

LA ESCURCE



52: UN SUEÑO DE ACERO DENTRO DEL AGUA

SIMON M.

SCRIPT
PANEL LAYOUT
COVER

TRANSLATION
(SORRY, ENGLISH SPEAKERS)

ATANA S.

PENCILS
INK

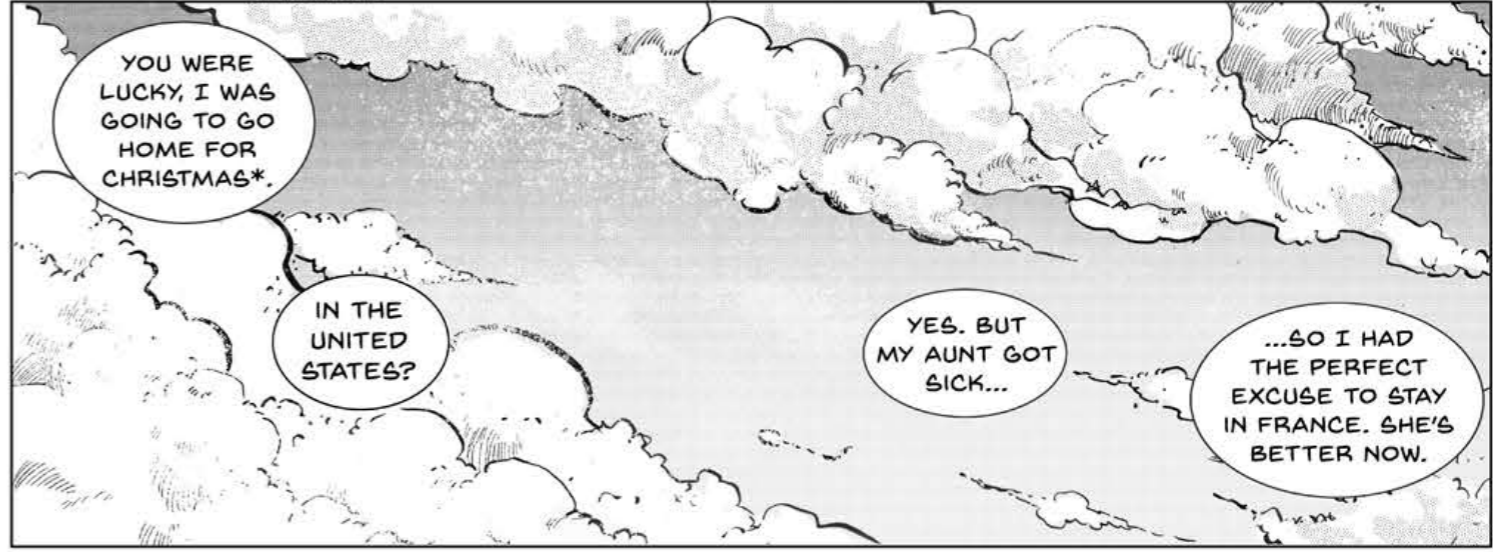
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*THEY SPEAK IN ENGLISH

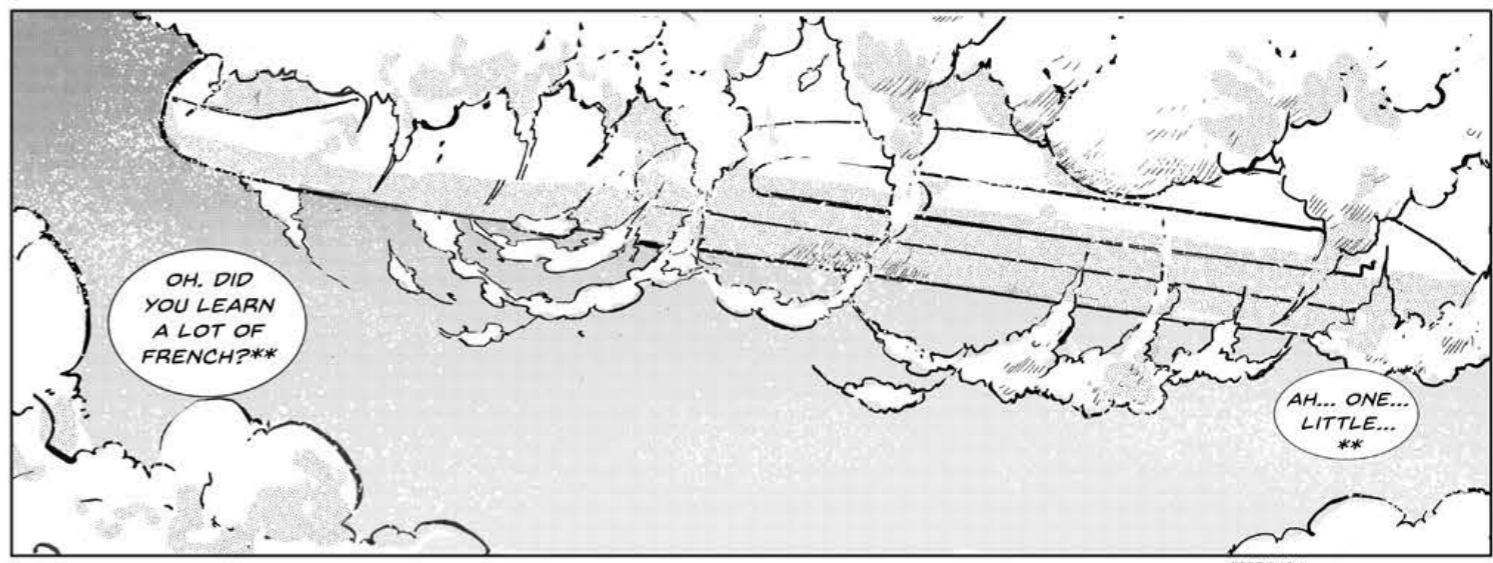


YOU WERE LUCKY, I WAS GOING TO GO HOME FOR CHRISTMAS*.

IN THE UNITED STATES?

YES. BUT MY AUNT GOT SICK...

...SO I HAD THE PERFECT EXCUSE TO STAY IN FRANCE. SHE'S BETTER NOW.



OH. DID YOU LEARN A LOT OF FRENCH?*

AH... ONE... LITTLE... **

**FRENCH



SO, LIKE, YOU SPEAK ENGLISH, SPANISH AND FRENCH?

YES, WHEN MY MOTHER SEPARATED FROM MY FATHER, HE DIDN'T WANT TO RETURN TO SPAIN.

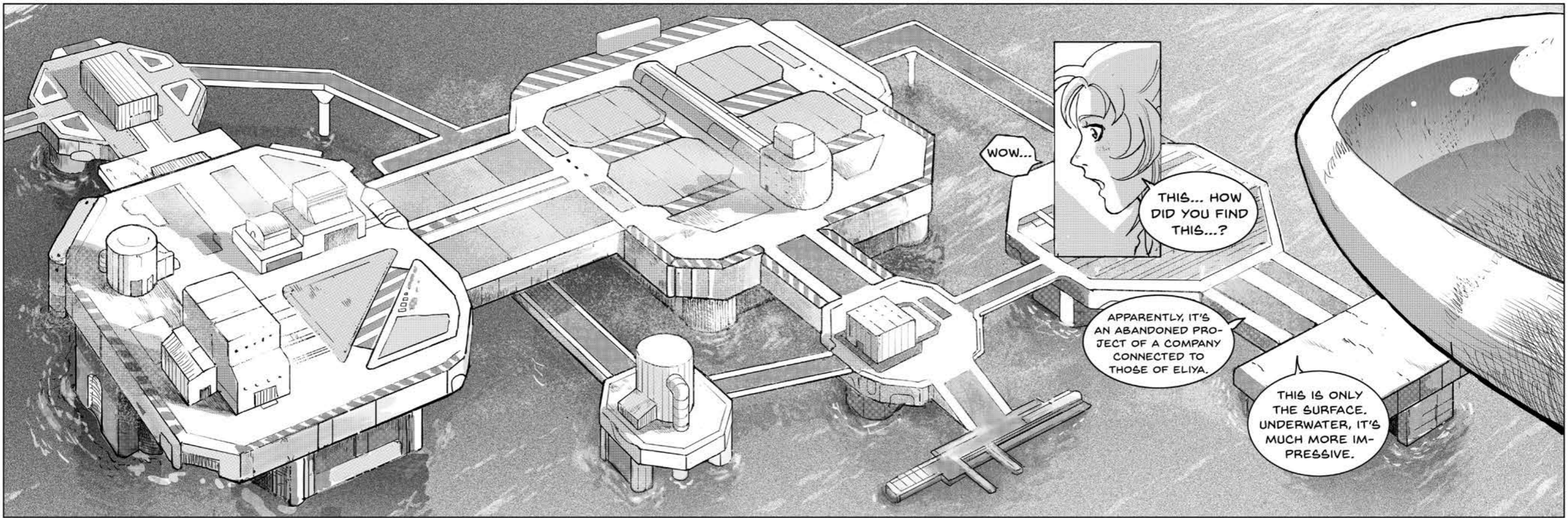
HE OPENED A SPANISH RESTAURANT IN FRANCE. BETWEEN SCHOOL AND HOME, I LEARNED ALL THREE LANGUAGES.



WOW. THAT'S... AMAZING.

ZZZ...

HAH. NO. BUT YOU ARE FROM AMERICA.



WOW...



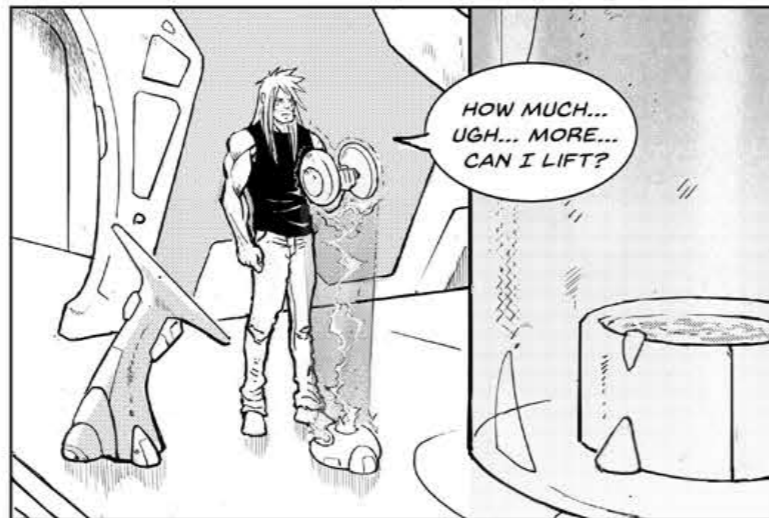
THIS... HOW DID YOU FIND THIS...?

APPARENTLY, IT'S AN ABANDONED PROJECT OF A COMPANY CONNECTED TO THOSE OF ELIYA.

THIS IS ONLY THE SURFACE. UNDERWATER, IT'S MUCH MORE IMPRESSIVE.



NGG



HOW MUCH... UGH... MORE... CAN I LIFT?



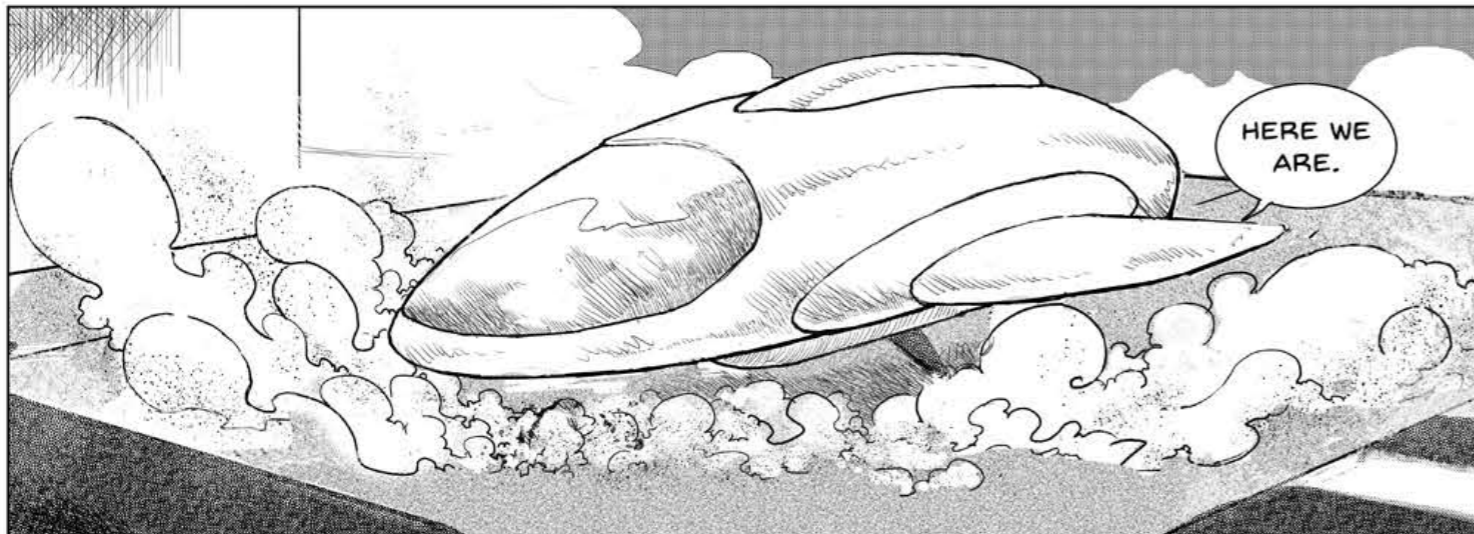
HEY, ADAM*.



BACK ALREADY?

YEAH, A WHILE AGO.

*IN ENGLISH TOO.



HERE WE ARE.



GET READY, MISTER... TONY, RIGHT? NO LAST NAME.

HM?

WE'RE GOING UNDER THE SEA.



OH...

COME.

THIS IS THE CENTRAL "STREET".

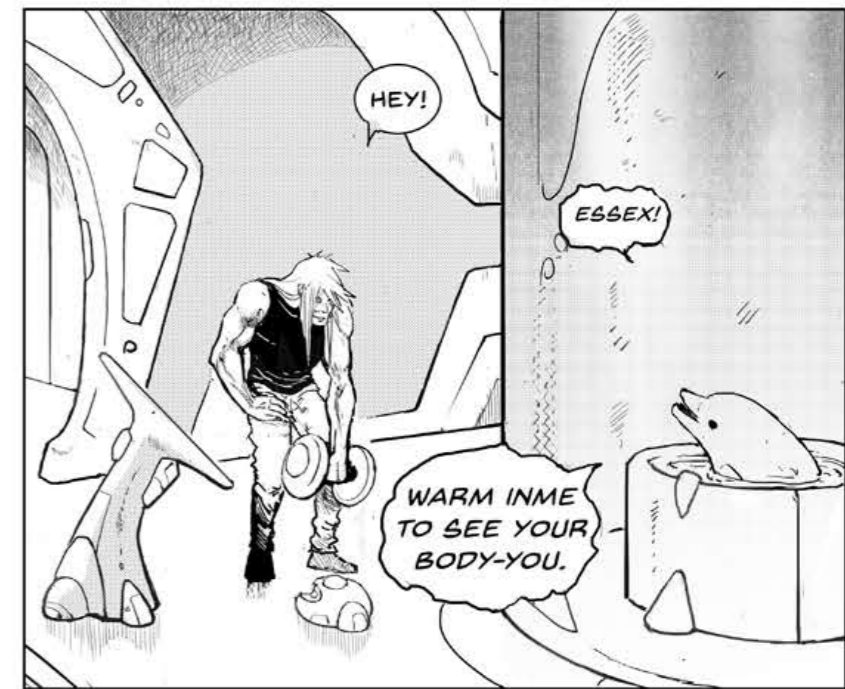
WE'VE GOT BARS AND STORES HERE.

WHAT A... PLACE.



STAY CLOSE. MOST OF THE SOLD MATERIAL COMES FROM OUR SMUGGLERS.

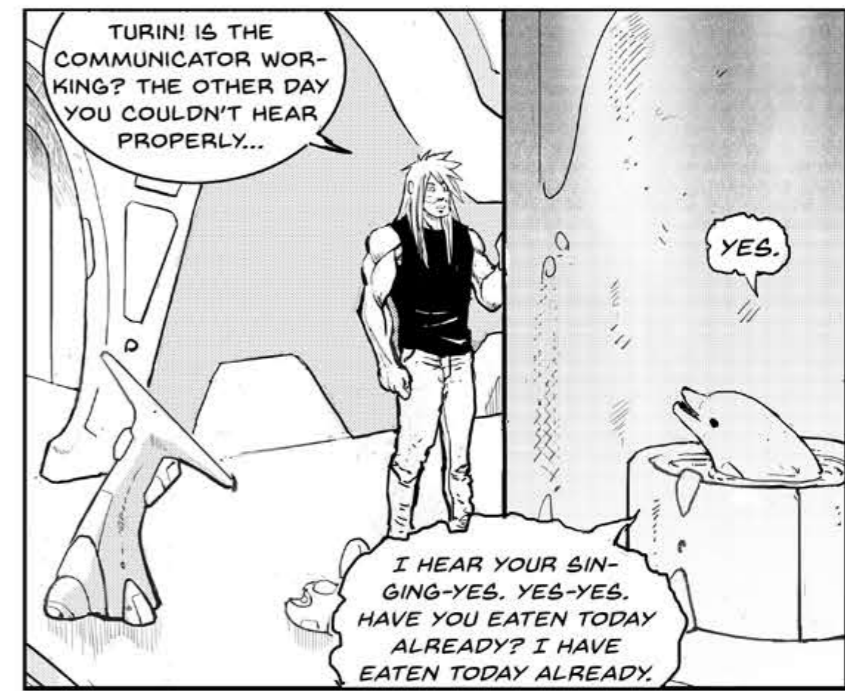
...I CAN'T GUARANTEE THAT THEY WON'T TRY TO ROB YOU. I EVEN KNOW OF A RAPE, BUT THE BOSS EXILED ALL THE SUSPECTS.



HEY!

ESSEX!

WARM IN ME TO SEE YOUR BODY-YOU.



TURIN! IS THE COMMUNICATOR WORKING? THE OTHER DAY YOU COULDN'T HEAR PROPERLY...

YES.

I HEAR YOUR SINGING-YES. YES-YES. HAVE YOU EATEN TODAY ALREADY? I HAVE EATEN TODAY ALREADY.



HOW WAS IT? WAS THERE A SHIPMENT OF SUPERMETALS?



UH-HUH. SOME KIND OF BLUE STEEL. THEY MUST HAVE UNLOADED IT BY NOW.

FINN DID VERY WELL. HE HELPED ME A LOT, WE GOT MORE THAN EXPECTED BEFORE THE EBI...

CHARIOT. TRY TO CALL HIM BY HIS ALIAS, ADAM.

BUT I'M VERY GLAD THAT YOU ARE WORKING WELL TOGETHER.



WITH THESE METALS, WE'LL BE ABLE TO IMPROVE OUR FLEET, WE'RE SO LUCKY.

YES.

...I KIND OF ENVY YOU A BIT, YOU KNOW.

OH? WHY?

HOW ARE YOU AND YOUR GROUP DOING? EVERYTHING OKAY?

IT'S ALL DANCE-TOGETHER, ESSEX FRIEND. I TAUGHT THEM THE SHADOW-FOLLOWING GAME YOU TAUGHT ME.

I WOULD MAKE A GESTURE AND SOMEONE HAD TO GUESS WHAT IT WAS BY COMPLETING THE GESTURE.

OUR WARMTH WAS GREATER, AND THERE ARE FEMALE DOLPHINS THAT DO DANCES FOR ME-NOW, YES.

IT'S JUST... THIS PLACE... IT'S A HAVEN FOR PEOPLE LIKE US.

A SPACE TO LIVE IN FREEDOM, AND YOU'VE CREATED IT. YOU'VE CHANGED THE WORLD, EVEN IF IT'S JUST A LITTLE BIT...

AH... I DON'T KNOW. I DON'T MEAN... YOU'VE DONE SOMETHING SIGNIFICANT, IRINA... I... I DON'T FEEL LIKE I'VE ACCOMPLISHED ANYTHING.

-TSK-, SCRATCH THAT. I GET SO TIRED OF MY BOSS MODE. ANYWAY, WHY DO YOU SAY ENVY? YOU'RE PART OF THIS TOO, RIGHT?

SOMETIMES IT'S A LITTLE DIFFICULT TO CARRY ALL THIS, YOU KNOW? AND THERE'S ALWAYS...

WHAT? BUT YOU TORE THROUGH THAT EBI BASE, EVEN WITH FREI AND SOME HERMITE EXECUTIONERS THERE. THE BOYS IN OUR ORGANIZATION HAVE ALREADY PUT YOU THREE AT THE UPPER-MIDDLE LEVEL OF POWER IN THEIR RANKINGS.

I THINK WHATEVER YOU SET YOUR MIND TO YOU CAN... BUT THAT'S IT, ISN'T IT? WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO?

OH, UHM... THANKS. BUT ALL THE CABALISTS HAVE HELPED IN ONE WAY OR ANOTHER, ADAM.

BUT THANK YOU. YOU ARE VERY KIND. WE'VE WORKED VERY HARD TO ACHIEVE THIS.

COME IN.

HE... HERE?

YES. I'M GOING TO EXAMINE YOU NOW.

YOU DON'T REMEMBER ANYTHING ABOUT WHO YOU ARE AND YOU'VE FOUND NO DOCUMENTS BECAUSE YOU ARE A PRIEST, RIGHT?

ACCORDING TO ALLY, YOU HAVE BEEN RESURRECTED. IT'S NOT VERY PLAUSIBLE, BUT AT LEAST IT'S SOMETHING TANGIBLE TO START WITH.

CAN I GO EXPLORE?

HM? SURE, BUT... BE CAREFUL. WHY DON'T YOU GO WITH ESSEX? HIS ROOM IS THREE DOORS FROM MINE, LAST ONE OF THE CORRIDOR.

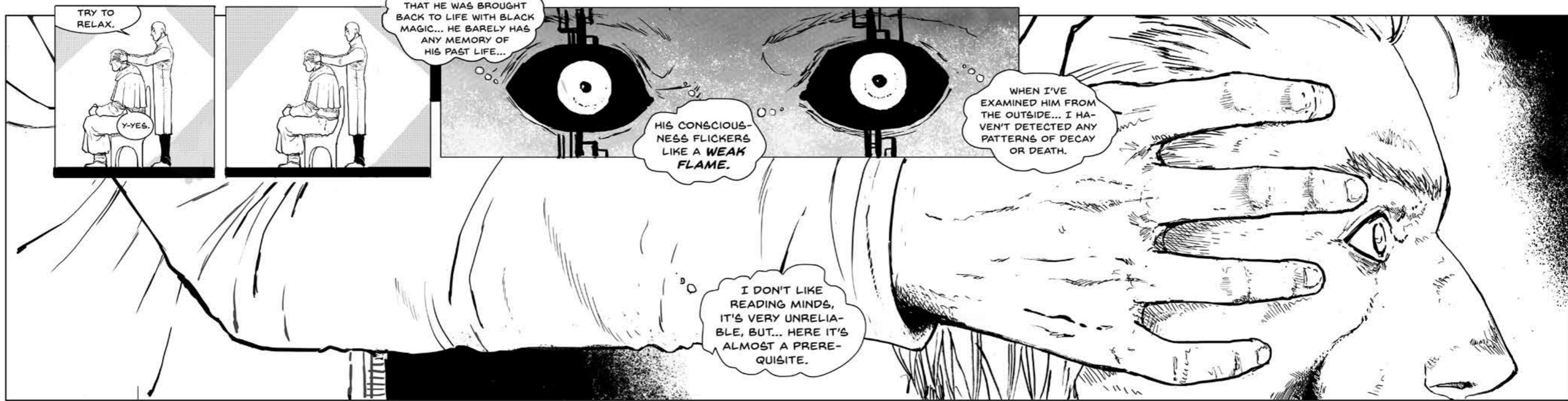
WOW...

SO AMAZING. AND THE BOSS IS A WOMAN, RIGHT? INCREDIBLE.

COOL.

TONY, I'LL BE BACK SOON, OKAY?





TRY TO RELAX.
Y-YES.

ALLISON SAID THAT HE WAS BROUGHT BACK TO LIFE WITH BLACK MAGIC... HE BARELY HAS ANY MEMORY OF HIS PAST LIFE...

HIS CONSCIOUSNESS FLICKERS LIKE A WEAK FLAME.

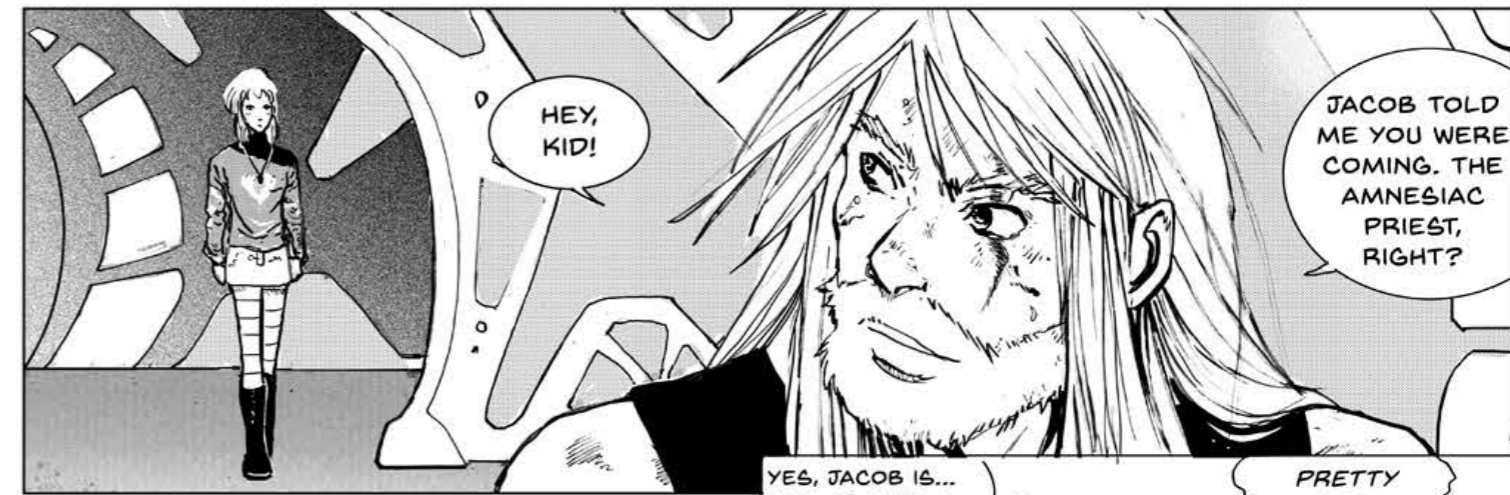
WHEN I'VE EXAMINED HIM FROM THE OUTSIDE... I HAVEN'T DETECTED ANY PATTERNS OF DECAY OR DEATH.

I DON'T LIKE READING MINDS, IT'S VERY UNRELIABLE, BUT... HERE IT'S ALMOST A PREREQUISITE.



HM, HELLO, ESS... OOPS.

ARE YOU BUSY?



HEY, KID!

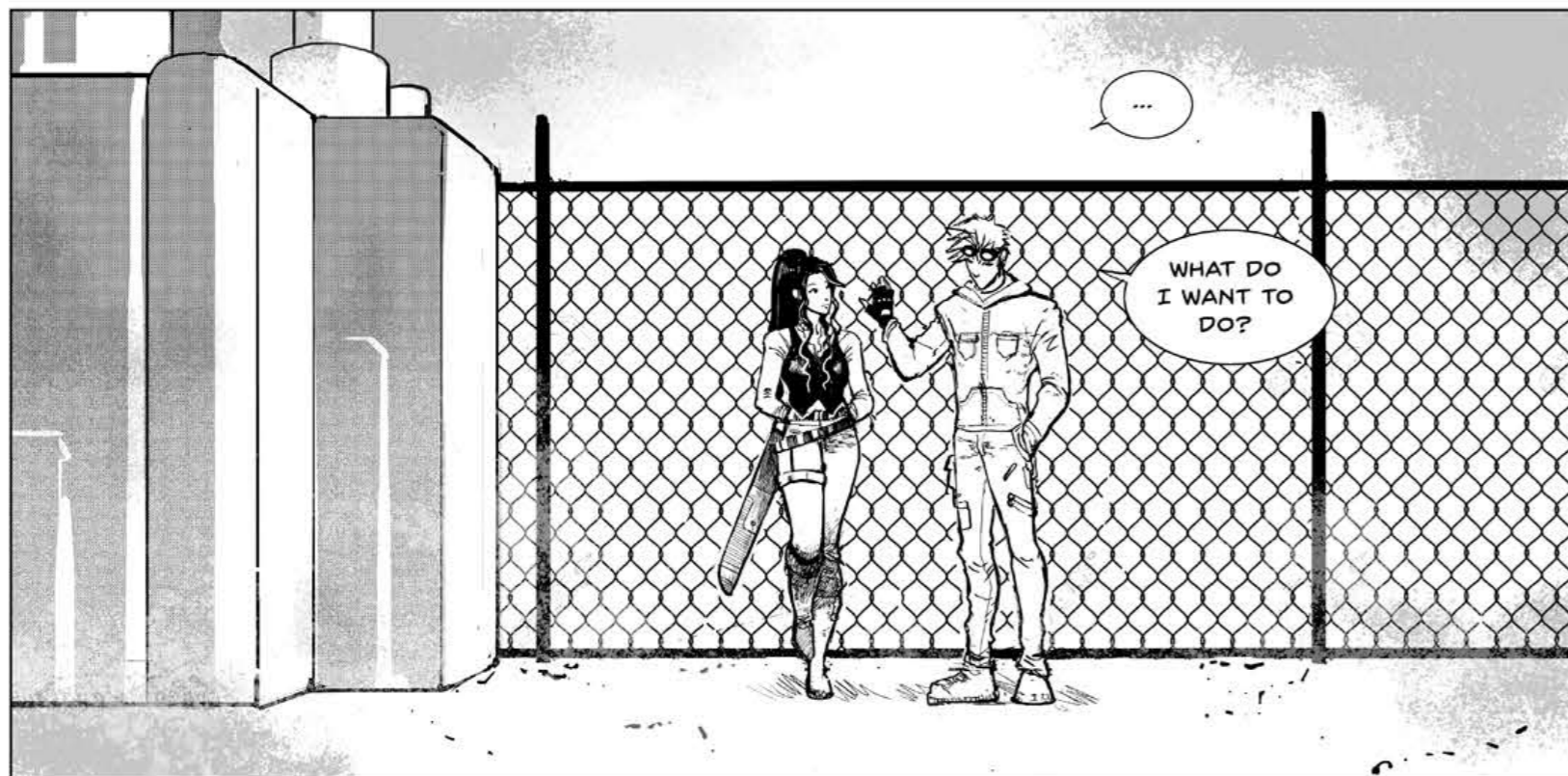
JACOB TOLD ME YOU WERE COMING. THE AMNESIAC PRIEST, RIGHT?

YES, JACOB IS... UHM, IS THAT A REAL DOLPHIN?

PRETTY GIRL.

HM? YES.

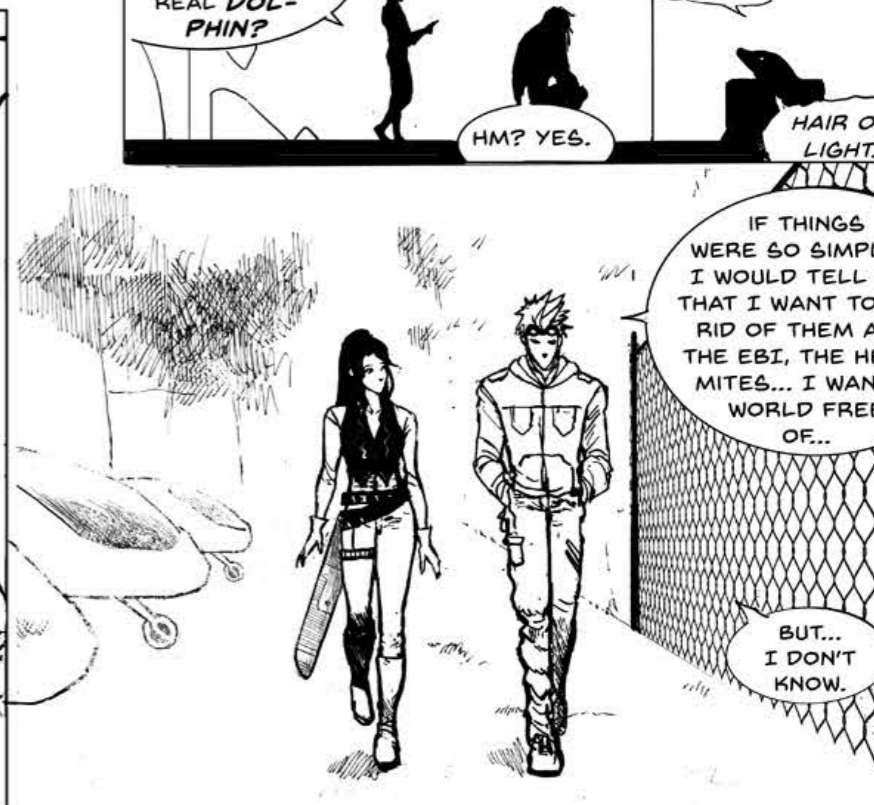
HAIR OF LIGHT.



WHAT DO I WANT TO DO?

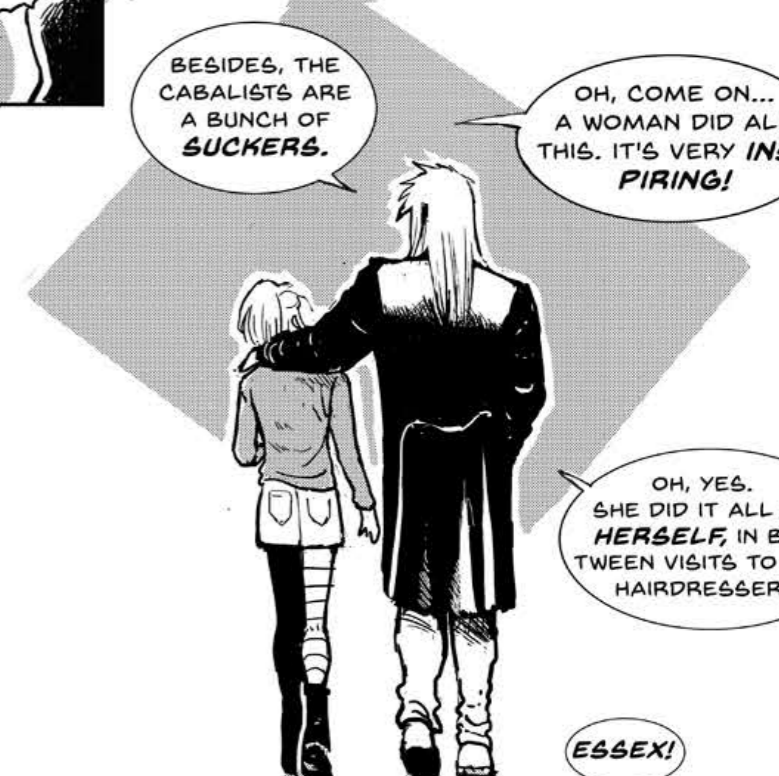
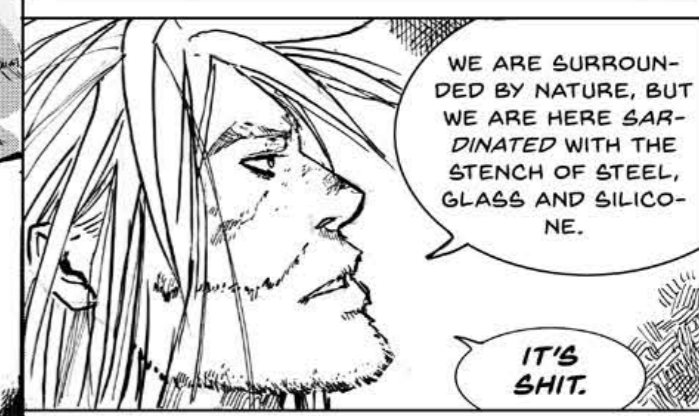
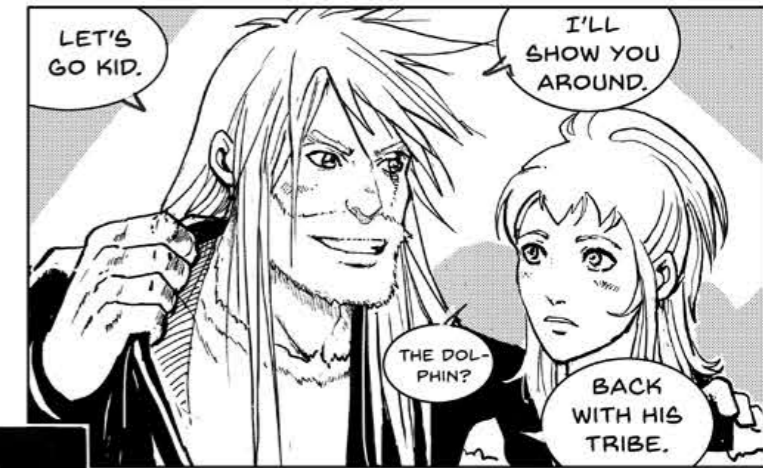
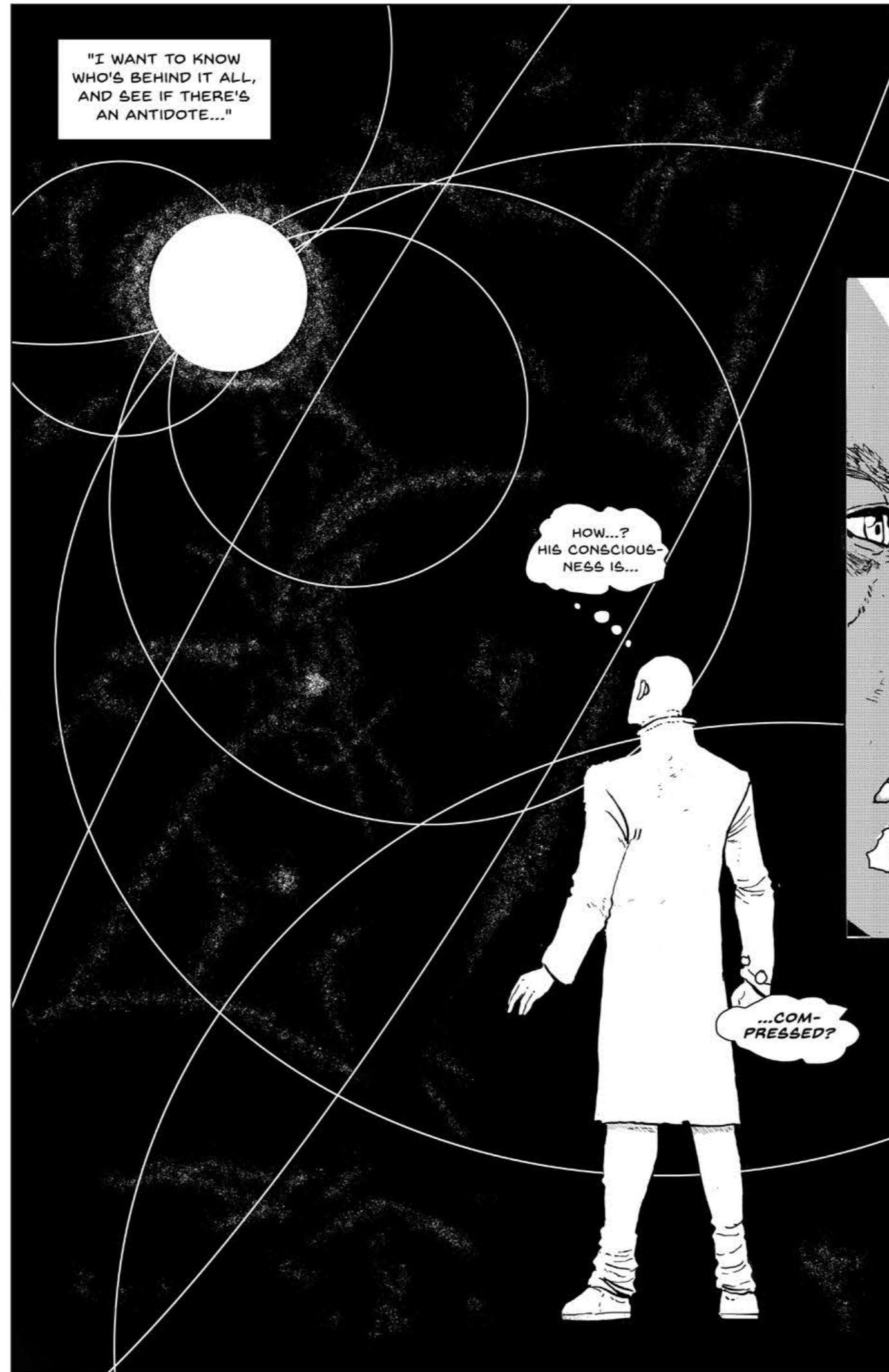
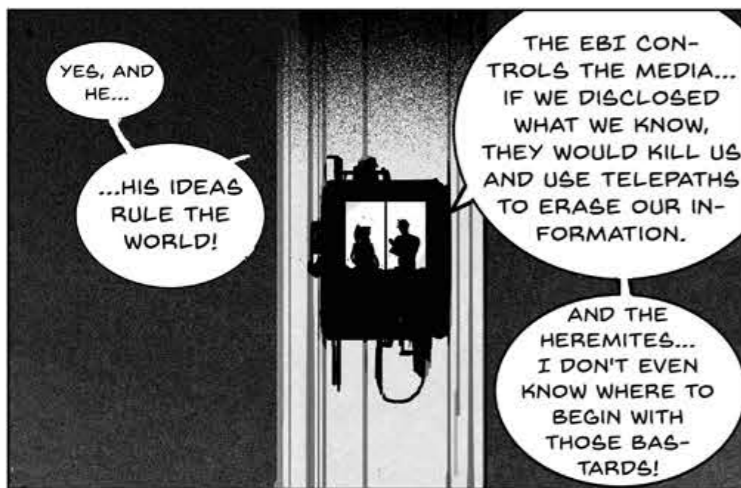
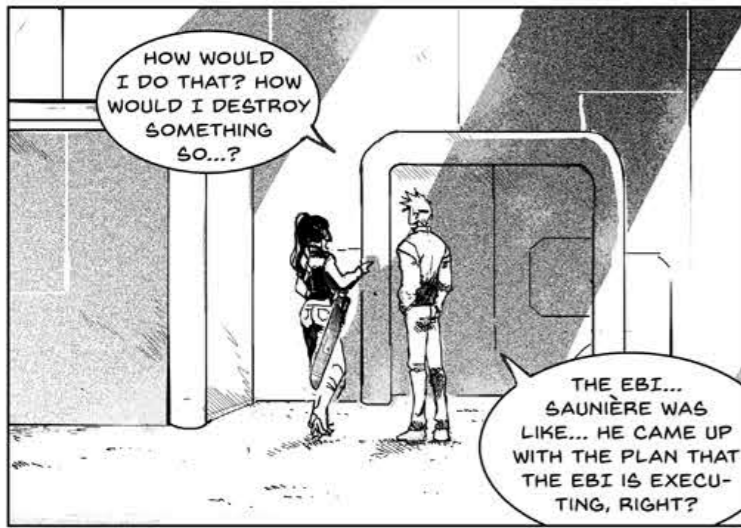


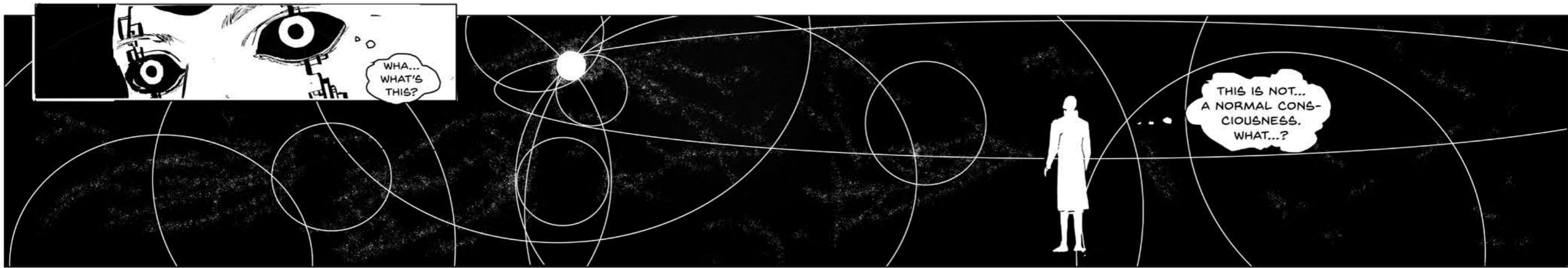
DON'T KNOW.

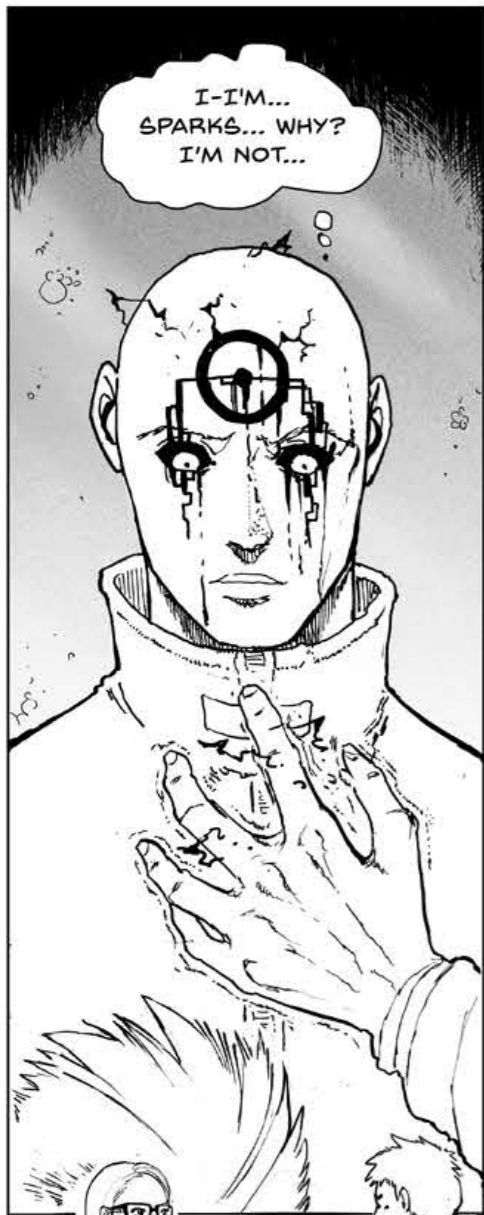


IF THINGS WERE SO SIMPLE... I WOULD TELL YOU THAT I WANT TO GET RID OF THEM ALL. THE EBI, THE HERMITES... I WANT A WORLD FREE OF...

BUT... I DON'T KNOW.







I-I'M... SPARKS... WHY? I'M NOT...



IT'S... EVERYTHING'S BLURRY...

NGG



AGH

HGH!



-HHG-



I-I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY... I GUESS, IT'S LIKE... MY PARENTS, RIGHT? THEY'RE NICE PEOPLE, BUT THERE'S SOMETHING WEIRD...

I DON'T EVEN KNOW HOW TO SAY IT. THERE'S SOMETHING A BIT... NOTHING SPECIAL, BUT IT'S WEIRD, RIGHT? THERE ARE ALL THESE WEIRD THINGS IN THE WORLD AND THEY LIVE, LIKE, DISCONNECTED...

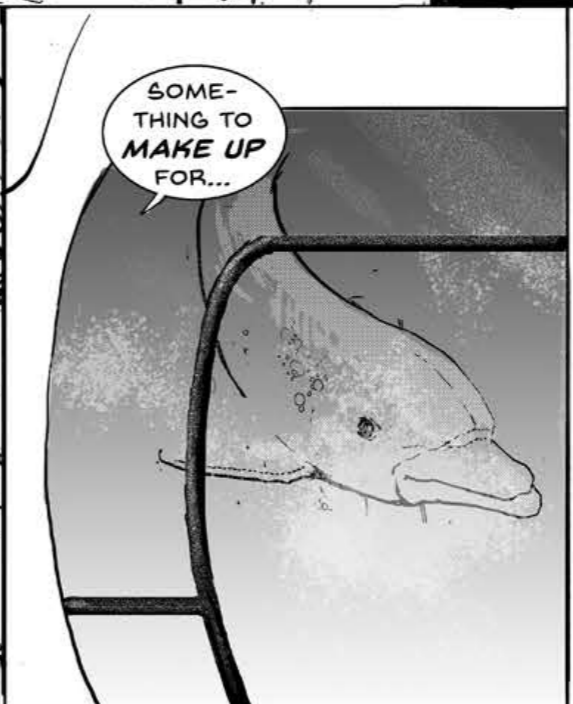


YOU SEE ALL THESE STORIES ABOUT HEROES AND PEOPLE SAY "NO, THAT'S JUST NONSENSE".

BUT IT TURNS OUT THAT... THEY'RE LIKE THE GATEWAY TO SOMETHING REAL, AREN'T THEY?



BUT THEN YOU SEE WHAT MOST PEOPLE DO AND THE WORLD IS SO... COLD AND DIRTY. WOULDN'T IT BE BETTER IF WE WERE ALL LIVING AN ADVENTURE?



SOME-THING TO MAKE UP FOR...

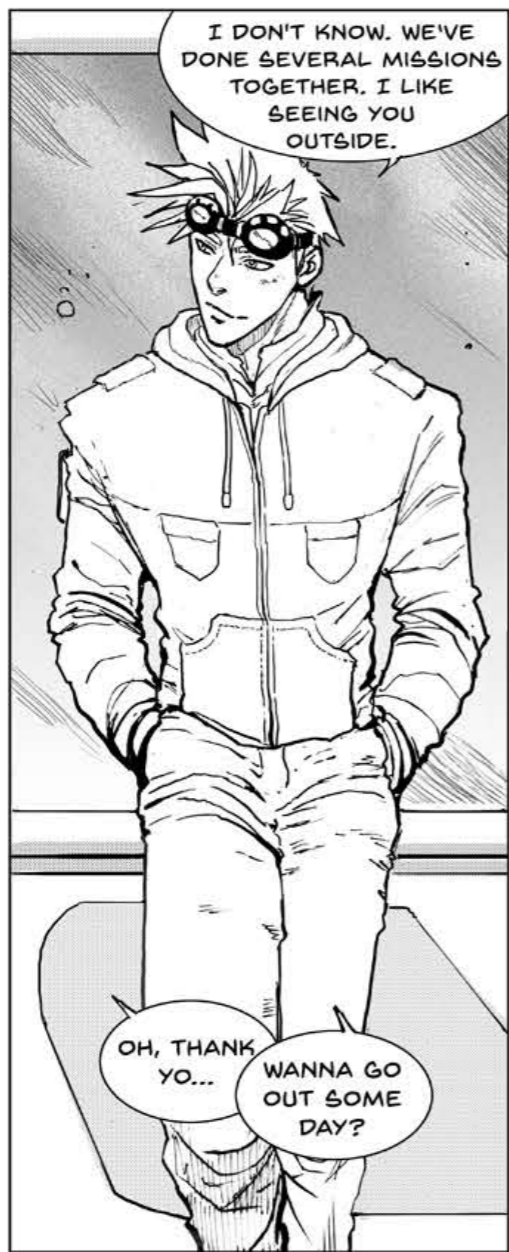


...EVERY-THING.



I'M VERY GRATEFUL FOR EVERYTHING YOU'VE DONE FOR US.

GREG'S STILL AN ASSHOLE FOR THE WAY HE USED ME, BUT...



I DON'T KNOW. WE'VE DONE SEVERAL MISSIONS TOGETHER. I LIKE SEEING YOU OUTSIDE.

OH, THANK YOU...

WANNA GO OUT SOME DAY?



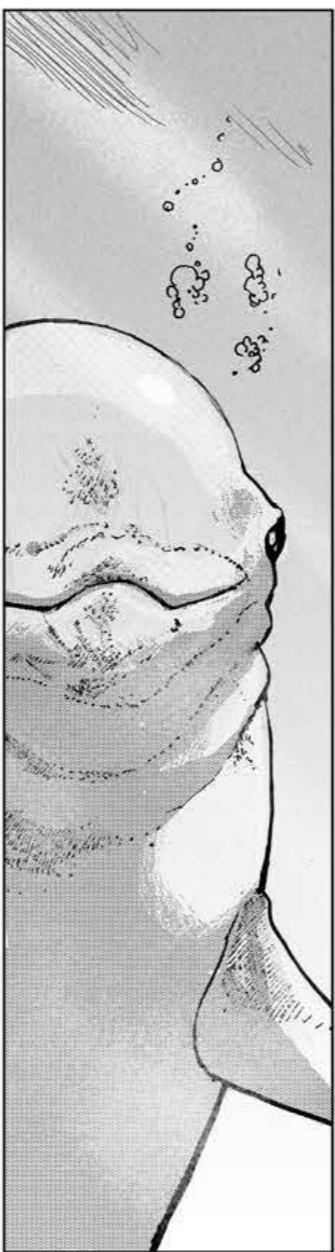
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WHAT ARE WE TALKING ABOUT HERE?

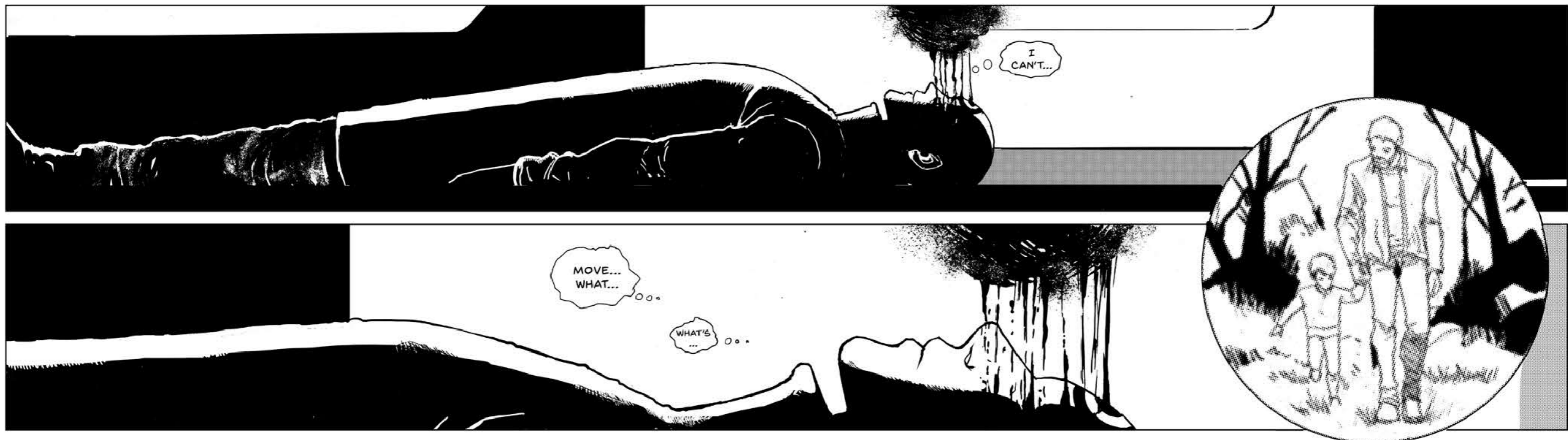


CANARY ISLANDS, A SHORT TRIP. YOU AND ME.

GARACHICO. I'VE HEARD THAT IT'S A VERY...



HAVE TO GO.



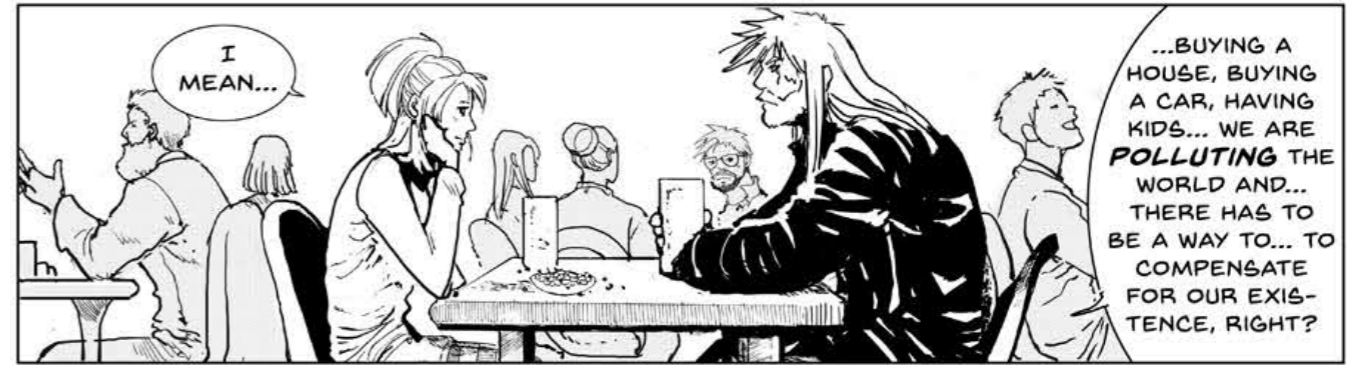
I CAN'T...

MOVE... WHAT...

WHAT'S ...



I JUST WANTED TO DO SOMETHING THAT... THAT I KNEW WAS RIGHT.



I MEAN...

...BUYING A HOUSE, BUYING A CAR, HAVING KIDS... WE ARE POLLUTING THE WORLD AND... THERE HAS TO BE A WAY TO... TO COMPENSATE FOR OUR EXISTENCE, RIGHT?



I KNEW SOMETHING WAS WRONG.



JACOB?



ARE YO...?

UNGH...

UGH!



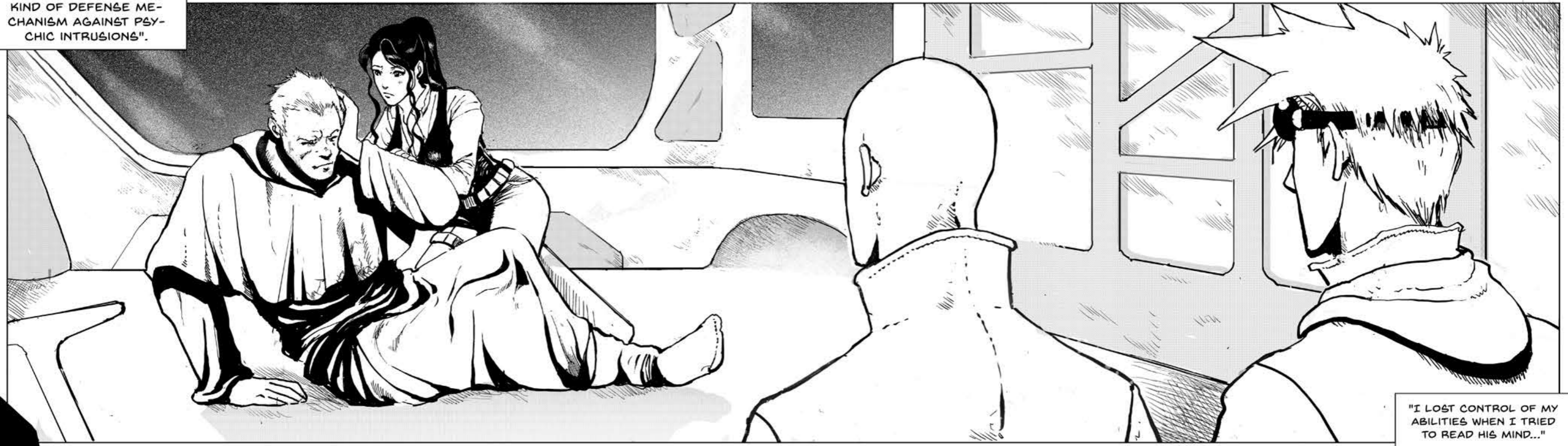
HEY.

ESSEX'S DOLPHIN WARNED US. WHAT HAPPENED?



GOOD QUESTION.

"THE PRIEST HAS SOME KIND OF DEFENSE MECHANISM AGAINST PSYCHIC INTRUSIONS".



"I LOST CONTROL OF MY ABILITIES WHEN I TRIED TO READ HIS MIND..."

HIS CONSCIOUSNESS IS COMPRESSED, WHICH IS WHY SOMETIMES HE DOESN'T SEEM TO BE PRESENT.

ONE THING I CAN ASSURE YOU, HE NEVER DIED.

HE HAS NO NECROSIS PATTERNS.

HIS SUPPOSED DEATH SEEMS MORE LIKE A... KIND OF *STASIS*.



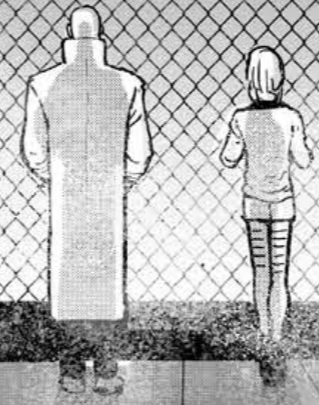
I SUSPECT THAT THE GUYS WHO TRIED TO RESURRECT HIM SIMPLY BROKE THAT *STASIS*.

SO THEN... WHAT DO WE DO?

MAYBE WE CAN TRY TO...

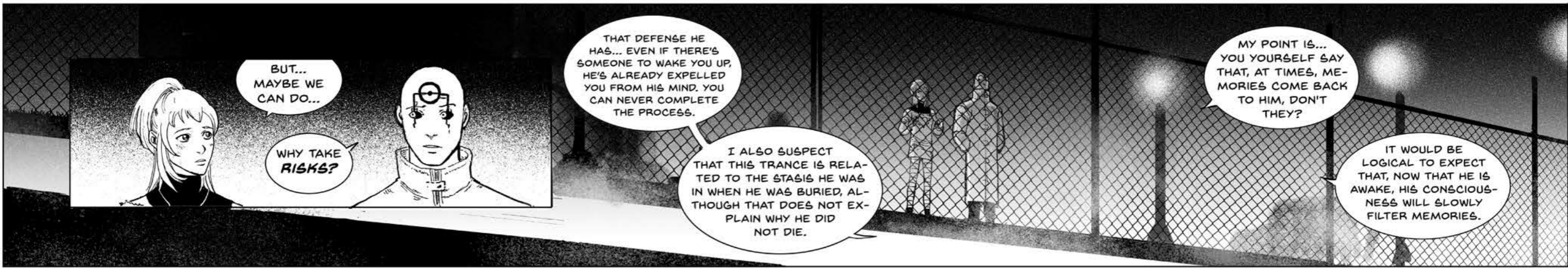
I DON'T THINK IT'S A *GOOD IDEA*, ALLISON.

THAT DEFENSE MECHANISM... I THINK THAT AS SOON AS IT DETECTS AN INTRUSION IN YOUR MIND, IT GENERATES AN ATTACK THAT SEEKS TO LEAVE YOU IN SOME KIND OF *COMATOSE TRANCE*. I WAS AWAKENED BEFORE THE PROCESS WAS COMPLETED, BUT I HAVEN'T SEEN A WAY TO BYPASS IT.



MOREOVER, THIS PROTECTION SEEMS TO BE *INTERTWINED* WITH HIS OWN MIND, WHICH IS IN A VERY FRAIL STATE...

THOSE ARE TWO VERY RELEVANT RISK FACTORS.



BUT...
MAYBE WE
CAN DO...

WHY TAKE
RISKS?

THAT DEFENSE HE
HAS... EVEN IF THERE'S
SOMEONE TO WAKE YOU UP,
HE'S ALREADY EXPELLED
YOU FROM HIS MIND. YOU
CAN NEVER COMPLETE
THE PROCESS.

I ALSO SUSPECT
THAT THIS TRANCE IS RELA-
TED TO THE STASIS HE WAS
IN WHEN HE WAS BURIED, AL-
THOUGH THAT DOES NOT EX-
PLAIN WHY HE DID
NOT DIE.

MY POINT IS...
YOU YOURSELF SAY
THAT, AT TIMES, ME-
MORIES COME BACK
TO HIM, DON'T
THEY?

IT WOULD BE
LOGICAL TO EXPECT
THAT, NOW THAT HE IS
AWAKE, HIS CONSCIOUS-
NESS WILL SLOWLY
FILTER MEMORIES.



SO...
IS THAT
ALL?

HE STAYS
AND I
LEAVE...

I GUESS... I
CAN SPEND NEW
YEAR'S WITH MY
PARENTS.



...
YOU HAVE
A VOCATION
FOR DETECTIVE
WORK, EH.

LOOK, ADAM...
YOU'VE SEEN HIM,
RIGHT, THE BLOND
GUY.

YES, HE
WAS WITH
THE BOSS.

HE HAS THE
POWER TO... TALK TO
OBJECTS. HE INTERRO-
GATED TONY'S CLO-
THES, THE CRUCI-
FIX...

...THE CRUCIFIX
COMES FROM ITALY.
IT WAS GIVEN TO
HIM IN TUSCANY.



SO?

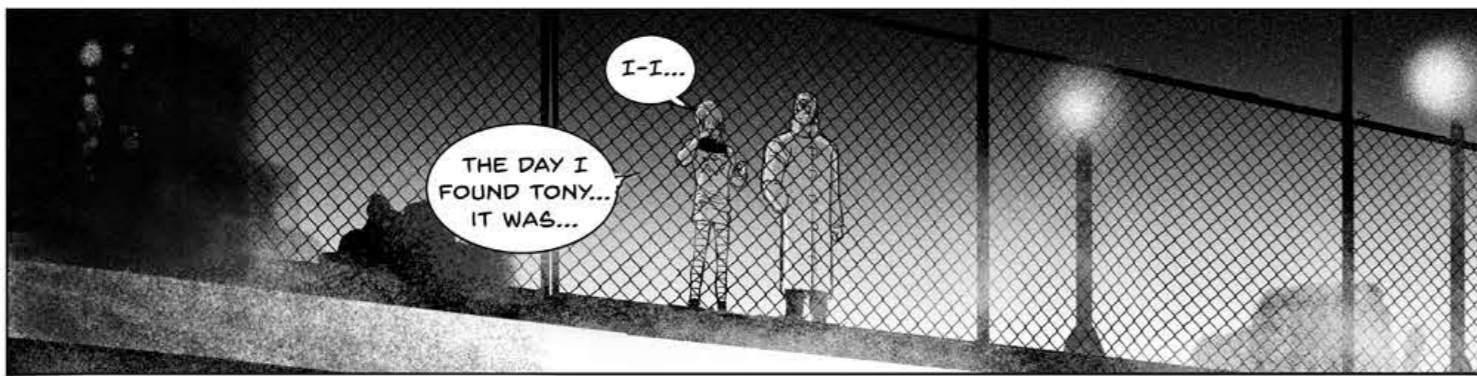
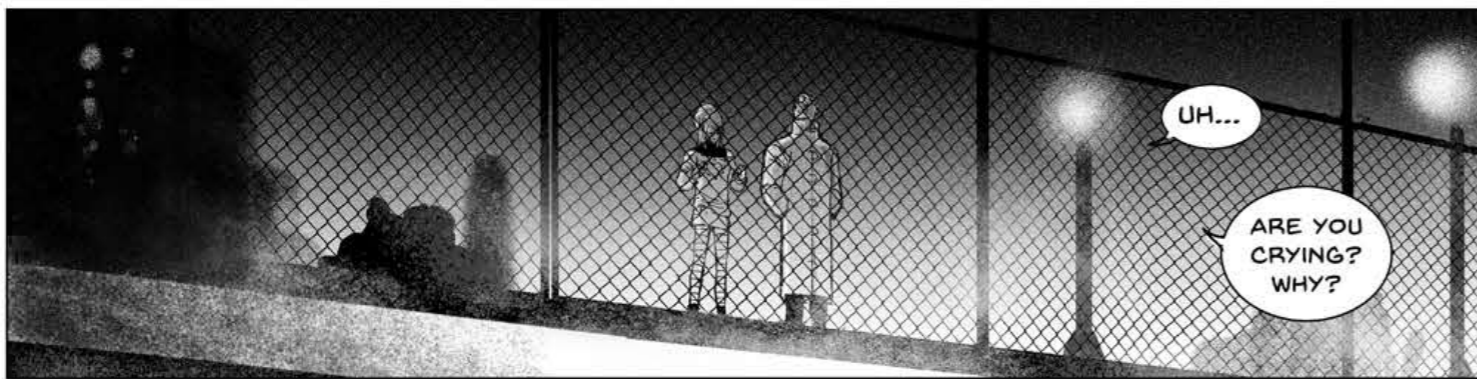
IT'S A CLUE,
RIGHT?

WHY NOT ALLOW
TONY SOME REST, KEEP
HIM UNDER OBSERVA-
TION FOR SOME
MONTHS...?

HUH?

YES, AND
WHEN YOU HAVE A
POST-EXAM VACA-
TION, WE CAN MAKE
A TRIP THERE.

IT'LL BE A
GOOD TRAINING EX-
PERIENCE FOR YOU,
IN ANY CASE.



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

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