



SIMON M. ATANA S.

SCRIPT
PANEL LAYOUT
COVER

PENCILS
INK

TRANSLATION
(SORRY, ENGLISH SPEAKERS)

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I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHAT IS HAPPENING.

IT'S OBVIOUS THAT FRANCIS IS MANIPULATING THE GAME, BUT THE ONLY TRACE OF MAGIC I DETECT IS SMALL AND DILUTED, AND EMANATES FROM COLE NO MATTER HOW THE ROUND GOES.

CRAIG: 48 POINTS.

JACOB, 57.

COLE, 40.

60, MYSELF.

ESSEX, 15.

AND THE SCORING... IT'S ALL GOING A LITTLE TOO... **MANUFACTURED.**

I MANAGE TO SCORE, BUT FRANCIS IS ALWAYS AHEAD. AND THE INCOMPETENCE OF ESSEX... IT'S JUST TOO MUCH. MAKING A MOCKERY OF US.

FRANCIS.



YOU AND ESSEX WERE ALWAYS AT EACH OTHER'S THROATS, AND NOW HE'S NOT GETTING A SINGLE DECENT HAND.

BIT BOLD, NO? YOU'RE BARELY CONCEALING IT.



HERE WE GO.



HOW AM I TO BLAME FOR HIS PLAYS? HE'S ALWAYS BEEN IMPATIENT, AND POKER REQUIRES PATIENCE...

ANYONE'S BUYING A CARD?



ESSEX. DO YOU THINK ALL TEACHERS ARE YOUR ENEMIES?



THE MAGIC SIGIL WAS SUPPOSED TO ATTRACT AN ANCIENT COIN, AND WHAT YOU BROUGHT WAS A EURO FROM FRANCE. FISCHER WAS RIGHT.

PFFT. ONLY THING THAT MATTERS IS THE RITUAL OF THE DOOR.

THE REST... DIVINATION, SIGILS... BAH.



MAKES YOU WEAK, THIS STUFF.



CARD.

FUCK YOUR "PATIENCE". I COULD BE PLAYING WITH MY HAND DISCLOSED AND IT WOULD MAKE NO DIFFERENCE!



I DIDN'T EXPECT TO WIN, BUT SHOWING ME TO THE BOTTOM OF THE LIST...!

BUT HEY, YOU'RE CLEARLY CHEATING. THE QUESTION IS WHETHER I'LL LIMIT MYSELF TO UNCOVERING YOUR CRAP OR I'LL BEAT YOU TO A PULP FOR BEING A TRAITOR.

HAHAHAHA. ARE YOU THREATENING ME? THAT'S SO FUNNY. I STILL SEE THE KID IN YOU... HOW OLD WERE YOU, 20?



YOU DON'T HAVE WHAT IT TAKES, BOY.

TEN YEARS AGO, FRANCIS.

ESSEX, YOU HAD ALREADY OPENED THE FIRST DOOR BEFORE SIGNING UP, RIGHT?

CHANGING THE SUBJECT?

WERE YOU ALREADY PART OF THE EBI AT THAT TIME?



WERE YOU THE ONE WHO IMPLANTED THE MEASURES? MY VISION NEVER DETECTED THEM! HOW IS THAT POSSIBLE?

WAS IT A BULLET?

SOME THINGS ALWAYS ESCAPED YOU, JA...

A COLOR WE DIDN'T KNOW? THE BLACK BULLET?



YOU BETTER ANSWER OR THIS FARCE OF A GAME IS OVER! REMEMBER THAT THIS GAME IS SUSTAINED BECAUSE WE HAVE ABIDED BY YOUR RULES...!

I DON'T GIVE A FUCK IF YOU HAVE THE THIRD DOOR OR THE HUNDRETH OPEN! NOBODY MANIPULATES MY FUCKING MIND, TRAITOR!



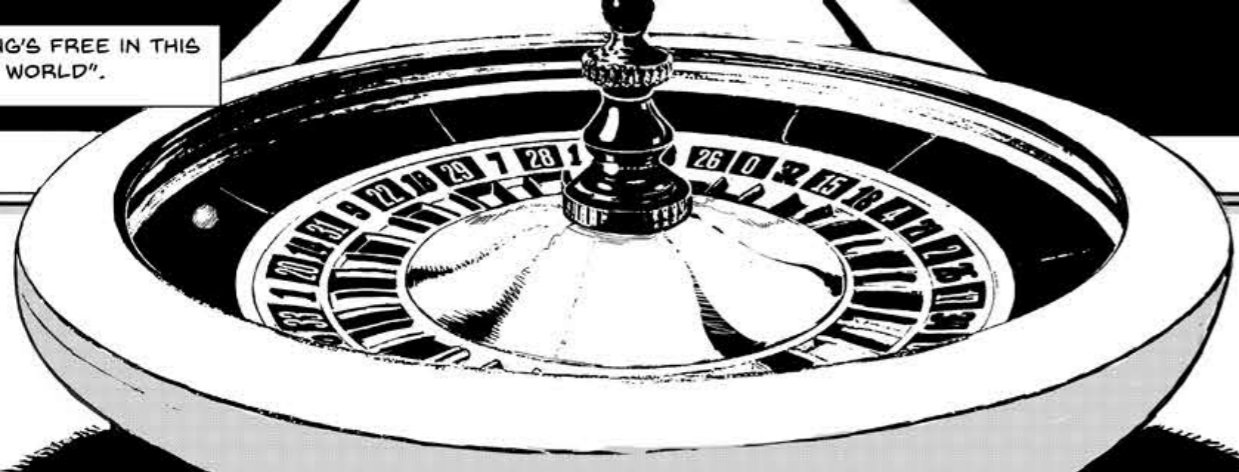
HM. OR MAYBE YOU PARTICIPATE BECAUSE, DEEP DOWN, YOU DON'T WANT TO SEE ME AS AN ENEMY. A SENSIBLE DECISION, UNLESS, OF COURSE, I AM WHAT YOU SAY I AM.

BUT THAT'S THE THING. THE PARANORMAL EBI WAS NEVER YOUR ENEMY. EVEN IF I DID WHAT YOU SAY I DID... HOW HAVE I BETRAYED YOU?

FOLLOWING STANDARD PROCEDURE IS TREASON? I MEAN, ONE COULD ARGUE THAT, PERHAPS, THE ONLY THING THAT MAKES A LEGAL MAGE LEGAL, AS OPPOSED TO ILLEGAL, IS THE CERTAINTY OF THE EBI THAT THEY WILL FOLLOW CERTAIN PROTOCOLS.

YOU WANTED TO BE LEGAL MAGICIANS AND, PERHAPS, THAT WAS PART OF THE PRICE.

"NOTHING'S FREE IN THIS WORLD".



BLACK, 10.



...



OH, YOU GOT THE DRINK ALREADY? THAT WAS FAST.

YOU SHOULD BE CAREFUL, WITH THOSE HEELS...



...YOU CAN'T AFFORD TOO MUCH ALCOHOL, CAN YOU? YOU'LL END UP FACEPLANTING ON THE FLOOR.

THAT SAID, WHAT NUMBER DO YOU...?



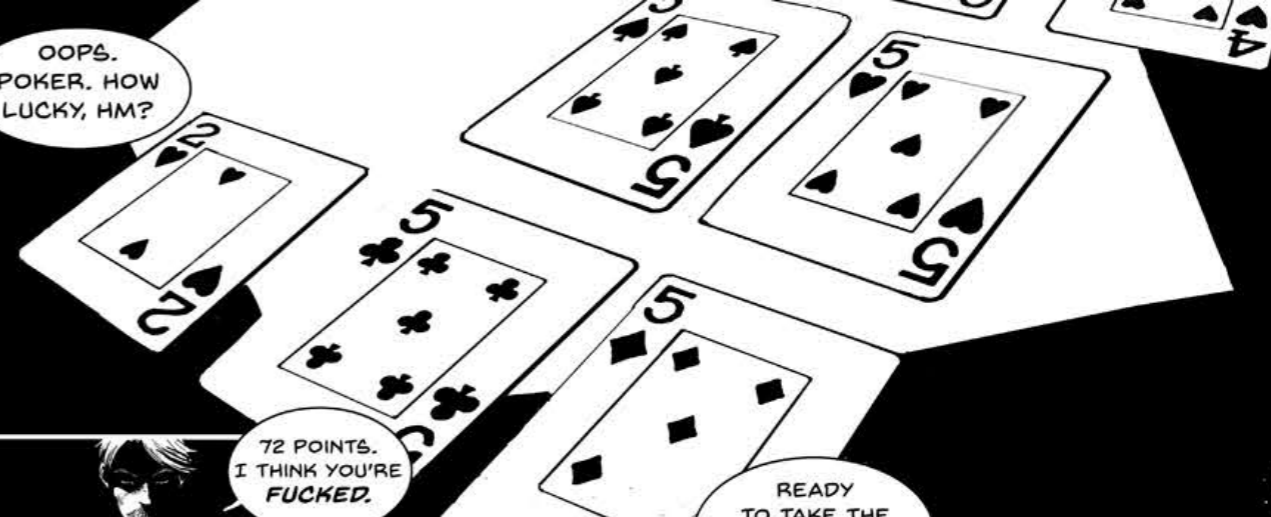
UHM.



MY GOD.

YOUR FACE IS LIKE THE BALD ASS OF ONE OF THOSE MONKEYS.

OOPS. POKER. HOW LUCKY, HM?



72 POINTS. I THINK YOU'RE FUCKED.

READY TO TAKE THE BULLET? A DEAL IS A DEAL.

THE BULLET. AN UNDEFINED THREAT. ALMOST AS IF IT WERE... A RIDDLE.

FOUR EIGHTS. TWO ON THE TABLE, TWO IN HIS HAND. JUST ONE CARD DRAWN.



THE GAME... HE WOULDN'T LET US GET UP BECAUSE THE GAME HAD ALREADY STARTED, BUT HE HADN'T DEALT ANY CARDS.



EVERYTHING IS THERE TO BE SEEN. IS THE POKER GAME PART OF ANOTHER GAME?

WAIT... WHAT DID ESSEX JUST SAY?

HM? ARE YOU IMPLYING THAT I'M CHEATING, ESSEX?



I DON'T LIKE TO BE LIED TO, FRANCIS.

IS THE BULLET PART OF THAT GAME?



NO, NOT TALKING ABOUT THAT. YOU LAUGH WHEN I CALL YOU A TRAITOR, BUT...

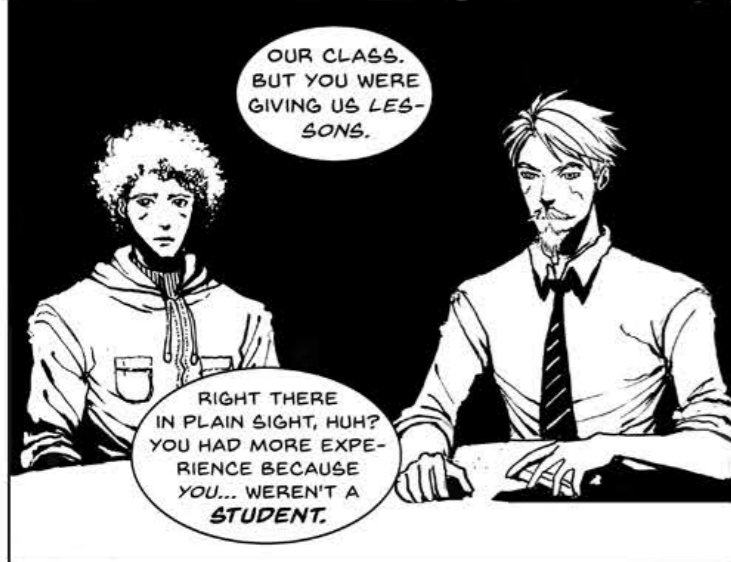
...I'M REMEMBERING ALL THESE MOMENTS...



I JUST REALIZED... YOU WERE ALWAYS GIVING US LESSONS, GUIDING US IN OUR STUDIES. AT THE TIME, I DIDN'T THINK ANYTHING OF IT BECAUSE, AFTER ALL, YOU WERE OLDER THAN US...

...BUT, WHEN YOU THINK ABOUT IT, WHAT DOES AGE HAVE TO DO WITH YOUR LEVEL OF MAGICAL KNOWLEDGE?

YOU WERE IN OUR CLASS.



OUR CLASS. BUT YOU WERE GIVING US LESSONS.

RIGHT THERE IN PLAIN SIGHT, HUH? YOU HAD MORE EXPERIENCE BECAUSE YOU... WEREN'T A STUDENT.

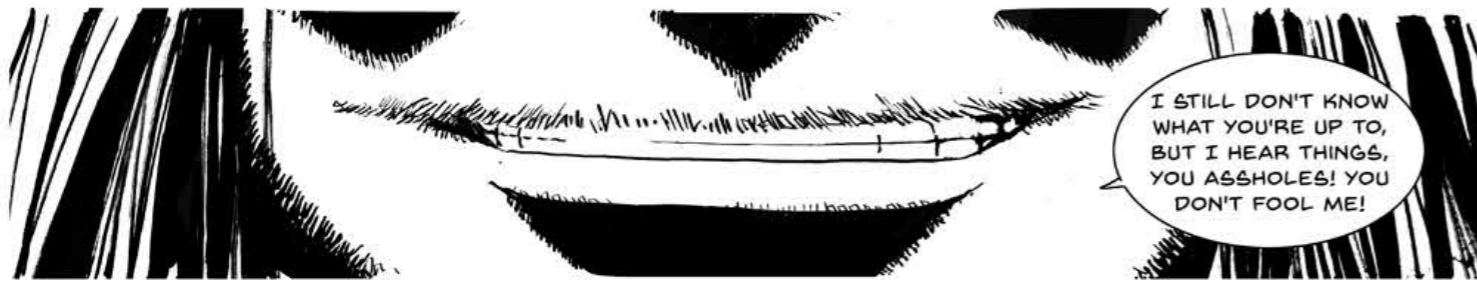


AND YOU, CRAIG, COLLABORATING WITH HIM.

?

WHAT D-DO I...

DON'T PLAY DUMB!



I STILL DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE UP TO, BUT I HEAR THINGS, YOU ASSHOLES! YOU DON'T FOOL ME!



I'M HEARING FOOTSTEPS!

NEXT ROUND.

WE COULD NOT GET UP FROM THE TABLE BEFORE THE GAME HAD STARTED.

IN ORDER TO MAKE PEOPLE WANT TO PARTICIPATE IN A GAME, YOU NEED TO MAKE WINNING ATTRACTIVE...

...OR MAKE THEM FEAR DEFEAT. THE THIRD DOOR.

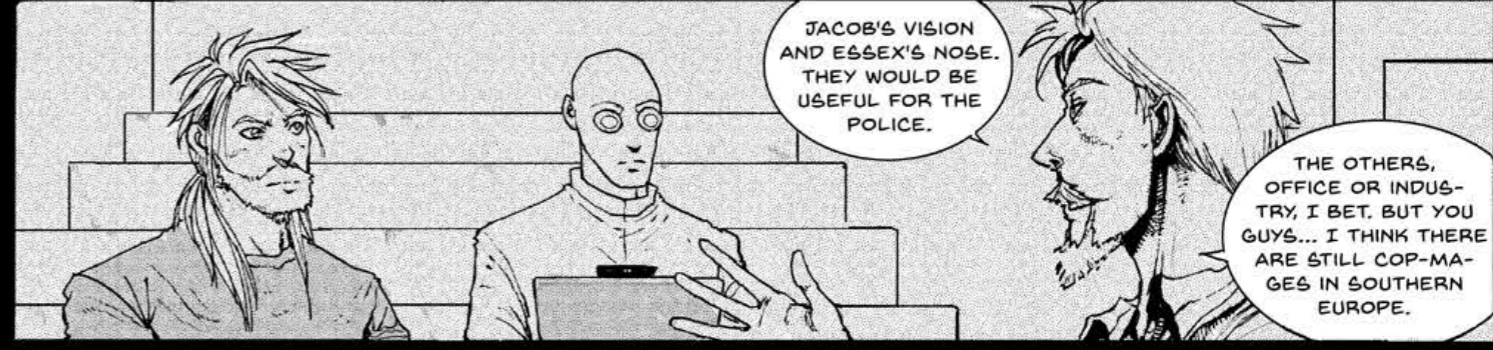
THE WAY HE'S TREATING ESSEX. THE BULLET. THE THIRD DOOR.

"YOU TWO HAVE TALENT".



I'VE SEEN YOU IN THE FIELD TEST.

YOU ARE BETTER THAN I EXPECTED. YOU LOOKED LIKE... MORE THAN STUDENTS, YOU LOOKED LIKE DETECTIVES. HAVE YOU THOUGHT ABOUT IT?



JACOB'S VISION AND ESSEX'S NOSE. THEY WOULD BE USEFUL FOR THE POLICE.

THE OTHERS, OFFICE OR INDUSTRY, I BET. BUT YOU GUYS... I THINK THERE ARE STILL COP-MAGES IN SOUTHERN EUROPE.



"YOU BOTH SPEAK SPANISH, DON'T YOU?"

...I THINK...

...THAT THE GAME WE ARE PLAYING IS NOT WHAT WE THOUGHT IT WAS. EVERYTHING IS THERE TO BE SEEN...



...AND THE TRAPS ARE PART OF IT. AND HIS THREATS... ARE THE QUESTION MARK OF A QUESTION NEVER UTTERED.

WHAT IS THE GAME WE ARE PLAYING?

JACOB. CARD?

JACOB.

HEY.

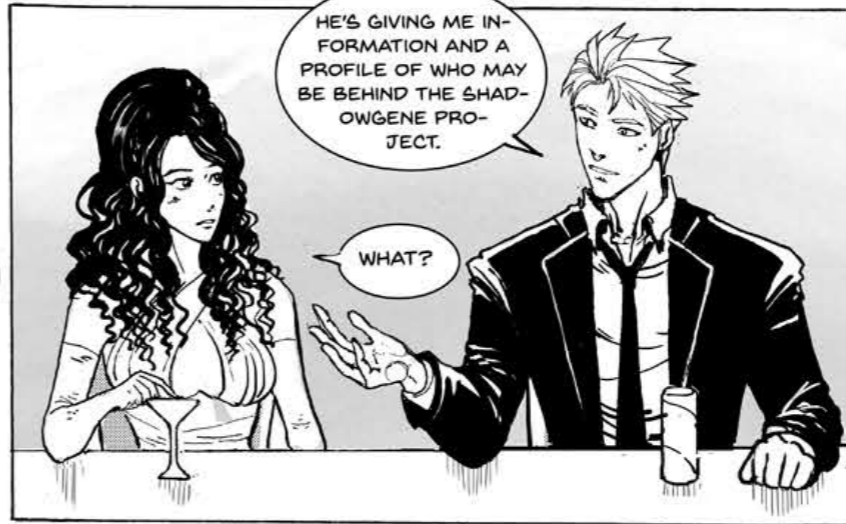
I ALMOST GOT IT. IT'S WHAT ESSEX SAYS: HE WAS ALWAYS GUIDING US.



WHO...?

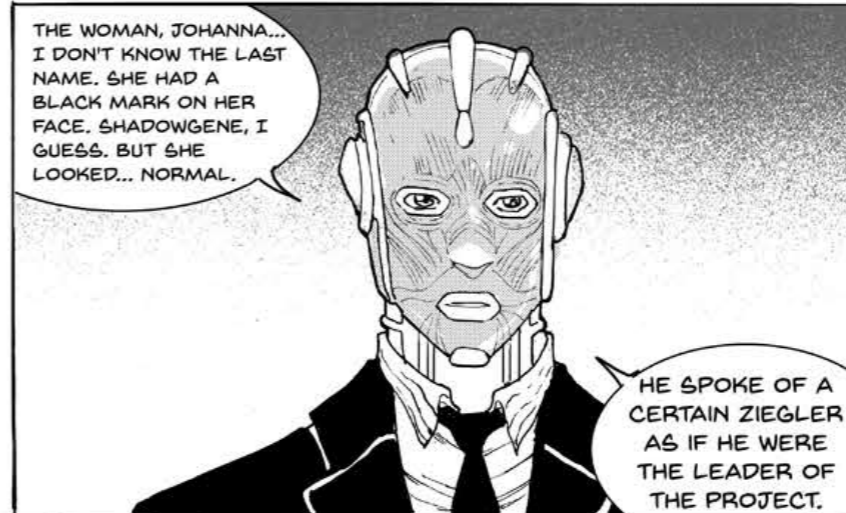
MY MEMORIES... ARE A BIT SCATTERED. THEY WERE MANIPULATED, I THINK...

...BUT THE PROJECT'S SUBORDINATE WAS A WOMAN, AND THE LEADER...



HE'S GIVING ME INFORMATION AND A PROFILE OF WHO MAY BE BEHIND THE SHADOWGENE PROJECT.

WHAT?



THE WOMAN, JOHANNA... I DON'T KNOW THE LAST NAME. SHE HAD A BLACK MARK ON HER FACE. SHADOWGENE, I GUESS. BUT SHE LOOKED... NORMAL.

HE SPOKE OF A CERTAIN ZIEGLER AS IF HE WERE THE LEADER OF THE PROJECT.



THESE ARE THE MOST RELEVANT BASES THAT I REMEMBER. IT ISN'T MUCH AND IT'S PROBABLY NOT RELIABLE, BUT...

FUCK THEM. DON'T YOU SEE MY FACE?
ALL BECAUSE OF A JAW SURGERY.
WHAT?
THEY TRACK PEOPLE THEY CONSIDER TO BE CANDIDATES. ONE OF THEIR FAVORITE WAYS OF KIDNAPPING IS TO WAIT UNTIL YOU NEED SURGERY...

PRETEND YOU DIE DURING THE OPERATION.
EXACTLY.



ADAM, HAVE YOU FOUND SOME FRIEND IN THIS...?



HEY! COME, SIT DOWN. WE'RE IN LUCK.



THIS IS JOAKIM, AN EBI AGENT...



...AND SHADOWGENE EXPERIMENT.

OH.



SO IT'S TRUE. THIS IS A NEUTRAL ZONE. WE THOUGHT IT WAS DISINFORMATION... A TRAP TO CAPTURE CABALISTS.

HMM. WELL, THIS IS CONVENIENT FOR THE EBI. BUT NO, THE PLACE ISN'T A TRAP.



NO OFFENSE, BUT... WHY ARE YOU HELPING US? GIVEN YOUR CONDITION... THE EBI IS JUST ABOUT THE ONLY PLACE THAT CAN TREAT YOU IF YOU NEED CARE.

EVERY DAY, AFTER THE BUCKETLOAD OF SLEEPING PILLS, I THANK GOD THAT MY FAMILY THINKS I'M DEAD.



THAT'S WHY... YES, THE EBI IS THE ONLY THING I HAVE LEFT, BUT... THE EBI CAN LIVE WITHOUT THE FUCKING SHADOW-GENE.

WHEN I SAW YOU... IT WAS LIKE A GIFT FROM HEAVEN.

YOU HAVE BECOME FAMOUS, YOU KNOW, AMONG OUR PEOPLE.



REALLY? PEOPLE KNOW ME?

YES. THE THREE THAT YOU SAVED RECENTLY, YOUR ATTACKS TO THE LABS... THE ASSAULT ON THE BASE IN FRANCE.

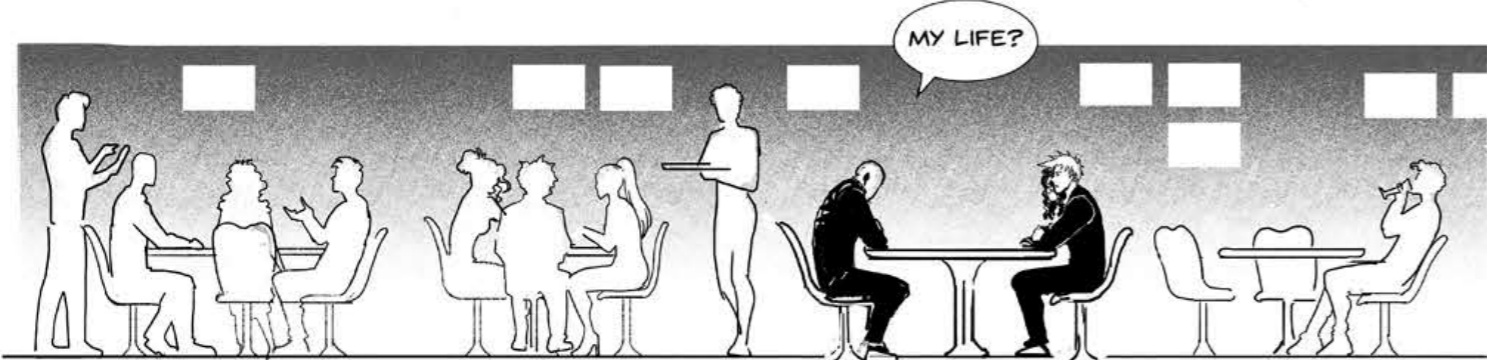
THE GIRL YOU RESCUED... IS IT TRUE THAT SHE WAS YOUR EX?



HEY, HEY. YOU SURE YOU WANT TO DO THIS? UNLESS YOU'RE LYING TO US...



...YOU ARE RISKING YOUR LIFE.



MY LIFE?



HAH.



LOOK AT COLE. FULL HOUSE.



62 POINTS! WHO WOULD'VE THOUGHT.

CRAIG 68, JACOB 70.



AND ESSEX... A VERY WORTHY 17 POINTS.



AND, FINALLY, MYSELF. 85 POINTS.

DO WE NEED TO CONTINUE? WE CAN, IF YOU WANT, BUT...



...YOU'VE LOST. I'LL BE BENEVOLENT. I GIVE YOU TWO OPTIONS: GO ON 'TIL THE END, LOSE, AND EAT THE BLACK BULLET, WHOSE EFFECTS YOU DON'T KNOW...



...OR SURRENDER NOW, IN WHICH CASE I WOULD USE MY CONTACTS IN THE PARANORMAL EBI TO HAVE YOU RECRUITED UNDER SURVEILLANCE. A SEMI-AMNESTY.

YOU CAN DISCUSS IT. WITHOUT LEAVING THE TABLE, OF COURSE.

NO.

IS THIS WHAT HE WANTED? HE KNOWS WE'RE NOT GOING TO GIVE IN, RIGHT?

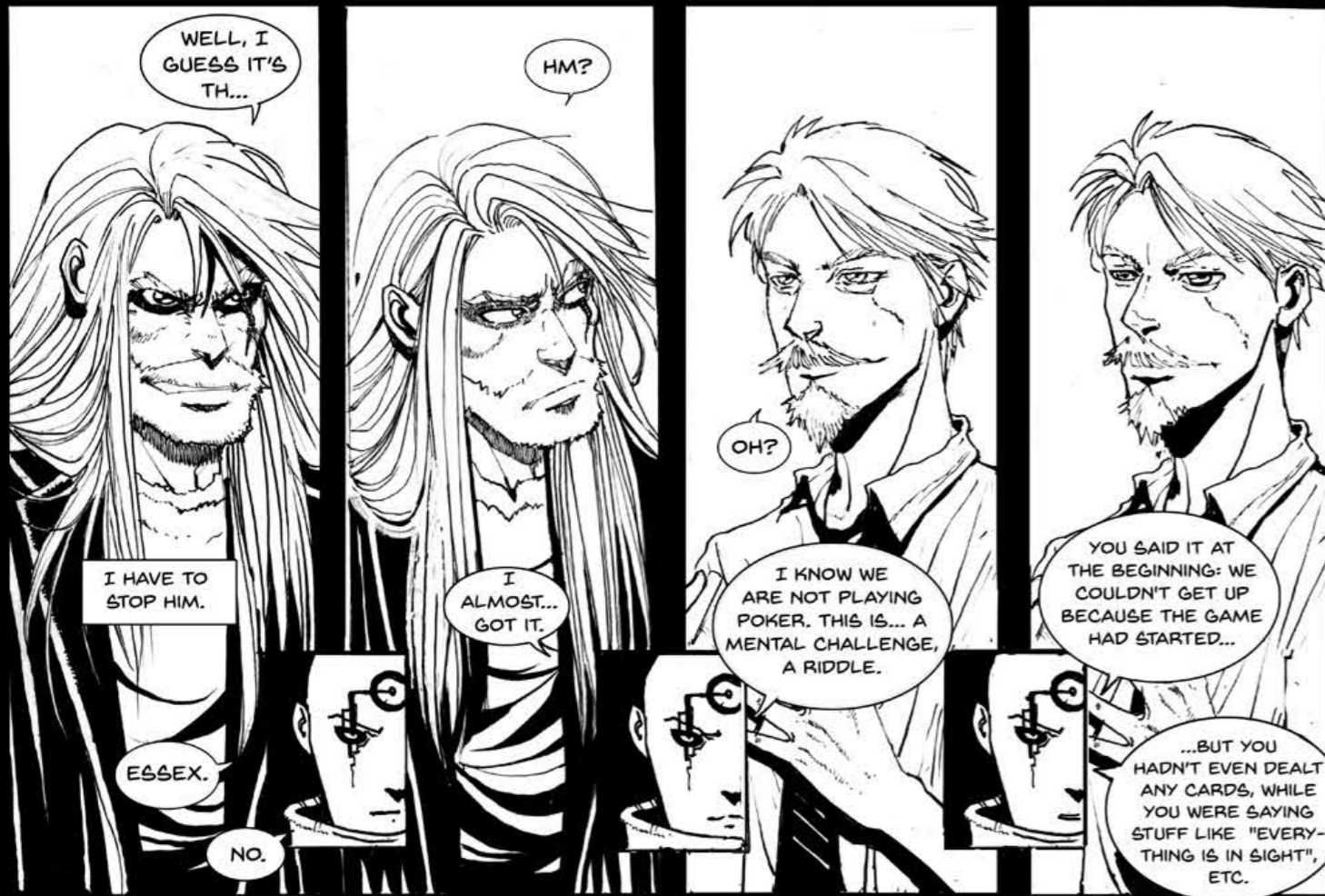


HE HASN'T EVEN SAID WHAT THE BULLET IS. HOW CAN WE ASSESS...?

I'VE STARTED TO SEE THE PLAN, BUT I STILL...

IS HE REALLY THREATENING US?

ESSEX'S GOING TO ATTACK. BUT THE THIRD DOOR... WE DON'T KNOW WHAT IT CAN DO.



WELL, I GUESS IT'S TH...

HM?

I HAVE TO STOP HIM.

I ALMOST... GOT IT.

OH?

I KNOW WE ARE NOT PLAYING POKER. THIS IS... A MENTAL CHALLENGE, A RIDDLE.

YOU SAID IT AT THE BEGINNING: WE COULDN'T GET UP BECAUSE THE GAME HAD STARTED...

...BUT YOU HADN'T EVEN DEALT ANY CARDS, WHILE YOU WERE SAYING STUFF LIKE "EVERYTHING IS IN SIGHT", ETC.

ESSEX.

NO.



YOU CREATE A NEUTRAL ZONE SO THAT MULTIPLE FACTIONS CAN COME HERE...

...AND WE ARE THE ONLY ONES TO RECEIVE THREATS?

SOME-THING'S OFF.

YOU THINK I'M BLUFFING?

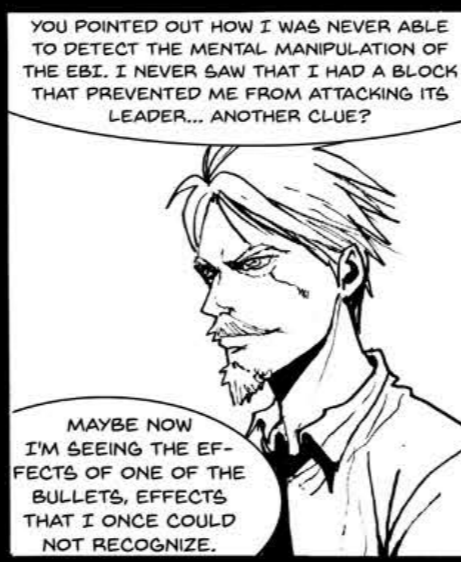


NOT EXACTLY. YOU CAN'T BE TOTALLY LYING, BECAUSE ESSEX COULD END UP READING YOUR HEARTBEAT. THE THREAT... THE THREAT IS REAL...

...BECAUSE IT'S PART OF THE GAME. THE BULLET YOU'RE THREATENING US WITH...



...YOU HAVEN'T TOLD US ITS FUNCTION BECAUSE IT'S AN INTRINSIC PART OF THE GAME. IT'S BEING USED RIGHT NOW, ISN'T IT?



YOU POINTED OUT HOW I WAS NEVER ABLE TO DETECT THE MENTAL MANIPULATION OF THE EBI. I NEVER SAW THAT I HAD A BLOCK THAT PREVENTED ME FROM ATTACKING ITS LEADER... ANOTHER CLUE?

MAYBE NOW I'M SEEING THE EFFECTS OF ONE OF THE BULLETS, EFFECTS THAT I ONCE COULD NOT RECOGNIZE.



AND I WONDER... COLE...

NO. NOT YET. STALL.

MAYBE THIS WAS NOTHING MORE THAN A... PUZZLE YOU WANTED US TO SOLVE.

FILL THE AIR WITH WORDS. THAT WAY...

THAT'S WHY YOU ALLOWED CHEATING. IF THE CARD GAME WAS WHAT MATTERED, YOU WOULDN'T ALLOW THE RULES TO BE BROKEN.

...IF I GET A PIECE OF INFORMATION

IT WILL LEAD ME TO ANOTHER AND THEN ANOTHER AND

I WILL END UP WITH THE WHOLE PICTURE, THE SOLUTION...



THAT'S WHY HE'S HERE. HE'S ANOTHER PIECE OF THE PUZZLE. HE'S THE ODD ONE OUT:

TALK AS IF YOU KNOW WHERE YOU'RE GOING.

WE ARE ALL STUDENTS OF THE MAGIC UNIVERSITY OF FRANKFURT, EXCEPT FOR HIM.

AND HIS SILENCE, AS IF HE WERE BARELY PRESENT... THE BLACK BULLET.

I SEE A SMALL TRACE OF MAGIC ON HIM. IF I HAVE TO DEDUCE ITS EFFECTS... HE SEEMS TO BE IN A SLIGHT TRANCE STATE, PROBABLY TO PASS YOU CARDS YOU NEED...



...THE SAME WAY YOU USED THE BLACK BULLET ON US SO THAT WE CAN'T ATTACK FREI.

TWO PROBLEMS, HOWEVER.



AND ALTHOUGH I AGREE THAT POKER WASN'T THE REAL GAME...

...FINDING OUT HOW I WAS CHEATING WAS YOUR ONLY CHANCE TO WIN. AND YOU DIDN'T.

AH. PERCEPTIVE, JACOB. YOU'RE RIGHT ABOUT SEVERAL THINGS: IT WAS DELIBERATE NOT TO MENTION WHAT THE BLACK BULLET IS, JUST AS THE PRESENCE OF COLE WAS, IN A WAY, A CLUE.



C'MON THINK FIT ALL THE CLUES...

TSK.



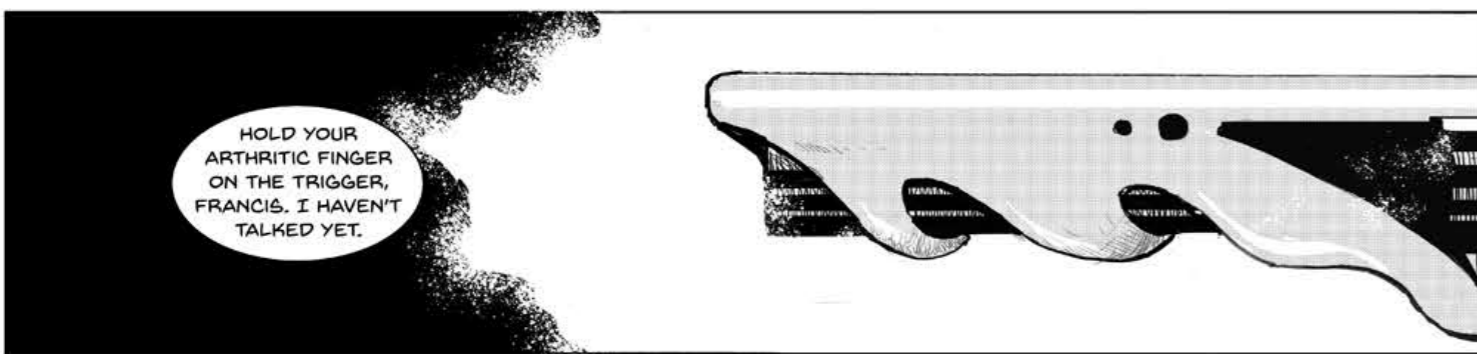
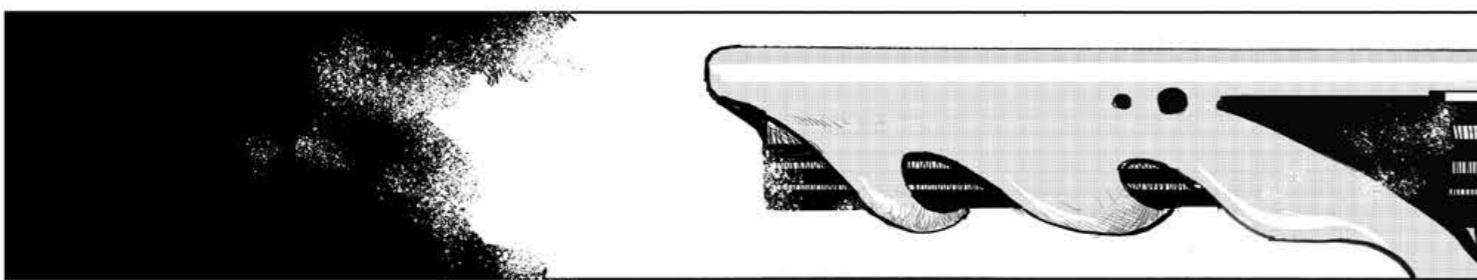
LET'S DO IT QUICK, THEN.

WE CAN CONTINUE PLAYING...!

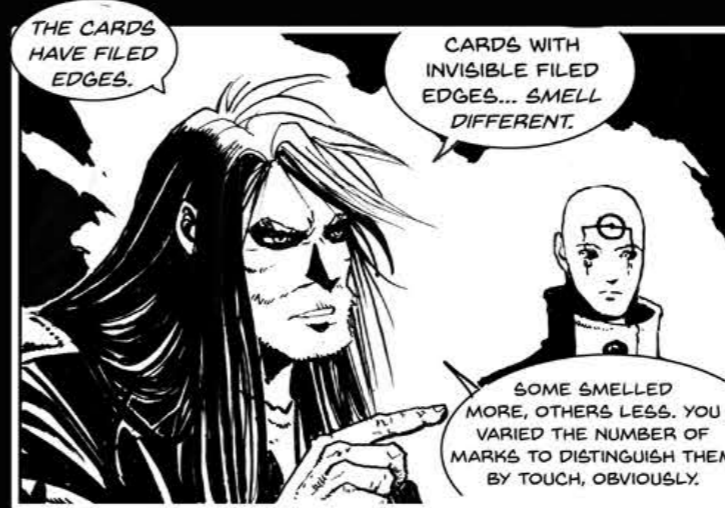
FRANCIS!

YES, WE COULD.

BUT SEEING HOW YOU'RE SO FAR FROM THE SOLUTION, JACOB... WOULD BE TEDIOUS TO DRAG THIS OUT WHEN I KNOW THE OUTCOME.



HOLD YOUR ARTHRITIC FINGER ON THE TRIGGER, FRANCIS. I HAVEN'T TALKED YET.



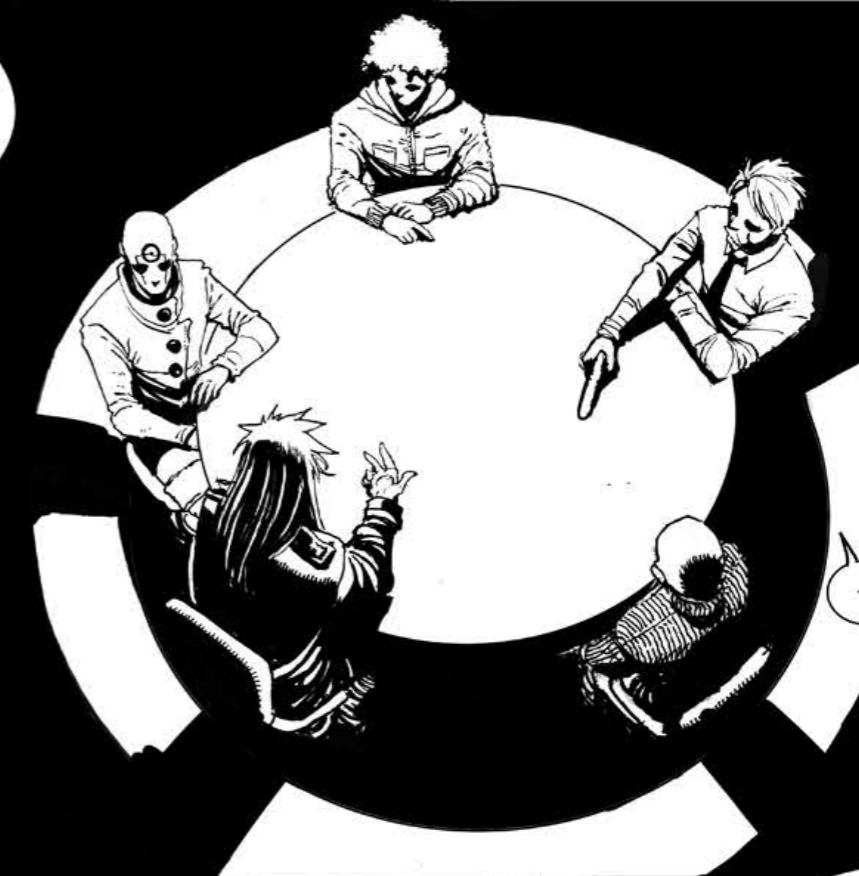
THE CARDS HAVE FILED EDGES.

CARDS WITH INVISIBLE FILED EDGES... SMELL DIFFERENT.

SOME SMELLED MORE, OTHERS LESS. YOU VARIED THE NUMBER OF MARKS TO DISTINGUISH THEM BY TOUCH, OBVIOUSLY.

HE IDENTIFIED THE CARDS BY TOUCH AND COULD MOVE THEM WITH INTENTIONALITY. HE WOULD MAKE YOU THINK HE WAS GIVING YOU THE FIRST CARD IN THE DECK, BUT HE WAS ACTUALLY GIVING YOU THE SECOND ONE, ETC.

I DON'T KNOW ALL THE TRICKS, BUT BASICALLY, IF THE DUDE WANTED TO GIVE YOU A TWO, YOU'D GET A TWO.



SEEING HOW YOU HANDLE THE CARDS... THE HAND GESTURES... YOU'VE CLEARLY LEARNED A TRICK OR TWO. HOWEVER... SOMETHING DIDN'T ADD UP.

I KEPT HEARING THOSE NOISES... THAT'S WHAT THREW ME OFF. IF YOU CAN MANIPULATE THE CARDS, WHAT WAS THE POINT OF THE NOISES?

JACOB MADE ME UNDERSTAND. I REALLY THOUGHT WE WERE ALL PLAYING INDIVIDUALLY... BUT THAT'S NOT THE CASE.



THAT'S THE SHOE THING YOU'VE BEEN DOING. YOUR SIGNAL FOR THEM TO ASK FOR CARDS...

I THOUGHT COLE WAS JUST A MORON, BUT WHEN JACOB SAID HE'S IN TRANCE, I GOT IT. HE AND CRAIG ARE PUPPETS -- CRAIG WILLINGLY, SINCE HE'S WHORING HIMSELF FOR A STUPID JOB.



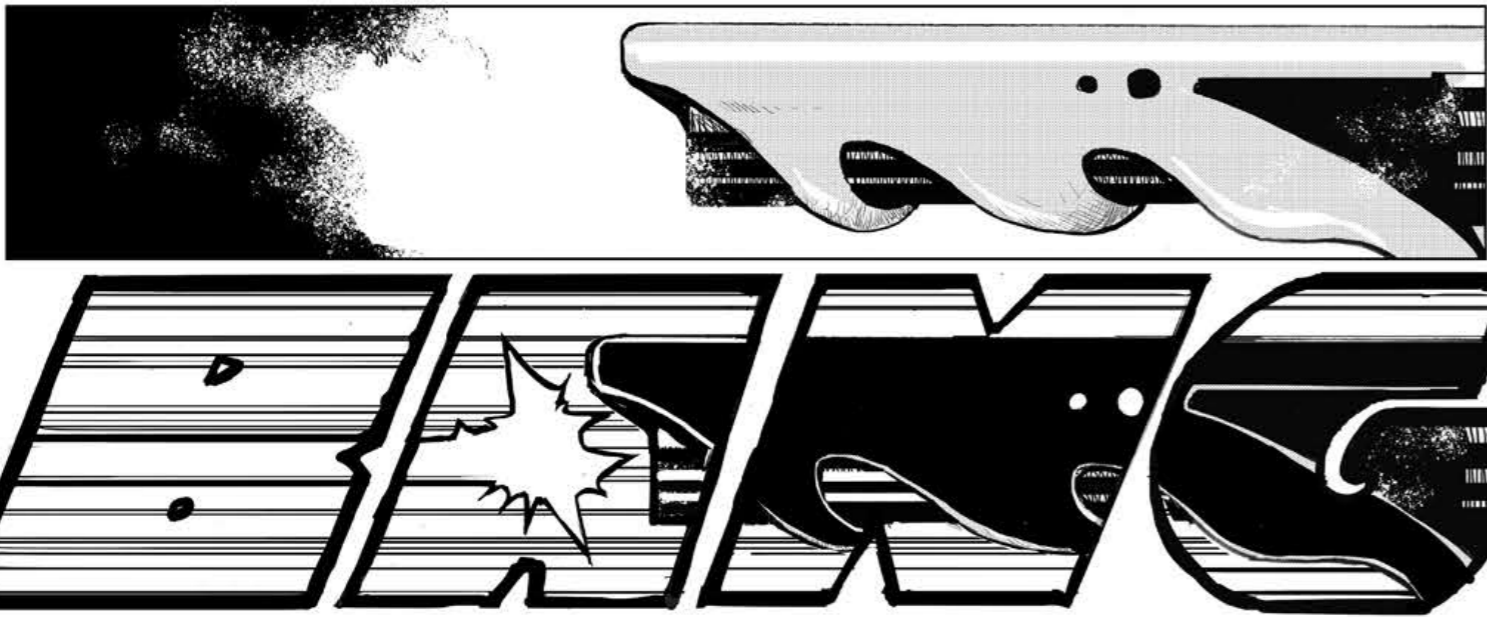
...BECAUSE YOU'RE PATHETIC AT CARD MANIPULATION AND YOU NEED EXTRA PEOPLE TO MOVE THE CARDS AROUND AND NOT GIVE US GOOD HANDS. MY THEORY IS THAT ORIGINALLY YOU DIDN'T WANT TO INVOLVE CRAIG, SINCE HIS REWARD INVOLVES ASKING THE FBI FOR FAVORS, BUT COLE IS TOO INCONSISTENT; I DON'T REMEMBER HIM ASKING FOR CARDS RELIABLY...



THAT REMINDED ME... A FRIEND OF MINE, HE LIKES THIS "MAGIC" STUFF, HE SHOWED ME VIDEOS OF PENN AND TELLER, TAMARIZ, DAORTIZ...

HE SHOWED ME A VIDEO OF A... HE WAS A BLIND GUY, WHAT WAS HIS NAME?

THIS GUY... HE MANIPULATED THE CARDS AS HE WISHED.



HAHA. LIKE MY DAD. HE WOULDN'T EVEN TOUCH COFFEE; HE HATED ANYTHING THAT COULD ALTER HIS BEHAVIOR.

YOU REALLY DON'T DRINK, HUH?

HM? SORRY, I WAS FAR AWAY. WHAT DID YOU SAY?

...

NOTHING.

HAPPY DAY, RIGHT?

DEPENDS ON HOW THEY DO.

THEY'LL WIN.

YOU...!

WHAT DID YOU DO?

WHA...?

I TOOK THE LIBERTY OF ASSUMING THAT YOU WANTED TO ELIMINATE YOUR MENTAL CONDITIONING. NOW YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO ATTACK FREI, ALTHOUGH I DON'T RECOMMEND IT.

CONGRATULATIONS, YOU WON.

BLUE BULLETS. VIRTUALLY UNDETECTABLE.

ONCE INSIDE OF YOUR MIND, THAT CRYSTAL WORKS AS IF IT WAS A THOUGHT OF YOUR OWN. THAT'S WHY YOU COULDN'T DETECT IT, JACOB.

TRANSPORTS AND IMPLANTS ASTRAL OBJECTS WHEREVER THE BULLET HITS. THE EBI TELEPATHS BUILT A NICE CRYSTAL OF DETERRENT THOUGHTS TO PREVENT YOU FROM ATTACKING THE EBI LEADER.

I DIDN'T EXPECT ESSEX TO BE THE ONE TO FIGURE OUT MY PLAN... TO THE EXTENT THAT HE UNDERSTOOD THAT WE WERE PLAYING AS A TEAM.

CRAIG JOINS THE PARANORMAL EBI IN TWO DAYS. WHETHER HE WON OR NOT. THE REST WAS THEATER.

SO... I WAS RIGHT.

THIS WASN'T A CARD GAME. THIS WAS A GAME OF DEDUCTION. YOU WERE TESTING US.

HONESTLY? I DON'T KNOW.

THE TRUTH IS THAT I'M NOT SURE MYSELF. INITIALLY, THIS WAS MY PLAN TO FORCE YOU TO COME TO YOUR SENSES. I SHOOT THE BLACK BULLET AT YOU, WHICH WOULD TEMPORARILY TAKE AWAY YOUR **FREE WILL...**

...AND I WOULD MAKE SOME KIND OF DEAL WITH THE EBI. AT LEAST THAT WAY, YOU WOULD BE SAFE FROM YOUR OWN STUPIDITY.

BUT... THAT WOULD MEAN DOING FOR THE SECOND TIME SOMETHING I DIDN'T LIKE THE FIRST TIME. AND... THE MORE I THOUGHT ABOUT IT... IN MY DAY, NO ONE QUESTIONED THE EBI. I WONDERED, WHAT IF SOMEONE HAD GIVEN ME A **CHANCE?**



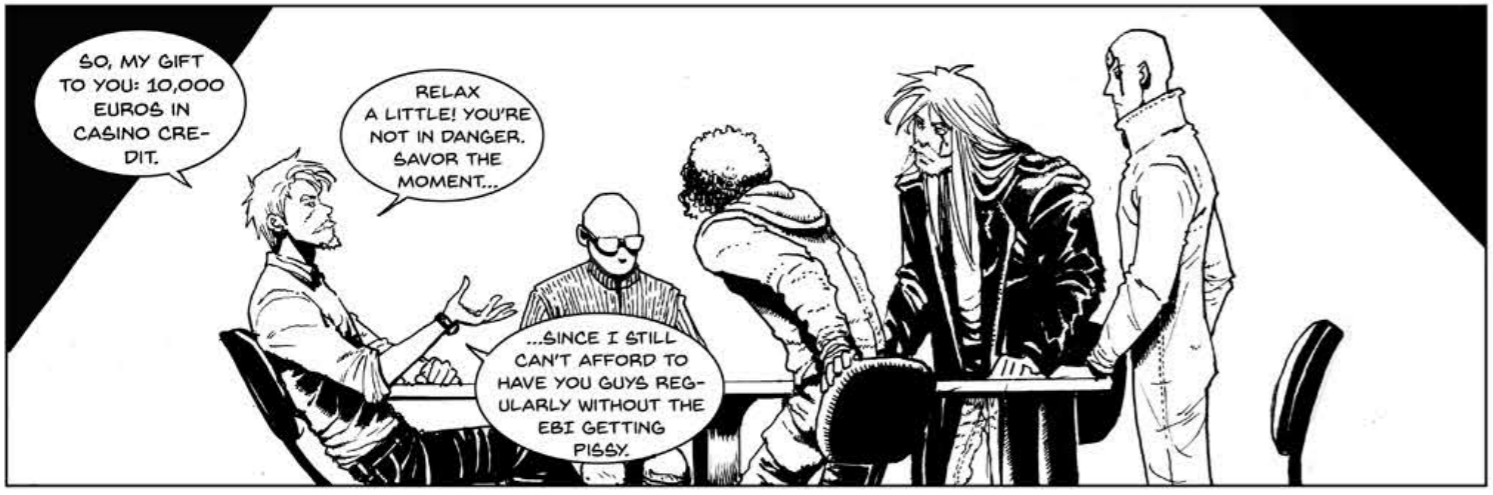
TO BUILD A WORLD WHERE WE DON'T NEED SHELTERS PAID FOR WITH BLOOD TO LIVE IN PEACE. I'M NOT AN IDIOT, ESSEX. I REALIZE HOW PATHETIC AND SMALL MY LEGACY IS.

NO ONE TOLD ME THAT I COULD ASPIRE TO MORE. MAYBE THIS CASTLE IS ALL THERE IS. MAYBE NOT.

MADE ME THINK HOW MANY "OLD GUYS" LIKE ME DISGUISE THEIR SHORTCOMINGS AND FAILURES AS LESSONS THAT THE NEW GENERATIONS NEED TO INTERNALIZE...

...LIKE A SUR-REPTITIOUS ATTEMPT TO BRING OTHERS DOWN SO THAT THEY WON'T PROVE YOU WRONG.

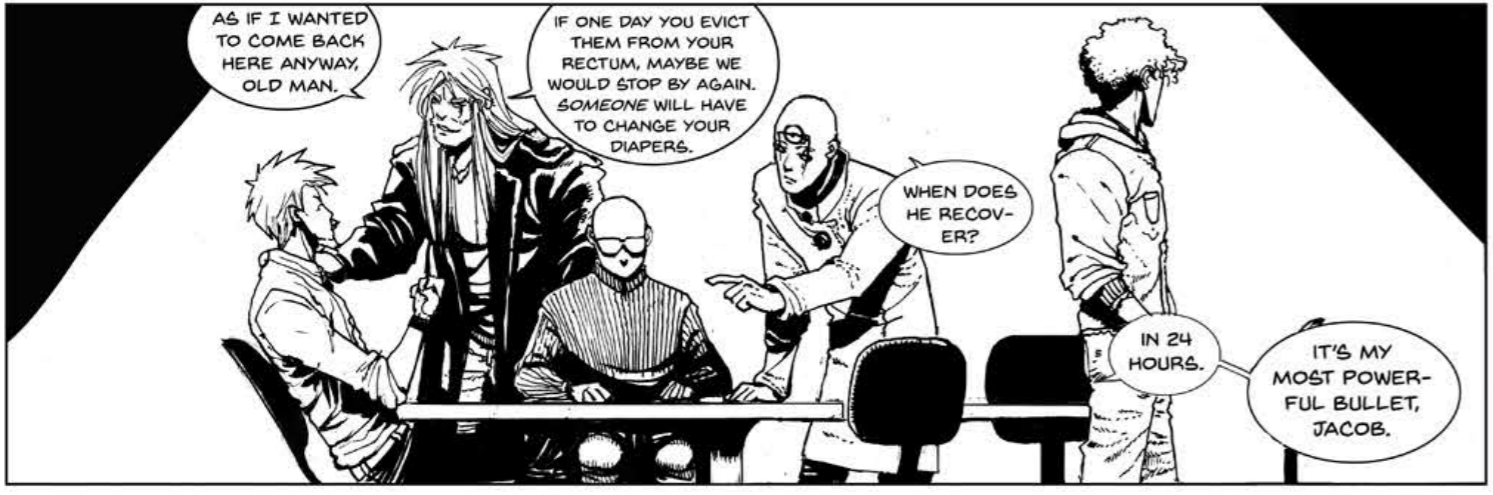
YOUR PATH IS... DANGEROUS. BUT **HONORABLE.**



SO, MY GIFT TO YOU: 10,000 EUROS IN CASINO CREDIT.

RELAX A LITTLE! YOU'RE NOT IN DANGER. SAVER THE MOMENT...

...SINCE I STILL CAN'T AFFORD TO HAVE YOU GUYS REGULARLY WITHOUT THE EBI GETTING PISSY.



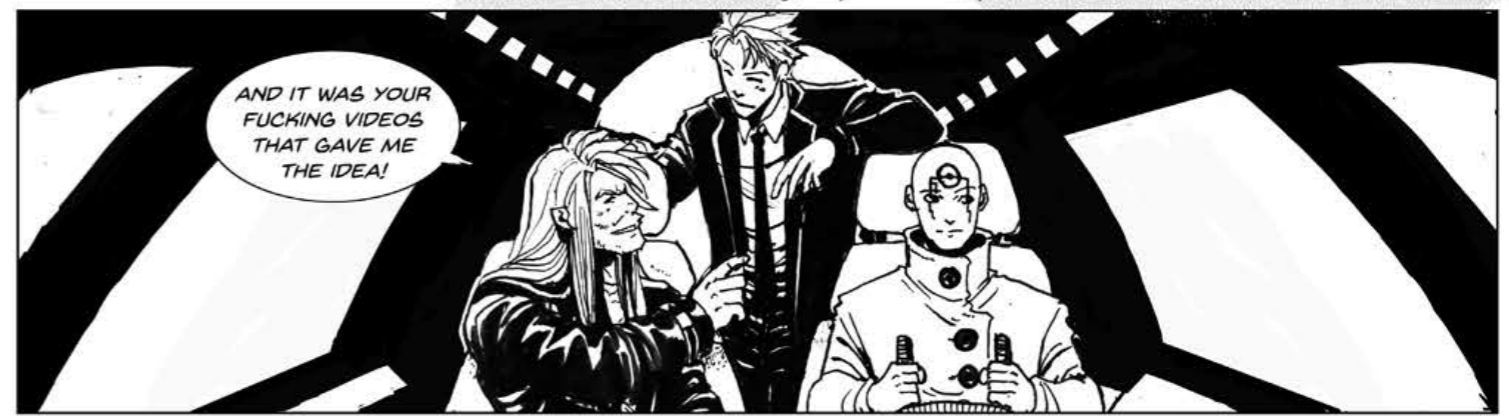
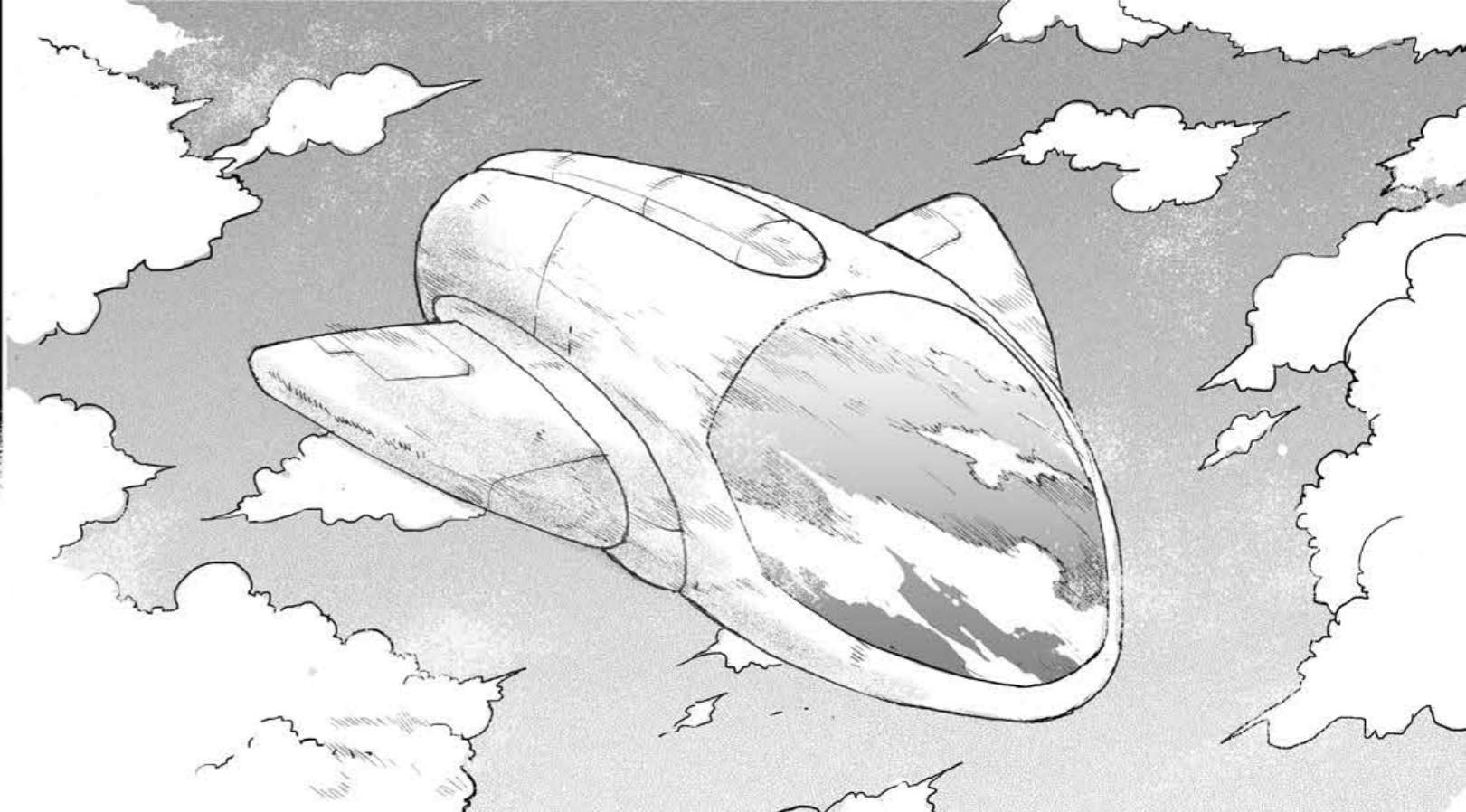
AS IF I WANTED TO COME BACK HERE ANYWAY, OLD MAN.

IF ONE DAY YOU EVICT THEM FROM YOUR RECTUM, MAYBE WE WOULD STOP BY AGAIN. SOMEONE WILL HAVE TO CHANGE YOUR DIAPERS.

WHEN DOES HE RECOVER?

IN 24 HOURS.

IT'S MY MOST POWERFUL BULLET, JACOB.



AND IT WAS YOUR **FUCKING VIDEOS** THAT GAVE ME THE IDEA!



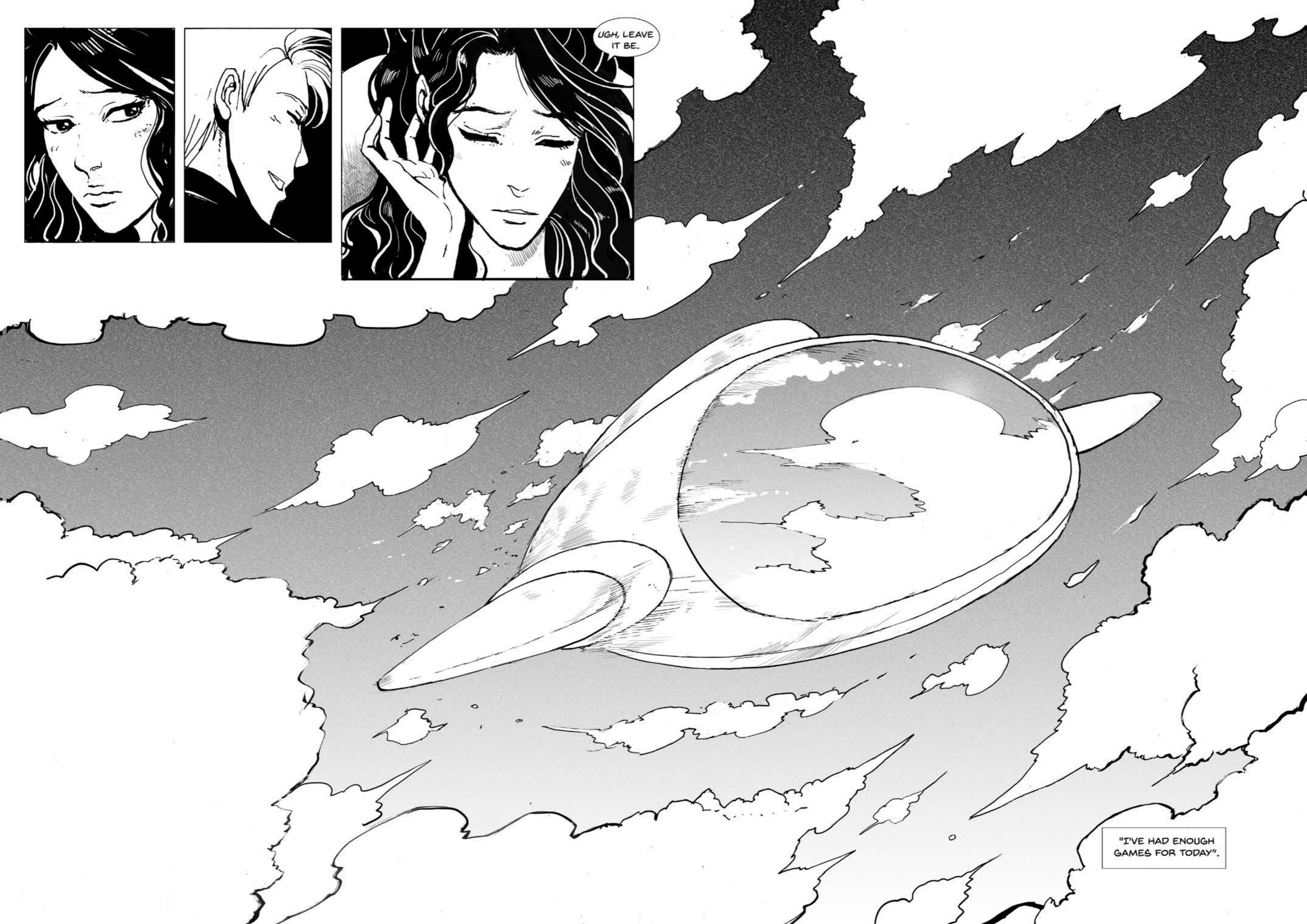
CHARIOT?

YES. DID YOU MAKE THE DECISION?

SO?



UGH, LEAVE
IT BE.



"I'VE HAD ENOUGH
GAMES FOR TODAY".

...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)

