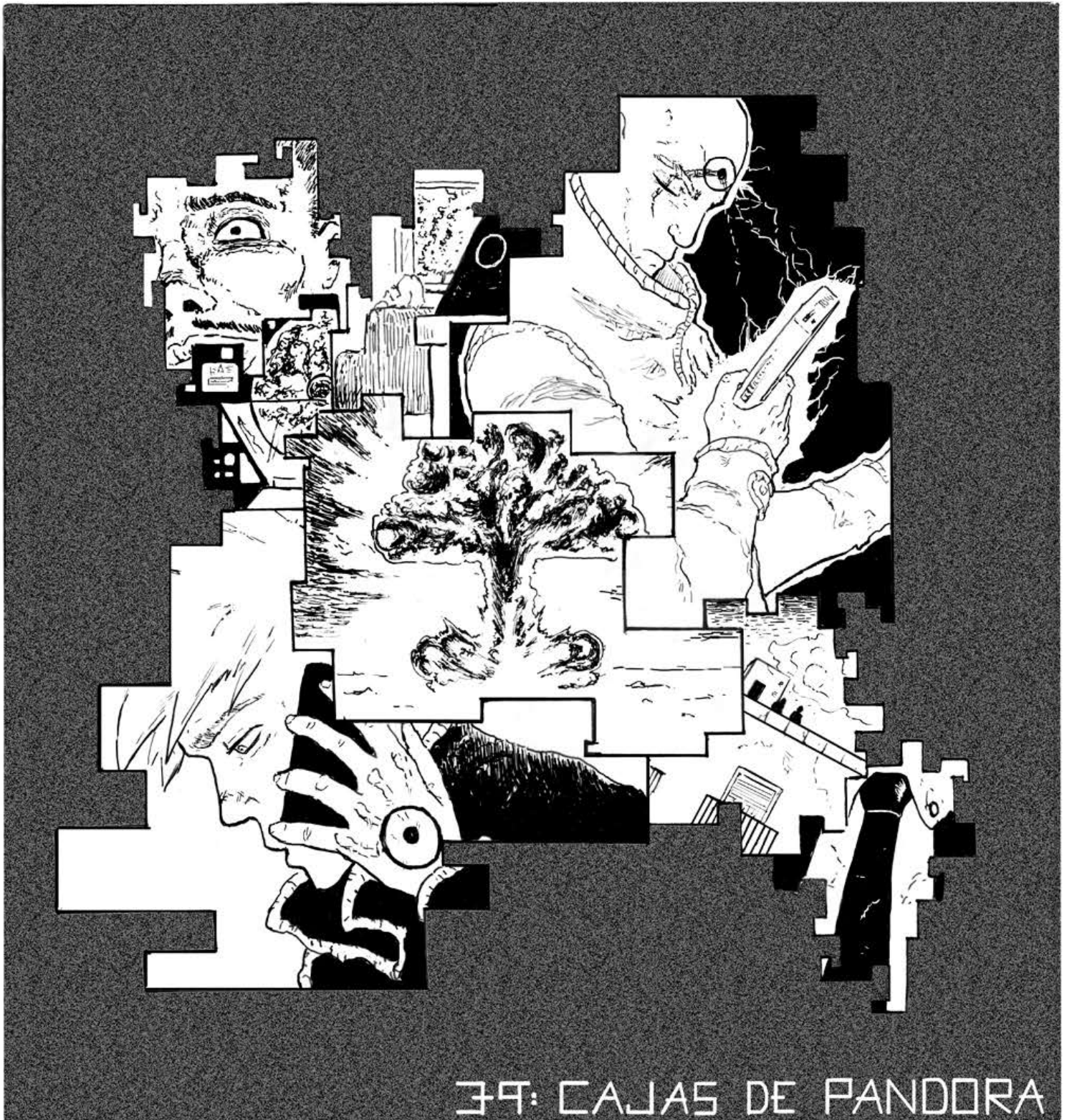


# WARSAGE



39: CAJAS DE PANDORA

SIMON M. ATANA S.

SCRIPT  
PANEL LAYOUT  
COVER

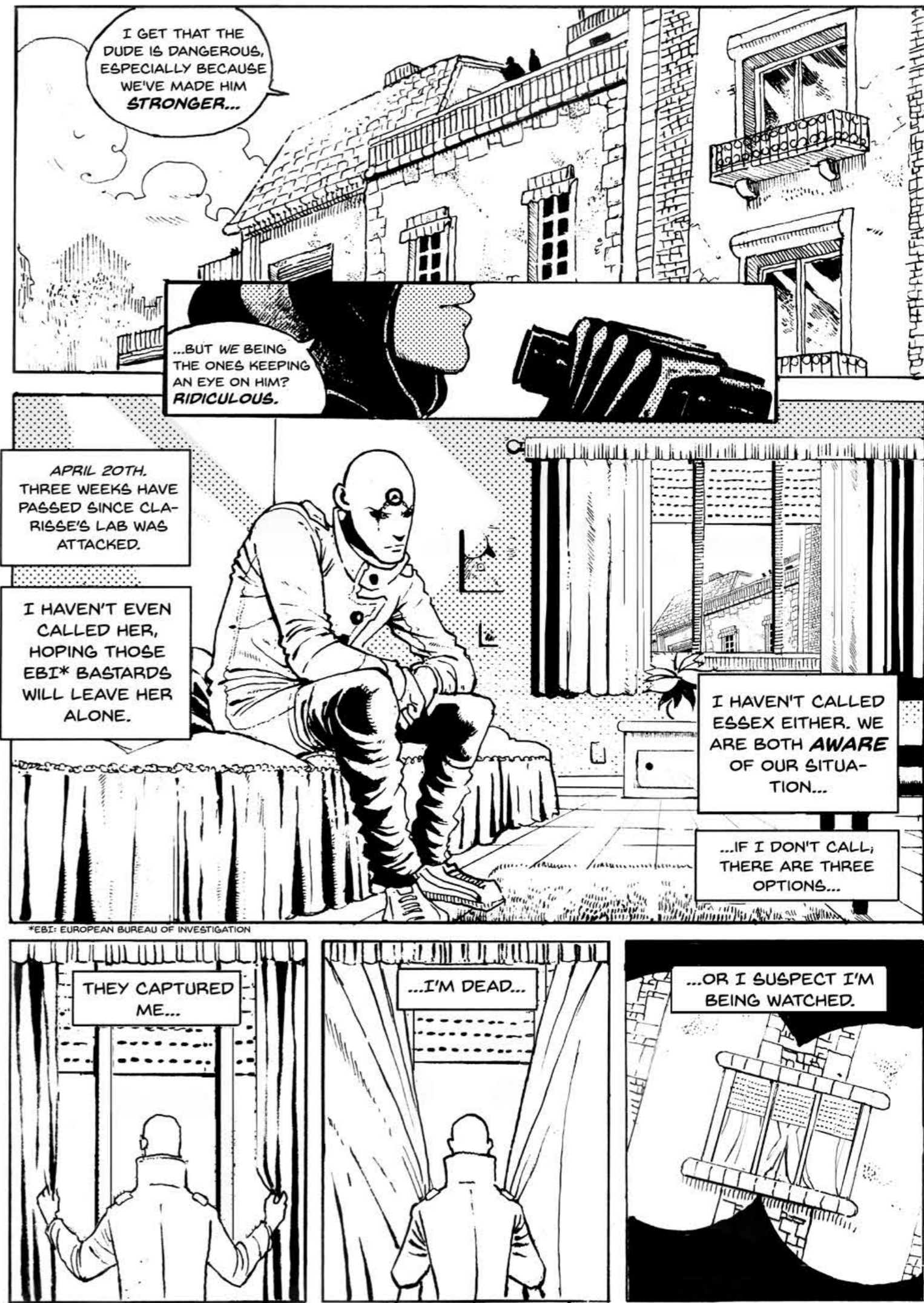
TRANSLATION  
(SORRY, ENGLISH SPEAKERS)

PENCILS  
INK

EMAIL: UPSURGECOMICS@GMAIL.COM

WEBPAGE: WWW.UPSURGE.ES/ENGLISH

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I GET THAT THE DUDE IS DANGEROUS, ESPECIALLY BECAUSE WE'VE MADE HIM STRONGER...

...BUT WE BEING THE ONES KEEPING AN EYE ON HIM? RIDICULOUS.

APRIL 20TH. THREE WEEKS HAVE PASSED SINCE CLARISSE'S LAB WAS ATTACKED.

I HAVEN'T EVEN CALLED HER, HOPING THOSE EBI\* BASTARDS WILL LEAVE HER ALONE.

I HAVEN'T CALLED ESSEX EITHER. WE ARE BOTH AWARE OF OUR SITUATION...

...IF I DON'T CALL, THERE ARE THREE OPTIONS...

\*EBI: EUROPEAN BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

THEY CAPTURED ME...

...I'M DEAD...

...OR I SUSPECT I'M BEING WATCHED.

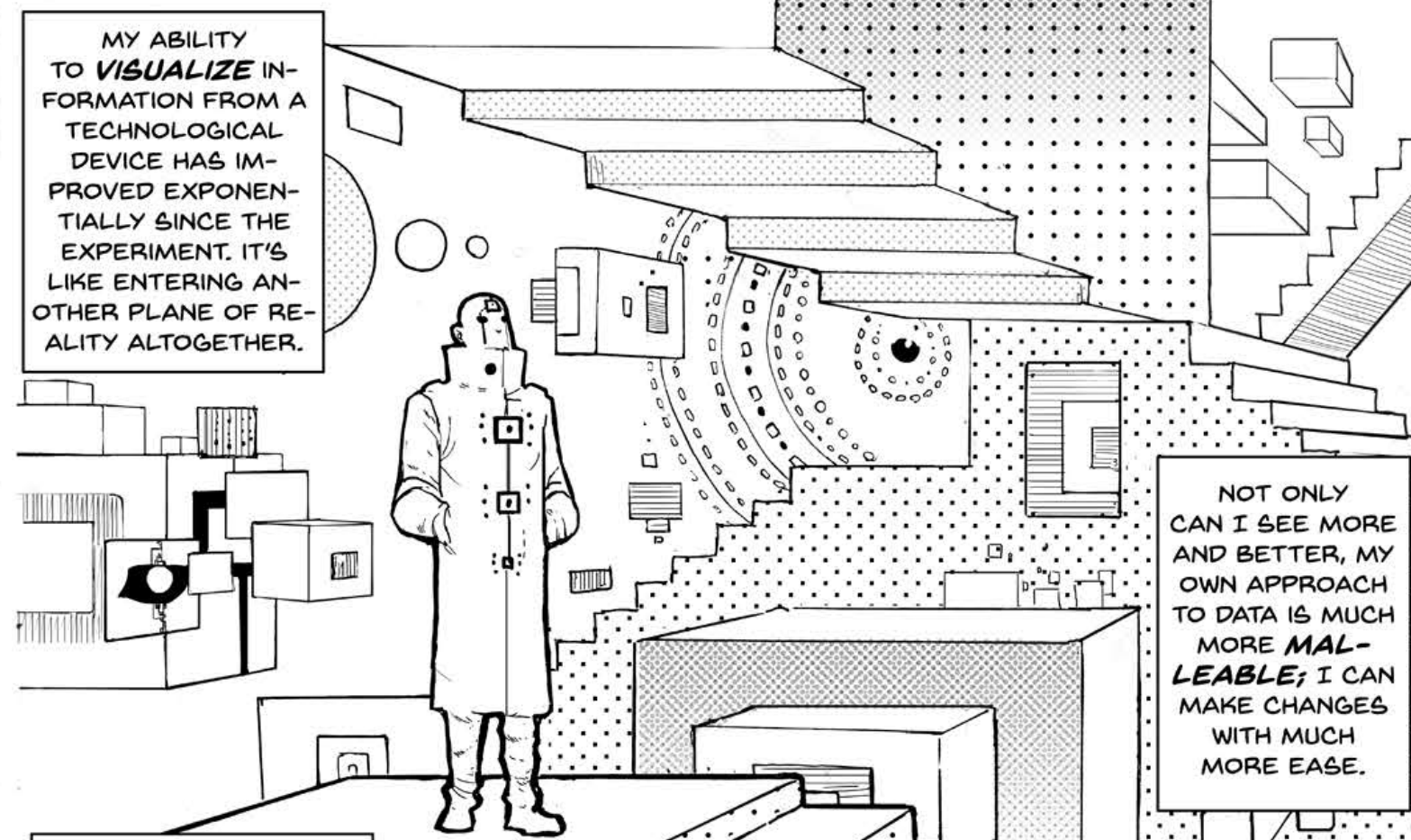
I'VE BUILT A BRIDGE  
OUT OF ELECTRICITY.



A BRIDGE  
THAT CON-  
NECTS MY  
SYNAPSES  
TO THE DATA  
**STORED** ON  
THE HARD  
DRIVE.

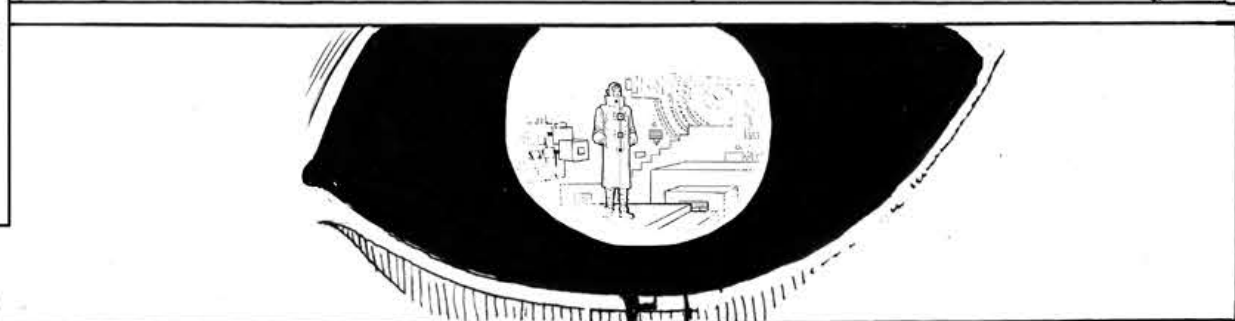


MY ABILITY  
TO **VISUALIZE** IN-  
FORMATION FROM A  
TECHNOLOGICAL  
DEVICE HAS IMPROVED  
EXPONENTIALLY SINCE THE  
EXPERIMENT. IT'S  
LIKE ENTERING AN-  
OTHER PLANE OF RE-  
ALITY ALTOGETHER.



NOT ONLY  
CAN I SEE MORE  
AND BETTER, MY  
OWN APPROACH  
TO DATA IS MUCH  
MORE **MAL-  
LEABLE**; I CAN  
MAKE CHANGES  
WITH MUCH  
MORE EASE.

THE **HERE-  
MITES** EX-  
CHANGED MES-  
SAGES AND  
**REPORTS**  
THROUGH  
FAKE BANK AC-  
COUNTS, I'M  
GUESSING BE-  
CAUSE NO ONE  
WOULD THINK  
TO LOOK FOR  
INFORMATION  
THERE.

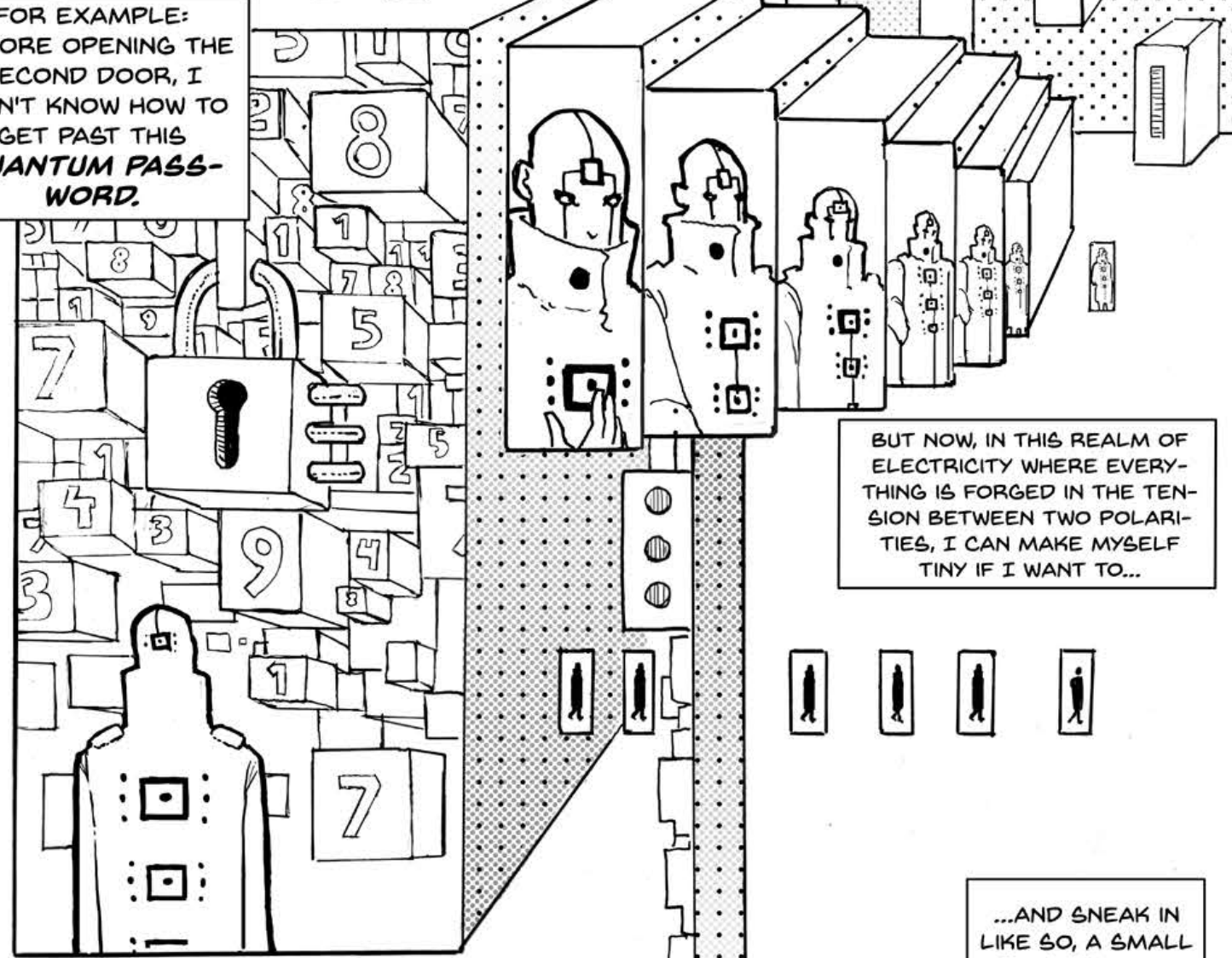


ADAM AND I  
STOLE SOME  
OF THE DATA...



...AND IT'S ON  
THIS HARD DRIVE,  
WAITING TO BE  
READ.

FOR EXAMPLE:  
BEFORE OPENING THE  
SECOND DOOR, I  
DIDN'T KNOW HOW TO  
GET PAST THIS  
**QUANTUM PASS-  
WORD.**



BUT NOW, IN THIS REALM OF  
ELECTRICITY WHERE EVERY-  
THING IS FORGED IN THE TEN-  
SION BETWEEN TWO POLARI-  
TIES, I CAN MAKE MYSELF  
TINY IF I WANT TO...



...AND SNEAK IN  
LIKE SO, A SMALL  
**COMMA** IN THE  
BOOK OF HISTORY.

"WE'LL SEE IF I FINALLY DISCOVER SOMETHING USEFUL THAT COMPENSATES FOR THIS *DISASTER OF A LIFE*".

YES. YOU'LL HAVE THE DOSSIER TO-MORROW.

RIGHT NOW IT'S JUST ME IN THE OFFICE.

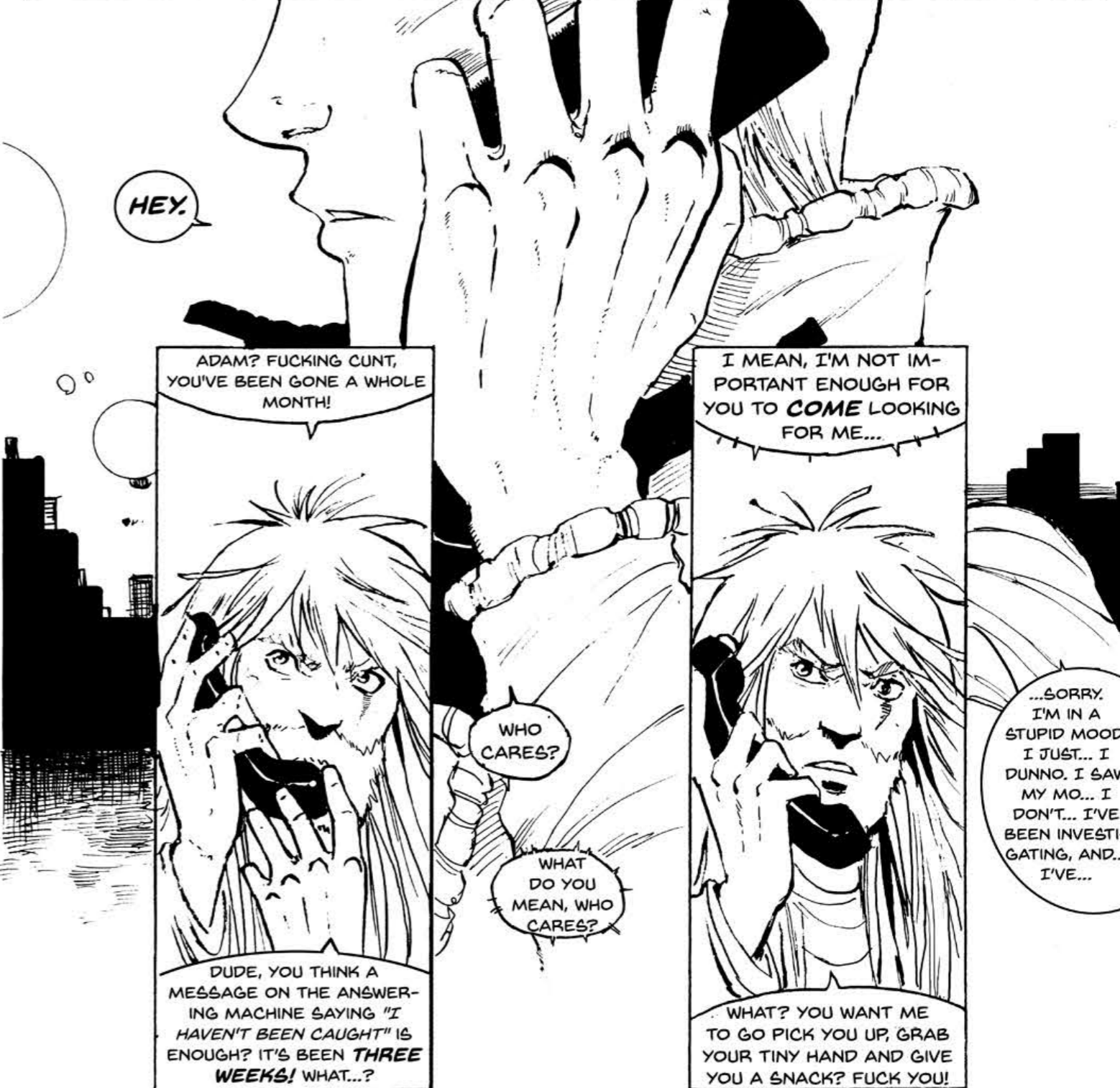
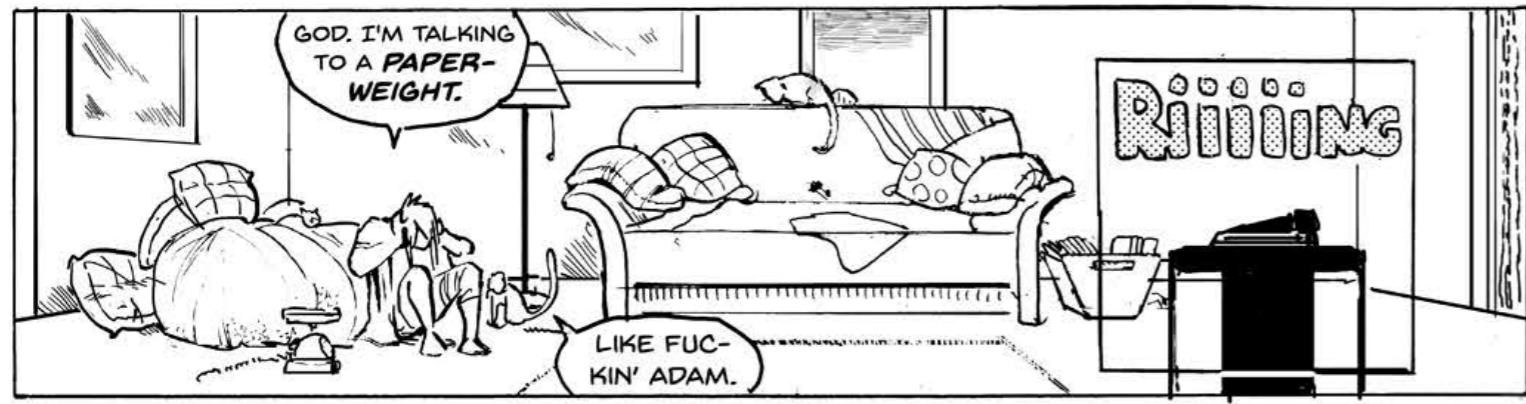


YOU REALLY WORK, HUH? WE GAVE YOU A LITTLE MAGIC SIGIL ASKING FOR WORK AND YOU HAVEN'T FAILED US AT ANY TIME.



BUT FORGIVE ME FOR SUSPECTING THAT, BEING A MAGICAL ARTIFACT THAT REPRESENTS THE EARTH ELEMENT...

YOUR FUNCTION HAS TO BE *DEEPER* THAN THIS...



HEY.

ADAM? FUCKING CUNT, YOU'VE BEEN GONE A WHOLE MONTH!

I MEAN, I'M NOT IMPORTANT ENOUGH FOR YOU TO *COME* LOOKING FOR ME...

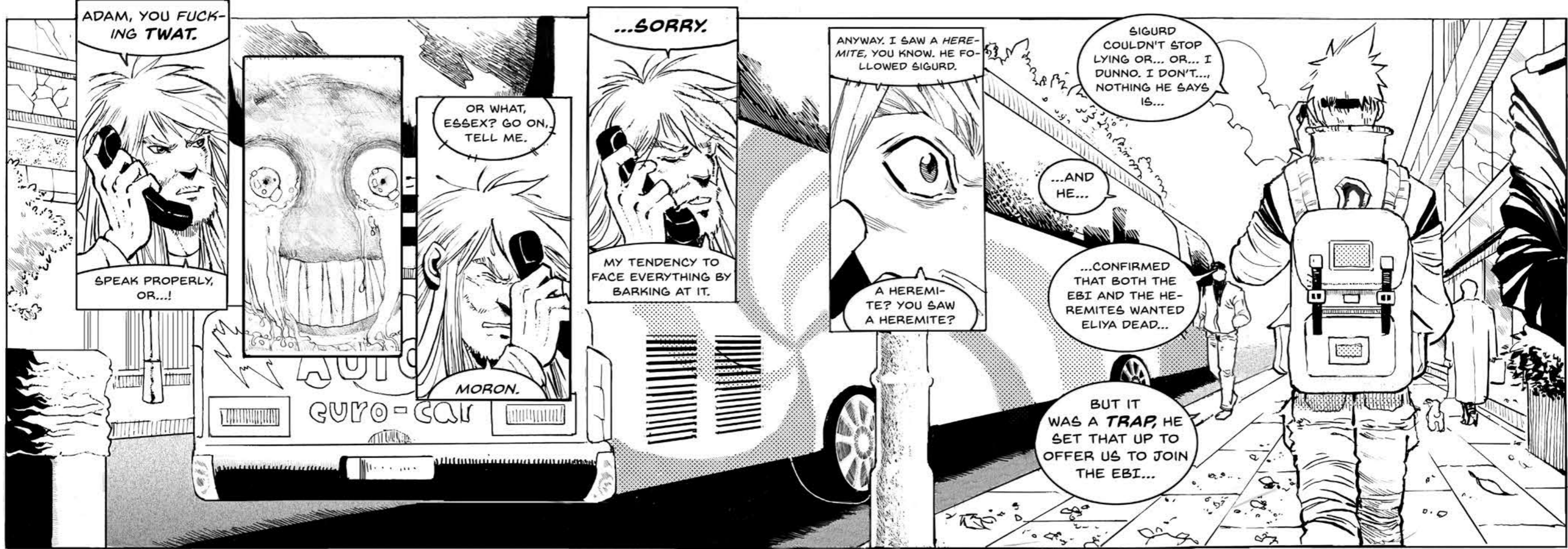
WHO CARES?

WHAT DO YOU MEAN, WHO CARES?

...SORRY. I'M IN A STUPID MOOD. I JUST... I DUNNO. I SAW MY MO... I DON'T... I'VE BEEN INVESTIGATING, AND... I'VE...

DUDE, YOU THINK A MESSAGE ON THE ANSWERING MACHINE SAYING "I HAVEN'T BEEN CAUGHT" IS ENOUGH? IT'S BEEN *THREE WEEKS!* WHAT...?

WHAT? YOU WANT ME TO GO PICK YOU UP, GRAB YOUR TINY HAND AND GIVE YOU A SNACK? FUCK YOU!



ADAM, YOU FUCKING TWAT.

SPEAK PROPERLY, OR...!

OR WHAT, ESSEX? GO ON, TELL ME.

MORON.

...SORRY.

MY TENDENCY TO FACE EVERYTHING BY BARKING AT IT.

ANYWAY, I SAW A HEREMITE, YOU KNOW. HE FOLLOWED SIGURD.

A HEREMITE? YOU SAW A HEREMITE?

SIGURD COULDN'T STOP LYING OR... OR... I DUNNO. I DON'T... NOTHING HE SAYS IS...

...AND HE...

...CONFIRMED THAT BOTH THE EBI AND THE HERMITES WANTED ELIYA DEAD...

BUT IT WAS A TRAP, HE SET THAT UP TO OFFER US TO JOIN THE EBI...

TO BECOME ANOTHER COG OF A SYSTEM THAT KILLS AND LIES AND HIDES WHO KNOWS HOW MANY THINGS...

ADAM. LISTEN. I KNOW LIVING LIKE THIS IS SHITTY, BUT THINK ABOUT IT. WE'LL DO SOMETHING BIG!

I CAN FEEL IT! WE'LL END UP DEFEATING BOTH THE EBI AND THE HERMITES...

YEAH? HOW? HIDING IN OTHER PEOPLE'S HOMES?

WE'RE NOBODIES. THEY'RE THE SYSTEM!

NOBODIES? WE DID THE RITUAL TO PROTECT YOUR IDENTITY!

IF WE WERE ABLE TO CHANGE REALITY THAT MUCH, SOONER OR LATER WE'LL BE ABLE TO DO SOMETHING BIGGER!

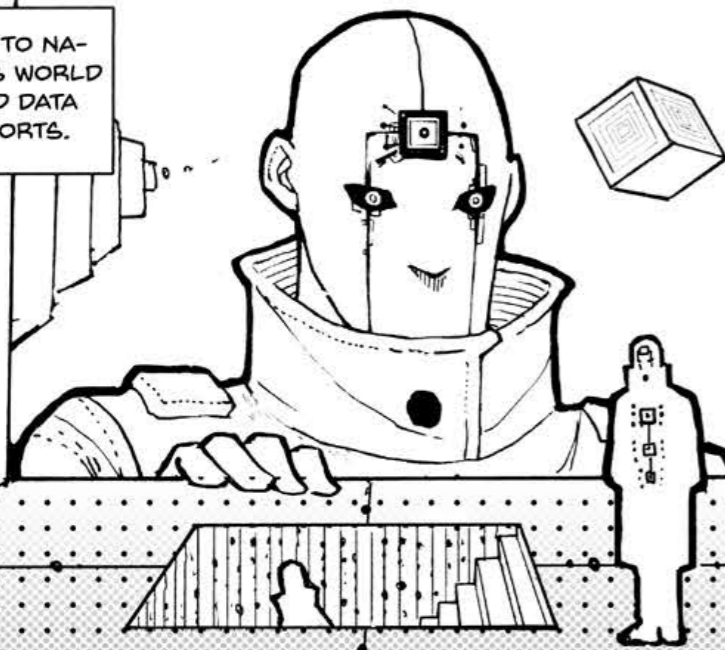
ESSEX, FOR FUCK'S SAKE, EVEN IF WE FIND OUT WHY THEY KILLED ELIYA, THEY CONTROL THE MEDIA! WHO WOULD LISTEN...

...WHERE ARE YOU, ADAM?

LOOK, ELIYA UWANTE WAS A GENIUS. IF THEY HAD TO KILL HIM, IT'S BECAUSE HE WAS PREPARING SOMETHING SO BIG THAT IT ENDANGERED THEIR WHOLE SYSTEM, UNDERSTAND? WE NEED TO LEARN WHAT IT IS!

GOING TO FRANCE, AVOIDING BIG CITIES. SIGURD CONFIRMED THAT THE CELL TOWERS CAN DETECT US IN BIG CITIES.

IT'S HARD TO NAVIGATE THIS WORLD OF VEILED DATA AND REPORTS.

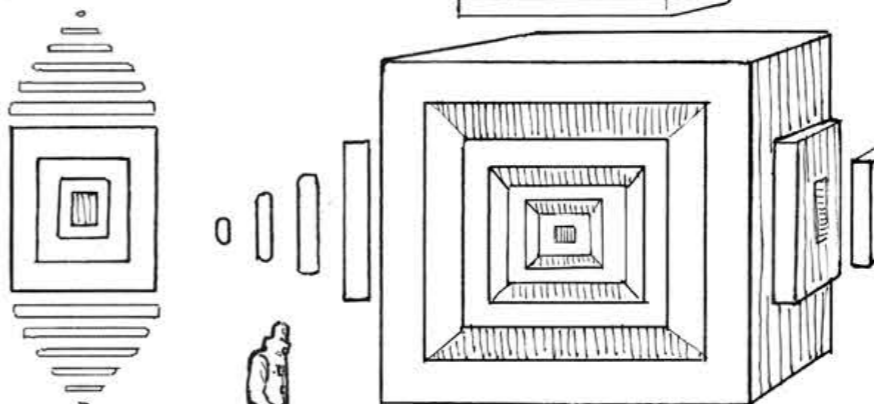
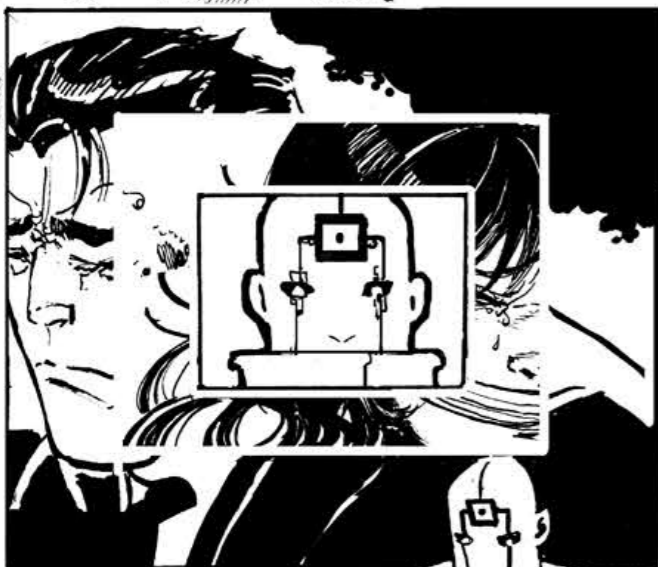


LIKE THE CASTLE OF MIRAGES IN THE SARTORIUS SERIES OF BOOKS, REALITY FOLDS IN CAPRICIOUS WAYS.

ONE OF THE RECURRING THEMES IN THE HEREMITES REPORTS REVEALS A COVERT WAR WITH THE PARANORMAL EBI. WHEN POSSIBLE, THEY AVOID DIRECT CONFLICT, PREFERRING OTHER METHODS LIKE BUYING THE INFLUENCE OF BANKERS, POLITICIANS, BUSINESSMEN...

TO THEIR OWN SURPRISE, THE EUROPEAN UNION BOUGHT WHOLESALE THE AUSTERITY POLICIES...

SINCE THE EBI IS AN INSTITUTION FROM THE EUROPEAN UNION, THEY ATTACKED THEM PROMOTING POLITICIANS AND ECONOMISTS IN FAVOR OF ECONOMIC AUSTERITY, FINANCING MOVEMENTS ON THE EXTREME LEFT AND RIGHT TO CAUSE INSTABILITY...

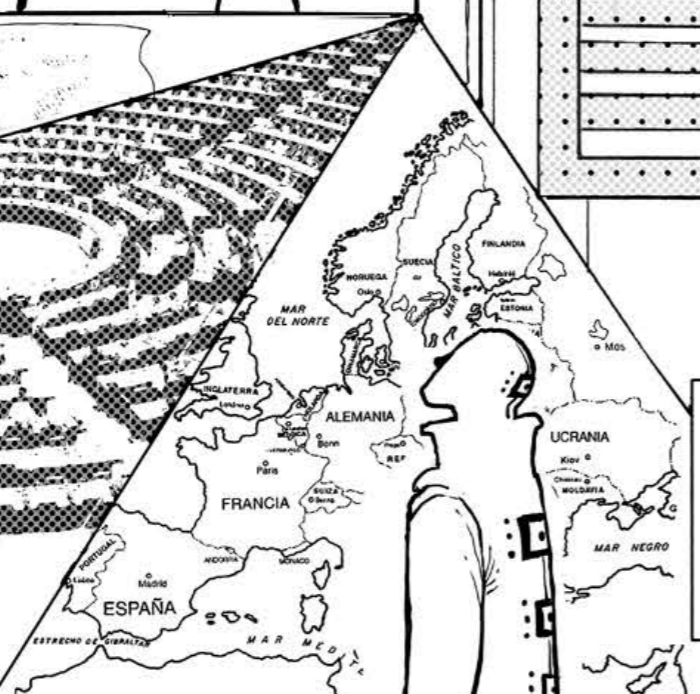
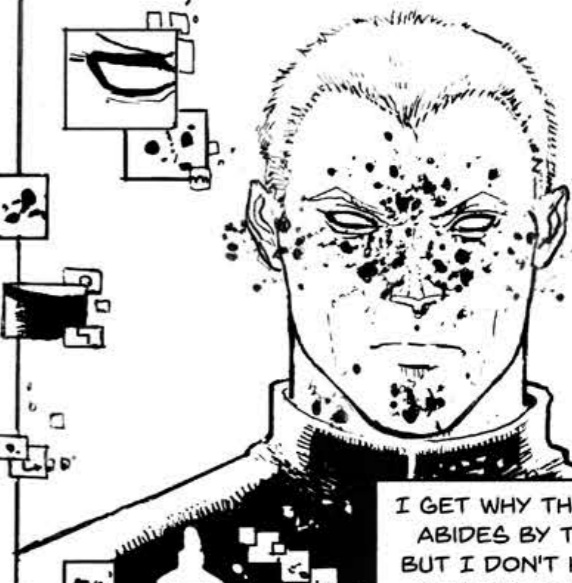
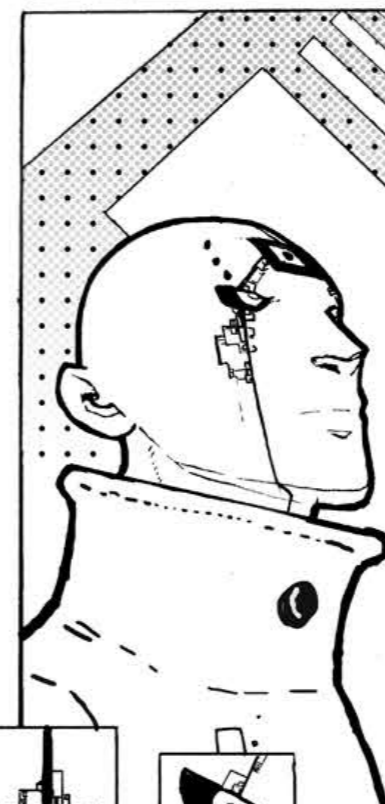


SPAIN, ITALY, GREECE, IRELAND... THE HEREMITES BLACKMAILED ANY MINISTERS WHO RESISTED TO IMPLEMENT THE POLICIES. THEY WERE ECSTATIC TO SEE THAT THE EUROPEAN GOVERNMENT WAS ADOPTING THE POLICIES DESIGNED TO DESTROY THEM...

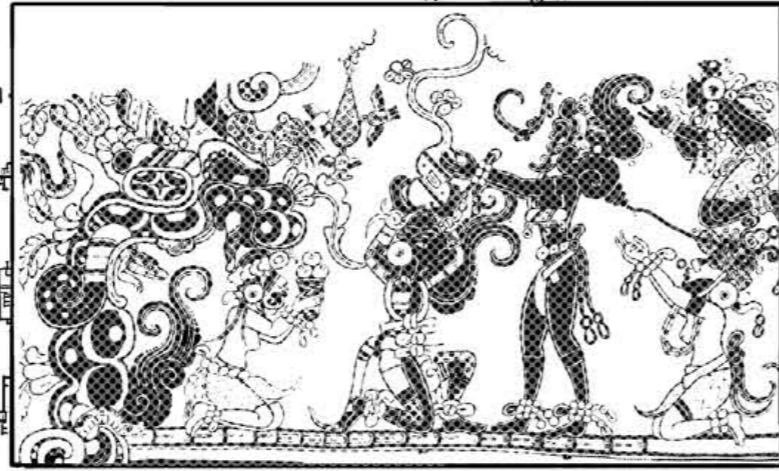
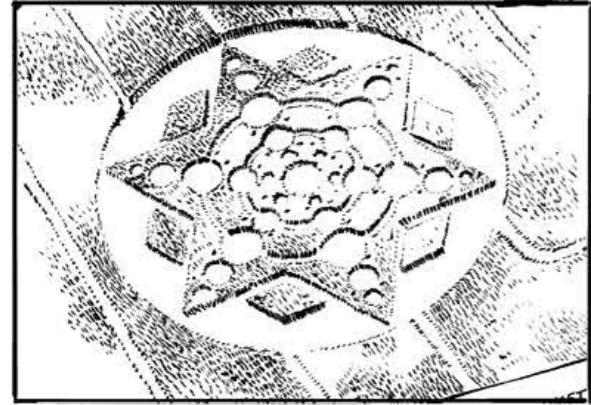
WHETHER THEY MANAGE TO DESTROY IT OR NOT, THE AUSTERITY MEASURES HAVE THE EFFECT OF CUTTING THE FLOW OF MONEY TO THE PARANORMAL EBI, SINCE MOST CITIZENS CONSIDER IT A USELESS PART OF THE GOVERNMENT... IF THEY EVEN KNOW IT EXISTS.

AND THAT'S JUST THE COLD SIDE OF THE CONFLICT. I SEE REPORTS OF FIGHTS AND ASSAULTS... BUT, CURIOUSLY, BOTH SIDES RESPECT THE PARANORMAL EBI'S DESIRE TO KEEP EVERYTHING HIDDEN FROM PUBLIC VIEW.

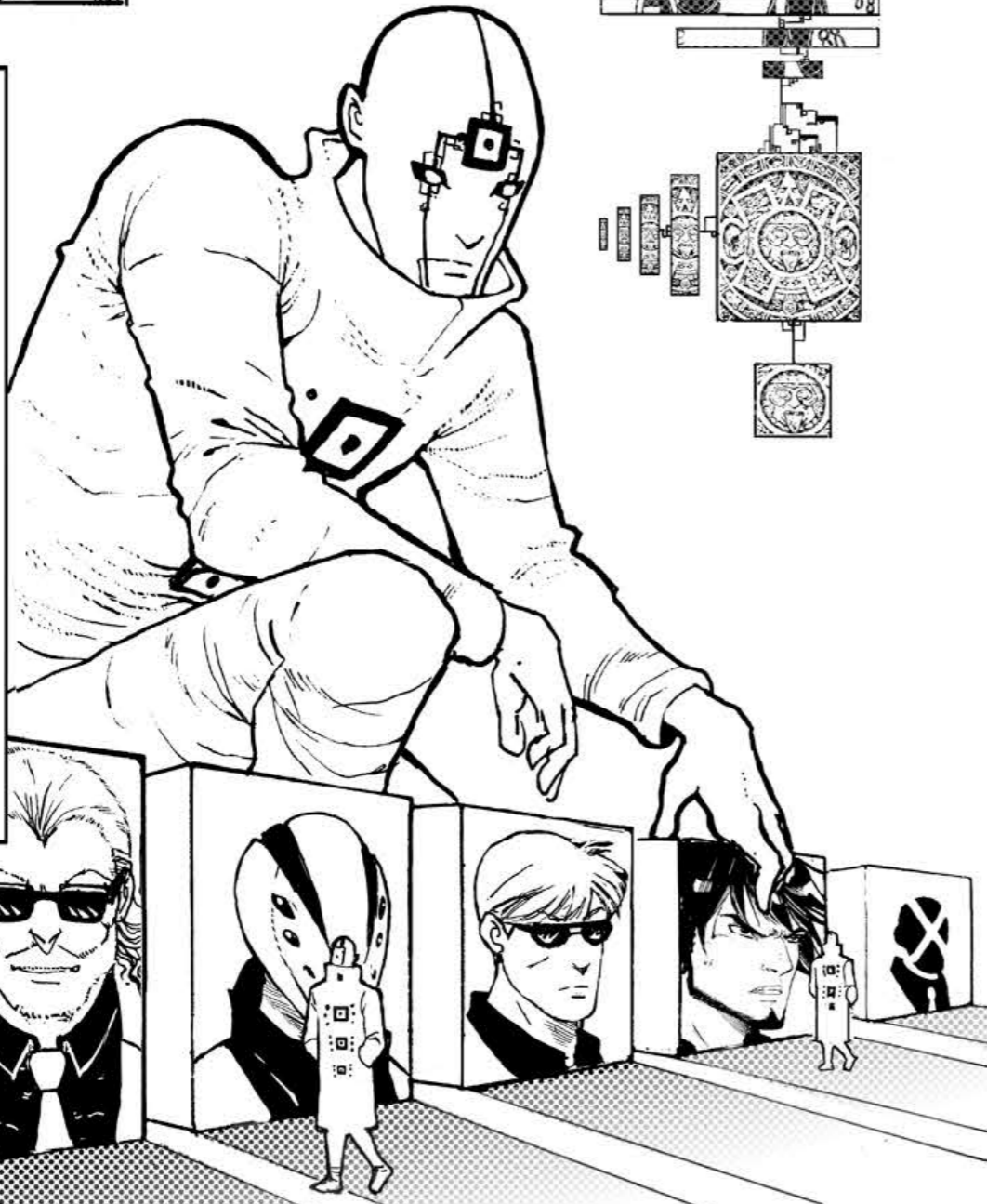
I GET WHY THE EBI ABIDES BY THAT, BUT I DON'T KNOW WHY THE HEREMITES DON'T WANT TO REVEAL THEIR ABILITIES TO THE PUBLIC. THE ONLY THING I SEE IN SCATTERED COMMENTS HERE AND THERE IS THE FEAR OF DIRECT RETALIATION FROM EDWARD FREI, HEAD OF THE PARANORMAL EBI. THEY NEVER DETAIL HIS SKILLS, BUT SPEAK OF HIM AS IF HE WERE THE REAPER PERSONIFIED.



I BELIEVE THAT ANOTHER REASON WHY THE HERMITES HAVE NOT YET MADE A FULL-BLOWN ASSAULT IS BECAUSE THEY ARE WAITING FOR THE **RIGHT MOMENT**. ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS THEY TALK ABOUT INFORMATION THEY STOLE FROM THE EBI, WHERE THEY WERE TRYING TO DECODE THE **CROP CIRCLES**.



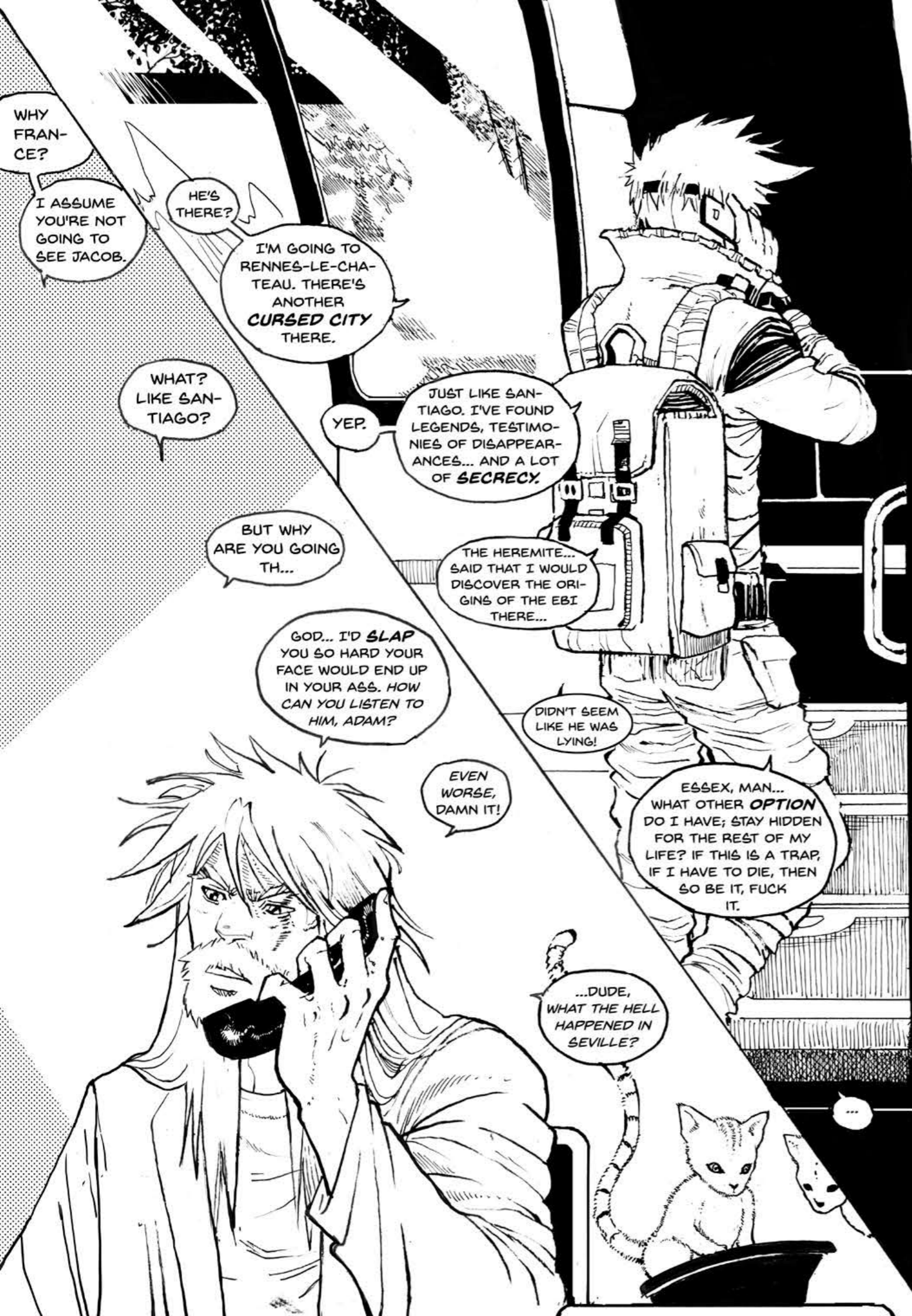
APPARENTLY, THE EBI DISCOVERED THAT THEIR GEOMETRY NOT ONLY FOLLOWS SPECIFIC **MATHEMATICAL FORMULAS**, BUT THAT THERE IS AN INTENTIONALITY BEHIND THEM. WHEN YOU APPLY THESE FORMULAS TO THE HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT OF HUMANITY, IT REVEALS AN INVISIBLE PATTERN: THE IMPORTANT EVENTS OF HISTORY ALL FOLLOW A SPECIFIC RHYTHM, A **SECRET MELODY**. THAT FORMULA SAYS, SUPPOSEDLY, THAT BETWEEN 2010 AND 2018 THERE WILL BE AN END TO THIS RHYTHMIC PATTERN. A **WINDOW OF OPPORTUNITY**, THE HERMITES CALL IT. AN UNKNOWN EVENT FOR WHICH BOTH FACTIONS HAVE BEEN PREPARING FOR YEARS.



FINALLY. IT'S TAKEN ME WEEKS, AND JOURNEYING INTO THE DEEPEST PART OF THE HARD DRIVE. FINALLY I'M MEETING HIM. THE GUY FOR WHOM I LOST MY LIFE. **ELIYA UWANTE**. THE GENIUS INVENTOR.



HE DIED AT THE HANDS OF ABADDON, A DEMON SUMMONED BY SIGURD, WHO FOLLOWED ORDERS FROM THE EBI AND THE HERMITES.



WHY FRANCE?

I ASSUME YOU'RE NOT GOING TO SEE JACOB.

HE'S THERE?

I'M GOING TO RENNES-LE-CHA-TEAU. THERE'S ANOTHER CURSED CITY THERE.

WHAT? LIKE SAN-TIAGO?

YEP.

JUST LIKE SAN-TIAGO. I'VE FOUND LEGENDS, TESTIMONIES OF DISAPPEARANCES... AND A LOT OF *SECRECY*.

BUT WHY ARE YOU GOING TH...

THE HEREMITE... SAID THAT I WOULD DISCOVER THE ORIGINS OF THE EBI THERE...

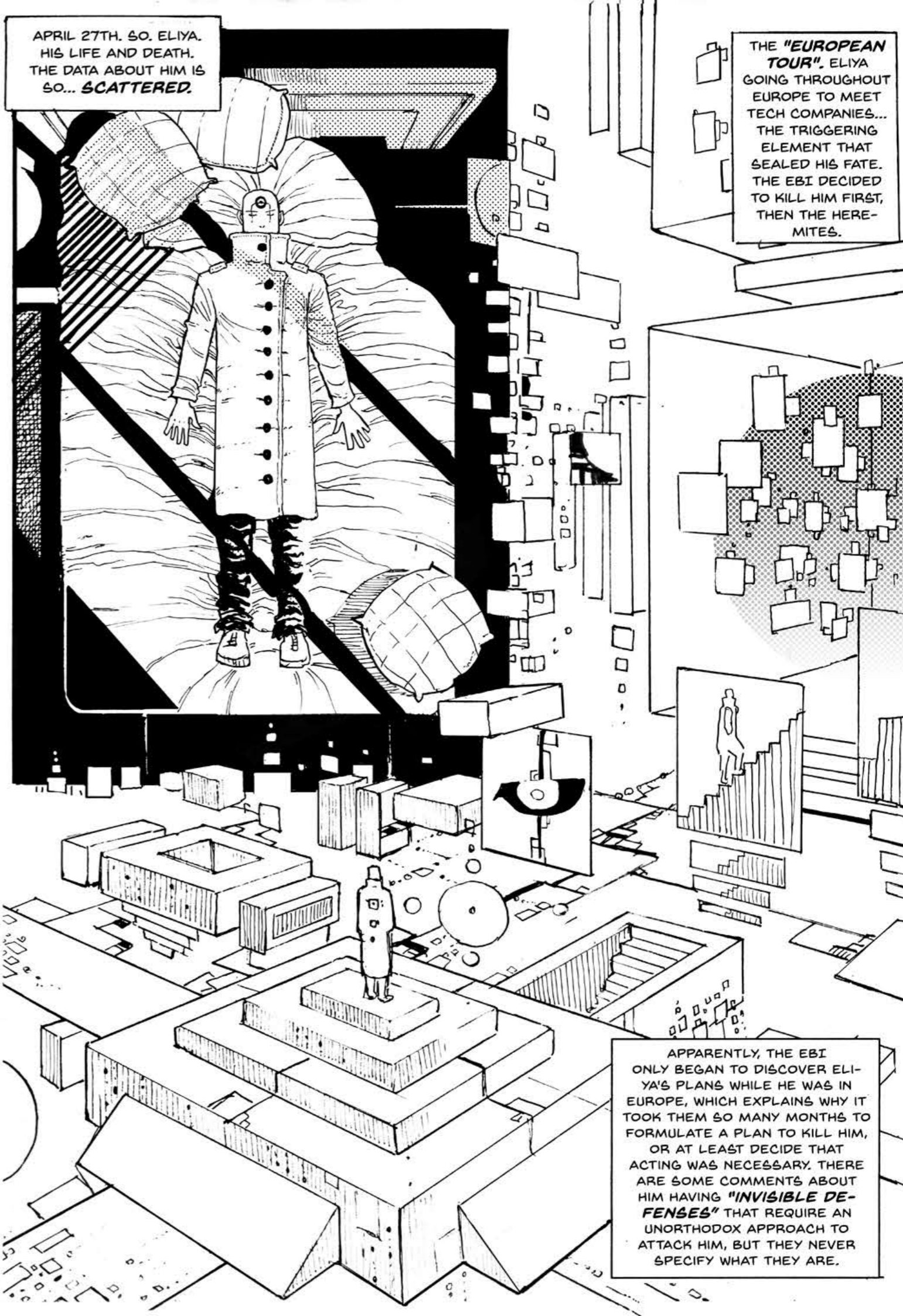
GOD... I'D SLAP YOU SO HARD YOUR FACE WOULD END UP IN YOUR ASS. HOW CAN YOU LISTEN TO HIM, ADAM?

DIDN'T SEEM LIKE HE WAS LYING!

EVEN WORSE, DAMN IT!

ESSEX, MAN... WHAT OTHER *OPTION* DO I HAVE; STAY HIDDEN FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE? IF THIS IS A TRAP, IF I HAVE TO DIE, THEN SO BE IT, FUCK IT.

...DUDE, WHAT THE HELL HAPPENED IN SEVILLE?



APRIL 27TH. SO. ELIYA. HIS LIFE AND DEATH. THE DATA ABOUT HIM IS SO... *SCATTERED*.

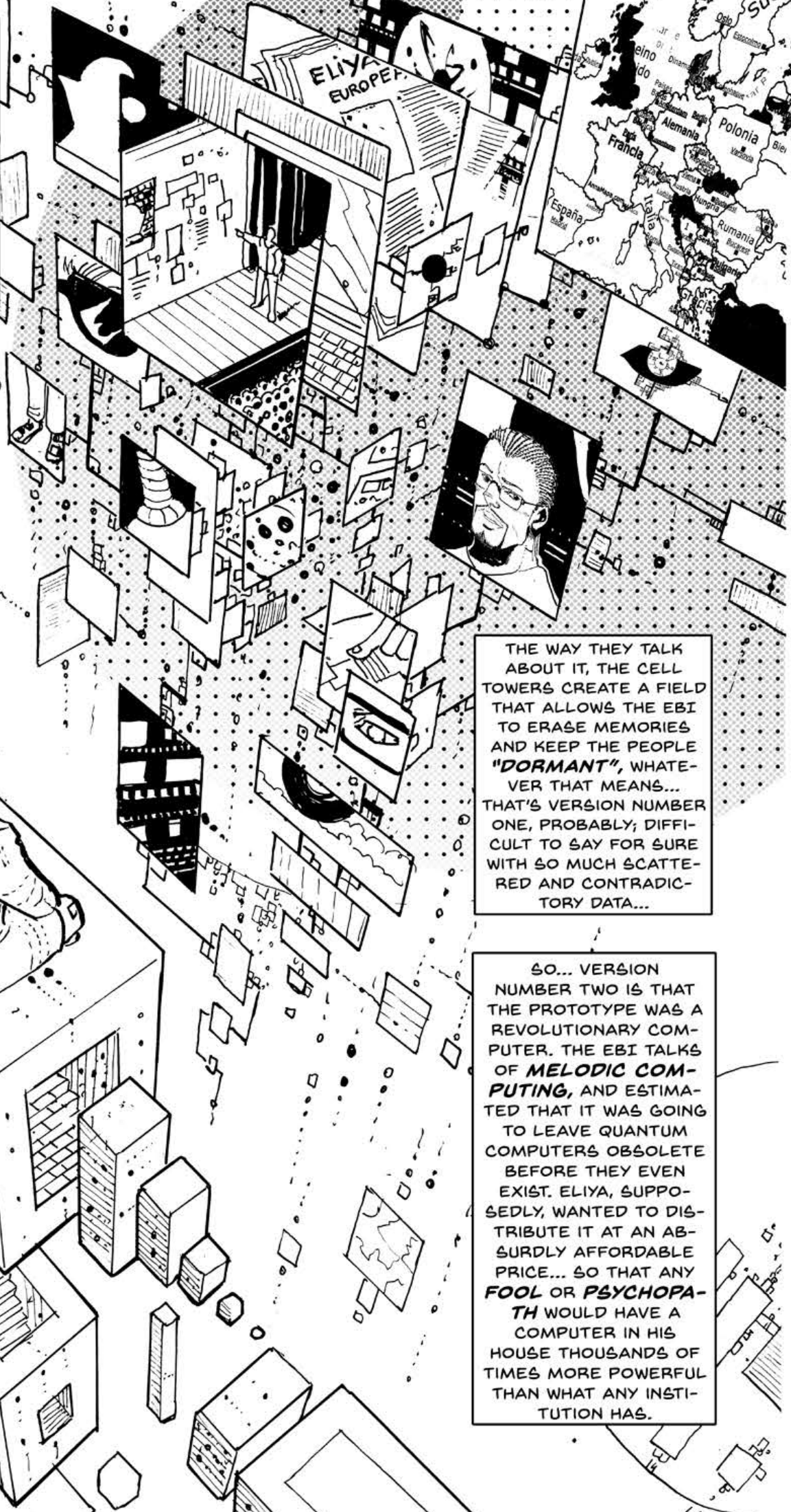
THE "*EUROPEAN TOUR*". ELIYA GOING THROUGHOUT EUROPE TO MEET TECH COMPANIES... THE TRIGGERING ELEMENT THAT SEALED HIS FATE. THE EBI DECIDED TO KILL HIM FIRST, THEN THE HEREMITES.

APPARENTLY, THE EBI ONLY BEGAN TO DISCOVER ELIYA'S PLANS WHILE HE WAS IN EUROPE, WHICH EXPLAINS WHY IT TOOK THEM SO MANY MONTHS TO FORMULATE A PLAN TO KILL HIM, OR AT LEAST DECIDE THAT ACTING WAS NECESSARY. THERE ARE SOME COMMENTS ABOUT HIM HAVING "*INVISIBLE DEFENSES*" THAT REQUIRE AN UNORTHODOX APPROACH TO ATTACK HIM, BUT THEY NEVER SPECIFY WHAT THEY ARE.



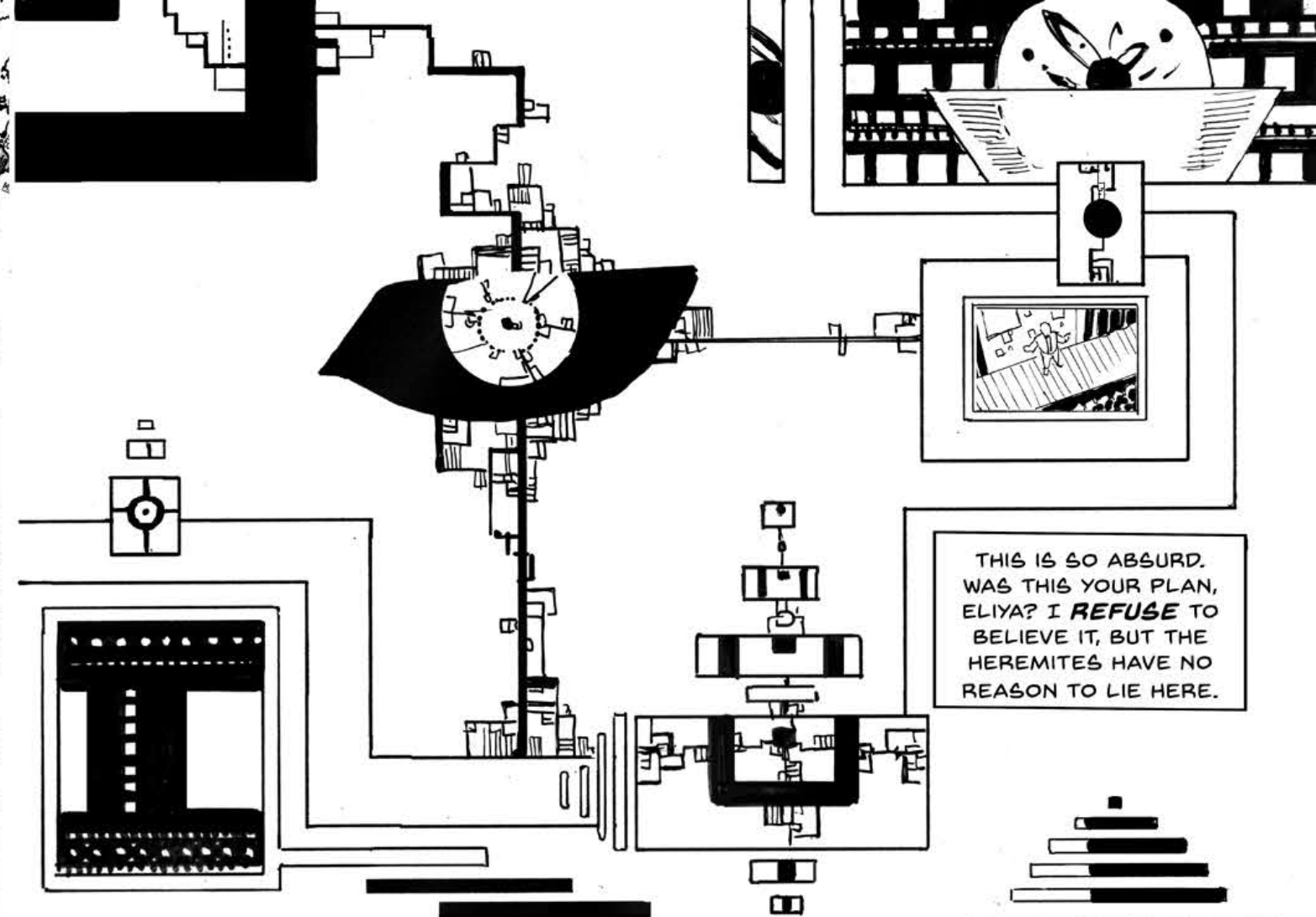
THERE ARE TWO MAIN VERSIONS ON WHAT HAPPENED. IN ONE, ELIYA WAS SHOWING A PROTOTYPE THAT WAS GOING TO BE VERY EASY TO BUILD. THIS DEVICE WAS GOING TO SECRETLY CONNECT WITH HIS PREVIOUS INVENTION, THE GENERATORS, TO **COUNTERACT** THE **MIND-CONTROL TECHNIQUES** OF THE CELL TOWERS.

EVEN THE HEREMITES WERE SCARED OF THAT SCENARIO.



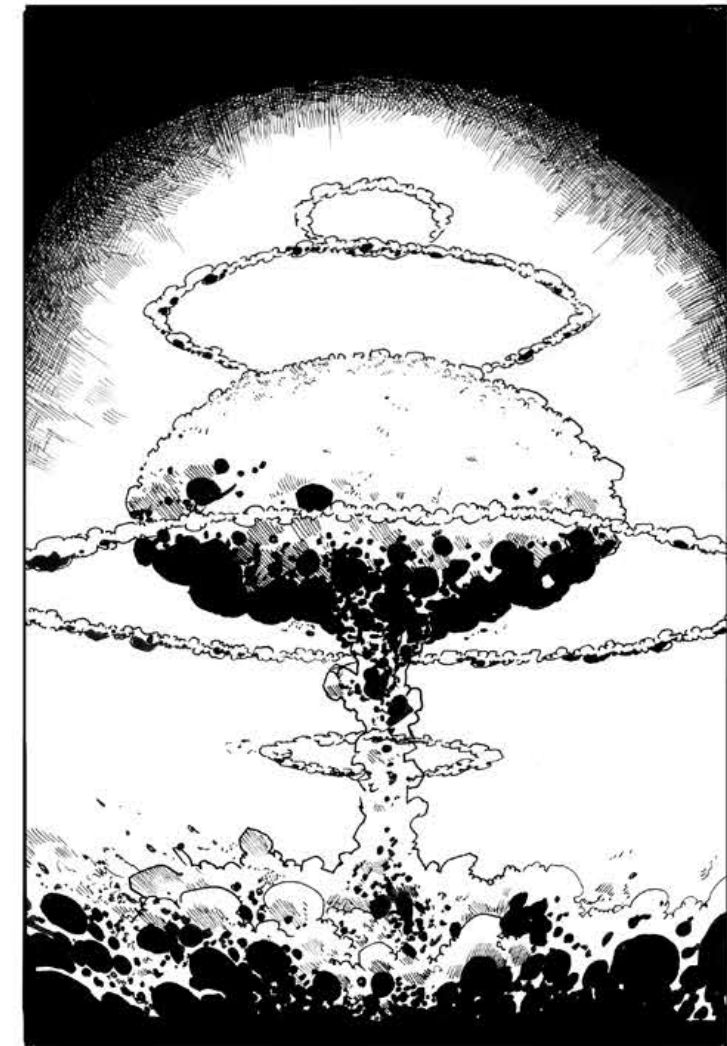
THE WAY THEY TALK ABOUT IT, THE CELL TOWERS CREATE A FIELD THAT ALLOWS THE FBI TO ERASE MEMORIES AND KEEP THE PEOPLE "**DORMANT**", WHATEVER THAT MEANS... THAT'S VERSION NUMBER ONE, PROBABLY; DIFFICULT TO SAY FOR SURE WITH SO MUCH SCATTERED AND CONTRADICTORY DATA...

SO... VERSION NUMBER TWO IS THAT THE PROTOTYPE WAS A REVOLUTIONARY COMPUTER. THE FBI TALKS OF **MELODIC COMPUTING**, AND ESTIMATED THAT IT WAS GOING TO LEAVE QUANTUM COMPUTERS OBSOLETE BEFORE THEY EVEN EXIST. ELIYA, SUPPOSEDLY, WANTED TO DISTRIBUTE IT AT AN ABSURDLY AFFORDABLE PRICE... SO THAT ANY **FOOL** OR **PSYCHOPATH** WOULD HAVE A COMPUTER IN HIS HOUSE THOUSANDS OF TIMES MORE POWERFUL THAN WHAT ANY INSTITUTION HAS.



THIS IS SO ABSURD. WAS THIS YOUR PLAN, ELIYA? I **REFUSE** TO BELIEVE IT, BUT THE HEREMITES HAVE NO REASON TO LIE HERE.

THE COMPUTER COULD BREAK **PASSWORDS** AND **CODES** IN A FEW SECONDS, GIVING FREE ACCESS TO ANY GOVERNMENT OR CORPORATION DATABASE, ANY COMPUTER CONNECTED TO THE INTERNET WOULD BE CONTROLLABLE AT LEVELS NEVER SEEN BEFORE. TOP SECRET DOCUMENTS FILTERED AND EXPOSED IN SECONDS, BANK ACCOUNTS... **NOTHING WOULD BE SAFE**. NOT EVEN THE DEFENSE MECHANISMS OF A COUNTRY. THE FBI FEARED THAT DESPITE THEIR MASSIVE DEFENSIVE MEASURES, AN ARMY OF PEOPLE WITH SUCH COMPUTERS COULD END UP WITH THE **NUCLEAR CODES**.



ELIYA, FOR GOD'S SAKE. **ATOMIC BOMBS** WITHIN ANYONE'S REACH? DID YOU WANT TO CAUSE WORLD WAR III?



WHAT HAPPENED ON SEVILLE? NOTHING.

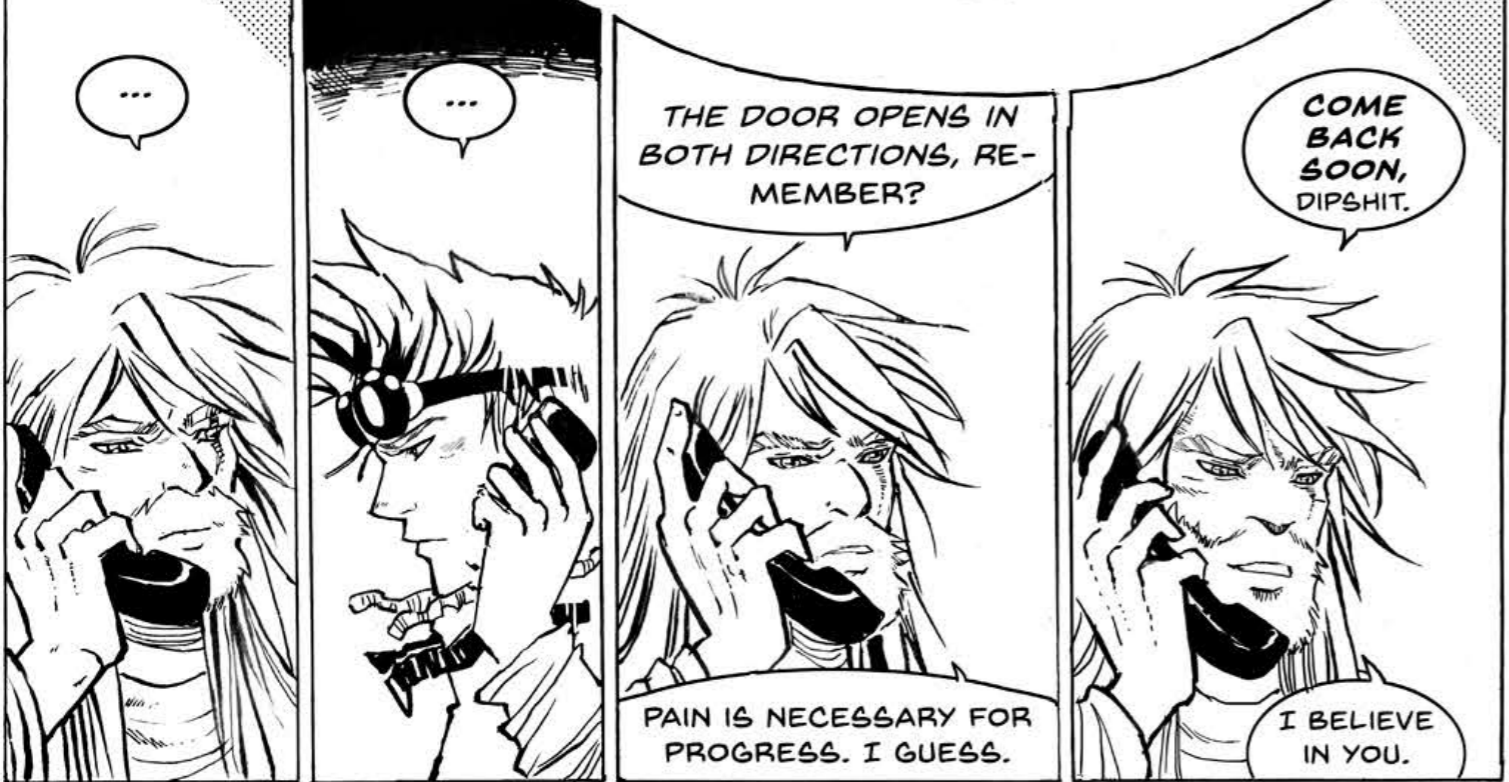
I JUST... I JUST WANTED TO GO HOME.

BUT IT'S USELESS. THE ANONYMITY SPELL PREVENTS ME... IT'S NO LONGER A PLACE FOR ME.

WHY THE FUCK IS THIS HAPPENING, ESSEX? BLANCA, MY FIRST GIRLFRIEND... I TOLD HER I HAD THESE MAGICAL ABILITIES, AND SHE LEFT ME... RIGHT THERE, AS SOON AS I TOLD HER.

I KNOW PEOPLE HAVE THIS INSTINCTIVE FEAR TO THIS SHIT, BUT... HOW CAN WE LIVE WITHOUT EVER BEING ABLE TO TALK?

OR WORSE! I TOLD SIGURD ABOUT THIS, AND HE USED IT AGAINST ME...



THE DOOR OPENS IN BOTH DIRECTIONS, REMEMBER?

COME BACK SOON, DIPSHIT.

PAIN IS NECESSARY FOR PROGRESS. I GUESS.

I BELIEVE IN YOU.



WHAT HAVE WE DONE TO DESERVE THIS?



OF ALL THE SABOTAGES, INFILTRATIONS, MURDERS...



...THIS IS THE MOST PATHETIC THING WE'VE EVER DONE! SPYING ON A FUCKING CACTUS!



MAY 1ST. AFTER HIS DEATH.

ONE WOULD ASSUME THAT ONCE THEY KILLED HIM, THE EBI WOULD FIND THE PROTOTYPE. BUT, THAT NEVER HAPPENED...

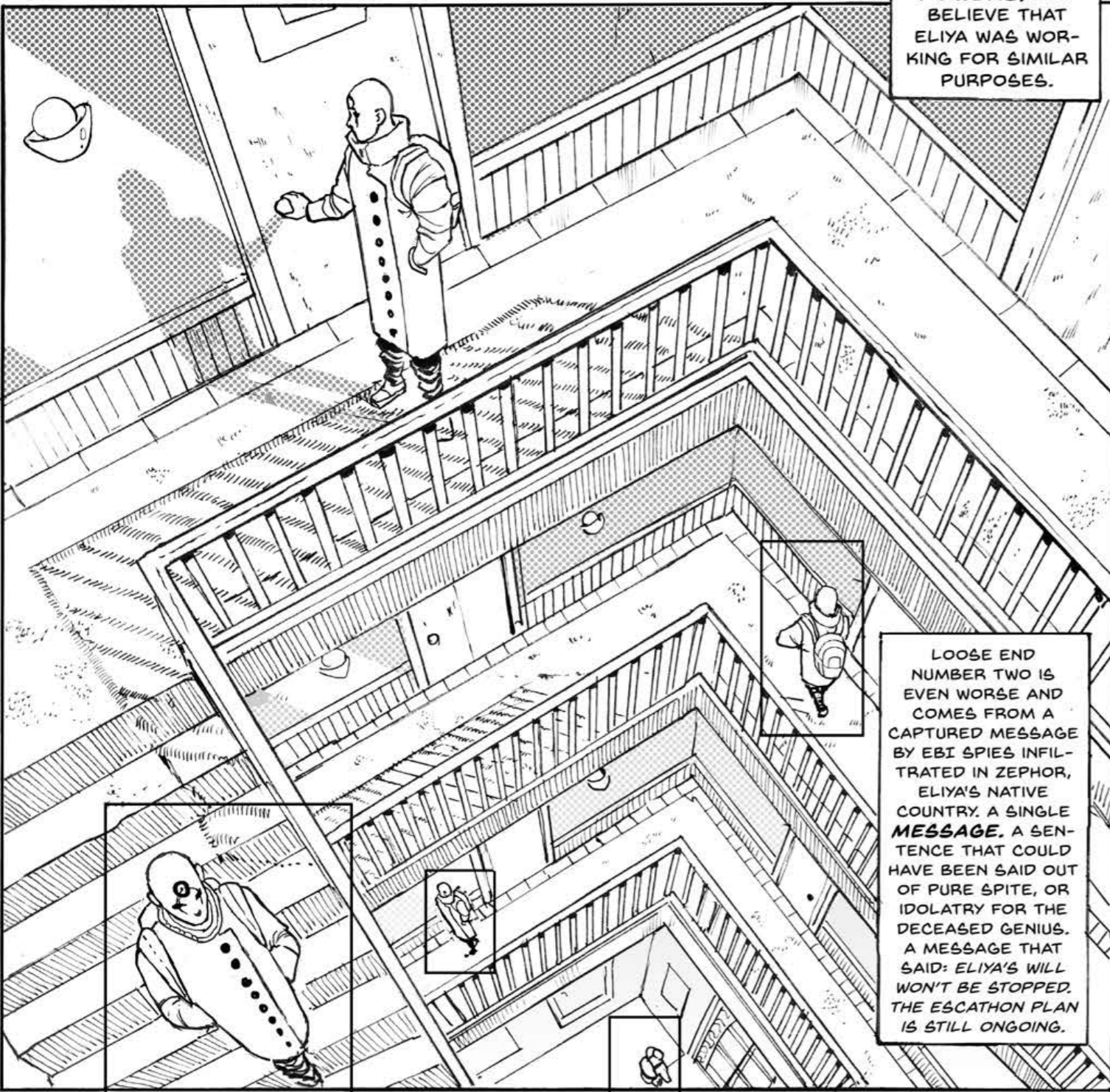
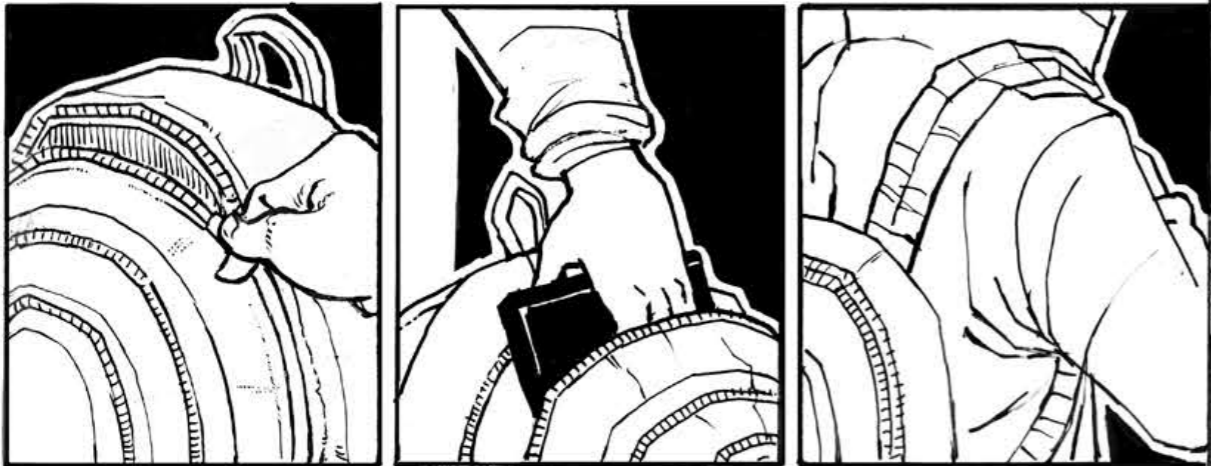
THE EBI THEN PROCEEDED TO ERASE THE MEMORY OF ALL THOSE IN EUROPE WHO SAW ELIYA'S PROTOTYPE, AND EVEN THEN WERE UNABLE TO ARRIVE AT A UNIFIED STORY ABOUT HIS TECHNOLOGY.



IN OTHER WORDS; ELIYA WAS GIVING CONTRADICTIONARY STATEMENTS EVEN TO HIS POTENTIAL PARTNERS. AND THIS IS NOT THE ONLY GLARING LOOSE END IN THE WHOLE SITUATION. THERE ARE TWO MORE WORTHY OF NOTE THAT I CAN SEE, EXHAUSTED AS I AM.

Frei  
Julien (S?)  
Driesas  
Bomquenos  
Liamiles

\*\*Gita Europe  
Eliya.



LOOSE END NUMBER ONE REVOLVES AROUND THE CABALISTS AND AROUND SIGURD, ADAM'S FAMOUS FRIEND. THE GUY WAS **PROMOTED** BY THE CABALISTS AFTER MURDERING ELIYA. THAT FACT PUZZLED EVEN THE HERMITES THEMSELVES SINCE, ACCORDING TO THEM, THE CABALISTS WANT ALL OF HUMANITY TO BECOME AWARE OF THEIR **MAGICAL POWERS**, AND BELIEVE THAT ELIYA WAS WORKING FOR SIMILAR PURPOSES.

LOOSE END NUMBER TWO IS EVEN WORSE AND COMES FROM A CAPTURED MESSAGE BY EBI SPIES INFILTRATED IN ZEPHOR, ELIYA'S NATIVE COUNTRY. A SINGLE **MESSAGE**. A SENTENCE THAT COULD HAVE BEEN SAID OUT OF PURE SPITE, OR IDOLATRY FOR THE DECEASED GENIUS. A MESSAGE THAT SAID: **ELIYA'S WILL WON'T BE STOPPED. THE ESCATHON PLAN IS STILL ONGOING.**

BOXES INSIDE OF BOXES. I STILL CAN'T BELIEVE THE EBI COVERED UP THE WHOLE THING. AND I IMAGINE THAT ALL THE COMPANIES THAT WORKED WITH ELIYA WILL BE **UNDER SURVEILLANCE...**

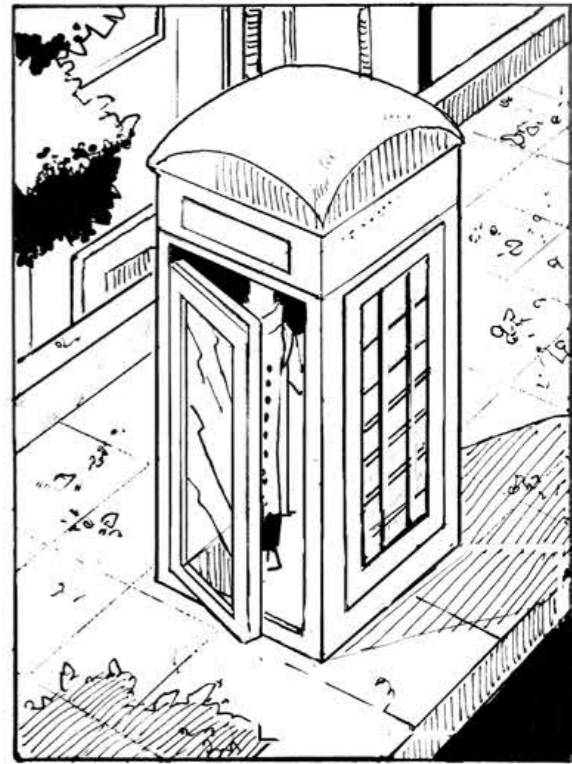


THE CACTUS LEFT THE MOTEL! AT LAST!



AND HE'S GOING TO A **PHONE BOOTH**, MAN!

I FEEL... I FEEL **INSEMINATED.**



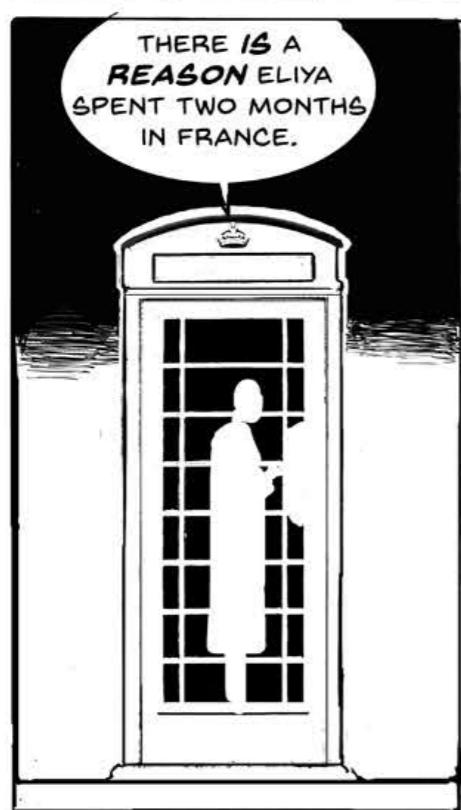
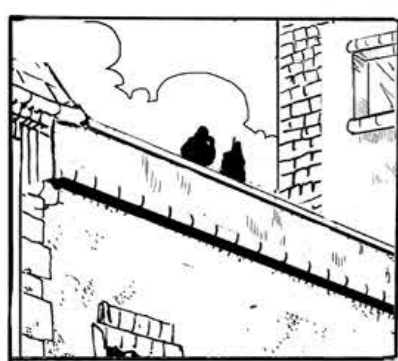
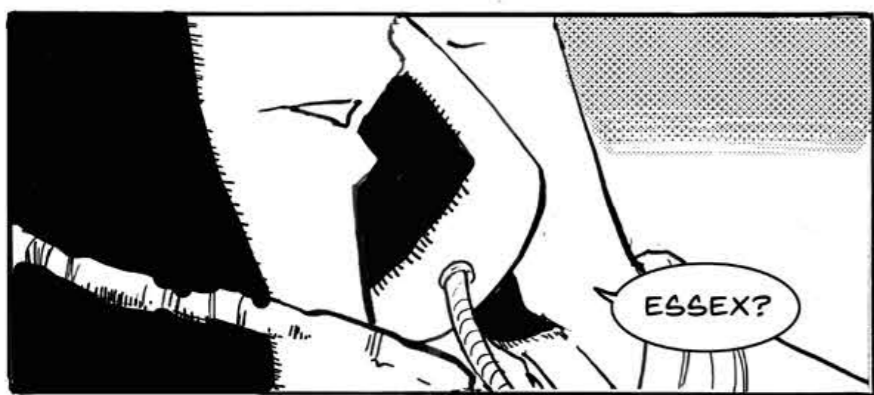
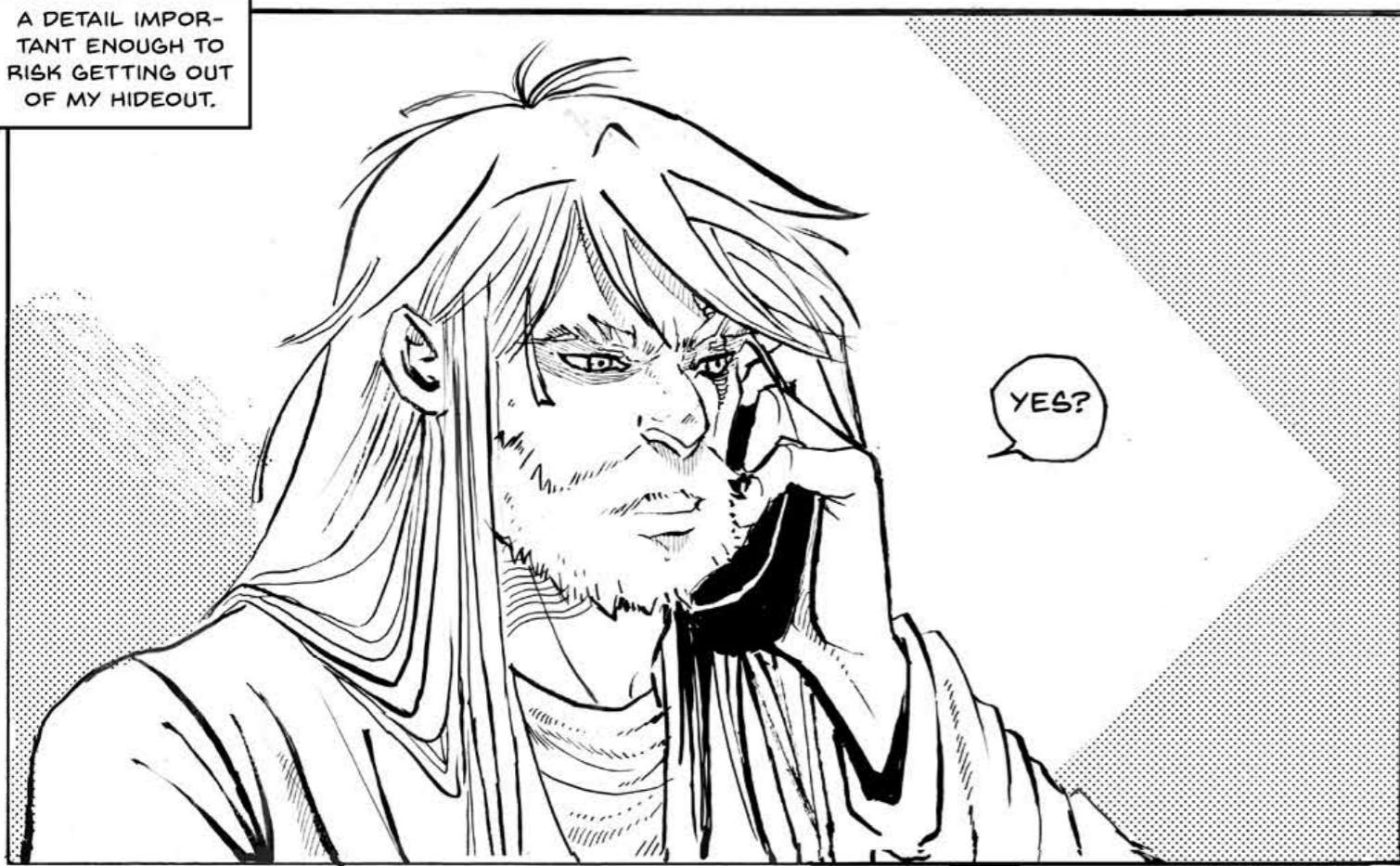
I THINK... I THINK **I'M GONNA CRY, 12.**

I THINK JACOB MADE ME A **WOMAN.**



THERE'S ONE SMALL **DETAIL** I'VE **OMITTED.**

A DETAIL IMPOR-  
TANT ENOUGH TO  
RISK GETTING OUT  
OF MY HIDEOUT.



YES?

ESSEX?

THERE IS A REASON ELIYA SPENT TWO MONTHS IN FRANCE.

HE HAS AN ILLEGITIMATE SON HIDDEN THERE.

# ...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!

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