



72 DESCENSA A LA MADITACION OSCURA

SIMON M.

SCRIPT
PANEL LAYOUT
COVER

TRANSLATION
(SORRY, ENGLISH SPEAKERS)

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PENCILS
INK

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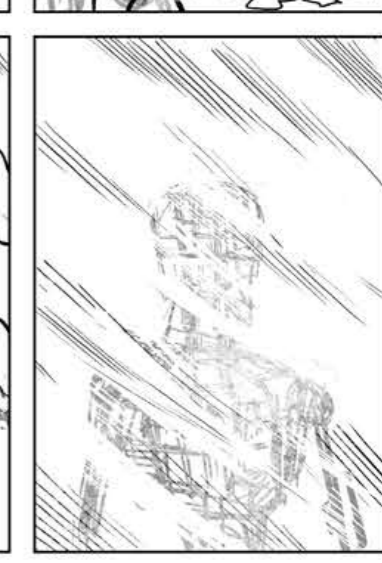


WHAT DO YOU THINK? YOU AND HE GOT BEAT UP.
ME... I GOT DISCIPLINED.



"ANYWAY, REGARDLESS, WE'RE HERE. THE WAY THINGS ARE GOING, IT'S BEST WE STAY FOCUSED AND WORK AS ONE. I THINK I CAN USE THE HAND NOW..."
"AGREED. MAYBE THEN YOU'LL SEE FOR ONCE THAT I'M NOT SO..."
"I ASSUME THAT ON THIS MISSION YOU'RE PRETENDING TO BE WITH THE FBI. LIKE ME, IN A WAY. LET'S FOCUS ON GETTING OUT OF THE FUCKING CITY".
"PERFECT".
"..."
"..."
"SO HOW DOES YOUR HAND WORK? IT'S... IT'S LIKE MINE, RIGHT?".
"YES. I SHOOT... I DON'T KNOW, LIKE OBJECTS OF LIGHT. SUPPOSEDLY, I COULD CREATE SOMETHING THEY CALL A LIGHT MIRROR. YOU CAN DO THE SAME, RIGHT? YOU HAVE PLAIN SHADOWS, BUT YOU CAN **REFINE** THEM AND MAKE THE **SHADOW MIRROR?**"
"YES".
"YOU PUT MULTIPLE PEOPLE ON THE BASE UNDER THE MIRROR".
"AH. YES, BUT I DON'T REMEMBER. I CAN'T DO IT VOLUNTARILY!"
"RIGHT".





WHERE ARE WE NOW?

FINE, TO WHERE THE BLIND MAN IS POINTING, THEN.

HOW'S YOUR FRIEND? HE SEEMS STABLE, DOESN'T HE?

YES.

BUT I HOPE HE WAKES UP SOON.

SEEMS THAT WE'VE RETURNED TO THE REALITY THAT I GENERATE... MEDIEVAL FANTASY, FOLKLORE.

WHY ONLY YOU? I ALSO READ SOME NOVELS THAT... DON QUIXOTE, THE LEGENDS OF... ANYWAY.

SO WHAT NOW?

WELL, WE ARE ON HIGH ALERT. THEY BROUGHT US HERE, SO ASSUME WE'RE ON A TRAP.

OR, THE OPPOSITE.

"WOULDN'T HURT US TO HAVE HIS BRAIN WORKING TO GET OUT OF HERE."

WHAT HAPPENED? ARE WE STILL INSIDE THE SUN? THERE HAS BEEN... LIKE A FLICKER OF REALITY.

YES. YOUR GROUP SEPARATED. THE ONE THAT DETERMINED THE SHAPE OF THIS ENVIRONMENT HAS LEFT... BUT THINGS HAVE HARDLY CHANGED HERE; I IMAGINE YOUR CONSCIOUSNESS IS ALREADY TOO INTERESTED IN THIS.

ADAM? HMMM. WAS IT VOLUNTARY, OR...?

NO IDEA, I CAN'T BE IN SO MANY PLACES AT THE SAME TIME.

MAYBE THEIR PRIORITY IS ATTACKING SIGURD AND THE OTHER.

THEY DON'T KNOW ABOUT SIGURD'S CONDITION. THEY TRUST HIM. ADAM... YES, HE IS IN DANGER.

...LET'S GO.

WHAT CONDITION?

WHERE?

WHERE THESE STORIES ALWAYS HAPPEN.

TO THE CASTLE ON THE HORIZON, THE MOON RIGHT BY ITS SIDE.

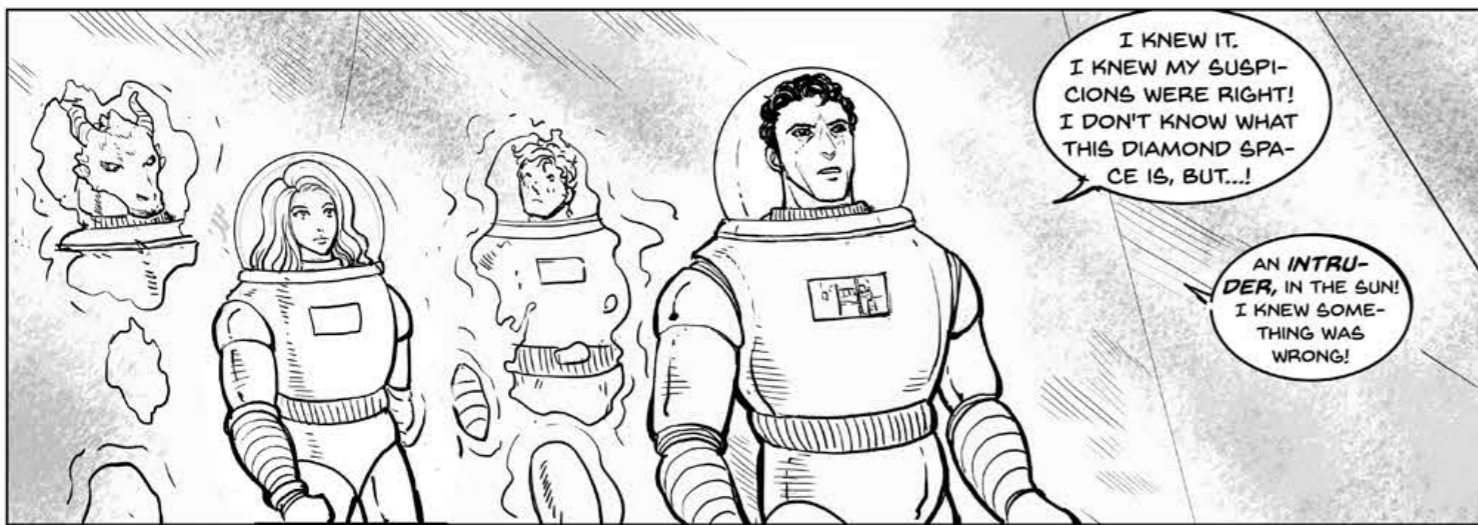
...AT THE SAME TIME... WE DON'T KNOW HOW TO GET OUT.

AND IN THAT DIAMOND... SAUNIÈRE.

OH, LORD.

...I COULD LEARN...

AGREED. I DON'T HAVE MUCH TIME LEFT, BALDIE.



I KNEW IT. I KNEW MY SUSPICIONS WERE RIGHT! I DON'T KNOW WHAT THIS DIAMOND SPACE IS, BUT...

AN INTRUDER, IN THE SUN! I KNEW SOMETHING WAS WRONG!



M-MY BRAIN HAS THE POWER OF A NEGA-ELECTRIC STAR INSIDE. Y-YOU CAN'T...

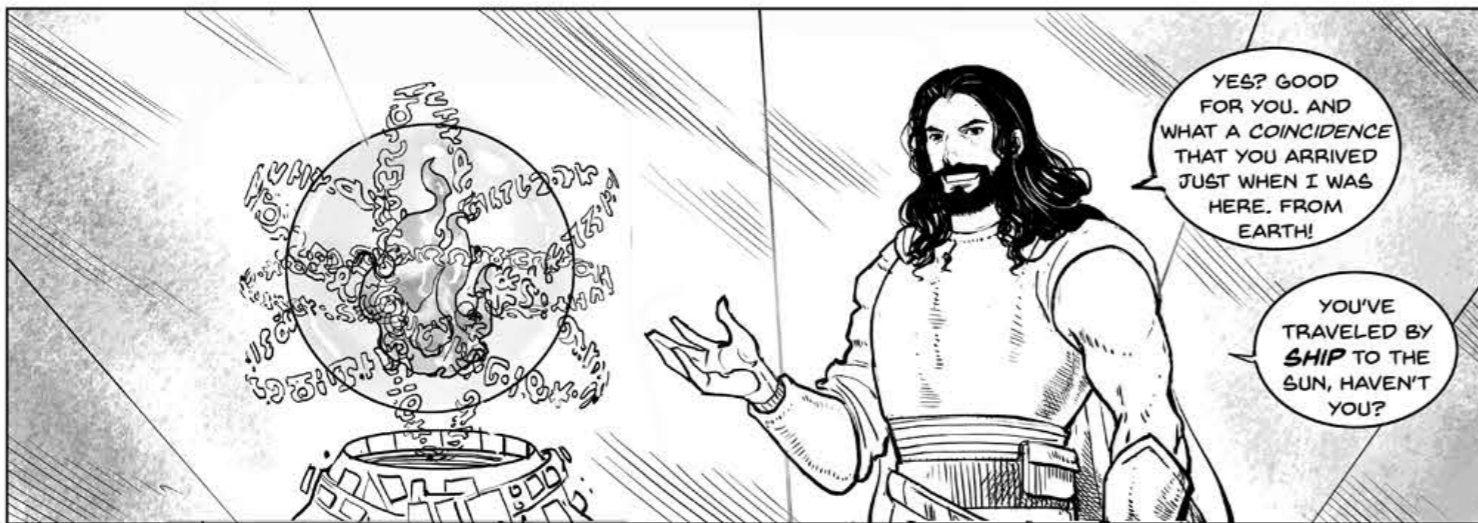
...YOU'RE GOING TO DESTROY THIS WORLD!



"THIS" WORLD, AS OPPOSED TO MINE.



COME ON, YOU'RE ALMOST THERE.

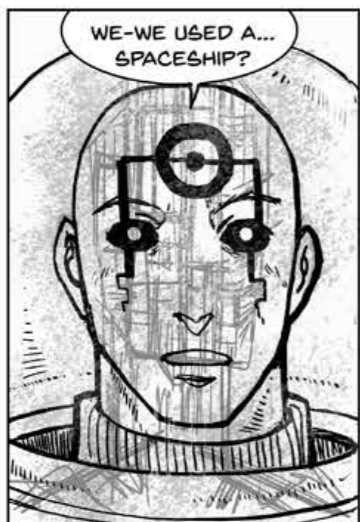


YES? GOOD FOR YOU. AND WHAT A COINCIDENCE THAT YOU ARRIVED JUST WHEN I WAS HERE. FROM EARTH!

YOU'VE TRAVELED BY SHIP TO THE SUN, HAVEN'T YOU?



SHIP?



WE-WE USED A... SPACESHIP?



COME ON, COME ON. DON'T LIE TO YOURSELF.

I REALLY SEE YOU, YOU KNOW.



THE REAL YOU. IF WE CAN CALL YOU A PERSON. YOU'RE THE ONE-WHO-KNOWS. TELL ME, HAVE YOU REDISCOVERED WHAT THIS IS THAT I HAVE HERE?



YOU KNOW WHAT THIS IS, DON'T YOU? YOU'VE KNOWN ALL ALONG. THE MESSAGE IN THE BOTTLE. AND YET, YOU COULDN'T HELP BUT PRETEND YOU DIDN'T KNOW...

BUT HE-WHO-KNOWS CAN'T IGNORE SOMETHING HE DOESN'T KNOW, SO HERE YOU ARE. HERE YOU HAVE ALWAYS BEEN.



...I... DON'T KNOW WHAT...



YOUR FAMILY. WILL YOU TELL THEM THE TRUTH?



SHOULD I?



CAREFUL. WE ARE IN SINKHOLE CITY; IT'S THE DARK PERIOD WHEN MR. MAGICK MOVED TO THIS CITY, TO TRY TO FIGHT AGAINST POLICE CORRUPTION.

IN HINDSIGHT, WHAT AN IDIOTIC IDEA. A MAGE, FIGHTING AGAINST MOBSTERS AND WHOREMONGERING COPS.

YES, BUT BEWARE. EVEN GRANDMAS CARRY GUNS HERE.



THE OTHERS HAVE DEACTIVATED THE VERSE.



THEY'RE ON THEIR WAY.



WAS IT LIKE THAT BEFORE? THE CITY OF SUPERHEROES THAT YOU SAW.

NO. IN FACT, WE'VE BEEN PROGRESSING THROUGH THE COMIC BOOK ERAS, I THINK. SILVER, BRONZE...

AND THIS IS THE DARK AGE, RIGHT? MY FAVORITE ERA. WHEN COMICS BECAME "REALISTIC", WITH ALL THE HEROES BECOMING PSYCHOPATHS OR SUFFERING FROM ERECTILE DYSFUNCTION.



HEH. SO WEIRD TO FEEL NOSTALGIC FOR THIS ERA.



I WONDER... IF IT'S A CLUE, ADVANCING THROUGH THE ERAS. PERHAPS IT WOULD GIVE US AN ADVANTAGE...



IF WE CAN PREDICT THE STYLE OF THE WO... WAHG!

SHIT!



YOU KILLED PHILLIP, YOU BASTARDS!

EAT LEAD!

TAKAT



WASN'T HE ON THE CAR WHEN IT EXP...?!

WHATEVER. GAMBINO SAYS HI!



WHAT'S HAPPENING? AREN'T THEY ALL COPS?



SOME VILLAIN DISGUISED AS A COP, OR CORRUPT COPS.



DEATH TO THE GAMBINO FAMILY!

BAM BAM



QUICK, TO THE ALLEYS.



IF I REMEMBER CORRECTLY, MR. MAGICK'S MANSION WAS ACROSS THE TRAVERS RIVER. I THINK IT'S THAT DIRECTION...

ARE YOU SURE THIS IS A GOOD IDEA? THOSE COPS STARTED SHOOTING IN TWO SECONDS...!

WHAT CHOICE DO WE HAVE? ABANDON MR. MAGICK? THIS HAS TO MAKE SOME SENSE!

...HAVEN'T YOU ALREADY ABANDONED ONE, WHO WAS ALSO A REAL HUMAN?

THAT'S DIFFERENT!



WHAT'S SO HARD TO UNDERSTAND?



THINK ABOUT IT. WE'RE IN A PLACE WHERE THERE SHOULD BE SUPERHEROES, BUT WE'VE ONLY FOUND MR. MAGICK. MY FAVORITE HERO!



THERE HAS TO BE A REASON, IT'S PART OF...

OF WHAT? WHAT DOES IT MATTER, THAT YOU JERKED OFF TO HIM?



DO YOU BELIEVE THIS WILL WORK?

I BELIEVE IT, YES.



FUCK, SIGURD! DO YOU HAVE TO BE SO NEGATIVE ALL THE FUCKING TIME? YOU READ THIS SHIT TOO!

DIDN'T IT MAKE YOU DREAM THAT WE COULD LIVE IN A BETTER WORLD?



YOU HAVE TOO MUCH FAITH IN THIS. MOST COMICS ARE NOTHING MORE THAN TWO GUYS IN LEOTARDS RUBBING EACH OTHER REALLY HARD.



ALL THAT BULLSHIT ABOUT DRESSING IT UP WITH MORALS AND JUSTICE AND BLAHLAH... IT'S MAKEUP FOR THE READER.

LIKE GIRLS AND THEIR "ROMANCE" NOVELS.



WHAT?



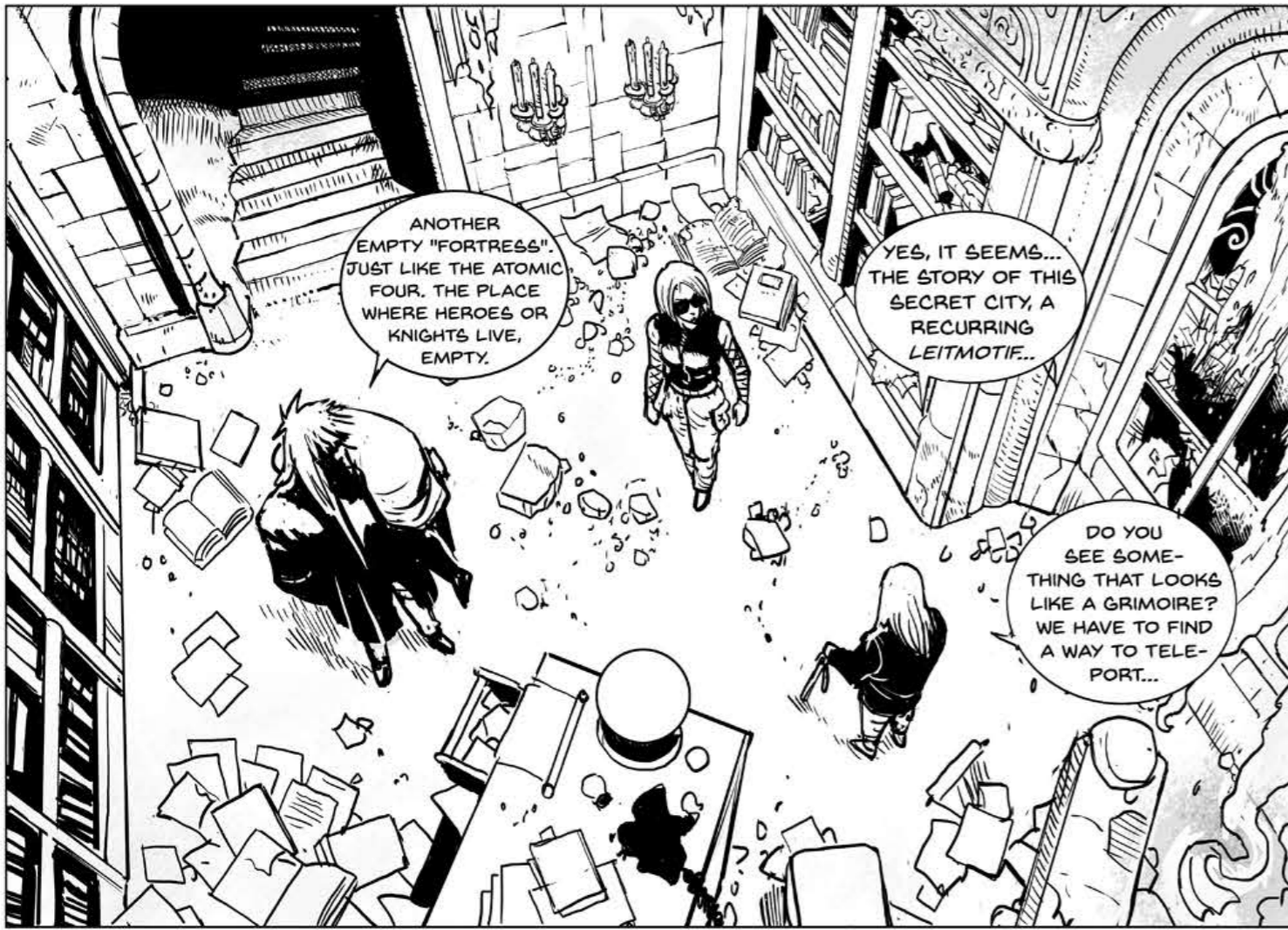
YOU KNOW. THEY READ IT BECAUSE IT'S THEIR PORN, BUT THEY PRETEND IT'S SOMETHING MORE SERIOUS, BECAUSE IT'S A BOOK. COAT THE SHIT IN GOLD TO PRETEND YOU'RE BETTER...



THERE.



THE MANSION.



ANOTHER EMPTY "FORTRESS". JUST LIKE THE ATOMIC FOUR. THE PLACE WHERE HEROES OR KNIGHTS LIVE, EMPTY.

YES, IT SEEMS... THE STORY OF THIS SECRET CITY, A RECURRING LEITMOTIF...

DO YOU SEE SOMETHING THAT LOOKS LIKE A GRIMOIRE? WE HAVE TO FIND A WAY TO TELEPORT...



HMMM.

The knight-mage Saunière was at a crossroads.



...SOMETHING ABOUT SAUNIÈRE HAVING A SMALL DICK AND NOT ACHIEVING HIS GOALS...

His augurs insisted on the need to unify Europe from the shadows, to create a group that would promote the rationalist values of the French Revolution so that the people would forget what little they knew about magic.



"A coalition of gentlemen educated in the arcane arts", said the voice of Providence inside the heart of Saunière, "a coalition of experts who, with benevolence, will guide the human tribe".



...SO THIS IS WHAT IT WAS ABOUT? THE COMIC BOOK PAGE, THIS...



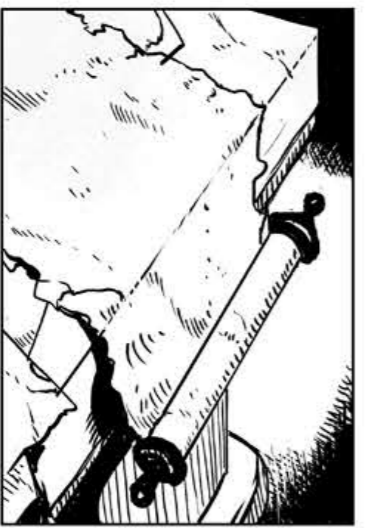
...I GUESS THE STORY ENDS WITH HIM CREATING AN INTERNATIONAL SHADOW LEAGUE OF MAGES, RIGHT? A PROTO-EBI.

"Would it not be the greatest honor, the highest act of heroism, to take this wounded and manipulated people and lead them toward a life as hollowed out of pitfalls and villainy as possible?"

As Saunière intoned those words, his heart burned with determination. And yet, "Why don't my brothers of other nations listen to me? What am I lacking, that neither my words nor my telepathy abate their defenses?"



HMM. YES.

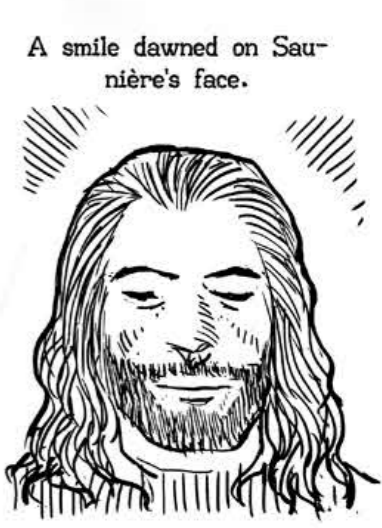


...SAUNIÈRE, LEGENDS SAY, FOUND THAT HE COULD NOT CONVINCE ANY MAGE FROM ANOTHER COUNTRY...

"Excess of water," thought Saunière. "Too much weeping and sensitivity; too much complaining. Flabbiness is not shed by weeping, it is shed by raging fire".



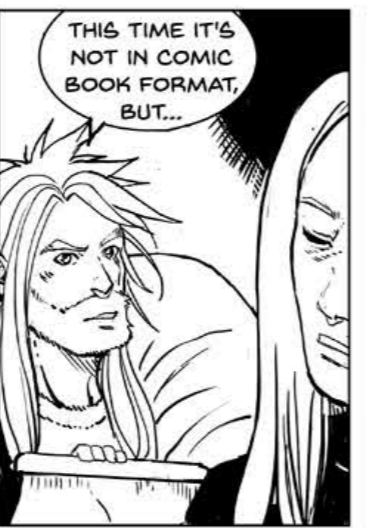
SO HE REPEATED WHAT HE DID ONCE BEFORE; HE STOLE AN ELEMENT FROM A CITY; THE FIRE ELEMENT, THIS TIME.



A smile dawned on Saunière's face.



HEY. THIS... I THINK THIS IS ANOTHER SAUNIÈRE PAGE.



THIS TIME IT'S NOT IN COMIC BOOK FORMAT, BUT...



SO THE HERMITES WERE HERE.

WHAT DOES IT SAY?

The four elements. Earth, water, fire, air. In occultism, they represented multiple things, but the most basic is that the earth is a metaphor for the body and its needs, that water signifies emotions and feelings, that air is the mind and its thoughts, and that fire...

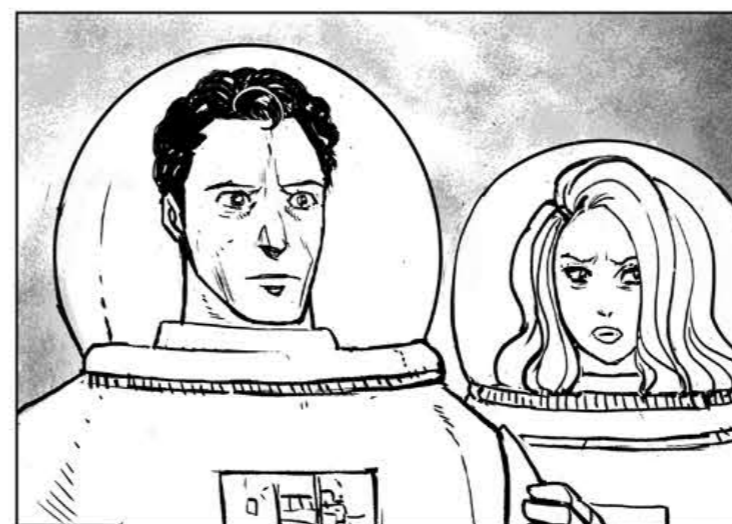
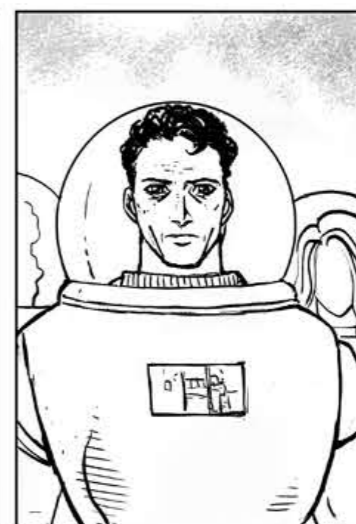


WAIT, WHAT? HE STOLE IT? THERE'S NO COPY HERE?

... that fire embodies the will".



IF THERE'S NO COPY, THIS CITY COULD BE DEGRADING... HEY!!







GOD. SAU-
NIÈRE...



OH, GOD, OH, GOD.
WHAT HAVE I...?



EVEN BEING
FICTION... MY
GOD...

AND THAT
FLAME...

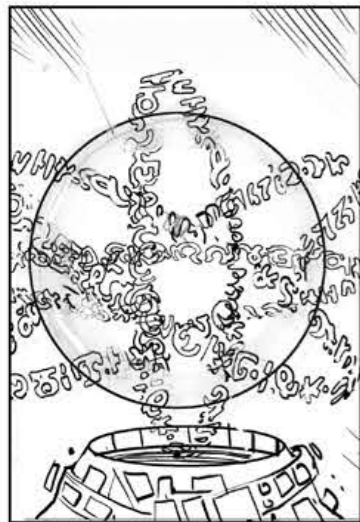


"...IT WAS WHAT KEPT
THE SPELL THAT SUS-
TAINS THIS PLACE
ACTIVE".



THIS WAY, I THINK
I KNOW WHERE
THE ROOM IS.

I'VE SEEN HIM
RECOVER FROM
WORSE. SEE, IT
ALL FITS.



THIS IS THE **DARK**
HOUR BEFORE...



UH?

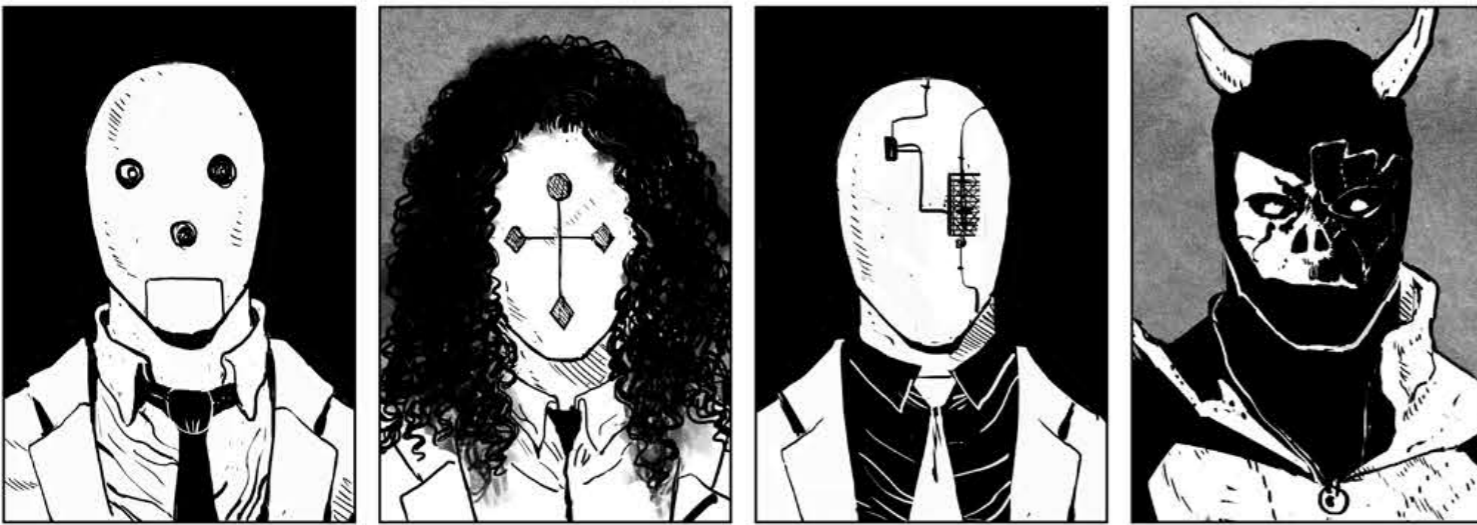
HELLO.



YOU...?
HERE?



BEHIND
YOU.



SIGURD, DID YOU KNOW...? WHAT'S HAPP...?

WE WERE LOOKING FOR THE EXIT, BOY.

THIS SITE, THE SPELL THAT HOLDS THIS SITE, COULD NOT CREATE A PLACE.

ADAM, SHUT UP. DO WHAT THEY ASK YOU TO DO. WE CAN GET OUT OF HERE.

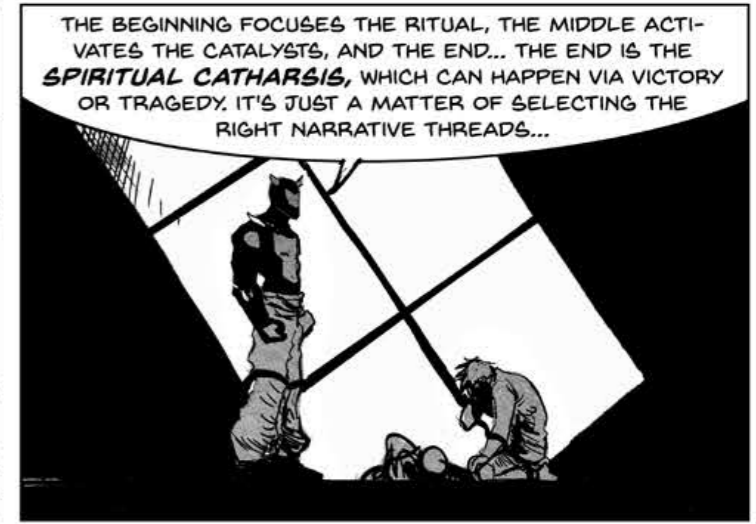
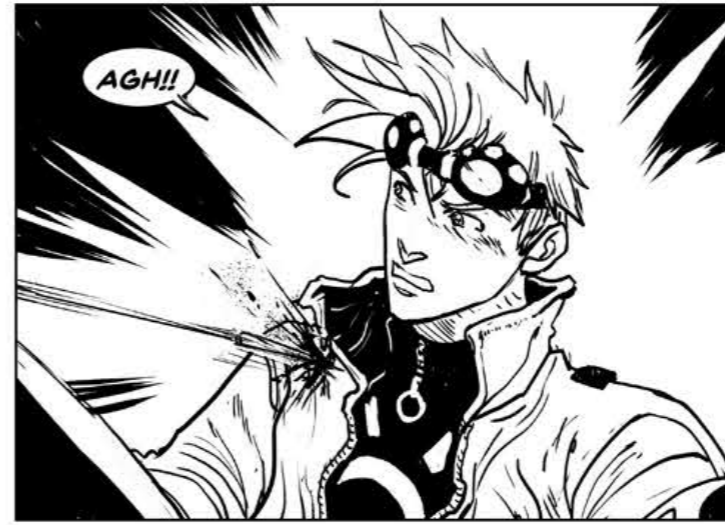
SO IT CREATES STORIES. OLD STORIES, FULL OF HOLES. THE NATURE OF THE SITE ALLOWS US TO TELEPORT INSIDE...

...BUT NOT GET OUT. TO GET OUT, YOU HAVE TO REACH THE CONCLUSION OF THE STORY.

ONLY STORIES WITHOUT AN ENDING ARE ETERNAL.

I-IF THAT'S WHAT YOU WANT, WE ARE ALSO LOOKING FOR A WAY OUT, MR. MAGICK SEEMS TO BE THE KEY...

AH, BUT THIS IS WHERE YOUR THOUGHTS AND MINE TURN IN-HARMONIC.



YOU DO NOT UNDERSTAND WHAT A STORY IS.

STORIES ARE PSEUDORITUALS, MOVEMENTS OF THE SPIRIT THAT HAPPEN WHEN YOU PUT ON THE PROTAGONIST'S COSTUME.

IS IT... POISONED?

YOU THINK THAT SAVING HIM IS THE HAPPY ENDING THAT WILL TAKE YOU OUT OF HERE. BUT, FOR ME, THE STORY IS NOT THERE.

I SAW IT WITH REDOUBLED CLARITY WHEN I DIDN'T EVEN HAVE TO SEPARATE YOU FROM THE GROUP IN THAT PORTAL. YOU DID IT YOURSELF, FOLLOWING YOUR HERO.

N-NO...

THE STORY, EVIDENT IN THE FORM THIS ENTITY HAS TAKEN FOLLOWING YOUR INNER ECHO, IS THAT OF A CHILD TAKING REFUGE IN THE RUINS OF HIS DREAMS.

SEEKING REFUGE IN A SIMPLE WORLD WHERE YOUR FRIENDS DON'T BETRAY YOU AND RUIN YOUR LIFE... WHERE THERE ARE NO CONSPIRACIES OR SUBTERFUGES, AND PEOPLE WEAR THEIR AFFILIATIONS AND MORAL ALIGNMENT ON THEIR COSTUMES...

WITH SIGURD AT YOUR SIDE, THE STORY WAS OBVIOUS. THE ENDING, TOO. GIVING YOU ONE LAST CHANCE TO SAVE YOUR HERO...



WELL, THEN.



LET'S GO, AGENTS. BEFORE IT CLOSES.



BOSS, HERE'S ONE OF THE SYLLABLES.



OH, OF COURSE. WHAT WAS THE VERSE?



"IN THE CITY OF HEROES, SAUNIÈRE MADE OF HIS WILL SOLID FIRE".



HA.



I WOULD INVITE YOU TO COME. THE PORTAL WILL BE CLOSING SOON. HOWEVER... IN MY ESTIMATION...



...BOTH OF YOU NEED TO LIVE YOUR LIES AND STAY HERE.



...ONLY TO TAKE IT AWAY AT THE LAST MOMENT.



BE CAREFUL. THE CITY IS GOING TO BECOME... **UNRULY**. BUT IF YOU CAN'T SURVIVE IT, WELL...



...YOU WOULDN'T DESERVE THE HANDS YOU'RE CARRYING, WOULD YOU...?



OH?



WOW, YOU HIT ME. I'M GOING, I'M GOING.



AHA! WE WERE RIGHT.

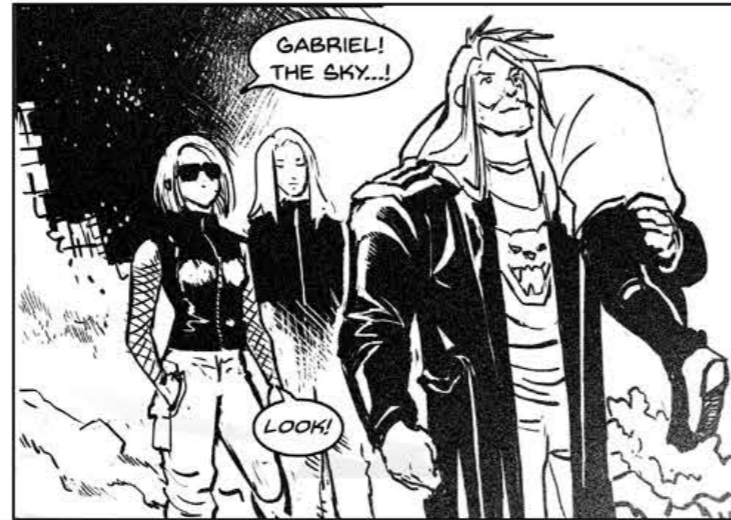
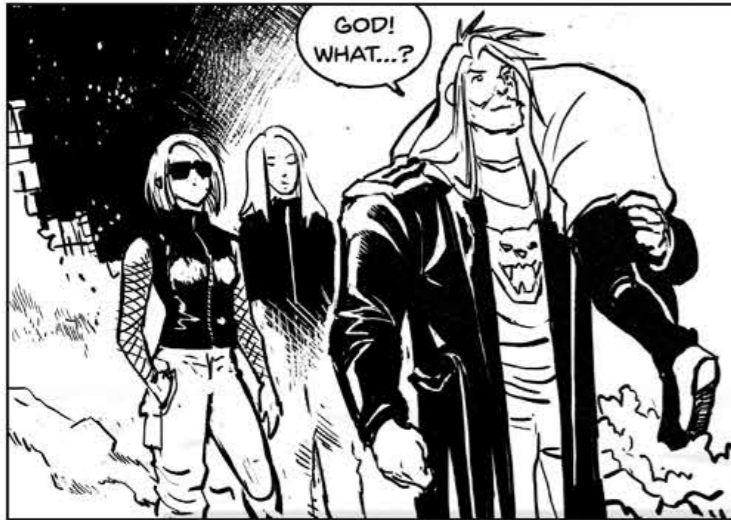
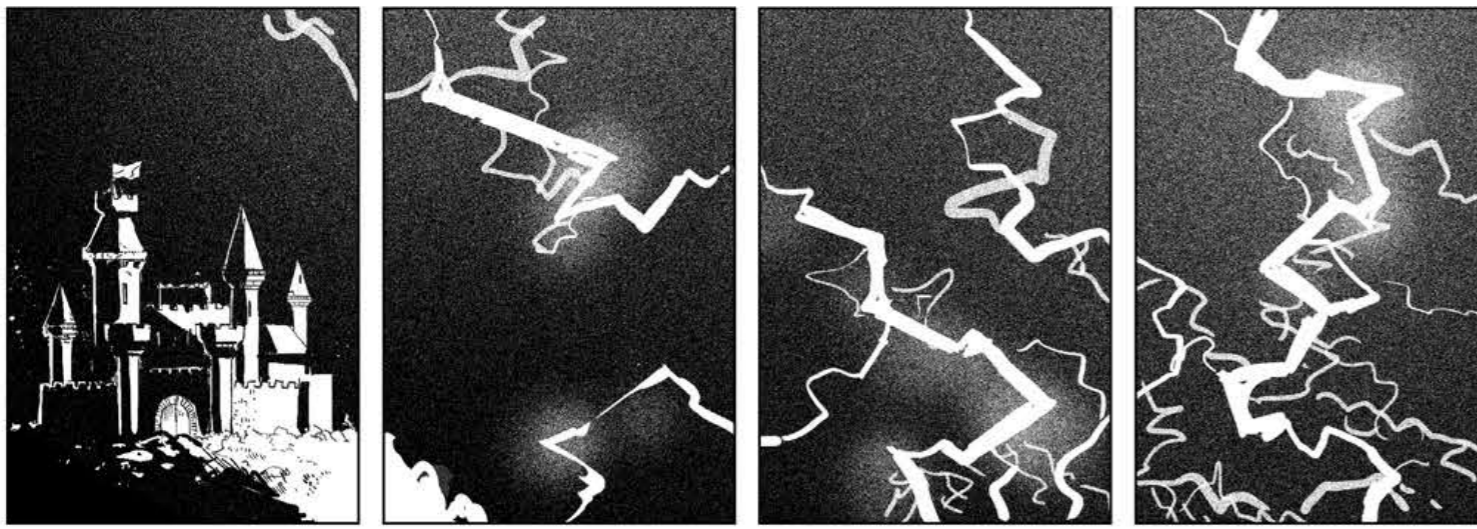


TRAGEDY OPENED OUR PASSAGE TO THE OUTSIDE WORLD!



SUCH A DISPLAY OF POWER, ADAM, I CANNOT BUT RUN IN HORROR.

ANYWAY, UNTIL NEXT TIME.



...TO BE CONTINUED

SEE YOU IN ABOUT ~~40~~⁵⁰ DAYS (IDEALLY; SOME ISSUES IT'S 60 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!

ah I wish...

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