



54:

CUENTA ATRAS

SIMON M. **ATANA S.**
 SCRIPT PENCILS
 PANEL LAYOUT INK
 COVER
 TRANSLATION
 (SORRY, ENGLISH SPEAKERS)

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SO... NOW WHAT?

WE CAN'T SAVE ALL THE EBI* PEOPLE!



...?

WHAT...? A SIGNAL... IN THE EARPIECES OF THE EBI...

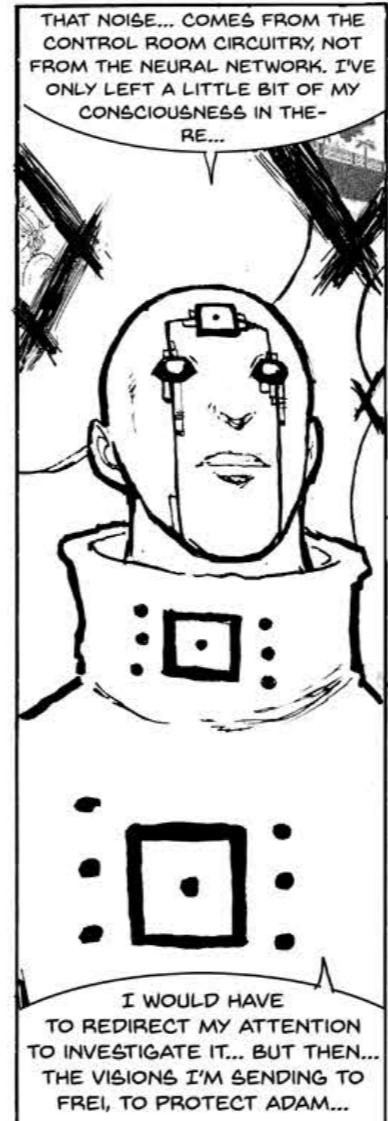


SOME AGENTS WILL RECEIVE THE SIGNAL.

THE REST... WE'LL TRY TO WARN THEM.

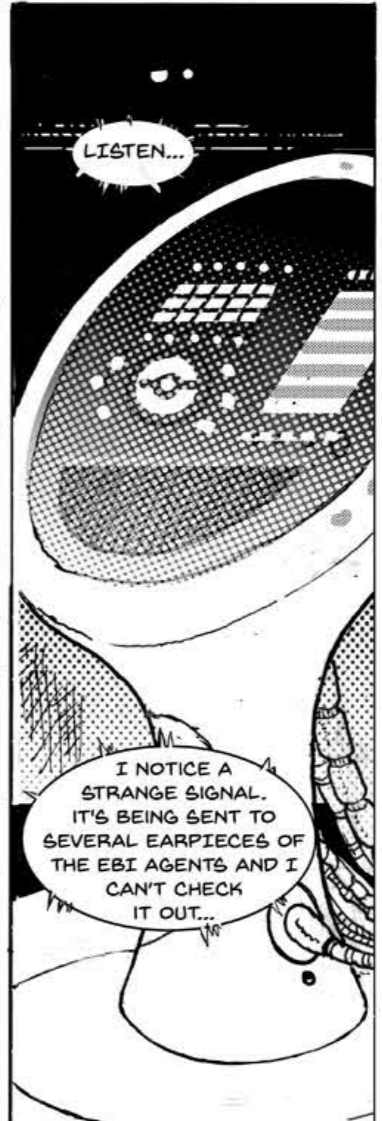


-HH- SO MANY... NOISES!



THAT NOISE... COMES FROM THE CONTROL ROOM CIRCUITRY, NOT FROM THE NEURAL NETWORK. I'VE ONLY LEFT A LITTLE BIT OF MY CONSCIOUSNESS IN THERE...

I WOULD HAVE TO REDIRECT MY ATTENTION TO INVESTIGATE IT... BUT THEN... THE VISIONS I'M SENDING TO FREI, TO PROTECT ADAM...



LISTEN...

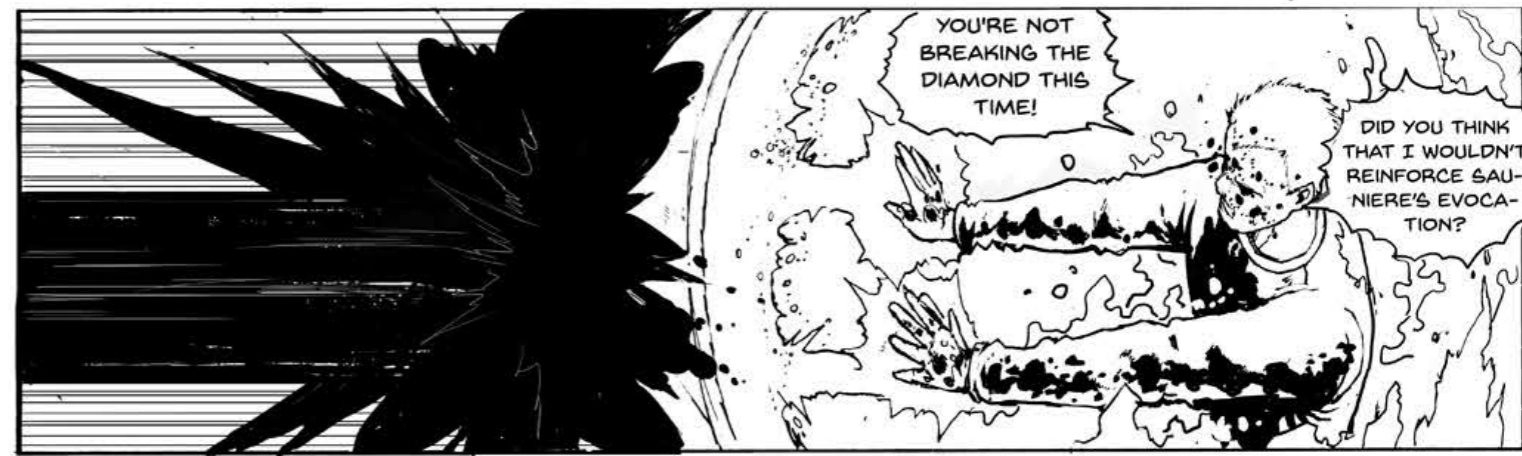
I NOTICE A STRANGE SIGNAL. IT'S BEING SENT TO SEVERAL EARPIECES OF THE EBI AGENTS AND I CAN'T CHECK IT OUT...



YOU THOUGHT... THIS PSYCHIC ASSAULT WOULD AFFECT ME?!

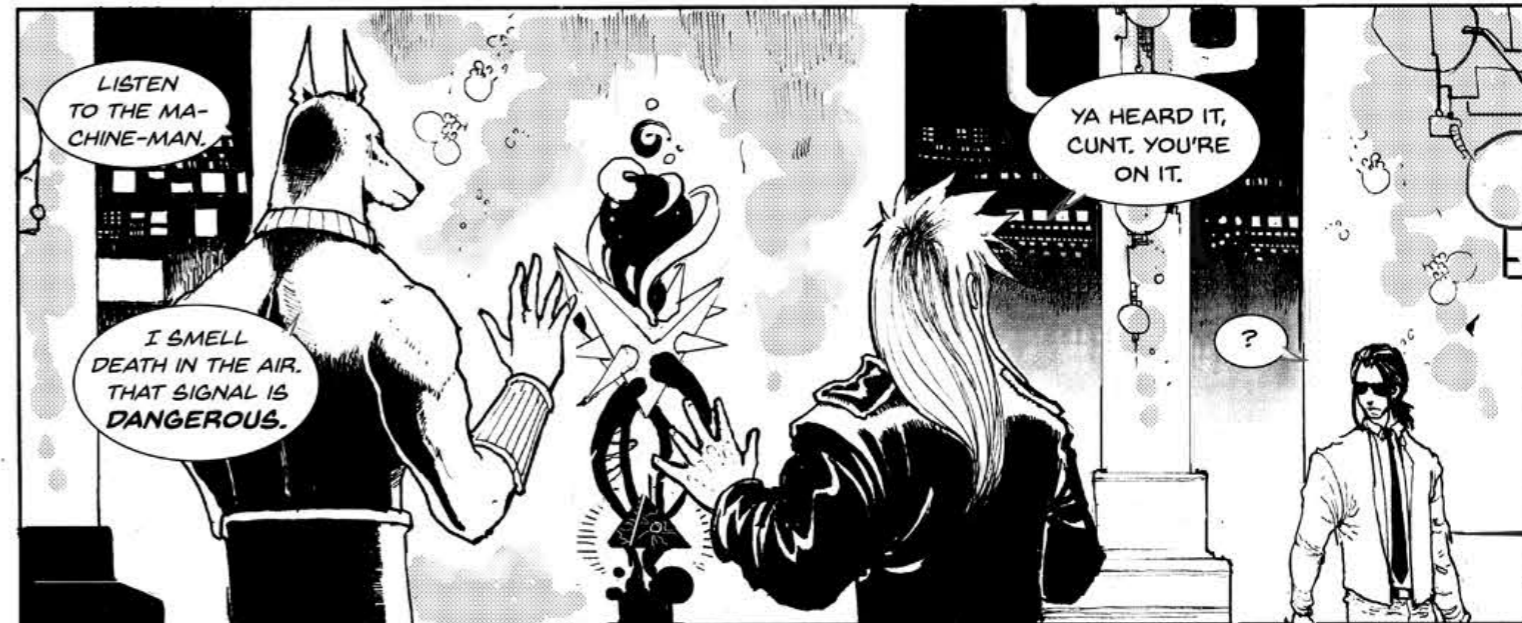


COUNTDOWN TO DETONATION:
10 MINUTES.



YOU'RE NOT
BREAKING THE
DIAMOND THIS
TIME!

DID YOU THINK
THAT I WOULDN'T
REINFORCE SAU-
NIERE'S EVOCA-
TION?

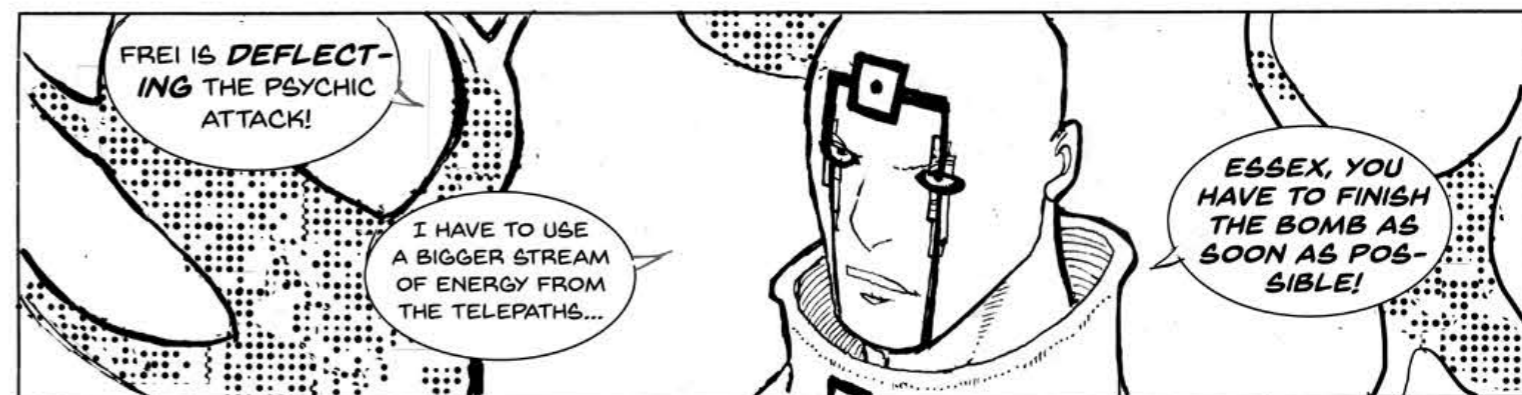
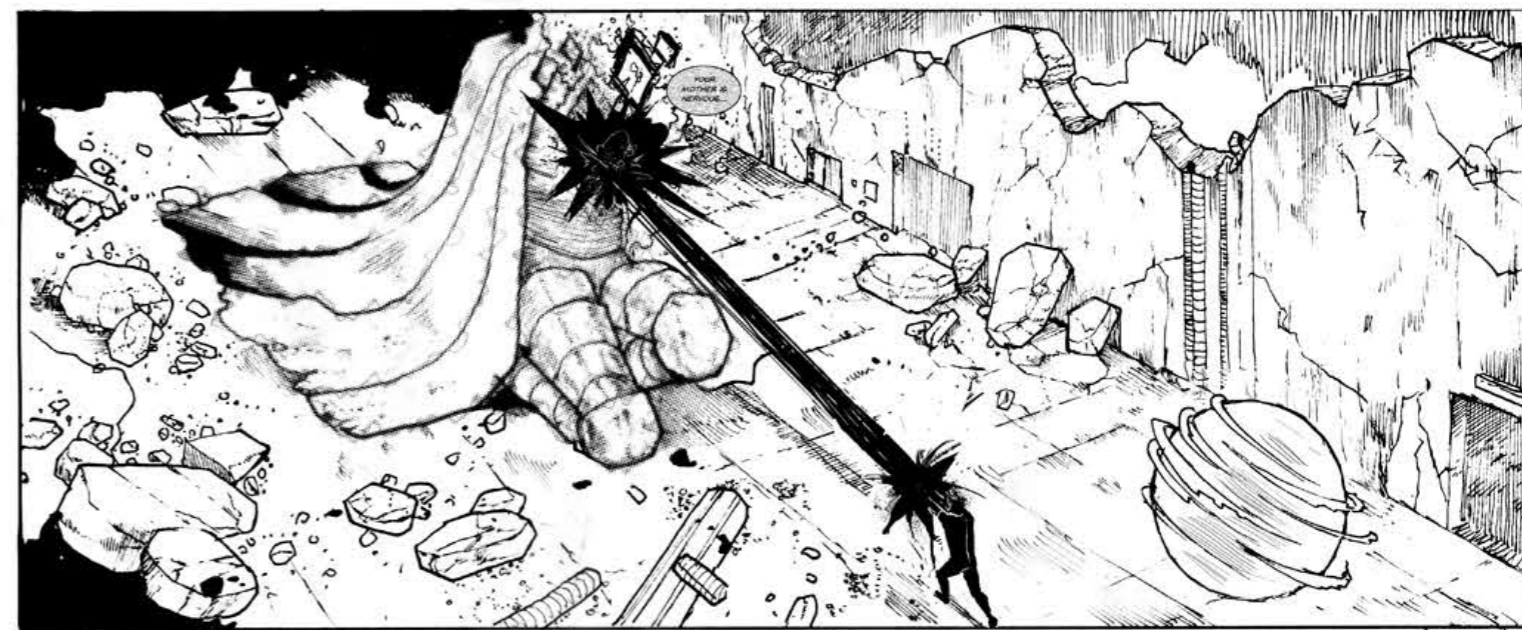


LISTEN
TO THE MA-
CHINE-MAN.

I SMELL
DEATH IN THE AIR.
THAT SIGNAL IS
DANGEROUS.

YA HEARD IT,
CUNT. YOU'RE
ON IT.

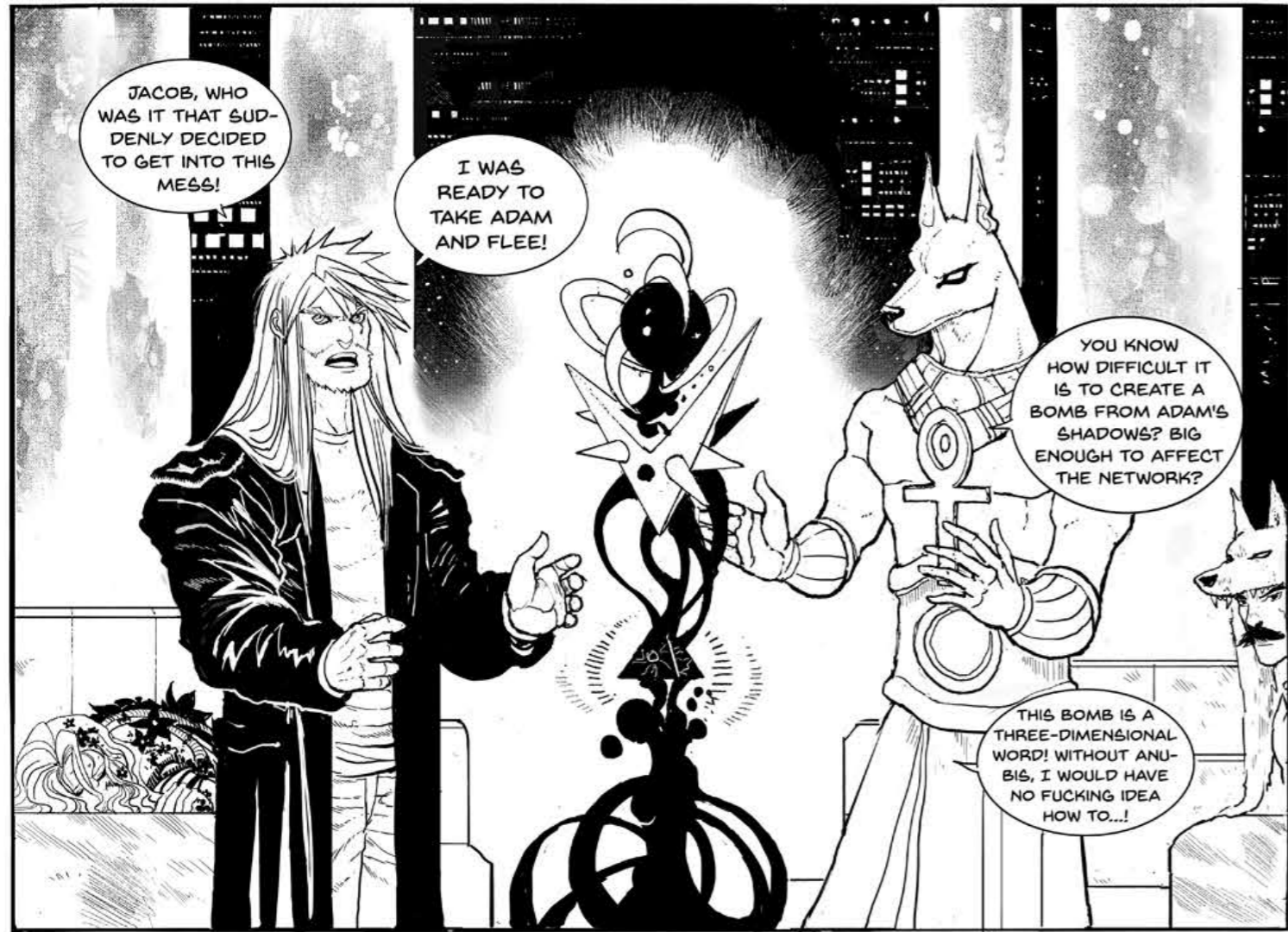
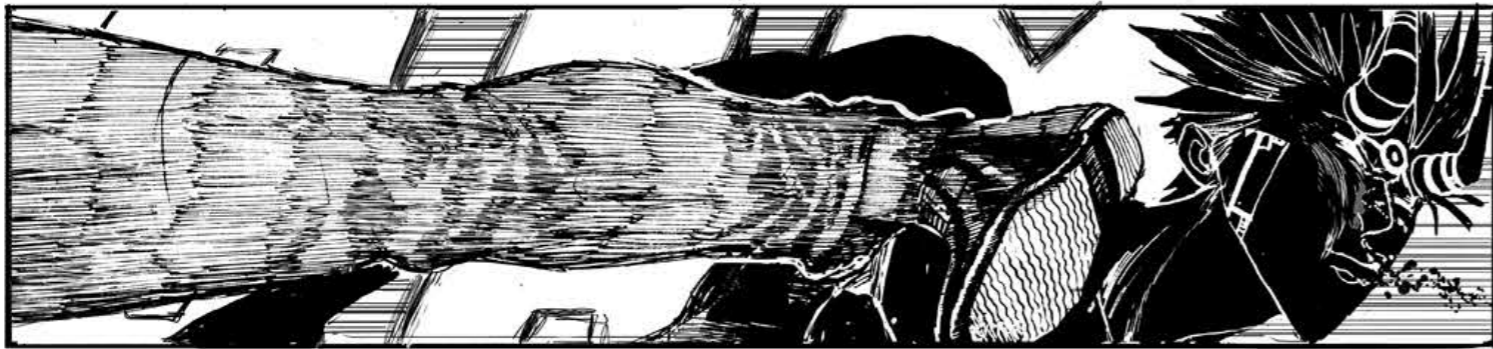
?



FREI IS DEFLECT-
ING THE PSYCHIC
ATTACK!

I HAVE TO USE
A BIGGER STREAM
OF ENERGY FROM
THE TELEPATHS...

ESSEX, YOU
HAVE TO FINISH
THE BOMB AS
SOON AS POS-
SIBLE!

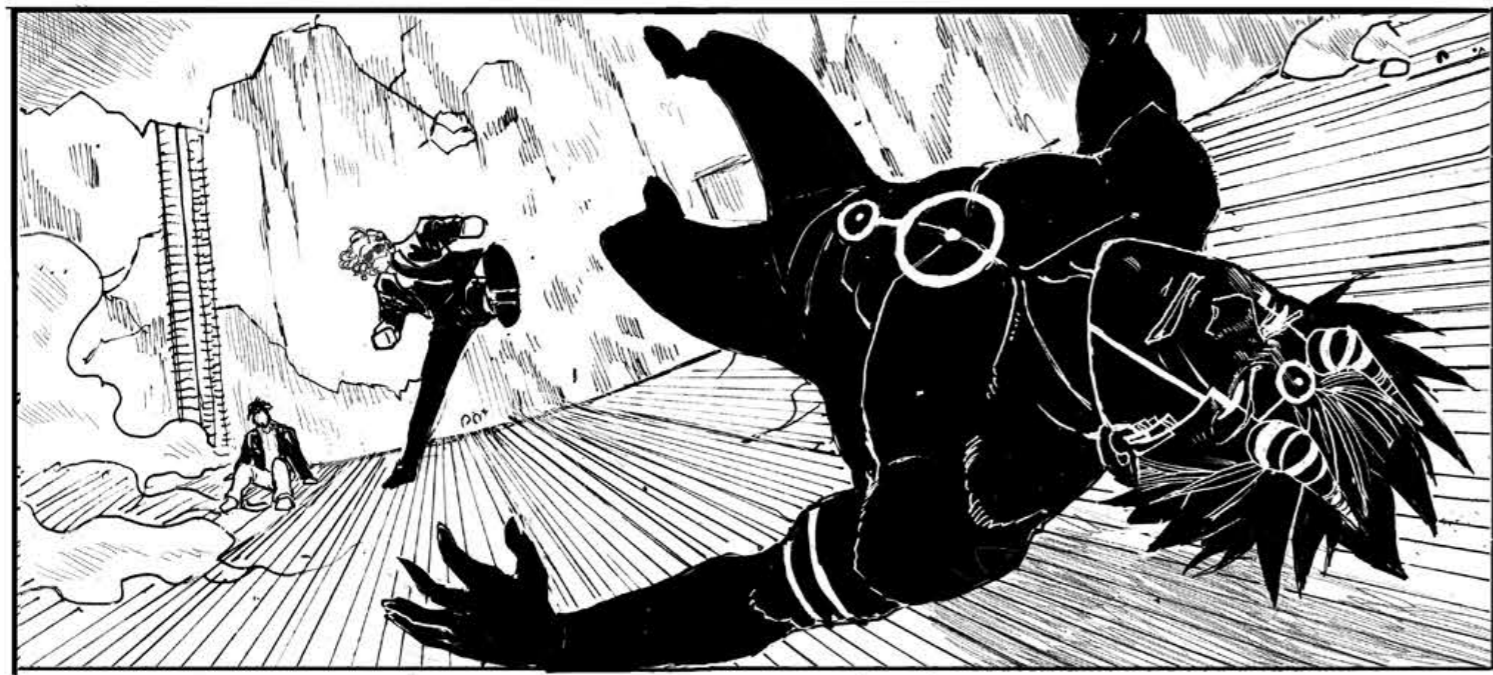


JACOB, WHO WAS IT THAT SUD- DENLY DECIDED TO GET INTO THIS MESS!

I WAS READY TO TAKE ADAM AND FLEE!

YOU KNOW HOW DIFFICULT IT IS TO CREATE A BOMB FROM ADAM'S SHADOWS? BIG ENOUGH TO AFFECT THE NETWORK?

THIS BOMB IS A THREE-DIMENSIONAL WORD! WITHOUT ANU- BIS, I WOULD HAVE NO FUCKING IDEA HOW TO...!



FRANK.



THE PLAN B, DID YOU ACTI- VATE IT?

THE HERE- MITES...?



NO. IT'S THEM. THE THREE.



SIGURD SAW THEM TAKING SHADOWS FROM SATAN'S HAND INTO THE NEURAL NET- WORK ROOM.

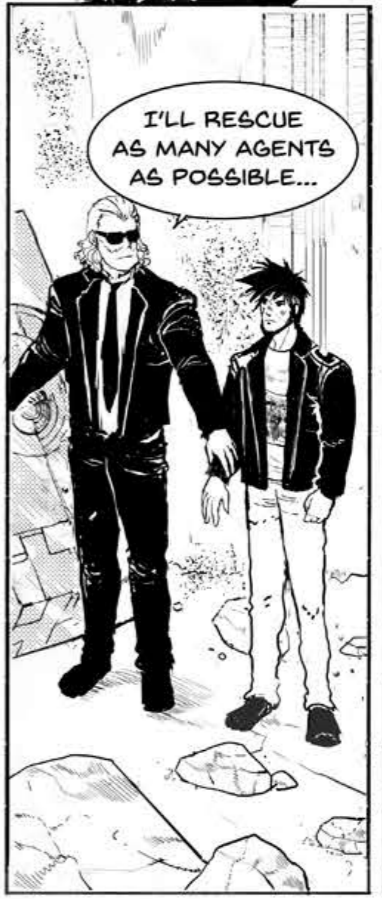


WHAT?

RUSHKOFF SAID THAT ENERGY TRIGGERED THE ALARMS...!



YES. THAT'S WHY.



I'LL RESCUE AS MANY AGENTS AS POSSIBLE...



I'LL COME FOR YOU AFTER, ALTHOUGH IN YOUR CASE...!



COUNTDOWN TO DETONATION:
9 MINUTES, 4 SECONDS.



UGH...

DAD

I'M
SORRY.



...JACOB!

I AM GOING
TO CONNECT
TO THE BASE'S OPER-
ATING SYSTEM...
BUT...



I'M
SORRY...



...YOU ALSO HAVE
TO INVESTIGATE
THE SIGNAL.

...FREI CAN BE
VERY DANGER-
OUS. WE NEED TO
CLEAR THIS UP.



YOU RESIST
MY LEFT PALM
PUSH?

FINE.

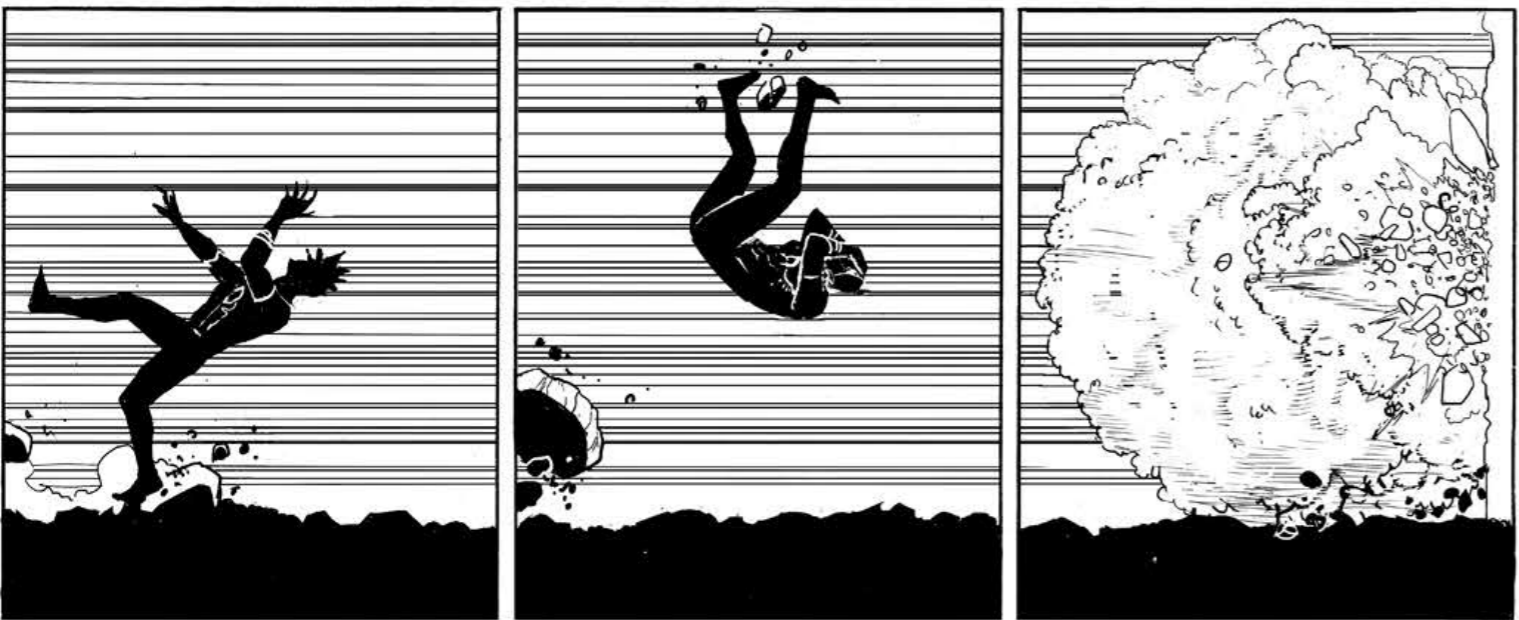
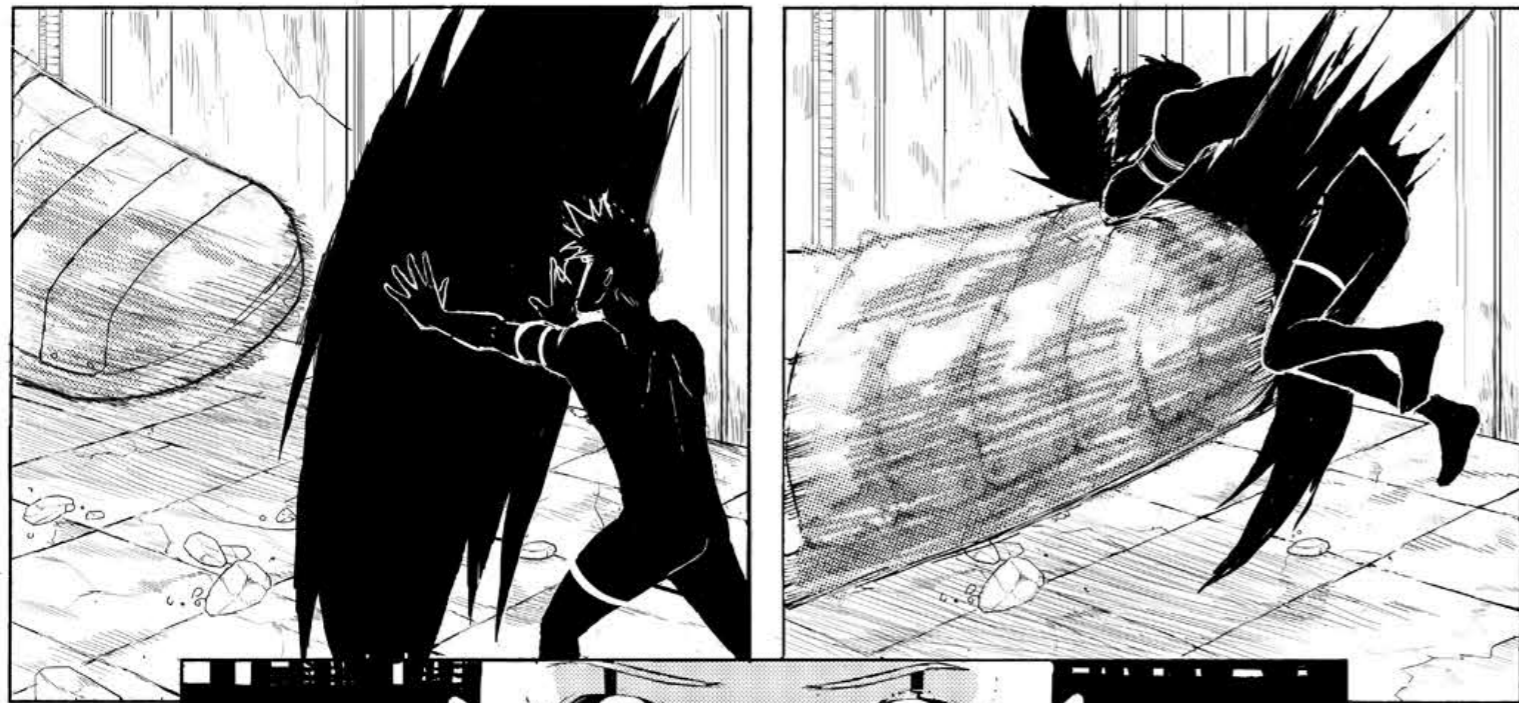


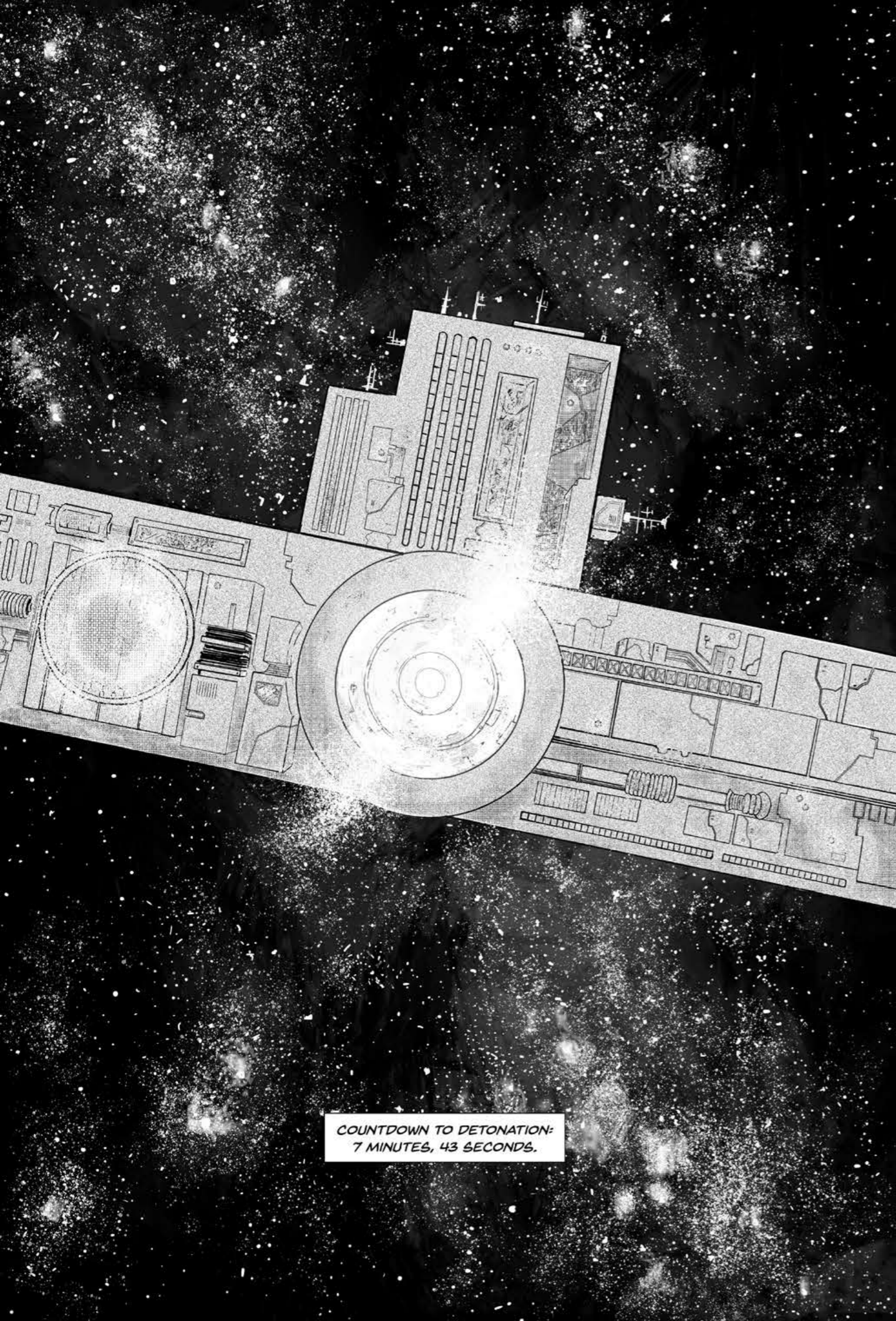
BUT... I DON'T THINK I CAN
DIVIDE MY ATTENTION ANY
MORE, BETWEEN FREI AND
EVERYTHING I'M DOING IN THE
NEURAL NETWORK...

...FINE. I'LL
TRY.

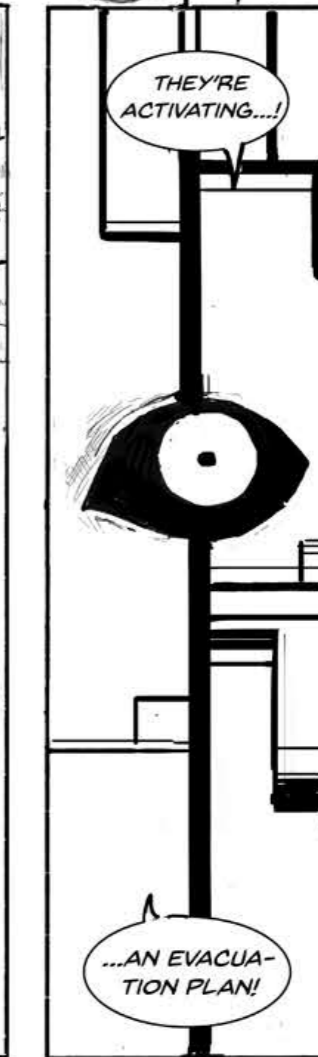


DAD, I'M...





COUNTDOWN TO DETONATION:
7 MINUTES, 43 SECONDS.

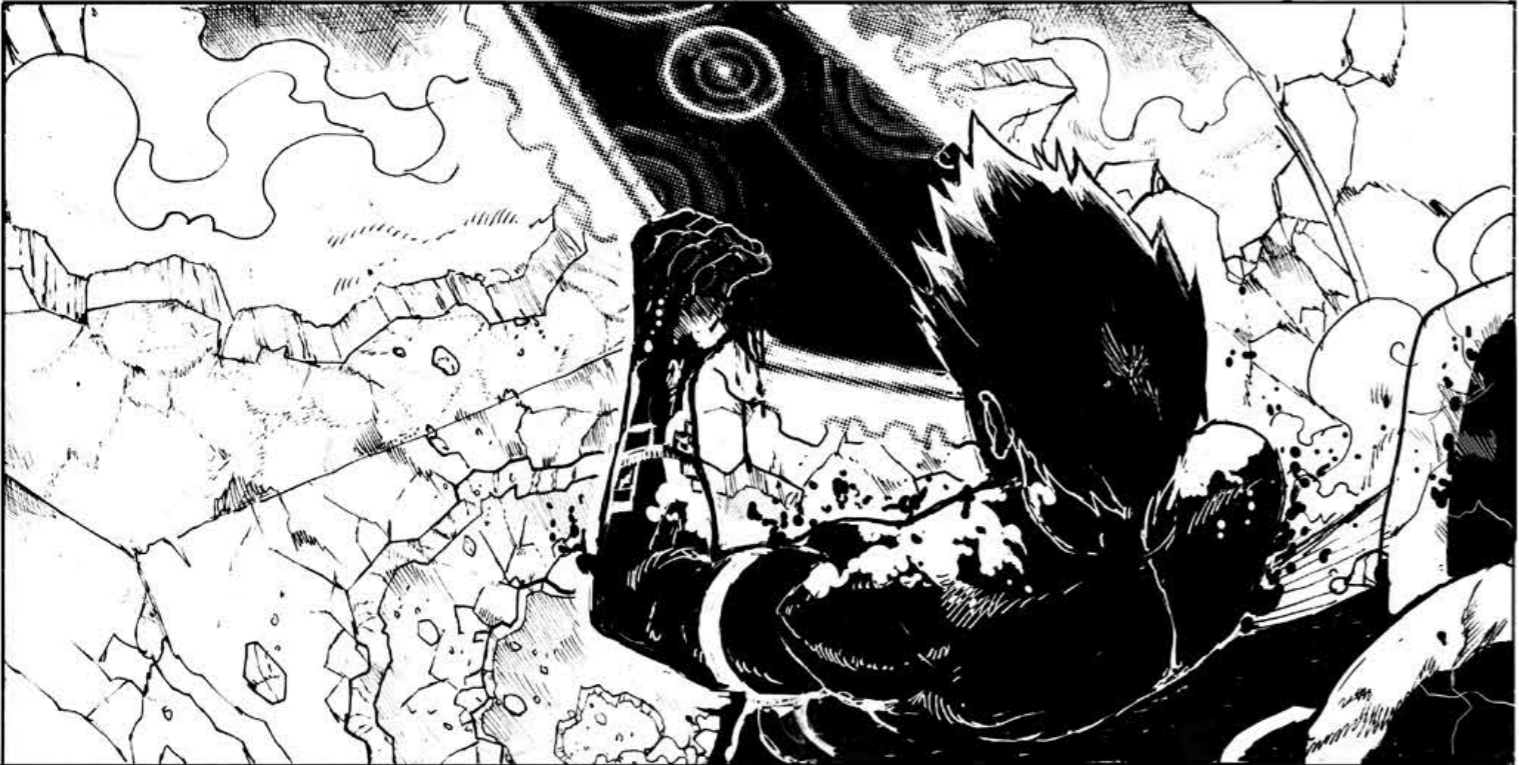




THEY ARE GOING TO DETONATE THE BASE!



ESSEX, LISTEN...!



YOU WILL START TO LOSE STRENGTH.



HHG

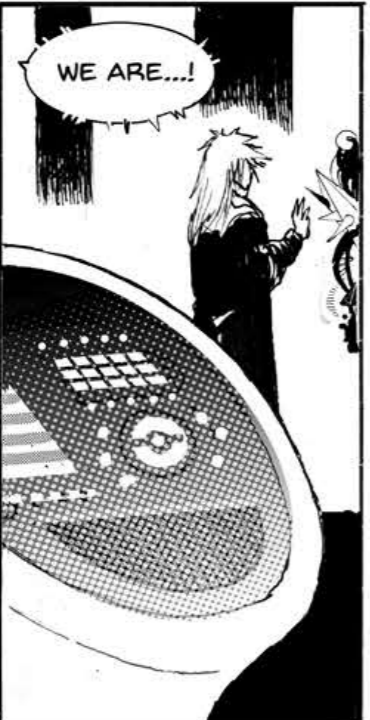


GHG



YOU MANAGED TO STOP THE THRUST.

GOOD.



WE ARE...!



TOO BAD YOU'VE CUT YOUR HANDS, RIGHT?



...FUCKED, RIGHT? ANUBIS SAYS IT SMELLS OF DEATH.



BUT... ESSEX... WHAT...?

THERE MUST BE 6 MIN...!

WE ARE SCATTERED AROUND THE SEQUENCE... AROUND THE BASE, I MEAN!



ESSEX, FOCUS ON THE MENTAL CHANT. THE WORD CAN BE DESTABILIZED AS IT ENTERS THE TUBE.

JACOB, WALTER'S HERE.

HE'LL OPEN PORTALS NEAR ALL OF US TO ENTER THE PARALLEL DIMENSION...

BUT WILL HE BE FAST EN..?

WE'VE ALREADY DONE IT, RIGHT?!



ABOUT THIS PLAN...



TELL ME ONE THING.

YEAH?



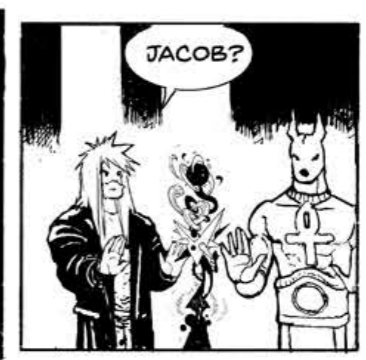
WHY DO YOU THINK I AGREED TO BRING YOU HERE?



HM?



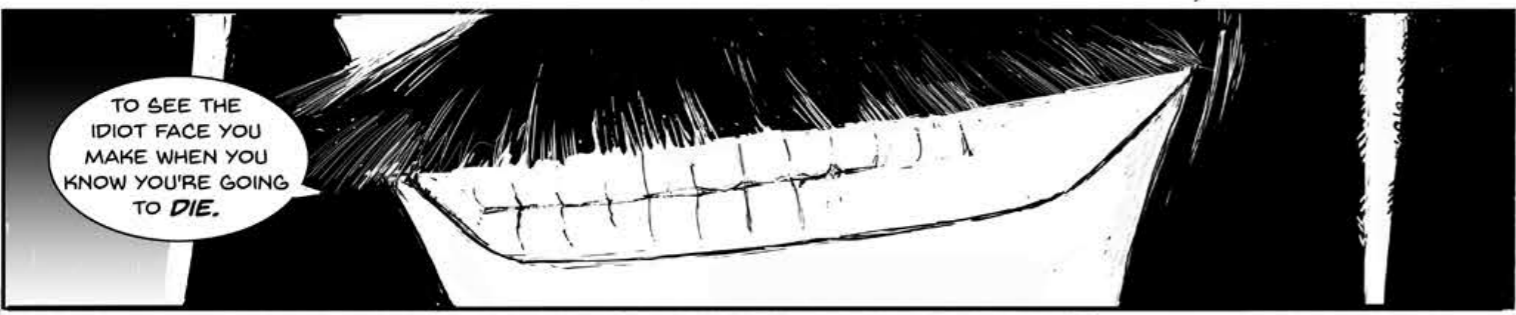
JA...



JACOB?



WE ARE DEAD.



TO SEE THE IDIOT FACE YOU MAKE WHEN YOU KNOW YOU'RE GOING TO DIE.



FUCK YOU!

W-WHAT?

NO!



AH, YOU ARE ALL FALLING, HUH?

YOUR ALLIES ARE NOT SENDING ME VISIONS ANYMORE, YOU'RE LOSING YOUR ENERGY...

MAYBE I SHOULD USE SAUNIÈRE'S WILL ON YOU.

IN HIS COFFIN OF WORDS, YOU WOULD SENSE HIS IDEAS FULLY. YOU WOULD UNDERSTAND WHY...





COUNTDOWN TO DETONATION:
4 MINUTES, 32 SECONDS.



UNGH...

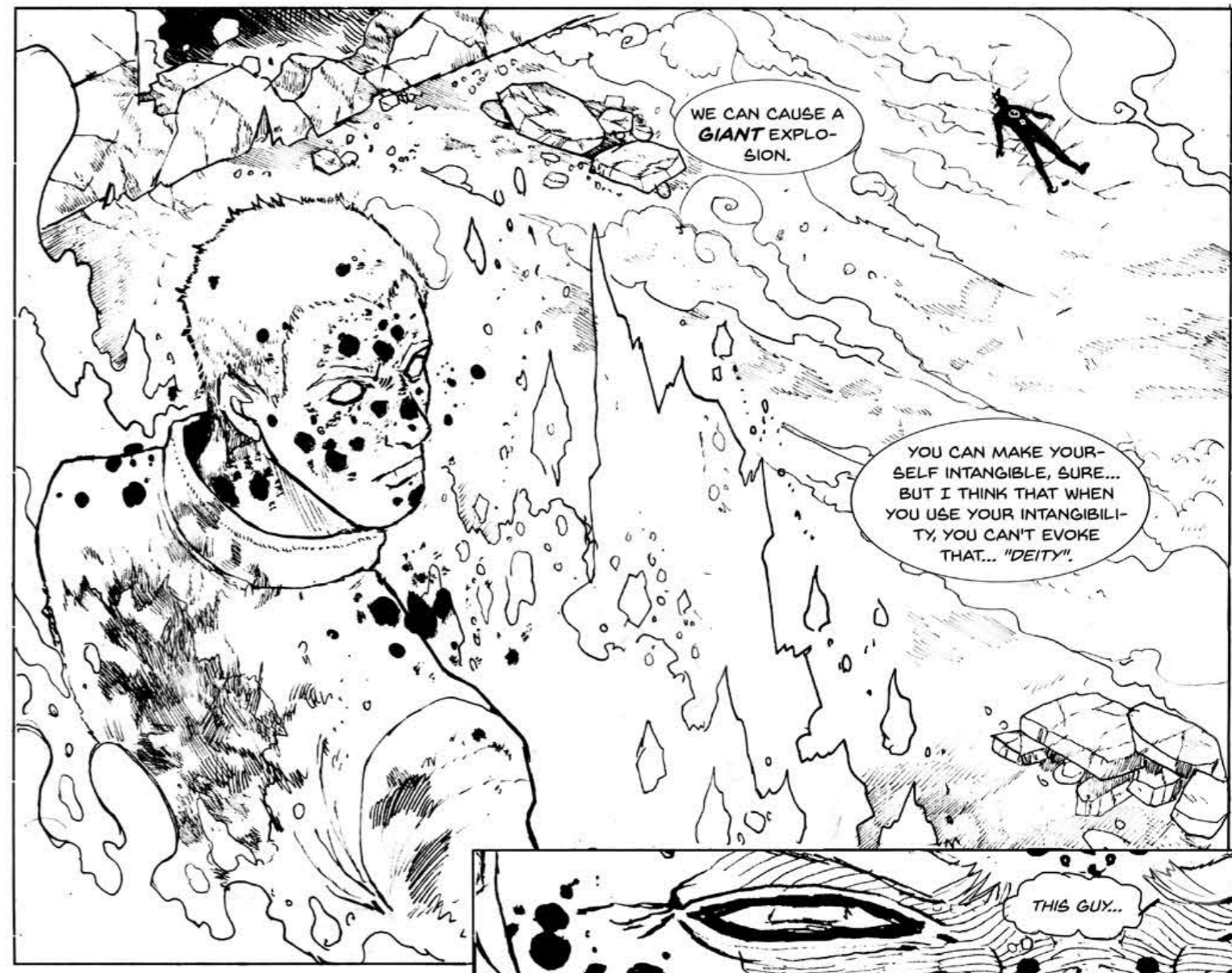
ASTOR, I DIDN'T KNOW YOUR EXPLOSIONS COULD BE SO POWERFUL...



WHERE ARE...?

GAS MICROCAPSULES, FREI.

AN AGENT WITH ONE OF THE MOST USELESS POWERS... BUT IT COMBINES WELL WITH MINE.

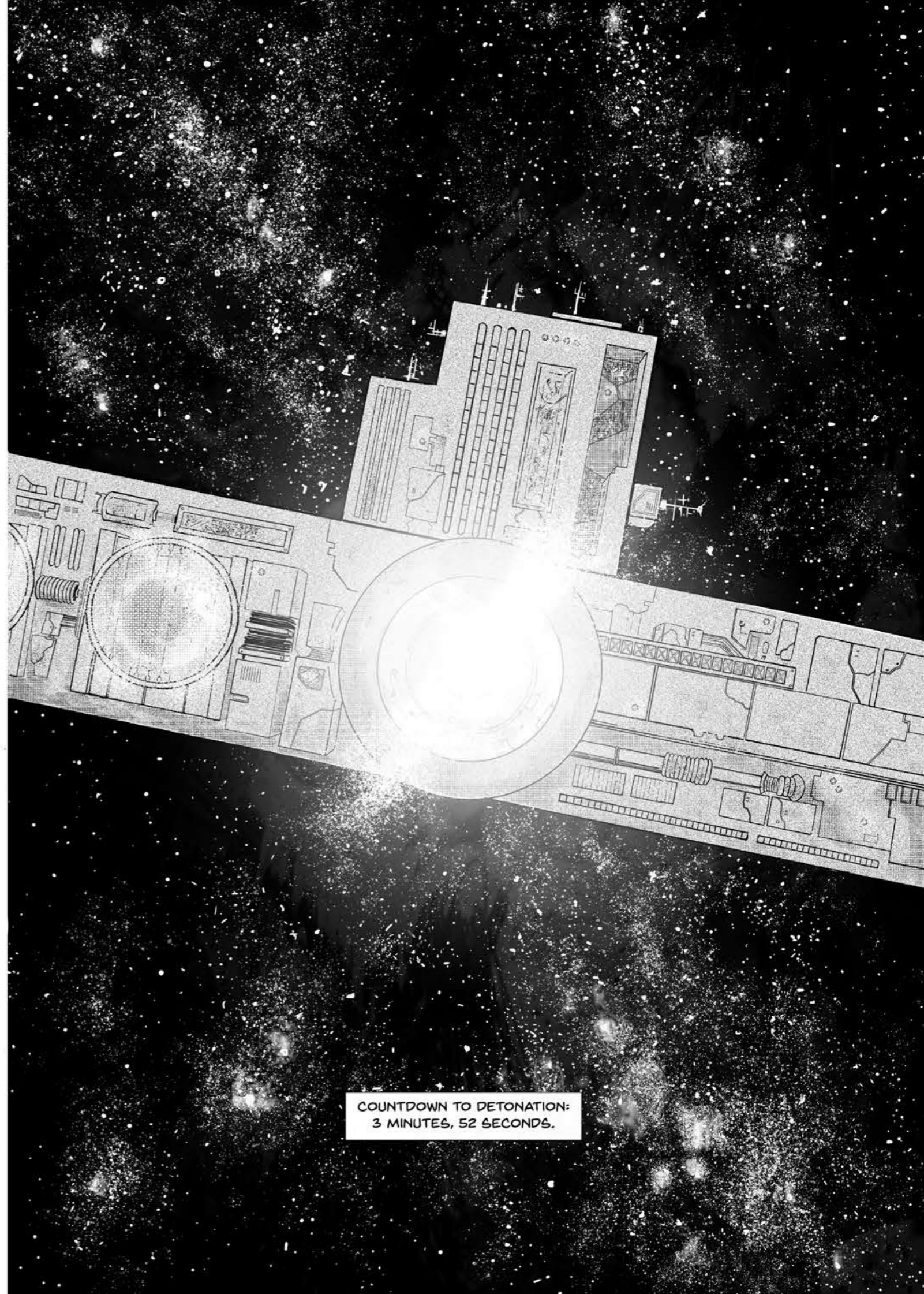
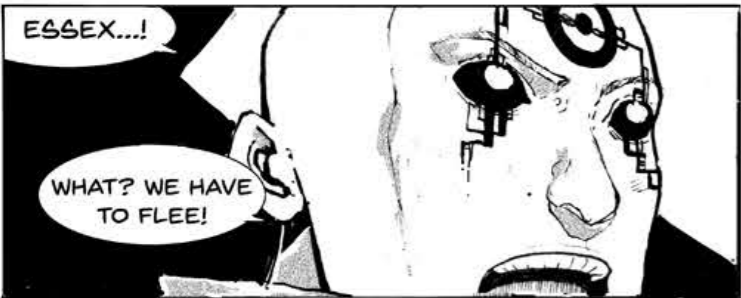
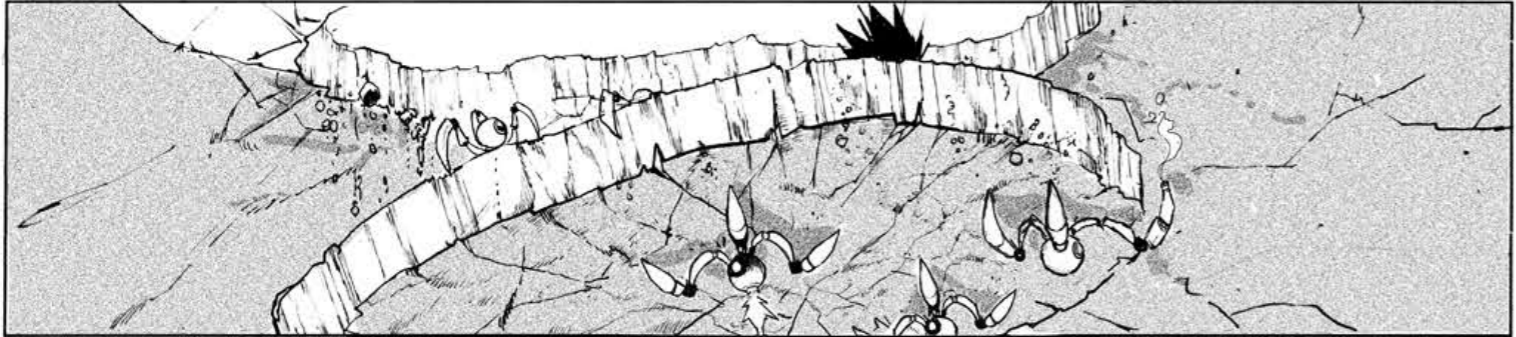


WE CAN CAUSE A GIANT EXPLOSION.

YOU CAN MAKE YOURSELF INTANGIBLE, SURE... BUT I THINK THAT WHEN YOU USE YOUR INTANGIBILITY, YOU CAN'T EVOKE THAT... "DEITY".



THIS GUY...



COUNTDOWN TO DETONATION:
3 MINUTES, 52 SECONDS.

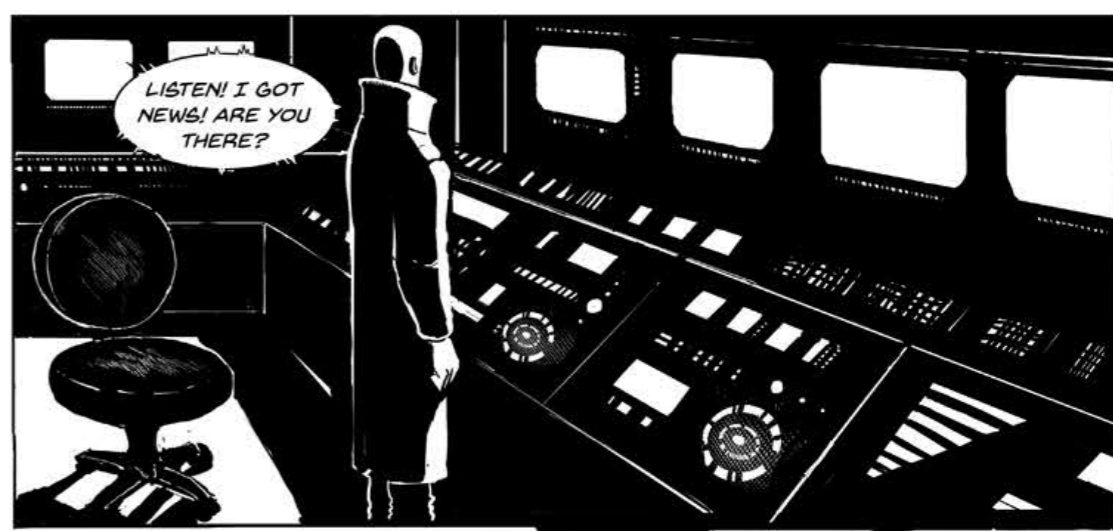


IT'S DONE.

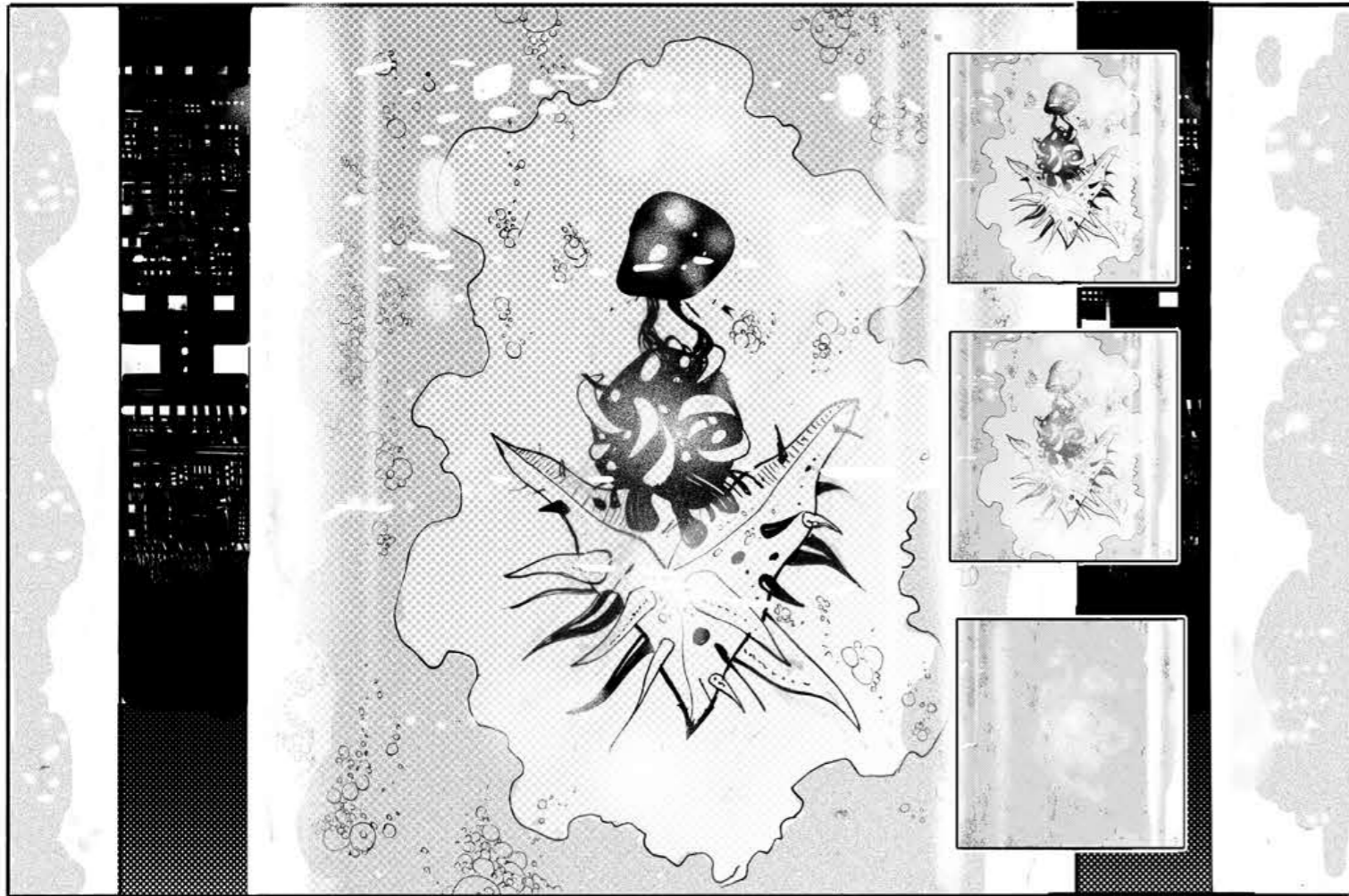
THE BOMB HAS ENTERED THE NET.



JACOB!



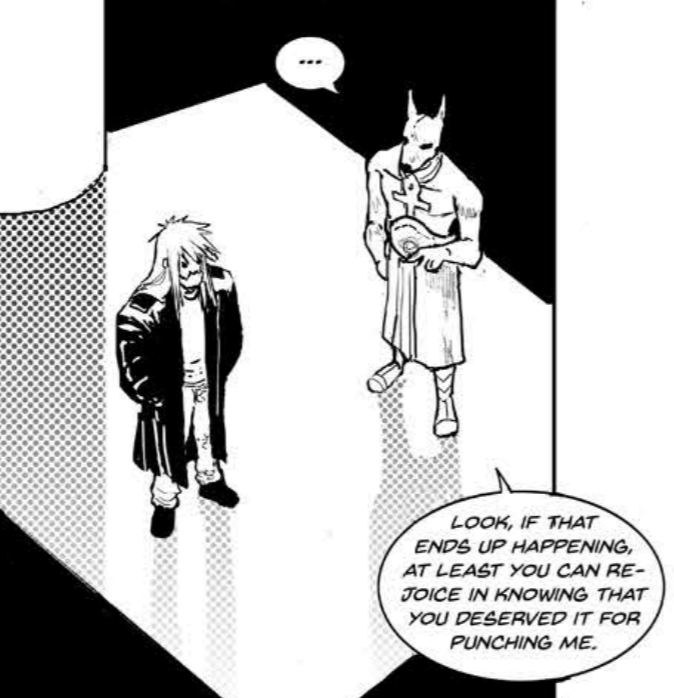
LISTEN! I GOT NEWS! ARE YOU THERE?



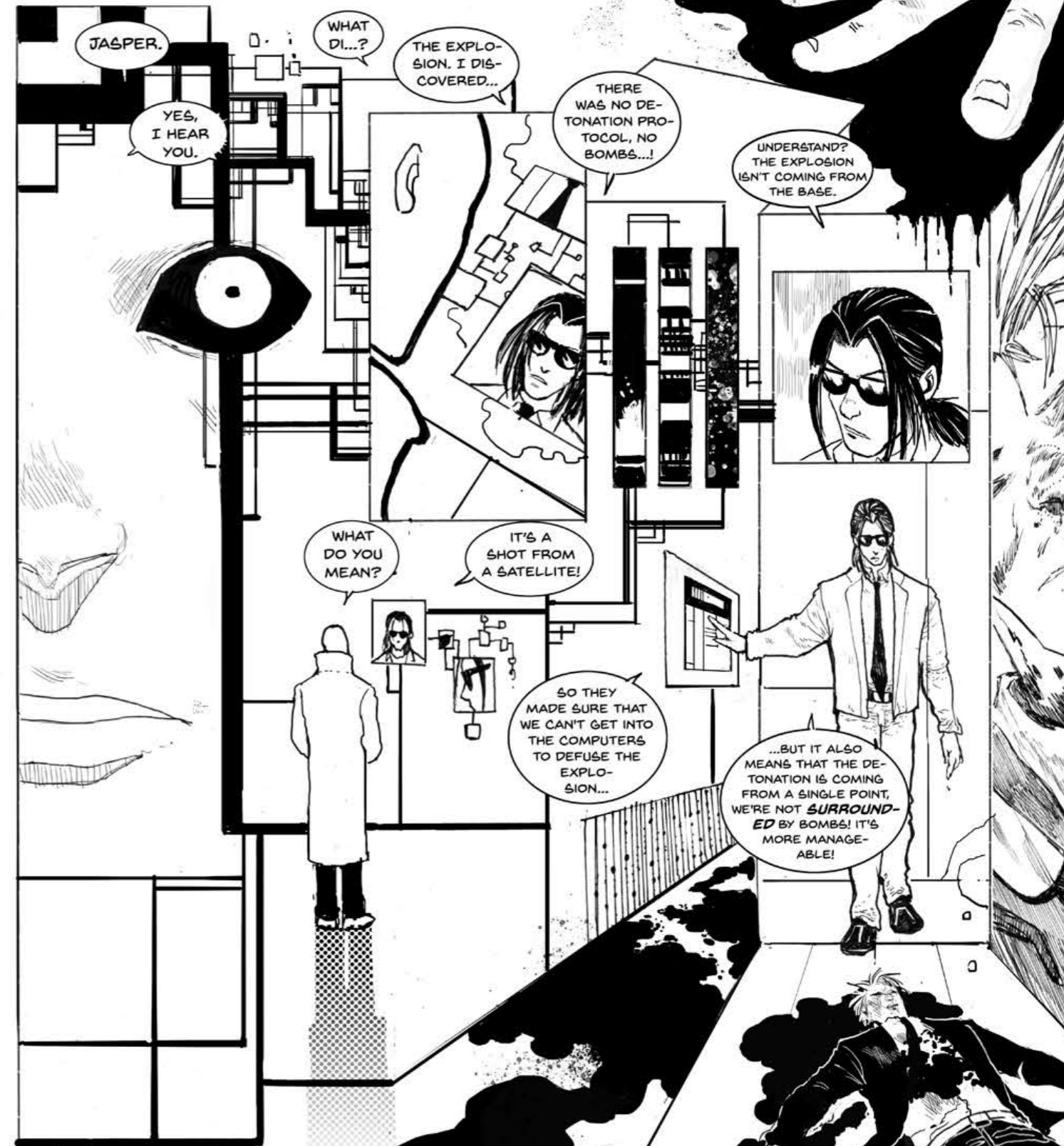
ANUBIS.



AM I GONNA DIE HERE?



LOOK, IF THAT ENDS UP HAPPENING, AT LEAST YOU CAN REJOICE IN KNOWING THAT YOU DESERVED IT FOR PUNCHING ME.



JASPER.

YES, I HEAR YOU.

WHAT DL...?

THE EXPLOSION. I DISCOVERED...

THERE WAS NO DETONATION PROTOCOL, NO BOMBS...!

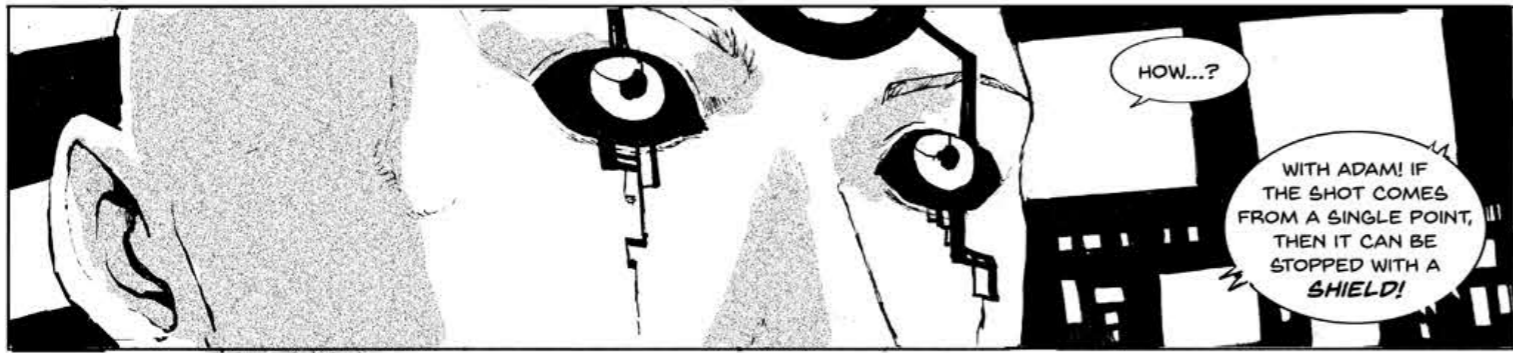
UNDERSTAND? THE EXPLOSION ISN'T COMING FROM THE BASE.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

IT'S A SHOT FROM A SATELLITE!

SO THEY MADE SURE THAT WE CAN'T GET INTO THE COMPUTERS TO DEFUSE THE EXPLOSION...

...BUT IT ALSO MEANS THAT THE DETONATION IS COMING FROM A SINGLE POINT, WE'RE NOT SURROUNDED BY BOMBS! IT'S MORE MANAGEABLE!



HOW...?

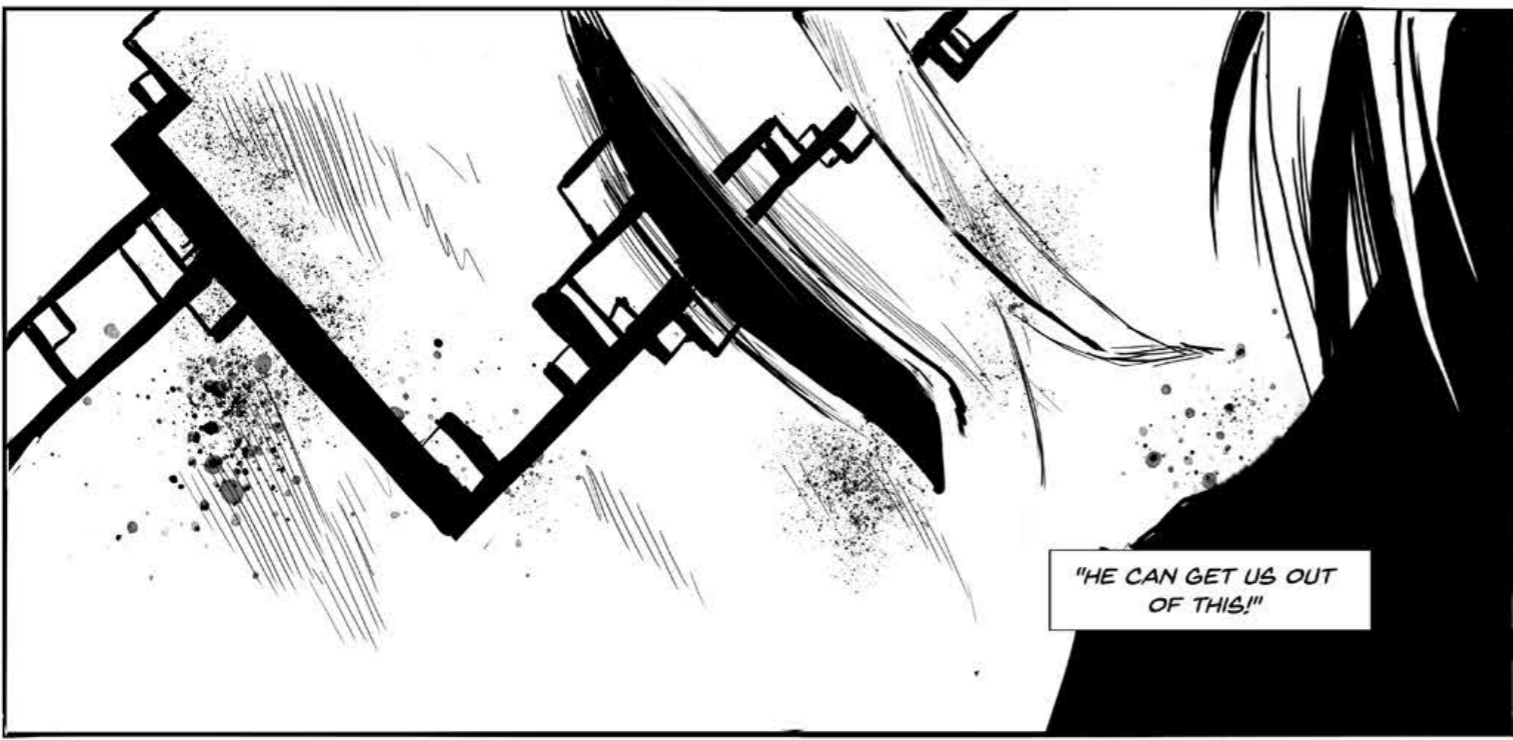
WITH ADAM! IF THE SHOT COMES FROM A SINGLE POINT, THEN IT CAN BE STOPPED WITH A SHIELD!



"ADAM CAN GENERATE A SHIELD TO STOP THE IMPACT!"



"CONTACT HIM AND GET READY NOW!"

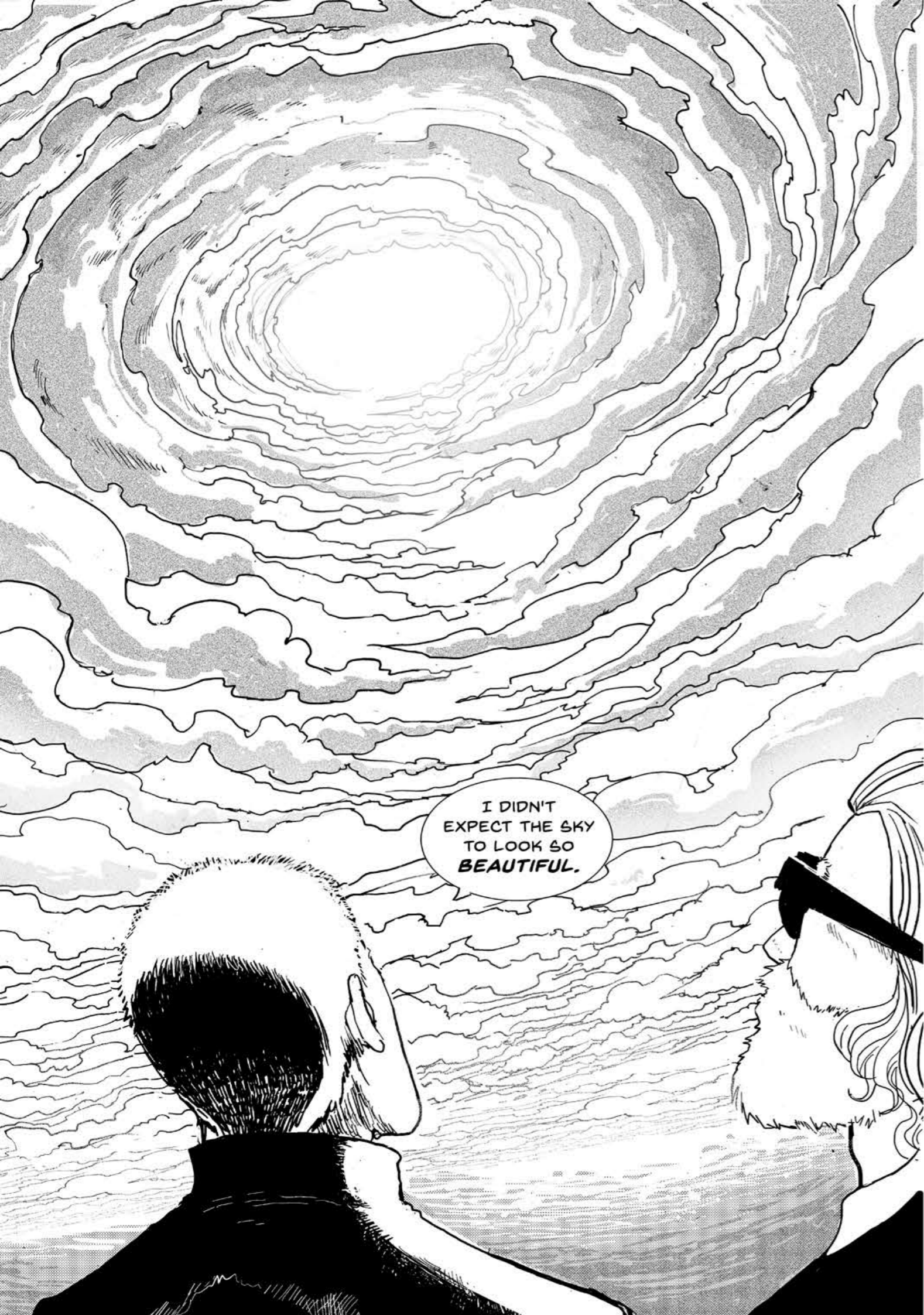


"HE CAN GET US OUT OF THIS!"



COUNTDOWN TO DETONATION:
2 MINUTES, 53 SECONDS.





I DIDN'T EXPECT THE SKY TO LOOK SO BEAUTIFUL.

...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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