

LIPSURGE

LA MUGRE Y LA LIA



SIMON M.

ATANA S.

SCRIPT

PENCILS

PANEL LAYOUT

INK

COVER

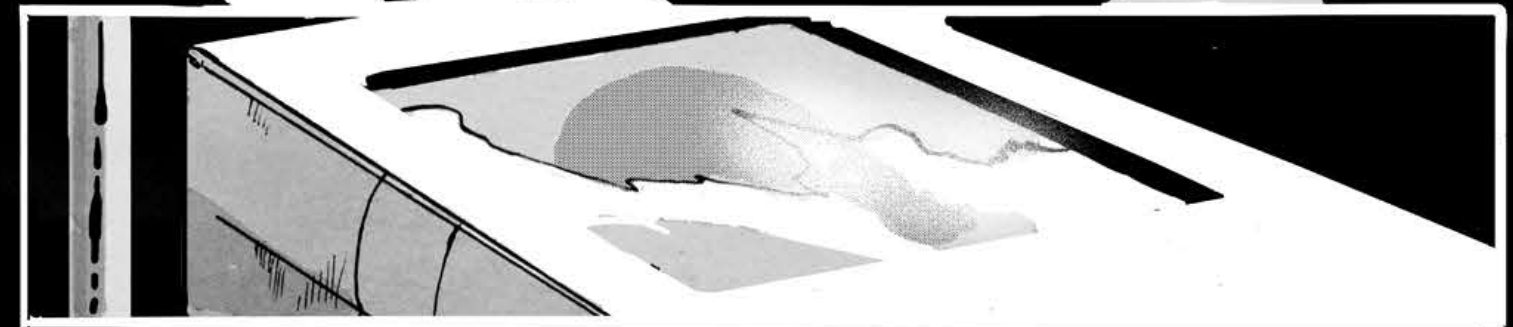
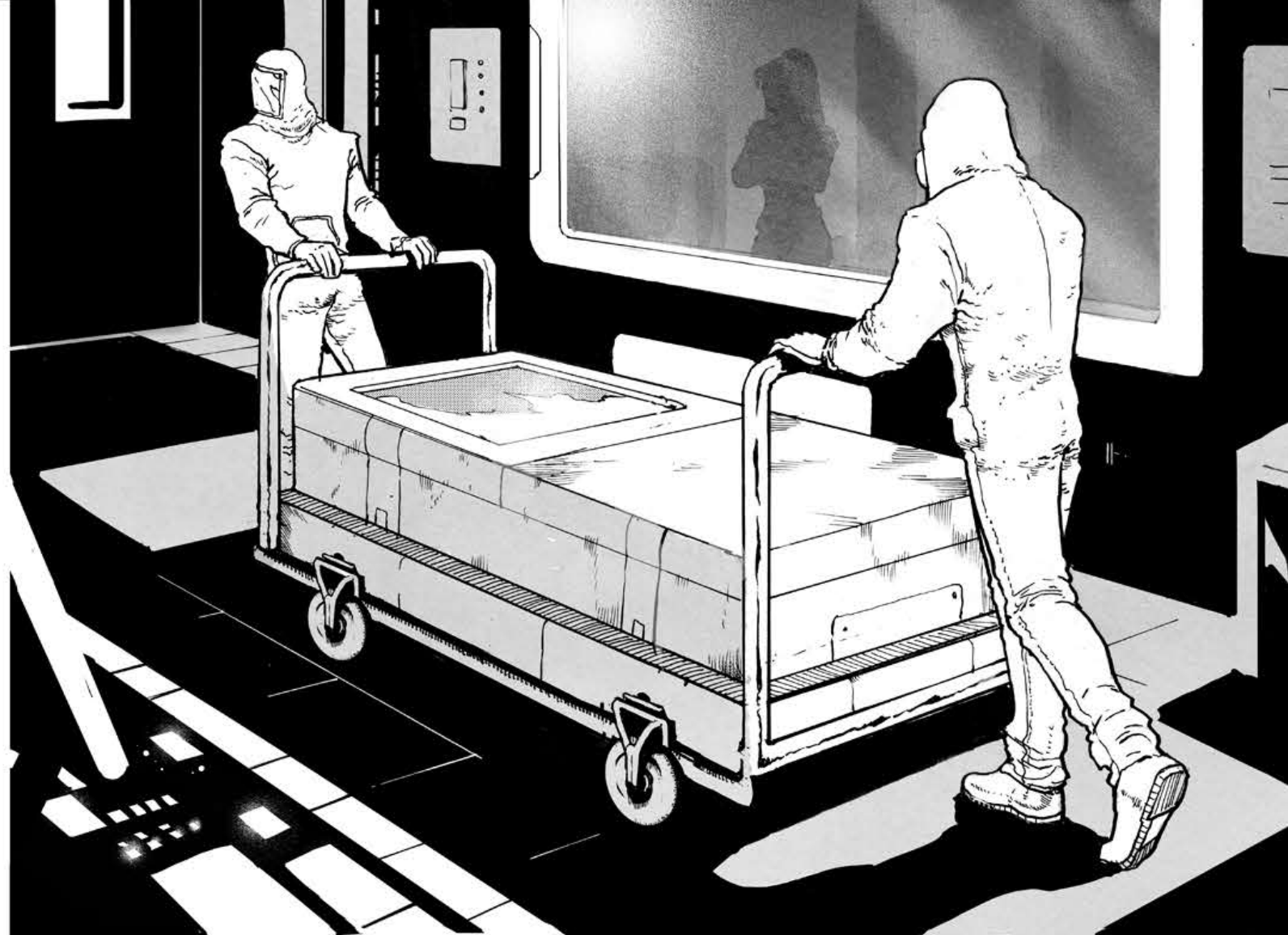
TRANSLATION

(SORRY, ENGLISH SPEAKERS)

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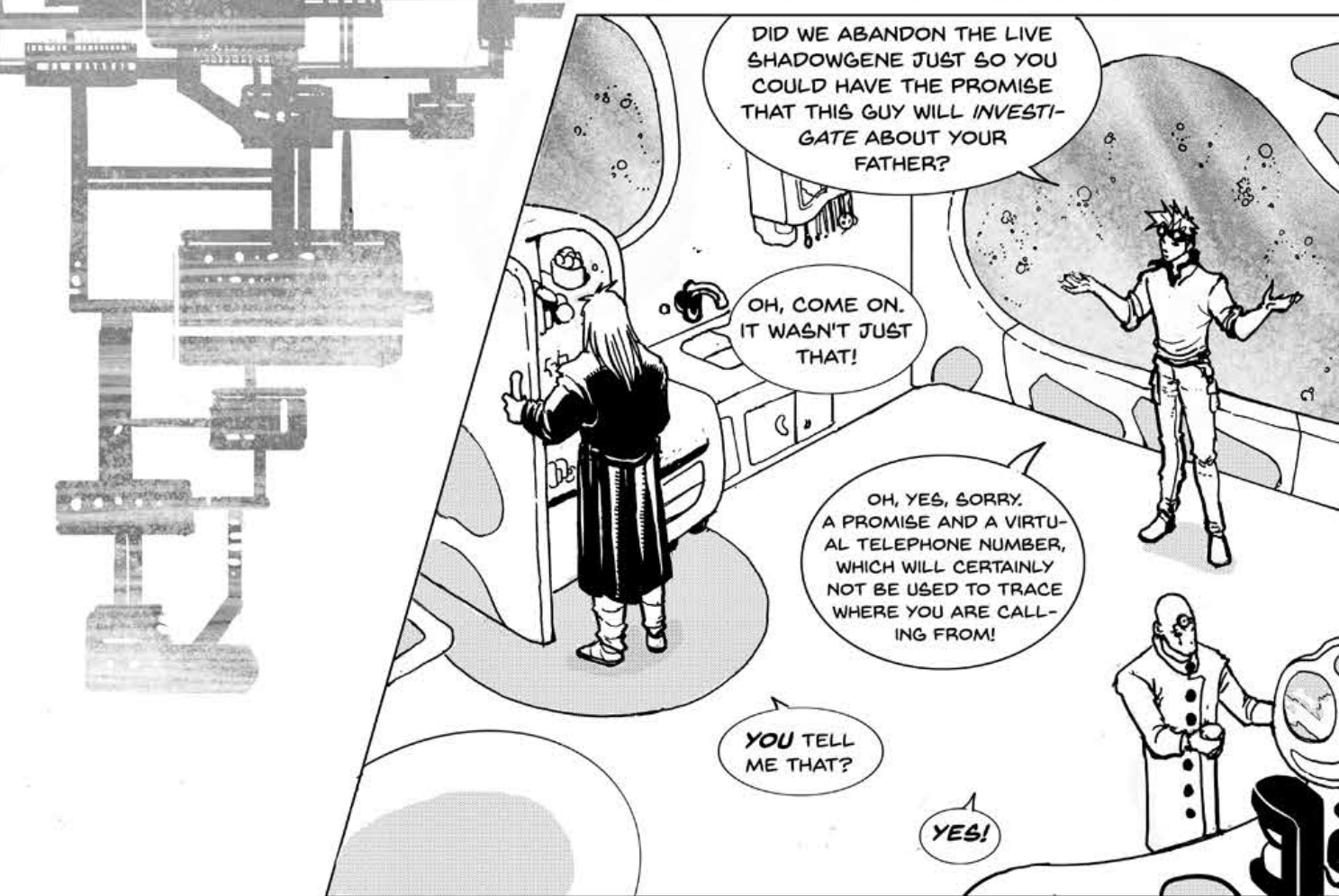
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REALLY?

REALLY?
A DEAL WITH
THAT GUY?



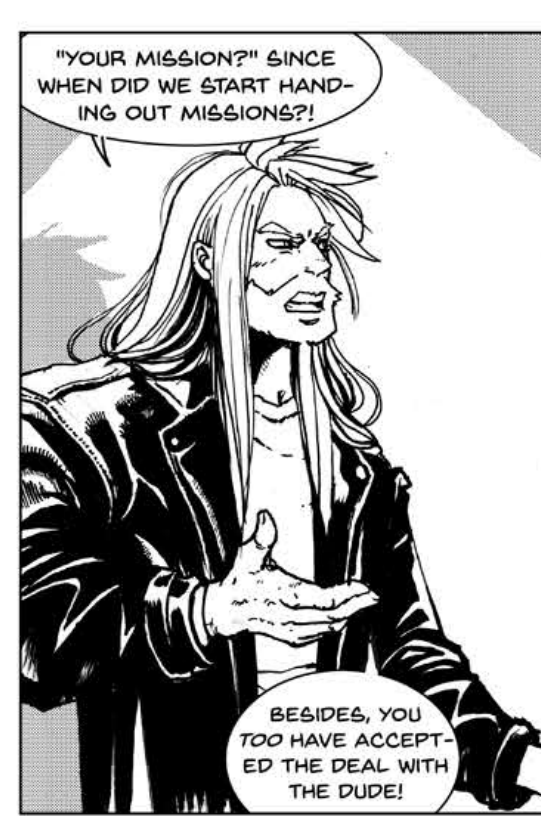
DID WE ABANDON THE LIVE
SHADOWGENE JUST SO YOU
COULD HAVE THE PROMISE
THAT THIS GUY WILL INVESTI-
GATE ABOUT YOUR
FATHER?

OH, COME ON.
IT WASN'T JUST
THAT!

OH, YES, SORRY.
A PROMISE AND A VIRTU-
AL TELEPHONE NUMBER,
WHICH WILL CERTAINLY
NOT BE USED TO TRACE
WHERE YOU ARE CALL-
ING FROM!

YOU TELL
ME THAT?

YES!



"YOUR MISSION?" SINCE
WHEN DID WE START HAND-
ING OUT MISSIONS?!

BESIDES, YOU
TOO HAVE ACCEPT-
ED THE DEAL WITH
THE DUDE!



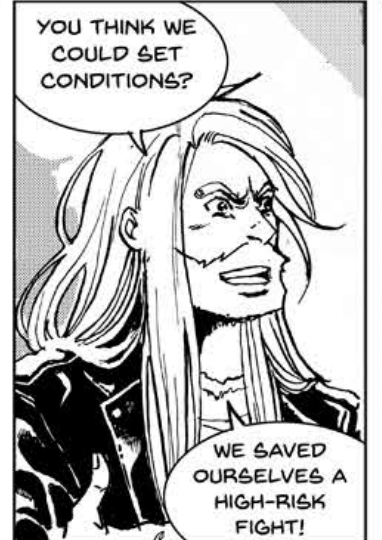
SHIT, IF YOU YOUR-
SELF CONTRADICT US,
THEN FUCK IT, I'M NOT
GOING TO FIGHT YOU
IN FRONT OF
THEM!

BUT, I DON'T
KNOW, AT LEAST WE
COULD HAVE TAKEN THE
LIVE SHADOWGENE IN-
STEAD OF THE FUCKING
PAPERWEIGHT WE
BROUGHT!

*EBI: EUROPEAN BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION.



THEY WERE GOING
TO THROW THE
ROOF OVER OUR
HEADS!



YOU THINK WE
COULD SET
CONDITIONS?

WE SAVED
OURSELVES A
HIGH-RISK
FIGHT!

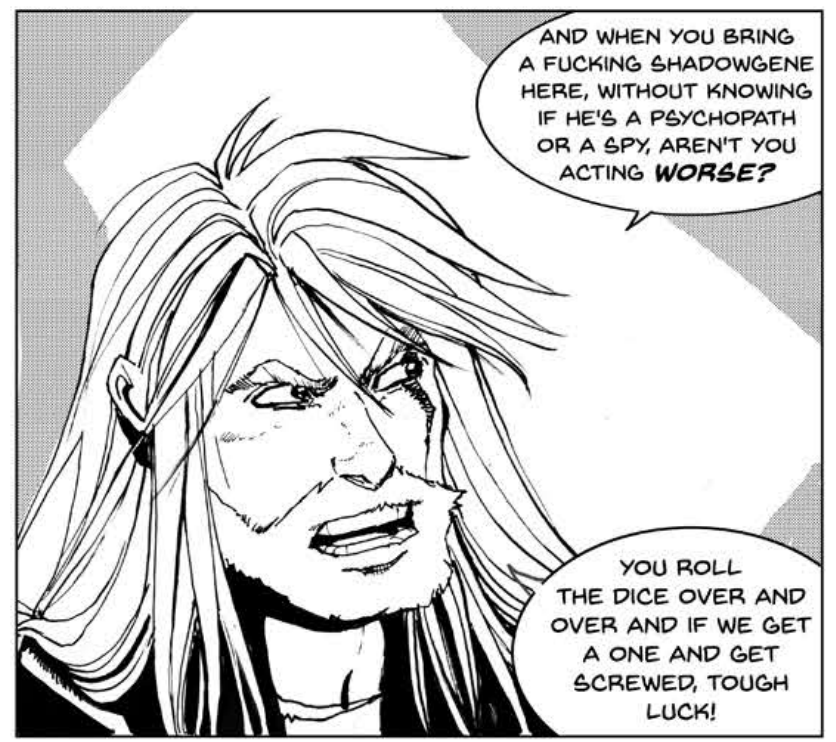


OH, NOW YOU BELIEVE
SOMEONE FROM THE
EBI*? HE COULD BE
LYING!

WE COULD
HAVE SAVED
A LIFE!



OR AT LEAST CONSULT ME
BEFORE DOING IT, SO THAT WE
DIDN'T LOOK LIKE **FOOLS!**



AND WHEN YOU BRING
A FUCKING SHADOWGENE
HERE, WITHOUT KNOWING
IF HE'S A PSYCHOPATH
OR A SPY, AREN'T YOU
ACTING **WORSE?**

YOU ROLL
THE DICE OVER AND
OVER AND IF WE GET
A ONE AND GET
SCREWED, TOUGH
LUCK!



SO WHAT?
SOMETHING
HAS TO BE
DONE!

BESIDES, THAT'S NOT
THE POINT! YOU MADE
THE DECISION ON YOUR
OWN! IT WAS **MY MIS-
SION!**



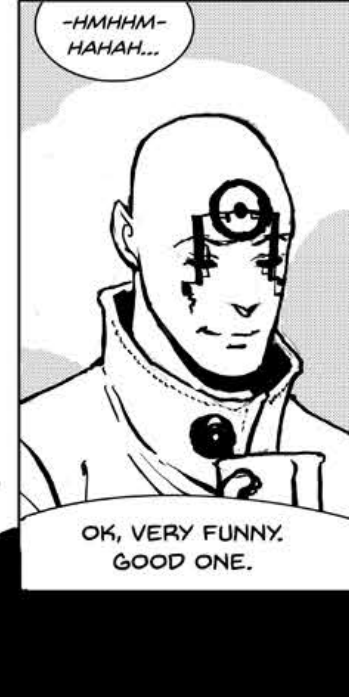
WHAT DID YOU
WANT, A LITTLE COM-
MITTEE IN FRONT OF
THAT GUY?! THAT
WOULD BE LESS RI-
DICULOUS!?

BESIDES,
YOU TALK
ABOUT CON-
SULTING!?

YOU ARE FUCKING THE
BOSS OF THIS PLACE! IF
YOU TWO END IN A BAD
WAY, WHO KNOWS WHERE
WE'LL END UP!

WHAT
DOES
THIS HAVE
TO...?

YOUR DICK
IS THE BIGGEST
DANGER WE HAVE AND
YOU HAVEN'T **CON-
SULTED** US ON HOW
TO USE IT!

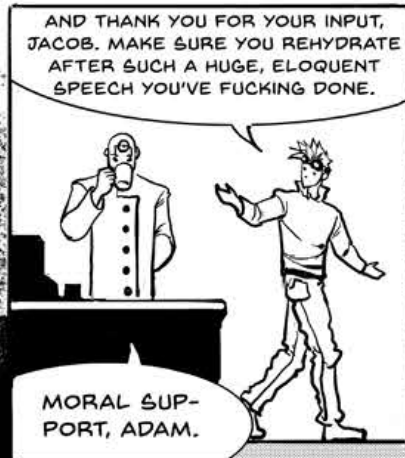


-HMMM-
HAHAH...

OK, VERY FUNNY.
GOOD ONE.

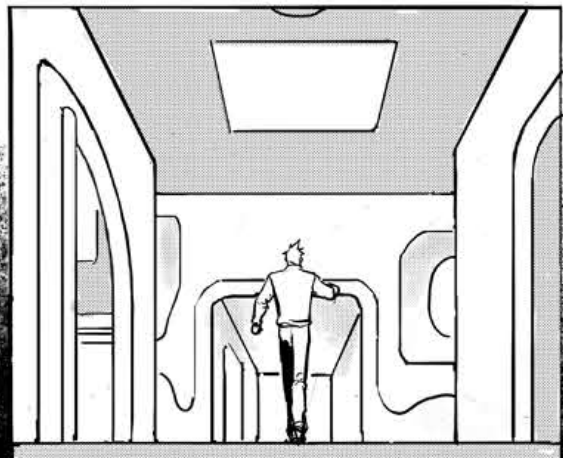


ANYWAY. FUCK YOU. YOU'RE MY FRIEND, I OWE YOU ONE, ETC., BUT I HOPE AN ELEPHANT FUCKS YOU OR SOMETHING.



AND THANK YOU FOR YOUR INPUT, JACOB. MAKE SURE YOU REHYDRATE AFTER SUCH A HUGE, ELOQUENT SPEECH YOU'VE FUCKING DONE.

MORAL SUPPORT, ADAM.



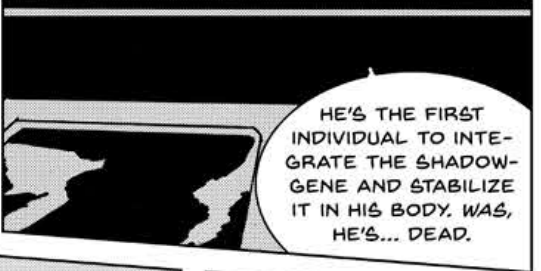
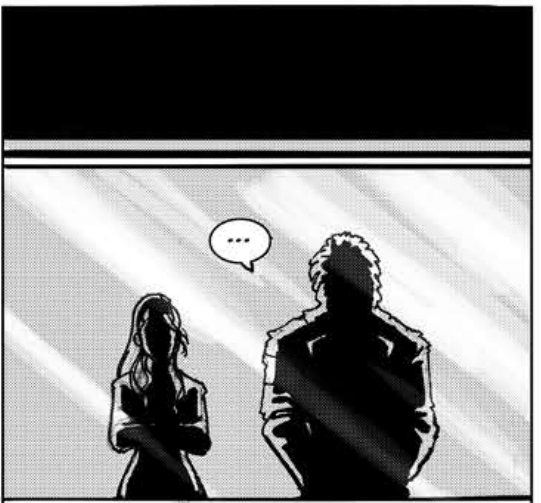
HAHA-HA!



THEY ARE NOT CABALISTS, EMPRESS.



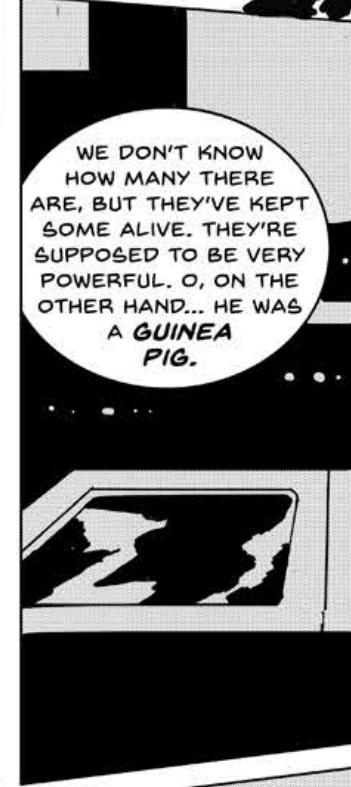
YOU HAVEN'T FINISHED EXPLAINING WHAT THE GUY IN THE CHEST IS.



HE'S THE FIRST INDIVIDUAL TO INTEGRATE THE SHADOWGENE AND STABILIZE IT IN HIS BODY. WAS, HE'S... DEAD.



THEY USED HIS STABLE SHADOWGENE TO GENERATE SEVERAL "DESCENDANTS"; THEY JUST CALL THEM BY THEIR ORDER: THE FIRST, THE SECOND...



WE DON'T KNOW HOW MANY THERE ARE, BUT THEY'VE KEPT SOME ALIVE. THEY'RE SUPPOSED TO BE VERY POWERFUL. O, ON THE OTHER HAND... HE WAS A GUINEA PIG.



THEY EXPERIMENTED WITH HIM, CREATED MULTIPLE SHADOWGENE STRAINS, TESTED HIS MENTAL STRENGTH... AND SO ON.

JACOB'S REPORTS SAY THAT FROM A CERTAIN POINT ON, HE WAS KEPT SEDATED IN PERPETUITY, AS HE TRIED TO SWALLOW HIS TONGUE MULTIPLE TIMES, IN ORDER TO COMMIT SUICIDE.



WHAT... WHAT DO WE HAVE HERE?

PATIENT O. I DIDN'T KNOW IT EXISTED. THAT TRIO FINDS DIAMONDS EVERYWHERE.

JACOB DISCOVERED IT AFTER A HACK.

AND WE'RE FINDING OUT NOW?



UGGG-FFF



IRINA!

BLEUGH!



OOPS.
CAN I COME IN?

YOU DIDN'T CLOSE THE DOOR, I THOUGHT...



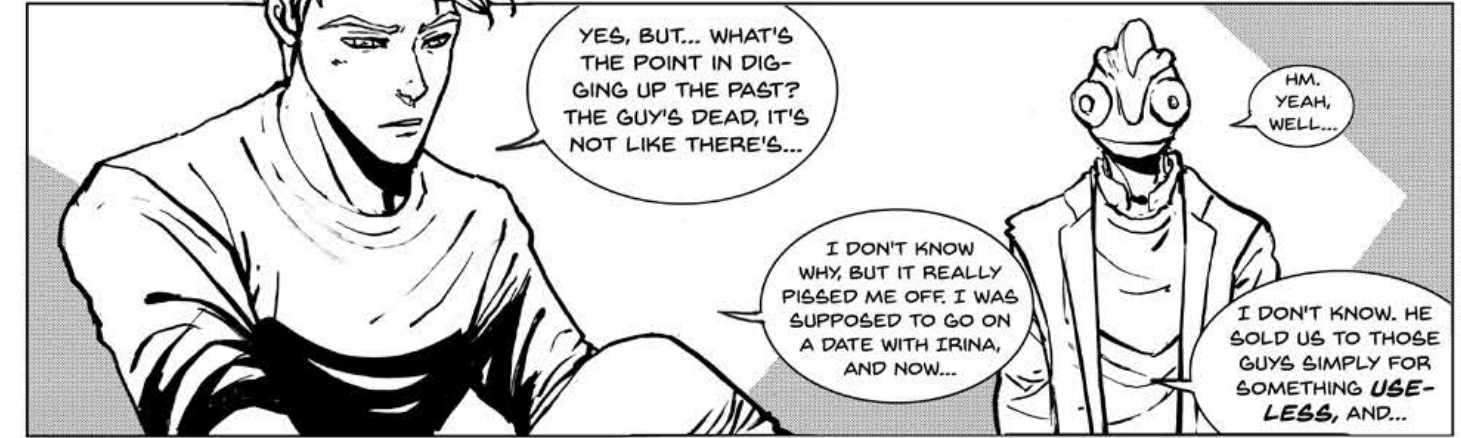
SOME-THING WRONG?
NAH.
SORRY, I WAS GONE. I HAD AN ARGUMENT WITH ESSEX...
ESSEX DERAILED OUR MISSION. HE SCREWED THE OBJECTIVE TO NEGOTIATE WITH THE EBI, OBTAIN INFORMATION ABOUT HIS FATHER...



I DON'T KNOW WHAT HE EXPECTS TO FIND. HIS FATHER WAS AN EBI AGENT OF A REGULAR SECTION...
WELL, THERE ARE PEOPLE WHO NEED TO... FIND PEACE.



OH, HEY! MAREK, YEAH, COME IN.



YES, BUT... WHAT'S THE POINT IN DIGGING UP THE PAST? THE GUY'S DEAD, IT'S NOT LIKE THERE'S...
HM, YEAH, WELL...
I DON'T KNOW WHY, BUT IT REALLY PISSED ME OFF. I WAS SUPPOSED TO GO ON A DATE WITH IRINA, AND NOW...
I DON'T KNOW. HE SOLD US TO THOSE GUYS SIMPLY FOR SOMETHING USELESS, AND...



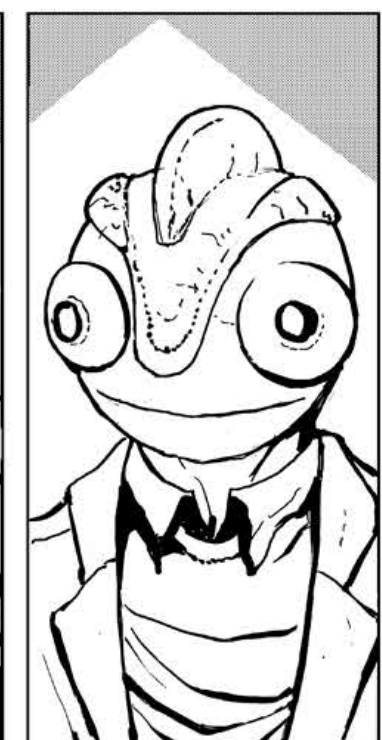
ARE YOU GOING SOMEWHERE? I WAS GOING TO ASK YOU IF YOU WANTED TO GO TO THE GAME ROOM, THERE'S A TOURNAMENT...

NAH, SORRY. I HAVE TO TAKE A SHOWER, I MADE A RESERVATION AT TITO'S RESTAURANT.



OH, WITH THE BOSS?

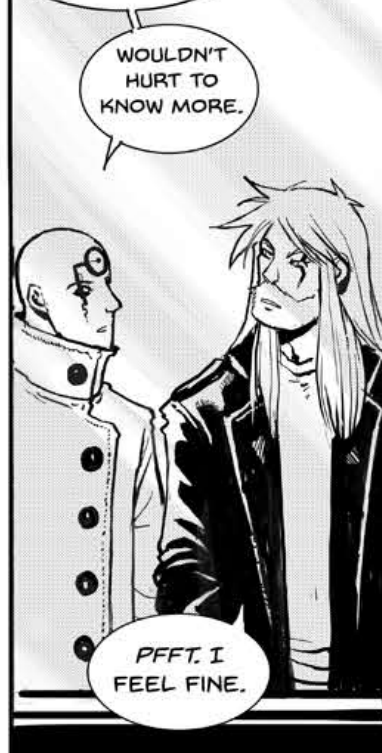
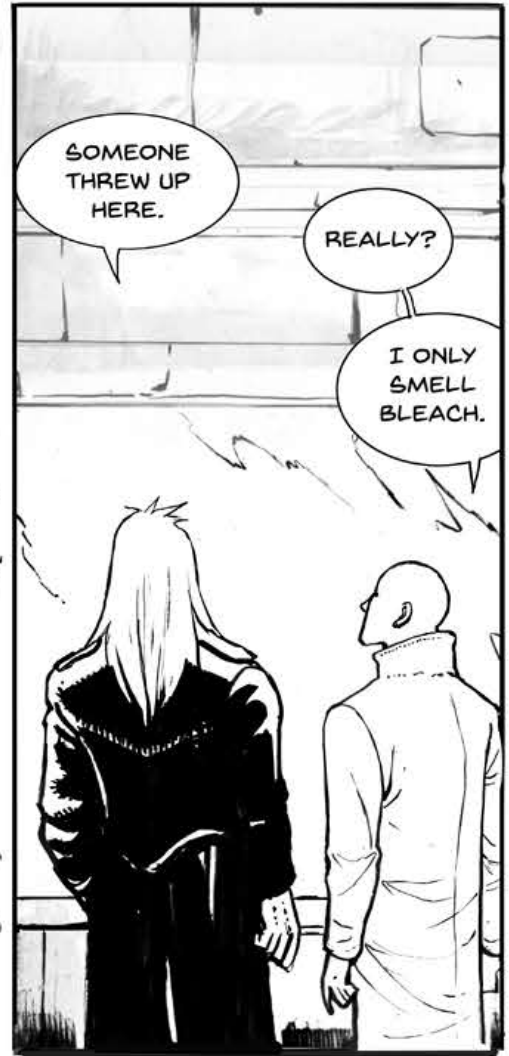
SOME OF YOU REALLY HIT THE LOTTERY, EH.



...YOU'RE RIGHT. HOW CAN I COMPLAIN WHEN YOU HAVE TO GO AROUND WITH THAT MUPPET FACE?

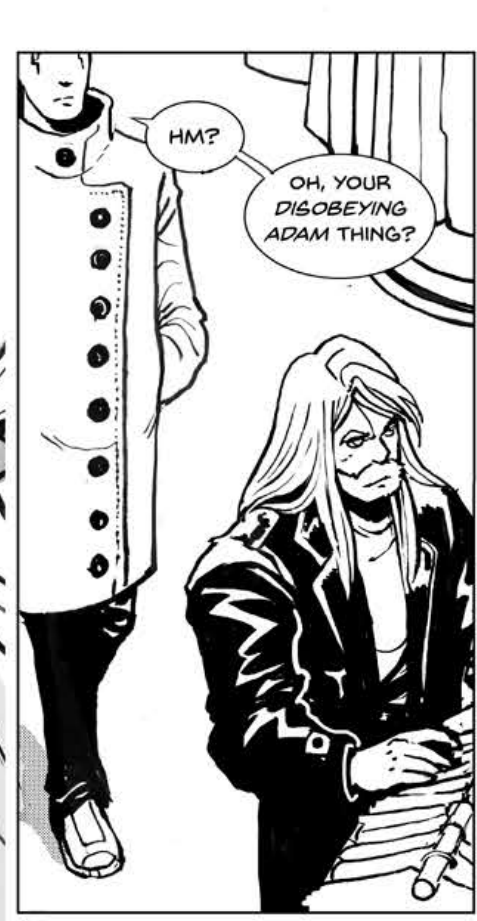


YOU FUCKING ASS-HOLE!





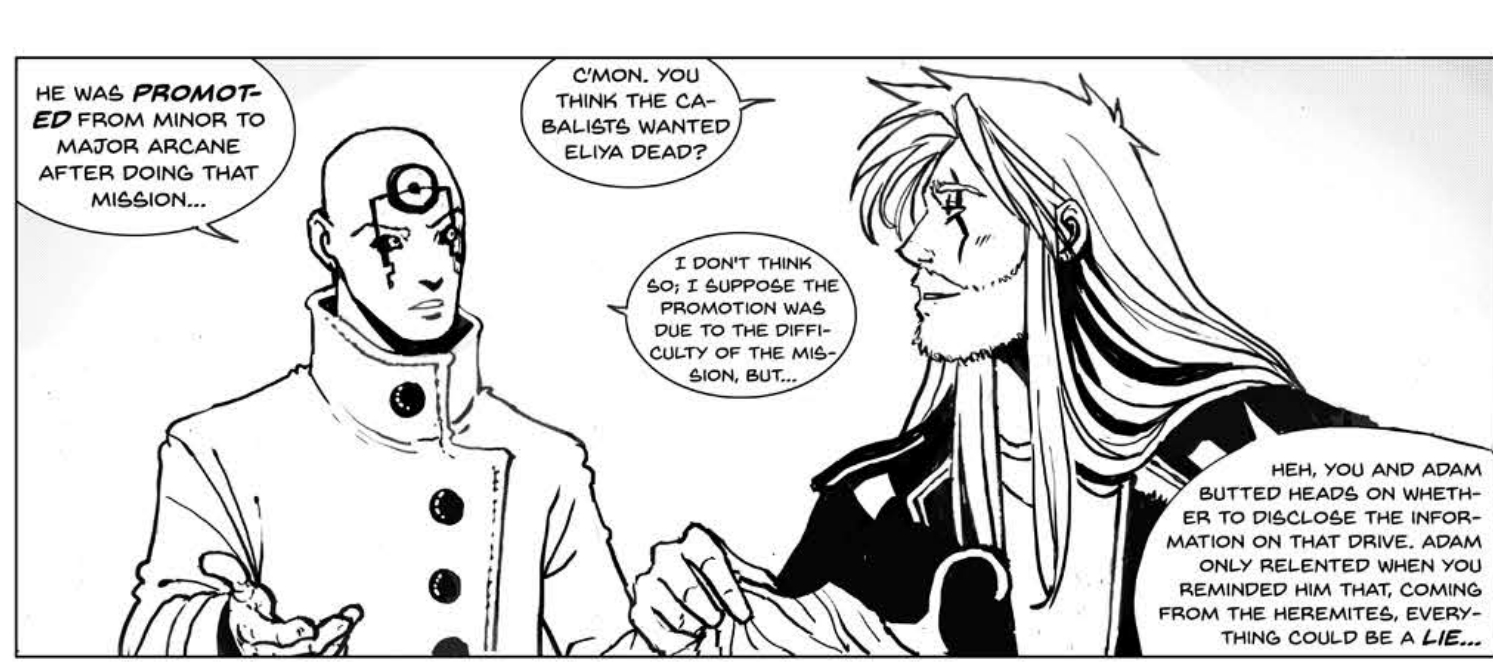
JACOB. YOU ARE SURPRISINGLY MUTE ABOUT ALL THIS.



HM?
OH, YOUR DISOBEYING ADAM THING?



YES.
HMM. LOOK, I LIKE THIS PLACE. IT'S... INTERESTING. BUT...



HE WAS PROMOTED FROM MINOR TO MAJOR ARCANE AFTER DOING THAT MISSION...

C'MON. YOU THINK THE CABALISTS WANTED ELIYA DEAD?

I DON'T THINK SO; I SUPPOSE THE PROMOTION WAS DUE TO THE DIFFICULTY OF THE MISSION, BUT...

HEH, YOU AND ADAM BUTTED HEADS ON WHETHER TO DISCLOSE THE INFORMATION ON THAT DRIVE. ADAM ONLY RELENTED WHEN YOU REMINDED HIM THAT, COMING FROM THE HERMITES, EVERYTHING COULD BE A LIE...



...FOR EXAMPLE, THE TECHNOLOGY IN THIS BASE. I DON'T KNOW HOW MUCH OF IT WAS DEVELOPED BY THE CABALISTS, AND HOW MUCH OF IT IS STOLEN TECHNOLOGY FROM THE EBI, BUT... FOR A GROUP THAT WANTS TO IMPROVE THE WORLD, THEY'VE BEEN QUITE KEEN ON KEEPING THE TECHNOLOGY FOR THEMSELVES.

I UNDERSTAND THAT THEY FEAR A MAJOR ATTACK BY THE EBI IF THEY REVEAL ALL THIS TECHNOLOGY, BUT...

TO THE POINT, JACOB.

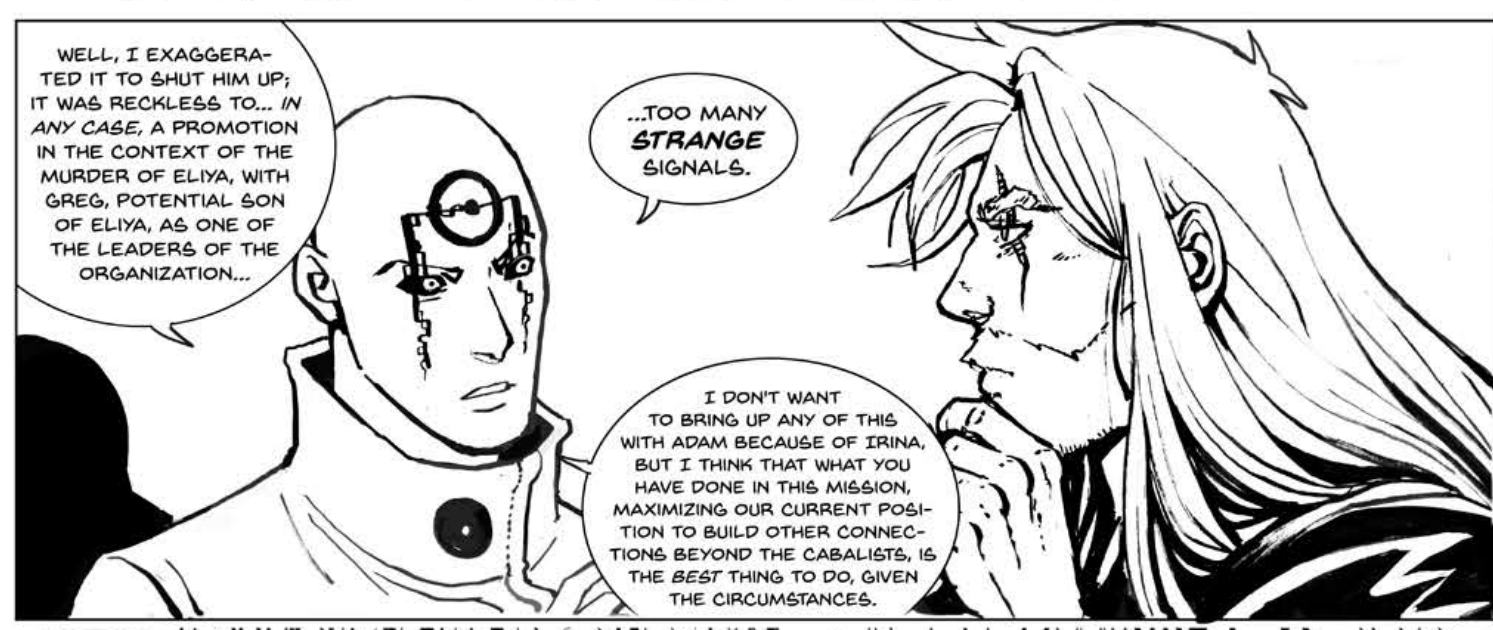
THINK ABOUT GREG.

WHEN I GOT THAT HERMITES INFORMATION... FROM THE DRIVE...

HE IS A SEPHIROTH SPHERE, ISN'T HE? TIPHEREETH. ONE OF THE LEADERS OF THE CABALISTS.

I MEAN, THERE IS NO ONE ABOVE HIM IN THE STRUCTURE, AND YET, HE CAN'T FIND THE TIME TO GIVE US AN INTERVIEW TO TALK ABOUT ELIYA. YOU KNOW?

OBVIOUSLY, IT MAY BE FALSE, BUT, ACCORDING TO THAT... THE CABALISTS PROMOTED SIGURD AFTER ELIYA'S DEATH.



WELL, I EXAGGERATED IT TO SHUT HIM UP; IT WAS RECKLESS TO... IN ANY CASE, A PROMOTION IN THE CONTEXT OF THE MURDER OF ELIYA, WITH GREG, POTENTIAL SON OF ELIYA, AS ONE OF THE LEADERS OF THE ORGANIZATION...

...TOO MANY STRANGE SIGNALS.

I DON'T WANT TO BRING UP ANY OF THIS WITH ADAM BECAUSE OF IRINA, BUT I THINK THAT WHAT YOU HAVE DONE IN THIS MISSION, MAXIMIZING OUR CURRENT POSITION TO BUILD OTHER CONNECTIONS BEYOND THE CABALISTS, IS THE BEST THING TO DO, GIVEN THE CIRCUMSTANCES.



YES, HOW DO YOU SEE THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THOSE TWO? YOU APPROVE OF THE CONTUGATION?

HUH? IT'S NOT LIKE I CAN...

I'M 50/50 ON THE SUBJECT. OBVIOUSLY, IF IT ENDS BADLY, WHICH IT WILL, I DON'T KNOW WHAT THE HELL THE BOSS WILL DO WITH US, BUT... MAYBE WE CAN USE THEIR RELATIONSHIP TO GET GREG OUT FROM UNDER HIS ROCK AND LEARN MORE ABOUT ELIYA'S DEATH.

HRM.

I THINK WE SHOULD PROCEED WITH CAUTION. IF SHE FEELS THAT WE ARE USING HER RELATIONSHIP WITH ADAM, IT COULD MAKE HER RECONSIDER THINGS, MAYBE END IT...

WE ARE LIKE THE DOGS OF A COUPLE, WE DON'T KNOW WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO US IF THEY BREAK UP. WILL SHE ALLOW US TO KEEP LIVING HERE? WILL WE HAVE TO PAY RENT?

AH, JACOB, ADAM'S DICK; THE NEW PILLAR THAT SUPPORTS OUR WAY OF LIFE.

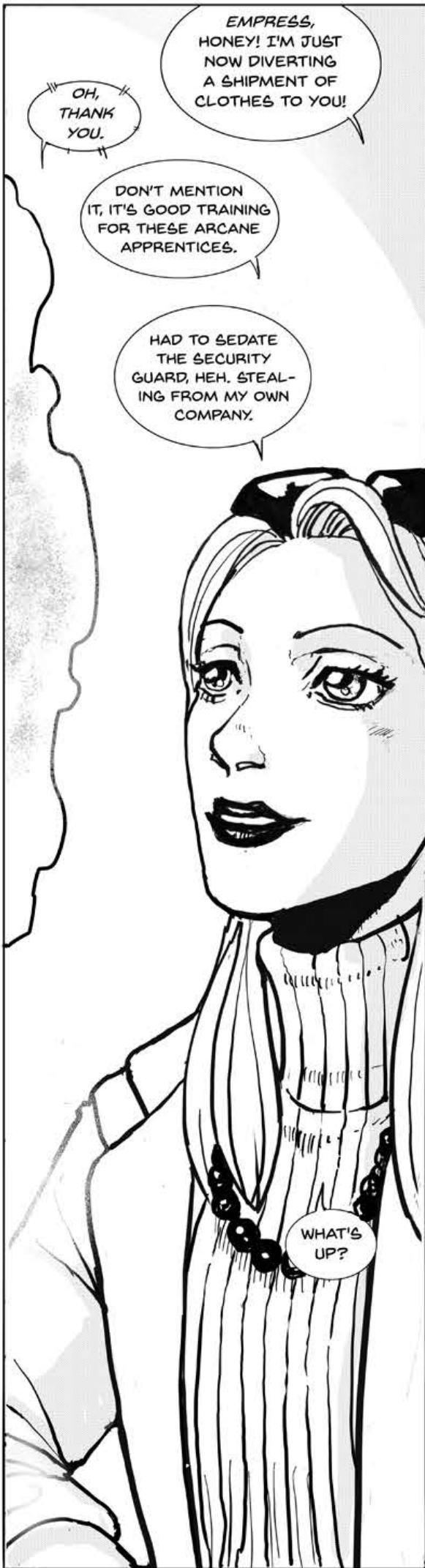
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HEY, HURRY UP! I WANT THEM IN PORT RIGHT AWAY.

WE ONLY HAVE AN HOUR BEFORE REGISTRY COMES.



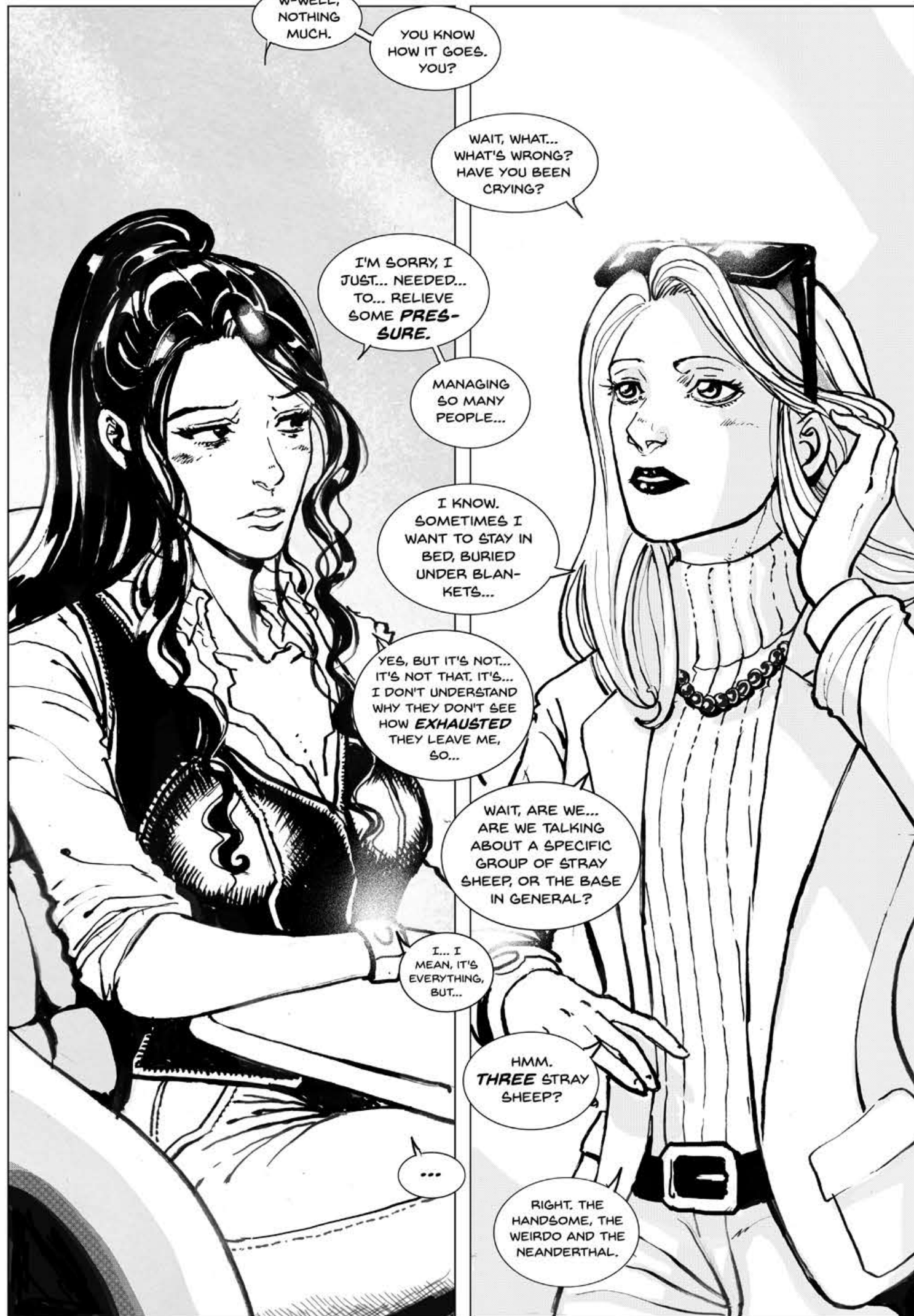
OH, THANK YOU.

DON'T MENTION IT, IT'S GOOD TRAINING FOR THESE ARCAINE APPRENTICES.

HAD TO SEDATE THE SECURITY GUARD, HEH. STEALING FROM MY OWN COMPANY.

EMPRESS, HONEY! I'M JUST NOW DIVERTING A SHIPMENT OF CLOTHES TO YOU!

WHAT'S UP?



W-WELL, NOTHING MUCH.

YOU KNOW HOW IT GOES. YOU?

WAIT, WHAT... WHAT'S WRONG? HAVE YOU BEEN CRYING?

I'M SORRY, I JUST... NEEDED... TO... RELIEVE SOME **PRES-SURE**.

MANAGING SO MANY PEOPLE...

I KNOW. SOMETIMES I WANT TO STAY IN BED, BURIED UNDER BLANKETS...

YES, BUT IT'S NOT... IT'S NOT THAT. IT'S... I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY THEY DON'T SEE HOW **EXHAUSTED** THEY LEAVE ME, SO...

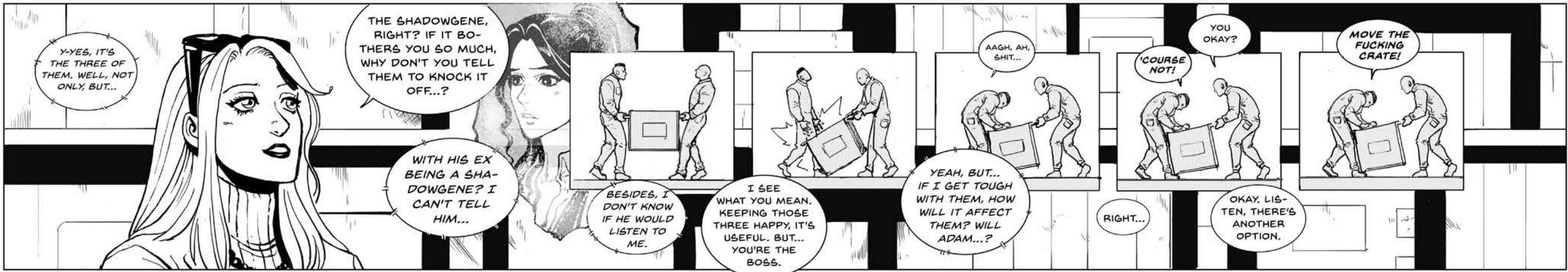
WAIT, ARE WE... ARE WE TALKING ABOUT A SPECIFIC GROUP OF STRAY SHEEP, OR THE BASE IN GENERAL?

I... I MEAN, IT'S EVERYTHING, BUT...

HMM. **THREE STRAY SHEEP?**

...

RIGHT. THE HANDSOME, THE WEIRDO AND THE NEANDERTHAL.



Y-YES, IT'S THE THREE OF THEM. WELL, NOT ONLY, BUT...

THE SHADOWGENE, RIGHT? IF IT BOTHERS YOU SO MUCH, WHY DON'T YOU TELL THEM TO KNOCK IT OFF...?

WITH HIS EX BEING A SHADOWGENE? I CAN'T TELL HIM...

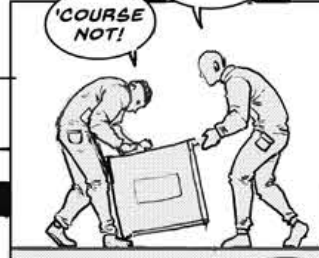
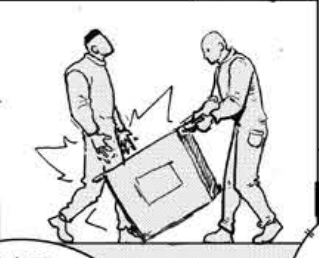
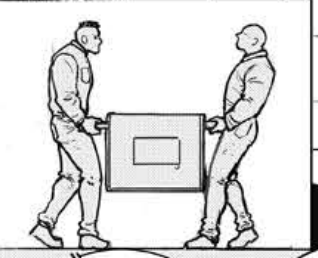
BESIDES, I DON'T KNOW IF HE WOULD LISTEN TO ME.

I SEE WHAT YOU MEAN. KEEPING THOSE THREE HAPPY, IT'S USEFUL. BUT... YOU'RE THE BOSS.

YEAH, BUT... IF I GET TOUGH WITH THEM, HOW WILL IT AFFECT THEM? WILL ADAM...?

RIGHT...

OKAY, LISTEN, THERE'S ANOTHER OPTION.

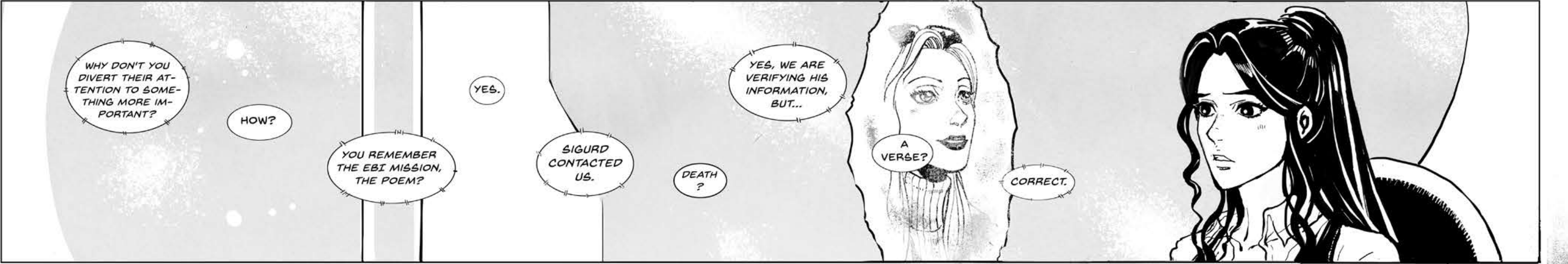


AAGH, AH, SHIT...

'COURSE NOT!

YOU OKAY?

MOVE THE FUCKING CRATE!



WHY DON'T YOU DIVERT THEIR ATTENTION TO SOMETHING MORE IMPORTANT?

HOW?

YOU REMEMBER THE EBI MISSION, THE POEM?

YES.

SIGURD CONTACTED US.

DEATH?

YES, WE ARE VERIFYING HIS INFORMATION, BUT...

A VERSE?

CORRECT.



IF THOSE THREE ARRIVE ACCIDENTALLY IN THE MIDDLE OF AN ONGOING HEREMITE MISSION...

...AND THEY FIND OUT EVERYTHING... YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN? YOU DON'T FORCE THEM, YOU JUST PUSH THEM IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION...

I WILL DELAY THE REPORT TO JUSTIFY WHY WE HAD TO SEND YOUR TRIO, WHO JUST HAPPENED TO BE IN THE AREA. OBVIOUSLY, IF GREG ASKS, YOU DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT ANY OF THIS...

THAT WOULD BE GREAT, BUT... THANKS, NET. BUT...



THIS WAY WE MAKE SURE THAT GREG CAN'T COMPLAIN, AND THEY... WELL, I SAY THAT THIS VERSE STUFF SHOULD DISTRACT THEM, RIGHT? IF EVEN THIS DOESN'T WORK, NOTHING OTHER THAN A DIRECT ORDER WOULD...



WHAT IF GREG DISC...?

AH, FUCK HIM.



WAIT, WAIT, WHAT?

TIPHERETH SAID THAT ADAM WOULD NOT ACT IN THIS MISSION...

I'LL PASS YOU THE LOCATION. JUST MAKE UP A MISSION FOR THEM NEARBY, AND WHEN THEY'RE DONE...



GREG IS THE NEWEST SPHERE AND YET HE ACTS LIKE HE RULES OVER ALL OF US. IT'S TIME TO PUT HIM IN HIS PLACE.

BUT...

HEY, YOU TWO! WHAT ARE YOU DOING? MOVE!

SORRY, IRINA. SO, WHAT DO YOU THINK?



...

...THE PROBLEM... FOR THAT TO SEEM NORMAL, THEY HAVE TO GO **ALONE**; ADAM SOMETIMES WORKS WITH OTHER PEOPLE, BUT AS A GROUP... WHAT IF IT'S DANGEROUS?

"DON'T WORRY SO MUCH, GIRL. I'M SURE EVERYTHING WILL BE FINE".



DARLING, THOSE THREE ARE MORE POWERFUL THAN MANY OF OUR PEOPLE. THEY ARE NOT IN ANY DANGER.

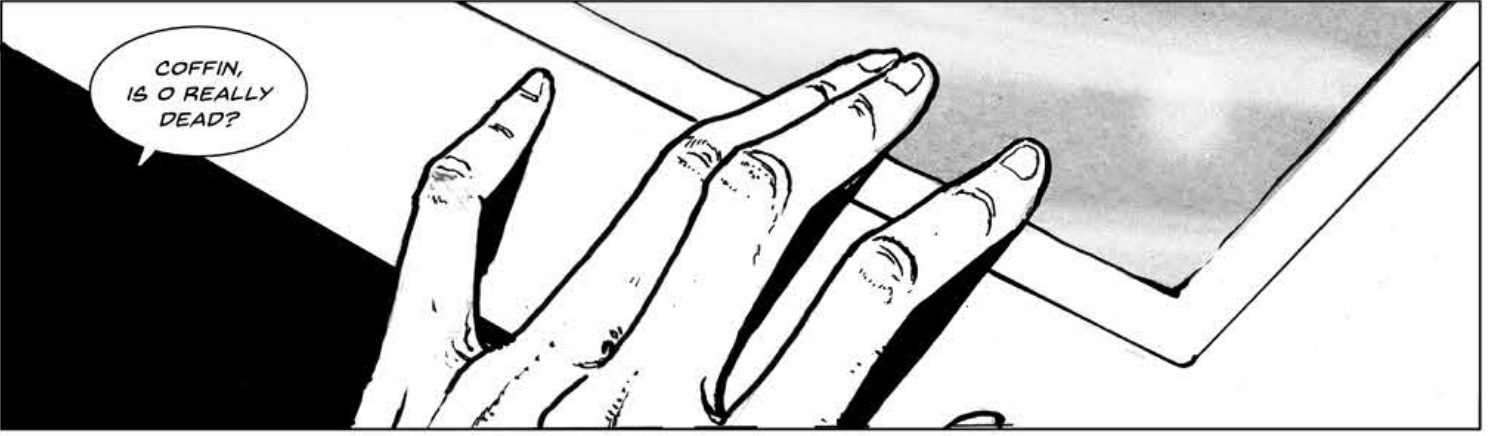
IN ANY CASE, THESE ARE THE RISKS YOU HAVE TO TAKE AS A **LEADER**.

PLUS, IT'S TOTALLY STUPID NOT TO USE THEM IN THIS TYPE OF MISSION, NO MATTER WHAT GREG SAYS.



THANK YOU, NET.

I'LL GIVE YOU AN ANSWER SOON.



COFFIN, IS O REALLY DEAD?



IS THERE ANY WAY TO WAKE HIM UP?



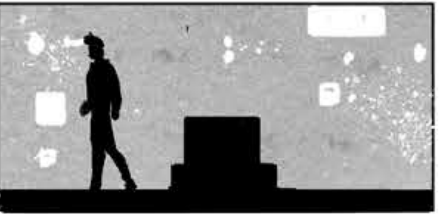
I CANNOT ANSWER THAT QUESTION.



O HAS REMAINED DEAD AS LONG AS I HAVE KEPT IT.

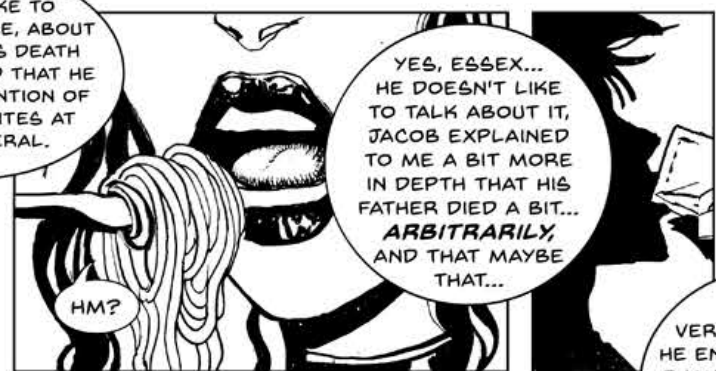
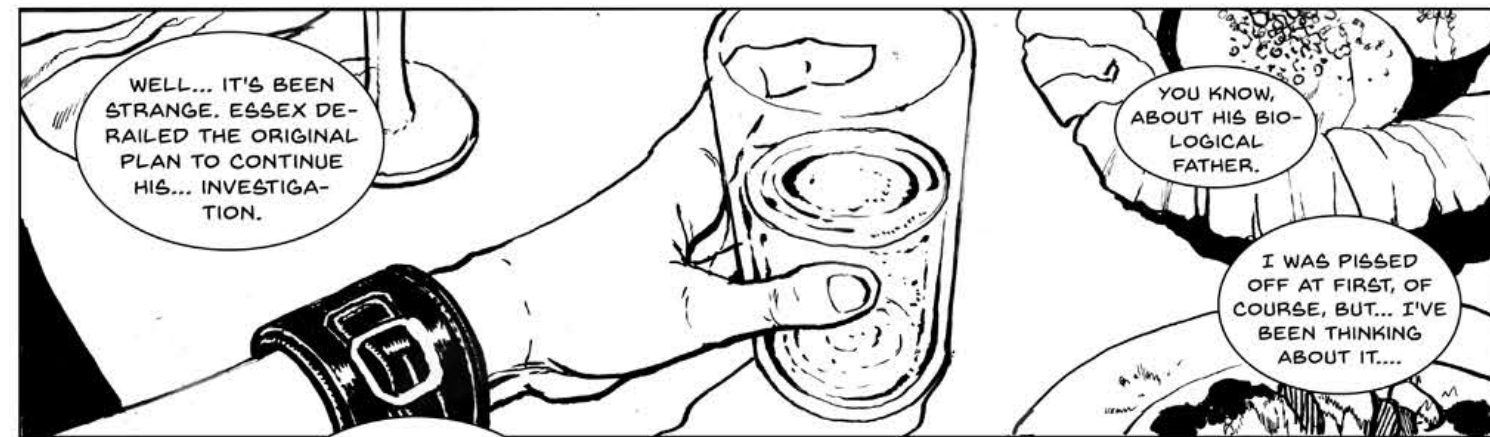


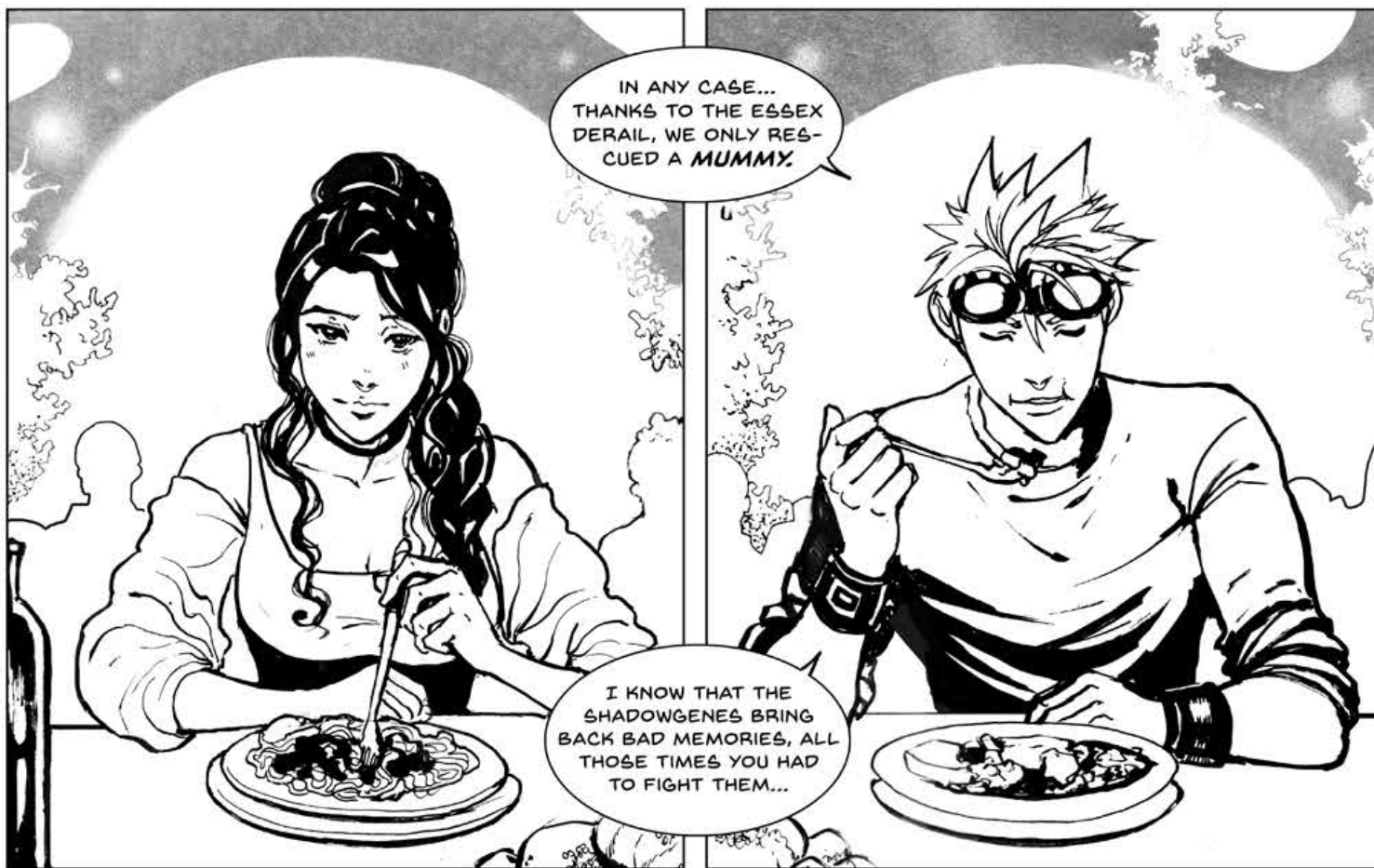
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ANALYZE EVERYTHING FROM TOP TO BOTTOM.

IT CAN'T BE THAT THIS IS JUST A CONTAINER OF DETRITUS.





IN ANY CASE... THANKS TO THE ESSEX DERAIL, WE ONLY RESCUED A **MUMMY**.

I KNOW THAT THE SHADOWGENES BRING BACK BAD MEMORIES, ALL THOSE TIMES YOU HAD TO FIGHT THEM...



...BUT THIS ONE IS JUST A PAPERWEIGHT; IT CAN'T DO ANYTHING. YOU HAVE NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT.



...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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