

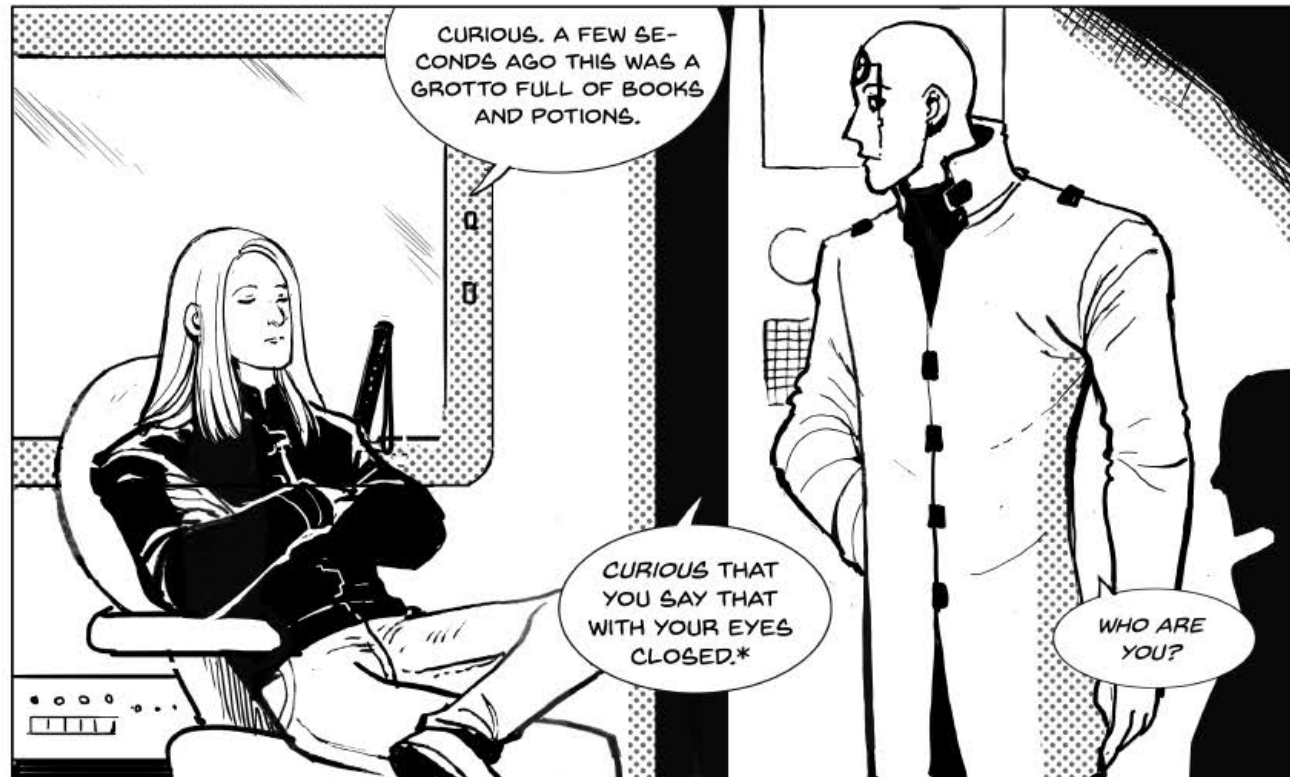
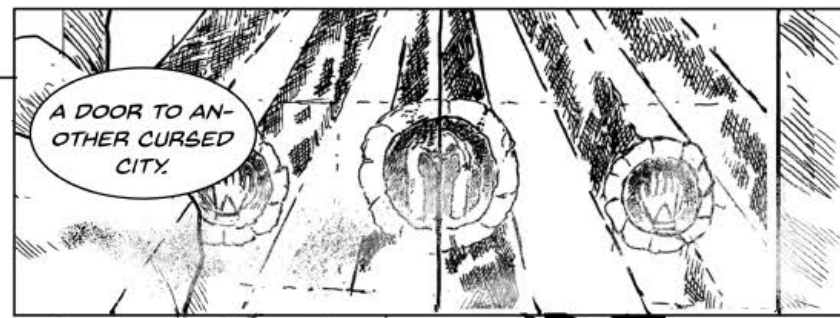
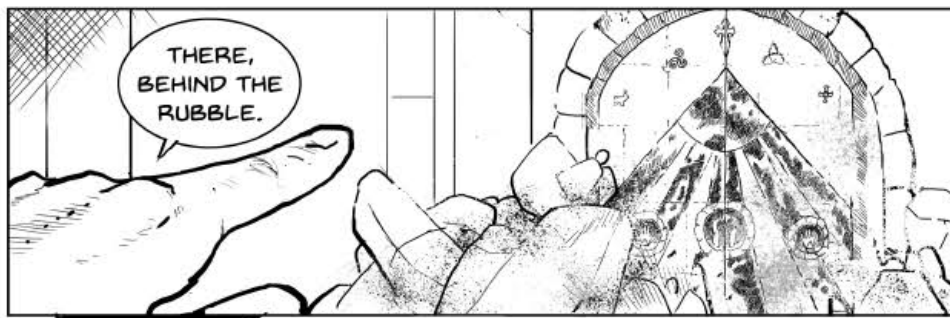
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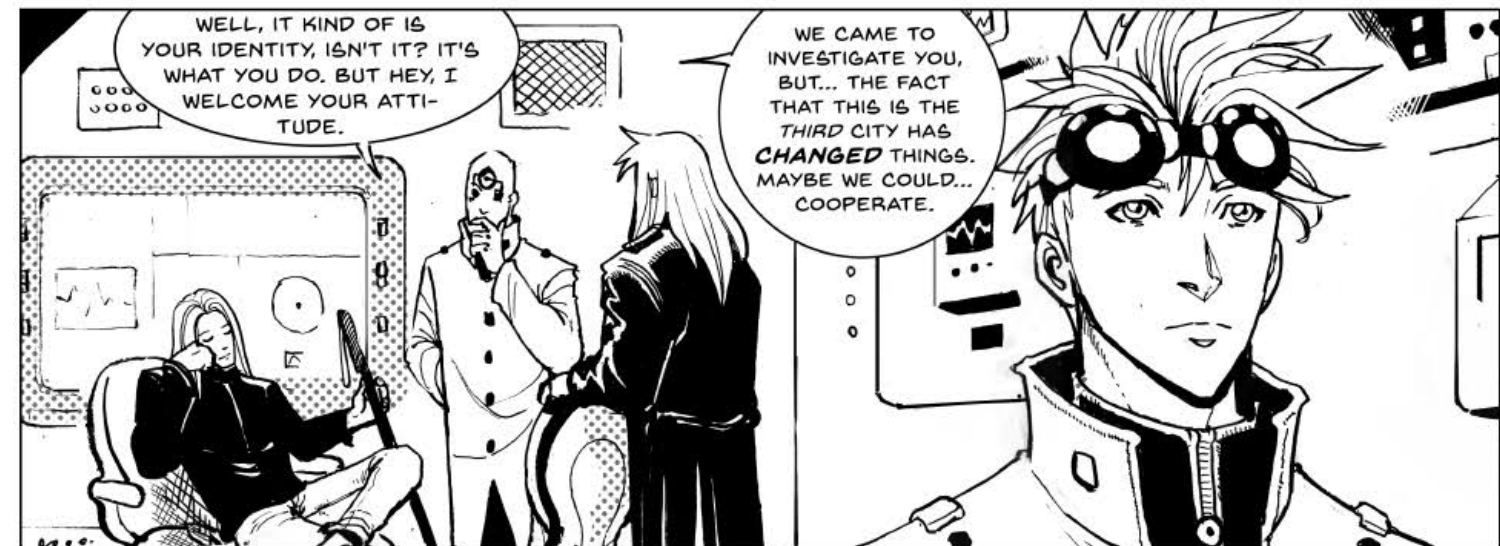
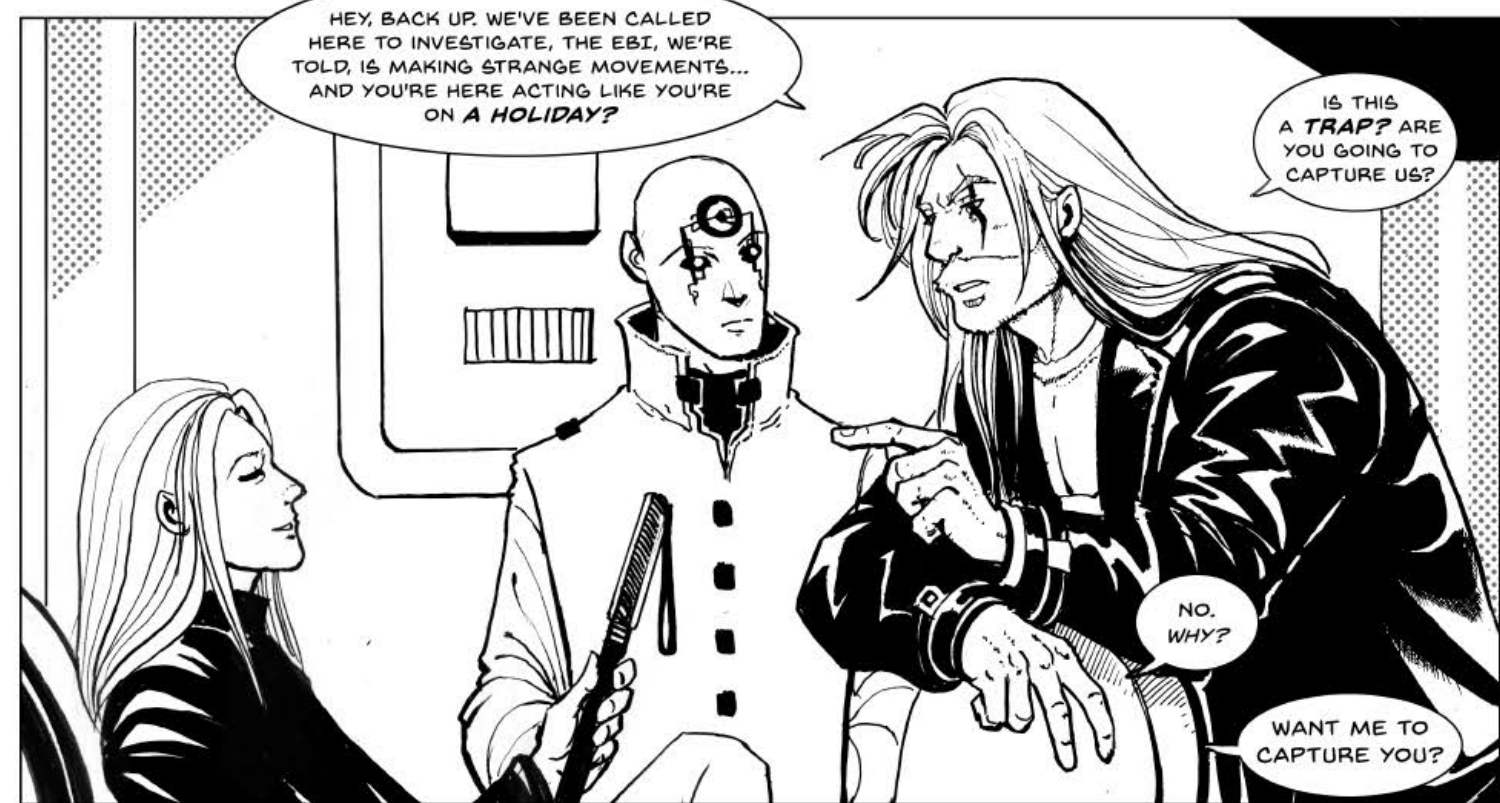
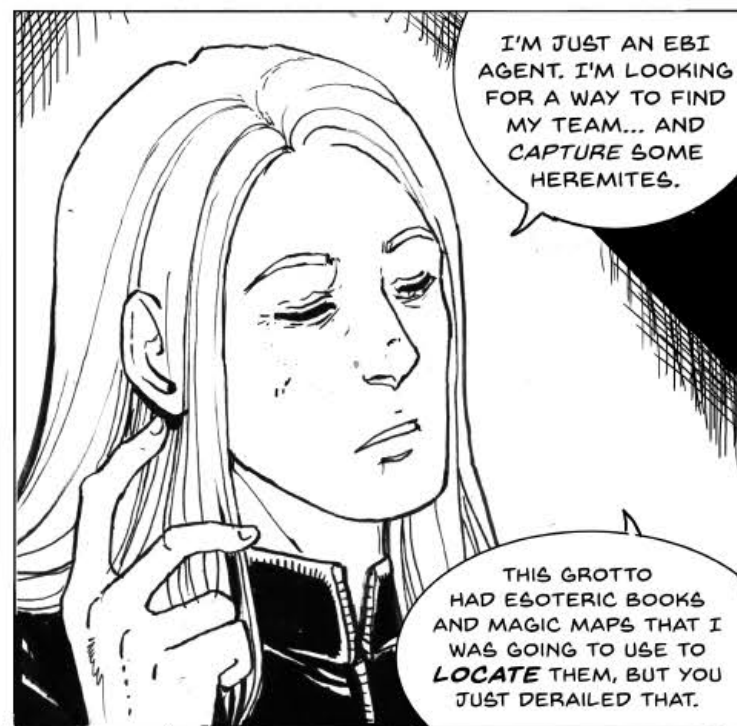
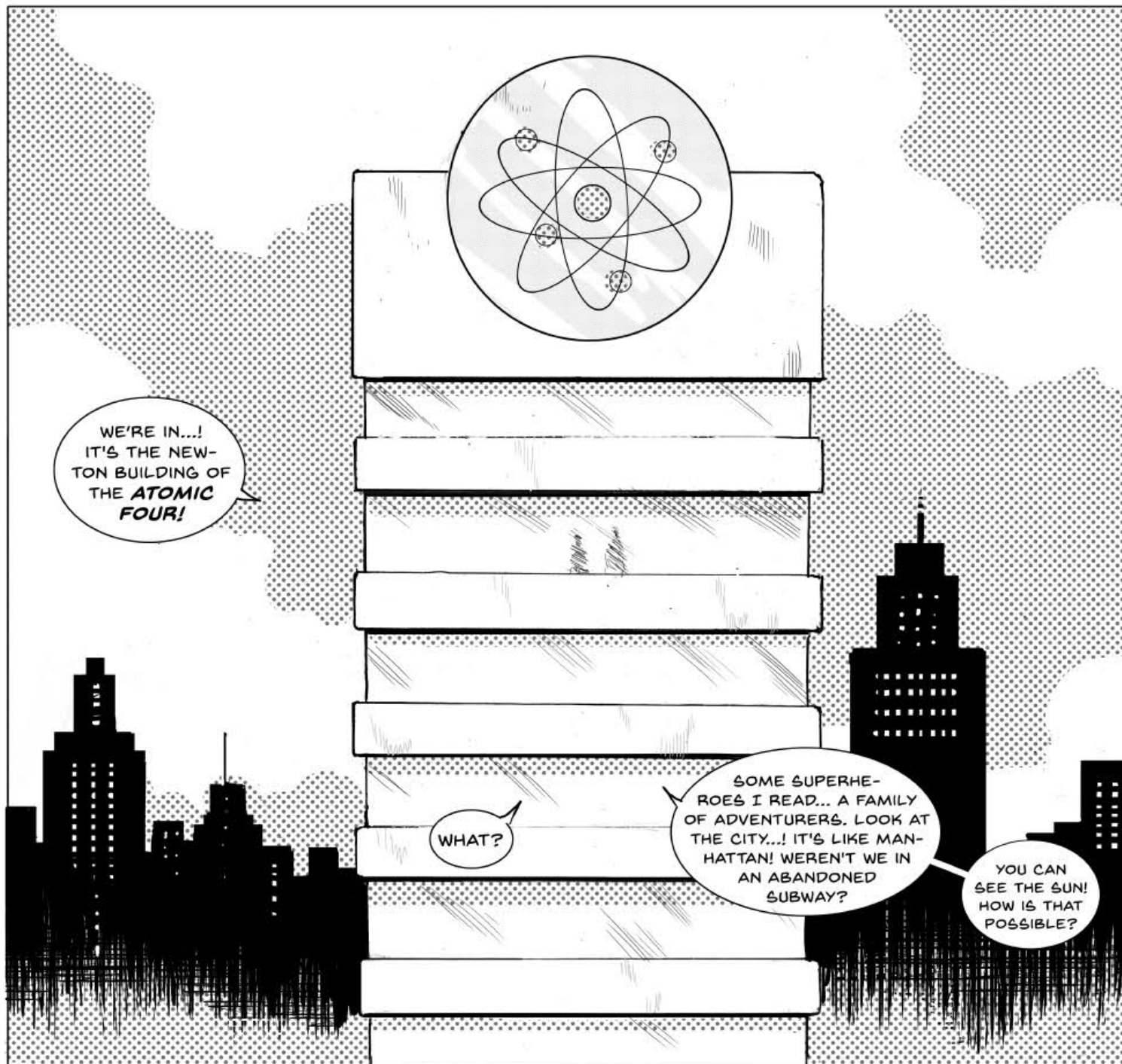














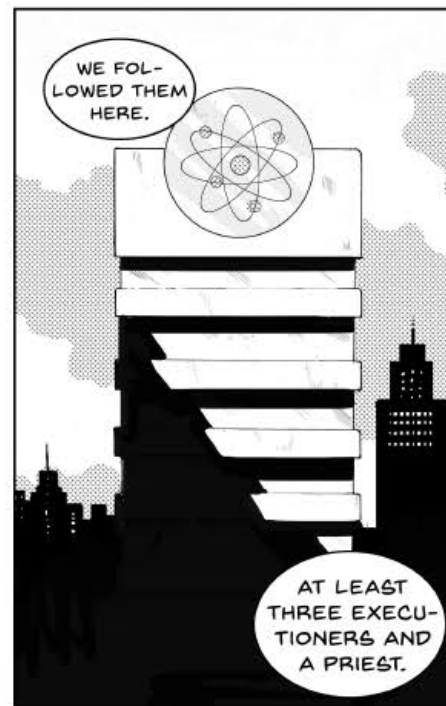


SO... DO WE TRUST HIM?

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?

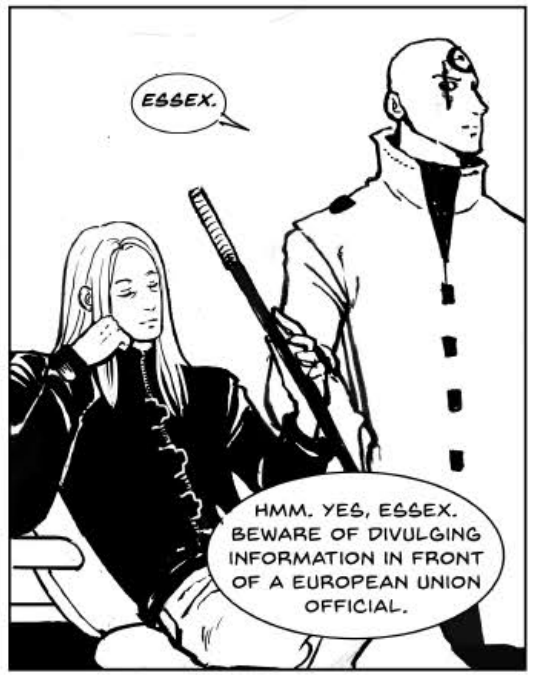
THIS GUY SAYS THERE ARE HERMITES HERE, RIGHT?

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...!



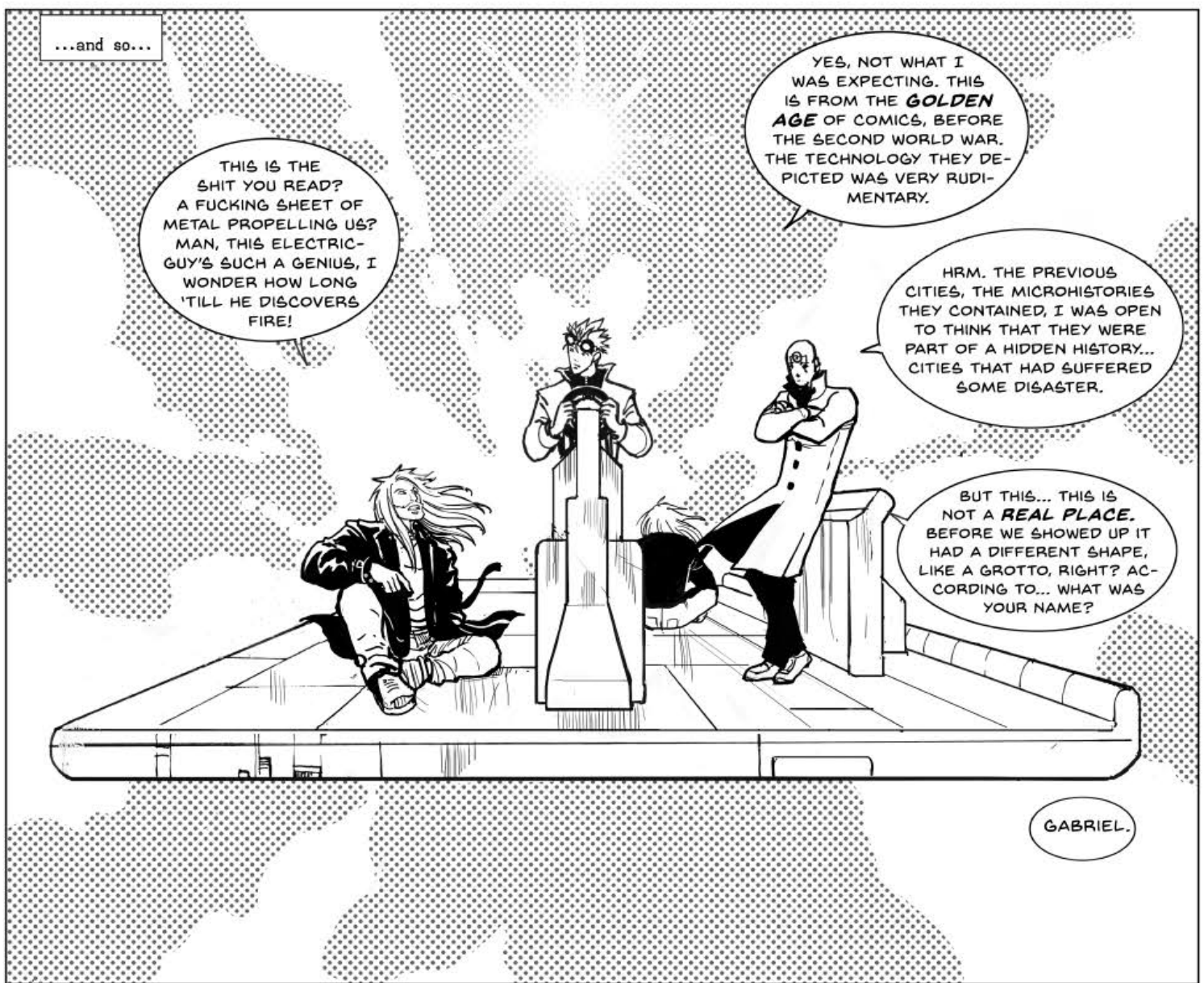
ESSEX.

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 GROTTO, RIGHT? ACCORDING TO... WHAT WAS YOUR NAME?

GABRIEL.



HAVE ANY IDEA WHAT THE HERMITES ARE LOOKING FOR HERE?



INTERESTING. YOU DON'T KNOW? THE EBI 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.



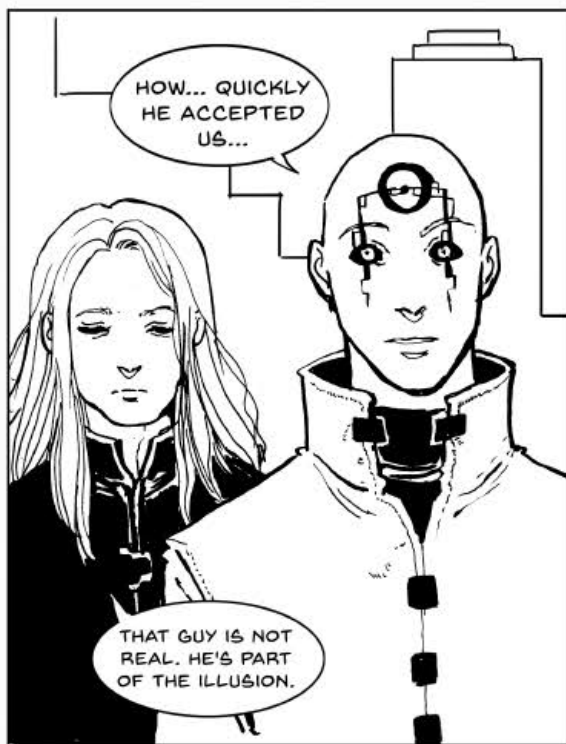


YOU'RE FINALLY HERE! THE ATOMIC FOUR'S BACKUP TEAM, BLESS BE GOD!



HEY, DID...

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

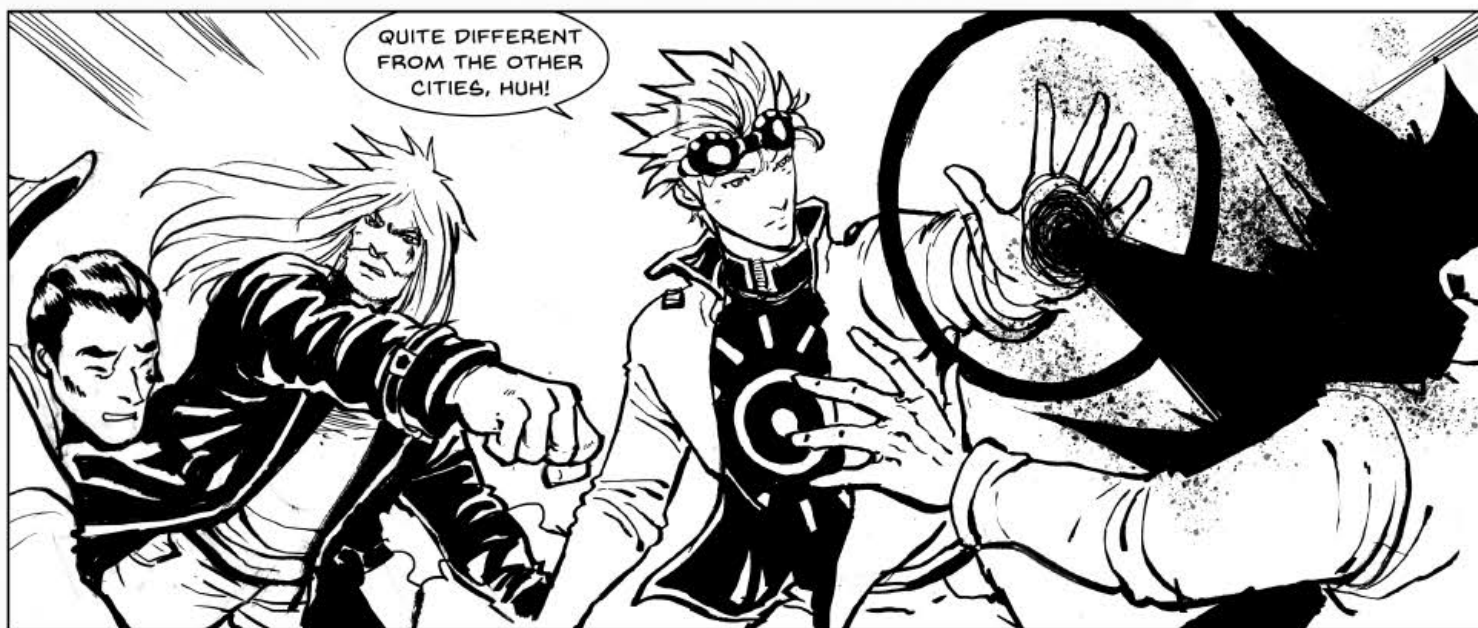


HOW... QUICKLY HE ACCEPTED US...

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



AAGH! WHO DARES TO ATTACK THE BAND OF THE GREAT DOCTOR TAIYO-WAI?



QUITE DIFFERENT FROM THE OTHER CITIES, HUH!



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

THERE ARE STILL FIRE AND AIR...



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

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



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!



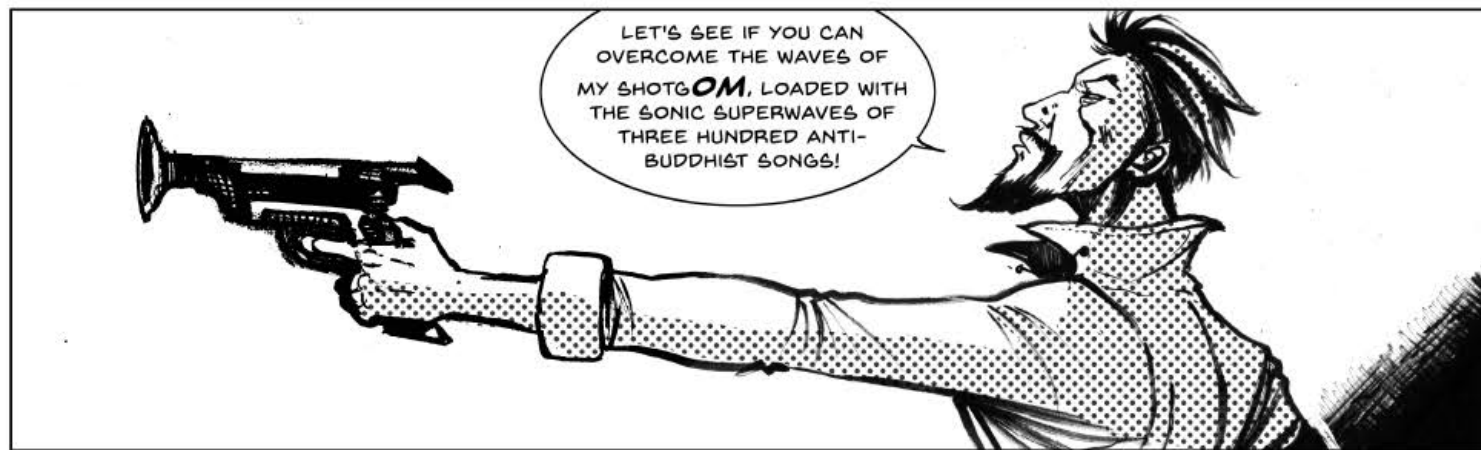
HA, HOW NOS-TALGIC. I DIDN'T EVEN READ MUCH OF THIS, BUT IT'S LIKE SEEING THE BEGINNING OF IT ALL...



GOSH-DARNIT! 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 THEO-  
LOGICAL-SOCIAL DIS-  
POSITION HAS PRO-  
TECTED YOU FROM  
MY SONIC SUPER-  
WAVES!

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?

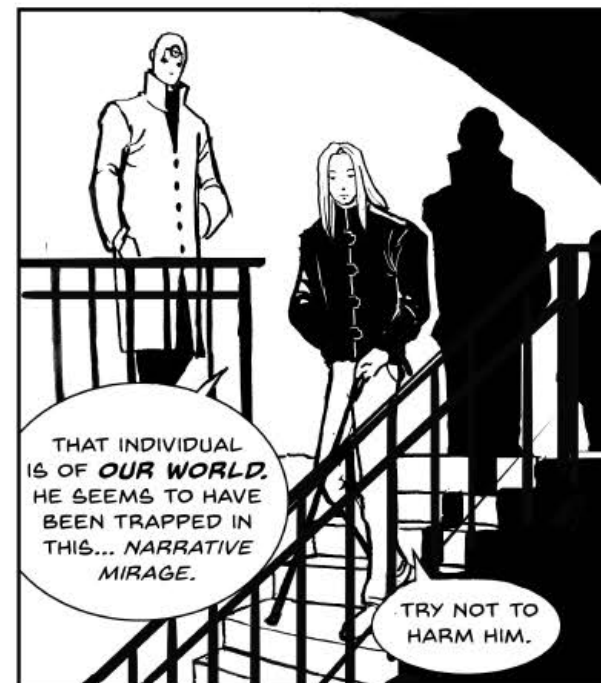
ANYONE ELSE?  
DO YOU THINK A  
GENIUS LIKE ME  
NEEDS SUPE-  
RIORS?

JUST BECAUSE  
THE FOUR DEMONS  
TOLD ME HOW TO USE  
THE X-DIAMONDS TO  
OPEN A PORTAL DOESN'T  
MEAN THAT MY IMPLA-  
CABLE 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.



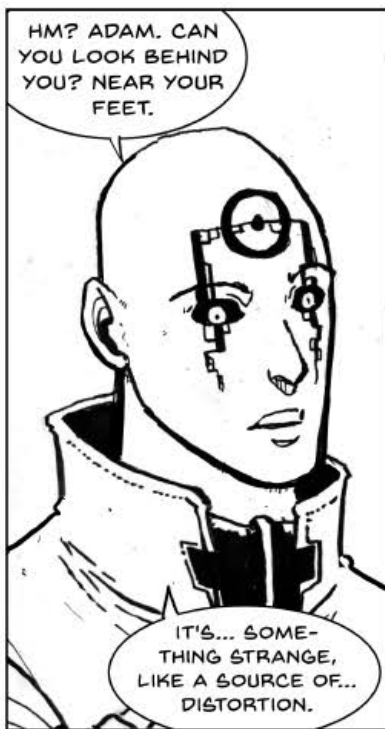
C'MON. IT'S  
A COMIC BOOK,  
WE'RE NOT TALKING  
MADAME BOVARY  
HERE.



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

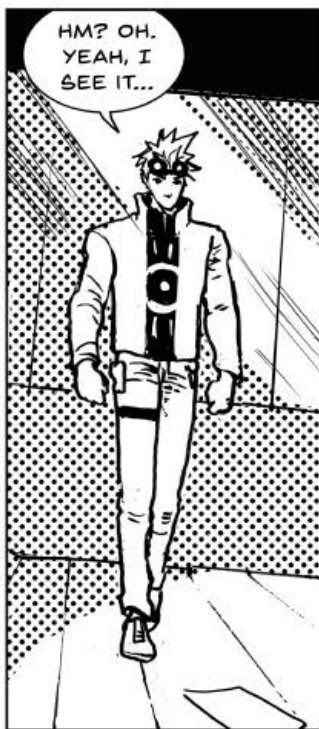
YES, THIS... IS A BIT  
CONFUSING. IF THE CITIES  
ARE NOT CAPSULES OF A  
TIME GONE BY... WHAT ARE  
THEY? WHO DID THIS? THE  
MAN-FROM-BEYOND?





HM? ADAM. CAN YOU LOOK BEHIND YOU? NEAR YOUR FEET.

IT'S... SOMETHING STRANGE, LIKE A SOURCE OF... DISTORTION.



HM? OH. YEAH, I SEE IT...



DOCTOR, WE'LL AVEN... OUFF!



DON'T TOUCH THAT, YOU MADMAN! THAT ARTIFACT IS PART OF THEIR DIMENSION. IT CAME WITH THE HOLOGRAMMATIC APPARITION OF THE DEMONS, IT CAN DESTROY REALITY!

CALM DOWN, BOSS, OR I'LL WHIP YOU.



BRING THAT HERE. MY THIRD EYE SEES IT... ILLUMINATED.



YES, IT'S... WELL, A COMIC PAGE. I SEE IT THAT WAY, AT LEAST.



WELL, WELL.



IF IT ISN'T OUR OLD FRIEND.

## The ORIGINS of the EBI! Part 2



SAUNIÈRE, EVILDOER OF THE DARK ARTS! YOUR REIGN OF TERROR IN FRANCE IS ABOUT TO COME TO AN END...!

...AT THE HANDS OF JOHN DEE III, KNIGHT OF THE MYSTIC ARTS, ASTROLOGER TO THE ENGLISH CROWN AND POTTER OF HIGH REPUTE!

GEE WHIZ! JOHN DEE AND KELLEY, THE SPECTER. WHAT A CHALLENGE TO MY PUGILISTIC SKILLS!

Be prepared, dear reader! This thrilling battle of the titans has only just begun...!



...with Saunière striking with the fury of a thousand titans!

OH, MY GOD, HE HIT ME WITH THE FURY OF A THOUSAND TITANS!

...TOO BAD MY JAW HAS THE RESISTANCE OF A THOUSAND AND ONE TITANS, SAUNIÈRE!

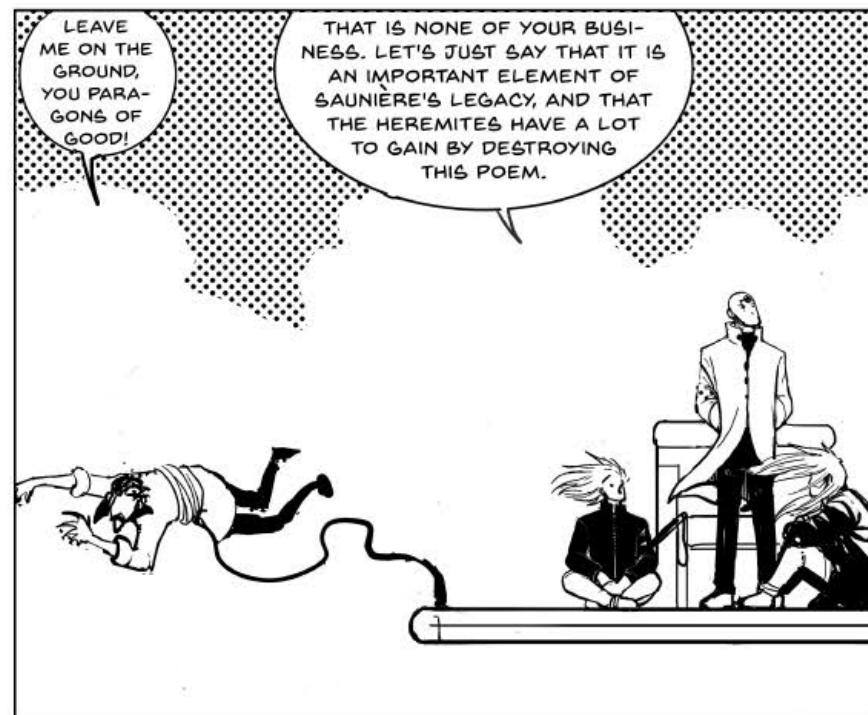


WHAT WILL YOU DO NOW, YOU BARBARIC FRENCH ANTI-MONARCHIST, NOW THAT MY SPECTRE CAUGHT YOU!

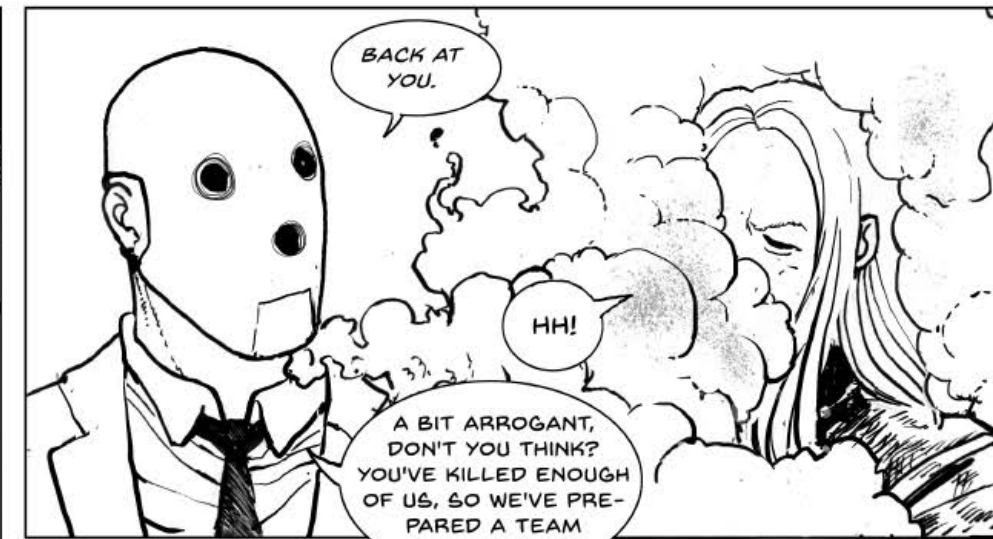
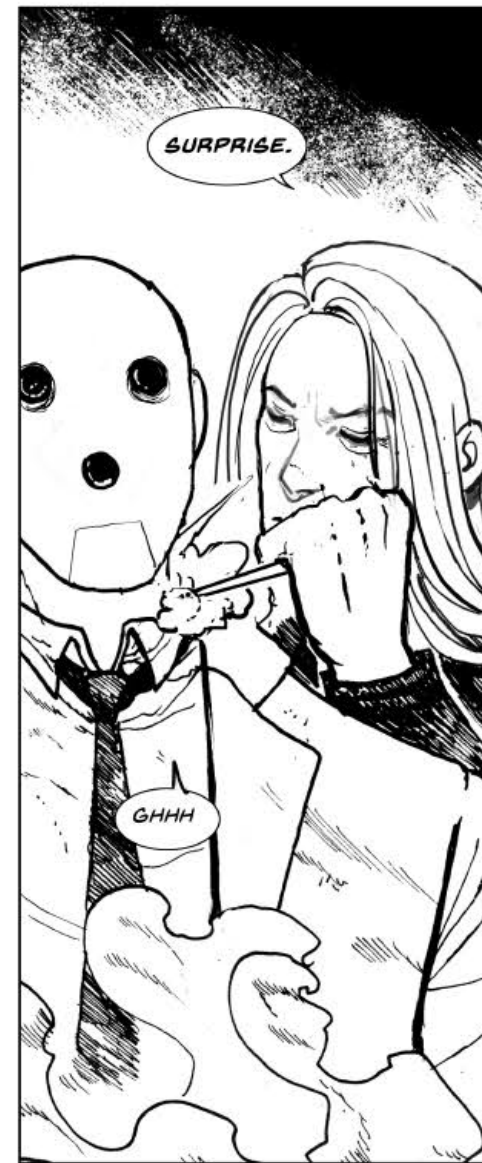
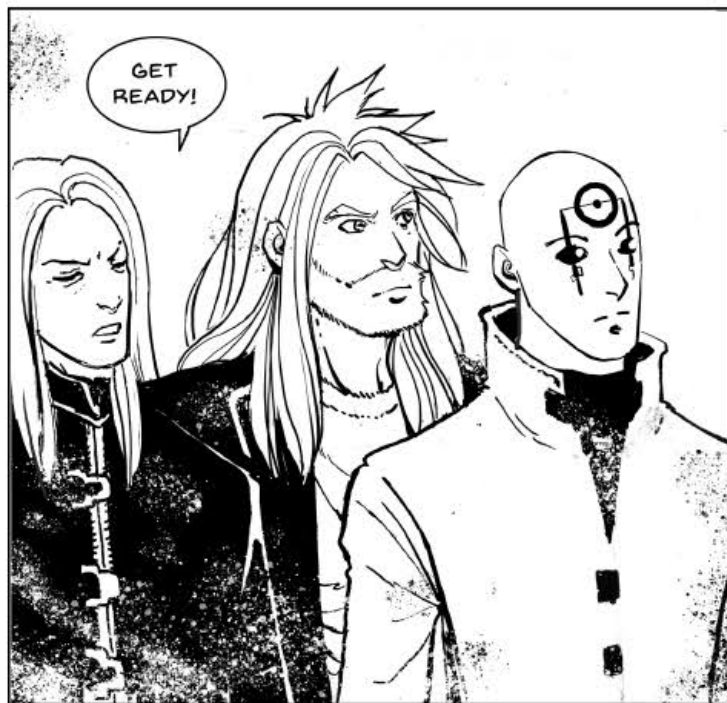
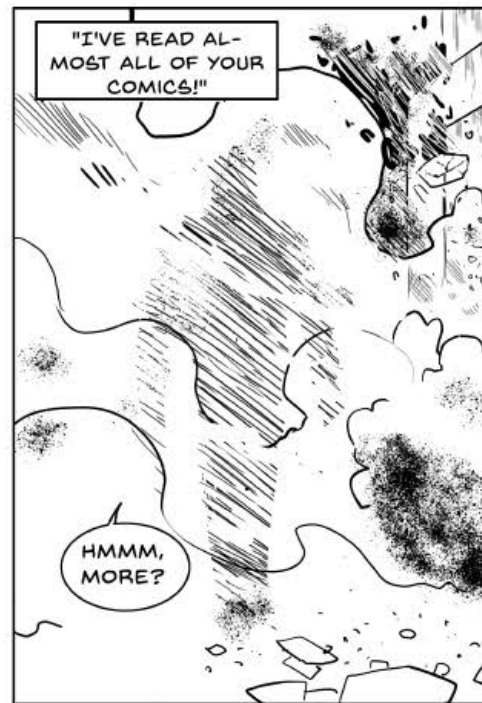
BY THE REPUBLICAN ANTI-GODS! WHAT SHALL I DO NOW THAT HE HAS CAUGHT ME? WHAT SHALL I DO?!

Good question, Saunière! What shall you DO?

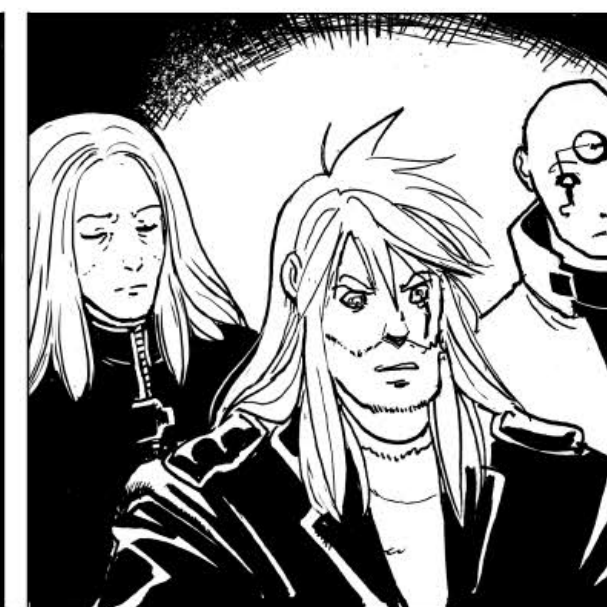
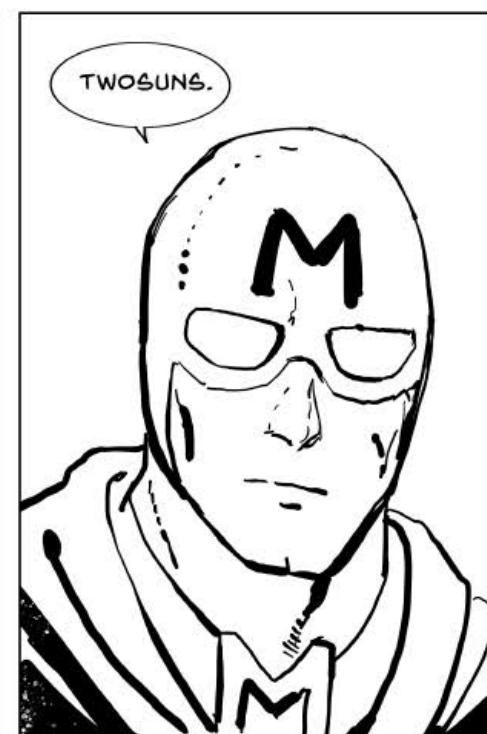
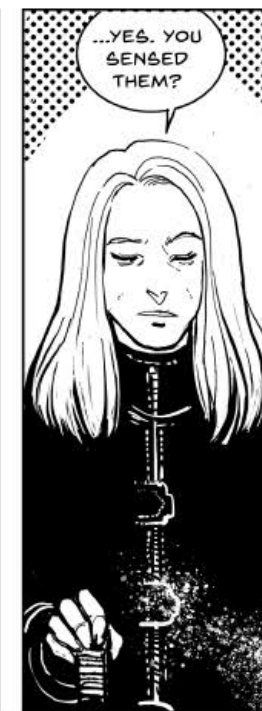
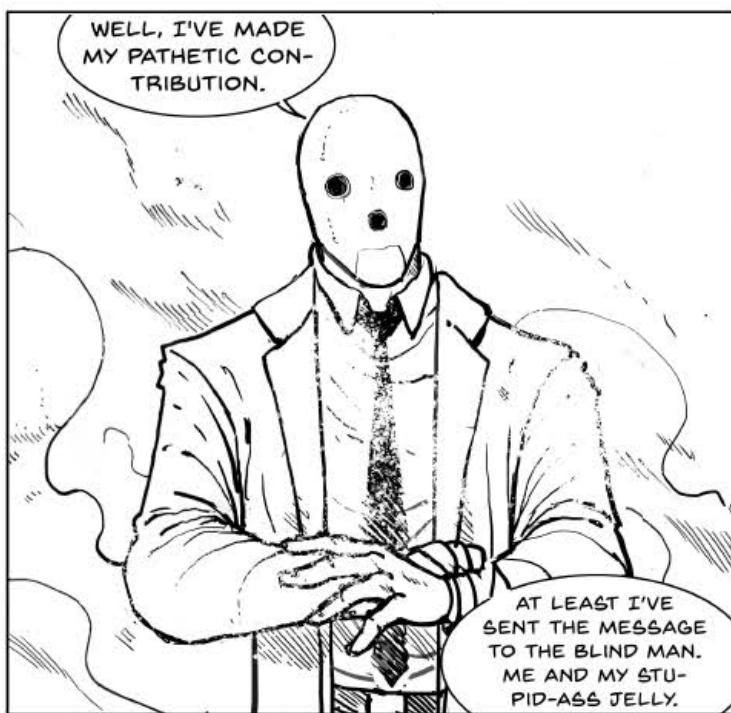
















## ...TO BE CONTINUED

SEE YOU IN AROUND 40 DAYS (IDEALLY, FOR CERTAIN ISSUES IS MORE LIKE 50 OR, UHM... MORE. WE UPDATE THE RELEASE DATE ON A PINNED POST ON FACEBOOK). IF YOU'RE INTERESTED IN HELPING US REACH A FASTER RELEASE SCHEDULE, WHILE ALSO GETTING **DRAWINGS/SKETCHES** OF FUTURE EPISODES, **EARLY ACCESS** TO A WORK-IN-PROGRESS VERSION OF THE NEXT ISSUE, OR **VIDEOS** SHOWING HOW WE MAKE A PAGE (USUALLY THE COVER), PLEASE CONSIDER SUPPORTING US THROUGH PATREON AT THE 3\$ PLEDGE LEVEL (LINK BELOW). MAYBE WITH ENOUGH HELP WE'LL BE ABLE TO MAKE UPSURGE A **MONTHLY** SERIES. THANK YOU!

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