

WAPARK



39: CAJAS DE PANDORA

SIMON M. ATANA S.

SCRIPT
PANEL LAYOUT
COVER

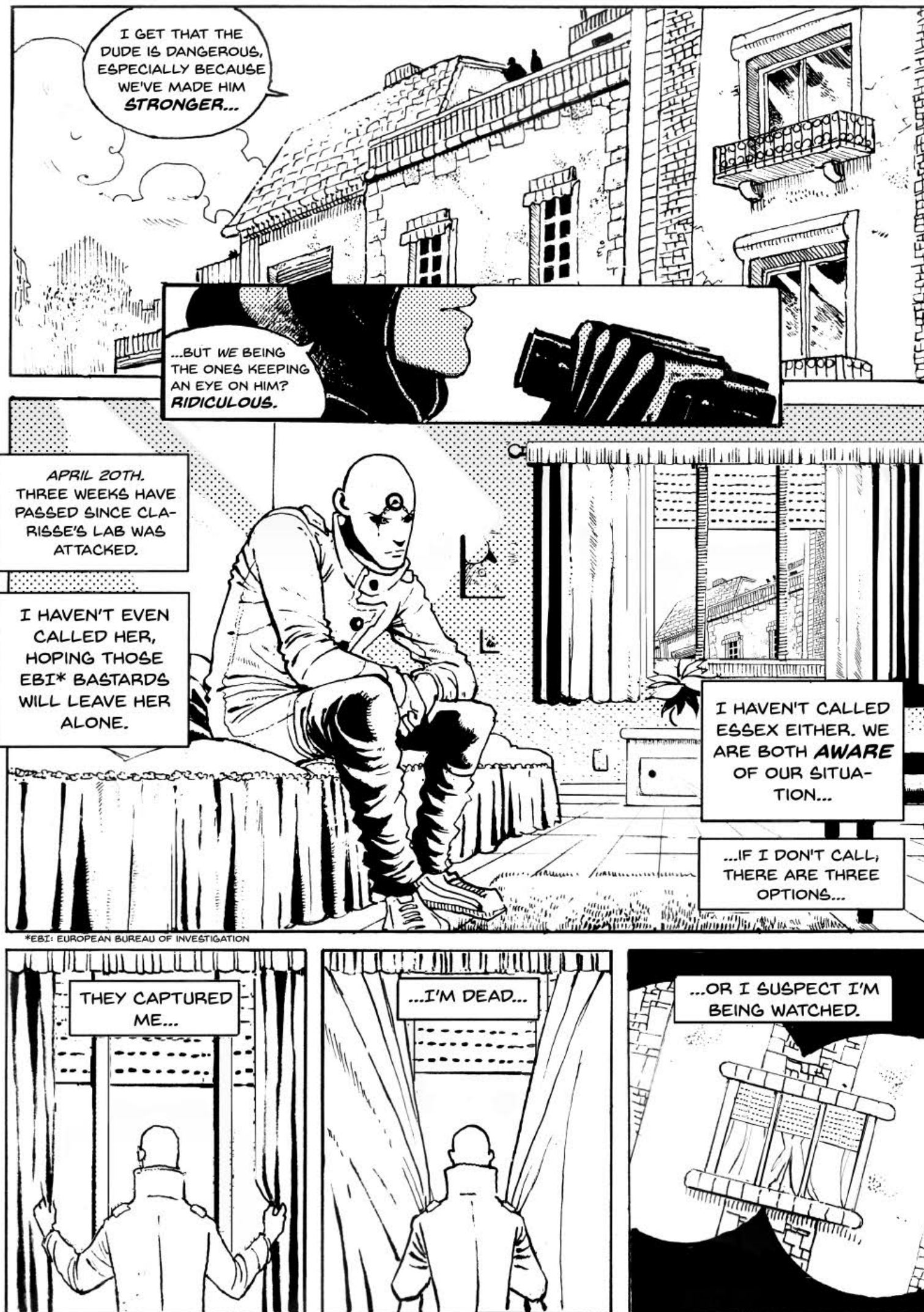
TRANSLATION
(SORRY, ENGLISH SPEAKERS)

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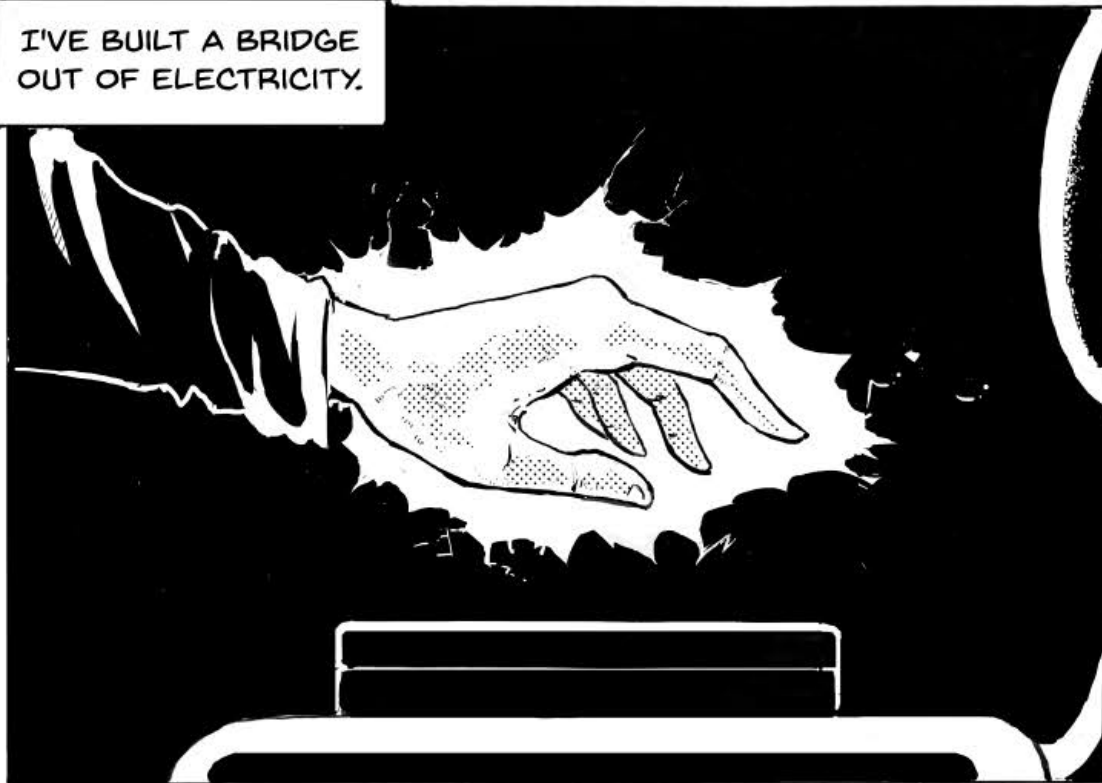
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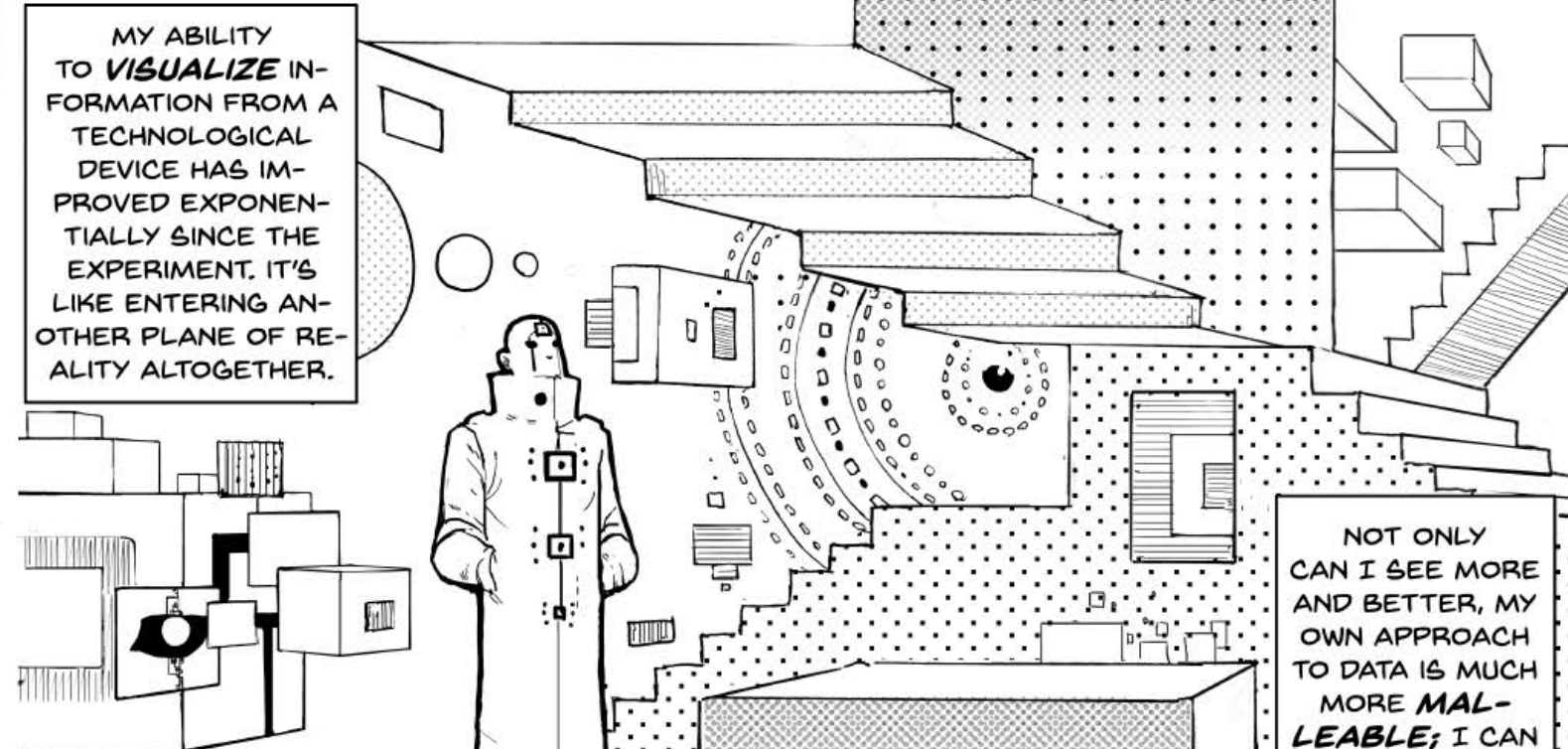
I'VE BUILT A BRIDGE
OUT OF ELECTRICITY.



A BRIDGE
THAT CON-
NECTS MY
SYNAPSES
TO THE DATA
STORED ON
THE HARD
DRIVE.



MY ABILITY
TO **VISUALIZE** IN-
FORMATION FROM A
TECHNOLOGICAL
DEVICE HAS IM-
PROVED EXPONEN-
Tially SINCE THE
EXPERIMENT. IT'S
LIKE ENTERING AN-
OTHER PLANE OF RE-
ALITY ALTOGETHER.

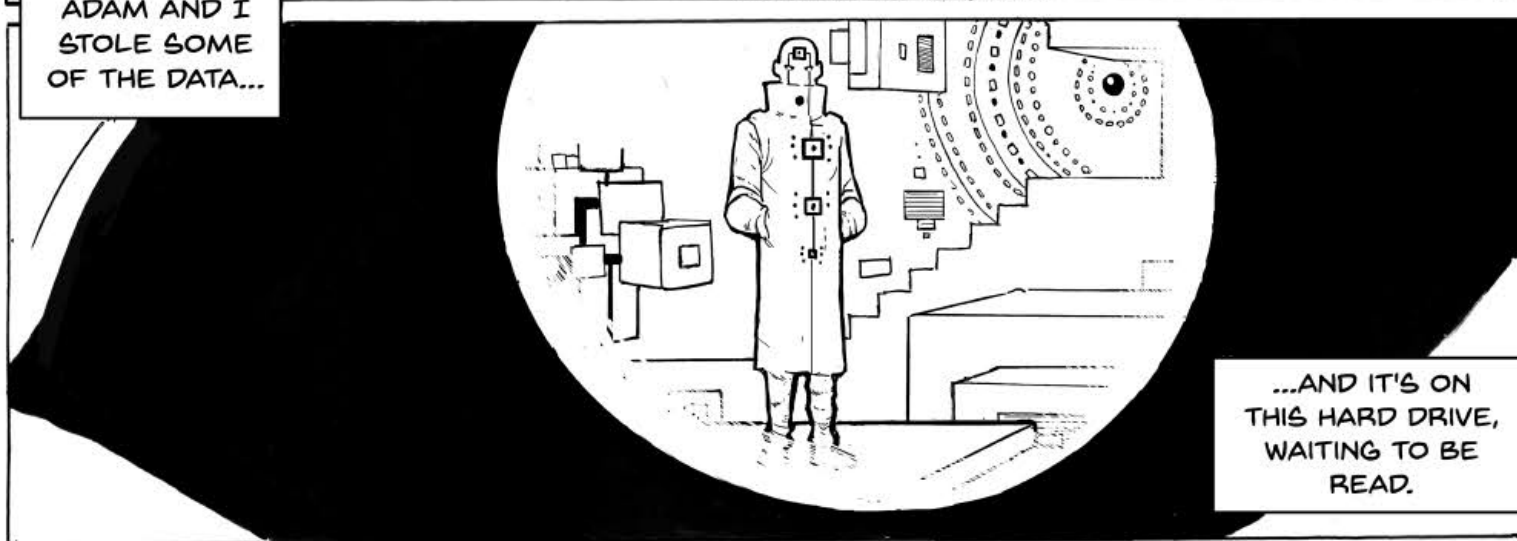
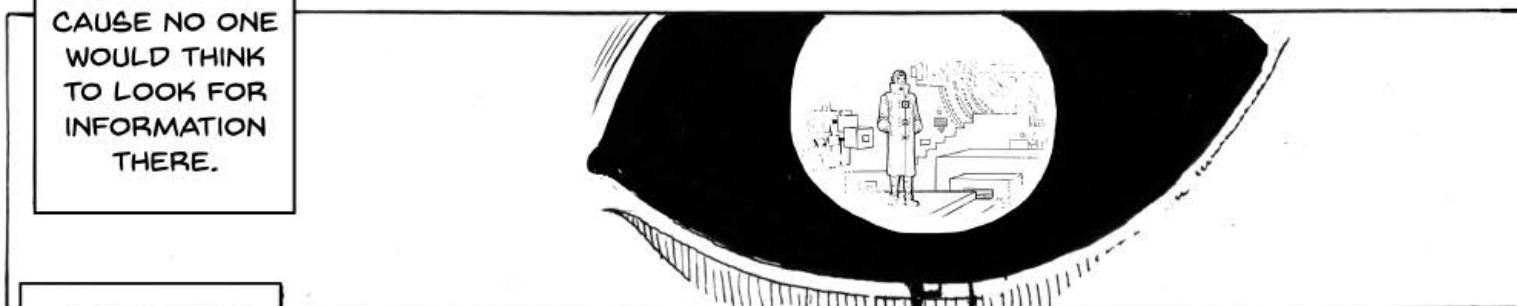


NOT ONLY
CAN I SEE MORE
AND BETTER, MY
OWN APPROACH
TO DATA IS MUCH
MORE **MAL-
LEABLE**; I CAN
MAKE CHANGES
WITH MUCH
MORE EASE.

THE **HERE-
MITES** EX-
CHANGED MES-
SAGES AND
REPORTS
THROUGH
FAKE BANK AC-
COUNTS, I'M
GUESSING BE-
CAUSE NO ONE
WOULD THINK
TO LOOK FOR
INFORMATION
THERE.

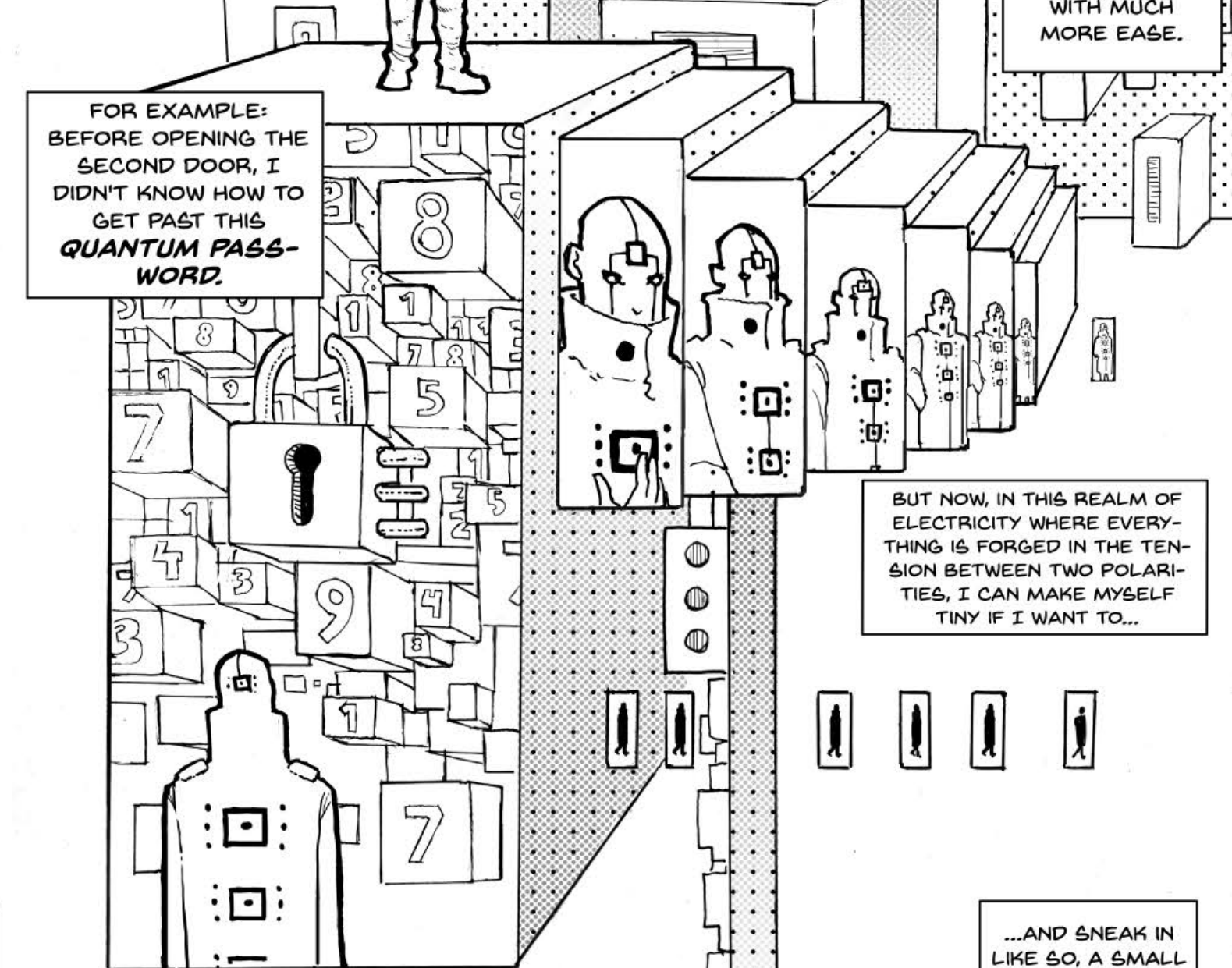


ADAM AND I
STOLE SOME
OF THE DATA...



...AND IT'S ON
THIS HARD DRIVE,
WAITING TO BE
READ.

FOR EXAMPLE:
BEFORE OPENING THE
SECOND DOOR, I
DIDN'T KNOW HOW TO
GET PAST THIS
**QUANTUM PASS-
WORD**.



BUT NOW, IN THIS REALM OF
ELECTRICITY WHERE EVERY-
THING IS FORGED IN THE TEN-
SION BETWEEN TWO POLARI-
TIES, I CAN MAKE MYSELF
TINY IF I WANT TO...

...AND SNEAK IN
LIKE SO, A SMALL
COMMA IN THE
BOOK OF HISTORY.

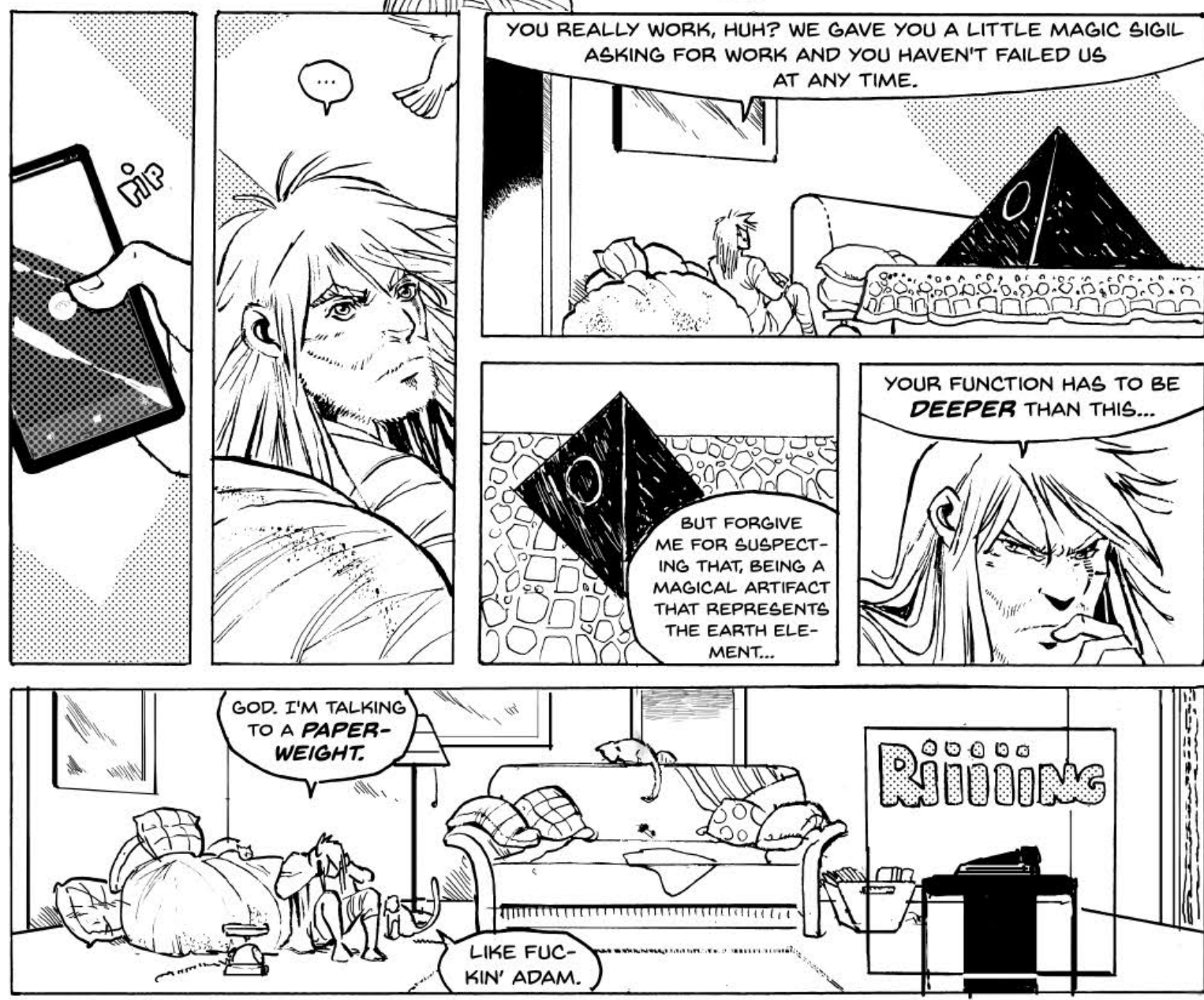
"WE'LL SEE IF I FINALLY DISCOVER SOMETHING USEFUL THAT COMPENSATES FOR THIS *DISASTER* OF A LIFE".

YES. YOU'LL HAVE THE DOSSIER TOMORROW.

RIGHT NOW IT'S JUST ME IN THE OFFICE.



WHO'S THIS? IF YOU'RE SELLING SOMETHING, I SWEAR I'LL FIND A WAY TO GIVE YOU A *SONIC SLAP!*



YOU REALLY WORK, HUH? WE GAVE YOU A LITTLE MAGIC SIGIL ASKING FOR WORK AND YOU HAVEN'T FAILED US AT ANY TIME.

YOUR FUNCTION HAS TO BE *DEEPER* THAN THIS...

BUT FORGIVE ME FOR SUSPECTING THAT, BEING A MAGICAL ARTIFACT THAT REPRESENTS THE EARTH ELEMENT...

HEY.

ADAM? FUCKING CUNT, YOU'VE BEEN GONE A WHOLE MONTH!

I MEAN, I'M NOT IMPORTANT ENOUGH FOR YOU TO *COME* LOOKING FOR ME...

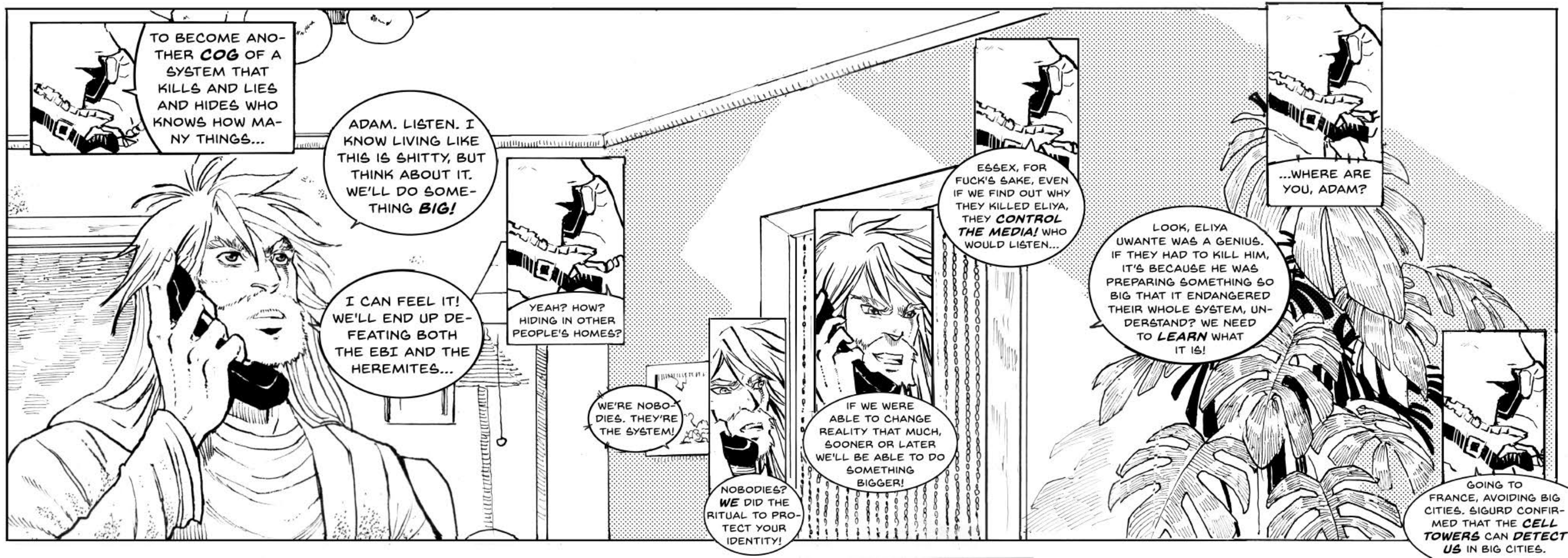
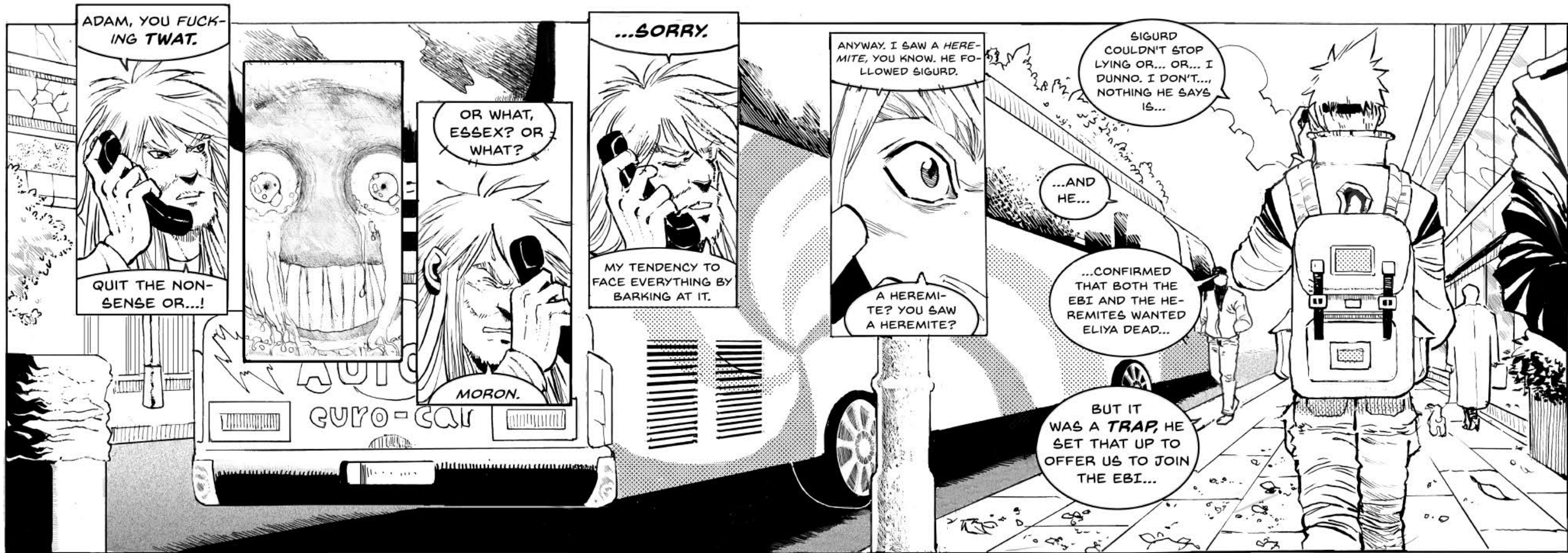
WHO CARES?

WHAT DO YOU MEAN, WHO CARES?

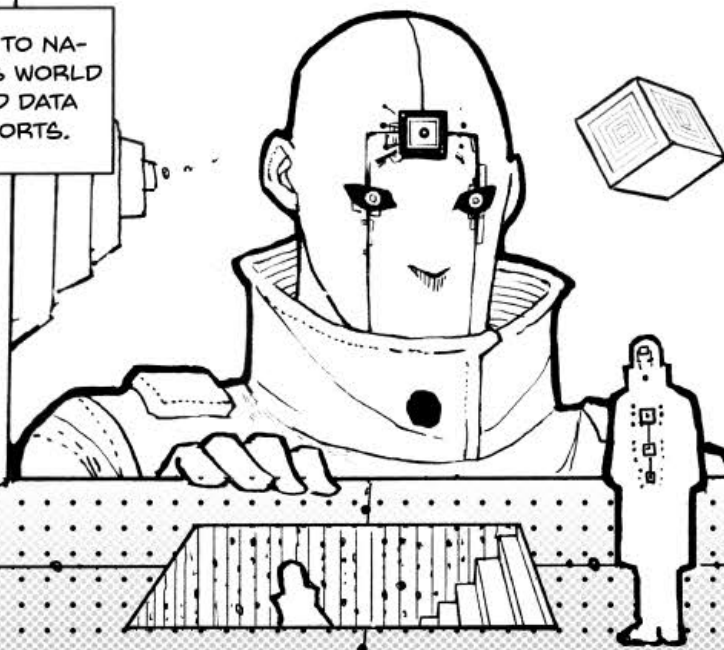
DUDE, YOU THINK A MESSAGE ON THE ANSWERING MACHINE SAYING "I HAVEN'T BEEN CAUGHT" IS ENOUGH? IT'S BEEN *THREE WEEKS!* WHAT...?

WHAT? YOU WANT ME TO GO PICK YOU UP, GRAB YOUR TINY HAND AND GIVE YOU A SNACK? FUCK YOU!

...SORRY. I'M IN A STUPID MOOD. I JUST... I DUNNO. I SAW MY MO... I DUNNO. RE-SEARCHING ABOUT RENNES...

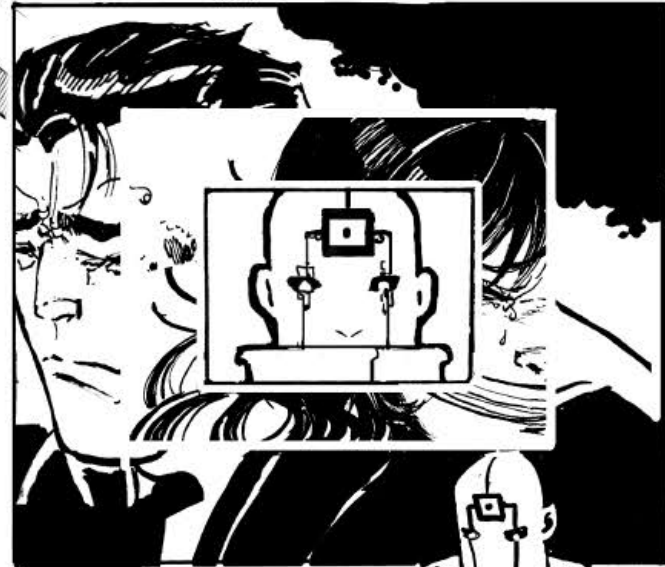


IT'S HARD TO NAVIGATE THIS WORLD OF VEILED DATA AND REPORTS.



LIKE THE CASTLE OF MIRAGES IN THE SARTORIUS SERIES OF BOOKS, REALITY FOLDS IN CAPRICIOUS WAYS.

ONE OF THE RECURRING THEMES IN THE HEREMITES REPORTS REVEALS A **COVERT WAR** WITH THE PARANORMAL EBI. WHEN POSSIBLE, THEY AVOID DIRECT CONFLICT, PREFERING OTHER METHODS LIKE BUYING THE INFLUENCE OF BANKERS, POLITICIANS, BUSINESSMEN...



SINCE THE EBI IS AN INSTITUTION FROM THE EUROPEAN UNION, THEY ATTACKED THEM PROMOTING POLITICIANS AND ECONOMISTS IN FAVOR OF ECONOMIC AUSTERITY, FINANCING MOVEMENTS ON THE EXTREME LEFT AND RIGHT TO CAUSE INSTABILITY...



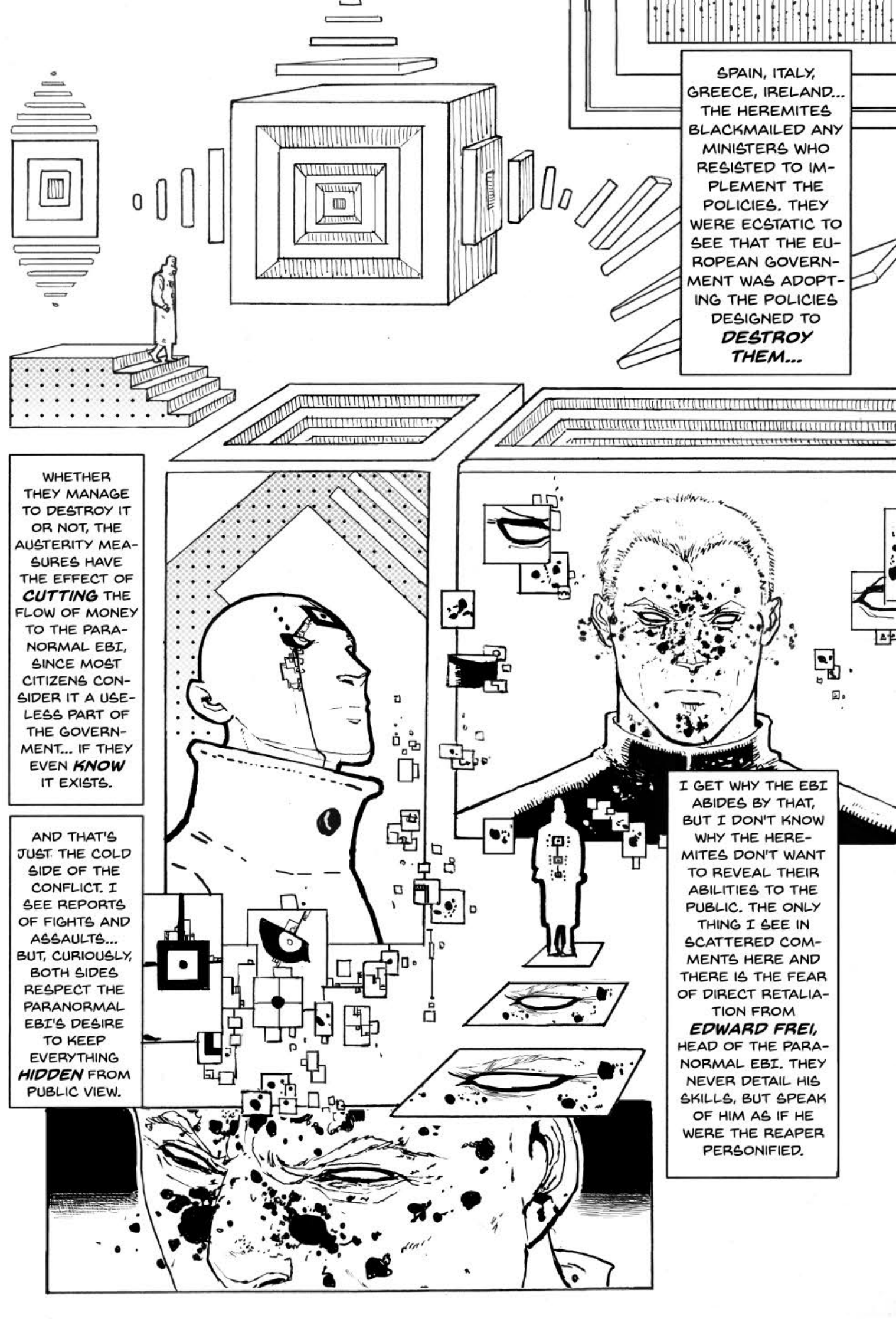
TO THEIR OWN SURPRISE, THE **EUROPEAN UNION** BOUGHT WHOLESALE THE AUSTERITY POLICIES...

SPAIN, ITALY, GREECE, IRELAND... THE HEREMITES BLACKMAILED ANY MINISTERS WHO RESISTED TO IMPLEMENT THE POLICIES. THEY WERE ECSTATIC TO SEE THAT THE EUROPEAN GOVERNMENT WAS ADOPTING THE POLICIES DESIGNED TO **DESTROY THEM...**

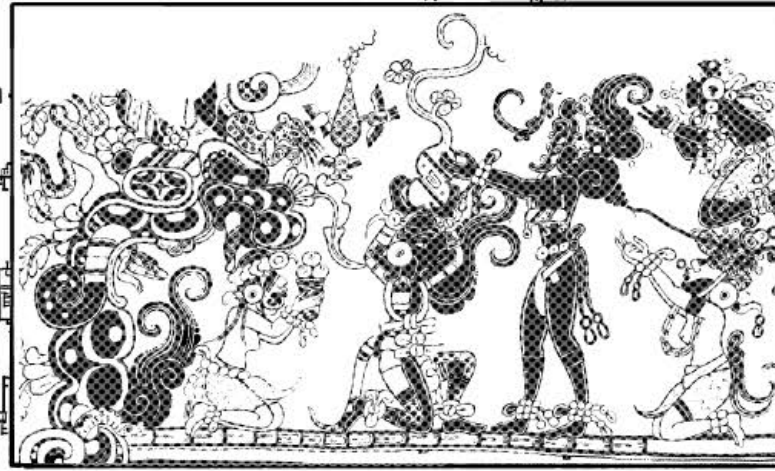
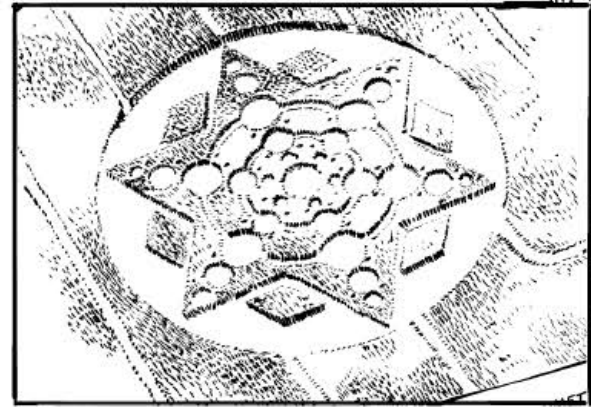
WHETHER THEY MANAGE TO DESTROY IT OR NOT, THE AUSTERITY MEASURES HAVE THE EFFECT OF **CUTTING** THE FLOW OF MONEY TO THE PARANORMAL EBI, SINCE MOST CITIZENS CONSIDER IT A USELESS PART OF THE GOVERNMENT... IF THEY EVEN **KNOW** IT EXISTS.

AND THAT'S JUST THE COLD SIDE OF THE CONFLICT. I SEE REPORTS OF FIGHTS AND ASSAULTS... BUT, CURIOUSLY, BOTH SIDES RESPECT THE PARANORMAL EBI'S DESIRE TO KEEP EVERYTHING **HIDDEN** FROM PUBLIC VIEW.

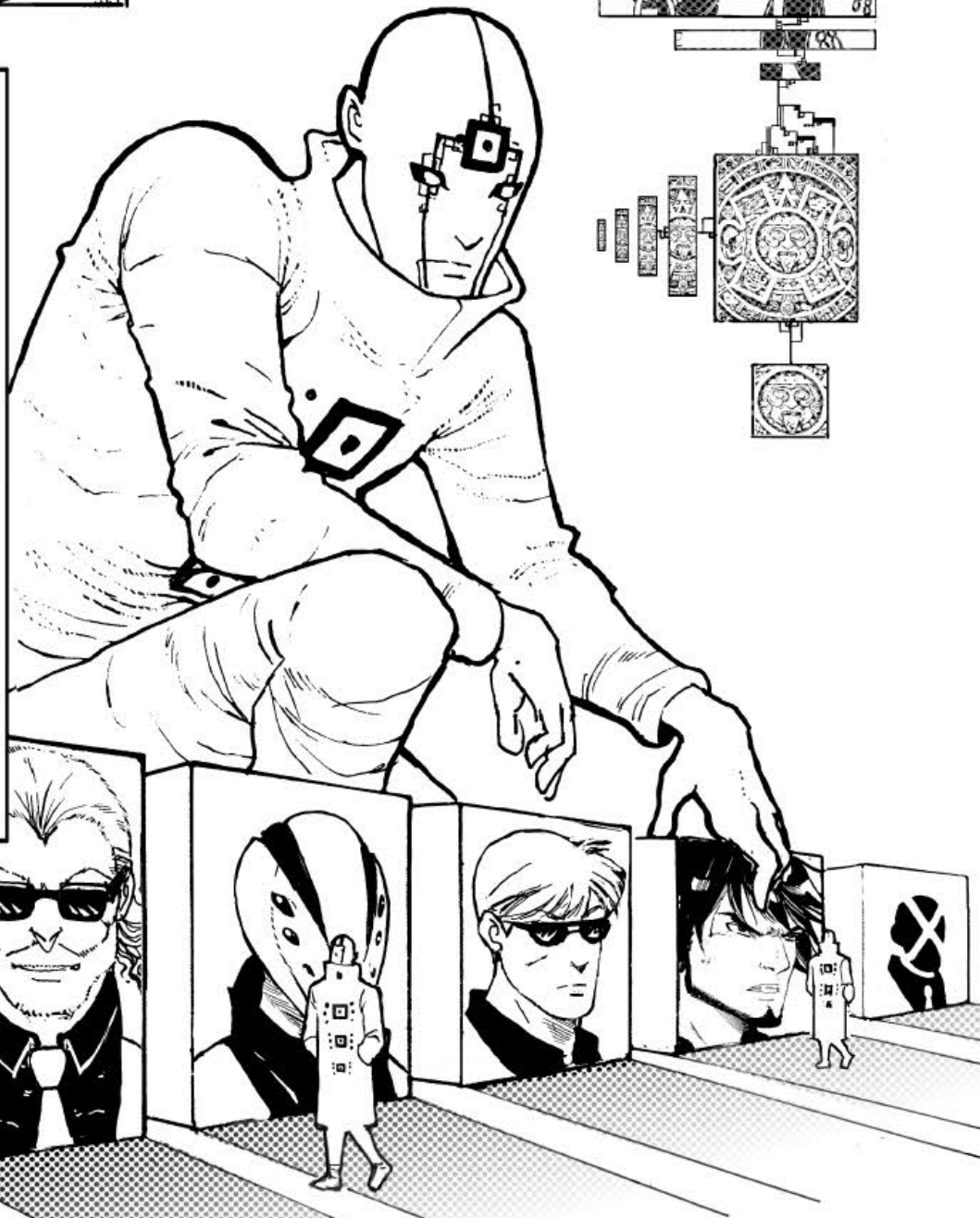
I GET WHY THE EBI ABIDES BY THAT, BUT I DON'T KNOW WHY THE HEREMITES DON'T WANT TO REVEAL THEIR ABILITIES TO THE PUBLIC. THE ONLY THING I SEE IN SCATTERED COMMENTS HERE AND THERE IS THE FEAR OF DIRECT RETALIATION FROM **EDWARD FREI**, HEAD OF THE PARANORMAL EBI. THEY NEVER DETAIL HIS SKILLS, BUT SPEAK OF HIM AS IF HE WERE THE REAPER PERSONIFIED.



I BELIEVE THAT ANOTHER REASON WHY THE HERMITES HAVE NOT YET MADE A FULL-BLOWN ASSAULT IS BECAUSE THEY ARE WAITING FOR THE **RIGHT MOMENT**. ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS THEY TALK ABOUT INFORMATION THEY STOLE FROM THE EBI, WHERE THEY WERE TRYING TO DECODE THE **CROP CIRCLES**.

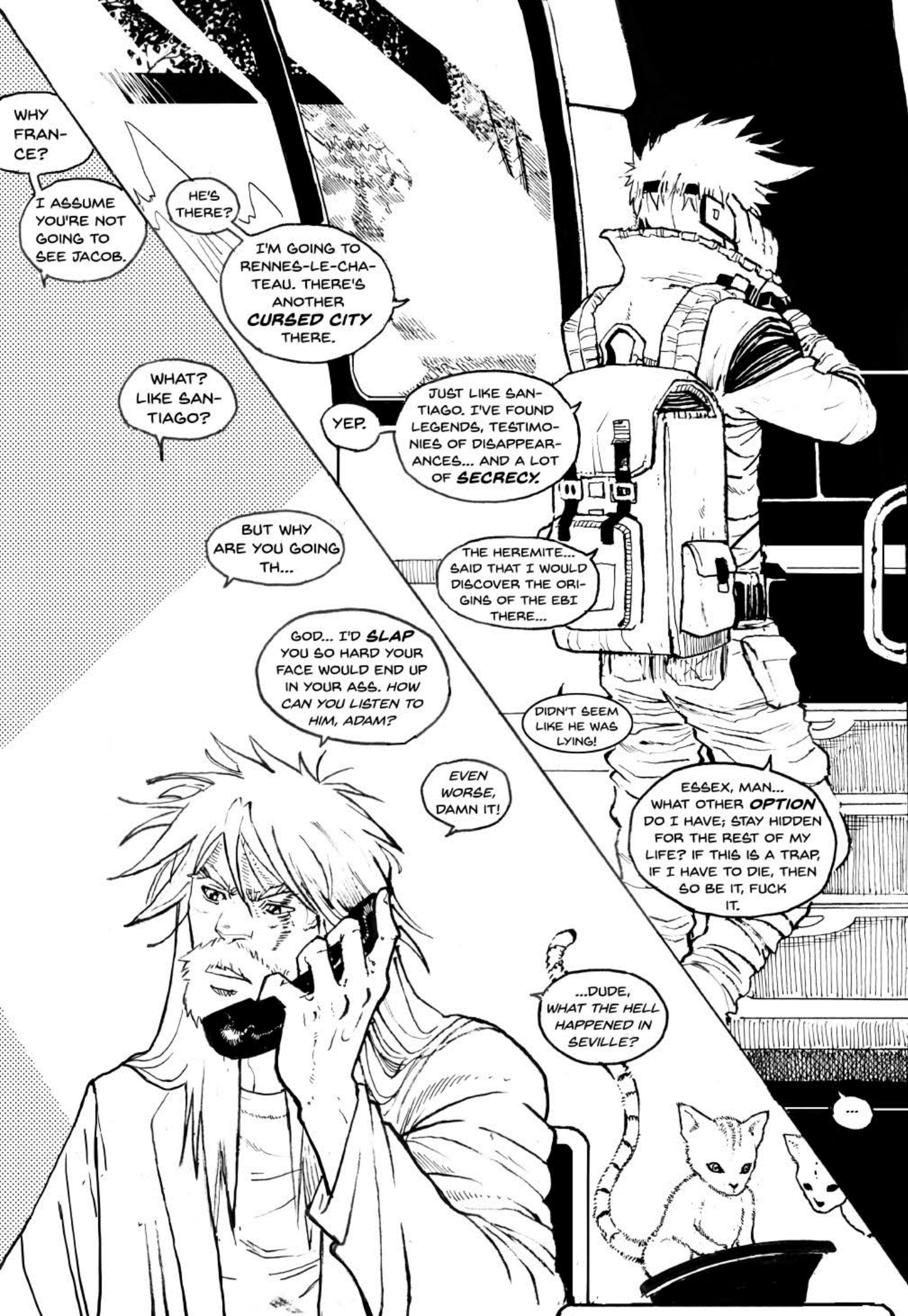


APPARENTLY, THE EBI DISCOVERED THAT THEIR GEOMETRY NOT ONLY FOLLOWS SPECIFIC **MATHEMATICAL FORMULAS**, BUT THAT THERE IS AN INTENTIONALITY BEHIND THEM. WHEN YOU APPLY THESE FORMULAS TO THE HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT OF HUMANITY, IT REVEALS AN INVISIBLE PATTERN: THE IMPORTANT EVENTS OF HISTORY ALL FOLLOW A SPECIFIC RHYTHM, A **SECRET MELODY**. THAT FORMULA SAYS, SUPPOSEDLY, THAT BETWEEN 2010 AND 2018 THERE WILL BE AN END TO THIS RHYTHMIC PATTERN. A **WINDOW OF OPPORTUNITY**, THE HERMITES CALL IT. AN UNKNOWN EVENT FOR WHICH BOTH FACTIONS HAVE BEEN PREPARING FOR YEARS.



FINALLY. IT'S TAKEN ME WEEKS, AND JOURNEYING INTO THE DEEPEST PART OF THE HARD DRIVE. FINALLY I'M MEETING HIM. THE GUY FOR WHOM I LOST MY LIFE. **ELIYA UWANTE**. THE GENIUS INVENTOR.

HE DIED AT THE HANDS OF ABADDON, A DEMON SUMMONED BY SIGURD, WHO FOLLOWED ORDERS FROM THE EBI AND THE HERMITES.



WHY FRANCE?

I ASSUME YOU'RE NOT GOING TO SEE JACOB.

HE'S THERE?

I'M GOING TO RENNES-LE-CHA-TEAU. THERE'S ANOTHER CURSED CITY THERE.

WHAT? LIKE SAN-TIAGO?

YEP.

JUST LIKE SAN-TIAGO. I'VE FOUND LEGENDS, TESTIMONIES OF DISAPPEARANCES... AND A LOT OF **SECRECY**.

BUT WHY ARE YOU GOING TH...

GOD... I'D **SLAP** YOU SO HARD YOUR FACE WOULD END UP IN YOUR ASS. HOW CAN YOU LISTEN TO HIM, ADAM?

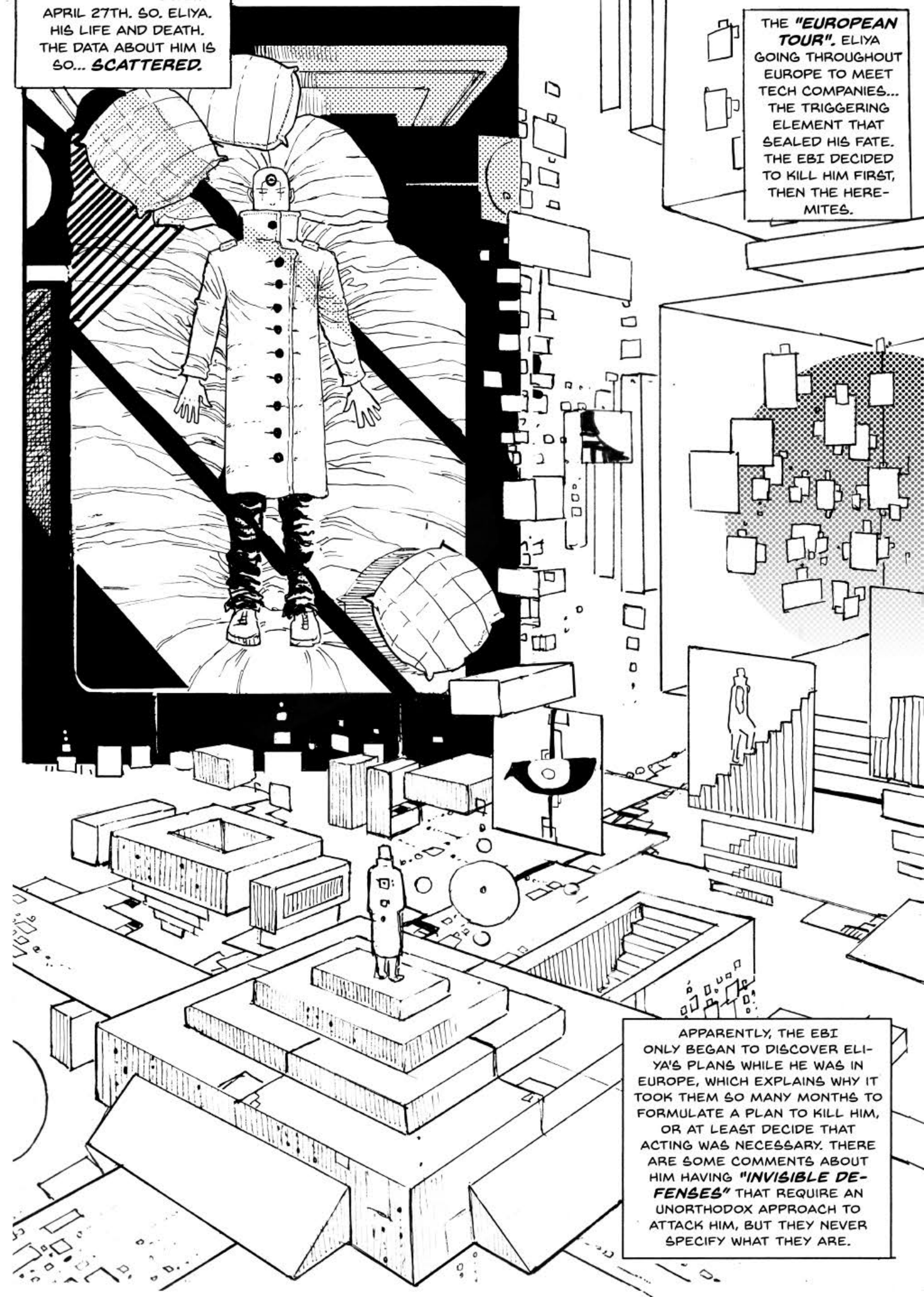
EVEN WORSE, DAMN IT!

DIDN'T SEEM LIKE HE WAS LYING!

ESSEX, MAN... WHAT OTHER **OPTION** DO I HAVE; STAY HIDDEN FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE? IF THIS IS A TRAP, IF I HAVE TO DIE, THEN SO BE IT, FUCK IT.

...DUDE, WHAT THE HELL HAPPENED IN SEVILLE?

APRIL 27TH. SO. ELIYA. HIS LIFE AND DEATH. THE DATA ABOUT HIM IS SO... **SCATTERED**.



THE "**EUROPEAN TOUR**". ELIYA GOING THROUGHOUT EUROPE TO MEET TECH COMPANIES... THE TRIGGERING ELEMENT THAT SEALED HIS FATE. THE EBI DECIDED TO KILL HIM FIRST, THEN THE HEREMITES.

APPARENTLY, THE EBI ONLY BEGAN TO DISCOVER ELIYA'S PLANS WHILE HE WAS IN EUROPE, WHICH EXPLAINS WHY IT TOOK THEM SO MANY MONTHS TO FORMULATE A PLAN TO KILL HIM, OR AT LEAST DECIDE THAT ACTING WAS NECESSARY. THERE ARE SOME COMMENTS ABOUT HIM HAVING "**INVISIBLE DEFENSES**" THAT REQUIRE AN UNORTHODOX APPROACH TO ATTACK HIM, BUT THEY NEVER SPECIFY WHAT THEY ARE.

THERE ARE TWO MAIN VERSIONS ON WHAT HAPPENED. IN ONE, ELIYA WAS SHOWING A PROTOTYPE THAT WAS GOING TO BE VERY EASY TO BUILD. THIS DEVICE WAS GOING TO SECRETLY CONNECT WITH HIS PREVIOUS INVENTION, THE GENERATORS, TO **COUNTERACT** THE **MIND-CONTROL TECHNIQUES** OF THE CELL TOWERS.

EVEN THE HEREMITES WERE SCARED OF THAT SCENARIO.

THE WAY THEY TALK ABOUT IT, THE CELL TOWERS CREATE A FIELD THAT ALLOWS THE EBI TO ERASE MEMORIES AND KEEP THE PEOPLE "**DORMANT**", WHATEVER THAT MEANS... THAT'S VERSION NUMBER ONE, PROBABLY; DIFFICULT TO SAY FOR SURE WITH SO MUCH SCATTERED AND CONTRADICTORY DATA...

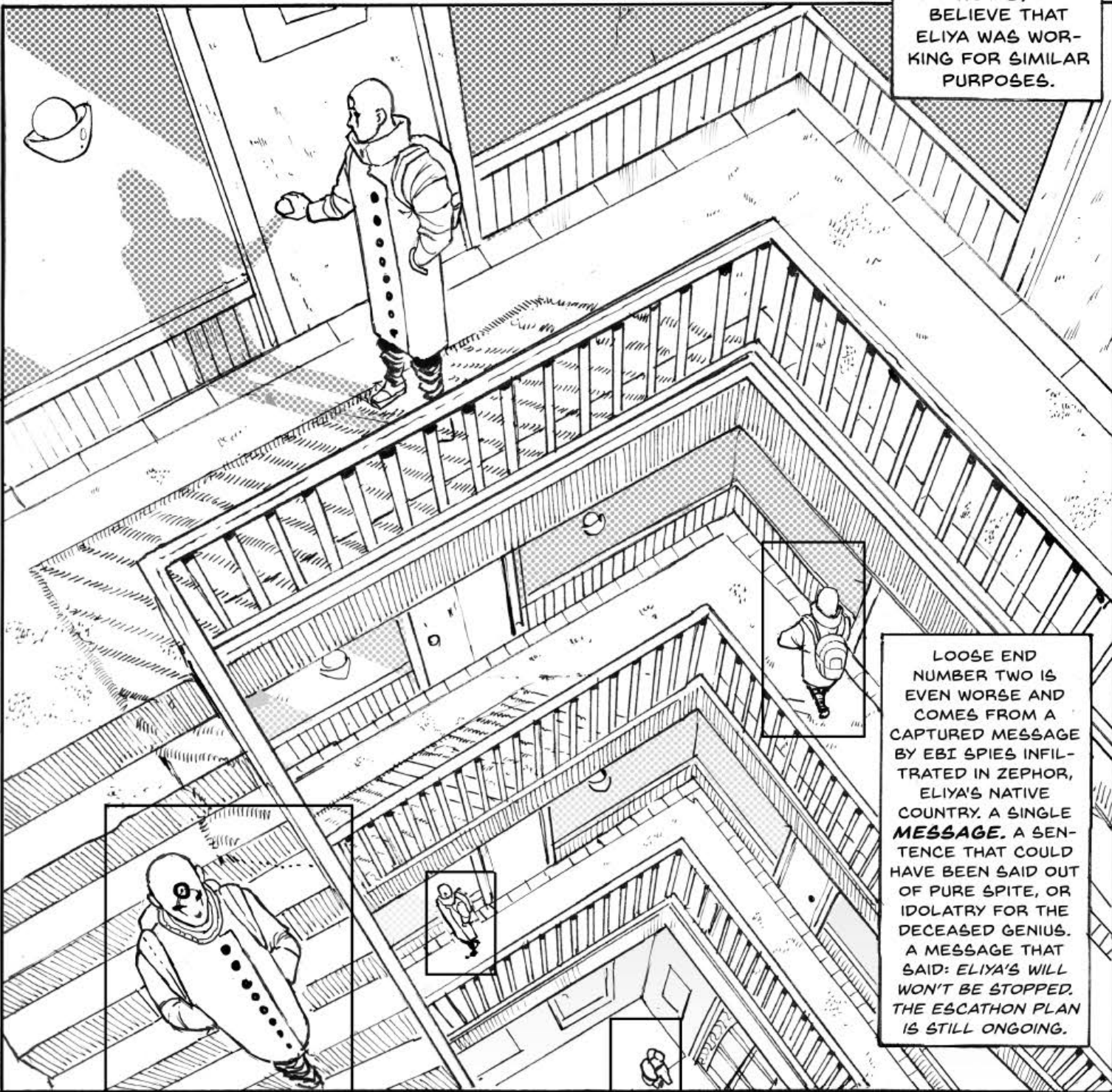
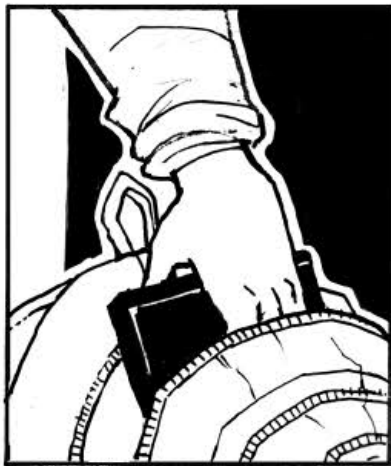
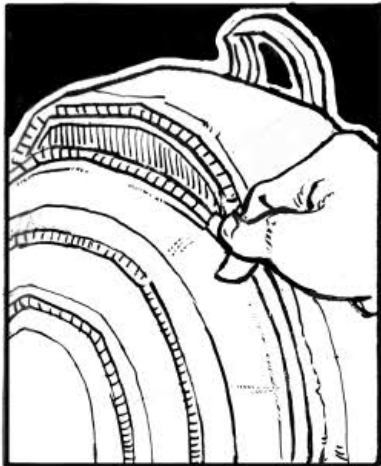
SO... VERSION NUMBER TWO IS THAT THE PROTOTYPE WAS A REVOLUTIONARY COMPUTER. THE EBI TALKS OF **MELODIC COMPUTING**, AND ESTIMATED THAT IT WAS GOING TO LEAVE QUANTUM COMPUTERS OBSOLETE BEFORE THEY EVEN EXIST. ELIYA, SUPPOSEDLY, WANTED TO DISTRIBUTE IT AT AN ABSURDLY AFFORDABLE PRICE... SO THAT ANY **FOOL** OR **PSYCHOPATH** WOULD HAVE A COMPUTER IN HIS HOUSE THOUSANDS OF TIMES MORE POWERFUL THAN WHAT ANY INSTITUTION HAS.

THE COMPUTER COULD BREAK **PASSWORDS** AND **CODES** IN A FEW SECONDS, GIVING FREE ACCESS TO ANY GOVERNMENT OR CORPORATION DATABASE, ANY COMPUTER CONNECTED TO THE INTERNET WOULD BE CONTROLLABLE AT LEVELS NEVER SEEN BEFORE. TOP SECRET DOCUMENTS FILTERED AND EXPOSED IN SECONDS, BANK ACCOUNTS... **NOTHING WOULD BE SAFE**. NOT EVEN THE DEFENSE MECHANISMS OF A COUNTRY. THE EBI FEARED THAT DESPITE THEIR MASSIVE DEFENSIVE MEASURES, AN ARMY OF PEOPLE WITH SUCH COMPUTERS COULD END UP WITH THE **NUCLEAR CODES**.

THIS IS SO ABSURD. WAS THIS YOUR PLAN, ELIYA? I **REFUSE** TO BELIEVE IT, BUT THE HEREMITES HAVE NO REASON TO LIE HERE.

ELIYA, FOR GOD'S SAKE. **ATOMIC BOMBS** WITHIN ANYONE'S REACH? DID YOU WANT TO CAUSE WORLD WAR III?





LOOSE END
NUMBER ONE RE-
VOLVES AROUND
THE CABALISTS
AND AROUND
SIGURD, ADAM'S
FAMOUS FRIEND.
THE GUY WAS
PROMOTED BY
THE CABALISTS
AFTER MURDERING
ELIYA. THAT FACT
PUZZLED EVEN
THE HERMITES
THEMSELVES
SINCE, ACCORDING
TO THEM, THE CA-
BALISTS WANT
ALL OF HUMANITY
TO BECOME
AWARE OF THEIR
**MAGICAL
POWERS**, AND
BELIEVE THAT
ELIYA WAS WOR-
KING FOR SIMILAR
PURPOSES.

LOOSE END
NUMBER TWO IS
EVEN WORSE AND
COMES FROM A
CAPTURED MESSAGE
BY EBI SPIES INFIL-
TRATED IN ZEPHOR,
ELIYA'S NATIVE
COUNTRY. A SINGLE
MESSAGE. A SEN-
TENCE THAT COULD
HAVE BEEN SAID OUT
OF PURE SPITE, OR
IDOLATRY FOR THE
DECEASED GENIUS.
A MESSAGE THAT
SAID: **ELIYA'S WILL
WON'T BE STOPPED.**
THE **ESCATHON PLAN**
IS STILL ONGOING.

BOXES INSIDE OF
BOXES. I STILL
CAN'T BELIEVE
THE EBI COVERED
UP THE WHOLE
THING. AND I
IMAGINE THAT ALL
THE COMPANIES
THAT WORKED
WITH ELIYA WILL
BE **UNDER SUR-
VEILLANCE...**

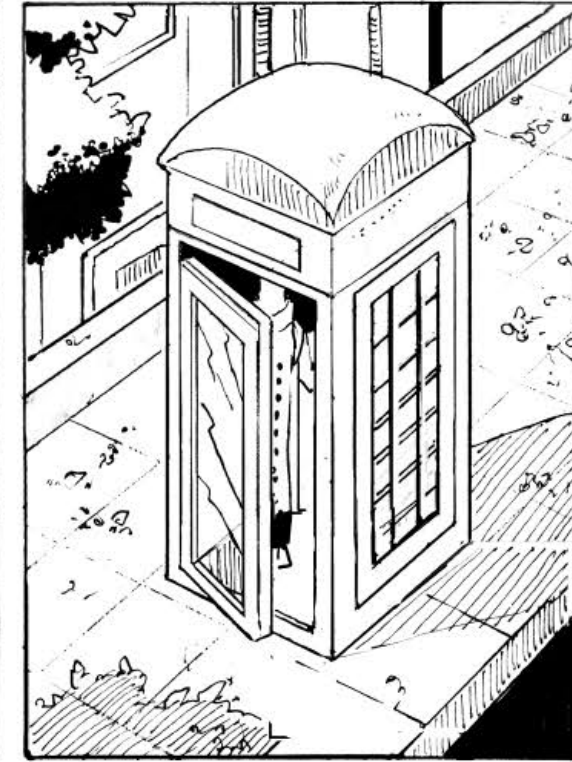


THE CAC-
TUS LEFT THE
MOTEL! AT
LAST!



AND HE'S
GOING TO
A **PHONE
BOOTH**,
MAN!

I FEEL... I
FEEL **INSE-
MINATED.**



I THINK... I THINK
**I'M GONNA
CRY, 12.**

I THINK JA-
COB MADE ME
A **WOMAN.**



THERE'S ONE
SMALL DETAIL
I'VE **OMITTED.**

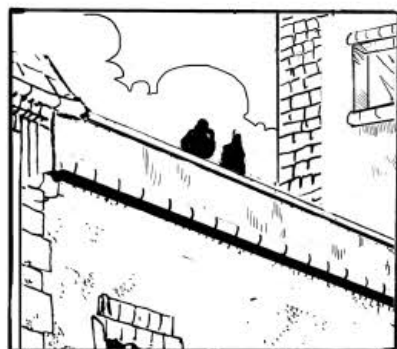
A DETAIL IMPOR-
TANT ENOUGH TO
RISK GETTING OUT
OF MY HIDEOUT.



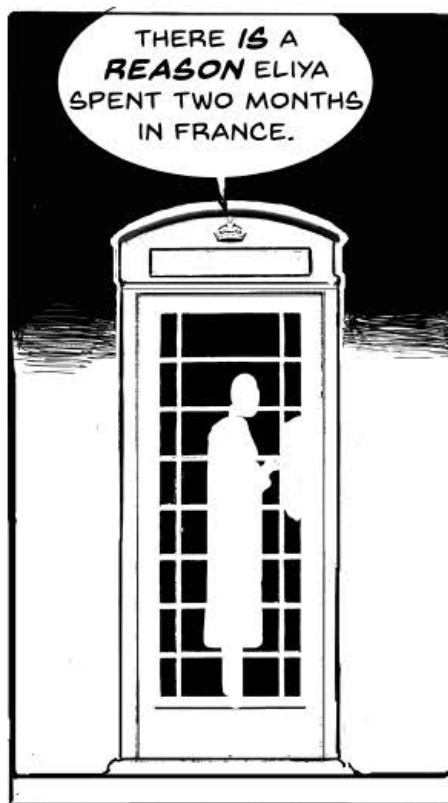
YES?



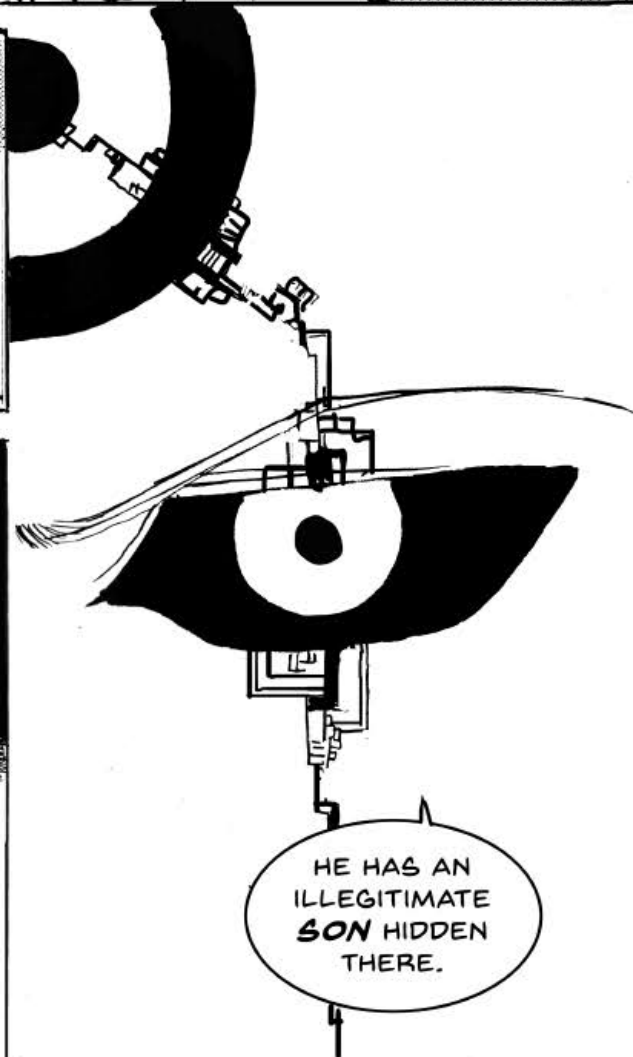
ESSEX?



YOU
WERE
RIGHT.



THERE IS A
REASON ELIYA
SPENT TWO MONTHS
IN FRANCE.



HE HAS AN
ILLEGITIMATE
SON HIDDEN
THERE.

...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!

LINKS:

OUR PATREON -> [PATREON.COM/UPSURGE](https://patreon.com/upsurge)

OUR FACEBOOK -> [FACEBOOK.COM/UP-SURGECOMIC](https://facebook.com/upsurgecomic)

THROW SOME PEANUTS TO THE APE -> [TWITTER.COM/SIMONOGATARI](https://twitter.com/simonogatari)

