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SIMON M. ATANA S.

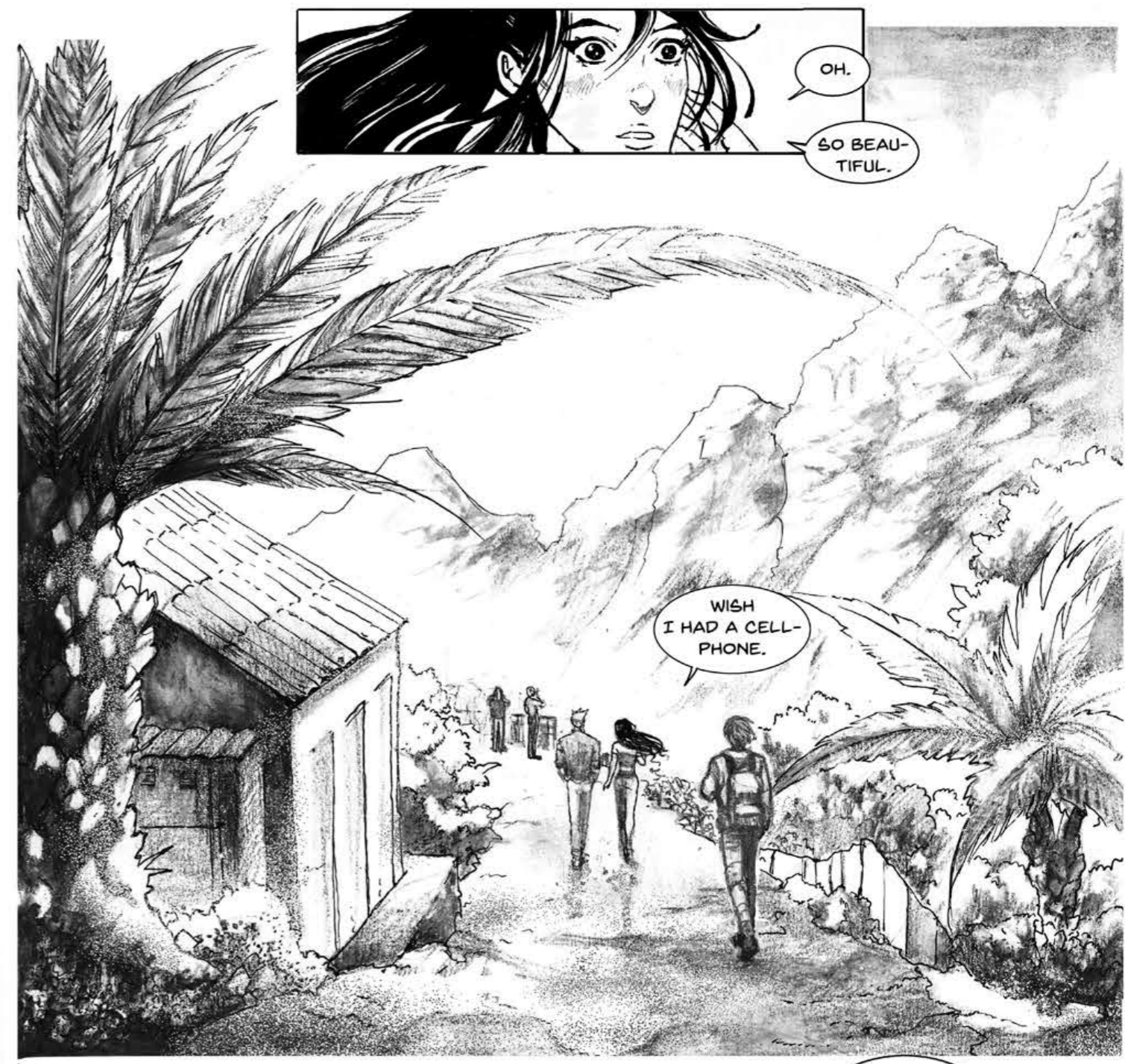
SCRIPT  
PANEL LAYOUT  
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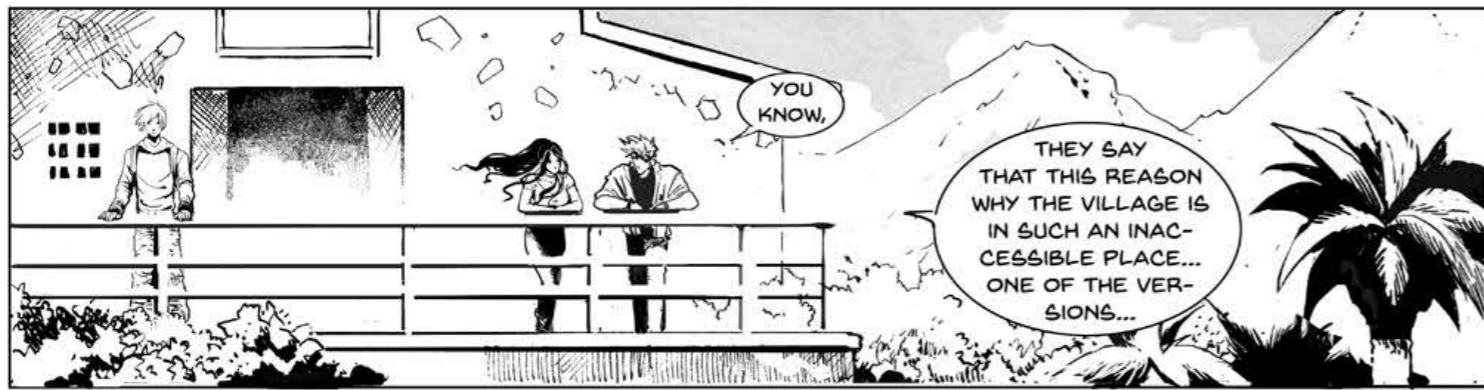
TRANSLATION  
(SORRY, ENGLISH SPEAKERS)

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HOW ABOUT A CAMERA?



YOU KNOW,

THEY SAY THAT THIS REASON WHY THE VILLAGE IS IN SUCH AN INACCESSIBLE PLACE... ONE OF THE VERSIONS...



...IS THAT IT WAS BUILT BY PIRATES, AS A REFUGE.

WAIT, WHAT?

THAT'S WHY I THOUGHT OF BRINGING YOU.

AH.

IS THAT HOW YOU SEE US?

AS PIRATES?



AH...

NO, 'OURSE NOT.

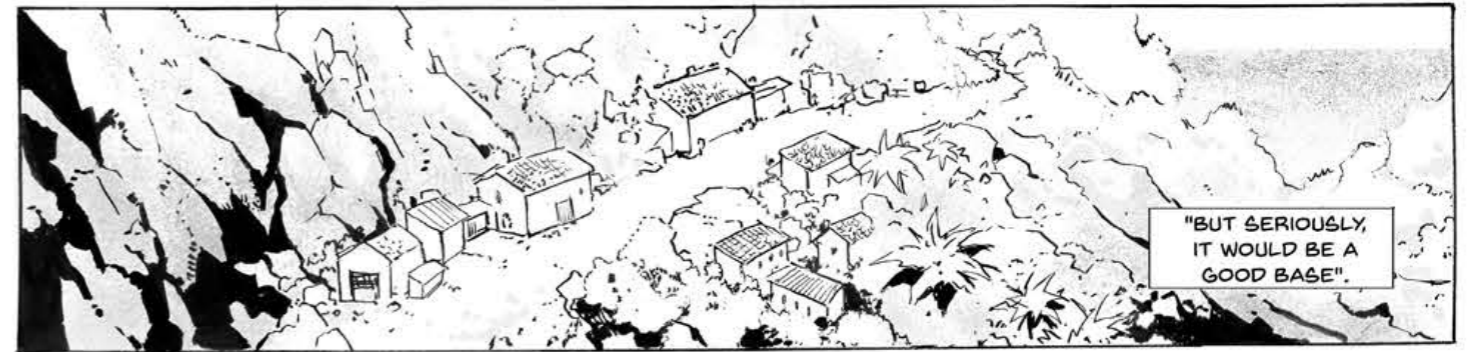


MOST OF OUR RE-SOURCES COME FROM HONEST DEALINGS! OK, MANY OF THE SHIPS ARE FROM THE FBI, BUT BEYOND THAT...

YEAH, OBVIOUSLY.



EITHER YOU TREAT ME BETTER OR I'LL HAVE YOU CLEANING LATRINES WHEN WE GET TO THE BASE.



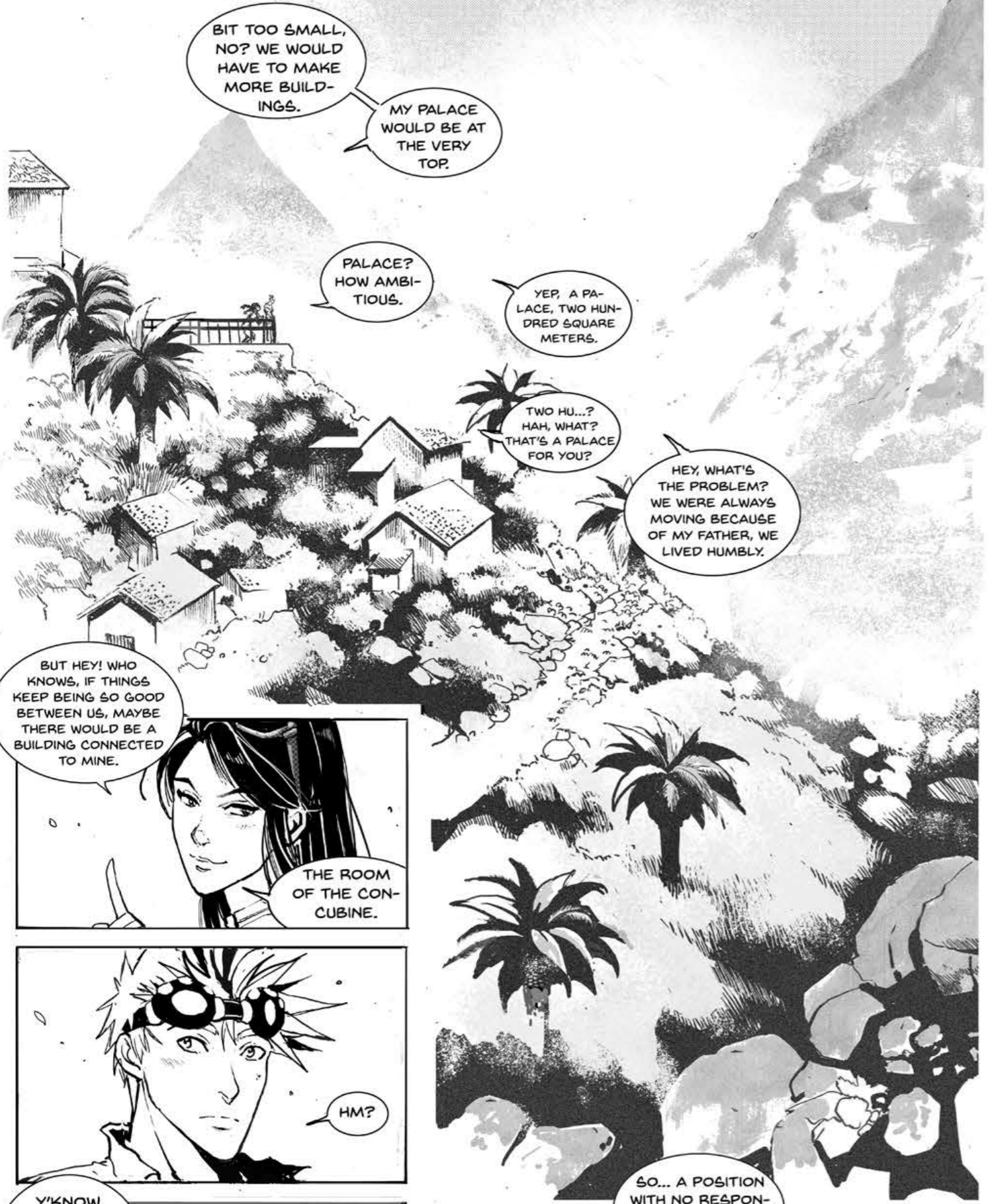
"BUT SERIOUSLY, IT WOULD BE A GOOD BASE".



HM?

THIS PLACE.

DON'T YOU THINK? WE WOULD BE IN THE SUN.



BIT TOO SMALL, NO? WE WOULD HAVE TO MAKE MORE BUILDINGS.  
MY PALACE WOULD BE AT THE VERY TOP.

PALACE? HOW AMBITIOUS.  
YEP, A PALACE, TWO HUNDRED SQUARE METERS.

TWO HU...? HAH, WHAT? THAT'S A PALACE FOR YOU?  
HEY, WHAT'S THE PROBLEM? WE WERE ALWAYS MOVING BECAUSE OF MY FATHER, WE LIVED HUMBLLY.

BUT HEY! WHO KNOWS, IF THINGS KEEP BEING SO GOOD BETWEEN US, MAYBE THERE WOULD BE A BUILDING CONNECTED TO MINE.  
THE ROOM OF THE CON-CUBINE.

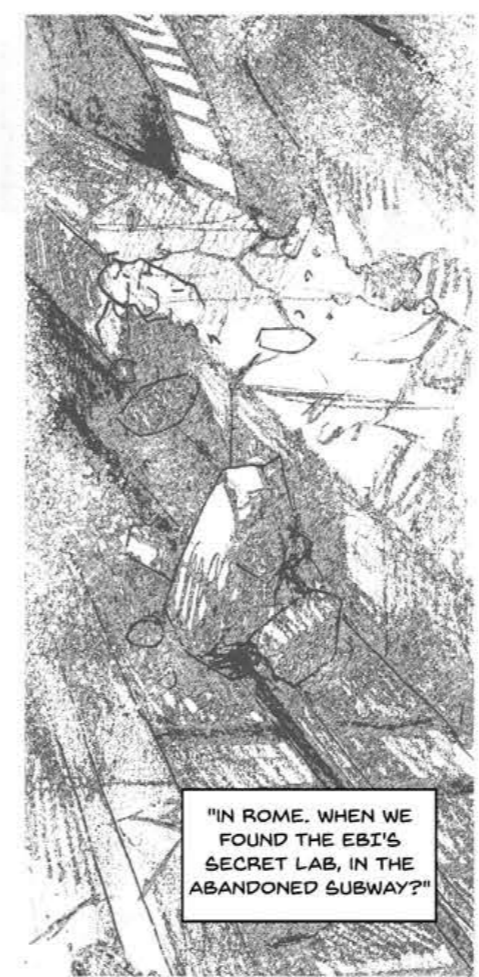
HM?

Y'KNOW, UNTIL YOU SHOW LEADERSHIP SKILLS...  
...HIGHEST TITLE YOU COULD HAVE IS THAT OF TROPHY HUSBAND.

SO... A POSITION WITH NO RESPONSIBILITIES, BEYOND PLEASING YOU?  
SOUNDS GOOD.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN "SOUNDS GOOD"?  
IT'S SUPPOSED TO HURT YOUR PRIDE OR SPUR YOU ON OR SOMETHING!  
YOU WEREN'T LIKE THIS TWO WEEKS AGO, HUH.

UH?



ADAM, YOU...!  
SHUT UP.

"IN ROME. WHEN WE FOUND THE EBI'S SECRET LAB, IN THE ABANDONED SUBWAY?"

AH, WHEN THE HAND POSSESSED ME. SORRY.

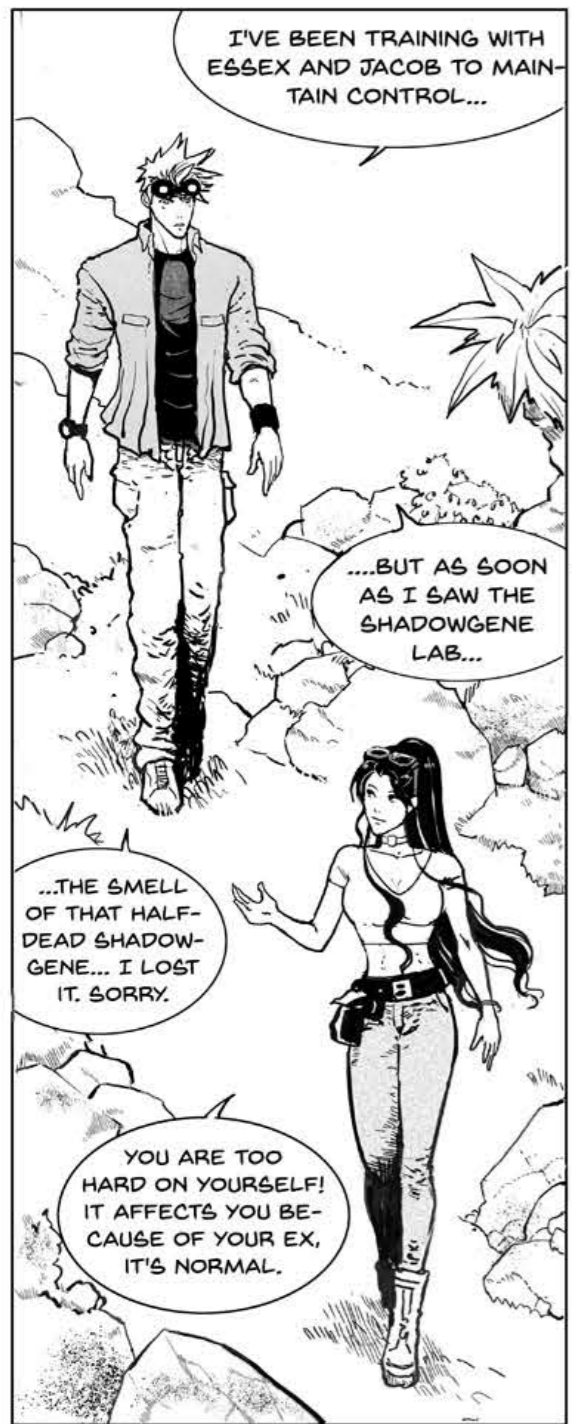


SORRY? WHY?

YOU LOOKED VERY... POWERFUL,

BUT... I DON'T REMEMBER MUCH, BUT I RAISED MY VOICE AT YOU, DIDN'T I?

I DON'T KNOW. TO ME, YOU HAD AN AIR OF A... BLACK KNIGHT OR BIKER FROM MAD MAX.



I'VE BEEN TRAINING WITH ESSEX AND JACOB TO MAINTAIN CONTROL...

...BUT AS SOON AS I SAW THE SHADOWGENE LAB...

...THE SMELL OF THAT HALF-DEAD SHADW-GENE... I LOST IT. SORRY.

YOU ARE TOO HARD ON YOURSELF! IT AFFECTS YOU BECAUSE OF YOUR EX, IT'S NORMAL.



SHUT UP.

BUT... I'M GOING TO THE LAB. I DON'T CARE HOW MANY AGENTS THERE ARE, I'M GOING TO LOOK INTO IT.

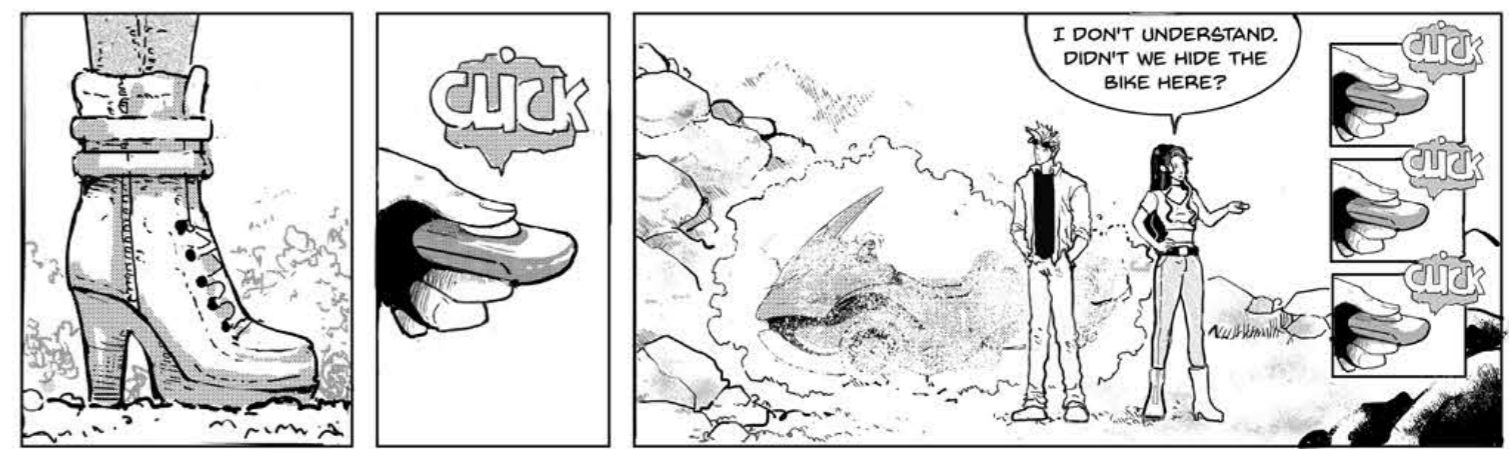
I WAS ASKING YOU TO FOCUS IN OUR OBJECTIVES, BUT YOU STOOD UP...



...

YOU WERE SIMPLY HONORING BLANCA'S MEMORY.

...

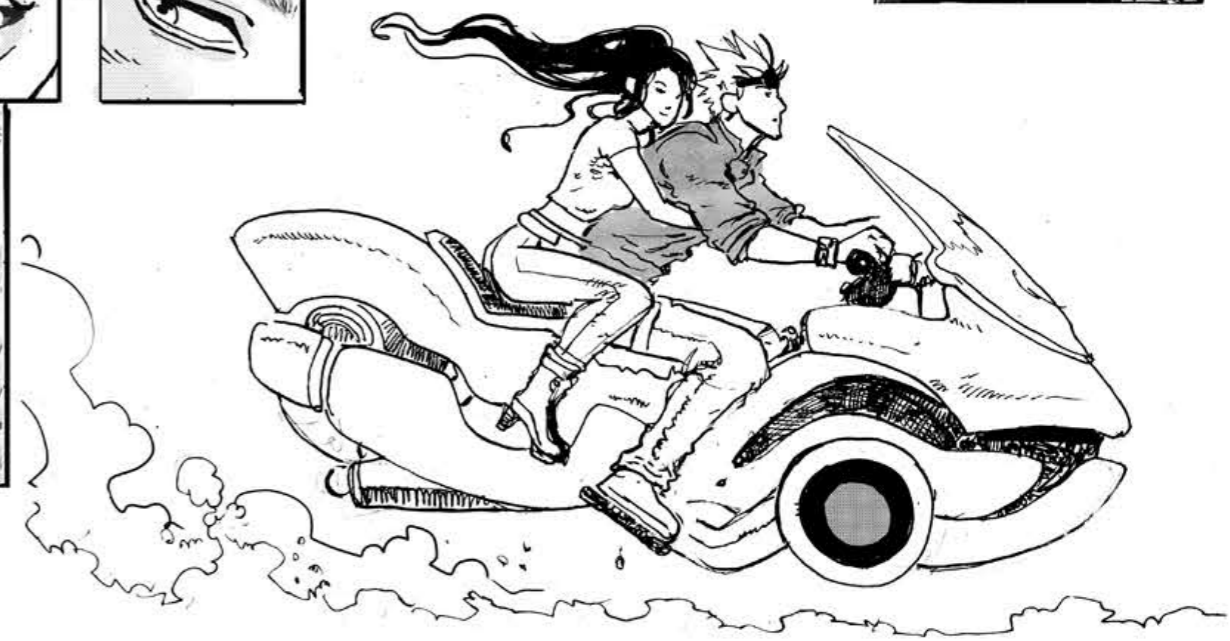
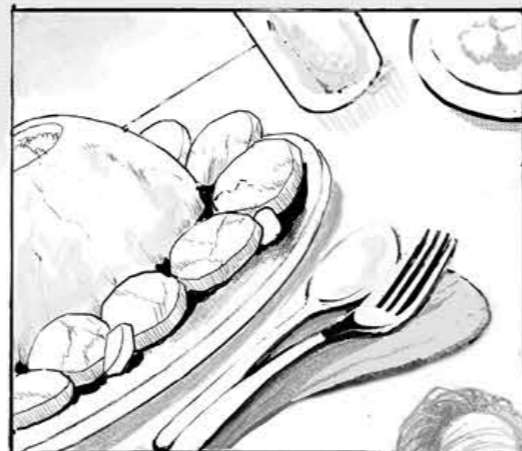


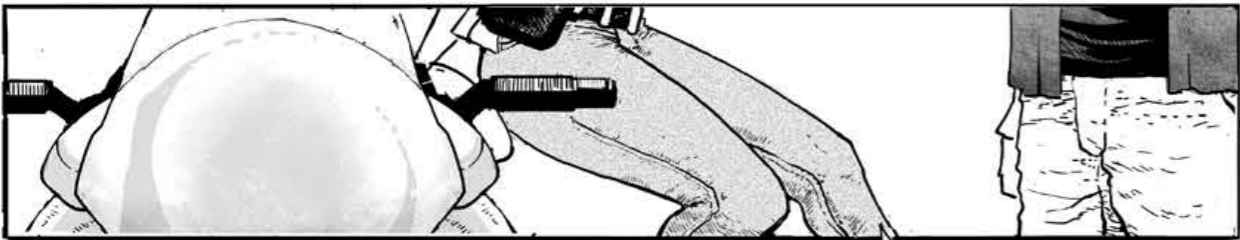
I DON'T UNDERSTAND. DIDN'T WE HIDE THE BIKE HERE?

click  
click  
click



WHY DOESN'T IT TURN VISIBLE?





GO TO GARACHICO.

I'LL LOAD THE BIKE ON THE SUBMARINE. BE RIGHT BACK.

CHARIOT! EVERYTHING OK?

YES. A SHADOWGENE ATTACKED ME.

SHIT. THOUGHT IT WOULD BE A TECHNOLOGY LAB, NOT SHADOWGENE.

I DON'T LIKE THESE CREATURES AT ALL.

WE'VE GOT A MAN DOWN! HE'S BITTEN IN THE NECK!

EMPRESS!

WHAT?



HERE YOU GO, MISS.

...ALMOST CUT ME BEFORE I TRANSFORMED.



"LET'S EVACUATE IMMEDIATELY!"



RIN!

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT? YOU SEEM QUITE... **ABSENT**.

UH, I WAS JUST... THINKING ABOUT ROME. THE SUBWAY.



ONE OF THE MINOR ARCANA WAS BADLY WOUNDED.



"IT WAS QUITE SCARY, TO BE HONEST".

BUT YOU SAVED HIM, RIGHT?

BETWEEN YOU, YOUR CRYSTALS AND CHARIOT... I DON'T THINK YOU'D HAVE ANY PROBLEMS.

ESPECIALLY YOU. THOSE CRYSTALS THAT LEVITATE AROUND YOU AND RELEASE ENERGY... I CAN'T DECIDE IF YOU LOOK LIKE YOU COME FROM THE FUTURE OR FROM SOME FANTASY PAST, LIKE ATLANTIS...

NO, BUT... I DON'T... CALVIN, THE AGENT...

HE'LL RECOVER, BUT... A FEW MORE MINUTES AND...

WE BARELY MADE IT OUT. IT'S ALWAYS BARELY.



NAH, YOU SAY THAT, BUT IN SICILY I SAW YOU FIGHTING...

EH?

WITH THAT HEREMITE - HE DIDN'T HAVE TIME TO BLINK!

EXPLOSION WITH THE CRYSTALS, THEN A BEAM WITH YOUR SWORD, DONE.

A TEN SECOND FIGHT, IT WAS AMAZING!

ADAM! THAT WAS DIFFERENT!

IN ROME, A SHADOWGENE CAME OUT OF NOWHERE AND ALMOST KILLED US!



YOU AND CHARIOT? COME ON, MAN.

YOU PROBABLY DID THAT SAMURAI SHIT OF HAVING THE BATTLE ALREADY DECIDED JUST BY LOOKING AT HIM!

YOU CAN DO IT, WITH THOSE EYES.

YOU KNOW THAT CHARIOT TOLD ME A PHRASE IN RUSSIAN TO SAY TO YOU? A COMPLIMENT ABOUT YOUR EYES. I LOOKED IT UP IN THE TRANSLATOR AND IT SAID: "YOUR ASS IS SO HARD THEY USED IT TO BUILD PYRAMIDS".

HAHAHA!



ADAM...



OH, PLEASE...

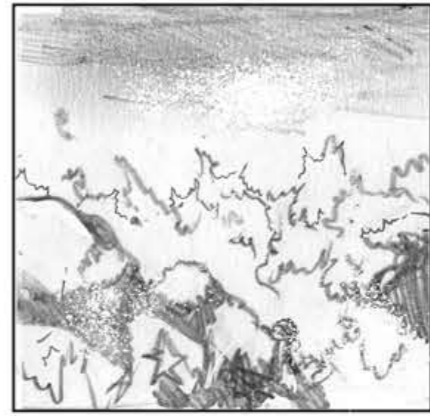


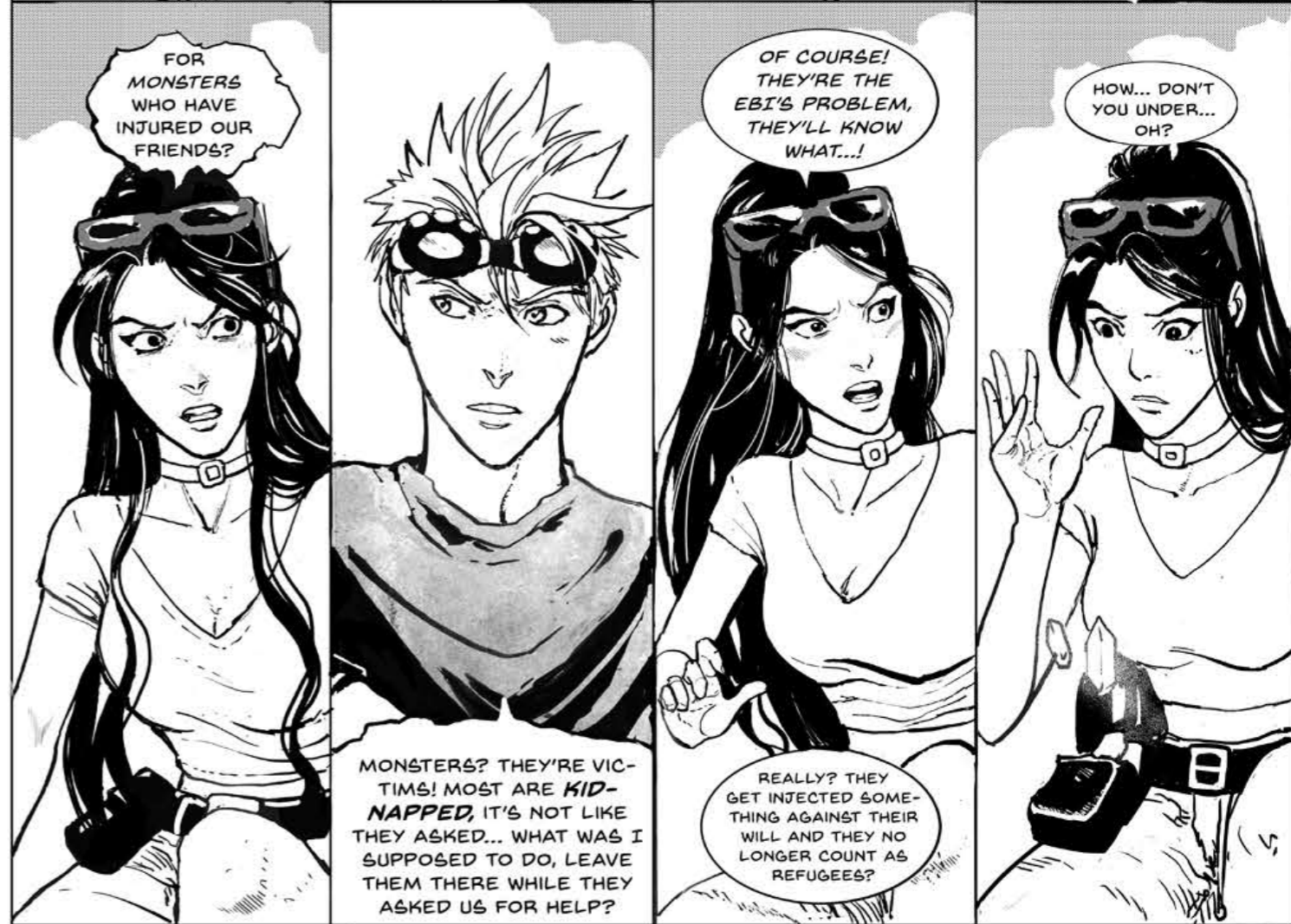
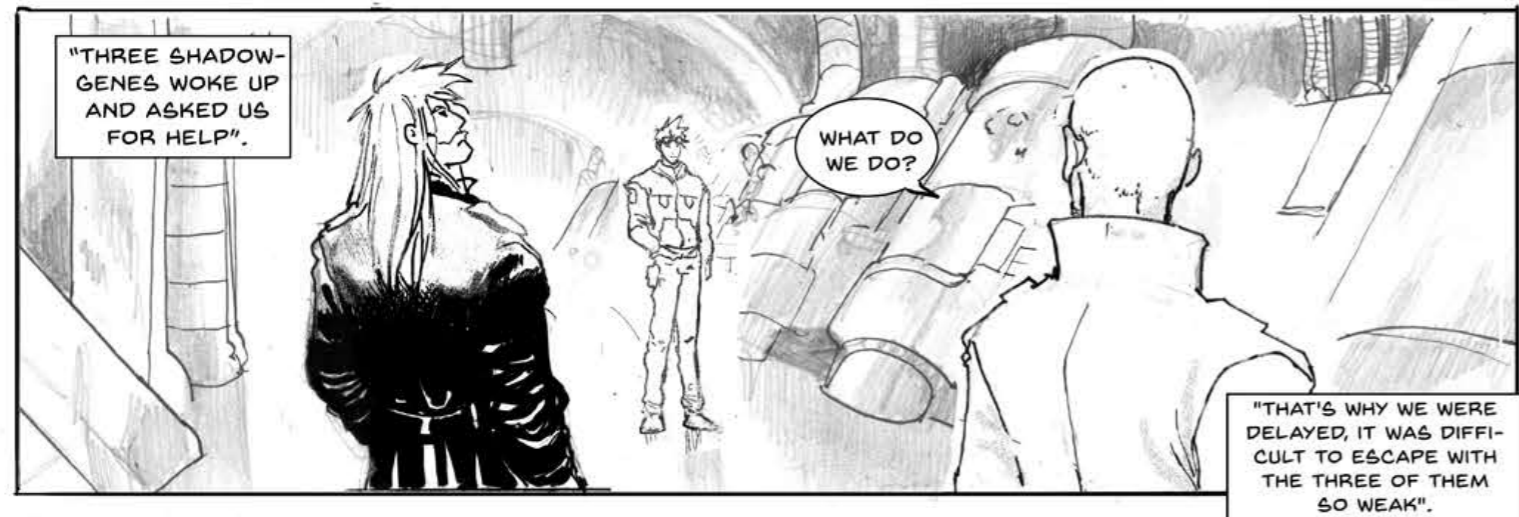




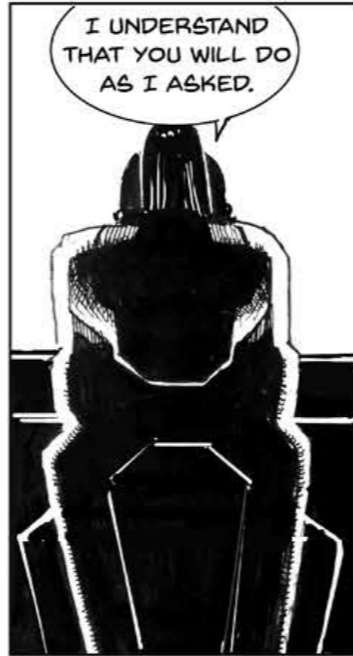
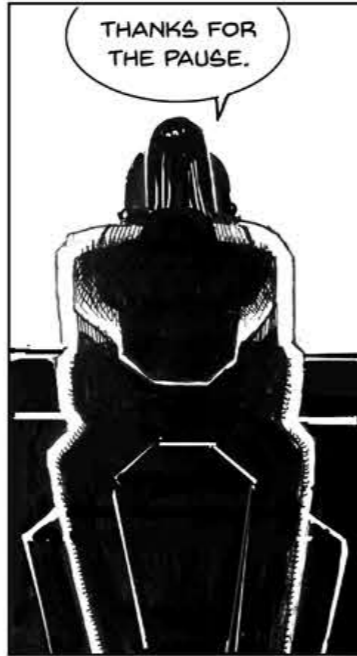
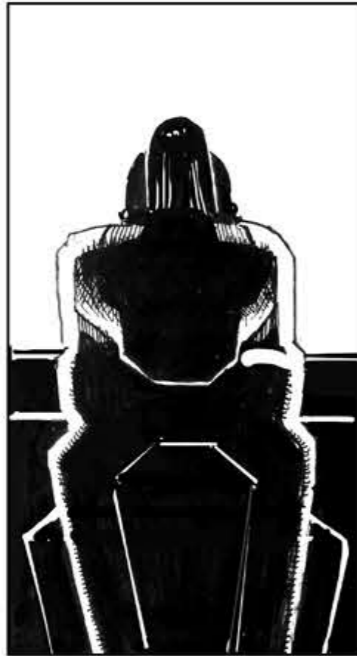
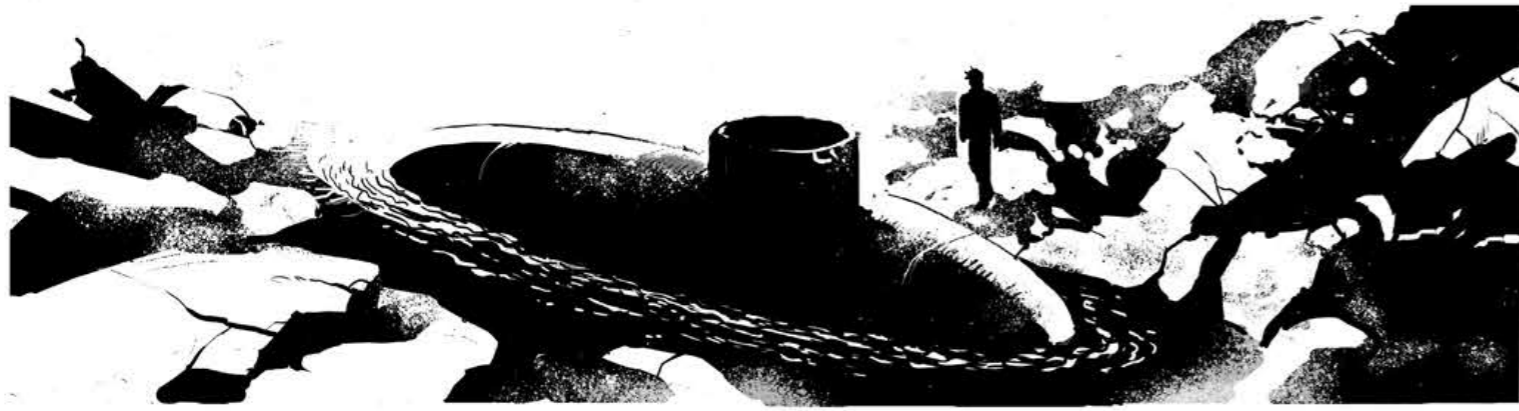
THAT'S  
WHAT I LIKE  
ABOUT YOU,  
IRINA.

YOUR  
STRENGTH.











## ...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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