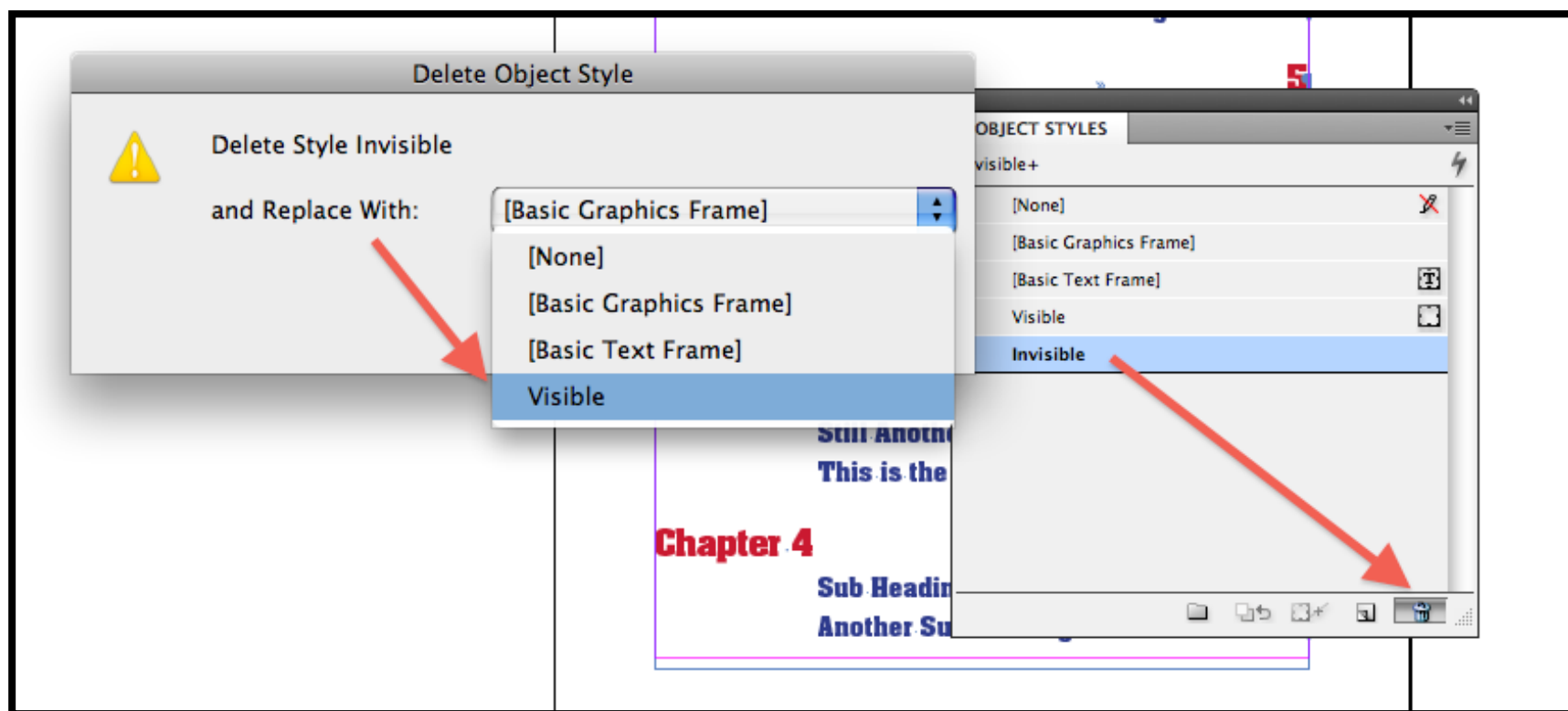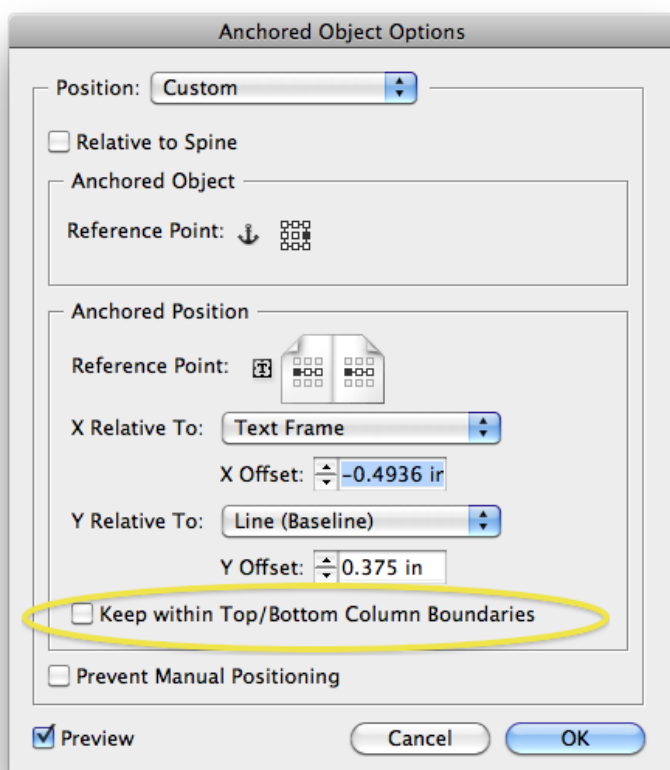**It is at this point that I got stalled for about two years, trying to solve the problem.**

The object style you pull in with the inline objects in MUST NOT already exist in the TOC.

If it does, InDesign will crash. Every time.

Drag your "Invisible" style into the Trash.

Adjust Anchored Object Options.

⚠️

You MUST throw away the **INVISIBLE** object style in the TOC file before updating the TOC.

Otherwise, InDesign WILL CRASH.

Stuff I like:

- Unusual Workarounds

- Knitting Geometric Shapes

- InDesign Tables

- Disassembling PDFs for reuse

- Large Format Printing

- Designing for non-profits

- Extreme one-woman workflow solutions