

UPSURGE



71 : Alucinaciones de bronce y ozono

SIMON M.

SCRIPT

PANEL LAYOUT

COVER

TRANSLATION

(SORRY, ENGLISH SPEAKERS)

ATANA S.

PENCILS

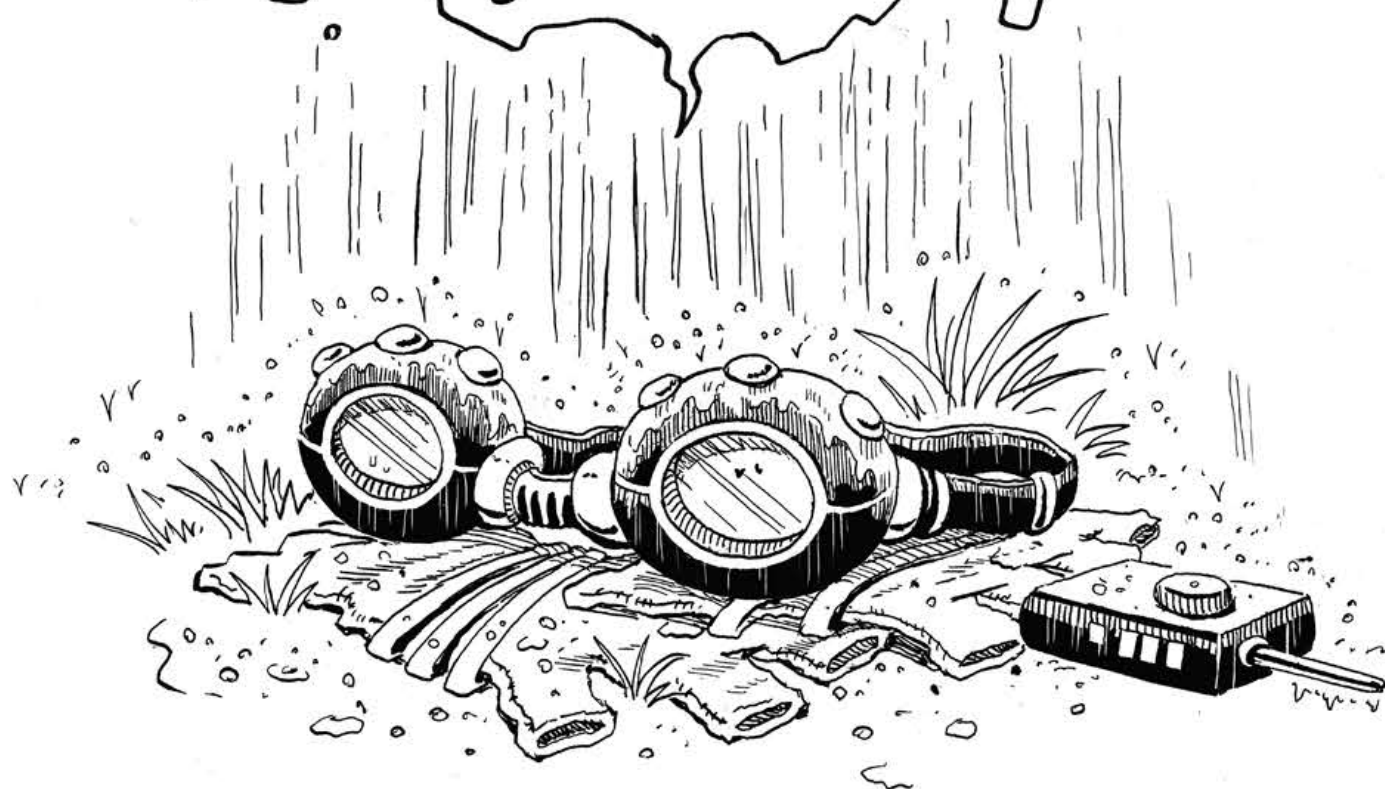
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Unstable!

AGH!



WHAT...?
IT'S LEA-
VING!

WAS IT...
WHAT WAS
THAT?

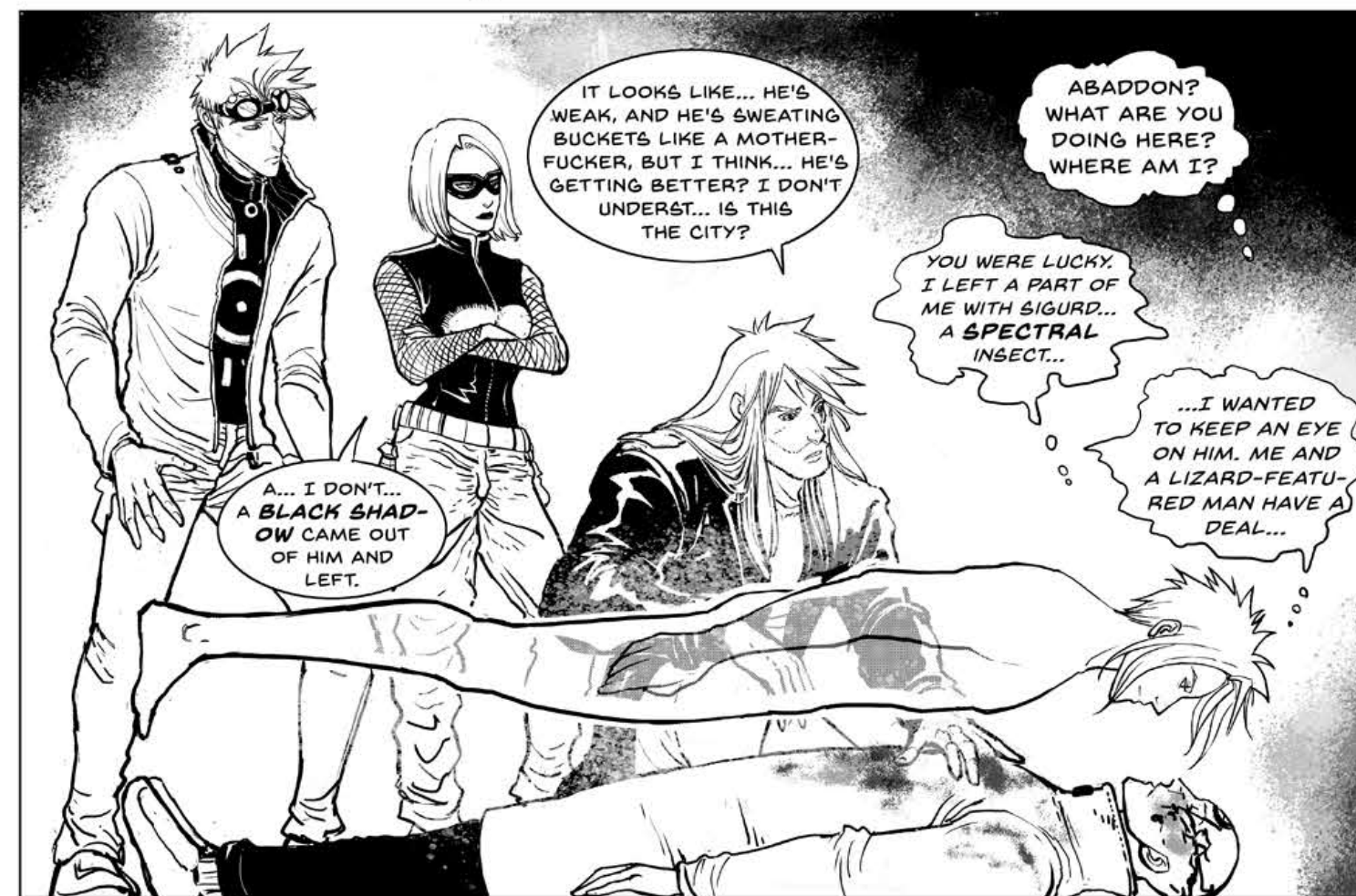
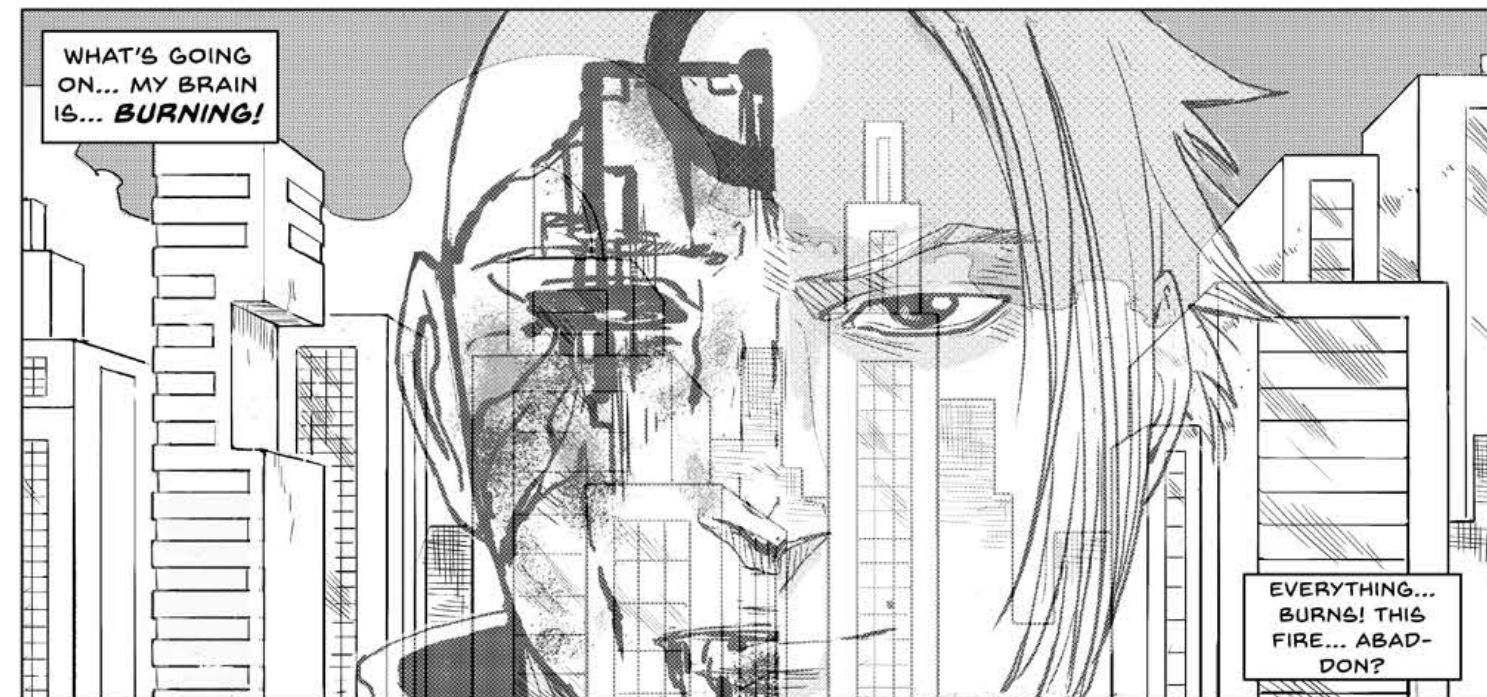
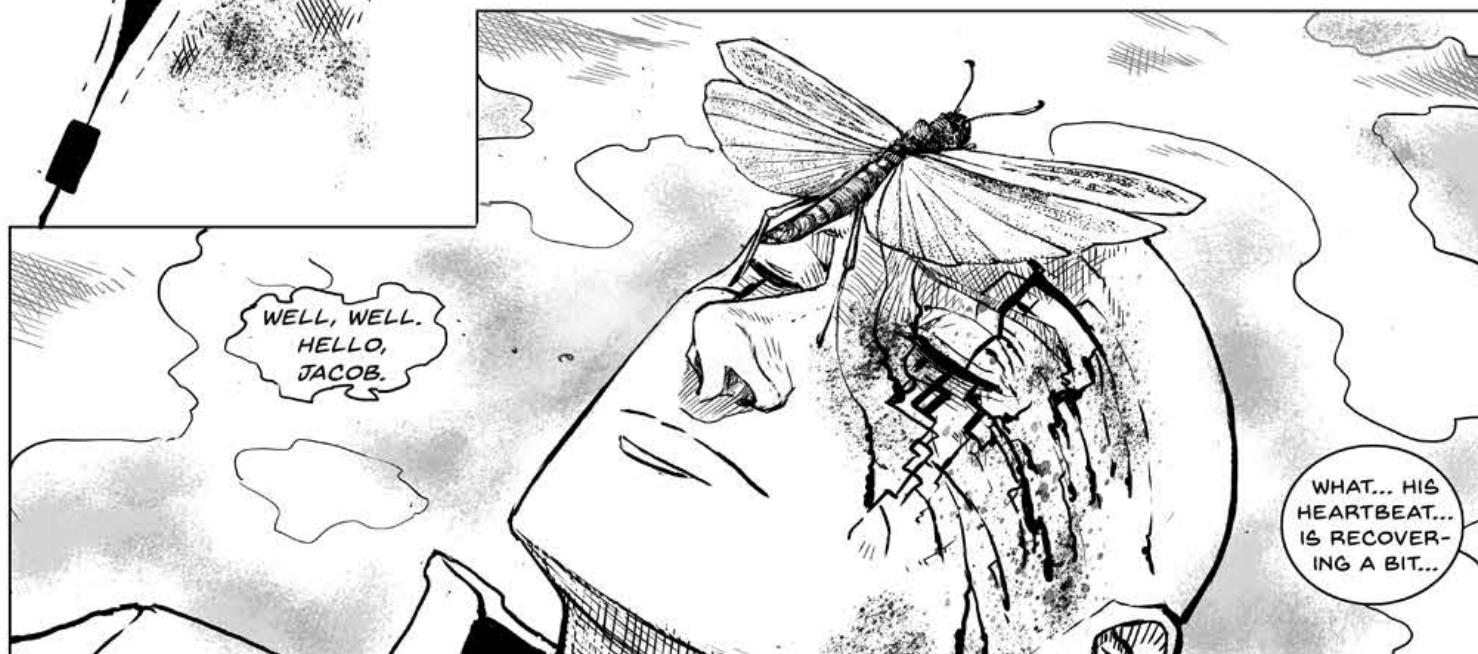
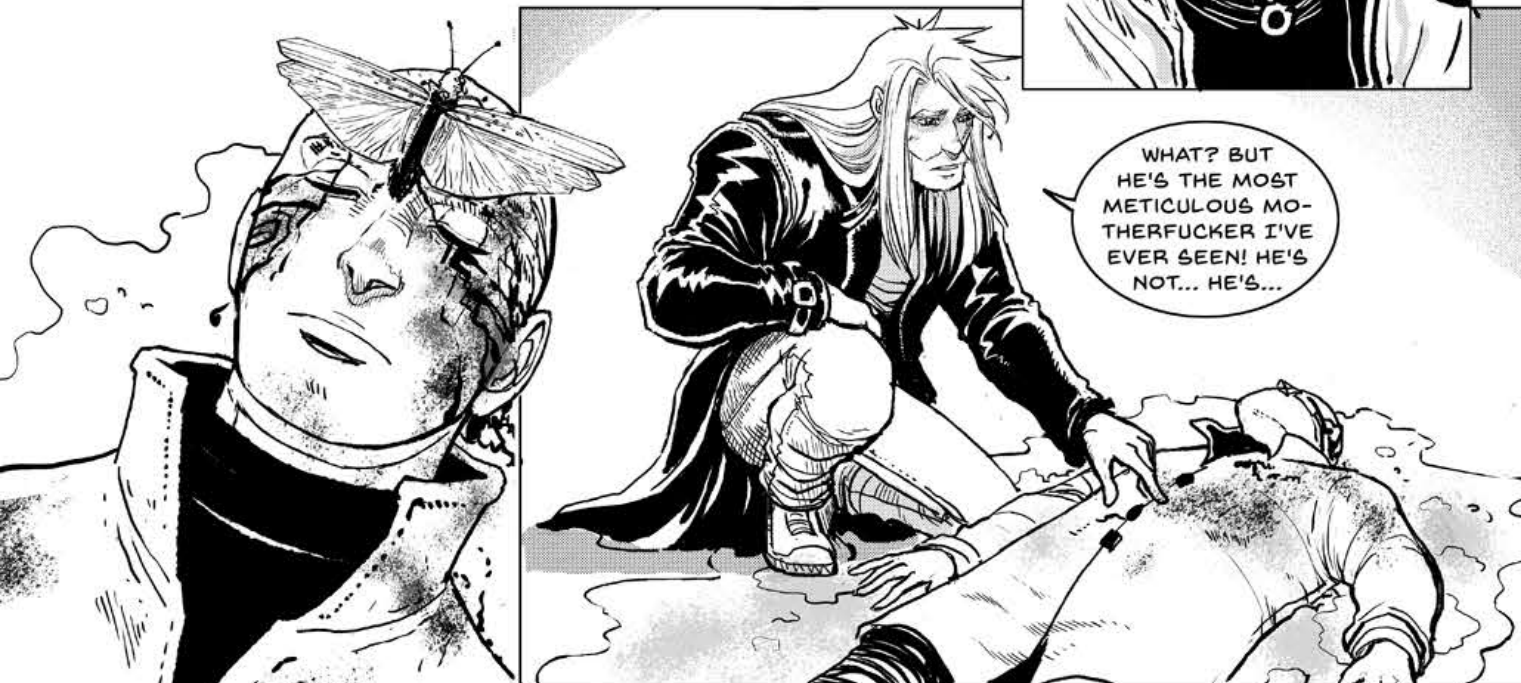
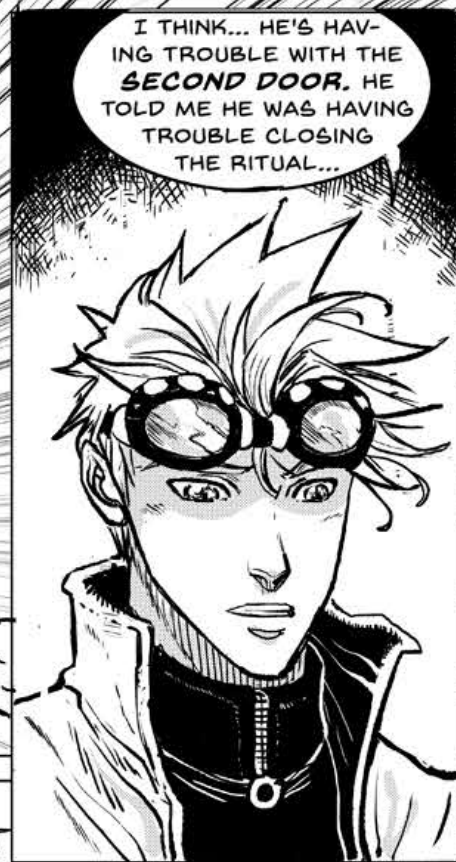


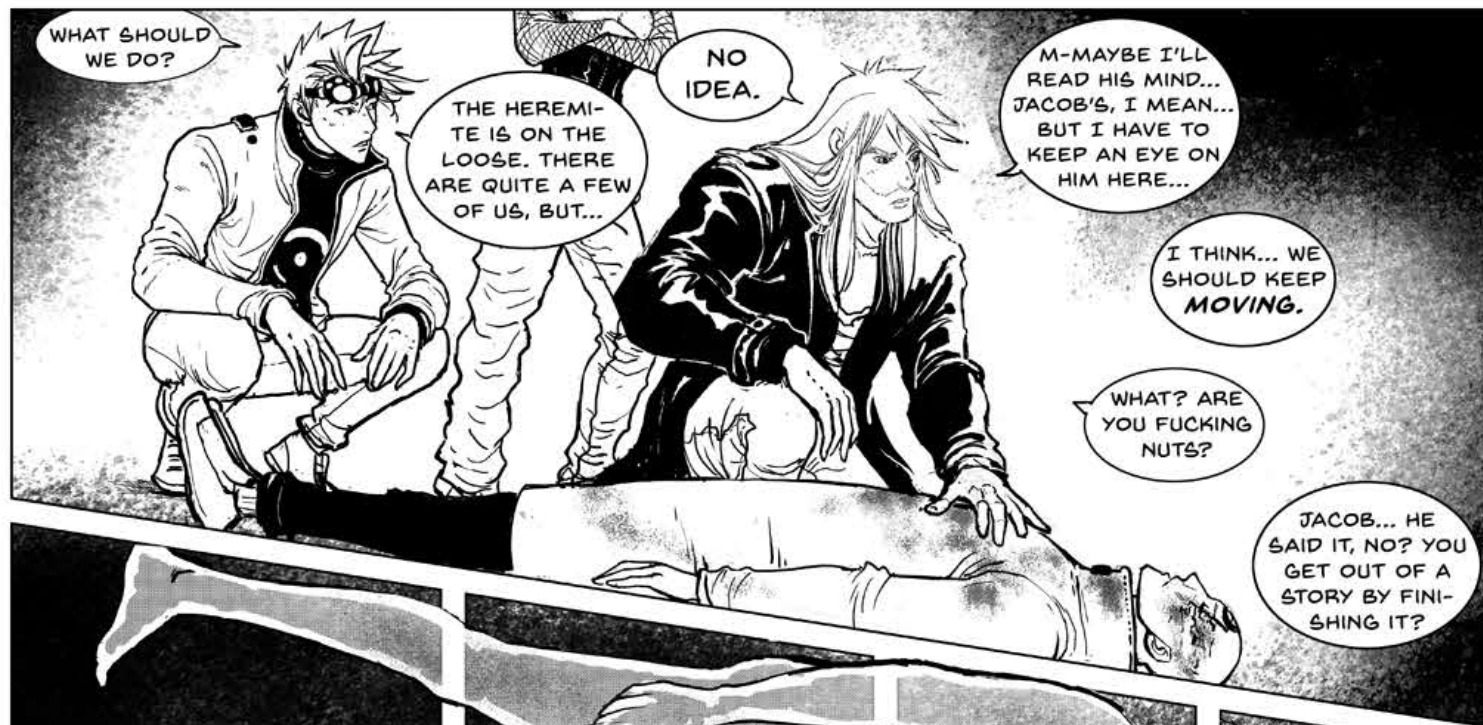
SHOULDN'T
WE DO SOME-
THING?

URGH



SHOULD
WE? I MEAN,
THEY'RE TE-
RRORISTS...





WHAT SHOULD WE DO?

NO IDEA.

THE HERMITE IS ON THE LOOSE. THERE ARE QUITE A FEW OF US, BUT...

M-MAYBE I'LL READ HIS MIND... JACOB'S, I MEAN... BUT I HAVE TO KEEP AN EYE ON HIM HERE...

I THINK... WE SHOULD KEEP MOVING.

WHAT? ARE YOU FUCKING NUTS?

JACOB... HE SAID IT, NO? YOU GET OUT OF A STORY BY FINISHING IT?



WHAT ARE YOU...? EVERYTHING BURNS. FEELS LIKE... FEELS LIKE BEING DRUGGED...

LOOK, I'VE SACRIFICED MY INVISIBLE LOCUST TO GIVE YOU SOME OF MY POWER, BUT YOU HAVE TO TAKE BACK THAT FILTH YOU'VE EXPELLED BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE.

NO IDEA. I GUESS... IF I'M HONEST, JACOB, I'VE BEEN DOING A LOT OF THINKING...

WELL, I SAW YOU ABOUT TO DIE. THAT PART OF YOU THAT'S GONE... IT LEFT YOU VERY WEAK.

THAT PART... I THINK IT'S THE IMPLANT, CLARRISSE TOLD ME THAT IT BEHAVES ALMOST LIKE A LIVING ENTITY...

NO. THERE IS A PART OF YOU IN THAT THING. A PART THAT DOESN'T WANT TO SEE.

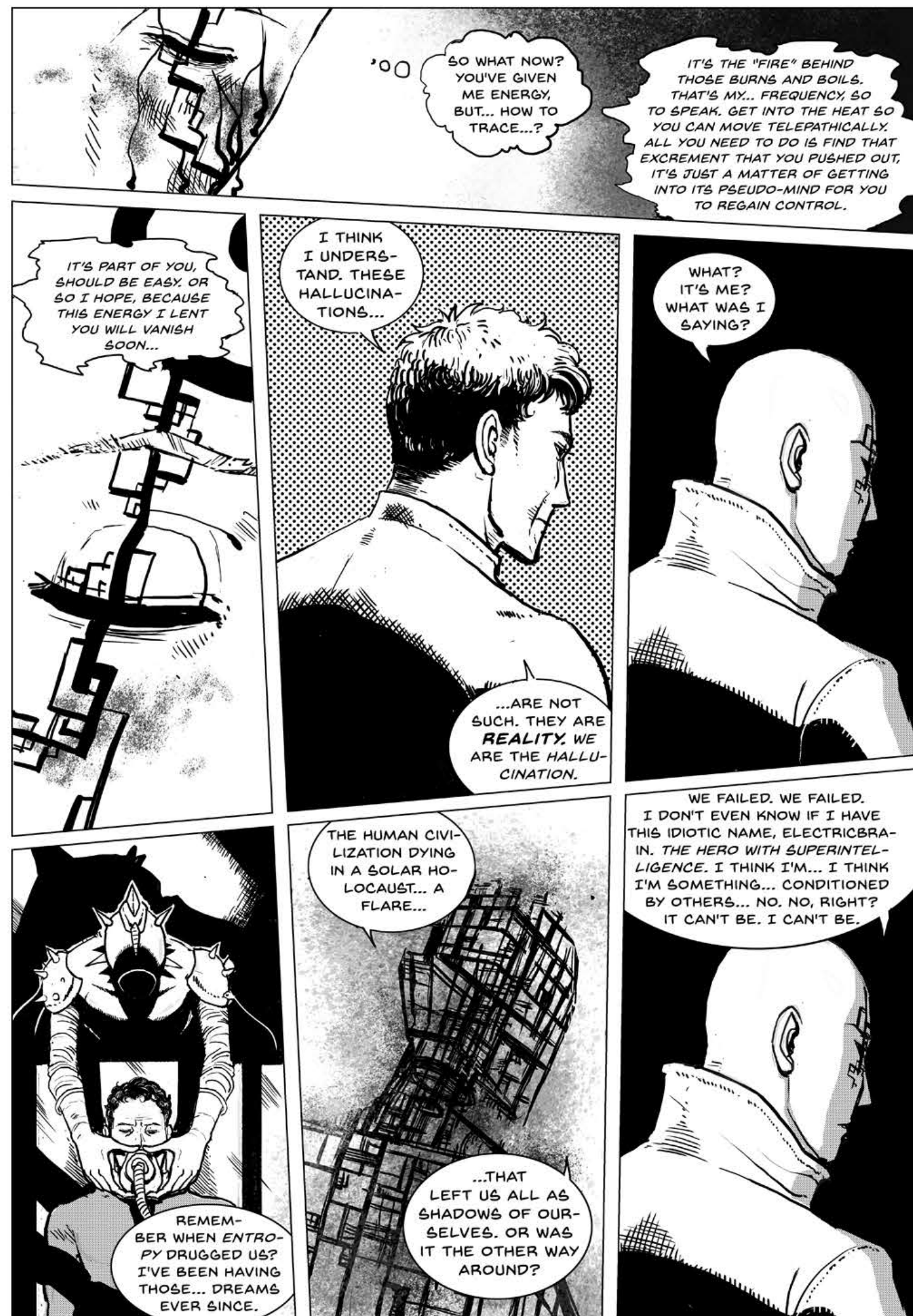
WE'RE GOING TO TRACK IT. WITH MY TELEPATHY... IT SHOULD BE DOABLE. TRACK IT, CONNECT TO IT AGAIN, AND FORCE IT BACK INTO YOUR BODY.

GOD. IS THAT HOW YOU SEE THINGS? EVERYTHING BURNS. EVERYTHING HURTS AND BOILS. I CAN'T ESCAPE ALL THE RANCOR AND LUST IN THE ATMOSPHERE, EVERYTHING PUTRID.

WHY DO YOU WANT TO KEEP ME ALIVE?

YOU ARE SOMEONE VERY IMPORTANT TO ME. I SEE THAT BALD HEAD OF YOURS AND I SAY, WOW, I WISH I COULD POLISH IT SO I COULD LOOK AT MY FACE IN IT, SWEET LITTLE MIRROR WITH A PINKISH GLOW.

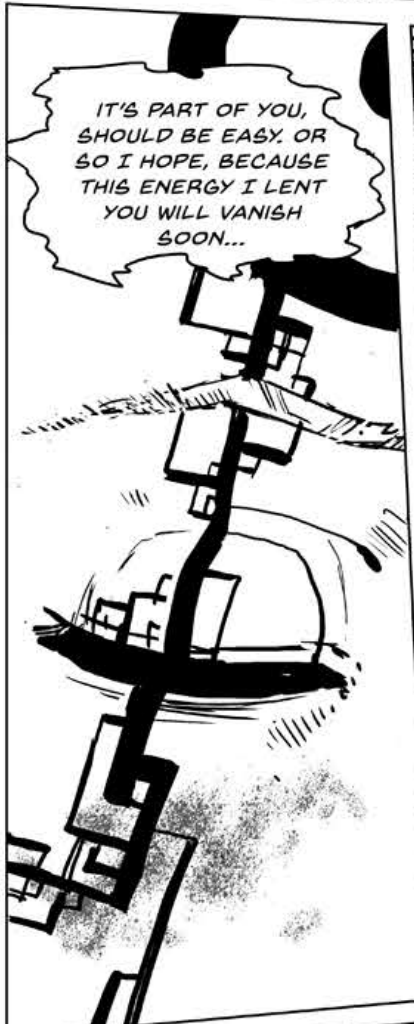
OKAY, THAT'S ENOUGH, I DON'T NEED MY HEADACHE TO GET WORSE.



'OO

SO WHAT NOW? YOU'VE GIVEN ME ENERGY, BUT... HOW TO TRACE...?

IT'S THE "FIRE" BEHIND THOSE BURNS AND BOILS. THAT'S MY... FREQUENCY, SO TO SPEAK. GET INTO THE HEAT SO YOU CAN MOVE TELEPATHICALLY. ALL YOU NEED TO DO IS FIND THAT EXCREMENT THAT YOU PUSHED OUT, IT'S JUST A MATTER OF GETTING INTO ITS PSEUDO-MIND FOR YOU TO REGAIN CONTROL.



IT'S PART OF YOU, SHOULD BE EASY. OR SO I HOPE, BECAUSE THIS ENERGY I LENT YOU WILL VANISH SOON...



I THINK I UNDERSTAND. THESE HALLUCINATIONS...

...ARE NOT SUCH. THEY ARE REALITY. WE ARE THE HALLUCINATION.

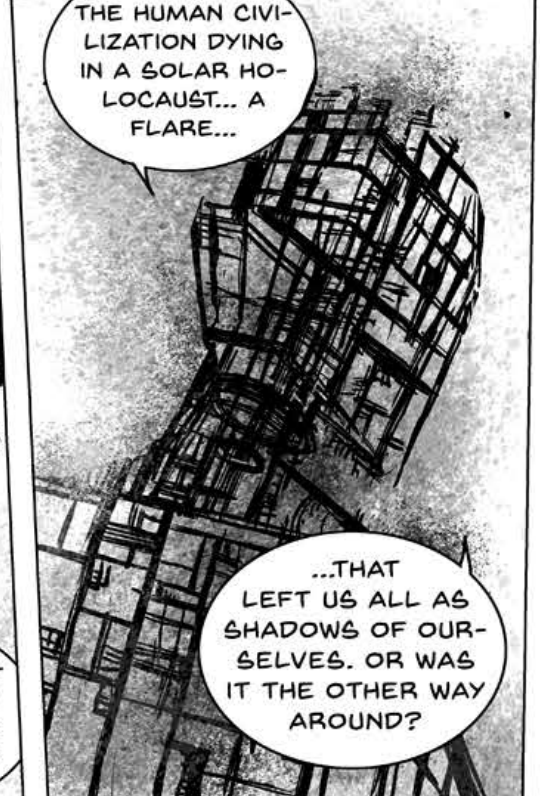


WHAT? IT'S ME? WHAT WAS I SAYING?



THE HUMAN CIVILIZATION DYING IN A SOLAR HOLOCAUST... A FLARE...

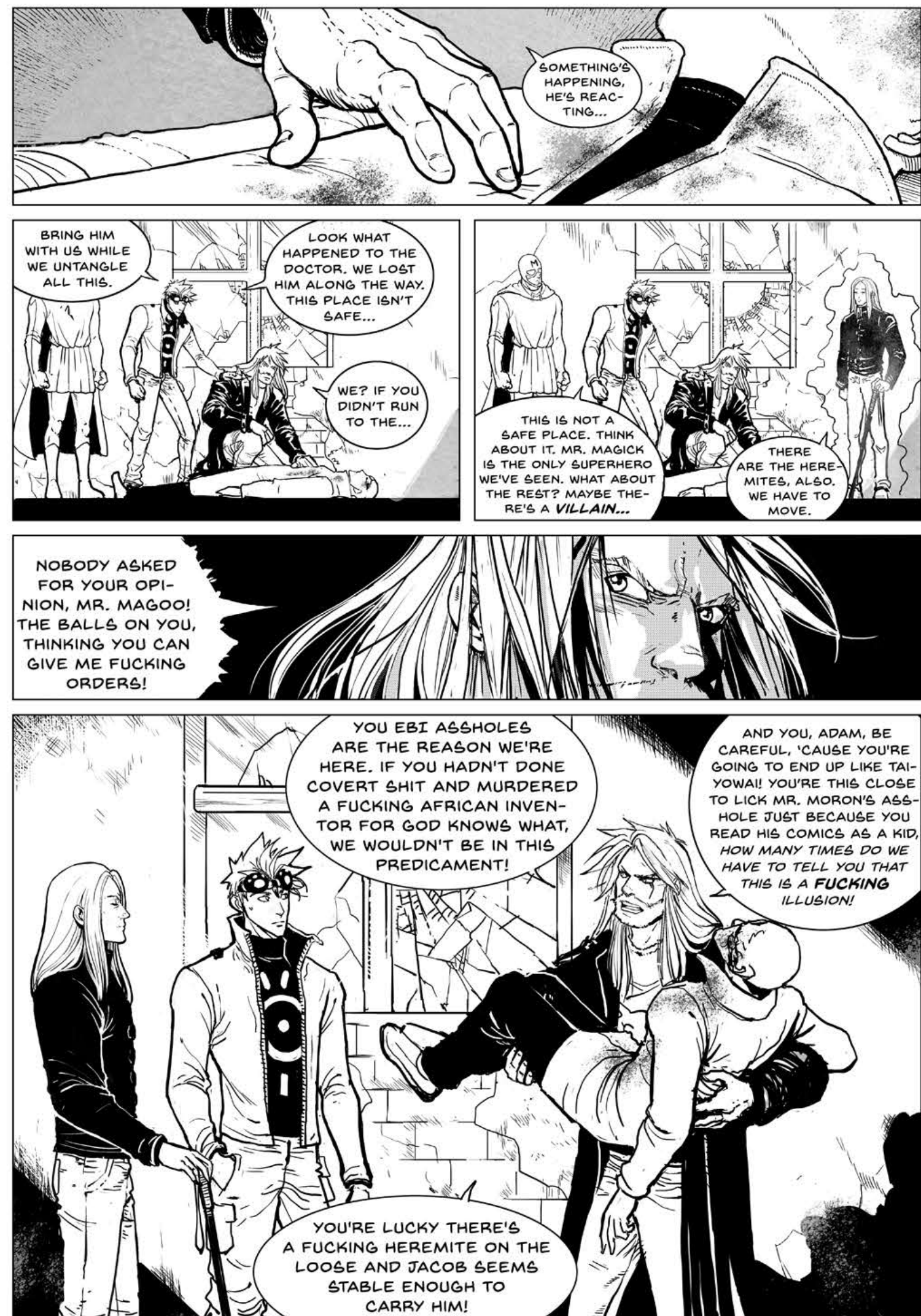
REMEMBER WHEN ENTROPY DRUGGED US? I'VE BEEN HAVING THOSE... DREAMS EVER SINCE.



...THAT LEFT US ALL AS SHADOWS OF OURSELVES. OR WAS IT THE OTHER WAY AROUND?



WE FAILED. WE FAILED. I DON'T EVEN KNOW IF I HAVE THIS IDIOTIC NAME, ELECTRICBRAIN. THE HERO WITH SUPERINTELLIGENCE. I THINK I'M... I THINK I'M SOMETHING... CONDITIONED BY OTHERS... NO. NO, RIGHT? IT CAN'T BE. I CAN'T BE.





LOTS OF PROTESTING BUT YOU ARE ALREADY STANDING UP, AS YOU HAVE BEEN ASKED TO DO. SAVE US THE EMBARRASSMENT.

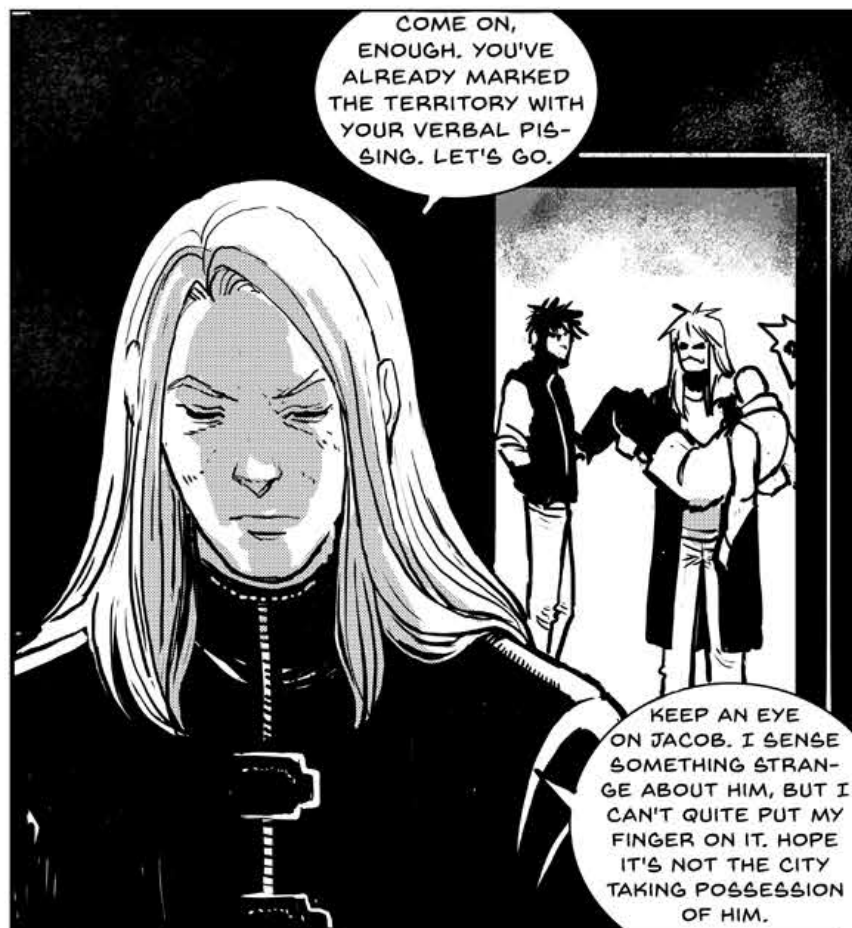


FORGIVE ME, I KNOW YOU ARE OF A SENSITIVE DISPOSITION. THE LAST THING I WANT IS TO MAKE YOU SUFFER SO MUCH THAT YOU END UP ON YOUR KNEES, BEGGING TO DIE.



THAT WAS...! YOU FUCKING ASSHOLE! ARE YOU AWARE OF WHERE YOU ARE? WHAT WE CAN DO TO YOU...?

NOPE. WANT ME TO ASK YOUR PARTNER ALEX? HE'S BENEFITTED A LOT FROM EVERYTHING YOU "CAN DO".



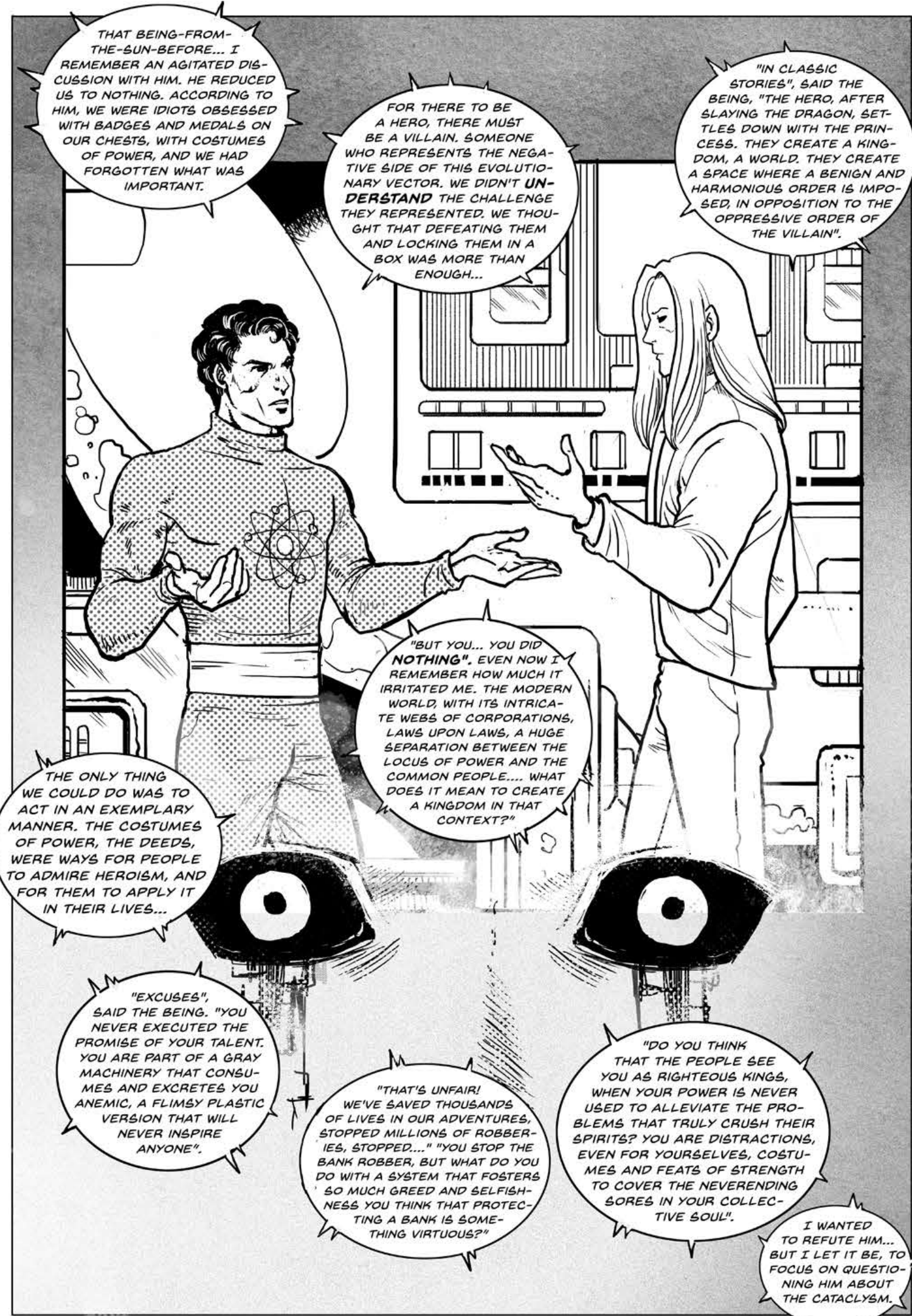
COME ON, ENOUGH. YOU'VE ALREADY MARKED THE TERRITORY WITH YOUR VERBAL PIS-SING. LET'S GO.

KEEP AN EYE ON JACOB. I SENSE SOMETHING STRANGE ABOUT HIM, BUT I CAN'T QUITE PUT MY FINGER ON IT. HOPE IT'S NOT THE CITY TAKING POSSESSION OF HIM.



DID YOU HEAR THAT? WALK ON, SUCKER.

UMFF...



THAT BEING-FROM-THE-SUN-BEFORE... I REMEMBER AN AGITATED DISCUSSION WITH HIM. HE REDUCED US TO NOTHING. ACCORDING TO HIM, WE WERE IDIOTS OBSESSED WITH BADGES AND MEDALS ON OUR CHESTS, WITH COSTUMES OF POWER, AND WE HAD FORGOTTEN WHAT WAS IMPORTANT.

FOR THERE TO BE A HERO, THERE MUST BE A VILLAIN. SOMEONE WHO REPRESENTS THE NEGATIVE SIDE OF THIS EVOLUTIONARY VECTOR. WE DIDN'T UNDERSTAND THE CHALLENGE THEY REPRESENTED. WE THOUGHT THAT DEFEATING THEM AND LOCKING THEM IN A BOX WAS MORE THAN ENOUGH...

"IN CLASSIC STORIES", SAID THE BEING, "THE HERO, AFTER SLAYING THE DRAGON, SETTLES DOWN WITH THE PRINCESS. THEY CREATE A KINGDOM, A WORLD. THEY CREATE A SPACE WHERE A BENIGN AND HARMONIOUS ORDER IS IMPOSED, IN OPPOSITION TO THE OPPRESSIVE ORDER OF THE VILLAIN".

"BUT YOU... YOU DID NOTHING". EVEN NOW I REMEMBER HOW MUCH IT IRRITATED ME. THE MODERN WORLD, WITH ITS INTRICATE WEBS OF CORPORATIONS, LAWS UPON LAWS, A HUGE SEPARATION BETWEEN THE LOCUS OF POWER AND THE COMMON PEOPLE.... WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO CREATE A KINGDOM IN THAT CONTEXT?"

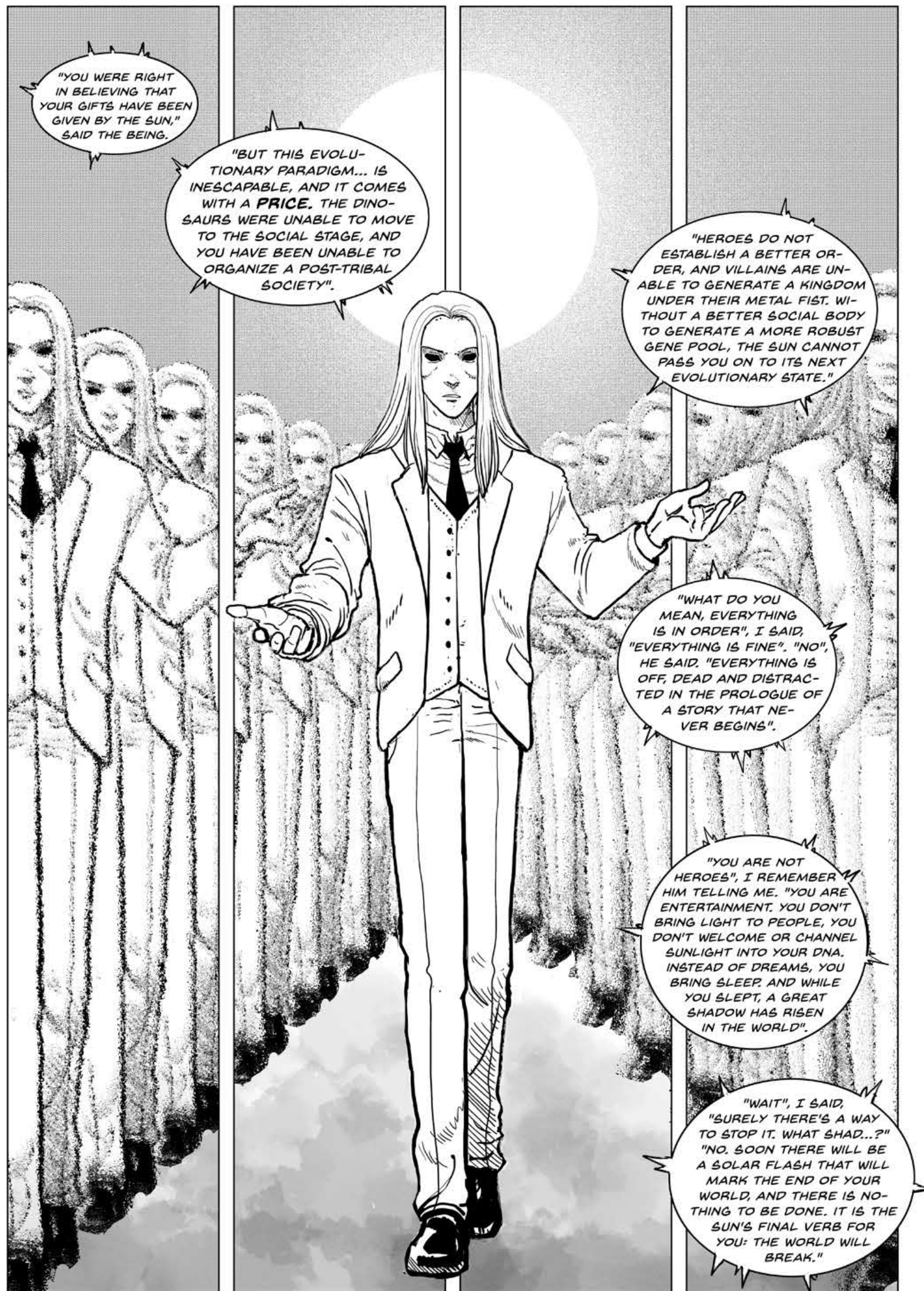
THE ONLY THING WE COULD DO WAS TO ACT IN AN EXEMPLARY MANNER. THE COSTUMES OF POWER, THE DEEDS, WERE WAYS FOR PEOPLE TO ADMIRE HEROISM, AND FOR THEM TO APPLY IT IN THEIR LIVES...

"EXCUSES", SAID THE BEING. "YOU NEVER EXECUTED THE PROMISE OF YOUR TALENT. YOU ARE PART OF A GRAY MACHINERY THAT CONSUMES AND EXCRETES YOU ANEMIC, A FLIMSY PLASTIC VERSION THAT WILL NEVER INSPIRE ANYONE".

"THAT'S UNFAIR! WE'VE SAVED THOUSANDS OF LIVES IN OUR ADVENTURES, STOPPED MILLIONS OF ROBBERIES, STOPPED..." "YOU STOP THE BANK ROBBER, BUT WHAT DO YOU DO WITH A SYSTEM THAT FOSTERS SO MUCH GREED AND SELFISHNESS YOU THINK THAT PROTECTING A BANK IS SOMETHING VIRTUOUS?"

"DO YOU THINK THAT THE PEOPLE SEE YOU AS RIGHTEOUS KINGS, WHEN YOUR POWER IS NEVER USED TO ALLEVIATE THE PROBLEMS THAT TRULY CRUSH THEIR SPIRITS? YOU ARE DISTRACTIONS, EVEN FOR YOURSELVES, COSTUMES AND FEATS OF STRENGTH TO COVER THE NEVERENDING SORES IN YOUR COLLECTIVE SOUL".

I WANTED TO REFUTE HIM... BUT I LET IT BE, TO FOCUS ON QUESTIONING HIM ABOUT THE CATAclysm.



"YOU WERE RIGHT IN BELIEVING THAT YOUR GIFTS HAVE BEEN GIVEN BY THE SUN," SAID THE BEING.

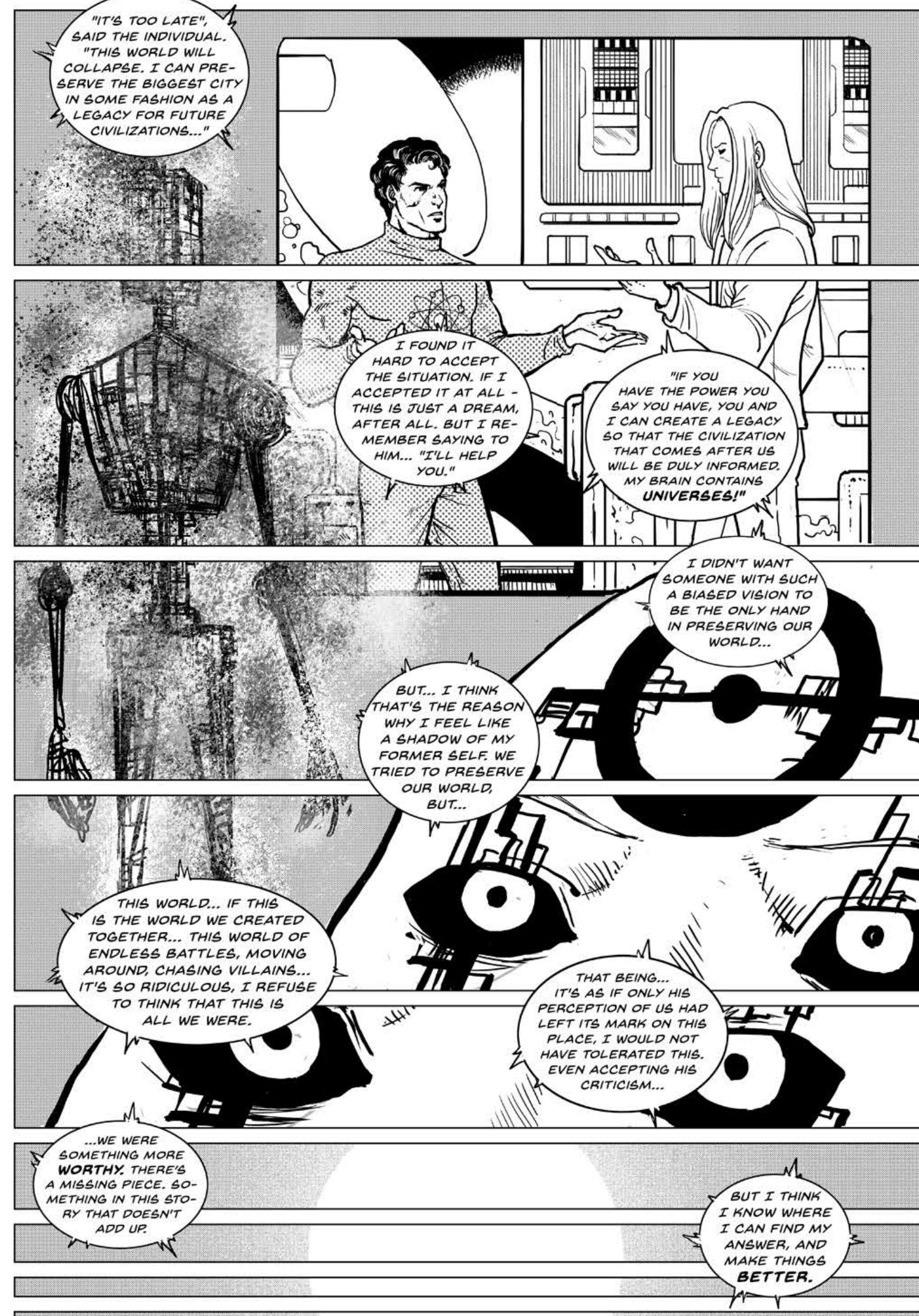
"BUT THIS EVOLUTIONARY PARADIGM... IS INESCAPABLE, AND IT COMES WITH A **PRICE**. THE DINOSAURS WERE UNABLE TO MOVE TO THE SOCIAL STAGE, AND YOU HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO ORGANIZE A POST-TRIBAL SOCIETY".

"HEROES DO NOT ESTABLISH A BETTER ORDER, AND VILLAINS ARE UNABLE TO GENERATE A KINGDOM UNDER THEIR METAL FIST. WITHOUT A BETTER SOCIAL BODY TO GENERATE A MORE ROBUST GENE POOL, THE SUN CANNOT PASS YOU ON TO ITS NEXT EVOLUTIONARY STATE."

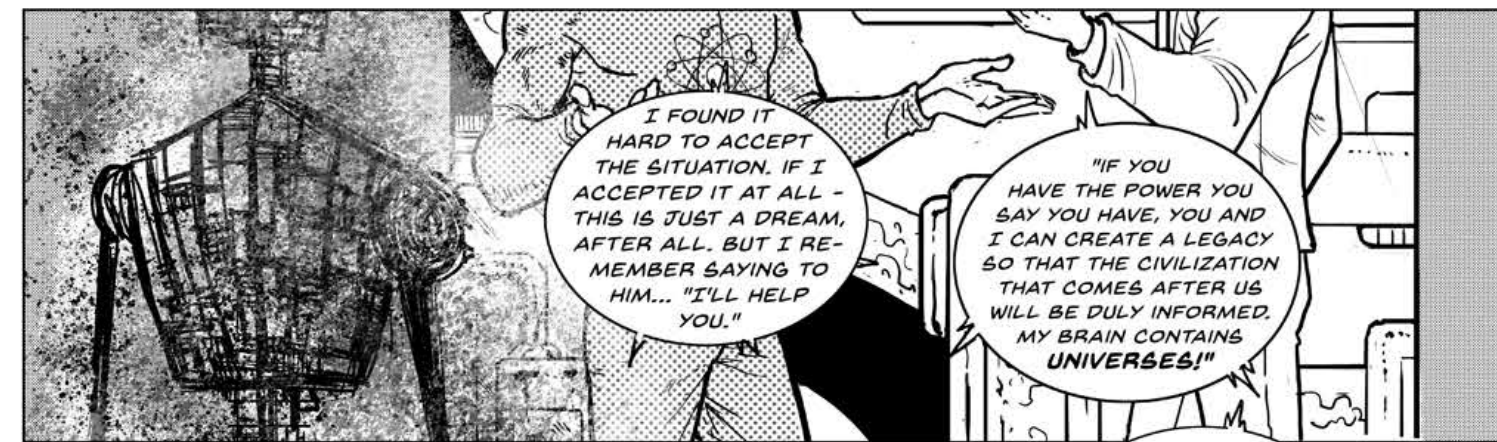
"WHAT DO YOU MEAN, EVERYTHING IS IN ORDER", I SAID, "EVERYTHING IS FINE". "NO", HE SAID. "EVERYTHING IS OFF, DEAD AND DISTRACTED IN THE PROLOGUE OF A STORY THAT NEVER BEGINS".

"YOU ARE NOT HEROES", I REMEMBER HIM TELLING ME. "YOU ARE ENTERTAINMENT. YOU DON'T BRING LIGHT TO PEOPLE, YOU DON'T WELCOME OR CHANNEL SUNLIGHT INTO YOUR DNA. INSTEAD OF DREAMS, YOU BRING SLEEP. AND WHILE YOU SLEPT, A GREAT SHADOW HAS RISEN IN THE WORLD".

"WAIT", I SAID, "SURELY THERE'S A WAY TO STOP IT. WHAT SHAD...?" "NO. SOON THERE WILL BE A SOLAR FLASH THAT WILL MARK THE END OF YOUR WORLD, AND THERE IS NOTHING TO BE DONE. IT IS THE SUN'S FINAL VERB FOR YOU: THE WORLD WILL BREAK."



"IT'S TOO LATE", SAID THE INDIVIDUAL. "THIS WORLD WILL COLLAPSE. I CAN PRESERVE THE BIGGEST CITY IN SOME FASHION AS A LEGACY FOR FUTURE CIVILIZATIONS..."



I FOUND IT HARD TO ACCEPT THE SITUATION. IF I ACCEPTED IT AT ALL - THIS IS JUST A DREAM, AFTER ALL. BUT I REMEMBER SAYING TO HIM... "I'LL HELP YOU."

"IF YOU HAVE THE POWER YOU SAY YOU HAVE, YOU AND I CAN CREATE A LEGACY SO THAT THE CIVILIZATION THAT COMES AFTER US WILL BE DULY INFORMED. MY BRAIN CONTAINS **UNIVERSES!**"



BUT... I THINK THAT'S THE REASON WHY I FEEL LIKE A SHADOW OF MY FORMER SELF. WE TRIED TO PRESERVE OUR WORLD, BUT...

I DIDN'T WANT SOMEONE WITH SUCH A BIASED VISION TO BE THE ONLY HAND IN PRESERVING OUR WORLD...

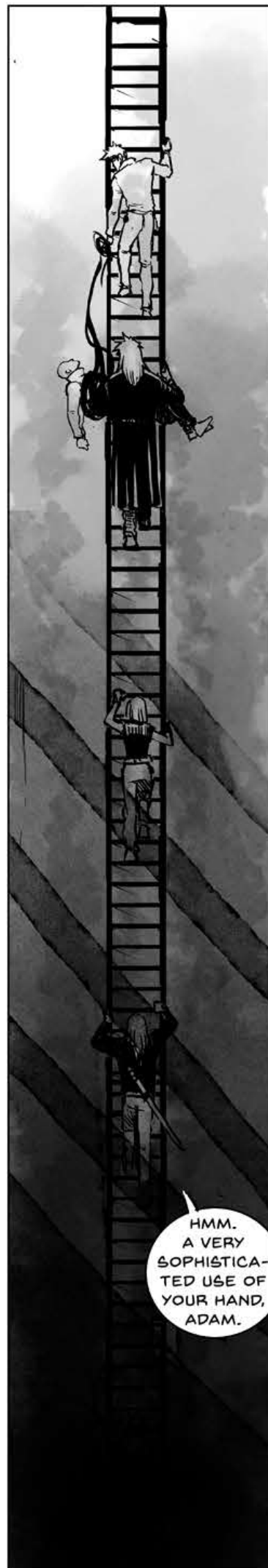
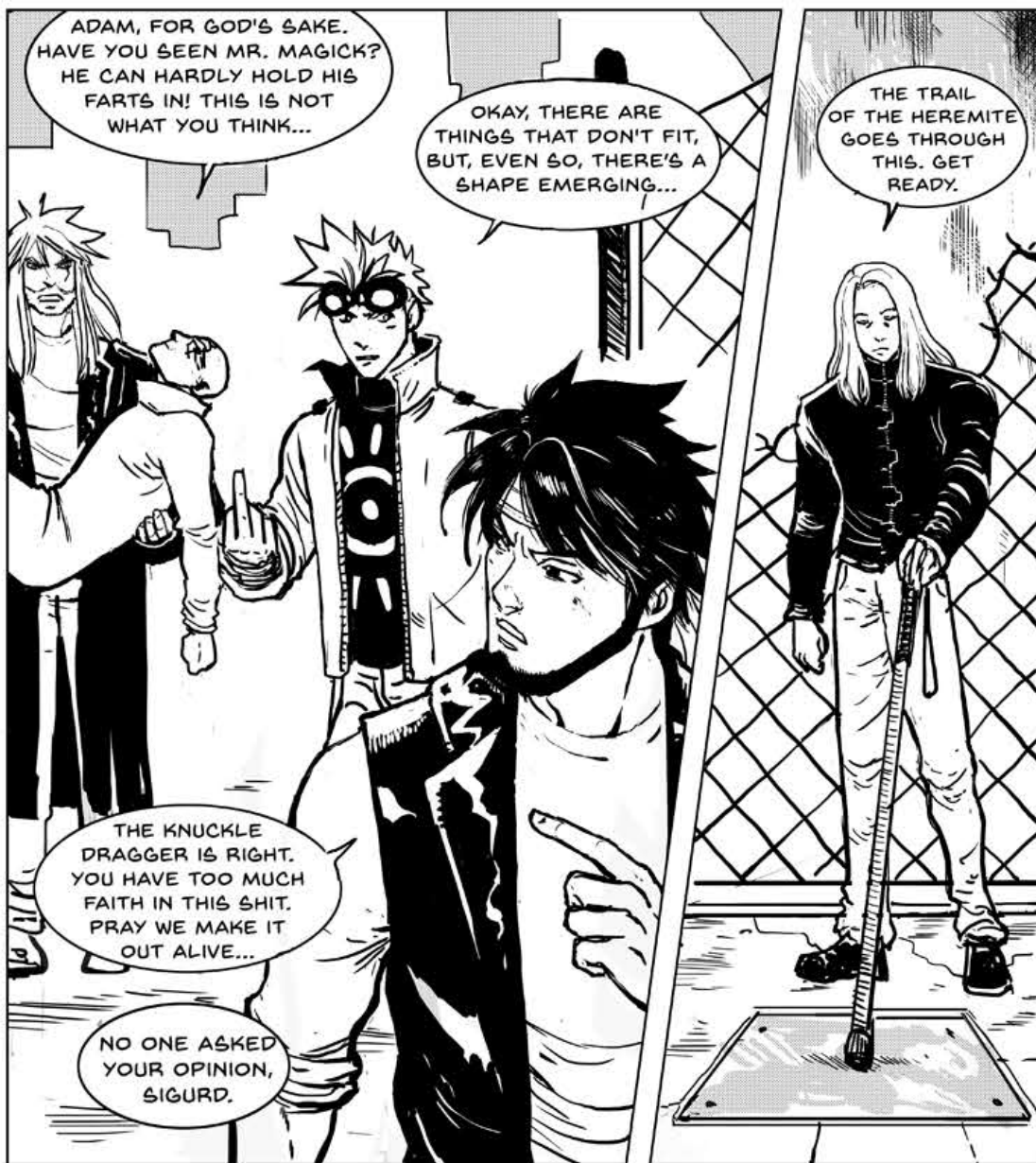


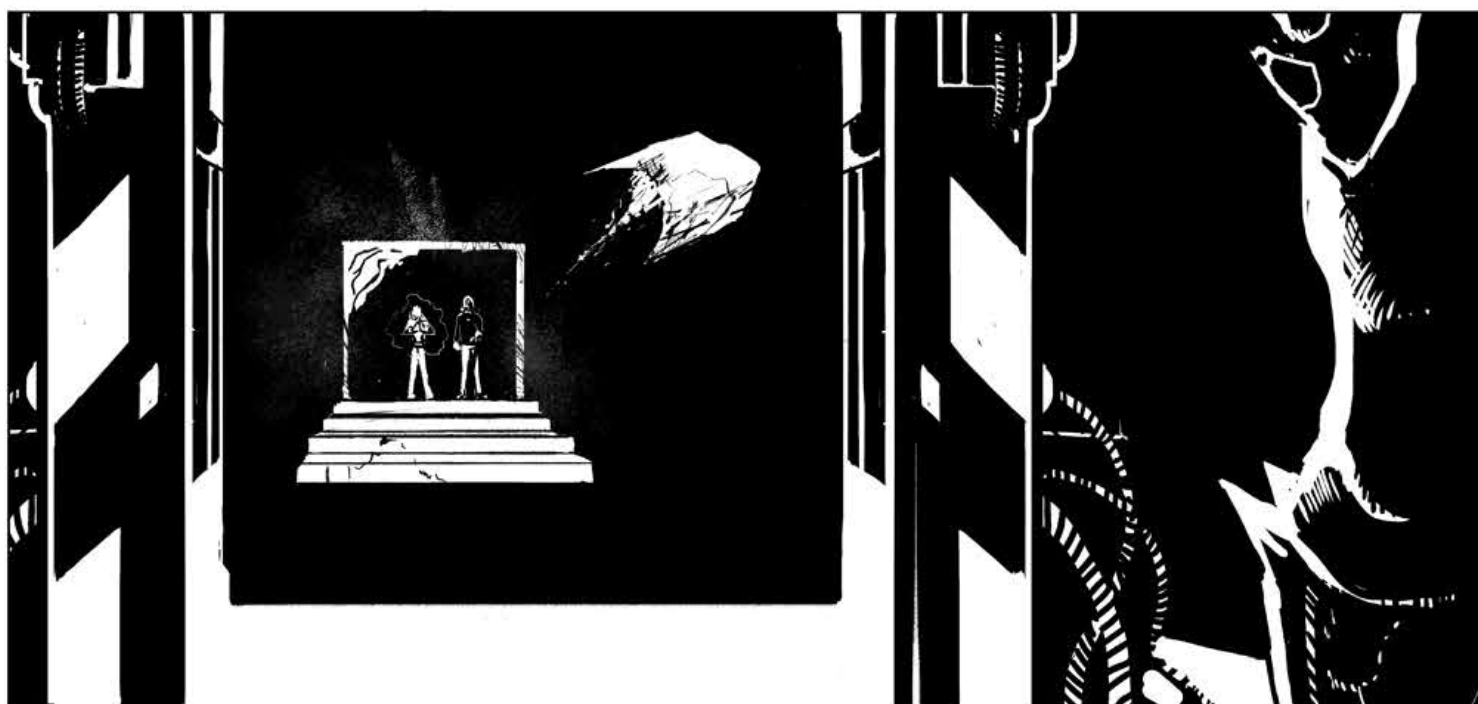
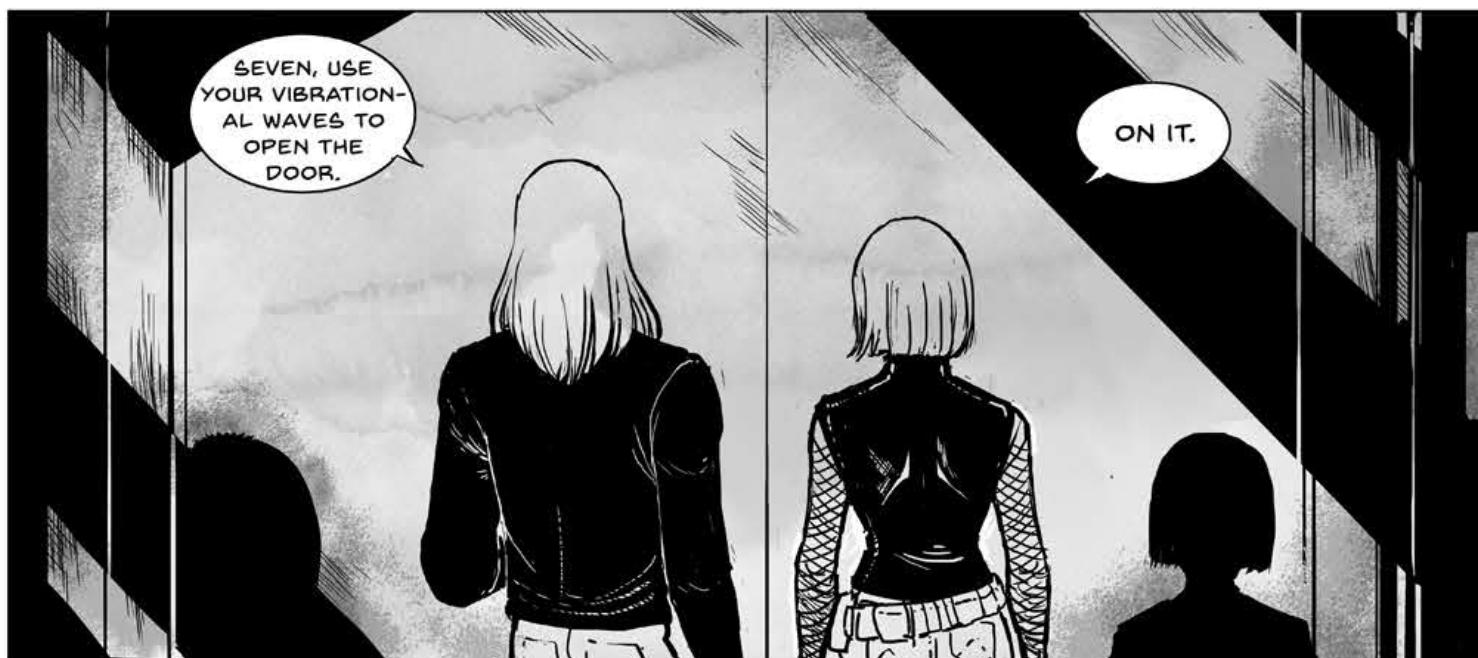
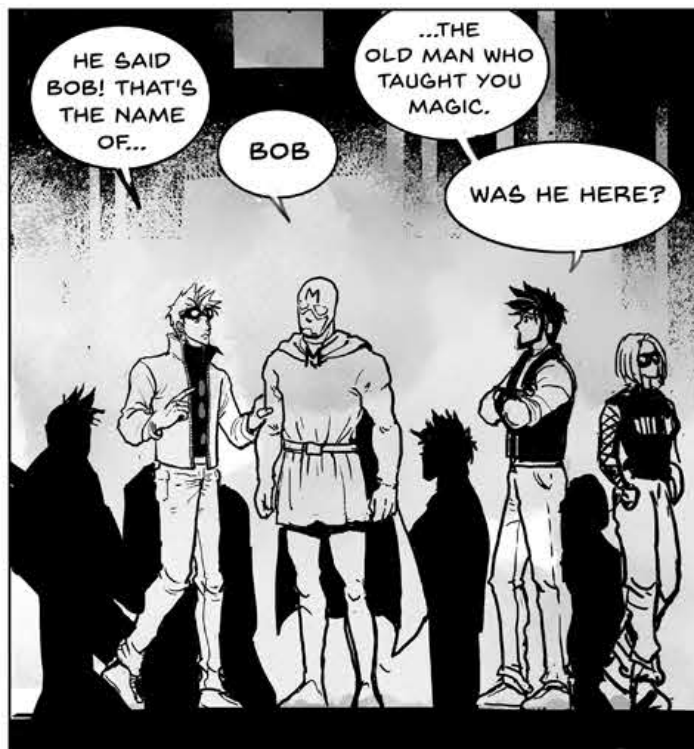
THIS WORLD... IF THIS IS THE WORLD WE CREATED TOGETHER... THIS WORLD OF ENDLESS BATTLES, MOVING AROUND, CHASING VILLAINS... IT'S SO RIDICULOUS, I REFUSE TO THINK THAT THIS IS ALL WE WERE.

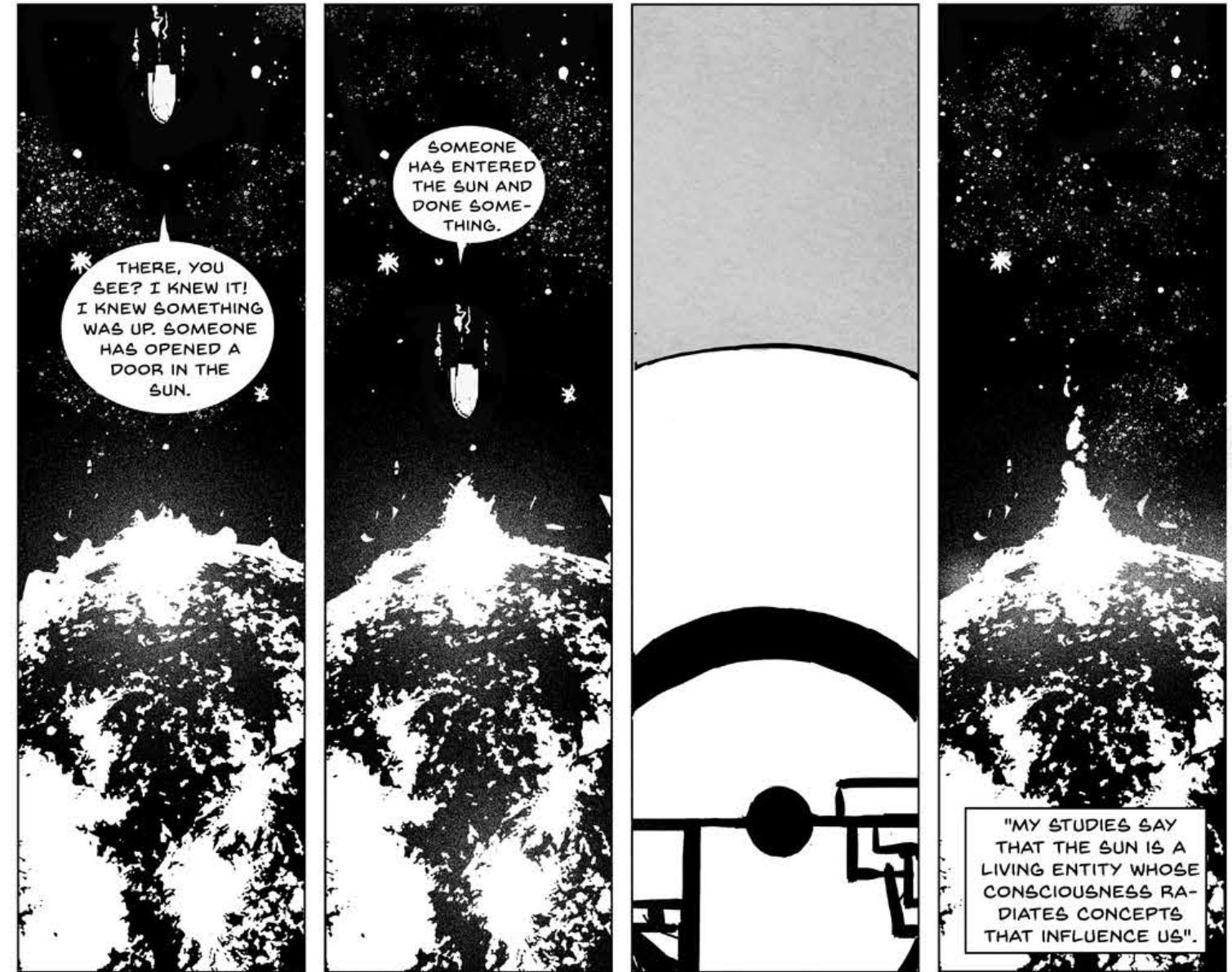
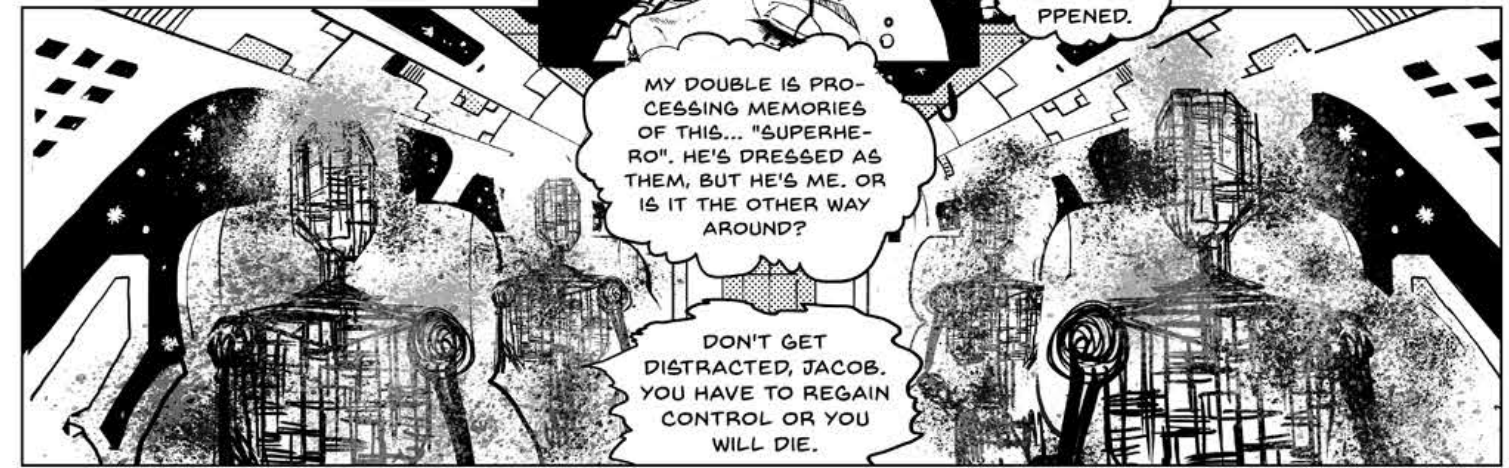
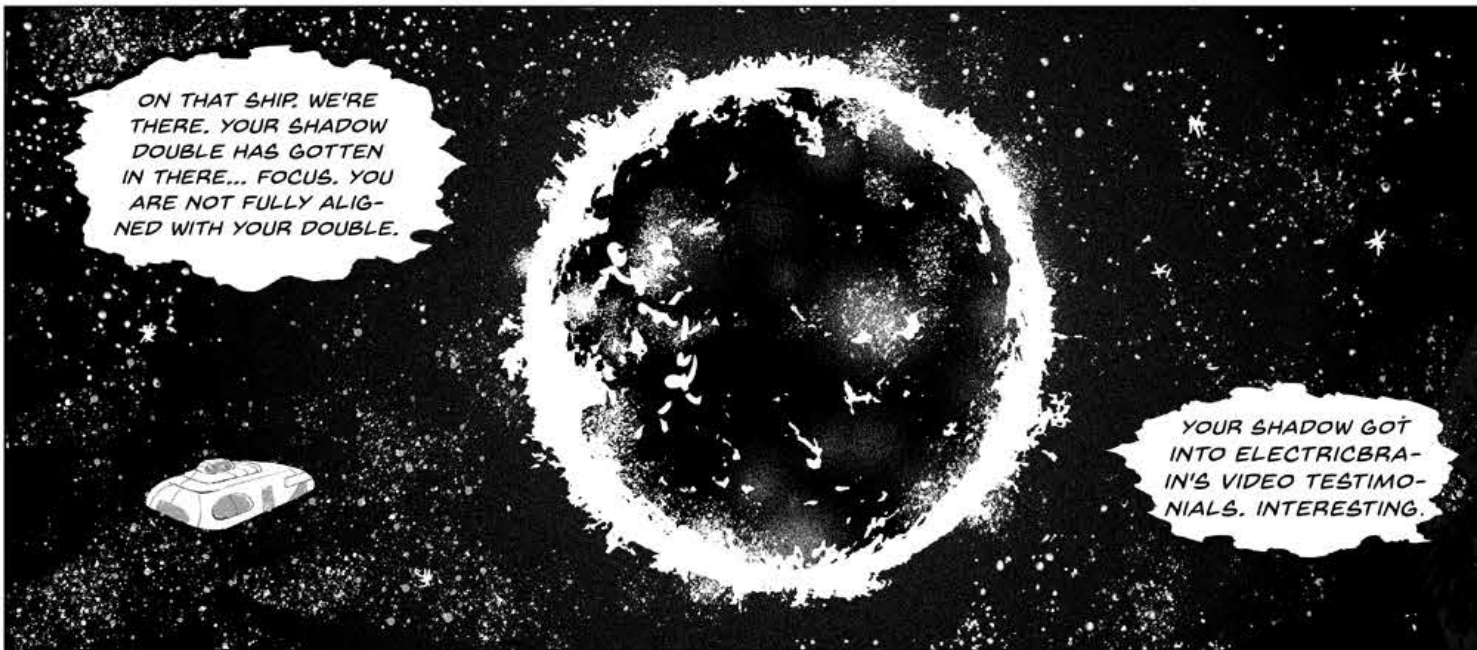
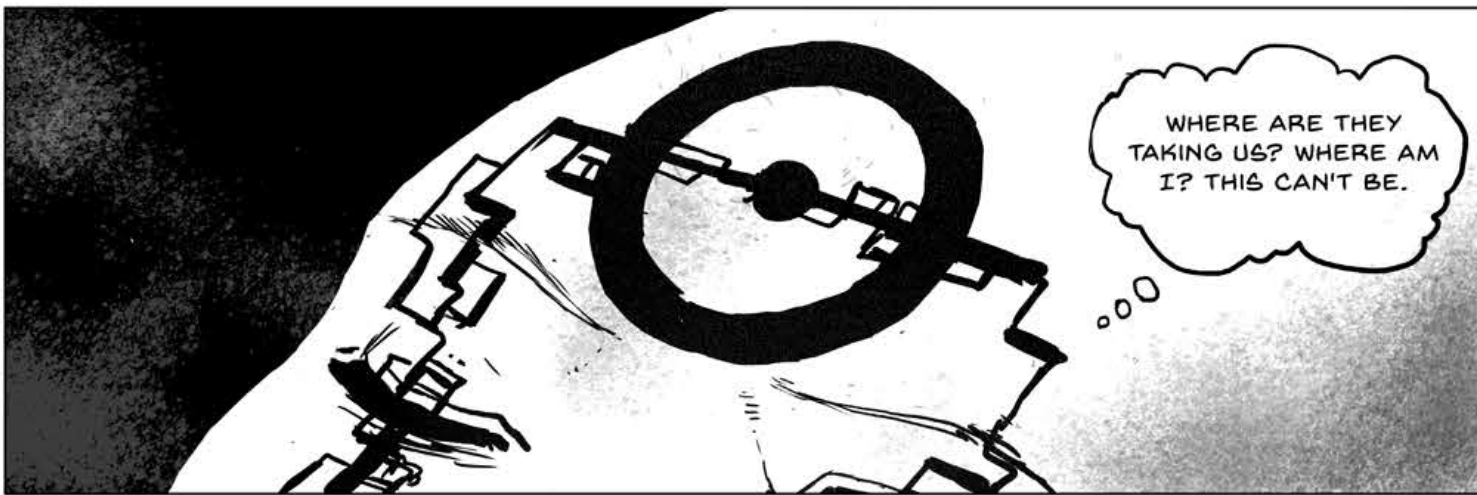
THAT BEING... IT'S AS IF ONLY HIS PERCEPTION OF US HAD LEFT ITS MARK ON THIS PLACE, I WOULD NOT HAVE TOLERATED THIS. EVEN ACCEPTING HIS CRITICISM...

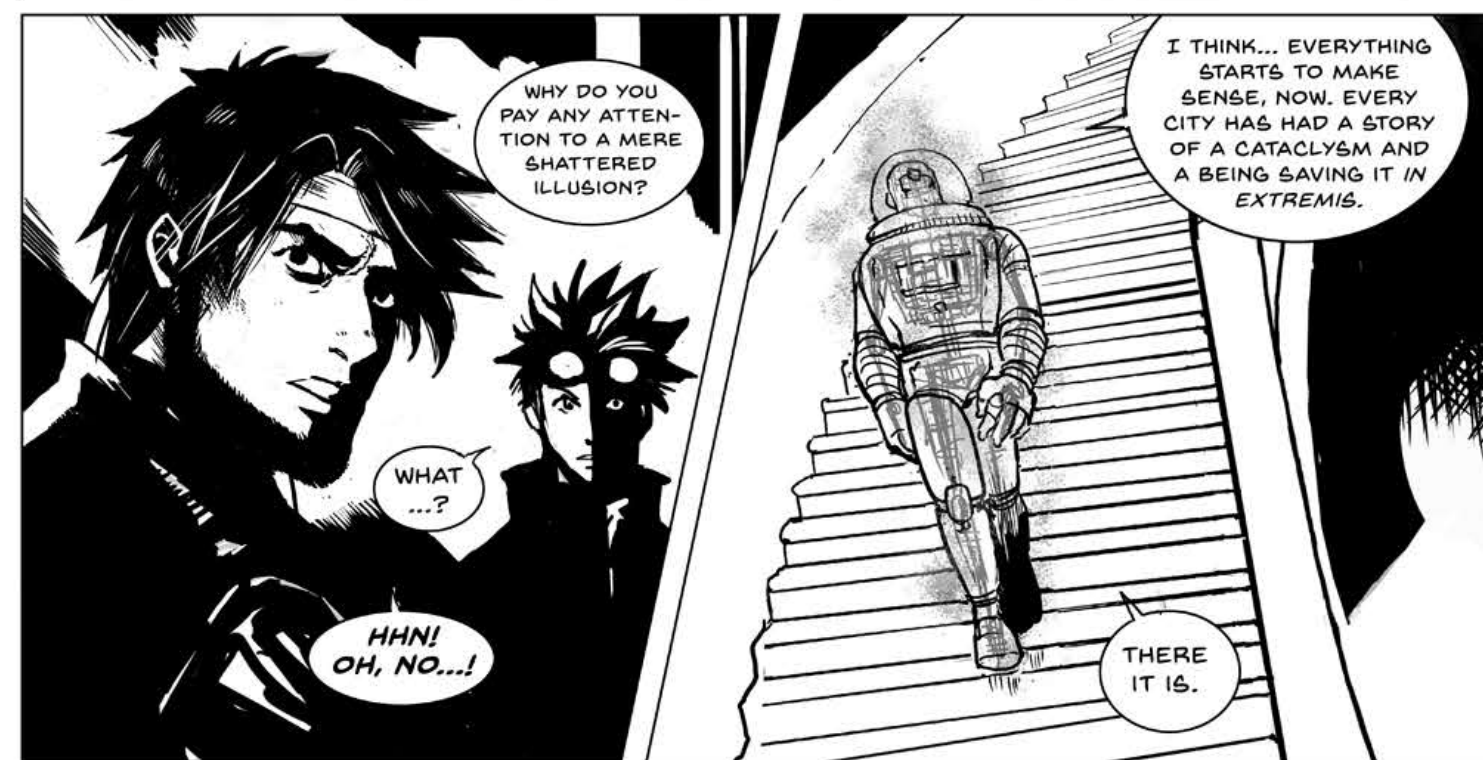
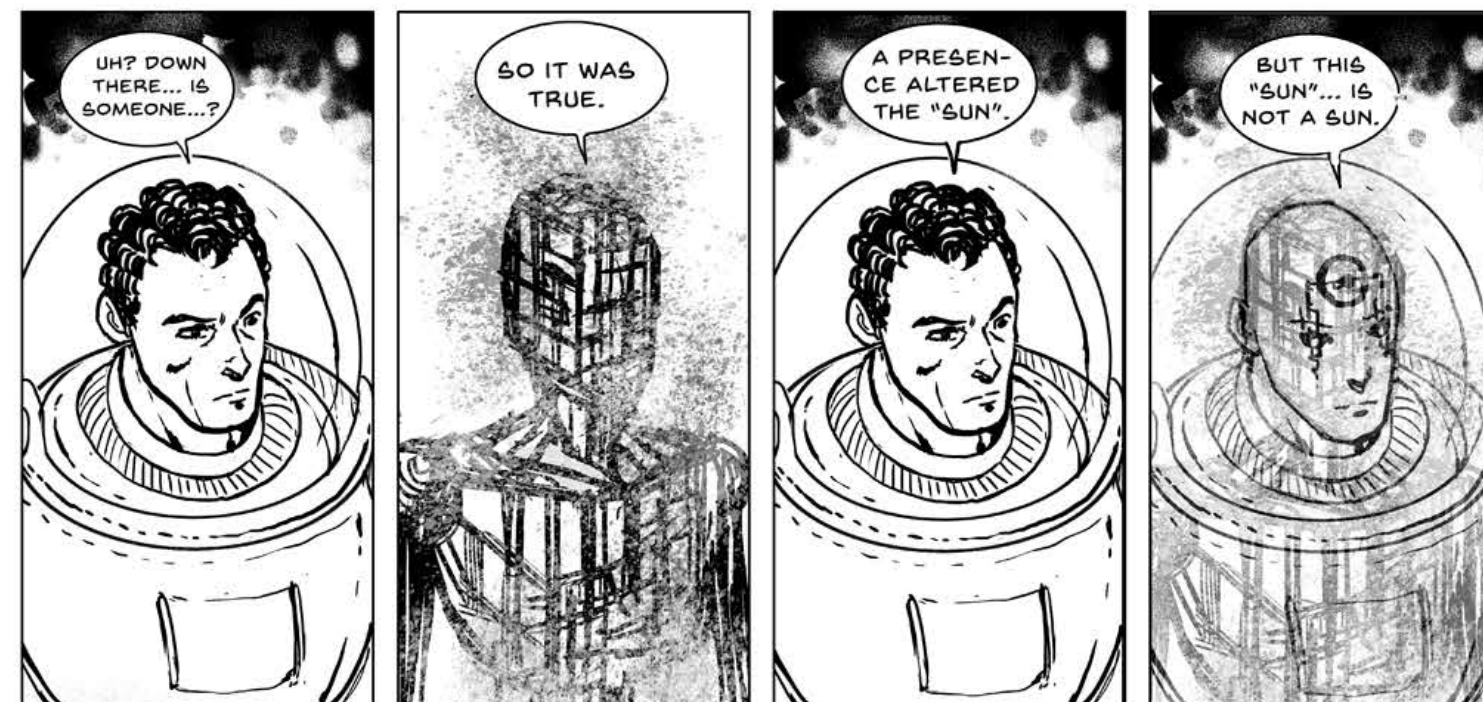
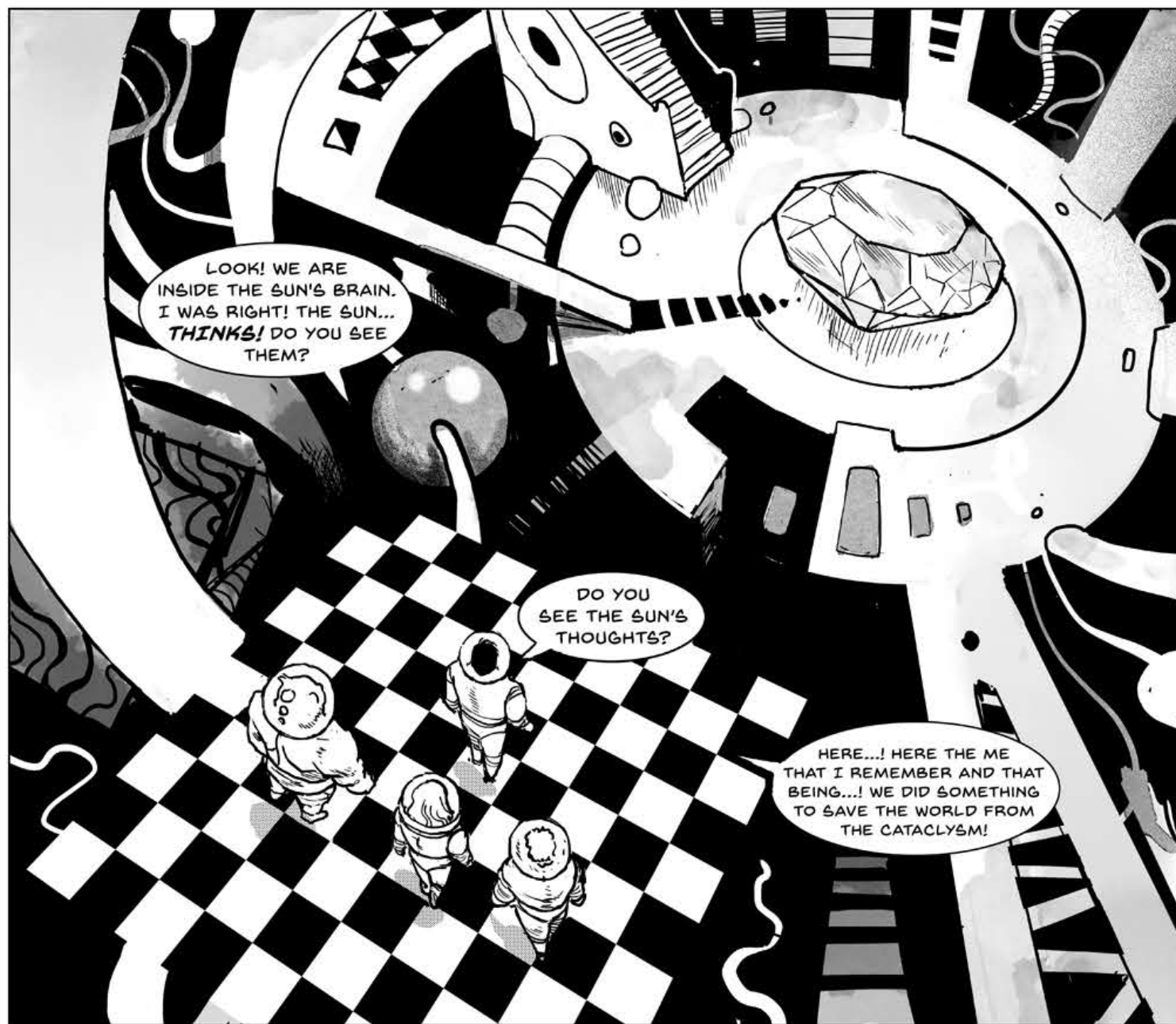
...WE WERE SOMETHING MORE **WORTHY**. THERE'S A MISSING PIECE. SOMETHING IN THIS STORY THAT DOESN'T ADD UP.

BUT I THINK I KNOW WHERE I CAN FIND MY ANSWER, AND MAKE THINGS **BETTER**.











...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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