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SIMON M.

SCRIPT  
PANEL LAYOUT  
COVER

TRANSLATION  
(SORRY, ENGLISH SPEAKERS)

ATANA S.

PENCILS  
INK

EMAIL: UPSURGECOMICS@GMAIL.COM

WEBPAGE: WWW.UPSURGE.ES/ENGLISH

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\*EBI: EUROPEAN BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION.



LET'S GO. I'VE PICKED UP THE TRAIL...

I DON'T GET IT... THIS IS NOTHING MORE THAN AN **ABANDONED SUBWAY**. OF AN AREA IN RUINS, ON TOP OF THAT.

NO LABS, NO MILITARY BASES...

WHY IS THIS EBI\* GUY DEAD? LIKE, THERE'S NOTHING HERE...

WAIT. THESE DISTORTIONS... I SEE SOMETHING. I... THAT'S NOT...

...NO...

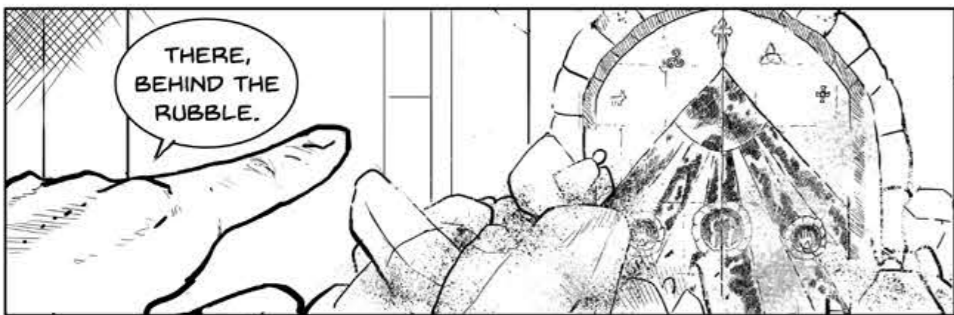
I DON'T UNDERSTAND. NETZACH SAID THEY HAD SEEN A SMALL EBI SQUAD IN THIS AREA...

...BUT THEY DIDN'T HAVE INFO ABOUT ANY OF THIS?

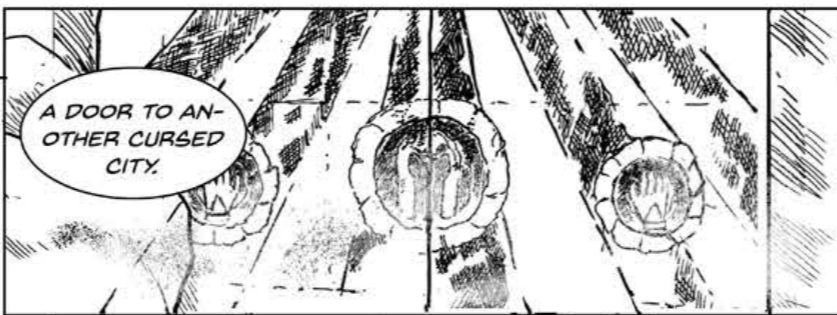
HOW CAN IT BE?

WHAT'S GOING ON? JACOB?





THERE, BEHIND THE RUBBLE.

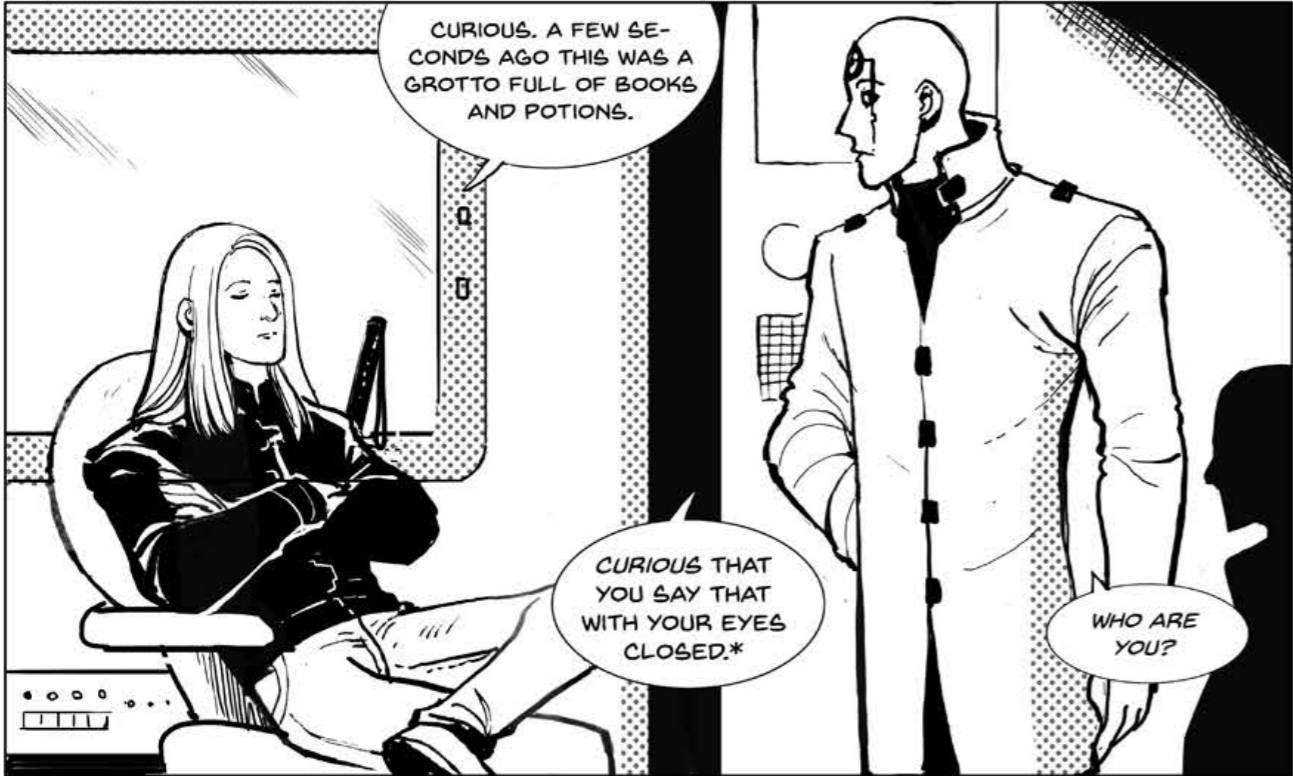


A DOOR TO ANOTHER CURSED CITY.



HOW... DID WE GET HERE? WERE WE TELEPORTED? WE... WE *OPENED* THE DOOR, RIGHT?

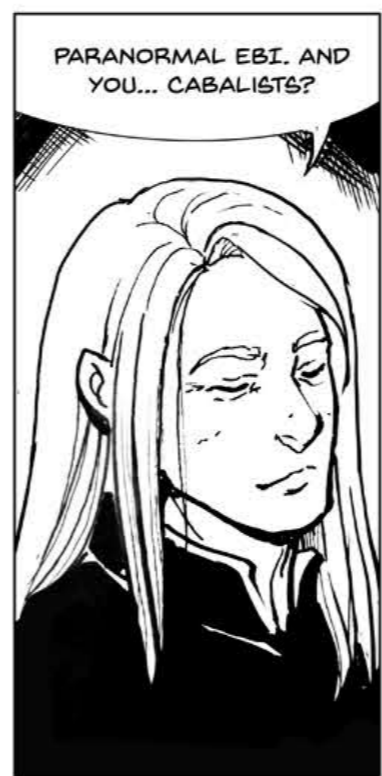
UH... THE CLOTHES? IT'S GOT... DETAILS LIKE... IN A SUPERHERO COSTUME...?



CURIOUS. A FEW SECONDS AGO THIS WAS A GROTTO FULL OF BOOKS AND POTIONS.

CURIOUS THAT YOU SAY THAT WITH YOUR EYES CLOSED.\*

WHO ARE YOU?



PARANORMAL EBI. AND YOU... CABALISTS?



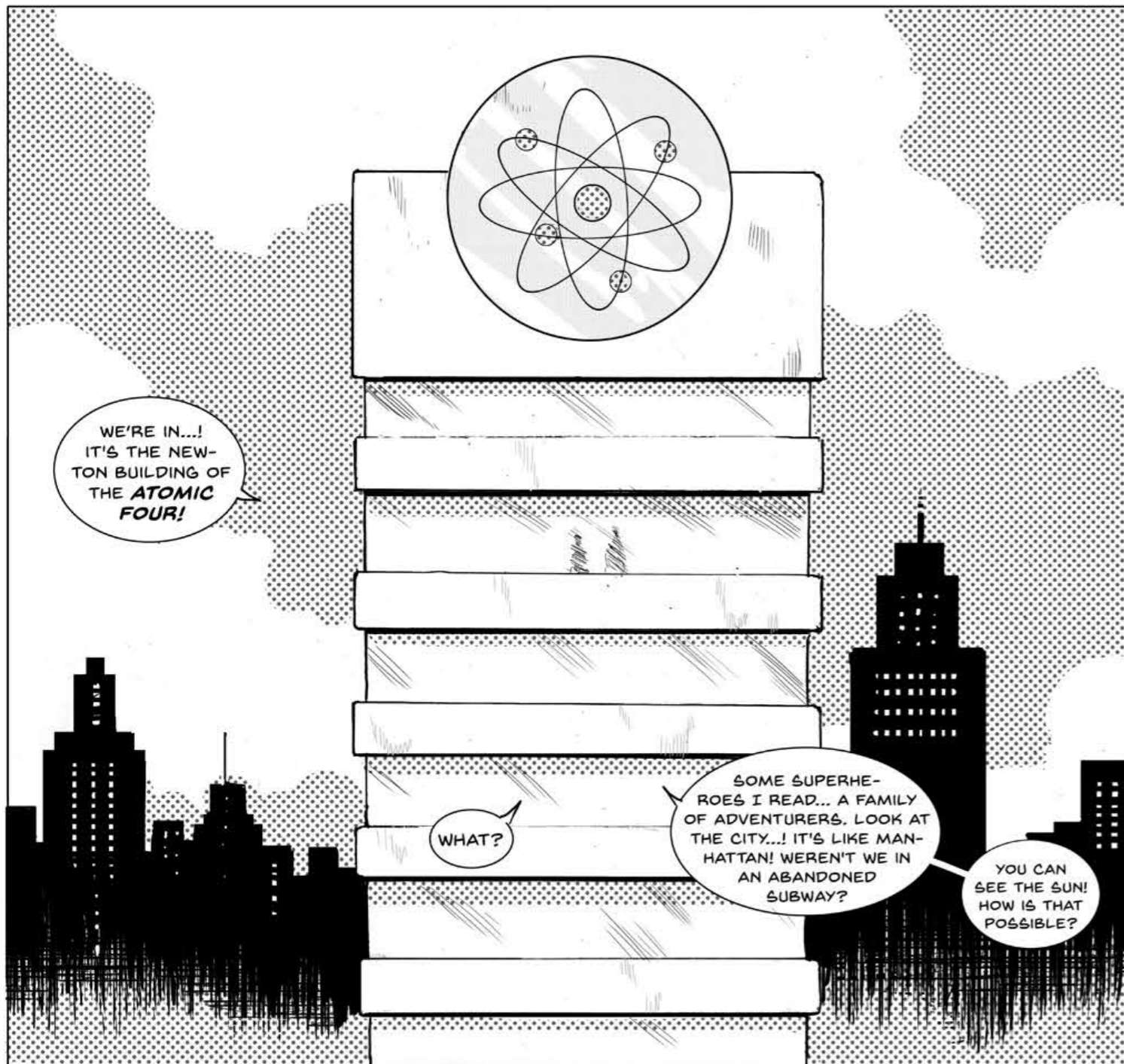
HEY.



LOOK!

\*CONVERSATION IS ACTUALLY IN ENGLISH





WE'RE IN...!  
IT'S THE NEWTON BUILDING OF THE ATOMIC FOUR!

WHAT?

SOME SUPERHEROES I READ... A FAMILY OF ADVENTURERS. LOOK AT THE CITY...! IT'S LIKE MANHATTAN! WEREN'T WE IN AN ABANDONED SUBWAY?

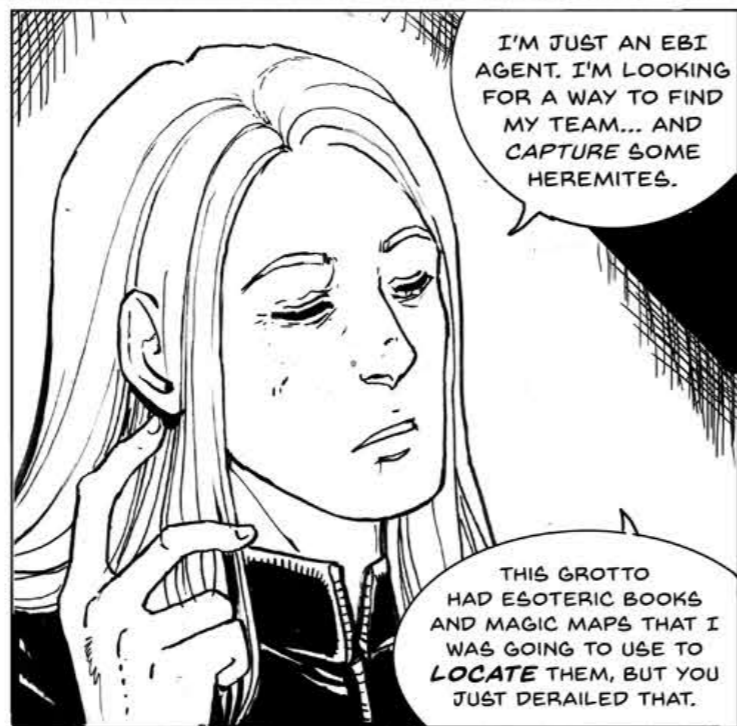
YOU CAN SEE THE SUN! HOW IS THAT POSSIBLE?



INTERESTING. SO THIS CITY FOLLOWS SOME PSYCHOREACTIVE PARAMETER. THE COMICS THAT YOU READ ARE AFFECTING...

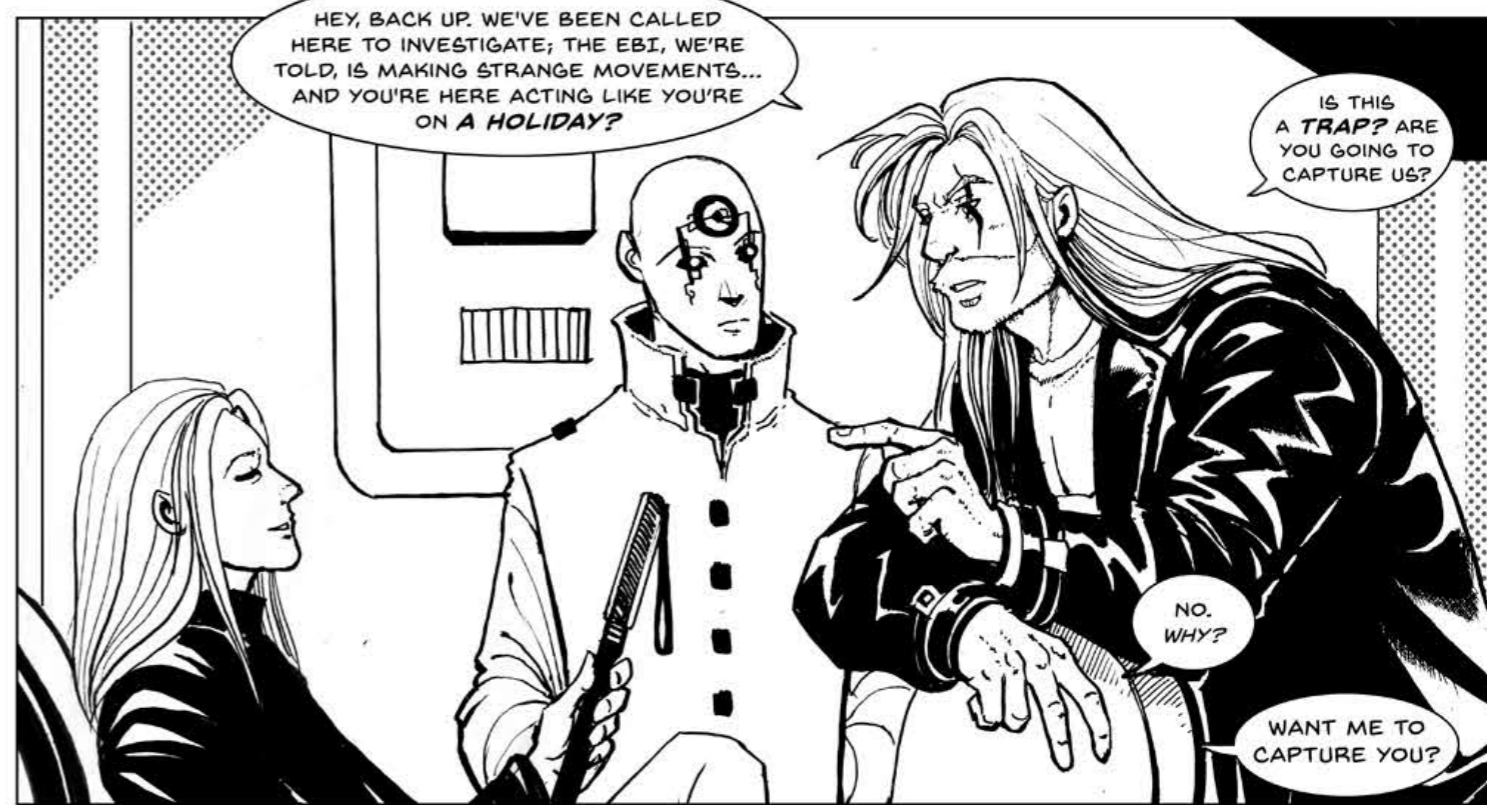
HMMM. YES. LIKE A COLLECTIVE HALLUCINATION. ADAM READ SUPERHEROES, AND THAT'S WHAT WE GET. BUT WHY HIM?

MAYBE THE FACT THAT HE HAS THE GAUNTLET... WAIT. WHAT ABOUT YOU? WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE...?



I'M JUST AN EBI AGENT. I'M LOOKING FOR A WAY TO FIND MY TEAM... AND CAPTURE SOME HERMITES.

THIS GROTTO HAD ESOTERIC BOOKS AND MAGIC MAPS THAT I WAS GOING TO USE TO LOCATE THEM, BUT YOU JUST DERAILED THAT.

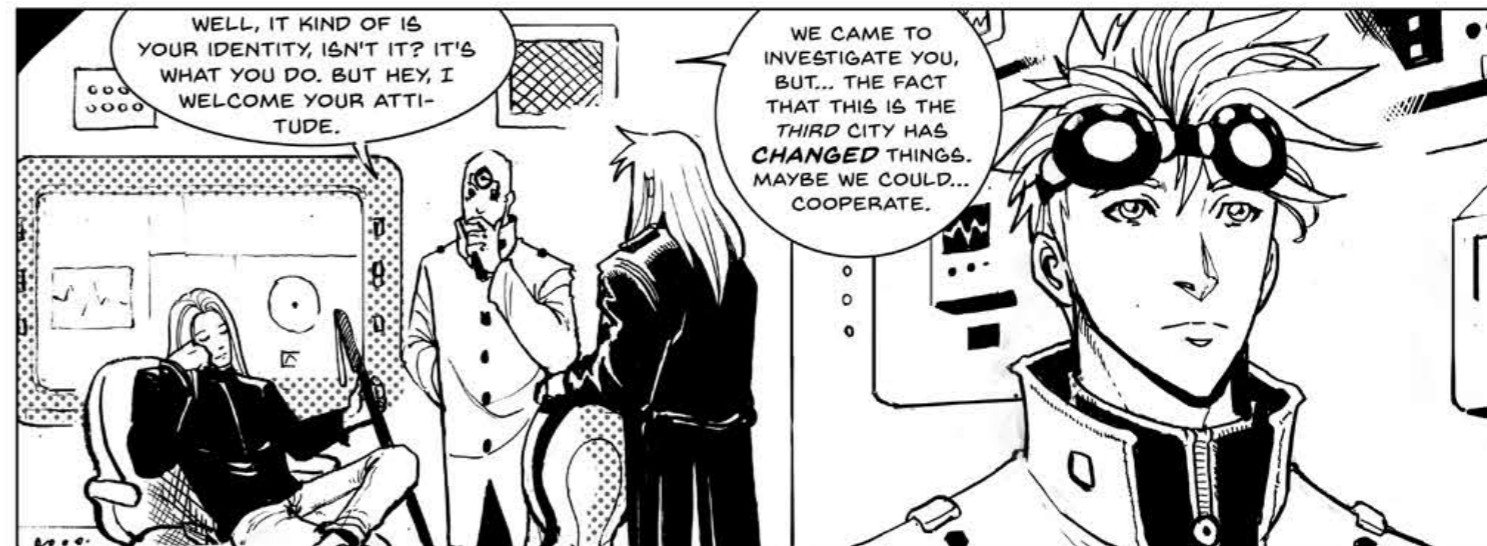


HEY, BACK UP. WE'VE BEEN CALLED HERE TO INVESTIGATE; THE EBI, WE'RE TOLD, IS MAKING STRANGE MOVEMENTS... AND YOU'RE HERE ACTING LIKE YOU'RE ON A HOLIDAY?

IS THIS A TRAP? ARE YOU GOING TO CAPTURE US?

NO. WHY?

WANT ME TO CAPTURE YOU?



WELL, IT KIND OF IS YOUR IDENTITY, ISN'T IT? IT'S WHAT YOU DO. BUT HEY, I WELCOME YOUR ATTITUDE.

WE CAME TO INVESTIGATE YOU, BUT... THE FACT THAT THIS IS THE THIRD CITY HAS CHANGED THINGS. MAYBE WE COULD... COOPERATE.



I DON'T MIND WORKING WITH YOU, IF IT WILL LEAD ME TO STOP THE HERMITES... BETTER THAN A THREE VS. ONE SITUATION. WHAT DID THE KID SAY?

ATOMIC FOUR, RIGHT? NUMBERS ADD UP.



A TEMPORARY ALLIANCE? OUR LAST TIME, ADAM ALMOST ATE MY HEAD OFF FOR NEGOTIA...



OH, WOW. ONE OF THE 50 COMPUTERS OF ELECTRICBRAIN.

...LET'S SEE.



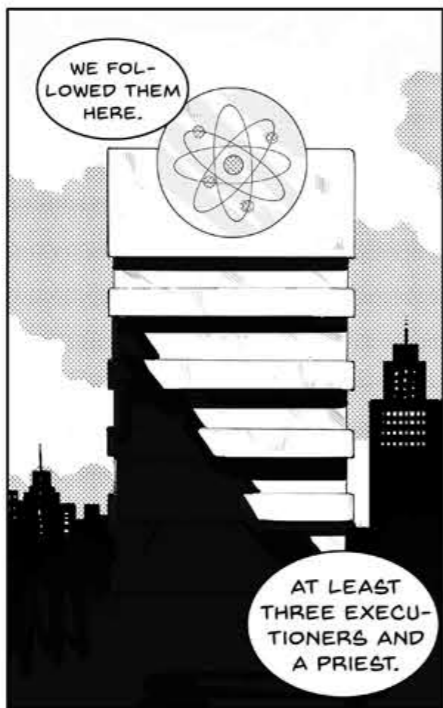


SO... DO WE TRUST HIM?

UH... I-I DON'T KNOW. IT'S... I THOUGHT...

YOU SAY THERE'S HERMITES?

YES.



WE FOLLOWED THEM HERE.

AT LEAST THREE EXECUTIONERS AND A PRIEST.



PRIEST? A TITLE RANKING ABOVE THE PREVIOUS ONES, I GATHER.

ANYWAY. YES, I GUESS WE CAN COLLABORATE TEMPORARILY. THE ONLY THING WE PROMISED TO THOSE WHO SENT US IS TO INVESTIGATE.



HEY! I'VE ACTIVATED ONE OF ELECTRICBRAIN'S COMPUTERS. THERE'S A CLUE!

ROBBERY PATTERN. A VILLAIN IS ROBBING MUSEUMS AND STORES FOLLOWING A SOLAR PATTERN OR SOMETHING, **SUNSPOTS...**



AND?

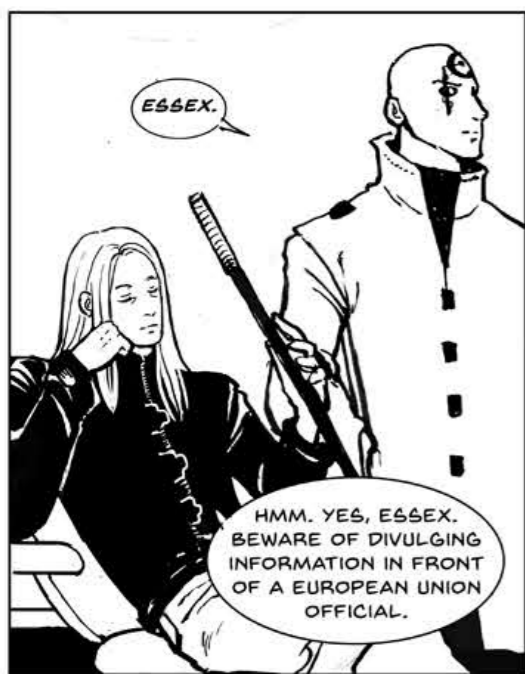
THIS GUY SAYS THERE ARE HERMITES HERE, RIGHT?

THEY MAY BE BEHIND THIS. PLUS, THERE'S ALWAYS SOME MYSTERY OR STORY IN THESE CITIES.



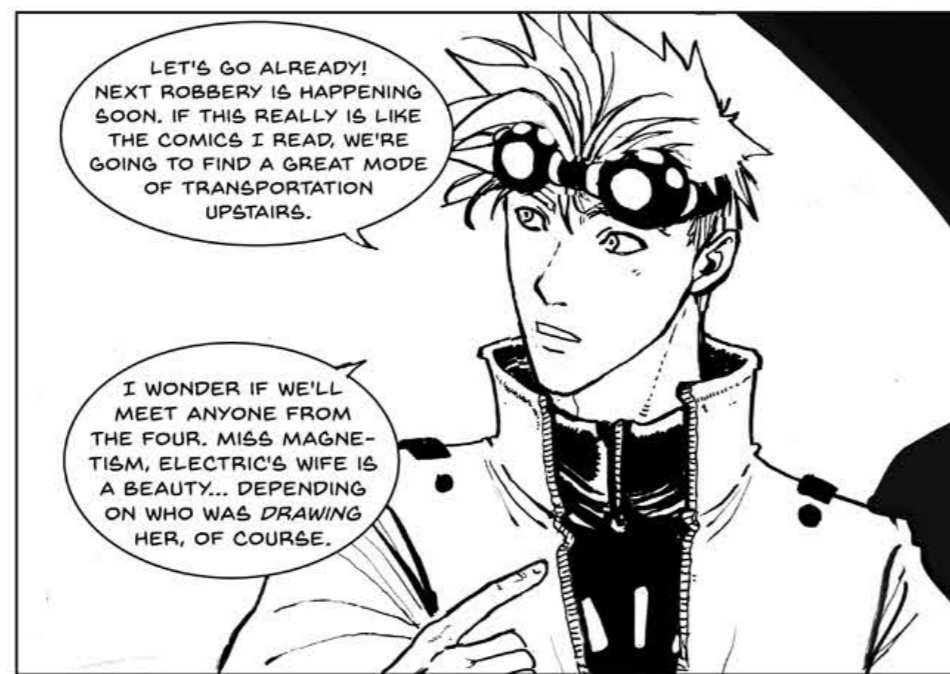
I MEAN, YEAH. I WASN'T WEARING THIS SHIT BEFORE.

IT WAS SUPPOSED TO BE A SHORT MISSION, AFTER THE MEET-UP WITH...!



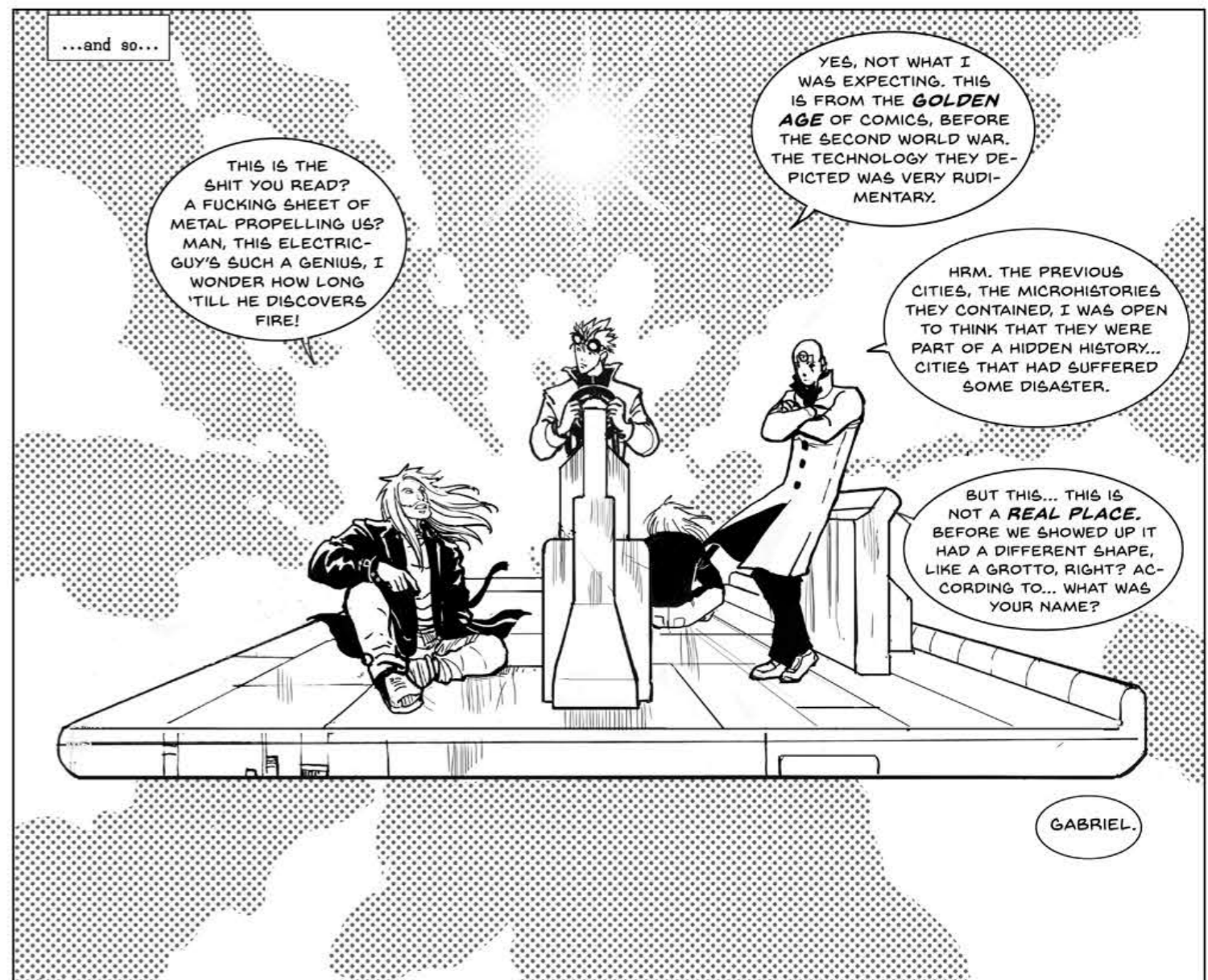
ESSEX.

HMM. YES, ESSEX. BEWARE OF DIVULGING INFORMATION IN FRONT OF A EUROPEAN UNION OFFICIAL.



LET'S GO ALREADY! NEXT ROBBERY IS HAPPENING SOON. IF THIS REALLY IS LIKE THE COMICS I READ, WE'RE GOING TO FIND A GREAT MODE OF TRANSPORTATION UPSTAIRS.

I WONDER IF WE'LL MEET ANYONE FROM THE FOUR. MISS MAGNETISM, ELECTRIC'S WIFE IS A BEAUTY... DEPENDING ON WHO WAS DRAWING HER, OF COURSE.



...and so...

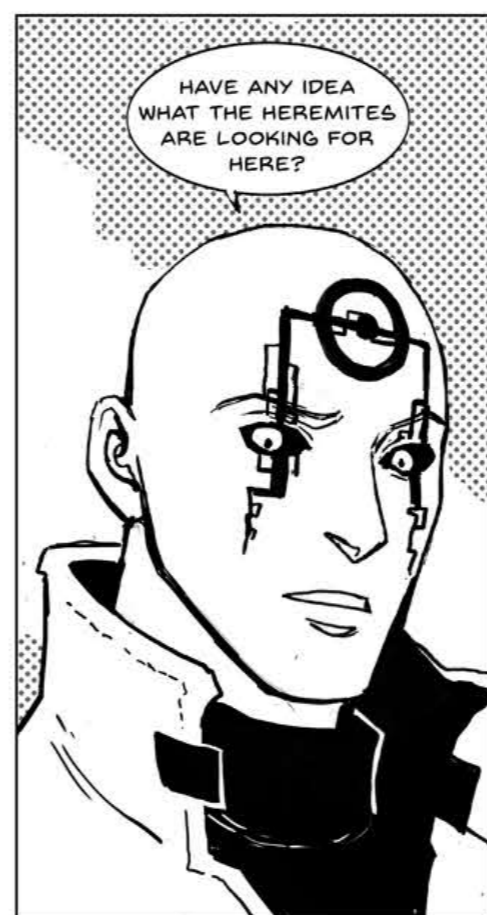
THIS IS THE SHIT YOU READ? A FUCKING SHEET OF METAL PROPELLING US? MAN, THIS ELECTRIC-GUY'S SUCH A GENIUS, I WONDER HOW LONG 'TILL HE DISCOVERS FIRE!

YES, NOT WHAT I WAS EXPECTING. THIS IS FROM THE **GOLDEN AGE** OF COMICS, BEFORE THE SECOND WORLD WAR. THE TECHNOLOGY THEY DEPICTED WAS VERY RUDIMENTARY.

HRM. THE PREVIOUS CITIES, THE MICROHISTORIES THEY CONTAINED, I WAS OPEN TO THINK THAT THEY WERE PART OF A HIDDEN HISTORY... CITIES THAT HAD SUFFERED SOME DISASTER.

BUT THIS... THIS IS NOT A **REAL PLACE**. BEFORE WE SHOWED UP IT HAD A DIFFERENT SHAPE, LIKE A GROTTA, RIGHT? ACCORDING TO... WHAT WAS YOUR NAME?

GABRIEL.



HAVE ANY IDEA WHAT THE HERMITES ARE LOOKING FOR HERE?



**INTERESTING.** YOU DON'T KNOW? THE FBI TELLS ME THAT THE CABALISTS ARE AWARE OF THIS SITUATION.

SO YOU'RE NOT REALLY PART OF THEM. BUT SOMEONE SENT YOU...



WE'VE ARRIVED. HOLD ON TO SOMETHING, WE'RE LANDING.

HOLD ON TO WHAT, MY **BALLS?** THERE'S NOTHING I CAN GRAB!

SHIT DESIGN, I TELL YA.





YOU'RE FINALLY HERE! THE ATOMIC FOUR'S BACKUP TEAM, BLESS BE GOD!



HEY, DID...

DOCTOR TAIYOWAI'S CRIMINAL GANG IS THERE! THE DOCTOR HAS HIS ULTRA-ADVANCED GADGETS, YOU'RE OUR ONLY CHANCE!



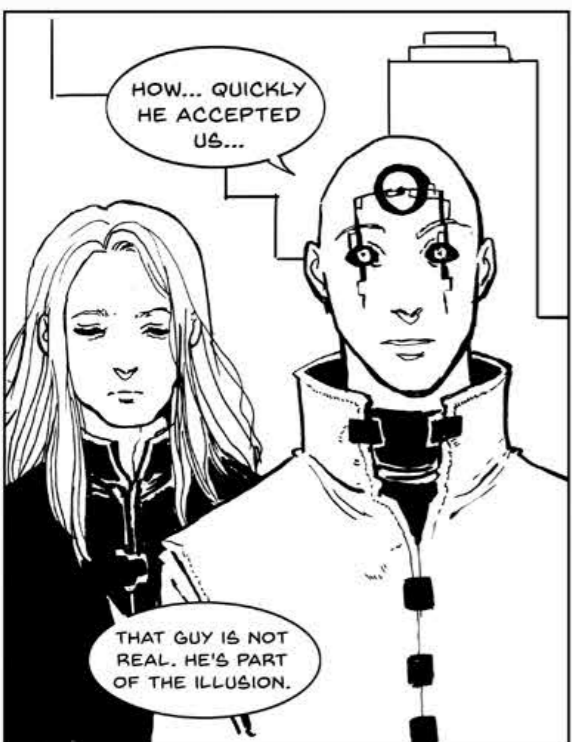
HMM. THE HERMITES. ARE THEY SEARCHING ONE OF THE ELEMENTS? IN THE OTHER CITIES THERE WERE THE EARTH AND WATER ONES.

THERE ARE STILL FIRE AND AIR...



COME ON, KNUCKLE DRAGGERS! USE THE PHOTOVARIC READER MACHINES FASTER, I NEED THE X-DIAMONDS THAT WILL ALLOW ME TO CREATE THE INTERDIMENSIONAL MACHINE!

ELECTRICBRAIN! MISS MAGNETISM AND HER BROTHER THE FROZEN MAN! AND THEIR "PET", THE DRAGON! I WILL DEFEAT THEM ONE BY ONE, AND SEND THEM TO THE INFERNAL DIMENSION!



HOW... QUICKLY HE ACCEPTED US...

THAT GUY IS NOT REAL. HE'S PART OF THE ILLUSION.

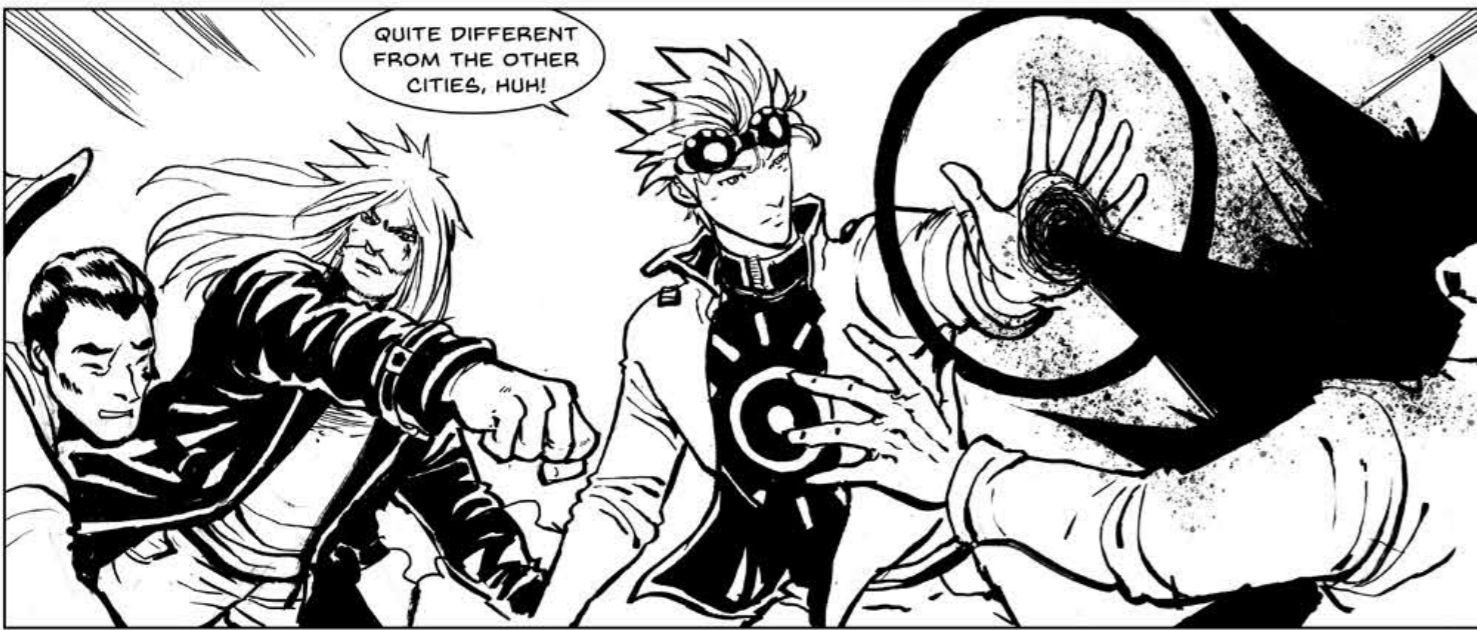


AAGH! WHO DARES TO ATTACK THE BAND OF THE GREAT DOCTOR TAIYOWAI?



COLD. THE HERMITES DON'T SEEM INTERESTED IN THESE ARTIFACTS...

...YOU REALLY DON'T KNOW WHY THEY'RE HERE?



QUITE DIFFERENT FROM THE OTHER CITIES, HUH!



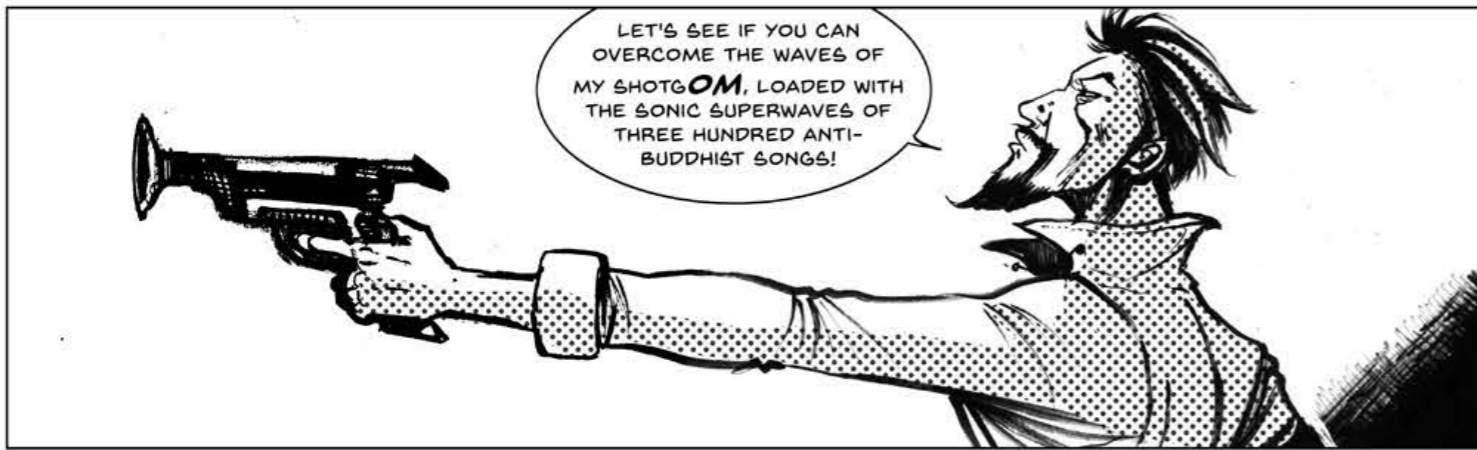
HA, HOW NOSTALGIC. I DIDN'T EVEN READ MUCH OF THIS, BUT IT'S LIKE SEEING THE BEGINNING OF IT ALL...



GOŠHDARNIT! THE PATRIOTIC ATOMIC FOUR SUBSTITUTES, JUST WHEN I WAS ABOUT TO DESIGN MY MOST TERRIBLE AND WICKED MACHINE!

I HAD TUNED INTO A DIMENSIONAL FREQUENCY OF SODOMY-PRONE COMMUNIST DEMONS, WITH WHOM I WOULD OVERTHROW THE GREAT AMERICAN NATION!





LET'S SEE IF YOU CAN OVERCOME THE WAVES OF MY SHOTGUN, LOADED WITH THE SONIC SUPERWAVES OF THREE HUNDRED ANTI-BUDDHIST SONGS!



WHAT...

W-WATCH OUT!



CHRIST! YOUR THEOLOGICAL-SOCIAL DISPOSITION HAS PROTECTED YOU FROM MY SONIC SUPERWAVES!

IT IS INDEED DIFFICULT TO DESTROY THE AMERICAN SPIRIT!



YOU'VE ALREADY BLURTED OUT YOUR PLAN OUT LOUD, BUT TELL ME, WERE YOU WORKING WITH ANYONE ELSE?

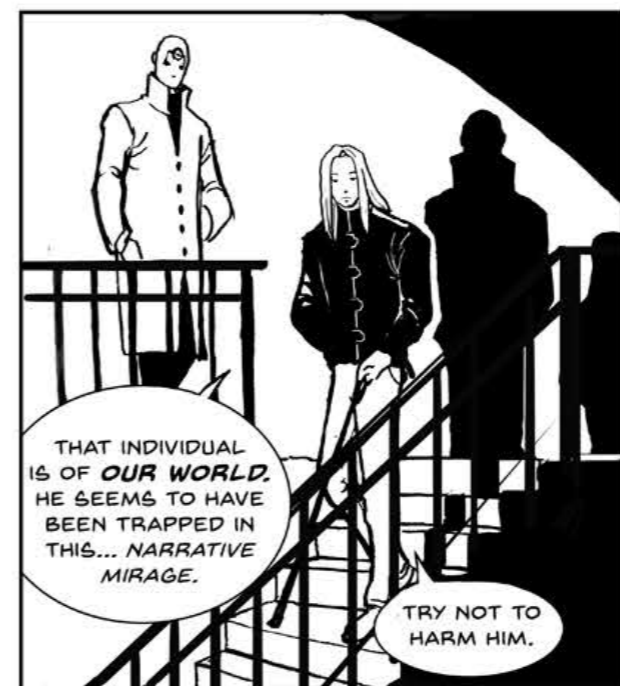
ANYONE ELSE? DO YOU THINK A GENIUS LIKE ME NEEDS SUPERIORS?

JUST BECAUSE THE FOUR DEMONS TOLD ME HOW TO USE THE X-DIAMONDS TO OPEN A PORTAL DOESN'T MEAN THAT MY IMPLACABLE GENIUS IS NOW PLACABLE!



WELL, IN THAT CASE...

CAREFUL, BOY.



THAT INDIVIDUAL IS OF *OUR* WORLD. HE SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN TRAPPED IN THIS... NARRATIVE MIRAGE.

TRY NOT TO HARM HIM.



AH, SURE. ANOTHER ONE YOU CAN USE TO INJECT SHADOWGENE, EH?

IS IT TRUE, DOCTOR? ARE YOU FROM OUR WORLD?

UH?



YES, I PERCEIVE HIM DIFFERENT FROM THE REST. BUT... THAT MEANS WE ARE IN *DANGER*, RIGHT?

WE CAN GET STUCK IN THIS... STORY.



C'MON. IT'S A COMIC BOOK, WE'RE NOT TALKING MADAME BOVARY HERE.



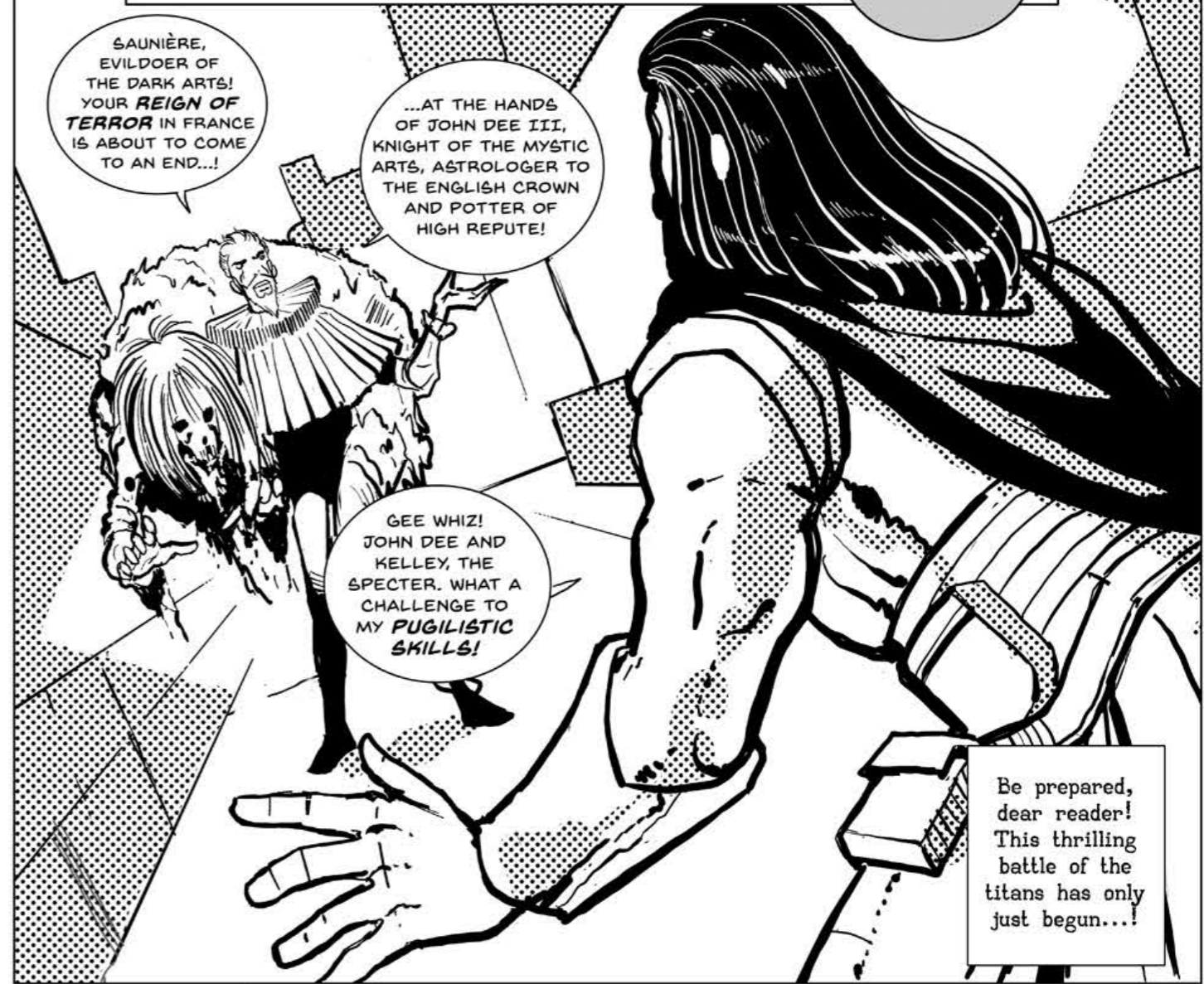
ISN'T THIS A LITTLE WEIRD? THE OTHER TWO CITIES WERE... I DON'T KNOW, THEY SEEMED MORE... SOLID.

YES, THIS... IS A BIT CONFUSING. IF THE CITIES ARE NOT CAPSULES OF A TIME GONE BY... WHAT ARE THEY? WHO DID THIS? THE MAN-FROM-BEYOND?





# The ORIGINS of the EBI! Part 2







TSK. BAD NEWS.

BUT THIS AURA... I SEE A VERY FAINT BEAM. A TRAIL.



HEY, WE TAKE THE DOCTOR, RIGHT?

LET'S GO.

ADAM. THIS COMIC... HE'S SAUNIÈRE AS YOU DESCRIBED HIM, RIGHT? HE LOOKS LIKE THE ENTITY THAT FREI... GABRIEL, IT WOULD BE NICE IF YOU COULD EXPLAIN WHAT IS GOING ON.



WHILE WE'RE FLYING ON THAT THING!



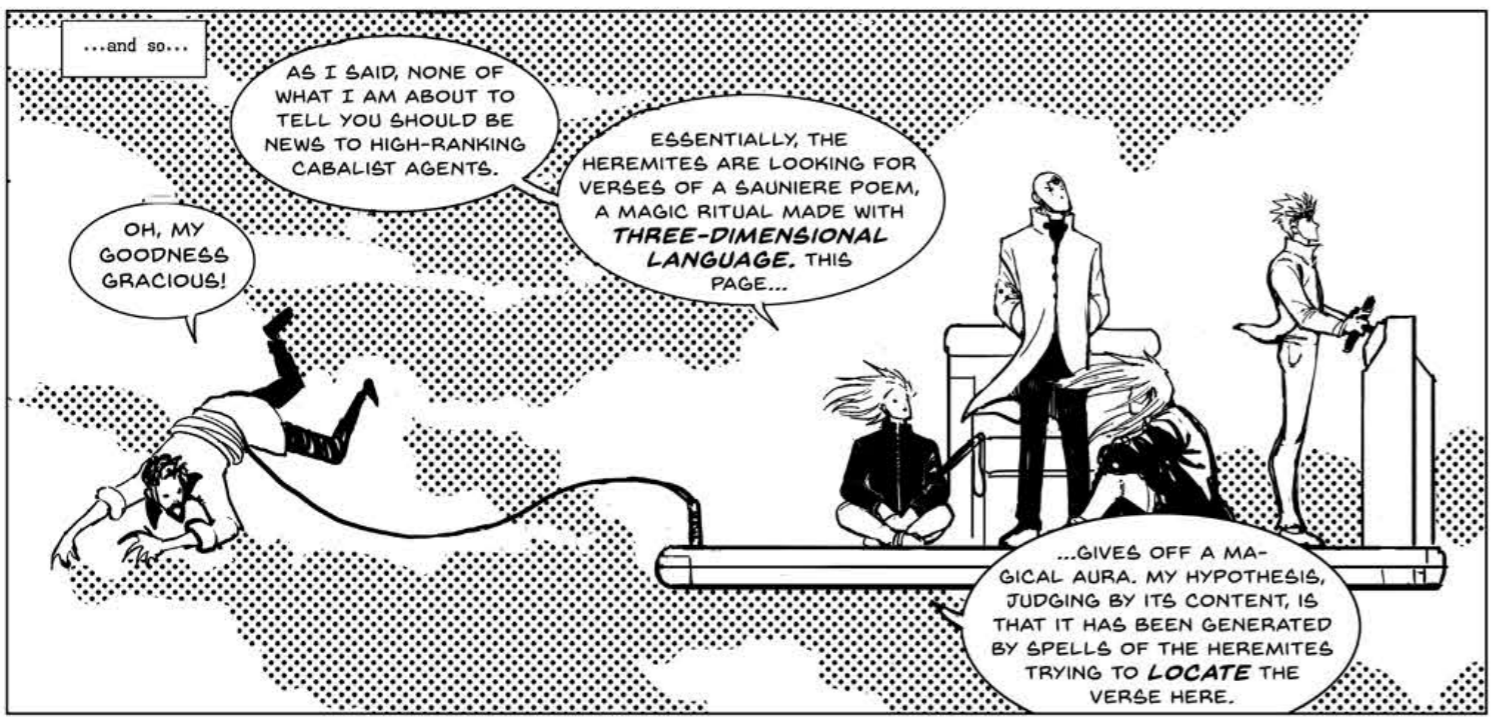
HERE WE ARE. GET READY. WE ARE FOLLOWING THE MAGIC TRACE ON THAT PAGE; CHANCES OF ENCOUNTERING A HIGHLY DANGEROUS HERMITE ARE INCREASING.



HRM. YES. SOMETHING IN THE STRUCTURE THAT SURROUNDS US IS... CHANGING. EVERYTHING IS LOSING... CONSISTENCY. IS THIS THE HERMITES' DOING?

WHAT? I DON'T SEE ANYTHING...

CORRECT. THEIR MAGIC SYSTEM, THEIR VERY BIOLOGY... LET'S SAY IT'S THE CLOSEST THING TO ANTIMATTER. IT MUST BE CAUSING A DETERIORATION IN THE PSYCHO-REACTIVE STRUCTURE OF THIS PLACE.



...and so...

AS I SAID, NONE OF WHAT I AM ABOUT TO TELL YOU SHOULD BE NEWS TO HIGH-RANKING CABALIST AGENTS.

OH, MY GOODNESS GRACIOUS!

ESSENTIALLY, THE HERMITES ARE LOOKING FOR VERSES OF A SAUNIÈRE POEM, A MAGIC RITUAL MADE WITH **THREE-DIMENSIONAL LANGUAGE**. THIS PAGE...

...GIVES OFF A MAGICAL AURA. MY HYPOTHESIS, JUDGING BY ITS CONTENT, IS THAT IT HAS BEEN GENERATED BY SPELLS OF THE HERMITES TRYING TO **LOCATE** THE VERSE HERE.



SNIFF.

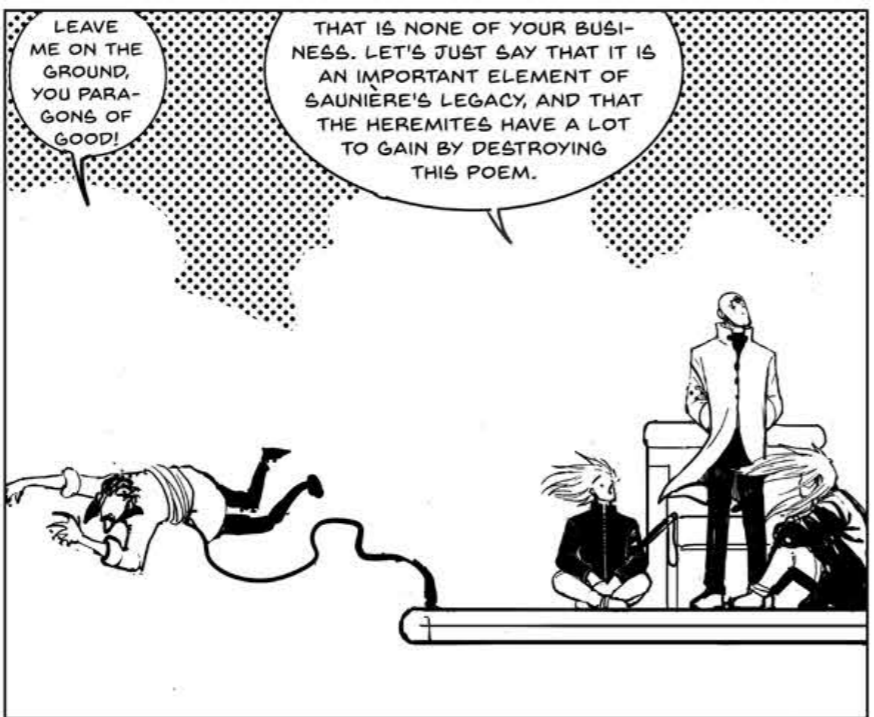
HERE. SMELL SOMETHING STRANGE.



ATOMIC FOUR! MR. MAGICK NEEDS HELP! HURRY!



THAT ASSHOLE DIDN'T HAVE ENOUGH WITH THE SECOND CITY? WHAT'S THAT POEM?



LEAVE ME ON THE GROUND, YOU PARAGONS OF GOOD!

THAT IS NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS. LET'S JUST SAY THAT IT IS AN IMPORTANT ELEMENT OF SAUNIÈRE'S LEGACY, AND THAT THE HERMITES HAVE A LOT TO GAIN BY DESTROYING THIS POEM.



DID YOU SAY MR. MAGICK? MR. MAGICK, FOR REAL?

ADAM, REMEMBER. THIS IS AN ILLUSION, DON'T FORGET...





OWOWOWOW



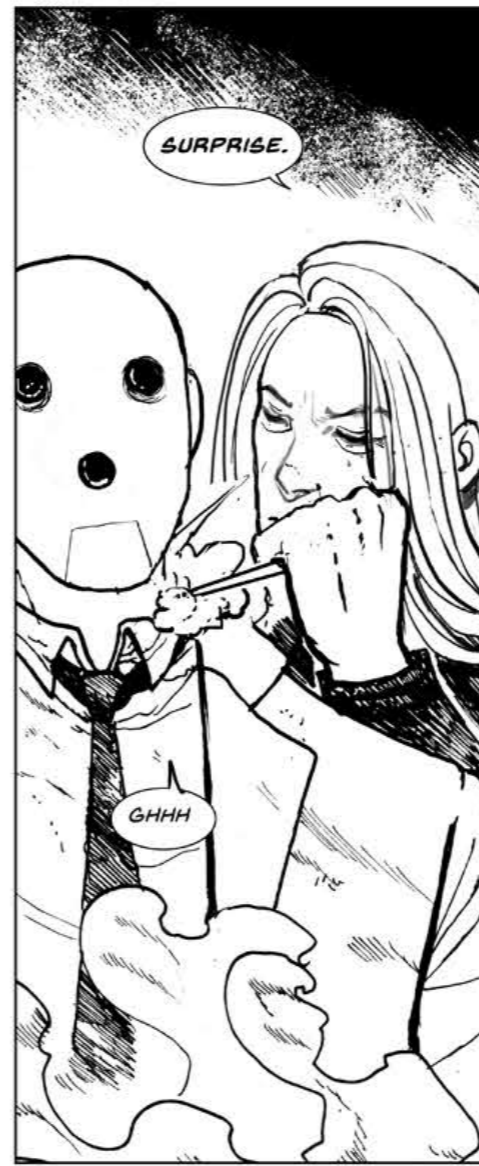
I... GOT YA!

HEY! THEY WERE RIGHT... IT'S MR. MAGIC! REMEMBER HIM?



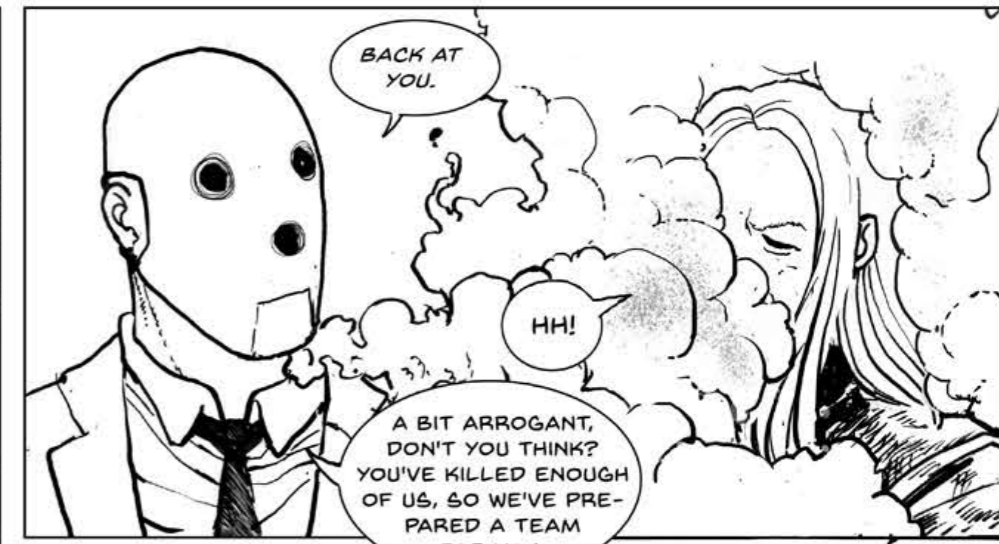
"I'VE READ ALMOST ALL OF YOUR COMICS!"

HMMM, MORE?



SURPRISE.

GHHH



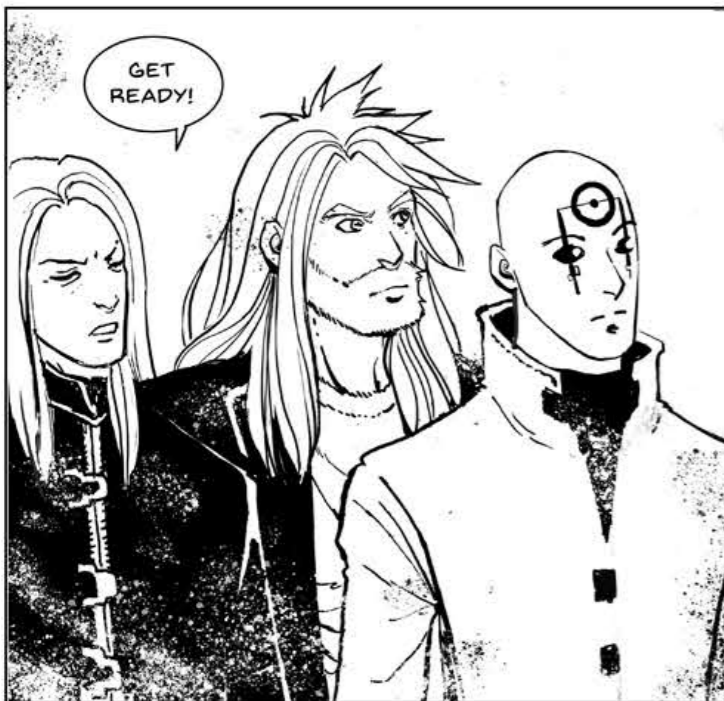
BACK AT YOU.

HH!

A BIT ARROGANT, DON'T YOU THINK? YOU'VE KILLED ENOUGH OF US, SO WE'VE PREPARED A TEAM FOR YOU.



IT NEVER REALLY ENDS.

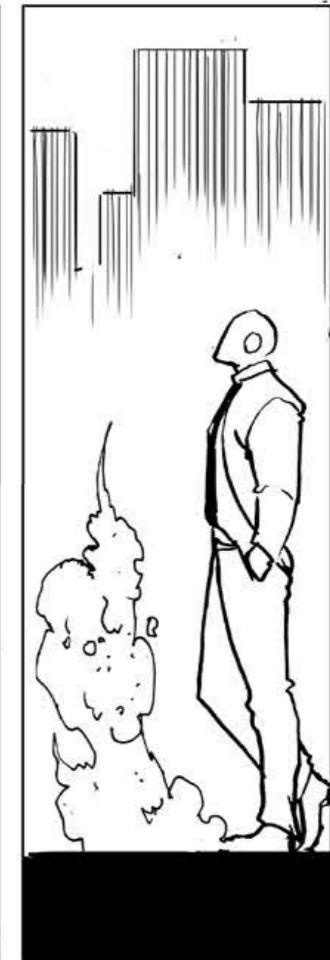


GET READY!



HEY! WHERE...?

HAS HE...?



HAH.

YOU LEAVING?





WELL, I'VE MADE MY PATHETIC CONTRIBUTION.

AT LEAST I'VE SENT THE MESSAGE TO THE BLIND MAN. ME AND MY STUPID-ASS JELLY.



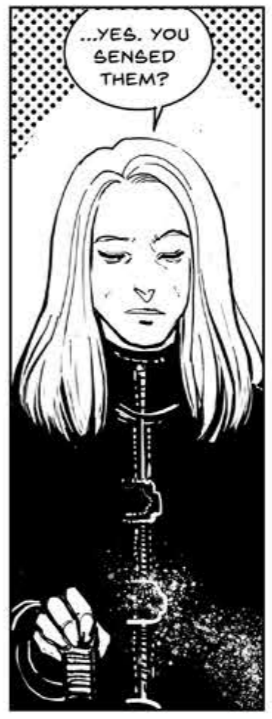
ANYWAY, I'LL JUST GO EAT SHIT OR WHATEVER. SEE YOU.



WHAT DID YOU SA... DID YOU HEAR MR. MAGICK...?

HEY, YOU. EBI GUY. I THINK I SMELL FABRICS FROM YOUR SUITS.

THE METAHUMAN ONES. YOU HAVE ONE IN YOUR TEAM?



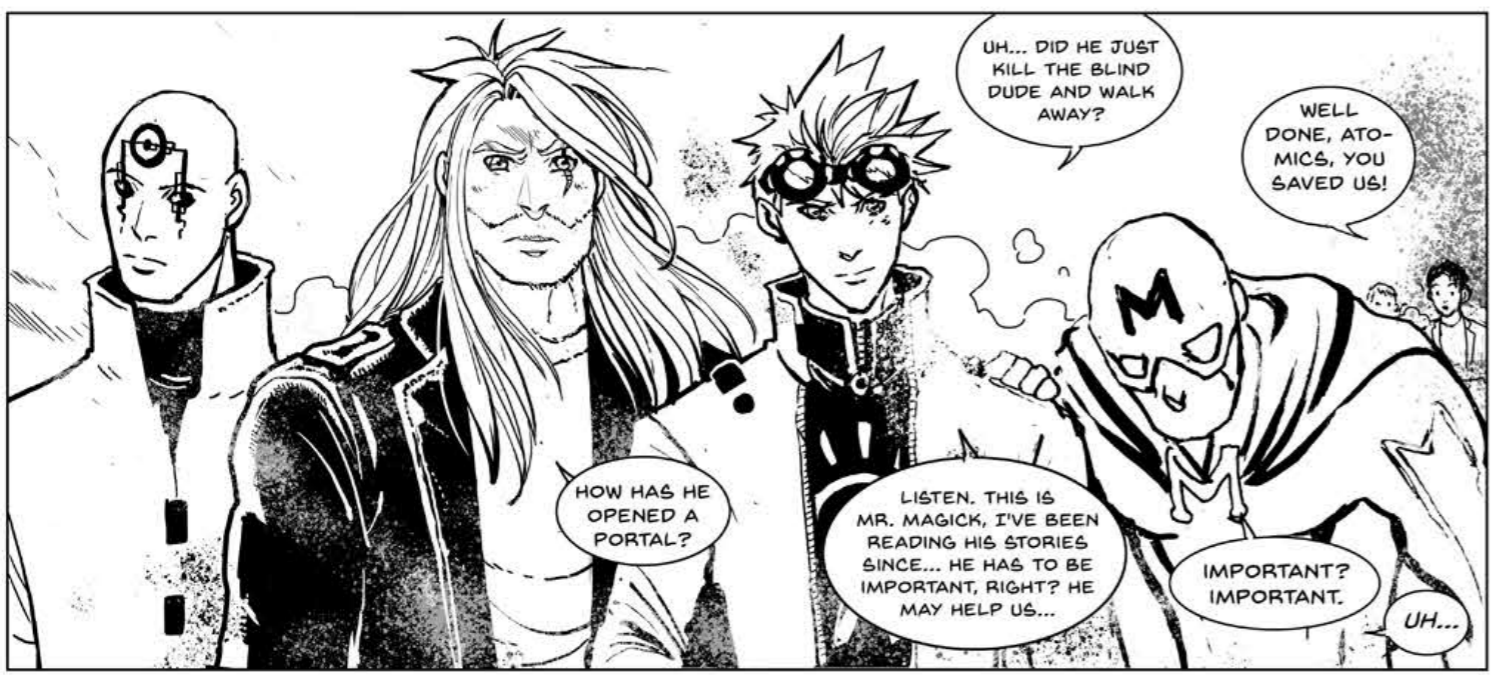
...YES. YOU SENSED THEM?



FOLLOW ME.



QUICK!



UH... DID HE JUST KILL THE BLIND DUDE AND WALK AWAY?

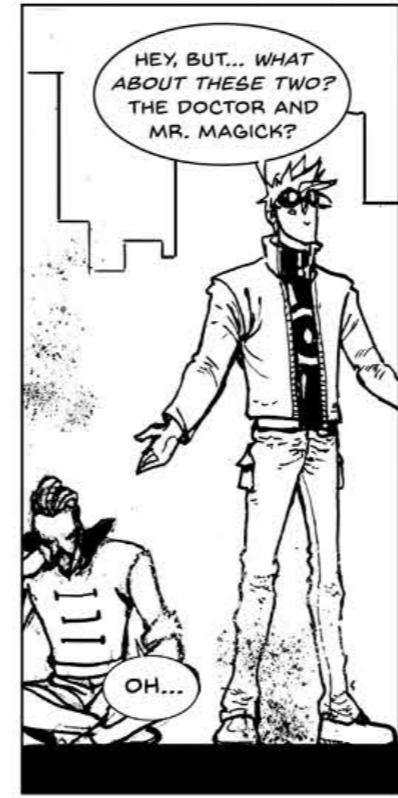
WELL DONE, ATOMICS, YOU SAVED US!

HOW HAS HE OPENED A PORTAL?

LISTEN. THIS IS MR. MAGICK, I'VE BEEN READING HIS STORIES SINCE... HE HAS TO BE IMPORTANT, RIGHT? HE MAY HELP US...

IMPORTANT? IMPORTANT.

UH...



HEY, BUT... WHAT ABOUT THESE TWO? THE DOCTOR AND MR. MAGICK?

OH...



I DON'T KNOW. BRING THEM. WON'T BE OF MUCH HELP. MR. MAGICK DOESN'T SEEM... MENTALLY PRESENT, DOES HE?

WE DON'T EVEN KNOW HOW TO GET OUT OF HERE. IN THE SECOND CITY THERE WAS A PHYSICAL EXIT...



FUCK, ADAM, THIS IS MORE IMPORTANT!



KGGH... I DIDN'T EXPECT... THAT THEY WOULD ADAPT SO QUICKLY.

TOOK ME BY SURPRISE. HE ALMOST SUFFOCATED ME WITH THAT SUBSTANCE. BUT I'M OKAY.



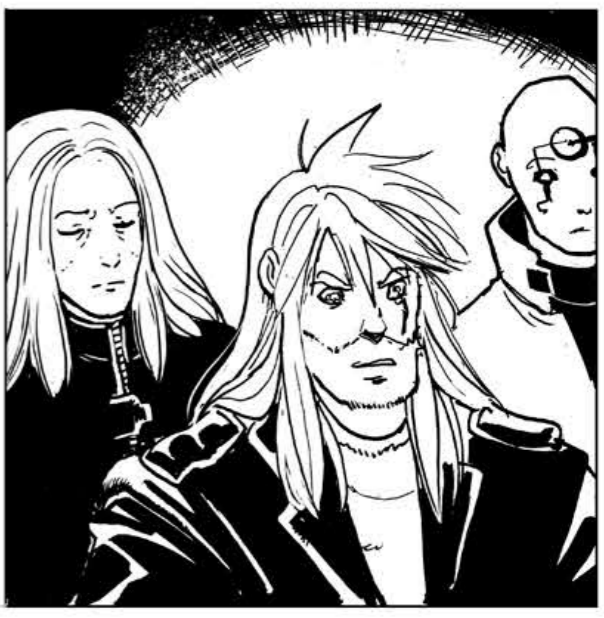
YOU... YOU COULD HAVE KILLED US AT ANY TIME, COULDN'T YOU? WHAT ABILITY DO YOU...?



TWOSUNS.



UGH-GH







## ...TO BE CONTINUED

SEE YOU IN ABOUT 40 DAYS (IDEALLY; SOME ISSUES IT'S 50 OR, UHM, MORE). WE KEEP THE RELEASE DATE UPDATED ON THE FACEBOOK FIXED POST. IF YOU'RE INTERESTED IN SUPPORTING US SO WE CAN GET ISSUES OUT FASTER AND GET **DRAWINGS/SKETCHES** OF FUTURE ISSUES, **EARLY ACCESS** TO A WORK-IN-PROGRESS VERSION OF THE NEXT ISSUE, OR **VIDEOS** SHOWING HOW WE DRAW A PAGE, PLEASE CONSIDER HELPING US THROUGH PATREON AT THE \$3 LEVEL (LINK BELOW). IF WE GET ENOUGH HELP, WE MAY BE ABLE TO MAKE UPSURGE A MONTHLY SERIES. THANKS!

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