

EXPLOSIVE



52: UN SUEÑO DE ACERO DENTRO DEL AGUA

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SCRIPT PENCILS
PANEL LAYOUT INK
COVER
TRANSLATION
(SORRY, ENGLISH SPEAKERS)

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*THEY SPEAK IN ENGLISH

YOU WERE LUCKY, I WAS GOING TO GO HOME FOR CHRISTMAS*.

IN THE UNITED STATES?

YES. BUT MY AUNT GOT SICK...

...SO I HAD THE PERFECT EXCUSE TO STAY IN FRANCE. SHE'S BETTER NOW.

OH. DID YOU LEARN A LOT OF FRENCH?*

AH... ONE... LITTLE... **

**FRENCH

SO, LIKE, YOU SPEAK ENGLISH, SPANISH AND FRENCH?

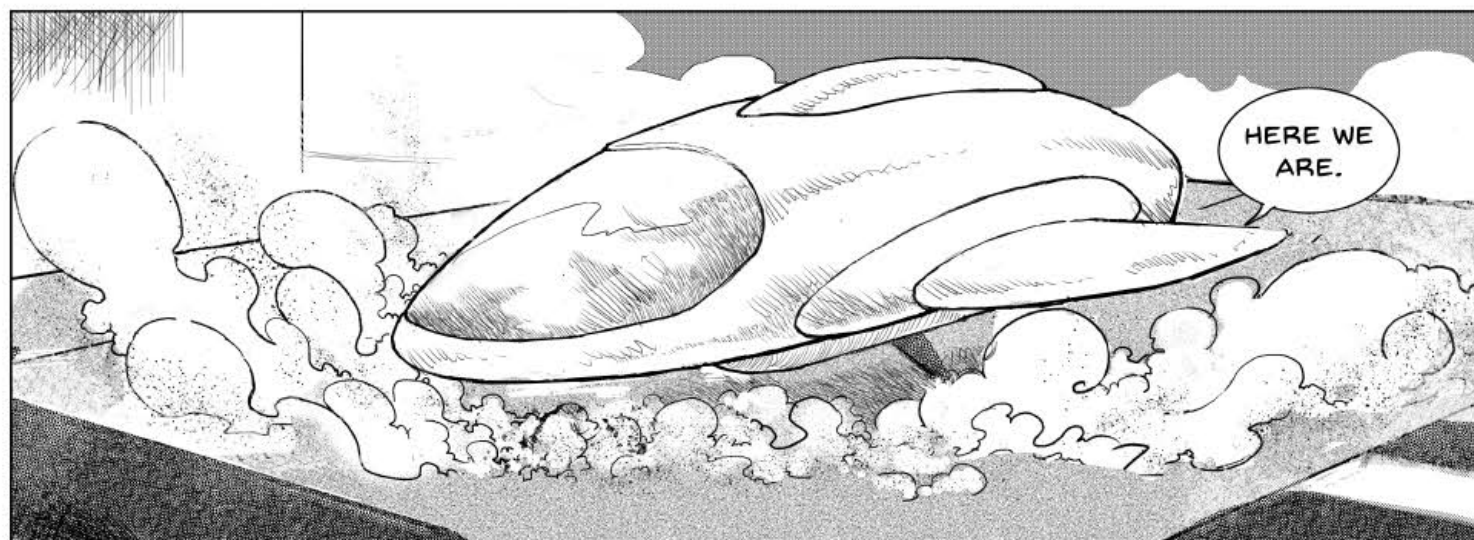
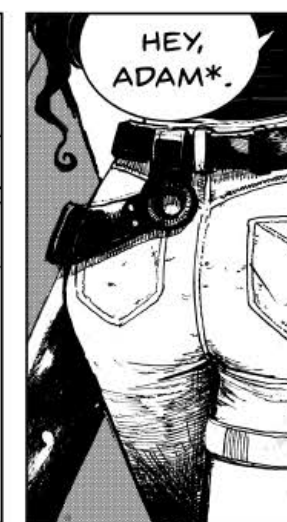
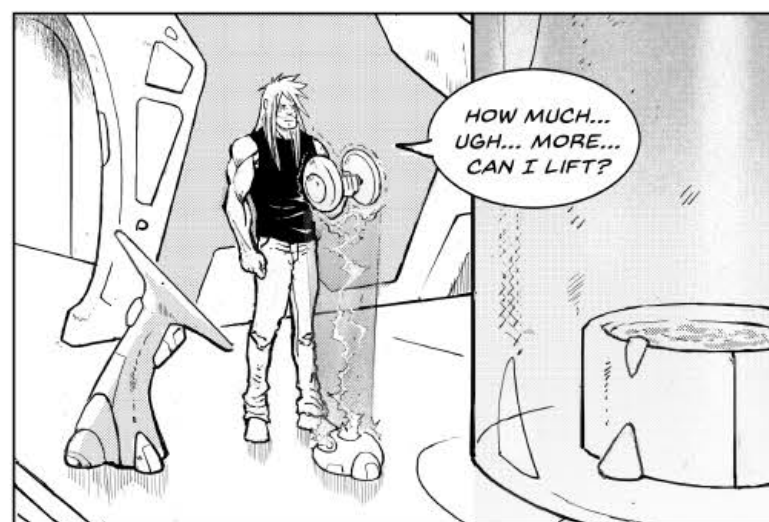
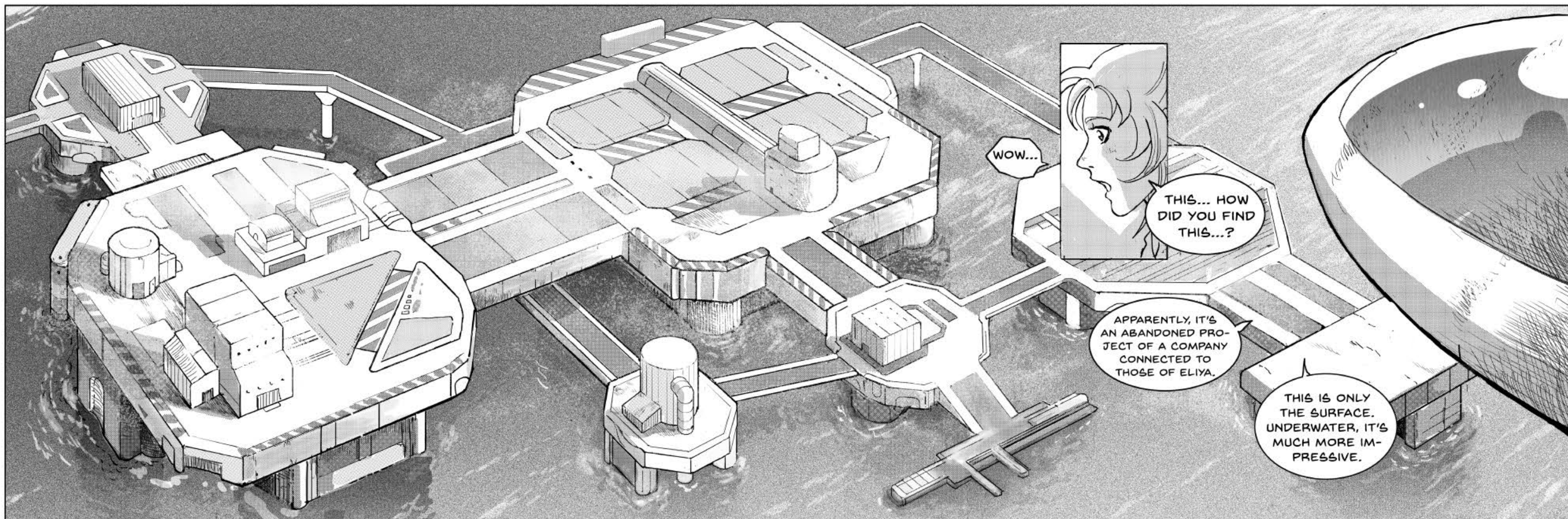
YES, WHEN MY MOTHER SEPARATED FROM MY FATHER, HE DIDN'T WANT TO RETURN TO SPAIN.

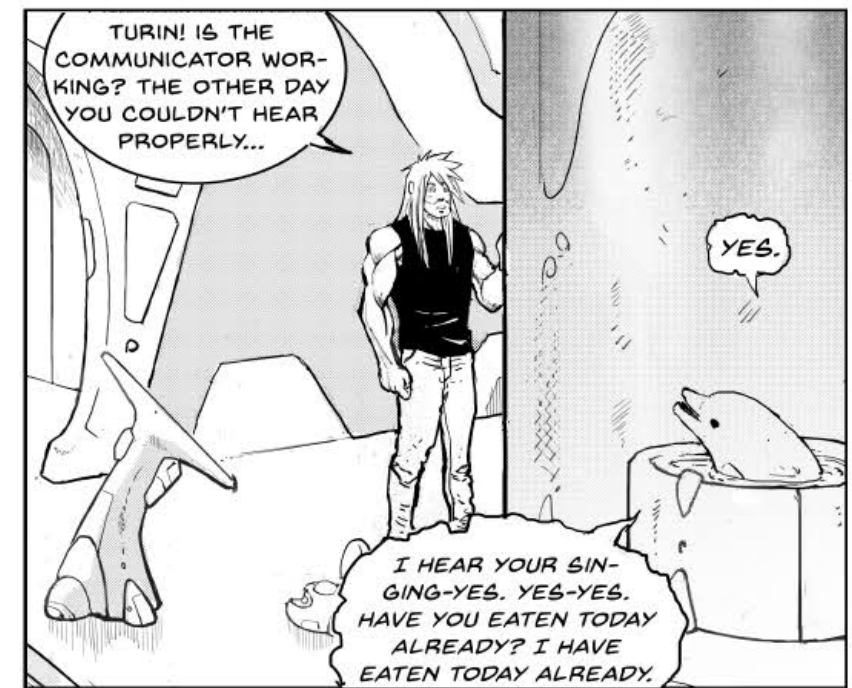
HE OPENED A SPANISH RESTAURANT IN FRANCE. BETWEEN SCHOOL AND HOME, I LEARNED ALL THREE LANGUAGES.

WOW. THAT'S... AMAZING.

ZZZ...

HAH. NO. BUT YOU ARE FROM AMERICA.





HOW ARE YOU AND YOUR GROUP DOING? EVERYTHING OKAY?

IT'S ALL DANCE-TOGETHER, ESSEX FRIEND. I TAUGHT THEM THE SHADOW-FOLLOWING GAME YOU TAUGHT ME.

I WOULD MAKE A GESTURE AND SOMEONE HAD TO GUESS WHAT IT WAS BY COMPLETING THE GESTURE.

OUR WARMTH WAS GREATER, AND THERE ARE FEMALE DOLPHINS THAT DO DANCES FOR ME-NOW, YES.

IT'S JUST... THIS PLACE... IT'S A HAVEN FOR PEOPLE LIKE US.

A SPACE TO LIVE IN FREEDOM, AND YOU'VE **CREATED** IT. YOU'VE CHANGED THE WORLD, EVEN IF IT'S JUST A LITTLE BIT...

AH... I DON'T KNOW. I DON'T MEAN... YOU'VE DONE SOMETHING **SIGNIFICANT**, IRINA... I... I DON'T FEEL LIKE I'VE ACCOMPLISHED ANYTHING.

-TSK-, SCRATCH THAT. I GET SO TIRED OF MY BOSS MODE. ANYWAY, WHY DO YOU SAY ENVY? YOU'RE PART OF THIS TOO, RIGHT?

SOMETIMES IT'S A LITTLE DIFFICULT TO CARRY ALL THIS, YOU KNOW? AND THERE'S ALWAYS...

WHAT? BUT YOU TORE THROUGH THAT EBI BASE, EVEN WITH FREI AND SOME HERMITE EXECUTIONERS THERE. THE BOYS IN OUR ORGANIZATION HAVE ALREADY PUT YOU THREE AT THE UPPER-MIDDLE LEVEL OF POWER IN THEIR RANKINGS.

I THINK WHATEVER YOU SET YOUR MIND TO YOU CAN... BUT THAT'S IT, ISN'T IT? WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO?

OH, UHM... THANKS. BUT ALL THE CABALISTS HAVE HELPED IN ONE WAY OR ANOTHER, ADAM.

BUT THANK YOU. YOU ARE VERY KIND. WE'VE WORKED VERY HARD TO ACHIEVE THIS.



COME IN.

HE... HERE?



ACCORDING TO ALLY, YOU HAVE BEEN RESURRECTED. IT'S NOT VERY PLAUSIBLE, BUT AT LEAST IT'S SOMETHING TANGIBLE TO START WITH.

YES. I'M GOING TO EXAMINE YOU NOW.

YOU DON'T REMEMBER ANYTHING ABOUT WHO YOU ARE AND YOU'VE FOUND NO DOCUMENTS BECAUSE YOU ARE A PRIEST, RIGHT?

CAN I GO EXPLORE?

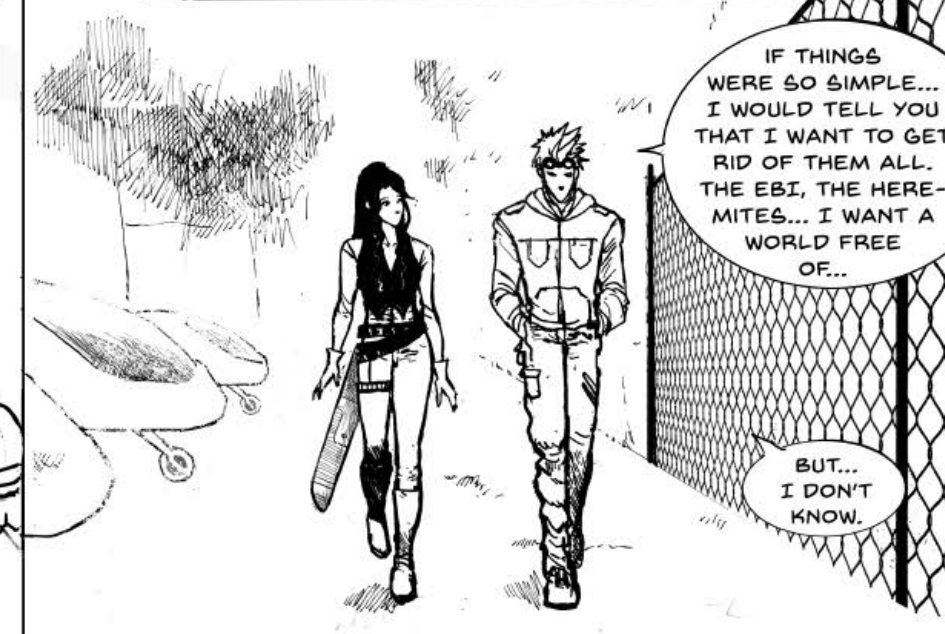
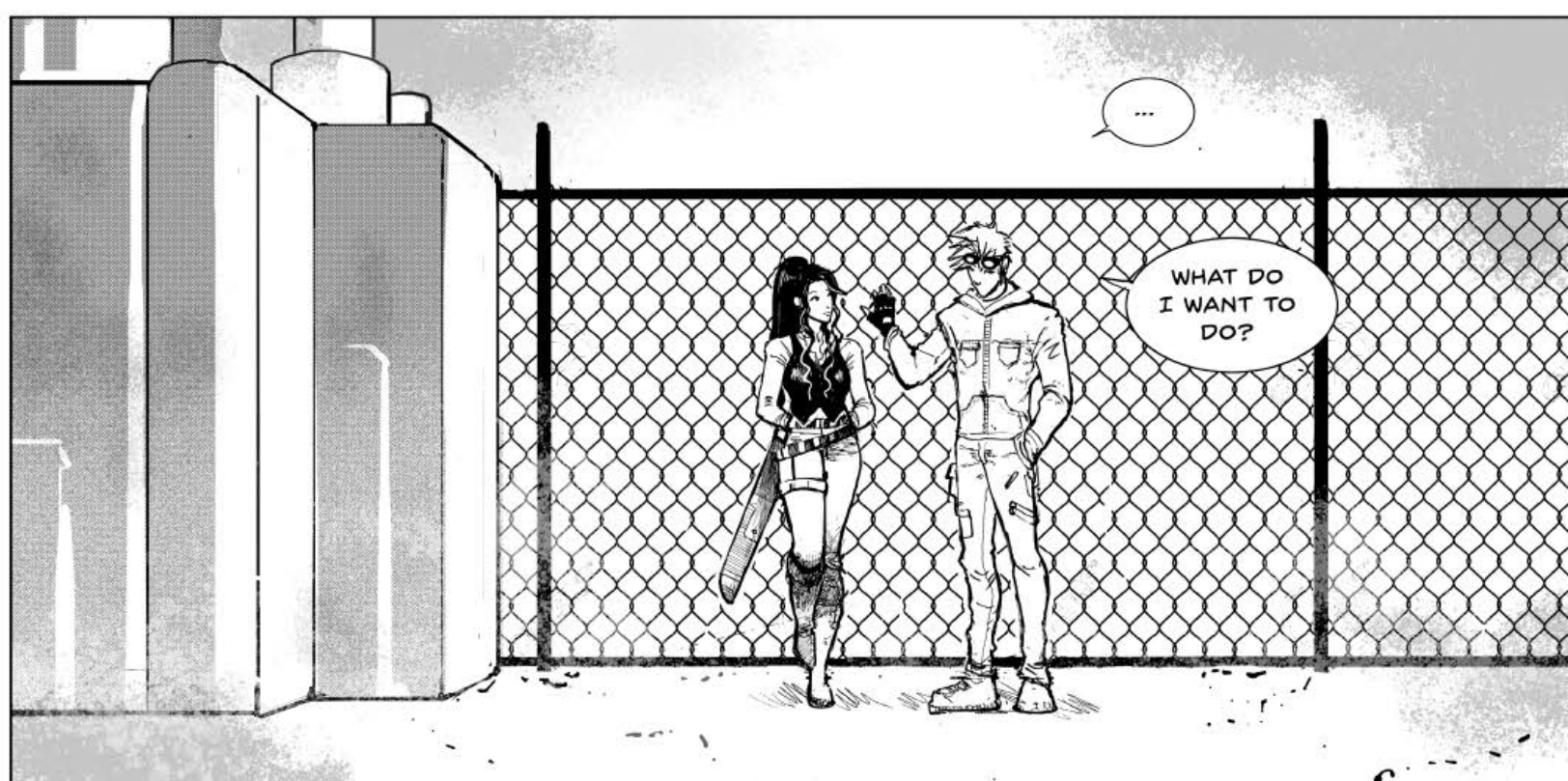
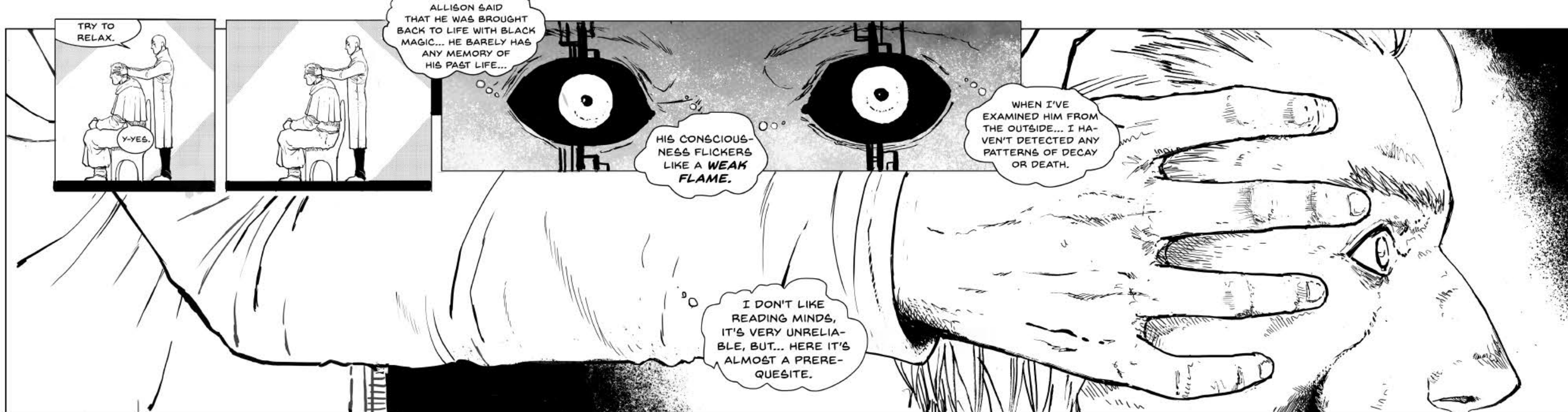
HM? SURE, BUT... BE CAREFUL. WHY DON'T YOU GO WITH ESSEX? HIS ROOM IS THREE DOORS FROM MINE, LAST ONE OF THE CORRIDOR.

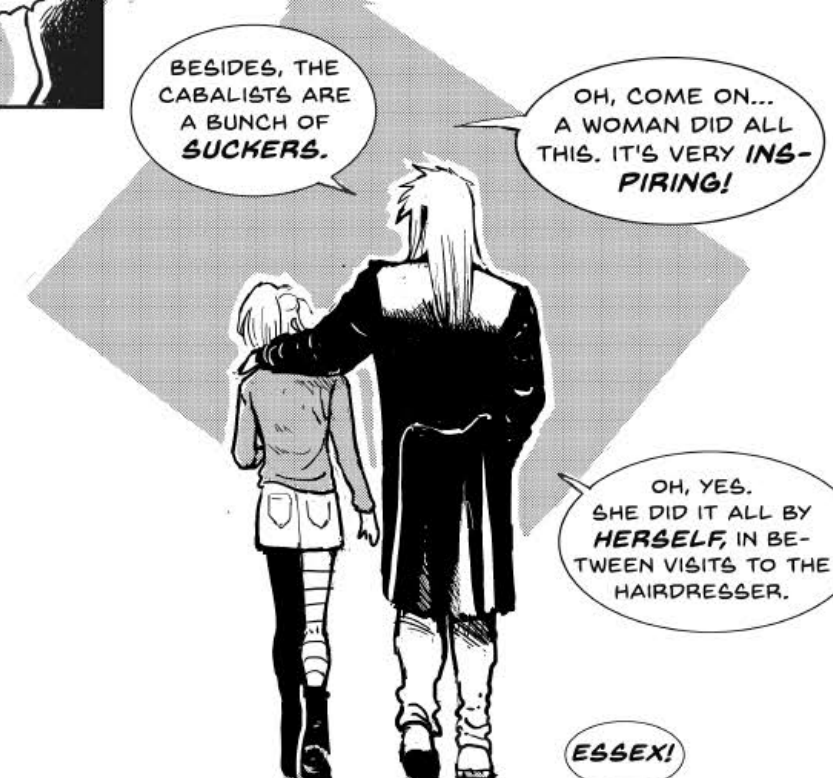
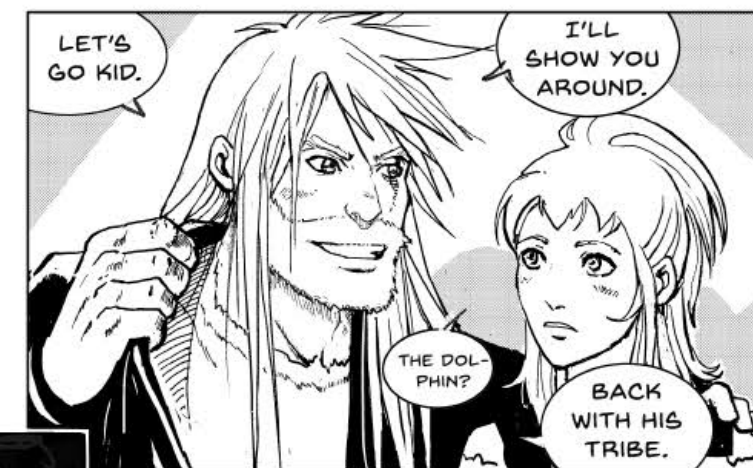
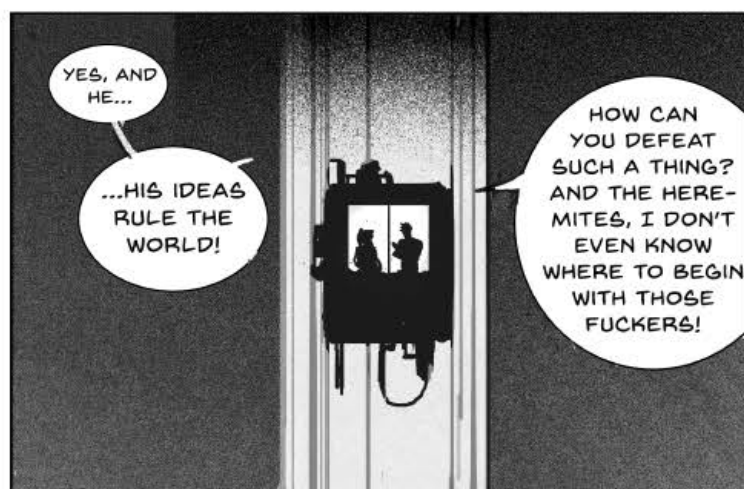
COOL.

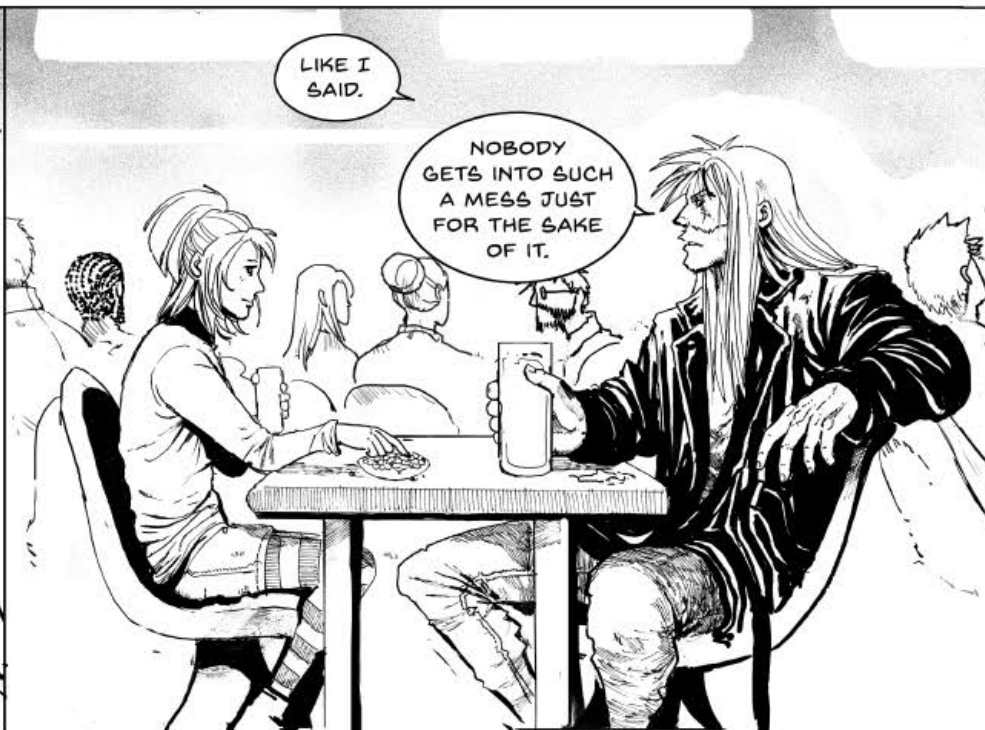
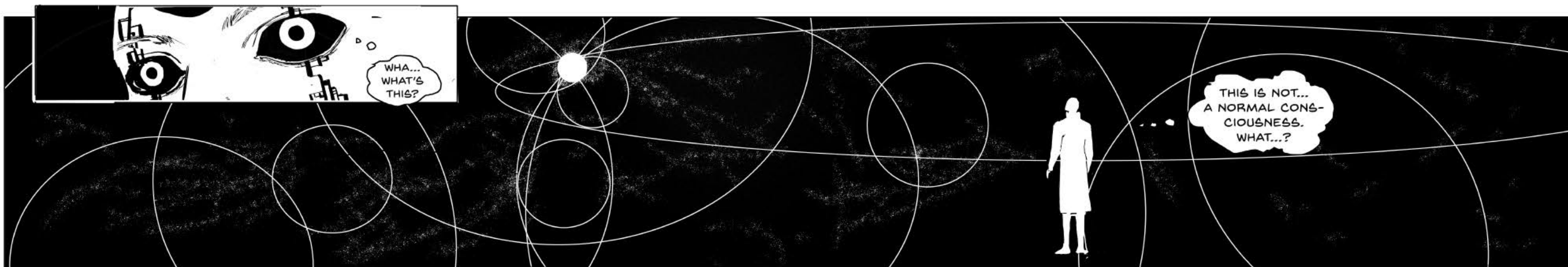
TONY, I'LL BE BACK SOON, OKAY?

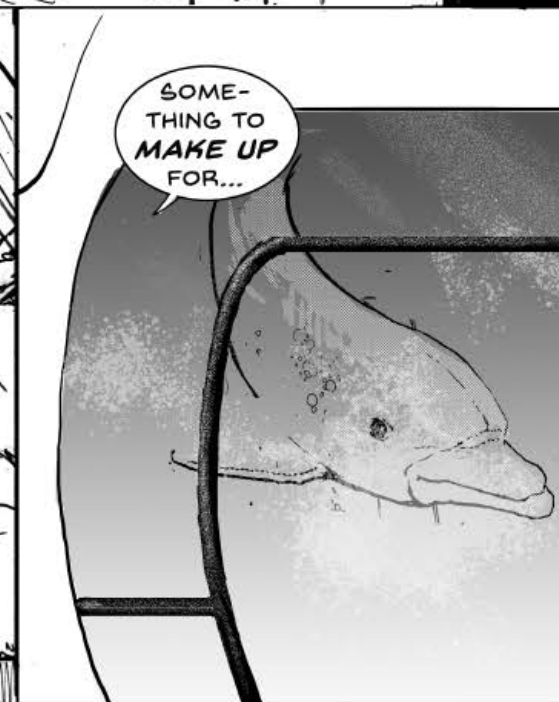
WOW...

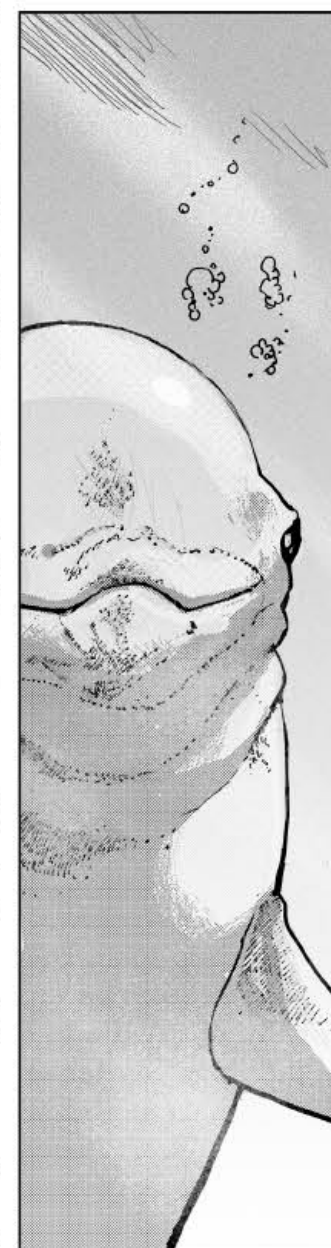
SO AMAZING. AND THE BOSS IS A WOMAN, RIGHT? INCREDIBLE.

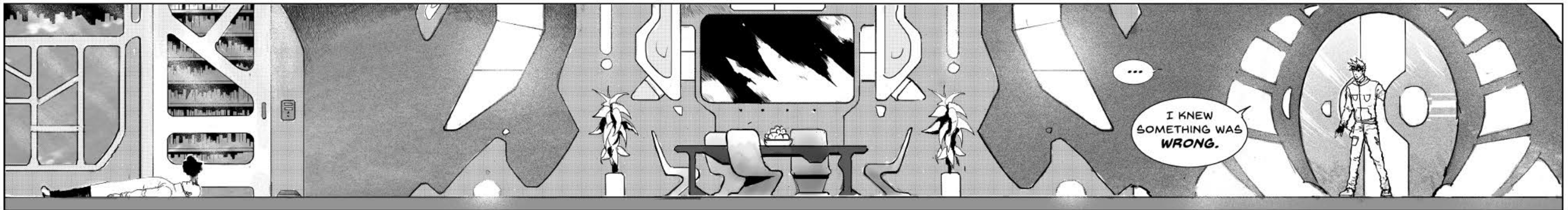
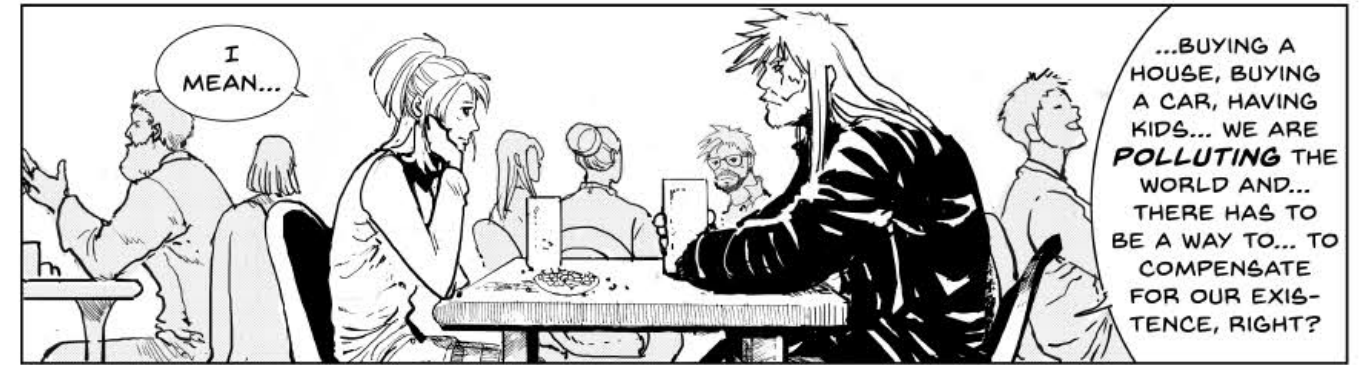
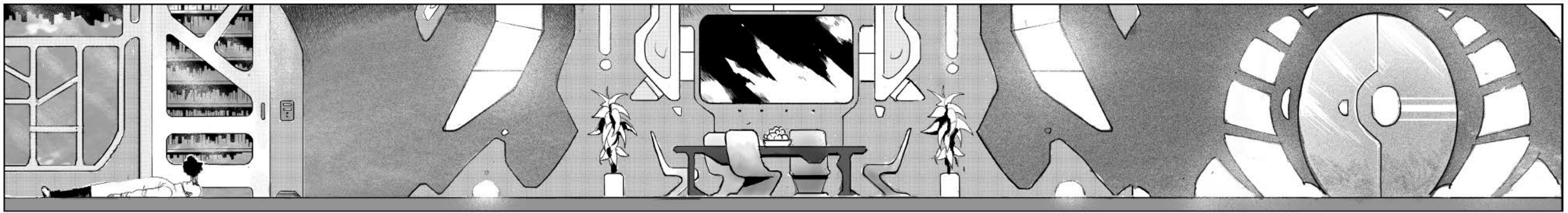




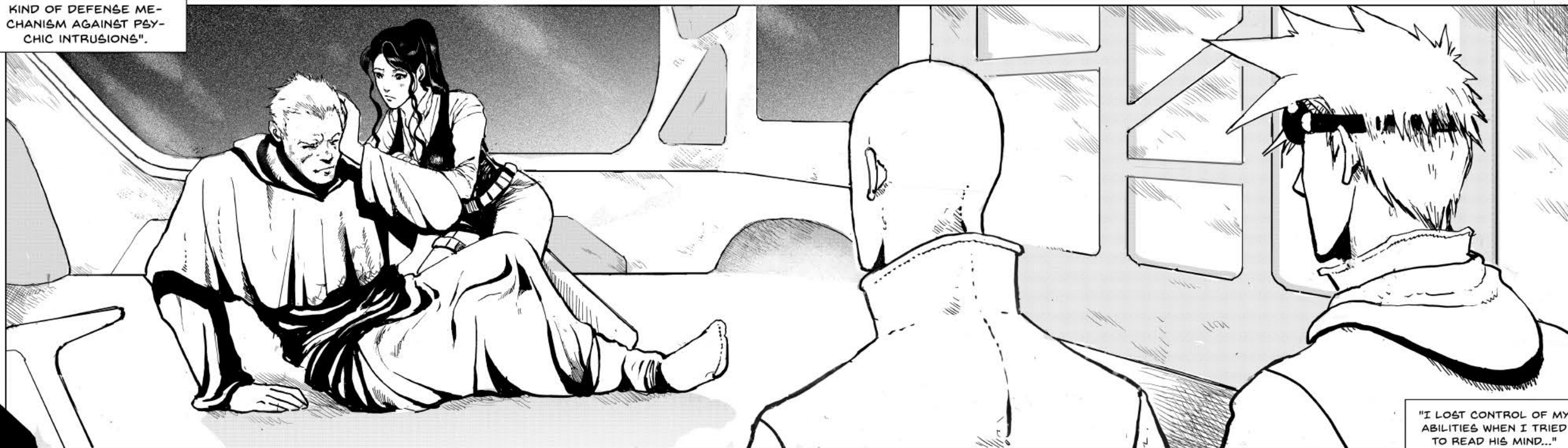








"THE PRIEST HAS SOME KIND OF DEFENSE MECHANISM AGAINST PSYCHIC INTRUSIONS".



"I LOST CONTROL OF MY ABILITIES WHEN I TRIED TO READ HIS MIND..."

HIS CONSCIOUSNESS IS COMPRESSED, WHICH IS WHY SOMETIMES HE DOESN'T SEEM TO BE PRESENT.

ONE THING I CAN ASSURE YOU, HE NEVER DIED.

HE HAS NO NECROSIS PATTERNS.

HIS SUPPOSED DEATH SEEMS MORE LIKE A... KIND OF **STASIS**.

I SUSPECT THAT THE GUYS WHO TRIED TO RESSURRECT HIM SIMPLY BROKE THAT STASIS.

SO THEN... WHAT DO WE DO?

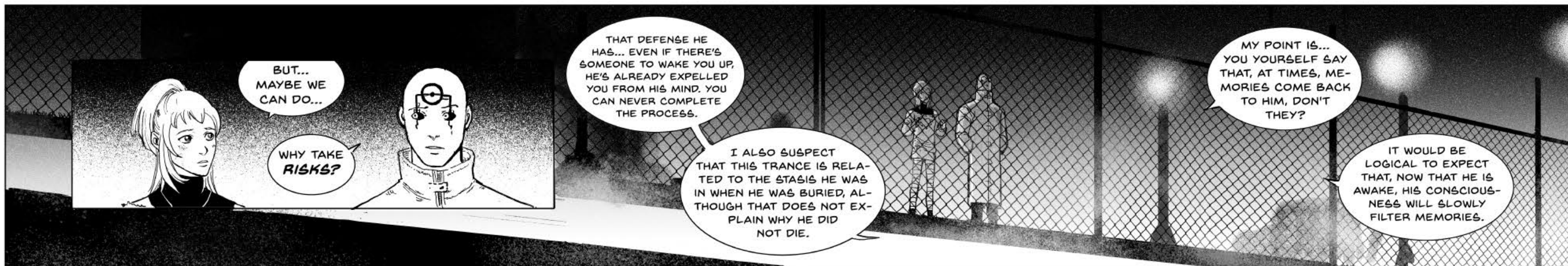
MAYBE WE CAN TRY TO...

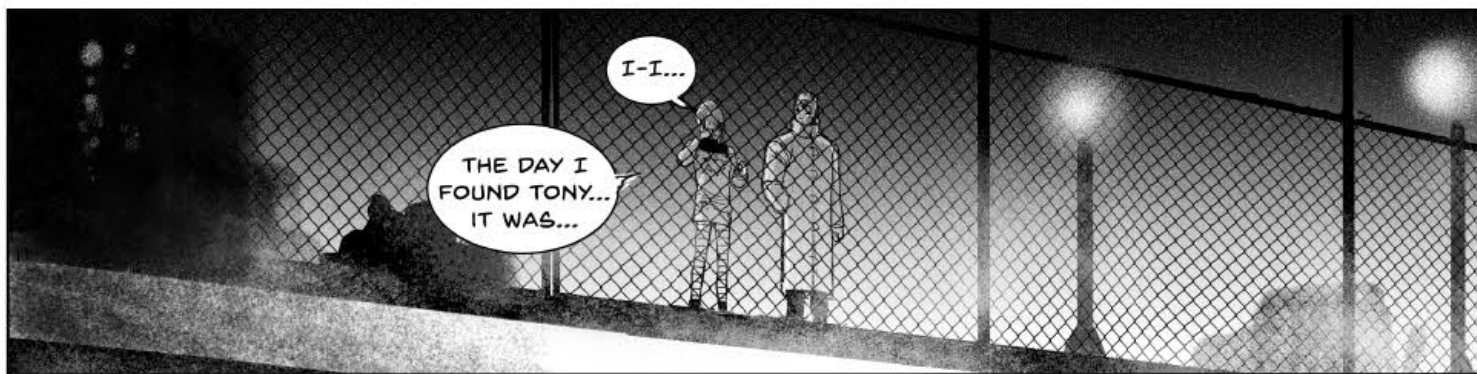
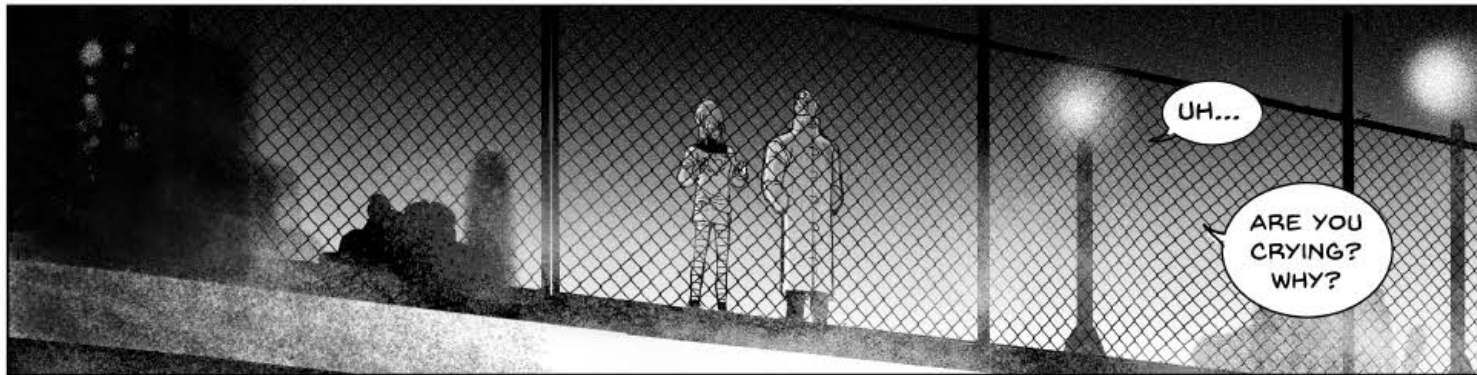
I DON'T THINK IT'S A **GOOD IDEA**, ALLISON.

THAT DEFENSE MECHANISM... I THINK THAT AS SOON AS IT DETECTS AN INTRUSION IN YOUR MIND, IT GENERATES AN ATTACK THAT SEEKS TO LEAVE YOU IN SOME KIND OF **COMATOSE TRANCE**. I WAS AWAKENED BEFORE THE PROCESS WAS COMPLETED, BUT I HAVEN'T SEEN A WAY TO BYPASS IT.

MOREOVER, THIS PROTECTION SEEMS TO BE **INTERTWINED** WITH HIS OWN MIND, WHICH IS IN A VERY FRAIL STATE...

THOSE ARE TWO VERY RELEVANT RISK FACTORS.





...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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