

UPSURGE

Sístole, diástole

SIMON M.

ATANA S.

SCRIPT

PENCILS

PANEL LAYOUT

INK

COVER

TRANSLATION

(SORRY, ENGLISH SPEAKERS)

EMAIL: UPSURGECOMICS@GMAIL.COM

WEBPAGE: WWW.UPSURGE.ES/ENGLISH

THIS COMIC IS PUBLISHED UNDER AN ATTRIBUTION-NONCOMMERCIAL-NONDERIVATIVES CREATIVE COMMONS LICENSE, AND IS OWNED BY ITS AUTHORS, SIMON MONOGATARI (SERGIO RODRIGUEZ FUNGUEIRO) AND ATANA SUMI (CRISTINA ERRAEZ CASTELLORT).



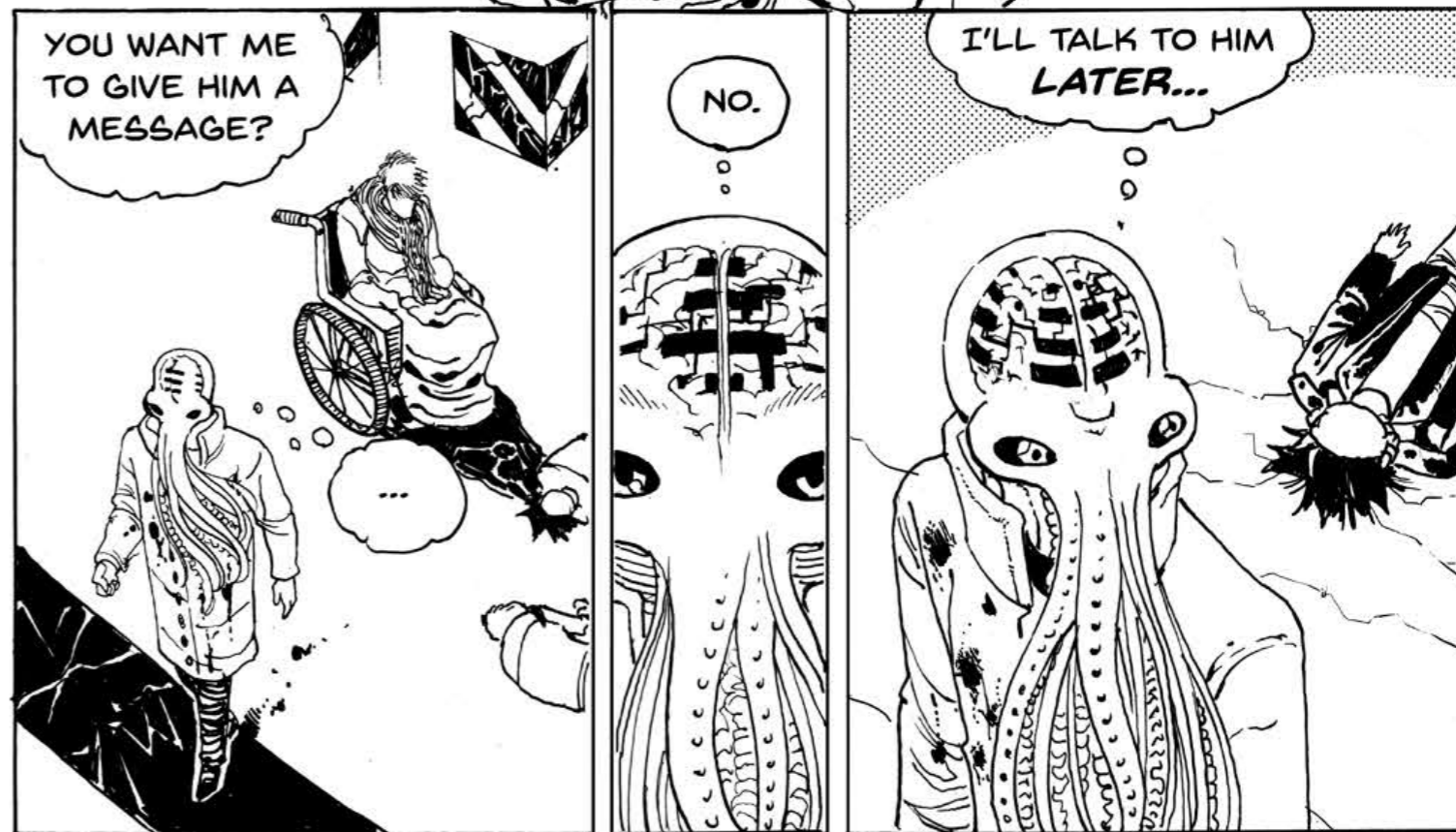
NEURAL NETWORK, MISSION COMPLETE.

I'VE CAPTURED ADAM SOUTHSUN, RUSHKOFF.

RUSHKOFF IS **BUSY** RIGHT NOW...

HE'S IMPLANTING SUICIDE MESSAGES INTO A TERRORIST CELL WE'VE DISCOVERED.

CALLING THE NEURAL NETWORK. MISSION COMPLETE.



YOU WANT ME TO GIVE HIM A MESSAGE?

NO.

I'LL TALK TO HIM **LATER...**

"WHEN MY TENTACLES HAVE ACCESSED ALL THEIR MEMORIES".



YOU'RE STILL THINKING ABOUT LEAVING WITH THAT... GIRL?

WHY DON'T YOU STAB ME AND GET IT OVER WITH?



WHERE'S THAT SMART, RESPONSIBLE KID?



I WAS SMART BECAUSE I DID WHAT YOU WANTED! I DIDN'T GET OUT OF THE HOUSE AND WHEN I DID...! YOU MADE BOB LEAVE!



I HAD TO KEEP AN EYE ON YOU! YOU THINK IT'S NORMAL FOR A KID LIKE YOU TO HANG OUT WITH AN OLD PRIEST?



WHO KNOWS WHAT HE WANTED!



HERE, IN THE HEART!

DON'T TALK ABOUT HIM LIKE THAT!



HOW MANY FUCKING TIMES DO I HAVE TO SAY IT, GODDAMMIT?! YOU'RE SICK!!

IT'S NOT THE END OF THE WORLD, MOM.



IT'S NOT TH...?



DO YOU HEAR THIS, MAAM? COULD YOU IMAGINE YOUR SON ...?

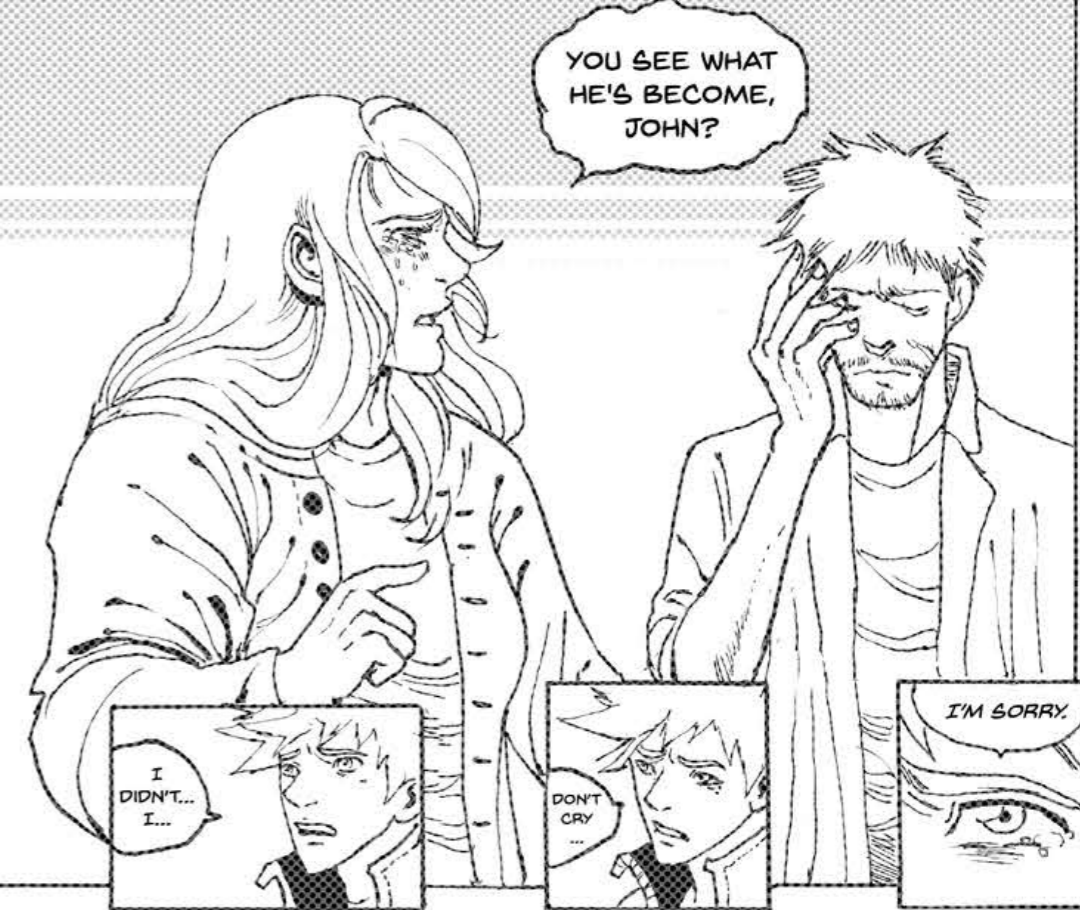


YOU HAD A BRIGHT FUTURE, ADAM.

YOU WERE GOING TO BE AN ENGINEER OR SOMETHING; FERNANDO SAID HE HADN'T SEEN ANYONE SO TALENTED AT FIXING STUFF AND YOU...



MOM



YOU SEE WHAT HE'S BECOME, JOHN?

I DIDN'T... I...

DON'T CRY...

I'M SORRY.



WHAT HAVE WE DONE WRONG FOR HIM TO TURN OUT LIKE THIS? MARI-BEL'S SON...

LEAVE IT BE...

WHY CAN'T I DO ANYTHING RIGHT?

SERIOUSLY, STOP...

YOU'RE GIVING ME A HEADACHE.

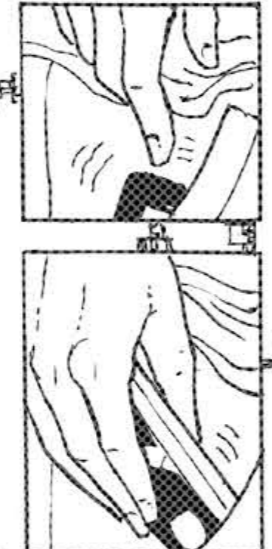
YOU'RE GONNA TAKE HIS SIDE ON TOP OF EVERYTHING ELSE?!



GO ON, LEAVE, MAYBE THE AIR WILL CLEAR YOUR HEAD A LITTLE!



BZZZZ



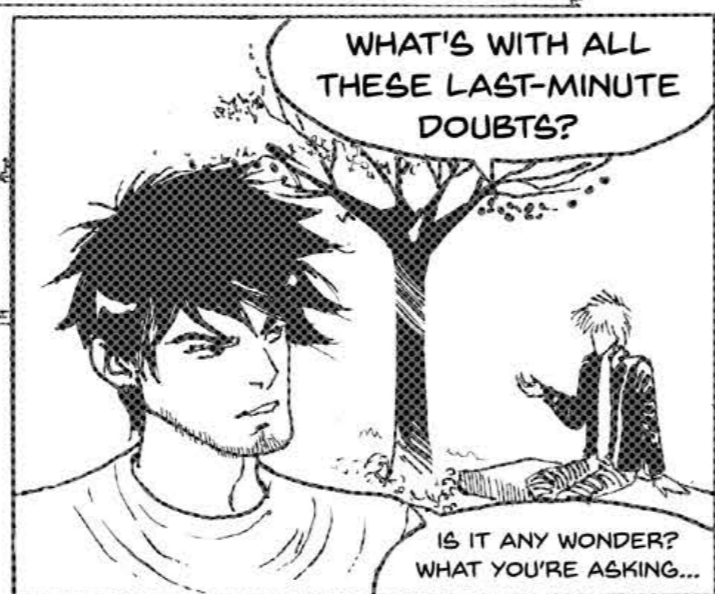
BZZZZ



TSK.

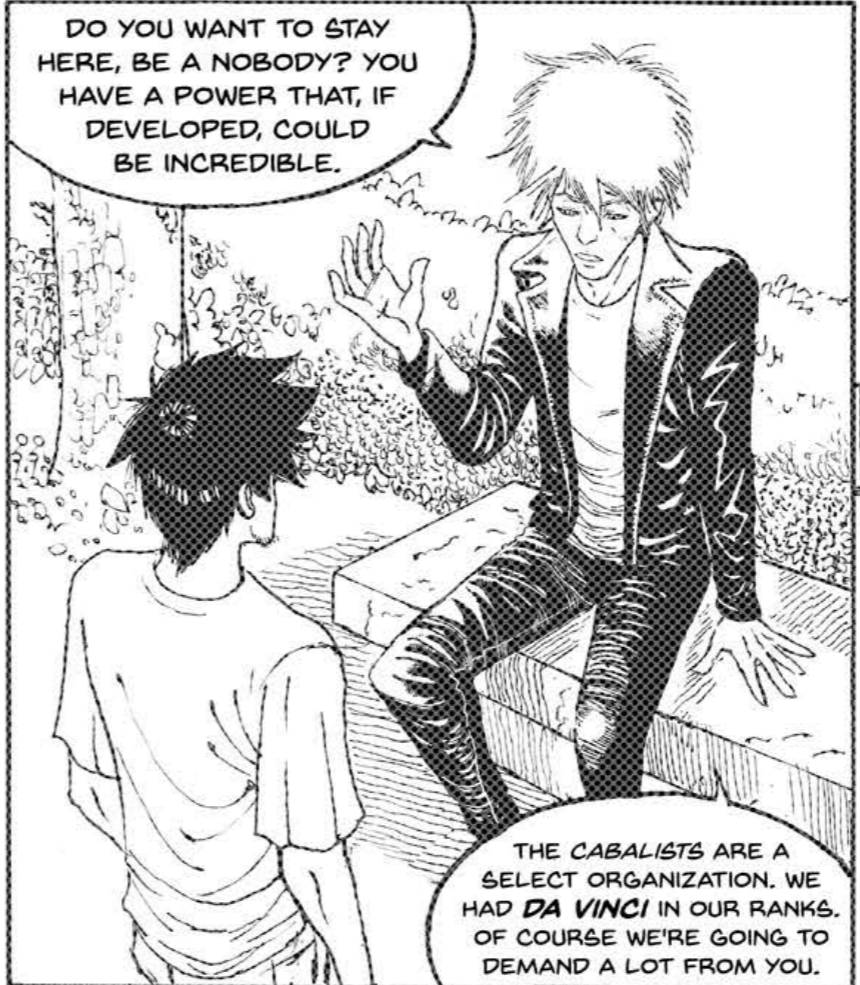


-TT- HE'S NOT ANSWERING.



WHAT'S WITH ALL THESE LAST-MINUTE DOUBTS?

IS IT ANY WONDER? WHAT YOU'RE ASKING...



DO YOU WANT TO STAY HERE, BE A NOBODY? YOU HAVE A POWER THAT, IF DEVELOPED, COULD BE INCREDIBLE.

THE CABALISTS ARE A SELECT ORGANIZATION. WE HAD DA VINCI IN OUR RANKS. OF COURSE WE'RE GOING TO DEMAND A LOT FROM YOU.



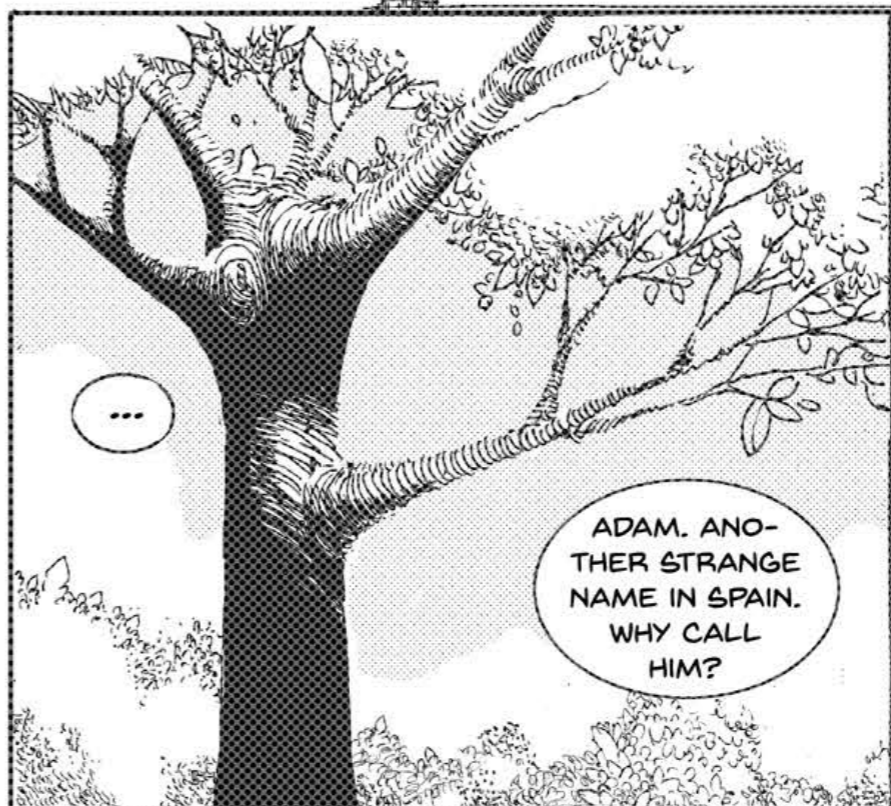
YOU SAID THE HEREMITES KIDNAP PEOPLE LIKE ME...

...AND RECRUIT THEM OR EXPERIMENT WITH THEM.

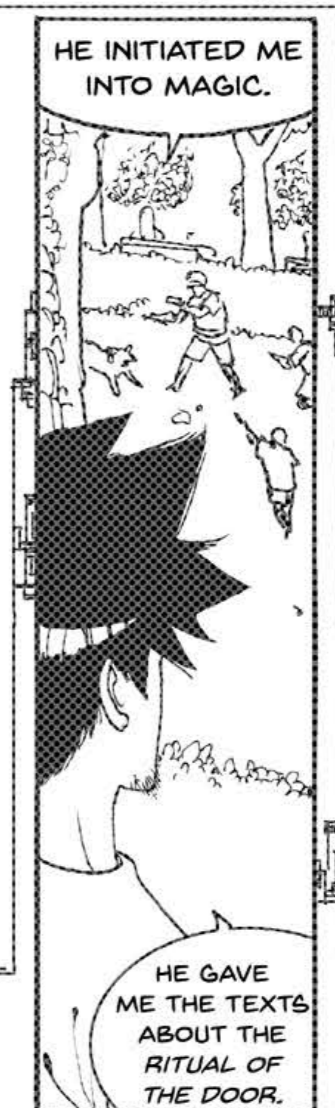


THEY ARE NOT THE ONLY ONES... BUT THE HEREMITES...

...THEY ARE CRAZY... THEY HAVE A SICK WAY WITH MAGIC AND THE SPIRITUAL WORLD...



ADAM. ANOTHER STRANGE NAME IN SPAIN. WHY CALL HIM?



HE INITIATED ME INTO MAGIC.

HE GAVE ME THE TEXTS ABOUT THE RITUAL OF THE DOOR.



BUT IT'S LIKE HE'S FORGOTTEN EVERYTHING.

AS IF.. AS IF NOTHING MATTERS.

I JUST DON'T GET IT. HE SHOWED ME SO MUCH POWER... HE TAUGHT ME HOW TO MAKE MAGIC SIGILS TO FULFILL WISHES, I OPENED THE **FIRST DOOR** AND THEN... LIFE BEGAN TO TURN FOR THE WORSE AND...



...SUDDENLY MY POWERS LOOKED LIKE FUCKING SHIT... AND ADAM DIDN'T EVEN KNOW...

MAYBE ADAM DIDN'T WANT TO **PAY THE PRICE.**



THE WHAT?

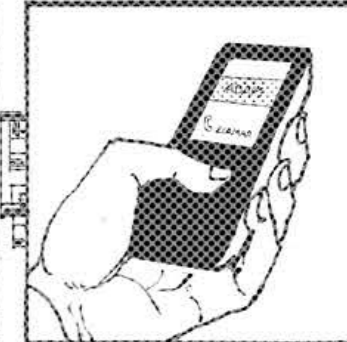
THAT'S THE PROBLEM WITH SELF-TAUGHT MAGES. NO TEACHERS TO GUIDE YOU. DO YOU REALLY THINK YOU CAN GET MAGICAL POWER WITHOUT CONSEQUENCES?



THE DOOR HAS ONE SIDE AND OPENS BOTH WAYS.



FUCK YOU. ME, WEAK? FUCK YOU.



ADAM, IF YOU DON'T PICK IT UP.



IT'S OVER.



WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

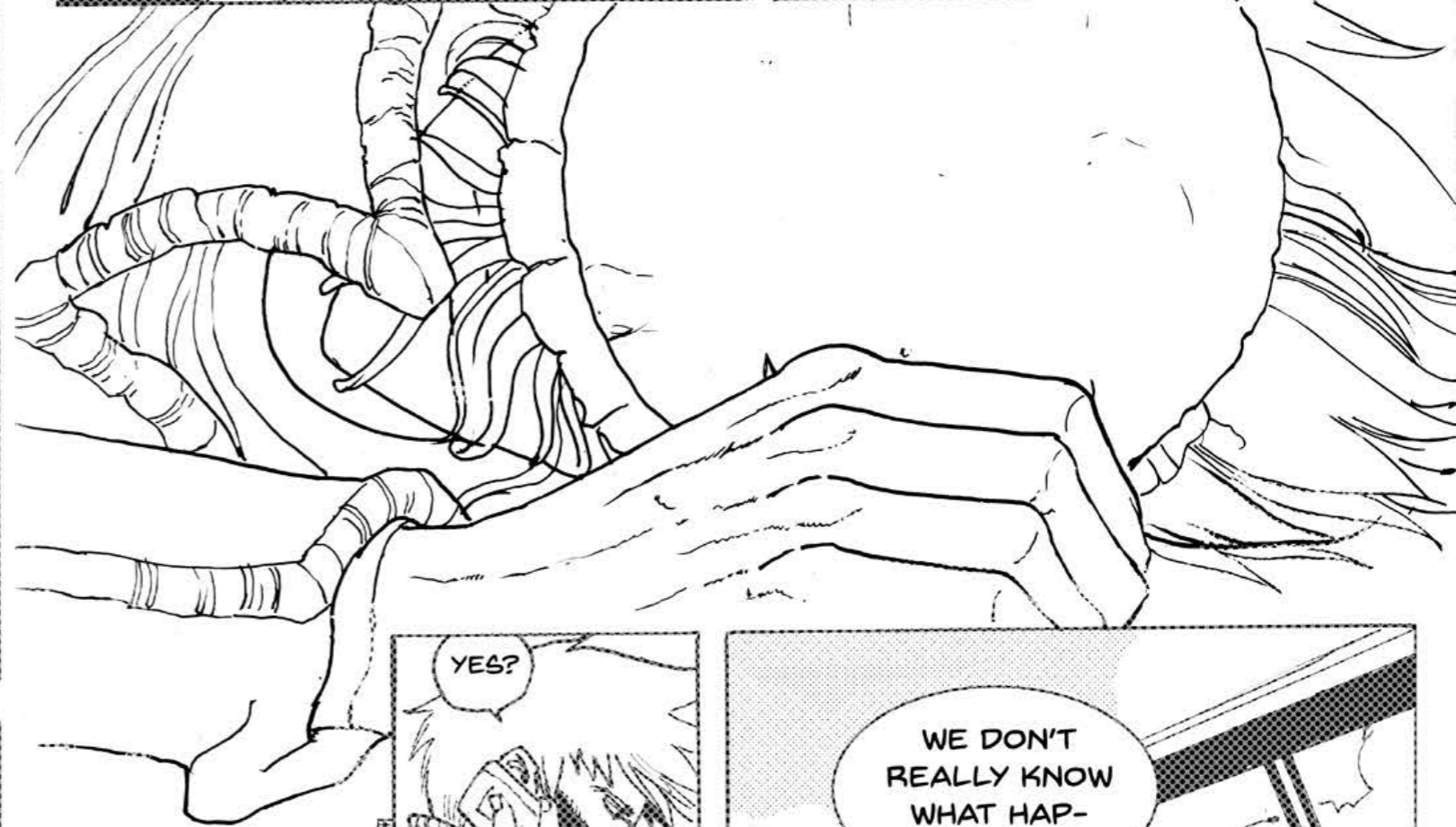


THINK ABOUT IT. ALL THESE FABLES ABOUT MAGICAL OBJECTS THAT GIVE YOU POWERS WHILE CORRUPTING YOU... IT'S A SIMPLIFIED VERSION OF WHAT I'M TELLING YOU.

THESE POWERS MAY MAKE YOU FEEL LIKE A GOD... BUT YOU'RE STILL **HUMAN**. YOUR POWER IS MORE LIMITED THAN YOU THINK, AND WHEN SOMETHING HAPPENS THAT YOU WANT TO CHANGE BUT YOU CAN'T, YOU WON'T DO LIKE A NORMAL HUMAN AND COMFORT YOURSELF BY SAYING YOU COULDN'T DO ANYTHING; YOU'LL PAY THE PRICE AND SAY, "IF I HAD BEEN A MORE **POWERFUL** MAGE, THIS WOULD NOT HAVE HAPPENED".



EVERY MISFORTUNE, EVERY SORROW... A PROOF OF YOUR **WEAKNESS**. DO YOU WANT TO ALWAYS BE THIS WEAK?



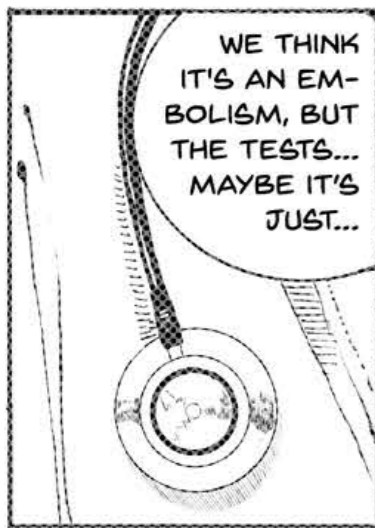
YES?



WHAT?



WE DON'T REALLY KNOW WHAT HAPPENED.



TWO ABDUCTIONS AND A BRAINDEAD MAN.

*EBI: EUROPEAN BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION.

YOU MINIMIZED THE CIVILIAN SIGHTINGS, RIGHT? THE EBI* IS QUITE OBSESSED WITH THAT THESE DAYS.

YEAH, CONTROL OF NARRATIVE IS EXPENSIVE AND THERE'S ALWAYS THE RISK THAT SOMEONE WILL ESCAPE AND TRY TO TALK...

FOLLOW ME.

ARE YOU OKAY? YOU'RE BLEEDING.

NO. THIS BODY IS DYING.

WHAT?

NO MATTER. I HAVE GENERATED ANOTHER.

IT'LL TAKE A LITTLE WHILE TO BE FUNCTIONAL, BUT MY CONSCIOUSNESS IS ALREADY IN BOTH... AND THEN THERE ARE THESE TWO, OF COURSE.

TAKE THEM TO THE VAN.

CAREFULLY. THE JELLYFISH HAVEN'T TRANSFORMED THEIR BODIES YET.

I... I HAVEN'T DONE ANYTHING WRONG...

BLANCA? CAN I SEE YOU FOR A SECOND?

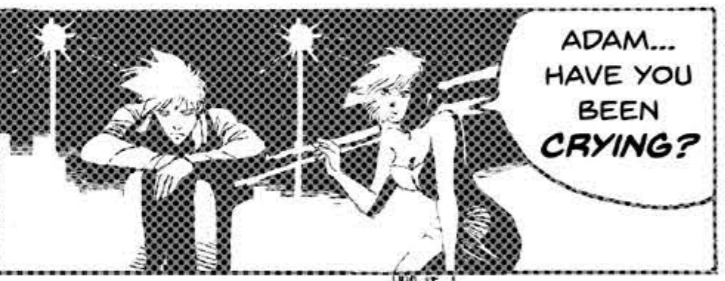
DAD, CAN I TALK TO YOU FOR A SECOND?

HEY! WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

SURE. WHAT?

WHAT? WHE...?

RETRIEVE THE SECRET MEMORIES.



ADAM... HAVE YOU BEEN **CRYING?**



MY FATHER LOST HIS MIND. JUST LIKE THAT, OUT OF NOWHERE.



WHAT? HOW?



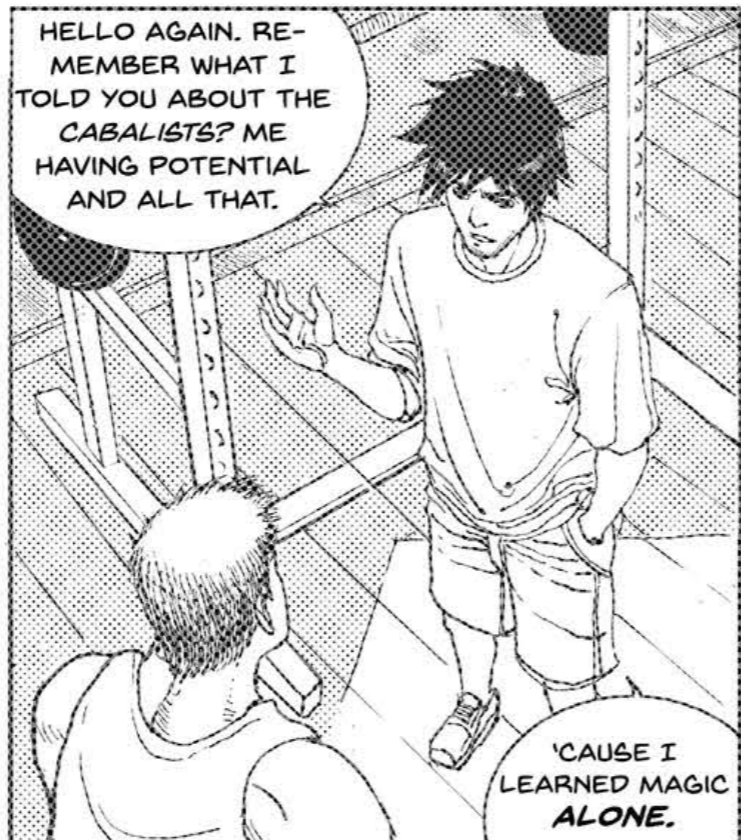
THE DOCTORS... THEY DON'T KNOW WHAT HAPPENED.

AND MY-MY MOTHER... I... I DON'T UNDERSTAND... WHAT HAVE I DONE WRONG?



WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

I CAN'T DO THE **TRIP**, BLANCA.



HELLO AGAIN. REMEMBER WHAT I TOLD YOU ABOUT THE **CABALISTS?** ME HAVING POTENTIAL AND ALL THAT.

'CAUSE I LEARNED MAGIC **ALONE.**



ARE THEY IMPORTANT? IS THERE **MONEY** INVOLVED?



WELL, THE TRUTH IS THAT NOT MUCH IS KNOWN ABOUT THEM. THEY USE TAROT AND KABBALAH CODENAMES, DISPOSABLE CELL PHONES...



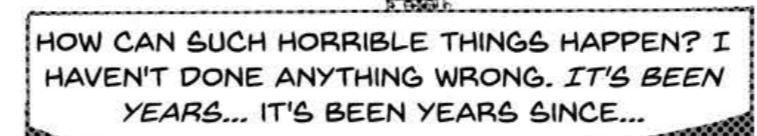
...BUT THEY SEEM, YOU KNOW, IN THE **THICK** OF IT.



I CAN'T DO SOMETHING LIKE THAT TO MY MOTHER... NOT NOW.



WHY NOT? YOUR FATHER WILL RECOVER, IF THE DOCTORS DON'T SEE ANYTHING... YOU'LL SEE.



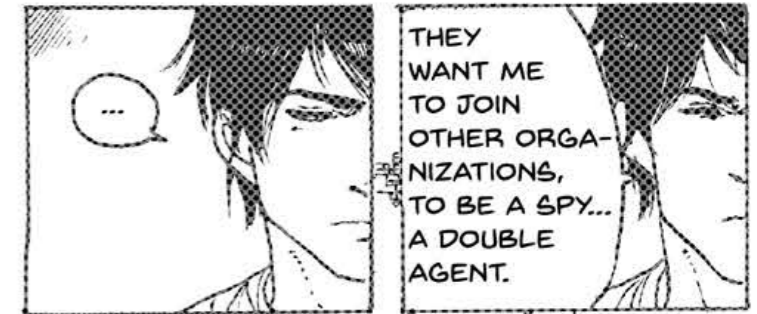
HOW CAN SUCH HORRIBLE THINGS HAPPEN? I HAVEN'T DONE ANYTHING WRONG. IT'S BEEN YEARS... IT'S BEEN YEARS SINCE...



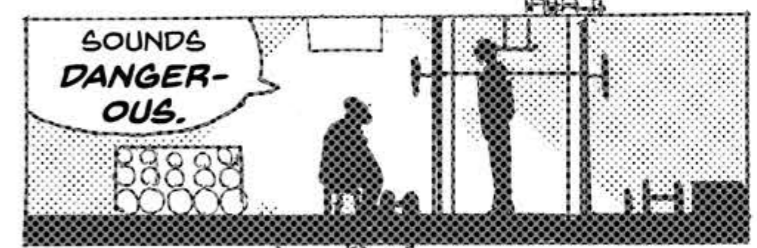
IT'S BEEN YEARS SINCE I'VE BARELY USED IT... SIGURD'S USING IT, YOU KNOW, AND I THINK IT'LL END **BADLY**. MAGIC NEVER PROTECTS YOU FROM ANY OF THIS...

WHAT ARE...?

YOU CAN'T CHANGE THE **WHOLE WORLD** WHEN YOU'RE A ROOKIE...



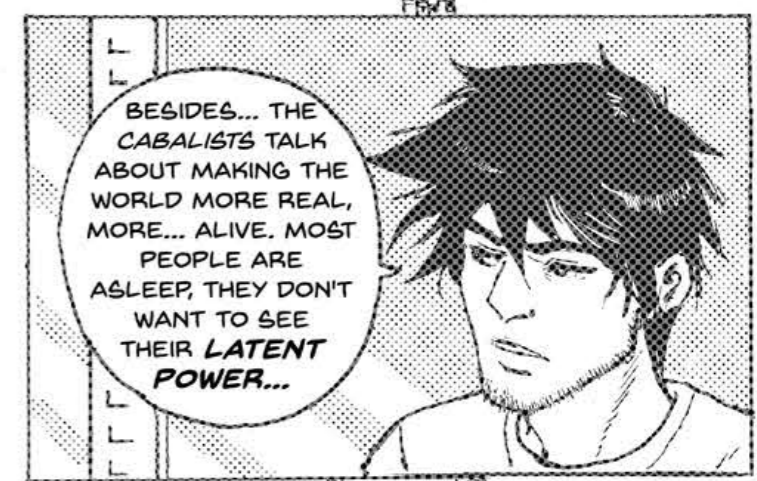
THEY WANT ME TO JOIN OTHER ORGANIZATIONS, TO BE A **SPY**... A **DOUBLE AGENT**.



SOUNDS **DANGEROUS**.



WELL, YOU JUMP OUT OF PLANES AND BRIDGES, **HM**.



BESIDES... THE **CABALISTS** TALK ABOUT MAKING THE WORLD MORE REAL, MORE... ALIVE. MOST PEOPLE ARE ASLEEP, THEY DON'T WANT TO SEE THEIR **LATENT POWER**...

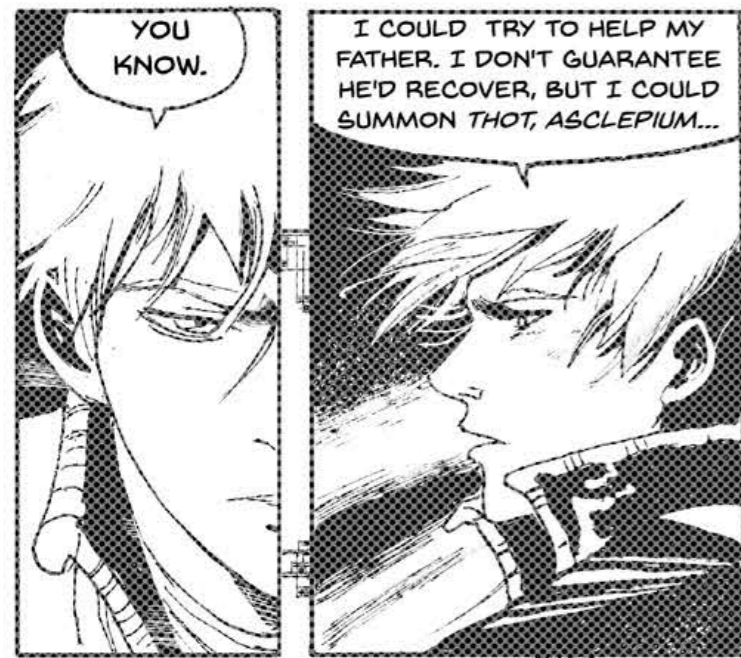


THEY DON'T WANT RESPONSIBILITIES... BUT BECAUSE OF THAT, THE WORLD IS FILLED WITH **SUBMISSIVE** PEOPLE WHO ACCEPT ANY **INJUSTICE**...

YOU REALLY ARE LIKE YOUR MOTHER, MAY SHE REST IN PEACE.



SINCE SHE DIED... I DON'T KNOW, YOU GET TOO CAUGHT UP IN YOUR THOUGHTS, I FEEL.



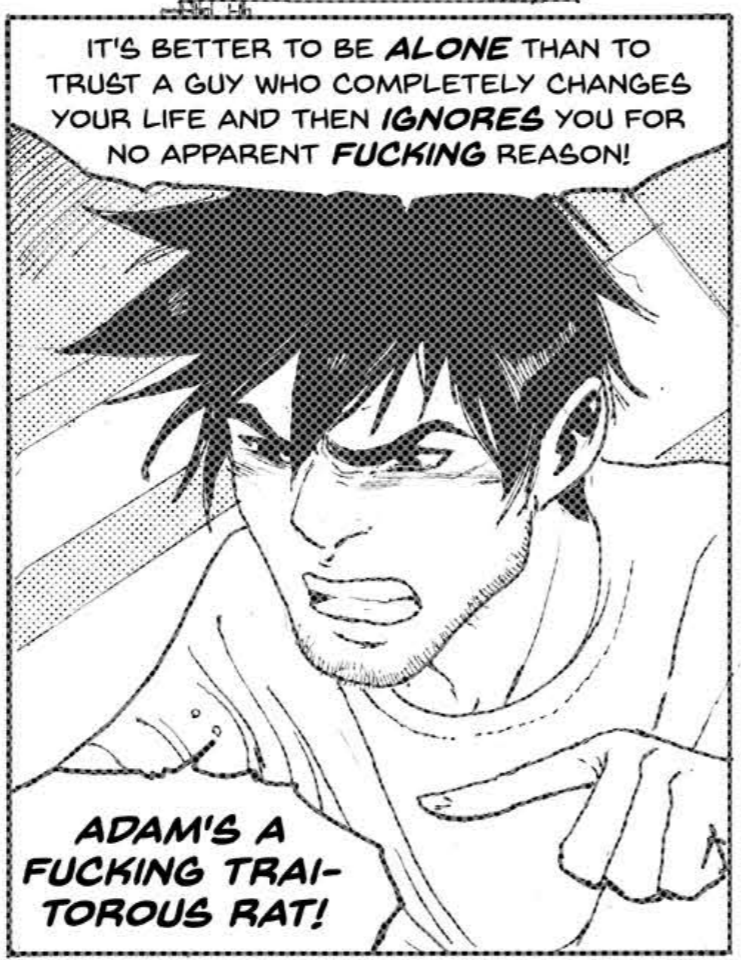
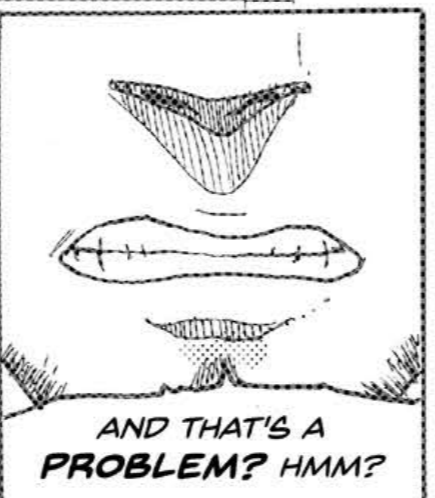
MAGIC, IN ONE WORD. LIKE THE COP-MAGES. I KNOW PEOPLE DON'T BELIEVE IT, BUT... IT WORKS. FOR A WHILE I FELT THAT THE WORLD MADE SENSE, THAT I CAME TO LEARN THIS...

SUDDENLY I COULD HEAR THINGS... THE COMICS TALKED TO ME, I COULD DISCOVER **SECRET MEANINGS** IN THEM... THE BUILDINGS TOLD ME STORIES OF THEIR TENANTS...



OH, ADAM...

ANYWAY. MY MOTHER FOUND OUT ABOUT THE PRIEST.



...TOLD HIM THAT IF HE DIDN'T LEAVE THIS CITY, SHE'D PUBLICLY DENOUNCE HIM FOR WORSHIPPING THE OTHER. AND YOU KNOW WHAT? HE AGREED. HE LEFT. HE LEFT ME. "YOU HAVE TO RESPECT PEOPLE'S WILL TO DECLARE THEMSELVES **IRRESPONSIBLE** FOR THEIR LIVES", HE SAID TO ME.



MAGIC ALLOWS YOU TO CHANGE REALITY. BUT WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU STILL DON'T HAVE ENOUGH POWER TO REPAIR A MISFORTUNE? THEN YOU REALIZE HOW **PATHETIC** YOU ARE, HOW MUCH YOU STILL HAVE TO LEARN...





I COULD HELP HER BY TRYING TO SAVE MY FATHER, BUT, AS MY TEACHER SAID...

...I WILL RESPECT HER WILL. NO MAGIC.



AND IF THAT MEANS LEAVING MY FATHER LIKE THAT... WELL, TOUGH LUCK.



AH...



YOU'RE... UPSET...

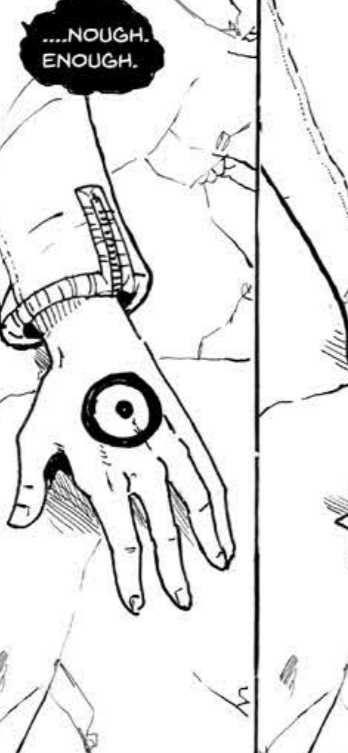
IT'S NORMAL...



I'LL... I'LL SEE YOU, OKAY? TAKE... TAKE CARE.



EEN...



...NOUGH. ENOUGH.



THIS POWER... HAS TO BE GOOD FOR SOMETHING, RIGHT? I HAVE TO... TO ACHIEVE **SOMETHING GREAT** WITH IT, AND IF I'M ALSO AT RISK OF BEING CAPTURED FOR HAVING IT...



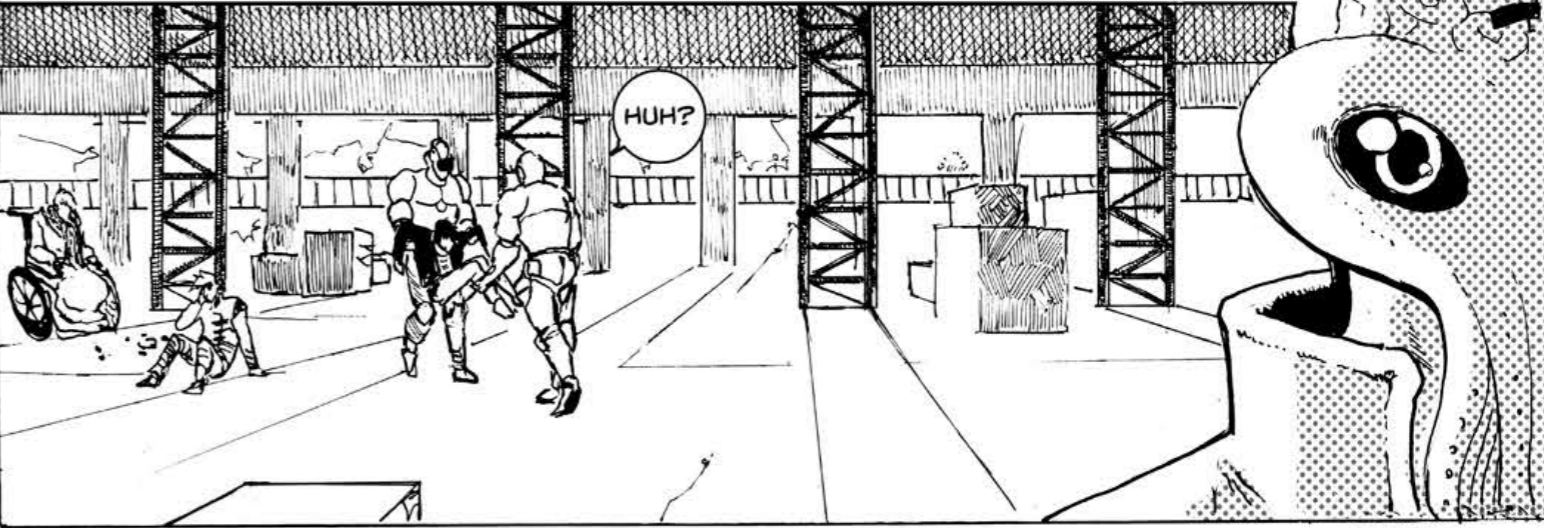
IF ADAM WANTS TO GIVE UP **GREATNESS**, THAT'S HIS FUCKING PROBLEM. HE'LL SUFFER THE CONSEQUENCES.



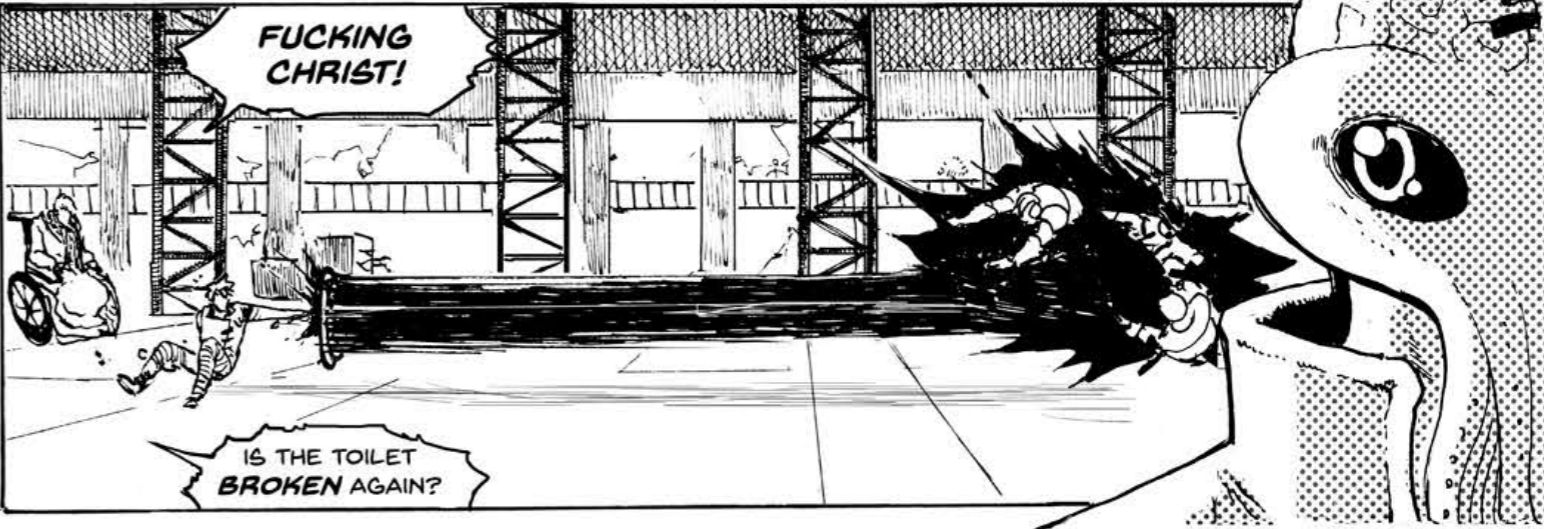
...



STORE THIS CONVERSATION IN THE SECRET SPACE OF YOUR SUBCONSCIOUS.



HUH?

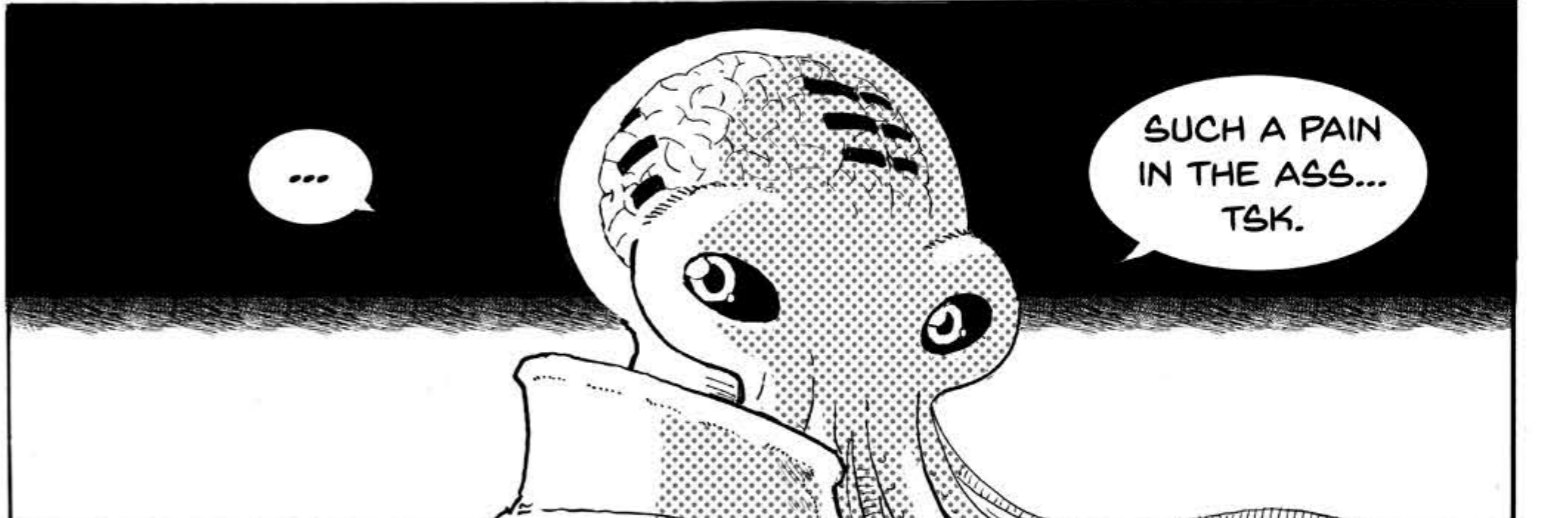


FUCKING CHRIST!

IS THE TOILET BROKEN AGAIN?

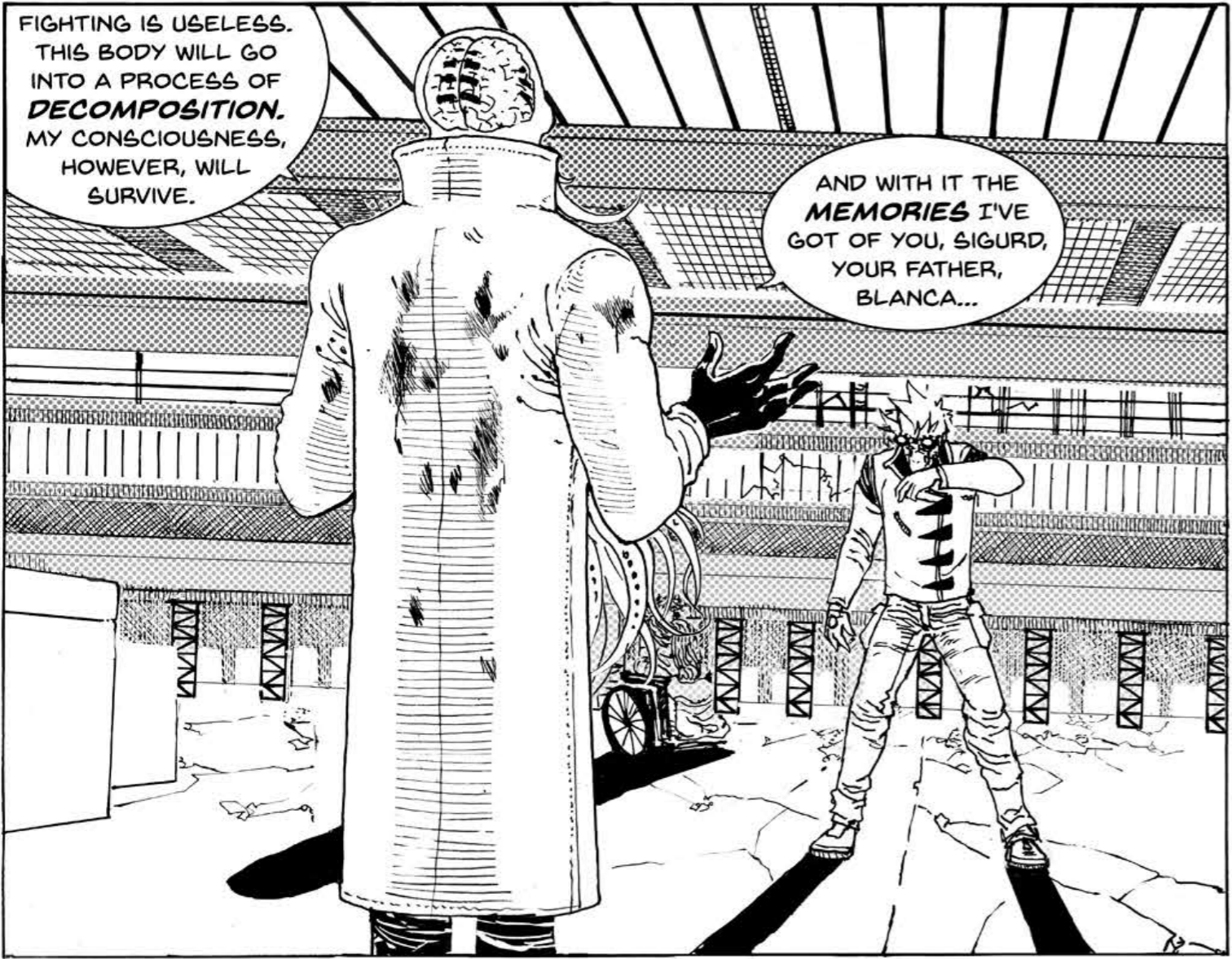


WHAT THE...!



...

SUCH A PAIN IN THE ASS... TSK.



FIGHTING IS USELESS. THIS BODY WILL GO INTO A PROCESS OF **DECOMPOSITION**. MY CONSCIOUSNESS, HOWEVER, WILL SURVIVE.

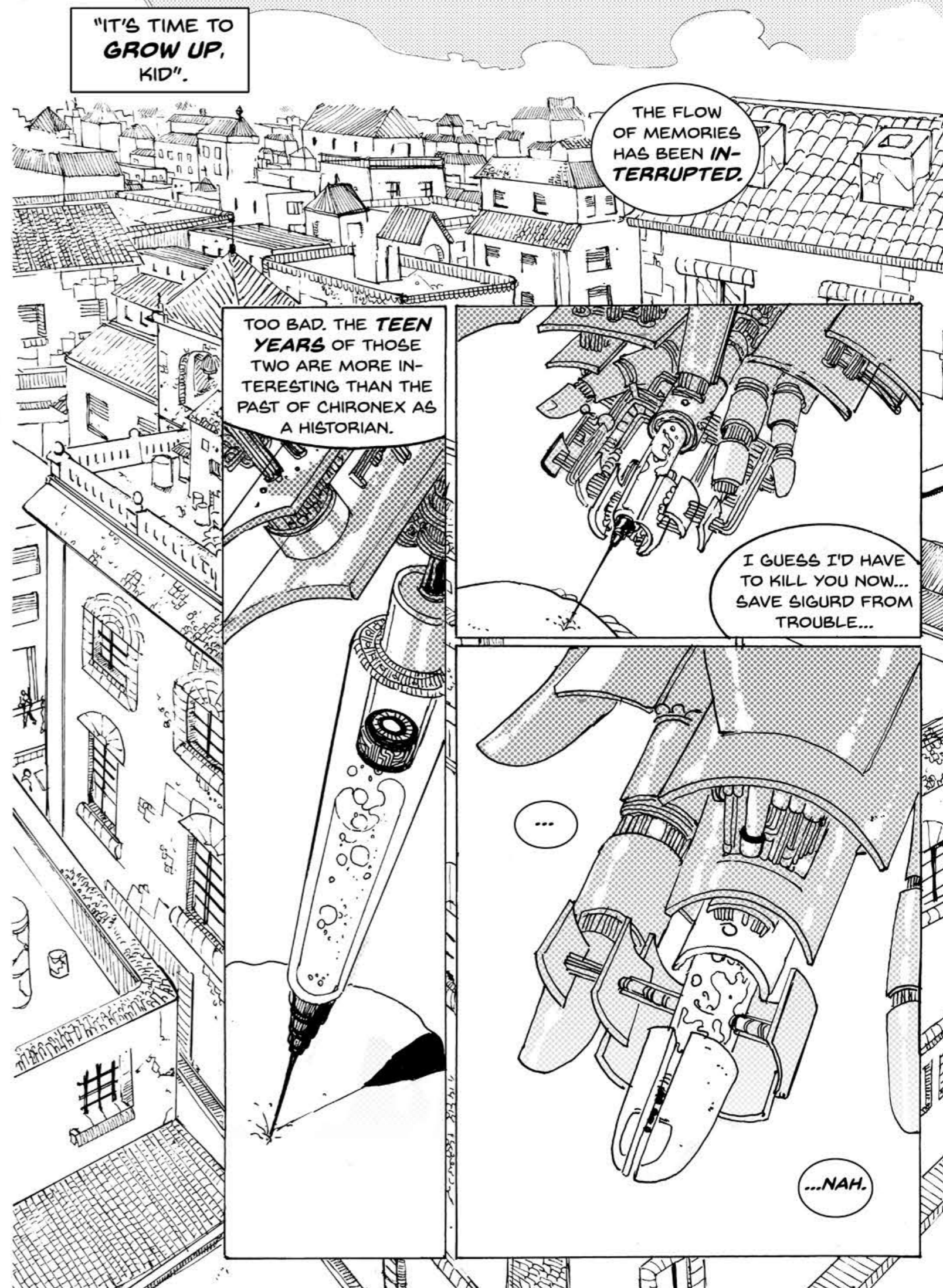
AND WITH IT THE **MEMORIES** I'VE GOT OF YOU, SIGURD, YOUR FATHER, BLANCA...



TELL ME, ADAM...



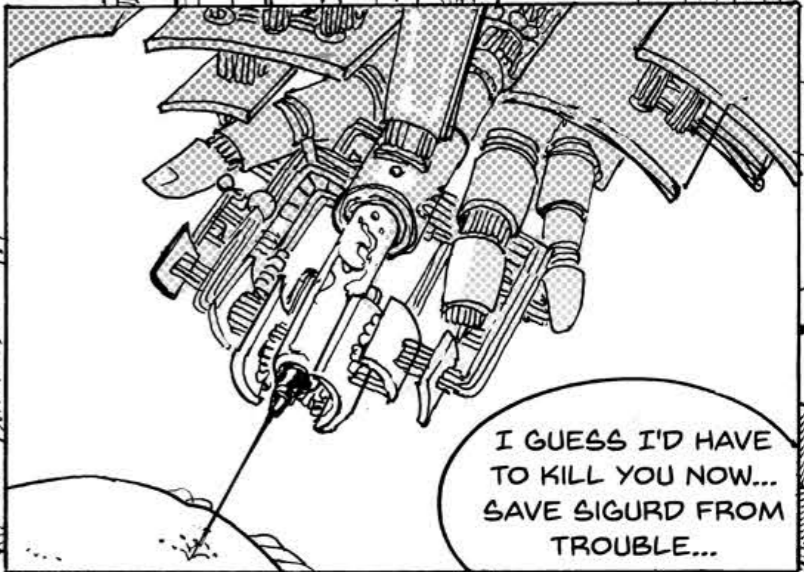
ARE YOU GOING TO KEEP RUNNING AWAY FROM THE EBI, EVEN IF YOU PUT THE PEOPLE YOU LOVE AT RISK?



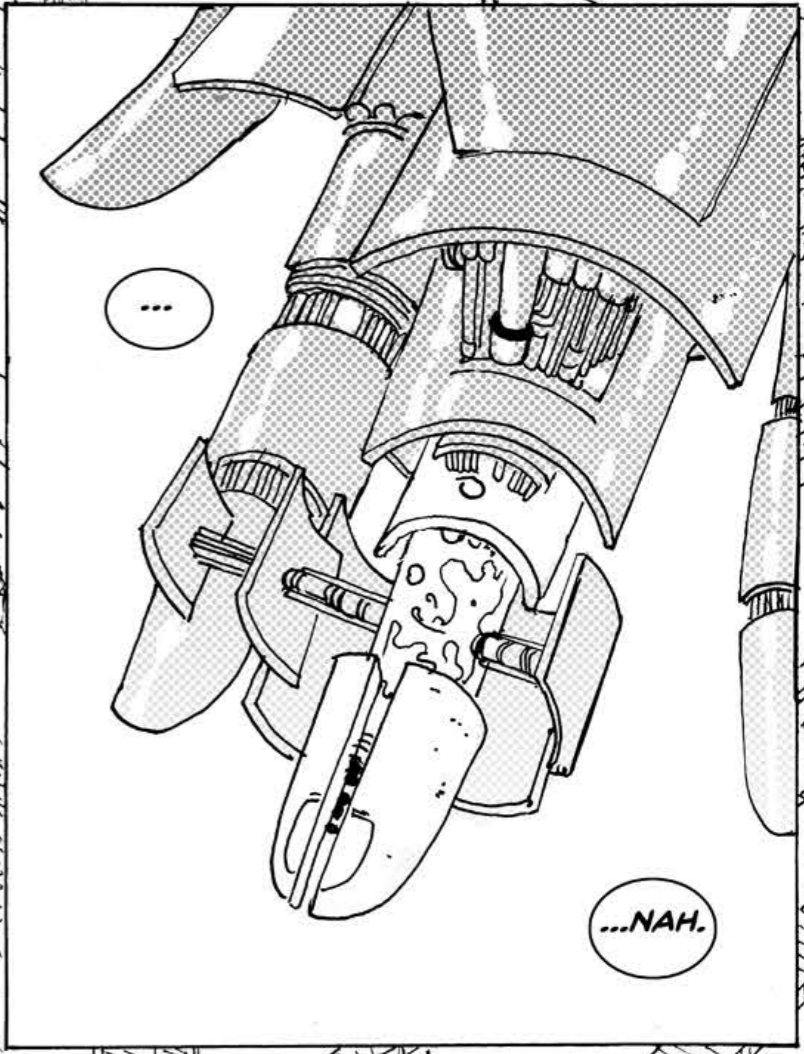
"IT'S TIME TO **GROW UP**, KID".

THE FLOW OF MEMORIES HAS BEEN **INTERRUPTED**.

TOO BAD. THE **TEEN YEARS** OF THOSE TWO ARE MORE INTERESTING THAN THE PAST OF CHIRONEX AS A HISTORIAN.

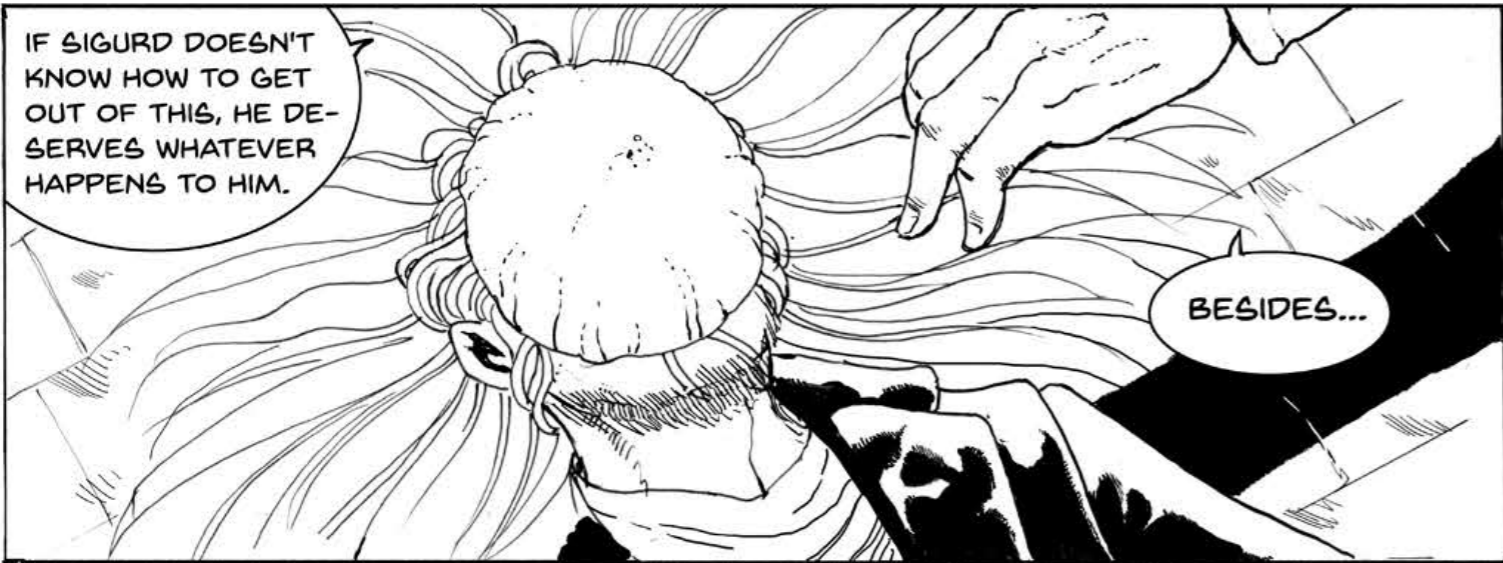


I GUESS I'D HAVE TO KILL YOU NOW... SAVE SIGURD FROM TROUBLE...



...NAH.

IF SIGURD DOESN'T KNOW HOW TO GET OUT OF THIS, HE DESERVES WHATEVER HAPPENS TO HIM.



BESIDES...



HOW COULD I KILL SOMEONE WHO GAVE ME SUCH JUICY INFORMATION?

...TO BE CONTINUED

UPSURGE IS AN ALMOST MONTHLY (40 DAYS) SERIES THAT STILL HAS A LONG WAY TO GO TO REACH THE INTENDED ENDING. HOWEVER, WE CAN'T KEEP DOING IT FOR "FREE" INDEFINITELY. IF YOU'RE INTERESTED IN HELPING US WHILE ALSO GETTING **EARLY ACCESS** TO AN ISSUE, **PREVIEWS** OF FUTURE EPISODES, OR **VIDEOS** AND TEXTS ABOUT OUR CREATIVE PROCESS, PLEASE CONSIDER SUPPORTING US THROUGH PATREON AT THE 3\$ PLEDGE LEVEL (LINK BELOW). IF WE HAVE ENOUGH HELP, WE'LL TURN UPSURGE INTO A **MONTHLY** SERIES. THANK YOU!

LINKS:

OUR PATREON -> [PATREON.COM/UPSURGE](https://patreon.com/upsurge)

OUR FACEBOOK -> [FACEBOOK.COM/UPSURGECOMIC](https://facebook.com/upsurgecomic)

THROW SOME PEANUTS TO THE APE -> [TWITTER.COM/SIMONOGATARI](https://twitter.com/simonogatari)

