

# WPSRLE



39: CAJAS DE PANDORA

SIMON M.

SCRIPT  
PANEL LAYOUT  
COVER

TRANSLATION  
(SORRY, ENGLISH SPEAKERS)

ATANA S.

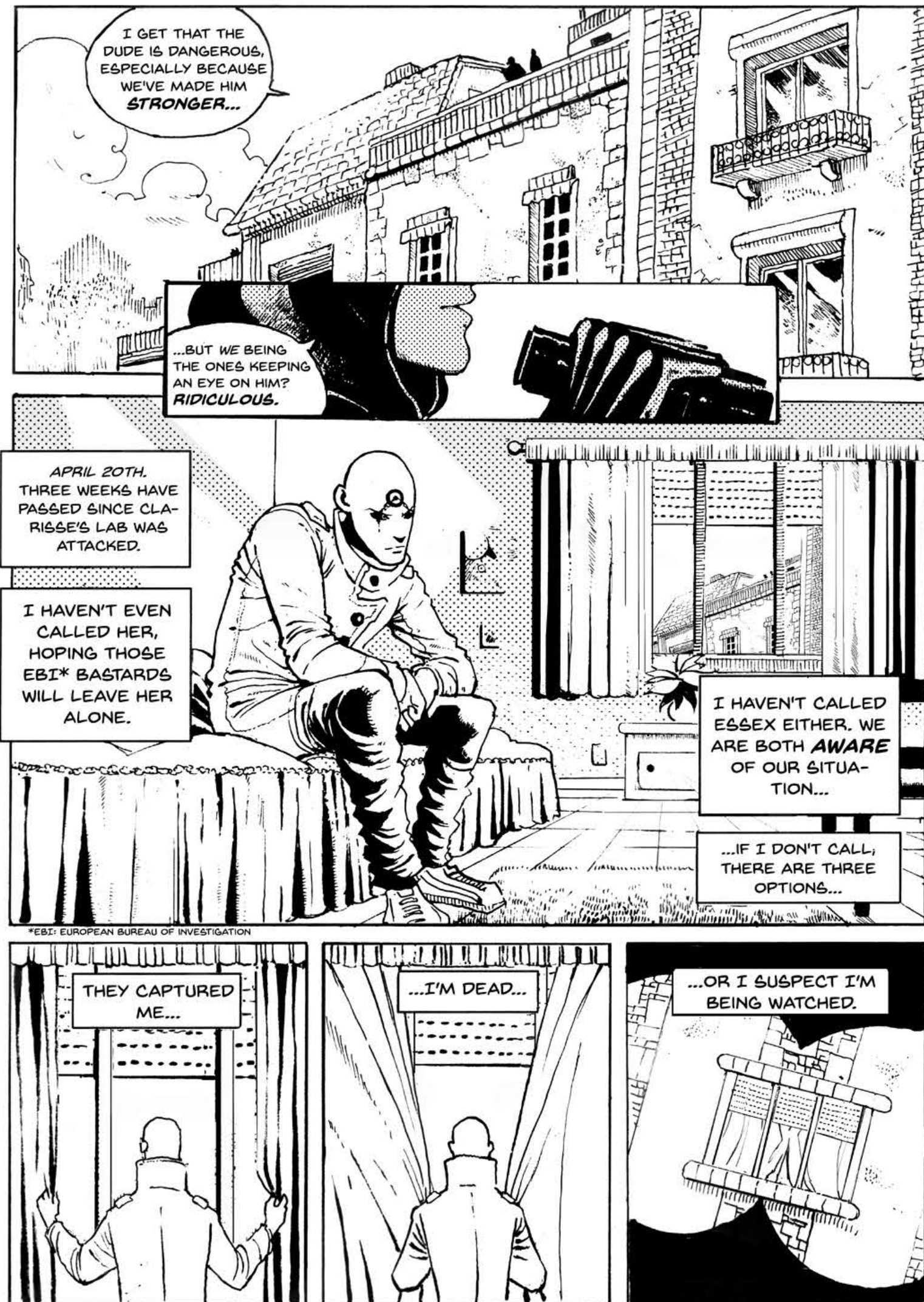
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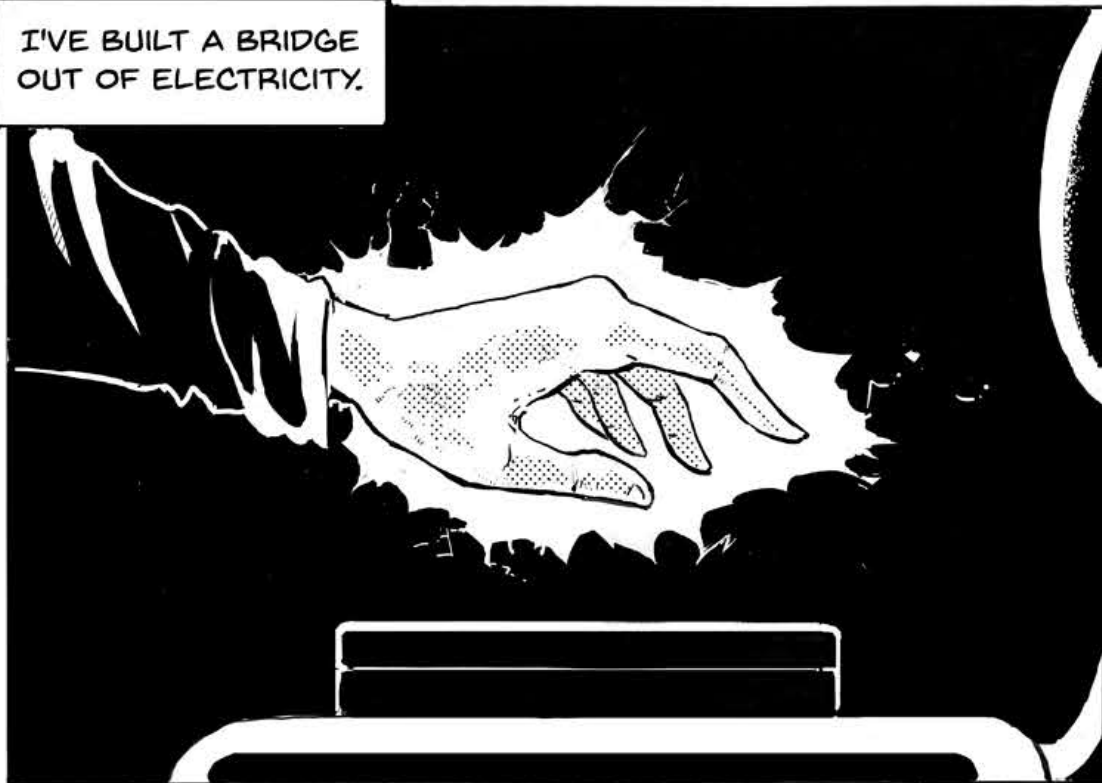
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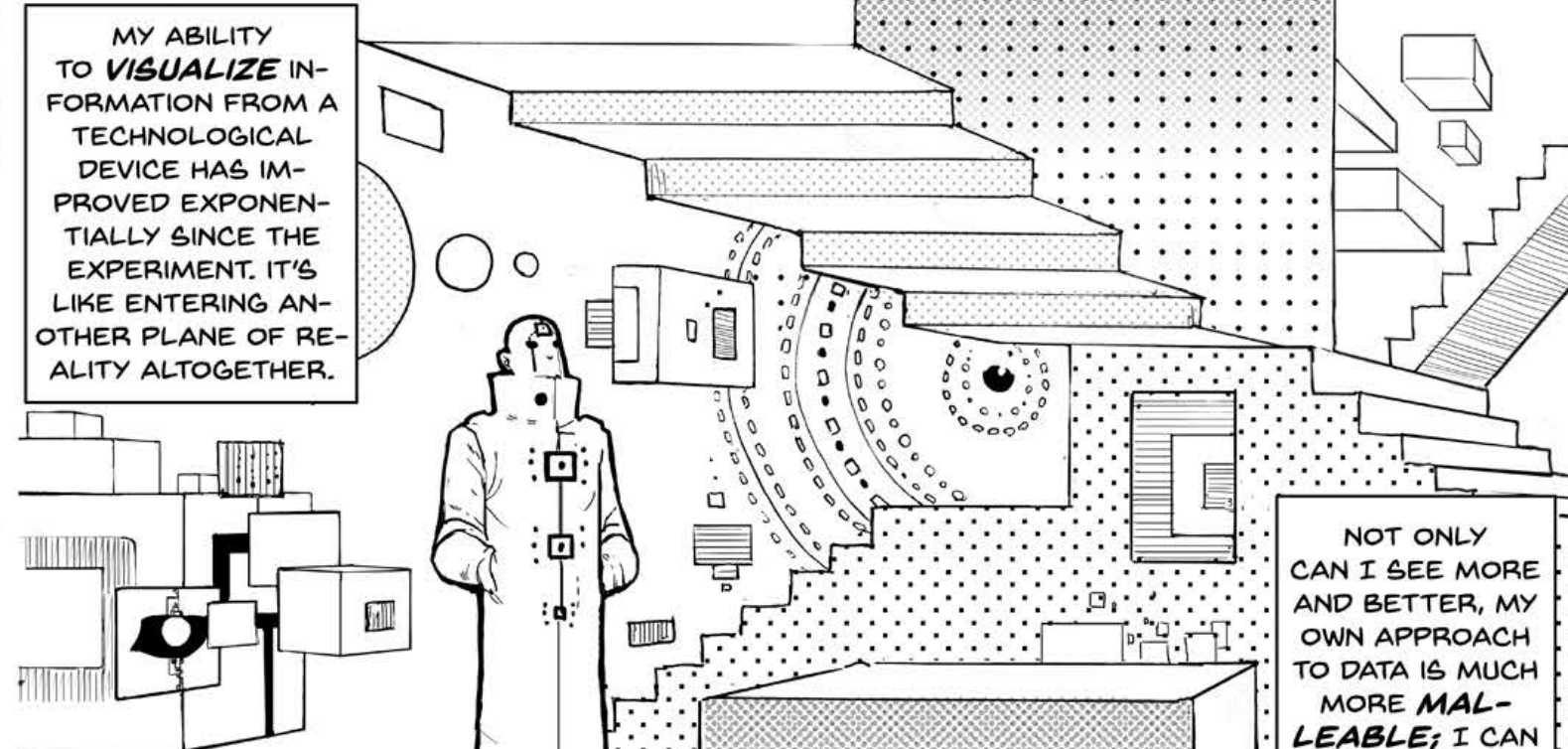
I'VE BUILT A BRIDGE  
OUT OF ELECTRICITY.



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

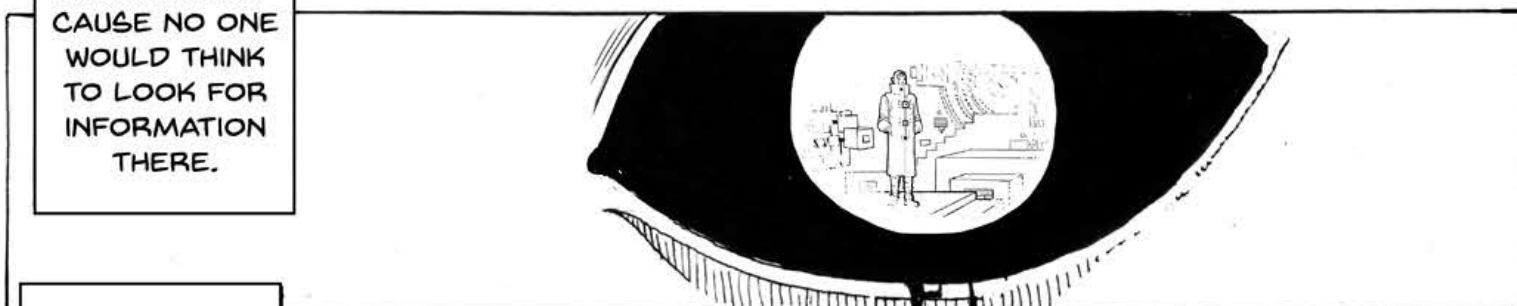


MY ABILITY  
TO **VISUALIZE** IN-  
FORMATION FROM A  
TECHNOLOGICAL  
DEVICE HAS IM-  
PROVED EXPONEN-  
Tially SINCE THE  
EXPERIMENT. IT'S  
LIKE ENTERING AN-  
OTHER PLANE OF RE-  
ALITY ALTOGETHER.

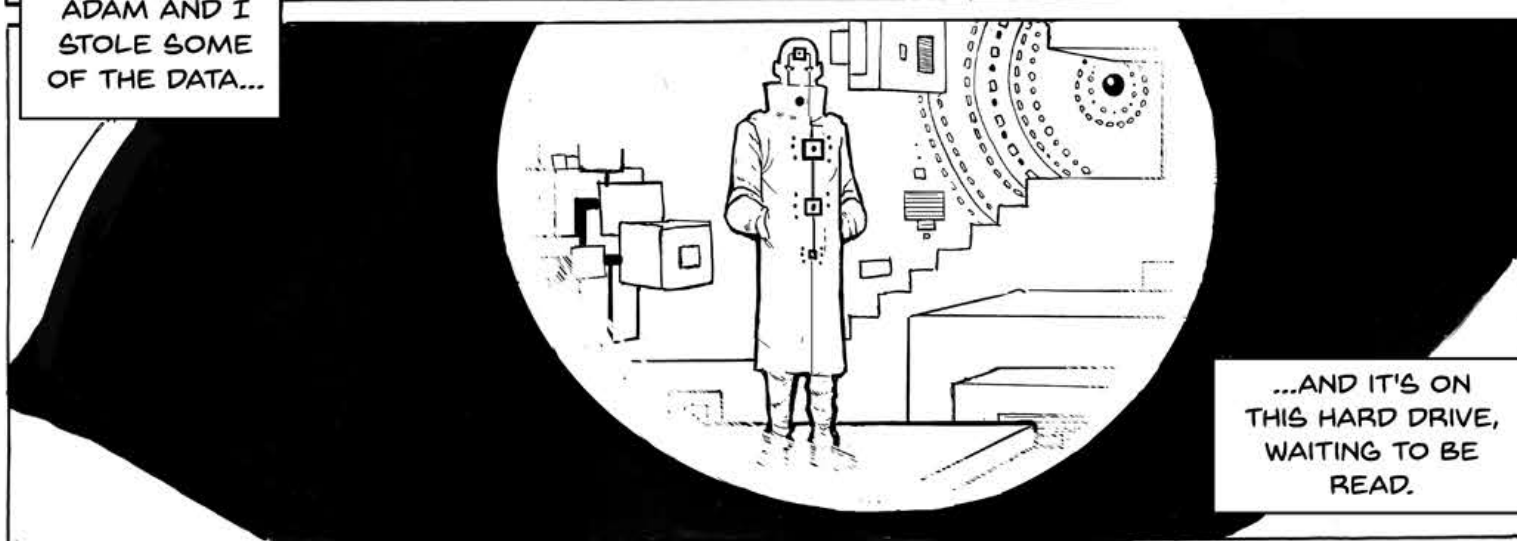


NOT ONLY  
CAN I SEE MORE  
AND BETTER, MY  
OWN APPROACH  
TO DATA IS MUCH  
MORE **MAL-  
LEABLE**; I CAN  
MAKE CHANGES  
WITH MUCH  
MORE EASE.

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.

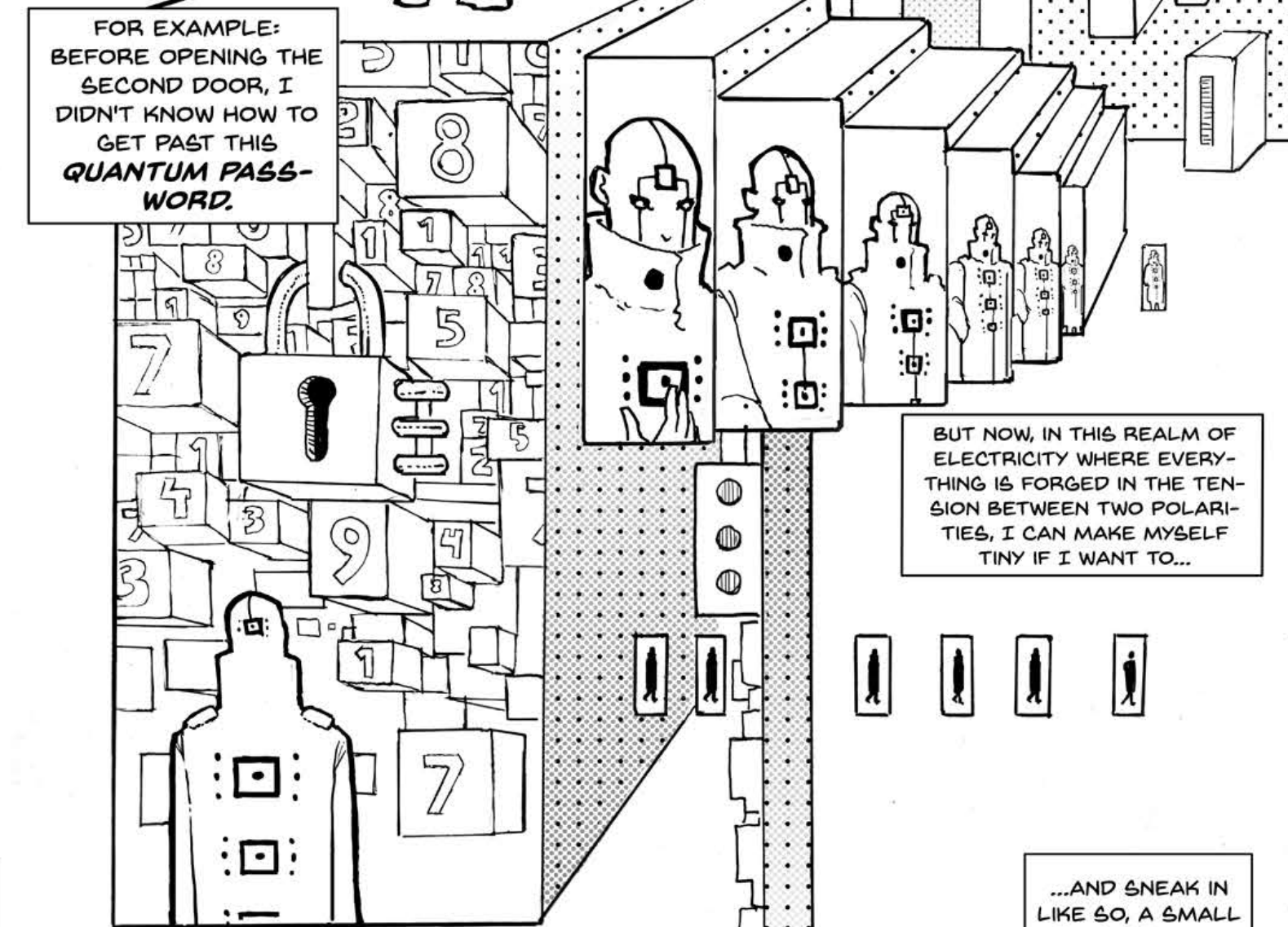


ADAM AND I  
STOLE SOME  
OF THE DATA...



...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!*

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?

...SORRY. I'M IN A STUPID MOOD. I JUST... I DUNNO. I SAW MY MO... I DON'T... I'VE BEEN INVESTIGATING, AND... I'VE...

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!

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

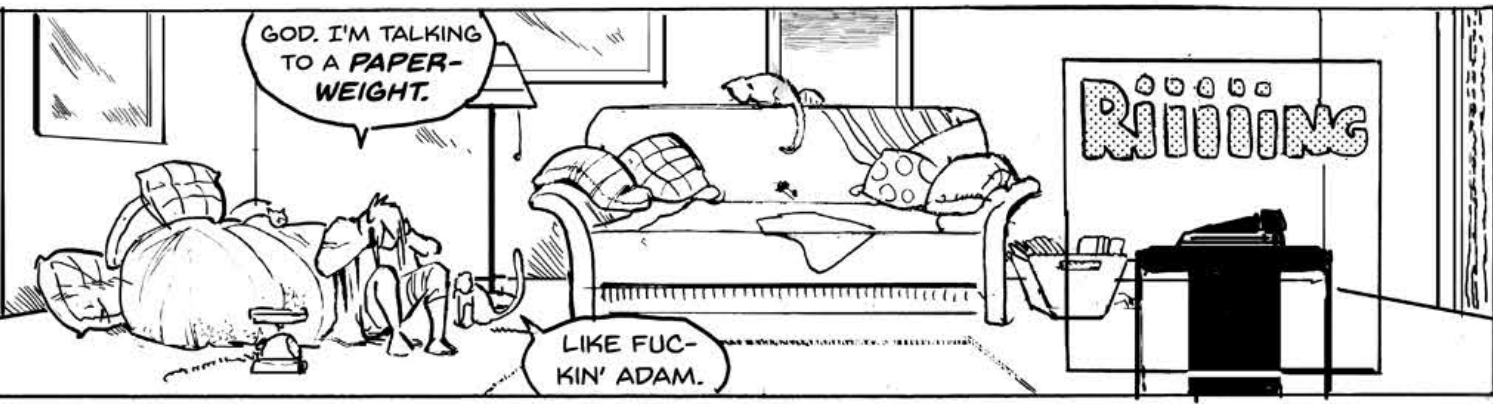


YOUR FUNCTION HAS TO BE *DEEPER* THAN THIS...

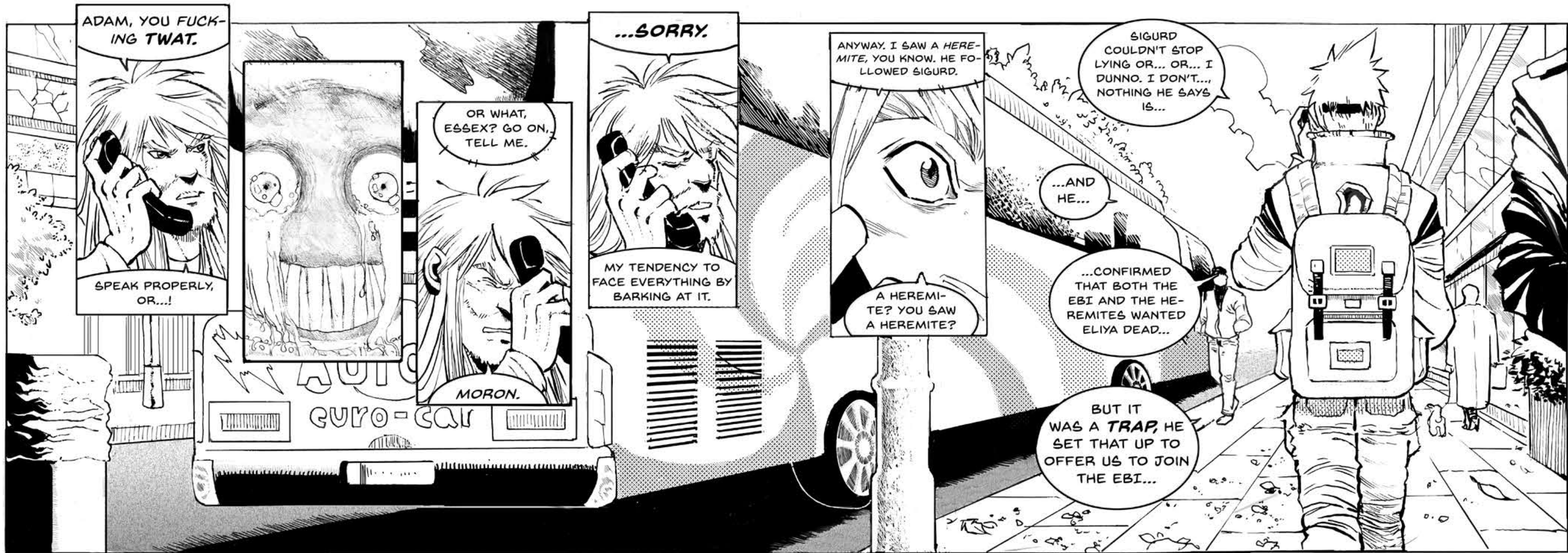


GOD. I'M TALKING TO A *PAPER-WEIGHT*.

LIKE FUC-KIN' ADAM.

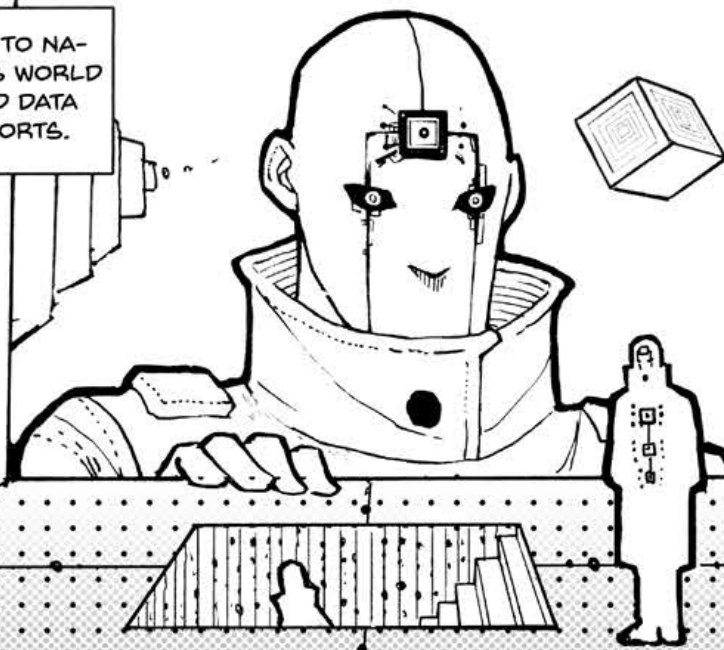








IT'S HARD TO NAVIGATE THIS WORLD OF VEILED DATA AND REPORTS.

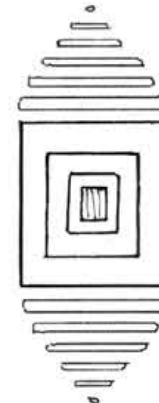


LIKE THE CASTLE OF MIRAGES IN THE SARTORIUS SERIES OF BOOKS, REALITY FOLDS IN CAPRICIOUS WAYS.

ONE OF THE RECURRING THEMES IN THE HERMITES 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...

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

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...



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.

SPAIN, ITALY, GREECE, IRELAND... THE HERMITES 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...**

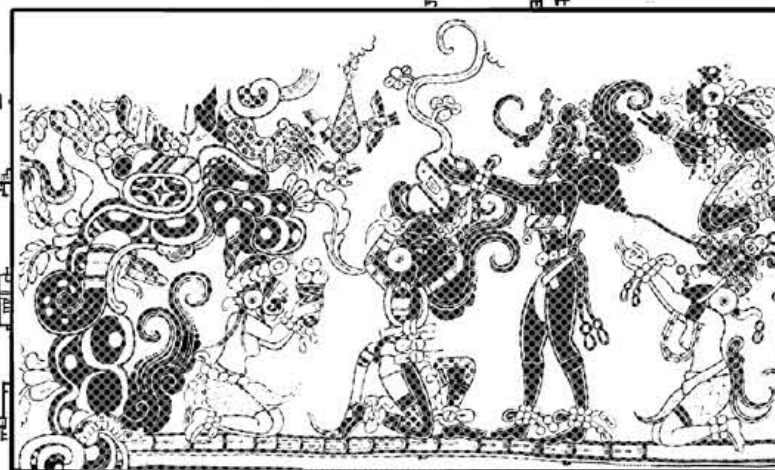
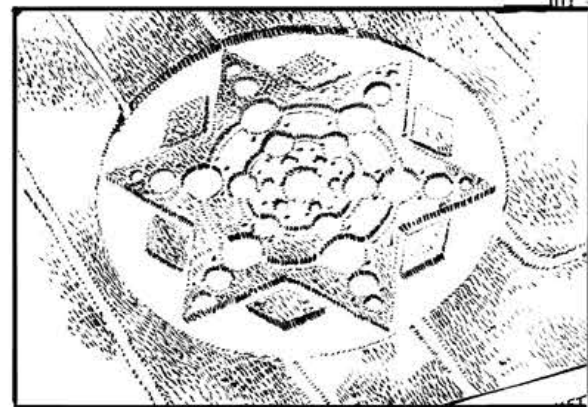


I GET WHY THE EBI ABIDES BY THAT, BUT I DON'T KNOW WHY THE HERMITES DON'T WANT TO REVEAL THEIR ABILITIES TO THE PUBLIC. THE ONLY THING I SEE IN SCATTERED COMMENTS HERE AND THERE IS THE FEAR OF DIRECT RETALIATION FROM **EDWARD FREI**, HEAD OF THE PARANORMAL EBI. THEY NEVER DETAIL HIS SKILLS, BUT SPEAK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

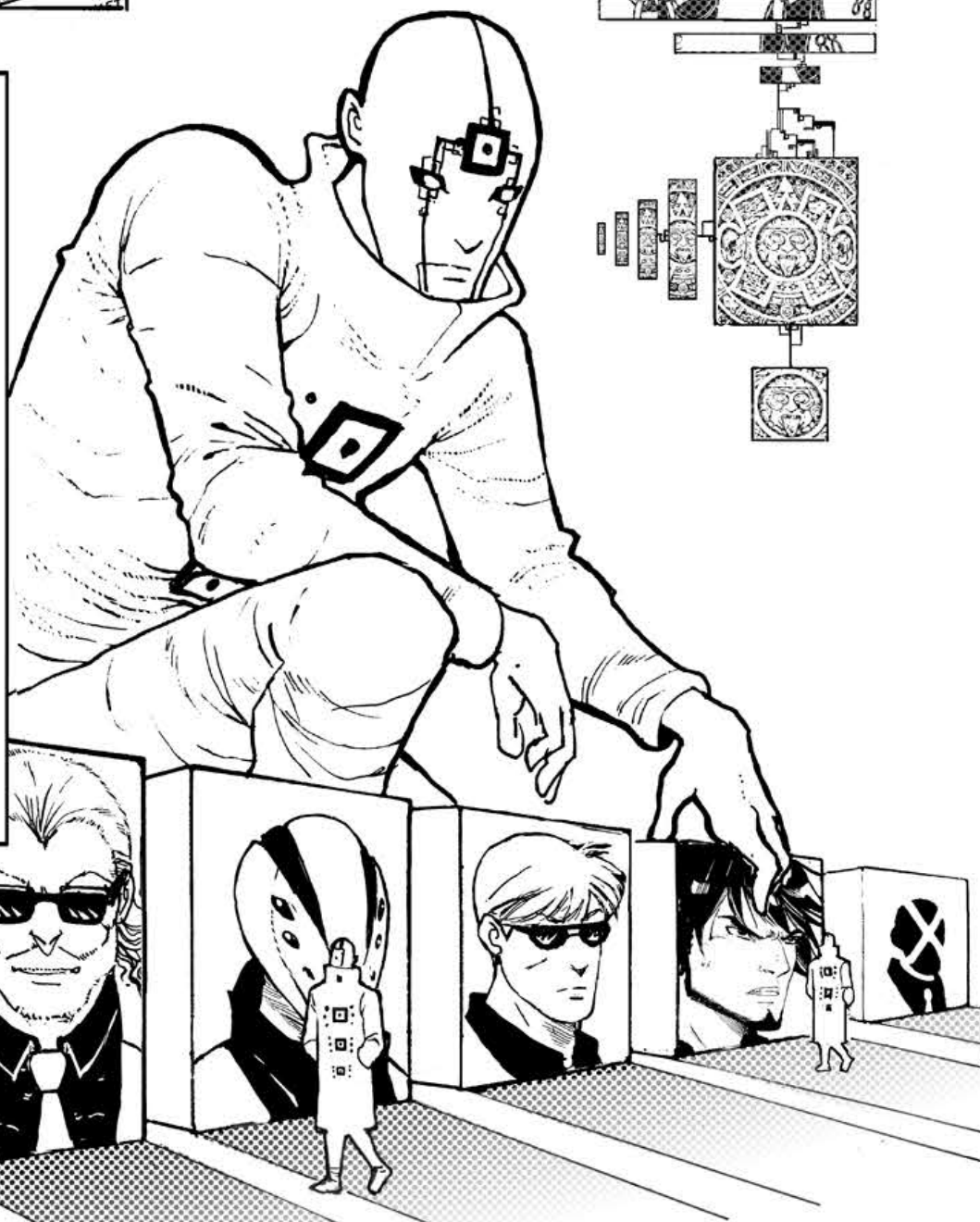




I BELIEVE THAT ANOTHER REASON WHY THE HERMITES HAVE NOT YET MADE A FULL-BLOWN ASSAULT IS BECAUSE THEY ARE WAITING FOR THE **RIGHT MOMENT**. ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS THEY TALK ABOUT INFORMATION THEY STOLE FROM THE EBI, WHERE THEY WERE TRYING TO DECODE THE **CROP CIRCLES**.



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.

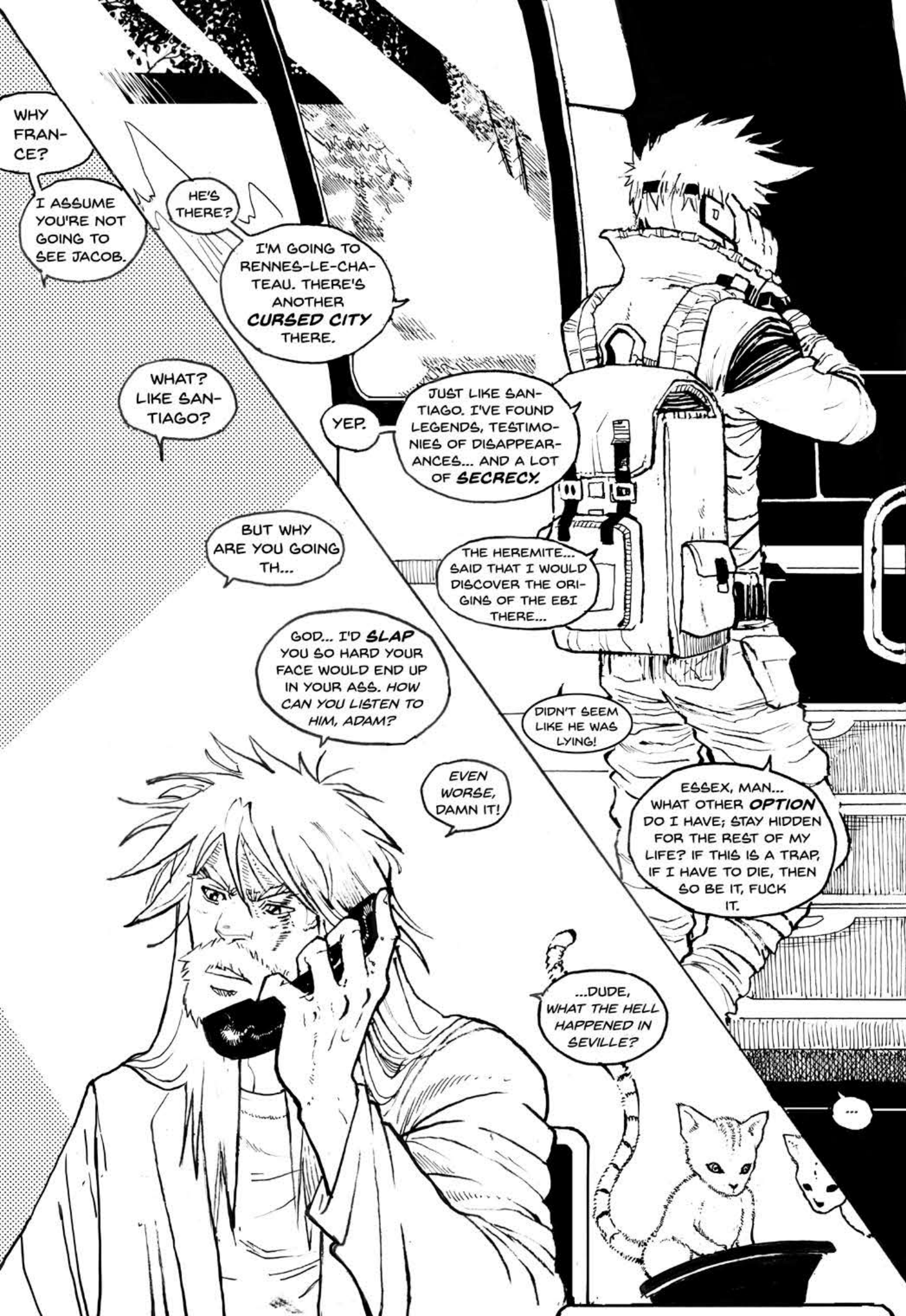


FINALLY. IT'S TAKEN ME WEEKS, AND JOURNEYING INTO THE DEEPEST PART OF THE HARD DRIVE. FINALLY I'M MEETING HIM. THE GUY FOR WHOM I LOST MY LIFE. **ELIYA UWANTE**. THE GENIUS INVENTOR.



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!

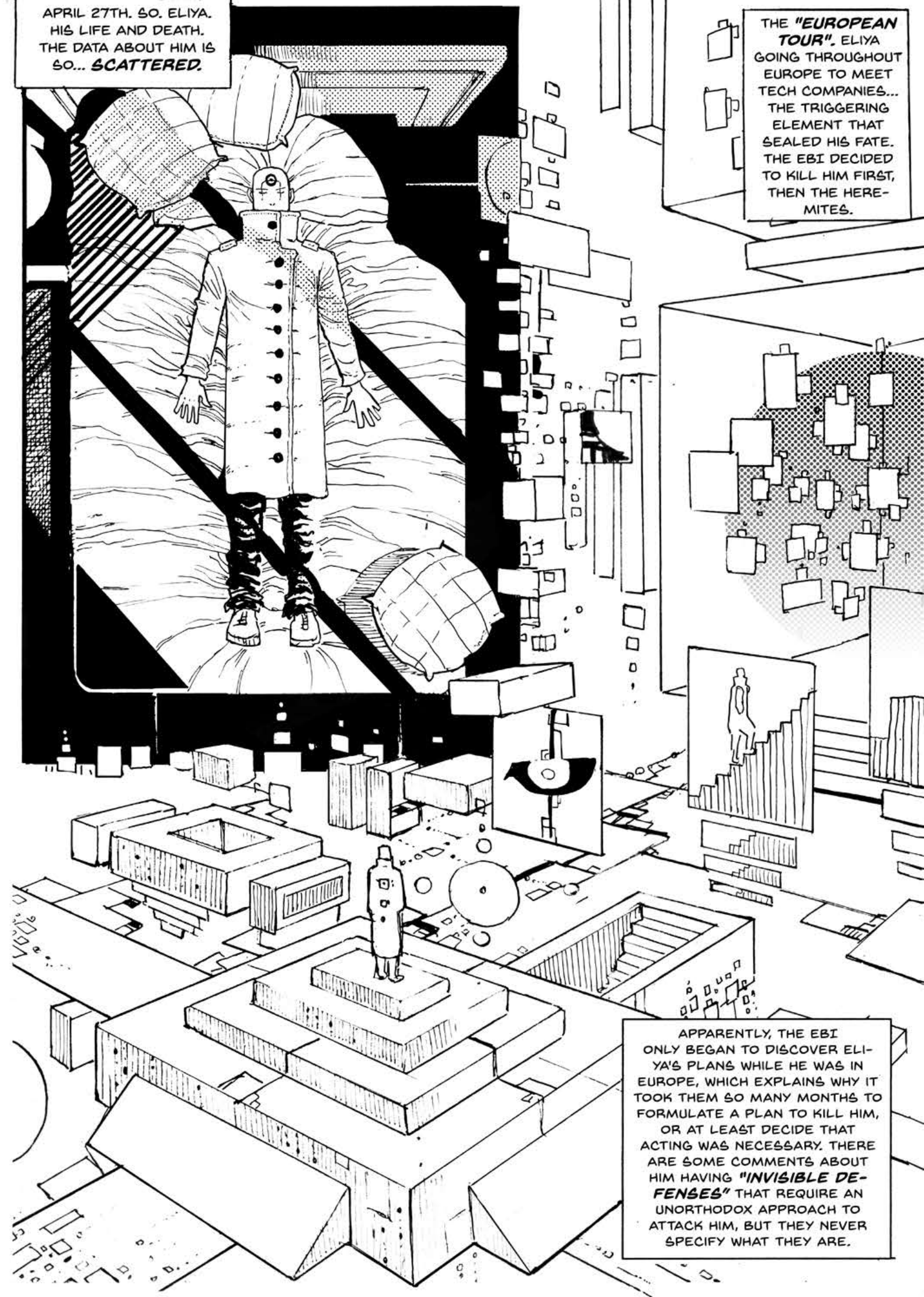
THE HEREMITE... SAID THAT I WOULD DISCOVER THE ORIGINS OF THE EBI THERE...

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**.

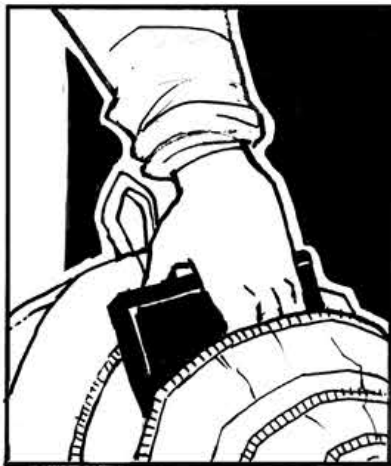
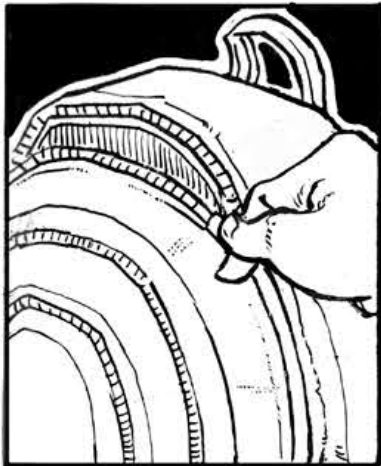
THIS IS SO ABSURD. WAS THIS YOUR PLAN, ELIYA? I **REFUSE** TO BELIEVE IT, BUT THE HEREMITES HAVE NO REASON TO LIE HERE.

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

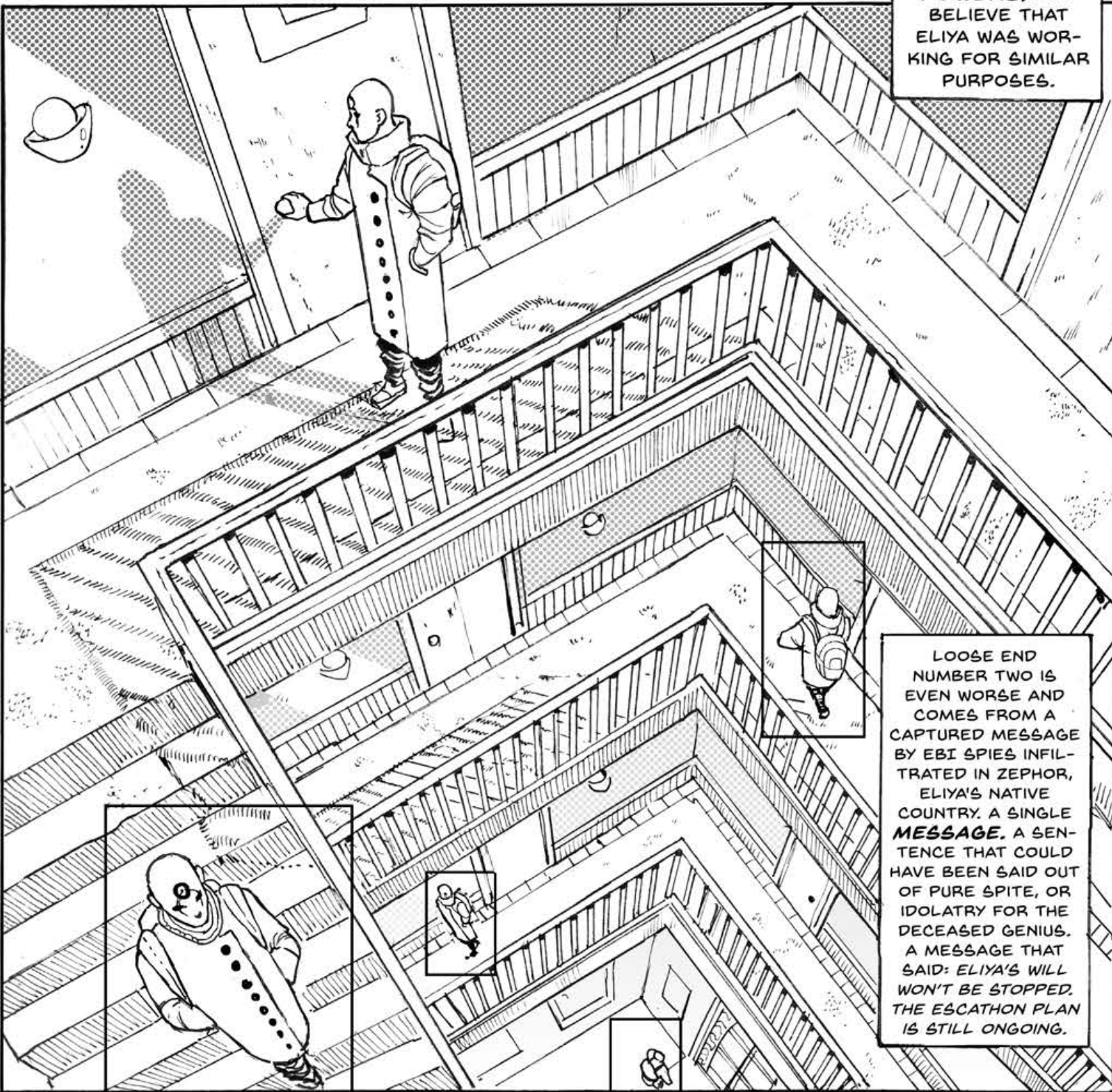








LOOSE END  
NUMBER ONE RE-  
VOLVES AROUND  
THE CABALISTS  
AND AROUND  
SIGURD, ADAM'S  
FAMOUS FRIEND.  
THE GUY WAS  
**PROMOTED** BY  
THE CABALISTS  
AFTER MURDERING  
ELIYA. THAT FACT  
PUZZLED EVEN  
THE HERMITES  
THEMSELVES  
SINCE, ACCORDING  
TO THEM, THE CA-  
BALISTS WANT  
ALL OF HUMANITY  
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...**

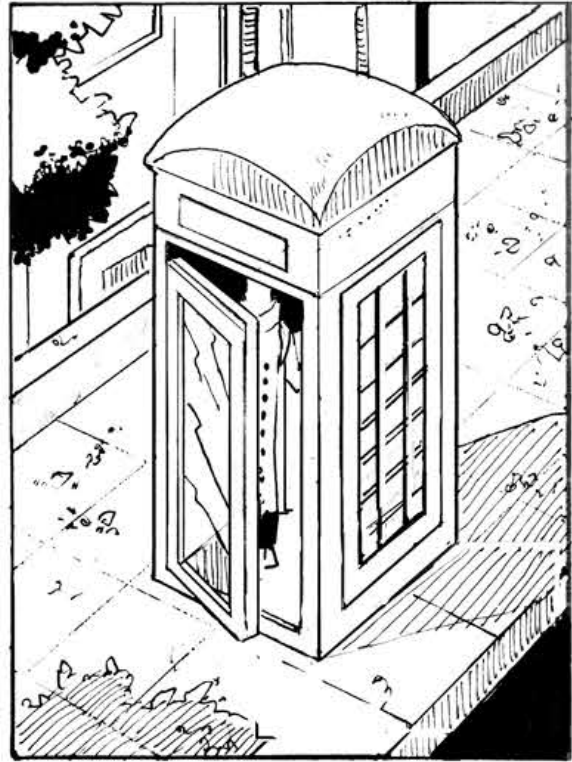


THE CAC-  
TUS LEFT THE  
MOTEL! AT  
LAST!



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

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



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

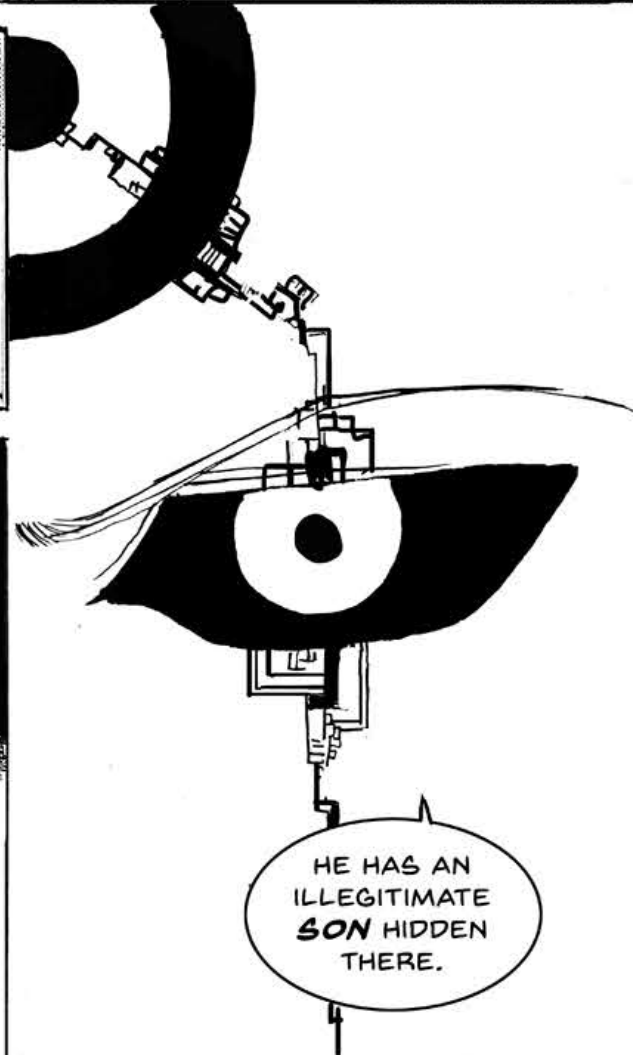
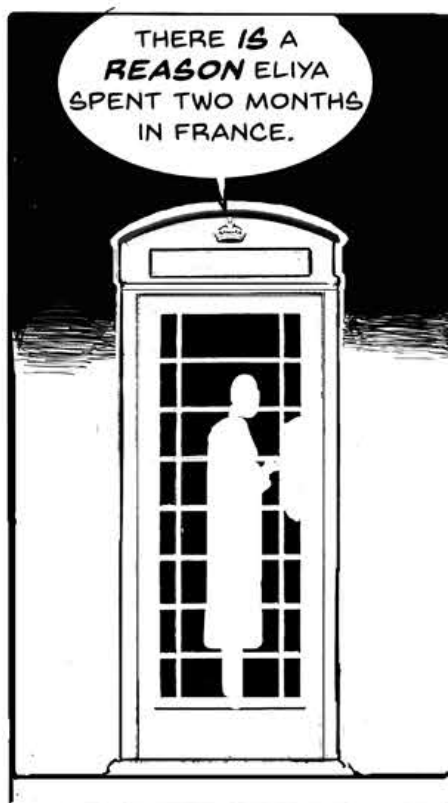
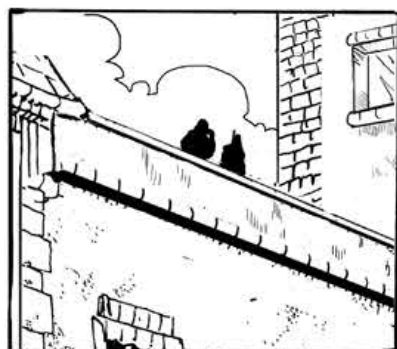
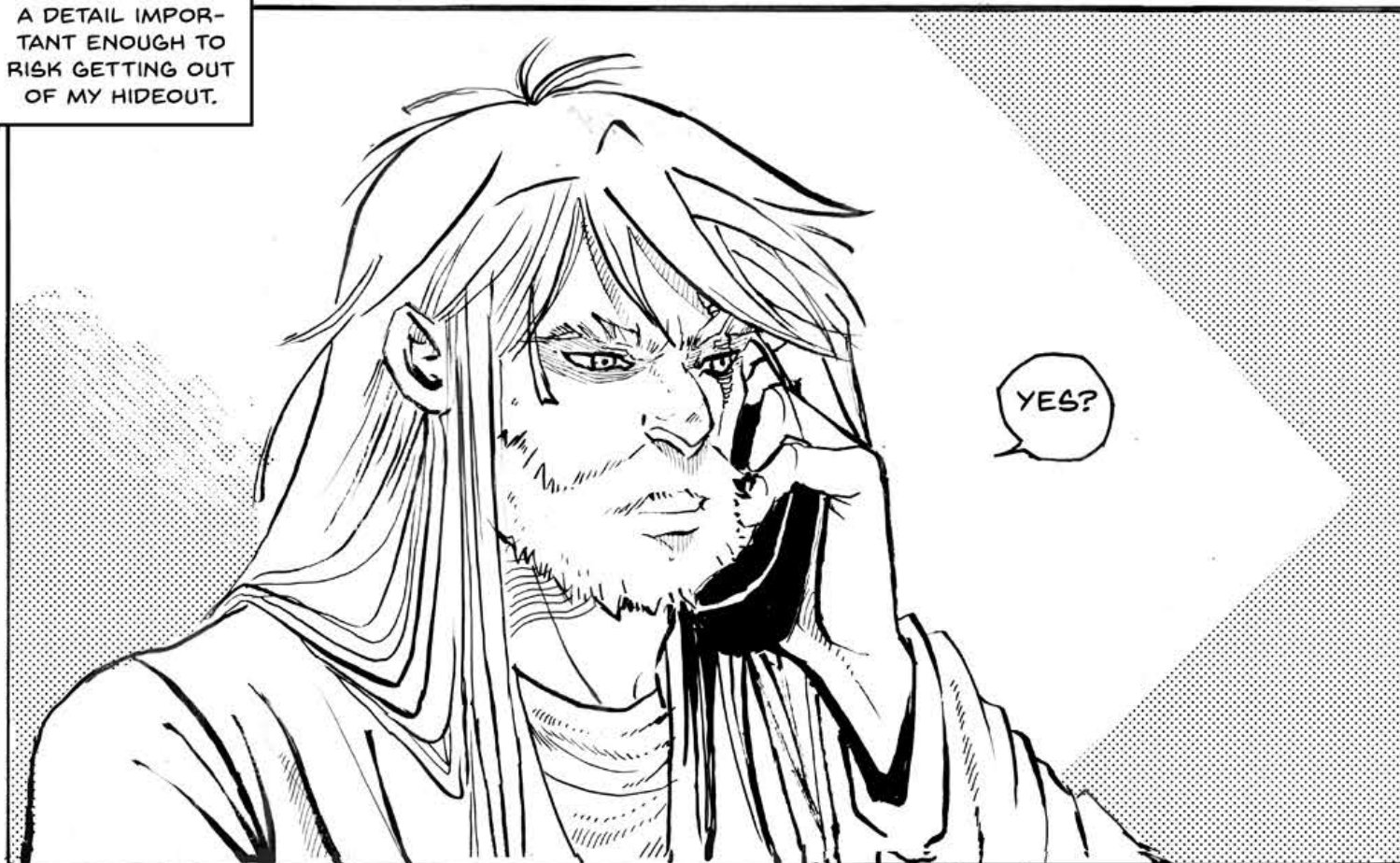
I THINK JA-  
COB MADE ME  
A **WOMAN.**



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



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



## ...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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